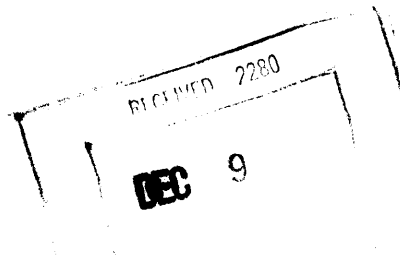


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



1725

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Villa Park School

other names/site number Mountain View School

2. Location

street & number 10551 Center Drive not for publication

city or town Villa Park vicinity

state California code CA county Orange code 059 zip code 92861

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

K. Conallen

12/2/02

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

California Office of Historic Preservation
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

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

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

[Signature]

3/27/03

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

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
2		Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Education/School

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Education/School

Work in Progress

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stucco

roof terra cotta

walls stucco

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1924

1926

Significant Dates

1924

1926

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Anderson, H. Alfred & Farrell, Richard C., Architects
Simpson, John & Company, Builders

Primary Location of Additional Data

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

Name of repository:

Villa Park School
Name of Property

Orange County, CA
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>11</u>	<u>424700</u>	<u>3741000</u>	3	—	—	—
2	—	—	—	4	—	—	—

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Janet Van Emon, Historian.

organization Villa Park Elementary School Restoration Corporation date May 6, 2000

street & number 17855 Santiago Blvd. Telephone (714) 637-3249

city or town Villa Park state CA zip code 92861

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Orange Unified School District

street & number 1401 North Handy telephone (714) 997-6100

city or town Orange state CA zip code 92867

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Villa Park School, an outstanding example of Beaux Arts Classicism, an architectural style popular after World War I, consists of two historic buildings that, when viewed from the street, have gradually over the years become obscured from view by the addition of portable classrooms, an auditorium constructed in 1947, and five other classroom buildings built after 1950.

Villa Park School is on the campus of what is now Villa Park Elementary School in the Orange Unified School District. The campus, located in a residential neighborhood, is situated at the corner of Lincoln Street and Center Drive in the City of Villa Park, California. The portion of the campus to be designated as the historic area includes the two original buildings of Villa Park School.

Constructed in 1919, the larger of the two historic tile-roofed one-story stucco school buildings, used for the upper grade classes, was designed by H. Alfred Anderson and Richard C. Farrell, Architects, of Los Angeles.

The original Builder's Contract, recently discovered, is between the Villa Park School District of Orange County and John Simpson and Company of Los Angeles for a cost of \$12,090.00 plus the costs of plumbing, heating, plastering, and wiring.

The contract, signed on October 27, 1919, states that "The contractor agrees to furnish and provide necessary labor and materials, and tools, implements, and appliance, and to do and perform in a good and workmanlike manner, the General Contract work of three room school building complete as per plans and specifications (except plumbing, heating, & plastering & wiring.) and with the following changes & omissions as follows: -substitute pipe railing for Wrought Iron railing, omit bell pedestal and lay two-ply compo roofing instead of tile roofing making exterior walls of hollow tile instead of reinforced concrete above changes to be made according to the specifications."

It would appear that these changes to the architectural plans were made for the purpose of reducing the cost of construction. However, it also appears that the Board of Trustees had a change of heart regarding the "two-ply compo roof", because, at a meeting in December of that year, the contract was amended, deleting the composition roof. Another firm was engaged to lay a Spanish tile roof.

The construction details are confirmed by an engineering study in 1998, which found that the three-classroom building is constructed of "primarily unreinforced hollow clay block walls, wood floor joists and wood trusses". The pipe railings still remain. The bell tower still holds the

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original bell removed from the wooden school building torn down following the completion of the new stucco building. Spanish tile still covers the gable roof.

One can only surmise that the Board of Trustees at that time realized that a composition roof would never do justice to the front facade of the building taking shape before their eyes. The facade is an elegant example of Beaux Arts Classicism, an eclectic style that began to appear in Southern California in the late 1890's. In Villa Park School neo-classical and Spanish revival architectural elements were incorporated into the same design.

SOUTH ELEVATION OF MAIN BUILDING

At each end of the symmetrical and balanced façade one finds a recessed window enhanced by an interesting geometric pattern in the sculptural relief directly below. The building is at its narrowest here. These two end portions of the building each have their own tiled gable roof.

Moving from the ends toward the center of the façade one encounters a covered colonnade on both the east and west sides of the facade. The building becomes wider here and this portion, including the covered colonnades and the classrooms behind them, has its own tiled gable roof.

These covered colonnades are utilitarian as well as decorative.

Constructed on the warm, southern side of the building, the covered colonnades are well shaded, thereby assisting the natural air-conditioning system. An ingenious use of open windows on both the north and south sides of the classrooms takes advantage of any cooling breezes that might be blowing. The traditional cloakrooms were also built on the south side of the classrooms, creating yet another barrier between the weather outside and the temperature inside the classrooms.

At each end of the building the covered colonnades are identical. Both are supported by four stuccoed rectangular columns each topped by a rectangular capital almost identical to the column's base. The columns are connected with pipe railing.

Three recessed sixteen light wooden casement windows open out from the coatrooms that are directly behind the covered colonnades. Above the casement windows, a decorative stucco molding extends from one end of the colonnade to the other. Above each window is an eight light transom.

As one moves farther toward the center of the façade, the building widens and becomes taller due to a central projecting pavilion..

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These two wider portions of the building, positioned on either side of the entrance, both feature a stucco wall, each with two pilasters. Atop the pilasters, the capitals support a large cartouche containing a shield emblazoned with the initials VP. Again, this part of the building has its own tiled roof.

Commanding the center of the façade is the imposing classic portico.

The entablature above and the Spanish tile roof are supported by four unfluted columns, each with an Ionic capital. Adding support and a feeling of strength are two large stucco pilasters, one on each side. Above the pilasters, the horizontal lines of the architrave, done in bold relief, emphasize the words that are encised in large letters on the frieze,

“VILLA PARK SCHOOL”.

INTERIOR OF MAIN BUILDING

To better describe the other elevations of the main building, a brief description of the distinctive features of the interior follows:

From east to west the main building (upper grade building) contains:

A classroom with a raised stage at its east end. The stage is accessible from the hallway and by a door opening to the outside. In the early days, this outside door opened into one of the school's three laboratories. A number of years ago all three restrooms were converted into storage areas. Now accessible to the stage area, this small storage area would provide enough room for actors to assemble, props to be stored,

A roll-up type wooden wall. Constructed like the top of an old roll-top desk, this wall separates the two classrooms at the east end of the building. It can be cranked up into the attic when two classrooms are combined to form a small auditorium. The cupboard to the left of this wall, adjacent to an outside door, contains the mechanism for cranking up the wall.

A second upper grade classroom. This classroom can be opened to the first by means of the roll-up wall.

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A hallway from the west end of the portico to the back of the building This high-ceilinged hallway connects to a covered walkway that leads to the smaller primary class building at the rear.

A third upper grade classroom.

A small library at the west end of the building. In the 1960's it was used as the local branch of the Orange County public library system. Following an earthquake in the 1970's, the library was closed due to lack of seismic retrofitting. The public library was moved to new quarters at the Villa Park City Hall. A number of bookshelves still line the walls of the old library.

Another storage room that used to be a lavatory It is located in front of the library.

A traditional cloakroom is located on the south sides of both the classrooms on the east and the classroom on the west. The cloakroom on the west contains hooks for coats and a shelf for lunches and a storage closet with a door that can be locked. The cloakroom on the east has closed cupboards that line the wall under the front windows of the building.

Hardwood floors exist throughout the classrooms and library.

As noted previously, classrooms and cloakrooms contain windows and transoms positioned to take advantage of any prevailing breeze.

EAST ELEVATION OF MAIN BUILDING

The southeast portion of the building, now a storage room, was originally a lavatory. Directly in front of and extending several feet to the east, this narrowest portion of the building features its own clay tile roof. It contains a door and two recessed casement windows.

The door, positioned between the two smaller windows, and now replaced by a wood panel, is hung inside a blind arch that is outlined in bold relief. The two-panel door lying inside on the coatroom floor (see photo) may be the original door. If this proves to be correct, it will be returned to its original location.

The casement windows are made to contain four lights, but two of the windows need to be replaced when the building is restored. The wide, rectangular, molded windowsills function as dripstones in the event of rain.

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In the northeast corner of the building, the roof, over the stage, is flat.

It is not known if the area with the flat roof was part of the original structure or was added in 1926 when the school was rebuilt on the original foundation.

Since we know that the library at the west end of the building, that also has a flat roof, was added in 1926 when the building was rebuilt on its foundation, it is possible that the stage area was added at the same time. No photos of the east and west elevations taken prior to 1926 have been discovered.

Another reason to assume that the flat-roofed areas were added at the time of the rebuilding is that, in addition to the small Spanish tile gable roof on the laboratories, positioned at either end of the structure, a larger and higher Spanish tile gable roof covers the entire classroom area of the building.

There is one window opening on the east stage wall. Now boarded up, it is assumed that it was a sixteen light wooden casement window..

A bell tower with clay tile roof, containing the original bell that is still rung on special occasions, rises from the northeast corner of the building.

NORTH ELEVATION OF MAIN BUILDING

There is one window opening on the north stage wall. It is a sixteen light wooden casement window..

Casement windows for the three upper grade classrooms and the north wall of the library have transoms overhead and cover almost the entire length of the main building on this side. Some are boarded up, but those not broken contain sixteen lights. The transoms contain eight lights each.

Other features from east to west include:

A small tiled roof above a door opening to the outside supported by wooden ancones. Four concrete steps, with pipe railings on either side, lead down to the schoolyard. This door opens into the northeast end of the middle classroom. The door is adjacent to the wooden roll-up wall separating the two classrooms.

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A tall stuccoed chimney that provides the venting for a large wood-burning boiler in the basement. Until the 1940's, when a forced air furnace was installed in the attic, steam was piped to radiators throughout the building.

Each winter morning about six A.M., Cecil Berriman, the school janitor, would fill the boiler's combustion chamber with dry eucalyptus wood and stoke a hot fire. He would then collect the students by bus and bring them to school by eight A.M., by which time the classrooms were nice and warm.

A raised concrete walkway between the main building and the primary building. is edged with pipe railing. The composition gable roof over the walkway is supported by wooden posts. It is not known whether the original roof for this walkway was done with composition or clay tile.

This walkway connects with a high-ceilinged hallway that extends through the main building from front to back. The entrance to this hallway from the south side of the building is from the west end of the portico.

WEST ELEVATION OF MAIN BUILDING

On the northwest corner, a small flight of concrete steps with pipe railing leads into the library. Above the steps is a small clay-tiled gable roof supported by two posts.

The library has a wooden casement window on its west side identical to the window on the north..

The flat roof over the library is styled the same as the roof over the stage at the east end of the building., with a plain wood cornice.

The small laboratory (storage room) under the gable roof at the west end is identical to its previously described counterpart at the east end.

DISASTROUS FIRE

During the night of February 12, 1926, much of the larger building was destroyed by fire. Insurance proceeds allowed the building to be replicated on its original foundation. Sufficient funds were realized to add a small library on the west end of the main building.

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Because of the availability of a smaller classroom for the primary grade students, built in 1924, and connected to the larger building by a covered walkway, only a few days of school were lost due to the 1926 fire. The reconstructed main building, although not completely finished, was made presentable for the eighth grade graduation ceremony by some of the fathers who worked until six that evening putting up velour curtains.

THE PRIMARY CLASSROOM BUILDING

Very little information about the smaller primary classroom has been discovered to date. The year of construction, 1924, comes from the recollections of residents Olga Rosenau, Edna Smith, Myrtle Holditch, and Jessie Hoyt Campbell that are included in the book, "Villa Park, Then and Now", 1976, by Louise Booth.

The primary classroom, although of the same architectural style as the larger building, differs somewhat in construction. Based on the engineering report by Martinez/Kuch Architects in 1998, it contains wood stud walls, wood floor joists, and wood trusses. The stucco exterior is topped with the same type of clay tile roof as is the larger main building.

The smaller building was used for the primary classes for many years. It contains a classroom with a coatroom at the east end. A small building, used as a lavatory, is attached to the west end.

NORTH ELEVATION OF PRIMARY SCHOOL BUILDING

The wooden casement window at the east end of the primary school, outside of the cloakroom, contains twelve lights. The same style of horizontal rectangular window sill as found on the upper grade building is repeated on the windows of the primary school building.

Moving toward the west one finds six windows, each with twelve lights, and a six light transom overhead. Several windows have panes missing and have been temporarily filled in with pieces of wood.

A small tiled roof above the door is supported by wooden posts. Three concrete steps, with pipe railings on either side, lead down to the schoolyard. This door opens directly into the primary classroom.

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Attached to the west end of the primary school building is a flat-roofed laboratory. A door, probably not the original door, opens directly onto the school grounds. A small recessed window with one light is placed to the right of and parallel with the top of the door.

WEST ELEVATION OF PRIMARY SCHOOL BUILDING

The top of the west wall of the primary building can be seen above the flat roof of the laboratory building.

The laboratory has two small windows that currently are boarded up.

SOUTH ELEVATION OF PRIMARY SCHOOL BUILDING

The door on this side of the primary building has the same tiled gable roof, supportive wooden posts, and steps as the door on the north side with one exception. There are four steps, instead of three, leading down to the schoolyard.

The covered walkway mentioned earlier in the description of the main building leads into the coatroom of the primary school building.

There is one window on the laboratory wall that is identical to the windows on the west and north sides

EAST ELEVATION OF PRIMARY SCHOOL BUILDING

There is one twelve light wooden casement window on the east elevation.

INTERIOR CHANGES

Over the years, changes have been made to the interiors of both buildings. Most noticeable are the acoustic tiles and the fluorescent lighting fixtures that will be removed during the restoration process. Similarly, wall partitions installed in order to create offices in the main building were installed but will be removed as part of the restoration process.

The forced air furnace installed in the attic and the air vents are other additions that will need to remain to allow students to use the buildings for classrooms.

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The two historic buildings of Villa Park School are the oldest public buildings in the City of Villa Park, California. The larger building is the more significant, both historically and architecturally.

At the time of its construction, in 1919, the only other public buildings in the city were the Congregational Church, the grange hall, and the post office located in a small store.

When the members of the Congregational Church began to attend the larger churches of the neighboring City of Orange, their wooden church building was sold and moved to Trabuco Canyon. Later, the church building was destroyed by a fire.

The building housing the post office has long since disappeared and a branch of the Orange Post Office now occupies a corner of the Villa Park Pharmacy.

The old grange hall, reminiscent of the pioneer buildings at Knott's Berry Farm, was used as the City Hall after Villa Park became a charter city in 1962. It was torn down after the city government moved to its new quarters in the shopping center in 1972.

All of these events leave Villa Park School as the only remaining example of a public building built prior to 1947.

What makes Villa Park School even more significant than its age is the fact that a building of this magnitude was even built in what was then a rural community.

It is a silent witness to the fact that Villa Park was, even then, one of the most desirable residential areas in the county. An undated brochure published by the Orange County Chambers of Commerce sometime in the 1920's, states it this way. "VILLA PARK — 'This other, Eden, demi-paradise' — is the finest section of the finest county of the finest state in the United States. The hills love it and embrace it on three sides. It is the original frostless district and has the finest climate in the world." "Our school is one of the beauty spots of the section and employs four teachers."

Indeed it was, and still is. The façade of Villa Park School is an outstanding example of the Beaux Arts, City Beautiful Classicism architectural style. Aesthetically, it is at least the equal of the public buildings built at that time in the downtown sections of Orange County's largest cities.

It is interesting to note that the selected architectural firm was from Los Angeles. Although no information has been discovered as to why this firm was selected, it is known that the residents of this rural area liked to travel to Los Angeles to attend the theatre and perhaps stay overnight at the Biltmore Hotel. Travel to Los Angeles was more often by train than by automobile although some residents were noted for their stylish cars. Also, due to the fact that the citrus industry located here (there were two packing houses), was shipping oranges and lemons worldwide, there were probably a number of regularly occurring business contacts between the two cities.

The architects, H. Alfred Anderson and Richard C. Farrell, would have found it difficult to have chosen a style more appropriate to the character and location of the community for which it was designed.

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Section number 8 Page 1 Villa Park School, Orange County, CA

Villa Park School is being proposed for National Register designation under criterion C. It is one of the city's few historic buildings and an impressive one as well. Its eclectic architecture successfully combines Mediterranean, Beaux-Arts and Classical elements in a building that reflects both the hispanic origins of the area's settlement and the community's lofty goals for this small temple of education.

The two historic buildings of Villa Park School are the oldest public buildings in the City of Villa Park. At the time of their construction in the 1920s, the only other public buildings in the city were the Congregational Church, the Grange Hall, and the post office located in a small store. When the members of the Congregational Church began to attend the larger churches of the neighboring city of Orange, their wooden church building was sold and moved to Trabuco Canyon. Later the church building was destroyed by fire. The building housing the post office has long since disappeared and a branch of the Orange Post Office now occupies a corner of the Villa Park pharmacy. The old Grange Hall, reminiscent of the pioneer buildings at Knott's Berry Farm, was used as the City Hall after Villa Park became a charter city in 1962. It was torn down after the city government moved to its new quarters in the shopping center in 1972. All of these events leave Villa Park School as the only remaining example of a public building built prior to 1947.

What makes Villa Park School even more significant than its age is the fact that a building of this magnitude was even built in what was then a rural community. It is a silent witness to the fact that Villa Park was, even then, one of the most desirable residential areas in the county. An undated brochure published by the Orange County Chamber of Commerce some time in the 1920s states it this way: "Villa Park – This other Eden, demi-paradise – is the finest section of the finest county of the finest state in the United States the hills love it and embrace it on three sides. It is the original frostless district and has the finest climate in the world....Our school is one of the beauty spots of the section and employs four teachers." Indeed it was, and still is.

The façade of Villa Park School is an outstanding example of Beaux Arts City Beautiful Classicism. Aesthetically it is at least the equal of the public buildings built at that time in the downtown sections of Orange County's largest cities. David Gebhard and Robert Winter in their book *Architecture in Los Angeles* (Salt Lake City, 1985) have written "Beaux Arts Classicism embraces a variety of historic classical modes which came to be used in the U.S. from the early 1890s through the 1920s. The great buildings associated with the style are a mixture of late nineteenth century Parisian Neo-Baroque, a renewed grandiose fascination with Roman Imperial architecture, and a continued interest in Italian Renaissance architecture. The American Beaux Arts also embraces the late-nineteenth century Renaissance Revival and what loosely could be called the Neo-Classical Revival. As a style it usurped all others to become close to the only packaging for a public building, ranging from the smallest of Carnegie Public Libraries to the design of state capitols. It also became an almost universal form for railroad stations, skyscrapers, and above all for banks. Example of this style began to appear in

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Section number 8 Page 1 Villa Park School, Orange County, CA

Southern California in the late 1890s, and it continued to be popular for banks, skyscrapers, office blocks, and public buildings through the 1920s." (p. 478)

The Greek elements of the façade, the columns topped by Ionic capitals, the architrave, the pilasters adorned with cartouches, all reflect the classicism typical of the style. However, what makes this particular design even more notable and appropriate to its rural setting was the architect's addition of features that tie this building to the Spanish Colonial or Mediterranean Revival. The clay tile roof, the emphasis on the horizontal dimensions of this one-story building, the unadorned bell tower all combine to remind one of the rancho and mission heritage of this area. Approximately two miles from the first private adobe built in Orange County, built by Juan Pablo Grijalva in approximately 1801, and built on land that was once part of the 62,000 acre Rancho Santiago de Santa Ana, this building conveys its architectural heritage from those earlier days.

Historic Villa Park School is an architectural gem that stands, almost hidden from view, in the middle of a crowded elementary school campus. It stands there, in quiet elegance, waiting to be rediscovered and recognized for the beautiful structure that it is. In this it clearly exemplifies the City of Villa Park. Villa Park's motto, chosen by the citizens of this city, is "Villa Park, the Hidden Jewel." The early native inhabitants, the Spaniards, Mexicans, American settlers, and most recently, thousands of people from all over the United States, and indeed, the world, have discovered that Villa Park is a very desirable place to live. Where small farmhouses once stood, modern-day villas have arisen on the tree-lined streets. New large homes featuring designs that are surprisingly similar to the design of Villa Park School, are found on almost every street. So part of the significance of historic Villa Park School is that it represents not only the community's past history but also its present and, hopefully its future.

And, so it is with Villa Park School. More and more people are recognizing its outstanding architectural design and are joining in the current effort to again restore it to classroom use by students. These beautiful old buildings, part of a school campus that has been in continuous operation since 1883, are the most historically significant public buildings in the City of Villa Park. They meet the criteria for inclusion in the National Register not only because they are the oldest public buildings still extant but because they are fine examples of Beaux Arts Classicism, made especially distinctive through their references to the area's hispanic past.

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Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9__ Page 1

Anaheim Booster and the Chambers of Commerce of the cities of Orange County, Orange County, California, Today and Yesterday, Anaheim, CA

Ayroso, Ananias M., Structural Calculations for Orange Unified School District, Villa Park Elementary School Historical Buildings, Cerritos, CA., Ananias M. Ayroso P.E., Consulting Structural Engineer, 1998

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NPS Form 10-900-a
(8-86)

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

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Verbal Boundary Description of Historic Portion of the Campus

The .528 acre area immediately surrounding the two historic buildings is located within the campus of the Villa Park Elementary School, at 10551 Center Drive, in the Orange County city of Villa Park, California.

The historic area is shown in the map below.

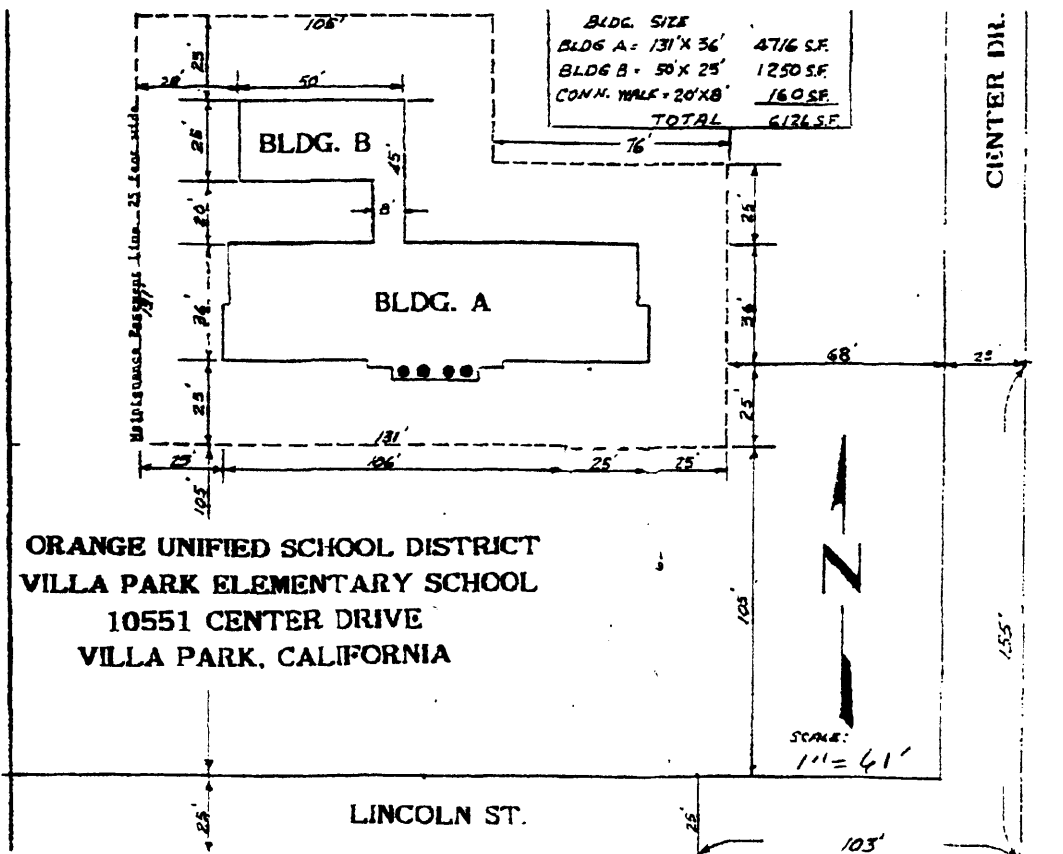
NPS Form 10-900-a
(8-86)

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

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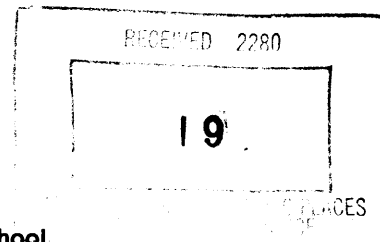


ORANGE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
VILLA PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
10551 CENTER DRIVE
VILLA PARK, CALIFORNIA

Boundary shown on dotted line

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Villa Park School
Orange County, CA

Photo Log:

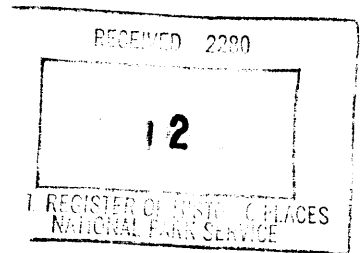
Name of photographer: Janet Van Emon
Date of photographs: February 2003
Location of negative: California Office of Historic Preservation
1416 9th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Views:

- #1 Main building entry, façade (south elevation)
- #2 Main building, west end of façade (south elevation)
- #3 Main building façade, looking west (south elevation)
- #4 Main building cartouche detail (south elevation)
- #5 Main building east elevation showing lavatory and bell tower
- #6 Main building rear (north elevation)

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Photographs:

The following information applies to all the photographs.

1. Villa Park School
2. Villa Park, Orange County, California
3. Janet Van Emon
4. January 29, 2003
5. Archives, Villa Park Elementary School Restoration Corporation

Photograph #1 <No.20>

Front façade (left side) of main building. Camera facing northeast.

Photograph #2: <No.18>

Front façade (center) Camera facing north and a few degrees to the west.

Photograph #3: <No.17>

Front façade (east side) Camera facing north.

Photograph #4: <No.16>

East elevation of main building showing bell tower, the flat roof of the stage area and the door to the old lavatory. To the right are the current office and teachers' lounge; they are not part of the area designated as the historic site. Camera facing west.

Photograph #5: <No.14>

North elevation of main building. Camera facing southwest. This view shows the windows of the two classrooms with a movable wall that can be opened to form a small auditorium. The stage area is to the left in this view.

Photograph #6: <No.13>

This view, with the camera facing west, shows the covered walkway between the main building and the primary classroom building. Farther west can be seen some of the portable classrooms in use on campus, not part of the designated historic area.

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Photograph #7 <No.12>

This view, with the camera facing slightly southwest, shows the primary class building. In the distance are portable classrooms. To the right can be seen the central courtyard area where outdoor assemblies are held.

Photograph #8 <No.10>

Facing slightly northwest, this view shows the west elevation of the main building and the corner of the lavatory attached to the primary class building. The library is in the flat-roofed area. On the right corner of the main building is the other old lavatory, now used as a storeroom.

Photograph #9<No.22>

This view, facing east, shows the historic main building on the left, the auditorium now used for classes in the center, and classroom buildings on the right.