



NAME	Automobile Club of Southern California			REF. NO. 74
ADDRESS	717-719 North Main Street			
CITY	Santa Ana	ZIP	92701	ORANGE COUNTY
YEAR BUILT	1930	LOCAL REGISTER CATEGORY: Contributive		
HISTORIC DISTRICT	N/A	NEIGHBORHOOD	French Park	
NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION	A, C	NATIONAL REGISTER STATUS CODE	5S1	

Location: Not for Publication Unrestricted

USGS 7.5" Quad _____ Date: _____ T _____ R _____ ¼ of _____ ¼ of Sec _____ : _____ B.M.

Prehistoric Historic Both

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival

DESCRIPTION/BACKGROUND RELATED TO PERIOD ARCHITECTURE:

The Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival style, as its name implies, encompasses two major subcategories. The Mission Revival vocabulary, popular between 1890 and 1920, drew its inspiration from the missions of the Southwest. Identifying features include curved parapets (or *espadana*); red tiled roofs and coping; low-pitched roofs, often with overhanging eaves; porch roofs supported by large, square piers; arches; and wall surfaces commonly covered in smooth stucco. The Spanish Colonial Revival flourished between 1915 and 1940, reaching its apex during the 1920s and 1930s. The movement received widespread attention after the Panama-California Exposition in San Diego in 1915, where lavish interpretations of Spanish and Mexican prototypes were showcased. Easily recognizable hallmarks of the Spanish Colonial Revival are low-pitched roofs, usually with little or no overhangs and red tile roof coverings; flat roofs surrounded by tiled parapets; and stuccoed walls. The Spanish vocabulary also includes arches, asymmetry, balconies and patios, window grilles, and wood, wrought iron, tile, or stone decorative elements.

CONSTRUCTION HISTORY: (Construction data, alterations, and date of alterations)

October 9, 1930. Office Building.	November 20, 1972. Tile storefront.
August 1, 1939. Alteration.	March 9, 1977. Repair fire damage.
January 3, 1956. Alteration within business building.	November 16, 1977. Conversion to restaurant.
November 1, 1961. Plaster over existing brick, new walk and paint.	April 23 1984. Seismic rehab.
December 21, 1965. Interior alterations.	

RELATED FEATURES: (Other important features such as barns, sheds, fences, prominent or unusual trees, or landscape)

None.

DESCRIPTION: (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, settings, and boundaries.)

Located on the southeast corner of Main and Eighth Streets, this is a one and two-story building in the Spanish Colonial Revival style. Of brick construction, the building is topped, on the street elevations, by a gabled roof covered in red clay tiles. Small cupolas mark the transitions on both elevations between roof levels. Shaped rafter tails are visible in the eaves. The primary elevation faces west and is asymmetrical in composition. A large bay recessed between plain piers occupies the north two thirds of the façade and contains a large, twelve-light display window, an entry, and a wood paneled section, all set beneath a wall decorated in a checkerboard pattern. At the south end of the façade, a large, arched, multi-light window set atop a solid base fills a single bay. The north elevation features an irregular arrangement of single and double windows, either fixed sash or casement in type, topped by heavy, wooden headers. A row of bricks set at an angle projects from the wall at the eaves in a cornice decoration. At the east end, an arched entry and an "X" patterned grille are notable features. Alterations include the modification of the west storefront, including the enclosure of a central vehicular opening, application of tile to create the checkerboard design, re-glazing of some windows, and based on the condition of the bricks, removal of stucco from the west elevation.

HISTORIC HIGHLIGHTS:

This building was constructed in 1930 by the Barrows Construction Company for owner A. D. Clayton at a cost of \$15,400. According to the 1931 city directory, the tenant was the Automobile Club of Southern California (Elmer E. Heidt, manager). The Auto Club, founded by ten Los Angeles car enthusiasts in 1900, initially devoted itself to signposting, campaigning on behalf of better roads, and publishing maps and guidebooks. In 1914 the first branch office, located in San Diego, was opened. Over the years the Auto Club expanded its mission to include insurance underwriting, highway planning and advocacy, emergency road service, and other transportation related activities. This building was converted into the Sombrero Street Restaurant in 1977.

RESOURCE ATTRIBUTES: (List attributes and codes from Appendix 4 of Instructions for Recording Historical Resources, Office of Historic Preservation.)

(HP 6) 1-3 story Commercial Building

RESOURCES PRESENT:

Building Structure Object Site District Element of District Other

MOVED? No Yes Unknown Date: _____ Original Location: _____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: (Discuss importance in terms of historical or architectural context as defined by theme, period, geographic scope, and integrity.)

Santa Ana was founded by William Spurgeon in 1869 as a speculative townsite on part of the Spanish land grant known as Rancho Santiago de Santa Ana. Early growth and development was stimulated by the arrival of the Southern Pacific Railroad in 1878 and the Santa Fe Railroad in 1886. By the end of the 1880s, Santa Ana’s downtown business district was defined by five city blocks of brick commercial buildings on Fourth Street, with the heart of the city at the intersection of Fourth and Main Streets.

The period of 1911-1915 saw many new business blocks or remodels along Fourth Street, and by the 1920s Santa Ana’s downtown had expanded in all directions to include both commercial and civic development. The California style of living evidenced itself in the abundance of Spanish Colonial Revival style buildings, which were commonly built during the 1920s and early 1930s. As Santa Ana grew, its reliance on the automobile also increased, and numerous buildings were erected to house the many activities associated with automobile use. By 1925 a significant concentration of buildings with automobile related uses were had located in and around the downtown commercial and civic core. The Automobile Club of Southern California is historically significant as part of this history and architecturally significant for its use of the Spanish Colonial Revival style. Character-defining exterior features of the building, which should be preserved, include but may not be limited to: brick construction, roof configuration and materials, cupola, asymmetrical design, and original fenestration where extant.

SUMMARY/CONCLUSION:

This resource is currently listed in the Santa Ana Register of Historical Property. It is significant under Criterion 1 in that it embodies the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural building period associated with a specific period of development. The Automobile Club of Southern California has been categorized as “Contributive” because the building “contributes to the overall character and history” of Santa Ana due to its association with the automobile, which greatly influenced development patterns in Southern California, “is a good example of period architecture” in its use of the Spanish Colonial Revival style popular during the 1920s, and “has not been substantially altered” (Municipal Code, Section 30-2.2).

OWNER AND ADDRESS: _____

RECORDED BY: (Name, affiliation, and address)
Leslie J. Heumann
Science Applications International Corporation
35 S. Raymond Avenue, Suite 204, Pasadena, CA 91105

DATE RECORDED: September 4, 2001

SURVEY TYPE: (Intensive, reconnaissance, or other)
Intensive Survey Update

REPORT CITATION: (Cite survey report and other sources)
City of Santa Ana. *Santa Ana's Historic Treasures.*

REFERENCES: (List documents, date of publication, and page numbers. May also include oral interviews.)
Harris, Cyril M. *American Architecture: An Illustrated Encyclopedia.* New York, WW Norton, 1998.
Marsh, Diann. *Santa Ana, An Illustrated History.* Encinitas, Heritage Publishing, 1994.
McAlester, Virginia and Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses.* New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984.
National Register Bulletin 16A. "How to Complete the National Register Registration Form."
Washington DC: National Register Branch, National Park Service, US Dept. of the Interior, 1991.
Whiffen, Marcus. *American Architecture Since 1780.* Cambridge: MIT Press, 1969.
Internet: "Paving the Way: Highlights in Auto Club History, 1900-2000."
www.scvhistory.com/scvhistory/westways1100.htm

EVALUATOR: Leslie J. Heumann **DATE OF EVALUATION:** September 4, 2001

EXPLANATION OF CODES:

- National Register Criteria for Evaluation: (From Appendix 7 of Instructions for Recording Historical Resources, Office of Historic Preservation)
 - A:** that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
 - C:** that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.

- National Register Status Code: (From Appendix 2 of Instructions for Recording Historical Resources, Office of Historic Preservation)
 - 5S1:** Is separately listed or designated under an existing local ordinance, or is eligible for such listing or designation.