Neon Sign Survey

Description of sign(s)

1. Name: Aruba Hotel

2. Owner: 1215 Las Vegas Blvd LLC; C. F. Saticoy, LP

3. Address: 1215 Las Vegas Boulevard South, Las Vegas, NV 89104

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

The building was constructed in 1964 (Assessor). A vintage postcard from 1967 shows the Lotus Inn Motel and a Sambo’s restaurant (VintageVegas.com, 2017). The hotel was renamed the Monte Carlo Inn in 1979, but reverted in the 1980’s to the Lotus Inn (VintageVegas, 2017). In 1985, it became the Tally Ho (VintageVegas). Casino owner Bob Stupak renamed it the Thunderbird in 1986 or 1987 (VintageVegas). Stupak proposed building 15-story, $400 million resort hotel called the Titanic on the site, but vocal opposition from residents of the nearby John S. Park neighborhood and a trademark controversy derailed the project (Knightly, 2014). The property was renamed the Aruba Hotel in the early 2000’s and became the Thunderbird in 2016 (O’Brien, 2016; VintageVegas). As of April 2017, a 15-story residential building was planned for the site (Carter, 2017).

4. Condition (1-5 scale, with 5 being excellent, written description):

Condition is 5, excellent. The lower portion of the sign is wrapped in plastic. The exposed upper portion of the sign shows the cabinet, paint and neon all in new condition. All of the neon tubes are intact and functioning.

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

Blade sign

6. Specific Description:

The lower portion of the rectangular metal cabinet is wrapped in black plastic. “THUNDERBIRD” is spelled out in white blocks and red serif letters which run vertically down both sides of the plastic wrap.

The upper portion of the cabinet is exposed. The cabinet is topped by a parrot shape facing the street. The parrot and visible part of the rectangular cabinet are painted forest green. Both sides of the parrot are covered in white, blue, pink, yellow and green skeleton neon. Underneath the parrot, a horizontal yellow skeleton neon tube is visible.

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

The visible portion of the sign contains neon tubing

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

The visible portion of the sign is steel.

10. Animation: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

11. Environment (surrounding properties, neighborhood): East Fremont Street

Las Vegas Blvd. north of the Las Vegas Strip

Artistic Context

1. Manufacturer: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2. Designer: Architect of Record: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3. Date of Installation:

An online article published in 2007 notes the Aruba’s new sign (Zeitzer, 2007). A photograph from 2012 shows the unwrapped sign to be the same as the visible portion of the current sign (VegasSeven, 2012).

4. Date(s) of any major redesign/move:

5. Thematic Influence (design elements found on similar signs, elements related to the property, linkage to previous themes, trends, context):

Tropical, Caribbean and Old Vegas. The parrot on top of the sign closely resembles the symbol of the former Thunderbird hotel on the Las Vegas Strip. The property has used the Thunderbird name intermittently since the 1980’s, even when it was the Aruba hotel and the word “THUNDERBIRD” appeared over an “aruba” sign. (Vegas24Seven, 2012)

6. Artistic Significance (themes and representation, era: time and design, trends, context):

Surveyor Notes

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

Carter, J. (2017 April 27). Fights are brewing over a proposed 15-story building downtown. Las Vegas Weekly. Retrieved from https://lasvegasweekly.com/intersection/2017/apr/27/fights-are-brewing-over-proposed-building-downtown/

Clark County Assessor, Parcel No. 162-03-112-029. Retrieved from http://www.clarkcountynv.gov/assessor/Pages/PropertyRecords.aspx?H=redrock&P=assrrealprop/pcl.aspx

Knightly, A. M. (2014 August 31). A history of landmarks never built. Las Vegas Review Journal. Retrieved from https://www.reviewjournal.com/news/a-history-of-landmarks-never-built/

O’Brien, J. (2016 January 21). Thunderbird Hotel reopening with former Arts Factory owner at helm. Retrieved from http://vegasseven.com/2016/01/21/thunderbird-hotel-reopens/ http://www.vegas24seven.com/substance-cd-release-sinicle-the-great-circuiting-mechanical-death-a-sinners-confession-at-the-aruba-hotel-saturday-june-30th/

Vegas24Seven.com. (2012). Substance CD Release, Sinicle, The Great Circuiting, Mechanical Death, A Sinners Confession at The Aruba Hotel Saturday June 30th. Retrieved from

Vintage Vegas. (2017 February 16). Archive: Lotus Inn Motel, c. 1967. Retrieved from http://vintagelasvegas.com/post/157345077754/lotus-inn-las-vegas

Zeitzer, I. (2007 June 29). On The One, The Aruba Hotel – Las Vegas, NV- 6/22. Retrieved from http://www.jambands.com/reviews/shows/2007/06/29/on-the-one-the-aruba-hotel-las-vegas-nv-6-22#ixzz4rBUwxlkh

2. Research notes

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3. Any other relevant surveyor remarks

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Surveyor Date

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