

19. SOUTHERN PACIFIC TRANSPORTATION CENTER
(The Southern Pacific Railroad Depot)
9th & J Street (1915)



Landmark Preservation Commission Resolution: October 15, 1993
Designated by City Council: December 7, 1993
Listed on the National Register of Historic Places:

Description: The Southern Pacific Station displays the simplicity of form characteristic of a 1915 Mission Style railroad depot. The rectangular, single-story stucco building has a low hip roof with boxed cornices and heavy paired support brackets. At each side of the building is a flat roofed extension with projecting beams and windows set in arched openings. These extensions wrap around the building and meet on the railroad trackside of the depot where the walls continue upward forming a parapet above an arcade. A pair of small bell towers flanks the parapet. A projecting arcade with a modified espadana parapet leads to an entrance on the street side of the building. Paired double-hung, sash windows interrupt the plain wall surfaces surrounding the building.

Historic Significance: The rail depot was built in 1915 and is typical of the mission-style railroad architecture of the Southwest with its striking porticos and long platform area. Railroad engineers laid out the town in 1870 and it was the end of the line for the next 13 months. The current station was built when railroading was a way of life. Few concessions were made for comfort and the waiting room's straight-backed wooden benches reflected those times. It is currently serving as the key piece of Modesto's Transportation Center.