

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

MAR 07 1989

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name City of Oceanside - City Hall and Fire Station
other names/site number Oceanside Civic Center

2. Location

street & number 704 and 714 Third Street N/A not for publication
city, town Oceanside N/A vicinity
state California code CA county San Diego code 073 zip code 92054

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>1</u>	<u> </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u> </u> objects
		<u>3</u>	<u>1</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: _____
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official *Kathryn Gualtieri* Date 5-2-89

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. 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:) _____

Bruce J. Noble, Jr. 6/7/89

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Government - City Hall, Library
Government - Police, Fire Station, Jail,
and Court

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

City Hall
Fire Station

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Moderne
Mission Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concretewalls Concrete

roof Compositionother Stucco

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Oceanside Civic Center consists of two buildings visually linked by a continuous retaining wall. The city hall is a single story "L" shaped building of reinforced concrete existing essentially as it did originally. The fire station is a two-story reinforced concrete building with a 50-foot central tower. The fire station has been modified over the years with additions and alterations to the point where it no longer looks like it did originally.

The two buildings were designed in 1929 by Irving J. Gill as part of a larger civic complex for the City of Oceanside. The original plan was never carried out, although the majority of the area covered by his plan was used over the years for civic purposes. The area of his original plan is currently (1988-89) being redeveloped into a new Civic Center with a Gill inspired design. The complex has been designed around and includes these two buildings.

The fire station was constructed between 1929 and 1930 and housed the fire station, police department, jail, and court house until the 1960s when it became exclusively a fire station. It is a two-story reinforced concrete building designed along two axes that converge at a right angle. At the center, or point of convergence, is a 50-foot tower, with fluted openings, designed to accommodate the 50-foot fire hoses. The two appendages are arcaded at the ground floor and at the second floor level there are a series of setbacks.

The fire station has been modified over the years. Two additions have been added. One provided additional space at the second floor level of one of the arms. The second addition is two stories and is located in front of the tower between the two original arms of the building. Two arches have been enlarged to accommodate modern fire trucks. Most of the original windows have been removed and the building has been resurfaced. Interior alterations have also occurred. Principal features of the original design were the stepped back diagonals converging on the central fluted tower. These principal physical features are presently lost or obscured.

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The city hall stands approximately 50 feet from the fire station. It was dedicated in 1934 and also housed the library until the 1940s. It is a single story "L" shaped building of reinforced concrete with an exterior plaster coating. The roof is a built up flat roof. The walls are 12 inches thick. The front elevation is arcaded. A stepped parapeted element and enlarged arch define the main entry. A stucco and frame addition exists on the rear of this building. On the interior, partition walls have changed to accommodate changing space needs.

A retaining wall extends from the city hall building to the fire station. The arched relief repeats the arches of the main structures. The wall visually links the two buildings.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

1929-1934
 Architecture

1929
 1934

1929
 1934

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Gill, Irving J.

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The city hall/fire station complex is highly important within Irving J. Gill's total work. Gill is an acknowledged figure in 20th century European and American architecture. The complex is significant as a reflection of Gill's intense interest in city planning and groups of buildings and as a reflection of his ability to retain the character of a highly personal architectural style and yet be able to continually absorb new design images. Gill's proposals for Oceanside and the partial realization of this proposal through two buildings represent one of the very few realized early Modernist civic projects in this country.

Irving J. Gill is an acknowledged figure in 20th century European and American architecture. During his early career (1900-1915), his writings and buildings loom large within the context of the American Arts and Crafts Movement and of American Avant Garde architecture. His work was published in a number of the national architectural and home journals and his writings occur in The Craftsman and other magazines. Gill's approach to design and his architectural philosophy was midway between those who strove to update traditional architectural images and those who consciously sought out the new and different. His stripped down version of California's Mission Revival architecture ended up being one of those unique and creative acts encountered only infrequently in the building of 19th and 20th century European and American architecture.

Gill's work is divided roughly into three periods from 1893 to his death in 1936: the early years of exploration, 1893-1907; the "classic" period, 1908-1924; the late work, 1924-1936. The Oceanside Civic Center lies within the later years and was his last major work.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Gebhard, David, Architectural/Historical Report on the Oceanside City Hall Building, April 1986.

Minutes, The City Council of Oceanside (1929-1934).

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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property One and one half acres

UTM References

A

1	1
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4	6	4	8	0	0
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3	6	7	3	1	0	1
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary that portion of the City lot that has been historically associated with the property.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Rita E. Baker, Senior Planner
organization City of Oceanside, Planning Department date August 23, 1988
street & number 320 N. Horne Street telephone (619) 439-7272
city or town Oceanside state California zip code 92054

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Gill was a man of great social consciousness and civic orientation. The type of projects he undertook,, from workers housing for unskilled Mexicans at a cement plant near Riverside, California in 1911, to the Indian resettlement housing at the Rancho Barona Indian Reservation near Lakeside, California in 1933, speaks of this consciousness. The designs reflected the need to minimize cost and yet maintain maximum livability. Other works in San Diego County included schools and other similar public buildings that were conceived of or constructed during the Depression years of the 1930s.

Gill's 1929 project for the Oceanside Civic Center provided him, as his designs earlier in 1911-1913 did for the City of Torrance, with an opportunity to apply his architectural concepts to large groupings of buildings. In the Oceanside projects (which include the Americanization School and the former Blade-Tribune building), Gill continued his earlier design process of sparing down the traditional Mission Revival and Spanish Colonial Revival modes. The new element which occurs in the fire station and in the city hall building indicates his response to the design approach and detailing of the Art Deco Moderne.

Gill was one of the few "avant garde" early Modernists to have the opportunity of being able to plan a Civic Center complex and to see part of it realized. In the Midwest, the Minneapolis firm of William Gray Purcell and George Grant Elmslie designed the 1915-1917 Woodbury County Court House at Sioux City, Iowa; and at the very end of his life, Frank Lloyd Wright designed the Marin County complex (1957-72). Gill's proposal for Oceanside and the partial realization of this proposal through two buildings represents one of the very few realized early Modernist civic projects in this country.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The City Hall/Library and Fire Station are located in the 700 block of Third Street and Nevada Street; also known as the South 1/2 of Block 50, Map 332, Myers & McCombers Addition, Assessor Parcel Number 147-109-01.

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Photographs
Section number _____ Page 1

1. Name of property: City Hall/Library 704 Third Street
2. City and State: Oceanside, CA 92054
3. Photographer: Robert Johnson
4. Date of photograph: August 16, 1988
5. Location of original negative: City Planning Department, 320 N. Horne Street, Oceanside
6. Description of view indicating direction of camera: main entrance, looking north.
7. Photo no. 1

1. Name of property: Oceanside City Hall/Library 704 Third Street
2. City and State: Oceanside, CA 92054
3. Photographer: Robert Johnson
4. Date of photograph: August 16, 1988
5. Location of original negative: City Planning Dept., 320 N. Horne Street, Oceanside
6. Description of view indicating direction of camera: main entrance, looking northeast
7. Photo no. 2

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Photographs
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1. Name of property: Battered base wall connecting City Hall/Library and Fire House
 2. City and State: Oceanside, CA 92054
 3. Photographer: Robert Johnson
 4. Date of photograph: August 16, 1988
 5. Location of original negative: City Planning Department, 320 N. Horne Street, Oceanside
 6. Description of view indicating direction of camera: retaining wall, lookikng west to east.
 7. Photo no. 3
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1. Name of property: Oceanside City Hall/Library 704 Third Street
 2. City and State: Oceanside, CA 92054
 3. Photographer: Robert Johnson
 4. Date of photograph: August 16, 1988
 5. Location of original negative: City Planning Dept., 320 N. Horne Street, Oceanside
 6. Description of view indicating direction of camera: famous Gill arches looking west through front (Third Street) arcade.
 7. Photo no. 4

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Photographs
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1. Name of property: Oceanside City Hall/Library, 704 Third Street
2. City and State: Oceanside, CA 92054
3. Photographer: Robert Johnson
4. Date of photograph: August 16, 1988
5. Location of original negative: City Planning Department, 320 N. Horne Street, Oceanside
6. Description of view indicating direction of camera: main entrance with distinctive zigzag feature.
Camera direction, looking north.

7. Photo no. 5

1. Name of property: City Fire House, 714 Third Street
2. City and State: Oceanside, CA 92054
3. Photographer: Robert Johnson
4. Date of photograph: August 16, 1988
5. Location of original negative: City Planning Dept., 320 N. Horne Street, Oceanside
6. Description of view indicating direction of camera: northwest (Third and Nevada Streets).

7. Photo no. 6

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Photographs
Section number _____ Page 4

1. Name of property: City Fire House
 2. City and State: Oceanside, CA 92054
 3. Photographer: Schellahberg
 4. Date of photograph: 1940
 5. Location of original negative: Oceanside Historical Society, P. O. Box 125, Oceanside, CA 92054
 6. Description of view indicating direction of camera: Oceanside Fire Department, front of building, looking north
 7. Photo no. 7
-
1. Name of property: City Fire House, Police Station, 714 Third Street
 2. City and State: Oceanside, CA 92054
 3. Photographer: Not known.
 4. Date of photograph: 1936
 5. Location of original negative: Oceanside Historical Society, P. O. Box 125, Oceanside, CA 92054
 6. Description of view indicating direction of camera: Oceanside Police Dept, east side of building, looking west.
 7. Photo no. 8

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Section number _____ ^{Photographs} Page 5

1. Name of property: City Fire House
2. City and State: Oceanside, CA 92054
3. Photographer: Rita Baker
4. Date of photograph: November 22, 1988
5. Location of original negative: City Planning Department, 320 N. Horne Street, Oceanside
6. Description of view indicating direction of camera: west side of Fire House, looking north.
7. Photo no. 9

1. Name of property: City Fire House
2. City and State: Oceanside, CA 92054
3. Photographer: Rita Baker
4. Date of photograph: November 22, 1988
5. Location of original negative: City Planning Dept., 320 N. Horne Street, Oceanside
6. Description of view indicating direction of camera: east side of Fire House, looking west.
7. Photo no. 10

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Section number _____ ^{Photographs} Page 6

1. Name of property: City Fire House, 714 Third Street
2. City and State: Oceanside, CA 92054
3. Photographer: Rita Baker
4. Date of photograph: November 22, 1988
5. Location of original negative: City Planning Department, 320 N. Horne Street, Oceanside
6. Description of view indicating direction of camera: north of rear of Fire House, looking south.

7. Photo no. 11

1. Name of property: Oceanside City Hall/Library, 704 Third Street
2. City and State: Oceanside, CA 92054
3. Photographer: Rita Baker
4. Date of photograph: November 22, 1988
5. Location of original negative: City Planning Dept., 320 N. Horne Street, Oceanside
6. Description of view indicating direction of camera: east side of building, looking northwest

7. Photo no. 12

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1. Name of property: City Hall/Library, 704 Third Street
 2. City and State: Oceanside, CA 92054
 3. Photographer: Rita Baker
 4. Date of photograph: November 22, 1988
 5. Location of original negative: City Planning Department, 320 N. Horne Street, Oceanside
 6. Description of view indicating direction of camera: west side of building, looking south.
7. Photo no. 13

1. Name of property: Oceanside City Hall/Library, 704 Third Street
2. City and State: Oceanside, CA 92054
3. Photographer: Rita Baker
4. Date of photograph: November 22, 1988
5. Location of original negative: City Planning Dept., 320 N. Horne Street, Oceanside
6. Description of view indicating direction of camera: west side of building, looking north.

7. Photo no. 14

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1. Name of property: City Hall/Library, 704 Third Street
 2. City and State: Oceanside, CA 92054
 3. Photographer: Rita Baker
 4. Date of photograph: November 22, 1988
 5. Location of original negative: City Planning Department, 320 N. Horne Street, Oceanside
 6. Description of view indicating direction of camera: east side of building, looking south.
7. Photo no. 15

1. Name of property: Oceanside City Hall/Library, 704 Third Street
2. City and State: Oceanside, CA 92054
3. Photographer: Rita Baker
4. Date of photograph: November 22, 1988
5. Location of original negative: City Planning Dept., 320 N. Horne Street, Oceanside
6. Description of view indicating direction of camera: north or rear of building, looking south.

7. Photo no. 16

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Section number _____ Photographs _____ Page 9

1. Name of property: City Hall/Library, 704 Third Street
 2. City and State: Oceanside, CA 92054
 3. Photographer: unknown
 4. Date of photograph: 1940-1941
 5. Location of original negative: Edith Swaim, 2023 Maxson Street, Oceanside, CA 92054
 6. Description of view indicating direction of camera: southwest side of the building.
 7. Photo no. 17
-
1. Name of property: Oceanside Fire House, 714 Third Street
 2. City and State: Oceanside, CA 92054
 3. Photographer: Unknown
 4. Date of photograph: 1940-1941
 5. Location of original negative: Edith Swaim, 2023 Maxson Street, Oceanside, CA 92054
 6. Description of view indicating direction of camera: northwest (Third and Nevada Streets).
 7. Photo no. 18

City Hall and Fire Station
Oceanside, CA
San Diego County

Photograph Sketch Map

