

# Wilshire Junior High School

**315 E. Wilshire Avenue**

**1934-1936**

**W.P.A. Moderne**

**Status: Local Landmark**



The Wilshire Junior High School site has been in continuous use for educational purposes since 1890, when the first red brick schoolhouse was built at the northeast corner of Harvard (now Lemon) Street and Wilshire Avenue. Other school facilities were constructed on the site and remained there until the 1933 earthquake. Destruction from the earthquake resulted in the construction of a new Wilshire School under a WPA project in 1936, consisting of the existing auditorium and classroom buildings facing Wilshire Avenue. This complex became the Wilshire Junior High School in the mid-1950s. In the early 1980s, the Junior High School was closed and the North Orange County Community College District acquired the property. The District rehabilitated the buildings, and the auditorium is now available for community use and the classrooms are used for continuing educational instruction.

The existing buildings are representative of the less ornate WPA projects, being poured concrete with more of a Moderne style that was popular at the time of their construction. Designed by architect Donald B. Kirby, the building's block-like profile and austere relief for decorating all openings are characteristic of WPA architecture. The auditorium is the most significant of the buildings, primarily because of its interior detailing, but the complex is distinctive in its unified, uncluttered setting.

