Neon Sign Survey

Description of sign(s)

1. Name: El Sombrero

2. Owner: Irma Aguirre

3. Address: 807 S MAIN ST, LAS VEGAS ,NV, 89101-6424

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

This modest, family-owned restaurant has been in town since the 1950’s. It was then sold to the current owner, Irma Aguirre, and closed for a brief moment for renovation in 2014. They have been serving favorites like burritos, enchiladas, taco, and tamales for six decades. Even with their modern updates, they are still staying as true to their past as they possibly can.

4. Condition (1-5 scale, with 5 being excellent, written description): 5, the sign is still in beautiful condition.

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

6. Specific Description: The sign for the business extends out from the property towards the street. The rectangular sign is a bright blue that matches the color of the building. On the top outer corner of the sign sits a sombrero with a red and white striped band in the middle portion of the hat. The words “El Sombrero” are painted on the brim of the hat. There are skeletal neon tubes outline the hat and the words “El Sombrero.” Next to this is a small sign, within the overall design of the rest of the sign, that is designed to look ripped on both sides and reads “Mexican Food” in red letters. Neon tubes outline these words. Underneath these elements of the sign is the word “CAFE” in bold white text with a thin black border. Neon tubes fill these letters as well. Extending from the bottom of the sign is a small rectangle with the building number “807” painted in black.

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

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

9. Non-neon treatments: Paint

10. Animation: No

11. Environment (surrounding properties, neighborhood): The area that this restaurant sits is right between the Arts District and the excitement of Fremont Street. Its immediate area is completely unassuming; the only properties that are located nearby are places for bail bonds and supply stores for gaming, lawn equipment, and discount appliances. It is also a short distance from the North Premium Outlets.

Artistic Context

1. Manufacturer: N/A

2. Designer: Architect of Record: N/A

3. Date of Installation: 1950’s

4. Date(s) of any major redesign/move: Possibly 2014, they closed this year to renovate the building and the sign looks different today from earlier images of the sign. Before they renovated the building the sign included some sort of striped scarf/cloth underneath the sombrero. However, after the renovation this must have been painted over.

5. Thematic Influence (design elements found on similar signs, elements related to the property, linkage to previous themes, trends, context): The sombrero on the sign also lends itself to the name of the property and the “Mexican Food” sign within the sign explicitly tells you what type of restaurant this is. It tells you the theme right away.

6. Artistic Significance (themes and representation, era: time and design, trends, context): The sign itself is very simple, but the few specific design elements of the sign are very distinct to the property. The sombrero is a nice touch to emphasize the name of the restaurant and the “Mexican Food” sign is helpful in letting both motorists and pedestrians know what type of food they serve.

Surveyor Notes

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

Las Vegas weekly article <https://lasvegasweekly.com/dining/reviews/2014/nov/19/revamped-el-sombrero-cafe-mexican-downtown/> ,

Review Journal article <https://www.reviewjournal.com/local/el-sombrero-a-mix-of-modern-classic/>, asessor’s page

2. Research notes

3. Any other relevant surveyor remarks

Surveyor Lauren Vaccaro Date 8/28/2017

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