

Los Angeles Department of City Planning

RECOMMENDATION REPORT

CULTURAL HERITAGE COMMISSION

CASE NO.: CHC-2009-2872-HCM
ENV-2009-2876-CE

HEARING DATE: September 17, 2009
TIME: 10:00 AM
PLACE: City Hall, Room 1010
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA
90012

Location: 7570 McGroarty Terrace
Council District: 2
Community Plan Area: Sunland-Tujunga-Lake View
Terrace- Shadow Hills- East La Tuna Canyon
Area Planning Commission: North Valley
Neighborhood Council: Sunland-Tujunga
Legal Description: Lot PT 229 of Western Empire
Tract

PROJECT: Historic-Cultural Monument Application for the
CROSS OF SAN YSIDRO

REQUEST: Declare the property a Historic-Cultural Monument

APPLICANT: Little Landers Historical Society
Mary Lou Pozzo
10966 Hillhaven Avenue
Tujunga, CA 91042

OWNER: Department of Recreation and Parks, City of Los Angeles
200 North Main St., #1290 CHE
Los Angeles, CA 90012

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, 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, 2009 Historic-Cultural Monument Application

SUMMARY

Constructed in 1923, the subject object is located on Mount McGroarty in the Verdugo Mountains of Pasko Park, in the Sunland-Tujunga community. The Cross of San Ysidro is a thirty foot poured reinforced concrete cross positioned atop a base made of native rock. Etched lettering on the base reads "Mount McGroarty."

Built by a local builder, George Washington Harris, the cross was designed by architect Arthur Burnett Benton. A noted architect of residential buildings, several of his works have been designated as Historic-Cultural Monuments (HCMs): J.E. Maxwell Residence (HCM #539; 1907), Mary Andrews Clark Residence (HCM #158; 1913), McGroarty House (HCM #63; 1923), and Church of the Advent (HCM #512; 1925).

The Cross of San Ysidro was constructed as a visual landmark for the Little Landers community who established Sunland-Tujunga in 1913. The religious community named it San Ysidro in honor of their first established Little Landers Colony. The setting of the subject object, Mount McGroarty, was named for writer, playwright, California poet laureate and Los Angeles Times columnist John Steven McGroarty. Using the image of the cross, McGroarty made the subject object famous in his Los Angeles Times columns, "As Seen from the Green Verdugo Mountains." Architect Burnett Benton also designed the 1923 home of McGroarty.

Since its completion in 1923, the Cross of San Ysidro has been the site of an Easter Sunrise Service, sponsored by the local Kiwanis club and the Sunland-Tujunga Ministerial Association, and has become a prominent visual landmark for the Sunland-Tujunga area.

The only alteration to the proposed monument appears to be the painting of the subject in white at an unknown date.

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.

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

SIGNIFICANCE WORK SHEET

TYPE OR HAND PRINT IN ALL CAPITAL BLOCK LETTERS

Complete One or Both of the Upper and Lower Portions of This Page

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

THE Cross of San Ysidro IS AN IMPORTANT EXAMPLE OF
NAME OF PROPOSED MONUMENT
Mission Revival ARCHITECTURE
ARCHITECTURAL STYLE (SEE LINE 8)

AND MEETS THE CULTURAL HERITAGE ORDINANCE BECAUSE OF THE HIGH QUALITY OF ITS DESIGN AND THE RETENTION OF ITS ORIGINAL FORM, DETAILING AND INTEGRITY.

AND / OR

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

THE Cross of San Ysidro WAS BUILT IN 1923
NAME OF PROPOSED MONUMENT YEAR BUILT
and designed by architect Arthur B. Benton
NAME OF FIRST OR SIGNIFICANT OTHER WAS IMPORTANT TO THE

DEVELOPMENT OF LOS ANGELES BECAUSE (see attached)

WAS IMPORTANT TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF LOS ANGELES BECAUSE a group of elderly pioneers, known as the Millionaires of Happiness and Contentment, wanted a landmark for the Sunland-Tujunga Valley. In the 1920's, when tourists and health seekers (*lungers*) flooded the area, it was to serve as their beacon. The area, not known for racial diversity, did pride itself on religious tolerance. Since Tujunga was the second of the Little Landers Colonies, the Cross was given the name of the first Colony – San Ysidro.

History would tell of San Ysidro as the patron saint of farmers and ranchers, but the Millionaires Club would change the meaning to the "Patron Saint of Little Homes". Since the plan was approved by the community and the Realty Board, the misnomer stood. For eighty-seven (87) years, the Cross has been the site of an Easter Sunrise Service.

For many years the Cross was lit for the two (2) weeks prior to Easter and Christmas. It still serves as a landmark to residents and motorists alike.

The dedication of the mountaintop to John Steven McGroarty (poet laureate, Los Angeles Times columnist and United States Congressman), the Cross of San Ysidro (Patron Saint of Farmers and Ranchers) and the naming of the Park for Edgar Pasko (Methodist Minister) would insure the history of the Sunland-Tujunga Valley would not be forgotten.

The Cross, designed by one of the southland's most important and prolific architects, Arthur B. Benton, and built by local nature-lover, George W. Harris, signifies this monument as an important landmark of Southern California history.

HISTORIC-CULTURAL MONUMENT APPLICATION

TYPE OR HAND PRINT IN ALL CAPITAL BLOCK LETTERS

IDENTIFICATION

1. NAME OF PROPOSED MONUMENT The Cross of San Ysidro
2. STREET ADDRESS Pasko Park - Mt. McGroarty
CITY Verdugo Hills - Tujunga ZIP CODE 91042 COUNCIL DISTRICT 2
3. ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NO. 2563 - 026 - 900
4. COMPLETE LEGAL DESCRIPTION: TRACT Western Empire 3955
Region/Cluster 03/03176 LOT(S) 2000/229 ARB. NO. _____
~~BLOCK~~
5. RANGE OF ADDRESSES ON PROPERTY 1.01 acres com s 24 28 W 316.69 ft from se cor of
lot 2000 tr # 3955 th s 89 08' w 212.22 ft th s 53 19' w 181.3 ft th s 36 41' e 140 ft
6. PRESENT OWNER Los Angeles City
STREET ADDRESS Parks & Recreation
CITY Los Angeles STATE CA ZIP CODE _____ PHONE (____) _____
OWNER IS: PRIVATE _____ PUBLIC Municipality
7. PRESENT USE _____ ORIGINAL USE _____

DESCRIPTION

8. ARCHITECTURAL STYLE Mission Revival
(SEE STYLE GUIDE)
9. STATE PRESENT PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE OR STRUCTURE (SEE OPTIONAL DESCRIPTION WORK SHEET)
(see attached)

9

The thirty (30) foot Cross of native rock and poured concrete is located on Mount McGroarty in the northern range of the Verdugo Mountains. It is located inside a one (1) acre Pasko Park, named after the Reverend Edgar W. Pasko (Methodist Minister) who came to the Little Lands Colony in 1913. A dirt road at the end of Hillhaven Avenue in Tujunga, winds up the sage, cactus and chaparral dotted mountainside. Coastal live oak trees and Mediterranean shrub dot the area.

**HISTORIC-CULTURAL MONUMENT
APPLICATION**

NAME OF PROPOSED MONUMENT The Cross of San Ysidro

10. CONSTRUCTION DATE: FACTUAL 1923 ESTIMATED _____
11. ARCHITECT, DESIGNER, OR ENGINEER Arthur Burnett Benton
12. CONTRACTOR OR OTHER BUILDER Richard L. Smith & George W. Harris
13. DATES OF ENCLOSED PHOTOGRAPHS 1923 to present
(8X10 BLACK AND WHITE GLOSSY)
14. CONDITION: ☐ EXCELLENT ☐ GOOD ☒ FAIR ☒ DETERIORATED ☐ NO LONGER IN EXISTENCE
15. ALTERATIONS very few. Every few years the Kiwanis Club repaints the
cross and its base white.
16. THREATS TO SITE: ☐ NONE KNOWN ☐ PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT ☒ VANDALISM ☒ PUBLIC WORKS PROJECT
☐ ZONING ☒ OTHER erosion, earthquakes
17. IS THE STRUCTURE: ☒ ON ITS ORIGINAL SITE ☐ MOVED ☐ UNKNOWN

SIGNIFICANCE

18. BRIEF STATE HISTORICAL AND/OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: INCLUDE DATES, EVENTS, AND PERSON ASSOCIATED WITH THE SITE (SEE OPTIONAL SIGNIFICANCE WORK SHEET)

(see attached)

19. SOURCES (LIST BOOKS, DOCUMENTS, SURVEYS, PERSONAL INTERVIEWS WITH DATES) (see attached)

20. DATE FORM PREPARED August 1, 2009 PREPARER'S NAME Mary Lou Pozzo

ORGANIZATION Little Landers Historical STREET ADDRESS 10966 Hillhaven Avenue
Society

CITY Tujunga STATE CA ZIP CODE 91042 PHONE (818) 353-1718
~~(213) 972-1555~~

Situated atop the highest point of the Verdugo Mountains, made famous by John Steven McGroarty in his column for the Los Angeles Times Newspaper entitled "As Seen From the Green Verdugo Mountains", stands a thirty (30) foot concrete cross overlooking the Sunland-Tujunga Valley. Designed by world renowned architect, Arthur Burnett Benton and built by George Washington Harris, the builder of Bolton Hall Museum, once the clubhouse of the Little Landers Colony (1913-1920), the Cross of San Ysidro has been a landmark and a beacon to residents and motorists alike. No other landmark so typifies the spirit of the early, hardy pioneers who braved the harsh climate and rocky soil of the valley below.

The Cross of San Ysidro has a rich history of celebration, community and diversification. For eighty-seven (87) years an Easter Sunrise Service was observed by pioneers, residents and the southland community at the base of the Cross. On only three (3) occasions was the service cancelled due to rain, however, in 1924 the service was cancelled due to the quarantine in Los Angeles County for "foot and mouth" disease. From cookbooks, yearbooks, Verdugo Hills Cemetery brochures, etc., this Cross became the most important icon of the entire Sunland-Tujunga Valley. Still situated on its original site, with no alterations, it's the community's most significant asset.

When Tujunga became an incorporated city of the 6th class in 1926, land-developer Marshall Valentine Hartranft had yet to designate a portion of his land to the new city. On August 5, 1931, the Tujunga City Council passed Resolution No. 254, that changed ownership of the land from M. Hartranft to Tujunga. When Tujunga was consolidated with the City of Los Angeles, on March 4, 1932, Pasko Park became part of the City's Parks & Recreation system.

From 1923 to present, the Easter Sunrise Service has been sponsored by the local Kiwanis Club and the Sunland-Tujunga Ministerial Association. Upkeep of the Cross, Park and trail has been provided by local volunteers. It is not known when the native rock base of the Cross was painted white.

Thousands of hikers, tourists and Easter Sunrise Service patrons have enjoyed the bucolic splendor and panoramic views of the San Gabriel Mountains and the valley below.

#19

Bibliography

Cross of San Ysidro

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Lombard, Sarah R., Rancho Tujunga – a History of Sunland-Tujunga.
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San Ysidro (St. Isadore, the farmer, 1070 – 1130)

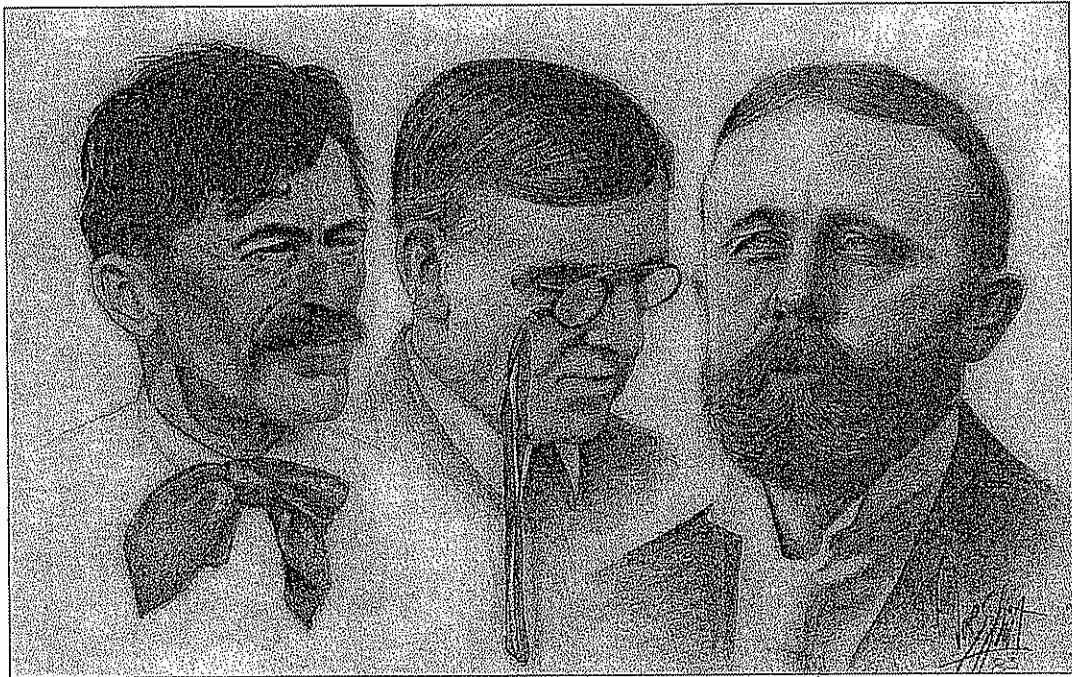
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Berkeley, California: Heyday Books, 2008.

The Cross has been a sacred symbol from the earliest Antiquity. It is found upon all the enduring monuments of the world, in Egypt, in Assyria, in Hindostan, in Persia, and on the Buddhist towers of Ireland. Buddha was said to have died upon it. The Druids cut an oak into its shape and held it sacred, and built their temples in that form. Pointing to the four quarters of the world, it was the symbol of universal nature. It was on a cruciform tree, that Chrishna was said to have expired, pierced with arrows. It was revered in Mexico.

But its peculiar meaning in this Degree, is that given to it by the Ancient Egyptians. Tltoth or Phika is represented on the oldest monuments carrying in his hand the Crux Ansata, or Ankh, [a Tau cross, with a ring or circle over it]. He is so seen on the double tablet of Shufu and Nob Shufu, builders of the greatest of the Pyramids, at Wady Meghara, in the peninsula of Sinai. It was the hieroglyphic for life, and with a triangle prefixed meant lifegiving. To us therefore it is the symbol of Life – of that life that emanated from the Deity, and of that Eternal Life for which we all hope; through our faith in God's infinite goodness.



GEORGE WASHINGTON HARRIS
1872-~~1944~~ 1940
The Builder

MARSHALL VALENTINE HARTRANFT
1872-~~1944~~ 1945
Land Developer

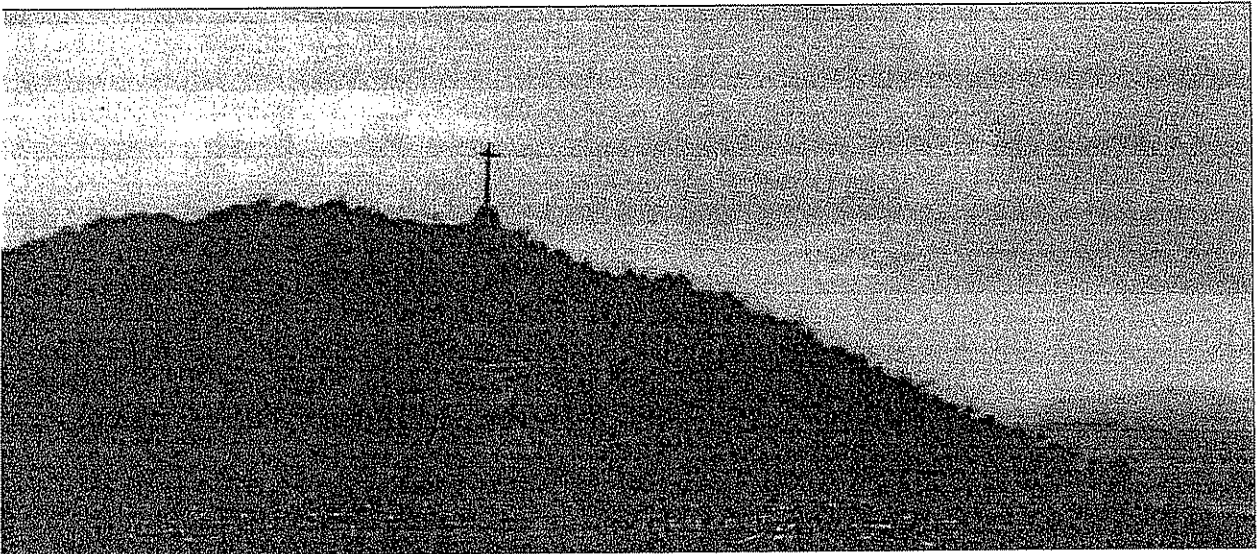
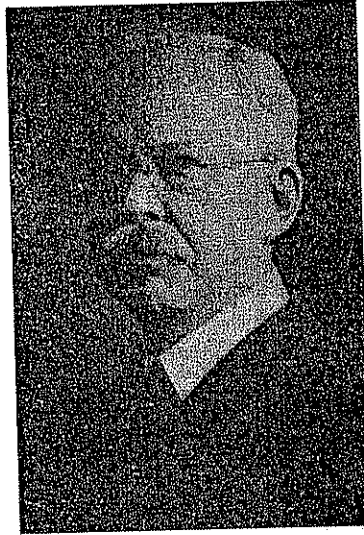
WILLIAM ELSWORTH SMYTHE
1861-1922
Founder of the Little Lands Colonies

"The Trinity"

George Harris — Nature Builder



The Reverend Edger W. Pasko



Pasko Park surrounding the Cross of San Ysidro in the Verdugo Mountains.

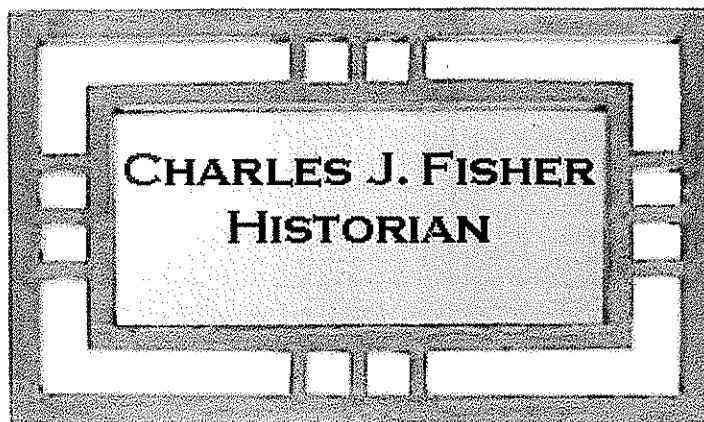
Arthur Burnett Benton, a noted Los Angeles architect, designed our Cross of San Ysidro, high atop Mt. McGroarty. It is of reinforced concrete, poured in one continuous process. It is as sturdy and artistic as any structure of its kind in the state. Its base of native rock gives it an added effect of stability. It was built by Tujunga and Sunland craftsmen. The first Sunrise Easter service was held in 1923, at this beautiful structure.

Mr. Benton also designed the McGroarty House. The home of John Steven McGroarty was built in 1923, but a fire on Christmas Eve destroyed this building. The present house was built in 1924 on the same foundation as the original structure. Mr. and Mrs. McGroarty lived there for twenty years until his death in 1944. It is now a Cultural Arts Center.

In La Canada, Mr. Benton was commissioned to design a castle for and by Albert J. Wallace in 1911. It is also still standing and is one of the most beautiful homes in La Canada.

BENTON, Arthur B., architect; b. Paris, Ill., Apr. 1886; s. Ira Eddy and Caroline Augusta (Chandler) B.; grad. Peoria High Sch., 1897; student Sch. of Art and Design, Peoria, Kan., 1897-1900; m. Edith Marion Harriet Von Schilling, May 1899; 1 dau., Edith May; Practiced, Los Angeles, Calif., 1901-; architect; Glenwood Mission Inn, Riverside; Hotel Arlington, Santa Barbara; Mary Andrews Clark Memorial, Y.M.C.A., and Y.W.C.A. bldgs., Los Angeles; etc. Fellow A.I.A., Republican, Episcopalian. Mem. bd. conv. Los Angeles County Museum; mem. Municipal Art Comm., City of Los Angeles; Chair. Landmarks, Old Colony, Bldg. Co., Los Angeles, Calif. Died Sept. 17, 1927.





Charles J. Fisher / Highland Park Heritage Trust



Arthur B. Benton Residence, Angeleno Heights, Oct 25, 2004 (photo by Charles J. Fisher)

**Arthur B. Benton Residence, Los Angeles Historic Cultural Monument
#827**

Declared October 25, 2004

Aurthur Burnett Benton was one of the foremost architects of turn-of-the-century Southern California. Born in Illinois, he studied architecture in Omaha, Nebraska, and worked several years designing structures for the railroads. He arrived in Los Angeles in 1893, and established a partnership with William Aiken. In 1896 he designed this house for Mary Stilson, who had commissioned a number of spec houses from Aiken & Benton in the Angeleno Heights section of Echo Park. Benton purchased this home from Mrs. Stilson later that year. He enlarged the dining room in 1903 and in 1912 redesigned the interior of the house to express his love of history and European design. In 1913, he built a concrete garage behind the house and in 1926 constructed a Japanese Tea House on top of that garage, which was the same level as his rear yard, opening onto a lotus pond. Benton's best known work is the original portion of the Mission Inn in Riverside, California. He also designed the William Andrews Clark YWCA home at Third and Loma in Los

The Cross

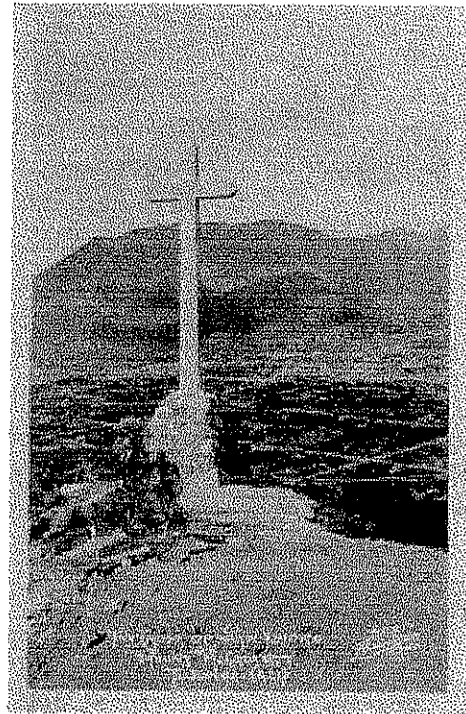
Idea for:	Millionaires of Happiness and Contentment – Council of Elders
To Honor:	J.S. McGroarty
Architect:	Arthur G. Benton
Approved:	Realty Board and the community
Location:	Exact spot by “delegation”
Construction:	R.J. Smith and George W. Harris
Land:	Donated 1 acre of land 2,000’ high from Marshall Valentine Hartranft

R/L March 8, 1923 (Vol. 3 #27)

Plan Sunrise Easter Service On Summit Of McGroarty Hill

Millionaires of Happiness and Contentment Initiate Plans to Place Great Cross on Green Verdugo Hills and Christen Peak for Poet and Philosopher

Easter Sunday, April 1, 1923 will be marked in local history as the date of the first great Easter morning service on the summit of the Green Verdugo Hills.



On that day a white cross, 30’ in height, built of reinforced concrete on the hilltop back of John McGroarty’s home, will be dedicated and the hill itself will be formally christened in the name of the poet and philosopher who has chosen its beautiful and peaceful northern slope as his abiding place.

The idea first flashed into life at a council of elders of the Millionaires of Happiness and Contentment, and immediately spread in favor through out the community. At a meeting of the realty board Monday noon it assumed the form of action.

Arthur Benton, architect of the Mission Play House, who was in Tujunga in connection with the building of Mr. McGroarty’s new home, first suggested that the cross be raised in time for the coming Easter service. Forwith a delegation was sent to locate the exact spot where it should stand. The work of constructing the cross, which will be anchored in a base of concrete then feet square, was placed in charge of R.J. Smith and George Harris.

Rancho Tujunga by Sarah Lombard

1923 The Cross of San Ysidro was erected in Pasco Park atop Mt. McGroarty in April. Pasco Park is a one-acre park dedicated by Hartranft to honor an early minister at Little Lands. For the first Easter Sunrise Service trumpeters were stationed at different points along the road to sound their trumpets at the first rays of the rising sun. A group was formed to guarantee the lighting of the cross at night.

1924 Plans for the second Easter Sunrise Service were finalized. The cost of lighting the Cross of San Ysidro was estimated to be \$200. For years the cross was lit each night; however, this custom was discontinued.

1928 A pageant was presented at the Methodist Church on Easter Sunday. The Easter Sunrise Service at the cross started with a bugle call. The cross of San Ysidro was lighted two weeks before the annual Easter Sunrise Service.

1929 The sons of the first pastor of the Methodist Episcopal Church presented a communion table to the church in memory of their father. The fifth annual Easter Sunrise Service was held at the Cross of San Ysidro.

1930 Hundreds of people attended the Easter Sunrise Service at the Cross of San Ysidro.

1931 The total value of property in Tujunga was listed at \$2,0545,640. An acre of land surrounding the Cross of San Ysidro was donated by Hartranft as a memory to Rev. Edgar W. Pasco and its property known as Pasco Park. The Pasco family were early settlers of Little Lands.

1933 The Kiwanis Club sponsored the Easter Sunrise Service at the Cross of San Ysidro in Pasco Park.

1934 Easter Sunrise Services were again held at the Cross of San Ysidro for the ninth year.

1935 The annual Easter Sunrise Service was held at the Cross of San Ysidro, with the cross being lighted a week before Easter. In those days the cross could be seen by all the Tujunga Valley and most of the San Fernando Valley.

1937 The Easter Sunrise Service was held, as usual, at the Cross of San Ysidro in Pasco Park.

And everyone who came had

M. V. Hartranft Christens Peak Mount McGroarty

The speech of M. V. Hartranft, delivered at the sunrise Easter service, christening the mountain on which the cross of San Ysidro stands in honor of John Steven McGroarty, was as follows:

In the lives of communities as well as of men there are peak points. Our beloved community has now formed two very high spiritual peaks. The first, that hallowed hill with its flagpole on the yon side of the valley, where sleep several honored members of the Congregation of the Faithful, and now on this glorious Easter morning, A. D. 1923, we meet to dedicate another high spot in the spiritual life of the valley.

This cross, always gleaming in the morning sunrise, the noonday sun and the purple sunset, will reflect to us the spirit of the gentle Christ, and as we pass up and down the valley these two peaks will always be before us, under the influence of which our petty strifes and envies must tend toward obliteration.

This cross we today dedicate to Christ and in honor of San Ysidro, patron saint and guardian of little homes throughout the world; and this mountain peak upon which the cross is erected is to be named in honor of California's beloved poet-historian and philosopher, who, in addition to and above all the great work he has done for California, became himself a defender and inspirer of little homes and organized the imperishable Club of Millionaires of Contentment and Happiness. As pastor-padre of the Congregation of the Faithful he has put before the world the cherished ideals of this community in its broad religious tolerance that spans all denominationalism and brings us all to our knees in daily prayer to just one Father God.

We hail Saint Ysidro! Today we name this mountain in perpetual commemoration of our much loved citizen while he is yet with us.

We dread that fateful day pictured in Goldsmith's Deserted Village when these little homes may be swallowed up by larger ones and great estates. To those who impetuously yearn for the coming of great wealth to replace these precious little homes we ask in the paraphrased words of Goldsmith:

Where then? Ah where? shall cultured thrift reside,
To 'scape the pangs that folly pays to pride.

'Tis yours to judge how wide the limits stand
Between mere splendor or a happy land.

When we look over the history of perished civilizations buried under the dusts of centuries, we sometimes wonder who and what kind of people occupied this lovely vale, say thousands of years even before the Indians came?

We have nothing but geologic im-

reason to be glad that he did so, not only because of the beautiful and impressive ceremonies, but because the view on every hand was full of beauty and delight. A little way up the Hillhaven road the pilgrims literally entered the clouds, and the long foot trail leading around the hillside from the end of the auto road was even more charming than when the sun is warm and bright. On the right hand rose the green-clad wall of the mountain with all the flowers and foliage sparkling with raindrops, while on the left the slope fell abruptly into a sea of misty clouds that filled all the valleys and canyons of the Talamantes and hid the hills and mountains beyond.

Just before Professor Adams sounded the trumpet notes that began the Easter service the mists parted over the valley and showed the little homes of Tujunga and Sunland far below. The cross was blessed by Father Tonello, who added a few words expressive of its significance as the symbol of the Son of God watching over and guarding His people. A double quartet of singers from the Mission Play sang "Unfold Ye Portals Everlasting," and Dr. J. U. Stotts read from the scriptures the story of the resurrection. An Easter anthem sung by the choir of the Community church of Tujunga was followed by a speech by M. V. Hartranft christening the mountain in honor of John Steven McGroarty. The singing of "The Rock of Ages" by the congregation and a benediction by Dr. Stotts closed the service.

The ease with which everyone made the journey up the mountain side was a subject of general comment. Mrs. Alma F. Wieman, who has reduced her stair-climbing to a minimum for some months past because of a bad knee, came up the trail quite spryly

(Continued on Page 2)

prints of animal and vegetable life to tell us.

But, good neighbors, here is a beautiful cross, designed by the noted architect Arthur Benton; constructed of imperishable reinforced concrete by George Harris and Richard Smith, two of our master workmen, and down through the corridor of thousands of years this monument to the gentle Nazarene will tell the world who and what kind of people lived in this vale in the year of our Lord 1923.

Upon this bronze casting, against which the rusts of time are almost futile, is our tribute to the saintly Ysidro, guardian and defender of the people of lesser wealth and richer spirit.

And in ineffaceable words upon the solid concrete we hand to future generations the name of our neighbor and leader, the pastor-padre of the Congregation of the Faithful, the simplicity and depth of whose theology rests solely upon continuous and regular prayer to God, and forms a blessed tie that binds our hearts in Christian love.

And this monument upon this mountain peak tells to our neighbor what we would all like to have him know, now while he is among us, of our appreciation of the blessings of his life amongst us.

Therefore, here now, in the shadow of this beautiful cross, we christen this peak Mount McGroarty. Forever, while Time shall last! Amen!

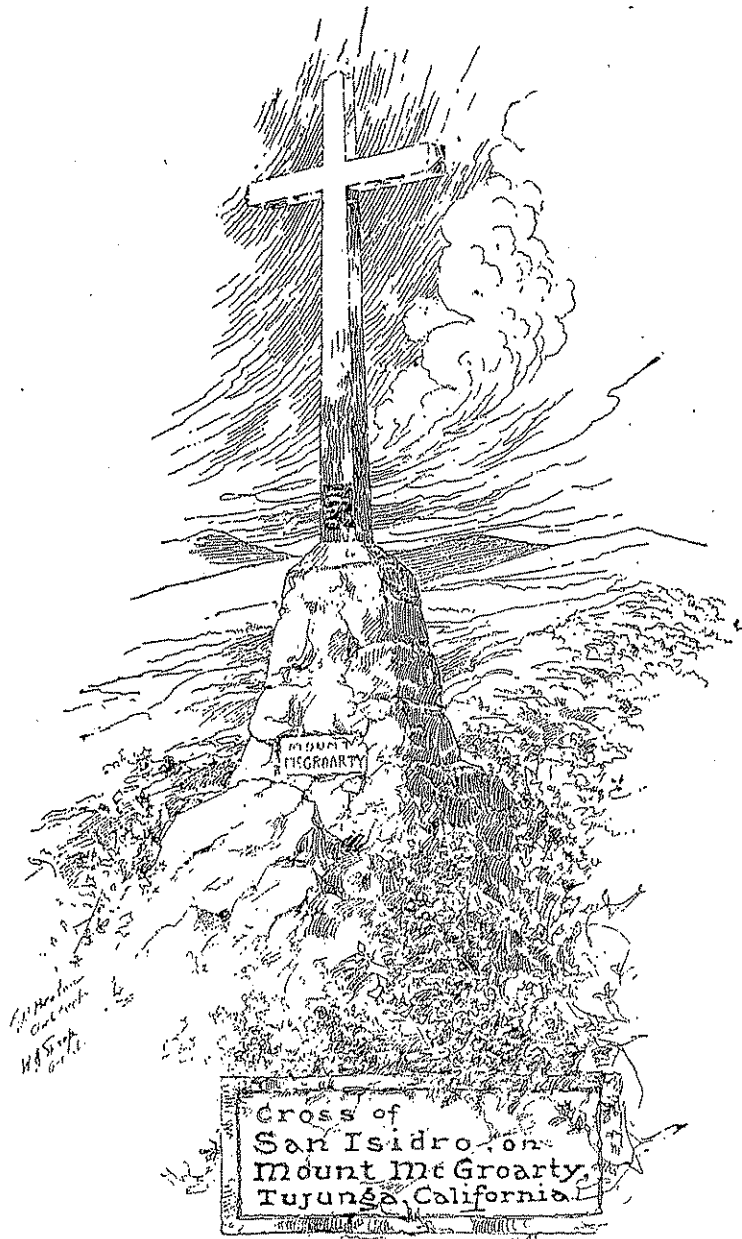
Founding Sisters,
Mary Lou Pozzo p.55

1923



The Record-Ledger
April 5, 1923

Second Sunrise Easter Service On Mount McGroarty Sunday



Simplicity and Dignity Mark Second Annual Gathering of Neighbors of the Green Verdugo Hills at Foot of Cross Raised in Honor of San Ysidro, Guardian Saint of Little Homes

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE
CANCELLED BY QUARANTINE

Just after the Record-Ledger was in the mail last Thursday morning the sunrise Easter service on Mc McGroarty was cancelled by order of the county authorities on account of the foot and mouth disease quarantine.

This action was in accordance with very drastic measures which are being taken to prevent possible spread of the epidemic to the wild game in hill and mountain districts. For this reason the Hillhaven road has been closed to everyone except residents of that place, and all traffic into Big Tujunga and other canyons is being turned back.

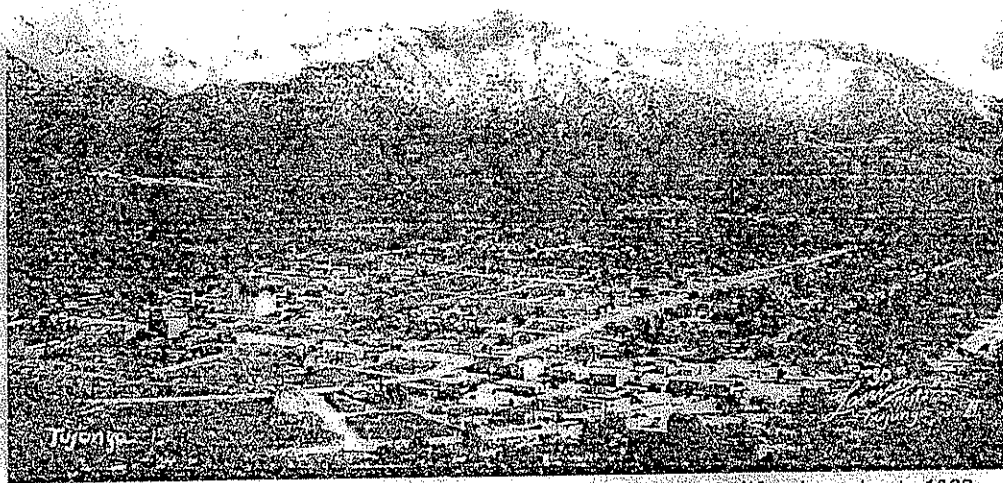
The Ashrama at the north end of Pennsylvania avenue is under a similar quarantine, and Sunday services at that place were discontinued for the present.

1924

1932.
Kiwanis



the green verdugo hills



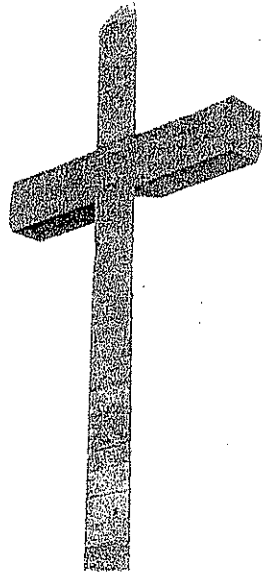
Tujunga, California, about 1920,
with snow-covered Sierra Madre
mountains in background. Photo
by Joseph H. Lamson.

A Chronicle

OF SUNLAND-TUJUNGA, CALIF.

and how it grew

PRICE \$1



HILLTOP SYMBOL — Photographer Al Elliot made this recent picture of the Cross of San Ysidro, 30-year-old landmark located on Mt. McGroarty, above Sunland and Tujunga. Except for two years, the site of the cross has been the scene of Easter Sunrise Services since 1923.

By WALLACE MORGAN

The most significant evidence of the spirit of tolerance developed by the valley's pioneers was furnished by their first Sunrise Easter Service. The service was held at the dedication of the Cross of San Ysidro, which stands on the summit of Mount McGroarty, one of the dominant peaks in the northern range of the Verdugo Hills.

The cross which was designed by a Los Angeles architect—and built by Tujunga and Sunland craftsmen, is of reinforced concrete, poured in one continuous process. It is as sturdy and artistic as any structure of its kind in the state. Its base of native rock gives it an added effect of stability. But the circumstances of the dedication of the cross are of more interest than its composition.

THE 1923 SUNRISE SERVICE was sponsored by the Tujunga Kiwanis Club. By a special dispensation, Father Tonello, pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic church of Tujunga, conducted the service of dedication. Members and clergymen from all Protestant denominations in the valley participated in the service.

The unusual feature of this religious cooperation was that San

Ysidro, Patron Saint of Little Homes, in whose honor the cross was built and raised, was not a saint of the Catholic church, according to John McGroarty, nor, so far as known, was he affiliated with any Protestant denomination. He was a Spanish peasant, and his name, McGroarty said, indicates he probably was a Jew.

His only claim to sainthood, it appears, was the love, gratitude and reverence in which he was held by his neighbors and fellow peasants in the Little Spanish community where he lived many years ago. For his continuing kindness and solicitude his saintliness was acclaimed throughout the whole section where he lived and he was given the title of Patron Saint of Little Homes by common consent.

Speaking to a group of hard-boiled real estate brokers from outside the valley—who were attending a meeting of realtors in Tujunga some time after the Cross of San Ysidro was built and dedicated, John McGroarty told one of the legends of San Ysidro, substantially as follows:

ONE DAY, as Ysidro was plowing in the field of his employer, some children came running to tell him that a poor widow woman in the neighborhood was in dis-

tress because some dogs had chased her goat away and she was unable to find it.

With no hesitation, Ysidro left his oxen standing in the furrow and set out to find the goat. But when the farmer heard what Ysidro was doing, he vowed it was time to stop this sort of nonsense and teach Ysidro to mind the business he was paid for.

So the farmer started to the field, stopping on the way to cut a stout rod from the hedge row, swearing to himself that a good beating was the best way to teach his servant where his duty lay.

But as the farmer came to a gap in the hedge through which he could see his field, he stopped—his eyes bulged, his mouth fell open, his jaw stuck, and the rod fell to the ground.

For there, before him were the oxen, walking steadily along the furrow, and beside the plow stood a tall figure all clothed in white.

For, said Mr. McGroarty, God had sent one of His angels to do Ysidro's work while Ysidro was on his errand of mercy.

"UP HERE in the Green Verdugo hills," McGroarty told the Glendale realtors, "We believe these things. And that is why we have raised this cross in honor of San Ysidro, patron saint of little homes. And we pray to God to let San Ysidro watch over our little homes and protect them and those who dwell in them."

Thus the first Sunrise Easter Service in the Green Verdugo hills was sponsored by an organization of laymen, held around a cross that was raised in honor of a "saint" who probably was a Jew, blessed by a Catholic priest during ceremonies involving all Protestant organizations in the valley.

This is not the only example of the religious tolerance which has marked the people of the Sunland and Tujunga community.

Speaking at the funeral of Mrs. Leo Smith, whose home had been next door to the home of Mr. and Mrs. McGroarty, the author of the Mission Play and poet laureate of California quoted the text: "In My Father's house are many mansions."

"I am a Catholic," said Mr. McGroarty, "so of course I will live in the Catholic mansion. Nellie Smith was a Baptist, so she will live in the Baptist mansion. But there will be nothing to prevent me from going over to the Baptist mansion to talk to Nellie Smith, nor to prevent Nellie Smith from coming over to the Catholic mansion to talk to me—just as we have visited each other's homes here in Tujunga."



San Ysidro Cross above McGroarty. 1928.

Photo Courtesy of Bolton Hall Museum.

1925

Up to The Cross--Top Of Mt. Mc Groarty In a Stock Star Car

NO other car has ever achieved this spectacular feat, climbing up a 100 per cent grade where no real road has ever been made to the very top of Mt. Mc Groarty.

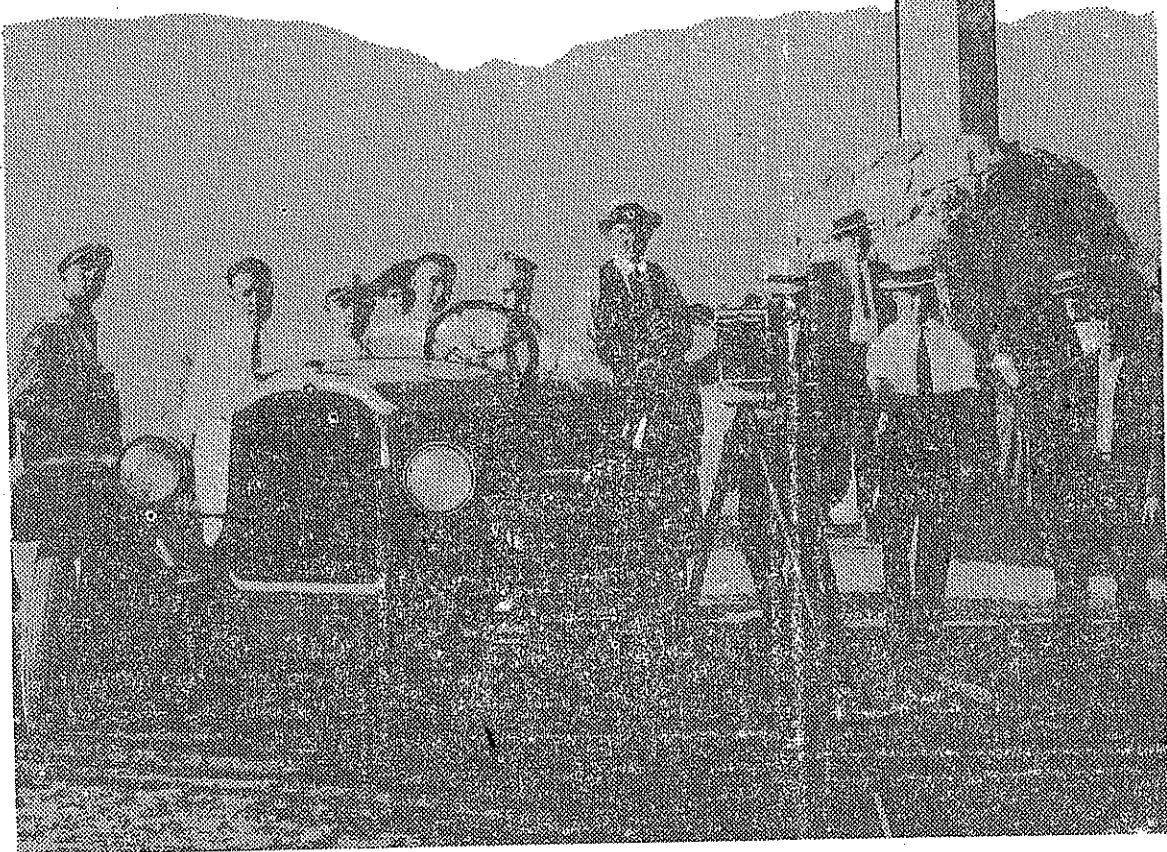
This achievement was made possible by the Star's wonderful million dollar motor and has been repeated a number of times, making the climb two days during the Moon Festival, at which time a large crowd of local people witnessed the feat! and appreciated the super power of this wonderful Star motor car.

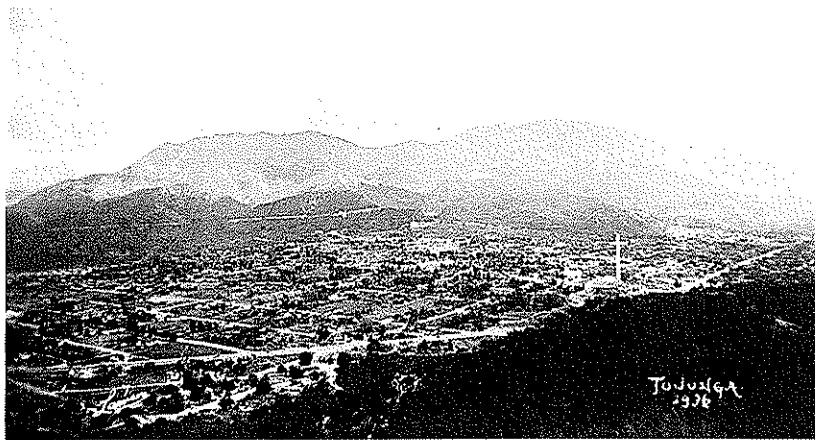
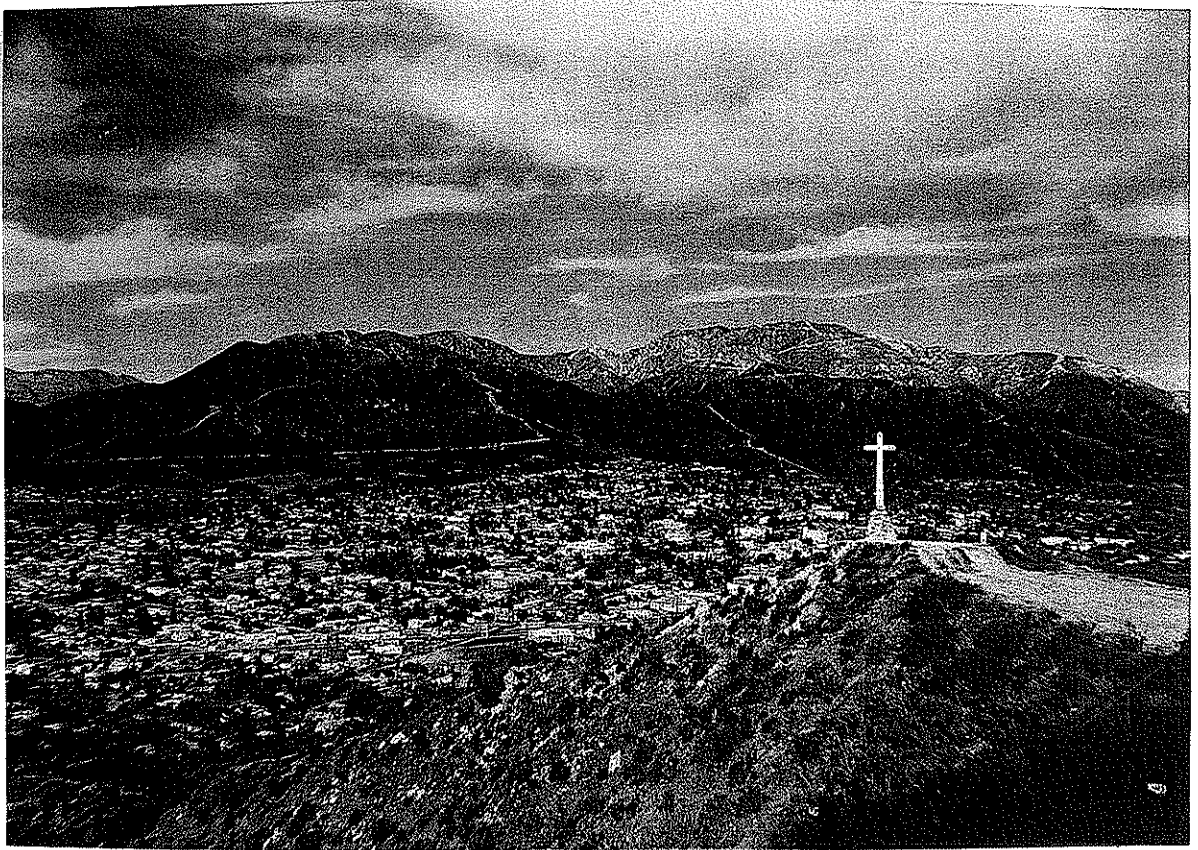
The four-wheel brakes of "Locomotive type," greatly add to the safety of the car during the de-

cent, as it has been proven that two wheel brakes will not hold a car on a grade so steep, with safety.

Mr. Mc Lean, president of the Mc Lean Motor Sales, Inc., says that through all of his years of experience in the automobile business he has never been able to make such wonderful demonstrations of power and durability as can be made with the stock Star car.

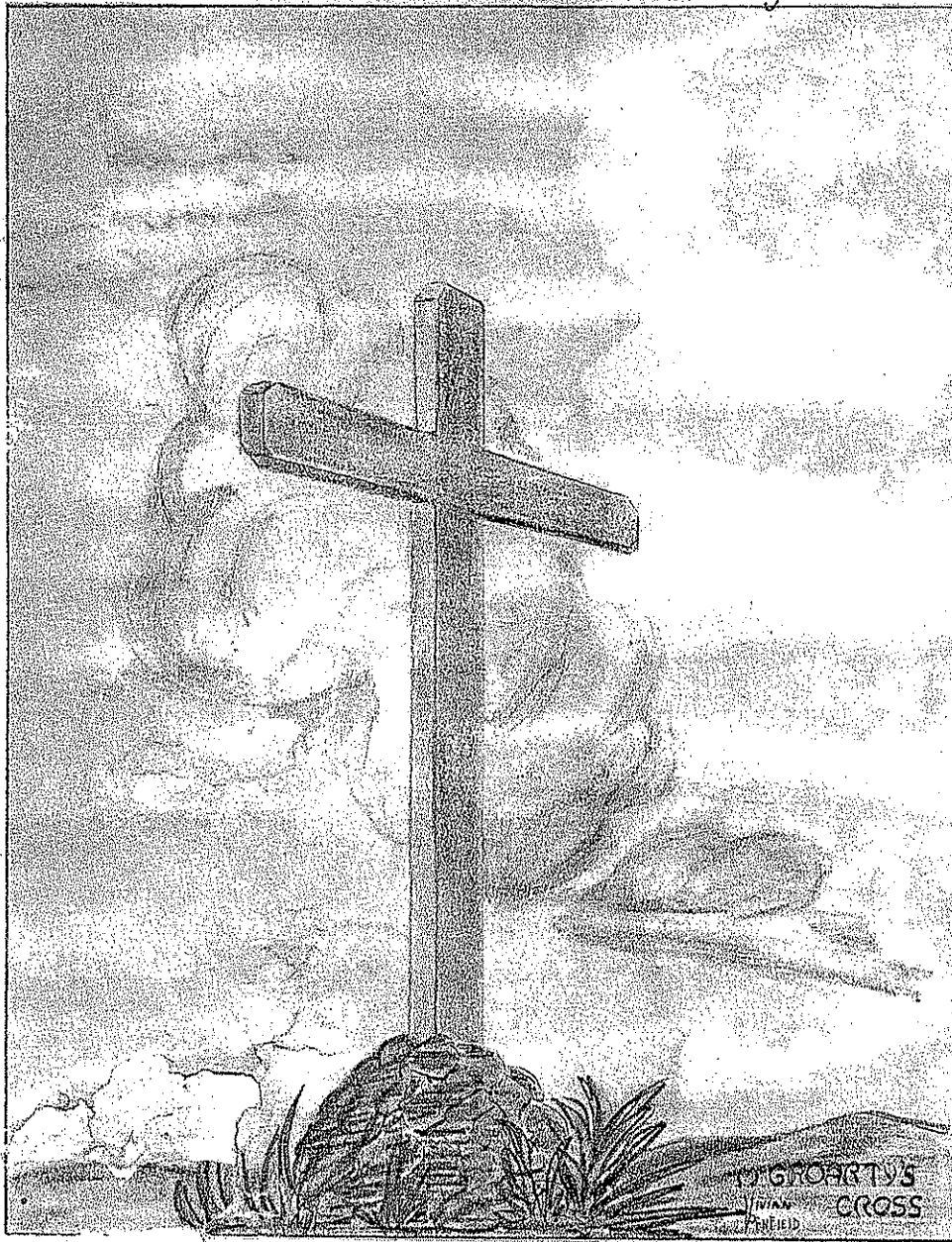
Mr. H. L. Harvey, Tujunga representative of the above mentioned firm, is always glad to demonstrate or give any information and assistance possible in acquainting you with the Star car and its performances.





Christmas Greetings

1939

EL Portal Yearbook
Verdugo Hills High School

THE FINEST AMERICAN heritage is that of fortitude—the courage to win over unbelievable hardships. The spirit necessary to win, the spirit of the hardy pioneers is seen today in all that we do. We no longer search for hidden treasure with rusted gold-pan and dulled pickaxe. We search for wisdom with modern tools of learning, sharpened by experience and understanding. We no longer strive along hidden paths. Our paths are lighted by a liberal education. We no longer walk in darkness. With eyes wide, unafraid, with fortitude, with the courage of our forefathers we face the future.

4 Sunland — Tujunga — La Crescenta — Sun Valley, Calif.
THE RECORD-LEDGER, SATURDAY, JULY 28, 1937



ODDS AND ENDS FROM

-FIFTY YEARS AGO — JULY 1923

Flora M. Morgan wishes to announce to her friends and neighbors that her home place known as The Oak Glen Ranch on the Hillhaven road is now being subdivided into most desirable lots.

This subdivision is most ideally located, being in the Green Verdugo Hills, one block from the business center, overlooking our beautiful Tujunga Valley.

LOTS \$197 AND UP. — — — \$10 CASH. — — — \$10 MONTHLY

FOR RENT— About July 25; furnished bungalow, four rooms and bath; two bedrooms; under two large oaks; \$28.50.

FOR SALE — Peaches, 5¢ a lb. Plums, 5¢ a lb.

Property owners in the Sunland flat have signed a 60-day option with agents who are believed to represent a reliable oil concern. Nearly half the life of the option has expired and interested persons whose faith in the ultimate discovery of oil at Sunland is strong, are anxiously waiting developments.

SAN YSIDRO CLUB FORMED

Believing that the sentiment which prompted the raising of the cross of Mt. McGroarty in honor of San Ysidro, patron saint of little homes, is too fine and worthy not to be carried through to its completed purpose, residents of Tujunga have proposed the organization of a San Ysidro Club, the first and possibly the only definite duty of which will be to see that the cross which watches over this mountain village is lighted at night.

Miss Zoe M. Gilbert, who was secretary of the committee that had charge of the sunrise Easter service when the cross was dedicated, has been asked to act as a nucleus around which the club may be formed, for it is planned to avoid any formality of organization and election of officers and to make the club and its work as spontaneous as possible.

Figures on the cost of lighting the cross will be obtained and the expense for the first year, it seems likely, will have to be met by voluntary subscription. It will be so small, however, that nobody will feel his share when it is divided among all those who will wish to see the cross stand forth in its beauty and sacred symbolism, by night as well as by day, before the eyes of the dwellers in the little homes of Tujunga and of the wayfarer who journeys through the Green Verdugo Hills.

San Ysidro Cross Named for Peasant

The Cross of San Ysidro was erected in 1923 for Sunland-Tujunga's first Easter Sunrise service.

The ceremony, including dedication of the Cross, was arranged by Protestant organizations, — spearheaded by the Kiwanis Club. A Catholic priest blessed the cross, named for a Spanish peasant believed to have been a Jew.

Provided Help

According to legend, as Ysidro was plowing in the field of his employer, some children came running to tell him that a poor widow was in distress because some dogs had chased her goat away and she was unable to find it.

Ysidro left his oxen standing in the furrow and set out to find the goat. When the farmer heard what Ysidro was doing he vowed he would teach Ysidro to mind the business he was paid for.

As the farmer, armed with a rod with which to beat Ysidro came to a gap in the hedge through which he could see his field, his eyes bulged — his mouth fell open, his jaw stuck as he dropped the rod.

For there before him were the oxen, walking steadily along the furrow and beside the plow stood a tall figure all clothed in white.

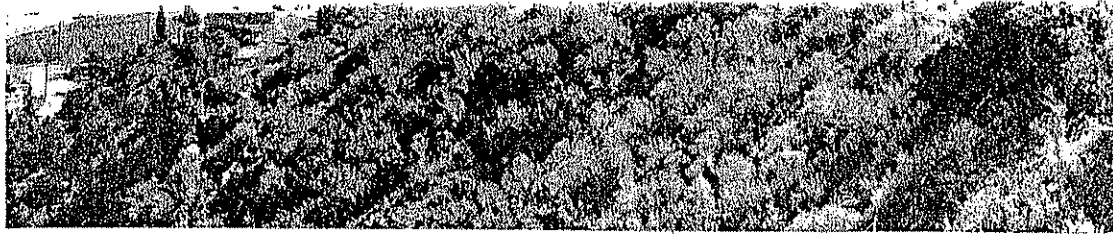
For said John Steven McGroarty at that first Easter Sunrise service "God had sent one of his angels to do Ysidro's work while Ysidro was on his errand of mercy. Up here in the Green Verdugos we believe these things and that is why we have raised this cross in honor of San Ysidro, patron saint of little homes."

Okay Given To Relight McGroarty Cross

The City Park Commission last Thursday voted permission to the Sunland-Tujunga Kiwanis Club to re-light the cross atop Mt. McGroarty in Pasko Park, Tujunga.

The cross has been in darkness for three years after a fire swept the area and destroyed poles and wire carrying electricity for the lights.

The Kiwanis Club was granted permission to install new poles and wire at no expense to the city. Pasko Park covers 1.01 acres and was donated to the city of Tujunga on July 30, 1931 by Marshall V. Harriman. When Tujunga was consolidated with the City of Los Angeles on March 7, 1932, Pasko Park became part of the city's park system.



REGIONAL LANDMARK—The 30-foot high San Ysidro Cross, erected in northern range of Verdugos, overlooks Sunland-Tujunga area.

HIGH POINT IN VERDUGOS

Cross of San Ysidro Turning Into Romantic Site for Teens

BY JAMES QUINN

Times Staff Writer

TUJUNGA—In the 1920s, when refugees from the Midwest and East were moving in droves to the high, dry climate of Sunland and Tujunga, John McGroarty, one of the community's founders, decided the area needed a landmark.

Through the efforts of the local Kiwanis Club, the community erected a cross on Mt. McGroarty in the northern range of the Verdugos.

Called the Cross of San Ysidro, it was a landmark that McGroarty, a staunch Roman Catholic and local booster, enthusiastically approved.

Whenever the smog and fog lift the 30-foot high, white cross is visible from the Tujunga business section.

But today it is less the landmark and religious shrine than it is a rallying point for teen-agers looking for a romantic place to park at night.

When erected, landowners were happily drawing settlers, many of them asthmatics, to the foothill region with newspaper ads that said: "One acre, one lung and one dollar is all you need to live in Sunland-Tujunga," according to a publication of the local Historical Society.

But the Sunland-Tujunga population, pegged at 50,000 by the Regional Planning Commission, long ago stopped growing at the boomtown 1920s pace, and interest in attracting settlers waned as the population grew.

Thus, the cross is no longer mentioned as one of the community's proud assets. In fact, several prominent residents said recently, they had never heard of the cross—although it is easy to spot from Foothill Boulevard on a clear day.

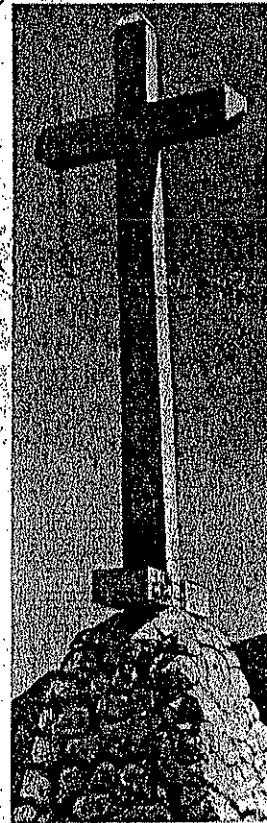
But the cross retains one official function. Each Easter Sunday, since 1923, at sunrise, services are conducted there under sponsorship of the Sunland-Tujunga Ministerial Assn. and the Kiwanis Club.

Since the cross is accessible to cars only by a heavily rutted dirt road, the Kiwanis ferry those attending the services the last half mile in rough-terrain vehicles.

Automobiles are able to negotiate the sharp corners and steep hills leading up to the cross, but parking is limited on top of the mountain.

What parking space exists often is filled by teen-agers at night, says a spokesman at LAPD's Foothill Division.

The highest point in the northern Verdugos, Mount McGroarty affords those on top an opportunity to spot anyone approaching.



Further, the lights of Tujunga and Sunland sparkle below.

"It's popular with the kids no doubt, about that," said the LAPD spokesman. "We patrol the area regularly, but it is not considered a major trouble spot."

An undated and unsigned pamphlet in the Sunland-Tujunga Library suggests this is not the use McGroarty had in mind in the 20s when he declared:

"We pray to God to let San Ysidro watch over our little homes and protect them and those who dwell in them."

Said a municipal official: "I see car lights up there sometimes at night. I've never been up at the cross, but I'm sure they don't go up to pray at night."



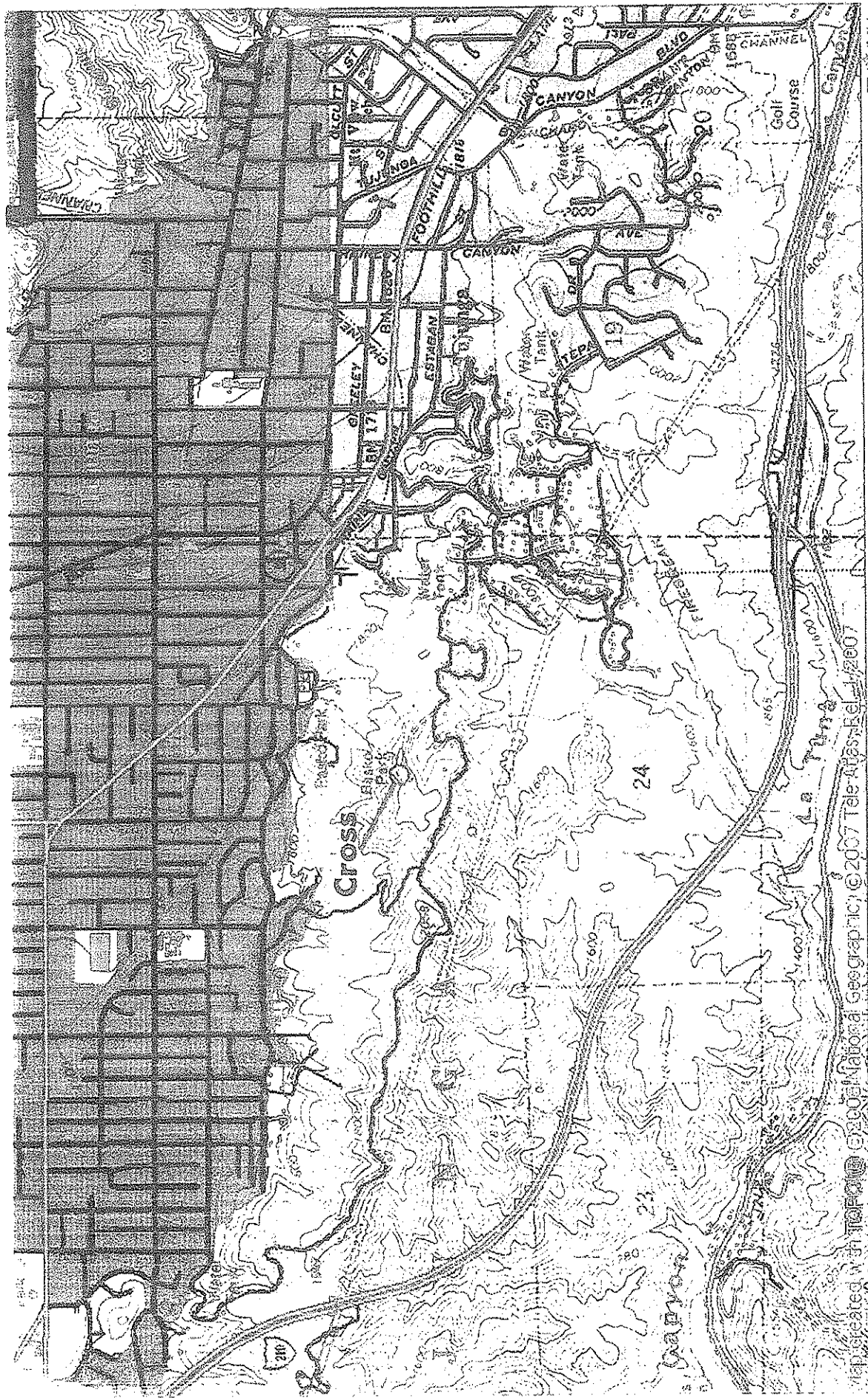
Overlooking the Verdugo Hills Cemetery stands the cross of San Ysidro, high on the peak of Mount McGroarty. The legend of San Ysidro — the patron saint of little homes — shines with love of tolerance. Dedicated at the sunrise services in 1923, the clergy of all faiths were represented. It is in this spirit of peace and tolerance that the Verdugo Hills Cemetery welcomes those of all faiths.

presented by

LOS ANGELES MORTUARY

and

THE VERDUGO HILLS CEMETERY



TIN TOWN

34.247775N = 34°14'51.99"

118.300830W = 118°18'2.99"

Elev. 1964 ft.

03/10/09

13°

1000

500

0

1000

0

MILES

FEET

KILOMETERS

METERS

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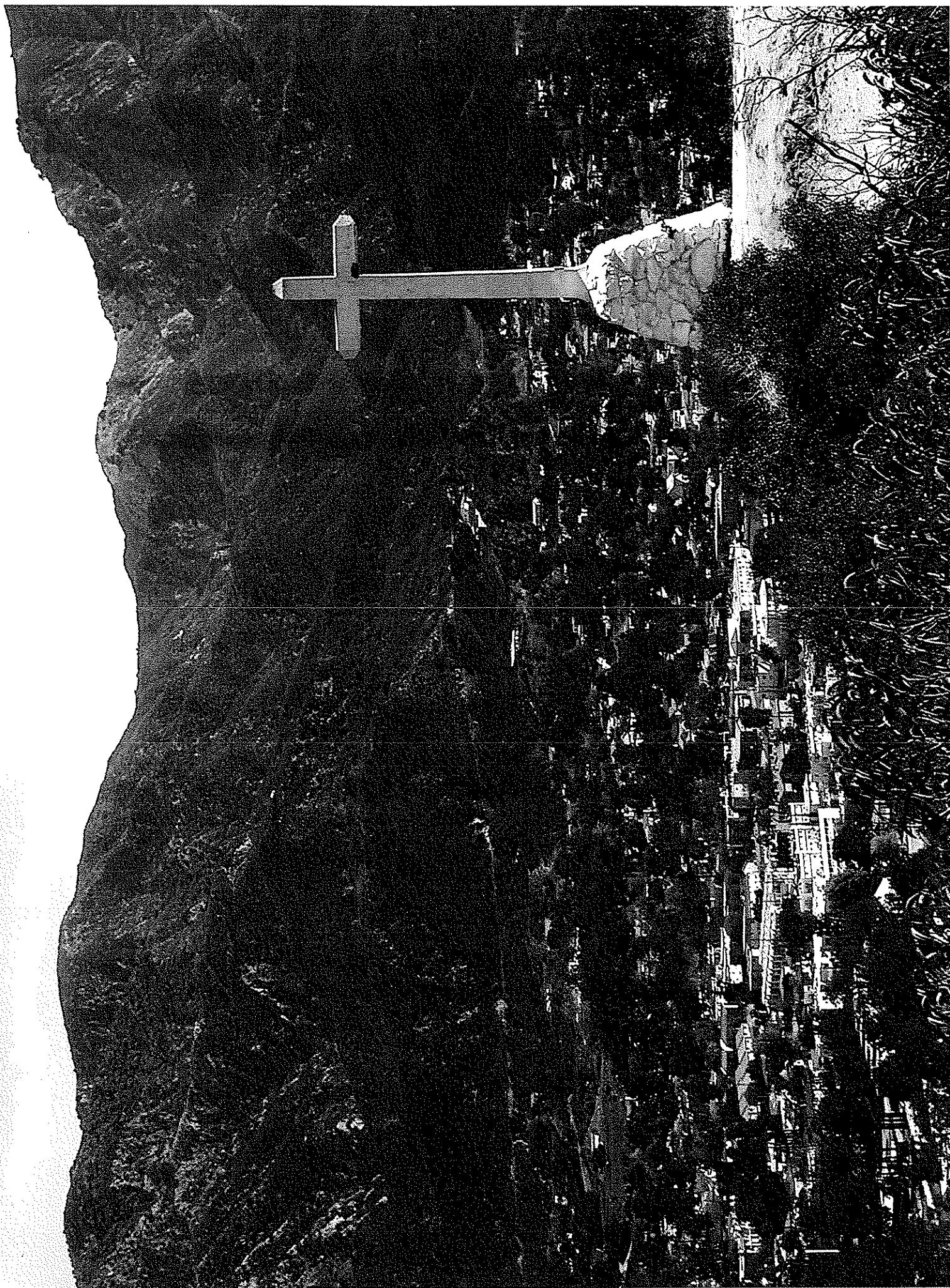
NATIONAL
GEOGRAPHIC

Map created with TOPOGO ©2003 National Geographic ©2007 Tele Atlas. File 1/2607

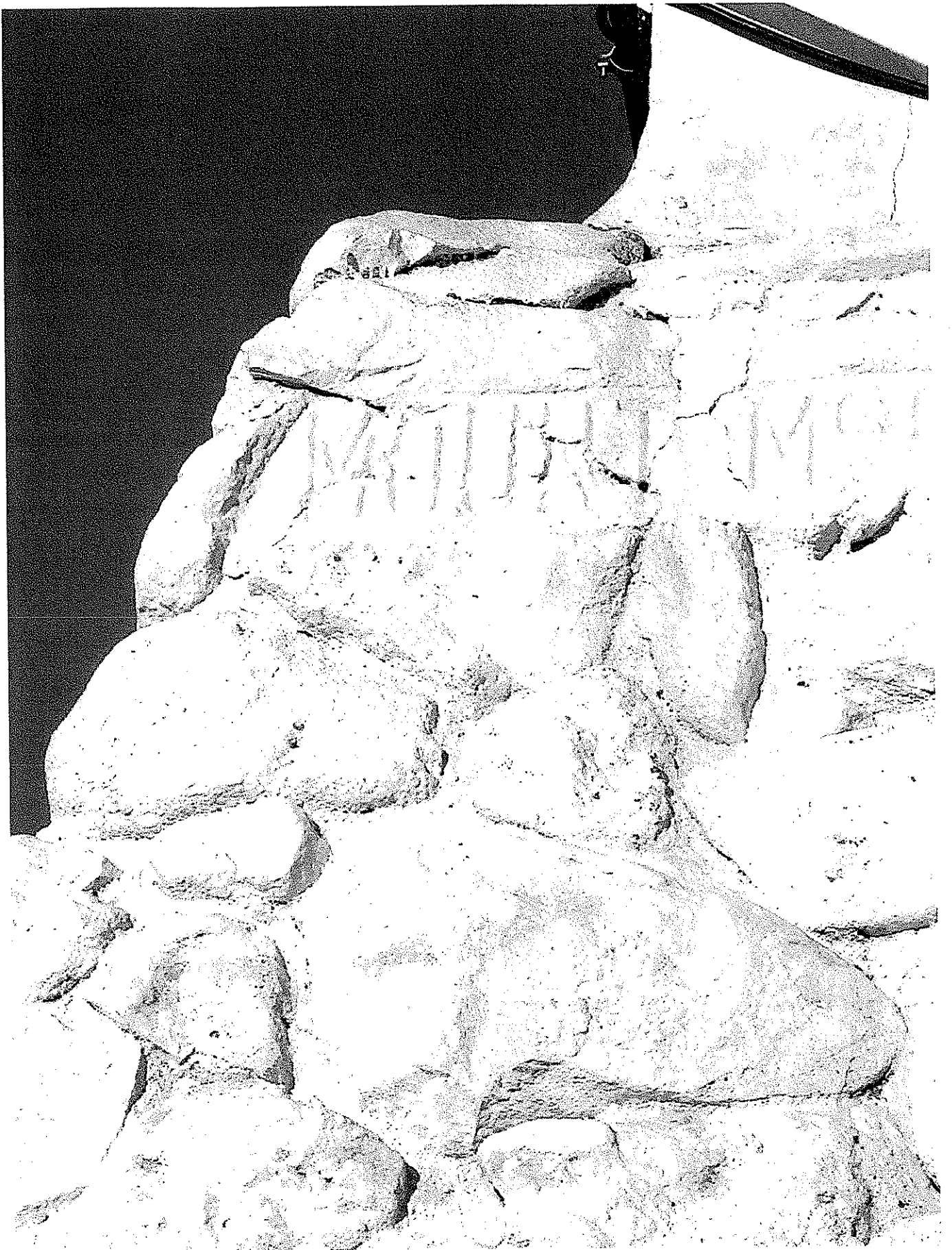
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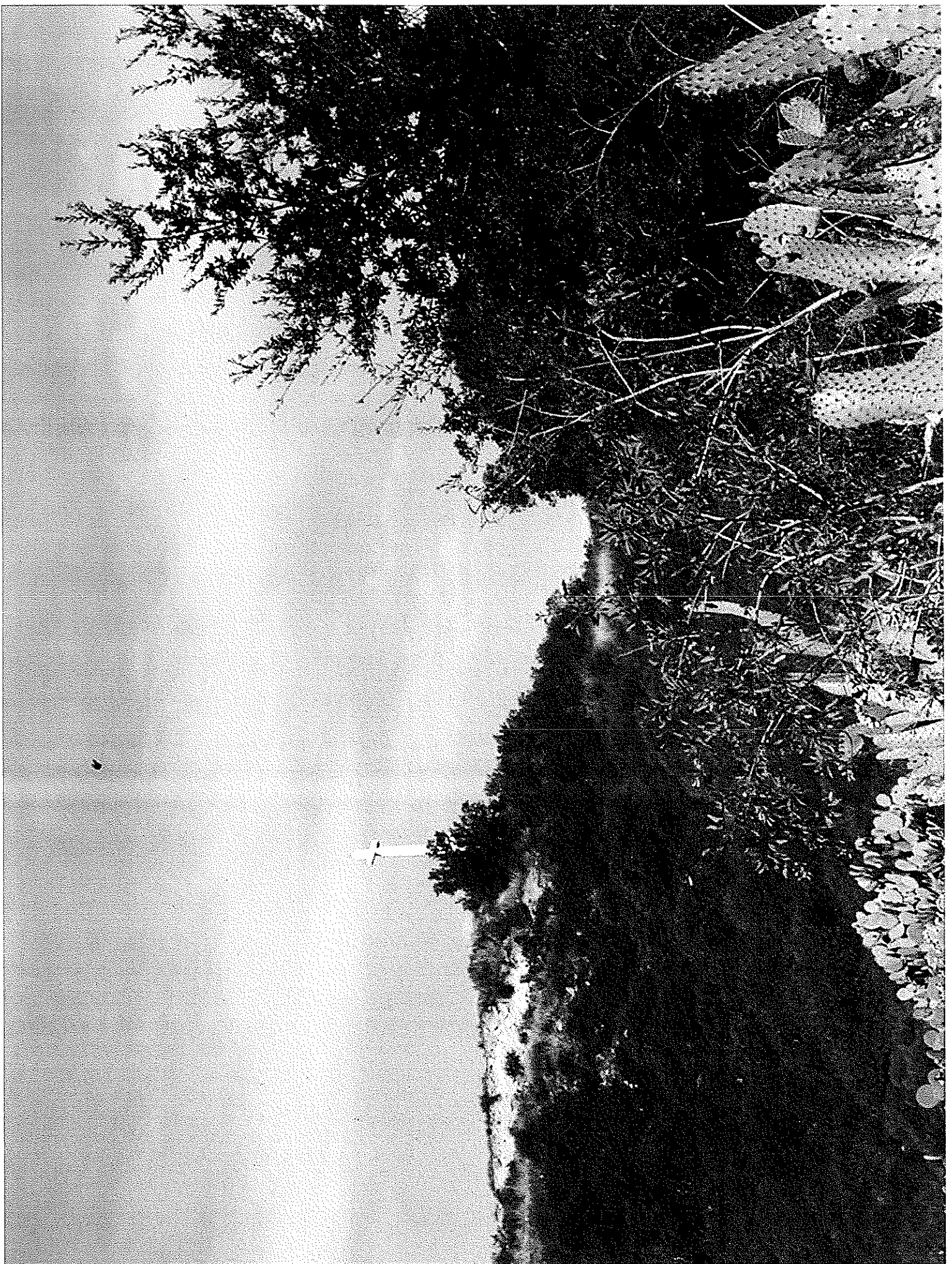
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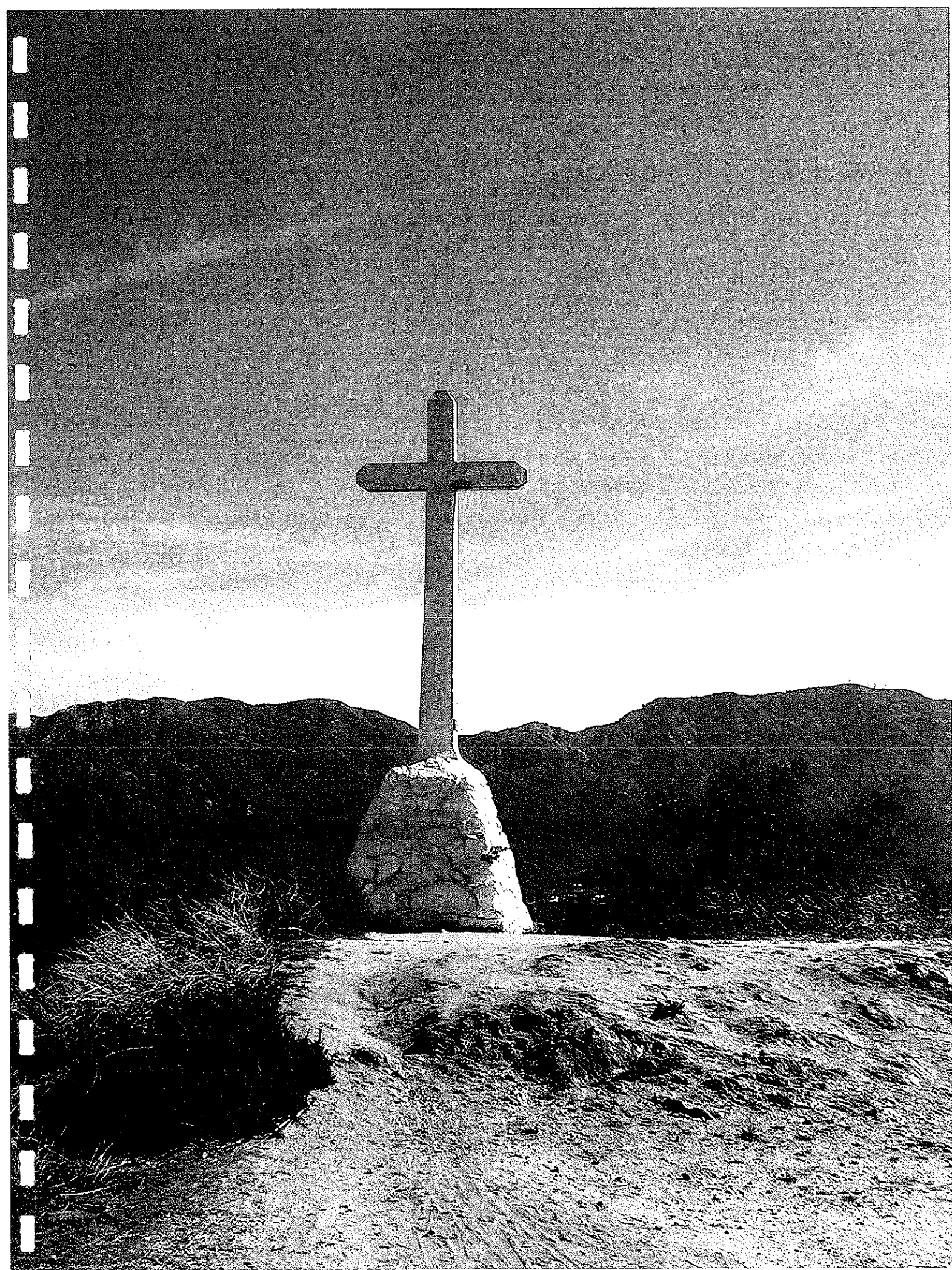


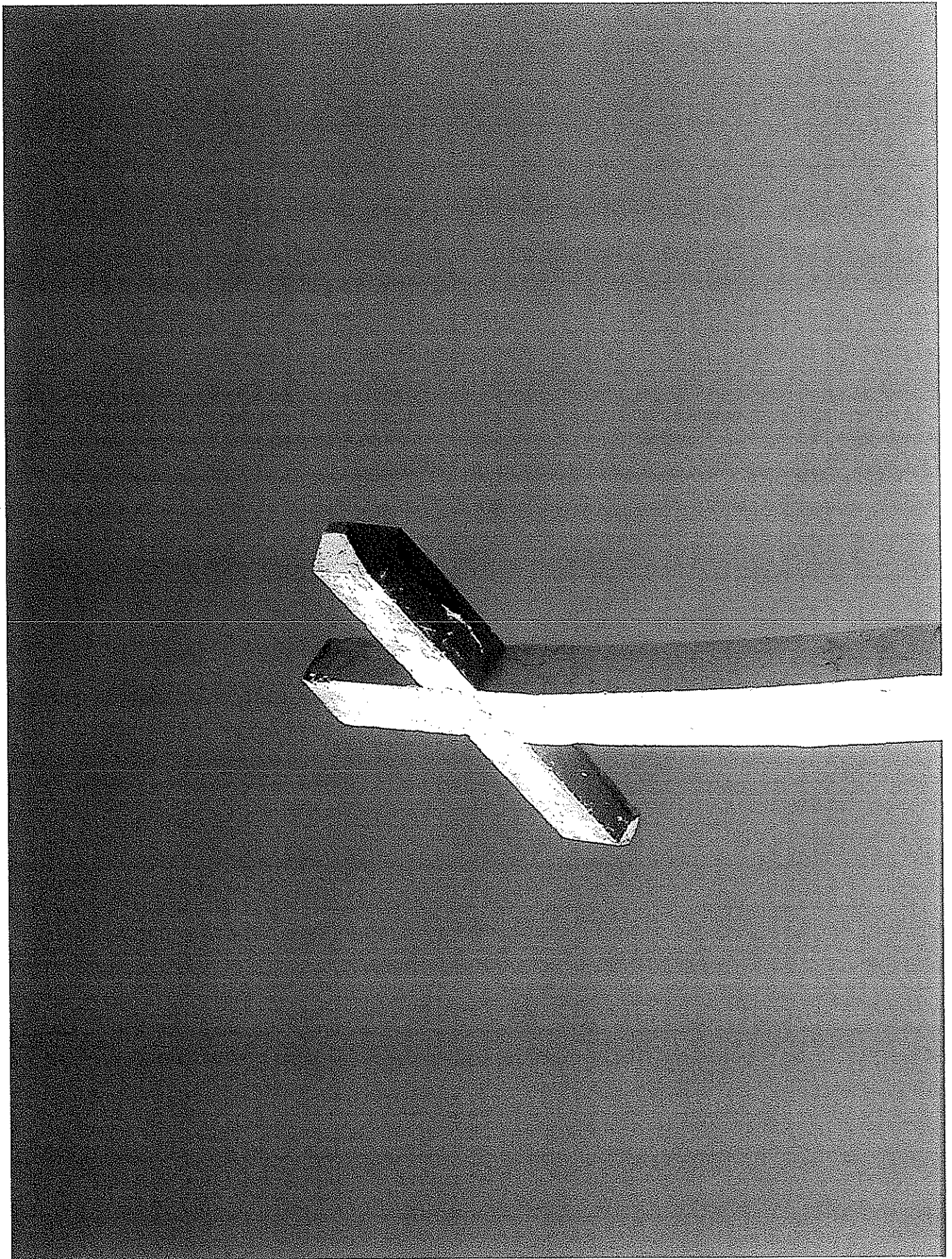


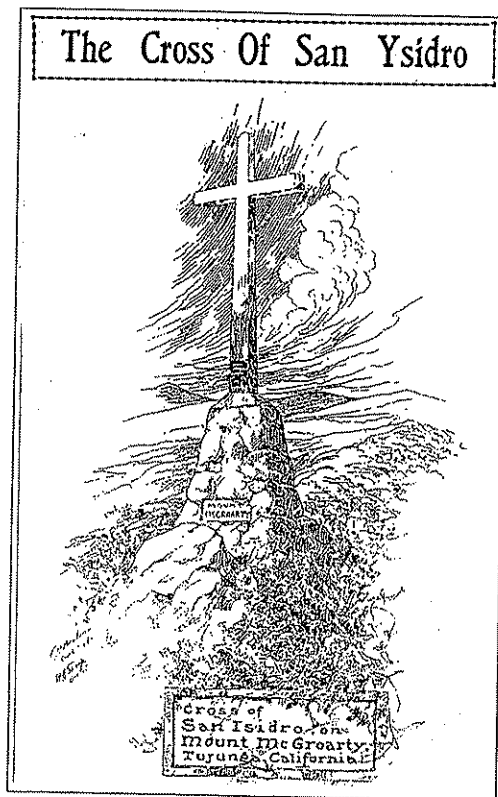




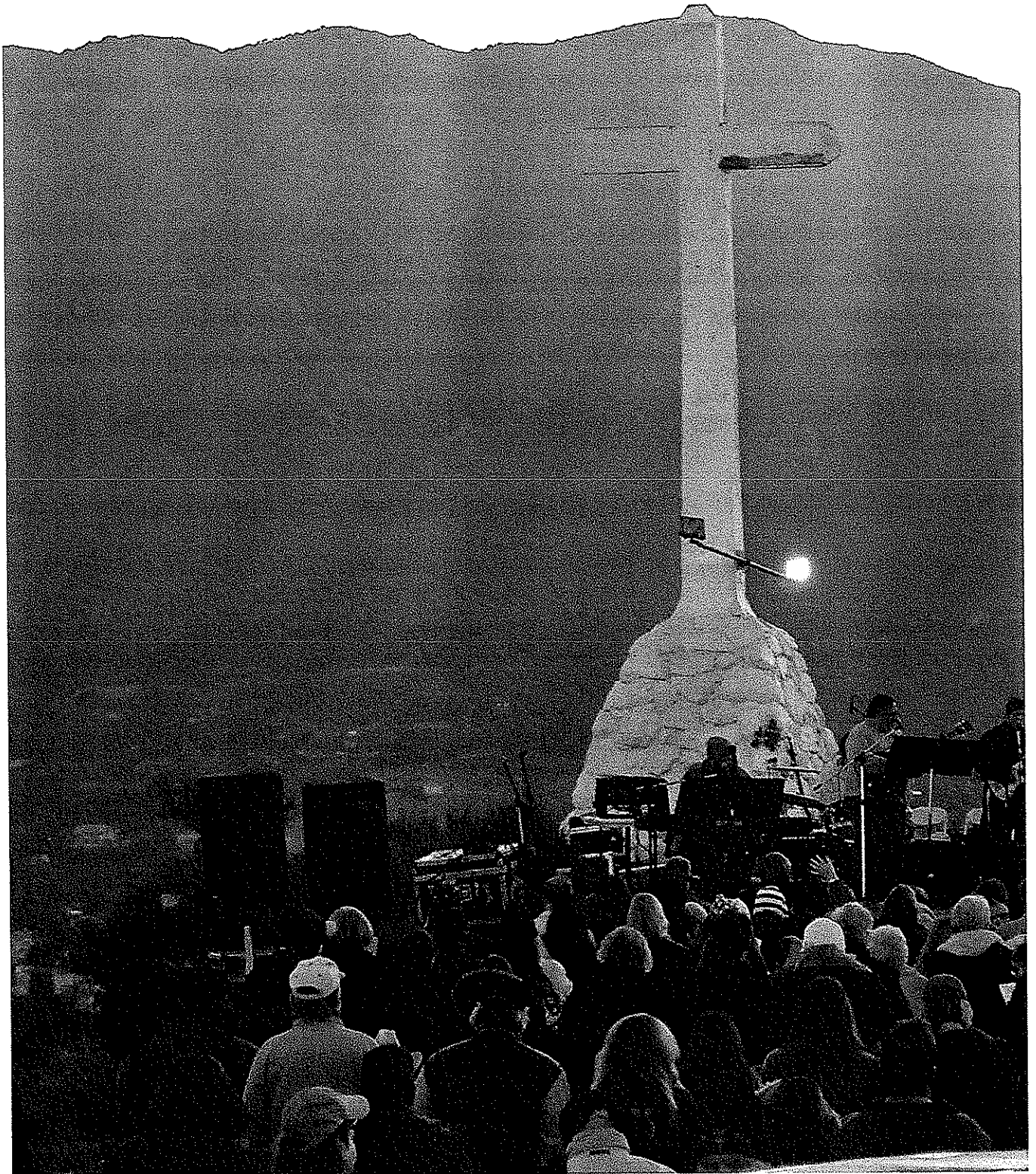




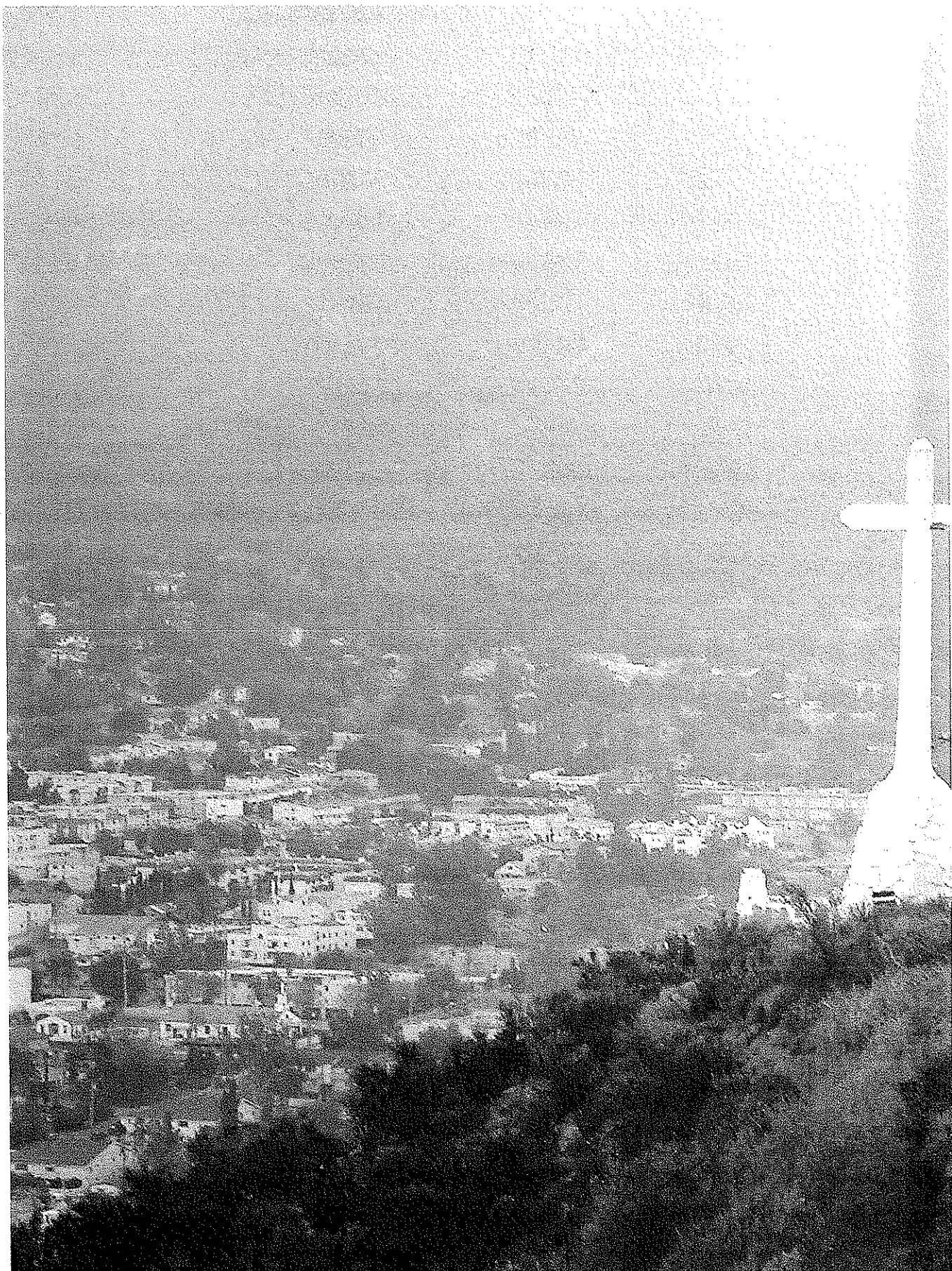




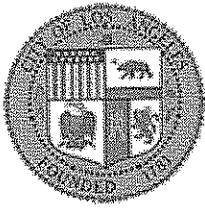
2004 EASTER



4/15/2009



4/15/2009



City of Los Angeles
Department of City Planning

08/26/2009

PARCEL PROFILE REPORT

PROPERTY ADDRESSES

ZIP CODES

RECENT ACTIVITY

None

CASE NUMBERS

CPC-1990-596-GPC
ORD-169743-SA590

Address/Legal Information

PIN Number: 201B193 202
Lot Area (Calculated): 43,788.0 (sq ft)
Thomas Brothers Grid: PAGE 503 - GRID H5
PAGE 503 - GRID J5
Assessor Parcel No. (APN): 2563026900
Tract: WESTERN EMPIRE TRACT
Map Reference: M B 18-162/163 (SHT 4)
Block: None
Lot: PT 229
Arb (Lot Cut Reference): 2
Map Sheet: 201B193

Jurisdictional Information

Community Plan Area: Sunland - Tujunga - Lake View
Terrace - Shadow Hills - East La
Tuna Canyon
North Valley
Sunland - Tujunga
CD 2 - Vacant
1014.00
LADBS District Office: Van Nuys

Planning and Zoning Information

Special Notes: None
Zoning: OS-1XL
Zoning Information (ZI): None
General Plan Land Use: Open Space
Plan Footnote - Site Req.: See Plan Footnotes
Additional Plan Footnotes: Sunland
Specific Plan Area: San Gabriel/Verdugo Mountains
Design Review Board: No
Historic Preservation Review: No
Historic Preservation Overlay Zone: None
Other Historic Designations: None
Other Historic Survey Information: None
Mills Act Contract: None
POD - Pedestrian Oriented Districts: None
CDO - Community Design Overlay: None
NSO - Neighborhood Stabilization Overlay: No
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: McGroarty Cultural Center
Park

Assessor Information

Assessor Parcel No. (APN): 2563026900
Ownership (Assessor): L A CITY PARK
0
0
Ownership (City Clerk): CITY OF L.A., DEPT OF REC &
PARKS
200 N MAIN ST #1290CHE
LOS ANGELES CA 90012
APN Area (Co. Public Works)*: 1.010 (ac)

Use Code:	8800 - Government Owned
Assessed Land Val.:	\$4,605
Assessed Improvement Val.:	\$0
Last Owner Change:	02/45/67
Last Sale Amount:	\$0
Tax Rate Area:	13
Deed Ref No. (City Clerk):	None
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)
Building 2:	
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)
Building 3:	
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)
Building 4:	
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
Building 5:	
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:	YES
Hillside Grading:	Yes
Oil Wells:	None
Alquist-Priolo Fault Zone:	No
Distance to Nearest Fault:	Within Fault Zone
Landslide:	Yes
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

Police Information:

Bureau:

Valley

Division / Station:

Foothill

Report District:

1694

Fire Information:

District / Fire Station:

74

Battalion:

12

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: CPC-1990-596-GPC

Required Action(s): GPC-GENERAL PLAN/ZONING CONSISTENCY (AB283)

Project Description(s): AB283 PROG PROP PLAN AMEND, ZC & HD CHANGES THROUGHOUT THE CITY IN ORDER TO IMPLEMENT THE NEWLY CREATED OPEN SPACE (OS)

DATA NOT AVAILABLE

ORD-169743-SA590

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



Address: No Address
APN: 2563026900
PIN #: 201B193 202

Tract: WESTERN EMPIRE TRACT
Block: None
Lot: PT 229
Arb: 2

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