

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

IDENTIFICATION AND LOCATION

1. Historic name Bank of Belmont Shore
- * 2. Common or current name _____
- * 3. Number & street 5354 E. 2nd Street Cross-corridor Santa Ana
City Long Beach Vicinity only _____ Zip 90803 County LA
4. UTM zone _____ A _____ B _____ C _____ D _____
5. Quad map No. _____ Parcel No. 7245-002-001 Other _____

Ser. No. _____
National Register status _____
Local designation _____

DESCRIPTION

6. Property category Building If district, number of documented resources _____
- * 7. Briefly describe the present physical appearance of the property, including condition, boundaries, related features, surroundings, and (if appropriate) architectural style.

This Spanish Colonial Revival commercial building consists of a single large rectangular hall with a corner tower; there is a covered porte cochere on the east side. Large arched windows face Second Street, with subdivided and radiating muntins. There are smaller square window openings on the side facade; a small balcony with wrought iron railing is on the second story on the side facade. The roof is red terra cotta tile; the walls are stucco. The side facade has been altered with rectangular relief strips framing the windows. The tower has a hipped roof and small arched windows, with curved brackets supporting a boxed cornice. The interior has been totally modernized; no historic fabric remains.



Planning agency
City of Planning & Building

Owner & address
IC
P.O. Box 7549
Long Beach, CA 92658

Type of ownership private

Present use vacant

Planning _____

Threats alterations or demolition

0001

* Complete these items for historic preservation compliance projects under Section 106 (36 CFR 800). All items must be completed for historical resources survey information.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

- *14. Construction date(s) 1929 Original location yes Date moved _____
 15. Alterations & date Alteration and addition for Chi Chi Cafe, 1945
Remodeling for bank, 1950
Remodeling, seismic upgrade, 1982
 16. Architect Ray A. Sites Builder _____
 17. Historic attributes (with number from list) 06

SIGNIFICANCE AND EVALUATION

18. Context for evaluation: Theme Commercial development Area Belmont Shore
 Period 1929 - 1950 Property type Commercial building Context formally developed? No
 *19. Briefly discuss the property's importance within the context. Use historical and architectural analysis as appropriate. Compare with similar properties.

This building is one of the few remaining structures on a busy commercial street to retain its original architectural character. Its style, Spanish Colonial Revival, references the adjacent residential neighborhood of Belmont Shore, developed primarily in the 20's. The building has had a succession of uses, and remodeling, reflecting the dynamic commercial environment of Second Street. It was constructed originally as a restaurant for Mr. C. E. Patty. Construction plans are dated 1929, but the City Directory listing doesn't appear until 1933; possibly the Depression affected the opening of the business. By 1935, Patty's Restaurant was gone.

see continuation sheet

20. Sources City Hall files/construction drawings, building permits
City Directories
Main Library

21. Applicable National Register criteria _____
 22. Other recognition _____
 State Landmark No. (if applicable) _____
 23. Evaluator _____
 Date of evaluation _____
 24. Survey type _____
 25. Survey name _____

- *26. Year form prepared 1994
 By (name) Ruthann Lehrer
 Organization Dept. of Planning & Building
 Address 333 W. Ocean
 City & Zip Long Beach, CA 90802
 Phone (310) 570-6864

* Sketch map. Show location and boundaries of property in relation to nearby streets, railways, natural landmarks, etc. Name each feature.



The next restaurant to occupy the building belonged to Louis Gersten, who lived nearby at 40 La Verne. This business survived until 1945, when alterations were done for Irwin Schuman's restaurant. The 1948 Directory lists Jack Laskey's restaurant. A major remodeling was done in 1950 by Francis H. Gentry, civil and structural engineer who had earlier designed the Scottish Rite and York Rite Masonic Temples (both designated today as historical landmarks). The new use was the Bank of Belmont Shore. Mr. Gentry was an eminent civic leader who was on the City Council and mayor from 1939-42. He also served on many boards and service clubs, and was commissioned as a Major in the U.S. Army Reserve in 1943. The building is also associated with Richard Loynes, listed as owner in 1938. Mr. Loynes was a speedboat racer and champion, also very active in business and civic affairs. He was three times a national champion and twice a world champion, and held 16 world records. His death in 1956 came during his tenure as chair of the City's first marina committee.