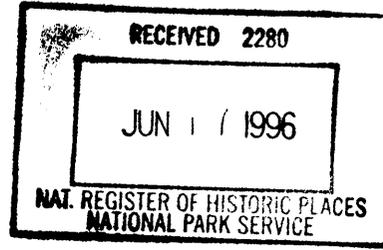


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Charmont Apartments RECEIVED
other names/site number Charmont Apartments FEB 13 1996

2. Location

street & number 330 California Avenue not for publication
city, town Santa Monica vicinity
state California code CA county Los Angeles code 037 zip code 90403

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources Within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> buildings	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: _____

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet.

[Signature] 6/11/96
Signature of certifying official Date
California Office of Historic Preservation

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register. Edson H. Beall 7-25-96
 See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register.
 removed from the National Register.
 Other, (explain:) _____

Signature of Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic:

Multiple Dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic:

Multiple Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Spanish Colonial Revival

Art Deco

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Stucco

roof Terra Cotta

other Decorative tile

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Situated in the heart of downtown Santa Monica, the Charmont Apartment building is located on the southwest corner of California Avenue and Fourth Street. Five stories high and L-shaped in plan, the structure is an elegant combination of Spanish Colonial Revival and Art Deco styles. Constructed in 1928 as a load bearing masonry design on a concrete foundation, the main elevations of the Charmont are stuccoed.

A courtyard, elevated slightly above grade, is formed between the wings of the L. A wall, approximately eight to ten feet high, extends from the corners of the building along the property building to completely separate the courtyard from the street. The front doors of the building are found on a diagonal across from a California Avenue entry gate to this court. A two-tiered fountain faced with polychrome tile, is attached to the building across from the gate. The height of the fountain disguises the roof of a Fourth Street vehicular entry ramp which leads to a parking area in the partially subterranean basement. A three-sided tower appended to the western wing of the building projects slightly into the court. On the eastern wing, a square-edged bay faces the court.

Vertically aligned rows of deeply recessed double casement windows provide an organizational rhythm to the asymmetrical massing. The building is divided horizontally into three parts by stringcourses above the first and fourth floors. Doubled chevron patterns in the first floor stringcourse, a simple tripartite molding, signal the location of fenestration lines. Windows between the second and fourth floors are linked by spandrel panels which repeat the chevron motif. At the fifth floor, piers between windows are capped by shallow bracket-like panels. These panels project above the fourth floor stringcourse, a flat band of abstracted dentils. Street-facing facades are capped by a shallow pitch hip roof approximately twenty feet deep and clad in red tile. A metal sign spells out "Charmont" on the southeastern corner of the flat tar roof which covers the remainder of the building.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Building permit, available from the City of Santa Monica. September 24, 1929.

Lee, Portia. Application for Landmark Designation Charmont Apartments. Undated. Also available from the City of Santa Monica.

Roth, Leland M. A Concise History of American Architecture. (New York: 1980).

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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

State historic preservation office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Specify repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References

A

1	1	3	6	1	5	6	0	3	1	7	6	5	2	0	0
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Zone Easting Northing

C

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B

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Zone Easting Northing

D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Lots A, B, C and Y, Block 96 of the Town of Santa Monica, in the City of Santa Monica, as per map recorded in Book 3 Pages 80 and 81 of miscellaneous records, and in Book 39 Page 45 ET SEQ. Of miscellaneous record, in the office of the county recorder of said county. Parcel No. Affects Lot Y: 4292-20-9, Parcel No. Affects Lots A & B: 4292-20-1, and Parcel No. Affects Lot C: 4292-20-2. Commonly known as: 330 California Avenue, Santa Monica, California 90403.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

This is the historic lot on which the building was constructed.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Teresa Grimes, Architectural Historian

organization Historic Resources Group

street & number 1728 N. Whitley Avenue

city or town Hollywood

date 1/31/96

telephone 213-469-2349

state CA

zip code 90028

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8

Page 1

Charmont Apartments
Los Angeles, California

Stylistically, the Charmont represents a crossroad of traditional and modern design impulses, in this case, Spanish Colonial Revival and Art Deco. While this combination is not necessarily unique, it is rarely carried out with such skill and exuberance. The most prominent example of this blend of the traditional and modern in the Los Angeles basin is the Los Angeles Union Passenger Station which exhibits both Spanish Colonial Revival and Moderne elements. Character-defining features of the Spanish Colonial Revival style are its smooth unadorned plaster walls, clay tile roofs, glazed tile and wrought iron decoration. Moderne elements are evident in stylized geometric motifs for decoration, lighting, massing, and proportion. During the late 1920s and early 1930s, the popularity of architectural styles based upon historical images and theories began to wane, while modernists styles gained acceptance. Although the Spanish Colonial Revival became synonymous with Southern California architecture and continues to be utilized today, as time passed, it was not designed with the same degree of historical accuracy. In many instances, the decorative elements of the style were replaced with ones based upon modern design motifs while the other elements of the style were retained. Such was the with the Charmont where the courtyard plan, massing, smooth stucco walls, clay tile roofs, and fountain are characteristic of the Spanish Colonial Revival, the vertical orientation and extensive use of the chevron motif are classic Art Deco traits.

In conclusion, the Charmont is important as an example of a unique combination of architectural styles and a relatively rare example of a 1920s luxury high apartment building. As such, it evokes a period of Santa Monica history that still impacts architectural and historical images of the city.



California Avenue

