

State of California The Resources Agency
 DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
PRIMARY RECORD

Primary # _____
 HRI # _____
 Trinomial _____
 NRHP Status Code 3CS/5S3

Other Listings _____
 Review Code _____ Reviewer _____ Date _____

Page 1 of 2 *Resource Name or #: (Assigned by recorder) Helgeson Buick

P1. Other Identifier: _____

*P2. Location: Not for Publication Unrestricted

*a. County Riverside and (P2c, P2e, and P2b or P2d. Attach a Location Map as necessary.)

*b. USGS 7.5' Quad _____ Date _____ T _____; R _____; _____ of _____ of Sec _____; _____ B.M.

c. Address 8001 Auto Drive City Riverside Zip 92504

d. UTM: (Give more than one for large and/or linear resources) Zone _____, _____ mE/ _____ mN

e. Other Locational Data: (e.g., parcel #, directions to resource, elevation, etc., as appropriate)

*P3a. Description: (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries)

This International Style car dealership is one story in height, covered by a flat roof, and is sited diagonally on the corner of Auto and Detroit Drives. It consists of a square-plan, central interior space and four open, rectangular wings on each side. The roofs of the wings start from below the large central roof. The whole structure is composed of thin steel beams spread apart from each other as supports for the metal roof with exposed and recessed beams. The roof detail is cornice-like with the upper part of the roof slightly extending over the wide, lower beam. Landscaping includes grass and palm trees. Additions include a circular car platform on the corner, and a boxy, featureless building and trailer north and directly behind the building.

*P3b. Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) HP6-Commercial Building, 3 stories and under

*P4. Resources Present: Building Structure Object Site District Element of District Other (Isolates, etc.)



P5b. Description of Photo: (view, date, accession #) Southwest elevation
April 7, 2009

*P6. Date Constructed/Age and Source: Historic Prehistoric
 Both
1965, Building Permit

*P7. Owner and Address:
Acura of Riverside
8001 Auto Drive
Riverside, CA 92504

*P8. Recorded by: (Name, affiliation, and address) Teresa Grimes and
Christina Chiang; CAJA
523 W. 6th Street, Suite 1134
Los Angeles, CA 90014

*P9. Date Recorded: _____
April 15, 2009

*P10. Survey Type: (Describe)
Intensive

*P11. Report Citation: (Cite survey report and other sources, or enter "none.") Modernism Context Statement for the City of
Riverside, Certified Local Government Grant

*Attachments: NONE Location Map Continuation Sheet Building, Structure, and Object Record
 Archaeological Record District Record Linear Feature Record Milling Station Record Rock Art Record
 Artifact Record Photograph Record Other (List): _____

BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD

*NRHP Status Code 3CS/5S3

Page 2 of 2 *Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) Helgeson Buick

B1. Historic Name: Helgeson Buick

B2. Common Name: Acura of Riverside

B3. Original Use: Car dealership B4. Present Use: Car dealership

*B5. Architectural Style: International Style

*B6. Construction History: (Construction date, alterations, and date of alterations)

1965 constructed

*B7. Moved? No Yes Unknown Date: _____ Original Location: _____

*B8. Related Features:

B9a. Architect: J. D. Diffenbaugh (builder) b. Builder: J. D. Diffenbaugh

*B10. Significance: Theme Architecture Area Riverside

Period of Significance 1965 Property Type Commercial Applicable Criteria 3

(Discuss importance in terms of historical or architectural context as defined by theme, period, and geographic scope. Also address integrity.)

This building is eligible for listing in the California Register under Criterion 3. It is significant at the local level in the context of modern architecture in Riverside as an excellent example of the International Style. This is a classic example of an International Style car dealership with the floor-to-ceiling glazing, flat roof, exposed structural system, and use of steel framing. In 1965, seven of the city's automobile dealerships moved from their downtown quarters to a jointly owned Auto Center along the freeway at Adams Street. It was one of the first centers of its type in the United States. The idea for the center originated in a discussion among five dealers. Of the original Auto Center buildings, the Helgeson Buick dealership is the most distinctive. J. D. Diffenbaugh was the local contractor, who designed and built this. He was also the contractor for the Blindness Support Services building at 3690-3696 Beatty Drive. The Helgeson Buick dealership retains a high level of integrity as there are no apparent exterior alterations.

B11. Additional Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) _____

*B12. References:

Building Permits, Auto Center Specific Plan

B13. Remarks:

*B14. Evaluator: Christina Chiang and Teresa Grimes

*Date of Evaluation: 4/15/09

(This space reserved for official comments.)

