

# Los Angeles Department of City Planning

## RECOMMENDATION REPORT

### CULTURAL HERITAGE COMMISSION

CASE NO.: CHC-2008-3069-HCM

**HEARING DATE:** August 7, 2008  
**TIME:** 10:00 AM  
**PLACE:** City Hall, Room 1010  
200 N. Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA  
90012

Location: 601 Latimer Road  
Council District: 11  
Community Plan Area: Brentwood-Pacific Palisades  
Area Planning Commission: West Los Angeles  
Neighborhood Council: ---  
Legal Description: PT Santa Monica Land and  
Water Co. Tract

**PROJECT:** Historic-Cultural Monument Application for the  
SANTA MONICA FORESTRY STATION EUCALYPTUS GROVE

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

**APPLICANT:** Betty Lou Young and Randy Young  
Pacific Palisades Historical Society and  
Rustic Canyon Park Advisory Board  
550 Latimer Rd.  
Santa Monica, CA 90402

**OWNER:** City of Los Angeles  
Department of Recreation and Parks  
1200 W. 7th Street Suite 748  
Los Angeles, CA 90017

**RECOMMENDATION**      **That the Cultural Heritage Commission:**

1. **Declare** the property a Historic-Cultural Monument per Los Angeles Administrative Code Chapter 9, Division 22, Article 1, Section 22.171.7
2. **Adopt** the report findings.

S. GAIL GOLDBERG, AICP  
Director of Planning

**[SIGNED ORIGINAL IN FILE]**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ken Bernstein, Manager  
Office of Historic Resources

**[SIGNED ORIGINAL IN FILE]**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lambert M. Giessinger, Preservation Architect  
Office of Historic Resources

Prepared by:

**[SIGNED ORIGINAL IN FILE]**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Edgar Garcia, Preservation Planner  
Office of Historic Resources

Attached Exhibits:                      April 20, 2008 Historic-Cultural Monument Application

## **FINDINGS**

1. The landscape feature reflects “the broad cultural, economic, or social history of the nation, State or community” for its association with the Santa Monica Forestry Station, the nation’s first experimental forestry station, and for its role in introducing the eucalyptus tree to Southern California.
2. The property is associated with a historic personage, Abbot Kinney (1850-1920), the famed founder and developer of Venice who spearheaded the propagation of eucalyptus trees throughout Southern California.

## **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. At issue is whether the Commissioners determine the building is significant enough to warrant designation.

## **SUMMARY**

Occupying an area of eight acres of vegetation, the subject area is a grove of various species of trees and plants located on a public park in the Rustic Canyon area. These include a majority of mature and younger eucalyptus trees, two 25-foot cycads (*Dioon spinulosum*), and some variety of birds of paradise and banana trees. Located adjacent to the grove is the Rustic Canyon Recreation Center (Historic-Cultural Monument #663) built originally as the Uplifters Clubhouse in 1923.

The subject area is portion of the Santa Monica Forestry Station, established in 1888 as the nation’s first experimental forestry station. In the early 1880s, Abbot Kinney (1850-1920), the famed founder and developer of Venice, California, served on the California State Board of Forestry and was particularly interested in the propagation of eucalyptus trees. Having been imported to California from Australia in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, eucalyptus trees had become extremely popular in the state, with campaigns to cover acres of land with different species and variations of the tree. Kinney secured the donation of six acres of land in the Rustic Canyon area as an experimental forestry station to study eucalyptus trees and other species for planting in California. After adding 14 more acres, the Board of Forestry and later the University of California managed the forestry station until 1923, after which the subject area became camp grounds for several religious and social groups, including the Uplifters Club (an offshoot of the Los Angeles Athletic Club). By the 1950s, all the land of the original forestry station except eight acres had been subdivided for real estate development. In 1954, the remaining eight acres of vegetation and the Uplifters Clubhouse building were sold to the City of Los Angeles as a public park.

The subject area is California Registered Historic Landmark No. 840. A stone monument and bronze plaque was placed by the State Department of Parks and Recreation in cooperation with the City and County of Los Angeles in 1971.

## **DISCUSSION**

The proposed Eucalyptus Grove historic monument successfully meets two of the specified Historic-Cultural Monument criteria: 1) reflects the “broad cultural, economic, or social history of the nation, State or community,” and 2) is identified with a historic personage. As a landscape feature that reflects the early propagation of eucalyptus trees in Southern California and is located on land secured by Abbot Kinney, the property clearly qualifies for designation as a Historic-Cultural Monument based on these criteria.

Although the initial staff report recommended that the proposed Eucalyptus Grove historic monument be evaluated as an addition to the Uplifters Clubhouse (HCM # 663), it was later determined that the subject property should be given its own Monument designation. While the subject property is located in close proximity to the Uplifters Clubhouse, the historical association between the two sites does not appear strong enough to warrant a shared designation.

## **BACKGROUND**

At its meeting of June 19, 2008, the Cultural Heritage Commission voted to take the application under consideration. On July 17, 2008 the Cultural Heritage Commission toured the subject property.

# Los Angeles Department of City Planning

## RECOMMENDATION REPORT

### CULTURAL HERITAGE COMMISSION

CASE NO.: CHC-1999-2326-HCM

**HEARING DATE:** August 7, 2008  
**TIME:** 10:00 AM  
**PLACE:** City Hall, Room 1010  
200 N. Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA  
90012

Location: 601 Latimer Road  
Council District: 11  
Community Plan Area: Brentwood-Pacific Palisades  
Area Planning Commission: West Los Angeles  
Neighborhood Council: ---  
Legal Description: PT Santa Monica Land and  
Water Co. Tract

**REQUEST:** APPROVAL OF EXPANSION OF THE SITE OF THE UPLIFTERS CLUBHOUSE (HISTORIC-CULTURAL MONUMENT #663) TO INCLUDE THE SANTA MONICA FORESTRY STATION (EUCALYPTUS GROVE)

**APPLICANT:** Betty Lou Young and Randy Young  
Pacific Palisades Historical Society and  
Rustic Canyon Park Advisory Board  
550 Latimer Rd.  
Santa Monica, CA 90402

**OWNER:** City of Los Angeles  
Department of Recreation and Parks  
1200 W. 7th Street Suite 748  
Los Angeles, CA 90017

**RECOMMENDATION**      **That the Cultural Heritage Commission:**

1. **Declare** the property a Historic-Cultural Monument per Los Angeles Administrative Code Chapter 9, Division 22, Article 1, Section 22.171.7
2. **Adopt** the report findings.

S. GAIL GOLDBERG, AICP  
Director of Planning

**[SIGNED ORIGINAL IN FILE]**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ken Bernstein, Manager  
Office of Historic Resources

**[SIGNED ORIGINAL IN FILE]**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lambert M. Giessinger, Preservation Architect  
Office of Historic Resources

Prepared by:

**[SIGNED ORIGINAL IN FILE]**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Edgar Garcia, Preservation Planner  
Office of Historic Resources

Attached Exhibits:                      April 20, 2008 Historic-Cultural Monument Application

## **SUMMARY**

Occupying an area of eight acres of vegetation, the subject area is a grove of various species of trees and plants located on a public park in the Rustic Canyon area. These include a majority of mature and younger eucalyptus trees, two 25-foot cycads (*Dioon spinulosum*), and some variety of birds of paradise and banana trees. Located adjacent to the grove is the Rustic Canyon Recreation Center (Historic-Cultural Monument #663) built originally as the Uplifters Clubhouse in 1923.

The subject area is portion of the Santa Monica Forestry Station, established in 1888 as the nation's first experimental forestry station. In the early 1880s, Abbot Kinney (1850-1920), the famed founder and developer of Venice, California, served on the California State Board of Forestry and was particularly interested in the propagation of eucalyptus trees. Having been imported to California from Australia in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, eucalyptus trees had become extremely popular in the state, with campaigns to cover acres of land with different species and variations of the tree. Kinney secured the donation of six acres of land in the Rustic Canyon area as an experimental forestry station to study eucalyptus trees and other species for planting in California. After adding 14 more acres, the Board of Forestry and later the University of California managed the forestry station until 1923, after which the subject area became camp grounds for several religious and social groups, including the Uplifters Club (an offshoot of the Los Angeles Athletic Club). By the 1950s, all the land of the original forestry station except eight acres had been subdivided for real estate development. In 1954, the remaining eight acres of vegetation and the Uplifters Clubhouse building were sold to the City of Los Angeles as a public park.

The subject area is California Registered Historic Landmark No. 840. A stone monument and bronze plaque was placed by the State Department of Parks and Recreation in cooperation with the City and County of Los Angeles in 1971.

Because of the subject property's proximity and historical association to the Uplifters Clubhouse (HCM #663), it is recommended that the proposed Santa Monica Forestry Station historic monument be evaluated as an addition to the existing Monument designation of this property.

## **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. At issue is whether the Commissioners determine the building is significant enough to warrant designation.

## **FINDINGS**

Based on the facts set forth in the summary and application, the Commission determines that the application is complete and that the property is significant enough to warrant further investigation as a potential Historic-Cultural Monument.

# Los Angeles Department of City Planning

## RECOMMENDATION REPORT

### CULTURAL HERITAGE COMMISSION

CASE NO.: CHC-1999-2326-HCM

**HEARING DATE:** June 19, 2008  
**TIME:** 10:00 AM  
**PLACE:** City Hall, Room 1010  
200 N. Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA  
90012

Location: 601 Latimer Road  
Council District: 11  
Community Plan Area: Brentwood-Pacific Palisades  
Area Planning Commission: West Los Angeles  
Neighborhood Council: ---  
Legal Description: PT Santa Monica Land and  
Water Co. Tract

**REQUEST:** APPROVAL OF EXPANSION OF THE SITE OF THE UPLIFTERS CLUBHOUSE (HISTORIC-CULTURAL MONUMENT #663) TO INCLUDE THE SANTA MONICA FORESTRY STATION (EUCALYPTUS GROVE)

**APPLICANT:** Betty Lou Young and Randy Young  
Pacific Palisades Historical Society and  
Rustic Canyon Park Advisory Board  
550 Latimer Rd.  
Santa Monica, CA 90402

**OWNER:** City of Los Angeles  
Department of Recreation and Parks  
1200 W. 7th Street Suite 748  
Los Angeles, CA 90017

**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(c)4 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, 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

Attached Exhibits:                      April 20, 2008 Historic-Cultural Monument Application

## **SUMMARY**

Occupying an area of eight acres of vegetation, the subject area is a grove of various species of trees and plants located on a public park in the Rustic Canyon area. These include a majority of mature and younger eucalyptus trees, two 25-foot cycads (*Dioon spinulosum*), and some variety of birds of paradise and banana trees. Located adjacent to the grove is the Rustic Canyon Recreation Center (Historic-Cultural Monument #663) built originally as the Uplifters Clubhouse in 1923.

The subject area is portion of the Santa Monica Forestry Station, established in 1888 as the nation's first experimental forestry station. In the early 1880s, Abbot Kinney (1850-1920), the famed founder and developer of Venice, California, served on the California State Board of Forestry and was particularly interested in the propagation of eucalyptus trees. Having been imported to California from Australia in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, eucalyptus trees had become extremely popular in the state, with campaigns to cover acres of land with different species and variations of the tree. Kinney secured the donation of six acres of land in the Rustic Canyon area as an experimental forestry station to study eucalyptus trees and other species for planting in California. After adding 14 more acres, the Board of Forestry and later the University of California managed the forestry station until 1923, after which the subject area became camp grounds for several religious and social groups, including the Uplifters Club (an offshoot of the Los Angeles Athletic Club). By the 1950s, all the land of the original forestry station except eight acres had been subdivided for real estate development. In 1954, the remaining eight acres of vegetation and the Uplifters Clubhouse building were sold to the City of Los Angeles as a public park.

The subject area is California Registered Historic Landmark No. 840. A stone monument and bronze plaque was placed by the State Department of Parks and Recreation in cooperation with the City and County of Los Angeles in 1971.

Because of the subject property's proximity and historical association to the Uplifters Clubhouse (HCM #663), it is recommended that the proposed Santa Monica Forestry Station historic monument be evaluated as an addition to the existing Monument designation of this property.

## **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. At issue is whether the Commissioners determine the building is significant enough to warrant designation.

## **FINDINGS**

Based on the facts set forth in the summary and application, the Commission determines that the application is complete and that the property is significant enough to warrant further investigation as a potential Historic-Cultural Monument.

CULTURAL HERITAGE COMMISSION  
433 SOUTH SPRING STREET, 10TH FLOOR  
LOS ANGELES, CA 90013  
(213) 485-6793

HISTORIC-CULTURAL MONUMENT APPLICATION

TYPE OR HAND PRINT IN ALL CAPITAL BLOCK LETTERS

**IDENTIFICATION**

1. NAME OF PROPOSED MONUMENT SANTA MONICA FORESTRY STATION
2. STREET ADDRESS 661 LATIMER RD.  
CITY SANTA MONICA ZIP CODE 90402 COUNCIL DISTRICT 11
3. ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NO. 4409027900
4. COMPLETE LEGAL DESCRIPTION: TRACT SANTA MONICA LAND & WATER CO. TRACT  
BLOCK 46 LOT(S) \_\_\_\_\_ ARB NO. 951
5. RANGE OF ADDRESSES ON PROPERTY 601 LATIMER RD.  
(TRACTED AS 14601, 14611, 14617, 14623 HILLTREE RD.)
6. PRESENT OWNER CITY OF LOS ANGELES DEPT. OF RECREATION & PARKS  
STREET ADDRESS CITY HALL EAST 200 W. MAIN ST.  
CITY LOS ANGELES STATE CA ZIP 90012 PHONE (213) 485-2121  
OWNERSHIP IS: PRIVATE \_\_\_\_\_ PUBLIC ✓
7. PRESENT USE PARK-OPEN SPACE ORIGINAL USE FORESTRY STATION

**DESCRIPTION**

8. ARCHITECTURAL STYLE \_\_\_\_\_  
(See Style Guide)
9. STATE PRESENT PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE OR STRUCTURE  
(See optional Description Work Sheet)

SEE ATTACHMENT

NAME OF PROPOSED MONUMENT SANTA MONICA FORESTRY STATION

10. CONSTRUCTION DATE: FACTUAL 1888 ESTIMATED \_\_\_\_\_

11. ARCHITECT, DESIGNER, OR ENGINEER ABBOT KINNEY

12. CONTRACTOR OR OTHER BUILDER CALIF STATE BOARD OF FORESTRY

13. DATES OF ENCLOSED PHOTOGRAPHS ca. 1890 to 2008  
(8 x 10 Black and White Glossy)

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

15. ALTERATIONS UNAUTHORIZED DECORATIVE PLANTINGS AROUND  
STATE LANDMARKING PLAQUE. DONATED GROUP OF CYCADS AND OTHER  
RARE PLANTS FROM ESTATE OF NURSEYMAN CASPAR BURGE

16. THREATS TO SITE: NONE KNOWN \_\_\_\_\_ PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT \_\_\_\_\_  
VANDALISM \_\_\_\_\_ PUBLIC WORKS PROJECT \_\_\_\_\_ ZONING \_\_\_\_\_ OTHER  COULD BE  
COOPTED FOR OTHER PARK USES

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

**SIGNIFICANCE**

18. BRIEFLY STATE HISTORICAL AND / OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE;  
INCLUDE DATES, EVENTS, AND PERSONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE SITE  
(See optional Significance Work Sheet)

SEE ATTACHMENT

---

---

---

---

---

19. SOURCES (LIST BOOKS, DOCUMENTS, SURVEYS, PERSONAL INTERVIEWS  
WITH DATES) YOUNG "RUSTIC CANYON AND THE STORY OF THE  
UPLIFTERS," 1974 - PAYNE, "THEODORE PAYNE IN HIS OWN WORDS," 2004  
DUTCH VANDERVORT "IN SEARCH OF THE GIANT SPINULOSAEE," 2001

20. DATE FORM PREPARED 4.20/08 PREPARER'S NAME BETTY LOU + RANDY YOUNG  
ORGANIZATION PACIFIC PALISADES HISTORICAL SOCIETY + RUSTIC CANYON PARK  
ADVISORY BOARD STREET ADDRESS 550 LATIMER RD.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE GROVE

The site of the Forestry Station eucalyptus grove today occupies the space of three lots, plus a portion of a fourth, and is bounded by (1) Latimer and Hilltree roads, 2) a private residence, and (3) the Rustic Canyon Recreation Center, of which it is a part. The grove provides a buffer between the park and the surrounding homes, most of which have original Forestry Station eucalypts and other exotic trees in their own yards. Facing Latimer Road is an impressive stone monument with a bronze plaque that reads:

### SANTA MONICA FORESTRY STATION

IN 1887 THE STATE BOARD OF FORESTRY ESTABLISHED  
THE NATION'S FIRST EXPERIMENTAL FORESTRY STATION,  
LOCATED IN RUSTIC CANYON. THE STATION TESTED  
EXOTIC TREES FOR PLANTING IN CALIFORNIA, ESTABLISHED  
PLANTATIONS FOR MANAGEMENT STUDIES,  
AND PRODUCED PLANTING STOCK FOR SCIENTIFIC  
AND CONSERVATION PURPOSES. THE STATION WAS  
OPERATED BY THE BOARD OF FORESTRY UNTIL 1893  
AND BY THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA UNTIL 1923.

CALIFORNIA REGISTERED  
HISTORICAL LANDMARK NO. 840

PLAQUE PLACED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND REC-  
REATION IN COOPERATION WITH THE CALIFORNIA DIVISION  
OF FORESTRY AND THE CITY AND COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES.  
AUGUST 18, 1971

The monument is surrounded by non-historic plants which were placed there as landscaping when the monument was installed and have at times been considered for removal. Another cluster of non-historic plants is located next to the parking lot and was placed there by the parks department. The two 25-foot cycads (*Dioon spinulosum*) were originally brought from Mexico by oilman Edward Doheny and kept in his private conservatory. When the structure was torn down, the plants were purchased by nurseryman Caspar Buerge and after his death were donated to the parks department, by his wife. The cycads are impressive for their height. They are noted in botanical journals (example enclosed) and are often visited by eager cycad-fanciers. The surrounding plants, birds of paradise and a variety of banana, are not rare, according to botanist Jim Jaeger.

Unfortunately, the original eucalyptus trees in the grove have suffered from years of neglect by the parks department—lack of water, accidental use of beetle-infested mulch, and sporadic pruning. It is a situation that the neighbors have sought to remedy since the early 1980s, even at their own expense, but have been denied the opportunity. As a result, not only have many of the original trees died and been removed, but most of the trees are stressed, and the majority of the replacement trees put in by the parks department have died as well. The neighbors are aware that the historic eucalypts on their own properties are thriving and beautiful, with mostly ambient watering, and that

only a couple of historic trees on these properties have been lost in recent years to old age or disease. Some have been blown down in storms or have been removed by property owners for personal reasons.

A current tally indicates that 43 of the original trees remain, many of them in identifiable rows and marked on the 1917 Woodbridge Metcalf map (copy enclosed). There are also approximately 10 healthy young seedlings, 6 out of the 20 replacement trees planted by the city, and at least 24 large seedlings. Recently, under the sponsorship of the Rustic Canyon Park Advisory Board, a grove committee has been formed and a plan of action laid out by Carl Mellinger, a licensed arborist and friend of the grove. It all hinges on choosing an appropriate irrigation system, funded either by the city or by the community, which would insure proper maintenance and encourage replanting with historic varieties. A meeting sponsored by another concerned community group, the Santa Monica Canyon Civic Association, was recently held with a large delegation of senior parks managers in attendance, and assurances were given that attention would be given to the plight of the grove. The representatives of the parks department, however, seemed unaware that the grove has state landmark status and announced that other ideas for the use of the property would be entertained from members of the public.

Under the sponsorship of the Pacific Palisades Historical Society and the Rustic Canyon Park Advisory Board, recognition as a city Cultural Heritage Monument is being sought to give added protection to the site's historical significance as a eucalyptus grove and to bolster community efforts to restore and maintain the grove. We have an active and interested grove committee that is ready to oversee proper care of the trees and is in the process of setting up a working liaison with the parks department staff.

## HISTORY OF THE GROVE

As a preserved portion of the first experimental forestry station in the United States, the Rustic Canyon eucalyptus grove holds a unique position in the annals of horticulture. The presence of eucalypts in California dates back to the gold rush, when a Dr. Behr from Germany brought the first seeds and plants of eucalypts and acacias to San Francisco. As interest in the new plants spread, Dr. Elwood Cooper of Dos Pueblos Ranch near Santa Barbara began a campaign in 1870 to cover the barren lands with eucalypts and planted 50,000 of them on his own ranch, where he kept meticulous records of the various species and growth rates. After thousands of trees had been planted under varying conditions, 150 different species and variations were identified, each with different soil and climate requirements and representing a wide range of unpredictable characteristics. With a widespread demand for eucalyptus seeds and plants, there was a need for a more scientific approach to planting and use.

Meanwhile, Abbot Kinney, a wealthy amateur horticulturalist, came to Santa Monica in the early 1880s and was appointed to the newly formed state Board of Forestry. Already interested in eucalyptus trees, he convinced Senator Jones and Arcadia de Baker, the founders of Santa Monica, to donate six acres of land in Rustic Canyon to the state to establish the nation's first experimental forestry station, particularly to study eucalyptus trees.

By 1890 fourteen more acres had been added; the original plot had been cleared and planted; and a structure built for offices, seed storage, and exhibits. The site reached from the bottom of Rustic Canyon across the intervening mesa east to Santa Monica Canyon, offering three separate levels and two half-levels, with the intervening slopes, all suitable for planting. In 1904 a fire that started in the mountains destroyed the buildings and the growth and seedling stock, but spared the trees. Replacements were installed the following year, including a manager's cottage and a seed propagation shed. After 1913, the new School of Forestry at the University of California assumed control and remained in charge until the project was dissolved in 1923. By then the station had dispensed valuable seeds and information, but the public's mania for eucalyptus trees had diminished.

In 1920 the portion of the Forestry Station where the grove is today was purchased by the Huntington Beach Methodist Assembly and used as a site for its 1921 camp meeting. The following year, the Methodists moved on to found the community of Pacific Palisades on the mesa to the west, and the parcel containing the grove was sold by them to the Uplifters Club. This was a fun-loving men's group within the Los Angeles Athletic Club, who had already purchased a large plot of land adjacent to the grove on the north. Here they built their clubhouse (Historic-Cultural Monument #663) as a social center for their "country home" and maintained the grove for as a staging ground for their various events and "jollifications."

At the height of the club's prosperity, fourteen gardeners cared for the gardens and the grove. The Depression of the late 1930s and World War II in the 1940s both took a severe financial toll on the club and its members, leading them to sell the clubhouse and forty acres of land to George Embiracos, a Greek shipping magnate, who converted the operation into a private Racquet Club. He kept a small portion of land around the clubhouse and turned the remaining thirty-two acres, a plot that included the grove, over

to realtors Read and Wright for subdivision. In 1954 the clubhouse and surrounding eight acres were purchased by the city of Los Angeles for a park through a gift from Santa Monica Canyon neighbor, Maybell Machris.

At this point the members of the Santa Monica Canyon Civic Association, whose interest extended into Rustic Canyon, felt so strongly about preserving the trees as a grove that they negotiated with the city to purchase three of the lots on Hilltree Road to be added to Rustic Canyon Park. They raised one-third of the purchase price of \$23,000 and the city contributed two-thirds. The importance of the grove was formally recognized in 1971, when the state erected the monument bearing the plaque which is described in Part I of the submission. State, county, and city dignitaries were present at the ceremony, as was Woodbridge Metcalf, who drew the definitive 1917 map of the forestry station trees, a copy of which is enclosed.

A more recent champion of the grove was Grace Heintz, author of the scholarly *Trees of Pacific Palisades* and of the second edition of Hastings' *Trees of Santa Monica*. Even in her 'eighties, she often visited the grove, gathering seeds and labeling the trees with their proper botanical names. She respected the special qualities of each variety of tree, noting the beauty of the bark, the leafy crowns, and the limb structure that endeared eucalyptus trees to the *plein air* painters of the late 1880s.

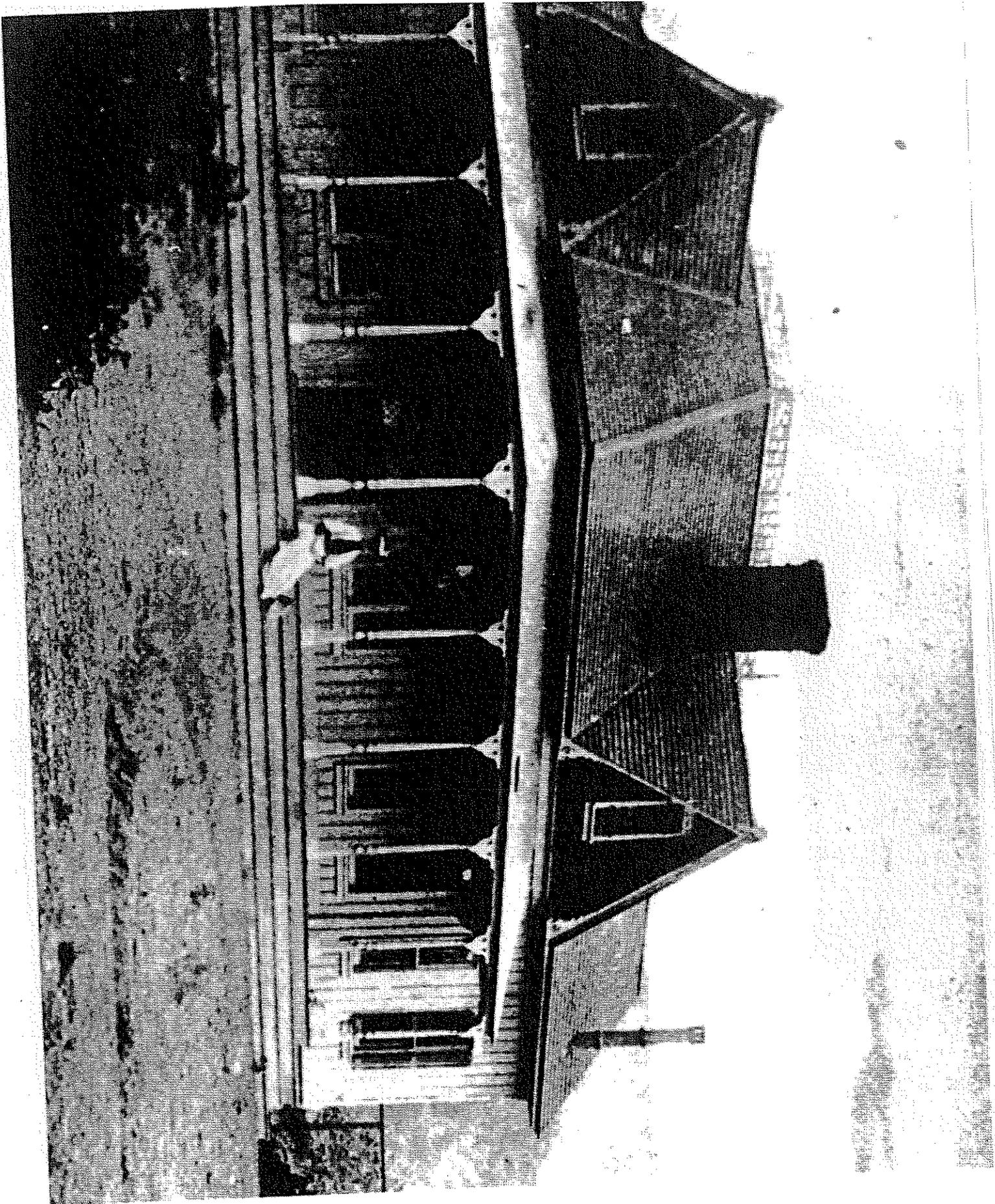
A further feature of the grove in past years has been the visitation of monarch butterflies in great hanging clumps. Their disappearance may be due to the drastic trimming of the leafy foliage of the trees or to the eradication of milkweed plants, but neighbors hope to encourage the butterflies to return by reintroducing suitable varieties of milkweed.

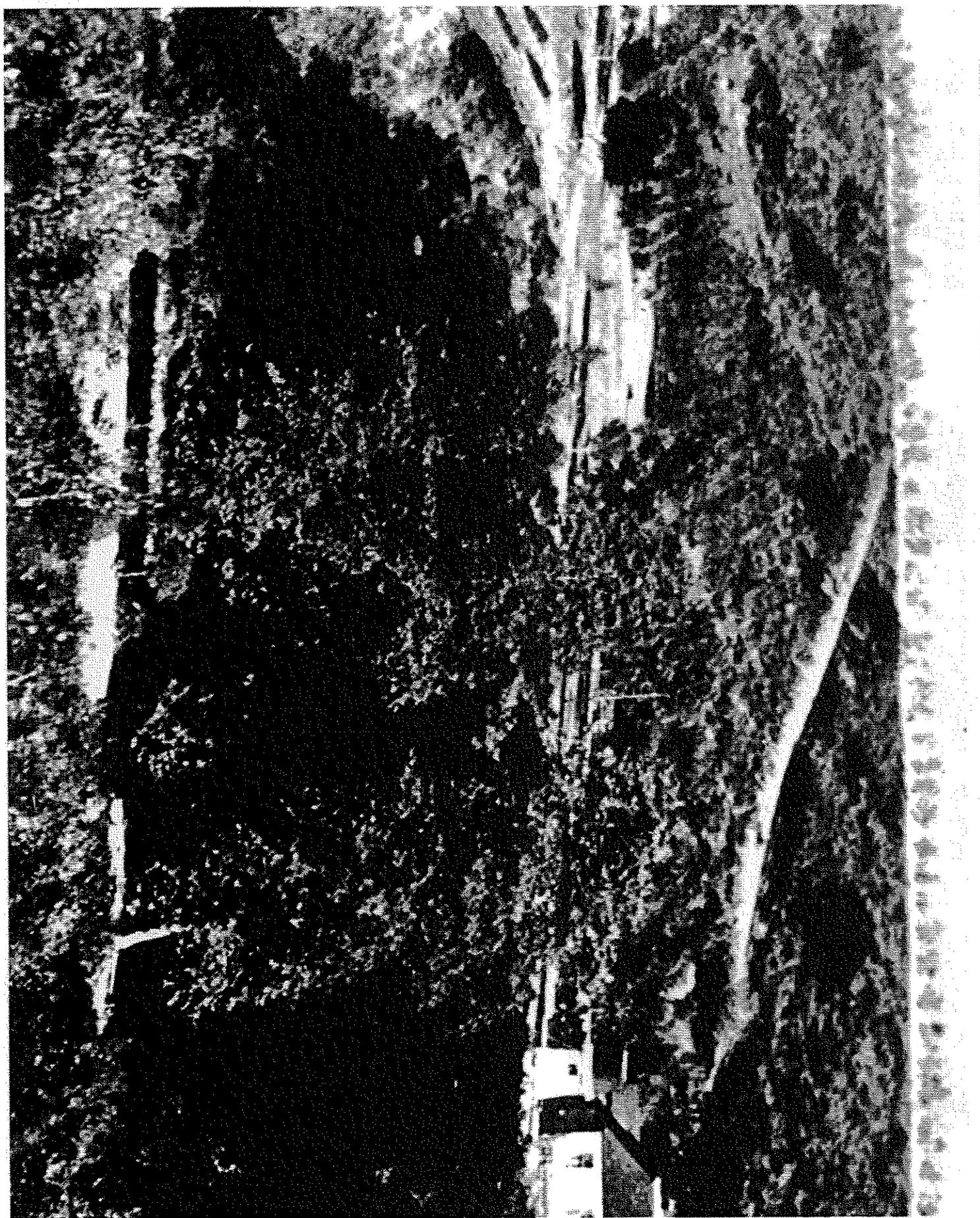
The neighborhood has labored long and hard to convince the city to take proper care of the grove, with little success. It is our hope that the recognition of the historical importance of the grove by the Cultural Heritage Board will give credence to our efforts, possibly with the cooperation of volunteers.

## PHOTOGRAPHS

1. View of the Forestry Station facing northwest from the eastern rim of Rustic Canyon, a vantage point located above Chautauqua Boulevard in what is today Huntington Palisades, ca. 1900. The administration building is the structure with the peaked roof on the right hand side of the photo. The propagating shed is next to it on the left. The dense stand of eucalyptus trees to the right would be along Latimer Road and on the adjacent mesa, and the group behind the structure would be where the grove is today.
2. The original Victorian-style headquarters of the Forestry Station, built ca. 1888 and destroyed by a brush fire in 1904.
3. A view from the western rim of Rustic Canyon, showing specimens in rows near the intersection of Latimer and Mesa roads.
4. The middle mesa of the Forestry Station as seen from the west, ca. 1890. Today Latimer Road crosses along the flat area where the building is located and reaches the grove off the left edge of the photo.
5. Present-day photograph of the stone monument bearing the state landmark plaque, as described in the history. Some of the original trees appear on the right and several saplings are on the left. A small native oak is on the far left.
6. Copy of the Woodbridge Metcalf 1917 map of the grove.



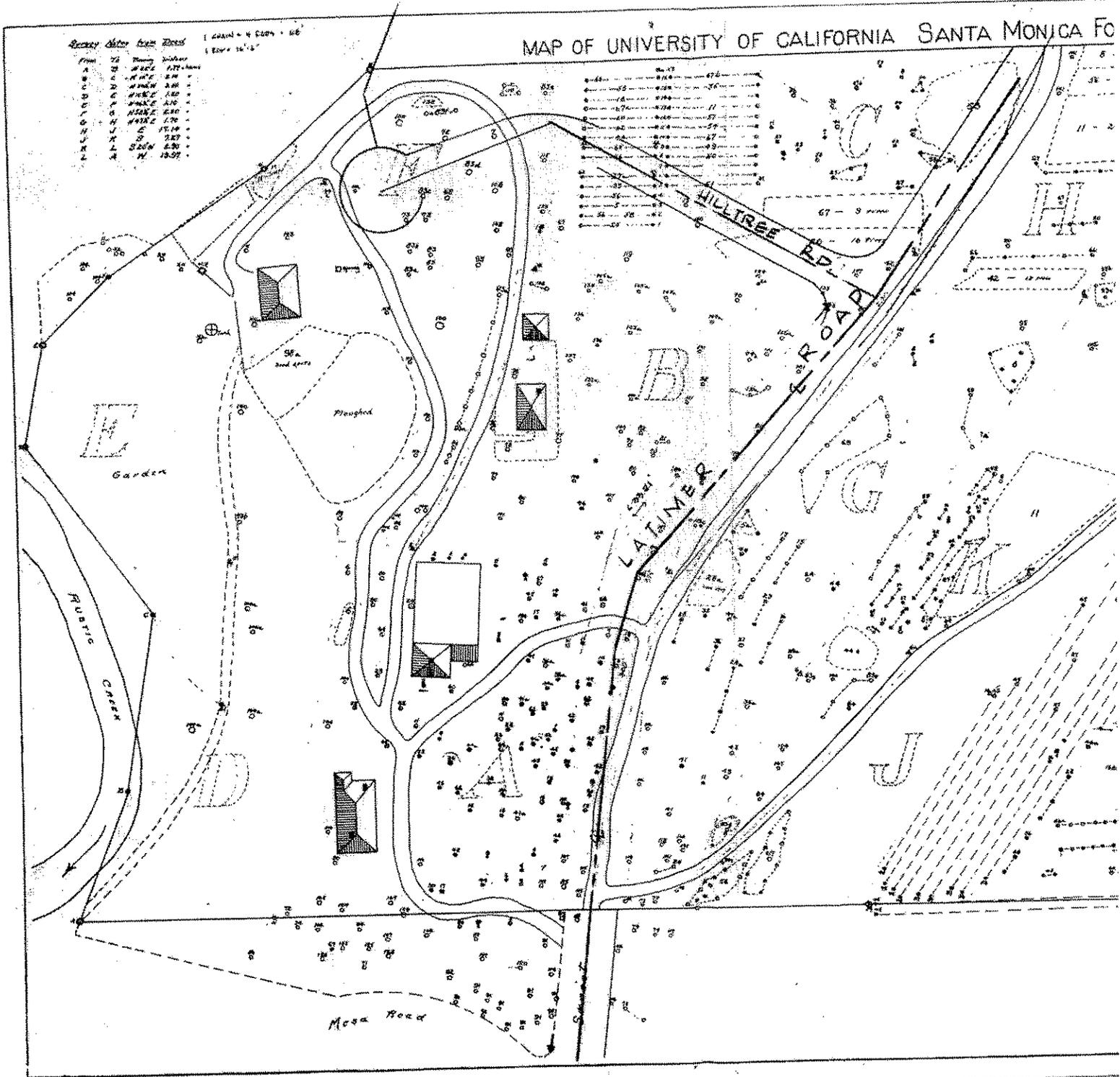




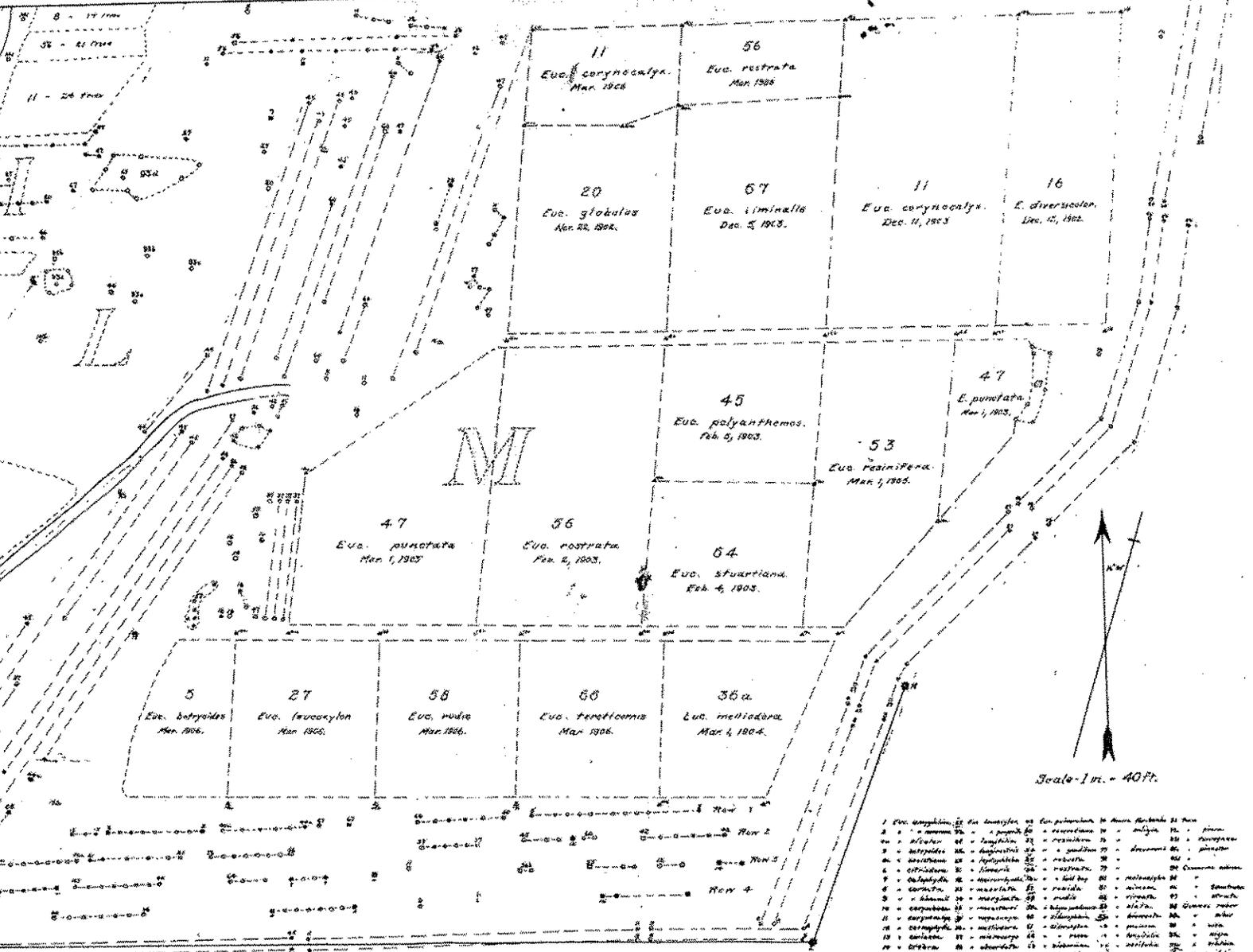
# MAP OF UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SANTA MONICA FO

Revised after last Board

From	To	Quantity	Notes
A	B	1000	1000
B	C	1000	1000
C	D	1000	1000
D	E	1000	1000
E	F	1000	1000
F	G	1000	1000
G	H	1000	1000
H	I	1000	1000
I	J	1000	1000
J	K	1000	1000
K	L	1000	1000
L	M	1000	1000

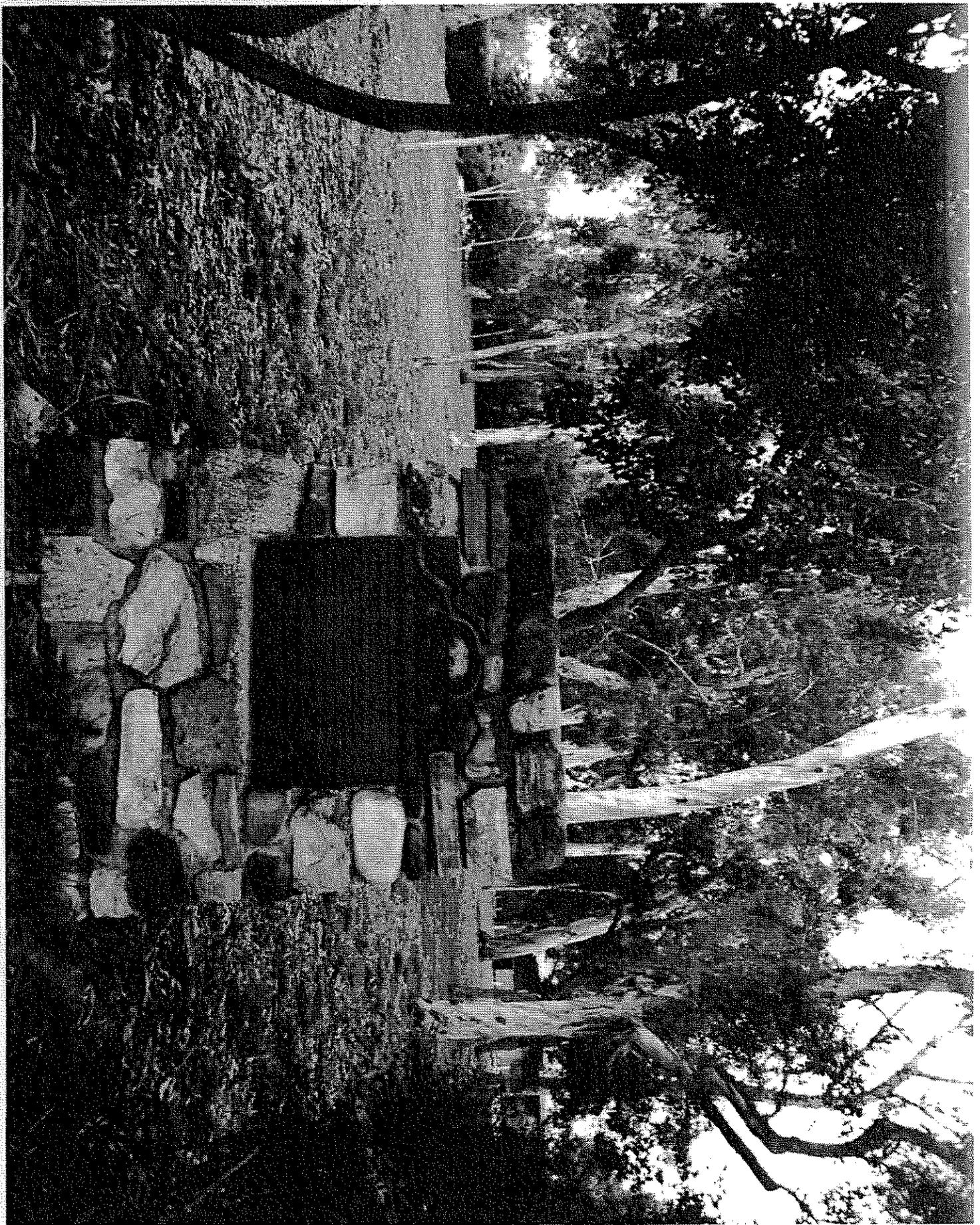


JCA FORESTRY STATION, T. 1 S., R. 16 W., S. 8 M., LOS ANGELES CO., CALIFORNIA.



1	<i>Euc. amplifolia</i>	11	<i>Euc. corymbosa</i>	21	<i>Euc. globulus</i>	31	<i>Euc. nitens</i>	41	<i>Euc. reginae</i>	51	<i>Euc. saligna</i>	61	<i>Euc. viminalis</i>
2	<i>Euc. amplexicaulis</i>	12	<i>Euc. globulus</i>	22	<i>Euc. globulus</i>	32	<i>Euc. nitens</i>	42	<i>Euc. reginae</i>	52	<i>Euc. saligna</i>	62	<i>Euc. viminalis</i>
3	<i>Euc. amplexicaulis</i>	13	<i>Euc. globulus</i>	23	<i>Euc. globulus</i>	33	<i>Euc. nitens</i>	43	<i>Euc. reginae</i>	53	<i>Euc. saligna</i>	63	<i>Euc. viminalis</i>
4	<i>Euc. amplexicaulis</i>	14	<i>Euc. globulus</i>	24	<i>Euc. globulus</i>	34	<i>Euc. nitens</i>	44	<i>Euc. reginae</i>	54	<i>Euc. saligna</i>	64	<i>Euc. viminalis</i>
5	<i>Euc. amplexicaulis</i>	15	<i>Euc. globulus</i>	25	<i>Euc. globulus</i>	35	<i>Euc. nitens</i>	45	<i>Euc. reginae</i>	55	<i>Euc. saligna</i>	65	<i>Euc. viminalis</i>
6	<i>Euc. amplexicaulis</i>	16	<i>Euc. globulus</i>	26	<i>Euc. globulus</i>	36	<i>Euc. nitens</i>	46	<i>Euc. reginae</i>	56	<i>Euc. saligna</i>	66	<i>Euc. viminalis</i>
7	<i>Euc. amplexicaulis</i>	17	<i>Euc. globulus</i>	27	<i>Euc. globulus</i>	37	<i>Euc. nitens</i>	47	<i>Euc. reginae</i>	57	<i>Euc. saligna</i>	67	<i>Euc. viminalis</i>
8	<i>Euc. amplexicaulis</i>	18	<i>Euc. globulus</i>	28	<i>Euc. globulus</i>	38	<i>Euc. nitens</i>	48	<i>Euc. reginae</i>	58	<i>Euc. saligna</i>	68	<i>Euc. viminalis</i>
9	<i>Euc. amplexicaulis</i>	19	<i>Euc. globulus</i>	29	<i>Euc. globulus</i>	39	<i>Euc. nitens</i>	49	<i>Euc. reginae</i>	59	<i>Euc. saligna</i>	69	<i>Euc. viminalis</i>
10	<i>Euc. amplexicaulis</i>	20	<i>Euc. globulus</i>	30	<i>Euc. globulus</i>	40	<i>Euc. nitens</i>	50	<i>Euc. reginae</i>	60	<i>Euc. saligna</i>	70	<i>Euc. viminalis</i>
11	<i>Euc. amplexicaulis</i>	21	<i>Euc. globulus</i>	31	<i>Euc. globulus</i>	41	<i>Euc. nitens</i>	51	<i>Euc. reginae</i>	61	<i>Euc. saligna</i>	71	<i>Euc. viminalis</i>
12	<i>Euc. amplexicaulis</i>	22	<i>Euc. globulus</i>	32	<i>Euc. globulus</i>	42	<i>Euc. nitens</i>	52	<i>Euc. reginae</i>	62	<i>Euc. saligna</i>	72	<i>Euc. viminalis</i>
13	<i>Euc. amplexicaulis</i>	23	<i>Euc. globulus</i>	33	<i>Euc. globulus</i>	43	<i>Euc. nitens</i>	53	<i>Euc. reginae</i>	63	<i>Euc. saligna</i>	73	<i>Euc. viminalis</i>
14	<i>Euc. amplexicaulis</i>	24	<i>Euc. globulus</i>	34	<i>Euc. globulus</i>	44	<i>Euc. nitens</i>	54	<i>Euc. reginae</i>	64	<i>Euc. saligna</i>	74	<i>Euc. viminalis</i>
15	<i>Euc. amplexicaulis</i>	25	<i>Euc. globulus</i>	35	<i>Euc. globulus</i>	45	<i>Euc. nitens</i>	55	<i>Euc. reginae</i>	65	<i>Euc. saligna</i>	75	<i>Euc. viminalis</i>
16	<i>Euc. amplexicaulis</i>	26	<i>Euc. globulus</i>	36	<i>Euc. globulus</i>	46	<i>Euc. nitens</i>	56	<i>Euc. reginae</i>	66	<i>Euc. saligna</i>	76	<i>Euc. viminalis</i>
17	<i>Euc. amplexicaulis</i>	27	<i>Euc. globulus</i>	37	<i>Euc. globulus</i>	47	<i>Euc. nitens</i>	57	<i>Euc. reginae</i>	67	<i>Euc. saligna</i>	77	<i>Euc. viminalis</i>
18	<i>Euc. amplexicaulis</i>	28	<i>Euc. globulus</i>	38	<i>Euc. globulus</i>	48	<i>Euc. nitens</i>	58	<i>Euc. reginae</i>	68	<i>Euc. saligna</i>	78	<i>Euc. viminalis</i>
19	<i>Euc. amplexicaulis</i>	29	<i>Euc. globulus</i>	39	<i>Euc. globulus</i>	49	<i>Euc. nitens</i>	59	<i>Euc. reginae</i>	69	<i>Euc. saligna</i>	79	<i>Euc. viminalis</i>
20	<i>Euc. amplexicaulis</i>	30	<i>Euc. globulus</i>	40	<i>Euc. globulus</i>	50	<i>Euc. nitens</i>	60	<i>Euc. reginae</i>	70	<i>Euc. saligna</i>	80	<i>Euc. viminalis</i>

FORESTRY DIVISION, COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE  
 SANTA MONICA, FEB. 18, 1917.  
 H. W. HARRIS



# The cycads of...

## In Search of the Giant Spinulosae by Dutch Vandervort

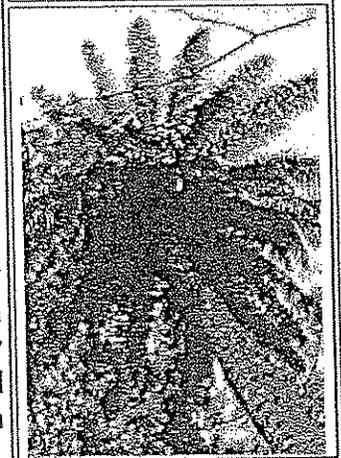
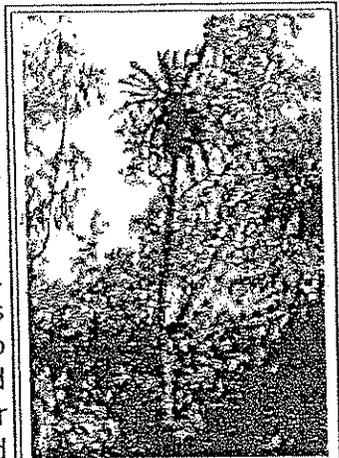
At about the turn of the last century, Edward L. Doheny, Los Angeles oil baron, later implicated in the Elk Hills portion of the Teapot Dome scandal of the Harding administration, organized an oil, mineral and general exploratory expedition to Mexico. Among the items found were two adult *Dioon spinulosum* plants. These plants were relocated to a magnificent conservatory in what is now downtown Los Angeles.

A friend of mine, Bill Paylen, saw the plants there in about 1950. Shortly afterwards the conservatory was demolished and the plants were sold to a West Los Angeles nurseryman Caspar Buergie who moved the plants to his nursery near the corner of Ohio Ave. and Sepulveda Blvd., near UCLA. According to Bill, the dioons, now over 25 feet tall lived in 48" boxes until Buergie died and his wife donated them to the LA Park Department and they were taken to Rustic Canyon Park and planted in a eucalyptus grove. Rustic Canyon is near the border of Santa Monica and the Pacific Palisades section of Los Angeles.

The trees do not seem to receive a lot of attention. Fortunately they do not seem to be in any distress. They are about 30 feet tall. They are nearly 18 inches in diameter at chest height. They have healthy crowns of leaves. There are scars on the trunks which indicate fallen branches, and there is a small branch on one of the trunks now. They do not seem to be receiving supplementary water or feeding. Rainfall in the park would average about 15 inches per year; mostly between late October and March.

Any cycad fan visiting Los Angeles needs to make the pilgrimage to Rustic Canyon to see these magnificent plants. Access to the park is via Pacific Coast Highway to West Channel Drive to a left turn onto Mesa. Proceed about a mile to a fork in the road (Latimer Road & Upper Mesa) and make a left onto Latimer Road. Proceed 2 blocks past a one lane section and you'll see a sign that reads "Uplifter's Ranch." Turn left into the Rustic Canyon Park parking lot. The trees are directly across the lawn from the Park Building. If you were not looking for some of the greatest tall cycads in the world you might mistake them for *Washingtonia robusta* palm trees!

For further information on E.L. Doheny check out  
<http://www.socalhistory.org/Biographies/doheny.htm>



Click on photos to enlarge



City of Los Angeles  
Department of City Planning

06/09/2008

**PARCEL PROFILE REPORT**

**PROPERTY ADDRESSES**

601 N LATIMER ROAD

**ZIP CODES**

90402

**RECENT ACTIVITY**

None

**CASE NUMBERS**

CPC-29838  
CPC-1995-148-GPC  
ORD-171002-SA270  
ORD-157731-SA39

**Address/Legal Information**

PIN Number: 126B129 719  
Area (Calculated): 40,207.0 (sq ft)  
Thomas Brothers Grid: PAGE 631 - GRID C6  
Assessor Parcel Number: 4409027900  
Tract: SANTA MONICA LAND AND WATER CO. TRACT  
Map Reference: M R 78-44/49  
Block: BLK 46  
Lot: PT  
Arb (Lot Cut Reference): 951  
Map Sheet: 126B129

**Jurisdictional Information**

Community Plan Area: Brentwood - Pacific Palisades  
Area Planning Commission: West Los Angeles  
Neighborhood Council: None  
Council District: CD 11 - Bill Rosendahl  
Census Tract #: 2628.00  
LADBS District Office: West Los Angeles

**Planning and Zoning Information**

Special Notes: None  
Zoning: OS-1XL  
Zoning Information (ZI): ZI-1093  
General Plan Land Use: Open Space  
Plan Footnote - Site Req.: See Plan Footnotes  
Additional Plan Footnotes: Brentwood  
Specific Plan Area: None  
Design Review Board: No  
Historic Preservation Review: Yes  
Historic Preservation Overlay Zone: None  
Other Historic Designations: LA-663: Uplifters Clubhouse  
CA-840: Old Santa Monica Forestry Station  
Other Historic Survey Information: None  
Mills Act Contract: None  
POD - Pedestrian Oriented Districts: None  
CDO - Community Design Overlay: None  
Streetscape: No  
Sign District: No  
Adaptive Reuse Incentive Area: None  
CRA - Community Redevelopment Agency: None  
Central City Parking: No  
Downtown Parking: No  
Building Line: None  
500 Ft School Zone: No  
500 Ft Park Zone: Active: Rustic Canyon Recreation Center

**Assessor Information**

Assessor Parcel Number: 4409027900  
Parcel Area (Approximate): 375,487.2 (sq ft)  
Use Code: 8800 - Government Owned  
Assessed Land Val.: \$581,527  
Assessed Improvement Val.: \$0  
Last Owner Change: 02/45/67  
Last Sale Amount: \$0  
Tax Rate Area: 67  
Deed Reference No.: 365  
Building 1:

1. Year Built:	Not Available
1. Building Class:	Not Available
1. Number of Units:	0
1. Number of Bedrooms:	0
1. Number of Bathrooms:	0
1. Building Square Footage:	0.0 (sq ft)
<b>Building 2:</b>	
2. Year Built:	Not Available
2. Building Class:	Not Available
2. Number of Units:	0
2. Number of Bedrooms:	0
2. Number of Bathrooms:	0
2. Building Square Footage:	0.0 (sq ft)
<b>Building 3:</b>	
3. Year Built:	Not Available
3. Building Class:	Not Available
3. Number of Units:	0
3. Number of Bedrooms:	0
3. Number of Bathrooms:	0
3. Building Square Footage:	0.0 (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:	None
Coastal Zone:	None
Farmland:	Area not Mapped
Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone:	Yes
Fire District No. 1:	No
Fire District No. 2:	No
Flood Zone:	None
Hazardous Waste / Border Zone Properties:	No
Methane Hazard Site:	None
High Wind Velocity Areas:	No
Hillside Grading:	Yes
Oil Wells:	None
Alquist-Priolo Fault Zone:	No
Distance to Nearest Fault:	Within Fault Zone
Landslide:	No
Liquefaction:	No

**Economic Development Areas**

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

**Public Safety**

<b>Police Information:</b>	
Bureau:	West
Division / Station:	West Los Angeles
Report District:	824
<b>Fire Information:</b>	
District / Fire Station:	69
Batallion:	9

## CASE SUMMARIES

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

**Case Number:** CPC-1995-148-GPC  
**Required Action(s):** GPC-GENERAL PLAN/ZONING CONSISTENCY (AB283)  
**Project Description(s):** GENERAL PLAN/ZONE CONSISTENCY PROGRAM PLAN AMENDMENTS AND ZONECHANGES (PUBLIC FACILITIES, OPEN SPACE II AND CLEAN UP

## DATA NOT AVAILABLE

CPC-29838  
ORD-171002-SA270  
ORD-157731-SA39