

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

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received JAN 15 1987

date entered

FEB 12 1987

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Citizen Publishing Company Building

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 9355 Culver Boulevard N/A not for publication

city, town Culver City N/A vicinity of

state California code 06 county Los Angeles code 037

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Roy E. and Frances Donovan

street & number 9355 Culver Boulevard

city, town Culver City N/A vicinity of state California 90230

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Los Angeles County Assessors Office, Region 9

street & number 4909 Overland Avenue

city, town Culver City state California 90230

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Culver City Historical Society
title Site Number Four has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date October 18, 1984 federal state county local

depository for survey records Culver City Historical Society

city, town P.O. Box 3428, Culver City state California 90231

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

Check one

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Citizen Publishing Company is a two-story, reinforced brick and reinforced concrete building of eclectic design--an unusual design which combines Beaux Arts elements typical of civic buildings of the era, and ornament associated with the Art Deco style, which reached the peak of its popularity at around the time of the building's construction (1929). The subject building is free-standing on three of four sides, and abutted along the east wall by a one-story frame and stucco structure (1940) commissioned by the founder of the Citizen Publishing Company, Eugene Donovan, for a separate tenant. The subject building forms a long, narrow rectangle in plan, 30 feet in width, and some 155 feet in length. A small ell of reinforced brick construction exists on the north facade. The ell and a one-story corbelled exterior-brick chimney have a stepped layout when viewed together in plan. The Citizen Publishing Company building is in a visually depressed setting. It is abutted by an alley on the west. The alley serves as a rear access corridor for the one and one-and-a-half story commercial buildings to the west. These structures include a stationery/office supplies store, a beauty college, and office structures originally constructed in the early 1920s but denatured by extensive remodeling over the years. Unlike the Citizen building, which was constructed of "reinforced concrete cast stone" and reinforced brick, these buildings are of less expensive unreinforced brick construction updated with frame and stucco additions.

With the exception of the highly decorated principal facade (south), the subject building has an industrial character in its choice of architectural materials, finishes, and window treatments. A design demarcation is made both in elevation and plan to distinguish the printing room from the publisher's office, editorial and reception spaces in the front 50 feet of the building. The principal facade (south) is a handsome and highly distinctive fusion of builder Beaux Arts elements and Art Deco features. Although the south wall decorative features return around the southmost edges of the west and east walls, the south wall is a facade in the most literal sense. Otherwise, the west, north, and east walls receive a functional design treatment. The reinforced concrete girder/lintels running the length of the west (alley) and north (rear) walls are frankly expressed without paint, stuccoing, or decoration, and 20-pane industrial sash (metal) is employed throughout.

The Citizen Publishing Company building's primary identifying features exist on the south facade and include: its symmetry of design; the two-story arched entrance vestibule; cast stone surfaces lightly scored to resemble stone construction (neo-classical features); cast stone foliate decoration characteristic of Art Deco design; four small and narrow (15 inch x 60 inch) windows; and a faceted glass chandelier (Art Deco) to light the entrance vestibule at nighttime.

The symmetrical organization of the facade is also a typical classical feature, particularly the use of radiating lines at the top of the arch (simulating the lines formed by the voussoirs and keystone in Beaux Arts design). The designer also employs paired buttress elements, one each on flanking sides of the arch. A vertical band of flower-and-fruit-on-vine decoration extends up the center of each buttress and to the top of the parapet. There is a slightly contrasting horizontal

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1929-1936 **Builder/Architect** Orville Clark, Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Citizen Publishing Company building is of significance as the home of a distinguished weekly community newspaper, one which won national recognition, and numerous editorial and typographical awards of excellence; and for its design importance as an architecturally distinctive and visually prominent landmark in its setting. The design is of further interest as the collaborative effort of the newspaper publisher's wife, Catherine Donovan, and Orville Clark, a Los Angeles architect associated with several major building projects for the City of Culver City during the period. The political and social importance of the property rest upon its association with newspaper Publisher Eugene Donovan (1886-1948), who through his editorial policies and social involvements assumed a major role in the civic life of Culver City over a period of more than 20 years. The commercial and communications importance of the property rests with the substantial scope of the firm's printing activities and the noteworthy associations it had with the film industry of Southern California.

The Citizen Publishing Company building was commissioned by Eugene Donovan (1886-1948) and his wife Catherine Donovan (1886-1948) to house the newly combined News Printing Company (previously operated as a separate enterprise by the Donovans' son, Roy E. Donovan) and The Western Citizen Newspaper Company (operated by Eugene Donovan). The businesses were combined in 1929 as the Citizen Publishers-Printers, and the newspaper's name was shortened to The Citizen. The newspaper embraced an idealistic objective rarely so explicitly stated as an editorial purpose: "...Dedicated in perpetuity to the service of the people that no good cause shall lack a champion and that evil shall not thrive unopposed." Although The Citizen was not Culver City's first newspaper, after the beginning of publication it quickly became the town's largest and most influential paper and remained so until the 1950s.

Eugene Donovan's significance at the local and statewide level as a newspaper publisher is suggested by his listing in the 1942-43 edition of Who's Who in California. Donovan is also important in the printing craft's union history as the representative of the western United States for the International Typographical Union, of which he was an active member for 42 years (1906-1948). He also had a significant role in the Culver City Chamber of Commerce (incorporated 1921) during its formative years during the 1920s. As publisher of The Citizen, Donovan and his staff took bold editorial stands on issues of civic importance in the newly incorporated city, championing governmental reform, provision of adequate bus transportation, the modernization and improvement of the municipal police and fire departments, development of appropriate zoning regulations, street improvements, and provision of recreational facilities.

9. Major Bibliographical References

"Donovan, Eugene," Who's Who in California, 1942-43 Edition, The Citizen, Selected issues between 1929-49, Courtesy of the Donovan Family Who's Who in the Composing Room, April, 1939, Intertype Corporation, Brooklyn. Mr. East, Historian for the International Typographical Union, Colorado Springs. N.W. Ayer & Sons Directory of Newspapers and Periodicals, Selected issues.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Beverly Hills

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

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3	7	6	5	6	5	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Carson Anthony Anderson, Architectural Historian

organization None date May 19, 1986

street & number P.O. Box 875238 telephone (213) 664-0819/894-0241

city or town Los Angeles state California 90087

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Kathryn Swartz 1/5/87

title date

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

John S. Burns
Keeper of the National Register

2/2/87

Attach:

1 1 1

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Continuation sheet

Citizen Publishing

Item number 7

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floral pattern at the top of each buttress, and a third contrasting floral pattern alternating with each other in the dip and peak of a continuous zigzag line. This band is horizontal and continues across the top of the building, the buttresses, and parapet to animate the facade. The handsome vestibule light fixture, centered on a pole in front of the building entrance, and suspended from the vestibule ceiling, is also a fine example of Art Deco design. The fixture consists of three interpolated faceted glass skirts. Curved as well as flat pieces of art glass are employed in the design. A thin black metal frame, with an abstracted floral band across the top, supports the glass along the top and at key corners.

A metal and glass curtain wall closes off the entrance vestibule and demarcates the interior and exterior of the building. Its dark, flat-finished metal trim includes a wide decorative band between the first and second floors with an Art Deco relief pattern of abstract design. A metal flagpole extends from the center of it, and maintains the symmetrical organization of the facade. A narrow railing with an open-work diagonal pattern is continuous across the second floor windows. This diagonal pattern is also characteristic of Art Deco design.

On the interior, the first floor reception/office area, with its built-in wood public counter, handsome black and white checkerboard tile flooring, and the second floor editorial offices remain unaltered from the time of the building's construction in 1929. They are also attractive and representative elements from that period.

The exterior of the building has been changed only slightly, with the addition of an annex to the rear of the eastern side of the building, not visible from the street. This annex, which served historically to house the company bindery operations, is undistinguished architecturally and was constructed in the mid-1940s. It is a frame and stucco structure, one story in height.

Number of contributing buildings: one.

Number of non-contributors: none.

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Continuation sheet Citizen Publishing

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In addition to his contributions as a newspaper publisher, Eugene Donovan contributed to the civic life of Culver City through commissioning a new state employment office to serve the community during the Depression years (1940) (that building abuts the subject building on the east); and through service as a Selective Service Commissioner during the Second World War. Along with his leadership role in the Culver City Chamber of Commerce, Donovan's organizational affiliations included: the Rotary Club, the Lions Club, Knights of Columbus, Santa Monica Elks Lodge Number 906, and Native Sons of the Golden West.

The Citizen Publishing Company is also of note because of its associations with the film industry in Southern California. The major film studios of the 1930s and 1940s made extensive and regular use of Citizen Publishing Company services to print dummy newspapers for use in films, due to the firm's expert knowledge of newsprinting techniques, including historical newsprinting practices. These film accounts included: The Thomas Ince, Hal Roach, Metro Goldwyn Mayer, Selznick, RKO, Pathe, and De Mille Studios. According to a 1939 issue of Who's Who in the Composing Room, Donovan's firm was printing 500 different dummy newspapers each year in a wide variety of different languages. The writer concluded that the Citizen Publishing Company had one of the most extensive printing operations in the world, due in significant measure to its work for the film industry.

The Citizen, and its publishers Eugene, and later his son Roy E. Donovan (1903-), won considerable distinction in the printing industry nationally. Honors and other forms of recognition at both the statewide and national level included: The National Editorial Association Better Newspapers Contest, Second Place (Special Editions) and General Excellence (Honorable Mention, Weekly Newspapers) Awards, 1949; The California Newspaper Publishers Association Typography Award (Weekly Newspapers), 1949; The National Editorial Association Job Printing Award, 1950; and a Special Resolution of Commendation from the Office of the Secretary of State, State of California.

The Citizen Publishing Company building was built on property purchased by Eugene and Catherine Donovan in 1927. The building was commissioned in 1928, the design of which was based on a design concept developed by Catherine Donovan. Orville Clark, who had served as the architect for the Culver City Hall building (1928); Culver City Fire Station, Engine Company Number One (1927-28); and was associated with other major construction projects in Culver City during that period, was selected by the Donovans as project architect (General Contractors: O'Hanlon and Flansburg). The design of the building to meet the standards of the San Francisco earthquake building code requirements; the cost of the construction; Eugene Donovan's stipulation that whenever possible all materials, supplies, and labor be obtained from local sources in Culver City are all noteworthy facts in local history terms. Construction materials from the following Culver City businesses were employed in construction of the subject building: Steller Brothers and Skoog Hardware; Culver City Hardware; Smith-Davis Paint Company; Yost-Linn Lumber; California Spanish Tile Company; and Delta Art Metal Company.

(See Continuation)

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Continuation sheet Citizen Publishing Item number 8 Page 2

The building was completed in 1929 at a cost of \$80,000 (including furnishings), a major construction investment for Culver City during the period. The overwhelming majority of commercial buildings erected in Culver City of that period were of frame and stucco, or unreinforced brick construction. The more expensive and durable construction of the Citizen Publishing Company building links it with that of the City Hall and Fire Station building, and the Washington building (1926; Arthur Scholz, with probable collaboration by Orville Clark), all of which are either partially or entirely of reinforced concrete construction.

In terms of design, the Citizen Publishing Company building is significant for its ingenious fusion of Beaux Arts classical elements and Art Deco decoration. This decoration includes a variety of exuberant stylized floral and fruit-on-vine motifs as well as zigzag patterns (along parapet). However, the careful symmetry of the design, monumentality of feeling, and the use of a two-story tall arch as the central organizing feature of the facade are Beaux Arts features favored in civic building projects, 1890-1920. The monumental treatment given the subject building's principal facade links it to the two city buildings mentioned previously: Culver City Hall and the Culver City Fire Station building, both of which were designed by Orville Clark in the Beaux Arts/French Renaissance revival styles.

The significance of the completed Citizen Publishing Company building and of the newspaper to its community are also suggested by the attendance at the building's public opening reception (January 1930) of approximately 2,000 people. The paper also received many telegrams and notes of congratulations from well-wishers. Moreover, it appears to have been a common sentiment at the time of the dedication that the subject building was one of the most beautiful buildings in the entire Bay Cities Area. The property was designated by the Culver City Historical Society as Historical Site Number 4 on October 18, 1984.

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Continuation sheet Boundary Description

Item number 10

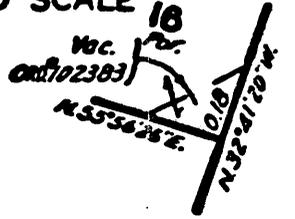
Page 1

The property consists of those portions of Los Angeles County Assessor's Parcels 13, 19, and 20, Block 16, Tract 2444, Map Book 4206 that include only the original building and its 1940s annex. Because of later, non-contributing buildings, unrelated in function to the newspaper, constructed on the original historic property (which consisted of all of parcels 12, 13, 19 and 20) a boundary of convenience has been drawn to encompass only the Citizens Publishing Company Building, including its annex. Because of the built-up, urban location of the Citizens Building, such a boundary of convenience would not exclude any elements of the building's historic setting.

See attached map.

30
60'
4206-30

DETAIL
NO SCALE



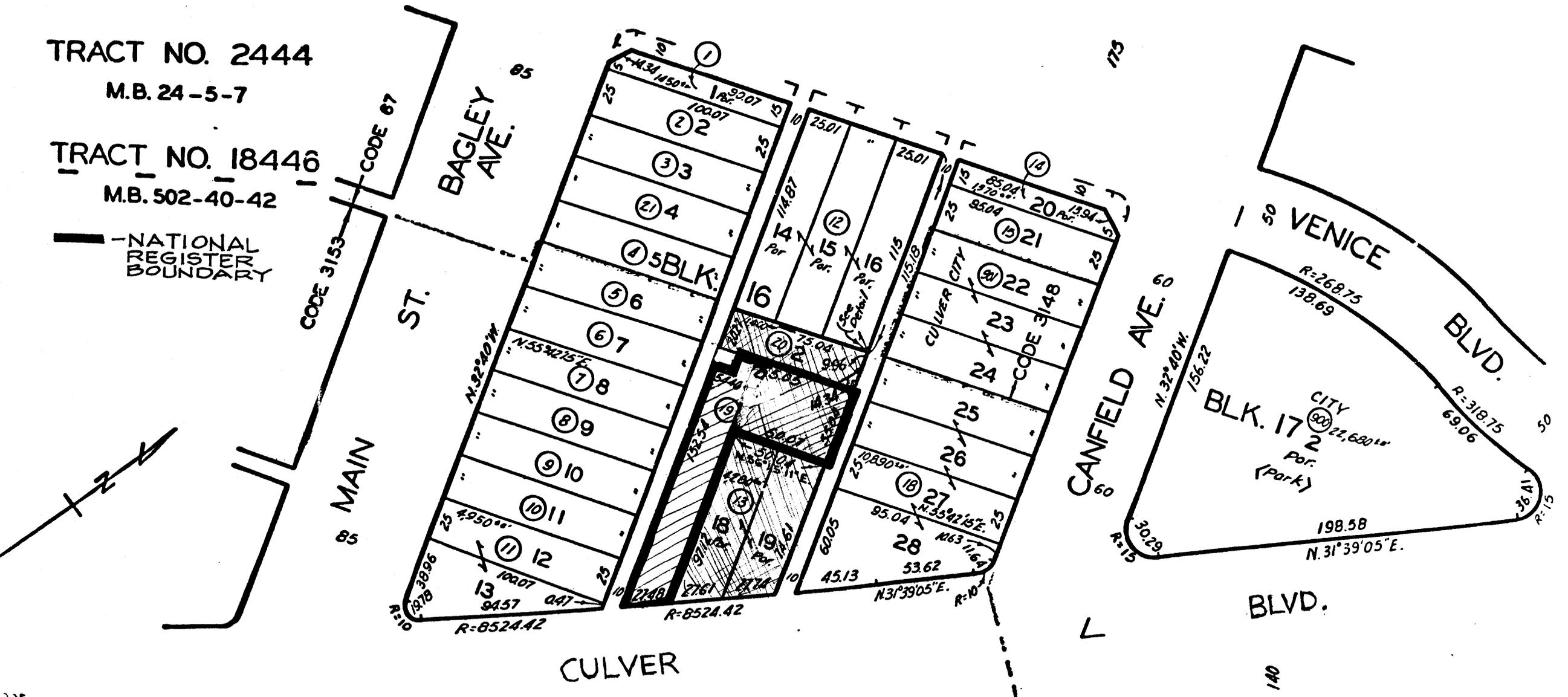
1" = 60'-0"

Citizen Publishing Company Building
9355 Culver Boulevard
Culver City, Los Angeles County, CA

TRACT NO. 2444
M.B. 24-5-7

TRACT NO. 18446
M.B. 502-40-42

NATIONAL REGISTER BOUNDARY



CULVER

BLVD.

140