

## Maryanne Cronin

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**From:** Jeanne S. Williams <jlswdana@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 17, 2024 9:33 AM  
**To:** Maryanne Cronin  
**Subject:** City Council hearing on Historical Landmark for 3917 LB Blvd on Jan. 23, 2024

**-EXTERNAL-**

January 16, 2024

Mayor Rex Richardson  
District 1: Mary Zendejas  
District 2: Cindy Allen  
District 3: Kristina Duggan  
District 4: Daryl Supernaw  
District 5: Megan Kerr  
District 6: Suely Saro  
District 7: Roberto Uranga  
District 8: Al Austin  
District 9: Joni Ricks-Oddie

Dear Mayor Richardson and Councilmembers,

This email is in support for approving the Cultural Heritage Commission's recommendation of granting landmark status to 3917 Long Beach Blvd. (the Former Fire Station No. 9).

As previously noted, the Former Fire Station No. 9 has met the criteria for landmark status in the report 112823chc.itemss5-15.pdf. The report concluded, "Fire Station No. 9 at 3917 Long Beach Boulevard is not currently designated under any national, state or local landmark or historic district programs. GPA concluded that the property appears to be eligible for designation as a Historic Landmark. 3917 Long Beach Boulevard appears to be significant under Criterion A in the area of Institutional Development as an example of a WPA project which specifically addressed a lack of permanent fire stations in Long Beach after the 1933 earthquake. The recommended Status Code 5S3, appears to be individually eligible for local listing or designation through survey evaluation. Therefore, the property is a historical resource subject to CEQA." Furthermore, the integrity of the Fire Station No. 9 is comparable to the integrity of Station No. 12 located at 6509 Gundry Ave., which is listed as a Historic Landmark. The Historical Resource Evaluation Report by Audrey Von Ahrens that she created for the city of Long Beach regarding 3917 Long Beach Blvd. noted, "Thus, Fire Station No. 9 appears to be significant under local Criterion A for the same reasons outlined under the National Register evaluation above. The property does retain sufficient integrity to be considered eligible for listing as a Historic Landmark.

There is another Historic Building Documentation Report for 3917 Long Beach Blvd. prepared by Rincon Consultant, Inc. dated April 2020, for Chris Koontz. This includes excellent pictures of the fire house before the city left the side door open for vagrants to enter. It is beautiful. Please scroll to approximately page 64. On page 1 of this report, it includes "Significance" of the property: "Significance: Long Beach Fire Station No. 9 reflects the collaborative relationship between the Works Progress Administration (WPA) and the City of Long Beach which occurred in the aftermath of the 1933 Long Beach Earthquake. The WPA was a government agency tasked with developing public works projects during the Great Depression, including civic recreational, educational, and institutional facilities. The WPA also served as a source of manpower in the face of natural disasters such as hurricanes, floods, fires, and earthquakes. Long Beach Fire Station No. 9 was constructed as part of a larger effort to rebuild and add public services after the 1933 earthquake and represents an important crux of institutional development and natural disaster relief in the history of Long Beach." This report was prepared by Rincon Architectural Historian Alexandra Madsen and Rincon Senior Architectural Historian Steven Treffers.

After reading all the pdf documents the staff sent you, I hope you have concluded, the first "f1f12823.chc.items5" is the one to focus on for the January 23, 2024 City Council meeting, Agenda Item 13.

The Cultural Heritage Commission also requested that three significant interior elements should be preserved during the adaptive reuse of the building by the new owner. These are the fireplace and built-in cabinets in the reception room, the wooden truss ceiling in the engine room/garage, and the hose tower which projects above the second story. All connect to exterior walls. If not protected now as landmark interior elements, then future owners could ruin major parts of the structure. Please also landmark these three elements of the interior.

The LCNA submitted the nomination form for Historical Landmark, application #HLM2306-01.

With regards:

The Los Cerritos Neighborhood Association:

Jeanne S. Williams

Leslie Garretson

Mariah Cool

Bob Gill

Gary Hamrick

Rick Ivey

LaVonne Miller

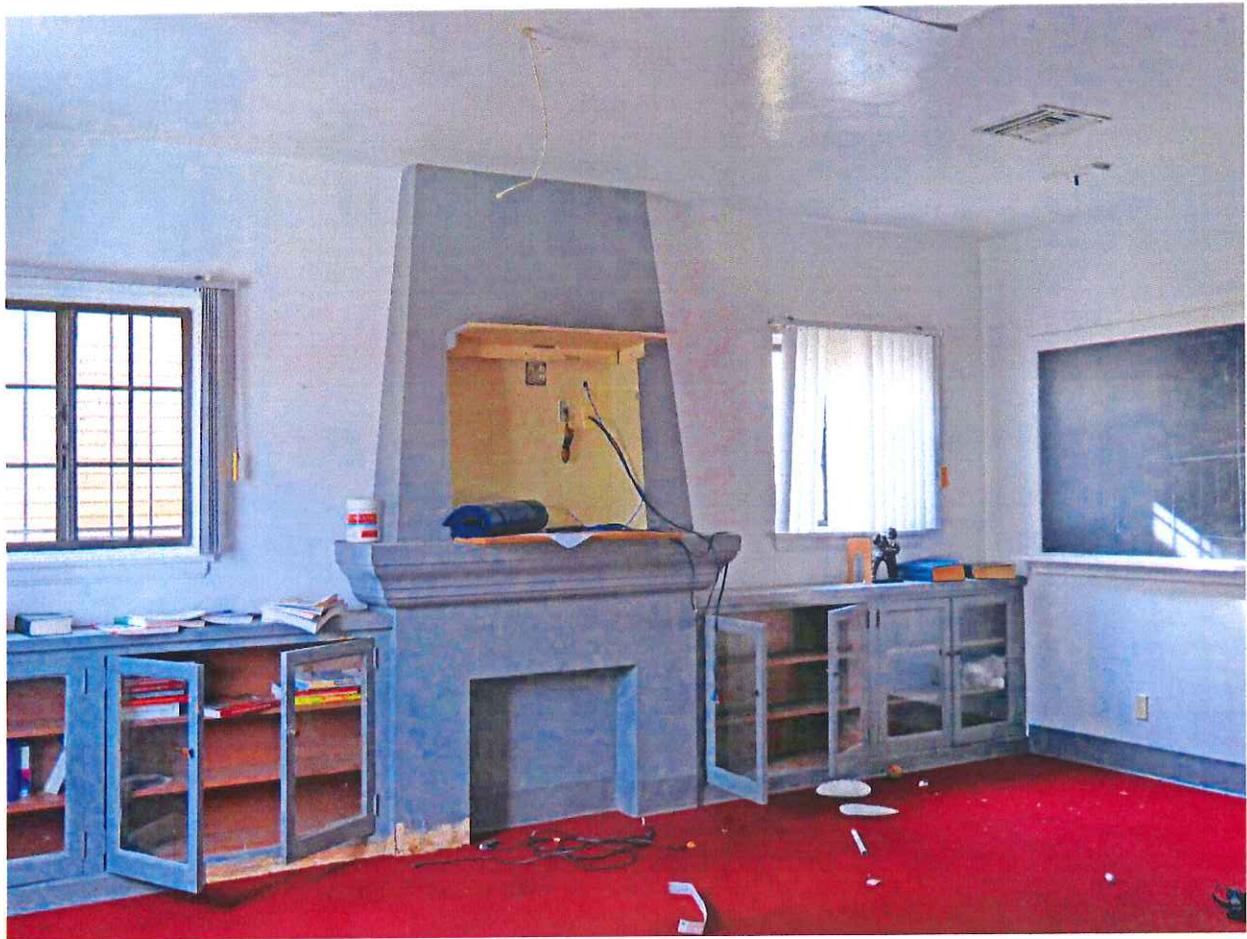
**Original wooden beams in the engine bay**



**View from roll up doors into the engine bay**



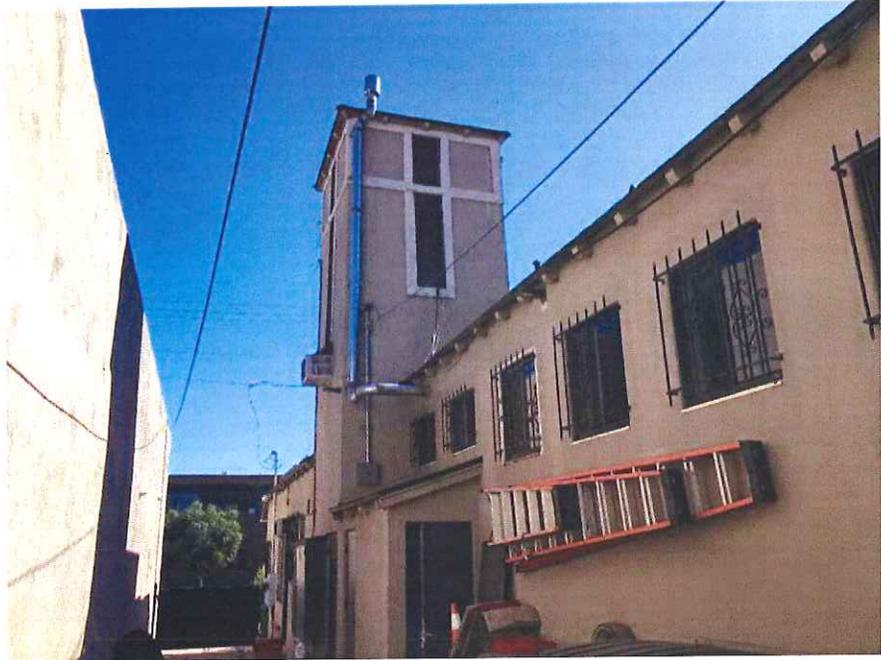
**Original fireplace and cabinets initially used as a living room**



**Hose Tower looking up**



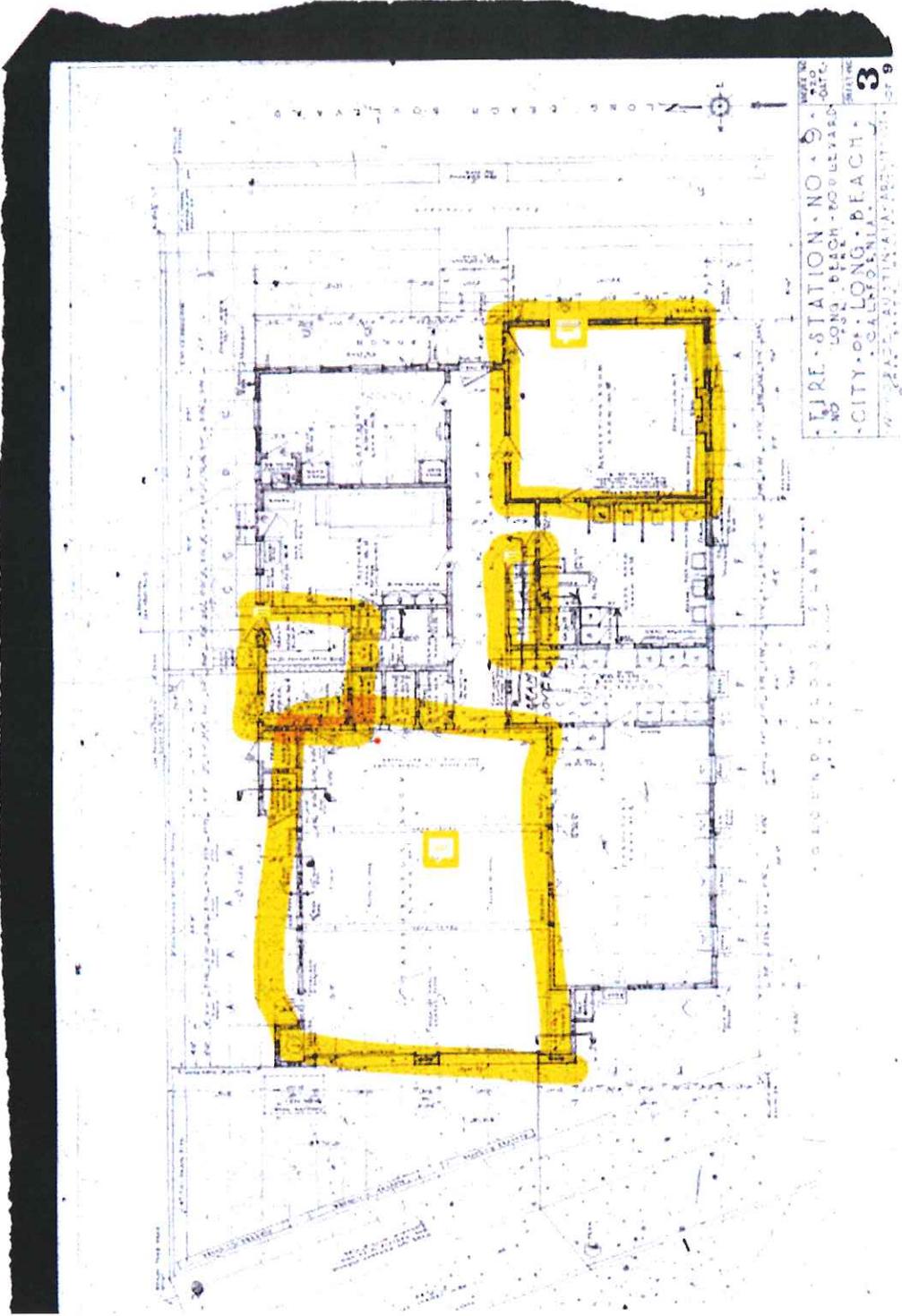
**Hose Tower Exterior – North Side of the building**



**Hose Tower Exterior – From Long Beach Blvd.**







FIRE STATION NO. 9  
LONG BEACH - BOULLEARD  
CITY OF LONG BEACH  
CALIFORNIA  
227 S. BURLINGAME AVE. - 1937  
3

# Fire Station 9

## Landmark Nomination Form and Supporting Documentation







**Certificate of Appropriateness Landmark Nomination Form**

<i>Please print legibly or type</i>		DATE: 6/26/2023	PROJECT NO:	APPLICATION NO: HLM
APPLICANT'S NAME: Los Cerritos Neighborhood Ass.		PROPERTY OWNER'S NAME: City of Long Beach		
APPLICANT'S ADDRESS: 3828 Pine Ave.		PROPERTY OWNER'S ADDRESS: 411 W. Ocean Blvd.		
CITY, STATE, ZIP: Long Beach, CA 90807		CITY, STATE, ZIP: Long Beach, CA 90802		
TELEPHONE (INCLUDING AREA CODE): 562-546-3216		TELEPHONE (INCLUDING AREA CODE): 562-570-6555		
EMAIL ADDRESS: Info@loscerritosna.org		EMAIL ADDRESS: TBD@longbeach.gov		
PRIMARY CONTACT PERSON:		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Applicant <input type="checkbox"/> Property Owner		

*I, the undersigned, declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the information on this Certificate of Appropriateness application is true and correct. In addition, I understand that by nominating the subject property for landmark designation I cannot proceed with any environmental changes unless and until a Certificate of Appropriateness is issued by the Cultural Heritage Commission or the Historic Preservation Office. I further understand that neither this application nor a subsequently issued Certificate of Appropriateness supersedes the need to obtain the necessary building permits and other applicable permits under the City of Long Beach Municipal Code.*

Signature: Rolt J. C., PRESIDENT

Date: 6/26/2023

**1. PROPOSED LANDMARK**

NAME OF PROPOSED LANDMARK: Long Beach Fire Station #9 (former)	ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NUMBER: AIN: 7139-013-900	COUNCIL DISTRICT: 5
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 3917 Long Beach Blvd. Long Beach, CA 90807	COMPLETE LEGAL DESCRIPTION: TRACT 4332. BLOCK 4. LOT(S) 5	
PRESENT USE: vacant	ORIGINAL USE: Fire Station	

**2. SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMPLETED APPLICATION (PAPER WITH ORIGINAL SIGNATURE)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD OF PROPERTY (ELECTRONIC)
<input type="checkbox"/> [OPTIONAL] COMPLETED DPR FORM 523A, 523B (ELECTRONIC)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE PLAN OF SUBJECT PROPERTY (ELECTRONIC) (FLOOR PLANS, IF INTERIOR DESIGNATION)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COPIES OF HISTORIC PHOTOS, PLANS, OR OTHER INFORMATION (ELECTRONIC)	

**FOR DEPARTMENT USE ONLY BELOW THIS LINE**

Reviewed By: _____ Date: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Submittal Complete	COA Fee: \$
	<input type="checkbox"/> Submittal Incomplete	9.3% Surcharge: \$
	<input type="checkbox"/> CHC Date:	TOTAL: \$

To request this information in an alternative format or to request a reasonable accommodation, please contact the Development Services Department at longbeach.gov/lbds and 562.570.3807. A minimum of three business days is requested to ensure availability; attempts will be made to accommodate requests with shorter notice.

### 3. DESCRIPTION

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: Tudor Revival.	CONSTRUCTION DATE: 1938-1939  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FACTUAL <input type="checkbox"/> ESTIMATED
ARCHITECT, DESIGNER, OR ENGINEER: William Horace Austin	CONTRACTOR OR OTHER BUILDER: Works Progress Administration (WPA) project in conjunction with the City of Long Beach
CONDITION: <input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT <input type="checkbox"/> GOOD <input type="checkbox"/> FAIR <input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	
ALTERATIONS: Per the photographs, there are minimal alterations on the exterior of the building. A front railing was added, which can be removed. There may be some windows that were replaced over time.	
THREATS TO SITE: <input type="checkbox"/> NONE KNOWN <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT <input type="checkbox"/> VANDALISM <input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC WORKS PROJECT <input type="checkbox"/> ZONING <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER:	
IS THE STRUCTURE: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ON ITS ORIGINAL SITE <input type="checkbox"/> MOVED <input type="checkbox"/> UNKNOWN	

### 4. SIGNIFICANCE

BRIEFLY STATE HISTORICAL AND/OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE OF THE PROPOSED LANDMARK:  
INCLUDE DATES, EVENTS, AND PERSON(S) ASSOCIATED WITH THE SITE. (USE AN ADDITIONAL SHEET IF NECESSARY)

Significant as the work of notable architect William Horace Austin (1881-1942) and the profound effect the WPA had on rebuilding Long Beach after the earthquake of 1933.  
(Please see attachment for greater details.)

Includes a radio room and a vault for disaster preparedness.

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SOURCES (LIST BOOKS, DOCUMENTS, SURVEYS, PERSONAL INTERVIEW WITH DATES)

Interview with Louise Ivers, PH.D: retired CA State Professor, author on architecture, Board of Directors for Long Beach Historical Society.-06/19/2023  
 "Long Beach: A History Through Its Architecture" by Dr. Louise Ivers  
 "An Architectural Stylist: W. Horace Austin and Eclecticism in California" by Dr. Louise Ivers.  
 "Long Beach Fire Department: Images of America" by Glen Goodrich and the Long Beach Firefighters Museum.  
 "Adelaide's Legacy: Tichenor Orthopedic Clinic for Children" by Karen Robes Meeks.  
 LA County Assessors Office in Norwalk  
 Interview with Thomas Philo, Archivist/Cataloger, at the Gerth Archives and Special Collections, CSUDH-06/20/2023  
 Online Archives of CA (OAC): Long Beach Firemans Collection

**5. CHARACTER DEFINING FEATURES**

NAME OF PROPOSED LANDMARK: <b>Former Fire Station # 9</b>	PROPERTY ADDRESS: <b>3917 Long Beach, Blvd, Long Beach 90807</b>
NUMBER OF STORIES: <b>2</b>	PLAN TYPE (BASIC SHAPE OF THE BUILDING): <b>Rectangular</b>
ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: <b>Tudor Revival</b>	STRUCTURE USE (RESIDENCE, ETC): <b>Public—Fire Station</b>
<b>EXTERIOR FINISH MATERIAL</b>	
BODY (WOOD SIDING, WOOD SHINGLES, BRICK, STUCCO, ETC.): <b>Wood frame and stucco</b>	TRIM (WOOD, METAL, ETC): <b>Half-timbered gables, cement scored to resemble stone, chimney is also cement scored to resemble stone, tower has wood trim also.</b>
<b>ROOF</b>	
SHAPE (GABLE, HIPPED, MANSARD, ETC): <b>Hipped and Gable shingled roof</b>	MATERIAL (CLAY TILE, ASPHALT, WOOD SHINGLES, ETC): <b>Wood frame with cement stucco</b>
<b>WINDOWS</b>	
WINDOW MATERIAL & TYPE (WOOD, SINGLE HUNG, DOUBLE HUNG, CASEMENT, HORIZONTAL SLIDING, ETC): <b>Originally were double-hung. One remaining original window on the right side of front door...see photo</b>	
<b>ENTRY</b>	
DOOR LOCATION (RECESSED, CENTERED, OFF-CENTER, CORNER, ETC): <b>recessed, center</b>	DOOR STYLE (TWO PANEL, THREE PANEL, DOOR WITH GLASS, ETC): <b>door with orange glass is original— to the left of front door. See photo</b>
<b>ADDITIONAL CHARACTER DEFINING ELEMENTS OF THE STRUCTURE</b>	
IDENTIFY ORIGINAL FEATURES SUCH AS PORCHES; BALCONIES; NUMBER AND SHAPE OF DORMERS; NUMBER AND LOCATION OF CHIMNEYS; SHUTTERS; SECONDARY FINISH MATERIALS; PARAPETS; METAL TRIM; DECORATIVE TILE OR CAST STONE; ARCHES; ORNAMENTAL WOODWORK; SYMMETRY OR ASYMMETRY; CORNICES; FRIEZES; TOWERS OR TURRETS; BAY WINDOWS; HALFTIMBERING; HORIZONTALLY; VERTICALLY; FORMALITY OR INFORMALITY; GARDEN WALLS, ETC: <b>Half-timbered gables and tower. Cement stucco scored to look like stone around entrance, chimney and around garage doors. East and west gabled.</b>	

SECONDARY BUILDINGS (GARAGE, GARDEN SHELTER, ETC.): N/A

**SIGNIFICANT INTERIOR SPACES (IF APPLICABLE)**

IDENTIFY ORIGINAL FEATURES SUCH AS WOOD PANELING; MOLDINGS AND TRIM; SPECIAL GLASS WINDOWS; ORNATE CEILINGS; PLASTER MOLDINGS; LIGHT FIXTURES; PAINTED DECORATION; CERAMIC TILE; STAIR BALUSTRADES; BUILT-IN FURNITURE, ETC:

In the living room—original fireplace and built in shelves. Wood frame of tower is visible from the 2nd floor where the fire hoses were hung. Pulley and ladder also still there  
Has original staircase and handrail—wooden and “newel” post

**LANDSCAPING (IF APPLICABLE)**

IDENTIFY NOTABLE MATURE TREES AND SHRUBS: N/A

**ANY ADDITIONAL FEATURES:**

Garage has original wooden ceiling beams.  
Original wooden cabinet  
Original door frames throughout the building  
Original plaster fireplace  
Shelves in living room have doors with glass windows  
First fireproof vault for city disaster preparedness  
Location is on the highest ground in the city, which would allow the building to be used as the central location for disasters.

DOORS AND WINDOWS COULD BE REPLICATED AND RESTORED

Original Fire Station 9 – photos taken in 1940 and 1986

Very little has changed



In 1939, fire Station No. 9 was reopened in a different location. The Works Progress Administration (WPA) started by Franklin Delano Roosevelt in 1935 built Station No. 9 and Station No. 7. This photograph was taken in 1940.



This picture of Station No. 9 was taken in 1986 and shows how little it has changed. The crew, from left to right, is Mike O'Neil, Gene Willingham, Duaine Jackson, either Tom or Jerry Freeman, Paul Lepore, and Alan Patalano.

## Fire Station 9 Unique Design

### FIRE STATION AT LOS CERRITOS TO RESEMBLE VILLA

Beauty Introduced in  
Prosaic Plans With  
Full Utility.

An innovation in public construction, a fire station that looks like a country home, soon will be built in Los Cerritos district. Without even a faint resemblance to the customarily undecorative and uninteresting fire station of old, the building will be designed along a modified English style of architecture. Gabled roof and massive doors will grace the structure.

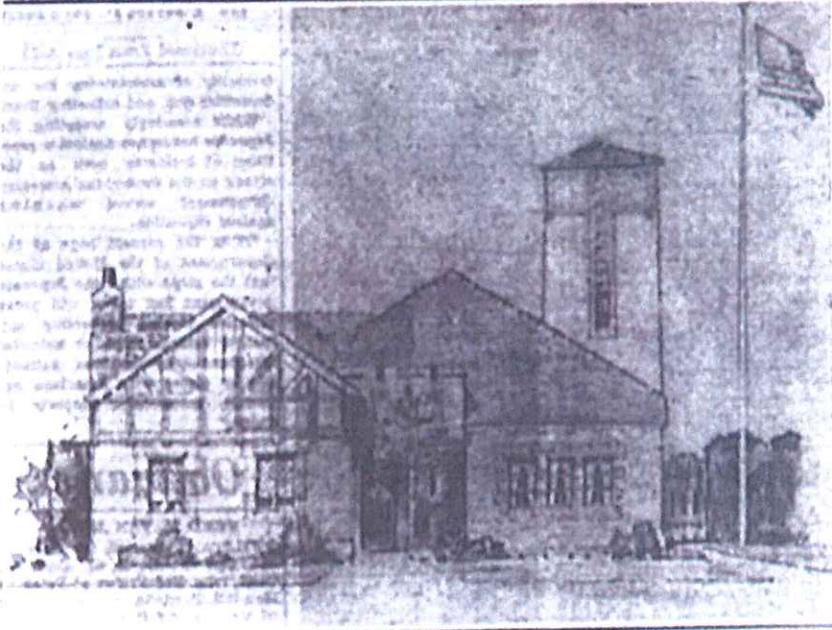
The building will not sacrifice utility for ornamentation, according to city officials. Quarters will be provided for the crews of firemen and space for a pump engine and a squad and reserve car. The structure will be erected on a city-owned lot which extends from Long Beach Boulevard to American Avenue. The cost is estimated at \$15,000. Equipment which will operate from the new station will serve Los Cerritos, California Heights, Sixty Terrace and a portion of North Long Beach.

Elevations and preliminary sketches for the building have been approved by the City Council and W. Horace Austin, architect, has been instructed to proceed with the preparation of detailed plans and specifications. It is expected that the station will be ready for occupancy within six months.

An unusual feature of the building will be a concrete vault, about twelve by twenty feet in size, for the storage of plans for emergency disaster relief recently worked out by a co-ordinated committee of city-wide representatives. The site is considered one of the safest in the city, remote from fire hazard and floods, being one of the highest locations in Long Beach.

Public Service Director J. W. B. Blackman announced this week that plans and the city's application for aid in the construction of a proposed clubhouse at Silverado Park has been filed with the WPA, and forwarded to Washington. The project will cost \$49,204, of which amount the city will contribute \$16,716.

### Hose House to Be Artistic



It's not a country home, but a new fire station, shown in the above sketch prepared by W. Horace Austin, architect. The new station, to cost \$15,000, will be built soon at Long Beach Boulevard and American Avenue. The City Council this week approved preliminary sketches for the structure.

## WPA to Aid City on Fire Station Job

Unofficial Report Made  
of Approval by U. S.  
Works Agency.

Unofficial word that the city's application for Works Progress Administration financial aid in constructing the proposed new Fire Station No. 9 at 3919 Long Beach Boulevard had been approved was received yesterday by E. M. Campbell, projects engineer in the Public Service Department. Official notice of the approval is expected within a few days.

Plans for the structure provide for a two-story frame and stucco building. In addition to housing a fire department company, the building also will contain a room and equipment for use of the disaster-preparedness organization perfected by the city during the past year. The latter will include a radio room and a vault for records and instructions for the organization in the event of future disaster.

Engineers' estimates fix the cost of the proposed structure at \$35,400, of which amount the city will contribute \$12,360 as the sponsor's share. It is expected that work on the new station, which will serve California Heights and Los Cerritos, will be started about September 1. It is estimated it will take about six months to complete.

City officials hope to complete another new fire-station during the current fiscal year, at Twenty-third Street and Elm Avenue, to replace the present station at Hill Street and Linden Avenue. The City Council, at a meeting last week, authorized filing of an application for a PWA grant to help finance the proposed structure.

# Canal Job, Fire House Under Way

Projects Involving  
\$200,000 Begun  
by WPA Crews.

Two major improvement projects were started yesterday in Long Beach by the WPA, the final stage of the Naples canal wall repairs and a new fire station, the No. 9 station at 3919 American Avenue. A crew of men started moving the shacks and equipment for casting piling to a site near the Marine Stadium. The contract for tearing out the remainder of the old walls and steps leading to the canal and driving the new piling was awarded recently by the City Council to the Mojave Construction Company. The contract is valued at \$170,000.

Approximately 4000 more piling are to be cast for the canal wall job with more than 2000 ready to be driven as soon as the contractor has the equipment for driving them in place. The total canal project, when complete, will have cost better than \$450,000.

The fire station will be an English style two-story frame and stucco building. It will house fire fighting equipment to be used in serving Los Cerritos, Bixby Knolls and California Heights. In addition it will contain a vault for records and instructions for use of the emergency disaster organization, as well as a radio control room and lower for use of the organization. The fire station will cost in the neighborhood of \$35,000.

Another WPA crew completed the excavating and constructed forms yesterday at Silverado Park for the main sidewalk to lead from Santa Fe Avenue to the new clubhouse near the east end of the park on Thirty-first Street. It is expected the sidewalk will be completed tomorrow. The Recreation Commission is making arrangements to dedicate the new clubhouse some time the latter part of the month.

## Crew Housed in Tudor Quarters



A new fire station is ready to provide protection to Los Cerritos, Bixby Heights and California Heights. It is No. 9, shown here, to be opened at 7 p. m. today. The \$35,000 structure tends toward the Tudor in style. It will house a pumper and a crew of six firemen.

### Brothers in Different Services

One Seaman in U. S. Navy, Other in That of Britain

A boat was runned when the British light cruiser *Orion* struck at San Pedro this morning. A mother met her son for the first time in 24 years and introduced a brother and a half-sister when the British sailor, Thomas Ward Robinson, had never before seen.

The family reunion took place on the deck at Berth 66 in the outer harbor at San Pedro late this morning when Robinson, who deserted from the gangway to embrace his mother, Mrs. Catherine Friddle of Seattle. His younger brother, Clement Robinson, sea man, first class, of the U. S. Navy, was then presented. The half-sister whom he had never seen is Miss Leona Friddle, 25a of Seattle.

The story of the family separation and reunion rivals those of fairy tales. Mrs. Friddle, who was the former Mrs. George Robinson, went to England prior to the World War with her first son, who is now the British sailor.

The war broke out and Mrs. Robinson was unable to return home. She secured employment and worked for three years in a munitions factory. Finally she was able to return to the United States and rejoin her husband in Seattle. She left the child with the father's parents in England, intending to return for him in a short time.

Emailed troubles coupled with the arrival of additional children complicated matters, and then the father died.

The mother was left with a

(Continued on Page B3, Col. 5)

### Model Fire Station in Service Tonight

LONG BEACH will open something new in the fire station line at 7 p. m. today at 1911 Long Beach Boulevard. Station No. 9, designed by Architect W. Horace Austin, will be dedicated.

The station, destined to contain the necessary facilities consistent with the latest in fire station demands, has been so architecturally treated that its exterior blends with the surrounding residential area without clash. Flood lights will play on the building during the ceremony.

Preceding the official opening by two minutes will be a call which Captain Maurice M. Clements will make to the Central Station. He will ask for the fire alarm test and after the various communication systems have been tested, the Captains of A and B platoons will face the fire and call the roll. Captain Clements will be in charge of the A platoon and Captain Harold C. Thomson will head the B platoon.

When the roll call is completed, Fire Chief Allen C. Duffee will turn the new station keys over to the captains. Following that act, the platoon will be dismissed. A platoon will take over the station and members of each will conduct visitors through the station.

The building was constructed at a cost of \$35,419 by the WPA with \$12,564 having been contributed by the city as the sponsor's share. It will serve a more than a fire station, in that it contains a tower to be used for concentrating radio equipment to be used during disaster emergencies. A safe also installed in the building will be used for storing of blankets and certain other supplies to be used in emergency periods. In fact, Fire Station No. 9, due to its location will figure prominently in administration of relief in the event of a future emergency which assumes city-wide proportions. It is on one of the highest spots in the city and was equipped for possible use as headquarters during emergencies.

The station will serve Los Cerritos, Bixby Heights, Bixby Knolls and California Heights and the Seagrave Pumper to be housed there will respond to calls as far east as the Municipal Airport. Each platoon to be stationed there will have six men including the captain.

### Norwegian Royalty Visits City

Olaf and Martha Get Long Beach Greeting; Visit at Our Savior's

Residents of Long Beach, particularly those of Norwegian descent, enjoyed a brief visit today by Crown Prince Olaf and Crown Princess Martha of Norway. Mayor Clarence L. Warner and Councilman LeRoy H. Ockerberg extended the official greeting at the luncheon tendered the royal pair at the California Yacht Club in Wilmington.

After the luncheon they inspected the First Marine Company's Long Beach plant and entered this city by way of West Anaheim Street, turning south on Pico Avenue to Ocean Boulevard, going east on Ocean to Cherry, north on Cherry to Fourth, east to Dawson and north to Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Fifth Street at Dawson Avenue.

Crown Prince Olaf and Crown Princess Martha were greeted at the church by the pastor, Rev. N. H. Thorpe, and his family. The visitors entered the church where the congregation was assembled, and signed the church register. The Prince gave a short speech, according to Rev. Thorpe, A. O. Nelson, Norwegian Vice Consul, is a member of the board of trustees of the church.

Included in the royal party were Norway's Ambassador to Washington, Wilhelm Siegfried Strom, and Erling S. Bent, Norwegian Vice Consul at San Pedro. After stopping at the church the visitors returned to Los Angeles by way of Seventh Street west to Cherry, north to

### Ice Varied



## Fire Station No. 9 Opened at Ceremony

Numerous residents of the districts which the new station will serve attended dedicatory ceremonies and an open house as Fire Station No. 9 officially went into operation last night.

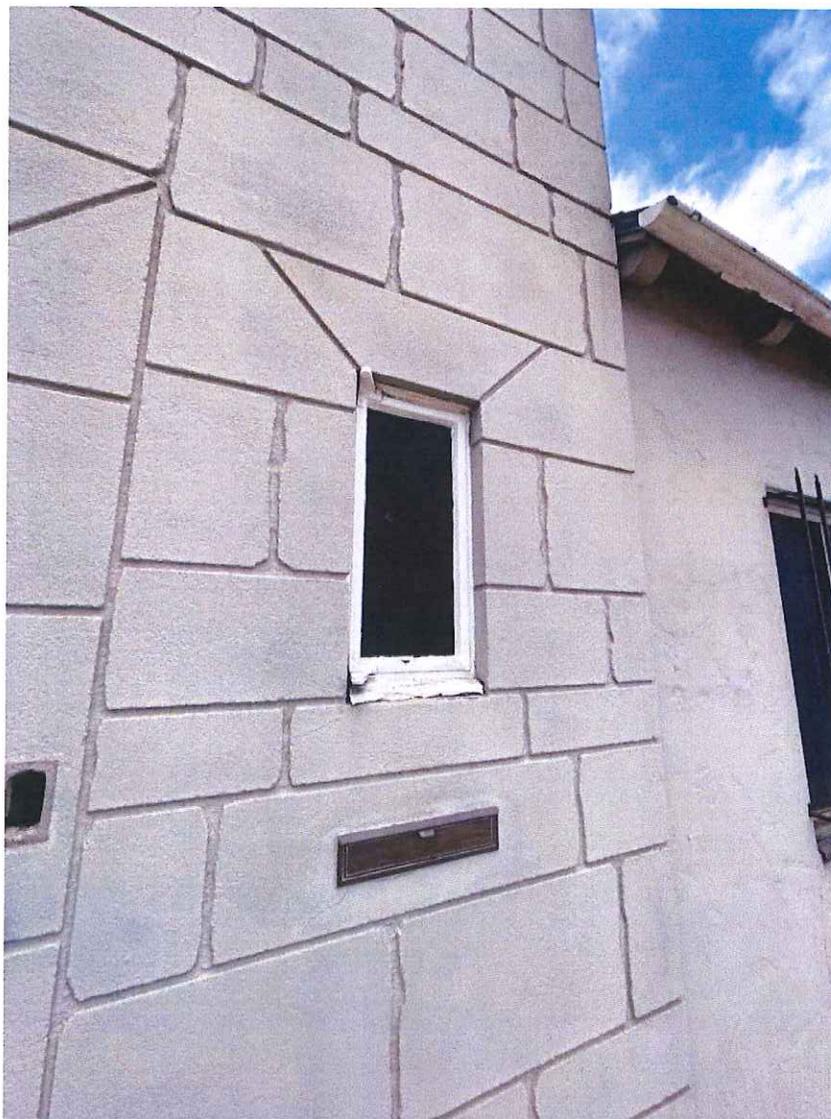
"No. 9," which will give from three to four minutes quicker fire call service to Los Cerritos and California Heights, is located just north of the intersection of Roosevelt Road and American Avenue. The ceremony began at 7 o'clock when the two captains of the two companies which will man the new station, Captain Maurice Clement and Captain Harold Thornton, called their respective rolls and flashed "Company fully manned and in service" to headquarters station.

A trial call from headquarters then was made to test the loud-speaking system at the station. Fire Chief A. C. DuRee then handed each captain a key and announced that the station was "open for business."

City officials present included Councilmen B. F. Kirkland and John Schinner, City Manager Randall M. Dorton, Public Service Director J. W. B. Blackman and Park Superintendent Otto Bayer.

Additional photos of original features.

Photo of original casement window and cement made to look like Tudor style stone



Original door with colored glass



#### #4. HISTORICAL AND/OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE ...SIGNIFICANCE

1. Architect William Horace Austin (1881-1942)
2. WPA project finished in 1939

1. William Horace Austin was born March 12, 1881 in Abilene, Kansas. His family moved to Long Beach in August, 1895. Austin became a partner in the firm of Austin & Barton, but by 1905 he was contracting alone. Also at this time, Austin took a 2-year course from the International Correspondence School in Scranton, PA and was an outstanding student. 1906, he enters the University of Pennsylvania and took a special course in architecture. He was one of the only two pupils elected to the Architectural Society, an honor bestowed on very few aspiring architects. Upon graduation, Austin returned to Long Beach. He began practicing architecture in 1908 from his family home in Long Beach. Austin joined with his partner Westel W. Sedgwick and by 1912 they were incredibly successful. **Austin was a favorite in Long Beach. He designed more buildings in the first half of the twentieth century than any other architect.** Before WWI, there was a time of great building activity in Long Beach, CA.

1910 Long Beach fastest growing city in the United States

1911 Firm of Austin & Sedgwick

Ban on building during United States involvement in WWI, 1917-1918

By 1925 Austin had these famous architects working for him: Clarence N. Aldrich, Harold C. Wildman, and Kenneth S. Wing. Commissions were plentiful up to 1930 in Long Beach. In the twenties and thirties there was a tremendous growth in Long Beach.

### Earthquake of 1933

Austin's partnership with Harvey Lochridge produced a number of finely detailed houses, various two- and three-story brick apartments, theaters, churches, city halls, and several business blocks including garages for automobile sales and storage, service, and department stores.

The Pacific Southwest Building of 1921-1923 by Austin, was the first skyscraper in Long Beach...12 stories.

Of course, the 1933 earthquake destroyed many of these structures, but under the guise of urban renewal in the 1960's they were demolished and replaced by bland, boxlike structures.

W. Horace Austin's architectural career spanned five decades and paralleled the growth of Long Beach. One of his obituaries in 1942, stated that "he was the dean of architects in Long Beach' and that 'many of the finest structures in Long Beach stand as monuments to his genius..." Whatever the source of his inspiration, his eclectic designs responded to his clients' desires for picturesque buildings which recalled past grandeur in a new and untouched landscape. "The

architect's ability to acquire numerous commissions attested to both his expertise and to his affability." "His professional skill, his fine personal character and cordial and unaffected manner gained for him a host of warm friends in Long Beach where he enjoyed distinctive prestige as a citizen". He was elected to the post of president when the Long Beach Architectural Club was formed. "Evidence of his art is apparent in nearly every section of downtown or residential Long Beach. For many years he was one of the leading building designers in southern California and certainly the "grand old man" of Long Beach architecture.

**None of his works remain in the 90807 area except the former Fire Station #9.**

Complete historical works of William Austin left in Long Beach...

The main terminal building for the Long Beach Airport designed by Austin and Kenneth Wing,

The Tichenor Orthopedic Clinic for Children, and

Hopefully the former Fire Station #9.

2. The Works Project Administration was an ambitious employment and infrastructure program created by the New Deal and President Franklin D. Roosevelt. The WPA put approximately 8.5 million people to work throughout the land. The original Fire Station #9 was destroyed by the 1933 earthquake. Its location was at the corner of Broadway and Belmont. The WPA helped to rebuild or build new structures in Long Beach such as many schools, libraries, PCH highway, water storage tanks, the Long Beach Post Office, lifeguard station Head Quarters, and the WPA also helped lots of Long Beach Artists. The one we are concerned

with is the Former Fire station #9, built with a Tudor Revival Design that blends in well with the Los Cerritos/Virginia Country Club neighborhood that it serves. 1929 Long Beach Sun stated that the city wanted fire stations to blend in with the neighborhoods. This explains the Tudor Revival style of the former Fire Station #9. WPA projects in Long Beach were solidly built, because of the earthquake of 1933. After touring the fire station with experts in the field, it is our opinion (LCNA) that this structure has, "great bones" and is solid with no noticeable mold.

## **Addendum to Certificate of Appropriateness Landmark Nomination Form**

Another question that should be asked on this form is, "Why is Former Fire Station #9 so important to the Los Cerritos Neighborhood?" The fire station has always been a beautiful property and has sentimental value. It represents "*safety*". But more importantly, it stands as a visual history of the Great Depression and a symbol of what can be accomplished if we all work together. For generations to come, it can serve as a window to our history including the Great Depression and the aftermath of the "33 earthquake. A portion of the building could be a museum focusing on the history of the fire department in Long Beach. This building can and should be repurposed as a valuable community resource. **Since F/S 9 was built after the earthquake, it was constructed to withstand shaking.** The building is solid, it would not take much to restore a few things like the windows. Otherwise, the outside looks almost exactly like the original.

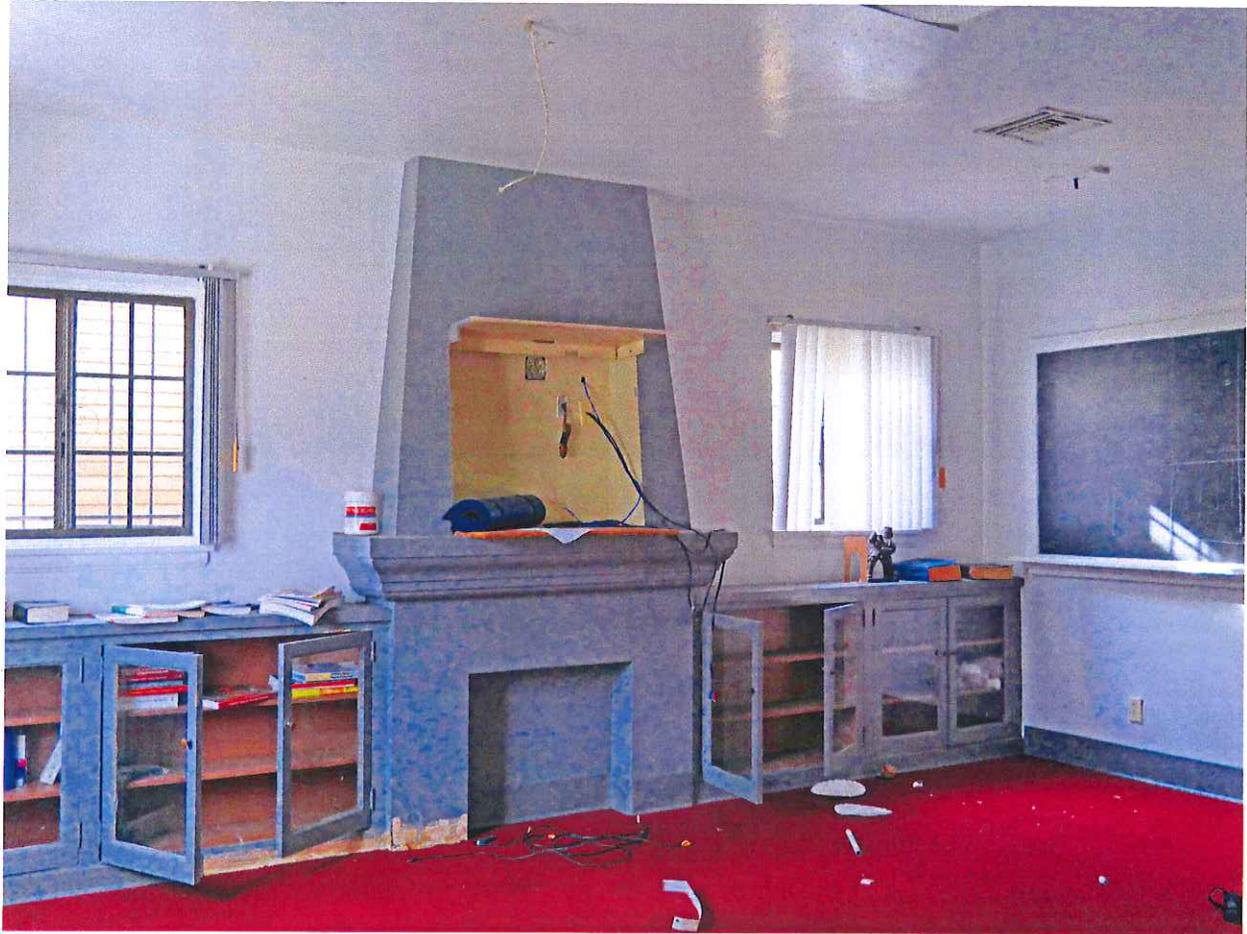
Original Fire Station 9 – photo taken in 1940



Photo taken 2023 – very little has changed



Original fireplace and cabinets, used initially as living room then gym



Original stairs with newel post



Alternate view, engine room to the rear



Original wooden beams in the engine bay



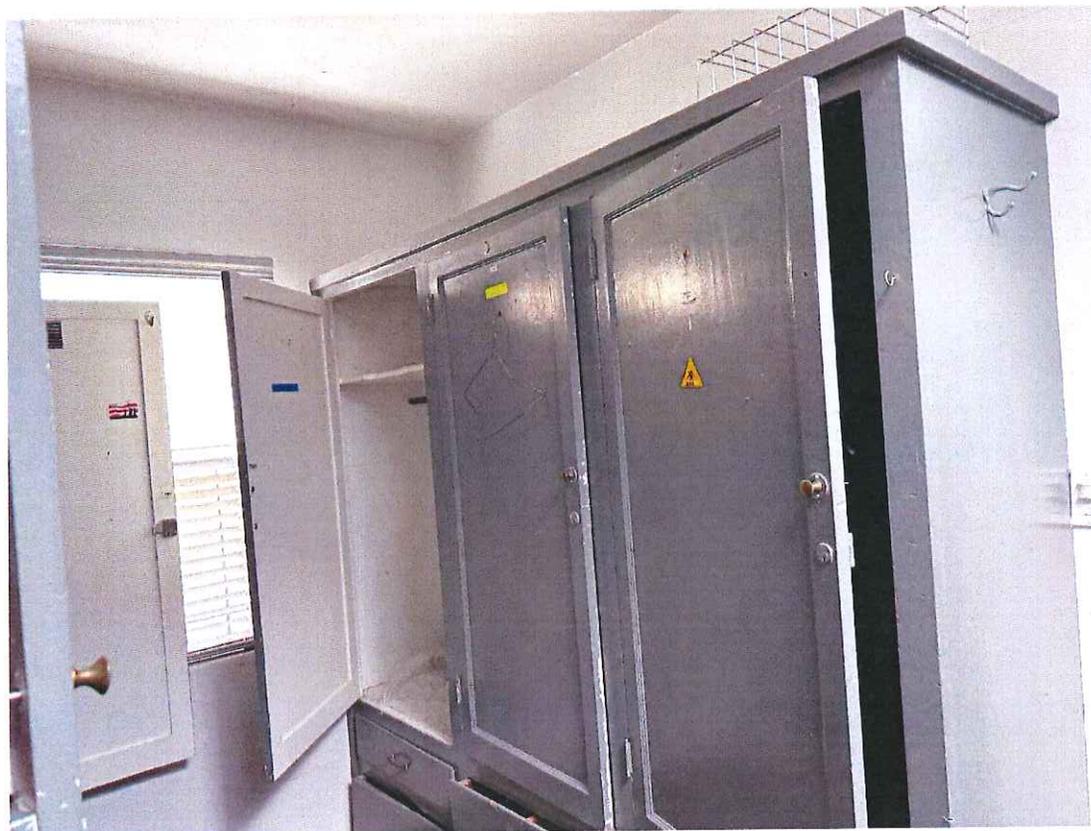
Interior photo of hose drying tower and lighting. To be returned to original condition.



Exterior photo of hose drying tower



Interior photo of storage/locker cabinets, they are located through the first floor.  
Believed to be original



Original WPA Plaque is missing, a replacement would be created. As well as any other historical or unique signage.



*PRESERVE OUR LIVING HISTORY*

### Bixby Knolls/Los Cerritos

Long Beach Fire Station No. 9 was constructed in 1938 and completed in 1939 with United States Works Progress Administration (W.P.A.) funds after it was destroyed in the 1933 earthquake.