

Los Angeles Department of City Planning

RECOMMENDATION REPORT

CULTURAL HERITAGE COMMISSION

**CASE NO.: CHC-2009-3612-HCM
ENV-2009-3613-CE**

HEARING DATE: January 7, 2010
TIME: 10:00 AM
PLACE: City Hall, Room 1010
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA
90012

Location: 4824 Vineland Ave.
Council District: 4
Community Plan Area: North Hollywood-Valley
Village
Area Planning Commission: South Valley
Neighborhood Council: Mid-Town North
Hollywood
Legal Description: Lot 2 of TR 9742

PROJECT: Historic-Cultural Monument Application for the
IDLE HOUR CAFE

REQUEST: Declare the property a Historic-Cultural Monument

OWNER: Dolores Fernandez c/o Studio City Rehabilitation Center
11429 Ventura Blvd.
Studio City, CA 91604

APPLICANT: Chris Nichols
28 West Palm Street
Altadena, CA 91001

RECOMMENDATION **That the Cultural Heritage Commission:**

1. **Declare** the property a Historic-Cultural Monument per Los Angeles Administrative Code Chapter 9, Division 22, Article 1, Section 22.171.7
2. **Adopt** the report findings.

S. GAIL GOLDBERG, AICP
Director of Planning
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[SIGNED ORIGINAL IN FILE]

Ken Bernstein, AICP, Manager
Office of Historic Resources

Lambert M. Giessinger, Preservation Architect
Office of Historic Resources

Prepared by:
[SIGNED ORIGINAL IN FILE]

Edgar Garcia, Preservation Planner
Office of Historic Resources

Attachments: October 12, 2009 Historic-Cultural Monument Application
ZIMAS Report

FINDINGS

The building “embodies the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type specimen, inherently valuable for a study of a period style or method of construction” as an example of Programmatic style commercial architecture.

CRITERIA

The criterion is the Cultural Heritage Ordinance which defines a historical or cultural monument as any site (including significant trees or other plant life located thereon) building or structure of particular historic or cultural significance to the City of Los Angeles, such as historic structures or sites in which the broad cultural, economic, or social history of the nation, State or community is reflected or exemplified, or which are identified with historic personages or with important events in the main currents of national, State or local history or which embody the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type specimen, inherently valuable for a study of a period style or method of construction, or a notable work of a master builder, designer or architect whose individual genius influenced his age.

SUMMARY

Constructed in 1941, the Idle Hour Café building is a two-story, barrel-shaped building constructed in the Programmatic style. The subject property is located on Vineland Avenue in the North Hollywood area. The 50-foot wide flat-roofed structure consists of three rounded bays symmetrically composed with the central raised bay rising two-stories, forming the “barrel” shape. The exterior consists of vertical redwood paneling redwood paneling and wooden trim painted white on the building’s “barrel” section and smooth stucco on the two wing sections. The main entrance is centrally located flanked by paired double-hung wood windows. A secondary door is located on the northern wing. Rows of five windows with stained glass are located on each of the wings. Two rectangular projecting aluminum sliding windows are located on the upper “barrel” along a metal band meant to resemble the head hoop of a barrel. A metal canopy fronting the sidewalk bisects the length of the subject building. Significant interior features include a barrel-shaped wood backbar, barrel shape of curved walls and finishes, and stained glass windows with barrel designs and diamond patterns.

The subject building was commissioned in 1941 by original owner Michael D. Connolly, a film technician for Universal Studios and built by engineer George F. Fordyk. Serving as a tap room and café named the “Idle Hour Café,” Connolly and his wife Irene lived in a second-story apartment built into the head of the barrel section. After divorcing, Irene ran the café until the 1960s, after which it was renamed “Rudy’s Keg.” In 1971, the building was purchased by Jose and Dolores Fernandez and reopened as a flamenco dinner theater called “La Caña.” The restaurant closed in 1984 and Dolores continued living in the second-floor apartment until 2009.

The proposed Idle Hour Café monument appears to be the last barrel-shaped building in Los Angeles from the early 20th century period of programmatic design.

Alterations to the original design of the subject building include the addition of the metal canopy, security grilles, and the placement of two windows on the barrel section.

DISCUSSION

The Idle Hour Cafe property successfully meets one of the specified Historic-Cultural Monument criteria: “embodies the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type specimen,

inherently valuable for a study of a period style or method of construction.” As a commercial building designed in the Programmatic Style, the property qualifies for designation as a Historic-Cultural Monument based on these criteria.

The staff of the Office of Historic Resources (OHR) acknowledges some integrity issues with the subject building stemming from the addition of a metal canopy and two windows on the barrel section. However, based on surviving character-defining features, the subject building appears eligible for local designation.

BACKGROUND

At its meeting of November 5, 2009, the Cultural Heritage Commission voted to take the application under consideration. On December 3, 2009, the Cultural Heritage Commission toured the subject property.

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (“CEQA”) REVIEW

State of California CEQA Guidelines, Article 19, Section 15308, Class 8 *“consists of actions taken by regulatory agencies, as authorized by state or local ordinance, to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of the environment where the regulatory process involves procedures for protection of the environment.”*

State of California CEQA Guidelines Article 19, Section 15331, Class 31 *“consists of projects limited to maintenance, repair, stabilization, rehabilitation, restoration, preservation, conservation or reconstruction of historical resources in a manner consistent with the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring, and Reconstructing Historic buildings.”*

The designation of the Idle Hour Cafe as a Historic-Cultural Monument in accordance with Chapter 9, Article 1, of The City of Los Angeles Administrative Code (“LAAC”) will ensure that future construction activities involving the subject property are regulated in accordance with Section 22.171.14 of the LAAC. The purpose of the designation is to prevent significant impacts to a Historic-Cultural Monument through the application of the standards set forth in the LAAC. Without the regulation imposed by way of the pending designation, the historic significance and integrity of the subject property could be lost through incompatible alterations and new construction and the demolition of irreplaceable historic structures. The Secretary of the Interior’s Standards of Rehabilitation are expressly incorporated into the LAAC and provide standards concerning the historically appropriate construction activities which will ensure the continued preservation of the subject property.

The use of Categorical Exemption Class 8 in connection with the proposed designation is consistent with the goals of maintaining, restoring, enhancing, and protecting the environment through the imposition of regulations designed to prevent the degradation of Historic-Cultural Monuments.

The use of Categorical Exemption Class 31 in connection with the proposed designation is consistent with the goals relating to the preservation, rehabilitation, restoration and reconstruction of Historic buildings in a manner consistent with the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for Preserving Rehabilitating, Restoring, and Reconstructing Historic Buildings.

Los Angeles Department of City Planning

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200 N. Spring Street
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Studio City, CA 91604

APPLICANT: Chris Nichols
28 West Palm Street
Altadena, CA 91001

RECOMMENDATION That the Cultural Heritage Commission:

1. **Take the property under consideration** as a Historic-Cultural Monument per Los Angeles Administrative Code Chapter 9, Division 22, Article 1, Section 22.171.10 because the application and accompanying photo documentation suggest the submittal may warrant further investigation.
2. **Adopt** the report findings.

S. GAIL GOLDBERG, AICP
Director of Planning

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Ken Bernstein, AICP, Manager
Office of Historic Resources

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Lambert M. Giessinger, Preservation Architect
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Prepared by:

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Attachments: October 12, 2009 Historic-Cultural Monument Application
ZIMAS Report

SUMMARY

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The subject building was commissioned in 1941 by original owner Michael D. Connolly, a film technician for Universal Studios and built by engineer George F. Fordyk. Serving as a tap room and café named the “Idle Hour Café,” Connolly and his wife Irene lived in a second-story apartment built into the head of the barrel section. After divorcing, Irene ran the café until the 1960s, after which it was renamed “Rudy’s Keg.” In 1971, the building was purchased by Jose and Dolores Fernandez and reopened as a flamenco dinner theater called “La Caña.” The restaurant closed in 1984 and Dolores continued living in the second-floor apartment until 2009.

The proposed Idle Hour Café monument appears to be the last barrel-shaped building in Los Angeles from the early 20th century period of programmatic design.

Alterations to the original design of the subject building include the addition of the metal canopy, security grilles, and the placement of two windows on the barrel section.

CRITERIA

The criterion is the Cultural Heritage Ordinance which defines a historical or cultural monument as any site (including significant trees or other plant life located thereon) building or structure of particular historic or cultural significance to the City of Los Angeles, such as historic structures or sites in which the broad cultural, economic, or social history of the nation, State or community is reflected or exemplified, or which are identified with historic personages or with important events in the main currents of national, State or local history or which embody the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type specimen, inherently valuable for a study of a period style or method of construction, or a notable work of a master builder, designer or architect whose individual genius influenced his age.

FINDINGS

Based on the facts set forth in the summary and application, the Commission determines that the application is complete and that the property may be significant enough to warrant further investigation as a potential Historic-Cultural Monument.

**HISTORIC-CULTURAL MONUMENT
APPLICATION**

TYPE OR HAND PRINT IN ALL CAPITAL BLOCK LETTERS

IDENTIFICATION

1. NAME OF PROPOSED MONUMENT Idle Hour Café
2. STREET ADDRESS 4824 N. Vineland Ave.
CITY Los Angeles ZIP CODE 91601 COUNCIL DISTRICT 4
3. ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NO. 2421014001
4. COMPLETE LEGAL DESCRIPTION: TRACT TR 9742
BLOCK None LOT(S) 2 ARB. NO. None
5. RANGE OF ADDRESSES ON PROPERTY 4824 N. Vineland Ave.
6. PRESENT OWNER Dolores Fernandez c/o Studio City Rehabilitation Center
STREET ADDRESS 11429 Ventura Blvd E-MAIL ADDRESS: unknown
CITY Studio City STATE CA ZIP CODE 91604 PHONE (818) 766-9551
OWNERSHIP: PRIVATE PUBLIC
7. PRESENT USE Vacant ORIGINAL USE Café and tap room

DESCRIPTION

8. ARCHITECTURAL STYLE PROGRAMMATIC
(SEE STYLE GUIDE)
9. STATE PRESENT PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE OR STRUCTURE (SEE OPTIONAL DESCRIPTION WORK SHEET, 1 PAGE MAXIMUM)
See attached.
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

**HISTORIC-CULTURAL MONUMENT
APPLICATION**

NAME OF PROPOSED MONUMENT Idle Hour Café

10. CONSTRUCTION DATE: 1941 FACTUAL: ESTIMATED:

11. ARCHITECT, DESIGNER, OR ENGINEER Michael D. Connolly

12. CONTRACTOR OR OTHER BUILDER Michael D. Connolly

13. DATES OF ENCLOSED PHOTOGRAPHS 1941, 2009
(1 8X10 BLACK AND WHITE GLOSSY AND 1 DIGITAL E-MAILED TO CULTURAL HERITAGE COMMISSION@LACITY.ORG)

14. CONDITION: EXCELLENT GOOD FAIR DETERIORATED NO LONGER IN EXISTENCE

15. ALTERATIONS See attached

16. THREATS TO SITE: NONE KNOWN PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT VANDALISM PUBLIC WORKS PROJECT
 ZONING OTHER Vacant, threat of vandalism, possible development

17. IS THE STRUCTURE: ON ITS ORIGINAL SITE MOVED UNKNOWN

SIGNIFICANCE

18. BRIEFLY STATE HISTORICAL AND/OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: INCLUDE DATES, EVENTS, AND PERSON ASSOCIATED WITH THE SITE (SEE ALSO SIGNIFICANCE WORK SHEET. 750 WORDS MAXIMUM IF USING ADDITIONAL SHEETS)

See attached.

19. SOURCES (LIST BOOKS, DOCUMENTS, SURVEYS, PERSONAL INTERVIEWS WITH DATES)

See attached

20. DATE FORM PREPARED 10/12/2009 PREPARER'S NAME Chris Nichols

ORGANIZATION _____ STREET ADDRESS 28 W. Palm St.

CITY Altadena STATE CA ZIP CODE 91001 PHONE (213) 842-6797

E-MAIL ADDRESS: nixols@yahoo.com

DESCRIPTION WORK SHEET

TYPE OR HAND PRINT IN ALL CAPITAL BLOCK LETTERS

THE Idle Hour Café IS A TWO-STORY,
NAME OF PROPOSED MONUMENT NUMBER OF STORIES

PROGRAMMATIC, IRREGULAR PLAN CAFE
ARCHITECTURAL STYLE (SEE LINE 8 ABOVE) PLAN SHAPE (Click to See Chart) STRUCTURE USE (RESIDENCE, ETC.)

WITH A REDWOOD FINISH AND METAL TRIM.
MATERIAL (WOOD SLIDING, WOOD SHINGLES, BRICK, STUCCO, ETC.) MATERIAL (WOOD, METAL, ETC.)

IT'S FLAT ROOF IS COMPOSITION, WOOD FRAME
ROOF SHAPE (Click to See Chart) MATERIAL (CLAY TILE, ASPHALT OR WOOD SHINGLES, ETC.) WINDOW MATERIAL

DOUBLE-HUNG WINDOWS ARE PART OF THE DESIGN.
WINDOW TYPE [DOUBLE-HUNG (SLIDES UP & DOWN), CASEMENT (OPENS OUT), HORIZONTAL SLIDING, ETC.]

THE ENTRY FEATURES A CENTERED
DOOR LOCATION (RECESSED, CENTERED, OFF-CENTER, CORNER, ETC.)

WOOD AND GLASS DOOR, ADDITIONAL CHARACTER DEFINING ELEMENTS
ENTRY DOOR STYLE (Click to See Chart)

OF THE STRUCTURE ARE _____
IDENTIFY ORIGINAL FEATURES SUCH AS PORCHES (SEE CHART); BALCONIES; NUMBER AND SHAPE OF DORMERS (Click to See Chart)

NUMBER AND LOCATION OF CHIMNEYS; SHUTTERS; SECONDARY FINISH MATERIALS; PARAPETS; METAL TRIM; DECORATIVE TILE OR CAST STONE; ARCHES;

ORNAMENTAL WOODWORK; SYMMETRY OR ASYMMETRY; CORNICES; FRIEZES; TOWERS OR TURRETS; BAY WINDOWS; HALFTIMBERING; HORIZONTALLY;

VERTICALLY; FORMALITY OR INFORMALITY; GARDEN WALLS, ETC.

SECONDARY BUILDINGS CONSIST OF A _____
IDENTIFY GARAGE; GARDEN SHELTER, ETC.

SIGNIFICANT INTERIOR SPACES INCLUDE see attached
IDENTIFY ORIGINAL FEATURES SUCH AS WOOD PANELING; MOLDINGS AND TRIM; SPECIAL GLASS WINDOWS;

ORNATE CEILINGS; PLASTER MOLDINGS; LIGHT FIXTURES; PAINTED DECORATION; CERAMIC TILE; STAIR BALUSTRADES; BUILT-IN FURNITURE, ETC.

IMPORTANT LANDSCAPING INCLUDES _____
IDENTIFY NOTABLE MATURE TREES AND SHRUBS

City of Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument

Idle Hour Café

Prepared by: Chris Nichols

October 12, 2009

Mimetic/ Fantasy/ Programmatic/ Barrel/ Giant Object/ Roadside/ Visionary/
Folk Art/ Vernacular/ Architectural Onomatopoeia/ expressive styles/ eclectic/
exuberant

The two-story, former Idle Hour Café, located at 4824 Vineland Avenue in the North Hollywood neighborhood of Los Angeles, is a programmatic roadside building built to resemble an oversized wooden barrel. (In the programmatic style, buildings resemble what was sold within.) The building was built in 1941 to house a roadside café and tap room. It is owner-designed and built of vertical redwood slats bent and shaped into staves to emulate a keg, commonly used at the time to store wine and beer. The barrel design is continued in the interior and even in decoration. The top half of the barrel is a second story containing a small dwelling used by the owner/operator. The building meets the following Historic-Cultural Monument criteria:

- The broad cultural, economic, or social history of the nation, State or community is reflected or exemplified.
- It embodies the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type specimen, inherently valuable for a study of a period style or method of construction.

SIGNIFICANCE

The building's primary significance is under the distinguished architectural criteria as one of the last remaining examples of a type of architecture - programmatic or mimetic - Los Angeles was known for around the world. The style rose to prominence after the wild success of the Brown Derby restaurant on Wilshire Boulevard in 1926. This giant object spawned at least 75 other roadside structures in the region shaped like animals, food or vehicles. These specimens were portrayed in popular media as lining our streets and, along with the booming artist community, health food fads and creative expression of religion, added to our reputation as a bastion of eccentricity in the early part of the 20th century. The golden age of programmatic architecture in Los Angeles was the interwar years (1918-1941), giving us existing Historic-Cultural Monuments like the Coca-Cola Bottling Co. (HMC#138), The Darkroom (HCM#451), and Crossroads of the World (HCM#134).

When the Idle Hour opened just before the U.S. involvement in WWII, the majority of land in the San Fernando Valley was still vastly agricultural. The residents and ranches were served by the Pacific Electric Railway. The first segment of the Hollywood Freeway through the Cahuenga Pass opened in 1940, as did the nearby Lockheed plant and the Walt Disney Studios. Roadside commercial structures strongly contribute to the image of a growing Los Angeles in the 1920's, '30's and early '40's, and also stand as historic symbols of the only major American city to take form after the invention of the automobile. Although programmatic architecture did not originate in Los Angeles, the city's physical environment, its carefree, anything-goes lifestyle, and its degree of commitment to the automobile have allowed this architectural expression to reach its stylistic pinnacle here. The proponents of high art were afraid that the frequent use of sculpture in this fashion would debase the original..." Today high art has changed its opinion. "Bit by bit the high art world of cubism futurism and above all Dadaism, surrealism and pop has so mixed transformed and been transformed that today a high arter and a good bourgeois will respond with equal ardor to those few remaining vestiges of our programmatic near past" (17, Gebhard). Programmatic architecture has been captured by artists from Ansel Adams to John Swope. It has been featured in museums including the Henry Ford Museum in Michigan, replicated in theme parks like the MGM/Disney Studios in Florida, and in Los Angeles at the Petersen Automotive Museum includes a full-size replica of the demolished Bulldog Café in its permanent exhibit *The Streetscape: The car and the city in Southern California*.

Objects have often served as a way to symbolize the purpose of a building without requiring the ability to read, so a shoe-shaped sign in front of a cobbler indicated shoes are sold inside. Although architecture that mimics objects has existed since Roman times, with a resurgence in 18th century France and 19th century American amusement parks, the era of small-scale commercial applications had an explosion in the interwar years (1918 to 1941) due to a number of societal trends.

One of these trends was the particular place in the timeline of the automobile. The development of gasoline as a byproduct of kerosene in 1903, the mass manufacture of automobiles with Henry Ford's Model T in 1907 and the creation of asphalt from the byproducts of gas production, framed the beginning of the era. The gas rationing of the war years, followed by superhighways and the takeover of corporate chains of the fifties, signal the end. Between these bookends was an era of mom and pop businesses, little to no regulation, trips taken at 35 miles an hour, an era that encouraged innovation and individuality and opened the door for visionary entrepreneurs to let their dreams become reality.

A second social trend was the development of commercial architecture from its roots in the nineteenth century of a house with a storefront on the bottom floor to a more integrated façade style building in the urban core that included shops at the ground floor, several stories of blank wall in between, and a cornice on top. This style, which created the main streets of the turn of the century, didn't allow for enough signage for the interests of the businessman. From the beginning there was a rebellion as signage including rooftop billboards, full wall paintings, and jutting and lighted signboards soon dominated the urban landscape. And when the traveler left the city center for the road or the "decentralized city" (31, Hess) the sign became even more integrated into the building. "American capitalism manifested itself on the road..." (Margolies, 13) The era of an orange selling orange juice is the era of signage that is not only more interesting, more artistic, and more significant than the building, it is the era of the sign that is the building.

Of the four types of mimetic architecture:

- a* the building in the form of the product sold
- b* the container used in the production of the product
- c* hinting at a quality associated with the product
- d* an unrelated fantasy theme

the Idle Hour tap room is of the second type as a container for beer or a keg. At one time barrels were used to pack almost everything. One of the last commodities to continue to be shipped in wooden barrels were beer, wine and spirits because the improvements made in flavor outweighed the sanitary and other conveniences of metal (until World War II, when aluminum production provided the additional benefit of being lightweight). So at the time that the Idle Hour was created, the barrel shape signified alcohol, a commodity only recently available because of the end of Prohibition in 1934.

The barrel was actually once a more common type of mimetic architecture; local examples included The Barrel Inn, 1525 San Fernando, 1927; Twin Barrel Drive-in, 7200 Beverly Blvd., 1932; Giant Barrel, Los Angeles, 1935; Giant Barrel, 5533 Huntington Drive, circa 1930; The Barrel Club, Highway 40, Vallejo, California, 1948; as well as other examples around the country. Although all of these took the form of barrels, some standing on end and others lying on their sides, the Idle Hour was the only building that had a barrel flanked by two streamline tubs. The Idle Hour is the last remaining barrel-shaped structure in the Los Angeles area.

Mimetic architecture can be broken down into two distinct periods: the early, more representational sculptural period in the 1920s, which is illustrated by the Tamale (so distinctive it's design was granted a United States patent) and the

Brown Derby, buildings; and the second, later, more streamline period of the 1930s and 1940s, which is illustrated by the Coca-Cola building (a boat which is literally a symbol of speed) and the Darkroom (a camera that is a stationary object but includes streamline design elements). Early examples had an arresting exterior structure that was "all too often a compensation for the poverty of the building behind or under it...the rational functional shell and fantastic garnish" (118, Banham). But unlike earlier incarnations of mimetic architecture, the Idle Hour Café has a fully integrated interior space with light fixtures, booths, bar and paneling as highly thematically realized as the exterior promised, much of it intact to this day. In this sense the structure fulfills the amusement park promise of a transcendent experience as few other giant object buildings could. The Idle Hour Café is also unique as being the only extant example made entirely of wood. Historian Jim Heimann, an expert on the style and author of *California Crazy: Roadside Vernacular Architecture*, estimates that approximately eight programmatic structures remain within the city of Los Angeles.

Michael D. Connolly, the original owner/builder, was a film technician for Universal Studios, creating daily rushes for movie directors. In 1940, he acquired the land in North Hollywood for his Café and Tap Room, less than two miles from the studio. Connolly hired Silver Lake engineer George Fordyk to work on the project. Connolly and his wife Irene would live above their new venture in a small apartment built into the head of the barrel, completed in 1941. On December 7, the United States was attacked at Pearl Harbor and Michael enlisted as a cook in the Merchant Marines. Upon his return he and Irene divorced. Irene continued running the café into the 1960s. Late in that decade it was renamed Rudy's Keg and in 1971 the building was purchased by renowned flamenco dancers José and Dolores Fernandez. The pair redecorated the dining room to create a dinner theater called La Caña. The restaurant closed in 1984 and Dolores continued to live in the upstairs apartment until August 2009.

Description of Architectural Features

The Idle Hour Café is a two-story redwood structure built in the shape of an oversized wooden barrel. The structure originally measured about 50 feet wide, 28 feet deep, and stood 20 feet high before it received a rear addition in the early 1950's. It is irregular plan and flanked on the north and south elevations by single-story C-shaped rooms (the "tubs", subordinate areas) finished in narrow vertical redwood and creating a Streamline Moderne appearance to the composition. The roofs of all three sections are flat and covered in composition material. There are four original wood-frame double-hung windows in the barrel structure and five in each of the adjoining wings placed where the bilge hoop would be on a barrel. The glazing is stained glass in a diamond pattern. The original entrance is an intact single-panel door with a square window placed in

the bottom center of the barrel. Near the center of the structure, just above the row of windows, are the projecting ends of a set of cantilever beams that help support a second floor loft. A side entrance in the north wing has an in-kind replacement single-panel wood door that in recent years has served as the main entrance. Additional character-defining elements of the structure are a series of redwood planks installed vertically to resemble the staves of a barrel. The top of the barrel is trimmed in metal installed to resemble the head hoop of a barrel. Two additional metal straps wrap horizontally around the structure between the windows and the roof and are meant to evoke quarter hoops and bilge hoops, structural elements that help hold a barrel together. The redwood side wings are topped with a horizontal redwood fascia. There was originally a small flower garden along the bottom of the barrel extending out to the base of the flanking buildings. There are several noncontributing additions on the rear east elevation.

Significant features of the interior include the continuation of the exterior geometry. The barrel shapes and curved walls of the side wings are covered in vertical grooved redwood paneling; there is also a wood ceiling and carpeted floors. The three downstairs rooms were the dining room in the south wing, kitchen in the center and tap room/bar in the north wing. The tap room is the most original, featuring a wooden bar with metal edging and a striped vertical wood finish interspersing heart wood and sap wood pieces with original chrome hardware hinges and handles. The most striking feature of the room is an original barrel-shaped wood backbar complete with staves and hoops. Four attached metal beer taps are also intact. Aside from contributing to the building's image, this barrel also functions as a refrigeration box. In the center of the room is a flush-mounted ceiling light fixture with a custom shade of leaded stained glass depicting a barrel. The rest of the light fixtures in the room appear to date to the 1971 remodel.

Current Condition

The current condition of the building is good to fair. There is some deterioration of the wood finish due to deferred maintenance. The most conspicuous changes are reversible, including white paint over the redwood, rectangular dormer windows added to the second story, wrought iron security bars, "La Caña" signage and an aluminum awning that runs the length of the main façade. Despite these minor decorative alterations, a high degree of integrity of the building has been maintained.

The tap room in the north wing is in excellent condition retaining all of the features listed above. The interior of the dining room in the south wing underwent a remodel in 1971 when the restaurant became a dinner theater. The

Spanish arches and mural, iron light fixtures and remaining Mediterranean décor date from that period.

Even in it's current condition, the building embodies the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type specimen, inherently valuable for a study of a period style or method of construction and reflects the broad cultural, economic, or social history of the nation, State or community.

"Big, growing vital cities usually destroy their commercial vernacular too quickly." -John Margolies



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City of Los Angeles Historic Cultural Monument application
Idle Hour Café 4824 Vineland Avenue

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CLASS "D"

106101

The Board of Building and Safety Co. Ordinance of the City of Los Angeles... the Board of Building and Safety Commissioners of the City of Los Angeles, through the office of the Engineer...

Permit No. 2
Address: 9742 VINELAND AVE
Location of Building: 4824 Vineland Ave
Between what cross streets: CAMARILLO + PEACH GROVE

Approved by City Engineer [Signature]

PURPOSE OF BUILDING: CAFE + TAPROOM
Owner: M. P. CONNOLLY
Owner's address: 4828 VINELAND AVE, N.H.
Certificated Architect: [Signature]
Licensed Engineer: Geo. J. Fosdyk
Contractor: [Signature]

VALUATION OF PROPOSED WORK: \$3200.00
State how many buildings on lot and give use of each: NONE
Size of new building: 50 x 26 No. Stories: 2.0 Height to highest point: 2.0 Size lot: 50 x 115
Type of soil: SANDY Foundation (Material): CONCRETE Depth in ground: 12"
Width of footing: 12" x 12" Width of foundation wall: Size of redwood sill: 8" x 6"
Material exterior wall: REDWOOD Size of studs: (Exterior) 2" x 4" (Interior bearing) 2" x 6"
Joint: First floor 2" x 12" Second floor: Rafters 2" x 6" Material of roof: 15' x 9' OAK COMB
Chimney (Material): BRICK Size Flue: 8" x 16" No. inlets each flue: 1 Depth footing in ground: 15"

I have carefully examined and read the above completed Application and know the same is true and correct, and hereby certify and agree that if a permit is issued all the provisions of the Building Ordinance and State Law will be complied with, whether herein specified or not; I also certify that plans and specifications filed will conform to all the Building Ordinances and State Law.

Sign here: [Signature] (Owner or Authorized Agent)

Plans, Specifications and other documents must be filed if required. By: [Signature]

FOR DEPARTMENT USE ONLY table with columns for Permit No., Plans and Specifications, Fees, Fire District, and Date (NOV 23 1940)





15000 Bed Room



DRIVING ROOM

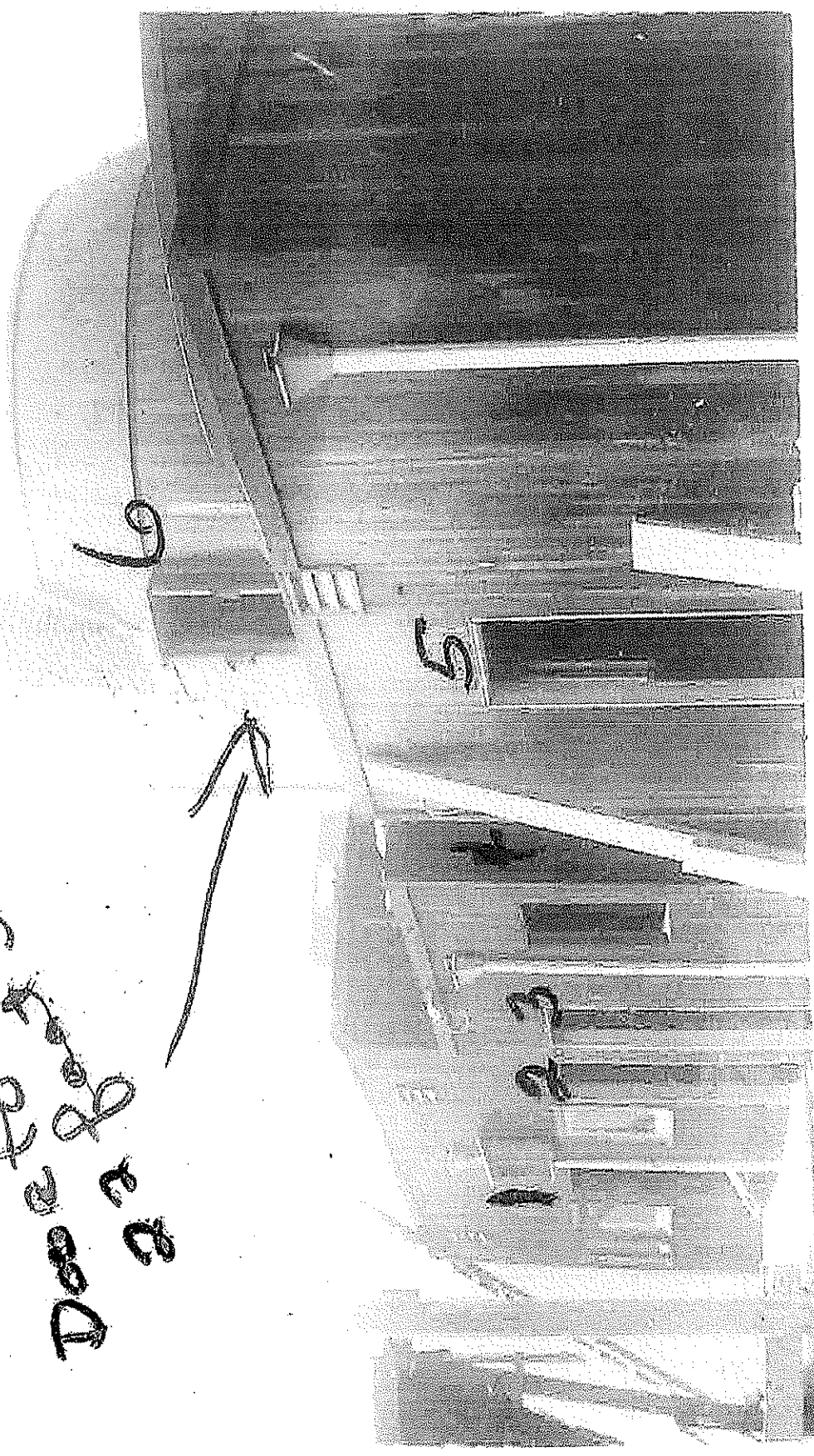


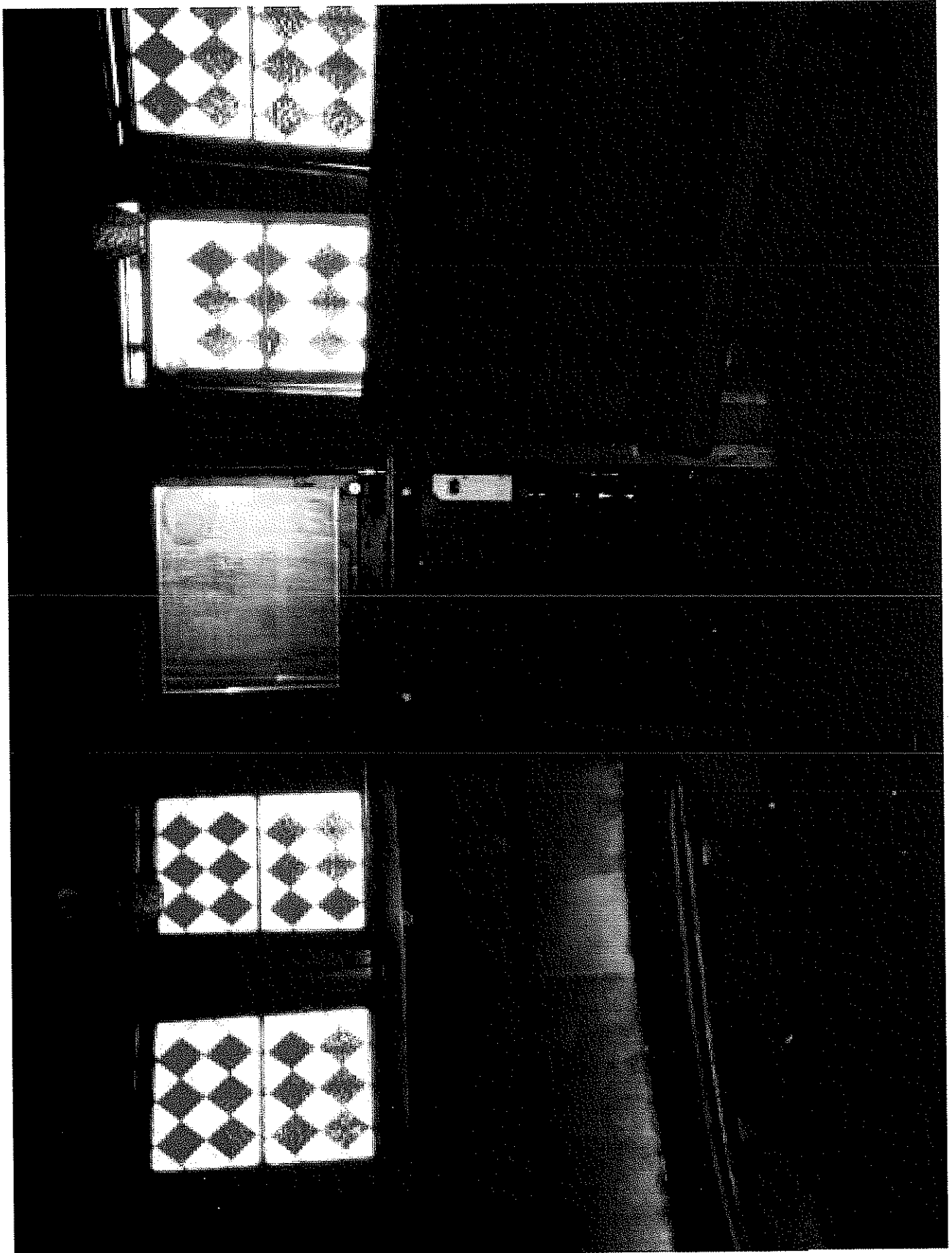
TAP ROOM

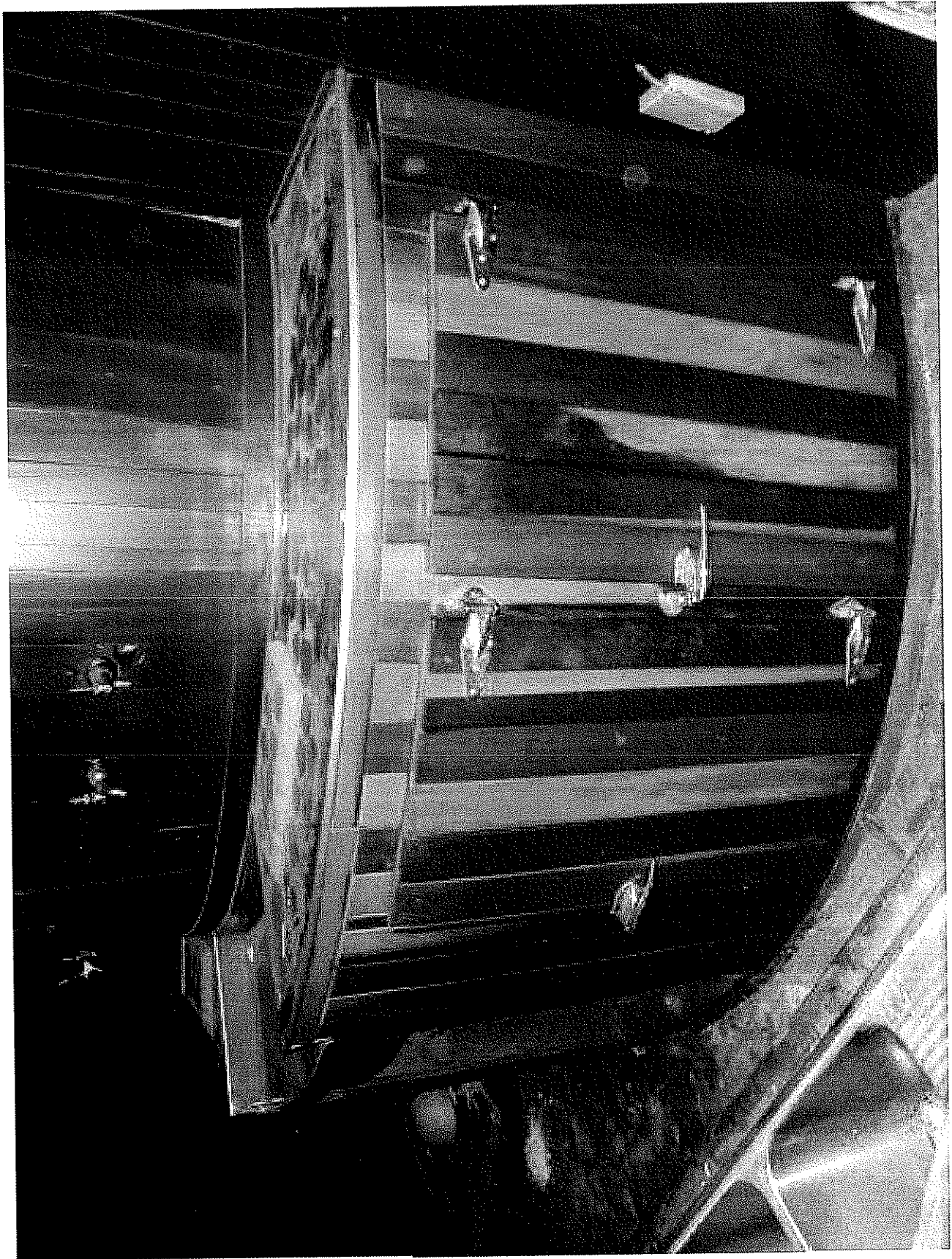


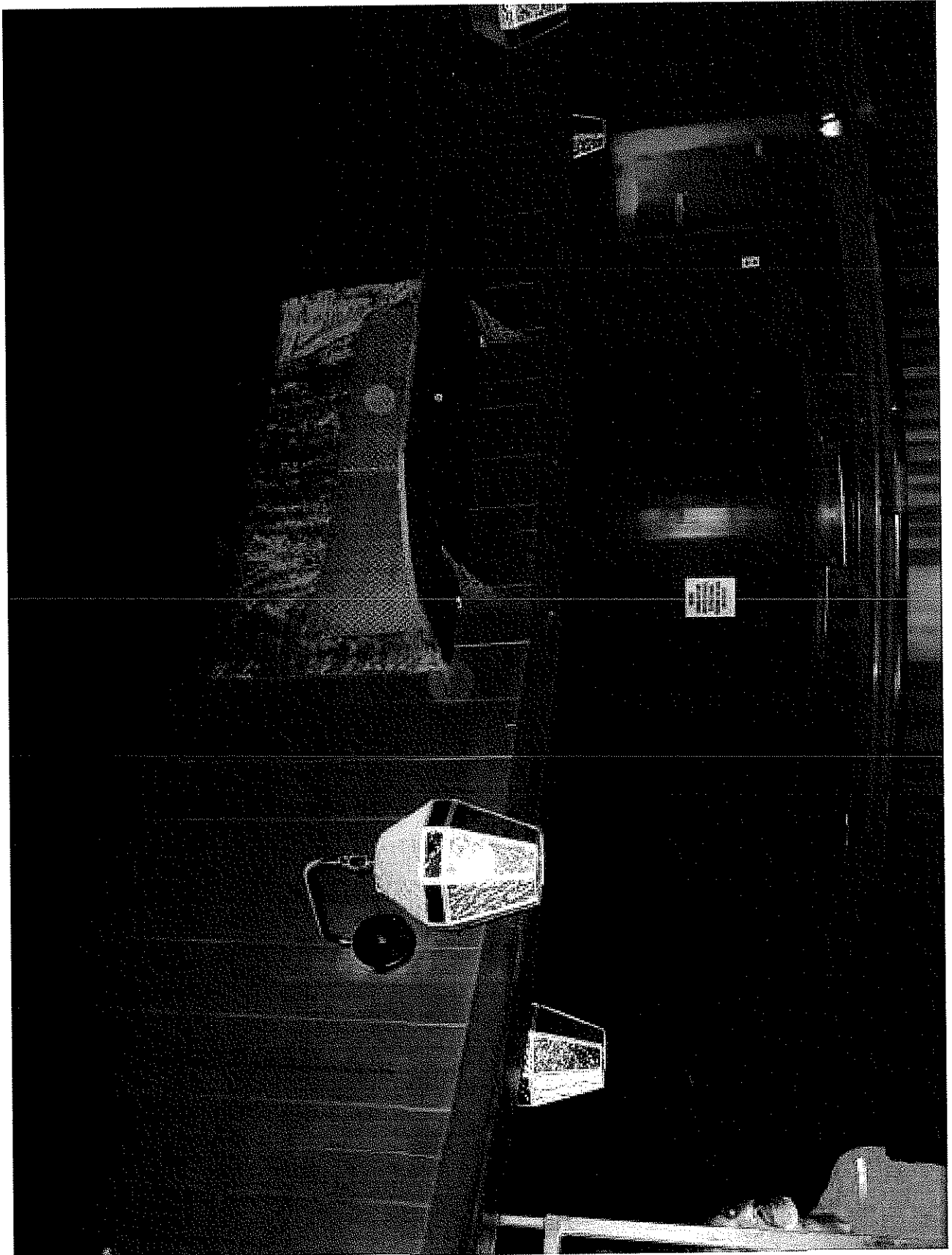
howe half of barrel is
the lunch counter around
the charcoal boiler

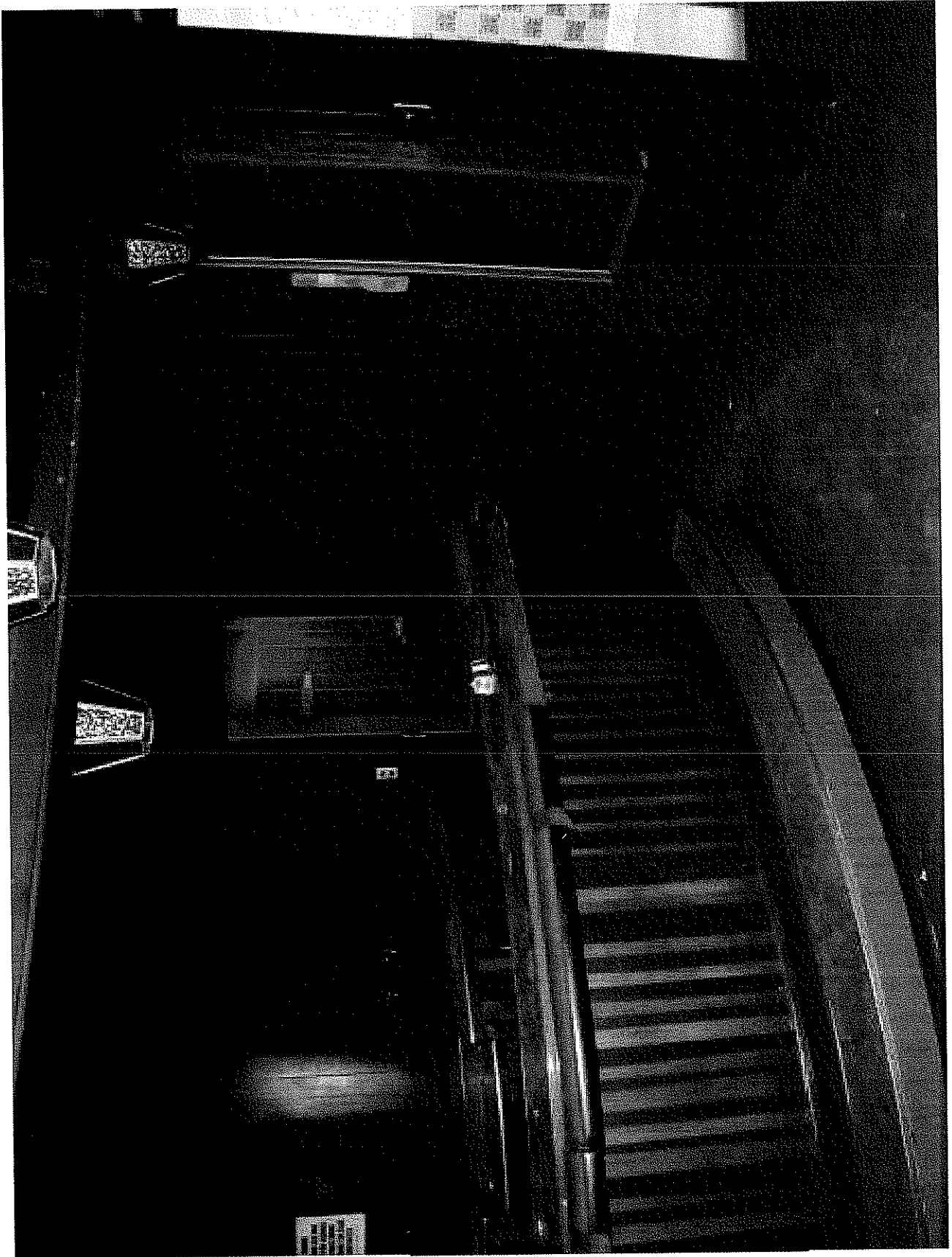
Reduction
Reduction
Reduction
2
Door to front
2
2

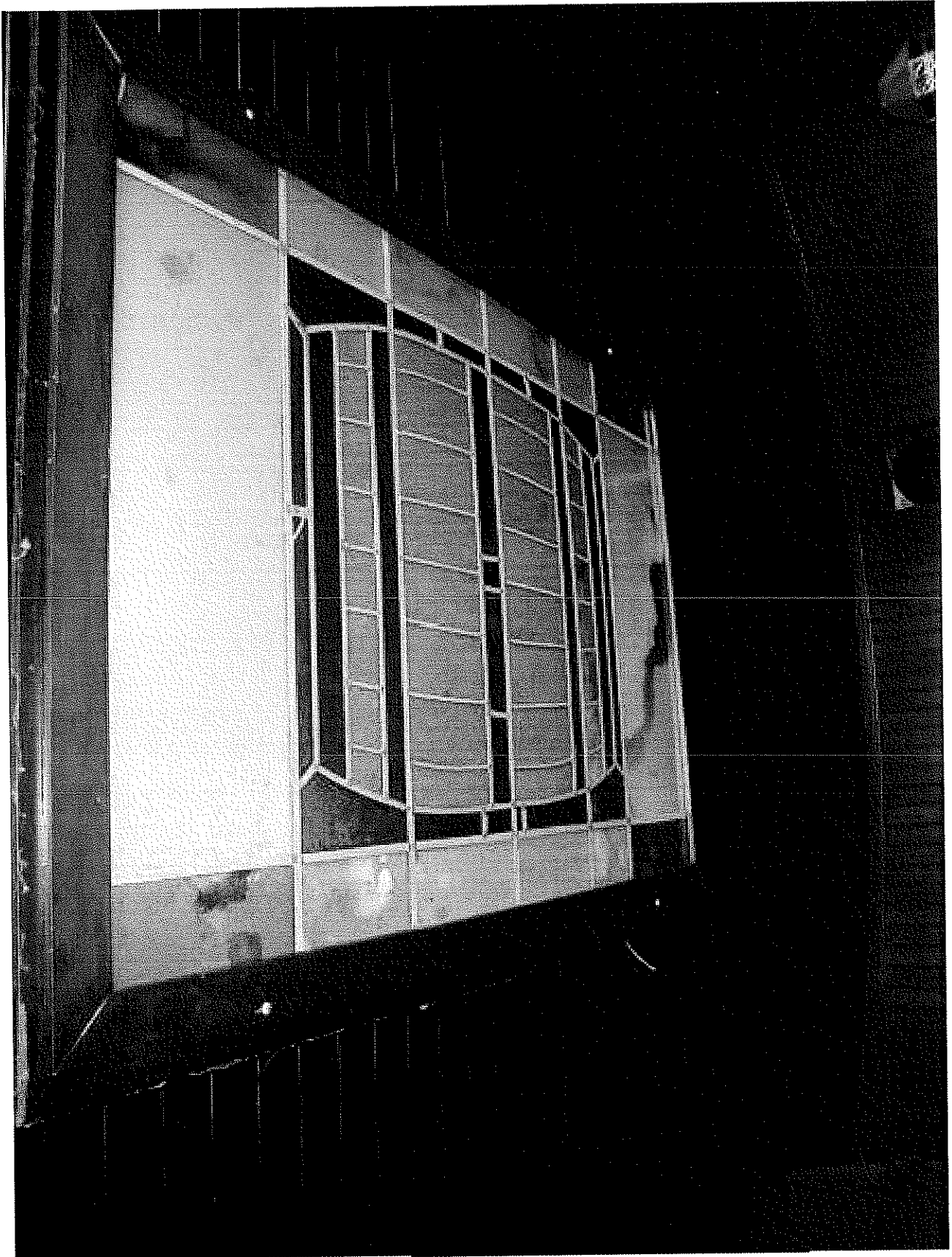


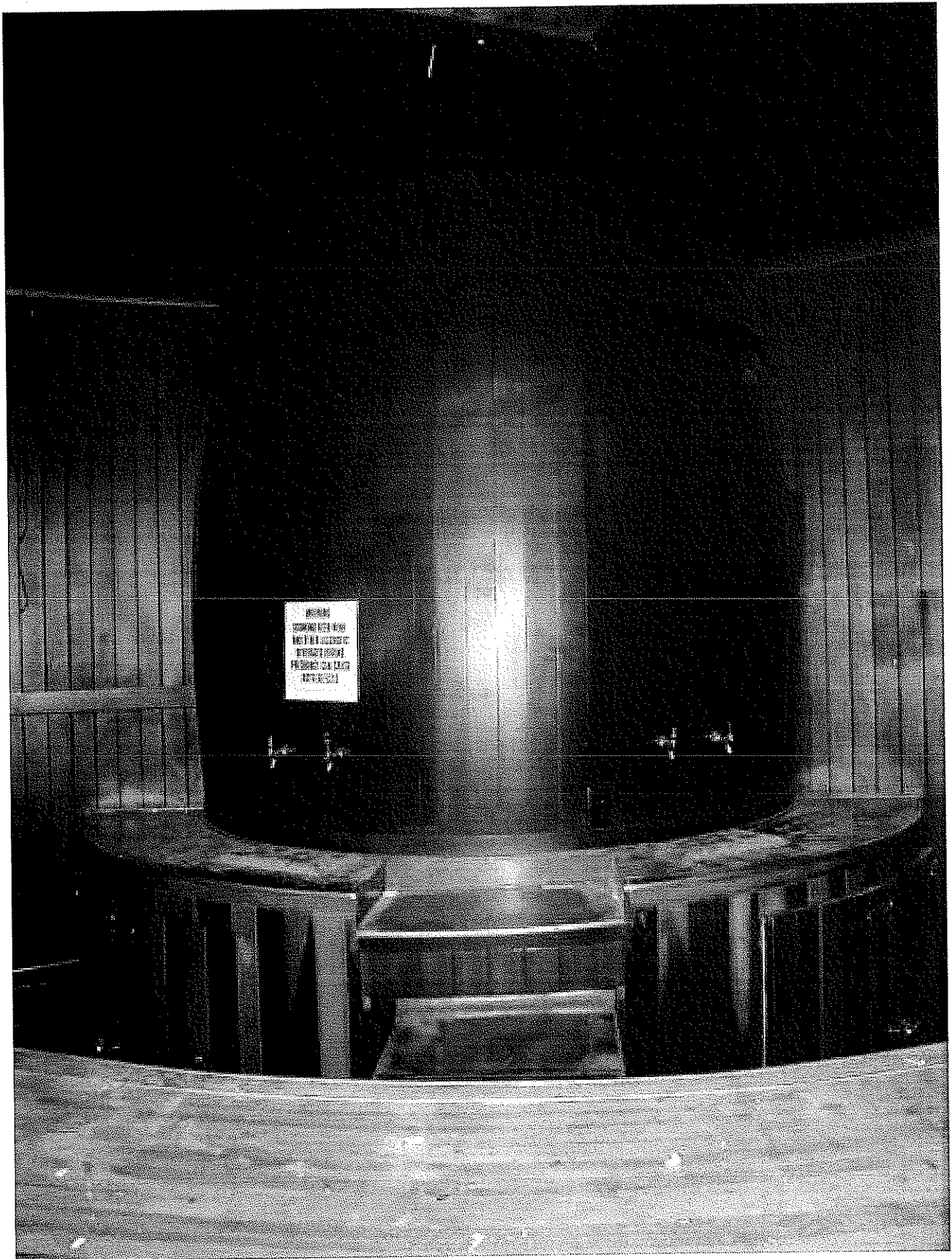


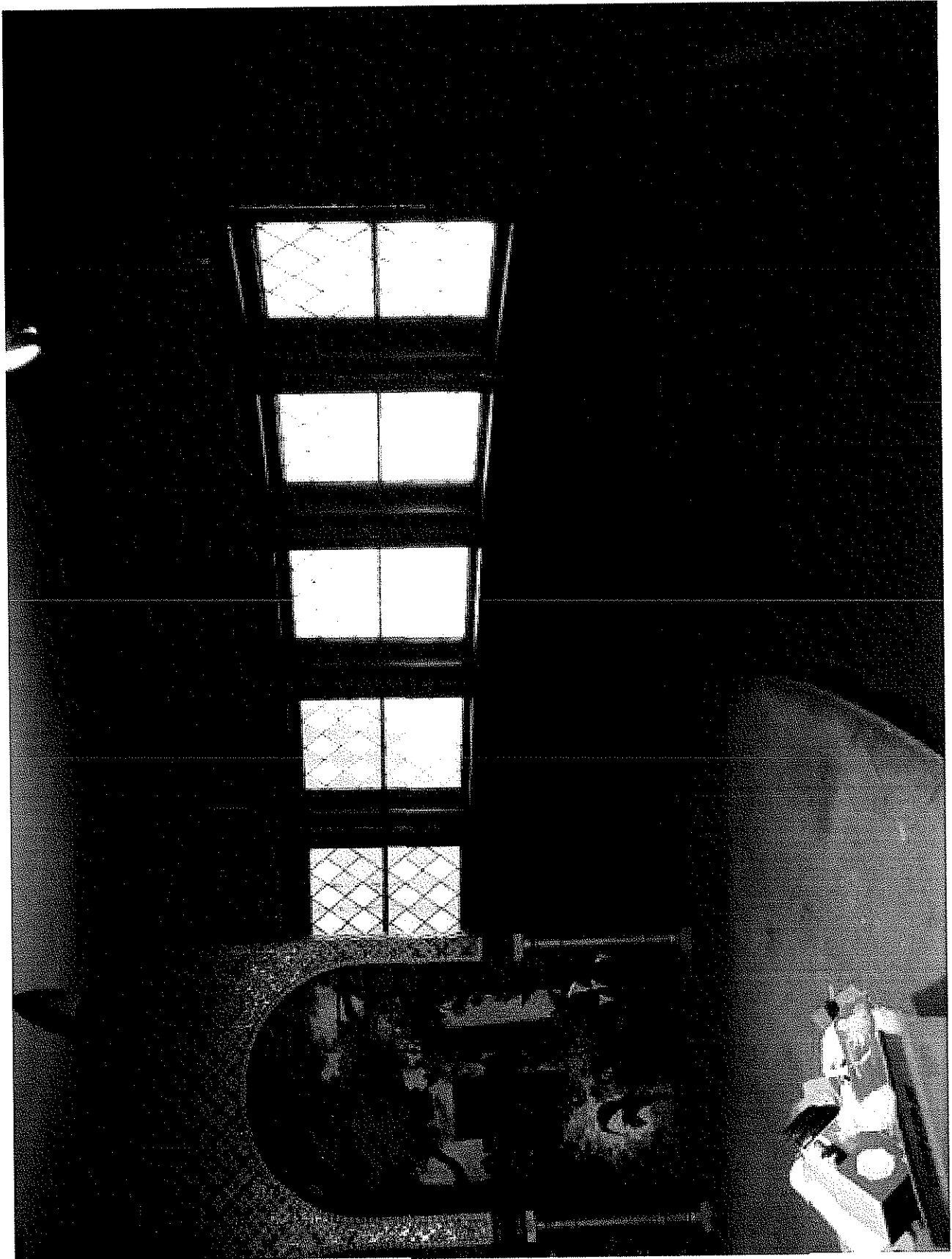


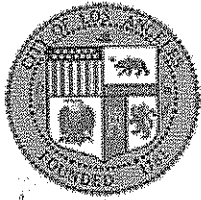












**City of Los Angeles
Department of City Planning**

10/12/2009

PARCEL PROFILE REPORT

PROPERTY ADDRESSES

4824 N VINELAND AVE

ZIP CODES

91601

RECENT ACTIVITY

North Hollywood ICO

CASE NUMBERS

CPC-2003-3256-ICO
ORD-175631
ORD-170549
ORD-162937
ENV-2003-3237

Address/Legal Information

PIN Number: 168B173 369
Lot Area (Calculated): 5,752.0 (sq ft)
Thomas Brothers Grid: PAGE 563 - GRID A3
Assessor Parcel No. (APN): 2421014001
Tract: TR 9742
Map Reference: M B 138-34/35
Block: None
Lot: 2
Arb (Lot Cut Reference): None
Map Sheet: 168B173

Jurisdictional Information

Community Plan Area: North Hollywood - Valley Village
Area Planning Commission: South Valley
Neighborhood Council: Mid-Town North Hollywood
Council District: CD 4 - Tom LaBonge
Census Tract #: 1255.00
LADBS District Office: Van Nuys

Planning and Zoning Information

Special Notes: None
Zoning: C4-1-CA
Zoning Information (ZI): ZI-1117 MTA Project
Redevelopment Project
Community Commercial
See Plan Footnotes
North Hollywood
General Plan Land Use: None
Plan Footnote - Site Req.: No
Additional Plan Footnotes: No
Specific Plan Area: No
Design Review Board: No
Historic Preservation Review: No
Historic Preservation Overlay Zone: None
Other Historic Designations: None
Other Historic Survey Information: None
Mills Act Contract: None
POD - Pedestrian Oriented Districts: None
CDO - Community Design Overlay: None
NSO - Neighborhood Stabilization Overlay: None
Streetscape: No
Sign District: No
Adaptive Reuse Incentive Area: None
CRA - Community Redevelopment Agency: North Hollywood Redevelopment Project
Central City Parking: No
Downtown Parking: No
Building Line: None
500 Ft School Zone: No
500 Ft Park Zone: No

Assessor Information

Assessor Parcel No. (APN): 2421014001
APN Area (Co. Public Works)*: 0.132 (ac)
Use Code: 2100 - Restaurant Lounge Tavern
Assessed Land Val.: \$40,375
Assessed Improvement Val.: \$45,226
Last Owner Change: 02/06/09
Last Sale Amount: \$9
Tax Rate Area: 42
Deed Ref No. (City Clerk): 93641

The contents of this report are bound by the User Agreement as described in the Terms and Conditions of this website. For more details, please refer to the Terms & Conditions link located at <http://zimas.lacity.org>.
(* - APN Area: LA County Assessor's Office is not the data provider for this item. The data source is from the Los Angeles County's Public Works, Flood Control, Benefit Assessment.

	5-859
	3-830
	172126
Building 1:	
1. Year Built:	1941
1. Building Class:	DX
1. Number of Units:	1
1. Number of Bedrooms:	0
1. Number of Bathrooms:	0
1. Building Square Footage:	1,654.0 (sq ft)
Building 2:	
2. Year Built:	Not Available
2. Building Class:	Not Available
2. Number of Units:	0
2. Number of Bedrooms:	0
2. Number of Bathrooms:	0
2. Building Square Footage:	0.0 (sq ft)
Building 3:	
3. Year Built:	Not Available
3. Building Class:	Not Available
3. Number of Units:	0
3. Number of Bedrooms:	0
3. Number of Bathrooms:	0
3. Building Square Footage:	0.0 (sq ft)
Building 4:	
4. Year Built:	Not Available
4. Building Class:	Not Available
4. Number of Units:	0
4. Number of Bedrooms:	0
4. Number of Bathrooms:	0
4. Building Square Footage:	None
Building 5:	
5. Year Built:	Not Available
5. Building Class:	Not Available
5. Number of Units:	0
5. Number of Bedrooms:	0
5. Number of Bathrooms:	0
5. Building Square Footage:	0.0 (sq ft)

Additional Information

Airport Hazard:	None
Coastal Zone:	None
Farmland:	Area not Mapped
Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone:	No
Fire District No. 1:	No
Fire District No. 2:	Yes
Flood Zone:	None
Hazardous Waste / Border Zone Properties:	No
Methane Hazard Site:	None
High Wind Velocity Areas:	No
Hillside Grading:	No
Oil Wells:	None
Alquist-Priolo Fault Zone:	No
Distance to Nearest Fault:	2.68092 (km)
Landslide:	No
Liquefaction:	Yes

Economic Development Areas

Business Improvement District:	None
Federal Empowerment Zone:	None
Renewal Community:	No
Revitalization Zone:	None
State Enterprise Zone:	None
Targeted Neighborhood Initiative:	None

Public Safety

Police Information:	
Bureau:	Valley
Division / Station:	North Hollywood

Report District:	1558
Fire Information:	
District / Fire Station:	86
Batallion:	14
Division:	3
Red Flag Restricted Parking:	No

CASE SUMMARIES

Note: Information for Case Summaries is Retrieved from the Planning Department's Plan Case Tracking System (PCTS) Database.

Case Number: GPC-2003-3256-ICO

Required Action(s): ICO-INTERIM CONTROL ORDINANCE

Project Description(s): AN INTERIM CONTROL ORDINANCE (ICO) TO PROHIBIT THE ISSUANCE OF PERMITS FOR ALL NEW AND/OR EXPANDING AUTO-RELATED USES FOR COMMERCIAL ZONED PROPERTIES WITHIN THE NORTH HOLLYWOOD ICO AREA (SEE MAP).

DATA NOT AVAILABLE

North Hollywood ICO

ORD-175631

ORD-170549

ORD-162937

ENV-2003-3237