

PH0065676

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:  
California

COUNTY:  
San Diego

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY DATE  
NOV 5 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:  
The La Jolla Woman's Club

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
715 Silverado Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
La Jolla

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
40

STATE:  
California

CODE:  
06

COUNTY:  
San Diego

CODE:  
073

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious	meeting hall	
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
La Jolla Woman's Club

STREET AND NUMBER:  
715 Silverado Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
La Jolla

STATE:  
California

CODE:  
06

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:  
220 W. Broadway

CITY OR TOWN:  
San Diego

STATE:  
California

CODE:  
06

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic American Buildings Survey CAL - 1966

DATE OF SURVEY: June, 1971

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Washington, D. C.

CITY OR TOWN:  
Washington, D. C.

STATE:  
District of Columbia

CODE:  
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7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The La Jolla Woman's Club is located on the SE corner of Silverado and Draper Streets with its primary facade toward Draper. The building occupies the full lot from side to side, and is pushed to the rear property line so as to provide a large lawn area to the east front.

The building is noted for its simplicity of mass. The initial impression is that of a broad, low, simple rectangular form. However, further examination reveals a low profile hipped roof projection near the center of the building. This projection provides the necessary height for the primary room (Assembly Room) within. The rectangular plane of the facade is penetrated with seven large arched openings. Behind the arched facade is a veranda, the deep shadows of which help to set off the facade arches. To either side of the building are vine covered loggia structures, so characteristic of Gill's work, that together with the building mass and the garden walls, define small, neatly manicured garden spaces. The building plan is that of a large rectangle with two small wings to the sides.

The interior of the building provides a maximum of spatial/functional units with a minimum feeling of enclosure. The entrance is on the east side with two small meeting rooms to either side of the axial hall. On axis is the main assembly hall with its elevated stage. This room has a high ceiling with clerestory windows on three sides. To either side of this room are lower (Lunch Room and Club Room) spaces which can be closed off with folding partitions. Along the rear of the building are located service functions and caretaker's quarters. The building has been only slightly altered, primarily in the portions along the rear side.

This building was constructed with the tilt-slab reinforced concrete method using machinery Gill purchased from the United States government. Entire walls, containing doors and window frames, were tilted into place. The exterior surfaces were stuccoed and painted a cream color.

The building contains many typical Gill details from slab doors and lack of moldings, to hardware of the architect's own creation. It also displays Gill's talent as a designer in understanding the limitations and freedoms implied in symmetrical planning. The building appears perfectly summetrical until careful examination is made of the placement of elements in plan.

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**6. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1913-1914**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The building stands as a tribute to its benefactor (Miss Ellen Browning Scripps) its Architect, (Irving John Gill) and its Owner/Caretaker, (The La Jolla Woman's Club).

I. ELLEN BROWNING SCRIPPS (1836-1932)

Ellen Browning Scripps was born in South Moulton Street in the heart of London on October 18, 1836. She was the daughter of James Mogg Scripps, the unsuccessful son of a prosperous father. Among her ancestors were the philosopher, John Locke, and the introducer of vaccination, Dr. Edward Jenner. Her father, twice a widower, emigrated with his six surviving children to Rushville, Illinois, in 1844. There relatives cared for the family until he was able to complete a cottage on the farm given him by his father. He married a third wife who bore five children. The youngest was Edward Willis Scripps, almost eighteen years younger than Ellen, who became the especial object of her affection and care.

From childhood, Ellen showed unusual intelligence and character. Her education in the Rushville schools was augmented by reading to her family from the classics brought from London by her father.

After graduating from high school, she helped at home and taught school, saving money to attend Knox College from which she graduated in 1859. She resumed teaching until 1866 when she joined her oldest brother, James, on The Detroit Tribune. She returned to Rushville in 1868 to care for her father until his death in 1873 and then joined James who was establishing The Detroit News, a small newspaper of popular appeal. Later she went with E. W., as her half-brother Edward was called, on the newly founded Cleveland Penny Press. Hard work, careful economy, and a simple, condensed, and unbiased presentation of news to a rapidly growing class of readers brought fortune to Ellen and to her brothers, James, George, and E. W. "Miss Ellen's Miscellany", which she wrote at that time, was the beginning of a modern newspaper feature.

When E. W. became ill, she traveled with him on a long trip abroad which restored his health. Later she went to Europe with James, but when a business difference resulted in a break between James and E. W., she and George sided with the younger brother.

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**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

McCoy, Esther, "Five California Architects", 1969  
 Los Angeles County Museum, "Irving Gill: 1870-1936", 1958  
 Ferris, Helen M., "Irving John Gill: San Diego Architect,"  
 THE JOURNAL OF SAN DIEGO HISTORY, fall, 1971  
 Clarkson, Edward Dessau, "Ellen Browning Scripps, A Biography" 1958  
 Templin, Elaine, "A Master in the Art of Giving" 1954, Article attached

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		32 ° 50 ' 39 "	117 ° 16 ' 35 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

UTM  
 11/474120  
 3638840  
 00

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 150' x 170' lot .58

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
**John D. Henderson, A.I.A.**

ORGANIZATION: **Member - Historical Site Board** DATE: **9 May 1974**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**City of San Diego, City Administration Building**

CITY OR TOWN: **San Diego** STATE: **California** CODE: **06**

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**      **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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

National  State  Local

Name: [Signature]  
 Title: **State Historic Preservation Officer**  
 Date: **SEP 30 1974**

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

[Signature]  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 10/5/74

ATTEST:  
[Signature]  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 11.5.74



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE California	
COUNTY San Diego	
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8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE  
(Continued)

In 1890, she and E. W. bought a ranch at Miramar, California, where she resided for seven years until she built her first home, "South Moulton Villa", in La Jolla.

She continued her simple, frugal life, devoting her growing income to personal and public benefactions. She belonged to no church but contributed to all. Schools, colleges, hospitals, playgrounds, welfare organizations, zoos, museums, and research institutions were among her beneficiaries. Scripps College for Women, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, and Scripps Metabolic Clinic were major public benefactions. Each of her many gifts represented deep and intelligent personal interest.

Independent in her own thinking, she stood for freedom of thought and expression for others. At her death in La Jolla on August 3, 1932, tributes to her appeared in publications throughout the nation. The Ellen Browning Scripps Foundation, endowed from her legacy to her nephew, Robert Paine Scripps, continues her philanthropies. Her life was dedicated to the happiness and improvement of her family and the world.

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II. IRVING JOHN GILL (1870-1936)

Gill's architectural style grew out of his observations in southern California. His first commissions in San Diego reveal a deep-seated eastern tradition of brick construction and gable roof forms. By 1908, he had turned from that tradition and had developed an architectural vocabulary using dominant, simple cubical masses.

Gill's work is admired for many of the same qualities found in the architecture of old San Diego. His buildings reflect their pure rectangular forms; he employed simple arch motifs. His palette of materials and colors was sympathetic to local traditions and traditional planar qualities dominated his compositions. He combined the natural with the man-made, using the former to provide necessary articulation against the solidity of the latter. These two worlds merged into a single composition where all parts reinforced the whole in a unity of conception.

The La Jolla Woman's Club is an example of Gill's interest in building technology. He used the tilt-slab reinforced concrete wall system. Through his efforts, concrete was elevated to a level of acceptance as an architectural material.

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(Continued)

The Woman's Club exists as one of San Diego's finest examples of Gill's work exhibiting his mature architectural style. Gill was in advance of his time with regard to design, multiple use of building spaces, materials used for easy and economical maintenance, lighting from windows placed high, and design compatible with the climate of Southern California.

The land and completed building was a gift from Miss Ellen Browning Scripps to the La Jolla Woman's Club. This gift also included a codicil in the deed that if the intended purpose or use of the building was violated or conditions of the grounds were not maintained, the grounds and building would revert to her heirs. Miss Scripps was an active member and an early president of the Club. The landscaping was planned by ~~Kate Olivia Sessions~~, who worked with Mr. Gill on many projects, and was incorporated as part of the architectural vocabulary.

In the general areas of "education" and "social/humanitarian", we believe the autobiography of Miss Scripps speaks for itself. Her designated purpose of the club house, her desires for it to be beneficial to every citizen and her concept of the "older citizens" civic center with a "younger citizen" center across the street, are outstanding examples. Miss Scripps also was involved in the Scripps newspapers, wrote many books and a daily "feature" which appeared in the daily paper. Her additional endowments and civic accomplishments included the Mission San Diego restoration, Bishops School Building, Scripps Hospital building, the La Jolla Recreation Center, and the Scripps Institute of Oceanography.

It is in this amazingly broad context, we believe, that her importance to "urban planning" is most apparent. Miss Scripps, in her activities, gave, particularly to the community of La Jolla, an almost complete urban identity; complete with recreational activities, cultural activities, educational activities, social well being, identity and a meaning in life.

