

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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**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

Mission Inn

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Bet. 5th and 7th Streets and Main and Orange Streets NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Riverside

VICINITY OF

36th

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

California

CODE

COUNTY

Riverside

CODE

06

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

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

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Redevelopment Agency of the City of Riverside, Mr. Ernest Pinter, Chairman

STREET & NUMBER

City Hall, 3900 Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Riverside

VICINITY OF

STATE

California 92501

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Assessors Office, County of Riverside

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

San Bernardino County

STATE

California

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

National Register of Historic Places

DATE

5/14/71

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

OAHP

CITY, TOWN

Washington,

STATE

D. C.

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Mission Inn is a large six-story stone complex with red-tile roofs.

The description of this elaborate complex is from an old handbook:

"The two Mission Inn buildings of the hotel itself and the employees' quarters, occupy one entire city block and part of another, more than three acres. Mission Inn proper is built around three principal courts or patios on the ground level, and with other courts, patios, terraces, roof gardens and sun porches on different floors above the street elevation.

The principal courts are the outer or entrance patio, or Court of the Birds, the Spanish Patio, or Court of the Fountain, used for open air dining, and the International Rotunda Court. The outer patio gives entrance to the Lobby of the Inn. Directly through the Lobby from the entrance is the Spanish Dining Patio, surrounded by the Mission, Cloister and Spanish Wings.

The double doors on the north, under the arcade, are of the Spanish Art-Gallery. The international Rotunda, the third Court, occupying the northwest corner of the block, is chiefly surrounded by business and professional offices, and can be considered a separate unit. It has entrances from Main Street, Sixth Street, and the Court of the Birds, and at upper levels from various other parts of the Inn.

On the first floor above the ground floor are three of the other twelve or more upper courts: the Garden of the Bells, the Atrio with its St. Joseph Arcade, and the Pilots' Roost above, a room most interesting to the air-minded, and the Court of the Orient, reached through the Hall of the Gods and up the ramp of Lealea. On the third floor is the Paseo de Las Palmas, an open porch around the upper story of the Mission Wings, and the Paseo de los Moros above the Spanish Art Gallery. Still higher is the Alhambra Court, Authors' Terrace, Sunset Roof Garden with flowered covered walk of old world design leading to the Carillon Tower, and Star Court. On other intermediate levels are Musicians' Balcony, Spanish Terrace, and various additional open corridors. On account of disturbing the resident guests of the Inn, sightseers are not permitted to go above the level of the Atrio and Court of the Orient with their surrounding rooms.

The building varies in height also from the four-story Mission Wings and seven-story Rotunda to the four commanding towers, Carillon, Carmel, Amistad and Agua, with many courts, levels and elevation."<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Handbook of the Mission Inn, Riverside, California, 1951.

(Continued)

# 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 checked="" 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 1902-1950 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Arthur B. Beaton, Myron Hunt, Elmer Gray, and Stanley Wilson

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Begun in 1876 as a small hotel called Glenwood Cottage, the present day Mission Inn was enlarged and embellished by Frank A. Miller. This building today is the largest Mission-Revival building in California.

The many sections of the structure evolved as Frank Miller travelled and gathered building parts such as fountains, fireplaces, grilles, tiles and bells from Europe and the Far East. One of the most lavish acquisitions was the Rayas gold altar from Mexico and the Tiffany windows from the Madison Square Presbyterian Church, New York now installed in the St. Francis Chapel.

The International Rotunda, added in 1930-1931 is a great central court with a stair spiraling up against its inner walls. It contains galleries, offices and a museum. There is a musical galeria for receptions and concerts and a domed bridal suite above the chapel. Through his many years of travelling, Frank Miller acquired a magnificent collection of furniture still used in the large variety of hotel rooms. There is a Hawaiian supper and dance room, a "Flyers Hall of Fame" and in 1950 the Los Amigos Grill was completed. The Employees' building was constructed across the street in 1926 and contained laundry facilities and a carpenter shop as well as housing for the large hotel staff.

Presidents Theodore Roosevelt, Taft, McKinley and Hoover have stayed at the Inn, as well as, Andrew Carnegie, Henry Ford and Elbert Hubbard. Legend has it that Carrie Jacobs Bond composed "The End of a Perfect Day" while a guest at the Inn. Frank Miller, the flamboyant "Master of Mission Inn" began the custom of Easter Sunrise Services on Mount Rubidoux nearby. Miller cultivated artists, poets, and composers creating a kind of idyllic setting in which they could create and at the same time promote his cultural hostel. The building is a result of his great imagination--the Spanish did not settle Riverside and there never was a mission there. Riverside gained much of its fame as the home of the navel orange and today the town is lush and verdant with an excellent climate--ideal for a luxury hotel.

The Mission Inn has long been one of the most famous hostels on the West Coast, popular with celebrities and artistic people from all over the world. The buildings have recently been acquired by the Riverside Redevelopment Authority and an extensive restoration has begun.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Landmarks of Riverside" by Tom Patterson

"Handbook of the Mission Inn: by DeWitt V. Hutchings

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

UTM REFERENCES

A

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

(See continuation sheet).

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Carolyn Pitts, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Historic Sites Survey Division, National Park Service

DATE

2/14/77

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

1100 L Street, N. W.

202/523-5464

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Washington,

D. C.

## 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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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ITEM NUMBER 6 PAGE 2

TITLE OF SURVEY:

State Historical Landmark #761

DATE OF SURVEY:

1961 State

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

California Department of Parks and Recreation

STREET AND NUMBER:

P. O. Box 2390

CITY OR TOWN:

Sacramento, California

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ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

A brief list of the various sections of the Mission Inn would include the following:

Seventh Street entrance patio is known as the Court of the Birds. The arches along the street are copied from those of San Juan Capistrano. The lobby can be reached through this entrance. There is a Campanile copied from the San Gabriel Mission near which President Theodore Roosevelt replanted two Navel orange trees. Today fountains and sculpture enhance the entrance court.

The lobby itself is elaborately furnished and crowned by a redwood beamed ceiling. The Presidential Suite adjoins the lobby also elaborately panelled with wood from a Belgian convent. The Cloister Music Room, representing a baronial hall in a Spanish castle is located just off the lobby where concerts were given daily. Nearby is the Refectorio with a groined arch stone ceiling and stained glass windows. There is a corridor leading from this room, 300 feet long, representing the Cloisters Chapel, Cloister Art Shop, the St. Cecilia Oratory (Wedding chapel) all follow. Then a Carmel room with frescoed walls and windows by John La Farge, a Spanish Art Gallery with its collection of Primitives leads out to a Spanish patio with a beautiful fountain. The wooden brackets under the balconies came from the Alhambra. Above is a Nuremburg clock (1709) and the supporting twisted columns were designed by Stanford White. Even the kitchen is tiled in blue and yellow and designed after a "quaint old Inn of William the Conqueror at Dives, in Normandy."

The Spanish dining room follows, then the California dining room and yet another dining room called Alcaron for the Spanish explorer. Near the Art Gallery is the Lola Montez balcony, named for the famous dancer. Other rooms include the Signature Room leading to the St. Francis Atrio next to the chapel, Galeria, Oriental Court which make up the International Rotunda. From here through the Hall of the Gods one reaches the Oriental Rooms, the Lealea (Hawaiian "Room of Laughter") and finally out into the Garden of the Bells. There are Alhambra Roof Gardens, a Sky Room, Pagoda Room, Authors rooms on the roof looking down into patios all vaguely reminiscent of Antonio Gaudi's fantastic tiled roofs in Barcelona.

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ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

The land referred to in this report is situated in the County of Riverside, State of California, and is described as follows:

Parcel 1:

Block 6, Range 6, of the Town of Riverside, in the City of Riverside, County of Riverside, State of California, as per map recorded in Book 7, page 17 of maps, in the Office of the County Recorder of San Bernardino County Records.

Parcel 2:

That portion of Block 5, Range 6, of the Town of Riverside, in the City of Riverside, County of Riverside, State of California, as per map recorded in Book 7, page 17 of maps, in the Office of the County Recorder of San Bernardino County Records, described as follows:

Beginning at the southeast corner of said Block 5; thence northerly along the westerly side of Orange Street, 80.00 feet; thence at a right angle westerly, parallel with the northerly line of Sixth Street, 155.00 feet to the easterly line of an alley; thence at a right angle along the easterly line of said alley, 80.00 feet to the northerly line of Sixth Street; thence easterly, along said northerly line of Sixth Street, 155.00 feet, to the point of beginning.

Parcel 3:

That portion of Block 5, Range 6 of the Town of Riverside, in the City of Riverside, County of Riverside, State of California, as per map recorded in Book 7, page 17 of maps, in the Office of the County Recorder of San Bernardino County Records, described as follows:

Beginning at a point on the southeasterly line of Main Street, 104.00 feet southwesterly from the most northerly corner thereof, said point being the most westerly corner of that certain parcel of land conveyed to Southern California Gas Company, by Deed recorded December 5, 1929 in Book 722, page 454 of Deeds, Riverside County Records; thence southwesterly on the southeasterly line of Main Street, 135.00 feet, more or less, to a point 91.00 feet northeasterly from the westerly corner of said Block; thence southeasterly parallel with the northeasterly line of Sixth Street, 105.00 feet, more or less, to a point located 50.00 feet northwesterly from the northwesterly line of the alley in said Block;

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thence southwesterly, parallel with the southeasterly line of said Block 41.00 feet; thence northwesterly, parallel with the northeasterly line of Sixth Street, 45.00 feet; thence southwesterly 50.00 feet to a point on the southwesterly line of said Block, 60.00 feet southeasterly from the most westerly corner thereof; thence southeasterly, on the northeasterly line of Sixth Street, 95.00 feet, more or less, to the northwesterly line of an alley, thence northeasterly on the northwesterly line of said alley 226.00 feet, more or less, to the southerly corner of the parcel conveyed to Southern California Gas Company by Deed above described; thence northwesterly, on the southwesterly line of the parcel so conveyed to the Southern California Gas Company, 155.00 feet, more or less, to the point of beginning.

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Photographs and Their Descriptions

Mission Inn, Riverside, California

Photo credit: Redevelopment Agency of the City of Riverside.

- Photo descriptions:
- 1. Entrance
  - 
  - 2. Chapel
  - 3. Courtyard
  - 4. Courtyard
  - 5. Courtyard
  - 6. Courtyard