

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received **MAR 6 1987** RECEIVED
date entered **SEP 30 1986**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

OHP

1. Name

historic Second Church of Christ, Scientist

and/or common Second Church of Christ, Scientist

2. Location

street & number 946 West Adams Boulevard N/A not for publication

city, town Los Angeles N/A 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Second Church of Christ, Scientist

street & number 948 W. Adams Blvd.

city, town Los Angeles N/A vicinity of state California 90007

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Los Angeles County Hall of Records

street & number 511 W. Temple Avenue

city, town Los Angeles state California

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Phase I Survey of Expanded Hoover
title Redevelopment Area (1985) has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1985 federal state county local

depository for survey records Community Redevelopment Agency of Los Angeles

city, town Los Angeles state CA

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	N/A
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Built in a fashionable turn-of-the-century residential district of Los Angeles, the Second Church of Christ, Scientist is Neo-classical in style. Monumental and imposing, the structure faces north to West Adams Boulevard. A colossal Corinthian portico and copper-clad dome dominate the design. Terraces edged by balustrades define the porch and the front setback. Detailed and correct in its interpretation of Classical and Renaissance precedents, the exterior is unaltered. The interior, as well, is dignified and classical, with an elevated, square sanctuary set over a Sunday School room. Fine woods and non-figural stained and leaded glass windows enhance the spaces. They too, are unaltered in all major respects.

Resting on a stylobate elevated eight feet above ground level, the reinforced concrete structure is nearly square in plan. Classical symmetry and proportions govern its design. White enamel-faced brick sheathes the exterior while the foundation is of light gray granite. Additional materials include terra cotta for the decorative elements, and marble for the porch pavement.

The north facade consists of a two story portico, defined by six, forty foot Corinthian columns and a full entablature, and flanking one story wings. A sequence of moldings and dentils embellishes the architrave frieze, and modillioned cornice. The name of the church is chiseled in Roman capitals across the frieze. The raking cornice is similarly treated and outlines a pediment which contains a spherical niche surrounded by garlands. An antefix marks the apex of the gable. Elaborate coffering appears in the porch ceiling, behind which the exterior of the building is framed by Corinthian pilasters. A stringcourse divides the facade approximately two-thirds of its height from the floor. Below it, three flat-headed entries are equally spaced behind the central intercolumniations. Paneled wood double doors are capped by star-paned transoms and framed by molded surrounds. Keystones ornament the side entrances. An arched pediment over a corbeled hood marks the central opening. Huge iron lanterns are appended to the exterior between the doorways. Above the stringcourse three bullseye windows containing stained glass are centered above the doors. Balustraded parapets cap the recessed wings to either side of the porch. Triangular pediments on consoles top rectangular blind openings on the facades of these wings; identical openings containing stained glass illuminate the stairwells on the interior from the side elevations.

Instead of a porch, similarly scaled, pedimented projections on the east and west elevations contain three tall arched windows on the upper level and five smaller, flat-headed openings on the lower. Each aperture is decoratively framed and keystones accent the lower windows. Secondary entrances with balustraded stairs and pedimented heads are located in the recessed bays at the south end of each elevation. Bullseye windows top the doors.

Crowning the structure, the dome is seventy feet in diameter and constructed of reinforced concrete. Sheathed in copper, the dome is ribbed, sits on an arcaded drum, and is surmounted by a lantern. The surrounding roofs are of green glazed tile.

(see continuation sheet)

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1907-1910 **Builder/Architect** Alfred H. Rosenheim/Albert C. Martin

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Second Church of Christ Scientist, located in the once fashionable West Adams neighborhood of downtown Los Angeles, is the oldest extant church of the denomination in the city and has been in continuous use since its completion in 1910. Designed by architect Alfred F. Rosenheim, the **Neo-classical** edifice was heralded as the largest and most elaborate of the denomination's branches west of the Mississippi when it was constructed. Closely resembling portions of the Mother Church in Boston, the building exemplifies the continuity and quality of craftsmanship present during the primary period of development of Christian Science. Dedicated in 1968 as Los Angeles Historic Cultural Monument #57, the structure is a primary example of its style and type in Los Angeles.

The congregation of Second Church was formed on June 20, 1898 with twenty-five charter members, as a branch of the Mother Church, the First Church of Christ, Scientist, of Boston, Massachusetts. Services were held in a variety of auditoriums in Los Angeles while a suitable site was located. Two lots in the fashionable Belgravia Tract were purchased for \$20,000 in 1904. In July of 1905, Mr. Rosenheim was selected to design the building. Rosenheim has arrived in Los Angeles only two years before, but he was rapidly becoming one of the city's most prestigious architects. Born in St. Louis in 1859, he had attended public school, spent time in Frankfurt, Germany, and returned to St. Louis to study at Washington University. In 1879, he entered the Massachusetts Institute of Technology at Boston, where he graduated with a degree in architecture in 1881. He practiced in Boston, St. Louis, and New York until his arrival in Los Angeles in 1903. He had been selected by financier Herman W. Hellman to design an imposing office structure on Fourth and Spring Streets, a steel-framed granite and pressed brick building said to be one of the most costly of its day. That commission led to his selection as architect of the Hamburger and Sons Department Store in 1904. Second Church was his third major Los Angeles commission in less than two years. He established a reputation for fine detailing and employed the latest construction techniques. Rosenheim was president of the Southern California Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, and a charter member and officer of the St. Louis chapter. Later he served as secretary to the Los Angeles Municipal Arts Commission.

The cornerstone, bearing the inscription "A.D. 1907" was actually laid in March of 1908. The main building was completed and the first service held in January of 1910. Newspapers hailed the edifice as an "elegant and artistic structure." The main auditorium, with its spectacular dome, 70 feet in circumference and 76 feet high, was designed to seat 1,200 "without galleries or obstructions of any kind." Woodwork was of mahogany. In addition to the main auditorium, a large Sunday School, foyer, parlors, readers' preparation rooms, and offices were housed in the building. Second (see continuation sheet)

9. Major Bibliographical References

_____, "Historical Statement," Second Church of Christ, Scientist, Los Angeles, nd.
 _____, "The Work of Alfred F. Rosenheim, Architect," The Architect and Engineer of California Volume VIII, No. 2, March 1907 (see continuation sheet)

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 0.57 acre

Quadrangle name Hollywood

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A 11 38111010 3766640
 Zone Easting Northing

B
 Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

Belgravia Tract lots 4 and 5. Building occupies its original 100' by 250' lot.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code
state		code	county		code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Christy Johnson McAvoy/Leslie Heumann

organization Johnson Heumann Research Associates/
Community Redevelopment Agency of L.A. date October 1, 1986

street & number 354 S. Spring St., Suite 800 telephone (213) 977-1660

city or town Los Angeles, state CA 90013

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

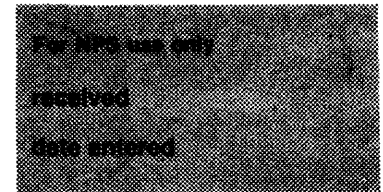
Kathryn Guertlein

title _____ date 3/2/87

For NPS use only
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register of Historic Places.
[Signature]
 Keeper of the National Register
 Attest: _____ date _____
 Chief of Registration

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Continuation sheet

Item number 7

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A narrow vestibule with a vaulted ceiling separates the porch from the lobby. Divided into two levels, the north and south walls are articulated as five bays separated by pilasters. Three double doors of mahogany are set in the central bays on the south and echo the main entrances opposite them. Above a cornice, the three circular windows on the facade face three arched windows of stained glass which light the sanctuary. Two blind arches fill the end bays. Additional illumination of the vestibule is provided by pendants and sconces. Secondary materials in the space include a white and charcoal hexagonal tile floor and green and black veined marble wainscoting.

The flooring continues into the lobby, where the marble wainscoting is pink. A beamed ceiling and marble fireplaces at each end enhance the space. Parlors on the east and west feature wood wainscoting, stained glass windows, and molded cornices and ceilings. Staircases in the northeast and northwest corners have marble stairs and lead to the rear of the sanctuary.

Tunnel staircases in the south wall of the lobby emerge near the south end of the sanctuary, beneath the dome. Rising some ninety feet above the auditorium floor, the dome sits on a drum banded by a continuous arcade of stained glass. Ribs adorned with reliefwork articulate the dome, which culminates in an oculus of stained glass. Beneath denticulated entablature with a festooned frieze, the dome is carried on four flattened barrel arches and pendentives with spherical niches. Rosettes decorate the intrados of each arch. Ionic pilasters, paired on the angle walls and single on each of the four side walls, articulate five bays. They sit on a tall, paneled mahogany wainscoting which is broken by pedimented doorways on the north and south. The central three bays of each wall are arched and accented by keystones; those on the east, west, and north are glazed with stained glass. Inscribed tablets appear in the south arches behind the balustraded pulpit. Smaller tablets, ornamented with swags and drip moldings, punctuate the flat-headed panels in the end bays. A screen over the tympanum above the pulpit hides the pipes of a Murray Harris organ. The auditorium floor is ramped and mahogany pews seat 1,050. The stairwells are circled by bronze railings of a Greek key and floral pattern. Four brass chandeliers and several three-globe sconces provide interior lighting.

Behind the sanctuary, Readers', Directors', and Clerk's rooms are extensively detailed with quarter-sawn oak. Beneath the sanctuary, the Sunday School is a single space punctuated by mahogany posts. A slightly raised dais is at the north end of the room, which is infused by a golden light from stained glass windows on the three other walls. Two more stairwells, light by circular windows, open to the secondary entrances in the southeast and southwest corners of the building.

With only minor alterations, the Second Church of Christ, Scientist is perhaps the most impressive Neo-classical monument in Los Angeles. An elevator was added to the southeast stairwell not long after construction, a few pews have been removed, reducing capacity by about 120, and the Heinsbergen firm did some redecorating in the 1960s. The church dominates its setting, with its successively raised terraces edged by balustrades punctuated by pedestals. Trees and hedges enhance the area, which is lit by post-top lamps with single globes. Visible from great distances, the domed church continues to serve not only its immediate neighborhood, but also greater Los Angeles.
(Resource Count: One contributing building)

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Continuation sheet

Item number 8

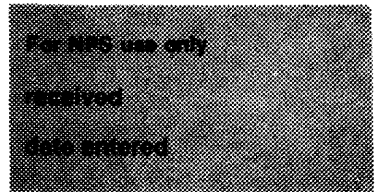
Page

8. Significance (continued):

Church was the largest in a series of twelve Christian Science churches erected throughout California between 1905 and 1908. No expense was spared, from the gray granite and glazed brick of the exterior to the dome's copper sheathing or the art glass windows whose designs were created by Rosenheim. A.C. Martin was the structural engineer. True to the custom of the organization, the \$318,000 building was not officially dedicated until it was debt-free on September 11, 1910. Second Church has twice parted with groups of members to form new branches, but continues to serve its members with little modification of the original physical plant. Its high degree of integrity, its mass, and elegant **Neo-classical** facade with ornate Corinthian columns make it a major addition to the West Adams streetscape.

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Continuation sheet

Item number 9

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Major Bibliographical References (continued):

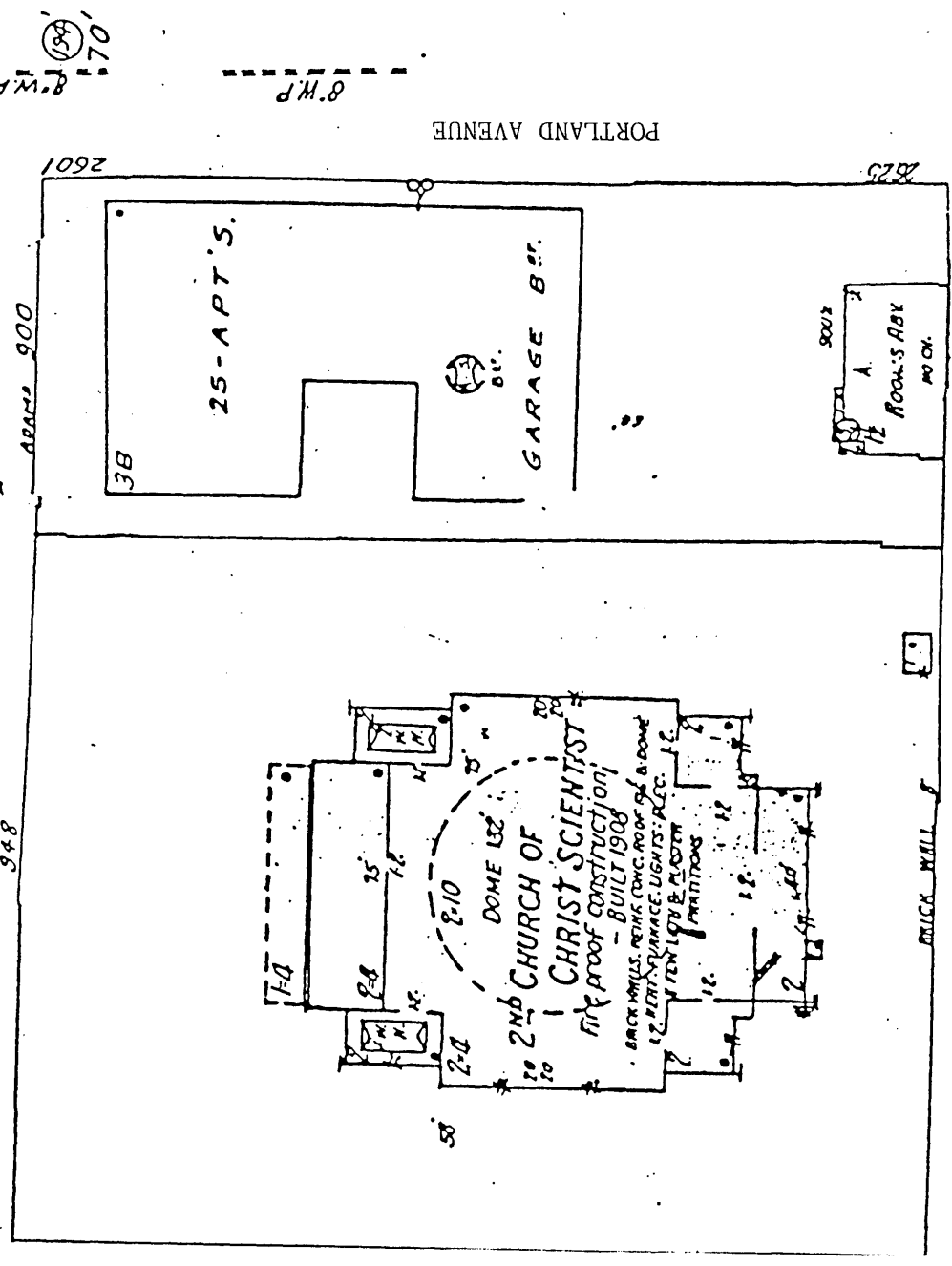
_____, "Christian Science, Its Rapid Growth," Los Angeles Times, March 7, 1909,
II, p. 1.

_____, "The Scientists' New Churches," Los Angeles Times, July 25, 1909,
Part V, p. 1.

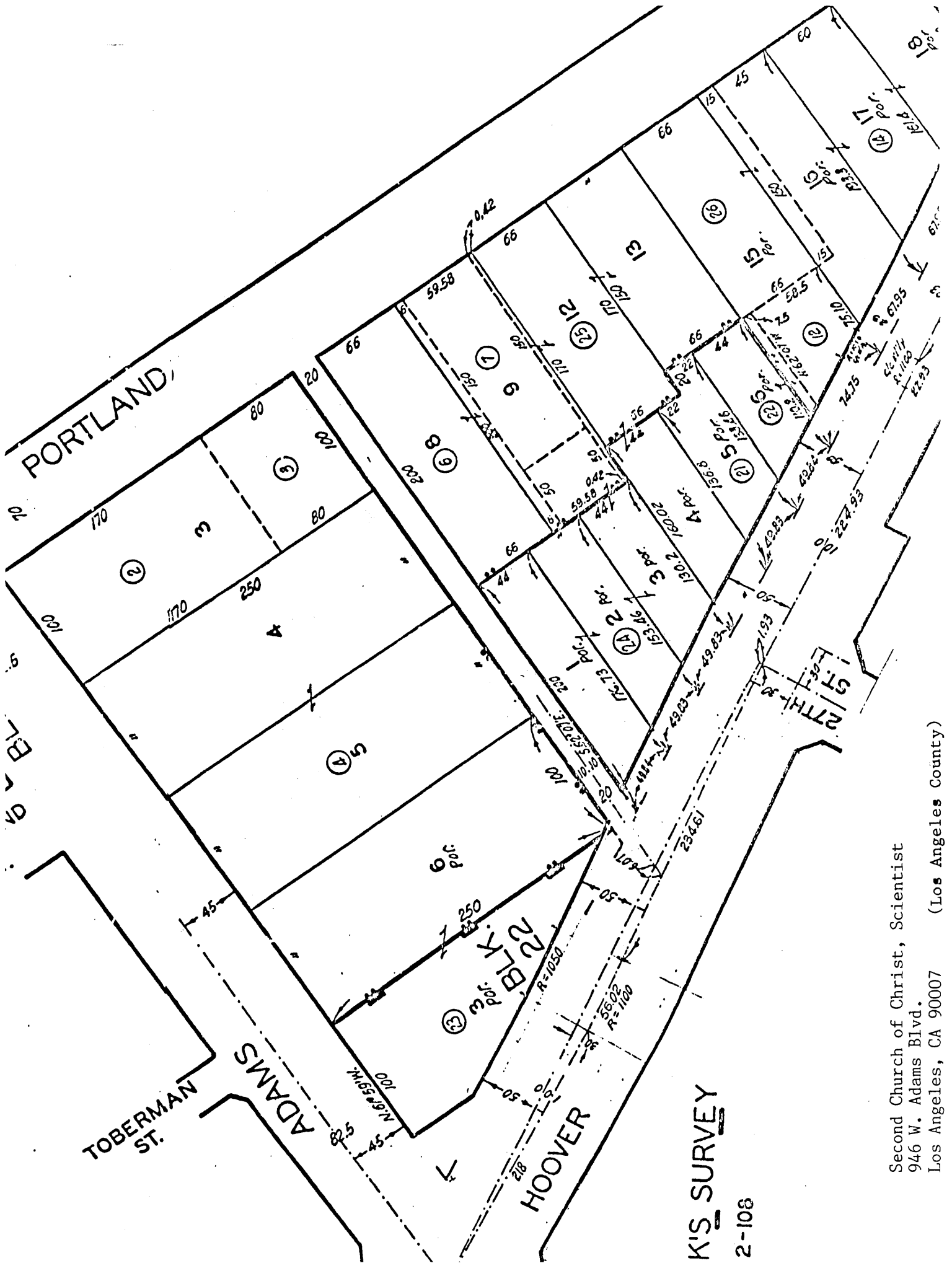
Garrison, Omar. "Church of Christ, Scientist," The Mirror, June 28, 1952.

S E E V O L L
 W. ADAMS BLVD.

920
 948



Second Church of Christ, Scientist
 946 W. Adams Blvd.
 Los Angeles, CA 90007 (Los Angeles County)



K'S SURVEY
2-108

Second Church of Christ, Scientist
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