United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received APR 2.8 (987)
date entered MAY 1.9 (987)

Continuation sheet

Item number

8

Page /

// VAN NUYS BRANCH

14553 Sylvan Way

This branch is built in a U-shaped plan, arranged around a central patio, suitable for use as an outdoor reading room. It is one of only two structures in the system designed by Allison and Allison, and represents a rare example of Spanish Colonial Revival architecture by architects who were nationally known for their Italianate Revival buildings, such as the UCLA quadrangle complex, and many of the major Italianate Revival churches of the 1920's in Los Angeles. Orientation around an open air reading room was a novel approach for libraries in the 1920's, but was pioneered by the Los Angeles Library Board, and was particularly appropriate for the hot San Fernando Valley climate in a pre-air-conditioned era.

