

PH0086444

STATE: California	
COUNTY: Ventura	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 71.206.0048	DATE 7/27/71

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME

COMMON:
Oxnard Chamber of Commerce - Art Club of Oxnard

AND/OR HISTORIC:
 Oxnard Public Library

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
424 South "C" Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Oxnard

STATE California	CODE 06	COUNTY: Ventura	CODE 111
----------------------------	-------------------	---------------------------	--------------------

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Chamber of Commerce and Art Gallery

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
City of Oxnard

STREET AND NUMBER:
305 West Third Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Oxnard

STATE: California	CODE: 06
-----------------------------	--------------------

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Ventura County Courthouse (Recorder's Office)

STREET AND NUMBER:
501 Poli Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Ventura

STATE: California	CODE: 06
-----------------------------	--------------------

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
(See Attachment A)

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

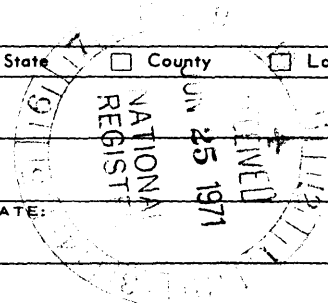
STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Ventura

STATE: California	CODE: 06
-----------------------------	--------------------

STATE: California	COUNTY: Ventura
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

See attached letter dated February 10, 1971, from Preservation Officer of the Ventura County Chapter of the American Institute of Architects which provides complete description of the Building.

Summary of Attachment B

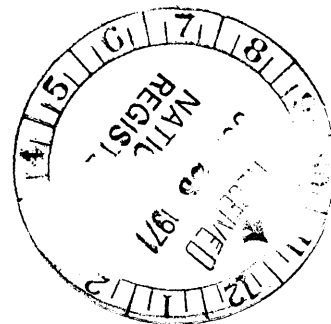
The building currently (1971) is in use to house offices of the Oxnard Chamber of Commerce and the Oxnard Art Gallery.

Built in 1906-1907 with Andrew Carnegie Library Grant Funds and local subscription. The architect was Franklin P. Burnham. Opened as a library May 15, 1907.

The design of the Carnegie Library might have come right out of a book on Greek architecture. Doric columns, a proper entablature and classic pediments on three sides, all set on a high podium. The rear or east facade is utilitarian. The detailing is simple, as befits the Doric style, but well executed. The proportions are pleasing. The overall effect is attractive and impressive.

The building is in sound condition, with few exterior or interior changes. Additional library space and city offices were provided by harmonious additions in 1923. Dimensions are about 65' x 80', single story with full basement.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



4. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) Not Applicable 1906

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Oxnard Carnegie Library Building has both historical and architectural significance. Historically, the Library Building has served as a focal landmark for Oxnard since its construction in 1906.

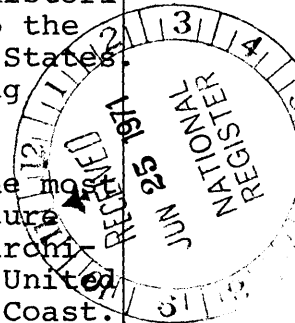
The Building initially was used as the City's first public library, the City's first City Hall and administrative offices. Through the years the Building has provided facilities for many community and civic activities. For several years the basement level has housed the Oxnard Art Gallery, displaying fine arts and memorabilia indigenous to the local area. The Eastwood Collection of early American and Indian cultures and artifacts is housed and displayed here.

The Building, established through a Carnegie Foundation Grant of \$12,000, made it possible for Oxnard to begin a much needed public library program, the first in Ventura County. Because of deterioration and urban development, increasing numbers of the original Carnegie Libraries have been demolished. It is believed that as many of these original facilities as possible should be retained as historical monuments to what was perhaps the major stimulus to the establishment of a public library system in the United States. The Oxnard Carnegie Building is one of the few remaining Carnegie Buildings in Southern California.

Architecturally, the Carnegie Building is one of the most outstanding examples of the Grecian style of architecture in the Southern California area. While this style of architecture is not uncommon in the Eastern portions of the United States, it is becoming increasingly unique on the West Coast.

Because of its period architecture, the Building and site have been used on numerous occasions by major motion picture and television studios for set backgrounds.

The Ventura County Cultural Heritage Board has thoroughly studied the history of the facility, considered its architectural significance, toured the facility and has concluded that the Building has both historical and architectural significance.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Bobinski, George S., Carnegie Libraries, American Library Association. Chicago, 1969.
2. Sheridan, Edwin M., History of Ventura County. State of California, 1940.
3. The Ventura County Historical Society Quarterly, Vol. XI, No. 2. February, 1966, Pg. 28.

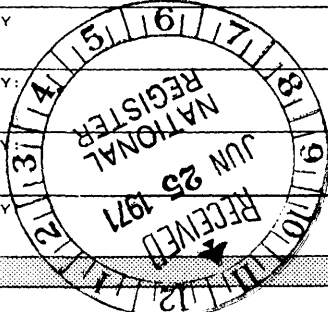
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	34°	11'	56"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	North		
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"	West		
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 0.25 Acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES None

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS
NTM
11/29913L
3786100
CD

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
James R. Faulconer, Assistant to the City Manager

ORGANIZATION: City of Oxnard DATE: 3/8/71

STREET AND NUMBER:
305 West Third Street

CITY OR TOWN: Oxnard STATE: California CODE: 06

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

<p>As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name: <u>[Signature]</u></p> <p>Title: <u>State Liaison Officer</u></p> <p>Date: <u>June 21, 1971</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>[Signature]</u> Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date: <u>7/27/71</u></p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><u>[Signature]</u> Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date: <u>July 19, 1971</u></p>
---	---

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE California	
COUNTY Ventura	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 71.2060048	DATE 7/27/71

(Number all entries)

Attachment A

Item No. 6: Representation in Existing Surveys

No. 1: Title of Survey: Downtown Renewal Redevelopment
Project (General Neighborhood Renewal
Program) California R-108 Project.

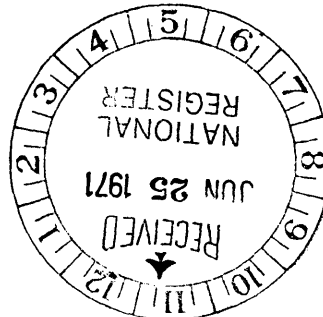
Date of Survey: 1969 (Federal)

Depository for Survey Records: Redevelopment Agency, City
of Oxnard, 520 West Fifth Street, Oxnard,
California.

No. 2: Title of Survey: Survey by Ventura County Cultural Heritage
Board to establish Building as County
Landmark No. 13.

Date of Survey: February, 1971 (County)

Depository for Survey Records: Cultural Heritage Board,
County Executive Officer's Office,
Ventura County Courthouse, Poli Street,
Ventura, California.



LEWIS A. STORRS • AIA

A R C H I T E C T

999 FRONT STREET • P. O. BOX D • VENTURA • CALIFORNIA • 93001
(805) 643-6343

February 10, 1971

California Historical Landmarks Advisory Committee
Sacramento, California

Gentlemen:

I am the Preservation Officer of the Ventura County Chapter of the American Institute of Architects and as such have been appointed as architectural advisor to the Ventura County Cultural Heritage Board.

I have been asked to submit a report to you on the architectural merits of a building which was built in Oxnard in 1906 as a Carnegie library and used as such until 1963. Since then it has been the office of the Oxnard Chamber of Commerce.

In 1906, eight years after the founding of Oxnard, a group of citizens contacted Andrew Carnegie to secure funds for a library. He contributed \$12,000. of the total cost of \$16,016. Mr. T. H. Carroll was the contractor. The building was opened on May 15, 1907. It must have been an impressive structure in that community for by 1911 the population of Oxnard, the center of a rich agricultural region, was only 2,555. There is a story that Mr. Carnegie thought the design too ornamental.

The architect was Franklin P. Burnham, formerly of Chicago. From 1891 to 1893 he was associated with W. J. Edbrooke, Supervising Architect of the U. S. Treasury, and with him designed the State Capitol in Atlanta, Georgia. By 1903 he had come to California for in that year he was associated with a Mr. Bliesner in the design of both the Riverside County Courthouse and the Riverside Public Library. He was also the architect for the First Christian Science Church in Pasadena. He died December 12, 1909.

The design of the Carnegie Library might have come right out of a book on Greek architecture. Doric columns, a proper entablature and classic pediments on three sides, all set on a high podium. The rear or east facade is utilitarian. The detailing is simple, as befits the Doric style, but well executed. The proportions are pleasing. The overall effect is attractive and impressive.

The building has evidently had good care over the years for it seems to be in a sound condition. Very few liberties have been taken with the exterior. In 1923 the building was enlarged to allow for city offices in the basement and additional space for the library. It is my supposition that at that time the podium under the southern portico was cut into in order to provide access to the basement from the 5th Street side.

Even the interior has not had any structural changes of consequence. Some partitions have been erected, bookshelves removed, ceilings lowered, original lighting fixtures removed, walls paneled, but it would not be costly to restore much of the interior. Its plan is such that it could then be used for some public purpose.

The location of the Carnegie Library is another reason for preserving it. It is at the corner of two important streets in downtown Oxnard, C and 5th Streets, and across the street from a plaza or park. It is near the center of a redevelopment area and within a couple of blocks of the City Hall and Public Library. I am enclosing a map provided by the Redevelopment Agency for the City of Oxnard.

There may have been only five Carnegie libraries built west of the Mississippi and maybe there are only two left so, from an historical viewpoint, it would be desirable to save this building.

Like the Ventura County Courthouse there are very few examples of the classical architecture of the early 20th century left in Southern California and particularly in Ventura County. I do think that this Carnegie library is a good example and is well worth being declared an historical landmark.

Sincerely yours,



Lewis A. Storrs
Preservation Officer
Ventura County Chapter, AIA

PUBLIC LIBRARY

ILLUSTRATIVE PLAN

REPL. ED. EXHIBIT 87 MAY, 1967
REVISED JUNE 8, 1967

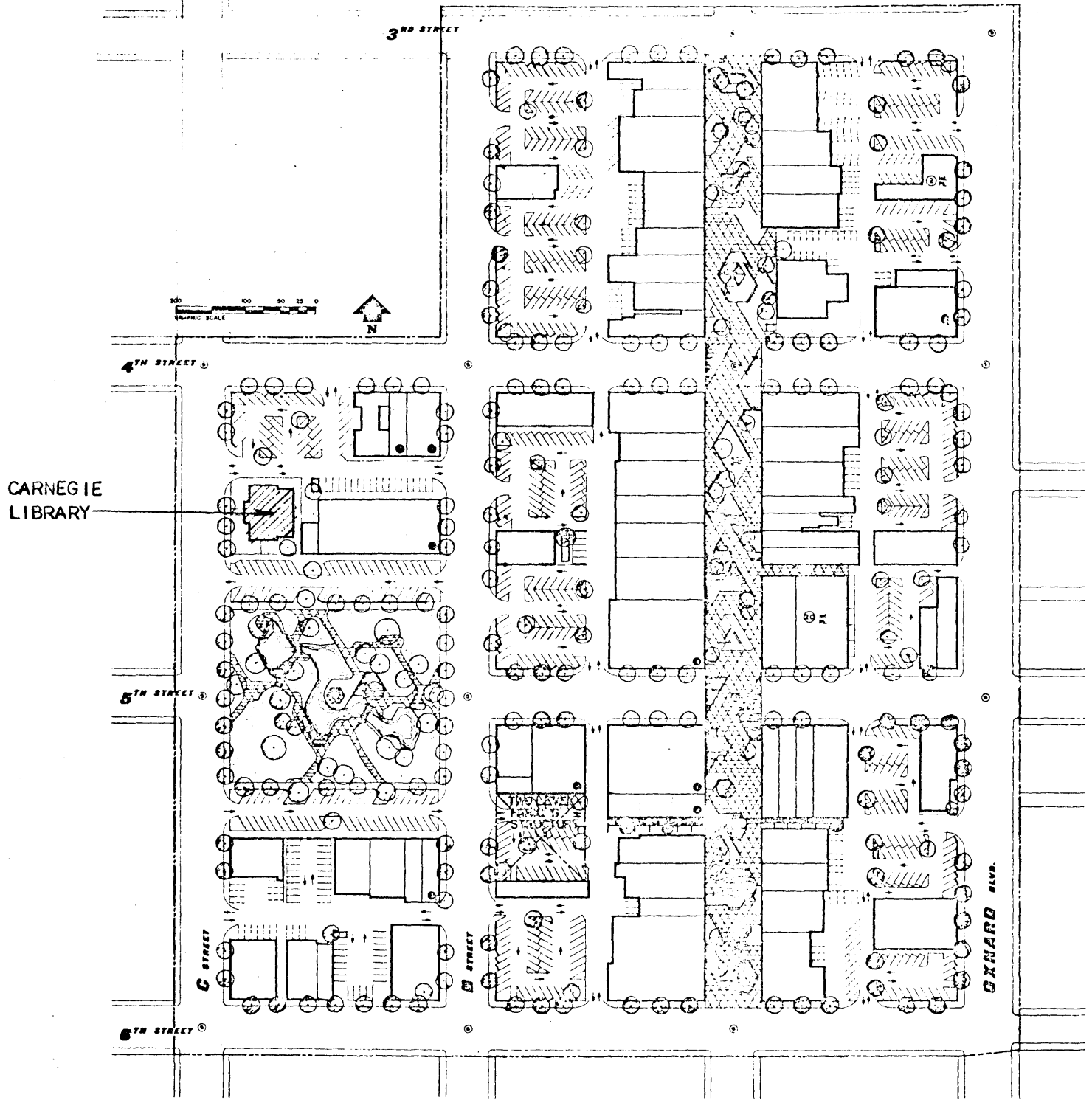
OXNARD, CALIFORNIA

DOWNTOWN RENEWAL AREA PROJECT NUMBER ①

CALIF. R-108

CITY HALL
THE REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY
CITY OF OXNARD

RUHNAU · EVANS & STEINMANN A.I.A.



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

(Continuation Sheet)

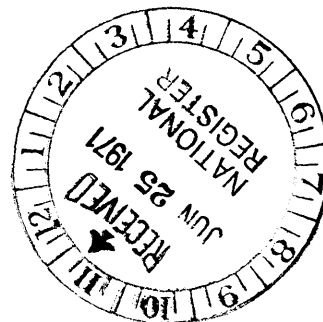
STATE California	
COUNTY Ventura	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 71.7.06.0148	DATE 7/27/71

(Number all entries)

Attachment C

This Board, by official action, has declared the Library Building to be a Ventura County landmark. A copy of the resolution adopted by the Board is attached (See Attachment D). In addition, the Preservation Officer of the Ventura County Chapter of the American Institute of Architects has provided the attached letter which describes the Building's architectural features and its significance (See Attachment B). A copy of the resolution adopted by the Oxnard Chamber of Commerce is attached which indicates the interest and concern of the community with respect to the preservation of this facility (See Attachment E).

The Building is located within a Redevelopment Project area which requires that it comply with Federal criteria of the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Through this project, Federal assistance will be requested for the financing of the required rehabilitation of the structure. This rehabilitation, however, will in no way disturb or change the original facade, the Building's interior arrangement, or the architectural appearance of the Building.



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF
THE VENTURA COUNTY CULTURAL
HERITAGE BOARD CONCERNING
THE PROPOSED DESIGNATION OF THE FOLLOWING
DESCRIBED PROPERTIES AS CULTURAL LANDMARKS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Cultural Heritage Board has fixed Wednesday, February 3, 1971, at 2:00 p.m., in the Board of Supervisors Meeting Room, Courthouse, Ventura, California, as the date, time and place of public hearing on the proposed designation of the following described properties as cultural landmarks:

1. All of Point Mugu Recreation Area/State Park

2. Oxnard Chamber of Commerce Building

3. _____

Any interested person desiring to protest or object to these proposals may do so either orally or in writing. Written communications must be received no later than the hour set for the hearing. Protests or objections may be presented orally at said hearing.

Dated: January 18, 1971.

RESOLUTION OF THE CULTURAL HERITAGE
BOARD OF THE COUNTY OF VENTURA,
STATE OF CALIFORNIA, DESIGNATING

OXNARD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BUILDING

AS CULTURAL LANDMARK NO. 13

WHEREAS, Chapter 3, Article 5, sections 1360, et seq., of the Ordinance Code of the County of Ventura establishes the Cultural Heritage Board; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Cultural Heritage Board is to promote the economic and general welfare of the County of Ventura by preserving and protecting the properties defined therein which are of particular historic, cultural, scenic or aesthetic significance to the County of Ventura; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on Wednesday, February 3, 1971 to consider the now Oxnard Chamber of Commerce Building, originally a Carnegie/ ^{Library} as a cultural landmark; and

WHEREAS, a description of The Oxnard Chamber of Commerce Building, corner of 5th and C Streets is as follows:
This building, built at a cost of \$16,000 in 1906, in Greek architectural style, was one of the original Carnegie grant libraries in the United States, of which only five or six are now extant, this being the only one in California. It is well-designed, cohesive, well-preserved with virtually no exterior alterations, in a good setting, and is an unusual building for California. Interior alterations are minimal and easily reversed.

The land was donated by Mr. Hadoc and Mr. John Oxnard. The building was used as a library until 1963 (with Water Department offices in the basement). It was then leased by the City of Oxnard

Chamber of Commerce, its present occupant, with the basement now
occupied by the Oxnard Art Club.

_____;

and

WHEREAS, at said hearing all persons present were given an opportunity to protest the designation of the Oxnard Chamber of Commerce Building

as a cultural landmark; and

WHEREAS, at said hearing it was determined that insufficient protests were filed to terminate the hearing;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ORDERED as follows:

1. The Oxnard Chamber of Commerce Building, 5th and C Streets, Oxnard is hereby designated as cultural landmark No. 13.

2. The conditions attaching to the designation of said cultural landmark No. 13 are as follows:

As stated in the urban renewal program as authorized by the National Housing Act of 1949 as amended.

PASSED and ADOPTED this 3rd day of February
1971, by the following vote:

AYES: Hagopian, Butler, Ellison, Kelly, Taylor, Ramirez,
Outland

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

VACANT: None

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OXNARD REQUESTING THE VENTURA COUNTY CULTURAL HERITAGE BOARD TO INVESTIGATE AND DESIGNATE HISTORIC LANDMARKS WITHIN THE CITY OF OXNARD

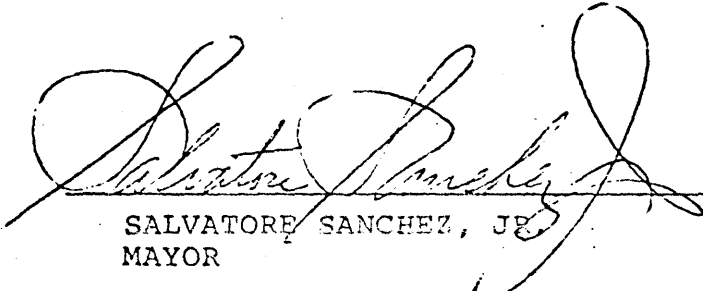
WHEREAS, the County of Ventura has established the Cultural Heritage Board to identify historic landmarks and monuments within Ventura County in order to preserve sites and buildings having historic and/or architectural significance; and

WHEREAS, the City of Oxnard is deeply interested in preserving for the benefit of its citizens all buildings and sites having historic significance; and

WHEREAS, the Cultural Heritage Board is empowered to make historic landmark and monument designations in municipalities only upon request of the city councils of said municipalities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows: (1) that the City Council of the City of Oxnard does hereby request that the Ventura County Cultural Heritage Board investigate and recommend to the City Council the designation of landmarks and monuments within the corporate limits of Oxnard; and (2) that the City Council specifically requests the Cultural Heritage Board to designate the Chamber of Commerce building located at the corner of north Fifth Street and "C" Street as a building with historic and architectural significance.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 19 TH DAY OF JANUARY, 1971.


SALVATORE SANCHEZ, JR.
MAYOR

ATTEST:


ETHEL DALE, CITY CLERK

OXNARD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

RESOLUTION 11171

A RESOLUTION OF THE OXNARD
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REQUESTING
A STATE HISTORICAL MONUMENT.

WHEREAS, The City of Oxnard has now reached a point where it has structures of historical importance; and,

WHEREAS, In 1906 a beautiful city library building with Grecian architecture was constructed under a grant from the Carnegie Foundation; and,

WHEREAS, This building is one of the last remaining Carnegie Buildings.

WHEREAS, Since this is one of the last buildings of this type that movie companies constantly film it in major motion picture productions; and,

WHEREAS, It is a symbol of heritage, strength, and memories for thousands of people who have lived in Oxnard through the past 65 years; and,

WHEREAS, Historical and architectural significance of this building will be of extreme educational importance to the generations to come,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Oxnard Chamber of Commerce do hereby request that the City Council make every endeavor to seek the



*Gateway to the Channel
Islands*

designation of the old library building located on the corner of Fifth and C Streets as a permanent California Historical Monument.

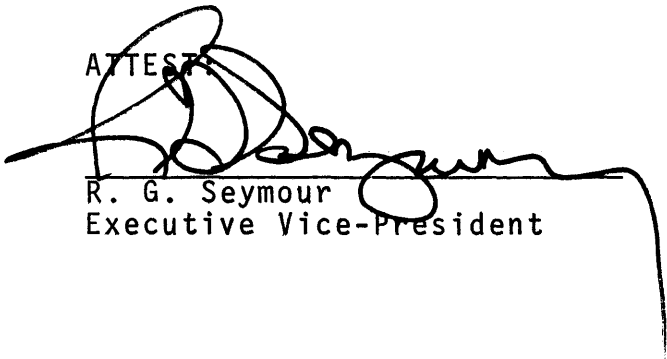
PASSED AND ADOPTED This eleventh day of January, 1971, by a unanimous vote of the Board Members present.

Signed:



Roscoe Anderson
President
Oxnard Chamber of Commerce

ATTEST



R. G. Seymour
Executive Vice-President