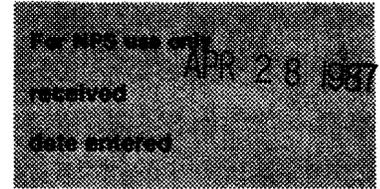


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 7

8. Moneta Branch Library
4255 S. Olive Street

Significance:

The Junipero Branch Library has had an important role in the social and educational development of the South-Central area of Los Angeles. It is a notable, picturesque building designed by a prominent, local architect.

Junipero Serra had its beginning in 1908 as a book delivery station which was established in response to the petitions of the Moneta neighborhood. Continued financial support from the neighborhood lead to the growth of the station to a branch by 1915. At this time, it was located in a rented store building at 249 W. 45th Street near Moneta Avenue and thus known as the Moneta Branch Library.

During World War I, the branch was Moneta District Headquarters for war work performed in the community. The Council of National Defense met at the library, and it also was the center for Liberty Bonds, Red Cross, and relief supply activities. After the war, the need for a new building was paramount as the library had outgrown its rented store space.

In 1923, construction began on So. Grand at a cost of \$38,000. The architect, Lyman Farwell had come to Los Angeles in 1896 from St. Paul, Minnesota. For many years, he was in partnership with Oliver Dennis with whom he designed numerous residences and commercial buildings. Some of their more important works were the Hollywood Hotel, the Janes' House on Hollywood Boulevard, the F. R. Fay Building at Third and Hill and the Wilson House at 7 Chester Place.

In 1934, the library name was changed from Moneta to Junipero Serra Branch to honor the important contributions of this early Spanish missionary. Since its beginning, the library has served the South-Central community with exhibits, book drives, and children's story hours. The building maintains a strong sense of time and place by its unique design. The tower is visible even from the Harbor Freeway.

Junipero Serra Branch Library continues to provide a social and educational service to the local community and is part of a thematic grouping of City branch libraries which have been nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.



4/17/1985

BRANCH LIBRARIES, LOS ANGELES, CA
#8 Moneta Branch, 4255 S. Olive Street
1 inch=60 feet

