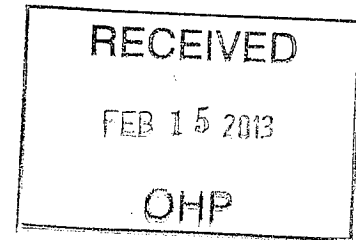


A large, bold, black stamp with the word "DRAFT" in all caps, preceded by a small icon of a document with a diagonal line through it.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Community Clubhouse

other names/site number Great Hall / Long Hall

### 2. Location

street & number 1200 N. Vista Street

city or town West Hollywood

state California code CA county Los Angeles code 037 zip code 90046

<input type="checkbox"/>	not for publication
<input type="checkbox"/>	vicinity

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 at the following level(s) of significance:

\_\_\_ national \_\_\_ statewide \_\_\_ local

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official

Date

Title

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

\_\_\_ entered in the National Register

\_\_\_ determined eligible for the National Register

\_\_\_ determined not eligible for the National Register

\_\_\_ removed from the National Register

\_\_\_ other (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

**5. Classification****Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

<input type="checkbox"/>	private
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

**Category of Property**(Check only **one** box.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing
1	
	buildings
	sites
	structures
	objects
1	<b>Total</b>

**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**

N/A

**6. Function or Use****Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

SOCIAL / meeting hall

SOCIAL / club house

EDUCATION / library

RECREATION AND CULTURE / auditorium

RECREATION AND CULTURE /outdoor recreation

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT / NOT IN USE

**7. Description****Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Spanish Colonial Revival

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Concrete

walls: Stucco

roof: Clay Tile

other: Wood

Concrete

---

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

**Summary Paragraph**

The Community Clubhouse of Plummer Park, now currently known as Great Hall / Long Hall, is a modest Spanish Colonial Revival recreational facility constructed in 1938 through a partnership between Los Angeles County and the Works Progress Administration (WPA). Centrally located within the small, four acre Plummer Park, the Clubhouse is a single story stucco and wood courtyard building with a low- pitched red clay barrel tiled roof. The building is roughly U-shaped and comprised of three distinct, pitched roofed sections surrounding a central courtyard that is oriented to the north. The U-shape is formed by a wide west wing (known as Great Hall) and a small east wing (utilities and restrooms) extending perpendicularly from the south section of the building (known as Long Hall). The main entry, along the south side of the building, joins the west and south wings and provides a covered exterior passage to the interior courtyard.

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**Narrative Description**

(See attached Continuation Sheet).

**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.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Criterion A: SOCIAL HISTORY

Criterion C: ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance**

1938

**Significant Dates**

1938

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Edward C.N. Brett

**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 grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

**Period of Significance (justification)**

1938 is the date of completed construction of the building.

**Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)**

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The Community Clubhouse of Plummer Park is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion A for its association with the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in Los Angeles County. The Clubhouse is an excellent example of the County's efforts to expand and improve recreational facilities. It is also eligible under Criterion C as an excellent example of a Spanish Colonial Revival public building. The style of the building emphasized the public's romantic perception of the surrounding park and celebrated the cherished history of the area.

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

See Continuation Sheet

**Developmental history/additional historic context information** (if appropriate)

See Continuation Sheet

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

See Continuation Sheet

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

☐ State Historic Preservation Office  
☐ Other State agency  
☐ Federal agency  
☐ Local government  
☐ University  
☐ Other  
Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): \_\_\_\_\_

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	Zone	Easting	Northing
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3 Zone Easting Northing

2                                                                                
 Zone      Easting      Northing

4 Zone Easting Northing

The Community Clubhouse of Plummer Park is located in West Hollywood, California. The building is located in the center of the park bounded by Franklin Avenue to the north, Fuller Avenue to the east, Santa Monica Boulevard to the south, and Vista Avenue to the west.

The nominated boundary is the land that is associated with the Community Clubhouse in Plummer Park.

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Jennifer Dunbar

[illegible]

street & number 1221 N. Orange Grove Ave. telephone 310-435-3928

city or town	West Hollywood	state	CA	zip code	90046
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e-mail Jdunbar01@gmail.com

## Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.

- **Continuation Sheets**

- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Plummer Park Community Clubhouse

Name of Property

Los Angeles County, CA

County and State

**Photographs:**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

See Continuation Sheet

**Property Owner:**

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

name City of West Hollywood

street & number 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard

telephone 323-848-6400

city or town West Hollywood

state CA

zip code 90046

**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.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
**National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Plummer Park Community Clubhouse

Name of Property

Los Angeles County, California

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Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 1

**Section 7 – Narrative Description**

In the original plan, the west section (now known as Great Hall) featured a large open space with a small raised stage and dressing rooms, a kitchen, a reception room, a cloak room, an office, and an ante room connecting the cloak room with the reception room and auditorium. The south side (now known as Long Hall) functioned as a library and game room. Public restrooms occupied the small building portion at the northeast corner of the courtyard. Throughout the years, the building has had very few alterations to its original use. It has functioned in almost the same capacity as its original intent. The Los Angeles Audubon Society moved into the south end of Great Hall, taking over the reception room, ante room, office for use as a library, bookstore and office space. The cloak room of Great Hall is now used as storage by park facility offices. The large open space of the small auditorium continues to be used for various community groups. The Russian Library moved into Long Hall. The patio and public restrooms are not accessible to park users, unless the building is open.

The single story building sits on a raised wood floor over a concrete perimeter and post footings. Concrete "flagstone" pavers run through the covered entryway between Great Hall and Long Hall into the courtyard and continue beneath the covered arcade of the courtyard enclosure. The patio of the courtyard has been infilled with tile, which does not appear to be original and is not indicated on the original drawings. The original outdoor fireplace remains in the northwest corner of the patio. The fireplace openings have been temporarily sealed and some of the brickwork appears to be damaged. A simple tall stucco wall encloses the courtyard on the north side. A trellised entryway at this wall was added and is not original to the building.

Exterior walls are constructed of plaster over metal lath on wood studs and range from eight to twelve inches thick. Double wood doors with divided lights and sealed transoms open into the courtyard from Great Hall. Casement windows throughout the building have been replaced with aluminum windows. Original wood shutters flank window openings on the exterior of the building.

The entry passageway between Great Hall and Long Hall is marked with an arched opening at each end. At the ceiling of this open passageway, thick decorative beams span between the walls of Great Hall and Long Hall. As the passageway opens into the courtyard, the covered arcade runs along the interior of the courtyard, connecting all the building sections. The arcade consists of simple, thick wood posts supporting a low pitched clay tile roof with exposed wood structure beneath. Two arched openings penetrate the wall along the east side of the building. These openings may not be original to the building as they are not indicated on the original drawings.

The red clay barrel tile roof is a low sloped gable over the south, and east sides of the building. The gable over the west side of the building rises up slightly higher than the south side to accommodate the small auditorium. The roof over the auditorium contains two small gabled dormers on each side of the main gable. It also splits into a shed roof at the north end of Great Hall to accommodate the kitchen and back-of-the-house functions of the stage. On the east side of the courtyard, the gabled roof splits into a shed roof over the restrooms.



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Plummer Park Community Clubhouse

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Section number 7 Page 2

**Section 7 – Narrative Description**

Inside the Great Hall building, the rooms on the south end of the auditorium space have had minor alterations to accommodate the Audubon Society. The original curved corner fireplace with its copper clad mantle and the thick decorative ceiling beams remain intact in the original "Reception Room". The minor alterations have consisted of infilling openings into the auditorium space and into the cloakroom. A new exterior door into the cloakroom was added on the south side of the building. The original wood floor throughout has a layer of vinyl composite tile and carpeting over it. HVAC ducting was added at some point and runs exposed through the cloakroom.

The auditorium space of Great Hall has had few minor alterations over the years. The original stage remains intact with simple decorative molding around the opening. The ceiling of the space is an exposed wood framing, following the pitch of the roof, with decorative wood trusses. The small gabled dormers provide ventilating windows into the space. Round, cast iron pendant light fixtures hang from the framing and look to be original and in good condition. Additional florescent lighting has inappropriately been added to the room. The original wood flooring has been covered with carpet. The kitchen, dressing rooms, and stage bathroom have had minimal changes.

The space known as Long Hall has had few minor alterations over the years. Thick decorative beams span the width of the flat ceiling of the space. Original lighting has been removed and replaced with inappropriate 2x4 florescent fixtures. A small area of the space has been walled off to allow for HVAC ducting and equipment.

The East wing, containing the bathrooms for the building, has had some alterations due to ADA compliance. Both the men's and women's restrooms have had skylights added. An ADA access ramp was also added within the past thirty years to the east side of the building and provides a path of egress from the interior courtyard through the arched openings in the east wall.

A noncontributing structure was added within the past thirty years on to the west side of the building to house the HVAC / electrical equipment. This addition blocks a portion of the original building from one of the primary entry points to the park.

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Plummer Park Community Clubhouse

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Section number 8 Page 1

**Section 8 – Narrative Statement of Significance**

The Plummer Park Community Clubhouse meets National Register of Historic Places Criterion A for its association with the Works Progress Administration (WPA). The building provides an excellent example of the regional impact of WPA funding in Los Angeles County and the initiative by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to create project opportunities. Specifically, this building is an excellent example of the expansion and improvement program of recreational facilities as the result of the efforts of the Los Angeles County Planning Commission and the Los Angeles County Department of Recreation Camps and Playgrounds.

Across the country, the WPA program was administered by a partnership between the Federal government and “sponsors,” who were, in effect, the clients. Sponsors tended to be local and regional governments and provided control and oversight of a project at a local level. Sponsors could determine the style, materials, and construction type of their particular projects. However, in order to act as a sponsor, a variety of conditions needed to exist. Projects needed to meet a demand due to lack of existing facilities or resources. This allowed for schools, post offices, community and recreational centers, and other such public facilities to be built as well as upgrades to transportation and utilities infrastructure. There also needed to be a workforce from which to draw in order to complete the project. Finally, sponsors needed to have the capital to split the cost of the project with the Federal government. The sponsor subsidized between twenty-five to fifty percent of the project costs, depending upon the project, and the Federal government would pay the remaining costs. As a result, this joint venture created numerous public works and services using available local resources.

The social and economic conditions of Los Angeles County made it a prime candidate for sponsoring WPA projects. The County saw a substantial population increase caused by the influx of people migrating to Southern California during the Great Depression. As the population swelled, so did the pressures upon infrastructure, transportation, housing, and social services. Los Angeles had a serious unemployment situation, second in the country to New York, of white collar workers (often referred to as “soiled collar workers”). Drawn to the prospect of economic stability from the entertainment industry, health services, and agricultural and oil resources, Los Angeles was flooded with people looking for work. As a result, the County grappled with providing employment and services for an enormous talent pool.

Under the direction of the Board of Supervisors, the governing body of Los Angeles County, the County seized every opportunity to implement building and improvement projects through available WPA funding. By January of 1935, in anticipation that Congress would sanction President Roosevelt’s WPA bill in the following months, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors ordered its department heads to rush preparations on any projects in development. In addition, county officials were instructed to find and line up any potential projects that could eventually become active with WPA assistance. The Board of Supervisors aggressively sought to ensure that projects were ready to start as soon as Federal money became available. Recognizing the opportunities for putting people to work and “getting them off the dole” by sponsoring projects, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors initiated a massive building and planning program in partnership with the Federal government from 1935 to 1943. The County sponsored WPA projects ranging from street and infrastructure

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Section number 8 Page 2

improvements, land use planning and documentation, parks and recreation facility improvements, public school curricula, and public building construction. This was in addition to the WPA Federal One program focusing on art, writing, and music, which also flourished in Los Angeles County.

Of the County sponsored WPA projects, the creation and development of recreational facilities accounted for a considerable amount of funding. By 1937, a survey completed by the County Department of Recreations Camps and Playgrounds found that Los Angeles had a total of 19,051 acres devoted to recreational facilities with over two million dollars in federal funding given to recreational projects. Recreation as a formal field of study and employment was increasingly recognized as a viable option for job creation, specifically for "white collar" administrative jobs. With the proximity to plentiful and varying natural resources and landscapes, the opportunities for leadership in recreational activities were abundant in Los Angeles County. From 1933 to 1937, the Department of Recreations Camps and Playgrounds, under the management of Superintendent James K. Reid, oversaw a massive training program for unemployed men and women in administrative and guidance positions in recreation supervision. This training program prepared a work force for numerous jobs at proposed parks and recreation centers throughout the County. Training covered a range of topics in order to address a rising public interest in recreational activities such as history, public recreation programs, arts and crafts, physical recreation as well as leadership and management. With this growing population's enthusiastic interest in outdoor recreation, the need for fully trained facilities operators and administrators was in demand, as well as the need for more organized parks and facilities.

As a result, the County Regional Planning Commission, which reported to the Board of Supervisors, sought to turn "every piece of odd area in the county, whatever its size; every bit of unutilized land isolated by street intersections" into a recreational center, picnic ground, or park<sup>1</sup>. Upon approval by the Board of Supervisors to become a "Sponsored" project, a proposal would be assigned an amount to be paid by the County and an amount paid from WPA funds allotted to the County. Once approved for funding, a park project fell under the supervision of either the Department of Forestry or the Department of Recreations Camps and Playgrounds. In 1937, the Board of Supervisors folded the Department of Recreations Camps and Playgrounds under the Department of Forestry. However, by 1939, the Department of Recreations Camps and Playgrounds was re-established as its own department due to the massive responsibilities of each department. The more mountainous recreational areas were placed under the supervision of the Department of Forestry and the remaining playgrounds, parks, and beaches were placed under the Department of Recreation Camps and Playgrounds.

By 1939, over thirty new WPA funded recreation centers were in operation or planned. The Community Clubhouse at Plummer Park was one of these projects under the supervision of the Department of Recreation Camps and Playgrounds and provided a much needed recreational facility within the local community. The building's completion in 1938 marked the inauguration of Plummer Park as a county park and recreational center within the central Hollywood region of Los Angeles.

<sup>1</sup> Cohan, Charles C. "County Commission Busy Developing Play Centers." Los Angeles Times. pg. E1. Apr 30, 1939.

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Plummer Park Community Clubhouse

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Plummer Park Community Clubhouse also meets National Register Criterion C, as it exemplifies the Spanish Colonial Revival Style of community buildings in Los Angeles County. Designed in 1936 by the Chief Architect for Los Angeles County, Edward C.N. Brett, the building's style reflected a prevailing public sentiment for "Old California." The clubhouse also represents an architectural style not often associated with the WPA Moderne style of buildings and artwork found throughout the Los Angeles area. Instead, it emphasized an association with its regional surroundings, helping to construct a connection to the history of the local pioneers, the original ranchos and missions, and the treasured folk traditions of the past.

The history and culture of Los Angeles captivated the imagination and fascination for many of its inhabitants during the early part of the twentieth century. Angelenos took pride in the culture represented by the great mission buildings and stories of Father Junipero Serra, the ties to the Spanish and Mexican aristocracy of the rancheros, and the nobility of the native cultures. The romantic imagery of the Spanish ranchos mixed with the charm of native and Mexican folk arts and traditions were collected, portrayed in plays and novels, and celebrated in fiestas across Los Angeles County. This enthusiasm was highlighted throughout the years by colorful characters such as Charles Lummis, Leo Carrillo, and Plummer Park's own namesake, Eugenio Plummer. Helen Hunt Jackson's exceedingly popular 1884 novel *Ramona*, a fictional romance set in colonial Southern California, incited local plays, movie productions, tourist sites, and pilgrimages throughout the area.

Early California life was celebrated and remembered with the formation of clubs and social groups such as the Native Sons and Daughters of the Golden West and the Los Angeles County Pioneer Society. Los Fiesteros de Los Angeles, a group whose purpose was to keep alive "the fiesta spirit in Los Angeles," held annual festivals and dances featuring descendants of local pioneers dressed in traditional period clothing. This fascination with early California life could also be read about in the Los Angeles Times with E. Palmer Connor's 1929 column "The Romance of the Ranchos," a twenty article historical sketch of the Southern California Ranchos, and "Along El Camino Real," a regular contribution from 1933 to 1941 by LA Times editor and columnist Ed Ainsworth. From 1938 to 1940, Joe Seewerker and Charles Owens published a regular column in the LA Times entitled "Nuestro Pueblo" later collected into a book of articles and drawings entitled, "Nuestro Pueblo, Los Angeles, City of Romance." The sense of history of the land and people who lived there permeated throughout Southern California society during this time. There was a strong sentimentality for "the historic, the romantic, and the picturesque."<sup>2</sup>

In spring of 1937, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved the plan to lease, with an option to purchase, land from Eugenio "Captain" Plummer (1852-1943) to increase its public parkland holdings and relieve some of the pressure for much needed community gathering space. The four acre park was the last remnant of undeveloped land amidst a growing residential community on its north, east, and west borders, and the busy retail and light industrial thoroughfare of Santa Monica Boulevard on the south border. Plummer finally sold the property to the County later that year to avoid foreclosure.

<sup>2</sup> "'Times' Staff Men Base Book on 'Nuestro Pueblo' Feature." Los Angeles Times. pg. C6. Nov 17, 1940.

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**Plummer Park Community Clubhouse**

Name of Property

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Even prior to the County's purchase, the land itself was considered a "unique" park. In 1877, Eugenio Plummer was deeded the land from Senora Francisca Perez, who had occupied it since 1869.

Previous to Senora Perez, the land was part of the original Rancho LaBrea tract. The original land parcel consisted of one hundred and sixty acres and included the hillside where the Hollywood Bowl now resides. Plummer built a house on the land in 1878 and lived in the house with his mother until her death, and later his wife, until her death. Plummer and his property were regarded as the social center of the County during the area's early settlement years. Captain Plummer, a charismatic environmentalist and a pioneer of Los Angeles who had lived on the land since childhood, fueled a romantic and nostalgic imagery of early colonial life in Southern California. Plummer's addition of numerous rare plants and trees to the land contributed to the distinctiveness of its natural park setting.

As a condition to selling the last remaining acres of his property to Los Angeles County, he was allowed to live in his house until his death at 91 in 1943\*. At the dedication of the Clubhouse, Plummer was designated as the historical guide for the park. Under the direction of Recreation Camps and Playgrounds Superintendent, James K. Reid, the park was specifically set up to remain in its "romantic" state.

Later that year, \$720,000 in Federal funds was systematically allocated to various approved projects throughout the County. Plummer Park was one of these projects and received \$22,000 of these funds.

In total, the Plummer Park building project cost \$65,000 when completed. It consisted of a new community "clubhouse" that would provide a much needed meeting space for various recreational and service clubs, activities and social events for local residents. Because the County had direct control over the project due to its sponsor status, it could decide the style of the building. As a result, the Community Clubhouse was designed specifically to connect to the regional history and existing nostalgia of the park itself. Plummer Park officially was named after its previous landowner, which further encouraged the romantic imagery of early colonial settlement in the region.

The Community Clubhouse was designed by the Chief Architect for Los Angeles County, Edward C.N. Brett\*\*. Brett began his thirty-year career in this position just prior to beginning work on the building. He was a California native, son of Henry E. Brett, a recognized pioneer of Los Angeles. During the early years of his tenure with the County, Brett was directly involved in many of the architectural projects that came under the County's supervision. Most notably, in addition to the Plummer Park Clubhouse, Brett designed the WPA funded Hollywood Bowl Tea House. As the Spanish Colonial Revival styled Clubhouse for the Park was being completed in 1938, Brett produced sketches and drawings for the Tea Room at the Hollywood Bowl. This building, receiving federal funding like the Clubhouse and sponsored by the County and the Hollywood Bowl Association, was also designed and built in a similar rustic and romantic Mediterranean Revival style. It was completed by the opening of the 1939 summer season at the Hollywood Bowl. The Tea House later became the Season Ticket office. It was turned into the Hollywood Bowl Museum in the mid 1980's and was later demolished in the mid 1990's to make way for a new museum building. Although no HABS drawings exist, photos of the original building and its interiors are available and illustrate a close relationship to the design of the Plummer Park Clubhouse.

Brett's design and courtyard configuration of the Community Clubhouse reflected the spirit of nostalgia for "Old California." The building was sited in the center of the park, amid lush plants and trees. The single story building with its low gabled tile roof complemented the quaint single and multifamily residences lining the streets around the park. Modest details such as the exterior shutters, casement

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Section number 8 Page 5

windows, an interior rounded corner fireplace, thick decorative scrolled ceiling beams, and flagstone-patterned concrete pavers added to the architectural charm.

The craftsmanship, plan, and details of the Community Clubhouse reflected the inspiration and simplicity of the colonial missions and adobes built throughout California, characteristics of Spanish Colonial Revival style. Its public use as a gathering center married well with the courtyard configuration often employed by buildings of this style. As these building types were often a response to the environment, spaces needing natural light were placed along the east-west axis, while those that did not ran along a north-south axis. Long Hall, intended as a reading room, sat along the east-west axis, while Great Hall, an entertainment space, followed the north-south axis. The low flat ceiling of Long Hall with its thick scrolled beams marching down the length of the room recall the Romanesque style nave, a feature often found in the missions.

The design of the building was specifically intended to provide a connection to the history of the area. Great Hall, with its stage and rustic, open trussed ceiling was a performance space to replace the "Old Rancho Barn Theater." The courtyard provided a gathering space for frequently held barbeques and picnics, with shaded spaces under the surrounding arcade. Long Hall provided a space to house exhibits. Hernando G. Villa (1881-1952), who was known for his illustrations for the 1932 Olympics and the Chief for the Santa Fe Railroad, as well as paintings of early California scenes, exhibited his work at the Clubhouse in 1939. That same year, the California Bear Flag was presented to park director Florence Lewis Scott and raised over the building as a symbol of "our endeavor to carry forward the charm and spirit of Old California to enrich our present day lives."<sup>3</sup>

From 1938 to 1984, the park and the clubhouse remained under the supervision of Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation. In 1984, Plummer Park and all of its structures were turned over to the City of West Hollywood with its incorporation. The Clubhouse operated continuously as a gathering space for local organizations and, until recently, also housed the 75 year old Los Angeles Audubon Society and the West Hollywood Russian Library. Few alterations have occurred to the building since it originally was constructed.

<sup>3</sup> "Plummer Park Bear Flag Flies: Emblem Raised Over Playground as Part of Constitution Day Fete." Los Angeles Times. pg A2. Sep 18, 1939.

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Plummer Park Community Clubhouse

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*Additional historic context information*

\*The original Plummer house, relocated in 1983 to Calabasas as a compromise from demolition, was landmarked in 1934 as California Landmark #160, the oldest house in Hollywood of Los Angeles County.

\*\*Brett was born in Coronado, California in 1892. He received his architectural degree from the University of California at Berkeley in 1917 and was a member of the Pasadena Chapter of the AIA. In 1922, he married Florence Webb, who was a notably active member of the venerable Los Angeles Friday Morning Club. Both Brett's mother and wife were highly visible within the societal community of Los Angeles. After 30 years of service in his position as Chief Architect under the Mechanical Department of Los Angeles County, he retired. The date of his death is unknown. He worked on plans for a museum proposal at the La Brea Tarpits that ultimately did not gain approval for WPA funding due to land conditions. He oversaw the expansion of the Pilgrimage Play Bowl (across from the Hollywood Bowl, now known as the Ford Theater), the remodel of County offices in a seven story building on Spring Street in downtown Los Angeles, and the reconstruction of the Exhibition Building at the County Fair Grounds in Pomona after the original building was destroyed by fire.

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**GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

Latitude: 34-05'32" N  
Longitude: 118-21'04" W

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0 75 150 feet

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Plummer Park Community Clubhouse

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Section number Photographic Log Page 1

**DESCRIPTION**

Name of Property: Plummer Park Community Clubhouse

City or Vicinity: West Hollywood

County: Los Angeles County State: California

Photographer: Cathy Blavis

Date Photographed: June 2012

Above information applicable to all photographs listed below

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

3 of 12.

Photo #1 (CA\_Los Angeles County\_Plummer Park Community Clubhouse\_001)

South building elevation, camera facing north

Photo #2 (CA\_Los Angeles County\_Plummer Park Community Clubhouse\_002)

West building elevation, camera facing east

Photo #3 (CA\_Los Angeles County\_Plummer Park Community Clubhouse\_003)

North building elevation, camera facing south

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Plummer Park Community Clubhouse

Name of Property

Los Angeles County, California

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Section number Photographic Log Page 2

**DESCRIPTION**

Name of Property: Plummer Park Community Clubhouse

City or Vicinity: West Hollywood

County: Los Angeles County State: California

Photographer: Jen Dunbar

Date Photographed: January 2012

Above information applicable to all photographs listed below

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

7 of 12.

Photo #4 (CA\_Los Angeles County\_Plummer Park Community Clubhouse\_004)

East building elevation, camera facing west

Photo #5 (CA\_Los Angeles County\_Plummer Park Community Clubhouse\_005)

Main entrance, camera facing south from interior courtyard

Photo #6 (CA\_Los Angeles County\_Plummer Park Community Clubhouse\_006)

Interior courtyard arcade along south elevation on right, camera facing east

Photo #7 (CA\_Los Angeles County\_Plummer Park Community Clubhouse\_007)

East elevation from interior courtyard, camera facing east

Photo #8 (CA\_Los Angeles County\_Plummer Park Community Clubhouse\_008)

South elevation from interior courtyard, camera facing southeast

Photo #9 (CA\_Los Angeles County\_Plummer Park Community Clubhouse\_009)

West elevation from interior courtyard, camera facing west

Photo #10 (CA\_Los Angeles County\_Plummer Park Community Clubhouse\_0010)

West (left) and north (right) elevation from interior courtyard, camera facing northwest

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Section number Photographic Log Page 3

**DESCRIPTION**

Name of Property: Plummer Park Community Clubhouse

City or Vicinity: West Hollywood

County: Los Angeles County State: California

Photographer: Laura Boccaletti

Date Photographed: June 2012

Above information applicable to all photographs listed below

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

11 of 12.

Photo #11 (CA\_Los Angeles County\_Plummer Park Community Clubhouse\_0011)

Interior of Great Hall, camera at back of room (south wall) facing stage (north wall)

Name of Property: Plummer Park Community Clubhouse

City or Vicinity: West Hollywood

County: Los Angeles County State: California

Photographer: Cathy Blavis

Date Photographed: October 2011

Above information applicable to all photographs listed below

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

12 of 12.

Photo #12 (CA\_Los Angeles County\_Plummer Park Community Clubhouse\_0012)

Interior, corner fireplace with copper sheeting, camera facing southwest corner