

Form 7-200  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	California
COUNTY:	Los Angeles
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DA

Date	8/13/99	# of pages	5
From	P. Howell		
Co.	OHP		
Phone #	76-053-9054		
Fax #	202-343-9522		

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Catholic-Protestant Chapels, Veterans Administration Center

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Catholic-Protestant Chapels

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Eisenhower Avenue near Bonsall Avenue.

CITY OR TOWN:  
Los Angeles

STATE: California      CODE: 06      COUNTY: Los Angeles

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work In progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
United States Veterans Administration

STREET AND NUMBER:  
CITY OR TOWN:  
STATE: California      CODE:

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:  
Hall of Records, Los Angeles County

STREET AND NUMBER:  
320 West Temple Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Los Angeles      STATE: California      CODE: 06

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
HABS (CAL-335)

DATE OF SURVEY: 1963       Federal       State       County       Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
National Park Service

STREET AND NUMBER:  
801 - 19th Street N.W.

CITY OR TOWN:  
Washington      STATE: District of Columbia      CODE: 11

Post-It Fax Note 7671

To: Rustin Quide

Co./Dept: NPS

Phone #

Fax #

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ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION	
CONDITION	(Check One)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed (Check One)
	(Check One)
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE	
<p>The two back-to-back chapels of Sawtelle (Building #20, Plot Plan, attached) are combined into a single building, although the large gables on the exterior indicate the dual purpose space on the inside. The walls are all wood frame with wood siding or paneling and ornamental details painted white. Steel supports the interior balcony. The sloping roofs were shingle including the pyramidal tops on the towers, one of which was used as a bell-tower. The floors are hardwood supported on masonry foundation. The floor of the Protestant Chapel slopes down toward the altar and podium. The seats radiate from the front outward in semi-circles.</p> <p>The balcony is now enclosed and not used for seating during services as it was originally. This alteration made as a part of the reconstruction project following a fire in 1955. There were plans for the construction of a new chapel, but restoration was far less costly. This saved the chapels from being demolished. Colonel Bringham, now retired, as director appropriated the necessary funds for rebuilding the burnt front and for strengthening the entire aging structure by applying on the inside surfaces where possible, plywood diaphragms which stabilized the building.</p> <p>There are main entrances and side entrances which lead into both chapels. The main stairway leading up to the east porch is also of wood construction as are the other stairs. The ornamental-"Carpenter's Gothic", "Shingle Style", etc.,-work was done with the saw and wood, taking "the material out of its own realm, into a plastic one . . . dating back to an era . . . of confidence in the scroll saw and the belief that the shortest distance between two points is the curved line." These details seem more applied, varied and less restrained, less serious than that of the other buildings of Sawtelle, which were not designed, as the chapels were, by J. Lee Burton.</p> <p>The Chapel building is centrally located in the Sawtelle complex, and is the first one the visitor sees entering the Northern part of the grounds from Wilshire Boulevard.</p> <p>Complete plans exist in the Planning Department of Sawtelle of this particular building including elevations, sections, and various plan sections. Dimensions are approximately 126' x 40' to 60'.</p> <p>See HABS Report CAL-335, February 1963 for structural details.</p>	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian
- 16th Century
- 18th Century
- 20th Century
- 15th Century
- 17th Century
- 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy            | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                        | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                      | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                        | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation                 | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |   | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |   | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The two back-to-back Chapels on the Veterans Administration grounds at Sawtelle (called Building #20 by V.A.) was designed by J. Lee Burton, Los Angeles architect, and built in 1900. It is of the more exuberant shingle style, examples of which are rapidly passing away in cities. On the Veterans Administration grounds, the fanciful building gives an historical depth and a continuity from shingle and siding through Spanish styles into the thoughtful of mechanistic work of the present.

Congress appropriated \$150,000; in 1887, for what is now the Veterans Administration, and Senator Jones and his partner Colonel Baker and the Wolfskill interests deeded 640 acres to the Government for location of the home and Jones assisted in drafting legislation which established the institution.<sup>1</sup> The Wolfskill land lay east of Sepulveda Boulevard, and the Jones land was a portion of Rancho San Vicente y Santa Monica. Beside the land, Jones also agreed to put up \$50,000 at the rate of \$10,000 per year for construction of the buildings. However, Jones' heirs preferred to settle the agreement by deeding to the Government an additional 113 acres, which was accepted and brought the total acreage to 713. Building began the following year with a two-story frame residence for the first surgeon - Dr. Herman Hasse - which was completed in December, 1888.<sup>2</sup> Veterans were invited to the new Home in 1888, and one thousand men arrived necessitating the use of temporary quarters.<sup>2</sup> The first large domiciliaries were built in 1891 and 1893, but by 1900, when the Chapel was built, there were houses for the staff, including a Governor's House of 6683 square feet, a depot (now a newstand), an engineering shop, with an area of 10,590 square feet, Ward Memorial Hall (later used as a theatre), and in 1899 a post office. Another domiciliary, a hospital and more quarters for the staff were built before 1905.

The Chapel, dedicated in March, 1900,<sup>3</sup> has an area of 5289 square feet. The entrance facades of the two different Chapels have large gables which gives the building two entrance elevations. The Protestant Chapel, facing Wilshire Boulevard (south), has the more impressive entrance. It has an arched portico, about 5' above grade, and above the porch is a balustraded balcony at the left of which is a large square tower with belfry. A smaller tower at the right is surmounted by a pyramidal roof with a platform at the base of the pyramid that forms an over-hanging cornice which casts a strong shadow.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Form 10-300a  
(July 1969)

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(Continuation Sheet)

8. Significance

(Number all entries)

The entrance and vestibule to the Catholic Chapel is on the east side with a belfry of open arches supporting a steeple and surrounded by an open arched balcony. The apse is at the north end of the Chapel.

Wood siding and shingle, and a great deal of surface ornament produced by scroll saw, are painted white. In an early photograph of the original wood buildings, however, all are dark wood, perhaps weathered or stained brown, with white trim. The roofs were originally wood shingle, now composition shingle.

After a fire in 1955, alterations were made to the interior of the Protestant Chapel to strengthen the structure; the balcony was closed at that time and seating is now confined to the first-floor pew, which radiate from the front outward in semicircles.

The cost of construction for the Chapels was \$14,000.

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Fabulous Boulevard, by Ralph Hancock, Funk and Wagnalls, 1949, p. 197.  
Dear Old Boys in Blue, Elsbeth Andrea, Reynard Press, San Francisco, 1948  
"Wilshire Boulevard", by Esther McCoy, Western Architect and Engineer,  
 September 1961, pp. 36-37.  
Birth and Growth of Veteran Administration Center, by Leo R. Mallones,  
 unpublished and undated, MS (From Mr. Lessen in  
 Publications Dept., at V.A.)

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "	34°	03'	18"
NE	° ' "	° ' "	118°	27'	19"
SE	° ' "	° ' "			
SW	° ' "	° ' "			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **1.5 acres +**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Cliff M. Bisbee, State Park Historian

ORGANIZATION: State Department of Parks and Recreation DATE: July 1971

STREET AND NUMBER: 1416 - 9th Street

CITY OR TOWN: Sacramento, STATE: California CODE: 06

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title State Liaison Officer

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

BLDG. NO.	LOC.	REC.	BLDG. NO.	LOC.	REC.	BLDG. NO.	LOC.	REC.
1	W	19	71	W	27	247	W	1
2	W	19	72	W	27	248	W	1
3	W	19	73	W	27	249	W	1
4	W	20	74	W	27	250	W	1
5	W	20	77	C	32	253	W	24
6	W	20	78	C	31	254	C	28
7	W	20	80	C	32	255	W	5
8	W	20	82	U	24	257	W	4
9	W	20	83	U	25	258	W	4
10	W	20	84	U	31	259	W	5
11	W	20	89	U	18	262	W	4
12	W	20	90	W	18	263	D	5
13	W	20	91	W	18	264	D	5
14	W	20	92	W	11	265	D	5
15	W	20	99	W	19	266	D	5
16	W	20	100	W	19	267	D	5
17	W	20	101	W	19	270	D	17
18	W	20	102	W	19	271	W	28
19	W	20	103	W	18	283	W	28
20	FBI	26	104	W	18	284	W	28
21	B	4	105	W	18	285	W	28
22	B	4	106	D	7	286	W	28
23	FBI	26	107	W	18	287	W	28
24	B	5	111	D	6	288	W	28
25	B	5	112	D	6	289	W	28
26	B	5	113	D	6	290	W	28
27	B	5	114	X	6	291	W	28
28	B	5	115	D	5	292	W	28
29	B	5	116	D	5	293	W	28
30	B	5	117	D	5	294	W	28
31	B	5	118	D	5	295	W	28
32	B	5	119	D	5	296	W	28
33	B	5	120	D	5	297	W	28
34	B	5	121	D	5	298	W	28
35	B	5	122	D	5	299	W	28
36	B	5	123	D	5	300	W	28
37	B	5	124	D	5	301	W	28
38	B	5	125	D	5	302	W	28
39	B	5	126	D	5	303	W	28
40	B	5	127	D	5	304	W	28
41	B	5	128	D	5	305	W	28
42	B	5	129	D	5	306	W	28
43	B	5	130	D	5	307	W	28
44	B	5	131	D	5	308	W	28
45	B	5	132	D	5	309	W	28
46	B	5	133	D	5	310	W	28
47	B	5	134	D	5	311	W	28
48	B	5	135	D	5	312	W	28
49	B	5	136	D	5	313	W	28
50	B	5	137	D	5	314	W	28
51	B	5	138	D	5	315	W	28
52	B	5	139	D	5	316	W	28
53	B	5	140	D	5	317	W	28
54	B	5	141	D	5	318	W	28
55	B	5	142	D	5	319	W	28
56	B	5	143	D	5	320	W	28
57	B	5	144	D	5	321	W	28
58	B	5	145	D	5	322	W	28
59	B	5	146	D	5	323	W	28
60	B	5	147	D	5	324	W	28
61	B	5	148	D	5	325	W	28
62	B	5	149	D	5	326	W	28
63	B	5	150	D	5	327	W	28
64	B	5	151	D	5	328	W	28
65	B	5	152	D	5	329	W	28
66	B	5	153	D	5	330	W	28
67	B	5	154	D	5	331	W	28
68	B	5	155	D	5	332	W	28
69	B	5	156	D	5	333	W	28
70	B	5	157	D	5	334	W	28
71	B	5	158	D	5	335	W	28
72	B	5	159	D	5	336	W	28
73	B	5	160	D	5	337	W	28
74	B	5	161	D	5	338	W	28
75	B	5	162	D	5	339	W	28
76	B	5	163	D	5	340	W	28
77	B	5	164	D	5	341	W	28
78	B	5	165	D	5	342	W	28
79	B	5	166	D	5	343	W	28
80	B	5	167	D	5	344	W	28



