

## Children's Pool Historic District National Register Nomination Update

La Jolla Parks & Beaches. Inc.

La Jolla Historical Society

Lecture Information Sheet, June 27, 2017

### Process & Schedule

Children's Pool historic district will be submitted to the State Office of Historic Preservation that reviews National Register nominations at its quarterly meetings before submitting them to Washington DC for final review. Once completed and reviewed by OHP staff, a nomination package is sent to the local government that has 30 days to comment on the application. At the end of that period, the nomination is scheduled for the next available State Historic Resources commission meeting. The next two scheduled meetings, at locations yet to be announced, are Friday August 3 and Friday October 26. Agendas are determined 75 days prior to a meeting.

### Progress

NR nomination preparation is underway. The Children's Pool Historic District will be evaluated under NR Criterion C for its association with Engineer Hiram Newton Savage and Architect William Templeton Johnson for its innovative engineering and site-specific architecture, influenced by the Beaux Arts tradition, Modernism and organic principles of design. As a privately-sponsored marine bathing pool, it is a unique and rare property type, not only in San Diego, but in the State of California

The property will be nominated at the local level of significance. It's period of significance will be 1920-1931, the timeframe for its planning, design and execution. Only elements present from that period that have integrity will be considered contributors to the district.

### Boundary Map

The boundaries will include elements associated with its original setting, design and construction. Recent activity has focused on identifying the original intent, design, location, material and workmanship of the Children's Pool project. The current integrity of character defining features, identified in historic documentation, has been assessed, using National Register guidance in Bulletin 15: *How to Prepare a National Register Nomination*. This exercise sorted character defining features into "contributing" and non-contributing," based upon their physical integrity and age. Historic District Boundaries have been tentatively set as a result of this analysis and guidance from the NR Bulletin: *Defining Boundaries for National Register Properties*. This guidance excludes features within historic boundaries that no longer retain sufficient integrity to convey their significance. If integrity loss has occurred on the edge of a resource, the district boundaries are drawn to exclude them. In the case of the Children's Pool, the bluff top changes over time have severely impacted original historic fabric to the extent that only the location and design of the parking, landscaping and footpaths remain on the eastern portion of the site. These are flagged for renewal to meet current demands. The western portion of the bluff was once heavily vegetated. The lifeguard station, rest rooms, landscaping and handicap access have obliterated the original plantings and walkway configuration. Consequently, this area no longer contributes to the historic significance of the site associated with its 1920-1931 period of significance under NR Criterion C.

### Contributing & Non-Contributing Features

Man-Made Contributing Features include, but are not limited to:

- Concrete Breakwater, featuring:
  - Reinforced concrete materials
  - An arced shape and tinted concrete walls
  - Concrete walkway and guardrail
  - Pyramidal cross section with shaped exterior wall to repel waves
  - Set of curving concrete steps on interior wall that span the entire pool
  - Sluice gates (no longer functioning)
- Ocean pool and new beach areas created by the breakwater
- Concrete-filled sea caves
- Multi-level concrete access stairway

- West stairway to breakwater walkway
- Bluff top concrete parapet wall & drainage system
- Historic Archaeological foundations from original restrooms

Natural Contributing Features include, but are not limited to:

- Coastal bluff
- Sea caves
- Underwater reef
- Views from the coast over the Children’s Pool within resource boundaries

Non-contributing Features include:

- Recent bluff top improvements
  - Lifeguard Station
  - Restrooms & dressing stalls
  - Viewing pavilion
  - Concrete sidewalk
  - Bike racks
  - Cobblestone planters
  - New Vegetation
  - Handicap Access Features (ramp, rails, parking, signage)

### Condition Assessment

The integrity of Contributing Features of the Children’s Pool Historic District is high; but their condition is poor. This is due to age, weathering in harsh marine conditions, deferred maintenance and sloppy repairs.

### Report Description

The draft report is currently 40 pages in length, not including 40 pages of accompanying photographs, maps and drawings.

### Purpose of Historic Designation

The purpose of this nomination is:

1. To recognize the historical value of the Children’s Pool to the community of La Jolla
2. To enable the State Historic Building Code and the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards to be used for future new construction and repair
3. To facilitate mandatory CEQA review of historic properties in the coastal zone for project related impacts

### How Do I Get Involved?

- *I have information to contribute to the report:*

Contact the La Jolla Historical Society with historical information, photos, memories or stories you would like to contribute at: 858-459-5335 or, [www.lajollahistory.org/contact/](http://www.lajollahistory.org/contact/)

- *I want to read the nomination:*

When completed, a draft of the nomination will be posted on the La Jolla Historical Society Website: [www.lajollahistory.org](http://www.lajollahistory.org)

- *I want to comment at a public meeting:*

Public meetings to discuss the historical designation will be held at:

- La Jolla Parks and Beaches, Inc.: Agendas are posted at the LJ Rec. Center at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting. Fourth Monday of every month at the La Jolla Rec. Center: 4:00pm
- San Diego Historical Resources Board: <https://www.sandiego.gov/development-services/historical/board/agendas>
- State Historic Resources Commission: [http://ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=21372](http://ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=21372)