
File ID: 2022-02110

2/21/2023

Public Hearing Item 12.

Ordinance Listing Zoo Entrance Structures (3930 West Land Park Drive) as a Landmark on the Sacramento Register of Historic and Cultural Resources (M22-004) (Passed for Publication: 01/10/2023; Published: 01/13/2023)

File ID: 2022-02110

Location: Zoo Entrance Structures (3930 West Land Park Drive), District 7, Represented by Councilmember Jennings

Recommendation: Conduct a public hearing and upon conclusion: 1) pass a **Motion** determining the listing of Zoo Entrance Structures (3930 West Land Park Drive) as a landmark on the Sacramento Register of Historic and Cultural Resources exempt from review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15308, which exempts actions taken to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of the environment and where the regulatory process involves procedures for the protection of the environment; and 2) adopt an **Ordinance** listing Zoo Entrance Structures (3930 West Land Park Drive) as a landmark on the Sacramento Register of Historic and Cultural Resources.

Contact: Sean de Courcy, Preservation Director, (916) 808-2796, sdecourcy@cityofsacramento.org, Community Development Department

Presenter: Henry Feuss, Preservation Planner, (916) 808-5880, hfeuss@cityofsacramento.org, Community Development Department

Attachments:

- 1-Description/Analysis
- 2-Proposed Ordinance Listing the Zoo Entrance Structures on the Sacramento Register
- 3-National Register of Historic Places Nomination

Description/Analysis

Issue/Detail: In April 2011, the City of Sacramento Department of Youth, Parks, & Community Enrichment retained Mead & Hunt, Inc. and PGAdesign to complete a cultural landscape survey and evaluation of William Land Park. The consultants conducted an inventory of major park features through a reconnaissance survey. The non-profit organization, Sacramento Modern subsequently sponsored further evaluation by Mead & Hunt of the Zoo Entrance Structures in preparation for a National Register nomination. The National Register Nomination recommends the building as eligible under criterion C, which is a similar criterion for listing in the Sacramento Register pursuant to City Code section 17.604.210.A.1 iii and iv. Staff has coordinated with staff at the Youth, Parks, & and

Community Enrichment and Public Works departments who do not oppose the nomination.

A notice of the public hearing describing the proposed landmark listing was sent to all adjacent property owners within 500 feet of the property at Zoo Entrance Structures (3930 West Land Park Drive). A hearing notice has been posted at the property 10 days in advance of the hearing as required by City Code. Land Park Community Association, Sacramento Riverfront Association, Preservation Sacramento, and Sacramento Modern were also notified in advance of the public hearing. Staff has discussed the nomination with the Executive Director of the Sacramento Zoo, City Facilities Department staff, and staff for the Department of Youth, Parks, & Community Enrichment. None of these representatives oppose the nomination.

Policy Considerations: The City Council has found “that significant aspects of the city’s rich and diverse historic resources deserve recognition and preservation to foster an understanding of our heritage, and to promote the public health and safety and the economic and general welfare of the people of the city. The preservation and continued use of historic resources are effective tools to sustain and revitalize neighborhoods and business districts within the city, enhance the city’s economic, cultural and aesthetic standing, its identity and its livability, marketability and urban character.” (Sacramento City Code section 17.604.100.A.) To this end, the city code provides a mechanism for listing landmarks, historic districts, and contributing resources on the Sacramento Register.

The nomination of Zoo Entrance Structures (3930 West Land Park Drive) for listing as a historic landmark on the Sacramento register is consistent with Sacramento 2035 General Plan goal HCR 2.1, which provides for the identification and preservation of historical and cultural resources. General Plan policy HCR 2.1.1 states, “The City shall identify historic and cultural resources, including individual properties, districts, and sites, to ensure adequate protection.”

Economic Impacts: Not applicable.

Environmental Considerations:

California Environmental Quality Act: The listing of Zoo Entrance Structures (3930 West Land Park Drive) as a historic landmark on the Sacramento register is exempt from review under the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15308. Section 15308 exempts from review acts that are undertaken to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of the environment where the regulatory process involves procedures for protection of the environment. Listing the property as a historic landmark would ensure that future development on the site would undergo preservation review, as part of the city’s site plan and design review process, prior to the granting of any entitlements, thereby protecting the historic resource, which would be considered part of the environment.

Sustainability: Not applicable.

Commission/Committee Action: On October 27, 2022, the City of Sacramento’s Preservation Director, in conformance with Section 17.604.220 of the City Code, held a public hearing, reviewed a statement of nomination and directed staff to prepare a draft Ordinance (Attachment 2) for review and consideration by the Preservation Commission. On November 16, 2022, the Preservation

Commission held a hearing and passed a motion recommending the City Council adopt an ordinance listing Zoo Entrance Structures (3930 West Land Park Drive) in the Sacramento Register.

Rationale for Recommendation: Listing of Zoo Entrance Structures (3930 West Land Park Drive) (Figure 1) as a landmark on the Sacramento Register is consistent with the Historic Preservation Chapter (17.604) of the City Code and the goals of the 2035 General Plan. Listing the nominated resource on the Sacramento register will help ensure its preservation and encourage rehabilitation consistent with the U.S. Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. The Zoo Entrance is a fine example of the Googie style developed out of Mid-century Modern architecture. This style has been called the Exaggerated Modern style due to its incorporation of the most dramatic features of Mid-century Modern architecture. This building meets criteria for listing in the Sacramento Register of Historic and Cultural Resources under City Code criteria 17.604.210(A) 1.a.iii, as the embodiment of distinctive characteristics of Googie architectural design of the mid-20th century; and for its association with master architects Rickey & Brooks making the property eligible under City Code 17.604.210 (A)1.a.iv.



**Figure 1: Zoo Entrance Structures
Facing South**

Financial Considerations: Not applicable.

Local Business Enterprise (LBE): Not applicable.

ORDINANCE NO. ____

Adopted by the Sacramento City Council

[Date Adopted]

AN ORDINANCE LISTING THE ZOO ENTRANCE STRUCTURES AT 3930 WEST LAND PARK DRIVE AS A LANDMARK ON THE SACRAMENTO REGISTER OF HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

BACKGROUND

- A. The city council has found “that significant aspects of the city’s rich and diverse historic resources deserve recognition and preservation to foster an understanding of our heritage, and to promote the public health and safety and the economic and general welfare of the people of the city. The preservation and continued use of historic resources are effective tools to sustain and revitalize neighborhoods and business districts within the city, enhance the city’s economic, cultural and aesthetic standing, its identity and its livability, marketability and urban character.” (Sacramento City Code section 17.604.100.A.)
- B. To this end, the city code provides a mechanism for listing landmarks, historic districts, and contributing resources on the Sacramento Register of Historic and Cultural Resources (“Sacramento register”).
- C. On October 27, 2022, the Preservation Director reviewed a statement of nomination and determined that the property located at Zoo Entrance Structures (3930 West Land Park Drive) is eligible for listing on the Sacramento Register of Historic and Cultural Resources a landmark. On November 16, 2022, the Preservation Commission concurred with the findings of the Preservation Director and recommended the City Council list the Zoo Entrance Structures (3930 West Land Park Drive) as a landmark in the Sacramento register.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SACRAMENTO:

SECTION 1

- A. Zoo Entrance Structures (3930 West Land Park Drive) meets the criteria for listing on the Sacramento register provided within City Code section 17.604.210.A.1.a.iii and iv.
 - i. The building at 3930 West Land Park Drive (Zoo Entrance) embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction (City Code 17.604.210.A.1.a.iii).

The Zoo Entrance is a fine example of the Googie style developed out of Mid-century Modern architecture. This style has been called the Exaggerated Modern style due to its incorporation of the most dramatic features of Mid-century Modern architecture. The Zoo Entrance is one of the few intact examples of the Googie style remaining in the city. Significant Features and Characteristics of the style include its hyperbolic paraboloid roof, which has its origins in late-nineteenth-century Europe, pyramidal brick piers, and an expanse of glass-plate windows (on the southernmost building component only).

- ii. The building at Zoo Entrance Structures (3930 West Land Park Drive) represents the work of an important creative individual or master (City Code 17.604.210.A.1.a.iv).

The Sacramento-based architectural firm Rickey & Brooks was commissioned to design 3930 West Land Park Drive (Zoo Entrance). The firm was established in 1950 through the partnership of architect Kenneth C. Rickey and designer Fred E. Brooks. Rickey and Brooks designed both commercial and residential buildings throughout the 1950s and 1960s, and as early as 1953 the firm was recognized for its eye-catching designs. Structural engineering support was provided by Lawrence Amundsen. The 1960s was the most prolific period of Rickey and Brooks' Mid-century Modern designs, which embraced more unconventional aspects of Modernism with the use of unusual geometry and space-age elements common to the increasingly popular Googie style. The firm's design direction during this period is best seen by the 1961 design of the Zoo Entrance. However, the firm's 1960s works were not exclusively confined to the exaggerated Googie style. Other notable Rickey and Brooks designs incorporated other popular Modernism elements, exemplified by the 1960 Driver and Hunt Building which displays a geometric concrete-block screen across the rectangular massing of the building's upper floors. The firm's Driver and Hunt Building design was honored with an Outstanding Architectural Design award presented by the Masonry Join Industry. The firm is considered a master architect of Mid-century Modern designs as evident by its use of varied Modernism design principles and execution of distinctive, expressive architecture for commercial, recreational, and residential uses throughout the Sacramento area. Therefore, 3930 West Land Park Drive (Zoo Entrance) is significant for its association with master architects Rickey & Brooks making the property eligible under City Code 17.604.210 (A)1.a.iv.

- iii. Zoo Entrance Structures (3930 West Land Park Drive) has integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship and association. Integrity shall be judged with reference to the particular criterion or criteria specified in subsection A.1.a of section 17.604.210.A.1.b.

The building retains an extremely high degree of historic integrity of all six aspects. The neighborhood and building remain largely unchanged. Some minor material

changes exist on the primary façade of the largest structure, but otherwise the buildings remain unchanged from their period of significance.

- iv. Zoo Entrance Structures (3930 West Land Park Drive) has significant historic or architectural worth, and its designation as a landmark is reasonable, appropriate and necessary to promote, protect and further the goals and purposes of this chapter. (17.604.210.A.1.c)

The building retains an extremely high degree of historic integrity of all six aspects. The neighborhood and building remain largely unchanged. Their designation will enhance the City's list of historic structures by adding highly significant Mid-Century Modern resources to the list.

- v. The city has considered the factors set forth City Code Section 17.604.210.A.2 and determined those factors do not apply.

Table of Contents:

Exhibit A: Significant Features and Characteristics

Exhibit A: Significant Features and Characteristics

A. Primary Elevation

Significant Features and Characteristics of the style include its hyperbolic paraboloid roof, which has its origins in late-nineteenth-century Europe, pyramidal brick piers, and an expanse of glass-plate windows (on the southernmost building component only).



**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.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: William Land Park Zoo Entrance

Other names/site number: Sacramento Zoo Entrance

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

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

2. Location

Street & number: 3930 West Land Park Drive

City or town: Sacramento State: California County: Sacramento

Not For Publication: 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**

Applicable National Register Criteria:

 A **B** **C** **D**

<p>_____ Signature of certifying official/Title:</p>	<p>_____ Date</p>
<p>_____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>	

William Land Park Zoo Entrance
Name of Property

Sacramento,
California
County and State

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.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Sacramento,
California
County and State

William Land Park Zoo Entrance
Name of Property

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u>2</u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use
Historic Functions

RECREATION AND CULTURE/zoo

Current Functions

RECREATION AND CULTURE/zoo

William Land Park Zoo Entrance

Name of Property

Sacramento,

California

County and State

7. Description

Architectural Classification

MID-CENTURY MODERN/Googie

Materials:

Principal exterior materials of the property: brick, concrete

Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph

The Sacramento Zoo Entrance (Entrance) possesses significance at the local level as a rare and distinctive example of Mid-century Modern architecture in Sacramento exemplifying the Googie style. The character-defining features include the three dramatic interconnected hyperbolic paraboloid roofs resting on brick piers. The building has an irregular plan and is located in the southwest corner of William Land Regional Park (Park) and functions as the entrance of the Sacramento Zoo (Zoo). The period of significance encompasses the date of its construction, 1961. There are no major changes that have occurred to the Entrance. It retains its character-defining features of the Googie style resulting in good integrity of design and location. The Entrance retains integrity of design, location, workmanship, and materials. Together with the Entrance, the immediate surroundings remain similar to the historic environment in 1961 and it continues to provide its historic function; therefore, it retains integrity of setting, feeling, and association. The Entrance retains its character-defining features and all aspects of integrity from the period of significance and is eligible for listing under *Criterion C: Architecture*.

Narrative Description

The Entrance is located in the Park along West Land Park Drive in the City of Sacramento, California. The Entrance consists of the former concessions building and two attached structures that jointly hold the ticket booth, entry gate, and exit turnstiles. The building and two structures each have a dramatic hyperbolic paraboloid roof and collectively the entire Entrance creates a dramatic architectural statement on the east end of the 14-acre Zoo. The east-oriented Entrance has an irregular plan overall and serves as the most visually prominent exterior feature of the Zoo. The northernmost structure holds the entrance gate and small enclosed ticket booth and the other structure holds the exit turnstiles. The building at the southern end of the grouping is the former concessions building that features an exterior envelope of glass on the front elevation. The building was constructed to house a concession stand, and it has since been converted into a classroom for zoo programming and named the Discovery Room.

Sacramento,
California
County and State

William Land Park Zoo Entrance

Name of Property

The most prominent feature of the Entrance is the interconnected hyperbolic paraboloid roofs (also known as saddle roofs), a distinctive design feature of the Googie style. Early experimentation with the hyperbolic paraboloid as a built form began in Europe in the late nineteenth century and continued through the 1930s. World War II stalled further development but experimentation resumed during the post-World War II period as architects, engineers, and builders looked for innovative ways to apply materials in new and innovative ways, such as aluminum alloys, plywood, and reinforced concrete.¹ These materials were pivotal in the development of hyperbolic paraboloid roofs and the form gained popularity during the late 1950s and 1960s for select residential, commercial, and service-oriented buildings and as a distinctive feature of Googie, a style of Mid-century Modernism.

The exterior fascia of the hyperbolic paraboloid roofs on the Entrance consist of curved concrete plaster with an interior of wood joists. Simplistically described, the roof shape is identified by its square plan with two opposite corners raised and the other two opposite corners lowered. More detail on the hyperbolic paraboloid roofs is provided in Section 8.

The three building components of the Entrance exhibit similar design and materials: wood and plaster roofs and brick piers that support the roof. The brick piers, six in total, feature a tapered pyramidal form and rest on a concrete pad. These are the primary structural features which remain unchanged from its construction in 1961. Most of the remaining features of the Entrance are secondary and have been added or changed after 1961. Additions and changes are based on review of the original architectural blueprints by Rickey & Brooks.²

Decorative bamboo fencing applied to the exterior of the buildings was added outside the period of significance. The immediate surrounding includes decorative planters and metal chain link fencing with plastic vertical slats that extend to the south and north of the Entrance.

The northernmost building component features a hexagonal ticket booth comprised of metal panels and fixed pane glass windows. The ticket booth is flanked by the metal fencing with gates that provide two entryways to the Zoo. On the front (east) facade, a rectangular sign with the Zoo logo hangs from a roof cross beam (see Photograph 4 in the attachments). A single round metal contemporary pennant light fixture hangs from under the roof on the rear (west) elevation (see Photograph 7). These features were added after 1961. This building component originally held only entry gates.

The middle building component features metal turnstiles. Half walls with vertical metal fencing extend from the piers to the turnstiles (see Photograph 3). The building component also features a sign with the Zoo logo and a contemporary light fixture in the same location as the

¹ Tyler S. Sprague, "Beauty, Versatility, Practicality: The Rise of Hyperbolic Paraboloids in Post-War America (1950-1962)," *Construction History* 28, no. 1 (2013): 167-70, 176-78.

² Kenneth C. Rickey and Fred E. Brooks, "Concession & Entrance" (William Land Park Zoo, Sacramento, Calif., October 5, 1960), L-6, Department of Parks and Recreation, City of Sacramento.

Sacramento,
California
County and State

William Land Park Zoo Entrance

Name of Property

northernmost building component. Except for the roof and brick piers, these features were added after 1961. Like the northern component, the middle building component as constructed included similar wire-woven fencing and a gate.

The southernmost building component is named the "Discovery Room" and serves as a classroom for Zoo programs. The front (east) elevation consists of fixed plate-glass windows set in a metal frame with metal mountings (see Photograph 2). In addition to the roof and brick piers the building component features a brick tapered wall and concrete plaster walls with a metal door with opaque fixed glass sidelights and a contemporary light fixture hanging from the roof comprise the features on side and rear (west) elevations. The door and light fixture have been altered since 1961.

In 2016 a condition assessment conducted by Buehler & Buehler Structural Engineers, Inc. identified dry rot in the roof's sheath membrane that had resulted in deterioration of the roof's support structure. The condition assessment resulted in the temporary shoring system bracing the roof ends. The system is comprised of 5-inch metal pipes with rectangular concrete footers attached to the mid-point of the roof that extends from the front (east) and rear (west) elevations (see Photographs 2 and 5). The shoring system is intended to provide temporary support until long-term repairs can be completed, after which the shoring system will be removed.³

The interior of the Discovery Room is accessed by metal doors on the northwest- and southwest-facing elevations. The interior contains a single room with dropped ceilings. This room functions as a classroom for Zoo programs. This building component originally served as the Zoo concession stand. Features for serving and preparing food have been removed from the interior.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

- 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.

³ Buehler & Buehler, *Sacramento Zoo Discovery Building Condition Assessment*, Condition Assessment (Sacramento, Calif.: Prepared for City of Sacramento, Preservation Commission, April 29, 2016), 5.

Sacramento,
California
County and State

William Land Park Zoo Entrance

Name of Property

- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

- 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

Areas of Significance

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1961

Significant Dates

1961

Significant Person

N/A

Sacramento,
California
County and State

William Land Park Zoo Entrance

Name of Property

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Rickey & Brooks

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

The Entrance possesses significance under *Criterion C: Architecture* at the local level as a rare and distinctive example of the Googie style in Sacramento and is reflective of Mid-century Modern architecture, an important local theme and architectural style identified in the City of Sacramento's *Mid-Century Modern in the City of Sacramento Historic Context Statement and Survey Results*. Local architects Rickey & Brooks designed the Entrance and are considered master Sacramento-area architects for their innovative designs and prolific contribution to the mid-century architectural landscape within the city. Completed in 1961 the Entrance exhibits distinctive features of the Googie style in its expressive roofline comprised of the three interconnected hyperbolic paraboloid roofs resting on tapered pyramidal brick piers. Even among other examples of Googie architecture in the Sacramento area with similar eye-catching rooflines (e.g., the Orbit and Phillips 66 gas stations; Country Club Lanes; and several restaurants, including Pancake Circus and Sam's Big Top), the Entrance with its interconnected hyperbolic paraboloid roofs is arguably the most distinctive remaining example of Googie architecture within the city of Sacramento. The Entrance retains excellent integrity despite the addition of the temporary removable bracing intended to provisionally stabilize the roof. The period of significance coincides with the construction date of 1961.

The rest of the Sacramento Zoo has either lost integrity or is not yet 50 years in age and does not qualify for the National Register.⁴ As such, the Entrance alone does not have a strong association with areas of significance under Criterion A and does not possess significance for its associative values.

⁴ Mead & Hunt, Inc. and PGA Design, Inc., *Cultural Landscape Survey and Evaluation of William Land Park* (Prepared for City of Sacramento, Parks and Recreation Department, January 2012), 35–36.

Sacramento,
California
County and State

William Land Park Zoo Entrance

Name of Property

Narrative Statement of Significance

Land for the Park was purchased in 1918 using funds bequeathed to the City of Sacramento after the death of William Land, a Sacramento politician who supported civic improvement and reform.⁵

On June 2, 1927, the William Land Park Zoo opened as yet another amenity and attraction in the Park. The Zoo continued to expand and add animals and displays throughout the 1930s and early 1940s. By the late 1940s the Zoo had an estimated 30,000 visitors per week during the summer, and a local newspaper asserted “any visit to Sacramento should include a jaunt to the zoo.”⁶

By the 1950s City funding began to diminish for the Zoo. As a result, the Sacramento Zoological Society (SZS) was founded in 1956 to provide financial support. Subsequently, the SZS began a push for improvements and initiated a public education program in 1958, becoming one of the first zoos in the country to provide such a program.⁷ The Zoo was marketed during this period as “the most popular of the city’s recreational and park facilities,” with over one million visitors annually.⁸ With this momentum behind, it the SZS began a \$315,000 fundraising campaign to expand and modernize the Zoo in 1960.⁹ The architectural firm Rickey & Brooks was hired to design the planned improvements, which included construction of the Entrance. Sacramento newspapers followed the expansion of the Zoo, providing updates on construction and expected completion schedules.¹⁰ An article published in December 1960 described the entrance as an “eye catcher” with a roofline that “lends itself to an interesting series of archway[s].”¹¹ Figures 1 through 3 present historic images of the Entrance.

⁵ Mead & Hunt, Inc. and PGA Design, Inc., *Cultural Landscape Survey and Evaluation of William Land Park*, 14.

⁶ “Land Park Zoo Is Popular Spot for Young and Old,” *Sacramento Bee*, September 1, 1948.

⁷ “The Sacramento Zoo,” 9.

⁸ Max Miller, “Zoo Campaign Opens, Seeks \$100,000 To Bolster City Improvement Program,” *Sacramento Bee*, July 14, 1960.

⁹ “Open House Will Start Zoo Fund Campaign,” *Sacramento Bee*, July 11, 1960.

¹⁰ Bill Eaton, “Zoo Work Way Ahead of Schedule,” *Sacramento Bee*, January 23, 1961.

¹¹ “Eye Catcher,” *Sacramento Bee*, December 5, 1960.

Sacramento,
California
County and State

William Land Park Zoo Entrance
Name of Property



Figure 1. Sacramento Zoo Entrance while under construction, March 1961.¹²

¹² Robert Handsaker, "Sacramento Zoo Entrance Construction," March 1961, Center for Sacramento History.

William Land Park Zoo Entrance

Name of Property

Sacramento,
California
County and State



Figure 2. Sacramento Zoo Entrance while under construction, April 1961.¹³

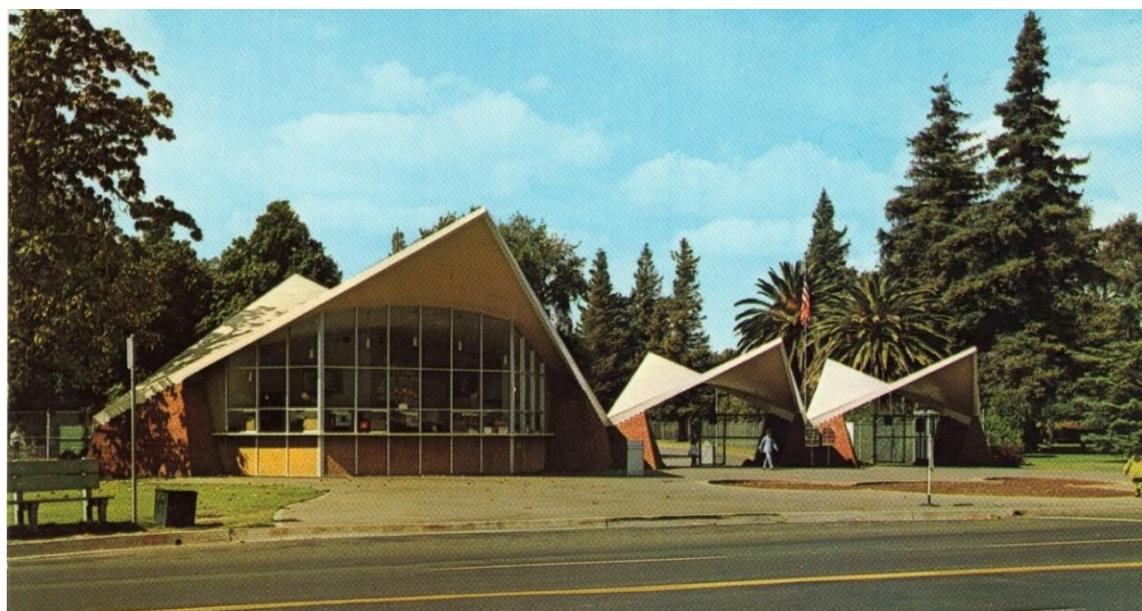


Figure 3. Postcard image of Sacramento Zoo Entrance after completion, c.1961.¹⁴

¹³ Robert Handsaker, "Family Passing Sacramento Zoo Construction," April 1961, Center for Sacramento History.

¹⁴ "William Land Park Zoo Entrance Postcard," c 1961, SacMod Ephemera Collection.

William Land Park Zoo Entrance

Name of Property

Sacramento,
California
County and State

The SZS continued fundraising to expand and develop the Zoo throughout the 1960s. Additional animal enclosures were added or expanded and the Zoo grew to its current size of 14.2 acres. The Zoo was officially renamed to the Sacramento Zoo in 1970.¹⁵

Since the 1970s the Zoo has continued educational programming. As a result, the southernmost building component of the Entrance changed from a concession stand to a climate-controlled classroom, c.1980. Throughout the 1990s and 2000s the Zoo renovated exhibits to reflect the national movement of open naturalistic enclosures.¹⁶ The other two building components continue to serve their original function.¹⁷ In 2012 the City of Sacramento funded a study of the Park that identified the Entrance as eligible under *Criterion C: Architecture*.¹⁸ The City of Sacramento currently owns the Zoo and the SZS operates the facility.

Architecture

Mid-century Modern architecture and the Googie style

In 2017 the City of Sacramento, Sacramento Modern, and the State Office of Historic Preservation funded a study on the theme of Mid-century Modern architecture and its significant contribution to the physical development of the City. This study also recognized the Entrance as an important example of architecture for this period. Below is a summary of this historic context as it relates to the historic importance of the Entrance as an example of the Googie architectural style.¹⁹

In the early to mid-twentieth century, architecture began to focus on functionality and abstraction rather than ornamentation. Throughout the 1940s, 1950s, and 1960s architects applied the Mid-century Modern ideals to utilize new materials and technologies to develop new styles of architecture. Examples of a variety of Mid-century Modernist architectural styles with distinctive features emerged between 1940 and 1970, and many can be seen throughout Sacramento. The 2017 Mid-century Modern Context identified Googie as one of these styles with few intact examples remaining within the city.²⁰

¹⁵ "History," Sacramento Zoo, (2018), <https://www.saczoo.org/about-us/history/>.

¹⁶ "History."

¹⁷ Matthew Sites, *Sacramento Zoo Discovery Building Entry Structures Complex (PB16-038)*, Public Hearing (Sacramento, California: Preservation Commission, June 15, 2016), 4.

¹⁸ Mead & Hunt, Inc. and PGA Design, Inc., *Cultural Landscape Survey and Evaluation of William Land Park*, (4-E). While the entire Park was recommended eligible as a historic district in this study, the Zoo was recommended as not eligible due to the loss of integrity; however, the Entrance was recommended as individually eligible under *Criterion C: Architecture*.

¹⁹ GEI Consultants and Mead & Hunt, Inc., *Mid-Century Modern in the City of Sacramento Historic Context Statement and Survey Results* (Prepared for City of Sacramento, Community Development Department, September 30, 2017), 6–4.

²⁰ GEI Consultants and Mead & Hunt, Inc., *Mid-Century Modern in the City of Sacramento Historic Context Statement and Survey Results*, 6–5.

William Land Park Zoo Entrance

Name of Property

Sacramento,
California
County and State

The Googie style developed out of Mid-century Modern architecture and has also been called the Exaggerated Modern style due to its incorporation of the most dramatic features of Mid-century Modern architecture. The style is named after Googie's Coffee Shop in Los Angeles, designed by architect John Lautner in 1949. The building was notable for its futuristic style of a multi-plane roofline, sharp angles, and tiled glass and concrete walls. The "Googie" style became more popular as the American fascination with outer space grew through the 1950s and 1960s, leading to buildings with more cutting-edge designs and often with signs that brought to mind spaceships and starbursts.

Although not as popular as other Mid-century Modern styles, the Googie style appeared in Sacramento in the 1960s. Typical Googie style buildings featured exaggerated rooflines that appeared in folded, curvilinear, swooping, or hyperbolic shapes; irregular massing with abstract or curved portions; asymmetrical facades that convey movement; flush-mounted expanses of steel or aluminum-framed glass; a variety of building materials; colorful accents; and prominent colorful and freestanding signage.²¹

The Googie style became particularly popular in the 1960s with Orbit and Phillips 66 gas stations in the hopes that the dramatic sweeping rooflines would catch the eye of passing travelers, and a few of those gas stations remain in operation in the Sacramento area. While these gas stations have retained the rooflines, the majority have transitioned into other businesses.²² Other buildings in Sacramento that reflect the Googie style are the former Mac Farlane's Candies (currently Mahoroba Japanese Bakery) at 4900 Freeport Boulevard and the former Jumbo Market (currently SF Market) at 5820 South Land Park Drive, both of which feature rooflines with exaggerated folds.²³

Hyperbolic Paraboloid Roof Form

The architectural influence for the distinctive hyperbolic paraboloid roof on the Entrance has its origins in late-nineteenth-century Europe, with some of the earliest examples designed by Antonio Gaudi.²⁴ Architects in Europe continued exploring the use of this geometry until World War II. After the war, numerous architects, engineers, and builders who migrated from Europe

²¹ GEI Consultants and Mead & Hunt, Inc., *Mid-Century Modern in the City of Sacramento Historic Context Statement and Survey Results*, 3–8.

²² "California Orbit Gas Stations," *RoadsideArchitecture.Com*, 2017, <http://www.roadarch.com/gas/caorbit.html>.; "California Phillips Gas Stations," *RoadsideArchitecture.Com*, 2017, <http://www.roadarch.com/gas/cap66.html>.

²³ GEI Consultants and Mead & Hunt, Inc., *Mid-Century Modern in the City of Sacramento Historic Context Statement and Survey Results*, 3–8.

²⁴ Sprague, Tyler S. "Beauty, Versatility, Practicality: The Rise of Hyperbolic Paraboloids in Post-War America (1950-1962)." *Construction History* 28, no. 1 (2013): 165–84.

Sacramento,
California
County and State

William Land Park Zoo Entrance

Name of Property

to the U.S. introduced the hyperbolic paraboloid roof to the American architectural dialect.²⁵ Several architects and engineers influenced the rise of the hyperbolic paraboloid roof form in the U.S. during the early 1950s, with a few works setting the stage for widespread implementation of the form.

The Dorton Arena in Raleigh, North Carolina, built between 1950 and 1952, is considered the first building in the U.S. to incorporate the hyperbolic paraboloid form into its design. The arena was designed by Polish architect Matthew Nowicki.²⁶ The building utilized stressed steel cables strung from parabolic concrete arches to form an eye-catching, saddle-shaped, double-curved, and warped roof form.

In 1950 Argentinian architect Eduardo Catalano established a research program in the U.S. to explore the use of hyperbolic parabolic structural surfaces to cover the greatest surface area with the smallest amount of material. Catalano's research resulted in the design and construction of his personal residence in 1954 that featured a dramatic sweeping hyperbolic paraboloid roof consisting of a single shell supported on just two points; the roof extended for approximately 84 feet and covered a surface area of 4,000 square feet. The house was featured in architectural magazines and sparked an interest in the use of the hyperbolic paraboloid shape as a cost-effective roof form design.

Architect Félix Candela was also influential in the rise of dramatic concrete rooflines in the early 1950s, when he began experimenting with the hyperbolic paraboloid form. Candela grew interested in thin-shell concrete forms early in his career, and asserted that hyperbolic paraboloids were "the easiest and most practical" shape. Many designers feared that curving concrete shells would require custom casts to support the concrete for each structure, but Candela's use of straight lines to create the curves allowed him to build dramatic and artistic buildings without applying expensive techniques.²⁷ His first structure featuring a hyperbolic paraboloid roof, the Pavilion of Cosmic Rays at National Autonomous University of Mexico, received international attention due to his successful use of simple techniques and his ability to use such a thin concrete shell to create such eye-catching design.²⁸ His architectural design represents the spirit of innovation and experimentation indicative of the Googie style.

²⁵ Sprague, "Beauty, Versatility, Practicality: The Rise of Hyperbolic Paraboloids in Post-War America (1950-1962)." 167.

²⁶ Sprague, "Beauty, Versatility, Practicality: The Rise of Hyperbolic Paraboloids in Post-War America (1950-1962)." 167.

²⁷ "Félix Candela: Engineer, Builder, Structural Artist," *Princeton University Art Museum*, 2008, <http://artmuseum.princeton.edu/legacy-projects/Candela/main.html>.

²⁸ Patrick Sisson, "Felix Candela, the Architect Who Showcased Concrete's Curves," *Curbed*, January 25, 2018, <https://www.curbed.com/2018/1/25/16932400/felix-candela-architect-concrete-los-manantiales>.

Sacramento,
California
County and State

William Land Park Zoo Entrance

Name of Property

Modern materials were explored for use with the hyperbolic paraboloid roof form, include hot-rolled steel, glu-lam timber beams, and plywood.²⁹ In the mid-1950s concrete was explored as a suitable material for the hyperbolic paraboloid roof form, but high costs of production prevented this material from gaining traction in the U.S.³⁰ By the late 1950s concrete was finally realized as a cost-effective material for use in this roof form, as sheet metal fabricator Maury Proctor and structural engineer John (Jack) V. Christansen teamed to create a reusable sheet metal form that could be assembled to receive the concrete, then disassembled to be used in subsequent future projects.³¹ In 1959 the hyperbolic paraboloid was touted as a “new thin shell roof type that promises great things” in a *Concrete Construction* article that used several successful projects to acclaim its economy, simplicity, and aesthetics.³²

The Entrance is a bold and simple expression of the Gogie style. As constructed, it was comprised of three distinctive features: a hyperbolic paraboloid roof, pyramidal brick piers, and an expanse of glass-plate windows (on the southernmost building component only). The hyperbolic paraboloid roof is composed of two intersecting fields of straight lines, each line at a slightly different angle, producing a seemingly rounded shape using straight joists. While the eye-catching hyperbolic paraboloid roofline is the most visible, the building also features a curved massing, flush-mounted expanses of aluminum-frame glass, and a variety of building materials (see Figure 4).

²⁹ Sprague, “Beauty, Versatility, Practicality: The Rise of Hyperbolic Paraboloids in Post-War America (1950-1962),” 171–72.

³⁰ Sprague, “Beauty, Versatility, Practicality: The Rise of Hyperbolic Paraboloids in Post-War America (1950-1962),” 176.

³¹ Sprague, “Beauty, Versatility, Practicality: The Rise of Hyperbolic Paraboloids in Post-War America (1950-1962),” 177–78.

³² Sprague, “Beauty, Versatility, Practicality: The Rise of Hyperbolic Paraboloids in Post-War America (1950-1962),” 178.

William Land Park Zoo Entrance
Name of Property

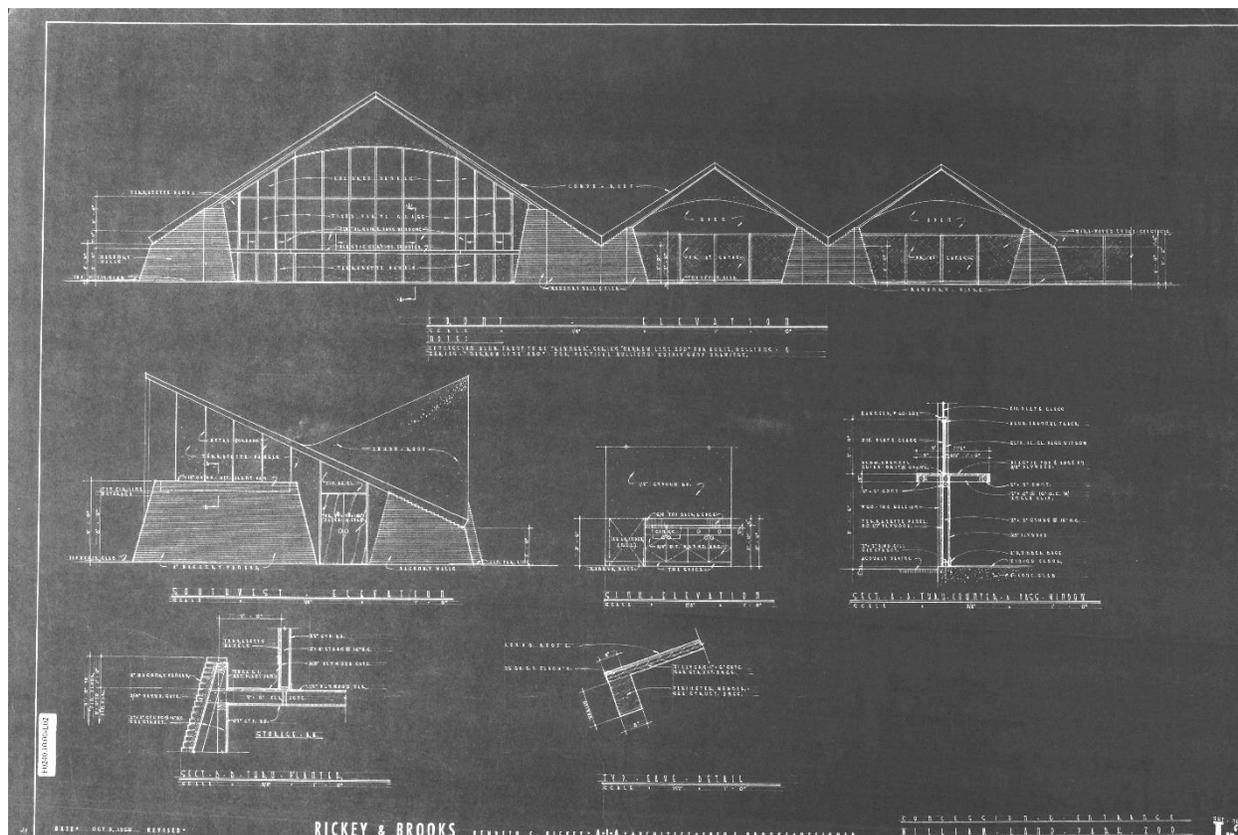


Figure 4. Rickey & Brooks plans for the Sacramento Zoo Entrance. For the current layout of the buildings, see Photograph 1 in the attachments.³³

Architects

The Sacramento-based architectural firm Rickey & Brooks was commissioned to design the Entrance. The firm was established in 1950 through the partnership of architect Kenneth C. Rickey and designer Fred E. Brooks. Rickey was born in 1914 and attended Sacramento High School, where he joined the Draftsman's Club, then graduated from Sacramento Junior College in 1933.³⁴ He worked as a licensed architect until World War II, during which he served in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. After the war Rickey returned to Sacramento and worked as a draftsman with local architects Harry J. Devine, Herbert E. Goodpastor, and Raymond Franceschi.³⁵ Brooks was born in 1914 in Contra Costa County, California, and also worked as a draftsman with Goodpastor in the 1940s.³⁶ By 1949 Rickey had obtained his architect license

³³ Rickey and Brooks, "Concession & Entrance."

³⁴ Historic Environment Consultants. "Rickey & Brooks, Architects," July 5, 2018, 1.

³⁵ George S. Koyl, ed., *American Architects Directory*, 2nd ed. (New York: R.R. Bowker, LLC, 1962), 586.

³⁶ Historic Environment Consultants. "Rickey & Brooks, Architects," July 5, 2018, 1.

William Land Park Zoo Entrance

Name of Property

Sacramento,
California
County and State

and was working as an architect for Goodpastor, while Brooks worked as a designer.³⁷ Rickey and Brooks partnered to open their eponymous firm in 1950. The 2017 Mid-century Modern historic context of Sacramento identified Rickey & Brooks as an architectural firm that participated in the development of Mid-century Modern architecture in Sacramento.

Rickey & Brooks designed buildings for both commercial and residential use throughout the 1950s and 1960s. Some of the firm's early commercial designs in the Sacramento area reflect the regional Mediterranean climate with design elements that promote the indoor/outdoor lifestyle, such as large expanses of glass and covered walkways.³⁸ The 1952 U.S. Bureau of Reclamation office complex is an example of this aspect of the firm's early work, displaying an emphasis on horizontality and utilizing wrap-around covered arcades for outdoor circulation.³⁹ As early as 1953 the firm was recognized for its eye-catching designs.⁴⁰ Through the mid-1950s the firm's style more frequently reflected the minimalism displayed by the International or Commercial Modern styles, with designs such as the former Fort Sutter Savings & Loan Association Building (2200 J Street in Sacramento) in 1953 and the Federal Court and Office Building in 1958, which both portray an unadorned design with flat roofs, rectangular massing, and smooth exteriors with horizontal bands of windows.⁴¹ The 1960s was the most prolific period of Rickey & Brooks's Mid-century Modern designs, which embraced more unconventional aspects of Modernism with use of unusual geometry and space-age elements common to the increasingly popular Googie style. The firm's design direction during this period is exemplified by the 1961 design of the Entrance, as well as the 1964 design of the Court Plaza Building, which displays a distinctive "scalloped" roof form and sidewalk canopy.⁴² The firm's 1960s works were not exclusively confined to the exaggerated Googie style. Rather, other notable Rickey & Brooks designs during this period implemented other popular Modernism elements, such as the 1960 Driver & Hunt Building that displays a characteristic geometric concrete-block screen across the rectangular massing of the building's upper floors and the 1961 International-style John E. Moss Federal Building. The firm's design for the Driver & Hunt Building was honored with an Outstanding Architectural Design award presented by the Masonry Join Industry.⁴³

In addition to office buildings, Rickey & Brooks also designed multiple public buildings for recreational use, such as the Park Terrace Swimming and Tennis Club Clubhouse. This represented a more exaggerated style from the firm, as these buildings frequently embraced a

³⁷ Historic Environment Consultants. "Rickey & Brooks, Architects," July 5, 2018, 1.

³⁸ Historic Environment Consultants. "Rickey & Brooks, Architects," July 5, 2018, 2.

³⁹ Historic Environment Consultants. "Rickey & Brooks, Architects," July 5, 2018, 2.

⁴⁰ "Roadside Architectonics," *Progressive Architecture*, January 1953, 15.

⁴¹ GEI Consultants and Mead & Hunt, Inc., *Mid-Century Modern in the City of Sacramento Historic Context Statement and Survey Results*, 2–20, 3–7.

⁴² Historic Environment Consultants. "Rickey & Brooks, Architects," July 5, 2018, 3.

⁴³ Historic Environment Consultants. "Rickey & Brooks, Architects," July 5, 2018, 4.

William Land Park Zoo Entrance

Name of Property

Sacramento,
California
County and State

more pronounced roofline and an angular massing with a low profile.⁴⁴ Prior to designing the Entrance, Rickey & Brooks also designed other resources in the Park, and the firm designed both Fairytale Town and the Park's Golf Club House in 1958.⁴⁵

Rickey & Brooks also designed several residential housing tracts in the Sacramento area. The firm's works varied in form and style through the 1950s and 1960s and included simple Ranch-style houses as well as examples of more expressive Mid-century Modern designs. By 1968 Rickey & Brooks opened a second office in Carmel and the firm continued to operate through the 1970s and 1980s.

The firm is considered a master architect of Mid-century Modern designs as evident by its use of varied Modernism design principles and execution of distinctive, expressive architecture for commercial, recreational, and residential uses throughout the Sacramento area. The legacy of Rickey & Brooks is most evident in its expressive Mid-century Modern designs from the 1960s, including the Googie style, and the Entrance serves as a primary example of the distinctive works of this master architect during the firm's most prolific period.

Conclusion

The Entrance is a bold and rare example of the Googie style, and its design is expressive of the most prolific phase of master architecture firm Rickey & Brooks. It retains its character-defining features of hyperbolic paraboloid roofline, pyramidal brick piers, and an expanse of glass-plate windows. The Entrance possesses significance locally under National Register *Criterion C: Architecture*. The character-defining features of the Entrance are intact and visible and it retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The period of significance coincides with the construction date of 1961.

⁴⁴ "Club Organizers General Meeting Will Be Held," *Sacramento Bee*, June 27, 1953, sec. Business and Development.

⁴⁵ Mead & Hunt, Inc. and PGA Design, Inc., *Cultural Landscape Survey and Evaluation of William Land Park*, 17.

William Land Park Zoo Entrance

Name of Property

Sacramento,
California

County and State

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<http://www.roadarch.com/gas/caorbit.html>.

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Sacramento,
California
County and State

William Land Park Zoo Entrance

Name of Property

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"William Land Park Zoo Entrance Postcard," c 1961. SacMod Ephemera Collection.

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 # _____

Sacramento,
California
County and State

William Land Park Zoo Entrance
Name of Property

Primary location of additional data:

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Name of repository: City of Sacramento Parks Department

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 14.2

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

1. Zone: 10S

Easting: 630496E

Northing: 4266724N

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary is an irregular polygon that generally follows the footprint of the three components of the Entrance. Beginning approximately 5 feet from the southernmost point of the building, the boundary follows the diagonal line of the roof to the northwest for approximately 50 feet before turning northeast for approximately 40 feet. The boundary proceeds northwest for approximately 20 feet and then continues northeast for approximately 20 feet. At this point, the boundary proceeds northwest for approximately 20 feet before continuing northeast for approximately 20 feet and passing the northern tip of the building. The boundary then turns southeast for approximately 20 feet before continuing southwest for approximately 20 feet. The boundary continues southeast for approximately 20 feet and then proceeds southwest for 20 feet. The boundary then turns southeast for approximately 40 feet and continues southwest for approximately 50 feet to the point of origin.

Boundary Justification

The boundary was defined to encompass the three components of the Sacramento Zoo Entrance with a small buffer around the entire building to include its immediate setting. There are no additional contributing features to the Entrance.

William Land Park Zoo Entrance

Name of Property

Sacramento,

California

County and State

11. Form Prepared By

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organization: Mead & Hunt, Inc.

street & number: 180 Promenade Circle, Suite 240

city or town: Sacramento state: CA zip code: 95834

e-mail: chad.moffett@meadhunt.com

telephone: 916-971-3961

date: June 28, 2019

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: William Land Park Zoo Entrance

City or Vicinity: Sacramento

County: Sacramento

State: California

Photographer: Mead & Hunt, Inc.

Date Photographed: March 23, 2018

William Land Park Zoo Entrance

Name of Property

Sacramento,
California
County and State

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of 7. Overview of front (east) elevation of Sacramento Zoo Entrance, view facing west.

2 of 7. Front (east) elevation of the southern component (Discovery Room) of the Sacramento Zoo Entrance, view facing northwest.

3 of 7. Front (east) elevation of middle component of the Sacramento Zoo Entrance, view facing west.

4 of 7. Front (east) elevation of northern component of the Sacramento Zoo Entrance, view facing west.

5 of 7. Rear (southwest) elevation of the southern component (Discovery Room) of the Sacramento Zoo Entrance, view facing northeast.

6 of 7. Rear (west) elevation of the middle component of the Sacramento Zoo Entrance, view facing northeast.

7 of 7. Rear (west) elevation of the northern component of the Sacramento Zoo Entrance, view facing east.

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 100 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.



Photograph 1 of 7. Overview of front (east) elevation of Sacramento Zoo Entrance, view facing west.



Photograph 2 of 7. Front (east) elevation of the southern component (Discovery Room) of the Sacramento Zoo Entrance, view facing northwest.



Photograph 3 of 7. Front (east) elevation of middle component of the Sacramento Zoo Entrance, view facing west.



Photograph 4 of 7. Front (east) elevation of northern component of the Sacramento Zoo Entrance, view facing west.



Photograph 5 of 7. Rear (southwest) elevation of the southern component (Discovery Room) of the Sacramento Zoo Entrance, view facing northeast.



Photograph 6 of 7. Rear (west) elevation of the middle component of the Sacramento Zoo Entrance, view facing northeast.



Photograph 7 of 7. Rear (west) elevation of the northern component of the Sacramento Zoo Entrance, view facing east.