



City of Arts & Innovation

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT Planning Division

HISTORIC DESIGNATION (HD)

AGENDA ITEM NO.: 4

WARD: 3

CULTURAL HERITAGE BOARD HEARING DATE: September 18, 2013

I. CASE NUMBER: P13-0478

II. PROJECT SUMMARY:

- 1) **Proposal:** Historic Designation request by the City of Riverside to designate the former Marcy Branch Library, located at 3711 Central Avenue situated on the northerly side of Central Avenue approximately 500 feet east of Magnolia Avenue, as a City Landmark.
- 2) **Location:** 3711 Central Avenue
- 3) **Applicant:** Lisa Andresen, City of Riverside
3900 Main Street, Riverside, CA 92522
951-826-5115
- 4) **Case Planner:** Teri Delcamp, Historic Preservation Senior Planner
(951) 826-2117
tdelcamp@riversideca.gov

III. RECOMMENDATION:

That the Cultural Heritage Board recommend that the City Council:

1. **DETERMINE** that P13-0478, City Landmark Designation, is categorically exempt per the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) per Section 15308 of the CEQA Guidelines; and
2. **APPROVE** Planning Case P13-0478 based on the facts for findings outlined below and thereby the designation of the former Marcy Branch Library as a City Landmark and add the CR – Cultural Resources Overlay Zone to the property.

FACTS FOR FINDINGS: (From Sections 20.20.030 and 20.50.101(U) of the Riverside Municipal Code)

FINDINGS: Criterion 1: Exemplifies or reflects special elements of the City's cultural, social, economic, political, aesthetic, engineering, architectural, or natural history.

FACTS: The proposed designation complies with this finding because the former Marcy Branch Library represents the profound need for expanded city services that occurred after World War II. Several bond measures were placed on the ballot for the construction of fire stations, libraries, and schools. A \$440 million bond measure in 1952 facilitated the construction of a new fire station completed in 1957 that replaced the original Downtown station. Prior to World War II, the Riverside Public Library system consisted of two Carnegie libraries: the Downtown Library and the Arlington Branch. In 1958, a third branch opened in the collection: the Mid-century Modern Marcy Branch. The original Downtown Library was demolished and replaced with a New Formalist style building that opened in 1965. Other development in the Downtown included the 1958 County of Riverside Law Offices of the Public Defender; the 1965 City of Riverside Police Department Building; the 1969 Riverside County Law Library; and the 1975 Riverside City Hall. Virtually all of these civic and public institutional buildings built in Riverside during this post-war period embody the design philosophies and vocabularies of modern architectural styles, including the former Marcy Branch Library that is distinguished by its innovative circular plan.

FINDINGS: Criterion 3: Embodies distinctive characteristics of a style, type, period or method of construction, or is a valuable example of the use of indigenous materials or craftsmanship.

FACTS: The proposed designation complies with this finding because the former Marcy Branch Library exemplifies the Mid-century Modern architectural style. Mid-century Modernism is often characterized by a clear expression of structure and materials, large expanses of glass, and open interior plan. Character-defining features of the style include simple geometric forms; post-and-beam construction; flat or low-pitched gabled roofs; flush mounted steel-frame windows or large single-paned, wood-framed windows; exterior staircases, decks, patios, and balconies; and brick or stone often used as primary or accent material. The former Marcy Branch Library exhibits significant character-defining features of the style, including simple geometric forms, horizontal massing, direct expression of the structural system, flat roof with wide-overhanging eaves, and floor-to-ceiling windows. At the time of its construction, it was the only library in the United States with a circular plan. The circular plan and method of construction allowed for a lack of interior walls, addressing the need for floor space, storage capacity, and flexibility.

FINDINGS: Criterion 4: Represents the work of a notable builder, designer, or architect, or important creative individual.

FACTS: The proposed designation complies with this finding because the former Marcy Branch Library was designed by renowned local architect Herman Ruhnau, FAIA. Ruhnau was identified as a local master architect in the approved 2009 Modernism Context Statement survey. In addition to the former Marcy Branch Library, Ruhnau designed a dozen other Modernist buildings in Riverside. He became a fellow of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) in 1974. In 1979, a newspaper called Ruhnau the dominant figure in Riverside architecture after World War II. Before his death in 2006, Ruhnau received the lifetime achievement award from the Inland Chapter of the AIA.

IV. BACKGROUND/HISTORY:

The City of Riverside is requesting to designate the former Marcy Branch Library (Library) at 3711 Central Avenue as a City Landmark. The designation would encompass the building and its related parking lot parcel. The City has entered into an exclusive negotiating agreement with Concours LP to purchase the two parcels. The site will be adaptively re-used as a dental office that is compatible with the existing site and architecture. Any proposed alterations to the site will be subject to the requirements of Title 20 for Certificates of Appropriateness. The designation and the granting of a façade easement over the exterior of the building are required as part of the ownership transfer transaction, and Concours LP concurs with these actions. Moreover, the pending owners have submitted a Mills Act application which will be considered after historic designation is effective. The designation and Mills Act contract will further ensure the future preservation of this Mid-Century Modern historic resource.

This staff report was created entirely from the survey evaluation forms prepared as part of the 2009 Modernism Context Statement approved by the City Council in 2010, and the current on-going Intensive Modernism Survey being prepared under the City's Certified Local Government grant by the City's consultant, Historical Resources Group.

The growth in population in the immediate post-World War II period created a profound need for expanded city services. The Marcy Branch Library (Library) at 3711 Central Avenue was constructed in 1957, funded in part by a bequest from Riverside resident Charles F. Marcy. The Library was designed by noted local architect Herman Ruhnau (1912-2007). Ruhnau was born September 1, 1912 in Pasadena. He spent his childhood in Santa Barbara, and then moved to Riverside in 1929. He studied architecture at the University of Southern California. He was an architect for the U.S. Navy during the World War II and helped design the U.S. Naval Hospital in Norco. In 1946, he opened a Riverside branch office for Heitschmidt and Matcham, a Los Angeles-based architecture firm. In 1950, Ruhnau founded his own firm. Much of his work is in Riverside, and includes homes, banks and other commercial buildings, and numerous government facilities. In 1975, he completed two high-profile commissions in Riverside, the Riverside City Hall and the Riverside County Administration Center. In 1979, a newspaper called Ruhnau the dominant figure in Riverside architecture after World War II. He also designed farm labor housing and County fairground buildings in Indio. He became an AIA Fellow in 1974. Before his death in 2006, Ruhnau received the lifetime achievement award from the Inland Chapter of the AIA. Ruhnau's firm is still operational today as Ruhnau Ruhnau Clarke, and his son David is one of the principals. The firm has offices in Riverside and Carlsbad.

The Library is an excellent example of Mid-century Modern civic architecture in Riverside. Mid-century Modern is a term used to describe the postwar iteration of the International Style in both residential and commercial design. The International Style was characterized by geometric forms, smooth wall surfaces, and an absence of exterior decoration. Mid-century Modern represents the adaptation of these elements to the local climate and topography, as well as to the postwar need for efficiently-built, moderately-priced homes. In Southern California, this often meant the use of wood post-and-beam construction. Mid-century Modernism is often characterized by a clear expression of structure and materials, large expanses of glass, and open interior plan. Character-defining features of the style include simple geometric forms; post-and-beam construction; flat or low-pitched gabled roofs; flush mounted steel-frame windows or large single-paned, wood-framed windows; exterior staircases, decks, patios, and balconies; and brick

or stone often used as primary or accent material. There are several other prominent examples of Mid-Century Modern architecture in Riverside including office buildings, schools, university/college campus buildings, churches and private residences.

The Library exhibits significant character-defining features of the Mid-century Modern style, including simple geometric forms, horizontal massing, direct expression of the structural system, flat roof with wide-overhanging eaves, and floor-to-ceiling windows. At the time of its construction, it was the only library in the United States with a circular plan. The circular plan and method of construction allowed for a lack of interior walls, addressing the need for floor space, storage capacity, and flexibility.

The Library continued in its original use until March 2011. The functional operation of the Library moved to the first floor of the former Auto Club of Southern California office located at 6927 Magnolia Avenue in May 2011, leaving the former Library vacant.

V. ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

The former Marcy Branch Library (Library) is a one-story, 4,275 square foot steel-framed building originally constructed in 1957. It is currently vacant. The Mid-Century Modern Library is distinguished by its circular plan and its flat roof. The Library is set back from the sidewalk and flanked on the east and west by small surface parking lots; the lot to the east is the one associated with the Library. There is a small rectangular volume projecting from the south façade which houses restroom facilities; at the front of this volume is a brick wall that originally included the library signage, which has been removed and stored by the City Library Department. The building is constructed of stack bond Roman brick on a concrete slab. The roof is framed with laminated wood beams arranged in a radiating pattern that project beyond the edge of the roof. The beams are exposed both in the interior and exterior ceiling/soffit and above the roof, and are supported by unobtrusive steel columns. The roof has a substantial overhang on the south and east façades. On the south façade, the roof overhang creates a sheltered entryway over the primary, recessed entrance. The primary entrance has a single, fully-glazed metal door, sidelights, and transom. A secondary entrance on the east façade has double wood doors with their original hardware. Fenestration, which is concentrated on the east façade, consists of fixed, floor-to-ceiling metal sash windows with alternating blue and white colored panels in the bottom section. The north façade has a small rectangular volume that houses mechanical equipment. On the west façade, a wood fence shelters an exterior patio. Modern materials such as the composite aluminum/plastic of the sky dome over the central desk, plate glass windows only in the entrance area to maximize wall space, and the lack of interior bearing walls with two folding doors to allow flexibility in space usage are only a few Mid-Century Modern elements found in the Library.

VI. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The former Marcy Branch Library retains its integrity and continues to convey its historic significance. According to the survey evaluations, it is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, the California Register, and as a local Landmark. Therefore, a status code that represents the Library's eligibility for designation has been assigned: **3S – individual property that appears eligible for the National Register**. The Library is an excellent example of Mid-century Modern civic architecture in Riverside, especially noted for innovative circular plan. It is eligible as the work of significant local architect Herman Ruhnau. Based on the evaluations, the

former Marcy Branch Library appears to be eligible for local listing as a City Landmark under criteria: 1, *Exemplifies or reflects special elements of the city's cultural, social, economic, political, aesthetic, engineering, architectural, or natural history*; 3, *Embodies distinctive characteristics of a style, type, period or method of construction, or is a valuable example of the use of indigenous materials or craftsmanship*; and 4, *Represents the work of a notable builder, designer or architect or important creative individual* in Section 20.50.010(U) of Title 20 of the Municipal Code as described in the facts for findings above. A detailed statement of significance and additional information are provided in the attached Designation Application (Exhibit 3).

VII. PUBLIC NOTICE AND COMMENTS:

Public notices were published in one newspaper of general circulation within the City, and mailed to property owners and occupants within 300 feet of the site, at least ten (10) days prior to the hearing. No comments have been received to date.

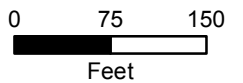
VIII. EXHIBITS:

1. Location Map
2. Aerial Photograph
3. Designation Application
4. Historic Photograph
5. Current Photograph(s)

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Teri Delcamp, Historic Preservation Senior Planner

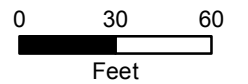


P13-0478, Exhibit 1 - Zoning





P13-0478, Exhibit 2 - 2012 Aerial Photo



**Landmark & Structure of Merit
Cultural Resources Nomination Application**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City Landmark	<input type="checkbox"/> Structure of Merit
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Please check the appropriate designation

IDENTIFICATION

1. Common name: Former Marcy Branch Library
2. Historic Name: Marcy Branch Library
3. Street address: 3711 Central Avenue
City Riverside State CA Zip 92506
4. Assessor Parcel number: 225-124-016, -114
5. Legal Owner: City of Riverside, 3900 Main St.
City Riverside State CA Zip 92522
6. Present Use: Vacant
7. Original Use: Public Library

Date form prepared: August 12, 2013

Preparer: Teri Delcamp, Hist. Pres. Sv. Planner

Sponsoring Organization (if any): City of Riverside, Comm. Dev. Dept.

Address: 3900 Main Street, 3rd Flr.

City, State and Zip: Riverside, CA 92522

Phone: 951-926-2117

DESCRIPTION

- 8. Legal property description: See attached Corrective Grant Deed

- Include approximate property size (in feet): Street Frontage 166' Depth 116'
- 9. Architectural Style: Mid-century Modern
- 10. Construction Date: Estimated 1958 Factual 1957
Source of Information: Assessor's Records Building Permit Sanborn Map
 Publications Oral Interviews
- 11. Architect's Name: Herman Ruhnow Builder's Name: Hoefler Const. Co.
- 12. Condition: Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated
 No longer in existence (for site of)
- 13. Alterations: No significant exterior alterations

- 14. Use type:
 Residential Industrial Commercial Civic
 Other
- 15. Is the structure on its original site?
 Yes No Unknown
If moved, approximate year _____
- 16. Related features and/or outbuildings: None

- 17. Architectural Description See attached DPR forms

SIGNIFICANCE

- 18. Statement of Significance See attached DPR forms

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- 19. References used *See attached DPR Forms*
- 20. Photographs *See attached*
- 21. Letter from property owner (if other than applicant) *N/A*

WHEN RECORDED RETURN TO:

City Clerk
City of Riverside
3900 Main Street
Riverside, CA 92522

Project: Marcy Library
3711 Central Avenue
Riverside, CA 92506
APNs: 225-124-014
225-124-016

DOC # 2011-0230260

05/25/2011 11:58A Fee:NC

Page 1 of 5

Recorded in Official Records

County of Riverside

Larry W. Ward

Assessor, County Clerk & Recorder



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Exempt from Recording Fees pursuant to
Government Code Section 27383

(Space above for Recorder's Use Only)

CORRECTIVE GRANT DEED

D- 16660



FOR VALUABLE CONSIDERATION, receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, **THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE RIVERSIDE PUBLIC LIBRARY,**

does hereby GRANT to

The **CITY OF RIVERSIDE**, a California charter city and municipal corporation,

That certain real property in the City of Riverside, County of Riverside, State of California, described in Exhibit "A", attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

This Corrective Grant Deed is recorded for the sole purpose of correcting certain provisions (noted below) of that certain grant deed dated May 29, 1951, and recorded June 19, 1951, in Riverside County Official Records in Book 1280 at p. 387 et seq., of Official Records, Riverside County, California, as Instrument No. 25941.

NOTE: This Corrective Grant Deed is being recorded to correct the erroneous name of the grantee contained in the Original Grant Deed.

[END - SIGNATURES AND NOTARY ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

ON FOLLOWING PAGES]

Dated: May 17, 2011

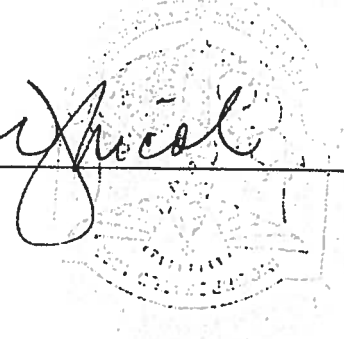
THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
RIVERSIDE PUBLIC LIBRARY

By: Deanna Lorson

Deanna Lorson, Assistant City Manager for
Bradley J. Hudson, City Manager

ATTEST:

By: [Signature]



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CA: 11-1080

APPROVED AS TO FORM
CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

BY [Signature]
Deputy City Attorney



2011-0230268
05/25/2011 11:53AM
2 of 5

STATE OF California

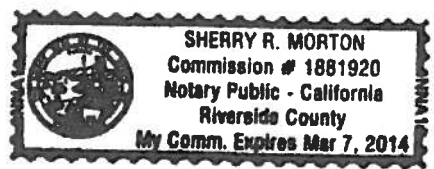
COUNTY OF Riverside

On May 17, 2011, before me, Sherry R. Morton,
Notary Public, personally appeared Deanna Larson and Colleen J. Nicol,
who proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence to be the person(s) whose name(s) is/are
subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged to me that he/she/they executed the same in
his/her/their authorized capacity(ies), and that by his/her/their signature(s) on the instrument the
person(s), or the entity upon behalf of which the person(s) acted, executed the instrument.

I certify under PENALTY of PERJURY under the laws of the State of California that the
foregoing paragraph is true and correct.

WITNESS my hand and official seal.

Sherry R. Morton
Signature of Notary Public



(Seal)

**CERTIFICATE OF ACCEPTANCE
(Government Code Section 27281)**

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that the interest in real property conveyed by the within instrument to the City of Riverside, California, a municipal corporation, is hereby accepted by the undersigned officer on behalf of the City Council of said City pursuant to authority conferred by Resolution No. 21027 of said City Council adopted September 6, 2005, and the grantee consents to recordation thereof by its duly authorized officer.

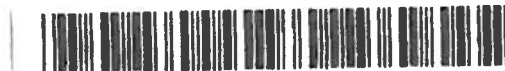
Dated 5-17-11

CITY OF RIVERSIDE

By Wendy J. Holland

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

By: [Signature]
Deputy City Attorney



2011-0230260
05/25/2011 11:58A
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EXHIBIT A

DESCRIPTION

That portion of the West half of the Southeast quarter of the Northwest quarter of Section 34 in Township 2 South, Range 5 West, San Bernardino Base and Meridian, by metes and bounds: Commencing at a point on the East line of said West half, distant 5 feet North of the original North line of Central Avenue; Thence North on the said East line, 150 feet; Thence West parallel with the North line of Central Avenue, 56.65 feet; Thence South 150 feet to a point distant 56.34 feet West of the point of beginning; Thence East parallel with the North line of Central Avenue, 56.34 feet to the point of beginning.

EXCEPTING therefrom the Southerly 18 feet thereof as conveyed to the City of Riverside by deed recorded June 29, 1949 in Book 1088 page 234, Official Records, Riverside County, California, for the construction and maintenance of a city street.

ALSO that portion of the West half of the Southeast quarter of the Northwest quarter, of Section 34 in Township 2 South, Range 5 West, San Bernardino Base and Meridian, by metes and bounds, beginning at a point 5 feet North of the original North line of Central Avenue and 56.34 feet West of the East line of the West half of the Southeast quarter of the Northwest quarter of said Section 34; Thence North 150 feet to a point 56.65 feet West of the said East line of the West half of the Southeast quarter of the Northwest quarter of said Section; Thence West and parallel with the North line of Central Avenue, 52 feet; Thence South 150 feet to a point 52 feet West of the point of beginning; Thence East parallel with the North line of Central Avenue, 52 feet to the point of beginning.

EXCEPTING therefrom the Southerly 18 feet thereof as conveyed to the City of Riverside by deed recorded June 29, 1949 in Book 1088 page 234, Official Records, Riverside County, California, for the construction and maintenance of a city street.

- SUBJECT TO:
1. Taxes for the fiscal year 1951-1952
 2. Conditions, restrictions, reservations, easements, rights and rights of way of record.
 3. Sewer Assessments of record.

DESCRIPTION APPROVAL

BY: K. Brown 5/24/2011
DATE

FOR: MARK S. BROWN
CITY SURVEYOR



2011-0230260
05/25/2011 11:58A
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State of California The Resources Agency
 DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
PRIMARY RECORD

Primary # _____
 HRI # _____
 Trinomial _____
 NRHP Status Code 3S/5S3

Other Listings _____
 Review Code _____ Reviewer _____ Date _____

Page 1 of 3 *Resource Name or #: (Assigned by recorder) Marcy Branch Library

P1. Other Identifier: _____

*P2. Location: Not for Publication Unrestricted

*a. County Riverside and (P2c, P2e, and P2b or P2d. Attach a Location Map as necessary.)

*b. USGS 7.5' Quad _____ Date _____ T _____; R _____; _____ of _____ of Sec _____; _____ B.M.

c. Address 3711 Central Avenue City Riverside Zip 92506

d. UTM: (Give more than one for large and/or linear resources) Zone _____, _____ mE/ _____ mN

e. Other Locational Data: (e.g., parcel #, directions to resource, elevation, etc., as appropriate)

*P3a. Description: (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries)

This Mid-Century Modern library is distinguished by its circular shape. It is a relatively small (4,275 sq ft) steel-framed structure, one story in height, and covered by a flat roof. Twelve laminated wood beams cantilever over the stacked red brick walls from the center support of the roof. The beams are exposed both in the ceiling and above the roof and are supported by unobtrusive steel columns. The roof overhang extends over approximately one quarter of the building, including the entrance. Inset in the soffit of the overhang are round, recessed can lights. The south elevation contains the entrance and faces Central Avenue. The entrance area is constructed of glass walls, providing visibility into the interior. The building is setback from the street behind the sidewalk and

*P3b. Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) HP15-Educational Building

*P4. Resources Present: Building Structure Object Site District Element of District Other (Isolates, etc.)

P5b. Description of Photo: (view, date, accession #) South elevation
January 22, 2009

*P6. Date Constructed/Age and Source: Historic Prehistoric
 Both
1958, Building Permit

*P7. Owner and Address:

*P8. Recorded by: (Name, affiliation, and address) Susan Wood, UCR & Teresa Grimes; CAJA
523 W. 6th Street, Suite 1134
Los Angeles, CA 90014

*P9. Date Recorded: May 18, 2009

*P10. Survey Type: (Describe) Intensive



*P11. Report Citation: (Cite survey report and other sources, or enter "none.") Modernism Context Statement for the City of Riverside, Certified Local Government Grant

*Attachments: NONE Location Map Continuation Sheet Building, Structure, and Object Record
 Archaeological Record District Record Linear Feature Record Milling Station Record Rock Art Record
 Artifact Record Photograph Record Other (List): _____

State of California The Resources Agency DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION HR# Primary # BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD

Page 2 of 3 *NRHP Status Code 3S/5S3 *Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) Marcy Branch Library B1. Historic Name: Marcy Branch Library B2. Common Name: Marcy Branch Library B3. Original Use: Library B4. Present Use: Library *B5. Architectural Style: Mid-Century Modern *B6. Construction History: (Construction date, alterations, and date of alterations)

1958 constructed, 1965 original terrazzo floor covered with carpet, 2002 bathroom remodel

*B7. Moved? [x] No [] Yes [] Unknown Date: Original Location: *B8. Related Features:

B9a. Architect: Herman Ruhnau b. Builder: Hoefer Construction Co. *B10. Significance: Theme Architecture Area Riverside

Period of Significance 1958 Property Type Library Applicable Criteria C/3

(Discuss importance in terms of historical or architectural context as defined by theme, period, and geographic scope. Also address integrity.)

Marcy Branch Library is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion C. It is significant at the local level in the context of modern architecture in Riverside as an outstanding example of Mid-Century Modernism. Marcy Branch Library was reportedly the only round library in the United States at the time of its construction. The concept of a circular building was not chosen just for novelty, but was the architect's way of addressing the floor space, book capacity, and flexibility of use required by the administration of the public library. Modern materials such as the composite aluminum/plastic of the sky dome over the central desk, plate glass windows only in the entrance area to maximize wall space, and the lack of interior bearing walls with two folding doors to allow flexibility in space usage are only a few Mid-Century Modern elements found in the library. The building was designed by prominent local architect Herman Ruhnau and appears to be one of the best examples of his work.

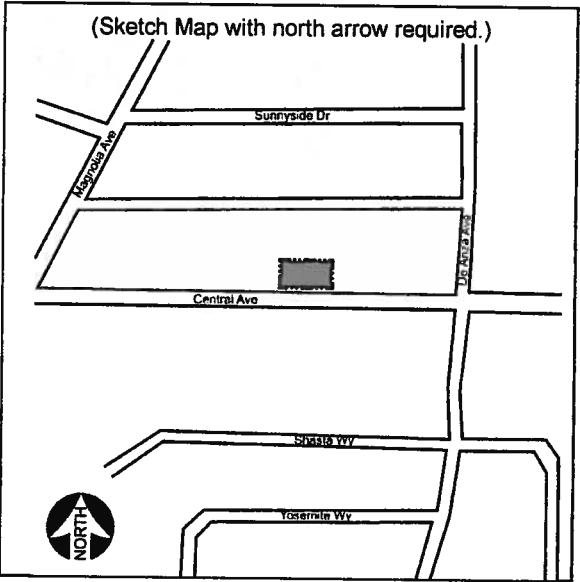
B11. Additional Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) *B12. References:

See continuation sheet.

B13. Remarks:

*B14. Evaluator: Susan Wood and Teresa Grimes *Date of Evaluation: 5/18/09

(This space reserved for official comments.)



State of California The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
CONTINUATION SHEET

Primary # _____
HRI # _____
Trinomial _____

Page 3 of 3

*Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) Marcy Branch Library

*Recorded by: Susan Wood and Teresa Grimes

*Date 5/18/09

Continuation Update

Description continued:

simple low-profile landscaped area with two palm trees. Jutting out from the building, in the same red brick, is a short curved brick wall that connects to a rectangular volume containing restrooms. On the west elevation, facing the street, is the a sign spelling "Marcy Branch Library" in individual metal letters. The east elevation is split visually into two sections. The front (or south) section lies under the roof overhang and is composed of eight flush mounted glass wall sectioned windows framed in black metal. There is an alley to the north and a surface parking lot to the west.

Significance continued:

Ruhnau was born September 1, 1912 in Santa Barbara. His family moved to Pasadena and then to Riverside in 1929. Ruhnau studied architecture at USC. In 1946, he opened a Riverside branch office for Heitschmidt and Matcham, a Los Angeles-based architecture firm. In 1950, Ruhnau founded his own firm. Much of his work was in Riverside. He designed homes, banks, and government facilities. Although he is best known for designing some of the largest public buildings in Riverside, his finest buildings were designed early in his career and are relatively small. They include the Marcy Branch Library and the Cutter Pool House. The Marcy Branch Library retains a high level of integrity with only minor alterations.

References:

"Aramco World." The American Library. March 1959.

Blumenson, John J. Identifying American Architecture: A Pictorial Guide for Styles and Terms, 1600-1945. Nashville: American Association for State and Local History, 1981.

Brown, Eleanor, Frances. Modern Branch Libraries and Libraries in Systems. Metuchen: The Scarecrow Press, 1970.

Building permits, City of Riverside, various dates.

Dales, E. V. "The Marcy Branch Library." Magnolia Center News. March 14, 1958.

Kleim, Marilyn W. and David P. Fogle. Clues to American Architecture. WASHINGTON: Starrhill Press, 1985.

Library Journal. "Library in the Round." Vol. 83, no. 21, December 1, 1968.

"March Branch Library Ready for Dedication." Riverside Daily Press. March 14, 1958.

"Nation's First Circular Library for Riverside." Southwest Builder and Contractor. February 28, 1958.

Rifkind, Carole. A Field Guide for American Architecture. New York: New American Library, 1980.

"Riverside Branch Library Draws International Acclaim." On the Scene. Inland Empire, May 1978.

P13-0478, Exhibit 3

State of California — The Resources Agency DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION PRIMARY RECORD		Primary # HRI # Trinomial NRHP Status Code 3S, 5S3
Other Listings Review Code	Reviewer	Date

Page 1 of 4

*Resource Name or #: Marcy Branch Library

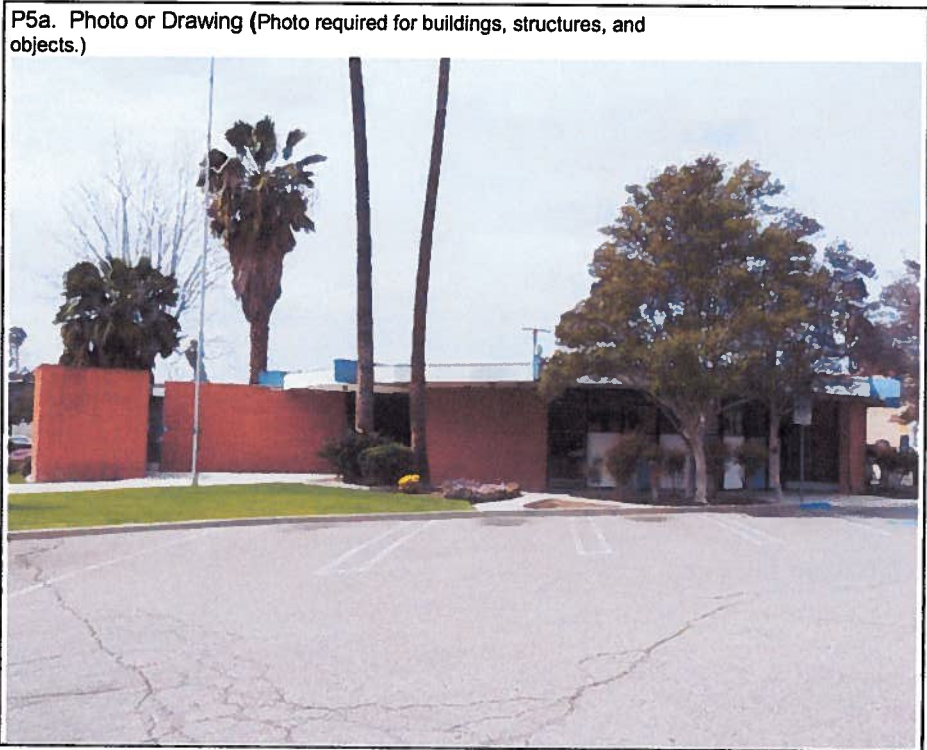
P1. Other Identifier:

- *P2. Location: Not for Publication Unrestricted *a. County: Riverside
 and (P2b and P2c or P2d. Attach a Location Map as necessary.)
 *b. USGS 7.5' Quad: Riverside West Date: May 17, 2012
 c. Address: 3711 Central Avenue City: Riverside Zip: 92501
 e. Other Locational Data: APN 225-124-016-1

*P3a. Description: (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries)
 This property is located on the north side of Central Avenue and contains a one-story building originally constructed in 1957 as the Marcy Branch Library. It is currently vacant. It is set back from the sidewalk and flanked on the east and west by small surface parking lots. It is Mid-century Modern in style, with a circular plan and a flat roof. There is a small rectangular volume projecting from the south façade which houses restroom facilities; at the front of this volume is a brick wall that originally included the library signage, which has been removed. The building is constructed of stack bond Roman brick on a concrete slab. The roof is framed with laminated wood beams arranged in a radiating pattern. The roof has a substantial overhang on the south and east façades. On the south façade, the roof overhang creates a sheltered entryway over the primary, recessed entrance. The primary entrance has a single, fully-glazed metal door, sidelights, and transom. A secondary entrance on the east façade has double wood doors with their original hardware. Fenestration, which is concentrated on the east façade, consists of fixed, floor-to-ceiling metal sash windows with alternating blue and white colored panels in the bottom section. The north façade has a small rectangular volume that houses mechanical equipment. On the west façade, a wood fence shelters exterior reading space.

*P3b. Resource Attributes: HP15 – Educational Building

- *P4. Resources Present: Building Structure Object Site District Element of District Other (Isolates, etc.)



P5b. Description of Photo: (View, date, accession #) View looking Northwest (March 2013)

- *P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources: Historic Prehistoric Both
 1957, building permit

*P7. Owner and Address:

*P8. Recorded by:
 Historic Resources Group
 12 S Fair Oaks Ave, Ste 200
 Pasadena, CA 91105

*P9. Date Recorded:
 March 20, 2013

*P10. Survey Type:
 Intensive

*P11. Report Citation: (Cite survey report and other sources, or enter "none.")

Christopher A. Joseph & Associates, *City of Riverside Modernism Context Statement*, November 2009.
 Historic Resources Group, *Citywide Modernism Intensive Survey*, October 2013.

- *Attachments: NONE Location Map Sketch Map Continuation Sheet Building, Structure, and Object Record
 Archaeological Record District Record Linear Feature Record Milling Station Record Rock Art Record
 Artifact Record Photograph Record Other (List):

State of California — The Resources Agency
 DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Primary #
 HRI#

BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD

Page 2 of 4

*NRHP Status Code 3S, 5S3

*Resource Name or # Marcy Branch Library

- B1. **Historic Name:** Marcy Branch Library
- B2. **Common Name:** Marcy Branch Library
- B3. **Original Use:** Public/library
- B4. **Present Use:** Vacant/not in use
- *B5. **Architectural Style:** Mid-century Modern
- *B6. **Construction History:** (Construction date, alterations, and date of alterations)
 Completed in 1957. There are no significant exterior alterations.
- *B7. **Moved?** No Yes Unknown **Date:** **Original Location:**
- *B8. **Related Features:**

B9a. Architect: Herman Ruhnau; landscape contractor Roy C. Barnett **b. Builder:** Hoefer Construction Company

*B10. **Significance:** **Theme:** Modern Architecture & Architects of Modernism
Area: Riverside
Period of Significance: 1957 **Property Type:** Public/library
Applicable Criteria: C/3/c,d

The Marcy Branch Library at 3711 Central Avenue is an excellent example of Mid-century Modern civic architecture in Riverside. It was designed by noted local architect Herman Ruhnau (1912-2007) and completed in 1957. The growth in population in the immediate post-World War II period created a profound need for expanded city services. The Marcy Branch Library was funded in part by a bequest by Riverside resident Charles F. Marcy. Mid-century Modern is a term used to describe the evolution of the International Style after World War II. Mid-century Modern architecture is more organic and less doctrinaire than the International Style, and it is characterized by more solid wall surfaces. The Marcy Branch Library exhibits significant character-defining features of the style, including simple geometric forms, horizontal massing, direct expression of the structural system, flat roof with wide-overhanging eaves, and floor-to-ceiling windows. At the time of its construction, it was the only library in the United States with a circular plan. The circular plan and method of construction allowed for a lack of interior walls, addressing the need for floor space, storage capacity, and flexibility.

See Continuation Sheet.

B11. **Additional Resource Attributes:** None

*B12. **References:**

See Continuation sheet.

B13. **Remarks:**

*B14. **Evaluator:** Christine Lazzaretto

***Date of Evaluation:** March 20, 2013

(This space reserved for official comments.)



*Recorded by: Historic Resources Group

*Date: March 20, 2013 Continuation

Update

Significance Statement Continued.

Herman Ruhnau was born September 1, 1912 in Pasadena. He spent his childhood in Santa Barbara, and then moved to Riverside in 1929. He studied architecture at the University of Southern California. He was an architect for the U.S. Navy during the World War II and helped design the U.S. Naval Hospital in Norco. In 1946, he opened a Riverside branch office for Heitschmidt and Matcham, a Los Angeles-based architecture firm. In 1950, Ruhnau founded his own firm. Much of his work is in Riverside, and includes homes, banks and other commercial buildings, and numerous government facilities. In 1975, he completed two high-profile commissions in Riverside, the Riverside City Hall and the Riverside County Administration Center. In 1979, a newspaper called Ruhnau the dominant figure in Riverside architecture after World War II. He also designed farm labor housing and County fairground buildings in Indio. He became an AIA Fellow in 1974. Before his death in 2006, Ruhnau received the lifetime achievement award from the Inland Chapter of the AIA. Ruhnau's firm is still operational today as Ruhnau Ruhnau Clarke, and his son David is one of the principals. The firm has offices in Riverside and Carlsbad.

The Marcy Branch Library retains all seven aspects of integrity and continues to convey its historic significance. It appears eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places at the local level of significance, the California Register, and as a local landmark. It is eligible under the Modern Architecture theme as an excellent example of Mid-century Modern civic architecture in Riverside, and for its innovative circular plan. It is eligible under the Architects of Modernism theme as the work of significant local architect Herman Ruhnau.

References

Brown, Eleanor Frances. *Modern Branch Libraries and Libraries in Systems*. Metuchen, New Jersey: The Scarecrow Press, 1970.

City of Riverside Building Permits.

City of Riverside Modernism Context Statement, prepared for the City of Riverside by Christopher A. Joseph & Associates, Los Angeles, CA, November 2009.

County of Riverside Property Information Center.

Dales, E. V. "The Marcy Branch Library," *Magnolia Center News*, March 14, 1958.

"Library in the Round," *Library Journal*, Vol. 83, no. 21, December 1, 1968.

"March Branch Library Ready for Dedication," *Riverside Daily Press*, March 14, 1958.

"Nation's First Circular Library for Riverside," *Southwest Builder and Contractor*, February 28, 1958.

"Riverside Branch Library Draws International Acclaim," *On the Scene: Inland Empire*, May 1978.

Riverside County Land Information System (LIS).

CONTINUATION SHEET

*Recorded by: Historic Resources Group

*Date: March 20, 2013 ■ Continuation

Update



Detail of Entry, looking North (March 2013)



View of West Façade, looking East (March 2013)



P13-0478, Exhibit 4 - Historic Photo



View looking Northwest



View of West Facade looking East

P13-0478, Exhibit 5
Current Photos



Detail of Entry looking North

P13-0478, Exhibit 5
Current Photos