

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Bono's Restaurant & Deli
Name of Property
San Bernardino, CA
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number   4   Page   1  

**Bono's Restaurant and Deli  
San Bernardino County, CALIFORNIA 07001353**

PROPOSED MOVE APPROVED

*[Signature]*  
Keeper of the National Register

*12/23/13*

Date

LSA

LSA ASSOCIATES, INC.  
1500 IOWA AVENUE, SUITE 200  
RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA 92507

951.781.9310 TEL  
951.781.4277 FAX

OTHER OFFICES: FORT COLLINS  
IRVINE BERKELEY  
PT. RICHMOND ROCKLIN  
SAN LUIS OBISPO CARLSBAD  
PALM SPRINGS FRESNO

June 4, 2013

Mr. Jay Correia, State Historian III  
Supervisor, Registration Unit  
California State Office of Historic Preservation  
1725 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, Suite 100  
Sacramento, California 95816

Subject: Request for Approval to Relocate Bono's Restaurant and Deli, San Bernardino County,  
California (LSA Project No. APG1301)

Dear Mr. Correia:

On behalf of Alere Property Group (Alere) and Joe Bono, owner of Bono's Restaurant and Deli, LSA Associates, Inc. (LSA) is requesting approval to relocate Bono's Restaurant and Deli located at 15395 Foothill Boulevard, in the vicinity of Fontana, San Bernardino County, California (Figure 1). The property was listed in the National Register of Historic Places (National Register) in 2008 and the owners would like to maintain that listing after the move. Therefore, pursuant to 36 CFR 60.14(b), LSA is submitting background information regarding the historic property, a written explanation for the proposed move, records search information regarding the potential archaeological sensitivity of the proposed relocation site, photographs of the current and proposed locations, and existing and proposed site plans. It is our hope that this request will receive your support and, as we previously discussed, be scheduled for review by the State Historical Resources Commission at its August 2, 2013, meeting.

### Historic Property Background<sup>1</sup>

According to the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, Bono's Restaurant and Deli is significant at the local level under Criterion A as a commercial property with high integrity that is associated with Route 66 (Exhibits A and B). Its period of significance is 1943 to 1956, which encompasses the period when it was expanded from a roadside produce stand to a restaurant to the year the Federal-Aid Highway Act was passed. The historic property consists of Bono's Restaurant and Deli and the adjacent parking lot, which was an important and necessary feature for accommodating automobile travelers during the period of significance. The 1980s hallway addition, the 19<sup>th</sup> century house, and the three-car garage are considered non-contributing features.

Bono's roadside produce stand was established in 1936, ten years after construction of Route 66 began (1926) and two years before its paving was reported complete (1938). At the time, Bono's vineyards were struggling and the stand was a way to help make ends meet. Since the nearby city of Fontana was still very small, Bono's roadside stand was largely dependent on those passing by on

<sup>1</sup> Unless otherwise cited, information in this section is from the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form for Bono's Restaurant and Deli prepared by Laura Vanaski in March 2007 and attached as Exhibit A.

Route 66 (now Foothill Boulevard). During Bono's early years, it is estimated that more than 200,000 people used Route 66 as an escape route from the Dust Bowl states. Between 1940 and 1943, passenger rail service was limited by the war effort and Route 66 and other highways saw an increase in traffic.

To accommodate the demands of increased travelers, truckers, and the growing resident population of nearby Fontana, in 1943 Bono's expanded into a full-service restaurant. The roadside market was expanded to the south and west and the open archway façade was enclosed with glass. An addition was constructed of wood framing and sheathed in white stucco and light green tile to match the original market façade. Space was added to accommodate counter service meals, a take-out deli, a full-service kitchen, and storage space while the old market space was converted into a dining area. A restroom building was also added to the property.

That same year (1943), advertising elements were added to the building to draw the attention of passing motorists. These included large signs on the street-facing elevations, red and green stripes painted on the white stucco indicating the type of cuisine, and decorative grape vines mounted on the exterior columns to advertise one of the establishment's original products: wine. These types of decorative, advertising elements were typical of businesses along Route 66.

In the 1930s, the section of road along which Bono's is located was home to a proliferation of small markets and fruit stands, but by 1943 Bono's, was one of only a few remaining. The restaurant's ability to evolve with changing times was key to its survival. Also helping with Bono's success was the growth of nearby Fontana. In 1942, Kaiser Steel located its West Coast operations in Fontana, attracting numerous new workers and residents to the area. Many of these were Italian immigrants who had worked in mills on the East Coast. Bono's took advantage of this increased demand for Italian foods and products, becoming an important social hub for the immigrant community. This new customer base helped sustain Bono's after the Federal-Aid Highway Act was passed in 1956 and when Route 66 was bypassed by Interstate 10 in the following decades.

Over the years, many of the other businesses that lined this stretch of Route 66 closed and, in many cases, the buildings were eventually demolished. However, Bono's continued to survive, making few alterations to the 1943 building. In the 1970s, plywood paneling was added to the exterior in a style typical of that period and in the 1980s, a single-story 19<sup>th</sup> century house was joined to the restaurant by constructing an enclosed hallway between them. The house is located to the south of the property and is not visible from Foothill Boulevard/Route 66. In 2006, owner Joe Bono removed the 1970s wood paneling, revealing the original tile and stucco.

Bono's remained a thriving business until 2006 when Mrs. Frances Bono, the original chef, passed away. The restaurant is currently closed, but the owner plans to reopen it after it is relocated.

### **Explanation for Proposed Move**

Bono's Restaurant and Deli currently sits within the designated right-of-way (ROW) for both Foothill Boulevard (former Route 66) and Sultana Avenue (Figure 2). Sultana Avenue at the intersection is a partially built street with no ROW asphalt or curb and gutter. The restaurant's proximity to the street coupled with the lack of street improvements on Sultana has led to several incidences of vehicles hitting the restaurant while attempting to make the turn from Foothill onto Sultana. More specifically,

the building has been hit five times by truck drivers attempting to make the turn at the intersection. Fortunately, the building has not suffered any structural damage as a result of these accidents even though it sits only 15 feet from the current path of travel.

In order to protect the restaurant and allow for improvements to the intersection, the building is proposed to be relocated approximately 15 feet west and 20 feet south of its current location within the existing restaurant property (Figure 2). The relocation would entail lifting the building off its foundations and temporarily setting it on structural members before creating a new basement space and putting it on a new slab foundation. The restaurant will then be relocated and, if necessary, repaired to its current condition.

### **Potential Effects of Relocation**

One of the requirements of the process outlined in 36 CFR 60.14(b) (Relocating properties listed in the National Register) is that the potential effects of the relocation on the property's historical integrity be assessed. National Register Bulletin 15 defines integrity as "the ability of a property to convey its significance" and lists the following seven aspects of integrity: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association (Andrus and Shrimpton 2002). Which of these factors is most important depends on the particular National Register criterion under which the resource is considered eligible for listing.

Bono's Restaurant and Deli was listed in the National Register under criterion A at the local level of significance "as an important Route 66 commercial property maintaining a high degree of historic integrity" (Vanaski 2007:8.4; Attachment A). The National Register Registration Form emphasizes that "the significance of Bono's is derived from its direct connection with the history of Route 66 in the San Bernardino County, California area as well as its connection with the development of the City of Fontana and surrounding communities" (Vanaski 2007:8.4). It further states that "Bono's has been recognized by a number of Route 66 publications as a seminal Route 66 landmark...[and] has also been recognized by the City of Fontana's Historical Society as part of the City's Route 66 heritage" (Vanaski 2007:8.4 and 8.5). Clearly, Bono's location adjacent to Route 66 is one of the most important factors contributing to its significance as a National Register property.

As previously stated, the owner proposes to shift the restaurant 15 feet to the west and 20 feet to the south on the existing restaurant property (Figure 2) to avoid damage to the building from vehicles hitting it while attempting to turn at the intersection of Foothill Boulevard (former Route 66) and Sultana Avenue. The move will also facilitate intersection improvements. To accommodate the relocation, a retaining wall in the parking lot will be removed and part of the parking lot, which is a contributing feature, will be reconfigured (Figure 2). After its relocation, any damage that may have occurred during the move will be repaired to the current condition.

Integrity of design, setting, workmanship, feeling, and association will not be affected by the proposed relocation, but integrity of materials and location will be minimally diminished. In order to relocate the building, some materials, such as the original foundation and basement may need to be replaced and/or repaired. It is likely this will be completed with modern materials that meet current building and safety codes. In addition, any damage to the building that occurs during the move will also be repaired. Integrity of materials is not a key factor in the property's significance and these

minor materials changes are not anticipated to impair the property's ability to convey its significance or to be particularly noticeable to the general public.

As discussed above, integrity of location is a key component of the property's significance. If it was not located adjacent to Route 66 it would not be able to convey its significance as a Route 66-related property. Therefore, it is crucial to maintain proximity to Route 66. Shifting the building 15 feet west and 20 feet south within the restaurant property is a very minor change in the building's location. The restaurant will continue to be located at the intersection of Foothill Boulevard (former Route 66) and Sultana Avenue. After relocation, the building may be slightly less visible from a distance to drivers heading east on Foothill Boulevard, but it will remain clearly visible to motorists heading west on Foothill Boulevard. Therefore, the proposed relocation will not diminish integrity of location to the point that the property will no longer be able to convey its significance.

### **Setting and Environment**

Another requirement of 36 CFR 60.14(b) (Relocating properties listed in the National Register) is that the historic property's new setting and environment be discussed, including the potential for the relocation to adversely affect the significance of any historical or archaeological resources. Since the building is proposed to be relocated on site, its general setting and environment will not change, but as part of the relocation some ground disturbance will occur. This could potentially result in the identification of subsurface artifacts.

In order to determine the potential for subsurface deposits, on May 3, 2013, LSA completed a site-specific records search at the San Bernardino Archaeological Information Center (SBAIC) located at the San Bernardino County Museum in Redlands. The SBAIC is the State-designated repository for records concerning cultural resources in San Bernardino County. The objectives of this research were to establish the status and extent of previous cultural resources studies and surveys in the project area and to note what types of resources might be expected to occur. Data sources consulted included archaeological site and isolate records, historic maps, reports from previous studies, and the State Historic Resource Inventory (HRI).

The results of the records search indicate that aside from Bono's Restaurant and Deli and Route 66 there are no historic properties or historical resources within or adjacent to the subject property. In addition, no archaeological resources have been recorded within or near the property. Based on this information, the proposed relocation does not have the potential to adversely affect a previously identified historical resource or historic property. In addition, there is low potential for ground-disturbing activities to reveal any archaeological deposits that would yield important information in history or otherwise meet the National Register or California Register of Historical Resources criteria for significance.

### **Conclusion**

In summary, Bono's roadside produce stand was established in 1936. Increased demand from travelers, truckers, and the growing resident population of nearby Fontana resulted in the expansion of the stand into a full service restaurant and deli in 1943. In the 1980s, a hallway was constructed that connected a 19<sup>th</sup> century residence to the restaurant. In 2006, after the death of Mrs. Frances Bono, the original chef, the restaurant closed except for special events. In 2007, it was nominated to

the National Register and the following year was listed in the National Register under Criterion A at the local level of significance as an important Route 66 commercial property maintaining a high degree of historic integrity. Because of its location at the edge of the public right-of-way at the intersection of Foothill Boulevard (formerly Route 66) and Sultana Avenue, the building has been hit five times by vehicles attempting to turn at the intersection. Therefore, in order to protect the historic property, the owner is proposing to shift the building 15 feet west and 20 feet south on the subject property.

As discussed above, the proposed relocation will not adversely affect the property's historical integrity. In addition, aside from Bono's Restaurant and Deli and Route 66, a records search found that there are no previously identified historical resources, historic properties, or archaeological resources located within or adjacent to the property. Therefore, none would be adversely affected by the proposed relocation. In addition, there is low potential for ground-disturbing activities to reveal any archaeological deposits that would yield important information in history or otherwise meet the National Register or California Register of Historical Resources criteria for significance.

Based on the information provided in this letter, on behalf of Alere and Joe Bono (property owner) LSA asks that this request for relocation be scheduled for review and approval by the State Historical Resources Commission at its next available meeting, which we understand is August 2, 2013.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at [casey.tibbet@lsa-assoc.com](mailto:casey.tibbet@lsa-assoc.com) or the telephone number provided above.

Sincerely,

LSA ASSOCIATES, INC.



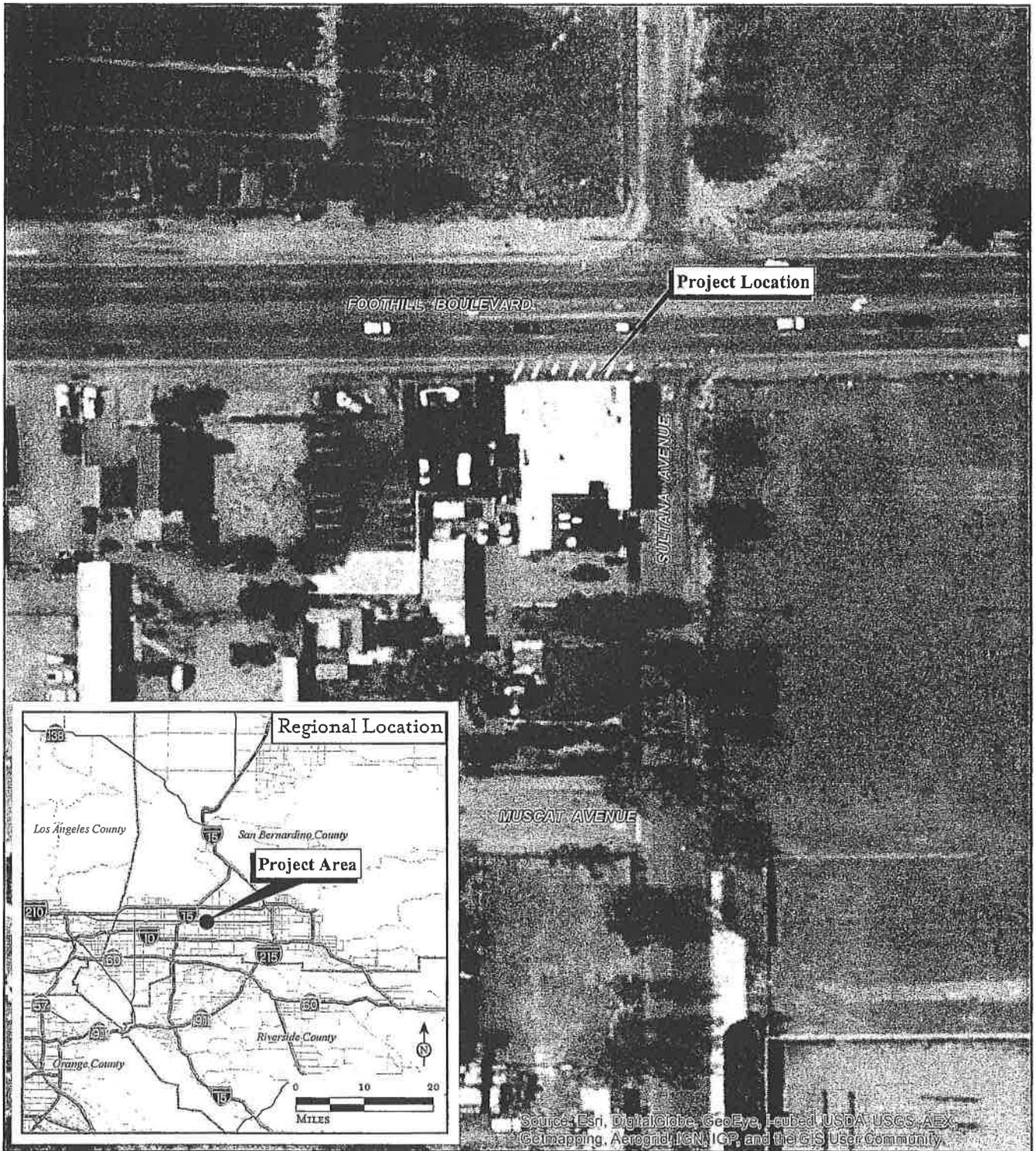
Casey Tibbet, M.A.  
Senior Cultural Resources Manager  
Architectural Historian/Historian

c: Matt Englhard, Alere Property Group

Attachments:   References  
                  Figure 1: Regional and Project Location Map  
                  Figure 2: Proposed Site Plan  
                  Exhibit A: National Register of Historic Places Registration Form  
                  Exhibit B: Current Photographs and Photograph Log

## REFERENCES

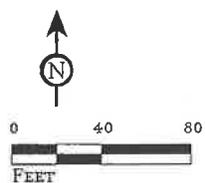
- Andrus, Patrick, Rebecca H. Shrimpton, and the staff of the National Register of Historic Places  
2002 National Register Bulletin 15, How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation.  
Accessed online in April and May 2013 at:  
<http://www.nps.gov/nr/publications/bulletins/nrb15/>
- Vanaski, Laura  
2007 National Register of Historic Places Registration Form for Bono's Restaurant and Deli.  
Accessed online in April 2013 at:  
<http://pdfhost.focus.nps.gov/docs/NRHP/Text/07001353.pdf>



Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar (USA), USCS, AeroGRID, IGN, IGP, and the GIS User Community

LSA

FIGURE 1

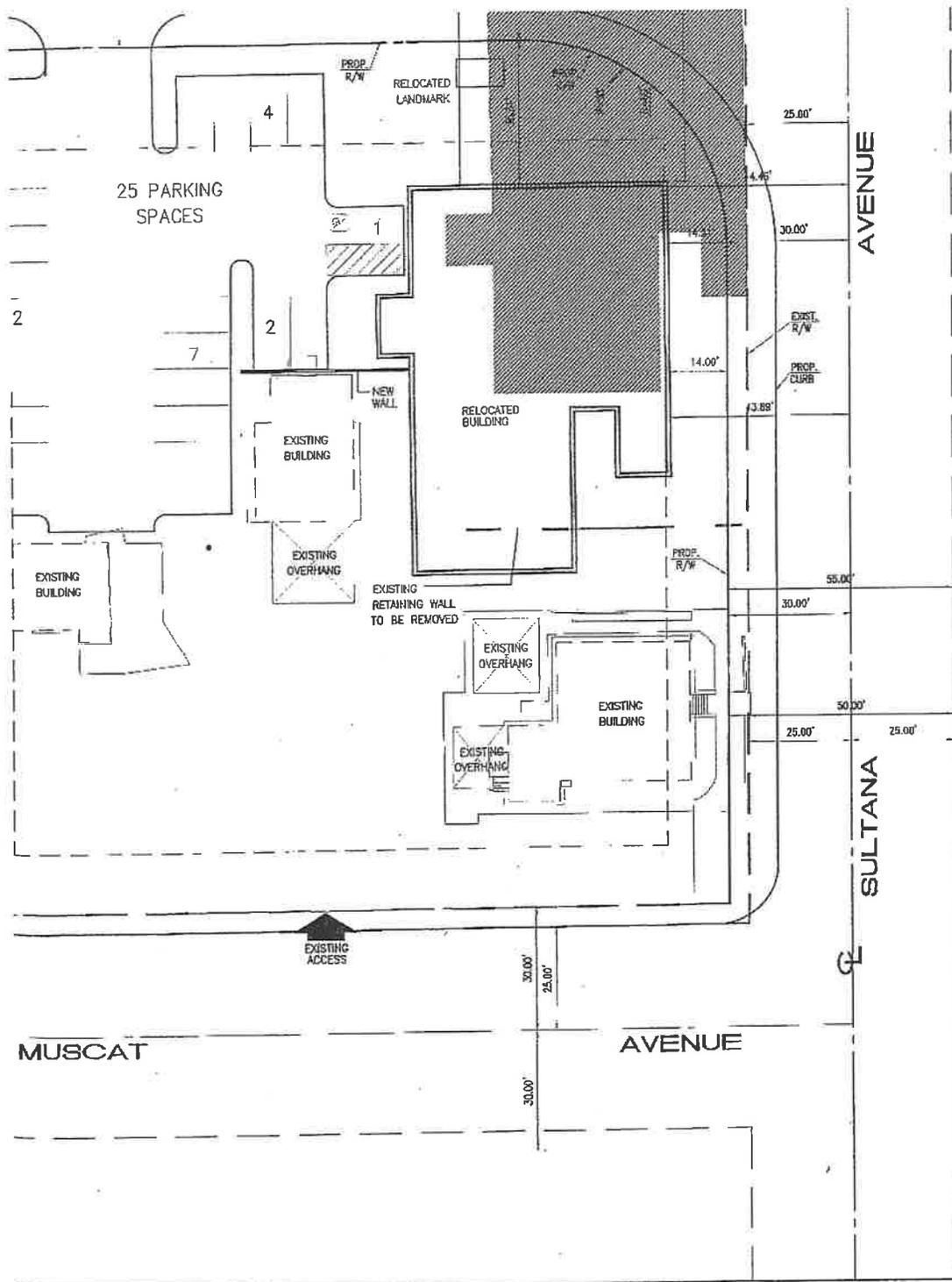


Bono's Restuarant and Deli

Regional and Project Location

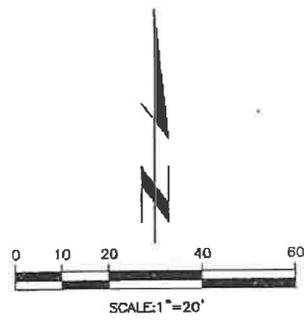
SOURCE: ESRI World Imagery, 2010; Thomas Bros., 2009.

I:\APG1301\Reports\Cultural\fig1\_ProjLoc.mxd (5/8/2013)



**LEGEND:**

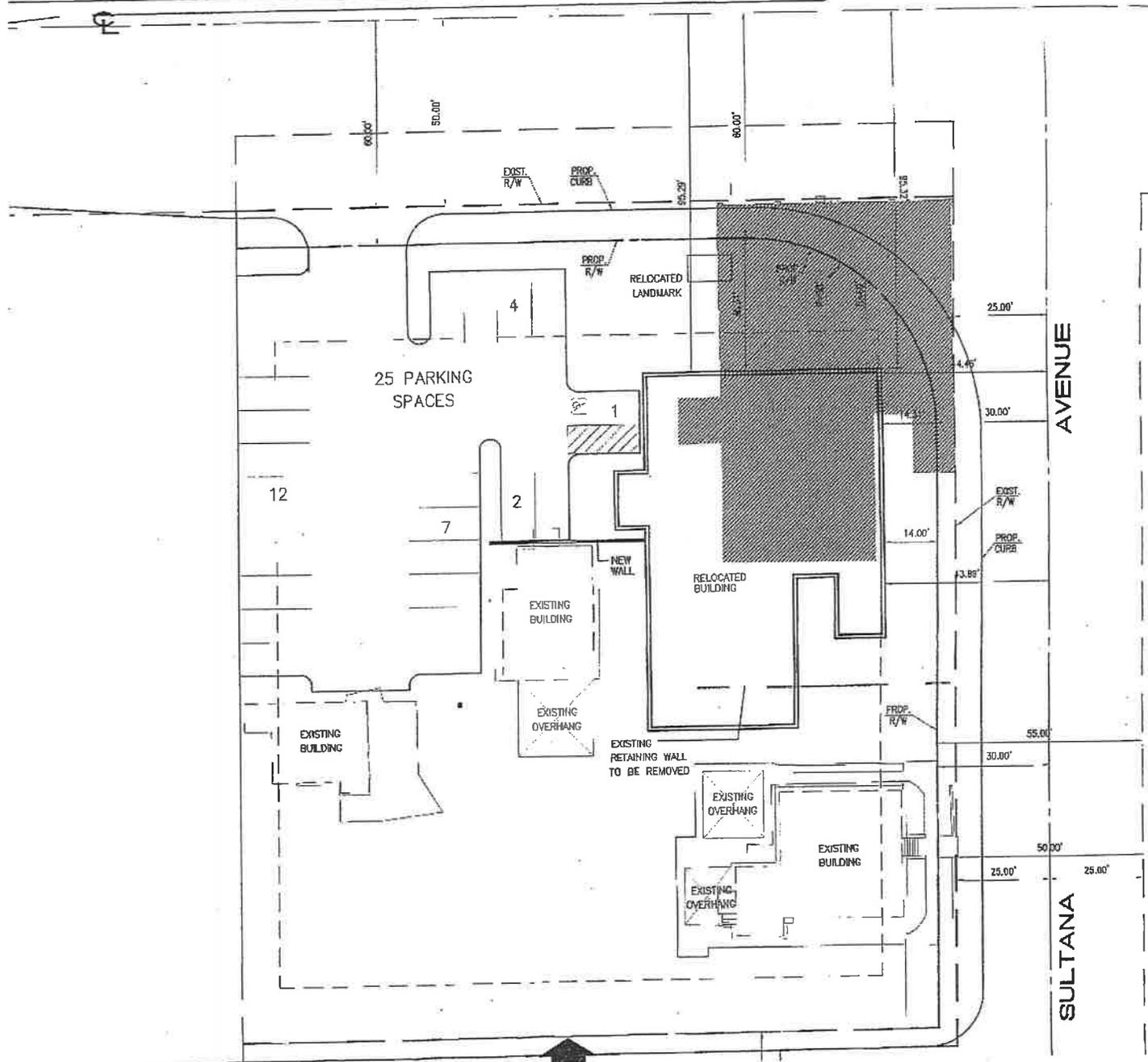
 - EXISTING BUILDING TO BE RELOCATED



LS

FOOTHILL

BOULEVARD



AVENUE

SULTANA

25 PARKING SPACES

RELOCATED BUILDING

EXISTING BUILDING

EXISTING BUILDING

EXISTING OVERHANG

EXISTING RETAINING WALL TO BE REMOVED

EXISTING OVERHANG

EXISTING BUILDING

EXISTING OVERHANG

RELOCATED LANDMARK

EXIST. R/W

PROP. CURB

PROP. R/W

25.00'

30.00'

EXIST. R/W

PROP. CURB

14.00'

PROP. R/W

55.00'

30.00'

50.00'

25.00'

25.00'