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: Eastern Star Home	
Other names/site number: <u>The Archer School</u> Name of related multiple property listing:	tor Girls
N/A	_
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multip	ole property listing
2. Location Street & number: 11725 Sunset Boulevard	
City or town: Los Angeles State: CA Not For Publication: Vicinity:	County: Los Angeles
3. State/Federal Agency Certification	
As the designated authority under the National	Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
I hereby certify that this nomination rethe documentation standards for registering proplaces and meets the procedural and profession	operties in the National Register of Historic
In my opinion, the property meets doe recommend that this property be considered signlevel(s) of significance:	
nationalstatewidelocal Applicable National Register Criteria:	
ABCD	
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
State or Federal agency/bureau or Triba	al 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

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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: x	
Public – Local	
Dublic State	
Public – State	
Public – Federal	
Category of Property	
(Check only one box.)	
Building(s) x	
District	
Site	
Structure	
Object	

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Number of Description I) Manautri	
Number of Resources within F (Do not include previously listed		
Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
	1	structures
		objects
1	1	Total
Number of contributing resource	es previously listed in the Natio	onal Register _ 0
	· ·	
6. Function or Use Historic Functions		
(Enter categories from instruction	ons.)	
Domestic:	,	
<u>Institutional Housing</u>		
Current Functions		
(Enter categories from instruction	ons.)	
_Education:	,	
School		

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7. Description	
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions.)	
<u>Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals:</u> Spanish Colonial Revival	
Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)	
Principal exterior materials of the property: <u>Stucco</u> Ceramic tile	

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The former Eastern Star Home was designed by William Mooser II in the Spanish Colonial Revival style. It is located on a large, rectangular parcel on the north side of W. Sunset Boulevard in the Brentwood neighborhood in Los Angeles, California. The Eastern Star Home exhibits the complex, irregular massing; courtyard plan; clay tile hipped and gabled roof; and smooth stucco exterior walls associated with Spanish Colonial Revival style architecture. Though alterations have been made to the Eastern Star Home over time, it retains significant character-defining features on the interior and exterior. It retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

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Narrative Description

Exterior

The Main Building at the former Eastern Star Home is located on a large, rectangular parcel on the north side of W. Sunset Boulevard in the Brentwood neighborhood in Los Angeles, California. It is set back from the street by an expansive lawn, mature trees and shrubs, and a semi-circular driveway paved in asphaltic concrete. There is a wrought iron fence with two auto gates and a pedestrian gate at the south side of the parcel, and a concrete block wall with wrought iron auto and pedestrian gate at the north side of the parcel. There is a small guardhouse structure near the auto gate at the southeast side of the parcel.

The Main Building is Spanish Colonial Revival in style, one- and two-stories in height, constructed of reinforced concrete and sheathed in smooth stucco. The building forms a hollow square in plan around a central courtyard.

The central portion of the primary (south) façade is one story in height, with two story volumes on the east and west ends. The roof is a combination of front- and side-facing gables with red clay tile. Fenestration consists of a combination of single, fixed, and steel casement windows. The steel casements are primarily arranged in groups of three with fixed panes below. There is a series of windows in recessed window wells at the basement level.

A loggia across the one-story volume on the primary façade is supported by a series of rounded arches on the western portion and by large square columns on the eastern portion. Fenestration consists of small windows behind the arches on the western portion and steel casement windows with transoms on the eastern portion.

The main entrance is centrally located beneath an arched opening. It is accessed by a wide flight of concrete stairs bisected by a wrought iron railing. To the west of the stairs is a three-story tower. The tower has a hipped roof, with a weathervane bearing the Order of the Eastern Star symbols. Fenestration consists of a grouping of three pairs of steel casement windows on each façade just below the roofline. There is a large round aperture screened with wrought iron at the porch level. Centered above the round window is a casement window that opens onto a wrought iron balcony. The window has the Order's symbolic star in stained glass.

The two-story volume on the west end of the primary façade has a front-facing gable roof supported by concrete beams resting on large concrete corbels, cast and painted to resemble wood. The second story overhangs the first and is supported by corbels. There is an exterior stair leading to a small patio and a separate entrance to this portion of the building. Fenestration on the first story consists of paired steel casement windows. On the second story there are groups of steel casement windows. Decorative ceramic tiles are inset beneath the second story windows.

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The two-story volume on the east end of the primary (south) façade has a front-facing gable roof. Fenestration consists primarily of steel casement windows in pairs or groups of three with fixed panes below.

The east façade is articulated by a series of shallow recesses capped by gabled roofs with differing orientations. An exterior stair at the south end of the façade is partially enclosed by a low stepped wall that leads to a wood and glass arched door on the second story. At the north end is a second story balcony supported by massive concrete beams. The balcony has wood posts and a simple wood rail. The central portion of the façade is planar with a concrete sill separating the first and second stories. Window openings are slightly recessed; most of the original steel casement windows on this façade have been replaced.

The west façade is similar to the east façade but with fewer architectural embellishments. The balcony on the north end is identical to the balcony on the west façade. Most of the original steel casement windows on this façade have been replaced.

The North Wing was constructed in 2018-2019. It is contemporary in style and comprises approximately 30,400 square feet in two stories over a basement. It has a shallow E-shaped plan that creates two small courtyards adjacent to the Main Building. It has a combination of hipped and shed roofs, clad in flat concrete tile. A screen at the top of the hipped roof conceals a central mechanical well. The exterior walls are finished in acrylic stucco. Fenestration consists primarily of aluminum sash casement windows.

Interior

The interior of the Main Building retains many original features throughout, including wood doors with original hardware, arched openings, linoleum flooring in the hallways, wrought iron balustrades, and wall sconces and other light fixtures. The first floor is characterized by large, well-appointed public spaces. The interior is symmetrical in plan and the rooms look out onto the central courtyard.

The main entrance leads to an expansive foyer with a barrel-vaulted ceiling and wood paneled wainscoting. The wall above the wainscot and the ceiling are stenciled with polychromatic abstract decorative motifs.

To the east of the foyer is the main lounge, measuring 34 x 22'. The lounge has wood baseboards, a painted molded concrete ceiling with ersatz wood beams, and a cast stone fireplace on the north wall. To the west of the foyer are administrative offices that are accessed through glazed double doors. The largest office has a wood stairway on the north wall which leads to a mezzanine.

Off of the north end of the foyer is a hallway that runs the length of the building. The hallway includes similar architectural features as the foyer – barrel vaulted ceiling, wood wainscoting,

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and polychromatic decorative stencils on the upper walls and ceiling. There is a round window on the west wall of the hallway.

Three double doors on the north wall of the hallway lead to the garden room (now referred to as the Rose Room). The Rose Room is approximately 60 x 29' and opens onto the courtyard on the north. The Rose Room has a wood stage on the west end and a monumental cast stone fireplace on the east end. The ceiling is poured concrete and the center is decorated with a stylized polychromatic floral pattern. The courtyard is accessed through three aluminum sliding glass doors which replaced the original wood casement doors in the original openings.

Across from the Rose Room on the north side of the courtyard is the grand Dining Hall, which measures approximately 72 x 30 feet. The Dining Hall has a high-pitched, molded, painted concrete ceiling, with ersatz wood beams. The floor is red terra cotta tile, and on the north wall is a cast stone fireplace.

Exits on the west and east ends of the Dining Hall enter onto a hallway that leads to the original two-story residential quarters in the east and west wings. There is a concrete pointed arch ceiling in the hallway, decorated with polychromatic stylized floral designs. The red terra cotta floor tiles in the Dining Hall extend into the hallway. Each wing terminates at the south end with a small sitting area, and there are stairs connecting the two floors on both the north and south ends of each wing. The sixty-five original dormitory rooms on the second floor (fifty-six single and nine double bedrooms) are now used for classroom space.

Landscaping/Site Features

There is some mature landscaping on the grounds, but it does not appear to conform to any historically significant landscape plan and may not be original. There are no protected trees on the site.

According to historic photographs, the original landscaping in the front of the building consisted of the semi-circular driveway accessed from Sunset Boulevard. An expansive lawn was located in the center of the semi-circle and a variety of clipped shrubs were planted along the street. Clipped shrubs were also planted along the front of the building and enclosed by a low boxwood hedge. There is now a wrought iron gate and fence along the Sunset Boulevard frontage, but otherwise the landscaping is similar to what was there in the 1930s.

The primary feature of the central courtyard is the fountain located in the center of an open lawn. The fountain is star-shaped, with a ceramic basin in the center perched on a multi-tiered based. It is sheathed in decorative clay tile produced by Claycraft Potteries. There is mature landscaping in the courtyard which, similar to the landscaping in the front, does not appear to be indicative of a comprehensive historic landscaping plan.

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Alterations

The footprint of the original Eastern Star Home was altered with two additions in the 1950s and early 1960s that were collectively referred to as the North Wing. The first addition was a two-story infirmary at the northeast corner of the original building which was completed in 1956. In 1961 the northeast addition was expanded, and a second two-story wing was added at the northwest corner of the original building. These two additions were not tied structurally to the original building and were therefore not integral components. They were demolished in 2018 to accommodate construction of the new north wing.

In 1961, a Chapel was constructed in the southwest corner of the central courtyard. The Chapel is sheathed in smooth stucco and capped by a clay tile roof with overhanging eaves for compatibility with the original building. It is otherwise unadorned and does not include significant character-defining features of the Spanish-Colonial Revival style seen in the original portion of the building.

The exterior of the original portion of the Main Building remains largely intact, and significant character-defining features have been preserved. Some original steel casement windows were replaced, primarily prior to the purchase of the property by The Archer School for Girls in 1998. Awnings have been added to windows in select locations, primarily facing the central courtyard. Some original doors have been replaced, including the original wood casement doors leading from the Rose Room to the courtyard; the doors were also replaced prior to the purchase of the property by Archer.

Significant improvements undertaken by Archer include the construction of a new school Library in the basement in space that was originally used for offices and storage. As part of that project, original windows in the recessed, arched openings were replaced. The section of the basement that served as the morgue for the Eastern Star Home has been transformed into a Black Box Theater.

In 2018, Archer demolished the existing North Wing, which housed two stories of classroom space, and replaced it with a new classroom building on the same footprint. The new addition, structurally separate from the Main Building, is also referred to as the North Wing. The first North Wing was constructed between 1956 and 1961 at the rear of the complex. It was two stories in height and functioned as an infirmary and service wing. It was subordinate to the Main Building and lacked architectural distinction.

The new North Wing is contemporary in style with a shallow E-shaped plan that creates two small courtyards adjacent to the historic Main Building, similar to the configuration of the former North Wing. Fenestration consists primarily of aluminum sash casement windows that recall the proportions, composition, and rhythm of the windows in the historic Main Building. The kitchen and related storage facilities, located in the original portion of the Main Building immediately adjacent to the North Wing, were also demolished, and were replaced with new kitchen facilities in the same location. The new North Wing meets the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. It does not alter the use of the Main Building or require any change

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to the building's distinctive materials, features, spaces, or spatial relationships. It is not visible from Sunset Boulevard, and is differentiated from the Main Building by its contemporary architectural style and materials including flat concrete roof tiles, aluminum sash windows, and glazed aluminum curtain walls. It is smaller in area and volume than the Main Building, and is clearly subordinated by its design and its location on the rear façade. Minimal alterations to the Main Building to accommodate exiting requirements were limited to secondary circulation spaces at the rear.

There have been other minor modifications to the interior of the original portion of the building, although significant interior character-defining features have been preserved. The basement Art Room was rehabilitated and given minor cosmetic improvements in 2010. As part of this project VCT flooring was installed. The original steel casement hopper windows in arched openings remain intact.

Other interior alterations include replacement of original flooring in the former dormitory rooms, replacement of some original light fixtures, and the removal of some interior walls to create larger classroom spaces. The original wood floors in the Rose Room were replaced with new hardwood floors due to dry rot. In addition, as part of the adaptive reuse of the property into an educational facility, the necessary upgrades for fire, life safety, and accessibility issues were addressed, including the installation of sprinklers, asbestos repair/removal, and renovation of utility systems. An HVAC system was installed for the science classrooms in 1999 and in the new library in 2002.

Character-defining Features

The original portion of the Main Building retains numerous character-defining features of Spanish Colonial Revival architecture on both the exterior and the interior.

Exterior Character-Defining Features:

- Complex, irregular massing, resulting from the tower, corbelled overhangs, asymmetrically organized wings, exterior staircases
- Courtyard plan
- Smooth stucco exterior walls
- Hipped and gabled roofs with clay barrel tile roofing
- Exposed concrete brackets
- Covered loggia across the primary façade
- Steel sash casement windows
- Wrought iron details, including balconies, railings, window grilles and other decorative details
- Leaded or colored glass window embellishments
- Decorative ceramic and terra cotta tile
- Use of arches for windows, doors, and other features
- Pierced stucco screens
- Expansive front lawn and circular driveway

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• Courtyard fountain with Claycraft Potteries tile

Interior Character-Defining Features:

- Primary circulation patterns and organization of the original interior spaces, in particular the progression from the entry foyer through the main public spaces on the first floor out to the courtyard
- Primary interior spaces including the foyer, main lounge, library, main hallway, Garden Room (Rose Room), and Dining Hall
- Original features and finishes in the primary interior spaces, including flooring, wainscoting, light fixtures, cast stone fireplaces, stenciling on the upper walls and ceilings, cast concrete ceilings, and ersatz wood beams

Integrity

Although there have been alterations to both the exterior and interior of the Main Building, it continues to convey its historic significance and retains all seven aspects of historic integrity.

Location: The building is in its historic location.

Design: The building retains the essential character-defining features of the Spanish Colonial Revival style and continues to convey the original design executed by master architect William Mooser II. The new North Wing, constructed in 2018-19, meets the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation: the addition is located at the rear of the historic building, on the footprint of an earlier addition; is differentiated from the historic building by its contemporary architectural style; and is compatible in size, scale, massing and materials. Therefore, the Eastern Star Home retains integrity of design.

Setting: The Eastern Star Home was and continues to be located in a primarily residential area. The property retains its original generous setback from Sunset Boulevard with expansive front lawn, low retaining walls, and circular driveway. It therefore retains integrity of setting.

Materials: The exterior and interior public spaces remain largely intact and retain numerous original features and finishes including cement plaster wall cladding, clay tile roofing, terra cotta tile pavers and flooring, decorative iron details, and exposed concrete beams and corbels. Therefore, although some original steel casement windows and doors have been replaced and there have been other minor alterations over time, the building retains integrity of materials.

Workmanship: The building retains original features such as decorative stenciling on the walls and ceilings, stained glass windows, and other architectural details that characterize early twentieth century Spanish Colonial Revival-style architecture. It therefore retains integrity of workmanship.

Feeling: The building retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials and workmanship, and therefore continues to express the aesthetic sense of early-20th century Spanish Colonial Revival-architecture, and of the Eastern Star Home. It therefore retains integrity of feeling.

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Association: Integrity of setting, location, design, workmanship, materials, and feeling combine to convey integrity of association. The building retains its historic appearance, and there are numerous extant details linking the property to the Order of the Eastern Star. It therefore retains integrity of association.

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8. Statement of Significance	
Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property f listing.)	or National Register
A. Property is associated with events that have made a signification broad patterns of our history.	ant contribution to the
B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in	n our past.
C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, p construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose individual distinction.	s high artistic values,
D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important history.	rtant in prehistory or
Criteria Considerations (Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)	
A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purpos	ses
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 part of the first of	past 50 years

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Areas of Significance	
(Enter categories from instructions.)	
Social History	
Architecture	
Period of Significance	
1936-1969	
<u>1936</u>	
Significant Dates	
2-g	
	
Cianificant Danger	
Significant Person	
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)	
Cultural Affiliation	
Order of the Eastern Star	
Architect/Builder	
Mooser, William II (architect)	
1.200001, 11 Illium II (monitoet)	

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Eastern Star Home is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places at the local level of significance under Criterion A for its association with the Order of the Eastern Star as an early retirement and convalescent facility in west Los Angeles, and as an example of early 20^{th} century institutional development in the Brentwood neighborhood of Los Angeles. The period of significance under Criterion A is 1936 to 1969, reflecting the date that the retirement facility opened to the date that membership in fraternal organizations began a nationwide decline in terms of membership and influence, foreshadowing a similar decline in residency at the Eastern Star Home. By 1969, the Eastern Star Home had existed for thirty-three years, and no longer influenced or contributed to the early institutional development in Los Angeles. The Eastern Star Home is eligible at the local level of significance under Criterion C as an excellent example of Spanish Colonial Revival style institutional architecture, designed by prominent San Francisco-based architectural firm William Mooser and Company. The period of significance under Criterion C is 1936, reflecting the date construction was completed on the Eastern Star Home.

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

Criterion A

The Eastern Star Home is an example of early 20th century institutional development in the Brentwood neighborhood of Los Angeles. In the 1920s and 1930s, the City of Los Angeles experienced a period of rapid expansion. As the city prospered, so did its clubs and benevolent associations. The growing population generated increased interest in religious institutions, social clubs, and fraternal organizations during this period. The influx of members and, consequently, of financial support, allowed these organizations to expand and build new buildings, including meeting houses and institutional housing units.

Fraternal organizations were once the center of a vast private mutual aid network, providing social insurance for Americans of every race, ethnicity, and income group. They provided life insurance, protection against loss of income from sickness or accident, charity and mutual aid to their members and to members of the community as social causes. They were the precursors of private insurance common today and were large social networks of community connectivity. This phenomenon had its roots in the unprecedented economic growth of the late nineteenth century, as the widening gap between rich and poor led to inadequate access to education, degradation of inner cities, and crime waves. Americans began to fix these problems with inspired grassroots leadership and social inventiveness, resulting in a massive expansion of fraternal groups that provided a social network of protection and reciprocity.

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The Order of the Eastern Star

The Order of the Eastern Star (OES) was established as a complementary organization to the Freemasons. Initially founded in Europe in the eighteenth century, the OES was reinvigorated in the United States in 1850 as a way for women to participate in Freemasonry. Dr. Robert Morris, poet laureate of Freemasonry, did not believe that "all the good in Masonry should be confined to men," but rather that "Masonry should be for the whole family." However, women are not eligible to join the Freemasons. "Knowing he could not change the Ancient Landmarks of Masonry," Morris wrote the initiatory Degrees of the Order, and initiated his wife and daughters and several neighboring women into the Order of the Eastern Star. The Order's degrees (stages) center on the lives of five biblical heroines: Adah, Ruth, Esther, Martha, and Electa. Each represents one of the five principles of the Order: Fidelity, Constancy, Loyalty, Faith, and Love. The primary symbol used by the OES is the five-pointed star, each point representing one of the Order's five principles. 4 The General Grand Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star, the governing body of the organization, was established in 1876. The organization initially focused on "the relief of widows and orphans." The Order was particularly popular in the West, and at one point almost every city had at least one chapter. The Los Angeles chapter was founded in 1876, twenty-two years after the formation of the city's first Masonic Lodge (in 1854).8

The OES is "the largest fraternal Order in the Family of Freemasonry that admits both men and women to membership," and has been referred to as "Freemasonry for women." However, while Freemasonry is historically limited to men, the Order of the Eastern Star grants membership to both Masons and women with specific Masonic affiliations. A prospective member is required to be a Master Mason in good standing or related to a Master Mason in good standing in one of the following ways: wife or widow; daughter, stepdaughter, legally-adopted daughter, or daughter-in-law; mother, stepmother, mother-in-law, or grandmother; sister, stepsister, half-sister, or sister-in-law; aunt; niece or great-niece; granddaughter or great-granddaughter; or cousin. Women who have been active for three years or are Majority Members

¹ "Short History of the History of the Eastern Star," Grand Chapter of Wisconsin: Order of the Eastern Star, http://wioes.org/about-us-order-of-the-eastern-star/history-of-the-eastern-star/. Accessed June 2019.

² "Short History of the History of the Eastern Star," Grand Chapter of Wisconsin: Order of the Eastern Star, http://wioes.org/about-us-order-of-the-eastern-star/history-of-the-eastern-star/. Accessed June 2019.

³ Electa is the Masonic name for the unnamed "elect lady or "lady chosen by God" in 2 John 1:1.

⁴ Albert C. Stevens, *The Encyclopedia of Fraternities*, 2nd ed. (New York: E.B. Treat & Company, 1907; republished Detroit, MI: Gale Research Company, 1966), 98.

⁵ "Order of the Eastern Star," Masonic Dictionary, http://www.masonicdictionary.com/oes.html. Accessed June 2019.

⁶ "Amusements," San Francisco Examiner, December 28, 1869.

⁷ Stevens, 98.

⁸ Charles Dwight Willard, *The Herald's History of Los Angeles City* (Los Angeles: Kingsley-Barnes & Neuner Co., Publishers, 1901), 292. According to the Grand Chapter of California, they were organized in 1868 and began having annual meetings in 1873. Source: "About Us: Our History," Grand Chapter of California: Order of the Eastern Star, https://oescal.org/?q=about-us/our-history. Accessed June 2019.

⁹ "Order of the Eastern Star," Masonic Dictionary, http://www.masonicdictionary.com/oes.html. Accessed June 2019; "About Us," General Grand Chapter: Order of the Eastern Star, https://oescal.org/?q=about-us/who-we-are. Accessed June 2019.

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of the International Order of Rainbow Girls or the International Order of Job's Daughters are also able to join. ¹⁰ Notable members of the Order of the Eastern Star include poet and civil rights activist Maya Angelou, teacher and nurse Clara Barton, civil rights activist Rosa Parks, First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, former President Harry Truman, Representative Maxine Waters, and author Laura Ingalls Wilder. ¹¹

Like other fraternal/service organizations, the Order of the Eastern Star has a longstanding history of philanthropy. Each chapter donates funds to a wide variety of charities, but many focus their efforts on causes such as medical research, orphanages, youth projects, and religious training scholarships. ¹² Additionally, throughout its history, the OES constructed numerous retirement and convalescent homes in the United States. Development of these homes was a major activity for both the Masons and the Eastern Star since the late nineteenth century and began as a more efficient way to care for the permanent dependents of Masonic Lodges. The homes were generally located in quiet rural or suburban settings, and were often designed by well-known architects. Many Grand Jurisdictions continue to maintain Eastern Star Homes for their senior members, ranging from retirement homes to organizations that provide services to those in need.

Eastern Star Home

The Eastern Star Home in the Brentwood neighborhood of Los Angeles was constructed between 1931 and 1936 as a convalescent and retirement home, a "refuge for aged and dependent members" of the Order of the Eastern Star. ¹³ Prospective residents of the Eastern Star Home applied through their local chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star. Applicants were required to be 65 years of age or older, to have been a member of a California chapter for ten years, and to have been a member of the chapter through which application was made for five years immediately preceding the application. ¹⁴ Building amenities included a garden room, a tower room with observation deck, a main living room with a fireplace, a library, and two dining rooms. A social room was located in the southwest corner of the basement. There were fifty-six single and nine double bedrooms, with sitting rooms and sun porches located near various groups of bedrooms. ¹⁵

Members of the Order of the Eastern Star visited the Eastern Star Home during their annual meetings or on official visits to the Los Angeles area. They hosted events for the amusement of the residents, including movie nights, Christmas caroling, and an "annual jam and jelly

¹⁰ "Order of the Eastern Star," Masonic Dictionary, http://www.masonicdictionary.com/oes.html. Accessed June 2019.

¹¹ "Famous Members," Minnesota Grand Chapter: Order of the Eastern Star, https://mnoes.com/?page_id=1435. Accessed June 2019.

¹² "Order of the Eastern Star Charities," General Grand Chapter: Order of the Eastern Star, http://www.easternstar.org/information/order-of-the-eastern-star-charities/. Accessed June 2019.

¹³ "Work Starts on Structure for Eastern Star Order," Los Angeles Times, October 18, 1931.

¹⁴ "The Open Door," San Francisco Examiner, December 15, 1941.

¹⁵ "Work Starts on Structure for Eastern Star Order," Los Angeles Times, October 18, 1931.

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shower."¹⁶ Area schools and charity organizations also gathered gifts and put on events to engage the residents of the Eastern Star Home. Other events, including an annual charity fiesta, were held with the goal of raising funds for building improvements at the Eastern Star Home.¹⁷

The resident population of the Eastern Star Home fluctuated over time. It housed 68 residents in 1949. ¹⁸ By 1953, the home's population had declined to 54 residents. The idea of selling the property was raised at the annual meeting of the California Grand Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star that year, but was ultimately decided against, though the home operated with "a tremendous overhead, and some believed more people could be cared for for much less expense if the home were sold and other provisions made for the members." ¹⁹ The issue was raised again at the statewide meeting in 1956, and was again defeated. ²⁰

In 1956, the two-story infirmary was added at the northeast corner of the original building to better serve the resident population. In 1961, the northeast addition was expanded, and a second two-story wing was added at the northwest corner of the original building. That same year, a Chapel was constructed in the southwest corner of the central courtyard. Between 1961, when the Chapel was completed, and 1998, when the property was sold to The Archer School for Girls, the Order of the Eastern Star made minor changes on the campus, including the replacement of original steel casement windows; the addition of awnings to windows in select locations, primarily facing the central courtyard; and the replacement of original doors, including the original wood casement doors leading from the Rose Room to the courtyard.

In the latter half of the twentieth century, the OES as a whole, like other organizations nationwide, struggled with dwindling membership. A nationwide decline in membership in fraternal organizations began in the 1960s, with a period of sustained decline beginning in 1969. This reduced the potential pool of applicants for residency at the Eastern Star Home dramatically. The "Greatest Generation," otherwise known as World War II veterans and their peers, triggered the major boom in membership in many fraternal organizations after the end of World War II. However, their children and grandchildren were not as eager to join. "On average, across all fraternal organizations, membership rates began to plateau around 1957, peaked in the early 1960s, and began the period of sustained decline by 1969." Masonic membership, in

¹⁶ "Silver Wave O.E.S. Chapter Marks Public Schools Week," San Bernardino Sun-Telegram, May 15, 1949.

¹⁷ "Fiesta to Aid Home of Aged," Los Angeles Times, August 4, 1955.

¹⁸ "Visit OES Home," Long Beach Independent, July 29, 1949.

¹⁹ "Mrs. Inez Woody Elected Worthy Matron of OES," *Humboldt Standard*, November 9, 1953.

²⁰ "OES Delegates Decide To Keep Home for Aged," *Oakland Tribune*, October 18, 1956.

²¹ Robert D. Putnam, *Bowling Alone: The Collaps and Revival of American Community* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 2000), 55. As quoted in John Hinck, "Understanding the Decline in Participation in Fraternal Organizations: A Mixed Methods Approach," (PhD diss., University of San Diego, 2018), 2, https://digital.sandiego.edu/dissertations/109/. Accessed June 2019.

²² Robert D. Putnam, *Bowling Alone: The Collaps and Revival of American Community* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 2000), 55. As quoted in John Hinck, "Understanding the Decline in Participation in Fraternal Organizations: A Mixed Methods Approach," (PhD diss., University of San Diego, 2018), 2, https://digital.sandiego.edu/dissertations/109/. Accessed June 2019.

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particular, reached a high point of approximately 3.96 million in 1954 and then entered a steady decline.²³

There are several explanations for the decline in membership, including potential members' time commitments to family and work, the increased ability of government programs and markets to better provide for the social needs and values of a diverse population than fraternal organizations could, the lack of information about certain groups (especially the Masons), and the organizations' typical lack of diversity. ²⁴ Additionally, the Vietnam War engendered a distrust of organizations nationwide, so most people who came of age during that time did not join any service organizations. Many who did join were passive members who did not participate in volunteer activities or attend meetings. Numerous chapters again saw a dramatic decline in their membership as the World War II generation began to pass away in the 1980s; groups with new members saw their numbers stagnate due to the deaths of their World War II members. More recently, many organizations' emphasis on monetary contributions to charities over hands-on community service efforts has influenced prospective members not to join. ²⁵ Therefore, by the late 1960s, fraternal organizations no longer wielded the same influence in the social and cultural development of the community as they did during earlier periods.

Following the steady decline in the number of residents that started in the 1960s, the OES and the Eastern Star Home experienced another precipitous drop in membership starting in the 1980s, as the World War II generation, which made up the majority of membership in fraternal organizations, began to pass away. In 1988, the home housed 66 residents, including the first male resident in the home's history. However, residency at the Eastern Star Home declined rapidly over the next ten years, and by 1998, the Home housed only 34 residents. The retirement home moved to a new location, and the Order of the Eastern Star sold the property at Sunset Boulevard to The Archer School for Girls.

Criterion C

Spanish Colonial Revival Style

The Eastern Star Home, designed by architect William Mooser II, is an excellent example of Spanish Colonial Revival style institutional architecture. The Spanish Colonial Revival style attained widespread popularity throughout Southern California following the 1915 Panama-California Exposition in San Diego, which was housed in a series of buildings designed by chief architect Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue in the late Baroque Churrigueresque style of Spain and Mexico. The Churrigueresque style, with areas of intricate ornamentation juxtaposed against plain stucco wall surfaces and accented with towers and domes, lent itself to monumental public

²³ Hinck, "Understanding the Decline in Participation in Fraternal Organizations," 4.

²⁴ Hinck, "Understanding the Decline in Participation in Fraternal Organizations," 174.

²⁵ Taya Flores, "Fraternal, service groups battle waning membership," *The Washington Times*, October 18, 2014.

²⁶ Julio Moran, "Santa Leaves a Christmas Calling Card," Los Angeles Times, December 15, 1988.

²⁷ Sue McAllister, "Brentwood Bristles at Plan to Use Retirement Home for Girls School," *Los Angeles Times*, January 31, 1998.

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edifices, churches and exuberant commercial buildings and theaters, but was less suited to residential or smaller scale commercial architecture. For that, architects drew inspiration from provincial Spain, particularly the arid southern region of Andalusia, where many young American architects were diverted while World War I prevented their traditional post-graduate "grand tour" of Great Britain, France, Italy, and Germany. The resulting style was based on infinitely creative combinations of plaster, tile, wood, and iron, featuring plaster-clad volumes arranged around patios, low-pitched tile roofs, and a spreading, horizontal orientation. It was a deliberate attempt to develop a "native" California architectural style and romanticize the area's colonial past, though it drew directly from Spanish and other Mediterranean precedents and bore little resemblance to the missions and rustic adobe ranch houses that comprised the state's actual colonial-era buildings.

The popularity of the Spanish Colonial Revival style extended across nearly all property types, including a range of residential, commercial, and institutional buildings, and coincided with Southern California's population boom of the 1920s, with the result that large expanses of Santa Monica, Los Angeles, and surrounding cities were developed in the style. Some towns, such as Santa Barbara, even passed ordinances requiring its use in new construction. It shaped the region's expansion for nearly two decades, reaching a high point in 1929 and tapering off through the 1930s as the Great Depression gradually took hold. Like other revival styles, the Spanish Colonial Revival style was often simplified, reduced to its signature elements, or creatively combined with design features of other Mediterranean regions such as Italy, southern France, and North Africa, resulting in a pan-Mediterranean mélange of eclectic variations (see Mediterranean Revival Style). It was also sometimes combined, much less frequently, with the emerging Art Deco and Moderne styles.

Character-defining features of the style include:

- Asymmetrical façade
- Irregular plan and horizontal massing
- Varied gable or hipped roofs with clay barrel tiles
- Plaster veneered exterior walls forming wide, uninterrupted expanses
- Wood-sash casement or double-hung windows, typically with divided lights
- Round, pointed, or parabolic arched openings
- Arcades or colonnades
- Decorative grilles of wood, wrought iron, or plaster
- Balconies, patios or towers
- Decorative terra cotta or glazed ceramic tile work
- Churrigueresque subtype: intricate ornamentation juxtaposed against plain stucco wall surfaces, accented with towers and domes

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Architect William Mooser II

The Eastern Star Home was designed by William Mooser II (1868-1962), who was a second-generation architect and head of the William Mooser Company architectural firm. ²⁸ The William Mooser Company was the oldest and one of the most prominent architectural firms in California in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. They were primarily based in San Francisco and have only a few commissions in Southern California. Three generations of Moosers were principals of the firm: founder William Mooser I (1834-1896), William Mooser II, and William Mooser III (1893-1969).

William Mooser I was born in Geneva, Switzerland in 1834. He studied architecture in his native land before arriving in San Francisco in 1854. One of his first jobs was at the Navy Yard designing naval structures, but he soon followed many other fortune seekers of his generation and set out for the gold mines of the Sierra Nevada. He briefly settled in Virginia City, Nevada, to practice architecture, designing and supervising the building of at least four substantial commercial buildings there. In 1858 he returned to San Francisco, at first joining pioneer architect Victor Hoffman in practice and then opening his own office in 1861.

William Mooser II joined his father's practice in 1890, and inherited the firm upon his father's death in 1896. Mooser II was formally trained as an engineer. In 1900, Mooser II became the first person appointed to the position of San Francisco City Architect, responsible for the plans and supervision of all city construction. He was also in charge of the new Building Bureau and its building inspectors, and was responsible for writing the first San Francisco building code. He returned to private practice in 1902.

Prominent among the firm's designs under Mooser II's leadership were the Contra Costa County Courthouse (1896), Tuolumne County Courthouse (1897), I. Magnin Department Store, San Francisco (1912), Ghirardelli Chocolate Company Plant, San Francisco (1913), the Masonic Home for Elderly People, Decoto (1921), and the Santa Barbara Courthouse (1926).

Mooser II served as vice president of the San Francisco chapter of the AIA and was the branch manager for the Works Progress Administration in San Francisco. He belonged to the Masons, Native sons of the Golden West, and several other professional, civic, and religious organizations. In 1961, he was presented a Distinguished Service Award by the California Council of the American Institute of Architects.²⁹ He died in 1962.

Mooser II's son, William Mooser III, received his formal architectural training in Paris at the renowned École des Beaux-Arts. He lived in Europe for seventeen years, and apprenticed with MacDonald and Couchot before returning to the United States and joining the family firm.

²⁸ Biographical information about William Mooser II largely adapted from David Perry, "Pacific Heights Architects #28 – William Mooser," http://150290062.homesconnect.com/AccountData/150290062/NF28Mooser.pdf (accessed March 2019).

²⁹ "Four Given Top Awards by Architects," Los Angeles Times, October 22, 1961.

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William Mooser II and the architectural firm William Mooser Company are considered master architects whose work played a significant role in California and had a profound influence on architects of the period. Although the firm did not work in Southern California until the 1920s and 1930s, they designed one of the region's most significant buildings of the period at the Santa Barbara Courthouse. The Eastern Star Home is the only example of the firm's work in Los Angeles.

Conclusion

The former Eastern Star Home (excluding non-character-defining additions from 1956 and 1961), the front grounds, and the courtyard comprise City of Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument #440, designated in 1989. The property is significant for its association with the Order of the Eastern Star, and with early 20th century institutional development in the Brentwood neighborhood of the City of Los Angeles. It is also significant as an excellent example of Spanish Colonial Revival architecture by master architect William Mooser II. It is the only example of the work of William Mooser II in Los Angeles. It retains significant character-defining features of its original design on the interior and exterior. The property is therefore eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C.

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³⁰ The Santa Barbara Courthouse has been designated a National Historic Landmark, which recognizes properties of exceptional value on a national level.

³¹ In 1989, the Eastern Star Home was formally determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as part of Section 106 review for the proposed Sunset Boulevard Widening Project. When the California Register of Historical Resources was created in 1992, as a result of the formal determination of eligibility for the National Register, the Eastern Star Home was listed at the State level.

Los Angeles County, CA
County and State

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Previous documentation on file (NPS): preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 6') 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 #	

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Primary location of additional da	ta:	
State Historic Preservation Of	fice	
Other State agency		
Federal agency		
Local government		
University		
X_Other		
Name of repository: <u>California S</u>	State Library	
	(10 1 1)	
Historic Resources Survey Numb	er (if assigned):	_
10. Geographical Data		
Acreage of Property 3.89		
Use either the UTM system or latitude	ide/longitude coordinates	
Latitude/Longitude Coordinates	(decimal degrees)	
Datum if other than WGS84:		
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal place	es)	
1. Latitude: 34.065068	Longitude: -118.471488	
1. Eutrade. 5 1.005000	Longitude. 116.171100	
2. Latitude:	Longitude:	
3. Latitude:	Longitude:	
	-	
4. Latitude:	Longitude:	

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The Eastern Star Home is located at 11725 Sunset Boulevard in the Brentwood neighborhood of the City of Los Angeles. The present-day Archer School campus encompasses five parcels; this nomination encompasses only the Main Building (the former Eastern Star Home) and associated site features, located on the parcels corresponding to Los Angeles County Assessor numbers 4402-009-013, 4402-009-014, and 4402-009-016. It is bounded by Sunset Boulevard to the south, a multi-family residence and surface parking lot on the west, by Chaparal Street to the north, and single- and multi-family residential properties to the east.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries represent the historic and current boundaries of the Eastern Star Home property.

Eastern Star Home	Los Angeles County, C
Name of Property	County and State
11. Form Prepared By	
11. Form Trepared by	
name/title: John LoCascio, AIA, Principal; Molly Iker-John	nson, Associate Architectural
Historian/Staff Photographer	
organization: Historic Resources Group, LLC	
street & number: 12 S Fair Oaks Avenue, Suite 200	
city or town: Pasadena state: C	CA zip code: <u>91105</u>
e-mail john@historicresourcesgroup.com	
telephone: 626-793-2400	
date: March 28, 2019	

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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.)

Historic photographs
Architectural drawings

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.

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Photo Log

Name of Property: Eastern Star Home

City or Vicinity: Los Angeles

County: Los Angeles State: California

Photographer: Molly Iker-Johnson

Date Photographed: March 2019

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

PHOTO # DESCRIPTION/VIEW

0001	View of Main Building and landscaped driveway, facing northwest.
0002	View of south (primary) façade of Main Building, facing north.
0003	View of west façade of Main Building, facing north.
0004	View of west façade of North Wing, facing northeast.
0005	View of north façade of North Wing, facing southwest.
0006	View of east façade of North Wing, facing southwest.
0007	View of east façade of Main Building, facing northwest.
0008	View of south (primary façade) and landscaping, facing northwest.
0009	View of arcade and stepped concrete stair on Main Building, facing northwest.
0010	View of the primary entrance of Main Building, facing northwest.
0011	View of east foyer of Main Building, facing northeast.
0012	View of entrance to Main Building from courtyard, facing southeast.
0013	View of the courtyard, east and north façades of Main Building, and star fountain, facing southwest.
0014	View of north façade of Main Building and star fountain in courtyard, facing southeast.
0015	View of west and north façades of Main Building and star fountain in

glazed double doors, wood wainscoting, and barrel-vaulted ceiling with stenciled motifs, facing west. Detail of barrel-vaulted ceiling with stenciled motifs and hanging metal light fixture in foyer. View of the main lounge, facing northeast. View of east hallway of Main Building with barrel-vaulted ceiling, round window, wood wainscoting, and terra cotta tile, facing southwest. View of west hallway with barrel-vaulted ceiling, wood wainscoting, stenciled motifs, and terra cotta tile, facing northeast. Detail of wood stairway from basement in Main Building, facing northeast View of the Rose Room, facing east. View of the Rose Room, facing west. View of the Dining Hall, facing southwest.	astern Star Hom ame of Property	ne Los Angeles County, CA County and State
with star fountain, facing north. Detail of star fountain and south façade of Main Building, facing northwest. View of foyer with details of the barrel-vaulted ceiling with stenciled motifs, wood wainscoting, and terra cotta tile, facing southeast. View of foyer and administrative offices with wood stairway at north wal glazed double doors, wood wainscoting, and barrel-vaulted ceiling with stenciled motifs, facing west. Detail of barrel-vaulted ceiling with stenciled motifs and hanging metal light fixture in foyer. View of the main lounge, facing northeast. View of east hallway of Main Building with barrel-vaulted ceiling, round window, wood wainscoting, and terra cotta tile, facing southwest. View of west hallway with barrel-vaulted ceiling, wood wainscoting, stenciled motifs, and terra cotta tile, facing northeast. Occupance of the Rose Room, facing east. View of the Rose Room, facing east. View of the Dining Hall, facing southwest.		courtyard, facing east.
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0025 View of the Rose Room, facing east. 0026 View of the Rose Room, facing west. 0027 View of the Dining Hall, facing southwest.	0023	•
View of the Rose Room, facing west. View of the Dining Hall, facing southwest.	0024	Detail of wood stairway from basement in Main Building, facing northeast.
View of the Dining Hall, facing southwest.	0025	View of the Rose Room, facing east.
	0026	View of the Rose Room, facing west.
View of the Dining Hall, facing north.	0027	View of the Dining Hall, facing southwest.
	0028	View of the Dining Hall, facing north.

Figure 1. Photo Key

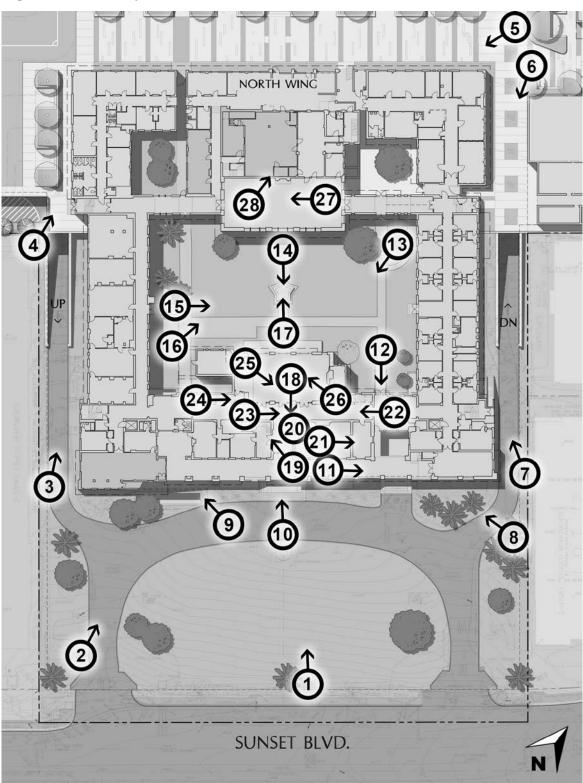


Figure 2. Location Map

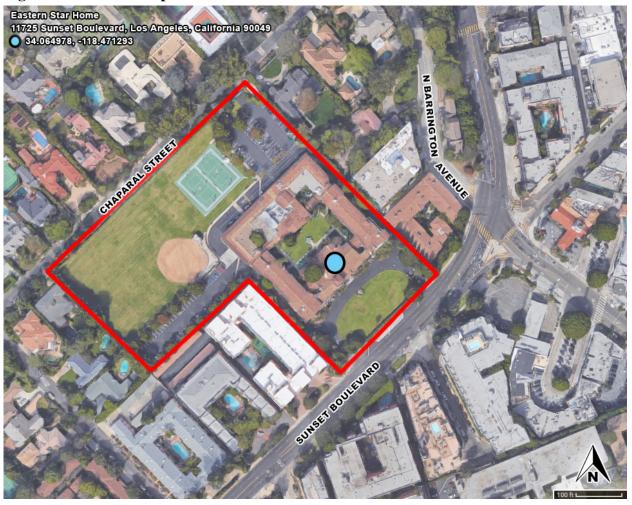
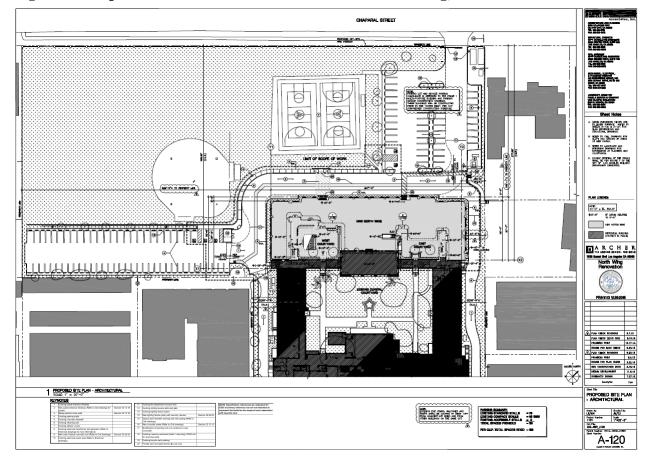


Figure 3. Site plan. Source: Parallax Architecture and Planning, 2015.



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Figure 4. Eastern Star Home, 1932. Source: Huntington Library.



Figure 5. Eastern Star Home, 1932. Source: California State Library.



Figure 6. Eastern Star Home, 1932. Source: California State Library.



Figure 7. Eastern Star Home, 1932. Source: California State Library.



Figure 8. Eastern Star Home, 1932. Source: California State Library.



Figure 9. Eastern Star Home, 1932. Source: California State Library.



Figure 10. Eastern Star Home, 1932. Source: California State Library.



Figure 11. Eastern Star Home, 1932. Source: California State Library.



Figure 12. Eastern Star Home, 1956. Source: UCLA Los Angeles Times Photo Archive.



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Figure 13. Eastern Star Home, 1980. Source: Los Angeles Public Library.



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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.