

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: California	
COUNTY: Ventura	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 71.8.06.0049	DATE 8/19/71

1. NAME

COMMON:
Ventura County Courthouse

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
501 Poli Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Ventura (4027)

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

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
City Council, City of San Buenaventura

STREET AND NUMBER:
City Hall, 625 East Santa Clara

CITY OR TOWN: Ventura STATE: California CODE: 06

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Ventura County Assessor's Office

STREET AND NUMBER:
2055 North Ventura Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Ventura STATE: California CODE: 06

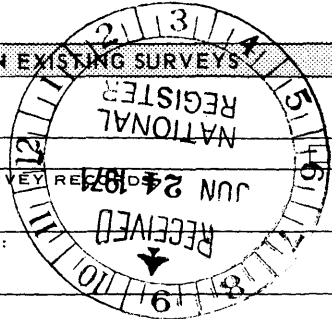
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
N/A

DATE OF SURVEY:
Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
JUN 24 1971 RECEIVED

STREET AND NUMBER:
CITY OR TOWN: Ventura STATE: California CODE: 06



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

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7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The original portion of the Ventura County Courthouse, consisting of two L sections with the center dome was erected in 1912. Two sections were added to the original portion of the Courthouse. These two portions square off the rear portion of the building by filling in between the two L-shaped wings. We are, of course, concerned only with the original portion. (See attached sketch)

The front view of the Courthouse reveals the clean horizontal line of the second story roof cornice and the strong vertical lines of the massive central section, topped by its copper sheathed hip roof structure. The location of the building against the backdrop of the steeply rising hills makes the building stand out, and yet none of the original impact is sacrificed as one views the classic details that distinguish the building.

The three front walls are faced with glazed terra-cotta, which is only partially grouted, and it is this terra-cotta facing which gives the building much of its distinctive character. Unfortunately, it has deteriorated because it was laid in weak lime mortar, and moisture has penetrated behind the glaze.

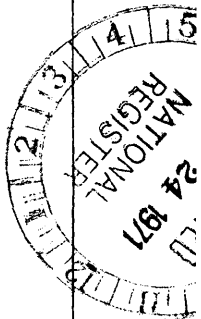
The main entrance is possibly the most outstanding feature, which is flanked by two vertical columns and framed by lightly ornamented jambs and a finely ornamented lintel. Over the lintel a richly ornamented pediment rests on a graceful corbels. The gates, though massive, have a lightness and even lace-like quality in their grill work.

The sixteen engaged columns are a particularly fine feature. The upward taper of the gracefully fluted shafts prevents the building from having a top-heavy look, while the terra-cotta tiles give the effect of the classical drum construction.

The front and two sides are surrounded by a broad 12 foot ambulatory and masonry balustrade that separates yet connects the building and the landscaping.

All of the above narrative is readily apparent from the photographs enclosed with this application.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
California	
COUNTY	
Ventura	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
71.8.06.0049	8/19/71

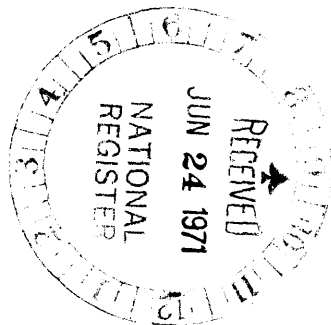
(Number all entries)

Statement of Significance:

presumably what would have happened to the Ventura County Courthouse for the County had abandoned this part of it, declaring it unsafe. Fortunately, the City of Ventura stepped in, offered to buy it from the County, spend a sizeable amount to make it structurally sound and at the same time agree to repair the exterior and restore it to its original appearance and make as few changes on the interior as possible.

Because of its commanding location in downtown Ventura looking out over the city to the ocean four blocks to the south, its preservation would have a stimulating effect. It will be seen by many people, even by those driving thru on the freeway.

For these reasons, we are urging that the structure be declared a State Historical Landmark and also that it be placed in the National Register. As such it will insure it being preserved as it is except for possible modifications on the interior. The City will be obliged to follow thru on its present commitment to restore the building and California will be enriched architecturally.



3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1912

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

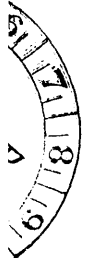
SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The architect was Albert C. Martin, whose office was in Los Angeles. This was an early job in his career. Over the course of the years, this firm has designed a very large number of important buildings of a variety of types and has received a number of honorary awards. The firm is today one of the outstanding ones in Southern California. Its main office is in Los Angeles.

The part of the Courthouse under consideration, the central section built in 1912, is an impressive structure on a commanding site on a hillside at the head of California Street. The style is the classical of the time, possibly inspired by examples of Italian and French Renaissance architecture. In our estimation, it is a well designed building with pleasing proportions and relationships between the various masses. The fenestration is also well done. The overall design is well conceived, unified and handsome. The plan is straight forward and simple, readily adaptable to its proposed use as the Ventura City Hall. A marble entrance lobby and a monumental marble stairway are striking features of the interior.

In refinement of detail and selection of materials it does not come up to the standards of buildings built in the more sophisticated and wealthier East at that time and designed by such prestigious architectural firms as McKim, Mead and White, Carrère and Hastings and Warren and Wetmore, but it can hold its own amongst buildings in the West.

There are so few buildings of this caliber and importance in California today that, even if its architectural quality were less, we would still recommend it as an historical landmark. Now that public buildings must conform to the stringent building codes of today, the tendency is to demolish buildings of any antiquity rather than spend the large sums required to bring them up to the code standards. That is



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Ventura County Cultural Heritage Board
 County Office Building
 Ventura, California 93001

Lewis A. Storrs
 Preservation Officer
 Ventura County Chapter, A.I.A.
 999 Front Street
 Ventura, California 93001

Albert C. Martin & Assoc.
 Box 60147
 Los Angeles, California 90060

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

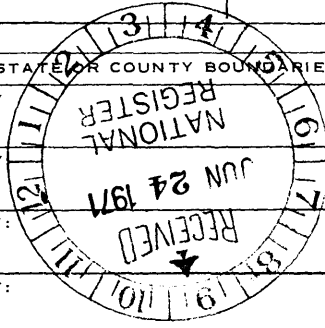
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		34° 16' 57"	119° 17' 33"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 6

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11/28900
 349500
 CL



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 J. Michael Hagopian, Chairman

ORGANIZATION: Ventura County Cultural Heritage Board DATE: March 5, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER:
 County Office Building

CITY OR TOWN: Ventura STATE: California CODE: 06

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name [Signature]

Title State Liaison Officer

Date June 21, 1971

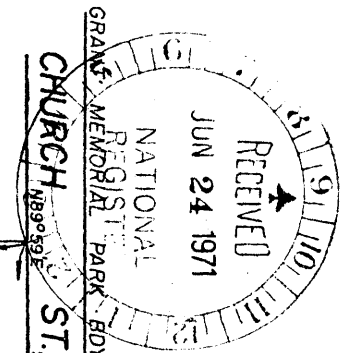
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

[Signature]
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date AUG 19 1971

ATTEST:
[Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date AUG 17 1971



CHURCH ST. 90° 03'

N

CHURCH ST. EAST 270° 05'

ST. 60° 30'

POLI 9

BRAKEY RD. N00°30'W 145'

N89°59'30"W

N89°58'30"W

ST. 470 (R) 471.32 (M)

ST. 60°

20

12

6.63 AC. (3)

6.61 AC. (4)

NORTH 247'

COUNTY

COURT

HOUSE

HOUSE

HOUSE

HOUSE

HOUSE

HOUSE

HOUSE

HOUSE

VENTURA COUNTY COURT HOUSE SITE
6.61 ACRES

Abon. 78/428

66

67

68

69

70

71

72

73

ORTHIFORNIA ST.

BK. 73

COUNTY ASSESSOR'S MAP

SCALE: 1" = 100'

NORTH 60°

CHESTNUT ST. 60°

BUENA VISTA ST.

BK.

FATHER SERRA MONUMENT

