Attachment 3 Tim Gregory Historic Analysis





600 FOOTHILL BOULEVARD LA CAÑADA FLINTRIDGE

First Church of Christ, Scientist of La Cañada

Style: Neo-English Gothic

Year of Completion:Original construction: 1949Expansion: 1958

Original Building Permits: Permit #29920 was issued by the County of Los Angeles on October 13, 1948 for a 4,300-square-foot church "auditorium" building. It was to have plaster walls and a roof covered in wood shakes. The cost was estimated at \$47,500.

On May 15, 1958 permit #0236 allowed the construction of a 5,152-square-foot addition to accommodate a Sunday school and a reading room. The cost was estimated at \$85,000.

Copies of these permits are attached on pages 13 and 14.

(Note: La Cañada Flintridge did not incorporate as a city until 1976. Before that, it was under the jurisdiction of Los Angeles County.)

Architects: 1949—E. Allan Sheet, Los Angeles—the then-partner of W. Harry Hillier

1958-W. Harry Hillier, Beverly Hills

A June 1958 article in the *La Cañada Valley Sun* newspaper credits Mr. Hillier with having also supervised the 1949 phase of the project which would have been completed after the death of Mr. Sheet.

Please see the attached biographical materials about Mr. Hillier on pages 5 through 7.

Builders: 1949—Unknown--no contractor was identified on the building permit

1958—Merritt S. Dunlap, Glendale

First Owner: The First Church of Christ, Scientist in Los Angeles was the original owner, having purchased unimproved Lots 2 and 3 in August 1944 from Gerald E. Kerrin, et. al., who owned most of Tract 11196.

The La Cañada Church was organized in September 1926 in Montrose where it was known as the Christian Science Society of Montrose. Its first services were conducted in the Masonic Hall. It was recognized by The Mother Church in Boston in March 1927. A reading room and a Sunday school were established in 1928. The Society later moved its services to the Montrose Theater and then to the Church of the Lighted Window in La Cañada. In 1931, the Society relocated to the La Cañada Thursday Club clubhouse at which point it was re-named the First Church of Christ, Scientist of La Cañada. In 1940, the group was strengthened when it merged with the Christian Science Society of La Crescenta.

Although services had been conducted in the new church building since its completion in May 1949, it was not dedicated until December 6, 1953 when all debts had been paid with the assistance of the Trustees under the Will of Mary Baker Eddy.

The La Cañada Church purchased unimproved Lot 4 in 1950 from Harold H. and Mabelle W. Smith and added it to the church campus.

Historical newspaper articles, including renderings of the church buildings, are attached on pages 8 through 12.

Other Building Permits: A permit was issued in January 1966 to alter the organ pit and loft at a cost of \$1,000. MacIsaac and Monk of Los Angeles was the contractor.

The stage area was to be remodeled and some seats removed in the assembly room according to a permit issued in June 1978. J. Brown of Pasadena was to be the designer. The cost was estimated at \$10,000. This permit was marked "expired" in March 1982.

A roofing job occurred in May 1983 costing \$3,000.

Interior modifications to the Sunday school/reading room building were permitted in November 1990. Exterior masonry and cement paving were also included on the permit. The project was to cost \$70,000. Pope Associates of Century City was the designer and the contractor was Spear Construction of Van Nuys.

The buildings were re-roofed with Class A composition material in September 1993 for \$17,000.

The property was connected to the public sewer in December 2001.

Copies of some of these permits are attached on pages 15 through 17.

(Note: Permits for very minor alterations, such as water heater replacement, are not included. Also not included are permits missing from the file or whose microfilmed or digital copies are indecipherable and not otherwise recorded or described in Assessor's records.)

Assessor's Records: The Los Angeles County Assessor currently records three improvements on the property: a 5,743-square-foot structure built in 1949; a 26,900-square-foot structure built in 1953; and a 4,539-square-foot structure built in 1958. County Assessor's building records were not consulted for this report.

Notes: On June 12, 1958 the *La Cañada Valley Sun* newspaper reported on the "extensive building and remodeling program" anticipated by the church. "The additions will include a new Reading Room and a complete Sunday School building for approximately 350 pupils. The main auditorium of the present building will be enlarged to accommodate 345 persons."

The *Los Angeles Times* on June 7, 1959 said the new campus included a church auditorium to seat 350, a Sunday school building accommodating 300 and a Reading Room. "The church auditorium now includes rooms for the board of directors and committee meetings, an office and teachers' rooms. Cathedral glass windows for the two buildings were the gift of a member of the church."

Current photographs of the Church can be found on pages 18 through 21.

Significance: The First Church of Christ, Scientist of La Cañada is a good example of a modern interpretation of English Gothic architecture with its simple eave lines, low multiple gables and a slim, metal spire. It retains a sense of the traditional, but the application of stone veneer to some of the walls (perhaps added in 1958), an oculus window, and other wood-framed windows more reminiscent of Colonial Revival architecture are all elements of Southern California post-war eclecticism.

The architect, W. Harry Hillier, a Christian Scientist himself, designed several churches of that denomination in the Los Angeles area. One in particular, the 24th Church of Christ, Scientist in Canoga Park (built in 1951) is much larger and more dramatically contemporary than the La Cañada Church which appears to have been built on a budget with little ornamentation.

The campus of First Church of Christ, Scientist of La Cañada should be given a California Historical Resources Status Code of 6L—"Determined ineligible for local listing or designation...[but] may warrant special consideration in local planning." The filing of this report and accompanying photographs in the archives of the Lanterman House would be an appropriate City response to this "special consideration."

Sources:

Lanterman House (Archives)
City of La Cañada Flintridge, Building Department
Los Angeles County Assessor (Los Angeles archives)
Los Angeles Public Library
City of Pasadena, Planning and Development Department (Design & Historic Preservation Section)
Pasadena Public Library
Pasadena Museum of History (Research Library and Archives)
Gebhard, David and Robert Winter. *An Architectural Guidebook to Los Angeles*. Salt Lake City, Gibbs-Smith, 2003.
McAlester, Virginia Savage. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. 2nd ed. New York, Knopf, 2013.
Ungermann-Marshall, Yana. *Flintridge*. Arcadia Publishing, 2008.
City Directories: 1948-

La Cañada Valley Sun: June 12, 1958 Los Angeles Times: December 6 and 20, 1953; June 7, 1959

Internet Resources, including California Index, California Death Index, Gale Biography Master Index, Ancestry.com, and Historic *Los Angeles Times* Database.

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W. HARRY HILLIER Architect

William Harry Hillier (known professionally as W. Harry Hillier) was born in Geelong, Victoria, Australia on May 11, 1891. In 1912, supported by a scholarship, he earned a Master's Degree in art, sculpture and architecture from the Gordon Institute of Technology in Geelong. He was soon after accepted into the Royal Victorian Institute of Architects (RIVA) by examination. During his college years, Mr. Hillier was employed as a chief draftsman by Laird & Buchan, served as an associate with George J. Oakeshoft in the planning of the Pan Pacific International Exposition, and was a lecturer at Khari University. In 1913, he emigrated to Canada and went to work for C. Howard Cranke, spending time in both London and Detroit, where the firm had offices. He would do work for Cranke again between 1934 and 1945. Mr. Hillier served as an engineer in the Canadian Army during World War I, spending most of the war in France.



In 1928, Mr. Hiller went into partnership in Los Angeles with E. Allan Sheet (1898-1948), a native of Pennsylvania. Hillier & Sheet took on both architectural and engineering projects. Upon the death of Mr. Sheet, Mr. Hillier set up his own firm which would eventually become known as W. Harry Hillier & Associates, located in Beverly Hills. He lived in Hollywood with his wife, the former Margaret Gretella Isobel Young, English-born, whom he had married in Canada in 1919. They would have two children. During World War II Mr. Hillier helped design a number of steel plants and aircraft factories in England. He became a United States citizen in 1949. A Christian Scientist since 1935, he designed several churches for the

denomination over the years. Late in his career, W. Harry Hillier & Associates appears to have specialized in the design of hospitals.

Mr. Hillier belonged to the Exchange Club, the Masons, and the Southern California Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, having joined in 1949. He retired from the profession in 1964, having lost his eyesight and most of his hearing. However, five years later he regained the use of his eyes. Encouraged by his family, he again took up his hobby of painting, specializing in oil and pastel renderings of the California missions and the scenery of England and Scotland. Mr. Hillier died at the age of 90 on January 16, 1982.

Among the architectural works of Mr. Hillier:

Earls Court Exhibition Building and the Gaumont Theatre, Holloway, London (1939)
Briggs Motor Body Plants, Dagenham London (1942-43)
Vicker-Armstrong Airplane factory, Weybridge, London (1943)
Airport Terminal and Hangers, Feltham, London (1944)
First Church of Christ, Scientist, La Cañada (1949; with enlargement and alterations in 1958)
Monti Hicks home, North Hollywood (1951)—according to the *Los Angeles Times* a contemporary post-and-beam house which "stressed economy of material, functionalism and pleasing form."

Seventeen "rustic" houses in the Hidden Woods development, Ostego Street, Sherman Oaks (1951)—with heavy shakes roofs and board-and-batten siding.

24th Church of Christ, Scientist, Jordan Avenue and Valerio Street, Canoga Park (1952) described by the *Los Angeles Times* as "modern [with Palos Verdes stone trim], but retaining its sense of the traditional by simple eave lines, low raking gables and a slim, lofty spire." (This description could also largely apply to the La Cañada church of 1949.) Temple Beth-El, Crescent Heights Blvd. and Fountain Avenue, Hollywood (1952)

"Pioneer" model home designed for the 8th Annual National Los Angeles Home Show (1953) featuring an open floor plan, glass walls, patios and terraces, built-ins, and indoor planters; called an "all-season residence combining sophistication and high style in a small house." Westminster General Hospital, Westminster (1958)

Pasadena Jewish Temple, 1434 North Altadena Drive (1958)—remodeling and enlargement. Monrovia Hospital, 529 East Lime (1959)

Alondra Community Hospital, 9240 Alondra Blvd., Bellflower (1959)

Motion Picture Country House and Hospital, Woodland Hills (1959)-large addition

Sources:

American Architects Directory (1956 and 1962)
Architect and Engineer: January 1928
Los Angeles Times: January 7, 1951; August 19, 1951; August 30, 1952; June 7, 1953; August 26, 1977

Internet Resources, including California Index, California Death Index, Gale Biography Master Index, Ancestry.com, and Historic Los Angeles Times

Database.

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Dnce-Blind Painter Displaying His Work

evin, Victor os Angeles Times (1923-Current File); Aug 26, 1977; roQuest Historical Newspapers: Los Angeles Times g. M25

Once-Blind Painter Displaying His Work

by Victor Levin

he minute detailed art work of William Harry Hillier's oil pastel paintings of the San Juan Capistrano and Santa Cruz Missions as well as many picturesque scenes from England and Scotland are now on display at the Centre Galley in Sherman Oaks.

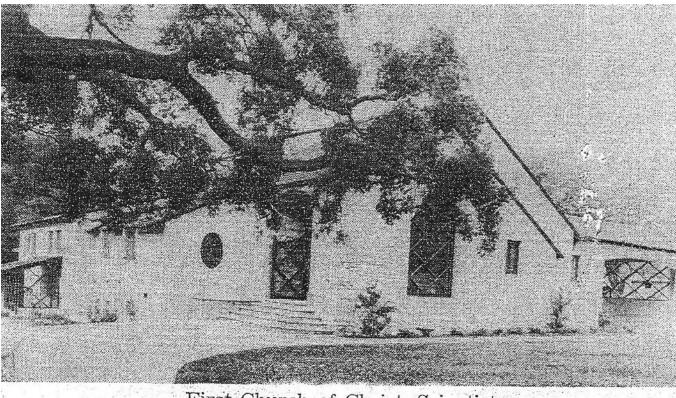
An unusual quality of this 86-year old (once blind) former architect-engineer is his creative ability to produce any painting from half torn post cards. The parts of buildings not shown can be easily drawn because of his architectural knowledge of what each structure should resemble.

Hillier started his career in designing buildings in his hometown, Geelong, Australia, as an apprentice while attending Gordon Institute of Technology. After graduation he became an instructor there for several years.

His travels brought him to the United States, where he worked for numerous architectural firms in Chicago and San Francisco for three years. When World War I began he enlisted in the Canadian Army as an engineer, spending most of the war in France constructing and designing bridges and other buildings.

Then during World War II in London, he helped design many steel plants and aircraft factories. With his family, he came to Los Angeles in 1946 to find work as an architect. Losing his eyesight, he was forced into retirement in 1964. For five years he was blind and partially deaf. His family thought his blindness was not correctable, but with a successful eye operation he was able to regain the use of his eyes and had to "learn" to read and write all over again.

Hiller has been encouraged to paint by his wife, daughter and friends. Today he spends three hours a day painting the California missions from black and white newspaper pictures and post cards. For the last four years he and his wife have been residing at the Capri Guest Home in Van Nuys.



First Church of Christ, Scientist

Unknown source, ca. 1951

1.

CHRISTIAN SCIENTISTS TO DEDICATE CHURCH

Los Angeles Times (1923-Current File); Dec 6, 1953; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Los Angeles Times pg. A10

CHRISTIAN SCIENTISTS **TO DEDICATE CHURCH**

Scientist, of La Canada, com- ence Society of La Crescenta. pleted in 1948, will be dedicated the nursery open for the first two.

The church was organized in 1926 with first services conduct- debt. ed in the Masonic Hall and two years later a reading room was established. For three years lectures were delivered in Montrose Theater and then at the Church of the Lighted Window.

In 1940 the La Canada group

The First Church of Christ, merged with the Christian Sci-

The present building site, at today with three services, at 600 Foothill Blvd., was pur-11 a.m., 3 p.m. and 5 p.m., with chased in 1944 and first services were conducted in the present structure May 22, 1948. Christian Science churches are dedicated only when free of

Science Church Rite Marks End of Debt Los Angeles Times (1923-Current File): Dec 20, 1953; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Los Angeles Times pg G8

Science Church Rite Marks End of Debt

LA CANADA—Dedication of First Church of Christ, Scientist at 600 Foothill Bivd. five years after construction started, was a triumph for members, indicating the church is now out of debt.

Triple ceremonies were held, at 11 a.m., 3 and 8 p.m., with the nursery being open for the afternoon and evening services.

Met in Masonic Hall

First Church, located on Foothill Bivd, at Woodleigh Lane, was launched 27 years ago when initial public services were conducted in the Masonic Hall during September, 1926, and a Sunday School was then organized. In March, 1927, Christian Science Society of Montrose became a recognized branch of The Mother Church, The First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston, Mass. The following year a reading room was established.

Used Montrose Theater

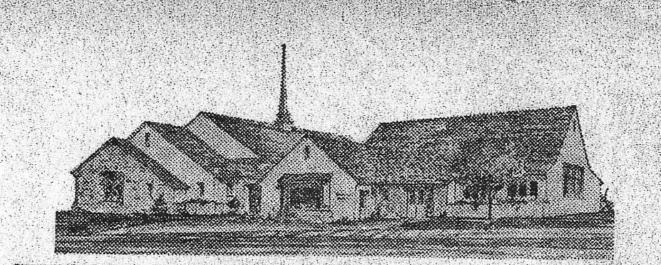
For the first three years Christian Science lectures were delivered in the Montrose Theater, and during the next few years the Church of the Lighted Window granted the use of their edifice for the annual lectures given under the auspices of the church. The steady growth of the cont

The steady growth of the con-t gregation necessitated a move to larger quarters, and in 1931 the place of meeting was changed to the La Canada Thursday Clubhouse, whereupon the title was changed to First Church of Christ, Scientist, of La Canada. During 1940, the church was strengthened by a merger with Christian Science Society of La Crescenta.

Built in 1948

The present building site was purchased in 1944 and actual s building began in October, 1948. p It was completed for the first lisservices on May 22, 1948. As Christian Science churches

are dedicated only when free s of debt, the members grateful- is ly acknowledge those friends V whose contributions have made n possible the fulfilment of dedi- d cation.



CHRISTIAN SCIENCE BUILDING PROGRAM PLANNED

First Church of Christ, Scientist, of La Cañada announces the beginning of an extensive building and remodeling program of their edifice at 600 Foothill Blvd., La Cañada. The additions will include a new Reading Room and a complete Sunday School building for approximately 350 pupils. The main auditorium of the present building will be enlarged to accommodate 345 persons.

W. Harry Hillier, who supervised the building of the original edifice, is the architect for the present improvement. The contract for the construction work has been awarded to Merritt S. Dunlap, of Glendale. The contruction is expected to be completed in December.

First Church of Christ, Scientist, of La Cañada, was first known as the Christian Science Society of Montrose when it was recognized by The Mother Church, The First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston, Mass., in 1927. The present building was completed in 1949 and dedicated free of debt with the assistance of the Trustees under the Will of Mary Baker Eddy in 1953.

> La Cañada Valley Sun June 12, 1958; p. 32

Enlarged Christian Science Church Opens

opening services of expand-building, church representaed facilities at First Church tives point out, will make it of Christ, Scientist, will be possible to hold church servheld in the church today at ices and Sunday-school serv-19:30 and 11 a.m. and at ices simultaneously at 9:30 3 p.m.

included enlargement of the vided at both services. church auditorium to seat Room.

Organized in 1927

First Church was organized in 1927 in Montrose. In 1931, the society received its official status as a member the of church Mother Church in Boston, Mass., and in 1940 it united with First Church in La Crescenta.

The combined group held services in the Thursday Club until May, 1949, when the present site was utilized.

LA CANADA - Formal The new Sunday-school and 11 a.m. Child care for The construction program the very young will be pro-

The church auditorium 350, and erection of a Sun- now includes rooms for the day-school building accom- board of directors and commodating 300 and a Reading mittee meetings, an office and teachers' rooms. Cathedral glass windows for the two buildings were the gift of a member of the church.

W. Harry Hillier served as archtiect and Merritt Dunlap of Glendale was contractor.

> Los Angeles Times June 7, 1959; p. GV A10

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I HEREBY ACKNOWLEDGE THAT I HAVE READ THIS APPLICATION AND STATE THAT THE ABOVE IS CORRECT AND AGREE TO COMPLY WITH ALL ORDINANCES AND LAWS REGULATING BUILDING CONSTRUCTION I CRITERY THAT IN DOING THE			†	\mathbf{t}	1	$\frac{1}{\gamma}$			
WORK AUTHORIZED HEREBY I WILL NOT EMPLOY ANY PERSON IN VIO THE LABOR CODE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN RELATING TO WORKN	MARCIN CH		1	×		<i>ą</i>	**************************************		
PENSATION INSURANCE.		Sec. 8.						× 1 1	
		FINAL			BY			8.5	
ADDRESS					e				
City TEL NO		P.C. Fee \$	52	5		Permit Fee	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
VALUATION \$0000						Issuance Fee			
VALUATION						Total Fee			
PLAN CHECK VALIDATION CK. M.O.	CASH	7	PERN	AIT VA	LIDATI	ON CK	. M.O.	CASH	
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55 76A6388 CE /8038 8/77		1							

	APPLICATION FOR	BUILDING PERMIT					
	COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES	BUILDING AND SAFETY					
WORKER'S COMPENSATION DECLARATION	FOR APPLICANT TO FILL IN	BUILDING ADDRESS GOTHIN Blyd.					
I hereby affirm that I have a certificate of consent to self insure, or a certificate of Workers' Companisation Insurance, or a certified _cdpy thereot (Sec. 3800, Lab. C.)	BUILDING ADDRESS COO FOOTHILL BLVD.						
Policy No. P.C. 996926 Company REPUBLIC		LOCALITY					
Certified copy is hereby turnished. TWDEMNITY CO		NEAREST CROSS ST.					
Certified copy is filed with the county building inspection department.	TRACT BLOCK LOT NO. ASSESSOR MAP BOOK PAGE PARCEL	USE ZONE MAP NO.					
Dete Applicant		CPD SPECIAL CONDITIONS					
CERTIFICATE OF EXEMPTION FROM WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE	CONTREST CHURCH OFCHRIST TEL NO.	WITHIN 1000 FT. OF SCHOOL? YES NO					
(This section need not be completed if the permit is for one hundred dollars (\$100) or less.)	GOD FOOTHILL BLVD	DISTRICT GROUP TYPE CONST. FIRE ZONE PROCESSED BY					
I certify that in the performance of the work for which this permit is issued, I shall not employ any person in any menner so as to become subject to the Workers' Compensation Laws.	THE CANADA	3.01 K-2 III 4					
Date Applicant	ADDRESS	CLASS NO. 21 DWELL UNITS 0					
NOTICE TO APPLICANT: If, after making this Certificate of Exemption, you should become subject to the Workers'	2029 CENTURY PANIC ENST 2000 90067	REQUIRED TOTAL SETBACK FROM EXIST SET BACK YARD HWY PROPLINE WIDTH					
Compensation provisions of the Labor Code, you must forthwith comply with such provisions or this permit shall be deemed revoked.	ADDRESS CABRITO RD LIC. NO.	FRONT PL					
LICENSED CONTRACTORS DECLARATION		SIDE					
I hereby affirm that I am licensed under provisions of Chapter 9 (commencing with Section 7000) of Division 3 of the Business and	SO, FT. SIZE NO. OF STORES NO. OF FAMILIES NEW	SEWER MAP BK PG					
Professions Code, and my license is in full force and effect. License Number <u>119290</u> Lic. Class <u>B-1</u>	DESCRIPTION OF WORK	VALUATION COL V					
Contractor PAUL W. SPEAR 12/20/90	ELECTOR MASONRY COMENT ALTER D	\$ 80,000					
I am exempt under Sec	PAUNE ; INTERIOL MUP ATONS REPAIR	\$ 70,000					
B.&P.C. for this reason		LOMA P/C #					
Signature Date:	LEADING PLOT SUNDAY SLADL URM	LDMA Perm #					
I is owner of the property, or my employees with wages as	15 CHURCH OF CHRIST SCIENTIST						
their sole compensation, will do the work and the structure is not intended or offered for sale (Section 7044, Business and	200 FRONTHIL BLID LA CANADA	FINAL DATE					
Professions Code.)	WILL THE APPLICANT OR FUTURE BUILDING OCCUPANT HANDLE A HAZARDOUS MATERIAL OR A MIXTURE CONTAINING A HAZARDOUS MATERIAL BOUNT TO OR GREATER THAN THE AMOUNTS SPECIFIED ON THE MAZARDOUS MATERIALS INFORMATION GUIDE?	4-8-91					
I, as owner of the property, am exclusively contracting with licensed contractors to construct the project (Section 7044, Business and Professions Code.)	YES NO 🛛	FINALBY					
CONSTRUCTION LENDING AGENCY	WILL THE INTENDED USE OF THE BUILDING BY THE APPLICANT OR FUTURE BUILDING OCCURNNE REQUIRE A PRINT FOR CONSTRUCTION OR MODIFICATION FROM THE SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT (SCAGMID) SEE PERMITTING CHECKLIST FOR GUIDELINES.	PC : 8993					
I hereby affirm that there is a construction lending agency for the performance of the work for which this permit is issued (Sec.	YES D NO 🖾						
3097, Civ. C.).	1 HAVE READ THE HAZAROOUS MATERIALS INFORMATION GUIDE AND THE SCAOND PERMITTING CHECKLET: UNDERSTAND VI RECURRENTS UNDER THE LOS ANGULS COUNTY CODE, TITLE 2, CHAPTER 2205ECTIONS 220.100 THROUGH 220.140 CONCERNING MAZAROOUS MATERIALS REPORTING AND FOR GREINING A DEMIT TROUGH THE SCACAND.	675.76					
S Lender's Name	HAZAROOUS MATERIALS REPORTING AND FOR OBTAINING A PERMIT FROM THE SCACIND.	675.76					
E Lender's Address	OWNER OR ADDRT	11-21.90					
I cartify that I have read this application and state that the above g information is correct. I agree to comply with all county ordinances and State laws relating to <u>building configuration</u> , and	P.C. FEE PERMIT FEE 795.00	1					
ordinances and State laws relating to building construction, and hereby supporter representatives of this Conty to enter upon the above mentioned excepts to up research purposes. /	675.76 ISSUANCE FEE 21.00						
V 2 Million 191 / 1 / 10/90/90	INVESTIGATION FEE TOTAL FEE 816.00						
	SEE REVERSE FOR EXPLANATORY LANGUAGE						



East end of north elevation, looking south



Northeast corner, looking southwest



West end of north elevation, looking south



East elevation, looking northwest