

Hollywood Heritage is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the history of Hollywood and its built environment. The Preservation Resource Center is open to the public and offers information and resources related to the history of Hollywood, as well as historic preservation efforts within the community.

The Center's location dates back to the dawn of Hollywood. It is situated on land that was once part of H.H. Wilcox's "Hollywood" ranch, which was subdivided to create the community of Hollywood. The property later became the site of artist Paul de Longpre's famous gardens, which were Hollywood's first tourist attraction.

Today the center is located within the National Register of Historic Places - **the Hollywood Boulevard Commercial and Entertainment District** - and serves as a center for education on historic preservation issues. For general information, preservation inquiries, or to make an appointment please contact us at support@hhprc.org.

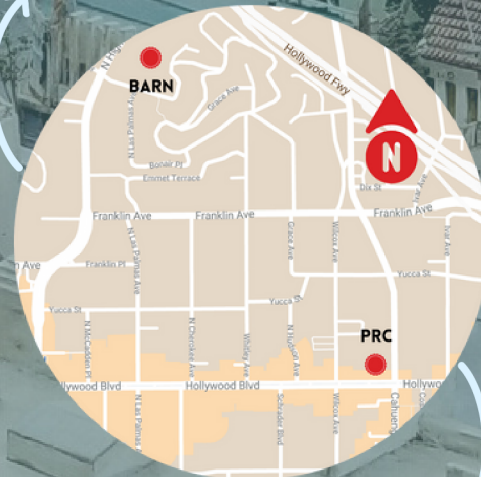
Donate at www.hhprc.org

HOW TO CONTACT US

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The Barn, Bookstore and Archive
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HOLLYWOOD IN MINIATURES

Conservation in Progress



A WORK OF ART... and so much more.

In 1936, after spending years crafting miniature models for celebrities and studios alike, Hollywood model maker Leon Bayard de Volo came up with his biggest idea yet - scale models of six Hollywood locations that could be transported around the country, bringing the glitz and glamour of film and its famous landmarks to cities and towns across America. It took ten years, fifty craftsmen, and \$250,000 to bring his vision to life.

"Thousands of photographs were taken in order to reproduce the scenes precisely. Every tree, lamppost and sign is shown. Each of the 450 buildings is built to the exact scale of the original, with the same number of windows, identical elevations and architecture." -Hedda Hopper

In 1946, Hollywood went on the move, making its public debut in Minneapolis, Minnesota. It wasn't long before the tiny town became the star of the show, with

its own custom-built trailers and celebrity appearances. Over the next four years, "Hollywood in Miniature", as the models were called, appeared in over 20 US cities.

A Life In Storage

Like an aging star, after several years of touring, the Hollywood in Miniature models retired and soon faded from memory. It wasn't until 1985 - over thirty years after they last appeared in public - that the miniatures were rediscovered in storage in a La Habra barn. The models were restored in 1986 and were then placed on public display in 1995 at the Hollywood Entertainment Museum on Hollywood Boulevard until it closed in 2007. The model of Hollywood was acquired by Hollywood Heritage in 2014 and we started our own restoration effort in 2018.

Adventures in Restoration

The restoration treatment of the Hollywood Miniature is ongoing. Detailed before-treatment photographs document

existing conditions, and an inventory ID system was created to track damaged elements removed for repair. The treatment plan includes thorough cleaning, removal of 1980s overpaint and repair of structural damages to architecture and landscape materials. Every day we uncover new surprises and mysteries in this unique work.

Not Alone in the World

In addition to the City of Hollywood miniature, Hollywood Heritage also acquired The Motion Picture Studio miniature that was one of the other six models that toured the country. It is a composite of several movie studios of the time. We also have a contemporary miniature recreation of the early Paramount Studio Lot on display, that was built as part of a different project.

Both of these models reside at the Hollywood Heritage Museum (The Barn) located at 2100 North Highland Ave across from the Hollywood Bowl.

