

# Los Angeles Department of City Planning

## RECOMMENDATION REPORT

**CULTURAL HERITAGE COMMISSION**

**CASE NO.: CHC-2009-3525-HCM  
ENV-2009-3526-CE**

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

Location: 9550 N. Haskell Avenue  
Council District: 12  
Community Plan Area: Mission Hills-Panorama  
City- North Hills  
Area Planning Commission: North Valley  
Neighborhood Council: North Hills West  
Legal Description: Lot FR 28 Sec 20 T2N R15W  
of Subdivision No.1 of the Property of the Porter  
Land and Water Company

**PROJECT:** Historic-Cultural Monument Application for the  
SEPULVEDA UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY  
SANCTUARY ("THE ONION")

**REQUEST:** Declare the property a Historic-Cultural Monument

**OWNER:** Sepulveda Unitarian Universalist Society  
9550 N. Haskell Avenue  
North Hills, CA 91343

**APPLICANT:** Los Angeles Conservancy in conjunction with  
Kennedy High School Architecture and Digital Arts Magnet  
(Pablo Avila, Guadalupe Mora, Nitzie Perez, Therese Stoppiello)  
523 West 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 826  
Los Angeles, CA 90014

**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]**

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Ken Bernstein, AICP, Manager  
Office of Historic Resources

**[SIGNED ORIGINAL IN FILE]**

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Lambert M. Giessinger, Preservation Architect  
Office of Historic Resources

Prepared by:

**[SIGNED ORIGINAL IN FILE]**

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Edgar Garcia, Preservation Planner  
Office of Historic Resources

Attachments:      August 20, 2009 Historic-Cultural Monument Application  
ZIMAS Report

## **FINDINGS**

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

## **CRITERIA**

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

## **SUMMARY**

Built in 1964 and located in the North Hills area, this one-story church sanctuary exhibits character-defining features of the Modern style. The subject building is circular in shape and plan and located on a rectangular lot. The dome-shaped structure is supported by glue laminated timber beams with an exterior finish of composition shingles. The roofing material continues down the entire length of the sanctuary from the roof to the foundation. The roof tapers into a flat point at the highest peak, resulting in an onion-like form. The entrance consists of wooden double doors with an overhang extending over the entrance. Adjacent to the entrance are two casement windows set in between three sets of glass double doors also beneath the overhang. Interior spaces include the main sanctuary as well as a small sound room. Inside the subject building, the floor steps down to three seating levels creating a sunken circle in the center. The interior finish includes horizontal wood cladding and glue laminated timber beams. Secondary buildings on the property include adjoining buildings consisting of administrative offices and meeting rooms. The landscape features consist of a large grassy lawn with shrubs and trees surrounding around the subject building.

The proposed Sepulveda Unitarian Universalist Society Sanctuary (“The Onion”) historic monument was designed by architect Frank Ehrenthal. Frank Ehrenthal was a Unitarian himself and studied under master architect Richard Neutra in Europe. Ehrenthal also designed the First Unitarian Church in San Francisco and the chapel at Starr King School for the Ministry in Berkeley.

The Sepulveda Unitarian Universalist Society Sanctuary was built in 1964 as the home of the Sepulveda Unitarian Universalist Society on land that had once been a ranch. The space held several political events concerning the Vietnam War, which the congregation opposed. Controversial anti-war activist William Kunstler spoke at the sanctuary in 1970. By then “The Onion” had become known as a safe haven and headquarters for protesters. Later, Vietnam Veterans used the chapel as their headquarters for protests in 1983.

The Sepulveda Unitarian Universalist Society Sanctuary appears significant as a well-preserved example of the Modernist style, retaining most of its original features and fixtures.

Alterations include the replacement of the original wooden shake shingles due to fire code regulations as well as the addition of interior acoustical panels.

## **DISCUSSION**

The Sepulveda Unitarian Universalist Society Sanctuary (“The Onion”) property successfully meets one of the specified Historic-Cultural Monument criteria: “embodies the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type specimen, inherently valuable for a study of a period style or method of construction.” As an ecclesiastic building designed in the Modern style, the property qualifies for designation as a Historic-Cultural Monument based on these criteria.

## **BACKGROUND**

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

## **CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (“CEQA”) REVIEW**

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

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

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

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

The use of Categorical Exemption Class 31 in connection with the proposed designation is consistent with the goals relating to the preservation, rehabilitation, restoration and reconstruction of Historic buildings in a manner consistent with the Secretary of the Interior’s

**9550 N. Haskell Avenue**  
**CHC-2009-3525-HCM**  
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Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for Preserving Rehabilitating, Restoring, and Reconstructing Historic Buildings.

# Los Angeles Department of City Planning

## RECOMMENDATION REPORT

**CULTURAL HERITAGE COMMISSION**

**CASE NO.: CHC-2009-3525-HCM  
ENV-2009-3526-CE**

**HEARING DATE:** November 5, 2009  
**TIME:** 10:00 AM  
**PLACE:** City Hall, Room 1010  
200 N. Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA  
90012

Location: 9550 N. Haskell Avenue  
Council District: 12  
Community Plan Area: Mission Hills-Panorama  
City- North Hills  
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Legal Description: Lot FR 28 Sec 20 T2N R15W  
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(Pablo Avila, Guadalupe Mora, Nitzie Perez, Therese Stoppiello)  
523 West 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 826  
Los Angeles, CA 90014

**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]**

**[SIGNED ORIGINAL IN FILE]**

Ken Bernstein, AICP, Manager  
Office of Historic Resources

Lambert M. Giessinger, Preservation Architect  
Office of Historic Resources

Prepared by:  
**[SIGNED ORIGINAL IN FILE]**

Edgar Garcia, Preservation Planner  
Office of Historic Resources

Attachments: August 20, 2009 Historic-Cultural Monument Application  
ZIMAS Report

## **SUMMARY**

Built in 1964 and located in the North Hills area, this one-story church sanctuary exhibits character-defining features of the Modern style. The subject building is circular in shape and plan and located on a rectangular lot. The dome-shaped structure is supported by glue laminated timber beams with an exterior finish of composition shingles. The roofing material continues down the entire length of the sanctuary from the roof to the foundation. The roof tapers into a flat point at the highest peak, resulting in an onion-like form. The entrance consists of wooden double doors with an overhang extending over the entrance. Adjacent to the entrance are two casement windows set in between three sets of glass double doors also beneath the overhang. Interior spaces include the main sanctuary as well as a small sound room. Inside the subject building, the floor steps down to three seating levels creating a sunken circle in the center. The interior finish includes horizontal wood cladding and glue laminated timber beams. Secondary buildings on the property include adjoining buildings consisting of administrative offices and meeting rooms. The landscape features consist of a large grassy lawn with shrubs and trees surrounding around the subject building.

The proposed Sepulveda Unitarian Universalist Society Sanctuary ("The Onion") historic monument was designed by architect Frank Ehrenthal. Frank Ehrenthal was a Unitarian himself and studied under master architect Richard Neutra in Europe. Ehrenthal also designed the First Unitarian Church in San Francisco and the chapel at Starr King School for the Ministry in Berkeley.

The Sepulveda Unitarian Universalist Society Sanctuary was built in 1964 as the home of the Sepulveda Unitarian Universalist Society on land that had once been a ranch. The space held several political events concerning the Vietnam War, which the congregation opposed. Controversial anti-war activist William Kunstler spoke at the sanctuary in 1970. By then "The Onion" had become known as a safe haven and headquarters for protesters. Later, Vietnam Veterans used the chapel as their headquarters for protests in 1983.

The Sepulveda Unitarian Universalist Society Sanctuary appears significant as a well a preserved example of the Modernist style, retaining most of its original features and fixtures.

Alterations include the replacement of the original wooden shake shingles due to fire code regulations as well as the addition of interior acoustical panels.

## **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.



August 20, 2009

Mr. Edgar Garcia, Preservation Planner  
Office of Historic Resources  
Los Angeles Department of City Planning  
200 N. Spring Street, Suite 620  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Edgar:

Attached, please find the Historic-Cultural Monument nomination form for the Sepulveda Unitarian Universalist Society "Onion" Chapel, along with a CD containing digital photo images of the property.

The nomination was completed by Lupe Mora, Pablo Avila, Nitzie Perez, and Therese Stoppiello of the John F. Kennedy High School Architecture and Digital Arts Magnet. Please call or email me if you have any questions or concerns with the enclosed nomination form and materials and I will relay the message to the students in the group.

Sincerely,

Adam Rubin  
Youth Outreach Coordinator  
Los Angeles Conservancy  
(213) 430-4208  
arubin@laconservancy.org

Cc: Aaron Kahlenberg, Trudi Sandmeier



**HISTORIC-CULTURAL MONUMENT  
APPLICATION**

TYPE OR HAND PRINT IN ALL CAPITAL BLOCK LETTERS

**IDENTIFICATION**

1. NAME OF PROPOSED MONUMENT Sepulveda Unitarian Universalist Society Sanctuary ("The Onion")
2. STREET ADDRESS 9550 N. Haskell Avenue  
CITY North Hills ZIP CODE 91343 COUNCIL DISTRICT 12
3. ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NO. 2671008033
4. COMPLETE LEGAL DESCRIPTION: TRACT Subdivision No. 1 of the Property of the Porter Land and Water Company  
BLOCK None LOT(S) FR28 SEC20 T2N R15W ARB. NO. 1
5. RANGE OF ADDRESSES ON PROPERTY n/a
6. PRESENT OWNER Sepulveda Unitarian Universalist Society  
STREET ADDRESS 9550 N. Haskell Avenue E-MAIL ADDRESS: office@valleyonion.org  
CITY North Hills STATE CA ZIP CODE 91343 PHONE (818) 894-9251  
OWNERSHIP: PRIVATE Private PUBLIC \_\_\_\_\_
7. PRESENT USE Church sanctuary ORIGINAL USE Same

**DESCRIPTION**

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

**HISTORIC-CULTURAL MONUMENT  
APPLICATION**

**NAME OF PROPOSED MONUMENT** Sepulveda Unitarian Universalist Society Sanctuary ("The Onion")

10. CONSTRUCTION DATE: 1964 FACTUAL:  ESTIMATED:

11. ARCHITECT, DESIGNER, OR ENGINEER Frank Ehrental

12. CONTRACTOR OR OTHER BUILDER Unknown

13. DATES OF ENCLOSED PHOTOGRAPHS 4/23/2009 (B&W Glossy, photos on CD-R)  
(18X10 BLACK AND WHITE GLOSSY AND 1 DRY-ITM, E-MAILED TO CULTURAL.HERITAGE.COMMISSION@LACTV.ORG)

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

15. ALTERATIONS Original wooden shake shingles replaced, interior acoustical panels added.

16. THREATS TO SITE:  NONE KNOWN  PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT  VANDALISM  PUBLIC WORKS PROJECT  
 ZONING  OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

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

**SIGNIFICANCE**

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

See attached

19. SOURCES (LIST BOOKS, DOCUMENTS, SURVEYS, PERSONAL INTERVIEWS WITH DATES) Interviews with Robert McDill (Minister) and Katy Harris (Buildings and Grounds Chairperson), April 2009; Los Angeles Times (various dates, 1962-1994); San Francisco Chronicle (8/9/2003), San Francisco Gate (8/9/2003), "The Visionary State" by Erik Davis

20. DATE FORM PREPARED 05/08/2009 PREPARER'S NAME Guadalupe Mora

ORGANIZATION Kennedy High School, LA Conservancy STREET ADDRESS 11254 Gothic Avenue

CITY Granada Hills STATE CA ZIP CODE 91344 PHONE (818) 271-2537

E-MAIL ADDRESS: gdip\_mora@yahoo.com

# DESCRIPTION WORK SHEET

TYPE OR HAND PRINT IN ALL CAPITAL BLOCK LETTERS

THE Sepulveda Unitarian Universalist Society Sanctuary ("The Onion") IS A single -STORY,  
NAME OF PROPOSED MONUMENT NUMBER OF STORIES

Modernist Circular PLAN church  
ARCHITECTURAL STYLE (SEE LINE 8 ABOVE) PLAN SHAPE (Click to See Chart) STRUCTURE USE (RESIDENCE, ETC.)

WITH A composition single cladding and contoured wood ribs FINISH AND wood TRIM.  
MATERIAL (WOOD SLIDING, WOOD SHINGLES, BRICK, STUCCO, ETC.) MATERIAL (WOOD, METAL, ETC.)

IT'S dome ROOF IS composition shingles n/a  
ROOF SHAPE (Click to See Chart) MATERIAL (CLAY TILE, ASPHALT OR WOOD SHINGLES, ETC.) WINDOW MATERIAL

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

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

wood double door DOOR. ADDITIONAL CHARACTER DEFINING ELEMENTS  
ENTRY DOOR STYLE (Click to See Chart)

OF THE STRUCTURE ARE Glued laminated timber beams, original wood finishes inside  
IDENTIFY ORIGINAL FEATURES SUCH AS PORCHES (SEE CHART); BALCONIES; NUMBER AND SHAPE OF DORMERS (Click to See Chart)

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

ORNAMENTAL WOODWORK; SYMMETRY OR ASYMMETRY; CORNICES; FRIEZES; TOWERS OR TURRETS; BAY WINDOWS; HALF-TIMBERING; HORIZONTALLY;

VERTICALLY; FORMALITY OR INFORMALITY; GARDEN WALLS, ETC.

SECONDARY BUILDINGS CONSIST OF A Administrative offices and meeting rooms  
IDENTIFY GARAGE; GARDEN SHELTER, ETC.

SIGNIFICANT INTERIOR SPACES INCLUDE Three seating levels with ventilation, glass double doors, horizontal slats and  
IDENTIFY ORIGINAL FEATURES SUCH AS WOOD PANELING; MOLDINGS AND TRIM; SPECIAL GLASS WINDOWS;

ribs which meet at the top of the roof.  
ORNATE CEILINGS; PLASTER MOLDINGS; LIGHT FIXTURES; PAINTED DECORATION; CERAMIC TILE; STAIR BALUSTRADES; BUILT-IN FURNITURE, ETC.

IMPORTANT LANDSCAPING INCLUDES Trees, bushes and lawn  
IDENTIFY NOTABLE MATURE TREES AND SHRUBS

## **9. Physical Description**

The Sepulveda Unitarian Universalist Society sanctuary, better known as “The Onion” for its unique, bulbous shape, is an important example of Modernist architecture in Southern California and meets the Cultural Heritage Ordinance criteria for landmark status due to the high quality of its design and the retention of its original form, detailing, and structural integrity. The building has a circular shape with a flat point at the highest peak of the roof, resembling the tapered end of an onion. It has three sets of glass double doors framed by two, in-place windows, and is covered with composition shingle cladding all around the building. The building is held up by contoured wood beams that give it its unique shape.

Upon entering the building, the floor drops in three seating levels, creating a tiered, sunken circle at the center of the floor plan. The walls are covered with horizontal wood cladding. There is a small sound room in the sanctuary that is also covered in similar wood siding. The exterior contoured wood beams are also visible inside the building. At the roof level, the beams come together at the center of the dome to make a circle at their meeting point.

Changes to the building include the replacement of the original exterior wooden shake shingles with composition shingle cladding (similar in color and size to the original materials) to comply with fire code regulations in the 1990s. Interior lighting fixtures and acoustical panels have also been installed along all interior walls in the sanctuary.

## **18. Significance Statement**

The Sepulveda Unitarian Universalist Society (S.U.U.S.) traces its beginnings back to a small band of religious liberals who gathered together in 1943 with their Universalist minister, Rev. Sheldon Shepard, and founded the United Liberal Church of the San Fernando Valley.

In 1961, the Valley Unitarian Universalist Church began their search for a new home, as attendance grew and their old building on Victory Boulevard was no longer adequate. Their search led to congregational leader Don Justice's discovery of a five-acre ranch on Haskell Avenue in Sepulveda. The congregation found themselves in controversy; there were members who did not want to sell the property on Victory Boulevard and some, like Al and Mary Jo Brotcke, felt that, with money always in short supply, it could be better spent on things other than the construction of a new building.

However, the majority favored the move, and the land was purchased with money from the sale of the Victory Boulevard property to the Salvation Army. Some months later, Ray and Lucille Steinberg (Malvani) would be among the members and friends who co-signed for the mortgage on the new property.

An architectural committee was formed which included Spencer Peel, Kay Hardman, Don Justice and Dorothy Tucker. The recollections of Mr. Peel and Ms. Hardman were vivid as they described the search for an architect: a call was put out for someone who could design a structure that would reflect the attitudes and interests of the congregation; that would be not only a building, but a living space for art, music and theatre for creative learning and worship experiences. More than a dozen architects were interviewed, not the least of whom was the famed Richard Neutra, who came and spoke to the congregation on a Sunday morning. But there was something about his authoritarian manner and firm ideas about what he wanted to build there that caused the congregation to reject his offer. Instead, they chose Frank Ehrental, a former student of Neutra's in Europe. Ehrental was a Unitarian, a native of Hungary, and resided at the time in San Francisco. He had designed First Unitarian Church in San Francisco, and the chapel at Starr King School for the Ministry in Berkeley.

The following is from a report by Spencer Peel, then Chairman of the building committee: "Frank attended our worship services, met with our committee, lived amongst us. What he tried to discover, and what we tried to communicate, was; how the building would be

used, that is, what specific activities involving how many people we envisioned, how much could be spent, and what was our basic religious orientation. We did not tell him what kind of design.”

Ehrenthal spent time talking to people, stayed in the homes of the members, observed them at worship, work and play. When he had gotten a sense of the congregation’s needs, he shared his vision of the structure he wanted to build for them. It would be round, with no corners, where people would face and relate to each other; a building that would maintain the relationship between outdoors and indoors; a space that would pull people toward it, toward each other. He wanted to show a sense of equality between the people.

It was beyond financial means and many members wanted a rectangular building, one that would provide space for all the activities the congregation needed a building for. It would be practical and financially achievable. But the building Ehrenthal had described to them captured the imagination of the congregation. The membership was growing, thanks to a dynamic young minister, Rev. Paul Sawyer, and the enthusiastic commitment of the members looked bright. The congregation decided on Ehrenthal and his building.

Money was always short in supply, even more so as the building went up. Expenses mounted and fundraising challenged the creativity of the congregation. A building canvass was conducted to increase members’ pledges. Church member Bob Wachsman, who worked in advertising and public relations, undertook fund raising projects, including theatre parties, and some projects that were more innovative. (He brought ponies to the grounds and charged 25 cents a ride, delighting the children and augmenting the building fund.)

“The Onion” sanctuary was built on what used to be an old ranch and hayloft, which had since been torn down and stood on the land behind the present-day church parking lot. The stables and the caretaker’s cottage buildings were cleaned out and converted into a pre-school and classrooms. While Ehrenthal’s inspiration was taking shape, services were held at the Northridge Military Academy on Parthenia Street and Hayvenhurst Avenue.

In the fall of 1964, almost four years after the ranch on Haskell Avenue had been purchased, the building was completed. The joyous event was celebrated for a full month (September 27-October 25, 1964), with a dedication that spanned four weeks of music, dance, film, theatre and poetry.

The congregation liked to stay close to the community and liked to discuss controversial topics and issues. They opposed the Vietnam War and agreed to provide a speaking platform for activist attorney William Kunstler when no one else would; despite threatening phone calls to burn down the church and death threats directed toward their minister. On March 1, 1970, Mr. Kunstler spoke to an audience of 5000 people who stood shoulder to shoulder in drizzling rain. There was no violence, and the event showed that the Sepulveda Unitarian-Universalist Society was a religious organization that firmly protested the Vietnam War.

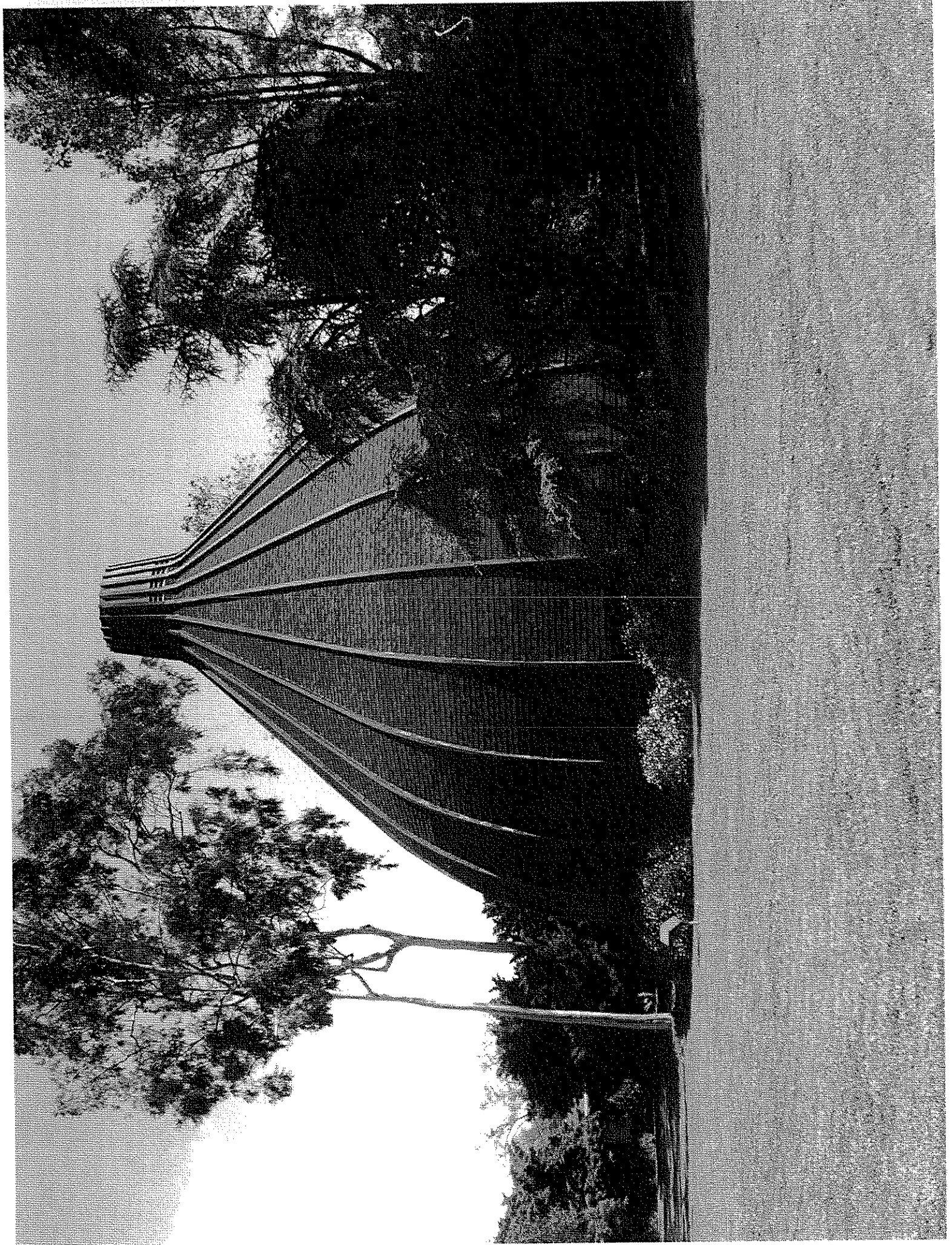
In May 1970, when the crisis precipitated by the U.S. bombing of Cambodia culminated in the killing of six students at Kent State and Jackson State, the S.U.U.S. grounds served as headquarters for Valley State students who, for four days, boycotted classes in protest. Later that year, the S.U.U.S. Board voted on a resolution supporting the demands of striking L.A. teachers, making the "Onion" sanctuary available to the striking teachers for meetings.

In 1983, the S.U.U.S. grounds were made available to Vietnam veterans protesting the V.A.'s policy on Agent Orange and the lack of treatment for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.

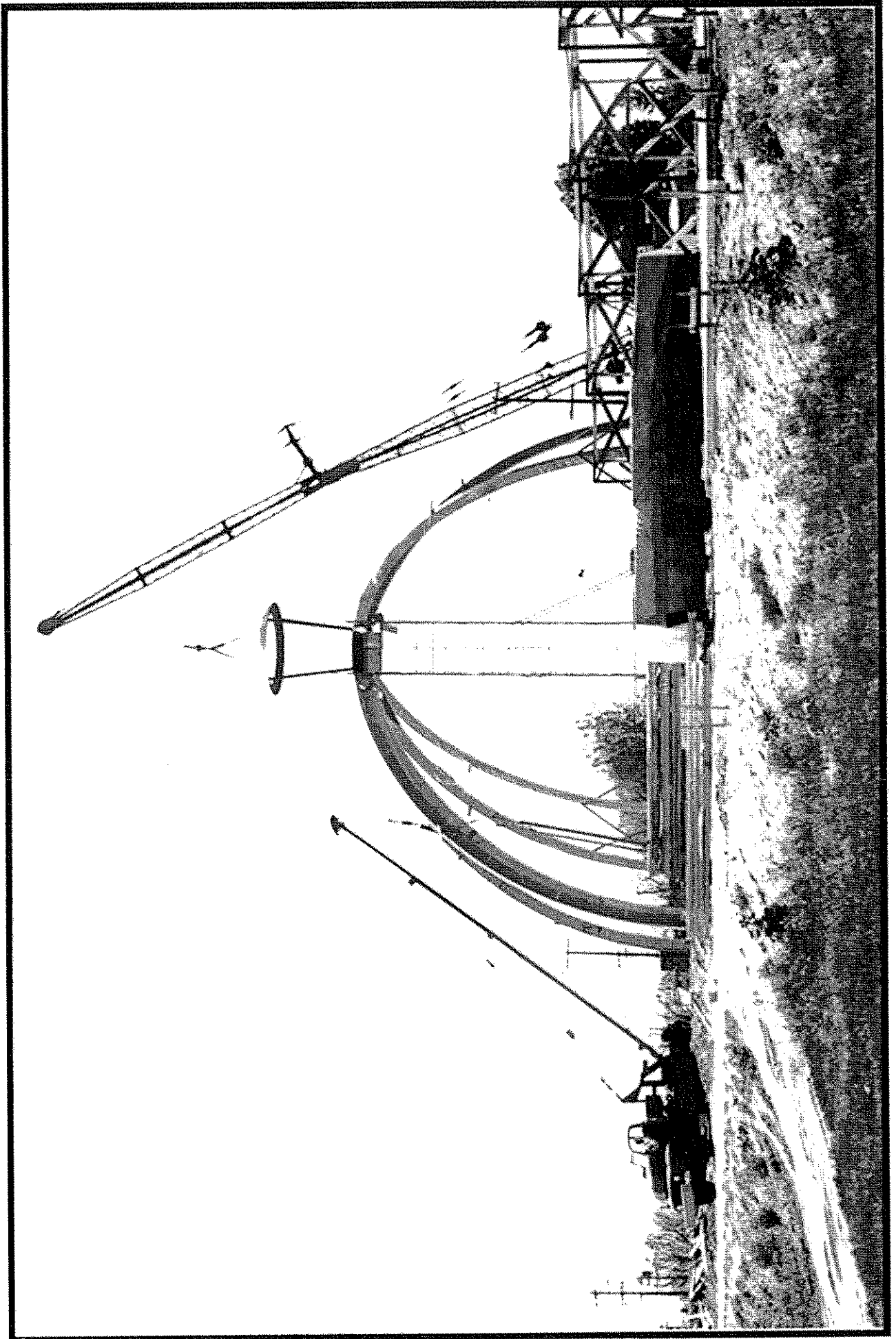
In May 1981, two members of the congregation framed the language of the Bilateral Nuclear Weapons Freeze Initiative, which would eventually become Proposition 12 on the California ballot in November 1982.

**Famous Unitarian Universalists:**

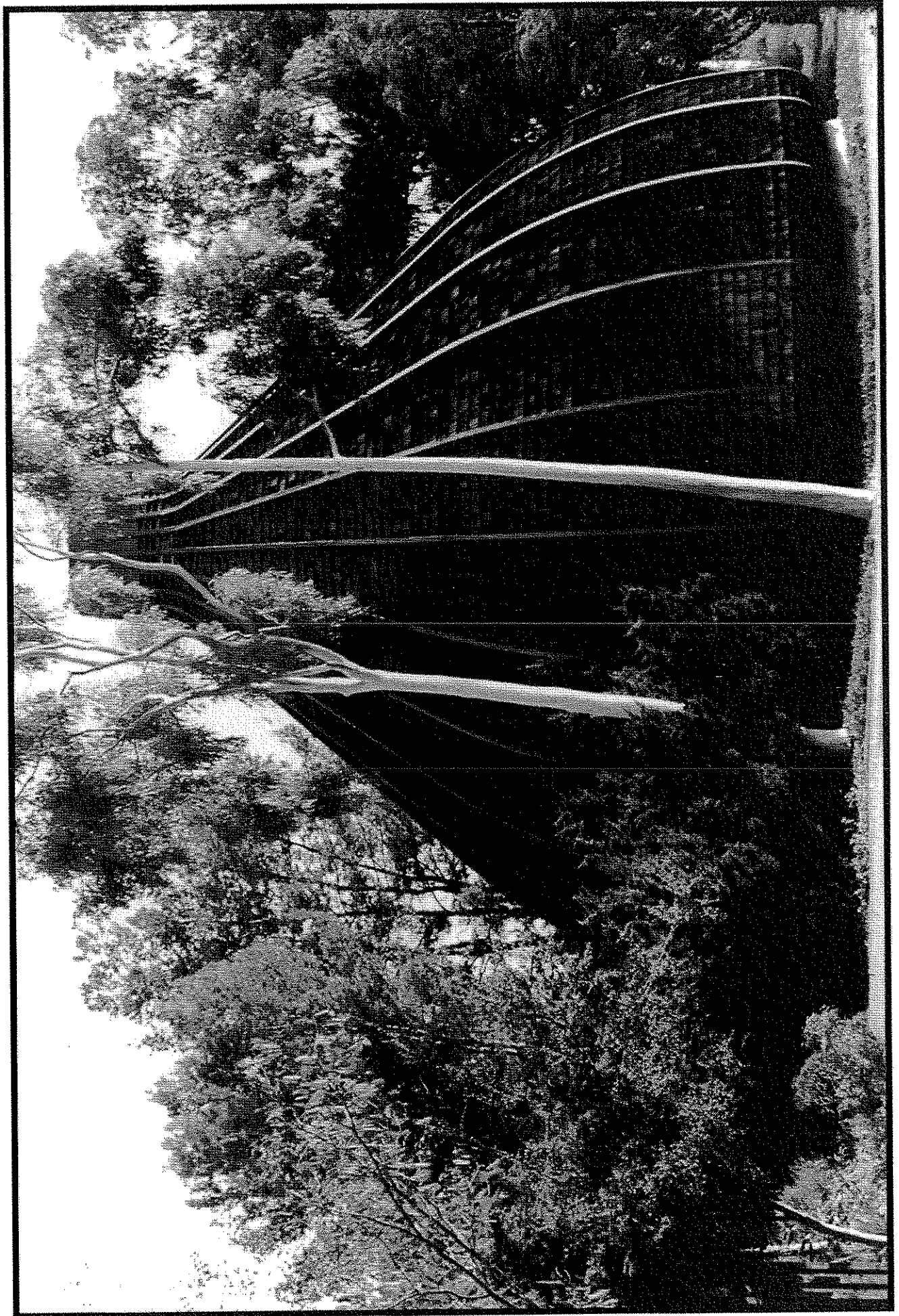
John Adams  
Louisa May Alcott  
Benjamin Franklin  
Susan B. Anthony  
John Quincy Adams  
Clara Barton  
Thomas Jefferson  
Florence Nightingale  
Buckminster Fuller  
Beatrix Potter  
Charles Dickens  
Henry David Thoreau  
Frank Lloyd Wright

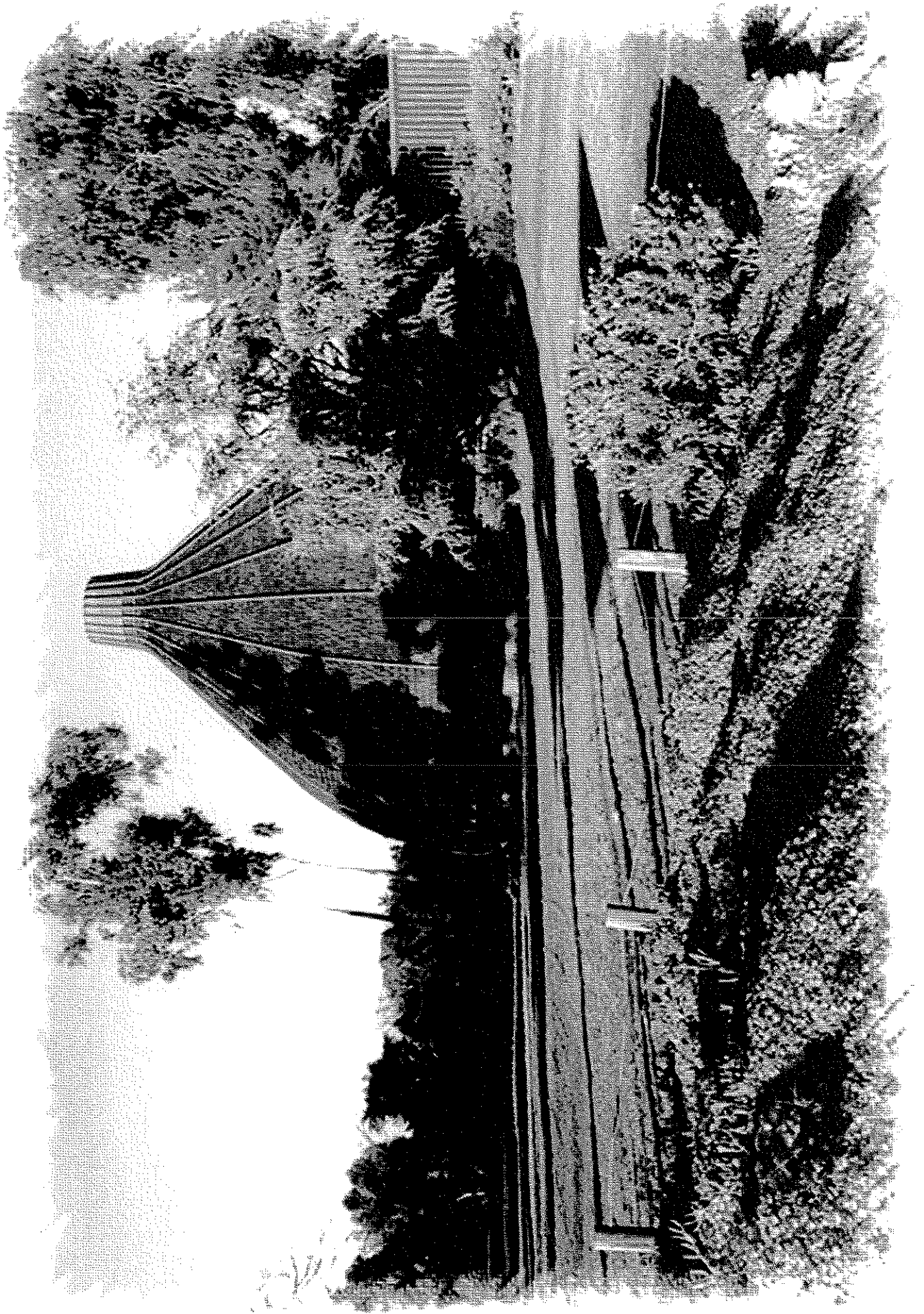


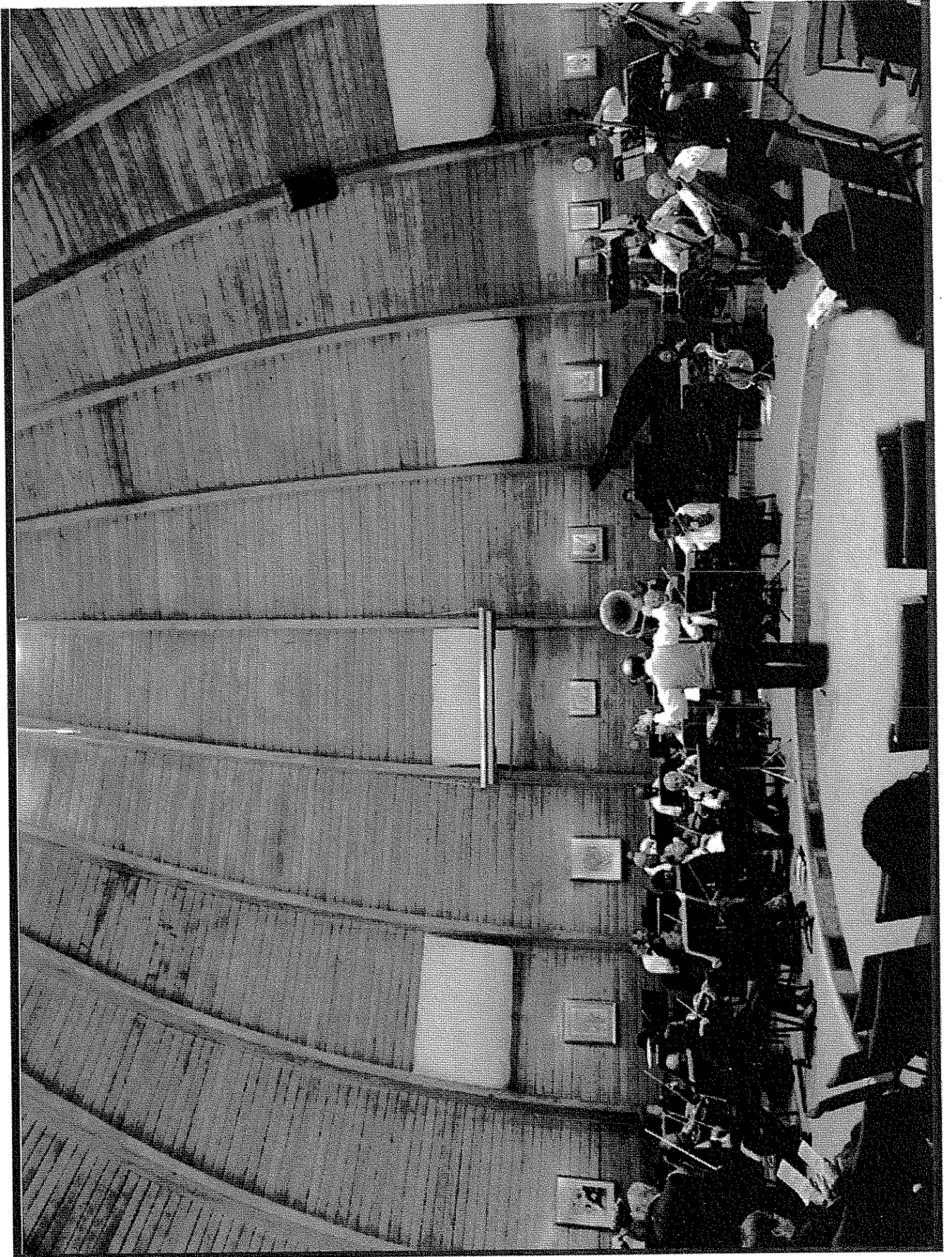


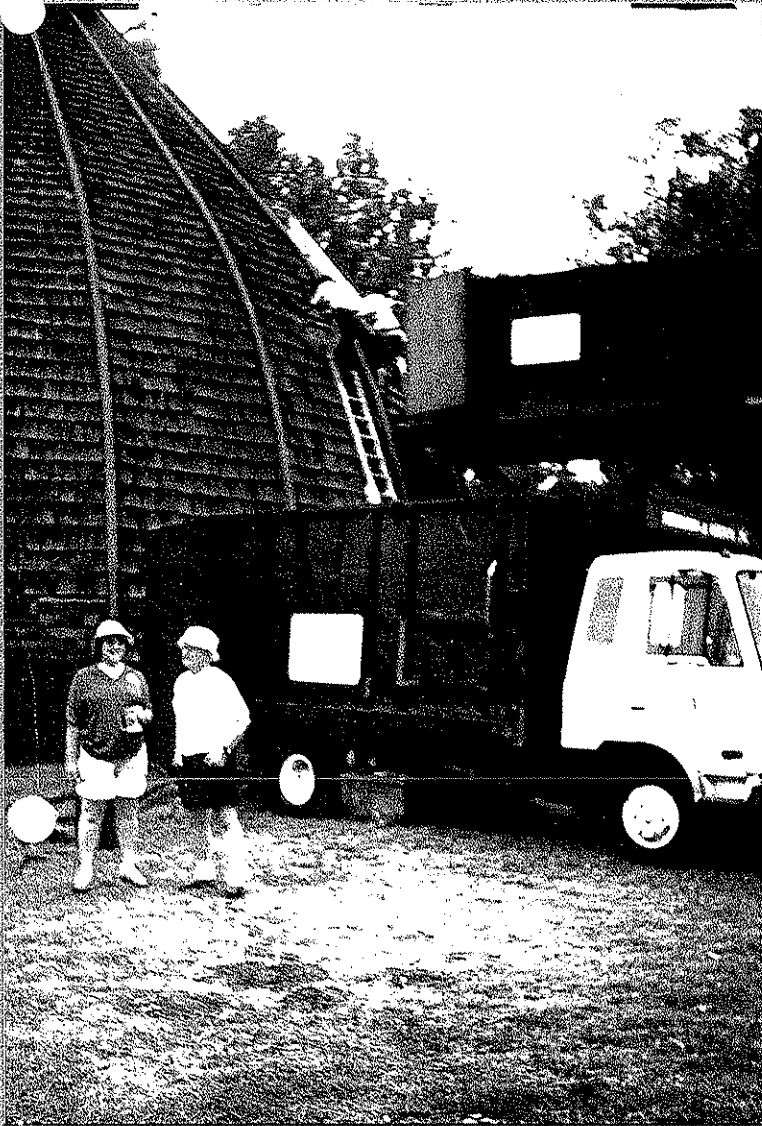












## Adam Rubin

---

**From:** BarbaraVargasM@aol.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 19, 2009 11:56 AM  
**To:** Adam Rubin; katiemae68@earthlink.net  
**Subject:** Fwd: Onion Landmark Application  
**Attachments:** Fwd: Onion Landmark Application

Adam,

I just picked up an e-mail from Katie asking that I forward to you the Motion that was passed last evening, August 18, 2009 at the Board of Trustees meeting: Barbara

The Board of Trustees of the Sepulveda Unitarian Universalist Society approves the Application for the Onion Sanctuary being designated as a Los Angeles City Historic-Cultural Monument

Side information - A list of a few historically/culturally significant Unitarian-Universalist Women follows - if the students want, I can provide them with the names of many U-Us, female & male.

Louisa May Alcott, author of "Little Women" and other books  
Susan B. Anthony, organizer of women's suffrage movement  
Clara Barton, founder of the American Red Cross  
Dorothea Dix, crusader for reform of institutions for the mentally ill  
Fannie Farmer, cooking expert  
Margaret Fuller, feminist, leading figure in Transcendentalist movement  
Julia Ward Howe, composer of "Battle Hymn of the Republic"  
Florence Nightingale, British nurse  
Beatrix Potter, author  
Margaret Sanger, birth control advocate  
May Sarton, poet, writer



**BIG AND LITTLE.**—Books of all sizes and subjects will be featured at book fair to be held today on site of new building which will be erected by Valley Unitarian-Universalist Church this year at 9550 Haskell Ave., Sepulveda.  
Times photo

## Book Fair Will Be Held at Site of New Church

SEPULVEDA — The Valley Unitarian-Universalist Church will hold a book fair today at 11:15 a.m. on the empty lot at 9550 Haskell Ave. where its new church will be built.

The fair will follow a 10 a.m. outdoor service on the five-acre property.

Rare books and first editions will be featured.

In addition to books for sale, there will be travel posters, lithographs, prints, records, original drawings and sculpturings.

Church member Rick Hardman will autograph his new book, "No Other Harvest."

Proceeds from the event

will go toward the church's welfare fund.

Valley Unitarian-Universalist Church already has moved from its old location at 14933 Victory Blvd. Construction on its new church is scheduled to start soon, with completion expected about November



Church to Seek OK for Day Nursery  
*Los Angeles Times (1880-Current File): Sep 25, 1963;*  
ProQuest Historical Newspapers Los Angeles Times (1881 - 1986)  
pg. F9

## Church to Seek OK for Day Nursery

VAN NUYS — A conditional use permit to operate a day nursery at the Valley Unitarian Universalist Church will be sought by the church Friday at a zoning administrator's hearing.

The request will be made at 2:30 p.m. at the American Legion Hall, 14541 Sylvan St., Van Nuys.

The church is located at 9550 Haskell Ave. and plans to operate the nursery for about 20 children from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on weekdays.

Another use permit will be sought at 10:30 a.m. the same day by the Department of Water and Power. It wants to operate an electrical distribution station on the southwest corner of Chatsworth St. and Lemona Ave.

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Classes Get Under Way  
*Los Angeles Times (1886-Current File): Feb 16, 1964;*  
*ProQuest (Historical Newspapers) Los Angeles Times (1881 - 1986)*  
pg. 512

## Classes Get Under Way

SEPULVEDA - Adult education classes now under way at the Valley Unitarian-Universalist Church range from a study of American radicalism to a workshop in the arts and crafts.

Dr. Joseph Ernst, history professor of Valley State College, is leading the discussion series on "American Radicalism in the 20th Century" at 8 p.m. Mondays.

Mary Ann Glantz leads a workshop in arts and crafts at 9:30 a.m. on Thursdays.

Dorothy Neuman, actress, will teach an after school program in creative drama for children at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesdays.

Other classes at the church, 9550 Haskell Ave., include intermediate guitar, leadership training and art.

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**DEDICATION SET.**—Looking over the unusual Valley Unitarian-Universalist church plans are Mrs. Til Evons, religious education director, and the Rev. Paul W. Sawyer, church minister. Church will be dedicated in a series of programs. Times photo

## Month-Long Program Will Dedicate Church

Sanctuary-in-Round to Emphasize Arts as Factor in Community's Religious Life

One of the Southland's most unusual sanctuaries will be dedicated at a month-long series of unique programs starting Sunday.

The church-in-the-round is Valley Unitarian-Universalist Church, 8550 Haskell Ave., Sepulveda. The Rev. Paul W. Sawyer is minister.

Sunday there will be a family dedication service at 10 a.m. and an evening dedication service at 8, with Dr. Harry B. Scholesfield, minister of First Unitarian Church of San Francisco, as speaker.

He will discuss, "The Liberal Church in the 20th Century, Its Place and Destiny."

### Unusual Events

If the church's design (by architect Frank Ehrenthal) is unusual, so is its prospectus, as suggested by the many affairs to be presented during its dedication month.

"We in the liberal church hope to establish a closer relationship between artists in our community and our church," said Mr. Sawyer.

"This contemporary church will be used to accommodate paintings and sculpture, as well as drama, music and the like, as a regular part of the community's religious life."

As a sample of what it intends to do, Mr. Sawyer pointed to the church's presentation, Oct. 23, 24 and 25, of two plays by Michel de Ghelderode, a Flemish dramatist.

This mysterious and little-known playwright wrote as a recluse, most of his dramas being completed in the 1920s and 1930s. Within the last decade they have begun to

be played in little theaters around Paris.

"His plays at first created a near public scandal because of their deep unorthodoxy," Mr. Sawyer said. "A lifelong Catholic of unorthodox conviction, Ghelderode was accused of being anti-clerical and anti-religious for the way he portrayed priests and saints."

### Little Recognition

"Now his works are seen to touch great religious depths, and Ghelderode is recognized as one of the few men of genius in the modern theater although his work is little known and rarely played in this country."

Other features of the dedication month will include an exhibit of the work of Los Angeles artists; lectures by a student of Paul Tillich; a chamber music concert; a worship service of jazz and poetry, and some unusual films.

Many artists and intellectuals will participate in the programs.

The \$140,000 church, eight months in the building, seats 290, about the size of the congregation, Mr. Sawyer said.

Poetry and Jazz Will Feature Church Services  
*Los Angeles Times (1986-Current File): Oct 22, 1964;*  
ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Los Angeles Times (1881 - 1986)  
pg. 62

## Poetry and Jazz Will Feature Church Services

SEPULVEDA . . . A program of poetry and jazz will highlight evening services of the Valley Unitarian-Universalist Church's dedication program for the new worship center at 9530 Haskell Ave.

The event tonight at 8 will feature the music of the Bill Holman Quintet and the Valley Unitarian - Universalist choir.

Morning services will feature a talk by the Rev. Paul W. Sawyer on "The Modern Church, Its Worship and Architecture."

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# Police Fail to Bar L.A. Appearance by Chicago 7 Lawyer

BY JIM STINGLEY  
and ERWIN BAKER

Times Staff Writers

Los Angeles Police Chief Edward M. Davis failed Friday in an attempt to obtain an injunction preventing Chicago Seven lawyer William Kunstler from appearing anywhere in Los Angeles.

Later Friday, after Kunstler was denied permission to speak at San Fernando Valley State College and UCLA, a group of radical students said he and Leonard Weinglass, his partner at the Chicago trial, had accepted an invitation to speak Sunday at a Unitarian Church in Sepulveda.

Davis, meanwhile, said that since he could not obtain a court order, "we will mobilize the department and have adequate manpower to see that whatever unlawful activities take place, there are lawful and proper arrests and appropriate prosecutions in the courts."

#### Disturbances Near Campus

Kunstler, who represented the seven defendants accused of inciting riots at the 1968 Democratic National Convention, spoke last Wednesday at UC Santa Barbara.

Disturbances near the Santa Barbara campus preceded and followed the Kunstler talk.

Kunstler's appearance in Los Angeles was first scheduled for Valley State, but after opposition was expressed by Davis and by the faculty senate and student senate at the college, the college president intervened to prevent the address.

The radical group from UCLA then invited Kunstler to speak on their campus, but Chancellor Charles Young issued an order forbidding it.

"The extreme state of tension growing out of the present situation on the Santa Barbara campus and recent activities on this campus and

**Please Turn to Page 22, Col. 1**

**Dinner, Auction Set**

*Los Angeles Times (1886-Current File); Dec 6, 1970; ProQuest Historical Newspapers Los Angeles Times (1881 - 1986)*  
pg. SF\_B2

**Dinner, Auction Set**

**SEPULVEDA- -A four-  
met champagne dinner  
and art auction will be  
held Saturday, Dec. 12, at  
7 p.m. at Sepulveda Unitar-  
ian Universalist Church,  
9550 Haskell Ave. Dona-  
tion for the event, which is  
sponsored by the Sepulve-  
da Unitarian Universalist  
Society and Valley Peace  
Center, is \$5.**

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**Rock Concert Set**  
*Los Angeles Times (1886-Current File);* May 31, 1971; ProQuest Historical Newspapers Los Angeles Times (1881 - 1986)  
pg. SF6

## **Rock Concert Set**

SEPULVEDA--A rock concert featuring Brain-trust and Hog Psychic Deluxe will be sponsored by the Onion Youth Group of the Sepulveda Unitarian-Universalist Society on Saturday at 8 p.m. at the society, 9550 Haskell Ave.

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**Council Keeps Trailers for Homeless in Place-Barely Zoning: The vote was 7 to 4 to bar the temporary shelters from the grounds of a Sepulveda church. Eight votes were needed.; [Valley Edition]**

*AMY PYLE. Los Angeles Times (pre-1997 Fulltext). Los Angeles, Calif.: Oct 18, 1989. pg. 3*

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**Abstract (Summary)**

The Los Angeles City Council came within one vote Tuesday of barring two city trailers, meant to serve as temporary shelters for homeless families, from the grounds of a Sepulveda church, leaving the emotional issue undecided.

The council, siding with neighbors who rallied against the proposal, voted 7 to 4 to overturn an earlier decision by the Board of Zoning Appeals to allow the trailers to be set up on the grounds of the Sepulveda Unitarian-Universalist Society on Haskell Avenue near Plummer Street.

Councilman Hal Bernson, who represents the district where the church is located, repeated the opposition that caused his Planning and Land Use Management Committee to recommend that the trailers be kept out of the Sepulveda location.

**Full Text** (505 words)

*(Copyright, The Times Mirror Company; Los Angeles Times 1989 all Rights reserved)*

The Los Angeles City Council came within one vote Tuesday of barring two city trailers, meant to serve as temporary shelters for homeless families, from the grounds of a Sepulveda church, leaving the emotional issue undecided.

The council, siding with neighbors who rallied against the proposal, voted 7 to 4 to overturn an earlier decision by the Board of Zoning Appeals to allow the trailers to be set up on the grounds of the Sepulveda Unitarian-Universalist Society on Haskell Avenue near Plummer Street.

But because eight votes are needed, another vote will have to be taken, perhaps as early as today.

The temporary housing program began more than two years ago, when Mayor Tom Bradley called for the purchase of 102 of the mobile homes at a Utah construction site. Primarily because of community opposition, only 61 of the trailers have been placed, most of them on public land.

Neighbors of the Sepulveda church said its location is too far from services the homeless need to resume normal lives, such as counseling and job placement.

"We're not objecting to helping the homeless," Cindy Calczynski, who lives nearby, told the council. "We do not feel that



our particular neighborhood is in any way, shape or form the proper place to put these people."

Church members and other supporters of the city-funded program said neighbors were reacting to unfounded and selfish fears involving their property values and safety.

"Time and time again, I've encountered this, 'Yes, we care. Yes, we care. But let's take care of them somewhere else.' It's a social cancer," said the Rev. Richard R. Davis, vice president of the San Fernando Valley Interfaith Council.

The proponents said the program is temporary, lasting for two years, with individual families staying a maximum of six months. The Rev. Charlotte Shivers of the Sepulveda Unitarian-Universalist Society said the proposal would provide "a beautiful opportunity" to test the program.

Because of the absence of three council members Tuesday-and some confusion over what was being voted on-the issue will have to be reconsidered. If the council does not act by Nov. 11, the Board of Zoning Appeals' decision to allow the trailers at the church will stand.

The four council members who sided with the church said all areas of the city must share responsibility for helping the homeless.

"I don't think two families is too much to ask a community to support," Councilman Joel Wachs said. "If we can't do this, what are we ever going to do about the 33,000 homeless out there on the streets?"

Also backing the church were council members Ruth Galanter, Marvin Braude and Ernani Bernardi.

But Councilman Hal Bernson, who represents the district where the church is located, repeated the opposition that caused his Planning and Land Use Management Committee to recommend that the trailers be kept out of the Sepulveda location.

"The homeless need more than just shelter. They need social services that go along with getting back into society," Bernson said. "This was a very tough decision for me."

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**Trailers for the Homeless OKd Despite Protests; [Valley Edition]***AMY PYLE. Los Angeles Times (pre-1997 Fulltext). Los Angeles, Calif.: May 3, 1989. pg. 8*» [Jump to abstract, indexing or full text](#)» Translate document from: » [More Like This](#) - Find similar documents**Abstract (Summary)**

The trailers are part of a city program that gives six months of housing to homeless families. The San Fernando Valley has eight trailers for the homeless, all in a public housing project in Pacoima.

Neighbors of the church where two more trailers are to go, the Sepulveda Unitarian Universalist Church, 9550 Haskell Ave., said they will appeal to the City Council.

[Marilyn Vasquez] pointed out that problems with the trailers in Pacoima, at the San Fernando Gardens apartments, do not instill confidence in the program. For several months last year, four of the trailers were vacant because of problems with homeless tenants. All had been vandalized and defaced with graffiti.

**Full Text** (438 words)

*(Copyright, The Times Mirror Company; Los Angeles Times 1989all Rights reserved)*

Two trailers for the homeless may be placed on the grounds of a Sepulveda church because the need for them outweighs neighborhood opposition, a city board ruled Tuesday.

"When you cut through it all, I recognize there are people who are concerned about providing homes for the homeless as long as it's not in their neighborhood," said John W. Mack, a member of the Los Angeles Board of Zoning Appeals. "We need to enjoy our homes in our neighborhoods. But the homeless need housing too."

The board sought to ensure that the trailers will be there for two years at the most and that the homeless people will be adequately supervised.

The trailers are part of a city program that gives six months of housing to homeless families. The San Fernando Valley has eight trailers for the homeless, all in a public housing project in Pacoima.

Neighbors of the church where two more trailers are to go, the Sepulveda Unitarian Universalist Church, 9550 Haskell Ave., said they will appeal to the City Council.

"This time we're coming with our lawyers," said Cindy Calczynski, one of three appellants who joined other neighbors in testifying Tuesday.

Calczynski said she objected to putting trailers there because the church has been sloppy about maintaining its property, causing it to attract litter and transients.

### 'It's Very Frightening'

"We've got a problem, and we don't want to add to it," Calczynski said. "People urinate out there; they vomit out there. I've woken them up, and I can't tell if they're women or men. It's very frightening."

Other witnesses charged that the trailers would drag down the values of their homes, destroy the flavor of their neighborhood and make them fear for their children's safety.

"We buy our homes so we can have a family-type atmosphere, not people coming and going every six months-a transient atmosphere," Marilyn Vasquez said.

Vasquez pointed out that problems with the trailers in Pacoima, at the San Fernando Gardens apartments, do not instill confidence in the program. For several months last year, four of the trailers were vacant because of problems with homeless tenants. All had been vandalized and defaced with graffiti.

The minister and several church members defended the trailers, which the congregation approved more than a year ago.

"It will make our back lot an asset to ourselves and our neighbors," said Charlotte Shivers, minister of the Sepulveda Unitarian Universalist Society.

Among the conditions imposed by the zoning board are a review of the program after a year, a 24-hour on-site supervisor and proof that none of the families admitted has a history of crime or drug activities.

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# Merrily Tripping Into Los Angeles' Colorful Past

By Cecilia Rasmussen  
April 10, 1995

The boundary between what we remember as the recent past and what we revere as history sometimes is a hazy one--particularly here in Los Angeles, where our preoccupation with the present can make last year seem like a long time ago.

But at some mysterious moment, the places and things we individually remember cross that mental border and become part of our common history. Something like that is happening now with the places and personalities who helped launch the defining movement of the 1960s, the counterculture.

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Ride along with us, then, to three Los Angeles bus stops, the sites of seminal events in the history of the 1960s. These are the places--now unremarkable and as yet unmarked--where countercultural pioneers like the Grateful Dead played and author Ken Kesey's LSD-fueled Merry Pranksters gave new meaning to the phrase "acid test."

The Pranksters arrived from Santa Cruz in early February, 1966, temporarily without leader Kesey, author of "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" (1962) and "Sometimes a Great Notion" (1964). In attempting to avoid arrest on marijuana possession charges, he had first faked a suicide attempt, then fled to Mexico.

The Pranksters followed him in their 1939 International Harvester school bus, which they called Furthur or, in other moods, Further. The sides of the bus screamed with swirls of bright paint, a style soon to be called psychedelic. The back sported a deck with a Harley Davidson. A sign on the front bumper bore the warning "Caution Weird Load." There was always a chemical larder stocked with LSD--then legal--and marijuana --very illegal--and an intricate sound system that could broadcast and record whatever interesting decibels happened by.

The most joyful noises were those generated by the Grateful Dead, whose earliest concert tours were the soundtrack for the Pranksters' odyssey.

The entourage's Los Angeles pilgrimage--with 14 people dressed in bizarre clothes--stopped first at the Sepulveda Unitarian Universalist Society's bulbous wooden sanctuary, nicknamed "the Onion" because of its distinctive architecture. The Pranksters had a friend there, the Rev. Paul Sawyer, a Unitarian minister who invited the group to party at his church. The next day, under the watchful eyes of passersby, the group headed toward Compton for what would become known as the "Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test," just a few months before LSD was outlawed.

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# Merrily Tripping Into Los Angeles' Colorful Past

By Cecilia Rasmussen April 10, 1995

At the wheel was Neal Cassady-- the model for Dean Moriarty, the character in Jack Kerouac's Beat literary classic, "On the Road"--who a short time later would die in Mexico from exposure to the cold.

While L.A. was still smoldering from the riots six months earlier, helmeted police set up wooden sawhorses to cordon off the area around an automotive repair garage at 13331 S. Alameda St. The Pranksters were inside lining 30-gallon trash cans and filling them with Kool-Aid. They poured a couple of glass ampuls of pure LSD into the Kool-Aid. Then someone did some quick math and figured that one full Dixie cup equaled 50 micrograms of acid. The standard dose was about 300 micrograms, or six Dixie cups. After many guests downed several glasses, someone with a better knowledge of math recomputed and figured that one cup equaled 300 micrograms.

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"Wavy Gravy"--patriarch of another countercultural institution, the Hog Farm--stood by the trash cans all night saying, "The one on the right is for the kids or kittens, and the one on the left is electric for the tigers."

Prankster Ken Babbs kept repeating into the microphone, "Freak, freak, freak!" and a woman sat in the middle of the floor screaming, "Who cares? Who cares?"

A slide show of flowers and patterns continued through the evening and a strobe light flashed everywhere. Many of the locals who dropped in thought the 'happening' was just a friendly get-together, until one woman yelled, "It's LSD! It's LSD! My shrink told me never to take it again."

Many of the several hundred guests hit the pay phone to call doctors; others phoned friends with the address.

The last test took place at the Carthay Studios on Pico Boulevard. This time no acid went into the Kool-Aid, only some dry ice for a bubbling effect. However, many who attended thought they were high.

When the party was over, more than half the Pranksters quietly piled into the bus and took off for Mexico. The ones left behind never quite knew what happened.

The revolution of the LSD-soaked exercises in mass ecstasy collapsed in the late 1960s, with LSD's reputation bloodied by tales of suicides, haunting flashbacks and bad trips.

Some of the Pranksters--who once were dedicated to spreading the gospel of expanded consciousness through freedom and drug use--now live more material lives as writers, publishers, builders, lawyers. One is a yogurt magnate.

Unlike Further, the Grateful Dead keeps traveling, while the infamous old bus rests with its faded paint crinkling on Kesey's 65-acre ranch near Eugene, Ore. And no one knows what happened to Kesey's old familiar sign that once welcomed guests with the greeting, "No Left Turn Unstoned."

Big Boy. The drive-in had carhops, thick meals, burgers and tradition. A date-night destination discards, Bob's parking lots were places to flirt and get out, to get in fistfights over girls or hard stares, to line up drag races. But except for Bob's and a other food joints, business establishments were war with the cruisers, who scared away customers. Pr Nuy's merchants and the police tried pleas in the newspapers, letters to parents. No Parking signs and arrests before finally shutting down the tradition in the mid-1980s by blocking off the entire boulevard on Wednesday nights and weekends.

It took years before the impulse to look for fun on Van Nuy's Boulevard finally died away. The sense of cruising was sometimes eloquent. "Who are these children of the night? Are they the muggers, burglars or vandals who inhabit our city? Are they all in need of psychological assistance? I submit that as a group, they are none of these, but merely adolescents," an Encino man wrote in the Times in 1975. David Smith of Sepulveda praised cruising with his part: "If it wasn't for that lighted stretch of concrete and asphalt in the San Fernando Valley, I would not be married to the lovely lady sitting next to me."

Tom Wolfe chronicled a Sixties happening of another sort in his book, *The Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test*, a journey with writer Ken Kesey and the Merry Pranksters, who traveled California in a bus painted in psychedelic colors throwing wild LSD parties. The bus stopped in February 1966 at the Sepulveda Unitarian Church on Haskell Avenue, known as The

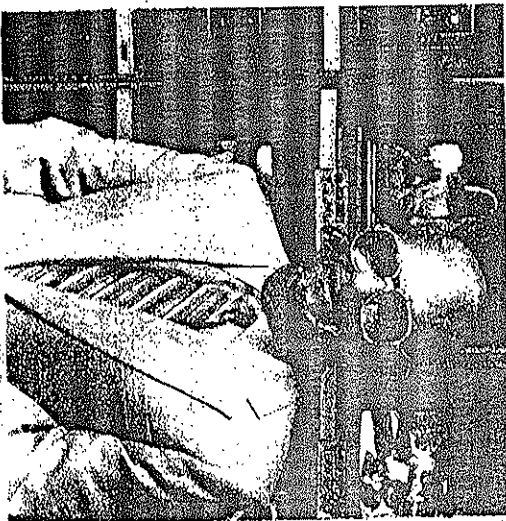
Onion for the bulbous shape of its building. LSD was still a legal hallucinogenic drug at the time, and the Merry Pranksters were invited by the pastor to conduct the ninth in their series of mass "acid tests" in which everyone present was encouraged to turn on.

Kesey was off in Mexico, but the Pranksters' contingent included Neal Cassady, the Beat Movement legend who had gone on the road with Jack Kerouac, and Hugh Romney, the

poet known as Wavy Gravy. While the Grateful Dead jammed, the Pranksters rapped to the gathered hippies and curious, most everyone tripping on LSD. Wolfe wasn't there but compiled accounts, and wrote of "people dancing in the most ecstatic way and getting so far into the thing, the straight multitudes even, that even they took microphones, and suddenly there was no longer any separation between the entertainers and the entertained at all, none of that well-look-at-you-startled-squares condemnation of the ordinary happening. Hundreds were swept up in an experience, which built like a

## Stereo from a Mad Man

His offbeat gimmicks and sales pitches to sell cars and TVs, I want to give them away, but Mrs. Muntz won't



Mad Man Muntz hooked young drivers on car stereo—just as he'd sold their parents on TV sets.

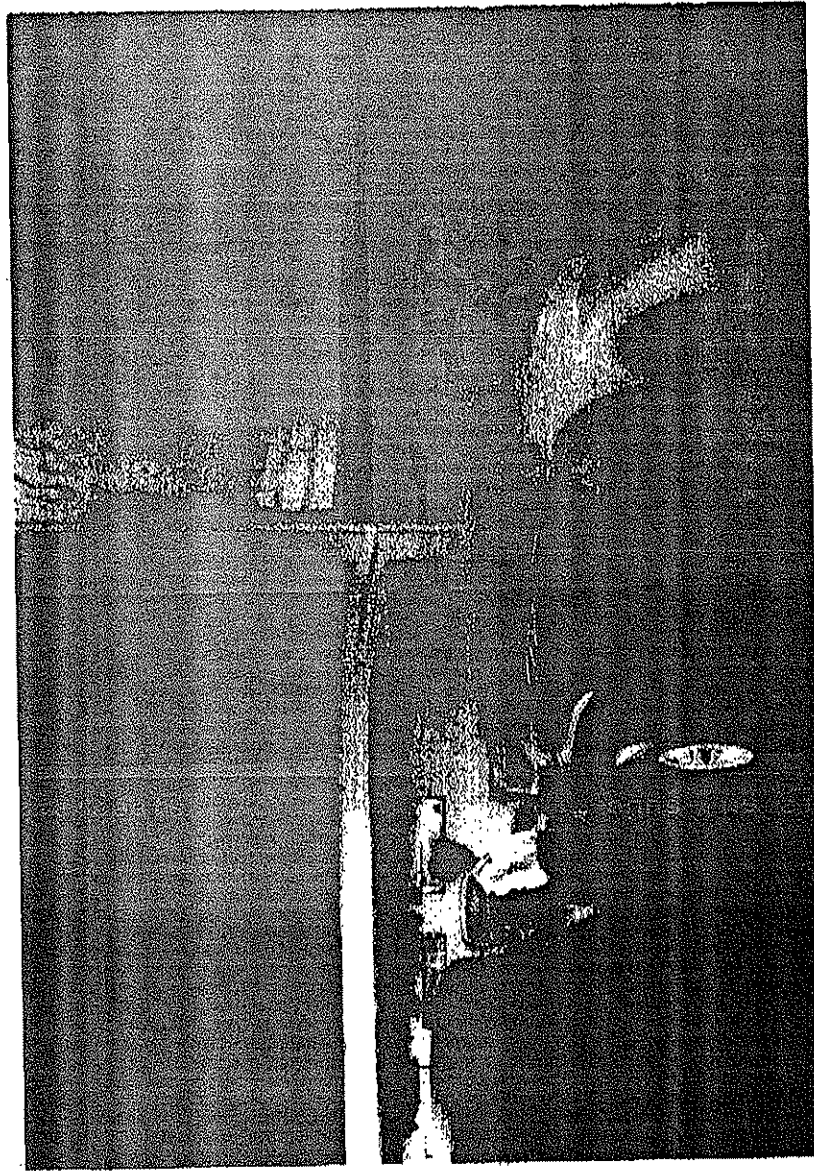
terme, she's crazy," I made Earl "Mad Man" Muntz of Buick in postwar Los Angeles. But cruisers on Van Nuy's Boulevard knew him best as the name on Muntz Stereo-Foks. The touch-tone tape decks put stereo sound in cars of a time when most rock radio stations were on the air! dial and distant by memory. The decks were cheaply made and provocatively sold by "Muntz Girls," dittochrome young women in revealing garb who persuaded adolescent boys that they wouldn't be cool without a Muntz stereo.

dream typhoon, peace on the smooth liquid centrifugal whirling edge."

About this time, nomadic composer and author Paul Bowles stopped at Valley State College and taught existentialist literature to suburban kids, while a prominent tenured Valley State sociology professor

ventured to explain the counterculture of acid trips and love-ins to mainstream America. Lewis Yablonsky's book, *The Hippie Trip*, was also his personal account of taking LSD and observing group sex at various hippie houses and communes he visited. When he began his research, Yablonsky was a 43-

year-old, middle-class academic, married with children, who had never used illegal drugs and believed in monogamy. The year before his book published, he was named the outstanding professor in the California State Colleges system. "Mainstream happened to me personally that may have some of my values," he wrote of his research. communal house in a canyon above the Villavieja recognized a student who, he observed, spoke of the time "to use a grass 'plastic society' turn of mind." The student discovered LSD that summer. Yablonsky noted, "led a completely free sex life



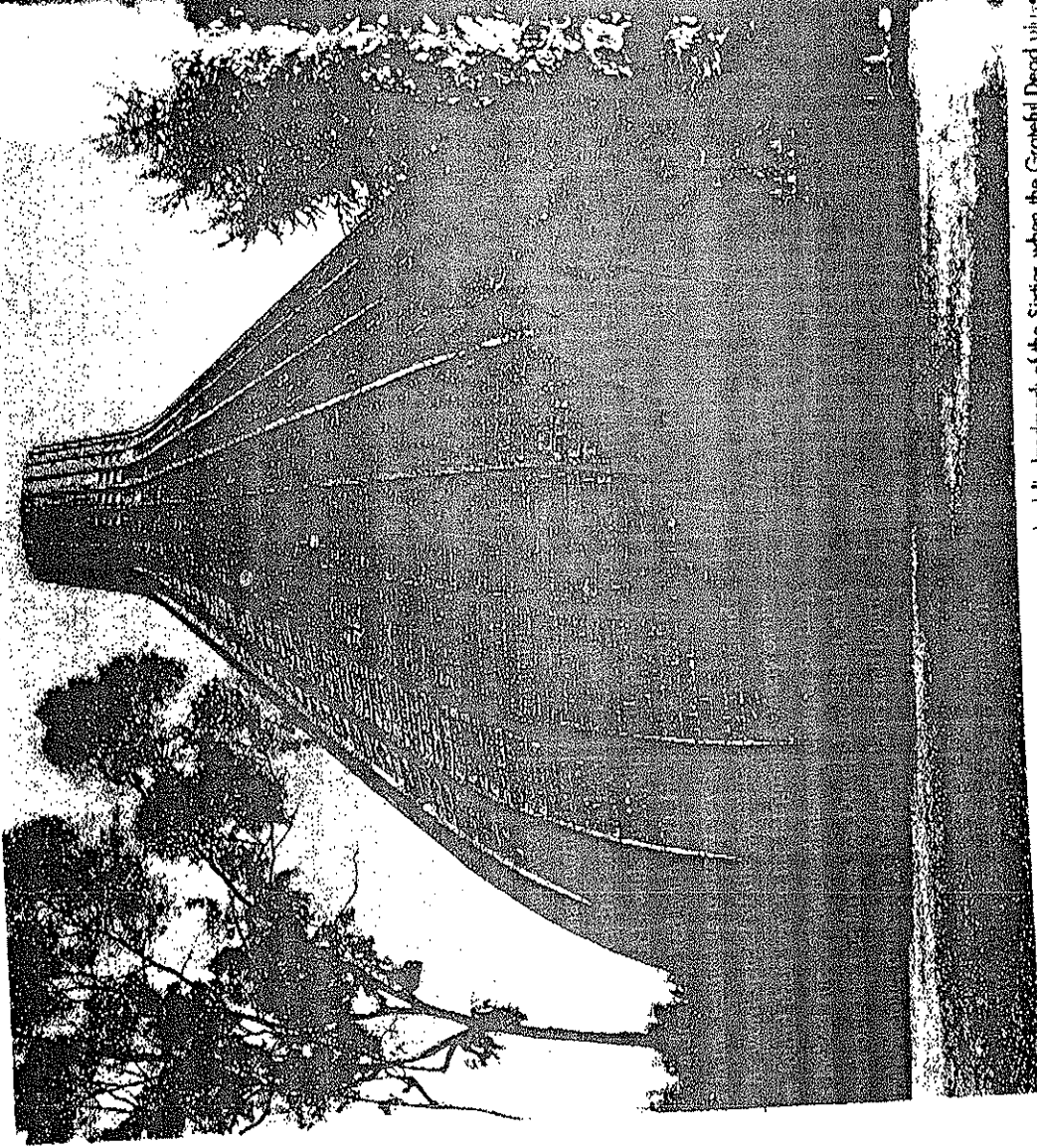
Everyone came to Bob's some time—especially when they were dating. These hot-rodders ordered burgers and made in 1954.

The summer of Woodstock began with a famous rock and roll festival that secured a place in Valley in 1960s lore. On the weekend of high school graduations, "Newport '69" took over the Downs fairground in Northridge for three days and nights. The lineup of acts was the biggest American rock event to that time. Eric Burdon and The Animals, The Rascals, Jethro Tull, Creedence Clearwater Revival, Steppenwolf, the Chambers Brothers, Marvin Gaye, among others, played on the fairground. Later became the Cal State Northridge football stadium. Woodstock, held two months later, was a festival and came together on a rural farm in New York. But the first large U.S. rock festival held in suburbia, literally across the street from very upset neighbors.

On Friday morning, June 20, young people from all over began crossing the Valley to Northridge—by car and van, by thumb, on foot. The music started late that afternoon, with Ike and Tina Turner, Joe Cocker and headliner Jimi Hendrix on the bill. An estimated 50,000 people made it inside the fence on Friday. Conditions were less than ideal: no provisions had been made for camping or eating, and only a few dozen portable toilets were on hand. The sound system was so inadequate that many could barely hear the music, but a party atmosphere took hold. Everyone plunked down on the grass of the old race track, and drugs were shared freely. "It was like a super big party...like a massive, massive love-in," Danny Altchuler, who played rhythm guitar for Love Exchange that night, later told the *Times*' David Wharton. Hendrix gave a lackluster performance and had trouble with his equipment, possibly due to a drink spiked with LSD. He vowed to return later in the festival to make amends.

As word spread of the gigantic party, thousands more found their way to the fairground. Many of the fans lacked the \$7 daily admission charge, so they massed outside the fences on Devonshire Street and Zelzah Avenue, dancing in the traffic lanes and laying out sleeping bags on neighbors' lawns. Some stripped fruit off backyard trees for refreshment.

By Saturday, the Downs was the epicenter of a huge happening. As many as 15,000 people had simply crashed the gate the first night, and on Saturday, "we knew we had a big problem," promoter Mark



The Unitarian Church in North Hills, The Onion, became a psychedelic landmark of the Sixties when the Grateful Dead performed on "acid test" chronicled by author Tom Wolfe.



Databases selected: ProQuest Newspapers

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# San Francisco Chronicle

## Frank Ehrenthal -- noted Bay Area architect; [FINAL Edition]

*Chuck Squatrito. San Francisco Chronicle. San Francisco, Calif.: Aug 9, 2003. pg. A.15*

### Abstract (Summary)

That Mr. Ehrenthal was able to embark on so illustrious a career was something of a marvel, given that he was born in Budapest and raised under an oppressive government that made pursuing such a dream difficult, his family said. But Mr. Ehrenthal was determined from a young age to be an architect and was so industrious a student that he was accepted to the University of Florence, where he earned a doctorate in architecture in 1935.

Mr. Ehrenthal was honored in 1966 by the King Star School for the Ministry, which awarded him a degree of doctor of humane letters. Inspired by the work of the group, Physicians for Social Responsibility, Mr. Ehrenthal founded Architects, Designers, Planners for Social Responsibility in 1981. The organization promotes disarmament, protection of the environment and responsible planning practices.

[» Jump to indexing \(document details\)](#)

Full Text (531 words)

Copyright San Francisco Chronicle, a division of Hearst Communications Inc. Aug 9, 2003

Frank Frederick Ehrenthal, a noted Bay Area architect who designed everything from warships to churches during a career that spanned 45 years, has died. He was 93.

Mr. Ehrenthal died Aug. 2 of kidney failure in his Oakland home with his wife, Julie, at his side.

Mr. Ehrenthal's many designs have been seen by millions. His most noteworthy designs include the Sepulveda Unitarian Universalist Church, known as "the onion" because it looks like exactly that, in the Los Angeles suburb of North Hills; and the Star King School for the Ministry in Berkeley.

Mr. Ehrenthal also helped create the designs for the destroyer escort ships and "baby flattop" aircraft carriers that protected cargo vessels from enemy submarines as the convoys crossed the Atlantic during World War II.

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- Architects
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After spending four years as an architect in Milan, Mr. Ehrenthal immigrated to the United States in 1939 and settled in New York. He worked as an architect there until 1942, when he joined the naval architecture firm George Sharp Inc., which remains in business today. It was there that he helped design two ships that proved vital to the war effort.

Following the war, Mr. Ehrenthal moved with his wife to San Francisco in 1945 and set up shop as an architect. Over the next 18 years, he would design a dizzying array of buildings, ranging from the first Starlight Roof at the Sir Francis Drake Hotel to Unitarian churches across the country, from Oklahoma to Walnut Creek.

Architect Gregory Ain invited Mr. Ehrenthal in 1963 to join the faculty at Penn State University, setting him off on a teaching career that would last 17 years. He taught at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, Okla., from 1965 until 1968, when he accepted a post at Virginia Polytechnic Institute.

He was instrumental, his family said, in creating that school's respected graduate program in environmental and instrumental systems. He also led the research and design efforts that eventually created the bus stop shelters seen in many cities. He retired as professor emeritus in 1980.

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Mr. Ehrenthal is survived by his wife, Julie Ehrenthal of Oakland; two daughters, Sylvia Coleman of Berkeley and Ann Ehrenthal Prichard of Los Angeles; four grandchildren; and one great-grandchild, who was born Tuesday.

No service is planned.

**[Illustration]**

**PHOTO:** Frank Ehrenthal designed the Sir Francis Drake's Starlight Roof and many churches.

**Credit:** Chronicle Staff Writer

**Indexing (document details)**

<b>Subjects:</b>	<u>Architects, Deaths -- Ehrenthal, Frank Frederick</u>
<b>People:</b>	<u>Ehrenthal, Frank Frederick</u>
<b>Author(s):</b>	<u>Chuck Squatriglia</u>
<b>Document types:</b>	Obituary
<b>Column Name:</b>	OBITUARIES
<b>Section:</b>	BAY AREA
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No service is planned.

[Illustration]

PHOTO COURTESY: GEORGE SHARP EHRENTHAL DESIGNED THE SIR FRANCIS DRAKE HOTEL STARLIGHT ROOF

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SFGate.com

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## Frank Ehrental -- noted Bay Area architect

Chuck Squabriglia, Chronicle Staff Writer

Saturday, August 9, 2003



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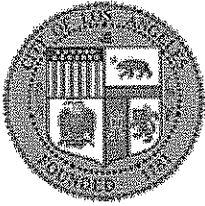
No service is planned.

<http://sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2003/08/09/BA188329.DTL>

This article appeared on page **A - 15** of the San Francisco Chronicle

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

10/23/2009

**PARCEL PROFILE REPORT**

**PROPERTY ADDRESSES**

9550 N HASKELL AVE

**ZIP CODES**

91343

**RECENT ACTIVITY**

None

**CASE NUMBERS**

ORD-102413  
ZAI-2004  
ZA-21131  
ZA-1997-289-ZAI  
ZA-1989-104-HS  
ZA-19807  
ZA-16753  
BZA-3985  
BZA-3982  
BZA-3981  
CFG-1500  
PRIOR-06/01/1946

**Address/Legal Information**

PIN Number:  
Lot Area (Calculated):  
Thomas Brothers Grid:

Assessor Parcel No. (APN):  
Tract:

Map Reference:  
Block:  
Lot:  
Arb (Lot Cut Reference):  
Map Sheet:

**Jurisdictional Information**

Community Plan Area:  
  
Area Planning Commission:  
Neighborhood Council:  
Council District:  
Census Tract #:  
LADBS District Office:

201B141 433  
Data Not Available  
PAGE 501 - GRID F6  
PAGE 501 - GRID G6  
2671008033  
SUBDIVISION NO. 1 OF THE  
PROPERTY OF THE PORTER  
LAND AND WATER COMPANY  
M R 31-3/6  
None  
FR 28 SEC 20 T2N R15W  
1  
201B141

Mission Hills - Panorama City -  
North Hills  
North Valley  
North Hills West  
CD 12 - Greig Smith  
1172.00  
Van Nuys

**Planning and Zoning Information**

Special Notes:  
Zoning:  
Zoning Information (ZI):  
General Plan Land Use:  
Plan Footnote - Site Req.:  
Additional Plan Footnotes:  
Specific Plan Area:  
Design Review Board:  
Historic Preservation Review:  
Historic Preservation Overlay Zone:  
Other Historic Designations:  
Other Historic Survey Information:  
Mills Act Contract:  
POD - Pedestrian Oriented Districts:  
CDO - Community Design Overlay:  
NSO - Neighborhood Stabilization Overlay:  
Streetscape:  
Sign District:  
Adaptive Reuse Incentive Area:  
CRA - Community Redevelopment Agency:  
Central City Parking:  
Downtown Parking:  
Building Line:  
500 Ft School Zone:  
500 Ft Park Zone:

None  
RA-1  
ZI-2391 Baseline Mansionization  
Very Low Residential  
See Plan Footnotes  
Mission Hills  
None  
No  
No  
None  
None  
None  
None  
None  
None  
None  
None  
No  
No  
No  
None  
None  
No  
No  
24  
No  
No

**Assessor Information**

Assessor Parcel No. (APN):  
Ownership (Assessor) :

Ownership (City Clerk):

2671008033  
SEPULVEDA UNITARIAN  
9550 HASKELL AVE  
SEPULVEDA CA 91343  
SEPULVEDA UNITARIAN  
UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY  
9550 HASKELL AVENUE  
SEPULVEDA CA 91343

APN Area (Co. Public Works)*:	4.840 (ac)
Use Code:	7100 - Church
Assessed Land Val.:	\$169,518
Assessed Improvement Val.:	\$332,186
Last Owner Change:	02/28/73
Last Sale Amount:	\$9
Tax Rate Area:	16
Deed Ref No. (City Clerk):	2-28 2-22
<b>Building 1:</b>	
1. Year Built:	1964
1. Building Class:	DX
1. Number of Units:	0
1. Number of Bedrooms:	0
1. Number of Bathrooms:	0
1. Building Square Footage:	2,827.0 (sq ft)
<b>Building 2:</b>	
2. Year Built:	1964
2. Building Class:	DX
2. Number of Units:	0
2. Number of Bedrooms:	0
2. Number of Bathrooms:	0
2. Building Square Footage:	1,679.0 (sq ft)
<b>Building 3:</b>	
3. Year Built:	1943
3. Building Class:	DX
3. Number of Units:	1
3. Number of Bedrooms:	0
3. Number of Bathrooms:	0
3. Building Square Footage:	968.0 (sq ft)
<b>Building 4:</b>	
4. Year Built:	Not Available
4. Building Class:	Not Available
4. Number of Units:	0
4. Number of Bedrooms:	0
4. Number of Bathrooms:	0
4. Building Square Footage:	None
<b>Building 5:</b>	
5. Year Built:	Not Available
5. Building Class:	Not Available
5. Number of Units:	0
5. Number of Bedrooms:	0
5. Number of Bathrooms:	0
5. Building Square Footage:	0.0 (sq ft)

**Additional Information**

Airport Hazard:	150' Height Limit Above Elevation 790
Coastal Zone:	None
Farmland:	Urban and Built-up Land
Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone:	No
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:	No
Oil Wells:	None
Alquist-Priolo Fault Zone:	No
Distance to Nearest Fault:	3.47302 (km)
Landslide:	No
Liquefaction:	No

**Economic Development Areas**

Business Improvement District:	None
Federal Empowerment Zone:	None
Renewal Community:	No
Revitalization Zone:	Valley

State Enterprise Zone: None  
Targeted Neighborhood Initiative: None

**Public Safety**

Police Information:  
Bureau: Valley  
Division / Station: Mission  
Report District: 1983  
Fire Information:  
District / Fire Station: 87  
Batallion: 15  
Division: 3  
Red Flag Restricted Parking: No



## CASE SUMMARIES

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

**Case Number:** ZA-1997-289-ZAI

**Required Action(s):** ZAI-ZA INTERPRETATIONS

**Project Description(s):** TO PERMIT PARKING AND STORAGE OF VEHICLES AND MATERIALS ON A VACANT PARCEL FOR CITY PROJECTS FOR A LIMITED TIME. ALSO, TO PARK OR STORE VEHICLES AND MATERIALS WITHIN THE 25 FT. FRONT YARD SETBACK.

**Case Number:** ZA-1989-104-HS

**Required Action(s):** Data Not Available

**Project Description(s):** HOMELESS SHELTER FOR THE INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE OF TWO TRAILERS ON THE ABOVE DESCRIBED SITE FOR USE AS TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATIONS FOR HOMELESS PERSONS. THIS SITE IS CURRENTLY OCCUPIED BY A CHURCH IN THE RA-1 ZONE.

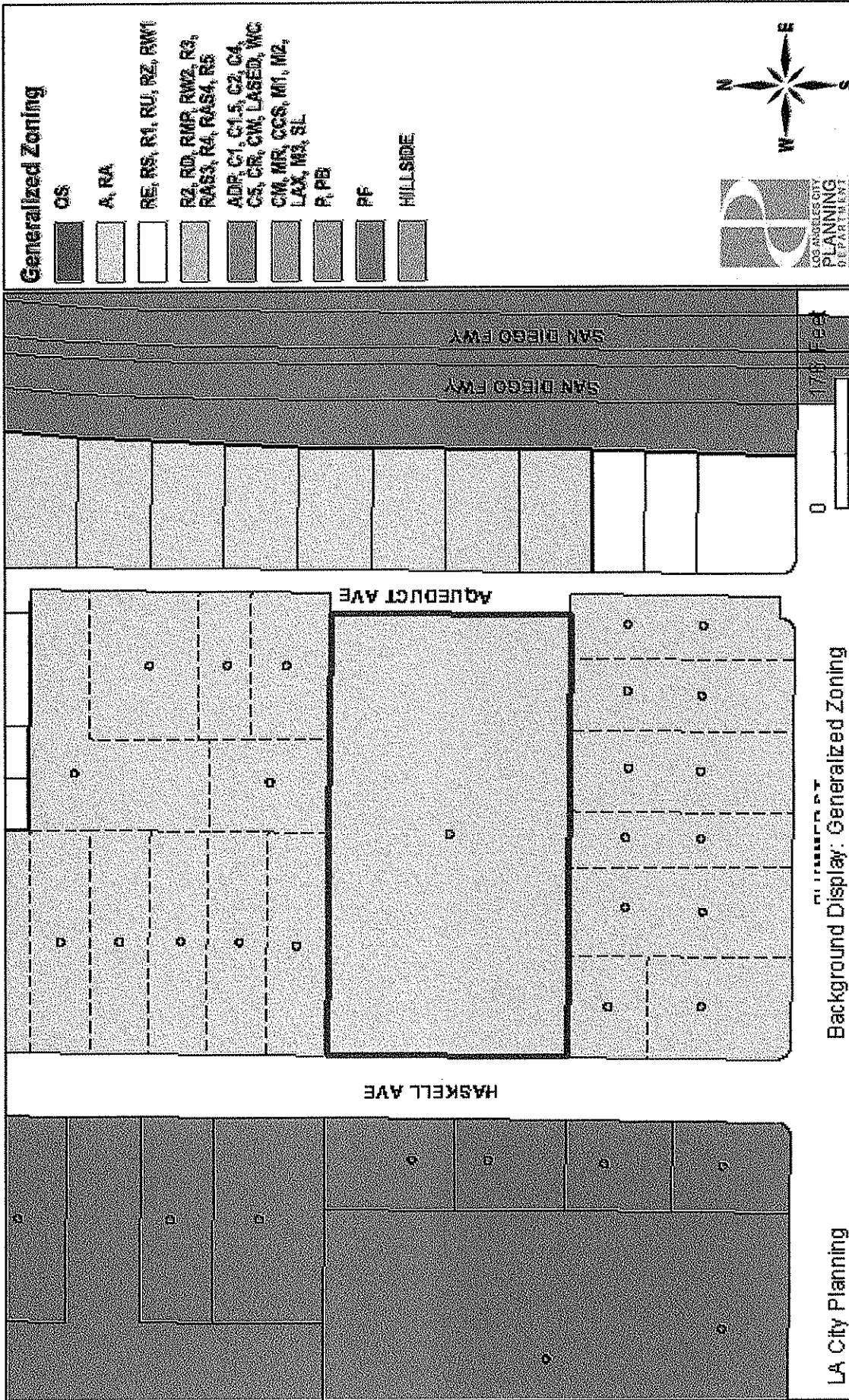
## DATA NOT AVAILABLE

ORD-102413  
ZAI-2004  
ZA-21131  
ZA-19807  
ZA-16753  
BZA-3985  
BZA-3982  
BZA-3981  
CFG-1500  
PRIOR-06/01/1946

ZIMAS INTERNET

02/23/2009

City of Los Angeles  
Department of City Planning



Address: 9550 N HASKELL AVE

APN: 2671008033

PIN #: 201B141 433

Tract: SUBDIVISION NO. 1 OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PORTER RAND AND WATER COMPANY

Block: None

Lot: FR 28 SEC 20 T2N R15W

Arb: 1

General Plan: Very Low Residential