

# HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

Ser. No. 0615-030  
HABS \_\_\_\_\_ HAER \_\_\_\_\_ NR 3 SHL \_\_\_\_\_ Loc \_\_\_\_\_  
UTM: A 11-370500-3072080 B \_\_\_\_\_  
C \_\_\_\_\_ D \_\_\_\_\_

## IDENTIFICATION

1. Common name: None
2. Historic name: None
3. Street or rural address: 720 North Foothill Road  
City Beverly Hills Zip 90210 County Los Angeles
4. Parcel number: 4341-020-009
5. Present Owner: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Ownership is: Public \_\_\_\_\_ Private \_\_\_\_\_
6. Present Use: Residential Original use: Residential

## DESCRIPTION

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

Occupying a double lot on the east side of Foothill Drive, this is a two story residence with an arresting Spanish Colonial Revival design. Its rich terra cotta ornamentation approaches the Churrigueresque in character and forms a dramatic contrast to the white stucco walls and tiled hip roof. Patterned moldings circle the building between stories, accent the chimneys, and enliven the lintels. Ornate iron grilles and balconies embellish some of the asymmetrically arranged casement windows. Other openings have arched heads with decorated spandrels, flanking columns, or spiraled column mullions. The entry is located in a one story bay and is announced by an arched openings with a shield keystone. Relatively few alterations have apparently been made to the house. It is abutted by a large, walled garden to the south.



8. Construction date: 1924  
Estimated \_\_\_\_\_ Factual X
9. Architect Unknown
10. Builder Unknown
11. Approx. property size (in feet)  
Frontage 170 Depth 216  
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.)

This elaborate Mediterranean mansion is located in the residential area south of Sunset Boulevard in Beverly Hills. Sited on a double lot, the home has many of the features accorded larger estates north of Sunset. Built in 1924 for real estate entrepreneur J.A. Cornelius (husband of screen actress Ruth Clifford), the striking home has been featured in Michael Regan's Stars, Moguls, and Magnates - the Mansions of Beverly Hills, and in a recent issue of Historic Preservation Magazine. Cornelius is listed on the building permit as designer as well as owner and contractor, a common occurrence for the developers of the era. The residence was also owned by the Johnethel Corporation, and J.J. Murdock, among others. Some alterations have been made, although none appear visible from the street. Permits indicate that a storage vault and a pipe organ were once part of the residence's accoutrements, befitting the home of wealthy and prominent individuals. The residence is also associated with Conrad Viedt, a German born actor most famous for his role in The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari (1919). The home is distinguished not only by its scale but also by the (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  
Regan, Michael. Stars, Moguls, Magnates.  
(1966).

22. Date form prepared November, 1986  
By (name) C. McAvoy & L. Heumann  
Organization City of Beverly Hills  
Address: 450 N. Crescent Dr.  
City 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: 720 North Foothill Drive

19. Significance:

quality and extent of its terra cotta ornament. It is a significant example of its architectural style and type in Beverly Hills, and was built during the City's prime period of development. It is also associated with a real estate developer of note.

2187

2156

720 Foothill Road

LOMITAS AV.

BEVERLY HILLS

FOOTHILL RD

N. ELM DRIVE

ELEVADO AV.

2173

2177

2174

2175

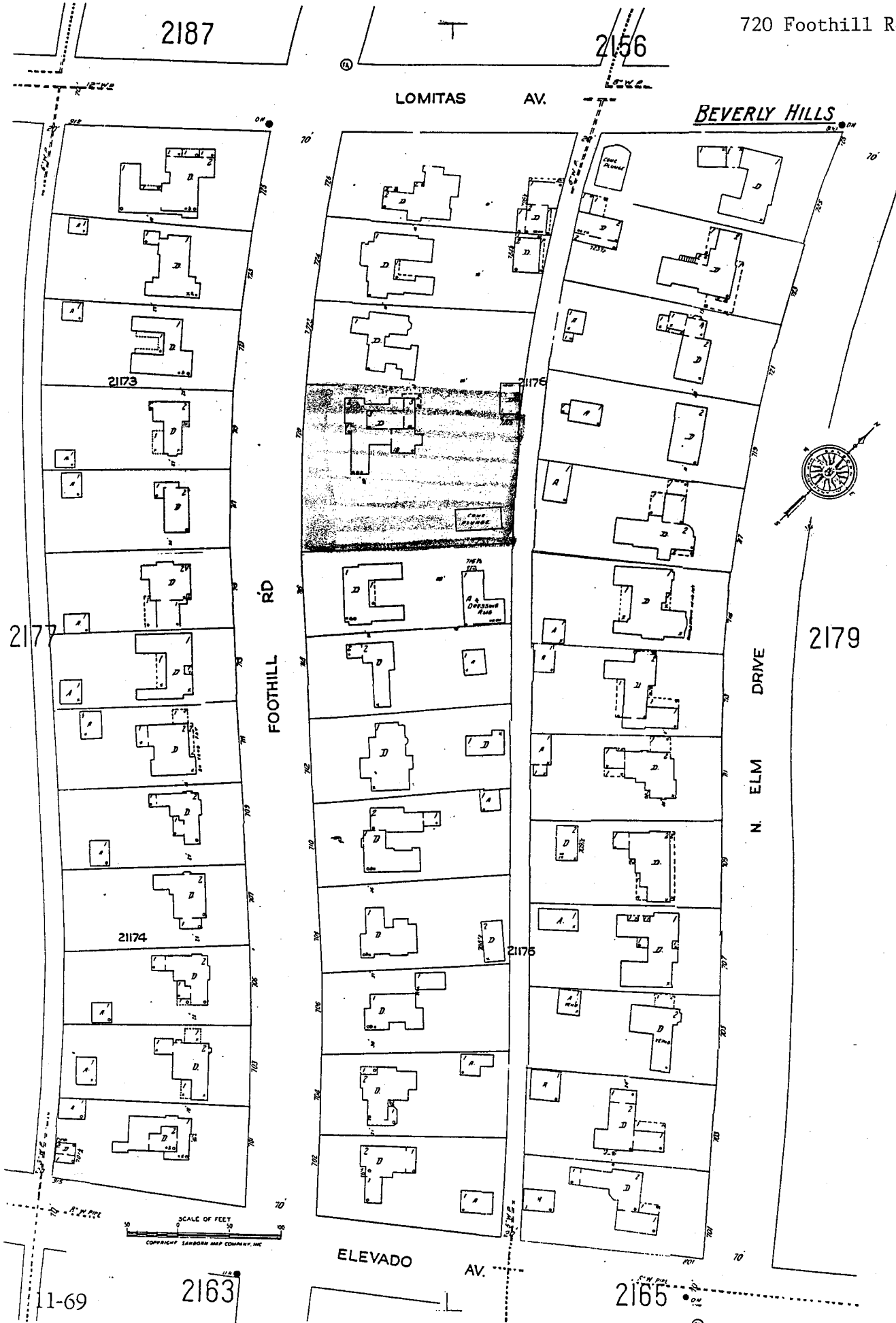
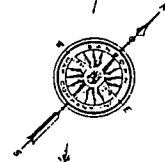
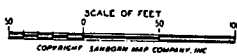
2176

2179

2165

2163

11-69



## CONTINUATION SHEET

Primary #

HRI #

Trinomial

NRHP Status Code: 3S

Page 1 of 1 Resource Name or # 720 Foothill Rd.

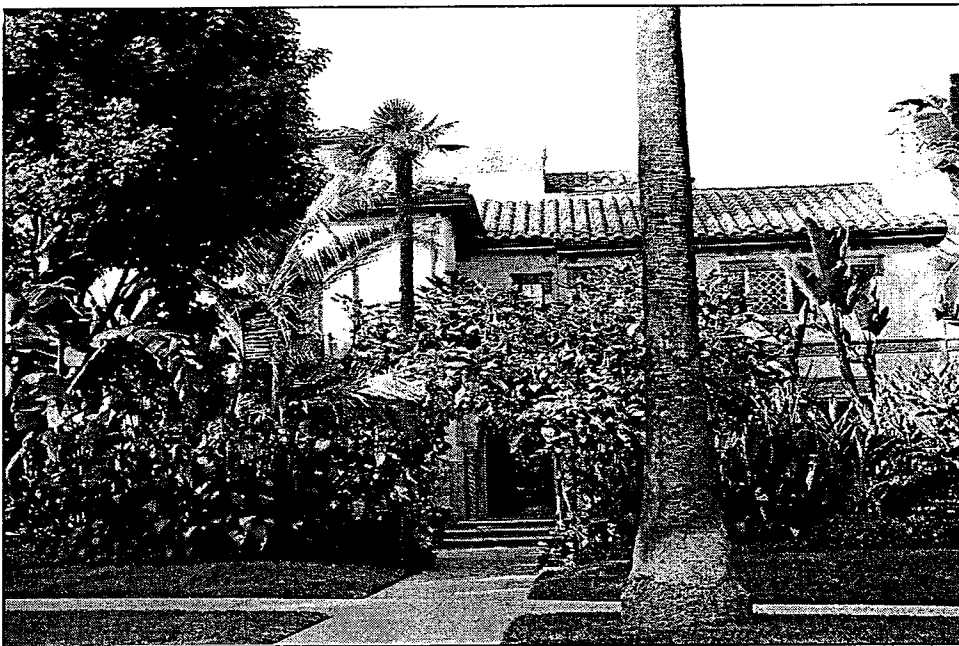
☐ Continuation ☒ Update

P2. Location: 720 Foothill Rd.

### B10 Significance:

*This building appears in good condition with no significant alterations visible since the property was last evaluated in the 1985-1986 survey. It remains eligible for listing in the National Register, California Register and for 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