

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

**SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD**

NRIS Reference Number: 02000034

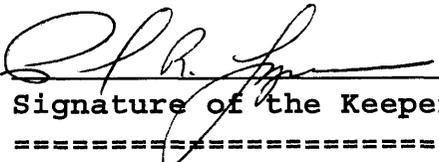
Date Listed: 2/21/2002

Azusa Civic Center  
Property Name

Los Angeles      CA  
County                      State

N/A  
Multiple Name

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This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

  
Signature of the Keeper

2/21/02  
Date of Action

=====  
Amended Items in Nomination:

**State Certification/Level of Significance:**  
The appropriate level of significance for the property is: *local*

**Resource Count:**  
The resource count is revised to switch the category of the non-historic fountain to: *one (1) non-contributing object.*

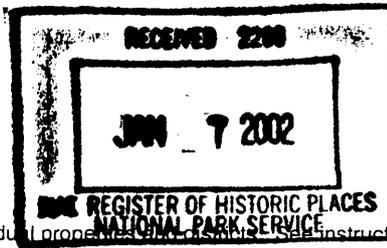
**Historic/Current Functions:**  
The functions are revised to include: *Government / City Hall; Government / Government Building; and Recreation / Auditorium.*

These revisions were confirmed with the CA SHPO staff.

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**DISTRIBUTION:**  
National Register property file  
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form



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This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. 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 entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Azusa Civic Center

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number 213 Foothill Boulevard NA  not for publication

city or town Azusa NA  vicinity

state California code CA county Los Angeles code 037 zip code 91702

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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  nationally  statewide  locally. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

K. Mellon 1/21/02  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

California Office of Historic Preservation  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
  - See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
  - See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

[Signature]

2/21/02

**Azusa Civic Center**  
Name of Property

**Los Angeles County, CA**  
County and State

**5. Classification**

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

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

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

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

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

| Contributing | Noncontributing |            |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| 2            | 1               | buildings  |
|              |                 | sites      |
| 1            | 1               | structures |
|              |                 | objects    |
| 3            | 2               | Total      |

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

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

NA

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**Government**

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**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**Government**

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**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**Spanish Colonial Revival**

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**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation **reinforced concrete**

roof **clay tile**

walls **reinforced concrete with painted stucco finish**

other \_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**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 a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

**Government**

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**Period of Significance**

**1928-1950**

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**Significant Dates**

**NA**

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**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

**NA**

**Cultural Affiliation**

**NA**

**Architect/Builder**

**Bates, Richard M., Jr., Architect**

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**Primary Location of Additional Data**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

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Azusa Civic Center  
Name of Property

Los Angeles County, CA  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** Two Acres

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

|   | Zone | Easting | Northing |   | Zone | Easting | Northing |
|---|------|---------|----------|---|------|---------|----------|
| 1 | 11   | 416560  | 3777220  | 3 | ---  | ---     | ---      |
| 2 | ---  | ---     | ---      | 4 | ---  | ---     | ---      |

See continuation sheet.

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Masum M. Azizi, AIA

organization Azizi Architects date August 1, 2001

street & number 1470 Jamboree Road, Suite 200 telephone 949-718-0368

city or town Newport Beach state CA zip code 92660

**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.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

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

name Nasser Abbasszadeh, City Engineer, City of Azusa

street & number 213 E. Foothill Boulevard telephone 626-812-5261

city or town Azusa state CA zip code 91702-1395

**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. 470 *et seq.*).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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National Park Service

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**Azusa Civic Center**  
**Los Angeles County, California**

### Description

The Azusa Civic Center is located on a two acres lot between Alameda and Dalton Avenues on the north side of Foothill Boulevard, which is also known as the "Historic Route 66" at the south central part of the City of Azusa. Since its construction in 1928, the Civic Center has been in continuous use as a place for the Azusa governmental, social, political, and civic activities and has served as a focal point of community life. The Civic Center is composed of three separate governmental buildings including the West Wing (one story, 9,500 sq. ft.) and the East Wing (one story, 4,128 sq. ft.) both built in 1928, and the Administration Building (two story 5,500 sq. ft.) built in 1975 in the same footprint of the Azusa Public Library, which was demolished in 1974. The East and West Wings along with an arcade added to the front of the Library (linking the three buildings) were constructed of reinforced concrete in Spanish Colonial Revival style of architecture in 1928. As part of the Administration building, the front arcade of Library was reconstructed in 1975. These buildings are laid out as U-shaped around three sides of a central courtyard. At the center of this courtyard, there is a fountain that was installed in 1975. The base of this fountain was originally a fishpond constructed in 1909. The courtyard, reminiscent of Spanish Colonial Revival, designating the main entrance to the Civic Center, is linked to Foothill Boulevard by a well-maintained landscaped Plaza with open lawns on both sides located on the south side of the Civic Center. There are five California Oak and Holly Oak trees, and eight light posts within the site that are part of the original construction of the Civic Center. In a complete interior remodeling of the West Wing in 1987, some windows and doors were altered, and a small porch on the south side was closed off within the exterior facades of the West Wing. Except for the rehabilitation of the West Wing and replacement of the original arcade of the Library Building, the Azusa Civic Center retains its original setting, general appearance, function, and character-defining features of its architectural style; it continues its historical association with the City of Azusa.

The idea of a Civic Center for Azusa originated in 1904. In 1910, with a \$10,000 grant from Andrew Carnegie, the Library (the central building of the Civic Center) was built. The City provided the site and \$2,000, and the Woman's Club furnished the Juvenile Room. The library building was constructed in the Classical Revival style of architecture designed by Norman Marsh, architect. Upon completion of the actual plans for the Civic Center in 1927, and after a bond issue of \$75,000 for this purpose was authorized by the voters, the East and West Wings were constructed in 1928. At this time an arcade was added in front of the Library building to provide a visual as well as functional link between the East and West Wings. It also allowed the library to be shared with city offices until 1959 when a new library was built behind the old, and the old library was replaced by the new City Hall. These three buildings do not have any interior linkage between them. The East and West wings and the front arcade of the library were constructed in the Spanish Colonial Revival style of architecture designed by Richard M. Bates, Jr., Architect. The Civic Center originally was laid out as U-shaped around three sides of a central courtyard. The Civic center is approximately 250 feet long and 140 feet wide including the courtyard. At the center of this courtyard, there is a fountain (approximately 9 feet in diameter and 15 feet tall) that was given to the City of Azusa as a gift by its sister city Zacatecas, Mexico in 1975. The base of this fountain was originally a fishpond constructed in 1909 by Manual Ruelas, Sr. and other Azusa citizens. The fishpond was altered to a paved platform as a base for the fountain. The perimeter walls of the pond still exist. The courtyard, designating the main entrance to the Civic Center, is approximately 80 feet by 80 feet, and is linked to the Foothill Boulevard by the well-

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National Park Service

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**Azusa Civic Center**  
**Los Angeles County, California**

maintained landscaped South plaza (135 feet long and 33 feet wide) on the south. On both sides of this plaza there are open and well maintained lawns on the south side of the Civic Center. There are five California Oak and Holly Oak trees, with four at the south-west side of the West Wing and one at the north side of the East Wing, which were planted around the same time when the Civic Center was constructed. There are two Deodar Cedar trees (one on each side of the South Plaza), that were planted in the 1980s. There are four palm trees within the courtyard that were planted during the remodeling of 1987. There are eight light posts (manufactured by Sun Lighting Fixtures Company) that are part of the original construction of the Civic Center. These light posts are located within the courtyard, South Plaza, and one in front of the East and West wings on the south side of the Civic Center. The North Plaza, located north of the Civic Center, provides access and circulation to the Library, Police Department, Parking, Azusa Museum and the adjacent City Park north of the library. The North Plaza (approximately 42 feet wide by 230 feet long) was constructed in 1988 at the site of some tennis courts, which were as part of the City Park.

**Administration Building:** The Central Building (a.k.a., Administration Building) is rectangular in plan, approximately 65 feet by 40 feet, built in 1975 within the footprints of the original Carnegie Library. The Library Building was constructed of concrete hollow block in 1910. After the Sylmar earthquake, the Carnegie Library (due to its concrete hollow block construction system) was not considered safe by the building officials and accordingly was demolished in 1974. The front arcade that was added in 1928 was also demolished at this time. The existing Administration Building was built in two stories in 1975 within the same footprints of the previous library building. The building is constructed on reinforced concrete masonry foundation walls and has stucco finish exterior walls with clay roof tiles. At the south façade the building has a round arched arcade (linking the building with the East and West wings) and a round arched entrance with 3 arched windows on each side. At the east, south and north facades the rectangular windows are within the recessed round arched exterior wall. Although the original Carnegie Library and the ornate Arcade of Spanish Colonial Revival were lost, efforts had been made to maintain, somewhat, the continuity of the exterior material and finishes to blend with the East and West Wings. The current front arcade has painted stucco finish with a red clay tile roof. Presently, the building is used as a City Clerk's Office, Mayor's Office, Finance, and Administration offices.

**East Wing:** The East Wing (a.k.a., Azusa Auditorium) is a one story building and has a rectangular plan, approximately 100 feet by 55 feet, including the ticketing office and open porch on the south façade, and the straight-headed arcade facing the central courtyard on the west facade. The ticketing office, approximately 300 sq. ft, is part of the original design of the building and is structurally attached to the Auditorium building. The walls and foundations are constructed of reinforced concrete with a clay tile gabled roof. The Auditorium structural system consists of pour-in-place reinforced concrete walls at the perimeter. This 4,128 sq. ft. building consists mainly of a general seating area, a raised stage with wood framing, a back stage room, and a movie projection room above the main entry on the south end. There is no basement in this building. Exterior walls and interior bearing walls are constructed of reinforced concrete with stucco finish and paint. The roof structure consists of wood sheathing over a series of steel trusses and channel perkins supporting a plastered roof deck. The structural roof framing is divided into five bays over the length of the building by primary vertical load bearing members. The roof is sloped gable construction and has tile roofing over a cement plaster diaphragm reinforced with wire mesh.

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### Azusa Civic Center Los Angeles County, California

Based on a structural evaluation report dated October 30, 1999, *in general the overall building is in good condition. Based on the test results, the structure has demonstrated that it is structurally sound and does not require any immediate repair or upgrade while providing its functionality. However, several areas of the building will require more immediate attention.*

The Azusa Civic Center East Wing has retained all of its original characteristic of Spanish Colonial Revival. The beautiful entrance decoration of pre-cast concrete, the wrought iron grillwork at the window, the arched window with ornate details at both sides on the south facade, the arched and straight-headed windows around the building, and white stucco finished walls still intact including the arcade on the courtyard side, qualify this building to be a good example of the Spanish Colonial Revival. In 1987, the clay tile roof was renewed with compatible tile to the original. The East Wing also retains all of its original interior fabric. The interior characteristics are pre-cast ornate details on top of the windows and doors, around the opening of the stage, and at the bottom of beams at the ceiling. All of the seating is the original wooden theatre-type seats manufactured by Heywood - Wakefield Company. Originally there were 18 rows of chairs with 22 chairs in each row. All of the original character-defining interior features and the seats are intact except two of the front rows of seats, which were removed to make room for the wood-frame stage for the Council Bench and also to comply with the ADA requirements (providing space for wheelchairs at the front row).

The Auditorium exterior building components are in fair to good condition. The character-defining features of the building are virtually intact. There is some degree of disrepair and deferred maintenance. Most of the disrepair can be remedied by restoring finishes. The building needs immediate repair and rehabilitation work on some exterior features, including replacement of damaged roof tiles, removal and repainting of the exterior windows, doors, and some parts of the exterior walls, repair and replacement of some windows, repair of water leakage around some windows on the west side, and repair of water damaged stucco.

The building is currently being used for City Council meetings and other community meetings and has a seating capacity for approximately 350 people.

**West Wing:** The West Wing (a.k.a., Azusa City Hall) is a one story building and has approximately F-shaped plan around three sides of a garden (18 feet by 24 feet) on the west side. The West Wing's over-all measurement is approximately 110 feet by 130 feet including the straight-headed arcade facing the central courtyard on the East façade and the garden and part of the open lawn on the west. The walls and foundations are constructed of reinforced concrete. The structural system consists of pour-in-place reinforced concrete walls at the perimeter. This 9,500 sq. ft. building consists mainly of general city hall offices. There is no basement in this building. Exterior walls and interior bearing walls are constructed of reinforced concrete with stucco finish and paint. The building structure appears to be similar to that of the East Wing. The roof is sloped gable construction and has clay tile roofing over cement plaster diaphragm reinforced with wire mesh.

The West Wing housed the City Hall offices and functions. In 1945, quarters for the fire department were added within the space of the department of Light and Water at the northern section of the West Wing and a two way radio system for the police department was installed.

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**Azusa Civic Center**  
**Los Angeles County, California**

In a remodeling of 1987, the porch on the south facade of the West Wing was closed off and the three arched windows on its south facade were altered into rectangular windows. The fire department within the West Wing was converted into expanded city offices. And the entrances to the fire engine/repair shop were converted into arched windows on the west facade. The interior of the West Wing had undergone a complete rehabilitation to accommodate the City Hall's expanded functions. Two doors and three windows on the north façade were closed off. One window on the south façade at the south-western corner office was added and a door on the west façade within this office was closed off. The remaining exterior wood windows of the West Wing had been replaced with aluminum windows. On the courtyard side of the West Wing, one entrance was converted into a window, another entrance and a window were closed off, and a single door was converted into a double door. The clay tile roof was renewed with compatible tile to the original. Except for these alterations, the West Wing retains its original appearance and setting and continues its historical associations with the City of Azusa.

The City Hall exterior building components are in good condition. The remaining character-defining features of the building on the exterior are virtually intact. The changes that occurred within the exterior porch and closure of the doors and windows including their partial closures have been handled with care to remain compatible with the original material and finish. The porch, arched windows, and the door and window openings were closed off with drywall with painted stucco finish to match the existing adjacent wall. However, the limits of the altered work are still clearly visible. Most of the disrepair is reversible and can be remedied during future rehabilitation work.

Based on field observation, the City Hall is well maintained and in general the overall building is in good condition. Presently, the building is used for the City Hall functions (Building & Safety, Community Development, Planning Dept., Human Resources, City Engineers Offices, and Redevelopment Agency).

The front open space including the South Plaza as was originally designed to have been historically associated with the main facades of the Civic Center and Foothill Boulevard.

The setting of the Azusa Civic Center remains civic and governmental in character. The Civic Center is easily visible from the three surrounding roads and the North Plaza, which provides access and circulation to the Library, Police Department, Parking, Azusa Museum and the adjacent City Park north of the library. The landscaped South Plaza and open lawns on the south maintains the Civic Center historic association including its most important visibility with Foothill Boulevard. The vicinity remains urban and residential and the area is fully inhabited.

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**Azusa Civic Center**  
**Los Angeles County, California**

### **Statement of Significance**

The Azusa Civic Center is historically significant for its long association with the development of the City of Azusa in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Since its construction in 1928, the Azusa Civic Center has been the most important buildings in civic, community affairs, as the home of the local government, and the venue of the city of Azusa's important public, civic, and political gatherings and events. The Azusa Civic Center played a significant role in the development and progress of the Azusa City and community life. The original setting of the property has not changed since it was built. The beautiful landscaping, vegetation, and the general layout of the site have been well maintained since 1928. Some of the Oak trees and the 8 pre-cast concrete light-posts on the site date back to the 1928 site work. While retaining its significant characteristics as an example of the "Spanish Colonial Revival" style of architecture, the well maintained Azusa Civic Center continues to serve the Azusa community in the same capacity today.

### **Historical Background and Significance:**

The City of Azusa was founded in 1887 and incorporated as a general law city on December 29, 1898. The city is located in the County of Los Angeles, situated 27 miles northeast of the City of Los Angeles, and nestled against the San Gabriel Mountain foothills. The City of Azusa encompasses 9.13 square miles and has a population of approximately 45,000. Educational facilities include nine public elementary/middle schools, two public high schools, one private school, and one private university. The median property value in the city is \$166,824 and the median household income is \$31,889. The city also has the following land use mix: 20% industrial, 7% retail/service commercial, 1.5% office and 30% residential.

The earliest written reference is in the Spanish land grants where the area was described as "Rancho El Susa". An area of land some three square miles was given to Luis Arenas (First Mayor of Los Angeles) by the Mexican Government as a Mexican land grant in 1841. Arenas built an adobe home on the hill in the eastern part of the City, did farming and stock raising and called his newly acquired possession El Susa Rancho. In 1844 Arenas sold all of his holdings to Henry Dalton, an Englishman who acquired his wealth in buying and shipping goods from Peru to Wilmington Harbor, now Los Angeles Harbor, and San Francisco. Don Enrique Dalton, after paying \$7,000 to Arenas for El Susa Rancho, changed the name to Azusa Rancho de Dalton.

On the Azusa Rancho, Mr. Dalton planted a vineyard extending northward from the Dalton Hill to the Sierra Madre Mountains. He built a winery, a distillery, a vinegar house, a meat smokehouse and a flour mill, importing the mill stones from France in 1854 and erecting his mill on a ranch ditch which delivered water to the south portion of his property. During the great flood years of 1861 and 1862, the flour mills along the various canyons from San Bernardino were washed out and most of the people brought their grain to the Azusa Rancho de Dalton for grinding.

During 1854, gold was discovered in the San Gabriel Canyon and a town named El Doradoville was built at the fork of the San Gabriel to take care of some 2,000 miners who had filed on gold claims along the east fork of the canyon. During the next twenty years, it is estimated that \$12 million in gold was mined and shipped to various mints throughout the

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### Azusa Civic Center Los Angeles County, California

United States. The town of El Doradoville was destroyed by flood waters in 1861 and 1862. The gold ran out soon after, but people continued to come to the area.

In 1874, Henry Dalton and Captain J. R. Gordon imported from Italy fifteen stands of Italian honey bees, considered the first honey bees imported into the United States. This developed into a large industry in the production of honey throughout the United States. The area started to grow and prosper.

In the early 1860's, the Federal government sent surveyors to the area and disputed Dalton's rancho boundaries, subsequently declaring much of the area open to homesteaders. Dalton fought the decision throughout courts for 24 years, but the heavy court and attorney costs forced him to sell much of the rancho to pay the bills. He kept 55 acres, but sold all the rest to Mr. Jonathan S. Slauson one of the early Los Angeles bankers.

Mr. Slauson laid out the town of Azusa in 1877 and opened the sale of lots. The land boom was on, and the tales of the wonderful climate brought more new residents. It is a matter of information that when the date was set for the sale of lots, people stayed up all night and some of them paid as much as \$500 for front places in line for first purchase of lots. When the streets were being graded, there were unearthed many Indian mortars, which proved that Indians did inhabit this area in the early days before the white man.

On December 29, 1898, the City was incorporated as a city of the 6th class. The population in 1890 was 800; in 1900 it was 865. The City of Azusa continued its growth and prosperity along with the growing need for public services and government.

To address that need, in 1902 the Azusa Free Library was set up, and the Civic Center idea was originated in 1904 when the public library of Azusa was installed in the one-story building which had been the city hall. In 1910, with a \$10,000 grant from Andrew Carnegie, the Library was built in the place of the current Civic Center "Administration Building". The City provided the site and \$2,000 and the Woman's Club furnished the Juvenile Room. In 1928 the Azusa Auditorium (the East Wing of the Azusa Civic Center) and the City Hall (the West Wing of the Azusa Civic Center) were built. By the 1930 Census, Azusa had almost doubled its population of the 1920 (from 2,460 to 4,803).

The Azusa Civic Center was originally composed of three separate buildings [the Central building (Library), the West Wing (Azusa City Hall), and the East Wing (Azusa Auditorium)] and was laid out as U-shaped around three sides of a central courtyard. When the East and West Wings were added to the library in 1928, the front facade of the Library building was modified by the addition of an ornate round arched arcade. This arcade (linking the three buildings) was constructed in the Spanish Colonial Revival in the same style of architecture as the East and West Wings. It also allowed the library to be shared with city offices until 1959 when a new library was built behind the old and the old library was replaced by the new City Hall.

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**Azusa Civic Center**  
**Los Angeles County, California**

With construction complete, Azusa Civic Center became a true civic center for the growing city of Azusa. From its inception the Civic Center was the home for Azusa's governmental, social, political, and civic activities and is focal point of community life. The first meeting was held in the Azusa Auditorium on November 27, 1928.

**The East Wing** (a.k.a., Azusa Auditorium) was used as the Civic Auditorium for the community and Council/City meetings. Also the Chamber of Commerce used the building. It was also used to show movies to the community of Azusa.

*The Auditorium has played many different roles in its 72-year history. It has always served as the city council chambers. A few of the Miss Azusa pageants were held on stage. In the 1930s previews of the latest technology in kitchen and household appliances were demonstrated and displayed on the stage of the auditorium. Appointed judge for the city of Azusa, John Durrell used to hold sessions in the Auditorium, the most notable case was that of Will Rogers for Judge Durrell fined Mr. Rogers \$100 for speeding in Azusa. Most Azusa residents had to go to the Auditorium for the issuing of their drivers' licenses. During World War Two, a Azusa resident by the name of Johnny Falcon who had participated in the Junior Olympics and in the 1932 Olympics games was killed in action, his body was sent home to Azusa. The local church could not accommodate the expected crowd of mourners, so the services for his wake were held in the auditorium where Mr. Falcon lay in state in his casket at the foot of the stage. Another event that have taken place in the auditorium is the filming of an action comedy trilogy by the name of "3 Ningas" in 1992. In the movie there are scenes filmed showing the interior of the auditorium. In the Late 1920s and 1930s tap lessons were taught on stage to local Azusa children and occasional dance recitals were held here. From the birth of the Auditorium in 1928 to present day, many dignitaries from far and near have passed through the thresh hold of the Auditorium.*

Presently, the building is used as the Council Chamber. And the ticket office is used by the Credit Union. With the exception of minimal modifications to comply with the ADA requirements, Azusa Auditorium has retained its original character and features.

**The West Wing** (a.k.a., Azusa City Hall) housed the city clerk's office, engineering department, street department, treasury's office, court clerk, jail, building inspector's office, police chief's office, communication room, and water & light departments. In 1945, quarters for the fire department (engine room, firemen's recreation room, kitchen, and repair shop) were added to the northern part of the West Wing, which was part of the Azusa light and water department, and a two way radio system for the police department was installed. The fire department remained in this location from 1946 until 1962. In 1959, a new library was built behind the Central building, which thereafter, was entirely used for the City Hall functions and became known as the Administration Building. Some of the functions of the City Hall such as finance and city clerk's offices were moved into the Administration Building. In remodeling of 1987, the interior of the West Wing was redesigned to accommodate the City Hall expanded functions such as the Building & Safety, Community Development, Planning Department, Human Resources, City Engineers and Code Enforcement Offices, Support/Reproduction Center, and Redevelopment Agency. By this time the police department, fire department, and

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### **Azusa Civic Center Los Angeles County, California**

water & light department functions were moved out of the West Wing and into their respective new facilities within the vicinity of the Civic Center. The space for these functions has been incorporated within the city hall expansion. Since its inception, the City Hall continued its original setting and significant roll as home for government affairs for the growing city of Azusa.

**The Central Building** (presently known as Administration Building) was originally the library (the original Carnegie Library). The Library building was also shared with the City Hall functions providing space for the Mayor and administrative offices. In 1959, a new library was built behind the Central building, which thereafter, was entirely used for the City Hall functions and became known as the Administration Building. After the Sylmar earthquake, the remaining of the Carnegie Library [the Central building (due to its concrete hollow block construction system)] was not considered safe by the building officials and accordingly was demolished in 1974. The existing Administration Building was built in two stories in 1975 within the same footprints of the previous library building. The Administration building as of 1956 has been used as City Clerk's Office, Mayor's Office, Finance, and Administration offices. Due to loss of its original character and historic fabric and its age being less than 50 years, the Administration building is considered as a noncontributing building.

The Azusa Civic Center since its inception has served the community as the main place for government and civic functions, and for small as well as major events within the city of Azusa. Draft registration for World War II was held at the Azusa Civic Center. Also the Ration Board was held at the Azusa Civic Center during World War II.

Since 1928, the Azusa Civic Center has undergone some changes. The central building (Library) had been replaced with the Administration building in 1975, and the interior of the West Wing had been completely remodeled in 1987 to accommodate the City Hall new and expanded functions. The City of Azusa, also, has gone through changes since the Civic Center was constructed. The population of Azusa has grown from 4,803 in 1930 to 45,000 people in 2000. To address the growing needs of the community, along with many other developments, a separate building for the police department and department of light and water was built in 1968, a public library was built in 1956, and later the department of light and water was provided with its own building, constructed in 1995. A fire department was built in 1964. Even today Azusa has grown into a fully inhabited urban community, the Civic Center continues to serve as the well preserved focal point for civic life and government functions.

The Azusa Civic Center clearly reflects the role of civic and government associations in the life of American cities and communities in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

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**Photographs:**

Please refer to the back of the photographs and colored slides for name of the property, county and state, and photograph number (items 1, 2, and 7). The name of photographer, date of photograph, location of original negative, description of view indication direction of camera, and photograph number (items 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7) are listed below. Please note that under item 7 Photo H- # designates Historic Photo number; Photo # designates Photograph number that is most recent; and S - # designates Colored Slide number.

3. Unknown
4. Prior to 1928 (Exact date is unknown)
5. Location of Original Negative is unknown. However, there is one copy of the photograph at the Azusa Public Library and Azusa Museum.
6. South Façade of the original Andrew Carnegie Library that was built in 1910, in the place of the current Central Building of the Azusa Civic Center, looking North.
7. Photo H-1

3. Unknown
4. 1928 (Exact date is unknown)
5. Location of Original Negative is unknown. However, there is one copy of the photograph at the Azusa Public Library and Azusa Museum.
6. South Façade of the Azusa Civic Center built in 1928, looking North.
7. Photo H-2

3. Unknown
4. August 1928 (Exact date is unknown)
5. Location of Original Negative is unknown. However, there is one copy of the photograph at the Azusa Public Library and Azusa Museum.
6. South Façade of the Azusa Civic Center central arcade built in 1928. This arcade modified the front facade of the Carnegie Library building. This arcade (of the Spanish architecture) linked the Central building with the East and West wings built in 1928, looking North.
7. Photo H-3

3. Unknown
4. 1928 (Exact date is unknown)
5. Location of Original Negative is unknown. However, there is one copy of the photograph at the Azusa Museum.
6. Interior view of the stage at the Azusa Civic Auditorium, looking North.
7. Photo H-4

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3. Masum M. Azizi
4. July 2001
5. City of Azusa, Office of City Engineer, Azusa, CA.
6. South Façade of the Azusa Civic Center (showing the East & West Wings and front lawn), looking Northeast.
7. Photo 1, S-1

3. Masum M. Azizi
4. July 2001
5. City of Azusa, Office of City Engineer, Azusa, CA.
6. South Façade of the Azusa Civic Center (showing the Central Building and South Plaza), looking North.
7. Photo 2, S-2

3. Masum M. Azizi
4. July 2001
5. City of Azusa, Office of City Engineer, Azusa, CA.
6. South Façade and East Side of the Azusa Civic Center West Wing (Azusa City Hall), looking Northwest.
7. Photo 3, S-3

3. Masum M. Azizi
4. July 2001
5. City of Azusa, Office of City Engineer, Azusa, CA.
6. South Façade the Azusa Civic Center East Wing (Azusa Civic Auditorium), looking North.
7. Photo 4, S-4

3. Masum M. Azizi
4. July 2001
5. City of Azusa, Office of City Engineer, Azusa, CA.
6. West Façade and South Side the Azusa Civic Center East Wing (Azusa Civic Auditorium), looking Northeast.
7. Photo 5, S-5

3. Masum M. Azizi
4. July 2001
5. City of Azusa, Office of City Engineer, Azusa, CA.
6. East Façade and North Side of the Azusa Civic Center East Wing (Azusa Civic Auditorium), looking Southwest.
7. Photo 6, S-6

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3. Masum M. Azizi
  4. July 2001
  5. City of Azusa, Office of City Engineer, Azusa, CA.
  6. South Façade of the Azusa Civic Center West Wing (Azusa City Hall), looking North.
  7. Photo 7, S-7
- 
3. Masum M. Azizi
  4. July 2001
  5. City of Azusa, Office of City Engineer, Azusa, CA.
  6. East Façade and South Side of the Azusa Civic Center West Wing (Azusa City Hall), looking Northwest.
  7. Photo 8, S-8
- 
3. Masum M. Azizi
  4. July 2001
  5. City of Azusa, Office of City Engineer, Azusa, CA.
  6. East Façade of the Azusa Civic Center West Wing (Azusa City Hall), looking West.
  7. Photo 9, S-9 (Not Available)
- 
3. Masum M. Azizi
  4. July 2001
  5. City of Azusa, Office of City Engineer, Azusa, CA.
  6. North Façade of the Azusa Civic Center West Wing (Azusa City Hall), looking South.
  7. Photo 10, S-10
- 
3. Masum M. Azizi
  4. July 2001
  5. City of Azusa, Office of City Engineer, Azusa, CA.
  6. West Façade and North Side of the Azusa Civic Center Central Building [Administration Building (at the background)] and North Side of the West Wing and the North Plaza (at the foreground), looking Southeast.
  7. Photo 11, S-11
- 
3. Masum M. Azizi
  4. July 2001
  5. City of Azusa, Office of City Engineer, Azusa, CA.
  6. East Façade of the Azusa Civic Center Central Building [Administration Building (at the background)] and North Side of the East Wing (at the foreground), looking Southwest. Note: The horizontal line(s) on the photograph is due to inadvertent scratch on the negative.
  7. Photo 12, S-12

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3. Masum M. Azizi
  4. July 2001
  5. City of Azusa, Office of City Engineer, Azusa, CA.
  6. West Façade (Partial Elevation) of the Azusa Civic Center West Wing (Azusa City Hall), looking East.
  7. Photo 13, S-13
- 
3. Masum M. Azizi
  4. July 2001
  5. City of Azusa, Office of City Engineer, Azusa, CA.
  6. West Façade and South Side (Partial Elevations) of the Azusa Civic Center West Wing (Azusa City Hall), looking Northeast.
  7. Photo 14, S-14
- 
3. Masum M. Azizi
  4. July 2001
  5. City of Azusa, Office of City Engineer, Azusa, CA.
  6. North Façade and East Side of the Azusa Civic Center Central Building (Administration Building), looking Southwest. Note: The horizontal line(s) on the photograph is due to inadvertent scratch on the negative.
  7. Photo 15, S-15
- 
3. Masum M. Azizi
  4. July 2001
  5. City of Azusa, Office of City Engineer, Azusa, CA.
  6. West Façade (Partial Elevation) of the Azusa Civic Center West Wing (Azusa City Hall) and the North Plaza, looking East.
  7. Photo 16, S-16
- 
3. Masum M. Azizi
  4. July 2001
  5. City of Azusa, Office of City Engineer, Azusa, CA.
  6. South Façade (Partial Elevation of the Entrance) of the Azusa Civic Center East Wing (Azusa Civic Auditorium), looking Northwest.
  7. Photo 17, S-17

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3. Masum M. Azizi
4. July 2001
5. City of Azusa, Office of City Engineer, Azusa, CA.
6. View of the Fountain and South Plaza South Façade from the Main Entrance of the Azusa Civic Center Central Building (Administration Building), looking South.
7. Photo 18, S-18

**The following are list of additional colored slides picturing significant interior features of the property:**

3. Masum M. Azizi
  4. July 2001
  5. City of Azusa, Office of City Engineer, Azusa, CA.
  6. Interior view of the Azusa Civic Auditorium, looking North.
  7. S-19
- 
3. Masum M. Azizi
  4. July 2001
  5. City of Azusa, Office of City Engineer, Azusa, CA.
  6. Interior view of the Azusa Civic Auditorium, looking South.
  7. S-20
- 
3. Masum M. Azizi
  4. July 2001
  5. City of Azusa, Office of City Engineer, Azusa, CA.
  6. Interior view of the Azusa Civic Auditorium (showing window detail), looking West.
  7. S-21
- 
3. Masum M. Azizi
  4. July 2001
  5. City of Azusa, Office of City Engineer, Azusa, CA.
  6. Interior view of the Azusa Civic Auditorium (showing original wood seating), looking Southeast.
  7. S-22

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Los Angeles County, California

### Bibliography

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Azusa Herald, Page 7, New City Hall of Spanish Architecture Most Beautiful in San Gabriel Valley , August 9, 1928.

Azusa Herald & Pomotropic, Azusa, California, Vol. 64, No 40, P.1, Col. 3, The City Library, July 12, 1951.

The American City, Pittsfield Mass., etc., Bittenheim Pub. Corp., etc., Evolution of a Civic Center, Vol. LXI; No. 12. December 1946.

Santa Barbara Architecture, from Spanish Colonial to Modern, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, December 1995, Published by CAPRA PRESS.

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**Azusa Civic Center**  
**Los Angeles County, California**

### Verbal Boundary Description

The Southerly 325' of Block 30 Map of Azusa, map book 15 page 94 in the office of the County Recorder, County of Los Angeles.

### Verbal Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the front portion of the parcel historically associated with the Azusa Civic Center *Historic Core* consisting of the East Wing, the West Wing, the Central Building, and the open space (the landscaped front lawn and South Plaza), which is between the Civic Center buildings and Foothill Boulevard. The front open space as was originally designed along with the main facades of the Civic Center have been historically associated with the Foothill Boulevard (on the South), which is also known as the "Historic Route 66".

However, due to its age being less than 50 years, the Library Building (constructed in 1959 with International style of architecture) is not included within the historic core of the Azusa Civic Center. Therefore, the boundaries of the Azusa Civic Center *Historic Core* is between Dalton Avenue (on the East), Alameda Avenue (on the West), Foothill Boulevard (on the South), and the North Plaza, which is between the Library Building and the Central Building (Administration Building).



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Los Angeles Co.  
CA

BOUNDARY OF THE PROPERTY

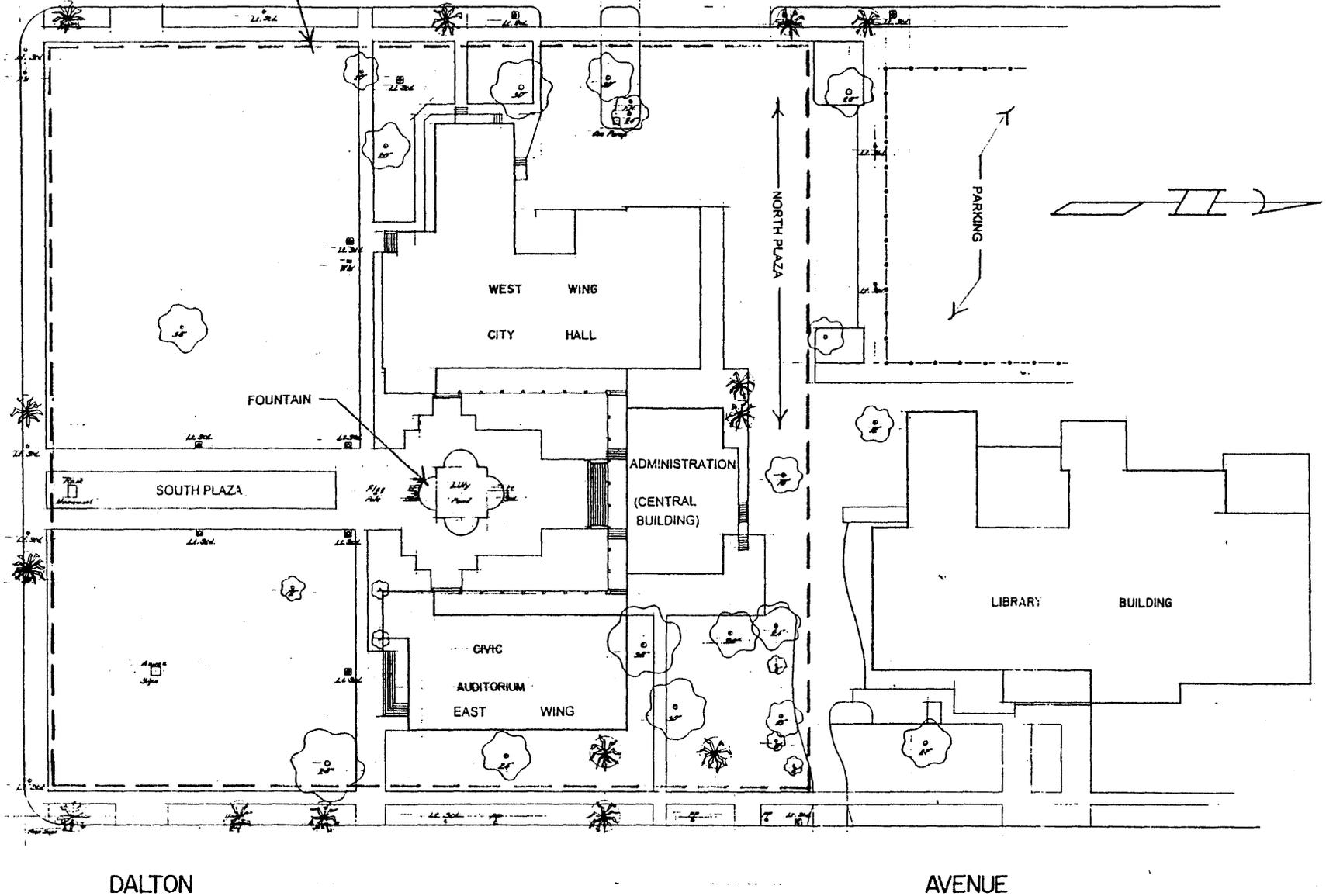
AZUSA CIVIC CENTER  
213 E. FOOTHILL BLVD.  
AZUSA, LOS ANGELES COUNTY, CA

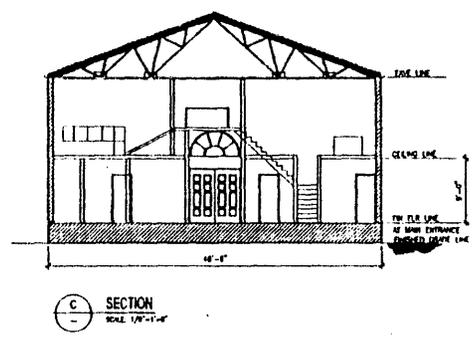
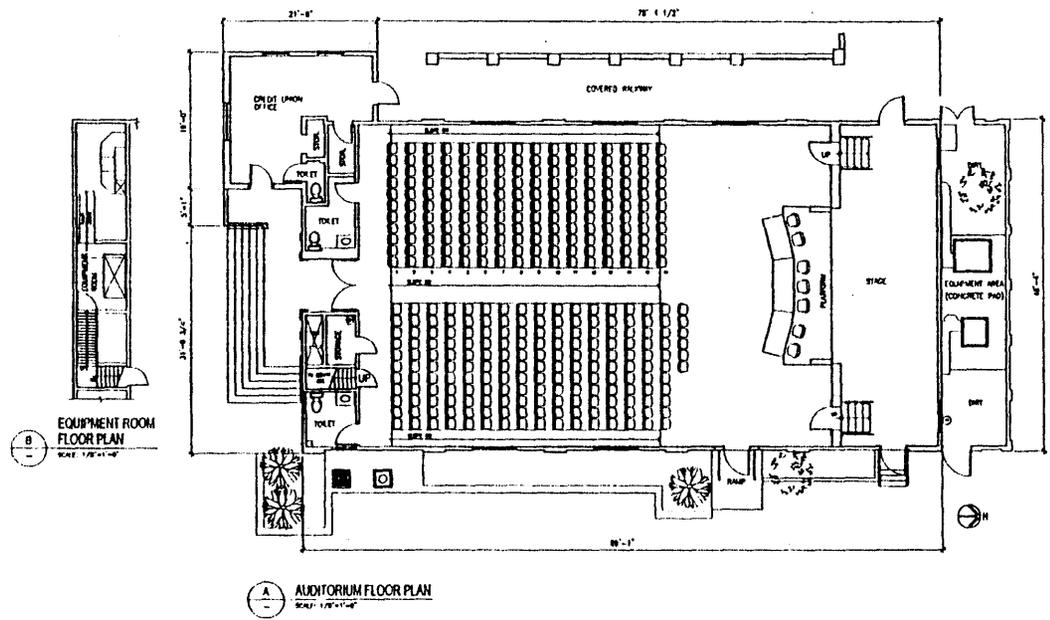
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ALAMEDA

BOULEVARD

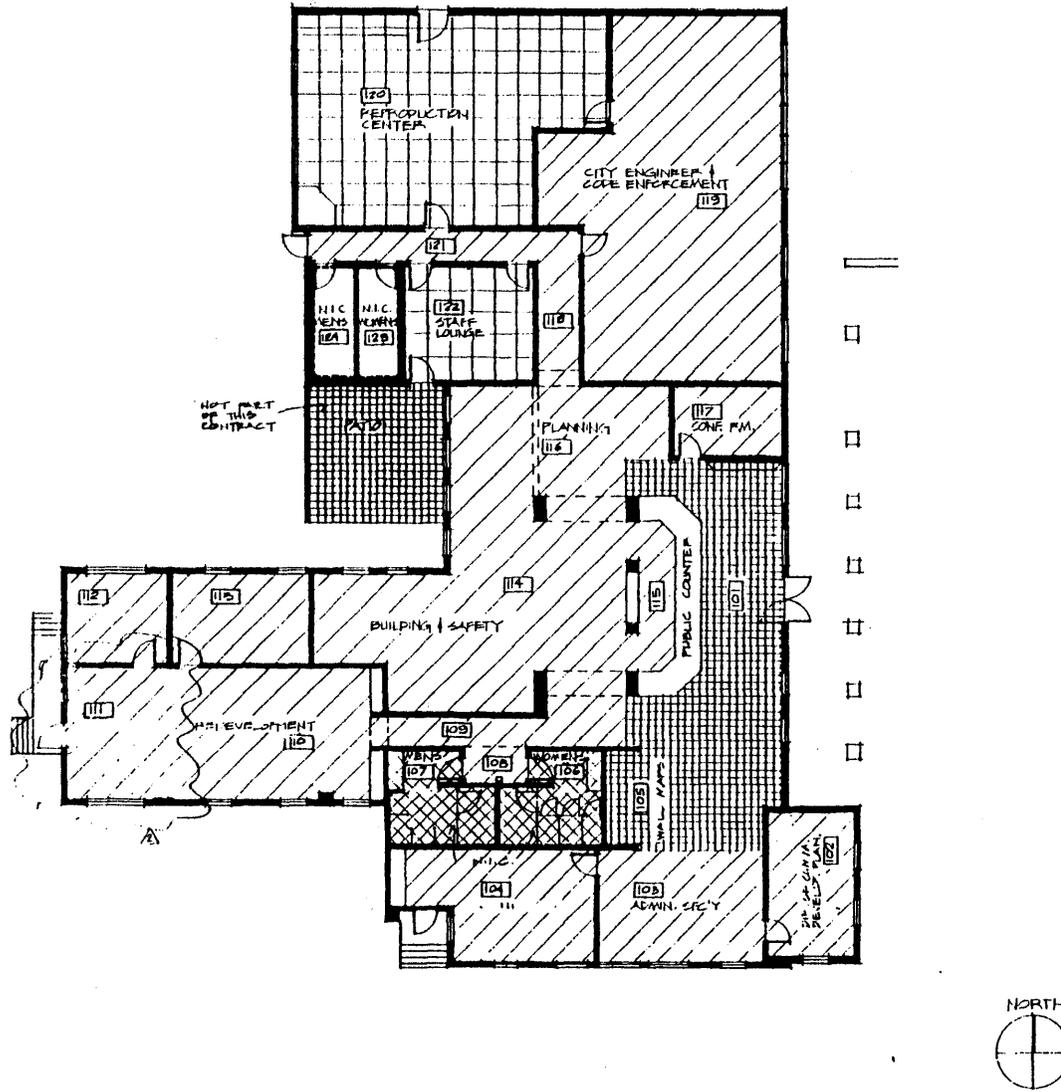
FOOTHILL



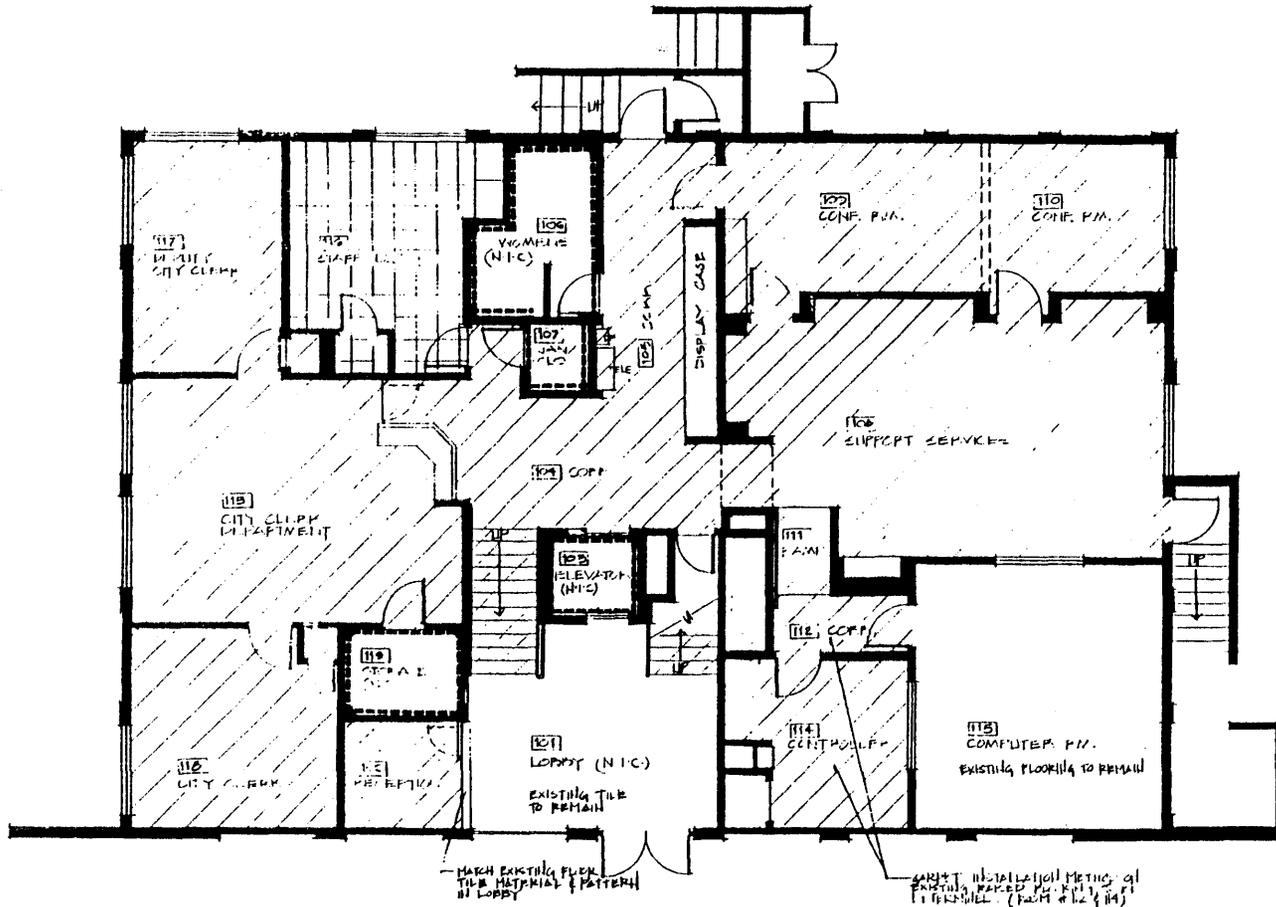


*Azusa Civic Center  
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# Azusa Civic Center Los Angeles Co., CA



MAIN LOBBY / LOWER LEVEL



Azusa Civic Center  
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