

5

POMONA CIVIC CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT

Garey Avenue to Park Avenue, 8th Street to Mission Boulevard



Contributing Resource



Non Contributing Resource

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

POMONA CIVIC CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT

POMONA CITY HALL

505 South Garey Avenue

Architectural Style: New Formalism
Architect: Welton Becket
Built: 1967-68

The City Hall is a great example of New Formalism architecture and the masterpiece of Becket's completed work in Pomona. It showcases the concept of architecture as art. From the street (Mission Boulevard) the building can only be appreciated like a piece of art, and not experienced. The building is raised on a pedestal and separated from nature. From the street it appears that you can enter the building, but the entrance is on the opposite side of the building from the street and the building is physically separated from the street. At the entrance on the South side, you have to go up a bridge to get to the entrance, creating a formal "castle" type entrance. The thin columns, large plate glass curtain wall, and the cantilevered roof over the entry, continue this look and provide a monumental look to the entrance of the building. The wings of the building complete the entry with the use of exposed, patterned, concrete and quartz curtain walls with tall, narrow, glass windows. The building does not appear to be altered and has a high level of architectural integrity.

CHARACTER-DEFINING FEATURES:

- Placed on Podium, separated from Nature
- Modern columns
- Central roof used as entablature
- Use of natural stone in walls and floor



CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

POMONA CIVIC CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT

CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS BUILDING

505 South Garey Avenue

Architectural Style: New Formalism
Architect: Welton Becket
Built: 1967-68

The City Council Chambers building complements the neighboring City Hall. A New Formalism building the Chambers once again is set on a pedestal and employs the same “bridge” concept as City Hall. The Chambers is also more understated than City Hall, which is appropriate as its role as the meeting place of the people’s representatives. The building uses a similar concrete quartz curtain wall system with a different window pattern than City Hall. The building does not appear to be altered and has a high level of architectural integrity.

CHARACTER-DEFINING FEATURES:

- Placed on Podium, separated from Nature
- Pilasters in wall
- Use of natural stone in walls and floor



CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

POMONA CIVIC CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT

POMONA PUBLIC LIBRARY BUILDING

625 South Garey Avenue

Architectural Style: New Formalism
Architect: Welton Becket
Built: 1967-68

The Library building is almost two different buildings in appearance. From the street (Garey Avenue) it is a classic New Formalism building. Just like City Hall, Becket once again showcased the architecture as art concept. The Library is raised on a pedestal, separated from nature and inaccessible, forcing you to only appreciate “the art”. In this view, the library is a very complementary building to City Hall. The larger overhang, slim columns, and glass curtain wall provide the same look as City Hall. As you go around the building, the architecture gets lost, the glass is replaced by walls, and much of the lines and massing get lost at the entrance on the rear (opposite side from the street) of the building. The exterior of the building has very few alterations and has a high level of architectural integrity.

CHARACTER-DEFINING FEATURES:

- Placed on Podium, separated from Nature
- Modern columns
- Roof used as entablature
- Use of natural stone in walls and floor



CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

POMONA CIVIC CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT

POMONA DISTRICT HEALTH CENTER (LOS ANGELES COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH BUILDING)

750 South Park Avenue

Architectural Style: New Formalism
Architect: Welton Becket
Built: 1965

The first of Becket's New Formalism buildings at the Civic Center, the Los Angeles County Health buildings adapts the New Formalism style for a building where more privacy is required. On a more subdued level, the Health Building still has the cantilevered roof overhang and the thin columns. The change occurs where instead of glass curtain walls, they are replaced with solid walls. To complement the privacy needed, even the outdoor open space in the front of the building is kept private by using a patterned concrete block in place of the solid wall. It is also placed on a pedestal and you are forced to walk up to the building to get access, just like the other New Formalism buildings.

CHARACTER-DEFINING FEATURES:

- Placed on Podium, separated from Nature
- Modern columns
- Roof used as entablature
- Decorative block used to screen private outdoor area



CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

POMONA CIVIC CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT

EAST DISTRICT SUPERIOR COURT BUILDING

400 Civic Center Plaza

Architectural Style: Mid-Century Modern

Architect: Welton Becket

Date Built: 1967-69

The Superior Court Building is different from the other buildings in the complex. It is a Mid-Century Modern building with some New Formalism touches to complement the rest of the complex. Becket raises the building as he did with his other New Formalism buildings, but the building itself is modern. He created a base of the building through the use of different materials than higher-up on the building. Mostly hidden by the base, you can see the piloti supporting the structure and freeing the geometric pattern of the curtain wall facade. The implied structure continues as a regulating pattern as the main vertical lines of the façade line up with the columns.

CHARACTER-DEFINING FEATURES:

- Placed on Podium, separated from Nature
- Base separated from upper stories
- Piloti (columns) separate structure from facade
- Geometric pattern in curtain wall replacing ribbon window.
- Implied structure as vertical lines in facade



CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

POMONA CIVIC CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT

MUNICIPAL COURTS BUILDING

350 West Mission Boulevard

Architectural Style: Mid-Century Modern
Architect: Amos Randall, Randall and Yinger Architects
Built: 1956-58

The Municipal Courts building predates the Civic Center complex. It was designed in a Mid-Century Modern style and its use of brick, smooth plaster finish stucco walls and aluminum windows is very typical of mid-century institutional architecture. These buildings were simple, streamlined and utilitarian. Numerous school and government buildings were similarly designed. The exterior of the building has very few alterations and has a high level of architectural integrity.

CHARACTER-DEFINING FEATURES:

- Columns separate facade from structure
- Ribbon windows
- Flat roof
- Recessed lower level
- Use of natural materials



CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

POMONA CIVIC CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT

POMONA PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING

490 West Mission Boulevard and 590 South Park Avenue

Architectural Style: Mid-Century Modern
Architect: Welton Becket
Built: 1964-65

The Public Safety Building was designed to house both the Police and Fire Departments. The east wing of the L-shaped building houses the Police Department and the south wing, the Fire Department the two wings are connected by a second story. The building is a great example of the development of the International style into the Mid-Century Modern style. The building recesses the first story under the second and uses the piloti to support the second story. The unique feature on the building is the screen on the second story, which protects an exterior balcony from the harsh afternoon sun, but due to the openings in the screen, still allows the prevailing winds to get through. The patterned screen accentuates the horizontal lines of the building. This type of element was not commonly used during this time period, but it is something that is becoming more popular in architecture today because of LEED requirements. The exterior of the building is relatively unaltered and has a high level on integrity.

CHARACTER-DEFINING FEATURES:

- Columns separate facade from structure
- Ribbon windows
- Flat roof
- Recessed lower level
- Screen protecting second floor balconies



CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

POMONA CIVIC CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT

STATE ARMORY

600 South Park Avenue

Architectural Style: Mediterranean Revival
Architect: W.K. Daniels
Built: 1930s

The Mediterranean Revival State Armory building predates the Civic Center complex, built as a WPA project during the depression. It has been determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and was designated as a local historic landmark on May 16, 2017. It appears to be relatively unaltered and has a high level of architectural integrity. Although not directly related to the development of the Civic Center complex it still contributes to the significance of the district as a center for government and civic activity.

CHARACTER-DEFINING FEATURES:

- Placed on Podium, separated from Nature
- Modern columns
- Central roof used as entablature
- Use of natural stone in walls and floor



CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

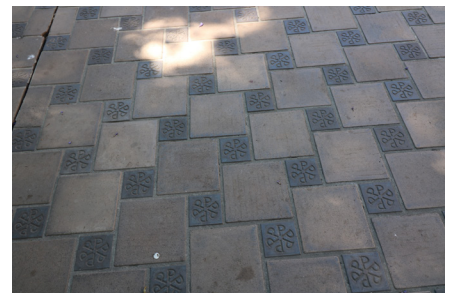
POMONA CIVIC CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT

CIVIC CENTER PLAZAS

The plazas and walkways through the Civic Center are very distinct. The hexagon tiles, in a variety of colors and patterns, and with the “P” embossed into the surface, provide a unifying element throughout the Civic Center. The main plaza in front of the courthouse uses square tiles, but also uses the embossed “P”. While some tiles are in poor condition due to normal wear and tear, they have been replaced with a “like-for-like” replacement when necessary, keeping its integrity.

CHARACTER-DEFINING FEATURES:

- Hexagon “P” tiles of various colors
- Square accent “P” tile in large square field tile



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POMONA CIVIC CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT

PLANTERS/SEATING AREAS

The planter/seating areas on either side of the reflecting pools were design to be gathering spaces for the public. The only alterations made to them were attachments that prevent the homeless from using them as sleeping areas. Those alterations appear to be removable and do not impair their integrity.

CHARACTER-DEFINING FEATURES:

- Poured-in-place concrete raised planter seating area.
- Metal arms added later.



NON-CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

POMONA CIVIC CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT

COURTHOUSE PLAZA FOUNTAIN

The Plaza fountain is an original feature of the Civic Center. The master plan identified a fountain in the area. It contains a large fountain in which water falls into a pool immediately surrounding the fountain.

CHARACTER-DEFINING FEATURES:

- Placed on Podium, separated from Nature
- Pool surrounding fountain
- Low profile



NON-CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

POMONA CIVIC CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT



LAWN AREA BETWEEN THE LIBRARY AND THE COURTHOUSE BUILDING ALONG 7TH STREET

This portion of the Civic Center was originally planned for an art gallery that was never built. This area could be a location for future development of the Civic Center and any future buildings should be designed to complement the existing Civic Center.



COUNCIL CHAMBERS ANNEX BUILDING

This building was a later addition and not part of the original Civic Center Master Plan. It was designed to complement the Council Chambers building. Any future development of this area should continue to complement but not compete with the existing Council Chambers building.



REFLECTING POOLS

The reflecting pools originally visually drew people from the east parking lot and created a path to the City Council Chambers. These reflecting pools have been converted to planters and no longer have any integrity. If they were restored to reflecting pools in the future, they would be considered contributing resources.

PARKING LOTS SOUTH OF 7TH STREET

The existing parking lots on the south side of 7th Street were originally part of the Civic Center Master Plan and were planned for a civic auditorium, a parking structure, and a museum. These plans were never completed. They have been included in the district to ensure that any future development architecturally complements the Civic Center.