NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018

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NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

167

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. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name **The Coffee Pot Restaurant**

other names/site number Bob's Java Jive

2. Location

street & number 2101 South Tacoma Way ☐ not for publication

city or town Tacoma ☐ vicinity

state WA code WA county PIERCE code 053 zip code 98409

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this _X_ 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 _X_ 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** _X_ **C** __ **D**

Allyn M 2-28-14

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

WASHINGTON STATE SHPO

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property __ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official Date

Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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:)

for Edson W. Beall 4.21.14

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

The Coffee Pot Restaurant / Bob's Java Jive
Name of Property

Pierce County, WA
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- [X] private
- [ ] public - Local
- [ ] public - State
- [ ] public - Federal

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

- [X] building(s)
- [ ] district
- [ ] site
- [ ] structure
- [ ] object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		district
		site
		structure
		object
1		**Total**

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

None

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/TRADE: Restaurant

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/TRADE: Restaurant

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

No Style

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: CONCRETE
walls: STUCCO
roof: ASPHALT
other:

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Located in the Nalley Valley below State Route 16, in Tacoma, Washington, The Coffee Pot Restaurant / Bob's Java Jive is a unique roadside attraction. Constructed 1930, the building faces north along South Tacoma Way (formerly US Route 99), which originally served as the main southern entry to the City of Tacoma. The building rests at the northeast corner of the lot at the intersection of South Tacoma Way and Ferry Street. It was designed in the mimetic or programmatic style of architecture, and is shaped like 1920s stovetop coffeepot.

The coffeepot stands approximately twenty-five feet tall with a diameter of twenty-eight feet at the base. It is a two-storey wood framed structure with an exterior of smooth stucco. The circular pot tapers inward as it moves up towards the roofline. The roof consists of a shallow, overhanging rim and round central peak resembling a coffee pot lid. The rim originally had round edges, which are now squared off, likely to hide the electrical cables for the exterior neon accent lights that were added at a later time. The slightly rounded peak of the roof is topped with a round ball, designed to resemble a knob.

The pouring spout and handle are approximately twenty feet tall. The spout starts approximately three-and-a-halt feet above the base of the coffee pot on the east side of the building and curls out to a "V" cut opening. The handle, on the opposite side, arches in a half heart design to a point about three and a half feet above the ground. Both features extend no higher than the rim of the roof.

The windows, placed symmetrically on the main façade, are one-over-one double hung vinyl. The first floor contains six windows, while the second floor has five windows.

The single door entry is recessed and is highlighted by an arched pediment supported on solid wall pilasters. The pediment is arched with flared ends and has a slight overhang. The main entry door is a half lite paneled door.

At the rear of the building is a large one story addition. Extending 15' wide x 55' long, the structure was originally built in 1940 as a one-story banquet hall. Shortly thereafter a second floor was added housing three apartments. Its present one-story configuration is the result of a fire in 1996. The rear wing, constructed of CMU block has a gable roof covered in asphalt shingles. Windows on the east façade have been covered with plywood. To the rear and NE corner, small shed style additions have been added.

Attached to the west façade of the rear addition is a 26' x 32' pool room added in 1956. This wood frame structure has a flat roof and a single fixed pane window on the west façade. The exterior is clad with T-1-11 siding.

Inside the Coffee Pot Restaurant/ Bob's Java Jive is a fest for the eyes, converted to a jungle theme in 1968. The first floor of the main coffee pot space contains an L-shaped bar with built in bar stools and small kitchen space. Covered from floor to ceiling in a variety of pictures, murals, stickers, toys and nick nack's, the main bar area is highlighted by leopard and tiger covered drawers and bar

panels. The ceiling boasts painted and applied stars as well as money, business cards and hand-written messages. A small, but efficient kitchen is located in the southeast corner, and beyond is a near ladder-like stair access to the second floor.

Upstairs is a small apartment divided into five spaces: bedroom/living room, closet, kitchen, bath, and entry landing. The walls are smooth plaster finish with some 50's era wallpaper. Moldings are original and have a simple design. The kitchen and bath area retain their original wooden plywood cabinets and cast iron sinks. A door thought the kitchen leads to a stair area that allows access to the roof of the rear wing.

The rear 1940s banquet wing contains a small raise stage area and several built-in booths. The dance floor is 12" sq. tiles. Walls and ceilings are painted a variety of colors and surfaces are covered in a variety of materials from plywood, acoustical panels, and salvaged wood. Décor, painted in neon, is found on multiple surfaces. The far south end of the wing contains small restrooms and an apartment which now serves as storage.

The pool room, added in 1956, has an open truss ceiling and features several murals depicting mountains and masted sailing ships. Painted by Bob Radonich, the murals are now covered in graffiti, bearing the signatures and messages from thousands of patrons. A simple brick fireplace with raise hearth and raised firebox is found on the west wall. This boasts as 1950s era Dodge truck window rain shield as a fireplace hood. The room has several built-in booths, stand-alone tables, a pool table, "cocktail table style" video games, and a pin-ball machine. Divided by a short half wall the room is open to the dance floor and stage area to the east. Surfaces are spray-painted with neon paint.

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.
- [x] 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.)

Property is:

- [ ] 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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1930 - 1964

Significant Dates

1930

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Smyser, Bert (Architect/Builder)

Minch, Carl (Builder)

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

The Coffee Pot Restaurant, constructed in 1930 in Tacoma, Washington is historically significant under criterion C as a property that embodies the distinctive characteristics of its type and period of construction. The period of significance for the property begins in 1930, the date of construction for the building, and ends in 1964, the 50 year cut-off date.

Built in response to the booming popularity of the automobile in the late 1920s, buildings like the Coffee Pot Restaurant were constructed to captivate potential customers. They were designed in the unique Programatic, or Mimetic style of architecture which conveyed the use or purpose of the building. Over the years, The Coffee Pot Restaurant (known as Bob's Java Jive since the mid 1950s), has become a prominent fixture in the Tacoma community.

The explosion of the automobile on the American scene required the development of roads and facilities to accommodate the growing numbers of motorists. A uniformed numbering system for roads was introduced in 1925 and by 1930 twenty-three million cars were registered in the United States. In Washington State alone the number of registered vehicles nearly quadrupled in ten years from just 186,827 in 1920 to 462,568 in 1930. By 1949, the number of licensed drivers in Washington State reached over 1.1 million.

In Pierce County the number of registered motor vehicles by 1930 reached 39,922 giving the Coffee Pot Restaurant plenty of potential customers. Further benefiting the customer base was the fact that the restaurant sat on US Route 99, the main north–south highway which extended from the Canadian to Mexico border.

As a popular road for motorists, Route 99 (now know South Tacoma Way through Tacoma) in Tacoma was no exception to a trend toward literalism in massive advertising in the early days of its existence. In fact, the stretch through Tacoma featured a variety of such buildings such as the "Tillicum Toy Company" a toy factory in the shape of castle; the "The Lemon Lunch" a restaurant boasting a large yellow lemon-shaped sign; the "Big Pump Service Station" which featuring a gas station resembling a colossal gas pump and flower pot shaped restrooms (located adjacent to the nominated building); the "XXX Barrel Restaurant" featuring two large root beer kegs on the roof; and the nominated Coffee Pot Restaurant.

Early roadside commerce consisted mainly of "Mom and Pop" establishments depending on the business of the passing traveler. These establishments competed with each other and highway speeds up to fifty miles per hour. The standard practice of hand painted advertising signs on the sides of buildings to attract customers was not enough to captivate potential customers. They needed more. The result often was massive whimsical buildings and sculptures designed to mimic what the business was selling. Thus the era of Mimetic roadside architecture, culture, and commerce was born.

Highly visible and usually humorous, these "roadside attractions" were designed to catch the eye of the passing motorist and entice potential customers. Mimetic architecture may take the form of objects not normally associated with buildings, such as characters, animals, people and/or household objects. Often these were constructed to advertise what was being sold at the establishment, some, more caricatures than exact replications of what they depicted. The basic idea was to draw travelers

in over plainer competing businesses. Later, towns even began constructing water towers and storage tanks in novel shapes to draw tourists.

Other examples of Mimetic architecture in Washington State include the Teapot Dome Service Station (1922) in Zillah, a reminder of the Teapot Dome scandals involving government oil reserves during President Warren G. Harding's administration; two Benewah Milk Bottles (1935) in Spokane, retail stores for dairy products; the Twin Teepee's Restaurant (1937, demolished); Sander's Igloo Restaurant (1940, demolished); and Hat 'n Boots Gas Station (1953) all in Seattle.

The Coffee Pot Restaurant is an early example. On August 2, 1929, Dr. Otis G. Button, a local veterinarian and civic booster purchased the lot of the nominated site for $10.00. Dr. Button then financed the construction of the nominated building as a business investment. Button was born in Streator, Illinois in 1888. He arrived in Tacoma in 1916 after his graduation from veterinary school at Washington State University and established the Button Veterinary Hospital with his brother, Reuben. Active in variety of business and civic affairs, Dr. Button was an enthusiastic member of the Metropolitan Park District for numerous years and was active in local Republican circles, serving two terms as chairman of the Pierce County Republican Central Committee. Button passed away in Olympia in 1956 at the age of 68.

Dr. Button hired local designer/contractor, and sometimes architect, Bert Smyser to construct the unusually shaped restaurant. Smyser began his career as a window dresser for the Kennedy Brothers Arcade in downtown Tacoma in 1909. His talents as a self-taught designer and fabricator were quickly recognized. Eventually he opened his own business, Smyser Display Service Inc., and during his career he created numerous displays, dioramas, floats and a limited number of buildings for businesses scattered across the south Puget Sound region.

Among his more noteworthy projects was the construction and development of the State of Washington's displays for the New York World's Fair (1939) and the Golden Gate International Exposition (1939) in San Francisco. Other projects include the interior decoration a B.H. Kennedy's used Car Showroom (1927); his own home, an all-plywood streamlined moderne style house (featured as the "House of the Tomorrow" for Tacoma's Better Housing Exposition of 1941); a conversion of his shop into a motel (Smyser Motel, located adjacent to nominated building); the Aplets & Cotlets float for the 1953 Portland Rose Festival Parade; and a grand Tacoma Exposition Hall (1941) which hosted a variety of events. Many of his projects feature Streamlined Moderne lines and his friends gave him the nickname "Bullnose."

Smyser also held a patent for an "Aerial-Rail Suspended Rapid Transit System" (1966); and served as the Vice President of the Pacific Coast Association of Display Men (1929). He passed away in Kirkland on February 14, 1987 at the age of 93.

Reportedly, the structure for the Coffee Pot Restaurant was built by Smyser in sections, and was then brought to the site and bolted together and then covered with a thick layer of stucco.

Quickly, the restaurant became a popular stopping place for both locals and tourist alike. Shortly after construction with prohibition in full swing, stories persist that the restaurant served as a speakeasy or "Blind Pig". Reportedly hard liquor and gambling flourished in the backroom, accessible only through a secret door in the ladies room.

Over the years, the restaurant changes hands many times. At least 10 different owners/proprietors ran the business from 1930 to 1954. The first proprietor was Rufus T. Wright. He owned the business for just a year, when William Baumgardner took over in 1931. Baumgardner sold the business in 1935, followed by a succession of several owners until Harold W. Elrod purchased the restaurant in 1940.

Elrod revamped the building, adding a new one-story rear wing. He also added live and "novelty" entertainment, and a dance floor to the building, as well as new bar and kitchen equipment. Elrod was particularly excited about providing "hobby horse" racing, which was a fad that had recently emerged from large hotels and nightclubs in California according to the Tacoma News Tribune. Elrod retained ownership until 1950. Per Polk directories, conversion into a tavern came in 1954 when Ralph Brink took ownership of the building.

A year later Robert "Bob" J. and Lylabell Radonich purchased the building and business. They renamed the business "Bob's Java Jive", after the 1940 hit *Java Jive* by the musical group the Ink Spots. Bob and Lylabell increasingly catered to a new audience in the form of operating the restaurant as a quasi music club. One of the early paid house bands (at $40 a night) was *The Ventures,* an instrumental surf band, who in the early 1960s went on to become one of the United States best-selling rock n' roll bands. As the business grew, so did the building. In 1957, Radonich added the "pool table" room to the west side of the Elrod's banquet hall. The hall became a stage and dance area, and the new wing housed pool tables, built in booths, and a fireplace made with a 1950s era Dodge truck sun/rain shield served as a fire hood. It was during this time that Radonich began adding tropical elements to the inside of the building.

By 1968 the backroom at Bob's Java Jive was officially converted into what is known as the "Jungle Room," complete with murals, Tiki heads and leopard patterned fabric. In 1978 they added a parrot and two Macaque monkeys, named "Java" and "Jive". The Radonich's built an outdoor enclosure onto the west side of the building for the chimps and viewing by the patrons was via a large window in the jungle room adjacent to the fireplace. The monkeys remained important fixtures at the restaurant until they were gifted to a caring family in South Carolina in 1986.

Over the years, the Coffee Pot Restaurant/ Bob's Java Jive has been home to all walks of life. It has served doctors, lawyers, students and bikers alike and has become a local landmark. Famous patrons include silent film comedian Harold Lloyd; Bing Crosby, who would stop by with his friends while in the Tacoma area; and Desi Arnaz Jr. who scribbled "Ricky Ricardo drank beer her" on one of the booths. The music group *Nirvana* also hung around Java Jive early in their formation. Reportedly they finally convinced owner Bob Radonich to let them play but within ten minutes of performing were kicked off the stage because Bob didn't like the music.

Lesser known, but perhaps equally famous in some circles is Sylvia Eads (1910-1996), known as "Granny Go-Go". After a suffering a stroke at the age of 53, Eads took up dancing at the Java Jive in 1967 to stay active. She went on to perform on the Gong Show (1980), The Merv Griffin Show, The Mike Douglas Show and The Jerry Lewis Telethon. Her photo also graces the first album cover of the alternative rock group *Girl Trouble*, who were also Java Jive fixtures from the 1960 to through the 80s.

Over the years, the building has taken on almost legendary status and has been featured in a variety of books including: The End of the Road: Vanishing Highway Architecture in America by John Margolies; Only in America: Some Unexpected Scenery by David Graham; Roadside Americana by

Eric Peterson; Weird Washington and Tacoma: Tomorrow's City – Today. The building has also been featured in a variety of movies including "Say Anything" (1989); the "Three Fugitives" (1989); "I Love You to Death" (1990); and "Ten Things I Hate About You".

In 1995, Danette M. Staatz, Bob Radonich's daughter, took over the business and today to operate the business. On April 23, 1996, a small fire, located on the second floor of the two-story rear wing shut down the business for a few months. It caused $3,000 worth of damage and the loss of the second story of the rear addition which included three apartments. After the fire, in 1999 artists Teddy Haggerty and Dan Richholt, with the help James Bledsoe, fixed up the main building and painted a jungle motif design on the rear addition.

Business at Java Jive was steady until in 1967 when the completion of Interstate 5 connecting Tacoma and Everett rerouted potential business away from the old Highway 99. The highway was converted into a local street and renamed South Tacoma Way. Warehouses, car dealerships and strip malls began to replace hotels, auto camps and restaurants. Today, the building is the one of the few remaining vestiges on the former highway and serves as a direct connection to its once prevalent roadside architectural past.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

"A.O. Hewitt Re-Elected: Portlander Again Chosen by Display Men" The Oregonian September 27, 1929.

"Bob's Java Jive Coffee Pot" Roadside America.com

"B.H. Kennedy's Used Car Place is Unique" The Tacoma Sunday Ledger October 9, 1927.

"Death Claims O.G. Button" The Tacoma News Tribune March 19, 1956.

"Dr. Otis G. Button" The Tacoma News Tribune November 8, 1930.

"Float Architects Prepare for Festival" The Oregonian June 11, 1953.

"Giant Containers: Coffee Pots" www.agilitynut.com

"Harold Elrod's Coffee Pot Restaurant Re-Opens Tomorrow Adds Dance Hall; Hobby Horse Racers Will Add to Gaiety" The Tacoma News Tribune April 19, 1940. pg 18.

"Housewife Is Slugged by Robber" The Tacoma Daily Ledger November 23, 1936. pg 1.

Liebs, Chester H. *Main Street to Miracle Mile: American Roadside Architecture*. Little, Brown & Company, Boston. 1985

Mitchell, Jocelyn. Tacoma Register of Historic Places Nomination Form. July 2003.

"Bert Smyser, 'The Display Man' Dies" The Tacoma News Tribune February 16, 1987.

Polk Directories: 1930 – 1956

"Preparing Washington Exhibits for 1939 World's Fair" Seattle Daily Times November 27, 1938.

Rosin, Elizabeth & Martha Bowers: *Historic Context for Evaluation of Commercial Roadside Architecture*, Delaware Department of Transportation - 1992

"Seattle, Renton Men Get Year In Tax Evasion" Seattle Daily Times August 12, 1954.

"Smyser's Swingin' Hall Had It All" The Tacoma News Tribune November 10, 1974.

"Smyser Off To Set Up State Exhibit in N.Y." Seattle Daily Times March 13, 1939.

"The House of Tomorrow is Here Today" The Tacoma News Tribune February 14, 1941. pg B22.

Teaching with Historic Places – Roadside Attractions: http://www.cr.nps.gov/nR/twhp/wwwlps/lessons/6roadside/6roadside.htm

U.S. Patent No. 3,244,113 – April 1966 – Bert Smyser: Suspended Aerial Rail, Rapid Transit System.

"19 in Tacoma U.S. Court Deny Guilt" Seattle Daily Times March 12, 1953.

Deed Record #516 – Otis Button – August 2, 1929.

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:

_X_State Historic Preservation Office
____Other State agency
____Federal agency
____Local government
____University
____Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

10. Geographical Data

The Coffee Pot Restaurant / Bob's Java Jive
Name of Property

Pierce County, WA
County and State

Acreage of Property Less than one acre
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References ____NAD 1927 or ____NAD 1983

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1				3			
2				4			

Or Latitude/Longitude Coordinates
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

	Latitude	Longitude		Latitude	Longitude
1	47°13'54.18"N	122°27'52.14"W	3		
2			4		

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The nominated area is located in Section 07, Township 20, Range 03 in Pierce County, Washington. It is legally decribed as Lots 1-3 of the Prescott Park Addition in Tacoma, WA. It is otherwise identified as Tax Lot No. 7005000170 at the said location.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The nominated property encompasses the entire urban tax lot that is occupied by the Coffee Pot Resturant / Bob's Java Jive.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Danette Staaz (Adapted from local landmark nomination by Jocelyn Mitchell) Edited by DAHP Staff
organization _____ date November 2013
street & number 822 97th Street E telephone (253) 535-1019
city or town Tacoma state WA zip code 98445
e-mail _____

Additional Documentation

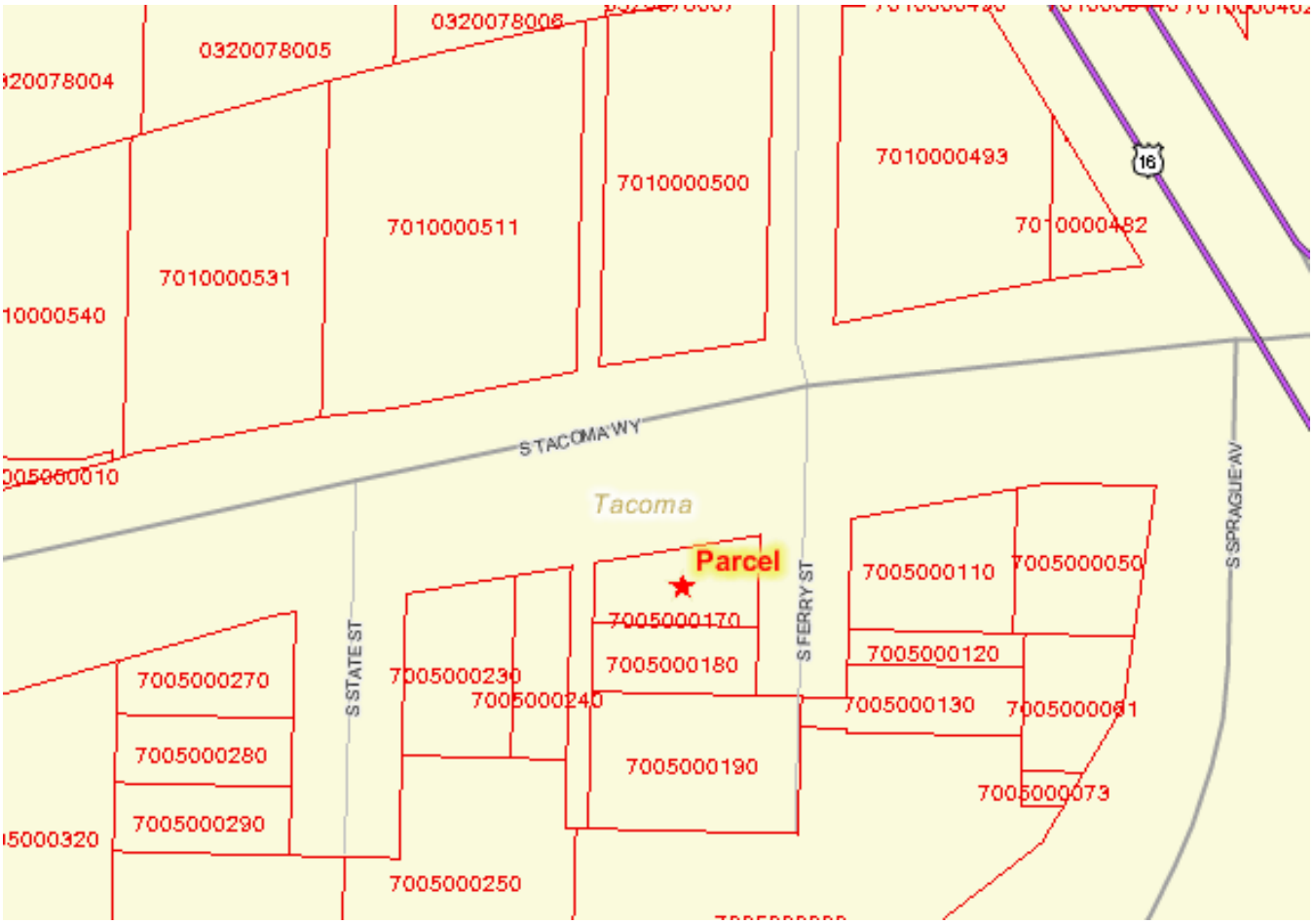
Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

  A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

- **Continuation Sheets**

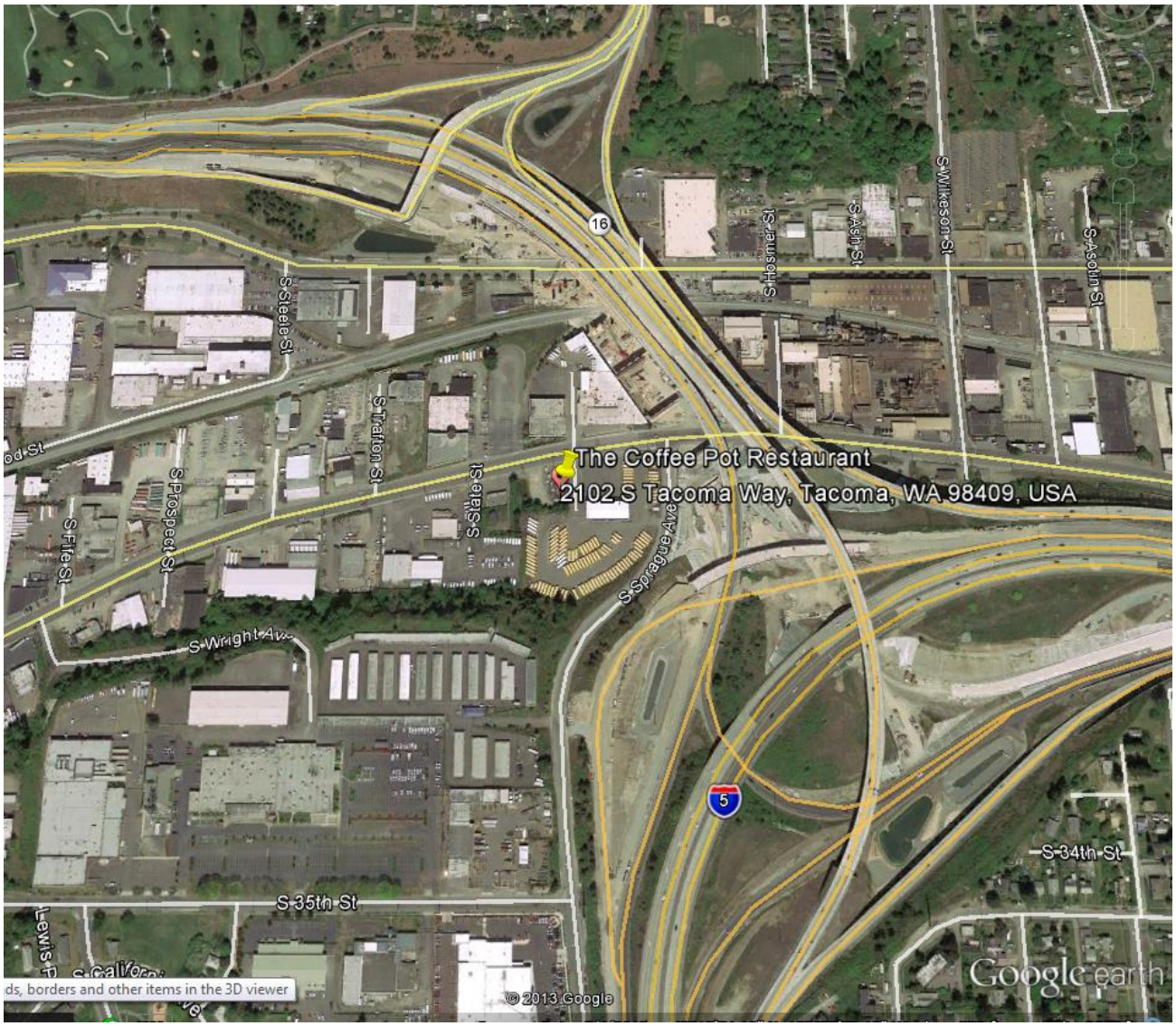
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)



THE COFFEE POT / BOB'S JAVA JIVE
Parcel Map
Parcel #: 7005000170
Site Address: 2102 S TACOMA WY
Section 07 Township 20 Range 03 Quarter 44 PRESCOTT PARK: PRESCOTT PARK L 1 THRU 3 B 3

The Coffee Pot Restaurant / Bob's Java Jive
Name of Property

Pierce County, WA
County and State



1 47°13'54.18"N 122°27'52.14"W
Latitude Longitude

2 _____ _____
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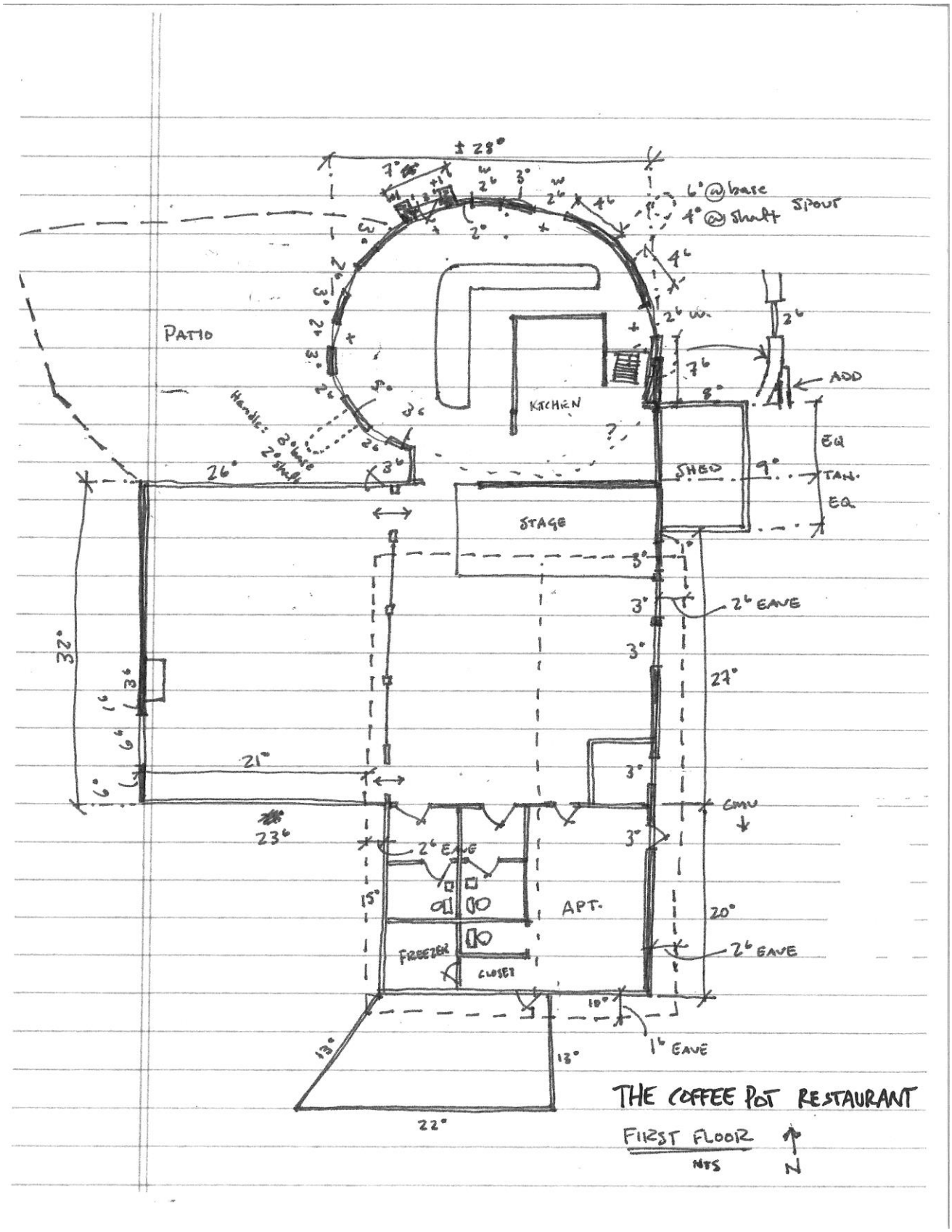
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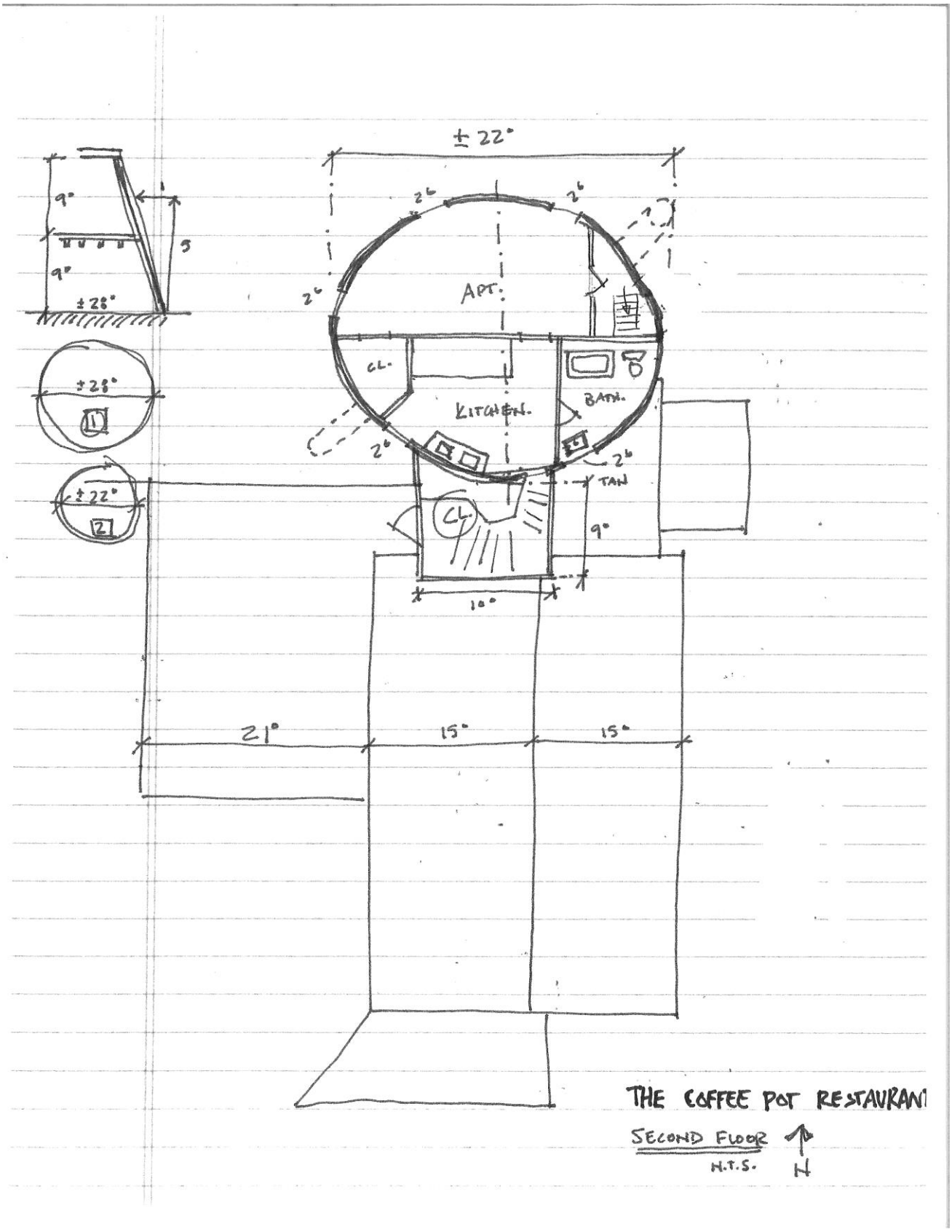
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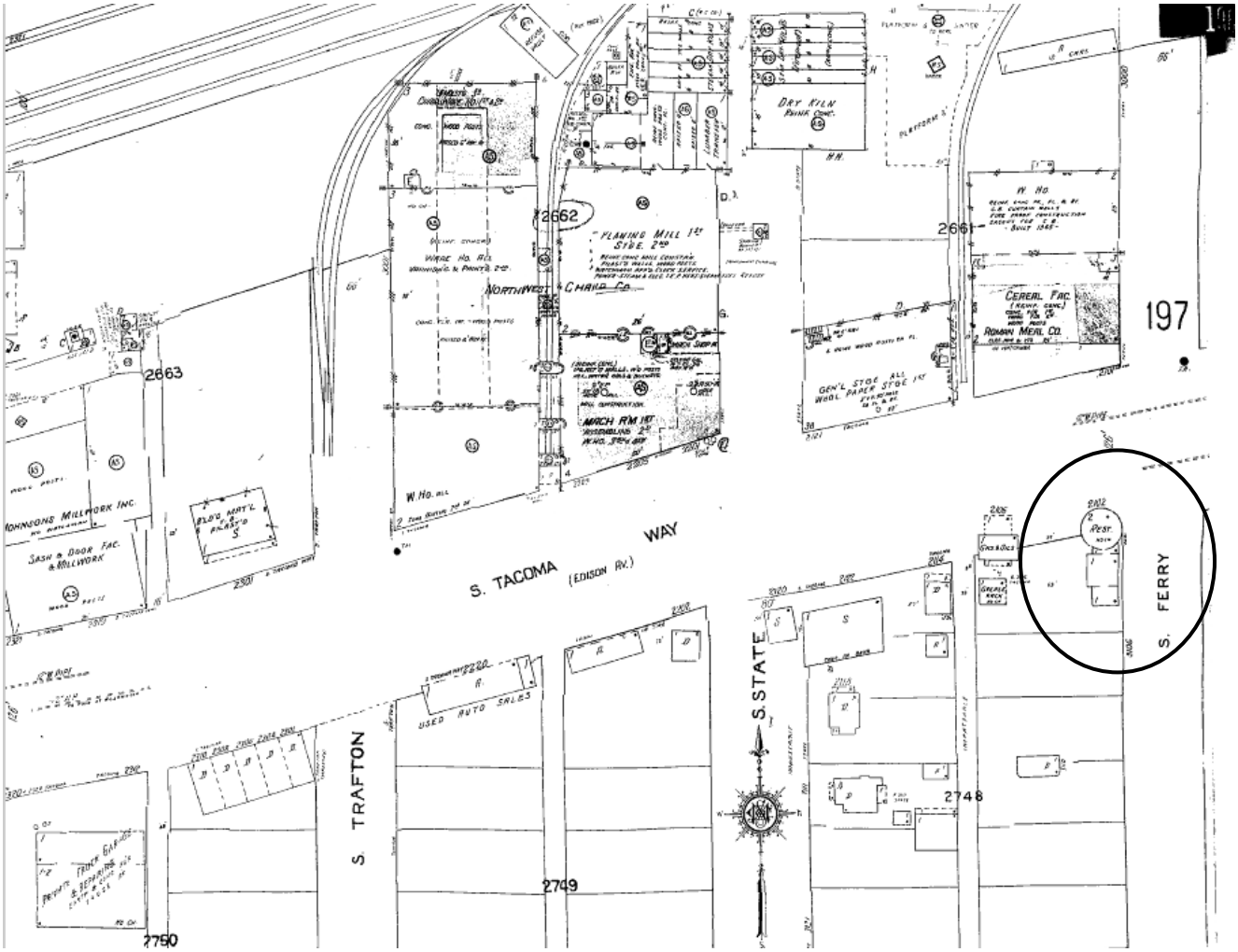
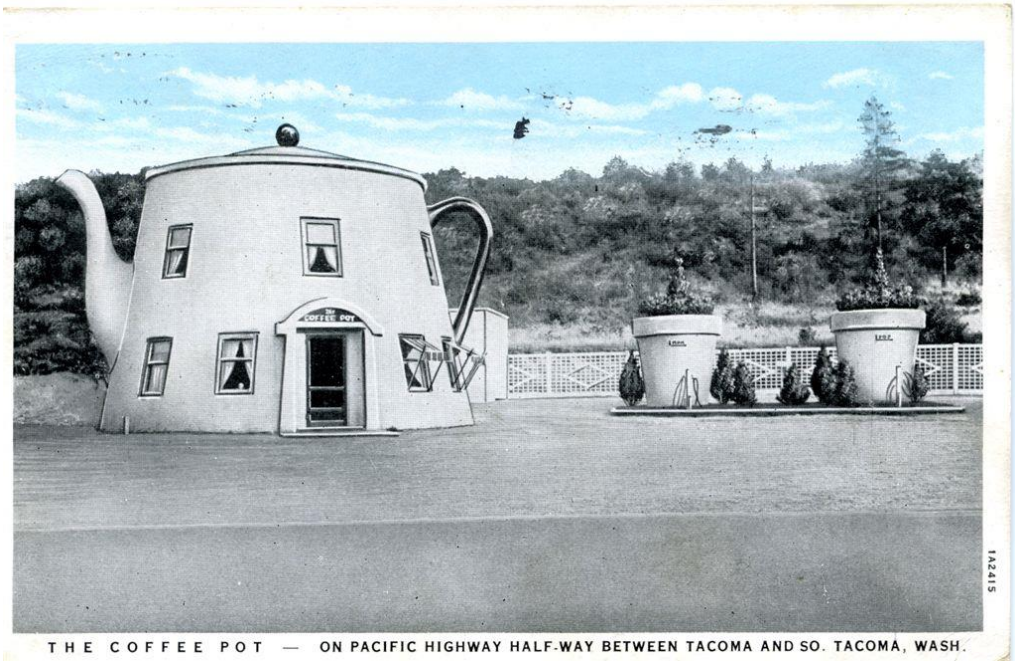
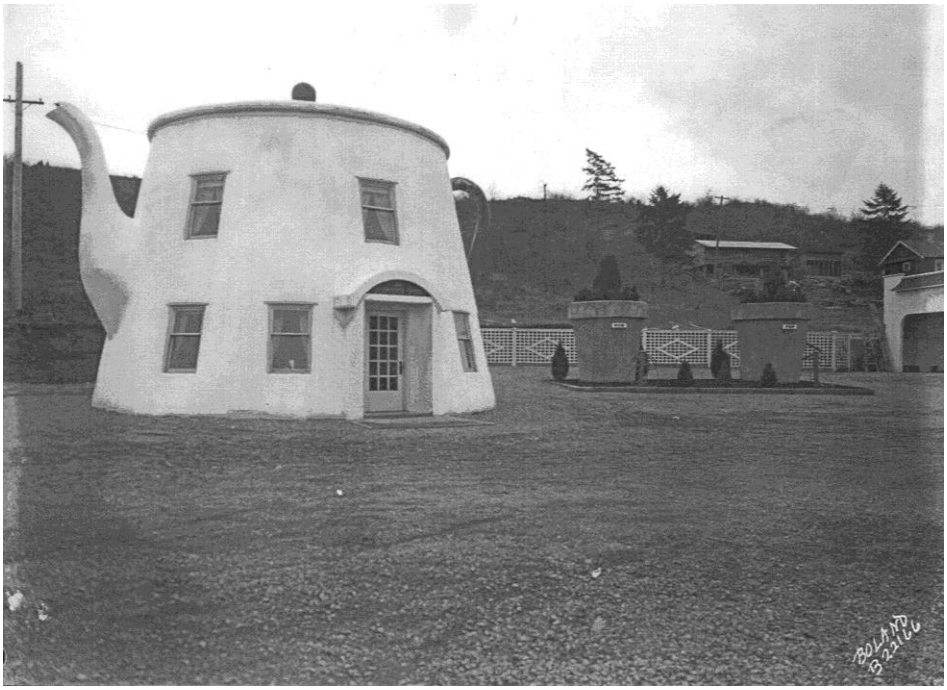


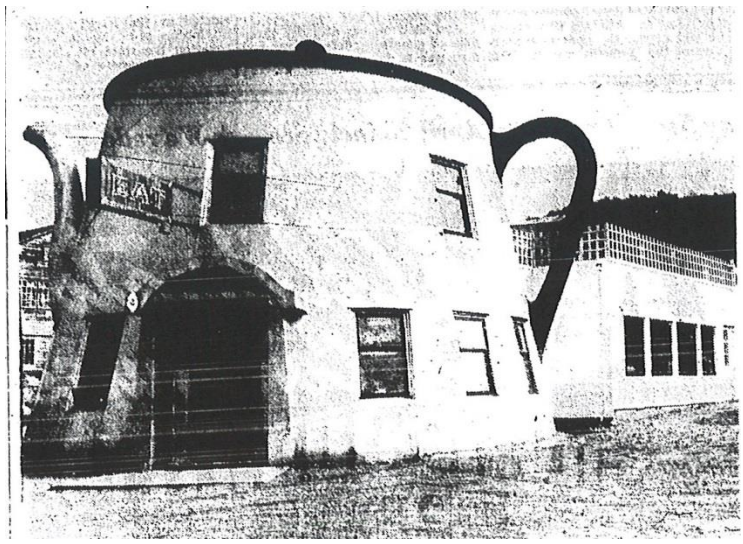
THE COFFEE POT / BOB'S JAVA JIVE:
Sanborn Map
Tacoma 1912-Apr. 1950 vol. 2, 1912-Feb. 1950, Sheet 196



Postcard showing the Coffee Pot Restaurant
and adjacent flower pot restrooms associated with gas station, c. 1932



The Coffee Pot Restaurant, flower pot restrooms in foreground, March 7, 1930



"Harold Elrods' Coffee Pot Restaurant Re-Opens Tomorrow", Tacoma News Tribune, April 19, 1940

Announcing . . . the GRAND Opening OF TACOMA'S Newest Place to Dine and Dance

FRIDAY
—APRIL 19TH—

Make a Date and Visit—
Harold Elrod's

COFFEE POT RESTAURANT — and — TAVERN

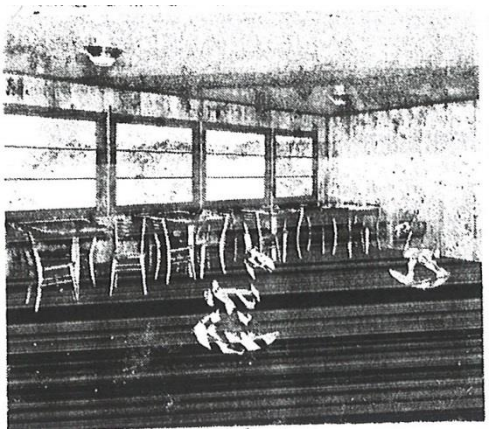
Featuring: Breakfast— Lunch—Dinners—Dancing

2102 So. TACOMA WAY

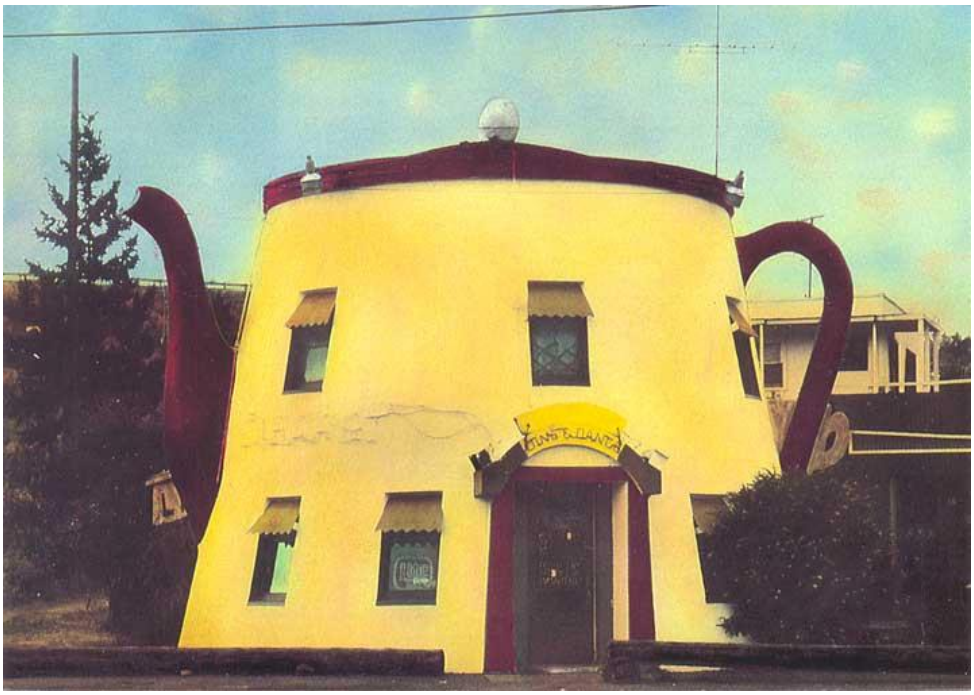
DON'T FAIL TO SEE THE NEWEST NOVELTY IN THE WORLD OF ENTERTAINMENT—THE SENSATION OF CALIFORNIA'S LEADING NIGHT CLUBS AND HOTELS, "HAROLD LLOYD'S HOBBY HORSES"

OUR SPECIALTY
THICK JUICY STEAKS
A thick steak, well done, rare or medium, to suit you just right! Big appetites are our specialty and all we want is the chance to serve you once . . . you'll come again.
Special - - - - 65c

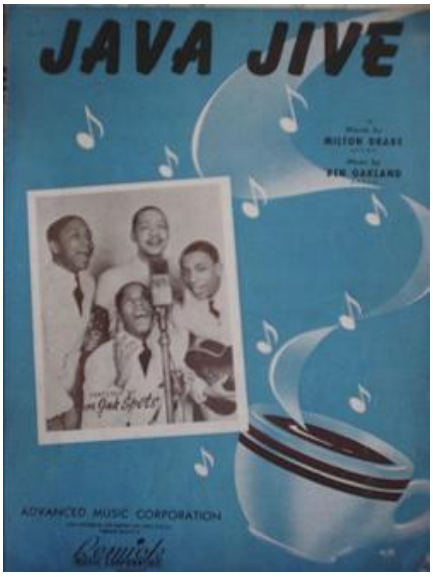
WE ARE PROUD of a job well done. Our facilities for serving and entertaining have been more than tripled. A new dance hall has been added with the latest "Century of Progress" flooring and up-to-the-minute equipment. We want everyone to give us their stamp of approval. Visit us on opening night—tomorrow. Dine, dance and ride our new "Hobby Horses". NO COVER CHARGE.

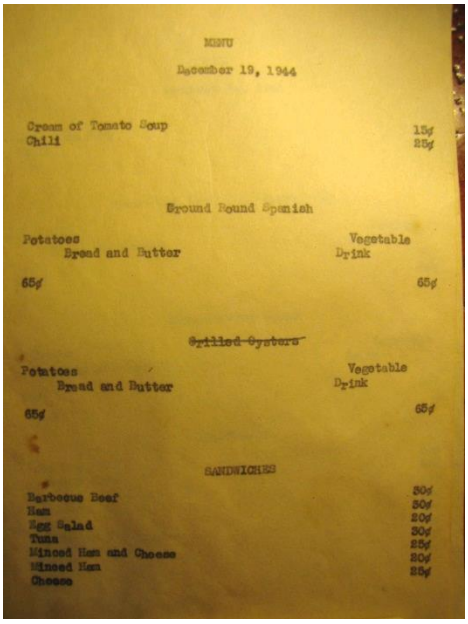


"Harold Elrods' Coffee Pot Restaurant Re-Opens Tomorrow", Tacoma News Tribune, April 19, 1940
Left: Advertisement; Right: Hobby Horse Racers inside new rear wing.



Postcard showing the Coffee Pot Restaurant, c. 1945, note rear second floor apartments.





MENU

December 19, 1944

Cream of Tomato Soup 15¢
Chili 25¢

Ground Round Spanish

Potatoes Vegetable
Bread and Butter Drink

65¢ 65¢

~~Grilled Oysters~~

Potatoes Vegetable
Bread and Butter Drink

65¢ 65¢

SANDWICHES

Barbecue Beef 30¢
Ham 30¢
Egg Salad 20¢
Tuna 30¢
Minced Ham and Cheese 25¢
Minced Ham 20¢
Cheese 25¢

Left: Java Jive sheet music, The Ink Spots, recorded in 1940, reached No.15 on Billboard's Hot 100
Right: Coffee Pot Restaurant Menu – December 19, 1944

Publicity photo of the Tacoma based rock group "The Ventures" – house band at Bob's Java Jive, April 26, 1960
Left to right: Nole F. (Nokie) Edwards, Bob Bogle, drummer Howie Johnson and Don Wilson.

Macaque monkeys "Java & Jive" (mother and daughter) from the Jungle Room , c. 1980

Bob's Java Jive, c. 1979 – note two-story rear wing.

"I Love You to Death" movie scene with River Phoenix (actor) and Bob Radonich (owner of Bob's Java Jive) – Tacoma News Tribune, May 18, 1989

Left: Danette Staaz, Go-Go dancer at Java Jive – June 1971. Right: Sylvia Eads aka "Granny Go-Go" – June 1968

Left: "Smyser Off To Set Up State Exhibit in N.Y.", Seattle Daily Times – March 13, 1939
Right: Dioramas under construction at Bert Smyser's, Smyser Display Service, four of eight animated dioramas for the 1939 World's Fairs in San Francisco (February) and New York (April), Tacoma Times, January 6, 1939

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: The Coffee Pot Restaurant
City or Vicinity: Tacoma
County: Peirce County **State:** WA

Photographer: Michael Houser
Date Photographed: December 2013

The Coffee Pot Restaurant – Main elevation:
1 of 19.

The Coffee Pot Restaurant – East elevation, showing spot detail:
2 of 19.

The Coffee Pot Restaurant – East elevation, showing part of rear additions:
3 of 19.

The Coffee Pot Restaurant – West elevation, handle detail:
4 of 19.

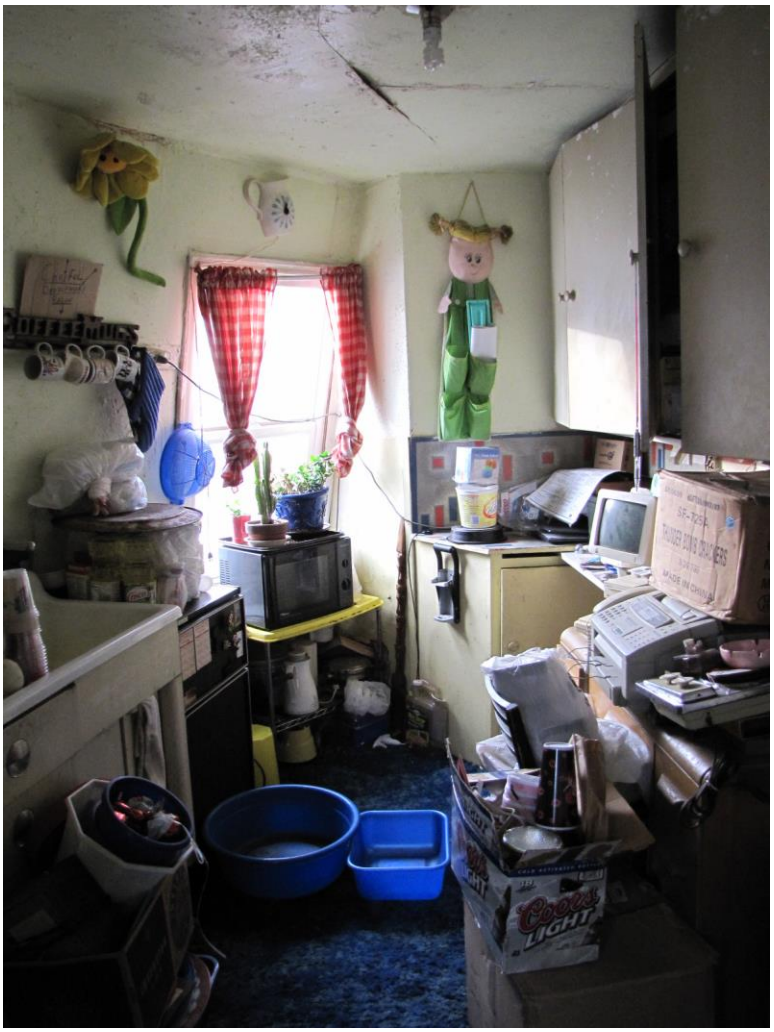
The Coffee Pot Restaurant – West elevation, showing rear additions:
5 of 19.

The Coffee Pot Restaurant – South elevation, showing rear additions:
6 of 19.

The Coffee Pot Restaurant – Interior Mural by Robert J. Radonich
7 of 19.

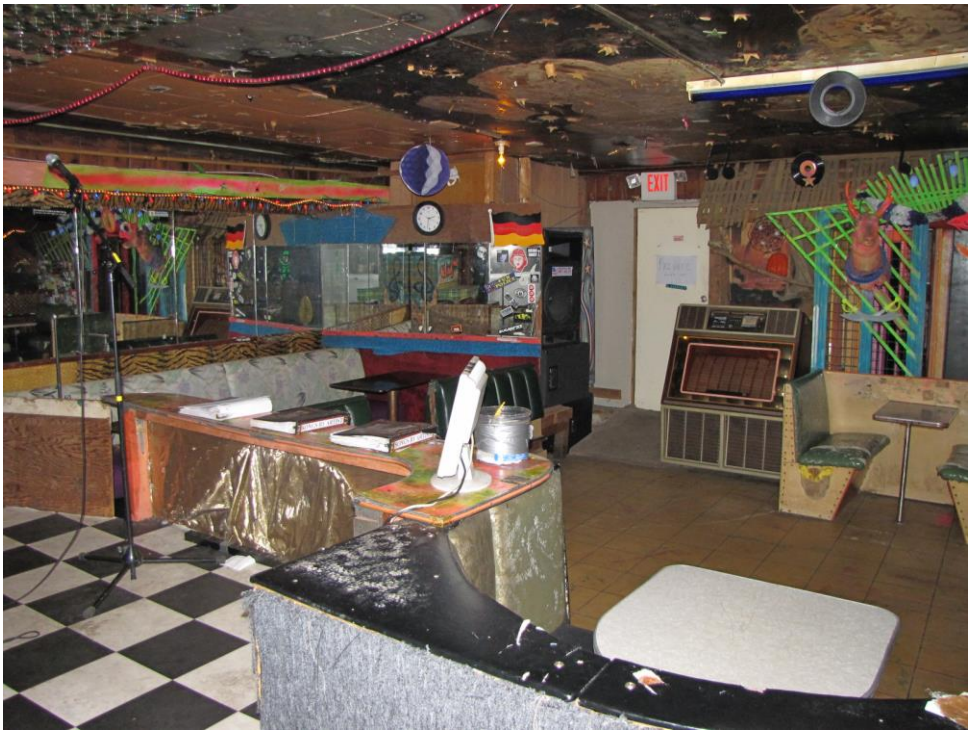
The Coffee Pot Restaurant – Interior, Main bar
8 of 19.

The Coffee Pot Restaurant – Interior, 2nd floor bedroom
9 of 19.



The Coffee Pot Restaurant – Interior, 2nd floor kitchen
10 of 19.

The Coffee Pot Restaurant – Interior, coffee pot, main entry on right
11 of 19.



The Coffee Pot Restaurant – Interior, rear wing, dance floor area.
12 of 19.

The Coffee Pot Restaurant – Interior, pool table room.
13 of 19.

The Coffee Pot Restaurant – Interior, raise stage area and dance floor.
14 of 19.

The Coffee Pot Restaurant – Interior, Pool table area showing booths and wall murals.
15 of 19.

The Coffee Pot Restaurant – Interior, View from Pool table area into dance floor area.
16 of 19.

The Coffee Pot Restaurant – Interior, Detail of Jungle room mural.
17 of 19.

The Coffee Pot Restaurant – Interior, ceiling of main bar area.
18 of 19.

The Coffee Pot Restaurant – Interior, Jungle room mural in tea pot at entry to rear wing.
19 of 19.

The Coffee Pot Restaurant / Bob's Java Jive
Name of Property

Pierce County, WA
County and State

Property Owner: (Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name [redacted]

street & number [redacted] telephone [redacted]

city or town [redacted] state [redacted] zip code [redacted]

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 18 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.

WORLD FAMOUS
BOB'S JAVA JIVE
COLD BEER
2102

WORLD
BOB'S J

ALLEY HEATED ST

S
IVE

JIVE
ALSCO

ARABIAN
ARABIAN
R.J.R.
BOB'S JAVA JIVE

DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE
WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO REFUSE SERVICE TO ANYONE
A WISE MONKEY NEVER MONKEYS WITH ANOTHER MONKEY'S MONKEY
BOTTLED WATER
STOP here for ID check
SALOON
JUNGLE ROOM

Vigoro
Garden Cart
26
107 - 892

COFFEE MUGS
SF-725
MADE IN CHINA
Coors
LIGHT

MAXIMUM OCCUPANCY 96 PERSONS
EXIT
Rooms For Rent
TWO CAR GARAGE
NO SMOKING
PULL
A REAL ON A BUN
BIG BUCK BURGER

EXIT

Rainier
WARNING
Security
Cameras In Use
JAVA JIVE!

Bobb
Java Jive
AUDIOGRAPHIX

TERRORIST
420 911
2.10.07
THE CAVE
ALL KINZ
♡ SHOANI LOVES NICOLE ♡
PARALLEL ROCKS
366

ENTER THE
JUNGLE
ROOM

WANTED
DANNY
EVANGER
IF YOUR NAME
ISN'T FELIX,
Get out of the
Seat Below this
sign!!!
Brandie
Halo
STEVE
SCHUTT
Danny
is
STAR

ENTER THE
JUNGLE
ROOM