

# CITY OF SAN BUENAVENTURA

## HISTORIC LANDMARKS DISTRICTS & POINTS OF INTEREST

Landmark Number: 110

Historic Landmark Name: The Mission Hotel 1926

Address: 79-97 South Oak Street

Designated: May 8, 2017

Description: The Mission Hotel 1926 is a 8,250-square foot two-story commercial block mixed-use building constructed in 1926. The existing building was constructed for Louis, John, Pete and Antonio Alexakis by J.W. Mitchell and is best described as a modest Spanish Colonial Revival style. The building is constructed with concrete and covered with stucco with some mid-century alterations to the storefront system. The eastern and southern roof elevations are parapets with red tile sheathing. The first floor contains four storefronts with large plate glass windows, a central wood door entry and glass transoms. The second story elevation contains 16 pairs of double hung windows on the south and eastern elevations and fire escape access doors on the rear western elevation.

The Mission Hotel 1926 was designated a local landmark because it is associated with events that have made a meaningful contribution to the community and because it embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction. The architectural details of the building and its subsequent modifications to the storefront are associated with events that define two Periods of Significance. The modest Spanish Colonial Revival style is immediately identified with *The Oil and Land Boom (1921-1929)* period. The modification of the storefront that occurred in the 1950's is associated with the evolution of the Main Street Corridor and the embracement of the automobile in *The Post World War II Prosperity and the Freeway (1945-1962)* period.

The building is also associated with the lives of persons who made a meaningful contribution to the national, state or local history. The Alexakis brothers were born in Greece and arrived in Ventura sometime after 1910. They are mainly associated with three successful restaurants in downtown Ventura operating from the 1920's to the 1950's, called the New York Café, the Chocolate Shop and the Mission Café. They were very active in the business and building community where the Mission Hotel was just one of their successful ventures.

J. W. Mitchell became a well-established building contractor in Ventura by 1920 and was responsible for constructing several buildings for prominent Ventura forefathers including John Lagamarsino, Gust Glaros and Abram Hobson and served as president of the Associated Building Contractors of America. The Alexakis brothers commissioned J.W. Mitchell to build the Mission Hotel in response to the enormous demand for residential housing in the 1920's. The building, originally referred to as the "Alexakis Building" has historically served a wide variety of commercial uses such as auto parts, cocktail lounge, a typewriter company, beauty supply store, and restaurants. The second floor has been historically utilized as a hotel and residential apartments.



The Mission Hotel, 1926



The Mission Hotel, 2015