

56-620



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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Beckman Instruments, Inc. Administration Building
Other names/site number: Beckman Coulter, Inc. Administration Building
Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 4300 N. Harbor Boulevard
City or town: Fullerton State: CA County: Orange
Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,


I hereby certify that this x 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 x meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

 national statewide x local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

 x A x B x C D

		State Historic Preservation Officer	<u>12-12-16</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:		Date	
<u>California Office of Historic Preservation</u>			
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government			

In my opinion, the property <u> </u> meets <u> </u> does not meet the National Register criteria.	
<hr/>	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
<hr/>	
Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain): _____


Signature of the Keeper

1-31-17
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/business

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

MODERN MOVEMENT: Mid-century Modern

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: stucco, glass, stone, aluminum

Foundation: concrete

Walls: stucco, cut-stone (flagstone); glass, aluminum

Roof: stucco, aluminum, asphalt, synthetics

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

Constructed in 1953/54, the headquarters and administrative office building of Beckman Instruments, Inc. (later Beckman Coulter, Inc.) is an early local example of Mid-Century Modern architecture applied to a non-residential building. Well preserved with few alterations, the building is the best example of this style in Fullerton, California. From its completion in 1954 to 2010, the structure served as the headquarters of Beckman Instruments and later iterations of the corporation. The building has remained vacant ever since the corporation moved its facilities to Brea, California in 2010. The structure is situated on a 35-acre parcel that, in addition to the Administration Building, was developed with low, rectangular laboratory and manufacturing facilities, now demolished, that covered the acreage. The Administration Building is located at the western portion of the property. Although it faces west to Harbor Boulevard, it is set back over 80 feet from the street, and access to the building is from a parking area on the south portion of the building.

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The Administration Building is one story, but its irregular footprint comprises over 43,000 square feet of interior space. At the time, the building's design was highly modern and reflected the precision and high technology associated with Arnold O. Beckman and Beckman Instruments. The building's main architectural features include cut stone and smooth stucco walls, a flat roof with a wide overhang, and a modular window treatment. A good portion of the structure has glass curtain walls with a continuous modular pattern. The exceptionally large cantilevered roof, almost wing-like in appearance with its flat profile and tapered design, is the defining feature of the building. The interior, which originally contained modular walls that could be quickly and efficiently reconfigured to accommodate changing needs, has been stripped down to the bare walls/windows and steel supports. The building retains nearly all of its exterior integrity of location, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association, and some of its interior integrity. Overall the building is in good condition but has experienced some minor vandalism and disrepair.

Narrative Description

Location/Setting

In 1951, Arnold O. Beckman and one of his officers, Lowell Stanley, unhappy with the site proposed by a real estate firm for Beckman's new building complex, drove around Orange County looking for a new location. After looking at ten sites, Beckman selected a 38-acre property on Harbor Boulevard (then Spadra Road) because of its high visibility.¹ Covered with orange trees, the property and the surrounding area had recently been rezoned industrial in a concerted effort by Fullerton planners to attract new manufacturing to the still largely rural city. The property straddled Fullerton and La Habra, and there was intense competition between the two cities for the new plant.² The facility was given the address of 2500 N. Harbor Boulevard, Fullerton, but in 1998, the address was officially changed to 4500 N. Harbor Boulevard to correspond with the numbering of adjacent properties.

The Administration Building is located at the corner of Lambert Road and North Harbor Boulevard, at the northern edge of the city of Fullerton. The building is located at the western portion of the 35-acre property. Although the building faces Harbor Boulevard, it is set back over 80 feet from the street, and access to the building is from a parking area on the south portion of the property. Still zoned for industrial use, the property is surrounded by industrial and commercial development. To the north, across Lambert Road, property is developed for commercial use. To the west, across Harbor Boulevard, property is developed with warehousing and other industrial uses. Commercial uses are located to the south, and an industrial park is located to the east of the property across Union Pacific Railroad tracks. The vast majority of land in the vicinity of the Administration Building has been fully improved with buildings having a suburban pattern of development.

Current Status

From its completion in 1954 to 2010, the building served as the headquarters of Beckman Instruments, Inc. and later iterations of the corporation. The Administration Building has remained vacant ever

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since the corporation moved its facilities to Brea, California in 2010. In 2014, the various industrial properties – serviceable, boxlike structures – were demolished, and remediation activities to clear contaminated soils and groundwater on the property took place.³ Landscaping around the Administration Building consisted of a large lawn area, shrubbery, and trees when Beckman Instruments occupied the property, but presently the acreage is largely void of landscaping given its transitional state of redevelopment.

Directly south of the property is an undeveloped 9-acre parcel, also owned by the present owner of the Beckman property. This 9-acre parcel is being packaged with the 35-acre parcel, now cleared of structures except for the Beckman Instruments Administration Building, to be sold to a developer in the coming months. The property will likely be redeveloped with new buildings in the next few years. It is unknown whether the Administration Building will be part of the developer's plan for the 44-acre site.

Exterior

Constructed in 1953/54 for \$2.5 million dollars, the administrative office building of Beckman Instruments, Inc. is an early local example of Mid-Century Modern architecture applied to a non-residential building. The building's distinctive flat roof – with a massive cantilever and angled profile – is the defining element of the structure. While cantilever roofs are routinely seen on Mid-Century Modern architecture, the size (extension) of the building's overhang is exceptional for an industrial structure constructed in the 1950s. The flagstone-cladded exterior walls are very evocative of 1950s taste. Its use in a non-residential building is unusual, however, and provides a rough, warm exterior finish to counter and soften the precision and use of cold materials (glass and metal) that are characteristic of the Mid-Century Modern style. The building's strong architectural elements – roof line, repeated window treatments, flagstone veneer – are found on all sides of the building, unifying the exterior look of a large one-story structure that covers over 43,000-square-feet of interior space.

West Elevation: As the building's primary elevation, it faces Harbor Boulevard but is set back over 80 feet from the street. While nearly 400 feet in length, the focal point of the building's one-story façade is the tower element adjacent to the main entrance. The main entrance is recessed and consists of double aluminum and glass storefront doors with large, single-light sidelights and a single-light transom. There is a metal vent above the main entrance, set into a pop-up clad with flagstone. The southern portion of the west façade is dominated by a band of modular aluminum windows above a flagstone base. The band is composed of fixed central windows with awning windows above and below. At the northern portion of the west façade, a large exterior recess of the building has windows on three of its sides. The building's façade on either side of this recess is mainly solid, with the scored, stucco walls pierced only with a short band of centrally located windows, surrounded by large projecting frames.

South Elevation: The south elevation of the building displays a continuation of the band of modular aluminum windows above a flagstone base – the defining element along the south end of the west elevation. The building's soaring cantilevered roof, approximately 14 feet wide, is also prominently featured.

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East Elevation: The east elevation consists of more modular bands of the fixed aluminum windows above the continuous flagstone base. At midpoint, there is an entrance similar to the west elevation's main entrance – a pair of double aluminum and glass storefront doors with large, single-light sidelights and a single-light transom. There are three other doors on the east elevation, each composed of aluminum and glass with fixed transoms. The façade has other, smaller windows, consisting of pairs of stacked aluminum awning windows. The 14-foot roof overhang is continuous along the east side of the building.

North Elevation: The east end of the north elevation is clad in flagstone, with a band of the same modular window design matching that in other sides. The cantilevered roof extends northward. Entrances consist of two pairs of aluminum and glass storefront doors with fixed single-light transoms. The north end of the building features two courtyard areas with landscaping, one enclosed with a carport structure to the north and the other with a six-foot-high masonry wall.

Interior

Irregularly shaped, the building's interior featured modular walls and panels that could be refigured quickly and efficiently to accommodate changing needs. When Beckman Coulter moved its headquarters to Brea, the interior was stripped down to the bare walls/windows and steel supports. The interior now basically consists of open space with a few pipe supports.

The Administration Building's most significant interior feature was a mural – The Age of Instrumentation – created by Standish Backus, Jr. and Joseph E. Knowles. The mural depicted five periods in “man's quest for knowledge and his application of it to improve its existence: Discovery, Curiosity, Analysis, Technology and Automation.”⁴ The mural was removed when the corporation moved to Brea in 2010.

Alterations

The building has had no significant alterations to its exterior and retains a high degree of integrity. The only alteration indicated on Fullerton building permits for the building was a reworking of the interior lobby in 1986, which was then used to accommodate the Beckman Heritage Center, a museum devoted to the history of the corporation.⁵ The building is in overall good condition, but there is a small amount of vandalism and disrepair (graffiti, broken windows, dying landscape).

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

INVENTION

ARCHITECTURE

INDUSTRY

SOCIAL HISTORY

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Period of Significance

1954-1965

Significant Dates

1954

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Beckman, Arnold O.

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Davidson, Lawrence Whitney

M. J. Brock & Sons, Inc.

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Administration Building of Beckman Instruments, Inc. is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A, B, and C at the local level of significance in the areas of social history, association with a notable individual, and architecture. As the first high-tech company in Fullerton, California, Beckman Instruments, Inc. was one of the most iconic and important companies in the history of postwar Fullerton, California. An integral part of Fullerton's postwar economic growth and development, the business brought international recognition and high-tech prominence to the city, becoming a business hallmark for the city. On all accounts, Arnold O. Beckman was a brilliant inventor, entrepreneur, industrialist, and philanthropist. His legacy of science and business leadership spans the entire 20th century, from his early days as a scientist at the California Institute of Technology during the 1930s, to his invention of the device that revolutionized scientific instrumentation – the pH meter – and to his time as leader of megacorporation Beckman Instruments, Inc. His brilliant inventions, and the company he founded to commercialize them, represented the beginnings of the American chemical instrument industry. An early example of Mid-Century Modernism in Fullerton,

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the administrative office building of Beckman Instruments is the best example of this style of architecture applied to a non-residential building in Fullerton. The first large high-tech industrial “campus” to be developed in Fullerton, and one of the earliest in postwar Orange County, the facility served as both a planning and architectural model for high-tech complexes that followed in the 1950s and 1960s. Designed by notable and prolific architect Lawrence Whitney Davidson, the building’s period of significance is 1954-1965, when the building was completed and Arnold Beckman served as president of Beckman Instruments, Inc. During a 2001 historic survey of Fullerton, the Administration Building was designated a “Potential” Significant Property because the headquarter offices were not yet fifty years old.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Criterion A: Social History

Following World War II, Fullerton remained largely an agricultural community. Revenues from the oil industry had begun to fade around the end of the war, and the city’s economy depended heavily on crop production and food canning and preserving, still a multi-million dollar industry. A new era, however, began after the war, and during the national flurry of industrial expansion in the 1950s, Fullerton attracted hundreds of new businesses and industries which gradually replaced agriculture. While all of Orange County was experiencing unparalleled postwar industrial development, Fullerton led the county in manufacturing gains as one industrial giant after another – Beckman Instruments (1953), Kimberly-Clark Corporation (1956), Hughes Aircraft Company (1957) – moved to Fullerton.⁶

Realizing that the costs of city services for an expanding population were going to rise faster than tax revenues, the Fullerton City Council adopted a new industrial policy designed to move the still largely rural town toward manufacturing and away from the agricultural economy that had existed since the city was founded in 1887. The city had attempted a similar plan in the 1920s to attract new industries, and the plan had failed miserably, so the new industrial policy was not without risks.⁷ The City Council designated two large areas – one of 500 acres in the southwest part of the city, and another of 200 acres in the northwest section of the city – for industrial purposes. Mayor Tom Eadington hired Robert (Bob) L. Clark (1914-1997) as Industrial Coordinator for Fullerton, the first such position created by a California city. Clark’s job, which lasted from 1952 to 1958, was to bring industry into the city. Clark contacted and informed industrial prospects of local opportunities and then smoothed the way for agricultural lands to be developed for manufacturing facilities. Before taking the Fullerton job, Clark had made a name for himself in movie special effects by bleaching cornflakes to create falling snow in the film *Heidi* (1937), starring Shirley Temple, and he became an expert at making volcanoes erupt and buildings blow up.⁸ Clark, who would be later honored by the City Council and named Man of the Year by the Fullerton Chamber of Commerce,⁹ took his civic responsibilities seriously, working long hours and practicing his speeches into a tape recorder. After just two years, the innovative industrial development plan had resulted in 5,000 new jobs. In his first three years alone, Clark brought in more than \$30 million in new industries. The new industries brought in so many new residents that real estate firms began specializing in homes for relocated workers. One full-page advertisement in the

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August 25, 1954 issue of the *Fullerton News Tribune* listed brokers available to “Find Homes for Industrialists.”¹⁰

One of Clark’s strategies was to win over large established companies, which would, in turn, attract other businesses that would provide the goods and services needed by the larger firms. Clark’s first big catch and the jewel in his crown was Beckman Instruments, Inc. Arnold O. Beckman had selected 38 acres of orange grove in unincorporated land between Fullerton and La Habra, and as competition for the company heated up, Clark extolled the virtues of Fullerton. Known for being out-going and direct, Clark wooed Arnold O. Beckman for weeks. In an article in the February 20, 1953 issue of the *Fullerton News Tribune*, Beckman admitted that he selected Fullerton because of its lower tax rate and ample supply of water to conduct his operations.¹¹ He also thought that Fullerton’s residential areas would be a good fit for his present and future employees. An unheard of 8,000 people toured the new Beckman facility during its opening in November 1954, an amazing number of visitors at a time when Fullerton’s population was only 13,958.¹² A milestone in the business development of Fullerton, Beckman Instruments’ relocation to the city signaled to both government officials and residents alike that Fullerton, still very much a small town, could attract large successful companies. The massive campus-like facility, with its extensive landscaping and inter-connected buildings, was a new architectural and business model for the city that would be repeated in the 1950s and 1960s. As the city’s first high-tech firm, Beckman Instruments showed the promise of what Fullerton could become in a newly industrialized world. The relocation of Beckman Instruments to Fullerton was also a source of pride to local residents, and as Beckman grew in size, stature, and international influence, it became a business hallmark for the city.

When the Beckman facility opened in 1954, it employed 900 workers, a combination of relocated employees from Pasadena and South Pasadena, and new ones from the local area. Three of the company’s top officials – Joseph L. Fahey (120 Miramonte Drive), vice-president of finance; Earl C. Jason (1211 Luanne Avenue), plant manager; and John F. Bishop (1934 Richman Knoll) – would immediately relocate to Fullerton, with more to follow.¹³ As the company continued to expand in the 1970s and 1980s, it remained a key player in the local economy. A multitude of scientific professions, crafts, and skilled workers were required at Beckman (Figure 1), and over the decades, the company would employ thousands of Fullerton residents, many of whom would spend a lengthy portion of their careers or their entire careers at the Harbor Boulevard facility. Fullerton College and California State University, Fullerton graduates would find employment with the company. Employees at the Fullerton facility became a tight-knit group, forming clubs, taking field trips and outings together, and producing an employee newsletter, *Feedback Notes*. Former employees and executives would also leave Beckman Instruments to form new Fullerton companies, such as the International Biotronics Corp.¹⁴ An active group of Beckman retirees still meet in Fullerton.

By the time Beckman Instruments had closed its doors in 2010, the company had become an integral part of Fullerton’s postwar economic growth and development. The company had provided extensive employment and revenue to Fullerton, but equally significant, it had become a part of the social, cultural, and geographic landscape of the city. Always a good corporate neighbor, Beckman made generous donations to Fullerton groups, including St. Jude Hospital, the Boys Club, the United Fullerton Fund, and the Children’s League of Fullerton.¹⁵ Beckman was also a constant partner in science education through generous donations to Fullerton schools over the years. Dozens of

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scholarships were given to local high school and college students; instruments and equipment were donated to Fullerton College and Cal State Fullerton; and funding was provided for science and technology exhibits, programs, and field trips. Arnold O. Beckman encouraged a corporate culture that rewarded and encouraged employees to get involved in the community and nonprofit corporations, and hundreds of Beckman workers volunteered their services to local groups, supporting a wide number of important causes. Beckman remains one of the most important and iconic companies in the history of Fullerton.

Criterion B: Arnold Orville Beckman

A creative scientific genius, Arnold Orville Beckman (1900-2014) would have four distinct careers: research scientist and educator; entrepreneur and businessman; civic leader; and philanthropist. His brilliant inventions, and the company he founded to commercialize them, represented the beginnings of the American chemical instrument industry. His devices, credited with saving countless lives, transformed medical research and the practice of clinical medicine. His professional life was intertwined with 20th-century history. Jonas Salk used a Beckman centrifuge to isolate the virus that causes polio; a Beckman device made it possible to develop radar in time for use in World War II; Beckman provided the disometers worn by staff members of the Manhattan Project; and Beckman instruments are on the moon and Mars.¹⁶ The start of silicon electronics in Silicon Valley began in 1955 when physicist William Shockley and Beckman created the Shockley Semiconductor Laboratory.¹⁷

Criterion B: Arnold Beckman as Inventor

A blacksmith's son, Beckman became fascinated with chemistry when at the age of nine he discovered a popular chemistry textbook, Joel Dorman Steele's *Fourteen Weeks in Chemistry* (1861), in the attic of his family's Midwest home. By the time he graduated from high school, he had over two years' worth of college chemistry under his belt. He enrolled in the new discipline of chemical engineering at the University of Illinois in 1922, and earned his master's degree in 1923. To help support his family and pay for his studies, Beckman played the piano in silent movie theaters. In 1928, he graduated with a Ph.D. in chemistry from the California Institute of Technology, then joined its faculty. In 1934, he was approached by a former Illinois classmate, who was working in the citrus industry, for help in measuring the acidity of lemon juice. Working with two students in a metal shed, Beckman developed a pH meter, a revolutionary device that could determine precisely the acidity or alkalinity of virtually any solution. The pH meter was "the seed that planted the tree of electronics in the field of chemical instrumentation," and the device would be designated a National Historic Chemical Landmark by the American Chemical Society on March 24, 2004.¹⁸

Although not sure if the pH meter would sell, Beckman took out a loan for \$35,000, hired people, obtained inventory, and created his firm company, National Technical Laboratories. His initial attempts to garner support met with only lukewarm response, but he plunged forward anyway, and by the second year, he had sold 440 units.¹⁹ He reluctantly resigned from CalTech and assumed the full-time presidency of National Technical Laboratories. With the advent of World War II, the demand for scientific instrumentation grew, and Beckman saw that there was a great need for new spectroscopic instrumentation. In the 1940s, he invented the first quartz spectrophotometer, the commercial infrared

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propelled the continued growth of National Technical Laboratories, which was renamed Beckman Instruments, Inc. in 1950.²⁰

Criterion B: Arnold Beckman and Engineering

By the early 1950s, Beckman's matured enterprise needed a new home. The company's factories, laboratories, and offices were scattered around Pasadena and South Pasadena, and Beckman made the decision to expand the company while unifying all its units into one complex. For his new \$2.5 million headquarters and plant, Beckman selected a 38-acre site on the outskirts of Fullerton at a time when the city was just beginning to industrialize. Beckman oversaw the construction of his new facility, with its modern design becoming a reflection of Beckman himself. The corporation's continued meteoric rise paralleled the economic boom for the still mostly rural city. The new Fullerton plant represented a second phase for both Arnold O. Beckman and Beckman Instruments. The corporation would grow from scattered locations into a unified, cohesive multinational corporation, and in the next thirty years, would become one of the most recognizable firms in the world. New inventions would be developed and patented; company stock would be taken public in November 1955²¹; smaller high technology companies would be acquired; and new divisions and departments would be added as the company continued to grow in size and in the range of devices, while also developing innovative tests and medical procedures. Initially, Beckman continued to produce new medical devices, including the Peptide Sequencer and the Glucose Analyzer, but in the 1960s, he began to also develop products for industrial uses. New industrial products included a broad range of process control instruments, air and water pollution control instruments, and industrial research products. One of Beckman's chromatographs would be used to analyze gas on Mars; another instrument would measure the brain waves of Gemini astronauts; and another contributed to pioneering smog studies in greater Los Angeles in the 1950s and 1960s. It was at the Fullerton location that the company made its foray into other countries, constructing its first overseas plant in 1953, and establishing itself as one of the world's top multinational corporations, eventually servicing customers in 160 countries. When Beckman stepped down as president in 1965, at the age of 65, assuming the position of chairman of the board, his company was a world leader in the development and manufacture of precision products for scientific industries, medicine, education, space exploration, and defense, with its products benefitting people all over the world. It was estimated by the time Beckman had retired in 1981, every laboratory in the world had his instruments.

Beckman's final years were spent as an active philanthropist. Through the Arnold and Mable Beckman Foundation, he was instrumental in establishing the Beckman Institute, Beckman Auditorium, Beckman Laboratory of Behavioral Science, and the Beckman Laboratory of Chemical Synthesis at the California Institute of Technology, along with institutes and laboratories in Orange, Irvine, and Stanford, California, and also sponsored the creation of the Arnold O. Beckman High School in Irvine. He donated millions to a variety of causes and organizations. Thousands of young scientists and K-6 students benefited from his philanthropy, and the five academic institutes that carry his name receive millions of dollars each year from his foundation. He spent his final decades accepting honorary degrees and awards, including the Public Welfare Medal from the National Academy of Sciences, the Life Achievement Award from the Instrument Society of America, the Vermilye Medal from The Franklin Institute, and was inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame in 1987.²² In 1989,

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of 104, at Scripps Hospital in La Jolla. A memorial ceremony, open to the public, was held at the Richard Nixon Library and Birthplace (18001 Yorba Linda Blvd.) in Yorba Linda on June 11, 2004, attended by many former Fullerton employees.²³

Beckman brought international recognition and high-tech prominence to Fullerton when he moved his business from South Pasadena to a local orange grove. Beckman himself would spend untold hours working at the Fullerton facility (Figure 2), while also hosting numerous employee ceremonies, parties, and affairs, most of which were held at large local venues, including Plummer Auditorium and the Fox Fullerton Theatre²⁴ (Figure 3). Good natured and personable, Beckman – known as “Dr. B” to his workers – left a legacy and personal imprint on hundreds of employees, who still remember his dictum: “Hire the best people, then get out of their way.” He often tried to imbue the firm with a personal touch, such as personally distributing paychecks to his employees.²⁵ He was also an active presence in Fullerton, supporting local education, business, and civic causes and organizations. He served on local boards, attended important Fullerton events, and delighted in accepting local invitations to speak on the importance of science. He was a member of the lay advisory board of the new Orange State College, now California State University, Fullerton. He would often accept invitations to speak at building dedications, including the dedication of the new Fullerton College Library in 1954,²⁶ and was the featured speaker at the opening of a new wing at St. Jude Hospital (101 E. Valencia Mesa Dr.) in 1962.

Criterion C: Architecture

An early example of Mid-Century Modernism in Fullerton, the administrative office building of Beckman Instruments, Inc. is the best example of this style of architecture applied to a non-residential building in the city. The Administration Building was the first large high-tech industrial “campus” to be developed in Fullerton, and one of the earliest in postwar Orange County. The entire appearance and layout of the administrative offices and plant was something entirely new to Fullerton. Its ultra-modern construction was the precursor to other large manufacturing companies locating in Fullerton in the 1950s and 1960s – Kimberly-Clark Corporation, Hughes Aircraft Company, Sylvania Electric Products, etc. – and it would become an architectural and planning model for later companies locating to the city. The facility’s distinctive style and unique building arrangement, developed by notable architect Lawrence Whitney Davidson²⁷ and constructed by M. J. Brock & Sons, Inc.,²⁸ set an early standard for high-tech complexes that were to follow.

Before relocating to Fullerton, Beckman Instruments occupied 16 scattered locations throughout Pasadena and South Pasadena, and space had become an issue. With the exception of a few postwar buildings, Beckman’s factories, laboratories, and offices were pre-World War II structures that did not provide the flexibility needed for a growing scientific company. The innovative design for the Fullerton facility, which provided expansion space spread out over 220,000-square-feet of buildings, reflected the company’s inventive approach to research and manufacturing and signaled the company’s move into a more modern era. Interior walls could be easily disassembled and moved to keep pace with expansion; glare-resistant windows provided working comfort for employees; an insulated steel deck ran throughout the factory to facilitate controlled temperatures; and a landscaped open air central walkway allowed visitors to move from the main foyer and administrative offices to individual product departments without passing through new areas. As historian Arnold Thackray noted: “The design

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was high modern, centered on the concept of flexibility for further expansion: Additional space could be easily constructed and integrated, and any interior spaces could be reconfigured quickly and efficiently. Such a flexible design befitted a firm dedicated to new instrumentation in a growing array of technologies.”²⁹

In 1955, the national magazine *Factory Management & Maintenance* honored Beckman with its Significant Plant Award. From 500 plant-of-the-year candidates, the magazine chose the new Beckman facility as one of the nation’s top ten plants built in 1954. The magazine noted: “Faced with extraordinary requirements for flexibility and expandability, Beckman met both demands to a remarkable degree with a plant that is also a pacesetter in appearance and employee services.”³⁰

In the 1950s and 1960s, the administrative office building became a well-known architectural symbol of the company. Photographs and drawings of the building were used in advertisements, annual reports, and other promotional materials (Figure 4).

Architect of the Building: Lawrence Whitney Davidson, AIA

During the postwar era, hundreds of new industries were established in Fullerton. Most of the plants and factories constructed for these industries were nondescript box-like structures. A few companies used notable architects – Kimberly-Clark employed Skidmore, Owings and Merrill and the American Electronics Plant hired Eugene Choy – but few of the manufacturing buildings of this era reflect remarkable architectural design. Lawrence Whitney Davidson was an excellent choice to design the Beckman Instruments new facility. He had a strong background in both architecture and engineering and had designed other manufacturing plants before the Fullerton project. Over his 30 year career, Davidson moved fluidly from one project to another, designing golf clubhouses, industrial plants, movie studios, school classrooms, and municipal buildings. He moved easily between private, military, and public works projects. His early work was done in the Mid-Century Modern style, but over time he designed starker, more postmodern structures.

Davidson received his Bachelor of Science degree in architecture from the Illinois Institute of Technology in 1935, receiving a one-year scholarship for being high school valedictorian. He served as manager of engineering at the American Can Company from 1948 to 1951, where he patented a new device for stacking magnetizable items (Patent # 2635002A). From 1951 to 1953, Davidson worked as chief architect at the Donald R. Warren Company (930 West Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles), one of the southwest’s leading heavy engineering firms.³¹ An influential civil and structural engineer, Donald R. Warren (1897-1973) had joined architects Paul R. Williams and Adrian Wilson to form Allied Engineering, Inc., which worked on the Roosevelt Naval Base on Terminal Island during World War II, and Warren later became known for helping to build large infrastructure projects, including the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge and the Los Angeles International Airport. By the time of the Beckman Instruments project, Warren’s company had completed over 200 industrial projects for producers of aircraft, petroleum, cement, paints, instruments, rubber, and metals. After Davidson left the Donald R. Warren Company, Warren would work with other architects, such as Jones and Emmons, on other Fullerton projects, including the Arcadia Metal Products Plant (801 North Acacia) and the American Meter Company plant (300 North Gilbert).³²

Beckman Instruments, Inc. Administration Building
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In 1952, Davidson designed new container factories in Wilmington and Stockton for the American Can Company. An article in the September issue of *Architect and Engineer* lauded the Wilmington plant (110 East Sepulveda, razed), noting that it represented “one of the most modern manufacturing plants in the world.”³³ The Wilmington plant’s ultra-modern architectural features, especially the large “fin” rising over the center of the building used for an identification sign, were later reflected in the Beckman administration building, which refined the elements of the can plant.

In 1954, Davidson established his own architectural firm, L. W. Davidson and Associates, and in February 1956, moved into new headquarters with his affiliate company, North American Industrial Engineers, at 3142 Wilshire Boulevard in Los Angeles.³⁴ In the 1950s and 1960s, Davidson designed a significant number of impressive and innovative commercial and industrial structures: the S. H. Kress Company Store (1954) in Los Angeles, one of three projects for businessman/art collector Samuel H. Kress³⁵; a warehouse and sales office for Coopers, Inc. (1955), manufacturers of men’s apparel, in Los Angeles³⁶; the Western Gear Corporation (later Westech Gear) Engineering Building (1956) in Lynwood³⁷; the Leeden Manufacturing Company plant (1956) in El Monte³⁸; a \$500,000 modernization and new exterior for the W. I. Hollingworth Building (1958) on West Sixth Street in downtown Los Angeles³⁹; the Turco Products headquarters (1959) in Los Angeles⁴⁰; the Georgia-Pacific Corporation distribution warehouse (1961) in Pico Rivera⁴¹; the National Cash Register Company plant (1967) in Hawthorne⁴²; and Statham Instruments in Oxnard (1967). In 1959, Julius Shulman, the great modernist photographer, took shots of the Turco Products, Inc. building, which are on file at the Getty Center.⁴³ During this same period, Davidson did military work, designing buildings at George Air Force Base, Edwards Air Force Base, and the Marine Corps Electronic School at 29 Palms, while also patenting a hangar for swept-wing aircraft (Patent # 3543461A). He designed film studios, such as the Universal Pictures Studios in Los Angeles and Universal Pictures in Memphis, Tennessee, both in 1955, as well as a pipeline project in the Arctic Circle.

In the 1960s, Davidson began to move into the public building sector, designing the Community Clubhouse at Erwin Park (now Valley Glen Community Park) in Van Nuys,⁴⁴ and in the 1970s, began school projects, including a new children’s center for Dayton Heights Elementary School, and a \$1.32 million project for Bret Harte Junior High School, which called for a new main building, 20 classrooms, administrative unit, and library-media center.⁴⁵ By the 1970s, L. W. Davidson and Associates had become one of the largest architectural firms in the San Fernando Valley, which was rapidly developing. In 1979, he was selected to design the \$43.9-million dollar Plaza Technical Center (555 Ramirez Street), at the time the largest single construction project ever built by the Los Angeles Department of Public Works. Using a quadrant concept to link four separate structures, the Plaza Technical Center (now the C. Erwin Piper Technical Center) project was the largest single contract ever issued by a local governing body in California. Designed to serve multiple city services, the center also has the world’s largest rooftop airport.⁴⁶ In addition to Beckman Instruments, Davidson’s other major Orange County commission appears to be the Lido Park Medical Center in Newport Beach (1965).

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²“Dr. Beckman Tells Plans for L.H. Plant.” *Fullerton News Tribune* December 16, 1952. At the time of purchase, the property was an “island” of unincorporated land between the two cities.

³Hargis + Associates, Inc. *Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration, Beckman Coulter Facility, Demolition and Remediation Project.* San Diego: Hargis + Associates, Inc., 2013.

⁴Stephens, Harrison. *Golden Past, Golden Future: The First Fifty Years of Beckman Instruments, Inc.* Claremont, CA: Claremont University Center, 1985, p. 69.

⁵Giasone, Barbara. “Beckman Dedicates Center: At 95, He’s at One with Science.” *Orange County Register* July 27, 1995, p. 1.

⁶Mudrick, Sylvia Palmer, Debora Richey, and Cathy Thomas. *Fullerton: The Boom Years.* Charleston, SC: The History Press, 2015, p. 47-75; “Eight Major Firms Lead Industry: Policy Set by City Encourages Plants to Pick Sites Here.” *Fullerton News Tribune* August 25, 1954; “Many Projects Completed by Industrial Department.” *Fullerton News Tribune* February 22, 1955; Johnson, Helen. “Fullerton Paved the Way for Arrival of Industry.” *Los Angeles Times* April 3, 1955, p. H3.

⁷“New Industry Hum Is Near at Hand.” *Fullerton News Tribune* June 9, 1923.

⁸“Bob Clark’s Path Took Many Turns: His Rainbow of Careers Included Special Effects and Ranching.” *Orange County Register* September 12, 1997, p. B5; “Clark, 83, Dies; Former City Official Brought Hughes to Town.” *Fullerton News Tribune* September 11, 1997, p. A11. Clark was involved in special effects on the films *San Francisco*, *Gone with the Wind*, and *The Wizard of Oz*. He would later serve two terms on the Orange County Grand Jury in 1964 and 1969 and on the Orange County Water District Board of Directors from 1968 to 1981.

⁹“Man, Woman of ’76 Named by Fullerton.” *Fullerton News Tribune* June 14, 1976, p.A1.

¹⁰“Find Homes for Industrialists [Advertisement].” *Fullerton News Tribune* August 25, 1954, p. 7G.

¹¹“Dr. Beckman Tells Reasons for Annexation to Fullerton.” *Fullerton News Tribune* February 20, 1953.

¹²“Thousands Inspect Beckman Instrument Plant: Firms’ Role in Technology Told Visitors.” *Fullerton News Tribune* November 15, 1954, p. 7.

¹³“Production Now in Full Swing at Beckman Instruments.” *Fullerton News Tribune* August 25, 1954, p. 2B.

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¹⁴Sederberg, Arelo. "Former Beckman Executives Launch Independent Company." *Los Angeles Times* June 19, 1969, p. OC A14.

¹⁵Atkins, Ruth. Memo to Jean Miller, "Beckman's Donations to Fullerton Groups." September 17, 1985. On file, Local History Room, Fullerton Public Library.

¹⁶Wheeler, David L. "Arnold Beckman's Influence on Science Extends from Inventions to Philanthropy." *Chronicle of Higher Education* April 2, 1999, p. A45.

¹⁷Brock, David C. "From Automation to Silicon Valley: The Automation Movement of the 1950s, Arnold Beckman, and William Shockley." *History and Technology* vol. 28, no. 4, December 2012, p. 375-401; Cassidy, Mike. "Semiconductor Alumni Remember Where Silicon Valley Started: Nobel Laureate Made Firm that Created the Tech for Computers." *San Jose Mercury News* October 26, 2012, p. C1.

¹⁸Bowden, Mary Ellen. "Beckman pH Meter, First and Last." *Chemical Heritage* vol. 22, no. 3, 2004, p. 6-7. Beckman applied for his first patent in 1927, a buzzer for a car speedometer that would alert drivers when they had reached a certain speed.

¹⁹Kilbane, Doris. "Arnold Beckman: Changing Scientific Research, Both Then and Tomorrow." *Electronic Design* December 1, 2009, p. 37-38.

²⁰The company's original name, National Inking Appliance Company, was short-lived (November 1934 to April 1935), and it was quickly renamed National Technical Laboratories. Covell, Jeffrey C. "Beckman Instruments, Inc." *International Directory of Company Histories*. Vol. 14. Ed. Tina Grant. Detroit: St. James Press, 1996, p. 52-54. While still a professor at CalTech, Beckman kept a strict separation between his educational responsibilities and his commercial enterprises and did not name his company after himself until he had separated from the university.

²¹"Beckman on Exchange: Instrument Maker's Common is Admitted to Trading." *New York Times* November 8, 1955, p. 43.

²²"Arnold Beckman Awarded Vermilye Medal." *Analytical Chemistry* vol. 60 no. 1, January 1, 1988, p. 20A; "National Medals of Science and Technology Mark Work in Physics." *Physics Today* April 1990, p. 91; Chavez, Ken. "Scientist Beckman Joins Roster of Great Inventors." *Los Angeles Times* February 8, 1987, p. OC C1.

²³Robbins, Gary. "Arnold O. Beckman Dies." *Orange County Register* May 20, 2004.

²⁴Stephens, Harrison. *Golden Past, Golden Future: The First Fifty Years of Beckman Instruments, Inc.* Claremont, CA: Claremont University Center, 1985, p. 43-44.

²⁵"Arnold Orville Beckman, 1900-2004; Keen Mind, Kind Soul; Friends Relish Their Memories of the Local Inventor and Philanthropist." *Orange County Register* June 10, 2004; Giasone, Barbara. "Co-workers Mourn, Remember Arnold Beckman." *Orange County Register* May 27, 2004; Wilson, Elizabeth. "Arnold Beckman at 100." *Chemistry & Engineering News* vol. 78, no. 15, 2000, p. 19.

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²⁶“Chemist Will Speak at FJC Dedication.” *Los Angeles Times* November 7, 1954, p. H1;
“Beckman Urges More Interest in Science.” *Fullerton News Tribune* November 11, 1954, p. 1.

²⁷“Architects Named for New La Habra-Fullerton Plant.” *Los Angeles Times* July 27, 1952, p. E7.

²⁸“Contractors for New Beckman Plant Named.” *Fullerton News Tribune* January 28, 1953. M. J. Brock & Sons, Inc. was founded in 1922 by Milton J. Brock, Sr. and continued by his sons: Milton J. Brock, Jr., Wendell Brock, and Carroll E. Brock. The Los Angeles-based contracting and development firm began in commercial construction, but after World War II became primarily noted for its housing developments. The balance of its single-family homes were built in Southern California, but the corporation also constructed tracts in Florida, Colorado, Pennsylvania, and Hawaii. The firm would later construct Beckman Auditorium at the California Institute of Technology. In 1991, the three Brock sons were inducted into the California Building Industry Foundation’s California Hall of Fame. “Brock Firm Marks 50th Years, Has 20 Projects Under Way.” *Los Angeles Times* May 14, 1972, p. J1, 15; “3 Principals to be Inducted into Builders’ Hall of Fame.” *Los Angeles Times* May 10, 1991, p. IE1.

²⁹Thackray, Arnold and Minor Myers, Jr. *Arnold O. Beckman: One Hundred Years of Excellence*. Philadelphia: Chemical Heritage Foundation, 2000, p. 234.

³⁰Stephens, Harrison. *Golden Past, Golden Future: The First Fifty Years of Beckman Instruments, Inc.* Claremont, CA: Claremont University Center, 1985, p. 69; “Fullerton Plant Wins Citation.” *Los Angeles Times* October 16, 1955, p. F26.

³¹“Davidson, Lawrence W.” *American Architects Directory*. 3rd ed. New York: Bowker, 1970, p. 204; “Davidson, Lawrence and Davidson, L. W. and Associates.” *Pacific Coast Architecture Database*. On the Internet.; “L.W. Davidson & Associates.” *Architecture and Engineering Firms of the Cold War Era*. By David W. Moore, Jr., Justin B. Edgington, and Emily T. Payne. March 2010. On the Internet.

³²“Rites Set for Builder Donald R. Warren, 75.” *Los Angeles Times* January 18, 1973, p. C3; “Don Warren – Engineer with a Gun.” *Southwest Builder and Contractor* August 12, 1955, p. 28-29, 32, 62.

³³“New Container Factory, American Can Company, Wilmington, California.” *Architect and Engineer* September 1952, p. 8-10; “New Container Factory: American Can Company, Stockton, California.” *Architect and Engineer* September 1952, p. 11-14; American Can Company [Advertisement]. *Torrance Herald* September 27, 1951, p. 4. On the Internet.

³⁴“Opening Planned for Firm’s Office.” *Los Angeles Times* February 19, 1956, p. E9.

³⁵“Architects Named.” *Los Angeles Times* October 28, 1956, p. F22.

³⁶“New Facility.” *Los Angeles Times* December 25, 1955, p. 23.

³⁷“New Building.” *Los Angeles Times* January 1, 1956, p. C9; “Western Gear Corporation.” *Journal of Jet Propulsion* vol. 26, no. 5, 1956, p. 46.

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- ³⁹“\$500,000 Project Set for Building.” *Los Angeles Times* April 13, 1958, p. F5.
- ⁴⁰“National Firm Sets Big Expansion Here.” *Los Angeles Times* October 5, 1958, p. F10.
- ⁴¹“Work Started on Warehouse.” *Los Angeles Times* April 9, 1961, p. J18.
- ⁴²“NCR Doubles Size of Plant.” *Los Angeles Times* June 26, 1960, p. I19.
- ⁴³Shulman, Julius. *Turco Products (Los Angeles, Calif.)*. Five photographs. 1959. Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles, California.
- ⁴⁴“City Approves Erwin Park Building Plan.” *Los Angeles Times* September 28, 1961, p. E10.
- ⁴⁵“Contracts for 2 School Buildings Let By Board.” *Los Angeles Times* January 4, 1976, p. 12.
- ⁴⁶“Giant Center Will House 17 Municipal Departments; Project Is Largest Ever Contracted by City Department of Public Works.” *Los Angeles Times* May 11, 1979, p. K1.

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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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

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Name of repository: Local History Room, Fullerton Public Library
California State University, Fullerton Library
City of Fullerton Community Development Department
California Institute of Technology Archives, Pasadena, CA
Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles, CA

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acree of Property Building footprint and surrounding outdoor areas are approximately 2.2 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 33.92265° N | Longitude: 117.9324° W |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

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Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The building's footprint, along with its important surrounding outdoor areas (front entrance, defined patios, etc.) is approximately 2.2 acres, situated on a 35-acre property at the southeast corner of Harbor Boulevard and Lambert Road in the city of Fullerton.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary includes the land associated with the Beckman Instruments, Inc. Administration Building.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Debora Richey
organization: Fullerton Heritage
street & number: 1233 Luanne Avenue
city or town: Fullerton state: CA zip code: 92831
e-mail drichey@fullerton.edu
telephone: (714) 525-6411 (H)
date: August 14, 2015

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the

Beckman Instruments, Inc. Administration Building
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sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Beckman Instruments, Inc. Administration Building

City or Vicinity: Fullerton

County: Orange

State: CA

Photographer: Bob Linnell, Fullerton Heritage

Dates Photographed: January 2006; July 2015

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

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- 1 of 19: CA_Orange County_Beckman Instruments, Inc. Administration Building_0001
Partial west elevation of building, 2015; camera facing north
- 2 of 19: CA_Orange County_Beckman Instruments, Inc. Administration Building_0002
Partial west elevation of recessed area at north portion of building, 2015; camera facing east
- 3 of 19: CA_Orange County_Beckman Instruments, Inc. Administration Building_0003
Partial west elevation of south portion of building, 2006; camera facing south
- 4 of 19: CA_Orange County_Beckman Instruments, Inc. Administration Building_0004
Partial west and south elevation of south portion of building; 2015; camera facing north
- 5 of 19: CA_Orange County_Beckman Instruments, Inc. Administration Building_0005
South elevation of south wing of building, 2015; camera facing north
- 6 of 19: CA_Orange County_Beckman Instruments, Inc. Administration Building_0006
Partial east elevation of south portion of building; 2015; camera facing northwest
- 7 of 19: CA_Orange County_Beckman Instruments, Inc. Administration Building_0007
Partial east elevation of south portion of building, 2015; camera facing northwest
- 8 of 19: CA_Orange County_Beckman Instruments, Inc. Administration Building_0008
Partial east elevation of south portion of building, 2015; camera facing west
- 9 of 19: CA_Orange County_Beckman Instruments, Inc. Administration Building_0009
Partial east elevation of north portion of building, 2015; camera facing south
- 10 of 19: CA_Orange County_Beckman Instruments, Inc. Administration Building_0010
Courtyard at north end of building, 2015; camera facing northwest
- 11 of 19: CA_Orange County_Beckman Instruments, Inc. Administration Building_0011
Partial north elevation of building, 2015; camera facing southwest

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12 of 19: CA_Orange County_Beckman Instruments, Inc. Administration Building_0012
Partial north elevation of building, 2015; camera facing southeast

13 of 19: CA_Orange County_Beckman Instruments, Inc. Administration Building_0013
Carport structure north of courtyard at north end of building, 2015; camera facing southwest

14 of 19: CA_Orange County_Beckman Instruments, Inc. Administration Building_0014
North elevation of walled-in patio at north end of building, 2015; camera facing south

15 of 19: CA_Orange County_Beckman Instruments, Inc. Administration Building_0015
Interior space of mid-portion of building, 2015; camera facing west

16 of 19: CA_Orange County_Beckman Instruments, Inc. Administration Building_0016
Interior space of north portion of building, 2015; camera facing north

17 of 19: CA_Orange County_Beckman Instruments, Inc. Administration Building_0017
Interior space at north end of building, 2015; camera facing northeast

18 of 19: CA_Orange County_Beckman Instruments, Inc. Administration Building_0018
South elevation of mid-portion of building, 2015; camera facing northeast

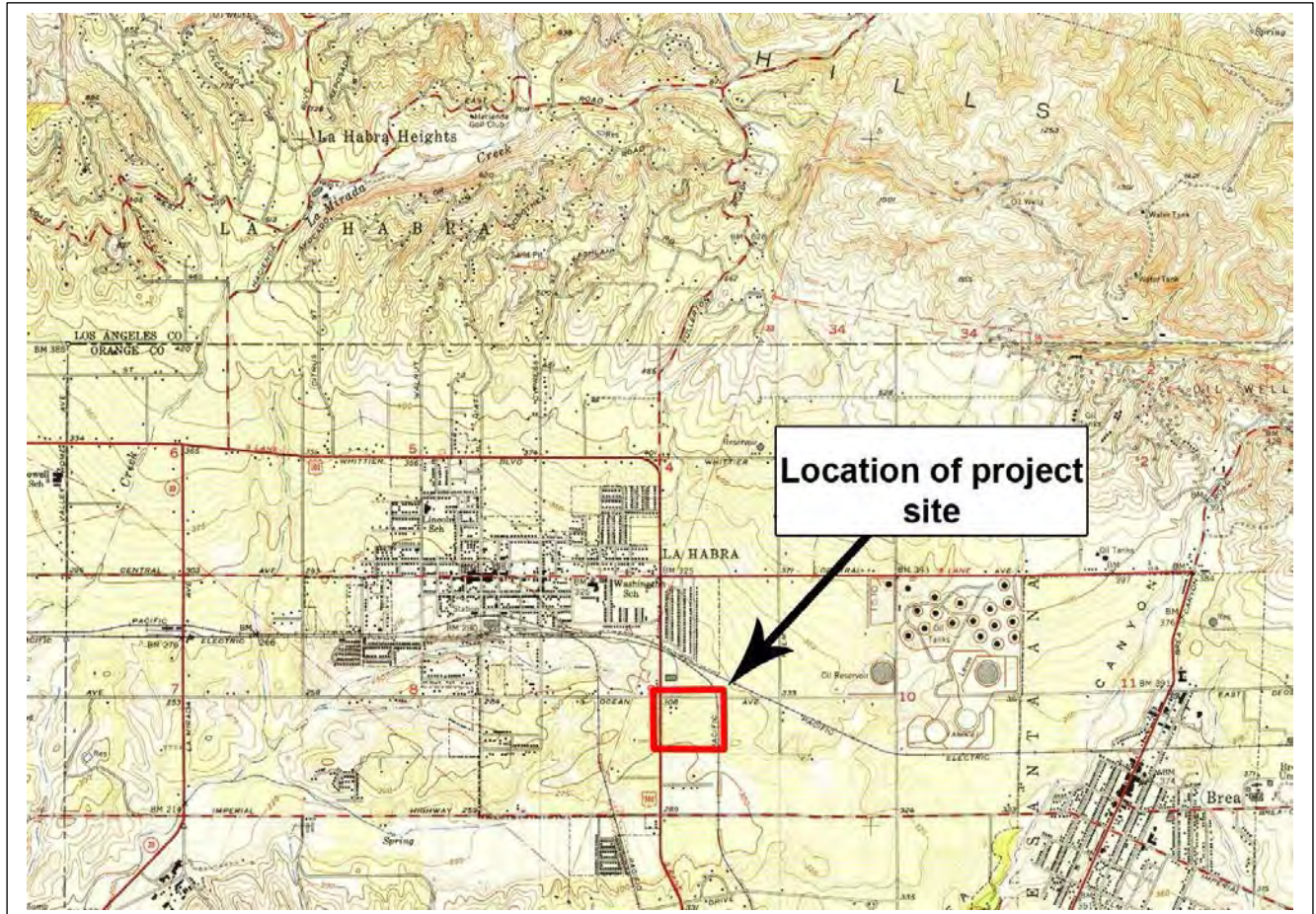
19 of 20: CA_Orange County_Beckman Instruments, Inc. Administration Building_0019
Window detail on south facing wall, 2015; camera facing north

20 of 20: CA_Orange County_Beckman Instruments, Inc. Administration Building_0010
Partial west elevation of building, 2015; camera facing north

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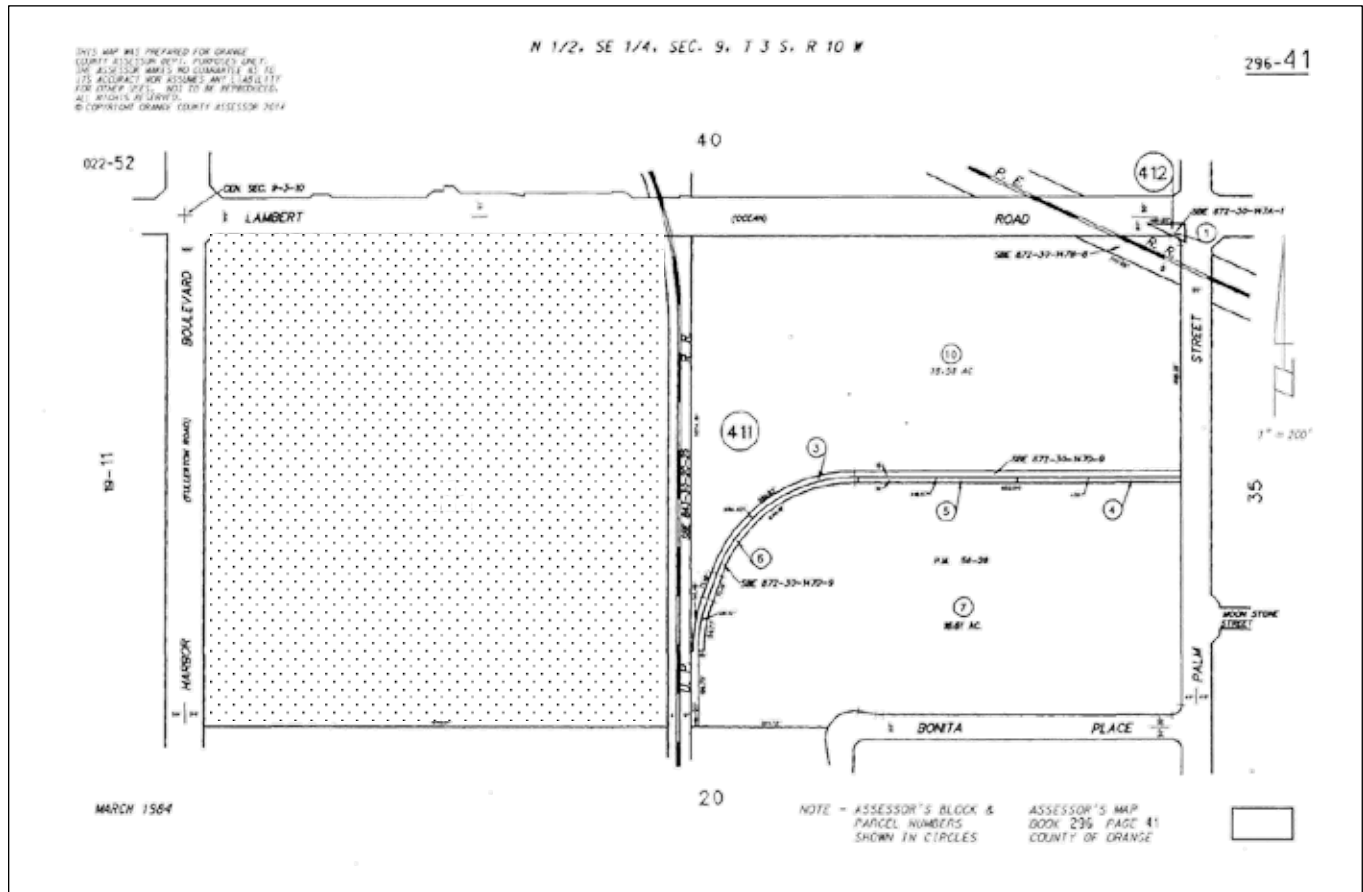
Figure 1: Location Map.
La Habra Topographic Map, 1955. Source: U.S.G.S.



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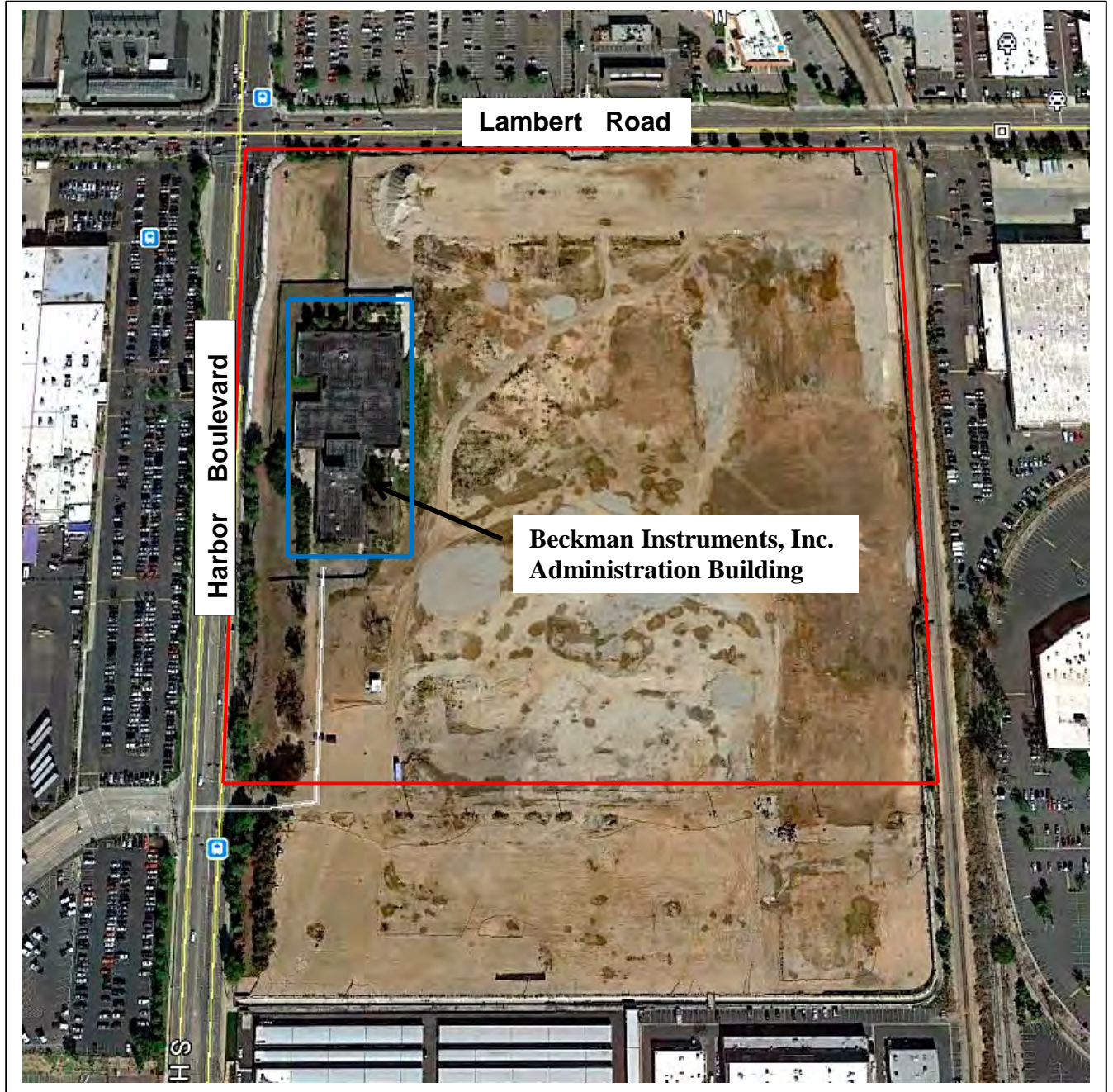
**Figure 2: Assessor Parcel Map, showing property of Beckman Instruments, Inc.
Source: County of Orange, CA**



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Figure 3: Annotated Aerial Photo of Beckman Instruments, Inc. property
Source: Google Earth, photo taken 2/2/2016; annotated by Bob Linnell



35-acre property boundary

2.2-acre building boundary



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Additional Information

Figure 4: Advertisement

Source: *Fullerton News Tribune*, August 25, 1954

from a small beginning in 1935

BECKMAN

has become a world-wide organization



Today the name "Beckman" commands international respect as a leader in the field of analytical and control instrumentation.

Beckman pH Meters were the first instruments made generally available for rapid, precise determination of the alkalinity or acidity of a solution. Beckman Spectrophotometers, operating with visible, infrared, and ultra-violet light, enable phenomenally accurate analyses of solids, liquids, and gases, sometimes in a matter of minutes where hours or days once were required. The Micro-Microammeter will measure one hundredth of a millionth of a millionth of an ampere!

Because of such instruments, technicians have been freed from drudgery in control work. More important, instruments have saved millions of dollars through faster production, less waste, better product quality — and brought a new living standard to every customer.



A multitude of scientific professions, crafts, and skills work to produce Beckman precision instruments. At the main plant, electronics experts, physicists, chemists and engineers design new products and constantly seek to improve the present ones. Optical specialists, metal workers, electricians, machinists. — all fashion the needed parts for assembly.

From the glass department come intricate mirrors, faceted quartz crystals, and electrodes and cells of bewildering shapes and sizes. Especially important is the work of the glass blower, whose craft requires the utmost precision and versatility.

Countless other special-skills departments combine to make Beckman Instruments, Inc., a world leader in the production of instruments to streamline manufacturing and testing processes.

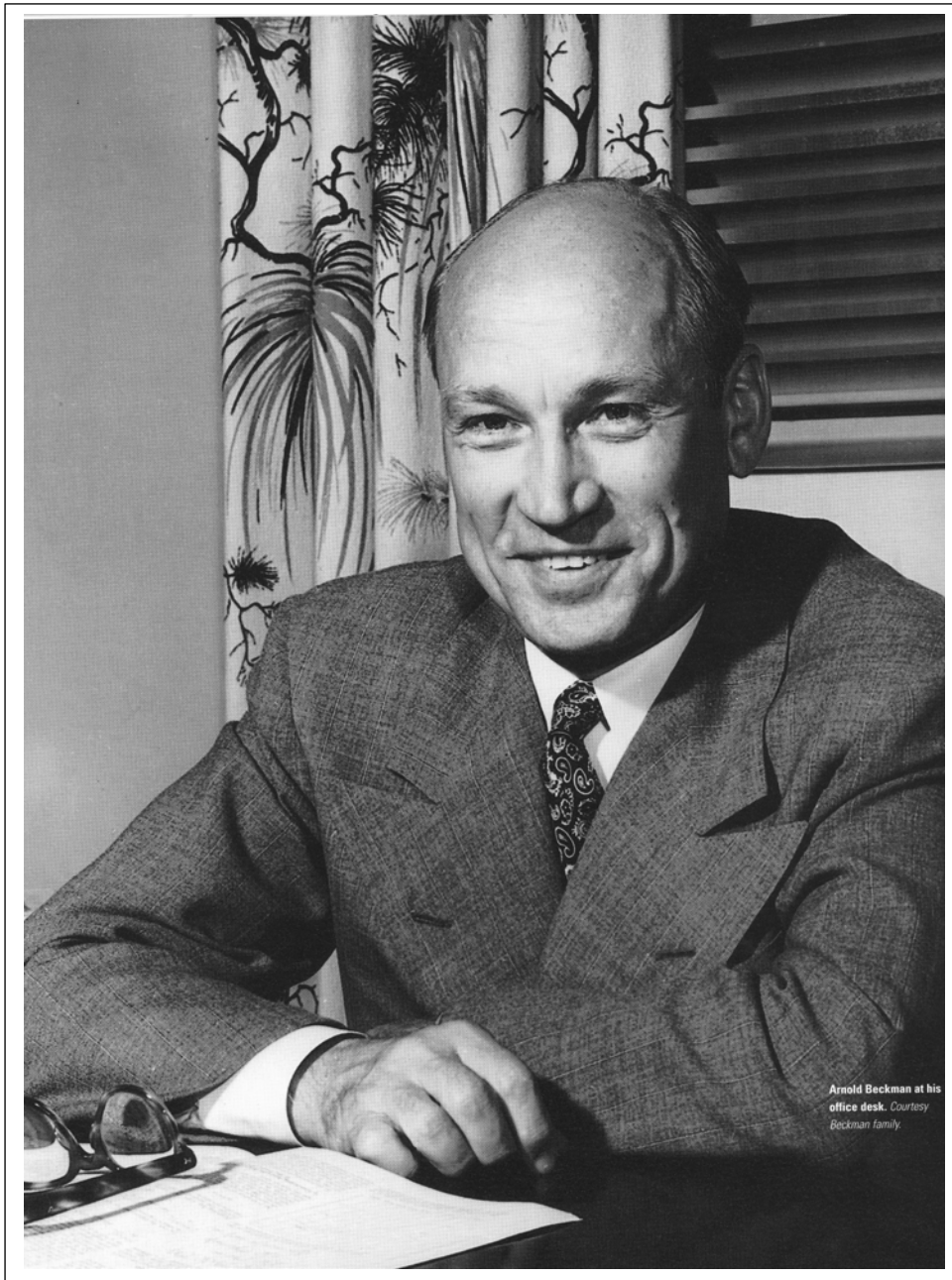
Beckman *division* **BECKMAN INSTRUMENTS, INC.**
FULLERTON, CALIFORNIA

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Figure 5: Arnold O. Beckman

**Source: *Arnold O. Beckman, One Hundred Years of Excellence*, p. 190.
(Beckman at Fullerton facility, early 1950s)**



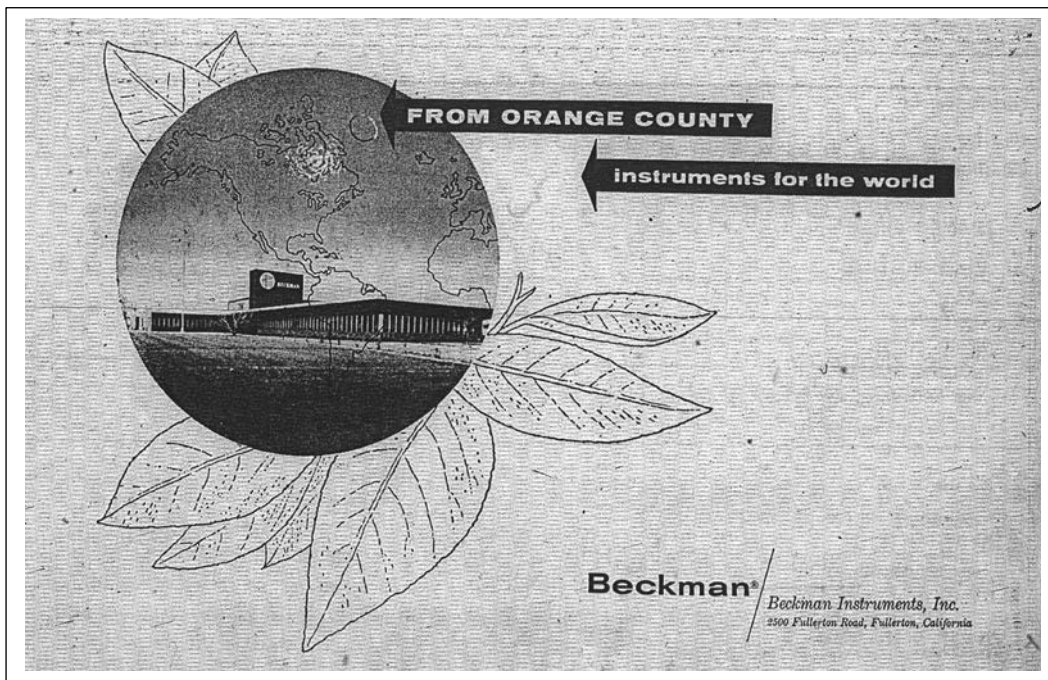
Beckman Instruments, Inc. Administration Building
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Figure 6: Beckman Instruments, Inc.'s Christmas Party
Source: Stephens, Harrison, *Golden Past, Golden Future: The First Fifty Years of Beckman Instruments, Inc.*, p. 43. (Children of Beckman employees attending event at Plummer Auditorium, Fullerton in mid-1950s)



Figure 7: Advertisement
Source: *Fullerton News Tribune*, September 24, 1957



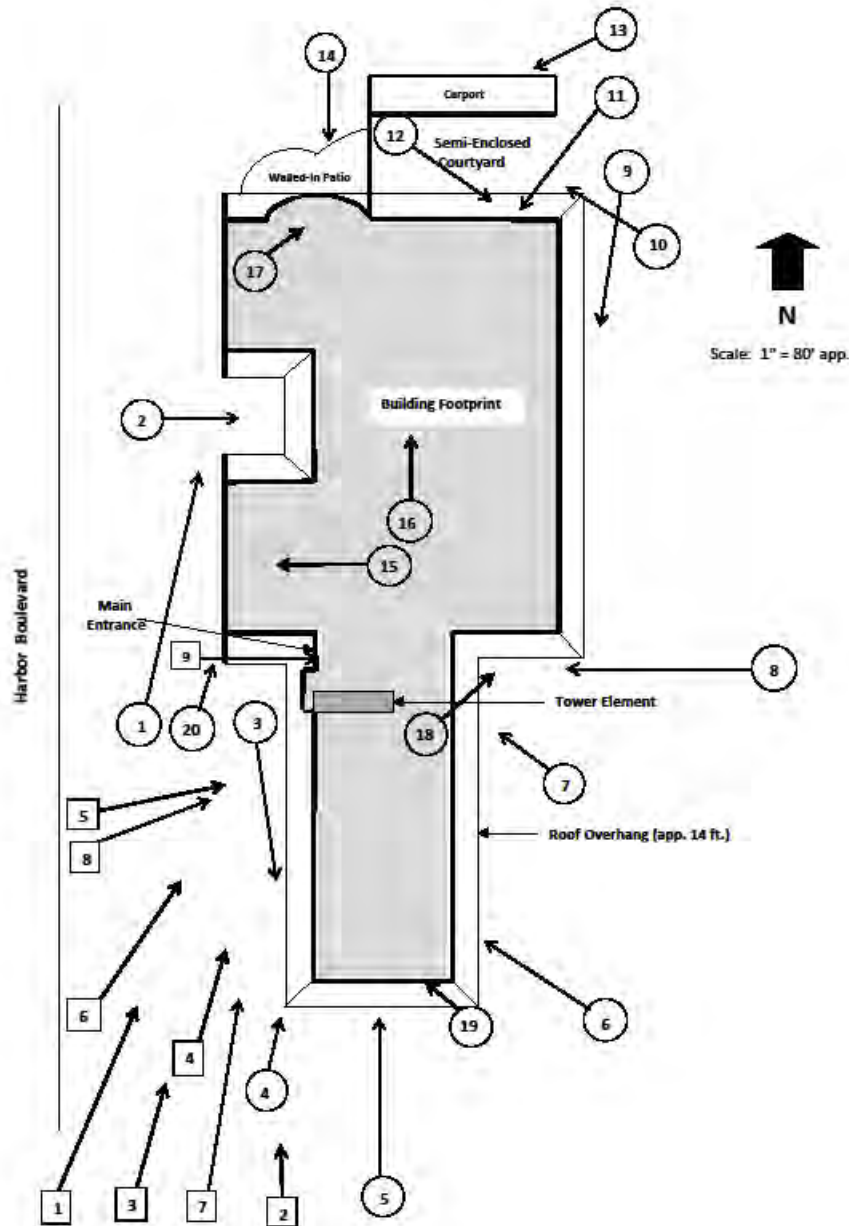
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Beckman Instruments, Inc. Administration Building
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Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation Page 1

Figure 8: Sketch Site Plan and Photo Key



1 through 9 numbers within □: Historic photographs
 1 through 20 numbers within ○: Contemporary photographs

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n/a
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Figure 9: Overall view of building under construction, 1954; camera facing northeast

Source: Fullerton Public Library



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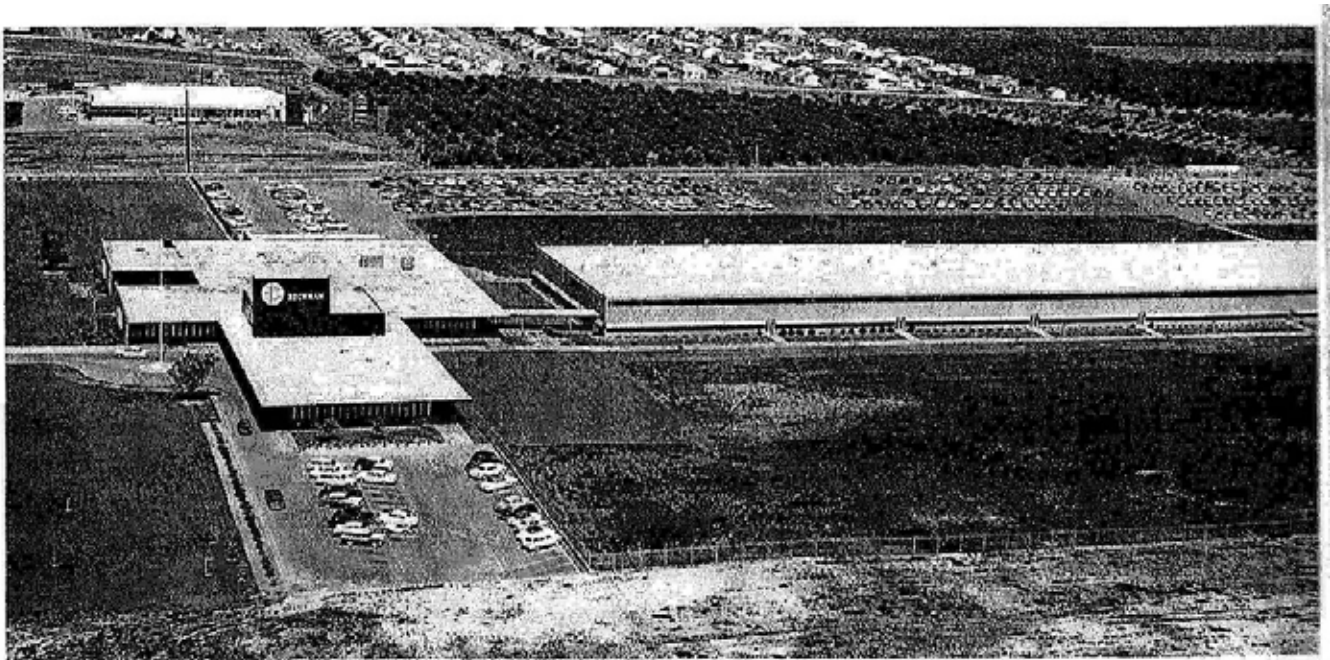
Beckman Instruments, Inc. Administration Building
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Figure 10: Aerial view of building shortly after construction, 1954; camera facing north

Source: Beckman Coulter archives



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Figure 11: Overall view of building, 1955; camera facing north

Source: Fullerton Public Library



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Figure 12: Partial west and south elevation of building at night, late 1950s; camera facing northeast Source: Fullerton Public Library



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Figure 13: Partial west elevation of building, late 1950s; camera facing east

Source: Fullerton Public Library



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Figure 14: Partial west and south elevation of building, late 1950s; camera facing northeast

Source: Fullerton Public Library



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Figure 15: Partial west elevation of building, 2006; camera facing northward from south end of property



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Figure 16: Partial west elevation of building, 2006; camera facing northeastward



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Figure 17: West elevation at main entrance, 2006; camera facing east













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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 12/16/2016 Date of Pending List: Date of 16th Day: Date of 45th Day: 1/31/2017 Date of Weekly List: 2/9/2017

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

Accept Return Reject 1/31/2017 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments:

Recommendation/ Criteria

Reviewer Edson Beall Discipline Historian

Telephone _____ Date _____

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



CITY OF FULLERTON

Community Development Department

October 12, 2016

California State Parks
Attn: Office of Historic Preservation
Ms. Julianne Polanco
State Historic Preservation Officer
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95816

Re: National Register of Historic Places Nomination for Beckman Instruments Building

Dear Ms. Polanco:

The City of Fullerton supports the nomination of the Beckman Instruments Building to the National Register of Historic Places based on its identification in the Fullerton General Plan as a Potential Significant Property (The Fullerton Plan, Table 6, Potential/Possible Significant Properties #125).

The Fullerton Plan also contains policies within its Historic Preservation chapter which describe the importance of recognizing and promoting the preservation of the City's historic resources. This application will further the implementation of the City's historic preservation policies.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the Beckman Instruments Building application for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Haluza".

Karen Haluza, AICP
Director of Community Development

THE EDUCATION COMMUNITY

303 West Commonwealth Avenue, Fullerton, California 92832-1775
(714) 738-6547 • Fax (714) 738-3110 • Web Site: www.ci.fullerton.ca.us



October 26, 2016

Ms. Julianne Polanco
State Historic Preservation Officer
Office of Historic Preservation
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95816-7100

RE: Beckman Instruments Administration Building Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places

Ms. Polanco,

Western Realco is an owner and the development manager for the 44 acres in Fullerton that encompasses the Beckman Instruments Administration Building. In regards to the Beckman Instruments Administration Building Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, we have reviewed the nomination package. We are pleased to support the nomination and are available should require anything additional from us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gary M. Edwards', is written in a cursive style.

Gary M. Edwards
Authorized Representative
PSIP WR Fullerton, LLC
c/o Western Realco

500 Newport Center Drive • Suite 630 • Newport Beach, California 92660
Phone (949) 720-3787 • Fax (949) 720-3790 • westernrealco.com

**Beckman Instruments, Inc. Administration Building
Fullerton, Orange County, California
National Register of Historic Places**

The Beckman Instruments Administration Building is a Mid-Century Modern office building located in Fullerton, California. Completed in 1954, this building was the administrative center of a 35 acre complex of laboratories and manufacturing facilities. The one-story, 43,000 square foot single-story building, has an irregular footprint, flat roof with wide overhang, walls of cut stone and smooth stucco, modular windows and glass curtain walls. The roof is cantilevered and almost wing-like in appearance, a defining feature of the building. The interior was designed with modular walls that could be quickly and efficiently reconfigured to accommodate changing needs within the building.

The building's location was selected by the firm's founder, Arnold O. Beckman, who was unhappy with a site for the building proposed by a real estate firm for his industrial complex. The building exterior demonstrates a high degree of historic integrity of design, materials and workmanship, but the interior has lost some integrity after the removal of its modular interior wall system, and a mural called "The Age of Instrumentation" created by Standish Backus Jr. and Joseph E. Knowles. The property has also lost some integrity of setting due to the loss of other buildings on the site, but as the sole remaining and most significant building associated with the property, the building retains sufficient historic integrity for listing.

The building is eligible under Criterion A for its role as the first high-tech company in Fullerton, one of the most iconic and important companies in the city's post-World War II history. The property is also eligible under Criterion B for its association with the firm's founder, Arnold O. Beckman, a brilliant inventor, entrepreneur, industrialist, and philanthropist. His invention of the pH meter revolutionized scientific instrumentation. The property is also eligible under Criterion C as an outstanding local example of Mid-century Modern architecture by notable and prolific architect Lawrence Whitney Davidson. The period of significance, 1954-1965, represents the period from the building's completion until the end of Beckman's period as president of the corporation.

The nomination was submitted by a third party. The city of Fullerton and the property owner each provided a letter of support for the nomination.

Staff supports the nomination as written and recommends that the State Historical Resources Commission support the determination that the Beckman Instruments Building is eligible for the National Register under Criteria A, B, and C, at the local level

of significance, with a period of significance of 1954-1965, and should be listed in the National Register. Staff recommends the State Historic Preservation Officer approve the nomination for forwarding to the National Park Service for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

William Burg
State Historian II
September 28, 2016

**OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

1725 23rd Street, Suite 100
SACRAMENTO, CA 95816-7100
(916) 445-7000 Fax: (916) 445-7053
calshpo@parks.ca.gov
www.ohp.parks.ca.gov



December 12, 2016

J. Paul Loether
Deputy Keeper and Chief, National Register and National Historic Landmark Program
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service 2280
1201 I (Eye) Street, NW, 8th Floor
Washington, DC 20005

Subject: **Beckman Instruments, Inc., Administration Building
Fullerton, Orange County, California
National Register of Historic Places**

Dear Mr. Loether:

The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the amendment to the nomination for the Beckman Instruments, Inc., Administration Building to the National Register of Historic Places. This property is located in Fullerton, Orange County, California. On October 28, 2016, the State Historical Resources Commission unanimously found the property eligible for the National Register under Criteria A, B, and C at the local level of significance.

The property is nominated by a third party. Letters of support were received from the City of Fullerton and the property owner.

If you have any questions regarding this nomination, please contact William Burg of my staff at 916-445-7004.

Sincerely,

Julianne Polanco
State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosures