

Los Angeles Department of City Planning

RECOMMENDATION REPORT

CULTURAL HERITAGE COMMISSION

CASE NO.: CHC-2007-5430-HCM

HEARING DATE: March 20, 2008
TIME: 10:00 AM
PLACE: City Hall, Room 1010
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA
90012

Location: 1999 Sycamore Ave.
Council District: 4
Community Plan Area: Hollywood
Area Planning Commission: Central
Neighborhood Council: Hollywood Hills West
Legal Description: LT A of TR 3237

PROJECT: Historic-Cultural Monument Application for
YAMASHIRO

REQUEST: Declare the property a Historic-Cultural Monument

APPLICANT: Hollywood Heritage
PO Box 2586
Los Angeles, CA 90078

OWNER: Hollywood Hills Hotel Apartments, LLC
1999 Sycamore Ave
Los Angeles, CA 90068

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

[SIGNED ORIGINAL IN FILE]

Ken Bernstein, Manager
Office of Historic Resources

[SIGNED ORIGINAL IN FILE]

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 29, 2007 Historic-Cultural Monument Application

FINDINGS

1. 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 Japanese Revival architecture.
2. The property reflects “the broad cultural, economic, or social history of the nation, State or community” for its association with the development of Hollywood.

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

Built in 1911-1914, Yamashiro exhibits character-defining features of Japanese Revival architecture. Its two-story square plan surrounds a koi pond and a sunken garden. A silver-coated, metal-tiled roof projects over the clerestory windows of the second level and over the broad verandas of the lower level, rising and gathering into a gently-curved “hip gable” silhouette. The main (south) entrance features a major “cusped” or “swept” gable and two flanking, smaller gables; the north façade contains two pointed gablets, and the west and east façades each have a single gablet. Several structural and ornamental features related to the roof- projecting eaves, ridge beams terminating in flower-adorned *kaerumata* (frog-leg struts), *shachihoko* (a mythical tiger-carp beast) atop the gables, metal beam caps—create typical Japanese visual motifs within and above the façades of the building. The walls consist of stucco panels, half-timbering, and decorative metal plaques laid over a cedar framework that rests on a foundation of reinforced concrete. With the exception of the screened, latticed windows bordering the ornate molding of the main entrance, none of the windows follow Japanese styling cues. The interior appears significantly altered, but has kept the original finishes of its ceiling coffers, molding, wooden fretwork, carving, and metalwork.

The seven-acre site of the subject property is dominated by a landscaped Japanese garden, which contains several plant species imported from Japan and a number of structures that complement Yamashiro’s historicist aesthetic. Perched at a summit, a tri-gabled gatehouse serves as an entrance to the hilltop compound and accentuates the visual axis created by the Magic Castle (Historic-Cultural Monument #406; 1908), the subject building, and Franklin Boulevard. An authentic two-story antique Japanese Pagoda frames views of the Japanese gardens, a pool, and a working stream. A “resting pavilion” incorporates the swept gables of the main façade into a shade-giving structure within the gardens. Other ancillary structures include a garage and a menagerie hut.

Architect Franklin W. Small designed Yamashiro in 1911 at the request of German-born cotton barons and avid Asian Art collectors Eugene and Adolph Bernheimer. Only two years after

Rollin Lane built his sprawling mansion (the future Magic Castle) on a nearby lot, the Bernheimer brothers spent anywhere from \$120,000 to \$250,000 to build “Yama Shiro” (“Castle on the Hill”) to house their art collection. The design drew upon both the Chinese tradition of courtyard houses and the design of a sixteenth-century mountaintop castle in Kyoto. Hailed as an instant landmark and (somewhat erroneously) as an “authentic” replica of a Kyoto castle, Yamashiro helped fuel the exoticist fervor that captured Hollywood for the ensuing two decades, as evidenced in Egyptian- and Asian-inspired landmarks such as Grauman’s Chinese Theater (HCM #55;1927) and the Egyptian Theatre (HCM #584;1922). The German-owned building lost its luster when American sentiment turned against the German Empire during World War I. When Eugene Bernheimer died in 1923, the property was sold along with all of its contents. After two changes of ownership, the noted capitalist and socialite William Clark Crittendon bought and repurposed the villa as the 400 Club, an influential gathering place for the movie industry’s elite that flourished for a short time before the Depression. World War II again turned public opinion against the building (now for its Japanese associations). Its regular public tours stopped operating and it appears to have been used variously as a film backdrop, a military school for boys, an apartment complex, and possibly a brothel. Thomas O. Glover purchased the estate in 1948 and reopened Yamashiro as a bar and private club. In the 1960s he converted the space into a restaurant and began a series of gradual restorations and additions that have allowed the subject building to function as a restaurant.

The subject building has undergone several alterations, including: conversion of attic space into offices; additions of service areas and bathrooms in the basement; creation of expanded, glass-enclosed veranda dining areas on the south façade; tiling of the front steps; and the addition of a handicap access. The north façade includes some electrical boxes and wires added to serve the renovated kitchen behind it. Much of the interior has been redecorated with contemporary elements, though some original material appears to remain, especially in the upper paneling and metalwork. Some of the ceiling finishes have deteriorated. The original walls are covered over in several places.

DISCUSSION

The Yamashiro property successfully meets two of the specified Historic-Cultural Monument (HCM) criteria: 1) “embodies the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type specimen, inherently valuable for a study of a period style or method of construction” and 2) reflects “the broad cultural, economic, or social history of the nation, State or community.” As a building designed in the Japanese Revival style and reflective of the development of Hollywood, the property qualifies for designation as a Historic-Cultural Monument based on these criteria.

While the proposed Yamashiro monument does not adhere to a singular architectural style, its incorporation of a number of Japanese and Chinese architectural styles was groundbreaking for the early 1900s. The construction of Yamashiro helped to usher in a wave of historicist and exotic revivals that became a local Hollywood phenomenon in the 1920s, culminating with the construction of the Egyptian Theater (1922; HCM #584) and the Chinese Theater (1927; HCM #55).

Renovations to the interior and exterior for the subject building’s use as a restaurant have not significantly affected the integrity of its character-defining features, such as the square plan with central garden, half-timbered roof, gables, ornate two-story entrance, decorative elements, as well as the landscaping, pagoda and gatehouse.

For nearly a century, Yamashiro and its neighbor to the south, the Magic Castle (1908; HCM #406), have served as the setting of social clubs and nightclubs for the Hollywood film and entertainment industry.

BACKGROUND

At its meeting of January 25, 2008, the Cultural Heritage Commission voted to take the application under consideration. On February 21, 2008, the Cultural Heritage Commission toured the subject property.

Los Angeles Department of City Planning

RECOMMENDATION REPORT

CULTURAL HERITAGE COMMISSION

CASE NO.: CHC-2007-5430-HCM

HEARING DATE: January 24, 2008
TIME: 10:00 AM
PLACE: City Hall, Room 1060
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA
90012

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Community Plan Area: Hollywood
Area Planning Commission: Central
Neighborhood Council: Hollywood Hills West
Legal Description: LT A of TR 3237

PROJECT: Historic-Cultural Monument Application for
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REQUEST: Declare the property a Historic-Cultural Monument

APPLICANT: Hollywood Heritage
PO Box 2586
Los Angeles, CA 90078

OWNER: Hollywood Hills Hotel Apartments, LLC
1999 Sycamore Ave
Los Angeles, CA 90068

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

[SIGNED ORIGINAL IN FILE]

Ken Bernstein, Manager
Office of Historic Resources

[SIGNED ORIGINAL IN FILE]

Lambert M. Giessinger, Preservation Architect
Office of Historic Resources

Prepared by:

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Edgar Garcia, Preservation Planner
Office of Historic Resources

Attachments: October 29, 2007 Historic-Cultural Monument Application
ZIMAS Report

SUMMARY

Built in 1911-1914, Yamashiro exhibits character-defining features of Japanese Revival architecture. Its two-story square plan surrounds a koi pond and a sunken garden. A silver-coated, metal-tiled roof projects over the clerestory windows of the second level and over the broad verandas of the lower level, rising and gathering into a gently-curved “hip gable” silhouette. The main (south) entrance features a major “cusped” or “swept” gable and two flanking, smaller gables; the north façade contains two pointed gablets, and the west and east façades each have a single gablet. Several structural and ornamental features related to the roof- projecting eaves, ridge beams terminating in flower-adorned *kaerumata* (frog-leg struts), *shachihoko* (a mythical tiger-carp beast) atop the gables, metal beam caps—create typical Japanese visual motifs within and above the façades of the building. The walls consist of stucco panels, half-timbering, and decorative metal plaques laid over a cedar framework that rests on a foundation of reinforced concrete. With the exception of the screened, latticed windows bordering the ornate molding of the main entrance, none of the windows follow Japanese styling cues. The interior appears significantly altered, but has kept the original finishes of its ceiling coffers, molding, wooden fretwork, carving, and metalwork.

The seven-acre site of the subject property is dominated by a landscaped Japanese garden, which contains several plant species imported from Japan and a number of structures that complement Yamashiro’s historicist aesthetic. Perched at a summit, a tri-gabled gatehouse serves as an entrance to the hilltop compound and accentuates the visual axis created by the Magic Castle (Historic-Cultural Monument #406; 1908), the subject building, and Franklin Boulevard. An authentic two-story antique Japanese Pagoda frames views of the Japanese gardens, a pool, and a working stream. A “resting pavilion” incorporates the swept gables of the main façade into a shade-giving structure within the gardens. Other ancillary structures include a garage and a menagerie hut.

Architect Franklin W. Small designed Yamashiro in 1911 at the request of German-born cotton barons and avid Asian Art collectors Eugene and Adolph Bernheimer. Only two years after Rollin Lane built his sprawling mansion (the future Magic Castle) on a nearby lot, the Bernheimer brothers spent anywhere from \$120,000 to \$250,000 to build “Yama Shiro” (“Castle on the Hill”) to house their art collection. The design drew upon both the Chinese tradition of courtyard houses and the design of a sixteenth-century mountaintop castle in Kyoto. Hailed as an instant landmark and (somewhat erroneously) as an “authentic” replica of a Kyoto castle, Yamashiro helped fuel the exoticist fervor that captured Hollywood for the ensuing two decades, as evidenced in Egyptian- and Asian-inspired landmarks such as Grauman’s Chinese Theater (HCM #55;1927) and the Egyptian Theatre (HCM #584;1922). The German-owned building lost its luster when American sentiment turned against the German Empire during World War I. When Eugene Bernheimer died in 1923, the property was sold along with all of its contents. After two changes of ownership, the noted capitalist and socialite William Clark Crittendon bought and repurposed the villa as the 400 Club, an influential gathering place for the movie industry’s elite that flourished for a short time before the Depression. World War II again turned public opinion against the building (now for its Japanese associations). Its regular public tours stopped operating and it appears to have been used variously as a film backdrop, a military school for boys, an apartment complex, and possibly a brothel. Thomas O. Glover purchased the estate in 1948 and reopened Yamashiro as a bar and private club. In the 1960s he converted the space into a restaurant and began a series of gradual restorations and additions that have allowed the subject building to function as a restaurant.

The subject building has undergone several alterations, including conversion of attic space into offices, additions of service areas and bathrooms in the basement, expanded, glass-enclosed

veranda dining areas on the south façade, tiling of the front steps, and the addition of a handicap access. The north façade also includes some electrical boxes and wires added to serve the renovated kitchen behind it. Much of the interior has been redecorated with contemporary elements, though some original material appears to still exist.

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.

SUMMARY

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CRITERIA

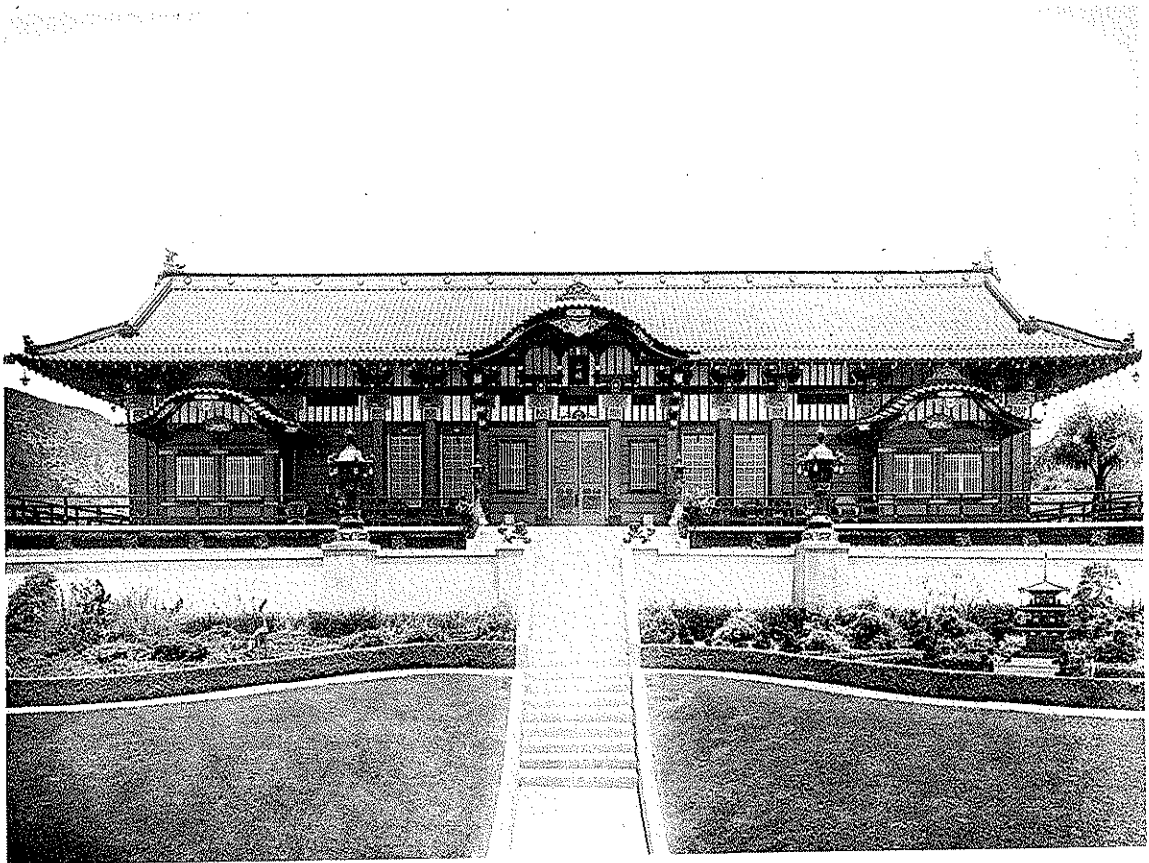
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FINDINGS

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.

Yamashiro

**1999 Sycamore Ave.
Hollywood**



**Nomination for
Historic-Cultural Monument Status**

**Submitted by
Hollywood Heritage**

SIGNIFICANCE WORK SHEET

TYPE OR HAND PRINT IN ALL CAPITAL BLOCK LETTERS

Complete One or Both of the Upper and Lower Portions of This Page

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

THE YAMASHIRO IS AN IMPORTANT EXAMPLE OF
NAME OF PROPOSED MONUMENT
JAPANESE HISTORICIST ARCHITECTURE
ARCHITECTURAL STYLE (SEE LINE 8)

AND MEETS THE CULTURAL HERITAGE ORDINANCE BECAUSE OF THE HIGH QUALITY OF ITS DESIGN AND THE RETENTION OF ITS ORIGINAL FORM, DETAILING AND INTEGRITY.

A N D / O R

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

THE YAMASHIRO WAS BUILT IN 1914
NAME OF PROPOSED MONUMENT YEAR BUILT

NAME OF FIRST OR SIGNIFICANT OTHER WAS IMPORTANT TO THE

DEVELOPMENT OF LOS ANGELES BECAUSE _____

1. **Name:** Yamashiro or Bernheimer Villa, gardens and associated structures
2. **Address:** 1999 N. Sycamore Ave. Hollywood California 90068
3. **Assessors parcel number:** 5549 017 016
4. **Legal description:** Tract: 3237 Lot:A
5. **Addresses on Property**
 - 1900 N. Fitch Dr. 90068
 - 1920 N. Fitch Dr. 90068
 - 1930 N. Fitch Dr. 90068
 - 1940 N. Fitch Dr. 90068
 - 1964 N. Fitch Dr. 90068
 - 1966 N. Fitch Dr. 90068
 - 1821 N. Sycamore Ave. 90068
 - 1831 N. Sycamore Ave. 90068
 - 1901 N. Sycamore Ave. 90068
 - 1921 N. Sycamore Ave. 90068
 - 1941 N. Sycamore Ave. 90068
 - 1961 N. Sycamore Ave. 90068
 - 1999 N. Sycamore Ave. 90068 (Yamashiro)**
6. **Present Owner:** Hollywood Hill Hotel Apts.
7. **Present Use:** Restaurant
8. **Style:** Japanese historicist
9. **Physical Description:**

Plan and Grounds

The Berheimer Villa and Oriental Gardens also known as "Yamashiro" is an important example of Japanese influenced historicist architecture. The villa is roughly square in plan, with the main rooms of the house facing south east and west with a large kitchen to the north. In the center of the building is a large courtyard with a sunken garden and koi pond, on to which during the early years of the house the main rooms of the house would open via folding doors, quite a novelty in Los Angeles at the time.

Roof

The majority of the structure is covered with a hip gable roof, laid with metal tiles (now painted silver), with four gablets, 2 facing north and one each facing east

and west. There is also a distinctive cusped or swept gable above the main entrance facing south. The kitchen portion of the building has a flat roof. The main roof is further articulated with substantial ridge beams and projecting eaves. The ridge beams are decorated with rosettes and terminating in traditional Japanese *kaerumata* carved with flowers. The east and west gables are crowned with two *shachihoko*, mythical animals with the head of a tiger and the body of a carp. It was believed that this animal could cause the rain to fall so they can often be found on castles and temples as a way to ward off fire. The eaves of the villa project outward several feet and are seemingly held up by decorative pseudo-Japanese brackets, which are themselves capped with stamped metal beam caps and plaques.

Body and Interior

The main body of the villa is faced with white stucco panels divided by wood strips and beams and is decorated periodically with stamped metal plaques and wooden carvings. Flanking the main entrance are two large window boxes (now obscured), crowned with smaller cusped gables to match the one over the main entrance. There are numerous windows on all facades, the majority of which are post-war additions to the second story as the most of the first floor windows have now been removed. None of these windows reflect Japanese styling with the exception of those flanking the front door, which are covered with traditional style screens. The structure of the building is constructed of cedar and other native California woods while the foundations, walls etc. are built with reinforced concrete. Two somewhat sympathetic glass enclosed wrap-around verandahs have been added to the south portion of the building in order to facilitate larger dining areas and take advantage of the spectacular views. The north portion of the building which houses the kitchen has undergone several improvements altering most of the original north façade.

While much of the interior has been significantly altered, there is much in evidence of the villa's former finishes. Delicate wood fretwork in the main entrance hall, coffers on many of the ceilings, moldings, doors, metalwork and carving are all easily viewed.

Gardens

The villa was once surrounded by lush terraced gardens of which many features remain. These include a garage, resting pavilion, gatehouse, Japanese Pagoda, menagerie hut, and a working stream. Famous features now lost include, the miniature Japanese village, the Teahouse (ruins extant), the waterfall, and the large pond for black swans. The gardens at their height possessed numerous varieties of trees and shrubs many originating in Japan and imported by the Bernheimers. Among the most important features of the garden is the great staircase which leads from Sycamore Ave, through the gatehouse and resting pavilion to the villa. This staircase created a striking visual axis connecting

Yamashiro, the Magic Castle and Franklin Ave. with Hollywood Blvd., which was featured in many historic views of Hollywood and remains today a significant visual landmark.

10. **Construction date:** 1911-1914
11. **Architect:** Franklin M. Small
12. **Contractor:** Unknown
13. **Visual Documentation:** Historic and current photos included as well as Sanborn maps and Site plans.
14. **Condition:** Good
15. **Alterations:** While Yamashiro has gathered several accretions over the years due to its function as a restaurant, the historic main structure remains intact. Alterations include; tiling of front steps and addition of handicap access, conversion of attic space into offices, conversion of interiors spaces into dining rooms and kitchen areas, addition of bathrooms and service areas at the basement level. Extensions include; Minor extensions to the courtyard eaves were added for further shade, enclosed verandahs sympathetic in design added for extra seating, extensions to the north façade for expanded service areas. Upgraded technical services (HVAC etc.) have also been added.
16. **Threats to Site:** Private Development following sale of property
17. **Is the Structure on Its original Site:** Yes
18. **Statement of Significance:** "Yamashiro" also known as the Berheimer Villa and Oriental Gardens is an important example of Japanese influenced historicist architecture, which along with its distinctive landscape features meets requirements of the Cultural Heritage Ordinance because of the high quality of design and the retention of its original, form, detailing, and integrity. Yamashiro also stands as a distinctive cultural monument being associated with the history of Hollywood and its architectural, cultural and social development.

Early History and Design

Yamashiro was commissioned in 1911 by German brothers from New York, Eugene and Adolph Bernheimer, importers of cotton and both avid collectors of Asian Art. The brothers purchased several acres of the Whitley Hill Tract No. 2 in 1912. The resulting estate combined nearly 11 lots including portions of the Hollywood Ocean View Tract No. 2. The Bernheimers then engaged the services of architect Franklin M. Small to design a villa in the form of a Japanese Palace to house their collections of Asian artworks. They called the new home "Yama

Shiro” or “Castle on the Hill” and further embellished the property with terraced gardens and outbuildings. The villa was completed in 1914 at an estimated cost of between \$120,000 to \$250,000 (sources conflicting).

Yamashiro was an immediate sensation, receiving a great deal of media and architectural praise. Reporters from the Los Angeles Times were given a tour of the home and marveled at its architecture, claiming that those who have traveled to Japan could attest “that there was nothing in native Japan that could surpass the marvelous beauty of the Bernheimer villa”.¹ George O’Dodd of Architect and Builder exclaimed that the villa while being based on 16th century Japanese architectural plans and details, “the chief aim was to sacrifice nothing in the way of more modern conveniences”.² The villa quickly became a Hollywood landmark with its gardens periodically open to the public and its imposing position above Hollywood Boulevard.

While drawing on historic sources and precedents, Yamashiro should not be considered an authentic replica as many reporters at the time wrote. The villa does not follow traditional Japanese house plans nor does it strictly follow authentic architectural detailing. In fact, courtyard houses reflect Chinese architectural tradition rather than Japanese. Even the lavishly decorated interiors were more Victorian than Asian, stuffed with heavy rattan, European and Chinese furniture, carved paneling, draperies, wallpapers, carpets, and heaps of antiques. Yamashiro resembled more a colonial robber baron’s palace than a shogun’s dwelling.

To Angelinos such historical inaccuracies meant little and Yamashiro fit quite nicely as a very exotic form of the fantasy architecture prevalent at the time. Did the villa not hover over a French chateau? In a wider context, Yamashiro falls into a long tradition of Asian inspired European and American architecture and design known as chinoiserie. Chinese rooms abound in the palaces of Europe and so do villas. Examples include, Brighton Pavilion in Brighton England, the Chinese Palace at Oranienbaum in Russia, the Chinese House in Drottingholm in Sweden, and the Wasserpalais in Pillnitz near Dresden Germany. In America, even as Yamashiro was being completed, on the East coast Alva Vanderbilt Belmont was finishing her Chinese Tea House at her Marble House estate in Newport, Rhode Island. Last but not least, who could forget Yamashiro’s most famous chinoiserie neighbor, Meyer and Holler’s 1927 Grauman’s Chinese Theater, the very symbol of Hollywood grandeur and fantasy. At all of these places and at Yamashiro architects designed Asian inspired structures filtered through a western lens to create exotic backdrops for entertaining as well as to house magnificent collections and artworks.

¹ Palatial Home Is Finished. Los Angeles Times (1886-Current File); Nov. 15, 1914 page II 10

² George V. O’Dodd. “The Castle on the Hill”, The Architect and Engineer. June 1923 vol.73 p.87-94

The 400 Club

The estate and all of its contents were sold following the death of Eugene Bernheimer in 1923. The sale was also precipitated by ongoing disputes between the brothers and the city which planned and eventually executed a large water cistern on the hill behind the house. To add insult to injury the brothers Bernheimer suffered a decline in reputation during the First World War due to their German heritage. The new owner in 1924 was Joseph Toplitsky, developer of the Biltmore Theater, Mason Opera House and the Richfield Oil Building.

In 1925 the house was either leased or purchased by William Clark Crittendon, Los Angeles and San Franciscan "capitalist" for \$1,000,000³ to house the new 400 Club, a social organization primarily for an exclusive motion picture crowd. The club was launched by Frank Elliot, actor, director and organizer of the exclusive "Sixty" monthly supper-club headquartered at the Biltmore Hotel downtown. Elliot established the 400 Club as a reaction to Los Angeles society's refusal to include actors and motion picture industry professionals in its powerful "Blue Book" of acceptable society and as an alternative to the De Mille, Pickford, and Fairbanks dominance of Hollywood social life.⁴ "The time had come to provide the motion picture industry with its own superior social background, to establish social leadership, to create a permanent central rendezvous for the best elements of motion-picture society."⁵ The Club opened officially in October 1925 with a lavish party attended by cinema luminaries such as Rudolph Valentino, Roscoe "Fatty" Arbuckle, Priscilla Dean, Kathleen Clifford, and Claire Windsor. Other members were to include Harold Lloyd, Norma Shearer, Norma Tallmadge and Charlie Chaplin.⁶

The club planned around 2 million dollars in renovations which included a plan to add two wings to the house for a ballroom and a theater. Other plans included a swimming pool in front of the main house and stables to the rear. These improvements were never executed.

Hollywood Scenic Gardens and Home

During the Depression, Yamashiro, ceased to operate as a private club and was opened to the public to allow those with 25 cents to tour the extensive gardens. The gardens at that time included 8 landscaped acres, a bonsai garden, a miniature village, streams, waterfalls and an authentic Japanese pagoda. It was during this time that Hollywood recognized Yamashiro as a film location. Yamashiro was featured in such films as *Sayonara* and *The Bitter Tea of General Yen*. It was even rumored that a Yamashiro ran as a brothel.

³ "Filmdom's Elite Have a New Club" Los Angeles Times (1886-Current File) Oct. 4, 1925 p.27

⁴ The Four Hundred Club. Grace Kingsley. Los Angeles Times (1886-Current File) Nov. 1, 1925 pg. 17

⁵ Cinema Society on the Warpath by Alma Whitaker. Los Angeles Times (1886-Current File) Nov. 8, 1925 pg. 27

⁶ The Four Hundred Club. Grace Kingsley. Los Angeles Times (1886-Current File) Nov. 1, 1925 pg. 17

It was not until 1940 that the interior of the house was finally opened to the public for a short period before war-time rumors of Japanese spies and radio centers closed the property for good and the interior contents were sold at auction. The villa and gardens suffered extensive vandalism during this period as the Japanese villa built by Germans became the focus of public hostility. In an effort to save what was left the villa's decoration, its architecture was disguised and the interiors painted over. During the war the property housed a boy's military academy which further damaged the house. Following the war the property was again altered with the addition of several second story bedrooms and the division of the house into 15 apartments.

Yamashiro Restaurant

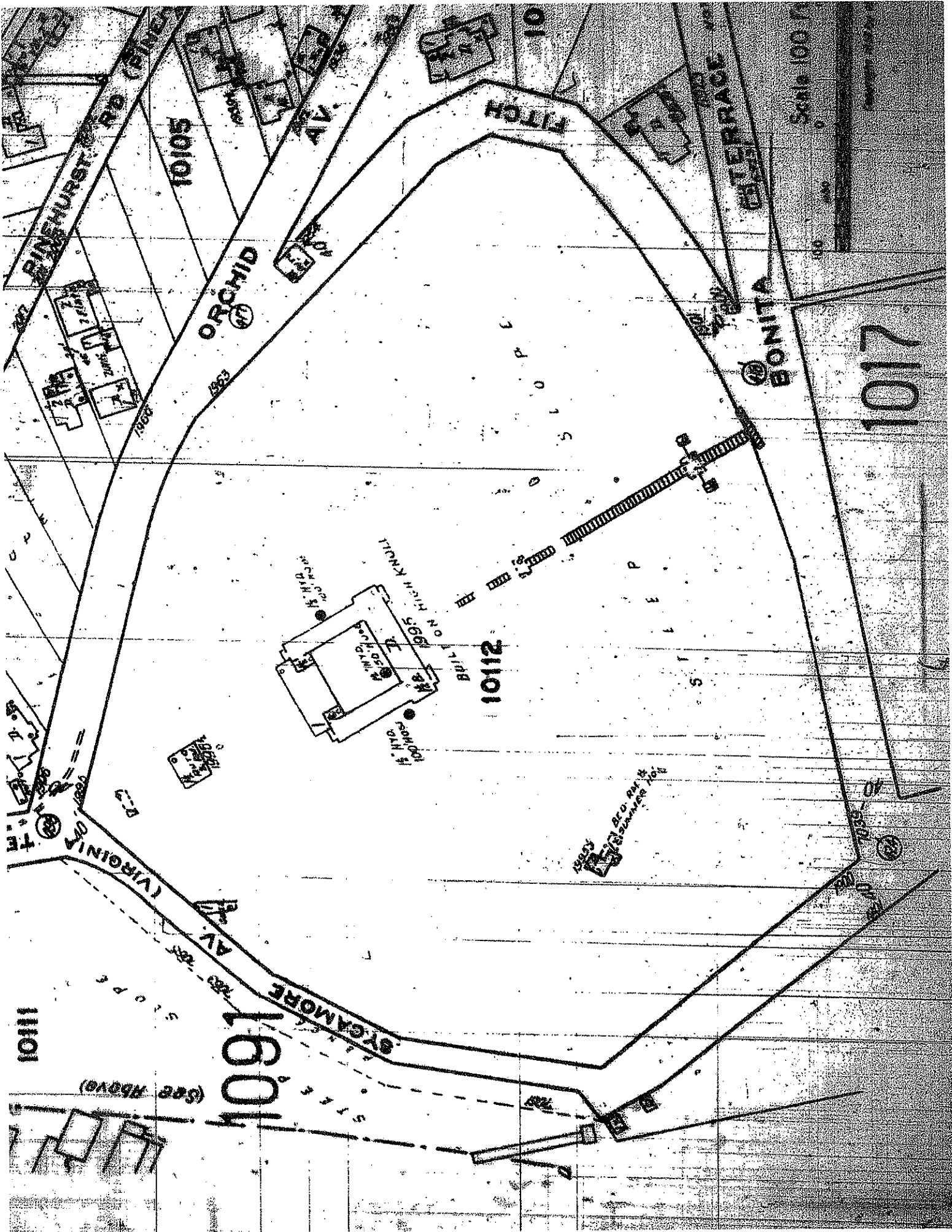
In 1948 the estate was purchased by Thomas O. Glover with the intention of demolishing the house and the remaining gardens to developing the site. This plan was abandoned after Mr. Glover began to discover more and more of the building's significant architectural detailing and decided to restore the property as a club restaurant with an attached hotel. During the fifties Glover ran the property as a bar and private club but later started serving appetizers as the spot's popularity grew. Yamashiro formally opened as a full service restaurant in 1960 and has operated as such for nearly 40 years becoming a Hollywood landmark and tourist destination as well as becoming once again a popular location for filming television and motion pictures.

19. Sources

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- Thomas Y. Glover "Yamashiro History". Yamashiro website <http://www.yamashirorestaurant.com/history/index.html>

20. Compiled on 10-29-07 for Hollywood Heritage by

Brian Curran
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Los Angeles CA 90036
323-964-9502
bcurranjr@dslextreme.com



Scale 100 FT

1017

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ORCHID AV

BONITA TERRACE

BINHURST RD

VIRGINIA AV

BYGAMORE

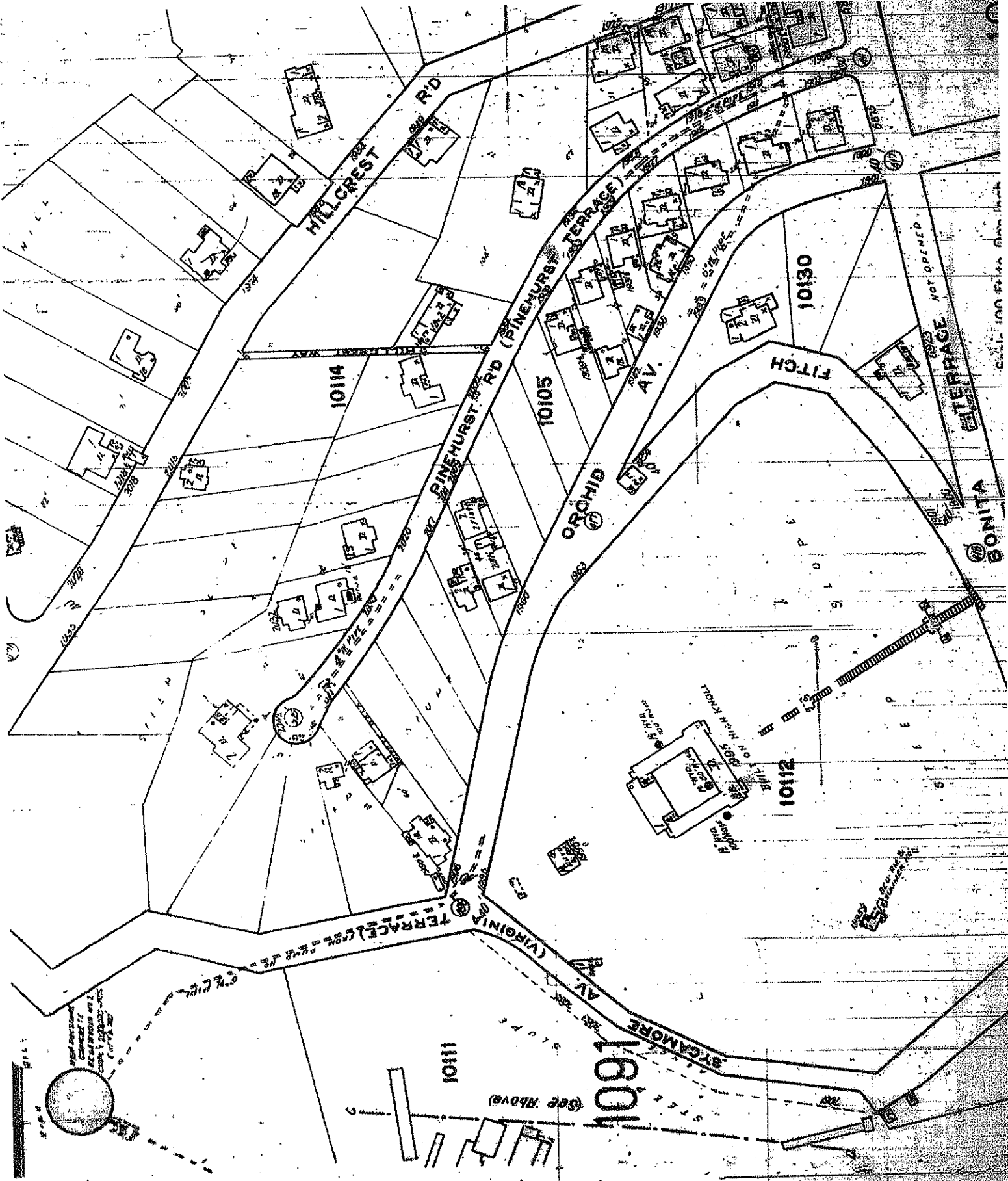
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ORCHID AV

FITCH

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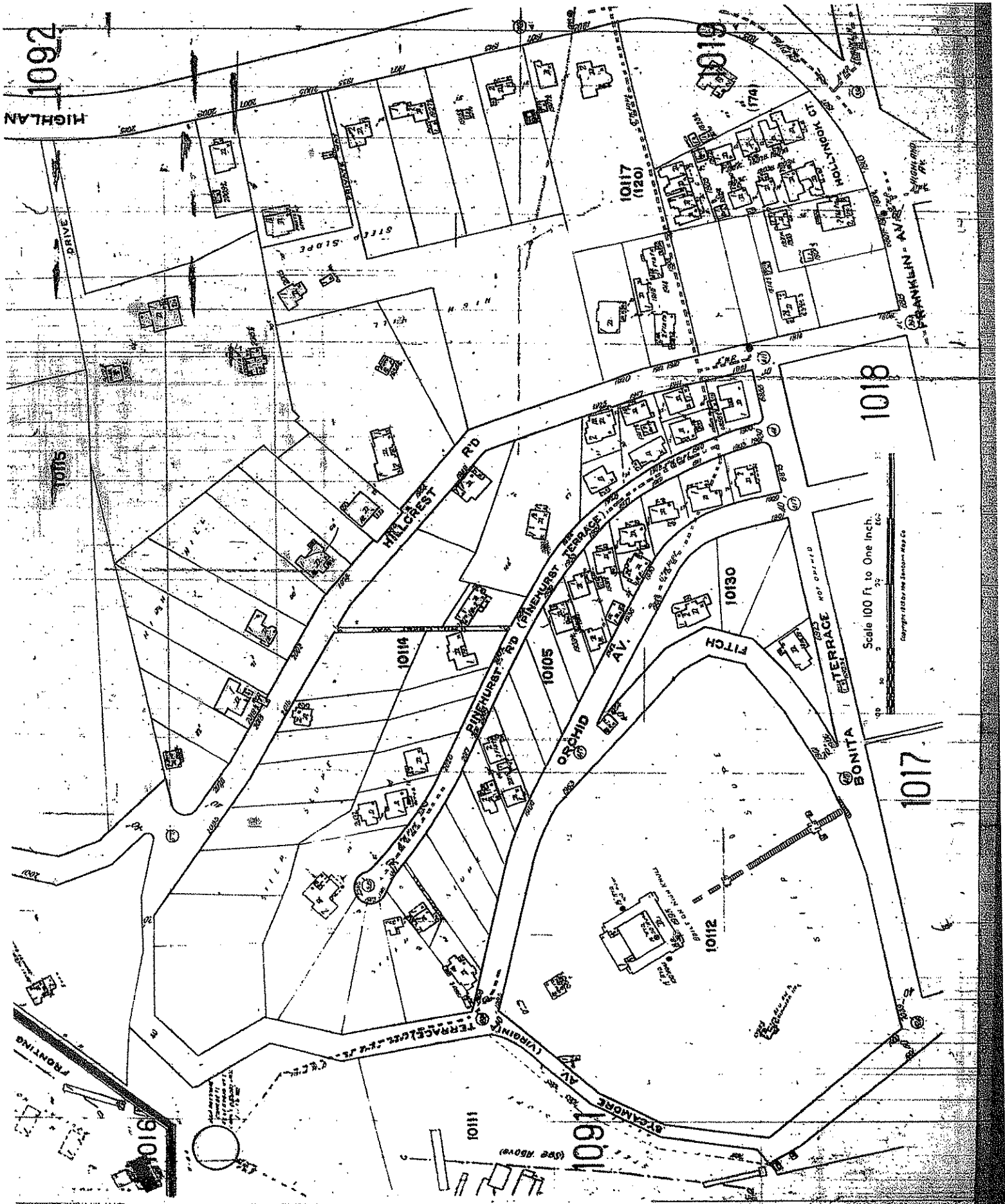
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Etc.

Copyright 1927 by the Standard Map Co.

FRONTING

VIENNA TERRACE

BEAUMORE AV

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HIGHLAND

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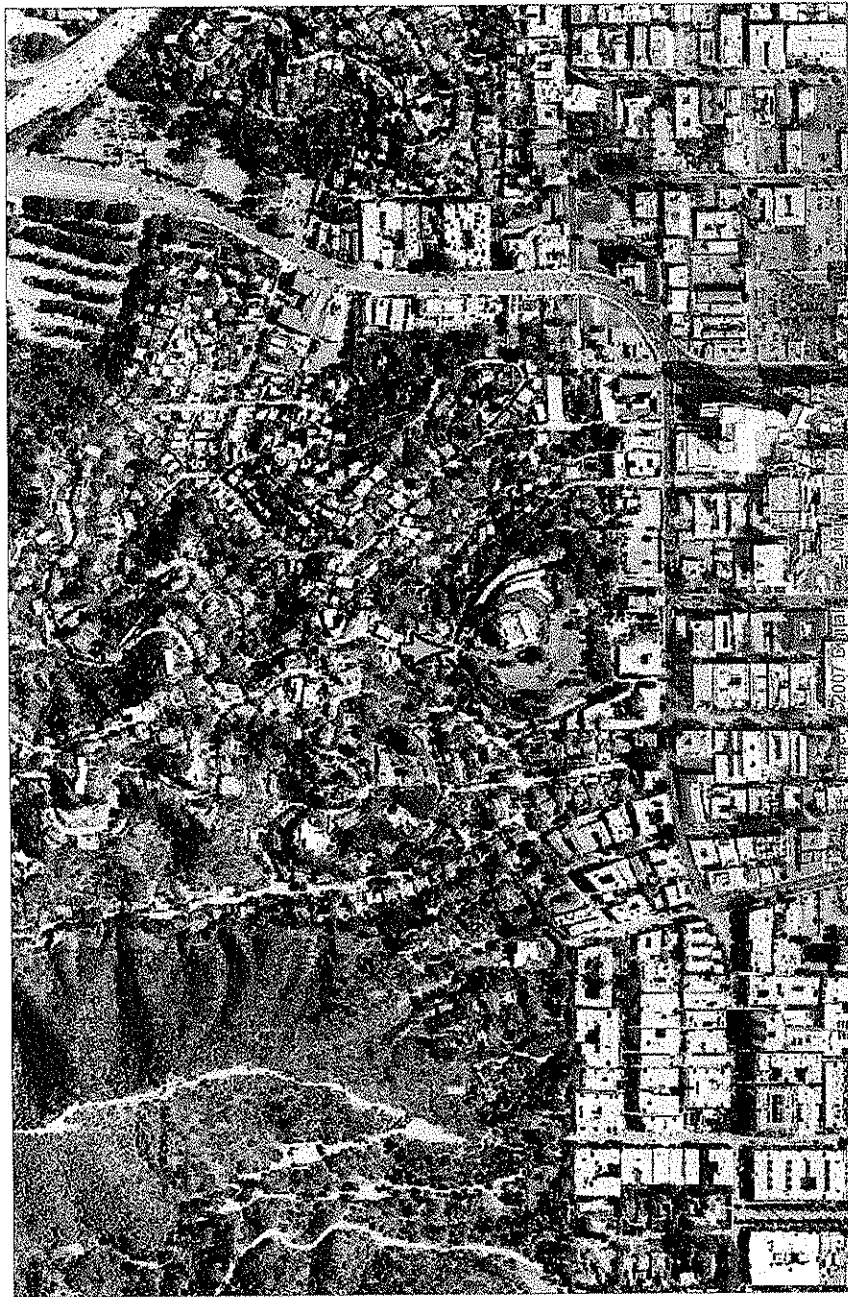
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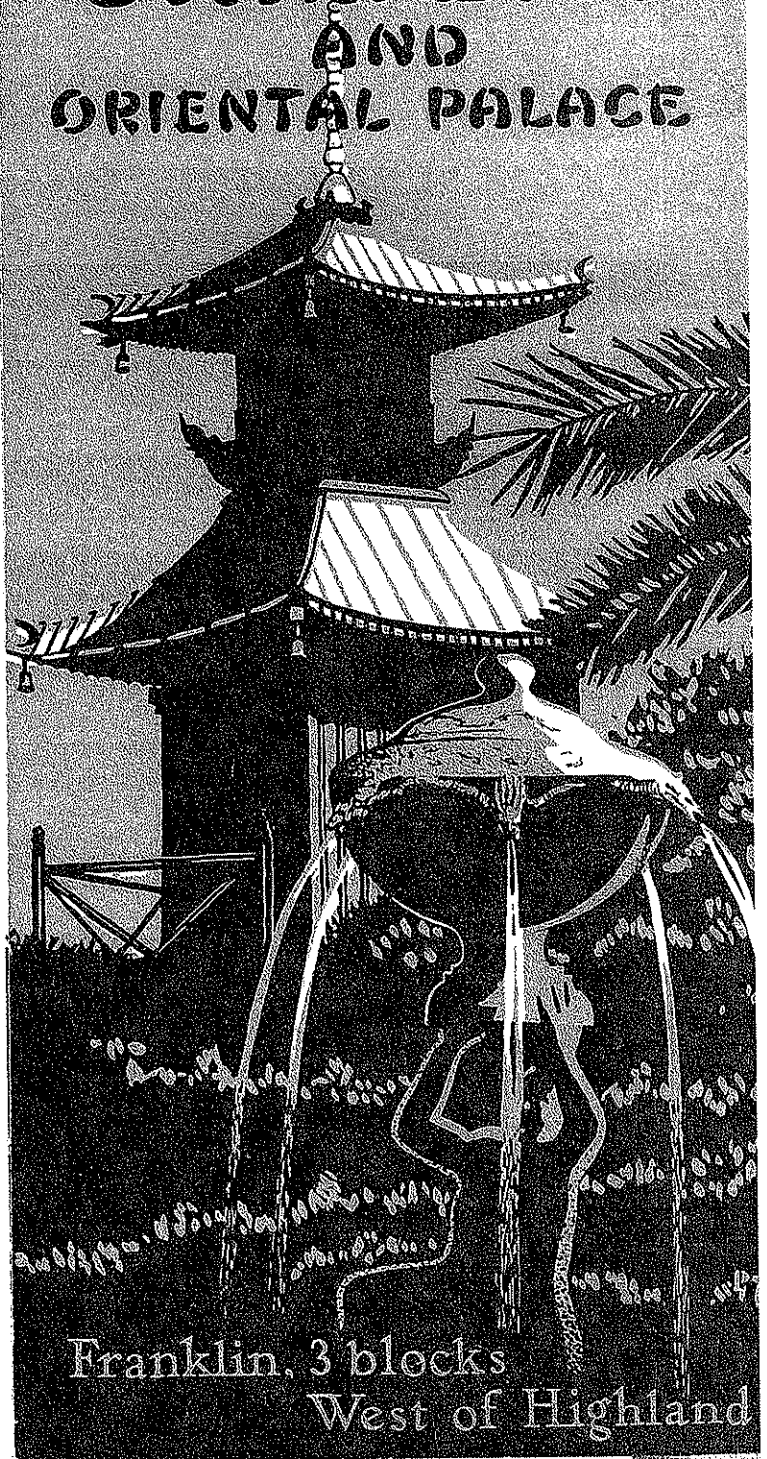
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HOLLYWOOD SCENIC GARDENS AND ORIENTAL PALACE

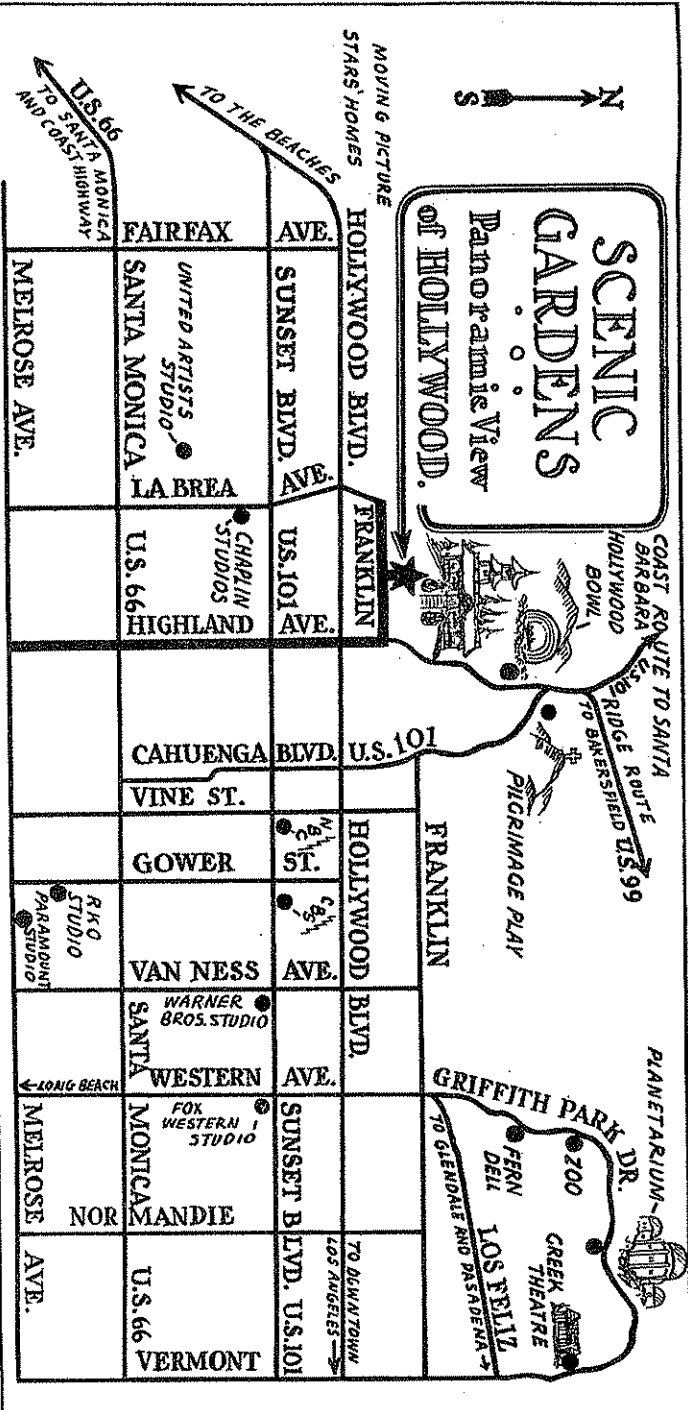


HOW TO GET THERE

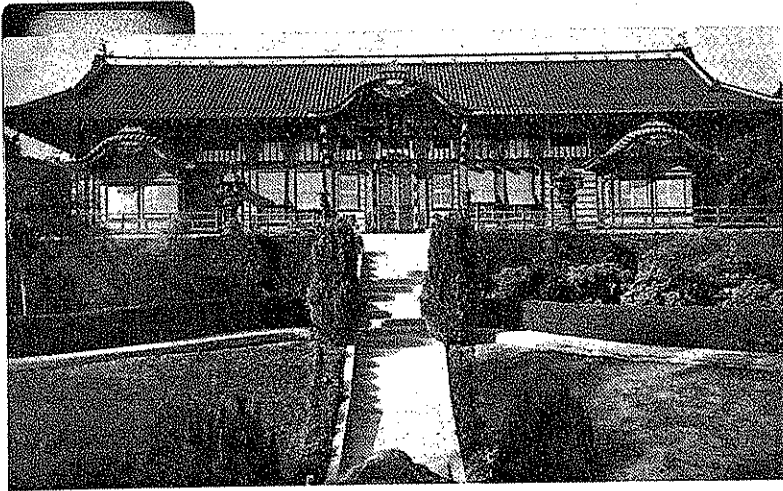
DRIVING: Go to Highland avenue and Franklin and drive 3 blocks west on Franklin to sign indicating entrance.

STREET CAR: Take red Pacific Electric "Hollywood Blvd. Car," marked "Gardner." Get off at Sycamore and walk 1 block north to Franklin, where sign indicates entrance.

SIGHTSEEING BUSES AND TAXI will also take you there — ask the driver.



Map showing the SCENIC GARDENS and other places of interest in HOLLYWOOD.



The Summer Palace of the last Empress Dowager of China at Peking was the model for Castle Yamashiro, pictured above.

SPECIAL FEATURE!
 In 1940, for the first time since the gardens were created, the Inner Court of the Castle will be open to the public. From the Court (see lower picture) the interior of the floodlighted rooms may be viewed, each furnished in Oriental style with a breath-taking display of embroidered tapestries, bronze and teak carvings, rare curios from Japan, China and Tibet, and priceless Satsuma ware and antique cloisonne. The Inner Court is open only during the hours of 11 to 12 and 3 to 5 (Sundays 2:30 to 5 only).

Hollywood Scenic Gardens and Oriental Palace

is located on a height above Hollywood Boulevard, at Franklin Avenue, 3 blocks west of Highland, in Hollywood. These Oriental gardens were originated in 1913 by the Bernheimer brothers, after years of travel through the Orient, where they collected rarest antiques of the Buddhist and Satsuma art to create this unique and fascinating Oriental wonderland. It is estimated that two million dollars have been spent to make it one of the finest showplaces in America. On the hilltop overlooking landscaped terraces is a great palace of 22 rooms, "Yamashiro" ("Castle on the Hill"), every room filled with lovely Oriental objets d'art.

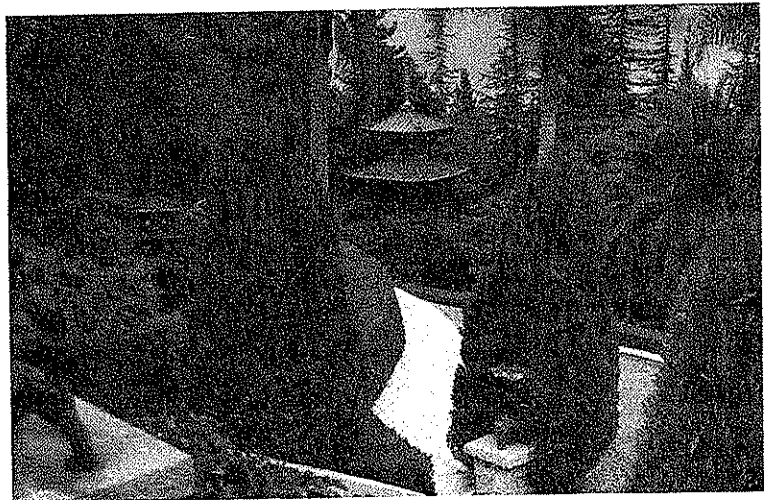
ART OBJECTS

A commanding view of Hollywood, Los Angeles and distant points is to be had from the castle terrace. The eight acres of elaborate landscaping include a miniature garden of dwarf trees, graceful little canals, waterfalls and tiny replicas of ancient dwellings, peopled with lifelike bronze statuettes of their inhabitants. Among the larger structures on the estate, one, a Pagoda, was brought intact from Japan. The estate contains over thirty thousand trees and shrubs, many of them being unusual importations from Asia and the tropics. An 80-foot lake is the home of a pair of Australian black swans. Surrounding the castle and throughout the Gardens are brilliant beds of flowers, the many spectacular varieties being at their best here under the friendly California climate.

MINIATURE GARDEN

FLOWERS AND TREES

The Gardens are open from 9:30 A.M. to 6 P.M. every day. An entrance fee of 25c is charged; children under 12 are admitted for 10c. Visitors may roam the walks at will; photographic opportunities are excellent throughout the Gardens and pictures are available on the grounds. The thousands who view Hollywood Scenic Gardens annually agree that nowhere else occurs so remarkable an exhibit of uncommon landscaping, Oriental art and architecture.



Across the Miniature Garden and Lake of Black Swans stands the 500-year-old Temple Tower Pagoda.



Sacred Inner Court, with temple pool, ancient bronze statuary and rare dwarf trees.

Eat, Drink and Be Married

BY PAUL WALLACH

Southern Californians are blessed with a wide variety of outdoor settings for wedding celebrations, perfect places for couples to celebrate that frozen moment in time that marks the beginning of a long journey.

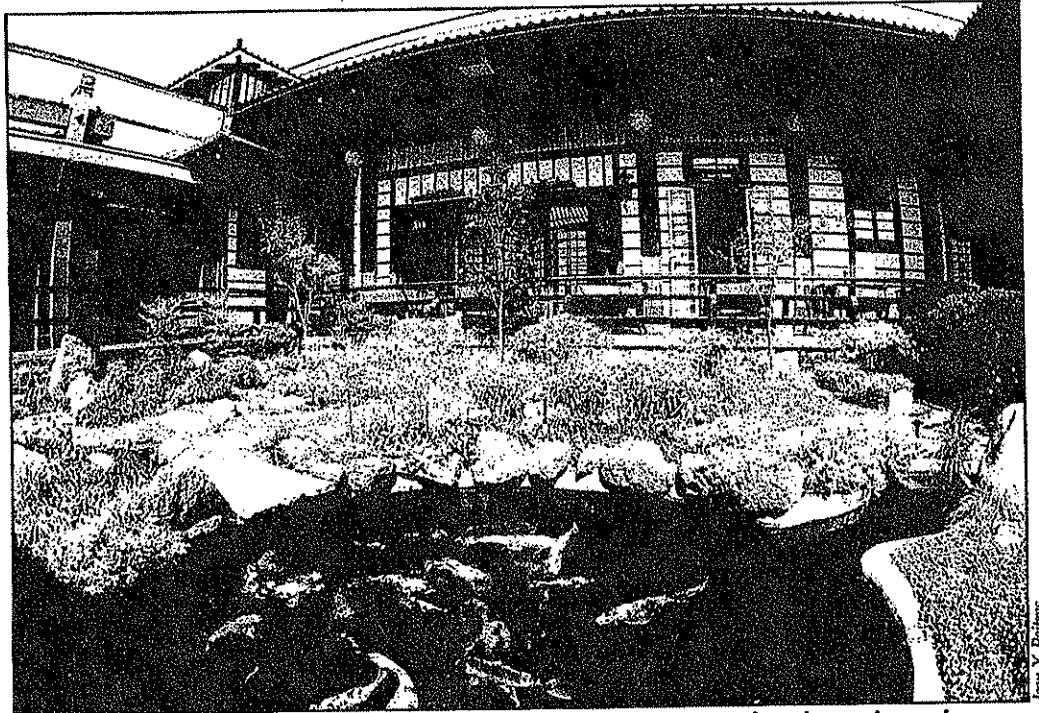
I have picked three sites for that momentous event. These are restaurants that offer a beautiful setting for both the wedding and the reception. But if your thoughts are nowhere near nuptials, you can still go to any one of these places just for a terrific meal.

Off Franklin Avenue in Hollywood, up a steep incline, there is a Japanese palace with eight acres of terraced gardens that provides a spectacular setting for a restaurant and the many weddings that take place there.

Yamashiro was created in 1914 as a private residence for two brothers to house their collection of treasures from the Far East. The building was designed as a replica of a magnificent structure located near Kyoto in Japan. Fine woods, rare antiques and temple artifacts were assembled on this site to re-create the Kyoto palace. The ten-room teak-and-cedar mansion is decorated with carved rafters lacquered in gold and tipped with bronze dragons.

The restaurant served as an exclusive club for the film industry during the golden age of Hollywood, and its authentic architecture has been used as a set for countless film productions.

During World War II, while anti-Japanese feelings ran high, Yamashiro was abandoned and eventually vandalized. The task of restoring the prop-



In Yamashiro's interior court, wedding tables surround a koi pond and a rock garden.

erty fell under the direction of Thomas Glover, the third-generation owner. In 1960 he opened the majestic edifice as a restaurant.

Today, Yamashiro, with its beautiful interior garden and surrounding landscape, has become one of the best Japanese-Continental restaurants in Los Angeles. All of the traditional Japanese dishes are on the long menu: sushi, tempura, sukiyaki, *teppan yaki* and teriyaki. Chef Masa Kurihara also prepares the Yamashiro feast, consisting of miso soup, *sunomono* salad, shrimp and vegetable tempura, lobster tail, chicken yakitori, beef teriyaki, clam *misoyaki* and fresh vegetables.

A long list of appetizers is favored by those sipping exotic cocktails in the elegant lounge. The entire dining room and lounge are terraced to maximize the breathtaking view.

Weddings usually take place in the Garden Court, a stately area of rock

paths, Japanese shrubbery and a pond filled with koi. After the ceremony, guests may stroll through the grounds highlighted by a six-hundred-year-old pagoda imported from Japan, waterfalls and hundreds of goldfish.

Moderate to expensive. Semidressy. Dinner only, 5:30 to 10 Sunday through Thursday, 5:30 to 11 on Friday and Saturday; bar open from 4:30 P.M. to 1:30 A.M., with bar menu available from 5:30 to 10:45. All major cards. Full bar. Valet parking. Banquet area.

YAMASHIRO, 1999 North Sycamore Avenue, Hollywood. Telephone: (213) 466-5125.

"The Police Academy?" I can hear you saying, "What kind of a place is that for a formal wedding?"

Well, in a word, it's wonderful. First of all, it's centrally located in Elysian Park next to Dodger Stadium. The



AIRPLANE VIEW, HOUSE AND GROUNDS OF MESSRS. ADOLPH AND EUGENE BERNHEIMER HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA

"The Castle on the Hill" (Yama Shiro)

By GEO. V. COOPER

HOLLYWOOD heretofore has been known solely as the world's leading movie metropolis. But every day it is becoming also a city of beautiful homes, and owes to the Messrs. Adolph and Eugene Bernheimer perhaps more credit for its beautiful homes than any one else in the city. Rising from the crest of the highest foothill in the Santa Monica mountains and overlooking the city of Hollywood and Los Angeles, stands (Yama Shiro). "The Castle on the Hill." The building, together with its many approaches, covers an area of about seven acres.

The grounds are reached by two approaches, one from the main road at the base of the hill, the other a long flight of stairs, broken into short runs, first by the huge entrance gate, flanked by its characteristic jap sentry boxes, and beyond that by high kiosk-covered resting platforms to the lower terrace of the hill.

The architecture in "The Castle on the Hill" is strangely reminiscent of that of the sixteenth century, when Japanese art assimilating that of Chinese and Korean, to which it owed its origin, had reached its highest state of development, with an individuality heretofore unknown. Enrichments of the most delicate carvings of birds, flowers, and water effects, all in wood, and of hand-wrought metal work, covering the intricate and ingeniously arranged structural timbering, supporting the great overhangs of tile-covered roofs, were some of the characteristics of this period.

While following closely, both in plan and detail, the best models of this type in the Orient, the chief aim was to sacrifice nothing in the

way of more modern comforts and conveniences. The main building is 116 square feet in plan, with a sunken inner court or patio 40 feet in either direction. All the living rooms of the castle open upon this inner court, set in the center of which is a splendid example of antique Japanese modeling in the form of a bronze fountain. Bronze lanterns crown the corner posts of the patio and hang from the corner rafters of the overhanging roof.

Richly-carved wood panels of "fannas," are run as a frieze over the doors between the pilasters which mark the location of timber cor-belling. Entrance to the inner court from the outside is gained through three entrances, one on each side, with the main entrance at the front. These doors lead to lofty entrance halls, with coffered ceilings paneled with gilded carvings. Painted and richly embroidered panels, set in the wainscots and framed in woodwork carved in geometric tracery and the characteristic Chinese key," cover the walls. The sides of the wall facing the inner court are constructed entirely of glass in the form of accordion doors, which fold back against the cross walls, throwing open entrance halls to the inner enclosure or patio.

Several features that are extraordinary are incorporated in the drawing room located at the northern end of the inner court.

A platform at the north end of the drawing room is raised about 16 inches above the floor level and covered with soft Japanese grass matting two inches thick; it is used as a settee. A picture is formed on the walls by painting on a series of screens set in the lacquered frames enriched with hand-wrought metal. It produces a very beautiful wall and harmonizes beautifully with the ceiling.

Flanking the entrance door at the south end of the rooms are two "Tonkanomas." The "Tonkanomas" in the Japanese homes are shrines for worshiping, and are hung with sacred pictures and images. In this particular case they form small alcoves wherein are placed richly-carved cabinets and beautifully embroidered screens.

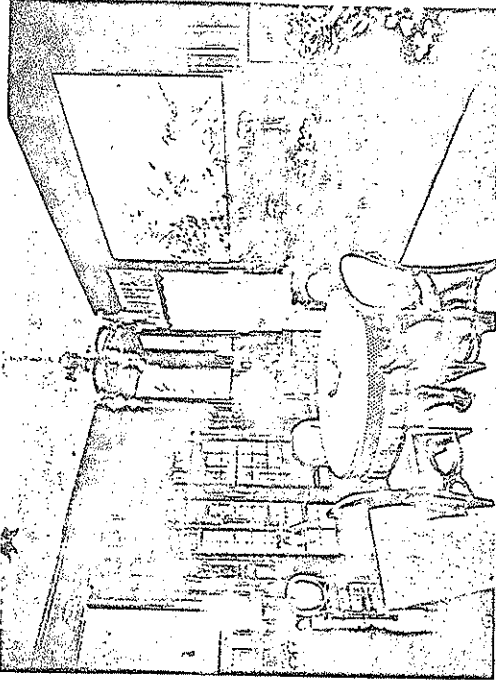
The ceiling of this room is carved in wood in the form of birds, garlands of flowers and water effects, all planted on a ground work of silk, which forms the general decorative feature of the same.

The tea room, 30 feet long, with its carved and gilded panels and hand-wrought metal, has the south wall constructed on the same principle as the accordion doors, so that in its entire length it can be thrown open to the inner court or patio. The built-in raised settee, as in the drawing room, is a feature of the tea room.

The dining room in the north-west corner of the court is wainscoted in oak from the floor to the ceiling, the upper panels being beautiful examples of modern Japanese pictorial embroidery.

Some of the finest Japanese carvings in the world are represented in the center piece of the lighting fixtures, and the fowls of the air are set in the corner of the silk-covered ceiling. All the metal work, carvings, lighting fixtures, embroideries, painted panels and furnishings were made in Japan by the Japanese people.

Concerning the art panels, which had not arrived from abroad when the woodwork was set up, it was necessary to exercise extreme care in dimensioning the spaces into which they were to fit. Enough allowances were made for possible variations from sizes that were sent to the artists in Japan, by making these spaces somewhat larger than the panels they were to frame. This also permitted the panels to be firmly secured in place to the backing of the wainscot by small metal clips—a



DINING ROOM, HOUSE OF MESSRS. ABOLTE AND EUGENE BERSHEMER
HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA

necessary expedient, as the designs of the panels were worked to the very edge. A broad surface mould planted on the stiles and rails of the wainscoting and overlapping the edges of same was made to act as a frame to the panel, and as a closer to the space between the panel edge of the woodwork.

The preparation of carefully drawn details in the construction of the lighting fixtures prevented difficulties. Problems like these were arising continually, each claiming consideration and forcing its own solution.

The buildings are of native woods; the walls, rails, porches, retaining walls, ornamented staircase, etc., are of reinforced concrete. The overlaps of the roofs are eight feet, supported by a series of corbels and cantilevers extending from the main walls of the building in tiers. The exposed timberings are ornamented by hand-wrought metal work, and the ends of same, including the ends of all rafters, are metal tipped.

* * *

Secretary Hoover Says: "Build a Home"

Herbert Hoover says: "There is no incentive to thrift like the ownership of property. The man who owns his own home has a happy sense of security. He will invest his hard-earned savings to improve the house he owns. He will develop it and defend it. No man ever worked for or fought for a boarding house."

PALATIAL HOME IS FINISHED.

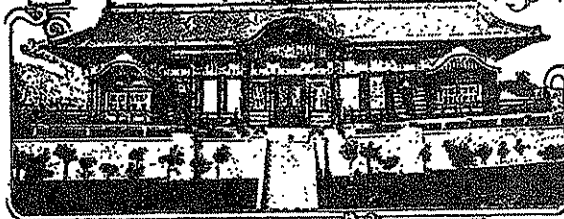
Crowns Hollywood Hill Like
Shogun's Castle.

Bachelor's House Equals of
Japanese Art.

Women May Never be Guests
There, Says Builder.

The Yama Shiro, a finished, two-story residence of the Japanese style, was opened for inspection, on the hillside of a Hollywood, but in reality to be the home of two New York city architects—Joseph and Joseph Harshbarger.

Wonderful House on a Slightly Hill.



"Yama Shiro," the Harshbarger Japanese villa.

Above are the villa and grounds in perspective, showing the front gate. In the center is the quarter-million-dollar building as it appears from the front. Below is the entrance between facing the lower court, showing the priceless Bizen chair, the gift of a Japanese nobleman.

ing to wear a telegraph procedure and other symbols in Japanese life being shown. On the floor in the Japan, designed and colored to harmonize with the subdued colors and number of the rooms, with a suitless floor near the steps.

to do with the guests of friends, that momentary floor being woven in Japanese style. Along the ceiling of the entrance-hall are lanterns of every design and rank, actual relics of past centuries, handily placed and worked.

The Yama Shiro, the Harshbarger home, has been planned this home, its setting being out to present effect the attractiveness of the Japanese architecture. Various Japanese terraces in the corners of the hillside, in various positions of growth, and about the place that have been harvested from earth, grass and growing in the hills, and first trees are beginning to show.

have traveled through Japanese-made corridors that there is nothing in native Japan to surpass the marvelous beauty of the Harshbarger villa, a replica of all desirable in a Japanese dwelling place. And with the architect's approval of it all, there comes a touch of modesty to the fact that the house was built by a man who has been called a "gentleman" in the Japanese sense.

For many years the two successful artists have been working in their studios, observing the most artistic architecture in the East, and all nations with which they came in contact. Of them all, they agreed that the Japanese are the most artistic people. Each admired the Japanese art, and finally agreed to establish a permanent home in California. They purchased an empty hill, a small distance from Hollywood, and there chose the site for the wonderful Japanese villa that has just been completed.

For years they have been gathering art works of Japan, and the collection is scattered. All these they contributed to the villa that is completed, hundreds of feet above the boulevard. A winding road of whitest concrete, constructed by the architects, plus their contribution to the place, a low wall of stone, and at each landing-place there is a quiet Japanese gateway and a building of the outposts that marking close made necessary in the final construction of the villa.

ART BY THE BERRY

The exterior of the home—a great building, 214 feet square—is a complete architectural expression of the master of Japan. The peculiar style of that land is fully developed; the curved and winding roof line with polished sweep; the tiled roof, lustrous with shiny Japanese tiles that break the breath of some old powder of brown stone. From the roof line all down to the base, the color of the stone is a rich, warm, and all these are highlighted by designs of black, but black, with the lighter shades in the distance.

The main entrance leads upon the terrace which, small, at once, with curved white walls, supported by the most wonderful lacquer of the house, the wonderful lacquer of the house, the work of a Japanese artist, a masterpiece of art. With the door, the work of a Japanese artist, the door is a masterpiece of art, and a short distance they have all the color and smoothness of an oil painting.

set will be made a long trip and returned to purchase it. Of the day in the bedroom, so wonderful that a woman should see it. The carved, lacquer structure is in absolute perfection, the intricate work of the artist, as the artist's work is shown. Behind the carved wood that in white, white in a white, white, all colors subdued and glowing.

CHARMING INTERIOR

As an illustration of the nature charm of the place, the lights in the bedroom are pendant from the line of an ancient Chinese lantern on a tripod. The body is of carved lacquer, with the white of the lacquer, white and shades of lower slow reflecting the light. There is no other such decoration for an electric light in the United States, and the lantern was purchased by Mr. Harshbarger in a distant village in Japan, where a such lantern had become rare decades on the one place.

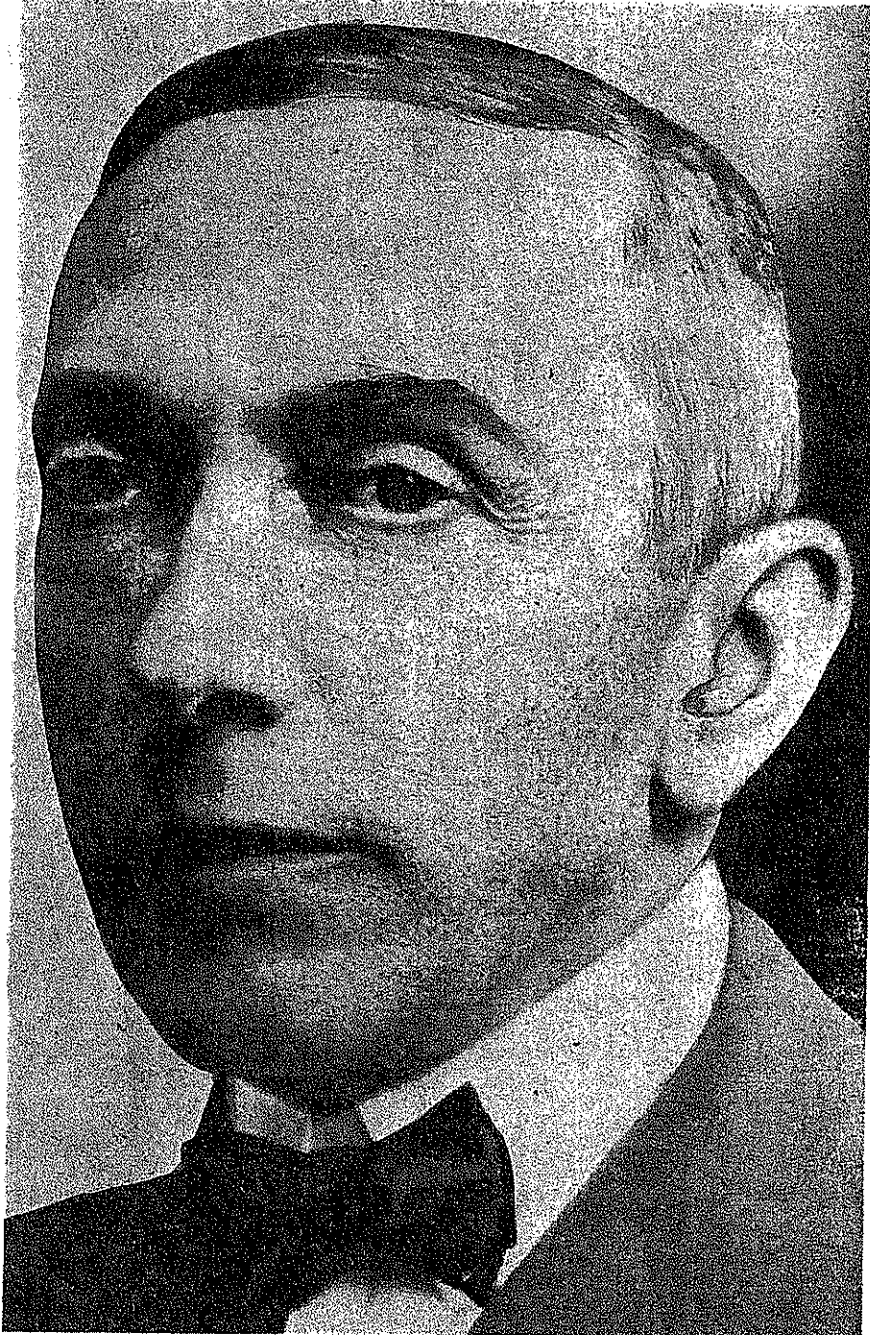
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The interior is one of the most striking. The door to the villa, the other than those opening to the court, is a masterpiece of art. A few steps away from the door, a low wall of stone is scattered pillars of the section down covered with white, and the line between the two, however, separates from the ceiling. The white is the beauty of a "vase" or Japanese sculpture.

STUNNING MAGNIFICENCE

For pure magnificence the room is decorated by other means that only such a room would be. From the ceiling several lines of carved lacquer work with some flowers in full bloom blossoming. The upper back of the chair are of the dark form of a dragon that swims over the water. The other rooms in the house, the walls here are entirely covered with the lacquer, some of an airy character.

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MR. ADOLPH BERNHEIMER

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All lots are to be so.

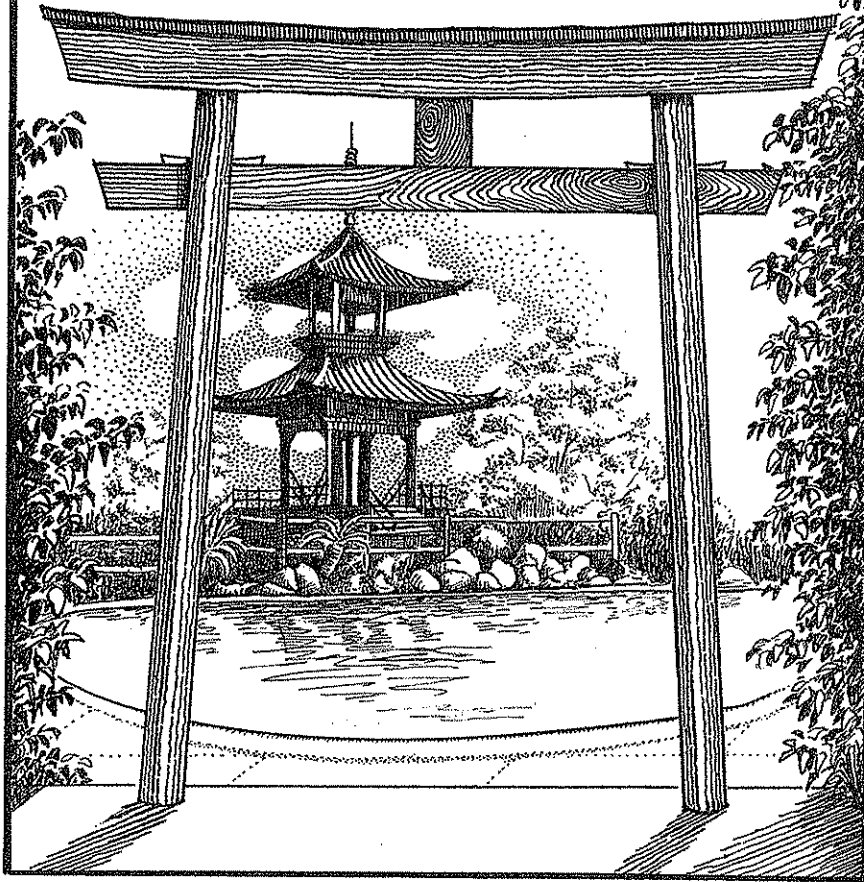
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HOLLYWOOD HILL CLUB

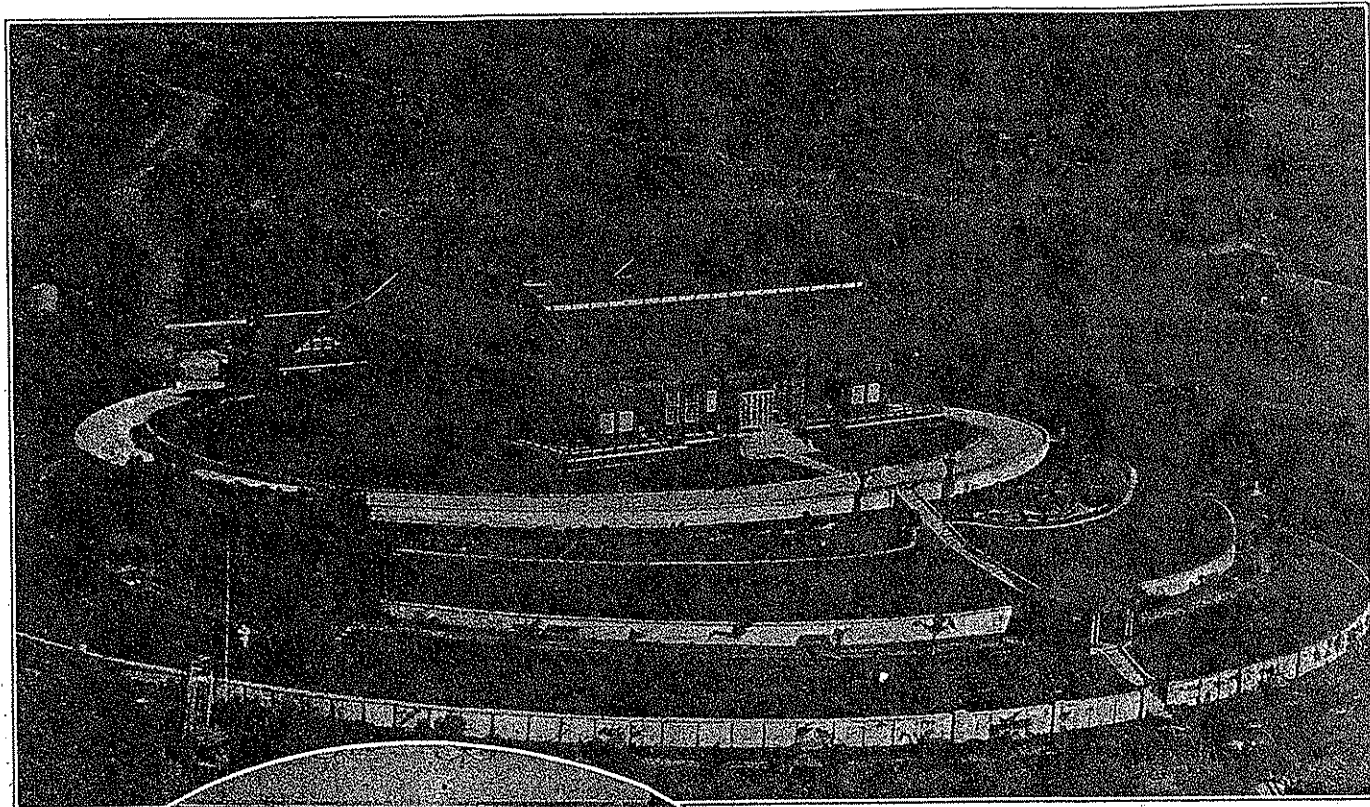


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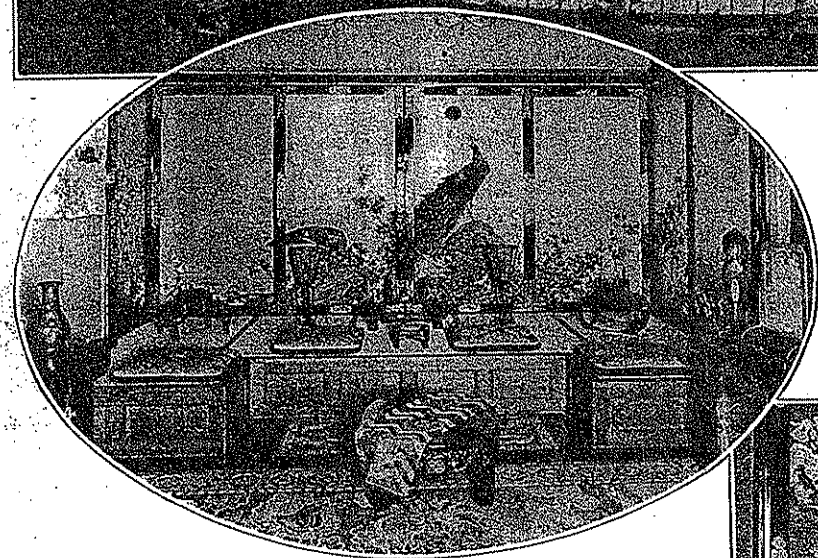
.. MEMBER'S SIGNATURE ..

By Reservation Only - HO 2-0921
1999 N. Sycamore Hollywood

Hollywood's Four Hundred Club



An airplane view of the club



The tea house of the club is decorated in the manner of old Japan. The tapestry and other furnishings are antiques collected in the Orient.

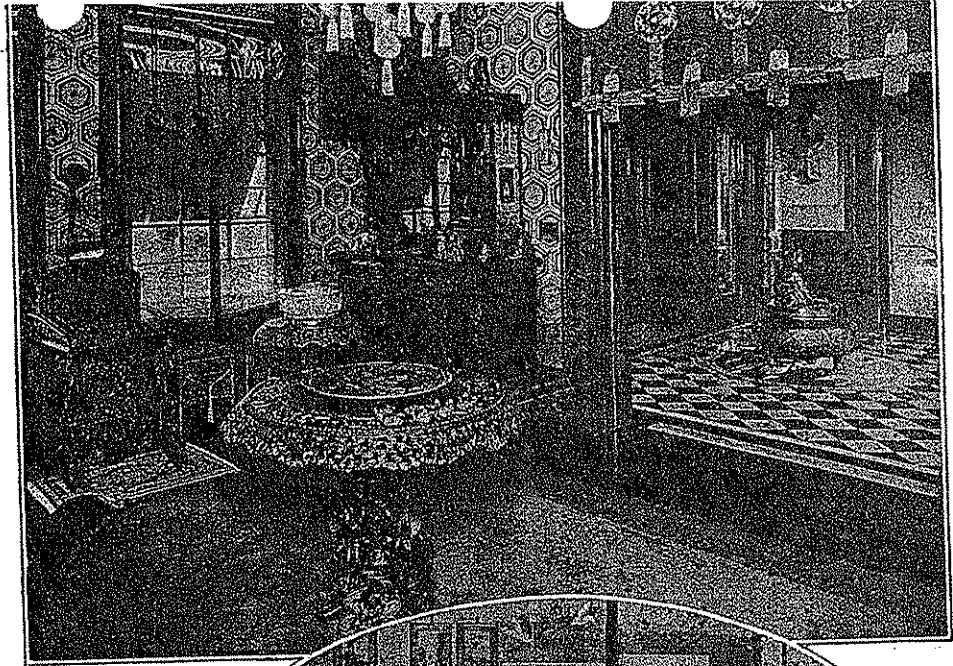
This is the women's lounge



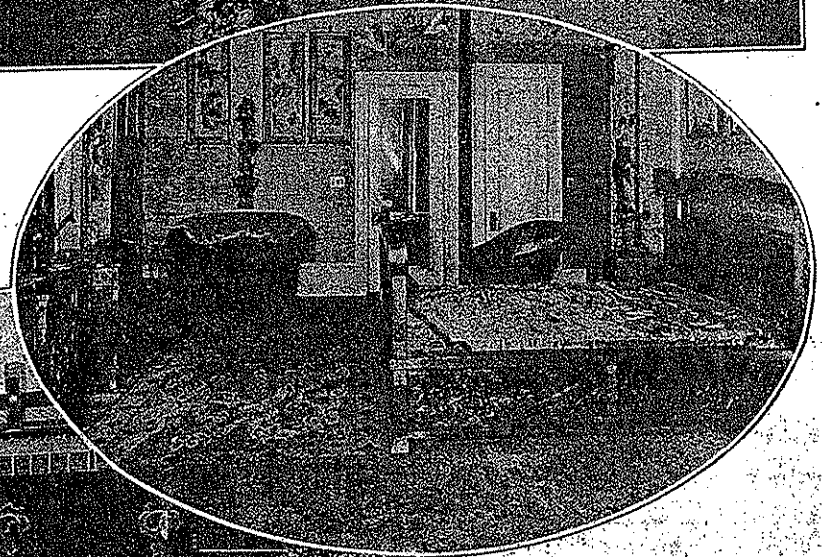
HERE are the first pictures of Hollywood's new and ultra-exclusive Four Hundred Club. The directors of the club purchased the luxurious Japanese mansion situated on a high hill overlooking all Hollywood, which has long been world-famous. The place was created originally by the Bernheimer brothers, millionaire importers of Oriental goods. They had spent years and a fortune in collecting art treasures from the far East, but when one of the brothers died recently, the other sold the estate.

The grounds consist of twelve acres, landscaped in the Oriental manner and dotted with age-old shrines and statues brought from China and Japan. In one corner of the gardens there is a miniature but complete Japanese village. The Four Hundred Club, whose membership is exclusively prominent motion picture people, will make extensive improvements, involving a total expenditure of \$2,500,000. On either side of the building here shown wings will be built. One wing will house a theater and the other a spacious ballroom. A large swimming pool will be constructed in the foreground. The riding stables will be in the rear. The trail, shown in the picture, winds for miles through the Hollywood hills.

The men's lounge, directly off the entrance hall, is riotous with color. Soft silks cover even the window frames and the furnishings are of priceless teakwood



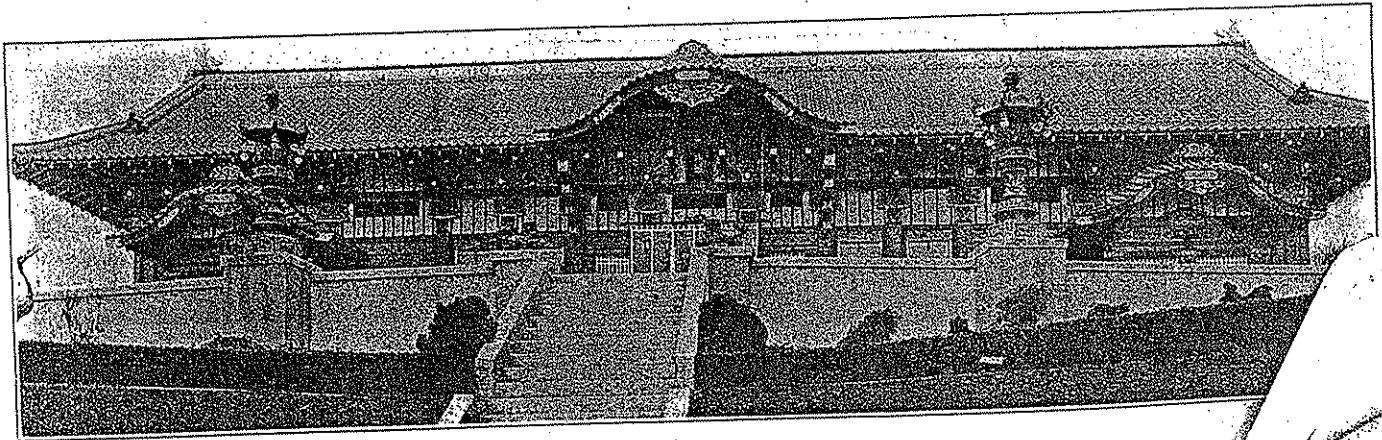
The club boasts several bedrooms as luxurious as the one shown in the oval. The bed is a splendid example of Japanese hand carving, while the Japanese prints are the sort for which collectors die



The main building (below), constructed around this beautiful patio, has a porch which runs its entire length and which will be used as an outdoor tea room. The antique bronze figure in the foreground is another collector's jewel



Below is the main building, reached by one of the longest stairways in the world, only a small part of which is shown in the picture. To this building wings will be added. The porch will be turned into an open air restaurant





YAMASHIRO

CalAsian Cuisine

DINING

RESERVATIONS

EVENTS

TOUR

ACCOMMODATIONS

RESTAURANT INFO

HOME

Yamashiro History



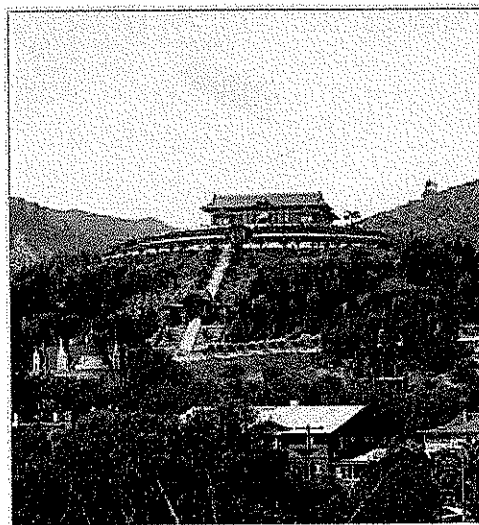
The Bernheimer Brothers (L & R ends) in 1914

When they finished Yamashiro in Hollywood, 300 steps led up the hillside through superbly landscaped Japanese gardens to the 10-room teak and cedar mansion, where carved rafters were lacquered in gold and tipped with bronze dragons. A Sacred Inner Court formed a lovely garden in the center of the building and was filled with sculptured plants, stone hewn pools and rare fish. This Inner Court provided light and air to the surrounding rooms where the walls were covered with lustrous silks and hung with antique tapestries.

Landscaping at Yamashiro was a \$2 million effort and resulted in California's foremost Japanese gardens. Hillside terraces were filled with 30,000 varieties of trees and shrubs, waterfalls, hundreds of goldfish, and even a private zoo of exotic birds and monkeys. Miniature bronze houseboats floated along a maze of tiny canals through a miniature Japanese village.

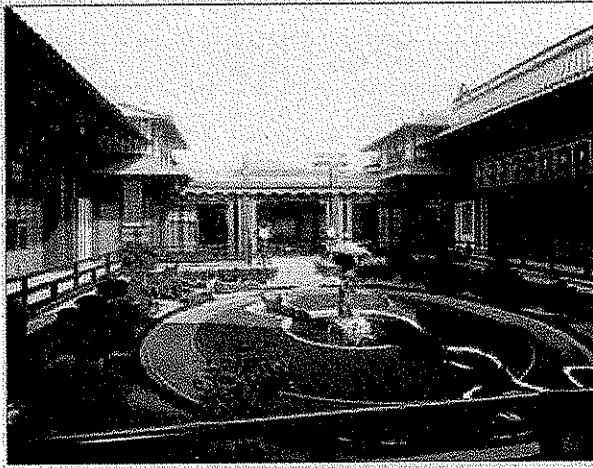
For 88 years Yamashiro has watched over the history of Hollywood. It has witnessed the birth of the film industry, the glamour of Hollywood's "Golden Age", the difficult times of war with Japan, and the current period of intense interest in Eastern cultures. Yamashiro started as a fabulous private estate and is now open to the public as a unique restaurant and public gardens.

Yamashiro means "Mountain Palace" in Japanese. It was the dream of the Bernheimer brothers in 1911 to build a hilltop mansion 250 feet above Hollywood Boulevard to house their priceless collection of Asian treasures. Hundreds of skilled craftsmen were brought from the Orient to recreate an exact replica of a palace located in the "Yamashiro" mountains near Kyoto, Japan. This dream became a reality in 1914.



300 steps leading up the hillside to Yamashiro.

Today you can still see the 600-year-old pagoda (seen above, behind Bernheimer Brothers) which was brought from Japan and set beside a lake which once housed rare black Australian swans and is now converted into a modern swimming pool. Most of the Asian collection, however – the Buddhist and Satsuma art, the rare jades, tapestries and cloisonne chandeliers – were auctioned off in 1922 after one of the Bernheimer



The interior Garden Court.

Hollywood, like the rest of the country, suffered with the Great Depression. But, Yamashiro remained, and for twenty-five cents you could tour the unparalleled Japanese gardens and admire the spectacular view of all Los Angeles and the Pacific Ocean beyond.

Rumor has it that during those tragic years, beautiful (though starving) actresses were available at Yamashiro for hire for the evening to those who could still afford such pleasures.



One of the many rooms filled with antiques and silk tapestries.

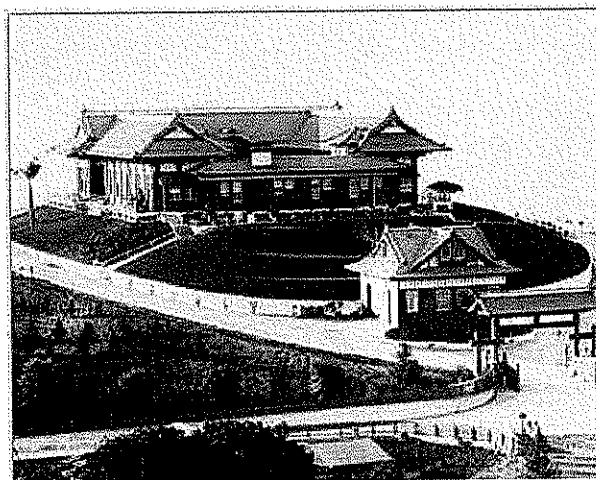


Thomas O Glover giving someone a ride in front of Yamashiro

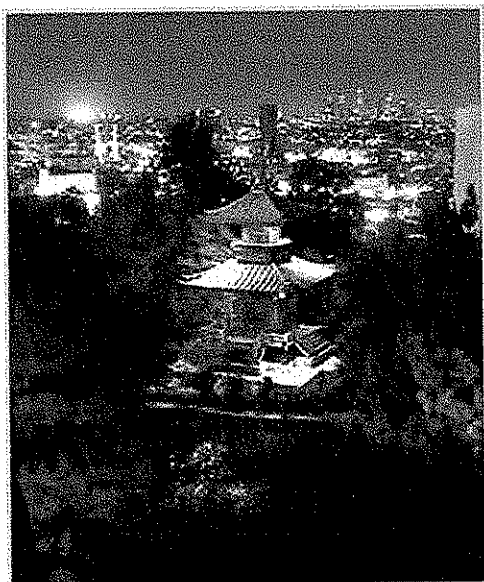
At the outbreak of World War II, anti-Japanese sentiment spread rapidly in Hollywood and throughout the country. In the post Pearl Harbor paranoia, Yamashiro was mistakenly rumored to be a signal tower for the Japanese. Much of the beautiful landscaping and decorative elements of the palace itself were stripped by vandals. Yamashiro's distinctive Asian architecture was disguised, the beautiful carved woods covered with paint, and the estate became a boys' military school.

At the end of the war with Japan, a builder bought the property, added a second story, and converted Yamashiro into 15 apartment units. Then in 1948, the estate, unrecognizable and in disrepair, was purchased by Thomas O. Glover, who originally intended to tear down the structure and develop a hotel and apartment units on the seven acres of property. While preparing to demolish, he discovered the treasure of ornate woodwork and silk wallpaper hidden under layers of black paint. He realized that this was too important to destroy and decided to restore the property. This became a 20-year project which continues even today.

Continuing to restore Yamashiro's historic buildings and grounds, a remodeling program has been established by Tom Y. Glover, the son of Tom O. Glover. The restaurant now includes the westside Sunset Room, in addition to the air conditioned main dining room terraces, bar lounge and Skyview banquet room overlooking downtown L.A., Hollywood, Beverly Hills, past Century City's distinctive skyline to the beaches beyond. The Inner Courtyard, popular for dining, banquets, and weddings, has been renovated, and the Japanese gardens and pools with colorful Koi fish have been returned to their former tranquil beauty. Today tour groups constantly visit the grounds to take in the unique view of Hollywood.



The smaller house in front was used originally as a carriage house - a home for a horse and buggy.



The Pagoda - The oldest structure in California.

For three decades, guests have enjoyed Yamashiro's gracious Japanese ambience, with its award-winning Japanese menu. Two years ago, a complete management change instituted renovations inside the building and an elegant yet contemporary new direction in service and food, resulting in the creation of the restaurant's highly praised CalAsian cuisine, complementing classic Japanese favorites. Now the complete dining experience is unmatched in Los Angeles, enhanced by the spectacular view that originally drew the Bernheimer brothers, and later the Glover family, to this Hollywood hilltop to build Yamashiro, Hollywood's own "Mountain Palace".

By Thomas Y. Glover

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[GIFTS](#) | [NEWS](#) | [RESERVATIONS](#) | [DINING](#) | [INFORMATION](#)

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

(State use only)
 UTM _____ Q _____ NR 3 SHL _____
 Lat _____ Lon _____ Era _____ Sig _____
 Adm _____ T2 _____ T3 _____ Cat HABS _____ HAER _____ Fed _____
 UTM 11/376300/3774560 111D

IDENTIFICATION

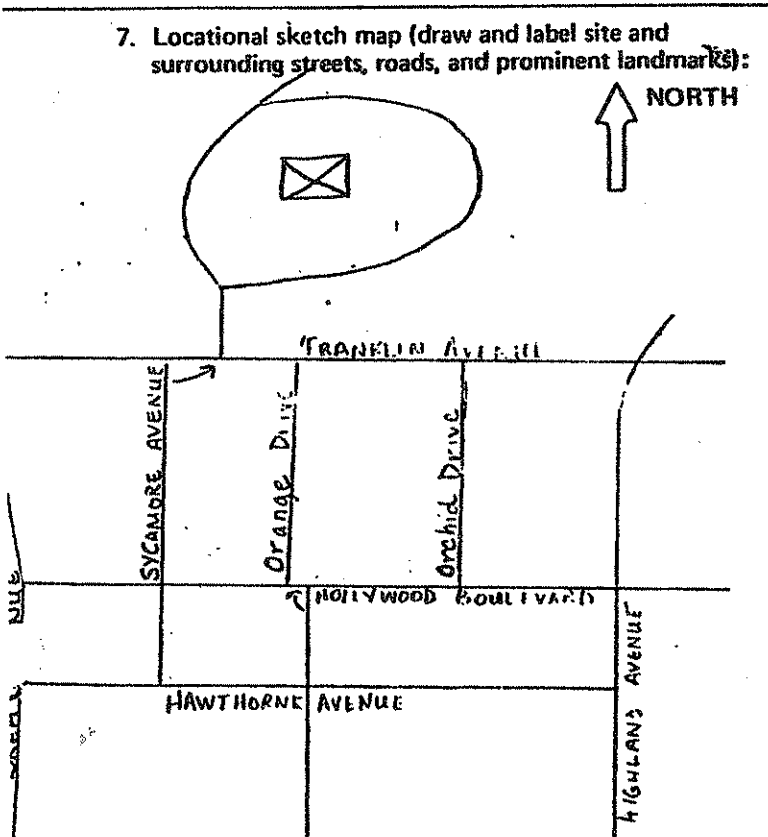
1. Common name: CASTLE YAMASHIRO 19-0053-
2. Historic name, if known: Bernheimer Buildings
3. Street or rural address 1999 North Sycamore Avenue
 City: Los Angeles ZIP: 90068 County: Los Angeles
4. Present owner, if known: Hollywood Hill Hotel Apts. Address: 1999 N. Sycamore Ave.
 City: Los Angeles ZIP: 90068 Ownership is: Public Private
5. Present Use: Hotel & Restaurant Original Use: Residence
- Other past uses: _____

DESCRIPTION

6. Briefly describe the present physical appearance of the site or structure and describe any major alterations from its original condition:

Castle Yamashiro is a two-story, concrete and wood structure measuring 116 feet square in size. It is arranged around a central patio which at one time was open-air. The architectural style is oriental, reminiscent of sixteenth century Japanese mixed with Chinese and Korean. The front of the facade features three large torii canopies and a ponderous roof resembling a bellcast mansard type. The house has been altered to suit its new use as a hotel and restaurant and some of the formal gardens have been altered, but the structure is basically the same.

7. Locational sketch map (draw and label site and surrounding streets, roads, and prominent landmarks):



8. Approximate property size:

Lot size (in feet) Frontage _____
 Depth _____
 or approx. acreage 7.02±

9. Condition: (check one)

a. Excellent b. Good c. Fair
 d. Deteriorated e. No longer in existence

10. Is the feature a. Altered? b. Unaltered?

11. Surroundings: (Check more than one if necessary)

a. Open land b. Scattered buildings
 c. Densely built-up d. Residential
 e. Commercial f. Industrial
 g. Other

12. Threats to site:

a. None known b. Private development
 c. Zoning d. Public Works project
 e. Vandalism f. Other

The following (Items 14-19) are for structures only.

- Primary exterior building material: a. Stone b. Brick c. Stucco d. Adobe e. Wood
f. Other reinforced concrete
15. Is the structure: a. On its original site? b. Moved? c. Unknown?
16. Year of initial construction 1913 This date is: a. Factual b. Estimated
17. Architect (if known): Franklin M. Small
18. Builder (if known): _____
19. Related features: a. Barn b. Carriage house c. Outhouse d. Shed(s) e. Formal garden(s)
f. Windmill g. Watertower/tankhouse h. Other _____ i. None

SIGNIFICANCE

20. Briefly state historical and/or architectural importance (include dates, events, and persons associated with the site when known):

Adolph and Eugene Bernheimer were two wealthy importers of Oriental Art who settled in Southern California and proceeded, in 1913, to erect a mansion-museum on one of the most striking sites in Hollywood. It was filled with their art treasures from the Orient and enriched with wrought metal work, hand carved wood and painted panels. Their estate's gardens were equally lavish, containing waterfalls, Japanese sentry boxes and a pagoda imported intact from Japan. After the death of the brothers, the estate became known as the "Japanese Gardens" or "Hollywood Scenic Gardens" and was opened to the public. Currently, it is a hotel and restaurant, still maintaining the oriental motif.

22. (cont.) Administration. Los Angeles: A Guide to the City & Its Environs. New York: Hastings House, 1941.

21. Main theme of the historic resource: (Check only one): a. Architecture b. Arts & Leisure
c. Economic/Industrial d. Exploration/Settlement e. Government f. Military
g. Religion h. Social/Education

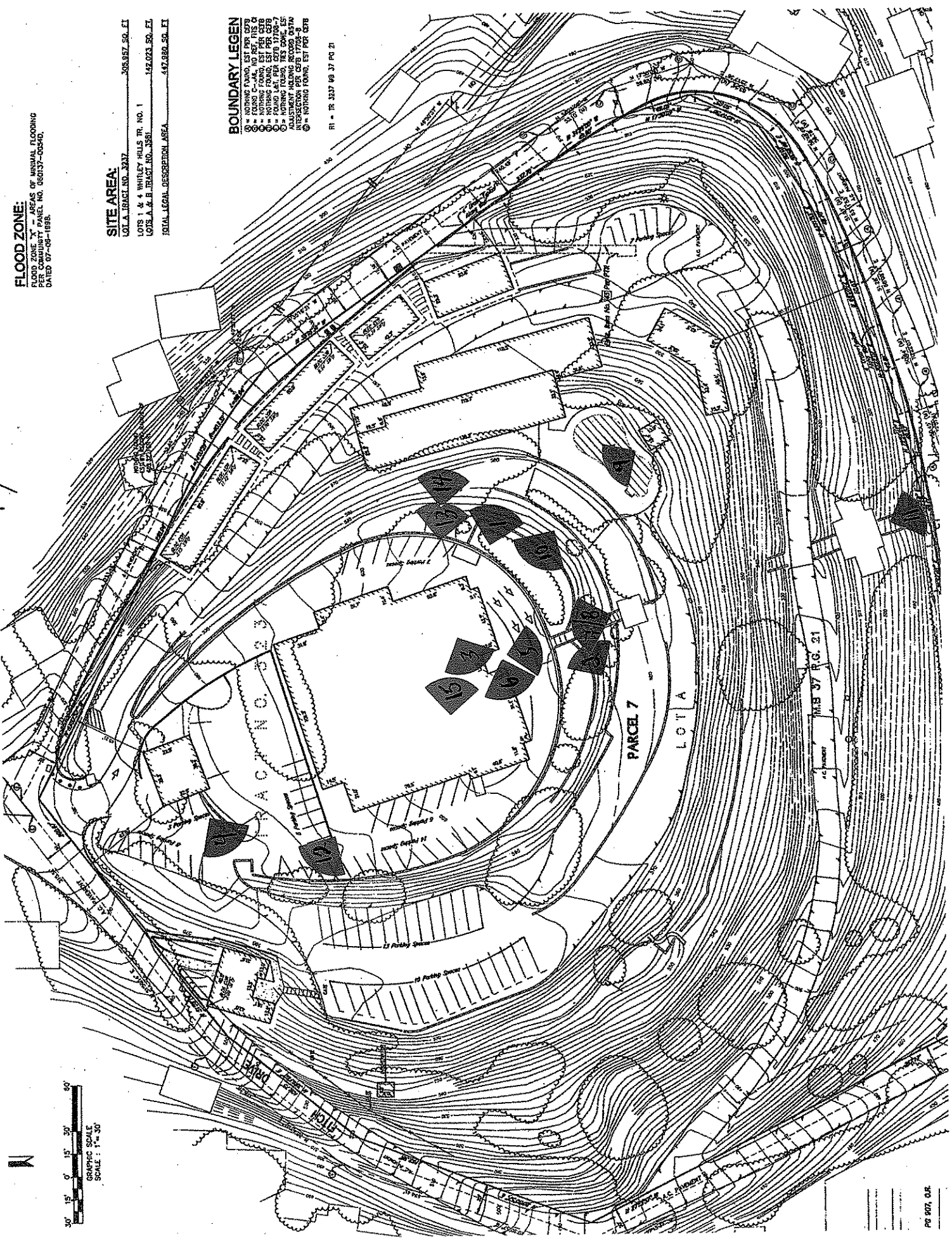
22. Sources: List books, documents, surveys, personal interviews, and their dates:

Gordon, Dudley. The Cultural Assets of Los Angeles. Los Angeles: Ward Ritchie Press, 1941
Los Angeles Times, April 7, 1912, V, 1; January 11, 1914, V, 1. O'Dodd, George, "The Cas on the Hill" (Yama Shiro), Architect & Engineer, June 1923, Pages 87-94. Work Projects (con

23. Date form prepared: Nov. 1976 By (name): Dennis Smith - Tom Sitton
Address: 900 Exposition Blvd. City Los Angeles ZIP: 90007
Phone: (213) 746-0410 x241 Organization: Natural History Museum

(State Use Only)

Key 2: Current Photos



FLOOD ZONE:
 FLOOD ZONE "X" AREAS OF MINIMAL FLOODING
 DATED 07-08-1998

SITE AREA:
 LOT A TRACT NO. 3247 363,957 SQ. FT.
 LOTS 1 & 4 WHITLEY HILLS TR. NO. 1
 LOT 1A & B TRACT NO. 3581 142,023 SQ. FT.
 TOTAL LEGAL DESCRIPTION AREA 447,880 SQ. FT.

BOUNDARY LEGEND
 (S) = NOTHING FOUND, EST. PER CDE
 (C) = NOTHING FOUND, EST. PER CDE
 (O) = NOTHING FOUND, EST. PER CDE
 (D) = NOTHING FOUND, EST. PER CDE
 (P) = FOUND LOT PER CDE 17706-7
 (I) = FOUND LOT PER CDE 17706-7
 (A) = ADJACENT HOLDING RECORD DATA
 (X) = INTERSECTION PER CDE 17706-8
 (M) = NOTHING FOUND, EST. PER CDE

RI - TR 2327 08 37 PG 21



Key 3rd Oversize Photos

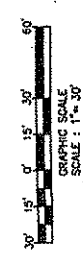
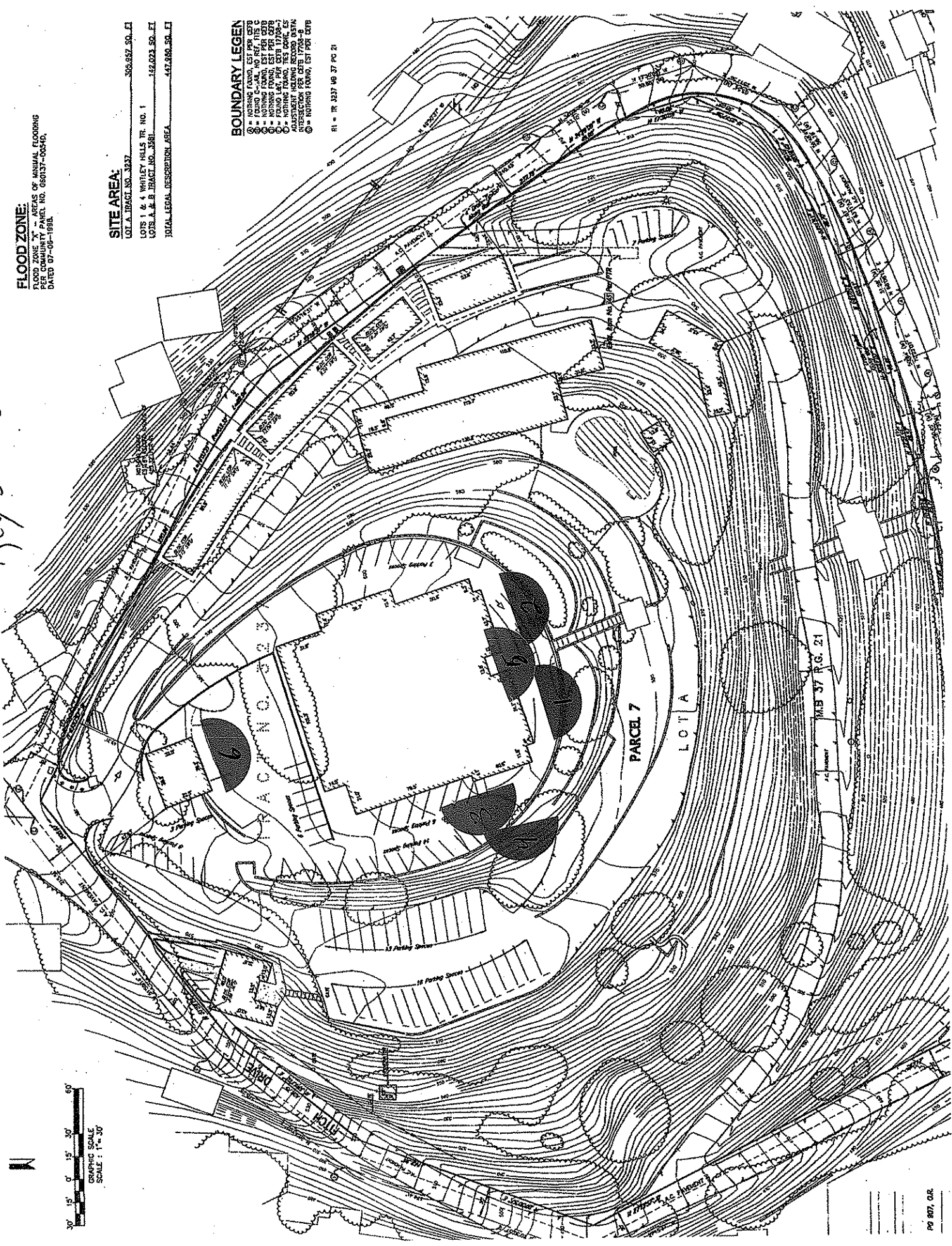
FLOOD ZONE:
FLOOD ZONE "X" - AREAS OF ANNUAL FLOODING
PER COMMUNITY PANEL NO. 060137-00540,
DATED 07-09-1994.

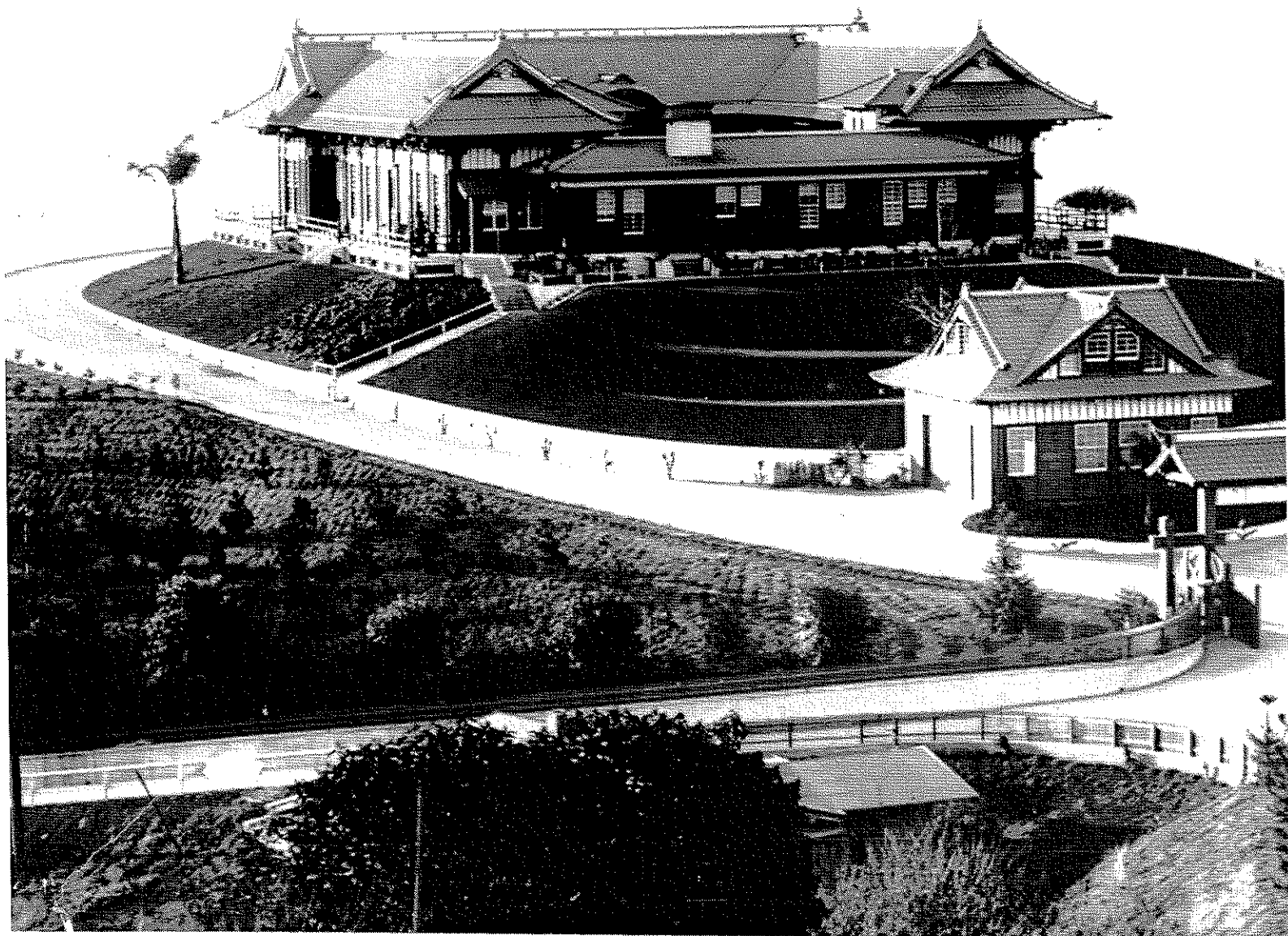
SITE AREA:

LOLA TRACT NO. 3327 306,952 SQ. FT.
LOTS 1 & 4 WHITLEY HILLS TR. NO. 1 142,023 SQ. FT.
CORP. A.B. TRACT NO. 3381 447,840 SQ. FT.
TOTAL LEGAL DESCRIPTION AREA

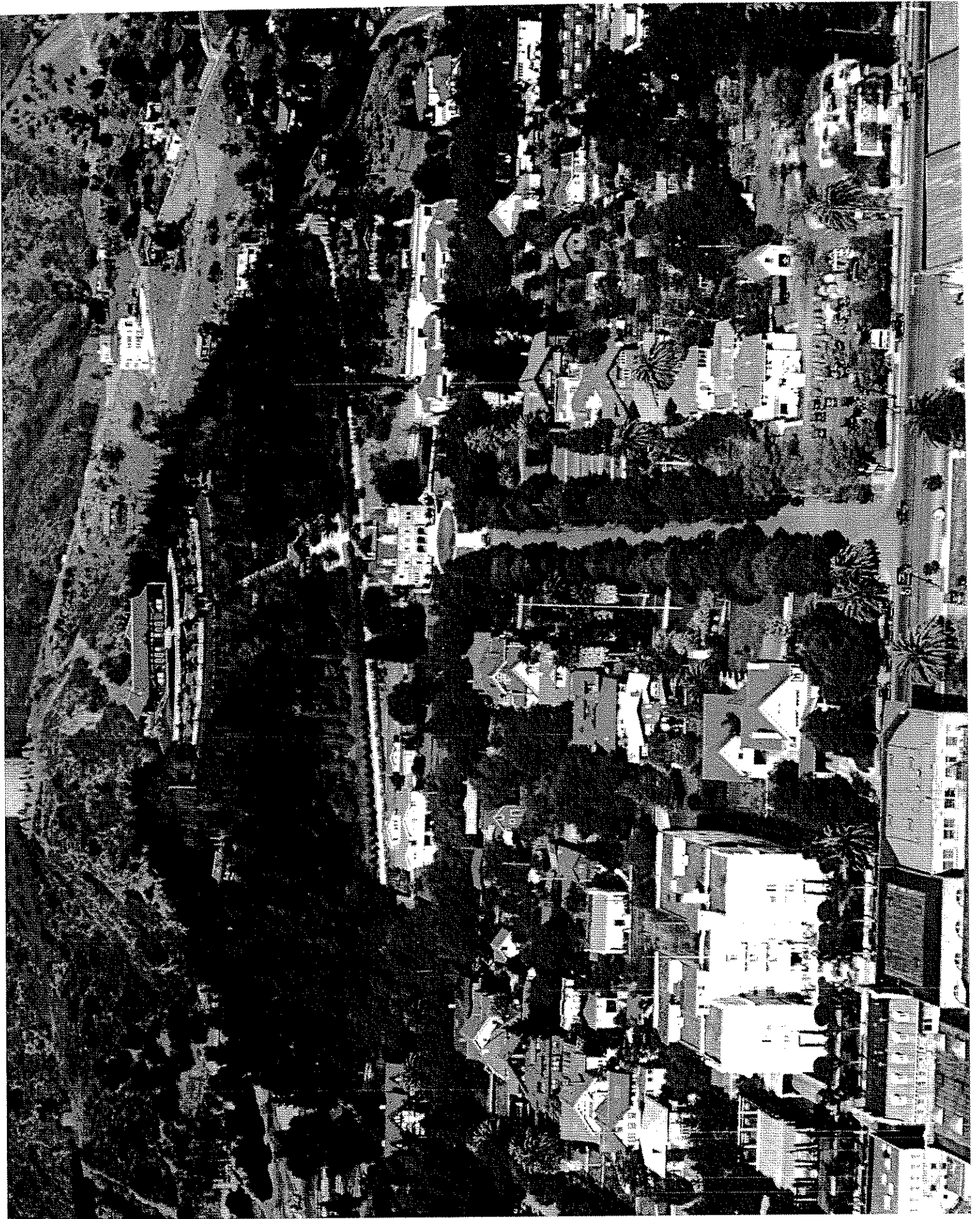
BOUNDARY LEGEN
① - NOTHING DRAWN, EST PER CTR
② - FOUND CORNER, NO REF. THIS C
③ - NOTHING DRAWN, EST PER CTR
④ - NOTHING DRAWN, EST PER CTR
⑤ - NOTHING DRAWN, EST PER CTR
⑥ - NOTHING DRAWN, EST PER CTR
⑦ - NOTHING DRAWN, EST PER CTR
⑧ - NOTHING DRAWN, EST PER CTR
⑨ - NOTHING DRAWN, EST PER CTR
⑩ - NOTHING DRAWN, EST PER CTR

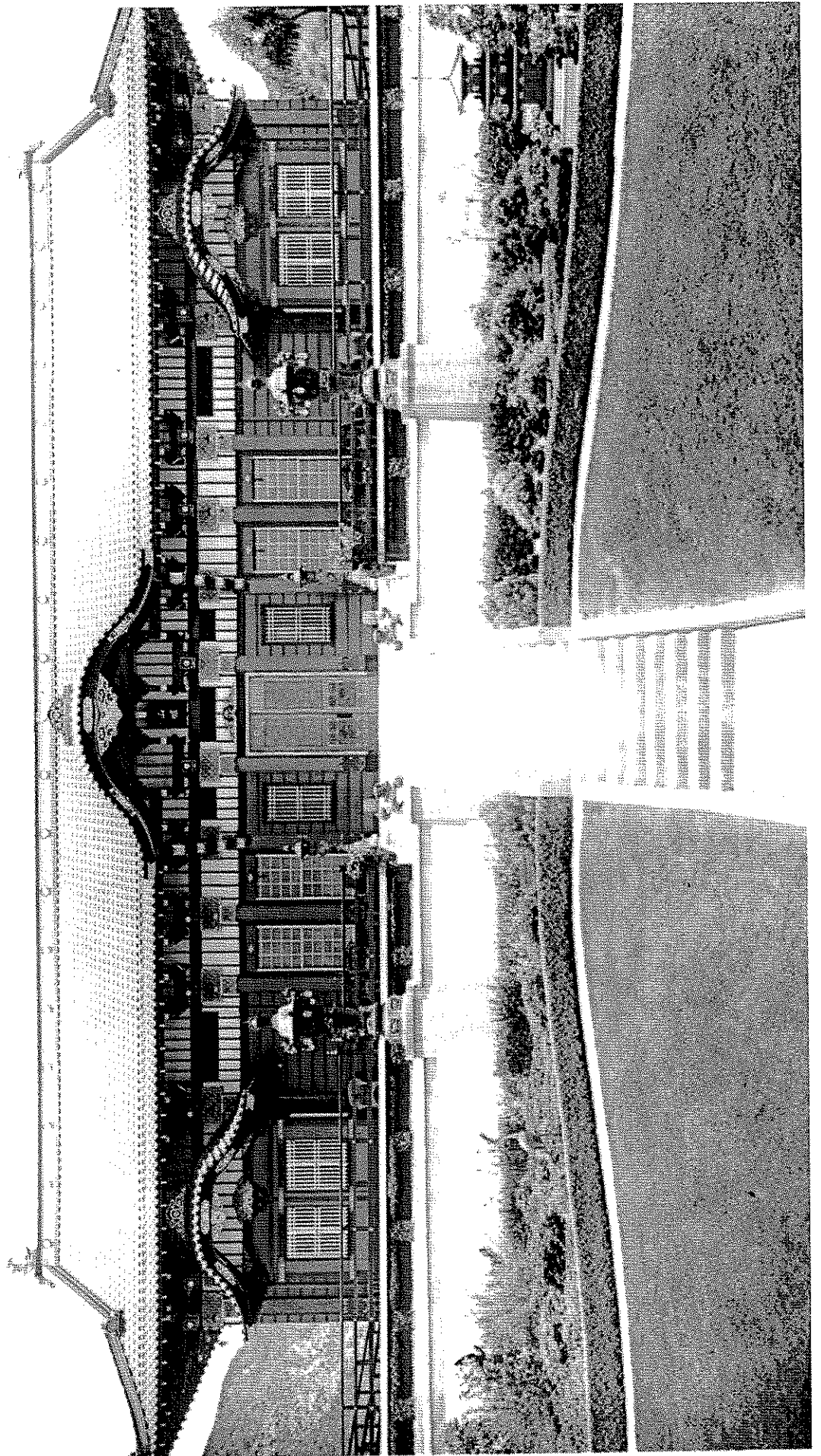
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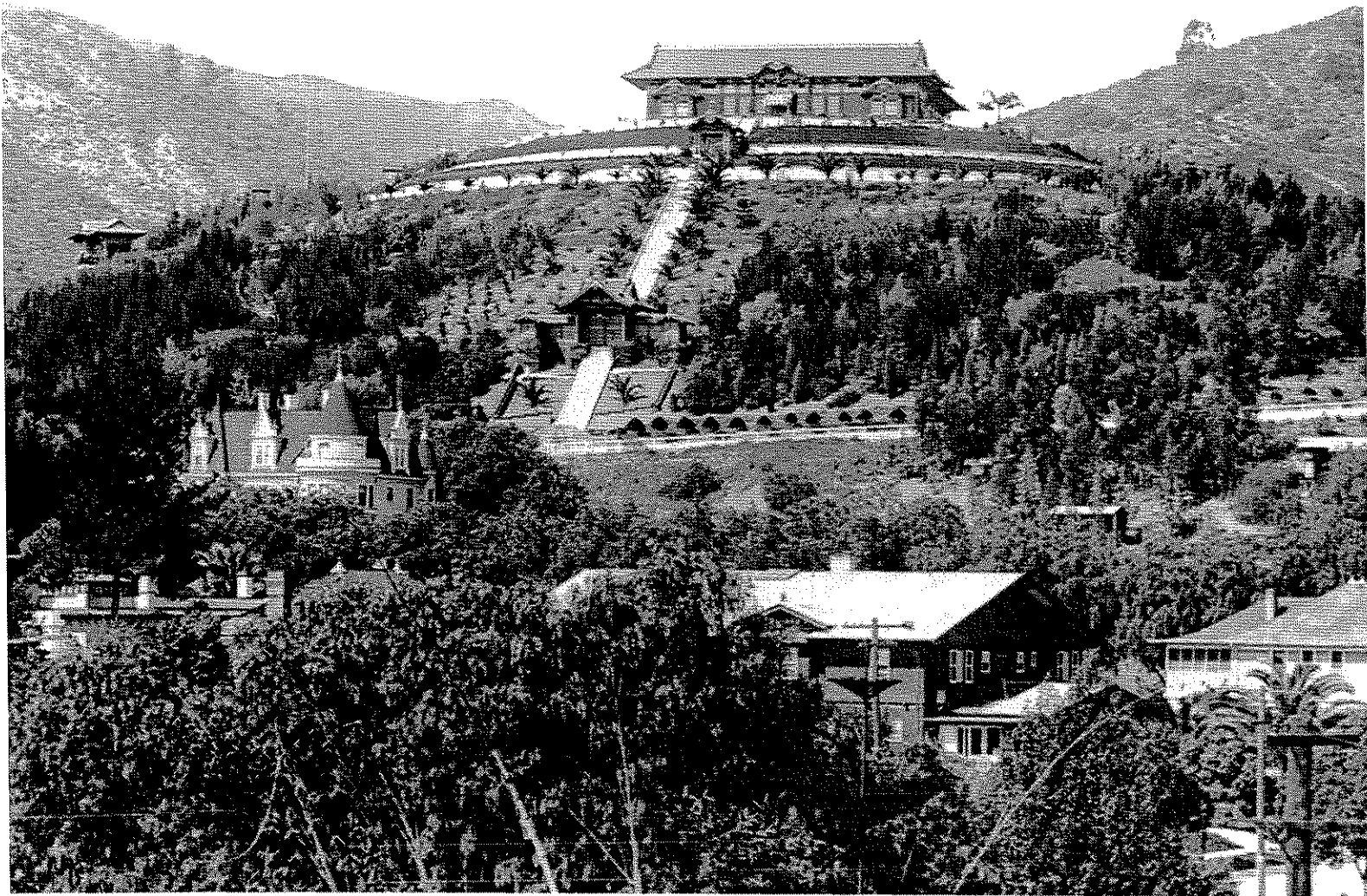










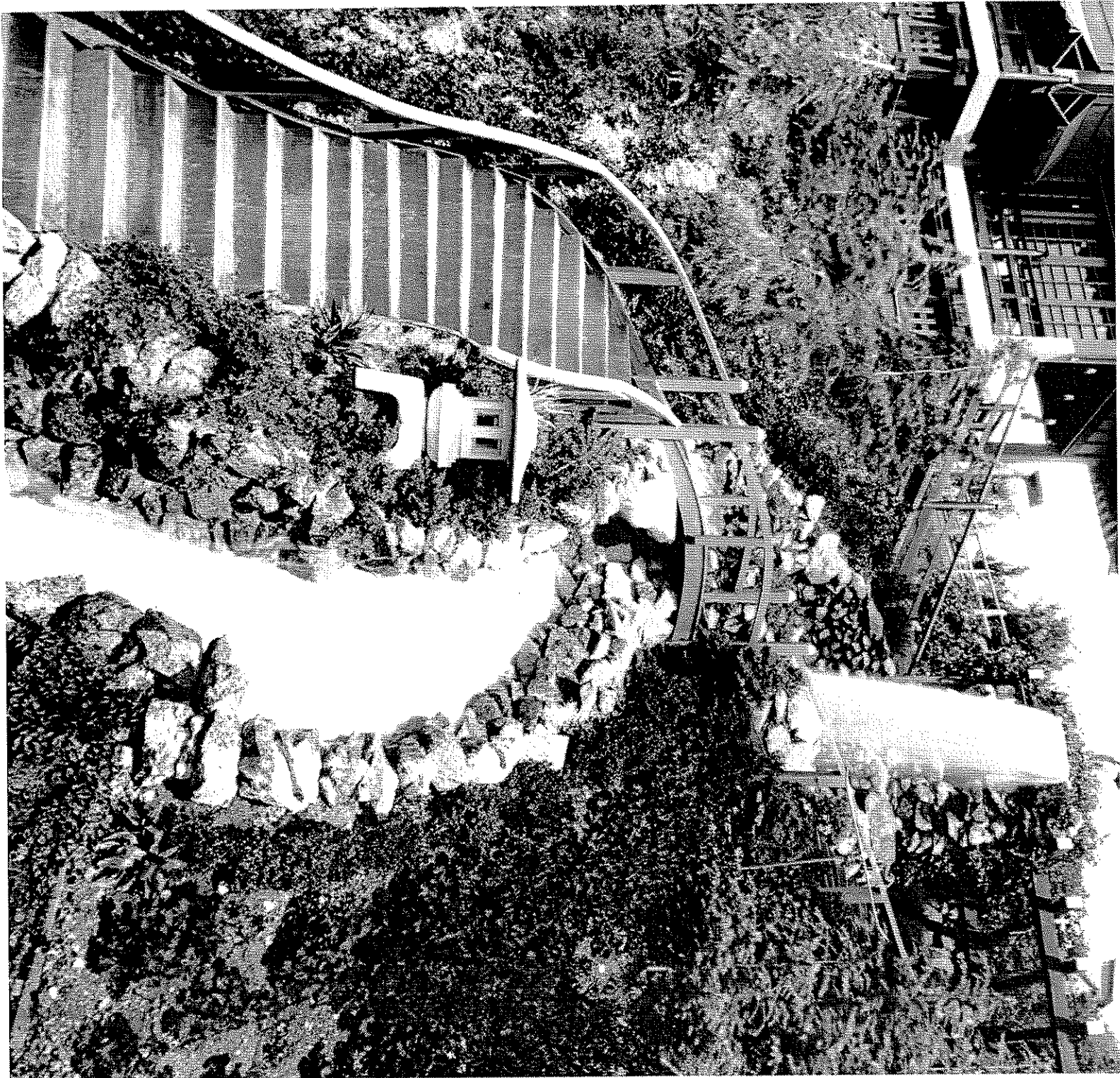






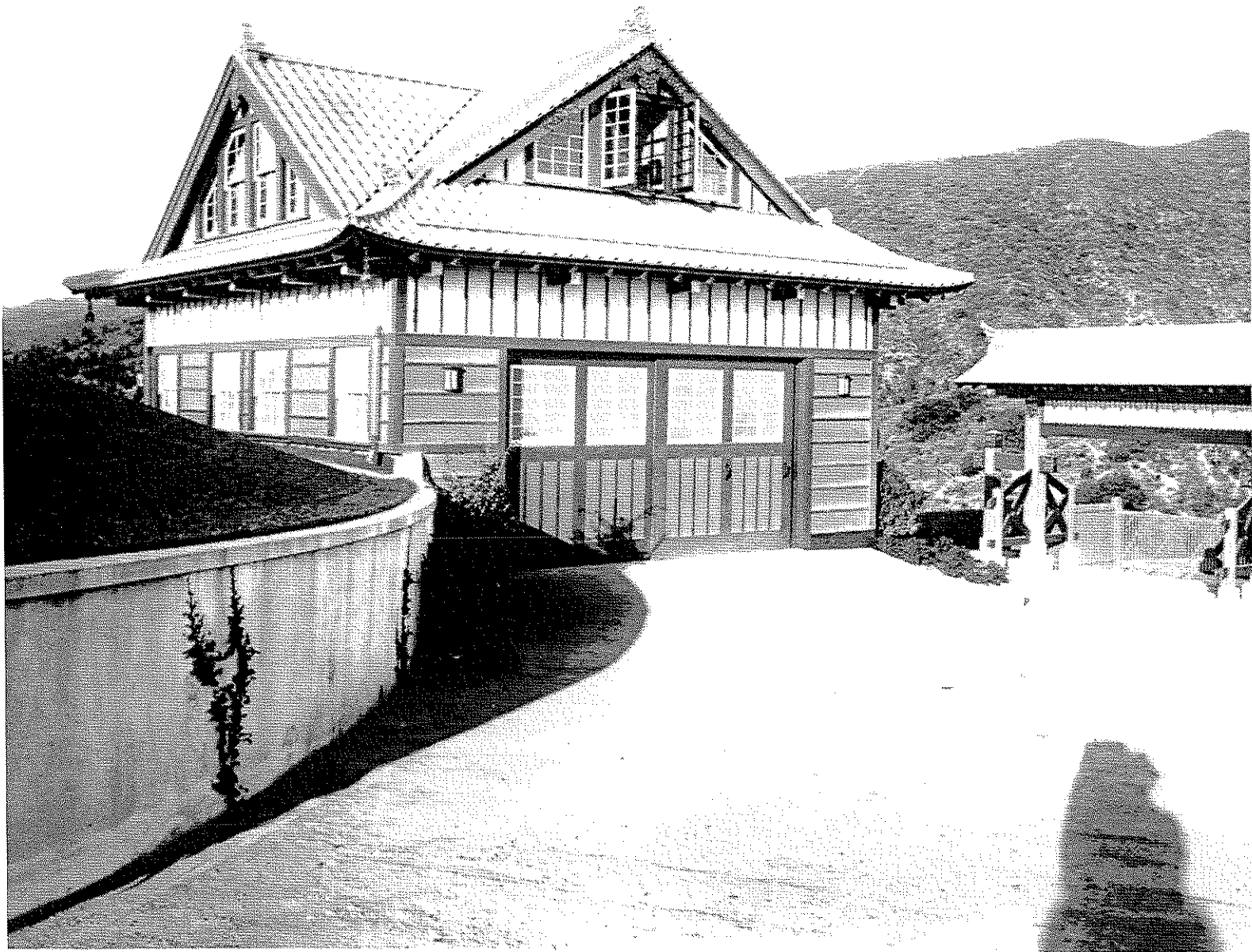


*BERNHEIMERS
Japanese Bungalow
HOLLYWOOD
CALIF. 458*





New Home Hollywood, Cal.





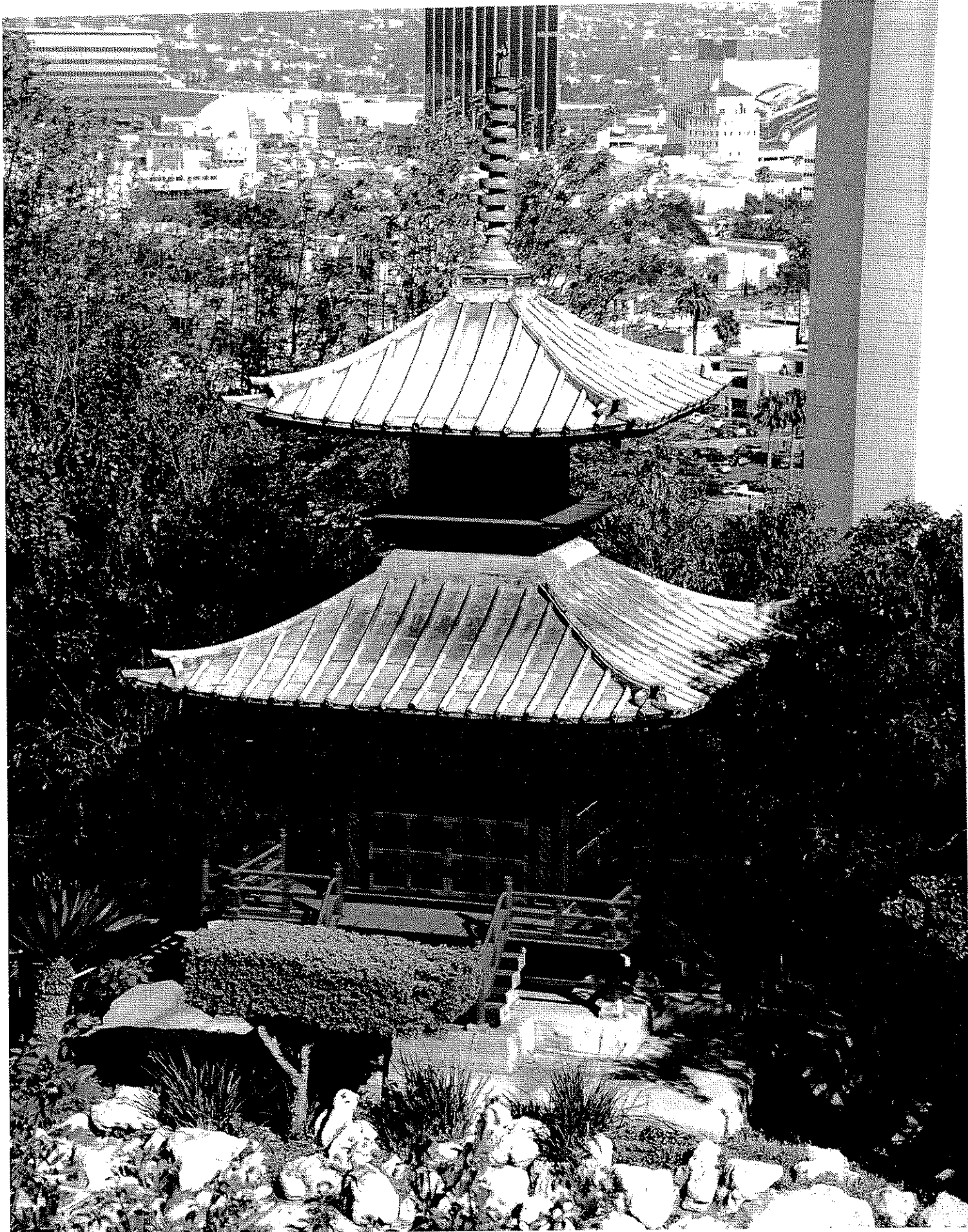


1589 N. Sycamore Ave
L.A. CA 90065

Parking Fee \$6.00
Tues - Sat. Not Included

Water Park Business Hours
Sun - Thurs 5pm - 10pm
Fri - Sat 5pm - 10pm

Operated By:
1589 N. Sycamore Ave
661 313-9453

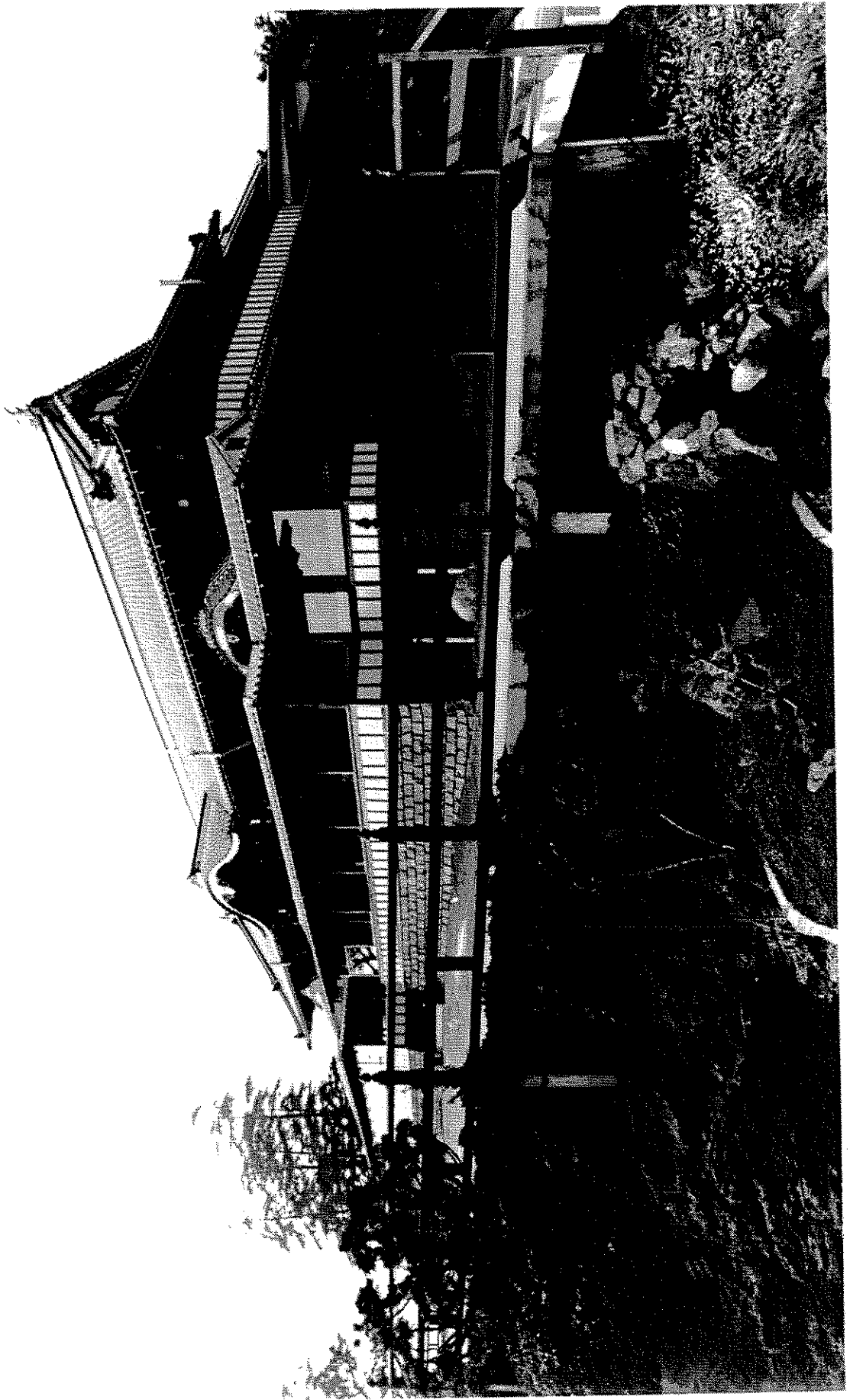




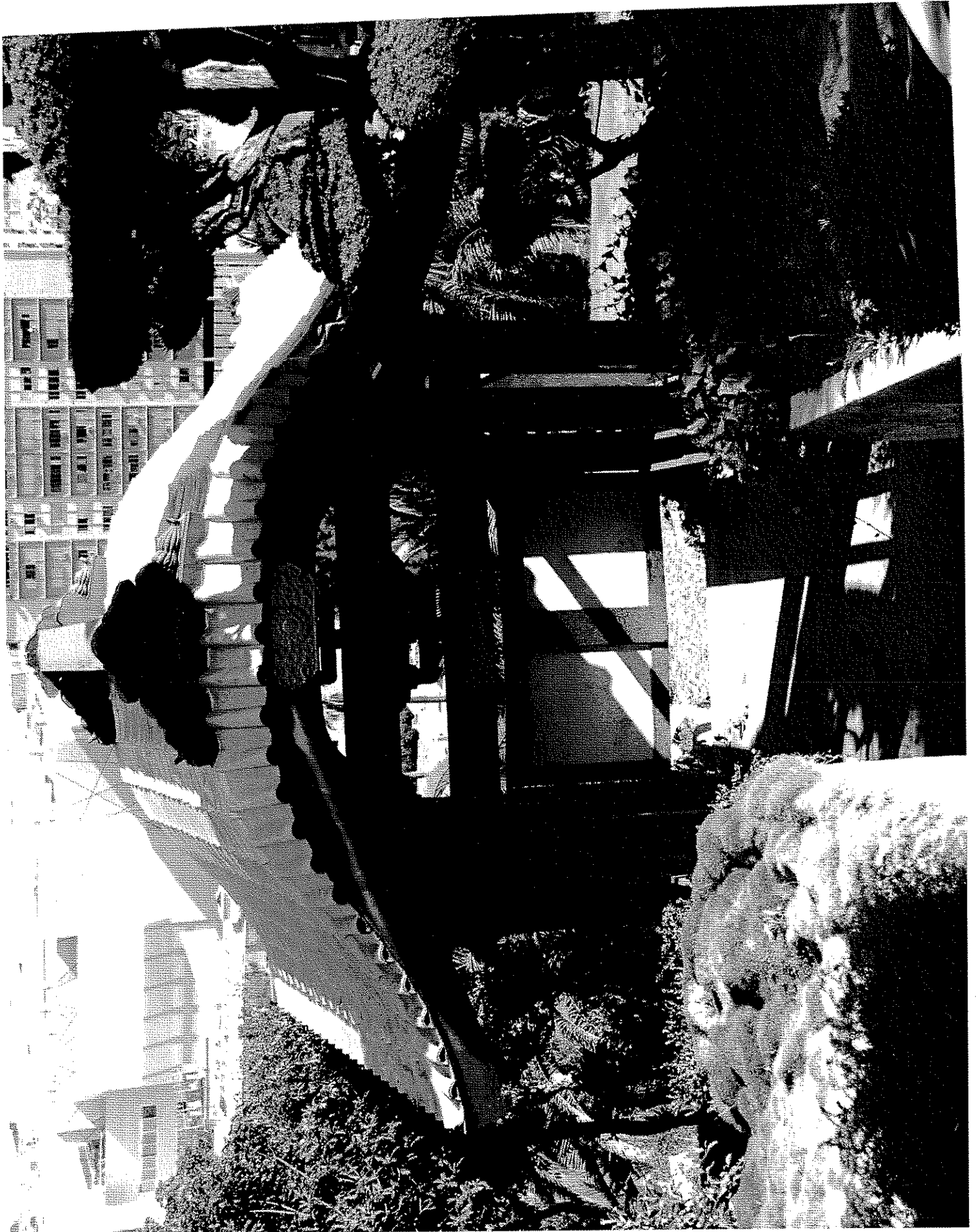


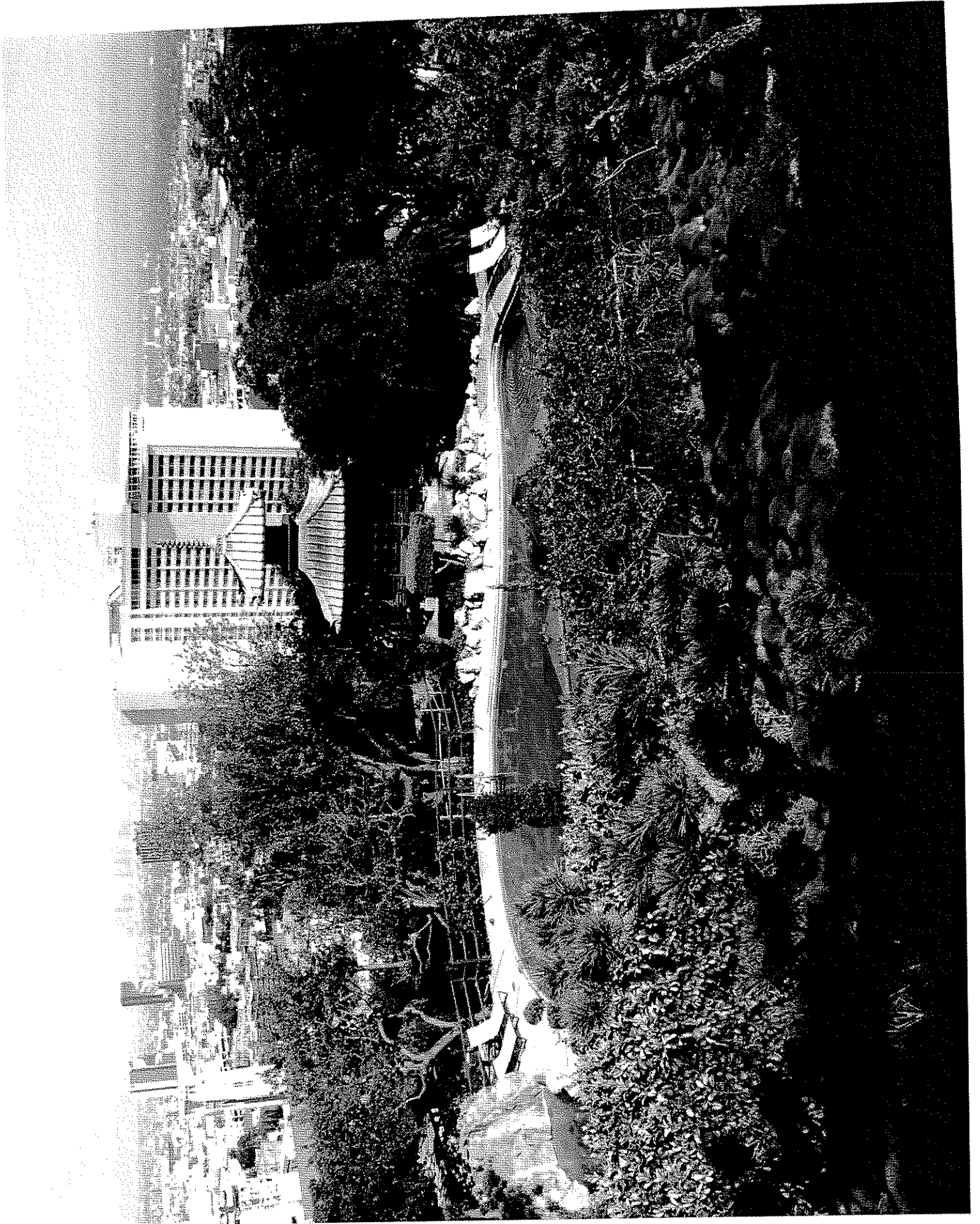


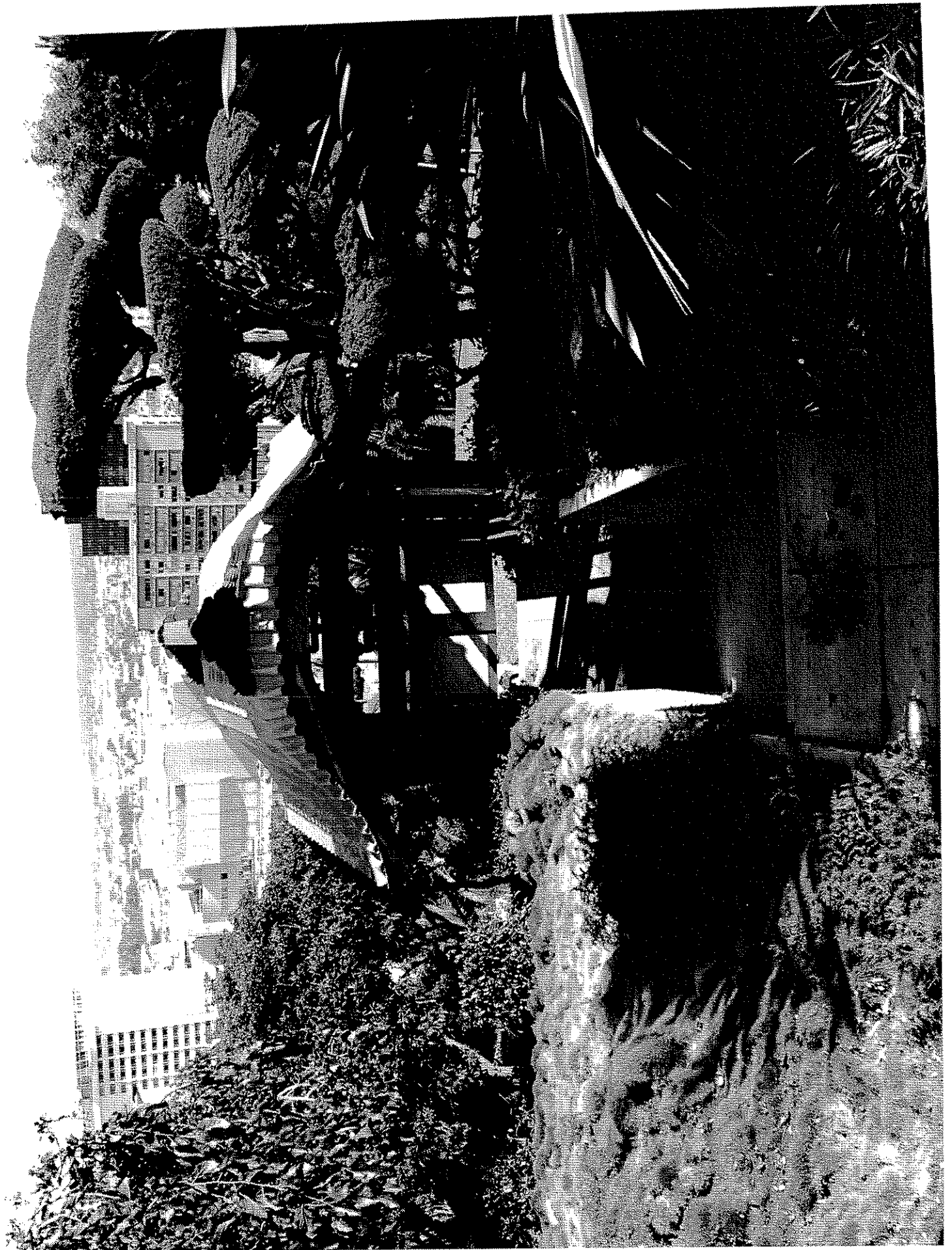


















	1930
	0
Last Owner Change:	01/12/01
Last Sale Amount:	\$0
Number of Units:	1
Number of Bedrooms:	2
Number of Bathrooms:	1
Building Square Footage:	1,328.0 (sq ft)
Tax Rate Area:	67
Deed Reference No.:	None

Additional Information

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

Economic Development Areas

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

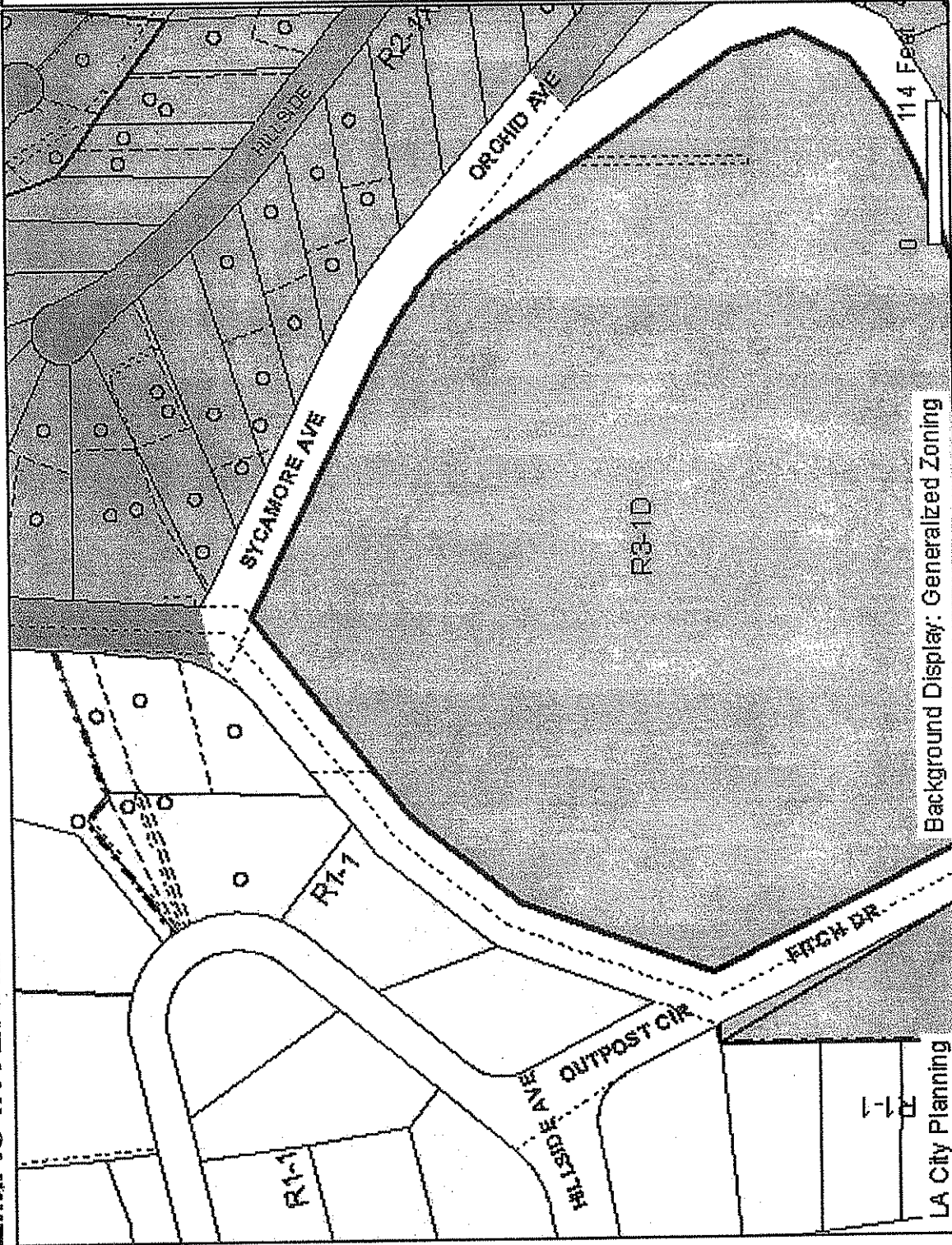
Public Safety

Police Information:	
Bureau:	West
Division / Station:	Hollywood
Report District:	625
	645
Fire Information:	
District / Fire Station:	41
Batallion:	5
Division:	1
Red Flag Restricted Parking:	No

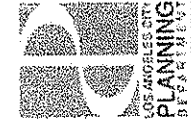
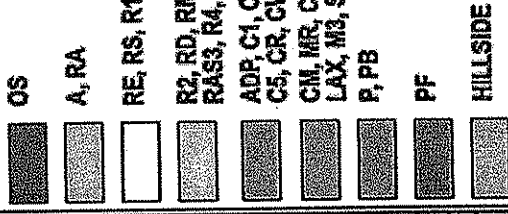
ZIMAS INTERNET

06/27/2007

City of Los Angeles
Department of City Planning



Generalized Zoning



Zoning: R3-1D
General Plan: Limited Commercial

Tract: TR 3237
Block: None
Lot: LT A
Arb: None

Address: 1964 N FITCH DR
APN: 5549017016
PIN #: 150B181 434