

**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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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.

DRAFT

**1. Name of Property**

Historic name: Santa Fe Federal Savings & Loan Association

Other names/site number: American Savings; Palm Springs Art Museum Architecture & Design Center/Edwards Harris Pavilion

Name of related multiple property listing:  
The Architecture of E. Stewart Williams

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

**2. Location**

Street & number: 300 South Palm Canyon Drive

City or town: Palm Springs State: CA County: Riverside

Not For Publication:  Vicinity:

**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 at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D

<p>_____  <b>Signature of certifying official/Title:</b></p>	<p>_____  <b>Date</b></p>
<p>_____  <b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b></p>	
<p>In my opinion, the property <u>meets</u> <u>does not meet</u> the National Register criteria.</p>	
<p>_____  <b>Signature of commenting official:</b></p>	<p>_____  <b>Date</b></p>
<p>_____  <b>Title :</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b></span></p>	

Santa Fe Federal Savings & Loan Association  
Name of Property

Riverside, California  
County and State

---

#### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

---

Signature of the Keeper

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.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

Santa Fe Federal Savings & Loan Association  
Name of Property

Riverside, California  
County and State

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

---

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/TRADE/Financial Institution

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION/CULTURE/Museum

---

---

---

---

---

Santa Fe Federal Savings & Loan Association  
Name of Property

Riverside, California  
County and State

---

## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

MODERN MOVEMENT

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: METAL:steel, aluminum, BRICK, CONCRETE, GLASS

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

---

### Summary Paragraph

The Santa Fe Federal Savings & Loan Association building (Santa Fe Federal Savings) is located on the southeast corner of West Baristo Road and South Palm Canyon Drive in Palm Springs. Strongly influenced by the International Style, the one-story building is a Miesian pavilion of steel frame construction on a raised concrete pad. Full height glazing on three sides creates a delicate “jewel box” effect, especially when illuminated at night. Load carrying steel posts are placed outside the glass walls. Perforated sliding gold anodized aluminum panels cut glare on west and east elevations. Crowning the building is a flat roof that extends beyond the glazing to mirror the cantilevered concrete floor slab below. The building was rehabilitated following the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards. It exhibits sufficient historic and architectural integrity to convey its significance.

---

### Narrative Description

E. Stewart Williams was commissioned by the president of Santa Fe Federal Savings & Loan Association to “build a little jewel box in Palm Springs,” according to the architect. The building located at 300 South Palm Canyon Drive is the result. It is International Style in its architectural language of rectilinear form, lack of applied ornamentation and decoration, open interior spaces, visually weightless quality through the use of cantilever construction, steel framing in

Santa Fe Federal Savings & Loan Association  
Name of Property

Riverside, California  
County and State

combination with less visible reinforced concrete, and generous use of glass. In particular, the building is strongly influenced by Ludwig Mies van der Rohe's Barcelona Pavilion of 1929 with its one-story rectilinear profile, steel frame construction, glass walls, and slender steel posts supporting the thin flat roof that extends far beyond the wall plane. However, Williams modified Mies' pavilion by floating the building above a reinforced concrete slab cantilevered over a recessed base. The flat roof then extends beyond the glass walls to mirror the floor slab below. He also avoided Mies' use of extravagant materials such as marble and red onyx, though Williams did employ a vertical travertine monument near the main entrance to display the bank's name. In addressing the harsh desert environment, Williams shielded east and west elevations with perforated sliding gold anodized aluminum panels.

Williams designed Palm Springs' Santa Fe Federal Savings building according to a strict five-foot module around which every aspect of the building conforms, even carrying through to the architectural detailing of the interiors. Steel posts placed outside the glass walls are visible elements of the building's steel skeleton, resulting in an interior space completely open and uninterrupted by structure. To these posts Williams added thin vertical fins to give them, in his own words, "a slenderness ratio." A stainless steel drive-up teller's window interrupts the window wall of the east elevation. The south elevation differs from the others in that it consists primarily of white-painted brick to protect the bank's vault.

The bank's main entrance is on the building's southwest corner with its glazed double-doors framed by plate glass windows. A staircase descending to the basement is visible through the glass. A secondary entrance occupies the opposite northeast corner. Desert landscaping enhances the street-facing north and west sides of the parcel and provides the setting for highlighting the bank's floating concrete slab. A concrete parking area wraps around the south and east portions of the site.

In creating a community oriented banking center, Williams placed a conference room with kitchen in the basement as a gathering place for local civic groups. For the interiors, Williams chose authentic Navajo rugs, pottery, and other objects that harmonized beautifully with the modern furniture selected to highlight the minimalism of the bank's design. The bank's vault was in full and reassuring view of the public.

In 2011, following several years of limited use, the building experienced a thorough rehabilitation by the firm of Marmol Raziner who rigorously followed the Secretary of the Interior's Standards in converting the former bank into a museum exhibition space, the Palm Springs Art Museum Architecture and Design Center/Edwards Harris Pavilion.

As a result, the building exhibits integrity of design, materials, workmanship, as well as location and setting. Although no longer associated with a bank, its current use as a museum for temporary exhibitions maintains the feeling of a Miesian pavilion with a large, open interior space. The Santa Fe Federal Savings & Loan Association building is able to convey its architectural significance because it exhibits key character-defining features associated with the commercial and institutional design work of E. Stewart Williams of the early 1960s. Specifically,

Santa Fe Federal Savings & Loan Association  
Name of Property

Riverside, California  
County and State

it is strongly influenced by the International Style with its flat roof, deep overhangs, steel frame, and reinforced concrete construction. It also employs non-structural walls of plate glass while avoiding applied ornamentation and historical references.

Santa Fe Federal Savings & Loan Association  
Name of Property

Riverside, California  
County and State

---

## 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.)

- 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Santa Fe Federal Savings & Loan Association  
Name of Property

Riverside, California  
County and State

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1960

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1960

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Williams, E. Stewart

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Santa Fe Federal Savings & Loan Association  
Name of Property

Riverside, California  
County and State

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Santa Fe Federal Savings & Loan Association building is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C at the local level of significance in the area of Architecture. The property embodies the distinctive characteristics of International Style architecture as interpreted by E. Stewart Williams for commercial buildings of the early 1960s. In addition, the property meets *The Architecture of E. Stewart Williams* Multiple Property Submission registration requirements for commercial buildings in association with the historic context “Architecture as environmental expression in the greater Coachella Valley, 1946-1976.” The period of significance corresponds with the building’s date of construction, 1960.

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

The Santa Fe Federal Savings & Loan Association building constructed in 1960 exemplifies the distinctive characteristics of E. Stewart Williams’ approach to designing commercial buildings during this period. In the early 1960s, Williams adapted the International Style to commercial buildings, especially banks, and to buildings for educational institutions such as the Palm Springs Unified School District Educational Administrative Center<sup>1</sup> also from 1960. After that time, Williams embraced the possibilities of New Brutalism. In the case of the subject property, Williams was clearly inspired by Ludwig Mies van der Rohe’s influential Barcelona Pavilion from three decades earlier with its one-story rectilinear profile, steel frame construction, glass walls, slender steel posts, and flat roof with deep eaves. In adapting Mies’ design for a Palm Springs bank, Williams provided full-height sliding perforated metal panels to control the sun while rejecting the use of extravagant materials for interior surfaces.

The Santa Fe Federal Savings & Loan Association building is significant within the oeuvre of E. Stewart Williams as an example of Williams’ brief foray into designing pure International Style buildings in the early 1960s, and fits within the historic context presented in the Multiple Property Documentation Form, “Architecture as environmental expression in the greater Coachella Valley, 1946-1976.” As a key example of the commercial property type that maintains sufficient integrity to be readily identifiable as the work of master architect E. Stewart Williams, FAIA the property meets National Register Criterion C because it embodies the distinctive characteristics of commercial buildings associated with the master architect in the early 1960s.

<sup>1</sup> 333 South Farrell Drive in Palm Springs.

Santa Fe Federal Savings & Loan Association  
Name of Property

Riverside, California  
County and State

---

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

As indicated in *The Architecture of E. Stewart Williams* Multiple Property Documentation Form.

---

### 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 # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

### Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University of California, Santa Barbara
- Other

Name of repository: Palm Springs Art Museum, Architecture and Design Center

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): \_\_\_\_\_

---

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property less than one acre

### Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_  
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 33.819120                      Longitude: -116.546445

### Verbal Boundary Description

 (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Property is located at 300 South Palm Canyon Drive, Palm Springs, Riverside County, California at the southeast corner of West Baristo Road and South Palm Canyon Drive. The property fronts 190 feet of South Palm Canyon Drive and 135 feet of West Baristo Road. Its legal description is .72 ACRES M/L IN POR PAR B AND PAR 1 PM. APN 513-204-008

Santa Fe Federal Savings & Loan Association  
Name of Property

Riverside, California  
County and State

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

Property includes the entire parcel historically associated with Santa Fe Savings.

---

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Peter Moruzzi/Architectural Historian  
organization: \_\_\_\_\_  
street & number: 2018 Griffith Park Blvd., #114  
city or town: Los Angeles state: CA zip code: 90039  
e-mail petermoruzzi@gmail.com  
telephone: (213) 706-0151  
date: February 2016

---

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

**Photographs**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

**Photo Log**

Name of Property: Santa Fe Savings & Loan Association  
City or Vicinity: Palm Springs  
County: Riverside  
State: CA  
Photographer: Peter Moruzzi  
Date Photographed: February 2016

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Santa Fe Federal Savings & Loan Association  
Name of Property

Riverside, California  
County and State

- 1 of 15 West elevation, camera facing northeast
- 2 of 15 South elevation, camera facing northeast
- 3 of 15 West elevation, camera facing northeast
- 4 of 15 North elevation, camera facing southwest
- 5 of 15 North elevation, camera facing southeast
- 6 of 15 East elevation, camera facing southwest
- 7 of 15 South elevation, camera facing northwest
- 8 of 15 Drive-up teller window, east elevation, camera facing west
- 9 of 15 Interior, west elevation, camera facing northwest
- 10 of 15 Interior, main floor area, camera facing northeast
- 11 of 15 Interior, drive-up teller window, east elevation, camera facing east
- 12 of 15 Interior, north elevation, camera facing northwest
- 13 of 15 Interior, entrance lobby, camera facing southwest
- 14 of 15 Interior, looking up stairwell into entrance lobby, camera facing north
- 15 of 15 Interior, main entrance, camera facing southeast

**Index of Figures; Photos by Julius Shulman, 1962**

- Figure 1 South and west elevations, looking northeast
- Figure 2 West elevation, looking east, 1962
- Figure 3 West and north elevations, looking southeast
- Figure 4 E. Stewart Williams, moveable sunscreens, west elevation, looking southeast
- Figure 5 East elevation, looking southwest
- Figure 6 South and east elevations, looking northwest

Santa Fe Federal Savings & Loan Association  
Name of Property

Riverside, California  
County and State

Figure 7 Interior, looking northwest from main entrance

Figure 8 Interior, looking west

**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.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

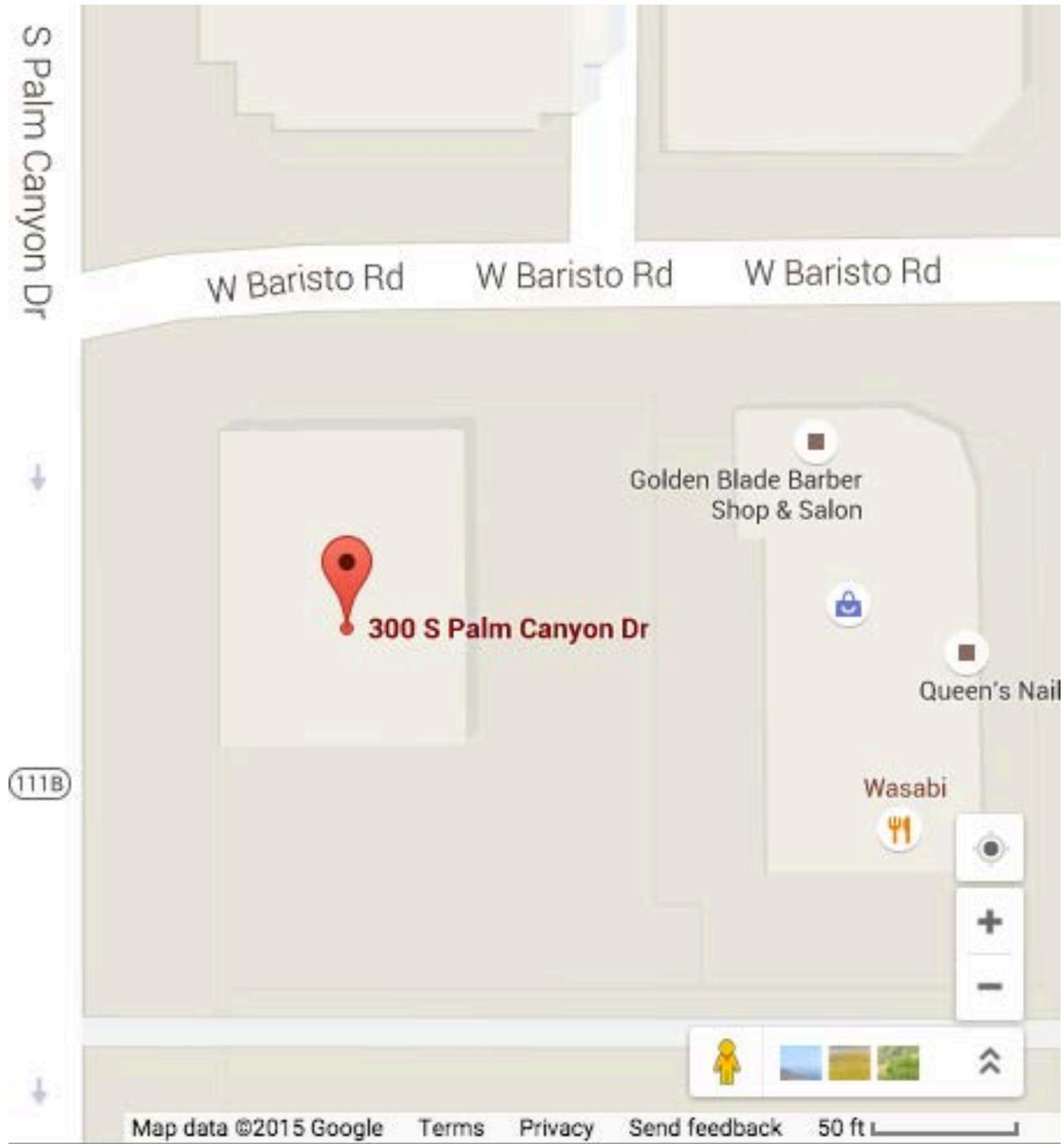
Santa Fe Federal Savings & Loan Association  
Name of Property

Riverside, California  
County and State

### Location Map

Latitude: 33.819120

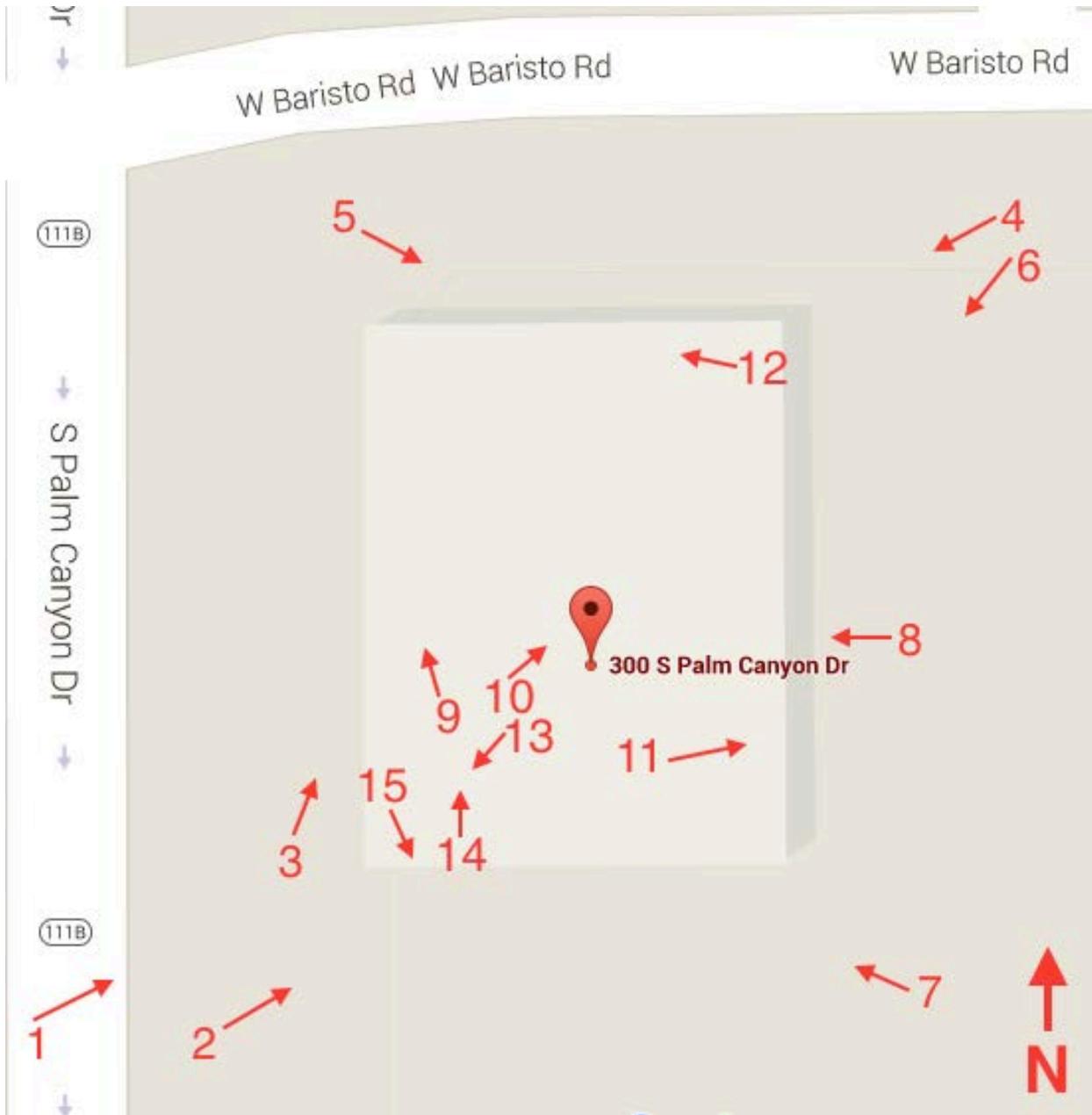
Longitude: -116.546445



Santa Fe Federal Savings & Loan Association  
Name of Property

Riverside, California  
County and State

**Sketch Map/Photo Key**



Santa Fe Federal Savings & Loan Association  
Name of Property

Riverside, California  
County and State

**Figure 1. South and west elevations, looking northeast, 1962**



© J. Paul Getty Trust. Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles (2004.R.10).

Santa Fe Federal Savings & Loan Association  
Name of Property

Riverside, California  
County and State

**Figure 2. West elevation, looking east, 1962**



© J. Paul Getty Trust. Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles (2004.R.10).

Santa Fe Federal Savings & Loan Association  
Name of Property

Riverside, California  
County and State

**Figure 3. West and north elevations, looking southeast, 1962**



© J. Paul Getty Trust. Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles (2004.R.10).

Santa Fe Federal Savings & Loan Association  
Name of Property

Riverside, California  
County and State

**Figure 4. E. Stewart Williams, moveable sunscreens, west elevation, looking southeast, 1962**



© J. Paul Getty Trust. Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles (2004.R.10).

Santa Fe Federal Savings & Loan Association  
Name of Property

Riverside, California  
County and State

**Figure 5. East elevation, looking southwest, 1962**

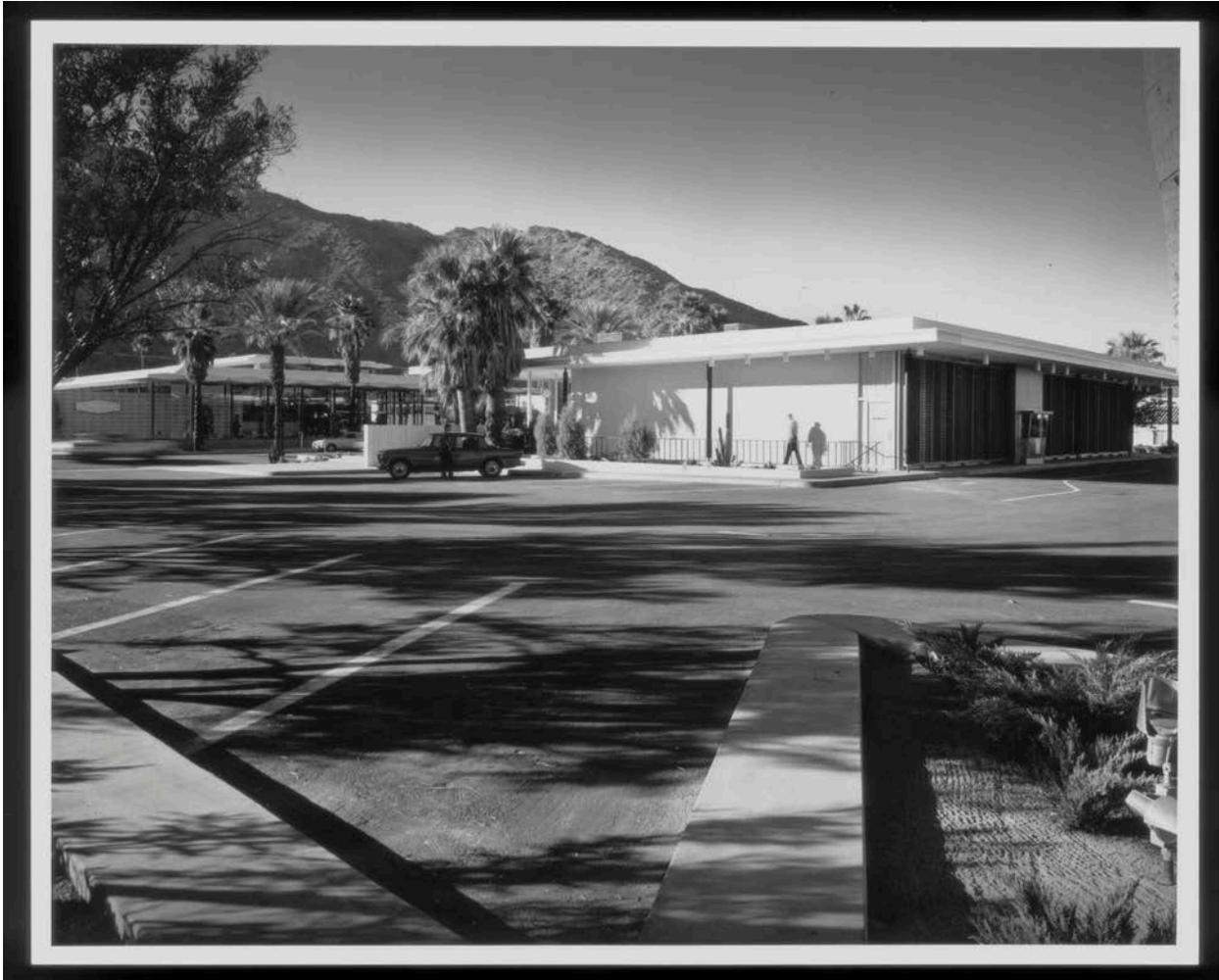


© J. Paul Getty Trust. Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles (2004.R.10).

Santa Fe Federal Savings & Loan Association  
Name of Property

Riverside, California  
County and State

**Figure 6. South and east elevations, looking northwest, 1962**



© J. Paul Getty Trust. Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles (2004.R.10).

Santa Fe Federal Savings & Loan Association  
Name of Property

Riverside, California  
County and State

**Figure 7. Interior, looking northwest from main entrance, 1962**



© J. Paul Getty Trust. Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles (2004.R.10).

Santa Fe Federal Savings & Loan Association  
Name of Property

Riverside, California  
County and State

**Figure 8. Interior, looking west, 1962**



© J. Paul Getty Trust. Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles (2004.R.10).