

**Site Description**  
**Desiderio Army Reserve Center**  
**655 Westminster Drive, Pasadena, CA**

**History:**

The 5.1 acre site was formerly the grounds and recreation area of the Vista del Arroyo Hotel and Resort complex. It was acquired by the U.S. War Department in 1943 to serve as hospital facilities for servicemen during WWII. Since 1956, the site has been used by the Army as a training facility for various military reserve units, including intelligence units. Few improvements have been made to the site since the 1950s.

**Adjacent Land Use:**

The Vista del Arroyo Hotel, located on a separate parcel at the top of the hill to the east, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and has been occupied by the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals since 1986.

North of the hotel are twelve historic bungalows that were also once part of the hotel complex. Four have been renovated and are being leased by the Court to institutional users. The other eight are now privately owned and are in the process of being renovated and sold as residential condos. The property owner is also building new condos on the slope north of the Desiderio site.

The site is transversed across the north by the historic Colorado Street Bridge, also listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The property includes an easement under the bridge to allow access for repairs. North of the bridge is the 210 freeway.

The site is bordered by parkland/open space to the west and single-family residential to the south.

**Planning & Zoning:**

The site is included in the West Gateway Specific Plan and is zoned WGSP-2 which allows public or semi-public uses such as government office, schools or charitable institutions and low density residential. The plan states that the preferred community vision for the site is for a charitable, cultural or government institution, but that low density residential (6 DU/acre; 36' height limit) would also be acceptable. In either case, the new development should be in character with the surrounding residential areas, respect the peaceful quality of the area, and minimize traffic and impacts on the Arroyo Seco.

**Facilities:**

Facilities at Desiderio consist of a two-story office building, a large garage, two small accessory structures, and paved parking. The facilities were used solely for classroom training.

**Environmental:**

No Phase I has been done on the site, however it has been used only for classroom training since the 1950s. Previous surveys have found none of the buildings on site to be historically significant.