

HISTORIC RESOURCE: HARROWER LAB

LOCATION: 920 East Broadway

OWNERSHIP: Private

USE: Commercial/ School

LAND AREA: 4255 square feet

ZONE: C3-I

DESIGNATION: Glendale Register

YEAR BUILT: 1920

STYLE: Commercial Vernacular

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:

In the 1920s Dr. Henry Harrower's success in the medical field brought national recognition to Glendale. His Harrower Laboratory and Clinic created a considerable amount of controversy during their existence. Dr. Harrower popularized the study of endocrinology, which professed a belief in the curative powers of the stimulation and substitution of chemicals within the endocrine system. The publicity that accompanied the debate over the merits of endocrinology made Harrower's name known across the country. This publicity also helped create for Harrower a thriving business. By 1920, the sale of his product, Sani-tate, had reached the point where it was necessary to expand the laboratory facilities to fulfill the demand.

The expansion called for the construction of three buildings at the southwest corner of East Broadway and Belmont Street which were designed by Alfred F. Priest, one of Glendale's most active architects. When the first of these was completed in 1920, the Harrower Lab had the distinction of being the largest non-institutional employer in Glendale, with 50 employees on its payroll. It was not until May 1921 that a building permit was issued for the main building facing Broadway. This structure was opened in November of that year.

Harrower constructed America's first endocrine clinic in May 1924 which adjoins the structure on East Broadway. The grand opening ceremony on November 10, 1924 was one of the most important events of the entire decade in Glendale.

Until Harrower's death in the early 1940s, the complex continued with varying degrees of success. The Harrower estate sold the buildings to Lambert Pharmaceuticals Company, makers of Listerine. After they vacated the premises, the filmmaker Cecil B. DeMille purchased but never occupied the property. In 1949 it was sold to the Los Angeles Chiropractic College. The building has had various tenants, but currently operates as a school for the disabled.

