

12 E. Carrillo St.

Completed by Nicole Hernandez, MFA, City Architectural Historian. January 2022

Designation Status: Listed on the Historic Resources Inventory and Contributing historic resource to El Pueblo Viejo Landmark District

Assessor Parcel Number: 039-322-045

Historic Name: Chamber of Commerce/Hunts

Constructed: 1926/27

Property Description:

Two-story, stucco, Italian Mediterranean style building with a symmetrical box-shaped footprint. Terra cotta roof tiles cover the shed portion of the roof. The cornice features a diamond pattern with oval vents. The building features four segmental arches on the 2nd floor over one casement window and three casement doors with lights divided by horizontal mullions leading to Juliette balconies comprised with wrought iron balustrades. Towards the east end of the first story facade, are three arches supported by stuccoed pilasters. The center arch features the commercial entrance and the side arches feature large, fixed display windows with an arched fixed transom with divided lights. The main entrance is located on the west end of the facade and recesses beneath an ornate surround made from stucco. The building features quoining patterns at the corners.

Architect: Associated Architects of Santa Barbara

Architectural Style: Italianate Mediterranean

Property Type: Commercial

Original Use: Chamber of Commerce Offices



Significance:

The building qualifies to be designated a Structure of Merit under the following criteria provided by the Municipal Code, Section 30.157.025.

Criterion 3. It embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, architectural style or method of construction, or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic or historic value, or represents a significant and distinguishable collection whose individual components may lack distinction;

The building was constructed by the Chamber of Commerce of Santa Barbara as an office building. The minimally altered 1926/27 Italian Mediterranean style building is important to the heritage of Santa Barbara as the details that are found on the building constitute a resource valuable for its ability to exemplify methods of construction, craftsmanship, attention to detail and artistry reflective of the Italian Mediterranean style. The building illustrates social and aesthetic movements that conveys a sense of place and time.

The Period Revival movement encompassed a diverse range of architectural influences, such as Tudor, French Norman, Spanish, Italian Renaissance, Italian Mediterranean, American Colonial and Spanish Colonial styles. An important part of Santa Barbara's architectural repertoire, the Italian Mediterranean pre-dates the Spanish Colonial Revival and was key to Santa Barbara's spirit as the new American Riviera. Having both the climate and geography similar to the coastal hill-towns of the Italian Riviera, Santa Barbara embraced Italian Palazzos as architecture well suited to Santa Barbara's Riviera status. Several examples of Italian Mediterranean architecture can be found in downtown Santa Barbara, as well as in many large homes in the Upper East neighborhood and on the Riviera and some downtown commercial buildings. This building along with the Masonic Temple next door that was also designed in the Spanish Colonial Revival style, create a formal commercial streetscape.



They contrast to the Carrillo-Hill adobe across the street. The street as a whole reads as uniquely Santa Barbara as it reflects when the City deliberately transformed its architecture and look from an ordinary western style town into a romantic Spanish Colonial Revival/Mediterranean style city. This transformation was the result of the planning vision of a number of Santa Barbara citizens in the early 1920s with the founding of the Santa Barbara Community Arts Association, which urged that the town identify its individual character and then use planning principles to develop it.

The main entrance surround demonstrates outstanding design in the intricate detailing. The structure at 12 E. Carrillo Street has Italian Mediterranean elements such as symmetrically placed openings of the 1st and 2nd floors, the intricate quoining patterns and the segmental arches over the windows and doors with lights divided by horizontal mullions.

Historic Integrity: In comparison with the 1978 survey photograph, the building once had operable shutters that fit the 2nd story openings. The building retains most of its original features and most of the surrounding neighborhood is intact so that it has high historic integrity of location, feeling, setting, design, materials, workmanship and association. The building can convey its c. 1926/27 original appearance.

