

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

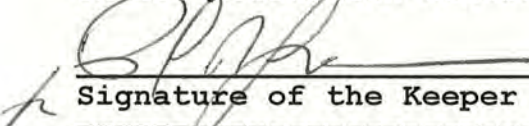
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SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 15000359 Date Listed: 6/24/2015

Forsythe Memorial School For Girls Los Angeles CA  
Property Name County State

Latinos in Twentieth Century California MPS  
Multiple Name

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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.

 \_\_\_\_\_ 6/27/15 \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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Amended Items in Nomination:

Verbal Boundary Description/Justification:

Boundary Justification: The nominated parcel includes only the land area (4 lots) historically associated with the school building itself. The area to the rear of the building once associated with the school (see Sanborn map) was at some point divided off from the building lots into separate parcels (2 lots), which are not being included in this nomination. The lots are currently vacant with no visible associative features and the area is fenced off from the building lot.

These clarifications were confirmed with the CA SHPO office.

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DISTRIBUTION:

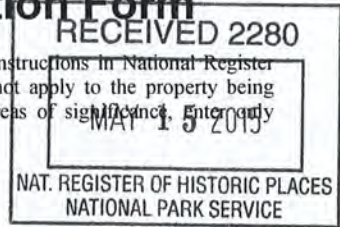
- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

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: Forsythe Memorial School for Girls

Other names/site number: Presbyterian School for Mexican Girls

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: 506 N. Evergreen Avenue

City or town: Los Angeles State: CA County: Los Angeles

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 [ ] C [ ] D

Signature of Jenan Saunders, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, California State Office of Historic Preservation, dated 5/15/15.

Signature and title of commenting official, including date and agency information.

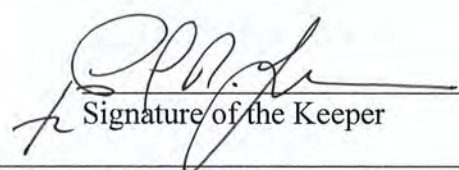
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**4. National Park Service Certification**

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

6/24/2015  
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 <u>1</u>	Noncontributing _____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RELIGION: Church School

EDUCATION: School

EDUCATION: Boarding School

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

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

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**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Stucco; concrete; red clay tile; wood

### 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.)

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### Summary Paragraph

The Forsyth Memorial School for Girls is located on the southwest corner of Folsom Street and Evergreen Avenue in the Boyle Heights neighborhood of Los Angeles. The two and three-story wood-framed building was constructed in 1914 as a school in the Mission Revival style. The building is generally rectangular in plan with a central open-air courtyard. It is covered by a combination side-gabled and flat roof with Mission-shaped parapets capped with metal flashing; there are also two skylights on the roof. The building is entirely clad in textured stucco with carved wood and clay tile detailing. The main entrance is located within a partial-width vestibule supported by wood columns. The building is set back from the predominantly residential street on a comparatively large, sloped lot with mature shrubs and trees. The lot is enclosed by a metal chain-link fence that runs the perimeter of the property line. Vacant at the time of nomination, and sometimes used for filming, the building is in overall good condition and retains all aspects of integrity.

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### Narrative Description

The primary elevation faces northwest towards Evergreen Avenue. The front portion of the building consists of a rectangular mass flanked by a wider, U-shaped portion, thus forming a central open-air courtyard. The building is constructed into hill that slopes downward towards

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Evergreen Avenue. As a result, the building is between two to three stories high throughout, depending on the grade. The front rectangular mass is two stories with a partially above-grade basement level. The primary elevation is almost perfectly symmetrical with windows arranged around the centered main entrance. The above-grade basement has a series of individual six-over-six double-hung wood windows within wood surrounds; there are five of these windows arranged on either side of the entrance.

A set of twelve slightly rounded concrete steps leads to the entrance located on the first story; there is a low, stucco wall with a concrete cap on either side of the steps and a round metal handrail at the center. The entrance vestibule is sheltered by a flat roof with Mission Revival style shaped parapet and a pent clay tile overhang with exposed rafter tails. The roof is supported by two square stucco pilasters and two round stucco columns. The entry itself is obscured by a metal security gate that spans the width of the vestibule. It appears to consist of a pair of fully-glazed wood doors. Below the clay tile overhang is a wood sign that reads, "Fellowship House of Los Angeles." To the left (northeast) of the entrance, there are two pairs of nine-over-nine wood double-hung windows within wood surrounds. Each pair has a single stucco sill. To the right (southwest) of the entrance, there is a group of five nine-over-nine wood double-hung windows within wood surrounds. A single stucco sill runs below the window grouping. Apart from this difference in windows on either side of the entrance, the elevation is symmetrical.

At the center of the second story, there is a single six-over-one wood double-hung window arranged directly above the main entrance. On either side of this central window, there is a pair of six-over-six wood double-hung windows within wood surrounds connected by a single stucco sill. At the northeast and southwest ends of the second story there is a group of three nine-over-nine wood double-hung windows within wood surrounds over a single stucco sill. These groups are sheltered by a pent clay tile overhang with exposed rafter tails, supported by carved wood brackets. These pent overhangs hug the corners of the building to shelter the uppermost windows on the northeast and southwest elevations.

The secondary (southwest and northeast) elevations of the building are irregularly arranged. Double-hung wood windows with stucco sills of varying sizes and at various heights, are in groups of anywhere from one to five windows. On the southwest elevation, at the join between the front portion of the building and the rear U-shaped portion, there is a secondary entrance obscured behind a metal security door. On the rear portion of the building, there is a projecting, rectangular room with a pent roof, two large multi-light fixed wood windows, and a pair of partially-glazed wood-paneled doors facing southeast. On the northeast elevation of the building, there are two single slab doors, one of which is accessed by an exterior stucco staircase with a metal bar handrail.

The rear (southeast) elevation is somewhat obscured by vegetation. Based on what is visible there are several groups of three nine-over-nine wood double-hung windows and an exterior metal staircase with open risers and metal handrail leading to what appears to be a pair of fully-glazed wood doors. This could not be confirmed due to the heavy vegetation obstructing the view.

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The building has undergone some alterations, primarily on the interior. Three years after its construction in 1917, a janitor's toilet and storeroom with cement floors were installed in the unfinished first floor of the building (which may indicate the partially-above ground basement), a door to the kitchen from the main stair landing was installed, and new openings in "present walls." The permit did not indicate whether these openings were in interior or exterior walls.<sup>1</sup> In 1918, rotting joints in the main floor were repaired, as was the plaster both inside and outside. The 1918 permit also indicates that a single door was replaced with a pair of doors on the "south side."<sup>2</sup>

A 1923 permit outlined additional interior work, including the removal of non-load bearing partitions, the addition of glazing to the sun room, fixtures removed from one area and replaced in another, and some plumbing changes.<sup>3</sup> The following year, 1924, an exterior staircase was installed to the rear of the building.<sup>4</sup> All of these alterations took place within the period of significance when the building was used as a school. In 1947, two permits were filed a month apart for interior partitions.<sup>5</sup> According to the building permit record on file, the building remained relatively unchanged until 1994 when the building was reroofed and smoke detectors installed.<sup>6</sup> The following year, 1995, the building underwent \$15,000 worth of "general rehab" in order to comply with a Substandard Order.<sup>7</sup>

Access to the interior was not granted by the owner, and therefore the interior cannot be described beyond the changes indicated by the permits.

The Forsythe Memorial School for Girls retains all aspects of integrity. The school retains its integrity of location, as it has not been moved from where it was constructed in 1914. The integrity of design is intact, as there have not been any substantial alterations to the building that would have impacted its overall form, plan, structure or style. The integrity of setting is intact, as the surrounding neighborhood is much the same as it would have been during the period of significance; the school is surrounded by a residential neighborhood in historic maps, much as it is today. The integrity of materials and workmanship are intact, as there have not been substantial alterations to the building that would have impacted the physical materials and evidence of contemporary craftsmanship. The integrity of feeling is intact, as the school and its physical characteristics still invoke the feeling of an early twentieth century schoolhouse. The integrity of association is intact; the aspects of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, and feeling are all intact and help to convey the integrity of association.

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<sup>1</sup> City of Los Angeles Building Permit 4058, 1918.

<sup>2</sup> City of Los Angeles Building Permit 4362, 1918.

<sup>3</sup> City of Los Angeles Building Permit 28723, 1923.

<sup>4</sup> City of Los Angeles Building Permit 36856, 1924.

<sup>5</sup> City of Los Angeles Building Permits 34322 and 35413, 1947.

<sup>6</sup> City of Los Angeles Building Permit 19900, 1994.

<sup>7</sup> City of Los Angeles Building Permit 35789, 1995.

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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.)

ETHNIC HERITAGE: Hispanic

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1914-1934

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1914 – Building constructed

1934 – School closed

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Patterson, H.M.

Willard-Slater Company, The

\_\_\_\_\_

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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 Forsythe Memorial School for Girls (also known as the Presbyterian School for Mexican Girls) is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion A in the area of Ethnic Heritage. It meets the registration requirements for schools outlined in the *Latinos in Twentieth Century California* Multiple Property Submission, and is significant at the local level in the context of Religion and Spirituality. Constructed in 1914 and operated until 1934, the Forsythe Memorial School is a rare, surviving representation of Americanization attempts made by Protestant denominations to homogenize Mexican American culture in Los Angeles. Protestant churches, including Presbyterians, were the first to attempt to Americanize Mexicans through services like boarding houses and religious schools, in the hopes that “curing them of their evils” would give them a greater appreciation of America.<sup>8</sup>

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

The Forsythe Memorial School for Girls was founded in 1884 and run by the Women’s Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church. The purpose of the organization was to provide schools for the church’s missions in the southwestern United States. Schools for boys and girls were also constructed in Texas, Arizona, and New Mexico. The subject building was constructed in 1914 especially for the school and housed grades one through eight.<sup>9</sup> The architect for the building was H.M. Patterson who frequently worked with the Presbyterian Church in the Los Angeles area.<sup>10</sup> He was also responsible for the design of Presbyterian churches in North Hollywood (1923) and Anaheim (1928).

The Mexican girls in attendance were primarily from the Southern California area. Described at the time as an “Americanization Plant” by the Home Missions Council,<sup>11</sup> the girls came from different socioeconomic and religious backgrounds.<sup>12</sup> Some girls had a Catholic upbringing while others already had a Protestant background; while some came from wealthier households, many were orphans and their only home was the Forsythe School, which also provided

<sup>8</sup> Rodolfo Acuña, *Occupied America: A History of Chicanos*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. (New York, NY: Harper Collins, 1988), 179.

<sup>9</sup> Jay S. Stowell, *A Study of Mexicans and Spanish Americans in the United States* (New York: Home Missions Council and the Council of Women for Home Missions, 1920), 25.

<sup>10</sup> *Los Angeles Times*, various dates.

<sup>11</sup> The Home Missions Council, established in 1914, was composed of representatives from each Presbyterian Synod where home mission work was carried out; these representatives met for three days each year to discuss issues and policies in their respective Synods. The Council then presented their findings to the larger General Assembly for review during their respective annual meeting. (*Annual Report of the Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America*, 1918, 38).

<sup>12</sup> Rose Scott, “An Americanization Plant: Forsythe Memorial School, Los Angeles California,” in *Home Mission Monthly* Vol. 34 No. 7 (May 1920): 161

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dormitories.<sup>13</sup> The dormitories were on the second floor, while classrooms were housed on the first.<sup>14</sup> The curriculum at Forsythe Memorial School for Girls had a heavy focus on domestic duties such as sewing and cooking, as well as patriotism and religion, including church services each Sunday.<sup>15</sup> On average, there were around 90 students at any given time, and many of the girls attended on scholarship that covered the approximately \$50.00 yearly expense.<sup>16</sup> The Forsythe Memorial School operated until 1934, after which the property was occupied by the Hebron Community Center, another Presbyterian organization.

Although the property is not nominated for its association with other ethnic groups, it is worth noting that this building was used following World War II as temporary living quarters for Japanese Americans. The facility was established by Reverend Sohei Kowta, a Japanese Presbyterian pastor, and provided accommodations for Japanese citizens seeking a new start in Southern California after having been forcibly removed and incarcerated in relocation camps.<sup>17</sup> Reverend Kowta is a significant figure in Japanese American history in Los Angeles.

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<sup>13</sup> Ibid.

<sup>14</sup> Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1920. Los Angeles, Volume 13, 1314.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid.; Stowell, 25.

<sup>16</sup> Stowell, 25-26.

<sup>17</sup> "Hostel Opened for Japanese," *Los Angeles Times*, February 28, 1945, accessed May 6, 2014 via ProQuest.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Acuña, Rodolfo. *Occupied America: A History of Chicanos*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. New York, NY: Harper Collins, 1988.

Building Permit Records, City of Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety.

Digital Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps Collection (1867-1970), Los Angeles Public Library.

Falcon, Rev. Jose. "The Mexicans in Los Angeles." *The Assembly Herald* Vol. 24 (May 1918): 247-248.

*Los Angeles Times*, various dates.

Scott, Rose. "An Americanization Plant: Forsythe Memorial School, Los Angeles California." *Home Mission Monthly* Vol. 34 No. 7 (May 1920):161-162.

Stowell, Jay S. *A Study of Mexicans and Spanish Americans in the United States*. New York: Home Missions Council and the Council of Women for Home Missions, 1920.

Tax Assessor Records, County of Los Angeles.

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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 # \_\_\_\_\_

### Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Los Angeles Public Library

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**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** \_\_\_\_\_

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## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** Less than one acre

### Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 34.044971                      Longitude: -118.199005

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

Assessor Parcel Number 5178-017-001, which corresponds to the attached sketch map.

### Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary includes the land area historically associated with the building.

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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Amanda Yoder/Architectural Historian I

organization: GPA Consulting

street & number: 617 S. Olive Street, Suite 910

city or town: Los Angeles state: CA zip code: 90014

e-mail amanda@gpaconsulting-us.com

telephone: (310) 792-2690

date: May 2014; Revised November 2014

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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.)

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### 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: Forsythe Memorial School for Girls  
City or Vicinity: Los Angeles  
County: Los Angeles  
State: California  
Photographer: Amanda Yoder  
Date Photographed: May 6, 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1. Northwest elevation and surrounding property, camera facing south.
2. Northwest elevation, camera facing southeast.
3. Northwest (left) and southwest (right) elevations, camera facing east.
4. Southwest elevation, camera facing northeast.
5. Southwest (left) and southeast (right) elevation, camera facing north.
6. Northeast (right) and southeast (left) elevations, camera facing west.
7. Northeast elevation, camera facing southwest.
8. Northeast (left) and northwest (right) elevations, camera facing south.

**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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### Location Map

Latitude: 34.044971

Longitude: -118.199005

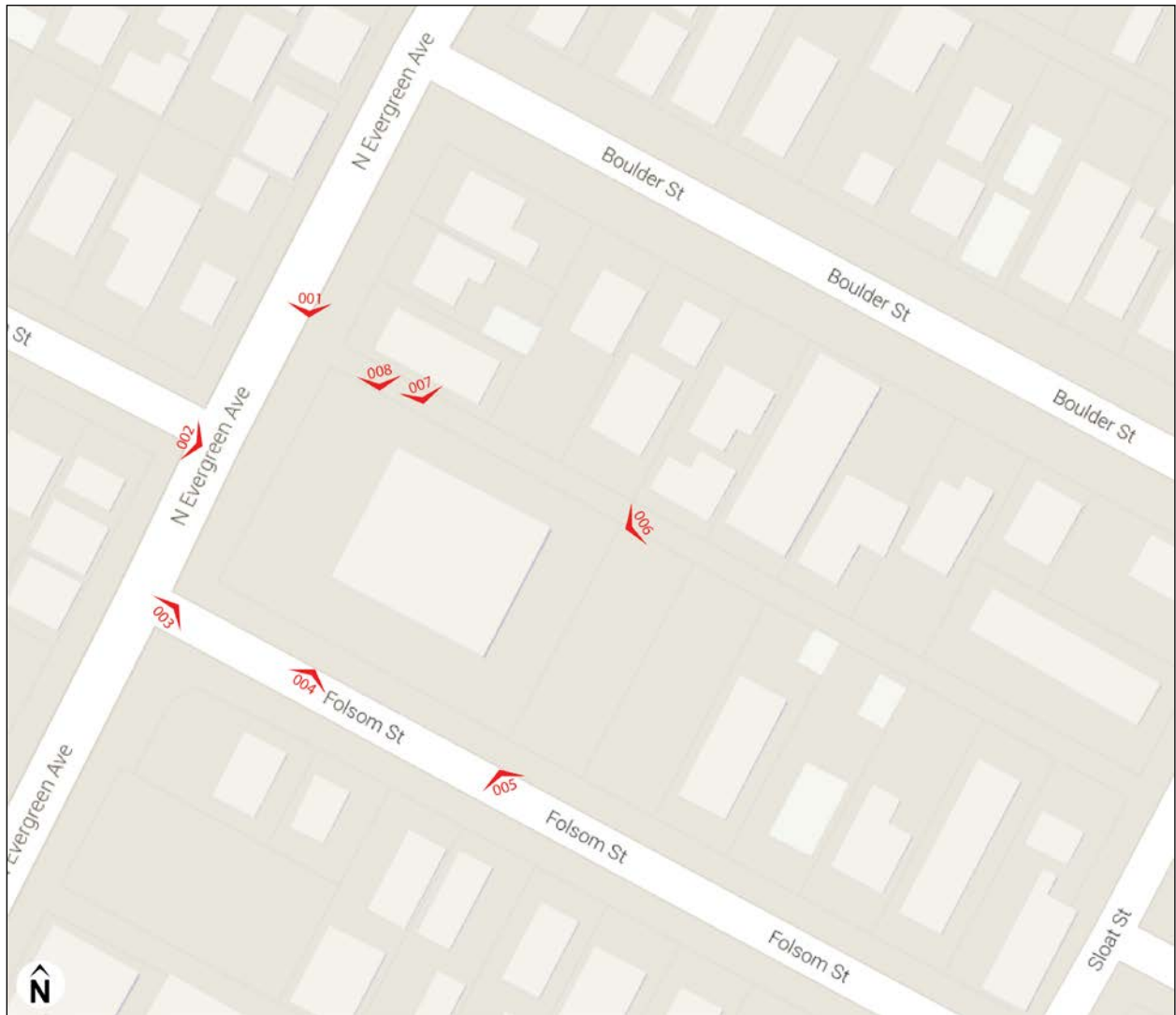


Base image courtesy of Google Earth; Property boundary outlined in black.

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### Sketch Map/Photo Key



Base image courtesy of Google Maps.



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Figure 1. "An Americanization Plant" by Rose Scott, May 1920.



TWO OF THIS YEAR'S GRADUATING CLASS

ON a day in September the telephone in Presbyterian headquarters, Los Angeles, brought a request: "This is the president of the Woman's City Club. I am speaking as a representative of the various organizations of the city that are doing Americanization work. We are charting the city to show where and by what organizations this work is being done. Will you report for your denomination?"

Among the several lines of work, the one that perhaps gave most satisfaction to the one reporting was Forsythe Memorial School, where each year some seventy Mexican girls are having opportunity for education under carefully chosen teachers.

The school building of concrete, with nicely kept lawn, measures well in appearance with school buildings of the city. Classrooms and dormitories provide facilities for school work and opportunities for the girls to learn good housekeeping in caring for the simply furnished but beautifully kept living rooms. The patio around which the plant is built adds artistic effect, and gives sunshine and fresh air in every room in the house.

In this attractive building is being lived day after day the life of a Christian American home as well as school, a home that is interpreting

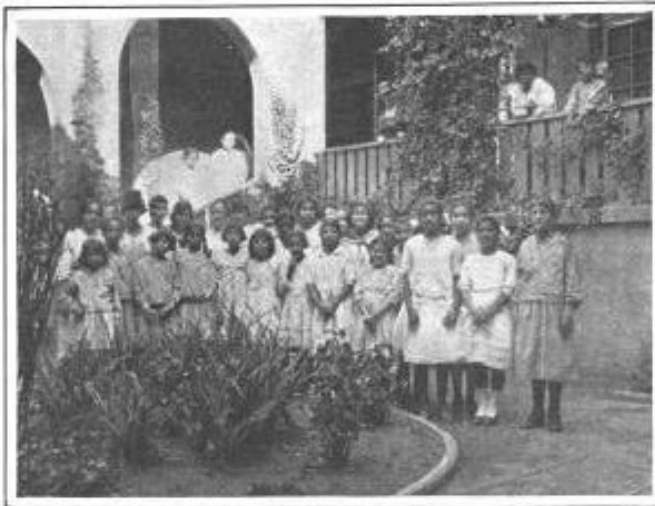
## An Americanization Plant

Forsythe Memorial School,  
Los Angeles, California

By ROSE SCOTT

America's ideals to these girls through work, study, play, and religious training in the natural round of the daily program. Work there is in plenty, which the girls do in groups; study is necessary, since the course is the same as in grammar schools of the city. A new feature this past year has been gymnasium classes; since the playground equipment is rather limited, these classes have been popular and wholesome. Patriotism is taught—and caught: the salute to the flag, stories of America's great leaders, and national songs have conspicuous places in the day's programs. These girls ring out "The Star-Spangled Banner" quite as lustily as any American children. In addition to all this that they might get in a secular school, there are systematic Bible study and daily chapel exercises that are deeply religious. Nurturing of the three-fold life is carefully planned in the curriculum, and we love to watch the growth, physical, mental, and spiritual, in the girls that spend their impressionable years in this atmosphere. In contrast are the homes from which many of the girls come. Some are well provided for by parents but have had no Christian influences; many are from Catholic homes; some from Christian homes; some have no home other than this in the school and no one to care much what becomes of them. Here under wise guidance they work and play together in mutual helpfulness.

This school being within easy trolley reach of the city is of special interest to church people, and Christmas entertainments and commencement exercises always bring a number of Presby-



THE SUNNY PATIO AT FORSYTHE IS AN ATTRACTIVE SPOT

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*HOME MISSION MONTHLY*

terian women; good programs are presented, showing careful training and faithful work. The girls sing well, and these past two years one has made a real contribution to the school music with her violin. She is one of seven to be graduated this year and her violin will be greatly missed. Her home is in Old Mexico, and she is facing a crisis when she leaves the school; she fears a return home will end opportunities for further education, and she longs to have Bible training that will fit her for missionary work among her people. Another, who is a high soprano, has added much to the singing, and she, too, is of the seven who will finish this year; we hope she will go on to high school, but she is attractive and these girls marry young.

A picture I would have you see is that of the girls of the school as I saw them assembled a few weeks ago for the monthly meeting of the mission

band. The student body filled one side of the assembly room and opposite were president and secretary—elected from their own number—and teachers. A well-planned program that included a study of China was followed with interested attention for an hour, and not a child in the room failed to place her mite on the offering plate as it passed. There is a spirit of attention and reverence always in all religious gatherings, and many of the girls are professing Christians by the time they come into the upper grades of Forsythe Memorial School.

Such a gathering as this would be a demonstration that would write upon your consciousness indelibly the fact that Mexicans—even here in the United States—need schools, and Christian schools, and that through these may be developed a people who will make a worth while contribution to our national life.

An Americanization Plant: Forsythe Memorial School, Los Angeles, California By Rose Scott

One day in September the telephone in Presbyterian headquarters, Los Angeles, brought a request: "This is the president of the Woman's City Club. I am speaking as a representative of the various organizations of the city that are doing Americanization work. We are charting the city to show where and by what organizations this work is being done. Will you report for your denomination?"

Among the several lines of work, the one that perhaps gave the most satisfaction to the one reporting was Forsythe Memorial School, where each year some seventy Mexican girls are having opportunity for education under carefully chosen teachers.

The school building of concrete, with nicely kept lawn, measures well in appearance with school buildings of the city. Classrooms and dormitories provide facilities for school work and opportunities for the girls to learn good housekeeping in caring for the simply furnished but beautifully kept living rooms. The patio around which the plant is built adds artistic effect, and gives sunshine and fresh air in every room in the house.

In this attractive building is being lived day after day the life of a Christian American home as well as school, a home that is interpreting America's ideals to these girls through work, study, play, and religious training in the natural round of the daily program. Work there is in plenty, which the girls do in groups; study is necessary, since the course is the same as in grammar schools of the city. A new feature this past year has been gymnasium classes: since the playground equipment is rather limited, these classes have been popular and wholesome. Patriotism is taught—and caught: the salute to the flag, stories of America's great leaders, and national songs have conspicuous places in the day's programs. These girls ring out "The Star-Spangled Banner" quite as lustily as any American children. In addition to all this that they might get in a secular school, there are systematic Bible study and daily chapel exercises that are deeply religious. Nurturing of the three-fold life is carefully planned in the curriculum, and we love to watch the growth, physical, mental, and spiritual, in the girls that spend their impressionable years in this atmosphere. In contrast are the homes from which many of the girls come. Some are well provided for by parents but have had no Christian influences; many are from Catholic homes; some from Christian homes; some have no home other than this in the

Forsythe Memorial School for Girls  
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California  
County and State

school and no one to care much what becomes of them. Here under wise guidance they work and play together in mutual helpfulness.

This school being within easy trolley reach of the city is of special interest to church people, and Christmas entertainments and commencement exercises always bring a number of Presbyterian women: good programs are presented, showing careful training and faithful work. The girls sing well, and these past two years one has made a real contribution to the school music with her violin. She is one of seven to be graduated this year and her violin will be greatly missed. Her home is in Old Mexico, and she is facing a crisis when she leaves the school: she fears a return home will end opportunities for further education, and she longs to have Bible training that will fir her for missionary work among her people. Another, who is a high soprano, has added much to the singing, and she, too, is of the seven who will finish this year; we hope she will go on to high school, but she is attractive and these girls marry young.

A picture I would have you see is that of the girls of the school as I saw them assembled a few weeks ago for the monthly meeting of the mission band. The student body filled one side of the assembly room and opposite were president and secretary—elected from their own number—and teachers. A well-planned program that included a study of China was followed with interested attention for an hour, and not a child in the room failed to place her mite on the offering plats as it passed. There is a spirit of attention and reverence always in all religious gatherings, and many of the girls are professing Christians by the time they come into the upper grades of Forsythe Memorial School.

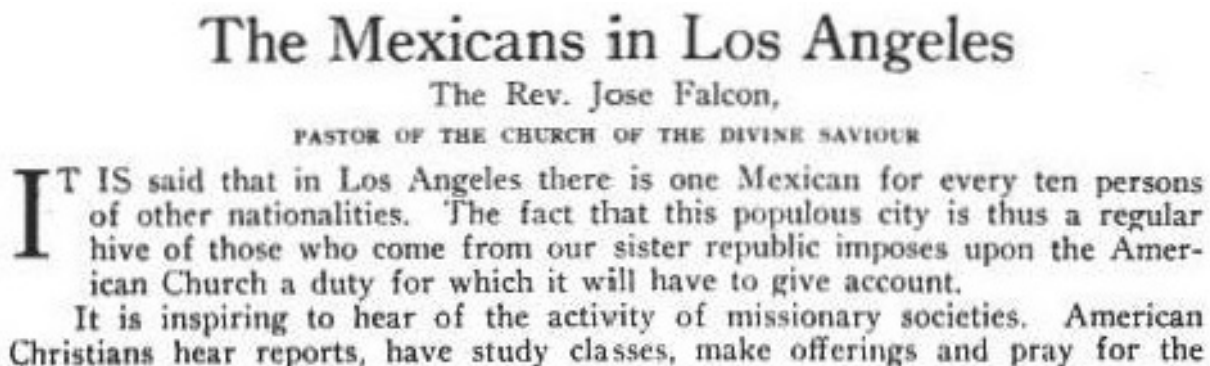
Such a gathering as this would be a demonstration that would write upon your consciousness indelibly the fact that Mexicans—even here in the United States—need schools, and Christian schools, and that through these may be developed a people who will make a worth while [*sic*] contribution to our national life.

#### Photo Captions

TWO OF THIS YEAR'S GRADUATING CLASS

THE SUNNY PATIO AT FORSYTHE IS AN ATTRACTIVE SPOT

**Figure 2.** “The Mexicans in Los Angeles” by Rev. Jose Falcon, May 1918.



Forsythe Memorial School for Girls  
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California  
County and State

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THE ASSEMBLY HERALD

May, 1918



THE REV. JOSE FALCON,  
PASTOR OF THE CHURCH OF  
THE DIVINE SAVIOUR,  
LOS ANGELES

mission fields in foreign lands; but, sad to confess, having a real mission field at their very doors, they either forget it, ignore it or despise it. Up to the present time, very little has been done for the Mexicans in Los Angeles. I even believe there are many churches in this city that do not know of any Mexican Presbyterian Church. To them let me say that we have a live, enthusiastic Mexican church, whose members are on fire with the Spirit of God. When they pray, ten or more are praying at once. What a blessing that God has ears to hear them all! They earnestly study the Bible, and commit large portions of it to memory. They also study the Shorter Catechism. Even when it is cold and wet, they will come long distances to attend service. They are anxious to help in missionary work.

All the Mexicans here are poor; life is hard with them; but in our last Christmas service they brought a special offering of \$118 for Missions. This speaks eloquently of their devotion. One incident among many is worthy of mention. A man who had been recently converted heard the Pastor plead for an offering for Missions. He wanted to have a part in it; but he was without money and without work, and his wife was ill. The "meal and the oil" were nearly gone. When Christmas came, he was without a cent. After fervent prayer, he went out into the street to look for work. He found a job that brought him a dollar. Encouraged by that, he looked for another job, and earned another dollar. That night he took the two dollars, and made his offering of all he had! This is the spirit of the Mexican church membership; is it not inspiring?

But how many things we need! We should by all means have a school for boys corresponding to the Forsythe Memorial School for Girls. We have to prepare for a new generation. The older people have their habits fixed, and we cannot greatly change them. There are families among us who are vicious and degenerate. From them our boys must be separated and given a new atmosphere. The public schools cannot do this. A Christian Home is needed; and, if we had such, many Catholic parents would send their boys there. The secret of the uplift of the Mexicans lies in the renewing of the hearts of the youth. Let us make them a new people! This is the golden opportunity. The women too need help to fit them for a better class of labor. If they were taught American cooking and other American ways, they would render efficient and needed service.

A better understanding between Americans and Mexicans is evident, but we need to cement the races more closely by a common interest. The Methodists are beginning to do this by developing a great Institutional Church at the Old Plaza. We need such a church in the residence district. The Presbyterian Church is great and rich; shall we drag behind in this all-important work of evangelizing more than 50,000 Mexicans in Los Angeles! A Presbyterian Institutional Church here would be a mighty force in changing this ready people into a strong support for Christian institutions. Who will give it?

Forsythe Memorial School for Girls  
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California  
County and State

The Mexicans in Los Angeles by The Rev. Jose Falcon, Pastor, Church of the Divine Savior

It is said that in Los Angeles there is one Mexican for every ten persons of other nationalities. The fact that this populous city is thus a regular hive of those who come from our sister republic imposes upon the American Church a duty for which it will have to give account.

It is inspiring to hear of the activity of missionary societies. American Christians hear reports, have study classes, make offerings and pray for the mission fields in foreign lands; but, sad to confess, having a real mission field at their very doors, they either forget it, ignore it or sepise it. Up to the present time, very little has been done for the Mexicans in Los Angeles. I even believe there are many churches in this city that do not know of any Mexican Presbyterian Church. To them let me say that we have a live, enthusiastic Mexican church, whose members are on fire with the Spirit of God. When they pray, ten or more are praying at once. What a blessing that God has ears to hear them all! They earnestly study the Bible, and commit large portions of it to memory. They also study the Shorter Catechism. Even when it is cold and wet, they will come long distances to attend service. They are ancious to help in missionary work.

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Photo Caption

THE REV. JOSE FALCON, PASTOR OF THE CHURCH OF THE DIVINE SAVIOUR,  
LOS ANGELES

Forsythe Memorial School for Girls  
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California  
County and State

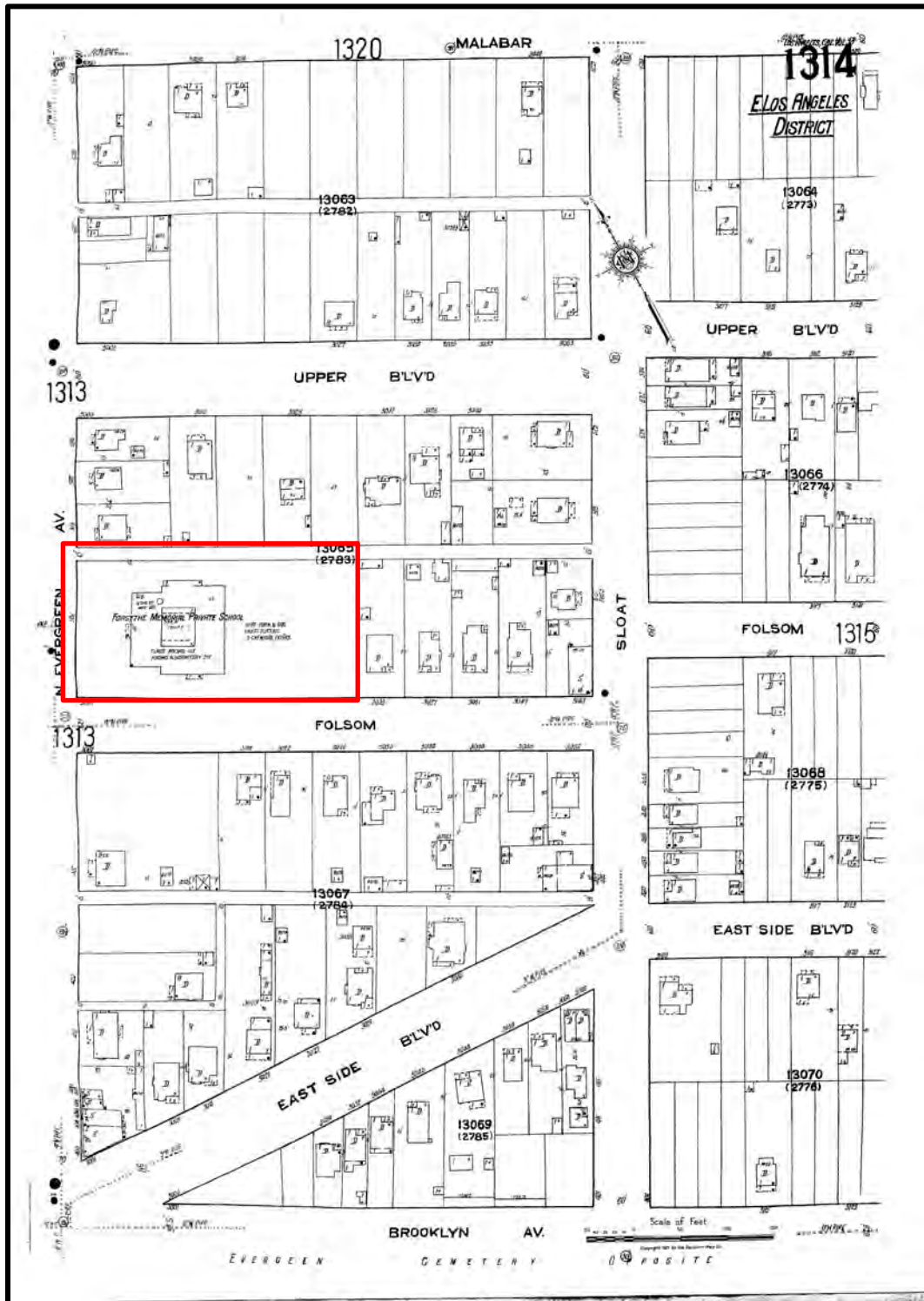
**Figure 3.** "Hostel Opened for Japanese," *Los Angeles Times*, February 28, 1945.



Forsythe Memorial School for Girls  
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California  
County and State

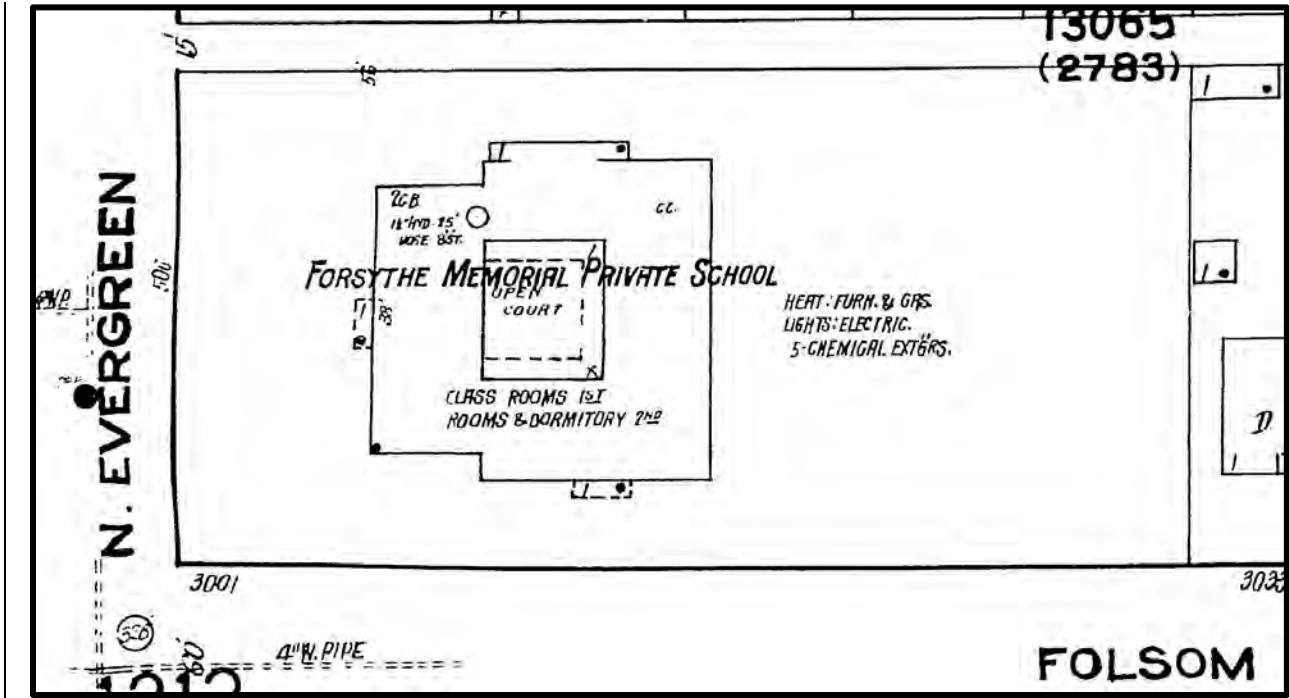
Figure 4. Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1920. Los Angeles, Volume 13, page 1314.



Forsythe Memorial School for Girls  
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California  
County and State

Figure 5. Detail, Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1920. Los Angeles, Volume 13, page 1314.









FELLOWSHIP HOUSE  
LOS ANGELES

506

NO





NO Trespassing  
NO Entry Without  
Permission











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: Forsythe Memorial School for Girls

MULTIPLE NAME: Latinos in 20th Century California MPS

STATE & COUNTY: CALIFORNIA, Los Angeles

DATE RECEIVED: 5/15/15                      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 6/09/15  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 6/24/15                  DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/30/15  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 15000359

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 Forsythe Memorial School for Girls is locally significant under National Register Criterion A in the area of Ethnic Heritage-Hispanic. The two-story, wood frame and stucco school sits on a tall, raised basement commanding its prominent corner lot in the heart of Los Angeles' Boyle Heights neighborhood. Built in 1914, the Mission Revival style school is a rare surviving representation of the "Americanization" attempts made by Protestant denominations in Los Angeles during the early twentieth century to normalize Mexican American culture by educating Mexican youths in segregated, religious boarding schools. The Forsythe School served a primarily local (Southern California) population, introducing female students to a curriculum focused on domestic training along with patriotic and religious instruction. This self-proclaimed "Americanization Plant" operated in the Boyle Heights building until 1934. The property meets the Registration Requirements outlined in the Latino in 20th Century California MPS.**

RECOM. / CRITERIA Accept Criterion A

REVIEWER Paul R Lusignea                      DISCIPLINE HISTORIAN

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_                      DATE 6/24/2015

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.

**Forsythe Memorial School for Girls  
(Latinos in Twentieth California MPS)  
Los Angeles, Los Angeles County  
Staff Report**

The Forsythe Memorial School for Girls was also known as the Presbyterian School for Mexican Girls. The two and three-story wood-framed building in the Boyle Heights neighborhood of Los Angeles was constructed in 1914 as a school in the Mission Revival style. The building is generally rectangular in plan with a central open-air courtyard. It is covered by a combination side-gabled and flat roof with Mission-shaped parapets capped with metal flashing; there are also two skylights on the roof. The building is entirely clad in textured stucco with carved wood and clay tile detailing. The main entrance is located within a partial-width vestibule supported by wood columns. The building is set back from the predominantly residential street on a comparatively large, sloped lot with mature shrubs and trees. The lot is enclosed by a metal chain-link fence that runs the perimeter of the property line. Currently vacant and sometimes used for filming, the building is in overall good condition and retains all aspects of integrity.

The Forsythe Memorial School for Girls is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion A in the area of Ethnic Heritage. It meets the registration requirements for schools outlined in the *Latinos in Twentieth Century California* Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF), and is significant at the local level in the context of Religion and Spirituality. Constructed in 1914 and operated until 1934, the Forsythe Memorial School is a rare, surviving representation of Americanization attempts made by Protestant denominations to homogenize Mexican American culture in Los Angeles. Protestant churches, including Presbyterians, were the first to attempt to Americanize Mexicans through services like boarding houses and religious schools.

The property was identified by SurveyLA, and following additional research, selected as an associated individual nomination by the consulting firm responsible for the MPDF. No letters have been received to date. In its role as representative of a Certified Local Government, the Los Angeles Cultural Heritage Commission reviewed the nomination and proposed a resolution that the City of Los Angeles support the proposed listing.

OHP staff supports the nomination and recommends the State Historical Resources Commission determine the Forsythe Memorial School for Girls 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 1914 to 1934. 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  
April 16, 2015

# Los Angeles Department of City Planning RECOMMENDATION REPORT

**CULTURAL HERITAGE COMMISSION**

**CASE NO.: CHC-2015-39-NR**

**HEARING DATE:** January 15, 2015  
**TIME:** 10:00 AM  
**PLACE:** City Hall, Room 1010  
200 N. Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA  
90012

Location: 506 N. Evergreen Avenue  
Council District: 14  
Community Plan Area: Boyle Heights  
Area Planning Commission: East Los Angeles  
Neighborhood Council: Boyle Heights  
Legal Description: LT 29 of Block 74 Hancocks  
Survey Tract

**REQUEST:** Comments to State of California Office of Historic Preservation on proposed listing of the FORSYTHE MEMORIAL SCHOOL FOR GIRLS to the National Register of Historic Places

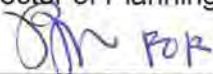
**APPLICANT:** Amanda Yoder  
c/o GPA Consulting  
617 S. Olive Street, Suite 910  
Los Angeles, CA 90014

**OWNER:** Anthony & Connie De La Vara  
2715 Turnbull Canyon Road  
Hacienda Heights, CA 91745

**RECOMMENDATION** That the Cultural Heritage Commission:

**Adopt the proposed resolution.**

MICHAEL J. LOGRANDE  
Director of Planning

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ken Bernstein, AICP, Manager  
Office of Historic Resources



\_\_\_\_\_  
Lambert Giessinger, Preservation Architect  
Office of Historic Resources

Prepared by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Nels Youngborg, Preservation Planner  
Office of Historic Resources

Attachments: A) Resolution

## **FINDINGS**

See Resolution in Attachment A.

## **INTRODUCTION**

In 2007, the State Office of Historic Preservation and the National Park Service approved the City of Los Angeles' application to become a "Certified Local Government" (CLG) for historic preservation under the National Historic Preservation Act. This action provided official recognition to the City of Los Angeles for its new comprehensive historic preservation program with the establishment of the Office of Historic Resources. CLG status gives the City of Los Angeles formal authority to comment on nominations of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects to the National Register of Historic Places and California Register of Historical Resources. Both National Register and California Register nominations are ultimately reviewed by the State Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) and presented for approval before the State Historical Resources Commission (SHRC).

With input from the Rules and Government Committee and the City Council, the Office of Historic Resources developed a procedure to provide comments from the City of Los Angeles to the SHRC while conforming to the City's Intergovernmental Relations process. Approved in December 2008, this process calls for preparation of a proposed resolution (Support/Opposition/General Comments), for approval by the Cultural Heritage Commission, City Council, and concurrence by the Mayor.

## **NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA**

Criterion A: Associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

Criterion B: Associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

Criterion C: Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region 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.

Criterion D: Has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

## **SUMMARY**

The Forsythe Memorial School for Girls is located on the southwest corner of Folsom Street and Evergreen Avenue in the Boyle Heights neighborhood of Los Angeles. The two- and three-story, wood-framed, Mission Revival style building was constructed in 1914 as a boarding school for girls of Mexican and Native American heritage. The building is generally rectangular in plan with an open courtyard in the middle. The building is entirely clad in textured stucco with carved clay and tile detailing. The main entrance is located within a partial-width porch supported by wood columns. The building is set back from the predominantly residential street on a comparatively large, open, sloped lot with mature trees and shrubs. The building is in satisfactory condition and has retained all aspects of historical integrity.

This school is a rare surviving representation of a religious organization's attempt to homogenize and educate children of Mexican heritage. Founded in 1884 and run by the Women's Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church, the Forsythe Memorial School for Girls was created as an "Americanization Plant" to house, care for and educate Mexican girls from varying socioeconomic and religious backgrounds. The curriculum had a heavy focus on domestic duties, such as sewing, cooking, patriotism and religion. The school operated until 1934, after which the property was occupied by the Hebron Community Center, another Presbyterian organization.

Although not nominated for its association with other ethnic groups, the school was also used as a temporary living quarters for emancipated Japanese Americans after World War II. The facility was established by Reverend Sohei Kowta, a Japanese Presbyterian pastor, and provided accommodations for Japanese citizens seeking a new start in Southern California after having been forcibly removed and incarcerated in relocation camps.

### **BACKGROUND**

The National Register application was received by the Office of Historic Resources, Department of City Planning, City of Los Angeles on December 1, 2014.

**ATTACHMENT A: Proposed Resolution**

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, the City of Los Angeles through the Cultural Heritage Commission and its duties as a Certified Local Government has reviewed the National Register of Historic Places nomination for Forsythe Memorial School for Girls located at 506 N. Evergreen Avenue; and

WHEREAS, the City of Los Angeles deems that the applicant (GPA Consulting) submitted a complete application and followed proper notification procedures for National Register of Historic Places nominations; and

WHEREAS, the City of Los Angeles believes that the application thoroughly photo-documents the subject buildings, objects and landscape, and provides adequate architectural descriptions; and

WHEREAS, the City of Los Angeles believes that the Forsythe Memorial School for Girls uniquely represents an association with events that have made a significant impact on the ethnic, institutional and educational patterns of our history (Criterion A);

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2014-15 State Legislative Program SUPPORT of the proposed listing of Forsythe Memorial School for Girls located at 506 N. Evergreen Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90063, in the National Register of Historic Places.

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

1725 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, Suite 100  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95816  
(916) 445-7000 Fax: (916) 445-7053  
calshpo@parks.ca.gov



November 25, 2014

Ken Bernstein  
Manager, Officer of Historic Resources  
Planning Department, City Hall  
200 North Spring Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

**RE: Historic Preservation Commission Review and Comment on the Nomination of  
Forsythe Memorial School for Girls to the National Register of Historic Places**

Dear Mr. Bernstein:

Pursuant to the Certified Local Government Agreement between the Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) and your governmental entity, we are providing your historic preservation commission with a sixty (60) day review and comment period before the State Historical Resources Commission (SHRC) takes action on the above-stated National Register of Historic Places (National Register) nomination at its next meeting. Details on the meeting are enclosed.

As a Certified Local Government under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, your commission may prepare a report as to whether or not such property, in its opinion, meets the criteria for the National Register. Your commission's report should be presented to the Chief Elected Local Official for transmission, along with their comments, to California State Parks, Attn: Office of Historic Preservation, Carol Roland-Nawi, Ph.D., State Historic Preservation Officer, 1725 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, Suite 100, Sacramento, California 95816. So that the SHRC may have adequate time to consider the comments, it is requested, but not required, that OHP receives written comments fifteen (15) days before the SHRC's meeting. If you have questions or require further information, please contact the Registration Unit at (916) 445-7008.

As of January 1, 1993, all National Register properties are automatically included in the California Register of Historical Resources and afforded consideration in accordance with state and local environmental review procedures.

Supplemental information on the National Register is available at our website at the following address: [www.ohp.parks.ca.gov](http://www.ohp.parks.ca.gov).

Thank you for your assistance in this program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carol Roland-Nawi, Ph.D.".

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

Enclosures: Nomination, Meeting Notice



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

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



## MEETING NOTICE

**FOR:** State Historical Resources Commission Quarterly Meeting

**DATE:** Wednesday, January 28, 2015

**TIME:** 9:00 A.M.

**PLACE:** City Council Chamber  
New City Hall  
915 I Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

This room is accessible to people with disabilities. Questions regarding the meeting should be directed to the Registration Unit (916) 445-7008

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.

**DRAFT**

### 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Forsythe Memorial School for Girls

Other names/site number: Presbyterian School for Mexican Girls

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: 506 N. Evergreen Avenue

City or town: Los Angeles State: CA County: Los Angeles

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 \_\_\_ nomination \_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

\_\_\_ national \_\_\_ statewide \_\_\_ local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

\_\_\_ A \_\_\_ B \_\_\_ C \_\_\_ D

Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
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

Forsythe Memorial School for Girls  
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California  
County and State

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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

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

Forsythe Memorial School for Girls  
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California  
County and State

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RELIGION: Church School

EDUCATION: School

EDUCATION: Boarding School

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Forsythe Memorial School for Girls  
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California  
County and State

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

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

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**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Stucco; concrete; red clay tile; wood

### 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.)

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### Summary Paragraph

The Forsyth Memorial School for Girls is located on the southwest corner of Folsom Street and Evergreen Avenue in the Boyle Heights neighborhood of Los Angeles. The two and three-story wood-framed building was constructed in 1914 as a school in the Mission Revival style. The building is generally rectangular in plan with a central open-air courtyard. It is covered by a combination side-gabled and flat roof with Mission-shaped parapets capped with metal flashing; there are also two skylights on the roof. The building is entirely clad in textured stucco with carved wood and clay tile detailing. The main entrance is located within a partial-width vestibule supported by wood columns. The building is set back from the predominantly residential street on a comparatively large, sloped lot with mature shrubs and trees. The lot is enclosed by a metal chain-link fence that runs the perimeter of the property line. Currently vacant and sometimes used for filming, the building is in overall good condition and retains all aspects of integrity.

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### Narrative Description

The primary elevation faces northwest towards Evergreen Avenue. The front portion of the building consists of a rectangular mass flanked by a wider, U-shaped portion, thus forming a central open-air courtyard. The building is constructed into hill that slopes downward towards Evergreen Avenue. As a result, the building is between two to three stories high throughout.

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depending on the grade. The front rectangular mass is two stories with a partially above-grade basement level. The primary elevation is almost perfectly symmetrical with windows arranged around the centered main entrance. The above-grade basement has a series of individual six-over-six double-hung wood windows within wood surrounds; there are five of these windows arranged on either side of the entrance.

A set of twelve slightly rounded concrete steps leads to the entrance located on the first story; there is a low, stucco wall with a concrete cap on either side of the steps and a round metal handrail at the center. The entrance vestibule is sheltered by a flat roof with Mission Revival style shaped parapet and a pent clay tile overhang with exposed rafter tails. The roof is supported by two square stucco pilasters and two round stucco columns. The entry itself is obscured by a metal security gate that spans the width of the vestibule; however, it appears to consist of a pair of fully-glazed wood doors. Below the clay tile overhang is a wood sign that reads, "Fellowship House of Los Angeles." To the left (northeast) of the entrance, there are two pairs of nine-over-nine wood double-hung windows within wood surrounds. Each pair has a single stucco sill. To the right (southwest) of the entrance, there is a group of five nine-over-nine wood double-hung windows within wood surrounds. A single stucco sill runs below the window grouping. Apart from this difference in windows on either side of the entrance, the elevation is symmetrical.

At the center of the second story, there is a single six-over-one wood double-hung window arranged directly above the main entrance. On either side of this central window, there is a pair of six-over-six wood double-hung windows within wood surrounds connected by a single stucco sill. At the northeast and southwest ends of the second story there is a group of three nine-over-nine wood double-hung windows within wood surrounds over a single stucco sill. These groups are sheltered by a pent clay tile overhang with exposed rafter tails, supported by carved wood brackets. These pent overhangs hug the corners of the building to shelter the uppermost windows on the northeast and southwest elevations.

The secondary (southwest and northeast) elevations of the building are irregularly arranged. Double-hung wood windows with stucco sills of varying sizes and at various heights, are in groups of anywhere from one to five windows. On the southwest elevation, at the join between the front portion of the building and the rear U-shaped portion, there is a secondary entrance obscured behind a metal security door. On the rear portion of the building, there is a projecting, rectangular room with a pent roof, two large multi-light fixed wood windows, and a pair of partially-glazed wood-paneled doors facing southeast. On the northeast elevation of the building, there are two single slab doors, one of which is accessed by an exterior stucco staircase with a metal bar handrail.

The rear (southeast) elevation is somewhat obscured by vegetation; however, based on what is visible there are several groups of three nine-over-nine wood double-hung windows and an exterior metal staircase with open risers and metal handrail leading to what appears to be a pair of fully-glazed wood doors. This could not be confirmed due to the heavy vegetation obstructing the view.

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The building has undergone some alterations, primarily on the interior. Three years after its construction in 1917, a janitor's toilet and storeroom with cement floors were installed in the unfinished first floor of the building (which may indicate the partially-above ground basement), a door to the kitchen from the main stair landing was installed, and new openings in "present walls." The permit did not indicate whether these openings were in interior or exterior walls.<sup>1</sup> In 1918, rotting joints in the main floor were repaired, as was the plaster both inside and outside. The 1918 permit also indicates that a single door was replaced with a pair of doors on the "south side."<sup>2</sup>

A 1923 permit outlined additional interior work, including the removal of non-load bearing partitions, the addition of glazing to the sun room, fixtures removed from one area and replaced in another, and some plumbing changes.<sup>3</sup> The following year, 1924, an exterior staircase was installed to the rear of the building.<sup>4</sup> All of these alterations took place within the period of significance when the building was used as a school. In 1947, two permits were filed a month apart for interior partitions.<sup>5</sup> According to the building permit record on file, the building remained relatively unchanged until 1994 when the building was reroofed and smoke detectors installed.<sup>6</sup> The following year, 1995, the building underwent \$15,000 worth of "general rehab" in order to comply with a Substandard Order.<sup>7</sup>

Access to the interior was not granted by the owner, and therefore the interior cannot be described beyond the changes indicated by the permits.

The Forsythe Memorial School for Girls retains all aspects of integrity. The school retains its integrity of location, as it has not been moved from where it was constructed in 1914. The integrity of design is intact, as there have not been any substantial alterations to the building that would have impacted its overall form, plan, structure or style. The integrity of setting is intact, as the surrounding neighborhood is much the same as it would have been during the period of significance; the school is surrounded by a residential neighborhood in historic maps, much as it is today. The integrity of materials and workmanship are intact, as there have not been substantial alterations to the building that would have impacted the physical materials and evidence of contemporary craftsmanship. The integrity of feeling is intact, as the school and its physical characteristics still invoke the feeling of an early twentieth century schoolhouse. The integrity of association is intact; the aspects of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, and feeling are all intact and help to convey the integrity of association.

<sup>1</sup> City of Los Angeles Building Permit 4058, 1918.

<sup>2</sup> City of Los Angeles Building Permit 4362, 1918.

<sup>3</sup> City of Los Angeles Building Permit 28723, 1923.

<sup>4</sup> City of Los Angeles Building Permit 36856, 1924.

<sup>5</sup> City of Los Angeles Building Permits 34322 and 35413, 1947.

<sup>6</sup> City of Los Angeles Building Permit 19900, 1994.

<sup>7</sup> City of Los Angeles Building Permit 35789, 1995.

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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.)

ETHNIC HERITAGE: Hispanic

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1914-1934

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1914 – Building constructed

1934 – School closed

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Patterson, H.M.

Willard-Slater Company, The

\_\_\_\_\_

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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 Forsythe Memorial School for Girls (also known as the Presbyterian School for Mexican Girls) is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion A in the area of Ethnic Heritage. It meets the registration requirements for schools outlined in the *Latinos in Twentieth Century California* Multiple Property Submission, and is significant at the local level in the context of Religion and Spirituality. Constructed in 1914, the Forsythe Memorial School is a rare, surviving representation of Americanization attempts made by Protestant denominations to homogenize Mexican American culture in Los Angeles. Protestant churches, including Presbyterians, were the first to attempt to Americanize Mexicans through services like boarding houses and religious schools, in the hopes that “curing them of their evils” would give them a greater appreciation of America.<sup>8</sup>

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

The Forsythe Memorial School for Girls was founded in 1884 and run by the Women’s Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church. The purpose of the organization was to provide schools for the church’s missions in the southwestern United States. Schools for boys and girls were also constructed in Texas, Arizona, and New Mexico. The subject building was constructed in 1914 especially for the school and housed grades one through eight.<sup>9</sup> The architect for the building was H.M. Patterson who frequently worked with the Presbyterian Church in the Los Angeles area.<sup>10</sup> He was also responsible for the design of Presbyterian churches in North Hollywood (1923) and Anaheim (1928).

The Mexican girls in attendance were primarily from the Southern California area. Described at the time as an “Americanization Plant” by the Home Missions Council,<sup>11</sup> the girls came from different socioeconomic and religious backgrounds.<sup>12</sup> Some girls had a Catholic upbringing while others already had a Protestant background; while some came from wealthier households, many were orphans and their only home was the Forsythe School, which also provided

<sup>8</sup> Rodolfo Acuña, *Occupied America: A History of Chicanos*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. (New York, NY: Harper Collins, 1988), 179.

<sup>9</sup> Jay S. Stowell, *A Study of Mexicans and Spanish Americans in the United States* (New York: Home Missions Council and the Council of Women for Home Missions, 1920), 25.

<sup>10</sup> *Los Angeles Times*, various dates.

<sup>11</sup> The Home Missions Council, established in 1914, was composed of representatives from each Presbyterian Synod where home mission work was carried out; these representatives met for three days each year to discuss issues and policies in their respective Synods. The Council then presented their findings to the larger General Assembly for review during their respective annual meeting. (*Annual Report of the Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America*, 1918, 38).

<sup>12</sup> Rose Scott, “An Americanization Plant: Forsythe Memorial School, Los Angeles California,” in *Home Mission Monthly* Vol. 34 No. 7 (May 1920): 161

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dormitories.<sup>13</sup> The dormitories were on the second floor, while classrooms were housed on the first.<sup>14</sup> The curriculum at Forsythe Memorial School for Girls had a heavy focus on domestic duties such as sewing and cooking, as well as patriotism and religion, including church services each Sunday.<sup>15</sup> On average, there were around 90 students at any given time, and many of the girls attended on scholarship that covered the approximately \$50.00 yearly expense.<sup>16</sup> The Forsythe Memorial School operated until 1934, after which the property was occupied by the Hebron Community Center, another Presbyterian organization.

Although the property is not nominated for its association with other ethnic groups, it is worth noting that this building was used following World War II as temporary living quarters for Japanese Americans. The facility was established by Reverend Sohei Kowta, a Japanese Presbyterian pastor, and provided accommodations for Japanese citizens seeking a new start in Southern California after having been forcibly removed and incarcerated in relocation camps.<sup>17</sup> Reverend Kowta is a significant figure in Japanese-American history in Los Angeles.

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<sup>13</sup> Ibid.

<sup>14</sup> Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1920. Los Angeles, Volume 13, 1314.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid.; Stowell, 25.

<sup>16</sup> Stowell, 25-26.

<sup>17</sup> "Hostel Opened for Japanese," *Los Angeles Times*, February 28, 1945, accessed May 6, 2014 via ProQuest.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Acuña, Rodolfo. *Occupied America: A History of Chicanos*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. New York, NY: Harper Collins, 1988.

Building Permit Records, City of Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety.

Digital Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps Collection (1867-1970), Los Angeles Public Library.

Falcon, Rev. Jose. "The Mexicans in Los Angeles." *The Assembly Herald* Vol. 24 (May 1918): 247-248.

*Los Angeles Times*, various dates.

Scott, Rose. "An Americanization Plant: Forsythe Memorial School, Los Angeles California." *Home Mission Monthly* Vol. 34 No. 7 (May 1920):161-162.

Stowell, Jay S. *A Study of Mexicans and Spanish Americans in the United States*. New York: Home Missions Council and the Council of Women for Home Missions, 1920.

Tax Assessor Records, County of Los Angeles.

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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 # \_\_\_\_\_

### Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Los Angeles Public Library

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Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): \_\_\_\_\_

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### 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Less than one acre

#### Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 34.044971

Longitude: -118.199005

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

Assessor Parcel Number 5178-017-001, which corresponds to the attached sketch map.

#### Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary includes the land area historically associated with the building.

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### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Amanda Yoder/Architectural Historian I

organization: GPA Consulting

street & number: 617 S. Olive Street, Suite 910

city or town: Los Angeles state: CA zip code: 90014

e-mail: amanda@gpaconsulting-us.com

telephone: (310) 792-2690

date: May 2014; Revised November 2014

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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.)

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### 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: Forsythe Memorial School for Girls  
City or Vicinity: Los Angeles  
County: Los Angeles  
State: California  
Photographer: Amanda Yoder  
Date Photographed: May 6, 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1. Northwest elevation and surrounding property, camera facing south.
2. Northwest elevation, camera facing southeast.
3. Northwest (left) and southwest (right) elevations, camera facing east.
4. Southwest elevation, camera facing northeast.
5. Southwest (left) and southeast (right) elevation, camera facing north.
6. Northeast (right) and southeast (left) elevations, camera facing west.
7. Northeast elevation, camera facing southwest.
8. Northeast (left) and northwest (right) elevations, camera facing south.

**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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**Location Map**

Latitude: 34.044971

Longitude: -118.199005



Base image courtesy of Google Earth; Property boundary outlined in black.

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**Sketch Map/Photo Key**



Base image courtesy of Google Maps.



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Figure 1. "An Americanization Plant" by Rose Scott, May 1920.



TWO OF THIS YEAR'S GRADUATING CLASS

ON a day in September the telephone in Presbyterian headquarters, Los Angeles, brought a request: "This is the president of the Woman's City Club. I am speaking as a representative of the various organizations of the city that are doing Americanization work. We are charting the city to show where and by what organizations this work is being done. Will you report for your denomination?"

Among the several lines of work, the one that perhaps gave most satisfaction to the one reporting was Forsythe Memorial School, where each year some seventy Mexican girls are having opportunity for education under carefully chosen teachers.

The school building of concrete, with nicely kept lawn, measures well in appearance with school buildings of the city. Classrooms and dormitories provide facilities for school work and opportunities for the girls to learn good housekeeping in caring for the simply furnished but beautifully kept living rooms. The patio around which the plant is built adds artistic effect, and gives sunshine and fresh air in every room in the house.

In this attractive building is being lived day after day the life of a Christian American home as well as school, a home that is interpreting

## An Americanization Plant

Forsythe Memorial School,  
Los Angeles, California

By ROSE SCOTT

America's ideals to these girls through work, study, play, and religious training in the natural round of the daily program. Work there is in plenty, which the girls do in groups; study is necessary, since the course is the same as in grammar schools of the city. A new feature this past year has been gymnasium classes; since the playground equipment is rather limited, these classes have been popular and wholesome. Patriotism is taught—and caught: the salute to the flag, stories of America's great leaders, and national songs have conspicuous places in the day's programs. These girls ring out "The Star-Spangled Banner" quite as lustily as any American children. In addition to all this that they might get in a secular school, there are systematic Bible study and daily chapel exercises that are deeply religious. Nurturing of the three-fold life is carefully planned in the curriculum, and we love to watch the growth, physical, mental, and spiritual, in the girls that spend their impressionable years in this atmosphere. In contrast are the homes from which many of the girls come. Some are well provided for by parents but have had no Christian influences; many are from Catholic homes; some from Christian homes; some have no home other than this in the school and no one to care much what becomes of them. Here under wise guidance they work and play together in mutual helpfulness.

This school being within easy trolley reach of the city is of special interest to church people, and Christmas entertainments and commencement exercises always bring a number of Presby-



THE SUNNY PATIO AT FORSYTHE IS AN ATTRACTIVE SPOT

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*HOME MISSION MONTHLY*

terian women; good programs are presented, showing careful training and faithful work. The girls sing well, and these past two years one has made a real contribution to the school music with her violin. She is one of seven to be graduated this year and her violin will be greatly missed. Her home is in Old Mexico, and she is facing a crisis when she leaves the school; she fears a return home will end opportunities for further education, and she longs to have Bible training that will fit her for missionary work among her people. Another, who is a high soprano, has added much to the singing, and she, too, is of the seven who will finish this year; we hope she will go on to high school, but she is attractive and these girls marry young.

A picture I would have you see is that of the girls of the school as I saw them assembled a few weeks ago for the monthly meeting of the mission

band. The student body filled one side of the assembly room and opposite were president and secretary—elected from their own number—and teachers. A well-planned program that included a study of China was followed with interested attention for an hour, and not a child in the room failed to place her mite on the offering plate as it passed. There is a spirit of attention and reverence always in all religious gatherings, and many of the girls are professing Christians by the time they come into the upper grades of Forsythe Memorial School.

Such a gathering as this would be a demonstration that would write upon your consciousness indelibly the fact that Mexicans—even here in the United States—need schools, and Christian schools, and that through these may be developed a people who will make a worth while contribution to our national life.

An Americanization Plant: Forsythe Memorial School, Los Angeles, California By Rose Scott

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The school building of concrete, with nicely kept lawn, measures well in appearance with school buildings of the city. Classrooms and dormitories provide facilities for school work and opportunities for the girls to learn good housekeeping in caring for the simply furnished but beautifully kept living rooms. The patio around which the plant is built adds artistic effect, and gives sunshine and fresh air in every room in the house.

In this attractive building is being lived day after day the life of a Christian American home as well as school, a home that is interpreting America's ideals to these girls through work, study, play, and religious training in the natural round of the daily program. Work there is in plenty, which the girls do in groups; study is necessary, since the course is the same as in grammar schools of the city. A new feature this past year has been gymnasium classes: since the playground equipment is rather limited, these classes have been popular and wholesome. Patriotism is taught—and caught: the salute to the flag, stories of America's great leaders, and national songs have conspicuous places in the day's programs. These girls ring out "The Star-Spangled Banner" quite as lustily as any American children. In addition to all this that they might get in a secular school, there are systematic Bible study and daily chapel exercises that are deeply religious. Nurturing of the three-fold life is carefully planned in the curriculum, and we love to watch the growth, physical, mental, and spiritual, in the girls that spend their impressionable years in this atmosphere. In contrast are the homes from which many of the girls come. Some are well provided for by parents but have had no Christian influences; many are from Catholic homes; some from Christian homes; some have no home other than this in the

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Such a gathering as this would be a demonstration that would write upon your consciousness indelibly the fact that Mexicans—even here in the United States—need schools, and Christian schools, and that through these may be developed a people who will make a worth while [*sic*] contribution to our national life.

#### Photo Captions

TWO OF THIS YEAR'S GRADUATING CLASS  
THE SUNNY PATIO AT FORSYTHE IS AN ATTRACTIVE SPOT

**Figure 2.** "The Mexicans in Los Angeles" by Rev. Jose Falcon, May 1918.

## The Mexicans in Los Angeles

The Rev. Jose Falcon,

PASTOR OF THE CHURCH OF THE DIVINE SAVIOUR

**I**T IS said that in Los Angeles there is one Mexican for every ten persons of other nationalities. The fact that this populous city is thus a regular hive of those who come from our sister republic imposes upon the American Church a duty for which it will have to give account.

It is inspiring to hear of the activity of missionary societies. American Christians hear reports, have study classes, make offerings and pray for the

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THE ASSEMBLY HERALD

May, 1918



THE REV. JOSE FALCON,  
PASTOR OF THE CHURCH OF  
THE DIVINE SAVIOUR,  
LOS ANGELES

mission fields in foreign lands; but, sad to confess, having a real mission field at their very doors, they either forget it, ignore it or despise it. Up to the present time, very little has been done for the Mexicans in Los Angeles. I even believe there are many churches in this city that do not know of any Mexican Presbyterian Church. To them let me say that we have a live, enthusiastic Mexican church, whose members are on fire with the Spirit of God. When they pray, ten or more are praying at once. What a blessing that God has ears to hear them all! They earnestly study the Bible, and commit large portions of it to memory. They also study the Shorter Catechism. Even when it is cold and wet, they will come long distances to attend service. They are anxious to help in missionary work.

All the Mexicans here are poor; life is hard with them; but in our last Christmas service they brought a special offering of \$118 for Missions. This speaks eloquently of their devotion. One incident among many is worthy of mention. A man who had been recently converted heard the Pastor plead for an offering for Missions. He wanted to have a part in it; but he was without money and without work, and his wife was ill. The "meal and the oil" were nearly gone. When Christmas came, he was without a cent. After fervent prayer, he went out into the street to look for work. He found a job that brought him a dollar. Encouraged by that, he looked for another job, and earned another dollar. That night he took the two dollars, and made his offering of all he had! This is the spirit of the Mexican church membership; is it not inspiring?

But how many things we need! We should by all means have a school for boys corresponding to the Forsythe Memorial School for Girls. We have to prepare for a new generation. The older people have their habits fixed, and we cannot greatly change them. There are families among us who are vicious and degenerate. From them our boys must be separated and given a new atmosphere. The public schools cannot do this. A Christian Home is needed; and, if we had such, many Catholic parents would send their boys there. The secret of the uplift of the Mexicans lies in the renewing of the hearts of the youth. Let us make them a new people! This is the golden opportunity. The women too need help to fit them for a better class of labor. If they were taught American cooking and other American ways, they would render efficient and needed service.

A better understanding between Americans and Mexicans is evident, but we need to cement the races more closely by a common interest. The Methodists are beginning to do this by developing a great Institutional Church at the Old Plaza. We need such a church in the residence district. The Presbyterian Church is great and rich; shall we drag behind in this all-important work of evangelizing more than 50,000 Mexicans in Los Angeles! A Presbyterian Institutional Church here would be a mighty force in changing this ready people into a strong support for Christian institutions. Who will give it?

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The Mexicans in Los Angeles by The Rev. Jose Falcon, Pastor, Church of the Divine Savior

It is said that in Los Angeles there is one Mexican for every ten persons of other nationalities. The fact that this populous city is thus a regular hive of those who come from our sister republic imposes upon the American Church a duty for which it will have to give account.

It is inspiring to hear of the activity of missionary societies. American Christians hear reports, have study classes, make offerings and pray for the mission fields in foreign lands; but, sad to confess, having a real mission field at their very doors, they either forget it, ignore it or seipise it. Up to the present time, very little has been done for the Mexicans in Los Angeles. I even believe there are many churches in this city that do not know of any Mexican Presbyterian Church. To them let me say that we have a live, enthusiastic Mexican church, whose members are on fire with the Spirit of God. When they pray, ten or more are praying at once. What a blessing that God has ears to hear them all! They earnestly study the Bible, and commit large portions of it to memory. They also study the Shorter Catechism. Even when it is cold and wet, they will come long distances to attend service. They are ancious to help in missionary work.

All the Mexicans here are poor; life is hard with them; but in our last Christmas service they brough a special offering of \$118 for Missions. This speaks eloquently of their devotion. One incident among many is worthy of mention. A man who had been recently converted heard the Pastor plead for an offering for Missions. He wanted to have a part in it; but he was without money and withough work, and his wife was ill. The "meal and the oil" were nearly gone. When Christmas came, he was without a cent. After fervent prayer, he went out into the street to look for work. He found a job that brought him a dollar. Encouraged by that, he looked for another job, and earned another dollar. That night he took the two dollars, and made his offering of all he had! This is the spirit of the Mexican church membership; is it not inspiring?

But how many things we need! We should by all means have a school for boys corresponding to the Forsythe Memorial School for Girls. We have to prepare for a new generation. The older people have their habits fixed, and we cannot greatly change them. There are families among us who are vicious and degenerate. From them our boys must be separated and given a new atmosphere. The public schools cannot do this. A Christian Home is needed; and, if we had such, many Catholic parents would send their boys there. The secret of the uplift of the Mexicans lies in the renewing of the hearts of the youth. Let us make them a new people! This is the golden opportunity. The women too need help to fit them for a better class of labor. If they were taught American cooking and other American ways, they would render effiient and needed service.

A better understanding between Americans and Mexicans is evident, but we need to cement the races more closely by a common interest. The Methodists are beginning to do this by developing a great Institutional Church at the Old Plaza. We need such a church in the residence district. The Presbyterian Church is great and rich; shall we drag behind in this all-important work of evangelizing more than 50,000 Mexicans in Los Angeles! A Presbyterian Institutional Church here would be a mighty force in changing this ready people into a strong support for Christian institutions. Who will give it?

Photo Caption

THE REV. JOSE FALCON, PASTOR OF THE CHURCH OF THE DIVINE SAVIOUR,  
LOS ANGELES

Forsythe Memorial School for Girls  
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California  
County and State

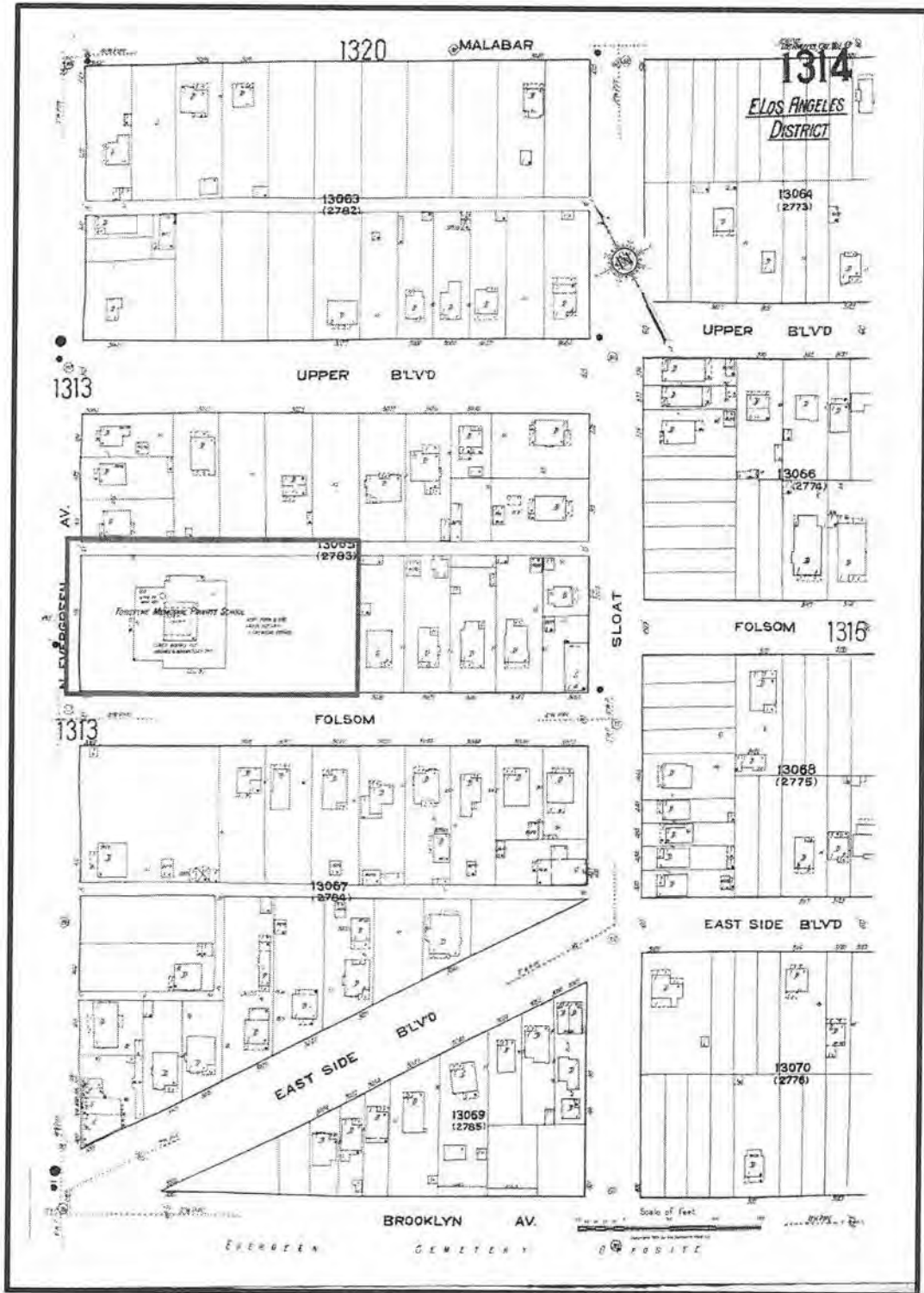
Figure 3. "Hostel Opened for Japanese." *Los Angeles Times*, February 28, 1945.



Forsythe Memorial School for Girls  
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California  
County and State

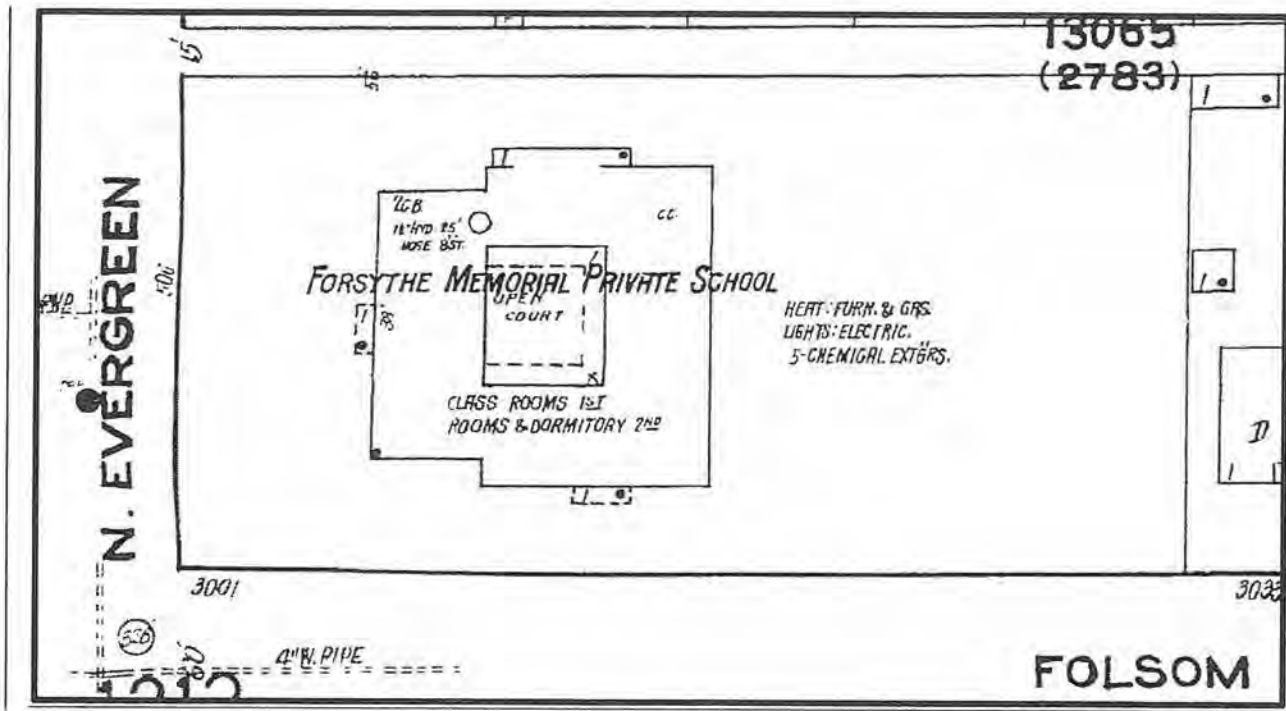
Figure 4. Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1920. Los Angeles, Volume 13, page 1314.



Forsythe Memorial School for Girls  
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California  
County and State

Figure 5. Detail, Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1920. Los Angeles, Volume 13, page 1314.







# City of Los Angeles Department of City Planning

## 1/6/2015 PARCEL PROFILE REPORT

### PROPERTY ADDRESSES

506 N EVERGREEN AVE

### ZIP CODES

90063

### RECENT ACTIVITY

CHC-2015-39-NR

ENV-2015-40-CE

### CASE NUMBERS

CPC-2005-8250-ICO

CPC-1986-445-GPC

ORD-177557

ORD-166585-SA1605F

ENV-2013-3392-CE

ND-83-380-ZC-HD

### Address/Legal Information

PIN Number	127-5A227 51
Lot/Parcel Area (Calculated)	7,415.9 (sq ft)
Thomas Brothers Grid	PAGE 635 - GRID C4
	PAGE 635 - GRID C5
Assessor Parcel No. (APN)	5178017001
Tract	RECORDS SUBDIVISION OF THE WESTERLY 1/2 OF LOT 7, BLOCK 74 HANCOCKS SURVEY
Map Reference	M R 16-35
Block	None
Lot	29
Arb (Lot Cut Reference)	None
Map Sheet	127-5A227

### Jurisdictional Information

Community Plan Area	Boyle Heights
Area Planning Commission	East Los Angeles
Neighborhood Council	Boyle Heights
Council District	CD 14 - Jose Huizar
Census Tract #	2038.00
LADBS District Office	Los Angeles Metro

### Planning and Zoning Information

Special Notes	None
Zoning	R2-1
Zoning Information (ZI)	ZI-2129 EAST LOS ANGELES STATE ENTERPRISE ZONE ZI-2353 Residential Hotel Unit Conversion Demolition Ordinance
General Plan Land Use	Low Medium I Residential
General Plan Footnote(s)	Yes
Hillside Area (Zoning Code)	No
Baseline Hillside Ordinance	No
Baseline Mansionization Ordinance	No
Specific Plan Area	None
Special Land Use / Zoning	None
Design Review Board	No
Historic Preservation Review	No
Historic Preservation Overlay Zone	None
Other Historic Designations	None
Other Historic Survey Information	None
Mills Act Contract	None
POD - Pedestrian Oriented Districts	None
CDO - Community Design Overlay	None
NSO - Neighborhood Stabilization Overlay	No
Streetscape	No
Sign District	No
Adaptive Reuse Incentive Area	None
CRA - Community Redevelopment Agency	None
Central City Parking	No
Downtown Parking	No
Building Line	None

This report is subject to the terms and conditions as set forth on the website. For more details, please refer to the terms and conditions at [zimas.lacity.org](http://zimas.lacity.org)  
(\* - APN Area is provided "as is" from the Los Angeles County's Public Works, Flood Control, Benefit Assessment.

500 Ft School Zone	No
500 Ft Park Zone	No
<b>Assessor Information</b>	
Assessor Parcel No. (APN)	5178017001
Ownership (Assessor)	
Owner1	DE LA VARA, ANTHONY AND CONNIE
Address	2715 TURNBULL CANYON RD HACIENDA HEIGHTS CA 91745
Ownership (City Clerk)	
Owner	DE LA VARA, ANTHONY & CONNIE DE LA VARA, ANTHONY & CONNIE
Address	2715 TURNBULL CANYON RD HACIENDA HEIGHTS CA 91745 2715 TURNBULL CYN RD HACIENDA HEIGHTS CA 91745
APN Area (Co. Public Works)*	0.675 (ac)
Use Code	7500 - Home for the Aged or Other
Assessed Land Val.	\$156,848
Assessed Improvement Val.	\$33,504
Last Owner Change	03/07/79
Last Sale Amount	\$9
Tax Rate Area	4
Deed Ref No. (City Clerk)	9-20 259955
Building 1	
Year Built	1914
Building Class	CX
Number of Units	1
Number of Bedrooms	18
Number of Bathrooms	7
Building Square Footage	16,472.0 (sq ft)
Building 2	No data for building 2
Building 3	No data for building 3
Building 4	No data for building 4
Building 5	No data for building 5
<b>Additional Information</b>	
Airport Hazard	None
Coastal Zone	None
Farmland	Area Not Mapped
Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone	No
Fire District No. 1	No
Flood Zone	None
Watercourse	No
Hazardous Waste / Border Zone Properties	No
Methane Hazard Site	Methane Buffer Zone
High Wind Velocity Areas	No
Special Grading Area (BOE Basic Grid Map A-13372)	Yes
Oil Wells	None
<b>Seismic Hazards</b>	
Active Fault Near-Source Zone	
Nearest Fault (Distance in km)	1.71827952
Nearest Fault (Name)	Upper Elysian Park
Region	Los Angeles Blind Thrusts
Fault Type	B
Slip Rate (mm/year)	1.30000000

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 (\*) - APN Area is provided "as is" from the Los Angeles County's Public Works, Flood Control, Benefit Assessment.

Slip Geometry	Reverse
Slip Type	Poorly Constrained
Down Dip Width (km)	13.00000000
Rupture Top	3.00000000
Rupture Bottom	13.00000000
Dip Angle (degrees)	50.00000000
Maximum Magnitude	6.40000000
Alquist-Priolo Fault Zone	No
Landslide	No
Liquefaction	No
Tsunami Inundation Zone	No
<b>Economic Development Areas</b>	
Business Improvement District	None
Renewal Community	No
Revitalization Zone	Central City
State Enterprise Zone	EAST LOS ANGELES STATE ENTERPRISE ZONE
State Enterprise Zone Adjacency	No
Targeted Neighborhood Initiative	None
<b>Public Safety</b>	
Police Information	
Bureau	Central
Division / Station	Hollenbeck
Reporting District	459
Fire Information	
Division	1
Batallion	1
District / Fire Station	2
Red Flag Restricted Parking	No

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## CASE SUMMARIES

Note: Information for case summaries is retrieved from the Planning Department's Plan Case Tracking System (PCTS) database.

Case Number:	CPC-2005-8250-ICO
Required Action(s):	ICO-INTERIM CONTROL ORDINANCE
Project Descriptions(s):	AN INTERIM CONTROL ORDINANCE TEMPORARILY SUSPENDING THE CONVERSIION, DEMOLITION, OR CHANGE OF USE OF RESIDENTIAL HOTELS CITYWIDE.
Case Number:	CPC-1986-445-GPC
Required Action(s):	GPC-GENERAL PLAN/ZONING CONSISTENCY (AB283)
Project Descriptions(s):	PLAN AND ZONE CONSISTENCY - BOYLE HEIGHTS (PART I)
Case Number:	ENV-2013-3392-CE
Required Action(s):	CE-CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION
Project Descriptions(s):	THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE MODIFIES SECTION 22.119 OF THE LOS ANGELES ADMINISTRATIVE CODE TO ALLOW ORIGINAL ART MURALS ON LOTS DEVELOPED WITH ONLY ONE SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL STRUCTURE AND THAT ARE LOCATED WITHIN COUNCIL DISTRICTS 1, 9, AND 14.
Case Number:	ND-83-380-ZC-HD
Required Action(s):	HD-HEIGHT DISTRICT ZC-ZONE CHANGE
Project Descriptions(s):	Data Not Available

## DATA NOT AVAILABLE

ORD-177557

ORD-166585-SA1605F



Address: 506 N EVERGREEN AVE

Tract: RECORDS SUBDIVISION OF  
THE WESTERLY 1/2 OF LOT 7,  
BLOCK 74 HANCOCKS SURVEY

Zoning: R2-1

APN: 5178017001

Block: None

General Plan: Low Medium I Residential

PIN #: 127-5A227 51

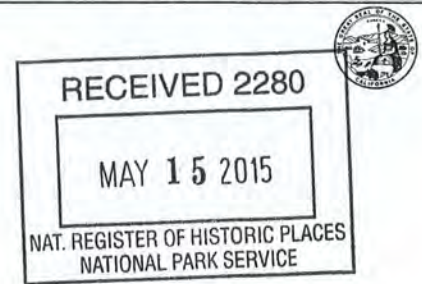
Lot: 29

Arb: None



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

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



May 5, 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: **Forsythe Memorial School for Girls  
(Latinos in Twentieth Century California MPS)  
Los Angeles County, California  
National Register of Historic Places Nomination**

Dear Mr. Loether:

The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the **Forsythe Memorial School for Girls** nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. On April 29, 2015 in San Diego, California, the California State Historical Resources Commission unanimously found the property eligible for the National Register under Criterion A in the area of Ethnic Heritage, with a period of significance 1914 to 1934.

The Forsythe Memorial School for Girls meets the registration requirements for schools outlined in the *Latinos in Twentieth Century California* Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF), and is significant at the local level in the context of Religion and Spirituality. Constructed in 1914 and operated until 1934, the Forsythe Memorial School is a rare, surviving representation of Americanization attempts made by Protestant denominations to homogenize Mexican American culture in Los Angeles. Protestant churches, including Presbyterians, were the first to attempt to Americanize Mexicans through services like boarding houses and religious schools.

The property was identified by SurveyLA, and following additional research, selected as an associated individual nomination by the consulting firm responsible for the MPDF. No letters have been received to date. In its role as representative of a Certified Local Government, the Los Angeles Cultural Heritage Commission reviewed the nomination and proposed a resolution that the City of Los Angeles support the proposed listing. If you have any questions regarding this nomination, please contact Amy Crain of my staff at (916) 445-7009.

Sincerely,

Jenan Saunders  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosures