



Don Loper was born in 1907 in Toledo, Ohio where his father owned a clothing store. The young Loper began designing dresses and also designed the store windows at his father's shop. In the 1930s and early 40s Loper worked as a dancer and costume and set designer across the United States and then, predominately, in New York. He then moved to Los Angeles around 1943 to dance in motion pictures and made his dancing debut with Ginger Rogers in the movie "Lady in the Dark" in 1942. Loper continued to work in Hollywood as an actor, dancer and set designer until 1946, when he opened his own couture salon on Sunset Boulevard in West Hollywood with his partner Charles Northrup. Loper was also an interior designer and designed projects for the Beverly Hills Brown Derby and the ballroom at the Beverly Hills Hotel in 1947. He had also created fashion designs for the "I Love Lucy" show. The flamboyant Loper played himself in an episode of I Love Lucy titled "The Fashion Show" in 1955.

At this location was the famed couture salon Don Loper, which opened in 1951, after moving from Hollywood. An impresario of fashion, Loper was known for his lavish gowns and Hollywood glamour. He designed clothing for stars such as Judy Garland, Lucille Ball, Jane Russell, Joan Crawford, Gracie Allen, and Ella Fitzgerald. In later years he expanded his fashion portfolio to include interior design, ready-to-wear women's clothing, men's wear, and uniforms for nurses and flight attendants.

*Proposed Plaque Copy:*

"A café run by Mrs. Lily Cooper operated out of the drive-in market that once occupied this site from 1928 to 1936. In 1937, the café relocated to the corner tenant space on the same site, at 9600 Brighton Way. The coffee shop, named Brighton Coffee Shop in 1968, had been visited by generations of Beverly Hills residents and Hollywood stars."

*Recommended Placement Location:* Centered within the public sidewalk in front of the current 9600 Brighton Way retail space.

Photos:



