



## CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

DATE: ~~February 18, 2009~~ PUBLIC HEARING  
*CONTINUED TO MAY 6, 2009*

SUBJECT: CASE HSPB 54: AN APPLICATION FOR DESIGNATION OF THE PROPERTY AT 300 SOUTH PALM CANYON DRIVE (FORMER SANTA FE FEDERAL SAVINGS AND LOAN) AS A CLASS 1 HISTORIC SITE.

AND

CASE 5.1137-PDD 335; TTM 35230 AN APPLICATION BY WESSMAN HOLDINGS, LLC. FOR A PLANNED DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT AND A TENTATIVE TRACT MAP FOR A PROPOSED MIXED USE PROJECT COMPRISED OF A NEW 4-STORY BUILDING, ADAPTIVE REUSE OF AN EXISTING BUILDING, OFF-STREET PARKING AND LANDSCAPING AT 300 SOUTH PALM CANYON DRIVE; SECTION 15, TOWNSHIP 4 , RANGE 4.

FROM: David H. Ready, City Manager

BY: Department of Planning Services

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### SUMMARY

The City Council will consider two actions associated with the property located at 300 South Palm Canyon Drive:

- 1) A recommendation from the Historic Site Preservation Board for designation of the Santa Fe Federal Savings Bank Building as a Class 1 Historic Site, and
- 2) An application for a Planned Development District and a Tentative Tract Map for condominium purposes for a proposed mixed-use development. The project consists of the adaptive reuse of the Santa Fe Federal Saving Building for commercial uses, a new 4-story building with commercial/retail uses, 19 residential condominiums, off-street parking and landscaping. The subject parcel is an approximately 0.67-acre (29,442 square foot) lot in the Central Business District.

ITEM NO. 1. A.

PLANNED DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. Open the public hearing and receive public testimony.
2. Adopt Resolution \_\_\_\_ "A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA ADOPTING A CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION UNDER CEQA SECTION 15331 (PRESERVATION OF A HISTORIC RESOURCE) AND APPROVING THE CLASS 1 HISTORIC DESIGNATION OF THE SANTA FE FEDERAL SAVINGS BANK AT 300 SOUTH PALM CANYON DRIVE."
3. Adopt Resolution \_\_\_\_ "A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA ADOPTING THE MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR CASE 5.1137-PDD 335, TTM 35230; THE BARISTO LOFTS MIXED-USE PROJECT." AND APPROVING CASE 5.1137-PDD 335 AND TENTATIVE TRACT MAP 35230 SUBJECT TO THE ATTACHED CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL."

**PRIOR ACTIONS:**

On March 13, 2007, the HSPB voted 6-0-0 to recommend that the City Council designate the Santa Fe Federal Savings Bank at 300 South Palm Canyon Drive as a Class 1 Historic Site in accordance with Municipal Code Section 8.05.

On April 4, 2007, the City Council voted 3-2 (Pougnnet & Foat opposing) to continue the public hearing on the HSPB recommendation until its public hearing on the Baristo Lofts project at 300 South Palm Canyon Drive.

On January 14, 2009, the Planning Commission voted 4-1-1-1 (Scott opposing, Conrad abstaining, Ringlien absent) to adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration and approve Case 5.1137-PDD 335, 3.3028-MAJ, TTM 35230 and recommend that the City Council adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration and approve Case 5.1137 PDD 335, and TTM 35230 subject to the attached conditions of approval.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

Staff prepared this report to address both proposed actions. Part 1 is the Class 1 historic designation recommendation (Case HSPB-54) and Part 2 is the Baristo Lofts Mixed-use project (Case 5.1137-PDD 335, TTM 35230).

**PART 1: CLASS 1 DESIGNATION RECOMMENDATION CASE HSPB-54:**

The first part of this public hearing is a recommendation for Class 1 designation. The City's Historic Site Preservation Board filed an application seeking designation of 300 South Palm Canyon Drive as a Class 1 Historic Site. The Board recommended that the building and the entire site as open space should be the defining historic characteristics.

Staff believes not all the open space on the site contributes to the historic defining characteristics of the site. A staff alternative recommendation by staff proposes that the building and only the open space in front of the building on Baristo Road and Palm Canyon Drive be the defining historic characteristics. This would allow the building and its primary frontages to be preserved while enabling the landowner flexibility for adding new structures on the site.

Staff has identified a number of options that the Council could consider in making its determination on the historic designation application. These include;

1. Designate the building without including any open space in the defining historic characteristics,
2. Designate the building and only the open space along the two street frontages as part of the defining historic characteristic (staff recommendation),
3. Designate the building and entire site, as recommended by the HSPB.
4. Reject any designation of the site.

Staff recommends option 2. Staff reached this conclusion based on its analysis of the relative value and importance of the open spaces in conveying or understanding the historic significance of this site (see attached Council report of April 4, 2007).

**STAFF ANALYSIS OF CASE HSPB-54:**

The March 13, 2007 HSPB staff report and the April 4, 2007 City Council staff report (both attached) analyze the historic significance of the building and the site. The reports include analysis of the condition of "setting" and "open space" as they relate to the defining historic characteristics of the site.

*Building Composition Architecture and Landscaping*

The existing building on the site was designed by notable architect E. Stewart Williams in 1957 in the International Modern style. It is considered an excellent example of his work and this style. It is characterized by unique sliding aluminum sunscreens that shield long expanses of floor-to-ceiling glass curtainwall. A wide cantilevered roofline is supported on very thin "star columns" that are set in front of the glass wall. A unique cantilevered concrete base or 'plinth' gives the building the appearance of floating over the adjacent landscape.

At the time, the glassy building with its drive-up teller window represented "new thinking" in bank design compared to traditional fortress-like "banking temples" of earlier times.

#### **REQUIRED FINDINGS FOR CASE HSPB-54:**

Section 8.05.160 of the Municipal Code states that "*the City Council shall find that the purposes of this chapter shall be furthered by designation of the property as a historic site... and such findings shall be stated in a resolution designating such property within such site or district*". The purpose of Chapter 8.05 Historic Preservation is defined in Section 8.05.010 which states,

*"This chapter is adopted... for the purpose of preserving areas and specific buildings of the city which reflect elements of its cultural, social, economic, political, architectural and archaeological history. This chapter is intended to stabilize and improve buildings, structures or areas which are considered to be of historic, architectural archaeological or ecological value, to foster civic beauty, to strengthen the local economy and to promote the use of specific buildings for the education and welfare of the citizens."*

Section 8.05.020 of the Municipal Code provides the definition of an historic site as follows:

*"An historic site is any real property such as: a building; a structure, including but not limited to archways, tiled areas and similar architectural elements; an archaeological excavation or object that is unique or significant because of its location, design, setting, materials, workmanship or aesthetic effect"*.

#### *Building location, setting, architectural elements and aesthetic effect:*

Santa Fe Federal Savings Bank is located on a prominent corner on the City's 'main street', South Palm Canyon Drive and Baristo Road. The building is pulled forward on the site, close to the two streets in order to provide space on the south and east for parking, the drive-up teller window and a service drive.

The building's floor plane is several feet above the adjacent sidewalk and streets. The buildings' concrete base or "plinth" is designed with a unique cantilevered edge, giving the aesthetic effect of 'floating' above the level of the adjacent landscape. The buildings' two primary entrances are at opposite corners (northeast and southwest) and suggest that there is no defined sense of 'front' and 'back' of the building.

#### *Architectural Relationship to Setting:*

The Municipal Code does not provide a definition for "setting". However, the United States Department of the Interior provides a definition of 'setting' and

'location' in, *"How to Apply National Register Criteria in Evaluating Historic Sites"*. (See Staff report dated April 4, 2007).

Based on the Department of Interior definitions of setting and location, staff believes that the open space on the street frontages and all four sides of the building should be included in the defining exterior characteristics of the building<sup>1</sup>. The architecture is well-detailed on all four sides of the building, even though the cantilevered concrete base is absent on the east and south sides. This is because the elevation of the asphalt of the parking lot and service drive is at the same elevation as the floor of the building. The south elevation possesses the defining long roof overhang, the slender steel columns, but instead of continuation of the glass curtain-wall, there is a solid stacked bond masonry wall along that elevation.

Staff believes the historic defining characteristic of setting (open space) is the prominent aesthetic presence on the street sides, where the floating base, uninterrupted facades, and clean lines are best articulated. The sides facing the parking lot are more functional, even though they are still carefully detailed and finished. The purpose of the open space there is to accommodate the parking lot, drive-through, and service and utility needs of the structure.

*Vehicular Circulation and Setting:*

The open space on the building's south and east side maximize parking and vehicular queuing on a relatively small downtown site. Staff concludes that the open space on the east side of the building is relevant, but in terms of the characteristic of "setting", is less important than the open space on the street fronts. Furthermore, the open space on the south side is of least importance with the exception of the southwest corner near Palm Canyon Drive which is critical to the visual and pedestrian access to the building.

Seven other qualities are listed under Section 8.05.010. The code does not require that all seven qualities be found. Three of the seven qualities, (#3, #4, and #5), can be found in the Santa Fe Federal Building and they are explained below.

*Number 3) That reflects or exemplifies a particular period of the national, state or local history; or*

The Santa Fe Federal Savings Building represents a radical departure from the heavy, neo-classical temple-like style of architecture typically used previously for banks and financial institutions. The image of a financial institution as a light,

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<sup>1</sup> As discussed in the HSPB staff report, the defining characteristics are the long uninterrupted expanses of glass curtain-wall, sliding aluminum sun screens, long horizontal lines of the buildings' roof overhang, slender steel columns disengaged from the exterior wall, and a cantilevered concrete base

airy, human-scaled, inviting glass pavilion was revolutionary. Details such as the drive-up teller window exemplify the growing 'automobile culture' of the United States.

*Number 4) That embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction;*

The Santa Fe Federal Savings Building exemplifies the architectural style known as "International Modern" in the following ways:

- a. It uses glass, aluminum steel and concrete in a minimalist aesthetic way,
- b. It is free of applied ornamentation and decorative motifs,
- c. It uses a rigorous standard structural module for its overall dimensional order and scale,
- d. The simplicity in its aesthetic of strong, simple planes, uninterrupted surfaces and cantilevered roof elements.
- e. The walls, expressed as a thin 'curtain' of glass, are disengaged from the structural columns, allowing the volume-defining walls to be placed freely upon the foundation,
- f. Its design creates the appearance of a 'floating' pavilion with a horizontally cantilevered roof structure in which the vertical structural support is almost invisible.

*Number 5) That presents the work of a master builder, designer, artist, or architect whose individual genius influenced his age; or that possesses high artistic value;*

The Santa Fe Federal Building presents the work of one of Palm Springs' most prolific and accomplished architects, E. Stewart Williams. Williams' skill as an architect and artist is clearly reflected in the sophisticated design of this building, the attention to detail, and his innovative use of new materials and technology. He designed the building to respond to the harsh desert environment through the use of movable aluminum shade screens and long overhanging roof structures to protect the glass walls from the heat of the sun. Williams is credited for having produced a building of beautiful proportion and scale.

Williams' contribution to the profession of architecture was recognized by his peers by their bestowing upon him the title of "Fellow" of the American Institute of Architects.

The exterior of the structure is in excellent condition. The movable aluminum screens originally on the east, north and west side of the building no longer exist on the east facade.

**ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS OF CASE HSPB-54:**

In accordance with Section 15331 (Historical Resources Restoration/Rehabilitation) of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Council action on the proposed Class 1 historic designation is categorically exempt from environmental review because the proposed designation meets the conditions outlined for preservation of a historic resource.

**CONCLUSION ON CASE HSPB-54:**

The Santa Fe Federal Savings Bank and certain portions of it's surrounding site appear to possess characteristics as defined in Municipal Code Section 8.05.010 that qualify it for Class 1 historic designation and staff believes such designation would further the purposes of Section 8.05, Historic Preservation. Draft resolutions are attached for Council's consideration.

**PART 2: CASE 5.1137-PDD 335, TTM 35230: BARISTO LOFTS**

The second part of this public hearing relates to a mixed-use development on the same site. The owner of 300 South Palm Canyon Drive, Wessman Holdings, LLC, has filed an application for a Planned Development District seeking deviations from the underlying development standards and high-rise ordinance. The application includes architectural approval for the development of the mixed-use project comprising adaptive re-use of the existing building on the site for commercial uses and a proposed new 4-story mixed-use building. The proposed new building is comprised of commercial/retail uses on the first floor and 19 residential condominiums on floors 2, 3, and 4. The project proposes 81 off-street parking spaces and landscaping. The application also includes a Tentative Tract Map for condominium purposes.

*Project Design*

The project integrates an existing single story building with a proposed new four-story building, and accommodates off-street parking at the basement and first floor levels. The existing building is roughly 6,647 square feet and the proposed new building is 26,417 square feet with an additional 10,373 square feet of exterior balconies. In order to fit the new building on the site and also leave some space around the existing building, the design seeks deviations in the underlying development standards for the zone and the high-rise ordinance. These deviations would eliminate all side, front and rear yard setbacks on the east, south and west sides for the new building.

The new building is designed in a contemporary style that utilizes glass, steel, aluminum sunscreens, concrete block, precast and cast-in-place concrete and glass mosaic tile. It integrates strong horizontal and vertical lines, with

balconies and wide overhangs to shield the balconies and large glass areas from the desert sun.

The landscaping which occurs primarily in planters around the perimeter of the site, utilizes mostly drought tolerant plant materials.

The off-street parking provided is seven (7) spaces short of the 88 spaces required by the downtown parking combining zone. The project density is also slightly greater (12%) than permitted under the zoning ordinance. The setbacks, reduced off-street parking and density are the deviations from the underlying development standards for which the PDD seeks relief.

**STAFF ANALYSIS OF CASE 5.1137-PDD 335 TTM 35230 BARISTO LOFTS:**

General Plan:

The project is located in an area of the CBD referred to as "a Transition Zone". Transition zones are intended for lower-density development and uses that may be thematic or complementary to one another. The proposed uses, density, and height of the subject project have been analyzed and staff has concluded that they are consistent with the General Plan and Appendix A: The Downtown Urban Design Plan. The complete detail on this analysis can be found in the Planning Commission Staff Report beginning on page 8.

Zoning:

The project is located in the CBD zone. Because the height of the proposed new building is 45 feet, the building meets the definition of a high-rise as contained in the City's Zoning Ordinance. High-rises are permitted in the CBD either with a CUP or PDD application. A PDD application has been made here to also seek relief from the underlying development standards for the CBD zone and the standards of the high-rise ordinance.

Table 2 on the following page, shows a comparison of the development standards for the zone to the standards proposed in the PDD. The table also shows how the project compares to the General Plan Downtown Urban Design Plan.



**TABLE 2 - Comparison of development regulations & proposed conditions  
 Comparison of Development Standards by Zone, General Plan & Proposed  
 PDD**

	<b>CBD Zone</b>	<b>R-4 Zone</b>	<b>General Plan/Dntn. Urban Des. Plan</b>	<b>Proposed PD- 335</b>
Lot Area	9,600	Minimum 2 acres	none	29,447 Conforms to CBD.
Density	FAR = 1	1,500 sf of net site area per dwelling unit (30 du/acre)	Commercial: FAR = 1; Residential: 21 – 30 du/ac	33,064 SF 11,680 SF Commercial Conforms at 0.39 FAR, Residential at 28 Du/ac, conforms, but combined at an FAR of 1.12 <b>does not conform</b> )
Height	30 feet except high rise bldgs. Max. of 60 feet.	30 feet except high rise bldgs. Max. 60 feet.	35 feet with exceptions	45 feet to top of roof, and 58 feet to top of stair/elevator tower. Conforms to High-rise Code
Lot width	75 feet	130 feet	N/A	166 Feet - Conforms
Lot depth	128 feet	155 feet	N/A	194 Feet - Conforms
Front yard	10 ft. from Baristo Rd.	30 feet Hi-rise code: 3ft for ev 1 ft of height from opposite side of street ROW	N/A	20. ft. from proposed R/W of Baristo Rd. – Hi-rise code: 3ft for ev. 1 ft of height from opposite side of street ROW – <b>Does not conform.</b>
Street Side yard	10 ft. from S. Palm Canyon	30 Ft. from S. Palm Canyon Dr. Hi-rise code: 3ft for ev 1 ft of height from opposite side of street ROW	N/A	20 ft. from S. Palm Canyon Dr. Hi-rise code: 3ft for ev 1 ft of height from opposite side of street ROW – <b>Does not conform.</b>
Int. side yard	0 ft..	20 ft.(CBD) Hi-rise code: 3ft for ev 1 ft of height	N/A	0 ft – Hi-rise code: 3ft for ev 1 ft of height – <b>Does not conform.</b>
Rear yard	0 foot	20 feet CBD; Hi-rise code: 3ft for ev 1 ft of height	N/A	0 ft – Hi-rise code: 3ft for ev 1 ft of height <b>Does not conform</b>
Open Space	Per P.C.	45%; Hi-rise code requires 60% open space	N/A	Approx. 63% including balconies - Conforms
Distance between bldgs.	N/A	15 feet	N/A	12 feet – <b>Does not conform with R-4 standards</b>
Parking required	"D" Combining Zone: 1space/375 gsf for mixed-use projects over 20,000 sf = 88 spaces	"D" Combining Zone: 1 space/375 gsf for mixed-use projects over 20,000 sf. 33,064sf = 88 spaces	NA	81 off-street spaces – <b>Does not conform.</b>

PLANNED DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

*Setbacks:*

The high-rise ordinance requires 3 feet of horizontal setback for every 1 foot of vertical height. The small size of the lots in the CBD (this one is 166 x 194) makes high-rise development virtually impossible without relief from these setback requirements. In this case, the applicant proposes zero setbacks on the east, south and west sides of the lot. Staff has recommended the zero setbacks, recognizing their necessity in order to achieve the type of development envisioned in the General Plan on the small lots in the CBD.

*Density:*

The General Plan provides Floor Area Ratio (FAR) and Dwelling Units per acre (Du/ac) as means to calculate density for mixed-use projects. The Zoning Ordinance provides no guidance for density calculations when both commercial and residential uses are combined on the same site (i.e. "Mixed-use"). The proposed density of this project conforms to the General Plan with a commercial FAR of 0.36 and residential density of 19 du/ac.

When calculated for the Zoning Ordinance, the FAR is 1.12 (which counts gross floor area for both commercial and residential uses). This is 12% greater than the maximum permissible FAR density of 1 allowed for the CBD in the Zoning Ordinance. The PDD would therefore exceed the Zoning Ordinance but conform to the General Plan.

*Off-street Parking, Loading, Trash and Recycling.*

The project was evaluated under the Downtown Parking Combining Zone, which allows less off-street parking in the downtown area than is required in other parts of the City. In this case, the Downtown Parking Combining Zone requires 88 spaces and the project proposes 81 spaces. Staff believes this is a reasonable amount of parking given the proximity of the project to the municipal parking structure immediately to the north of this site (across Baristo Road).

Trash chutes, sealed dumpsters to control odors, and recycling enclosures are either provided or have been recommended by staff and made a condition of approval by the Planning Commission.

Other conditions of approval include:

- Provision of bicycle parking.
- Decorative Pavement at the entry to the off-street parking areas.
- Revision of north side balconies to "Juliet balconies" to provide more space between the existing and proposed building.
- Replacement of Mexican Fan Palms at the Palm Canyon frontage with California Fan Palms to match the standard street tree elsewhere on Palm Canyon Drive.

The applicant desires full-depth balconies on all the north-facing residential units. The Planning Commission upheld the recommendation of the Architectural Advisory Committee to pull the north side balconies back to the wall line of the new building to allow more space between the new and existing buildings (referred to as "Juliet balconies").

Staff believes that full depth balconies can be achieved on the north façade by "setting them in" to the building behind railings set flush at the building's facade, thereby maintaining architectural consistency of the new building. This will allow all units to have usable outdoor space while avoiding the encroachment of balconies close to the existing building. Additional detailed analysis is provided in the attached Planning Commission Staff report beginning on page 8.

**FINDINGS FOR CASE 5.1137 PDD 335, TTM 35230 BARISTO LOFTS:**

Planned Development District:

The findings for the Planned Development District are outlined in 94.03.00 and are reflected in Section 94.02.00 (Conditional Use Permit) and are analyzed as follows:

*a. That the use applied for at the location set forth in the application is properly one for which a conditional use permit is authorized by this Zoning Code;*

The uses proposed are ones that are authorized by the zoning code because commercial uses including restaurants and general retail, as well as residential uses are permitted in the CBD zone. The project conforms to this finding.

*b. That the use is necessary or desirable for the development of the community, is in harmony with the various elements or objectives of the general plan, and is not detrimental to existing uses or to future uses specifically permitted in the zone in which the proposed use is to be located;*

The proposed uses are identified in the General Plan as suitable and appropriate in the Downtown. The proposed uses and project density are harmonious with the stated objectives and development of this specific portion ("a transition area") of the Downtown. The uses are ones that are encouraged in order to create greater vitality and activity in the downtown area. Therefore the uses are desirable and in harmony with the objectives of the General Plan.

*c. That the site for the intended use is adequate in size and shape to accommodate such use, including yards, setbacks, walls or fences, landscaping and other features required in order to adjust such use to those existing or permitted future uses of land in the neighborhood;*

The lot is conforming in size and dimension to the zone. The site is adequate for the proposed retail and multi-family uses, because the project meets the open space requirements for the zone and the land use designation. The proposed development conforms to the height limit of the high-rise ordinance. The project includes an existing one-story building that occupies approximately 25% of the site. Significant deviations in the setback requirements of the high-rise ordinance are necessary through the application of a PDD to accommodate both the existing and the proposed building. The use of the PDD to encourage a high-density mixed-use type of project for the downtown is reasonable.

*d. That the site for the proposed use relates to streets and highways properly designed and improved to carry the type and quantity of traffic to be generated by the proposed use;*

Elimination of the existing driveway curbcut onto Palm Canyon Drive is desirable because it redirects Palm Canyon-bound traffic from the site to the signalized intersection of Baristo and Palm Canyon. Vehicular access to this site is from Baristo Road, a collector street that can accommodate vehicular movement to and from the site without conflicts with through traffic on Palm Canyon or Indian Canyon Drive. Palm Canyon Drive is a major thoroughfare and confirmed in the General Plan Future Traffic Analysis to continue to function at acceptable levels of service (LOS) at buildout for this area of Downtown. Baristo Road has been downgraded to a collector in the new General Plan in this area and is also predicted to function at acceptable levels at buildout. Therefore staff has concluded that the site relates to surrounding streets properly and those streets are adequate for the intended use.

*e. That the conditions to be imposed and shown on the approved site plan are deemed necessary to protect the public health, safety and general welfare and may include minor modification of the zone's property development standards.*

A draft set of Conditions of Approval are attached to the draft resolution as Exhibit A.

Staff also evaluated the architecture and design against the guidelines in the Zoning Ordinance and found the project to be consistent with those guidelines with the exception of Guideline 1. This guideline evaluates site layout, orientation, location of structures and relationship to one another and to open spaces and topography. Staff has concluded that the proposed very dense project on this small site makes for a "close call" in determining if it is harmonious with this guideline. A full description of staff's review of the design of the project can be found on page 18 of the Planning Commission Staff Report.

Findings of Public Benefit:

The Planning Commission analyzed the application with regard to Public Benefit. One of the primary factors in the public benefits policy is "proportionality", which is stated in the policy, as follows:

*The public benefit shall be proportional to the nature, type and extent of the flexibility granted from the standards and provisions of the Palm Springs Zoning Code.*

Staff believes the zero front, rear and side yard setbacks, increase in density and reduction in required off-street parking represent a relatively "high proportion" of deviations from the underlying development standards. The Planning Commission recommended to the City Council that the following should be the required public benefits provided by applicant in exchange for granting the PDD approval:

1. The project as a public benefit; that is, bringing a mixed-use, high density project to revitalize the downtown area.
2. That the project applicant incorporate "substantial and significant" sustainability features and processes into the design and construction of the proposed new building (to be determined by the Director of Planning).
3. That the applicant support Class 1 designation of the Santa Fe Federal Savings Building (building only).

The attached policy on establishing appropriate Public Benefit notes that the following could be considered as possible public benefit items:

- The project as Public Benefit
- The quality of the design features of the Project
- Sustainability Features
- Other Off-site Improvements

The Council may adopt the Planning Commission's public benefit recommendations as its own or establish a different set of public benefit items. Staff will incorporate the Council's determination of public benefit into the proposed resolution of approval.

Tentative Tract Map Findings:

Staff evaluated the proposed tract map against the required findings of Section 66474 of the State of California Subdivision Map Act

*a. The proposed Tentative Tract Map is consistent with all applicable general and specific plans.*

The proposed project site has a General Plan designation of CBD (Central Business District) and a Zone of CBD (Central Business District). The proposed land use of mixed use commercial/residential is consistent with the General Plan.

*b. The design and improvements of the proposed Tentative Tract Map are consistent with the zone in which the property is located.*

The proposed uses and most development standards conform to those of the underlying CBD zone and the high-rise ordinance. Certain development standards that deviate from the underlying standards will be incorporated with the acceptance of a Planned Development District. With the approval of the PDD, the design and improvements are determined to be consistent with the zone.

*c. The site is physically suited for this type of development.*

The site is essentially flat, with good vehicular access off Baristo Road that does not conflict with traffic flow on Palm Canyon. It is adjacent to the high pedestrian traffic area of the central downtown making it conducive for first floor commercial/retail uses. The site is large enough to allow the proposed high-rise building to be located at the southern half of the site, thereby preserving the east-west view corridor along Baristo Road. With the approval of the PDD application, a new set of development standards will be created suitable for this type of high-density development as envisioned in the City's General Plan for the CBD. Therefore the site is suitable for this type of development.

*d. The design of the subdivision is not likely to cause environmental damage or substantially and avoidably injure fish, wildlife, or their habitats.*

The Mitigated Negative Declaration prepared for the proposal adequately addresses the general environmental setting of the project and finds that the project will have no adverse impacts on the environment. The applicant has worked with the City and its Architectural Advisory Committee and modified the design to respond to many of their concerns about the built environment and existing significant structures on the site.

*e. The design of the subdivision or type of improvements is not likely to cause serious public health problems.*

There are no known aspects of the design that would cause serious public health problems. All physical improvements will require building permits and to conform to City, State, and National codes and regulations.

*f. The design of the subdivision or type of improvements will not conflict with easements, acquired by the public at large, for access through or use of the property within the proposed subdivision.*

The design of the development will not conflict with any easements or restrict necessary public access through the property.

In conclusion, with the approval of the PDD, the project conforms to the findings for approval of the Tentative Tract Map.

Maintenance of site.

In January 2009, Staff worked with the Planning Commission to develop a set of draft policies and conditions that could be used to assure adequate maintenance and upkeep of project sites. Since the site is presently in active use, staff believes that no special conditions are warranted. However, in the event that the existing building is vacated prior to start of construction, staff recommends the following condition:

*The property shall participate in the City's window poster program, including placement and maintenance of historic / decorative window posters.*

**ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS FOR CASE 5.1137 PDD 335 TTM 35230:**

Pursuant to Section 15063 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, an Initial Study was prepared and a Notice of Intent (NOI) to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) was sent to applicable agencies and published in the Desert Sun for a 20-day review period. The 20-day review period for the NOI was from October 17, 2008 through November 15, 2008.

The City received comment letters on the Notice of Intent. These comment letters and staff's responses are attached to this staff report as Exhibit 7.

In considering the public comments on the environmental analysis, Staff concluded that no new information has been provided that would necessitate recirculation of the Notice of Intent or the initiation of an Environmental Impact Report. Staff recommends the City Council adopt the MND as an adequate environmental document for the project. If the Council determines that the environmental analysis is not adequate, it should request staff to conduct either a focused Environmental Impact Report (EIR) on specific aspects of the project or a comprehensive EIR, and continue action on the project at this time

**CONCLUSION FOR CASE 5.1137 PDD 335, TTM 35230 BARISTO LOFTS**

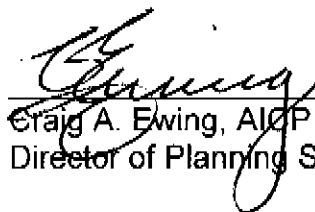
1. The Planned Development District application is recommended for approval because the proposed development of the site is consistent with the

General Plan, the findings for a PDD and the architectural guidelines of the Zoning Ordinance. (Staff however notes this is a "close call" because the zero setbacks and dense urban form proposed in this project require significant deviations from the High-rise Ordinance and are uncommon development patterns for Palm Springs.)

2. The Tentative Tract Map is consistent with the required findings for Tentative Tract Maps and therefore Staff also recommends its approval.
3. Staff will incorporate the Council's decision on items of Public Benefit and Site Maintenance Conditions into the Conditions of Approval as directed.

**NOTIFICATION:**

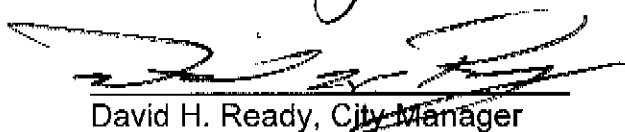
A public hearing notice was advertised and was mailed to all property owners within 400 feet of the subject property. As of the writing of this report, the City has received correspondence regarding this project which is attached.



Craig A. Ewing, AICP  
Director of Planning Services



Thomas Wilson  
Assistant City Manager



David H. Ready, City Manager

Attachments relating to Case HSPB-54:

1. Vicinity Map
2. Draft Resolutions for HSPB-54
3. City Council Staff Report on HSPB Class 1 Recommendation dated April 4, 2007
4. Staff report and HSPB minutes dated March 13, 2007 regarding HSPB-54 Santa Fe Federal

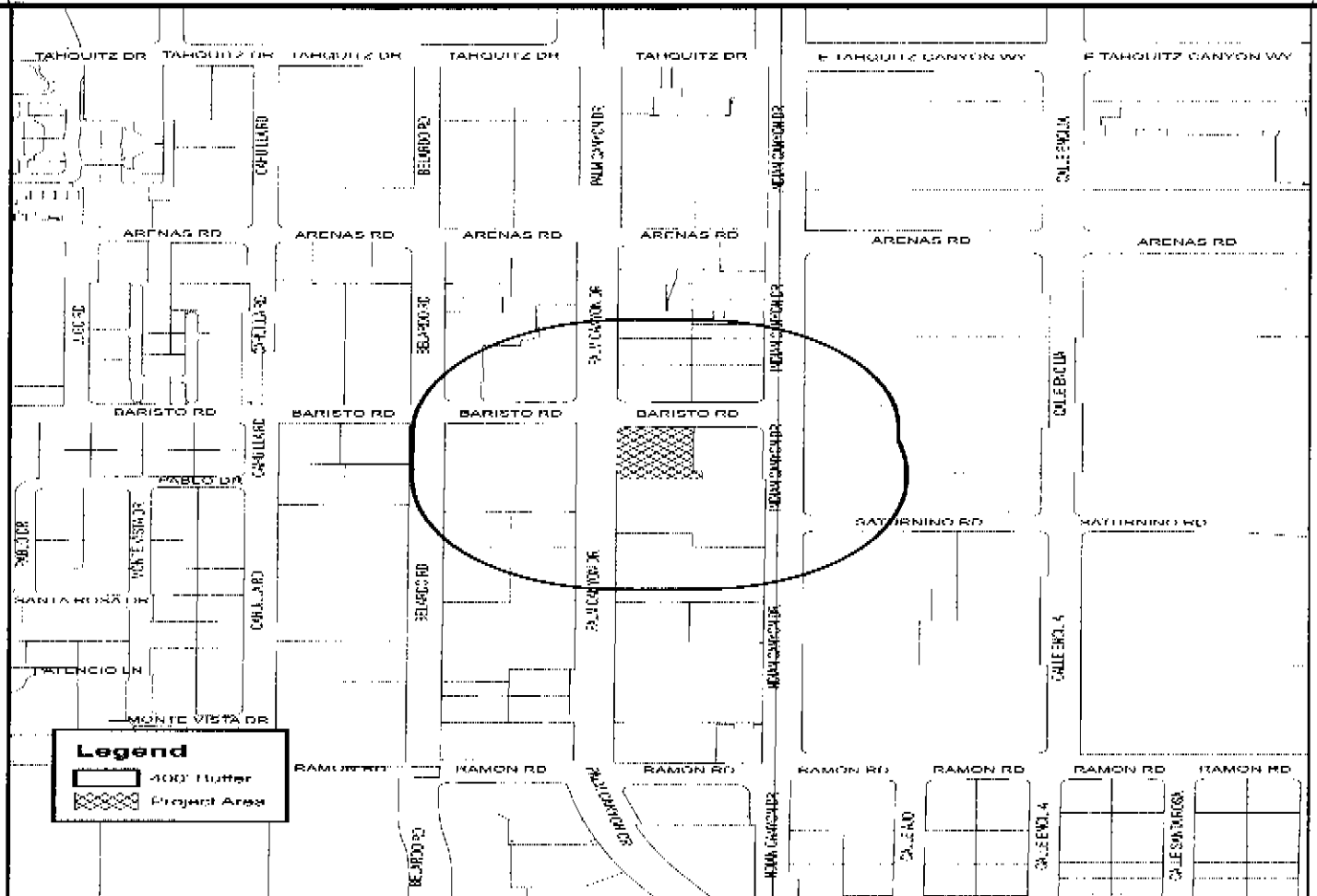
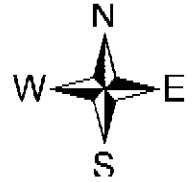
Attachments relating to Case 5.1137 PDD 335, TTM 35230 Baristo Lofts:

5. Draft Resolution
6. Site Plans & Elevations of Baristo Lofts
7. Planning Commission Minutes Summary dated January 14, 2009
8. Planning Commission Staff report, attachments, resolution and conditions of approval dated January 14, 2009
9. Environmental Initial Study and Notice of Intent to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration.
10. Public comment on the Initial Study and staff responses.
11. Policy on Public Benefit.





# Department of Planning Services Vicinity Map



## CITY OF PALM SPRINGS

**CASE NO:** HSPB-54  
5.1137 PD-335,  
TTM 35230

**APPLICANT:** Wessman Holdings  
and  
The City of Palm Springs

**DESCRIPTION:** The purpose of this hearing is to consider an application by The City of Palm Springs for recommendation of 300 South Palm Canyon Drive "The Santa Fe Federal Savings Bank" as a Class 1 Historic Site. An application by Wessman Holdings for a Planned Development District (PDD 335) and Tentative Tract Map 35230 for condominium purposes is also proposed for a 4-story mixed-use structure with commercial uses on the first floor and residential uses on floors 2, 3, and 4. Zone CBD. APN: 513-204-005.

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
(STAFF RECOMMENDATION)

OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA DESIGNATING THE BUILDING AND THE OPEN SPACE ALONG THE BARISTO ROAD AND THE SOUTH PALM CANYON DRIVE FRONTAGE ON THE SITE AT 300 SOUTH PALM CANYON DRIVE, "THE SANTA FE FEDERAL SAVINGS AND LOAN BUILDING" A CLASS ONE HISTORIC SITE.

WHEREAS, Chapter 8.05 of the Palm Springs Municipal Code allows for the designation of historic sites; and

WHEREAS, on January 9, 2007, the Historic Site Preservation Board initiated an application for historic site designation of 300 South Palm Canyon Drive; and

WHEREAS, notice of a public hearing of the Historic Site Preservation Board of the City of Palm Springs to consider designation of 300 South Palm Canyon Drive as a Class 1 historic site was issued in accordance with applicable law; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2007, the Historic Site Preservation Board conducted a public hearing in accordance with applicable law to consider designation of 300 South Palm Canyon Drive as a Class 1 historic site; and

WHEREAS, at said hearing, the HSPB adopted Resolution #54 to recommend to City Council designation of the building and the entire site as open space at 300 South Palm Canyon Drive as a Class 1 historic site; and

WHEREAS, notice of a public hearing of the City Council of the City of Palm Springs to consider designation of 300 South Palm Canyon Drive, as a Class 1 historic site was issued in accordance with applicable law; and

WHEREAS, on April 4, 2007 the City Council conducted a public hearing in accordance with applicable law to consider designation of 300 South Palm Canyon Drive as a Class 1 historic site; and

WHEREAS, at said hearing the City Council voted 3-2 (Foat & Pougnet opposing) to continue the public hearing to a date uncertain such that this matter could be heard concurrently with a public hearing on Case 5.1137 PDD 335, 3.3028 MAJ and TTM 35230; a project known as "Baristo Lofts", and

WHEREAS, notice of a public hearing of the City Council of the City of Palm Springs to consider designation of 300 South Palm Canyon Drive, as a Class 1 historic site was

issued in accordance with applicable law; and

WHEREAS, on February 18, 2009 the City Council conducted a public hearing in accordance with applicable law to consider designation of 300 South Palm Canyon Drive as a Class 1 historic site; and

WHEREAS, the designation of 300 South Palm Canyon Drive shall further the purpose and intent of Chapter 8.05; and

WHEREAS, the designation of 300 South Palm Canyon Drive promotes the sensitive preservation of said site; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the designation of a historic site is categorically exempt from environmental review pursuant to Section 15331 for the preservation of historical resources; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has carefully reviewed and considered all of the evidence in connection with the designation, including but not limited to the staff report which recommends designation of the building and the open space along the Baristo Road and South Palm Canyon Drive frontages of the building, application and historical research, all written and oral testimony presented and notes the following:

1. In 1957, The Santa Fe Federal Savings Bank commissioned prominent local Architect E. Stewart Williams to design a branch bank at 300 South Palm Canyon Drive in Palm Springs.
2. The defining characteristics of this building are its mid-century modern architecture, use of long expanses of glass, thin steel structural columns, sliding aluminum sun screens, its clean un-decorated and un-ornamented surfaces, its strong linear facades, cantilevered 'floating' concrete base, wide overhanging cantilevered roof planes, rigorous dimensional module defining its size and proportion.
3. The building stands as a very good example of the revolutionary thinking in commercial banking of its time, in which the typical heavy, temple-like traditional styles of banks was cast aside in favor of a light and airy, human-scaled glass pavilion.

**THE CITY COUNCIL DOES HEREBY RESOLVE:**

SECTION 1: Pursuant to CEQA, the City Council finds that the designation of the building at 300 South Palm Canyon Drive as a Class 1 historic site is categorically exempt from environmental review pursuant to Section 15331 whereby this designation is for the preservation of a historical resource.

SECTION 2: The Council does hereby make the following findings;

A. *The Santa Fe Federal Savings Bank reflects or exemplifies a particular period of the national, state or local history;*

The Santa Fe Federal Savings Bank is an excellent example of mid-century modern architecture as applied to a commercial bank building and embodies the new optimism in technology and the future that was prevalent in the country during the period following World War II. The capability of modern technology and architecture to solve all the complexities of contemporary life and the visionary idea that a structure for banking could be a light, glass and steel structure in a very human scale instead of the usual heavy classical architectural forms that typified bank buildings in previous eras are embodied in this structure. Innovative new concepts such as 'motor banking' which was a conceptual idea in the fifties and sixties were incorporated in the building via a drive-in bank teller window.

It is an important member of a collection of buildings in this vicinity that developed in the fifties and sixties as Palm Springs "financial district"; including the City National Bank (Bank of America), Coachella Valley Savings Bank (Washington Mutual), Coachella Savings & Loan (Prudential), Union Bank of California, Guaranty Bank, and Wells Fargo. This collection of financial institutions are all located on or near Palm Canyon Drive which was, at the time, the hub of commercial activity in the Coachella Valley. Each bank sought to capture customers by creating a significant presence through the use of outstanding architecture. This notion of 'advertising through architecture' is clearly evident in this collection of buildings, including the Santa Fe Federal Savings Bank.

B. *The Santa Fe Federal Savings Bank embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction;*

1. The Santa Fe Federal Savings Bank typifies the Mid-century Modern period of architecture because
  - a. It makes use of a rigorously defined dimensional module (five foot) around which all aspects of the building are scaled.
  - b. It is reflective of its own time, not a copy of earlier styles or cultures.
  - c. It is devoid of applied decoration or ornamentation.
  - d. It makes sophisticated use of technologically new materials (aluminum and large panel glass).
  - e. Its columns and the walls are disengaged from each other, allowing the wall plane to 'continue past' in an uninterrupted manner from the structural columns.
  - f. It possesses the following defining characteristics or elements:
    - The sliding aluminum brise soleil, or sunscreens,
    - The long, uninterrupted cantilevered roof structure on the west and north facades,

- The linear, uninterrupted cantilevered concrete base or 'floating' floor slab on the west and north facades,
  - The free-standing slender steel columns which narrow at the top and bottom and are disengaged from the window-wall along the north and west facades,
  - The long continuous expanse of floor to ceiling windows on the north and west elevations,
  - The pure box-like volume of the building in which the only 'cutouts' occur at the two corner entry's,
  - The drive-through teller window.
  - The open space on the Baristo Road and South Palm Canyon Drive frontage of the building.
2. The inspiration for its proportion and form can clearly be traced to important historic structures in the modern movement, especially the Barcelona Pavilion by Mies van der Rohe of 1929.
  3. Its drive-up teller window represented 'state-of-the-art' banking services at a time when "motor banking" was in its infancy.
- C. *The Santa Fe Federal Savings Bank presents the work of a master builder, designer, artist, or architect whose individual genius influenced his age; or that possesses high artistic value;*

The Santa Fe Federal Savings Bank was designed by prominent local architect E. Stewart Williams, who was recognized nationally for his contribution to modern architecture.

SECTION 3: Based upon the foregoing, the City Council does hereby designate the Santa Fe Federal Savings Bank Building and the open space on the west and north elevations at 300 South Palm Canyon Drive, Palm Springs, California as a Class 1 Historic Site subject to the following conditions;

1. The property owner shall permit the City to demark the Santa Fe Building as a historic site with a historic marker of the City's choosing. The marker shall be placed in a location visible from the public right-of-way. The owner shall maintain the marker in the location installed and pay for the replacement cost if it is lost, stolen, or otherwise removed from the property.
2. All future exterior modifications including but not limited to building, site, landscaping, lighting, walls, and fences shall require Architectural Approval pursuant to Section 94.04.00 of the Palm Springs Zoning Ordinance and Historic Site Preservation Board review pursuant Municipal Code Ordinance 8.05.180.

- 3. No permit for the alteration of the exterior, including any and all of the defining elements and characteristics shall be issued without prior approval by the Historic Site Preservation Board.
- 4. That the City Clerk submit the Council Resolution to the County recorder for recordation within 90 days of the effective date of this resolution.
- 5. All existing or previously approved alterations shall be considered acceptable.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that, based upon the foregoing, the City Council hereby designates the building and the open space on the Baristo Road and Palm Canyon Drive frontages at 300 South Palm Canyon Drive a Class 1 historic site.

ADOPTED THIS 18th day of February, 2009.

\_\_\_\_\_  
David H. Ready, City Manager

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
James Thompson, City Clerk

CERTIFICATION

STATE OF CALIFORNIA )  
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE ) ss.  
CITY OF PALM SPRINGS )

I, JAMES THOMPSON, City Clerk of the City of Palm Springs, hereby certify that Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_ is a full, true and correct copy, and was duly adopted at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Palm Springs on February 18, 2009, by the following vote:

AYES:  
NOES:  
ABSENT:  
ABSTAIN:

\_\_\_\_\_  
James Thompson, City Clerk  
City of Palm Springs, California

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
(HSPB RECOMMENDATION)

OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA DESIGNATING THE BUILDING AND ALL OPEN SPACE SURROUNDING IT ON THE SITE AT 300 SOUTH PALM CANYON DRIVE, "THE SANTA FE FEDERAL SAVINGS AND LOAN BUILDING" A CLASS ONE HISTORIC SITE.

WHEREAS, Chapter 8.05 of the Palm Springs Municipal Code allows for the designation of historic sites; and

WHEREAS, on January 9, 2007, the Historic Site Preservation Board initiated an application for historic site designation of 300 South Palm Canyon Drive; and

WHEREAS, notice of a public hearing of the Historic Site Preservation Board of the City of Palm Springs to consider designation of 300 South Palm Canyon Drive as a Class 1 historic site was issued in accordance with applicable law; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2007, the Historic Site Preservation Board conducted a public hearing in accordance with applicable law to consider designation of 300 South Palm Canyon Drive as a Class 1 historic site; and

WHEREAS, at said hearing, the HSPB adopted Resolution #54 to recommend to City Council designation of the building and the entire site as open space at 300 South Palm Canyon Drive as a Class 1 historic site; and

WHEREAS, notice of a public hearing of the City Council of the City of Palm Springs to consider designation of 300 South Palm Canyon Drive, as a Class 1 historic site was issued in accordance with applicable law; and

WHEREAS, on April 4, 2007 the City Council conducted a public hearing in accordance with applicable law to consider designation of 300 South Palm Canyon Drive as a Class 1 historic site; and

WHEREAS, at said hearing the City Council voted 3-2 (Foat & Pougnet opposing) to continue the public hearing to a date uncertain such that this matter could be heard concurrently with a public hearing on Case 5.1137 PDD 335, 3.3028 MAJ and TTM 35230; a project known as "Baristo Lofts", and

WHEREAS, notice of a public hearing of the City Council of the City of Palm Springs to consider designation of 300 South Palm Canyon Drive, as a Class 1 historic site was issued in accordance with applicable law; and

WHEREAS, on February 18, 2009 the City Council conducted a public hearing in accordance with applicable law to consider designation of 300 South Palm Canyon Drive as a Class 1 historic site; and

WHEREAS, the designation of 300 South Palm Canyon Drive shall further the purpose and intent of Chapter 8.05; and

WHEREAS, the designation of 300 South Palm Canyon Drive promotes the sensitive preservation of said site; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the designation of a historic site is categorically exempt from environmental review pursuant to Section 15331 for the preservation of historical resources; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has carefully reviewed and considered all of the evidence in connection with the designation, including but not limited to the staff report, application and historical research, all written and oral testimony presented and notes the following:

1. In 1957, The Santa Fe Federal Savings Bank commissioned prominent local Architect E. Stewart Williams to design a branch bank at 300 South Palm Canyon Drive in Palm Springs.
2. The defining characteristics of this building are its mid-century modern architecture, use of long expanses of glass, thin steel structural columns, sliding aluminum sun screens, its clean un-decorated and un-ornamented surfaces, its strong linear facades, cantilevered 'floating' concrete base, wide overhanging cantilevered roof planes, rigorous dimensional module defining its size and proportion.
3. The building stands as a very good example of the revolutionary thinking in commercial banking of its time, in which the typical heavy, temple-like traditional styles of banks was cast aside in favor of a light and airy, human-scaled glass pavilion.

THE CITY COUNCIL DOES HEREBY RESOLVE:

SECTION 1: Pursuant to CEQA, the City Council finds that the designation of the building at 300 South Palm Canyon Drive as a Class 1 historic site is categorically exempt from environmental review pursuant to Section 15331 whereby this designation is for the preservation of a historical resource.

SECTION 2: The Council does hereby make the following findings;

- A. *The Santa Fe Federal Savings Bank reflects or exemplifies a particular period of the national, state or local history;*



The Santa Fe Federal Savings Bank is an excellent example of mid-century modern architecture as applied to a commercial bank building and embodies the new optimism in technology and the future that was prevalent in the country during the period following World War II. The capability of modern technology and architecture to solve all the complexities of contemporary life and the visionary idea that a structure for banking could be a light, glass and steel structure in a very human scale instead of the usual heavy classical architectural forms that typified bank buildings in previous eras are embodied in this structure. Innovative new concepts such as 'motor banking' which was a conceptual idea in the fifties and sixties were incorporated in the building via a drive-in bank teller window.

It is an important member of a collection of buildings in this vicinity that developed in the fifties and sixties as Palm Springs "financial district"; including the City National Bank (Bank of America), Coachella Valley Savings Bank (Washington Mutual), Coachella Savings & Loan (Prudential), Union Bank of California, Guaranty Bank, and Wells Fargo. This collection of financial institutions are all located on or near Palm Canyon Drive which was, at the time, the hub of commercial activity in the Coachella Valley. Each bank sought to capture customers by creating a significant presence through the use of outstanding architecture. This notion of 'advertising through architecture' is clearly evident in this collection of buildings, including the Santa Fe Federal Savings Bank.

B. *The Santa Fe Federal Savings Bank embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction;*

1. The Santa Fe Federal Savings Bank typifies the Mid-century Modern period of architecture because
  - a. It makes use of a rigorously defined dimensional module (five foot) around which all aspects of the building are scaled.
  - b. It is reflective of its own time, not a copy of earlier styles or cultures.
  - c. It is devoid of applied decoration or ornamentation.
  - d. It makes sophisticated use of technologically new materials (aluminum and large panel glass).
  - e. Its columns and the walls are disengaged from each other, allowing the wall plane to 'continue past' in an uninterrupted manner from the structural columns.
  - f. It possesses the following defining characteristics or elements:
    - The sliding aluminum brise soleil, or sunscreens,
    - The long, uninterrupted cantilevered roof structure on the west and north facades,
    - The linear, uninterrupted cantilevered concrete base or 'floating' floor slab on the west and north facades,

- The free-standing slender steel columns which narrow at the top and bottom and are disengaged from the window-wall along the north and west facades,
  - The long continuous expanse of floor to ceiling windows on the north and west elevations,
  - The pure box-like volume of the building in which the only 'cutouts' occur at the two corner entry's,
  - The drive-through teller window.
  - The open space on all sides of the building.
2. The inspiration for its proportion and form can clearly be traced to important historic structures in the modern movement, especially the Barcelona Pavilion by Mies van der Rohe of 1929.
  3. Its drive-up teller window represented 'state-of-the-art' banking services at a time when "motor banking" was in its infancy.
- C. *The Santa Fe Federal Savings Bank presents the work of a master builder, designer, artist, or architect whose individual genius influenced his age; or that possesses high artistic value;*

The Santa Fe Federal Savings Bank was designed by prominent local architect E. Stewart Williams, who was recognized nationally for his contribution to modern architecture.

SECTION 3: Based upon the foregoing, the City Council does hereby designate the Santa Fe Federal Savings Bank Building and all open space surrounding it at 300 South Palm Canyon Drive, Palm Springs, California as a Class 1 Historic Site subject to the following conditions;

1. The property owner shall permit the City to demark the Santa Fe Building as a historic site with a historic marker of the City's choosing. The historic marker shall be placed in a location visible from the public right-of-way. The owner shall maintain the marker in the location installed and pay for the replacement cost if it is lost, stolen, or otherwise removed from the property.
2. All future exterior modifications including but not limited to building, site, landscaping, lighting, walls, and fences shall require Architectural Approval pursuant to Section 94.04.00 of the Palm Springs Zoning Ordinance and Historic Site Preservation Board review pursuant Municipal Code Ordinance 8.05.180.
3. No permit for the alteration of the exterior, including any and all of the defining elements and characteristics shall be issued without prior approval by the Historic Site Preservation Board.

- 4. That the City Clerk submit the Council Resolution to the County recorder for recordation within 90 days of the effective date of this resolution.
- 5. All existing or previously approved alterations shall be considered acceptable.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that, based upon the foregoing, the City Council hereby designates the building and all open space on the parcel at 300 South Palm Canyon Drive a Class 1 historic site.

ADOPTED THIS 18th day of February, 2009.

\_\_\_\_\_  
David H. Ready, City Manager

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
James Thompson, City Clerk

CERTIFICATION

STATE OF CALIFORNIA )  
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE ) ss.  
CITY OF PALM SPRINGS )

I, JAMES THOMPSON, City Clerk of the City of Palm Springs, hereby certify that Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_ is a full, true and correct copy, and was duly adopted at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Palm Springs on February 18, 2009, by the following vote:

- AYES:
- NOES:
- ABSENT:
- ABSTAIN:

\_\_\_\_\_  
James Thompson, City Clerk  
City of Palm Springs, California



## CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

DATE: APRIL 4, 2007

PUBLIC HEARING

SUBJECT: CASE HSPB #54: APPLICATION FOR DESIGNATION OF THE PROPERTY AT 300 SOUTH PALM CANYON DRIVE (FORMER SANTA FE FEDERAL SAVINGS AND LOAN) AS A CLASS 1 HISTORIC SITE

FROM: David H. Ready, City Manager

BY: The Planning Department

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### SUMMARY

Under Section 8.05 of the Palm Springs Municipal Code (Historic Resources), the City Council may designate properties as "Class 1" historic sites. The City's Historic Site Preservation Board (HSPB) has recommended such a designation for the property at 300 South Palm Canyon Drive. The Council will conduct a public hearing and determine if the site and building should be designated. Class 1 designation would require that any future changes to the building or site be reviewed by the HSPB for the effect such changes may have on the historic character and value of the site.

### HSPB RECOMMENDATION

Adopt Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_: "A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA DESIGNATING THE BUILDING AND ALL OPEN SPACE SURROUNDING IT ON THE SITE AT 300 SOUTH PALM CANYON DRIVE, "THE SANTA FE FEDERAL SAVINGS AND LOAN BUILDING" A CLASS ONE HISTORIC SITE".

### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Adopt Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_: "A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA DESIGNATING THE BUILDING AND THE OPEN SPACE ON THE BARISTO ROAD AND THE SOUTH PALM CANYON DRIVE SIDE OF THE BUILDING AT 300 SOUTH PALM CANYON DRIVE, "THE SANTA FE FEDERAL SAVINGS AND LOAN BUILDING" A CLASS ONE HISTORIC SITE."

ITEM NO. 1A  
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### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The City of Palm Springs, via the Historic Site Preservation Board has filed an application requesting the structures and surrounding open space at the subject property be designated a Class I historic site. Such designation would:

1. Place the subject property under the guidance of Municipal Code Section 8.05
2. Require present and subsequent owners to maintain the site consistent with that ordinance,
3. Grant possible property tax reduction opportunities to the owner under the State of California Mills Act.

A full project description, historic assessment report and Staff's findings and recommendations can be found in the attached staff report to the Historic Site Preservation Board dated March 13, 2007.

### RECENT PRIOR ACTIONS

On Tuesday, March 13, 2007, The Historic Site Preservation Board voted 6-0-0 to recommend that City Council designate the Santa Fe Federal Savings Bank / Wessman Building at 300 South Palm Canyon Drive a Class I Historic Site in accordance with Municipal Code Section 8.05. HSPB Resolution #54 is attached.

### ANALYSIS

The staff report to the HSPB with analysis and findings are attached. During its deliberations, the Board discussed the findings and recommendations of the staff report and determined that in addition to the defining characteristics of the structure, there are additional characteristics contributing to the historic values of the property: Setting and open space. The Board believes the historic significance of the Santa Fe Federal / Wessman Building includes the open space around it, and thus this open space should be preserved. Consequently, the Board directed Staff to include open space in the defining characteristics of the site, and determined that not just the building, but the entire site should be included in the Class 1 designation.

Staff analyzed the issue of setting and open space as a potential defining historic characteristic of this site in three ways:

1. To seek a definition of open space and setting relative to historic preservation,
2. To determine the 'value' or importance of the open space surrounding the Santa Fe Federal / Wessman Building on the overall design and aesthetic impact of the building, and
3. Whether it can be determined if open space was a conscious consideration made on the part of E. Stewart Williams in the design and placement of the structure on the site at 300 South Palm Canyon Drive.

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1. Definition of open space and setting.

The definition of a historic site in the Municipal Code Section 8.05.020 states,

*An historic site is any real property such as: a building; a structure, including but not limited to archways, tiled areas and similar architectural elements; an archaeological excavation or object that is unique or significant because of its location, design, **setting**, materials, workmanship or aesthetic effect.*

The Municipal Code does not provide a definition for "setting". However, the United States Department of the Interior provides a definition of 'setting' and 'location' in, "*How to Apply National Register Criteria in Evaluating Historic Sites*".<sup>1</sup> The following excerpt provides an example of the definition of setting within the context of historic preservation that may be considered in evaluating the Boards' request to include this quality in the defining characteristics of this site.

***Setting is the physical environment of a historic property. Whereas location refers to the specific place where a property was built or an event occurred, setting refers to the character of the place in which the property played its historical role. It involves how, not just where, the property is situated and its relationship to surrounding features and open space.***

*Setting often reflects the basic physical conditions under which a property was built and the functions it was intended to serve. In addition, the way in which a property is positioned in its environment can reflect the designer's concept of nature and aesthetic preferences.*

*The physical features that constitute the setting of a historic property can be either natural or manmade, including such elements as:*

- *Topographic features (a gorge or the crest of a hill);*
  - *Vegetation;*
  - *Simple manmade features (paths or fences); and*
  - *Relationships between buildings and other features or open space.*
- These features and their relationships should be examined not only within the exact boundaries of the property, but also between the property and its surroundings. This is particularly important for districts.*

Staff also took into consideration the National Trust's approach to the issue of "location" in attempting to clarify the condition of 'setting' and open space in this particular case:

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<sup>1</sup>The National Register of Historic Places is the Nation's official list of cultural resources worthy of preservation. Authorized under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Register is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect historic and archeological resources.

**Location is the place where the historic property was constructed or the place where the historic event occurred.** The relationship between the property and its location is often important to understanding why the property was created or why something happened. The actual location of a historic property, complemented by its setting, is particularly important in recapturing the sense of historic events and persons.

Because these definitions are generally accepted at the national level for evaluating historic sites, staff applied these definitions to its review of the issue of open space question at 300 South Palm Canyon.

2. Analysis of relative value and importance of the open spaces on this site.

*Building Placement and Orientation:*

The setting and the location of the Santa Fe Federal Savings Bank is on a prominent corner on the City's 'main street', South Palm Canyon Drive and Baristo Road. The building is pulled forward on the site close to the two streets in order to provide maximum open space on the south and east for parking, the drive-up teller window and a service drive.

The building's floor plane is several feet above the adjacent sidewalk and streets, giving it a visual sense of being 'floating' above the level of the adjacent streets and sidewalks. From Baristo Road, one must ascend ten steps to get to the building entrance. Palm Canyon Drive rises in grade from north to south, thus from Palm Canyon at the southwest corner of the building, the building is reached by ascending 4 steps. The buildings' two primary entrances are at opposite corners (northeast and southwest) and suggest that there is no defined sense of 'front' and 'back' of the building.

*Architectural Relationship to Setting:*

The defining exterior characteristics of the building are all found on the north and west sides of the building.<sup>2</sup> The cantilevered concrete base is absent on the east and south sides because the elevation of the asphalt of the parking lot and service drive is at the same elevation as the floor of the building. The south elevation possesses the defining long roof overhang, the slender steel columns, but instead of continuation of the glass curtain-wall, there is a solid stacked bond masonry wall along that elevation.

Staff believes the siting of the building was created to provide a prominent aesthetic presence on the street sides, while the sides facing the parking lot are more functional, if still attractive. The street side elevations are clearly the strongest in terms of purity of form and composition of the building; the open space there seems to be created to present the 'best view' of the building. These areas would thus appear to be of highest importance. The south and east elevations, while well detailed, are secondary

<sup>2</sup> As discussed in the HSPB staff report, these defining characteristics are the long uninterrupted expanses of glass curtain-wall, long horizontal lines of the buildings' roof overhang, slender steel columns disengaged from the exterior wall, and a cantilevered concrete base.

elevations and the purpose of the open space there is to accommodate the parking lot, drive-through, and service and utility needs of the structure.

*Vehicular Circulation and Setting:*

Given the importance of the automobile in post World War II America, the design requirements for this branch bank clearly had to accommodate vehicular circulation. The open space on the buildings south and east side maximize parking and vehicular queuing on a relatively small downtown site. Staff concludes that the open space on the east side of the building is relevant but less important than the open space on the street fronts. The open space on the south side is of least importance with the exception of the southwest corner near Palm Canyon Drive which is critical to the visual and pedestrian access to the building.

3. Interpreting intent of the architect to integrate open space in the design

Staff is not aware of any statement of design intent created by the architect E. Stewart Williams that would reveal the relative importance he placed on the open space at this site. However, a conceptual sketch by Williams dated March 22, 1969, titled "Scheme 'C', Santa Fe Square", shows a four story office building and large open plaza added to the Santa Fe Federal Savings & Loan site (see attachment).

The proposed office tower, a long rectangular building in plan, is not connected to the existing building, but rather is located roughly fifteen feet south of the existing Santa Fe Federal Savings / Wessman Building. While the purpose of this sketch is not known and cannot be used to validate the historic value of the open space on this site, it offers one particular idea by the building's architect about adapting or modifying the space around the present building.

Staff concludes that the open spaces specifically at the front of the building along Baristo Road and Palm Canyon Drive are the two most important areas of open space on the site. The open space to the east and to the southwest of the existing building, are of secondary importance, because:

1. They accommodate the drive aisle for the original bank teller drive-up window – a more functional use, than aesthetic;
2. They face the 'back sides' of the building, based on the lower level of defining architectural elements on the east and south building elevations, and
3. They were considered by the architect as potential future building area in the 1969 concept sketch.

In considering the designation recommendation for this site and the issue of designating and preserving open space on the site as historic, the City Council may choose to;

1. Designate the building without including any open space in the defining historic characteristics,
2. Designate the building and only the open space along the two street frontages as part of the defining historic characteristics,

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3. Designate the building and entire site, as recommended by the HSPB.
4. Reject any designation of the site.

Based on the aforementioned analysis Staff recommends option 2.

#### NOTIFICATION

Pursuant to section 8.05.140 of the Municipal Code of Palm Springs, All property owners within three hundred (300) feet of the subject property have been notified and notice was made in a newspaper of general circulation. As of the writing of this report, staff has not received any inquiries on this matter.

#### FISCAL IMPACT:

Finance Director Review:

No fiscal impact.



Craig A. Ewing, AICP  
Director of Planning Services



Thomas J. Wilson  
Assistant City Manager, Dev't Svcs

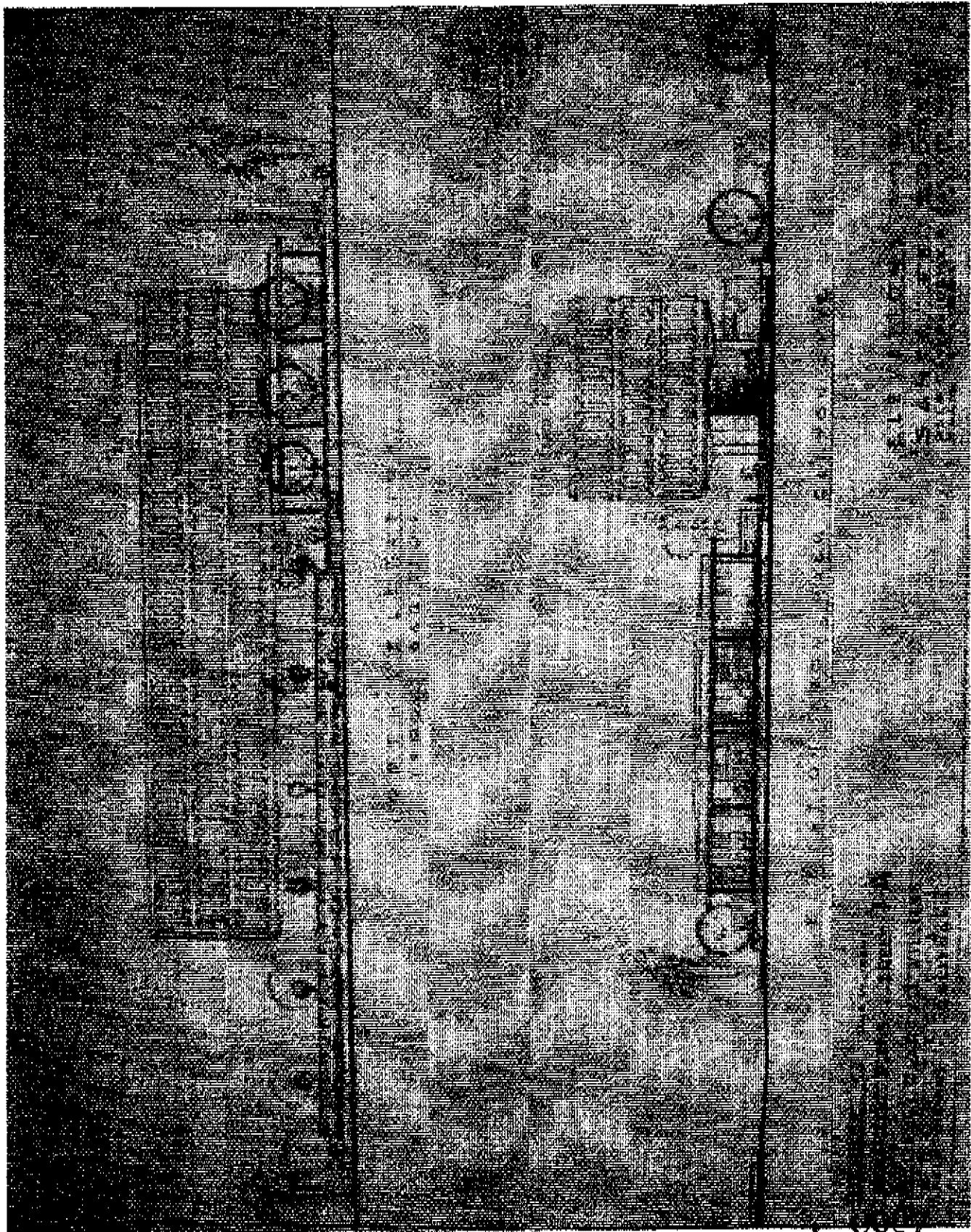


David H. Ready  
City Manager

#### ATTACHMENTS

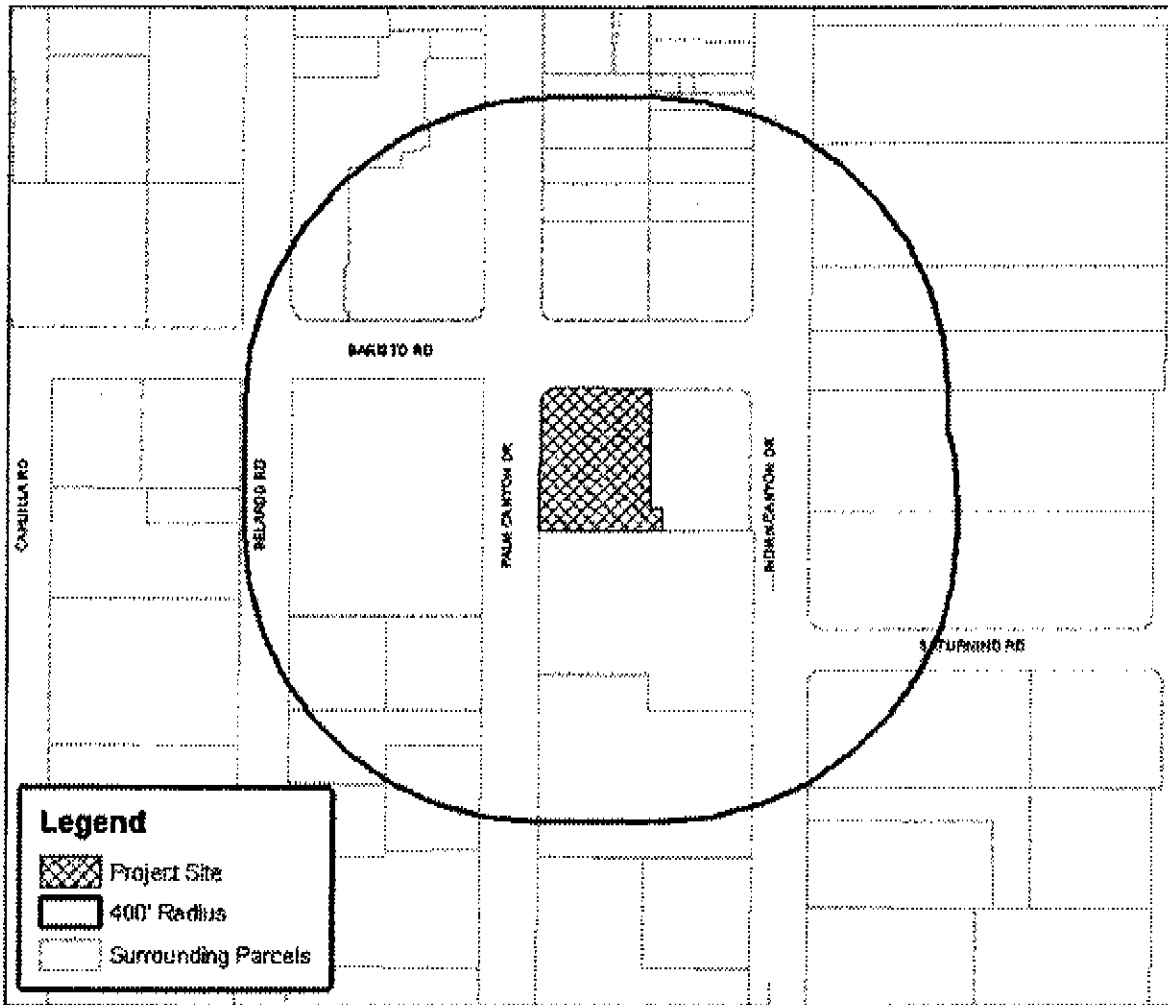
1. Exhibit of Scheme "C" Santa Fe Square (E. Stewart Williams, 1969)
2. Vicinity Map
3. Draft City Council Resolution HSPB Recommendation
4. Draft City Council Resolution Staff Recommendation
5. Resolution #54 of the HSPB
6. Minutes of the March 13, 2007 HSPB meeting
7. Staff Report to the Historic Site Preservation Board dated March 13, 2007
8. Historic Resources Analysis Report with attachments
9. Application for Class One Historic Site Designation

0066





# Department of Planning Services Vicinity Map



**Legend**

-  Project Site
-  400' Radius
-  Surrounding Parcels

## CITY OF PALM SPRINGS

**CASE NO:** HSPB Proposed Designation –  
300 S. Palm Canyon Drive

**APPLICANT:** The City of Palm Springs

**DESCRIPTION:** Application by the City of Palm Springs to consider designation of the building located at 300 South Palm Canyon Drive, a Class 1 Historic Site, Zone CBD, Section 15, APN: 513-204-005.

1. 0008

Dear Mayor Oden and Council Members Pougnet, Foat, Mills & McCulloch

I am contacting you to register my support for classifying the Santa Fe Federal Savings & Loan Building (1960), by E. Stewart Williams, as an historic site.

The significance of American post-war "regionalist" modern architecture is admired from afar as the culmination of 1930s international modernism. Palm Springs is a valuable resource of such works. Architects' visions of a healthy and natural way of life formed a potent and seductive symbol of 1950s idealistic aesthetic and lifestyle.

Free-standing structures such as the Santa Fe Savings & Loan Building are designed to be seen from all directions, extending out to embrace the countryside beyond. With light and ventilation entering from all sides, the pavilion-type is therefore representative of regional design. Indeed this integration of building and landscape reaches back through history, to Frank Lloyd Wright, Palladio and classical Greek temples.

I would consequently argue that it is appropriate to classify the Santa Fe building as an historic site for the following key reasons:

- A fine example of regional modernism in that it encompasses the design principles outlined above
- Obvious, prominent visibility on entry into Palm Springs
- Physical integrity of the structure and its detailing
- A relatively rare example of non-residential "desert modern" architecture
- The determination of its historical significance in 2004 by the Citywide Historic Resources Survey
- The recent HSPB vote to designate this example of E. Stewart Williams' commercial work as a Class One Historic Site
- Public recognition of the architect's contribution to Palm Springs (marked graphically outside the structure itself) and his recent death highlight its increased value and significance.

On a broader economic and cultural level, I believe regional modernist architecture generally makes, and should continue to do so, a vital contribution to Palm Springs in the following ways:

- Regions and towns look to reinvent and reiterate local values and qualities as positive elements to attract people and wealth. Distinguishing and selling a particular quality of life is an incentive in an increasingly competitive world. The built environment plays an important role in this creation of a sense of place and identity
- The ongoing restoration and conversions of 1950s structures undertaken by individuals testifies to the interest in such works within Palm Springs
- Many such accommodations have become desirable places to visit and stay. Visitors quite rightly will always pay high prices for these privileges

- Palm Springs' mid-century architecture is being increasingly noticed and respected internationally by designers and the general public. Witness positive publicity and coverage in the media and literature
- In the context of growth and change over time, distinctive structures such as the Santa Fe Federal Savings & Loan Building present an opportunity, a focus and a catalyst for appropriate development, a treasured resource rather than obstacle.

In summary, and motivated by the above, I would like to think Palm Springs City Council will have vision and courage to see a future in designating the Santa Fe Federal Savings & Loan Building an historic site. Through the finest collection of modernist American works, Palm Springs has become a veritable living museum of national lifestyle, unique in the United States and arguably the world. Individually and collectively this architectural heritage forms a pivotal part in establishing a region which is, and has to remain, desirable and attractive to all.

Yours Faithfully

Nicholas Gaunt, Architect, B. Arch (Natal) RIBA,  
Dublin,  
Ireland.

## Jay Thompson

---

**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 03, 2007 11:37 AM  
**To:** Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: Santa Fe Federal Savings Building

---

**From:** JSP [mailto:j.s.p@sbcglobal.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 02, 2007 2:26 PM  
**To:** Ron.Oden@palmsprings-ca.gov; Steve.Pougnnet@palmsprings-ca.gov; Ginny.Foat@palmsprings-ca.gov; Chris.Mills@palmsprings-ca.gov; Michael.McCulloch@palmsprings-ca.gov  
**Subject:** Santa Fe Federal Savings Building

As a new resident of Rancho Mirage and proud new owner of the famed Jaffe house designed by William Cody I am writing you to voice my support in favor of preserving and classifying the Santa Fe Federal Savings Building as a Class 1 Historic Site. The Palm Springs area is seeing enough contradictory architecture rising while snuffing out it's illustrious past. The reason many new people have come here in the first place.

If we wanted to live in Vegas or Phoenix and their afflicted city scapes we would. Leave PS as the monument of architectural that it is.....it's history is it's equity.

Thanks

JP

Jeffery Plansker  
j.s.p@sbcglobal.net  
Mobile+213.507.6111

## Jay Thompson

---

**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 03, 2007 11:39 AM  
**To:** Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: Palm Springs History - Please Preserve for future generations

---

**From:** Sheryl Hamlin [mailto:sheryl@hamlin.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2007 7:14 AM  
**To:** Chris Mills; Chris Mills; Ginny Foat; Ginny Foat; Mike McCullough; Ron Oden; Steve Pougnet  
**Subject:** Palm Springs History - Please Preserve for future generations

---

x

- In 2004, the bank building was determined to be historically significant by the Citywide Historic Resources Survey.
- It is widely-regarded as one of the finest examples of the Desert Modern style.
- This building's prominent corner location along Palm Canyon Drive makes it one of the most visible, and accessible, examples of Desert Modernism in Palm Springs.

- Its high level of physical integrity is extraordinary.
- The revival of interest in Palm Springs' mid-century modern architecture is a very bright spot on the tourism front.



## Jay Thompson

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**From:** barbara black [babsblackmail@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2007 8:18 AM  
**To:** Chris Mills  
**Subject:** Santa Fe Building

Hi Chris,

I feel compelled to write to you regarding the upcoming vote on whether or not to allow John Wessman to surround this building with condos. As an architect, I am sure you can only imagine how you would feel to have one of the wonderful buildings you designed be surrounded in this way. I know you look at a site and decide the best placement of the building. This is not only an important building architecturally, but is located on a very important downtown corner. With the renewed interest in the architecture of our city, bringing many new tourists, this building should remain an important architectural landmark. I am certain Mr. Wessman has many other projects in this valley to concentrate on and does not need to ruin a gem.

Chris, thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,  
Barbara Black  
1320 Tamarisk Road  
Palm Springs, Ca. 92262

## Jay Thompson

---

**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 03, 2007 11:37 AM  
**To:** Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: Former Santa Fe Federal Savings Building

-----Original Message-----

From: Ashley Jackson [mailto:trashleyj@gmail.com]  
Sent: Monday, April 02, 2007 9:43 AM  
To: Ginny.Foat@palm Springs-ca.gov  
Subject: Former Santa Fe Federal Savings Building

Dear Ginny Foat,

It has come to my attention that the city council will be meeting this Wednesday and one of the topics of this meeting will be the fate of the former Santa Fe Federal savings Building. As one of the many citizens who takes pride in the Architectural significance Palm Springs has to offer, the fate of this building is very important to me. Like many other people, I was drawn to Palm Springs because of beautiful examples of desert modernism that still remain in tact to this day.

The Santa Fe Federal Savings Buildings is one of the finest examples of the Desert Modern style and the integrity of the building is exceptional. The building's corner location makes it one of the most visible examples of Desert Modernism in Palm Springs. In fact as you may well know in 2004, the building was determined to be historically significant by the Citywide Historic Resources Survey. Not to mention the revival of interest in Palm Springs' mid-century modern architecture is play a vital role in making this a prime tourist destination. These arguments can not be ignored when planning the future of this fantastic piece of Palm Springs history.

It is important that the property in it's entirety is preserved as a Historic site due to the integrity this building plays in Desert Modernism. It would be a shame to let development tarnish such a prime example of Modern Architecture in Palm Springs by developing and dividing up the property. This building needs some 'breathing room' on all sides as a free-standing pavilion as it was intended to have.

Please see that this building, like many others of it's breed, is preserved for future generations to appreciate and enjoy.

Thank you for your time.  
Richard Jackson

## Jay Thompson

---

**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 03, 2007 11:37 AM  
**To:** Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: Santa Fe Savings building

---

**From:** Terry House [mailto:THouse@weho.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 02, 2007 11:51 AM  
**To:** Ginny.Foat@palmsprings-ca.gov; Steve Pougnet; Ron.Oden@palmsprings-ca.gov; Chris.Mills@palmsprings-ca.gov; Michael.McCulloch@palmsprings-ca.gov  
**Subject:** Santa Fe Savings building

Councilmembers-

I am writing to urge you to vote yes and designate the Santa Fe Savings building - the ENTIRE property, not just the area recommended by City staff - as a Class One Historical site. I am a strong advocate of adaptive reuse, but to surround and cantilever over the building (and thereby DESTROY its aesthetic profile) is nothing more than not-too-subtle subterfuge. Sincerely,

Terry House  
2138 Berne Dr  
PS 92262  
325-4522

## Jay Thompson

---

**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 03, 2007 11:37 AM  
**To:** Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: Santa Fe Federal Savings building

-----Original Message-----

**From:** ROBERT REMINGTON [mailto:berels@msn.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 02, 2007 6:58 PM  
**To:** Ron.Oden@palmsprings-ca.gov; Steve.Pougnnet@palmsprings-ca.gov; Ginny.Foat@palmsprings-ca.gov; Chris.Mills@palmsprings-ca.gov; Michael.McCulloch@palmsprings-ca.gov  
**Subject:** Santa Fe Federal Savings building

Council Members:

I am writing you today as a concerned Palm Springs resident and member of the PS Mod Committee. One of the reasons I chose Palm Springs as my new home is the diverse and creative architecture. It is one of the things that puts us on the map. I feel that the modification or destruction of the Santa Fe Federal Savings Building on S Palm Canyon would be a step in the wrong direction. This building is one of many landmarks that make us proud to live here. It needs to be preserved in its entirety

I encourage you to vote to have the entire property designated because this building, in particular, requires 'breathing room' on all sides as a free-standing pavilion.

Thank you for your time

Robert Remington  
663 N Majorca Circle  
Palm Springs, CA 92262  
992-7940

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[https://www2.nextag.com/goto.jsp?product=100000035&url=%2fst.jsp&tm=y&search=mortgage\\_text\\_links\\_88\\_h2bbb&disc=y&vers=925&s=4056&p=5117](https://www2.nextag.com/goto.jsp?product=100000035&url=%2fst.jsp&tm=y&search=mortgage_text_links_88_h2bbb&disc=y&vers=925&s=4056&p=5117)

## Jay Thompson

---

**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 03, 2007 11:36 AM  
**To:** Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: Preserve Santa Fe Savings

---

**From:** DKraner@aol.com [mailto:DKraner@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 03, 2007 6:26 AM  
**To:** Ginny.Foat@palmssprings-ca.gov  
**Subject:** Preserve Santa Fe Savings

Ms. Foat:

Please vote to oppose development of the space around the Santa Fe Savings bank.

Our extraordinary heritage of architecture in the Desert Modern Style helps to define our unique and appealing lifestyle here in Palm Springs. Space is essential to this architecture, and to the desert experience in general.

This particular building, given it's prominent location on Palm Canyon Drive, is a public statement to visitors, tourists, and residents alike, about what it is that makes our town unique, and worth their time and investment.

Let's not let runaway development take away the things that make our way of life so special.

Thank you,

Sincerely,

Doug Kraner  
406 E. Desert Holly Circle  
Palm Springs, CA 92264

\*\*\*\*\*

See what's free at <http://www.aol.com>.

## Jay Thompson

---

**From:** Jay Thompson  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 03, 2007 11:41 AM  
**To:** Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: Historic Designation of the former Santa Fe Federal Savings Bldg.

---

**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 03, 2007 11:36 AM  
**To:** Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: Historic Designation of the former Santa Fe Federal Savings Bldg.

---

**From:** William Stewart [mailto:wmsdi@bellsouth.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 03, 2007 6:53 AM  
**To:** Ron.Oden@palmsprings-ca.gov; Steve.Pougnnet@palmsprings-ca.gov; Ginny.Foat@palmsprings-ca.gov; Chris.Mills@palmsprings-ca.gov; Michael.McCulloch@palmsprings-ca.gov  
**Subject:** Historic Designation of the former Santa Fe Federal Savings Bldg.

Dear City Council Member,

I am writing to request that you designate the former Santa Fe Federal Savings Building as a class one historic site.

Additionally, I urge you to designate the entire property so as not to compromise the site, and the "free-standing" nature of the architecture.

Years ago, upon my first visit to Palm Springs, I vividly remember the architecture.

The (former) Santa Fe Federal Savings Building struck me as a particularly excellent example of the "desert modernism" about which I'd heard so much.

Now, after purchasing a home in Palm Springs, it is the city's architectural heritage I love so dearly.

Please act to save this part of our city's heritage, and Palm Springs' reputation as a bastion of the Desert Modernist style that draws both tourism and media attention.

Thank you very much,  
John Dyer  
1210 Los Robles  
Palm Springs, Ca. 92262

## Jay Thompson

---

**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 03, 2007 11:38 AM  
**To:** Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: Santa Fe Savings Designation!

---

**From:** Michael Hirschbein [mailto:MHirschbein@us.westfield.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 30, 2007 2:23 PM  
**To:** ron.oden@palmsprings-ca.gov; steve.pouget@palmsprings-ca.gov; ginny.foat@palmsprings-ca.gov; chris.mills@palmsprings-ca.gov; michael.mcculloch@palmsprings-ca.gov  
**Subject:** Santa Fe Savings Designation!

Dear Palm Springs City Council Members, and Mayor....

Please know that it is very important to preserve the Santa Fe Savings building for the following reasons:

- In 2004, the bank building was determined to be historically significant by the Citywide Historic Resources Survey.
- It is widely-regarded as one of the finest examples of the Desert Modern style.
- This building's prominent corner location along Palm Canyon Drive makes it one of the most visible, and accessible, examples of Desert Modernism in Palm Springs.
- Its high level of physical integrity is extraordinary.
- The revival of interest in Palm Springs' mid-century modern architecture is a very bright spot on the tourism front.

Regards,

Michael Hirschbein  
Sarah Mobile Home Park  
1922 S. Camino Real, Space 72

04/04/2007  
ITEM 1.A.  
PUBLIC TEST,

## Jay Thompson

---

**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 03, 2007 11:38 AM  
**To:** Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: Santa Fe Savings Building Vote

---

**From:** tom frasik [mailto:tfrasik@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2007 8:08 AM  
**To:** Ron.Oden@palmsprings-ca.gov; steve.pougnnet@palmsprings-ca.gov; ginny.foat@palmsprings-ca.gov; chris.mills@palmsprings-ca.gov; michael.mcculloch@palmsprings-ca.gov  
**Subject:** Santa Fe Savings Building Vote

**Dear Mr. Mayor and Councilmembers:**

**I write to encourage you to vote in favor of designating the Santa Fe Savings building and its site as a Class-1 Historic Site.**

**It is a very historically significant landmark building in Palm Springs and deserves all measures of status and preservation efforts it can garner. The building and the site are so very visible as you walk or drive along Palm Canyon Drive and it stands out as quintessential Palm Springs Modern architecture. We need to protect and preserve the remaining iconic examples of modern architecture within our city - it is, after all, one of our biggest tourism draws.**

**Please vote to confer Class-1 Historic Site status on the Santa Fe Savings building.**

**Thank you.**

**Tom Frasik  
2471 S. Sierra Madre  
Palm Springs, CA 92264  
tfrasik@yahoo.com**



## Jay Thompson

---

**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 03, 2007 11:39 AM  
**To:** Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: Santa Fe Savings

-----Original Message-----

**From:** stolzmk@aol.com [mailto:stolzmk@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2007 9:09 AM  
**To:** Ginny.Foat@palmsprings-ca.gov  
**Subject:** Santa Fe Savings

Dear Ms. Foat-

This is one of the BEST modern commercial buildings in Palm Springs.  
Only by preserving this heritage will Palm Springs be the attraction that will keep it's  
economy healthy. Please, on't let it be ruined.

Truly,  
MK Stolz

Mary Kay Stolz  
1449 S. via Salida  
Palm Springs 92264

---

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AOL.com.

## Jay Thompson

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**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 03, 2007 11:37 AM  
**To:** Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: Sante Fe Federal Savings Building

---

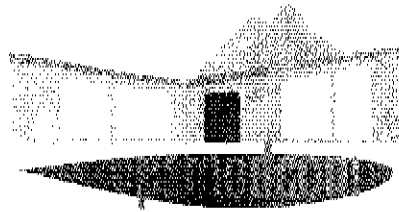
**From:** Bonnieruttan@aol.com [mailto:Bonnieruttan@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 02, 2007 9:07 AM  
**To:** Ron.Oden@palmsprings-ca.gov  
**Cc:** Steve.Pouget@palmsprings-ca.gov; Ginny.Foat@palmsprings-ca.gov; Chris.Mills@palmsprings-ca.gov; Michael.McCulloch@palmsprings-ca.gov  
**Subject:** Sante Fe Federal Savings Building

As full time Palm Springs residents, my husband Bill and I are proud to live in a city that respects and preserves our unique mid-century modern heritage. We hope you will continue to be sensitive to this when voting on the Sante Fe Federal issue and that you will designate the ENTIRE property for preservation.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Bill and Bonnie Ruttan  
1111 Abrigo Rd  
PS 92262

---

See what's free at [AOL.com](http://AOL.com).



August 17, 2006

Architectural Advisory Committee  
City of Palm Springs  
3200 Tahquitz Canyon Way  
Palm Springs, CA 92262

Subject: Preliminary Proposal for Mixed-Use Project for 300 South Palm Canyon Drive (the former Santa Fe Federal Savings Building by E. Stewart Williams)

Honorable Committee Members:

The Palm Springs Modern Committee is aware that you have been requested to provide informal comments regarding the pre-application for a potential mixed-use project to be located at 300 South Palm Canyon Drive. As you many know, this building is the former Santa Fe Federal Savings building that was designed by E. Stewart Williams in 1960. In 2004, the bank building was determined to be historically significant by the Citywide Historic Resources Survey. Unfortunately, based upon the submitted plans and elevations, the proposed project would negatively impact the existing bank building by surrounding and smothering it on two sides.

Given the pre-application status of this potential project, the Palm Springs Modern Committee urges you to strongly suggest that the proposed new condominium buildings and associated commercial elements be sealed back and reduced in height so as not to overwhelm and suffocate the original bank building. As an iconic, pavilion-like structure, Stewart Williams' design deserves adequate breathing room.

Please note that according to CEQA Guidelines, any adverse aesthetic or cultural impact on the former Santa Fe Federal Savings building would be considered a significant adverse impact. As a result, any project that would cause an adverse change to the property, such as this preliminary project proposal, would be considered to have a significant effect on the environment and require the preparation of a full environmental impact report.

In summary, we look forward to the careful consideration that Planning staff, the Architectural Advisory Committee, and the Planning Commission will be giving to this important Modern bank building by one of the Coachella Valley's greatest architects.

Sincerely,

Peter Moruzzi  
President, Palm Springs Modern Committee

**CHATTEN-BROWN & CARSTENS**

3250 OCEAN PARK BOULEVARD

SUITE 300

SANTA MONICA, CALIFORNIA 90405

www.cbcearthlaw.com

TELEPHONE: (310) 314-8040

FACSIMILE: (310) 314-8050

E-MAIL:  
ACM@CBCEARTH.LAW.COM

January 24, 2007

*Via Email and U.S. Mail*

Craig A. Ewing  
Director of Planning Services  
Edward Robertson  
Principal Planner  
City of Palm Springs  
3200 E. Tahquitz Canyon Way  
Palm Springs, CA 92263

JAN 24 2007  
PLANNING SERVICES

Re: Request for Notification Regarding Santa Fe Savings Building at 300 South Palm Canyon Drive

Dear Mr. Ewing and Mr. Robertson:

On behalf of the Palm Springs Modern Committee we write regarding Wessman Holdings, LLC's proposed "Baristo Lofts" project at 300 South Palm Canyon Drive. The Baristo Lofts project proposes to surround the former Santa Fe Federal Savings building located at the site with a four story mixed-use condo/retail complex. The Santa Fe Federal Bank building is an historically significant Modern building, designed by E. Stewart Williams in 1960. Proceedings to designate this site as a Class 1 Historic Site were initiated by the Historic Site Preservation Board on December 12, 2006.

The Baristo Lofts project was considered by the Architectural Advisory Committee on January 22, 2007. After the Committee sent the project back for further revisions, Mr. Wessman indicated to members of the public that he would be filing a demolition permit for the former Santa Fe Federal Savings building. Due to their concern that this historically significant structure could be improperly demolished, the Palm Springs Modern Committee requests notification of the application for or issuance of any demolition permit at 300 South Palm Canyon Drive.

Additionally, the Palm Springs Modern Committee requests that any proposed or threatened demolition at this site be stayed pursuant to Palm Springs Municipal Code section 8.05.170 to allow the Historic Site Preservation Board adequate time to prepare studies and hold hearings to determine whether this site should be designated as an historic site.

The Palm Springs Modern Committee has also been informed by Scott Taschner

Ewing, Robertson  
January 24, 2007  
Page 2 of 2

that the application for the Baristo Lofts project has almost been completed. Because the project went through pre-application review, the initial study process may be accomplished in a shorter period of time than the full 45 days allowed. We also request notification of the completion of the initial study for this project and any decisions regarding the environmental review process to which this project will be subject.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,



Amy Minter  
Attorney at Law

Cc: Historic Site Preservation Board  
Douglas Holland, Palm Springs City Attorney  
Palm Springs Modern Committee

F:\ModCom\CurrFinals\Demo Nre 300 Palm Cyn FNL.doc

Janice Lyle has asked that I read the following statement: *unable to attend in person*

I wish to make my personal opinions regarding the Santa Fe Federal building known. I speak as a long-time member of the Palm Springs community and a previous chair of the Historic Site Preservation Board. I was also privileged to work with Stew Williams on the expansion of the Palm Springs Art Museum in 1994-1996 and consult with him until his death. I am NOT speaking on behalf of the Museum or with any reference to the Museum and/or its position on preservation matters.

For me the issues that surround this building are clear:

1. It is one of E. Stewart Williams finest commercial buildings and as such should be preserved, protected, and valued.
2. It is situated on Palm Canyon and can continue to play a major role in the architectural and commercial fabric of the downtown. Our national reputation for mid-century architecture is dependent on buildings like this one. Tourists come from all over the world to see mid-century iconic buildings like this one—we can't afford to lose this building.
3. This pavilion structure is designed with space around it. The relationship of the built space and the open space is an essential part of the architectural statement. To fill in the space has the same effect that tearing down part of the building would have. It forever changes the architectural statement and entirely changes the experience of the building.
4. The property is significant enough that our community should demand a sensitive project, a word I would not use for the ~~proposed~~ project under consideration.
5. I ask that the creative minds of our many good citizens be called upon to determine a better course to preserve and protect this building for future generations. If the present owner does not value the structure, perhaps he would like to offer the building for sale so that appropriate preservation efforts can be pursued.



*Tom K*  
*Craig L*  
*Alan Lyons*

April 8, 2007

Honorable Mayor Ronald Oden  
Honorable City Councilmembers  
City of Palm Springs  
3200 E. Tahquitz Canyon Way  
Palm Springs, CA 92262

Subject: Continuation of Hearing on Class 1 Historic Site Designation for the Santa Fe Federal Savings and Loan site at 300 S Palm Canyon

Honorable Mayor and City Council:

The Palm Springs Modern Committee objects to the City Council's decision to continue the hearing on the Class 1 Historic Site designation of the Santa Fe Federal Savings and Loan site and to jointly consider the site's designation at the same time a proposed project at this site is to be heard by council. The Palm Springs Modern Committee believes the Council's continuance of the hearing on the designation is in contravention to the Historic Preservation Ordinance's purpose of preserving historically significant buildings and areas for the citizens of Palm Springs.

Whether or not there is a project pending at the site is completely irrelevant for purposes of determining whether or not the Santa Fe Federal Savings and Loan site should be designated as a Class 1 Historic Site and what portions of the site should be included in the designation. The Council's decision should be based upon whether the site falls under the definition of an historic site found in the City's Historic Preservation Ordinance, Municipal Code section 8.05.020. The Council's decision on what portions of the site to include in the designation should also not be impacted by any proposed project. That decision should be made based upon the evidence before it regarding the historical significance and intended design of the site. That a project has been proposed for the site does not change the historic significance of the site. Because all the information needed to make these decisions was before the Council at its April 4 hearing on the designation, there was not good cause to continue this hearing.

The City Council's decision as to whether or not to approve the Baristo Lofts project proposed for the site must be made independently of its decision whether the Santa Fe Federal Savings and Loan site should be designated. The Palm Springs Modern Committee will submit further evidence regarding the

**Palm Springs Modern Committee, PO Box 4738, Palm Springs, CA 92263**

impacts of the proposed project on the historic significance of this site once the environmental review documents for the project have been released for review; however, for purposes of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) there is already substantial evidence in the record of this site's historic significance and it must be treated as such for purposes of CEQA review even if the site has not yet been designated.

As explained in a letter to the Council sent by our attorney prior to the Council's hearing (dated April 3, 2007) the City's Historic Preservation Ordinance specifically allows for consideration of a site's designation while a development project for the site is being reviewed and even after permits have been issued for a project at the site. Moreover, here the nomination to designate the Santa Fe Federal Savings and Loan site as a Class 1 Historic Site was filed before the application for the project was filed.

For all of these reasons, we request that the City Council reconsider its decision to continue the hearing on the Class 1 Historic Site designation of this important Modern bank building by one of the Coachella Valley's greatest architects.

Sincerely,



Peter Moruzzi  
President, Palm Springs Modern Committee

Cc: Douglas Holland, Palm Springs City Attorney

Palm Springs Modern Committee, PO Box 4738, Palm Springs, CA 92263



**CHATTEN-BROWN & CARSTENS**

3250 OCEAN PARK BOULEVARD

SUITE 300

SANTA MONICA, CALIFORNIA 90405

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FACSIMILE: (310) 314-8050

E-MAIL:

ACM@CBCEARTHLAW.COM

June 26, 2007

*Via Email*

*Original to follow*

Fred Lowndes  
Associate Planner  
City of Palm Springs  
3200 E. Tahquitz Canyon Way  
Palm Springs, CA 92263

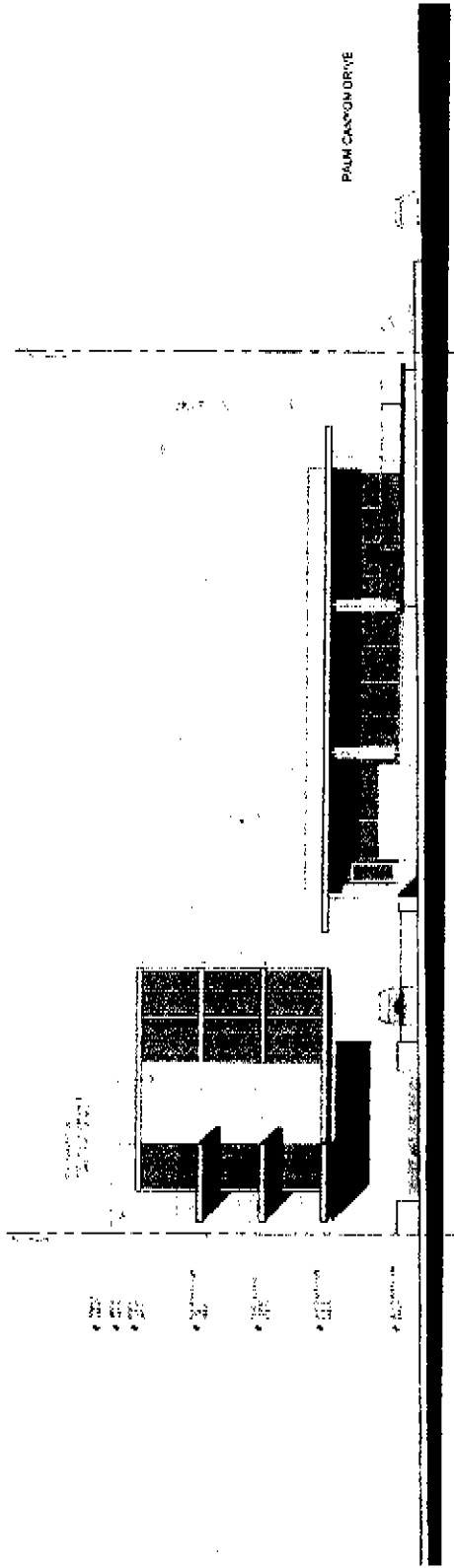
Re: Baristo Lofts Mixed Use Commercial/Residential Project; Case No. 5.1137  
Planned Development District 335; Case No. 3.3028-Major Architectural  
approval; Tentative Tract Map and General Plan Amendment

Dear Mr. Lowndes:

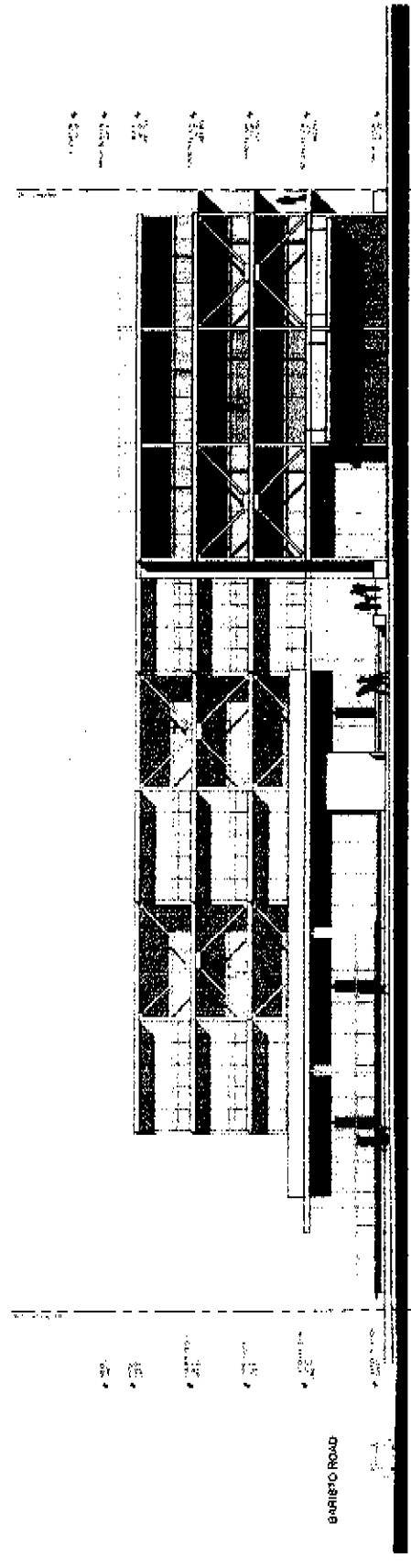
On behalf of the Palm Springs Modern Committee, we object to the use of a negative declaration for the Wessman Holdings, LLC's proposed Baristo Lofts Mixed Use Commercial/Residential project, ("Baristo Lofts project" or the "Project") at 300 South Palm Canyon Drive. The proposed Project includes the construction of a four-story, mixed-use complex surrounding the existing historically significant former Santa Fe Federal Savings and Loan Building ("Santa Fe Building"). The Santa Fe Building is a distinctive example of commercial mid-century Desert Modern architecture designed by prominent local architect E. Stewart Williams. The Project includes 4725 square feet of new retail, 4300 square feet of office space, 18 condominiums and proposes to convert the 6600 square foot Santa Fe Building into a restaurant. The Santa Fe Building is currently used as an office building.

An Environmental Impact Report ("EIR") must be prepared and certified, rather than the proposed negative declaration. There is substantial evidence to support a fair argument that there may be significant adverse impacts from this proposed Project in the areas of cultural resources, aesthetics, traffic, parking, noise, land use and storm water facilities. Further, the negative declaration's analysis of impacts is legally inadequate. It fails to clearly describe the Project and its many impacts. The Project also improperly defers mitigation and includes an improper street vacation that would not be in the public interest.

The comments submitted in this letter are based on the Project as detailed in the



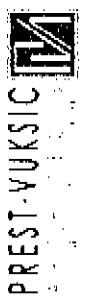
NORTH BARISTO ELEVATION



WEST PALM CANYON ELEVATION

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WESSMAN ARCHITECTS INC. DEVELOPMENT



CITY OF PALM SPRINGS  
 HISTORIC SITE PRESERVATION BOARD MEETING  
 Minutes of Meeting -Tuesday, March 13, 2007  
 Large Conference Room, City Hall, 3200 East Tahquitz Canyon Way  
 Palm Springs, California 92262

BOARD MEMBERS	Present	Present	FY 2006-2007
	This Meeting	Year-to-Date	Excused Absences To-Date
Sidney Williams, Chairperson	X	10	0
Jade Nelson, Vice Chair	X	8	2
James Hayton	X	9	1
John Williams	X	9	1
Harold "Bud" Riley	X	10	0
Brian Strahl	X	8	0

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Craig Ewing, Director of Planning  
 Ken Lyon, Associate Planner

Loretta Moffett, Administrative Assistant

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1. The HSPB regularly scheduled meeting was called to order at 8:175 a.m. on March 13, 2007 by Chair Sidney Williams.
2. ROLL CALL: Present: S. Williams, J. Nelson, B. Riley, B. Strahl, J. Hayton, J. Williams
3. REPORT OF POSTING OF AGENDA: This Agenda was available and posted in accordance with state and local procedures for public access at the City Hall exterior bulletin board and the Department of Planning Services counter by 4:00 p.m. Thursday, March 8, 2007.

**NOTE:** Audio Cassettes and DVDs of HSPB Meetings are available for review. Cassettes will be kept for six months only. DVDs of the meetings will be kept indefinitely. Minutes format is more action related than verbatim except where special interest or special meetings are involved.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: February 13, 2007 Vice Chair Nelson asked for correction of page 3 of 3 under Section 12 – Board Member Comments – first sentence is not complete and has two different ideas in one sentence. Needs clarification.

**M/S/C (Hayton/Riley) moved that the February 13, 2007 Minutes be approved as corrected. (6 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent)**

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS: (3 minutes):

[ William Kopelk, President of P.S. Preservation Foundation, spoke in behalf of the Foundation and support of HSPB voting in favor of the Class 1 Historic designation of the Santa Fe Federal Bank Building at 300 South Palm Canyon Drive.

Robert Firth, real estate broker representing the owner of the property at 1000 North Palm Canyon Drive, the former Potter Clinic, explained that the owner is neither in favor of or against this property being designated as a Historic Site.

[ Roxanne Ploss, spoke in support of preserving the property at 300 South Palm Canyon Drive.

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6. **REPORT FROM THE CHAIR:** Chair S. Williams stated she feels that it's important the Board move forward with the discussion of the Santa Fe Federal Bank Building and the Potter Clinic and that the Board is moving forward with additional properties for potential Historic Site Class 1 designations.

7. **PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

A. Santa Fe Federal Bank Building, 300 South Palm Canyon Drive  
Application for Designation to Class 1 Historic Site #54

Staff member Lyon reported that the Staff Report has been revised since being mailed out in Board packets and the revised report handed out today is the correct report to refer to during this discussion.

Board member Strahl asked for clarification as to what can be declared historic -- the existing building vs. the new project now being proposed.

Staff member Lyon reported that the owner has filed a development application with the City and if this designation and recommendation to Council goes forward and Council approves the historic recommendation prior to when the development application comes before Council. That development application would then be subject to governance of Section 8.05, the Historic Site Preservation Ordinance and would then come before HSPB for approval of the building permit. It is the "site" that will come under this Section 8.05 -- designations are related to an APN number and the site of the property.

Planning Director Ewing directed HSPB to the "Findings" in the staff report. The Ordinance does identify historic resources as "sites"; however, in the past Council has adopted a more narrow protection on various sites where only certain buildings or certain portions of buildings have been granted protection. There is a basis for the Board to protect less than a site if that is the Board's direction to Council.

Staff gave the Oasis Hotel as an example...the Tower is the designated site within this property.

Board member Hayton spoke in favor of saving the area around the existing building to maintain view corridors and spirit of the original development. The buildings now being considered by HSPB were developed with the entire site area in mind, not just the structure.

Board member J. Williams read from the report that "...In 1969 the Inland California Chapter of the American Institute of Architecture awarded a special citation to the firm Williams and Williams for the design"...and asked if a copy of this citation is available? (It is not) Nine years after the building was completed, it was already recognized as significant building -- it is important to have a copy of that in the file.

Board member J. Williams read from Section 4, Item #3 that states..."No permit for the alteration of the exterior, including any and all of the defining elements and characteristics shall be issued." and asked if that should not further state..."shall be issued without Historic Site Preservation Board approval?" He asked that this be added.

Vice Chair Nelson asked if the Staff Report could be to protect the entire site -- not just the structure.

Director Ewing stated it is important that the Board identify what the Board concludes are the historic characteristics to be identified and preserved. If the Staff Report has not identified them

as the Board believes, then they should be put in the Findings and the Conditions of Approval as the Board requests. The Board needs to focus on what facts are believed to be relevant, this is not a growth control ordinance, it is a Historic Preservation Ordinance. He referred to and read Section 4, Item #2 in the Staff Report relative to "exterior modifications."

Staff member Lyon referred to page 2 of the revised Staff Report regarding "setting." It is within the Board's authority to make an argument about what is the key characteristic of "setting" in this case.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Nicki McLaughlin, Vice President of the P.S. Modern Committee, spoke in behalf of the entire membership of Mod Com (400+) to encourage the Board to vote 300 South Palm Canyon Drive as a Class 1 Historic Site.

Michael Braun, representative of Wessman Holdings, the owner of the Santa Fe Federal Building at 300 South Palm Canyon Drive, stated that they object and oppose the listing of this building as a Class 1 Historic Site for several reasons ... (read from a statement --attached for reference)

William Butler spoke in favor of the nomination including the entire site.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS CLOSED**

Staff member Lyon noted that the Baristo Lofts project was reviewed by the Architectural Advisory Committee and sent back for a second restudy after this Staff Report was written.

Board member Nelson advised that prior to this building being there, it was the site of the Hotel Del Tahquitz - one of the first hotels in Palm Springs, which makes the site even more historically significant, richer, and more valuable.

Board member Hayton encouraged everyone to support for this historical designation.

Chair S. Williams referred to the article written in The Public Record when Mr. Williams received his FAIA award... it indicates that this was one of his favorite buildings. An earlier speaker commented there were other buildings more significant.

Board member Strahl agreed that this building is unique and it being shy of the 50 year standard is not relevant. The Santa Fe Federal Bank building is unique in its own characteristics and it should be preserved.

Board member Nelson feels that because of this building's uniqueness it is probably the single most important commercial building in the valley.

Board member J. Williams agreed - it is one of the most significant buildings in Palm Springs.

Board member Strahl stated that he is very pleased to see members of the public coming out to support this building.

Staff member Lyon asked the Board to clarify the issues on the "setting" when making a motion related to this project.

Vice Chair Nelson moved to recommend to the City Council the designation of 300 South Palm Canyon Drive, formerly known as Santa Fe Federal as a Class 1 historic site with the stipulation that the entire setting aka "site" be designated a Class 1 Historic Site without any future alterations, modifications, or development to the APN in its entirety. Seconded by Board member James Hayton

Board member J. Williams recommended adding..."without Historic Site Preservation Board's approval."

The motion was amended to read: **Vice Chair Nelson moved to recommend to the City Council the designation of 300 South Palm Canyon Drive, formerly known as Santa Fe Federal as a Class 1 historic site with the stipulation that the entire setting aka "site" be designated a Class 1 Historic Site without any future alterations, modifications, or development to the APN in its entirety without the Historic Site Preservation Board's approval.**

Staff member Lyon stated that this is also amending Item #3 of the Draft Resolutions.

Planning Director Ewing stated there needs to be more discussion on the Findings in this Resolution to provide guidance for the reasons the Board wants to capture the entire site. Before voting on the motion, Board needs to clarify the key issues of the "setting".

Board member Strahl suggested this be done in the Staff Report to Council – page 7 by adding 4. "g." One of the things that makes this building important to HSPB is it's partial floating pavilion style on its open setting with nothing crowding around it. Change the Staff Report to add the additional Finding "g." that HSPB feels it's important the building remain in its "open setting" on all four sides including the parking lot. Wants to call out the "openness on all four sides" – this is important.

Planning Director Ewing read from his notes.... "partial pavilion style on open setting with nothing crowding around it on all four sides, including the parking lot on the open side of the building. The idea is there is open space on all four sides of the building, including those sides facing the parking lot."

**VOTE: M/S/C (Nelson/Hayton – 6 yes, 0 No, 0 Absent, 0 Abstention) to nominate designation of 300 South Palm Canyon Drive (Santa Fe Federal Bank Building) passed unanimously. Motion stated above.**

8. ~~CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL REQUESTS: NONE~~

9. ~~OTHER BUSINESS:~~

~~A. The Potter Clinic at 1000 North Palm Canyon drive~~

~~ACTION: Initiate process to recommend designation as a Class 1 Historic Site~~

~~Board member J. Williams asked about the historic building evaluation's "Conclusions and Recommendations" (page 12) and asked if this is a typical conclusion for a building that only qualified for local designation? One of those options was comprehensive documentation if demolition was being considered.~~

~~Staff responded that similar recommendations are coming through on some of the other buildings, particularly around the Monte Vista Hotel, Orchid Tree, and the Racquet Club reports. It is a language consistent with buildings that don't have a high level of defined significance.~~

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## Historic Site Preservation Board Staff Report

Date: March 13, 2007 (REVISED)  
Case No.: HSPB – 54 Santa Fe Federal Savings / Wessman Office Building  
Application Type: Class 1 Designation Application  
Location: 300 South Palm Canyon Drive  
Applicant: The City of Palm Springs  
Zone: CBD (Central Business District)  
APN: 513-204-005  
From: Ken Lyon, Associate Planner

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### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

An application by The Historic Site Preservation Board of the City of Palm Springs to recommend to City Council designation of 300 South Palm Canyon Drive "The Santa Fe Federal Savings and Loan Building" as a Class 1 historic site. Such designation would:

1. Place the subject property under the guidance of Municipal Code Section 8.05
2. Require present and subsequent owners to maintain the building consistent with that ordinance,
3. Grant possible property tax reduction opportunities to the owner under the State of California Mills Act.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Historic Site Preservation Board (HSPB) recommend approval to the City Council designating 300 South Palm Canyon Drive a Class 1 Historic Site. A draft resolution is attached for consideration.

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## **PRIOR ACTIONS**

On Tuesday, January 8, 2007 the Board initiated the study and investigation of this site for possible recommendation to City Council for Class 1 designation.

## **BACKGROUND AND SETTING**

### Definition of an Historic Site.

Section 8.05.020 of the Municipal Code provides the definition of an historic site as follows;

(a) *Historic Site.*

*An historic site is any real property such as: a building; a structure, including but not limited to archways, tiled areas and similar architectural elements; an archaeological excavation or object that is unique or significant because of its location, design, setting, materials, workmanship or aesthetic effect and:*

- 1. That is associated with events that have made a meaningful contribution to the nation, state or community; or*
- 2. That is associated with lives of persons who made meaningful contribution to national, state or local history; or*
- 3. That reflects or exemplifies a particular period of the national, state or local history; or*
- 4. That embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction; or*
- 5. That presents the work of a master builder, designer, artist, or architect whose individual genius influenced his age; or that possesses high artistic value; or*
- 6. That represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or*
- 7. That has yielded or may be likely to yield information important to national, state or local history or prehistory.*

A Class 1 Historic Site may also qualify for historic designation at the federal, state and/or county level.

### Designation of Historic Sites.

The City Council is authorized to designate Historic Sites.

The Historic Site Preservation Board makes recommendations to the City Council that certain sites be designated as Historic Sites in accordance with Section 8.05.135 of the Municipal Code. The Board may initiate studies, surveys and investigations it deems necessary to adequately gather information in consideration of a recommendation.

### Conditions that apply to Class 1 Historic Sites.

According to Section 8.05 of the Municipal Code, the following shall apply to a Class 1 Historic Site;



1. It shall meet the definition of an historic site as outlined in Municipal Code Section 8.05.020.
2. An archival file shall be maintained on the property by the City.
3. It may be qualified as 'historic' at the federal, state, and/or county level.
4. The structure/site may not be modified nor objects removed without the approval of the City Council.
5. The use may be limited by the City Council to the extent that it may impair the integrity of the site.
6. A plaque explaining the historic nature of the site will be installed at the site.
7. Compliance with all rules and regulations for Historic Sites and Historic Districts under Article IV of Chapter 8.05 of the Municipal Code shall be required.

## DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS

The site is a 0.68 acre parcel in the Central Business District located at the southeast corner of South Palm Canyon Drive and Baristo Road at the southern end of the downtown district of Palm Springs.

The building is located in an area of several financial institutions and commercial buildings. To the north is a two-story masonry commercial building, to the south is a parking lot serving a retail center, to the east is a single-story commercial retail building and to the west is a notable commercial building, the former Robinsons Department store by Pereira and Luckman from 1953.

Completed in 1960, the building at 300 South Palm Canyon Drive was designed by architect E. Stewart Williams as a branch office for The Santa Fe Federal Savings and Loan Corporation in 1957. The building, designed in the International Modern style is a steel frame structure with extensive use of glass and aluminum.

In order to assess the building's historic value, a report was prepared on the history and architecture, attached. The report identifies the building as significant in the following ways:

- 1) It is an excellent example of a building using the principals of modern architecture because:
  - a) It makes use of a rigorously defined dimensional module (five feet) around which all aspects of the building are scaled.
  - b) It is reflective of its own time, not a copy of earlier styles or cultures.
  - c) It is devoid of applied decoration or ornamentation.
  - d) It makes sophisticated use of technologically new materials (aluminum and large panel glass).
  - e) The columns and the walls are disengaged from each other, allowing the wall plane to 'continue past' in an uninterrupted manner from the structural columns.

- f) It reflects the optimism in the future that was prevalent at the time, noting the possibility of modern architecture, materials and technology to provide solutions to the complexities of contemporary life.
- g) The defining characteristics or elements include:
  - 1) The sliding aluminum brise soleil, or sunscreens,
  - 2) The long, uninterrupted cantilevered roof structure on the west and north facades,
  - 3) The linear, uninterrupted cantilevered concrete base or 'floating' floor slab on the west and north facades,
  - 4) The free-standing slender steel columns which narrow at the top and bottom and are disengaged from the window-wall along the north and west facades,
  - 5) The long continuous expanse of floor to ceiling windows on the north and west elevations,
  - 6) The pure box-like volume of the building in which the only 'cutouts' occur at the two corner entry's,
  - 7) The drive-through teller window.
- 2) It is a radical departure from the traditional fortress-like bank structures modeled after classical temples. Santa Fe Federal's glass pavilion bank conveyed an image that was identified with the new, the contemporary, the visionary.
- 3) The inspiration for its proportion and form can clearly be traced to important historic structures in the modern movement, especially the Barcelona Pavilion by Mies van der Rohe of 1929.
- 4) It represents the mature architectural style of one of Palm Springs' most notable architects.
- 5) Its drive-up teller window represented 'state-of-the-art' banking services at a time when "motor banking" was in its infancy.
- 6) It is an important member of a collection of buildings in this vicinity that comprise Palm Springs "financial district" including the City National Bank (Bank of America), Coachella Valley Savings Bank (Washington Mutual), Coachella Savings & Loan (Prudential), Union Bank of California, Guaranty Bank, and Wells Fargo. This collection of financial institutions are all located on or near Palm Canyon Drive which was, at the time, the hub of commercial activity in the Coachella Valley. Each bank sought to capture customers by creating a significant presence through the use of outstanding architecture.

The report also notes that E. Stewart Williams (1909 – 2005) was a local architect of national prominence. Williams began his architectural career in 1934 and spent time early in his career in the office of noted industrial designer Raymond Loewy. Williams, a prolific local architect, designed many notable buildings in Palm Springs in addition to the Santa Fe Federal Savings, including:

The Coachella Valley Savings and Loan (now Prudential) (1956),  
The Coachella Valley Bank (now Washington Mutual) (1961),

The Palm Springs Aerial Tramway Mountain Station (1964)  
The Palm Springs Art Museum (1968-1970) and addition.

In 1999, The American Institute of Architects granted the title 'Fellow' to Mr. Williams in recognition of his significant contribution to the profession of Architecture.

The current owner of 300 South Palm Canyon Drive has filed an application for a Planned Development Project at the site. This project, commonly known as "Baristo Lofts"; proposes the addition of a 4 story L-shaped mixed use tower wrapping around the east and south side of the present structure. The project has been reviewed as a pre-application by the HSPB on January 9, 2007 and recommendations were given including;

1. Pull the proposed building further away from the existing building.
2. To reduce the size and scale of the proposed addition to be less 'overwhelming' of the existing structure
3. To not construct anything more on the site.

The project was then reviewed as a formal development application by the Architectural Advisory Committee on January 22, 2007, where the owner was requested to restudy and resubmit the design and take into consideration the following comments;

1. Revise the proposal such that the new building does not crowd the existing building
2. Pull the building back so the balconies do not overhang the existing structure
3. Cut away a portion of the new building to give more view to the existing building (Cut back the street frontages on both Baristo and Palm Canyon to open up the view to the existing building)
4. Restore the existing building to its original colors.

The project was reviewed on March 12, 2007 by the Architectural Advisory Committee where the owners was requested again to restudy and resubmit the design and take into consideration the following comments:

1. Further revise the proposal pulling the building back from the Baristo and Palm Canyon Drive frontages to allow more of the Santa Fe Building to read as an independent structure.
2. Consider density transfer off the site to avoid any further development on this site.
3. Revise the proposed outdoor front dining terrace to avoid railings and modification of the existing 'floating' base. Consider placing any outdoor dining at the southwest area of the site created by pushing back the mass of the proposed new building.
4. Significantly revise the proposal to increase space between and around the existing building.
5. Study ways of reinstalling the movable sun screens on the east façade as a means of controlling the view from the Santa Fe building into the proposed enclosed parking area.

In the present proposal for Baristo Lofts, the exterior of the existing Santa Fe Federal Savings Building would not be modified and the defining characteristics and elements would remain.

Should the Council take action to designate this site prior to taking action to approve the proposed project, the Baristo Lofts project would then be subject to the provisions of Municipal Code Chapter 8.05, and thus would require a certificate of approval by the HSPB under 8.05.180.

### REQUIRED FINDINGS

As noted above in Background and Setting, Section 8.05.020 of the Municipal Code provides the definition of an historic site: "*An historic site is any real property such as: a building; a structure, including but not limited to archways, tiled areas and similar architectural elements; an archaeological excavation or object that is unique or significant because of its location, design, setting, materials, workmanship or aesthetic effect*". Seven other qualities are listed therein and Staff notes that in addition to the finding of the basic definition of a historic site, three of the seven qualities, #3, #4, and #5, can also be found in the Santa Fe Federal Building.

Based on the above analysis and research report, staff has concluded that the Santa Fe Federal Savings Building at 300 South Palm Canyon Drive meets the definition of a historic site because of its location, design, setting, materials, workmanship and aesthetic and because the building possesses qualities defined in items 3, 4 and 5 from Municipal Code Section 8.05.020 as follows;

3. *That reflects or exemplifies a particular period of the national, state or local history; or*

The Santa Fe Federal Savings Building embodies the post World War II period in United States history because it embodies the optimism for the future, the possibilities of modern architecture, materials and technology to provide solutions to the complexities of contemporary life that was widely embraced in the American culture following World War II.

The Santa Fe Federal Savings Building further embodies this era in that it represents a radical departure from the heavy, neo-classical temple-like style of architecture typically used prior to this period for banks and financial institutions. The image of a financial institution as a light, airy, human-scaled, inviting glass pavilion was revolutionary and reflected the optimism and confidence of the times that institutions did not need to rely on classical architectural forms or historic styles to validate or establish themselves.

Details such as the drive-up teller window also exemplify the growing 'automobile culture' of the United States following the war and the new concept at the time of 'motor banking' was integrated into the design of this branch bank.

4. *That embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction;*

The Santa Fe Federal Savings Building exemplifies the mid-century modern period of architecture because:

- a. It uses glass, aluminum steel and concrete in a minimalist aesthetic way,
- b. It is free of applied ornamentation and decorative motifs,
- c. It uses a rigorous standard structural module for its overall dimensional order and scale,
- d. Its aesthetic can be clearly traced to world renowned modern architectural icons such as the 1929 Barcelona Pavilion by Ludwig Mies van der Rohe.
- e. The walls, expressed as a thin 'curtain' of glass, are disengaged from the structural columns, allowing the volume-defining walls to be placed freely upon the foundation,
- f. Its design creates the appearance of a 'floating' pavilion with a horizontally cantilevered roof structure in which the vertical structural support is almost invisible - it defies the conventional architectural expression of a heavy foundation and bulky columns supporting an equally heavy roof.

5. *That presents the work of a master builder, designer, artist, or architect whose individual genius influenced his age; or that possesses high artistic value;*

The Santa Fe Federal Building presents the work of one of Palm Springs' most prolific and accomplished architects, E. Stewart Williams. Williams' skill as an architect and artist is clearly reflected in the sophisticated design of this building, the attention to detail, the innovative use of new materials and technology, the careful response to the harsh desert environment through the use of movable aluminum shade screens and long overhanging roof structures to protect the glass walls from the heat of the sun, and the beautiful proportion and scale of the building.

Williams' contribution to the profession of architecture was recognized by his peers by their bestowing upon him the title of "Fellow" of the American Institute of Architects.

Williams contribution to architecture continues to influence not only other practicing architects of his era, but many architects practicing today. The principals he applied in his architecture, as outlined below, are as relevant today as they were fifty years ago;

1. Arrange the client's needs in the simplest, most logical plan possible.

- 2 Select a structural system best suited to meet the size and shape of the resultant space.
- 3 Adjust the scale and proportion of the building to the human beings who will occupy it.
- 4 Pay infinite care to every detail within the whole so that the unity of the entire structure is maintained.
- 5 Achieve, if possible, a quality within the space enclosed that elevates the human spirit above the level of mere daily existence.
- 6 Satisfy oneself that the work that was done was the best one could do, within the limits of the budget, to give the client the most professional job possible.

The exterior of the structure is largely intact and in excellent condition. The movable aluminum screens originally on the east, north and west side of the building no longer exist on the east facade.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

In accordance with Section 15331 (Historical Resources Restoration/Rehabilitation) of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the proposed designation is categorically exempt from environmental review as the proposed designation meets the conditions outlined for preservation of a historic resource.

#### **NOTIFICATION**

Pursuant to section 8.05.140 of the Municipal Code of Palm Springs, All property owners within three hundred (300) feet of the subject property have been notified and notice was made in a newspaper of general circulation. As of the writing of this report, staff has not received any inquiries on this matter.

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Ken Lyon, Associate Planner

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Craig A. Ewing, AICP  
Director of Planning Services

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Vicinity Map
2. Application and historical report
3. Draft Resolution

**Santa Fe Federal Savings & Loan, 1960**

**E. Stewart Williams, FAIA**

**300 South Palm Canyon Drive**

**Palm Springs, CA 92264**

In 1957 Santa Fe Federal Savings commissioned E. Stewart Williams to design a branch office in Palm Springs. The bank was looking for an accessible, customer-friendly building in this prime Palm Canyon location. Completed in 1960, this single-story light steel frame structure, with aluminum and glass walls, is elevated on a floating concrete base surrounded by low landscaping. This platform, with its floor-to-ceiling windows, broad overhanging roof and sliding aluminum shade screens provided an elegant solution. Built on a five foot dimensional module with thin steel columns placed at twenty-five feet on center, the building expresses a classic clarity of design. The structural columns do not interrupt the wall plane but rather allow it to stand uninterrupted as a curtain wall defining the spacial volume. The cantilevered roof structure on the north and west facades is echoed in the cantilevered concrete base that floats above the landscaped border.

Williams embraced the principles of modern architecture. Like 20th century architects Le Corbusier and Mies van der Rohe, Williams believed that architecture should reflect its own time, not be reminiscent of earlier styles or cultures. By combining simple geometric planes and materials, the modern building made a clear statement of its function and its time. These architects chose industrial materials like glass, metal and concrete to enclose spatial volumes, rejecting ornamentation. The expressed structure often incorporated wide expanses of glass to allow light to fill the largely open-plan interiors.

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The pavilion style of Santa Fe Federal recalls the horizontality of the Barcelona Pavilion, designed by Mies van der Rohe. A demonstration structure for the



World's Fair in 1929, the Barcelona Pavilion remains one of the most influential modern buildings, studied by generations of architects. The simplicity of its materials -glass, steel and marble – and its rigorous geometry of intersecting planes is a pure modernist statement. Williams stated, "I think my philosophy of design tends to reflect that of Mies van der Rohe more than Frank Lloyd Wright ... though I've never consciously copied any of their styles of work".<sup>[1]</sup>

The materials used for the bank were chosen with the climate in mind. Because of its maintenance free characteristics, anodized aluminum was selected for all locations exposed to the sun, to human hands and to light and heat. The exterior brise soleil, manufactured by Northrup, was scientifically designed to shield the interior of the building from the direct rays of the sun at all hours of the day and also allowed the occupant a view outside. The aluminum panels were mounted on tracks so they could be opened for window washing the glass panels behind them. The lightness of the glass and aluminum panels is contrasted with solid shear walls of reinforced concrete block.

Because good, clean design was considered of prime importance to Williams, he selected the best designed products available on the commercial market. In the

<sup>[1]</sup> Williams, E. Stewart, FAIA Award Luncheon Talk, 1999.



descriptive data form compiled by Williams for a R. S. Reynolds Memorial Award, he described the principles which guided him in the design of the building.

- First: To arrange the client's needs in the simplest, most logical plan possible.
- Second: To select a structural system best suited to meet the size and shape of the resultant space.
- Third: To adjust the scale and proportion of the building to the human being who will occupy it.
- Fourth: To pay infinite care to every detail within the whole so that the unity of the entire structure is maintained.
- Fifth: To achieve, if possible, a quality within the space enclosed that elevates the human spirit above the level of mere daily existence.
- Sixth: To satisfy himself that he has done his best, within the limits of the budget, to give his client the most professional job possible.<sup>[2]</sup>

The entrance to the bank was situated on the south side of the building equally accessible from the Palm Canyon sidewalk and the south parking area. The interior, a bright open space devoted to banking activities, had terrazzo floors throughout. The basement level contained a community room which was accessible after banking hours by an interior stairway on the south side of the bank. The lobby was separated from the main level by Anontec grating screens that provided security for the business areas. This community room was used by groups like Toastmasters and seen by the bank as a vehicle for attracting customers.

A drive-up teller window on the east side of the building as well as parking on the east and south sides served both the customers and the employee's needs.

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<sup>[2]</sup> Williams, E. Stewart, Descriptive Data Form/The R.S. Reynolds Memorial Award, n.d.

Santa Fe Federal, like its competitors, adopted "motor banking" in the late 1950s and early 1960s as a way to attract customers and incorporated this convenience into the design of their branches. With Automated Teller Machines the standard for exterior banking today, the drive-up window is a relic of early car-centered suburban communities. Most contemporary banks seek to maximize the site and buildable area and have eliminated the space needed for a drive-up teller.

Verne Potter, retired President of Santa Fe Federal, says, "This was the best building Stewart designed of the six he did for us at Santa Fe Federal". He calls it "timeless". Other Santa Fe Federal branches were built in San Bernardino, Victorville and Ontario. In 1969 the Inland California Chapter of the American Institute of Architects awarded a special citation to the firm Williams & Williams for the design.

This bank is an outstanding example of modernist architecture that reflects the optimistic view that beautiful design could both educate and inspire. Far from the eclectic styles of Spanish, Victorian or neo-Gothic bank design, it embodied the philosophy of the early 1960s. This was a time of optimism for the future, for the possibilities of modern materials and technology providing solutions to the complexities of contemporary life. For Santa Fe Federal to choose Williams as the architect and sponsor a glass pavilion as their Palm Springs branch, illustrates their forward thinking and embracing of the contemporary aesthetic. A radical departure from traditional fortress-like bank structures with columns, staircases and vast spaces, this glass pavilion was designed to be inviting and human scaled. Santa Fe Federal's image was identified with the new, the contemporary and the visionary.

Near Santa Fe Federal on Palm Canyon Drive are two other banks designed by Williams: Coachella Valley Savings and Loan at 383 South Palm Canyon (now Prudential Realty), completed in 1956 and Coachella Valley Savings Bank (now Washington Mutual Bank) at 499 South Palm Canyon completed in 1961. In that

period Palm Canyon Drive was the hub of the western valley and the main street of Palm Springs. Banks sought to capture customers by a significant presence declared in their outstanding architecture.

Palm Springs is fortunate to have a few modern structures on Palm Canyon Drive that are iconic examples of modern architecture. The lightness, proportions and clarity of design of Santa Fe Federal and its placement on the corner site make it a prime example of modern architecture.

The architect:

Born in Dayton, Ohio in 1909, Williams received a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1933 from Cornell University and his master's degree in architecture from the University of Pennsylvania the following year. From 1934 to 1938 Williams taught art and design at Bard College, Columbia University, followed by six months in Europe studying Modern architecture. After a brief period in his father's architecture office in Dayton, Williams spent time in New York working for the industrial designer Raymond Loewy. From 1943-45 Williams served in the U.S Navy at Mare Island in San Francisco supervising ship construction. In 1946 Williams joined his father, Harry, and his brother, Roger in Palm Springs where their firm Williams, Williams & Williams had their offices in La Plaza which Harry had designed in 1936. When the Williams' designed Oasis Office Building was completed in 1952, the firm moved their offices to the north-facing second story space there.

Their firm designed residences and numerous commercial and civic projects including schools, colleges, hospitals, and banks. Crafton Hills College (1966), the Palm Springs Art Museum (1968-70) and the Steve Chase Addition (1994) and the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway Mountain Station (1964) are a few of his largest projects. (See the attached project list). In 1999 the American Institute of

Architects awarded Williams the honor of FAIA, Fellow American Institute of Architects. On September 10, 2005, Williams died in Palm Springs. A star on the Palm Springs Walk of Stars was dedicated to him on February 16, 2007 in the sidewalk in front of Santa Fe Federal.

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L. 0045

E. Stewart Williams, F.A.I.A.  
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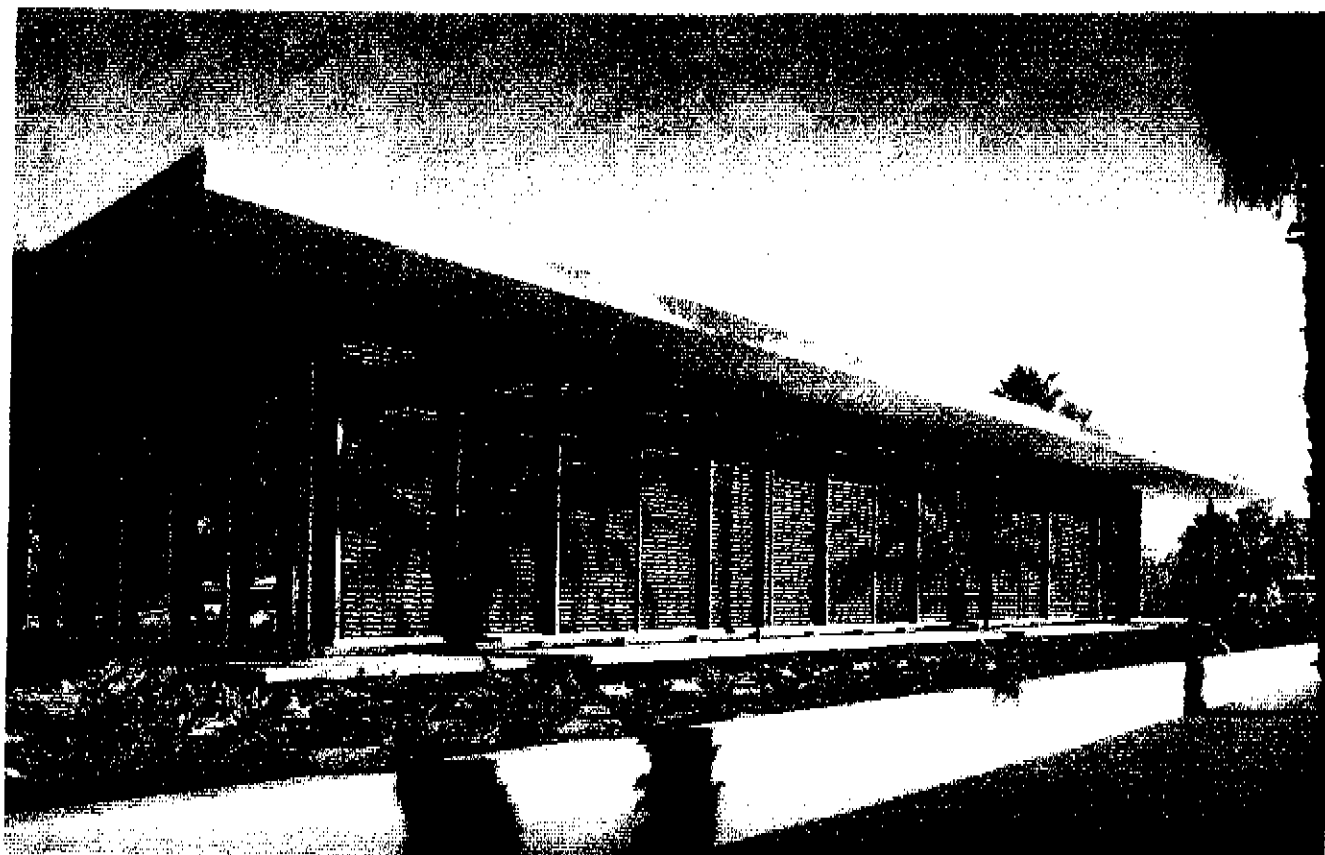
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300 S. Palm Canyon Drive - Santa Fe Federal - West Elevation

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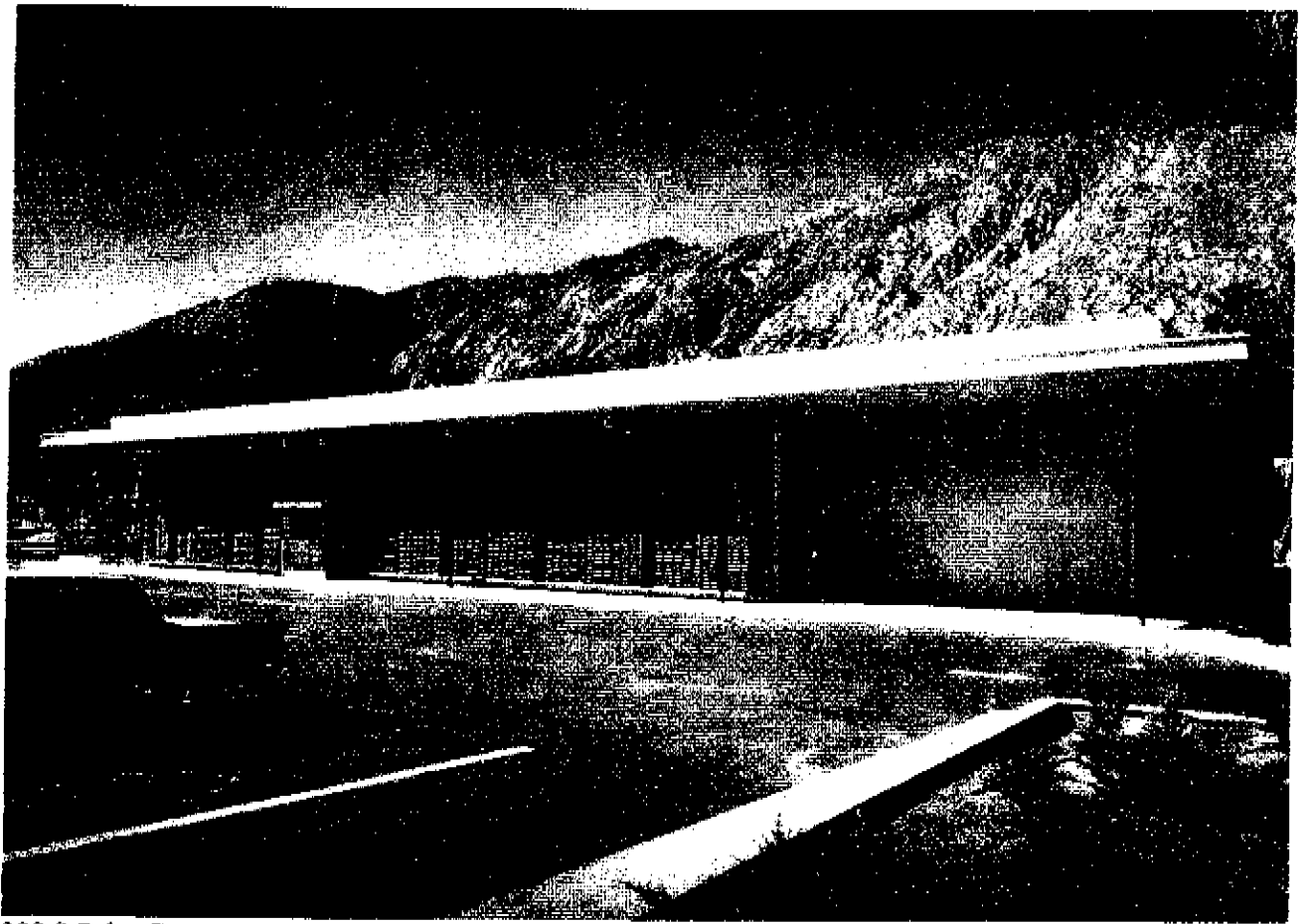
300 S Palm Canyon Drive – Santa Fe Federal view showing southwest main entrance

1500



300 South Palm Canyon Drive Santa Fe Federal - West façade, aluminum sunscreens

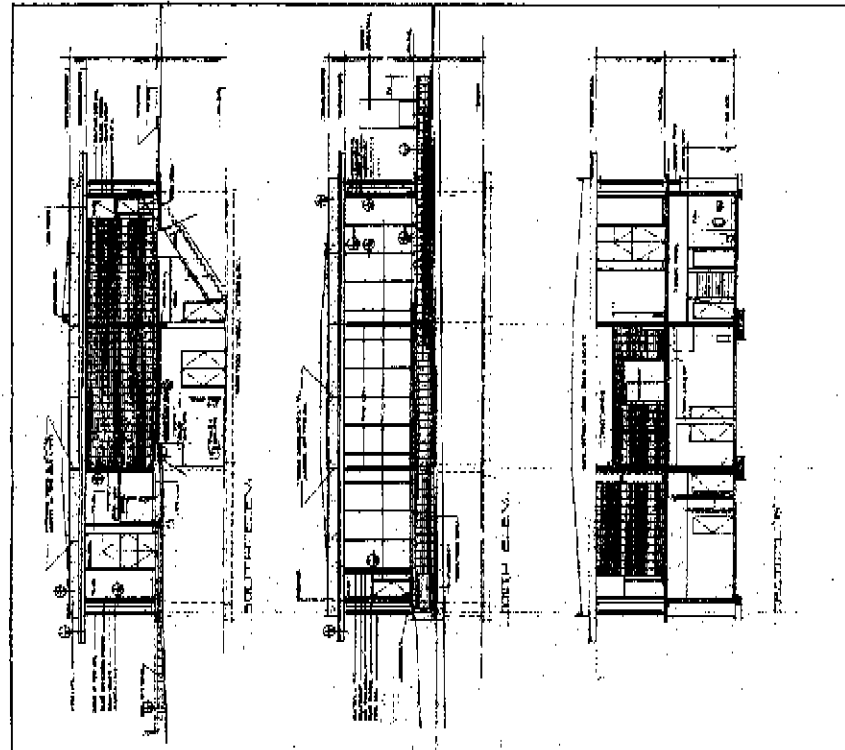
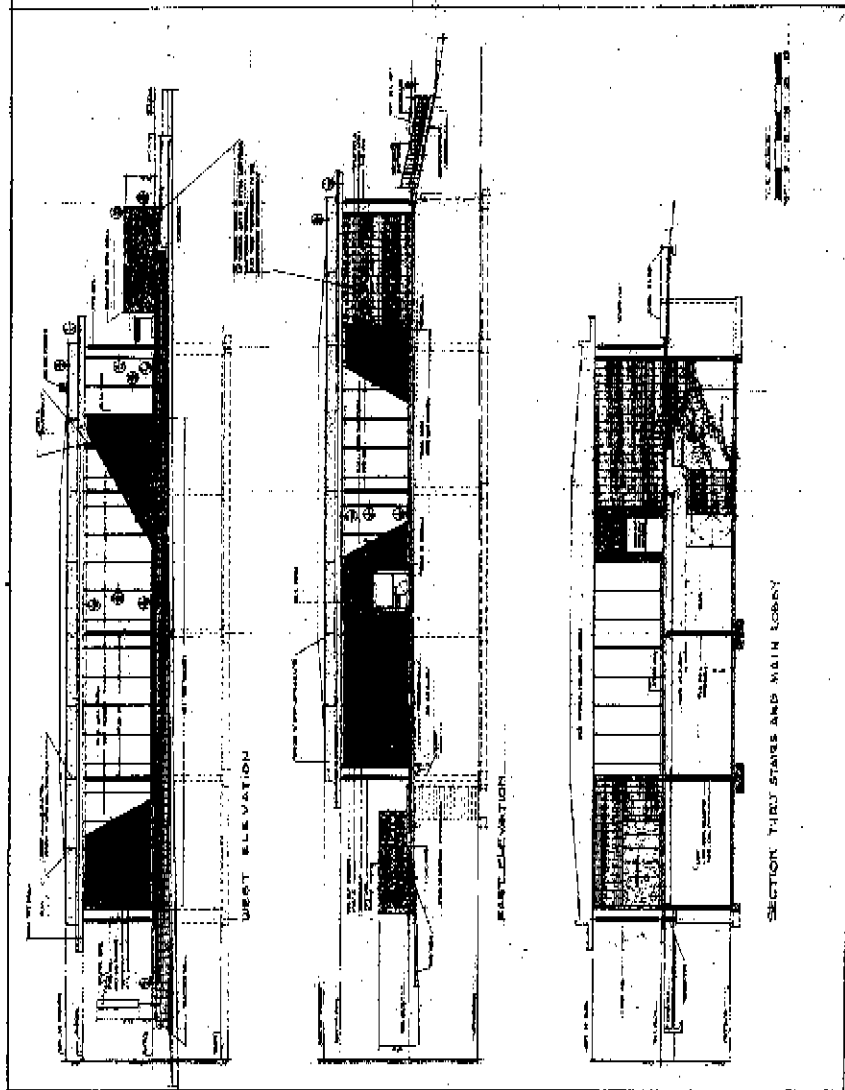
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300 S Palm Canyon Drive, Santa Fe Federal Savings -- East facade

0053



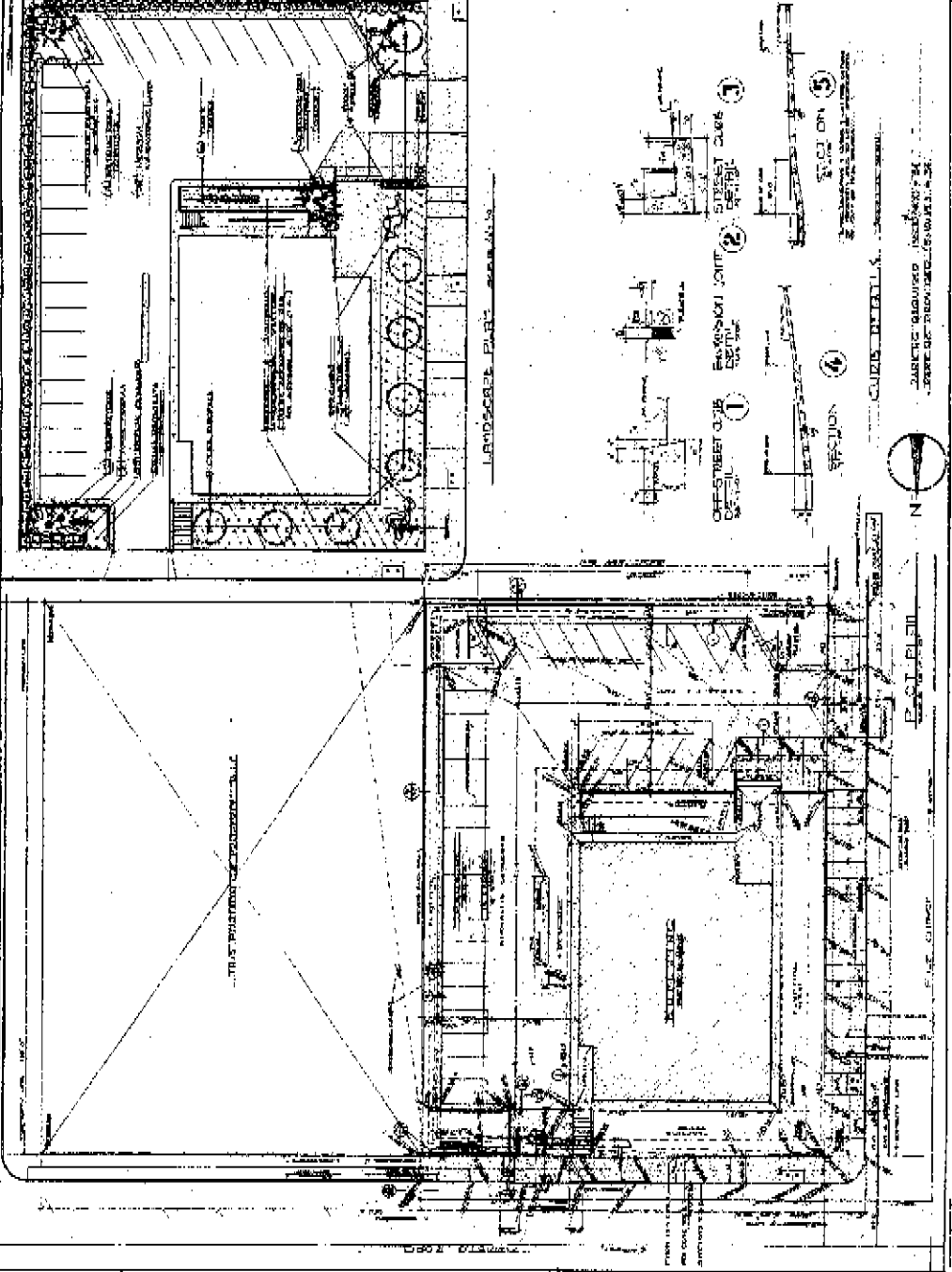


EXTERIOR ELEVATIONS & SECTIONS	
DATE	1934
DESIGNED BY	SWITCH CO. FEDERAL SAVINGS & LOAN ASSOCIATION
DRAWN BY	W. H. BROWN
CHECKED BY	W. H. BROWN
SCALE	AS SHOWN
PROJECT NO.	100-11111
CLIENT	FEDERAL SAVINGS & LOAN ASSOCIATION
ADDRESS	100-11111
CITY	MEMPHIS, TENN.
STATE	TENN.
COUNTY	MEMPHIS
ARCHITECT	W. H. BROWN
ENGINEER	W. H. BROWN

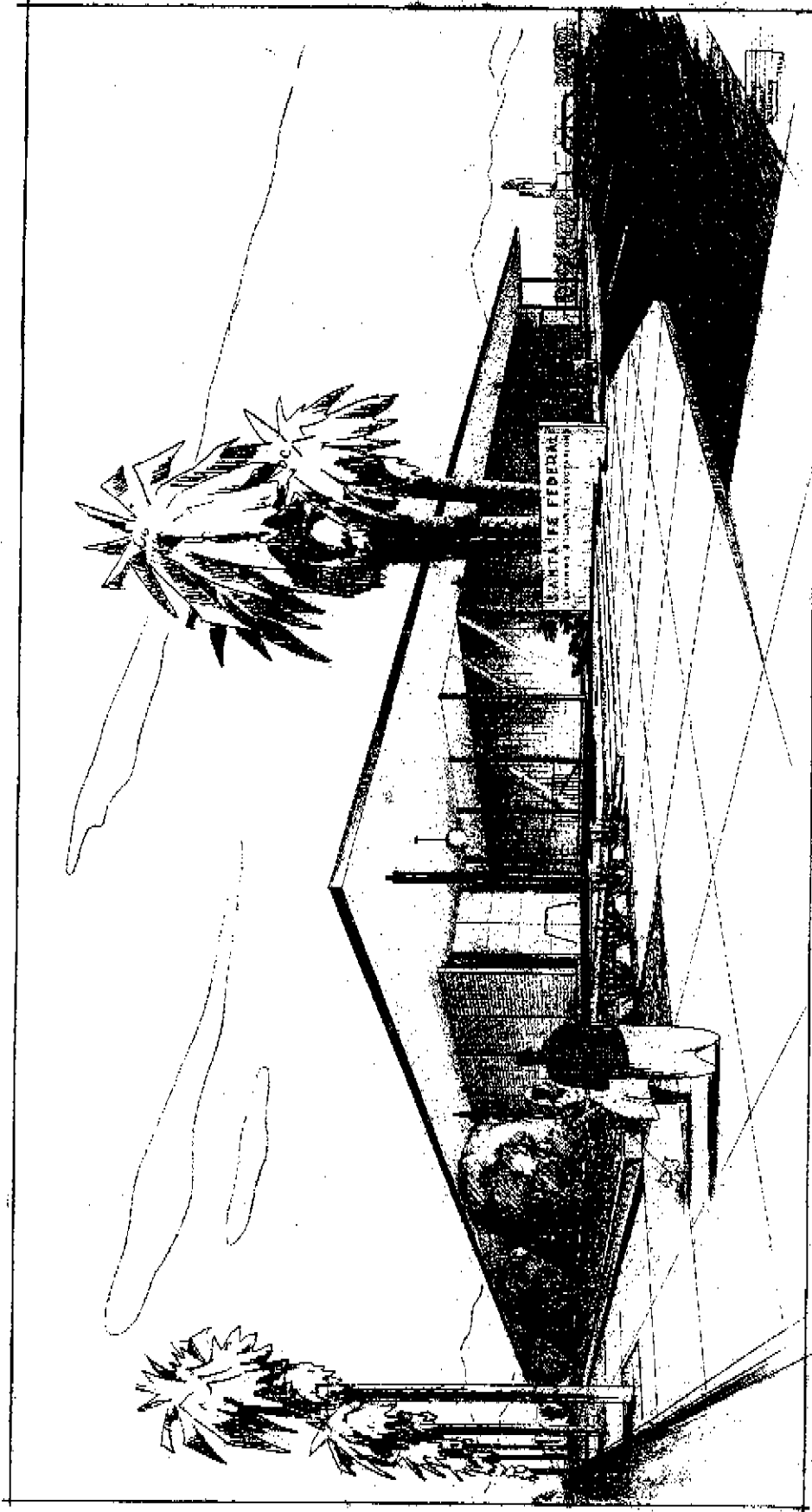
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DESERT LIVING, P. 2

The Desert Sun  
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2003 Section E

# DESERT PEOPLE

FEATURED ARTIST: Melissa Valdez Phone: 778-4544 fax: 778-4854  
e-mail: melv@the-desert.com

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## Timeline of major buildings designed by E. Stewart Williams

1979



SPECIAL TO THE DESERT SUN  
Annenberg Center, Eisenhower Medical Center, in Rancho Mirage.

1989-1990



SPECIAL TO THE DESERT SUN  
Adria and Cass Graf-Radford house in Rancho Mirage.

1996



SPECIAL TO THE DESERT SUN  
Palm Springs Desert Museum Steve Chase art wing. Christopher Mills is the associated architect.

1976

Palm Springs Desert Museum 101 Museum Drive.

1972

Crafton Hills College Out of Yucca toward Redlands, can be seen from I-10

1968



SPECIAL TO THE DESERT SUN  
Crafton Hills College in Yucca

1964



SPECIAL TO THE DESERT SUN  
Palm Springs Aerial Tramway Mountain Station. E. Stewart Williams and Roger Williams with Tudor Engineering and Van Rolle Corporation.

1962



SPECIAL TO THE DESERT SUN  
Coachella Valley Savings and Loan in Palm Springs. Architects are E. Stewart Williams and Roger Williams.

# Architectural icon

E. Stewart Williams' life is built on modern architecture

By JOHN PAAR  
SPECIAL TO THE DESERT SUN  
PHOTOS FROM COLLECTION OF THE PALM SPRINGS DESERT MUSEUM

**E.** Stewart Williams, the distinguished Palm Springs architect, takes his ease in modern splendor in his airy living room at Seven Lakes Country Club.

Through the glass behind him is a vista of the greenward. His furniture is streamlined, but comfortable, the color scheme serene.

Expanding the ambience are abstract paintings by his son, Geoffrey Williams of San Francisco.

The elder Williams wears a translucent long-sleeved shirt with twisted trousers, in tones of gray and blue. At his side is a olive Lacoste case which he has handy "as a steady influence."

"I use it as a precaution. It belonged to my lovely wife."

On the table near him is a silver-framed picture of a smiling young woman in a short-sleeved frock, crowned by a small hat and carrying a bouquet of daisies and delphinium. "My lovely wife on our wedding day" in 1940.

They had a daring wartime romance. The young couple had fallen in love in 1938 in Stockholm, a stop Williams

made on a tour of modern architecture of the Continent and Scandinavia. But World War II broke out in Europe the next year, and Williams, like everyone else in the United States, was denied a passport because of the neutrality act.

"They didn't want any incidents involving American citizens (abroad)." He could not return to collect his fiancée.

So she came to him. "When Hitler invaded Norway and Denmark, that was the signal. Her parents were fearful" and let her go. Stewart and Mazi were married in New York City.

Williams had graduated from Cornell University in 1932, and spent another year at the University of Pennsylvania earning his masters. There was no hurry to get into the job market.

"I'm just an independent architect, who lived in a small town, and was given a full share of credit in the modernism movement."

E. Stewart Williams  
Palm Springs architect, photo from the mid-1950s

"It was the middle of the Depression; there wasn't any construction at all."

Then the war came. So he had spent about a decade "after graduation floating around. I was about 35 years old before we settled down in Palm Springs in 1946. (Most of the war was spent in the Navy, stationed at the Mare Island shipyard north of San Francisco.)"

His father, known for designing the Palm Springs Hotel in 1936, and brother (Roger) were already here, so they established a little firm under his father's name and license.

"Roger and I didn't know anything about architecture... building codes, zoning, how to put a set of drawings together, write specifications."

Please see WILLIAMS, E.S.

C. 1958

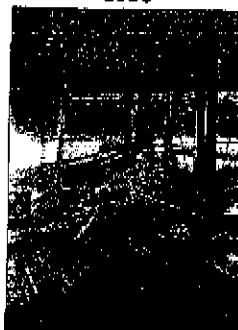
Santa Fe Savings and Loan building. Now occupied by Westman Development Co., 1555 S. Palm Canyon Drive.



1950

The Jewish Community Center, Temple Israel in Palm Springs. Designed with Harry and Roger Williams.

1956



SPECIAL TO THE DESERT SUN  
The E. Stewart and Mazi Williams house in Palm Springs.

1953



SPECIAL TO THE DESERT SUN  
The Williams and Marjorie Edie house in Palm Springs.

1952

Opals building Southwest corner of Palm Canyon Drive at Tahquitz Canyon Drive

1947

Sinatra House 1148 Alejo Road

0060

# Williams

Continued from B1

"You have to have a wide span of knowledge and experience before people will trust you." And Williams believes in "very highly detailed drawings." He is not one to say, "We'll work it out on the job."

"The only other office in town was (Julius) Clark and (Albert) Frey; there weren't many choices." Guess who walked into his Jr. May 1947, a New York singer dropped by and said "I want to build a house." He was "young, married to Nancy, with two little kids." Williams did recognize Frank Sinatra, not quite yet an icon.

"I want to move in by Christmas," Sinatra said.

"He wanted the normal things," Williams says, plus a projection room. The site was out on Aloja. There weren't any houses around it. Across the street "was a little airport, the original airport scraped out of the sand."

## Second house

That was Williams' first house. His second came along in the early 1950s, the Edris House, recently honored with an historic designation by the new Architecture and Design Council of the Palm Springs Desert Museum.

At the glamorous celebration party at the spectacular structure on a hillside above Chino Canyon, Williams was lionized. He reminisced about Marjorie and William Edris, who felt the home was "a place of magic."

They became "cherished friends." Williams remembers "sitting on this terrace with my lovely wife, (enjoying) Marjorie's special hors d'oeuvres with sour cream and caviar."

This desert-view prize now belongs to J.R. Roberts and John Boccardo, who also have a buy-view home in Sausalito, where Roberts has served as mayor. Roberts saluted the architect, "You built this house so well, restoring it was easy."

Williams built and lived in his own home for 40 years. It's on

## Williams take on modern architecture

"Modern architecture," Stewart Williams says, "started long before World War II" — in 1918. In the aftermath of the first world war as a result of the terrible destruction, so much building was required. Simple, without ornament, low-cost box-like rectangular structures with a reasonable amount of glass. "It was a new way of thinking that appealed to us who came along after that war." Rather than the German and French forerunners, Williams was particularly "impressed by the Scandinavians." The Finnish Alvar Aalto and father and son, Eitel and Euro Saarinen, and the Swedish E.G. Aspönd and Sven Markelius. (Young Williams met Markelius when he worked at constructing the 1939 New York World's Fair. The older architect was erecting the Swedish pavilion.) He "admired them because their architecture was more related to the environment. It's different on the flat

the old Paseo El Mirador in Palm Springs. In his day it was surrounded by "a thousand petunias." Now it's surrounded by tract houses.

The home was warm and inviting, with the primal feature of a fireplace — "a place of refuge, that's the point of architecture."

Glass artists Dale Chihuly bought it and had the walls painted yellow and blue. Subsequent owners have been more observant of its spirit.

"I didn't do so very many houses, about six (in the style of) so-called modernism," Williams says.

His projects — schools, banks and offices — include his own office, the Oasis building on the corner of Palm Canyon Drive and Tahquitz Canyon Way, where Starbucks is today. And of course, the museum.

## Desert Museum

Williams had been associated with Palm Springs Desert Museum since it was a tiny barracks-type building, war surplus moved over from the El Mirador wartime instant hospital

desert floor from on a boulder-strewn (hillside)."

Williams hates the ubiquitous "gyp(sum) board," the stuff of which tract homes are made. "In the Edris house, the ceiling throughout is select kiln-dried Douglas fir, sand-blasted to bring out the grain. It ties the house together. The walls go up seven feet and stop, the ceiling floats."

He doesn't like a random use of glass. It's meant for "opening up houses to the outside." He welcomed "the invention of large sheets of glass for sliding doors. (Perfect for) Palm Springs, where for nine months of the year we have a lovely climate. 'The materials of the house should reflect the quality and color and character of the home. In the Edris house, the low masonry wall of the guest room and the fireplace wall reflect the colors of boulder... they have a special patina — a sunburn.'"

— JORIE PARR

grounds. It was a "sidewalk curiosity" spot on the other side of Tahquitz, with "a stuffed coyote, several cases of rattlesnakes and a few owls, cactus specimens."

Eventually, "we built a new building beside it, a single rectangle." The museum became a social force, "with docents — volunteers, including my wife." Musical concerts were staged as fund-raisers, some in the 1,100-capacity Palm Springs High School auditorium that the Williams team constructed.

By the late 1960s museum directors decided a new museum was needed. Williams traveled to and reported on 15 to 20 museums. He worked about a year on the project. However, when it came contract time, the trustees thought "a big New York architect" might be in order.

Williams took them to "one of our best jobs," the remarkable Crafton Hills College (near Yu-

capa) "that sits on top of the hill like the Parthenon did." The consensus was "If you can do this, you can do the museum."

So of course Williams erected the Palm Springs Desert Museum we have today, and as the final stroke in his career, came back in the mid-90s to supervise the tricky upper-level addition. When he finished up in 1996, "I was 88 by that time, and decided to call it a day." After hundreds of thousands of hours leaning over a draft board, he wanted to spend time with the woman he always refers to as "my lovely wife."

Two years later she died. Old age not being for sissies, his energy has gone down; he's lost inches of height.

"I hurt all the time — I've learned to live with that." What's hard is being "all alone in the silence."

But he's sorted out his papers, donating the important ones to the museum, and put together a video. "I'm still working on getting photos together." Some are by the master photographer Julius Shulman. "He documented every major job we did," including the famous shot of the Washington Mutual bank building.

His artist son Geoffrey was arriving for a visit that next day, and Williams' daughter, Mari Anne, comes often. "Sydney has me over for Sunday dinner, and sometimes during the week." That would be his daughter-in-law, museum liaison to the Architectural Council, married to son Erik, an ophthalmologist.

Stewart Williams has a woman coming in to prepare a midday dinner, then he usually skips supper. "Oh, sometimes I have a martini while I'm watching television."

Jorie Parr is a Palm Springs freelance writer at [gparr@aol.com](mailto:gparr@aol.com)


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# THE PUBLIC RECORD

A WEEKLY BUSINESS & LEGAL NEWSPAPER

Volume 32 • Edition 16

Palm Springs, California

Friday, April 16, 1999

## BUSINESS PROFILE

### Stewart Williams honored by AIA College of Fellows

By Sharon Apfelbaum  
Editor

At an honorary luncheon on May 17 local architect Stewart Williams will receive the highest award bestowed by the American Institute of Architects (AIA) — he will be named to the AIA College of Fellows. Elected by a jury of their peers, only a few new Fellows are selected each year.

"Besides being a great architect, he's one of the finest people around," says Don Wexler, a local architect who helped spearhead Williams' AIA award. "They just don't come any better than Stewart. He is so deserving and long overdue for national recognition. Today it's rare for the AIA to name a solitary architect. This award has become big business for the big firms."

Williams, who will turn 90 years old this fall, has enjoyed a distinguished career in the field of architecture. After graduation from Cornell University, with a master's degree from University of Penn, he lectured on contemporary art, architecture and held classes in photography and watercolor at Bard College.

When WW II broke out, he applied for a Naval commission and was assigned to Mare Island Naval Base-San Francisco. His father Harry and brother Roger, also architects educated at Cornell, had moved

from Dayton, Ohio to Palm Springs in 1945. Harry had received the commission from Dayton-based National Cash Register heiress Julia Carnell to design and construct The Plaza in 1934. Built in the heart of the Depression, The Plaza was the first actual 'shopping center' in the desert area.

When Stewart arrived there were only two architects — Albert Frey and John Clark, besides his own family, in town and no houses to rent. Newlyweds Stewart and Mari Williams took a penthouse in The Plaza, occupying the space above what is now See's candies. Harry, Stewart, and Roger soon converted an adjacent shelter on the roof to their offices. Williams, Williams and Williams created architecture in that makeshift shelter until moving across the street, to an office in the newly constructed Oasis Building above the present Starbucks. After Harry died in 1957, Roger and Stewart carried on the firm.

In Palm Springs Stewart worked only on contemporary architecture. He admits being

influenced by Frank Lloyd Wright, but more so by the Scandinavians. He related to their love of nature and natural materials, their use of wood, stone and the integration of landscape elements.

"To me contemporary architecture means allowing the site to suggest an architectural solution, letting the site generate the

ultimate form, and then designing an open plan using natural materials. I always tried to keep the elements of the site, the boulders, trees, dunes and hummocks.

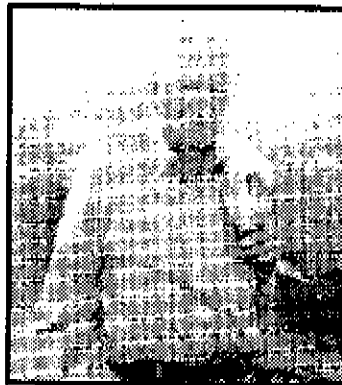
"I always considered the angle of the sun and its impact on a building. For materials, I often used birch, walnut, teak and concrete with integral colors for floors and walls. I tried to find materials that wouldn't peel or fade. On the Desert Museum, for example, I used volcanic cinder on the non-weight bearing walls. Its color blends with the surrounding mountain patina as well as the other building materials.

Williams would like to be remembered for his large commercial buildings: the

Palm Springs Desert Museum, Crafton Hills College, the Santa Fe Building in Palm Springs at the corner of Baristo and Palm Canyon. He is also proud of certain special Palm Springs homes. "I like the Edriss home, the Sinatra home with its lovely open space and first grade redwood, the Stevens Road home I designed for my son Erik and his wife Sidney, and Dr. and Mrs. Graff-Radford's Rancho Mirage home with its unusual pinwheel configuration plan."

Williams has made many contributions in the fields of design and the environment. He often presented the popular slide show he developed on the winning of the West. As president of the Palm Springs Collaborative, a consortium of local architects, Williams worked on an architectural survey of downtown. In the 1960's the Collaborative helped create an enormous scale model and plan for redeveloping the downtown area.

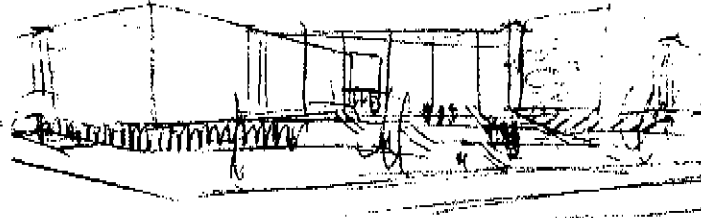
"It was a way of organizing re-development. We got lots of applause, but no building. People who come here don't want anything to change. It's still that way," says Williams. Except today Coachella Valley folks are more willing to pay homage to their hometown and exceptional local architect, Stewart Williams, Fellow American Institute of Architects.



Stewart Williams

0062

The following is from the **College of Fellows Investiture Ceremony**  
held at the 1999 AIA National Convention in Dallas, Texas on May 7, 1999:



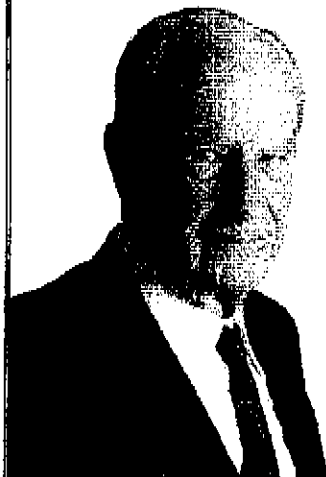
E. STEWART WILLIAMS  
AIA CALIFORNIA DESERT



DESIGNING IN VISUAL HARMONY  
WITHIN A UNIQUE DESERT REGION,  
HIS ARCHITECTURE EXHIBITS FUNCTION,  
SERENITY, AND A COMPATIBILITY WITH  
THE LANDSCAPE, REQUIRING GREAT SKILL  
AND PROVIDING MUCH INSPIRATION.



E. STEWART WILLIAMS, FAIA





# THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

DECLARES THAT

*C. Stewart Williams*

IS ADVANCED TO FELLOWSHIP BY THE JURY OF FELLOWS

FOR NOTABLE CONTRIBUTION TO THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE PROFESSION OF ARCHITECTURE

AND IS ENTITLED TO USE THE TITLE FELLOW AND THE INITIALS FAIA

IN ADDITION TO ALL OTHER RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES OF MEMBERSHIP.

DATED *May 1999*

*Philip Stark*  
PRESIDENT  
*Frank Stark*  
SECRETARY

0064



## FOREWORD

By Michael Stern

As one of the founding fathers of the Palm Springs Modern style, E. Stewart Williams brought a humanistic architecture to the spectacular desert landscape. With a career duration of 50 years (his last building was completed when he was 86 years old), the California desert is gifted with an abundance of his unique brand of Modernism – a mixture of natural and man-made materials, seamless interior/exterior flow, profuse warmth and a firm dedication to allow the power of the desert to inform much of his work.

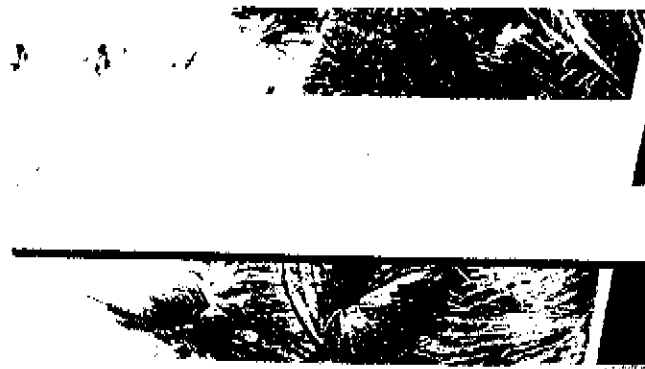
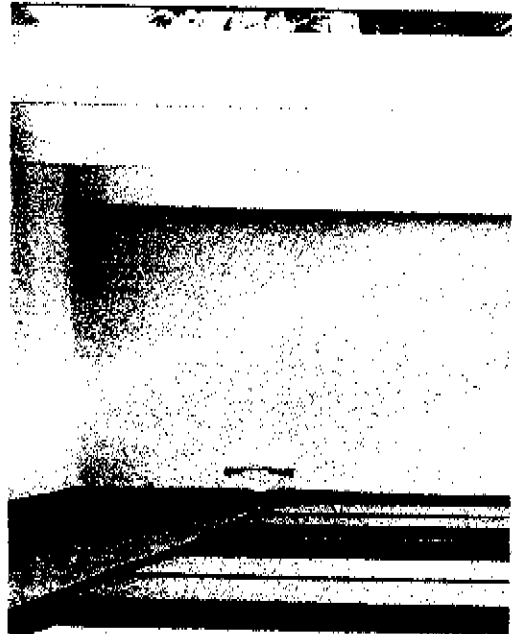
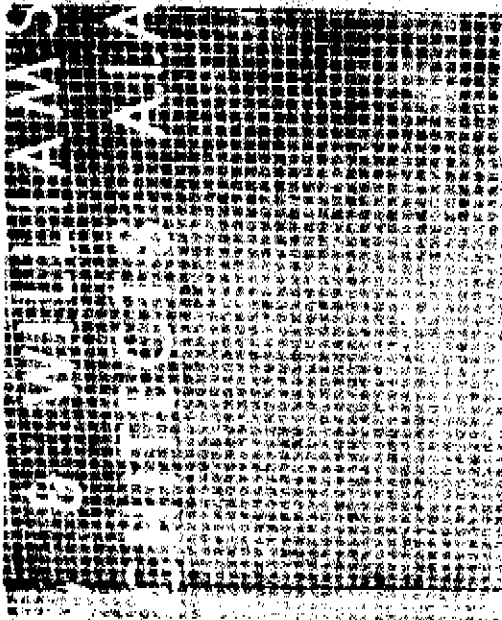
First and foremost, Williams created buildings that are clearly defined by the parameters of his clients' needs. He was not an architect building stardom to himself, but someone who understood the program requirements and made that the top priority. When clients came to Williams, they knew they would get buildings reflecting their functional intent. A bank always looks like a bank, a museum like a museum and a house like a house. More specifically, in the latter instance, like a home.

When remarking to Williams how impressed I was with the complex and integrated interior/exterior relationships of his own house, he corrected me to say that it wasn't a house, but a "home." That, for me, told the tale of Williams' work succinctly. His priority was designing buildings for people, not abstract concepts intended to be admired from afar, but buildings that were

meant to be used and enjoyed by everyone who experienced them. His buildings are "client-centric" as opposed to "architect-centric" and that is a critical component for understanding his work.

Williams has stated that his architectural philosophy was simple: "The character of the site should be the generator of the form of the architect's solution. The architecture should be an expression of the form that surrounds it." That places Williams' work firmly in the Frank Lloyd Wright camp (integrated to the building site), as opposed to, say, Le Corbusier (buildings that stand sculpturally in contrast to their immediate context). If he was designing a building in the desert mountains, the structure merges into the landscape through subtle coloring and textures that cause a fusion with the site. If the building was a bank on Palm Canyon Drive, or an alpine visitor's center, that location would dictate the form as appropriate for that building site. His contextual ability is one of the major factors that set Williams' work apart from his architectural contemporaries working in the desert. If his work was set on a Midwestern plain, I assure you it would have a very different look.

Williams is a romantic, although admittedly one with a pragmatic spine. A pragmatic romantic, seemingly a contradiction in terms, but in Williams' case, the truth. His architectural solutions always have a very grounded and functional plan. This is interspersed with his unabashed love of materials. Williams' work is symphonic in its use of texture and material.



subtle colorations play off delicate contrasts of material as the desert light extracts the nuances, each note hitting the perfect pitch. Many great architects are gifted sculptors. With Williams, that gift extends to two-dimensional media as well. A skilled illustrator, as well as a talented watercolorist and photographer, Williams brings a lyrical artistry to every aspect of his buildings: the proportions are superb, the flow between spaces is always graceful, the transitions are executed smoothly and gradually, and the artist's eye is evident in his weave of forms and textures. Williams' buildings don't knock you over the head, or make your jaw drop in surprise. His buildings are complex stories that bring each element into focus in a gradual series of statements, one leading logically to the next and combining to create a harmonious whole.

Williams' creativity is admirably abundant in his work. He would never take the easy way out. If there was an opportunity to personalize an angle, bring an unusual element into the foreground, or have his way with the most ordinary of elements, he would go for it with gusto, and the results speak for themselves. Throughout all of his buildings, one sees evidence of what I refer to as the "Williams touch." Mundane objects become special in a Williams' building. A creative turn is the expected norm, as he beautified everything from a cabinet on a wall to a medicine chest in a bathroom, things most architects would take for granted, but in Williams' hand, are executed with skill, ingenuity and beauty.

And there is the pure pleasure quotient of a Stewart Williams building. The Palm Springs desert is not the place of the lonely and thirsty saguaro cactus; this desert is one that was happily built on the notion of providing pleasure, and there is a corresponding pleasure component to Williams' work - the utter sensuousness of the materials, the feeling of contentment that one experiences inside the spaces he created, the harmony of the materials he used, the use of light, both natural and artificial, and the sheer grace of his designs.

Williams' work is solidly embedded into the context of Palm Springs and is a defining fact of our built environment. I am hopeful that the abundant recognition that his buildings now receive will inspire their longevity, as his work is one of the essential features of what makes Palm Springs Palm Springs. We can only hope that future generations will be able to learn from his structures, as do the throngs of tourists currently brought to this region by the architecture of his era. The desert was a never-ending source of inspiration for Williams and this passion was brought to life in his buildings. Williams is fond of saying, and I quote, "While Albert Frey and Richard Neutra brought Modernism to the desert, I brought the desert into Modernism." *Touche!*

Offices of Williams, Williams & Williams, Architects, A.I.A., upstairs in the Owen Building at 232 South Palm Canyon Drive, Palm Springs

PHOTO BY JULIUS BUSHMAN COURTESY OF K.L.C. OF ST. STEWART WILLIAMS  
 K.L.C. BUILDING - PHOTOGRAPH BY JED WILKINSON  
 K.L.C. BUILDING - PHOTOGRAPH BY JED WILKINSON

0005

Job List by Date (partial)

1946 E. Stewart Williams Apartment (Potter Building)  
1947 Frank Sinatra House  
1947 Earl Cordrey's "Colony"  
1948 Pepper Tree Inn  
1949 Baseball & Rodeo Stadiums (City of Palm Springs)  
1949 Temple Isaiah (Jewish Community Center)  
1950 Desert Hospital (first phase)  
1950 Florsheim Shoe Store  
1951 Ralph Kiner House  
1952 Bligh House  
1953 Palm Springs Desert Museum (first building)  
1953 William Edris House  
1954 Desert Isle Hotel  
1955 E. Stewart Williams House  
1955 Palm Springs City Hall (Joint Venture with Clark & Frey)  
1956 Palm Springs High School Auditorium  
1958 College of the Desert Gym, Pool & Locker Buildings  
1958 Theodore Sutter House  
1959 Desert Hospital (second phase)  
1960 Santa Fe Federal Savings & Loan, Palm Springs Branch  
1960 Palm Springs Unified School District Administration Building  
1962 Oasis Hotel for Western Hotels  
1963 Junior High School for Desert Sands Unified School District (Lincoln)  
1963 Desert Hospital (third phase)  
1963 Emergency Operations Center – Palm Springs City Hall  
1964 Riverside County Administration Center – Indio, CA  
1965 Alterations to Council Chamber – Palm Springs City Hall  
1965 Redevelopment of Central Business District (Palm Springs Collaborative)  
1966 Alma Walker House  
1966 Crafton Hills College – Site Selection & Plan  
1967 Santa Fe Federal Savings & Loan – Palm Springs, CA  
1968 Addition to Palm Springs Desert Museum (Marcuse Auditorium)  
1969 Completion of First Phase – Crafton Hills College, Yucaipa, CA  
1970 Santa Fe Federal Savings & Loan – Civic Center – San Bernardino, CA  
1970 New Desert Museum – Site Selection & Planning  
1972 Riverside County Administration Center – Palm Springs, CA  
1972 Great Western Plaza Complex – Palm Springs, CA  
1974 Police Training Center – Palm Springs, CA  
1976 Performing Arts Center – Crafton Hills College  
1977 Master Plan – Santa Fe Federal – San Bernardino, CA  
1979 Annenberg Center – Eisenhower Medical Center  
1980 Administrative Offices – Palm Springs Desert Museum  
1982 Addition to Palm Springs City Hall  
1983 Erik & Sidney Williams House  
1983 Heart Institute of the Desert  
1989 Graff-Radford House  
1991 Linda Ragin House  
1993 Addition to the Palm Springs Desert Museum (Steve Chase Wing)  
1995-1996 Construction of the Palm Springs Desert Museum Addition

0087



E. STEWART WILLIAMS

**SIGNIFICANT AWARDS**

1933 SILVER MEDAL OF THE A.I.A. UPON GRADUATION FROM CORNELL UNIVERSITY 1934

THEOPHILUS PARSONS CHANDLER FELLOWSHIP - UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

1936 ZABRISKJE PRIZE, TOP PURCHASE AWARD OF THE AMERICAN WATER COLOR SOCIETY IN NEW YORK

1938 FINALIST IN GUGGENHEIM FELLOWSHIPS FOR RESEARCH IN MODERN ARCHITECTURE

1954 CERTIFICATE OF HONOR TO WILLIAMS & WILLIAMS FOR EXCELLENCE IN DESIGN OF THE TEMPLE ISAIAH, AWARDED BY SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

1961 DESIGN CONSULTANT FOR GRADUATE STUDENT CENTER & FACULTY CLUB UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA, AWARDED GOLD MEDAL OF RCIA

1966 AWARD OF HONOR TO WILLIAMS & WILLIAMS FOR CREATIVE USE OF CONCRETE ON THE COACHELLA VALLEY SAVINGS & LOAN BUILDING IN PALM SPRINGS, AWARDED BY THE PORTLAND CEMENT ASSOCIATION

1969 SPECIAL CITATION TO FIRM OF WILLIAMS & WILLIAMS FOR THE DESIGN OF THE SANTA FE FEDERAL SAVINGS & LOAN BUILDING IN PALM SPRINGS, AWARDED BY THE INLAND CALIFORNIA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

1973 FIRST AWARD OF EXCELLENCE AWARDED TO WILLIAMS CLARK & WILLIAMS FOR CRAFTON HILLS COLLEGE BY THE INLAND CALIFORNIA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

1974 RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF PALMS SPRINGS, "HONORING E. STEWART WILLIAMS FOR DEVOTING COUNTLESS HOURS OF HIS TIME FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE COMMUNITY" AS CHAIRMAN OF THE DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION

1978 SPECIAL AWARD OF EXCELLENCE TO WILLIAMS CLARK & WILLIAMS FOR DESIGN OF PALM SPRINGS DESERT MUSEUM, AWARDED BY INLAND CALIFORNIA CHAPTER, AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS.

1987 FIRST HONOR AWARD FOR HILLSIDE RESIDENCE OF DR. AND MRS. ERIK WILLIAMS IN PALM SPRINGS, AWARDED BY MASONRY INSTITUTE OF CALIFORNIA IN COMPETITION SPONSORED BY DESERT CHAPTER AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS.

0008

E. STEWART WILLIAMS

**POSITIONS HELD**

- 1961 PRESIDENT OF THE INLAND DISTRICT, SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
- 1962 DESIGN CONSULTANT FOR GRADUATE STUDENT CENTER & FACULTY CLUB, UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA, VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA
- 1963 MEMBER OF INTERNATIONAL JURY FOR THE ARCHITECTURAL COMPETITION FOR SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY CONDUCTED BY THE ARCHITECTURAL INSTITUTE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA IN VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA
- 1965- SPONSOR OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA REGIONAL PLANNING ASSOCIATION,
- 1966 MEMBER OF "SCOPE," THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS' SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON PROBLEMS OF ENVIRONMENT
- 1967 PRESIDENT OF THE PALM SPRINGS PLANNING COLLABORATIVE, A GROUP OF SEVEN ARCHITECTS COMMISSIONED BY THE CITY OF PALM SPRINGS TO PREPARE A COMPREHENSIVE REPORT AND DESIGN FOR THE REDEVELOPMENT OF THE CITY'S CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT
- 1974 MEMBER OF THE DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION OF PALM SPRINGS AND CHAIRMAN, DESIGN MANUAL COMMITTEE FOR THE PALM SPRINGS CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT

**ARCHITECTURAL FIRM OWNERSHIP**

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| 1946 — 1956 | WILLIAMS, WILLIAMS & WILLIAMS          |
| 1957 — 1976 | WILLIAMS & WILLIAMS                    |
| 1972- 1990  | WILLIAMS, CLARK & WILLIAMS             |
| 1990 — 2005 | E. STEWART WILLIAMS, A.I.A., ARCHITECT |

**OTHER POSITIONS**

- 1943 — 1946 SERVICE IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY, MARE ISLAND NAVAL YARD, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

0000

**DESCRIPTIVE DATA FORM / THE R. S. REYNOLDS MEMORIAL AWARD**

TO BE COMPLETED BY NOMINEE (IN ENGLISH)

**A. What kind of building is it?**

Branch office for a Savings & Loan Association in California

**B. Date of completion of project.**

September, 1961

**C. Owner's program requirements—special or unusual. The Owner's program requirements were simple:**

First: A completely open, flexible and functional plan for efficient operation of the Savings & Loan business.

Second: A dignified, inviting structure designed to attract more customers in a highly competitive field.

Third: A rigid budget, consistent with State wide averages for similar structures.

**D. Type of construction.**

Light steel frame, with aluminum and glass walls, contrasted with solid shear walls of simple reinforced concrete block. Entire structure elevated on floating concrete base surrounded by landscaped moat.

**E. Mechanical systems.** Completely air conditioned, with Arkla refrigeration and heating system, distributed through perimeter floor outlets.

Intercom throughout by PABX telephone equipment. Closed circuit TV and IBM hook-up with main office planned for future.

**F. Materials (other than aluminum).**

Floors: Terrazzo  
Walls: Glass and Aluminum  
Ceilings: Acoustical tile-mineral type  
Vault and Shear Walls: Concrete block  
Wood Finish: Walnut

Color Accents: Vivid royal blue & fiesta red against all white background  
Furnishings: Hans Knoll and Robert Johns  
Special Accessories: Navajo rugs, baskets and authentic Indian relics  
Sculpture: Beaten brass figure of Indian Harvest Dancer

0200

G. 1. Use of Aluminum:

Window Wall Mullions	- Kawneer	Cast Aluminum Letters	- A. J. Bayer
Roof Fascia	- Kawneer	Light Fixtures	- General Lighting
Entrance Doors	- Kawneer	Eggcrate Ceiling Grilles	- Sunbeam Lighting
Zourite Panels	- Kawneer	Air Cond. Registers	- Titus
Sun Screens	- Brise-Soliel NAS	Duct Work	- 3-S Aluminum
Lobby Gates & Grilles	- Anotec	Coping and Flashing	- .050 Aluminum
Stair Railings	- Blumcraft	Roof Vent Housings	- Titus, Type PXL
Hardware	- Schlage		

2. Each of the above aluminum materials were selected by the Architect for a specific reason:

First: Because each item was stocked commercially, easily obtainable and within the limits of the budget.

Second: Because of maintenance free characteristics, aluminum was selected for all locations exposed to the sun, to human hands, and to light and heat.

Third: Because good, clean design was considered of prime importance, the Architects selected what they considered to be the best designed products on the commercial market today.

a. Northrop's "Brise Soliel" is the only sun screen manufactured today that is scientifically designed to shield the interior of a building from the direct rays of the sun at any and/or all hours of the day, yet allows the occupant a view of the outside. The Architects improved a bit on the Manufacturer's idea by placing the sun screens on tracks so they could be opened for the purpose of washing the glass panels behind them (see photograph in folder).

b. Hardware, doors, frames and railings subject to exposure of hand oils and perspiration are most resistant to corrosion if fabricated in aluminum and given an anodic coating. Marvelous new shades of color are available through this process and several of the aluminum surfaces in the building submitted are in light amber Kalcolor - a rich, gleaming shade of metallic color absolutely unobtainable in another material.

c. Grilles of Anotec grating, again selected because of the Manufacturer's design, form a beautiful entrance to the main banking area, and at the same time provide security for the business areas during evenings when the entry lobby remains open for community meetings in the large staff room on the lower level.

d. Even such small things as the Titus supply and return registers and the aluminum eggcrate diffuser grilles over the light fixtures are as simply and beautifully designed as if they were custom made.

e. The total design of a building is the secret to its success, and no building is better than its smallest detail. The Manufacturers of aluminum products have done a magnificent job in providing today's Architects with finely designed materials. It is hard to conceive of a building in which aluminum products do not play a prime role.

H. The theory of any design is best expressed by the principles which guide the Architect in his approach to the problem at hand.

First: To arrange the client's needs in the simplest, most logical plan possible.

Second: To select a structural system best suited to meet the size and shape of the resultant space.

Third: To adjust the scale and proportion of the building to the human being who will occupy it.

Fourth: To pay infinite care to every detail within the whole so that the unity of the entire structure is maintained.

Fifth: To achieve, if possible, a quality within the space enclosed that elevates the human spirit above the level of mere daily existence.

Sixth: To satisfy himself that he has done his best, within the limits of the budget, to give his client the most professional job possible.

The building submitted herein most surely fulfills these principles. No attempt has been made to be radically different. The "jazz and flying timber" so often associated with the Savings & Loan business is conspicuous by its absence. The building stands today in all its lightness and delicacy as a simple example of good architecture. What more can one say?

DATE SUBMITTED 1-9-07

CASE NO. HSPB # 54

(To be assigned)

Project Code XXX

**CITY OF PALM SPRINGS**

Department of Planning & Building

Historic Site Designation

**TO THE APPLICANT:**

Your cooperation in completing this application and supplying the information requested will expedite City review of your application pursuant to local procedure. Applications submitted will not be considered complete until all submittal requirements are met. Staff may require additional information depending upon the specific project needs.

Please submit this application and subsequent material to the Department of Planning & Building.

NAME OF APPLICANT HISTORIC SITE PRESERVATION BOARD / CITY OF PALM SPRINGS

Check One:  Owner  Lessee  Authorized Agent

Applicant's Address: 3200 E. TAHQUITZ CANYON WAY  
PALM SPRINGS CA 92262

Telephone Number: (760) 323-8245 EXT. 8986

Site Address: 300 SOUTH PALM CANYON DRIVE  
PALM SPRINGS CA 92262

Construction Date: 1957  Estimated  Factual

Architect: E. STEWART WILLIAMS

Builder: \_\_\_\_\_

Present Owner: WESSMAN HOLDINGS

Original Owner: \_\_\_\_\_

Important Owners: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Other Historic Associations: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Common Name : \_\_\_\_\_ Historic Name: AMERICAN SAVINGS BLDG

Assessor's Parcel Number: 513 - 204 - 005

Zone: CBD, SECTION 15/4/4 Land Use: COMMERCIAL-FIN'L BLDG

Is this project on fee land  or Indian trust land ? (Check One)

0073

Please check the appropriate boxes:

**ARCHITECTURAL STYLE**

- |   |           |   |           |
|---|-----------|---|-----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vernacular Adobe       | 1800-1950 | <input type="checkbox"/> Bungalow                       | 1895-1930 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vernacular Wood Frame  | 1850-1950 | <input type="checkbox"/> Prairie Style                  | 1905-1930 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vernacular Brick       | 1850-1950 | <input type="checkbox"/> Pueblo Revival                 | 1905-1940 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vernacular Ranch House | 1850-1950 | <input type="checkbox"/> Mediterranean/Spanish Rv.      | 1915-1940 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vernacular (other)     | 1850-1950 | <input type="checkbox"/> Moderne/Art Deco               | 1920-1940 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gothic Revival         | 1850-1910 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> International Style | 1925-1950 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Italiante              | 1860-1880 | <input type="checkbox"/> California Style               | Post-1945 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> French Second Empire   | 1860-1890 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial          |           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mission Revival        | 1890-1920 | <input type="checkbox"/> Other:                         |           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Craftsman Bungalow     | 1895-1920 |   |           |

**PRIMARY BUILDING MATERIAL**

- Wood Frame
- Log
- Adobe Brick
- Brick
- Stone
- Stucco
- Concrete
- Metal
- Other: GLASS

**ROOF TYPE**

- Gable
- Hip
- Half-Hipped
- Gablet
- Shed
- Gambrel
- Flat
- Mansard
- Hipped Gable
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Are there any significant decorative elements?  Yes  No  
If yes, briefly describe:

SLIDING DECORATIVE METAL SUN SCREENS  
SITING - FLOATING PAVILION IN A PARK-LIKE SETTING

**RELATED FEATURES**

- Barn
- Carriage House
- Garage
- Shed
- Outhouse
- Windmill
- Water Tower
- Tankhouse
- Hitching Post
- Fence
- Wall
- Unusual Curb
- Unusual Sidewalk
- Formal Gardens
- Unusual Trees
- Expansive Lawns
- Other:

**USE OF BUILDING**

Current Use: COMMERCIAL OFFICE

Original Use: SAVINGS & LOAN (FINANCIAL INSTITUTION)

Please list any sources used to complete this application:

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**SURROUNDINGS**

- Open Land
- Scattered Buildings
- Densely Built-up

**ALTERATIONS**

- Major
- Minor
- Unaltered

If altered, briefly describe:

---



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**PRESENT CONDITION**

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Deteriorated
- Destroyed



**PROOF OF PUBLICATION  
(2015.5.C.C.P)**

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
County of Riverside

I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the County aforesaid; I am over the age of eighteen years, and not a party to or interested in the above-entitled matter. I am the principal clerk of a printer of the, **DESERT SUN PUBLISHING COMPANY** a newspaper of general circulation, printed and published in the city of Palm Springs, County of Riverside, and which newspaper has been adjudged a newspaper of general circulation by the Superior Court of the County of Riverside, State of California under the date of March 24, 1988. Case Number 191236; that the notice, of which the annexed is a printed copy (set in type not smaller than non pariel, has been published in each regular and entire issue of said newspaper and not in any supplement thereof on the following dates, to wit:

March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2007

All in the year 2007

I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Dated at Palm Springs, California this 5<sup>th</sup>, day  
of March, 2007

Signature

2007 MAR -7 AM 8:34

CITY CLERK

4-4-07

This is space for County Clerk's Edition  
No. 0729

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
HISTORIC SITE PRESERVATION BOARD  
AND  
CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA**

Proposed Designation of  
300 South Palm Canyon Drive  
as a Class 1 Historic Site  
and Notice of Exemption from CEQA

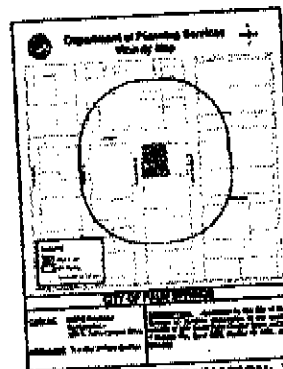
Applicant: The City of Palm Springs

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Historic Site Preservation Board of the City of Palm Springs, California, will hold a public hearing at its meeting of March 13, 2007. The Historic Site Preservation Board meeting begins at 6:15 a.m. in the Large Conference Room at City Hall, 3200 E. Tahquitz Canyon Way, Palm Springs.

and

**NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN** that the City Council of the City of Palm Springs, California, will hold a public hearing at its meeting of April 4, 2007. The City Council meeting begins at 8:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber at City Hall, 3200 East Tahquitz Canyon Way, Palm Springs.

The purpose of both hearings is to consider designation of the building located at 300 South Palm Canyon Drive as a Class 1 Historic Site. After considering all information presented, the City Council may consider designating the building as a Class 1 Historic Site.



**ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION:** This request is categorically exempt from review pursuant to Section 15331 (Historical Resource Restoration/Rehabilitation) of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), whereas the proposed designation meets the conditions outlined for preservation of a historic resource. The application is available for public review in the Department of Planning Services, City Hall, 3200 E. Tahquitz Canyon Way, Palm Springs.

**REVIEW OF PROJECT INFORMATION:** The staff report and other supporting documents regarding this project are also available for public review at the City Hall between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Please contact the Office of the City Clerk at (760) 323-8204 if you would like to schedule an appointment to review these documents.

**COMMENT ON THIS APPLICATION:** Response to this notice may be made verbally at the Public Hearing and/or in writing before the hearing. Written comments may be made to the Historic Site Preservation Board and/or the City Council by letter (for mail or hand delivery) to:

James Thompson, City Clerk  
3200 E. Tahquitz Canyon Way  
Palm Springs, CA 92262

Any challenge of the proposed project in court may be limited to raising only those issues raised at the public hearing described in this notice or in written correspondence delivered to the City Clerk, at, or prior to, the Historic Site Preservation Board and/or the City Council hearing. (Government Code Section 65008(c)(2)). An opportunity will be given at said hearings for all interested persons to be heard. Questions regarding this case may be directed to Ken Lyon, Department of Planning Services at (760) 323-8245.

Si necesita ayuda con esta carta, por favor llame a la Ciudad de Palm Springs y puede hablar con Nadine Freger telefono (760) 323-8245.

James Thompson, City Clerk

Published: 3/9/2007

0076  
105

**PRIMARY RECORD**

Primary #  
HRI #  
Trinomial  
NRHP Status Code 7B

Other Listings  
Review Code Reviewer Date

Page 1 of 1 Resource Name or #: (Assigned by recorder) Wessman Development Company Building

P1. Other Identifier: formerly Sante Fe Federal Savings Building/American Savings Building

P2. Location:  Not for Publication  Unrestricted a. County Riverside

and (P2b and P2c or P2d. Attach a Location Map as necessary.)

b. USGS 7.5' Quad Palm Springs Date 1996 T    ; R    ; 1/4 of     1/4 of Sec    ; B.M.

c. Address 300 South Palm Canyon Drive City Palm Springs Zip 92262

d. UTM: (Give more than one for large and/or linear resources) Zone 11; mE/ mN

e. Other Locational Data: (e.g., parcel #, directions to resource, elevation, etc., as appropriate)  
City of Palm Springs Section 15

Parcel No. 513 204 005

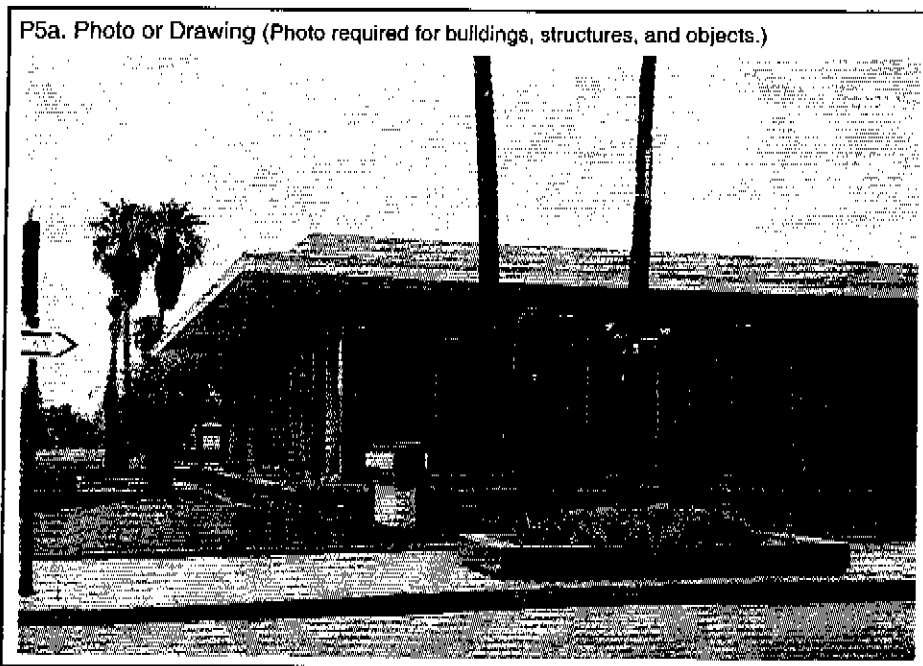
P3a. Description: (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries)

This single-story office building was originally constructed for use as a bank in a Modern architectural style. The building has a general square-shaped plan with a flat roof and wide eaves around the perimeter. Full-height, metal-framed window walls comprise the building elevations and a distinctive exterior metal sunscreen is present on the west elevation. The building incorporates a raised concrete podium approximately one-foot off of the ground with cantilevered concrete walk surrounding the street-facing elevations to achieve the sense that the building is floating above the ground. The building was designed for the convenience of customers arriving by automobile; consequently, the south and east elevations face parking lots. The original bank drive-through window is located on the east elevation. The north and west elevation are fronted by rectangular swaths of green lawn contained in low concrete curbing. Overall, the buildings exterior appears to be in good condition.

P3b. Resource Attributes: HP6 - 1-3 Story Commercial Building

P4. Resources Present:  Building  Structure  Object  Site  District  Element of District  Other (Isolates, etc.)

P5a. Photo or Drawing (Photo required for buildings, structures, and objects.)



P5b. Description of Photo:

(View, date, accession #)

View south  
August 2003

P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources:

Historic  Prehistoric  Both  
c. 1960  
Visual Inspection

P7. Owner and Address:

Wessman Holdings, LLC  
1555 S Palm Canyon Dr #G-10  
Palm Springs CA 92264

P8. Recorded by:

Maley/Petrin/Tinsley/Watson  
Architectural Resources Group  
Pier 9, The Embarcadero  
San Francisco, CA 94111

P9. Date Recorded: August 2003

P10. Survey Type (Describe)

Reconnaissance Survey

P11. Report Citation: (Cite survey report and other sources, or enter "none.")

Architectural Resources Group, City of Palm Springs Historic Resources Survey Summary Report, 2004.

Attachments:

- None  Continuation Sheet  District Record  Rock Art Record  Other (List)  
 Location Map  Building, Structure, and Object Record  Linear Feature Record  Artifact Record  
 Sketch Map  Archaeological Record  Milling Station Record  Photograph Record

RESOLUTION NO.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA, ADOPTING A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION AND APPROVING CASE 5.1137 PLANNED DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT 335 AND TENTATIVE TRACT MAP 35230 FOR CONDOMINIUM PURPOSES FOR A MIXED USE DEVELOPMENT OF RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL USES INCLUDING OFF-STREET PARKING AND LANDSCAPING, ON APPROXIMATELY 0.67 ACRES, AT 300 SOUTH PALM CANYON DRIVE, ZONE CBD, SECTION 15 TOWNSHIP 4, RANGE 4, APN 513-204-005.

WHEREAS, Wessman Holdings, LLC. (the "Applicant") has filed an application with the City pursuant to Section 94.03.00 (E) of the Palm Springs Zoning Code, for the establishment and development of Planned Development District 335; and

WHEREAS, the Applicant has filed an application with the City pursuant to Section 9.62.010 of the Palm Springs Municipal Code, for Tentative Tract Map 35230; and

WHEREAS, notice of public hearing of the Planning Commission of the City of Palm Springs to consider Case 5.1137, consisting of Planned Development District 335, Tentative Tract Map 35230, and Case 3.3028, architectural approval, was given in accordance with applicable law; and

WHEREAS, on October 10, 2007, a public hearing on the application for Case 5.1137-PDD 335, 3.3028 MAJ, and Tentative Tract Map 35230 was held by the Planning Commission in accordance with applicable law; and

WHEREAS, at said meeting, the Planning Commission reviewed all written and oral information pertaining to the project including the staff report and oral testimony and voted 7-0-0 to continue the project to a date uncertain to allow the applicant to restudy and redesign the project, and

WHEREAS, a second notice of public hearing of the Planning Commission of the City of Palm Springs to consider Case 5.1137, consisting of Planned Development District 335, Tentative Tract Map 35230, and Case 3.3028, architectural approval, was given in accordance with applicable law; and

WHEREAS, on January 14, 2009 the Planning Commission reviewed all written and oral information pertaining to the project including the staff report and oral testimony and considered the effect of the proposed project on the housing needs of the region, and has balanced these needs against the public service needs of residents and available fiscal and environmental resources; and

WHEREAS, at said meeting the Planning Commission voted 4-1-1-1 to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration and approve Case 5.1137 PDD 335, 3.3028 MAJ, and TTM 35230, subject to conditions of approval and to recommend that the City Council adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration and approve Case 5.1137 PDD 335 and Tentative Tract Map 35230 subject to conditions of approval, and

WHEREAS, notice of public hearing of the City Council of the City of Palm Springs to consider Case 5.1137-PDD 335 and Tentative Tract Map 35230 was given in accordance with applicable law; and

WHEREAS, on February 18, 2009, a public hearing on the application for the Planned Development District and Tentative Tract Map was held by the City Council in accordance with applicable law; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 66412.3 of the Subdivision Map Act, the City Council has considered the effect of the proposed project on the housing needs of the region, and has balanced these needs against the public service needs of residents and available fiscal and environmental resources; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has carefully reviewed and considered all of the evidence presented in connection with the meeting on the project, including but not limited to the staff report, and all written and oral testimony presented.

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PALM SPRINGS DOES HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1: A Mitigated Negative Declaration has been completed in compliance with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Guidelines. The City Council finds that with the incorporation of proposed mitigation measures, potentially significant environmental impacts resulting from this project will be reduced to a level of insignificance. The City Council independently reviewed and considered the information contained in the Mitigated Negative Declaration prior to its review of this Project and the Mitigated Negative Declaration reflects the Council's independent judgment and analysis.

Section 2: Pursuant to Section 94.03.00 (Findings for a Planned Development District), as outlined in Section 94.02.00(B)(6) (Conditional Use Permit) of the Zoning Ordinance, the City Council finds:

*a. That the use applied for at the location set forth in the application is properly one for which a conditional use permit is authorized by this Zoning Code;*

The uses proposed are ones that are authorized by the zoning code because commercial uses including restaurants and general retail, as well

as residential uses are permitted in the CBD zone. The project conforms to this finding.

*b. That the use is necessary or desirable for the development of the community, is in harmony with the various elements or objectives of the general plan, and is not detrimental to existing uses or to future uses specifically permitted in the zone in which the proposed use is to be located;*

The proposed uses are identified in the General Plan as suitable and appropriate in the Downtown. The proposed uses and project density are harmonious with the stated objectives and development of this specific portion ("a transition area") of the Downtown. The uses are ones that are encouraged in order to create greater vitality and activity in the downtown area. Therefore the uses are desirable and in harmony with the objectives of the General Plan.

*c. That the site for the intended use is adequate in size and shape to accommodate such use, including yards, setbacks, walls or fences, landscaping and other features required in order to adjust such use to those existing or permitted future uses of land in the neighborhood;*

The lot is conforming in size and dimension to the zone. The site is adequate for the proposed retail and multi-family uses, because the project meets the open space requirements for the zone and the land use designation. The proposed development conforms to the height limit of the high-rise ordinance. The project includes an existing one-story building that occupies approximately 25% of the site. Significant deviations in the setback requirements of the high-rise ordinance are necessary through the application of a PDD to accommodate both the existing and the proposed building. The use of the PDD to encourage a high-density mixed-use type of project for the downtown is reasonable.

*d. That the site for the proposed use relates to streets and highways properly designed and improved to carry the type and quantity of traffic to be generated by the proposed use;*

Elimination of the existing driveway curbcut onto Palm Canyon Drive is desirable because it redirects Palm Canyon-bound traffic from the site to the signalized intersection of Baristo and Palm Canyon. Vehicular access to this site is from Baristo Road, a collector street that can accommodate vehicular movement to and from the site without conflicts with through traffic on Palm Canyon or Indian Canyon Drive. Palm Canyon Drive is a major thoroughfare and confirmed in the General Plan Future Traffic Analysis to continue to function at acceptable levels of service (LOS) at

buildout for this area of Downtown. Baristo Road has been downgraded to a collector in the new General Plan in this area and is also predicted to function at acceptable levels at buildout. Therefore the City Council has concluded that the site relates to surrounding streets properly and those streets are adequate for the intended use.

*e. That the conditions to be imposed and shown on the approved site plan are deemed necessary to protect the public health, safety and general welfare and may include minor modification of the zone's property development standards.*

A set of Conditions of Approval are hereby incorporated in this resolution as Exhibit A.

Section 3: Pursuant to pursuant to Section 66474 of the Subdivision Map Act. The City Council hereby finds:

*a. The proposed Tentative Tract Map is consistent with all applicable general and specific plans.*

The proposed project site has a General Plan designation of CBD (Central Business District) and a Zone of CBD (Central Business District). The proposed land use of mixed use commercial/residential is consistent with the General Plan.

*b. The design and improvements of the proposed Tentative Tract Map are consistent with the zone in which the property is located.*

The proposed uses and most development standards conform to those of the underlying CBD zone and the high-rise ordinance. Certain development standards that deviate from the underlying standards will be incorporated with the acceptance of a Planned Development District. With the approval of the PDD, the design and improvements are determined to be consistent with the zone.

*c. The site is physically suited for this type of development.*

The site is essentially flat, with good vehicular access off Baristo Road that does not conflict with traffic flow on Palm Canyon. It is adjacent to the high pedestrian traffic area of the central downtown making it conducive for first floor commercial/retail uses. The site is large enough to allow the proposed high-rise building to be located at the southern half of the site, thereby preserving the east-west view corridor along Baristo Road. With the approval of the PDD application, a new set of development standards

will be created suitable for this type of high-density development as envisioned in the City's General Plan for the CBD. Therefore the site is suitable for this type of development.

*d.. The design of the subdivision is not likely to cause environmental damage or substantially and avoidably injure fish, wildlife, or their habitats.*

The Mitigated Negative Declaration prepared for the proposal adequately addresses the general environmental setting of the project and finds that the project will have no adverse impacts on the environment. The applicant has worked with the City and its Architectural Advisory Committee and modified the design to respond to many of their concerns about the built environment and existing significant structures on the site.

*e. The design of the subdivision or type of improvements is not likely to cause serious public health problems.*

There are no known aspects of the design that would cause serious public health problems. All physical improvements will require building permits and to conform to City, State, and National codes and regulations.

*f. The design of the subdivision or type of improvements will not conflict with easements, acquired by the public at large, for access through or use of the property within the proposed subdivision.*

The design of the development will not conflict with any easements or restrict necessary public access through the property.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that, based upon the foregoing, the City Council adopts a Mitigated Negative Declaration and approves preliminary development plans for Case 5.1137 PDD335, and TTM 35230 subject to the conditions contained in Exhibit A, which is attached hereto and made a part of this resolution.

ADOPTED, this 18<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2009.

\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

CERTIFICATION:

STATE OF CALIFORNIA )  
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE ) ss.  
CITY OF PALM SPRINGS )

I, JAMES THOMPSON, City Clerk of the City of Palm Springs, hereby certify that Resolution No. \_\_\_\_ is a full, true and correct copy, and was duly adopted at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Palm Springs on February 18, 2009, by the following vote:

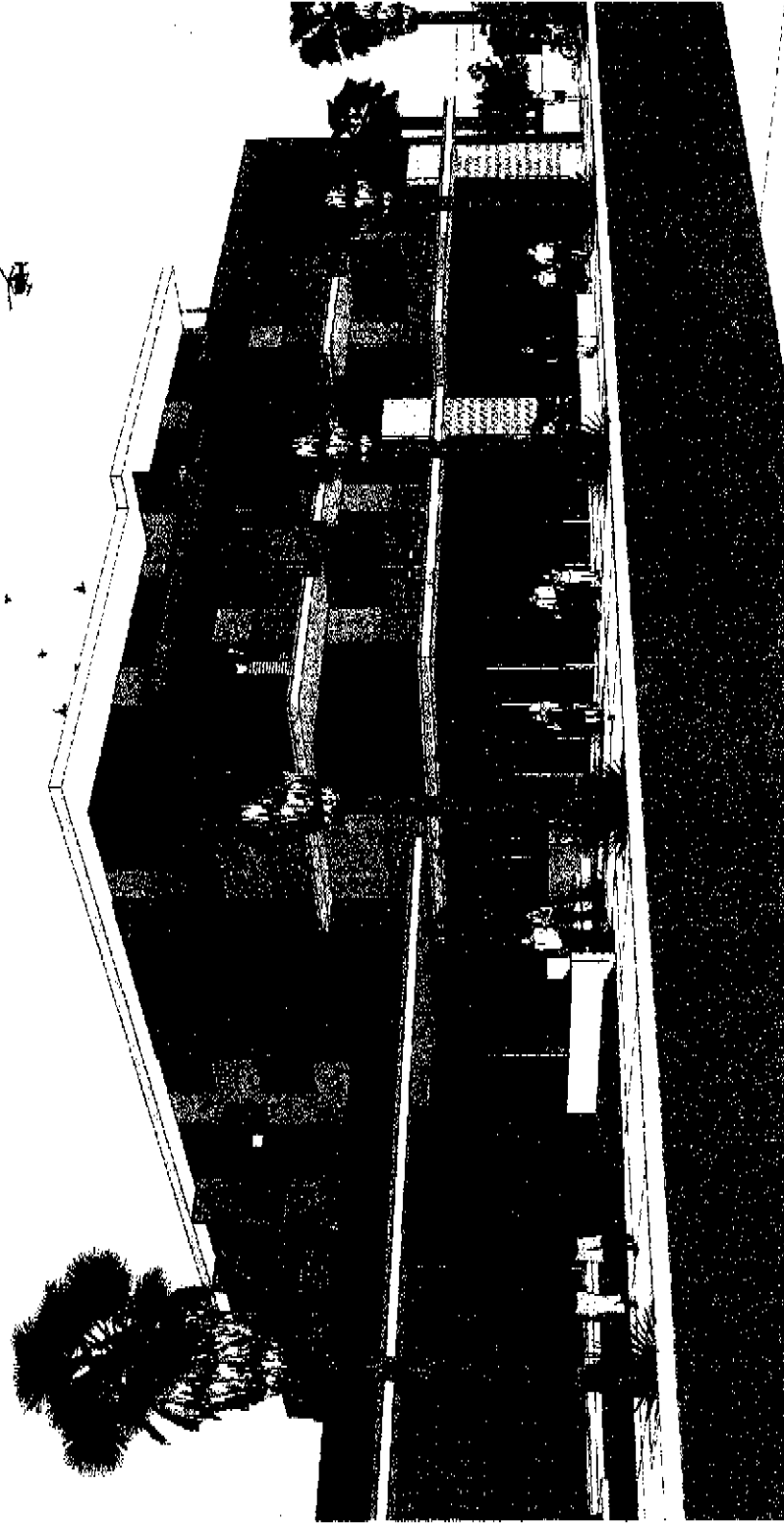
AYES:  
NOES:  
ABSENT:  
ABSTAIN:

---

James Thompson, City Clerk  
City of Palm Springs, California



**BARISTO LOFTS**  
**300 S. PALM CANYON DR.**  
**PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA**



**Cioffi**  
ARCHITECT

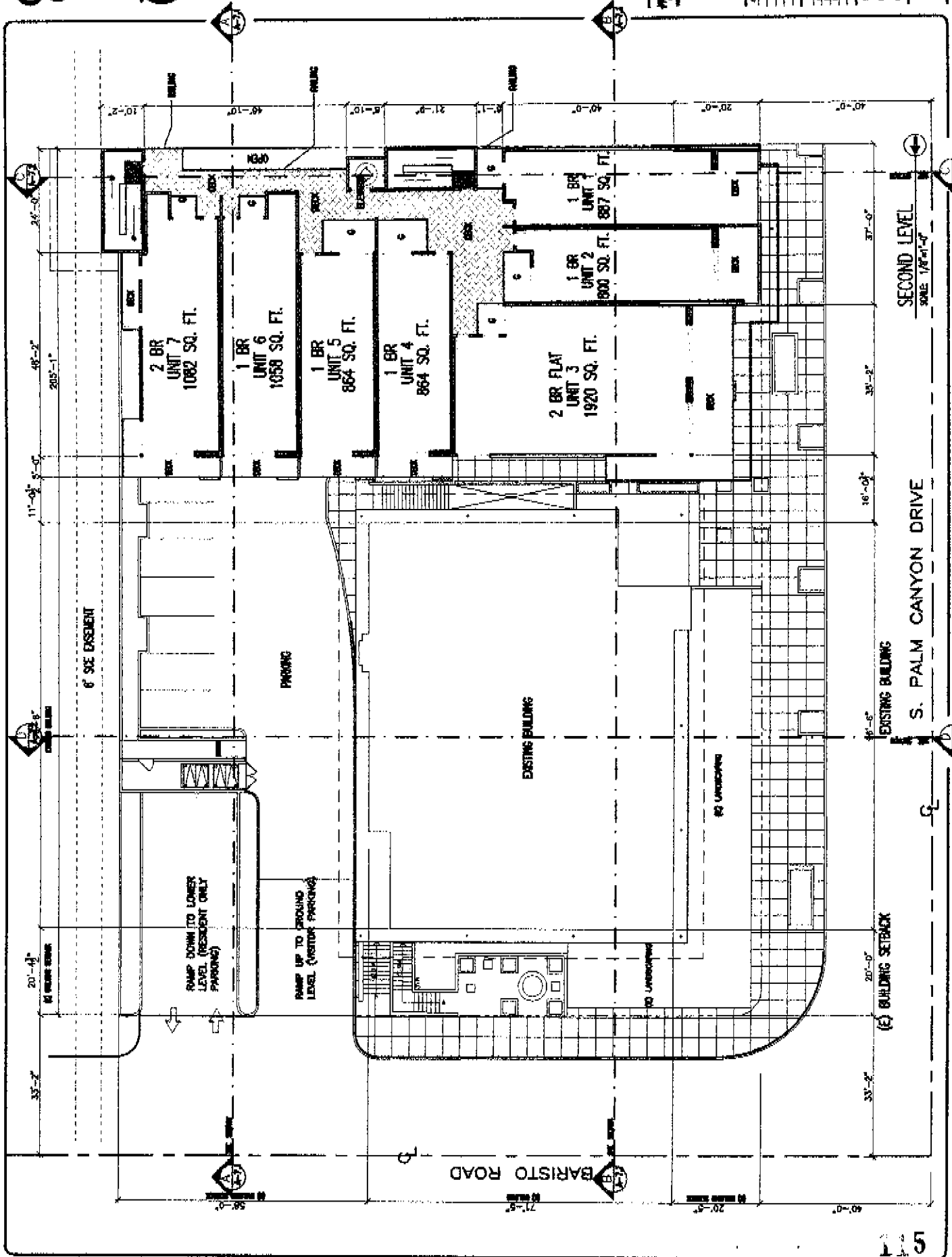




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19	REVISION
20	REVISION

SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"  
PROJECT NO: 0812  
FILE NO: 803-1

1/27  
A-2



SECOND LEVEL  
SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"

S. PALM CANYON DRIVE

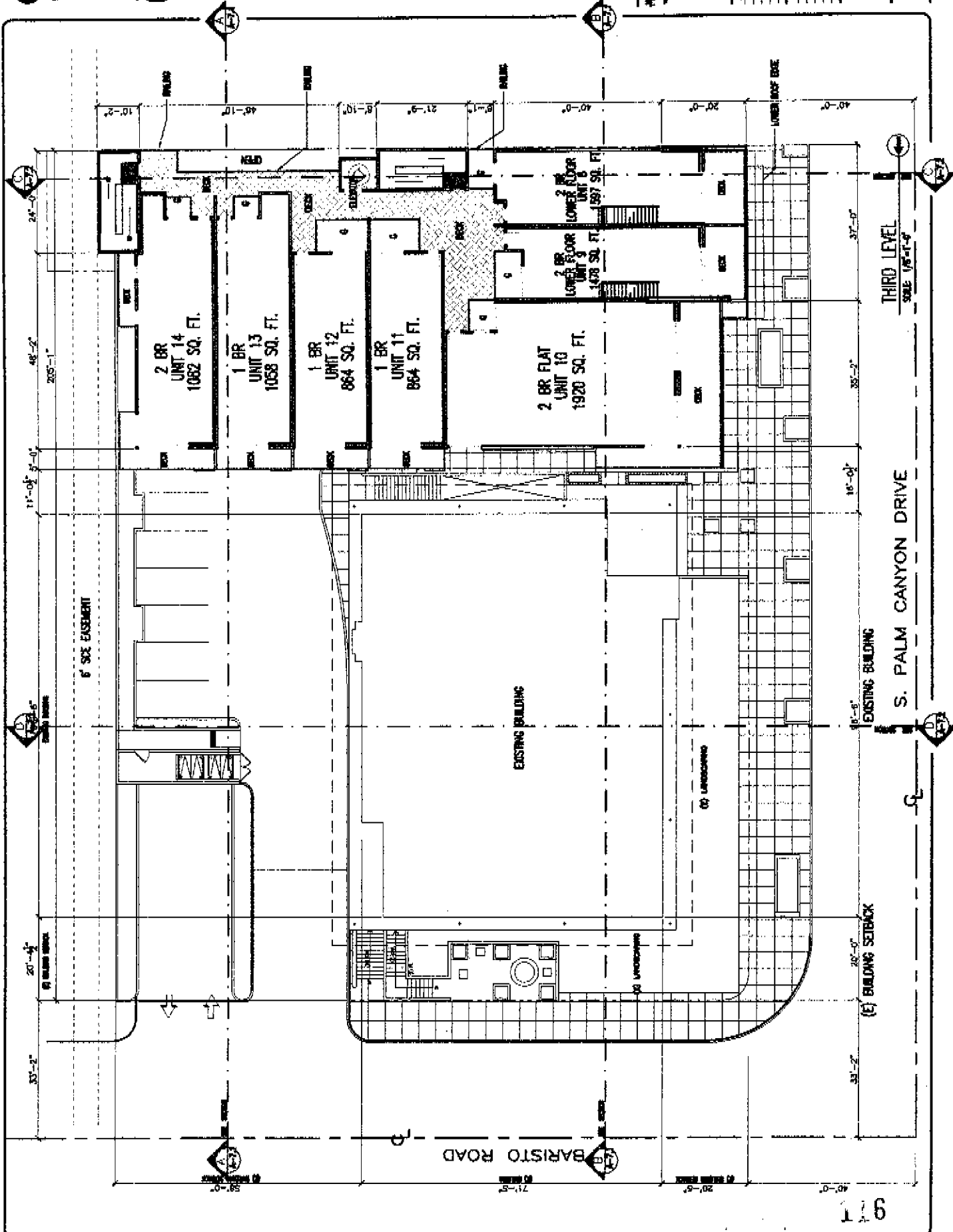
BARISTO ROAD

(E) BUILDING SETBACK

WHEEL CORNER ADAPTER  
CONSTRUCTION



1	PROJECT	
2	DATE	
3	SCALE	1/4" = 1'-0"
4	PROJECT NO.	0801
5	FILE NO.	08-01
6	SHEET	A-3



911

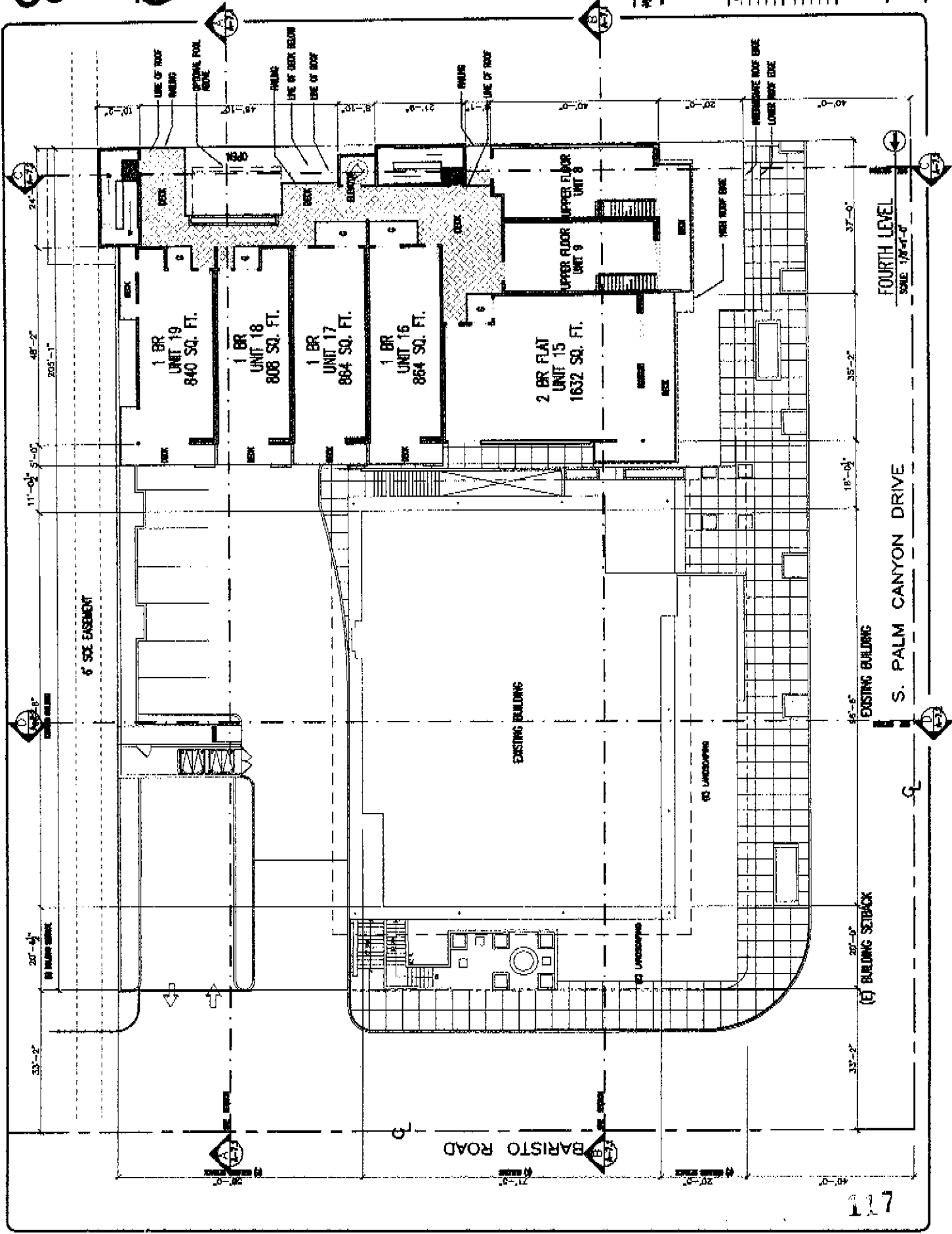
THIRD LEVEL  
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S. PALM CANYON DRIVE

BARISTO ROAD



PROJECT NO.	0043
DATE	
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PROJECT NO.	0043
FILE NO.	03-A
SHEET	A-4



**FOURTH LEVEL**  
 SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"

S. PALM CANYON DRIVE

BARISTO ROAD

(E) BUILDING SETBACK

EXISTING BUILDING

EXISTING BUILDING

(E) BUILDING SETBACK

EXISTING BUILDING

(E) BUILDING SETBACK

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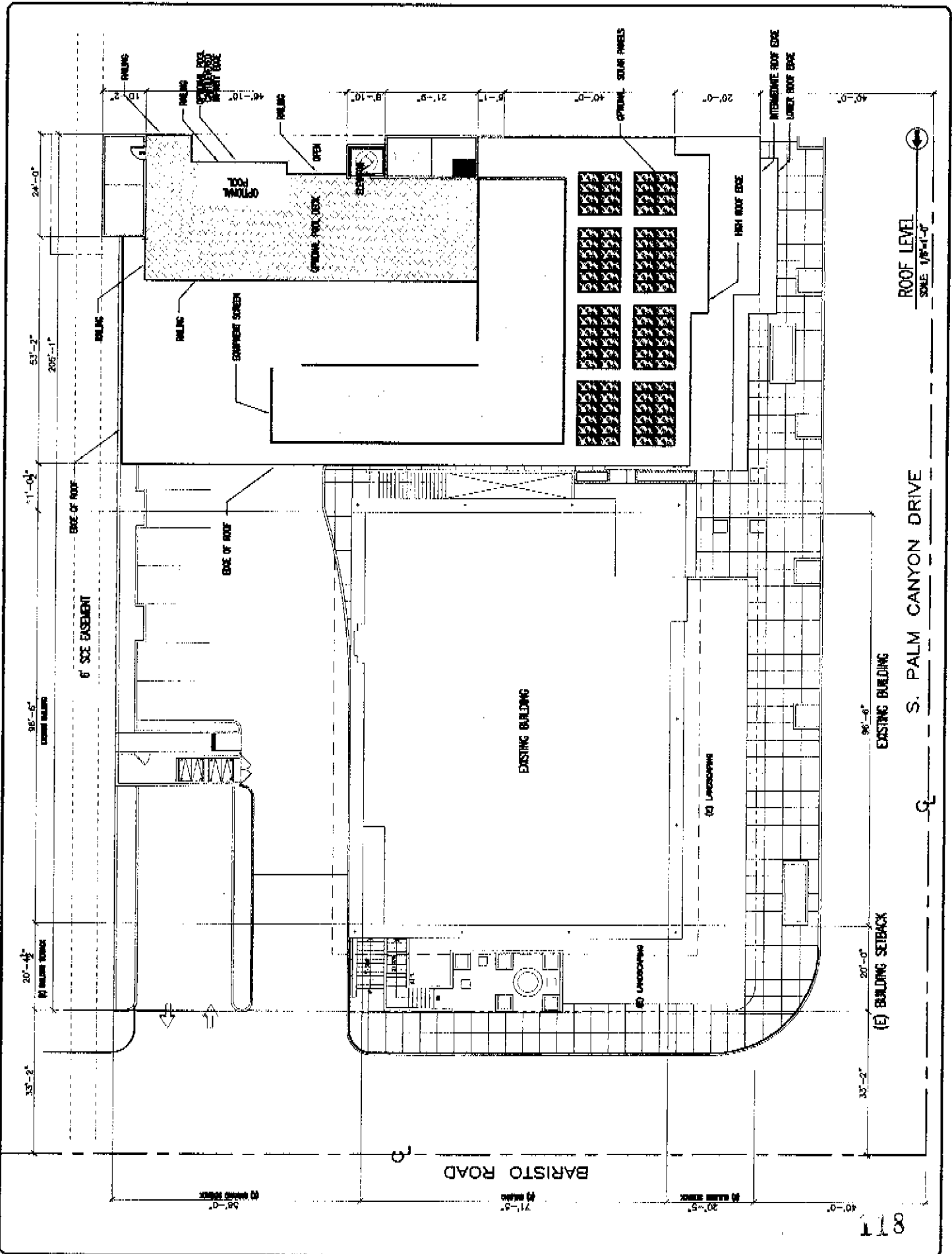
EXISTING BUILDING

EXISTING BUILDING



DATE	DESCRIPTION
11-15-08	ISSUE FOR PERMITS
08-20-08	ISSUE FOR PERMITS
08-15-08	ISSUE FOR PERMITS
08-10-08	ISSUE FOR PERMITS
08-05-08	ISSUE FOR PERMITS
07-25-08	ISSUE FOR PERMITS
07-20-08	ISSUE FOR PERMITS
07-15-08	ISSUE FOR PERMITS
07-10-08	ISSUE FOR PERMITS
07-05-08	ISSUE FOR PERMITS

SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"  
PROJECT NO: 0803  
REV: 08/03/08  
SHEET  
**A-5**



**ROOF LEVEL**  
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S. PALM CANYON DRIVE

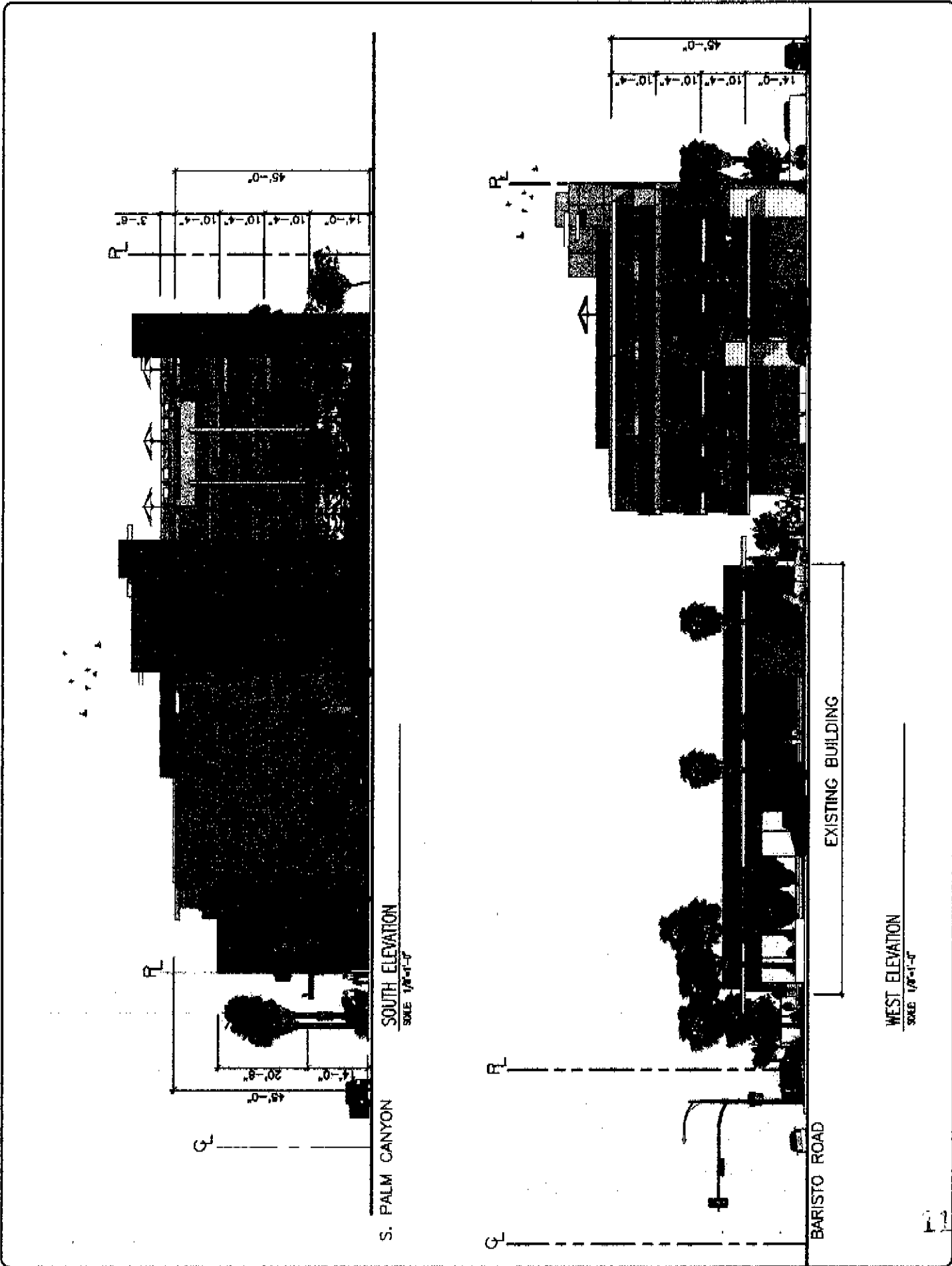
BARISTO ROAD

811



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SHEET:	

PROJECT NO. 000  
FILE NO. 000  
SHEET



**SOUTH ELEVATION**  
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**WEST ELEVATION**  
SCALE 1/8"=1'-0"

S. PALM CANYON

EXISTING BUILDING

BARISTO ROAD

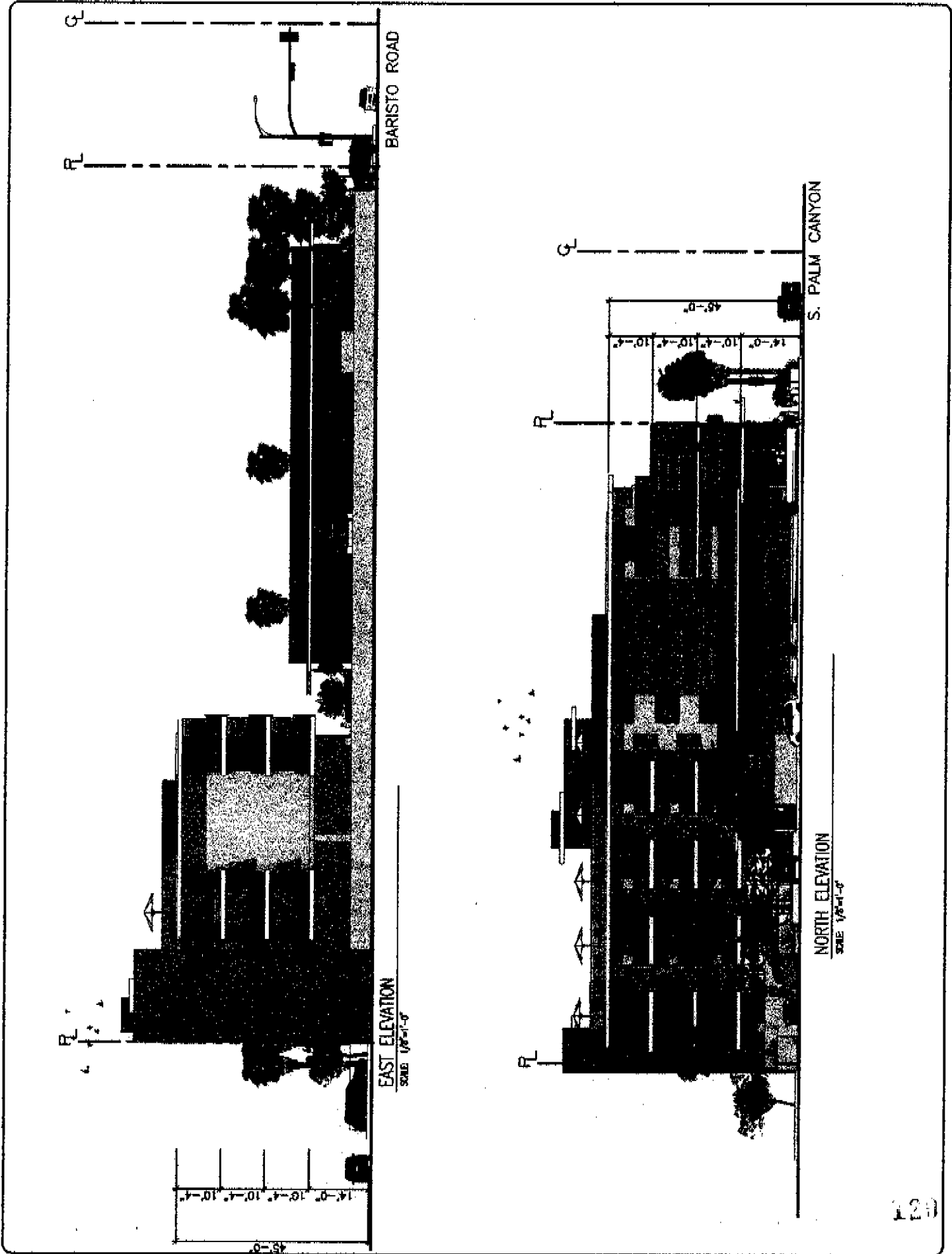


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P.L.S. SHEET	
TITLE	

SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"  
PROJECT NO. 0803

P.L.S. SHEET  
TITLE

A-8.2e





WHEEL LOCKS AND OTHER  
EQUIPMENT TO BE  
INSTALLED IN ACCORDANCE  
WITH THE FOLLOWING  
SCHEDULE



NO. 1

NO. 2

NO. 3

NO. 4

NO. 5

NO. 6

NO. 7

NO. 8

NO. 9

NO. 10

NO. 11

NO. 12

NO. 13

3/11/11  
A-7.1

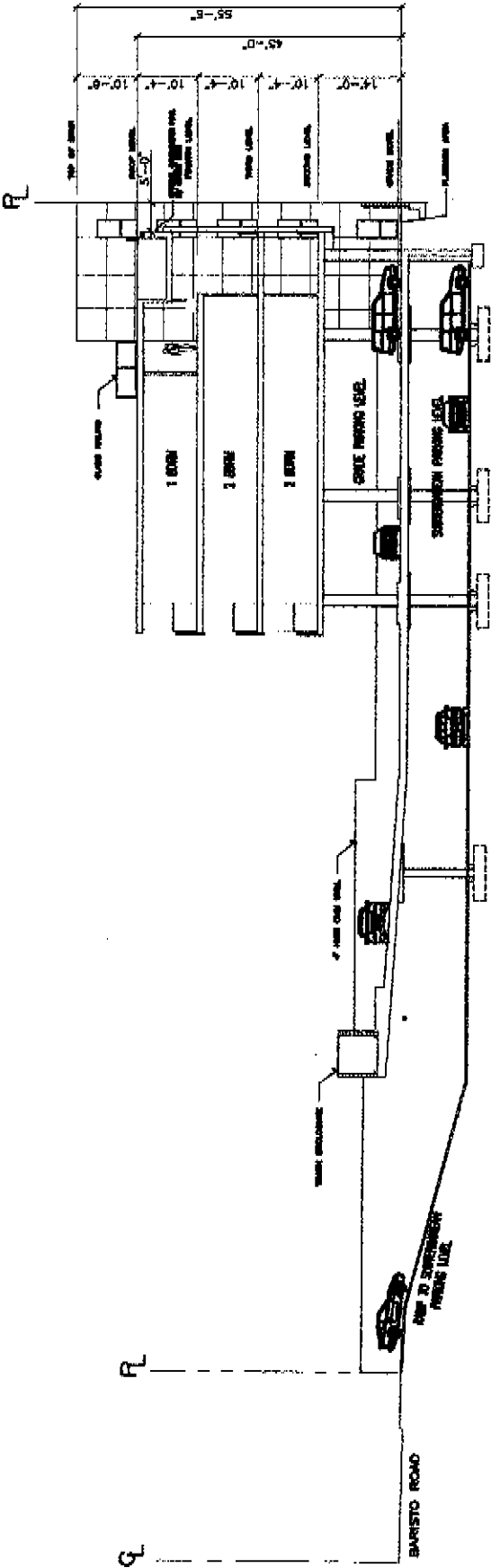
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PROJECT NO: 0803

P.L.D. 852-4

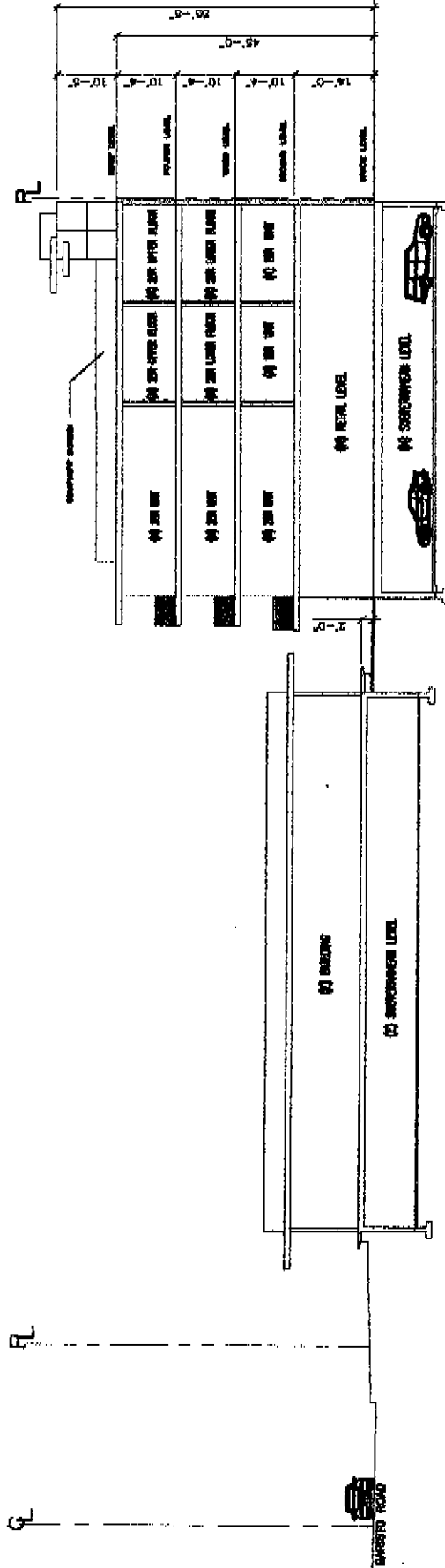
3/11/11

3/11/11



SCHEMATIC SITE SECTION 'A'

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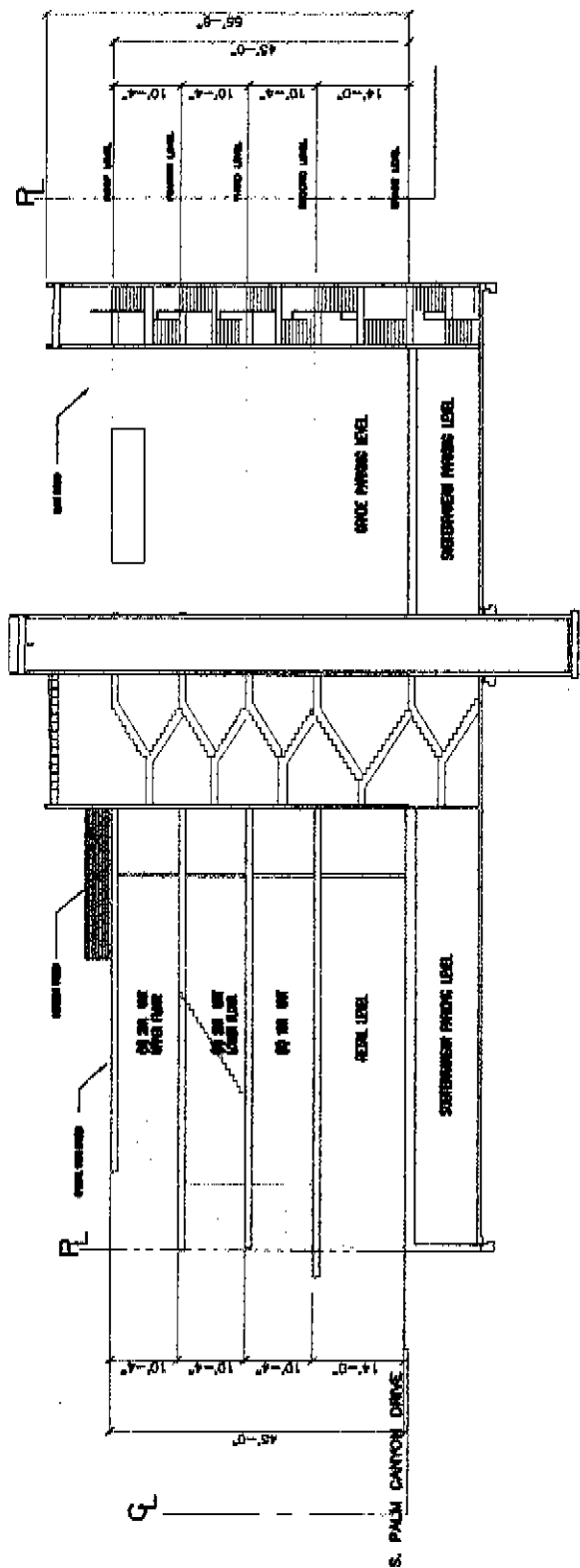


SCHEMATIC SITE SECTION 'B'

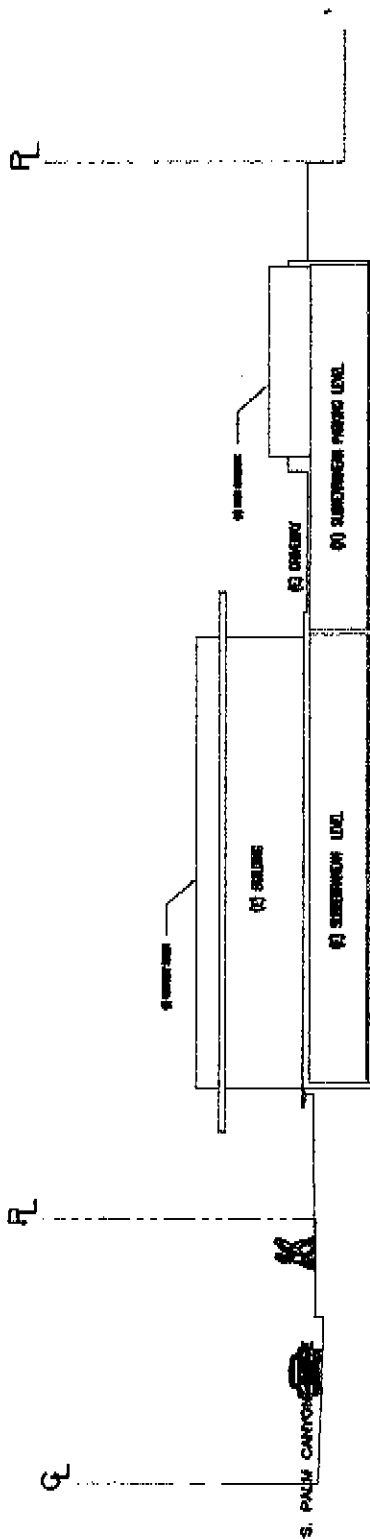
SCALE: 1/8"=1'-0"



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REVISION	
PLAT DATE	
DATE	
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SCALE	1/8" = 1'-0"
PROJECT NO.	0483
FILE NO.	000-9
SHEET	A-7.2



SCHMATIC SITE SECTION 'C'  
SCALE 1/8"=1'-0"



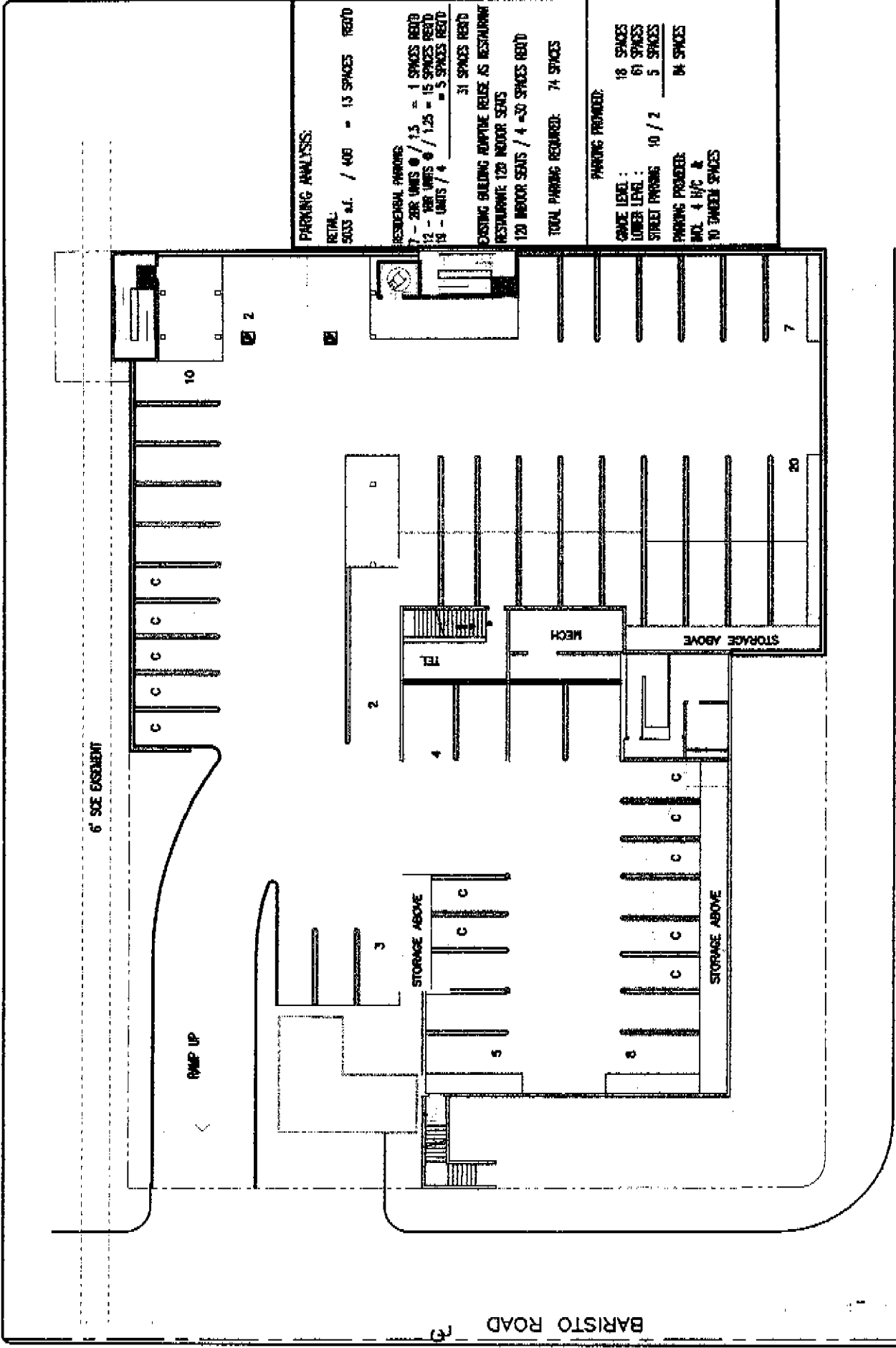
SCHMATIC SITE SECTION 'D'  
SCALE 1/8"=1'-0"

DATE: 07/11/2011  
DRAWN BY: [Signature]



NO.	REVISION

SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"  
PROJECT NO: 0803  
FILE NO: S-1  
DATE: 07/11/2011  
**A-0**



**PARKING ANALYSIS:**

RETAIL: 5000 s.f. / 400 = 13 SPACES REQ'D

RESIDENTIAL PARKING:  
7 - 200 UNITS @ / 1.5 = 1 SPACES REQ'D  
12 - 100 UNITS @ / 1.25 = 15 SPACES REQ'D  
18 - UNITS / 4 = 5 SPACES REQ'D  
31 SPACES REQ'D

EXISTING BUILDING AVAILABLE REUSE AS RESTAURANT  
RESTAURANT 120 INDOOR SEAT  
120 INDOOR SEATS / 4 = 30 SPACES REQ'D

TOTAL PARKING REQUIRED: 74 SPACES

PARKING PROVIDED:

GRADE LEVEL: 18 SPACES  
LOWER LEVEL: 61 SPACES  
STREET PARKING: 10 / 2 = 5 SPACES

PARKING PROVIDED:  
INCL. 4 H/C &  
10 TANDEN SPACES

SUBTERRANEAN PARKING LEVEL 62 SPACES  
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

S. PALM CANYON DRIVE

BARISTO ROAD



*3328th  
(K2)*

CITY OF PALM SPRINGS  
PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES  
January 14, 2009  
Council Chamber, City Hall  
3200 East Tahquitz Canyon Way  
Palm Springs, CA 92262

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 1:34 p.m.

<b>ROLL CALL:</b>	<b>Present This Meeting:</b>	<b>Present to Date:</b>	<b>Year: FY 2008/2009 Excused Absences:</b>
Larry Hochanadel, Chair	X	20	0
Leo Cohen, Vice Chair	X	19	1
Toni Ringlein		16	4
Jon Caffery	X	18	2
Bill Scott	X	17	3
Tracy Conrad	X	15	5
Doug Donenfeld	X	20	0

**REPORT OF POSTING OF AGENDA:**

The agenda was available for public access at the City Hall exterior bulletin board (west side of Council Chamber) and the Planning Services counter by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, January 9, 2009.

**ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA:**

Commissioner Conrad noted her abstention on the minutes of December 17, 2008 and on Item 4B (Baristo Lofts) due to a potential conflict of interest (she is a board member for the Palm Springs Preservation Foundation) and would not be participating in the discussion and vote. Ms. Conrad requested Item 4B be moved to the end of the agenda.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Chair Hochanadel opened Public Comments:

- Bill Butler, Palm Springs, read a statement on behalf of Palm Springs Modcom in reference to Item 4B (Baristo Lofts) in opposition to the proposed project; and requesting preservation of the Santa Fe building.
- Michael Stern, Palm Springs, spoke in reference to Item 4B (Baristo Lofts) emphasized the distinguishing features of the Santa Fe building and urged preservation of the building.

There being no further appearances, Public Comments was closed.

**4B. Case 5.1137 PD 335/TTM 35230/3.3028 MAJ - Moved to the end of the agenda.**

**4C. Case 3.3215 MAJ - An application by Sean Callow of Vista Chino Self-Storage, LLC, to construct a recreational vehicle self-storage facility on approximately 9.17-acres located at 3900 East Vista Chino Road, Zone M-1/IL, Section 16, APN: 677-040-030. (Project Planner: Ken Lyon, Associate Planner)**

Ken Lyon, Associate Planner, provided background information as outlined in the staff report dated January 14, 2009.

Chair Hochanadel opened the Public Hearing:

-James Cioffi, representing the applicant, addressed questions from the Commission with respect to the types of clientele and the associated amenities for the storage facility.

There being no further appearances, the Public Hearing was closed.

M/S/C (Conrad/Donenfeld, 6-0, 1 absent/Ringlein) To adopt the draft Mitigated Negative Declaration and approve Case 3.3215 MAJ, subject to Conditions of Approval, as amended:

-The off-site and street front improvements will be required as part of construction in Phase 1.

Commissioner Conrad left the Council Chamber at 3:05 p.m.

A recess was taken at 3:07 p.m. The meeting resumed at 3:19 p.m.

**4B. Case 5.1137 PD 335 / TTM 35230 / 3.3028 MAJ (Baristo Lofts) - A request by Wessman Holdings, LLC, to construct a four-story mixed use development consisting of first-floor commercial/retail, 19 residential condominium units, adaptive re-use of the existing building for the retail/restaurant use and a Tentative Tract Map located at 300 South Palm Canyon Drive, Zone CBD, Section 15, APN: 513-204-005. (Project Planner: Ken Lyon, Associate Planner)**

Ken Lyon, Associate Planner, provided background information as outlined in the staff report dated January 14, 2009.

Chair Hochanadel opened the Public Hearing:

-Charles Bennett, Palm Springs, spoke in favor of the project and requested approval.

-Cindy Heitzman, San Francisco, representing the California Preservation Foundation, stated that several issues were not addressed in the mitigated negative declaration (MND) and believes it is not sufficient.

-Barbara Marshall, Palm Springs, read a letter from Smith Architectural Studio, requesting the proposed project not encroach on the Santa Fe building.

- Gary Johns, Palm Springs, urged denial of the proposed project.
- Ron Marshall, Palm Springs, spoke in favor of historic preservation for the Santa Fe building.
- James Cioffi, representing the applicant, addressed the open space, floor plan and parking. Mr. Cioffi commented that a balance must be found between adaptive use, preservation and development.

There being no further appearances, the Public Hearing was closed.

Commissioner Scott expressed concern with the distance between the existing building and the new building, and stated that he could not support this project.

The Commission commented and/or discussed the separation between the buildings, the balconies and the wall to wall distance.

Commissioner Caffery commented that he is not opposed to the balconies and felt that the 16 feet distance between the buildings is adequate.

M/S/C (Donenfeld/Caffery, 4-1/Scott), 1 absent/Ringlein, 1 abstained/ Conrad) To adopt the draft Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND), approve Case 5.1137 PD 335 and Case 3.3028 MAJ; and recommend approval of Tentative Tract Map 35230 to the City Council, as amended:

- PLN 16: No exterior modifications on existing building. The applicant is not permitted to construct a dining terrace on the existing structure and shall make no modifications to the exterior of the existing structure as part of this approval.
- PLN 22: Public Benefit - Sustainability Features. The Applicant is required to provide and integrate "substantial and significant" sustainability features in the design and construction of the proposed project as a means of providing "public benefit" in exchange for the deviations requested from the underlying development standards, subject to review and approval by the Director of Planning Services prior to issuance of building permits.
- PLN 23: Class 1 Historic Designation. The applicant shall support the Class 1 designation recommendation to the City Council for the Santa Fe Federal Savings Bank Building (exclusive of any site area or open space designation on the parcel).

Director Ewing reported that the Planning Commission's action may be appealed to the City Council.

#### **PLANNING COMMISSION COMMENTS:**

No comments were reported.



## Planning Commission Staff Report

Date: January 14, 2009

Case No.: 5.1137 PD – 335; TTM 35230 and 3.3028 –MAJ.

Application Type: Planned Development District; Major Architectural Application, and Tentative Tract Map

Location: 300 South Palm Canyon Drive at the southeast corner of South Palm Canyon Drive and Baristo Road

Applicant: Wessman Holdings

Zone: CBD (Central Business District)

General Plan: CBD

APN: 513-204-005

From: Craig Ewing, AICP, Director of Planning Services

Project Planner: Ken Lyon, Associate Planner

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### **PROJECT SUMMARY:**

The project is comprised of:

1. A Planned Development District (PDD) Application to create a unique set of development standards for a proposed mixed use development at 300 South Palm Canyon Drive.
2. A Major Architectural Application for a mixed-use development at 300 South Palm Canyon Drive.
3. A Tentative Tract Map Application for condominium purposes.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Planning Commission:

1. Adopt the mitigated negative declaration and approve Case 5.1137, PDD 335 and 3.3028 MAJ subject to the attached conditions of approval.

PLANNED DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT



2. Recommend that the City Council adopt the mitigated negative declaration and approve Case 5.1137; PDD 335 and TTM 35230 subject to the attached conditions of approval.

#### **PRIOR ACTIONS:**

- The Architectural Advisory Committee (AAC) reviewed the subject project on January 22, 2007, March 12, 2007, March 26, 2007, June 25, 2007, August 20, 2007, and June 8, 2008. A summary of the AAC's comments from each of these meetings are attached to this staff report. The following comments from the AAC were incorporated in the current project scheme:

- Elimination of the proposed dining terrace on the existing building.
- Revised the south and east-facing balconies relative to the property line.

Certain comments from the AAC that are not reflected in the current scheme include:

- Set the new building further back from Palm Canyon to preserve the view of the bank building.
  - Change the full depth balconies on the north façade of the new building to "Juliet balconies" to afford more space between the new building and the existing.
  - Provide more space between the new building and the existing building.
- On October 10, 2007, the Planning Commission held a public hearing to consider Case 5.1137PD-335, 3.3028MAJ, & TTM 35230 and voted 7-0-0 for the project to be continued and for the applicant to restudy the project. Specific comments included:
    - The dining terrace is a problem.
    - Clarify how the project addresses the parameters of the Downtown Urban Design Plan (DUDP).
    - Restudy the setbacks and space between the bank building and the proposed new building, seems "shoehorned" on the site.
    - Evaluate other uses for the bank building instead of a restaurant that would cause less of an impact to the exterior of that building.
    - Restudy providing more off-street parking.
    - Consider LEED certification.

In addition, the site and existing building has been subject to the following actions related to Municipal Code Section 8.05, the Historic Preservation ordinance:

- March 13, 2007, the Historic Site Preservation Board (HSPB) voted 6 - 0 to recommend to the City Council the designation of 300 South Palm Canyon Drive, formerly known as the Santa Fe Federal Savings Bank as a Class 1 historic site.
- On April 4, 2007, at a public hearing on the HSPB's recommendation to designate the Santa Fe Building a Class 1 historic site, the City Council voted 3-2-0

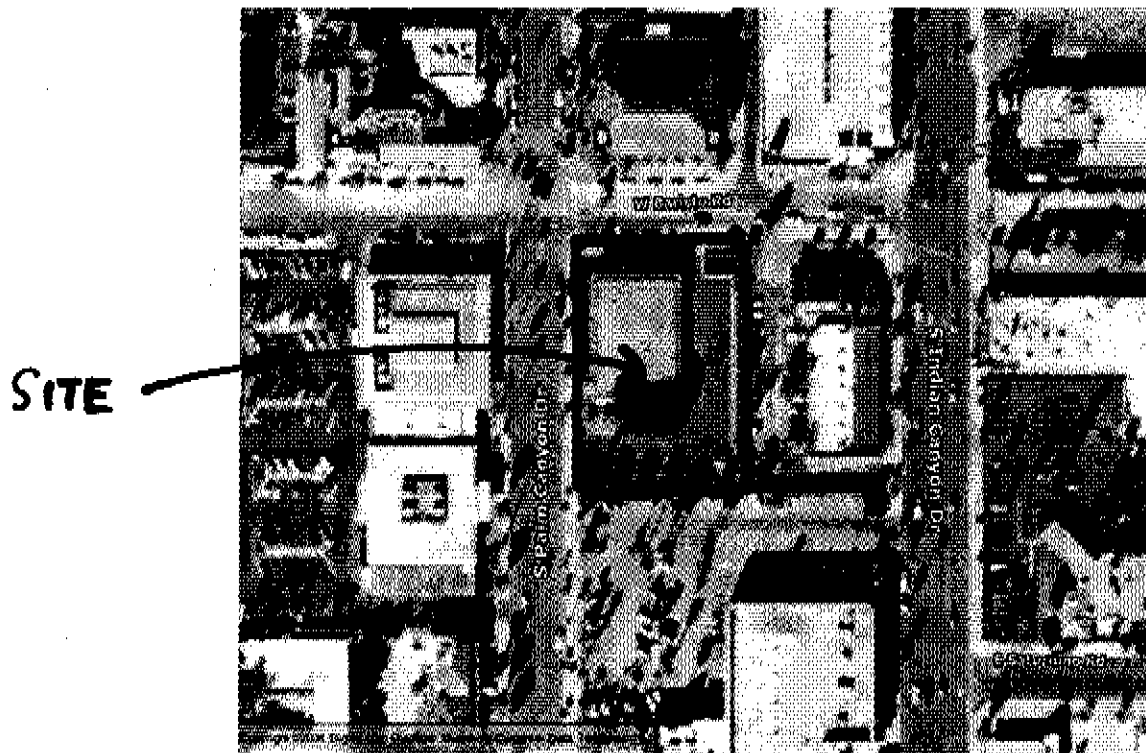
(Councilmember Foat and Mayor Pro Tem Pougnet opposing) to continue the public hearing on the Class 1 designation in order to consider the designation concurrent with this case (5.1137PDD-335, 3.3028MAJ, & TTM 35230).

**BACKGROUND AND SETTING:**

The proposed project site is a 0.676-acre (roughly 29,447 net square foot) parcel in the Central Business District at the southeast corner of South Palm Canyon Drive and Baristo Road at the southern end of downtown Palm Springs.

The site measures approximately 194 feet by 166 feet. It is currently developed with a building constructed in 1960, known as the Santa Fe Federal Saving Bank ("The Wessman Building"). The site is fully developed with vehicular entry and exit on both Baristo Road and South Palm Canyon Drive. The site slopes gently downward from south to north. The existing building is located roughly in the northwestern corner of the site with 17 foot wide landscape areas facing Baristo Road and South Palm Canyon Drive. On the east of the building is an existing parking lot and former drive-up teller window lane, and on the south is continuation of the parking lot and exit driveway connecting to Palm Canyon Drive.

The southern end of the downtown area has been home to many financial institutions since the 1950's and is still considered by many to be "the financial district" of Palm Springs. The aerial photo below shows the context of the site.



Aerial photo showing the 300 South Palm Canyon Building in the center

PLANNED DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

*The Santa Fe Federal Savings Bank/Wessman Building:*

The existing building was designed by prominent local architect E. Stewart Williams as a branch office for the Santa Fe Federal Savings and Loan Corporation in 1957. Construction was completed in 1960. The building is a steel frame structure with extensive use of glass and distinctive aluminum sun screens. It has wide cantilevered roof overhangs that shield the large expanse of glass from the desert sun. The building rests on a raised concrete "base" with cantilevered edges that give it the appearance of floating above the adjacent landscape.<sup>1</sup> Additional description is included in the analysis that follows.



Contemporary Photo of the Santa Fe Federal Savings Bank (Wessman Building)

There are traditional pedestrian-oriented downtown commercial uses and structures to the north and big-box retail with large parking lots to the south, the existing development in the immediate vicinity of the project does not follow any particular style or pattern. The surrounding land uses, General Plan designations and Zoning are summarized in Table 1 as follows:

<sup>1</sup> In 2004, the building was recognized as a significant example of the International Modern Style of architecture in the Citywide Historic Resources Survey.

Based on its April 4, 2007 action, the City Council will take up consideration of the historic designation recommendation of the HSPB on the Santa Fe Building concurrent with its review of Baristo Lofts and consideration of the Planning Commissions recommendations on this project.

**Table 1: Surrounding land uses, General Plan, Zoning**

	Land Use	General Plan	Zoning
North	Commercial (two story vacant office building)	CBD (Central Business District)	CBD (Central Business District)
East	Commercial (single story multi-tenant retail strip)	CBD (Central Business District)	CBD (Central Business District)
South	Commercial (single story big box retail store and parking lot)	CBD (Central Business District)	CBD (Central Business District)
West	Commercial (two story retail/office building)	CBD (Central Business District)	CBD (Central Business District)

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The project is comprised of an adaptive reuse of an existing structure for restaurant/retail uses, a proposed new structure four stories in height with ground floor retail/commercial spaces and three floors of residential uses, structured off-street subterranean parking, and landscaping. The project includes a Planned Development District (PDD) application seeking approval for deviations from the underlying development standards of the CBD zone and application of high-rise ordinance. The application also includes a Major Architectural Application for the project's design elements. Lastly, there is an application for a Tentative Tract Map (TTM) for condominium purposes.

The existing structure was originally designed as a branch office for a bank and is currently used as an office for the applicant. It would be remodeled to accommodate restaurant/retail uses on the first floor. The exterior of the existing building would not be modified other than to provide the necessary mechanical and exhaust systems to support a proposed commercial kitchen. The basement level would be gutted to provide off-street parking and would be connected to the proposed new parking structure on the site.

The proposed new four-story structure is designed to contain a mix of retail/commercial uses on the first floor and residential uses on the upper three floors. Roughly half of the roof area would be developed with an outdoor rooftop terrace and optional swimming pool. The remaining roof area will be used for mounting multiple condensing units for the individual air conditioning systems in each unit.

Off-street parking would be provided on the site by means of new underground structured parking that would be connected to the basement of the existing building. Parking is also proposed at the first floor level, on the eastern half of the site. The parking includes standard, compact-size and tandem parking spaces. A pair of two-way vehicular ramps, accessed off Baristo Road, would provide access down to the

subterranean parking area, and up to the parking at the first floor level. The off-street parking configuration is further discussed in the zoning analysis below.

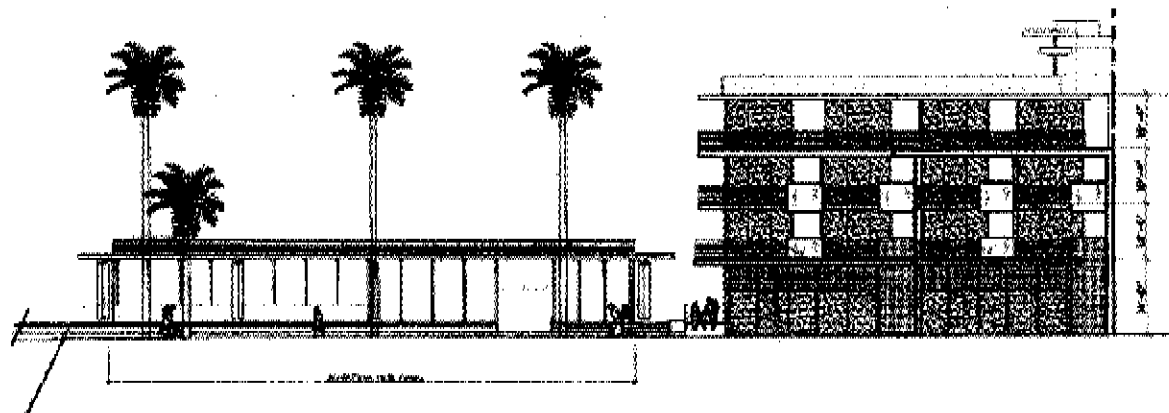
### Architecture

The architecture of the project consists of the existing single story building designed in the International Modern Style and a new four-story building designed in a contemporary architectural style.

The existing building is essentially a rectangular "glass and steel pavilion" with a wide cantilevered roof overhang supported by unusual tapered steel "star" columns set in front of the glass curtain wall at a regular structural module of 25 feet resting on a 'floating' concrete plinth or base. The building is considered a very good example of the International Modern Style.

The proposed new building is contemporary in its design with balconies and cantilevered shade canopies that create a strong horizontal layered effect on the exterior facades.

The eastern portion of the four story building is constructed over two levels of structured off-street parking. The west half of the first floor of the proposed new building is a 5,000 square foot retail space. The existing driveway onto South Palm Canyon would be eliminated. The building and parking essentially fill the site; however there are landscape planters, walkways, and other usable outdoor open spaces created at the ground or first floor level.



West Elevation showing proximity of the proposed new building to the existing

The proposed new high-rise building is oriented in an east-west manner, thereby preserving view-corridors along Baristo Road. The new building is approximately sixteen (16) feet from the south wall of the existing building and twelve (12) feet from the south edge of the roof of the existing building. Balconies proposed on the north side of the proposed new building would be approximately four feet from the leading edge of the roof of the existing building. (These balconies were recommended by the AAC to be removed to provide more space between the buildings but the applicant has elected not to do so).

Each residential unit would have at least one balcony; two story units would have two. On the south side of the residential units, open-air corridors provide access to each unit from the elevator and stair towers. The proposed new building is located with zero setbacks on the interior rear and side lot lines and zero setbacks at a portion of the Palm Canyon Drive lot line. Paved walkways and planters are proposed between the two buildings at ground level. The first floor elevation of the new building would be approximately two feet lower than the first floor of the existing building. At the roof level of the new building, a terrace and optional pool are proposed. Air conditioning condensing units are also on the roof, and an area is shown for possible future solar panels.

In response to specific requests in the Planning Commission meeting of October 10, 2007, regarding parking, space between buildings, LEED certification, and how the building relates to the Downtown Urban Design Plan (DUDP), the following is noted.

- The applicant has increased the off-street parking from 56 spaces to 81 spaces.
- The proposed dining terrace and modifications to the glass curtain wall on the existing building were eliminated.
- Although the Planning Commission requested the space between the existing and new building to be increased, the space between the existing building and the proposed new building (not counting the balconies) has been slightly *decreased* from 13 feet to 12 feet from the cantilevered roof edge (from 17 feet to 16 feet to the wall face of the existing building) in order to reconfigure the floor plans on the upper levels.
- The proposed development will not be LEED certified (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design).
- Staff's review of the project against the DUDP is included in the Analysis section below.

#### Site Design, Landscape and Open Space.

Because of the density of the proposed project, the primary focus of site design, landscape and open space is at the perimeter of the lot and in the many balconies serving the residential units. A variety of plant material, most of which is drought-tolerant and desert appropriate, is proposed for the project. Landscape planters are provided at the perimeter of the site, on both sides of the access ramps to the parking structure, along the street frontages, and between the two buildings. A variety of palm trees and ground covers as well as a "hedgerow" of bamboo along part of the south elevation soften and enhance the architecture of the site.

## **ANALYSIS**

### **General Plan Consistency**

The proposed project site has a General Plan designation of CBD (Central Business District). The General Plan explains the intended uses and desired development for the CBD as follows:

*(GP page 2-7) Central Business District (1.0 FAR, 21-30 dwelling units per acre). Bounded approximately by Ramon Road, Calle Encilia, Alejo Road and Belardo Road, the Central Business District designation allows for a mix of commercial, residential, and office uses at a higher concentration, density and intensity than in other areas of the City. The CBD serves as the main activity center and cultural core of the community and, as such, theaters, museums, retail and other entertainment venues are encouraged here.*

The commercial component of this project has an FAR (floor area ratio) of 0.39, which is within the FAR limit of 1.0 for the CBD. For the residential component, the project proposes 19 condominium units on 0.68 acres, or 28 dwelling units per acre; within the 21-30 dwelling units per acre limit in the CBD. Therefore Staff had concluded that the project conforms to the type of use and density defined in the General Plan for the CBD.

The CBD is broken down further into defined sub-areas with differing densities and desired development parameters. These sub-areas are described in the Downtown Urban Design Plan (DUDP) as noted below. The DUDP is part of the General Plan, and can be found in Appendix A of that document. The subject parcel is located in an area defined as a "transition zone".

*(DUDP Page 33) Transition zones should serve as less intense connector areas between the high intensity downtown core and north and south gateways to help create a varied downtown experience. These areas are ideal for theme based districts (areas with similar or complementary uses such as restaurants, art galleries, etc.) and should consist primarily of shorter, one to two story (max 30 ft) commercial/office mixed-use buildings. Slightly taller mixed-use buildings with ground floor retail/office and residential lofts above (max 45 ft) are permitted on the east side of Palm Canyon Drive.*

The proposed project is consistent with this statement because it is 45 feet tall. Elevator and stair towers are 58 feet tall, but such height overages are permitted in the Palm Springs Zoning Ordinance and such "architectural intrusion features" are recognized and identified as acceptable in the DUDP. Further regarding building height, the DUDP notes:

*(DUDP Page 37) Building massing should step back above the ground floor to maintain and protect public view corridors along streets.*

The General Plan does not provide a specific dimensional requirement for stepping back a building's upper floors to protect public view corridors. Along this section of Palm Canyon Drive, Mexican Fan Palms line both sides of the street and establish a visual 'vertical edge' to the north-south view corridor. These trees frame the southward view corridor to the mountains as shown from the street in Photo 1 below. Behind the palms, on the sidewalk side, the view of the mountains is obscured by palm tree skirts and other vegetation as shown in Photo 2. Although roughly half of the building's frontage is at the front property line, the building remains 'behind' the vertical edge of the view shed established by the palm trees and thus does not obscure or impact the public view corridor along Palm Canyon Drive, either from the street or the sidewalk.

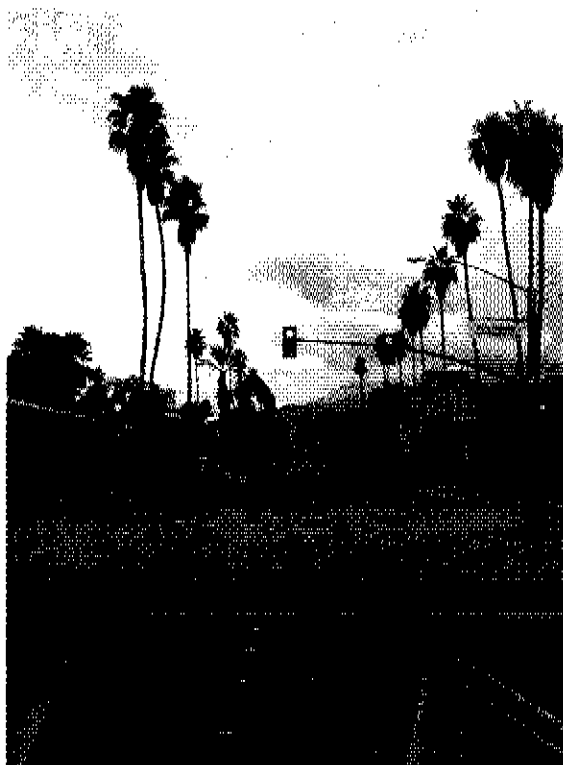


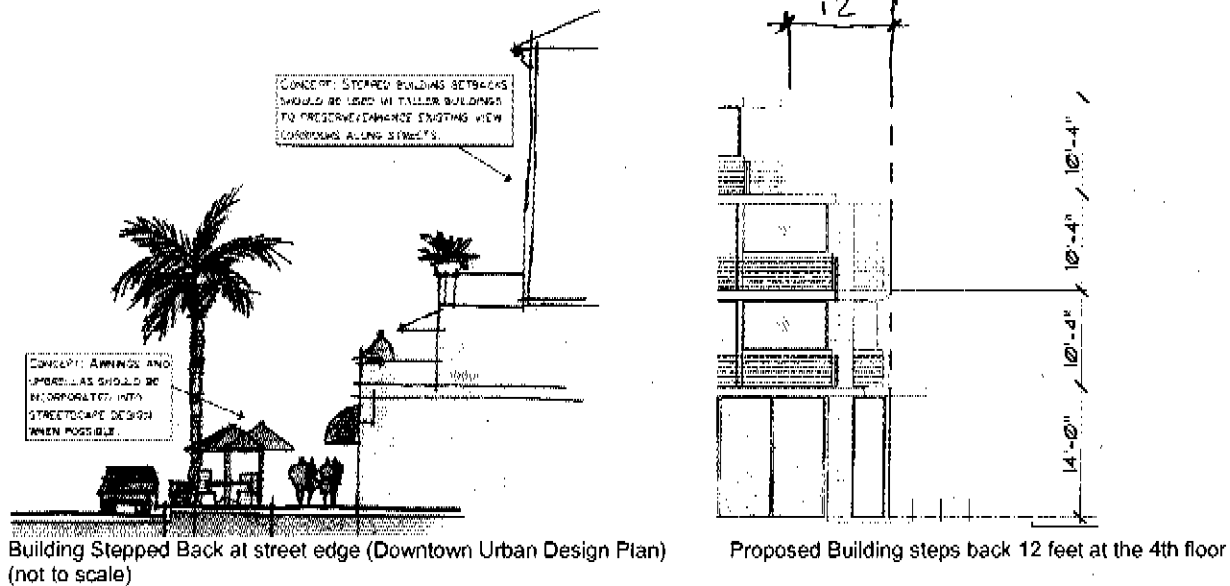
Photo 1: Looking south from street, view corridor to the mountains is framed by palms.



Photo 2: Looking south from the sidewalk in front of 300 South Palm Canyon, no view corridor exists because palm skirts and other vegetation obscure the view.

In addition to the placement of the building at the front property line, a horizontal shading device extends three feet into the public right of way roughly just above the first floor. The northern half of this façade is set back approximately six feet from the front property line. The proposed new building steps back roughly twelve feet at the fourth floor. This step back creates a balcony with usable outdoor space for the residential units along the street front. (See the diagrams below comparing the proposed new building to the concept sketch showing vertical setbacks in the DUDP).





The project is somewhat consistent with the step-back concept statement because the building massing steps back away from the street at the fourth floor. Staff believes however, that the issue of step backs to protect the view corridor is moot because the view corridor does not exist on the sidewalk side of the line of palm trees along Palm Canyon Drive. Views of the mountains from the sidewalk are effectively blocked by palm fronds and other vegetation. The actual view corridor, seen from the street, will not be impacted by the proposed new building. The proposed horizontal shading device will limit upward-oriented views from the sidewalk, but also will not impact public view corridors toward the mountains.

With regard to building orientation and massing, the DUDP notes:

*(DUDP Page 37) An east-west orientation of taller buildings will reduce the bulk facing the mountains which will help create/preserve view corridors in the downtown area.*

The proposed project is consistent with this statement because it sites the taller element of the project in an east-west orientation, thereby minimizing the impact on the east-west view corridors. View corridors are identified on most of the east-west streets in the downtown area (DUDP Page 17). Baristo Road is a noted view corridor.

*Policy HS1.5: Direct higher density residential uses near major activity centers and along corridors consistent with adopted architectural and design guidelines.*

The project is consistent with this General Plan policy because the CBD is a major activity center and the proposed development conforms to the adopted architectural and design guidelines therein. Based on the above, staff has concluded that the proposed project is consistent with the General Plan, including Appendix A, The Downtown Urban Design Plan.

Zoning Analysis:

The subject project is located in the Central Business District (CBD) zone. Section 92.09.00 of the PSZO regulates uses and development standards in the CBD zone. It describes the downtown as a pedestrian-oriented area with a wide range of uses. It encourages development in a compact manner that allows the downtown to develop as a vibrant, lively, intensively-used gathering and shopping area with open plazas, and outdoor seating and other pedestrian amenities.

*Permitted Uses*

A variety of retail and commercial uses are permitted in the CBD zone including restaurants and various retail spaces. The project proposes 6,647 square feet of commercial/restaurant uses in the existing building and 5,033 square feet of commercial/retail uses on the first floor of the proposed new building. PSZO Section 92.09.01(26) notes that residential uses, including condominiums are permitted in the CBD zone subject to the development standards of the R-4 zone (92.05.00). The project thus conforms to the permitted uses in the CBD zone.

Planned Development District:

A Planned Development District (PDD) is included in the application to establish unique development standards for the project and to seek relief from the following development standards:

- Building Height (application of the High-Rise Ordinance)
- Greater Density, and Smaller Setbacks
- Off-Street Parking; quantity and design standards, width of vehicular entrance driveway aisles, no off-street loading dock.

Property Development Standards – Central Business District (CBD)

General property development standards for the CBD are outlined in Table 2 on the following page which also provides a comparison with the deviations in the developments standards proposed by the PDD.

**Table 2:  
 Comparison of Development Standards by Zone, General Plan & Proposed PDD**

	CBD Zone	R-4 Zone	General Plan/Dntr. Urban Des. Plan	Proposed PD- 335
Lot Area	9,600	Minimum 2 acres	none	29,447 Conforms to CBD.
Density	FAR = 1	1,500 sf of net site area per dwelling unit	Commercial: FAR = 1; Residential: 21 – 30 du/ac	33,064 SF 11,680 SF Commercial (Conforms at 0.39 FAR combined at 1.12 <b>does not</b> ) Residential at 28 Du/ac, (Conforms)
Height	30 feet except high rise bldgs. Max. of 60 feet.	30 feet except high rise bldgs. Max. 60 feet.	35 feet with exceptions	45 feet to top of roof, and 58 feet to top of stair/elevator tower. Conforms to High-rise Code
Lot width	75 feet	130 feet	N/A	166 Feet - Conforms
Lot depth	128 feet	155 feet	N/A	194 Feet - Conforms
Front yard	10 ft. from Baristo Rd.	30 feet Hi-rise code: 3ft for ev 1 ft of height from opposite side of street ROW	N/A	20. ft. from proposed R/W of Baristo Rd. – Hi-rise code: 3ft for ev. 1 ft of height from opposite side of street ROW – <b>Does not conform.</b>
Street Side yard	10 ft. from S. Palm Canyon	30 Ft. from S. Palm Canyon Dr. Hi-rise code: 3ft for ev 1 ft of height from opposite side of street ROW	N/A	20 ft. from S. Palm Canyon Dr. Hi-rise code: 3ft for ev 1 ft of height from opposite side of street ROW – <b>Does not conform.</b>
Int. side yard	0 ft..	20 ft.(CBD) Hi-rise code: 3ft for ev 1 ft of height	N/A	0 ft – Hi-rise code: 3ft for ev 1 ft of height – <b>Does not conform.</b>
Rear yard	0 foot	20 feet CBD; Hi-rise code: 3ft for ev 1 ft of height	N/A	0 ft – Hi-rise code: 3ft for ev 1 ft of height <b>Does not conform</b>
Open Space	Per P.C.	45%; Hi-rise code requires 60% open space	N/A	Approx. 63% including balconies - Conforms
Distance between bldgs.	N/A	15 feet	N/A	12 feet – <b>Does not conform with R-4 standards</b>
Parking required	“D” Combining Zone: 1space/375 gsf for mixed-use projects over 20,000 sf = 88 spaces	“D” Combining Zone: 1 space/375 gsf for mixed-use projects over 20,000 sf. 33,064sf = 88 spaces	NA	81 off-street spaces – <b>Does not conform.</b>

PLANNED DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

*Building Height - High Rise Standards apply:*

Section 91.00.10 of the PSZO provides the definition and methodology for determining building height as follows:

*"Building height" means the vertical distance plus eighteen (18) inches measured from the average grade at the curb adjacent to the property.*

The maximum building height for the CBD zone is thirty (30) feet. Buildings in excess of thirty-five (35) feet are defined in the PSZO as high rise buildings. High-rise buildings are permitted in the CBD zone but must conform to the development standards of PSZO Section 93.04.00 "*high-rise buildings*". The project is evaluated against the standards of the high-rise code below because the height of the proposed new building is in excess of 35 feet.

*Property Development Standards - High-rise Buildings:*

The new building as measured from the adjacent grade is 45 feet tall to the roof level and approximately 58 feet to the top of the elevator/stair tower<sup>2</sup>. The maximum height for high-rise buildings is 60 feet. Thus the project is within the height limits of the high-rise ordinance. The project's conformity with other development standards of the high-rise ordinance is evaluated as follows:

*Open Space:*

Pursuant to 93.04.00(A) sixty percent (60%) of a site for a high-rise building shall be usable outdoor open space, landscape and recreation area. The project proposes 8,611 square feet of landscaped and paved usable open space at ground level. This is approximately 29% of the site area. The project provides an additional 10,373 square feet of livable open space on balconies, terraces, and the roof top deck. Combining this balcony area with the site area yields 63% open space<sup>3</sup>. The project thus conforms to this requirement.

*Setbacks:*

Setbacks for high-rises are regulated in PSZO Section 93.04.00(C) which states that there shall be three feet of horizontal setback from property lines for every one foot of vertical height of the building. When abutting a street, the 1 to 3 setback shall be measured from the right of way line on the *opposite side* of the street. The project proposes a building height of 45 feet, thus setbacks from interior rear and side property lines would need to be 135 feet. The proposed new building does not conform to this standard because it abuts the property line on the south and east lot lines with no setback. South Palm Canyon has an eighty foot right of way and approximately half of the length of the west façade of the building is also at the property line. As calculated for sides that abut a street, the building would need to be 144 feet from the ROW line on

<sup>2</sup> Projections up to 15 feet above the height limits for elevator housing and stair towers may be approved by the Planning Commission.

<sup>3</sup> Pursuant PSZO Section 91.00.10, Space that is open on one or more sides and is an extension of the exterior open space shall not constitute the building area. Staff therefore believes it is reasonable to include balconies in the calculation of open space.

the opposite side of Palm Canyon. It is only eighty feet and thus does not conform. Staff believes the project would seem less imposing in its height if it were at least pulled back from the Palm Canyon property line to align with the front edge of the existing Santa Fe Building on the site. This may require smaller units or loss of units on the residential floors. Given that the lot is only 194 feet by 166 feet, strict application of the high-rise setbacks would virtually prevent this type of development from occurring on smaller lots like this one in the CBD. Thus setbacks are one of the development standards for which the PDD is seeking relief.

The zero setbacks proposed on the interior lot lines pose other challenges; among them, the impact to this project if the adjacent property owners seek to develop their sites to a similar height and density. Adjacent property owners who might seek similar high-rise development with zero setbacks in the future, may render the open-air "decks" on this project as little more than narrow and dark 'light wells' adjacent to artificially lit "corridors". While this is not uncommon in urbanized areas of many cities, it is a development condition that is not common in Palm Springs. The Fashion Plaza mall and the Hyatt Hotel have zero setbacks on their common side property line, however neither building is designed with windows or other openings common to one another (except the passageway into the mall at the first floor).

Staff believes that consolidation of the small-sized lots in the downtown area to create larger development opportunities would alleviate some of the setback issues seen with this type of development proposal. Since a variety of constraints make such lot acquisition and consolidation unlikely, it may be necessary for the Planning Commission to realize significant deviations in setbacks as proposed in this PDD in order to promote high-rise, higher density redevelopment within the CBD. The City's General Plan includes a vision of loft-type development in this area. The physical consequences of attempting this vision on the small lots in the CBD creates a development condition quite different from what Palm Springs is accustomed to seeing. Staff recommends the zero setbacks, recognizing their necessity in order to achieve the type of development envisioned in the General Plan on the small lots in the CBD. We further note however, that a full understanding of the resultant development pattern caused by this kind of density must be carefully considered.

*Other Setback Requirements*

PSZO Section 92.09.03 states new buildings on Palm Canyon between Alejo and Ramon shall be set back at least 50 feet from the street's centerline. The project proposes a 40 foot setback from the centerline of Palm Canyon and thus does not conform.

*Density: Floor Area Ratio (FAR) and Dwelling Units per Acre (du/ac)*

Section 92.09.02(D)(1) of the Zoning Ordinance notes that density in the CBD is evaluated based on Floor Area Ratio (FAR) or Floor Coverage. The maximum floor area coverage (FAR) in the CBD is 1. Density for residential uses in the CBD is evaluated on the R-4 zone which allows 21 - 30 dwelling units per acre.

Unlike the General Plan, the Zoning Code does not fully address a means of evaluating density for a mixed use project that has both commercial and residential uses. The net area of the site is approximately 29,447 square feet. The area of the commercial portions of the existing building is 11,680 square feet, and the total building floor area for the entire development is 33,064 square feet comprised as follows;

Density Analysis	Gross floor area (Sq Ft)	Open Space Balconies
First Floor (commercial)	5,033	
Second Floor (residential)	7,493	2,808
Third Floor (residential)	7,493	2,808
Fourth Floor (residential)	6,398	2,702
Roof Level	0	2,055
Existing Building	6,647	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>21,384 + 11,680 = 33,064sf</b>	<b>10,373sf</b>

The Zoning Ordinance uses Floor Coverage (FAR) for all uses in the CBD to define the bulk of the building. It allows residential dwelling unit count at 1.500 square foot of site area per dwelling unit, but provides no guidance for separate density calculations when both commercial and residential uses are combined on the same site (i.e. "Mixed-use"). Thus the density of the project conforms with the General Plan with an FAR of 0.36 and 19 du/ac; but when calculated for the Zoning Ordinance, the FAR is 1.12 (gross building which includes both commercial and residential) at 19du/ac. It is staff's belief that the density proposed is consistent and within the limits imposed by the General Plan and thus the application of the PDD to reflect "mixed use" density limits imposed by the calculation method of the General Plan rather than the Zoning Ordinance is reasonable.

*Off-street Parking*

Off-street parking requirements in the CBD are regulated by PSZO Section 93.06.00 "Off-street Parking", 92.09.04 "Performance Requirements for the CBD Zone" and 92.26.00 "The Downtown Parking Combining Zone". The off-street parking requirements of Section 92.26.00 (Downtown Parking Combining Zone) are used here to analyze the off-street parking requirements for this project.

The "D" overlay is intended to provide relaxed requirements for off-street parking for parcels generally within the downtown area of the City. In applying the requirements of the "D" parking overlay, eighty-eight (88) total parking spaces would be required for the proposed development<sup>4</sup>. The project proposes eighty-one (81) off street parking spaces comprised of full size, compact, handicap accessible, and tandem parking spaces; seven spaces less than required by the ordinance.<sup>5</sup> The project is therefore roughly 10% short of the required number of off-street parking spaces. Typically, a reduction of 10% of the required off-street parking can be accommodated with an Administrative

<sup>4</sup> Off-street parking for Mixed-Use developments in the D overlay area requires 1 space for every 375 square feet of gross building area. The project's gross area is 33,064sf and thus 88 off-street parking spaces are required.

<sup>5</sup> The applicant has requested consideration of on-street curbside spaces be counted, which staff has not included because the applicant has not met the requirements for including this credit.

Minor Modification (AMM). Since this project is submitted as a PDD, it can be the mechanism by which the 10% reduction can be considered. Staff believes the proposed number of off-street parking spaces is reasonable given the project's proximity to the public parking structure immediately north of this project<sup>6</sup>.

Off-street parking spaces are provided as follows:

Standard spaces	52
Compact spaces	29
Handicap Accessible	4
Tandem Spaces	22

Pursuant to 93.06.00(C)(6) Tandem spaces so arranged as to require the moving of any vehicle in order to enter or leave any other stall shall be prohibited in any zone unless specifically approved by the Director of Planning and Building. Staff believes if each pair of tandem-arranged spaces are dedicated to an individual residential unit, such that both vehicles are associated with the same residential unit, then these tandem spaces should be acceptable without valet services or other special arrangements. This would provide two spaces for eleven of the nineteen residential units and Staff would recommend this as a condition of approval for this project.

*Parking Design Standards*

Section 93.06.00(C)(2)(d) of the PSZO addresses design standards for off street parking such as curbs, wheel stops, dimensions, landscape buffers, end space requirements, added space depth for structured parking, aisle width, decorative paving, etc. At this preliminary design stage, not all of the parking design issues have been worked out. Staff believes however, that the applicant will be able to successfully integrate to these parking design requirements as part of the final PDD submission.

*Bicycle Parking*

Section 93.06.00(C)(5) of the PSZO states that bicycle racks or bicycle parking facilities may be required on projects submitted for architectural approval. No bicycle parking facilities are proposed for this project. Staff recommends bicycle parking facilities should be provided that would support the City's sustainability initiatives and goals.

*Off-Street Loading and Trash Enclosures*

Section 93.07.00 of the PSZO regulates development standards for off-street loading and trash enclosures. Every commercial building shall have and maintain loading spaces, but the PSZO also notes that parking areas and drive aisles may be used for the loading space for a project subject to approval of the Planning Commission. The subject project has no loading dock. Staff believes loading can be adequately accommodated by short term parking in the drive aisles or parking spaces within the parking structure on the site.

<sup>6</sup> The City's Economic Development Department reports this parking structure is seldom full and usually operates at approximately half full capacity.

The trash enclosure is located at the top of the ramp to the upper parking level, near the Baristo Road vehicular entry to the site. Staff recommends modifying this to provide an enclosed vertical trash chute to accommodate trash delivery to the garbage area from the upper residential floors. Sealed compacting dumpsters are also recommended to mitigate and control odors at the trash enclosure due to restaurant use waste. Pursuant to Section 93.07.02(D) a recycling enclosure capable of containing a 3 cubic yard container shall be incorporated in the vicinity of the trash enclosure. The project does not identify a recycling enclosure, but Staff believes creating one is possible and has included this as a condition of approval.

#### *Signage*

Section 93.20.09 of the PSZO regulates signs for buildings in the Downtown/Uptown area. Sign programs are required for buildings with two or more tenants. The recommendation will be conditioned to require a sign program which may be submitted under a separate application.

In conclusion, Staff believes the desirable result of granting the deviations requested in the PDD is that it achieves a high-density, multi-use development as envisioned in the General Plan. The requested departures from the development standards of the Zoning Ordinance however, are significant and will yield a development intensity that Palm Springs is not accustomed to seeing.

#### Tentative Tract map

The project includes an application for a Tentative Tract Map (TTM) to subdivide the existing parcel for condominium purposes. Under the provisions of Section 66426 of the Subdivision Map Act, a Tentative Tract Map is required for the creation of five or more condominiums. The findings for the Tentative Tract Map are noted below.

The project also includes a separate application through the Public Works Department for the City to vacate a portion of the street right-of-way dedication for Baristo Road totaling approximately 1,624 square feet (0.037 acre). The City's General Plan adopted in October 2007 down-graded Baristo Road from a secondary thoroughfare to a collector. In doing so, the required right of way width for this roadway was reduced from a range of 80-88 feet to 60-66 feet (or a half street ROW dimension of 30 to 33 feet). Recommended curb-to-curb dimension was reduced from 64 feet to 40 feet (equal to 20 feet centerline to face of curb). The existing curb-to-curb width of Baristo Road in this area is 44 feet (22 feet from centerline to face of south side curb). The pedestrian sidewalk is approximately ten feet wide on the south side of Baristo, (for a total of 32 feet from centerline to edge of back of sidewalk). Since the current half-street right of way easement is 44 feet, there is an excess of approximately 12 feet of dedicated roadway easement that the applicant has requested that the City vacate. The public hearing on the vacation was heard separately from today's public hearing and approved by City Council on October 15, 2008.



## REQUIRED FINDINGS

### ARCHITECTURAL

Although there are no required findings for applications for architectural approval which require environmental assessments, the Zoning Ordinance Section 94.04.00(D)(1-9) provides guidelines for the evaluation of projects.

Specific aspects of design shall be examined to determine whether the proposed development will provide a desirable environment for its occupants as well as being compatible with the character of adjacent and surrounding developments, and whether aesthetically it is of good composition, materials, textures and colors. Conformance will be evaluated, based on consideration of the following:

1. *Site layout, orientation, location of structures and relationship to one another and to open spaces and topography. Definition of pedestrian and vehicular areas; i.e., sidewalks as distinct from parking lot areas;*

The project proposes a high-density, mixed-use development proposal consistent with the type and character encouraged in the City's General Plan, however the project is significantly more "urban" in its design than Palm Springs is accustomed to seeing. To give more space between the existing and proposed building, the AAC recommended eliminating the north side balconies and placing a railing immediately in front of the sliding doors ("Juliet balconies"). The applicant has not elected to incorporate this recommendation. Staff however, would recommend these balconies be revised to "Juliet balconies" as a condition of approval. The east-west orientation of the proposed high-rise respects the view corridor along Baristo Road. It is also placed on the southern half of the site, thereby further preserving westward views toward the mountains. Staff has concluded that the proposed very dense project on this small site makes for a "close call" in determining if it is harmonious with this guideline.

2. *Harmonious relationship with existing and proposed adjoining developments and in the context of the immediate neighborhood/community, avoiding both excessive variety and monotonous repetition, but allowing similarity of style, if warranted;*

The project is most similar to existing development to the north which represents typical pedestrian-focused downtown commercial uses and buildings. The project reflects the type of future development encouraged in the General Plan for the CBD Transition Zones. Staff therefore believes the project is harmonious within its neighborhood.

3. *Maximum height, area, setbacks and overall mass, as well as parts of any structure (buildings, walls, screens, towers or signs) and effective concealment of all mechanical equipment;*

The proposed development is consistent with building heights for the zone under the application of the high-rise building ordinance. There is concealment of mechanical

equipment and parking areas. With the approval of the PDD establishing unique development standards for the site, the project would be consistent with this finding.

4. *Building design, materials and colors to be sympathetic with desert surroundings; AND 5. Harmony of materials, colors and composition of those elements of a structure, including overhangs, roofs, and substructures, which are visible simultaneously;*

The design of the proposed high-rise is complementary and sympathetic with the desert and surrounding buildings in the vicinity because there is harmony in materials, color, composition, and massing. The building offers variety in materials, texture, and successfully integrates horizontal and vertical shading devices that respond to the solar orientation of the project. East and west facing elevations will be subjected to direct sun exposure on the upper floors during morning and afternoon periods. This will require the incorporation of high-performance glass or other means to reduce the glare and solar heat gain on these parts of the building. Staff believes the project is sympathetic and harmonious to its surrounding.

5. *Consistency of composition and treatment;*

The proposed project provides consistent material and architectural treatment of all four facades of the new building. Therefore Staff believes it is consistent with this guideline.

6. *Location and type of planting, with regard for desert climate conditions. Preservation of specimen and landmark trees upon a site, with proper irrigation to insure maintenance of all plant materials;*

The landscaping for the project is appropriate because it integrates plant materials conducive to the desert climate. Staff recommends the Mexican Fan Palms and Date Palm along the Palm Canyon frontage be replaced with California Fan Palms, consistent with the downtown landscape street plan as a condition of approval for the project.

#### FINDINGS FOR THE PLANNED DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT (PDD).

The provisions of Section 94.03.00(B) of the Palm Springs Zoning Code states that the Planning Commission and City Council shall find that the proposed uses as shown on the development plan for the PDD are in conformity with the required findings and conditions as set forth in Section 94.02.00 (Conditional Use Permit), the General Plan and sound community development:

These findings and a discussion of the project as it relates to each of these findings are noted below.

- a. *That the use applied for at the location set forth in the application is properly one for which a conditional use permit is authorized by this Zoning Code;*

The uses proposed are ones that are authorized by the zoning code because commercial uses including restaurants and general retail, as well as residential uses are permitted in the CBD zone. The project conforms to this finding.

*b. That the use is necessary or desirable for the development of the community, is in harmony with the various elements or objectives of the general plan, and is not detrimental to existing uses or to future uses specifically permitted in the zone in which the proposed use is to be located;*

The proposed uses are identified in the General Plan as suitable and appropriate in the Downtown. The proposed uses and project density are harmonious with the stated objectives and development of this specific portion ("a transition area") of the Downtown. The uses are ones that are encouraged in order to create greater vitality and activity in the downtown area. Therefore staff has concluded that the uses are desirable and in harmony with the objectives of the General Plan.

*c. That the site for the intended use is adequate in size and shape to accommodate such use, including yards, setbacks, walls or fences, landscaping and other features required in order to adjust such use to those existing or permitted future uses of land in the neighborhood;*

The lot is conforming in size and dimension to the zone. The site is adequate for the proposed retail and multi-family uses, because the project meets the open space requirements for the zone and the land use designation. The proposed development conforms to the height limit of the high-rise ordinance. The project includes an existing one-story building that occupies approximately 25% of the site. Significant deviations in the setback requirements of the high-rise ordinance are necessary through the application of a PDD to accommodate both the existing and the proposed building. Staff believes the use of the PDD to encourage a high-density mixed-use type of project for the downtown is reasonable, however the zero setbacks proposed in this application would not be a development pattern that Staff would necessarily support for other parts of the City.

*d. That the site for the proposed use relates to streets and highways properly designed and improved to carry the type and quantity of traffic to be generated by the proposed use;*

Elimination of the existing driveway curbcut onto Palm Canyon Drive is desirable because it redirects Palm Canyon-bound traffic from the site to the signalized intersection of Baristo and Palm Canyon. Vehicular access to this site is from Baristo Road, a collector street that can accommodate vehicular movement to and from the site without conflicts with through traffic on Palm Canyon or Indian Canyon Drive. Palm Canyon Drive is a major thoroughfare and confirmed in the General Plan Future Traffic Analysis to continue to function at acceptable levels of service (LOS) at buildout for this area of Downtown. Baristo Road has been downgraded to a collector in the new General Plan in this area and is also predicted to function at acceptable levels at

buildout. Staff has therefore concluded that the site relates to surrounding streets properly and those streets are adequate for the intended use.

*e. That the conditions to be imposed and shown on the approved site plan are deemed necessary to protect the public health, safety and general welfare and may include minor modification of the zone's property development standards.*

A set of proposed Conditions of Approval accompany this staff report. Among other conditions set forth, the following conditions are recommended as noted:

- Incorporate bicycle parking on the site.
- Incorporate an enclosure for recycling waste including a trash enclosure chute from upper floors of the high-rise building.
- Revise the balconies on the north elevation of the proposed high-rise to be "Juliet balconies" to provide more space between the existing and proposed new building.
- Incorporate decorative paving on the driveways to the structured parking areas pursuant to Section 92.09.04(B)(2) of the Zoning Ordinance.
- Bring back the design of the proposed new building to the AAC for review of the specific architectural details of the proposed new structure.
- The commercial uses will be regulated through the business license process per the requirements of the zone.
- Hours of operation for the commercial businesses will be determined at the time any use application is submitted and according to the municipal code and zone requirements.
- CC&R's to reduce nuisances and assure compatibility among users and adjacent properties are required and will be reviewed for acceptability by the City Attorney.

FINDINGS OF PUBLIC BENEFIT OF THE PLANNED DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT:

The City Council adopted the policy, "Planned Development Districts and Public Benefits" on September 17, 2008. Consequently, the Commission will review the PDD with regard to public benefit that would be derived from the granting of deviations from the development standards requested therein.

Two of the primary factors in the public benefits policy is "proportionality", and that it be above and beyond "required improvements". Proportionality is discussed as follows:

*The public benefit shall be proportional to the nature, type and extent of the flexibility granted from the standards and provisions of the Palm Springs Zoning Code.*

The concept of a public benefit being above and beyond "required improvements" is discussed as follows:

*A feature, improvement or dedication may only be considered as a public benefit when it exceeds the level of improvement needed to mitigate a*

*project's environmental impacts or comply with dedication or exactions which are imposed on all projects, such as Quimby Act, public art, utility undergrounding, etc.*

The application requests three areas of deviation or flexibility from the Zoning Code as noted below. Staff has listed the deviations in order of what it believes are the greatest to the least in terms of magnitude of the deviation.

1. Reduced Setbacks,
2. Density (total project FAR (floor area ratio)),
3. Off-Street Parking Count,

In considering the proportionality of the requested deviations against the public benefit created by those deviations, staff believes that the requested deviations are "significant" in terms of the magnitude of the deviations from the underlying development standards. The Council may consider among the approved set of options: (see attached policy):

- The project as Public Benefit
  - bringing a mixed-use commercial/residential project to the CBD,
  - removal of a driveway curb cut from Palm Canyon Drive.
- Key features of the Project
  - preservation or possible historic designation of an existing architecturally significant building,
- Off-site Improvements
  - Any other public improvements off the project site. (examples: replace Mexican Fan Palms (*Washingtonia Robusta*) along both sides of Palm Canyon from Baristo to Ramon with California Fan Palms (*Washingtonia Filliferas*, install public toilets downtown, etc).

The applicant has identified the following as the proposed public benefits provided by this project in exchange for the requested deviations requested in the development standards via the PDD application:

- The project itself is a public benefit: Bringing a mixed use project to the downtown area with a residential component that will contribute to increased vitality in the CBD.
- The preservation of the existing building (The Santa Fe Federal Savings Bank). (The owner does not support the proposed Class 1 historic site designation, but is proposing no exterior changes to the building.)

Staff will incorporate the Commissions' recommendations to the City Council on Public Benefit into the proposed resolution of approval.

### TENTATIVE TRACT MAP FINDINGS

Findings for the proposed tract map are noted in Section 66474 of the State of California Subdivision Map Act. These findings and a discussion of the project as it relates to these findings follow:

*a. The proposed Tentative Tract Map is consistent with all applicable general and specific plans.*

The proposed project site has a General Plan designation of CBD (Central Business District) and a Zone of CBD (Central Business District). The proposed land use of mixed use commercial/residential is consistent with the General Plan.

*b. The design and improvements of the proposed Tentative Tract Map are consistent with the zone in which the property is located.*

The proposed uses and most development standards conform to those of the underlying CBD zone and the high-rise ordinance. Certain development standards that deviate from the underlying standards will be incorporated with the acceptance of a Planned Development District. Staff therefore has concluded that with the approval of the PDD, the design and improvements will be consistent with the zone.

*c. The site is physically suited for this type of development.*

The site is essentially flat, with good vehicular access off Baristo Road that does not conflict with traffic flow on Palm Canyon. It is adjacent to the high pedestrian traffic area of the central downtown making it conducive for first floor commercial/retail uses. The site is large enough to allow the proposed high-rise building to be located at the southern half of the site, thereby preserving the east-west view corridor along Baristo Road. With the approval of the PDD application, a new set of development standards will be created suitable for this type of high-density development as envisioned in the City's General Plan for the CBD. Staff has therefore concluded that the site is suitable, but this represents a type of development that is new to Palm Springs and not necessarily a type that staff would recommend elsewhere in the City.

*d.. The design of the subdivision is not likely to cause environmental damage or substantially and avoidably injure fish, wildlife, or their habitats.*

The Mitigated Negative Declaration prepared for the proposal adequately addresses the general environmental setting of the project and finds that the project will have no adverse impacts on the environment. The applicant has worked with the City and its Architectural Advisory Committee and modified the design to respond to many of their concerns about the built environment and existing significant structures on the site.

*e. The design of the subdivision or type of improvements is not likely to cause serious public health problems.*

There are no known aspects of the design that would cause serious public health problems. All physical improvements will require building permits and to conform to City, State, and National codes and regulations.

*f. The design of the subdivision or type of improvements will not conflict with easements, acquired by the public at large, for access through or use of the property within the proposed subdivision.*

The design of the development will not conflict with any easements or restrict necessary public access through the property.

### **CONCLUSION**

The PDD and Major Architectural Application are recommended for approval because the proposed development of the site is consistent with the General Plan, the findings for a PDD and the architectural guidelines of the Zoning Ordinance. Staff however believes this is a close call because the zero setbacks and dense urban form proposed in this project require significant deviations from the High-rise Ordinance and are uncommon development patterns for Palm Springs.

The Planning Commission may recommend and the City Council may identify those public benefits that are derived by the granting of the PDD and incorporate them in the Conditions of Approval.

The TTM is recommended for approval because it is consistent with the required TTM findings.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

Pursuant to Section 15063 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, an Initial Study was prepared and a Notice of Intent (NOI) to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) was sent to applicable agencies and published in the Desert Sun for a 20-day review period. The 20-day review period for the NOI was from October 17, 2008 through November 15, 2008.

The City received comment letters on the Notice of Intent. These comment letters and staff's responses are attached to this staff report as Exhibit 5.

In considering the public comments on the environmental analysis, Staff concluded that no new information has been provided that would necessitate recirculation of the Notice of Intent or the initiation of an Environmental Impact Report. Staff recommends the Planning Commission adopt the MND as an adequate environmental document for the project.

**NOTIFICATION**

A public hearing notice was advertised and was mailed to all property owners within 400 feet of the subject property/adjacent property owners. As of the writing of this report, the City has received correspondence regarding this project which is attached.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ken Lyon  
Associate Planner

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Craig A. Ewing, AICP  
Director of Planning Services

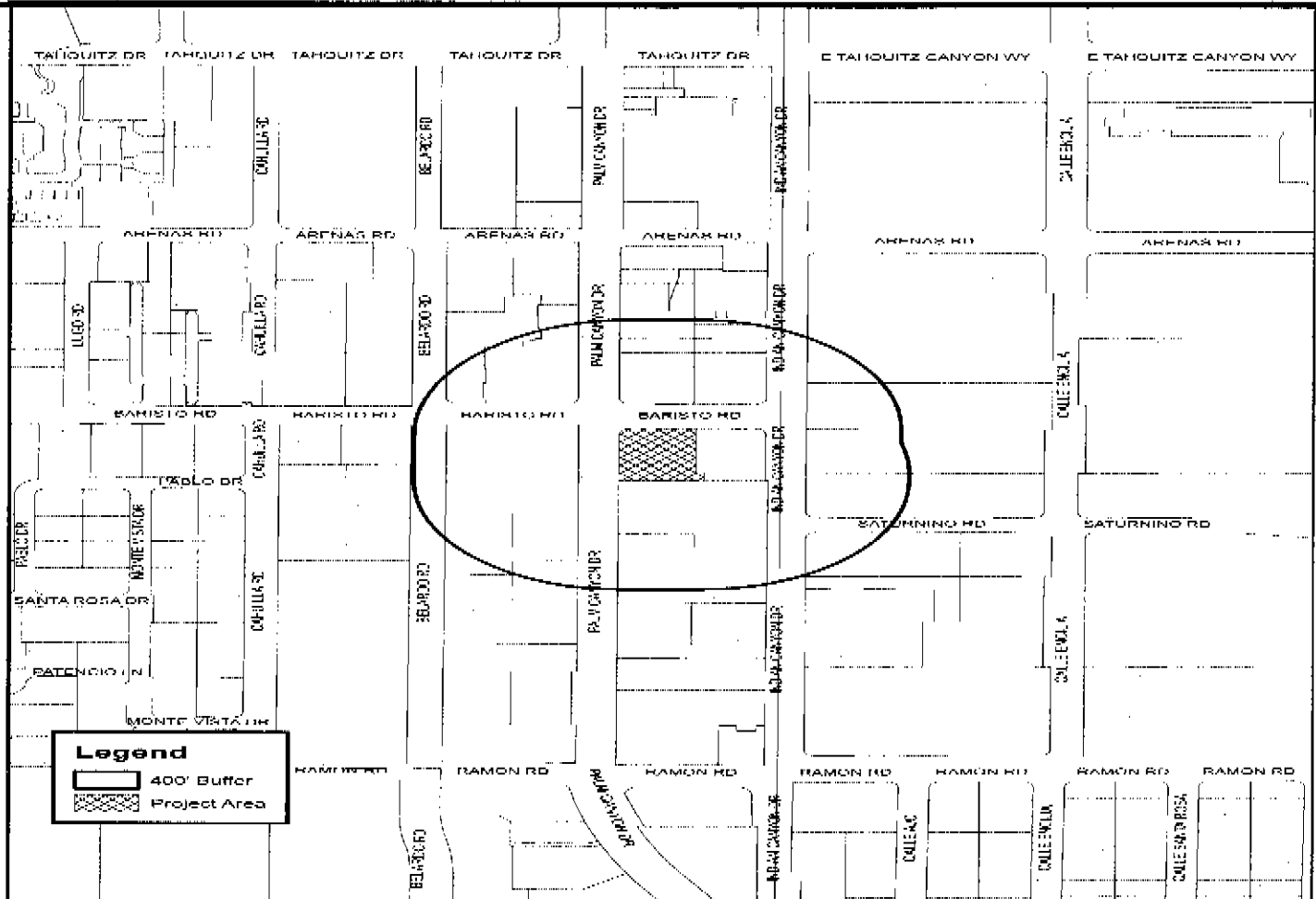
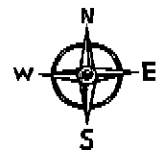
**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Vicinity Map.
2. Draft Resolution / Conditions of Approval.
3. Initial Study / Mitigated Negative Declaration / Notice of intent to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration.
4. Site Plans & Elevations.
5. Letters of public comment on the project's environmental analysis and staff responses.
6. Excerpt from the Secretary of the Interior Standards for Rehabilitation of Historic Structures.
7. Excerpt from the National Register Bulletin "How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation",
8. Summary of comments from various Architectural Advisory Committee meetings.
9. Excerpt from minutes of the Planning Commission meeting of October 10, 2007.
10. Excerpts from the staff report to City Council dated April 4, 2007 on Class 1 designation recommendation of the Santa Fe Federal Savings Bank Building.
11. Excerpts from the minutes of HSPB meeting of March 13, 2007.
12. Copy of concept drawing dated March 22, 1969 titled "Scheme C Santa Fe Square"
13. Primary Record from 2004 Historic Resources Survey.
14. Policy on Granting Public Benefits through PDD's





# Department of Planning Services Vicinity Map



## CITY OF PALM SPRINGS

**CASE NO:** 5.1137 PD-335,  
3.3028 MAJ  
TTM 35230

**APPLICANT:** Wessman Holdings, LLC

**DESCRIPTION:** To consider a request by Wessman Holdings, LLC for a Planned Development District (PDD) and a Major Architectural Application (MAJ) to construct a four-story mixed use development comprised of first-floor commercial/retail uses and 19 residential condominium units on the upper floors. Adaptive re-use of an existing building known as the Santa Fe Federal Savings Bank ("Wessman Office Building") for retail/restaurant uses is also proposed, as is a Tentative Tract Map (TTM 35230) for condominium purposes. Zone CBD. APN: 513-204-005.

RESOLUTION NO. 7190

A RESOLUTION OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING CASE 5.1137, PLANNED DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT 335 AND CASE 3.3028 MAJOR ARCHITECTURAL APPLICATION AND RECOMMENDING THAT THE CITY COUNCIL CERTIFY THE MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION, APPROVE CASE 5.1137, PLANNED DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT 335, AND TENTATIVE TRACT MAP 35230, A MAP FOR CONDOMINIUM PURPOSES FOR A FOUR-STORY MIXED USED DEVELOPMENT AND ADAPTIVE REUSE OF AN EXISTING BUILDING ON A 0.676 ACRE SITE AT 300 SOUTH PALM CANYON DRIVE.

WHEREAS, Wessman Holdings, LLC. (the "Applicant") has filed applications with the City pursuant to Government Code 65350 *et seq* (Case 5.1137), pursuant to Section 94.03.00 (Planned Development District) of the Palm Springs Zoning Code for the establishment and development of a Planned Development District (PD 335) under the provisions of 94.02.00 (Conditional Use Permit) of the Palm Springs Zoning Code, a Tentative Tract Map 35230 pursuant to Chapter 9.62 of the Palm Springs Municipal Code and Case 3.3028, a Major Architectural Application under Section 94.04.00 (Architectural Review) of the Palm Springs Zoning Code; and

WHEREAS, notice of public hearing of the Planning Commission of the City of Palm Springs to consider Case 5.1137 PD 335, 3.3028 MAJ TTM 35230, was given in accordance with applicable law; and

WHEREAS, on October 10, 2007, a public hearing on the applications was scheduled with the Planning Commission, and

WHEREAS, at said hearing the Planning Commission reviewed all written and oral material presented on the case and voted 7-0-0 to direct the applicant to restudy the project and resubmit it with changes to the dining terrace, the compliance with the Downtown Urban Design Plan, setbacks and space between the buildings, general uses for the existing building, off-street parking, and possible LEED certification, and

WHEREAS, notice of public hearing of the Planning Commission of the City of Palm Springs to consider Case 5.1137 PD 335, 3.3028 MAJ TTM 35230, was given in accordance with applicable law; and

WHEREAS, on December 10, 2008, a public hearing on the applications was scheduled but said hearing was continued to a date certain of January 14, 2009, and

WHEREAS on January 14, 2009 a public hearing was held by the Planning Commission in accordance with applicable law; and

WHEREAS, the proposed project is considered a "project" pursuant to the terms of the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA"), and an Environmental Assessment has been prepared for this project and has been distributed for public review and comment in accordance with CEQA; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission has carefully reviewed and considered all of the evidence presented in connection with the meetings on the project, including but not limited to the staff reports, environmental documentation, and all written and oral testimony presented.

THE PLANNING COMMISSION HEREBY FINDS AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1: Environmental Analysis

A Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) has been completed in compliance with CEQA, the State CEQA Guidelines, and the City's CEQA Guidelines. The Planning Commission found that with the incorporation of proposed mitigation measures, potentially significant environmental impacts resulting from this project will be reduced to a level of insignificance. The Planning Commission independently reviewed and considered the information contained in the MND prior to its review of this Project and the MND reflects the Planning Commission's independent judgment and analysis.

Section 2: Planned Development District

The provisions of Section 94.03.00(B) of the Palm Springs Zoning Code states that the Planning Commission and City Council shall find that the proposed uses as shown on the development plan for the PDD are in conformity with the required findings and conditions as set forth in Section 94.02.00 (Conditional Use Permit), the General Plan and sound community development:

These findings and an analysis of the project as it relates to each of these findings are noted below.

- a. That the use applied for at the location set forth in the application is properly one for which a conditional use permit is authorized by this Zoning Code;*

The uses proposed are ones that are authorized by the zoning code because commercial uses including restaurants and general retail, as well as residential uses are permitted in the CBD zone.

*b. That the use is necessary or desirable for the development of the community, is in harmony with the various elements or objectives of the general plan, and is not detrimental to existing uses or to future uses specifically permitted in the zone in which the proposed use is to be located;*

The proposed uses are identified in the General Plan as suitable and appropriate in for the Downtown. The proposed uses and project density are harmonious with the stated objectives and development of this specific portion ("a transition area") of the Downtown. The uses are ones that are encouraged in order to create greater vitality and activity in the downtown area. Therefore the Planning Commission has concluded that the uses are desirable and in harmony with the objectives of the General Plan.

*c. That the site for the intended use is adequate in size and shape to accommodate such use, including yards, setbacks, walls or fences, landscaping and other features required in order to adjust such use to those existing or permitted future uses of land in the neighborhood;*

Most lots and building sites in the downtown are inadequate in size and shape to accommodate the type of mixed-use use, vitality and density envisioned in the General Plan and the Downtown Urban Design Plan. In order to facilitate and encourage new development, the integration of new residential uses, and revitalization of the downtown described in the General Plan, adjustments in development standards using a Planned Development District application is necessary and appropriate. The Planning Commission believes the PDD has been used reasonably to encourage a high-density mixed-use type of project envisioned by the General Plan for the downtown. Although presently fully developed, future redevelopment on adjacent properties to the south or east may require setbacks of buildings along interior property lines adjacent to this parcel to assure adequate light and space to buildings on both parcels.

*d. That the site for the proposed use relates to streets and highways properly designed and improved to carry the type and quantity of traffic to be generated by the proposed use;*

Elimination of the existing driveway curb cut onto Palm Canyon Drive is desirable because it reduces vehicular entry onto the street and enhances traffic flow on this segment of South Palm Canyon. Vehicular access to this site is from Baristo Road, a collector street that can accommodate vehicular movement to and from

the site without conflicts with through traffic on Palm Canyon or Indian Canyon Drive. Palm Canyon Drive is a major thoroughfare and confirmed in the General Plan Future Traffic Analysis to continue to function at acceptable levels of service (LOS) at build out for this area of Downtown. Baristo Road has been downgraded to a collector in the new General Plan in this area and is also predicted to function at acceptable levels at build out. The Planning Commission has therefore concluded that the site relates to surrounding streets properly and those streets are adequate for the intended use.

*e. That the conditions to be imposed and shown on the approved site plan are deemed necessary to protect the public health, safety and general welfare and may include minor modification of the zone's property development standards.*

A set of proposed Conditions of Approval accompany this staff report. Among other conditions set forth, the following conditions are recommended as noted:

- Incorporate bicycle parking on the site.
- Incorporate an enclosure for recycling waste including a trash enclosure chute from upper floors of the high-rise building.
- Revise the balconies on the north elevation of the proposed high-rise to be "Juliet balconies" to provide more space between the existing and proposed new building.
- Prohibition of constructing a dining terrace on the existing building and no modifications to the exterior of the existing structure.
- Incorporate decorative paving on the driveways to the structured parking areas pursuant to Section 92.09.04(B)(2) of the Zoning Ordinance.
- Bring back the design of the proposed new building to the AAC for review of the specific architectural details of that structure.
- The commercial uses will be regulated through the business license process per the requirements of the zone.
- Hours of operation for the commercial businesses will be determined at the time any use application is submitted and according to the municipal code and zone requirements.

CC&R's to reduce nuisances and assure compatibility among users and adjacent properties are required and will be reviewed for acceptability by the City Attorney.

### Section 3: Architectural Review

Although there are no required findings for applications for architectural approval which require environmental assessments, the Zoning Ordinance Section 94.04.00(D)(1-9) provides guidelines for the evaluation of projects.

Specific aspects of design shall be examined to determine whether the proposed development will provide a desirable environment for its occupants as well as being compatible with the character of adjacent and surrounding developments, and whether aesthetically it is of good composition, materials, textures and colors. Conformance will be evaluated, based on consideration of the following:

1. *Site layout, orientation, location of structures and relationship to one another and to open spaces and topography. Definition of pedestrian and vehicular areas; i.e., sidewalks as distinct from parking lot areas;*

The project proposes a high-density, mixed-use development proposal consistent with the type and character encouraged in the City's General Plan. The Architectural Advisory Committee has recommended the balconies on the proposed new building overlooking the Santa Fe Building be pulled back and become "Juliet balconies". (Essentially eliminating the balconies and placing a railing immediately in front of the sliding doors to give the opportunity to open the doors, but not to step out.) With this adjustment, the AAC felt the existing building was given sufficient "breathing room" from the proposed new high-rise to recommend approval.

The east-west orientation of the proposed high-rise respects the view corridor along Baristo Road. It is also placed on the southern edge of the site, thereby further preserving views toward the mountains. The Palm Canyon façade steps back at upper floor levels, thereby also respecting the north-south view corridor down Palm Canyon Drive.

Zero side and rear interior lot line setbacks are necessary to create the high-density, urban quality described in the General Plan.

2. *Harmonious relationship with existing and proposed adjoining developments and in the context of the immediate neighborhood/community, avoiding both excessive variety and monotonous repetition, but allowing similarity of style, if warranted;*

With traditional pedestrian-oriented downtown commercial uses and structures to the north and big-box retail with large parking lots to the south, the existing development in the immediate vicinity of the project does not follow any particular style or pattern. The project is most similar to existing development to the north which represents typical pedestrian-focused downtown commercial uses and buildings. The massing and height, while greater than adjoining developments, is configured to respect view corridors. The project reflects the type of future development encouraged in the General Plan for the CBD Transition Zones. Staff therefore believes the project is harmonious within its neighborhood.

3. *Maximum height, area, setbacks and overall mass, as well as parts of any structure (buildings, walls, screens, towers or signs) and effective concealment of all mechanical equipment;*

The proposed development is consistent with building heights for the zone under the application of the high-rise building ordinance. There is concealment of mechanical equipment and parking areas. With the approval of the PDD establishing unique development standards for the site, the project would be consistent with this finding.

4. *Building design, materials and colors to be sympathetic with desert surroundings; AND 5. Harmony of materials, colors and composition of those elements of a structure, including overhangs, roofs, and substructures, which are visible simultaneously;*

The design of the proposed high-rise is complementary and sympathetic with the desert and surrounding buildings in the vicinity because there is harmony in materials, color, composition, and massing. The building offers variety in materials, texture, and successfully integrates horizontal and vertical shading devices that respond to the solar orientation of the project. East and west facing elevations which have substantial amounts of glazing will require the incorporation of high-performance glass to reduce the glare and solar heat gain on the upper floor of these elevations.

5. *Consistency of composition and treatment;*

The proposed project provides consistency in composition and treatment because it blends architectural elements from the existing building into the new building, and provides consistency in composition and treatment of all four facades of the new building.

6. *Location and type of planting, with regard for desert climate conditions. Preservation of specimen and landmark trees upon a site, with proper irrigation to insure maintenance of all plant materials;*

The landscaping for the project is appropriate because it integrates plant materials conducive to the desert climate.

#### Section 4: Tentative Tract Map

Findings for the proposed tract map are noted in Section 66474 of the State of California Subdivision Map Act. These findings and a discussion of the project as it relates to these findings follow:

*a. The proposed Tentative Tract Map is consistent with all applicable general and specific plans.*

The proposed project site has a General Plan designation of CBD (Central Business District) and a Zone of CBD (Central Business District). The proposed land use of mixed use commercial/residential is consistent with the General Plan.

*b. The design and improvements of the proposed Tentative Tract Map are consistent with the zone in which the property is located.*

The proposed uses and most development standards conform to those of the underlying CBD zone and the high-rise ordinance. Certain development standards that deviate from the underlying standards will be incorporated with the acceptance of a Planned Development District in order to combine uses in a compatible relationship with one another that otherwise could not be achieved by applying the basic standards for the zone. The Planning Commission therefore has concluded that the design and improvements are consistent with the zone.

*c. The site is physically suited for this type of development.*

The site is essentially flat, with good vehicular access off Baristo Road that does not conflict with traffic flow on Palm Canyon. It is adjacent to the high pedestrian traffic area of the central downtown making it conducive for first floor commercial/retail uses. Although a PDD is required to allow deviations from the development standards of the zone, the site is large enough to allow the proposed high-rise building to be located at the southern half of the site, thereby preserving the east-west view corridor along Baristo Road. The developer has attempted to achieve a high density development while providing as much space and distance between the existing building and the new building as possible. Further reduction in number of units or size of the proposed new building would provide more open space and better setbacks, however the high density/high intensity development envisioned in the General Plan for this area would be reduced. It is located in an area of downtown where this type of development is encouraged through policies and design statements in the General Plan. The Planning Commission has therefore concluded that despite a somewhat tight fit, the site is physically suited for this type of development.

*d. The design of the subdivision is not likely to cause environmental damage or substantially and avoidably injure fish, wildlife, or their habitats.*

The Mitigated Negative Declaration prepared for the proposal adequately addresses the general environmental setting of the project and finds that the project will have no adverse impacts on the environment. The applicant has worked with the City and its Architectural Advisory Committee and modified the design to respond to concerns about the built environment and existing



significant structures on the site. The applicant has agreed to eliminate a proposed dining terrace and exterior modifications to the existing building to minimize the visual and physical impact of the proposed new building on the existing building.

*e. The design of the subdivision or type of improvements is not likely to cause serious public health problems.*

There are no known aspects of the design that would cause serious public health problems. All physical improvements will require building permits and to conform to City, State, and National codes and regulations.

*f. The design of the subdivision or type of improvements will not conflict with easements, acquired by the public at large, for access through or use of the property within the proposed subdivision.*

The design of the development will not conflict with any easements or restrict necessary public access through the property.

#### Section 5: Findings of Public Benefit

The Council adopted the policy, "Planned Development Districts and Public Benefits" on September 17, 2008. Consequently, the Commission will review the PDD with regard to public benefit that would be derived from the granting of deviations from the development standards requested therein.

One of the primary factors in the public benefits policy is "proportionality", which is stated in the policy, as follows:

*The public benefit shall be proportional to the nature, type and extent of the flexibility granted from the standards and provisions of the Palm Springs Zoning Code.*

The project involves three areas of deviation from the Zoning Code as noted below. The Planning Commission has listed the deviations in order of what it believes are the greatest to the least in terms of magnitude of the deviation.

1. Setbacks and Open Space (including balconies),
2. Density,
3. Parking Design Standards and Off-Street Parking Count,

In considering the proportionality of the requested deviations against the public benefit created by those deviations, the Planning Commission believes that the requested deviations are "moderate to significant" in terms of the magnitude of

the deviations from the underlying development standards. The Council may consider among the approved set of options:

- The project as Public Benefit
  - bringing a mixed-use commercial/residential project to the CBD,
  - removal of a driveway curb cut from Palm Canyon Drive.
- Key features of the Project
  - preservation or historic designation of an existing architecturally significant building.
- Off-site Improvements
  - Any other public improvements off the project site.

The Planning Commission has concluded that the deviations requested by the Applicant from the underlying development standards for the zone and the high-rise ordinance is significant. The Planning Commission therefore recommends the following Public Benefits that it believes are proportionally significant to the requested deviations:

1. Significant and substantial sustainability components and features are to be integrated into the design and construction of the project. These shall be reviewed and approved by the Director of Planning Services prior to the issuance of building permits.
2. The Applicant shall support the designation of the existing building (only) as a Class 1 historic site when that matter comes before the City Council for consideration.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that, based upon the foregoing, the Planning Commission approves Case 5.1137 PDD 335 and Case 3.3032 MAJ a Major Architectural Application for a mixed-use development and recommends that the City Council adopts the Mitigated Negative Declaration and approve Case 5.1137. PD 335, and TTM 35230, to establish a Planned Development District, and Tentative Tract Map for condominium purposes for a mixed-use development. The development is comprised of the adaptive reuse of the existing Santa Fe Federal Savings Bank for restaurant/retail use, development of a new four-story mixed-use high-rise building with commercial/retail on the first floor and 19 residential condominium units on floors 2, 3 and 4. The project will include a rooftop terrace with optional swimming pool, on-site subterranean and structured parking for 81 vehicles, and landscaping on a 0.676 acre site, subject to the conditions contained in Exhibit A, which is attached hereto and made a part of this resolution.

ADOPTED this 14<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2009.

AYES: 4, Donenfeld, Caffery, Hochanadel and Cohen  
NOES: 1, Scott  
ABSENT: 1, Ringlein  
ABSTAIN: 1, Conrad

ATTEST:

CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Craig A. Ewing, AICP  
Director of Planning Services

RESOLUTION NO. 7190

EXHIBIT A

Case 5.1137 PD 335, 3.3028 MAJ, TTM 35230

Baristo Lofts  
300 South Palm Canyon Drive

January, 14, 2009

**CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL**

Before final acceptance of the project, all conditions listed below shall be completed to the satisfaction of the City Engineer, the Director of Planning Services, the Chief of Police, the Fire Chief or their designee, depending on which department recommended the condition.

Any agreements, easements or covenants required to be entered into shall be in a form approved by the City Attorney.

**ADMINISTRATIVE CONDITIONS**

- ADM1 Project Description. This approval is for the project described per Case 5.1137 PD 335, 3.3028 MAJ and TTM 35230; except as modified with the approved Mitigation Monitoring Program and the conditions below;
- ADM2 The site shall be developed and maintained in accordance with the approved plans, date stamped December 10, 2008, including site plans, architectural elevations, exterior materials and colors, landscaping, and grading on file in the Planning Division except as modified by the approved Mitigation Measures and conditions below.
- ADM3 The project shall conform to the conditions contained herein, all applicable regulations of the Palm Springs Zoning Ordinance, Municipal Code, and any other City County, State and Federal Codes, ordinances, resolutions and laws that may apply.
- ADM4 The Director of Planning or designee may approve minor deviations to the project description and approved plans in accordance with the provisions of the Palm Springs Zoning Code.
- ADM5 Tentative Map. This approval is for Tentative Tract Map 35230 located at 300 South Palm Canyon Drive, date stamped August 18, 2008. This approval is subject to all applicable regulations of the Subdivision Map Act, the Palm

Springs Municipal Code, and any other applicable City Codes, ordinances and resolutions.

- ADM6 Indemnification. The owner shall defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the City of Palm Springs, its agents, officers, and employees from any claim, action, or proceeding against the City of Palm Springs or its agents, officers or employees to attach, set aside, void or annul, an approval of the City of Palm Springs, its legislative body, advisory agencies, or administrative officers concerning Case 5.1137 PD 335, 3.3028 MAJ, TTM 35230. The City of Palm Springs will promptly notify the applicant of any such claim, action, or proceeding against the City of Palm Springs and the applicant will either undertake defense of the matter and pay the City's associated legal costs or will advance funds to pay for defense of the matter by the City Attorney. If the City of Palm Springs fails to promptly notify the applicant of any such claim, action or proceeding or fails to cooperate fully in the defense, the applicant shall not, thereafter, be responsible to defend, indemnify, or hold harmless the City of Palm Springs. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the City retains the right to settle or abandon the matter without the applicant's consent but should it do so, the City shall waive the indemnification herein, except, the City's decision to settle or abandon a matter following an adverse judgment or failure to appeal, shall not cause a waiver of the indemnification rights herein.
- ADM7 Maintenance and Repair. The property owner(s) and successors and assignees in interest shall maintain and repair the improvements including and without limitation all structures, sidewalks, bikeways, parking areas, landscape, irrigation, lighting, signs, walls, and fences between the curb and property line, including sidewalk or bikeway easement areas that extend onto private property, in a first class condition, free from waste and debris, and in accordance with all applicable law, rules, ordinances and regulations of all federal, state, and local bodies and agencies having jurisdiction at the property owner's sole expense. This condition shall be included in the recorded covenant agreement for the property if required by the City.
- ADM8 Time Limit on Approval. Approval of the Planned Development District (PDD) Tentative Tract Map (TTM) and Major Architectural Applications (MAJ) shall be valid for a period of two (2) years from the effective date of the approval. Extensions of time may be granted by the Planning Commission upon demonstration of good cause.
- ADM9 Right to Appeal. Decisions of an administrative officer or agency of the City of Palm Springs may be appealed in accordance with Municipal Code Chapter 2.05.00. Permits will not be issued until the appeal period has concluded.
- ADM10 Public Art Fees. This project shall be subject to Chapters 2.24 and 3.37 of the Municipal Code regarding public art. The project shall either provide

public art or payment of an in lieu fee. In the case of the in-lieu fee, the fee shall be based upon the total building permit valuation as calculated pursuant to the valuation table in the Uniform Building Code, the fee being 1/2% for commercial projects or 1/4% for residential projects with first \$100,000 of total building permit valuation for individual single-family units exempt. Should the public art be located on the project site, said location shall be reviewed and approved by the Director of Planning and Zoning and the Public Arts Commission, and the property owner shall enter into a recorded agreement to maintain the art work and protect the public rights of access and viewing.

ADM11 Park Development Fees. The developer shall dedicate land or pay a fee in lieu of a dedication, at the option of the City. The in-lieu fee shall be computed pursuant to Ordinance No. 1632, Section IV, by multiplying the area of park to be dedicated by the fair market value of the land being developed plus the cost to acquire and improve the property plus the fair share contribution, less any credit given by the City, as may be reasonably determined by the City based upon the formula contained in Ordinance No. 1632. In accordance with the Ordinance, the following areas or features shall not be eligible for private park credit: golf courses, yards, court areas, setbacks, development edges, slopes in hillside areas (unless the area includes a public trail) landscaped development entries, meandering streams, land held as open space for wildlife habitat, flood retention facilities and circulation improvements such as bicycle, hiking and equestrian trails (unless such systems are directly linked to the City's community-wide system and shown on the City's master plan).

ADM12 Community Services District. The Project will bring a significant number of additional residents to the community. The City's existing public safety and recreation services, including police protection, criminal justice, fire protection and suppression, ambulance, paramedic, and other safety services and recreation, library, cultural services are near capacity. Accordingly, the City may determine to form a Community Services District under the authority of Government Code Section 53311 et seq., or other appropriate statutory or municipal authority. Developer agrees to support the formation of such assessment district and shall waive any right to protest, provided that the amount of such assessment shall be established through appropriate study and shall not exceed \$500 annually with a consumer price index escalator. The district shall be formed prior to sale of any lots or a covenant agreement shall be recorded against each parcel, permitting incorporation of the parcel in the district.

ADM13 Maintenance of Outdoor Seating/Dining. Daily cleaning and wash down of sidewalks for any outdoor seating areas or paseos will be required. Contact Parks & Recreation at 760 323 8281 for information regarding the proper method of cleaning of sidewalks and pavers within the public rights-of-way.

- ADM14 Comply with City Noise Ordinance. This use shall comply with the provisions of Section 11.74 Noise Ordinance of the Palm Springs Municipal Code. Violations may result in revocation of this Conditional Use Permit.
- ADM15 Control of Noise. Live entertainment is permitted in the location shown on the approved floor plan only. If complaints are received, all exterior doors and windows shall be closed immediately upon request of the enforcement officer. A limited bar service window may remain open for the indoor/outdoor bar service.
- ADM 16. CC&R's. Prior to recordation of a final Tentative Tract Map or issuance of building permits, the applicant shall submit a draft declaration of covenants, conditions and restrictions ("CC&R's") to the Director of Planning for approval in a format to be approved by the City Attorney. The draft CC&R package shall include:
- a. The document to convey title
  - b. Deed restrictions, easements, of Covenant Conditions and Restrictions to be recorded.
  - c. Provisions for joint access to the proposed parcels, and any open space restrictions.
  - d. A provision, which provides that the CC&R's may not be terminated or substantially amended without the consent of the City and the developer's successor-in-interest.

Approved CC&R's are to be recorded following approval of the final map. The CC&R's may be enforceable by the City, shall not be amended without City approval, and shall require maintenance of all property in a good condition and in accordance with all ordinances.

CC&R's Deposits & Fees. The applicant shall submit to the City of Palm Springs, a deposit in the amount of \$3,500, for the review of the CC&R's by the City Attorney. A \$675 filing fee shall also be paid to the City Planning Department for administrative review purposes.

CC&R's Noise Disclosure. The CC&R's shall have a disclosure statement regarding the location of the project relative to roadway noise, City special events, roadway closures for special events and other activities which may occur in the Central Business District, Desert Museum and Desert Fashion Plaza. Said disclosure shall inform perspective buyers about traffic, noise and other activities which may occur in this area.

Notice to Tenants. The applicant shall provide all tenants with a copy of the Conditions of Approval for this project.

## ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT CONDITIONS

- ENV1 Coachella Valley Multiple-Species Habitat Conservation Plan (CVMSHCP) Local Development Permit Fee (LDMF) required. All projects within the City of Palm Springs are subject to payment of the CVMSHCP LDMF prior to the issuance of certificate of occupancy.
- ENV2 California Fish & Game Fees Required. The project is required to pay a fish and game impact fee as defined in Section 711.4 of the California Fish and Game Code. This CFG impact fee plus an administrative fee for filing the action with the County Recorder shall be submitted by the applicant to the City in the form of a money order or a cashier's check payable to the Riverside County Clerk prior to the final City action on the project (either Planning Commission or City Council determination). This fee shall be submitted by the City to the County Clerk with the Notice of Determination. Action on this application shall not be final until such fee is paid. The project may be eligible for exemption or refund of this fee by the California Department of Fish & Game. Applicants may apply for a refund by the CFG at [www.dfg.ca.gov](http://www.dfg.ca.gov) for more information.
- ENV3 Mitigation Monitoring. The mitigation measures of the environmental assessment shall apply. The applicant shall submit a signed agreement that the mitigation measures outlined as part of the negative declaration or EIR will be included in the plans prior to Planning Commission consideration of the environmental assessment. Mitigation measures are defined in the approved project description.
- ENV4 Cultural Resource Survey Required. Prior to any ground disturbing activity, including clearing and grubbing, installation of utilities, and/or any construction related excavation, an Archaeologist qualified according to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines, shall be employed to survey the area for the presence of cultural resources identifiable on the ground surface.
- ENV5 Cultural Resource Site Monitoring. There is a possibility of buried cultural or Native American tribal resources on the site. A Native American Monitor shall be present during all ground-disturbing activities.
- a) A Native American Monitor(s) shall be present during all ground disturbing activities including clearing and grubbing, excavation, burial of utilities, planting of rooted plants, etc. Contact the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indian Cultural Office for additional information on the use and availability of Cultural Resource Monitors. Should buried cultural deposits be encountered, the Monitor shall contact the Director of Planning. After consultation the Director shall have the authority to halt destructive construction and shall notify a Qualified Archaeologist to further investigate the site. If necessary, the Qualified Archaeologist shall prepare a treatment plan for submission to



the State Historic Preservation Officer and Agua Caliente Cultural Resource Coordinator for approval.

b). Two copies of any cultural resource documentation generated in connection with this project, including reports of investigations, record search results and site records/updates shall be forwarded to the Tribal Planning, Building, and Engineering Department and one copy to the City Planning Department prior to final inspection.

### **PLANNING DEPARTMENT CONDITIONS**

- PLN 1. Outdoor Lighting Conformance. Exterior lighting plans, including a photometric site plan showing the project's conformance with Section 93.21.00 Outdoor Lighting Standards of the Palm Springs Zoning ordinance, shall be submitted for approval by the Department of Planning prior to issuance of a building permit. Manufacturer's cut sheets of all exterior lighting on the building and in the landscaping shall be included. If lights are proposed to be mounted on buildings, down-lights shall be utilized. No lighting of hillsides is permitted.
- PLN 2. Water Efficient Landscaping Conformance. The project is subject to the Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (Chapter 8.60.00) of the Palm Springs Municipal Code. The applicant shall submit a landscape and irrigation plan to the Director of Planning for review and approval prior to the issuance of a building permit. Landscape plans shall be wet stamped and approved by the Riverside County Agricultural Commissioner's Office prior to submittal. Refer to Chapter 8.60 of the Municipal Code for specific requirements. (See Chapter 8.60.020 for exemptions)
- PLN 3. Submittal of Final PDD. The Final Planned Development plans shall be submitted in accordance with Section 94.03.00 (Planned Development District) of the Zoning Ordinance. Final development plans shall include site plans, building elevations, floor plans, roof plans, grading plans, landscape plans, irrigation plans, exterior lighting plans, sign program, mitigation monitoring program, site cross sections, property development standards and other such documents as required by the Planning Commission and Planning Department. Final Planned Development District applications must be submitted within two (2) years of the City Council approval of the preliminary planned development district.
- PLN 4. Conditions Imposed from AAC Review. The applicant shall incorporate the following comments from the review of the project by the City's Architectural Advisory Committee:

1. Revise the north side balconies to be "Juliet balconies" to afford more space between the new and existing building.
- PLN 5. Palm Tree Requirement. In accordance with Planning Commission Resolution No. 1503, dated November 18, 1970, the developer is required to plant *Washingtonia Fillifera* palm trees (14 feet from ground to fronds in height) 60 feet apart along the entire frontage of Palm Canyon Drive and/or the Tahquitz Canyon Way median. This will require removal of the existing Mexican Fan Palms and Date Palm that presently are planted along the frontage of this site.
- PLN 6. Sign Applications Required. No signs are approved by this action. Separate approval and permits shall be required for all signs in accordance with Zoning Ordinance Section 93.20.00. The applicant shall submit a sign program to the Department of Planning Services prior to the issuance of building permits.
- PLN 7. Flat Roof Requirements. Roof materials on flat roofs must conform to California Title 24 thermal standards for "Cool Roofs". Such roofs must have a minimum initial thermal emittance of 0.75 and minimum initial solar reflectance of 0.70. Only matte (non-specular) roofing is allowed in colors such as off-white, beige or tan. Bright white should be avoided where possible."
- PLN 8. Maintenance of Awnings & Projections. All awnings shall be maintained and periodically cleaned
- PLN 9. Screen Roof-mounted Equipment. All roof mounted mechanical equipment shall be screened per the requirements of Section 93.03.00 of the Zoning Ordinance.
- PLN 10. Surface Mounted Downspouts Prohibited. No exterior downspouts shall be permitted on any facade on the proposed building(s) that are visible from adjacent streets or residential and commercial areas.
- PLN 11. Pool Enclosure Approval Required. Details of fencing or walls around pools (material and color) and pool equipment areas shall be submitted for approval by the Planning Department prior to issuance of Building Permits.
- PLN 12. Exterior Alarms & Audio Systems. No sirens, outside paging or any type of signalization will be permitted, except approved alarm systems.
- PLN 13. Outside Storage Prohibited. No outside storage of any kind shall be permitted except as approved as a part of the proposed plan.
- PLN 14. No off-site Parking. Vehicles associated with the operation of the proposed development including company vehicles or employees vehicles shall not be

permitted to park off the proposed building site unless a parking management plan has been approved.

- PLN 15. Bicycle Parking. The project shall be required to provide secure bicycle parking facilities on site for use by residents and commercial/retail patrons and owners. Location and design shall be approved by the Director of Planning.
- PLN 16. No exterior modifications on existing building. The applicant is not permitted to construct a dining terrace on the existing structure and shall make no modifications to the exterior of the existing structure as part of this approval.
- PLN 17. Assignment of tandem parking spaces. Off-street parking spaces that are configured as tandem spaces, (i.e. one space behind the other requiring the movement of one vehicle to get the second one out) shall only be assigned as a pair of parking spaces per residential unit.
- PLN 18. Recycling, trash chutes, sealed dumpsters. Enclosures for the containment of recycled materials shall be provided for the convenience of all residents and commercial tenants with sealed and rated trash chutes from the upper residential floors. Sealed garbage containers and/or compacting garbage collection systems to control odors and liquid seepage from garbage shall be required.
- PLN 19. Juliet Balconies on north side of new building. Modify balconies on the north side of the proposed new building to "Juliet balconies" (i.e. railings at the building wall with no actual balcony area outside the face of the building) to provide more special relief between the existing building and the proposed new building.
- PLN 20. Decorative Pavement. Provide decorative pavement at the driveway entrances pursuant to Section 92.09.04(B)(2) of the Zoning Ordinance as approved by the Director of Planning.
- PLN 21. AAC resubmittal. The applicant is required to bring the project design back to the Architectural Advisory Committee for review of specific architectural details of the proposed new structure.
- PLN 22. Public Benefit - Sustainability Features. The Applicant is required to provide and integrate "substantial and significant" sustainability features in the design and construction of the proposed project as a means of providing "public benefit" in exchange for the deviations requested from the underlying development standards, subject to review and approval by the Director of Planning Services prior to issuance of building permits.
- PLN 23. Class 1 Historic Designation. The applicant shall support the Class 1 designation recommendation to the City Council for the Santa fe Federal

Savings Bank Building (exclusive of any site area or open space designation on the parcel)

### ACCESSIBILITY CONDITIONS

- ADA 1. Path of Travel. The "ADA " path of travel along Palm Canyon Drive provides a minimum 5 foot width measured from the building towards the street. It is important to ascertain that the cross slope within this pedestrian path of travel be no more that 2%.The plan indicates a 5% slope. Although it appears that this 5% cross slope measures from the ADA path of travel towards the street, we need to confirm that the ADA path of travel have a cross slope that does not exceed 2% so that it complies with CBC 1133B.7.1.3.
- ADA 2. Detectable Warnings. A 36 inch wide band of detectable warnings consisting of truncated domes shall be provided where the walk intersects with the "van accessible" access aisle serving the disabled parking spaces. This shall comply with CBC 1133B.8.5.
- ADA 3. Ramps and Handrails. The plan indicates an 8.33 % sloped ramp located between the existing building and the proposed new retail building which is compliant with CBC1133B.5.1 through CBC 1133B.5.4.2. However, to comply with CBC 1133B.5.5.1, handrails are required on both sides of the ramp and shall comply with all handrail technical requirements.
- ADA 4. ADA Signage. Provide a directional and informational sign indicating the accessible route of travel from the disabled parking area leading to the ADA path of travel between the existing building and the proposed new retail building so as to comply with CBC 1117B.5.1. 2 & .3.

### BUILDING DEPARTMENT CONDITIONS

- BLD 1. Prior to any construction on-site, app appropriate permits must be secured.

### ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT CONDITIONS

The Engineering Division recommends that if this application is approved, such approval is subject to the following conditions being completed in compliance with City standards and ordinances.

Before final acceptance of the project, all conditions listed below shall be completed to the satisfaction of the City Engineer.

## STREETS

ENG 1. Any improvements within the public right-of-way require a City of Palm Springs Encroachment Permit.

### S. PALM CANYON DRIVE

ENG 2. not used.

ENG 3. An application for an Encroachment License shall be submitted to the Engineering Division to allow construction of the roof edge of the first floor retail building at the southwest corner of the site, within the public right-of-way of Palm Canyon Drive. The application for the Encroachment License shall be approved by City Council prior to issuance of a building permit.

ENG 4. Existing palm trees along the Palm Canyon Drive frontage are maintained by the City and shall be protected in place until new trees required by this project are installed. Removal of any palm tree will require advance approval by the City Engineer and Director of Parks and Recreation, and require relocation and adjustment of existing irrigation and lighting system improvements.

ENG 5. New or transplanted palm trees shall be guaranteed for a period of 90 days from the date of acceptance by the City Engineer. Any palm trees that fail during the 90-day landscape maintenance period shall be replaced with a new palm tree of similar trunk diameter and height to the satisfaction of the City Engineer, and shall be subject to a subsequent 90-day landscape maintenance period.

ENG 6. The existing decorative lighting system along the Palm Canyon Drive frontage is maintained by the City and shall be protected in place until new trees required by the project are installed. Any relocation of lighting improvements will require advance approval by the City Engineer. The existing irrigation and lighting systems shall be upgraded and replaced when the new trees are installed.

ENG 7. Remove the existing driveway approach adjacent to the southwest corner of the site and replace with new curb, gutter, and sidewalk to match existing street improvements, in accordance with applicable City Standards.

ENG 8. All broken or off grade street improvements shall be repaired or replaced.

### BARISTO ROAD

ENG 9. Construct divided access driveways that are 22 feet wide (for ingress/egress for the underground parking garage) and 20 feet wide (for ingress/egress for the surface level parking area) in accordance with City of Palm Springs

Standard Drawing No. 201. The centerline of the driveway approach shall be approximately 30 feet from the east property line. The east half of the driveway approach (into the underground parking garage) shall be for the use of residents only and shall include an 11 feet wide egress only lane (adjacent to the east property line) and an 11 feet wide ingress only lane for the underground parking garage ramp. The west half of the driveway approach (into the surface level parking area) shall be for the use of visitors and retail customers only and shall include a 10 feet wide ingress only lane (adjacent to the existing building) and a 10 feet wide egress only lane for the surface level parking area. The east and west halves of the 47 feet wide driveway approach shall be separated by a 5 feet wide on-site median.

ENG 10. Remove the existing street improvements as necessary to construct a new driveway approach in accordance with City of Palm Springs Standard Drawing No. 201.

ENG 11. All broken or off grade street improvements shall be repaired or replaced.

#### SANITARY SEWER

ENG 12. All sanitary facilities shall be connected to the public sewer system. The existing sewer service lateral to the property may be used for new sanitary facilities. New laterals shall not be connected at manholes.

#### GRADING

ENG 13. The proposed project involves the construction of a new building with subterranean garage, extending the entire boundaries of the subject parcel. A Grading Plan is not required for the proposed project; however, the applicant shall comply with applicable dust control regulations during any site disturbance, including excavations for the subterranean garage. A Fugitive Dust Control Plan shall be prepared by the applicant and/or its grading contractor and submitted to the Engineering Division for review and approval. The applicant and/or its contractor shall be required to comply with Chapter 8.50 of the City of Palm Springs Municipal Code, and shall be required to utilize one or more "Coachella Valley Best Available Control Measures" as identified in the Coachella Valley Fugitive Dust Control Handbook for each fugitive dust source such that the applicable performance standards are met. The applicant's or its contractor's Fugitive Dust Control Plan shall be prepared by staff that has completed the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) Coachella Valley Fugitive Dust Control Class. The applicant and/or its contractor shall provide the Engineering Division with current and valid Certificate(s) of Completion from AQMD for staff that has completed the required training. For information on attending a Fugitive Dust Control Class and information on the Coachella Valley Fugitive Dust Control Handbook and related "PM10" Dust Control issues, please contact AQMD at

(909) 396-3752, or at [www.AQMD.gov](http://www.AQMD.gov). A Fugitive Dust Control Plan, in conformance with the Coachella Valley Fugitive Dust Control Handbook, shall be submitted to and approved by the Engineering Division prior to issuance of a building permit.

- ENG 14. Prior to issuance of a building permit, the applicant shall obtain written approval to proceed with construction from the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer or Tribal Archaeologist. The applicant shall contact the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer or the Tribal Archaeologist at (760) 699-6800, to determine their requirements, if any, associated with grading or other construction. The applicant is advised to contact the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer or Tribal Archaeologist as early as possible. If required, it is the responsibility of the applicant to coordinate scheduling of Tribal monitors during grading or other construction, and to arrange payment of any required fees associated with Tribal monitoring.
- ENG 15. In accordance with an approved PM-10 Dust Control Plan, perimeter fencing shall be installed. Fencing shall have screening that is tan in color; green screening will not be allowed. Perimeter fencing shall be installed after issuance of Grading Permit, and immediately prior to commencement of grading operations.
- ENG 16. Perimeter fence screening shall be appropriately maintained, as required by the City Engineer. Cuts (vents) made into the perimeter fence screening shall not be allowed. Perimeter fencing shall be adequately anchored into the ground to resist wind loading.
- ENG 17. Within 10 days of ceasing all construction activity and when construction activities are not scheduled to occur for at least 30 days, the disturbed areas on-site shall be permanently stabilized, in accordance with Palm Springs Municipal Code Section 8.50.022. Following stabilization of all disturbed areas, perimeter fencing shall be removed, as required by the City Engineer.
- ENG 18. In cooperation with the Riverside County Agricultural Commissioner and the California Department of Food and Agriculture Red Imported Fire Ant Project, the export of soil from this site will require a clearance document from a Department of Food and Agriculture representative in the form of an approved "Notification of Intent To Move Soil From or Within Quarantined Areas of Orange, Riverside, and Los Angeles Counties" (RIFA Form CA-1) prior to issuance of a building permit. The California Department of Food and Agriculture office is located at 73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Palm Desert (Phone: 760-776-8208).

#### DRAINAGE

- ENG 19. This project will be required to install measures in accordance with applicable National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Best Management Practices (BMP's) included as part of the NPDES Permit issued for the Whitewater River Region from the Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). The applicant is advised that installation of BMP's, including mechanical or other means for pre-treating stormwater runoff, will be required by regulations imposed by the RWQCB. It shall be the applicant's responsibility to design and install appropriate BMP's, in accordance with the NPDES Permit, that effectively intercept and pre-treat stormwater runoff from the project site, prior to release to the City's municipal separate storm sewer system ("MS4"), to the satisfaction of the City Engineer and the RWQCB. Such measures shall be designed and installed on-site; and provisions for perpetual maintenance of the measures shall be provided to the satisfaction of the City Engineer, including provisions in Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions (CC&R's) required for the development (if any).
- ENG 20. A Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP) shall be submitted to and approved by the City Engineer prior to issuance of a building permit. The WQMP shall address the implementation of operational Best Management Practices (BMP's) necessary to accommodate nuisance water and storm water runoff from within the underground parking garage and surface areas on-site. Direct release of nuisance water to adjacent public streets is prohibited. Construction of operational BMP's shall be incorporated into the structural building plans for this project.

#### GENERAL

- ENG 21. Any utility trenches or other excavations within existing asphalt concrete pavement of off-site streets required by the proposed development shall be backfilled and repaired in accordance with City of Palm Springs Standard Drawing No. 115. The developer shall be responsible for removing, grinding, paving and/or overlaying existing asphalt concrete pavement of off-site streets as required by and at the discretion of the City Engineer, including additional pavement repairs to pavement repairs made by utility companies for utilities installed for the benefit of the proposed development (i.e. Desert Water Agency, Southern California Edison, Southern California Gas Company, Time Warner, Verizon, etc.). Multiple excavations, trenches, and other street cuts within existing asphalt concrete pavement of off-site streets required by the proposed development may require complete grinding and asphalt concrete overlay of the affected off-site streets, at the discretion of the City Engineer. The pavement condition of the existing off-site streets shall be returned to a condition equal to or better than existed prior to construction of the proposed development.
- ENG 22. All proposed utility lines shall be installed underground.



- ENG 23. All existing utilities shall be shown on the improvement plans required for the project. The existing and proposed service laterals shall be shown from the main line to the property line.
- ENG 24. Upon approval of any improvement plan by the City Engineer, the improvement plan shall be provided to the City in digital format, consisting of a DWG (AutoCAD 2004 drawing file), DXF (AutoCAD ASCII drawing exchange file), and PDF (Adobe Acrobat 6.0 or greater) formats. Variation of the type and format of the digital data to be submitted to the City may be authorized, upon prior approval of the City Engineer.
- ENG 25. The original improvement plans prepared for the proposed development and approved by the City Engineer shall be documented with record drawing "as-built" information and returned to the Engineering Division prior to issuance of a final certificate of occupancy. Any modifications or changes to approved improvement plans shall be submitted to the City Engineer for approval prior to construction.
- ENG 26. Nothing shall be constructed or planted in the corner cut-off area of any intersection or driveway which does or will exceed the height required to maintain an appropriate sight distance per City of Palm Springs Zoning Code Section 93.02.00, D.
- ENG 27. All proposed trees within the public right-of-way and within 10 feet of the public sidewalk and/or curb shall have City approved deep root barriers installed in accordance with City of Palm Springs Standard Drawing No. 904.
- ENG 28. (not used).

MAP

- ENG 29. A Final Map shall be prepared by a California registered Land Surveyor or qualified Civil Engineer and submitted to the Engineering Division for review and approval. A Title Report prepared for subdivision guarantee for the subject property, the traverse closures for the existing parcel and all lots created there from, and copies of record documents shall be submitted with the Final Map to the Engineering Division as part of the review of the Map. The Final Map shall be approved by the City Council prior to issuance of building permits.
- ENG 30. A copy of draft Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions (CC&R's) shall be submitted to the City Attorney for review and approval for any restrictions related to the Engineering Division's recommendations. The CC&R's shall be approved by the City Attorney prior to approval of a Final Map.

ENG 31. Upon approval of a final map, the final map shall be provided to the City in G.I.S. digital format, consistent with the "Guidelines for G.I.S. Digital Submission" from the Riverside County Transportation and Land Management Agency." G.I.S. digital information shall consist of the following data: California Coordinate System, CCS83 Zone 6 (in U.S. feet); monuments (ASCII drawing exchange file); lot lines, rights-of-way, and centerlines shown as continuous lines; full map annotation consistent with annotation shown on the map; map number; and map file name. G.I.S. data format shall be provided on a CDROM/DVD containing the following: ArcGIS Geodatabase, ArcView Shapefile, ArcInfo Coverage or Exchange file (e00), DWG (AutoCAD 2004 drawing file), DGN (Microstation drawing file), DXF (AutoCAD ASCII drawing exchange file), and PDF (Adobe Acrobat 6.0 or greater) formats. Variations of the type and format of G.I.S. digital data to be submitted to the City may be authorized, upon prior approval of the City Engineer.

#### TRAFFIC

- ENG 32. Provide signage for eastbound and westbound traffic on Baristo Road, indicating that the two-way eastern half of the driveway is for residential vehicles only, into the underground parking garage ramp adjacent to the northeast corner of the site, as required by the City Engineer. Install raised reflectorized pavement markers between the residential entry ramp and exit ramp lanes to discourage residential vehicles from crossing into oncoming traffic.
- ENG 33. Provide signage for eastbound and westbound traffic on Baristo Road, indicating that the two-way western half of the driveway is for visitor/retail vehicles only, into the ground level parking area, as required by the City Engineer. Install raised reflectorized pavement markers between the visitors/retail entry lane and exit lane to discourage visitor/retail vehicles from crossing into oncoming traffic.
- ENG 34. Install distinctive entry treatments (including signage, lighting, pavement markings, and/or other visual cues) at the residential only entry adjacent to the northeast corner of the site on Baristo Road, to decrease the potential for motorist confusion.
- ENG 35. Install a 24 inch stop sign, stop bar, and "STOP" legend for traffic exiting the development at both the residential exit and the visitors/retail exit on Baristo Road, in accordance with City of Palm Springs Standard Drawing Nos. 620-625.
- ENG 36. A minimum of 48 inches of clearance for handicap accessibility shall be provided on public sidewalks or pedestrian paths of travel within the development.

- ENG 37. All damaged, destroyed, or modified pavement legends, traffic control devices, signing, striping, and street lights, associated with the proposed development shall be replaced as required by the City Engineer prior to issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy.
- ENG 38. Construction signing, lighting and barricading shall be provided for on all projects as required by City Standards or as directed by the City Engineer. As a minimum, all construction signing, lighting and barricading shall be in accordance with State of California, Department of Transportation, "Manual of Traffic Controls for Construction and Maintenance Work Zones" dated 1996, or subsequent additions in force at the time of construction.
- ENG 39. This property is subject to the Transportation Uniform Mitigation Fee which shall be paid prior to issuance of building permit.

### **FIRE DEPARTMENT CONDITIONS**

These conditions are subject to final plan check and review. Initial fire department conditions have been determined on the site plan dated 3/15/2008. Additional requirements may be required at that time based on revisions to site plans.

Fire Department Conditions were based on the 2007 California Fire Code. Four complete sets of plans for private fire service mains, fire alarm, or fire sprinkler systems must be submitted at time of the building plan submittal.

- FID 1. Public Safety CFD: The Project will bring a significant number of additional residents to the community. The City's existing public safety and recreation services, including police protection, criminal justice, fire protection and suppression, ambulance, paramedic, and other safety services and recreation, library, cultural services are near capacity. Accordingly, the City may determine to form a Community Services District under the authority of Government Code Section 53311 et seq, or other appropriate statutory or municipal authority. Developer agrees to support the formation of such assessment district and shall waive any right to protest, provided that the amount of such assessment shall be established through appropriate study and shall not exceed \$500 annually with a consumer price index escalator. The district shall be formed prior to sale of any lots or a covenant agreement shall be recorded against each parcel, permitting incorporation of the parcel in the district.
- FID 2. Radio Communications: Must install an in-building Public Safety Radio Communications Coverage System composed of a radiating cable system or an internal multiple antenna system with FCC-certified bi-directional 800 MHz and 150 MHz (as required to meet the two indicated 150 MHz frequencies) amplifier(s), distribution system, and subcomponents shall be required for all buildings in excess of three stories, or has subterranean floors, or subterranean

parking. This system must meet the City of Palm Springs Public Safety Radio System Coverage Specifications as stated in the Palm Springs Municipal Code Chapter 11.03.

- FID 3. Plot Plan: Prior to completion of the project, an 8.5"x11" plot plan or drawing, and an electronic version in an industry standard file format capable of being used in a geographical information system (GIS) preferably an ESRI shape file(s) shall be provided to the fire department. The GIS file shall be projected in the California State Plane Zone VI coordinate system and capable of being re-projected into the North American Datum 1983 coordinate system. PDF files by themselves will not meet this requirement. The GIS and ESRI shape file(s) shall clearly show all access points, fire hydrants, KNOX™ box locations, fire department connections, dwelling unit or suite identifiers, main electrical panel location(s), sprinkler riser and fire alarm locations. Industry standard symbols used in emergency management and pre-fire planning are encouraged. Large projects may require more than one page. AutoCAD files will be accepted but must be approved prior to acceptance.
- FID 4. Access During Construction (CFC 503): Access for firefighting equipment shall be provided to the immediate job site at the start of construction and maintained until all construction is complete. Fire apparatus access roads shall have an unobstructed width of not less than 20 feet and an unobstructed vertical clearance of not less than 13'6". Fire Department access roads shall have an all weather driving surface and support a minimum weight of 73,000 lbs.
- FID 5. Fire Apparatus Access Gates (8.04.260 PSMC): Entrance gates shall have a clear width of at least 15 feet and be equipped with a frangible chain and padlock during construction.
- FID 6. Fire Department Access: Roads/driveways shall be provided so that no portion of the exterior wall of the first floor of any building will be more than 150 feet from such roads.
- FID 7. Surface (CFC 503.2.3): Fire apparatus access roads shall be designed and maintained to support the imposed loads of fire apparatus (73,000 lbs. GVW) and shall be surfaced so as to provide all-weather driving capabilities. This will include the visitor parking spaces above the subterranean parking structure. This access is required to meet the mid rise requirements for the lofts on the third and fourth level.
- FID 8. Aerial Fire Access Roads (CFC 503.2.8): Buildings or portions of buildings or facilities exceeding 30 feet in height above the lowest level of fire department vehicle access shall be provided with approved fire apparatus access roads capable of accommodating fire department aerial apparatus. Overhead utility

and power lines shall not be located within the aerial fire apparatus access roadway.

- FID 9. Aerial Fire Access Road Width (CFC 503.2.8.1): Fire apparatus access roads shall have a minimum unobstructed width of 26 feet in the immediate vicinity of any building or portion of building more than 30 feet in height.
- FID 10. Aerial Access Proximity to Building (CFC 503.2.8.2): At least one of the required access routes for buildings or facility exceeding 30 feet in height above the lowest level of fire department vehicle access shall be located within a minimum of 15 feet and a maximum of 30 feet from the building and shall be positioned parallel to one entire side of the building.
- FID 11. Class 1 Standpipe: A Class 1 Standpipe system is required and shall be installed. Standpipes will be required at every level in the stairwells from the subterranean garage to the roof of the new mixed use building.
- FID 12. Stairways: Both stairways must go from the subterranean parking to every floor and including the roof of the new mixed use building.
- FID 13. Underground Parking: Automatic smoke removal system to be required for subterranean parking.
- FID 14. Premises Identification (CFC 505.1): New and existing buildings shall have approved address numbers, building numbers or approved building identification placed in a position that is plainly legible and visible from the street or road fronting the property. These numbers shall contrast with their background. Address numbers shall be Arabic numerals or alphabet letters. Numbers shall be a minimum of 4" high with a minimum stroke width of 0.5".
- FID 15. Key Box Required to be Installed (CFC 506.1): Where access to or within a structure or an area is restricted because of secured openings or where immediate access is necessary for life-saving or fire-fighting purposes, the fire code official is authorized to require a key box to be installed in an approved location. The key box shall be of an approved type and shall contain keys to gain necessary access as required by the fire code official.
- FID 16. Location of Knox boxes: Secured emergency access gates serving apartment, town home or condominium complex courtyards must provide a key box in addition to association or facility locks. A Knox box shall be installed at every locked gate. Boxes shall be mounted at 5 feet above grade. Show location of boxes on plan elevation views. Show requirement in plan notes.
- FID 17. Operational Fire Hydrant(s) (CFC 508.1, 508.5.1 & 1412.1): Operational fire hydrant(s) shall be installed within 250 feet of all combustible construction. They shall be installed and made serviceable prior to and during construction.

No landscape planting, walls, or fencing is permitted within 3 feet of fire hydrants, except ground cover plantings.

- FID 18. Identification (CFC 510.1): Fire protection equipment shall be identified in an approved manner. Rooms containing controls for air-conditioning systems, sprinkler risers and valves, or other fire detection, suppression or control elements shall be identified for the use of the fire department. Approved signs required to identify fire protection equipment and equipment location, shall be constructed of durable materials, permanently installed and readily visible.
- FID 19. NFPA 13 Fire Sprinkler System is Required: An automatic fire sprinkler system is required for both the existing building and new building. The change in use to Group A Occupancy of the existing building requires this building to now be protected with fire sprinklers. Only a C-16 licensed fire sprinkler contractor shall perform system design and installation. System to be designed and installed in accordance with NFPA 13, 2002 Edition, except the seismic bracing and restraints shall comply with NFPA 13, 2007 Edition using  $C_p$  of 0.74 and  $I_r$  Ratio of 200. No portion of the fire sprinkler system shall be installed prior to plan approval. Prior to final approval of the installation, contractor shall submit a completed Contractors Material and Test Certificate for Aboveground Piping to the Fire Department. (16.1 NFPA 13, 2002 Edition and 10.10 NFPA 24, 2002 Edition)
- FID 20. Balconies and decks (903.3.1.2.1). Sprinkler protection shall be provided for exterior balconies, decks and ground floor patios of dwelling units where the building is of Type V construction. Sidewall sprinklers that are used to protect such areas shall be permitted to be located such that their deflectors are within 1 inch (25 mm) to 6 inches (152 mm) below the structural members and a maximum distance of 14 inches (356 mm) below the deck of the exterior balconies and decks that are constructed of open wood joist construction.
- FID 21. Audible Water Flow Alarms (CFC 903.4.2): An approved audible sprinkler flow alarm (Wheelock horn/strobe # MT4-115-WH-VFR with WBB back box or equal) shall be provided on the exterior of the building in an approved location. An approved audible sprinkler flow alarm (Wheelock horn/strobe # MT4-115-WH-VFR with WBB back box or equal) to alert the occupants shall be provided in the interior of the building in a normally occupied location.
- FID 22. Valve and Water-Flow Monitoring (CFC 903.4): All valves controlling the fire sprinkler system water supply, and all water-flow switches, shall be electrically monitored. All control valves shall be locked in the open position. Valve and water-flow alarm and trouble signals shall be distinctly different and shall be automatically transmitted to an approved central station.
- FID 23. Central Station Protective Signaling Service (CFC 903.4.1): A UL listed and certified Protective Signaling Service (Central Station Service) is required.

Provide the Fire Department with proof of listing and current certificate. The Fire Department shall be notified immediately of change in service.

- FID 24. Fire Alarm System: Fire alarm system is required and installation shall comply with the requirements of NFPA 72, 2002 Edition.
- FID 25. Portable Fire Extinguisher (CFC 906.1): Portable fire extinguishers shall be installed. Provide one 2-A:10-B:C portable fire extinguisher for every 75 feet of floor or grade travel distance for normal hazards. Portable fire extinguishers shall not be obstructed or obscured from view. Portable fire extinguishers shall be installed so that the top is not more than 5 feet above the floor.
- FID 26. Residential Smoke Alarms Installation With Fire Sprinklers (CFC 907.2.10.1.2, 907.2.10.2 & 907.2.10.3): Provide Residential Smoke Alarms (FIREX # 0498 accessory module connected to multi-station FIREX smoke alarms or equal for residential units above businesses and fire sprinkler flow switch). Alarms shall receive their primary power from the building wiring, and shall be equipped with a battery backup. Alarms shall be interconnected so that operation of any smoke alarm causes all smoke alarms within the dwelling to sound.
- FID 27. Fire Department Connections (CFC 912.2.1 & 912.3): Fire Department connections shall be visible and accessible, have two 2.5 inch NST female inlets, and have an approved check valve located as close to the FDC as possible. All FDC's shall have KNOX locking protective caps. Contact the fire prevention secretary at 760-323-8186 for a KNOX application form.
- FID 28. Fire Hydrant & FDC Location (CFC 912.2): A public commercial fire hydrant is required within 30 feet of the Fire Department Connection (FDC). Fire Hose must be protected from vehicular traffic and shall not cross roadways, streets, railroad tracks or driveways or areas subject to flooding or hazardous material or liquid releases.
- FID 29. Elevator Recall Required (CFC 607.1): Existing elevators with a travel distance of 25 feet (7620 mm) or more above or below the main floor or other level of a building and intended to serve the needs of emergency personnel for fire-fighting or rescue purposes shall be provided with emergency operation in accordance with ASME A17.3. New elevators shall be provided with Phase I emergency recall operation and Phase II emergency in-car operation in accordance with ASME A17.1.
- FID 30. Elevator Stretcher Requirement (CBC 3002.4): Elevator shall be designed to accommodate medical emergency service in buildings four or more stories above grade plane or four or more stories below grade plane, at least one elevator shall be provided for fire department emergency access to all floors. The elevator(s) so designed shall accommodate the loading and transport of an

ambulance gurney or stretcher 24 inches by 84 inches in the horizontal position.

FID 31. Proposed Restaurant: Fire department conditions for the proposed restaurant will be developed when detailed plans are submitted.

**END OF CONDITIONS**



**NOTICE OF INTENT  
TO ADOPT THE MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR  
300 South Palm Canyon Drive  
October 27, 2008**

**LEAD AGENCY:** City of Palm Springs  
3200 East Tahquitz Way  
Palm Springs, California 92262

**CONTACT PERSON:** Ken Lyon, Associate Planner (760) 323-8245

**PROJECT TITLE:** Baristo Lofts Case: 5.1137 Planned Development District 335,  
3.3029 Major Architectural Application, and  
Tentative Tract Map 35230

**PROJECT LOCATION:** 300 South Palm Canyon Drive at the southeast corner of  
South Palm Canyon Drive and Baristo Road

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The project is comprised of a Planned Development District (PDD) application to establish a set of development standards that vary from those of the underlying Central Business District (CBD) zone and to apply the high-rise ordinance, a Major Architectural Application (MAJ) to construct a four-story mixed use development comprised of commercial/retail uses on the first floor, 19 residential condominium units on floors 2, 3, and 4, a roof deck with optional pool, and an adaptive re-use of an existing building known as the Santa Fe Federal Savings Bank ("Wessman Office Building") for retail/restaurant uses, and a Tentative Tract Map (TTM 35230) for condominium purposes. The project includes off-street parking and landscaping on a 0.676 acre (29,447 square foot) lot at the southeast corner of South Palm Canyon Drive and Baristo Road in the Central Business District (downtown) of Palm Springs.

**FINDINGS/DETERMINATION:** The City has reviewed and considered the proposed project and has determined that any potentially significant impacts can be mitigated to a less than significant level. The City hereby prepares and proposes to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for this project.

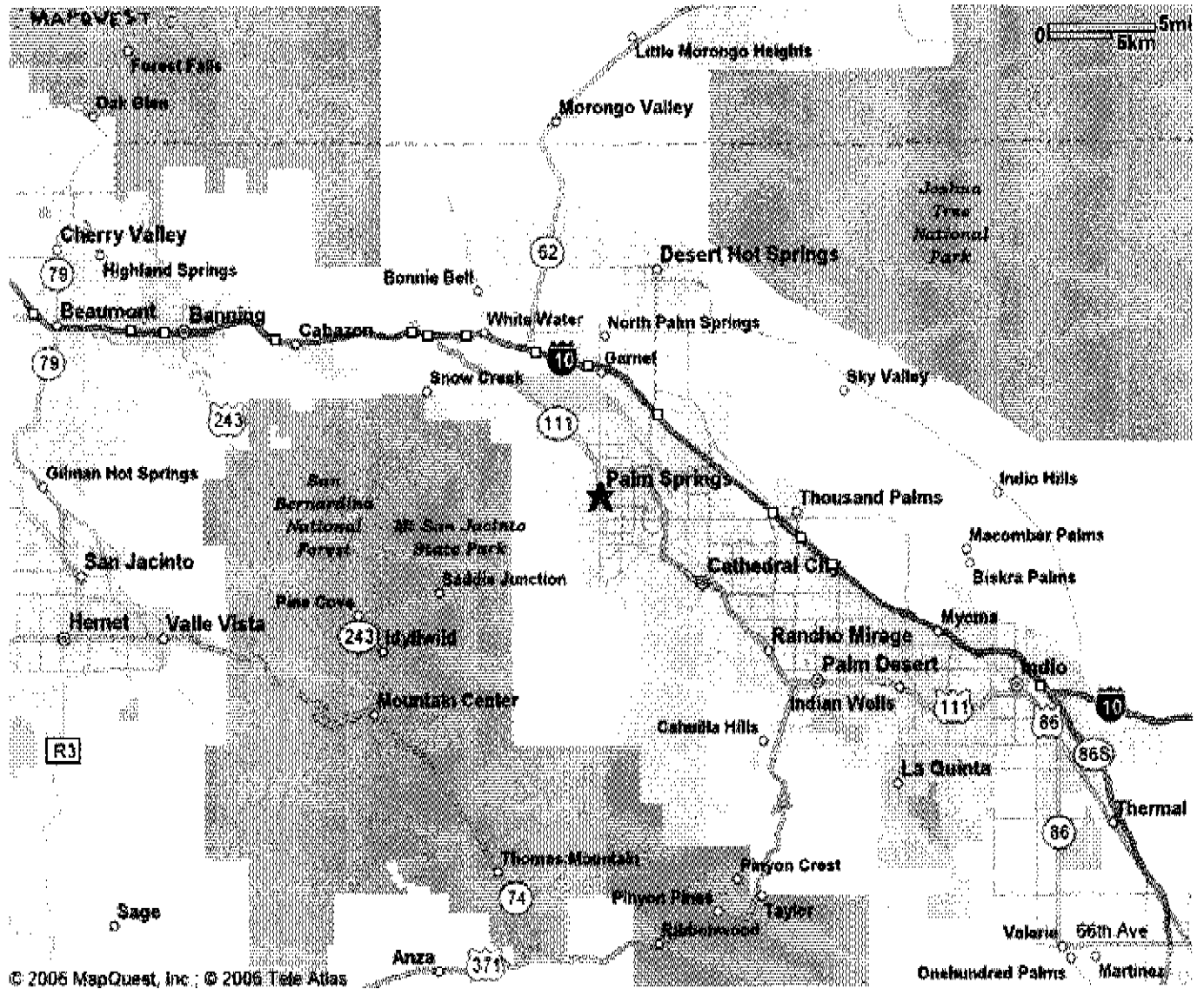
**PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD:** A 20-day public review period for the Draft Negative Declaration will commence at 8:00 am on October 27, 2008 and end on November 15, 2008 at 5:00 p.m. for interested individuals and public agencies to submit written comments on the document. Any written comments on the Mitigated Negative Declaration must be received at the above address within the public review period. In addition, you may email comments to the following address: Ken.Lyon@palmsprings-ca.gov. Copies of the Mitigated Negative Declaration and Initial Study are available for review at the above address and at the City library.

**PUBLIC MEETING:** This matter has been tentatively set for public hearing for the Planning Commission meeting on December 10, 2008 and for a future City Council meeting.

Environmental Initial Study  
for  
Case 5.1137 PD 335  
Baristo Lofts  
300 South Palm Canyon Drive



Prepared by:  
The City of Palm Springs, CA  
September, 2008



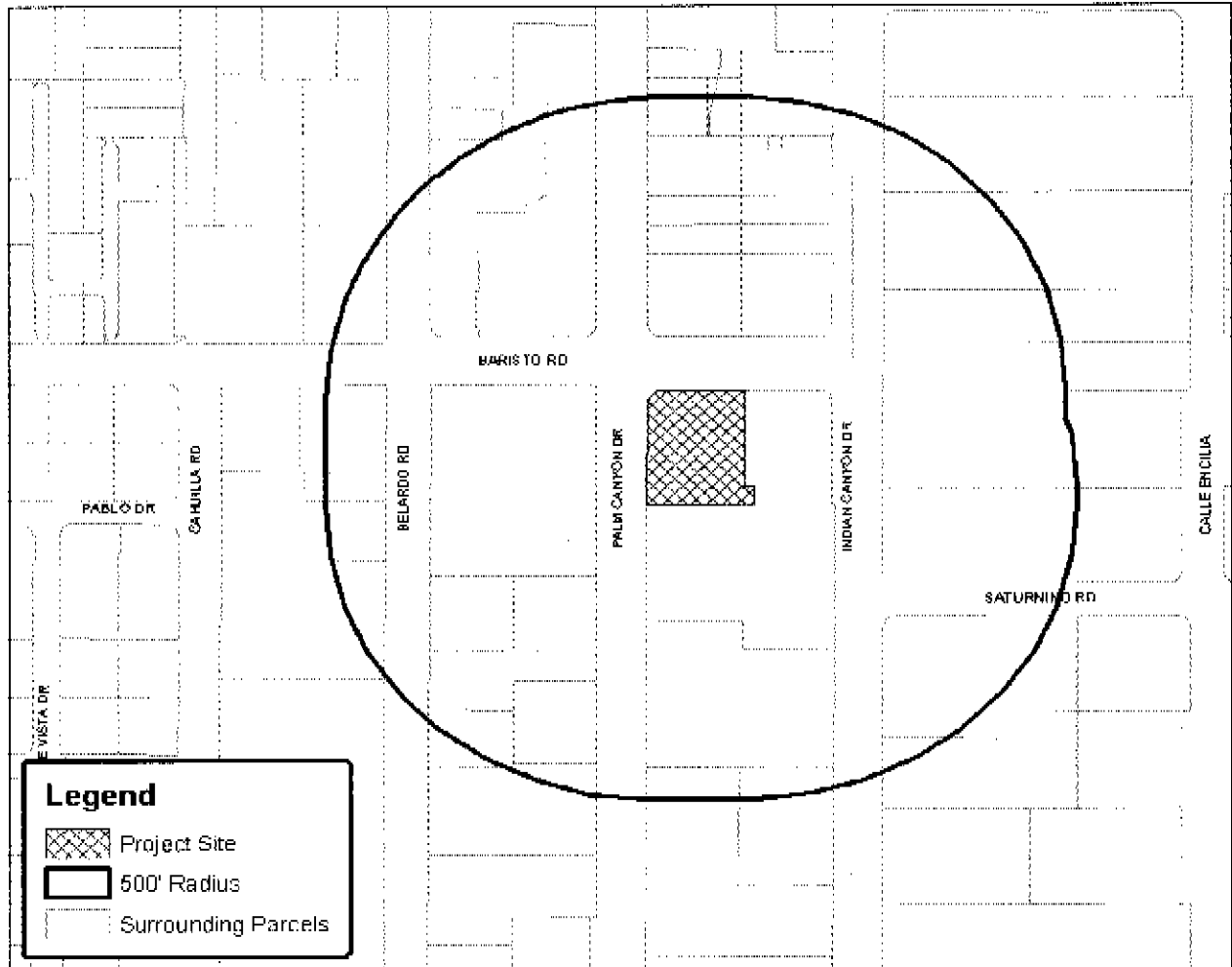
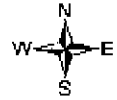
Regional Setting



CITY CONTEXT:



# Department of Planning Services Vicinity Map



**ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM**

**1. Project title:**

Case 5.1137 PD 335; Baristo Lofts

**2. Lead agency name and address:**

City of Palm Springs  
Department of Planning Services  
3200 East Tahquitz Canyon Way,  
Palm Springs, CA 92263

**3. Contact person and phone number:**

Edward O. Robertson, Principal Planner 760 323 8245  
Ken Lyon, Associate Planner 760 323 8245

**4. Project location:**

300 South Palm Canyon Drive; Palm Springs, CA 92262

**5. Project sponsor's name and address:**

Wessman Holdings, LLC  
300 South Palm Canyon Drive  
Palm Springs, Ca. 92262

**6. General plan designation:**

Central Business District

**7. Zoning:**

Central Business District

**8. Description of project:**

The project is comprised of a Planned Development District to request deviations from the underlying development standards and application of the high-rise ordinance to construct a four-story mixed use development comprised of commercial/retail uses on the first floor, 19 residential condominium units on floors 2, 3, and 4, a roof deck with optional pool, and an adaptive re-use of an existing building known as the Santa Fe Federal Savings Bank ("Wessman Office Building") for retail/restaurant uses., a Major Architectural Application, and a Tentative Tract Map (TTM) for condominium purposes. The project includes off-street parking and landscaping on a 0.676 acre (29,447 square foot) lot at the southeast corner of South Palm Canyon Drive and Baristo Road in the Central Business District (downtown) of Palm Springs.



**9. Surrounding land uses and setting: Briefly describe the project's surroundings:**

The project is located on the south end of the downtown Palm Springs in a fully developed urbanized area. The south end of downtown has, since the 50's been the location of a concentration of financial institutions and offices. To the west of downtown is a residential neighborhood called the Tennis Club Neighborhood comprised of single family residences and small hotels. To the south is more commercial development along South Palm Canyon Drive, to the east are commercial uses along Indian Canyon Drive and other mixes of residential and retail, and to the north is the downtown commercial area of Palm Springs.

**North-** Existing commercial, CBD (Central Business District) Zone

**South-** Existing commercial, CBD (Central Business District) Zone

**East -** Existing commercial, CBD (Central Business District) Zone

**West -** Existing commercial, CBD (Central Business District) Zone

**10. Other public agencies whose approval is required (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement):** (none)

**11. Environmental Factors Potentially Affected:**

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics         | <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture Resources              | <input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources      | <input type="checkbox"/> Geology/Soils          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hazards & Hazardous Materials | <input type="checkbox"/> Hydrology/Water Quality            | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use/Planning      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources             | <input type="checkbox"/> Noise                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Population/Housing     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Services               | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation/Traffic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities/Service Systems     | <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance |   |


**DETERMINATION:** (To be completed by the Lead Agency)

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

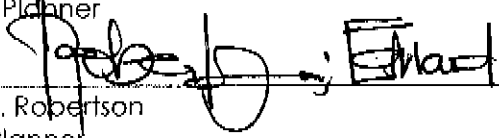
- I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
- I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or



NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ken Lyon  
Associate Planner

10/15/08  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Edward O. Robertson  
Principal Planner

10.15.08  
Date



**EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:**

- 1) A brief explanation is required for all answers except "No Impact" answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parentheses following each question. A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).
- 2) All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.
- 3) Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, then the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.
- 4) "Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated" applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures have reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact." The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level (mitigation measures "Earlier Analyses," as described in (5) below, may be cross-referenced).
- 5) Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. Section 15063(c)(3)(D). In this case, a brief discussion should identify the following:
  - a) Earlier Analysis Used. Identify and state where they are available for review.
  - b) Impacts Adequately Addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.
  - c) Mitigation Measures. For effects that are "Less than Significant with Mitigation Measures Incorporated," describe the mitigation measures which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.
- 6) Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.
- 7) Supporting Information Sources: A source list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.
- 8) This is only a suggested form, and lead agencies are free to use different formats; however, lead agencies should normally address the questions from this checklist that are relevant to a project's environmental effects in whatever format is selected.
- 9) The explanation of each issue should identify:
  - a) the significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and
  - b) the mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significance





	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>I. AESTHETICS. Would the project:</b>				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

a) The subject development is consistent with the General Plan including Appendix A, The Downtown Urban Design Plan. The General Plan recognizes view corridors along most of the east-west streets in the downtown area, including Baristo Road, on which this project fronts. The project proposes a 4 story building, however its impact is less than significant on scenic vistas because it is set at the far south end of the site and is oriented in an east-west direction to minimize any impacts on view corridors and scenic vistas.

b) The subject parcel is not within or near a designated scenic highway. However the site is developed with the existing Santa Fe Federal Bank Building (Currently used for the applicant's office). The building is recognized as a historic resource pursuant to the CEQA definition of a historic resource because it is on a citywide historic resources survey that was accepted by the City Council in 2004. The proposed project includes the construction of a 4 story high-rise building immediately adjacent and to the south of the existing building. Although the proposed high-rise would partially block views of the existing building when looking north at the site, the proposed new building does not modify or attach to the existing building and therefore does not cause any substantial damage to the existing building. At the north and west sides of the existing building, a concrete terrace and railings are proposed to be attached to the existing building. The terrace will be used as an outdoor dining area. It impacts the visual appearance of the historic resource. Theoretically the proposed terrace could be removed and the original building's appearance would be intact, therefore the project is not found to substantially damage the historic building. The applicant may also consider eliminating the terrace addition and modifying the existing glass curtain wall to create open-air dining within the existing building that would not have an adverse impact on the visual appearance of the building.

c) The visual character of the site will be changed from that of an open, low scale, low density site to a high density site incorporating a new building and subterranean parking, ramps and terraces. The proposed higher density and intensity of use is encouraged in the policies of the General Plan and the Downtown Urban Design Plan which envisions high density, multi-floor, mixed use development in this area. The proposed building complements the character and architecture of the area and the existing building on the site. For these reasons, the project is determined to have less than significant impact on the existing visual character of the site and its surroundings.



d) As a high-rise building of four stories, the large expanses of glass at the upper residential levels may be a potential source of light from the interior of the residential units and glare if the sun strikes the glass at certain angles during certain parts of the day. However, the residential units will be provided with conventional interior window coverings and drapes and the balconies and overhangs will shield the glazing during most parts of the day. Furthermore, the City's outdoor lighting standards in Section 93.21.00 of the Palm Springs Zoning Code ensures there will not be substantial amounts of glare radiating from the subject property in terms of its outdoor lighting component. Therefore, the project will cause a less than significant impact in terms of light and glare.



	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>II. AGRICULTURE RESOURCES.</b> In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997), prepared by the California Department of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. Would the project:				
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

- a) The proposed site is located in an urban area and is fully developed with a building, parking and landscaping. It does not contain prime, unique, or farmland of statewide importance. Therefore, no impact would occur
- b) Currently Williamson Act Contracts are not located on the parcel comprising the project site. Furthermore, no Williamson Act Contracts are located in the immediate vicinity of the project site (Williamson Acts Contracts) of the Palm Springs General Plan EIR (Palm Springs, 2007). The proposed project will not cause any impact with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act Contract.
- c) There is no agricultural land on, near or in the vicinity of the proposed project, therefore, no impact on agricultural land would occur.



	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>III. AIR QUALITY.</b> Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:				
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is in non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions that exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**a&b)** The project is highly unlikely to conflict with the local air quality plan or violate air quality standards or contribute substantially to existing or projected air quality problems within the jurisdiction of the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD). The SCAQMD Governing Board adopted the 2003 Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) on August 1, 2003. The 2003 AQMP updates the attainment demonstration for federal standards for ozone and PM10; replaces the 1997 attainment demonstration for the federal carbon monoxide (CO) standard and provides a basis for the maintenance plan for CO for the future; and updates the maintenance plan for the federal nitrogen dioxide (NO2) standard that the South Coast Air Basin has met since 1992. The revision of the AQMP points to the urgent need for additional emissions reductions (beyond those incorporated in the 1997/99 Plan) from all sources, specifically those under the jurisdiction of the California Air Resources Board and the US EPA which account for approximately 80 percent of the ozone precursor emissions in the Basin ([www.aqmd.gov/aqmp/](http://www.aqmd.gov/aqmp/)). The project is not anticipated to conflict with or obstruct implementation of the 2003 AQMP. Therefore, there will be no impact. The Federal and California State Ambient Air Quality Standards for important pollutants are summarized in Table 1 and described in detail below:



**Table 1**  
**Federal and State Ambient Air Quality Standards**

Pollutant	Averaging Time	Federal Primary Standard	State Standard
Ozone (O <sub>3</sub> )	1-Hour	0.12 ppm	0.09 ppm
	8-Hour	0.08 ppm	–
Carbon Monoxide (CO)	8-hour	9.0 ppm	9.0 ppm
	1-hour	35.0 ppm	20.0 ppm
Nitrogen Oxide (NO <sub>x</sub> )	Annual	0.05 ppm	–
	1-hour	–	0.25 ppm
Sulfur Dioxide (SO <sub>2</sub> )	Annual	0.03 ppm	–
	24-hour	0.14 ppm	0.05 ppm
	1-hour	–	0.5 ppm
PM <sub>10</sub>	Annual	50 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	30 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
	24-hour	150 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	50 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
PM <sub>2.5</sub>	Annual	15 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	–
	24-hour	65 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	–
Lead	30-day Avg.	–	1.5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
	Month Avg.	1.5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	–

Source: California Air Resources Board, "Ambient Air Quality Standards," January 25, 1999

ppm = parts per million

$\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  = micrograms per cubic meter

**Ozone (O<sub>3</sub>)** is the most prevalent class of photochemical oxidants formed in the urban atmosphere. The creation of ozone is a result of complex chemical reactions between hydrocarbons and oxides of nitrogen in the presence of sunshine. Unlike other pollutants, ozone is not released directly into the atmosphere from any sources. The major sources of oxides of nitrogen and reactive hydrocarbons, known as ozone precursors, are combustion sources such as factories and automobiles, and evaporation of solvents and fuels. The health effects of ozone are eye irritation and damage to lung tissues.

**Carbon Monoxide (CO)** is a colorless, odorless, toxic gas formed by incomplete combustion of fossil fuels. CO concentrations are generally higher in the winter, when meteorological conditions favor the build-up of directly emitted contaminants. CO health warning and emergency episodes occur almost entirely during the winter. The most significant source of carbon monoxide is gasoline-powered automobiles, as a result of inefficient fuel usage in internal combustion engines. Various industrial processes also emit carbon monoxide.

**Nitrogen Oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>)** the primary receptors of ultraviolet light initiating the photochemical reactions to produce smog. Nitric oxide combines with oxygen in the presence of reactive hydrocarbons and sunlight to form nitrogen dioxide and ozone. Oxides of nitrogen are contributors to other air pollutant problems including: high levels of fine particulate matter, poor visibility and acid disposition.

**Sulfur Dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>)** results from the combustion of high sulfur content fuels. Fuel combustion is a major source of SO<sub>2</sub>, while chemical plants, sulfur recover plants, and metal processing are minor contributors. Sulfates result from a reaction of sulfur dioxide and oxygen in the presence of sunlight. SO<sub>2</sub> levels are generally higher in the winter than in the summer (when sunlight is plentiful and sulfate is more readily formed).

**Particulate Matter (PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub>)** consists of particles in the atmosphere as a by-product of fuel combustion, through abrasion such as tire wear, and through soil erosion by wind. Particulates can also be formed through photochemical reactions in the atmosphere. PM<sub>10</sub> refers to finely divided solids or liquids such as soot, dust, and aerosols which are 10 microns or less in diameter and can enter the lungs. Fine particles are those less than 2.5 microns in diameter and are also referred to as PM<sub>2.5</sub>.

**Lead** is found in old paints and coatings, plumbing and a variety of other materials. Once in the blood stream, lead can cause damage to the brain, nervous system, and other body systems. Children are most susceptible to the effects of lead. The South County Air Basin and Riverside County portion of the Salton Sea Air Basin are in attainment for Federal and State standards for lead.



The SCAQMD has established significance thresholds for operational and construction-related emissions. Daily and quarterly thresholds are established. Since a project's quarterly emissions are determined by averaging over a 3-month period (including only actual working days), it is possible to not exceed the quarterly thresholds while exceeding the daily thresholds shown in **Table 2**.

**Table 2**  
**Emissions Significance Threshold Criteria (Pounds/Day)**

<b>Pollutant</b>	<b>CO</b>	<b>ROG</b>	<b>NOx</b>	<b>SO2</b>	<b>PM10</b>
Operational Emissions	<b>2.22</b>	<b>0.24</b>	<b>0.92</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.09</b>
Pounds/Day	550	55	100	150	150
Construction Emissions	<b>65.53</b>	<b>8.89</b>	<b>55.02</b>	<b>0.01</b>	<b>2.30</b>
Pounds/Day	550	75	100	150	150

c) The project site is also located within the Salton Sea Air Basin. This basin has been designated as a "severe-17" Ozone non-attainment area due to the violations of the federal ambient air quality standards for ozone primarily due to pollutant transport from the South Coast Air Basin. This designation indicates that the attainment date for Federal ozone standards is November 2007 (17 years after the enactment of the Federal Clean Air Act)

The project's proposed land use is consistent with the City's General Plan. When adopted in 2007, the City Council adopted a Statement of Overriding Consideration regarding air quality. This statement acknowledges that it is not feasible to reduce City-growth impacts to air quality to a level of significance at this time. The project will also be consistent with the South Coast Air Quality Management District CEQA Air Quality Handbook.

d) Construction of the proposed project will result in disturbance of the site that could generate dust. The project developer will be required to complete a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan SWPPP/PM10 Plan that must be prepared and implemented to the satisfaction of the City Building and Safety Department. The Plan must be consistent with the approved AQMD standards intended to minimize health hazards.

Sensitive Receptors are generally defined as people that are of the highest risk of respiratory problems from emissions. Sensitive receptors are often times associated with schools, hospitals, convalescent homes, etc. The site is located within the central business district of Palm Springs which is commercially developed and the nearest potential sensitive receptors would be the single-family residential dwellings to the west of the subject property. As discussed above, the proposed project is not anticipated to generate substantial pollutant concentrations and will not create objectionable odors beyond those associated with common construction activities and approved warehouse uses (diesel fumes, etc.)

e) The project proposes a restaurant as an adaptive reuse of the existing structure on the site. Associated with that restaurant will be a commercial kitchen which may generate odors from its exhaust fan systems, however typical kitchen exhaust systems will be used that incorporate filters and other air quality control mechanisms that will render these exhaust odors less than significant in terms of their impact to a significant number of people.



	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES. Would the project:</b>				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands, as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal wetlands, etc.), through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption or other means?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional or state habitat conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

a) The project will not have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The proposed project site is located in an urbanized area of the Central Business District of the City of Palm Springs and is currently developed with an office building and associated parking. Therefore, the project would not result in impacts to endangered, threatened, or rare species or their habitats.

b) The subject site is developed with an existing building and associated parking and is not identified as having any natural community that could be affected by the project. Therefore, the project would not have an adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community.

c) Section 404 of the Clean Water Act regulates the dredge and/or fill of waters and wetlands in the United States, specifically relating to how these activities may cause an adverse effect to, or loss of, federal wetland/water resources. Regulatory responsibility falls under the jurisdictional authority of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOF). Under Section 404, any development or activity which may result in temporary or permanent impacts to these federally-protected resources must prepare a



Pre-Construction Notification for review, and potential permitting, by the ACOE. The site does not contain any wetland areas or waters. Therefore, no impact to federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 would occur.

- d) The project site is located within an urbanized area with existing infrastructure. It is logical to assume that wildlife would use areas with less intense development and less existing infrastructure as corridors. No impact is anticipated.
- e) The project does not propose to remove or disturb any sensitive biological resources or landmark trees. Therefore, no conflicts with local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources would occur, causing no impact.
- f) The City of Palm Springs has adopted the Coachella Valley Multi-species Habitat Conservation Plan (CVMSHCP). The project is not located in or near a designated conservation area of the MSHCP and therefore, the project would have no significant impact on this plan.





	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>V. CULTURAL RESOURCES. Would the project:</b>				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in " 15064.5?"	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to " 15064.5?"	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geological feature?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

a) The site contains an existing building which has been identified as a historic resource by CEQA definition because it has been identified in a citywide historic resource survey that was accepted by the City Council in 2004. In 2007, the Palm Springs Historic Site Preservation Board (HSPB) recommended to the City Council that it designate the Santa Fe Federal Savings Bank a Class 1 Historic Site. The City Council held a public hearing on April 4, 2007 concerning the HSPB recommendation and elected to continue its hearing to combine it with the hearing of the project that is the subject of this initial study.

CEQA defines a "substantial adverse change in the significance of a historic resource" as "physical destruction, relocation, or alteration of the resource or its immediate surroundings such that the significance of a historic resource would be materially impaired." A historic resource is considered "materially impaired" when a project:

- (A) demolishes or materially alters in an adverse manner those physical characteristics of a historic resource that convey its historical significance and justify its inclusion or eligibility for inclusion in the California Register of Historic Places,
- (B) Demolishes or materially alters the characteristics that account for its inclusion in a local register of historic resources"
- (C) Demolishes or materially alters in an adverse manner those characteristics of a historic resource that convey its historic significance and that justify its eligibility for inclusion in the California Register of Historical Resources as determined by a lead agency for purposes of CEQA.

The proposed project would significantly alter the immediate surroundings of the site of the Santa Fe Federal Savings Bank by constructing a new 4 story building in close proximity to it. However, the proposed new building would not materially alter the historic character-defining architectural elements of the existing building, and thus is considered a less than significant impact. The addition of the proposed front concrete dining terrace and railings would materially alter the historic character-defining architectural feature of the linear, uninterrupted cantilevered concrete base and clean lines of the existing building. It may be possible to design and construct the terrace addition and railings such that they could be removed at a future date to return the building to its original condition. This impact could also be resolved by eliminating the proposed terrace addition and achieving open-air dining instead by modifying the curtain wall of the existing building to allow it to slide open to create the open-air dining experience.

b,c, & d) The General Plan for the City of Palm Springs indicates there should be no impact to prehistoric archeological resources as a result of this project because there are no known resources on the site.



The Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians utilized a vast territory beyond the bounds of the existing reservation. The possibility of finding human remains does exist in this area. In accordance with Public Resources Code 5.097.94, if human remains are found, the Riverside County Coroner must be notified within 24 hours of the discovery. If the coroner determines that the remains are not recent, the coroner will notify the Native American Heritage Commission in Sacramento to determine the most likely descendants for the area. The designated Native American representative then determines in consultation with the property owner the disposition of the human remains.

Due to the proximity of Tribal lands, there is the potential for previously undiscovered cultural resources to be discovered during the project construction and site grading activities. Tribal interests in such previously undiscovered resources prescribe the following Conditions of Approval:

1. An Archeologist qualified according to the Secretary of Interior's Guidelines shall perform a record search of the proposed project are, to be conducted prior to the initiation of construction
2. A Cultural Resource Monitor, designated by the Agua Caliente Cultural Resource Office, shall be present during all ground-disturbing activities. Should buried deposits be encountered, the Cultural Resources Monitor shall have the authority to halt construction and notify a Qualified Archeologist (Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines) to prepare a mitigation plan for submission to the City, State Historic Preservation Officer and the Agua Caliente Cultural Resource coordinator for approval and any repatriation of cultural materials to be done in cooperation with the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians.

Adherence to the Conditions of Approval identified above will ensure potential impacts to cultural resources are not significant.



	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS.</b> Would the project:				
a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury or death, involving:				
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
iv) Landslides?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

(a) The majority of Riverside County lies within areas subject to seismic hazards. The subject site lies south of the Banning Fault Mission Creek Strand. The site is not located within the Alquist-Priolo earthquake hazard zone and there are no known faults crossing the project site. However, the project site, as with virtually all sites within the state, would be vulnerable to ground shaking in the event of an earthquake. The project site and surrounding vicinity are relatively flat, eliminating the potential for landslides. The City of Palm Springs requires that the project be designed and constructed in accordance with the requirements of the Uniform Building Code (UBC). Adherence to the provisions of the UBC would reduce the potential for structural damage in the event of an earthquake. Therefore, no impact would occur.

b. Existing codes regulate land grading and erosion control. Adherence to these regulations is required as part of the building permit process. Therefore, no impact would occur.

(c-d) See items a and b, above.

e) The proposed project will require a soils report to be submitted to the Departments of Building and Safety and Engineering to ensure the integrity of the project design. The project design will be



required to address and compensate for any soil inadequacies that may be discovered through the soils report; therefore, no impact would occur.



	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>VII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS. Would the project:</b>				
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use or disposal of hazardous materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code §65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan area or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or a public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Impair implementation of, or physically interfere with, an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

a-b) No hazardous material uses are proposed as part of the project. Therefore, there would be no significant impact.

c-d) The project site is not included on a list of hazardous material sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5. No impact would occur. The commercial/office use will not emit hazardous emissions.

e-f) The nearest airport is the Palm Springs International Airport which is more than two miles from the subject site. The project is therefore not within an airport land use plan.

g) The City of Palm Springs Emergency Plan was established to address planned response to extraordinary emergency situations associated with natural disasters and technological accidents.



The Plan focuses on operational concepts relative to large-scale disasters, which can pose major threats to life and personal property requiring unusual emergency response. The proposed project will have no impact on the City's ability to implement the Plan.

- h) Based on the site's location, which is within an urbanized area of, commercial and residential development, it would not be subject to wild land fire. No impact would occur.



	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>VIII. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY. Would the project:</b>				
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner that would result in flooding on- or off-site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures that would impede or redirect flood flows?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of a failure of a levee or dam?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
j) Inundation by seiche, tsunami or mudflow?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

a,e) The project would be required to meet all applicable water quality standards or waste discharge requirements thereby avoiding violation of such standards or requirements. The project site is within a tract with approved storm-water run-off facilities. Therefore, no changes to approved drainage patterns are anticipated.

b) The proposed project does not require significant quantities of potable water. The landscape design must conform to the City's water-efficient landscape ordinance, requiring lower quantities of water than traditional landscape design schemes. A net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table as a result of this project is not anticipated and therefore, no impact would occur.



- c-d) The project would not alter the course of any stream or river, as none are located on-site or in the immediate vicinity of the site. Therefore, no impact would occur.
- f) No additional impacts to water quality are anticipated.
- g-h) The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) indicates in the Flood Insurance Rate Map for the project site area, that the site is not within the 100-year floodplain, therefore there are no flooding impacts associated with the proposed project.
- i) The Palm Springs General Plan Environmental Impact Report does not identify flooding as a result of levee or dam failure as having a potential to expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss injury or death in the City of Palm Springs. Therefore, no impact would occur.
- j) The City of Palm Springs is not located in an area subject to seiche, tsunami, or mudflow. Therefore, no impact would occur.





	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>IX. LAND USE AND PLANNING. Would the project:</b>				
a) Physically divide an established community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to, the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

- a) The proposed project is located on a site that is located in the urbanized Central Business District, therefore; there is no established community that will be divided.
- b) The proposed project would be consistent with the allowable uses within the General Plan designation of CBD (Central Business District), which allows for mixed use development of retail commercial and residential uses. The project application includes a Planned Development District which would establish a unique set of development standards for the site, which if approved, would enable the project to conform to applicable zoning codes. No other land use plans or regulations are applicable to the proposed project site. Therefore, no impact would occur.
- c) The project would not conflict with an applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan. No impact would occur.



	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>X. MINERAL RESOURCES.</b> Would the project:				
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

a-b) No significant mineral resources have been identified in the project area. The Palm Springs General Plan EIR has not identified any mineral resources in the vicinity of the project site. Therefore, no impact on mineral resources would occur.



	Potentially Significant Impact	Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>XI. NOISE. Would the project result in:</b>				
a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance or of applicable standards of other agencies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan area or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or a public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

a,b,d) Construction and site grading activities associated with the proposed project will produce temporary increases in the ambient noise level in the immediate vicinity of the project site. Construction activities are regulated by City Ordinance 1581, which limits construction activities to 7 AM-7PM Monday through Friday, 8AM-5PM Saturdays, and prohibits construction activities on Sundays and major holidays. Adherence to this ordinance will ensure that less than significant impacts would occur.

c) No increase in noise over the approved limits of the Palm Springs Noise Ordinance is anticipated.

e-f) The proposed project is not within the airport noise overlay within the City of Palm Springs Zoning Map. Therefore, there is no impact.



	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>XII. POPULATION AND HOUSING. Would the project:</b>				
a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (e.g., by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (e.g., through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

a-c) No housing currently exists on the proposed project site. The proposed project would provide 19 new residential units. The City of Palm Springs General Plan Housing Element anticipates additional housing units will be created over time as the city is built out. The proposed project is consistent with the General Plan in that it contemplates mixed use projects in the downtown that include a residential component. Therefore, while the project proposes a small number of residential units, it will have a less than significant impact on regional population growth.



	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>XIII. PUBLIC SERVICES.</b> Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the following public services:				
a) Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Other public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

- a) The Palm Springs Fire Department has established conditions of approval including a Community Facilities District that may be imposed on the subject project to address the long term cumulative impacts of development and growth in the CBD and to provide a funding mechanism to contribute to the cost of new fire fighting apparatus and to ensure that there is no significant impact on the Fire Departments ability to service the community to their standard level of service.
- b) The project site is located within the service area of the City of Palm Springs Police Department (PSPD). PSPD currently has adequate staff resources to provide police protection services as needed to the proposed project. Therefore, impacts to police protection would not be significant.
- c) The Palm Springs Unified School District has incorporated the projected future housing growth anticipated in the City's General Plan on its long term capital improvement and development program for new and expanded schools. Therefore, although the project proposes a small number of new residential units, there would be a less than significant impact on schools.
- d) he project includes a roof top pool and recreation area. This development of 19 residential units and retail commercial would not significantly increase the demand for parks and recreation services. Therefore, no impact would occur.
- e) The proposed project would not create any significant impact to the service levels of other public facilities. The property will be required to contribute to a Community Facility District if the area is designated as a district that requires additional public services, therefore a mitigation measure has been incorporated in the Conditions of Approval that would result in no impact on other public facilities.



	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>XIV. RECREATION.</b>				
a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Does the project include recreational facilities, or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

a-b) The City's General Plan indicates an adequate number of total acreage per capita of open space and recreational facilities. The project proposal includes a roof top terrace and optional swimming pool but does not require construction of or expansion of recreational facilities that would have an adverse impact on the environment. Therefore, no impact would occur.



	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>XV. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC.</b> Would the project:				
a) Cause an increase in traffic that is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume-to-capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Result in inadequate parking capacity?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Conflict with adopted policies, plans or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

- a-b) Impacts to traffic resulting from the proposed project will be consistent with the levels of service anticipated for the proposed density of the site as allowed by the General Plan. The proposed project is consistent with the City of Palm Springs General Plan Circulation Element. There will be no impact on the levels of service (LOS) for the area.
- c) The proposed project does not include any components that could impact air traffic operations. The proposed project is located further than two miles from the Palm Springs International Airport and is not within the Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan.
- d-e) The proposed project will not substantially increase hazards due to a design feature. Emergency access to the project site will comply with the requirements identified by the City Fire Department. The proposed elimination of a driveway onto South Palm Canyon Drive will likely improve traffic safety by eliminating a mid-block source of traffic and a point of vehicular/pedestrian conflict at that drive.
- f-g) The project proposes a substantial number of off-street parking spaces as defined in the Planned Development District application. With approval of this PDD, the project's off-street parking will be consistent with the requirements within the Palm Springs Zoning Ordinance. Therefore, no significant impact will occur.



	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>XVI. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS. Would the project:</b>				
a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider that serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand, in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Comply with federal, state and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

a,b,c,e) The proposed project is consistent with development densities and uses proposed in the General Plan for the CBD (Central Business District) General Plan. The General Plan does not indicate that water wastewater treatment, storm or drainage facilities will be adversely impacted by this level of development, therefore the project has no impact.

d) The proposed project will not require expanded entitlements to ensure adequate water capacity. Therefore, the project will have no impact.

f-g) The City of Palm Springs contracts with Palm Springs Disposal Services (PSDS) for solid waste collection services. Solid waste generated in the area is collected at the Fdom Hill landfill which is a transfer site for solid waste taken to other regional landfills. The General Plan identifies that these landfills are anticipated to have a remaining life of approximately 25 years. The City and Palm Springs Disposal Services has also entered into a new single-source recycling collection program which is anticipated to decrease the amount of waste per household going into the landfills and will increase the amount of waste that is diverted to be recycled. Therefore, no significant impact would occur.





	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>XVII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE</b>				
a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wild-life population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of rare or endangered plants or animals, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? "Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Does the project have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

- a) The proposed project would not degrade the quality of the environment; result in an adverse impact on fish, wildlife, or plant species including special status species, or eliminate important examples of major periods in California's history or prehistory because the project components do not include any construction or development on areas that are identified as sensitive, endangered, not within conservation areas.  
Prehistoric or historic cultural resources would not be adversely affected because no archeological resources are known to exist in the proposed project areas. The project's impact on historic resources on the site has been evaluated and determined to be less than significant or less than significant with mitigation measures enacted. Further, project implementation includes compliance with appropriate procedures for avoiding or preserving artifacts or human remains if they are discovered.
- b) All project impacts would be reduced by adhering to basic regulatory requirements and/or conditions of approval.
- c) The proposed project would not have any direct or indirect adverse impacts on humans.

**REFERENCES**

- 1) City of Palm Springs. City of Palm Springs Draft Environmental Impact Report, 2007.
- 2) City of Palm Springs. City of Palm Springs General Plan, 2007.
- 3) City of Palm Springs. City of Palm Springs Zoning Code, 2004 et seq.
- 4) South Coast Air Quality Management District. CEQA Air Quality Handbook, 1993.
- 5) U.S. Code of Federal Regulations, Title 23, Chapter 26, Subchapter IV. "Clean Water Act", 1994.
- 6) Government Code Section 65962.5(f). "Hazardous Waste and Substances Statement".



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November 14, 2008

*Via Email*

*Original to follow*

Ken Lyon  
Associate Planner  
City of Palm Springs  
3200 E. Tahquitz Canyon Way  
Palm Springs, CA 92263

Re: Baristo Lofts Mixed Use Commercial/Residential Project; Case No. 5.1137  
Planned Development District 335; Case No. 3.3029-Major Architectural  
Application; Tentative Tract Map 35230

Dear Mr. Lyon:

On behalf of the Palm Springs Modern Committee, we object to the use of a mitigated negative declaration ("MND") for the Wessman Holdings, LLC's proposed Baristo Lofts Mixed Use Commercial/Residential project, ("Baristo Lofts project" or the "Project") at 300 South Palm Canyon Drive. The proposed Project includes the construction of a four-story, mixed-use complex immediately next to the existing historically significant former Santa Fe Federal Savings and Loan Building ("Santa Fe Building"). The Santa Fe Building is a distinctive example of commercial mid-century Desert Modern architecture designed by prominent local architect E. Stewart Williams. The Project includes 5,033 square feet of new retail, 19 condominium units, and proposes to convert the 6,647 square foot Santa Fe Building into a restaurant. The Santa Fe Building is currently used as an office building.

An Environmental Impact Report ("EIR") must be prepared and certified, rather than the proposed MND. Of particular concern to the Palm Springs Modern Committee are the severe impacts this Project would have on the historically significant Santa Fe Building by physically altering the historic building and constructing a new building that overwhelms and encroaches upon it. There is substantial evidence to support a fair argument that there may be significant adverse impacts from this proposed Project in the areas of cultural resources, aesthetics, parking, noise, and land use. Further, the Project improperly defers mitigation of its many impacts.

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## **I. Adoption of the MND and Approval of the Project as Proposed Would Violate CEQA**

### **A. This Project Does Not Meet the Legal Standards for a MND**

The California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") requires an EIR whenever a project may have a significant adverse impact on the environment. (Public Resources Code section 21151.) "If there is substantial evidence of a significant environmental impact, evidence to the contrary does not dispense with the need for an EIR when it can still be 'fairly argued' that the project may have a significant impact." (*Friends of "B" Street v. City of Hayward* (1980) 106 Cal.App.3d 988, 1001.) Thus, a MND is appropriate only when, *before the CEQA review process begins*, there is not a fair argument that there may be adverse impacts.

According to Public Resources Code section 21064.5:

"Mitigated negative declaration" means a negative declaration prepared for a project when the initial study has identified potentially significant effects on the environment, but (1) revisions in the project plans or proposals made by or agreed to by, the applicant before the proposed negative declaration and initial study are released for public review would avoid the effects or mitigate the effects to a point where clearly no significant effect on the environment would occur, and (2) there is no substantial evidence in light of the whole record before the public agency that the project, as revised, may have a significant effect on the environment.

Because there is substantial evidence to support a fair argument that there may be significant adverse impacts, even after mitigation, an EIR must be prepared, circulated, and ultimately certified, that accurately describes the Project, assesses the Project's significant impacts, and identifies mitigation measures that can reduce those impacts, and describes and compares the environmental impacts of potentially feasible alternatives. Ultimately, the Project may not be approved if there are significant adverse impacts unless all feasible mitigation measures or alternatives have been adopted.

### **B. The Project May Have Significant Impacts**

An EIR must be prepared instead of a MND when there is substantial evidence to support a fair argument that the project may have significant adverse environmental impacts. "The fair argument standard is a "low threshold" test for requiring the preparation of an EIR." (*Pocket Protectors v. City Of Sacramento* (2004) 124

Cal.App.4th 903, 928.) A fair argument can be made that this Project may have significant cultural resources, aesthetic, parking, noise, and land use impacts.

**1. The Historically Significant Santa Fe Federal Savings and Loan Building Will be Adversely Impacted by the Project**

CEQA section 21084.1 mandates that “[a] project that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an historical resource is a project that may have a significant effect on the environment.” The MND acknowledges that the Santa Fe Building is a significant historic resource because the building has been identified in a citywide historic resource survey that was accepted by the City Council. (MND p. 16; see also CEQA Guidelines § 15064.5(a).) Additional evidence of the historic significance of the Santa Fe Building is contained in the expert reports of Peter Moruzzi and Patrick McGrew that are attached to this comment letter as well as the many letters submitted in support of listing the building as a Class 1 Historic Site, the Palm Springs Historic Site Preservation Board’s finding that the Santa Fe Building is eligible for listing as a Class 1 Historic Site, and the letters objecting to the Baristo Lofts project in 2007<sup>1</sup>.

A substantial adverse change in the significance of an historical resource means “physical demolition, destruction, relocation, or *alteration* of the resource *or its immediate surroundings* such that the significance of an historical resource would be materially impaired.” (CEQA Guidelines § 15064.5(b)(1), emphasis added.) Material impairment includes altering those physical characteristics of an historical resource that convey its historical significance. (CEQA Guidelines § 15064.5(b)(2).) The Baristo Lofts project would significantly adversely impact the historically significant Santa Fe Building by physically altering several character defining features of the historic building and by negatively altering the building’s setting.

The MND itself provides evidence of the Project’s significant historic resource impacts. It states that “[t]he addition of the proposed front concrete dining terrace and railings would materially alter the historic character-defining architectural feature of the linear, uninterrupted cantilevered concrete base and clean lines of the existing building.” This is a significant impact that must be studied and mitigated in a full EIR. (Attachment 1, Moruzzi Report.) The MND also proposes that instead of altering the Santa Fe Building by adding on a terrace, the project may modify the glass curtain wall of the existing building. This glass curtain wall is a key character-defining feature of the International Style and its alteration or removal would result in a significant adverse

<sup>1</sup> Palm Springs Modern Committee requests that all comments submitted regarding the negative declaration for this project that was circulated for comment in 2007 and regarding the Class 1 designation of the Santa Fe Building be evaluated as part of the current environmental review and be include in the administrative record for this project.

impact to the Santa Fe Building. (*Ibid.*) The previous iteration of the Baristo Lofts project also proposed to remove the teller windows from the Santa Fe Building, but it is unclear whether the currently proposed project would do so. Removal of the teller windows would also result in a significant impact to the historic Santa Fe Building.

The Baristo Lofts project would cause an additional substantial adverse change in the historic significance of the Santa Fe Building by negatively altering the setting of this historic resource. “[A] key aspect of Williams’ design is its setting: the building sits as a freestanding pavilion surrounded by open space – analogous to a classical Greek temple (a common design theme in bank architecture) – which allows the structure to be viewed as a sculptural object in its dramatic corner location.” (Moruzzi Report.) The Project encroaches upon and proposes to dwarf this one story, freestanding historic building with a new four story building immediately to the south of the Santa Fe Building, significantly affecting the original setting of the building as intended by the architect. Although not disclosed in the MND, the building plans for the Project submitted by Cioffi Architect in May of 2008 show the decks from the proposed new four story building to be only approximately five feet from the character-defining overhanging eaves of the historic Santa Fe Building. Thus the Project would significantly impact the Santa Fe Building’s immediate surroundings.

The MND fails to include mitigation for the significant impacts the Project would have on the historic Santa Fe Building. The CEQA Guidelines state: “Generally, a project that follows the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring, and Reconstructing Historic Buildings or the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation and Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings (1995), Weeks and Grimmer, shall be considered as mitigated to a level of less than significant impact on the historical resource.” (CEQA Guidelines § 15064.5(3).) As detailed in the expert report of Patrick McGrew, the Project fails to follow many of the Secretary of Interior’s Standards. (Attachment 2, McGrew Report.) The Standards state that only minimal changes to defining characteristics of historic resources should be allowed, the removal of historic materials and spaces that characterize an historic site should be avoided, distinctive features should be preserved, and new additions should not destroy historic materials.

The Baristo Lofts project fails to comply with these Standards by physically altering the Santa Fe building and the historic spaces that characterize the building and its setting. (McGrew Report.)

## 2. Aesthetic Impacts

“[A]ny substantial, negative effect of a project on view and other features of beauty could constitute a “significant” environmental impact under CEQA.” (*Quail*

*Botanical Gardens Foundation, Inc. v. City of Encinitas* (1994) 29 Cal.App.4<sup>th</sup> 1597, 1604.) According to the California Court of Appeal, lay opinions that articulate the basis of the opinion can constitute substantial evidence of a negative aesthetic impact. (*Ocean View Estates Homeowners Assoc., Inc. v. Montecito Water District* (2004) 116 Cal.App.4<sup>th</sup> 396, 402.) Expert testimony on the matter is not required because the overall aesthetic impact of a project is a subjective matter for which personal observations are sufficient evidence of the impact. (*Id.*; *Oro Fine Gold Mining Corp. v. County of El Dorado* (1990) 225 Cal.App.3d 872, 882.)

The MND finds that the aesthetic impacts of the Project will be less than significant because the height of the building is in keeping with the Guidelines of the Downtown Urban Design Plan. (MND p. 8.) First, this finding appears to be incorrect based on the latest site plans prepared for the Project. The Project site is located in a mixed use office residential transition zone. There is a 45 foot height limit in this zone according to the Downtown Urban Design Plan, but a height of 45 feet is only be allowed if a project has a height of 18 feet on the street front, then steps back to 45 feet to accommodate residential lofts. (Downtown Urban Design Plan p. 37.) The May 2008 Cioffi Architect plans for the Project show the proposed new four story building having a height above this limit, approximately 55 feet. This is in violation of the Downtown Urban Design Plan (which is a part of the City's General Plan) and would result in a significant impact. Additionally, the Project fails to comply with the Downtown Urban Design Plan's requirement to step back the height of the building away from the street front.

The Project would also have a significant aesthetic impact by substantially degrading the existing visual character and quality of the site. The Project proposes to build a four story structure immediately to the south of the historic Santa Fe Building. The new structure is not consistent with the character of this iconic, pavilion-like structure. The setting of the architectural masterpiece would be destroyed by the proposed Project, resulting in a significant aesthetic impact. Additionally, the Project proposes modifications to the appearance of this historic structure, adding a terrace on the north and west sides of the building. This is not consistent with the design of the building and will impact the aesthetic splendor of the building's design which currently makes the structure appear to float above the site. (See Attachment 3, discussion of Santa Fe Federal Savings and Loan in *Palm Springs Weekend*, p. 123, 125.)

### 3. The Project May Have Significant Parking Impacts

The MND claims that there will be no parking impact because the Project proposes a "substantial number" of off-street parking spaces and that with approval of the Planned Development District ("PDD") the amount of off-street parking would be consistent with

the Palm Springs Zoning Ordinance. (MND p. 30.) The Palm Springs Zoning Ordinance section 94.03.00(C)(2), which sets out regulations for PDDs, states that parking requirements for PDDs shall be subject to the requirements of section 93.06.00 and these requirements can only be modified upon the submittal of a specific parking plan. As there is no specific parking plan referenced in the MND and none was found elsewhere in the record for this Project pursuant to a Public Records Act request, Zoning Ordinance section 93.06.00 applies to the Baristo Lofts project. According to Zoning Ordinance section 93.06.00 requirements, the Project would be required to provide 1 space per 400 square feet of retail and commercial, including the new restaurant, if it will include "in-lieu" payments to partially satisfy parking requirements (if no payments are required, parking should be provided at a rate of 1 space per 300 square feet), and for the residential 1.25 spaces for one bedroom units and 1.5 for two bedrooms, with an additional one visitor's space for every four residential units.

According to the May 2008 Cioffi Architect plans, the Project would include 5,033 square feet of new retail and the new restaurant would be 6,647 square feet, for a total of 11,680 square feet of retail/commercial. The project would also include 7 two bedroom units and 12 one bedroom units. Thus the Project would be required to provide 29 parking spaces for retail/commercial (if an "in-lieu" payment is made, otherwise 39 parking spaces for retail uses would be required) and 31 residential parking spaces for a total of 60 parking spaces required pursuant to the Palm Springs Zoning Ordinance. The May 2008 Cioffi Architect plans show that the Project would violate this requirement by providing only 51 parking spaces off-site parking spaces. Thus, even if the Project includes an "in-lieu" payment to offset the cost of allowing a portion of the Project generated traffic to park in City owned parking lots, it is still significantly under-parked. This is a significant impact. Additionally, traffic expert Weston Pringle has found that the Project's lack of parking may lead to additional traffic congestion in the area, which could result in a significant impact. (Attachment 4, Pringle Report.)

#### **4. The Project Failed to Provide the Required Acoustical Report**

An acoustical report is required to be submitted with residential developments adjacent to certain high traffic streets in the City of Palm Springs. The City requires this report to be submitted with the application indicating the noise impact from traffic, as it affects the development, and mitigation measures to reduce the impact to an acceptable level. Palm Canyon Drive is included in the list of high traffic streets requiring an acoustical report by a registered professional acoustical consultant. However, despite the use of a Public Records Act request, no such report could be found by the Palm Springs Modern Committee in the City's file for this Project.

## 5. Land Use Impacts

The Palm Spring's General Plan requires the protection and preservation of historically and architecturally significant buildings and sites throughout the City of Palm Springs. (General Plan Policy RC10.1.) As discussed above, the proposed Project would adversely impact the historically significant Santa Fe Building by destroying this historic resources setting and materially altering its character-defining features. In doing so, the Project is inconsistent with Policy RC10.1 of the City's General Plan and that lack of consistency is a significant land use impact.

The Project may also exceed the allowable floor area ratio ("FAR") of 1 set forth in Palm Springs Zoning Ordinance section 92.09.03(D). An FAR of 1 means that the square footage of the Project cannot exceed the square footage of the lot the Project is located upon. The MND states that Project is located on a 29,447 square foot lot. As disclosed in an email from architect James Cioffi to the City's Planning Department, the Project will have a total floor area (including the Santa Fe Building, the new retail and new residential development) of 33,062 square feet. This results in a FAR of 1.12, in violation of Zoning Ordinance section 92.09.03(D) and significant land use impact.

### C. The Mitigation Measures Proposed as Part of the Project are Improperly Deferred and Unenforceable.

Mitigation measures must be "required in, or incorporated into" a project. (Pub. Resources Code § 21081 (a)(1); *Federation of Hillside and Canyon Assoc. v. City of Los Angeles* (2000) 83 Cal.App.4<sup>th</sup> 1252, 1261.) Deferral of the analysis of the feasibility and adoption of mitigation measures violates CEQA. (*Sundstrom v. County of Mendocino* (1988) 202 Cal.App.3d 296, 306-308.) Additionally, CEQA's mandate requires a project to have effective, enforceable mitigation measures. Mitigation must be included as part of the project "*before the proposed negative declaration and initial study are released for public review.*" (Public Resources Code section 21064.5, emphasis added.)

The MND declares that the Project would have no significant impact and therefore does not require mitigation (MND p. 5) and then paradoxically suggests that mitigation measures are for the Project. Many of the mitigation measures the MND states as being necessary are improperly deferred or unenforceable in violation of CEQA's requirements. The MND states that a storm water pollution prevention/PM-10 plan should be prepared to combat air quality impacts, but does not require the plan to be prepared until after Project approval. (MND p. 13.) The MND also finds that the restaurant proposed as part of the Project may result in offensive odors and that some type of kitchen exhaust system with filters incorporated would reduce this impact, but fails to require the inclusion of



Ken Lyon  
November 14, 2008  
Page 8 of 8

such a system as a mitigation measure for the project. The preparation of a soils report to assess the integrity of the project design is also an improperly deferred mitigation measure for potential geotechnical impacts.

## CONCLUSION

CEQA requires an EIR whenever a project *may* have a significant adverse impact on the environment. (Pub. Res. Code § 21151.) A MND is appropriate only when there is not a fair argument that there may be adverse impacts. Because the MND provides an inadequate analysis of impacts, and because of the substantial evidence to support a fair argument that many impacts *may* be significant, a full EIR must be prepared.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Amy Minter

Attorney at Law

### Attachments:

- (1) Expert analysis of historic resource impacts by Peter Moruzzi with resume attached;
- (2) Expert analysis of historic resource impacts by Patrick McGrew with resume attached;
- (3) Excerpt from *Palm Springs Weekend*;
- (4) Traffic impact assessment by Weston Pringle with qualifications attached.

cc: Palm Springs Planning Commission  
Palm Springs Modern Committee

# **ATTACHMENT 1**

November 7, 2008

City of Palm Springs  
Planning Commission  
3200 Tahquitz Canyon Way  
Palm Springs, CA 92262

Subject: Impacts of Baristo Lofts project on the historic former Santa Fe Federal Savings Building by E. Stewart Williams

Honorable Commission Members:

You may be familiar with my role as Founding President of the Palm Springs Modern Committee (PS ModCom) established in 1999 to maintain the heritage of modern architecture and historic neighborhoods in Palm Springs. You might not have known that I am also a full-time Architectural Historian with over six years of experience with cultural resource issues who meets the Secretary of the Interior's professional qualification standards for Architectural History. My knowledge encompasses history, architectural history, and historic preservation. I have extensive experience in the preparation of historic resource assessment reports, CEQA-related and Section 106 documentation, historic resources surveys, landmark nominations, and Historic American Buildings Surveys (HABS). I am also a recognized expert in the history of twentieth century Modern architecture. My resume is attached.

The purpose of this letter is to underscore the negative impacts of the proposed Baristo Lofts project to the historic resource located at 300 South Palm Canyon Drive originally known as the Santa Fe Federal Savings Building (currently the offices of the Wessman Development Company).

The Santa Fe Federal Savings Building was designed in 1957 by local architect E. Stewart Williams on a prominent corner of the City's major thoroughfare, Palm Canyon Drive. E. Stewart Williams (1909-2005) has been widely recognized as one of the fathers of Desert Modern design whose work in Palm Springs from 1946 through 1996 includes several of the City's most recognizable landmarks, such as the Oasis Office Building, the Frank Sinatra Residence, and the Edris Residence (a designated Class One Historic Site). Indeed, Williams was the posthumous recipient of the Palm Springs Modern Committees' Lifetime Achievement Award in 2005 for his outstanding architectural achievements in the Coachella Valley.

The building is an excellent example of Williams' adaptation of the International Style of architecture for a desert climate in creating a new, hybrid form now known as Desert Modernism. Elements of the Desert Modern style exhibited in the building include its extensive use of glass (for views and an indoor/outdoor feel), deep overhanging eaves (for protection from the sun), and, in this case, sliding brise soleil screens (for additional

sun control). The bank's International Style elements include its broad horizontality, slender metal support posts, and the building's 'floating' quality attained by raising it above a bed of river rocks. Additionally, a key aspect of Williams' design is its setting: the building sits as a freestanding pavilion surrounded by open space – analogous to a classical Greek temple (a common design theme in bank architecture) – which allows the structure to be viewed as a sculptural object in its dramatic corner location.

As proposed, the multi-story Baristo Lofts project would significantly harm the design integrity and setting of the bank building as an iconic structure by encroaching and overwhelming it the south side, thereby destroying the building's presence as a freestanding pavilion. These significant adverse impacts have not been thoroughly examined by the City in the current approval process and no viable alternatives to the project that would potentially lessen or mitigate these harmful impacts have been adequately investigated.

The Baristo Lofts project would also cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of the historic Santa Fe Federal Savings Building by materially altering the building. As acknowledged by the MND, "[t]he addition of the proposed front concrete dining terrace and railings would materially alter the historic character-defining architectural feature of the linear, uninterrupted cantilevered concrete base and clean lines of the existing building." The MND also proposes that instead of altering the Santa Fe Federal Savings Building by adding on a terrace, the project may modify the curtain wall of the existing building. This glass curtain wall is a key character-defining feature of the International Style and should not be altered or removed from the Santa Fe Federal Savings Building. Physically altering this historic building is a significant adverse impact that should not be allowed. Additionally, the proposed alteration would further impact the setting of the Santa Fe Federal Savings Building by taking away from the "floating" quality of the building.

In summary, the significant adverse aesthetic and cultural resource impacts of the Baristo Lofts project on the Santa Fe Federal Savings Building caused by physically altering the building and affecting the architect's original design as a freestanding, floating pavilion have not been properly assessed. Therefore, a full environmental impact report addressing these key issues must be required.

Sincerely,



Peter Moruzzi  
Architectural Historian

# Peter Moruzzi, ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

2935 Angus Street, Los Angeles, CA 90039  
0151 pmoruzzi@earthlink.net

213-706-

## Professional History

- B.A., Economics, History sub-specialty, University of California, Berkeley, Berkeley, California, 1983
- Historic Resources Consultant, Moruzzi Historic Resources Consulting, Los Angeles, California, 2005 - Present
- Cultural Resources Specialist, PCR Services Corporation, Santa Monica, California, 2003- 2005
- Historic Resources Specialist, Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC), Pasadena, California, 2001 - 2002
- Architectural Historian, Leslie Heumann & Associates, Los Angeles, California, 2002
- Historic Resources Consultant, Los Angeles, California, 2001 - 2003
- Sales Representative, SoftwareWow.com, Los Angeles, California, 2000 - 2001
- Sales Representative, Digi International, Los Angeles, California, 1994 - 2000

## Expertise

Peter Moruzzi, an Architectural Historian with over six years of experience with cultural resource issues, meets the Secretary of the Interior's professional qualification standards for Architectural History. Mr. Moruzzi has significant experience in the preparation of historic resource assessment reports, CEQA-related and Section 106 documentation, historic resources surveys, and landmark nominations. He is also an expert in

the history of twentieth century Modern architecture.

## Experience

As an Architectural Historian, Mr. Moruzzi has completed numerous historic resources surveys for individual properties and historic districts in the California cities of Los Angeles, Beverly Hills, Rancho Mirage, Pasadena, Santa Monica, South Pasadena, Riverside, and Santa Ana. Tasks included fieldwork, research, documentation, evaluation, and public presentation of findings. He has written historic resources assessments and technical reports for a variety of property types throughout Southern California. For the Cities of Santa Monica and Long Beach, Mr. Moruzzi provides on-call historic resources services including landmark assessments and HABS-related documentation. Additionally, he has authored several National Register and California Register nominations. Mr. Moruzzi has experience in the application of the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties and its applicable Guidelines.

## Environmental Compliance:

Mr. Moruzzi has been a contributor and preparer of documents for Environmental Impact Reports and Statements specific to cultural resources under California Environmental Quality Act and Section 106 guidelines. These tasks include defining the areas of potential effect (APE); identifying, researching, and evaluating cultural resources; and analyzing potential impacts/effects of proposed projects including the recommendation of mitigation

measures for project implementation. Project locations include Pasadena, Santa Monica, Monrovia, Lennox, Westchester, and Boyle Heights.

## Modern Architecture Expertise:

Mr. Moruzzi is an acknowledged expert in 20<sup>th</sup> Century Modern design. He has authored several booklets on the subject and has spoken on issues relating to the preservation of modern architecture at numerous conferences and events.

*Volunteer Activities:* Mr. Moruzzi is the Founding President of the Palm Springs Modern Committee. For six years he served on the board of directors of the Los Angeles Conservancy, and was also the longtime Chair of the Conservancy's Modern Committee.

## Awards and Professional

*Memberships:* In 2002, Mr. Moruzzi received the Presidential Public Service Citation from the AIA California Council for work in the preservation of Modernist architecture in Southern California. He is a member of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the California Preservation Foundation, and the Society of Architectural Historians, Southern California Chapter.

## **ATTACHMENT 2**

# McGREW / ARCHITECTURE

November 12, 2008

Ms. Amy Minter, Attorney at Law  
Chatten-Brown & Carstens  
3250 Ocean Boulevard, Suite 300  
Santa Monica, California 90405

Re: Initial Study: 300 South Palm Canyon Drive  
Palm Springs, California

Dear Ms. Minter,

I have reviewed the above referenced document which makes a finding that the proposed project has a "Less Than Significant Impact" on Cultural Resources. In order to make this finding, the proposed project must be found to comply with the applicable Secretary's Standards. In the analysis that follows, only five of the ten Secretary's Standards are applicable to the proposed project. Of those five, the proposed project does not comply with four of the Standards and offers only partial compliance with the fifth. Based upon this analysis, it would seem that, contrary to the Initial Study, the proposed project will have a potentially significant negative impact on the environment, the consequences of which should be studied in a full Environmental Impact report.

Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to give me call.

Sincerely,

*Patrick McGrew*

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ARCHITECTURE + PRESERVATION

674 SOUTH GRENFALL ROAD • PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA 92264 • (760) 416-7819

Project Description: "The proposed project includes the construction of a 4 story high-rise building immediately adjacent and to the south of the existing building. Although the proposed high-rise would partially block views of the existing building when looking north at the site, the proposed new building does not modify or attach to the existing building and therefore does not cause any substantial damage to the existing building. At the north and west sides of the existing building, a concrete terrace and railings are proposed to be attached to the existing building. The terrace will be used as an outdoor dining area. It impacts the visual appearance of the historic resource. Theoretically the proposed terrace could be removed and the original building's appearance would be intact, therefore the project is not found to substantially damage the historic building. The applicant may also consider eliminating the terrace addition and modifying the existing glass curtain wall to create open-air dining within the existing building that would not have an adverse impact on the visual appearance of the building."<sup>1</sup>

"CEQA defines a 'substantial adverse change in the significance of a historic resource' as 'physical destruction, relocation, or alteration of the resource or its immediate surroundings such that the significance of a historic resource would be materially impaired.' A historic resource is considered "materially impaired" when a project:

*(A) demolishes or materially alters in an adverse manner those physical characteristics of a historic resource that convey its historical significance and justify its inclusion or eligibility for inclusion in the California Register of Historic Places,*

*(B) Demolishes or materially alters the characteristics that account for its inclusion in a local register of historic resources,"*

*(C) Demolishes or materially alters in an adverse manner those characteristics of a historic resource that convey its historic significance and that justify its eligibility for inclusion in the California Register of Historical Resources as determined by a lead agency for purposes of CEQA.*

The rationale for the finding of "No Significant Impact" is as follows: "The proposed project would significantly alter the immediate surroundings of the site of the Santa Fe Federal Savings Bank by constructing a new 4 story building in close proximity to it. However, the proposed new building would not materially alter the historic character-defining architectural elements of the existing building, and thus is considered a less than significant impact. The addition of the proposed front concrete dining terrace and railings would materially alter the historic character-defining architectural feature of the linear, uninterrupted cantilevered concrete base and clean lines of the existing building. It may be possible to design and construct the terrace addition and railings such that they could be removed at a future date to return the building to its original condition. This impact could also be resolved by eliminating the proposed terrace addition and achieving open-air dining instead by modifying the curtain wall of the existing building to allow it to slide open to create the open-

1

Case 5.1137 Baristo Lofts, Initial Study, Page 8/32



air dining experience." An analysis of the proposed project's compliance with the Secretary's Standards is as follows:

**Compliance of the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation of Historic Structures to the Proposed Project** (*The following Standards are to be applied to specific rehabilitation projects in a reasonable manner, taking into consideration economic and technical feasibility.*)

(1) *A property shall be used for its historic purpose or be placed in a new use that requires minimal change to the defining characteristics of the building and its environment,*

**Compliance Statement:** The new use with its additional four story building and its terrace additions to the existing building must be considered substantial changes to both the setting and the architectural character of the existing historic resource, and therefore are not in compliance with this standard.

(2) *The historic character of a property shall be retained and preserved. The removal of historic materials and spaces that characterize a property shall be avoided.*

**Compliance Statement:** The new use with its additional four story building and its terrace additions to the existing building constitutes the removal of historic spaces that characterize both the building and its setting, and therefore are not in compliance with this standard.

(3) *Each property shall be recognized as a physical record of its time, place, and use. Changes made to create a false sense of historical development, such as adding conjectural features or architectural elements from other buildings, shall not be undertaken.*

**Compliance Statement:** Not applicable.

(4) *Most properties change over time; those changes that have acquired historical significance in their own right shall be preserved.*

**Compliance Statement:** Not applicable.

(5) *Distinctive features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a historic property shall be preserved.*

**Compliance Statement:** The building's fundamental characteristic is that of a free-standing pavilion surrounded by open space. It is one of the most distinctive examples of this prototypical form in Palm Springs. The proposed addition of the front and side concrete dining terrace and railings would materially alter the historic character-defining architectural feature of the linear, uninterrupted cantilevered concrete base and clean lines of the existing building. Thus, the proposed project is not in compliance with this standard.

*(6) Deteriorated historic features shall be repaired rather than replaced. When the severity of deterioration requires replacement of a distinctive feature, the new feature shall match the old in design, color, texture, and other visual qualities and, where possible, materials. Replacement of missing features shall be substantiated by documentary, physical, or pictorial evidence.*

**Compliance Statement:** Not applicable.

*(7) Chemical or physical treatments such as sandblasting, that cause physical damage to historic materials shall not be used. The surface cleaning of structures, if appropriate, shall be undertaken by the gentlest means possible.*

**Compliance Statement:** Not Applicable.

*(8) Significant archeological resources affected by a project shall be protected and preserved. If such resources must be disturbed, mitigation measures shall be undertaken,*

**Compliance Statement:** Not applicable.

*(9) New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction shall not destroy historic materials that characterize the property. The new work shall be differentiated from the old and shall be compatible with the massing, size, scale, and architectural features to protect the historic integrity of the property and its environment.*

**Compliance Statement:** The proposed new terrace is incompatible with the massing and architectural features of the existing resources and fails to protect the historic integrity of the property and its environment. Thus, the proposed project is not in compliance with this standard.

*(10) New additions and adjacent or related new construction shall be undertaken in such a manner that if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired.*

**Compliance Statement:** Review of the details regarding how the proposed Terrace addition will be constructed would be required to make a determination regarding the proposed project's compliance with this standard. However, the likelihood of the future removal of either the proposed terrace addition or the proposed four-story high-rise adjacent to the historic resource is questionable. At best, the project offers a partial compliance with this standard.

### Historic Consultant Qualifications

**Professional Qualifications Standards:** The Code of Federal Regulations, 36 CFR Part 61 defines the minimum education and experience required to perform historic preservation identification, evaluation, registration, and treatment activities. The minimum professional qualifications in architecture are a professional degree in architecture plus at least two years full-time experience in architecture; or a State license to practice architecture.

Patrick McGrew received his Bachelor of Architecture from the University of Oklahoma in 1965. He has been actively engaged in the architectural profession, specializing in historic preservation, since then. McGrew has been a licensed architect in the State of California since 1970, as well as a holder of the NCARB (national licensing) certificate. He possesses an in-depth knowledge of all procedures and standards utilized in the identification, evaluation, registration, and treatment of historic properties as evidenced by his lengthy career known for the depth and breadth of accumulated architectural / historical knowledge. He places a high value on the objectivity and completeness of his written works. He has several years experience in research, writing, practicing and teaching architecture with a academic and historical agencies and institutions. He has made a substantial contribution through research and publication of a body of scholarly knowledge in the field of California architectural history. His experience has included the preparation of numerous historic research reports, National Register nominations, and San Francisco Landmark nominations, as well as the preparation of plans and specifications for architectural preservation projects. He regulates his firm through the use of Ethics Standards developed by the Society of Architectural Historians.

Patrick McGrew's knowledge and reputation in the field of historic preservation provided the basis his public service as the long-time President of San Francisco's Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board, which extended over an eighteen year span beginning in 1978 when he was first appointed by then-Mayor George Moscone; he served the next ten years under Mayor Dianne Feinstein. Although he served less than a year under Mayor Art Agnos, it was Agnos who declared November 17, 1991 "Landmarks of San Francisco Day" to honor the publication of McGrew's first book, *Landmarks of San Francisco* (Harry Abrams, New York, 1991.) Reappointed in 1992 by Mayor Frank Jordan, McGrew served four more years. This acknowledgment by government and/or regulatory agencies, combined with Mr. McGrew's impressive list of publications on California's historic architecture, is a testament to his proficiency as a leading expert in California architectural history. He is a member of the Society of Architectural Historians, and has received many awards for his work during a distinguished career. In 1995, his book *The Historic Houses of Presidio Terrace*, received an award of honor from the California Heritage Council.

Upon the occasion of Mr. McGrew's induction into the City Club of San Francisco's Wall of Honor, Mayor Willie Brown declared November 30, 2003 as 'Patrick McGrew Day' in San Francisco, and a Commendation from the United States Senate was presented in recognition of McGrew's 'distinguished career and outstanding contributions to the City of San Francisco.'

## **ATTACHMENT 3**

structure on the Palm Canyon side, another superb example of Late Moderne by Paul Williams and Jones. The bank's tall fins along the sidewalk, interspersed with glass and angled to the north, created a vivid and rich Modern form anchored by a tall angled block. With Bullock's a block south, it further underscored the village's aggressively Modern character living side by side with the older Spanish shops.

#### BANKS

In the 1950s, an era before ATMs and intense security, bank buildings still played a role in a community as a major monument, evincing solidity, confidence and prosperity. Before World War II, they would often have been in Roman or Greek style. After the war, commercial America embraced Modernism and architects used bank design to promote the primary and legitimacy of Modern architecture.

Stewart Williams' three bank buildings in Palm Springs show a refreshing variety, each well handled and distinctively Modern. Williams' headquarters for the 1956 Coachella Valley Bank on Palm Canyon Drive solved the problem of parking and sun by putting most of the parking under the building and lifting the two-story banking floor to the second level. A ground-floor glass lobby off the parking lot displays the bank's vault as a decorative and functional item.

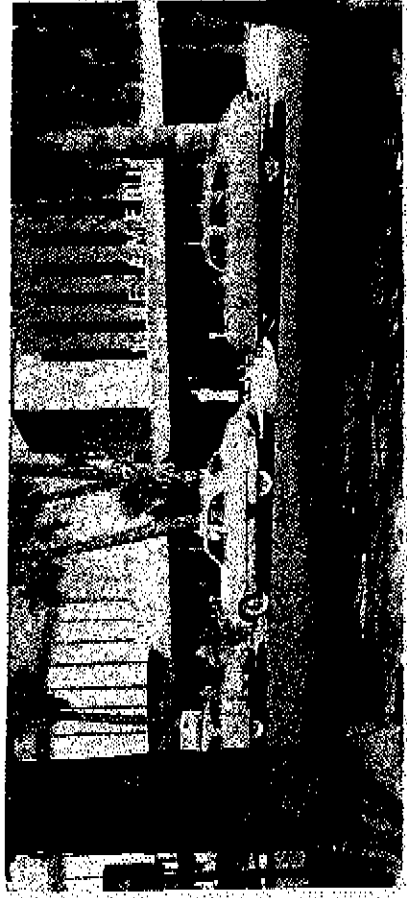
The Coachella Valley Bank's success allowed it to build a second headquarters in 1960, which Williams also designed as an even more imposing civic monument reflecting the growing prosperity of the city. A tall porch with upward-sweeping columns faces the street; the entire building seems to float on a long row of impressively bubbling fountains.

The building echoes the monumentality of Oscar Neuneyer's Supreme Court and Alvarado Palace buildings in Brasilia, designed between 1950 and 1966. Both use column-

nades of tall, tapering columns modernizing those of classical temples. Williams' are precast T-beams cantilevered up from the suspended concrete floor slab. They also extend down into the foundation, to strengthen the columns' link to the slab. Curved fillets are added, enhancing the similarity to Neuneyer's. While Neuneyer's columns are tapered and sculpted like stone, giving them an apparent elasticity, Williams' are flatter; the curved section is a functional brace between columns for seismic stability.

Paired with Victor Gruen's Bauhaus-inspired City National Bank nearby, the power and might of Modernism seen through the lens of California commercial culture was strongly felt in the desert. Though the size and elaborateness of these banks is due to Palm Springs' prosperity, the use of Modernism is a reflection of the times. These are not merely imitations of Modern monuments. They are adapted to the desert, and they participate in the culture of Modernism in which Palm Springs played an ongoing role.

Williams' 1960 Santa Fe Savings and Loan is a flat-roofed, steel frame building adapted to the desert site. It is a



Palm Canyon Drive, Palm Springs, California

© 1988

**Palm Springs' Old West** contrasts with the sleek facade of the Bank of America building on Palm Canyon and Tacheva by A. Quincy Jones and Paul Williams. The Hollywood crowd helped lure tourists to the desert in the 1950s. Note the building's serrated two-story fins, a hallmark of Late Moderne design. The original building has been altered.

# Now in Palm Springs ...

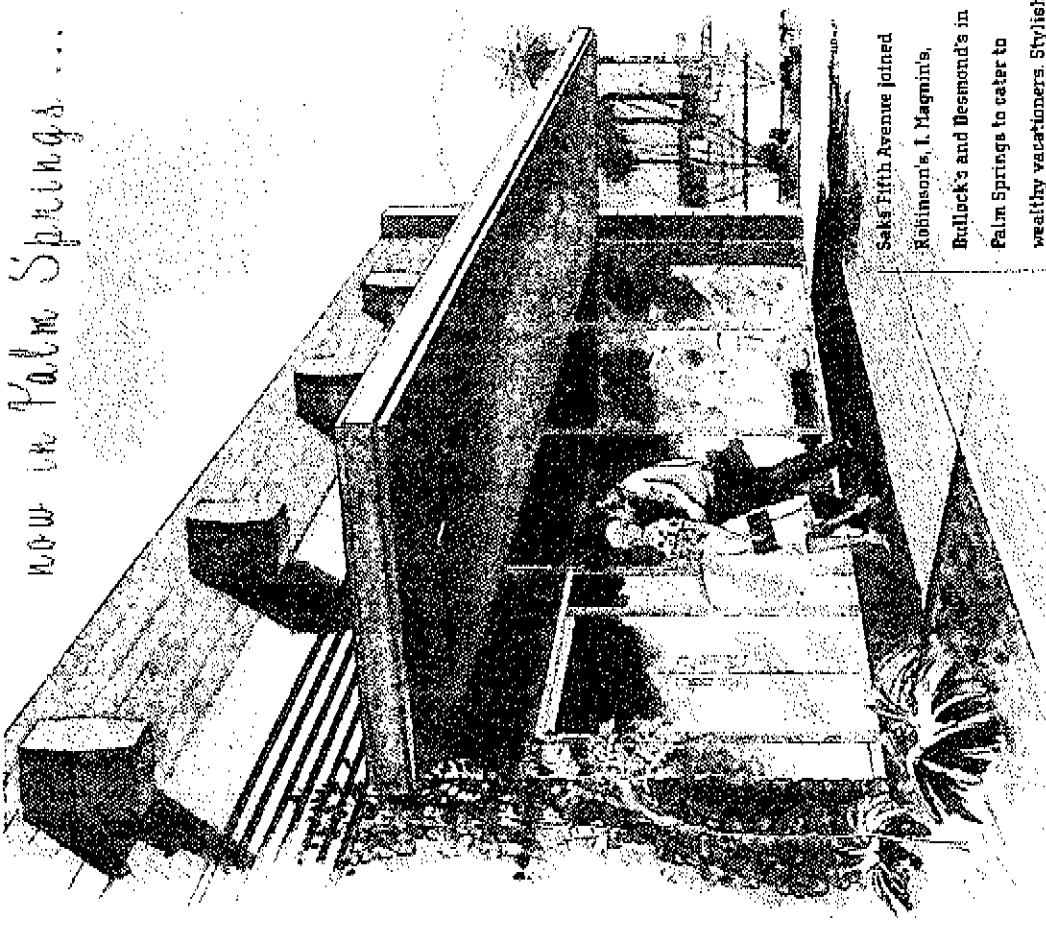
simple, square, glass pavilion with wide eaves acting as sun-shades. The glass walls are set deeply within the building's volume, allowing visibility from the street desired by commercial clients, and the sun protection the desert requires. At a major corner of Palm Canyon, the glass opens up the interior of the building as part of the public space. A system of sliding oval filigree-screen panels acts as further shade in the early and late afternoon, and as a decorative element. Carving out the strong sun, it allows a balanced reflective light. The protruding floor slab, matching the roof slab, makes the one-story structure appear to float above its site. Paired with William Pereira and Charles Luckman's contemporary Robinson's department store to its west, the two buildings form a strong Modern commercial center. Both have wrap-around glass walls; both express a simple steel structure; both have wide eaves.

Though the bank's programmatic style was limited in its number of entries, the department store, with a wide bank of doors, is situated on a stepped plinth. The wide shaded eaves are ringed by a fascia of tapered cantilevers. The roof is supported on a series of steel tube columns, strengthened by webs that taper from thin to wide to thin, widest at the middle where they are most needed to strengthen the thin columns. The columns are pulled out from the glass wall. The building compares favorably with the excellent 1950 Robinson's in Pasadena, also by Pereira and Luckman.

## City National Bank

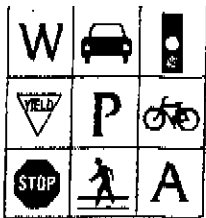
The desert landscape's abstractions support a variety of Modern architectures. If the flat horizon and big cloudless sky suggest minimalism, the weird shapes and rounded forms seen in the great boulders of Joshua Tree National Monument, in the high desert an hour from Palm Springs, suggest the expressionism reflected in the rounded forms of Victor Gruen Associates' City National Bank, opened in August 1959.

At a time when the Alhambra (now Home Savings)



Saks Fifth Avenue joined Robinson's, I. M. Magin's, Bullock's and Desmond's in Palm Springs to cater to wealthy vacationers. Stylishly modern with its broad horizontal canopy and glass-front wall, its modernized vigas—the ends of roof beams jutting out of the wall in traditional Southwest architecture—linked the shop to the historical desert.

# ATTACHMENT 4



# Weston Pringle

TRAFFIC & TRANSPORTATION ENGINEERING

June 19, 2007

Ms Amy Minter  
Chatten-Brown & Carstens  
3250 Ocean Park Blvd., Suite 300  
Santa Monica, CA 90405

**SUBJECT: BARISTO LOFTS PROJECT, PALM SPRINGS**

Dear Ms Minter:

This letter report summarizes my review of the proposed Negative Declaration for the subject project. The review focused upon traffic considerations.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The project is located on the southeast corner of Palm Canyon Drive and Baristo Road and consists of the conversion of an existing 6,600 square foot (SF) office use to a restaurant with the addition of 25 residential condominiums and 4,440 SF of retail use. Both surface and subterranean parking are proposed. All vehicular access is on Baristo Road.

**DISCUSSION**

The City documents indicate that a traffic study is required for projects that would generate 500 or more daily trip ends. A trip generation estimate was submitted that indicated the daily trip ends for the residential and retail uses. No estimate was provided for the conversion of the office use to restaurant use. Based upon factors from the Institute of Transportation Engineers publication, "Trip Generation", the restaurant use would generate 594 daily trip ends. The current office use generates an estimated 75 daily trip ends resulting in an increase of 519 daily trip ends. A total of 865 new daily trip ends can be anticipated which would require a traffic study in conformance with City guidelines.

There would also be a significant increase in PM peak hour trip generation which could result in traffic impacts



Parking provisions are not clearly defined. While the City's evaluation indicates that Code Requirements are satisfied, it is not clear from the information provided. The operation of parking is a potential concern. Surface parking for 17 vehicles is indicated and would not be adequate for a 6,600 SF restaurant. This could result in congestion and queues at the driveway that would impact traffic operations and safety on the adjacent streets.

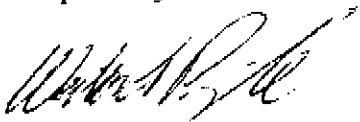
## SUMMARY

The review of the proposed Negative Declaration for the planned Baristo Lofts project has identified some traffic related concerns. An underestimate of the trip generation for the project was found. No consideration was given to the increased trip generation due to the conversion of office use to restaurant use. With this consideration, the estimated daily trip generation exceeds the 500 level and a traffic study would be required under City Policy.

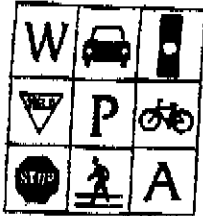
An additional concern was the parking provisions and operation. There is a potential for traffic impacts upon the adjacent street system due to restaurant parking demands.

I trust that this review will be of assistance to you. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me.

Respectfully submitted



Weston S. Pringle, P.E., PTOE  
Registered Professional Engineer  
State of California numbers C16828 & TR565



# Weston Pringle & Associates

TRAFFIC & TRANSPORTATION ENGINEERING

## WESTON STEWART PRINGLE Firm Principal

- Registered Professional Engineer, State of California, Civil and Traffic Engineering.
- Professional Traffic Operations Engineer
- Fellow, Institute of Transportation Engineers and Life Member, American Society of Civil Engineers.

**Institute of Transportation Engineers Activities:** International Director; President, District 6; President, Southern California Section; Delegate, Program Development Conference; Member, Special Publications Committee; Member, International Admissions and Transfers Committee; Senior Editor, "Technical Notes"; Member, Parking Facilities for Industrial Plants Committee; Member, Traffic Improvement Data Collection Guidelines Committee; Member, Traffic Characteristics and Considerations for Tomorrow's Airports Committee; Member, Impact Analysis of Proposed New Development Committee; Member, Employment Center Parking Facilities Committee; Member, Guidelines for Transportation Impact Assessment of Proposed New Development Committee and Chairperson, Implementing Road Safety Audits in the United States Committee.

Mr. Pringle received the Burton W. Marsh Award for Distinguished Service from the Institute of Transportation Engineers in 2000. This award was in recognition of long-term and continuing outstanding contributions. In 2004, he received the Lifetime Achievement Award from District 6 of the Institute of Transportation Engineers.

Mr. Pringle has had a varied experience in both the planning and operational fields of traffic engineering. Some of the projects with which he has been involved include:

**TRANSPORTATION PLANNING** - Circulation and Transportation Elements of General Plans for cities; freeway location & impact studies; access, circulation, and parking systems for industrial plants, airports, central business districts, colleges, shopping centers, and other developments; traffic impact analyses for Environmental Impact Reports.

**TRAFFIC OPERATIONS** - TOPICS areawide plan studies for eleven cities; traffic signal and traffic signal system designs; parking studies; street and parking lot lighting designs; school safety programs; access, circulation, and parking studies for commercial, residential, and public developments.

Mr. Pringle has also provided traffic engineering services related to litigation for both plaintiff and defense in approximately 2000 cases. This involvement has included both deposition and court testimony.

Mr. Pringle has served as a Subject Matter Expert for the California Board of Registration for Professional Engineers & Land Surveyors in the field of traffic engineering. This has included the preparation and review of test questions and the evaluation of test materials.

**EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS:** California State University - Fresno, Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering, 1960; Certificate, Municipal Public Works Administration; Guest Lecturer in Transportation and Traffic Engineering, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona.; Instructor, Fundamentals of Traffic Engineering, University of California, Institute of Transportation Studies.

From 1960, Mr. Pringle has been Civil Engineering Assistant, City of West Covina; Assistant Traffic Engineer, Traffic Engineer, and Associate Civil Engineer, City of Downey; Principal Engineer, Wilbur Smith and Associates, Consulting Engineers, Los Angeles; Vice President, Lampman and Associates, Inc., Consulting Engineers, Pomona; Vice President, Crommelin-Pringle and Associates, Inc., Placentia; and owner of Weston Pringle & Associates since 1976.



# City of Palm Springs

Department of Planning Services  
3200 East Tahquitz Canyon Way • Palm Springs, CA 92262  
Tel: 760 323-8245 • Fax: 760-322-8360

## **Case 5.1137 PDD 335 TTM 35230 – Baristo Lofts** **Exhibit 5 - Response to Comments on the Environmental Analysis.**

The most extensive comments were from Chatten-Brown & Carstens (CBC) on behalf of the Palm Springs Modern Committee. CBC challenged several aspects of the City's conclusions on the environmental analysis. Staff has evaluated the comments and provided responses below:

1. Adoption of the MND and approval of the project as proposed would violate CEQA.
  - A. This project does not meet the legal standards for an MND.

The commenter asserts that the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") requires the City to prepare an Environmental Impact Report ("EIR") as opposed to a Mitigated Negative Declaration. CBC argues that there is a "fair argument" that the project would have potentially significant environmental impacts. However, City staff has evaluated the information that CBC has submitted to support their allegations and concludes that either (1) the project has been subsequently modified to avoid any potentially significant environmental impact that would otherwise trigger an EIR, or (2) the evidence presented does not amount to "substantial evidence" supporting a "fair argument" of a significant environmental impact to require an EIR. City staff's responses to CBC's specific allegations are set forth in more detail below.

1. The Santa Fe Federal Savings & Loan will be adversely impacted by the project.

The initial study identifies the construction of the proposed dining terrace as an element that would materially alter the historic resource of the Santa Fe Building. The City identified elimination of the dining terrace as a mitigation measure that would reduce the impacts to the existing building to "less than significant". The applicant has subsequently agreed to not only eliminate the proposed dining terrace, but to also eliminate any modifications to the exterior of the existing structure. Staff has added a proposed condition of approval prohibiting construction of a dining terrace and any modification to the exterior of the existing structure. Therefore, the City asserts no significant adverse impacts will occur to the existing historic resource on the site as a result of the proposed project.

The CBC letter further claims, based on reports submitted by its retained consultants, that the project would cause a substantial adverse change in the historical significance of the Santa Fe Building by negatively altering the setting of this historic structure. CBC quotes a line from one of expert reports that "[A] key aspect of the Williams design is its setting: the building sits as a freestanding pavilion surrounded by open space – analogous to a classical Greek temple (a common design theme in bank architecture) – which allows the structure to be viewed as a sculptural object in its dramatic corner location." However, it is important to note that this statement does not accurately reflect the true environmental setting, including the area

immediately surrounding the bank building. In fact, the only two sides of the building that include any "open space" areas are the sides that face South Palm Canyon Dr. and Baristo Road. Moreover, only a small portion of "open space" area exists along Baristo Road. The remaining area along Baristo Road includes some concrete fixtures and planters. The other two sides of the building include a wrap around parking lot that is "at grade" with the bank building. Accordingly, the expert opinions that purport to demonstrate the project's potentially impact on historical resources are based on erroneous facts about the existing physical conditions on the site. In addition, to the extent that the "open space" areas along Palm Canyon Dr. and Baristo Road do contribute to the historical significance of this bank building, these areas will be not be altered by this project and will be preserved.

In addition, the City addressed the condition of "setting" and "open space" in the City Council Staff Report dated April 4, 2007 (exerpts attached). In that report it was noted that the original architect of the Santa Fe Building (E. Stewart Williams) developed a proposal dated March 22, 1969, for a four story building in roughly the same location as the currently proposed new building (copy attached). The CBC letter asserts the new proposed building to the south of the existing building "*would significantly affect the original setting of the building intended by the architect*". However the basis for this assertion of the "architects' intent" was not provided. Staff reviewed various materials to determine the source of this assertion.

In 2004, the 300 South Palm Canyon Drive site was included in a citywide survey of potentially significant historic structures conducted by expert architectural historians, The Architectural Resources Group (ARG). The DPR Primary Record form completed in that survey for this property (attached) states, "*The building was designed for the convenience of customers arriving by automobile; consequently, the south and east elevations face parking lots.*" It does not identify these areas as contributing to the historic significance of the site.

Furthermore, the 1969 concept sketches suggest that the architect had considered an infill scheme with a four-story building in the open space along the south side of the site in close proximity to the existing building. The infill scheme from 1969 is similar to the current project. The City therefore concluded that this particular open space was not a defining historic characteristic of the site. Other than providing parking for cars on the site, evidence was not found that would substantiate that the open space is a critically important component to the architect in the design of the original building nor in the defining characteristics of the historic resource on the site. Staff therefore continues to believe that no adverse impacts on a historic resource could be possible as a result of the project as it relates to the open space behind the building.

## 2. *The project would have significant adverse impacts on Aesthetics*

The proposed new building has been set back from the east-west view/scenic corridor of Baristo Road and steps back at the upper level along the frontage of Palm Canyon. The proposed new building does not modify or attach to the existing building in any way except at the basement level for the creation of off-street parking. Visual and physical access to all four sides of the existing building remains. The City therefore continues to believe that no significant impact to aesthetics on or about the site would occur as a result of the proposed project.

As noted above, the City evaluated the quality of "setting" relative to views and the aesthetic of the historic resource in the staff report dated April 4, 2007, (excerpts attached). As noted on page 4 of the CBC letter, the most prominent or dramatic views of the Santa Fe Building are from the corner of Palm Canyon and Baristo Road. These views, as well as the ability to view and experience the existing building on all four sides remain unaffected with the proposed project. The City therefore asserts no adverse aesthetic impact is imposed by the project.

The Chatten-Brown Carstens letter further asserts the Downtown Urban Design Plan (DUDP) states the 45 foot height "is only allowed if a project has a height of 18 feet on the street front...". On page 37, the DUDP states "*On the east side of Palm Canyon Drive, mixed-use buildings with residential lofts are excepted from the 30 foot restriction. They should be a maximum of 45 feet (18 feet on street front stepping back to 45 feet on the second floor) to accommodate the residential lofts.*" It also states, "*Building massing should step back above the ground floor to maintain and protect public view corridors along streets.*" In this case, the building *does* step back from the street-front at the fourth floor. As noted in the General Plan analysis of this staff report, the north-south view corridors cannot be impacted by the building because the existing Palm trees already frame and define the view corridor. The front of the building is well behind the vertical edge of the view corridor defined by the palm trees. In this case, the issue of vertical setbacks in the façade of the building to preserve view corridors is not relevant because the view corridor exists on the "street-side" of the palm trees, not along the front property line or building edge. Staff therefore continues to believe that the proposed building does not cause significant adverse impacts on aesthetics, view corridors, or land use policies of the City.

Regarding the height of the stair and elevator towers; Section 93.04.00(B)(1) of the PSZO states: "*An additional fifteen (15) feet maximum may be allowed for stairways, elevators and mechanical equipment on the roof; provided, the bulk of the building does not appear to be over sixty (60) feet*". The Downtown Urban Design Plan also excludes "architectural intrusion features"; i.e. minor architectural elements of the building's design from the height recommendations. The City therefore concluded that project conforms to the requirement of the General Plan, the Downtown Urban Design Plan and the Zoning Ordinance. Therefore this is not a significant adverse impact on aesthetics that would require further analysis or an EIR.

The CBC letter states that the proposed new structure is "*not consistent with the character of this iconic, pavilion-like structure.*" The proposed building is contemporary in its architectural styling; similar and complementary to the modern style of the historic resource on the site. The Secretary of the Interior Standards for Rehabilitation of Historic Structures states in item 9 of its 10-point standards (attached): "*The new work shall be differentiated from the old...*" In this case, the City believes that this concept has been achieved and thus no significant adverse impact on aesthetics would occur as a result of the different architectural style of the proposed project.

The National Register Bulletin "How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation", Chapter VIII "How to evaluate the integrity of a property" states under "*Defining the essential physical features*" on page 46 (attached): "*All properties change over time. It is not necessary for a property to retain all its historic physical features or characteristics. The property must retain, however, its essential physical features that enable it to convey its historic identify.*" In this case, the City believes the essential physical characteristics of the historic resource are the building itself and the open space on the north and west sides of the existing building. These

characteristics remain unaltered with the proposed project. Therefore no significant adverse impacts are caused to the aesthetics of the historic resource by the proposed project.

3. *The project will cause adverse parking impacts.*

The project proposes 81 off-street parking spaces; seven less (or 8%) than required by the Zoning Ordinance. Up to 10% relief from the required parking standards can be granted by the Planning Director or Planning Commission. Also, the project is directly across the street from the municipal parking structure to the north which contains over three hundred spaces. The City's Economic Development Department estimates that this garage is typically only half full on any given day. The City asserts that the project is adequately parked and there is no significant adverse impact to parking created by the proposed project.

4. *The Environmental Analysis is flawed because of the City's failure to require an acoustical report.*

The City did not require an acoustic study for the project even though it is located on a major thoroughfare. This segment of Palm Canyon Drive has a posted speed limit of twenty-five miles per hour and is not a designated truck route. Vehicles traveling at this speed typically produce minimal noise as compared to vehicles traveling at higher speeds. Because of its posted speed, this segment of major thoroughfare is significantly quieter than other major thoroughfare. Furthermore since Palm Canyon Drive through the entire downtown is not a designated truck route, there is no potential for noise impacts due to regular traffic from commercial trucks, semi-tractor trailers and other larger vehicles that would typically operate on a truck route. The potential for adverse impacts to occupants of the project from road noise therefore was determined to be less than significant and did not warrant an acoustical study. Furthermore, residential projects in and around the downtown are routinely conditioned in their Conditions of Approval and CC&R's notifying owners and occupants of periodic noise from special events (parades, street fairs, etc) that may occur in the vicinity. This project is so conditioned. There are no known noise sources in the vicinity of the project therefore that would adversely impact the project. As far as occupants of the building generating nuisance noise, enforcement of the City's Noise Ordinance renders such nuisance noise as having no significant adverse impact. Therefore the City concluded that no noise study was required and noise issues related to the proposed project were less than significant. The project did not warrant further study or an EIR.

5. *The project will cause adverse Land Use impacts*

CBC asserts "*the project is inconsistent with General Plan Policy RC 10.1.*" This policy states, "Support the preservation and protection of historically, architecturally, or archaeologically significant sites, places, districts, structures, landforms, objects, native burial sites and other features." As discussed above, the City has concluded that the project is not inconsistent with this or other land use policies because the historic resource on the site remains unaffected by the proposed project. As part of its public hearing on this project the City Council will consider the City's Historic Site Preservation Board's recommendation that the Santa Fe Federal Savings Bank Building be designated a Class 1 historic site. Staff believes the project is consistent with the referenced General Plan policy and no significant impact on land use would occur as a result of the project.

*The project proposes site coverage and density in excess of the City's codes and ordinances.*

The allowable site coverage is addressed in the Planned Development District application as a development standard for which the application seeks relief. The City has evaluated the request and determined the proposed site coverage or FAR is within that which is allowable by the City's General Plan. Thus Staff has concluded that no significant adverse impact is possible regarding land use and site coverage.

*B. Mitigation measures are improperly deferred and unenforceable.*

The initial study did not identify any specific mitigation measures to address specific construction impacts. Instead, the initial study identifies existing regulatory requirements that are designed to reduce temporary construction impacts. For example, the City requires all new development to submit a stormwater pollution prevention program; a PM-10 plan that is designed to mitigate water quality impacts from stormwater runoff and control dust during construction. The City also requires all new restaurants to provide odor filtration on any exhaust fans. At this point, it would be impractical to identify any specific odor filtration plan and exhaust system requirements without knowing the specific details about the particular restaurant use or the proposed tenant improvements. To address potential geology and soils impacts, the initial study relies on the City's extensive code requirements to ensure that these impacts would be less than significant.

After the preparation of the MND, the applicant agreed to delete the dining terrace and all exterior modifications to the existing building and Staff has included a Condition of Approval prohibiting the construction of a dining terrace and exterior modification to the existing structure; therefore no mitigation measures are necessary for these items.

(end of comments and responses)

November 7, 2008

Mr. Ken Lyon  
Associate Planner  
City of Palm Springs  
3200 E. Tahquitz Canyon Way  
Palm Springs, Ca 92262

**Cioffi**  
ARCHITECT

Re Case # 5.1137 PD 335 Baristo Lofts

Dear Ken,

This letter is in response to your initial study dated September 2008 and we would request that it be made part of the record.

On page 8, item B, there is a discussion of the proposed terrace that would be attached to the existing building, impacting the visual appearance of the historic resource. There has also been much discussion that such a terrace would negatively affect the "floating pavilion" character of the building. We do not agree with that argument. The proposed terrace will only add to the "floating" character of the building in its current state.

It is important to note that the building, as originally designed, did not "float" as it was surrounded on the west and north sides by a retaining wall and juniper shrubs that effectively masked the podium of the building. A correct historical response would be to replace the wall and planter, which may eliminate the need for the glass railing on the new terrace.

I have enclosed a photo of the building in it's original as built condition which makes this point very clear.

Thank you for your thorough and accurate report. We look forward to our hearing in December.

  
James Cioffi

Project Architect

Cc Mr. John Wessman  
Cc Ms. Emily Hemphill

Enclosed: Black and White photo of building.

**RECEIVED**

NOV 18 2008

PLANNING SERVICES  
DEPARTMENT

2121 E. TAHQUITZ CANYON WAY, SUITE 3  
PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA 92262-7021  
TEL 760 325 1557  
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# City of Palm Springs

Department of Planning Services  
3200 East Tahquitz Canyon Way • Palm Springs, CA 92262  
Tel: 760-323-8245 • Fax: 760-322-8360

November 13, 2008

Mr. Jim Cioffi  
2121 E Tahquitz Canyon Way Suite 3  
Palm Springs, CA 92262

Re: Case 5.1137 PD 335 Baristo Lofts 300 South Palm Canyon Drive, Palm Springs, CA  
Response to comment letter dated November 7, 2008 on Environmental Analysis

Thank you for your comment letter on the environmental evaluation of the proposed project. You wrote concerning the discussion in the initial study on the impact of the proposed dining terrace appendage to the existing structure at 300 South Palm Canyon Drive (referred to as the Santa Fe Federal Savings Bank or "Wessman Building").

The design of the existing building includes a concrete base "podium" or "plinth" with a thin, cantilevered edge that is visible from Baristo Road and Palm Canyon Road. The initial study identifies that the design of this plinth element is a defining characteristic and that it contributes to the historic significance of the existing building as a cultural resource. This was concluded because the long, uninterrupted cantilevered edge gives the building the appearance of "floating" above the adjacent landscape, a characteristic often associated with buildings of the International Modern Period.

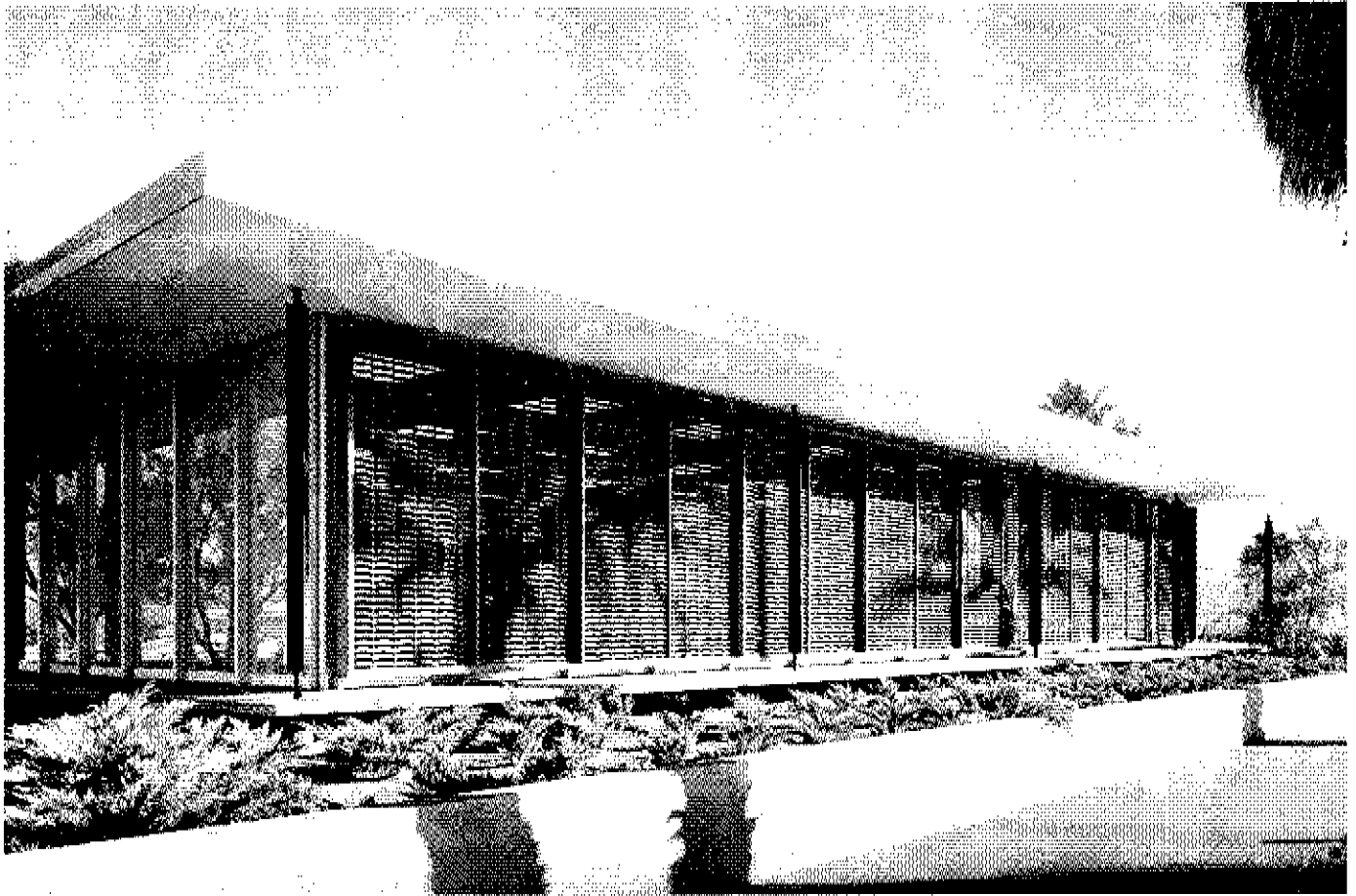
The Julius Shulman photo you provided with your letter is taken at the southwest corner of the site. From this vantage point, the adjacent drive aisle rises in elevation to just below the top of the plinth or podium and ties in with a wide entry stair that terminates the cantilevered edge detail of the podium on the south elevation. However additional Shulman photos (included herein) taken from the northwest show the cantilevered edge clearly visible above the landscape and the (now removed) retaining wall at the perimeter of the site. It is at this northwest corner - where the cantilever and floating appearance is most visible - that the proposed dining terrace is proposed. The original slump stone retaining wall could indeed be replicated, but it is not considered a defining historic characteristic. It also does not appear that doing so would ameliorate the need for railings on the proposed dining terrace as suggested in your letter.

From the evidence in these photos and other materials, the City has concluded that the proposed dining terrace would materially alter the characteristics of a historic resource at this site.

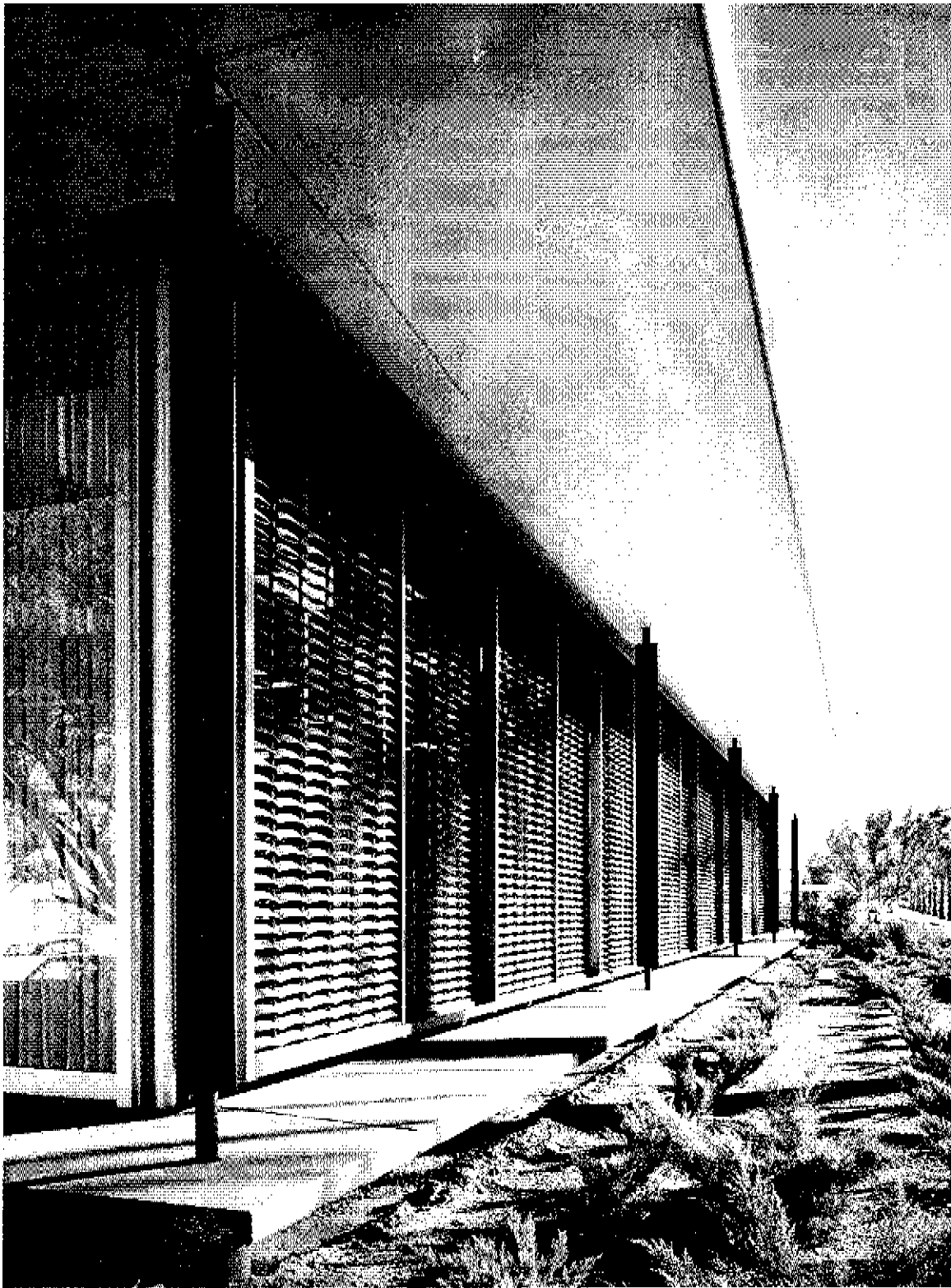
Sincerely,

Ken Lyon, Associate Planner

Attachment: Photos (2) c. 1960's, of Santa Fe Federal Savings Bank (credit: Julius Shulman)



300 S. Palm Canyon Drive – Santa Fe Federal – West Elevation



300 South Palm Canyon Drive – Santa Fe Federal - West façade, aluminum sunscreens



MEMBERS: Desert Hot Springs Palm Springs Cathedral City Rancho Mirage  
 Palm Desert Indian Wells La Quinta Indio Coachella Riverside County

A Public Agency

November 13, 2008

Mr. Ken Lyon, Associate Planner  
 Department of Planning Services  
 City of Palm Springs  
 3200 East Tahquitz Canyon Way  
 Palm Springs, CA 92262

Re: Baristo Lofts Case 5.1137 Major Architectural

Dear Mr. Lyon:

This letter responds to your request for comments regarding the proposed project located on 300 South Palm Canyon Drive at the southeast corner of South Palm Canyon Drive and Baristo Road. SunLine Transit Agency (SunLine) staff has reviewed the project and offers the following comments.

SunLine currently provides bus service to the proposed project site along South Palm Canyon Drive. Based on our review of existing transit amenities in the vicinity, SunLine has an existing bus stop in close proximity to the proposed development. Bus stop #128 is directly west of the proposed development and is served by Lines 14, 30 and 111.

Given this, the developer should not be required to construct additional amenities, including bus turnout and bus shelter. In addition, should the proposed development impact the bus stop and/or service provided by SunLine, the developer is required to contact SunLine 15 days prior to beginning of construction. This will give SunLine sufficient time to schedule removal of any bus stops, as well as inform passengers of any changes in service.

Should you have questions or concerns regarding this letter, please contact me at 760-343-3456, ext. 162.

Sincerely,

Alfonso Hernandez  
 Assistant Planner

cc: C. Mikel Oglesby, General Manager  
 Eunice Lovi, Director of Planning  
 Marcus Fuller, P.E., P.L.S. Assistant Director of Public Works/  
 Assistant City Engineer  
 City of Palm Springs  
 David Barakin, Director of Public Works/ City Engineer  
 City of Palm Springs



PALM SPRINGS  
PRESERVATION FOUNDATION

January 9, 2007

Palm Springs Historic Site Preservation Board  
City Hall  
Palm Springs, CA 92262

Dear Chairman,

Please be advised that the Palm Springs Preservation Foundation does not support the proposed project by Wessman and Associates around the E. Stewart Williams building at 300 South Palm Canyon, formerly the Santa Fe Savings.

The proposed project is inappropriate in concept, density, and building mass to the existing building.

It is for these reasons that the Preservation Foundation would hope that this project is denied by HSPB.

Thank you.

Regards,



William Kopelk, president

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(Corrected Copy)

PALM SPRINGS  
PRESERVATION FOUNDATION

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CITY OF PALM SPRINGS

2008 AUG 15 PM 12:46

JAMES THOMPSON  
CITY CLERK

August 12, 2008

Mr. Larry Hochanadel, Chair  
City of Palm Springs Planning Commission  
3200 East Tahquitz Canyon Way  
Palm Springs, CA 92262

Dear Chairman Hochanadel,

I would like to express the foundation's deep concern about an action before the city's Planning Commission regarding the Santa Fe Savings and Loan Building (1957).

Firstly, the Baristo Lofts project, in its latest four-story incarnation, looms over the Santa Fe bank building diminishing and adversely affecting that building's intended context.

Secondly, while we have no issue with "adaptively re-using" the Santa Fe bank building as a restaurant, we do object to the proposal to add outdoor seating. The most striking architectural feature of this modernist building is that it appears to "float" above the ground. The current outdoor seating design ties the building to the ground with a giant slab of concrete. We can only conclude that the developer is using the threat of marginalizing this important architectural feature as a bargaining chip to stampede the commission into approving the less offensive portions of the project.

Finally, it was irresponsible and irregular of the previous city council to tie the Class I historic designation of the Santa Fe bank building to the Baristo Lofts project. That action was wholly for the benefit of the developer and not for the citizens of Palm Springs. The public outcry over the council's decision is well-documented and we are now faced with a situation where this important building is effectively being held "hostage" to the changing whims of a developer.

Short of rejecting the proposal outright, we recommend the proposed taller structure allow space and "breathing room" in deference to the Santa Fe bank pavilion. A sufficient distance between structures is critical, as is a profile for the Baristo Lofts building that steps away from the Santa Fe bank building. We also ask that the Planning Commission recommend to the city council that the Class I historic designation of the Santa Fe bank building be allowed to proceed unfettered on its' own merits.

In 2005, as part of the foundation's education program, I had the privilege to release a tribute journal to architect F. Stewart Williams. Understandably, we have a special interest in ensuring that this building remains intact as one of the city's most valuable architectural resources. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or foundation board member Mr. Ron Marshall at (760) 808-6988 or email [pspfromm@yahoo.com](mailto:pspfromm@yahoo.com).

Sincerely,



William Kopelk, President  
Palm Springs Preservation Foundation

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**Terri Hintz**

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**From:** Dondi555@aol.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 13, 2009 9:51 AM  
**To:** Terri Hintz  
**Cc:** Craig Ewing; Steve Pougnet; Ginny Foat; Lee Weigel; Rick Hutcheson; MRIMBER@aol.com  
**Subject:** LETTER TO MR. HOCHANADEL

Mr. Hochanadel,

I strongly appose the development of the project before you... Baristo Lofts. It appears that this project would alter the historic fabric of the area in which it is proposed.

Historic Architecture is one of the main draws for tourism to cities like Palm Springs....and all efforts to save and protect such structures like the Santa Fe Federal Savings and Loan building should be made. There are many insignificant structures downtown that could serve as a substitute site for this oversized and unsympathetic project.

Why are we continually tearing down the best examples of our architectural history only to build eyesores like the Fashion Plaza and Hyatt Hotel? Our economy is in recession... why add to the grief and vacancy on Palm Canyon.

Please reconsider this application and the request for HSPB's nomination.

Respectfully,  
Don DeFeo  
Palm Springs, CA

*Item 4B*

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New year...new news. Be the first to know what is making headlines.



From: Craig Ewing  
Sent: Tuesday, January 13, 2009 1:16 PM  
To: Ken Lyon  
Subject: FW: letter to Mr Hochanadel

Ken,  
Another letter, working from the same e-mail list.

**Craig A. Ewing, AICP**  
Director of Planning Services  
City of Palm Springs  
3200 E. Tahquitz Canyon Drive  
Palm Springs, CA 92262  
760-323-8245

From: Bonnieruttan@aol.com [mailto:Bonnieruttan@aol.com]  
Sent: Tuesday, January 13, 2009 1:02 PM  
To: Terri Hintz  
Cc: Ginny Foat; Steve Pougnet; Lee Weigel; Rick Hutcheson; Craig Ewing  
Subject: letter to Mr Hochanadel

***Please consider the following thoughts regarding the Santa Fe Savings Building.....***

***Harming pristine, existing architecture for which Palm Springs is acclaimed undermines the economic base that architecture has provided in revitalizing tourism***

***Baristo Lofts would be within one block of more than eight large buildings that have been empty for many years***

***This is not an economic climate to initiate a project of this nature...thinking optimistically, is it not more advised to regenerate our infra-structure before we build more?***

***there is a glut on the market of empty condos and retail already; why not embrace the Stewart Williams architecture and do something great with it***

***Sincerely,  
Bonnie Ruttan  
1111 Abrigo Rd  
PS***

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1/13/2009

*ITM 4B*

**Terri Hintz**

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**From:** Douglas Chimside [douglaschimside@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 13, 2009 3:39 PM  
**To:** Terri Hintz  
**Cc:** Craig Ewing; Steve Pougnet; Ginny Foat; Lee Weigel; Rick Hutcheson  
**Subject:** Letter to Mr Hochanadel - Proposed Baristo Lofts Project

Dear Chairman Hochanadel

I wish to express my concern about an action before the City's Planning Commission regarding the proposed Baristo Lofts project and the renowned Santa Fe Savings and Loan Building, now called the Wessman Building, by E. Stewart Williams.

The proposed Baristo Lofts design impacts inappropriately and unsympathetically on the Wessman Building, which, as you know, is an important element of Palm Springs' unique architectural heritage and of the character for which the city remains world famous, though sadly these days that reputation hangs in the balance.

I first came to Palm Springs from my home in London 15 years ago precisely because I had seen photographs of, among others, this building. I had the pleasure of meeting Stewart Williams and discussing with him this type of 'floating' structure. This building, in my opinion, is worthy of being designated of special importance and any development around it - and I am all for the right sort of commercial development - should be very carefully considered so that it does not detract from the integrity of this outstanding design. I'm afraid this proposed development will harm the virtues of the original building, and in a very prominent location too.

Rare architecture of this quality and period, in its original, unspoilt setting is a huge draw to far flung Americans and Europeans like myself to visit Palm Springs. Many, and I am one of them, come time and again and even end up buying vacation homes in Palm Springs, contributing to the city economy through our property taxes and our substantial purchasing power. I am sure you will agree with me that to preserve the character of the city that is a draw to the world, both individual gems and whole areas ought to be treated with great care - otherwise supposedly 'commercial' development will damage the appeal of our city and not be commerial at all in the long run for anyone but the builder. Development should add to, not take away, the riches our city already has in the bank.

I would be grateful if my comments could be entered into the Public Record at your meeting tomorrow.

Yours sincerely

*Terri Hintz 4B.*

**Terri Hintz**

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**From:** MSpohn53@aol.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 13, 2009 5:31 PM  
**To:** Terri Hintz  
**Cc:** Craig Ewing; Steve Pougnet; Ginny Foat; Lee Weigel; Rick Hutcheson  
**Subject:** Letter to Mr. Hochanadel

Dear Mr. Hochanadel,

I am writing this letter to express my sincere concern about the proposed Baristo Lofts project. I understand that the planning commission is faced with a difficult and complex decision regarding the proposed development of the site versus historic preservation of the Santa Fe Savings building. It seems particularly challenging because the decision must be made within the context of a vision for the future of the city. I am hoping that the planning commission will act responsibly with an eye to the long term.

I have been involved in the commercial real estate industry for over 30 years, and I have usually been pro development. I am thoroughly experienced in the industry, and I am predisposed to support new development. However, I truly question why the Baristo Lofts project is even being proposed at this time. THIS PROJECT HAS NO MERIT. It is a really bad idea, and a symbol of the kind of self absorbed greed that has led America into its current dire financial crisis. It is a project conceived of artificial suppositions, and a flawed real estate development model. It's the wrong direction. Those days are over, and we should stop the insanity.

I am especially concerned that a convoluted project like the Baristo Lofts could take priority over the proper stewardship of the Santa Fe Savings building. I rarely feel compelled to make this kind of a statement, but this matter is a crossroads, and I ask that the Planning Commission make this difficult decision, and deny the Baristo Lofts project. It's just wrong.

Mark Spohn  
250 W. Stevens Rd.  
Palm Springs, Ca. 92262  
760-328-0878

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1/14/2009

459  
*ITM 4B*

**Terri Hintz**

**From:** HILARY WILLS [hilarywills@msn.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 14, 2009 7:47 AM  
**To:** Terri Hintz; Steve Pougnet  
**Subject:** FW: Delivery Status Notification (Failure)

From: postmaster@mail.hotmail.com  
To: hilarywills@msn.com  
Date: Wed, 14 Jan 2009 07:44:22 -0800  
Subject: Delivery Status Notification (Failure)

This is an automatically generated Delivery Status Notification.

Delivery to the following recipients failed.

terri.hinze@palmsprings-ca.gov  
steve-pougnet@palmsprings-ca.gov

**--Forwarded Message Attachment--**

From: hilarywills@msn.com  
To: terri.hinze@palmsprings-ca.gov  
CC: craig.ewing@palmsprings-ca.gov; steve-pougnet@palmsprings-ca.gov;  
ginny.foat@palmsprings-ca.gov; lee.weigel@palmsprings-ca.gov; rick.hutcheson@palmsprings-ca.gov  
Subject: Wessman development proposal  
Date: Wed, 14 Jan 2009 07:44:20 -0800

I wish to voice my concern and horror to think that Palm Springs City Council are considering this project. E Stewart Williams was one of the best known Modernist architects who lived and worked here in Palm Springs. PLEASE remember that the rest of the world appreciates his work, and that of the other Modernists, and many people travel here for the express purpose of seeing their work. It seems that only Palm Springs City Council (and the greedy developers) treat these buildings with contempt. Isn't it about time everyone sat up and realised that potential purchasers have spoken with their wallets? How many more empty downtown condos do we need before you all realise that this is NOT what people coming to Palm Springs want? To even be thinking about building something so ugly and so out of context and so ENORMOUS shows just how ridiculous Palm Springs City Council really is. I suspect Wessman Developments won't proceed but of course they can't sell the project on without City Permits! WAKE UP Palm Springs and try and save the little that is left. Santa Barbara and Miami (to name but 2 American cities) realised they had something

200

1/14/2009

*Tom 4R*

**Terri Hintz**

**From:** Trinaturk [Trina@trinaturk.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 13, 2009 10:03 PM  
**To:** Terri Hintz  
**Cc:** Craig Ewing; Steve Pougnet; Ginny Foat; Rick.Hutcheson@palmsprings.ca-gov; Lee Weigel  
**Subject:** Letter to Mr. Hochanadel

I would like the following letter to be entered into the public record at tomorrow's city council meeting.

Dear Mr. Hochanadel:

I own 2 successful retail stores, Trina Turk, and Trina Turk Residential at 891 and 895 North Palm Canyon Blvd.

What brought me, and what most often brings my upscale clientele to the city of Palm Springs is the mid-century architecture. The city must recognize the invaluable and irreplaceable resource and tourism draw our modernist architecture represents. The concentration of mid-century modern commercial and residential architecture in Palm Springs is what differentiates us from other desert communities. The opportunity to have stores in an original Albert Frey building are what drew me to Palm Springs instead of El Paseo in Palm Desert.

For these reasons, the Baristo Lofts project should not go forward.

We have limited remaining mid-century commercial structures in our city, and every time one is compromised, we lose a valuable asset that cannot be replaced. Instead of building a new development around the Santa Fe Federal Savings Building, this developer should make improvements to the Desert Fashion Plaza, which is a black hole eating away at the life of our downtown.

I want our city to succeed. We are at a tipping point. We can fall to the side of more insensitive development, resulting in the destruction of what brings an upscale clientele to our town, or we can make a commitment to preserve what has made us famous and world renowned. We are not Santa Barbara, nor are we Santa Fe. We should embrace the modernist architecture that defines our city. We should not allow insensitive development to ruin another one of our architectural treasures.

Thank you for your consideration. Best Regards, Trina Turk

**Terri Hintz**

---

**From:** Grant Monck [gmonck@pearsoncollege.ca]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 14, 2009 10:45 AM  
**To:** Terri Hintz  
**Cc:** Craig Ewing; Steve Pougnet; Ginny Foat; Lee Weigel; Rick Hutcheson  
**Subject:** LETTER TO MR. HOCHANADEL RE: MEETING TODAY - 1:30PM re: - PALM SPRINGS PLANNING COMMISSION

**Dear Mr. Hochandel,**

**As a property owner at 750 East La Verne Way in Palm Springs, I ask that this email be entered into the record at today's meeting noted above. I am unfortunately out of the country and unable to attend the meeting today.**

**My partner, Bob Freedman and I who own a home in Palm Springs object to the proposed Baristo Lofts mixed-use project immediately adjacent to the Wessman Building at 300 South Palm Canyon Drive. In our view this proposal would forever change the downtown footprint and horribly impact the pristine original building.**

**My partner was recently interviewed by *Palm Springs Life* magazine for an article in their February issue on individuals who have purchased mid-century homes in Palm Springs due to the unique architectural significance of the city. In our view if projects such as Baristo Lofts proceed, the uniqueness of Palm Springs will be endangered and the current economic benefits and future revenue from new residents and visitors interested in mid-century architecture will be threatened.**

**I find it hard to believe that a city such as Buffalo, New York (noted recently in *The New York Times*) can see a major part of their economic future in preserving its architectural treasures but not Palm Springs. If the Baristo Lofts proposal is accepted, you will be moving down an unfortunate path that could remove a unique marketing niche for Palm Springs and dampen the economic stability and future of the city.**

**Thank you for recording my remarks for today's meeting.**

**Regards, Grant Monck**

**750 East La Verne Way, Palm Springs**

202

*I tm 4B*

**Terri Hintz**

**From:** GeraldHMark@aol.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 14, 2009 11:56 AM  
**To:** Terri Hintz  
**Cc:** Craig Ewing; Steve Pougnet; Ginny Foat; Lee Weigel; Rick Hutcheson  
**Subject:** Letter to Mr. Hochanadel

To: Planning Commission Chairman Larry Hochanadel:

Re: Baristo Lofts project

As a frequent visitor to Palm Springs, one of the highlights is the architecture of the city. I would encourage you to not jeopardize cultural tourism and the architectural heritage of Palm Springs by approving the Baristo Lofts project.

Please enter my comment into the Public Record at the meeting today at 1:30 pm of the Palm Springs Planning Commission.

Respectfully,

Gerald Markovitz, M.D.  
11600 Wilshire Blvd #512  
Los Angeles, CA 90025  
310-473-5087

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263

1/14/2009

*Item 4B*

**CHATTEN-BROWN & CARSTENS**

2601 OCEAN PARK BOULEVARD

SUITE 205

SANTA MONICA, CALIFORNIA 90405

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TELEPHONE: (310) 314-8040

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E-MAIL:

ACM@CBCearthlaw.com

January 13, 2009

*Via Email and Facsimile*

*Original to Follow via Overnight Express*

Honorable Planning Commission  
City of Palm Springs  
3200 E. Tahquitz Canyon Way  
Palm Springs, CA 92263

Re: Baristo Lofts Mixed Use Commercial/Residential Project; Case No. 5.1137  
Planned Development District 335; Case No. 3.3029-Major Architectural  
Application; Tentative Tract Map 35230

Honorable Commissioners:

On behalf of the Palm Springs Modern Committee, we submit the attached expert report of Peter Moruzzi responding to the City's assessment of the Baristo Lofts project's impacts to the historically significant Santa Fe Federal Savings Building.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Amy Minter  
Attorney at Law

Enclosure

cc: Palm Springs Modern Committee

284

*Tim 4B*



January 13, 2009

Planning Commission  
City of Palm Springs  
3200 Tahquitz Canyon Way  
Palm Springs, CA 92262

Subject: Impacts of Baristo Lofts project on the historic former Santa Fe Federal Savings Building

Honorable Commissioners:

I have previously submitted letters to you setting out the historic significance of E. Stewart Williams' Santa Fe Federal Savings Building and the negative impacts the Baristo Lofts project would have on this important historic resource. I am pleased to see that the City has now concurred that it is a significant historic resource of great importance to Palm Springs. The City has also reduced some of the impacts to this resource by prohibiting modification of the exterior of the Santa Fe Federal Savings Building as a condition of approval for the Baristo Lofts project. The purpose of this letter is to address the City's responses to comments I have made regarding the Baristo Lofts project's impacts on the Santa Fe Federal Savings Building and to reiterate that, as proposed, this project would significantly and irrevocably alter the setting of the Santa Fe Federal Savings Building.

As stated in my previous comments on the Baristo Loft's project, a key aspect of Williams' design is its setting: the Santa Fe Federal Savings Building is surrounded by open space, which enhances views of the building and its "floating" quality. The Response to Comments on the Environmental Analysis included in the Planning Commission's January 14, 2009 Staff Report packet contends that Santa Fe Federal Savings Building is not surrounded by open space because there is a wrap around parking lot located on the south and east sides of the historic structure. However, this parking lot is open space in the sense that it allows unobstructed views of the Santa Fe Federal Savings Building and protects the freestanding appearance of the building.

The Response to Comments also states that the Baristo Lofts project is consistent with Williams' vision for the site because in 1969 Williams proposed an infill development that the Response to Comments considers to be similar to the Baristo Lofts project. I strenuously disagree with the conclusion that the Baristo Lofts project is similar to Williams' proposal. Instead, Williams' proposal highlights what is wrong with the Baristo Lofts project. The rendering for Williams' proposal depicts a new building that is much more sensitive and respectful of the Santa Fe Federal Savings Building, particularly in its larger setbacks between the buildings and from Palm Canyon Drive.

The Baristo Lofts project as proposed is only four feet from the Santa Fe Federal Savings Building, whereas Williams' proposal provides breathing room between the new building and this historic building by raising the new building on piers so that the upper floors cantilever over the ground floor. Even if a condition of approval were included in the Baristo Lofts project to require "Juliet balconies" instead of full depth balconies on the north façade of the new building, there would still be less space between the two buildings than shown in the rendering for Williams' proposal. Unless the Baristo Lofts project is revised to increase the space between the Santa Fe Federal Savings Building and the new building similar to the setbacks shown for Williams' proposal, the Baristo Lofts project would significantly encroach upon the historic building resulting in a significant impact to its setting.

Additionally, although both proposals are four stories, the Baristo Lofts project is considerably larger than Williams' proposal. The massive size of the proposed Baristo Lofts project overwhelms the Santa Fe Federal Savings Building and seriously detracts from the character defining freestanding appearance of the building. In contrast, Williams' proposal includes a more appropriately sized new building that is visually distinct but aesthetically complementary to the Santa Fe Federal Savings Building.

The Baristo Lofts project is also set closer to Palm Canyon Drive than the Santa Fe Federal Savings Building, which blocks views of the historic building and increases the new building's encroachment on it. Williams' proposal includes a larger setback from Palm Canyon Drive than the proposed Baristo Lofts project, increasing the visibility of the Santa Fe Federal Savings Building and making its increased height appear less imposing.

In summary, the Baristo Lofts project would have significant adverse aesthetic and cultural resource impacts on the historically significant Santa Fe Federal Savings Building and its setting due the proposed project's massive size and lack of setbacks. These significant impacts could be reduced by revising the Baristo Lofts project to be more consistent with the design elements set forth in Williams' proposal.

Sincerely,



Peter Moruzzi  
Architectural Historian

A  
A A

13 January 2009

Mr. Larry Hochanadel, Chair  
City of Palm Springs Planning Commission  
3200 East Tahquitz Canyon Way  
Palm Springs, CA 92262

RE: Case 5.1137 PD 335 / TTM 35230 / 3.3028 MAJ (Baristo Lofts)

Dear Mr. Hochanadel and members of the Palm Springs Planning Commission,

I am an architect that lives and works in the Carmel/Monterey Bay area. When we are fed up with the fog we head out to Palm Springs. So why do we choose Palm Springs over the other cities in the Coachella Valley that offer the things we like such as beauty, climate, golfing, swimming, and shopping. What the other Coachella Valley cities do not have is the uniqueness of Palm Springs. They do not have the diverse and eclectic history and architecture that Palm Springs has along with its pedestrian friendly boulevards. It is the experience of walking the streets of Palm Springs and enjoying its architecture, which we cannot find anywhere else that keeps us coming back. On our returns, we especially like finding new pieces of historic architecture restored and maintained like many of the fine motels we have stayed in.

The proposed Baristo Lofts visually invades one of your Mid-Century Modern architectural gems that are historically and visually significant to the city of Palm Springs. Historical buildings need to be respected, even if this means giving the building space to let its intended architectural form stand out for future citizens and visitors to enjoy. The Santa Fe Federal Savings and Loan building is a wonderful representation of Mid Century Modern Bank architecture that is supposed to stand out and away from other buildings. It is not surprising the owner has enjoyed using this building for many years and its exclusivity on such a spacious corner, giving him much visual exposure and prominence.

The Palm Springs General Plan states the following in its vision for the future "To preserve and uphold the high quality of architecture and the unique visual and aesthetic form in building and neighborhoods that distinguish Palm Springs from other cities." (PSGP pg 1-13). You cannot uphold the "unique visual and aesthetic forms that distinguish Palm Springs from other cities" by allowing proposed developments to dominate the existing distinctive and diverse cityscape.

Palm Springs can be compared to a museum of architecture in which some of the buildings need room, like art work displayed in an art gallery. You cannot appreciate artwork if it all bunched up, so some of Palm Springs buildings need their space and that is what will make Palm Springs look like no other desert city that follow formulated planning guidelines. I know that is hard to accomplish in a climate of fluctuating real estate prices and much needed tax revenue, but it may give something the City can be proud of.

As Planning Commissioners, it is a challenge to accommodate needed future growth with the historical and architectural charm a city may have, but it can be done. We do it in the cities of Monterey and Carmel-By-The-Sea and we have the Coastal Commission to deal with. It takes a commitment to the vision of the City and not let the "flavor of the month" styles and misguided development take momentary precedence.

The architecture of Palm Springs is unique and exceptional and is a valuable asset to our rich Californian and American architectural legacy. Please do not let this proposed project encroach on the Santa Fe Federal Savings and Loan building and the space it is entitled to.

Respectfully Submitted

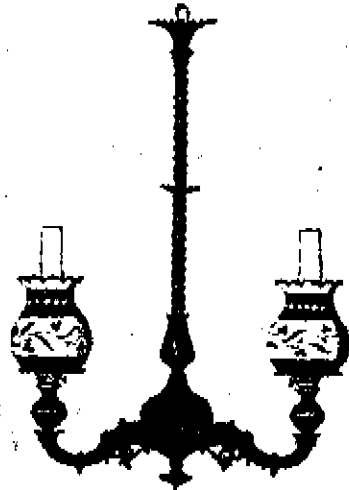
Sally Anne Smith, AIA  
2005 & 2006 Past President -Monterey Bay Chapter of the American Institute of Architects  
Current Director of COTE (Committee on the Environment) Monterey Bay Chapter of the American Institute of Architects

Submitted to  
Planning Commission  
JAN 14 2009

**SMITH ARCHITECTURAL STUDIO**

cultural values."

provide for an efficient contemporary use; however, these repairs and alterations must not damage or destroy materials, features or finishes that are important in defining the building's historic character. For example, certain treatments—if improperly applied—may cause or accelerate physical deterioration of the historic building. This can include using improper repointing or exterior masonry cleaning techniques, or introducing insulation that damages historic fabric. In almost all of these situations, use of these materials and treatments will result in a project that does not meet the Standards. Similarly, exterior additions that duplicate the form, material, and detailing of the structure to the extent that they compromise the historic character of the structure will fail to meet the Standards.



## The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation

The Standards (Department of Interior regulations, 36 CFR 67) pertain to historic buildings of all materials, construction types, sizes, and occupancy and encompass the exterior and the interior, related landscape features and the building's site and environment as well as attached, adjacent, or related new construction. The Standards are to be applied to specific rehabilitation projects in a reasonable manner, taking into consideration economic and technical feasibility.

1. A property shall be used for its historic purpose or be placed in a new use that requires minimal change to the defining characteristics of the building and its site and environment.
2. The historic character of a property shall be retained and preserved. The removal of historic materials or alteration of features and spaces that characterize a property shall be avoided.
3. Each property shall be recognized as a physical record of its time, place, and use. Changes that create a false sense of historical development, such as adding conjectural features or architectural elements from other buildings, shall not be undertaken.
4. Most properties change over time; those changes that have acquired historic significance in their own right shall be retained and preserved.
5. Distinctive features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a property shall be preserved.
6. Deteriorated historic features shall be repaired rather than replaced. Where the severity of deterioration requires replacement of a distinctive feature, the new feature shall match the old in design, color, texture, and other visual qualities and, where possible, materials. Replacement of missing features shall be substantiated by documentary, physical, or pictorial evidence.
7. Chemical or physical treatments, such as sandblasting, that cause damage to historic materials shall not be used. The surface cleaning of structures, if appropriate, shall be undertaken using the gentlest means

The Standards are to be applied to specific rehabilitation projects in a reasonable manner, taking into consideration economic and technical

feasibility.

possible.

8. Significant archeological resources affected by a project shall be protected and preserved. If such resources must be disturbed, mitigation measures shall be undertaken.

9. New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction shall not destroy historic materials that characterize the property. The new work shall be differentiated from the old and shall be compatible with the massing, size, scale, and architectural features to protect the historic integrity of the property and its environment.

10. New additions and adjacent or related new construction shall be undertaken in such a manner that if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired.



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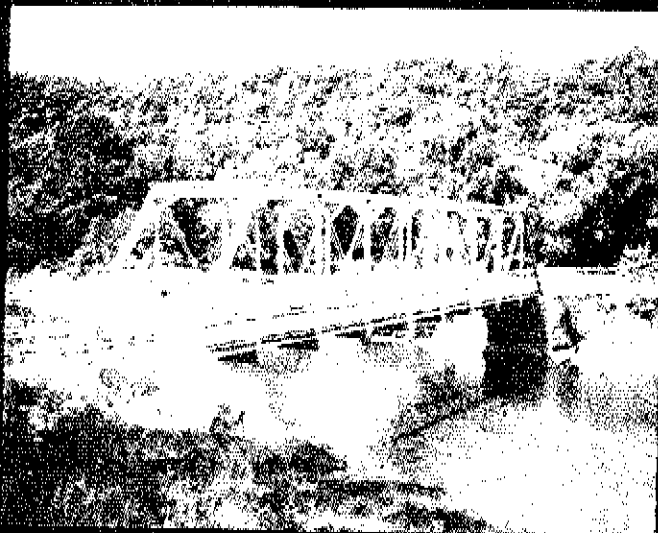
# NATIONAL REGISTER BULLETIN

Technical information on the the National Register of Historic Places:  
survey, evaluation, registration, and preservation of cultural resources



U.S. Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
Cultural Resources  
National Register, History and Education

## How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation



## DEFINING THE ESSENTIAL PHYSICAL FEATURES

All properties change over time. It is not necessary for a property to retain all its historic physical features or characteristics. The property must retain, however, the essential physical features that enable it to convey its historic identity. The essential physical features are those features that define both *why* a property is significant (Applicable Criteria and Areas of Significance) and *when* it was significant (Periods of Significance). They are the features without which a property can no longer be identified as, for instance, a late 19th century dairy barn or an early 20th century commercial district.

## CRITERIA A AND B

A property that is significant for its historic association is eligible if it retains the essential physical features that made up its character or appearance during the period of its association with the important event, historical pattern, or person(s). If the property is a site (such as a treaty site) where there are no material cultural remains, the setting must be intact.

Archeological sites eligible under Criteria A and B must be in overall good condition with excellent preservation of features, artifacts, and spatial relationships to the extent that these remains are able to convey important associations with events or persons.

## CRITERION C

A property important for illustrating a particular architectural style or construction technique must retain most of the physical features that constitute that style or technique. A property that has lost some historic materials or details can be eligible if it retains the majority of the features that illustrate its style in terms of the massing, spatial relationships, proportion, pattern of windows and doors, texture of materials, and ornamentation. The property is not eligible, however, if it retains some basic features conveying massing but has lost the majority of the features that once characterized its style.

Archeological sites eligible under Criterion C must be in overall good condition with excellent preservation

of features, artifacts, and spatial relationships to the extent that these remains are able to illustrate a site type, time period, method of construction, or work of a master.

## CRITERION D

For properties eligible under Criterion D, including archeological sites and standing structures studied for their information potential, less attention is given to their overall condition, than if they were being considered under Criteria A, B, or C. Archeological sites, in particular, do not exist today exactly as they were formed. There are always cultural and natural processes that alter the deposited materials and their spatial relationships.

For properties eligible under Criterion D, integrity is based upon the property's potential to yield specific data that addresses important research questions, such as those identified in the historic context documentation in the Statewide Comprehensive Preservation Plan or in the research design for projects meeting the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Archeological Documentation*.

## INTERIORS

Some historic buildings are virtually defined by their exteriors, and their contribution to the built environment can be appreciated even if their interiors are not accessible. Examples of this would include early examples of steel-framed skyscraper construction. The great advance in American technology and engineering made by these buildings can be read from the outside. The change in American popular taste during the 19th century, from the symmetry and simplicity of architectural styles based on classical precedents, to the expressions of High Victorian styles, with their combination of textures, colors, and asymmetrical forms, is readily apparent from the exteriors of these buildings.

Other buildings "are" interiors. The Cleveland Arcade, that soaring 19th century glass-covered shopping area, can only be appreciated from the inside. Other buildings in this category would be the great covered train sheds of the 19th century.

In some cases the loss of an interior will disqualify properties from listing

in the National Register—a historic concert hall noted for the beauty of its auditorium and its fine acoustic qualities would be the type of property that if it were to lose its interior, it would lose its value as a historic resource. In other cases, the overarching significance of a property's exterior can overcome the adverse effect of the loss of an interior.

In borderline cases particular attention is paid to the significance of the property and the remaining historic features.

## HISTORIC DISTRICTS

For a district to retain integrity as a whole, the majority of the components that make up the district's historic character must possess integrity even if they are individually undistinguished. In addition, the relationships among the district's components must be substantially unchanged since the period of significance.

When evaluating the impact of intrusions upon the district's integrity, take into consideration the relative number, size, scale, design, and location of the components that do not contribute to the significance. A district is not eligible if it contains so many alterations or new intrusions that it no longer conveys the sense of a historic environment.

A component of a district cannot contribute to the significance if:

- it has been substantially altered since the period of the district's significance *or*
- it does not share the historic associations of the district.

## VISIBILITY OF PHYSICAL FEATURES

Properties eligible under Criteria A, B, and C must not only retain their essential physical features, but the features must be visible enough to convey their significance. This means that even if a property is physically intact, its integrity is questionable if its significant features are concealed under modern construction. Archeological properties are often the exception to this; by nature they usually do not require visible features to convey their significance.



# CITY OF PALM SPRINGS

## DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING SERVICES

### MEMORANDUM

**Date:** January 14, 2009

**Subject:** Comments from Architectural Advisory Meetings on Baristo Lofts 5.1137

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- On January 22, 2007 the Architectural Advisory Committee (AAC) reviewed the project and voted 3-2-1 to restudy. Comments included:
  - Give more view of the existing Stu Williams bank building; too crowded.
  - Preserve the two street frontage elevations and green space on the existing bank building.
  - Set the new building back more from Palm Canyon for preserving view of bank building.
  
- On March 12, 2007 the AAC reviewed the project and voted 6-1-0 to restudy the project again. Comments included:
  - Dining terrace on the existing building is a problem. Place it at grade instead of attached to the podium of the existing bank building, move the outdoor dining to the space between the existing and new building where it is better protected from the sun, replace the existing glass wall with sliding glass for open air dining, or eliminate it.
  - Still seems too tight against the original building.
  - Need major separation between new and existing building.
  - Dining terrace destroys the lightness of the existing building, restudy.
  - Consider transfer of density to another site, this is too much for this site.
  - Don't change the look of the existing building.
  - Railing on dining terrace detracts from historic bank building.
  - Open space around the bank building is vital.
  
- On March 26, 2007, the Architectural Advisory Committee (AAC) reviewed the project and a motion to recommend that the Planning Commission approve the project resulted in a 3 to 3 tie vote, therefore, there was no recommendation made to the Planning Commission. Comments from the meeting included
  - Integrity of the historic bank building should be better maintained.
  - If the bank was used for something other than a restaurant, it would be better.
  - Project is too big for the site.
  
- On June 25, 2007, the Architectural Advisory Committee (AAC) reviewed the project again, and voted 6-0-0 to re-study the project. Comments included:
  - Stairs on back lot line is problematic.
  - Scheme is not appropriate for this site.
  - New building too close to existing.



- Balconies too close to property line.
  - Very crowded site.
  - Safety codes not being followed.
  - Restudy south and east property line issues.
- On August 20, 2007, the Architectural Advisory Committee (AAC) reviewed the revised project and voted 4-2-0 (Cioffi & King opposing) to recommend that the Planning Commission deny the project. Comments included:
    - Landscape is confusing.
    - Dining terrace is not going to work.
    - This development would be better somewhere else.
    - New building is too close to the existing.
    - Problems with railing around the historic building.
  - On June 9, 2008 the AAC reviewed a resubmitted design for the subject project and voted 4-1-1 (Ortega opposed, Cioffi abstained) to recommend that the Planning Commission approve the project with the following recommendations:
    - Pull back the balconies at the north side of the proposed new building to give more space between the cantilevered roof edge of the existing building and the new (modify these to "Juliet, or French" balconies, where the railing of the balcony is immediately in front of the sliding doors).
    - Study and provide more articulation (in general) in the architectural detailing of the proposed project. (A general comment was offered that the architecture overall is good, but the detailing needs to be brought back for further study and AAC review).
    - The dining terrace is still a problem. The possibility of table umbrellas or retractable awnings, misters, or winter time portable heaters that would further detract from the aesthetic of the existing building was considered problematic. Re-evaluate the proposed dining terrace as follows;
      - Consider an alternative to pull it back to the window wall and create "open dining" by sliding window walls along the existing building window line in lieu of the extension and addition to the plinth;
      - Create an alternative with a lowered terrace, preserving the existing plinth edge/line with steps/ramps to connect it to the main building level.
      - Consider an alternative to the glass railing/barrier such as low planters to provide a safety barrier that is less noticeable or obtrusive on the aesthetic of the original building.
      - Carefully re-assess the usability of this west-facing terrace in terms of sun intensity and address whether (or how) will it truly be habitable for lunch and afternoon/early dining without umbrellas, canopies, misters, heaters, and other visually intrusive components that would clutter up the aesthetics of the Stu Williams building).

- \*Awnings shall be cleaned and maintained on a regular basis.
- \*Allowance of a two (2) square feet "Open Sunday" sign.
- \*The neon accessory sign shall be reduced to six (6) square feet.
- \*Existing barber pole to remain.

Mr. Ewing reported that the Planning Commission decision may be appealed to the City Council within 10 days of written notice.

#### **PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

4. **Case 5.1137 GPA PD 335 / 3.3028 MAJ / TTM 35230 (Baristo Lofts) - An application by Wessman Holdings, LLC., to construct a four-story, mixed-use project consisting of 4,725 square feet of new retail commercial, 4,300 square feet of office space on the second floor and 15 condominium units with a roof top pool, underground parking, a General Plan Amendment to reclassify Baristo Road from a Secondary Thoroughfare to a Collector Road and a Tentative Tract Map located at 300 South Palm Canyon Drive, Zone CBD, Section 15, APN: 513-204-005. (Project Planner: Fred Lowndes, Associate Planner)**

Fred Lowndes, Associate Planner, provided background information as outlined in the staff report dated October 10, 2007. Mr. Lowndes reported on April 4, 2007, the City Council voted to continue the public hearing for the Historic Site Preservation Board's request to designate the site as a Class 1 Historic Site until such time as the application for the Planned Development District is bought before them. Mr. Lowndes stated that the issue of the Class I site is not before the Planning Commission and not a part of this proceeding. Mr. Lowndes noted an error in the surrounding street names and zoning, on page 4 of the Negative Declaration, and will be changed to reflect the correct information.

Chair Marantz noted a concern with flooding on Baristo Road and the request to reclassify it as a narrow street. Mr. Fuller responded that there will be no physical change to the streets and the curbs will remain the same.

Commissioner Hutcheson noted the Downtown Urban Design Guidelines states an 18 foot building height along Palm Canyon and felt there is insufficient open space and parking spaces.

Commissioner Cohen requested staff address the east side setbacks. Staff responded that the east setbacks are 13 feet and noted there is a large overhang on the roof towards the rear of the building.

Chair Marantz opened the Public Hearing:

- John Wessman, applicant, provided further details on the revisions made to the project, and encouraged the adaptive re-use of historic buildings.
- Sidney Williams, chair of the Historic Site Preservation Board, spoke of the growth in the city and the importance of preserving the historical heritage.
- Gary Johns, Palm Springs, stated the Architectural Advisory Committee recommended denial of the project primarily due to the aesthetics.
- Peter Moruzzi, president of Palm Springs Modern Committee, stated the committee urged denial of the project and voiced concern with the density and parking.
- John Wessman, responded to testimony, stated many approved developments have not moved forward and reiterated the importance of adaptive re-use of historic buildings for the current times.

There being no further appearances, the Public Hearing was closed.

Commissioner Hutcheson stated he is not in favor of the project because of the importance of historic buildings in the city, inadequate parking space, insufficient open space and building height relating to the Downtown Guidelines.

Chair Marantz expressed concern over the unavailability of comments from the Architectural Advisory Committee and noted her concern with the density of this site.

Commissioner Ringlein noted a correction of page 3 and 4, conditions #10 - #14 are duplicated in conditions #15 - #19; and suggested addressing commercial trash collection and deliveries in the downtown area. Ms. Ringlein stated that she is not overly concerned with the parking because of the parking structure directly across the street and public parking behind the Vineyard. Ms. Ringlein noted that the building would be ideal for a restaurant and outdoor patio with no alterations to the building.

Commissioner Hutcheson noted that the concept of adaptive re-use for a restaurant would be spectacular with a plaza instead of the abutting lofts with no alterations to the building.

Commissioner Scott stated as an architect, he feels the adaptive re-use of historic buildings are very important, spoke in favor of a restaurant and suggested relocating the dining plaza to the south where the retail building is proposed.

Commissioner Caffery stated he feels the architecture compliments the original structure and noted a concern with the deck because it detracts from the floating feature of the building.

Commissioner Cohen stated he attended the Architectural Advisory Committee meetings and said that they are very complimentary of what the applicant is doing with the building and explained the variation in the voting due to absences and abstentions. Mr. Cohen suggested protecting the beauty of the existing building and requested further review of the project.

M/S/C (Vice Chair Hochanadel/Scott, 7-0) To continue to an indefinite date and refer the project back to the Architectural Advisory Committee to address:

- A. The relationship to the Interim Design Guidelines.
- B. The terrace on the existing building.
- C. The setbacks in relationship to the existing building from the new building.
- D. Additional discussion on the adaptive reuse of the building and options for the restaurant.

**5. COMMISSION WORK PROGRAM: \***  
**\*Work Program Priorities and Subcommittee Assignments**

Craig A. Ewing stated that there will be no City Council Study Session tonight and provided an update on upcoming projects.

**6. COMMISSION/STAFF REPORTS AND REQUESTS:**

Vice Chair Hochanadel noted that he spoke with many people who attended the past weekend event called "American Heat" and the feedback was that they will go to another city if this event isn't allowed back on the main street. Mr. Hochanadel stated that a huge portion of the event is so that people can leisurely walk through the stores and look at the bikes creating more of a downtown experience. Mr. Hochanadel said the police enforcement during this weekend event was too aggressive and uncalled for and would like to see the same enforceability when other events come into town such as the white party or the pride parade.

Mr. Cohen said that he noticed business was not very good for this weekend event because it was too far away from the storefronts and restaurants. Mr. Cohen noted the importance of larger projects needing more time for review. Staff responded early public hearings, with no detailed staff reports, will be held for larger projects.

The Commission discussed the Architectural Advisory Committee's procedure of meetings.



**City Council Policy Statement  
Adopted September 17, 2008**

**PLANNED DEVELOPMENTS AND THE REQUIREMENT FOR PUBLIC BENEFITS**

In order to provide for the long-term improvement of the community, every application for a Planned Development District (PDD) and every amendment thereto – including all those enacted in lieu of a change of zone – shall include a public benefit in accordance with the provisions listed below.

1. The concept of a "public benefit" shall be a condition of granting zoning flexibility via approval of a Planned Development District, and is consistent with the goals, policies and objectives of the Palm Springs General Plan.
2. The public benefit of an approved PDD shall be specifically identified by the Planning Commission and City Council within the record of approval (resolution or ordinance, as applicable).
3. The public benefit shall be proportional to the nature, type and extent of the flexibility granted from the standards and provisions of the Palm Springs Zoning Code.
4. A feature, improvement or dedication may only be considered as a public benefit when it exceeds the level of improvement needed to mitigate a project's environmental impacts or comply with dedication or exactions which are imposed on all projects, such as Quimby Act, public art, utility undergrounding, etc.
5. An approved public benefit shall be one of the following types:
  - a. The project as Public Benefit – The project fulfills key General Plan objectives for land use (such as "mixed-use"), economic development, community beautification, additional parking, improved circulation, blight removal or the like.
  - b. Key Features of the Project – The project includes features such as through-streets not indicated on the General Plan, interior parks, community open space, community meeting rooms, entry features, preservation of important buildings, preservation of natural features, daycare facility or other similar amenities.
  - c. Sustainable Features – The project includes features which measurably aid achievement of the City's sustainability goals, including water conservation, energy conservation (e.g., LEED certified), active and passive solar features, California Green Building techniques, and other sustainable features.
  - d. Off-site Improvements – The project includes off-site dedications and / or improvements, such as widened thoroughfares with meandering bikeways, public park lands, hiking trails, recreation facilities, construction of decorative medians, or other public improvements located off the project site.

## Jay Thompson

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**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 11, 2009 2:29 PM  
**To:** Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: LETTER TO MR. HOCHANADEL

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**From:** Dondi555@aol.com [mailto:Dondi555@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 13, 2009 9:51 AM  
**To:** Terri Hintz  
**Cc:** Craig Ewing; Steve Pougnet; Ginny Foat; Lee Weigel; Rick Hutcheson; MRIMBER@aol.com  
**Subject:** LETTER TO MR. HOCHANADEL

Mr. Hochanadel,

I strongly appose the development of the project before you... Baristo Lofts. It appears that this project would alter the historic fabric of the area in which it is proposed.

Historic Architecture is one of the main draws for tourism to cities like Palm Springs...and all efforts to save and protect such structures like the Santa Fe Federal Savings and Loan building should be made. There are many insignificant structures downtown that could serve as a substitute site for this oversized and unsympathetic project.

Why are we continually tearing down the best examples of our architectural history only to build eyesores like the Fashion Plaza and Hyatt Hotel? Our economy is in recession... why add to the grief and vacancy on Palm Canyon.

Please reconsider this application and the request for HSPB's nomination.

Respectfully,  
Don DeFeo  
Palm Springs, CA

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New year...new news. Be the first to know what is making headlines.

## Jay Thompson

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**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 11, 2009 2:29 PM  
**To:** Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: Letter to Mr. Hochanadel

---

**From:** GeraldHMark@aol.com [mailto:GeraldHMark@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 14, 2009 11:56 AM  
**To:** Terri Hintz  
**Cc:** Craig Ewing; Steve Pougnet; Ginny Foat; Lee Weigel; Rick Hutcheson  
**Subject:** Letter to Mr. Hochanadel

To: Planning Commission Chairman Larry Hochanadel:

Re: Baristo Lofts project

As a frequent visitor to Palm Springs, one of the highlights is the architecture of the city. I would encourage you to not jeopardize cultural tourism and the architectural heritage of Palm Springs by approving the Baristo Lofts project.

Please enter my comment into the Public Record at the meeting today at 1:30 pm of the Palm Springs Planning Commission.

Respectfully,

Gerald Markovitz, M.D.  
11600 Wilshire Blvd #512  
Los Angeles, CA 90025  
310-473-5067

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## Jay Thompson

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**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 11, 2009 2:28 PM  
**To:** Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: LETTER TO MR. HOCHANADEL RE: MEETING TODAY - 1:30PM re: - PALM SPRINGS PLANNING COMMISSION

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**From:** Grant Monck [mailto:gmonck@pearsoncollege.ca]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 14, 2009 10:45 AM  
**To:** Terri Hintz  
**Cc:** Craig Ewing; Steve Pougnet; Ginny Foat; Lee Weigel; Rick Hutcheson  
**Subject:** LETTER TO MR. HOCHANADEL RE: MEETING TODAY - 1:30PM re: - PALM SPRINGS PLANNING COMMISSION

**Dear Mr. Hochandel,**

**As a property owner at 750 East La Verne Way in Palm Springs, I ask that this email be entered into the record at today's meeting noted above. I am unfortunately out of the country and unable to attend the meeting today.**

**My partner, Bob Freedman and I who own a home in Palm Springs object to the proposed Baristo Lofts mixed-use project immediately adjacent to the Wessman Building at 300 South Palm Canyon Drive. In our view this proposal would forever change the downtown footprint and horribly impact the pristine original building.**

**My partner was recently interviewed by *Palm Springs Life* magazine for an article in their February issue on individuals who have purchased mid-century homes in Palm Springs due to the unique architectural significance of the city. In our view if projects such as Baristo Lofts proceed, the uniqueness of Palm Springs will be endangered and the current economic benefits and future revenue from new residents and visitors interested in mid-century architecture will be threatened.**

**I find it hard to believe that a city such as Buffalo, New York (noted recently in *The New York Times*) can see a major part of their economic future in preserving its architectural treasures but not Palm Springs. If the Baristo Lofts proposal is accepted, you will be moving down an unfortunate path that could remove a unique marketing niche for Palm Springs and dampen the economic stability and future of the city.**

**Thank you for recording my remarks for today's meeting.**

**Regards, Grant Monck**

**750 East La Verne Way, Palm Springs**



## Jay Thompson

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**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 11, 2009 2:28 PM  
**To:** Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: Letter to Mr. Hochanadel

---

**From:** Trinaturk [mailto:Trina@trinaturk.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 13, 2009 10:03 PM  
**To:** Terri Hintz  
**Cc:** Craig Ewing; Steve Pougnet; Ginny Foat; Rick.Hutcheson@palmsprings.ca-gov; Lee Weigel  
**Subject:** Letter to Mr. Hochanadel

I would like the following letter to be entered into the public record at tomorrow's city council meeting.

Dear Mr. Hochanadel:

I own 2 successful retail stores, Trina Turk, and Trina Turk Residential at 891 and 895 North Palm Canyon Blvd.

What brought me, and what most often brings my upscale clientele to the city of Palm Springs is the mid-century architecture. The city must recognize the invaluable and irreplaceable resource and tourism draw our modernist architecture represents. The concentration of mid-century modern commercial and residential architecture in Palm Springs is what differentiates us from other desert communities. The opportunity to have stores in an original Albert Frey building are what drew me to Palm Springs instead of El Paseo in Palm Desert.

For these reasons, the Baristo Lofts project should not go forward.

We have limited remaining mid-century commercial structures in our city, and every time one is compromised, we lose a valuable asset that cannot be replaced. Instead of building a new development around the Santa Fe Federal Savings Building, this developer should make improvements to the Desert Fashion Plaza, which is a black hole eating away at the life of our downtown.

I want our city to succeed. We are at a tipping point. We can fall to the side of more insensitive development, resulting in the destruction of what brings an upscale clientele to our town, or we can make a commitment to preserve what has made us famous and world renowned. We are not Santa Barbara, nor are we Santa Fe. We should embrace the modernist architecture that defines our city. We should not allow insensitive development to ruin another one of our architectural treasures.

Thank you for your consideration. Best Regards, Trina Turk

## Jay Thompson

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**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 11, 2009 2:28 PM  
**To:** Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: Letter to Mr. Hochanadel

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**From:** MSpohn53@aol.com [mailto:MSpohn53@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 13, 2009 5:31 PM  
**To:** Terri Hintz  
**Cc:** Craig Ewing; Steve Pougnet; Ginny Foat; Lee Weigel; Rick Hutcheson  
**Subject:** Letter to Mr. Hochanadel

Dear Mr. Hochanadel,

I am writing this letter to express my sincere concern about the proposed Baristo Lofts project. I understand that the planning commission is faced with a difficult and complex decision regarding the proposed development of the site versus historic preservation of the Santa Fe Savings building. It seems particularly challenging because the decision must be made within the context of a vision for the future of the city. I am hoping that the planning commission will act responsibly with an eye to the long term.

I have been involved in the commercial real estate industry for over 30 years, and I have usually been pro development. I am thoroughly experienced in the industry, and I am predisposed to support new development. However, I truly question why the Baristo Lofts project is even being proposed at this time. **THIS PROJECT HAS NO MERIT.** It is a really bad idea, and a symbol of the kind of self absorbed greed that has led America into its current dire financial crisis. It is a project conceived of artificial suppositions, and a flawed real estate development model. It's the wrong direction. Those days are over, and we should stop the insanity.

I am especially concerned that a convoluted project like the Baristo Lofts could take priority over the proper stewardship of the Santa Fe Savings building. I rarely feel compelled to make this kind of a statement, but this matter is a crossroads, and I ask that the Planning Commission make this difficult decision, and deny the Baristo Lofts project. It's just wrong.

Mark Spohn  
250 W. Stevens Rd.  
Palm Springs, Ca. 92262  
760-328-0878

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## Jay Thompson

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**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 11, 2009 2:27 PM  
**To:** Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: Letter to Mr Hochanadel - Proposed Baristo Lofts Project

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Douglas Chirnside [mailto:douglaschirnside@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 13, 2009 3:39 PM  
**To:** Terri Hintz  
**Cc:** Craig Ewing; Steve Pougnet; Ginny Foat; Lee Weigel; Rick Hutcheson  
**Subject:** Letter to Mr Hochanadel - Proposed Baristo Lofts Project

Dear Chairman Hochanadel

I wish to express my concern about an action before the City's Planning Commission regarding the proposed Baristo Lofts project and the renowned Santa Fe Savings and Loan Building, now called the Wessman Building, by E Stewart Williams.

The proposed Baristo Lofts design impacts inappropriately and unsympathetically on the Wessman Building, which, as you know, is an important element of Palm Springs' unique architectural heritage and of the character for which the city remains world famous, though sadly these days that reputation hangs in the balance.

I first came to Palm Springs from my home in London 15 years ago precisely because I had seen photographs of, among others, this building. I had the pleasure of meeting Stewart Williams and discussing with him this type of 'floating' structure. This building, in my opinion, is worthy of being designated of special importance and any development around it - and I am all for the right sort of commercial development - should be very carefully considered so that it does not detract from the integrity of this outstanding design. I'm afraid this proposed development will harm the virtues of the original building, and in a very prominent location too.

Rare architecture of this quality and period, in its original, unspoilt setting is a huge draw to far flung Americans and Europeans like myself to visit Palm Springs. Many, and I am one of them, come time and again and even end up buying vacation homes in Palm Springs, contributing to the city economy through our property taxes and our substantial purchasing power. I am sure you will agree with me that to preserve the character of the city that is a draw to the world, both individual gems and whole areas ought to be treated with great care - otherwise supposedly 'commercial' development will damage the appeal of our city and not be commerial at all in the long run for anyone but the builder. Development should add to, not take away, the riches our city already has in the bank.

I would be grateful if my comments could be entered into the Public Record at your meeting tomorrow.

Yours sincerely

Douglas Chirnside  
Home Owner  
1540 East Mel Avenue  
Palm Springs 92262

**Jay Thompson**

---

**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 11, 2009 2:27 PM  
**To:** Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: letter to Mr Hochanadel

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**From:** Bonnieruttan@aol.com [mailto:Bonnieruttan@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 13, 2009 1:02 PM  
**To:** Terri Hintz  
**Cc:** Ginny Foat; Steve Pougnet; Lee Weigel; Rick Hutcheson; Craig Ewing  
**Subject:** letter to Mr Hochanadel

***Please consider the following thoughts regarding the Santa Fe Savings Building.....***

***Harming pristine, existing architecture for which Palm Springs is acclaimed undermines the economic base that architecture has provided in revitalizing tourism***

***Baristo Lofts would be within one block of more than eight large buildings that have been empty for many years***

***This is not an economic climate to initiate a project of this nature...thinking optimistically, is it not more advised to regenerate our infra-structure before we build more?***

***there is a glut on the market of empty condos and retail already; why not embrace the Stewart Williams architecture and do something great with it***

***Sincerely,  
Bonnie Ruttan  
1111 Abrigo Rd  
PS***

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204

## Jay Thompson

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**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 11, 2009 2:24 PM  
**To:** Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: Objection to Baristo Lofts

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**From:** Bonnieruttan@aol.com [mailto:Bonnieruttan@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2009 10:28 PM  
**To:** Steve Pougnet  
**Cc:** Ginny Foat; Lee Weigel; Chris Mills; Rick Hutcheson  
**Subject:** Objection to Baristo Lofts

**Dear Mayor and Council members,**

**I urge you to take the following concerns into consideration when evaluating the proposed Baristo Lofts project as it stands now: Baristo Lofts' massive size and lack of setbacks from Palm Canyon Drive will destroy the bank's historic setting.**

**Stewart Williams' design for an adjacent office building was sensitive to its site and respectful of the bank building. The current proposal is not. I hope that an EIR will be sought because of the possible negative impacts of this project.**

**Thank you for your consideration.**

**Bill and Bonnie Ruttan  
1111 Abrigo Rd  
PS 92262**

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## Jay Thompson

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**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 11, 2009 2:23 PM  
**To:** Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: Opposition to Baristo Lofts

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**From:** Tracy [mailto:tracyv22@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 05, 2009 12:18 PM  
**To:** Ginny Foat  
**Subject:** Opposition to Baristo Lofts

Dear Councilmember Foat,

As a frequent visitor (from NY and now CA) and soon-to-be resident of Palm Springs, I write you to voice my objection to the proposed Baristo Lofts. The proposed structure is too large in size for the area. The charm of downtown Palm Springs is buildings are to scale, allowing for sweeping vistas of the surrounding mountains from area establishments. For example, sit at the bar in Hamburger Mary's and be thankful Port Lawrence isn't erected. You'll see beautiful mountain vistas (especially beautiful around sunset) that will be destroyed if the project ever regains funding. It's small gems of this nature that make Palm Springs unlike anywhere else in this country. Adding a monstrosity of a building to the fold does nothing but make the rest of the architectural properties seem small and insignificant. We cannot allow this to happen. It starts to create a domino effect, manifesting a perception that Palms Springs is in support of large, urban-like structural developments. In addition, the size of Baristo Lofts will impinge upon the historic setting of the Santa Fe Federal Savings Building. The design and placement of this structure was specifically set in a manner that was respectful of both the architecture and the site upon which it was built. An EIR should be required due to the negative impact this project will have on the bank building. It would also offer alternatives to the design that could minimize these negative impacts.

My husband and I joined the ModCom Committee years ago because the architectural landscape is as integral a part of Palm Springs as the mountains by which surround it. We hope as we grow old in the area (I'm only 31), we don't feel as if we've left Los Angeles to live in "Los Angeles in the desert".

Sincerely,

Tracy Verrett

## Jay Thompson

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**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 11, 2009 2:23 PM  
**To:** Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: Baristo Lofts

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**From:** Susanne Karlen [mailto:mathiasvkarlen@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 05, 2009 10:23 PM  
**To:** Ginny Foat  
**Subject:** Baristo Lofts

---

Honorable Ms. Foat

As an immigrant from Switzerland I admire the architectural treasures in Palm Springs. I think they are absolutely unique and I am happy that some are under protection. But the surroundings are an important part of their overall effect. I feel that the Baristo Lofts don't do the historic Santa Fe Federal Savings Building enough justice. They are too close and too massive. Also an EIR should be required.

I hope that you will use your influence to preserve the beauty of the bank for future generations to come.

Sincerely

Susanne Karlen

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## Jay Thompson

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**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 11, 2009 2:22 PM  
**To:** Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: Baristo Lofts

---

**From:** Jim Peterson [mailto:jimpeterson@rsginc.net]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 08, 2009 9:41 AM  
**To:** Steve Pougnet; Chris Mills; Ginny Foat; Rick Hutcheson; Lee Weigel  
**Subject:** Baristo Lofts

Hell

My name is Jim Peterson. My wife and I own at Seven Lakes Country Club in Palm Springs. The reason we bought in Palm Springs was because it is a mecca for those of us interested in Mid Century Modern design. More than the weather, more than the people, more than the fantastic vibe of the city, the architecture was the number one reason for our investing in Palm Springs.

So naturally we are concerned about the Baristo Lofts development. It is our understanding that the lofts represent an insensitive and awkward design that will negatively impact the setting of the Sante Fe bank building; and that there is no plan for an EIR, that presumably would improve the overall design.

I would urge you to consider this development very carefully. As you know you are entrusted with a national treasure – one that depends on its conservancy role to ensure that Palm Springs remains the international treasure that it is. Not only will improving this design be an important aesthetic decision, it will also be part of an ongoing economic one. Please heed the warnings of the PS ModCom.

Sincerely,

Jim and Barbara Peterson

**Jim Peterson**  
Managing Director

**RESEARCH STRATEGY GROUP**

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F: (416) 928-1580  
[www.rsginc.ca](http://www.rsginc.ca)

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## Jay Thompson

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**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 11, 2009 2:22 PM  
**To:** Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: Baristo Lofts project

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**From:** JCaussin@aol.com [mailto:JCaussin@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 08, 2009 10:24 AM  
**To:** Ginny Foat  
**Subject:** Baristo Lofts project

Dear Ms. Foat,

It is hard to imagine that the City would embrace a project like the BARISTO LOFTS that has so many flaws and so many negative impacts on what is our quality of life in this wonderful City of ours.

\*\* the main negative impact I see is the lack of respect for one of our historic architectural gems, the Santa Fe Federal Savings building. If Mr. Wessman is, as he claims, respectful of it, then why doesn't he just take the plans drawn by Mr. Williams which were so sensitive to the site. Mr Wessman's design has absolutely nothing to do with those plans, contrary to his claim, and you know it.

\*\* add to this the encroachment upon the bank building with a mere 4-6 feet between the two buildings and you totally destroy the visual impact of the Bank building by smothering it on its site,

2010 is not the time to approve buildings that do not need to exist, especially when you have a simple way to increase City revenue by heralding our architecture heritage and reap the tourism benefit from it.

**People flock to the City because they appreciate its architectural legacy: why kill the goose that lays the golden egg??**

Respectfully,

Jacques-Pierre Caussin  
2237 Casitas Way  
Palm Springs, Ca 92264  
760 219 4599

full time resident since 2003

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**CITY COUNCIL AND COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY  
CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA**



**CLOSED SESSION AGENDA**  
Wednesday, February 11, 2009 – 4:00 P.M.

City Hall, Small Conference Room  
3200 East Tahquitz Canyon Way, Palm Springs

**CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL.** The City Council finds, based on advice from the City Attorney, that discussion in open session of the following described matter(s) will prejudice the position of the City in existing and anticipated litigation.

**EXPOSURE TO LITIGATION** **G.C. 54856.9(b)**

Two Case(s).

**INITIATION OF LITIGATION** **G.C. 54856.9(c)**

Two Case(s).

**CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATOR** **G.C. 54956.8**

Property Address/Description: Desert Fashion Plaza  
123 N. Palm Canyon Dr., Palm Springs  
Agency: Community Redevelopment Agency  
City Negotiator: David Ready, Executive Director or Designee  
Negotiating Parties: John Wessman, Wessman Development  
Under Negotiation: Price and Terms of Payment (Lease)

Property Address/Description: APN's 508-034-011, 508-034-012, 508-034-013,  
508-034-013 (Amado Road and Calle Alvarado)  
Agency: Community Redevelopment Agency  
Agency Negotiator: David Ready, Executive Director or Designee  
Negotiating Parties: Lauri Kibby representing Oasi Group  
Under Negotiation: Price and Terms of Payment (Purchase)

Property Address/Description: 1410 Bell Ave., APN 007-321-010, Imperial County  
Agency: City of Palm Springs  
City Negotiator: David Ready, City Manager or Designee  
Negotiating Parties: Broker of Record to be Determined  
Under Negotiation: Price and Terms of Payment (Sale)

**CITY OF PALM SPRINGS  
PUBLIC HEARING NOTIFICATION**



**CITY CLERKS DEPARTMENT**  
James Thompson, City Clerk

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City Council Meeting Date: February 18, 2009  
Subject: HSPB 54 – 300 South Palm Canyon Drive

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**AFFIDAVIT OF MAILING**

I, Cynthia A. Berardi, of the City of Palm Springs, California, do hereby certify that a copy of the attached Notice of Public Hearing was mailed to each and every person on the attached list on February 3, 2009, in a sealed envelop, with postage prepaid, and depositing same in the U.S. Mail at Palm Springs, California. (25 notices mailed).

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

*Cynthia A. Berardi*

**AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING**

I, Dolores Strickstein, of the City of Palm Springs, California, do hereby certify that a copy of the attached Notice of Public Hearing was posted at City Hall, 3200 E. Tahquitz Canyon Drive, on the exterior legal notice posting board and in the Office of the City Clerk on February 3, 2009.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

*Dolores Strickstein*

**AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION**

I, Cynthia A. Berardi, of the City of Palm Springs, California, do hereby certify that a copy of the attached Notice of Public Hearing was published in the Desert Sun on February 7, 2009.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

*Cynthia A. Berardi*

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
CITY COUNCIL, CITY OF PALM SPRINGS

CASE HSPB-54: A RECOMMENDATION FOR CLASS 1 HISTORIC DESIGNATION OF  
300 SOUTH PALM CANYON DRIVE

AND

CASE 5.1137-PDD 335; TENTATIVE TRACT MAP 35230: A MIXED-USE PROJECT  
INCLUDING ADAPTIVE REUSE OF AN EXISTING STRUCTURE AND A PROPOSED  
NEW HIGH-RISE STRUCTURE WITH COMMERCIAL, RESIDENTIAL USES,  
OFF-STREET PARKING AND LANDSCAPING AT 300 SOUTH PALM CANYON DRIVE

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the City Council of the City of Palm Springs, California, will hold a public hearing at its meeting of February 18, 2009. The City Council meeting begins at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber at City Hall, 3200 East Tahquitz Canyon Way, Palm Springs.

The purpose of this hearing is to consider an application by The City of Palm Springs for recommendation of 300 South Palm Canyon Drive "The Santa Fe Federal Savings Bank" as a Class 1 Historic Site. An application by Wessman Holdings for a Planned Development District (PDD 335) and Tentative Tract Map 35230 for condominium purposes is also proposed for a 4-story mixed-use structure with commercial uses on the first floor and residential uses on floors 2, 3, and 4. The project includes subterranean and first floor off-street parking and landscaping on a 0.67 acre site at the corner of Baristo Road and South Palm Canyon Drive.

**ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION:** In accordance with Section 15331 (Historical Resources Restoration/Rehabilitation) of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Council action on the proposed Class 1 historic designation is Categorically Exempt.

For Case 5.1137 PDD 335 / TTM 35230 a Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration was prepared for this project under the guidelines of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and will be reviewed by the City Council at the hearing. A Notice of Intent (NOI) to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) was sent to applicable agencies and published in the Desert Sun for a 20-day review period from October 17, 2008 through November 15, 2008. Members of the public may view these documents at the Planning Services Department, City Hall, 3200 East Tahquitz Canyon Way, Palm Springs, and submit written comments at, or prior to, the City Council hearing.

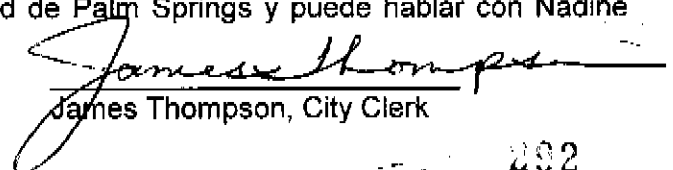
**REVIEW OF PROJECT INFORMATION:** The staff report and other supporting documents regarding this project are also available for public review at City Hall between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Please contact the Office of the City Clerk (760) 323-8204 if you would like to schedule an appointment to review these documents.

**COMMENT ON THIS APPLICATION:** Response to this notice may be made verbally at the Public Hearing and/or in writing before the hearing. Written comments may be made to the City Council by letter (for mail or hand delivery) to:

James Thompson, City Clerk  
3200 E. Tahquitz Canyon Way  
Palm Springs, CA 92262

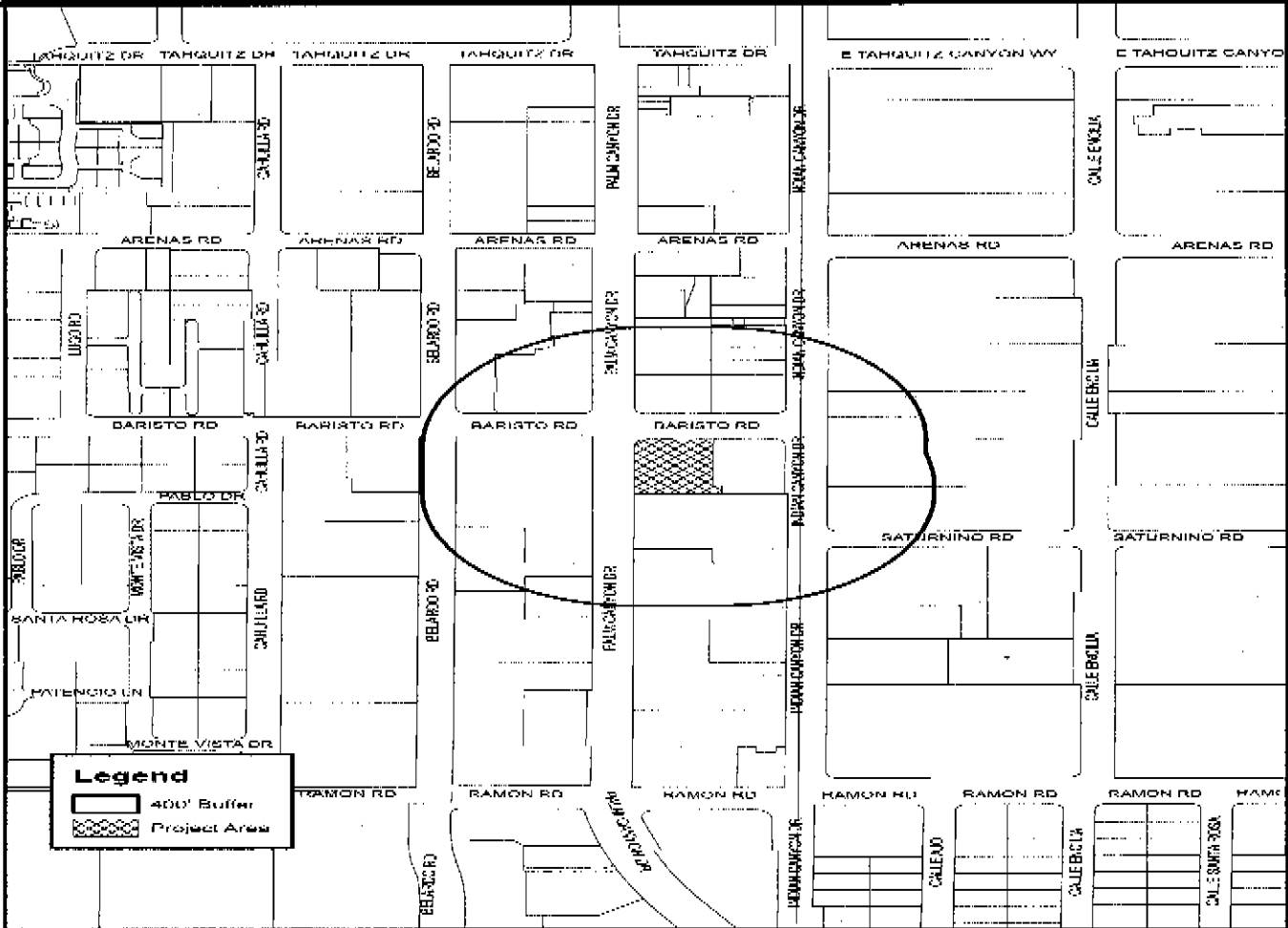
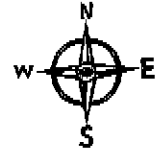
Any challenge of the proposed project in court may be limited to raising only those issues raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City Clerk at, or prior to, the public hearing. (Government Code Section 65009[b][2]). An opportunity will be given at said hearing for all interested persons to be heard. Questions regarding this case may be directed to Ken Lyon, Associate Planner, Planning Services Department at (760) 323-8245.

Si necesita ayuda con esta carta, por favor llame a la Ciudad de Palm Springs y puede hablar con Nadine Fieger telefono (760) 323-8245.

  
James Thompson, City Clerk



# Department of Planning Services Vicinity Map



## CITY OF PALM SPRINGS

**CASE NO:** 5.1137 PD-335,  
TTM 35230  
HSPB-54

and

**APPLICANT:** Wessman Holdings  
and  
The City of Palm Springs

**DESCRIPTION:** The purpose of this hearing is to consider an application by The City of Palm Springs for recommendation of 300 South Palm Canyon Drive "The Santa Fe Federal Savings Bank" as a Class 1 Historic Site. An application by Wessman Holdings for a Planned Development District (PDD 335) and Tentative Tract Map 35230 for condominium purposes is also proposed for a 4-story mixed-use structure with commercial uses on the first floor and residential uses on floors 2, 3, and 4. Zone CBD. APN: 513-204-005.

## Jay Thompson

---

**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Friday, February 20, 2009 2:37 PM  
**To:** gfinla@msn.com; Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: Tonight's meeting about the Santa Fe Federal building - don't destroy our Midcentury Modern heritage!

---

**From:** alainabixon@gmail.com [mailto:alainabixon@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 18, 2009 12:46 PM  
**To:** Ginny Foat  
**Subject:** Tonight's meeting about the Santa Fe Federal building - don't destroy our Midcentury Modern heritage!

Dear Ginny,

I have a cold today, so I won't be able to be at City Hall tonight, but I believe it is vitally important to preserve the remaining examples of iconic Midcentury Modern architecture in Palm Springs.

From what I've read, Wessman's plans for Baristo Lofts would crowd the Santa Fe building to where it would have to be moved to a new site to allow it to be appreciated. People come from all over the world - I recently met some Italians who came here for the architecture - to experience our Midcentury design, and it would be a shame to destroy one of the features that makes our city unique.

Please grant historical status to the Santa Fe building. Generic architecture does nothing to distinguish us from Ohio.

Thank you.  
Alaina Bixon DeMartini

## Jay Thompson

---

**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Friday, February 20, 2009 2:37 PM  
**To:** gfinla@msn.com; Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: BARISTO LOFTS

---

**From:** C Sterns [mailto:csterns33@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 18, 2009 12:40 PM  
**To:** Steve Pougnet  
**Cc:** Chris Mills; Rick Hutcheson; Ginny Foat; Lee Weigel  
**Subject:** BARISTO LOFTS

Dear Council Members:

I cannot make the council meeting tonight but wish to express my views on the above pending project. I have been coming to Palm Springs for approximately 40+ years. I've owned property here for 16+ years and have now moved here permanently. One of the reasons I moved here was the "village" atmosphere, the wonderful mixed architecture and of course, weather.

You MUST NOT approve the Baristo Lofts. One, we don't need more condos. Two, Mr. Wessman has yanked this city and council around for sooooo many years and citizens are truly fed-up with him and his various empty projects. And three, the Santa Fe Savings & Loan building should be designated a Class 1 building ASAP before Mr. Wessman can do something disasterous to it. Who ever thought building a 4 story building right up next to a classic was a good idea???

Please consider the above in your decision.  
Sincerely,  
Cheri Sterns

---

See how Windows connects the people, information, and fun that are part of your life. [See Now](#)

## Jay Thompson

---

**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Friday, February 20, 2009 2:37 PM  
**To:** gfinla@msn.com; Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: Santa Fe Federal Savings & Loan Building

---

**From:** jfhansen@yahoo.com [mailto:jfhansen@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 18, 2009 12:27 PM  
**To:** Steve Pougnet  
**Subject:** Santa Fe Federal Savings & Loan Building

I strongly oppose the Baristo Lofts project and support the immediate designation of the Santa Fe bank Building site as a Class I historic site. This is a wonderful classic building in a very visable location.  
John F. Hansen



## Jay Thompson

---

**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Friday, February 20, 2009 2:38 PM  
**To:** gfinla@msn.com; Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: Oppose Baristo Lofts project

---

**From:** Dale Swanson [mailto:DaleSwanson@coldwellbanker.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 18, 2009 1:15 PM  
**To:** Steve Pougnet; Ginny Foat; Rick Hutcheson; Chris Mills; Lee Weigel  
**Cc:** Greg Georgas  
**Subject:** Oppose Baristo Lofts project

I oppose the **Baristo Lofts** project and support the immediate designation of the **Santa Fe Bank** (Wessman Offices) building site as a Class 1 historic site.

**Dale Swanson**  
COLDWELL BANKER RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE  
1555 S. Palm Canyon Drive  
Palm Springs, CA 92264  
Cell: (760) 641-9416  
Office: (760) 325-4500  
Fax: (760) 325-4578  
E-Mail: [daleswanson@coldwellbanker.com](mailto:daleswanson@coldwellbanker.com)

## Jay Thompson

---

**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Friday, February 20, 2009 2:38 PM  
**To:** gfinla@msn.com; Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: Remember the Maslon House? Don't let it happen to the Santa Fe Federal building!

---

**From:** David DeMartini [mailto:dtdemar@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 18, 2009 1:16 PM  
**To:** Ginny Foat  
**Subject:** Remember the Maslon House? Don't let it happen to the Santa Fe Federal building!

Dear Ginny,

Does anyone remember what happened after Neutra's Maslon House in Rancho Mirage was destroyed? The national press had a field day deriding the people who failed to appreciate and preserve an architectural treasure.

I believe we will face the same kind of loss if we allow the Santa Fe Federal Savings and Loan to be lost under a bigger, unrelated structure that will be placed too close to it.

Please do the right thing for our architectural heritage and for the city of Palm Springs. Award historical status to the Santa Fe Federal building.

Sincerely,  
David DeMartini

## Jay Thompson

---

**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Friday, February 20, 2009 2:38 PM  
**To:** gfinla@msn.com; Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: Baristo Lofts

---

**From:** Gary Grasso [mailto:garygrassopr@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 18, 2009 2:02 PM  
**To:** Steve Pougnet  
**Cc:** Ginny Foat  
**Subject:** Baristo Lofts

As the owner of a home in the Twin Palms area of Palm Springs and as a publicist who has worked with historic preservation issues in the formative years of the restoration and redevelopment of Old Town Pasadena, I request the Palm Springs City Council to please approve the Class 1 historic site designation of the Santa Fe bank building and deny the proposed Baristo Lofts Project.

**Gary Grasso**  
**publicity**  
**media relations**

(626)793-8964  
email: garygrassopr@yahoo.com  
fax (626)793-8913  
140 South Lake Avenue, Suite 317  
Pasadena, CA 91101

## Jay Thompson

---

**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Friday, February 20, 2009 2:42 PM  
**To:** gfinla@msn.com; Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: Santa Fe Federal Savings and Loan / Baristo Lofts

-----Original Message-----

From: caincos@mindspring.com [mailto:caincos@mindspring.com]  
Sent: Wednesday, February 18, 2009 3:12 PM  
To: Steve Pougnet; Ginny Foat; Rick Hutcheson; Chris Mills; Lee Weigel  
Subject: Santa Fe Federal Savings and Loan / Baristo Lofts

Gentlemen and Ladies -

We cannot support the Baristo Lofts as presently proposed as the project lacks visual and spatial sensitivity to its location adjacent to the architecturally significant and historic Santa Fe Fed building. Therefore we urge you NOT to approve the Baristo Lofts without insisting that significant changes be made.

As residents of the Palm Springs area, we unconditionally support the designation of the Santa Fe Federal Savings and Loan. It is another landmark we cannot afford to lose or see altered beyond recognition in the future

Thank for your consideration,

Bernie and Barbara Cain  
Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T

## Jay Thompson

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**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Friday, February 20, 2009 2:43 PM  
**To:** gfinla@msn.com; Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: Save Santa Fe S&L

-----Original Message-----

**From:** iancartan@earthlink.net [mailto:iancartan@earthlink.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 18, 2009 3:34 PM  
**To:** Steve Pougnet; Ginny Foat; Rick Hutcheson; Chris Mills; Lee Weigel  
**Subject:** Save Santa Fe S&L

Dear Council People and Mayor,

I oppose the Baristo Lofts project and support the immediate designation of Santa Fe S&L bank building site as a Class 1 historic site.

Thank you fopr all your hard work. You are all much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Ian Cartan  
5 year partime resident of Palm Springs

## Jay Thompson

---

**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Friday, February 20, 2009 2:44 PM  
**To:** Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: Santa Fe Federal Savings/loan building - Baristo Lofts

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Russell Hill [mailto:[russellhill@dc.rr.com](mailto:russellhill@dc.rr.com)]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 18, 2009 4:12 PM  
**To:** Steve Pougnet; Ginny Foat; Rick Hutcheson; Chris Mills; Lee Weigel  
**Subject:** Santa Fe Federal Savings/loan building - Baristo Lofts

Mr Mayor and council members, I urge you to vote NO on the request to demolish the Santa Fe Fed. Savings/loan building, now Wessman Office Building. This building should be preserved and designated a class 1 historic site.

I do not oppose wise, conscientious development in our downtown (or in our entire city for that matter). This, however, is the wrong location for this project. We should not be in the habit of tearing down existing structures in our downtown, simply because someone has a "new, better" idea. Do not let another perfectly fine downtown building be demolished.

In my opinion, the only building downtown that is worthy of demolition is the out-of-scale Hyatt Hotel.

Please save downtown. Don't vote to demolish this building.

Thank you,

Russell Hill  
2188 Amarillo Way  
92264

## Jay Thompson

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**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Friday, February 20, 2009 2:44 PM  
**To:** gfinla@msn.com; Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: Santa Fe bank building

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**From:** JJDg001@aol.com [mailto:JJDg001@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 18, 2009 4:37 PM  
**To:** Ginny Foat  
**Cc:** Rick Hutcheson; Chris Mills; Lee Weigel  
**Subject:** Santa Fe bank building

I oppose the Baristo Lofts project and support the immediate designation of the Santa Fe bank building as a Class 1 historic site.

F. Digiantonio

12 February 2009

Mayor Steve Pougnet  
City of Palm Springs City Council  
3200 East Tahquitz Canyon Way  
Palm Springs, CA 92262

RE: Case 5.1137 PD 335 / TTM 35230 / 3.3028 MAJ (Baristo Lofts)

Dear Mayor Steve Pougnet & Members of the City of Palm Spring City Council,

I am an architect that lives and works in the Carmel/Monterey Bay area. When we are fed up with the fog we head out to Palm Springs. So why do we choose Palm Springs over the other cities in the Coachella Valley that offer the things we like such as beauty, climate, golfing, swimming, and shopping. What the other Coachella Valley cities do not have is the uniqueness of Palm Springs. They do not have the diverse and eclectic history and architecture that Palm Springs has along with its pedestrian friendly boulevards. It is the experience of walking the streets of Palm Springs and enjoying its architecture, which we cannot find anywhere else that keeps us coming back. On our returns, we especially like finding new pieces of historic architecture restored and maintained like many of the fine motels we have stayed in.

The proposed Baristo Lofts visually invades one of your Mid-Century Modern architectural gems that are historically and visually significant to the city of Palm Springs. Historical buildings need to be respected, even if this means giving the building space to let its intended architectural form stand out for future citizens and visitors to enjoy. The Santa Fe Federal Savings and Loan building is a wonderful representation of Mid Century Modern Bank architecture that is supposed to stand out and away from other buildings. It is not surprising the owner has enjoyed using this building for many years and its exclusivity on such a spacious corner, giving him much visual exposure and prominence.

The Palm Springs General Plan states the following in its vision for the future "To preserve and uphold the high quality of architecture and the unique visual and aesthetic form in building and neighborhoods that distinguish Palm Springs from other cities." (PSGP pg 1-13). You cannot uphold the "unique visual and aesthetic forms that distinguish Palm Springs from other cities" by allowing proposed developments to dominate the existing distinctive and diverse cityscape.

Palm Springs can be compared to a museum of architecture in which some of the buildings need room, like art work displayed in an art gallery. You cannot appreciate artwork if it all bunched up, so some of Palm Springs buildings need their space and that is what will make Palm Springs look like no other desert city that follow formulated planning guidelines. I know that is hard to accomplish in a climate of fluctuating real estate prices and much needed tax revenue, but it may give something the City can be proud of.

As Planning Commissioners, it is a challenge to accommodate needed future growth with the historical and architectural charm a city may have, but it can be done. We do it in the cities of Monterey and Carmel-By-The-Sea and we have the Coastal Commission to deal with. It takes a commitment to the vision of the City and not let the "flavor of the month" styles and misguided development take momentary precedence.

The architecture of Palm Springs is unique and exceptional and is a valuable asset to our rich Californian and American architectural legacy. Please do not let this proposed project encroach on the Santa Fe Federal Savings and Loan building and the space it is entitled to.

Respectfully Submitted

Sally Anne Smith, AIA  
2005 & 2006 Past President -Monterey Bay Chapter of the American Institute of Architects  
Current Director of COTE (Committee on the Environment) Monterey Bay Chapter of the American Institute of Architects

SMITH ARCHITECTURAL STUDIO

32301 Deane Street, Palm Springs, CA 92262 • Phone: 760-322-7266 • Fax: 760-322-7165



**Tom Wilson**

**From:** EPHEMPHILL@aol.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 18, 2009 3:10 PM  
**To:** David Ready  
**Cc:** Tom Wilson; Craig Ewing; DHolland@wss-law.com  
**Subject:** Baristo Lofts—Request for continuance

David—John Wessman just informed me that Councilman Mills will not be in attendance at tonight's meeting because of a medical issue. Baristo Lofts is scheduled to be heard tonight. Because of Chris's special expertise, we believe his participation in the discussion on Baristo Lofts is critical. Also, given his deep involvement in the downtown revitalization effort, we believe he deserves the right to comment on Baristo Lofts. We are therefore requesting that the Council continue consideration of the Baristo Lofts project until Councilman Mills can participate in the consideration of this matter. Thank you for your assistance and please give our best to Councilman Mills for a speedy recovery.

Emily Perri Hemphill, Esq.  
Ealy, Hemphill & Blasdel, LLP  
71780 San Jacinto Drive  
Suite I-3  
Rancho Mirage, California 92270  
Telephone: 760-340-0666  
Facsimile: 760-340-4666

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ITEM 1.B.  
ADDITIONAL

# FACSIMILE COVER LETTER TRANSMITTAL

lesirk @ mindspring.com

William

## KRISEL

A.I.A. ARCHITECT

568 Tigertail Road  
Los Angeles California 9004  
Telephone (310) 824-0441  
Fax: (310) 476-2576

TO: James Thompson, City Clerk  
City of Palen Springs, CA

ATTENTION: Council members: Mills, Feat, Anderson, Weyler

RE: "BARISTO LOFTS" C. Pagnat

DATE: Feb. 17, 2009

FAX NUMBER: (760) 322-8332

JOB NO. \_\_\_\_\_

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could not be opened. Herewith is that attachment.  
Would you kindly give a copy to each Councilperson before  
the public Council Meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 18, 2009  
regarding the proposed "Baristo Lofts" project.

I would appreciate it if you would telephone me  
at (310) 824-0441 to let me know if it came thru  
and do you need additional info. Thank you and  
sorry for the inconvenience.

William Krisel, A.I.A.

386

WILLIAM KRISEL, A.I.A. ARCHITECT

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**02/18/2008**  
**ITEM 1.B**  
**ADDITIONAL**

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JAMES THOMPSON  
CITY CLERK

William

**KRISEL**  
A.I.A. ARCHITECT  
568 Tigertail Road  
Los Angeles California 90049  
Telephone (310) 824-0441  
Fax: (310) 476-2576

FEBRUARY 16, 2009

CITY COUNCIL, CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, CA.

MY NAME IS WILLIAM KRISEL. I AM AN ARCHITECT AND ALSO A LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT, HAVING BEEN LICENSED IN THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA SINCE 1950. I RESIDE AT 568 NORTH TIGERTAIL ROAD, LOS ANGELES, CA., 90049.

I AM WRITING BECAUSE I CANNOT ATTEND THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2009 WHEN THE WESSMAN "BARISTO LOFTS" PROJECT WILL BE REVIEWED. I FEEL IT IMPORTANT THAT I SHARE WITH YOU MY PROFESSIONAL VIEWS ON THE PROJECT AS IT IS NOW PRESENTED....AS BACKGROUND QUALIFICATIONS, I HAVE BEEN DOING WORK IN PALM SPRINGS SINCE 1955 WHEN I DESIGNED THE OCOTILLO LODGE FOR THE ALEXANDERS, AND AFTER THAT, TWIN-PALMS, VISTA-LAS-PALMAS, RACQUET-CLUB-ESTATES, KINGS-POINT, CANYON-VIEW-ESTATES, SANDPIPERS IN PALM DESERT AND INDIAN WELLS, ETC. ETC.

THE PRESENT COLLECTION OF MID-CENTURY-MODERN ARCHITECTURE IN PALM SPRINGS BY FREY, NEUTRA, WILLIAMS, WEXLER, MYSELF AND OTHERS, ARE THE "CROWN JEWELS"; AN EXTREMELY VALUABLE ASSET. ONE THAT MAKES "MODERNISM" AND PALM SPRING SYNOYMOUS AND WORLD RENOWNED; IT IS A MONEY MAKING ASSET THAT SHOULD NOT BE JEOPARDIZED BY UNSYMPATHETIC DEVELOPMENT.

I AM A BUILDERS-ARCHITECT; 90% OF MY 60-YEAR-CAREER HAS BEEN FOR DEVELOPER-BUILDER-CLIENTS. IN PALM SPRINGS I NOW HAVE A "STAR IN THE SIDEWALK", ALIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD, A.I.A. AWARDS FOR DESIGN EXCELLENCE ALONG WITH THE N.A.H.B, THE A.S.L.A. AND MANY OTHER DESIGN ORIENTED PROFESSIONS....I STRONGLY BELIEVE IN NEW CONSTRUCTION, MOVING FORWARD, NEW IDEAS, ALONG WITH RESTORATION AND CONSERVANCY. AS THIS PROJECT IS NOW PRESENTED, I MUST REGISTER MY DISMAY AT ITS SITE PLAN, ITS MASSING, ITS DESIGN, ITS TOTAL DISREGARD TO THE EXISTING SITE CONDITIONS, THE CITY ITSELF, THE CULTURE, THE SCALE AND ITS INAPPROPRIATENESS TO THE LOCATION AND THE NEGATIVE RELATIONSHIP TO THE ADJOINING BUILDINGS, JUST TO NAME A FEW CRITICISMS.

I BELIEVE THE ARCHITECT (CIOFFI) CAN DO BETTER, BOTH FOR HIS DEVELOPER-CLIENT AND THE PEOPLE OF PALM SPRINGS AND THE VISITORS WHO COME HERE FOR THE MODERNISM THAT DOES NOT EXIST ANYWHERE ELSE.. DOWNSIZING IS NOT NECESSARY AND EXTRA COSTS ARE NOT NECESSARY YET RESPECTING GOOD MODERN ARCHITECTURE IN SYMPATHY WITH THE MID-CENTURY-MODERN LANGUAGE IS ALL IMPORTANT.

PLEASE DO NOT PERMIT ENTITLEMENTS TO BE THE DOMINANT CRITERIA. THE PEOPLE WHOM YOU REPRESENT, DESERVE BETTER - YOU CAN BE FAIR AND BALANCED BY REQUIRING THE APPLICANT TO RECONSIDER THE DESIGN AND RE-EVALUATE ALLOF THE ABOVE. ALSO, ANY APPROVALS SHOULD HAVE FIXED START -OF-CONSTRUCTION DATES WITH A HUGE PENALTY FOR NON CONFORMANCE SO AS TO DICSOURAGE THE APPLICANT FROM USING THE ENTITLEMENT MERELY TO ENHANCE HIS PROPERTY VALUE AND SELL TO ANOTHER BUILDER.. ANY DELAYS SHOULD TRIGGER A NEW PUBLIC HEARING. I TRUST THE CITY COUNCIL WILL ACT IN A RESPONSIBLE WAY AND PROTECT THE "CROWN JEWELS" BY REQUIRING THE APPLICANT "TO DO BETTER" FOR HIMSELF AND THE PUBLIC. THANK YOU FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY TO BE HEARD.

YOURS TRULY,

  
WILLIAM KRISEL, A.I.A., ARCHITECT



February 17, 2009

The Honorable Steve Pougnet  
Mayor of Palm Springs  
3200 East Tahquitz Canyon Way  
Palm Springs, CA 92262

Dear Mayor Pougnet,

Subject: BARISTO LOFTS PROJECT

Enclosed is a "Valley Voice" column from the Palm Springs Preservation Foundation that appeared in the January 28<sup>th</sup> Desert Sun. We have received overwhelmingly positive public response to this op-ed piece.

You also have in your briefing materials our August 12, 2008 letter to the city's Planning Commission. The views contained therein are just as relevant today as they were six months ago. However, the applicant recently stated that increasing the distance between the proposed project and the historic Santa Fe bank building would make his project "unprofitable."

Before you make your decision tomorrow, we would like to recap just a few of our concerns about this project and explain why we think it should be denied without hesitation:

- The proposed project physically and visually intrudes into the site of the historic Santa Fe bank building, a building which should have been designated a Class 1 historic site two years ago.
- The project requires quite outrageous deviations from the present zoning code.
- The project would diminish the stature of one of our modernist gems thereby reducing the architectural "capital" of the city. Ultimately this will negatively affect our burgeoning architectural tourism industry.
- The project is financially speculative, intended to entitle the land.
- The present site is already "developed."

If you have any questions, or if I can be of further assistance, please don't hesitate to contact me at [info@pspreservationfoundation.org](mailto:info@pspreservationfoundation.org) or (760) 837-7117.

Sincerely,

Ron Marshall  
President

Copy to (w/enclosure): Council members G. Foat, R. Hutcherson, C. Mills and L. Weigel

100 S. Sunrise Way, Suite A #465, Palm Springs, CA 92262-6778  
760-837-7117 \* [info@pspreservationfoundation.org](mailto:info@pspreservationfoundation.org) \* [www.pspreservationfoundation.org](http://www.pspreservationfoundation.org)

RECEIVED  
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# Opinion

## VALLEY VOICE

### Wessman's Baristo Lofts project flawed

When a city sees new development as a quick-fix to its economic woes, savvy developers smell the opportunity for a quick payday.

Throw in a public frustrated by inaction (Desert Fashion Plaza) and you have all the ingredients required for a "perfect storm" of civic desperation. Soon we will see just how anxious the Palm Springs leadership is for any development when the City Council hears developer John Wessman's Baristo Lofts project.



**ron marshall**

The project, described by one observer as "a real stinker," was approved 4-1 by the city's Planning Commission despite significant public outcry. The project originally included a rather offensive proposal to slap an outdoor seating area onto the historic Santa Fe bank building at 300 S. Palm Canyon Drive.

After many months of interaction with the city (the project was so flawed it was seen by the Architectural Advisory Committee six times), Wessman grudgingly withdrew the outdoor seating component, as it could not be disguised as anything less than a direct assault on the historic building. He then cynically used the ploy to convince the gullible planning commissioners that some sort of "balance" had been struck.

But where is the proper balance? The primary element of the project (and the real money-maker for Wessman) is a four-story condominium placed on a tiny postage stamp-sized piece of land. The proposed condo, which can only be described as overbuilt, is jammed against the one-story Santa Fe bank building and looms over the elegant modernist icon like a hulking monster. At street level, the proposed physical separation between the two buildings is a mere 16 feet, and at one point the roof overhangs are only 4 feet apart.

While attending the Planning Commission meeting that addressed the project, it became obvious that some of the commissioners didn't fully grasp the extent of the waivers being requested for the project (in city planner-speak "deviations"). I and others in the audience were confused.

The next day, I made an appointment with a Palm Springs city planner to better understand the extent of these deviations. As the city planner professionally, and patiently, described to me the "underlying development standards for the high-rise ordinance," I came to the stunning realization that the required setbacks for the proposed condominium actually overlapped in opposing directions, from east to west and north to south — effectively prohibiting the existence of the building in three-dimensional space.

Why would anyone propose such a large building on such a small lot? If Wessman gets approval from the council, that approval makes the project's tiny piece of land (now a modest parking lot) instantly valuable to a potential new buyer.

In the city's analysis of Baristo Lofts, there is a curious argument that the project has some "public benefit." Incredibly, that benefit is that Wessman will not despoil the Santa Fe bank building.

Finally, Wessman has not made the Baristo Lofts project as "green" a development as he could. This is unfortunate, as the city is in the midst of a highly publicized sustainability initiative. Just how bad does a proposed development have to be before the Palm Springs City Council balks? We'll see shortly.

Ron Marshall is the president of the Palm Springs Preservation Foundation. He can be reached at [info@preservationfoundation.org](mailto:info@preservationfoundation.org)

## Jay Thompson

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**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 1:39 PM  
**To:** gfinla@msn.com; Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: DENY the proposed Baristo Lofts Project

---

**From:** Vincent [mailto:desertmod@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 1:30 PM  
**To:** Steve Pougnet  
**Cc:** Ginny Foat; Rick Hutcheson; Chris Mills; Lee Weigel  
**Subject:** DENY the proposed Baristo Lofts Project

"Please approve the Class 1 historic site designation of the Santa Fe bank building and DENY the proposed Baristo Lofts Project."

I don't understand why approving a historic building is dependent upon a proposed new loft project. Can someone explain this? A building is either historic or it's not. The loft project either fits on the land or it doesn't....from what I've read it doesn't unless variances are granted on all sides. This doesn't look like a good project on this parcel. Why here? Lots of other parcels are around that would work? Sounds like someone is trying to make the developers and preservationist both happy.

We moved to Palm Springs because we love the mid century homes and warm weather. We hope the city can use the historic mid century neighborhoods to reinvent it's future.

Thank you for you support!

Kind Regards,

Vincent Williams

## Jay Thompson

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**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 2:03 PM  
**To:** gfinla@msn.com; Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: from Rick Vila

---

**From:** rickvila@gmail.com [mailto:rickvila@gmail.com] **On Behalf Of** Rick Vila  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 1:56 PM  
**To:** Steve Pognet; Ginny Foat; Rick Hutcheson; Lee Weigel  
**Subject:** from Rick Vila

Please approve the Class I historic site designation of the Santa Fe bank building and DENY the proposed Baristo Lofts Project.

Thank you.

Rick Vila  
2792 N. Avenida Caballeros  
Palm Springs, CA 92262

## Jay Thompson

---

**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 2:06 PM  
**To:** gfinla@msn.com; Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: Class 1 Historic Site Designation

-----Original Message-----

**From:** mikee92103@aol.com [mailto:mikee92103@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 2:02 PM  
**To:** Ginny Foat  
**Subject:** Class 1 Historic Site Designation

Dear Ginny Foat,

Please approve the Class 1 historic site designation of the Santa Fe bank building and DENY the proposed Baristo Lofts Project.

This week's enormous interest in the annual Modernism event once again proves that our city's unique mid century architecture is a major part of our appeal as a travel destination.

We must protect and preserve the integrity of these important buildings as we promote Palm Springs as the premier mid century design and architecture capitol of the U.S.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Michael Ellis  
2370 N. Paseo De Anza  
Palm Springs, CA 92262



## Jay Thompson

---

**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 12:31 PM  
**To:** gfinla@msn.com; Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: Baristo Lofts application

---

**From:** Keith Gaines [mailto:keitgain@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 12:20 PM  
**To:** Steve Pougnet; Ginny Foat; Rick Hutcheson; Chris Mills; Lee Welgel  
**Cc:** pmoruzzi@earthlink.net; info@pspreservationfoundation.org  
**Subject:** Baristo Lofts application

Dear Mayor and Council,

My name is Keith Gaines and I am writing to urge you to deny the Baristo Lofts application. When we first chose to visit Palm Springs, the decision was made in large part to the wonderful collection of mid-century architecture that the city possesses. We arranged to visit significant buildings, study the city's history, and take a tour led by local architectural historian Robert Imber. Imber's tour was a fascinating experience made even more fascinating by the couple with whom we shared it. This man and woman were from Brazil and were employed as an architect and a fashion designer respectively. They had flown to Palm Springs for two nights simply to see the city's architecture. I was immediately impressed by the status Palm Spring's architectural heritage has not only around the country, but around the globe.

Because of this status, I can hardly believe that the city and its development community would consider jeopardizing the very assets that make it a place worth visiting. The Baristo Lofts will significantly compromise the Santa Fe Savings and Loan building designed in by E. Stewart Williams in 1960. I have seen the plans and can confidently say that it is too close to the existing building. Furthermore, the proposed building is too tall and would hover over its neighbor to the north. I find it hard to believe that there is no other more appropriate location for this new construction.

No doubt Palm Springs needs to grow and continue to develop, but that growth and development should not be at the expense of the city's history. Why risk jeopardizing what makes this place so great for an unremarkable addition to the downtown? I can assure you that neither I nor the couple from Brazil will travel to the California desert to visit the Baristo Lofts. Please deny this new development application and designate the Santa Fe Savings and Loan building as a Class 1 historic site.

Sincerely,  
Keith A. Gaines, LMSW  
200 North 3rd Street  
Boise, ID 83702

## Jay Thompson

---

**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 12:28 PM  
**To:** gfinla@msn.com; Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: Baristo Lofts Application

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Roncevic, Andrej [mailto:Andrej.Roncevic@wgint.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 12:14 PM  
**To:** Steve Pougnet; Ginny Foat; Rick Hutcheson; Chris Mills; Lee Weigel  
**Cc:** pmoruzzi@earthlink.net; info@pspreservationfoundation.org  
**Subject:** Baristo Lofts Application

Dear Mayor and Council:

My name is Andrej Roncevic and as a first-time visitor to Palm Springs I have been impressed by the climate, the friendly people, and the variety of shops and experiences available. Even more importantly, I am fascinated by the town's amazing architectural legacy.

I am visiting to take part in Modernism Week and have been surprised by the quantity and quality of your mid-century architectural resources. One needs only to look at the cities which host events similar to the Modernism Show and Sale. These cities include Miami, Chicago, Los Angeles, and San Francisco. Added to this list of world class cities is Palm Springs. This is no accident and is in fact a statement about the city's importance in the mid-century world.

I am originally from Croatia and understand the importance that heritage tourism plays to local and regional economies. You have a valuable resource here that deserves to be protected not just for its artistic value, but for its economic value as well. The Baristo Lofts development application will harm rather enhance these values. The city should not consider damaging these resources but rather preserving them. Please designate the Santa Fe Savings and Loan building as a Class 1 historic site and deny the Baristo Lofts development application.

Sincerely,

Andrej Roncevic  
URS Corporation  
720 Park Blvd.  
Boise, Idaho 83725

## Jay Thompson

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**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 12:27 PM  
**To:** gfinla@msn.com; Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: Baristo Lofts Application

-----Original Message-----

From: Dan Everhart [mailto:Dan.Everhart@itd.idaho.gov]  
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 12:09 PM  
To: Steve Pougnet; Ginny Foat; Rick Hutcheson; Chris Mills; Lee Weigel  
Cc: pmoruzzi@earthlink.net; info@pspreservationfoundation.org  
Subject: Baristo Lofts Application

Dear Mayor and Council:

My name is Dan Everhart and I am a resident of Boise, Idaho. When friends and family ask me why I've spent thousands of dollars to visit Palm Springs twice in the past two years, I explain to them simply that this city is the "Mecca of Modernism".

For myself and thousands upon thousands of tourists who annually visit this amazing place in the California desert, no other explanation is needed. For me, and many like me, it's not the sun and shops - which can be found in countless places - but rather the architecture that continues to draw us to this unique city. The concentration of important and well preserved architecture from the middle of the 20th century is a piece of the city's significant history that should not be lost or lightly changed.

I understand that you will soon consider a proposal which would significantly alter E. Stewart Williams' Santa Fe Savings and Loan building of 1960. The application for the Baristo Lofts is flawed. It would allow the construction of a building significantly taller than its historic neighbor on a lot both too small and too close. This new structure should not be allowed to compromise the architectural integrity and stylistic composition of the adjacent National Register eligible savings and loan building.

One of the characteristics of downtown Palm Springs that strikes any visitor upon their arrival is the village-like quality of the city. This quality is due in part to the relatively low height of buildings in the core of the city. The Baristo Lofts would change this quality. Another characteristic that one encounters are the vast amounts of undeveloped land in the center of town. Both desert scrub and surface parking lots occupy huge quantities of Palm Springs. Surely the development community does not find itself limited to postage-stamp sized lots adjacent to architecturally significant icons of the city. The Baristo Lofts could and should be built elsewhere to allow the retention of the developer's full concept while preserving Palm Spring's character and unique quality.

I will continue to visit this amazing city while you nurture and support the qualities which make it unique, but once those qualities are gone or so severely degraded that they are no longer recognizable, I will begin to spend my time and money elsewhere. Please deny the Baristo Lofts application and preserve and protect the Santa Fe Savings and Loan.

Sincerely,

Dan Everhart  
P.O. Box 7219  
Boise, ID 83707-1129

## Jay Thompson

---

**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 11:38 AM  
**To:** gfinla@msn.com; Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: Baristo Lofts/Feb 18 Council Agenda Item

---

**From:** rjuliansf@aol.com [mailto:rjuliansf@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 14, 2009 10:20 AM  
**To:** Steve Pougnet; Ginny Foat; Rick Hutcheson; Lee Weigel; Chris Mills  
**Subject:** Baristo Lofts/Feb 18 Council Agenda Item

Honorable Mayor and Council Members,

Due to a conflict in my schedule, I cannot appear personally on Feb. 18, but I want to articulate my opposition to this project. The design meets none of the standard setback requirements and its scale is insensitive to both the adjacent historic property at 300 S. Palm Canyon and the downtown corridor. Most importantly, this is not a development project, but an exercise in real estate speculation. The developer has no intention of building these lofts, but if he can secure the necessary entitlements for this bad design, the increased density will make the property more valuable later when he sells it off to someone else. There is simply no market for these proposed residences in the current real estate climate.

It would be irresponsible for council to enable this sort of speculation at the expense of the downtown corridor. I am not anti-development; but I am opposed to irresponsible development. I hope you will reject the developer's permit application for the Baristo Lofts.

Robert Stone  
Palm Springs resident and homeowner

---

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**Jay Thompson**

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**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 11:36 AM  
**To:** gfinla@msn.com; Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: Baristo Lofts

---

**From:** Wendy Ketteridge [mailto:wendy.ketteridge@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 12:31 PM  
**To:** Ginny Foat  
**Subject:** Baristo Lofts

I oppose the proposed Baristo Loft project, and support the immediate designation of the Santa Fe bank building as a Class I historic site... Sincerely Wendy. N, Ketteridge

## Jay Thompson

---

**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 11:30 AM  
**To:** gfinla@msn.com; Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: NO to Baristo lofts

---

**From:** Sara - [mailto:ssanta101@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 6:01 AM  
**To:** Steve Pougnet; Ginny Foat; Rick Hutcheson; Chris Mills; leweigel@palmsprings-ca.gov  
**Subject:** NO to Baristo lofts

I am from Houston and visit PS at least once a year for Modernism week. I love and appreciate the wealth of mid-century architecture that PS offers; it is what keeps me and my husband coming back! Last year, we convinced the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston to organize a trip to PS. This year, Houston's Contemporary Arts Museum also organized a trip to PS. Please do not destroy this!

I oppose the proposed Baristo lofts project and support the immediate designation of the Santa Fe Bank building as a Class 1 historic site.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Sara Sant'Ambrogio

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## Jay Thompson

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**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 11:29 AM  
**To:** gfinla@msn.com; Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: Citizen input: The Santa Fe Bank Building

---

**From:** Dave Coleman [mailto:mindbodydave@msn.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 9:30 AM  
**To:** Ginny Foat; Rick Hutcheson  
**Subject:** Citizen input: The Santa Fe Bank Building

Dear City Council Members,

I am contacting you because I oppose the Baristo Lofts project and support the immediate designation of the Santa Fe bank building site as a Class 1 historic site. Without our historic, architecturally significant buildings of the MidCentury movement, we are just a small town in the desert with no reason for tourists to come here. (The more recently developed neighbor cities to the east have better stores, golf courses, tennis resorts.) Lofts are an L.A./big city thing. Let's keep our city a home for what makes it famous and a desirable tourist attraction.

This building is important, as is your decision to keep it.

Thank you,  
Dave Coleman  
1782 S.Araby Dr.  
Palm Springs, CA 92264

---

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## Jay Thompson

---

**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 11:29 AM  
**To:** gfinla@msn.com; Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: Santa Fe Federal Savings & Loan

---

**From:** Martin C. Kristal [mailto:mkristal@hfdclaw.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 9:36 AM  
**To:** Steve Pougnet; Ginny Foat; Rick Hutcheson; Chris Mills; Lee Weigel  
**Subject:** Santa Fe Federal Savings & Loan

Mr. Pougnet, and city council members, I strongly oppose the proposed Baristo Lofts project and support the immediate designation of the Santa Fe bank building site as a Class 1 historic site. I believe that it is essential to the city of Palm Springs and its residents and visitors that the city do its utmost to preserve the wonderful and unique architectural history of the city. It is this architectural history that provides the city its special character and attracts thousands of visitors each year. The proposed development adds nothing and is merely an attempt to destroy that special quality. Surely, the city council should be the guardians of that history and do its utmost to preserve and defend it. Reasonable modifications to the proposed project could and should be made to reduce and/or eliminate the impacts of that project on the Santa Fe Federal Savings and Loan building.

Martin C. Kristal  
Harrington, Foxx, Dubrow & Canter  
1055 West 7th Street, 29th Floor  
Los Angeles, California 90017  
ph 213-489-3222  
fx 213-622-4158



## Jay Thompson

---

**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 11:29 AM  
**To:** gfinla@msn.com; Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: BARISTO LOFTS

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Peter Sabi [mailto:tu\_fabu@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 9:40 AM  
**To:** Steve Pougnet; Ginny Foat; Rick Hutcheson; Chris Mills; Lee Weigel  
**Subject:** BARISTO LOFTS

Dear City Council Members:

I oppose the proposed Baristo Lofts project and support the immediate designation of the Santa Fe bank building as a Class 1 historic site.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of my position regarding Mr. Wessman's proposal

Sincerely,  
Peter Sabi  
1220 N. Avenida Caballeros  
Palm Springs, Ca. 92262

## Jay Thompson

---

**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 11:29 AM  
**To:** gfinla@msn.com; Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: Baristo lofts project

-----Original Message-----

From: Marc Schindler [mailto:marc20k@yahoo.com]  
Sent: Monday, February 16, 2009 10:02 AM  
To: Steve Pougnet; Ginny Foat; Rick Hutcheson; Chris Mills; leweigel@palmsprings-ca.gov  
Subject: Baristo lofts project

I am writing from Houston and frequently visit Palm Springs (for Modernism week)etc. My wife and I love and appreciate the wealth of mid-century architecture that Palm Springs offers; it is what keeps us coming back! Last year, we visited with the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston and enjoyed your wealth of art & architecture. This year, Houston's Contemporary Arts Museum also organized a trip to PS. Please do not destroy this!

I oppose the proposed Baristo lofts project and support the immediate designation of the Santa Fe Bank building as a Class 1 historic site.

Respectively yours,

Marc Schindler

## Jay Thompson

---

**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 11:28 AM  
**To:** gfinla@msn.com; Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: Your attention please

---

**From:** GaryJohns1@aol.com [mailto:GaryJohns1@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 11:17 AM  
**To:** Steve Pougnet; Ginny Foat; Rick Hutcheson; Chris Mills; Lee Weigel  
**Subject:** Your attention please

Hello all,

I oppose the Baristo Lofts project.  
I support Class 1 designation of the Santa Fe Federal Savings Building and site.

Thank you.

Gary Johns

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## Jay Thompson

---

**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 11:28 AM  
**To:** gfinla@msn.com; Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: Sanata Fe Federal Savings & Loan

---

**From:** elliotk831@aol.com [mailto:elliotk831@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 12:02 PM  
**To:** Steve Pougnet; Ginny Foat; Rick Hutcheson; Chris Mills; Lee Weigel  
**Subject:** Sanata Fe Federal Savings & Loan

I would like to add my voice to the opposition to the Baristo Lofts project, as well as my support for the immediate designation of the Santa Fe Bank Building site as a Class I historic site.

I think by now the city of Palm Springs would realize what an architectural treasure trove it has of first rate and architecturally significant buildings. The architecture of the city provides an international reputation for the city - one that should be carefully guarded and protected. Additionally such architecture provides tourist dollars and revenues far in excess of development and other fees that simply provide short term benefit.

I urge the city council to act to oppose the baristo lofts and support the historic designation of the Santa Fe Bank Building and Site.

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## Jay Thompson

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**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 11:27 AM  
**To:** gfinla@msn.com; Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: Opposition

---

**From:** terrymail426-clcl@yahoo.com [mailto:terrymail426-clcl@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 3:11 PM  
**To:** Steve Pougnet; Ginny Foat; Rick Hutcheson; Chris Mills; Lee Weigel  
**Subject:** Opposition

We oppose the proposed Baristo Lofts project and support the immediate designation of the Sante Fe bank building as a Class 1 historic site.

As proposed, the current project would "diminish" the Sante Fe bank building adjacent to it.

Wayne Picters and Terence Murphy

## Jay Thompson

---

**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 11:36 AM  
**To:** gfinla@msn.com; Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: Baristo Lofts

---

**From:** Wendy Ketteridge [mailto:wendy.ketteridge@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 12:31 PM  
**To:** Ginny Foat  
**Subject:** Baristo Lofts

I oppose the proposed Baristo Loft project, and support the immediate designation of the Santa Fe bank building as a Class I historic site... Sincerely Wendy. N, Ketteridge

## Jay Thompson

---

**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 11:30 AM  
**To:** gfinla@msn.com; Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: NO to Baristo lofts

---

**From:** Sara - [mailto:ssanta101@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 6:01 AM  
**To:** Steve Pougnet; Ginny Foat; Rick Hutcheson; Chris Mills; leweigel@palmsprings-ca.gov  
**Subject:** NO to Baristo lofts

I am from Houston and visit PS at least once a year for Modernism week. I love and appreciate the wealth of mid-century architecture that PS offers; it is what keeps me and my husband coming back! Last year, we convinced the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston to organize a trip to PS. This year, Houston's Contemporary Arts Museum also organized a trip to PS. Please do not destroy this!

I oppose the proposed Baristo lofts project and support the immediate designation of the Santa Fe Bank building as a Class 1 historic site.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Sara Sant'Ambrogio

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## Jay Thompson

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**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 11:25 AM  
**To:** gfinla@msn.com; Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: Baristo Lofts

---

**From:** Christine Ramos [mailto:ramosjvr@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 4:05 PM  
**To:** Steve Pougnet; Ginny Foat; Rick Hutcheson; Chris Mills; Lee Weigel  
**Subject:** Baristo Lofts

I oppose the proposed Baristo Lofts project and support the immediate designation of the Santa Fe Bank building as a Class I historic site.

Christine Ramos  
2801 E. Avery Drive, #D-5

Palm Springs, CA 92264

760-218-6720  
[ramosjvr@yahoo.com](mailto:ramosjvr@yahoo.com)





## Jay Thompson

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**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 11:24 AM  
**To:** gfinla@msn.com; Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: Santa Fe Federal Savings & Loan

---

**From:** Vincent Bartz [mailto:vhb747@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 12:20 AM  
**To:** Ginny Foat  
**Subject:** Santa Fe Federal Savings & Loan

Dear Council Member Foat:

I live in San Francisco and have a second home in Palm Springs and I oppose the proposed Baristo Lofts project and support the immediate designation of the Santa Fe bank building as a Class 1 historic site.

Please do not vote in favor of the Baristo Lofts this coming Wednesday, February 18, 2009.

Regards,

Vincent H. Bartz

**Jay Thompson**

---

**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 11:24 AM  
**To:** gfinla@msn.com; Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW:

---

**From:** anne abercrombie [mailto:atabercrombie@msn.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 6:58 AM  
**To:** Steve Pougnet; Ginny Foat; Rick Hutcheson; Chris Mills; Lee Weigel  
**Subject:**

MENBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

I STRONGLY OPPOSE THE BARISTO LOFTS PROJECT AND EQUALLY STRONGLY SUPPORT THE IMMEDIATE DESIGNATION OF THE SANTA FE BANK BUILDING SITE AS A CLASS 1 HISTORIC SITE.

THE BANK BUILDING IS ONE OF PALM SPRINGS MOST INTERESTING, SIGNIFICANT, AND IMPORTANT ARCHITECTURAL PROJECTS. AS SUCH, IT'S LOSS WOULD BE A TRAGEDY.

PLEASE THINK LONG AND HARD ABOUT SAVING THIS TREASURE.

ANNE ABERCROMBIE  
WEST ARENAS ROAD  
PALM SPRINGS

## Jay Thompson

---

**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 11:24 AM  
**To:** gfinla@msn.com; Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: Santa Fe Federal Savings & Loan

---

**From:** paulscobie@aol.com [mailto:paulscobie@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 3:09 AM  
**To:** Steve Pougnet  
**Cc:** Ginny Foat; Rick Hutcheson; Chris Mills; Lee Weigel  
**Subject:** Santa Fe Federal Savings & Loan

Dear Mayor Pougnet  
I oppose the Baristo Lofts project and support the immediate designation of the Santa Fe bank building site as a Class 1 historic site.  
Respectfully submitted,  
Paul Scobie

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## Jay Thompson

---

**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 11:23 AM  
**To:** gfinla@msn.com; Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: Baristo Lofts

---

**From:** GARY ROBERTS [mailto:gkrobe@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 7:06 AM  
**To:** Ginny Foat  
**Subject:** Baristo Lofts

Ginny Foat  
Councilwoman - City of Palm Springs

We oppose the Baristo Lofts project and support the immediate designation of the Santa Fe bank Building site as a class I historic site.

Thank you,

Gary and Kathy Roberts  
422 Flor Circle  
Palm Springs, CA 92264

## Jay Thompson

---

**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 11:22 AM  
**To:** gfinla@msn.com; Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: Santa Fe Bank Building/Baristo Lofts

---

**From:** Sandy Edelstein [mailto:sandyedelstein@earthlink.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 7:23 AM  
**To:** Ginny Foat; Rick Hutcheson; Chris Mills; Lee Weigel  
**Subject:** Santa Fe Bank Building/Baristo Lofts

I **oppose** the Baristo Lofts project and support the immediate designation of the Santa Fe Bank building as a Class 1 historic site.

Thank you!

Sandy Edelstein  
Palm Springs, Ca

**Jay Thompson**

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**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 11:22 AM  
**To:** gfinla@msn.com; Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW:

---

**From:** Dozois, John C [mailto:John.Dozois@va.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 7:29 AM  
**To:** Steve Pougnet; Ginny Foat; Rick Hutcheson; Chris Mills; Lee Weigel  
**Subject:**

I will not be able to be present at the February 18th, 2009 meeting, but wanted to let you know.....

***I strongly oppose the Baristo Lofts project and support the  
immediate designation  
of the Santa Fe bank building site as a Class 1 historic site.***

*John Dozois  
1100 LaVerne Way  
Palm Springs, CA 92264*

## Jay Thompson

---

**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 11:22 AM  
**To:** gfinla@msn.com; Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: Baristo lofts

---

**From:** gjkinley@gmail.com [mailto:gjkinley@gmail.com] **On Behalf Of** Gary J. Kinley  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 8:10 AM  
**To:** Steve Pougnet; Ginny Foat; Rick Hutcheson; Chris Mills; Lee Weigel  
**Subject:** Baristo lofts

Mayor Pougnet and City Council Members,

I will be out of town on Wednesday when you consider the Baristo Lofts project. Nevertheless, I wanted you to know that **I oppose the Baristo Lofts project and support the immediate designation of the Santa Fe bank building site as a Class 1 historic site.** I am requesting that you do the same in your actions tomorrow.

Thank you.

Gary Kinley  
960 E. Palm Canyon Dr. #101  
Palm Springs

--  
Gary J. Kinley, Ed.D.  
tel: 760.408.6578

## Jay Thompson

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**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 11:20 AM  
**To:** gfinla@msn.com; Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: Baristo Lofts

---

**From:** Risso, Glenn [mailto:glenn.risso@willis.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 8:50 AM  
**To:** Steve Pougnet; Ginny Foat; Rick Hutcheson; Chris Mills; Lee Weigel  
**Cc:** GaryJohns1@aol.com  
**Subject:** Baristo Lofts

**As a part time resident and property owner in Palm Springs, I oppose the Baristo Lofts project and support the immediate designation of the Santa Fe Bank building site as a Class I historic site.**

**If we do not preserve the existing unique architecture of Palm Springs - particularly downtown - it will eventually look no different than Orange County or hundreds of other communities across the country.**

**Glenn Risso  
1080 Chestnut Street, #10B  
San Francisco, CA 94109  
(415) 291-1514  
(415) 982-7978 - Fax**

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## Jay Thompson

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**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 11:19 AM  
**To:** gfinla@msn.com; Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: OPPOSE Baristo Lofts on Santa Fe Bank Building & Site

---

**From:** Paul Michelson [mailto:paul@roeder-johnson.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 9:02 AM  
**To:** Steve Pougnet; Ginny Foat; Rick Hutcheson; Chris Mills; Lee Weigel  
**Subject:** OPPOSE Baristo Lofts on Santa Fe Bank Building & Site

Dear Council,

I oppose the Baristo Lofts project and support the immediate designation of the Santa Fe bank building site as a Class 1 historic site.

As a resident and registered voter in Palm Springs, I believe that this issue is very important to our community and am counting on your collective support.

Thank you for working with us on this.

Sincerely,

Paul Michelson

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---

Paul Michelson/Steven Aaron  
203 East Canyon Vista Drive  
Palm Springs, CA 92264

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## Jay Thompson

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**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 11:19 AM  
**To:** gfinla@msn.com; Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: Barristo Lofts

---

**From:** jlew64@verizon.net [mailto:jlew64@verizon.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 8:53 AM  
**To:** Steve Pougnet; Ginny Foat; Rick Hutcheson; Chris Mills; Lee Weigel  
**Subject:** Barristo Lofts

*I am a constituent and a full time City resident and want you to know that I oppose the Baristo Lofts project and support the immediate designation of the Santa Fe bank building site as a Class 1 historic site.*

*Thank you,  
John Lewis*

## Jay Thompson

---

**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 11:25 AM  
**To:** gfinla@msn.com; Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: Oppose Baristo Lofts!!!

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Anton, Peter, M.D. [mailto:PAnton@mednet.ucla.edu]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 10:30 PM  
**To:** Ginny Foat  
**Subject:** Oppose Baristo Lofts!!!

Dear Ms. Foat

I strongly oppose the Baristo Lofts project and support the immediate designation of the Santa Fe bank building site as a Class 1 historic site.

I will be following this vote closely, especially in tough economic time when development and new sales are low and the essence of Palm Springs needs focus...such as on its history and unique architectural wonders.

Sincerely,

Peter A Anton, MD  
985 N Via Monte Vista  
Palm Springs, CA 92262

work:

Professor of Medicine  
Director: Center for HIV Prevention Research David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA

MRL 2734, 675 Charles E Young Dr. South  
Los Angeles, CA 90095  
tel: 310-206-5797  
fax: 310-206-8824  
panton@mednet.ucla.edu

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## Jay Thompson

---

**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 11:23 AM  
**To:** gfinla@msn.com; Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: Baristo Lofts Project and Class 1 Historic Site Nominatioin

-----Original Message-----

From: Patrick McGrew [mailto:pmaa@sbcglobal.net]  
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 7:10 AM  
To: Steve Pougnet; Ginny Foat; Rick Hutcheson; Chris Mills; Dickson Lee  
Subject: Baristo Lofts Project and Class 1 Historic Site Nominatioin

Honorable Mayor Pougnet and Members of the City Council,

Greek Temples, Palladian Villas and even contemporary International Style works by celebrated architects Mies Van der Rohe, Phillip Johnson and others have used the device of an "object in space" to emphasize the classic qualities of their projects. There are many examples of great world architecture that utilize this concept; locally, the best example is the Santa Fe Federal Saving Building at 300 South Palm Canyon Drive.

Now a new project is proposed to utilize this important open space for residential development.

-Patrick McGrew, Architectural Historian The original historic building on this site was designed by E. Stewart Williams who was not only an important architect in Palm Springs, but an architectural scholar whose career served to link the outside world of architecture to the remote and architecturally isolated world of the Coachella Valley. He was aware of the stylistic progression of world architecture and was familiar with the works of the famous architects that brought innovation to his profession. Through his career, his work shows the influence of many of the Modern Masters, including Alvar Aalto, Le Corbusier, Oscar Niemeyer, Mies Van der Rohe, Richard Neutra, and others.

Like many of the works of those architects, the Santa Fe Federal Savings Building is more than just a building in a parking lot - it is an important historic structure, one of whose character-defining features is its context - its setting, which is that of being an "object in space." As such, the building qualifies as an historic resource under CEQA which requires that changes to such resources be guided by the Secretary's Standards and Guidelines for the Rehabilitation of Historic Structures. These guidelines specifically recommend "Retaining the historic relationship between buildings, landscape and open space." The loss of this character-defining open space resulting from the proposed residential development represents a significant adverse impact for which no mitigation has been proposed. Under state law (CEQA) the project should require, at the very least, an EIR focused on the historic resource, and Preservation Alternatives that would analyze the extent of the significant adverse impacts.

Please do right by Palm Springs and reject the Baristo Lofts project and designate 300 South Palm Canyon as an historic site.

Sincerely

## Jay Thompson

---

**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 11:20 AM  
**To:** gfinla@msn.com; Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: Santa Fe Bank Building

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Sheila and Bill Stein [mailto:stein67@verizon.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 8:50 AM  
**To:** Steve Pougnet; Ginny Foat; Rick Hutcheson; Chris Mills; Lee Weigel  
**Subject:** Santa Fe Bank Building

Dear City Council members,

Yesterday we were on the double decker tour of Modernism Week. We are here in Palm Springs for a month from Connecticut. We had no idea about Modernism Week when we arrived. We've now participated in several wonderful events and have learned the importance of saving buildings from that era. You have the ability to help this effort and we urge you to support the Santa Fe Bank Building Class 1 historic designation.

Thank you very much.

Sheila and Bill Stein

## Jay Thompson

---

**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 11:15 AM  
**To:** gfinla@msn.com; Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: The Santa Fe Federal Savings & Loan building

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Sharon Strong [mailto:s.scrooper@earthlink.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 11:02 AM  
**To:** Steve Pougnet; Ginny Foat; Rick Hutcheson; Chris Mills; Lee Weigel  
**Subject:** RE: The Santa Fe Federal Savings & Loan building

Thank you for your diligence in overseeing the issues of our city. In deciding this evening on the fate of this building, you must balance the significance of the building against the need for loft construction. Please take into account the significance of the architect (E. Stewart Williams is on the "Map of Modern Palm Springs" ten times, and I had the pleasure of visiting many of those sights with a guest from Switzerland recently), the need to ground the reputation for modernism we enjoy in such buildings, the proliferation of "lofts" we already have, and the one-story footprint that lends to the feeling of gracious space we residents so appreciate. Thank you for your attention to my e-mail.

Sharon Strong  
480 E Via Ensenada Circle  
Palm Springs, CA 92264

## Jay Thompson

---

**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 11:19 AM  
**To:** gfinla@msn.com; Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW:

---

**From:** William Bell [mailto:wmbell1@pacbell.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 9:07 AM  
**To:** Steve Pougnet; Ginny Foat; Rick Hutcheson; Chris Mills; Lee Weigel  
**Subject:**

I am writing to voice my support for granting Class 1 Historic Designation to the Santa Fe Bank Building and Site and to oppose the construction of the Baristo Lofts.

It would seem to me that Palm Springs has far too few architectural gems to squander them and all together more unsold housing units than it needs

**William Bell**  
wmbell1@pacbell.net  
Prudential CA Realty  
323-850-6366

## Jay Thompson

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**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 11:18 AM  
**To:** Jay Thompson; gfinla@msn.com  
**Subject:** FW: Santa Fe Federal Savings & Loan

---

**From:** Randy Smith [mailto:rsmith@paradigmagency.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 9:28 AM  
**To:** Steve Pougnet; Ginny Foat; Rick Hutcheson; Chris Mills; Lee Weigel  
**Subject:** Santa Fe Federal Savings & Loan

I oppose the proposed Baristo Lofts project and support the immediate designation of the Santa Fe bank building as a Class 1 historic site.

I cannot believe that it is not already so designated. It is one of **the** best building in Palm Springs and needs to be protected accordingly.

Thank you,

**Randy Smith**  
**PARADIGM**  
*Artist Marketing Group*  
360 North Crescent Drive  
Beverly Hills, CA 90210  
tel: 310-288-8000  
mobile: 323-356-4552  
rsmith@paradigmagency.com



## Jay Thompson

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**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 11:18 AM  
**To:** gfinla@msn.com; Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: Support for the Baristo Lofts project

---

**From:** Randy Wiemer [mailto:rwiemer@dc.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 9:28 AM  
**To:** Steve Pougnet; Ginny Foat; Rick Hutcheson; Chris Mills; Lee Weigel  
**Subject:** Support for the Baristo Lofts project


Dear Palm Springs City Council,

I wanted to voice my support for the proposed Baristo Lofts project. I understand that the Palm Springs Preservation Foundation does not support this project and they will be at the council meeting to voice this view. However I wanted to remind the council that this small; very vocal group, does not represent the majority of Palm Springs citizens. Our city needs to look to the future and start updating downtown before the entire area becomes empty store fronts.

Thank you for considering my view.

## Randy

Randy Wiemer,  
Realtor, e-PRO (Certified Internet Professional),  
Ecobroker Certified, Major, US Air Force (Retired)  
Windermere Real Estate  
Direct: (760) 333-7747  
Fax: (760) 327-3991  
e-mail: [Randy@RandyWiemer.com](mailto:Randy@RandyWiemer.com)  
website: <http://www.GreatDesertHomes.com>

 please don't print this email unless you really need to.

## Jay Thompson

---

**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 11:17 AM  
**To:** gfinla@msn.com; Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: baristo lofts

---

**From:** JimHarlan@aol.com [mailto:JimHarlan@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 9:30 AM  
**To:** Steve Pougnet; Ginny Foat; Rick Hutcheson; Chris Mills; Lee Weigel  
**Subject:** baristo lofts

*I oppose the Baristo Lofts project  
and support the immediate designation  
of the Santa Fe bank  
building site as a Class 1 historic site.*

James R Harlan, Architect  
844 Milwood Avenue  
Venice, CA 90291

432 S Monte Vista Drive  
Palm Springs, CA 92262

310 625 2598 ph  
888 486 9201 f

---

**A Good Credit Score is 700 or Above. See yours in just 2 easy steps!**

## Jay Thompson

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**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 11:17 AM  
**To:** gfinla@msn.com; Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: barisito loft

---

**From:** TomEarly123@aol.com [mailto:TomEarly123@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 9:34 AM  
**To:** Steve Pougnet; Ginny Foat; Rick Hutcheson; Chris Mills; Lee Weigel  
**Subject:** barisito loft

hi

i oppose the baristo lofts please do not approve it

---

Need a job? Find an employment agency near you.

## Jay Thompson

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**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 11:15 AM  
**To:** gfinla@msn.com; Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: Please hear my voice

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**From:** Pamela Homfelt [mailto:phdesign@cox.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 11:11 AM  
**To:** steve.gougnnet@palmsprings-ca.gov; Ginny Foat; Rick Hutcheson; Chris Mills; Lee Weigel  
**Subject:** Please hear my voice

Dear Palm Springs City Council,  
Considering the numerous empty buildings in and around Palm Springs I cannot imagine destroying the surrounding site of the Santa Fe Bank Building with the proposed Baristo Lofts. Please think long term, as they do in Santa Barbara, to keep the unique milieu of Palm Springs for future generations as they have.

**I OPPOSE THE PROPOSED BARISTO LOFTS PROJECT AND SUPPORT THE IMMEDIATE DESIGNATION OF THE SANTA FE BANK BUILDING AS A CLASS I HISTORIC SITE.**

Pamela Homfelt  
pH Exterior Design  
619-741-1090  
[phdesign@cox.net](mailto:phdesign@cox.net)

## Jay Thompson

---

**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 2:23 PM  
**To:** gfinla@msn.com; Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: Baristo Lofts

---

**From:** Clara Nelson [mailto:clara@claravoyantdesign.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 2:16 PM  
**To:** Steve Pougnet  
**Cc:** Ginny Foat; Rick Hutcheson; Chris Mills; Lee Weigel  
**Subject:** re: Baristo Lofts

Mayor Pougnet and Palm Springs City Council Members:

Please approve the Class 1 historic site designation of the Santa Fe Federal bank building and DENY the proposed Baristo Lofts Project.

Sincerely,  
Clara Nelson

## Jay Thompson

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**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 2:22 PM  
**To:** gfinla@msn.com; Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: Santa Fe Savings & Loan Building

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**From:** stephen m rose [mailto:stephenmrose@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 2:14 PM  
**To:** Ginny Foat  
**Subject:** Santa Fe Savings & Loan Building

Dear Councilwoman Foat,

I own a home in West Hollywood, and in Palm Springs, and love both cities. Like many I am attracted to the vibrant gay community, the weather and the exquisite natural surroundings. All of these attributes while important to me, are not unique. Our city's unequalled riches of mid-century architecture *is* unique to Palm Springs. I have heard it said that our stock of world class architecture of the 1950s is unequalled, not just in this country, but the world.

As an architect, I have been stressed by the City Council's complete lack of appreciation of the value of this resource. And never has that been more apparent, nor caused me more distress, than the case of the magnificent Santa Fe Savings & Loan Building. This building is one of a very few crown jewels in the city's treasury.

This building was designed to be a pavilion. It's sleek horizontal lines were designed to be set on a site free from any competing elements. The space around the building is central to the building's successful combination of both lightness and strength.

The Baristo Lofts project would loom over this building like a 200 pound bully over his 98 pound victim. It would destroy the building as a free standing pavilion. There is no compelling reason to accept this plan. There is ample available land for development elsewhere in this city.

Please, this most visible of our architectural treasures needs to be protected.

Sincerely,

Stephen M Rose

[smrose@pacbell.net](mailto:smrose@pacbell.net)

1195 East Sunny Dunes Road  
Palm Springs

1129 North Poinsettia Place  
West Hollywood

**Dolores Strickstein**

---

**From:** Bill Lewallen [billewallen@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 3:48 PM  
**To:** Chris Mills; City Clerk; Ginny Foat; Rick Hutcheson; Steve Pougnet  
**Subject:** Baristo Lofts  
**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Red

I oppose the Bariso Lofts project and support the immediate designation of the Santa Fe bank building site as a Class 1 historic site.

Respectfully,

Bill Lewallen

## Jay Thompson

---

**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 18, 2009 11:43 AM  
**To:** gfinla@msn.com; Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: YES on Santa Fe Bank building site as a CLASS 1 Historic Site

---

**From:** landwork@aol.com [mailto:landwork@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 18, 2009 11:32 AM  
**To:** Steve Pougnet; Ginny Foat; Rick Hutcheson; Chris Mills; Lee Weigel  
**Subject:** YES on Santa Fe Bank building site as a CLASS 1 Historic Site

As both a home owner and business owner in the City of Palm Springs, I oppose the Baristo Lofts Project and support the immediate designation of the Santa Fe bank building as a Class 1 historic site.

Please vote to save the integrity of Palm Springs.

Charles Pearson

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## Jay Thompson

---

**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 18, 2009 11:33 AM  
**To:** gfinla@msn.com; Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: Baristo Lofts Project  
**Importance:** High

---

**From:** Rubin, Carol [mailto:Carol.Rubin@camoves.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 18, 2009 11:08 AM  
**To:** Steve Pougnet; Ginny Foat; Rick Hutcheson; Chris Mills; Lee Weigel  
**Subject:** Baristo Lofts Project  
**Importance:** High

*"To oppose the Baristo Lofts project and support the immediate designation  
of the Santa Fe bank building site as a Class 1 historic site."*

Carol O. Rubin  
Transaction Coordinator  
Coldwell Banker Residential  
1555 S. Palm Canyon Dr., #C  
Palm Springs, Ca 92264  
760.883.1703



## Jay Thompson

---

**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 18, 2009 11:33 AM  
**To:** gfinla@msn.com; Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: Concerned citizen...

---

**From:** daniel chavkin [mailto:danchavkin@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 18, 2009 10:59 AM  
**To:** Steve Pougnet  
**Cc:** Ginny Foat  
**Subject:** Concerned citizen...

The Honorable Mayor Mr. Pougnet & City Counsel members:

As a valued member of the community of Palm Springs, I implore you to save the beauty and integrity of the E. Stewart Williams designed bank building on Baristo & Palm Canyon Drive. Upon looking at the current plans of the Baristo Lofts, I feel as a concerned citizen, that the construction of the proposed lofts would significantly diminish the aesthetics of the overall building because it appears the Baristo Lofts are much too close to the existing bank building (Wessman offices), leaving absolutely no breathing room, which I believe is what the architect originally intended. I am neither an architectural historian nor an academic. I am a professional photographer who over the last nine months, have devoted my time photographing the wealth of mid-century modern buildings, apartments, & homes in Palm Springs. I took this project on because I feel very strongly about the architecture and the significance of this very important architectural movement and how it relates to the environment. Having said that, I don't believe in impeding the progress of future developments. It is extremely important that great care and consideration go into the planning of all architectural projects, so that in the end, both the historically significant architecture can peacefully co-exist with the future ones.

Thanks so much for your time.

Sincerely,

-Dan Chavkin.

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## Jay Thompson

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**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 18, 2009 11:32 AM  
**To:** gfinla@msn.com; Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: Oppose Baristo Lofts

---

**From:** j.schon@att.net [mailto:j.schon@att.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 18, 2009 10:38 AM  
**To:** Steve Pougnet  
**Subject:** Oppose Baristo Lofts

I oppose the Barist Lofts project and support the immediate designation of the Santa Fe bank building site as a Class 1 historic site. Joan Schon, Palm Springs Resident and Voter

## Jay Thompson

---

**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 18, 2009 11:31 AM  
**To:** gfinla@msn.com; Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: Revised Letter to City, please disregard first E mail  
**Importance:** High

**Sent:** Friday, March 27, 2009 9:58 AM  
**To:** Ginny Foat  
**Subject:** Revised Letter to City, please disregard first E mail

Dear City Council Members,

This letter shares with you some important information about C.A.P.S. and presents a point of view for why the city should postpone voting on the upcoming ordinance and reconvene the two year strong task force to make suggestions on revising the ordinance. This will ultimately produce an ordinance which will address the needs of the patients and fulfill the views and goals expressed by the city council.

**Why the city should postpone its vote:** The current ordinance ready to be voted on could produce potentially devastating health situations for patients and could result negatively in the medical condition of thousands of patients, especially those undergoing treatment. If for any reason patient's loose access to their medication *for even one day*, they can potentially encounter a negative reaction which could alter and damage their health, significantly. This would include contributing to the loss of appetite, extreme nausea and constant pain. The additional stress that could ensue would be significant and harmful as well. Its effect would create a serious health risk for many; no different than closing all the pharmacies in town where people get their medications for all sorts of medical conditions and telling them to drive to Los Angeles. We don't want anyone to have to panic and fear for their health and we sincerely state this not as a melodramatic prediction, but rather a truthful reality of the impending consequences of your (vote) decision on ordinance of such importance.

I am sure it is your intent to make certain no one is harmed in the pursuit of doing the right thing and the balance you seek. If the city were to allow time and request from the medical marijuana task force a report on the facts mentioned above then it could make a completely informed decision. This report would include such statistics as precise time frames and facts relating to the ability of collectives to adequately and safely meet the needs of ALL the patients.

### **Why C.A.P.S. should be permitted to operate/continue serving the patients residing in Palm Springs and surrounding communities.**

- a) In the four plus years plus that we have operated in the city we have done so in a 100% professional manner, with zero incidents of any kind.
- b) Serving a large number of patients here in the Coachella Valley, C.A.P.S. has made only a positive impact on the community and participates in meeting the needs of thousands of patients, some seriously ill, almost all, residents and taxpayers. We provide for patients with all types of illnesses, from all walks of life with a wide range of social and financial status, including the

poor patients undergoing treatment who have little or no funds. We help those who cannot afford their medication, and our staff has always been able to offer a safe and professional environment. We remain affordable and our patients now depend on us as would any patient of their drug store.

- c) It our belief that no documented patient suffering from an illness should ever have to go without medication and our goal has always been to support this essential human right.
- d) The ability for almost all of our patients to drive 250 miles round trip to Los Angeles is not feasible, and buying marijuana off the streets is dangerous and not an option anyone should ever have to consider.
- e) C.A.P.S. has shown the ability to meet the needs of the patients *and* the city. The facility has moved to comply with the permitted M-Zones, requested by the proposed ordinance.
- f) C.A.P.S. has been open for roughly four years, with no negative impact, operating professionally and incident free. Recognizing the significance of this is important and should be considered when deciding how to make the best decision on how to move forward. The council members reminded us when they stated their desire to "make what is best for the patients of Palm Springs" and "strike a reasonable balance" to "protect the citizens of Palm Springs who are sick, and in pain and need help".

Mayor Pougnet stated "I go back to the most important thing; this about patients...it should be about the patients getting their medicine. I respectfully suggest that he and the rest of the city council, attorney and manager, along with the planning commission will only be able to accomplish this goal by providing an ordinance allowing for the issuance of a conditional occupancy/use permit to C.A.P.S.

In order to do make the right decision I request that the city get more facts before moving forward. Please postpone any vote on any ordinance related to this matter and also request a reconvening of the medical marijuana task force. A fact finding study can be prepared and presented to the city council, which will bring to new and important light on all the realities of meeting the above mentioned goals. Then and only then can everyone say they did everything possible; to make a clear, informed and intelligent decision.

Thank you for your patience and commitment in trying to do the right thing.

C.A.P.S. Management

## Jay Thompson

---

**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 18, 2009 11:32 AM  
**To:** gfinla@msn.com; Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: Baristo Lofts project

---

**From:** Carter, David [mailto:David.Carter@camoves.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 18, 2009 10:08 AM  
**To:** Steve Pougnet; Ginny Foat; Rick Hutcheson; Chris Mills; Lee Weigel  
**Subject:** Baristo Lofts project

Dear Mayor and members of the City Council,

**I oppose the Baristo Lofts project and support the immediate designation of the Santa Fe bank building site as a Class 1 historic site for the following reasons:**

- Wessman doesn't have the money to build the project at the present time. If he had construction funds available, he should be working on the mall.
- With the real estate market in its current condition, there are no Buyers standing in line to purchase the lofts.
- The project includes additional downtown retail space and we have too much vacant retail space downtown already.

**David Carter**  
**2175 S. Brentwood Drive**  
**Palm Springs, CA 92264**  
**(760) 409-2518**

## Jay Thompson

---

**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 18, 2009 11:30 AM  
**To:** gfinla@msn.com; Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: Baristo Lofts project

---

**From:** Michael Barba [mailto:m-builder@earthlink.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 18, 2009 9:45 AM  
**To:** Steve Pougnet; Ginny Foat; Rick Hutcheson; Chris Mills; Lee Weigel  
**Subject:** Baristo Lofts project

I oppose the Baristo Lofts project and support the immediate designation of the Santa Fe bank building site as a Class 1 historic site.

Michael Barba  
mbar@earthlink.net

## Jay Thompson

---

**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 18, 2009 11:29 AM  
**To:** gfinla@msn.com; Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: Baristo Lofts project

---

**From:** Kathryn Tomasino [mailto:kathryntomasino@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 18, 2009 8:16 AM  
**To:** Steve Pougnet; Ginny Foat  
**Cc:** Rick Hutcheson; Chris Mills; Lee Weigel  
**Subject:** Baristo Lofts project

I OPPOSE the Baristo Lofts project and SUPPORT the immediate designation of the Santa Fe bank building site as a Class 1 historic site.

**Kathryn Tomasino**  
[www.palmspringsrealestatefinder.com](http://www.palmspringsrealestatefinder.com)  
**760-333-9990 cell**  
**760-699-6133 office**  
Prudential California Realty  
2905 Tahquitz Canyon  
Palm Springs, CA 92262



## Jay Thompson

---

**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 18, 2009 11:29 AM  
**To:** gfinla@msn.com; Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: Approve historic site designation of Santa Fe bank & deny Baristo Lofts

---

**From:** Jane Stampe [mailto:janestampe@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 18, 2009 7:54 AM  
**To:** Steve Pougnet; Ginny Foat; Rick Hutcheson; Chris Mills; lee.weigel@palmsprings-ca.go  
**Cc:** Jane E Stampe  
**Subject:** Approve historic site designation of Santa Fe bank & deny Baristo Lofts

Please approve the Class 1 historic site designation of the Santa Fe bank building and DENY the proposed Baristo Lofts Project

Regards  
Jane Stampe  
1036 E Granvia Valmonte  
PS 92262

## Jay Thompson

---

**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 18, 2009 11:28 AM  
**To:** gfinla@msn.com; Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: (no subject)

---

**From:** RedE2NJoy@aol.com [mailto:RedE2NJoy@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 18, 2009 2:13 AM  
**To:** Steve Pougnet  
**Cc:** Ginny Foat; Rick Hutcheson; Chris Mills; Lee Weigel  
**Subject:** (no subject)

As a former residents of Palm Springs and now frequent visitors, We oppose the Baristo Lofts project and support the immediate designation of the Santa Fe Bank building site as a Class 1 historic site.

Thank You,  
John Lunders and Thomas Alari

---

**A Good Credit Score is 700 or Above. See yours in just 2 easy steps!**

## Jay Thompson

---

**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 18, 2009 11:29 AM  
**To:** gfinla@msn.com; Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: YES!

---

**From:** Donna La Brecque [mailto:[donna@dlabrecque.com](mailto:donna@dlabrecque.com)]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 18, 2009 7:53 AM  
**To:** Steve Pougnet; Ginny Foat; Rick Hutcheson; Chris Mills; Lee Weigel  
**Subject:** YES!

Please approve the Class 1 historic site designation of the Santa Fe bank building and DENY the proposed Baristo Lofts Project.

Thank you,

Donna La Brecque

d la brecque | creative collaboratory

8491 sunset blvd., 570 | los angeles, ca 90069

t 323\_782\_6909 | m 310\_867\_5575

f 323\_655\_5506 | w [dlabrecque.com](http://dlabrecque.com)

## Jay Thompson

---

**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 18, 2009 11:27 AM  
**To:** gfinla@msn.com; Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: Baristo Lofts

---

**From:** Jan Martin [mailto:janmartin1@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 11:41 PM  
**To:** Steve Pougnet; Ginny Foat; Rick Hutcheson; Chris Mills; Lee Weigel  
**Subject:** Baristo Lofts

I oppose the Baristo Lofts project and support the immediate designation of the Santa Fe Bank Building site as a Class 1 historic site!!!!

Jan Martin

## Jay Thompson

---

**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 18, 2009 11:27 AM  
**To:** gfinla@msn.com; Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: Sante Fe Federal Savings & Loan (currently the Wessman Office Building)

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**From:** Shelley.R.Lawrence@gmail.com [mailto:Shelley.R.Lawrence@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 11:27 PM  
**To:** Steve Pougnet; Ginny Foat; Rick Hutcheson; Chris Mills; Lee Weigel  
**Subject:** Sante Fe Federal Savings & Loan (currently the Wessman Office Building)

To All:

"I oppose the Baristo Lofls project and support the immediate designation of the Santa Fe bank building site as a Class 1 historic site."

Sincerely,

Shelley Lawrence  
Resident of Palm Springs

## Jay Thompson

---

**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 18, 2009 11:32 AM  
**To:** gfinla@msn.com; Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: Baristo Lofts/Santa Fe Bank Building

-----Original Message-----

**From:** chrycordoba@mindspring.com [mailto:chrycordoba@mindspring.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 18, 2009 10:59 AM  
**To:** Steve Pougnet; Ginny Foat; Rick Hutcheson; Chris Mills; Lee Weigel  
**Subject:** Baristo Lofts/Santa Fe Bank Building

I oppose the proposed Baristo Lofts project and support the immediate designation of the Santa Fe bank building as a Class 1 historic site. Thank you.

Neal Herman

## Jay Thompson

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**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 18, 2009 11:30 AM  
**To:** gfinla@msn.com; Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW:

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Karen Prinzmetal [mailto:kprinzmetal@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 18, 2009 9:43 AM  
**To:** Ginny Foat  
**Subject:**

Dear Ginny Foat:

The historic Santa Fe Bank Building is one of the most beautiful examples of International Style architecture in Palm Springs. Please preserve this important building and DO NOT build the Baristo Lofts next to it. With all the empty lots and closed Palm Spings Buildidings during this hard economic time, it is not the time nor the place to build more living units. What if Mr. Wessman decides not to finish the this unattractive project because of cost overruns? We have a chance for the City Council to do the right thing and protect a historic building.

The Class 1 historic site designation of the Santa Fe bank building, a much-admired modernist gem, has been held hostage by the ill-advised Baristo Lofts project for two years. The separation between the Santa Fe building and the proposed Baristo Lofts condominium project is only 16 feet at ground level with a mere 4 feet between roof overhangs. The proposed looming four-story Baristo Lofts project would visually intrude into the site and significantly diminish the dignity of the historic Santa Fe bank building.

Thank You  
Karen Prinzmetal  
(I live in a Bill Krisel Home)

## Jay Thompson

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**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 18, 2009 11:27 AM  
**To:** gfinla@msn.com; Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: Baristo Lofts

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Erik Ellis [mailto:eellis148@earthlink.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 9:57 PM  
**To:** Rick Hutcheson; Chris Mills; Steve Pougnet; Ginny Foat; Lee Weigel  
**Subject:** Baristo Lofts

Greetings,

My name is Erik Ellis and I own a home in Palm Springs. I enjoyed celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Alexander neighborhood in the north end. During one of the stops, I was saddened to discover that what should be an important historical landmark, the Santa Fe building and sight, was destined to be torn down in favor of the Baristo Loft project. I am truly baffled at this news. Palm Springs is a world renown resort town that is famous for it's mid-century modernist architecture. I cannot believe that with all of the development that is sitting empty or being auctioned off at less than half it's expected value, that this committee feels the need to create more development. I am even further perplexed that the destruction of an E. Stewart Williams designed building is being allowed. I oppose the Baristo lofts project and support the immediate designation of the Santa Fe building site as a Class 1 historic site. Please preserve what makes Palm Springs unique. There are plenty of other buildings to tear down that have no architectural value.

Thank you for your consideration,

Erik Ellis



## Jay Thompson

---

**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 18, 2009 11:25 AM  
**To:** gfinla@msn.com; Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: "NO BARISTO LOFTS"

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Chris Sutton [mailto:cmsutton@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 6:05 PM  
**To:** Steve Pougnet  
**Cc:** Ginny Foat; rick.hucheson@palmsprings-ca.gov; Chris Mills; Lee Weigel  
**Subject:** "NO BARISTO LOFTS"

As a permanent and responsible resident of Palm Springs;

"Please approve the Class 1 historic site designation of the Santa Fe bank building and DENY the proposed Baristo Lofts Project."

thank you,  
Kevin McKee and Chris Sutton  
2720 E Plaimor Ave (92262)

## Jay Thompson

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**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 18, 2009 11:24 AM  
**To:** gfinla@msn.com; Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: Santa Fe Federal Savings and Loan

-----Original Message-----

From: Debbie McGuane [mailto:chickaboom336@mac.com]  
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 5:53 PM  
To: Ginny Foat  
Subject: Santa Fe Federal Savings and Loan

>  
> To All,  
>  
> I am a resident of Palm Springs and moved here primarily for the mid-  
> century feel. Please leave this building standing and designate it  
> an historic land mark. There are plenty of places to live and buy  
> in Palm Springs. If you want to tear something down - start with  
> that pile of rubble we call a residential neighborhood on the west  
> side of the north end of town. That particular set of homes is a  
> disgrace to an otherwise beautiful entrance to our wonderful city.  
>  
> Sincerely  
>  
> Deborah M. McGuane

## Jay Thompson

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**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 18, 2009 11:26 AM  
**To:** gfinla@msn.com; Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: Santa Fe bank bldg

---

**From:** Gjny36 [mailto:gjny36@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 8:44 PM  
**To:** Ginny Foat; Rick Hutcheson; Chris Mills; Lee Weigel  
**Subject:** Santa Fe bank bldg

Dear City Council Member,

As a co-owner of a home at 2400 S. Sierra Madre, I totally oppose the Baristo Lofts project and support the immediate designation of the Santa Fe bank building site (300 S. Palm Canyon Drive) as a Class 1 historic site. Please stand with me and the Palm Springs Preservation Foundation, because they are truly watching out for the best interests of this wonderful city.

Palm Springs has become internationally known for its mid-century architecture, and the Santa Fe bank building is a prime example. Mid-century architecture is the main feature which attracted me to Palm Springs, and it is what separates Palm Springs architecture from every other middle American town's architecture in the world. Please continue to help preserve our beautiful mid-century architecture.

Sincerely,  
Greg Jackson

## Jay Thompson

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**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 18, 2009 11:25 AM  
**To:** gfinla@msn.com; Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: Baristo Lofts Project

---

**From:** Linda Clode [mailto:lholdenclode@dc.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 7:26 PM  
**To:** Steve Pougnet; Ginny Foat; rick.hutchenson@palmssprings-ca.gov; Chris Mills; lee.weigel@palmssprings-gov.ci.palm-springs.ca.us  
**Subject:** Baristo Lofts Project

Dear Steve, Ginny, Rick, Chris and Lee

Please do everything that you can to preserve the unique setting of the Santa Fe bank building and deny the application of the proposed Baristo Lofts Project.

This exciting Modernism Week reminds us all of the importance of the mid-century genre to the city of Palm Springs.

Sincerely,

Linda Clode

## Jay Thompson

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**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 18, 2009 11:25 AM  
**To:** gfinla@msn.com; Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: Santa Fe Savings and Loan (Wessman Office Building)

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**From:** NeilGrosman@aol.com [mailto:NeilGrosman@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 6:44 PM  
**To:** Steve Pougnet; Ginny Foat; Rick Hutcheson; Chris Mills; Lee Weigel  
**Subject:** Santa Fe Savings and Loan (Wessman Office Building)

Hello: As a frequent visitor to Palm Springs I have recently become aware of the Baristo Lofts project. I wish to express in the strongest terms that I visit Palm Springs for many reasons, and one of the most important to me is the architecture. I believe the Baristo Lofts project will severely impair the beauty of the 300 S. Palm Canyon Dr. building usually referred to as the Santa Fe Federal Savings & Loan.

I strongly oppose the Baristo Lofts project and support the immediate designation of the Santa Fe bank building site as a Class 1 historic site.

Thank you for your serious consideration. Neil Grosman

## Jay Thompson

---

**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 18, 2009 11:24 AM  
**To:** gfinla@msn.com; Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: Baristo Lofts

---

**From:** barbara black [mailto:babsblackmail@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 5:38 PM  
**To:** Ginny Foat  
**Subject:** Baristo Lofts

This is request to please approve the Class 1 historic site designation of the Santa Fe Bank building.

Thank you,  
Barbara Black  
1320 Tamarisk Road  
Palm Springs, Ca. 92262

## Jay Thompson

---

**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 18, 2009 11:25 AM  
**To:** gfinla@msn.com; Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: Save The Santa Fe Building

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**From:** modboyz@aol.com [mailto:modboyz@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 6:21 PM  
**To:** Steve Pougnet; Ginny Foat; Chris Mills; Lee Weigel; Rick Hutcheson  
**Subject:** Save The Santa Fe Building

Dear Mayor and Members of City Council:

I oppose the Baristo Lofts project and support the immediate designation of the Santa Fe bank building site as a Class I historic site.

Thank you for your consideration

Eric Scott  
431 E Avenida Granada  
Palm Springs, CA 92264  
760-327-1760

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**A Good Credit Score is 700 or Above. See yours in just 2 easy steps!**

## Jay Thompson

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**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 18, 2009 11:23 AM  
**To:** gfinla@msn.com; Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: Santa Fe Bank

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**From:** OKamil@aol.com [mailto:OKamil@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 5:23 PM  
**To:** steve.pougnet@p.palmsprings-ca.gov; Ginny Foat; Rick Hutcheson; Chris Mills; Lee Weigel  
**Cc:** GaryJohns1@aol.com  
**Subject:** Santa Fe Bank

"I oppose the Baristo Lofts project and support the immediate designation of the Santa Fe bank building site as a Class 1 historic site."

Mayor Steve Pougnet [steve.pougnet@p.palmsprings-ca.gov](mailto:steve.pougnet@p.palmsprings-ca.gov)  
Ginny Foat [ginny.foat@palmsprings-ca.gov](mailto:ginny.foat@palmsprings-ca.gov)  
Rick Hutcheson [rick.hutcheson@palmsprings-ca.gov](mailto:rick.hutcheson@palmsprings-ca.gov)  
Chris Mills [chris.mills@palmsprings-ca.gov](mailto:chris.mills@palmsprings-ca.gov)  
Lee Weigel [lee.weigel@palmsprings-ca.gov](mailto:lee.weigel@palmsprings-ca.gov)

---

**A Good Credit Score is 700 or Above. See yours in just 2 easy steps!**



## Jay Thompson

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**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 18, 2009 11:22 AM  
**To:** gfinla@msn.com; Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: Please approve the Class 1 historic site designation of Santa Fe Federal Savings and Loan

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**From:** Fox Diehl Architects [mailto:foxdiehl@earthlink.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 4:48 PM  
**To:** Steve Pougnet; Ginny Foat; Rick Hutcheson; Chris Mills; Lee Welgel  
**Subject:** Please approve the Class 1 historic site designation of Santa Fe Federal Savings and Loan

Dear Mayor and Council Members:

I am writing to urge you to vote to approve the Class 1 historic site designation for the entire property at 300 South Palm Canyon Drive, the former Santa Fe Federal Savings and Loan, and not permit future development on the site, as such development would significantly impair and damage this historic landmark.

The building sits independently on its site as a freestanding pavilion in free space. While the quality of the pavilion appears to be acknowledged by all, the quality and importance of the free space surrounding it needs to be emphasized.

The concept of free space is one that is important in modern architecture, both from the standpoint of formal and physical experience, and from that of social and cultural understanding.

Formally the building needs the space around it to be seen and appreciated fully. The walls, columns, roof and screens all are disposed to be seen in the round, with a generosity of spirit that is a hallmark of E. Stewart Williams' architecture. Constructing a development on the side of this pavilion would be as inappropriate and mean as placing buildings on the side of a Greek temple or other such building that needs to be seen in the round. History has shown that when such constructions occur, they invariably leave the original building looking blighted and forlorn, and are never to the betterment of the community.

Socially, free space envisions the possibility of free human activity within space, presenting a vision of human freedom. This vision was important in the post-World War II years, promoting the idea of a free and open society, in contrast to the totalitarian regimes we had just defeated in the War, and in contrast to then-threatening communism. This vision of free space is an integral part of the social and cultural importance of this building, and should be preserved as such.

I was first drawn to Palm Springs in 2000 by Dolphin Productions first Modernism show, and was immediately enchanted by the town's concentration of modern architecture. Since then I returned each year for the show, and at other times for modern house tours, joining both the Palm Springs Modern Committee and Palm Springs Preservation Foundation. A few years ago I purchased land in town, on which I plan to build a new modern house. I cannot emphasize how important the presence and preservation of Palm Spring's modern architecture is for me, and the former Santa Fe Federal Savings and Loan is a central jewel in the town's crown.

While I am in favor of seeing Palm Springs grow through new developments, this is the wrong site for new development.

Yours sincerely,

Jeffrey Diehl, RA  
Fox Diehl Architects  
JDiehl@foxdiehl.com

## Jay Thompson

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**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 18, 2009 11:22 AM  
**To:** gfinla@msn.com; Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: your vote

---

**From:** Bob Kupfer [mailto:bobbykup@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 4:37 PM  
**To:** Ginny Foat; Rick Hutcheson; Chris Mills; Lee Weigel  
**Subject:** your vote

Dear Council Member,

I live in Michigan but own a home in Palm Springs. I only came to Palm Springs because of its beauty. I feel that the Baristo Lofts project will have a negative affect that beauty. Please approve the Class I historic site designation of the Santa Fe bank building and DENY the proposed Baristo Lofts Project.

Thank you,  
Bob Kupfer  
2700 Golf Club Drive  
Unit 48 - D  
Palm Springs, CA 92264

3752 Darlington Road South  
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48301

## Jay Thompson

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**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 18, 2009 11:21 AM  
**To:** gfinla@msn.com; Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: Bank Building

---

**From:** MaryAnne Bachrach [mailto:maborch@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 4:22 PM  
**To:** Steve Pougnet; Ginny Foat; Rick Hutcheson; Chris Mills; Lee Welgel  
**Subject:** Bank Building

*"I oppose the Baristo Lofts project and support the immediate designation of the Santa Fe bank building site as a Class 1 historic site."*

Please do not allow the lofts to be built. One of the things I love most about Palm Springs, is the care to keep the architecture of Palm Springs true to the city.

MaryAnne Bachrach

## Jay Thompson

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**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 18, 2009 11:20 AM  
**To:** gfinla@msn.com; Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: Barristo Lofts Project

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**From:** Hoffners Training Academy [mailto:brianhoffner@hoffners.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 3:12 PM  
**To:** Steve Pougnet; Ginny Foat; Rick Hutcheson; Chris Mills; leweigel@palmsprings-ca.gov  
**Subject:** Barristo Lofts Project

I am one of many in Houston Texas who visit Palm Springs regularly. We do so because of wealth and quality of mid-century architecture that PS offers. What Palm Springs became in it's post war period is the reason we in the architecture and design community of professionals keep coming back to Palm Springs time after time. I understand that city council must attempt to balance progress with history, but please understand that it is your cities history that will allow Palm Springs to progress. With every mid century building that is altered or destroyed dies a piece of the soul of Palm Springs until professionals like myself who travel there from all over the world simply do not come any more. Don't allow Palm Springs to become just any city without that special identity.

I oppose the proposed Baristo lofts project and support the immediate designation of the Santa Fe Bank building as a Class 1 historic site.

Please feel free to contact me for further information.

Regards,

Brian Hoffner

Houston, TX

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Brian Hoffner Hoffners LTD  
brianhoffnerltd@fastmail.fm

## Jay Thompson

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**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 18, 2009 11:19 AM  
**To:** gfinla@msn.com; Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: "NO" to Baristo Lofts

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**From:** Torri Breeding [mailto:torrilyn@swbell.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 2:51 PM  
**To:** Steve Pougnet; Ginny Foat; Rick Hutcheson; Chris Mills; leweigel@palmsprings-ca.gov  
**Cc:** ssanta101@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** "NO" to Baristo Lofts

Last year together we had the opportunity to visit your fine city through a trip with the Museum of Fine Arts Houston. Our agenda was to visit many of your notable mid-century architectural structures that have been preserved so well over the years. We were not disappointed. You have an amazing number of historically important buildings that remain to tell the history of architecture in your area through this specific period of time. People come to see this living history, to see how it was then. They come to be inspired. They come to remember. If you change the way you approach the preservation of this very important era, it will soon not be recognizable for what it was. You run the risk of losing track of the importance of preservation. If you have ever been to Houston, you can see first hand what the lack of interest in historical preservation will do for a city. We have virtually none.

Having, said all of this, we strongly urge you to support the immediate designation of the Santa Fe Bank building as a Class 1 historical site. Do not let its historical importance be overshadowed by an ill-conceived loft project, Barista Lofts, that have no relationship to the bank or its history.

Sincerely,

Mid-Century Devotees

Rick Houser  
5950 Edgemoor  
Houston, TX 77081  
4rickhouser@gmail.com  
Marlys Tokerud, ASID  
4606 Greenbriar  
Houston, TX 77005  
mtokerud@swbell.net

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## Jay Thompson

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**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 10, 2009 1:58 PM  
**To:** gfinla@msn.com; Jay Thompson  
**Subject:** FW: Baristo Lofts, concerned visitor

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**From:** Tom Dolle [mailto:tdolle@dolledesign.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 09, 2009 3:06 PM  
**To:** Steve Pougnet; Ginny Foat; Rick Hutcheson; Chris Mills; Lee Weigel  
**Cc:** info@pspreservationfoundation.org  
**Subject:** Baristo Lofts, concerned visitor

Palm Springs City Councilmembers:

I oppose the proposed Baristo Lofts project and support the immediate designation of the Santa Fe bank building as a Class 1 historic site.

As frequent visitors to Palm Springs, my partner and I have a unique perspective that what sets your community apart from the scores of other warm weather vacation spots is your unique modernist architecture. Because of the wealth of truly historic buildings and neighborhoods, including jewel-boxes like the Santa Fe bank building, we have Palm Springs at the top of our travel and future retirement plans.

We, like many East Coast middle-aged gay couples, see Palm Springs as a design Mecca and a place we want to be a part of. That's not true for more conveniently close locations like Fort Lauderdale. And as current residents of a historic Brooklyn neighborhood, and having been involved in it's transformation to a Landmark District, we understand how easily small changes can add up to ruin the very qualities the residents came for. Developers' goals are short-term—a community must see beyond.

The Santa Fe building and the proposed Baristo Lofts addition may not seem like much, but it's these very sorts of projects that start to ruin the historic, aesthetic attraction that is unique to Palm Springs. It's what will keep Palm Springs as a tourist attraction now and in the future.

The council should also be working very hard to help tourism in one more regard. Many New Yorkers want to spend more time (and money) there, but the biggest obstacle is the lack of any direct air flights. In fact, we (and several other couples we know) would be purchasing a PS vacation home right now if it wasn't for the day's trek to get there. There is a huge pool of New York gay couples with the desire and funds to contribute to the PS economy, but the lack of flights is a huge problem. Surely you can encourage an airline such as Jet Blue to try it out—it will pay off for the city in many ways.

Sincerely,

**TOM DOLLE**  
Tom Dolle Design  
89 Fifth Avenue  
Suite 301  
New York, NY 10003  
Phone 212-924-9100, ext. 12  
www.dolledesign.com

**Jay Thompson**

RECEIVED  
CITY OF PALM SPRINGS

**From:** Ginny Foat  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 14, 2009 2:27 PM  
**To:** Jay Thompson; gfinla@msn.com  
**Subject:** Sante fe Savings

2009 APR 15 AM 8:41

JAMES THOMPSON  
CITY CLERK

---

**From:** Arts2020@aol.com [mailto:Arts2020@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 14, 2009 11:47 AM  
**To:** Steve Pougnet; Lee Weigel; Rick Hutcheson; Ginny Foat; Chris Mills  
**Cc:** info@pspreservationfoundation.org  
**Subject:** (no subject)

Dear Palm Springs City Council members,

I support the immediate designation of the Santa Fe Federal Savings & Loan as a Class 1 historic site and ask that you deny the Baristo Lofts project.

**Design will often make the difference between a place that simply exists and a place that can thrive for many years to come---which is the most sustainable result of all.**

---Richard Rogers, 2007 Pritzker Prize honoree

Through the efforts of many, we in Palm Springs have come to recognize the economic benefits of preserving our design heritage.

Very respectfully,



Robert Stearns  
President, ArtsOasis  
Member, Public Arts Commission, City of Palm Springs  
Member, Architecture and Design Council, Board of Directors  
Member, La Quinta Arts Foundation, Board of Trustees  
Member, Coachella Valley Arts Alliance, Board of Directors  
Member, Classical KUSC Arts Advisory Council

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**CITY OF PALM SPRINGS  
PUBLIC HEARING NOTIFICATION**



**CITY CLERK'S DEPARTMENT**  
James Thompson, City Clerk

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City Council  
Meeting Date: May 6, 2009

Subject: HSPB 54 – Case 5.1137 – PDD 335 – TTM 35230  
300 South Palm Canyon Drive

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**AFFIDAVIT OF MAILING**

I, Kathie Hart, CMC, Chief Deputy City Clerk, of the City of Palm Springs, California, do hereby certify that a copy of the attached Notice of Public Hearing was mailed to each and every person on the attached list on April 23, 2009, in a sealed envelope, with postage prepaid, and depositing same in the U.S. Mail at Palm Springs, California. (32 notices)

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kathie Hart, CMC  
Chief Deputy City Clerk

**AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING**

I, Dolores Strickstein, Secretary, of the City of Palm Springs, California, do hereby certify that a copy of the attached Notice of Public Hearing was posted at City Hall, 3200 E. Tahquitz Canyon Drive, on the exterior legal notice posting board and in the Office of the City Clerk on April 23, 2009.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dolores Strickstein, Secretary

**AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION**

I, Kathie Hart, CMC, Chief Deputy City Clerk, of the City of Palm Springs, California, do hereby certify that a copy of the attached Notice of Public Hearing was published in the Desert Sun on April 25, 2009.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kathie Hart, CMC  
Chief Deputy City Clerk



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
CITY OF PALM SPRINGS  
CITY COUNCIL

CASE HSPB-54 – CLASS 1 HISTORIC SITE DESIGNATION  
300 SOUTH PALM CANYON DRIVE  
"THE SANTA FE FEDERAL SAVINGS BANK"

AND

CASE 5.1137, PLANNED DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT 335;  
TENTATIVE TRACT MAP 35230: A MIXED-USE PROJECT INCLUDING ADAPTIVE  
REUSE OF AN EXISTING STRUCTURE AND A PROPOSED NEW HIGH-RISE  
STRUCTURE WITH COMMERCIAL, RESIDENTIAL USES,  
OFF-STREET PARKING AND LANDSCAPING

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the City Council of the City of Palm Springs, California, will hold a public hearing at its meeting of May 6, 2009. The City Council meeting begins at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber at City Hall, 3200 East Tahquitz Canyon Way, Palm Springs.

The purpose of this hearing is to consider 1) An application by The City of Palm Springs for recommendation of 300 South Palm Canyon Drive "The Santa Fe Federal Savings Bank" as a Class 1 Historic Site; and 2) An application by Wessman Holdings for a Planned Development District (PDD 335) and Tentative Tract Map 35230 for condominium purposes is proposed at the same site for a 4-story mixed-use structure with commercial uses on the first floor and residential uses on floors 2, 3, and 4. The project includes subterranean and first floor off-street parking and landscaping on a 0.67 acre site at the corner of Baristo Road and South Palm Canyon Drive.

**ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION:** In accordance with Section 15331 (Historical Resources Restoration/Rehabilitation) of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Council action on the proposed Class 1 historic designation is Categorically Exempt.

A Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration for Case 5.1137 PDD 335 / TTM 35230 was prepared for this project under the guidelines of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and will be reviewed by the City Council at the hearing. Members of the public may view this document in the Planning Services Department, City Hall, 3200 E. Tahquitz Canyon Way, Palm Springs, and submit written comments at or prior to the City Council hearing.

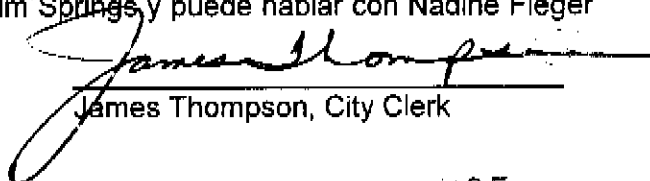
**REVIEW OF PROJECT INFORMATION:** The staff report and other supporting documents regarding this project are also available for public review at City Hall between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Please contact the Office of the City Clerk (760) 323-8204 if you would like to schedule an appointment to review these documents.

**COMMENT ON THIS APPLICATION:** Response to this notice may be made verbally at the Public Hearing and/or in writing before the hearing. Written comments may be made to the City Council by letter (for mail or hand delivery) to:

James Thompson, City Clerk  
3200 E. Tahquitz Canyon Way  
Palm Springs, CA 92262

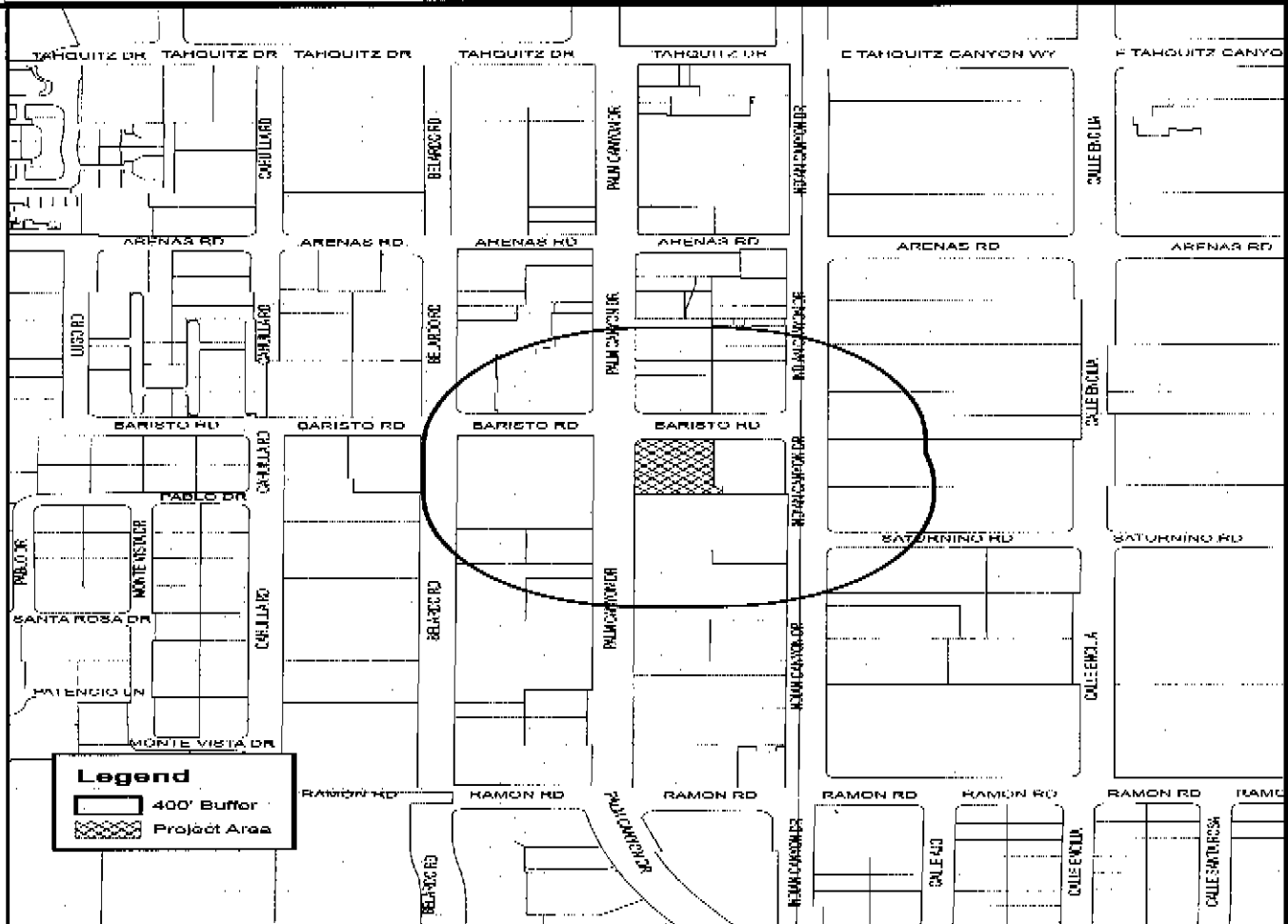
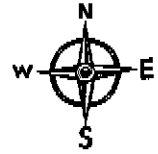
Any challenge of the proposed project in court may be limited to raising only those issues raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City Clerk at, or prior to, the public hearing. (Government Code Section 65009[b][2]). An opportunity will be given at said hearing for all interested persons to be heard. Questions regarding this case may be directed to Ken Lyon, Associate Planner, Planning Services Department, at (760) 323-8245.

Si necesita ayuda con esta carta, por favor llame a la Ciudad de Palm Springs, y puede hablar con Nadine Fieger telefono (760) 323-8245.

  
James Thompson, City Clerk



# Department of Planning Services Vicinity Map



## CITY OF PALM SPRINGS

**CASE NO:** HSPB-54  
5.1137 PD-335,  
TTM 35230

**APPLICANT:** Wessman Holdings  
and  
The City of Palm Springs

**DESCRIPTION:** The purpose of this hearing is to consider 1) An application by The City of Palm Springs for recommendation of 300 South Palm Canyon Drive "The Santa Fe Federal Savings Bank" as a Class 1 Historic Site; and 2) An application by Wessman Holdings for a Planned Development District (PDD 335) and Tentative Tract Map 35230 for condominium purposes is proposed at the same site for a 4-story mixed-use structure with commercial uses on the first floor and residential uses on floors 2, 3, and 4. Zone CBD. APN: 513-204-005.



# City of Palm Springs

Office of the City Clerk

3200 E. Tahquitz Canyon Way • Palm Springs, California 92262  
Tel: (760) 323-8204 • Fax: (760) 322-8332 • Web: [www.palmsprings-ca.gov](http://www.palmsprings-ca.gov)

April 23, 2009

Ms. Claudia Salgado  
Bureau of Indian Affairs  
P. O. Box 2245  
Palm Springs, CA 92263

Dear Ms. Salgado:

RE: City Council Meeting – May 6, 2009  
Case 5.5.1137 – PD 335  
3.3028 MAJ, TTM 35230  
Wessman Holdings, LLC

The City Council of the City of Palm Springs will be conducting a public hearing relating to the above referenced on May 6, 2009. Enclosed are copies of the public hearing notice to be forwarded to the appropriate Indian landowner(s) within the 400 ft. radius of the project location. The APN is 508-085-004.

Please feel free to contact me if there are any questions or concerns, 323-8206.

Sincerely,

Kathie Hart, CMC  
Chief Deputy City Clerk

/kdh PHN to BIA - Wessman 05-06-09.doc  
Encl: Public Hearing Notices (3 copies)