HITCHING POST

LANDMARK NUMBER: 37

KNOWN AS: The Hitching Post formerly the Casmalia Hotel

PHYSICAL ADDRESS: 3325 Point Sal Road, Casmalia

LOCATION: on Point Sal Road just east of Black Road, Casmalia

TYPE OF SITE: Restaurant

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 96-332

LANDMARK DATE: August 13, 1996

DESIGNATION OBTAINED BY: Nomination for Historical Landmark submitted by Beverly Schwartzberg, M.A. Public History and Landmarks Commission intern

PAST OWNERS:
- H.H. Heller (to 1920)
- M/M Paul Veglia (1920-abt. 1945)
- Mario Veglia (by inheritance) who changed the name to The Hitching Post and later took on partners Boyd Wyse and Julio Zaragoza
- Frank (Sr) and Victor Ostini and Jerry Ransom (1952; Ransom sold his share back to Julio Zaragoza in 1957 who remained with the restaurant until 1967)
CURRENT OWNER: William F. Ostini (1966 to the present)
c/o The Hitching Post
3325 Point Sal Road, Casmalia

CHANGES/ALTERATIONS: See Description

CONDITION: Very Good

DESCRIPTION:
Once known as the Casmalia Hotel, the building was probably erected in the mid-1890s as the railroad first came through the town in 1896. It is significant because it is one of few remaining remnants of Santa Barbara County’s oil and railroad days and has existed intact for over a century.\(^1\) The restaurant consists of the front restaurant section of two main rooms renovated after a 1988 fire. It also has a kitchen, storage areas in the rear, a side corridor with restrooms, and an outdoor patio. The restaurant fronts Point Sal Road with a side entrance on Santos Street.\(^2\)

The exterior is clad with 1’x 12’ redwood planks painted red. The front of the building has a false front at the roof level to make it appear to have a two-level flat roof. Behind that front, however, is a peaked shingled roof over the dining room. Inside, wainscoting (destroyed in some parts during the 1988 fire and subsequently replaced) covers some of the plaster walls. Hardwood floors are hidden beneath the current floor coverings.\(^3\)

The restaurant was once attached to a hotel frequented by railroad and oil field workers. At one time The Hitching Post had three entrances but today only one entrance has a door and is in use. According to the current owner an electric sign was installed in the late 1950s and in that same decade his father had a room or rooms for storage in the back of the building.\(^4\)

In 1988 a kitchen fire gutted sections of the structure. The owners redesigned the front entranceway, added the rear patio, and renovated parts of the interior, replacing walls and ceilings where necessary.\(^5\)

RESOURCES:
Nomination Application prepared by Beverly Schwartzberg, M.A. Public History and a Landmarks Commission intern ((12/15/1995)

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\(^1\) Nomination application
\(^2\) Ibid
\(^3\) Ibid
\(^4\) Ibid
\(^5\) Ibid
Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara, State of California

RESOLUTION NO. 96-332

A RESOLUTION DECLARING THAT

THE HITCHING POST,

LOCATED AT 3325 POINT SAL ROAD IN

CASMALIA, CALIFORNIA

(A.P.N. 113-314-013 & A.P.N. 113-314-014),

IS WORTHY OF PROTECTION UNDER

ORDINANCE NO. 1716, AND PRESCRIBING

CONDITIONS TO PROTECT AND PRESERVE THE

LANDMARK.

WHEREAS, The Hitching Post, located in Casmalia, in the County of Santa Barbara, has great historical significance and interest to the general public as a landmark and a reminder of the early history of Santa Barbara County; and

WHEREAS, the structure was originally built around the mid-1890’s as the Casmalia Hotel - most likely coinciding with the construction of the railroad line through Casmalia in 1896; and

WHEREAS, the structure evokes the pioneer spirit of California, having survived the loss of the railroad stop, population changes, depressions, fires, recessions and yet continues to this day as The Hitching Post, known far and wide as a culinary landmark in its own right; and

WHEREAS, on July 8, 1996, the Santa Barbara County Historical Landmark Advisory Commission declared The Hitching Post qualifies for recommendation to the County Board of Supervisors as an historical landmark pursuant to the provisions of Ordinance No. 1716 of the County of Santa Barbara; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara deems that The Hitching Post is worthy of protection and preservation as an historical landmark;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED as follows:

1. The Board of Supervisors, having duly set a public hearing, has heard all interested parties and has closed said public hearing, adopting the conditions set out in Paragraph 2 of this Resolution.

2. The Board of Supervisors hereby declares The Hitching Post to be an historical landmark pursuant to Ordinance No. 1716 and hereby imposes the following conditions on The Hitching Post pursuant to said ordinance.

   a. Demolition, removal or destruction, partially or entirely, is prohibited unless express consent in writing is first had and obtained from the Santa Barbara County Historical Landmarks Advisory Commission. Such consent may impose all reasonable conditions deemed appropriate by the Commission to accomplish the purposes of Ordinance No. 1716.
b. No alterations, repairs, additions or changes (other than normal maintenance and repair work) shall be made unless and until all plans therefore have first been reviewed by the Santa Barbara Historical Landmark Advisory Commission and approved, or modified and reasonable conditions imposed as deemed necessary, and all such work shall be done under the direction and control of the Santa Barbara County Historical Landmark Advisory Commission or other qualified persons designated by it.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara, State of California, this 13th day of August, 1996, by the following vote:

AYES: Supervisors Schwartz, Graffy, Staffel, Urbanske

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Supervisor Wallace

ATTEST:

CLERK OF THE BOARD

By Robert Cohen
Deputy

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
STEPHEN SHANE STARK,
COUNTY COUNSEL

By Linda Scala
Deputy County Counsel