

HISTORIC RESOURCE: EL MIRADERO

LOCATION: 1601 West Mountain Street

OWNERSHIP: Private

USE: Library

**LAND AREA: 20154 square foot art gallery
and studio**

ZONE: SR

DESIGNATION: Glendale Register

YEAR BUILT: 1903

STYLE: Moorish (Eclectic)

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE:

Leslie C. Brand, co-founder of the Title Guarantee and Trust Company and E.D. Goode were probably the most important individuals in the early development of Glendale. Brand's activities touched upon many facets of municipal development in the period 1902-1925.

In 1903 Brand began construction of his unique mansion at what is now the intersection of Mountain Street and Grandview Avenue. He called his new home "El Miradero" (meaning "a high place overlooking a wide view"), but was more popularly known as "Brand's Castle").

The original idea for the architectural style of the structure can be traced to Brand's attendance at the World's Fair Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893. Impressed by an East Indian pavilion he saw there, Brand commissioned his brother-in-law, Nathaniel Dryden, to design and build the structure in a Saracenic style. The final result, however, demonstrated the Moorish style.

In 1909 Brand commissioned an architect to build a small clubhouse for him behind the mansion, approximately a quarter of a mile back into Miradero Canyon. This structure, a swimming pool and tennis courts no longer exist. Northeast

of the mansion there is the family cemetery where five generations of Brands are buried, including the remains of Brand's father and mother.

Before Brand died on April 10, 1925, he deeded 488 acres of his mountain land to the City of Glendale for use as a public park. The remainder of the land and El Miradero were willed to the city, with the condition that it would be bequeathed after the death of Mrs. Brand. Following her death in 1945, the city took possession of the bequest, subject to the stipulation that "said city and its successors shall use said property exclusively as a public library and a public park and said property shall always be known as "Brand Library and Park.

