

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

1353

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 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 Bono's Restaurant and Deli

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 15395 Foothill Boulevard (Historic Route 66) not for publication N/A

city or town Fontana (vicinity) vicinity

state California code CA county San Bernardino code 071 zip code 92335

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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.)

[Signature] 28 NOV 2007
Signature of certifying official Title Date

California Office of Historic Preservation
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 commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that this 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
 - removed from the National Register
 - other (explain): _____

[Signature] 1.10.08
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Edson H. Beall

Bono's Restaurant and Deli
Name of Property

San Bernardino County, CA
County and State

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)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	2	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
1	2	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(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 SUB: Restaurant
COMMERCE/TRADE SUB: Specialty Store

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE SUB: Restaurant
COMMERCE/TRADE SUB: Specialty Store

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

MODERN MOVEMENT/MODERNE

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

roof ASPHALT

walls WOOD and STUCCO and CERAMIC TILE

other GLASS

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 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 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

(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 67) 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)

TRANSPORTATION

SOCIAL

Period of Significance

1943 to 1956

Significant Dates

1943

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Primary Location of Additional Data

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

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than 1 acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>11</u>	<u>456830</u>	<u>3773860</u>	3	___	___	___
2	___	___	___	4	___	___	___

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Laura Vanaskie

organization California State Polytechnic University, Pomona date March 12, 2007

street & number 1423 6th Street #301 telephone (310) 383-5205

city or town Santa Monica state CA zip code 90401

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

San Bernardino County Assessor's Map showing the four lots occupied by Bono's.

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

Name Joseph Anthony Bono

street & number PO Box 3615 telephone (909) 822-4036

city or town Fontana state CA zip code 92334

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Section number 7 Page 1

Bono's Restaurant and Deli
San Bernardino County, CA

Description:

Bono's Restaurant and Deli is located at 15395 Foothill Blvd, a stretch of road which was part of the original U.S. Route 66 linking Chicago to Los Angeles. The property consists of one contributing building: a commercial one-story that faces north toward Foothill Blvd. The commercial building, originally a roadside produce stand established in July of 1936, was expanded in 1943 to house an Italian restaurant and deli. It is a wood frame structure atop a concrete foundation. The roof is a flat and composed of wood frame and asphalt.

The building is situated on a flat site between Beech and Sultana Avenues in an unincorporated area of San Bernardino County. In addition to the restaurant building itself, the site includes a paved parking lot on its west side, a non-contributing building to the southeast and a non-contributing 3-car garage to the southwest. On its east side is Sultana Ave. To the rear of the property is a row of private homes along Muscat Avenue.

The parking lot is approximately 13,000 square feet in size. It is a simple, flat, asphalt lot with standard parking lines on it. It has two access points from Foothill Blvd., one at the northwest end of the site and one just west of the restaurant building. It is bordered by private residences to the west and south. The restaurant lies to its east and Foothill Blvd. its north.

The first non-contributing building is a 19th Century house located near the southeast end of the original restaurant building. The house is one story with a basement. It is a wood frame construction atop a concrete foundation with a stucco exterior. The roof is composed of asphalt singles. Originally a private residence, the house was adjoined to Bono's via the construction of an enclosed walkway in the 1980s. It now functions as a dining room, storage room and expanded kitchen for the restaurant.

The second non-contributing building is a 3-car garage located to the southwest of the original restaurant building. It was constructed by the previous land owners and was acquired by the restaurant after its period of significance. The garage is a wood frame structure with a stucco exterior and a flat roof. It has three large doors crafted from sheet metal.

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Bono's Restaurant and Deli
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The contributing building, originally constructed in 1936, was small and rectangular in plan. Built by the Bono family as a market serving juice, olives, wine, and other local goods, its walls were sheathed in white stucco and light green ceramic tile. The north wall was composed of large, arched doorways made of wooden trellises between a series of engaged pilasters. Originally, the arched doors could be opened up completely, turning the space into a covered outdoor market, in a manner consistent with typical roadside stands from this period; however, in 1943 the arched openings were infilled with glazing.¹ They remain glazed today.

In 1943 the Bonos expanded the building to the south and west, adding space to convert the market into a full-service restaurant. The addition was a wood frame construction, also sheathed in white stucco and light green tile. At the same time as the addition was constructed, the arched trellises were infilled with glass. The old arches remain visible behind the glass despite being walled closed with wood framing and stucco. In the 1970s most of the glazed walls were covered with plywood paneling; however, this paneling has since been removed by the owner to expose the original tile, stucco and glass beneath it.

Also in 1943, signage and decoration were added to the exterior. There are three main signs on the building, one facing east and one facing west, which advertised daily specials to passersby, and one on top of the roof which was visible from both east and west, simply stating "Bono's Deli, Since 1936." Two painted stripes, one red and one green, were also added to the building's exterior just below the roof, advertising the restaurant's Italian fare. Finally, decorative grapevines in purple and green were mounted on the columns at the main entry on the western façade.

A final addition to the rear of the building was completed in the 1980s. The addition consisted of joining the existing 19th Century house directly to the south of the restaurant to the 1943 building through the construction of an enclosed hallway. This added space was a single story with a basement. The first story was used for hosting meetings and social gatherings, while the basement was used for storage.

Today, Bono's maintains a high degree of historic integrity from its 1943 period. The building retains its original tile and stucco, both of which are in pristine condition. Even the details from the 1943 period

¹ Longstreth, Richard. The Drive-in, the Supermarket, and the Transformation of Commercial Space in Los Angeles. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1999. p. 42.

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remain intact: the decorative grapevines are still attached to the western columns, the arched trellises are still intact along the north wall, the signs are still in use, and the red and green painted stripes have been maintained.

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Bono's Restaurant and Deli
San Bernardino County, CA

Summary Statement:

Bono's Restaurant and Deli is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A, at a local level of significance, as an important Route 66 commercial property maintaining a high degree of historic integrity. The National Parks Service's Special Resource Study: Route 66 identifies particular categories of physical resources which are essential to the road and should therefore be preserved. These resources include, "commercial architecture, such as motels, gas stations, diners, other roadside business..."¹ Consequently, as a commercial building operating as a roadside eating establishment for Route 66 travelers, Bono's is considered an essential physical resource of the road. The study also identifies the period of significance for Route 66 as 1933 to 1970 and states that for a resource to be considered significant, it must retain its character from this period.² Bono's period of significance, 1943 to 1956, clearly falls within the period of significance for the Route itself. The restaurant retains its commercial, streamline moderne character from this period and therefore meets the standards of integrity set forth by the Parks Service.

The significance of Bono's is derived from its direct connection with the history of Route 66 in the San Bernardino County, California area, as well as its connection with the development of the City of Fontana and surrounding communities. Since its inception in 1936, Bono's has served generations of Fontana residents and Route 66 travelers alike. In recent years, rampant new development has been sweeping across the inland counties of Southern California, forever changing the historic fabric and character of the Route 66 Corridor, and yet Bono's has been able to maintain its historic integrity and serves as an important physical reminder of the region's past.

Bono's has been recognized by a number of Route 66 publications as a seminal Route 66 landmark, such as Route 66 in California by Glen Duncan³ and the Route 66 Preservation Foundation³ and Guide to

¹ National Parks Service. Special Resource Study: Route 66. July, 1995. p. 28.

² National Parks Service. Special Resource Study: Route 66. July, 1995. p. 3.

³ Duncan, Glen and the California Route 66 Preservation Foundation. Route 66 in California. Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2005. p. 52.

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Bono's Restaurant and Deli
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Historic Route 66 in California by Vivian Davies and Darin Kuna.⁴ It has also been recognized by the City of Fontana's Historical Society as part of the City's Route 66 heritage.⁵

Historical Background:

Bono's began as a roadside produce stand in 1936, ten years after the construction of Route 66 officially began in 1926 and two years before its paving was reported complete in 1938.⁶ The market was started out of "desperation" when the Bono family's vineyards were struggling.⁷ The City of Fontana was established less than 25 years earlier in 1913 as a farm town for A.B. Miller's Fontana Farms Company, so the resident population was still quite small, approximately 2,000 people, and consisted mostly of vineyard and citrus farmers. As such, Bono's had to draw much of its early business from Route 66 passersby in need of food for their journey or refreshments to combat the blazing California heat.⁸

During Bono's early years in the 1930s, it is estimated that 210,000 people from the Dust Bowl states tried to escape their desolate circumstances during the Depression by making the long journey along Route 66 to California.⁹ Then, between 1940 and 1943, the beginning of Bono's period of significance, the U.S. responded to the vast deficiency in the number of workers necessary to support wartime operations on the West Coast by enacting the West Coast Manpower Plan. This plan enabled government contractors to offer hundreds of thousands of new jobs to meet wartime production demands and resulted in the mass migration of more than one million people from the Northeast to new production centers in California, Oregon and Washington. Due to the limited capacity of the nation's rail system, most of these emigrants had to travel by automobile along Route 66.¹⁰

The limitations created by the expropriation of the railway system during wartime yielded another major increase in Route 66 traffic. Not only were emigrants traveling the road to find new work out west; truckers were also traveling the road in larger numbers than ever before. A Public Roads Administration study at the time found that at least 50% of defense-related production material was moved and delivered

⁴ Davies, Vivian and Darin Kuna. Guide to Historic Route 66 in California. LaVerne, CA: California Route 66 Association, 1993.

⁵ Fontana Historical Society. Route 66 Motor Tour of Fontana.

⁶ National Parks Service. Special Resource Study: Route 66. July, 1995. p. 6-7.

⁷ Bono, Joseph. Interview with Laura Vanaskie. February, 2007.

⁸ Bono, Joseph. Interview with Laura Vanaskie. February, 2007.

⁹ National Parks Service. Special Resource Study: Route 66. July, 1995. p. 7.

¹⁰ National Parks Service. Special Resource Study: Route 66. July 1995. p. 8.

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Bono's Restaurant and Deli
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by truck, instead of train. The result was seemingly endless truck convoys moving back and forth between Chicago and the Port of Los Angeles along Route 66.¹¹

As the frequency and numbers of Route 66 travelers and truckers increased in the early 1940s, so did the size of Bono's. In order to accommodate the expanding masses of Route 66 patrons, as well as the demands of the growing resident population, Bono's expanded into a full-service restaurant in 1943. To make this transition feasible, the market was expanded to the south and west and the open archway façade was enclosed with glass. The addition was constructed of wood framing and sheathed in white stucco and light green tile to match the original market façade. Space was added to accommodate counter service meals, a take-out deli, a full-service kitchen, and storage space, while the old market space was converted into the dining area. Also added to the property was an outhouse building to the west of the addition containing two small restrooms.

Also added to the building in 1943 were several advertising elements designed to lure in customers from the busy road. Large signs were erected on the street facades to advertise the usual offerings, as well as daily specials. Red and green stripes were painted on the white stucco to let potential patrons know the type of cuisine they could find inside, and decorative grapevines were mounted to the exterior columns to advertise one of the restaurant's original products: wine. Adding very visible decorative elements like these was very typical of establishments along Route 66, because they were a means of appealing to a customer base which was not constant, but rather just passing through, and therefore had to be visible from the road.¹²

The major expansion and decorative changes made to Bono's in 1943 were indicative of the changes taking place along Route 66 at the time. The number of travelers was increasing at a rapid pace, and businesses all along the road had to keep up if they expected to survive. In the 1930s the section of the road along which Bono's sits was home to a proliferation of small markets and fruit stands, but by 1943 Bono's was one of only a few remaining.¹³ The restaurant's ability to evolve with the changing demands and numbers of Route 66 travelers no doubt enabled its survival.

¹¹ National Parks Service. *Special Resource Study: Route 66*. July 1995. p. 8.

¹² National Parks Service. *Special Resource Study: Route 66*. July 1995. p. 12.

¹³ Bono, Joseph. Interview with Laura Vanaskie. February, 2007.

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Of course, not everyone who made it to Fontana along Route 66 kept going; many people stayed and made the city their home, especially with the advent of the Kaiser Steel Mill. In 1942 Kaiser Steel decided to locate its West Coast operations in Fontana due to its existing railroad tracks and its proximity to Los Angeles. With the steel mill came dozens of immigrants looking for work. Many of them were Italian immigrants who had been working in mills on the East Coast. The new residents brought an increased demand for Italian goods which they could only find 50 miles away in Los Angeles. Recognizing this heightened demand, Bono's increased its supply and selection of imported Italian foods and products. As a result, Bono's became a social hub for the immigrant community. In return, the new customer base helped to sustain Bono's after the passing of the Federal Aid Highway Act in 1956, construction of the I-10 Freeway, and the decline of Route 66's popularity throughout the 1960s and '70s.¹⁴

Coinciding with the passing of the Federal Highway Act, the end of Bono's period of significance is 1956. In the early 1950s, the function of Route 66 began to change dramatically from a major artery of emigration to a tourist attraction. Automobile production and traffic congestion steadily increased across the country, while advancements in road construction technology were taking place. As a result, the government passed legislation enabling the construction of new cross country routes. This legislation solidified Route 66's new function as a tourist attraction and foreshadowed its ultimate demise. As a result, the type of patrons visiting Bono's and the many other businesses along the route changed from emigrating families to tourist groups. Eventually, the tourists came in smaller and smaller numbers as parts of Route 66 began to vanish or become unrecognizable. Consequently, Route 66 businesses closed and were demolished by the masses. It is largely because of this widespread demolition that preserving buildings like Bono's has become so important.

Since the enacting of the Federal Highway Act and the end of Bono's period of significance, few changes have been made to the building: During the 1970s, the exact date is unknown, plywood paneling was added to the exterior of the restaurant in a style typical of the time period. Then, in the 1980s, again the exact date is unclear, a single-story 19th Century house was joined to the restaurant building by constructing an enclosed hallway between them. The house is located to the south of the property and is not visible from the street. Its original roof line, footprint and most of its original walls are still intact; it was only altered where necessary to join the two buildings. In 2006, the owner Joe Bono removed the 1970s paneling to reveal the original tile and stucco beneath it.

¹⁴ Bono, Joseph. Interview with Laura Vanaskie. February, 2007.

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Bono's Restaurant and Deli
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Bono's endured the economic highs and lows of both Route 66 and the City of Fontana and remained a thriving business until 2006 when Mrs. Frances Bono, the original chef, passed away. Today, Bono's is closed to the public, except for special events such as meetings and parties. Joe Bono, its current owner and Mrs. Bono's son, has taken steps to restore the property to its 1943 appearance and intends to reopen soon.

Because of its remarkable historic integrity, its association with and reflection of historic Route 66 during the 1940s and '50s, and its importance to the community of Fontana residents, Bono's is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. As a commercial property retaining its commercial, streamline moderne character from Route 66's period of significance, it meets the standards of integrity set forth in the National Parks Service Special Resource Study: Route 66. Additionally, within a landscape of rapid growth and change, Bono's serves as an important reminder of both the local history of Fontana and San Bernardino County and of the history of Route 66 itself.

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Bono's Restaurant and Deli
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Bibliography:

Unpublished Material:

Bono, Joseph. Interview with Laura Vanaskie. February 2007.

Fontana Historical Society. Route 66 Motor Tour of Fontana. Listing of Local Attractions, date unknown.

Published Material:

Davies, Vivian and Darin Kuna. Guide to Historic Route 66 in California. LaVerne, CA: California Route 66 Association, 1993.

Duncan, Glen and the California Route 66 Preservation Foundation.. Route 66 in California. Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2005.

Longstreth, Richard. The Drive-in, the Supermarket, and the Transformation of Commercial Space in Los Angeles. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1999.

National Parks Service. Special Resource Study: Route 66. July, 1995.

Wallis, Michael. Route 66: The Mother Road. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1990.

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Bono's Restaurant and Deli
San Bernardino County, CA

Boundary Description:

The boundary of the Bono's Restaurant property is shown as a darkened, dashed line on the accompanying Sketch Map. Since this boundary includes a total of four legal lots as defined by the San Bernardino County Assessor, individual lot lines are shown as lighter, dash-dot-dot lines. The building footprints are shown as dark, solid lines.

Boundary Justification:


The boundary includes the Bono's Restaurant building as expanded in 1943, its adjacent parking lot, the 1980s hallway addition, the 19th Century non-contributing house, and the non-contributing 3-car garage. This boundary includes all additions made to the restaurant from both the period of significance and the modern period per the National Parks Service guidelines for selecting boundaries. The parking lot is included in the boundary, because it was an important and necessary feature for accommodating automobile travelers during Bono's period of significance.


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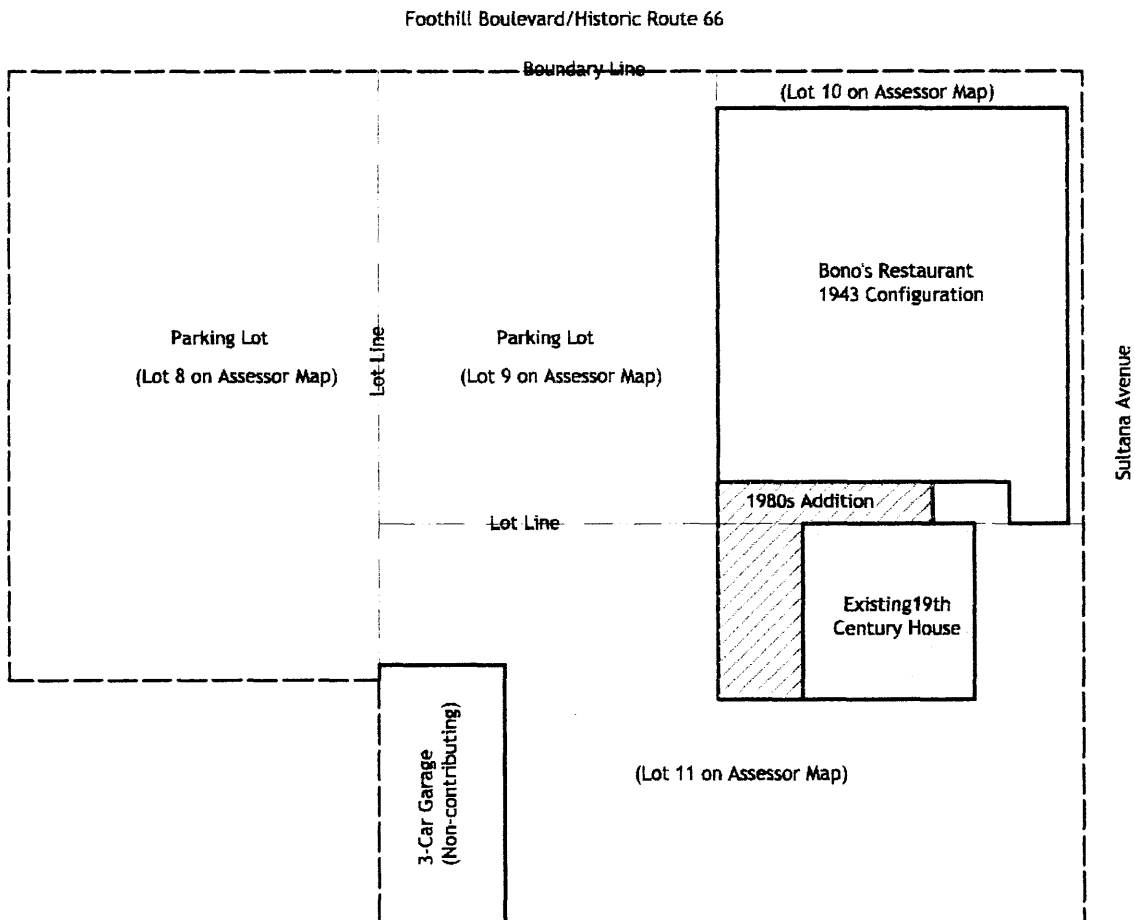
Section number Sketch Map Page 1 Bono's Restaurant and Deli
San Bernardino County, CA

Sketch Map Key

Boundary Line 

Building Footprints 

Legal Lot Lines 



BONO'S RESTAURANT AND DELI



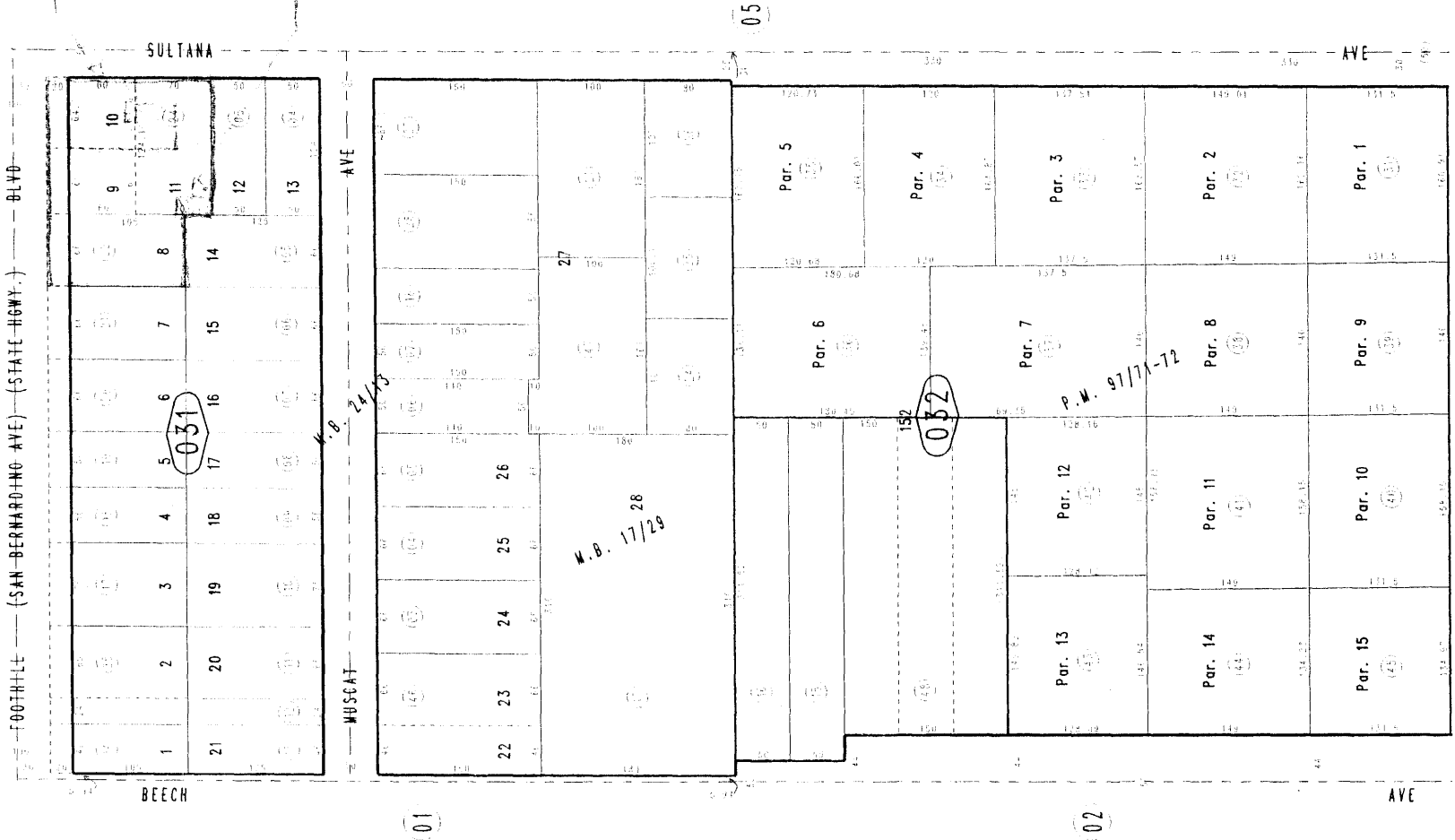
THIS MAP IS FOR THE PURPOSE
OF AD VALOREM TAXATION ONLY



Ptn. Etiwanda Vineyards Tract M.B. 17/29

Fontana Unified
Tax Rate Area
74031

0232-03



1110
16

February 2004

Muscat Tract M.B. 24/13
Parcel Map No. 8890, P.M. 97/71-72

Ptn. N.W.1/4, SEC.12
T.1S.,R.6W.

Assessor's Map
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San Bernardino County

REVISED
09/27/06 LH



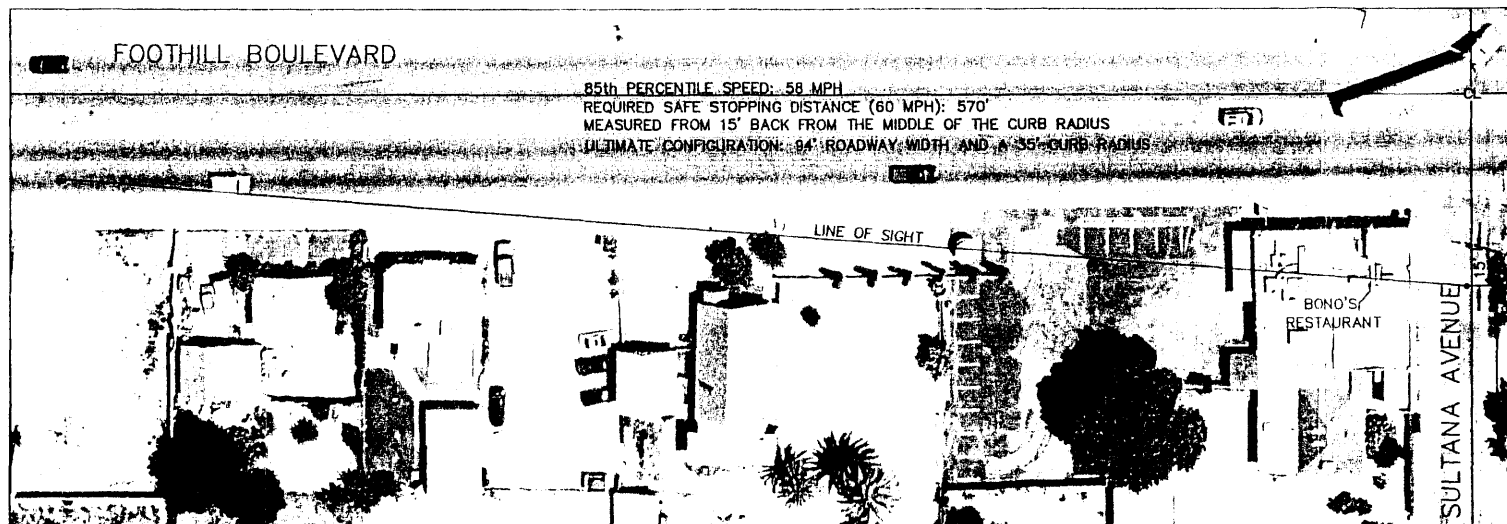
NORTH
SCALE: 1" = 50'

SIGHT DISTANCE STUDY

LOCATION: Foothill Boulevard and Sultana Avenue, Southwest Corner

MEASURED FOR EASTBOUND TRAFFIC PER CITY STANDARD

ULTIMATE CONFIGURATION





NORTH
SCALE: 1" = 50'

SIGHT DISTANCE STUDY

LOCATION: FOOTHILL BOULEVARD AND SULTANA AVENUE, SOUTHWEST CORNER

MEASURED FOR EASTBOUND TRAFFIC PER CITY STANDARD

EXISTING CONFIGURATION

