Neon Sign Survey

Description of sign(s)

1. Name: Davy’s Locker

2. Owner: Was Cindy Slight since 2010. Albert Hamika bought the property in 2016. Derek Stonebarger went to the property after they took the sign down and the fish portion of the sign is currently in his possession.

3. Address: 1149 E Desert Inn Rd, Las Vegas, NV 89109

3b. Additional Site Details (information on site, site history, owner comments):

The property was originally opened in 1968 by Davey Pearl, who was most known for being a boxing referee and later inducted to the World Boxing Hall of Fame. The actual opening date of the bar is unknown, but property records have shown that its building was constructed in 1968. The bar was known for the welcoming environment inside and inexpensive drinks. The sign itself drew people in because of its unique design. Right before their closure they started to have a variety of events taking place there such as: open mic night, trivia, and genre specific music nights. The current owners have demolished the iconic and beloved sign for the bar. The only portions that remain are white sign that reads “Cocktails” in red and the waves that the fish once “swam” above. The current owner of the property has told the Las Vegas Weekly, “I want to emphasize I wasn’t like, ‘Ok let’s destroy this sign.’ I like the sign, and I like the historic memorabilia…I tried. The only thing I can I can say is, it was time for it to come down.” After hearing about this news Derek Stonebarger, who owns ReBar on Main Street, was distraught when he heard the news of the sign being taken down so he went to the property to find its remains. He hopes to restore as much of the sign as he can and possibly display it in a Nevada-themed restaurant he plans to open up.

4. Condition (1-5 scale, with 5 being excellent, written description): Since the sign has been taken down it is a 0.

5. Form (pylon, blade, porte cochere, etc): Pole

6. Specific Description: This sign was designed to look like a fish was swimming in the ocean. The top of the sign give the appearance of waves. A neon tube was attached to the implied waves. Underneath this was a large, white fish whose tail and nose extended beyond the confines of the square shape of the sign. The fish appeared to have a large smile and two smaller fish “swimming” beside it. One of these smaller fish was near the larger fish’s mouth and the “L.” The other fish was located right under the “ker” in “Locker.” Both of these fish were a light blue color, the same blue that matched the wave on top of the sign and surrounded the larger fish. In the middle of the large fish that makes up much of the sign were the words “Davy’s Locker” in bright red and an elaborate cursive style font. Neon tubes outlined these letters, as well as all three fish included in the sign. Underneath all of this is a neon tube in the shape of a wave that is difficult to see in photos of the sign during the day, but glowed brightly at night. Below this signage was a backlit plastic sign reading “Cocktails” in a red script and “Gaming Spirits Pool” under that in a sans-serif, bold, dark blue font. Extending from the top of the sign at the end near the street was a pole with two, small square signs attached to that. The top one was yellow and read “OPEN 24 HRS.” The one below that was white and read “COLD BEER.” There are other photos of this sign where the plastic portion of the sign reads “COCKTAILS” in red still, but “Slots Video Poker” in blue and “Package Liquor” under that in red.

7. Type of Display (neon, incandescent, etc): Neon, backlit

8. Media (steel, plastic, fiberglass, etc): Steel, plastic

9. Non-neon treatments: Paint

10. Animation: No

11. Environment (surrounding properties, neighborhood): The surrounding environment of Davy’s Locker was in a district that was close to UNLV as well as another popular bar that still caters to locals, Champagnes Café. It was located in a bustling area along to Maryland Parkway that locals travel on a daily basis. Davy’s Locker was a popular watering hole for many people in the neighborhood due to its convenient location.

Artistic Context

1. Manufacturer: N/A

2. Designer: Architect of Record: N/A

3. Date of Installation: Around the 1960’s

4. Date(s) of any major redesign/move: It was first restored in 2011 and another time in 2014. Sign was taken down from the property in 2017.

5. Thematic Influence (design elements found on similar signs, elements related to the property, linkage to previous themes, trends, context): The theme of the sign appears to take inspiration from the phrase “Davy Jones’ Locker.” This is a common phrase that refers to “the bottom of the sea” or even “the mythical resting place of drowned mariners.” Davy Jones is also believed to be an evil spirit from the bottom of the sea; therefore, the sign shows the influence of these aquatic origins that possibly inspired the name of the property.

6. Artistic Significance (themes and representation, era: time and design, trends, context): The theme of the sign is aquatic, which also ties into the name of the property. The name of the property appears to take influence from the myth of Davy Jones, the evil spirit of the sea.

Surveyor Notes

1. Research locations (archives, library, recorder’s office, etc)

Las Vegas weekly articles <https://lasvegasweekly.com/as-we-see-it/2016/mar/23/beloved-dive-bar-davys-locker-sold-old-vegas/>

<https://lasvegasweekly.com/intersection/2017/jan/11/davys-locker-neon-sign-demolished/>

<https://lasvegasweekly.com/intersection/2017/jan/13/davys-locker-bar-neon-sign-recovered-stonebarger/> ,

Las Vegas Sun article <https://vegasinc.lasvegassun.com/business/2016/mar/25/popular-dive-bar-to-take-a-breather-while-sports-b/> ,

Roadside Architecture <http://www.roadarch.com/signs/nvvegas3.html> ,

Phrase website http://www.phrases.org.uk/meanings/davy-jones-locker.html

2. Research notes

3. Any other relevant surveyor remarks

Surveyor Lauren Vaccaro Date 8/22/2017

\*Please attach a map from the assessor’s site when possible.