United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each iter Standing Storage priate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, PMA Struct Park Scrube applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the Instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

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OMB No. 1024-0018

2009)

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complete all items.										·····
1. Name of Proper	rty									
Historic name Frank, Richard and Mary Alice, House										
Other names/site n	umber	The Frank Hou	ISE							
2. Location										
Street & Number	919 La	Loma Road						Not for Publication	N/A	
City or Town	Pasad	ena						- Vicinity	N/A	_
State	Califor	nia		Code	CA	County	Los Angeles	Code	039	37
Zip Code	91105					-			•	
3. State/Federal A	gency (Certification								
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4. National Park S										
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6. Function or I	Use	······································				
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7. Description						
Architectural Cla	assification (Enter cate	egories from instructi	ons)			
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foundation						
roof	Asphalt, metal					
walls	Stucco, wood, glass					
walls						
other						

Please see Section 7 Continuation Sheets.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable 1 Register listi		nore boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National						
А	Property is associated with events that have ma	de a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.						
B	Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.							
 x C		s of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the les, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose						
D	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information	tion important in prehistory or history.						
Criteria Con	siderations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)							
А	owned by a religious institution or used for religio	bus purposes.						
В	removed from its original location.							
c	a birthplace or a grave.							
D	a cemetery.							
E	a reconstructed building, object, or structure.							
F	a commemorative property.							
, G	less than 50 years of age or achieved significant	ce within the nast 50 years						
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	ificance (Enter categories from instructions) itecture	Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A						
Period of Sigr	nificance	Cultural Affiliation						
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Significant Da	ates	Architect/Builder						
1957		Buff, Straub, and Hensman						
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	tement of Significance (Explain the significance or see Section 8 Continuation Sheets.	f the property on one or more continuation sheets.)						
9. Maior Bibl	liographical References							
	s, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form	n on one or more continuation sheets.)						
•	ee Section 9 Continuation Sheets.: See MPS form							
	umentation on file (NPS)							
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·	viously determined eligible by the National Register	Pr						
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	orded by Historic American Buildings Survey	#						
	orded by Historic American Engineering Record	#						
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Name of re	pository: City of Pasadena Planning Departmer	nt						

10. Geographic	al Data					······		
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UTM References	s (Place additiona	al UTM reference	ces on a conti	nuation sh	eet)			
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x See continu	uation sheet.						<u> </u>	
Boundary Justific	tinuation sheet.							
11. Form Prepa	red By							
Name/Title	Barbara Lampi	recht, Architect	ural Historian					
Organization	ICF Jones & S	tokes			Date	April 4, 200	28	-
Street & Number	811 W. 7 th Stre	eet, Suite 800		Te	lephone	213-627-5	376	_
City or Town	Los Angeles			State	CA	Zip Code	90027	-
Additional Docu	umentation						· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
Submit the follow	ving items with th	e completed fo	rm:					
	ation Sheets							
Maps								
	A USGS map (7.	5 or 15 minute	series) indica	ing the pro	operty's lo	ocation.		
Photogra	apns Representative p	botographs of t	bo proporty					
	Nepresentative p	nologiaphs of	ine property.					
Property Owner	r							
(Complete this it	em at the reques	t of the SHPO	or FPO.)					
Name	Troy & Terri N	liller, Miller Fan	nily					_
Organization		·		Te	lephone	(626) 396-	9224	_
Street & Number	919 La Loma f	Road						
City or Town	Pasadena			State	CA	Zip Code	91105	-
Paperwork Reduction Act S and to amend existing listin conduct or sponsor, and a p	gs. Response to this reques	it is required to obtain a b	enefit in accordance w	ith the National H	istoric Preserva	ation Act, as amende	or listing or determine ed (16 U.S.C. 470 et s	eligibility for listing, to list properties eq.). A federal agency may not

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to range from approximately 18 hours to 36 hours depending on several factors including, but not limited to, how much documentation may already exist on the type of property being nominated and whether the property is being nominated as part of a Multiple Property Documentation Form. In most cases, it is estimated to average 36 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form to meet minimum National Register documentation requirements. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, 1849 C St., NW, Washington, DC 20240.

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Frank, Richard and Mary Alice, House Los Angeles County, California MPS: Cultural Resources of the Recent Past—City of Pasadena

Description

Summary Paragraph

The grand east-facing post-and-beam, two-story Frank House is prominently sited on a brow overlooking a meadow-like acre of land, surrounded by trees on a steep oak-covered slope above the Arroyo Seco. Though relatively early in Buff, Straub & Hensman's body of work, at 4,700 square feet, the 1957 house is also one of the firm's largest, most "villa-like" residential commissions. Sam Maloof and John Kappel were among the furniture designers who developed pieces specifically for the house, and the master landscape architecture firm, Eckbo, Dean and Williams designed the landscape.

The property is located within the corporate limits of the City of Pasadena, California; specifically, within that portion of the city west of the Arroyo Seco. The property is located at 919 La Loma Road in Pasadena, California, on the north side of La Loma road between Hillside Terrace and South San Rafael Avenue. The property is accessed by an upward-sloping driveway extending north from La Loma Road and its primary elevation faces south toward La Loma Road. The location of the property, Assessor Parcel Number: 5714-033-012, is the parcel historically associated with the house. The property is defined by the LEGAL TRACT NO 7877 1.01 MORE OR LESS ACS COM AT NW COR OF LOT B TH NE ON NW LINE OF SD LOT 232.65 FT TH S 0\51'45" W 122.28 FT TH S 78\45'56" W 45.11 FT TH S 24\48'23" W 36.11 FT TH S 4\48'15" OF LEGAL LOT B.

History / Description

The pastoral setting was first settled in the 1870s by middle-class intelligentsia known as The Indiana Colony before it was incorporated as City of Pasadena in 1886. Today the area is known for exclusive upscale estates in a variety of styles, manicured landscaping (whether "California native" or formal French), and memorable bungalows built by some of the original settlers and their followers.

In deference to four large trees in particular, the trio devised a pinwheel plan (also employed for the Mello house, near design completion that same year) to allow daylight and fresh air throughout the house. Thus, the long wings of the house are narrow, permitting views in various directions from most rooms. The pinwheel plan, separating the structure into four major interior areas, also helped the family organization, according to an unpublished memo, a typed unbylined small piece of paper, held in the BSH office. It reflected:

"the family composition: the formal living-dining area connected physically to the kitchen zone and yet distinctly separated from major circulation; the kitchen and informal dining-family activity space; the children's sleeping wing and the private master suite."

The same memo states that the primary challenge in the development of the residence was "to preserve the many large trees and to maintain the natural quality of the terrain." The architects, the memo continues, performed "an extremely careful analysis of these factors, which resulted in a house disposed on six levels." The resulting long two-story "bungalow" steps down the hillside in six interlocking levels of varying heights, creating a complex composition in section.

In addition to maintaining the pastoral quality of the natural setting, the architects were also able to minimize the "costly site preparations, foundation work and retaining walls normally associated with hillside building" along with the "all too frequent 'cut and fill pad' quality that prevails in southern California ..." the memo states. This double-duty objective was often championed by Buff, Straub and Hensman, seen in their own writings, public relations material, and reflected in their houses.

¹ The author of the memo was probably Donald Hensman, according to Dennis Smith, principal, BSH

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Frank, Richard and Mary Alice, House Los Angeles County, California MPS: Cultural Resources of the Recent Past—City of Pasadena

This typical sensitivity to site could be seen, for example, in some houses that appear to cantilever from a hill but which actually enjoy a fairly conventional foundation, marrying a concern for economy as well as for minimally disturbing the setting. Set in and against a tree-ringed meadow, the hill on which the house is set drops off even more sharply on the east side, the primary façade of the house. While a complex puzzle in both section and plan, the overall effect on this elevation is that of a T-shaped building. The stem of the T is the tall living room, whose prominent ridge beam extends well past the wood tongue-and-groove overhang protecting the full-length porch leading from the living room; this strong extension of the timbers (like other structural roof members, whatever their orientation) reinforces the Japanese inspirations close to hand. Two wings spread north and south from the T stem, but step back from this volume to the east so that the living room remains a powerful gesture against the hill even while the house conveys a firm rootedness with the ground. The wings contain bedrooms on the north and dining, kitchen and family areas on the south. A secondary vertical volume housing the children's rooms on the west side of the house has a roof virtually identical to that of the living room, with shallow angle and protruding outrigger ridge beam. Only the top of this volume emerges above the main spine of the ground floor and accentuates the design's animated response to its hillside condition. This windowed top, just visible from the pool, was designed, and still used, as a "secret" hiding place and play area for the children's bedrooms.

Outdoor areas are carefully integrated into the overall scheme to connect indoors and outdoors through landscaping, broad, shallow steps, and intermediary terraces elevated at step height. Outdoor decks extend all major volumes (living room, master suite, and family rooms) into the landscape. As was standard with Buff, Straub and Hensman designs, and still standard in Buff, Smith, and Hensman, a module was used, in this case 32," "with the majority of major structural elements exposed in order to achieve visual continuity and to express the basic rhythm of the house," the memo concludes.

In contrast to the forceful east façade, the public entrance is deferential, discreet. A long path from the parking area on the far south leads to broad steps and then a covered transitional area, defined by a grid of open post-and-beam trellis work and lush landscaping, that protects the visitor approaching the front door on the path parallel to the long north-south spine of the house. Immediately to the west, the hill angles more sharply, providing a shady backdrop and a sense of protection to the house. The front door leads to the "spine" that also serves as a bridge above the east end of the living room; this "bridge" also affords a large view of the tree-ringed meadow beyond.

Natural materials, often the same as the exterior, are used throughout the house for cabinetry, flooring and fireplace. On the interior, as on the exterior, the wood framing members are stained dark, a common motif in BSH architecture. Common brick is used for the fireplace; steps leading from the living room down to the pool and play/work/servant rooms, and as the coping for stucco-clad low walls that appear as transitional elements between the living room and pool elevations.

The interior includes character-defining features such as a living room ridge beam at a height of 12 feet, skylights in the (potentially dark) wood kitchen to illuminate task spaces, copious and clever places for storage and a "hidden play space" for the children.

Alterations

On the east (primary) façade, an internal staircase to the north of the living room wing was added by the Franks in the 1980s, housed in a small two-story wood, stucco and glass volume set back from the living room with a hipped standing seam metal roof which can be clearly read as an addition. This internal staircase replaced an exterior staircase in the same location; the move was intended to unify internal spaces. This alteration was not designed by Buff, Straub & Hensman. The use of wood and stucco is in character with the house, and the addition employs the datum line of the balcony fascia (a flat 1x8 board) to separate the upper fixed light window and the lower sliding glass door leading to the pool area, integrating the addition into the larger composition. However, the window proportions, roof shape, and material choice for the roof are not in character. While this addition compromises the design, materials and workmanship aspects of the building's integrity, integrity is considered

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Frank, Richard and Mary Alice, House Los Angeles County, California MPS: Cultural Resources of the Recent Past—City of Pasadena

comprehensively. The addition does not compromise the overall high quality of integrity of the house; in addition, it may be possible to reverse this additive condition in a number of ways more compatible with the structure and design intent of the architects.

The original deteriorated wood plank balcony and railing on the second story of the east side of the house was replaced by ipe (a hardwood species of dark, very dense wood) for the balcony, an alteration which has not affected the integrity of the house. The railing was designed by the current owner and is striking in that it is very much in character with the design strategies and intent without attempting to appear as though built in 1957, the period of significance. For example, the beam ends of the railing extend past each other, responding to the existing motif of structural members extending beyond each other.

A small open pool house with wood and stucco elements northeast of and below the main house was mostly demolished by a former owner, and was completed by the current owner. The plans and documentation exist and it could be reconstructed, but its absence does not affect the overall high quality of integrity of the property.

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Frank, Richard and Mary Alice, House Los Angeles County, California MPS: Cultural Resources of the Recent Past—City of Pasadena

Statement of Significance

The stately Frank House's overall massing and grand command of an expansive site with large trees and grounds recalls a more famous neighbor less than a mile up the Arroyo to the north, the 1908 Gamble House by Charles and Henry Greene as well as the older architects' seminal influence on Buff, Straub & Hensman. Like other monumental bungalows by the Greenes, the Frank House is a large stucco (painted a deep ochre on the outside, the color again recalling its American Arts and Crafts heritage) and wood house with its gently pitched roofs, articulated volumes, and a strong Craftsman/Japanese influence. However, here instead of bands of windows "punched into" shingle siding ala the Gamble House, the exterior of the Frank House is a mix of wide sections of glass; brick; and thin, vertically oriented tongue-and-groove wood panels (painted a sage green) or stucco of a fine sand-grain finish. The panels and the stucco only become part of a larger rhythm with the modular exposed framing of timber posts, beams, rafters and joists and railings, which together visually unifies the house and are the principal character-defining features of both the house and Buff, Straub & Hensman work during this period.

The client was a young, successful businessman; his wife, an interior decorator, and their three children. The Frank family founded, owned and operated Lawry Foods, a well-known factory, restaurant and retail center, nearby in northeast Los Angeles; the family company became one of American's largest purveyors of certain convenience foods, particularly blends of spices, which began to appear after World War II and that appealed to the middle class, servantless homemaker.

Because of its large size, the prominent site, and complex program, the Frank House demonstrates the firm's early confidence and mastery of their emerging architectural vocabulary at an ambitious residential scale and at an early time in the group's practice. It also demonstrates the way that local and strong influences were not imposed but thoughtfully integrated into a Modernist paradigm of the post-and-beam construction technology popularized by the USC/Pasadena Schools after World War II. In effect, the design "dematerializes" Craftsman architecture through the use of glass, which replaces much opaque sheathing, while also employing vernacular Japanese strategies, for example in the stucco infill between vertical framing members. The house's graceful exploitation of site is also an important philosophical value in the work of master architects Buff, Straub, and Hensman, an approach advocated by Modernists in general and the USC architectural faculty in particular during this time, and well demonstrated here. The resulting composition is not a hodgepodge of mixed styles but a strong, Modern, individual statement that integrates these styles and adds to them in a contemporary way reflecting the period of significance, 1957.

Significance—Conclusion

Argument under Criterion C- Eligible

As demonstrated above, this work by Buff, Straub & Hensman meets the registration requirements as outlined in the Multiple Property Submission, Cultural Resources of the Recent Past, City of Pasadena. This single-family house has virtually all of its character-defining features and retains its integrity. It is an excellent example both of the firm's body of work and as an excellent example of Post-and-Beam residential architecture, as well as embodying the larger architectural concerns and expressions of Pasadena's "Recent Past" as described in Context Statement 2. It is significant as demonstrating innovation in residential Modernism as a single-family house within the period of significance, 1948 – 1968. Therefore, it is eligible to qualify for listing in the National Register under Criterion C, Architecture and Design, at the local level of significance, with a period of significance of 1957.

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Frank, Richard and Mary Alice, House Los Angeles County, California MPS: Cultural Resources of the Recent Past—City of Pasadena

Bibliographic References

Buff, Smith and Hensman archives. Office, 1450 W. Colorado Blvd., Pasadena 91105.

Los Angeles Times Home Magazine, March 18, 1962.

Smith, Dennis, president/principal, Buff, Smith and Hensman. Interview with B. Lamprecht January 28, 2008.

Verbal Boundary Description

Assessor Parcel Number : 5714-033-012

Verbal Boundary Justification

This is the parcel historically associated with the property

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Frank, Richard and Mary Alice, House Los Angeles County, California MPS: Cultural Resources of the Recent Past—City of Pasadena

Photographs

Frank House – Pasadena Los Angeles County, California Barbara Lamprecht, Jones & Stokes March 24, 2008 Negative: Jones & Stokes View: south and west elevations, view northeast. CA LosAngelesCounty 919LaLomaRoad1.tiff



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Frank, Richard and Mary Alice, House Los Angeles County, California MPS: Cultural Resources of the Recent Past—City of Pasadena

Frank House – Pasadena Los Angeles County, California Barbara Lamprecht, Jones & Stokes March 24, 2008 Negative: Jones & Stokes View: Looking north, entry court CA_LosAngelesCounty_919LaLomaRoad2.tiff



Frank, Richard and Mary Alice, House Los Angeles County, California MPS: Cultural Resources of the Recent Past—City of Pasadena

Section Photos Page 12

Frank House – Pasadena Los Angeles County, California Barbara Lamprecht, Jones & Stokes March 24, 2008 Negative: Jones & Stokes View: detail of front walkway, view northeast. CA_LosAngelesCounty_919LaLomaRoad3.tiff



Section Photos Page 13

Frank, Richard and Mary Alice, House Los Angeles County, California MPS: Cultural Resources of the Recent Past—City of Pasadena

Frank House – Pasadena Los Angeles County, California Barbara Lamprecht, Jones & Stokes March 24, 2008 Negative: Jones & Stokes View: Detail of exterior porch and stairs. CA_LosAngelesCounty_919LaLomaRoad4.tiff



Frank, Richard and Mary Alice, House Los Angeles County, California MPS: Cultural Resources of the Recent Past—City of Pasadena

Section Photos Page 14

Frank House – Pasadena Los Angeles County, California Barbara Lamprecht, Jones & Stokes March 24, 2008 Negative: Jones & Stokes View: east elevations, view southwest. CA_LosAngelesCounty_919LaLomaRoad5.tiff



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Frank, Richard and Mary Alice, House Los Angeles County, California MPS: Cultural Resources of the Recent Past—City of Pasadena

Frank House – Pasadena Los Angeles County, California Barbara Lamprecht, Jones & Stokes March 24, 2008 Negative: Jones & Stokes View: east elevation, view west. CA_LosAngelesCounty_919LaLomaRoad6.tiff



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Frank, Richard and Mary Alice, House Los Angeles County, California MPS: Cultural Resources of the Recent Past—City of Pasadena

Frank House – Pasadena Los Angeles County, California Barbara Lamprecht, Jones & Stokes March 24, 2008 Negative: Jones & Stokes View: east elevations, view northwest. CA_LosAngelesCounty_919LaLomaRoad7.tiff



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Frank, Richard and Mary Alice, House Los Angeles County, California MPS: Cultural Resources of the Recent Past—City of Pasadena

Frank House – Pasadena Los Angeles County, California Barbara Lamprecht, Jones & Stokes March 24, 2008 Negative: Jones & Stokes View: east and south elevations, view west. CA LosAngelesCounty 919LaLomaRoad8.tiff



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Frank, Richard and Mary Alice, House Los Angeles County, California MPS: Cultural Resources of the Recent Past—City of Pasadena

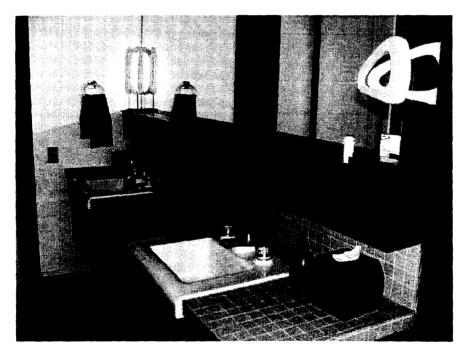
Frank House – Pasadena Los Angeles County, California Barbara Lamprecht, Jones & Stokes March 24, 2008 Negative: Jones & Stokes View: Looking northeast from kitchen to south wall of living room CA LosAngelesCounty 919LaLomaRoad9.tiff



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Frank, Richard and Mary Alice, House Los Angeles County, California MPS: Cultural Resources of the Recent Past—City of Pasadena

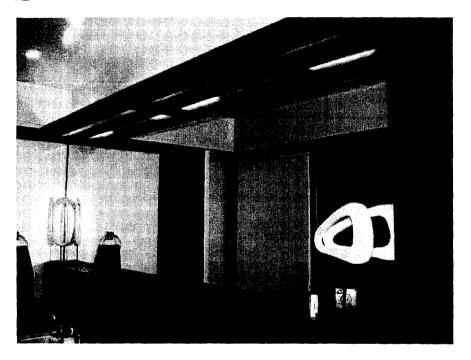
Frank House – Pasadena Los Angeles County, California Barbara Lamprecht, Jones & Stokes March 24, 2008 Negative: Jones & Stokes View: Interior view of bathroom vanity. CA LosAngelesCounty 919LaLomaRoad10.tiff



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Frank, Richard and Mary Alice, House Los Angeles County, California MPS: Cultural Resources of the Recent Past—City of Pasadena

Frank House – Pasadena Los Angeles County, California Barbara Lamprecht, Jones & Stokes March 24, 2008 Negative: Jones & Stokes View: Interior view of bathroom vanity. CA LosAngelesCounty 919LaLomaRoad11.tiff



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Frank House – Pasadena Los Angeles County, California Barbara Lamprecht, Jones & Stokes March 24, 2008 Negative: Jones & Stokes View: interior detail of ceiling. CA LosAngelesCounty 919LaLomaRoad12.tiff



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Frank, Richard and Mary Alice, House Los Angeles County, California MPS: Cultural Resources of the Recent Past—City of Pasadena

Frank House – Pasadena Los Angeles County, California Barbara Lamprecht, Jones & Stokes March 24, 2008 Negative: Jones & Stokes View: interior detail of ceiling. CA LosAngelesCounty_919LaLomaRoad13.tiff

