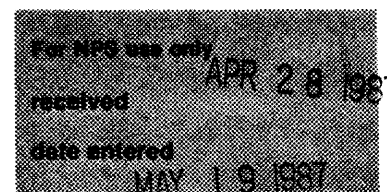


**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 21

21. John Muir Branch Library  
1005 W. 64th Street

Significance:

The John Muir Branch Library performs a significant cultural and historical function in South-Central Los Angeles. Its architecture stands out in a neighborhood where few other buildings are noteworthy for their design. Nevertheless, it was designed to be compatible with the single family character of the surrounding neighborhood, and it demonstrates the commitment to high architectural quality the City exhibited in the 1920s with respect to public buildings. It is one of a number of branch libraries which has been nominated as a thematic district to the National Register of Historic Places.

Strong neighborhood support created this branch facility in 1923. F. W. Braun, a local businessman, offered rent-free quarters for the library and \$500 each year for operating expenses. This offer was accepted by the Board of Library Commissioners and the new branch was named John Muir after the famous California writer/naturalist.

In 1929, the present site was purchased and this building was designed by local architect Henry F. Withey, who worked for many years in partnership with Pierpont and Walter S. Davis. He designed numerous schools, residences, and bank buildings. He co-authored with his wife the first national biographical dictionary of deceased American architects. At the opening dedication on July 30, 1930, Samuel Merrill of the Sierra Club spoke of his personal recollections of John Muir and Dr. Loye Miller of UCLA gave a speech entitled "California's Out-of-Doors".

Over the years, the library has served as a center of social and cultural activities, providing a literary base for the community. It boasts a strong support group which raises money for new books and has even exhibited works of local artists.

An architectural gem, inspired by the buildings of Italy, this building demonstrates the high quality of public architecture which often goes unrecognized in Los Angeles. The brick building features an attractive entryway of Indiana limestone and the side facades have Levanto marble columns trimmed with limestone. The John Muir Branch Library retains a strong sense of time and place and can be expected to remain an important community asset.

BRANCH LIBRARIES, LOS ANGELES, CA  
#21 John Muir Branch, 1005 W. 64th St.  
1 inch=60 feet

Gage Ave.

1005

64th St.

Vermont Ave.

