

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 15000123

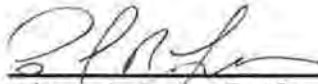
Date Listed: 4/7/2015

Lydia D. Killefer School
Property Name

Orange CA
County State

Latinos in Twentieth Century California MPS
Multiple Name

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

4/7/2015

Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

Significance:

The nomination is amended to add *Ethnic Heritage-Hispanic (Mexican)* as an Area of Significance under Criterion A.
[This is consistent with the property's nomination under the Latinos in Twentieth Century California MPS.]

These clarifications were confirmed with the CA SHPO office.

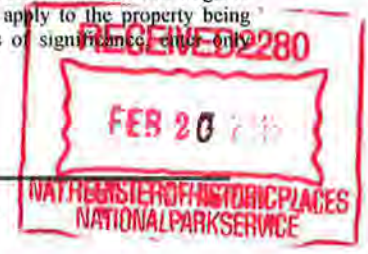
DISTRIBUTION:

- 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

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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.



1. Name of Property

Historic name: Killefer, Lydia D., School

Other names/site number: _____

Name of related multiple property listing:

Latinos in Twentieth Century California

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

2. Location

Street & number: 541 North Lemon Street

City or town: Orange State: California County: Orange

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A ___ B X C ___ D

Carol Roland-Nawi 2-10-15
Carol Roland-Nawi, Ph.D., State Historic Preservation Officer **Date**
California State Office of Historic Preservation
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official: **Date**

Title : **State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government**

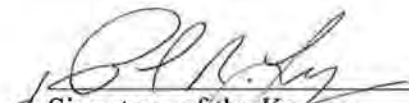
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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)


Signature of the Keeper

4/7/2015
Date of Action

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

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u>1</u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION: School

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT: Not in use

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Stucco

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Lydia D. Killefer School is located in Orange, California, approximately 31 miles southeast of downtown Los Angeles, and 22 miles northeast of Long Beach. The property is on the east side of North Lemon Street, north of the intersection of North Lemon Street and West Walnut Avenue. The lot is bounded on the north and south by single- and multi-family residences. It is a former elementary school in the Spanish Colonial Revival style. Construction began in December 1930, and was completed by April 1931.¹ The Killefer School stands on the eastern portion of its 1.7-acre parcel. The site is sparsely landscaped, with only a few trees and shrubs. The Killefer School has been vacant for approximately fifteen years, and is in poor condition.² It is threatened with demolition. It retains significant character defining features of its original design, and has integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

¹ There are no building permits for the school; the construction date is based on contemporary news articles, including "Killefer School Program Features Schools' Week," *Orange County Register*, April 20, 1931.

² In 1980, the Lydia D. Killefer School left the schoolhouse at 541 North Lemon Street in favor of another building at 615 North Lemon Street. It operated there until 1989, when the school officially ceased operations. The Santiago Canyon College Adult Learning Center operated out of the Killefer School at 541 North Lemon Street in the 1980s and 1990s, leaving the building before 2000.

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Narrative Description

Exterior

The Lydia D. Killefer School building is a one-story-over-basement schoolhouse constructed in 1931. It is set back from the street behind an expansive parking lot and sparse landscaping, and is situated on the eastern portion of the lot. The building is in the Spanish Colonial Revival style. It is of wood frame construction, with a mostly U-shaped plan surrounding a small courtyard. There is a front-gabled portico projecting from the center of the west façade. It has a cross gable roof with shallow open eaves, exposed rafter tails, copper gutters, and composition shingle roofing. The exterior walls are finished in heavily textured cement plaster. The primary entrance is asymmetrically located on the east (secondary) façade. It consists of a pair of paneled wood doors recessed under a parabolic arch, and is accessed by terra cotta tile steps with wrought iron handrails. The west façade features a partially arcaded exterior walkway that extends through both wings. Square wood posts with chamfered corners and bull nosed brackets support the roof over the covered walkway that has a ceiling of plaster and exposed rafters.

There is an octagonal bell tower projecting from the roof at the center of the east façade, topped by a low-pitched hipped roof and a bronze weathervane. A flat roof with copper-clad, latticed wooden railings surrounds the tower. The tower has terra cotta tile decorative vents on alternating façades. There is a large chimney projecting from the southeastern portion of the roof. Fenestration consists primarily of wood sash three-light awning windows with three-light transom windows above. There are three-light clerestory windows on the west façade. On the west façade, there are two pairs of partially glazed, divided light wood doors, each with segmental-arched, divided light transoms. There is a bay window consisting of wood sash three-light awning windows with three-light transom windows above on the north façade. Glass panes in many of the windows are broken, and many windows are boarded up from either the interior or the exterior of the building. There are two identical carved wood doors, one located on the southern portion of the west façade, and the other on the eastern portion of the north façade. There is a secondary entrance asymmetrically located on the east façade. It consists of a pair of paneled wood doors recessed under a rectangular opening, and is accessed by terra cotta tiled steps with wrought iron handrails. There is a decorative wrought iron fence surrounding the exterior basement stair on the south façade.

The Killefer School retains significant character defining features on the exterior, including:

- Low-pitched roof
- Eaves with little overhang
- Arches above doors
- Terra cotta tile decorative vents
- Octagonal tower
- Stucco-clad exterior walls
- Asymmetrical façade

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- Partially arcaded exterior walkway

Interior

The north wing held the administrative offices, while the main building housed kindergarten through third grade classrooms, and the south wing held the fourth and fifth grade classrooms. The auditorium in the northeast corner has a small stage with the bay window behind. All of the classrooms and administrative offices are accessible through single doorways. The basement is located beneath the south wing, and is accessed either by an interior stairway or a small exterior staircase on the south façade, surrounded by decorative wrought iron railings. There are two rooms in the basement, each with a fire door, and one with a full-size kiln. Ceilings are 12 feet in height in all rooms except for the restrooms, basement rooms, closets, and utility rooms located in the north wing. The carved wooden door on the southern portion of the west façade provides rear access to the south classroom. Hallways feature wide archways and built-in cabinetry. The Killefer School retains significant character defining interior features, including arched openings and other original features.

Alterations

There have been some alterations to the Killefer School over time, some due to neglect and vandalism. The original decorative tile at the main entrance has been replaced with textured stucco. Some exterior copper has been removed, including one panel of the copper-clad, latticed wooden railing around the tower, and several copper downspouts. Many of the glass panes in the windows have been boarded up, and several windows were removed to accommodate air conditioning units. Some glass panes have been replaced with textured or security glass. The roof, originally clad in tile shingles, was redone in composition shingles sometime between 1980 and 2011.³

The original outdoor auditorium on the north façade was enclosed with a bay window on the eastern portion of the north façade.⁴ There are two rectangular scars on the building's west façade, one on the north wing, and one on the south wing. It appears that windows on these façades were removed. Several clerestory windows along the exterior of the building were removed or covered with plywood.

At some time, the interior was remodeled within the existing footprint. The ceilings and parts of the walls were covered with acoustic tiles, most of the original light fixtures were replaced with fluorescent light fixtures, and portions of the building's original wooden flooring were concealed by or replaced with low-pile carpet.

³ There are no building permits for the school; alteration dates are based on "Killefer Grade School, 500 block of Olive St in Orange, California," courtesy of Chapman University, and Google maps.

⁴ It is unclear when this alteration was completed. There are no building permits on file for this change, and Sanborn maps are inconclusive. The fenestration in the window is consistent with the original windows, so it appears as though the auditorium was enclosed early in the school's history.

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The interior of the school has been heavily vandalized. There is extensive graffiti in the basement, and several of the classrooms and hallways on the main floor. Most, if not all, of the building's copper pipes and wiring have been removed, and doors have been removed from their hinges. A partial-height wall in the northeastern classroom has been almost entirely demolished by vandals.

Noncontributing Resources

Between 1980 and 1991, two classroom buildings were added to the site, one located to the north and one to the south of the main schoolhouse. They feature side-gabled roofs with exposed eaves, exterior walls clad in stucco, and wood frame eight-pane windows. Many of the glass panes on these windows are broken, and several of the windows are boarded up. There is a small storage shed located close to the western end of the northern classroom building, also added to the site between 1980 and 1991.⁵ These ancillary buildings and structure were constructed outside of the period of significance for the Killefer School, and therefore are noncontributing resources.

Integrity

Although there have been alterations to the property over time, the Killefer School retains significant character defining features, and continues to convey its significance as an early 1930s schoolhouse. It retains all seven aspects of integrity.

Location: The building is in its original location.

Design: The Killefer School retains significant character defining features of its original Spanish Colonial Revival architecture.

Setting: Features of the original setting are intact, including the relationship of the school with the surrounding single- and multi-family residences, and with North Lemon and North Olive Streets.

Materials and Workmanship: Although there have been some alterations over time, some windows and partially glazed doors have broken or missing glass panes, and some wooden doors have broken or missing panels, the Killefer School retains the majority of its historic materials, and reflects the physical evidence of period construction techniques.

Feeling: The Killefer School retains the significant physical features that convey the building's character as a 1930s Spanish Colonial Revival schoolhouse.

Association: The property continues to convey its historic association with the Orange Unified School District, and retains significant character defining features of its original Spanish Colonial Revival design.

⁵ There are no building permits for the school; dates are based on aerial photographs of the area found on historicaerials.com and the City of Orange's Historic Aerial Viewer.

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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.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

A: 1942-1944

C: 1931

Significant Dates

1931

1944

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Markel, Jules W. and Sons (builder)

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Lydia D. Killefer School is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places at the local level of significance under Criterion A in the area of Social History as an example of institutional development associated with the early twentieth century growth of the Cypress Street Barrio in Orange. The period of significance is 1942 through 1944, reflecting the school's process of voluntary desegregation. For that action, completed three years before the landmark *Méndez v. Westminster* ruling required schools in California to end segregation, the Killefer School meets the registration requirements for the context "Making a Democracy: Latino Struggles for Inclusion" of the *Latinos in Twentieth Century California* Multiple Property Submission.⁶ The Killefer School is also eligible for listing in the National Register at the local level of significance under Criterion C in the area of Architecture as an excellent example of a Spanish Colonial Revival schoolhouse in Southern California. It is a rare extant example of a schoolhouse that pre-dates the 1933 Long Beach Earthquake. The period of significance under Criterion C is 1931, the date the school was constructed.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Criterion A

The Killefer School, built by Santa Ana-based contractors Jules W. Markel and Sons, was named for Lydia D. Killefer.⁷ Killefer was a schoolteacher in Orange from 1895 to 1931, and principal of the Killefer School from 1931 to 1938. The Killefer School is located in the City of Orange, in a neighborhood primarily populated by Mexican Americans and historically known as the Cypress Street Barrio. The Killefer School is significant as an institutional property associated with the early twentieth century growth of the Cypress Street Barrio. The Killefer School was originally constructed to serve the area's Anglo population until it completed voluntary desegregation in 1944, before schools in California were legally obligated to do so. The desegregation of the Killefer School pre-dated the landmark *Méndez v. Westminster* court ruling by three years and inspired the desegregation of the Orange Unified School District.

Institutional Development in the Cypress Street Barrio

Ranchers in Orange began planting orange trees commercially in 1873, and the first marketable crop was produced around 1876. Citrus production was firmly established in Orange by the 1880s, and the first packing house in Orange was constructed around 1881. Though it was originally located on Maple Avenue, the packing house moved closer to the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad tracks in 1889. Several other private packing houses quickly followed.⁸ To

⁶ Teresa Grimes, Laura O'Neill, Elysha Paluszek, and Becky Nicolaidis, *Latinos in Twentieth Century California* Multiple Property Documentation Form, November 2014.

⁷ "Contractors Issued Permit for School," *Los Angeles Times*, December 20, 1930.

⁸ Adapted from Phil Brigandi, "Citrus: A Cooperative Endeavor."

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facilitate marketing their fruit, citrus farmers developed cooperative marketing organizations. The first local cooperative association, the Santiago Orange Growers Association, was founded in 1893, followed by numerous others. Most growers belonged to one of the local packing house associations, which provided picking crews on a rotating basis.⁹ Though the Great Freeze in 1913 and the flood in 1916 threatened citrus production in the area, oranges were Orange's top crop by 1920.¹⁰

The Cypress Street Barrio in Orange was established on the 400 block of North Cypress Street (between Sycamore and Walnut Avenues) as a *colonia*, a semi-rural unregulated settlement, in the late 1910s and early 1920s.¹¹ During this time, many immigrants moved to Southern California from central Mexico as a result of the Mexican Revolution (1910-1920), taking advantage of the "burgeoning citrus industry's desperate need for laborers."¹² The Barrio eventually extended north and south along the rail lines, close to the packing houses where its inhabitants found employment, and came to be bounded by the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe railway tracks on the west, Maple Avenue on the south, Olive Street on the east, and Rose Avenue on the north. Residents of the Barrio were primarily employed in the area's citrus industry, with the men working in the fields as citrus pickers, and the women working in the packing houses. Pickers received up to 35 cents per hour, and the packers received 45 cents per hour. Work was seasonal, and thus many of the workers rented homes in the Barrio while they had work in the area. Many families traveled north to the San Joaquin Valley during the winter to find additional work. Two distinct populations evolved in the Barrio: migrants who rented local homes and traveled throughout the western United States for work, and residents who obtained jobs locally and remained throughout the year.

The Killefer School is significant as an extant example of early institutional development in the Cypress Street Barrio, which "served as one of the first immigrant communities in Orange County."¹³ The Killefer School represents the significant growth of the area in the early twentieth century; by the early 1930s, the Cypress Street Barrio had three schools and two churches, reflecting the area's growing population. The Killefer School operated at its original location until 1980, when the school relocated to 615 North Lemon Street. It remained there until 1989, when the school officially ceased operations. The closure of the Killefer School coincided with an overall population decline in the Barrio, with most of the area's residents leaving to look for jobs elsewhere.¹⁴

There are over two hundred historic homes in the Cypress Street Barrio, over eighty of which are listed in the National Register of Historic Places as contributors to the Old Towne Orange

⁹ Adapted from Phil Brigandi, "On to the Packing House," City of Orange Public Library Local History Collection, <http://www.cityoforange.org/localhistory/citrus/citrus-06.htm>.

¹⁰ Adapted from EDAW, Inc., "A History of Key Structures in the Cypress Street Neighborhood," May 2007.

¹¹ Background information about the Cypress Street Barrio adapted from "Killefer Grade School, 500 block of Olive St in Orange, California," courtesy of Chapman University.

¹² Fermin Leal, "Historic Orange barrio still vibrant after 100 years," *Orange County Register*, May 8, 2013.

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Ibid.

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Historic District designated in 1997. The district also includes ten commercial, industrial, and institutional buildings associated with the Barrio.

School Desegregation

For its role in the desegregation of the Orange Unified School District in the early 1940s the Killefer School meets the registration requirements for the context “Making a Democracy: Latino Struggles for Inclusion” of the *Latinos in Twentieth Century California* Multiple Property Submission. As outlined in the Multiple Property Documentation Form:

During the first half of the twentieth century, the vast majority of school districts in California with large Mexican populations practiced segregation. Mexican children were not just physically separated from their Anglo peers, they were usually taught in more crowded classrooms, with less experienced teachers, and with outdated books and materials. The greatest difference between schools was the curricula. Mexican schools focused on teaching boys industrial skills and girls domestic skills, as opposed to writing, math, or science. By the end of the 1920s, Mexican children were by far the most segregated ethnic group in the public school system in California.¹⁵

Anglo city planners justified segregation by arguing that Mexicans took away important jobs from Anglo workers, and by promulgating the racial beliefs that Mexicans did not share the same cultural values of “regular Americans.”¹⁶ School boards validated the creation of separate educational facilities by stating that the students’ inability to speak English made it impossible for them to survive in an Anglo classroom. This distinction later influenced studies that suggested that Mexican and Mexican American students were mentally inferior to Anglos, and thus could not compete in Anglo schools, no matter which language they spoke.¹⁷ School districts rarely if ever tested these hypotheses with any tests of students’ aptitudes. Some districts did not segregate Mexican American students whose families had been in California for several generations and thus had accumulated wealth.

By 1927, Mexican American children made up over ten percent of California’s total school enrollment.¹⁸ As a result, numerous schools were established for Mexican and Mexican American schoolchildren. Most schools constructed specifically for Mexican and Mexican American school children only accommodated elementary and some intermediate schooling. High schools were not commonly constructed, as many children of Mexican heritage were expected to drop out of school prior to high school in order to start working in the citrus industry to help support their families. The equality of the educational environment for Mexican Americans was not the same as their Anglo neighbors: a 1928 study by two University of California professors found that the Mexican schools were fire hazards, with little ventilation,

¹⁵ *Latinos in Twentieth Century California*, 134.

¹⁶ Wallace, “*Mendez et. al v. Westminster et. al's* Impact.”

¹⁷ *Ibid.*

¹⁸ *Ibid.*

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light, and sanitation.¹⁹ The lack of equal education and appropriate facilities prompted Mexican American families to fight against segregation in Southern California as early as the 1930s.²⁰

There were two schools constructed in the Cypress Street Barrio in 1931: the Killefer School and the Cypress Street School. Beginning in the 1920s, Orange was one of several Orange County school districts that segregated most Mexican and Mexican American children. The Killefer School originally served the Anglo population, while the Cypress Street School served the Mexican and Mexican American populations. The Cypress Street School “for Mexican children”²¹ was specifically designated for the Spanish-speaking children of citrus workers residing in the Cypress Street Barrio.²² It replaced an earlier schoolhouse constructed circa 1920 called *La Cabertizia*. The Cypress Street School operated as a Mexican school until 1944, when it ceased operations.

The Killefer School was built as the school for the English-speaking children in the Cypress Street Barrio.²³ With the closing of the Cypress Street School in 1944, the Orange Unified School District decided to voluntarily desegregate its entire district. This was three years before the landmark 1947 *Méndez v. Westminster* verdict required California schools to end the practice of segregation. School superintendent Stewart White pushed for the change, arguing that “mixing of the children would further the Americanization program and promote friendly Latin-American relations.”²⁴ The Killefer School was among the first schools in the state of California to desegregate, making it a pioneer in the movement to end segregation of California’s schools.

Additional Context: Méndez v. Westminster

Gonzalo Méndez discovered the inequality in California’s school system in 1943, when he attempted to enroll his children in a local Westminster school.²⁵ The children were denied enrollment because of their Spanish last name, and were instead sent to the Mexican school several miles away. Furious that his children were expected to attend an inferior school, Méndez took his case to the district office, and later the county, with no success. Finally, Méndez hired attorney David Marcus, who had recently won a segregation suit against a public pool in Riverside, California. Marcus discovered that the school districts were breaking state policy, and

¹⁹ Adapted from Wallace, “*Mendez et. al v. Westminster et. al's* Impact.”

²⁰ In 1931, a state court judge ruled that the Lemon Grove School for Mexican American children in San Diego, called “The Stable” by its students, was not educationally justified or supported by state law. The judge therefore ordered the Mexican American children to attend school on an equal basis with the others in the community. This was the first successful school desegregation court ruling in the nation. However, it only applied to Lemon Grove School, and thus had no documented impact on the desegregation of other schools in Southern California. History of the Lemon Grove School from “Paving the Way to School Desegregation.”

²¹ “City School Calendar is Announced for Next Year,” *Orange County Register*, May 1, 1931; “Call Vote on School Bond: \$75,000 Issue to Be Voted May 22,” *Orange County Register*, May 1, 1930.

²² Cypress Street School is a Mexican School as defined in the *Latinos in Twentieth Century California* MPDF.

²³ At that time, most, if not all, English-speaking children in Orange were white.

²⁴ Phil Brigandi, *A Brief History of Orange, California: The Plaza City* (Charleston, SC: The History Press, 2011), 96.

²⁵ History of *Mendez et. al v. Westminster* largely adapted from Wallace, “*Mendez et. al v. Westminster et. al's* Impact.” and Robbie, *Mendez v. Westminster*.

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proposed that they find plaintiffs from other school districts to prove that this was a wide-scale act of discrimination based on surnames and unproven pedagogical studies.

When the *Méndez v. Westminster* case began in July 1945, the highly organized Mexican American community faced seemingly unbeatable odds. Parents from nearby districts signed onto the petition, representing over 5,000 students. Other parents signed on as plaintiffs, namely William Guzmán of Santa Ana, Frank Palomino of Garden Grove, Thomas Estrada of Westminster, and Lorenzo Ramirez of El Modena (a neighborhood since annexed by Orange, California). During the case, Marcus argued that school districts segregated students on the basis of national origin, thus breaking the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution. Witnesses explained that their children were segregated based on their surnames and appearances. Representatives from the school districts argued that the Mexican American students were separated primarily due to a lack of language abilities that rendered them unfit to attend Anglo schools.

On February 18, 1946, United States Judge Paul J. McCormick handed down a landmark court decision, ruling in favor the Mexican American plaintiffs. Three days later, County Counsel Joel Ogel filed an appeal in response to McCormick's ruling. However, despite the efforts of the Orange County school districts to avoid desegregation, their appeal of Judge McCormick's ruling was unsuccessful. On April 14, 1947, the Ninth Federal District Court of Appeals upheld McCormick's ruling. The school districts were given the choice to appeal further to the United States Supreme Court, but none followed this course. Regardless, many school districts in Southern California waited for years after the ruling to desegregate, prolonging segregation in their school districts for as long as possible.²⁶

Criterion C

The Killefer School is an excellent local example of Spanish Colonial Revival institutional architecture. It is a rare, intact example of a schoolhouse in Southern California constructed prior to the 1933 Long Beach Earthquake. Many Southern California schools were either destroyed or damaged beyond repair in the 1933 Long Beach earthquake, or were subsequently replaced to comply with new building codes adopted in the aftermath of the earthquake.

The Spanish Colonial Revival style is the most decorative of the Spanish architectural styles. Its ornamentation covers a wide range of source materials, and the elaborate and intricate ornamental forms of *Churrigueresque* (Spanish baroque) buildings were a hallmark of high style buildings. The Spanish Colonial Revival style gradually replaced the earlier Mission Revival style in popularity, as it was considered to be more authentic than its predecessor. While the Mission Revival took inspiration from local Spanish and Mexican buildings, Spanish Colonial

²⁶ For example, the Pasadena Unified School District waited until the late 1960s and early 1970s to officially desegregate, ignoring both the *Méndez v. Westminster* ruling and the *Brown v. Board of Education* ruling until three families protested their de facto segregation policies. For more information, see Rebecca L. Smith, Elaine Zorbas, Abby Delman, and Charlotte Krontiris, *Advocates for Change: oral history interviews on the desegregation of the Pasadena Unified School District*, (Pasadena, CA: Pasadena Heritage, 2007).

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Revival looked overseas to Spain to borrow architectural elements, and perpetuated the fiction that California was the “New Spain of North America.”²⁷

The 1915 Panama-California Exposition held in San Diego heavily influenced California’s widespread adoption of the Spanish Colonial Revival style, as did the success of Helen Hunt Jackson’s novel, *Ramona*. The exposition, designed by Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue, introduced the elaborate Spanish architectural prototypes found in other countries, and emphasized the richness of Spanish Colonial architectural precedents seen in other countries’ major buildings. The exhibition was well received, and encouraged American architects to look to Spanish architecture for inspiration.

Spanish Colonial Revival architecture was popularized during the 1920s, when “just as everything grew in the Southern California garden, so too did every architectural tradition take hold as well.”²⁸ As the focus on regional expression through architecture evolved, Spanish Colonial Revival and its contemporary Mediterranean Revival “were two styles supported by the regional myth of California as the Mediterranean shores of America and even, in the case of Spanish Revival, supported by a slight degree of historical justification.”²⁹ Spanish Colonial Revival style was easily adapted to accommodate a wide variety of building types, and its popularity was due in part to the fact that historical examples could easily be adopted for any need.

Traveling through Andalusia, aspiring architects...noted with delight the rich courtyard types and structures – the urban patio house, the fortified urban palace or *alcazar* (many of them later recycled as apartment dwellings), the snug courtyard inns... the open marketplaces and monastery cloisters, the farmhouses combining living quarters and workspaces around a central courtyard...As Santa Barbara and San Clemente showed, many of these forms were directly applicable to Southern California, albeit the courtyard format was now being used for city halls and courthouses, public high schools, hotels, restaurants, and...bungalow courts.³⁰

The Spanish Colonial Revival style had a close relationship to the several Secessionist movements which manifested themselves in California from the late 1890s through the 1930s. The initial association of Spanish Colonial Revival architecture with the Secessionists is best represented in the work of Irving Gill, and it can also be seen the work of Francis T. Underhill of Santa Barbara, and in some of the work of the San Diego firm of Mead and Requa. Their intention was to remove specific historic details, and to think in terms of elemental shapes and forms.³¹ Two of the most influential architects of the Spanish Colonial Revival style in Southern

²⁷ Adapted from “Spanish Colonial Revival,” Fullerton Heritage.

²⁸ Kevin Starr, *Material Dreams: Southern California Through the 1920s* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1990), 187.

²⁹ *Ibid.*, 191.

³⁰ *Ibid.*, 216.

³¹ Adapted from David Gebhard, “The Spanish Colonial Revival Style in Southern California (1895-1930),” *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*, vol. 26, no. 2 (May 1967), 131-147.

Killefer, Lydia D., School
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California were Bertram Goodhue (1869-1924) and George Washington Smith (1876-1930). The style reached its zenith in the late 1920s and early 1930s, and quickly passed from favor during the 1940s.

Spanish Colonial Revival architecture is typically characterized by rectangular floor plans; asymmetrical façades; low-pitched roofs with parapets or hipped roofs clad in terra cotta tile; exterior walls clad in smooth or textured stucco; arcaded entrances or porches; arched doors and windows; recessed windows; ornately carved details around windows, entrances, and cornices; wrought iron grillwork on windows, doors, and balconies; low, round or octagonal towers with low-pitched roofs; casement or double-hung windows; glazed tile used for interior and exterior decoration; and wall extensions that enclose garden spaces.

The Killefer School is an excellent local example of the style, and retains significant character defining features of the original design. Its octagonal bell tower with terra cotta tile vents, open balcony with copper-clad railings, asymmetrical facade, exterior walls clad in textured stucco, terra cotta stairways, and arcaded exterior and interior walkways are significant features of its Spanish Colonial Revival design. The arcaded exterior walkway is both functional and indicative of the building's design, as it makes use of a feature common to Spanish Colonial Revival buildings to create a wide passageway that takes advantage of Southern California's climate and allows students, teachers, and administrators to easily reach their classrooms and offices.

Conclusion

The Lydia D. Killefer School, built in 1931, represents early institutional development in the Cypress Street Barrio and reflects a significant period of growth in the area in the early twentieth century. The school was originally constructed to serve the Anglo population, with the nearby Cypress Street School designated as the Mexican school. The Killefer School meets the eligibility standards identified in the "Making a Democracy: Latino Struggles for Inclusion" context of the *Latinos in Twentieth Century California* Multiple Property Submission. The Killefer School completed desegregation in 1944, becoming the only elementary school in the Cypress Street Barrio. The desegregation of Killefer stimulated the desegregation process in the community at large, ultimately leading to the end of segregation throughout the Orange Unified School District. The Killefer School desegregated before the landmark *Méndez v. Westminster* trial began, making it a pioneer of desegregation before California became a national leader in fostering this nascent civil rights movement. The Killefer School's voluntary desegregation in the early 1940s is particularly noteworthy given the reticence of other school boards in the state to desegregate their schools even after the *Méndez v. Westminster* ruling. It is an excellent example of a Spanish Colonial Revival schoolhouse in Southern California, and a rare remaining example of a schoolhouse pre-dating the 1933 Long Beach Earthquake. It retains significant character defining features of the style, and exhibits quality of design and workmanship.

Killefer, Lydia D., School
Name of Property

Orange, California
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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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Killefer, Lydia D., School
Name of Property

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"Killefer Grade School, 500 block of Olive St in Orange, California." Courtesy of Chapman University.

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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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Killefer, Lydia D., School
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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: Chapman University, Orange, California; Local History
Collection, City of Orange Public Library, Orange, California

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.7 acres

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 33.796234 Longitude: -117.854752

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The property is located at 541 North Lemon Street. The parcel is bound by North Olive Street on the east, North Lemon Street on the west, and single- and multi-family homes on the north and south.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries represent the historic and current boundaries of the Killefer School property.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Molly Iker, Intern; Christine Lazzaretto, Principal
organization: Historic Resources Group
street & number: 12 S. Fair Oaks Avenue, Suite 200
city or town: Pasadena state: CA zip code: 91105-1915
e-mail: christine@historicrosourcesgroup.com
telephone: (626) 793-2400 x112
date: July 31, 2014; Revised January 2015

Killefer, Lydia D., School
Name of Property

Orange, California
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Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Lydia D. Killefer School
City or Vicinity: Orange
County: Orange
State: CA
Photographer: Molly Iker
Date Photographed: July 11, 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

PHOTO #	DESCRIPTION/VIEW
0001	Exterior view of east façade, facing west. Detail of primary entrance.
0002	Exterior overview of west façade, facing east.
0003	Exterior view of west façade and tower, facing northeast.
0004	Exterior facing southwest. Detail of south wing.
0005	Exterior facing north. Detail of exterior corridor and exposed rafters on west façade.
0006	Exterior facing east. Detail of patch on north wing.
0007	Exterior facing northeast. View of structure and portion of north classroom building.
0008	Exterior overview of north façade and tower, facing southeast.
0009	Exterior facing northeast. View of portion of north classroom building.
0010	Exterior view of north façade, facing southeast. Detail of bay window.
0011	Exterior overview of east façade, facing southwest.
0012	Exterior facing northwest. Detail of tower, copper railings, and weathervane.

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- 0013 Exterior overview of east façade, facing northwest.
- 0014 Exterior view of east façade, facing west. Detail of secondary entrance.
- 0015 Exterior view of south façade, facing northeast. Detail of wrought iron fence around staircase to basement.
- 0016 Exterior view of west façade, facing east. Detail of carved wooden door.
- 0017 Interior of northeast classroom, facing northwest. Detail of auditorium ceiling.

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.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

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Figure 1. Assessor's Tract Map, March 1949, Killefer School parcel outlined in center.

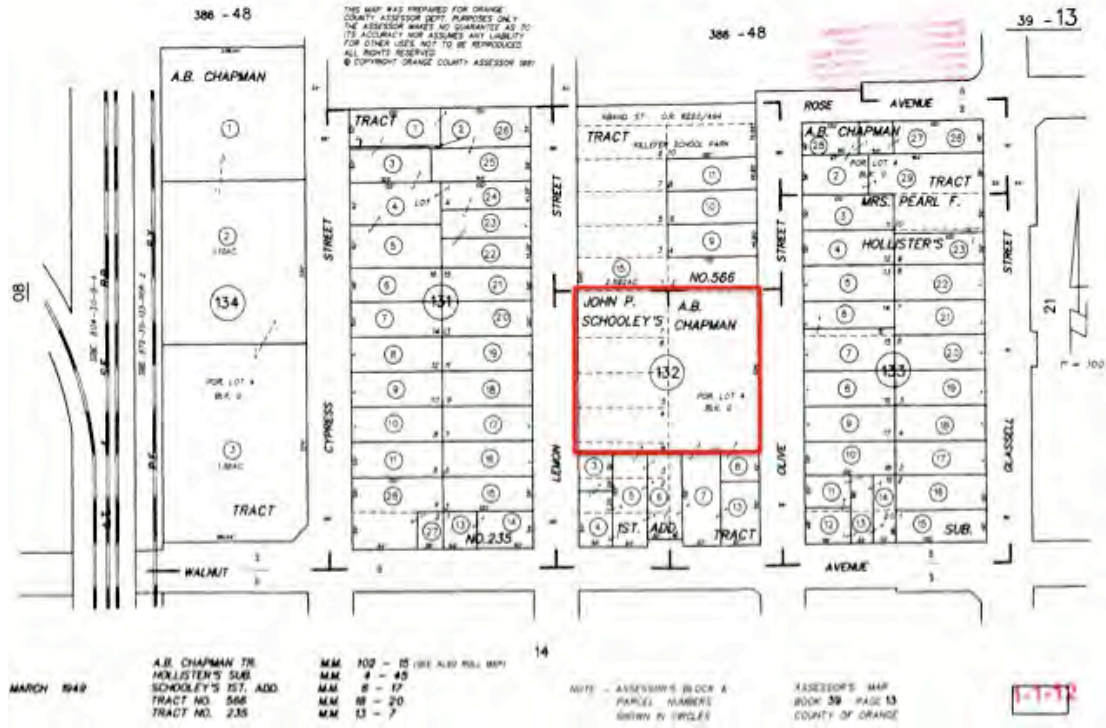
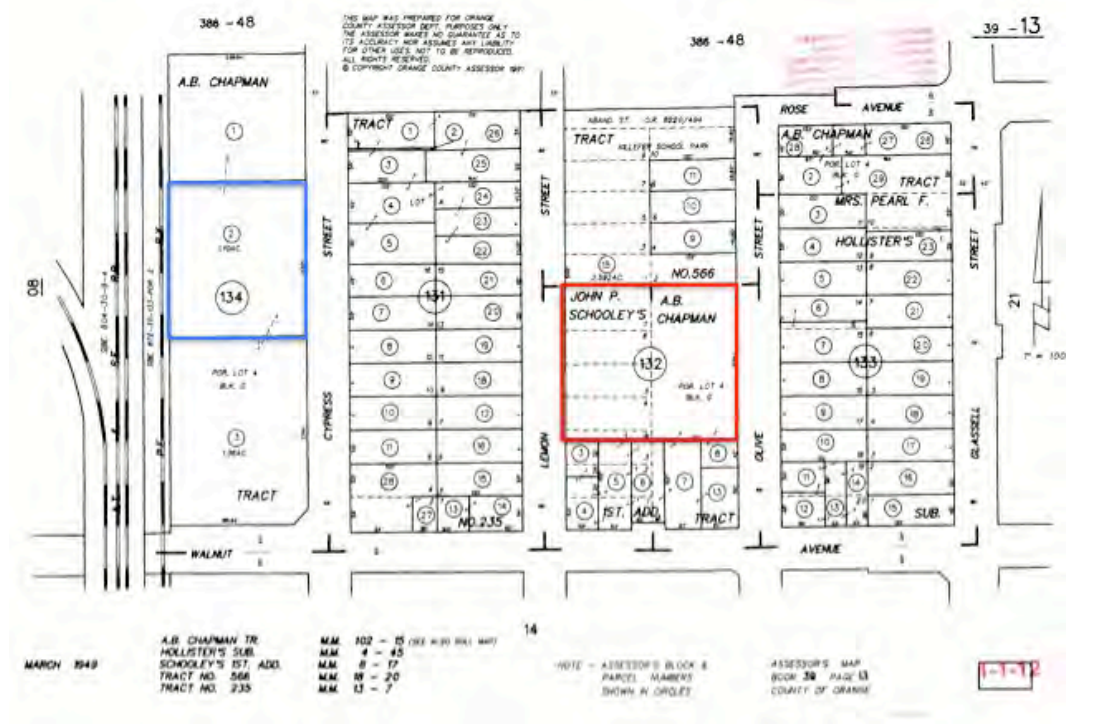


Figure 2. Assessor's Tract Map, March 1949, Killefer School parcel in center, Cypress Street School parcel at left.



Killefer, Lydia D., School
Name of Property

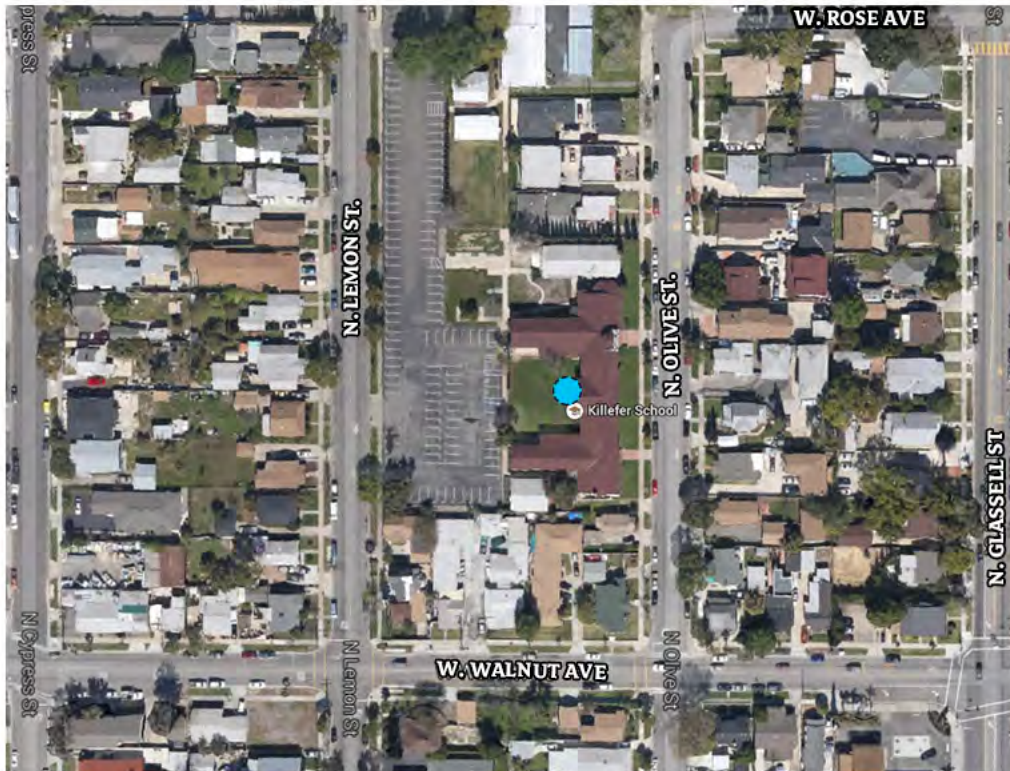
Orange, California
County and State

Figure 3. Location Map

Latitude: 33.796234

Longitude: -117.854752

LYDIA D. KILLEFER SCHOOL
541 N. LEMON ST., ORANGE, CA 92867
LOCATION COORDINATES: 33.796234, -117.854752



 PROPERTY LOCATION

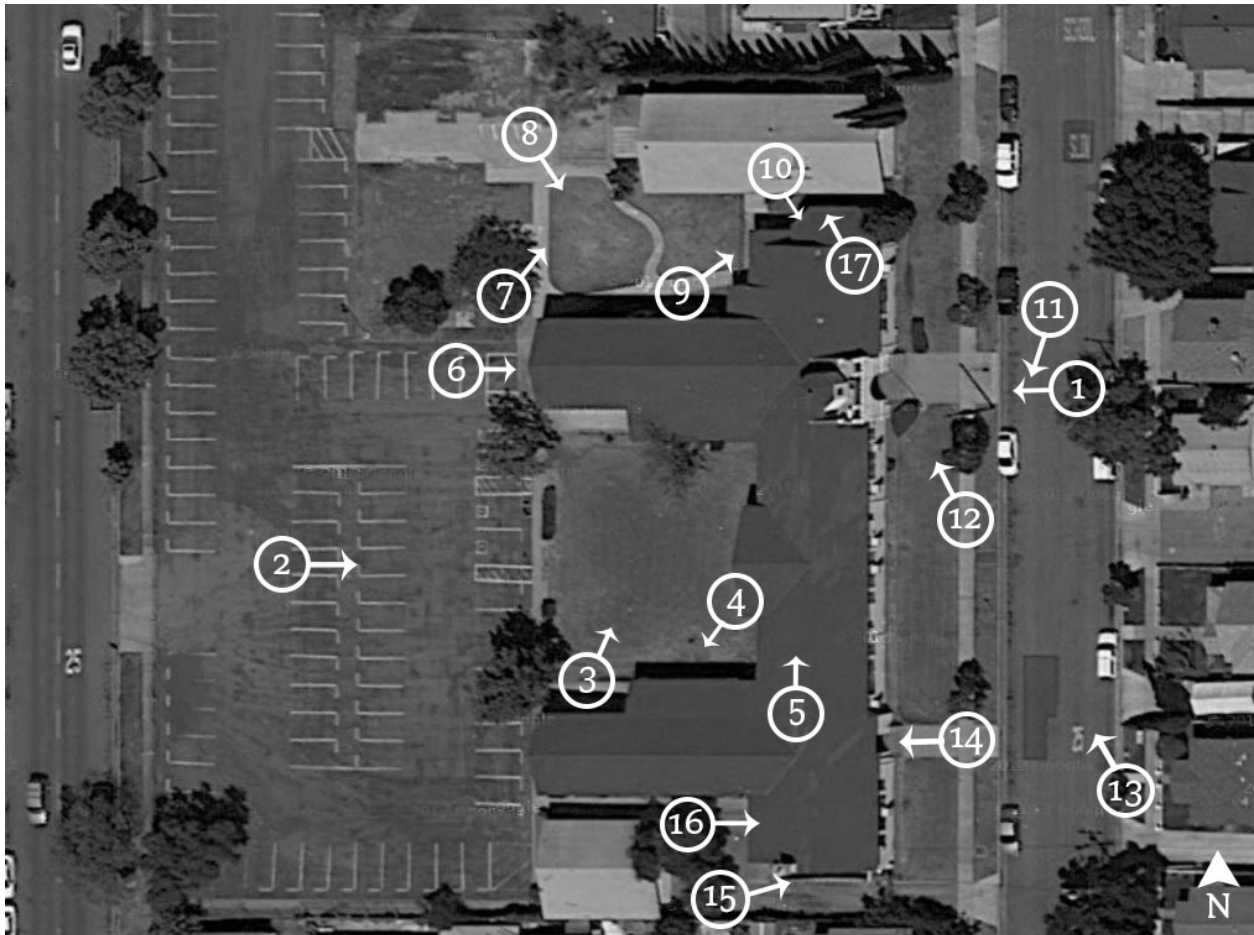
 100 feet 50 m



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Figure 4. Photo Key



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Figure 5. 1938 aerial view, Killefer School, City of Orange Historic Aerial Viewer.



Figure 6. 1947 aerial view, Killefer School, City of Orange Historic Aerial Viewer.



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Figure 7. 1955 aerial view, Killefer School, City of Orange Historic Aerial Viewer.



Figure 8. 1939, Killefer School third grade class photo (wrought iron fence in left background).



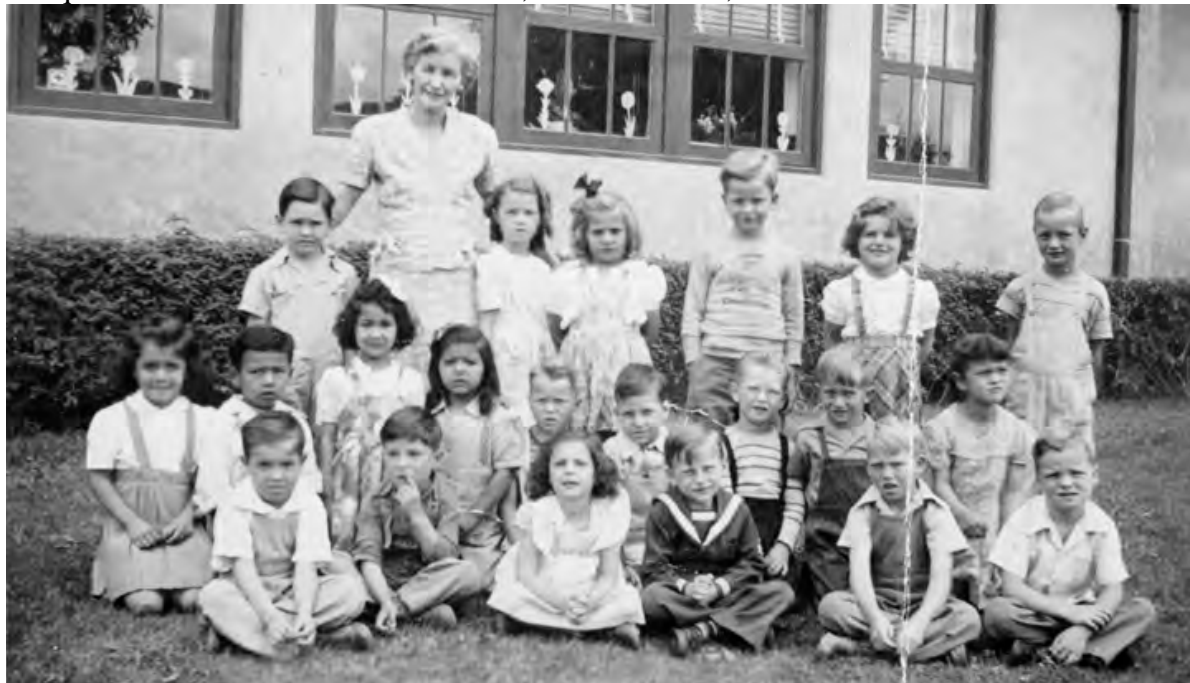
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Figure 9. 1945, Killefer School first grade class photo (three-over-three light windows visible in background on left). Evidence of pre-Méndez v. Westminster integration at Killefer: Norman Chavez eighth from left.



Figure 10. 1945, Killefer School kindergarten class photo (three-over-three light windows visible in background). Evidence of pre-Méndez v. Westminster integration at Killefer: Emigdio Vasquez second from left in second row, and Sal Garcia, second from left in first row.



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Figure 11. 1946, Killefer School first grade class photo (decorative tiles and partially glazed entry doors visible in background). Evidence of pre-Méndez v. Westminster integration at Killefer: Emigdio Vasquez at far left in first row.















541







READING/ABE





NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
The Board of Directors of the
City of Houston, Texas, will hold a
Public Hearing on the proposed
Ordinance on Tuesday, June 15, 2010,
at 10:00 AM in the City Council
Chamber, 1001 Main Street, Houston,
Texas 77002.













National Register of Historic Places
Memo to File

Correspondence

The Correspondence consists of communications from (and possibly to) the nominating authority, notes from the staff of the National Register of Historic Places, and/or other material the National Register of Historic Places received associated with the property.

Correspondence may also include information from other sources, drafts of the nomination, letters of support or objection, memorandums, and ephemera which document the efforts to recognize the property.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Killefer, Lydia D., School

MULTIPLE NAME: Latinos in 20th Century California MPS

STATE & COUNTY: CALIFORNIA, Orange

DATE RECEIVED: 2/20/15 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 3/17/15
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 4/01/15 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 4/07/15
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 15000123

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

 ACCEPT RETURN REJECT DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

The Lydia D. Killefer School is locally significant under National Register Criteria A and C in the areas of Social History, Ethnic Heritage-Hispanic, and Architecture. Built in 1931 to serve the local Anglo-population, the building is a rare extant example of elementary school design in Orange County from the pre-1933 (Long Beach Earthquake) period. The school is a good local example of early twentieth century Spanish Colonial Revival school architecture. The property's primary period of historic significance in association with Latino heritage is 1942—1944, reflecting the school's voluntary desegregation in order to serve the expanding Cypress Street Barrio (Mexican) community. The Barrio was one of the first significant Latino immigrant communities established in Orange County, housing recent immigrants seeking work in local citrus operations and packing plants. The voluntary opening of the former Anglo school to local Latino children, particularly prior to the 1947 Mendez v. Westminster court decision on desegregation, makes it a particularly interesting study in local social history and community development. The property meets the registration requirements for the context "Making a Democracy: Latino Struggles for Inclusion" of the *Latinos in Twentieth Century California* MPS.

RECOM. / CRITERIA Accept Criteria A+C

REVIEWER Paul R. Lusignan DISCIPLINE HISTORIAN

TELEPHONE _____ DATE 4/7/2015

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR (Y)/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



ORANGE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Education Center

1401 North Handy Street • Orange, CA 92867-4334

www.orangeusd.org

January 12, 2015

Board of Education

Alexia L. Deligianni, Ed.D.

Rick Ledesma

Kathryn A. Moffat

John H. Ortega

Diane Singer

Timothy Surridge

Mark Wayland

714.628.4533

714.628.4041 (FAX)

board@orangeusd.org

••

Superintendent of Schools

Michael L. Christensen

714.628.4487

714.628.4041 (FAX)

superintendent@orangeusd.org

State Historic Preservation Officer
Office of Historic Preservation
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95816-7100

Re: Objection and Letter of Opposition to Listing of the Lydia D. Killefer School, 541 North Lemon Street, Orange, Ca 92867 on National Register of Historic Places

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter serves as Orange Unified School District's ("District") objection and letter of opposition to the nomination of the Lydia D. Killefer School (the "School") for placement on the National Register of Historic Places. The School was nominated by Molly Iker of the Historic Resources Group ("HRG") through a nomination form submitted in July 2014. The District certifies that it is the sole owner of the Property and formally objects to the listing of the School on the National Register as the School's Owner in accordance with Title 36, Section 60.6(g) of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) as well as California Public Resources Code section 5024.1(f)(4). The District's notarized statement certifying that it is the sole owner of the School and, as the owner, objects to the School's listing, is included with this letter as Exhibit "A". Based on the District's certification, 36 CFR Section 60.6(g) prohibits the School from being listed as a historical resource in the California Register as required by 36 CFR Section 60.6(g).

In addition to the District's objection, the District submits the following opposition to designating the School as eligible for listing on the California Register under Public Resources Code section 5024.1 and 36 CFR Section 60.6(b). As detailed below, HRG's application to register the School has no unique historical significance and does not meet the requirements to deem the School eligible as a historical site. Specifically, the School does not meet any of the criteria listed in Title 36 CFR Section 60.4, as discussed below.

I. The School does not meet the requirements necessary to be deemed a historical site as set forth in Criteria A because the School did not play a significant role in a historical event

HRG's application claims the School qualifies as a historical structures under Criteria A and Criteria C as set forth in Title 36 CFR section 60.4. Criteria A requires the School to be "associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history." The National Park Service provides guidelines with respect Criteria A and indicates the "mere association" is not enough to establish historical significance:

Mere association with historic events or trends is not enough, in and of itself, to qualify under Criterion A: the property's specific association must be considered important as well. For example, a building historically in commercial use must be shown to have been significant in commercial history.¹

HRG's application claims the School has historical significance because it is associated with the desegregation of California schools with respect to Mexican-American students. To support this claim, HRG provides a detailed summary of the history of segregation of California schools and the legal battles to end it. However, the School is not instrumental or a focal point of this history.

As stated in HRG's application, segregation of Mexican American students in Southern California was widespread and legal until the seminal case of *Mendez v. Westminster* (1946) 64 F. Supp. 544 in which the courts found that such segregation unconstitutional. The Application's discussion of Criteria A focuses almost exclusively on the history of segregation and the effect of the *Mendez* case. However, the School has no connection to the *Mendez* case and was not affected by the court's decision. As confirmed in the HRG's application, the School was officially desegregated in 1944, as part of the desegregation of the entire school district and three years before the *Mendez* decision. Thus, the extensive history of the legal struggle to eliminate desegregation, as documented in the HRG's application, does not provide the School with any historical significance.

In the last paragraph of the discussion of Criteria A in HRG's application, HRG claims the School has historical significance because it was voluntarily desegregated prior to the *Mendez* case. However, as acknowledged in the application, the School itself did not play a significant role in this voluntary desegregation effort since the school district voluntarily desegregated **all** of its schools prior to the *Mendez* case. The school district was not even the first California school district to voluntarily desegregate as HRG's application only indicates the school district "was among the first in the state of California to do so." Further, HRG's suggestion that the School played a key role in advancing desegregation is misleading as the School served merely as a transition point for Hispanic students waiting for another local school known as Cypress School ("Cypress") to be available to them. Since Cypress was not immediately available, the Hispanic students used the School temporarily before they moved permanently to Cypress. The Hispanic Students only attended the School for a matter of weeks. HRG's application misattributes the desegregation efforts of the school district as a whole, and Cypress in particular, to the School which was, at best, merely associated with the school district's larger desegregation efforts. The School's lack of historical significance was illustrated to the Office of Historic Preservation by Joanne Coontz, the former mayor of Orange, in a letter dated September 17, 2014, a copy of which is attached as Exhibit C.² As noted in Ms. Coontz's letter, if any school in Orange has historical significance for desegregation, it is Cypress.

¹ See National Park Services website: http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/publications/bulletins/nrb15/nrb15_6.htm#crit a

² Ms. Coontz was a member of the Orange's Olde Towne Preservation Association and actively fought for the recognition of historical structures throughout the City of Orange during her tenure as Mayor and her service on Orange's City Council. Among her contributions to maintaining Orange's history, Ms. Coontz founded the Orange Public Library Foundation which is dedicated to honoring the City's historical past and she is credited with many contributions to the historical memorabilia found in the City's library. In fact, Ms. Coontz has a plaque in the library discussing her historical contributions.

As stated in the National Park Services' guidelines for Criteria A, "mere association" with a historical trend is not enough to establish historical significance. The School played no significant role in the battle against segregation in California schools. The legal battle discussed in HRG's application does not relate to the School because it was voluntarily desegregated before the *Mendez* decision. The School did not play a significant role in the voluntary desegregation of schools because it was merely one of the schools that voluntarily desegregated prior to the *Mendez* decision. At best, the School is merely associated with voluntary desegregation in California which does not rise to the level of historical significance.

II. The School does not meet the requirements for historical significance set forth in Criteria C because the school is merely an example of an architectural style but has no unique historical significance

To be eligible for historical designation under Criteria C, the School must: "embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, represent the work of a master, possess high artistic values, or represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction." The HRG claims the School fits into Criteria C because it is "an excellent local example of Spanish Colonial Revival institutional architecture." However, simply being an example of architectural, without further significance, is not sufficient to qualify as a historical building under Criteria C.

In *Lincoln Place Tenants Association v. City of Los Angeles* (2005) 130 CalApp4th 1491, the court analyzed Criteria C with respect to garden style apartments that were scheduled for demolition. Although the *Lincoln Place* Court agreed that the apartments were a "good example" of the apartment style, they did not raise to the historically significant level required to be deemed historical:

The only criterion under which Lincoln Place might qualify is the one for buildings which embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, method or period of construction or represent the work of a master architect or are in some way significant and distinctive. Peterson acknowledged Heth Wharton was "a good architect" but not in the same class as Lloyd Wright and others who designed residential buildings in Los Angeles in the same era. Peterson also noted that although Lincoln Place is "a good example of a low rent garden apartment housing project" of the post-war era there was nothing special about it. It never gained the attention of any major architectural or engineering publication. Furthermore, it is one of many similar housing projects in the Los Angeles area some of which were designed by renowned architects. (*Id.* at 1497-1498.)


HRG's application provides a detailed analysis of the Spanish Colonial Revival institutional architecture. However, HRG provides no evidence that the School has any significant connection with this architectural style other than calling it a "excellent local example of the style." There is no evidence that the School was designed by a prominent architect, received any significant attention for its architecture, or is unique from the other structures. Thus, as in the *Lincoln Place* case, the School may be an example of an architectural style but this is not the necessary historical significance to qualify under Criteria C.

HRG's application also acknowledges that the School has undergone significant changes since its construction which severely limits its qualification as a "good example" of Spanish Colonial architecture. In summary, HRG's application notes that the School's the roof singles were redone, the original decorative tile at the School's main entries was replaced, the interior was remodeled along with the floor plan, and several windows have been removed or covered with plywood. Two classroom buildings were also added to the School between 1980 and 1991. Thus, even if Criteria C allowed mere examples of certain architectural styles to be deemed historical, which it does not, the School would not qualify because of the many changes it has undergone, as documented in the HRG's application.

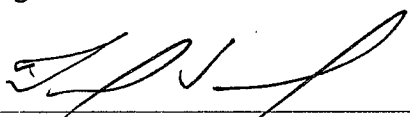
III. CONCLUSION

The District, as sole owner of the School, objects to placing the School on the National Register of Historic Places. Under 36 CFR Section 60.6(g), the School cannot be deemed a historical place due to this objection. Further, the District opposes designating the School as eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. HRG's application demonstrates that the School is not eligible for historical designation because it is, at best, merely associated with desegregation in California and an undistinguished example of Spanish Colonial architecture.

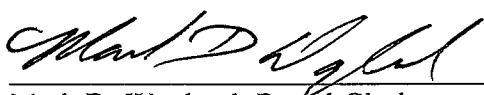
Sincerely,



John Ortega, Board President
Orange Unified School District



Timothy Surridge, Board Vice President
Orange Unified School District



Mark D. Wayland, Board Clerk
Orange Unified School District

cc: Michael L. Christensen, Superintendent, OUSD
Joe Sorrera, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, OUSD
Constance Schwindt, Legal Counsel, OUSD

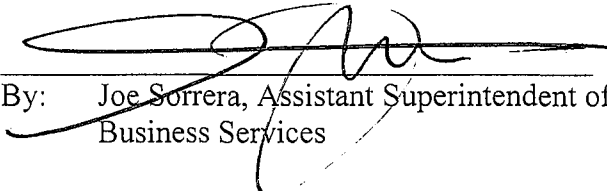
EXHIBIT A

Orange Unified School District's Certification of Ownership and Objection to Placement of Killefer Elementary School on the National Register of Historic Places

The District hereby certifies that it is the owner of that certain real property consisting of approximately 1.70 acres of land located at 541 North Lemon Street, Orange, California, known generally as the District's former Killefer Elementary School site ("Land") more particularly described in the legal description attached as Exhibit "B". The District, as the sole owner of the School, formally objects to the placement of the School on the National Register of Historic Places pursuant to Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 60.6(g).

Dated: 1/13/15

ORANGE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT


By: Joe Sorrera, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
) ss.
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES)

On 1-13-2015, before me, Katherine V. Topor Notary Public, personally appeared Joe Sorrera, personally known to me (or proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence) to be the person(s) whose name(s) is/~~are~~ subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged to me that he/~~she~~/they executed the same in his/~~her~~/their authorized capacity(ies), and that by his/~~her~~/their signature(s) on the instrument the person(s) or the entity upon behalf of which the person(s) acted, executed the instrument.



Katherine Virginia Topor
Notary Public

[SEAL]

EXHIBIT B

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF SCHOOL

LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Real property in the City of Orange, County of Orange, State of California, described as follows:

PARCEL 1:

LOTS 1 AND 2 OF TRACT NO. 566, AS PER MAP RECORDED IN BOOK 18, PAGE 20 OF MISCELLANEOUS MAPS, IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY RECORDER OF ORANGE COUNTY.

PARCEL 2:

LOTS 4 THROUGH 7, INCLUSIVE, AND THE NORTH 18 FEET OF LOT 3 OF THE JOHN R. SCHOOLEY'S FIRST ADDITION TO THE CITY OF ORANGE, AS PER MAP RECORDED IN BOOK 6, PAGE 17 OF MISCELLANEOUS MAPS IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY RECORDER OF ORANGE COUNTY.

PARCEL 3:

THAT PORTION OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF LOT 4 IN BLOCK G OF THE A. B. CHAPMAN TRACT, AS SURVEYED BY FRANK LECOLVREUR IN DECEMBER 1870, DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT A POINT 33 FEET WEST OF THE EAST LINE OF OLIVE STREET AND 132 FEET NORTH OF THE NORTH LINE OF WALNUT AVENUE IN THE CITY OF ORANGE, SAID POINT BEING ON THE EAST LINE OF THE WEST 5 ACRES OF SAID SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF SAID LOT 4, IN BLOCK G OF THE A. B. CHAPMAN TRACT; THENCE NORTH 68 FEET; THENCE WEST 165 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 68 FEET; THENCE EAST PARALLEL WITH THE NORTH LINE OF WALNUT AVENUE, 165 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. EXCEPT THE EAST 33 FEET OF SAID LAND.

PARCEL 4:

BEGINNING AT A POINT 33 FEET WEST OF THE EAST LINE OF OLIVE STREET AND 200 FEET NORTH OF THE NORTH LINE OF WALNUT AVENUE, IN ORANGE, SAID POINT BEING THE EAST LINE OF THE WEST 5 ACRES OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF SAID LOT 4, BLOCK G OF THE A. B. CHAPMAN TRACT, THENCE WEST 165 FEET TO A POST, THENCE NORTH 166 FEET TO A POST, THENCE EAST 165 FEET TO POST, THENCE SOUTH 166 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. EXCEPT THE EAST 33 FEET THEREOF.

APN: PORTION OF 039-132-15

EXHIBIT C

JOANNE C. COONTZ
601 E. PALMDALE AVENUE
ORANGE, CA 92865
(714) 637-8156
Joanne.the1@sbcglobal.net
September 17, 2014

Office of Historical Preservation
1725 23rd St. #100
Sacramento, CA 95816

REQUEST TO DESIGNATE KILLEFER SCHOOL AS A HISTORIC PRESERVATION SITE

Gentlemen:

I recently read in the local paper that OLD TOWNE PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION has contacted you to obtain the official designation of Killefer school in Orange as a historic preservation site.. As someone who has successfully promoted historic preservation for many years, long before OTPA came into being, I was really surprised at their request. I want you to know, too, that I have been a member of OTPA since its inception.

What is surprising to me is that neither OTPA nor your office has recognized the premier architectually significant elementary school in the hispanic barrio which really should be on the State Register, and that is the CYPRESS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, situated at 544 No. Cypress in the City of Orange. CYPRESS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL was segregated until sometime during WWII, when it was closed and the students were transferred to Killefer School at 541 N. Lemon St. The building, built in 1928 is the last remaining segregated schoohouse in California. Chapman University purchased the CYPRESS elementary school site, beautifully restored the historic building and reopened it in March of this year with a community event. The building houses Chapman's Lifespan Development Research Program and Chapman pays tribute the buildings historical past with photographs from its schoohouse era, and by providing space for the for the use of the Orange Barrio Historical Society, composed of descendants of the disappearing barrio.

During all the many years that Chapman University has successfully purchased property for new university sites, OTPA has not expressed interest or involvement, even though the properties are included in the Old Town Orange Historical District.

Our History Room in the Main Orange Library has a huge collection of material regarding the Cypress St. Barrio, including photos of men from the area who volunteered in our wars, recollections individuals who attended the segregated school, and stories of those who worked in the citrus packing houses.

In closing, the people of the barrio, I'm sure, would rather see you designate the CYPRESS STREET SCHOOL as an important historical site, for that is where people in the community felt the greater discrimination by our community.

Sincerely,

Joanne Coontz

2 photos are included
An extensive group of
photos will be available
Upon request

**Lydia D. Killefer School
(Latinos in Twentieth Century California MPS)
Orange, Orange County
Staff Report**

The Lydia D. Killefer School is located in the City of Orange, approximately 31 miles southeast of downtown Los Angeles, and 22 miles northeast of Long Beach. The property is on the east side of North Lemon Street, north of the intersection of North Lemon Street and West Walnut Avenue. The lot is bounded on the north and south by single- and multi-family residences. It is a former elementary school in the Spanish Colonial Revival style. Construction began in December 1930, and was completed by April 1931.

Lydia Killefer was a schoolteacher in Orange from 1895 to 1931, and principal of the Killefer School from 1931 to 1938. The school is located in a neighborhood primarily populated by Mexican Americans and historically known as the Cypress Street Barrio. Killefer School stands on the eastern portion of its 1.7-acre parcel. The site is sparsely landscaped, with only a few trees and shrubs. The school has been vacant for fifteen years, is in poor condition, and is threatened with demolition. It retains significant character defining features of its original design, and has integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

The Lydia D. Killefer School is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places at the local level of significance under Criterion A in the area of Social History for its association with school desegregation in Southern California. The period of significance is 1942 to 1944, reflecting the school's process of voluntary desegregation. The desegregation is particularly significant as it took place prior to the 1947 *Méndez v. Westminster* ruling that legally required schools in Southern California to desegregate.

For its association with the historic context Making a Democracy: Latino Struggles for Inclusion, the property meets the registration requirements of the *Latinos In Twentieth Century California* Multiple Property Submission.

Killefer School is also eligible for listing at the local level of significance under Criterion C in the area of Architecture as an excellent example of a Spanish Colonial Revival schoolhouse in Southern California. It is a rare intact example of a schoolhouse that pre-dates the 1933 Long Beach Earthquake. The period of significance under Criterion C is 1931, the date of construction.

The property is nominated by The Old Towne Preservation Association. A letter of objection is on file from the property owner, Orange Unified School District. OHP staff supports the nomination and recommends the State Historical Resources Commission determine that the Lydia D. Killefer School meets the registration requirements of the *Latinos In Twentieth Century California* Multiple Property Submission, and is eligible for the National Register under Criterion A at the local level with a period of significance 1942 to 1944 and under Criterion C with a 1931 period of significance. Staff recommends the State Historic Preservation Officer approve the nomination for forwarding to the National Park Service for listing in the National Register.

Amy H. Crain
State Historian II
January 26, 2015

**OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

1725 23rd Street, Suite 100
SACRAMENTO, CA 95816-7100
(916) 445-7000 Fax: (916) 445-7053
calshpo@parks.ca.gov
www.ohp.parks.ca.gov



February 10, 2015

J. Paul Loether
Deputy Keeper and Chief
National Register and National Historic Landmark Programs
National Register of Historic Places
1201 Eye St. NW, 8th Fl.
Washington D.C. 20005

Subject: **Latinos in Twentieth Century California MPS
Multiple Counties, California
National Register of Historic Places Nomination**

Dear Mr. Loether:

Enclosed please find the **Latinos in Twentieth Century California Multiple Property Submission** (MPS) consisting of the Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF) and two associated individual nominations to the National Register of Historic Places. On January 28, 2015 in Sacramento, California, the California State Historical Resources Commission unanimously approved the MPS and found two individual properties eligible for the National Register of Historic Places at the local level of significance: the Intercultural Council Houses Historic District under Criterion A and the Lydia D. Killefer School under Criteria A and C.

The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nominations for the LATINOS IN TWENTIETH CENTURY CALIFORNIA MULTIPLE PROPERTY SUBMISSION (including the Multiple Property Documentation Form and two associated individual nominations for the Intercultural Council Houses Historic District and Lydia D. Killefer School) to the National Register of Historic Places.

Latinos in Twentieth Century California MPS has four associated historic contexts, each with one or more subcontexts: Making a Nation: Latino Immigration and Settlement, Latinos in the Media; Making a Life: Religion and Spirituality in Latino Culture, Latinos in Sports, Latinos in the Arts; Making a Living: Latinos in Labor History, Business and Commerce in Latino Communities, Latinos in the Military; and Making a Democracy: Latino Struggles for Inclusion.

Associated property types include headquarters and offices of prominent organizations, districts historically settled and occupied by Latinos, print media offices, radio and television stations, residences, offices, and studios of prominent persons, religious buildings, recreational facilities, performing arts venues, cultural centers, murals, sites of historic events, commercial buildings, social halls, and schools.

The geographic area of the MPS is the State of California. Properties are significant under Criterion A for their association with events and/or under Criterion B for their association with individuals. Many properties possess architectural merit and may also be eligible under Criterion C. Registration requirements are not provided for properties that may be eligible under Criterion C, because the context for evaluating their architectural merit is not included in this MPDF. The notable exception is for works of public art created by Latinos such as murals and sculptures, which may be significant for possessing high artistic value.

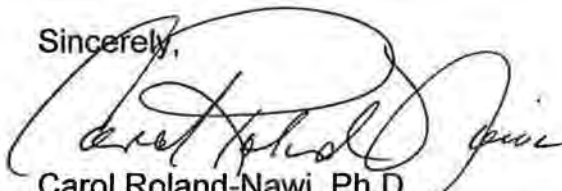
The MPDF was prepared under contract for the California State Office of Historic Preservation. The Intercultural Council Houses Historic District nomination was submitted on behalf of Claremont Heritage. The Lydia D. Killefer School was nominated by the (Orange) Old Towne Preservation Association.

The Intercultural Council Houses Historic District nomination received letters of comment from an attorney representing Claremont McKenna College, one of the property owners, and Robert Chattel, a historian engaged by Claremont McKenna to review the nomination. After discussion and clarification between the applicant and the owner's representative, the nomination was revised to address areas of concern regarding architectural style and further clarification of district boundaries, contributors and non-contributors, and how the property relates to the *Latinos in Twentieth Century California* MPDF, the property owner sent a letter of support for the nomination.

Orange Unified School District, a public agency, objected to the nomination of the Killefer School.

If you have any questions regarding the MPDF or Killefer School nomination, please contact Amy Crain of my staff at (916) 445-7009. If you have any questions regarding the Intercultural Council Houses Historic District nomination, please contact William Burg of my staff at (916) 445-7004.

Sincerely,



Carol Roland-Nawi, Ph.D.
State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosures