

PH0509540

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED NOV 29 1977  
DATE ENTERED MAY 22 1978

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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

## 1 NAME

HISTORIC

AZTEC HOTEL

AND/OR COMMON

## LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

311 West Foothill Boulevard

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Monrovia

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

26

STATE

California

CODE

06

COUNTY

Los Angeles

CODE

037

## CLASSIFICATION

### CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

### OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH

### PUBLIC ACQUISITION

- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

### STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

### PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

## OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Adelia & Harold Haney

STREET & NUMBER

311 West Foothill Blvd.

CITY, TOWN

Monrovia

VICINITY OF

STATE

California

## LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Los Angeles County Hall of Records

STREET & NUMBER

320 West Temple Street

CITY, TOWN

Los Angeles

STATE

California

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

California Historic Resources Inventory

DATE

February 1977

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Office of Historic Preservation

CITY, TOWN

Sacramento

STATE

California

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" 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

Constructed of brick, hollow tile, and concrete, the Aztec Hotel is a two-story and basement hotel and shop structure with a salmon-colored sheathing of stucco. The floor plan is L-shaped which allows for a large outside courtyard in the northwest corner. The first floor is composed of six stores, the hotel lobby, kitchen, and dining room, and four apartments. The upper floor contains 36 hotel rooms and an additional four apartments.

The most striking feature of the hotel is the Mayan art and architectural theme which is carried out in the interior and exterior. The facade consists of a row of storefronts extending several feet forward from the face of the two-story structure. Along the roofline of both levels are stepped projections, square spires, and geometric designs reminiscent of Mayan pyramids and art in Mexico. Ornate detailing around the hotel entrance, between several of the storefronts, and on the building corners add to the overall effect. This architectural styling is also carried out in the interior with similarly carved panels, and a plethora of murals, mosaics, and reliefs of Mayan art.

Alterations to the hotel have been very minimal. On the facade, the numerous neon signs have changed to meet the needs of the current tenants. Some of the glass-paned display windows have been replaced and the original stucco foundation beneath these display windows has been replaced with brick laid in stretcher bond. Several minor changes have been made in the interior but have not substantially altered the original appearance.

The hotel is situated on the corner of a commercial street with a large residential section directly behind it.

# 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 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/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1924

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Robert Stacy-Judd

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

When it opened on September 5, 1925, the Aztec Hotel was not only the most ornate hotel in the city of Monrovia, it was also the completion of the first architectural attempt to apply the principles of Mayan art and architecture to modern American buildings. The hotel was designed by Los Angeles architect Robert B. Stacy-Judd who attributed the inspiration for this design to John L. Stephen's Incidents of Travel in Central America, Chiapas and Yucatan (1841), a work which expounded on the importance of the Mayan contributions to architecture and included a number of engravings by Fredrick Catherwood. The misnomer "Aztec" was given to the structure by Stacy-Judd because he believed that the general public was better acquainted with that tribe than with the Mayan culture.

Because of the modest budget for construction of the hotel, Stacy-Judd had to discard balance and yet form a continuity of Mayan motifs. On the facade of the hotel he located most of the ornamentation along the rooflines, on the building corners, and around the entrance structure to the lobby. He included a mass of Mayan mosaics, murals, and reliefs in the interior to continue the theme carried out on the exterior. Stacy-Judd also made sure that the furniture which would complete the lobby and dining room had Aztec, Toltec, and Inca designs which were compatible with the rest of the interior. Even the electrical fixtures exhibited the Mayan motif.

The publicity associated with the completion of the hotel spurred an almost immediate response. Structures such as the Mayan Theater in Los Angeles, the Beach and Yacht Club in La Jolla, the Mayan Hotel in Kansas City, and a number of residences in Southern California, as well as across the nation, were highly influenced by the design of the Aztec Hotel. Many new companies sprouted up manufacturing furniture, tile, fixture, and other items of Mayan influence. However, the Mayan style proved to be a short-lived phenomena as it had effectively died out by the end of the 1920's.

Although its influence as an architectural prototype passed quickly, the Aztec Hotel remained as Monrovia's premier hostelry and an architectural curiosity in the area. It has never been significantly altered and is today the most highly visible landmark in the city and the first of a very few remaining Mayan-styled buildings in the United States.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Monrovia Daily News, August 25, 1925.

Los Angeles Times, September 6, 1925, V, p. 2.

Architect & Engineer, May, 1926, pp. 55-64; November, 1933, p. 38.

Pacific Coast Architect, November, 1926, pp. 26-31. (cont.)

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one (27,632 sq.ft.)

UTM REFERENCES

A	11	407360	3779220
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C			

B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

A lot commencing at the northwest corner of Foothill Blvd. and Magnolia Ave., extending 176' northward along Magnolia, then 157' westward, then 176' southward to Foothill Blvd, and then 157' along Foothill to the original point.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Tom Sitton Curatorial Assistant

ORGANIZATION

Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History

DATE

September 14, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

900 Exposition Blvd.

TELEPHONE

746-0410 x241

CITY OR TOWN

Los Angeles

STATE

California

# 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

*K. Miller*

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE November 15, 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

*William Cole*

DATE

5-22-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

5-12-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED NOV 29 1977

DATE ENTERED MAY 22 1978

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

Southern California Business, Vol. 7, no. 3 (April, 1928), pp. 16-38, 45.

Current History, Vol. XXV, no. 5 (February, 1927), pp. 625-33.

Southwest Builder & Contractor, June 27, 1924, p. 57; August 8, 1924, p. 53;  
August 15, 1924, p. 53.

Gebhard, David, & Winter, Robert. A Guide to Architecture in Southern California. Los Angeles: Los Angeles County Museum of Art, 1965.

Wiley, John L. History of Monrovia. Pasadena: Press of the Pasadena Star News, 1927.

AZTEC HOTEL  
MONROVIA, LA

