

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name Hollywood High School Historic District
other names/site number Hollywood Union High School



2. Location

street & number 1521 North Highland Avenue
city or town Los Angeles
state California code CA county Los Angeles code 037 zip code 90028

not for publication
 vicinity

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
I hereby certify that this ___ nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.
In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:
___ national ___ statewide ___ local

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government _____

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.
Signature of commenting official _____ Date _____
Title _____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:
___ entered in the National Register ___ determined eligible for the National Register
___ determined not eligible for the National Register ___ removed from the National Register
___ other (explain:) _____
Signature of the Keeper _____ Date of Action _____

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
5	3	buildings
1		sites
		structures
		objects
6	3	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION/school

EDUCATION/school

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Modern Movement: Moderne
Mid-Century Modern (Auditorium)

foundation: Concrete
walls: Stucco
roof: Asphalt
other: _____

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7. Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

The Hollywood High School campus was established on its current site in 1904. The original Administration/Classroom Building was completed in 1905, and the first major campus expansion campaign concluded in 1913. Following the 1933 Long Beach Earthquake, all of the buildings with the exception of the Library and the Auditorium had to be demolished and new facilities constructed in their place. The replacement structures were all designed in the PWA Moderne style with significant funding from New Deal-era relief programs, lending the campus a unique visual continuity. There are five contributing buildings and one contributing site (the athletic field), and three non-contributing buildings that were constructed outside of the period of significance. The campus retains a high degree of integrity, and the non-contributing structures do not detract from the historic setting.

Narrative Description

(See Continuation Sheet.)

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Education

Architecture

Period of Significance

1910 – 1956

Significant Dates

1910, 1924, 1935, 1956

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Marsh, Smith and Powell (architects)

Marston & Weston (architects)

(See Continuation Sheet.)

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance for the campus is 1910, representing the construction date of the earliest surviving building on campus, through 1956, the date of completion of significant alterations to the final contributor to the district.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

N/A

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The Hollywood High School Historic District is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A at the local level of significance. Hollywood High was originally founded in 1903 as the first school serving the newly incorporated municipality of Hollywood. It has been in continuous use as an educational facility since its inception, and has significant associations with the entertainment industry and the development of Hollywood. It is also eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C at the local level of significance for its PWA Moderne architecture designed by the regionally significant firm of Marsh, Smith and Powell. The period of significance is 1910-1956, signifying the original construction date of the Library, the earliest extant building on campus, through the completion of alterations to the Auditorium which have achieved significance over time. The campus has a unified visual character and retains a high degree of integrity. It is a prominent institutional example of Marsh, Smith and Powell's work from the 1930s and a significant example of New Deal-era PWA Moderne architecture in Southern California.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

(See Continuation Sheet.)

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

(See Continuation Sheet.)

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

(See Continuation Sheet.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other (see Continuation Sheet 9-1)
- Name of repository: Hollywood High School Museum

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 13.67 acres
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 _____
Zone Easting Northing

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing

2 _____
Zone Easting Northing

4 _____
Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Approximately 13.67 acres bordered on the north by Hawthorn Avenue, on the east by Highland Avenue, on the south by Sunset Boulevard, and on the west by Orange Drive. Part of Lots 67 and 69, and all of Lots 64, 65, and 66 of the Hollywood Bonnie Brier Tract; and all of Lot A Tract 8930.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary represents the property currently associated with Hollywood High School.

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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Students of Hollywood High School and Kennedy High School;
under the supervision of Christy Johnson McAvoy, Founding Principal,
and assisted by Christine Lazzaretto, Senior Architectural Historian, Historic Resources Group

organization Hollywood High School Alumni Association, c/o Historic
Resources Group date July 21, 2011

street & number 12 South Fair Oaks Avenue telephone 626-793-2400

city or town Pasadena state CA zip code 91105

e-mail christine@historiacla.com

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- Continuation sheets**
- Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- Attachments**
 - Sanborn Map, 1913
 - Sanborn Map, 1951
 - Historic Photographs
 - Photo Log
- Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Type and Number of Photographs: 21 archival 5x7" color photographic prints

Name of Property: Hollywood High School Historic District

City or Vicinity: Los Angeles

County: Los Angeles

State: California

Photographer: Stephen Schafer

Date Photographed: May 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number: See Photo Log (Attachment 4)

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Property Owner:

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Los Angeles Unified School District
street & number 333 South Beaudry Avenue telephone _____
city or town Los Angeles state CA zip code 90017

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

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Description, continued.

Site and Setting

Hollywood High School is located on approximately fourteen acres in Hollywood, California. The campus is bounded by Orange Drive (originally Orlando Road) to the west, Highland Avenue to the east, Hawthorn Avenue to the north, and Sunset Boulevard to the south. It is located in a dense, urban environment in the heart of Hollywood's primary commercial center, approximately one-half mile from Hollywood Boulevard. Entrance to the campus is through gates on Orange Drive or Highland Avenue. A wrought iron fence was added to the campus in 1983. The fence is set back from the street and runs between the buildings, instead of around the outer perimeter of the campus. Therefore, it is not a significant visual intrusion and the campus remains visible from the public right-of-way. There are three small staff parking lots – one in the southeast corner of the campus, one along Highland Avenue, which replaced the original front lawn in 1963, and one between the Library and the Science Building. The athletic facilities are located in the northwest portion of the campus. The primary historic circulation patterns have been retained. The buildings are set among a lush collection of mature trees. There are low hedges and limited lawn space separating the buildings from the sidewalk. The majority of the campus facilities had to be rebuilt following the 1933 Long Beach Earthquake. The replacement structures were all designed in the PWA Moderne architectural style, lending the campus a unique visual continuity. The current campus, a landmark on Sunset Boulevard as much for its entertainment industry connections as for its architecture, was largely designed by the firm of Marsh, Smith and Powell in 1934-1935.

In the 1950s and 1960s minor improvements on the campus were undertaken. In 1953 the Auditorium was upgraded to make it more earthquake resistant by the structural engineering firm of Murray Erick Associates.¹ At the same time, the architectural firm of Marston & Weston was commissioned to modernize the façade and make other improvements that were completed in the spring of 1956. In early 1962 the School Board announced that a design plan was underway for expansion and alteration of the campus and would include buildings to be built over the next five years. In 1965 the original Girls' Gym was condemned and torn down to the gym floor.² Construction on a new Gymnasium that included Girls' and Boys' facilities and an Olympic-sized pool was completed in 1968.

Contributors

1: Library (Auditorium)

Architect: Marsh, Smith and Powell (1935)

Year Built: 1910/1935

Architectural Style: PWA Moderne

The Library is the only surviving building from the original campus, and one of only two buildings to survive the 1933 Long Beach Earthquake. It was constructed in approximately 1910.³ The original building was a Beaux Arts design that included a flat roof with a high, decorated parapet, masonry walls, and a symmetrical façade with three entrances that were composed of double entry doors with arched windows above framed by pilasters with Corinthian capitals. In 1933 the building was converted into the school library, having been replaced as a performance space with the completion of the Memorial Auditorium in 1925.⁴ In 1935 the Library needed safety upgrades as a result of damages sustained during the 1933 Long Beach Earthquake.⁵ At the same time, the exterior was modified by Marsh, Smith and Powell to a stripped down PWA Moderne style. All of the decorative

¹ "Remodeling of Auditorium Being Studied," *The Hollywood High News*, Hollywood High School, January 16, 1953.

² "Girls' Gym Slated to be Big Change for Campus," *The Hollywood High News*, Hollywood High School, October 4, 1963.

³ It is not present in a 1905 photograph of the campus, and was not included in a description of the campus when the new principal took over in 1909. It does appear on the 1913 Sanborn.

⁴ "Hollywood School Unit Progresses," *Los Angeles Times*, January 22, 1933.

⁵ "Repairs to be Made on Library Building," *The Hollywood High News*, Hollywood High School, June 17, 1935.

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Beaux Arts details were removed and replaced by a simplified exterior design. The decorative detailing on the parapet and the overhanging eave at the cornice line were removed. The front entry was altered, with the rounded window openings infilled and replaced with square openings containing new windows. A bas relief sculpture and the word "Library" were added over the central door. The original three door openings were retained. The entire building was re-clad, obscuring articulated façade details, two pairs of window openings flanking the front entry, and quoins on the one-story wings flanking the main volume of the building.

A significant feature of the interior is the 1934 mural by artist Haldane Douglas. Funding for the mural was provided by the Civil Works Administration, a pre-cursor to the Works Progress Administration. It was painted on canvas in the artist's studio and then installed in the main reading room of the library.⁶ The mural depicts the history of the development of Hollywood, with the Hollywood Bowl pictured in the center, flanked by representative images of Hollywood's agricultural past and Greek figures depicting the fine arts.⁷

The exterior remains intact following the 1935 alterations, with only minor, reversible modifications including new light fixtures and metal handrails.

2: Auditorium

Architect: Marston & Weston (1956)

Year Built: 1924/1956

Architectural Style: Mid-Century Modern

The Auditorium was originally constructed in 1924. It was formally dedicated at commencement exercises on June 25, 1924 and named the Memorial Auditorium to honor the Hollywood High School graduates who died in World War I. The Auditorium is the second of only two buildings on campus that survived the Long Beach Earthquake of 1933. The original building was a Beaux Arts design that included a flat roof, masonry walls, and a symmetrical façade. In 1953 plans for remodeling the auditorium to make it more earthquake resistant were being studied by the school, and the structural engineering firm of Murray Erick Associates was hired to implement seismic upgrades.⁸ At the same time, the architectural firm of Marston & Weston was commissioned to modernize the façade and make other improvements. Construction started in the fall of 1954 and was completed in the spring of 1956. The original Beaux Arts façade was altered to be Mid-Century Modern in style. The façade was refinished in concrete and gunnite. The primary (front) façade has eight square columns that correspond to the location of decorative pilasters on the Beaux Arts façade; between the columns the façade is clad in tile. A new entry canopy was added, and the original seven entrances were reduced to five and new doors were installed. There are no window openings on the front façade. The original front stairs leading from Highland Avenue were retained. The low wing walls flanking the stairs were removed and two additional stairways were added leading north and south from the entry stairs.

In 2002 artist Elroy Torrez painted the mural "Portrait of Hollywood" on the east-facing (primary) façade that features prominent graduates throughout Hollywood High School's history. In 2008, to commemorate the 2003 death of John Ritter, a fifty-foot portrait of the actor was added to the mural on the north façade.

The interior of the Auditorium includes a cafeteria on the ground floor, classroom spaces, choir rooms, dressing rooms, and a projection booth, in addition to the auditorium space itself. Interior improvements that were undertaken 1954-1956 include the addition of air-conditioning and soundproofing to the entire building, improved acoustical treatments in the classrooms, conversion of separate choir rooms into a large production space with a stage, new asphalt and rubber tile flooring, and separate girls' and boys' dressing rooms in the basement. In the

⁶ Uncertainty about the structural condition of the building following the earthquake meant that the mural could not be painted directly on the wall. "Mural Artist Begins Painting for Library," *The Hollywood High News*, Hollywood High School, April 9, 1934.

⁷ "Mural in Library Illustrates Story of Progress of Drama," *The Hollywood High News*, May 1, 1934.

⁸ "Remodeling of Auditorium Being Studied," *The Hollywood High News*, Hollywood High School, January 16, 1953.

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auditorium space, the stage was extended five feet, a balcony was added across the east end, stagecraft, band, and property rooms were added, the projection booth was expanded and updated, and new seats were added.

The basement of the auditorium houses the E. M. Skinner Organ Opus 481-A pipe organ, which was a gift to the school from the graduating class of 1924. Opus 481 is considered historically significant, built by the "Cadillac" of symphonic organ builders of the 20th century. The organ has been repaired following damages from the 1994 Northridge Earthquake including water intrusion through the damaged roof above.

3: Science Building (Domestic Science and Art Building)

Architect: Marsh, Smith and Powell

Year Built: 1935

Architectural Style: PWA Moderne

The Science Building was designed by Marsh, Smith and Powell in the PWA Moderne style. It was constructed in 1935 with funding from the Public Works Administration to replace two buildings that were lost following the 1933 Long Beach Earthquake. The Science Building was completed in November 1935 at a construction cost of \$186,748.⁹ It is two stories in height, with a strong horizontal emphasis and a flat roof. The Science Building is L-shaped in plan, with the two wings connected by a two story arcade. The exterior walls are composed of board-form concrete. Windows are primarily double-hung, six-over-six divided light wood windows which are arranged in pairs or clusters. The windows are "punched" into the walls with no surrounds. The primary (front) façade has a bas relief sculpture over the front entry designed by sculptor Bartolomeo Mako representing great scientists. There is an 11-foot cylindrical pylon near the entrance bearing the message "The Honorable Achieve." The cast stone work was a gift from the 1936 graduating class, and is by sculptor Merrell Gage. It depicts students engaged in various school activities, including sports, science lab, and flirting. To the east of the main entry is a curved corner with five rows of small windows with concrete mullions. Consistent with the PWA Moderne architectural style, there is relatively little exterior ornamentation.

The interior houses science laboratories, lecture rooms, workshops, and offices.

4: Liberal Arts Building (Liberal and Household Arts)

Architect: Herbert Powell, Marsh, Smith and Powell

Year Built: 1938

Architectural Style: PWA Moderne

The Liberal Arts Building was designed by Herbert Powell of Marsh, Smith and Powell and completed in 1939. It is the same design and oriented to mirror the Science Building, although with a larger footprint. It is two stories in height, with a strong horizontal emphasis and a flat roof. It is L-shaped in plan, with the two wings connected by a two story arcade. The exterior walls are composed of board-form concrete. Windows are primarily double-hung, six-over-six divided light wood windows which are arranged in pairs or clusters. The windows are "punched" into the walls with no surrounds. The primary (front) façade has a bas relief sculpture over the front entry designed by sculptor Bartolomeo Mako. On the front (street facing) façade along the top of the arcade are the words "Hollywood High School" in the concrete. To the west of the main entry is a curved corner with five rows of small windows with concrete mullions. Consistent with the PWA Moderne architectural style, there is relatively little exterior ornamentation.

⁹ Short, C.W. and Stanley Brown. Public Buildings: A Survey of Architecture of Projects Constructed by Federal and Other Governmental Bodies Between the Years 1933 and 1939 with the Assistance of the Public Works Administration. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Print Office, 1939.

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The interior houses classrooms on the first floor and a combination of classrooms, art rooms, and work rooms on the second floor. The first floor also contains food preparation and demonstration rooms, along with a dining room for use by the Domestic Arts students.

5: Arts Building

Architect: Marsh, Smith and Powell

Year Built: 1938

Architectural Style: PWA Moderne

The Arts Building was designed by Marsh, Smith and Powell and completed in 1938. It was the third PWA Moderne building constructed on campus in the aftermath of the 1933 Long Beach Earthquake. It is two stories in height, rectangular in plan, with a strong horizontal emphasis and a flat roof. The exterior walls are composed of board-form concrete. Windows are primarily double-hung, six-over-six divided light wood windows which are arranged in pairs or clusters. The windows are "punched" into the walls with no surrounds.

The interior houses a combination of classrooms, art rooms, and work rooms.

6: Athletic Field

Year Built: 1940

The Athletic Field was moved to its current location in 1940. In the spring of that year the Board of Education purchased the three residential lots on the corner of Orange Drive and Hawthorn Street in order to expand the Hollywood High School campus to encompass an entire city block.¹⁰ The three single-family residences on these lots were demolished and a new athletic field was constructed on the site. At that time, the bleachers were replaced with new ones that could accommodate up to 3,000 spectators.

Non-contributors

1: Gymnasium

Year Built: 1968

Architectural Style: Mid-Century Modern

In 1963 the Girls' Gym was considered unsafe, condemned, and torn down to the gym floor.¹¹ The floor then served as the roof to the Girls' Locker Room and a playing surface until new facilities could be completed. In 1968 a new coed gym with an Olympic-sized swimming pool was dedicated. The track was expanded at the same time. The new Gymnasium is located just north of the Orange Drive entrance and from that direction it is almost completely subterranean, with only about six feet visible above ground.

2: Career Education Complex

Year Built: c. 1980

The Career Education Complex was constructed in the 1980s. It is two stories in height and rectangular in plan. It is constructed of board form concrete, and is utilitarian in design, with only minimal openings for doors and fenestration. It has a flat roof, which functions as open space/playing fields for the students.

3: Kiosk

Year Built: 1971

¹⁰ "Board of Education Buys New Property for the School," *The Hollywood High News*, Hollywood High School, April 24, 1940.

¹¹ "Girls' Gym Slated to be Big Change for Campus," *The Hollywood High News*, Hollywood High School, October 4, 1963.

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In 1971 a small kiosk was added to the courtyard behind the Science Building. The kiosk is one-story in height and round in plan. The roof is flat, and there is a wide eave which shelters the exterior counter that runs along the exterior. The kiosk has a series of aluminum frame service windows below the awning, and clerestory windows above the awning on two sides.

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Significance, continued.

Architects/Builders/Artists Continued

Douglas, Haldane (muralist)
Torres, Elroy (muralist)

Gage, Merrell (sculptor)
Mako, Bartolomeo (sculptor)

Criterion A: Education

The area that became Hollywood was originally part of two former Spanish land grants -- Rancho La Brea and Rancho Los Feliz. These two ranchos were strategically oriented along the Cahuenga Pass, a major transportation corridor to the north, and the growing city of Los Angeles to the south. The Cahuenga Pass encompassed part of the *Camino Real del Rey*, which was the principal coastal passageway and used continuously as a trail facilitating commerce, livestock transport, and travel since the earliest Spanish exploration. The fields and orchards of the nineteenth century increasingly gave way to speculative real estate development by the turn of the twentieth century. In 1900, the Cahuenga Valley Improvement Association was established to guide real estate development in the area, just as the first electric track down the length of Prospect Avenue (present day Hollywood Boulevard) was completed.¹²

In 1903, the City of Hollywood officially incorporated with a population of 700. In 1904, gas lines were laid, the streets were numbered, and a single track of the Los Angeles Pacific Railroad was placed perpendicular to the electric track already on Prospect Avenue.¹³ As the area became increasingly developed, churches, clubs and schools were built in close proximity to the grand single-family residences that lined Hollywood Boulevard and other nearby streets. By 1909, like many of its neighboring communities, Hollywood had experienced immense growth. While its population in 1903 was a mere 700, by 1909 it had reached 4,000.¹⁴ Though dwarfed by the neighboring city of Los Angeles with 100,000 inhabitants, the small City of Hollywood quickly began to experience water shortages, drainage issues, and sewage problems, and less than ten years later Hollywood began to reconsider its status as an independent city.¹⁵ In February of 1910, Hollywood was annexed to the City of Los Angeles to take advantage the City's established sewer system, and a new water supply created by the opening of the Los Angeles Aqueduct.

Even before Hollywood incorporated in November 1903, officials began to address the need for schools to serve the population. The nascent City was several students shy of the twenty-four required to establish a new high school, so free rent for six months was offered to any family with children of high school age that would come to Hollywood to live. By September of 1903 the quota had been met and high school classes were offered for the first time in Hollywood. The school was located in an empty storage room in the Masonic Temple, located on Highland Avenue just north of Prospect Avenue (now Hollywood Boulevard). The space was divided into three rooms by temporary partitions; each room was occupied by one teacher and the only male teacher doubled as the principal.

As enrollment grew, the student body overflowed into an abandoned bakery shop next door to the Masonic Temple, and City officials began to discuss setting aside land to build a permanent high school. The creation of

¹² Williams, Gregory Paul. The Story of Hollywood: An Illustrated History. Los Angeles: BL Press, 2005. (29)
From Hollywood development history prepared by Chattel Architecture, Planning & Preservation, Inc. "Historic Resources Survey: Hollywood Redevelopment Project Area," February 2010.

¹³ Williams, The Story of Hollywood. (43)

¹⁴ Torrence, Bruce. Hollywood: The First One Hundred Years. Hollywood: Hollywood Chamber of Commerce, 1979. (9)

¹⁵ Williams, The Story of Hollywood. (52-53)

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an area high school became a joint effort by the independent school districts of Cahuenga, Coldwater, Hollywood, Laurel, Lankershim, Los Feliz, and Pass. The school was named Hollywood Union High School, and in September 1904 the new school with an enrollment of 75 students opened.¹⁶ That same year the Los Angeles Pacific Electric Railroad granted half price fares to all Hollywood Union High School students and free transfers from the Colegrove line. At that time the school was still housed in temporary headquarters until a permanent school building could be constructed.

In 1904 a site was selected for the new school on the corner of Sunset Boulevard and Highland Avenue. In March of that year, school board members visited Redlands, Pomona, and Pasadena to inspect their high schools and gather data for use in designing a building for Hollywood Union High.¹⁷ Following a design competition, in April 1904 the school board selected the Los Angeles firm of Burnham and Bliesner as the architects for the project. On November 24, 1904, a ceremony led by the Masonic Grand Lodge of California was held to dedicate the cornerstone for the new building. At the ceremony, A. McCormick, president of Hollywood Union High School Board of Trustees proclaimed, "The name Hollywood Union will give us tone, dignity, and international reputation." Total cost for the building was \$67,000 which was funded through the sale of bonds.¹⁸ The two story structure, topped with a dome, was completed in 1905.

Attendance at the high school increased rapidly over the next few years, and in September 1908 enrollment had grown to 300 students. By 1909 the campus had added a Gymnasium and playing field, but it had outgrown the original Classroom Building. The board decided to expand the campus, and raised \$100,000 through the sale of additional bonds to build new Polytechnic facilities and an Auditorium.¹⁹ With its multi-building complex, Hollywood Union High School was a model of innovative and modern secondary education. Its curriculum was approved and the school accredited by University of California inspectors in 1906. All graduates with the principal's recommendations were guaranteed admission to the University of California.²⁰ A group of visitors from Phoenix, Arizona, inspected the school in 1911 as a model for their own.²¹

Hollywood was annexed to the City of Los Angeles in 1910, and on March 29 of that year Hollywood Union High School officially became property of the Los Angeles Board of Education.²² Although now formally part of the City of Los Angeles, Hollywood continued to have its own identity which was tied directly to the growth of the motion picture industry. Between 1910 and 1912, movie attendance doubled to nearly 20 million and the industry emerged as a powerful economic force.²³ As the popularity of the medium increased in the nation, so, too, did the physical facilities related to the production of films in Hollywood. The first motion picture studio in Hollywood was the 1911 Nestor Studio on the northwest corner of Sunset Boulevard and Gower Street. Within three months, five other companies arrived in Hollywood. Five years after the annexation of Hollywood by the city of Los Angeles, the area was in the midst of a real estate boom.²⁴ By this time Hollywood was no longer a small independent city struggling to deal with infrastructural problems, but a thriving suburb with a rapidly growing population and the home of a significant national industry.

During this period overcrowding became a major issue at Hollywood Union High School. By 1915 there were so many freshmen that the school adopted a dual graduating system in which one senior class would graduate in the winter and the other in the summer. The winter class held its ceremony in the Auditorium, while the summer class

¹⁶ The name of the school was changed from Hollywood Union High School to Hollywood High School at an unknown date, most likely prior to 1913 (see Additional Documentation, Sanborn Map, 1913).

¹⁷ "Hollywood," *Los Angeles Times*, March 17, 1904: A6.

¹⁸ "Eight hundred pupils march," *Los Angeles Times*, November 24, 1904.

¹⁹ "Vote for School Bonds," *Los Angeles Times*, October 3, 1909.

²⁰ "Inspection thorough," *Los Angeles Times*, March 17, 1906.

²¹ "In the public schools," *Los Angeles Times*, May 14, 1911.

²² "Ready for Final Act," *Los Angeles Times*, March 18, 1910.

²³ Starr, Kevin. *Inventing the Dream: California through the Progressive Era*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1985. (309)

²⁴ Williams. *The Story of Hollywood*. (78)

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graduated in the Hollywood Bowl. By 1913 the planned additions to the campus were completed, and now the school included the original Administration Building, a Gymnasium, Auditorium, Mechanics Building, Science Building, and Household and Fine Arts Building (see Additional Documentation, Sanborn Map, 1913). The student newspaper, *The Hollywood High News* debuted in 1917.

Hollywood reached its heyday in the 1920s, when a large number of movie studios, movie theaters, and shopping centers filled Hollywood and Sunset Boulevards between Vine Street and Highland Avenue. By 1926, the motion picture industry was the "United States' fifth largest...grossing \$1.5 billion a year and accounting for 90 percent of the world's films."²⁵ During the 1920s, Hollywood High School became the school of choice for the children of movie stars. As development in Hollywood became denser, the large parcels of land that once surrounded the school began to disappear, and it was increasingly surrounded by dense urban development rather than ensconced in a bucolic landscape of citrus groves and single-family residences. Residents attempted to create a more park-like setting for schools through district-wide tree planting drives.²⁶

Many film actors and actresses graduated from Hollywood High School in the 1920s and 1930s. Some notable students from this period include John Huston (1923), Carole Lombard (1923), Lon Chaney, Jr. (1924), Fay Wray (1925), Edward Dmytryk (1926), Chuck Jones (1930), Alan Ladd (1931), Ann Miller (1937), Lana Turner (1936), and Mickey Rooney (1938). In the mid-1920s the school was given its mascot, "the Sheiks." The school's athletic teams were originally known as the Crimson, in emulation of Harvard, but they became the Sheiks after a newspaper article compared the football team to "the brave warrior-lover hero in the Rodolf [sic] Valentino film classic of the 1920s."

In 1925 the school constructed a new Auditorium, replacing the original 1910 building that was then converted to the Library. It was constructed to accommodate the glut of local talent, and it became a social center for the community.²⁷ The new Auditorium became home to the E. M. Skinner Organ Opus 481-A pipe organ, which was given to the school by the class of 1924. The organ was paid for by funds raised by the student body's production of "Peter Pan" at the Hollywood Bowl. Organist Louis Vierne played his only Southern California performance at Hollywood High in 1927, and Edwin Lemare played his last public performance at Hollywood High School while his daughter, Mary, was attending school there in 1931. Other famous organists have played there, including Virgil Fox.

On March 10, 1933, an earthquake centered in Long Beach, California hit the greater Los Angeles area. It damaged beyond repair forty of the Los Angeles Unified School District's (LAUSD) unreinforced masonry buildings, including four buildings at Hollywood High: the Administration Building, the Gymnasium, the Science Building, and the Household and Fine Arts Building. The reconstruction of Los Angeles' schools following the Earthquake became a cutting edge example of Public Works Administration (PWA) and Works Projects Administration (WPA) efforts in California during the Depression, and Hollywood High School is a prominent example of that program.²⁸ Created by the National Industrial Recovery Act on June 16, 1933, the PWA budgeted several billion dollars to be spent on the construction of public works as a means of providing employment, stabilizing purchasing power, improving public welfare, and contributing to a revival of American industry. After having scaled back the initial cost of the PWA, President Roosevelt agreed to include the program as part of his New Deal reforms. The historical legacy of the PWA is perhaps as important as its practical accomplishments at the time.

Following the Long Beach Earthquake, buildings throughout the Los Angeles County school system were slated for either renovation or new construction using a combination of State and PWA funding. Under the supervision of a board of forty-eight architects, engineers, and contractors, a total of 536 school buildings were rehabilitated or

²⁵ Starr, Kevin. *Material Dreams: Southern California through the 1920s*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1990. (313)

²⁶ "Tree Planting Drive Opens," *Los Angeles Times*, May 2, 1925.

²⁷ Williams. *The Story of Hollywood*. (147)

²⁸ Starr, Kevin. *Endangered Dreams: The Great Depression in California*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1996. (318)

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built for a total cost of \$34,144,000.²⁹ The subsequent Field Act of 1933 directed the State Division of Architecture to dictate standards for school reconstruction, establish a building code, and enforce a program of construction inspection for schools to ensure earthquake resistant school structures. During this period a variety of modern innovations to school plants were implemented, reflecting educational reforms of the time and encompassing advances in ventilation, illumination, hygiene, sanitation, school furnishings, and landscaping.³⁰ Most schools constructed after the Earthquake exhibited the mix of classicism, Art Deco, and streamlining referred to as "PWA Moderne."³¹ The new buildings utilized not only the latest technology, but were often designed by prominent architects of the period, including Richard Neutra, Norman Marsh, David Smith, Herbert Powell, O.W. Morgan, J.A. Walls, and William Henry Harrison.

At Hollywood High, LAUSD set aside funding for the demolition, rehabilitation, and earthquake proofing of the school's main structures. On May 14, 1934, the Hollywood High School administration selected the firm of Marsh, Smith and Powell to design new buildings for their campus. The first to be constructed was the Science Building (1935), followed by modifications to the Library (1935), and then the Liberal Arts and Arts Buildings, which were both completed in 1938. All four buildings exhibit the features of PWA Moderne architecture, resulting in a unified appearance of the campus as a whole. Marsh, Smith and Powell were responsible for the design of numerous school facilities during the 1930s, and published several articles about current trends in classroom design and campus planning.

The campus also includes prominent examples of New Deal-era art work. The New Deal federal arts program provided economic relief to artists during the Depression, with government programs funding projects in post offices, civic centers, libraries, museums, and public schools. Leadership of the projects in Southern California included Merle Armitage as chairman of the Federal Art Project, Stanton Macdonald-Wright as director, and Lorser Feitelson as his assistant. The Southern California committee received national acclaim for the unusual cooperation between artists and the public, and for soliciting more arts funding than any other region. All works completed under the federal projects were committed to the themes of the American Scene. New Deal art in Southern California projected an idyllic image of the region during a period in which Southern California was transformed by poverty, expansion, and cultural diversity.³²

The Science Building features the work of sculptor Bartolomeo Mako, who created a bas-relief sculpture over the entry and a sculptured pylon in the forecourt. Muralist Haldane Douglas began a painting for the interior of the Library in the spring of 1934. The mural depicts the history of the development of Hollywood, with the Hollywood Bowl pictured in the center, flanked by representative images of Hollywood's agricultural past and Greek figures depicting the fine arts.³³ The mural was funded by the Civil Works Administration, a pre-cursor to the Works Progress Administration that lasted from 1933-1934. Hollywood High School is one of only a few Los Angeles schools to receive funding from the CWA.³⁴

In 1940 the School Board completed the purchase of three residential lots on the corner of Orange Drive and Hawthorn Street. The purchase of this property allowed the school to expand to a full city block, and construct new athletic facilities for the students. At this time the playing field was relocated from its original site and new bleachers were installed to accommodate up to 3,000 spectators.

²⁹ Starr. Endangered Dreams: The Great Depression in California. (318)

³⁰ Heumann, Leslie. "Historic Context Statement: Los Angeles Unified School District," prepared for the Los Angeles Unified School District Facilities Services Division, March 2002. (13)

³¹ Gebhard, David and Robert Winter. Architecture in Los Angeles and Southern California. Santa Barbara and Salt Lake City: Peregrine Smith, Inc., 1977.

³² Anderson, Susan M. "Dream and Perspective: American Scene Painting in Southern California." Originally published in Westphal, Ruth and Janet Blake Dominik, ed. American Scene Painting: California 1930s and 1940s. Irvine, CA: Westphal Publishing, 1991.

³³ "Mural in Library Illustrates Story of Progress of Drama," *The Hollywood High News*, Hollywood High School, May 1, 1934.

³⁴ "Mural Artist Begins Painting for Library," *The Hollywood High News*, Hollywood High School, April 9, 1934.

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Hollywood High School continued to enroll the children of prominent Hollywood families through the 1940s and 1950s. Notable graduates from this period include Judy Garland (1940), Jason Robards (1940), James Garner (1944), Marcel Ophuls (1945), Carol Burnett (1951), Vincent Bugliosi (1952), and Linda Evans (1960).

The Sylmar Earthquake of 1971 damaged the new Administration Building (just as the 1933 Long Beach Earthquake had done to its predecessor), and it was demolished six months later. The site became a parking lot, and the administrative offices were moved to the Science Building on Sunset and Highland. Plans were made to construct a new Industrial Arts building along Orange Drive, but this was never realized.

Criterion C: Architecture

Hollywood High School is a prominent, cohesive, and intact collection of PWA Moderne educational buildings constructed following the 1933 Long Beach Earthquake. PWA Moderne buildings were constructed during the Great Depression as part of various government relief projects sponsored by the Public Works Administration (PWA) and the Works Progress Administration (WPA). Also called Depression or Classical Moderne, stylistically PWA Moderne buildings are a stripped down version of Streamline Moderne. The Streamline Moderne style emerged in the United States in the 1930s and is often considered to be a late branch of the Art Deco style. There was no style better suited to Los Angeles in the 1930s, which was at that time already defined by its love of the automobile and the optimism of progress inherent in a city growing at such a monumental rate. Where Art Deco was rich, brightly colored and highly ornamented, Streamline Moderne was sparse, stripped down and monochromatic. Rounded corners, horizontal bands and smooth surfaces give Streamline Moderne buildings the appearance of being smoothed and rounded by aerodynamic forces.

PWA Moderne structures reflect a greater use of conservative and classical elements and have a distinct monumental feel to them. Though comparatively rare, and in vogue for not much more than a decade, this style was influential because it embodied the integration of four unlikely features unique to Los Angeles: changing patterns of land use, a popular response to early twentieth century progress and technology; the birth of new industries; and a sense of fantasy fueled by Hollywood and the movie industry that propelled the city's myths and legends. Streamline Moderne and PWA Moderne are associated with the city's sustained prominence in automobile and early aerospace industry and culture.

The PWA Moderne buildings of the Hollywood High School campus retain the essential character-defining features of the style, which include:

- Horizontal orientation
- Rounded corners and curved surfaces
- Flat or nearly flat roof
- Smooth stucco cladding
- Minimal ornamentation (usually zig-zag or Moderne detailing)
- Windows "punched" into walls, with no surrounds
- Smooth stone, polished marble, or terrazzo relief sculpture

The Hollywood High School buildings constructed in the aftermath of the Long Beach Earthquake were designed by the renowned local firm of Marsh, Smith and Powell. The first to be constructed was the Science (and now Administration) Building (1935), followed by modifications to the Library (1935), and then the Liberal Arts and Arts Buildings, both completed in 1938. The Science Building was given an Honor Award by the Southern California Chapter of the American Institute of Architects in recognition of its outstanding architectural qualities in 1939. The exterior modernization of the Auditorium was undertaken by the firm of Marston and Weston, another prominent local architectural practice.

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Architects Marsh, Smith and Powell

Norman Foote Marsh (1871-1955) was born in Upper Alton, Illinois, and educated at the Urbana School of Architecture at the University of Illinois. He moved to Los Angeles in 1900, and formed a partnership with J.N. Preston which lasted only one year. Soon afterward, he became associated with C.H. Russell, under the firm named Marsh & Russell. They practiced together for six years, successfully completing many projects, most notably the planning of the Venice canals (1904-1905) in Venice, California and the design for the principal buildings in that area. In 1907 this partnership dissolved, and Marsh worked independently, specializing in public buildings, including schools, churches, and libraries. In 1927 he entered a partnership with Herbert Powell (1898-1996) and David D. Smith (1886-1964). The firm was responsible for many notable structures, including the Memorial Chapel at University of Redlands (c. 1927), Congregational Church in Sierra Madre (1928), Santa Monica's Parkhurst Building (1927), South Pasadena Public Library (1930), and South Pasadena High School (1937). Herbert Powell was named a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects in 1947.

Muralist Haldane Douglas

Haldane Douglas (1893-1980) was an architect, painter, and muralist. He was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on August 13, 1893. By the early 1920s, Douglas had moved to California. He spent the winters in southern California and summers in Monterey where he was a pupil of Armin Hansen. From 1926 to 1928 he studied with André Lhote in Paris. After returning from Europe, he taught at the Chouinard Art School in Los Angeles and was associated with Fox Film Corporation during the 1930s. He died in Orange County, California on May 26, 1980.

Sculptor Bartolomeo Mako

Bartolomeo Mako (1890-1970) was a sculptor responsible for several prominent commissions in Southern California in the 1930s. His notable works include: "Goddess Holding Torch of Learning, 1939, Ventura High School; The Memorial Gateway, 1931, Exposition Park, Los Angeles; and Fountain Bas-relief, Burbank City Hall. Mako's murals may also be seen on the façades of the Lou Henry Hoover School, Whittier, and El Monte High School.

Conclusion

Hollywood High School was originally founded in 1903 as the first school serving the newly incorporated municipality of Hollywood. The development of the school is intrinsically tied to the growth of Hollywood and the development of Hollywood as the capital of the entertainment industry in the early twentieth century. It has significant associations with important people in the entertainment industry, and is often referred to as "the most famous high school in the world." It is a prominent and intact collection of PWA Moderne school buildings constructed following the 1933 Long Beach Earthquake, designed by the prominent architectural firm of Marsh, Smith and Powell. The period of significance is 1910-1956, signifying the original construction date of the Library, the earliest extant building on campus, through the completion of alterations to the Auditorium which were undertaken by the renowned firm of Marston and Weston. The campus has a unified visual character and retains a high degree of integrity.

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³⁵ Information about the history of Hollywood High School and *The Hollywood High News* archives are housed at the Hollywood High School Museum on campus. Other repositories include the Main Branch and Hollywood Regional Branch of the Los Angeles Public Library, the City of Los Angeles Planning Department, and the Hollywood Community Redevelopment Agency.

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"Ready for Final Act," *Los Angeles Times*, March 18, 1910.

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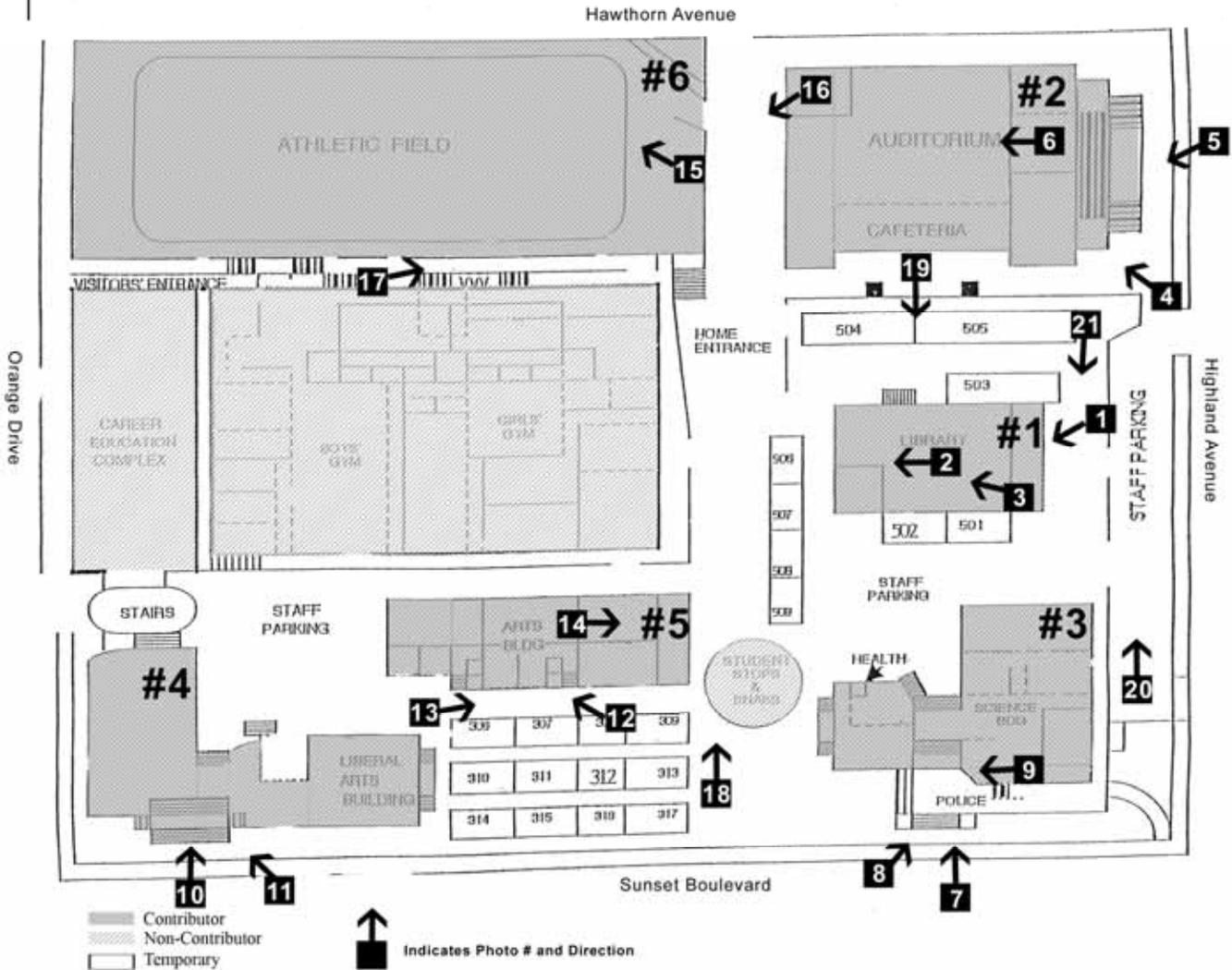
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Sketch Map



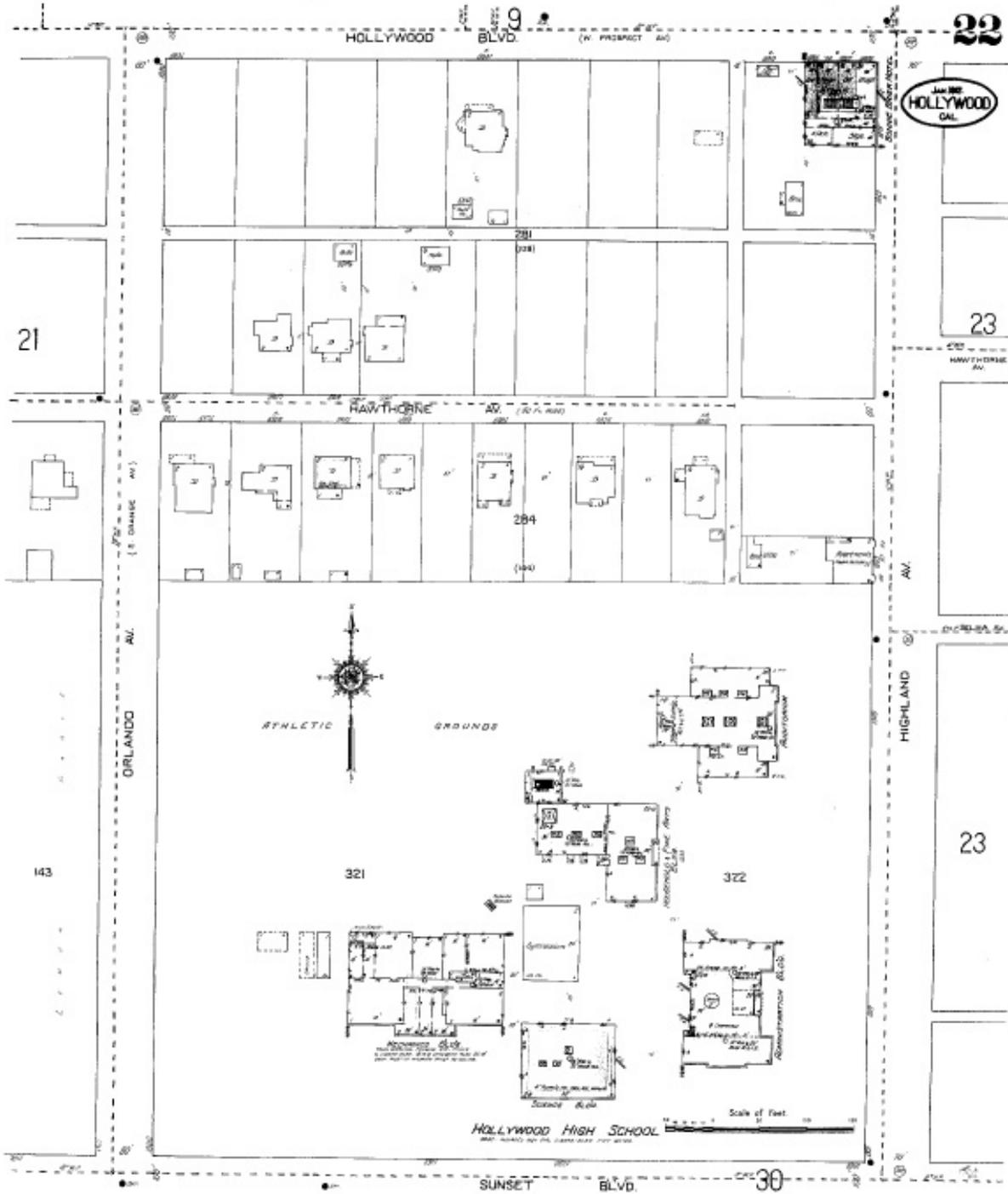
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Sanborn Map, 1913



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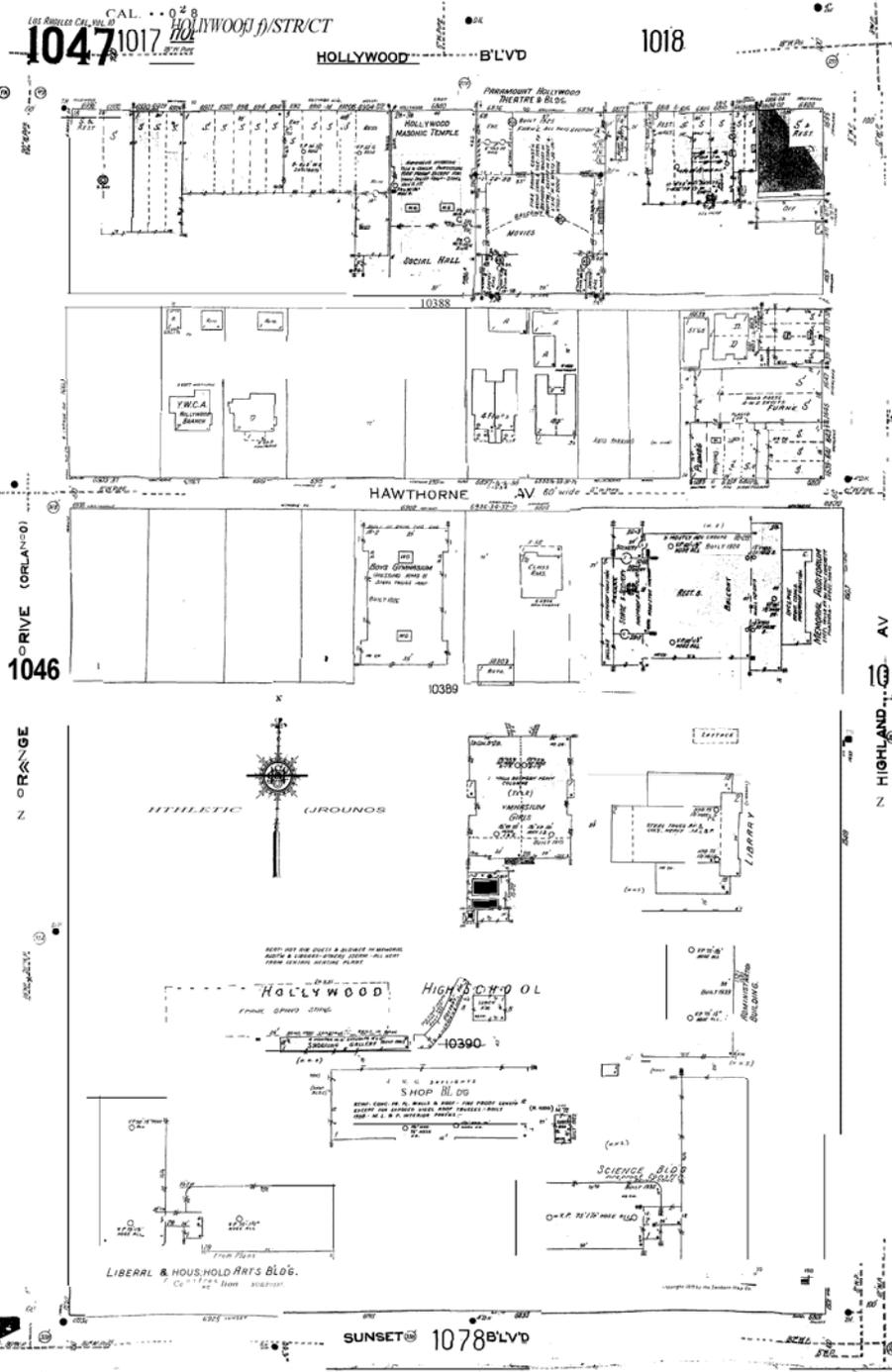
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Sanborn Map, 1951



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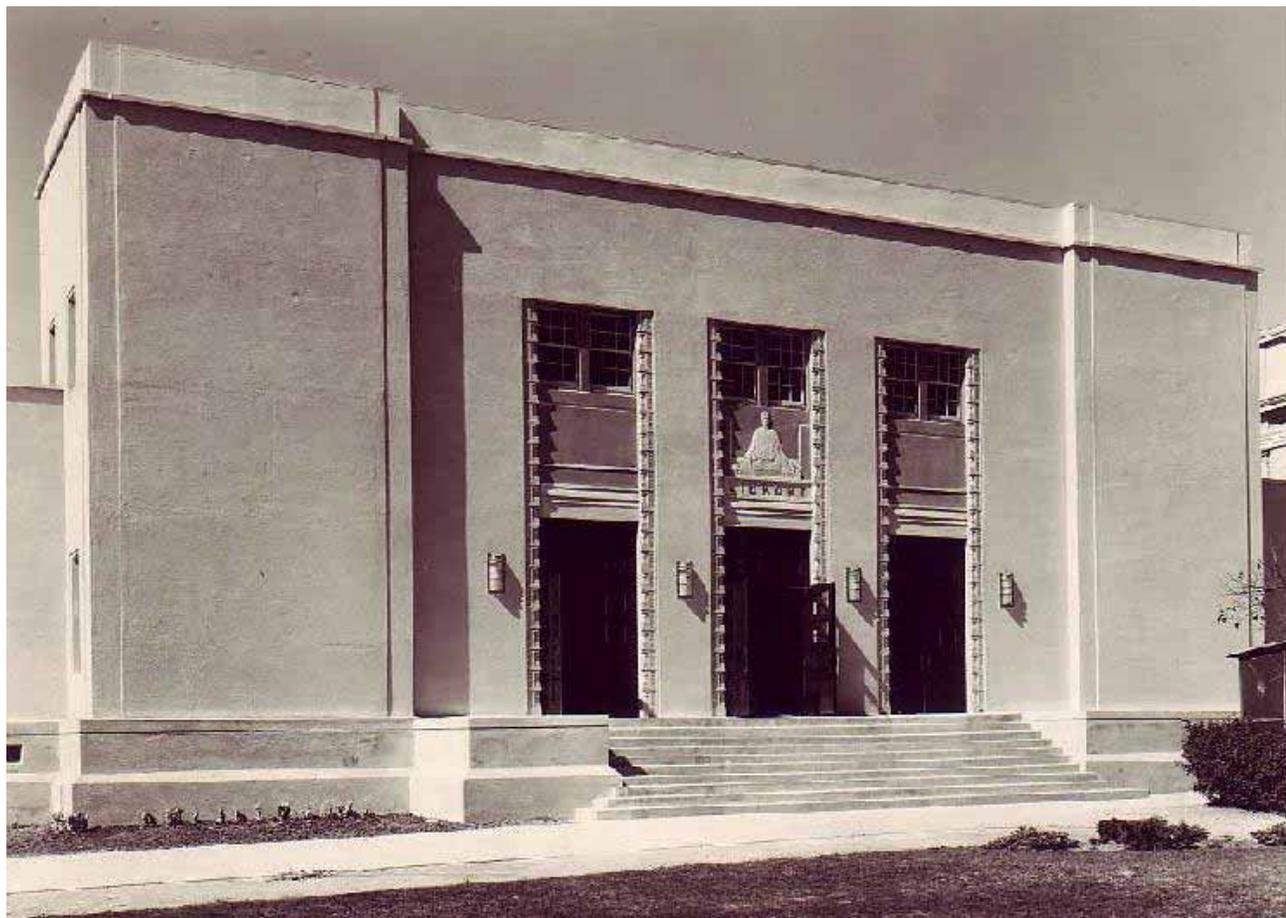
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Figure 1: Library, 1940. Source: California's Living New Deal Project.



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Figure 2: Auditorium, 1958. Source: Hollywood High School.



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Figure 3: Science Building, 1935. Source: California's Living New Deal Project.



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Figure 4: Science Building, 1939. Source: Los Angeles Public Library.



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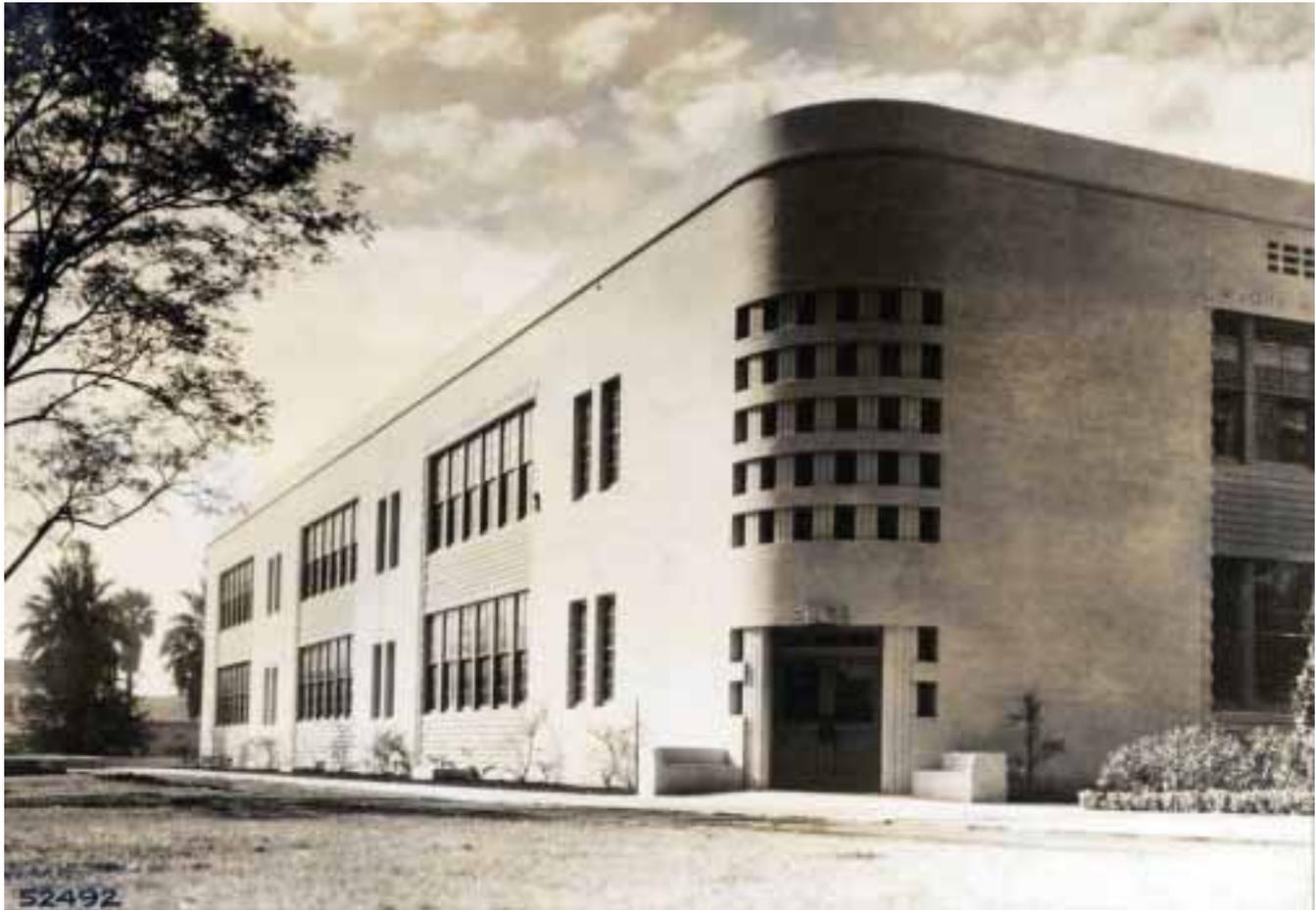
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Figure 5: Science Building, 1935. Source: SAIC Digital Libraries, Ryerson & Burnham Archives.



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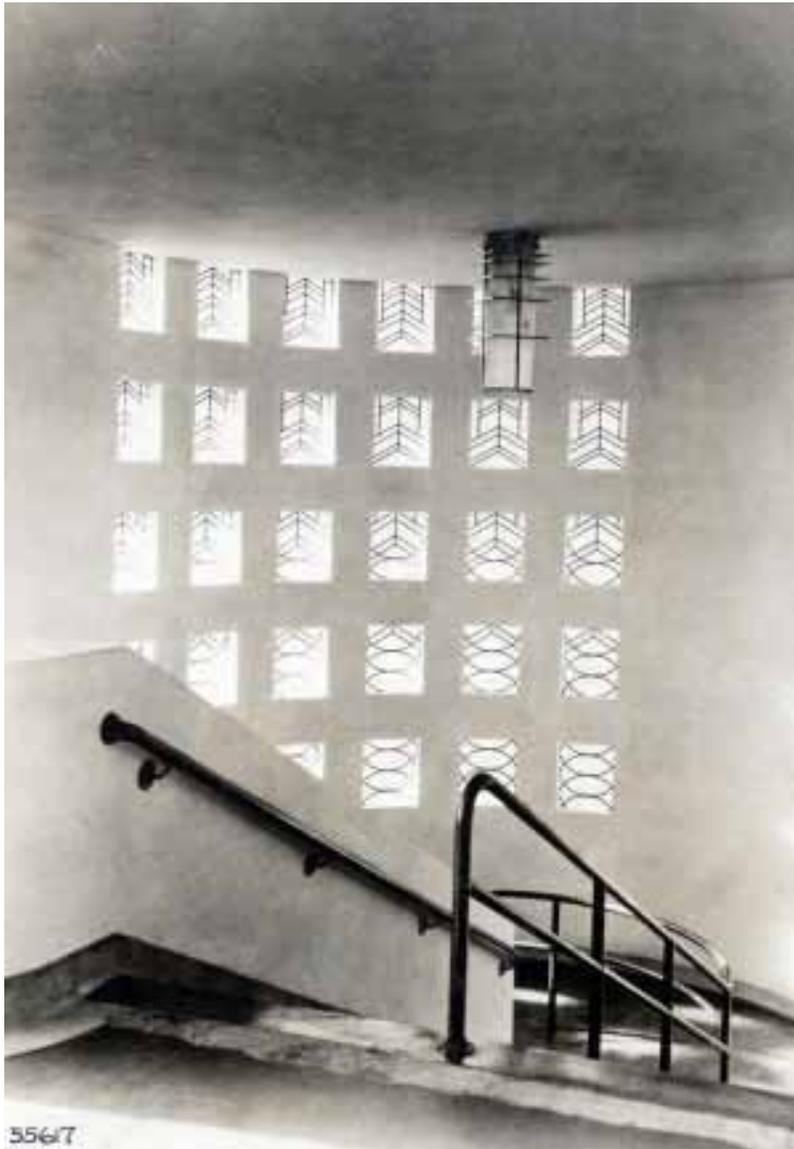
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Figure 6: Science Building interior, 1935. Source: SAIC Digital Libraries, Ryerson & Burnham Archives.



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Figure 7: Liberal & Household Arts Building, 1940. Source: California's Living New Deal.



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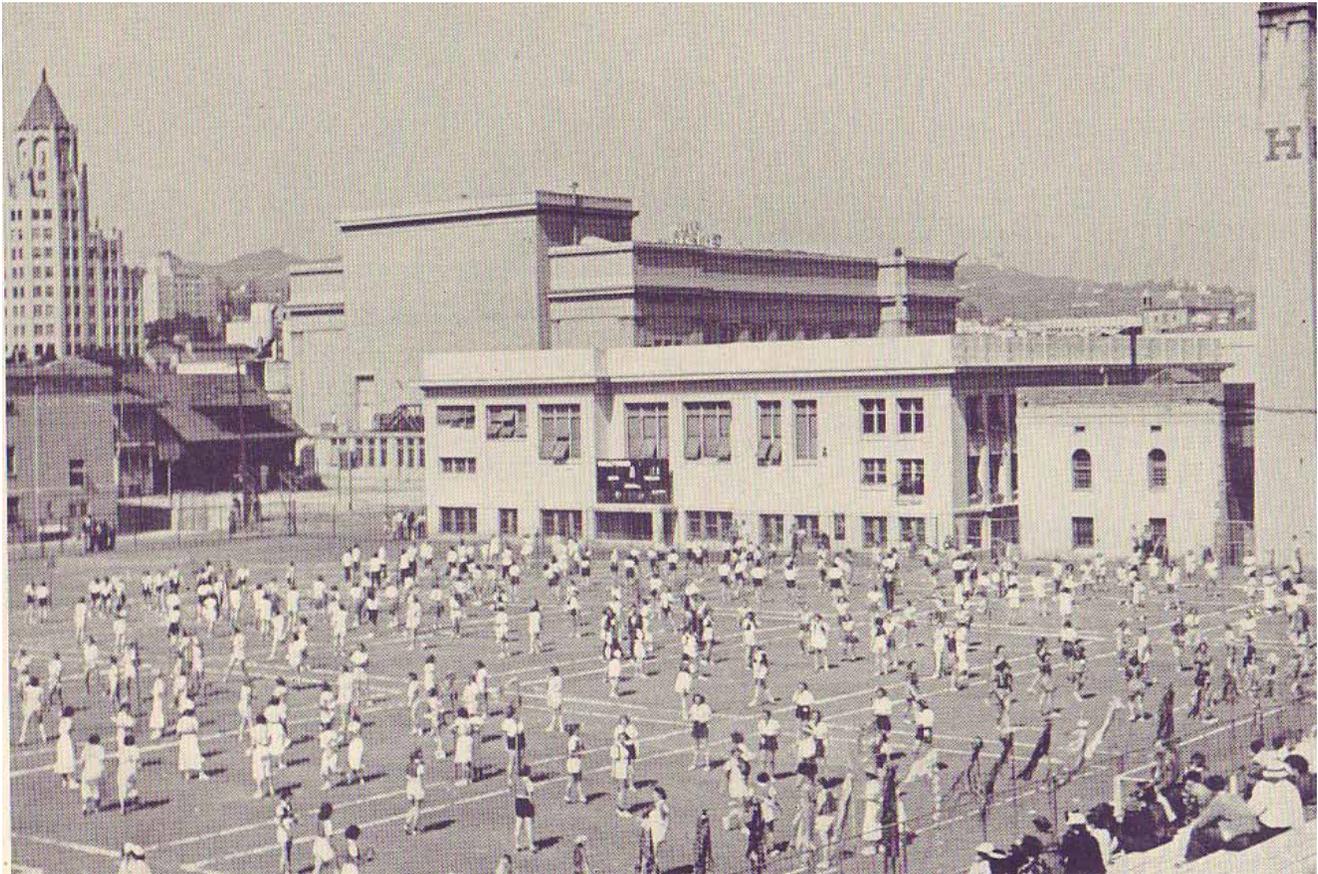
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Figure 8: Athletic Field, 1937. Source: Hollywood High School.



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Photo Log

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0001	Library, primary façade, view looking west
0002	Library, interior view of west wall with mural
0003	Library, interior view looking west
0004	Auditorium, view looking northwest
0005	Auditorium, primary façade, view looking west
0006	Auditorium interior, view looking west
0007	Science Building, primary façade, view looking north
0008	Science Building, detail of corner, view looking northeast
0009	Science Building interior, stairway detail, view looking west
0010	Liberal Arts Building, primary façade, view looking north
0011	Liberal Arts Building, corner detail, view looking northwest
0012	Arts Building, detail of primary façade, view looking north
0013	Arts Building, view looking east
0014	Arts Building, interior of classroom, view looking east
0015	Athletic Field, view looking northwest
0016	Athletic Field showing bleachers on Gymnasium roof, view looking southwest
0017	Auditorium, view of "Sheik" mural on façade overlooking Athletic Field, view looking east
0018	Kiosk, view looking north
0019	Context view looking south from the Auditorium
0020	Context view looking north across staff parking lot
0021	Context view looking south from the Library