

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED SEP 7 1977

DATE ENTERED NOV 9 1977

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC PACIFIC ELECTRIC RAILWAY COMPANY SUBSTATION #8 (ALTADENA)

AND OR COMMON

ALTADENA SUBSTATION

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

2245 North Lake Avenue

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSional DISTRICT

CITY TOWN

Altadena

VICINITY OF

STATE

California

CODE

06

COUNTY

Los Angeles

CODE

037

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING-SI	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Republic Federal Savings and Loan

STREET & NUMBER

2246 North Lake Avenue

CITY TOWN

Altadena

VICINITY OF

California

STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Los Angeles County Hall of Records

STREET & NUMBER

500 West Temple

CITY TOWN

Los Angeles

STATE

California

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None Known

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY TOWN

STATE

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT  DETERIORATED  
 GOOD  POOR  
 FAIR  UNUSABLE

DESCRIPTION

Pacific Electric Substation is a brick building of the early 20th century. The building features classical detailing, with a prominent cornice and emphasized eave lines. Four and a half inch concrete masonry blocks provide solidity, and separated by a

Six twelve-inch cover lines on west end gable, and emphasized

A wooden tower topped by a small vent end of the roof, and rest

The original substation, however, underwent alterations which included the addition of windows in the upper right corner has been replaced by an aluminum sash window. The original brickwork has been subsequently altered to create a new appearance. A portion of the original brickwork has been further altered the original appearance and stairway alter the north

The following description is from the author of a recent book on the

"Structure is a buttressed 30' x 50', fronting directly in Altadena. It has a gable roof supported on timber purlins. The rear which once contained sets raised slightly higher than heavy machinery inside the rear. Several ceramic tiles can still be seen on the

Original appearance of entrance through the mid-1940s a single track trolley dead end spur siding runs

The interior consisted of a half four motor-generator. All this equipment was for trolley service in the Alt

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The building was then purchased by a private owner and converted into office space in the middle 1940's. Three large glass display windows were added on the Lake Avenue (eastern) end, and a small salesroom was partitioned off on the street side. The building was painted white, and a metal stairway added to give access to the north side balcony.

The substation has been occupied by a number of tenants since its conversion to an office building. It is presently used as a professional photography studio, and the salesroom area has been attractively remodeled. It is an interesting and attractive building, very much an asset to the community.

**MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHY**  
Great Lakes, the Railway to  
Altadena, by Sarah Noble  
Altadena's Golden Years, by  
Pacific Electric in Trans

**GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACRES OF DESIGNATED PROPERTY  
UTM REFERENCES

A	1	B	1	9	7	6	7
ZONE		EASTING		NORTHING		SCALE	
C	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Situated on a 1.5 acre site, the powerhouse is located 1/2 block N.E. corner of the building, 86 feet, bounded by a driveway south and an older tree

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTRIES

STATE \_\_\_\_\_  
STATE \_\_\_\_\_

**FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME TITLE  
Karwin Klasy, President  
ORGANIZATION  
Altadena Historical Society  
STATE ADDRESS  
Box 744 799-8576  
CITY OR TOWN  
Altadena

**STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

THE EVALUATION  
NATIONAL \_\_\_\_\_

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer, I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places on the basis of the criteria and procedures established by the National Historic Preservation Act.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER  
TITLE \_\_\_\_\_

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS A HISTORIC PLACE  
ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

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The following statement of significance was prepared by Charles G. Seims, author of Mount Lowe, the Railway in the Clouds;

"The significance of this building to the history and development of Southern California and the Altadena/Pasadena area is multifaceted. Briefly, the arguments for its inclusion on the National Register are as follows:

1. It is one of the last and best preserved edifices of the largest and greatest public transportation system in the world--the Pacific Electric Railway Company which flourished in Los Angeles from 1902 until 1953. As its peak, this system had 1200 miles of track and operated 2400 scheduled trains per day. The Pacific Electric Railway and its related land company was probably the single most important factor in the commercial and economic development of Southern California in the early decades of the century.
2. It is the last surviving structure connected with the world famous Mount Lowe Railway, which at one time was the most popular tourist attraction in California. This five-mile long railway line began at the substation site, transported passengers by trolley into the depths of Rubic Canyon, then up the spectacular 3000 foot incline, and  $\frac{3}{8}$  miles further to the Alpine tavern in the wooded San Gabriel Mountains. Three and one half million people rode to Mount Lowe in the 44 years of the line's operation. The Altadena substation was built in 1906 to replace the original power generation facilities on Echo Mountain which were destroyed in a fire.
3. The architecture of the substation is attractive and worthy of preservation in its own right. It is the most unique commercial building in Altadena.
4. Public interest in the substation's preservation and its conversion into a center of community focus has been immense. Over one thousand signatures urging preservation have been collected by the Altadena Historical Society.
5. The site has great potential as a museum, as a theme restaurant, or as the center of attention in a chopping mall complex."

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