

PH0507741

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED NOV 18 1977	RECEIVED AUG 29 1977 State's Stamp
DATE ENTERED MAY 10 1978	

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

STIMSON HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

2421 South Figueroa Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Los Angeles

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

25

STATE

California

VICINITY OF

CODE

06

COUNTY

Los Angeles

CODE

037

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

**PRESENT USE**

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondolet

STREET & NUMBER

11999 Chalon Road

CITY, TOWN

Los Angeles

STATE

California

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Los Angeles County Hall of Records

STREET & NUMBER

320 West Temple Street

CITY, TOWN

Los Angeles

STATE

California 90012

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Historic Resources Inventory

DATE

June 1974

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Office of Historic Preservation P.O. Box 2390

CITY, TOWN

Sacramento

STATE

California

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Stimson House is a three-story structure with basement built of sandstone with a four-story octagonal tower dominating its northeast corner. The residence was designed by noted Los Angeles architect Carroll H. Brown and was built by E.D. Elliott in 1891.

The exterior features of the house include rough cut Arizona sandstone, a porte cochere, a porch supported by carved stone columns, stepped gables with decorative stonework, a number of different balconies, and arched window openings with sash windows. The irregularly-shaped shingled roof consists of a combination of pitched, hipped, and mansard designs, and has roof dormers, several prominent chimneys with decorative stonework, and the octagonal tower with castellated parapet. The design, however eclectic, is a pleasing and unique blend of Richardson Romanesque and Victorian Gothic.

The interior of the residence is finished in a variety of different woods including ash, birch, sycamore, mahogany, walnut and oak. Each of the rooms on the main floor is finished in a different wood and several of the doors are panelled on either side with wood to match the room. The interior is just as impressive as the exterior, for it is a remarkable example of craftsmanship and art.

Alterations to the exterior of the house have been minor, consisting primarily in the removal of a decorative parapet from the roofline. The interior has been remodeled to better suit its religious usage, but its most important features are still clearly evident.

In the rear of the property is a carriage house consisting of a two-story structure built of brick and stone. Its exterior features include segmental window and door openings with radiating stonework, flat window openings with stone lintels and sills, decorative stone quoins, and a shingled hipped roof with center gable. Alterations to this structure consist of the removal of both a second-story balcony and a wooden spire.

The Stimson House is set in a fenced-in lot of approximately one acre. The immediate area is comprised of both commercial and residential structures, and although it is densely populated, the large lot tends to isolate the house and to suggest the original "estate" property features of this Los Angeles subdivision in its more elegant era.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1891

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Carroll A. Brown

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Thomas Douglas Stimson, a wealthy industrialist, lumberman, and financier, settled in Los Angeles in 1890 and built his home the following year. The original cost of the structure was \$130,000 which made it by far the most expensive residence constructed in Los Angeles to that time.

Stimson was the epitomy of the self-made man of the nineteenth century. Leaving his New York home at the age of fourteen, he later founded a general merchandise store in a small Michigan town and developed this into an extensive lumber empire. After many years as a leading Chicago businessman, Stimson moved to Southern California to retire in a more healthy environment. He immediately established himself as one of the leading citizens of Los Angeles, being responsible for the erection of several business blocks, becoming vice president of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, and was a philanthropist involved in many social welfare and educational charities. He died in 1898.

The residence that Stimson built on Figueroa Street is recognized by Southern California architectural historians as a significant structure representative of a style of architecture that developed in the United States during the thirty year period following the end of the Civil War. The Stimson House is an excellent example of Richardson Romanesque, with block stone and arched structural openings, and has strong Victorian Gothic details which include its turret tower, stepped gables, and interesting ornamental details. It is the best remaining work of the Los Angeles architect Carroll H. Brown, who was only twenty-seven when the structure was built.

Today the Stimson House is architecturally unique in Los Angeles. Nearly every commercial and residential structure representative of the "Brown Decades" style of architecture in Southern California has been destroyed or grossly altered. The Stimson House was and still is the best example of this period of American architecture in Los Angeles. Its architectural singularity and association with an important Los Angeles family serve to make it one of the most significant structures in the Los Angeles area.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Assessment Records of Los Angeles County, 1900-1951. Los Angeles County Archives.

Los Angeles Times, August 2, 1891, p. 2; October 21, 1892, Annual Midwinter Number, p. 20; January 1, 1898, p. 24; October 18, 1948.

Los Angeles Daily Journal, August 3, 1891, p. 3.

(cont.)

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1

UTM REFERENCES

A	<u>11</u>	<u>38,230,0</u>	<u>376,600,0</u>	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Stimson House property begins at a point 406.26 feet north from the northwest corner of Adams Street and Figueroa Street, and extends 145.95 feet northward, 369.41 feet westward, 145.95 feet southward, and 369.41 feet eastward to the original point.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Tom Sitton & Roger Hatheway

ORGANIZATION

Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History

DATE

August 26, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

900 Exposition Blvd.

TELEPHONE

(213) 746-0410 x241

CITY OR TOWN

Los Angeles

STATE

California

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL     

STATE X

LOCAL     

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Tom Sitton*

11-17-77

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: *W. S. ...*

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

*3.30.78*

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

*3.16.78*

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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RECEIVED NOV 18 1977

DATE ENTERED

MAR 30 1978

CONTINUATION SHEET

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Los Angeles Evening Express, January 31, 1898, p. 1.

Gebhard, David, & Winter, Robert. A Guide to Architecture in Southern California. Los Angeles: Los Angeles County Museum of Art, 1965.

Mumford, Lewis. The Brown Decades. New York: Harcourt, Brace & Co., 1931.

Regan, Michael. Mansions of Los Angeles. Los Angeles: Regan Publishing Company, 1965.

Sketch Map

Stimson House  
2421 South Figueroa Street  
Los Angeles, CA

