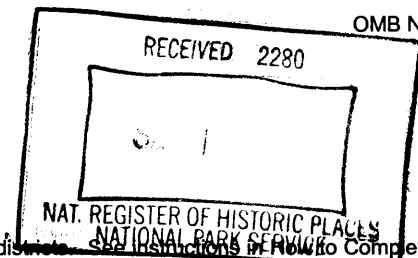


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. ~~State instructions in FPMR.~~ Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not 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.

1. Name of Property

historic name SLOPPY JOE'S BAR

other names/site number Victoria Restaurant; FMSF #MO01964

2. Location

street & number 201 Duval Street N/A  not for publication

city or town Key West N/A  vicinity

state FLORIDA code FL countv Monroe code 087 zip code 33040

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Barbara C. Mattick / DSHPO 9/15/06  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State Historic Preservation Officer, Florida Division of Historical Resources  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register  See continuation sheet
- determined eligible for the National Register  See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register  See continuation sheet.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain) \_\_\_\_\_

[Signature]  
Signature of the Keeper

11.1.06  
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- buildings
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include any previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	total

Name of related multiple property listings

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE/Restaurant/Bar

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE/Restaurant/Bar

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

NO STYLE/Masonry Vernacular

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stucco

walls Stucco

roof Tar and Gravel

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
B removed from its original location.
C a birthplace or grave.
D a cemetery.
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
F a commemorative property.
G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 36) has been requested
previously listed in the National Register
previously determined eligible by the National Register
designated a National Historic Landmark
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION

Period of Significance

1917-1956

Significant Dates

1917

1937

Significant Person

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Arch: Castillo, Jose

Blder: Farto, Juan

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
Other State Agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
Other

Name of Repository

#



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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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Section number 7 Page 1

SLOPPY JOE'S BAR  
KEY WEST, MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA  
DESCRIPTION

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**SUMMARY PARAGRAPH**

Sloppy Joe's Bar, located at 201 Duval Street in the downtown commercial section of Key West, Florida, occupies a building constructed in 1917 as the Victoria Restaurant. It became the home of Sloppy Joe's Bar in 1937. It is a one-story, stuccoed steel frame and concrete building whose footprint measures 53 feet by 80 feet. It is located in the heart of the Key West Historic District (National Register 1971 & 1983) at the southwest corner of Greene and Duval Streets. The major wall bays of the exterior walls are separated by brick pilasters that terminate in urn finials just above the low parapet. Wide doorways punctuate the two street facades. The interior of the saloon contains a large open space with bars and a stage. There is also a partitioned area that is used as a retail shop that sells souvenirs and other items associated with Sloppy Joe's Bar and the city of Key West.

**SETTING**

Sloppy Joe's Bar sits at one of the major corners of Duval Street, the main artery in Key West's tourist sector. In the vicinity of the bar are masonry and wooden commercial buildings that contain retail shops and restaurants that serve the tourist trade. The city of Key West, Florida, is located on the island bearing the same name at the end of the 120-mile-long Florida Keys island chain that is linked to mainland Florida by U.S. Highway 1. The island community is located about 90 miles north of Cuba and 150 miles southwest of Miami. The island has an area of 4.2 square miles. There are large numbers of buildings in the community that are near or over a century old. The majority of the historical buildings in Key West are Wood Frame Vernacular residences that bear a few features of the Classical Revival style, such as Tuscan columns and simple pediments on their street facades. The historic district comprises an approximately 190 block (919 acre) area found at the western end of the island. The district contains more than 2,500 historic buildings that were constructed between c. 1826 and 1912. The majority of the buildings date between 1886 and 1912. The 2000 U.S. census indicated that Key West was home to 25,478 full-time residents; however, during the winter months the seasonal population adds significantly to this number. Of the full-time residents, 72 percent were listed as white (non-Hispanic), 16 percent as Hispanic, and 10 percent were black (non-Hispanic). The remaining two percent were represented by other ethnic groups.

**DESCRIPTION**

Exterior (Photos 1-7)

The one-story masonry vernacular building was among the first on the island to incorporate a structural steel system. The foundation is a continuous poured concrete wall. The exterior wall is stuccoed concrete that features brick pilasters that define the major door bays. The ground plan is rectangular, and the roof line exhibits a low parapet wall that surrounds the built-up roof. Masonry planters are set atop the pilasters which

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SLOPPY JOE'S BAR  
KEY WEST, MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA  
DESCRIPTION

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rise a short distance above the parapet wall. The main facade along Duval Street has three double doors with sidelights, each of which is topped by a transom light. A suspended canopy extends over the sidewalk for the full width of the Duval Street facade. The canopy has painted signage and strips of neon lighting. There are five doorways that provide access to the bar from Greene Street. Each of the doorways has double wooden doors whose top and bottom sections can open independently. Above each of the doors is a mullioned fanlight. There are no other windows in the building. The other two elevations of the bar abut two-story buildings at 508 Greene Street and 200 Duval Street and are not visible. Exterior trim is sparse and simple. The entire building is painted white with black trim. The name of the bar is on the suspended canopy and in large letters painted on the upper walls of both street elevations.

Interior (Photos 8-13)

The central interior space of the bar is open, but there are several partition walls that provide a small retail area and two bathrooms. A large U-shaped bar dominates the interior space, and there are also two mini-bars. A large stage is found in the center of the back wall. The floor is covered with Cuban tiles, and the ceiling is tongue and groove wood. Photographs of Ernest Hemingway and fishing trophies from Joe Russell decorate the walls.

**ALTERATIONS**

Alterations to the building include bathroom upgrades, including the addition of handicapped accessible bathrooms; electrical and plumbing upgrades to accommodate building codes; new exterior wooden doors that have the same appearance as the original ones; and the replacement of the glass in the transoms. The suspended canopy over the Duval Street facade was added at some time during the 1940s.

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SLOPPY JOE'S BAR  
KEY WEST, MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA  
SIGNIFICANCE

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**SUMMARY PARAGRAPH**

Sloppy Joe's Bar is significant at the local level under Criterion A in the area of Entertainment/Recreation for its association with the development of tourism in Key West, originally as the Victoria Restaurant from 1917-1937, and as the second location of Sloppy Joe's Bar, beginning in 1937. Both the original Sloppy Joe's Bar on Greene Street and the new bar on Duval Street were owned by Joe Russell, a fishing companion of American author Ernest Hemingway. Both bars were patronized by Hemingway and many of the semi-permanent celebrities in Key West. These included writer John Dos Passos, artists Mike Strater and Waldo Pierce, and journalist Martha Gellhorn, who later became Hemingway's third wife. Today, Sloppy Joe's remains an entertainment landmark in Key West that is popular among local residents and tourists alike, and its owner sponsors many activities related to the history of the island and the life of its most famous patron, Ernest Hemingway, including the annual Hemingway Look-A-Like contest.

**HISTORICAL CONTEXT**

Key West's long and colorful past begins with its European discovery in 1513 by Ponce de Leon. The name Key West was probably a corruption of the Spanish name for the island "Cayo Hueso" (Bone Key), given to island because of its shape. The first permanent occupancy in the City occurred in 1822, complete with a small naval depot, whose purpose was to rid the area of pirates. The presence of the U.S. Navy has been a major factor in the growth and development of Key West ever since. The settlement was incorporated in 1828, four years after becoming the county seat of Monroe County. The city grew and prospered, based first on fishing and wrecking—the salvaging ships run aground on the nearby reefs—and later on cigar manufacturing utilizing Cuban and Spanish workers and imported Cuban tobacco. Other economic activities included commercial sponging, commercial and sports fishing, and tourism.<sup>1</sup>

Many of the early residents of Key West both white and black were immigrants from the Bahamas, known as Conchs. In the 20th Century many residents of Key West starting referring to themselves as "Conchs," and the term is now generally applied to all native-born residents of Key West. Some residents use the term "Salt Water Conch" to refer to a person born in Key West, while the term "Fresh Water Conch" refers to a resident not born in Key West but who has lived in Key West for a long time.

Major industries in Key West in the early 19th century included fishing, salt production, and most famously, the salvage of wrecked ships. Salvage claims were adjudicated at the admiralty court in Key West, providing work for a large number of lawyers and brokers who dealt in the auctioning of recovered vessels and their cargoes. By 1860, wrecking had made Key West the largest and richest city in Florida and the wealthiest town per capita in the U.S. A large number of the inhabitants were ships captains who divided their time between fishing and

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<sup>1</sup> "Key West City.com," <http://www.keywestcity.com/ourcity/cityinfo.asp>.

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Section number 8 Page 2 SLOPPY JOE'S BAR  
KEY WEST, MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA  
SIGNIFICANCE

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salvaging shipwrecks from nearby Florida reefs. Many of these captains filled their homes with furniture, chandeliers, and other items salvaged from wrecks.

During the American Civil War, while Florida seceded and joined the Confederate States of America, Key West remained in Union hands because Fort Zachary Taylor had been seized at the outset of the conflict by the small garrison of U.S. Army troops stationed on the island. The fort had been constructed before the war to protect the harbor at Key West and remained a major Union outpost throughout the Civil War.<sup>2</sup> Shortly after Florida seceded from the Union, U.S. Army captain James Brannan marched his detachment of 60 soldiers under the cover of night from the army cantonment located about a mile from Fort Zachary Taylor and occupied the fort, simply closing the sally port to keep Confederate sympathizers out. Whatever hope the Southern loyalists may have had of wresting the fort from Federal control was quashed on April 6, 1861, when Major French of the Fifth United States Artillery arrived by warship from Texas with reinforcements to take command of the fort.<sup>3</sup> No attempt was ever made by the Confederacy to take the island, and Key West spent the entire conflict free from any direct effects of the internecine struggle.

Less than a decade after the end of the Civil War, Key West was to become the major U.S. location of the cigar industry. American manufacturer Samuel Seidenberg established the first major cigar manufacturing operation in Key West in 1868,<sup>4</sup> removing his operations from Havana, Cuba, to escape the insurrection against Spain known as the Ten Years War. Other manufacturers, among them Vincente Ybor and Eduardo H. Gato, soon followed, causing Cuban refugees to flock to the island. Skilled cigar rollers could earn as much as \$3 a day, and their unions could demand, and get, better working conditions than most workers of the time.<sup>5</sup>

By 1890, Key West was the largest and richest city in Florida, with a permanent population of over 10,000; however, by 1900, Key West's cigar industry was in serious decline, down from more than 120 factories to only 44 as the century ended. Manufacturers led by Ybor in 1886 began to move to Tampa and West Tampa,<sup>6</sup> lured by the promise of cheap land and better transportation facilities.<sup>7</sup> Key West was finally connected to the Florida mainland in 1912 by Henry Flagler's Florida East Coast Railway by constructing a series of railroad bridges that linked the Florida Keys island chain. The railroad link, which proposed to be a major transportation link with the soon to be completed Panama Canal, proved to be financially unsuccessful and did not prevent the further decline of the cigar industry in Key West.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> "Florida During the Civil War," <http://www.floridahistory.org/floridians/civilw.htm>; "Historical Overview of the City of Key West," Key West Historic Resources Survey. Key West Planning Department. Gaithersburg, MD: URS Corporation, 2004.

<sup>3</sup> Key West the Old and the New, <http://www.keywesttravelguide.com/civil-war.html>.

<sup>4</sup> Cigars had been made in Key West on a smaller scale since the 1840s, mainly for local consumption.

<sup>5</sup> "Key West's Cigar History," <http://www.conch-cigars.com/generic0.html>.

<sup>6</sup> West Tampa was founded as an independent city in 1892, luring many of the remaining cigar factories away from Key West.

<sup>7</sup> "Key West's Cigar History."

<sup>8</sup> "About the Overseas Railroad," <http://overseasrailroad.railfan.net/about.htm>.



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SLOPPY JOE'S BAR  
KEY WEST, MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA  
SIGNIFICANCE

The rail line did encourage tourism to the Key West, but the Labor Day Hurricane of 1935 that struck the Middle Keys washed away a major section of the rail line and killed hundreds of Keys residents and World War I veterans who were living in camps working on federal road construction and mosquito-control projects. The railroad right-of-way was converted into an automobile highway, which was completed in 1938, becoming an extension of United States Highway 1. The portion of U.S. 1 through the Keys is called the Overseas Highway.<sup>9</sup> Because Key West could be accessed by land, the southern point of the island is marked as the southernmost point of land in the United States. World War II reinvigorated the Key West economy. The Navy increased its presence from 50 acres to 3,000 acres, annexing the old railroad terminal at Trumbo Point, constructing a naval air station on nearby Boca Chica Key, and creating Fleming Key<sup>10</sup> from landfill to use for the storage of bombs and other ordinance and Dredger Key to construct housing for navy personnel. The Navy built the first fresh water pipeline extending from the mainland along the length of the keys. At its peak 15,000 military and 3,400 civilians were at the base. After the war, the military presence at Key West was greatly reduced, which contributed to the city's second major cycle of population decline. After recording the highest number of residents in its history in 1960, Key West experienced over a 25 percent loss in population by 1980. The 1990 Census showed a slight increase.<sup>11</sup>

**HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE**

Only limited historical sources exist documenting the original Victoria Restaurant, which was to become the home of Sloppy Joe's Bar in 1937. During construction in 1917, a photograph (Photo 15) was taken of workmen preparing the foundation of the restaurant. Another photo (Photo 16), taken during the 1920s shows a view of the restaurant at the corner of Duval and Greene streets. Although the print is somewhat fuzzy, it is possible to see that "Victoria Restaurant" has been painted just above the entrance to the building. The restaurant is also listed at 201 Duval Street in Key West city directory for 1917-1919,<sup>12</sup> and the restaurant appears on the 1926 edition of the Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps of Key West.<sup>13</sup>

Juan Farto, a native of Spain, purchased the land on which to build the Victoria Restaurant in 1917. According to Juanita Veliz, Jose Castillo, Farto's brother-in-law, served as the architect for the building. According to Farto's business card, the Victoria Restaurant was the "only first class restaurant" in Key West, and featured "American and Spanish cooking with seafood as a specialty."<sup>14</sup> During its heyday during the 1920s, the Victoria Restaurant catered to the elite residents and winter visitors on the island. Palm Beach millionaire

<sup>9</sup> "History of the Overseas Highway," <http://www.keyshistory.org/osh.html>.

<sup>10</sup> Named for John Fleming (1781-1832), one of the founders of the city of Key West.

<sup>11</sup> Key West City.com, <http://www.keywestcity.com/ourcity/cityinfo.asp>.

<sup>12</sup> Polk's Key West City Directory, 1917-1918, Richmond, VA: R.L. Polk Publishing Company.

<sup>13</sup> Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Key West. New York: Sanborn Map Co., 1926.

<sup>14</sup> Sharon Wells. Sloppy Joe's: The First Fifty Years (Key West: Key West Saloon, Inc., 1983), pp. 12-16.

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KEY WEST, MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA  
SIGNIFICANCE

Malcolm Meacham, who established what was to become Key West International Airport,<sup>15</sup> booked many private dinner parties at the restaurant. Wealthy Cubans en route to mainland Florida via the ferry from Havana and the Overseas Railway would telegraph Farto to prepare paella, a favorite Spanish dish containing rice and seafood. It was the U.S. Navy's "club" for years and on Saturday nights was used for dances.<sup>16</sup>

Farto operated the restaurant until 1937, when he sold the building to Joe Russell, at that time the proprietor of the Sloppy Joe's Bar located one block away at 428 Greene Street.<sup>17</sup> During the Prohibition Era, the original Sloppy Joe's Bar operated as a "speakeasy" under several names, such as the Blind Pig and the Silver Slipper. The bar specialized in brand name whiskies and rum smuggled to Key West mainly from Havana, Cuba, where alcoholic spirits were legal. Oral tradition says that it was Hemingway who encouraged Joe Russell to change the name of his bar to "Sloppy Joe's," after a similarly named "watering hole" in Havana. The official legal opening of the original Sloppy Joe's Bar on Greene Street was December 5, 1933—the day that Prohibition was repealed.

The new Sloppy Joe's Bar on Duval Street opened officially on May 5, 1937.<sup>18</sup> A photograph of the new Sloppy Joe's Bar (Photo 17) was taken around the time of its opening. One of the constant patrons of the original Sloppy Joe's Bar was Ernest Hemingway, who moved his custom to the new location. Hemingway arrived in Key West in 1928 and purchased the old Asa Tift House (N.R. 1968) on Whitehead Street in 1931.<sup>19</sup> The house (now the Ernest Hemingway House Museum) would be Hemingway's residence on and off until his death in 1961.<sup>20</sup>

The new bar became the favorite drinking establishment of Ernest Hemingway and his "mob" of friends, mainly writers and artists that had come to make Key West their winter home. These included some of the literary lights of the day and a variety of local residents: John Dos Passos,<sup>21</sup> Waldo Pierce,<sup>22</sup> Captain Eddie Saunders,<sup>23</sup> and Henry Strater.<sup>24</sup> The new spot featured the longest bar in town. The Club Room, a partitioned hideaway, was used for gambling. Joseph Russell required the bartenders and waiters to wear blue serge pants, and white

<sup>15</sup> Started as a small private airport in 1927. Leased to Pan American Airways in 1928, the airport remained a small and privately owned strip until the start of World War II.

<sup>16</sup> Sloppy Joe's: The First Fifty Years, pp. 12-16.

<sup>17</sup> Now Captain Tony's Saloon; Monroe County Deed Book D-3. Warranty Deed, April 2, 1937, Juan Farto to Joseph S. Russell, Monroe County Courthouse, Key West, Florida.

<sup>18</sup> "Grand Opening of Sloppy Joe's," Key West Citizen, May 28, 1937.

<sup>19</sup> The house was built in 1851 by Asa Tift, a marine architect and salvage wrecker.

<sup>20</sup> Hemingway alternately resided from 1939-1960 between Key West and Finca Vigía, his house located 12 miles from Havana.

<sup>21</sup> American Writer, 1896-1970.

<sup>22</sup> American Artist, 1884-970.

<sup>23</sup> A fishing boat captain and frequent patron of the original and later Sloppy Joe's Bar.

<sup>24</sup> Henry Strater, American artist, 1896-1987; James McLendon. Papa Hemingway in Key West (Key West: Langley Press, Revised Ed., 1990), pp. 34-35.

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shirts with ties. A painting by artist Erik Smith (Photos 18-19) depicting the black bartender Al Skinner, Russell, and Hemingway hung in the bar for years.<sup>25</sup>

Joseph Russell

Joseph S. Russell was born in Key West on December 9, 1888.<sup>26</sup> Russell worked as a cigarmaker, charter boat captain, rumrunner, Hemingway's boat pilot, and was the author's fishing companion for twelve years. In his company, "Papa" Hemingway caught an astonishing 54 marlin in 115 days. Hemingway called Russell "Josie Grunts" and used him as the model for the fictional character Freddy, the owner of Freddy's Bar and captain of the Queen Conch in the novel To Have and Have Not.<sup>27</sup>

As a charter boat captain, Russell prowled the Gulf Stream waters aboard his 32-foot fishing boat, the Anita. He was Hemingway's boat pilot after the author purchased his own craft, the Pilar. The pair often headquartered at the Ambos Mundos Hotel in Havana, Cuba, where Hemingway wrote The Old Man and the Sea in 1952. The two men drank mojitos<sup>28</sup> at the original Sloppy Joe's Bar on Prado Street in Havana and at the El Floridita Restaurant. In a letter to Waldo Pierce in 1932, Hemingway wrote: "We are going to Havana to fish out from there, going across in Josie Grunt's boat on the first moonlit night." In 1936, Hemingway commented to his editor Maxwell Perkins, "Mr. Josie is laying off the operation of his highly successful joint because he is getting bartender's foot from standing up all day and night, and the day after...he is going over to Cuba with me."<sup>29</sup>

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<sup>25</sup> Wells, p. 22.

<sup>26</sup> Key West Cemetery Records, Monroe County Library and grave marker, Joe Russell family plot, Key West Cemetery.

<sup>27</sup> "History of Sloppy Joe's," <http://sloppyjoes.com/history.htm>.

<sup>28</sup> A sort of Cuban cousin to the traditional American mint julep, the mojito has long been considered a classic cocktail in its native country, where, decades ago now, Ernest Hemingway is said to have enjoyed more than one or two of the minty-fresh rum drink.

<sup>29</sup> Wells, p. 32.

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KEY WEST, MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA  
SIGNIFICANCE

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Joe Russell died in Havana of a heart attack on June 20, 1941, aged 52. He had accompanied Hemingway—who by that time spent most of his time at his home in Cuba—on a fishing excursion.<sup>30</sup> It was Hemingway that called Russell's wife Lulu and brought his body home to Key West. In Havana The Post noted the passing of "a great fisherman" who was one of the pioneers of rod and reel fishing for large game fish in Cuban waters. After Joe Russell's death, his widow Lulu continued to operate the bar until 1956, when his son, Joe Russell, Jr., became the owner of the bar.<sup>31</sup>

Today, Sloppy Joe's Bar continues to operate under different ownership as a saloon in Key West. The bar remains a place of entertainment and an eating and drinking establishment that is popular with both city residents and tourists. The bar is open from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 a.m. 365 days a year. Sloppy Joe's is a Key West landmark that has become internationally famous and attracts thousands of visitors annually. In 1981, the bar began hosting the annual Hemingway Look-Alike Contest which ultimately became a weeklong celebration honoring Hemingway as both writer and sportsman. In mid-July each year, Sloppy Joe's is thronged with cheerful bearded men competing for the title of Hemingway Look-A-Like, while Hemingway family members judge their worthiness and hundreds of spectators cheer on their favorites. The Look-A-Like Society, composed of each year's contest winners, is now organized as a nonprofit group with educational and environmental concerns. Today the festival incorporates events that include an internationally recognized short story competition, street fair, and storytelling contest.<sup>32</sup>

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<sup>30</sup> "Joe Russell, Local Saloon Operator, Dies in Havana," Key West Citizen, June 21, 1941.

<sup>31</sup> Monroe County Deed Book 66. Warranty Deed, May 21, 1956. Lulu Russell Jean to Joseph B. Russell, Jr. and Frances Russell. Monroe County Courthouse, Key West, Florida.

<sup>32</sup> "History of Sloppy Joe's," <http://sloppyjoes.com/history.htm>.

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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SLOPPY JOE'S BAR  
KEY WEST, MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA  
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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Key West the Old and the New, <http://www.keywesttravelguide.com/civil-war.html>.

“Key West Travel Guide,” <http://www.keywesttravelguide.com/civil-war.html>.

**Interviews**

Wells, Sharon. Interview with Juanita Velez. July 2, 1982. Key West, Florida.

**Maps**

Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Key West. New York: Sanborn Map Co., 1926, 1948.

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National Park Service**

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SLOPPY JOE'S BAR  
KEY WEST, MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA  
GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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KW PT LOT 3 SQR 14 OR66-238/39 OR409-345/46 OR771-906 OR782-576 OR803-1280 OR804-1051  
OR965-110 OR975-42/43 OR1049-1601/02 OR1739-436/437Q/C OR1806-1094/95Q/C OR1824-650/652(LG)

Parcel Number: 00001250-000000; Section 34, Township 67S, Range 25E; located at the northwest intersection of Duval and Greene Streets, Key West, Monroe County, Florida.

**Boundary Justification**

The above described boundaries encompass the original lot and building acquired by Joe Russell from Juan Farto in April 1937 and has historically been associated with the operation of Sloppy Joe's Bar.

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SLOPPY JOE'S BAR  
KEY WEST, MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA  
PHOTOGRAPHS

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**PHOTOGRAPHS**

1. Sloppy Joe's Bar
2. 201 Duval Street, Key West (Monroe County), Florida
3. Sharon Wells
4. May 2005
5. Sharon Wells, 534 Fleming Street, Key West
6. Main (Southwest) Facade and Northwest Elevation, Looking East
7. Photo 1 of 18

**Items 1-5 are the same for the remaining photographs.**

6. Main (Southwest) Facade, Looking North
7. Photo 2 of 18
  
6. Main (Southwest) Facade, Looking Northeast
7. Photo 3 of 18
  
6. Northwest Elevation, Looking Southwest
7. Photo 4 of 18
  
6. Main (Southwest) Facade (Detail), Looking North.
7. Photo 5 of 18
  
6. Northwest Elevation (Detail), Transom and Pilaster Detail, Looking South
7. Photo 6 of 18
  
6. Northwest Elevation (Detail), Transom over Main Facade Entrance, Looking Southeast
7. Photo 7 of 18
  
6. Interior, Looking Southeast toward Duval Street Entrance
7. Photo 8 of 18
  
6. Interior, View of the Bar, Looking Southeast
7. Photo 9 of 18
  
6. Interior, Looking Northwest toward Duval Street Mini-bar
7. Photo 10 of 18



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SLOPPY JOE'S BAR  
KEY WEST, MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA  
PHOTOGRAPHS

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6. Interior, Looking Northeast toward Greene Street  
7. Photo 11 of 18

6. Interior, Hemingway Memorabilia, Looking East  
7. Photo 12 of 18

6. Interior, View of Back Wall, Looking Northeast  
7. Photo 13 of 18

1. Victoria Restaurant  
2. 201 Duval Street, Key West (Monroe County), Florida  
3. Unknown  
4. 1917  
5. Sharon Wells, 534 Fleming Street, Key West  
6. View of Foundation Construction, Looking Southeast along Duval Street  
7. Photo 14 of 18

1. Victoria Restaurant  
2. 201 Duval Street, Key West (Monroe County), Florida  
3. Unknown  
4. c. 1920  
5. Sharon Wells, 534 Fleming Street, Key West  
6. Main (Southwest) Facade and Northwest Elevation, Looking East  
7. Photo 15 of 18

1. Sloppy Joe's Bar  
2. 201 Duval Street, Key West (Monroe County), Florida  
3. Unknown  
4. c. 1937-1938  
5. Sharon Wells, 534 Fleming Street, Key West  
6. Main (Southwest) Facade and Northwest Elevation, Looking East  
7. Photo 16 of 18

1. Sloppy Joe's Bar  
2. 201 Duval Street, Key West (Monroe County), Florida  
3. Unknown  
4. Late 1940s  
5. Sharon Wells, 534 Fleming Street, Key West

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

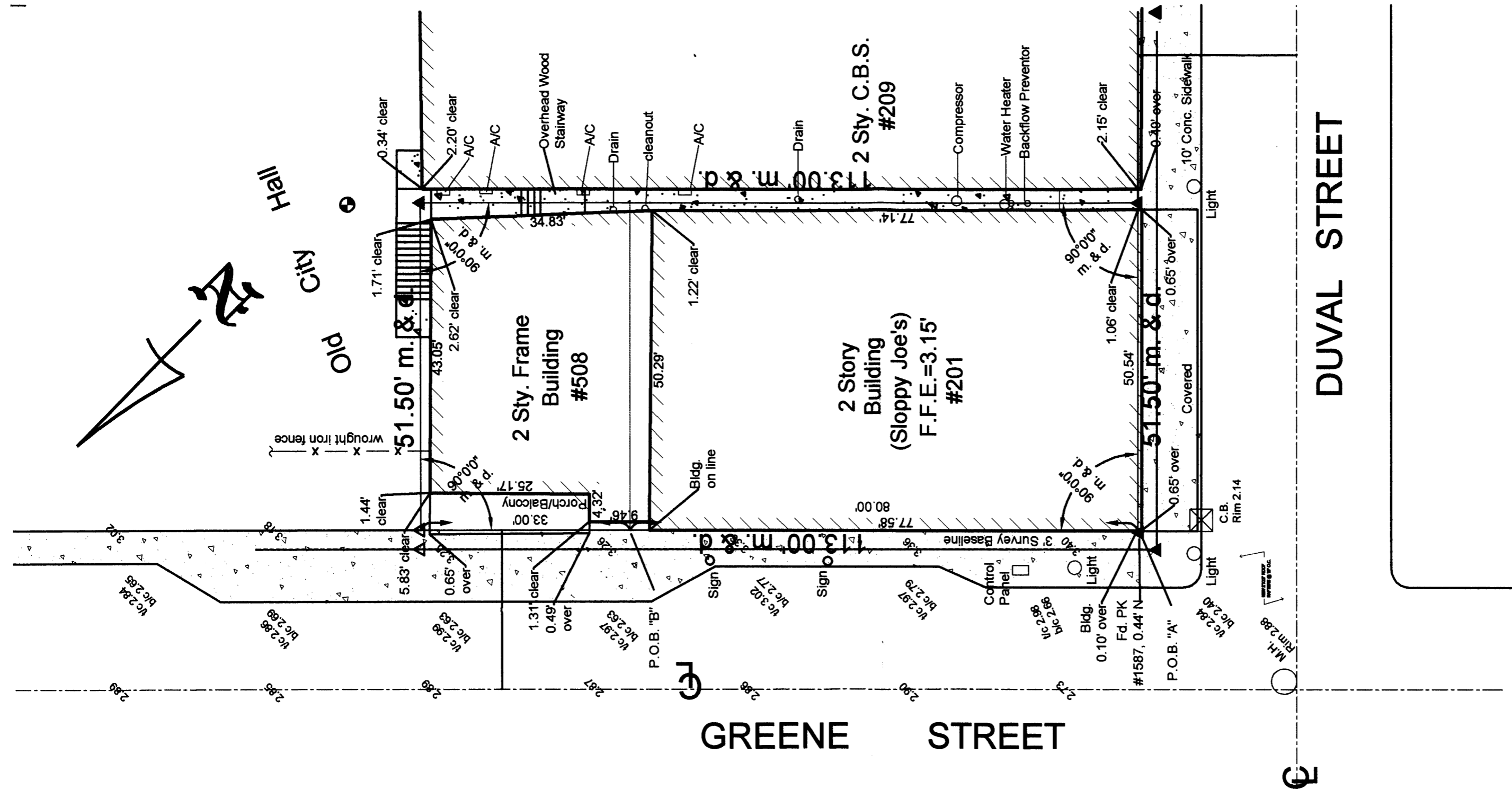
Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page 3

SLOPPY JOE'S BAR  
KEY WEST, MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA  
PHOTOGRAPHS

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- 6. Interior, View of Back Wall with Painting, Looking Southeast
- 7. Photo 17 of 18

- 1. Sloppy Joe's Bar
- 2. 201 Duval Street, Key West (Monroe County), Florida
- 3. Unknown
- 4. Late 1940s
- 5. Sharon Wells, 534 Fleming Street, Key West
- 6. Detail of Painting
- 7. Photo 18 of 18



SCALE: 1/16" = 1'-0"

SITE PLAN

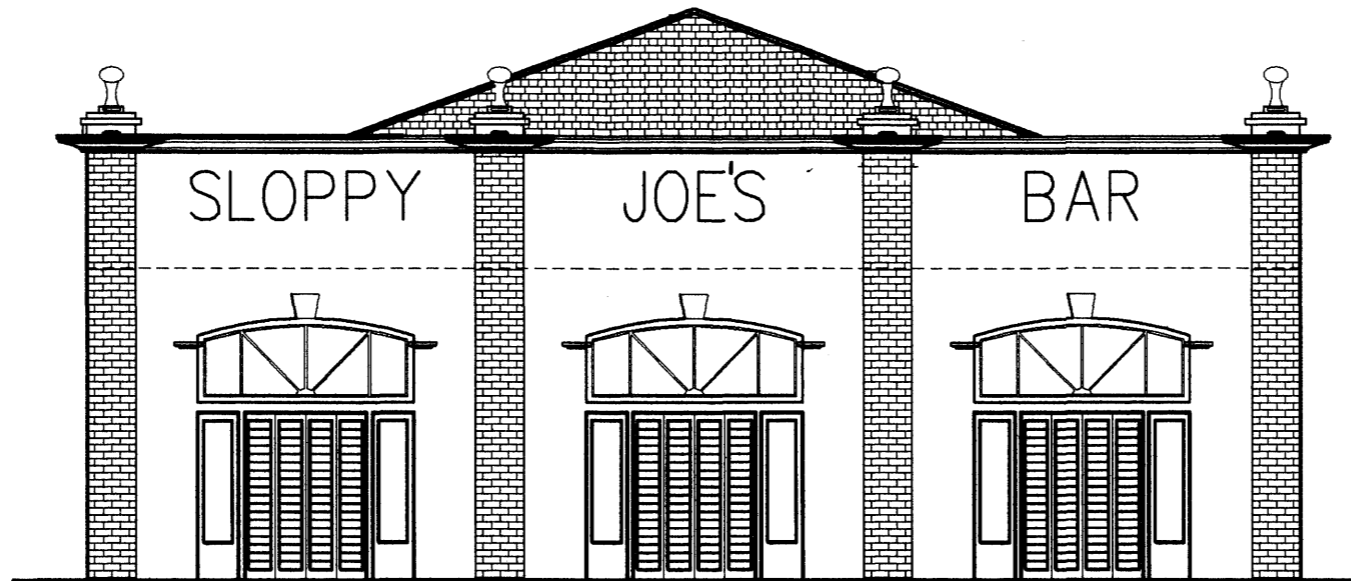
SHEET:

# SLOPPY JOE'S BAR

201 Duval Street, Key West, FL. 33040

# A-1

MAY 06, 2005



DUVAL STREET ELEVATION

SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

DUVAL STREET ELEVATION

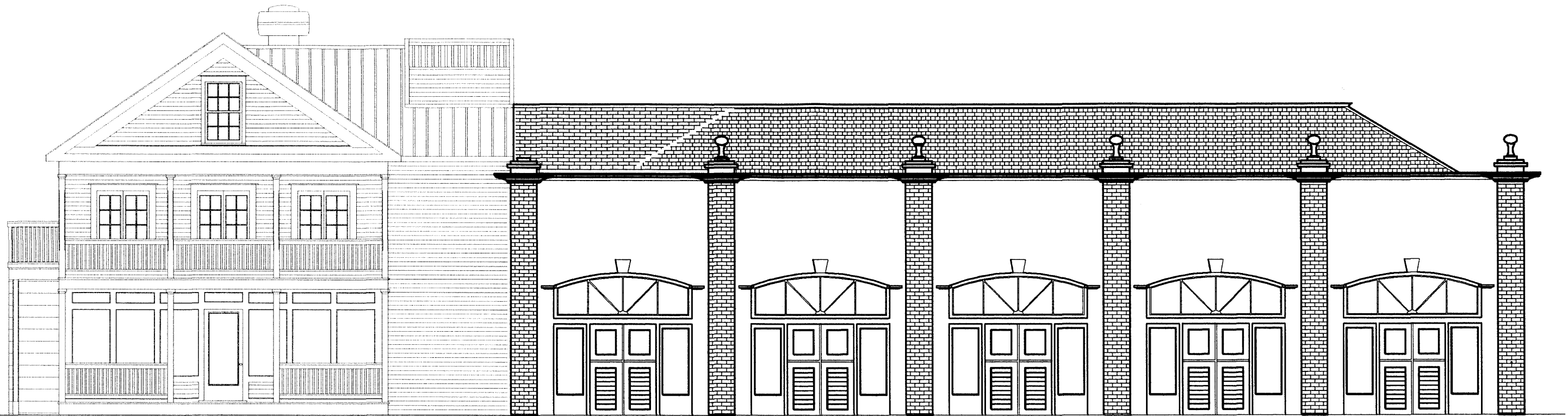
SHEET:

**SLOPPY JOE'S BAR**

201 Duval Street, Key West, FL. 33040

**A-3**

MAY 06, 2005



GREENE STREET ELEVATION

SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

GREENE STREET ELEVATION

SHEET:

**SLOPPY JOE'S BAR**

201 Duval Street, Key West, FL. 33040

**A-4**

MAY 06, 2005

