

## HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

Ser. No. 0213-005

HABS \_\_\_\_\_ HAER \_\_\_\_\_ NR 3 SHL \_\_\_\_\_ Loc \_\_\_\_\_  
UTM: A 11-301460-3002260 B \_\_\_\_\_  
C \_\_\_\_\_ D \_\_\_\_\_

### IDENTIFICATION

1. Common name: None
2. Historic name: Lee: Samuel M. Residence
3. Street or rural address: 634 North Alta Drive  
City Beverly Hills Zip 90210 County Los Angeles
4. Parcel number: 4341-002-017
5. Present Owner: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Ownership is: Public \_\_\_\_\_ Private \_\_\_\_\_
6. Present Use: Residential Original use: Residential

### DESCRIPTION

- 7a. Architectural style: American Colonial Revival
- 7b. Briefly describe the present *physical description* of the site or structure and describe any major alterations from its original condition:

American Colonial Revival styling dignifies this two story home. Broad, overlapping wood boards sheathe the rectangularly massed structure, which is capped by a hipped roof. A molded and denticulated cornice marks the roofline. Symmetrically arranged, the facade contains five equally spaced, eight-over-eight sash on the upper story, and four eight-over-twelve sash and a central portico on the lower story. Molded lintels and louvred shutters embellish the windows. Flanked by lanterns, the portico consists of an open pediment over engaged columns. A six panel door is topped by a fanlight and accented by a keystone. The integrity of the American Colonial Revival design is complemented by the setting, a corner site which is simply landscaped and whose setback is bisected by a brick path.



8. Construction date: 1937  
Estimated \_\_\_\_\_ Factual X
9. Architect Davis: Pierpont
10. Builder Wilshire Home Builders
11. Approx. property size (in feet)  
Frontage 90 Depth 190  
or approx. acreage \_\_\_\_\_
12. Date(s) of enclosed photograph(s)  
1986

13. Condition: Excellent \_\_\_\_\_ Good ☒ Fair \_\_\_\_\_ Deteriorated \_\_\_\_\_ No longer in existence \_\_\_\_\_
14. Alterations: \_\_\_\_\_
15. Surroundings: (Check more than one if necessary) Open land \_\_\_\_\_ Scattered buildings \_\_\_\_\_ Densely built-up ☒  
Residential ☒ Industrial \_\_\_\_\_ Commercial \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_
16. Threats to site: None known \_\_\_\_\_ Private development \_\_\_\_\_ Zoning \_\_\_\_\_ Vandalism \_\_\_\_\_  
Public Works project \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_
17. Is the structure: On its original site? \_\_\_\_\_ Moved? \_\_\_\_\_ Unknown? \_\_\_\_\_
18. Related features: \_\_\_\_\_

#### SIGNIFICANCE

19. Briefly state historical and/or architectural importance (include dates, events, and persons associated with the site.)

634 N Alta Drive: One of the most stylish period revival architects of the 1920s was Pierpont Davis, who often worked with his brother Walter. While the firm is best known for its designs in the Spanish Colonial Revival and French idioms, their work in Beverly Hills is represented by this classic two story American Colonial Revival dwelling on Alta Drive. Built in 1937 for the Samuel Lees, the residence is constructed in one of the most popular styles for this city, although elsewhere in Southern California it did not have such widespread popularity. These homes, whose origins may be found in the plantations of the deep South, had captured the interest of Beverly Hills citizens ever since the inception of the City. Many were built prior to 1920 in the first wave of construction; the style had a second resurgence in the mid 1930s. The Davises were extremely able practitioners who had won many architectural awards for their residential work in fashionable areas of Hollywood and Los Angeles, primarily in Hollywoodland, Hancock Park, and Los Feliz. Among their celebrity clients were actor Julian Eltinge and Anna Desmond. Other commissions of (see continuation sheet)

20. Main theme of the historic resource: (If more than one is checked, number in order of importance.)

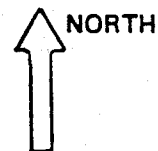
Architecture \_\_\_\_\_ Arts & Leisure \_\_\_\_\_  
Economic/Industrial \_\_\_\_\_ Exploration/Settlement \_\_\_\_\_  
Government \_\_\_\_\_ Military \_\_\_\_\_  
Religion \_\_\_\_\_ Social/Education \_\_\_\_\_

21. Sources (List books, documents, surveys, personal interviews and their dates).

City of Beverly Hills building permits  
Beverly Hills City Directory, 1938

22. Date form prepared November, 1986  
By (name) C. McAvoy & L. Heumann  
Organization City of Beverly Hills  
Address: 450 N. Crescent Dr.  
Beverly Hills Zip 90210  
Phone: (213) 550-4881

Locational sketch map (draw and label site and surrounding streets, roads, and prominent landmarks):



See continuation sheet

CONTINUATION SHEET: 634 N. Alta Dr.

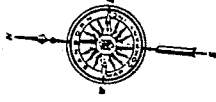
19. Significance:

Pierpont Davis include the La Venta Inn (Palos Verdes, 1923); St. John's Episcopal Church (Los Angeles, 1923); and the Villa d'Este Apartments (West Hollywood, 1928); and residences at 712 and 722 N. Camden Dr.

2169

BEVERLY HILLS

634 North Alta Drive



## CONTINUATION SHEET

Primary #

HRI #

Trinomial

NRHP Status Code: 5S3

Page 1 of 1 Resource Name or # Samuel M. Lee Residence

☐ Continuation ☒ Update

P2. Location: 634 North Alta Dr.

### B10 Significance:

The remodeling or modification of the entrance area and second story of this building since it was surveyed in 1985-1986 has removed significant architectural details from the primary elevation. Specifically, the entrance area has been enlarged with a wider entry door and fanlight, and the addition of sidelights. The original pedimented portico has been replaced by a full-height front-gabled portico pierced by a fanlight and supported by round columns. Within the portico area, the second story window has been replaced by French doors opening onto a balconet. Although the building is in good condition, its loss of architectural integrity is such that the property no longer appears eligible for listing in the National Register. However, because the modifications are in keeping with the Colonial Revival architectural style, the building remains eligible for the California Register and local listing or designation.

P5b Description/Date of Photo: West elevation, looking east/May 2004



P8. Recorded by: Jan Ostashay, Peter Moruzzi, PCR Services, One Venture, Suite 150, Irvine, CA 92618

P9. Date Recorded: Tuesday, June 01, 2004