

**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: 07000309

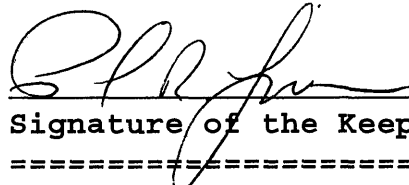
Date Listed: 4/13/2007

Glassell Park Elementary School
Property Name

Los Angeles CA
County State

N/A
Multiple Name

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.


Signature of the Keeper

4/13/07
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

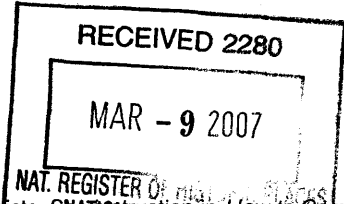
Significance:
Social History is added as an area of significance under Criterion A. [Social History reflects the school's importance as an illustration of the city's substantial efforts at promoting safe, modern educational facilities and programs during the historic period. In addition to resulting in a unique architectural type, the program was an important component of the city's development of civic infrastructure to promote the welfare of local citizens.]

Verbal Boundary Description/Justification:
The verbal boundary is amended to add: *The actual nominated area, as noted on the attached sketch map, conforms to the basic footprint of the 1924/1935 building and its immediate landscaping and excludes the non-historic (1951) cafeteria, modern prefabricated classrooms, and playground areas to the rear of the historic lot.*
The verbal boundary justification is amended to read: *The nominated boundary includes that portion of the historic school lot that retain integrity from the period of significance, while excluding non-historic and modern intrusions.*

These clarifications were confirmed with the CA SHPO office.

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 determination for individual properties and districts. Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Glassell Park Elementary School

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 2211 West Avenue 30 N/A not for publication

city or town Los Angeles N/A vicinity

state California code CA county Los Angeles code 037 zip code 90065

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 nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date 5 MAR 2007

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 for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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 4/13/2007

Glassell Park Elementary School
Name of Property

Los Angeles County, California
County/State

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

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not count previously listed resources.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing.

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register.

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Function

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/school

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/school

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Spanish Colonial Revival with 1930s P.W.A.
Modifications

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE
walls STUCCO
STEEL
roof 2 PIECE MISSION CLAY TILE
other CERAMIC TILE

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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.)

Property is:

- 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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Periods of Significance

1924
1935
1933-1935

Significant Dates

1924
1934

Significant Person(s)

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above).
N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Taylor, Edward Cray

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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
- # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:
Los Angeles Unified School District Art and Artifacts Department; The Los Angeles Conservancy.

Glassell Park Elementary School
Name of Property

Los Angeles County, California
County/State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1 acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>11</u>	<u>386200</u>	<u>3774240</u>	3	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
2	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	4	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Rebecca L. Smith, Associate Architectural Historian and Laura Gallegos, Historian

organization Galvin Preservation Associates Inc. date July 7, 2006

street & number 1611 South Pacific Coast Highway, Suite 104 telephone 310-792-2690

city or town Redondo Beach state CA zip code 90277

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Los Angeles Unified School District – David Brewer III, Superintendent of Schools

street & number 333 South Beaudry Avenue, 24th Floor telephone 213-241-7000

city or town Los Angeles state CA zip code 90017

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. 470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**Section number 7Page 1Glassell Park Elementary School
Los Angeles County, California**DESCRIPTION*****Overall Description******General***

Glassell Park Elementary School was constructed in 1924 in the Spanish Colonial Revival style and was renovated in 1934-35 in the 1930s P.W.A. Moderne style to repair minor damage following the Long Beach earthquake and to comply with new state and local building earthquake safety codes. This institutional building is located at 2211 West Avenue 30 in a residential area of northwestern Los Angeles, California. Located on the southwest corner of West Avenue 30 between Cazador and Carlyle Streets, the building is 32,270 square feet in size. The facade faces southwest onto West Avenue 30 and is 190 feet wide. The Carlyle Street elevation measures 75 feet wide and faces northwest, the Cazador Street elevation faces southeast and the rear elevation faces northeast towards a 1951 school cafeteria building, 13 prefabricated classroom buildings, the school playground and a rear parking lot. There is a mature lawn at the façade and it consists of grass, trees and shrubs. There are also mature trees and shrubs located sporadically throughout the property. A 1996 painted mural featuring images of space travel is located on a retaining wall adjacent to the sidewalk along West Avenue 30 and visible in front of the school building to the right.

The building has a full basement which houses mechanical equipment. The main entrance is accessed from West Avenue 30 and leads into the school foyer and then hallway. The building consists of an auditorium, classrooms, offices, and a library on the first floor and classrooms on the second floor.

The building is located in a residential area consisting of single-family and multi-family residences. The building sits parallel to the Los Angeles River and the Southern Pacific Railroad tracks. It is also situated within a couple of blocks of the 1930s warehouse and industrial areas of Glassell Park.

Exterior

The Glassell Park Elementary School building is two-stories and was designed with an "L" shaped floor plan. The building is 38 feet from the foundation to its tallest point. It has a steel structural system clad with smooth stucco and a concrete foundation. The building is covered by a two-piece Mission clay red tile roof which replaced the original red clay tile roof in 2002. A dormer is present on the east slope of the roof. It has a metal vent and what appears to be metal sheet siding. The building exhibits elements of both its original Spanish Colonial Revival design, which include the red tile roof, band of arched windows on the first floor of the façade and other arched windows of various sizes located on the first and second floors of all other elevations, and of its 1934 P.W.A. Moderne alterations which include its smooth stucco surface, monumental two-story piers flanking all primary entrances, and horizontal and vertical plaster moldings on the southwest, northwest and southeast elevations.

There are a total of six entrances to the building. The primary entrance is located on the façade and consists of circa 1950s metal and glass double doors and is accessed by two levels of concrete steps with the highest level being flanked by two original 1924 metal light posts. Three entrances are located on the northwest elevation, which consist of one set of circa 1950s metal and glass double doors, and two sets of original wood and multi-paned glass doors which give access to the auditorium. All three of these entrances are accessed by concrete stairs with metal handrails, and the stairs leading to the auditorium are also flanked by two original 1924 metal light posts. Entrances are also present on the southeast and northeast elevations, and consist of the same 1950s non-original metal and glass double doors concrete steps and metal handrails. Except for the two auditorium doors, all entrances lead to the main hallway of the school building. In 1934, substantial vertical piers were added to flank all primary exterior entrances, except for the rear northeastern entrance, extending from the base of the building to the roof line on both the façade and the two northwest auditorium entrance doors, and from the base of the building to the intersection of the first and second stories on all other entrances. Except for the main entry, all doorways have arched wood sash, multi-paned windows above them. The main entrance has two multi-paned windows above the doors as well as a cast iron metal letters spelling out "Glassell Park School."

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**Section number 7Page 2Glassell Park Elementary School
Los Angeles County, California

The façade consists of 24 sets of windows on the first floor and 26 sets of windows on the second floor. On both floors the continuous bands of windows are evenly spaced. The windows on the first floor are wood sash, multi-paned, double-hung windows with arched, four-light, wood sash windows above them. The windows on the second floor are wood sash, multi-paned, double-hung windows with rectangular, four light, transom windows (except for the two windows directly above the entrance which are topped by rectangular indentions in the stucco façade). The first floor windows have non-original metal security screens. Slender, arched, wood sash, multi-paned, double-hung windows are located on the second floor of the extreme north and south ends of the façade. A wood sash, multi-paned, double-hung window is located beneath each one of these windows on the first floor. There are six wood, lattice-like, basement vents located symmetrically at the base of the foundation.

The northwest elevation consists of four windows. They are located on the first floor, south end of the elevation, and consist of two wood sash, multi-paned, double-hung windows. On the second floor of the south end of the same elevation there is a band of three wood sash, multi-paned, double-hung windows and a slender, arched, wood sash, double-hung window. Four arched recessed bays are located on either side of the auditorium entryway. Non-original color murals made of ceramic tiles painted by Glassell Park students are located in each bay.

The southeast elevation has five windows on the first floor. They are wood sash, multi-paned, double-hung windows with four-light, arched, wood sash, fixed windows above them. These windows have non-original metal security screens. Above the door there is a band of three windows. These are wood sash, multi-paned, double-hung windows. West of this window is a slender, wood sash, double-hung, arched window. Above these windows there is a squared, metal, attic vent with a slender, arched, metal attic vent above it. There are two basement windows. One is a wood sash, three-over-three pane, double-hung window with an iron security screen. The second window is not visible, but has an iron security screen.

The northeast elevation has three sets of four bands of windows on the first floor. They consist of metal sash, multi-paned, double-hung windows with metal sash, four-light, fixed windows above them. There are five sets of five bands of windows on the second floor that also consist of metal sash, multi-paned, double-hung windows with metal sash, four-light, fixed windows above them. A stucco furnace vent extends from the base of the basement and extends out to the roof. North of the vent there are two wood sash, multi-paned, double-hung windows that offer light to the center staircase inside. An entry is located on the "left" of this elevation under a secondary dropped roof with an arched passageway. This entry is directly across from a separate 1951 cafeteria building which is connected to the school building by a covered walkway. Also on this elevation, is a second entry with a metal pipe handrail and concrete steps leading below grade, giving access to the building's basement.

The auditorium forms the "L" shape of the building and its north wing. The west elevation of the auditorium has a band of four wood sash, multi-paned, double-hung windows. A wood sash, multi-paned, double-hung window is located on either end of the band of windows with vents above them. All windows have iron security screens. There are two entrances to the auditorium located on the north wall. Both doors are metal with wood sash, multi-paned, arched windows above them. Four arched concave bays are located to the "left" of these doors which are accessed by concrete steps and metal handrails.

Interior

The interior of the nominated building was altered in the 1950s. Some doors were replaced, along with the hallway flooring and most interior windows.

The first floor hallway is accessed through a door on the northeast elevation, a set of double doors on the northwest and southeast elevation, and two sets of double doors on the southwest façade. The second floor hallway is accessed through three concrete staircases, one on the north and south end of the building, and one in the center of the building. Each staircase has a wood hand rail and a balustrade with a wood handrail that has small and flat wood blocks symmetrically spaced on top for safety. The walls of both hallways have metal and glass framed corkboards and consist of several metal doors with slender glass windows that lead into classrooms

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**Section number 7Page 3Glassell Park Elementary School
Los Angeles County, California

on both floors and the main offices and the library on the first floor. The first and second floor hallways have dropped ceilings with 8" by 8" acoustic tiles and centered fluorescent lights. The hallway floor consists of polished 8" by 8" composition tiles.

The classrooms on both the first and second floors are similar in appearance and size. They consist of green chalkboards and corkboards. They have dropped ceilings made-up of acoustic tiles with recessed rectangular light fixtures. Some of these were installed in the 1950s while others were replaced more recently. The floors are the original 1924 hardwood. There are a couple of rooms which have been carpeted. Some rooms have sinks and water fountains.

The library is located on the first floor toward the north end of the building. The room appears to be a general classroom converted into a library room with wooden bookshelves placed inside as well as computer areas. The room retains its original wooden floors and wooden storage cabinets. The room has a dropped acoustic tile ceiling with recessed fluorescent lights.

The main administrative offices for the school are located on the first floor toward the south end of the building. There is a central main office and four smaller office rooms (2 on each side) located off of this room. The rooms have either the 8" by 8" composition tile or are carpeted. The rooms also retain the original wooden storage cabinets and have dropped acoustic ceilings with recessed fluorescent lights.

The auditorium is located on the first floor at the northwest elevation of the building. It has roughly 20 foot ceilings that consist of acoustic tiles and the original 1924 wooden floor. The original stage is present on the east end of the room. It has an original wooden door to the north of it and two wood steps leading to the door. Non-original fold-up lunch tables and benches are attached to the south and north walls of the auditorium.

The Building and the Character Defining Features of the 1930s P.W.A. Moderne Style as created by the Los Angeles Unified School District from 1933-35

The Glassell Park Elementary school building was originally designed in the Spanish Colonial Revival style, and completed in 1924. In 1934-35, the school was significantly altered to take on the 1930s P.W.A. Moderne style. This style was popular in the United States during the 1930s under Franklin D. Roosevelt's "New Deal" administration. The style tended to be a mix of classicism, Art Deco and streamlined Moderne. The Los Angeles Unified School District employed local architects to alter existing school buildings from 1933 to 1935 in the P.W.A. Moderne style to adhere to new state and local earthquake safety laws, creating a building style for Los Angeles schools. This new building style consisted of altered buildings which appeared modern but, in many cases, still retained recognizable features of their original architectural style. To modernize the schools, architects stripped the school buildings of any structural protrusions such as gables, firewalls and parapets. Masonry was taken off and replaced by smooth stucco. Roofs were made low-pitched or flattened. Plaster elements were removed and replaced by more modern materials. In addition, decorative elements were added to the exterior of the buildings to create a more Art Deco or Moderne appearance. Some of these included vertical piers, horizontal and/or vertical plaster moldings and rounded corners. This was true of Glassell Park Elementary School. When first constructed, the building had three intersecting gables on the west slope of the roof; one was on both the north and south ends of the building and the third was in the center over the primary entrance. These gables were removed in 1934-35. The brick veneer of the building was removed and replaced with a smooth stucco surface. Steel structural supports were added to the building along with decorative monumental vertical piers to flank each entrance. Also, some horizontal and vertical plaster moldings were added on three exterior walls.

The most distinctive character defining features of this architectural style found on the Glassell Park Elementary school building are monumental vertical piers flanking each primary entrance, metal framed windows, low-relief decorative horizontal and vertical plaster moldings and a smooth stucco exterior. However, the building still retains features of its original architectural style. These include its red clay tile roof, row of arched windows on the façade and various other arched windows throughout the building's exterior.

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**Section number 8 Page 4 Glassell Park Elementary School
Los Angeles County, California***Integrity Statement***

The Glassell Park Elementary School building was evaluated against the seven aspects of integrity as outlined in National Register of Historic Places Bulletin 15. The seven aspects of integrity include location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

This school building retains its original location. It has not been moved.

The building was completed in 1924 as the elementary school for the Glassell Park area. It was constructed on West Avenue 30. When the school was initially constructed, its surrounding area was mainly 1910 to 1920s residential buildings with the Los Angeles River and the Pacific Electric Railway (today the Southern Pacific Railroad) a couple of blocks to the south. Since the time of construction, many additional single-family and multi-family residences have been built around the school (many from the 1940s and '50s) and in the 1930s an industrial district was formed close to the railroad and river bank. These periods of growth have caused the area surrounding the school to become much denser and more urban. Therefore, the setting, feel and association has somewhat changed since the time of construction.

The design, material and workmanship of the nominated building has remained highly intact since its alterations in 1934-35. The exterior features such as the smooth stucco, red clay tile roof, decorative vertical piers and moldings, and windows are examples of the many significant architectural elements that have remained intact. Also, the original metal light post fixtures which flank the primary and auditorium entrances are still intact. Although the interior was renovated in the 1950s, it has retained a high level of integrity and retained its original configuration. The classrooms all retain their original wood floors and wood storage units. Several original light fixtures are located throughout the building. The stairwells all contain their original wood handrails. The auditorium has retained its original stage, wood floors and wood doors. Other modifications include the removal of the cafeteria from the building in 1951 when a separate building was built to serve in that capacity and classrooms were put in its place. And the addition of ceramic tiles to the northwest elevation's arched indentions.

In summary, the Glassell Park Elementary school building maintains good to excellent integrity.

Condition Statement

The building is currently being occupied and maintained. The exterior stucco has been well maintained and was repainted in circa 2004. The interior is also well maintained. The overall condition of the Glassell Park Elementary School building is excellent.

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**Section number 8Page 5Glassell Park Elementary School
Los Angeles County, California**SIGNIFICANCE*****Summary***

The Glassell Park Elementary School building is a significant historic property in the neighborhood of Glassell Park and it meets Criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places at the local level of significance. The Glassell Park Elementary School building is eligible under Criteria A because of its association with the Reconstruction Program of the Los Angeles City Schools from 1933-35. The Glassell Park Elementary School building is also eligible under Criteria C because it is one of the best examples of a 1930s rehabilitated Los Angeles school building exhibiting features of both its time of construction and of 1930s earthquake safety alterations, and is the work of regionally prominent master architect, Edward Cray Taylor of Beverly Hills, California. The Glassell Park Elementary School building was built in 1924, and is a product of the dissemination of philosophies and aesthetics of school building safety and design on a local level after the Long Beach earthquake in 1933, and is an exceptional example of the work of a regionally prominent master architect, clearly demonstrating two distinct eras of his work. Contextually it relates to the influence of California's Field Act and the Los Angeles Reconstruction Program on all Los Angeles Unified School District buildings from 1933 to 1935.

Historic Context

The Glassell Park Elementary School building was completed in 1924 to serve as the primary elementary school for the Glassell Park area in Northeast Los Angeles, California. Glassell Park is a 4.2 square-mile neighborhood located six miles from downtown Los Angeles, and is bordered by Atwater Village and Silver Lake on the west, the City of Glendale on the northeast, Echo Park on the southwest, Cypress Park on the southeast, Mount Washington on the east, and Eagle Rock on the northeast. Glassell Park is one of Los Angeles' older neighborhoods, having been developed in the late nineteenth century along the Pacific Electric Railway track that formally ran in the median of Eagle Rock Boulevard and the adjoining hills.

Glassell Park was named after Andrew Glassell (1827-1901) who had relocated to California from Virginia in 1865 after refusing to pledge his loyalty to the Union during the Civil War. After arriving in Los Angeles, he formed a law partnership with Alfred Chapman and Colonel George H. Smith and was named the first President of the Los Angeles Bar Association. Their law practice was confined chiefly to real estate transactions and they made their fortunes by being retained in the large partition suits. They would take their compensation in land, which many times allotted Glassell and Chapman quite a large amount of acreage. One such settlement afforded Chapman and Glassell with a few thousand acres of land on which Glassell and his younger brother, William, founded the City of Orange, California in 1872. Andrew Glassell was one of the incorporators of the Farmers and Merchants' Bank. He also incorporated the Los Angeles and San Pedro Railroad, and was prominent in its management until it was absorbed by the Southern Pacific Railroad. When this transfer was made he became chief counsel of the railroad company in Southern California.¹

Although Glassell had obtained quite a bit of land by the late nineteenth century, he choose to build a stately Victorian-era home for his family in 1889 on the land he purchased from the Rancho San Rafael tract. This land tract had been created in 1784 when José Maria Verdugo, a corporal in the Spanish Army, received a land grant from Governor Pedro Fages to settle what he called the Rancho San Rafael. The tract was 36,403 acres in size, including much of Northeast Los Angeles. After Glassell's death in 1901, the Glassell family began selling off some of their property to the Gilchrist Investment Company who began creating subdivisions in the area. Around 1907, one of the first housing tracts created was called the Torthorwald Tract and it was located between what is now Verdugo and San Fernando Roads. Lots ranged in price from \$500 and \$1,350. *Los Angeles Times* newspaper clippings contain advertisements for Glassell Park tracts on a regular basis throughout the early 1900s, which also illustrated how fast existing tracts were developing to entice buyers.

¹ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andrew_Glassell

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**Section number 8Page 6Glassell Park Elementary School
Los Angeles County, California

The first elementary school building to serve the growing and prospering Glassell Park community was built in 1912. It was a wood framed one-story schoolhouse called Washington Park School. This building was one of many schools being erected by the Los Angeles Unified School District between 1900 and 1920 to accommodate the rapid expansion of the district and Los Angeles's consistently growing population. Wood frame construction was typical of the school buildings being constructed until 1916. In that year, the Advisory Committee report to the Board of Education outlined the fire dangers of frame construction and promoted masonry construction as the preferred method of construction for the school district.

By the early 1920s, it was becoming apparent that the Washington Park School was no longer adequate in size for the community, now officially named Glassell Park. In 1924, a two-story brick Spanish Colonial Revival schoolhouse replaced the Washington Park School and it was renamed Glassell Park Elementary School. The construction of this building was announced in a *Los Angeles Times* article in 1923, which discussed an extensive development program "of considerable magnitude" being initiated by the Los Angeles City Board of Education to build fifty new elementary schools, three junior high schools and four new high schools. The article stated that, "The Glassell Park elementary school site is on San Fernando Boulevard and Verdugo Road. It will cost \$140,000. Edward Cray Taylor is the architect."²

Edward Cray Taylor (1893-1946) was a prominent Los Angeles architect, trained at Columbia University's School of Architecture. He worked closely with his brother, Ellis Wing Taylor, who served as structural engineer on many of his projects. Edward Cray Taylor's career began in the Los Angeles area immediately upon graduation. By 1914, Taylor was receiving recognition in the *Los Angeles Times* for his large scale projects. Early in his career Taylor seemed to specialize in designing multiple unit apartment housing of masonry construction, usually in the Spanish Colonial Revival style. He continued to design these large residences throughout his career and also designed private residences in such elite neighborhoods as Hancock Park. By 1917, Taylor was receiving commissions such as film plants for the motion picture industry, retail shopping centers and churches. And by 1920, he was designing large industrial plants. A few of Taylor's most well-know buildings include: the Vegetable Oil Products Company building in Wilmington, the N. Julian hotel and retail store building at the Los Angeles Harbor, the Wolfer Printing Company Building in Los Angeles, the Masons of Yuma, Arizona building, the Alta Loma Sanatorium and the Douglas Aircraft Company plant buildings in Santa Monica.

Taylor also designed various schools throughout the Los Angeles area including the Hoover Avenue School in 1925, the Southgate Home and Gardens School in 1929, the Berendo Middle School in 1936, the West Vernon Avenue School in 1936 and he built the auditorium and arcade for the Horace Mann School in Beverly Hills in 1937. Glassell Park Elementary School appears to be one of the first, if not the first, schools designed by Taylor. The Spanish Colonial Revival style of the building was very reminiscent of the apartment housing Taylor had been designing since 1914 and the masonry construction was a perfect fit for the Los Angeles Unified School District's ideas on fire safety for school buildings at the time. At that time, masonry's vulnerability to earthquakes was not a consideration as the risk had not yet been recognized.

In 1925, the Santa Barbara earthquake hit and California adopted building codes recognizing earthquake hazards. Two years later, the City of Los Angeles revised its City Building Ordinance and adopted additional requirements for schoolhouse construction. Accordingly, the district implemented the required construction improvements and techniques in its schools built after 1927. Improvements included fire resistant corridors, stairs and exterior walls, and reinforced concrete beams within the floors and roofs. Schools built with these features proved more resilient during one of the most devastating earthquakes in Los Angeles' history, the Long Beach earthquake of March 1933.

The Long Beach earthquake caused significant loses to the Los Angeles Unified School District and made evident the structural inadequacies of many of its buildings. According to a report prepared in 1935 by the Board of Education entitled "The Reconstruction Program of the Los Angeles City Schools: 1933-1935 (Inclusive)," of the

² *Los Angeles Times*. "Millions Will Be Spent in Coming Months for Attractive Additions to School System." April 29, 1923: pg. V14.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

Section number 8Page 7Glassell Park Elementary School
Los Angeles County, California

1,691 buildings on 395 campuses, 40 masonry buildings were so damaged that they required condemnation and demolition. Following a preliminary survey of the schools by structural engineers within ten days of the earthquake, all damaged or "precariously placed" chimneys, parapets, fire walls and ornamentation were removed. The district planned and implemented a phased school building reconstruction program immediately following the earthquake. The district already possessed \$5.3 million in unsold bonds that had been recently voted for school building purposes. The federal Public Works Administration (P.W.A.) purchased the bonds in response to the earthquake and granted additional matching funds of up to thirty percent of money raised by the district for construction. The district set aside other funds as they became available, and a total of \$12.1 million was ultimately raised for the 1933-35 reconstruction program. Approximately \$250,000 of this sum was immediately used to create temporary classroom housing for displaced students in order to minimize the interruption of the school year. An estimated 879 tents and 139 bungalows were initially erected to house the district's 300,000 students.³ The Los Angeles City Board of Education also instituted earthquake drills on a regular basis and created publicity stills to promote public relations with the Los Angeles community by photographing children participating in the drills, watching soil tests and learning about cement drilling and lab testing.

In 1933, California passed the Field Act in response to public outcry over the vulnerability of school buildings to earthquake-related damage. The Act directed the State Division of Architecture to develop and enforce regulations to ensure earthquake resistant buildings; this led to State oversight of school construction activities through establishment of a building code and construction inspection for schools. The City of Los Angeles Board of Education further decreed that elementary school buildings were not to exceed one-story in height and high school buildings were to be limited to two-stories. Rehabilitation of schools was undertaken where economically feasible; rehabilitation methods typically included the installation of reinforcing steel columns, beams and diagonal bracing, exterior refacing with reinforced gunite, and the installation of reinforced concrete walls. New buildings similarly incorporated recent construction advances and prominently featured the use of structural steel and reinforced concrete. On sites where soil load-bearing properties were found to be low, demolished schools were replaced with earthquake-resistant wood frame buildings.⁴

Los Angeles architects were also extremely concerned about the safety of school buildings they and others had designed. One week after the earthquake, architect Frank D. Hudson, who designed the much damaged Seventy-ninth Street Elementary School, began speaking publicly to push for the rehabilitation of all school buildings. As quoted in the *Los Angeles Times*, "[Hudson] emphasized the failure of ordinary brick and frame construction and urged, as a safety measure, a new standard of building by the Los Angeles Board of Education."⁵ As part of the Rehabilitation Program, the City of Los Angeles Board of Education hired many of the most experienced and prominent architects in Southern California to reconstruct and rehabilitate all of the schools throughout the district. Some of the most recognizable were John C. Austin, Myron Hurit, Gene Verge, Walker and Eisen, George M. Lindsey, and Edward Cray Taylor.

By the time the Los Angeles City Board of Education rehired Taylor in 1933, he had transitioned from designing buildings in revival styles into designing buildings in the Modern style. His designs were being called some of the most "modern of their day" and many were of reinforced concrete construction. The design for the Alta Loma Sanatorium building was even touted as being of "a unique futuristic motif" design.⁶ This new era in Taylor's work worked well with the design philosophies being implemented by the state and Los Angeles Unified School District. According to an announcement in April of 1934 in the *Los Angeles Times*, "Funds received...will give safe and modern school housing for some 15,000 school children now in temporary housing, according to Vierling Kersey, head of the State Department of Education." The article went on to state that, "Eleven architectural concerns in the Los Angeles area are drawing the plans for the buildings."⁷

³ Heumann, Leslie. *Preliminary Historic Resources Survey of the Los Angeles Unified School District*. June 2002: pg. 9.

⁴ *Ibid.* pg. 10.

⁵ *Los Angeles Times*, "Building Type Change Urged." March 17, 1933: pg. A2.

⁶ *Los Angeles Times*, "Sanatorium Planned for Alta Loma." June 5, 1932: pg. 18.

⁷ *Los Angeles Times*, "Rebuilding of fifty Damaged Schools to Start Soon." April 16, 1934: pg. A3.

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**Section number 8Page 8Glassell Park Elementary School
Los Angeles County, California

Taylor was commissioned to reconstruct the Glassell Park Elementary School building in 1934 at an estimated cost of \$50,400. The building had suffered minor damage during the earthquake, such as destroyed masonry sections and cracked plaster. Adhering to new state and local laws for earthquake safety in building design, and drawing from his own ideas of modern architecture, Taylor reconstructed the elementary school to resemble a newly designed 1930s P.W.A. style public building. This style was popular in the United States during the 1930s under Franklin D. Roosevelt's "New Deal" administration. The Public Works Administration (P.W.A.) provided construction jobs involving government and public buildings. More than any other New Deal program, the P.W.A. encouraged the most economic growth during the Great Depression. Between July 1933 and March 1939, the P.W.A. funded and administered the construction of more than 34,000 projects. This style tended to be a combination of Art Deco proper, which stylized classical forms into straight lines, zigzags, and vertical accents, and the Streamline Moderne style, which emphasized round shapes and horizontal accents.⁸ The Los Angeles Unified School District encouraged their employed architects to alter existing school buildings from 1933 to 1935 in the P.W.A. Moderne style to adhere to new state and local earthquake safety laws, creating a new building style for Los Angeles schools. Many of the architects hired were already working in the modern styles of the era. Most reconstructed schools exhibited not only P.W.A. Moderne, but also a mix of classicism and Art Deco.⁹ This new building style consisted of altered buildings which appeared modern, but in many cases still retained recognizable features of their original architectural style. To modernize the schools, architects stripped the school buildings of any structural protrusions such as gables, firewalls and parapets. The removal or abrasion of exterior brick or masonry surfaces, and application of gunite was required. Roofs were made low-pitched or flattened, and foundations were strengthened. Also, decorative elements were added to the exterior of the buildings to create a more Deco or Moderne appearance. Some of these included vertical pilasters, horizontal and/or vertical moldings, and rounded corners.

Glassell Park Elementary School is an excellent example of this building style created by the Los Angeles Unified School District. When first constructed, the building had three intersecting gables on the west slope of the roof; one was on both the north and south ends of the building and the third was in the center. In 1934-35, Taylor removed these gables and leveled out the roof, although he put back the original clay tile roof. He also removed the brick veneer of the building and replaced it with a stucco surface in a smooth finish. Taylor also added monumental two-story piers designed in the P.W.A. Moderne style to flank the main entrance. One-story piers were added to flank the auditorium entrance and the northwestern and southeastern elevation entrances. He also added horizontal and vertical plaster moldings on the southwest, northwest and southeast elevations. The only remaining elements visible of the building's Spanish Colonial Revival original design were its clay tile roof, row of arched windows on the first floor of the façade and various arched windows throughout the building's exterior. It is not documented whether it was a lack of budget funds to also replace the roof in a more appropriate modern style or if it was Taylor's intent to keep a few elements of his original design in tact. However, the end result was a beautifully designed building clearly exhibiting two eras of work from a regionally prominent master architect while also modernizing the elementary school during the period of the 1930s Los Angeles School Rehabilitation Program. And due to these alterations, Glassell Park Elementary School became a product of two distinct eras in school building philosophy.

Throughout the years 1934-36, the *Los Angeles Times* announced the various schools which were to be either repaired or completely rebuilt under the rehabilitation program (roughly 400 in total). Of the schools named for repairs and modern alterations, Glassell Park Elementary School was one of the first listed in the *LA Times* to be repaired and appears to be one of the few surviving examples which clearly demonstrates the efforts and philosophies of the Los Angeles Unified School District to modernize and make safe existing schools after the Long Beach earthquake. Many other schools of this era have either been demolished or have been significantly altered. Glassell Park Elementary School has remained intact since its 1934-35 alterations and is in excellent condition. Also, Glassell Park Elementary School appears to be one of the few, if not the only surviving school

⁸ Gowans, Alan. *Styles and Types of North American Architecture: Social Function and Cultural Expression*. HarperCollins Publishers: New York, New York. 1992.

⁹ Gebhard, David and Winter, Robert. *Architecture in Los Angeles and Southern California*. Santa Barbara and Salt Lake City: Peregrine Smith, Inc. 1977.

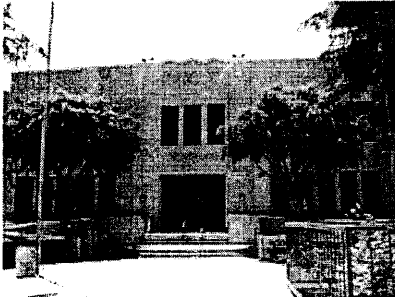
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

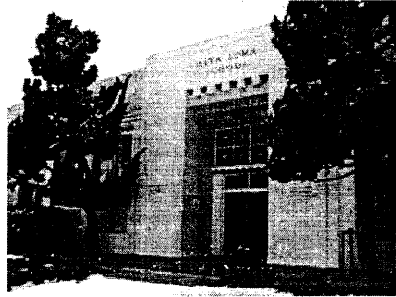
Section number 8Page 9Glassell Park Elementary School
Los Angeles County, California

building, which was originally designed and altered by the same architect. And when comparing Glassell Park Elementary School to other schools of the same era, it appears to be one of the few school buildings which clearly portrays the two distinct eras of its construction.

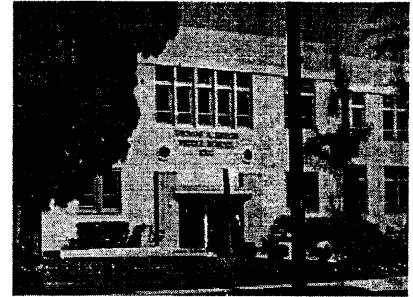
Below are three examples of Los Angeles schools which were also altered in the mid-1930s under the reconstruction program:



Bell High School
4328 Bell Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90201
Altering Architects: Train & Cressey
(Photographs taken June 14, 2006 by Rebecca L. Smith)



Alta Loma School
1745 Vineyard Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90019
Altering Architect: E.T. Heltschmidt



Thomas A. Edison Middle School
6500 Hooper Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90001
Altering Architects: Walker & Eisen

All three of these schools were among the first schools to be repaired after the Long Beach earthquake at the same time Glassell Park Elementary School was being repaired. All masonry materials on these buildings were removed, their exteriors were reclad in smooth stucco and reinforced steel supports were added to the foundations and roots of the buildings. Also, any parapets or firewalls were removed. As with the Glassell Park Elementary School building, P.W.A. Moderne decorative elements were added to these buildings such as vertical piers flanking the entrances and horizontal decorative moldings along the exterior walls.

Conclusion

Glassell Park Elementary School is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A because of its association with the Reconstruction Program of the Los Angeles City Schools from 1933-35. After the devastation of the 1933 Long Beach earthquake, some 400 schools were "transformed" by Southern California architects into what the State of California and Los Angeles Unified School District considered to be safe and modern school buildings that adhered to new earthquake safety laws. To create safer buildings, any protruding architectural features (such as gables, parapets and firewalls) were removed, and the P.W.A. Moderne style was incorporated. This clean and streamlined style fit in perfectly with this new initiative and was a perfect collaboration between the Public Works Administration (P.W.A.), which had purchased the bonds in response to the earthquake and granted additional matching funds of up to thirty percent of money raised by the district for construction, architects who were favoring the modern architecture of the 1930s, and the Los Angeles Unified School District who had to create safe building style for all students.

Schools such as Glassell Park Elementary School, helped to create a new architectural style, which was the result of a large and important movement of school building design happening throughout Southern California. The earthquake safety alterations by Edward Cray Taylor on Glassell Park Elementary School created a new architectural style for the building, which made it a part of this large movement. This initiative in school building philosophy, to create earthquake safe school buildings, has impacted all existing schools in the Los Angeles Unified School District built prior to, during and after the 1930s, and has become extremely important to all school building design within the state of California since earthquakes are one of the state's most devastating natural disasters.

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**Section number 8Page 10Glassell Park Elementary School
Los Angeles County, California

Glassell Park Elementary School is also eligible for the Nation Register of Historic Places under Criteria C as an exceptional example of a new building style created by the Los Angeles Unified School District from 1933-35. After the Long Beach earthquake and concerns were raised over school building safety, local architects were hired to repair or reconstruct all existing school buildings during the mid-1930s. School buildings designed in various styles, such as the popular Spanish Colonial Revival style, were transformed into P.W.A. Moderne style buildings to comply with state and local earthquake building safety laws. The character defining features of this style include; vertical piers flanking entrances, smooth stucco walls, low-pitched or flattened roofs, steel structural supports, concrete foundations, and horizontal and /or vertical plaster moldings. This style is widely visible throughout the Los Angeles school system on early to mid-twentieth century school buildings still in use. However, many of the schools have been significantly altered. These buildings illustrate the impact of earthquake safety design on Los Angeles school buildings which began with the 1925 Long Beach earthquake and escalated with the 1933 Long Beach earthquake to create a new, safe and modern style of school building. Glassell Park Elementary School is unique because it was both originally designed and altered by the same regionally prominent master architect, Edward Cray Taylor, who was extremely sensitive to the school's overall design during both periods of its construction. It stands today as one of the finest extant examples of the school building style created by the Los Angeles Unified School District during the 1930s, retaining the character defining features of this style.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Glassell Park Elementary School
Los Angeles County, California

Section number 9 Page 11

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**Glassell Park Elementary School
Los Angeles County, CaliforniaSection number 10 Page 12

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

This building stands at 2211 West Avenue 30 on a parcel bounded by West Avenue 30, Carlyle Street and Cazador Street in Los Angeles, California. Its parcel is comprised of lots 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20 of the R. Ralph Rogers Company's Hunter Heights Tract. It is situated at a southwest axis and stands on a one acre parcel within the APN 5456-013-900. The building is two-stories and is 190 feet at the southwest facing West Avenue 30 elevation and 75 feet at the northwest facing Cazador Street elevation. The building reaches 38 feet at its highest point and is 32,270 square feet in size. There is a covered walkway attached to a 1951 one-story cafeteria building (not included in the building's boundaries) located on the northeast rear elevation of the building. There are concrete pedestrian pathways and low rising stairs leading from the southwest and northwest elevations to the public sidewalk. There are concrete paved areas for playground activities and pedestrian pathways located to the northeast and southeast of the building. Mature shrubs and trees are located at the southwest, southeast and northwest elevations of the building.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The property's historic and current boundaries are the same.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Glassell Park Elementary School
Los Angeles County, California

Section number Photographs Page 13

PHOTOGRAPH LOG

The following information pertains to photograph number 1:

Photographer: Unknown
Date of Photographs: Circa 1934
Negatives Location: Los Angeles Unified School District Art & Archives Department
1330 West Pico
Los Angeles, CA 90015

1 Façade of Glassell Park Elementary School building facing northwest.

The following information pertains to photograph numbers 2-16:

Photographer: Stephen Schafer
Date of Photographs: July 19, 2006
Negatives Location: Schaf Photo Studios
1790 E. Main Street
Midtown Ventura, CA

2 Façade of Glassell Park Elementary School building facing north.

3 "Left" side of façade facing northwest.

4 "Right" side of facade facing northeast.

5 "Center" of facade facing northeast.

6 Detail of façade monumental piers facing northwest.

7 "Right" side of northwest elevation facing northeast.

8 "Center" section of northwest elevation facing southeast.

9 "Left" section of northwest elevation facing north.

10 Rear of auditorium section and of school building facing southwest.

11 "Left" side of rear elevation of school building facing southeast.

12 Rear elevation of school building and "right" side of northeast elevation facing southwest.

13 Second floor hallway (typical) of school building facing southeast.

14 Second floor classroom (typical) facing northeast.

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

Glassell Park Elementary School
Los Angeles County, California

Section number Photographs Page 14

15 Northwest stairwell (typical) facing southwest.

16 Auditorium facing north.



Aerial View of Glassell Park Elementary School

Courtesy of www.terraserver.microsoft.com (3/29/2004)

Location: 2211 W. Avenue 30, Los Angeles, California 90065