Opened in 1956, as a Schwab's Pharmacy, the old-style Mickey Fine Pharmacy lays claim as being the only remaining pharmacy in the Los Angeles area still in operation with a luncheonette counter and soda fountain. In 1957 Schwab's was sold and changed to an Exclusive Prescription Pharmacy. A little coffee shop with soda fountain counter called the Mortar & Pestle was located at the rear of the shop. By the early 1960s, the pharmacy was purchased by druggist Mickey Fine and became the Mickey Fine Pharmacy. Eventually, Fine sold the drugstore to pharmacist Ted Buchalter. In 1994, Mel Gross acquired the business and ran it for roughly 10 years until he passed away in 2003. Keeping the business in the family, Gross' son Jeff and wife Gina have continued to operate the hometown drugstore and old-fashioned lunch counter, now called Mickey Fine Pharmacy & Grill.

Opened in 1956, as a Schwab's Pharmacy, the old-style Mickey Fine Pharmacy lays claim as being the only remaining pharmacy in the Los Angeles area still in operation with a luncheonette counter and soda fountain. The Cordingly-Milner Building, at 433-437 North Roxbury Drive, was constructed in 1955 and completed in 1956 as a medical office building with a small pharmacy integrated at the ground floor. Within a year, Schwab’s was sold and converted to an Exclusive Prescription Pharmacy with Kenneth Jackson as the head pharmacist. A unique little coffee shop with soda fountain counter called the Mortar & Pestle was located at the rear of the shop. By the early 1960s, the pharmacy was purchased by druggist Mickey Fine and became the Mickey Fine Pharmacy. Michael (Mickey) Noah Fine (1910-1994) had worked as a druggist at the City of Hope in Duarte, California and had operated a women’s apparel business in Santa Monica (Mickey Fine Fashions) for over two decades prior to purchasing the pharmacy. The business was later sold to pharmacist Ted Buchalter (1915-1997) who kept the Mickey Fine Pharmacy name and operated the drugstore for many years. In 1994, Melvin (Mel) J. Gross (1942-2003) acquired the apothecary and lunch counter and ran the business for roughly ten years. Following his death in 2003, his son Jeff Gross and his wife Gina Rapheal purchased the pharmacy from his widowed mother Adelle. They expanded the name to Mickey Fine Pharmacy & Grill and added multiple pharmacy locations in Beverly Hills and Century City. The little coffee shop that is part of the pharmacy remains in operation though the name has changed, as it has also been known as the Fountain Grill and Café Connection as well as its original moniker Mortar & Pestle. The quaint drugstore is considered not merely a pharmacy, but also a well-known and beloved general goods gift shop and café as it brings back the small-town feel of the community.
Proposed Plaque Copy:

"Opened in 1956 as a Schwab’s Pharmacy, the old-style Mickey Fine Pharmacy lays claim as being the only remaining pharmacy in the Los Angeles area still in operation with a luncheonette counter and soda fountain. By the early 1960s, the pharmacy was purchased by druggist Mickey Fine and became the Mickey Fine Pharmacy.

Recommended Placement Location: Within the public sidewalk center in front of the recessed double entry doors of the pharmacy located at 433 North Roxbury Drive."
Current interior views of the café/grill
Current Mickey Fine Pharmacy logo

Mickey Fine Pharmacy logo, 1996

Exclusive Prescription Pharmacy advertisement, 
*Los Angeles Times*, May 1961

Exclusive Prescription Pharmacy advertisement, 
*Citizens News Hollywood*, June 1962
Excerpts from *Pacific Drug Review*, 1957 (legible excerpts below)

**Mortar & Pestle café announcement, Pacific Drug Review, 1957**
Mickey Fine Pharmacy (Exclusive Prescription Pharmacy) location noted with red arrow, aerial May 1960

Mickey Fine Pharmacy location noted with red arrow, aerial March 1970