

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED MAY 31 1978

DATE ENTERED DEC 20 1978

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

The Plaza

AND/OR COMMON

The Orange Plaza

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Intersection of Chapman Ave. and Glassell Street NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Orange

___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

39th

STATE

California

CODE
06

COUNTY

Orange

CODE

059

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

City of Orange

STREET & NUMBER

300 E. Chapman Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Orange

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

California

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Los Angeles County Hall of Records

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Los Angeles

STATE

California

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic Landmarks of Orange County

DATE

1967-68

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Orange County Historical Commission, 431 City Drive South

CITY, TOWN

Orange

STATE

California 92668

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The town of Orange was surveyed and platted in 1871 by Captain William T. Glassell for Alfred B. Chapman, a noted southern California lawyer. Chapman received most of the land as fee payment for legal services following the partitioning of the Rancho Santiago de Santa Ana. Later, a smaller portion was acquired from another partitioner, Abel Stearns, which rounded out the town.

The town was originally called "Richland". However, because there was another Richland in Sacramento County, the name was changed in order to be granted a post office in May, 1873. The town was then named "Orange" after Orange County, Virginia, --Glassell's birthplace.

Chapman deeded the Plaza, the exact center and first site of the original town, to Orange for use as a townsquare, but it was not developed as a park until 1886. Until that time the undeveloped dirt Plaza was used as a trash dump, hitching post and watering area, nursery and playing field. However, as the business district developed around the Plaza, citizens became increasingly disturbed by the dusty, dirty square. Finally, in 1886 a movement to create a Plaza park began. A group of concerned citizens cleaned up the area. In June, 1886, the circular pattern of the Plaza park was surveyed, and the local farmers flooded and plowed the area to prepare the land for plants. Three women led the effort to beautify the Plaza: Mrs. Samuel Armor, Mrs. D.C. Pixley and Mrs. William B. Forsythe. They had two separate fund drives, one for the Plaza park and one for a fountain.

The fountain, brought from New York, cost \$585.00, was made of iron, dark in color and had three tiers. Birds adorned the top and bottom, and spouted water. In 1937, this fountain was removed to W.O. Hart Memorial Park, and a new electric fountain costing \$1840.00 was made by Westinghouse Corporation in Cleveland, Ohio, installed and dedicated to Orange's war dead on December 13, 1937.

The Plaza's circle of approximately 28,000 square feet was divided into nine sections. These sections were planted with bermuda grass, palm and pepper trees. Shrubs and flowers were planted on the borders of these sections. Four dirt walkways ran the length of the Plaza park: two running north-south, and two running east-west. These walkways opened up onto Glassell Street and Chapman Avenue respectively. A single chain fence connected to wood posts enclosed the outside of the circle. In 1910 the wood posts were changed to iron and the pathways paved.

The Plaza retains its 1937 appearance; however, there have been some minor changes since that date. Various trees have been removed and replaced by magnolias and sycamores. New sidewalks, rose-colored in a crisscross pattern, were laid in 1970, and in 1976 the Orange Bicentennial Commission placed a plaque on the east side of the fountain commemorating the original 1886 beautification effort.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Orange Plaza, a rare example in California of a late 19th century midwestern American town square, has strong design integrity and regional significance. Moreover, the facts that it served as a successful advertising medium during the Orange County settlement boom of the late 1880's, that a unified community effort was undertaken in 1886 to create this beautiful park plaza, and that the plaza's fountain served as a measuring point for all land transactions in the area further heightens its historical significance.

The Plaza remains a visual symbol of the great land boom of the 1880's in southern California. With the arrival of the Santa Fe Railroad into the Los Angeles basin in 1886, a wave of land development speculation swept the region. Promotional literature flooded the Midwest, attracting prospective buyers of southern California land. Emigrants from the Midwest poured into southern California, bringing with them their social mores and traditions of architectural design, landscaping and town planning. The Orange Plaza, carved from the four interesting corners of a rectangular grid plan, shows the strong influence of the midwestern town square of the late 19th century. Surrounded by commercial buildings, the Orange Plaza forms the very heart of the city, and is a tangible link with the land boom of the 1880's, having been used to promote a midwestern image which would have been attractive to prospective settlers from the Midwest.

Retaining much of its original character, the Plaza provides the town of Orange with a strong sense of time and place, and remains a shady and placid resting place in the midst of a more hurried atmosphere.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Orange Daily News

Orange Tribune

Anaheim Gazette

Works Progress Administration Research Project # 3105

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY + 1.5 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	11	421199	37381779
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C			

B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Plaza sits on the corners of sections 29, 30, 31, & 32. It is situated at the cross of Chapman Avenue, which runs east - west, and Glassell Street, which runs north - south.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Suzanne Troup, Student Intern

December 20, 1976

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Orange Community Historical Society

(714) 772-8737

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

P.O. Box 5484

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Orange

California

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Knox McEllen

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 5/22/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
 ATTEST: *Bill Telvorch*
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

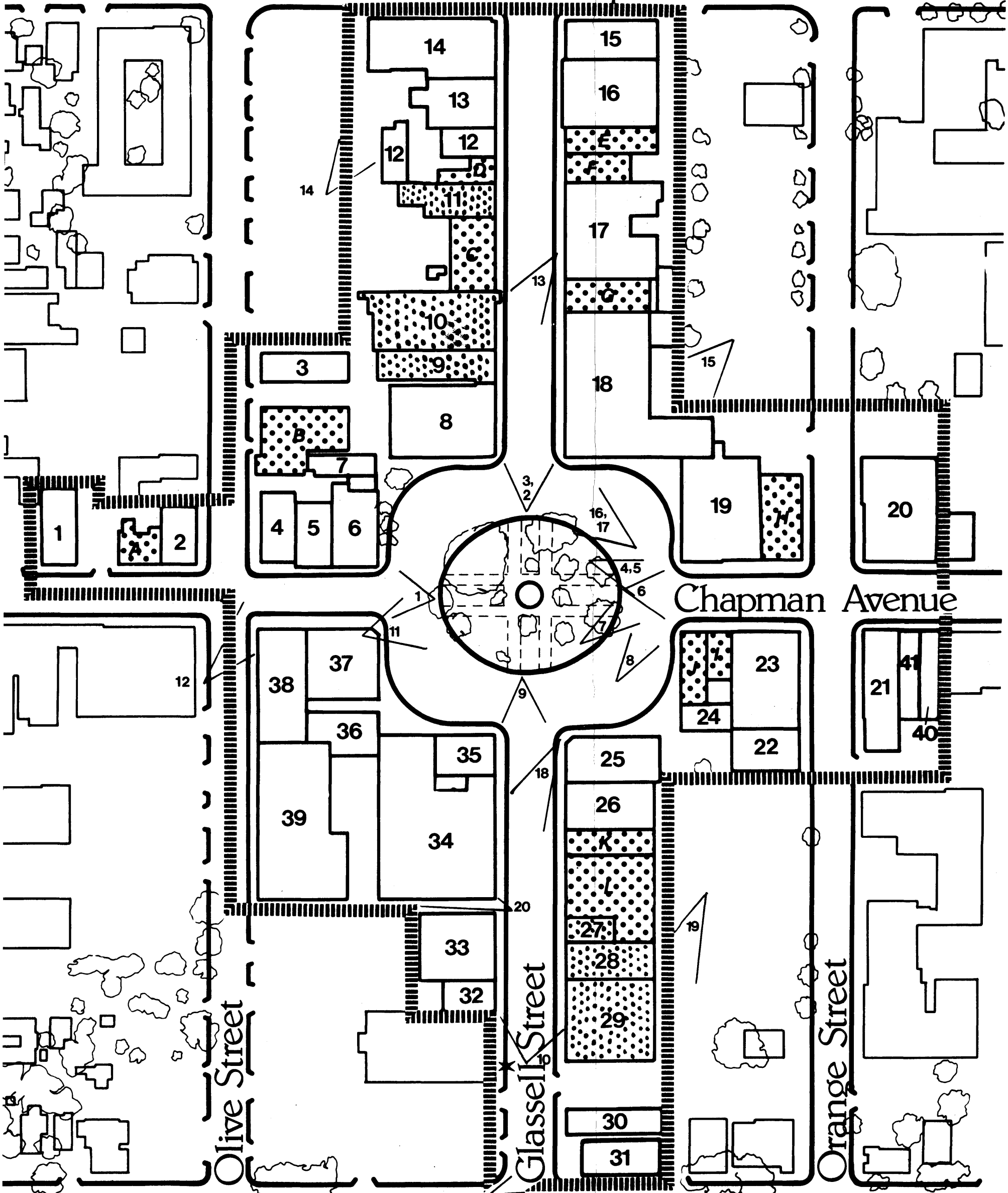
DATE 12/20/78
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
 DATE 12/15/78

1"=100'



District Boundary

Photo

Maple Avenue



The Plaza Historic District

-  Contributing
-  Non-Contributing

Almond Avenue

Olive Street

Glassell Street

Orange Street

Chapman Avenue