Los Angeles Department of City Planning
RECOMMENDATION REPORT

CULTURAL HERITAGE COMMISSION | **CASE NO.: CHC-2008-3064-HCM**

HEARING DATE: August 7, 2008
TIME: 10:00 AM
PLACE: City Hall, Room 1010
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA
90012

Location: North Vermont Ave between Los Feliz Blvd and Aberdeen Ave
Council District: 4
Community Plan Area: Hollywood
Area Planning Commission: Central
Neighborhood Council: Greater Griffith Park
Legal Description:

PROJECT: Historic-Cultural Monument Application for the NORTH VERMONT AVENUE MORETON BAY FIG TREES

REQUEST: Declare the property a Historic-Cultural Monument

APPLICANT: Thomas Ford
Los Feliz Improvement Association
PO Box 29395
Los Angeles, CA 90029

OWNER: George Gonzalez, Chief Forester
Urban Forestry Division
Public Works: Street Services
City of Los Angeles
1149 S. Broadway, 4th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90015-2213

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 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]

Ken Bernstein, Manager
Office of Historic Resources

[SIGNED ORIGINAL IN FILE]

Lambert M. Giessinger, Preservation Architect
Office of Historic Resources

Prepared by:
[SIGNED ORIGINAL IN FILE]

Edgar Garcia, Preservation Planner
Office of Historic Resources

Attachments: June 10, 2008 Historic-Cultural Monument Application
ZIMAS Report

SUMMARY

Located in the Los Feliz area, these thirty-nine Moreton Bay Fig Trees (*Ficus macrophylla*) appear to have been planted in 1913 and line North Vermont Avenue between Los Feliz Boulevard and Aberdeen Avenue as a streetscape feature. The trees are planted along both sidewalks, with a majority located along the eastern edge of North Vermont Avenue. The trees occupy six distinct blocks and are planted in tree lawns of various sizes. The fig trees have gnarled trunks and crowns that range from 50-120 feet in diameter and form a canopy that spans the width of the street. The subject trees are located on a portion of N. Vermont Ave. that serves as an entrance to Griffith Park and as a thoroughfare to the Greek Theatre and the Griffith Observatory.

The proposed North Vermont Avenue Moreton Bay Fig Trees historic monument appears to have been planted in or around 1913. The fig trees appear to predate many of the homes built along Vermont Avenue. They were planted on land sold to developer William Mead by Colonel Griffith J. Griffith, who donated Griffith Park to the City of Los Angeles. The streetscape feature was designed by landscape architect Wilbur Cook, who developed the master plan for the City of Beverly Hills. Cook is mentioned multiple times in Gebhard and Winter's *Architectural Guidebook to Los Angeles*, being credited with the layout of Exposition Park's grounds and the expansion of the Henry E. Huntington Gardens.

Later changes to the proposed historic monument include the planting of additional Moreton Bay Fig trees at various times.

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.

FINDINGS

Based on the facts set forth in the summary and application, the Commission determines that the application is complete and that the property may be 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 NORTH VERMONT AVENUE MORETON BAY FIG TREES IS AN IMPORTANT EXAMPLE OF
NAME OF PROPOSED MONUMENT

STREET LANDSCAPE 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 NORTH VERMONT AVENUE MORETON BAY FIG TREES WAS BUILT IN 1913
NAME OF PROPOSED MONUMENT — YEAR BUILT

GRIFFITH J. GRIFFITH, WILLIAM MEAD, WILBUR COOK WAS IMPORTANT TO THE
NAME OF FIRST OR SIGNIFICANT OTHER

DEVELOPMENT OF LOS ANGELES BECAUSE (PLEASE SEE ATTACHED)

HISTORIC-CULTURAL MONUMENT APPLICATION

TYPE OR HAND PRINT IN ALL CAPITAL BLOCK LETTERS

IDENTIFICATION

1. NAME OF PROPOSED MONUMENT: NORTH VERMONT AVENUE MORETON BAY FIG TREES

2. STREET ADDRESS: NORTH VERMONT AVE

   CITY: LOS ANGELES ZIP CODE: 90027 COUNCIL DISTRICT: 4

3. ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NO.: (PLEASE SEE ATTACHED)

4. COMPLETE LEGAL DESCRIPTION: TRACT (PLEASE SEE ATTACHED)

   BLOCK: LOT(S): ARB. NO.:

5. RANGE OF ADDRESSES ON PROPERTY: 220 NORTH VERMONT AVE TO 2440 NORTH VERMONT AVE

   (VERMONT AVENUE FROM LOS FELIZ BOULEVARD TO ABERDEEN AVE)

6. PRESENT OWNER: CITY OF LOS ANGLES

   STREET ADDRESS: E-MAIL ADDRESS, 1149 SOUTH BROADWAY

   CITY: LOS ANGELES STATE: CA ZIP CODE: 90012 PHONE: (323) 847-3077

   OWNER IS: PRIVATE: PUBLIC: X

7. PRESENT USE: STREET LANDSCAPE ORIGINAL USE: STREET LANDSCAPE

DESCRIPTION

8. ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: STREET LANDSCAPE
   (SEE STYLE GUIDE)

9. STATE PRESENT PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE OR STRUCTURE (SEE OPTIONAL DECRIPTION WORK SHEET)

   (PLEASE SEE ATTACHED)

HISTORIC-CULTURAL MONUMENT APPLICATION

NAME OF PROPOSED MONUMENT North Vermont Avenue Moreton Bay Fig Trees

10. CONSTRUCTION DATE: 1913 FACTUAL: [✓] ESTIMATED: [ ]

11. ARCHITECT, DESIGNER, OR ENGINEER Wilbur Cook, William Mead

12. CONTRACTOR OR OTHER BUILDER Frank Mead owner of Development

13. DATES OF ENCLOSED PHOTOGRAPHS estimated on picutre, 1925, 1920's
(1 8X10 BLACK AND WHITE GLOSSY AND 1 DIGITAL E-MAILED TO CULTURAL HERITAGE COMMISSION@LACITY.ORG)

14. CONDITION: [✓] EXCELLENT [ ] GOOD [ ] FAIR [ ] DETERIORATED [ ] NO LONGER IN EXISTENCE

15. ALTERATIONS Severe pruning on some trees from City, need protection from severe bad prunings

16. THREATS TO SITE: [✓] NONE KNOWN [ ] PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT [ ] VANDALISM [ ] PUBLIC WORKS PROJECT
[ ] ZONING [ ] OTHER servere pruning, drought, truck traffic from Greek, Observatory

17. IS THE STRUCTURE: [✓] ON ITS ORIGINAL SITE [ ] MOVED [ ] UNKNOWN

SIGNIFICANCE

18. BRIEFLY STATE HISTORICAL AND/OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: INCLUDE DATES, EVENTS, AND PERSON ASSOCIATED WITH THE SITE (SEE ALSO SIGNIFICANCE WORK SHEET. 750 WORDS MAXIMUM IF USING ADDITIONAL SHEETS)

(PLEASE SEE ATTACHED)

19. SOURCES (LIST BOOKS, DOCUMENTS, SURVEYS, PERSONAL INTERVIEWS WITH DATES) (PLEASE SEE ATTACHED)

20. DATE FORM PREPARED 06/10/2008 PREPARER'S NAME THOMAS FORD

ORGANIZATION LFIA BEAUTIFICATION STREET ADDRESS P.O. BOX 29395

CITY LOS ANGELES STATE CA ZIP CODE 90029 PHONE (323) 660-1914

E-MAIL ADDRESS: LFIA coorespondance@lfia.org

DESCRIPTION WORK SHEET

TYPE OR HAND PRINT IN ALL CAPITAL BLOCK LETTERS

THE NORTH VERMONT AVENUE MORETON BAY FIG TREES (NAME OF PROPOSED MONUMENT) IS A _____ (NUMBER OF STORIES) -STORY,

STREET LANDSCAPE (ARCHITECTURAL STYLE (SEE LINE 8 ABOVE)), _____ (PLAN SHAPE (Click to See Chart)) PLAN _____ (STRUCTURE USE (RESIDENCE, ETC.))

WITH A _____ (MATERIAL (WOOD SLIDING, WOOD SHINGLES, BRICK, STUCCO, ETC.)) FINISH AND _____ (MATERIAL (WOOD, METAL, ETC.)) TRIM.

IT'S _____ (ROOF SHAPE (Click to See Chart)) ROOF IS _____ (MATERIAL (CLAY TILE, ASPHALT OR WOOD SHINGLES, ETC.)), _____ (WINDOW MATERIAL),

_____ (WINDOW TYPE (DOUBLE-HUNG (SLIDES UP & DOWN), CASEMENT (OPENS OUT), HORIZONTAL SLIDING, ETC.)) WINDOWS ARE PART OF THE DESIGN.

THE ENTRY FEATURES A _____ (DOOR LOCATION (RECESSED, CENTERED, OFF-CENTER, CORNER, ETC.)),

_____ (ENTRY DOOR STYLE (Click to See Chart)) DOOR. ADDITIONAL CHARACTER DEFINING ELEMENTS

OF THE STRUCTURE ARE _____ (IDENTIFY **ORIGINAL FEATURES** SUCH AS PORCHES (SEE CHART); BALCONIES; NUMBER AND SHAPE OF DORMERS (Click to See Chart)

NUMBER AND LOCATION OF CHIMNEYS; SHUTTERS; SECONDARY FINISH MATERIALS; PARAPETS; METAL TRIM; DECORATIVE TILE OR CAST STONE; ARCHES;

ORNAMENTAL WOODWORK; SYMMETRY OR ASYMMETRY; CORNICES; FRIEZES; TOWERS OR TURRETS; BAY WINDOWS; HALFTIMBERING; HORIZONTALLY;

VERTICALLY; FORMALITY OR INFORMALITY; GARDEN WALLS, ETC.

SECONDARY BUILDINGS CONSIST OF A _____ (IDENTIFY GARAGE; GARDEN SHELTER, ETC.)

SIGNIFICANT INTERIOR SPACES INCLUDE _____ (IDENTIFY **ORIGINAL FEATURES** SUCH AS WOOD PANELING; MOLDINGS AND TRIM; SPECIAL GLASS WINDOWS;

ORNATE CEILINGS; PLASTER MOLDINGS; LIGHT FIXTURES; PAINTED DECORATION; CERAMIC TIME; STAIR BALUSTRADES; BUILT-IN FURNITURE, ETC.

IMPORTANT LANDSCAPING INCLUDES 39 MORETON BAY FIG TREES, EST, 95 YEARS OLD (IDENTIFY NOTABLE MATURE TREES AND SHRUBS).

CITY OF LOS ANGELES HISTORIC-CULTURAL MONUMENT APPLICATION
NORTH VERMONT AVENUE MORETON BAY FIG TREES

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

THE NORTH VERMONT AVENUE MORETON BAY FIG TREES (39) ARE ELIGIBLE FOR DESIGNATION AS A LOS ANGELES HISTORIC CULTURAL MONUMENT FOR THEIR HISTORICAL, AESTHETIC AND SOCIAL QUALITIES RELATING TO LOS ANGELES AND LOS FELIZ. THE TREES WERE PLANTED AROUND 1913 AS PARK OF RESIDENTAL TRACT KNOW AS HILLHURST PARK, AND ACCOUNTS IN THE LOS ANGELS TIMES DATA BASE INDICATE THAT THEY ARE PART OF THE HUNDREDS OF ACRES **WILLIAM MEAD** PURCHASED FROM **GRIFFITH J. GRIFFITH** IN 1910. MEAD SELECTED LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT **WILBUR COOK,** WHO HAD PLANNED THEN NEW BEVERLY HILLS AND THE BEVERLY HILLS HOTEL GROUNDS. , TO CREATE STREETS WHICH CURVED WITH THE TERRAIN, WITH PARKWAYS IN THEIR MIDST. ADVERTISING FOR THE TRACT BEGAN IN 1913. CITY ARCHIVES HOLD DEEDS FOR EASEMENTS FOR SEWERS ISSUED IN 1913.

IN ATTACHED AERIAL VIEW OF VERMONT CANYON FROM THE BOOK ON THE HISTORY OF THE LOS FELIZ IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION , THERE IS NO DATE , BUT THERE WEREE ONLY A FEW HOMES IN THE PHOTO, AND THE LAND BOOM OF THE 1920'S WHICH BROUGHT LOS FELIZ SO MANY SPANISH-STYLE HOMES, HAD NOT YET BEGUN. THE FICUS AND PLANTS IN THE PARKWAYS SEEM WELL ESTABLISHED AND THE STREETS WERE PAVED.
THE LOS ANGELES PUBLIC LIBRARY'S PHOT DATA BASE INCLUDES ANOTHER SHOWS THE PARTIALLY CONSTRUCTED ENNIS HOUSE 1925 WITH TREES AND PALMS THAT ARE PROBABLY 20 FEET HIGH AND ANOTHER PHOTO THE PARTIALY CONSTRUCTED OBSERVATORY 1935 WITH MORE MATURE TREES. (1)

PRESENTLY THE TREES CREATE A ENVELOPING CANOPY OF SHADE AND CALM TO THE ENTRANCE OF GRIFFITH PARK, THE GREEK THEATER AND THE OBSERVATORY. . NORTH VERMONT AVENUE IS ONE OF THE MAIN ACCESSES TO GRIFIITH PARK AND HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE TRAVEL UNDER THIS UNIQUE AND BEAUTIFUL CANOPY EVERY YEAR. THEY ARE UNIQUE IN THE TRANSITION FROM THE CITY TO THE CALM OF THE URBAN WILDERNESS OF GRIFFITH PARK.

CONSTRUCTION OF THE OBSERVATORY AND THE GREEK THEATER. HE

GRIFFITH J GRIFFITH

THE ORIGINAL OWNER OF THE LAND AND THE BENEFATOR OF THE ADJACENT GRIFFITH PARK, GRIFFITH J. GRIFFITH GAVE OVER 3,000 ACRES OF HIS LAND TO THE CITY AND DONATED THE MONEY TO THE WAS INFAMOUS FOR THE SHOOTING OF HIS WIFE , WHO SAVED HERSELF BY HURLING HERSELF OUT OF A WINDOW AND LANDED ON AN AWNING BELOW, AND CRAWLED TO SAFETY THROUGH ANOTHER WINDOW. GRIFFITH DONATED THE LAND FOR THE PARK, DONATED MONEY AND SETUP A TRUST FOR THE BUILDING OF THE OBSERVATORY AND THE GREEK THEATER.

WILLIAM MEAD

WAS A DEVELOPER AND ON THE BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS OF THE L.A. DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND POWER AT THE TIME OF THE BUILDING OF THE L.A. AQUEDUT TO OWENS VALLEY. MEAD ALSO SERVED IN THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND ON THE CHARTER COMMISSION OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, IN 1907

WILBUR D. COOK

HIRED BY BURTON E. GREEN AS LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT FOR THE NEW CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS AND AS DESIGNER OF SANTA MONICA PARK (ACROSS FROM THE BEVELY HILLS COURTHOUSE) AND THE EXTENSIVE GARDENS OF THE GROUNDS OF THE BEVERLY HILLS HOTEL , 1912

3. ASSESSORS PARCEL NO.

ON THE EAST, SIDE OF VERMONT AVENUE THE EAST SIDE TRACK NO. 10976 MB 192 -44-45, , TRACK NO 9398 , TRACK NO 18490 MB 563 27-29, HILLHURST PARK M.B. 22-3435, TRACK NO. 6584 M.B. 55-87TRACK NO. 10976, TRACT NO 13268
N.E.CORNER LOT 1 TR NO 16571 , TRACK NO 9680,

EAST SIDE OF STREET	ASSESSORS ID	TREES	#
2200 N. VERMONT AVE	5588-025-045	2 TREES	#1,2
2210 N. VERMONT AVE	5588-025-044	1 TREE	#3
2220 N. VERMONT AVE	5588-025-024	3 TREES	#4,5,6,
2300 N. VERMONT AVE	5588-024-015	2 TREES	#7,8
2310 N. VERMONT AVE	5588-024-016	1 TREE	#9
2324 N. VERMONT AVE	5588-024-017	1 TREE	#10
2340 N. VERMONT AVE	5588-024-018	1 TREE	#11
2344 N. VERMONT AVE	5588-024-019	2 TREES	#12,13,
2350 N VERMONT AVE	5588-024-020	1 TREE	#14
2358 N. VERMONT AVE	5588-024-021	1 TREE	#15
2370 N. VERMONT AVE	5588-024-001	3 TREES	#16,17,18
2400 N. VERMONT AVE	5588-024-022	1 TREE	#19
2410 N. VERMONT AVE	5588-034-001	1 TREE	#20
2420 N VERMONT AVE	5582-028-013	1 TREE	#21
2430 N VERMONT AVE	5588-028-012	1 TREE	#22,23
2440 N. VERMONT AVE	5588-028-010	2 TREES	#24,25
ABERDEEN	(25 TOTAL TREES)		

THE WEST SIDE OF VERMONT AVE
TRACK NO 4441 MB 49 36 TRACK NO 3056 PM 106-4-5 TRACK NO 53768
HILLHURST PARK M.B.25,26,27, TRACT NO 13428 M.B. 37 ,38

WEST SIDE OF STREET			
2210 N. VERMONT AVE	5588-016-045	1 TREE	#39
2231 N. VERMONT AVE	5588-016-038	1 TREE	#38
2237 N. VERMONT AVE	5588-016-037	1 TREE	#37
2301 N. VERMONT AVE	5588-016-036	1 TREE	#36
2315 N.VERMONT AVE	5588-016-003	2 TREES	#35
2325 N VERMONT AVE	5588-016-035	3 TREES	#33,32,31
2443 N. VERMONT AVE	5588-023-038	2 TREES	#30,29
2445 N. VERMONT AVE	5588-023-025	1 TREE	#28
2449 N. VERMONT AVE	5588-023-027	2 TREES	#27,26
ABERDEEN (19 TOTAL TREES)			

4. COMPLETE LEGAL DESCRIPTION: TRACT
THE SUBJECT OF NOMINATION , (39) MATURE MORETON BAY FIG TREES (FICUS MACROPHYLLA MORACEAE) LOCATED ALONG NORTH VERMONT AVENUE ON BOTH SIDES, NORTH OF LOS FELIZ BOULEVARD TO ABERDEEN THE SURROUNDING PROPERTIES ARE LARGE HOMES AND ESTATES.
2200 NORTH VERMONT AVENUE TO 2449 NORTH VERMONT AVENUE

9. STATE PRESENT PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE OR STRUCTURE.

THE SUBJECT OF CULTURAL MONUMENT APPLICATION ARE MORETON BAY FIG TREES, ALSO KNOW AS MACROPHYLLA FICUS MORACEAE---. WIDE SPREADING EVERGREEN TREES WITH OBLONG TO ELLIPTICAL LEAVES, THEY HAVE EXTENSIVE SURFACE ROOTS AND CAN GROW TO 200 FEET. IT HAS LONG BEEN CULTIVATED CALIFORNIA. (THEY ARE PLANTED AROUND CITY HALL, AND ONE IS LANDMARKED IN SANTA BARBARA AND SAN DIEGO)
THE VERMONT AVENUE MORETON BAY FIG TREES RIVAL THE FAMOUS MORETON BAY FIG TREE IN SAN DIEGO'S BALBOA PARK WHICH IS 123 FEET ACROSS.
THE 39 MORETON BAY FIG TREES SHOW UP IN EARLY PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE FAMOUS HILLCREST ESTATES DEVELOPMENT IN 1913 THE RANGE IN SIZE FROM 50 FEET ACROSS TO OVER 120 FEET ACROSS AND FORM A GRAND CANOPY OVER VERMONT AVENUE. . THE MASSIVE GNARLED TRUNKS MAKE SOME PEOPLE CALL THEM THE JURASSIC PARK TREES.

THERE HAS BEEN SOME CHANGES IN COMPOSITION OF THE STREETSCAPE OVER THE YEARS, WE WANT TO PROTECT THE TREES, WITH A DESIGNATION

18. BRIEF STATE HISTORICAL AND OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE : INCLUDE DATES, EVENTS, AND PERSON ASSOCIATED WITH THE SITE.

GRIFFITH J GRIFFITH (COL. GRIFFITH) ARRIVED IN NEW YORK IN IN 1866 AS A 14 YEAR OLD WELSH IMMIGRANT . HE WENT FROM A PENNILESS ADOLESCENT TO ONE OF THE RICHEST CALIFORNIANS, THROUGH HIS MINING OPPERATIONS. HE BOUGHT RANCHO LOS FELIZ IN 1882 AND THEN SOLD SOME OF THE WATER RIGHTS TO THE CITY –RECOUPING HIS INVESTMENT. IN 1903 HE ENTERED HIS WIFES ROOM WITH A PRAYER BOOK IN ONE HAND AND A REVOLVER IN THE OTHER. THE COLONEL AIMED AND FIRED AND AT THE LAST MINUTE HIS WIFE MOVED HER HEAD, IT SAVED HER LIFE, SHE THREW HERSELF OUT THE WINDOW , LANDING

ON AN AWNING BELOW AND CRAWLED INTO ANOTHER ROOM.. HE SERVED A FEW YEARS IN PRISON.
HE DONATED OVER 3,000 ACRES OF RANCHO SANTE FE FOR AN URBAN WILDERNESS, *GRIFFITH PARK*, HE DONATED MONEY TO HAVE THE OBSERVATORY AND THE GREEK THEATER BUILT. VERMONT AVENUE AND THE MAGNIFICENT CANOPY OF FIG TREES ARE THE MAIN ENTRANCE TO BOTH THE GREEK THEATER AND THE OBSERVATORY.
IN ABOUT 1910 HE SOLD HUNDREDS OF ACRES TO **WILLIAM MEAD**
WILLIAM MEAD IS INTERESTING IN THAT HE WAS ON THE FAMOUS WATER COMMISSION THAT CREATED THE AQUEDUCT FROM OWENS VALLEY TO LOS ANGELES, ALONG WITH WILLIAM MULHOLLAND. THERE WAS A SCANDAL TO LAND DEALINGS ASSOCIATED WITH THE WATERLINE. (MADE FAMOUS IN THE MOVIE *CHINATOWN*) COL. GRIFFITH'S SON LIVED AT THE END OF VERMONT AND HAD A MORETON BAY FIG IN HIS ESTATE.

THE STREET WHERE THE MORETON BAY FIGS TREES END, THAT WILLIAM MEAD NAMED IS CALLED *ABERDEEN* WHICH IS ONE OF THE TOWNS THAT WAS DESTROYED WHEN THE WATER WAS TAKEN FROM OWENS VALLEY. WILLIAM MEAD SPECULATED IN AN EXCLUSIVE ESTATE AREA HE NAMED HILLHURST PARK. WE HAVE PICTURES FROM THE LOS FELIZ IMPROVEMNET ASSOCIATIONS ARCHIVES SHOWING THE TREES PLANTED IN THE EMPTY ESTATES AROUND 1913 TO 1925,

WILLIAM MEAD HIRED LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT **WILBUR COOK** , WHO HAD PLANNED THE THEN NEW *BEVERLY HILLS* AND THE *BEVERLY HILLS HOTEL* GROUND*S* AND GARDENS AND THE *SANTA MONICA PARK*(, WHICH IS ACROSS FROM THE BEVERLY HILLS COURTHOUSE.) WILBUR COOK DESIGNED STREETS AND LANDSCAPING THAT CURVED WITH THE TERRAIN, WITH PARKWAYS. THE MORETON BAY FIGS APPEAR IN THE PHOTOS FROM THAT TIME,
WITH PHOTOS SHOWING THE BUILDING OF THE HISTORIC ENIS HOUSE 1925 AND THE BUILDING OF THE OBSERVATORY 1935 WITH MORE MATURE TREES..

WE NEED TO EXTEND PROTECTION TO THESE TREES , THEY ARE BEING POORLY MAINTAINED BY THE URBAN FORESTRY DEPARTMENT AND ARE BEING DAMAGED BY THE NEW INCREASED TRUCK TRAFFIC TO THE GREEK AND OBSERVATORY. WHEN WATERING RESTRICTIONS COME INTO EFFECT: AS PLANNED, THE TREES WILL NEED TO BE MONITORED AND THE NEIGHBORS AND CITY ORANGIZED TO MAINTAIN THE TREES, SOMETHING THE LFIA AND THE VERMONT NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION PLEDGE ..A PRUNING ,WATERING AND FERTILIZING PLAN WILL BE PUT INTO EFFECT WHEN THE TREES ARE LANDMARKED.

CONCLUSSION

THE NORTH VERMONT AVENUE MORETON BAY FIG TREES (39) ARE AN INTEGRAL DESIGNED STREETSCAPE FROM EARLY 1913, AND REFLECT THE LOCAL HISTORY. IN THE LAST 95 YEARS THE TREES HAVE GROWN TO HAVE CANOPIES THAT ARE OVER 120 FEET IN DIAMATER. THEY ARE A MAGNIFICENT ENTRANCE FROM THE CROWDED CITY TO THE ENTRANCE OF THE URBAN WILDERNESS OF GRIFFITH PARK. THEY WERE AROUND WHEN COLONEL GRIFFITH WAS ALIVE. THE GREEK THEATER HAS STOOD FOR 60 YEARS, THE OBSERVATORY FOR 65 THE TREES FOR ALMOST 95 YEARS. MILLIONS OF PEOPLE HAVE PASSED UNDER THEIR CANOPY ON THEIR WAY TO ENJOY THE PARK. THERE ARE PLANS TO ADD TO THE MONUMENT WITH NEW MORETON BAY FIG TREES IN THE FEW AREAS THAT ARE UNPLANTED.

19. SOURCES

February 2008 Los Feliz Ledger article: *The Picture is worth the proverbial 1,000 Words.by Diane kanner, Ledger columnist*

Griffith Park's Unique Donor
This article appeared in the Glendale News-Press on the 75th anniversary of Col. Griffiths death, July 6, 1994

The Griffith Park History Project, Glendale Community College

August 1907 City County Consolidation: Soda: The Palms
George Garriques Index Page. www.ulwaf.com

LA County Assessors office home page

Archival photos
Los Angeles Public Library photo archives
Photograph of Ennis house on Glendower Avenue in 1825, photo Security Pacific National Bank Photographic Collection, Los Angeles,Public Library

History of Los Feliz, Los Feliz Improvement Association
Wilbur David Cook
http://mit.nelc.edu.eg/OCWExternal/Akamai/11/11.001j/f01/lectureimages/8/image14.html

March 27th, 2005 Los angeles times, It's not just swimming pools ,movie stars
http://www.latimes.com/classified/realestate/news/communities/la-re-guide27mar27,0,424560.story?coll=la-home-realestate

Dallas morning news june 8th
2008http://www.dallasnews.com/classifieds/homecenter/profiles/parkcities.html

19.23

Vermont Ave / Observatory 1935

Vermont Ave

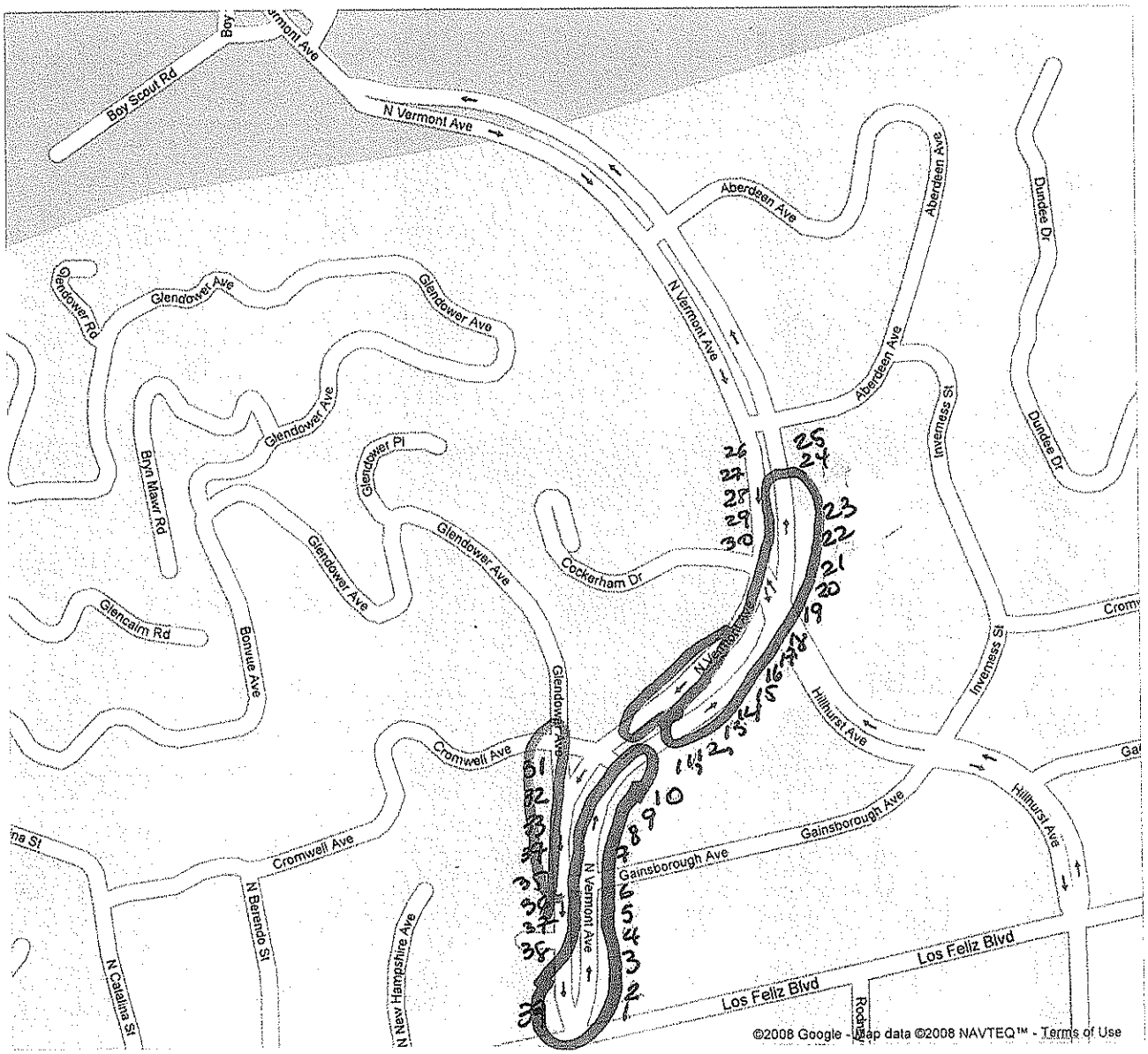
Pacific

Louis House

Vermont Avenue and Los Feliz Boulevard 1920's.

Google Maps

Address **Los Feliz**
Los Angeles, CA



5588

SCALE: 1" = 500'

2004

INDEX 5588

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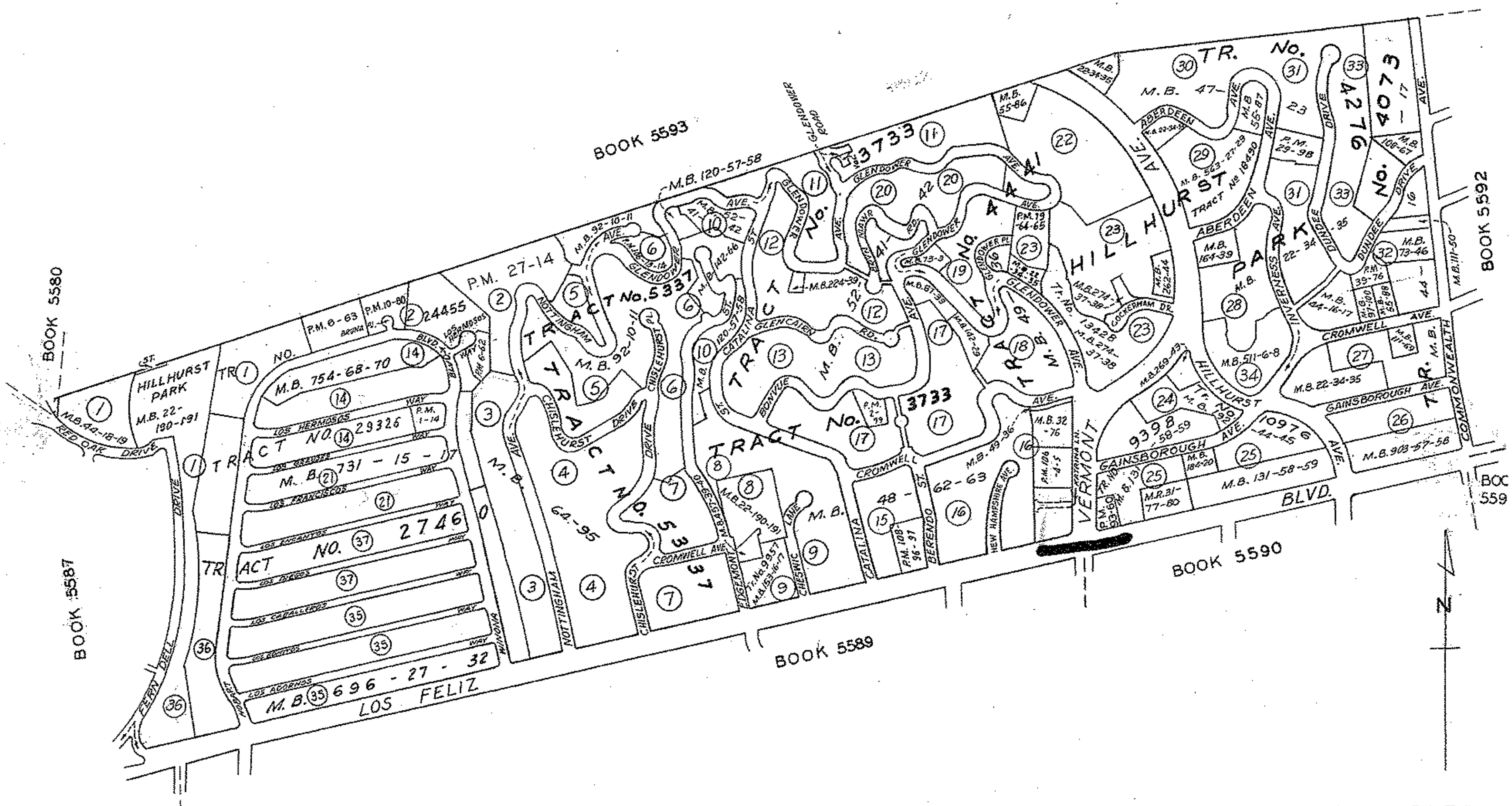


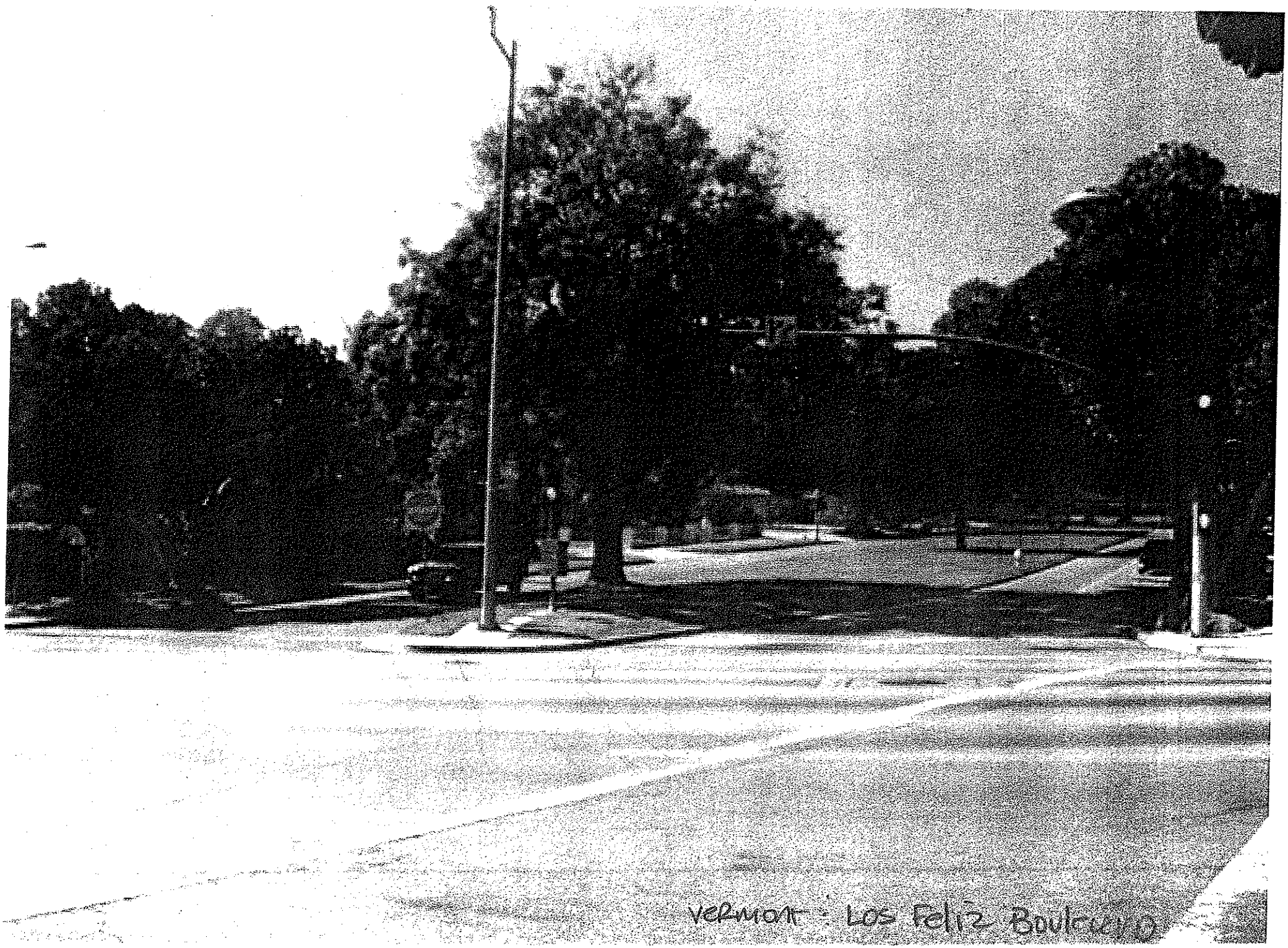
CITY OF LOS ANGELES

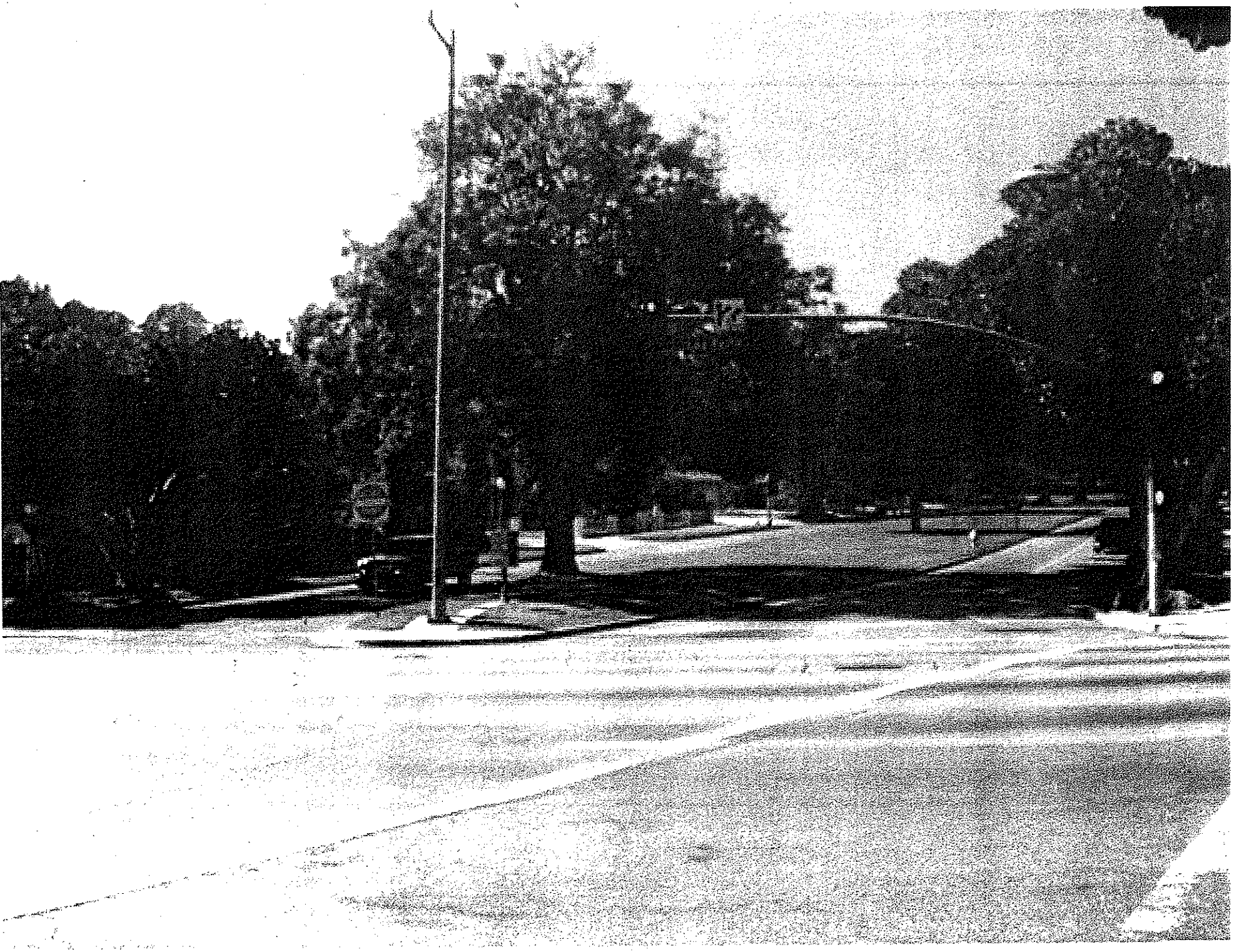
ASSESSOR'S MAP
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

Tree

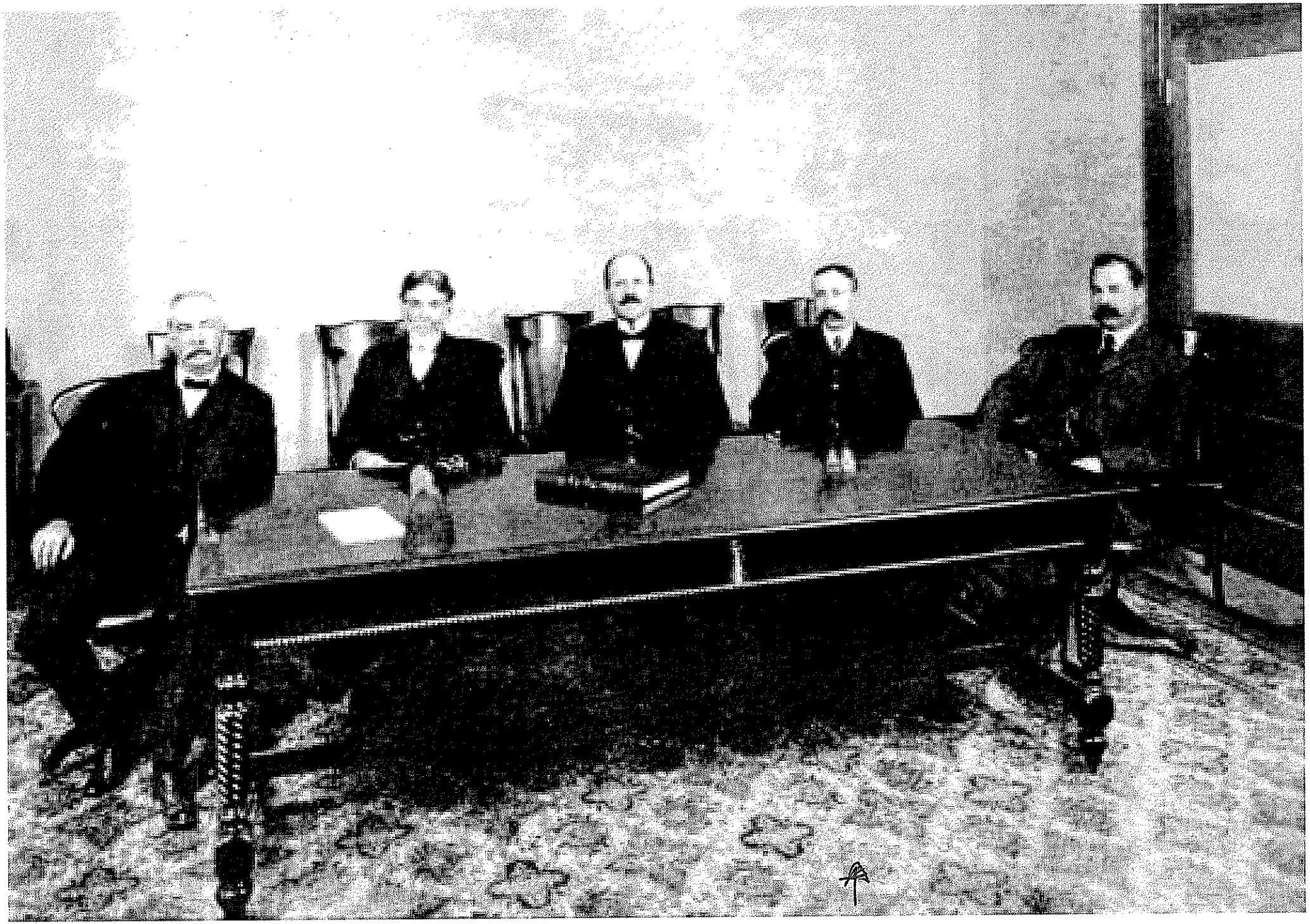
Canopy of fig trees Vermont Ave / Hillhurst

Vermont Ave
Monroe Park Hills Trees


VERMONT : LOS FELIZ BOULEVARD



Vermont / Los Feliz 2008



(L-R)
John J. Fay, J. M. Elliot, Moses H Sherman, William Mead Fred, L. Baker

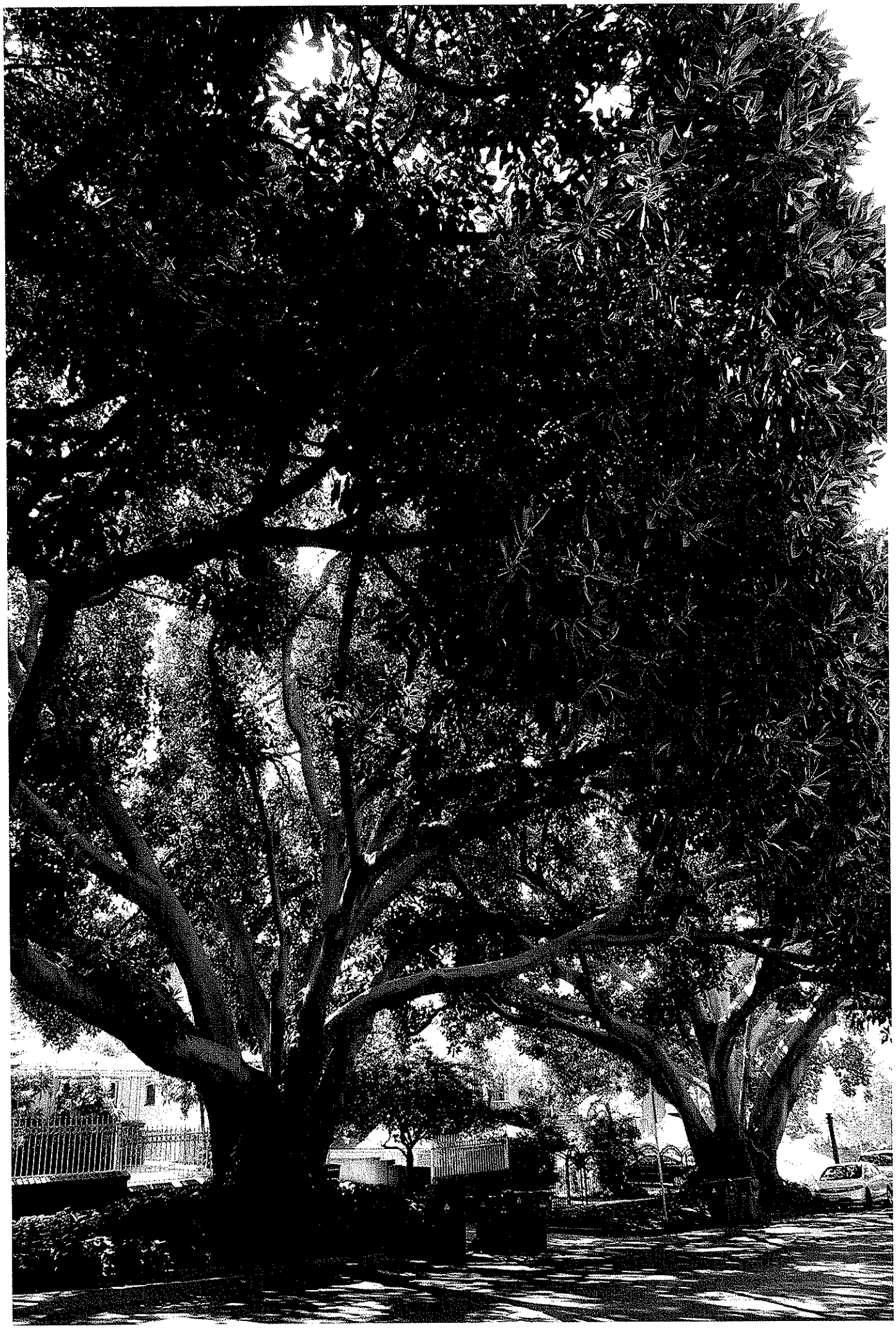
North Vermont Ave Morton Bay Fig Count from Los Feliz Ave to Aberdeen Avenue

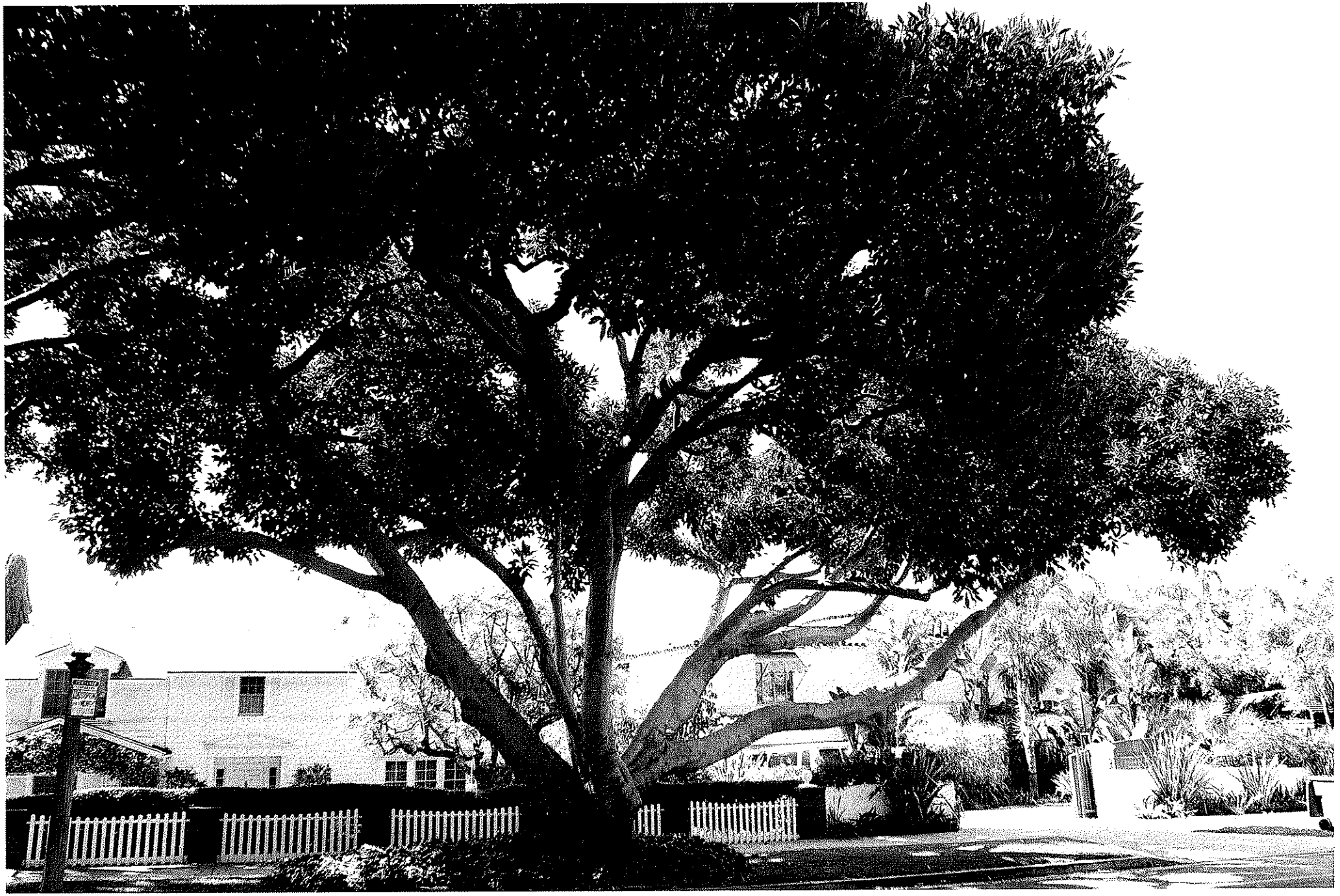
East Side of Street	Assessors ID		
2200 North Vermont Ave	5588-025-045	2 Trees	#1,2
2210 North Vermont Ave	5588-025-044	1 Tree	#3
2220 North Vermont Ave	5588-025-024	3 Trees	#4,5,.6
2300 North Vermont Ave	5588-024-015	2 Trees	#7,8
2310 North Vermont Ave	5588-024-016	1 Tree	#9
2324 North Vermont Ave	5588-024-017	1 Tree	#10
2340 North Vermont Ave	5588-024-018	1 Tree	#11
2344 North Vermont Ave	5588-024-019	1 Trees	#12,13
2350 North Vermont Ave	5588-024-020	1 Tree	#14
2358 North Vermont Ave	5588-024-021	1 Tree	#15
2370 North Vermont Ave	5588-034-001	3 Trees	#16,17,18
2400 North Vermont Ave	5588024001	1 Tree	#19
2410 North Vermont Ave	5588-034-001	1 Tree	#20
2420 North Vermont Ave	5582-028-013	1 Tree	#21
2430 North Vermont Ave	5588-028-012	2 Trees	#22.23
2440 North Vermont Ave	5588-028-010	2 Trees	#24,25
Aberdeen			

West Side of Street			
2210 North Vermont Ave	5588-016-045	1 Trees	#39
2231 North Vermont Ave	5588-016-038	1 Tree	#38
2237 North Vermont Ave	5588-016-037	1 Tree	#37
2301 North Vermont Ave	5588-016-036	1 Tree	#36
2315 North Vermont Ave	5588-016-003	2 Trees	#35,34
2325 North Vermont Ave	5588-016-035	3 Trees	#33,32,31
2443 North Vermont Ave	5588-023-038	2 Trees	#30.29
2445 North Vermont Ave	5588-023-025	1 Tree	#28
2449 North Vermont Ave	5588-023-027	2 Trees	#27,26

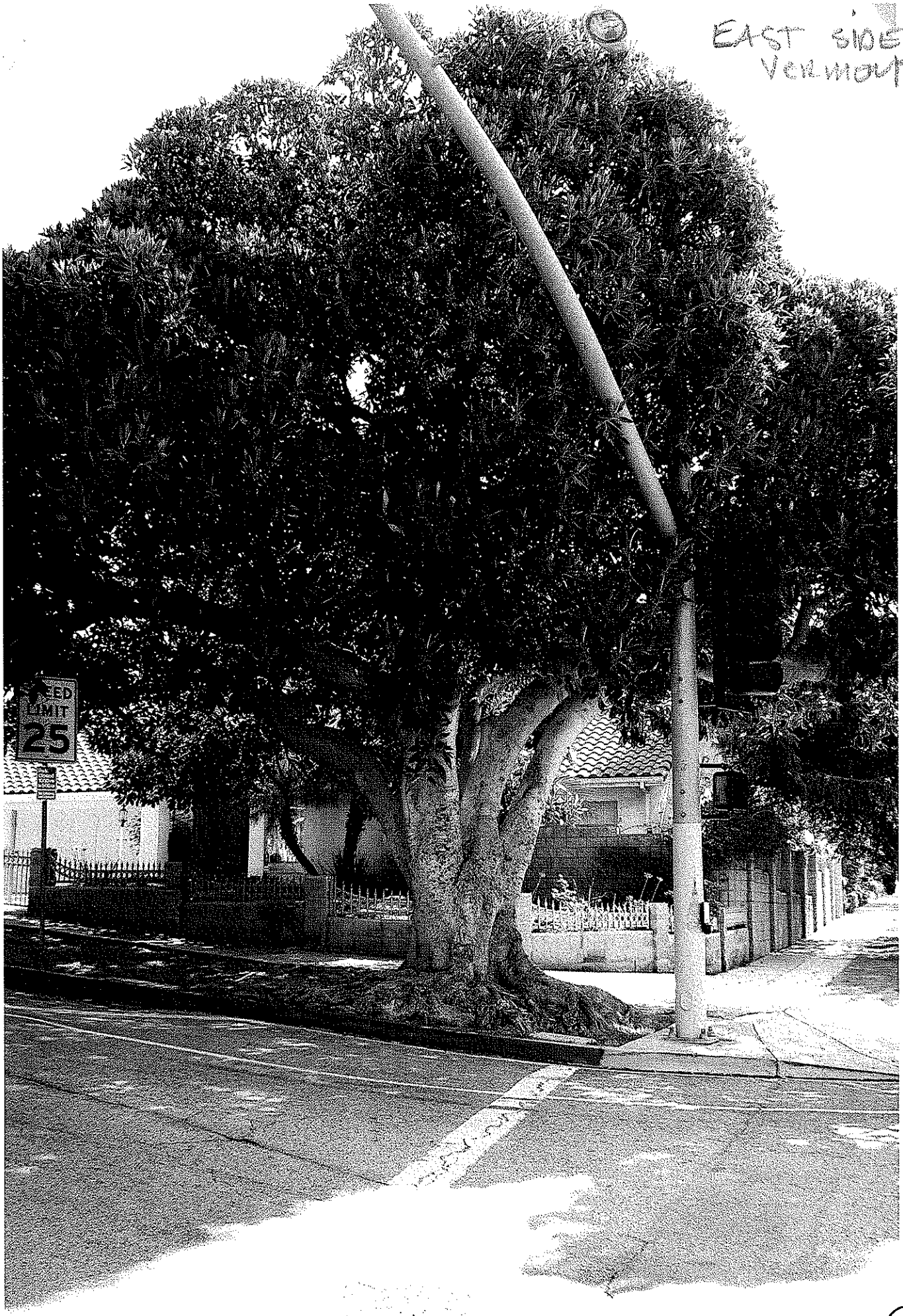
Aberdeen

Total of 39 trees





2358



2200 N VERMONT AVE

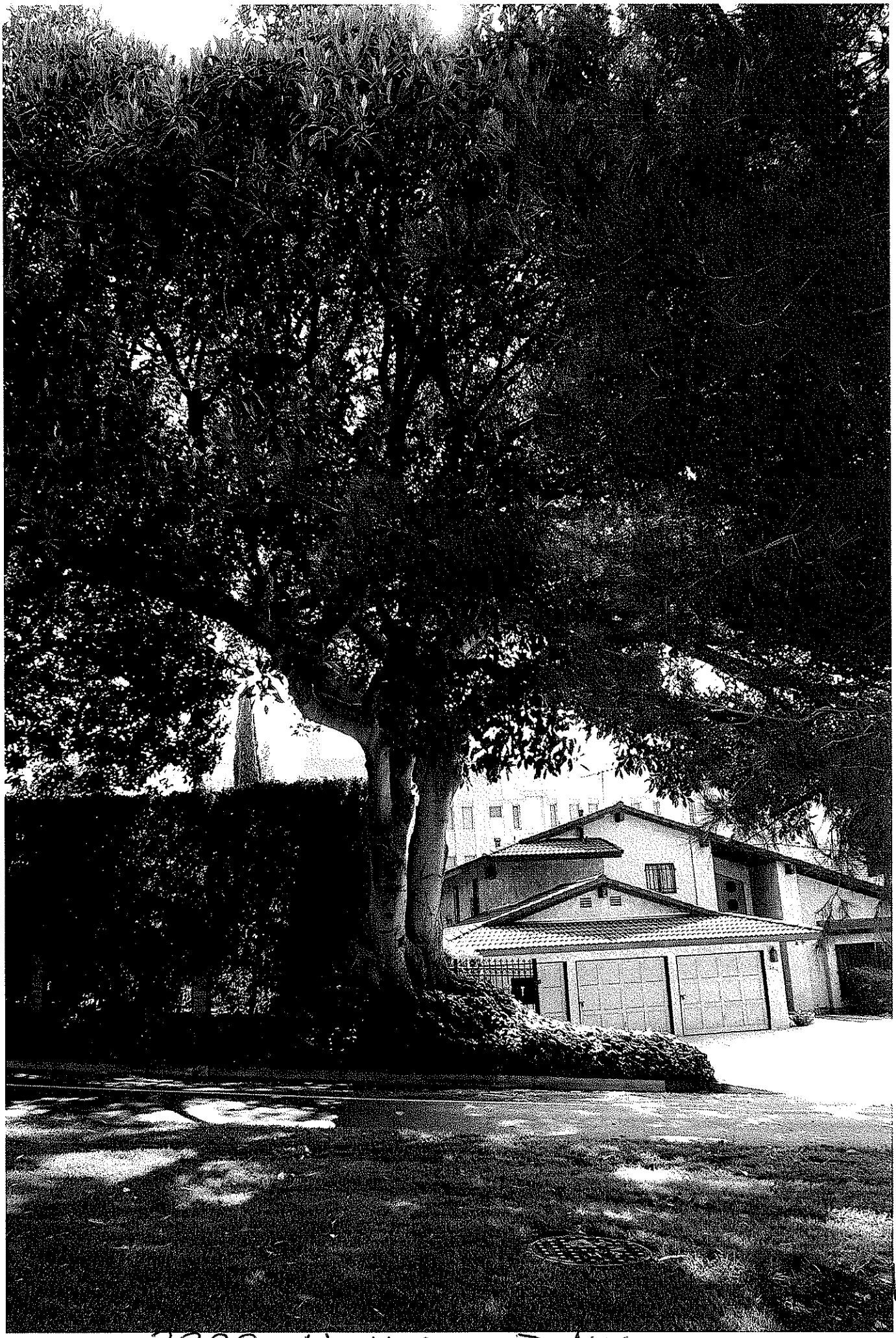
2200
N. VERMONT

2210 NORTH VERMONT

H 2

2210 N. VERMONT

#3



#4

2220 N. VERMONT AVE