

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

**SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD**

NRIS Reference Number: 00001167

Date Listed: 9/28/2000

San Diego Veterans' War Memorial  
Building-Balboa Park  
Property Name


San Diego  
County

CA  
State

N/A

Multiple Name

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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

10/29/2007  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

**U. T. M. Coordinate:**

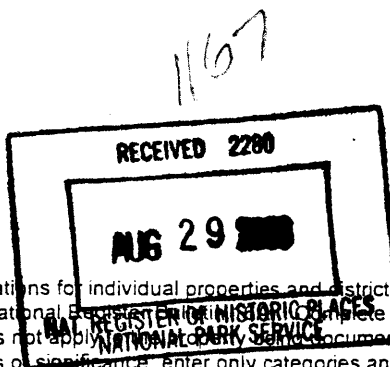
The correct U. T. M. Coordinate should read: 11 486205 3622140

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



APR 13 2000

OHP

### 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 of Historic Places). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply, 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 San Diego Veterans' War Memorial Building, Balboa Park

other names/site number Veterans' War Memorial Building, Balboa Park

#### 2. Name of Property

street and number 3325 Zoo Drive N/A not for publication

city or town San Diego N/A vicinity

state California code CA county San Diego code 073 zip code 92103

#### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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.)

Patricia Abeyta Signature and title of certifying official/Title  
State Historic Preservation Officer

8/3/00 Date

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. State/Federal Agency 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

Date of Action

Raf B. Ferguson

9/28/00

San Diego Veterans' War Memorial Building  
San Diego, CA

**5. Classification**

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- private
- public-Federal

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>  1  </u>	<u>    </u> building(s)
<u>    </u>	<u>    </u> sites
<u>    </u>	<u>    </u> structures
<u>    </u>	<u>    </u> objects
<u>  1  </u>	<u>  0  </u> Total

Category of Property (Check one box)

- building(s)
- district
- structure
- object

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)

Cat:   Social    
  Recreation    
  Other  

Sub:   Meeting Hall for Local Community Groups and Clubs    
  Public Auditorium    
  War Memorial  

Current Functions (Enter Categories from instructions)

Cat:   Social    
  Recreation    
  Other  

Sub:   Meeting Hall for Local Community Groups and Clubs    
  Public Auditorium    
  War Memorial  

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat:   Modern Movement    
Sub:   Contemporary Modern Style  

**Materials:**

Foundation:   Reinforced Concrete    
Walls:   Reinforced Concrete / Stucco    
  Wood Frame / Stucco    
Roof:   Composition Asphalt  

Other:   Aluminum    
  Terrazzo    
  Plywood  

**Narrative Description**

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

❖ See attached Continuation Sheets

San Diego Veterans' War Memorial Building, Balboa Park  
San Diego, CA

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**8. Statement of Significance**

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**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

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

❖ See attached Continuation Sheets

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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**Bibliography**

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

❖ See attached 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
- # \_\_\_\_\_

**Areas of Significance**

**Social History**

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**Period of Significance**

1950

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**Significant Dates**

1950

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**Significant Persons**

N/A

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**Builder**

Young, Francis E., general contractor

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**Architect (Designer)**

Hamill, Samuel W., A.I.A.

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Siebert, John S., A.I.A.

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**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

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**Primary location of additional data:**

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

**Name of repository:**

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San Diego Veterans' War Memorial Building, Balboa Park  
San Diego, CA

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**10. Geographical Data**

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Acreage of Property 5.2 acres

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>11</u>	<u>4862005</u> 486200m	<u>3622140</u> 3780668.969m	3	_____	_____	_____
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____	_____
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

**Verbal Boundary Description**

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

❖ See Attached Continuation Sheets.

**Boundary Justification**

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

❖ See Attached Continuation Sheets.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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name/title Alexander D. Bevil / Historical Consultant

organization Balboa Park Preservationists date January 17, 2000

street and number 4752 Mt. Longs Drive telephone Hm: 858-569-1486 / Wk: 619-220-5401

city or town San Diego state CA zip code 92117

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**Additional Documentation**

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(Submit the following items with the completed form.)

**Continuation Sheets**

❖ See attached Continuation Sheets

**Maps**

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

A sketch map showing the boundaries of the property, footprints and locations of all counted resources, and an indication of important landscape resources. Please make sure to provide a scale and north arrow.

**Photographs**

Two sets of black and white photographs representative of the property.

❖ See attached Continuation Sheets

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

Two copies of the completed National Register form.

One to five color slides picturing the major elevation(s) and significant features of the property.

Names and complete mailing addresses of all fee simple owners of the property.

❖ See attached Continuation Sheets

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

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San Diego Veterans' War Memorial Building  
San Diego County, CA

### Narrative Description

Completed in 1950, the San Diego Veterans' War Memorial Building is an early postwar example of the Contemporary Modern style adapted to a municipal building. Located in the northern section of Balboa Park's Central Mesa, the one-story C-shaped building is in the southwestern section of a nearly trapezoid-shape 11-acre parcel of improved parkland, which includes a large expanse of lawn, foundation shrub beds, and mature shade trees along the west and south boundaries. Bounded on the south by a large asphalt-covered parking lot, the parkland's eastern boundary runs along Park Boulevard, with Zoo Drive as its western boundary. The latter street curves northeasterly until it reaches Park Boulevard, forming the property's northern boundary. Because the building is set back some 600' west of Park Boulevard, a broad monumental pedestrian mall extends from that street to the building. The approximately 2,000-square foot building consists of a rectangular, flat-roofed reinforced concrete central auditorium, flanked by two opposing wood-framed cross-gabled side wings on its north and south axes. The L-shaped side wings appear to embrace a broad raised brick terrace fronting the main east entry. An anodized aluminum flagpole flying the national ensign rests on the upper level of the steps leading up to the terrace from the pedestrian mall. Fluted terrazzo-covered reinforced concrete piers frame the symmetrical entry's seven recessed bays. Reflecting International style architectural influences, each of the five rectangular front bays contains tall expanses of extruded aluminum-framed plate glass curtain walls, with aluminum-framed glass panel doors. In the two bays flanking the central bay are twin decorative memorial bronze plaques. Resting above the plaques are two stylized art stone American eagles, the building's only decorative elements. Besides the front bays, fenestration consists of bands of metal framed multi-light windows set flush with the smooth, unornamented stucco-clad exterior outer wall surfaces. The building is in good condition, having had very little alteration since its construction. This includes inlaid wood lockers and wall paneling along the central north and south corridors, as well as hardwood paneled interior piers and wall pilasters and terrazzo floor covering in the main central entry foyer. However, the exterior rain gutters on the south and northwest elevations, and several of the north side entry's window panels are in need of repair.

Set upon the landscape like a piece of modern sculpture, the San Diego Veterans' War Memorial Building is an early local example of a post war Contemporary Modern style adapted to a municipal building. It consists of three modular segments: a central one-story reinforced concrete auditorium, flanked by two opposing wood-framed cross-gabled side wings on its north and south axes. Slightly lower than the auditorium, the L-shaped wings appear to embrace a broad raised brick terrace fronting the building's east (front) façade. Reflecting International style architectural influences, the symmetrical east façade consists of seven recessed bays framed in fluted terrazzo-covered reinforced concrete piers. Each of the five rectangular central bays feature tall expanses of aluminum-framed plate glass curtain walls. The glass curtain walls, along with their twin aluminum-framed glass panel doors, impart a degree of verticality that offsets the building's low, horizontal feeling. In the two bays flanking the central bay are twin decorative memorial bronze plaques dedicating the building to San Diego's veterans and the Four Freedoms. Guarding the plaques are two stylized art stone American eagles, the building's only decorative elements. Adding to the building's Modernistic feeling are bands of metal framed awning style multi-light windows set flush with the smooth, unornamented stucco-clad exterior outer wall surfaces, and the use of modern building materials such as anodized aluminum, structural steel, and hardwood-faced plywood. All of

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San Diego Veterans' War Memorial Building  
San Diego County, CA

these are character-defining features reflective of the Contemporary Modern style of American architecture. Sometimes referred to as American International, the style was favored by avant-garde architects during the period immediately following World War II. The building is in good condition, with minor repairs needed to the rain gutters and several of the north entry's window panels.

Located in the northern section of Balboa Park's Central Mesa, the approximately 2,000-square foot San Diego Veterans' War Memorial Building is set back from a main thoroughfare in the southwestern section of a parcel of land north of a large asphalt-covered parking lot. The latter forms the southern boundary of the nearly trapezoidal 11-acre section of land bounded on the west and north by Zoo Drive and on the east by Park Boulevard. Situated some 600 feet due west of the latter, the building is at the apex of two parallel 16-foot wide concrete sidewalks, which form a monumental axis directing viewers' attention to the building's centrally located anodized aluminum flagpole and raised brick terrace. Low flower beds, groupings of semi-formal foundation plantings, and stands of mature trees serve to accentuate the building's horizontality. Several of the trees have been planted as living memorials to San Diego veterans who have fought, died, taken prisoner or missing in action during the Vietnam War. Extending out from the building's east, north, and west elevations are expanses of lawn areas that were installed immediately after the building's 1950 completion.

Significant interior features can be found in the east foyer and the opposing twin corridors. These include the use of terrazzo floor covering in the central "Memorial" foyer and flanking side lobbies and hardwood paneled interior piers and wall pilasters. The foyer's high cantilevered ceiling imparts an uplifting feeling. In addition, the glass curtain walls separating the foyer from the brick terrace, blur the line between interior and exterior space. The foyer's terrazzo-covered floor acts as an ambulatory directing visitors into or out of the auditorium's band of five recessed solid wood panel doors. Other significant, character-defining interior features can be found in the building's side corridors. They include the arrangement of bands of wood-paneled lockers set flush on either side of the side corridors' walls, and the use of louvered skylights, which provide ambient light to the corridors below.

Light fixtures hidden by the skylights augment the corridors' luminosity. Finally, the extruded aluminum-framed fixed multi-light windows and doors of the north and south corridor exits continue the use of modern materials in the buildings' design and construction. The recessed doorway's lead to concrete ramps and sidewalks on the south and north sides, respectively.

The building's interior room arrangements have not been changed since its completion. The fore-mentioned Memorial Foyer leads to opposing lobbies. Each lobby features a built-in glass-covered wall cabinet displaying war memorabilia or trophies. The auditorium still consists of a large rectangular room in front of a raised stage to the north. The auditorium's unique design feature is its ceiling, which is composed of series of serrated steel-truss partitions set on steel-reinforced concrete piers. The partitions, which resemble a reverse monitor roof, aid the room's acoustics, preventing sound from echoing off the ceiling. Adjacent to the auditorium's south wall is a fully equipped kitchen and facility for a canteen. To the north and south of the stage and kitchen/canteen, respectively, are additional meeting, conference, and office rooms, as well as janitor and toilet facilities.

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San Diego Veterans' War Memorial Building  
San Diego County, CA

### Narrative Description (Con't)

Finally, certain character-defining architectural features continue along the building's north, south, and west elevations. As mentioned previously, the north and south entries reflect the building's Contemporary Modern style's architectural influence through the use of bands of multi-light aluminum framed windows and plate glass doors. In addition, each entry features a curving cantilevered hood projecting out over their lintels. Completing the building's Contemporary Modern styling is the use of a band of tall, narrow doorways along the central auditorium's west (rear) elevation. The doors open out onto a concrete terrace. Twin, concrete steps lead down from the terrace to the sidewalk along Zoo Drive.

Non-historic elements include a number of fluted metal lampposts along the twin front sidewalks and scattered around the building. In addition, the trees lining the sidewalk north of the building along Zoo Drive are not contemporaneous with the building. Both these and the lamps do not appear in an aerial photograph taken of the building in 1968.<sup>1</sup>

Despite its age and heavy use, the San Diego Veterans' War Memorial Building is in good shape. There is some deterioration of the gutters along the northwest and south eaves. Cracks have been observed in the bricks along the front terrace. Finally, several of the fixed plate glass windows in the north entry are missing, replaced temporarily with plywood panels.

Regardless, the building has retained a substantial amount of its historic integrity, and is a rare example of early 1950s Contemporary Modern architecture adapted for use in a public building in San Diego.

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<sup>1</sup> Photograph # UT85:H725 # 2-4. Aerial—Looking Southwest to Downtown, Balboa Park and Zoo in Foreground. July 10, 1968. Source: San Diego Historical Society, Photograph Collection. See also attached Photo Sheet—Historic Photographs #'s 1 to 3.



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San Diego Veterans' War Memorial Building, Balboa Park  
San Diego, CA

### Statement of Historical Significance

The San Diego Veterans' War Memorial Building is significant under **Criterion A**, due of its association with local and national events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of San Diego's local history. Completed in 1950, it is a locally significant example of a "Living Memorial Building," a public building dedicated by San Diegans for their friends and neighbors who served and died in World War II. Influenced by the nation-wide Living Memorial Movement of the mid to late 1940s, it was one of hundreds of local war memorial buildings built nationwide where veteran and other civic groups could meet, recreate, and socialize so that "patriotism might be renewed and gratitude nourished." In continuous use as a social and recreation center for the past 50 years, it serves as an important part of people's everyday lives, reminding them of what had been accomplished by past generations, as well as what is being accomplished today.

### Historical Background and Significance

The San Diego Veterans' War Memorial Building is eligible for placement on the National Register of Historic Places because it is historically significant under **Criterion A**, due to association with local and national events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of San Diego's local history. The building represents a local interpretation of a "Living Memorial," a public building dedicated to local San Diegans who served and died in World War II. Influenced by the nation-wide Living Memorial Movement of the mid to late-1940s, it was one of hundreds of local war memorial buildings built nationwide during the post war period where veteran and other civic groups could meet, recreate, and socialize so that "patriotism might be renewed and gratitude nourished."<sup>1</sup>

Although the San Diego Veterans' War Memorial Building was completed in 1950, the idea for its construction was first introduced to the public in 1943. That year veterans' committee proposed that the city build a fitting war memorial building in downtown San Diego on city-owned land currently used as a baseball field adjacent to a railroad freight yard at Pacific Highway and Broadway. Instead of a passive monument, it would be a "living memorial," an active utilitarian building. Preliminary drawings prepared by local architects John S. Siebert and Samuel W. Hamill called for a monumental 10,000-seat capacity domed combination auditorium, convention hall and theater. Extending two blocks north of Broadway to B Street, the building would be an integral part in the planned development of downtown San Diego harbor district. Siebert and Hamill's design was inspired by the

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<sup>1</sup> "Living Monuments to Our War Dead." Better Homes and Gardens 24 (November 1945): 12.

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San Diego Veterans' War Memorial Building, Balboa Park  
San Diego, CA

### Statement of Significance (Continued)

combined stripped classical formalism and Mediterranean Revival exuberance of San Diego's City/County Administration building, a project Hamill had worked on in 1938.<sup>2</sup> As planned, the classically balanced Veterans' War Memorial Building would feature a 100-foot diameter central rotunda surrounded by various veterans' organization offices and meeting halls, that would be used for various veterans' activities. On the building's south, or Broadway side would be a 2,500-seating capacity theater, whose 100-foot wide proscenium arch would rival that of the New York City's famed Radio City Music Hall. In addition to holding veterans' group meetings and activities, the great hall and theater could serve as a convention center and auditorium large enough for horse, automobile, and various industrial shows. The basement was planned to house several kitchens, dining rooms and other facilities for public use.<sup>3</sup>

San Diego's Veterans' War Memorial Building was one of the earliest conceived by an American city during World War II. However, the concept was based on a nation-wide "Living Monument Movement" that originated during the latter stages of World War I. Promoted by veterans organizations, the idea called for municipalities to build "living memorials" to perpetuate the memory of local servicemen and women who had served or been killed in the war. The result caused a revolution in the spirit of architectural expression and land use planning.<sup>4</sup>

The editors of *American City*, along with other advocates of the Living Memorial Movement believed that the traditional victory arch, shaft, or the "bronze man on a bronze horse," which proliferated on a multitude of small parks and traffic circles after each war, was an archaic concept. Prior to 1920, the monumental bronze of a war leader personified a town's contribution to the war effort. However, after the carnage of World War I, Americans began to recognize that bravery and sacrifice were not matters of rank, and it was the collective spirit of those who fought to win wars that should be commemorated. The true modern war memorial should not be a "monument to the conquering war hero, but to the anonymous soldiers, living and dead." Instead of the "bronze man on a bronze horse," many communities chose to erect useful multi-functional buildings that commemorated those who had given their lives, while effectively serving the individual community's needs. For the next quarter of a century, they built and dedicated playgrounds, parks, community buildings, auditoriums, libraries, schools, and other types of service structures. Other communities suggested that they commemorate their veterans by planting memorial trees, constructing memorial highways, and even entire civic centers.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> "Huge Memorial Building Planned," *San Diego Union*, 21 November, 1943, B-1; David Gebhard and Robert Winter, *A Guide to Architecture in Los Angeles and Southern California* (Santa Barbara and Salt Lake City: Peregrine Smith, 1977), 446; and John S. Siebert and Samuel W. Hamill, *San Diego Veterans' War Memorial Building*, 18 February 1943, San Diego Historical Society architectural drawings collection, AD 1066-013 F1-D11.

<sup>3</sup> "Huge Memorial Building Planned," B-1.

<sup>4</sup> "War Memorials." *The American City* 59 (January 1944): 35-36.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.: "Planning Memorial Community Buildings," *American City* 59 (June 1944): 113; Joseph Hudnut, "The Monument Does Not Remember," *The American City* 60 (November 1945): 114; and "How the War Memorial Idea Has Evolved," *The American City* 61 (July 1946): 82.

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San Diego Veterans' War Memorial Building, Balboa Park  
San Diego, CA

### Statement of Significance (Continued)

The first municipality to build a "living" or utilitarian war memorial building was reportedly Goldsboro, North Carolina, which built a community house immediately after the Armistice where its citizens could work and play together while jointly discussing and expressing their concerns. Soon other cities and towns followed Goldsboro's lead. El Paso, Texas, and Springfield, Illinois, built memorial pools and parks. The town of Van Wert, Ohio, transformed an abandoned cemetery into a community park. Savannah, Georgia, and Minneapolis, Minnesota, constructed memorial drives. Circlevill, Ohio, and Richmond, Virginia, built memorial carillon towers. The community of Woodminister, overlooking San Francisco Bay, constructed a 3,000-seat outdoor theater, which featured an illuminated cascading fountain. Santa Monica, California constructed an outdoor theater on the grounds of a high school that was flanked by cypresses and shrubs native to California. As the movement progressed, though, two types of memorials began to dominate the urban landscape: large auditoriums for cities, and community centers for smaller cities and towns. Most civic leaders and veterans groups had begun to realize that buildings of great community value were best suited as living memorials.<sup>6</sup>

With the outbreak of World War II in 1941, Americans were once again faced with commemorating the sacrifices made by a new generation of servicemen and women. The Living Memorial Movement was given added impetus as American communities discussed the idea of designing and building fitting memorials to the unselfish patriotism, duty, and personal sacrifice of its local sons and daughters. In addition to commemorating their heroism, the new memorials would serve to safeguard the freedoms they fought for by serving the common good according to our community needs through the promotion of democracy at the local level.<sup>7</sup>

By its very nature, a utilitarian war memorial building, according to an article written in the October 1944 issue of *American City*, should be able to develop "an alert, satisfied, loyal, and expressive population. According to the article, the war memorial as community center is "a must among post-war projects, because such a center, well administered, is the best facility yet devised for promoting unity and individual growth among all the people."<sup>8</sup>

The promotion of a utilitarian war memorial during World War II soon spread to the United States' allies. In 1944, Britain's Minister of Town and Country Planning, the Rt. Hon. W. S. Morrison, said: "We know that after the war we must build and rebuild not only for ourselves but for generations that will come after us. We shall, I think, build too with the sense that we are thus creating worthy memorials to the heroes and heroines of this war."<sup>9</sup>

Likewise, the Dominion of Canada chose to make war memorials both useful and aesthetically pleasing, while contributing to the health and culture of the nation. Norman S. Dowd, executive secretary of the Canadian Congress of Labor, expressed these views by saying, "It is unquestionably the view of the workers of Canada . . .

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<sup>6</sup> "War Memorials that Further Practical Democracy," *The American City* 59 (October 1944): 72 and 74; and "World War Memorial—Richmond, Virginia," *The American Magazine of Art* 25 (November 1932): 293.

<sup>7</sup> "War Memorials that Further Practical Democracy," 72.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

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San Diego Veterans' War Memorial Building, Balboa Park  
San Diego, CA

### Statement of Significance (Continued)

that war memorials should take the form of community halls, libraries, recreation and other community centers, rather than sculptured stone or bronze.”<sup>10</sup>

Again in 1944, the *New York Herald Tribune* published a letter, which said that such monuments as Trafalgar Square, the Arc de Triomphe, or Columbus Circle “are monuments to the dead.” The continued, saying, “We are fighting for our lives, for peace and decency. These are not mock phrases, but simple matter-of-fact phrases which will inspire every architect, engineer, city planner, every citizen with a will to create a memorial worthy of those who died that others may live!”<sup>11</sup>

By 1945, almost every town in America was thinking of building some form of war memorial. During the course of discussion, some people questioned the advisability of erecting a veterans’ memorial while the nation was still at war. Shouldn’t a community wait until its fighting sons and daughters were all home again before they build a memorial in their honor? In response, the Service Men’s Weekly News Letter conducted a survey of local servicemen and women and asked their thoughts on what constitutes a proper memorial and when should it be built. Of the 3,500 respondents, they stated unanimously, “No more stone cannons. No more stone statues. No more granite pillars. And no more parks with flowers.” The majority wanted their hometown to “build a community center, a real one . . . , which will answer all the needs of our town.” On the issue of when it should be built, they stated, “Start it now! Don’t wait until the war is over. The men at the front are fighting [and dying] for just such things as a community, which takes hold and works together to provide something useful and worthwhile for those who come back . . . . And build it to last, build it for the future and build it for our sons and daughters, for their better health, for their better sportsmanship, for their better community living.” The people back home saw this as “a ‘directive from the front lines’ to build a living memorial that will be a combined community project.”<sup>12</sup>

In an attempt to assist local communities in planning their war memorials, the National Recreation Association (NRA) published a pamphlet, “Community Recreation Buildings as War Memorials,” which recommended that Beauty, through simplicity in design and utility through functional efficiency are two chief objectives in planning a memorial community building. The site should be as near as possible to the center of the city or neighborhood the building is to serve. It should be sufficiently large to provide an adequate and appropriate setting for the building.<sup>13</sup>

The NRA also recommended that a memorial building should possess “dignity, simplicity, and good taste, which helps to establish or maintain “a high architectural standard for the community.” The building’s interior, according

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<sup>10</sup> “Let’s Have Living Memorials,” Recreation 39 (May 1945): 74.

<sup>11</sup> “War Memorials that Further Practical Democracy,” 72.

<sup>12</sup> Michael R. Hanna, “What Service Men and Women Favor in War Memorials,” The American City 60 (August 1945): 107.

<sup>13</sup> “Planning Memorial Community Buildings,” 113.

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National Park Service

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San Diego Veterans' War Memorial Building, Balboa Park  
San Diego, CA

### Statement of Significance (Continued)

to the NRA, "should be planned to provide an attractive, hospitable center where the people can enjoy the activities made possible by the building." Through the use of sound planning practices, careful consideration should also be given to the size, shape and arrangement of the individual rooms, because, according to the pamphlet, "these factors affect the efficiency of the building and the economy of its operation, maintenance and use." Likewise, properly planned corridor and lobby space would direct pedestrian movement into and throughout the building. Large access doors would allow large numbers of people into the lobby from outside the building. A large lobby, in turn, would facilitate ingress into the auditorium. Conversely, narrow corridors leading from separate entrances, could lead to hobby or craft rooms. Designed to accommodate small groups, they could be placed farther from the entrance. The Association's pamphlet recommended that they be arranged so that no one was "required to pass through one room in order to reach another." Finally, "coatrooms should be placed where people can check their wraps and move on to the activity room without retracing their steps."<sup>14</sup>

A war memorial building that offered multiple use possibilities was, according to the NRA's pamphlet, "highly desirable and is generally essential." "Few building facilities," it went on, "especially in small communities, can be devoted to a single purpose." Most rooms should be planned for a variety of uses, the most frequent being a combined gymnasium and auditorium. In addition to athletic events, the auditorium could be used for social recreation, dinners, dances, and hobby shows. The auditorium and smaller rooms could also be used for such widely divergent activities as square dancing, choral rehearsals, lectures, bridge parties, hobby activities, as well as group, club, and committee meetings.<sup>15</sup>

Other sound planning principles expounded by the NRA included the placement of the building manager's office close to the main lobby, where he could have a chance to greet and get acquainted with the visitors. Economy of use and maintenance were other concerns. The kitchen, for example, "should be connected directly with the large room where dinners are to be served," and "storage spaces should open into rooms where the stored equipment is to achieve maximum use." By providing outside entrances to service rooms, they, according to the NRA, "can save wear and tear on other areas of the building and enable refuse to be removed easily without disturbing the program. The reduction of corridors, halls and unused spaces would "decrease [the] costs for cleaning, heating, painting, repairs and other maintenance. Furthermore, "the use of attractive, durable, and easily cleaned construction materials is not only appropriate in a memorial building, but proves economical in the long run. Throughout the building, construction materials and equipment should be selected with a view to the nature of the activities to be carried on in the respective units."<sup>16</sup>

Finally, the NRA recommended that the war memorial building's designers and builders should consult with local leaders "since they are most aware of the community's interests and needs." It also recommended that they consult

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<sup>14</sup> Ibid.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid., 115.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid.

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San Diego Veterans' War Memorial Building, Balboa Park  
San Diego, CA

### Statement of Significance (Continued)

or hire "people experienced in the field of recreation and in the operation of recreation facilities," in order to "prevent many mistakes in planning." Their expertise would be invaluable in indicating "how the location, size, and equipment of the various features affect the problems of operating and maintaining the building."<sup>17</sup>

As mentioned previously, most of these concepts were already in place in Siebert and Hamill's proposed design. However, political pressure would delay San Diego's war memorial building for the next seven years. In April 1944, City Planning Director Glenn A. Rick opposed the Lane Field site because of its inappropriateness. First, according to Rick, it lacked adequate parking space, which restricted its use as a convention hall or auditorium. Second, because of its size, it would take up valuable tide land, inhibiting future development of the harbor. Third, due to budgetary constraints, he felt that it would be best to downsize the proposed war memorial building from an auditorium/convention center to a community center.<sup>18</sup>

As a result, the San Diego city council considered nine alternative locations. Five of the proposed sites were in Balboa Park. Located midway between downtown San Diego and nearby suburban communities, the park already possessed a number of architecturally significant buildings adapted for public use. Many had been adapted from two expositions held in 1915 and 1935, respectively. While the former exposition's buildings were designed in the Spanish Colonial Revival style, the majority of the new building's reflected the more modern Art Deco and Moderne styles, yet were still in harmony with the older buildings.<sup>19</sup> During World War II, the U. S. government had taken over the park buildings for temporary use as adjunct naval hospital facilities. However, by 1944, city planners were optimistic that the war would be over in a few years, and that the addition of a veterans' war memorial building in the park would be an added attraction.<sup>20</sup>

One of the park locations that was considered to house San Diego's new Veterans' War Memorial Building was the site of the former Indian Village along Park Boulevard. Located north of the entrance to the San Diego Zoo, west of Park Boulevard and just south of Theodore Roosevelt Memorial High School, it had been built by the Santa Fe Railway in 1915. Resembling a Southwestern Native American Pueblo style village, it was used by local Boy Scout troops after the exposition. During the first and second world wars, the scouts had been replaced by the military. After the park was given back to the city in 1945, the Indian Village was condemned. On July 18, 1946, the City Council ordered to have the San Diego Fire Department burn it down. The site, which was schedule to be landscaped, would be the focal point for heated debate and controversy for the next four years.<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>17</sup> Ibid.

<sup>18</sup> Melvin Mayne, "Rick to Oppose Restriction of Memorial Site," San Diego Union, 16 April 1944, B-1.

<sup>19</sup> Gebhard and Winter, A Guide to Architecture, 450-451.

<sup>20</sup> Florence Christman, The Romance of Balboa Park, 4th ed., revised (San Diego: San Diego Historical Society, 1985), 99 and 110.

<sup>21</sup> Mayne, "Rick to Oppose Restriction." B-1; and Christman, Romance of Balboa Park, 124.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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San Diego Veterans' War Memorial Building, Balboa Park  
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### Statement of Significance (Continued)

Glen A. Rick, along with City Councilmen Ernest J. Boud and Walter Austin, had backed plans for the war memorial's construction as part of the Cedar Street Mall Project. Situated near the southwest corner of Balboa Park, the six-block area's development, according to its backers, was considered second in importance only to Mission Bay Park as part of San Diego's municipal post-war construction program. Plans called for extending the mall down Cedar Street to the harbor, thereby linking Balboa Park to the City/County Administration Center on Harbor Drive. The mall's chief disadvantage was its prohibitive cost, because most of the property would have to either be purchased or acquired from private owners through condemnation.<sup>22</sup>

Opposing the Cedar Street Mall location was a vociferous group of veterans led by Capt. Homer Hacker. As early as 1943 Capt. Hacker had contended that the only site acceptable to veterans was in Balboa Park. When the Indian Village site had become available, he led the fight for its placement at that location. Because of its location near the center of the city's population, the Indian Village site would be more convenient for most San Diegans to visit. Even the veterans were not all of one mind. The commander of American Legion Post 6, Carl Zahn, regarded the Hacker group as a splinter organization. Zahn, who favored the Cedar Street Mall site, agreed that it would be expensive to build. However, he felt that the building's proposed \$3 million price tag could be met through local taxation and grants from the state and federal governments. Both Zahn and Hacker did agree that the building's ownership and control should go exclusively to veterans' organizations. Councilman Boud, himself a veteran of World War I, said that the city council heartily favored construction of a memorial building. However, if the building was to be paid for by taxation, its use should not be limited to veterans, but to all San Diegans. However, he was not opposed to having veterans' groups operate and occupy the building through a perpetual lease.<sup>23</sup>

In 1948, after the insistence of numerous veterans groups led by Capt. Hacker, the San Diego City Council agreed to locate the war memorial building on the Indian Village site. In addition, a sudden windfall helped to make the building a reality. The city had previously reacquired Camp Callan, a former army training base built on land leased from the city. After selling surplus buildings and lumber from the former base barracks, the city saw a \$300,000 profit. The money would be used to meet the estimated \$234,000 needed to design and erect the war memorial building. An additional \$18,500 from a war trust fund would be used to furnish the building's interior. This, in effect, resulted in the building being built and furnished according to Mayor Harley E. Knox, "without one cent of cost to the taxpayers."<sup>24</sup>

John S. Siebert and Samuel W. Hamill were again asked to submit plans for the building. Their new plans were a complete departure from those submitted five years ago. Instead of a massive building that tried to be all things for all people, San Diego's Veterans' War Memorial Building would be scaled back to meet the restrictions of a

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<sup>22</sup> Mayne, "Rick to Oppose Restriction," B-1; and "Choice of Vet Memorial Site Causes Tiff," San Diego Union 23 August 1943, A-8.

<sup>23</sup> "Choice of Vet Memorial Site Causes Tiff," A-8.

<sup>24</sup> "New Veteran Building Near Completion," San Diego Union, 4 June 1950, A-16; and "Vet Groups Attend Rites at Memorial," San Diego Union, 25 June 1950, B-1.

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San Diego Veterans' War Memorial Building, Balboa Park  
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### Statement of Significance (Continued)

relatively small site. Completed by January 1948, the modified design called for a modular Contemporary Modern style building consisting of a central 500-seat auditorium with six smaller meeting rooms housed in two cross-roofed L-shaped side wings. This was not the final design, though. In June 1949, the plans were again modified. Both wings were reversed, giving the building a definite C-shaped configuration.<sup>25</sup>

Credit for the San Diego Veterans' War Memorial Building's final incarnation must be given solely to Samuel W. Hamill. Although the January 7, 1948 issue of the San Diego Union reported that both Siebert and Hamill collaborated on the initial Contemporary Modern design, Hamill alone submitted the final plans, which were completed in 1949, one year after his partners death.<sup>26</sup>

In June 1949 the City Council awarded the construction contract to the F. E. Young Construction Company. Their bid of \$217,957 was the lowest of three. The company would erect the building on the southwest corner of the 5.2-acre site. San Diego City Parks and Recreation director Leo B. Calland announced that, after the building's completion, the city would landscape the site, and install a large parking lot that would extend south of the War Memorial Building south to the Spanish Village site. The parking lot, as well as the improved streets along Park Boulevard and Zoo Drive (the former Avenida de España), would provide adequate parking.<sup>27</sup>

A few months prior to the building's projected completion in 1950, all work stopped. Someone had complained to the City Council about the proposed inscription on one of the building's two dedicatory bronze plaques. He objected to the fact that inscription dedicated the San Diego Veterans' War Memorial Building "to veterans who fought for the 'Four Freedoms.'" Popularized by Franklin D. Roosevelt and immortalized in a series of paintings by Norman Rockwell, the Four Freedoms—Freedom of Speech, Freedom of Religion, Freedom from Want, and Freedom from Fear—were basic human rights.

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<sup>25</sup> "Architect's Sketch of New War Memorial Building," San Diego Union, 7 January 1948, A-4; "San Diego Veterans' War Memorial Sketched," San Diego Union, 19 June 1949, A-11; and Samuel W. Hamill, Veterans' War Memorial Building, San Diego, San Diego, California, 21 June 1949-25 May 1950, San Diego Historical Society Architectural Drawings Collection, ADP 1006-013 F6-D20.

<sup>26</sup> Raymond S. Brandes et al, San Diego Architects: 1868-1939 (San Diego: University of San Diego, 1991), 162; Hamill, Veterans' War Memorial Building, ADP 1006-013 F6-D20; and Samuel W. Hamill, San Diego Veterans' War Memorial Building, San Diego, California, 10 March 1950, on file at the San Diego Historical Society Architectural Drawings Collection, AD 1066-013 F1-D11, Sheet Z2.

<sup>27</sup> "New Veteran Building Near Completion," A-16 and "San Diego Veterans' War Memorial Sketched," A-11; and Sanborn Map Company, Insurance Map of San Diego, vol. 1, 1956, sheet 110.



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San Diego Veterans' War Memorial Building, Balboa Park  
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### Statement of Significance (Continued)

As a result, the City Council voted to reword the inscription to read:

DEDICATED BY THE CITIZENS OF SAN DIEGO  
AS A LIVING MEMORIAL TO OUR HONORED  
DEAD OF ALL WARS.<sup>28</sup>

Upon hearing the council's decision, some veterans objected, demanding that the Four Freedoms be reinstated. The council decided to ask representatives of veterans' organizations that would ultimately use the building to decide. They all agreed that the Four Freedoms plaque should stay.<sup>29</sup>

On June 24, 1950, a brief but impressive ceremony was held on the brick terrace in front of San Diego's new Veterans' War Memorial Building. On the terrace, before a sizeable crowd, which included representatives from several local veterans' organizations, was Mayor Knox, members of the City Council, a number of other public officials, and several military officials. Also in attendance were delegates from the California Disabled American Veterans Association, who were attending their 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention in San Diego. Allan Lane, vice president of Veterans' War Memorial Building, Inc., the non-profit corporation, which would operate the building, was master of ceremonies. He introduced Mayor Knox, who gave a short history of the building's development, Mayor Knox concluded by saying, "In this building San Diego has beaten swords into something better than plowshares." After which, the mayor turned the keys over to Ambrose Redmond, president of Veterans' War Memorial Building, Inc. All rose when Dr. Roy Campbell said a prayer, dedicating the building to the memory of San Diego's war dead, and to surviving veterans and other San Diegans. Followed Dr. Campbell's prayer, the colors were raised as the United States Marine Recruit Depot Band playing of the National Anthem.<sup>30</sup>

The first major public building erected in Balboa Park after World War II, the Veterans' War Memorial Building continued a 35-year tradition of placing such buildings in the park. On the national level, it was one of at least 365 "living memorials" planned or completed in this country at the time. Of these, 53 were used as community buildings and auditoriums; the remainder were built as parks, playgrounds, athletic stadiums, library, swimming pools, or other recreational civic improvement. Like San Diego's war memorial building, more than half had a permanent maintenance fund. The majority also had dedicatory memorial bronze plaques so that, according to *American City*, "the living that will enjoy a better life through their community memorial may be reminded of those who sacrificed their lives for the greater good."<sup>31</sup>

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<sup>28</sup> Siebert and Hamill, San Diego Veterans' War Memorial Building.

<sup>29</sup> "New Plaque to Include '4 Freedoms.'" San Diego Union, 10 June 1950, B-1.

<sup>30</sup> "Vet Groups Attend Rites at Memorial." B-1.

<sup>31</sup> "Current Trends in War Memorials," American City 60 (July 1945): 5.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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San Diego Veterans' War Memorial Building, Balboa Park  
San Diego, CA

### Statement of Significance (Continued)

By the mid-1950s, the concept of commemorating local veterans and war dead with “living” war memorials began to phase out. With the outbreak of the Korean War (1950-1953), a certain cynicism began to be felt in this country. After America’s “Forgotten War” ended in a stalemate, crowds of flag-waving civilians didn’t greet returning veterans. Veterans returned to a nation veiled in a cloud of fear and paranoia cast by the imminent threat of nuclear annihilation. This level of Cold War paranoia manifested itself in the design of Rochester, New York’s new war memorial building. Completed in 1954, the \$6,000,000 combination auditorium, sports arena, and exhibit hall was one of the last veteran memorial buildings built in America. Reflecting the times, its 20-inch reinforced concrete main floor served as the ceiling of an underground bomb shelter. With the polarization of the nation during the Vietnam War, returning veterans were seen as “baby killers.” It wasn’t until the completion of the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington, D.C. that America’s wounds began to heal. Placed in this context, San Diego’s Veterans’ War Memorial Building is a product of its time: a generation that “fought the good war” and sought to remember its heroes.<sup>32</sup>

Less a relic of the past, the San Diego Veterans’ War Memorial Building has been in continuous use as a social and recreation center by veterans and other civic groups and clubs since its completion on June 24, 1950. Besides serving as a meeting place for various local veterans’ organization, thousands of local residents have used the building and surrounding lawns as an affordable meeting and recreational use center. Each time they enter the front foyer, the two bronze plaques and veterans’ memorabilia in the foyer remind them that it is a living memorial. Through their continued use of the building, they are commemorating the contribution and sacrifice made by San Diegans who fought and died in all of America’s wars so that democracy could be promoted at the local level.<sup>33</sup>

The San Diego Veterans’ War Memorial Building is eligible for placement on the National Register of Historic Places because of its historic contributions to San Diego’s social history. A local interpretation of a post war “Living Memorial Building,” it was and is still dedicated to all San Diegans who served and died during World War II and later wars. Part of a larger nation-wide post war Living Memorial Movement, it was one of hundreds of local war memorial buildings built nationwide where veteran and other civic groups could meet, recreate, and socialize so that “patriotism might be renewed and gratitude nourished.” As San Diego’s first and only “Living Memorial” dedicated to its veterans, it symbolizes the value that post war San Diegans placed upon their fellow citizens who fought and died in all wars. Recently designated as a local landmark by the City of San Diego, the building is a constant reminder of the enduring principles and contributions valued by the generation that erected it. In continuous use as a social and recreation center for the past 50 years, it serves as an important part of people’s

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<sup>32</sup> Harold S. Rand, “Rochester, N.Y., Builds a \$6,000,000 War Memorial Auditorium,” American City 69 (November 1954): 146.

<sup>33</sup> Estrada Landscape Planning, Inc., Balboa Park Master Plan, Table A-2—Monthly Attendance at Balboa Park (San Diego: City of San Diego Park and Recreation, 13 June 1991), n.p.; and Herbert R. James, Department Vice-Chairman of Leadership Commission, The American Legion. San Diego, personal interview with author, 23 March 2000.

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San Diego Veterans' War Memorial Building, Balboa Park  
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### Statement of Significance (Continued)

everyday lives, reminding them of what had been accomplished by past generations, as well as what is being accomplished today.<sup>34</sup>

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<sup>34</sup> City of San Diego, Historical Resources Board, Agenda for Thursday, March 23, 2000, 2. Note: the author of this report was present and an active participant at the hearing.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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San Diego Veterans' War Memorial Building, Balboa Park  
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\_\_\_\_\_. San Diego Veterans' War Memorial Building, San Diego, California, 10 March 1950. San Diego Historical Society Architectural Drawings Collection, AD 1066-013 F1-D11, Sheet Z2.

James, Herbert R. Department Vice-Chairman of Leadership Commission/Executive Board Member, 22<sup>nd</sup> District, The American Legion, San Diego. Interview with Author, 23 March 2000.

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"Huge Memorial Building Planned," 21 November 1943, B-1.

Mayne, Melvin. "Rick to Oppose Restriction of Memorial Site," 16 April 1944, B-1.

"New Plaque to Include '4 Freedoms,'" 10 June 1950, B-1.

"New Veteran Building Near Completion," 4 June 1950, A-16

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### Major Bibliographic References (continued)

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San Diego Veterans' War Memorial Building  
San Diego County, CA

**Geographical Data**

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundary of the nominated property corresponds to the roughly trapezoidal 5.2-acre parcel of land near the southeastern corner of the northwestern corner of Pueblo Lot 1130, in the City and County of San Diego. The land is contained within the north central boundaries of Balboa Park's Central Mesa, south of the intersection of Park Boulevard and Zoo Drive. The parcel is bounded on the north by Zoo Drive, on the east by Park Boulevard, on the south by the northern limits of the "Zoo Parking Lot," and on the west by the continuation of Zoo Drive.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary is limited to the roughly trapezoidal parcel of land that was improved in 1949-1950 as the site of the San Diego Veterans' War Memorial Building, along with its associate foundation landscaping, pedestrian mall, and lawn area.

**Name and Complete Mailing Address of All Fee Simple Owners of the Property**

City of San Diego  
202 C Street  
San Diego, CA 92101-4587

Attn: Staff Liaison, San Diego Historical Site Board  
Planning and Development Review

The property is maintained by  
San Diego Department of Parks and Recreation  
Metro Park & Recreation Division  
2125 Park Boulevard  
San Diego, CA 92101

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National Park Service

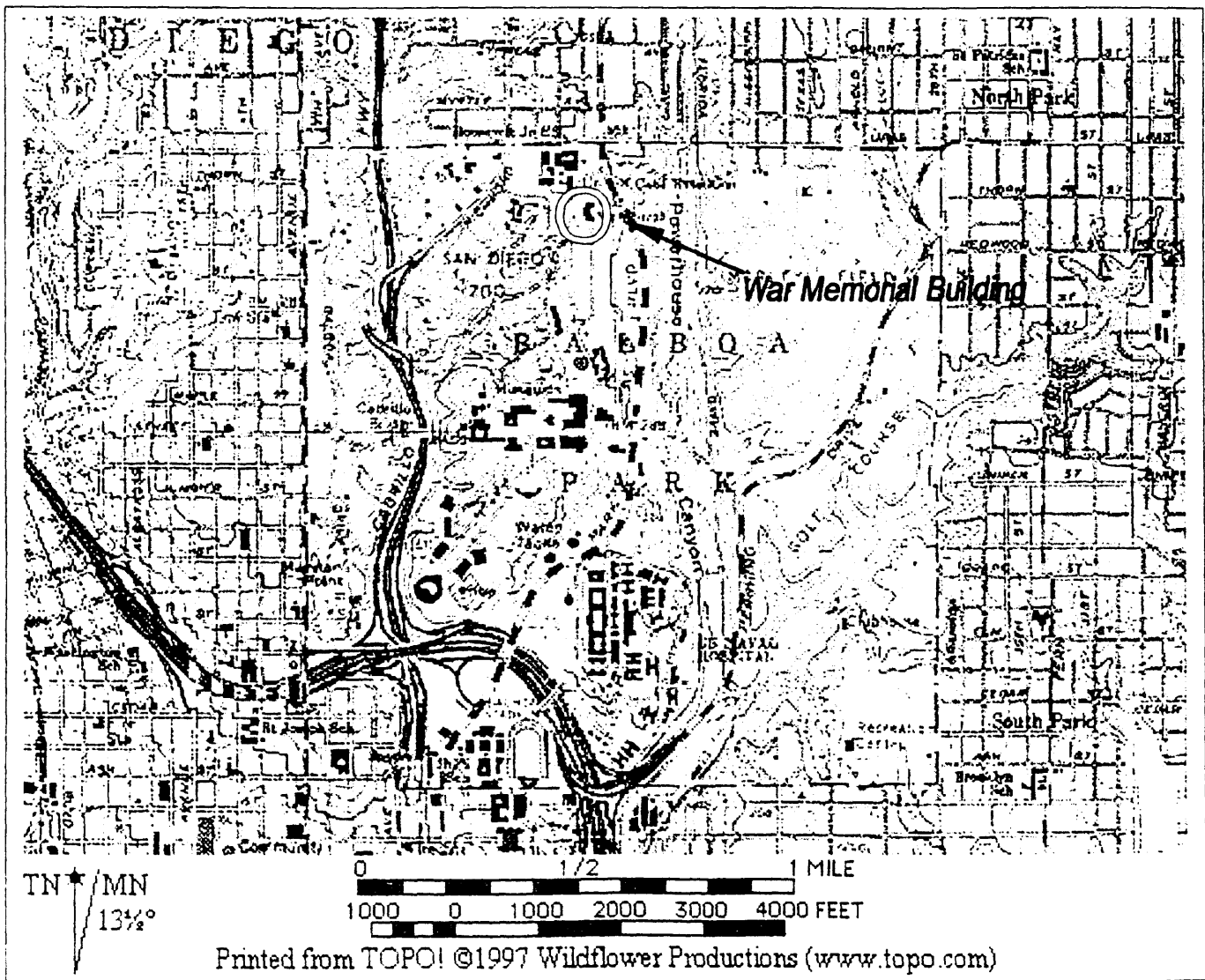
# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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San Diego Veterans' War Memorial Building  
San Diego County, CA

## Geographic Data (continued)

### Location Map 1



Taken From: U. S. G. S. Map Point Loma Quadrangle  
California—San Diego, County  
7.5 Minute Series (Topographic)  
1967 (Photorevised 1975)

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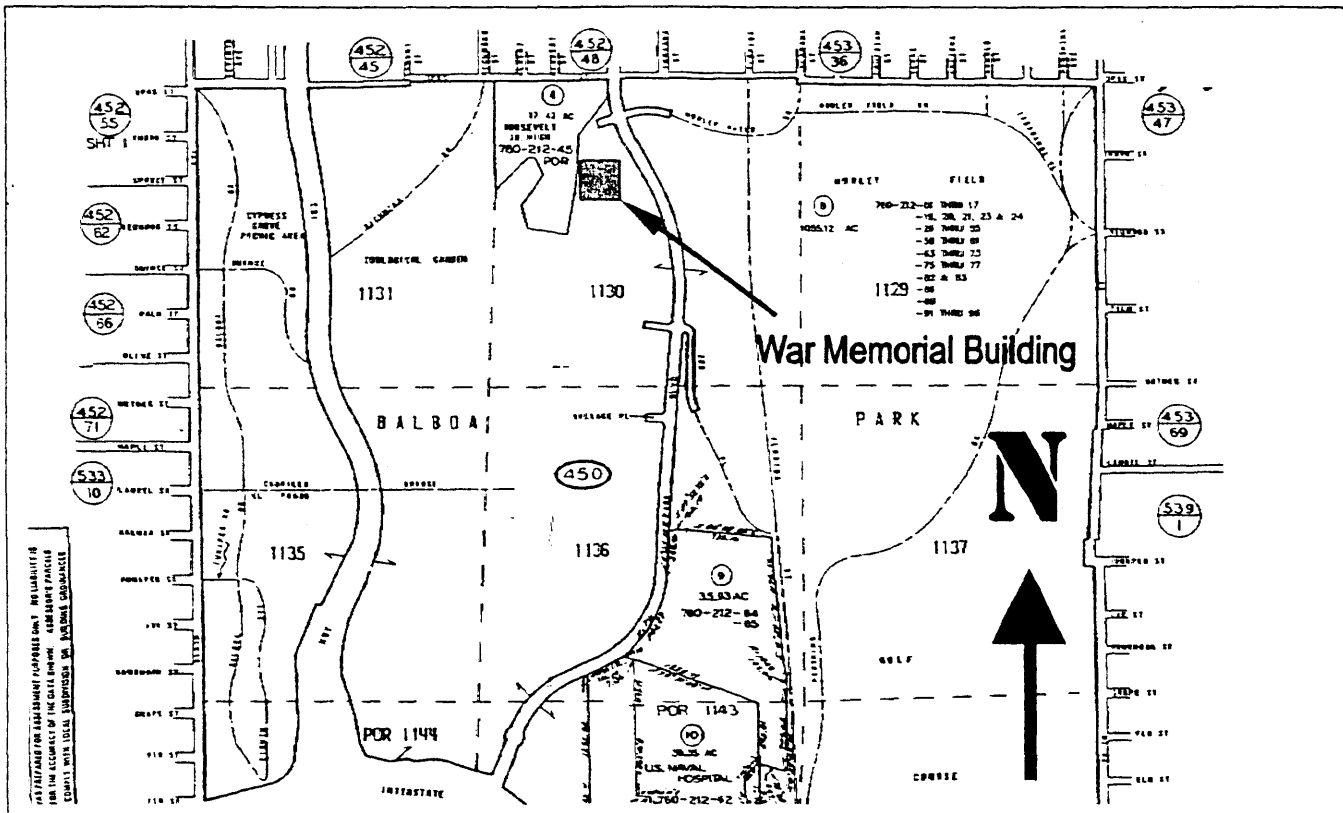
Section number 10 Page 3

San Diego Veterans' War Memorial Building  
San Diego County, CA

## Geographic Data (continued)

### Location Map 2

Source: San Diego County Assessor's Map Book 534, PG 45, 15/September/1999



Scale: 1 inch = 800 feet





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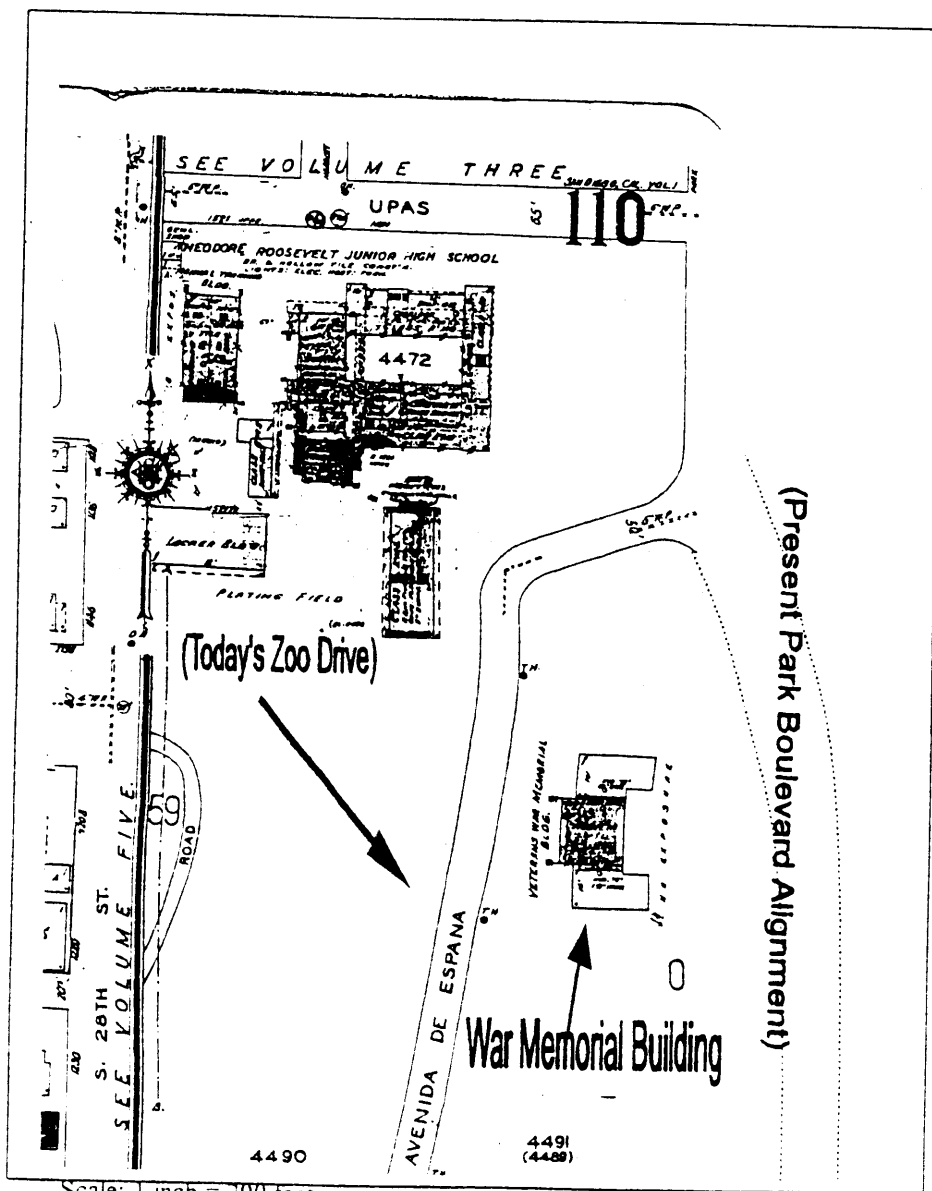
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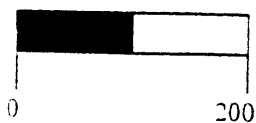
San Diego Veterans' War Memorial Building  
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## Geographic Data (continued)

### Location Map 3



Source: Sanborn Fire Insurance  
Maps of San Diego  
Sheet 110  
Vol. 3  
1956



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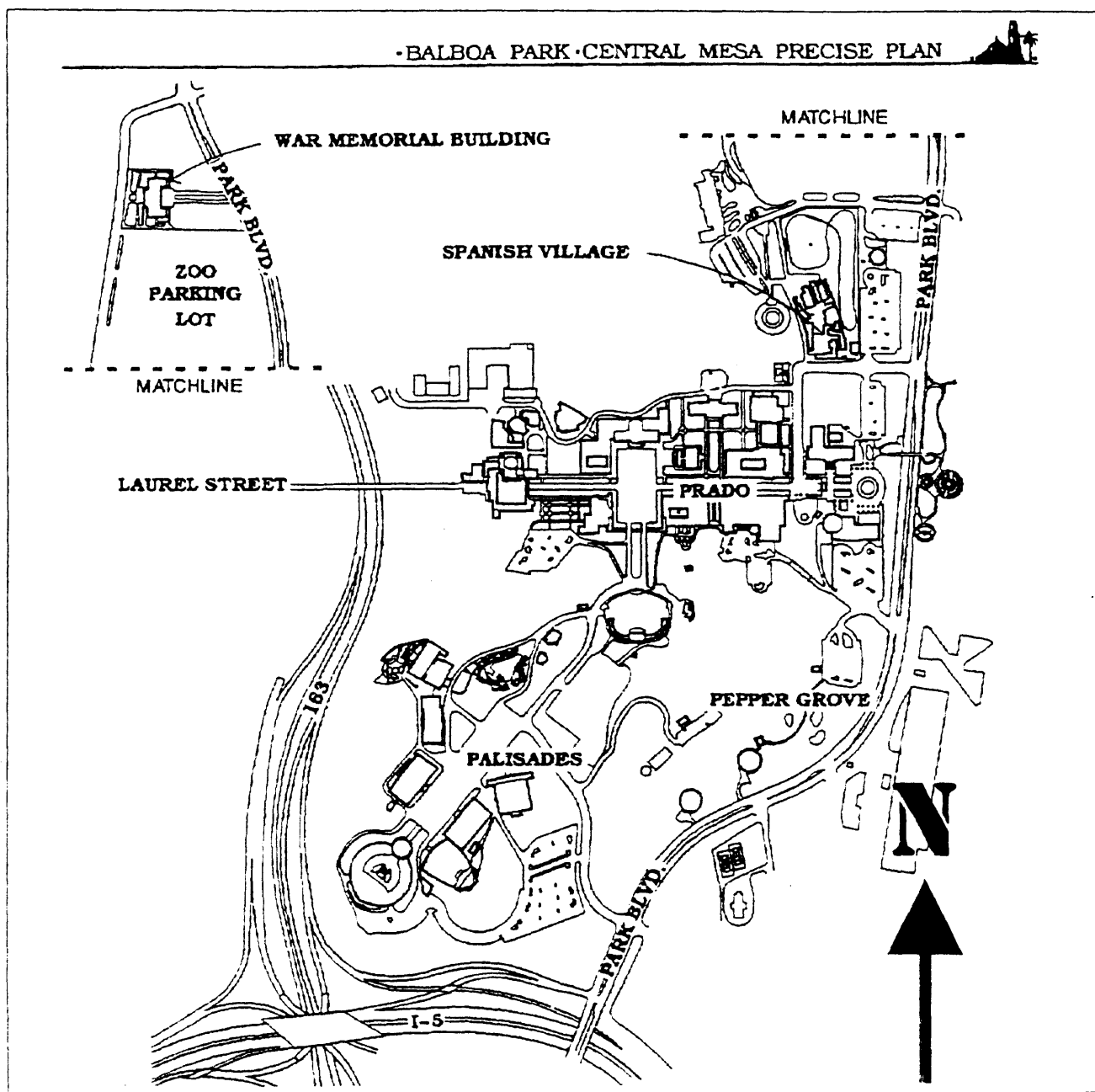
Section number 10 Page 5

San Diego Veterans' War Memorial Building  
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## Geographic Data (continued)

### Location Map 4

Source: Estrada Landscape Planning, Inc. Balboa Park Master Plan. San Diego: City of San Diego Park and Recreation, 13 June 1991, Figure 6. No Scale



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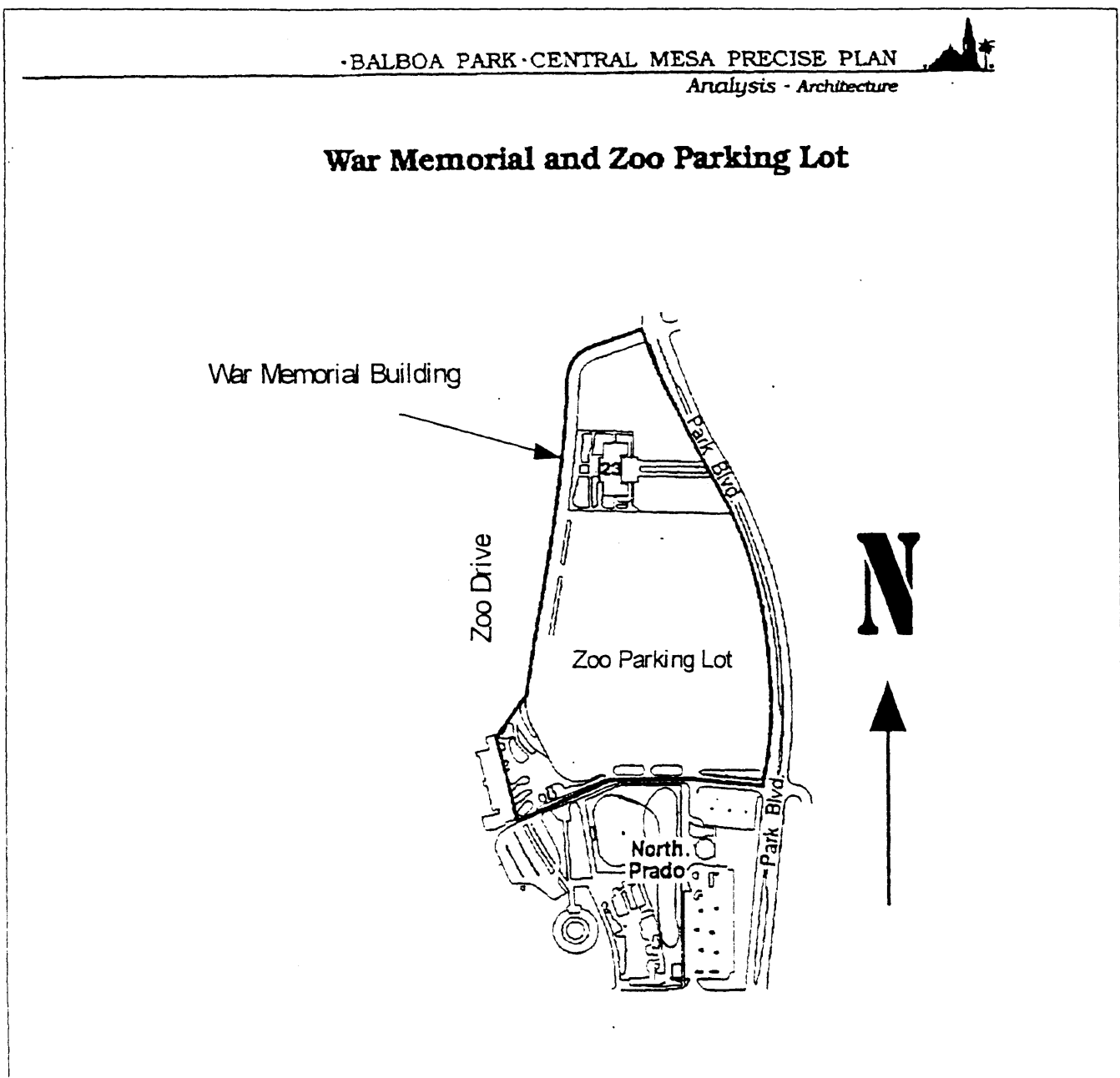
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San Diego Veterans' War Memorial Building  
San Diego County, CA

### Geographic Data (continued)

#### Sketch Map No. 5

Source: Estrada Landscape Planning, Inc. Balboa Park Master Plan. San Diego: City of San Diego Park and Recreation, 13 June 1991, 89. No Scale



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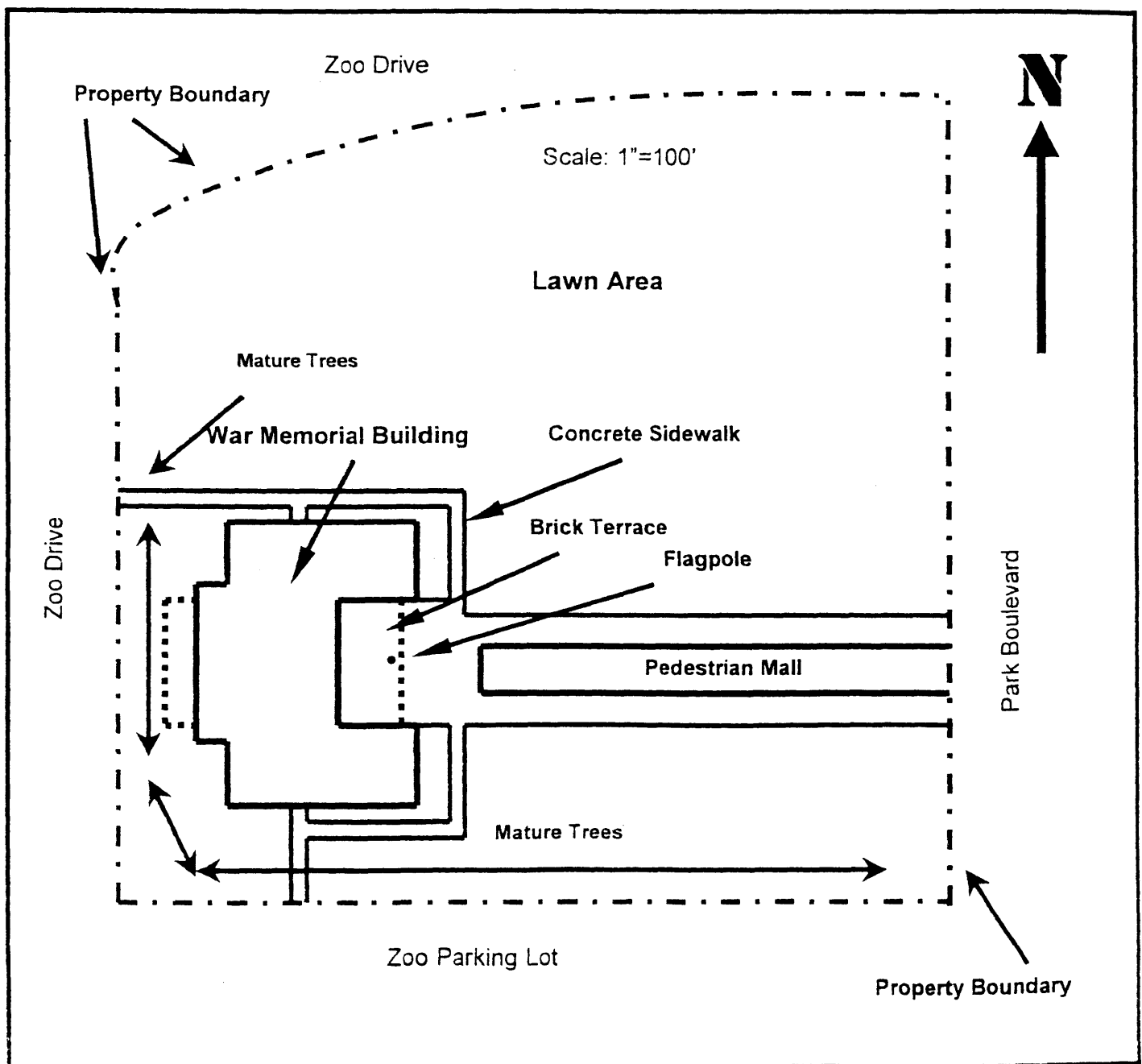
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San Diego Veterans' War Memorial Building  
San Diego County, CA

## Geographic Data (continued)

Sketch Map Showing the Boundaries of the Property, Footprints and Locations of All Counted Resources, and an Indication of Important Landscape Resources



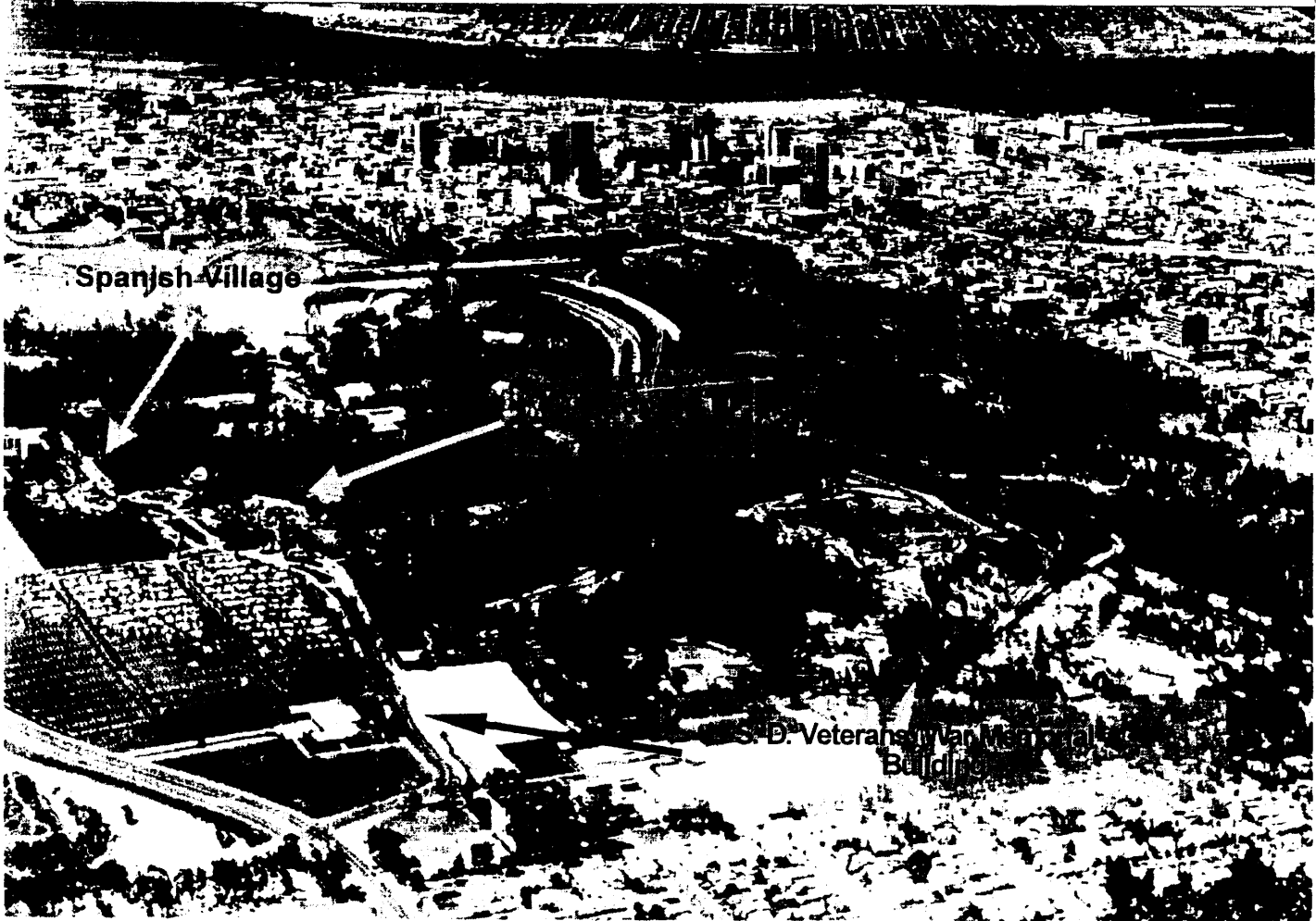
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San Diego Veterans' War Memorial Building, Balboa Park  
San Diego County, CA

Historic Photograph #1  
Aerial View of Balboa Park  
View: Looking Southwest toward Downtown San Diego. S.D. Veterans' War Memorial Building in Lower Left  
Foreground.  
Date: 10 July 1968  
Source: San Diego Historical Society—Union-Tribune Photograph Collection  
Photograph #UT85: H725 #2-4

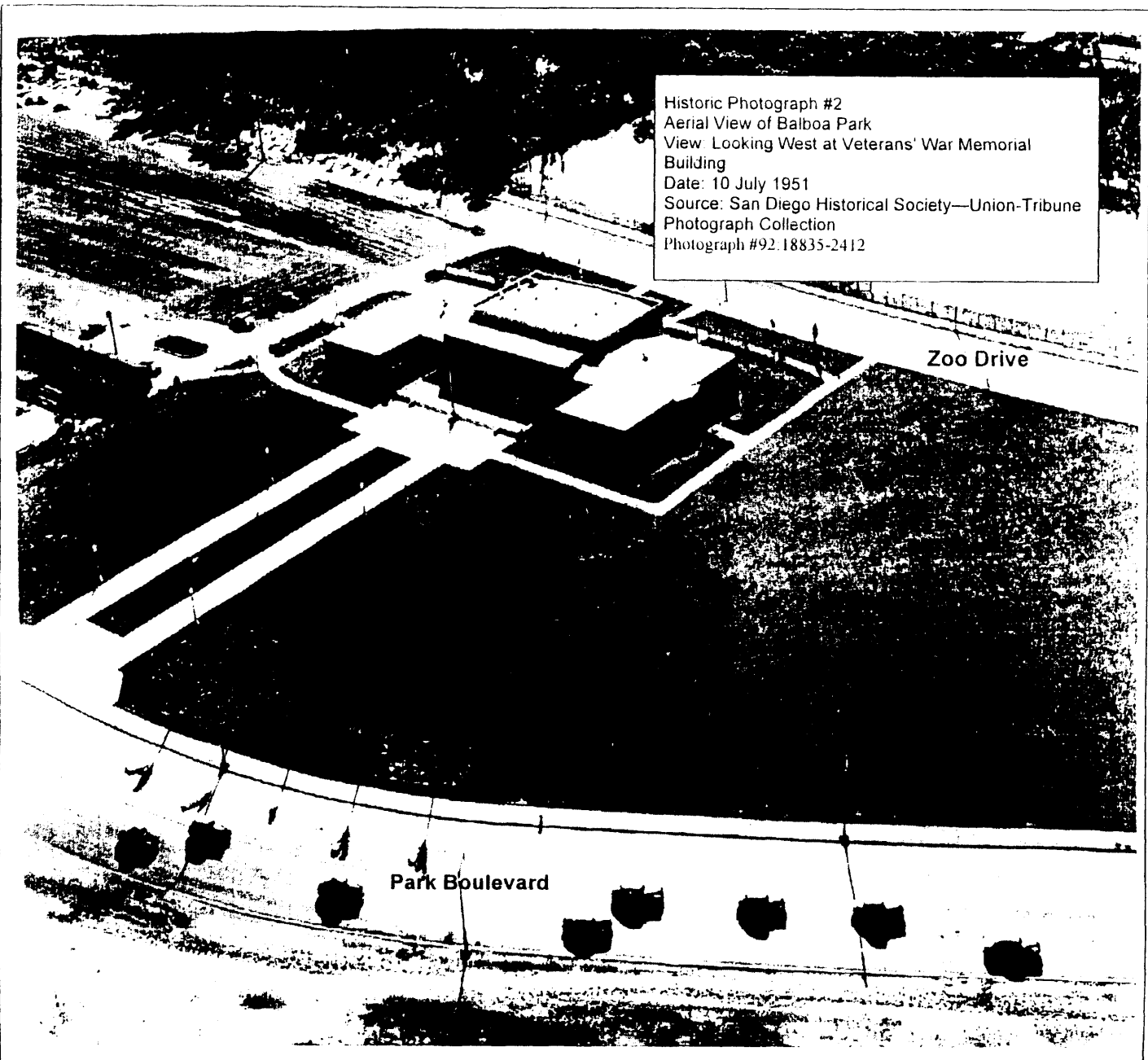


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San Diego Veterans' War Memorial Building, Balboa Park  
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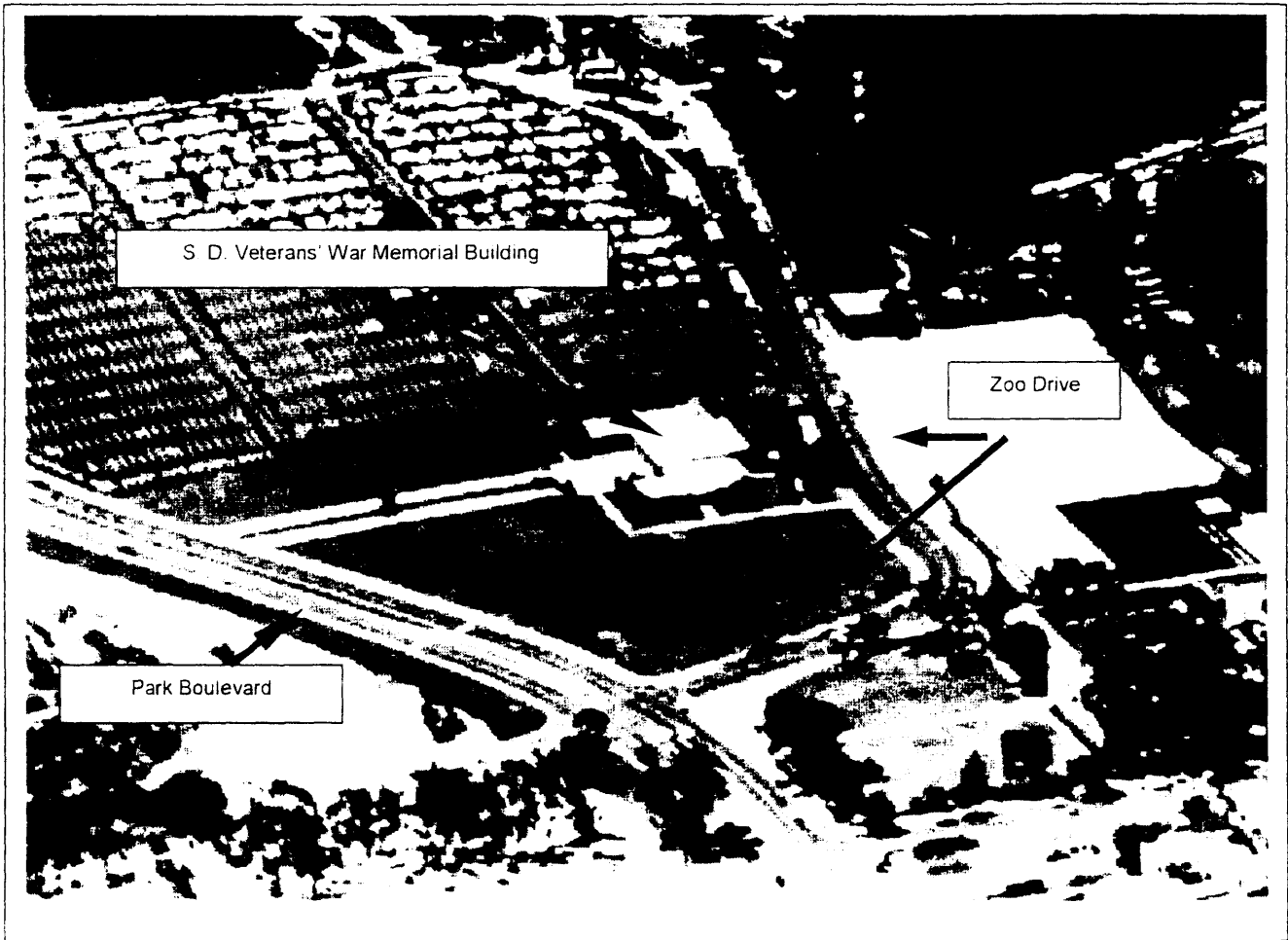
Historic Photograph #2  
Aerial View of Balboa Park  
View: Looking West at Veterans' War Memorial Building  
Date: 10 July 1951  
Source: San Diego Historical Society—Union-Tribune Photograph Collection  
Photograph #92.18835-2412

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Photographic Reproductions Page 3 of 7

San Diego Veterans War Memorial Building, Balboa Park  
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Historic Photograph #3  
S. D. Veterans War Memorial Building, Balboa Park  
San Diego County, CA  
Close-up of S. D. Veterans War Memorial Building taken from Photograph #UT85: H725 #2-4.  
San Diego Historical Society—Union-Tribune Photograph Collection

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
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San Diego Veterans' War Memorial Building, Balboa Park  
San Diego County, CA



Contemporary Photograph #1

S. D. Veterans' War Memorial  
Building, Balboa Park

San Diego County, CA

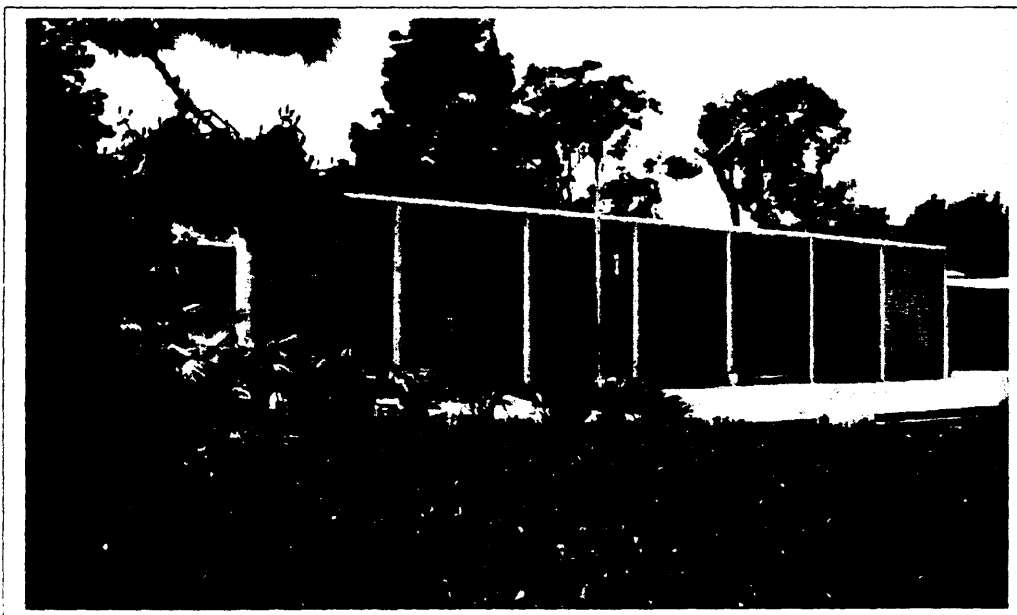
Negative #10  
Roll # 4563

View: East Elevation, Looking  
West

Photographer: Alexander D.  
Bevil

Date: 25 October 1999

Original Negative in Possession  
of Photographer



Contemporary Photograph #2

S. D. Veterans' War Memorial  
Building, Balboa Park

San Diego County, CA

Negative #15  
Roll # 4563

View: East Elevation, Looking  
Northwest

Photographer: Alexander D.  
Bevil

Date: 25 October 1999

Original Negative in Possession  
of Photographer

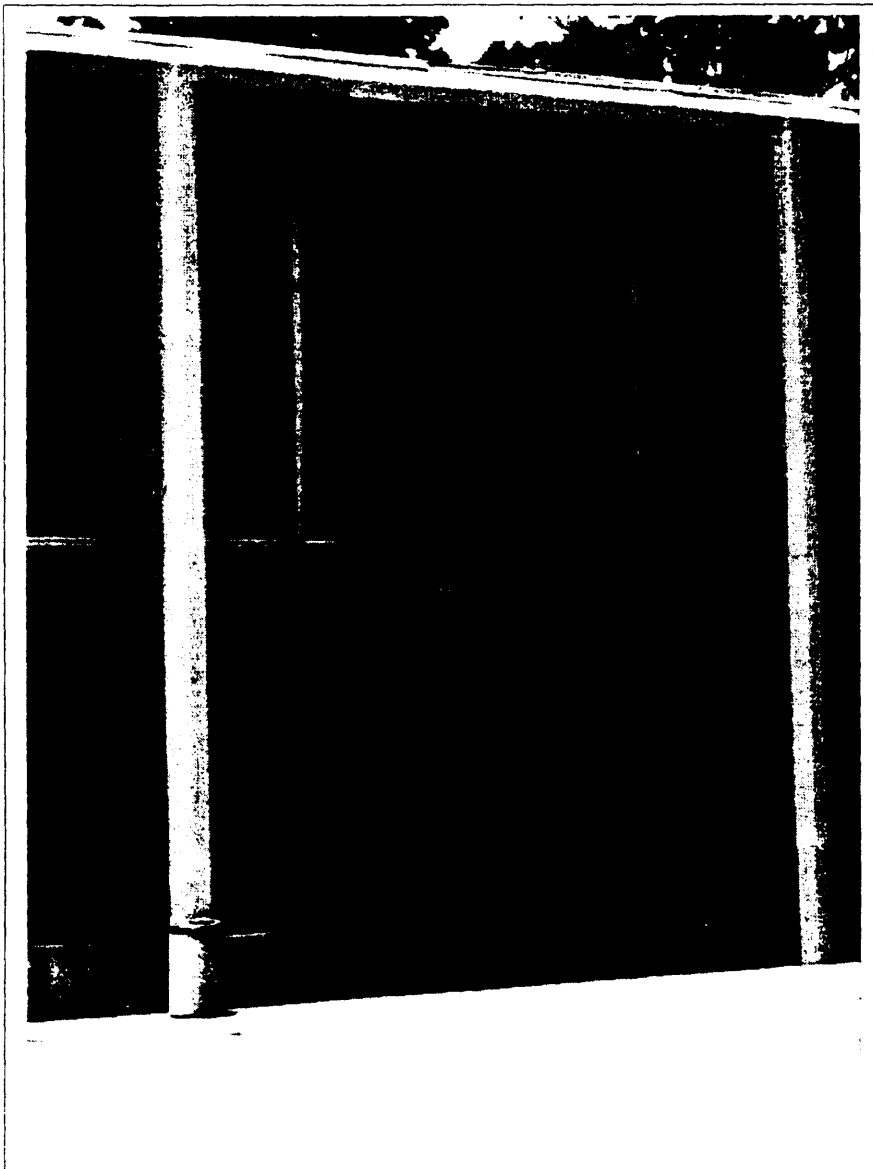


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Photographic Reproductions Page 5 of 7

San Diego Veterans' War Memorial Building, Balboa Park  
San Diego County, CA



Contemporary Photograph #3

S. D. Veterans' War Memorial  
Building, Balboa Park

San Diego County, CA

Negative #12  
Roll # 4563

View: East Elevation, Looking  
Northwest—Close up of North  
Memorial Plaque

Photographer: Alexander D.  
Bevil

Date: 25 October 1999

Original Negative in Possession  
of Photographer

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
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San Diego Veterans' War Memorial Building, Balboa Park  
San Diego County, CA



Contemporary Photograph #4

S. D. Veterans' War Memorial  
Building, Balboa Park

San Diego County, CA

Negative # 6  
Roll # 4563

View: Central East Entry Foyer,  
Looking toward South Corridor

Photographer: Alexander D.  
Bevil

Date: 25 October 1999

Original Negative in Possession  
of Photographer



Contemporary Photograph #5

S. D. Veterans' War Memorial  
Building, Balboa Park

San Diego County, CA

Negative # 2  
Roll # 4563

View: South Corridor, Looking  
North

Photographer: Alexander D.  
Bevil

Date: 25 October 1999

Original Negative in Possession  
of Photographer

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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Continuation Sheet

Photographic Reproductions Page 7 of 7

San Diego Veterans' War Memorial Building, Balboa Park  
San Diego County, CA



Contemporary Photograph #6

S. D. Veterans' War Memorial  
Building, Balboa Park

San Diego County, CA

Negative # 16  
Roll # 4563

View: West Elevation—  
Northwest Corner, Looking  
Southeast

Photographer: Alexander D.  
Bevil

Date: 25 October 1999

Original Negative in Possession  
of Photographer

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

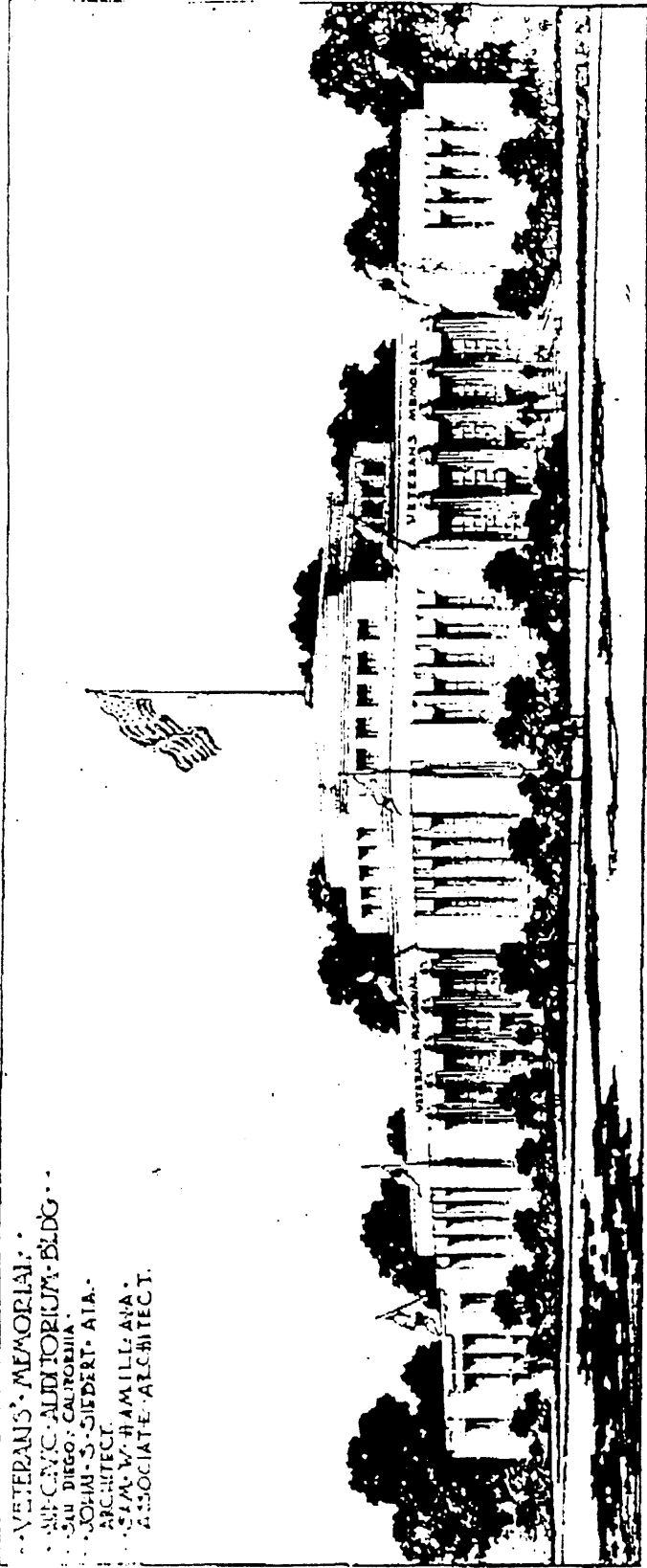
Attachments Page  1  of  1

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San Diego Veterans' War Memorial Building, Balboa Park  
San Diego County, CA

Attachments

1. Siebert, John S. and Samuel W. Hamill. San Diego Veterans' War Memorial Building, 18 February 1943. San Diego Historical Society Architectural Drawings Collection, AD 1066-013 F1-D11.
2. "Architect's Sketch of New War Memorial Building." San Diego Union, 7 January 1948, A-4.
3. "San Diego Veterans' War Memorial Sketched." San Diego Union, 19 June 1949, A-11.
4. Hamill, Samuel W. San Diego Veterans' War Memorial Building, San Diego, California, 10 March 1950. San Diego Historical Society Architectural Drawings Collection, AD 1066-013 F1-D11, Sheet Z2.



VETERANS MEMORIAL  
SAN DIEGO CALIFORNIA  
JOHN S. SIEDERT, AIA  
SAM W. HAMILLE, AIA  
ASSOCIATE ARCHITECT