

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED NOV 27 1984
DATE ENTERED JAN 11 1985

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC
U.S. Post Office

AND/OR COMMON
Santa Ana, Spurgeon Station

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
605 Bush Street

NA NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
40

CITY, TOWN
Santa Ana

NA VICINITY OF

STATE
California

CODE
06

COUNTY
Orange

CODE
059

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	NA <input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thematic Group	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: *(If applicable)*
U.S. Postal Service, Western Regional Office

STREET & NUMBER
850 Cherry Ave.

CITY, TOWN
San Bruno

NA VICINITY OF

STATE
CA 94099

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Orange County Recorder

STREET & NUMBER
630 North Broadway

CITY, TOWN
Santa Ana

STATE
CA

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Santa Ana Historic Resources inventory

DATE
May, 1980 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS City of Santa Ana Redevelopment Agency

CITY, TOWN
Santa Ana

STATE
CA

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 <u>NA</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

4/27/84

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Santa Ana Post Office is a classical, symmetrical box with applied Spanish Colonial Revival ornament. Four arched windows admit light into the public lobby, and a large arched opening placed in the exact center of the front elevation, provides the main entrance.

LOCAL CONTEXT

Santa Ana is an incorporated community founded in 1868. The post office is located in what was, in the 1930s, the downtown area of the community. Several structures of historic significance survive from the late 19th and early 20th centuries in this area. The Church of the Messiah, Episcopal, designed in 1888 by Ernest Coxhead, is directly opposite the post office, on the west side of Bush Street. The subject property is within the Santa Ana Downtown District, recently nominated to the National Register.

The 1930 site survey indicates that several wood frame houses and garages occupied the site prior to the construction of the post office. Due to basement excavations, no trace of these structures is likely to remain. There are no known archaeological or paleontological resources located within or adjacent to the subject property. Further research or subsurface investigation does not appear to be justified.

PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The basement and walls are constructed of reinforced poured concrete, while all elevations visible from the street are topped with a tile roof. The workroom and office areas are covered by flat composition roofs. The walls of the public lobby are covered with a pink limestone wainscoting, and the floors are terracotta tile. The original lobby furniture and lighting fixtures remain in place.

The building is a late example of the Spanish Colonial Revival, a style prevalent in Southern California in the 1920s. The structure, designed in 1930, is among the last monumental post office buildings to be constructed in Southern California before the forced changes in design and construction brought on by the Depression. The open balcony on the second floor is an adaptation to the warm weather in Orange County, and is still used by Postal Service employees as a meeting place.

Specific features of note include the following:

- Elaborate wrought iron railing and grills on front elevation;
- Terracotta quoins;
- Decorative terracotta frieze;
- Cast terracotta eagle over front entrance; and
- Turned wooden spindles in transom over front entrance.

ALTERATIONS

An access ramp for the handicapped was installed in 1969; an entrance on the north facade was added at the same time. A new bank of lockboxes has been installed in the public lobby and the original service windows have been removed.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Santa Ana, ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE one
Spurgeon Station

The building appears to be in excellent structural condition. It is very well maintained. Restoration of the interior is scheduled and will include new HVAC improvements. The public service area of the lobby was remodeled in 1981 and additional lockboxes were installed.

The vaulted ceiling of the public lobby area contains eight semicircular murals. There are three murals above the cornice of the marble wainscot on each side of the lobby and one mural at each end.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input 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 **Begun, completed 1933.** BUILDER/ARCHITECT **OSA/James A. Wetmore,
Louis A. Simon**

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The building is a major urban design element in the old town portion of Santa Ana, an area which retains many historic structures. It retains substantial architectural integrity, and is a good example of the early 1930s designs of the Supervising Architect's offices.

ARCHITECTURE

The Santa Ana Spurgeon Station retains significant integrity of design, materialism and workmanship, and complete integrity of location, setting, association, and feeling. The minor modifications completed in 1969 (the north entrance and access ramp for the handicapped) have not impaired the architectural integrity of the building; they are small in relation to the building mass and are stylistically unobtrusive. The office is significant under National Register Criterion C, as embodying the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, and method of construction. On the local level, it possesses high artistic values, and forms an integral part of the urban fabric of the old downtown area.

The Santa Ana Spurgeon Station is representative of the buildings constructed in the early 1930s under basic authorization provided by the Keyes-Elliot Act and subsequent legislation. Though a large number of these buildings were constructed in California, very few have survived in their original form.

This building does not fit neatly into the categories of building types presented in the cover document. It, along with the San Bernardino Main Office, is intermediary in size between the small post office and the large combined post office and federal building, and does not appear to have been designed from standardized plans. These two offices provide evidence that the Supervising Architect's office did not adhere rigidly to a standard floor plan when local requirements suggested a different building type.

Spurgeon Station is stylistically idiosyncratic; the facade composition and massing reflect Beaux-Arts notions of symmetry but the ornament is derivative of Spanish Colonial Revival residential styles. The building is a good example of the application of the principles of Starved Classicism to Mediterranean Revivalism.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Building records at Santa Ana Sectional Center; building blueprints; progress photographs.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.25

UTM REFERENCES

A

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C

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Block 24, Town of Santa Ana Original Subdivision, Orange County. The site has a 182' northern border on 7th Street, 302' western border on Bush Street, 150' southern frontage on E. 6th Street, while the eastern border proceeds north 80'±, east 32'±, and continues north 222'±.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
NA	NA	NA	NA
NA	NA	NA	NA

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Doug Robertson, Planner

ORGANIZATION

Beland/Assoicates, Inc.

DATE

April 27, 1984

STREET & NUMBER

16 S. Oakland Ave. #204

TELEPHONE

(818) 796-8093

CITY OR TOWN

Pasadena

STATE

CA 91101

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES___ NO___ NONE___

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is ___ National ___ State ___ Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

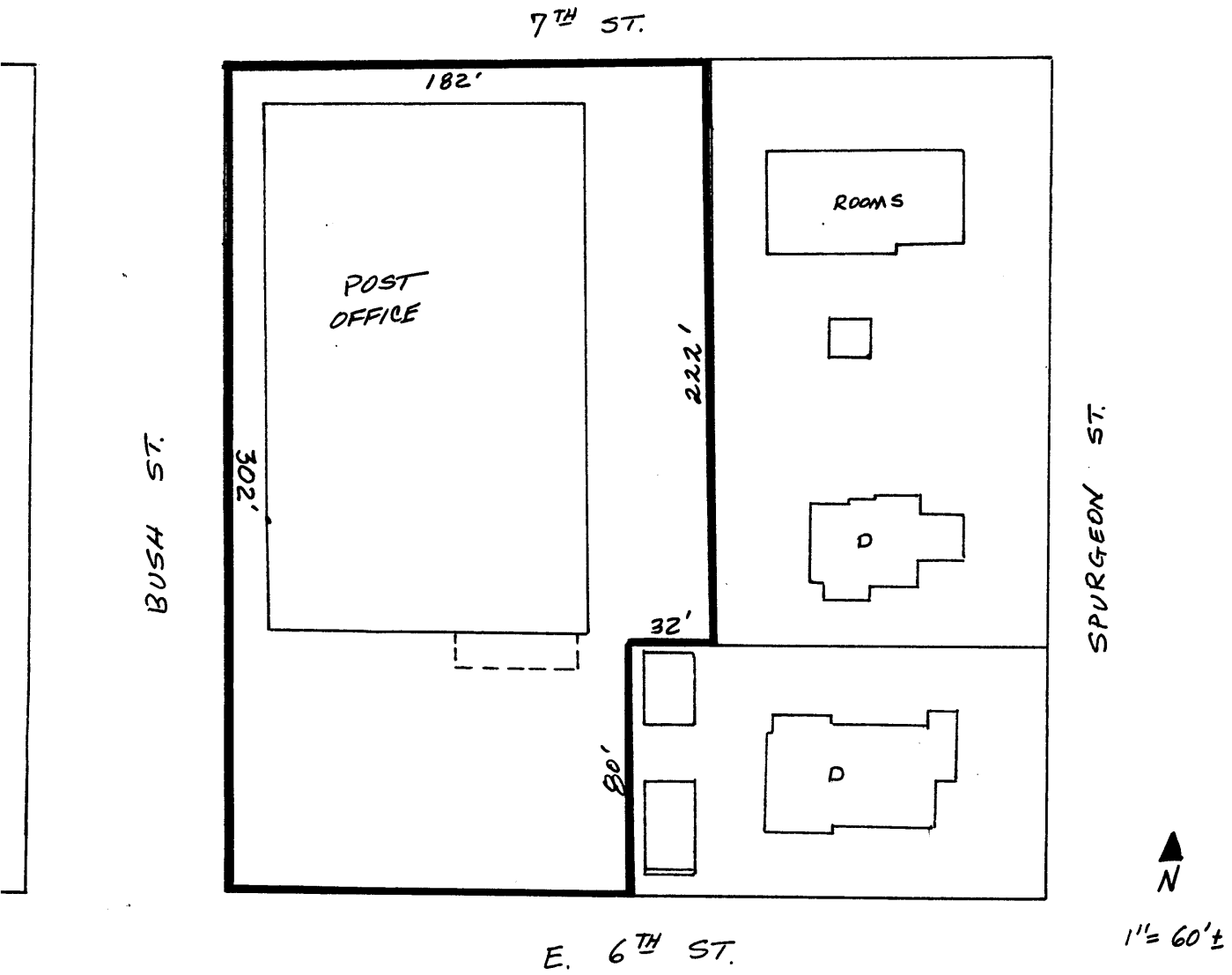
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Note: Post office site outlined in red.

Source: Sanborn Map, Santa Ana Book, page 16, 1906-32; Geography
Dept. California State University, Northridge, Calif.