UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Vista del Arroyo Hotel & Bungalows

AND/OR COMMON

Federal Building/United States Court of Appeals

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER				
125 South	Grand Avenue		NOT FOR PUBLICATION	
CITY, TOWN			CONGRESSIONAL DISTRI	СТ
Pasadena		VICINITY OF	22	
STATE		CODE	COUNTY	CODE
California			Los Angeles	
3 CLASSIFICATION	J			
	ERSHIP	STATUS	PRESI	ENTUSE
		OCCUPIED	AGRICULTURE	MUSEUM
XBUILDING(S)PRIVAT	E	X_UNOCCUPIED	COMMERCIAL	PARK
STRUCTUREBOTH		WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIONAL	
SITE PUBL	IC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT	RELIGIOUS
OBJECTIN PROG	CESS	X_YES: RESTRICTED		SCIENTIFIC
BEING (CONSIDERED	YES: UNRESTRICTED	INDUSTRIAL	TRANSPORTATION
		NO	MILITARY	OTHER:
REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (# ap)	Genera	<u>l Services Adminis</u>	tration – Region	9
525 Market Street	<u>t</u>		07.475	
San Francisco		VICINITY OF	state California	
5 LOCATION OF LE	GAL DESCR	IPTION		
COURTHOUSE. REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.	Los Angeles Co	unty Courthouse		
STREET & NUMBER				
	<u>110 North Gran</u>	d Avenue		
CITY, TOWN	Los Angeles	,	state California	
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TITLE

	FEDERALSTATECOUNTYLOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR	
SURVEY RECORDS	



CONDITION		CHECK ONE		
EXCELLENT _XGOOD FAIR	DETERIORATED RUINS UNEXPOSED	UNALTERED XALTERED	XORIGINAL SITE MOVED DATE	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Vista del Arroyo Hotel is a complex consisting of one large building and 19 smaller buildings situated at the edge of a steeply sloping site overlooking the Arroyo Seco in Pasadena. The grounds, which are somewhat diminished in size from their maximum during the heyday of the hotel, are bound by South Grand Avenue on the east, the Colorado Street Bridge on the north, and by adjacent properties on the west and south. The grounds run from the top of the crest to the bottom of the arroyo with all buildings on or behind the crest. The formerly terraced and landscaped grounds, which once included tennis and badminton courts, a band box, formal gardens, and several outbuildings are overgrown. Only the swimming pool remains among the prominent landscape features.

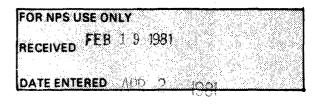
The Hotel is located at the edge of a wealthy residential district and at the western entrance to the City of Pasadena. While the hotel is situated at the crest of the arroyo to take advantage of the view, the main building in particular is designed as the object of the view seen by drivers entering Pasadena over the Colorado Street Bridge.

Because the complex grew over a period of years, its layout is not the result of a single comprehensive plan, but rather of accretion. At the top of the crest, the buildings were grouped so as to form outdoor spaces that were both sheltered from the streets and away from the vast open arroyo, qualities that are obscured by vegetation at present. Circulation throughout the grounds was by curving pathways that generally followed the contours of the land.

The main building, which dominates the site and provides a symbol for the whole group, is in two sections: a two-story steel and wood frame structure built in 1920-21, and a six-story reinforced concrete structure built in 1930-31. The buildings are joined east of the main entrance to the original building and function inside as one. Both buildings were designed in the Spanish Colonial Revival mode and are finished in beige stucco with red-tiled roofs. The larger part of the main building is in an open U-shaped plan that embraces the view of the arroyo and is oriented directly toward the Colorado Street Bridge. Its ornamental detailing is generally very simple, consisting chiefly of balconies and an arcaded ground level, but with a concentration of ornament on a high central tower that rises well above the main block of the building. This tower recalls the dome of the Pasadena City Hall and other landmarks of the Spanish Colonial Revival.

Inside the main building, the lobby consists of an arcaded passage with high vaulted ceilings, and several ornamental public spaces. The hotel's largest public space is the main dining room, which once had stenciledtimber ceilings on giant piers, none of which remains due to alterations. Upstairs, hotel rooms are placed on either side of central corridors.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM



CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7. PAGE 1.

The other buildings in the complex, referred to alternatively as cottages or bungalows, range from one-and two-story single family cottages to two-, three-, and four-story multi-unit buildings. Most are informal in design, being of wood frame construction with little or no ornamental detailing, and are concerned chiefly with their relationships to surrounding gardens or the view of the arroyo. Those along the crest especially have whole facades of open and glazed porches for the view. Those set back from the crest but not on the street include four by architect Myron Hunt, which are distinguished by bulky engaged columns that project above the roof and orginally carried lattice structures for vines. The cottages along the street are the most formal, including the Maxwell House with its ornamental entranceway and very large central stair hall.

Apart from its overgrown grounds, the Hotel is not substantially changed from its appearance in 1931. Some alterations have been made on the exteriors of buildings, including the squaring off of a rounded sun room on the ground level of the main building. These changes, mostly inside, were made by the Army in order to make the facility function as a hospital during World War II.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AR	EAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	ECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	
PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
1600-1699	X_ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION
_X1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	XOTHER (SPECIEV)
		INVENTION		Hotel

SPECIFIC DATES See attached listing on	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	See att	ached 1	isting on
pages 3 and 4.	DOIEDEN/Anonneon	pages 3	and 4 .	
		· · · · ·		

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Vista del Arroyo Hotel and Bungalows, with its large main building and 19 cottages on a dramatic landscaped site, has long been a visually prominent landmark in Pasadena, and represents in its history a major episode in Pasadena's development as a winter resort.

Positioned at the edge of a wealthy residential neighborhood and at the crest of a steeply sloped site overlooking the wide Arroyo Seco, the six-story main building towers over its setting and dominates the view from across the arroyo. The view is especially impressive from the old Colorado Street Bridge which is the western portal to Pasadena. Indeed, the best view of the hotel and bungalows is from the bridge, with the angled wings of the main tower of the hotel and the Spanish Colonial Revival stylistic details combining to produce a picturesque effect. Although no individual bungalow or structure is particularly significant architecturally, the entire complex collectively represents the resort era of Pasadena and its role in Southern California's development.

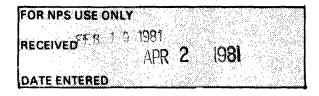
During the great age of Pasadena resort hotels in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the Vista del Arroyo was a small hotel that grew and prospered along with the local tourist industry. Pasadena's history is interlocked with the Santa Fe and Southern Pacific raillines running through town, and the ensuing boosterism of Pasadena as a beautiful and healthful resort spa. Winter-weary Easterners came in droves to enjoy the sun, fresh fruits and homey-bungalow lifestyle offered by the hotels. Generally these adventurous hotel guests were wealthy, and many visitors decided to reside permanently in Pasadena. Consequently Pasadena earned its reputation as the "Millionaires' Retreat", and benefited from the business and civic management expertise offered by these new residents. Pasadenans were generally sophisticates who demanded careful city planning, a profusion of amenities, and architecture which expressed progressive styles.

The Vista del Arroyo's most important growth periods came after the great resort age in Pasadena was on the wane, and coincided with ownership and management changes at the Vista del Arroyo in 1919, 1926 and 1936. The Vista, the Huntington and Green hotels appear to have been the only

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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10 GEOGRAP ACREAGE OF NOM UTM REFERENCES	INATED PROPERTY	A 13 acres				
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM



CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8. PAGE 1.

successful attempts at prolonging the luxuriant, carefree, hotel lifestyle of 19th century Pasadena through a world war and a depression. For many years, Pasadena's resort industry was a seasonal business which attracted visitors typically for a month at a time or for the winter season. When train travel was the dominant mode of transportation, it made no sense to come for shorter periods. But when the automobile began to take passenger traffic away from the railroads, it changed vacation patterns as well. By the 1920s most California resorts were in trouble as people tended to take shorter trips of a different kind. Although the market for hotel services was declining, Pasadena's hotel business held on a little longer than some others. The Vista del Arroyo played a particularly prominent role in the 1930s social life of Pasadena, as it was considered to be the newest of Pasadena's great resorts and a prestigious place to own a bungalow.

The Vista del Arroyo was one of many hotels in this country that saw its prime as a member of the world-famous Daniel Linnard hotel chain. Linnard's business interests in Pasadena alone were substantial. By 1917 he had acquired the Maryland, the Green and the Huntington, in addition to operating the Fairmont in San Francisco and the Samarkand in Santa Barbara. His contributions to the development of Pasadena as a resort and residential community were widely recognized. Linnard is credited with opening his hotels year-round, providing high quality entertainment throughout each season, and introducing the popular hotelbungalow idea.

The major elements of the hotel complex in its present form date from 1920-1938, although even before the turn-of-the-century the site was occupied by a resort. Mrs. Emma C. Bangs opened a boarding house in 1882 which was acclaimed to be, in 1905, the oldest establishment of its kind in the city, and considered to be particularly healthful for consumptives. Mrs. Bangs' complex consisted of a two-story wood frame hotel building around which grew up several small cottages, including a "physical culture" lodge. After her death, the hotel was purchased by Henry Fowler who operated the complex as a modest but popular family resort.

In 1919, Daniel M. Linnard bought the Vista del Arroyo and commissioned the important Southern California architects Marston & Van Pelt to

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8. PAGE 2.

significantly expand the wood frame hotel with a larger, Spanish Colonial Revival style structure. Today, the north wing appears much as it did in 1920, although the interior has been significantly altered. In 1926, Linnard sold the property to H. O. Comstock who decided, in 1930, to build a "new" hotel. George H. Wiemeyer, a little known architect in Los Angeles, designed a large, fireproof hotel building that required the demolition of the 1920 building south of the main entrance, including the central campanile. The ground floor spaces of the 1920 and 1930 buildings formed a continuous space, with the new reinforced concrete structure rising six stories, capped by a domed-belvedere tower. Several of the grand public interior spaces have retained elements of their originally elegant designs in spite of major alterations. Specifically the most interesting interiors are the arcaded lobby with its high vaulted ceiling, the ballroom (the original ceiling is covered over), the north wing with its huge fireplace, and the Spanish room, (the most intact room with its original coffered plaster ceiling and quarry tile floor.)

By 1936, Daniel Linnard had repurchased the Vista del Arroyo and had initiated expansive site improvements which were completed in 1937. Verner S. Anderson, an experienced landscape architect from Santa Barbara who was known for his designs for hotels, designed lush formal gardens, picturesque fountains and additional recreational facilities including a large pool, badminton and tennis courts. Advertising brochures from these later Linnard years featured the spectacular pool, surrounded by a dancing/ dining terrace with a magnificent stepped garden approach. The impression was colorful and grand.

In spite of the impression portrayed in the Vista's 1930s advertisements, the grand hotel's mode of operation was already anachronistic. The wealth of the visiting and residing 'millionaires' at the Vista cushioned the effect of the depression somewhat, but the slow economy eventually forced the decline of the resort hotel business. Under the World Powers Act of 1942, the U. S. Army took over the complex in that year and converted most the space for hospital use. It was unlikely that the Vista could have survived much longer as a hotel anyway.

The bungalows that were a part of the hotel complex were arranged primarily along the crest of the arroyo and along South Grand Avenue. Built between 1920 and 1938, these single family homes and multi-unit apartment buildings formed an impressive collection of designs by important Southern California architects. Most notable were the contributions of Myron Hunt (Hunt & Chambers) and Sylvanus Marston (Marston & Van Pelt; Marston, Maybury & Van Pelt), both well known for their civic and residential work in Southern California. The bungalows generally were informal in design and usually incorporated a patio in the living space. Those along South Grand Avenue were more formal, presenting a stately yet distinctly Southern California ambiance.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8. PAGE 3.

The most architecturally significant (and formal) bungalow, known as the Maxwell mansion, is at 55 South Grand Avenue. The structure, designed by Marston, Maybury & Van Pelt, is planned around a large central lounge bordered by an ornate stairway, designed to accommodate large parties. The Maxwell bungalow is particularly important today because its elegant original interior is relatively intact, unlike all of the other interiors which were modified for government use. The grand interior space depicts the bygone era of luxurious resort living.

The bungalows collectively relate in style to the Spanish Colonial Revival detailing which characterized the 1920 and 1930 main hotel building. Most have tile roofs, pastel stucco walls and simple detailing. The Spanish Colonial Revival style, introduced at the 1915 San Diego Exposition, was used by the railroads, Chambers of Commerce and hotels to suggest something of the special way of life in Southern California. The Spanish imagery of a slower, easier way of life with its romantic overtones were all part of the design for the bungalows nestled amidst luxuriant tropical vegetation.

DATE	SEE MAP-I	BUNGALOW BUILDING NAME(S)	ARCHITECT (attributed)	APT.#/DESCRIPTION OF ALTERATIONS
1920	#1	Hotel Building	Marston & Van Pelt/Foss Designing & Building Co.	
1920	#10	''C''	Marston & Van Pelt	#137-147/extend living room 1927; renovation 1936.
1920	#11	''D''	Marston & Van Pelt	#148-160
1921	#8	''A''	Myron Hunt	#161-175/extend ballroom, porch 1927; new porch 1941.
1921	#9	''B''	(Marston & Van Pelt)	#176–185
1921	#13	''E''	Myron Hunt	#186–198
1921	#14	E.,	(Myron Hunt)	#199–201/add 26' x 27' library, 1929.

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CONTINUATI	ON SHE	ET	ITEM NUMBER 8. PAGE	4.
DATE	SEE MAP-I	BUNGALOW BUILDING NAME(S)	ARCHITECT (attributed)	APT.#/DESCRIPTION OF ALTERATIONS
1921	#15	''G''	(Myron Hunt)	#202-207/add 2nd floor
1924	#3	Arroyo Vista/ ''5''	Myron Hunt	#225-245/new room, 1935
1925	#20	Stuart	Marston, Van Pelt & Maybury	#251–254
1926	#4	Hamilton/"4"	Marston & Van Pelt	#115-122/add 2nd floor balconies 1934
1928	#5	Jenks/''3''	Marston & Maybury	#123-132
1929	#16	''H''	(Myron Hunt)	#208-224
1929	#17	Maxwell House	Marston & Maybury	#95–99
1930		South Annex/''6''		Building demolished for new hotel
1930		#2		Building demolished for new hotel
1930	#1	Hotel Tower	George H. Wiemeyer/ Orndorff Construction Co.	Spanish Room (Dining Room) added 1931
1935	#18	Griffith	Marston & Maybury	#123
1935	#19	Cox	Marston & Maybury	#78-82
1937	#2	Daniels	(Hunt & Chambers)	#246-247
1937	#6	Stowell & Prost	(Hunt & Chambers)	#133–139
1937	#12	Clarks	Hunt & Chambers	#100-103
1937	#7	Hinds & Conner	Hunt & Chambers	#248-250
Pre- 1920	#21	Vista Crest		Building demolished

circa 1956

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9. PAGE

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A complete history and description of existing conditions are included in <u>Historic Structures Report</u>: <u>Vista del Arroyo</u>, <u>Pasadena</u>, <u>California</u>, prepared for General Services Administration, San Francisco, California. Prepared by Charles Hall Page & Associates, Inc., July, 1980.

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Pasadena Historical Society 470 W. Walnut Pasadena, California Form No. 10-300a (Rev. 10-74)

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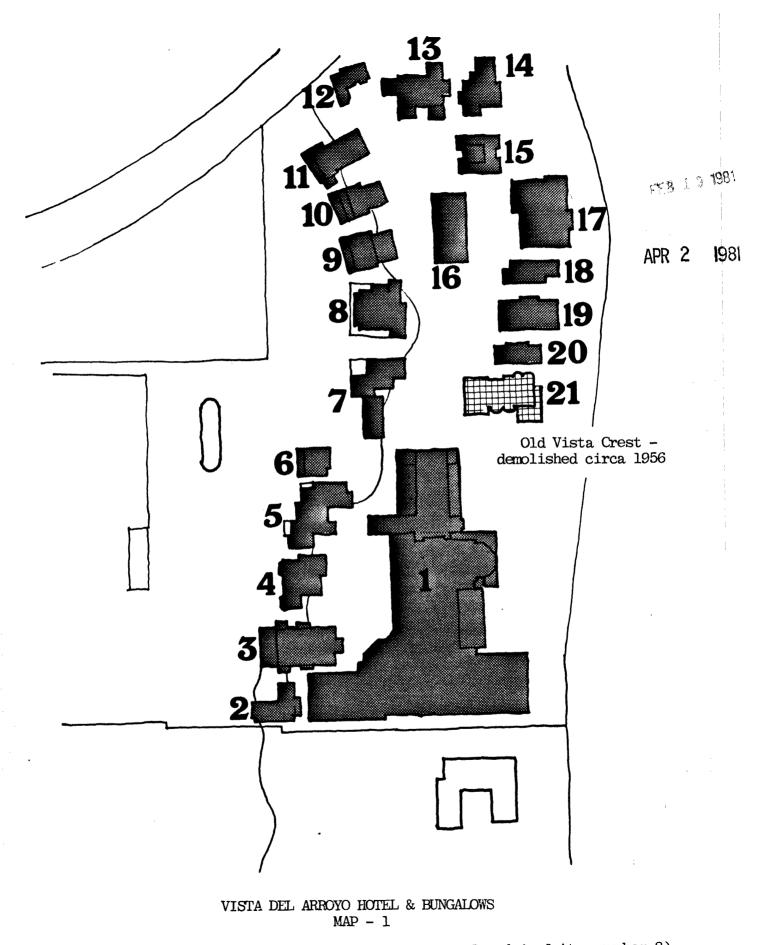
History Department Los Angeles Public Library 630 W. 5th Street Los Angeles, California 90071

Pasadena Public Library, Reference Desk & Fine Arts Room photo collections. News clipping file also has photos. Pasadena Tournament of Roses books - excellent source for advertisements and photos.

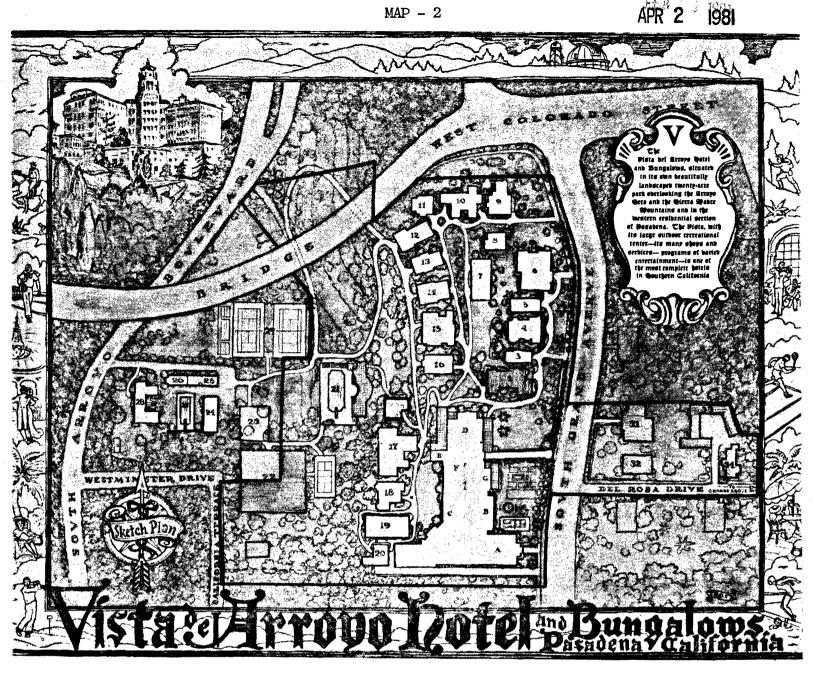
California Life magazines (collection at Pasadena Public Library). Louise M. George, editor.

Daniel Royce (son of Daniel Linnard's son-in-law, Stephen Royce) Rancho Santa Fe Inn Rancho Santa Fe, California (Has collection of Vista del Arroyo memorabilia)

Keith Marston (Sylvanus Marston's son) Pasadena, California (Has collection of photographs and original drawings of his father's work)



(Numbers correspond to listing on continuation pages 3 and 4 of item number 8).



1. Main Building D. Lounge

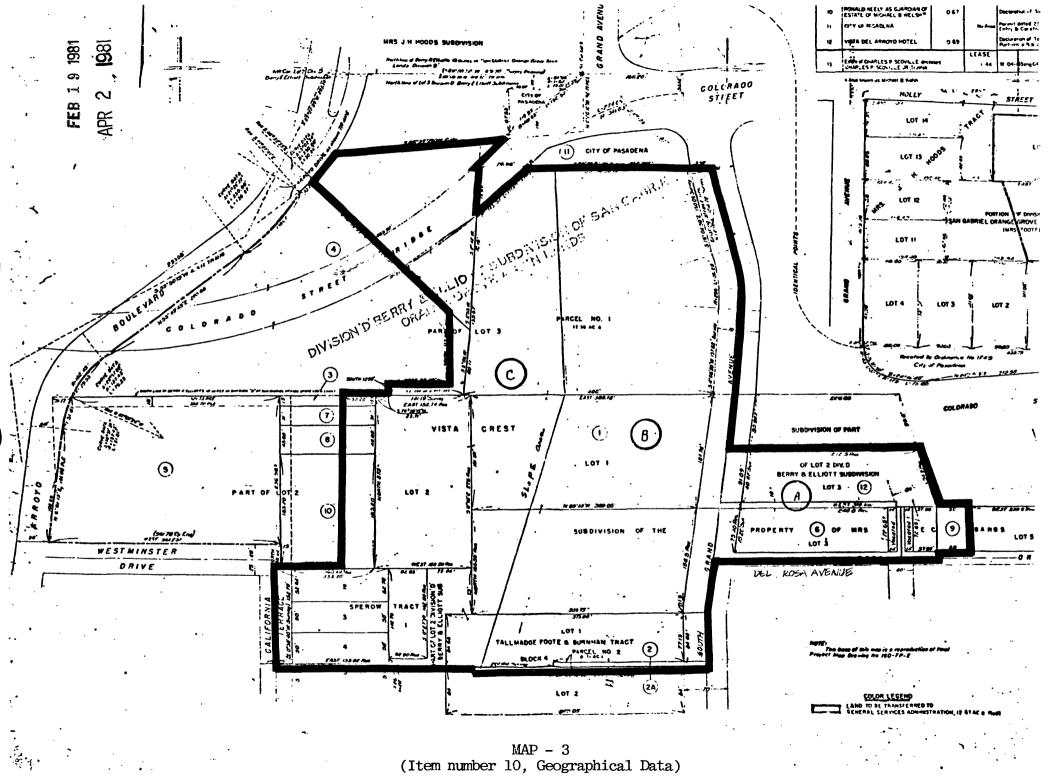
- 2. Dista Crest-62 to 77
- 3. Stuart-231 to 254
- 4. Coz-78 to 82
- 5. Griffith—123 to 125
- 6. Maxwell-95 to 99
- 7. Bungalow "H"-208 to 224
- 8. Bungalow "G"-202 to 207
- 9. Bungalow "J"-199 to 201
- 10. Bungalow "E"—186 to 196 11. Clarke—100 and 101
- 12. Bungalow "D"-148 to 160
- 13. Bungalow "C"-137 to 147

- л. BallRoom в. Spanish Room
 - g. Main Lobby
 - 14. Bungalow "B"-176 to 185
 - 13. Bungalow "A"-161 to 175
 - 16. 248 to 250
 - 17. Bungalow "3"-108 to 132
 - 18. Bungalow "4"-115 to 122
 - 19. Arroyo Dista-225 to 245
 - 20. Bungalow "3"-246 and 247
 - 21. Veretian Plunge, 33 by 83 ft., Cabanas and Dance Terrace
 - 22. Sports Pavilion- Badminton Courts-Ping Pong, etc.
 - 23. Children's Playround

om c. Dining Room e. Sunset Room F. Yorning Room and Sun Terrace

- 24. The Lodge
- 25. Pool Dressing Rooms
- 26. Cottage Apar'ment
- 27. Elassenclosed Swimming Pool, 20 by 38 ft.
- 28. Club House
- 29. Tennis Courts and Grandstand
- 30. Badminton Courts
- 31. Cast Annes-233 to 263
- 32. Kobbe House-268 to 277
- 33. Garages-11 to 47
- 34. Del Rosa-278 to 284

This map dates from around 1939 and shows the general plan of the complex. Landscaped walkways interconnected the various bungalows and hotel building. (The nominated property boundaries have been added. The bungalows and garages indicated as #21, 32, 33, and 34 along Del Rosa Drive have been demolished for parking).



MAP - 3 (Item number 10, Geographical Data)