

# HISTORIC SITE PRESERVATION BOARD STAFF REPORT

DATE:

December 10, 2013

SUBJECT:

A CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL REQUEST BY JOHN MANLY TO RESTORE AND REHABILITATE WEXLER STEEL HOUSE #1 AND A CLASS 31 CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION PURSUANT TO CEQA, FOR A CLASS 1 HISTORIC SITE, LOCATED AT 290 SIMMS ROAD, ZONE R-1-

C, (CASE 3.3695 MAA / HSPB 42).

FROM:

Department of Planning Services

# **SUMMARY**

The applicant recently purchased the subject historic property and is seeking to remove numerous additions and restore the property to its original configuration.

# **RECOMMENDATION:**

Approve the certificate of approval request.

# ISSUES:

Numerous detrimental additions and a poorly conceived infill of the courtyard and the carport are being removed to return the subject Wexler Steel House to its original configuration.

# **BACKGROUND:**

The Wexler Steel House #1, at 290 Simms Road is one of seven prototypical partially prefabricated steel homes designed by renowned local architect Donald Wexler and Richard Harrison. The seven homes were constructed in 1962 using innovate light gauge steel technology and have become iconic structures reflective of the mid-century modern period in Palm Springs.

Steel House #1 is surrounded by single family and multi family residential development on the north, south and east, and a vacant lot to the west as can be seen in the aerial photo below.



AERIAL PHOTO OF 290 SIMMS ROAD

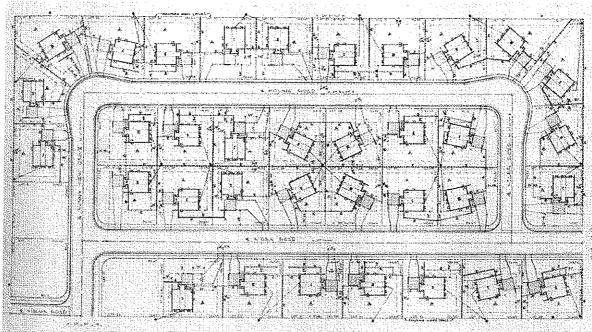
The steel homes were constructed by the Alexander Development Company and the project was sponsored by the Calcor Steel Corporation. The project was envisioned as a subdivision of modest prototypical homes demonstrating the use of light gauge steel as a viable, affordable, and quickly-constructed alternative to conventional wood frame homes. At the time, Donald Wexler and his partner in architectural practice Richard Harrison had been working for several years with structural engineer Bernard Purlin in developing both residential and commercial structures using light gauge steel for both the structural and the enclosure systems of their buildings. The affordable nature of their designs made them popular for school construction during the "baby boom" years following World War II.

The original intent of the steel homes project in Palm Springs was for thirty-eight of the light gauge steel homes to be built in the subdivision. However a sharp rise in steel costs scuttled the project. After the seven prototypical homes were constructed, the developer cancelled the project and instead, non-descript ranch-style wood frame homes were built on the remaining vacant lots.





EARLY PHOTOS SHOWING CONSTRUCTION OF THE FOLDED PLATE ROOFED STEEL HOME.



ORIGINAL SUBDIVISION MAP SHOWING CONFIGURATION OF STEEL HOMES ON INDIVIDUAL LOTS.

Pursuant to Municipal Code Section 8.05.180, "No person may undertake any of the following within or upon a Class 1 historic site without a certificate of approval from the historic site preservation board:

- (1) Construction of a new structure;
- (2) The moving, demolition or alteration of an existing structure in any manner which affects the exterior appearance of the structure;
- (3) A change in land use which affects the exterior appearance of a structure or the interior arrangement of public buildings;
- (4) The erection, remodeling or replacing of a sign which affects the exterior appearance of a structure."

As noted in item 2, the subject project causes an alternation of the exterior appearance of the subject Class 1 and thus a Certificate of Approval from the HSPB is required.

Related Relev	ant City Actions by Planning, Fire, Building, etc
May 2, 2001	Class 1 designation of the seven Wexler-Harrison steel homes by City Council
January 2013	Code Enforcement Courtesy Notice for non-permitted structures at 290 Simms Road

Neighborhood	Meeting
None	Racquet Club Estates Neighborhood Organization

Date of Purchase	by Current Owner
April 2013	Purchase by John Manly

# **ANALYSIS:**

Wexler Steel Home #1 at 290 Simms Road is one of only two that were constructed with a folded plate roof, making it particularly unique. The project is located at the northwest corner of Simms Road and Sunnyview Road in the Racquet Club Estates neighborhood. The applicant purchased Steel Home #1 in early 2013. He has commissioned architect Lance O'Donnell to oversee the restoration of the home and the original architect, Donald Wexler has also been part of the consultant team to assure that details of the restoration are executed as closely as possible to the original design.

# Review of the proposal against the Historic Preservation Ordinance.

There are no specific findings required for Certificates of Approval, however, pursuant to Municipal Code Section 8.05.190, the Board shall consider the following in reviewing and acting upon a certificate of approval application:

(1) The historic value and significance, or the architectural value and significance or both, of the structure and its relation to the historic value of the surrounding area;

The historic value and architectural significance of the Wexler Steel Houses is well documented. Wexler Steel House #1 is one of only seven such houses constructed in 1962. The proposed project removes permitted and unpermitted infill elements and additions that significantly impair the historic significance of the home.

(2) The relationship of the exterior architectural features of any structure to the rest of the structure itself and to the surrounding area;

The removal of the non-original additions and infill elements will restore the site to near-original condition & significantly improve the historic integrity of Wexler Steel House #1.

(3) The general compatibility of exterior design, arrangement, texture and material which is proposed by the applicant;

The scope of the rehabilitation project includes the following:

- Removal of permitted and unpermitted infill of the carport and courtyard.
- Removal of a fireplace and hearth,
- Removal of a wooden trellis,
- Removal of portions of exterior slabs that are deteriorated or non-contributing to the historic integrity of the structure,
- Removal of a non-permitted carport structure,
- Removal of steel gates, sheds, overgrown plant material, non-original light fixtures, through-wall air conditioners, etc.

- Removal of non-original wooden siding,
- Removal of portions of perimeter garden walls.
- Restoration of surfaces and elements of the original structure previously removed or damaged.
- Construction of new poured in place concrete garden walls and concrete flatwork.
- Repainting the home to its original color.
- Although review of the interior of privately-owned historic structures is not within the purview of the HSPB, the applicant is carrying out the restoration of the interior elements of the home also.

All work is being carried out consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Rehabilitation of Historic Structures.

(4) Archaeological or ecological significance of the area.

The proposed project does not impact any known archaeological or ecological significance of the site.

Staff believes the proposed modifications reflect a sensitive and careful rehabilitation and restoration of this historic structure and recommends that the HSPB grant a certificate of approval.

# **ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

The proposed rehabilitation is deemed a Project under the guidelines of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). CEQA allows for a Class 31 Categorical Exemption (Historical Resource Restoration / Rehabilitation) for projects involving maintenance, repair, stabilization, rehabilitation, restoration, preservation, conservation or reconstruction of historical resources in a manner consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring, and Reconstructing Historic Buildings (1995), Weeks and Grimmer. Staff proposes a Class 31 Categorical Exemption for the project.

Ken Lyon, RA Associate Planner M. Margo Wheeler, AICP
Director of Planning Services

# Attachments:

- 1. Vicinity Map.
- 2. Reduced Plans dated October 23, 2013.

# ABBREVIATIONS

ADDKEV	MATIONS			
В	ANCHOR BOLT/AGGREGATE BASE	ENT(R)	ENTRANCE	
BRAS	ARRASIVE	ENT(K)	FXHAUST	
C.		EXT	EXTERIOR	
	ASPHALT CONCRETE/AIR CONDITIONING	F		
cous	ACOUSTIC/ACOUSTICAL AIR CONDITIONING LINIT	FD.	FAHRENHEIT/FILL FLOOR DRAIN	
CU				
.DA	AMERICANS W/DISABILITIES ACT	FDN	FOUNDATION	
DHES	ADHESIVES	FH	FIRE HYDRANT	
FF	ABOVE FINISH FLOOR	FIN	FINISH	
GG/AGGR	AGGREGATE	FLR	FLOOR	
HU	AIR HANDLING UNIT	FIX	FIXTURE	
LUM	ALUMINUM	FTG	FOOTING	
P	ACCESS PANEL	FUT	FUTURE	
SP(H)	ASPHALT	G	GAS	
D	BOARD	GA	GAUGE	
F	BOARD FEET	GALV	GALVANIZED	
LK	BLOCK	GL	GLASS	
M	BEAM	GR	GRAVEL/GRADE/GRATE	
OT	BOTTOM	GYP	GYPSUM	
RK/BR	BRICK	HAZ	HAZARDOUS	
RKT	BRACKET	HDWR	HARDWARE	
TW	BETWEEN	HORIZ	HORIZONTAL	
AB	CABINET	HT	HEIGHT	
LG	CEILING	HTR	HEATER	
OL	COLUMN	HW	HOT WATER	
OMPR	COMPRESSOR	HWY	HIGHWAY	
ONC	CONCRETE	INCAN	INCANDESCENT	
TR	CENTER	INT	INTERIOR/INTERSECTION	
WR	CONTINUOUS WELD RAIL	INSUL	INSULATION	
ER	CERAMIC	JT	JOINT	
F	CUBIC FEET	LAM	LAMINATE	
FM	CUBIC FEET PER MINUTE	LAV(S)	LAVATORY (LAVATORIES)	
IP .	CAST IN PLACE/CAST IRON PIPE CLEAN-IN-PLACE	LF(S)	LINEAR FEET (DOOR LEAF(S))	
L.	CLASS	LG	LONG	
LK	CAULKING	LGT	LENGTH	
LO:	CLOSET	LRG	LARGE	
LR	CLEAR/CLEARANCE	LTG	LIGHTING	
MU	CONCRETE MASONRY UNIT	LVR	LOUVER	
ONST(R)	CONSTRUCTION	MACH	MACHINE	
ONTR	CONTRACTOR	MAINT	MAINTENANCE	
ORR	CORRUGATED/CORRUGATION	MAX	MAXIMUM	
EPT	DEPARTMENT	MBH	THOUSAND BRITISH	

NEW NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION NOT IN CONTRACT PLENUM POLISH

REMOVE RECEPTACLE

NOTIN CONTRACT
NOISE REDUCTION COEFFICIENT
ON CENTER
OUTSIDE DIAMETER
OWNER SUPPLIED
OXYGEN POLISH
PAIR
PROPERTY/PROPOSED
POUNDS PER SQUARE FOOT
POINT/PAINT
POLYVINYLCHORIDE
PAVEMENT
RADIUS/RISER

TOP OF CONCRETE/CURB

# DRAWING SYMBOLS:



DOOR NUMBER



WINDOW NUMBER



ROOM NUMBER



SECTION SYMBOL

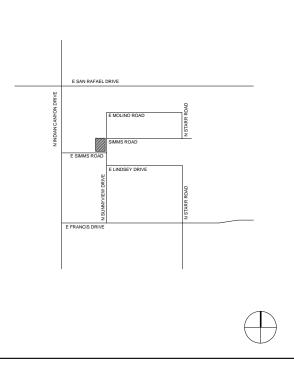


PARTIAL ELEVATION



PARTIAL SECTION





VICINITY MAP

# 675 SIMMS RD. PALM SPRINGS, CA 92262

o2 ARCHITECTURE HEREBY EXPRESSLY RESERVE ITS COMMON LAW COPY RIGHT AND OTHER PROPERTY RIGHTS IN THESE PLANS. THESE PLANS ARE NOT TO BE REPRODUCED, COPIED OR CHANGED IN ANY FORM OR MANNER WHATSDEVER, NOR ARE THEY TO BE ASSIGNED TO ANY THIRD PARTY WITHOUT RIRST OBTAINING THE EXPRESS WRITTEN PERMISSION AND CONSENT OF 62 ARCHITECTURE.

- ALL CONTRACTORS SHALL HAVE A CURRENT VALID BUSINESS LICENSE PRIOR TO PERMIT ISSUANCE PER CITY CODE.
- ALL CONTRACTORS MUST SUBMIT CERTIFICATE OF WORKER'S COMPENSATION INSURANCE COVERAGE PRIOR TO THE ISSUANCE OF A BUILDING PERMIT PER CALIFORNIA LABOR CODE, SECTION 3800.

- 6. CONTRACTOR SHALL PROVIDE A TRASH BIN TO INSURE PROPER CLEANUP OF ALL BUILDING MATERIALS
- STORAGE AND BUILDING MATERIALS OR DEBRIS SHALL BE CONFINED TO THE LOT FOR WHICH THE PERMIT IS ISSUED. ADJACENT PROPERTIES MAY NOT BE UTILIZED FOR THIS PURPOSE UNLESS WRITTEN PERMISSION OF THE OWNER IS ON FILE WITH THIS OFFICE. THE PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY SHALL BE MAINTAINED IN A CLEAR CONDITION AT ALL TIMES, AS INDICATED IN THE GOVERNING CODE.
- THE WORK SHALL CONFORM TO THE LATEST EDITION OF ALL GOVERNING CODES AND ORDINANCES,
  IF DISCREPANCIES ARE FOUND THE ARCHITECT SHALL BE NOTIFIED IMMEDIATELY.
- IF DISCREPANUES ARE FOUND THE ARCHITECT SHALL BE NOTIFIED IMMEDIATELY.

  THE ELECTRICAL MECHANICAL AND STRUCTURAL DRAWINGS ARE SUPPLEMENTARY TO THE ARCHITECTURAL DRAWINGS, IT SHALL BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CONTRACTOR TO CHECK THE ARCHITECTURAL DRAWINGS, BEFORE THE INSTALLATION OF ELECTRICAL, MECHANICAL OR STRUCTURAL WORK, SHOULD THERE BE A DISCREPANCY BETWEEN THE ELECTRICAL, MECHANICAL, STRUCTURAL AND ARCHITECTURAL DRAWINGS THAT WOULD OREAT A COMPLICT SHALL BE BROUGHT TO THE ARCHITECTS ATTENTION FOR CLARRICATION. WORK INSTALLED IN CONFLICT WITH THE ARCHITECTURAL DRAWINGS. SHALL BE CORRECTED BY THE GENERAL CONTRACTOR AT HIS/HER EXPENSE
- 10. FIELD VERIFY ALL DIMENSIONS AND CONDITIONS.
- - FINITIONS:

    TYPICAL MEANS IDENTICAL FOR ALL CONDITIONS UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

    "SIMILAR" MEANS COMPARABLE CHARACTERISTICS FOR THE CONDITION NOTED.

    DIFFERENCES ARE INFERABLE FROM OTHER INFORMATION GIVEN. VERIFY

    DIMENSIONS AND ORIENTATION SINSTALL.

    "PROVIDE" MEANS FURNISH AND INSTALL.

    TURNISH HANDS TO FURNISH AND IOTHERS WILL INSTALL

    DIMENSIONING RULES:

    A HORIZONTAL DIMENSIONS ARE SHOWN FROM INTERSECTION OF COLUMN GRID OR FACE OF

    FRAMING TO INTERSECTION OF COLUMN OR FACE OF FRAMING UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

    DIMENSIONS NOTED "CLEAR" OR "CLE" WINTER SE PRECISELY MAINTAINED.

    C. DIMENSIONS ARE NOT ADJUSTABLE WITHOUT THE APPROVAL OF THE

    ARCHITECT UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

- DIMENSIONS ARE NOT ADJUSTABLE WITHOUT THE APPROVAL OF THE
  ARCHITECT UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED 44.
  VERTICAL DIMENSIONS ARE FROM THE TOP OF THE FLOOR FINISH, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.
  DO NOT SCALE DRAWINGS. IF ANY ITEM OF WORK CANNOT BE LOCATED
  DO NOT PROCEED WITH THE WORK WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF THE ARCHITECT.
  DIMENSIONS MARKED V.I. SHALL BE VERIFIED BY THE CONTRACTOR ANDOR
  SUBCONTRACTOR WITH THE ARCHITECT PRIOR TO THE START OF CONSTRUCTION.

- 12. CAREFULLY STUDY AND COMPARE THE CONTRACT DOCUMENTS AND REPORT ANY ERROR, INCONSISTENCY, CONFLICT OR OMISSION TO THE ARCHITECT.
- 13. ERECT AND INSTALL ALL WORK TO BE LEVEL, PLUM, SQUARE, TRUE AND IN PROPER ALIGNMENT 14. CONFIRM DURING THE PRICING PERIOD ON SITE DELIVERY OF ALL CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL SPECIFIED IN THE CONTRACT DOCUMENTS AND IMMEDIATELY NOTIFY THE ARCHITECT IN WRITING OF POTENTIAL DELAYS TO THE COMPLETION DATE OF THE PROJECT.
- DO NOT SUBSTITUTE, REVISE OR CHANGE THE WORK WITHOUT THE WRITTEN CONSENT OF THE ARCHITECT/ OWNER.
- 16. SUBMIT A SPECIFIED CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE AND A SCHEDULE OF REQUIRED
- 19. SUBMIT THE SCHEDULES, SHOP DRAWINGS, MOCKUPS, SAMPLES AND OTHER REQUIRED SUBMITTALS WITHIN TWO WEEKS AFTER THE NOTICE TO PROCEED. NOTIFY ARCHITECT IF ADDITIONAL TIME IR REQUIRED ALLOW THE AGRITHECT SUPPLICIENT TIME TO REVIEW AND COMMENT ON THE SUBMITTALS. WHERE SHOP DRAWINGS ARE REQUIRED, SUBMIT FOUR SETS OF BLUELINE DRAWINGS TO THE ARCHITECT FOR REVIEW AND COMMENT PRIOR TO THE COMMENCEMENT OF FARRICATION OR PLACING AN ORDER.

- TO ORDER OF FABRICATION OF MATERIALS AND/OR INSTALLATION OF SYSTEMS SEE SPECIFICATION FOR REQUIREMENTS.
- 19. CONTRACTORS ARE TO IMMEDIATELY NOTIFY THE ARCHITECT OF ANY CONFLICTING CONDITIONS PRIOR TO AND DURING CONSTRUCTION.
- 20 DO NOT SCALE DRAWINGS CONTRACTORS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR SITE REVIEW AND PRIFICATION OF ALL QUANTITIES OF MATERIALS REQUIRED TO COMPLETE THE INSTALLATION
- SEPARATE REVIEW, APPROVAL AND PERMITS ARE REQUIRED FOR GRADING, ACCESSORY BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES, SIGNS, TRASH ENCLOSURES, BLOCK WALLS, RETAINING WALLS NOT SUPPORTING BUILDING, AND DEMOLITION WORK, CONTACT CITY FOR PROCEDURAL INCORMATION.

# CITY OF PALM SPRINGS NOTES

HOUSE I, PHASE I

- THE PROJECT IS SUBJECT TO THE CITY WATER EFFICIENT LANDSCAPE ORDINANCE. MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 8.60
- 3. PRIOR TO ISSUANCE OF GRADING PERMIT. A FUGITIVE DUST & EROSION CONTROL PLAN SHALL BE SUBMITTED AND APPROVED BY THE BUILDING OFFICIAL. MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 8.50

- CONSTRUCTION SITE FENCING IS REQUIRED PER CITY ORDINANCE 1570.
- FIRE DEPARTMENT ACCESS SHALL BE IN ACCORDANCE W/ THE 1998 CALIFORNIA FIRE CODE ARTICLE 9, SECTION 902.
- 9. ACCESS FOR FIRE FIGHTING EQUIPMENT SHALL BE PROVIDED TO THE IMMEDIATE JOB SITE
- AT THE START OF CONSTRUCTION & MAINTAINED THROUGH COMPLETION OF CONSTRUCTION
- SITE FIRE PROTECTION IS REQUIRED: PROVIDE GARDEN HOSES ON CONSTRUCTION SITE EQUIPPED W/ AN ADJUSTABLE SPRAY NOZZLE CAPABLE OF REACHING ALL COMBUSTIBLE CONSTRUCTION.
- 12. ALL BUILDING CONSTRUCTION & LANDSCAPING SHALL BE IN ACCORDANCE W/ THE 1997 URBAN-WILDLAND
- 13. A PM 10 (DUST CONTROL) PLAN SHALL BE SUBMITTED TO & APPROVED BY THE BUILDING DIVISION PRIOR TO APPROVAL OF THE GRADING PLAN. THE GRADING PLAN SHALL ALSO BE APPROVED BY THE CITY ENGINEER PRIOR TO THE ISSUANCE OF ANY GRADING OR BUILDING PERMITS.
- . ANY UTILITY CUTS IN OFF-SITE PAVEMENT SHALL RECEIVE TRENCH REPLACEMENT PAVEMENT TO MATE EXISTING PAVEMENT PLUS ONE ADDITIONAL INCH. SEE CITY STANDARD DRAWING No. 115. PAVEMENT SHALL BE RESTORED TO A SMOOTH RIDEABLE SU
- THE DEVELOPER SHALL ACCEPT ALL FLOWS IMPINGING UPON HIS LAND AND CONDUCT THESE FLOWS TO APPROVED DRAINAGE STRUCTURES.
- 17. THE DEVELOPER SHALL TAKE EVERY PRECAUTION NEEDED TO 'PROTECT-IN-PLACE' ANY EXISTING WHITEWATER MUTUAL WATER CO. WATER LINES THAT MAY TRAVERSE THE PROJECT.
- NOTHING SHALL BE CONSTRUCTED OR PLANTED IN THE CORNER CUT-OFF AREA OF ANY DRIVEWAY WHICH DOES OR WILL EXCEED THE HEIGHT REQUIRED TO MAINTAIN AN APPROPRIATE SITE LINE PER CITY STANDARD DRAWING No. 203.
- 19. ALL PROPOSED TREES WITHIN THE PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY AND WITHIN 10 FEET OF A PUBLIC SIDEWALI
- 20. ALL PROPOSED UTILITY LINES ON/OR ADJACENT TO THIS PROJECT SHALL BE UNDERGROUND

# SCHEDULE OF DRAWINGS

A0.0 TITLE SHT., VICINITY, LOCATION PLAN, BUILDING INFO., SCHEDULE OF DWGS. SYMBOLS & GENERAL NOTES ARCHITECTURAL

WEXLER HARRISON STEEL DEVELOPMENT

- AN 2 EXISTING PHOTOGRAPHS W/ DEMO NOTES1
- A0.3 EXISTING PHOTOGRAPHS W/ DEMO NOTES2
- A1.0 REMODELED SITE PLAN
- A2.0 ELEVATIONS

# GENERAL PROJECT INFORMATION:

# ARCHITECT:

## SITE INFORMATION:

LEGAL DESCRIPTION:
LOT 1 TRACT NUMBER 2085, IN THE CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, PER M.B.

ZONING: R-1-C TYPE OF CONSTRUCTION: TYPE V-B: NA/ NA

LOT SIZE: 10.400 S.F.

# APPLICABLE CODES:

- 2010 CALIFORNIA BUILDING CODE (BASED ON 2009 IBC) 2010 CALIFORNIA MECHANICAL CODE (BASED ON 2009 IMC) 2010 CALIFORNIA MECHANICAL CODE (BASED ON 2009 IMC) 2010 CALIFORNIA PLUMBRING CODE (BASE ON 2009 IMC) 2010 ENREGY CODE (2010 ENREGY STANDARDS ADMINISTRATIVE C 2010 CALIFORNIA BUILDING STANDARDS ADMINISTRATIVE C 2010 CALIFORNIA FIRE CODE

A0.0

# COVER SHEET

2 ARCHITECTURE
39 N. PALM CANYON DR., STE. B
L. MS SPRINGS, CA 92262
L. 760 . 778 . 8166
X 770 . 406 . 7348
Mil. refines® Caparin com

02 1089 I PALM TEL. 7

DEVELOPMENT

STEEL

WEXLER HARRISON S
HOUSE I, PHASE I
290 EAST SIMMS ROAD
PALM SPRINGS, CA 92282

