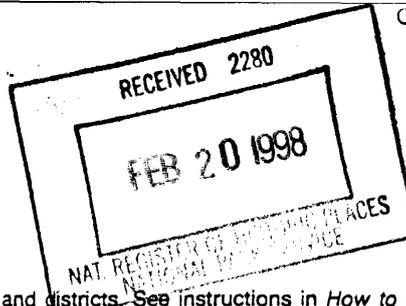


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). 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 Portal of the Folded Wings Shrine to Aviation and Museum
other names/site number Rotunda, The

2. Location

street & number 10621 Victory Boulevard not for publication
city or town North Hollywood vicinity
state California code CA county Los Angeles code 037 zip code 91606

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.)
Harriet Abeyta Deputy SHPO 2-5-98
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
California Office of Historic preservation
State of 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 commenting 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.
 See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register.
 removed from the National Register.
 other, (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper [Signature] Date of Action 3/10/98

Name of Property

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property (Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private, public-local, public-State, public-Federal

- building(s), district, site, structure, object

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing. Rows for buildings, sites, structures, objects, 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 Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

REC & CULTURE: museum/monument/marker

REC & CULTURE: museum/monument/marker

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival

foundation CONCRETE

Other: Churrigueresque

walls stone/marble/concrete

roof ceramic tile/terra cotta/concrete

other

Narrative Description

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

(See attached)

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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1924

Significant Dates

1924

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

McDonald, Kenneth, Jr.
(see continuation sheet)

(see attached)

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

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:

UCLA Library, LA Central Library

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than an acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>11</u>	<u>374630</u>	<u>3783900</u>	3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2				4			

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

(see attached)

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title * Giacinta Bradley Koontz, Director, Portal of the Folded Wings Shrine to Aviation and Museum

organization (consultant) date September 9, 1997

street & number PO Box 46 telephone (818) 220-7001

city or town Woodland Hills. state CA zip code 91365

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 _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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 Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

Giacinta Bradley Koontz 12/8/97

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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Portal of the Folded Wings Shrine to Aviation and Museum
County of Los Angeles, State of California

SECTION 7 - DESCRIPTION

The Portal of the Folded Wings Shrine to Aviation and Museum is an arched, four pillared structure which was originally known in 1924 as a Rotunda and entrance to a cemetery. It currently functions as a decorative **monument** and museum on cemetery property.

The **setting** for the Portal has always been at the far eastern end of the cemetery property. The Portal stands amid large expanses of manicured lawn broken only by flat, ground-level bronze markers, typical of a cemetery. Small rose gardens adjoin the site, which is also gently framed by tall deodar cedar, and pine trees. The Portal's four facades are aligned with the major compass directions: north, south, east and west. Low, curving block walls outline the three gardens associated with the Portal. These gardens were once reflecting pools which were filled in for safety and economic reasons sometime in the 1960s. The Portal is **located** at the end of Valhalla Drive in Burbank, California, which was the original entrance to the Park. Today Visitors enter the Park chiefly through the gate on Victory Boulevard, which has a North Hollywood street address. Access via Valhalla Drive is available on Sundays between 12:00 noon and 4:00 pm.

Currently surrounding the cemetery property to the north is Burbank/Pasadena/Glendale Airport, and Amtrak Railroad tracks; to the south and west are middle class **residential neighborhoods**, and to the east are single story warehouse and armory buildings in a **commercial zone**.

The **interior** dome ceiling features a "starry-night" mural, approximately 50 feet above the floor. The surrounding walls match the **exterior** of Colorado yule white marble, with a cast stone skirt rising approximately 5 feet from the floor. Each of the Portal's four pillars houses a room with an **interior** space of approximately 10x10 feet, entered through large ornamental bronze doors; three have **bronze** door knockers. The rooms in the Portal pillars each have two small windows with bronze grillwork. There is an **interior** access stairwell from the south east corner room to the dome so that the aircraft light bulb can be changed. Floors of the corner rooms have small (1" square) **white ceramic tile** ("YMCA" style).

The structure rises **72 feet from the ground** on four **marble-sided** pillars which meet each other in high, graceful arches. The width is 50 feet in either direction. The **mosaic tile cupola** is about 10 feet tall and 28 feet in diameter. The **arches** are entrances to a **flagstone-floored** interior with a tall, domed ceiling. Each of the four arches, as well as the circumference of the rooftop, is covered with ornate cast stone decorations that are cited as a "fine example of period cast stone that is unique in Southern California," in the words of the restoration sculptors. (8,9). The structure itself was called "one of L.A.'s extravagant gems" in an authoritative guide to Los Angeles architecture. (1).

Exterior surfaces are Colorado yule white **marble** slab. All four sides are identical except for bronze signage (east and west). **Cast stone** decoration extend approximately 4-1/2 feet in each direction around the portal arches and above the openings. From the outer Portal walls to the beginning of the mosaic tile cupola, the **roof** follows the square building plan, and is composed of red (brick shingle) Spanish style roof tiles. The cupola is a **mortar based** domed structure, covered with ceramic tiles that make up a multicolored repeating geometric pattern. **Copper** flashing surrounds the **red tile roof**. Beyond that, cast-stone decorated facades extend upward. Ornate sculptural elements featuring full-size figures, flora, finials, obelisks, and miscellaneous scrollwork are found all around the roof line. All four sides are identical.

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Portal of the Folded Wings Shrine to Aviation and Museum
County of Los Angeles, State of California

According to the "Conservation Treatment Report" submitted in 1996 by the Sculpture Conservation Studio, the **foundation is stone and marble**. No other detailed descriptions of the foundation are available. The structure is of **steel-frame reinforced concrete**.

Specific features include **windows, doors** and the two detached garden walls to the north and south.

The four interior rooms each have two **windows** (which open) approximately 4' x 11', with two vertical decorative iron bars (presumably for security). The four **doors** to each room are bronze sheeting over steel frame, with decorative bronze rosettes. Originally all four doors had solid bronze door knockers in a semicircular rope design (about 10" in diameter), but one was stolen in 1996 and has not been replaced. These doors have not been restored and have a typical "green with age" color. In 1996, signs (about 12" x 18") were mounted on wood affixed to each door for museum identification. The integrity of the original doors has not been altered.

The **walls** were named in 1996 as "The Portal Sky Garden North" and "The Portal Sky Garden South". These walls are approximately 80 feet long by 3 feet tall and surround flat, grass lawns currently unused but for a few graves. The walls are constructed of rectangular large stone blocks, crowned at each end with urn shaped stone sculptured planters (approx. 4 feet in diameter and 3 feet tall). The planters have been in continuous use since 1924.

Important decorative elements of cast stone begin at the building's base, with a skirt approximately 5' high, off-setting the pure white marble interior and exterior walls. Between 5'-10' feet off the ground, so as to be visible at eye level, are several very small cupid faces (about 6-8" across). These faces peer out between garlands and geometric designs and within (empty) niches on exterior walls.

Four arches (approx. 30' high) separate the pillars and are outlined in cast stone. Below the center of each archway, a pair of hands hold a torch. The inner archways are geometric designs with a simulated urn motif. Intricate twisted roping and repetitive cross-hatch designs line the apex of the inner arch. On either side of the arches are niches with figures approximately 4' tall. To the left is a male robed figure (named "Moses" in 1996) which stands behind a tablet. Giorgi signed his name on "Moses's" foot ("Giorgi '24"). To the right, the figure is a robed woman ("Lady of Peace", named in 1996), more delicate in feature than the larger "Lady". Across her hand lies an olive branch. The symmetry of the designs on either side of the archways include a large wreath, several garlands of fruits and others of flower blossoms. These are realistic and continue to attract frustrated hummingbirds.

A continuous cast stone facade (approx. 3' wide) wraps the entire building just below the roof line. Repeated eight times is a tall urn flanked by a large petaled swirl and a winged cupid.

Above the roof line, in cast stone, there are two different types of "swirl" or "flame" finials and one obelisk style finial. By far the main attraction is an elaborate 12 foot clam shell niche which both frames and provides a pedestal for a life-size "Lady" figure (also named in 1996 by Giacinta Bradley Koontz, Director of the Portal). At approximately 5 1/2 feet tall, this statue reflects those of ancient Rome. Draped in a hooded robe, the "Lady" reaches out with both arms, palms down, as if in a blessing.

Another important decorative element is the **mosaic dome** which has a bursting star as the center motif surrounded by geometric, repeating designs emanating from the top. The ceramic tiles range from 2" (at the tip of the stars) to about 6" square. The currently restored dome has 95% of the original tiles made in 1924 at the Alhambra Kilns (Santa Monica). Replacement ceramic tiles were made in Los Angeles with great effort to match the existing array of colors (many shades of green, blue, yellow, tan, black, white, cream and purple).(9).

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Portal of the Folded Wings Shrine to Aviation and Museum
County of Los Angeles, State of California

Additionally, the **interior domed ceiling** is graced with a **mural** approximately 40 feet in diameter. The original background color was a light blue paint over mortar, large (4') and small (2') gold stars. Both the blue background and gold stars are now faded, but remain stunning. No documentation remains which conclusively points to the artist, however, it may have been the sculpture Giorgi as he was also known as a painter. (13).

Significant interior features are four rooms with the original **white ceramic tile floors**, which remain. Two rooms formerly built for restrooms (but never utilized as such), have some tile missing (about 6" where plumbing was removed in 1996). There are no visible **stairways**, although a wooden step ascends within the wall of the southeast room to the dome for maintenance purposes. At the base of these stairs are the Portal's electrical switches. There is currently a faux (painted pressed foam) **molding** at the ceiling surrounding each room. It is a repeated ivy leaf design reminiscent of Giorgi's sculpture designs. All four rooms have a **false ceiling** with an "attic" door opening to storage areas above. All four rooms are currently being utilized as a paper display aviation museum.

There are no **outbuildings**.

There are no other **manmade elements** except rotating flower garden planting and on-going landscape renovations to maintain the park. A 6'x15' stucco block wall on the extreme east end of the east rose garden (erected sometime during the 1970s) has bronze memorial plaques with on-going names added of the deceased. A chain link fence was added in 1997, covered with protective and decorative green mesh cloth delineating the eastern property line of the cemetery behind the rose garden. **Landscape features** are dominated by Deodar Cedars and Pine trees from 40 feet to 100 feet tall surrounding all garden walls.

Alterations and changes to the building have been minimal. In the 1930s, Lockheed Aircraft installed an **aircraft warning light** on the top of the dome to service what was to become the Burbank/Pasadena/Glendale Airport, which currently remains and is required by the FAA.

In the 1950s and 1960s the "Rotunda" floor was altered to become a flagstone floor with burials of cremated remains, memorialized by bronze floor tablets and wall cenotaphs (approx. 20"x24"). Open grillwork iron fencing was added between pillars to enclose the graves. During 1953, a bronze cenotaph honoring the Brookins/Lahm/Wright Institute was affixed to the exterior west wall. Also bronze lettering which reads, "Portal of the Folded Wings" and "Valhalla Memorial Park" were affixed to the east and west exterior walls. In 1996 smaller letters were added below which read "Shrine to Aviation". Also during the 1996 restoration, electrical wiring was upgraded and lighting fixtures were added to the four interior rooms. Toilets and stalls were removed from the two "restrooms".

The three original **reflecting pools** (approx. 20'x30') were filled in sometime during the 1960s. Currently the north and south pools are completely obscured as grass-covered garden lawns. The rose garden on the east side utilizes the scalloped cement rim of the original reflecting pool as its border. Not attached to the building, but added in the gardens during 1996, are four "temporary" **spot lights**. These were installed approximately 15 feet from each exterior wall for public events, security, and visibility from aircraft, and currently remain. There have been no **floor plan** changes to the structure.

Deterioration due to neglect caused the building to lose its use as a public place during the 1970s and 1980s. It took a natural disaster to reverse this trend. The cast stone decorations of the Portal were badly damaged by the 1994 Northridge earthquake. Some of the elements had twisted and been torn from their attachments, while others went completely missing. Many of the ceramic tiles on the cupola broke away from the dome during the earthquake and fell onto the roof of the Portal.

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Portal of the Folded Wings Shrine to Aviation and Museum
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Nothing on this Portal site has been moved.

Conservation treatment for the Portal was completed in 1996. *The Sculpture Conservation Studio* performed extensive research to ensure the **historical accuracy** of the form and content of their **restoration work**, while bringing the structure itself up to modern earthquake standards. Today the Portal looks much as it did when first built in 1924. The restoration work completed in 1996 was in part necessitated by years of neglect and finally, the Northridge Earthquake of 1994. The cemetery owners upgraded the entire park by repairing broken fountains and removing dead trees during 1996, which continue to enhance the current overall historic integrity of the cemetery in a park like setting.

Between 1996-1997, five bronze cenotaphs (9"x12") were affixed to the north garden wall commemorating pioneer aviators.

SECTION 8 - SIGNIFICANCE

The Portal of the Folded Wings Shrine to Aviation and Museum meets the **National Register Criteria** as an example of Southern California's distinctive Mission/Spanish/Colonial Revival architecture and Churrigueresque decorative styles. The Portal currently commemorates deceased persons who contributed to the pioneering years of aviation and is located on cemetery property. It is significant for the period 1924 in which it was constructed as a building with the sole purpose of monumental beauty to display the powerful and graceful designs of the architect, Kenneth M. McDonald, Jr.

The Portal of the Folded Wings Shrine to Aviation and Museum is historically **significant** for its enduring rare architecture and use as a site for community events for seven decades.

A **brief chronological history** of the Portal reveals it was originally used as the entrance to Valhalla Memorial Park, identified as the *Valhalla Memorial Rotunda*. The "Rotunda" was also the site of Sunday afternoon opera concerts in the 1920s and 1930s.(3)(6) It was featured in several contemporary architectural journals, including Southwest Builder & Contractor, Architectural Digest, and Pacific Coast Architect. After the Burbank Airport (then, Union Airport) was built in 1930, an aviation enthusiast and park employee, James Gillette, was struck by the proximity of the runway to such a noteworthy structure as the Memorial Rotunda. He started a movement to create a shrine to aviation at this site, and worked to that end for two decades.

On December 17, 1953, the fiftieth anniversary of the birth of powered flight, the Portal of the Folded Wings was formally dedicated to those who made American aviation history. The ceremonies were presided by Lt. General Ira C. Eaker. It became "The Portal of the Folded Wings Shrine to Aviation" as the Reverend John Carruthers (now memorialized at Harvey Mudd College in Claremont in his extant collection of aviation documents and books in the "Carruthers Collection") officiated on this day. It has been called the "Arlington of the Air" and the "Westminster Abbey of reverence for the founders of the air age," for its role in honoring the pioneers of aviation. (10).

In 1996, Giacinta Bradley Koontz was named the first Director of the Portal, supervising the renovation of the interior rooms to be used as an aviation museum. Pierce Brothers Valhalla Cemetery invited the public to an all-day re-dedication ceremony, officially recognizing the building as "The Portal of the Folded Wings Shrine to Aviation and Museum". The museum is currently open free to the public.

The **Portal of the Folded Wings Shrine to Aviation and Museum**, originally known as the *Valhalla Memorial Rotunda*, was built in 1924. It is an excellent example of the few remaining representatives of the *Churrigueresque* style of

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Portal of the Folded Wings Shrine to Aviation and Museum
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architecture favored in Southern California in the early part of this century. The name describes buildings that follow "the forms introduced into Spanish architecture by Churriguera, Ribera, and other designers early in the eighteenth century.(4). Southern California architects adapted this Spanish style to portray a uniquely Southern California "statement of local industry," (5) especially in the buildings designed for the 1915 Panama-California Exposition in San Diego's Balboa Park. (7). It is also evident in the 1915 Panama-Pacific International Exposition buildings of San Francisco.

The cast stone statues and designs which adorn the Portal are **significant architectural details** and part of the Churrigueresque style (for sculptor, Giorgi, between 1915-1924) which came to be representative of all that was rich, lavish, and promising in Southern California.

The Portal was drawn up by architect **Kenneth M cDonald, Jr.**, (1880-1937) who was known in Los Angeles for the design (during the 1920s) of several *Beaux Arts* and *Spanish Colonial Revival* buildings, such as the *Broadway-Spring Arcade Building* and the *Southern Pacific Railroad Station* in Glendale, as well as the *Leo Kauffman house* in Santa Monica. M cDonald also designed important buildings for George A. Applegarth in San Francisco such as the *Canterbury Hotel*, and the residence of *Adolph Spreckles* (12)(2).

The Churrigueresque cast stone and concrete components were carved by **Federico Augustino Giorgi**, (1878-1963), born in Italy, who studied at the Academy Delle Belle Arti in Rome. He moved to the U.S. in 1909 to work in San Francisco and Los Angeles. He was an award-winning sculptor at the *1915 Panama-Pacific International Exposition* held in San Francisco, (2). Mr. Giorgi's sculpture is also immortalized in D.W. Griffith's 1917 epic film, "*Intolerance*". He later worked on sculpture for the *1930 Exposition in San Francisco*. His last studio was located in Los Angeles. (13). He is buried 50 ft. from the Portal. His grave marker reads: "Portal Sculptor".

There have been five owners of the park property, including a brief financial disaster causing the State of California to take over. Ownership history is as follows:

1923-1930: Osborne-Fitzpatrick Finance Corporation (John B. Osborne and C.C. Fitzpatrick)
1930-1933: State of California
1933-1953: Pierce Brothers (Mark Pierce)
1953-1991: Joe Albritton (Perpetual Corporation)
1991-current: Pierce Brothers Valhalla (A California Corporation)

In 1924 the San Fernando Valley was a sparsely populated, particularly agricultural, flat area, and the "Rotunda" was a landmark on the horizon. In addition to the free concerts held at the "Rotunda", it was a point of interest for family Sunday drives. (11). The structure is still easily identified in aerial photographs.

Osborne-Fitzpatrick (owners 1923-1930) and later, Pierce Brothers (1933), was one of the first cemeteries in Southern California (along with Forest Lawn) to design a "park" setting, with no upright headstones allowing full view of gardens, fountains, trees, statuary and structures such as the "Rotunda".

Other comparisons.

In Burbank and North Hollywood any Giorgi sculptures which remain are not currently identified for comparison and are not known to the Giorgi family. (13). The buildings of the 1915 Panama Pacific International Exposition in San Francisco and the Museum of Man in San Diego's Balboa Park are Churrigueresque. Although human figures, geometric patterns

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Section number 8 Page 6

Portal of the Folded Wings Shrine to Aviation and Museum
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and elaborate floral garland elements are typical, none are identical to the Portal sculptures. This points to original, unique, and specific sculptures for the Portal building.

REFERENCES CITED AND BIBLIOGRAPHY

References Cited

1. Gebhart, David & Winter, Robert. *Los Angeles: and Architectural Guide*. Layton, UT:Gibbs, Smith, Publisher, 1994
2. Hughes,Edan Milton. *Artist in California 1786-1940*. San Francisco: Hughes Publishing Co., 1986
3. *Los Angeles Examiner*, March 1, 1925 and April 12, 1925.
4. Saylor, Henry H. *Dictionary of Architecture*. New York: John Wiley & Sons, 1952
5. Gleye, Paul.*The Architecture of Los Angeles*. Los Angeles: Rosebud Books, 1981
6. *Glendale Evening Herald*, April 18, 1931, several newspaper advertisements "Free Band Concert", "Selbys Girl Band to Play Concert at Valhalla Park Sunday", and other clippings from an unpublished scrapbook found in the basement of Valhalla's cemetery office in 1996.
7. Florence Christman, *The Romance of Balboa Park (4th ed)*, Balboa Park Historical Society, 1985, pp 112-113.
8. Unpublished: "Conservation Assessment and Proposal for Treatment of Earthquake Damage for the Portal of the Folded Wings," Submitted by the Sculpture Conservation Studio, September 12, 1994.
9. Unpublished: "Conservation Treatment Report for The Portal of the Folded Wings", by the Sculpture Conservation Studio, April 23, 1996.
10. Copies of letters dated December 13, 1957 from Carl B. Squier and Lt. General Ira C. Eaker, USAF Ret, dated 1957) and Rev. Dr. John Carruthers, dated November 15, 1957, from files at Pierce Brothers Valhalla in 1996 (no originals).
11. Unpublished: "Valhalla Memorial Park" (investment Brochure), 1923.
12. *Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased)*, 1970, p. 450, by Henry E. Witney, AIA and Elsie Rathburn Whitney, Hennessey & Ingalls, Inc. ("In a letter from Mrs. M cDonald, Los Angeles, 1941").
13. Personal Communication: Mrs. K. Yuhas, step-daughter of F. Giorgi, 1996-1997.

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Portal of the Folded Wings Shrine to Aviation and Museum
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Additional Bibliography

A copy of portions (only pieces remain) of a Program for a **Memorial Service honoring Charles Taylor in 1956**, which includes a (partial) photograph of Matilde Moisant placing a wreath on the grave of **Walter Brookins on December 17, 1953**. The Opening Ceremony was conducted by **President (of Valhalla) James Gillette**.

Architect & Engineer, August 1927, p. 103

Architectural Digest, Vol. 6, No. 2, p. 32-33

Pacific Coast Architect., August 1928, p.33-34

Southwest Builder & Contractor, July 25, 1924, p.52. November 6, 1925, p.115

ADDENDUM

Historical Events Connected with the Structure (1996-1997)

May 3, 1996, *Burbank Historical Society Award of Excellence in Historic Preservation*, presented by the Burbank Historical Society to Pierce Brothers Valhalla for the restoration of the Portal of the Folded Wings Shrine to Aviation and Museum. Doug Loftis, General Manager and Giacinta Bradley Koontz, Director of the Portal accepted the award which now hangs in the Cemetery office. (Copy of Burbank Historical Society letter attached).

May 26, 1996, *Re-dedication of the Portal of the Folded Wings Shrine to Aviation and Museum*. Concurrent with the Pierce Brothers Valhalla Memorial Day celebrations, Doug Loftis, General Manager of Pierce Brother Valhalla Memorial Park, and Giacinta Bradley Koontz, Director of the Portal cut a ribbon officially re-opening the restored building to the public. Guest speaker was Dr. Thomas Crouch, Chairman of the Aeronautic Dept. of the National Air & Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution. (Program attached).

May 21, 1996, *Certificate of Recognition from the City of Burbank* awarded to Pierce Brothers Valhalla at a ceremony held in Burbank City Council Chambers. The Mayor of Burbank, Honorable Bill Wiggins presented the award to Doug Loftis and Giacinta Bradley Koontz, representing Pierce Brothers Valhalla's Portal of the Folded Wings Shrine to Aviation and Museum.

February 22, 1997, *California Preservation Foundation Design Award*, presented to the Sculpture Conservation Studio, and representatives from Aaron Jesse Construction Co., and Doug Loftis from Pierce Brothers Valhalla. The award was presented at a ceremony held in San Francisco, California. (Copy of program attached).

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Portal of the Folded Wings Shrine to Aviation and Museum
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March 18, 1997, a *Wreath-Laying Ceremony* was held in honor of *Amelia Earhart* due to a bronze cenotaph on the Portal wall. Giacinta Bradley Koontz, Director of the Portal, hosted aviator, *Linda Finch* as she made Burbank her first stop on an historic re-creation of Amelia Earhart's world flight of 1937. 200 visitors and several aviation dignitaries and family members of aviation pioneers attended. (LA Times article of 3/18/97 attached).

May 14, 1997. *Los Angeles Conservancy Preservation Award for 1997* - presented to Pierce Brothers Valhalla and the Sculpture Conservation Studio for the restoration of The Portal of the Folded Wings Shrine to Aviation and Museum. (Copy of Program attached).

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Continuation Sheet**

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Portal of the Folded Wings Shrine to Aviation and Museum
County of Los Angeles, State of California

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at a point on the most eastern edge of the property line for Pierce Brothers Valhalla Memorial Park where it intersects with Valhalla Drive, proceed north 60 feet along the chain link fence. Then proceed west to follow the contour of the low, stone block wall the entire length to the point where it curves and then joins at the northwest corner. Then proceed south following the wall and continue past the paved cemetery access road, the western wall of the Portal structure, another paved cemetery access road, and the low, stone block wall to a point where the wall curves and joins at the southwest corner. Follow the contour of the stone block wall to the east, past the end of the wall, until reaching the chain link fence. Then proceed north along the fence to the point of origin.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary includes two stone block walls with cast stone planters, the Portal structure itself, and the Valhalla Memorial Park property line where it intercepts Valhalla Drive. The Portal, surrounding walls, and Valhalla Drive retain historic integrity.

United States Department of the Interior
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Section number Page 10

Portal of the Folded Wings Shrine to Aviation and Museum
County of Los Angeles, State of California

PHOTOGRAPHER: GIACINTA BRADLEY KOONTZ

DATE OF PHOTOGRAPHS: NOVEMBER 1997

LOCATION OF NEGATIVES:

GIACINTA BRADLEY KOONTZ
4412 CANOGA AVENUE
WOODLAND HILLS, CA 91364

VIEWS OF SIX PHOTOGRAPHS

PHOTO #1

EAST VIEW OF PORTAL TAKEN FROM THE ROSE GARDEN

This view looks straight through the building's arches toward the west.

PHOTO #2

EAST AND SOUTH PORTAL ARCH VIEW

Looking through the east archway to the south archway, standing in the east rose garden. The "starry night" mural (interior dome) is barely visible. One of eight wall cenotaphs is also visible to the right of the arch.

PHOTO #3

SOUTH VIEW OF PORTAL WITHIN GARDEN WALL

Showing both the south and east views, from just within the wall of the "Portal Sky Garden South". The bronze letters are clearly seen on the eastern front of the Portal. Note the double windows which are only on the south and north sides of the Portal (one for each interior room).

PHOTO #4

WEST VIEW OF PORTAL AND SURROUNDING GARDEN WALLS

The iron fence gate opens only on the west. Shown are the two garden walls to the south and north (here on the right and left of the Portal). Deodar Cedars and Pine trees surround the building. The Brookins/Lahm/Wright bronze tablet is to the left of the arch. A one-story warehouse can be seen in the background behind the cemetery chain link fence.

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Portal of the Folded Wings Shrine to Aviation and Museum
County of Los Angeles, State of California

PHOTO #5

DOME OF PORTAL AND "LADY" CAST STONE STATUE (EAST VIEW)

Giorgi's sculptured art is prevalent beneath the multi-colored mosaic tile dome. Below "Lady's" clam shell niche and pedestal are two hands holding a torch. On either side, a large wreath. Winged cupids, petaled swirls and urns are visible below the Spanish tile roof line.

PHOTO #6

PORTAL SKY GARDEN NORTH WALL VIEW TO NORTHWEST

Photographed standing next to the Portal on the north side. Urn shaped planters as seen on the left, are on either end of the stone block garden walls. On this wall are five 9" x 12" bronze cenotaphs honoring pioneer aviators. The northeastern end of the cemetery with Deodar Cedars and Pine trees are in the background. In the foreground is the garden lawn.

PORTAL SKY GARDEN SOUTH WALL

CEMETERY ACCESS ROAD

PORTAL SKY GARDEN NORTH WALL

PORTAL SKY GARDEN SOUTH

PORTAL

PORTAL SKY GARDEN NORTH

CEMETERY

CEMETERY

ACCESS ROAD

ACCESS ROAD

BOUNDARY LINE

3

2

(EAST)
ROSE GARDEN

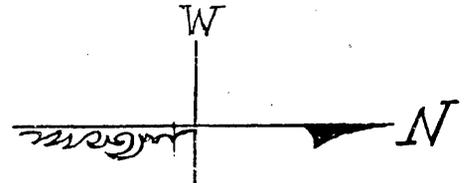
1.5

CHAIN LINK FENCE

CENOTAPH WALL

CHAIN LINK FENCE

VALHALLA DRIVE



LEGEND
2.0" = 50' APPROX.

- PORTAL AND WALLS
- VANTAGE POINTS OF PHOTOS

SKETCH MAP FOR THE PORTAL OF THE FOLDED WINGS
SHRINE TO AVIATION AND MUSEUM
Los Angeles Co. CA