

**HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION
STRUCTURE OF MERIT DESIGNATION REPORT**
Prepared by Nicole Hernandez, MFA, City Architectural Historian
**14 West Micheltorena Street
Santa Barbara, California**

Designation Status: Listed on the Potential Historic Resources List

Assessor Parcel Number: 027-231-013

Constructed: 1936

Historic Name: Robinson Building

Property Description: One Story Spanish Colonial Revival structure with low-pitched, side gabled roof covered in terracotta tiles. The tiles and slight overhanging eave with exposed, curved wood brackets create a decorative transition from the roof to the smooth stucco. The front elevation features sets of three horizontally divided lights, wood casement windows flanking the front door and a six divided light wood door in the wide stucco surround. A side stucco chimney with an arched-crown is at the south side of the building.



Architect: Carleton Winslow

Architectural Style: Spanish Colonial Revival

Property Type: Commercial

Original Use: Medical Building until 1960s

Significance: The Historic Landmarks Commission listed the property on the Potential Historic Resources List in 2013 based on the findings of the Historic Structure/Sites Report that concluded the building was historically significant for the purposes of the California Environmental Quality Act. The City of Santa Barbara establishes historical significance as provided by the Municipal Code, Section 22.22.040. Any historic building that meets one or more of the eleven criteria (Criteria A through K) established for a City Landmark, or a City Structure of Merit can be considered significant. The structure may be significant as a Structure of Merit per the following criteria:



Historic Integrity: The building conveys integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, setting, feeling and association so that it conveys its 1936 appearance.

Criterion A. Its character, interest or value as a significant part of the heritage of the City, the State or the Nation: The development on this part of West Micheltorena Street since the late 19th and



early 20th centuries has concentrated on small to large sized professional office buildings, private homes, medical facilities, service industries, department and grocery stores, and hotels. This development has been intermixed with post World War II development of contemporary commercial and institutional buildings. City Block 61 lies immediately outside the boundaries of the El Pueblo Viejo Landmark District in this part of the City's central Westside area. This building, like its neighbors, was designed as a medical office. Given the profusion of medical facilities that arose in the area, it is not surprising to find the subject property among a development of a series of physicians' offices along the first block West Micheltorena Street. The City Directories for 1937, 1940, 1946, 1950, 1960, and 1970 consistently indicate that physicians' practices occupied buildings at 10, 14, 18, 22a, 22b, 26, and 34 West Micheltorena Street.

In 1916, Bertram Goodhue, author of a book on Spanish Colonial architecture, helped to kick-start the new Spanish style with his designs for the Panama California Expo in San Diego. Until then, the only Spanish themed architecture mimicked Mission prototypes. Soon, however, architects and patrons began to look to Spain itself for detailed examples of the Spanish style. Throughout the territories initially settled by the Spanish in the Southwest, as well as Texas and Florida, the Spanish Colonial Revival flourished. Santa Barbara had many architects including George Washington Smith, Lutah Maria Riggs, Winsor Soule, Reginald Johnson, William Edwards, and Joseph Plunkett talented in designing in the style. Another key to the success of the Spanish Colonial Revival in Santa Barbara was the Plans and Planting Committee through which Pearl Chase and others helped to sway Santa Barbara towards a more unified architectural style based on the City's Spanish Colonial and Mexican past. After the earthquake of 1925, much of the rebuilding of State Street and the El Pueblo Viejo area was in the Spanish Colonial Revival style. The smooth stucco walls and terra-cotta roof reflect the design

envisioned by the planners as Character defining features of the Spanish Colonial Revival style, a theme carried throughout downtown demonstrates the architect's attention to simplicity.

The building qualifies under criterion A as an excellent example of original Spanish Colonial Revival style commercial building that is essential to the identity of Santa Barbara designed by one of Santa Barbara's most noted architects.

Criterion D. Its exemplification of a particular architectural style or way of life important to the City, the State or the Nation:

The Spanish Colonial Revival style emphasized the interplay of cubic volumes, patios, pergolas and verandas; each interpreted and redefined by local architects or regions in their own oeuvre of the form, massing, and decorative treatments. This structure may qualify under Criterion D due to the following character-defining features:

- **Roof:** Terra-cotta red tiles cover the low-pitched gabled roof. The tiles create a decorative transition from the roof to the smooth stucco.
- **Wall Materials:** The Spanish Colonial Revival style building features smooth, whitewashed, planar, stucco walls, with the emphasis on broad, uninterrupted wall surfaces punctuated by careful use of openings.
- **Window Details:** The building features windows character-defining of the style with Recessed, wood casement windows with lights divided by horizontal mullions.
- **Chimney:** The building has an expressive side stucco chimney with an arched-crown is at the south side of the building.

Criterion F. Its identification as the creation, design or work of a person or persons whose effort has significantly influenced the heritage of the City, the State or the Nation: Carleton Monroe Winslow, FAIA (1876–1946), also known as Carleton Winslow Sr., was a key proponent of Spanish Colonial Revival architecture in Southern California in the early 20th Century. Winslow was born in Maine, studied at the Art Institute of Chicago and at the École des Beaux-Arts in Paris, France. Upon returning to the states, Winslow joined the New York office of Cram, Goodhue and Ferguson and would later serve as the firm's representative for the 1915 San Diego Panama–California Exposition. There, Winslow is credited for selecting the Spanish Colonial style for U.S. exposition buildings, a decision that brought him widespread recognition and commendation for his work. Winslow moved to Southern California in 1917 where he worked on the Los Angeles Public Library and also pursued his own commissions, eventually becoming a noted church architect. Winslow is best known for the Community Presbyterian Church in Beverly Hills, the First Baptist Church in Pasadena, Church of the Star of the Sea in La Jolla, and St. Mary of the Angels in Los Angeles. After 1917, Winslow opened an additional office in Santa Barbara, where he designed Cottage Hospital and worked with Floyd E. Brewster on the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History. Other noteworthy commissions in Santa Barbara include the Bliss, Billings, and Wilder residences.

Winslow was the architect that designed the repairs to Santa Barbara's Central Library after the 1925 earthquake and designed the ornate sculpture over the Central Library's original main entrance door. In 1924, Winslow worked with Edward Fisher Brown on *Small House Designs*, published by the Community Arts Association of Santa Barbara. Winslow became a member of the Southern Chapter of the AIA in 1916, and became a Fellow of the AIA in 1939. He served as the president of the Los Angeles Municipal Art Commission from 1931 to 1933. Carleton M. Winslow was elevated into the

College of Fellows in the American Institute of Architects in 1939. He died in Los Angeles on October 16, 1946, and was survived by his wife and son.

Criterion G. Its embodiment of elements demonstrating outstanding attention to architectural design, detail, materials or craftsmanship:

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Work Cited

Murray, Fermina. *Historic Structures/Sites Report for 14 West Micheltorena Street. 2003.* City of Santa Barbara, Planning Division.