

5. PUMP STATION NO.9 10TH & Needham (1930)



Landmark Preservation Commission Resolution: October 16, 1989
Designated by City Council: October 9, 1990

Description: Mixed Classical Revival and Mediterranean style. The pump house is a small one story, irregularly shaped structure with pillared dome entry. The building is comprised of white stucco walls with a red tile roof. The tiled dome and a matching roof cupola are six-sided with a small round ball on top. The building has triangular side windows flanked by small ornamental windows with grillwork.

Historic Significance: This water pump, constructed in 1930 to provide additional fire protection for a growing city, is the oldest and most elaborate housed water pump in Modesto. Marking one of the few entrances to the City, the "Grecian Temple" design was modeled after the Sunol Pump Station designed by the famous San Francisco architect Willis Polk. The pillars hold up a dome of Spanish tile over an entryway to a stucco building featuring grillwork windows. Inside, a lone pump resides in elegant solitude. Outside is a drinking fountain.

The pump house was designed by A.O. Carley. Carley was an employee of the city's public works department from 1926 to 1956. Carley was a self-taught designer and draftsman who never completed high school. During his 30 years with the city, he designed the addition to the McHenry Library, several firehouses, miles of water lines, streets and sewer lines, sewage plant facilities and the city's first airplane hangar. A mixture of classical Greek and Mediterranean design, this water pump house became a local landmark signifying both civic pride and artistic value.