





Upper Busch Gardens Cultural Landscape  
Historic District  
Name of Property

Los Angeles County, CA  
County and State

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
walls: N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
roof: N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
other: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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### Narrative Description

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

#### Summary Paragraph

The Upper Busch Gardens Cultural Landscape Historic District is a group of single-family residential properties in southwest Pasadena that have remnant features of extensive botanical gardens that were built on the estate of Adolphus and Lilly Busch. Construction of the gardens began in 1904 and they were open to the public from 1906 to 1928 and sporadically between 1933 and 1938. The property originally included a mansion called "Ivy Wall" on the property at 1021 S. Orange Grove Blvd., built in 1898 and sited near Orange Grove Boulevard, which was known as "Millionaire's Row" for the proliferation of large estates built by wealthy property owners. The upper gardens, which were 16 acres in size, extended west from the house to Arroyo Drive (now South Arroyo Boulevard), a distance of approximately 1,000 feet, and eventually extended south to Madeline Drive. The gardens were characterized by terraced hillsides, meandering pathways, ponds, bridges, planters, fountains and specimen landscape species. The gardens were subdivided and developed with single-family housing beginning in 1937 and the Ivy Wall mansion was demolished in 1952. All of the properties within the district boundaries have remnant features from Busch Gardens including concrete pathways, rock steps and retaining walls and mature trees; a few properties have larger features including concrete faux bois railings, bridges and decorative features; rock planters; decorative concrete walls; and fountains and ponds. The most significant property in the district, 485 Madeline Drive, also has a building called the Old Mill that was expanded and converted to a single-family residence after closure of the gardens. The properties in the district represent the context "Gardens of Health and Pleasure, Early Resorts and Estate Gardens in Pasadena 1873-1929" and the property type "Busch Gardens Significant Historic Features, 1904-1937" identified in the Multiple Property Documentation Form "Historic Designed Gardens in Pasadena."

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### Narrative Description

The district is comprised of 21 separate properties totaling 10.27 acres in size. All of the properties have single-family residences on them that are non-contributing to the district. The properties vary in the extent of Busch Gardens features they contain, with some having a single pathway and others having more extensive features and structures. A description of each property is below:

1. 455 Arlington Drive

One non-contributing building (house)

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Although this property was within the original boundaries of Upper Busch Gardens, no significant historic features remain. It is included in the boundaries of the district because it is flanked by properties that have significant historic features on them.

2. 570 Busch Place

One contributing object (concrete faux bois fountain), one contributing structure (concrete path) and two non-contributing buildings (house and garage)

This property is at the western end of the district and is relatively flat with some sloping portions towards the eastern end of the property behind the house. At the north-central portion of the property, adjacent to the driveway, is a concrete faux bois fountain that resembles a sculptural arrangement of logs. An Arroyo-stone lined concrete pathway is behind the house. A house with attached garage was built in 1938 and is noncontributing to the district.

3. 571 Busch Place

One contributing structure (concrete path) and one noncontributing building (house with attached garage)

This property is at the western end of the district and is relatively flat with some sloping portions towards the eastern end of the property behind the house. An Arroyo-stone lined concrete pathway is behind the house, which was built in 1951 and is noncontributing to the district.

4. 570 Garden Lane

One contributing structure (network of concrete paths with steps, rock retaining walls and rock planters), one non-contributing building (house with attached garage)

This property is at the western end of the district and is relatively flat with a steep upward slope towards the eastern end of the property behind the house. The sloping portion has a path and stairs, retaining walls and rock planters winding up the hillside, terminating in a concrete path edged with Arroyo stones at the peak of the hill. A house with attached garage was built on the property in 1937 and is non-contributing to the district.

5. 571 Garden Lane

One contributing structure (concrete paths with rock retaining walls), two non-contributing buildings (house and detached garage)

This property is at the western end of the district and is relatively flat with a steep slope towards the eastern end of the property behind the house. A concrete path edged with Arroyo stones and retaining walls is at the peak of the hill. A house with attached garage was built on the property in 1948 and is non-contributing to the district.

6. 579 Garden Lane

One contributing structure (network of concrete paths with steps, rock retaining walls and rock planters), two non-contributing buildings (house and detached garage)

This property is at the western end of the district and is relatively flat with a steep upward slope towards the eastern end of the property behind the house. The sloping portion has a path and stairs with retaining walls and rock planters winding up the hillside, terminating in a concrete path edged with Arroyo stones at the peak of the hill. A house with attached garage was built on the property in 1951 and is non-contributing to the district.

7. 477 Madeline Drive

One contributing structure (one concrete pathway with rock retaining wall), one non-contributing building (house with attached garage)

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This property is at the southeastern corner of the district and, although it is relatively flat, it has a steep upward slope at the southern end causing it to be elevated substantially above street level. The slope has a single narrow terrace approximately mid-way between the flat peak and the base at the street level that has a concrete path edged with Arroyo stones. A rock retaining wall is at the base of the slope along the street. A house with attached garage was built on the property in 1956 and is non-contributing to the district.

8. 485 Madeline Drive

Two contributing structures (extensive network of concrete paths with steps, rock retaining walls and rock planters; one man-made pond), one contributing building (Mill building, converted to single-family house), one non-contributing building (detached garage)

This sloping property at the southern end of the district is the most significant property in the district because it retains the greatest number of features from the original gardens, as well as the only remaining building. The property is elevated substantially from street level similar to the adjacent easterly property at 477 Madeline Drive and the pathway on that property connects to the pathway at 485 Madeline Drive, which has an extensive network of pathways and stairs traversing the hilly property. In roughly the eastern center of the property is an original building from Busch Gardens that was known as the "Old Mill." The original building had an irregular plan with a footprint approximately 546 square feet in size and was four stories high. A two-story addition, attached to the southeast corner of the original building, was constructed in 1946 and 1955 to increase the living space in the building to allow for use as a single-family residence. The original portion of the building remains evident on the exterior and has a steeply sloped gabled roof and exterior walls of stone on the first three levels and stucco on the fourth level. Wood half-timbering is placed over the exterior wall materials. The building has wood rectangular and arched windows, some of which have diamond-pane leaded glass. A water wheel is attached to the northern façade of the house, where a waterfall formerly flowed. The area above the water wheel was converted to an outdoor patio for the residence, which has interrupted the flow of water over the wheel. Below the wheel, the former stream and a small pond remain evident. The stream originally flowed under a bridge into a large pond on what is now the adjacent westerly property at 1060 Stoneridge Drive. A detached garage and carport were built at the northwest corner of the property, with driveway access from Stoneridge Drive, in 1965.

9. 1021 S. Orange Grove Boulevard

Two contributing structures (retaining wall & gate), five non-contributing buildings (multi-family residential buildings)

This relatively flat, terraced property was the former site of the "Ivy Wall" mansion which Adolphus and Lilly Busch purchased in 1904. The only remaining features from the site are a retaining wall along the south property line and a metal gate within this wall toward the western end of the property. The property was redeveloped with multi-family housing in five separate buildings in 1953.

10. 475 Orange Grove Circle

One contributing structure (rock planters and concrete faux bois railings and decorative features), one non-contributing building (house and attached garage)

This property is relatively flat with a gently sloping terraced hillside at the western end of the property, behind the house. The property was within a portion of the garden known as the annex, which was added to the garden in 1910 and sold to John Shedd in 1917. The hillside slope has a series of circular rock planters built into it and a pathway at the base that appears to be a newer concrete unit paver design. Along the pathway are some original concrete faux bois log railings and other decorative features. A house with attached garage was built in 1932 and is non-contributing to the district.

11. 485 Orange Grove Circle

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Two contributing structures (network of concrete paths with steps, rock planters and concrete faux bois railings and decorative features; two ponds and fountains), one non-contributing building (house and attached garage)

This property is flat at the eastern end and sloping downward at the western end behind the house. The property was within a portion of the garden known as the annex, which was added to the garden in 1910 and sold to John Shedd in 1917. The sloping portion of the rear has an extensive network of concrete pathways and steps edged in Arroyo stone as well as rock planters. The area also has two large ponds surrounded by retaining walls constructed of large concrete faux boulders. There is also a flat wooden footbridge with support posts of concrete faux bois logs. The ponds, walls and bridge were developed during the period of significance, but after the property was sold to Shedd. A house with attached garage was built on the property in 1956 and is non-contributing to the district

12. 960 Stoneridge Drive

One contributing structure (concrete path), one non-contributing building (house and attached garage)

This property is in the southern center of the district and is relatively flat at the east end with a steep downward slope on the west end behind the house. An Arroyo-stone-lined concrete path is incorporated into the downward slope of the property. A house with attached garage was built on the property in 1948 and is non-contributing to the district.

13. 970 Stoneridge Drive

Two contributing structures (network of concrete paths with steps and rock retaining walls; pond with small waterfall and stepping stones), one non-contributing building (house and attached garage)

This property is in the southern center of the district and is relatively flat at the east end with a steep downward slope on the west end behind the house. A network of Arroyo-stone-lined concrete paths, steps and Arroyo stone retaining walls is incorporated into the downward slope of the property, as well as a pond with a small water fall and concrete plinths that serve as stepping stones when the pond is filled with water (it is currently empty). A house with attached garage was built on the property in 1957 and is non-contributing to the district.

14. 980 Stoneridge Drive

Two contributing structures (network of concrete paths with steps and rock retaining walls; pond with large waterfall), one non-contributing building (house and attached garage)

This property is roughly in the center of the district and is relatively flat at the east end with a steep downward slope on the west end behind the house. A network of Arroyo-stone-lined flagstone paths and steps (which likely replaced original concrete paths and steps) and Arroyo stone retaining walls is incorporated into the downward slope of the property, as well as a pond into which spills a large waterfall formed by a tall rock retaining wall. A house with attached garage was built on the property in 1947 and is non-contributing to the district.

15. 1001 Stoneridge Drive

One contributing structure (network of concrete paths with steps), one non-contributing building (house and attached garage)

This property is roughly in the center of the district and is relatively flat at the east end with a steep downward slope on the west end behind the house. A network of Arroyo-stone-lined decomposed granite paths (which likely replaced original concrete paths), concrete steps and Arroyo stone retaining walls is incorporated into the downward slope of the property. A house with attached garage was built on the property in 1949 and is non-contributing to the district.

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16. 1010 Stoneridge Drive

Two contributing structures (concrete path with steps, decorative plaster retaining wall), one non-contributing building (house and attached garage)

This property is at the northeastern portion of the district and is gently sloping at the west end with a steep upward slope on the east end behind the house. At the northeast edge of the property is a two-tiered concrete retaining wall with decorative volutes. Adjacent to this wall is a concrete stairway edged with Arroyo stones leading to a pathway at the top of the rear slope. A house with attached garage was built on the property in 1951 and is non-contributing to the district.

17. 1020 Stoneridge Drive

One contributing structure (concrete path), one non-contributing building (house and attached garage)

This property is at the northeastern portion of the district and is gently sloping at the west end with a steep upward slope on the east end behind the house. At the top of the rear slope is a pathway edged in Arroyo stones. The pathway is accessed by a newer set of brick stairs. A house with attached garage was built on the property in 1951 and is non-contributing to the district.

18. 1030 Stoneridge Drive

One contributing structure (concrete path, stairs and rock retaining wall), one non-contributing building (house and attached garage)

This property is at the eastern edge of the district and is gently sloping at the west end with a steep upward slope on the east end behind the house. At the top of the rear slope is a pathway edged in Arroyo stones as well as an access stair built in to the hillside and a rock retaining wall into which is incorporated a small concrete seat. A house with attached garage was built on the property in 1951 and is non-contributing to the district.

19. 1040 Stoneridge Drive

One contributing structure (concrete path with stairs and rock retaining walls with built-in bench), one non-contributing building (house and attached garage)

This property is at the eastern edge of the district and is gently sloping at the west end with a steep upward slope on the east end behind the house. The sloping portion has a path and stairs with retaining walls winding up the hillside, terminating in a concrete path edged with Arroyo stones at the peak of the hill. One of the retaining walls has a built-in seat. A house with attached garage was built on the property in 1951 and is non-contributing to the district.

20. 1050 Stoneridge Drive

One contributing structure (concrete path with stairs and rock retaining walls with built-in bench), one non-contributing building (house and attached garage)

This property is at the eastern edge of the district and is gently sloping at the west end with a steep upward slope on the east end behind the house. The sloping portion has a path and stairs with retaining walls winding up the hillside, terminating in a concrete path edged with Arroyo stones at the peak of the hill. A house with attached garage was built on the property in 1954 and is non-contributing to the district.

21. 1060 Stoneridge Drive

Two contributing structures (network of concrete paths with stairs and rock retaining walls; concrete bridge with concrete faux bois railing), one non-contributing structure (former man-made pond converted to swimming pool), one non-contributing building (house and attached garage)

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This property is at the south-central portion of the district and is relatively flat with some gentle upward sloping to the east. A network of concrete paths and steps lined in Arroyo stone traverse the property, one of which has a concrete footbridge with a concrete faux bois log railing. The original garden design included a stream that flowed under this bridge to a man-made pond on this site. The streambed is still evident; however, the pond has since been excavated and converted to a swimming pool, which, although being of a similar shape, no longer retains the original materials or feeling of the former pond. As such, it is a non-contributing feature. A house with attached garage was built on the property 1956 and is non-contributing to this district (although it may be eligible for listing in the National Register under a different context).



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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 for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Entertainment/Recreation

Landscape architecture

Engineering

Social History

**Period of Significance**

1904-1938

**Significant Dates**

See continuation sheet

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Robert Gordon Fraser

**Period of Significance (justification)**

Construction on the gardens began in 1904 and they were open to the public from 1906 through 1938, with some closures.

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

N/A

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

Built beginning in 1904, the Upper Busch Gardens Cultural Landscape Historic District is a locally significant example of the "Busch Gardens Significant Historic Features" property type under the context "Gardens of Health and Pleasure, Early Resorts and Estate Gardens in Pasadena 1873–1929" documented in the Multiple Property Documentation Form "Historic Designed Gardens in Pasadena." It is also an example of the work of landscape designer and nurseryman Robert Gordon Fraser, in close collaboration with owner Adolphus Busch. It meets National Register criterion A for its association with Busch Gardens, a significant tourist attraction in Pasadena's early history, and criterion C as a collection of notable design features of Busch Gardens and meets registration requirements listed in the Multiple Property Documentation Form.

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

The Upper Busch Gardens Cultural Landscape Historic District is locally significant under Criteria A & C. Under criterion A, the district is associated with Busch Gardens, a significant tourist attraction in Pasadena's early history. As described in more detail in the Multiple Property Documentation Form "Historic Designed Gardens in Pasadena," Busch Gardens was an approximately 30-acre botanical garden developed on the estate of Adolphus and Lilly Busch that was open to the public from 1906 to 1928 and sporadically between 1933 and 1938. The gardens played a significant role in the development of the City of Pasadena as a tourist destination and a location for sophisticated garden design. The gardens were visited by millions of people over the course of its operation and the Pacific Electric rail line incorporated a Busch Gardens stop to allow for better access by the large number of garden visitors. Multitudes of events occurred at the gardens including botanical exhibitions, charity events and motion picture filming. The gardens were consistently featured in advertisements intended to draw tourists to the City and articles about developments and events in the gardens were frequently published in the local newspaper. The significance of the gardens to the development of the City cannot be understated.

The district is also significant under criterion C as a collection of notable landscape design features of Busch Gardens. Although the gardens were redeveloped with single-family residences, many features of the garden were incorporated into the newer development. Many of these features are on hillsides and ridges that were not able to be built on, resulting in their preservation. The features continue to convey their association with Busch Gardens due to their distinctive design and workmanship. All features are in their original locations and, using historical photographs and aerials, each feature's connection to Busch Gardens has been verified and their integrity of location, design, materials, and workmanship has been confirmed. As such, the district meets the registration requirements established in the Multiple Property Documentation Form for the "Busch Gardens Significant Historic Features, 1904–1937" property type under the context of "Gardens of Health and Pleasure, Early Resorts and Estate Gardens in Pasadena 1873–1929."

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

N/A – Historic context documented in Multiple Property Documentation Form "Historic Designed Gardens in Pasadena."

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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

Permit research materials, assessor's records and newspaper/article clippings in files, Planning Department, City of Pasadena (referenced in August 2012).

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Logan, Michael, and Gary Cowles. *The Original Busch Gardens, Pasadena, CA*. The Pasadena Gardens, 2005. Web. 2 Oct 2012. <www.pasadenagardens.com>.

Photographs and ephemera in possession of Michael Logan and Gary Cowles (referenced in March 2011 and October 2012)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

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

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 10.27  
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

- |   |       |         |          |   |       |         |          |
|---|-------|---------|----------|---|-------|---------|----------|
| 1 | _____ | _____   | _____    | 3 | _____ | _____   | _____    |
|   | Zone  | Easting | Northing |   | Zone  | Easting | Northing |
| 2 | _____ | _____   | _____    | 4 | _____ | _____   | _____    |
|   | Zone  | Easting | Northing |   | Zone  | Easting | Northing |

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

The district is generally bound by easterly property lines of 1021 S. Orange Grove Boulevard, 1020-1050 Stoneridge Drive and 477 Madeline Drive on the east; Madeline Drive and southerly property lines of 570 Busch Place and 960 Stoneridge Drive on the south; westerly property lines of 570 & 571 Busch Place, and 570, 571 and 579 Garden Lane on the west and northerly property lines of 579 Garden Lane, 475 Orange Grove Circle, 1010 Stoneridge Drive and 1021 S. Orange Grove Boulevard on the south.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries were selected because they encompass the extent of properties that retain remnant features associated with Upper Busch Gardens.

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Kevin Johnson/Planner

Upper Busch Gardens Cultural Landscape  
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organization City of Pasadena date October 4, 2012  
street & number 175 N. Garfield Avenue telephone (626) 744-7806  
city or town Pasadena state CA zip code 91101  
e-mail kevinjohnson@cityofpasadena.net

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### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

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

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### Photographs:

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

The following is the same for all photographs:

Name of Property: Upper Busch Gardens Cultural Landscape Historic District  
City: Pasadena  
County: Los Angeles  
State: California  
Name of Photographer: Kevin Johnson  
Location of Original Digital Files: 175 N. Garfield Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91101

Number, Description & Date of Photographs:

1. Old Mill – north and west facades – 485 Madeline Drive – June 1, 2012
2. Pond west of Old Mill – 485 Madeline Drive – June 1, 2012
3. Rock seat on Old Mill site – 485 Madeline Drive – June 1, 2012
4. Steps and path on Old Mill site – 485 Madeline Drive – June 1, 2012
5. Bridge & faux bois railing west of Old Mill – 1060 Stoneridge Drive May 18, 2012
6. Faux bois fountain – 570 Busch Place – October 12, 2012
7. Decorative retaining walls – 1010 Stoneridge Drive – April 20, 2012
8. Ponds, steps & retaining walls – 485 Orange Grove Circle – February 21, 2012
9. Footbridge with faux bois log supports – 485 Orange Grove Circle – February 21, 2012
10. Faux bois railing detail – 475 Orange Grove Circle – February 16, 2012
11. Typical stair & retaining wall – 579 Garden Lane – February 16, 2012
12. Typical pathway – 579 Garden Lane – February 16, 2012
13. Typical rock planters – 475 Orange Grove Circle – February 16, 2012

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14. Lawn terracing – 475 Orange Grove Circle – February 16, 2012

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**Property Owner:**

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

name Multiple owners – see attached ownership list  
street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

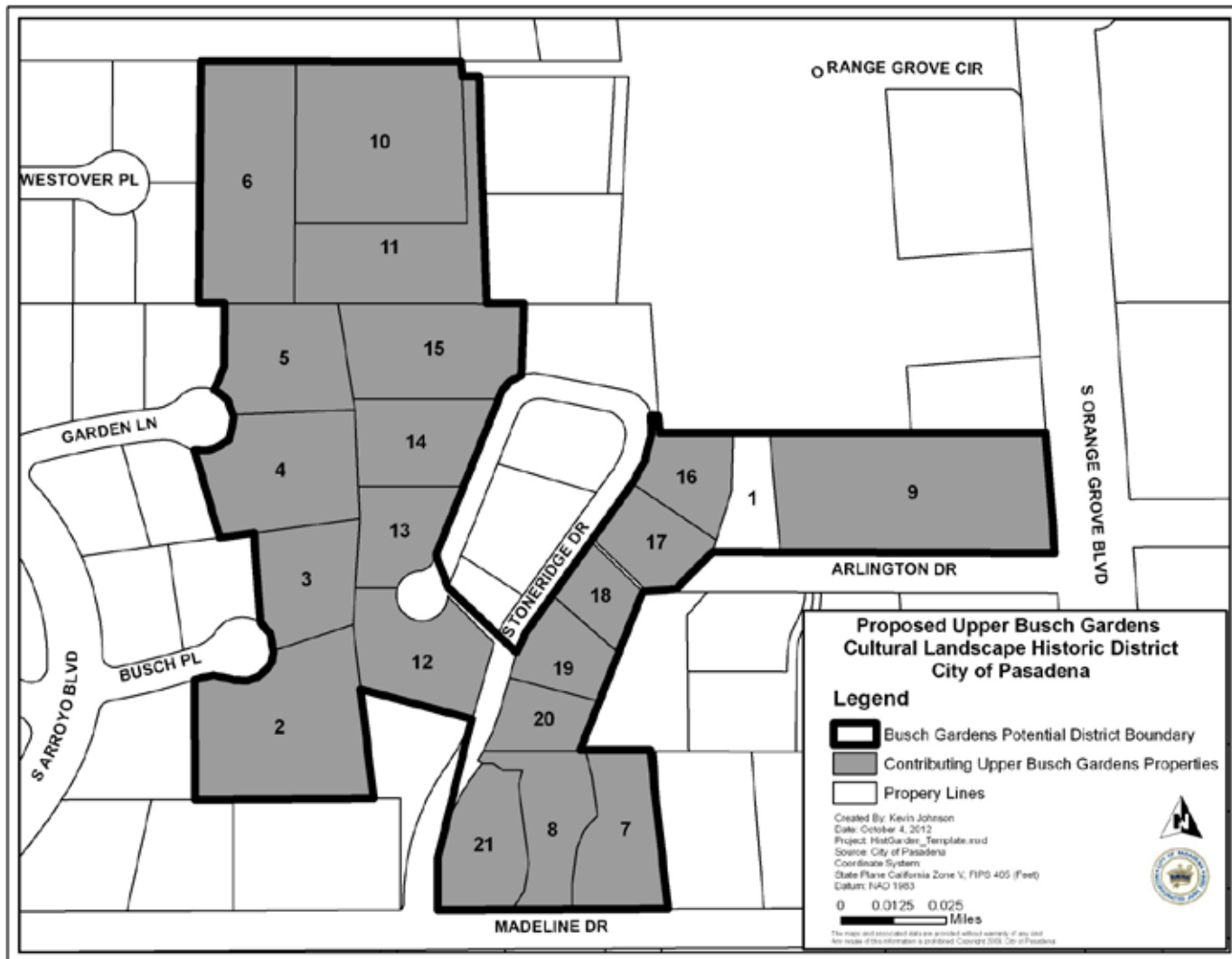
**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

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**SKETCH MAP**



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**AERIAL MAP**



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**1937 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH**



Photo from [www.pasadenagardens.com](http://www.pasadenagardens.com)



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**PANORAMIC VIEW OF UPPER GARDENS, 1909**



Photograph by Harold A. Parker

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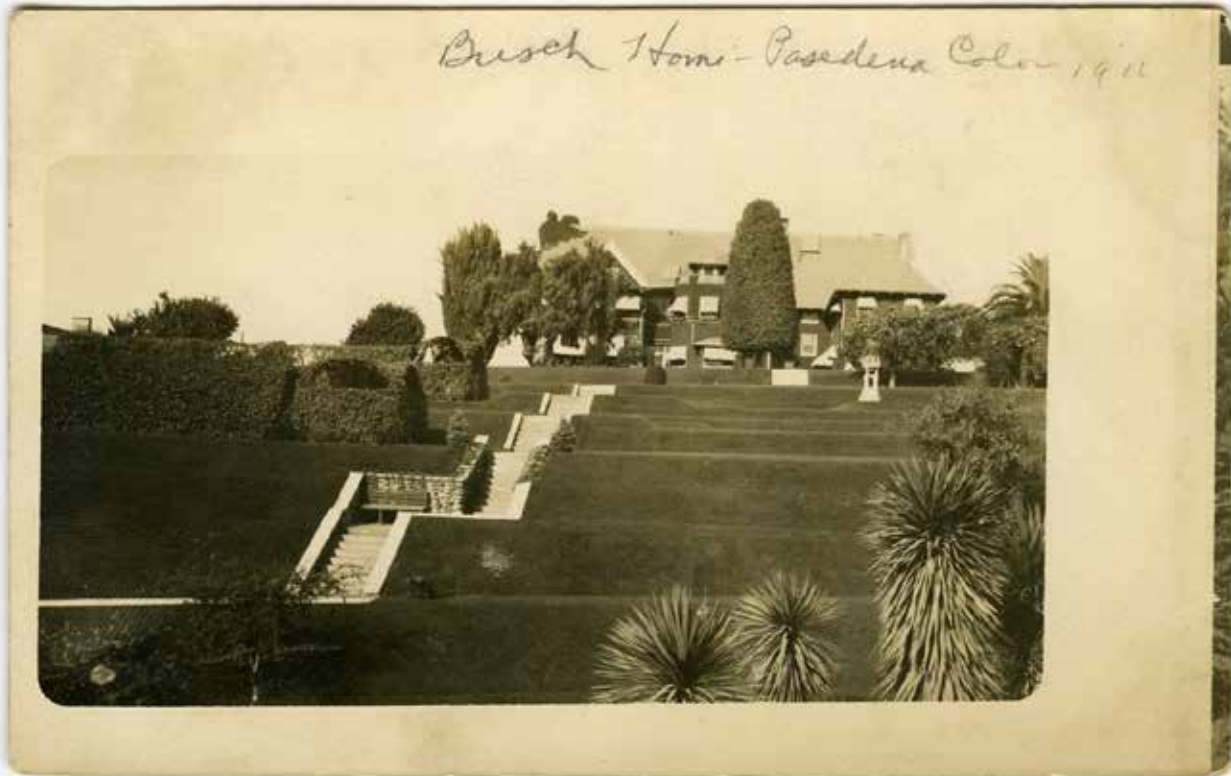
**OLD MILL & BRIDGE, DATE & PHOTOGRAPHER UNKNOWN**



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**GARDENS AT REAR OF IVY WALL MANSION, 1911**



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**TERRACING & LARGE PATHWAY (PORTION OF PATHWAY NOW STONERIDGE DRIVE), 1909**



Photograph by Graham Photo Co.



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

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

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Upper Busch Gardens Cultural Landscape Historic District
----- Name of Property Los Angeles County, CA
----- County and State Historic Designed Gardens in Pasadena
----- Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

**SIGNIFICANT DATES**

1903: Construction on gardens begins

1905: Adolphus Busch acquires 12 acres from W.W. McGregory on Madeline and Arroyo Drives

1907: Off-site water pumping plant established to provide water for irrigation and future ponds, waterfalls, fountains & lake

1909: Gardens opened to public (no admission fee)

1910: Adolphus Busch acquires 12 additional acres from Mrs. Benjamin Blossom, expanding the boundaries of the gardens further north (the area was known as "the Annex")

1913: Adolphus Busch dies

1917: The Annex sold to John Shedd, who added significant garden features to those that were developed by Busch

1919: Gardens closed to public; subdivision of gardens for residential lots threatened

1920: Gardens re-opened to public; admission fee instated to benefit Pasadena Hospital Association

1921: American Legion assumes operation of gardens and benefit of admission fee

1928: Lily Busch dies, gardens closed to public

1933: Gardens re-opened to public; admission fee to benefit Pasadena Civic Relief Association (a charity that provided assistance to the unemployed)

1935: Gardens re-opened to public; admission fee to benefit American Legion

1937: First portion of gardens sold for private development

1938: Remaining portions of gardens closed to public