

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PHO 676128

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAR 29 1979
DATE ENTERED	

**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

Eugene W. Britt House

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

2141 West Adams Boulevard

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Los Angeles

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

28th

STATE

California

VICINITY OF

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

Gladys I. Snyder ✓

STREET & NUMBER

2141 W. Adams Boulevard

CITY, TOWN

Los Angeles

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

Los Angeles Cultural Heritage Board

DATE

1978

— FEDERAL — STATE — COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Cultural Heritage Board, City Hall

CITY, TOWN

Los Angeles

STATE

California 90012

7 DESCRIPTION

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

The Britt House is a two-story residence with basement and dormer attic in the American Colonial Revival style. The exterior is finished in red brick set in common bond and trimmed with cream-colored terra cotta. The symmetrical facade features a two-story portico with fluted columns supporting a bracketed pediment with a central fanlight. Directly above the entrance is a balcony with decorative railing and supports, supported by additional fluted columns. railing and supports. All windows on the second level are double hung windows with lugsills and decorative lintels. Those on the first level are casement windows set into the arched structural openings with decorative panels and keystone. The hipped roof contains decorative dormers on all sides, two brick chimneys, and brackets below the eaves. Additional exterior features include a bay window on the west side, a carport on the east side, quoins on the building corners, and a decorative terrace railing. The only major alterations to the exterior consisted of the removal of the original terra cotta railing on the crown of the roof, and the addition of the carport on the eastern side of the structure.

The first floor of the interior includes a living room with a semi-circular alcove at one end and is finished in Peruvian mahogany with paneled wainscotting, a library finished in quartered white oak, a dining room finished in Tobasco mahogany with decorative wainscotting, beams and ceiling, and several other rooms. The second floor contains four bedrooms finished in cedar treated in ivory enamel, a sleeping porch, three bathrooms, and a sewing room. The attic contains a large ballroom. Alterations to the interior have been minimal, consisting mainly of necessary modernizations.

Besides the house, the Britt property includes a garage and formal garden. The garage is identical to the house in design, situated on the northeast corner of the lot. The garden, begun at the same time as the house, contains a large grape arbor, imported plants and trees, and several decorative benches and fountains. A brick walkway set in a herringbone pattern extends from the entrance steps to the brick retaining wall which runs alongside the sidewalk on both streets.

The Britt House is located in a residential neighborhood which is being taken over rapidly by large apartment structures and small businesses.

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 1910

BUILDER/ARCHITECT A.F. Rosenheim

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Britt House was constructed in 1910, as a residence for Eugene W. Britt (1885-1935), a prominent lawyer in Los Angeles at that time. Born in Missouri, Britt moved to California in 1878 to practice law. He represented Lake County in the California Assembly in 1885, served on the State Supreme Court Commission from 1895 to 1900, and was president of the Los Angeles Bar Association in 1912. In 1923 Britt sold the house to A.K. Detwiler who lived there until the early 1940s. Shortly thereafter, the present owners acquired the home and have occupied it as a single-family residence since that time.

The architect of the Britt House, Alfred Faist Rosenheim (1859-1942), began his career in St. Louis in 1885 and moved to Los Angeles about 1902 where he became one of that city's most notable architects. Rosenheim was responsible for the designs of the H.W. Hellman Building on Spring Street (1902), the May Company Building on Broadway (1906), and the Second Church of Christ Scientist on West Adams (1910), and numerous other structures in Southern California which include many mansions in the then fashionable West Adams district. He was a past president of the Southern California Chapter, A.I.A., the Architectural League of the Pacific Coast, and the Los Angeles Municipal Art Commission.

The most notable architectural feature of the Britt House is the fact that it was one of the earliest American Colonial Revival residences in Los Angeles done in brick rather than wood. Residences designed in this style in Southern California were plentiful during the late 1890s to 1915 period, but the majority were built of wood or wood-frame and stucco. Rosenheim designed this house with brick building materials in mind, combining red brick with cream-colored terra cotta, and adding quoins on the building corners, arched window structures of radiating brick, decorative railings around the portico and terrace, and other details associated with brick structures. Although the use of brick in American Colonial Revival structures became more common after 1910, the Britt House was one of the earliest residences in Los Angeles to incorporate brick into this architectural style. At the time of its completion, it represented a significant contribution in both its elegance and unique architectural blend of design and materials to the West Adams district, the most fashionable residential area of the city in the early 1900s.

In recognition of the architectural significance of the Britt House, its remarkable state of preservation, and the fact that it has not been appreciably altered through the years, the Los Angeles Cultural Heritage Board designated it a local historical landmark in 1978.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Please see attachment.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 1/2

QUADRANGLE NAME Hollywood, California

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1 1 378860 3766900
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION A lot of about 1 1/2 acres beginning at the corner of Adams Blvd. and Grammercy Place, extending 204.65' eastward, 250' northward, 204.65' westward, and 250' southward to the original point.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mrs. Iris Smith

ORGANIZATION

25th Street Block Club

DATE

9/21/78

STREET & NUMBER

2244 W. 24th St., Apt. 6

TELEPHONE

737-3237

CITY OR TOWN

Los Angeles

STATE

CA

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

Kenneth M. ...

TITLE

DATE 3-19-79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

5-17-79

ATTEST:

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE

5/16/79

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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Assessment Records of Los Angeles County, 1900-1948. Los Angeles County Archives.

Southwest Contractor and Manufacturer, November 19, 1910, pp. 19-20.

Gebhard, David, and Winter, Robert. A Guide to Architecture in Los Angeles and Southern California. Santa Barbara: Peregrine Smith, 1977.

Rodman, Willoughby. History of the Bench and Bar of Southern California. Los Angeles: William J. Porter, 1909.

Withey, Henry F. Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased). Los Angeles: New Age Publishing Company, 1956.

Who's Who in the Pacific Southwest. Los Angeles: Times-Mirror Co., 1913.

SKETCH MAP

Eugene W. Britt House
2141 West Adams Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA

