

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

DRAFT

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Aloha Apartment Hotel

Other names/site number: Aloha Apartments, Leland Building

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 6731 Leland Way

City or town: Los Angeles State: California County: Los Angeles

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this ___ nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___national ___statewide ___local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

___A ___B ___C ___D

<p>_____ Signature of certifying official/Title:</p>	<p>_____ Date</p>
<p>_____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>	

<p>In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.</p>	
<p>_____ Signature of commenting official:</p>	<p>_____ Date</p>
<p>_____ Title :</p>	
<p style="text-align: right;">State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>	

Aloha Apartment Hotel
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California
County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

Aloha Apartment Hotel
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California
County and State

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/hotel

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/multiple dwelling

Aloha Apartment Hotel
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California
County and State

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE nineteenth & 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS

Mediterranean Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Stucco, Brick

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Aloha Apartment Hotel stands at 6731 Leland Way in Los Angeles, CA. The four-and-a-half-story, U-shaped building sits on a flat, rectangular parcel and is primarily clad in painted stucco. The building faces Leland Way to the south and N. McCadden Place to the west. Each elevation has a paved sidewalk with a grassy buffer and one street tree on N. McCadden Place. The interior of the block to the north and east are bounded by narrow, paved alleys with metal gates at the sidewalk. The building retains historic integrity.

Narrative Description

The property is one half block south of Sunset Boulevard and one half block east of N. Highland Avenue. The National Register-listed Hollywood Boulevard Commercial and Entertainment Historic District is three blocks north. The surrounding area is a combination of low-rise commercial and single- and multi-family residential buildings.

The south, primary, elevation, faces Leland Way (**Photos 1-4, 8**) and is composed of a recessed central block (Block A) with two flanking sections to the east (Block B) and west (Block C) along Leland Way. Block A is four bays wide and Blocks B and C are each five bays wide, with a deep courtyard separating the two.

Aloha Apartment Hotel
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California
County and State

Block A has a slightly projecting scored stucco base with the balance of the elevation also clad in stucco (**Photos 3, 4**). A simple stucco stringcourse exists between the third and fourth floors and a simple molded cornice remains along the roofline. The two center bays project slightly from the remainder. On the first floor, the outermost bays contain two 1/1 replacement windows. The center bays contain a projecting stucco portico with a shed roof, three arched openings and metal light fixtures (**Photos 4, 7**). Behind are three additional arched openings, flush with the façade, the outermost of which contain a 4-light wood window in an arched surround with a single-leaf glazed replacement door in the center.

On the second floor, the outermost bays contain two 1/1 replacement windows. The center bays each contain paired 1/1 replacement windows with a continuous stucco sill. On the third and fourth floors, the outermost bays contain two 1/1 replacement windows. The center bays each contain a recessed, 3-light wood casement window behind a painted metal railing. Between the fourth floor and the roofline is truncated stucco fluting and there is an inset scalloped stucco pattern between the center bays.

The south elevations of Blocks B and C are largely identical (**Photos 2, 8**). On the first floor, the two outermost bays contain 3-light wood casement windows in arched surrounds behind metal bars. Set into the surrounds are contemporary canvas awnings. The center bay of Block B contains a recessed replacement exit door with tiled steps. A metal gate is located at the top of the steps. The center bay of Block C contains a smaller, elevated 1/1 wood window with a stucco sill. On the second floor, the two outermost bays contain 2/2 wood windows with stucco sills. The center bay contains an open fire balcony that provides access to an ornate metal fire escape. On the third floor, the two outermost bays contain 3-light wood casement windows. The center bay contains an open fire balcony that provides access to an ornate metal fire escape. On the fourth floor of Block B, the three center bays project from the remainder of the façade with an arched stucco balustrade framing the openings. An irregular balcony with metal railings projects from these bays and rests on an arched base with stucco brackets.

The first, second and fourth bays contain a recessed 3-light wood casement window with a low, metal railing. The third bay from the west contains an open fire balcony that provides access to an ornate metal fire escape. The easternmost bay contains a 2-light replacement window above contemporary infill. On the fourth floor of Block C, the westernmost bay contains a 3-light wood casement window. The second bay from the west contains a 2/2 wood window in an arched opening. The third bay from the west contains an open fire balcony that provides access to an ornate metal fire escape. The two easternmost bays contain 1/1 replacement windows. A projecting stucco balcony with arched brackets and a metal railing extends beneath the three westernmost bays. Above the second and third bays from the west on the fourth floor is a penthouse with an arched balustrade and shallow, stucco balcony with stucco brackets and a metal railing.

Block A is recessed from Blocks B and C, creating an inner courtyard, which leads to the centered main entrance (**Photo 3, 4, 6**). Along Leland Way, an original metal fence with four

Aloha Apartment Hotel
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California
County and State

plaster bollards with scored stucco bases separates the courtyard from the sidewalk. The courtyard itself consists of an open, brick and tile space with perimeter plantings.

The west elevation of the courtyard is seven bays wide. On the first floor, the first, second and fourth bays from the south contain 3-light wood casement windows in arched surrounds. The third and fifth bays from the south are blind openings with recessed stucco infill. The sixth bay from the south contains a 1/1 replacement window. The seventh bay from the south contains paired 2/2 wood windows. On the second floor, the two southernmost bays contain 2/2 wood windows. The third and fifth bays from the south are blind openings with recessed stucco infill. The fourth and seventh bays from the south contain paired 2/2 wood windows. The sixth bay from the south contains a 1/1 replacement window.

On the third floor, the two southernmost bays contain 3-light wood casement windows. The third and fifth bays from the south contain small 1/1 replacement windows. The fourth bay from the south contains a large 1/1 replacement window. The sixth bay from the south contains a 2/2 wood window. The seventh bay from the south contains a paired 2/2 wood window. On the fourth floor, the first, second and fourth bays contain 3-light wood casement windows. The third and fifth bays from the south contain small 1/1 replacement windows. The sixth bay from the south contains a 2/2 wood window. The seventh bay from the south contains a paired 2/2 wood window.

The east elevation of the courtyard is seven bays wide (**Photos 3, 5, 6**). On the first floor, the first, second and fourth bays from the south contain 3-light wood casement windows in arched surrounds. The third and fifth bays from the south contain small 1/1 replacement windows. The sixth bay from the south contains a 1/1 replacement window. The seventh bay from the south contains paired 2/2 wood windows. On the second floor, the two southernmost bays contain 2/2 wood windows. The third and fifth bays from the south contain small 1/1 replacement windows. The fourth and seventh bays from the south contain paired 2/2 wood windows. The sixth bay from the south contains a 2/2 wood window. On the third and fourth floors, the first, second and fourth bays from the south 3-light wood casement windows. The third and fifth bays from the south contain small 1/1 replacement windows. The sixth bay from the south contains a 2/2 wood window. The seventh bay from the south contains a paired 2/2 wood window.

The east elevation of the building is ten bays wide and clad in painted brick. All openings throughout have painted metal sills. On all floors, the first, fourth and seventh bays from the south contain paired 2/2 wood windows in a single arched opening. The remaining bays contain single 2/2 wood windows of varying sizes in arched openings.

The north elevation of the building is fourteen bays wide and clad in painted brick (**Photo 10**). All openings throughout have painted metal sills. On all floors, the first, fourth, seventh, ninth and eleventh bays from the east south contain paired 2/2 wood windows in a single arched opening. The remaining bays contain single 2/2 wood windows of varying sizes in arched openings.

Aloha Apartment Hotel
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California
County and State

The west elevation of the building, facing N. McCadden Place, is ten bays wide (**Photos 9, 10**). On the first floor, the northernmost bay contains a 1/1 replacement window in an arched surround. The second, fourth and eighth bays from the north contain 1/1 replacement windows. The third bay from the north contains an elevated and recessed, single-leaf replacement metal door located behind a metal security door and up three tile steps. The opening is surrounded by stucco quoins. The fifth, seventh, ninth and tenth bays from the north contain 3-light wood casement windows in arched surrounds. The sixth bay from the north contains paired 1/1 replacement windows in arched surrounds with stucco infill.

On the second floor, the first, second, fourth, ninth and tenth bays from the north contain 2/2 wood windows. The third bay from the north contains an open fire balcony that provides access to an ornate metal fire escape. The fifth and seventh bays from the north contain paired 2/2 wood windows. The sixth bay from the north contains two small 1/1 replacement windows behind wood lattice. The eighth bay from the north contains one small 1/1 replacement window behind wood lattice.

On the third floor, the first, fifth, seventh, ninth and tenth bays from the north contain 3-light wood casement windows. The second and fourth bays from the north contain 1/1 replacement windows. The third bay from the north contains an open fire balcony that provides access to an ornate metal fire escape. The sixth bay from the north contains two small 1/1 replacement windows behind wood lattice. The eighth bay from the north contains one small 1/1 replacement window behind wood lattice.

On the fourth floor, the first, fifth, seventh, ninth and tenth bays from the north contain 3-light wood casement windows. The ninth and tenth bays from the north open onto an irregular balcony with metal railings projects from these bays and rests on an arched base with stucco brackets. The second through fourth bays from the north are framed by an arched stucco balustrade and open onto a continuous metal fire escape. The sixth bay from the north contains two small 1/1 replacement windows behind wood lattice. The eighth bay from the north contains one small 1/1 replacement window behind wood lattice. Small openings covered by lattice are also located above the first, fifth and seventh bays from the north, just below the roofline.

The building has a narrow, shed roof along the west elevation and the outer portions of the south elevation. On the west elevation, the area above the second through fourth bays from the north has a secondary projecting shed roof. On the western portion of the south elevation, the area above the second and third bays from the west has a secondary projecting gable roof. On the eastern portion of the south elevation, the area above the three center bays has a secondary projecting shed roof. The remainder of the roof is flat with a shallow parapet. There is a one-story, stucco penthouse with an irregular footprint and a gable roof in the center of the north elevation and a second, smaller one-story, L-shaped stucco penthouse with a shed roof near the northeast corner of the floor plate (**Photo 25**). Mechanical equipment and solar panels are scattered throughout.

Aloha Apartment Hotel
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California
County and State

Interior

The interior of the building is largely the same on all floors. The units are arranged around the perimeter of the floor plate and are accessed by a centered, U-shaped double-loaded corridor. On the first floor, there is a lobby space in the center of the south elevation, adjacent to the primary entrance. Lobby finishes are a combination of original and replacement and include tile floors, painted plaster walls and ceilings, and painted plaster beams and moldings (**Photo 11**). In the center of the north elevation is a set of wood steps with wood railings, which accesses the elevated first floor. The elevated hallway is framed by wrought iron railings.

In the units, finishes include varnished wood floors, painted plaster walls and ceilings, and painted wood trim (**Photos 15, 16, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24**). Some of the perimeter walls are of exposed brick. The kitchens have late twentieth century finishes and the bathrooms have largely original finishes (**Photos 16, 18, 19, 20**). The hallways have varnished wood floors, painted plaster walls and ceilings, painted wood trim and flush doors, and exposed piping (**Photos 14, 17, 18**).

The building has three stairways, located near the center of the north elevation and at the north end of the east and west wings (**Photos 12, 13, 17**). Stairways are L-shaped with wood treads and risers. The center stairway has wrought iron railings and balusters. The east and west stairways have painted wood railings and balusters. There is no elevator. All circulation provides access between all floors.

Integrity

The Aloha Apartment Hotel retains a high degree of integrity. Both the overall form and the defining exterior characteristics remain, including its painted stucco, fenestration pattern, unique bracketed balconies and recessed entrance, and open courtyard. The only significant exterior alterations are the occasional replacement window. They do not prevent the building from continuing to be read as a residential hotel, from which it derives its significance, nor do they detract from its overall significance. There have been no significant additions or demolitions and no new openings have been added. On the interior, all of the original apartment layout and circulation patterns remain. The existing interior finishes are also largely original, with the exception of new kitchen finishes.

There has been no change to the location of the building since the time of construction and that location was the primary catalyst for the building's construction. The setting is also intact with no changes to the immediate surroundings, either inside of or adjacent to the property boundary. The design elements that characterize the building as a residential hotel remain, including the individual units, lobby, open balconies, and large courtyard; the property retains integrity of design. There have been no substantial changes to elements of materials and workmanship and the building continues to read as an archetypal early twentieth century residential hotel. The building continues to operate in the residential function for which it was constructed and retains integrity of feeling and association.

Aloha Apartment Hotel
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Aloha Apartment Hotel
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California
County and State

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Period of Significance

1928-1945

Significant Dates

1928

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Hillier and Sheet

Aloha Apartment Hotel
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California
County and State

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Aloha Apartment Hotel is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places at the local level of significance under Criterion A in the area of Community Planning and Development, as a significant local example of an early twentieth century property type, a multi-family, residential hotel building. Built during a time of rapid residential and commercial growth of Hollywood and the motion picture industry, these types of buildings were an architectural response to a tangible need and relates to the broader theme of commercial development in the city in the 1920s and 1930s. The period of significance begins in 1928, the year of construction, and ends in 1945, when the increase preference for suburban living led to a decline in urban apartment tenancies.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Brief History of Hollywood

The larger area encompassing both Hollywood and East Hollywood was settled in the late nineteenth century as an agricultural community with ranches and farms and few residents occupying the bulk of the landscape.¹ In 1887, Hobart Johnson Whitley bought a significant portion of the area, ultimately known as the Hollywood tract, and laid out the streets. By 1900, there was a hotel, post office, and various commercial offerings, which served a population of about five hundred. Commercial development was concentrated around Prospect Avenue, later Hollywood Boulevard, with large, single-family dwellings built to the north and south.

Hollywood was officially incorporated in 1903, with a population of seven hundred, and was annexed to the city of Los Angeles in 1910, in order to gain access to Los Angeles' water supply.² By that time, the population had exploded to 5,000, ushering in the first substantial wave of commercial and residential development. This development was substantially buffered by the arrival of the first motion picture studio in Hollywood in 1911. Originally concentrated in New York and New Jersey, the industry had moved west in order to exercise its independence over the Motion Pictures Patents Company (MPPC), which owned most moviemaking patents and therefore an exorbitant amount of control over which movies were made and how.

Continuing its earlier trajectory, Hollywood Boulevard was very much the main street of the area, with a prominent trolley car system that had been established in 1904. As the first

¹ The first building in the area was erected in 1853. Los Angeles Department of City Planning. "Hollywood Community Plan." <http://cityplanning.lacity.org/cpu/hollywood/text/HwdCommunityPlan.pdf>, accessed May 2, 2018, 33.

² National Register of Historic Places, "Bungalow Court at 1721 N. Kingsley Drive." Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, California, National Register #10000763, 8:1.

Aloha Apartment Hotel

Name of Property

Los Angeles, California

County and State

commercial center outside of downtown Los Angeles, Hollywood Boulevard became the “commercial, theatrical and financial core of the movie business....”³

Over the next ten years, the population of Hollywood increased to 36,000, by which time the area had firmly shifted away from agriculture, toward commerce and the “well-publicized lures of climate, motion pictures and oil.”⁴ This development primarily took the form of two- and three-story commercial buildings, restaurants, theaters, and department stores.

This population growth was only possible if the new residents could be accommodated and there simply wasn’t enough square mileage in Hollywood for those residents to all be accommodated in single-family homes. Consequently, the 1920s, in particular, became a “heavy period of growth and suburbanization in Hollywood” with “entertainment industry [as] the economic engine of the Hollywood area and a key stimulant of growth and housing demand in the first decades of the 20th century.”⁵ In 1928, \$16,322,049 worth of building permits were issued in Hollywood, which was an increase of \$792,253 over the previous year.⁶ When the permit for the Aloha Apartment Hotel was issued, in October 1928, it was the largest in value during that month.⁷

This trend was occurring throughout the rest of Los Angeles, as well, which was “rapidly taking leading rank in the county with respect to its fine apartment-house facilities. More than \$100,000,000 has been expended on new apartment-houses here in the last five years and this year, [1929] a total of 552 permits valued at \$15,107,500, were issued for this type of structure.”⁸

In general, the development pattern consisted of concentrated commercial areas along the larger streets, such as Hollywood and Sunset Boulevards, with residential buildings filling the smaller streets in between. The Aloha Apartment Hotel is located off of Sunset Boulevard on one of these smaller streets. Leland Way was subdivided in the 1910s for the construction of free-standing bungalows, which were first replaced by duplexes and apartment buildings and later by commercial buildings and apartment complexes.⁹

The buildings in these residential areas, which provided homes for both American-born and immigrant communities, took a range of forms, including apartment houses, bungalow courts, and residential hotels, often replacing older, single-family dwellings. Apartment buildings, in

³ “Bungalow Court at 1721 N. Kingsley Drive,” 8:1; National Register of Historic Places, “Halifax Apartments.” Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, California, National Register #98001242, 8:1.

⁴ “Halifax Apartments”, 8:1.

⁵ Margarita J. Wuellner, Jon L. Wilson, and Amanda Kainer. “Coronel Apartment Project Draft EIR.” July 2012. https://planning.lacity.org/eir/CoronelApt/Errata/assets/Appendix%20A_NOP%20and%20NOP%20Responses.pdf, accessed May 2, 2018.

⁶ “Hollywood Shows Gain in Building,” *Los Angeles Times* (11 November 1928), np.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ “Apartment Population Disclosed,” *Los Angeles Times* (10 October 1929), np.

⁹ Wuellner, Wilson, and Kainer.

Aloha Apartment Hotel

Name of Property

Los Angeles, California

County and State

particular, “filled a need for denser, less expensive housing for the large number of new arrivals to the city and for those who preferred apartment living.”¹⁰

This boom was cited frequently in period newspaper articles and can be seen in the extant architectural fabric, including National Register-listed or eligible properties 1721 N. Kingsley Drive (1921), Halifax Apartments (1923), The Canterbury Apartment Hotel (1927), El Cabrillo (1928), Montecito Apartments (1930), and Strathmore Apartments (1937).¹¹

Following the Great Depression, the profits of many of Hollywood’s motion picture studios plummeted, leading to a wider economic downturn that brought mass unemployment, the decline of commercial activity on Hollywood Boulevard, and a precipitous drop in the construction of new multi-family housing in the area. Taking advantage of this downturn, the Aloha Apartment Hotel saw the opportunity to market itself toward middle-income tenants by providing a much-needed housing option.

After World War II, the construction of the Hollywood Freeway, the decline of the motion picture industry, and an increased interest in a more suburban lifestyle perpetuated the decline of residential Hollywood, replacing it with more tourism-focused offerings.

Development of the Aloha Apartment Hotel

The 1919 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map shows a one-and-a-half-story, freestanding house with a one-story front porch and a freestanding rear one-story garage. The house sat in the middle of a double lot. A 1921 Baist Real Estate Atlas shows the same configuration.

On October 8, 1928, a building permit was issued for a Class C apartment building with 142 rooms for seventy-two families. The four-story, brick building was to be constructed at a cost of \$130,000. The owner is listed as William Berkowitz and Associates and the architect is Hillier and Sheet. The prior dwelling was presumably demolished in order for the construction to be completed. When the certificate of occupancy was issued on April 4, 1929, the building was listed as containing fifty-two apartments and sixteen hotel rooms. Both the 1950 and 1955 Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps show the same mixed function, and list the building as containing seventy-four apartments. Although the residential hotel did not include any commercial space, period journals refer to a lobby and service rooms.¹²

In 1929, Berkowitz sold the building to W.J. Wallace on behalf Consolidated Hotels, Inc. for \$325,000.¹³ The building was listed as having seventy-four apartments, including single, double, and bachelor units. Each of the double units offered two bathrooms.¹⁴ At the time, Consolidated Hotels, Inc. owned over one hundred other properties with more than 10,000 rooms in the area

¹⁰ National Register of Historic Places, “El Cabrillo.” Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, California, National Register #05000211, 8:1.

¹¹ “Building in Hollywood on Upgrade,” *Los Angeles Sunday Times* (19 June 1927), np.

¹² “Los Angeles, Cal.,” *Building and Engineering* (7 April 1928), np.

¹³ “Aloha Hotel Purchased for High Figure,” *Los Angeles Times* (12 May 1929), 2.

¹⁴ “New Aloha in Hollywood Due to Open Soon,” *Los Angeles Times* (17 March 1929), 4.

Aloha Apartment Hotel

Name of Property

Los Angeles, California

County and State

with a value of approximately \$25 million.¹⁵ The Aloha Apartment Hotel was one of their largest holdings.¹⁶ This type of ownership transfer was typical in Hollywood in the late 1920s. As the construction of new apartment buildings showed no signs of slowing, owners of existing buildings were concerned with the viability of the market and frequently sold out to larger apartment management companies, who were able to consolidate “the ownership and operation of many of the buildings in an effort to control prices.”¹⁷

On June 6, 1937, Wallace sold the building to Mr. and Mrs. L.L. Border for \$185,000. The reason for the sale is not known. The listing states that the building had seventy-four residential units, consistent with the 1929 listing.¹⁸

Period advertisements for the building state that it was “priced to meet the market” with bachelors, singles and double units, as well as hotel rooms.¹⁹ Located in the “heart of Hollywood,” all units were offered by the day, week, or month. The same advertisement described a,

“modern, U-shaped building affording cool, airy outside exposures. Richly furnished, twin beds. Innerspring mattresses, showers, French windows, opening onto beautiful flowered patio and many other features that please the most discriminating tastes. Switchboard, garages, parking space, incomparable 24-hour service.”²⁰

Specific amenities included the lobby, maid service, and electric refrigerators. From the 1930s through 1950s, single rates ranged between \$40 and \$75, doubles ranged from \$60 to \$100 and bachelor units ranged from \$30 to \$55.²¹

In reviewing period newspaper articles and census records, the Aloha Apartment Hotel was home to a large range of transient tenants, most of who remained in the building for less than a year. Perhaps not surprisingly, there was a steady stream of semi-famous actors and actresses, who called the building home temporarily. These included Academy Award-nominated Bonita Granville (d. 1988), Ethel Grey Terry (d. 1931), who appeared in over fifty silent films, Carl Gerard, married to Terry and an actor in his own right, and Beryl Mercer, another stage and film actress.

The dominant resident type, however, was the average middle-income professional. The 1930 census shows the building primarily occupied by a combination of single people and married

¹⁵ Todd Douglas Gish, “Building Los Angeles: Urban Housing in the Suburban Metropolis, 1900-1936” (dissertation, University of Southern California, 2007), 292-293; “Apartments to be Operated by Hostelry Chain,” *Los Angeles Times*, July 12, 1931.

¹⁶ “Hotel Chain at Century Mark,” *Los Angeles Times* (7 July 1929), 7.

¹⁷ National Register of Historic Places, “Canterbury Apartment Hotel—Draft.” Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, California, California Office of Historic Preservation, 8:14.

¹⁸ “Income Realty in Sales Deals,” *Los Angeles Times* (6 June 1937), 2.

¹⁹ Advertisement, *Los Angeles Times* (10 April 1932), np.

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ Advertisement, *Los Angeles Times* (19 September 1930), (4 September 1938), and (14 June 1957), np.

Aloha Apartment Hotel

Name of Property

Los Angeles, California

County and State

couples, some with children. Approximately three-fourths of the residents were native to the United States and were born in a range of states, including Michigan, New York, and Colorado. The remaining residents came from several countries, including India, Sweden, Italy, Spain, Russia, Denmark, South Africa, Poland, and England. Their professions were equally varied, including nurse, dentist, teacher, film editor, writer, actor, actress, engineer, naval lieutenant, dancer, pilot, and photographer.

The 1940 census shows a similar demographic with more of the married couples listed as having children. This is in line with period advertisements, which specifically state the building located nearby to Hollywood High School. The birth countries of the foreign-born residents included Russia, Ireland, South Africa, England, and Peru. The range of professions remained varied, including journalist, salesmen, chef, artist, actress, accountant, actor, musician, and army captain.

In *Living Downtown: The History of Residential Hotels in the United States*, Paul Groth discusses the types of residents found in typical mid-level residential hotels, a description that coincides with those who lived at the Aloha Apartment Hotel at a number of points. Groth states that the entire reason that such a building type emerged was that it “supplied housing needed for a mobile professional population that was expanding the American urban economy.”²² The professions listed above clearly fall into this category of expanding white-collar positions. It was also an “alternative choice of residence for people whose lives did not mesh with a six- to ten-room single-family suburban house.”²³

The Growth of the Residential Hotel in the Early Twentieth Century

Hotels, as defined by early twentieth century standards, arose in the United States for a variety of reasons, the most common being rapidly increasing wealth of the American elite, a general restlessness of the American population, the rise of the city center, and the phenomenal growth of the railroads.²⁴

The first hotel in the United States was the City Hotel, which opened in 1794 on Broadway in New York City.²⁵ Advancements in hotels quickly followed including the first hotel with a la carte dining in the 1820s, the first “modern” hotel in the 1830s, and the first hotel with all private baths in 1888.²⁶

In general, there are four broad types of hotels: palace hotels, mid-priced hotels, rooming houses, and cheap lodging houses.²⁷ Of these, the first two are considered hotels in the twentieth century

²² Paul Groth, *Living Downtown: The History of Residential Hotels in the United States* (Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 1999), 56.

²³ Groth, 56.

²⁴ Brian McGinty, *The Palace Inns: A Connoisseur's Guide to Historic American Hotels* (Harrisburg, PA: Stackpole Books, 1978), 14.

²⁵ McGinty, 13.

²⁶ McGinty, 16, 20.

²⁷ These are clearly classified in Groth, 26.

Aloha Apartment Hotel
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California
County and State

sense. Almost from the beginning, they catered to both temporary and more permanent residents, a trend that continued until the 1960s.²⁸

The first apartment hotel was built in California in 1905,

due to the exigencies of a rapidly growing population, becoming widely available to an economically diverse population in Hollywood itself by the early 1920s. In 1926, the *Los Angeles Times* observed that by the end of the following year, Hollywood would have upward of ten apartment buildings “giving hotel service.”²⁹

At the time, a hotel was defined as “any house or building, or portion thereof, containing six or more guest rooms which are let or hired out to be occupied or are occupied by six or more guests.”³⁰ An apartment hotel, however, was classified as a multi-family residential building that provided tourists or new arrivals in a city with living quarters, a “temporary domicile,” as one writer explains, accompanied by all or some of the services typically rendered by a hotel.³¹ A number of additional characteristics of a mid-priced residential hotel put the Aloha Apartment Hotel into a larger context.

In the 1910s and 1920s, as the concept of an apartment hotel was increasing in popularity, there was significant academic evaluation of the property type. It was felt that its success was derived from,

its many advantages in comfort, convenience and economy. It combines the service secured in the better class of family hotels with the convenience of the modern small apartment. The class of service and the appointment of apartments is governed by the price paid for such accommodations, which makes this kind of living quarters within the reach of many people.³²

Additionally, to be successful, the apartment hotel “must give comfort and congenial surroundings to people who have been separated from the home life and habits which form the foundation of our present civilization.”³³ It provided customizable conveniences while offering the privacy that many residents craved in a large metropolis.

One of the most significant delineators between a hotel or residential hotel and a standard apartment building is the presence of a full kitchen.³⁴ In the early twentieth century, an apartment was defined as “families living independently of one another and doing their own

²⁸ Groth, 1.

²⁹ “Hotels Rising in Hollywood,” *Los Angeles Times*, December 5, 1926

³⁰ Groth, 5.

³¹ Robert Craik McLean, “The Apartment Hotel in Plan and Purpose,” in *The Western Architect* 3, Volume 29 (March 1920), 25-27.

³² Robert Carroll Cash, *Modern Type of Apartment Hotels Thruout United States* (Chicago: National Bank Building, 1917), 1.

³³ McLean, 25.

³⁴ Groth, 7.

Aloha Apartment Hotel

Name of Property

Los Angeles, California

County and State

cooking.”³⁵ As none of the period advertisements mention either a kitchen or a refrigerator or any type of cooking device, it falls squarely under the category of residential hotel. The presence of a bathroom in every unit, as opposed to down the hall, also clearly places the Aloha Apartment Hotel in the category of a mid-priced establishment, rather than a rooming or lodging house, which would not have offered such a luxurious amenity.³⁶

Architecturally, the Aloha Apartment Hotel was consistent with its immediate surroundings and the larger typology of residential hotels. The use of a Revivalist style endowed the building with a glamorous and exotic air, which spoke to the larger ethos of Hollywood and categorized the building as a residential destination.

The configuration of the building itself was also in keeping with national trends. E-, U-, or H-shaped buildings were common as they maximized the number of rooms, maximized the number of desirable rooms, and enabled the introduction of cross-ventilation and light.³⁷ They were also good for older people or transplants because such apartments require minimal maintenance and the courtyards provide a forum for social interaction. They also take the “place of the individual front yards of single family houses. Courtyard apartment complexes delicately blend into residential streets where single family homes were more common than multifamily housing.”³⁸

Additionally, “as the location, density and quality of courtyard housing shifted to accommodate a growing upper-middle-class clientele” the involvement of an architect rather than just a contractor, as was the case at the Aloha Apartment Hotel, was also typical.³⁹

The concept of a courtyard building was a denser evolution of the bungalow court, introduced in California in the early 1910s. This pragmatic response is an example of how the apartment buildings of Hollywood provided for a concrete need—housing for people moving to Los Angeles and Hollywood in particular—while also meeting the expectations of those who came to the city hoping to find an “exotic, fantasy fulfilling environment compared to what migrants left behind.”⁴⁰ In keeping with the Aloha Apartment Hotel specifically, courtyard apartments often had entrances, porches, and rooflines to differentiate the units, hard and soft landscape features in the courtyard, and were built in a style that was “reflective of an increase of movies set in exotic locales in the 1920s and 1930s.”⁴¹

Mediterranean Revival Style

The Mediterranean Revival style was originally inspired by the Italian Renaissance and Venetian Gothic villas along the Mediterranean Sea. As post-World War I America gained increasing exposure to and appreciation of Europe and its particular luxuries, there was a comparable

³⁵ Groth, 7.

³⁶ Groth, 70.

³⁷ Groth, 183.

³⁸ “El Cabrillo”, 8:2.

³⁹ Stefanos Polyzoides, Roger Sherwood and James Tice, *Courtyard Housing in Los Angeles* (New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1992), 9.

⁴⁰ “El Cabrillo,” 8:1.

⁴¹ “El Cabrillo,” 8:4.

Aloha Apartment Hotel
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California
County and State

increasing desire to bring those luxuries closer to home. The style was particularly popular in the vacation areas of California and Florida in the 1920s and 1930s as real estate developers counted on its ability to reference that seaside idyll.

In Los Angeles, the style first became popular in the 1910s, in large part because of “its climactic similarity and frequent association to the Mediterranean region.”⁴² The Aloha Apartment Hotel is an intact, restrained, middle-class example of this type. Character defining aspects include a generally symmetrical façade, U-shaped plan, stucco walls, arched openings, and irregular rooflines and balconies.

Hillier and Sheet

Harry Hillier (1901-1981), an engineer, and E. Allan Sheet (1898-1948), an architect, formed an architecture and engineering firm in October 1927.⁴³ The firm, located in Los Angeles, specialized in Revivalist apartment buildings. Other projects include a Mediterranean Revival style, 49-unit, Class A apartment building at 1716 El Cerrito (1927, demolished); 601 N. Rossmore Avenue (1927, extant); Dover Apartments at 4649 Beverly Boulevard (1928, extant); The Monarch, a 53-unit, 8-story building at Fifth and Figueroa (1929, extant); Chateau Dijon, at Fountain and Sweetzer (1930, extant); 1201 N Crescent Heights (1931, extant); and a Mediterranean Revival style, four-story apartment house at 837 St. Andrews Place (1931, extant).⁴⁴

⁴² Wuellner, Wilson and Kainer, 30.

⁴³ “E. Allen Sheet and Harry Hillier,” *Architect and Engineer* 92 (October 1927), 103.

⁴⁴ “Hollywood to Resound in Activity,” *Los Angeles Times* (1 September 1929), 5; “Apartment Population Disclosed.”

Aloha Apartment Hotel
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California
County and State

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Aloha Apartment Hotel
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California
County and State

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<http://planning.lacity.org/eir/CoronelApt/DEIR/assets/Appendix%20B,%20Historic%20Resource%20Assessment%20Reports.pdf>. Accessed May 2, 2018.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: SurveyLA (City of Los Angeles, Office of Historic Resources)

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acres of Property less than one acre

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 34.096870

Longitude: -118.337839

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Tract 1907 (Boyle Place), Lot 20, City of Los Angeles, California.

Aloha Apartment Hotel
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California
County and State

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary includes the property historically associated with the resource.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Logan Ferguson, Senior Associate
organization: Powers and Company, Inc.
street & number: 1315 Walnut Street, Suite 1717
city or town: Philadelphia state: PA zip code: 19107
e-mail: logan@powersco.net
telephone: (215) 636-0192
date: July 2018; Revised August 2018

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Aloha Apartment Hotel
City or Vicinity: Los Angeles
County: Los Angeles
State: California
Photographer: Robert Powers
Date Photographed: May 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Aloha Apartment Hotel
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California
County and State

- 1 of 25 South and east elevations, view northwest
- 2 of 25 South elevation, view north
- 3 of 25 South elevation, view north
- 4 of 25 South elevation, view north
- 5 of 25 Courtyard, view east
- 6 of 25 Courtyard, view south
- 7 of 25 Courtyard, view west
- 8 of 25 South elevation, view north
- 9 of 25 South and west elevations, view northeast
- 10 of 25 West and north elevations, view southeast
- 11 of 25 First floor, lobby, view north
- 12 of 25 First floor, stairway, view west
- 13 of 25 First floor, stairway, view east
- 14 of 25 First floor, hallway, view south
- 15 of 25 First floor, view east
- 16 of 25 First floor, view west
- 17 of 25 Second floor, hallway, view south
- 18 of 25 Second floor, stairway, view east
- 19 of 25 Second floor, view east
- 20 of 25 Fourth floor, view east
- 21 of 25 Fourth floor, view west
- 22 of 25 Fourth floor, view north

Aloha Apartment Hotel
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California
County and State

23 of 25 Fourth floor, view east

24 of 25 Fourth floor, view west

25 of 25 Roof, view south

Index of Figures

Figure 1. USGS Map

Figure 2. Sketch Map with National Register Boundary

Figure 3. Floor Plan/Photo Key—Exterior

Figure 4. Floor Plan/Photo Key—First Floor

Figure 5. Floor Plan/Photo Key—Second Floor

Figure 6. Floor Plan—Third Floor

Figure 7. Floor Plan/Photo Key—Fourth Floor

Figure 8. Block Plan

Figure 9. Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1950

Figure 10. Aloha Apartment Hotel. "Bids Opened for Costly Apartment Job." *Los Angeles Times* (2 September 1928), 3.

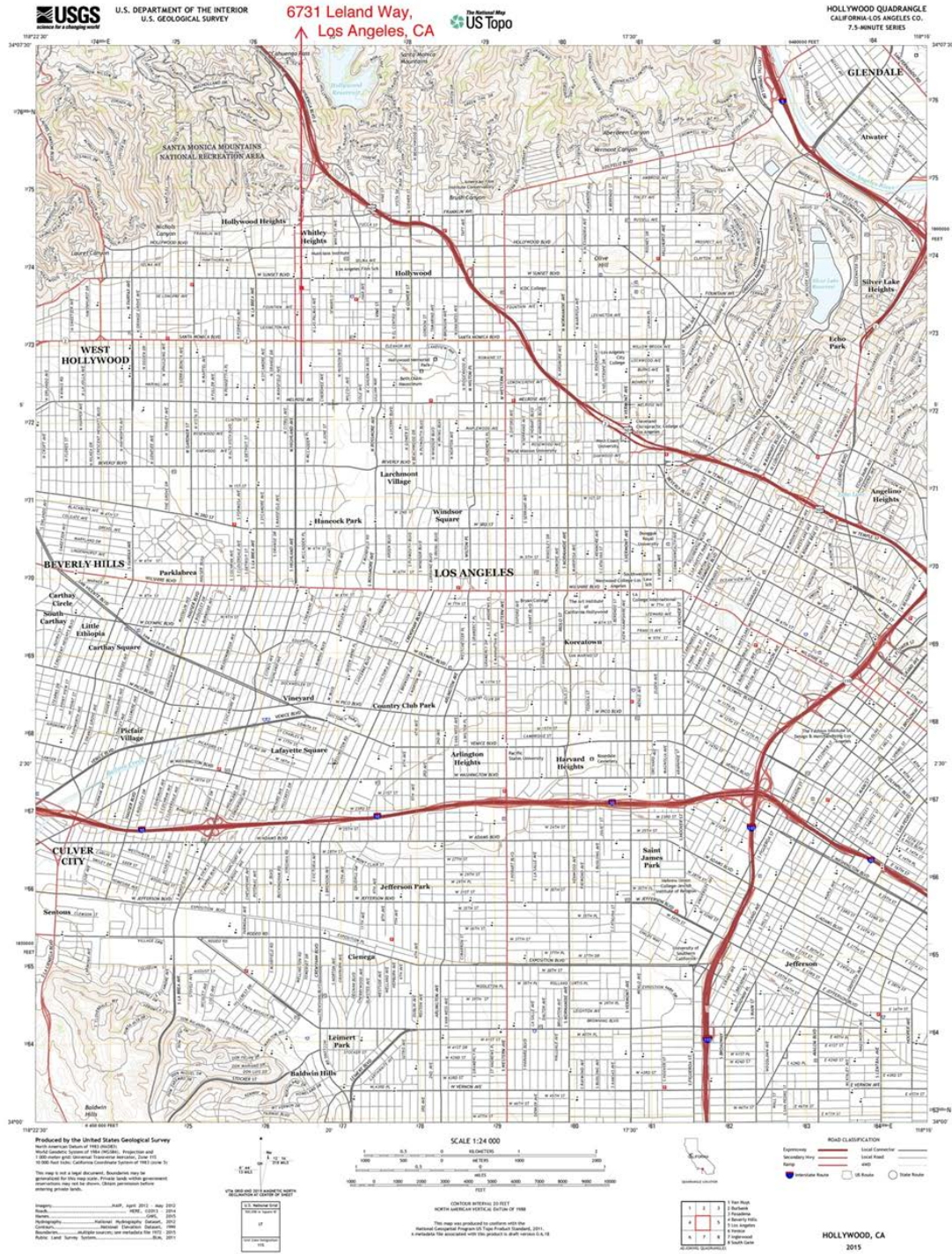
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Aloha Apartment Hotel
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California
County and State

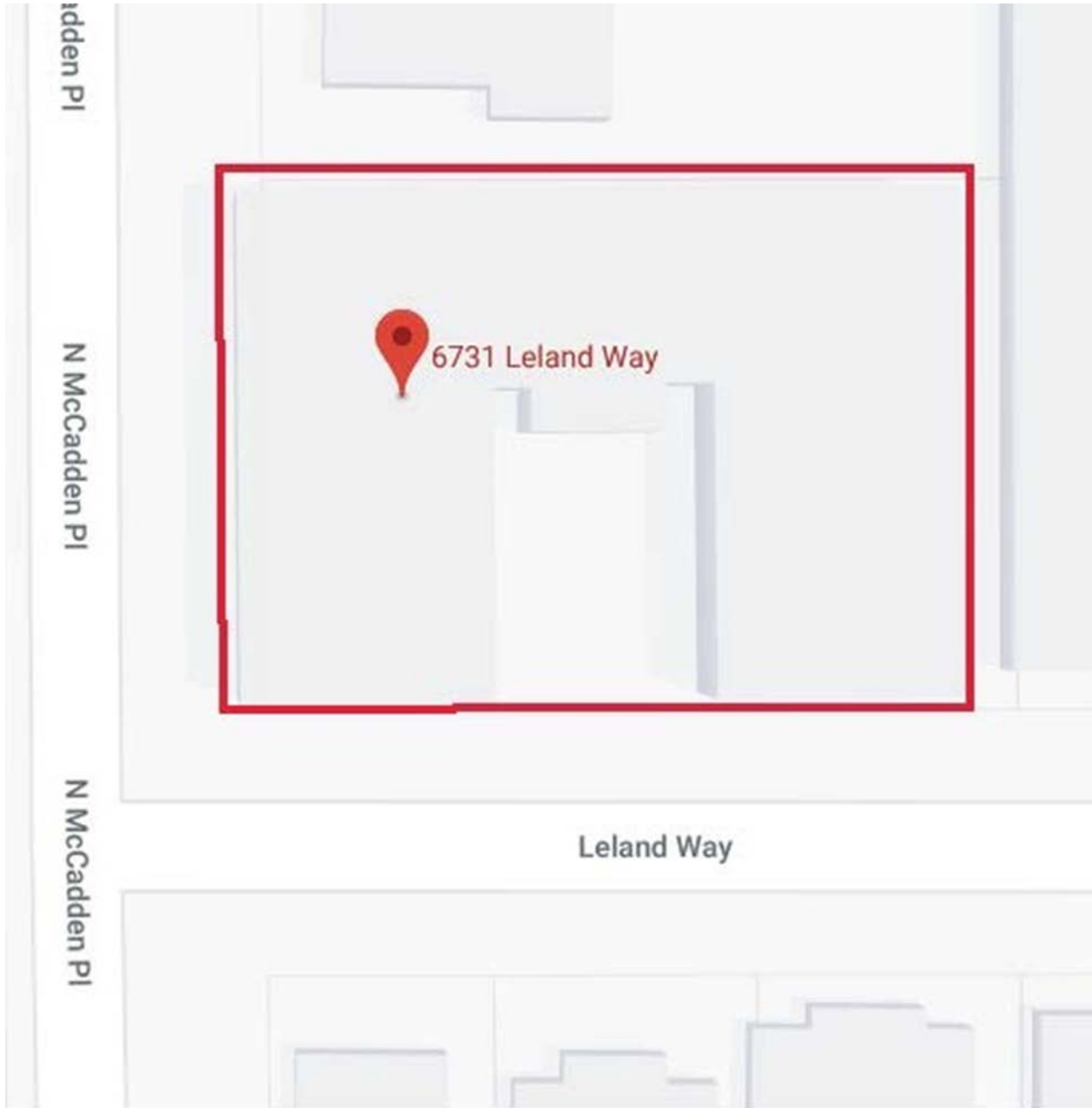
Figure 1. USGS Map



Aloha Apartment Hotel
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California
County and State

Figure 2. Sketch Map



Aloha Apartment Hotel
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California
County and State

Figure 3. Floor Plan/Photo Key—Exterior

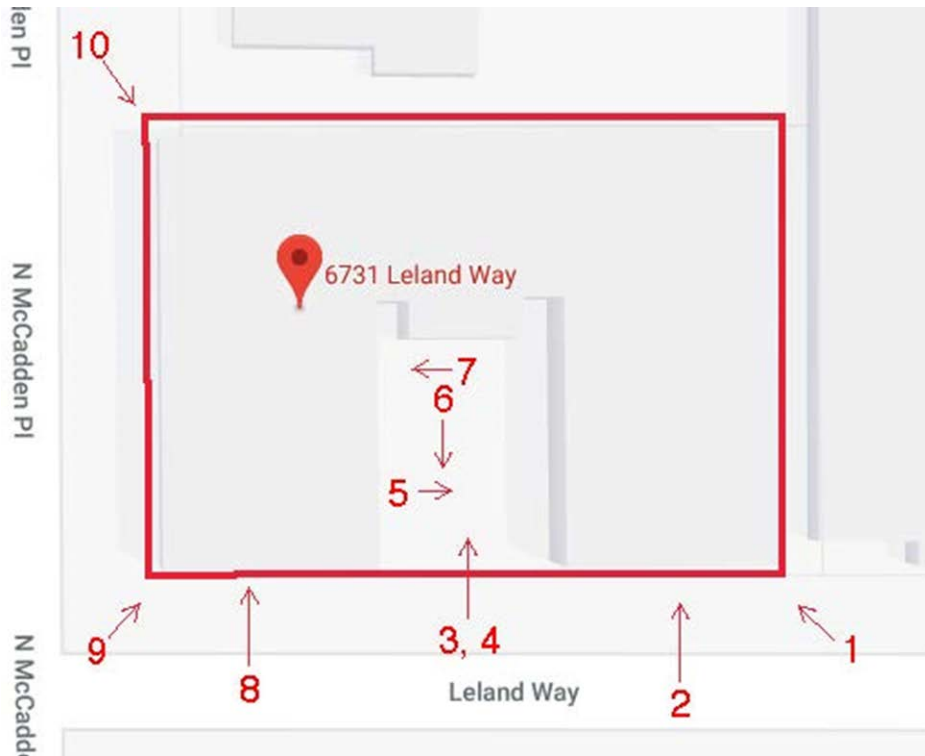
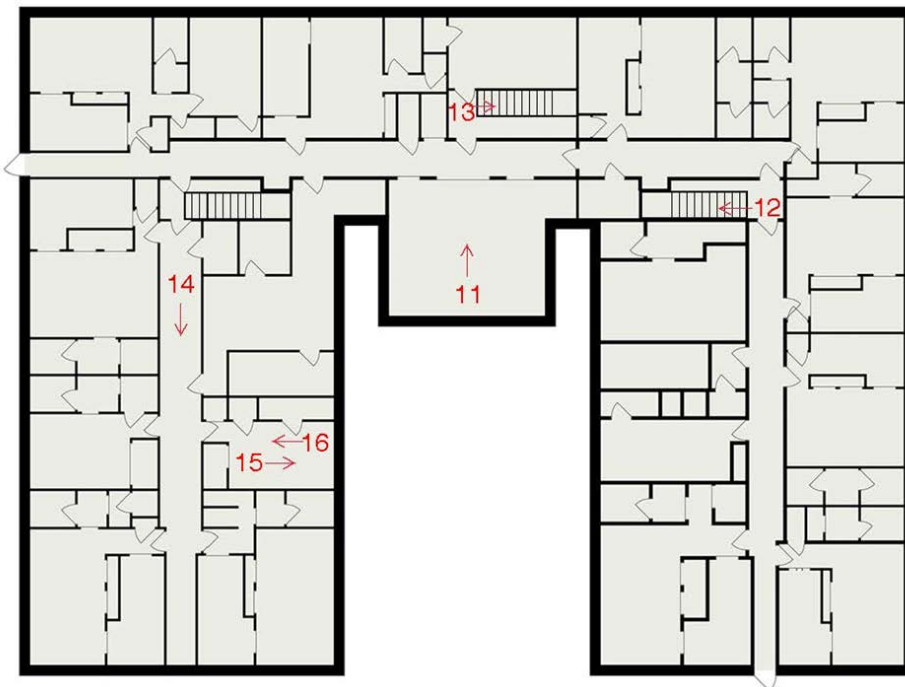


Figure 4. Floor Plan/Photo Key—First Floor



Aloha Apartment Hotel
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California
County and State

Figure 5. Floor Plan/Photo Key—Second Floor

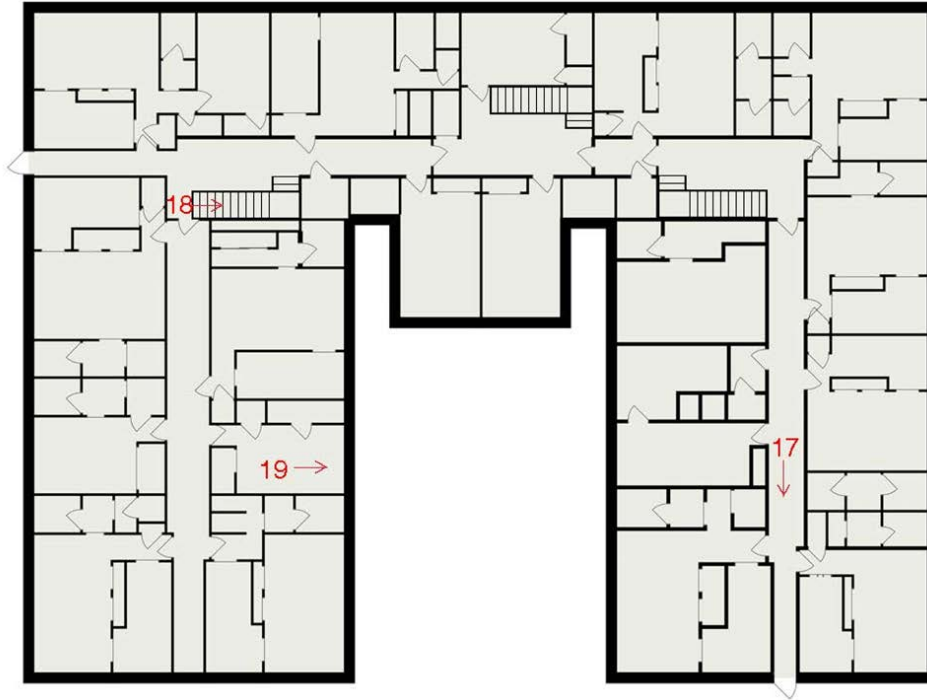
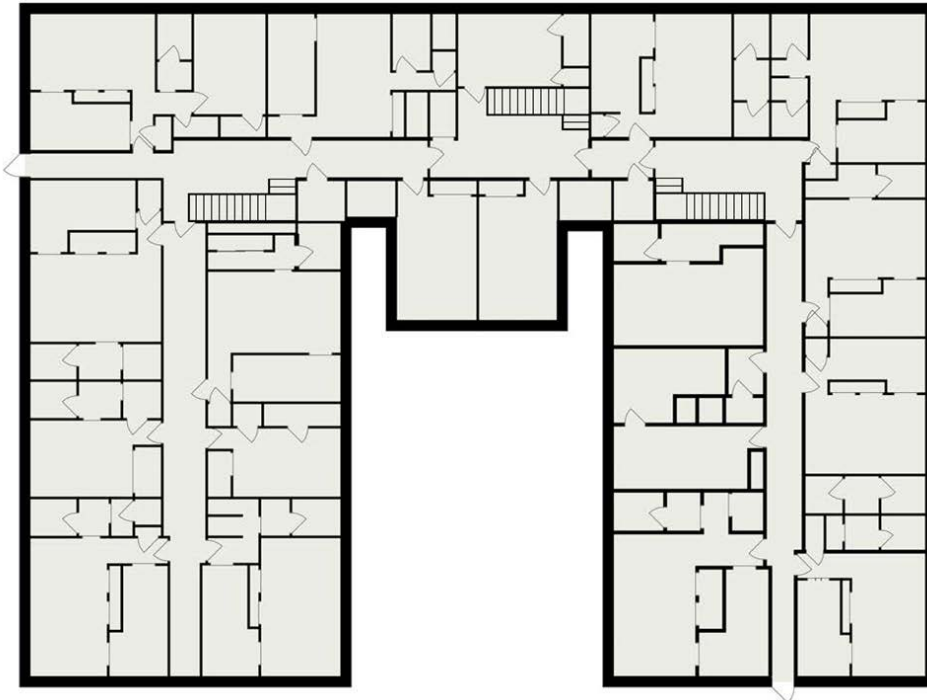


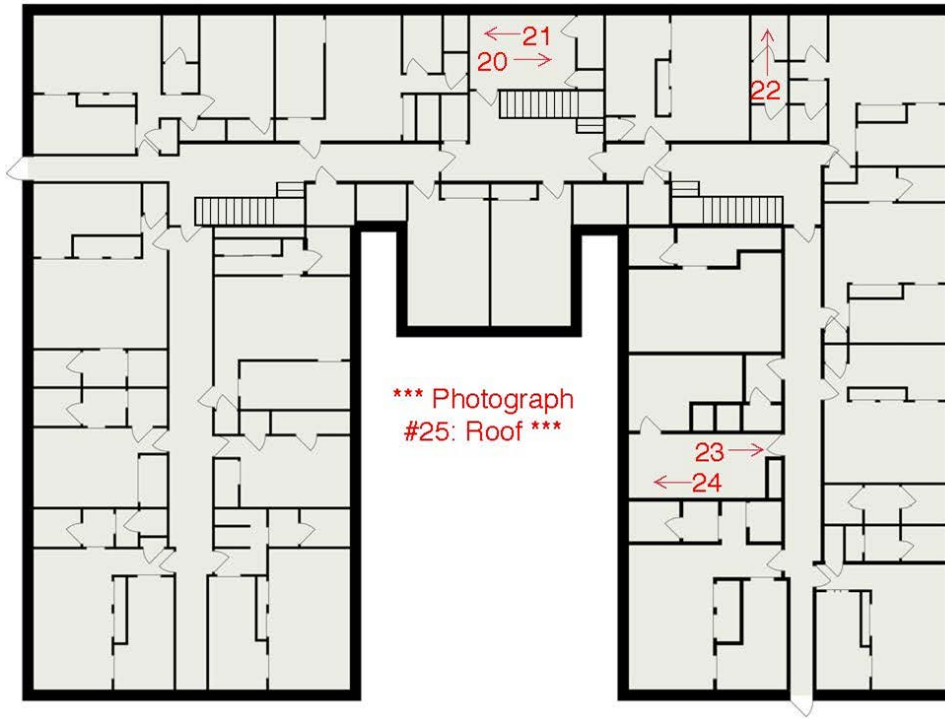
Figure 6. Floor Plan—Third Floor



Aloha Apartment Hotel
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California
County and State

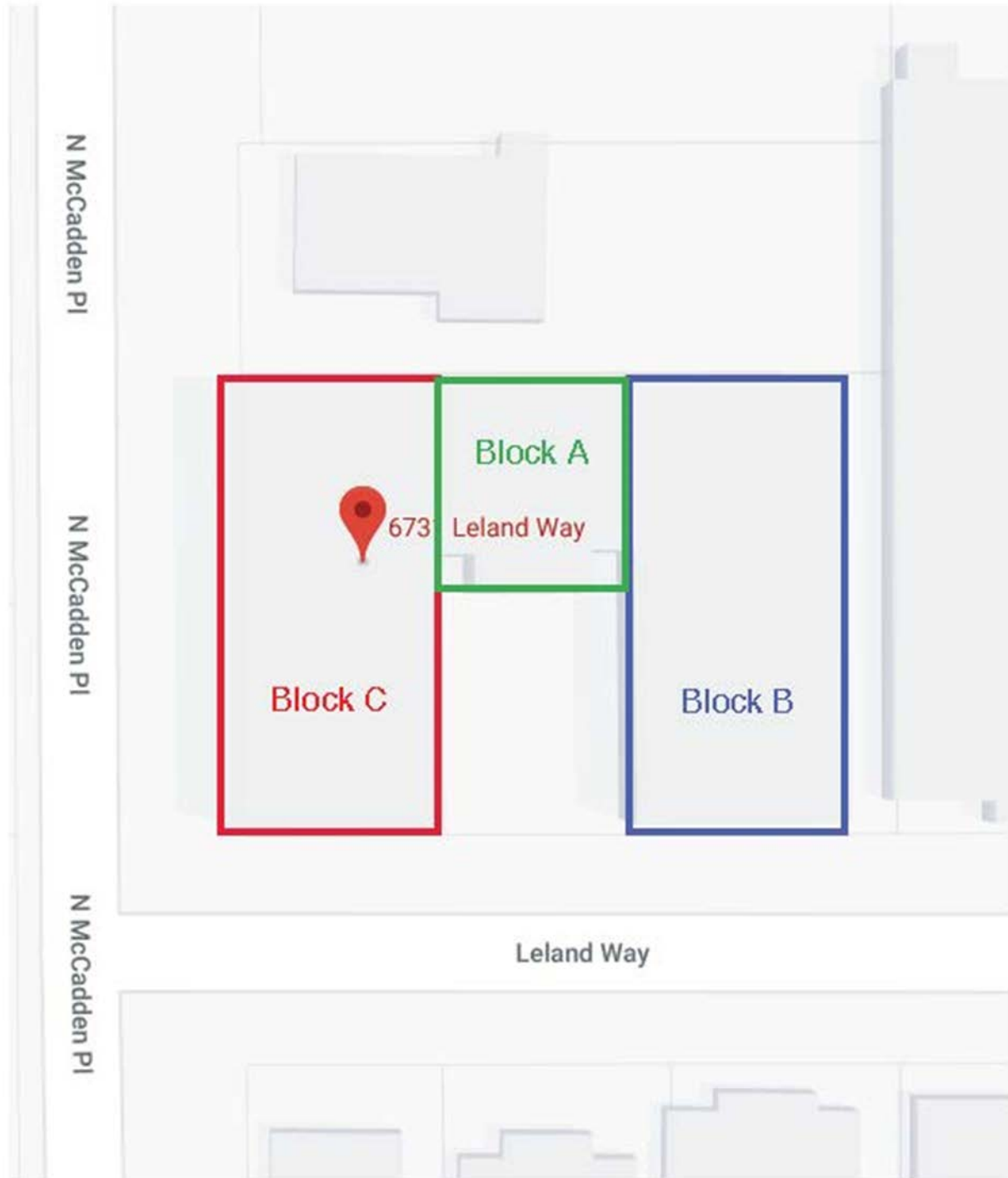
Figure 7. Floor Plan/Photo Key—Fourth Floor



Aloha Apartment Hotel
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California
County and State

Figure 8. Block Plan



Aloha Apartment Hotel
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California
County and State

Figure 9. Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1950

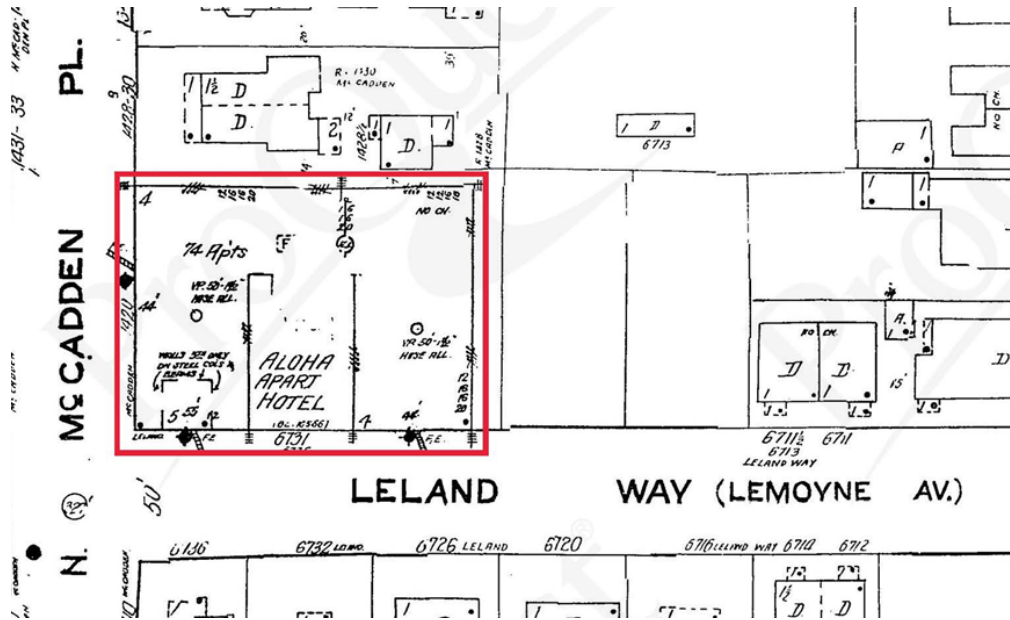


Figure 10. From the Los Angeles Times, September 2, 1928

