



## Architectural Commission Report

---

**Meeting Date:** Wednesday, January 20, 2016

**Subject:** **HILLTOP SECURITIES (PL1600055)**  
**8350 Wilshire Boulevard**  
Request for approval of a building identification sign. The Commission will also consider adoption of a Categorical Exemption, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act.

**Project Agent:** Mitch Chemers – Chandler Signs

**Recommendation:** Conduct public hearing to discuss the project details and provide the applicant with an approval.

---

### REPORT SUMMARY

The applicant is requesting review and approval of a building identification sign for Hilltop Securities located at 8350 Wilshire Boulevard. The project includes the following components:

#### Building Identification Sign

- One (1) 43.56 SF façade-mounted (via raceway), internally-illuminated sign

Pursuant to §10-4-605 of the Beverly Hill Municipal Code (BHMC), the maximum building identification sign area shall not exceed two percent (2%) of the vertical surface area of the elevation upon which the sign is proposed, excluding penthouse walls. Based on a vertical surface area of approximately 12,742 SF, the maximum building identification sign area permitted is 254.84 SF.

### URBAN DESIGN ANALYSIS

The proposed building identification sign is appropriate in its size and scale on the existing commercial building with appropriate spacing provided between the sign and adjacent architectural elements. Additionally, its tasteful and understated aesthetic is consistent with building identification signage installed elsewhere along the Wilshire Boulevard corridor. It is anticipated that the sign will blend seamlessly with the existing streetscape.

### ZONING CODE COMPLIANCE

Applications for design review are preliminarily evaluated for compliance with the zoning code. Applicants are encouraged and have the option of requesting a comprehensive review separate and apart from this application. Formal compliance review will occur when a building permit application is filed (plan check). The applicant has been advised that changes during plan check may require revisions and subsequent approval from the Architectural Commission or staff, as appropriate.

#### Attachment(s):

- Detailed Design Description and Materials (Applicant Prepared)
- Project Design Plans
- DRAFT Approval Resolution

Report Author and Contact Information:  
Cindy Gordon, AICP, Associate Planner  
(310) 285-1191  
cgordon@beverlyhills.org



## **Architectural Commission Report**

455 North Rexford Drive, Room 280-A

AC Meeting – January 20, 2016

### **ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

The subject project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA – Public Resources Code §§21000 – 21178), pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) of the State CEQA Guidelines in that the project includes the review of building design, colors and materials to the façade of the building, front yard landscaping or minor low-scaled accessory structures, such as fences or walls. It can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the subject activity could result in a significant effect on the environment. The project has also been reviewed and found not be a historic resource. The existing improvements to be demolished or altered were not designed by an architect or builder identified on the City's Master Architect list and the site and improvements are not listed on the City's historic resource inventory.

### **PUBLIC OUTREACH AND NOTIFICATION**

Public outreach and notification was not required for this project.



## **Architectural Commission Report**

455 North Rexford Drive, Room 280-A  
AC Meeting – January 20, 2016

### **Attachment A**

Detailed Design Description  
and Materials (applicant prepared)

**SECTION 2 – PROJECT DESCRIPTION / ZONING INFORMATION**

**A Indicate Requested Application**

- Staff Review
  - Three (3) sets of plans required (all plan sets must be 11" x 17" in size).
- Architectural Commission Review
  - Eight (8) sets of plans required (all plan sets must be 11" x 17" in size).
  - Public Notice materials required for Sign Accommodations (see Section 5 for public notice requirements).

**B Identify the scope of work (check all that apply):**

- New construction
  - Façade Remodel ONLY
  - Business Identification Sign(s)
    - Number of signs proposed:
  - Building Identification Sign(s)
    - Number of signs proposed:
  - Sign Accommodation (explain reason for the accommodation request below):
    - Number of signs proposed:
  - Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- Remodel: Int. & Ext, no floor area added  
 Remodel: Int. & Ext, floor area added  
 Awning(s):  New  Recovery  
 Open Air Dining: #Tables  #Chairs

**C Describe the scope of work proposed including materials and finishes:**

Install one 43.56 square foot channel letter wall sign on a raceway. "Hilltop Securities" letter height is 16.75". Logo is 25.5" overall height. Letters and logo are internally illuminated. Faces are white acrylic. Letter and logo aluminum returns are painted semi-gloss black. Raceway is aluminum painted matte finish SW6164 Svelte Sage to match wall.

**D Identify the Project Zoning (City Zoning Map: <http://gis.beverlyhills.org/>)**

- |                                       |                                 |   |                                 |                                |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> R-4          | <input type="checkbox"/> R-4X   | <input type="checkbox"/> R-4            | <input type="checkbox"/> R-4-P  | <input type="checkbox"/> R-4X2 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> R-3          | <input type="checkbox"/> RMCP   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C-3 | <input type="checkbox"/> C-3A   | <input type="checkbox"/> C-3B  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> C-5          | <input type="checkbox"/> C-3T-1 | <input type="checkbox"/> C-3T-2         | <input type="checkbox"/> C-3T-5 | <input type="checkbox"/> C-5   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |                                 |   |                                 |                                |

**E Lot is currently developed with (check all that apply):**

- General Office Building
- Retail Building
- Medical Office Building
- Multi-family Building
- Vacant
- Restaurant
- Other (specify below): \_\_\_\_\_

**F Has the existing structure been designed by a notable architect or is it identified on any historic resource inventory, including the City of Beverly Historic Resources Survey (Verify with the Planning Division if the property is listed on the City's survey)?**

Yes  No  If yes, please list Architect's name: \_\_\_\_\_

**SECTION 3 – PROJECT DETAILS AND MATERIALS (continues on next page)**

**A Indicate in the chart below all applicable signage details:**

	<u>Type of Sign</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Dimensions</u>	<u>Square Ft</u>	<u>Maximum Area Permitted by Code</u>
1	Wall sign	1	2'-6" high x 17'-5 1/8" wide	43.56	254.84 sq ft (2% of wall area).
2					
3					
4					
5					

**B List the specific materials and finishes for all of the architectural features proposed in the project (List N/A, not applicable, for features that do not apply.):**

**FAÇADE** (List all material for all portions visible from the street)

Material: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Texture /Finish: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Color / Transparency: \_\_\_\_\_

**WINDOWS/DOORS** (Include frame, trim, glass, metal, etc.)

Material: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Texture /Finish: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Color / Transparency: \_\_\_\_\_

**ROOF**

Material: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Texture /Finish: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Color / Transparency: \_\_\_\_\_

**COLUMNS**

Material: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Texture /Finish: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Color / Transparency: \_\_\_\_\_

**BALCONIES & RAILINGS**

Material: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Texture /Finish: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Color / Transparency: \_\_\_\_\_

**OUTDOOR DINING ELEMENTS** (List all material for all outdoor dining elements.)

Material: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Texture /Finish: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Color / Transparency: \_\_\_\_\_

**SECTION 3 – PROJECT DETAILS AND MATERIALS (continued from previous page)**

**AWNINGS, CANOPIES**

Material: \_\_\_\_\_  
Texture /Finish: \_\_\_\_\_  
Color / Transparency: \_\_\_\_\_

**DOWNSPOUTS / GUTTERS**

Material: \_\_\_\_\_  
Texture /Finish: \_\_\_\_\_  
Color / Transparency: \_\_\_\_\_

**BUSINESS ID SIGN(S)**

Material: \_\_\_\_\_  
Texture /Finish: \_\_\_\_\_  
Color / Transparency: \_\_\_\_\_

**BUILDING ID SIGN(S)**

Material: Aluminum letters with acrylic faces. Aluminum raceway.  
Texture /Finish: Semi-gloss letter returns. Raceway painted matte finish.  
Color / Transparency: Black letter returns. White acrylic faces. Raceway painted to match wall.

**EXTERIOR LIGHTING**

Material: \_\_\_\_\_  
Texture /Finish: \_\_\_\_\_  
Color / Transparency: \_\_\_\_\_

**PAVED SURFACES**

Material: \_\_\_\_\_  
Texture /Finish: \_\_\_\_\_  
Color / Transparency: \_\_\_\_\_

**FREESTANDING WALLS AND FENCES**

Material: \_\_\_\_\_  
Texture /Finish: \_\_\_\_\_  
Color / Transparency: \_\_\_\_\_

**OTHER DESIGN ELEMENTS**

Material: \_\_\_\_\_  
Texture /Finish: \_\_\_\_\_  
Color / Transparency: \_\_\_\_\_

**C Describe the proposed landscape theme, if applicable. Explain how the proposed landscaping complements the proposed style of architecture:**

**SECTION 4 – DESIGN ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS (for Commission level applications only)**

**A Clearly identify how your project adheres to each of the required findings of the Architectural Review Commission:**

- 1. Describe how the proposed building or structure is in conformity with good taste and good design and, in general, contributes to the image of Beverly Hills as a place of beauty, spaciousness, balance, taste, fitness, broad vistas and high quality.**

The proposed wall sign contains limited colors and area. Its layout is simple and tasteful and integrates well into the building. It's appearance is of higher aesthetic quality than many nearby signs. Its size, materials and placement are the minimum necessary to communicate the business name and branding.

- 2. Describe how the proposed building or structure indicates the manner in which the structure is reasonably protected against external and internal noise, vibrations, and other factors which may tend to make the environment less desirable.**

The proposed wall sign will be built at or exceeding the Beverly Hills' and the State of California's requirements for building & safety. The sign will contain no moving parts or loose elements.

- 3. Describe how the proposed building or structure is not, in its exterior design and appearance, of inferior quality such as to cause the nature of the local environment to materially depreciate in appearance and value.**

The proposed materials, paints and finishes are designed for long term outdoor exposure. Additionally, the raceway that the letters are attached to will be painted to closely match the background wall, in order to ensure the sign maintains the quality of the building facade, and thereby maintain it's appeal to the public.

- 4. Describe how the proposed building or structure is in harmony with the proposed developments on land in the general area, with the general plan for Beverly Hills, and with any precise plans adopted pursuant to the general plan.**

The proposed sign follows all of the guidelines of the general plan. Its size, materials and placement causes no conflict or controversy within the area.

- 5. Describe how the proposed development is in conformity with the standards of the municipal code and other applicable laws insofar as the location and appearance of the buildings and structures are involved.**

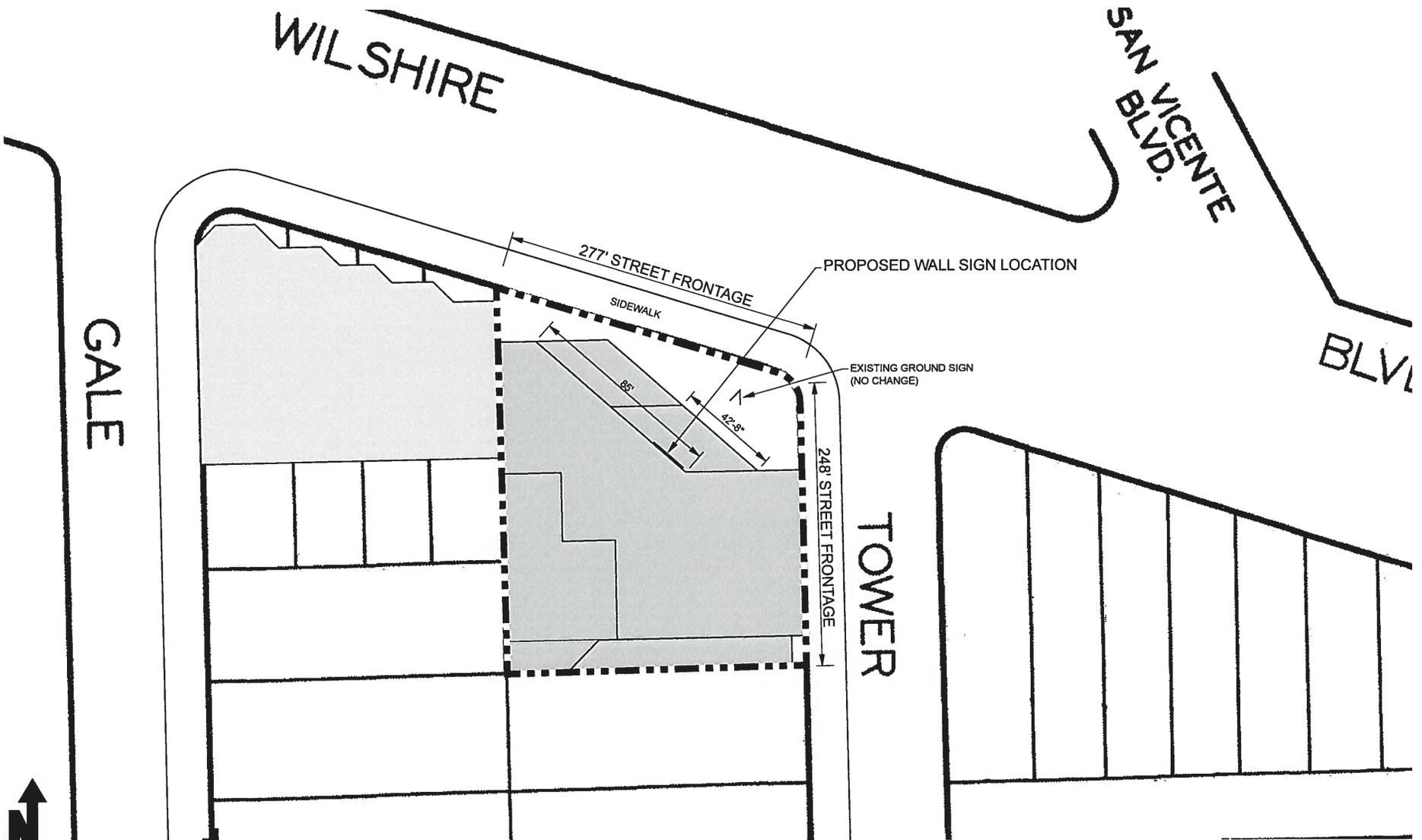
The internal and external materials of proposed sign meets or exceeds all of the guidelines of the the Beverly Hills municipal code.



**Architectural Commission Report**

455 North Rexford Drive, Room 280-A  
AC Meeting – January 20, 2016

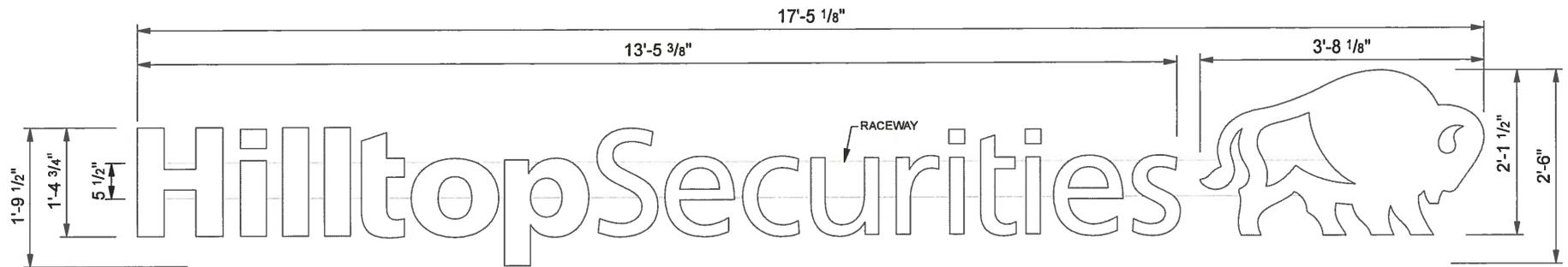
**Attachment B**  
Project Design Plans



**A** **SITE PLAN** SCALE: 1"=40'

Hilltop Securities  
 8350 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 300 Beverly Hills, CA 90211

**Site Plan - Page 2**

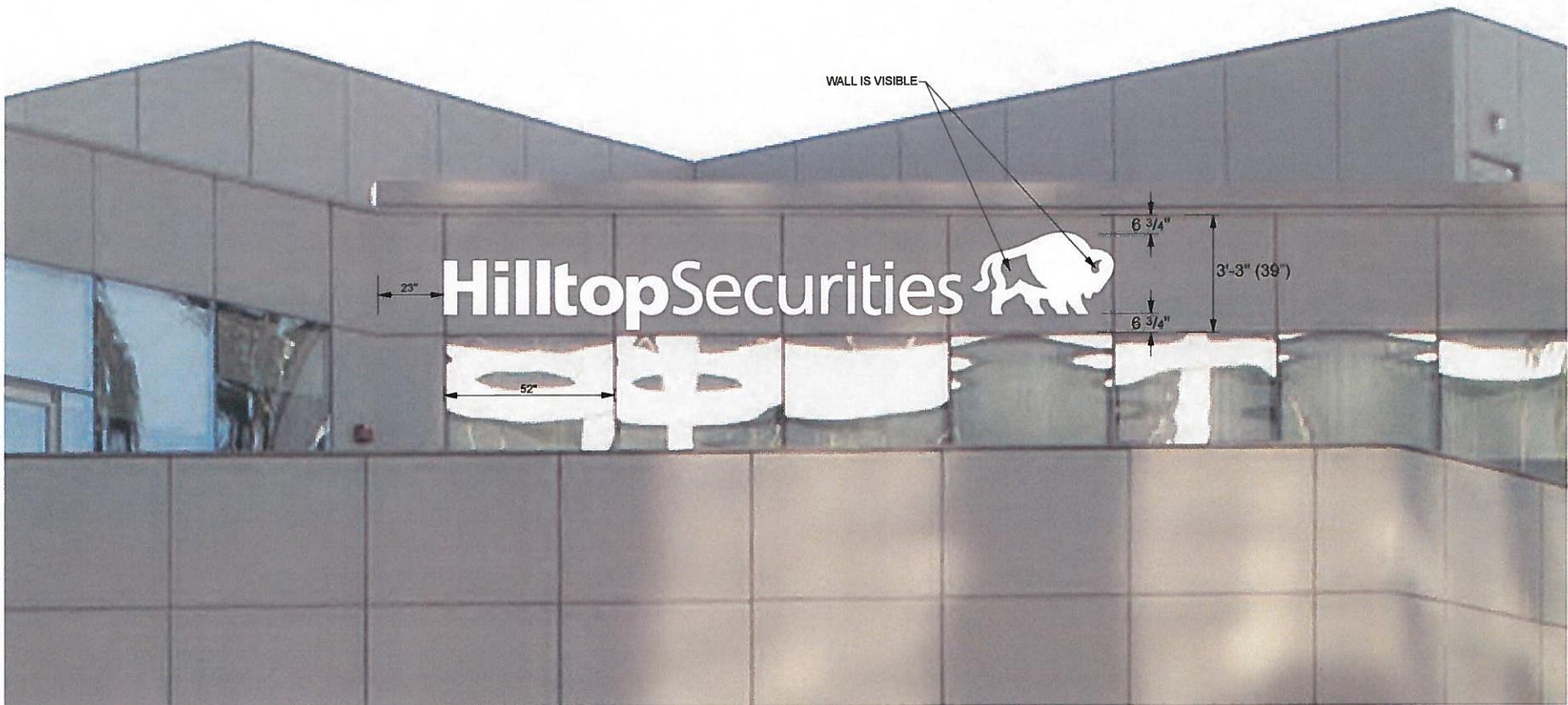


**B EXTERIOR WALL SIGNAGE** SCALE: 3/4"=1"



**C ENTIRE FRONT ELEVATION** SCALE: 3/32"=1"  
**PHOTOCOMPOSITE**

Hilltop Securities  
 8350 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 300 Beverly Hills, CA 90211



**D ENLARGED FRONT ELEVATION - PHOTOCOMPOSITE** SCALE: 3/8"=1'



**E SIGN AREA CALCULATION METHOD** SCALE: 3/8"=1'

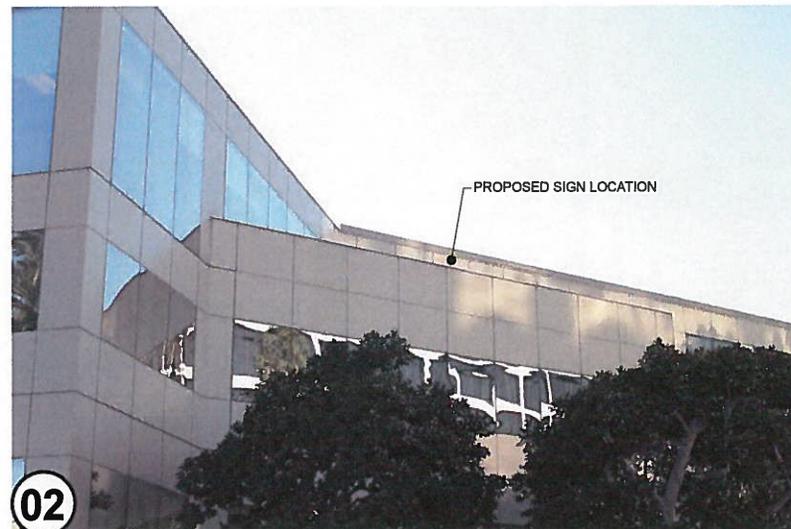
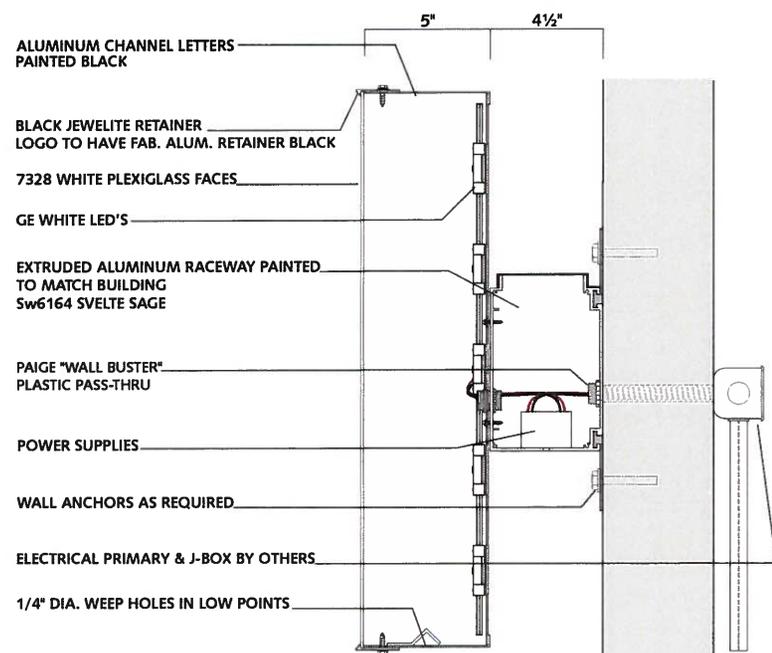
Hilltop Securities  
 8350 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 300  
 Beverly Hills, CA 90211

**Elevations continued - Page 4**



01

**EXISTING GROUND SIGN (NO CHANGE PROPOSED)**



02

**PROPOSED SIGN LOCATION AS SEEN FROM SIDEWALK**



03

**CLOSE VIEW OF BUILDING FACADE**

Hilltop Securities  
8350 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 300  
Beverly Hills, CA 90211

Note: Building width is 277'.  
Building height is 46'.  
Total building area is 12,742 sq ft.  
Allowable wall sign area: 254.84 sq ft (2%).  
Proposed wall sign area: 43.56 sq ft.



Hilltop Securities  
8350 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 300  
Beverly Hills, CA 90211

**Existing south elevation - Page 9**



**Architectural Commission Report**

455 North Rexford Drive, Room 280-A  
AC Meeting – January 20, 2016

**Attachment C**

DRAFT Approval Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. AC XX-16

RESOLUTION OF THE ARCHITECTURAL COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS CONDITIONALLY APPROVING AN ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW PERMIT FOR A BUILDING IDENTIFICATION SIGN FOR THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 8350 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD (PL1600055 – HILLTOP SECURITIES).

The Architectural Commission of the City of Beverly Hills hereby finds, resolves and determines as follows:

Section 1. Mitch Chemers, Chandler Signs, agent, on behalf of the property owner, 8350 Wilshire Boulevard / Associates, LLC, and the tenant, Hilltop Securities, (Collectively the “Applicant”), has applied for architectural approval for a building identification sign for the property located at 8350 Wilshire Boulevard.

Section 2. Beverly Hills Municipal Code Article 30, Chapter 3 of Title 10, authorizes the Architectural Commission the authority to approve, approve with conditions, or deny design-related aspects of projects located in the city’s commercial and multi-family districts, subject to findings set forth in Beverly Hills Municipal Code Section 10-3-3010.

Section 3. Consistent with Beverly Hills Municipal Code Section 10-3-3010, this resolution documents the official action of the Architectural Commission with respect to the project.

Section 4. The subject project has been reviewed pursuant to the provisions set forth in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA – Public Resource Code Sections 21000, *et seq.*), the State CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Sections 15000 *et seq.*), and the city’s local CEQA Guidelines. The subject project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA – Public Resources Code §§21000 – 21178), pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) of the State CEQA Guidelines in that the project includes the review of building design, colors and materials to the façade of the building, front yard landscaping or minor low-scaled accessory structures, such as fences or walls. It

can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the subject activity could result in a significant effect on the environment. The project has also been reviewed and found to not be a historic resource. The existing improvements to be demolished or altered were not designed by an architect or builder identified on the City's Master Architect list and the site and improvements are not listed on the City's historic resource inventory.

Section 5. The Architectural Commission conducted a duly noticed public hearing on **January 20, 2016** at which time oral and documentary evidence was received concerning the application.

Section 6. Based upon the evidence presented at the hearings, including the staff report(s), oral and written testimony, the Architectural Commission hereby makes the following findings:

A. The plan for the proposed building or structure is in conformity with good taste and good design and, in general, contributes to the image of Beverly Hills as a place of beauty, spaciousness, balance, taste, fitness, broad vistas, and high quality. Specifically, the project incorporates an appropriate balance of color, high quality materials and appropriate architectural design principles to reinforce the city's urban form and promote the image of Beverly Hills.

B. The plan for the proposed building or structure indicates the manner in which the structure is reasonably protected against external and internal noise, vibrations, and other factors which may tend to make the environmental less desirable. The proposed project is proposed to be constructed using contemporary building materials and practices, and, as conditioned, compliant with all applicable building codes, including standards that protect against unwanted noise and vibrations.

C. Proposed building or structure is not, in its exterior design and appearance, of inferior quality such as to cause the nature of the local environment to materially depreciate in appearance and value. Specifically, the commission has reviewed the design and construction materials proposed for the project, which incorporates contemporary building material of known quality and durability. Moreover,

the project design is appropriate to the building and surrounding improvements and is well matched to the selected materials.

D. As conditioned, the proposed building or structure is in harmony with the proposed developments on land in the general area, with the general plan for Beverly Hills, and with any precise plans adopted pursuant to the general plan. The proposed project complies with the applicable goals and policies set forth in the general plan, and, as conditioned, designed in a manner that complies with local ordinances. The overall design is consistent with and appropriate to other improvements in the general vicinity.

E. The proposed development is in conformity with the standards of this code and other applicable laws insofar as the location and appearance of the buildings and structures are involved. As conditioned, the project will be designed in compliance with all applicable regulations.

F. The proposed development is designed in a manner that protects and preserves those exterior elements of the building which the Planning Commission found contributed to the determination of the project as a “character contributing building” in accordance with section 10-2-707 of this title. The proposed project does not include a request and has not been determined by the Planning Commission to be a project that qualifies as a “character contributing building” under section 10-2-707. Therefore, this finding is not applicable to the subject project.

Section 7. Based on the foregoing, the Architectural Commission hereby grants the request defined in this resolution subject to the following conditions:

Project-Specific Conditions

No project-specific conditions.

Standard Conditions

1. **Revised Plan Submittal.** For all projects that are approved with project-specific conditions, a revised plan set that has fully incorporated all such conditions shall be submitted to the project planner, both in hard copy format and in electronic format, prior to submitting for the building permit plan check process.
2. **Architectural Approval.** Project approval is for the design-related aspects of the project only. No approval is implied or granted with regard to applicable city zoning or technical codes, which may require review and approval from other city commissions or officials.
3. **Compliance with Municipal Code.** Prior to issuance of a building permit, the applicant shall demonstrate compliance with all applicable provisions of the city's municipal code and applicable conditions imposed by any discretionary review approval.
4. **Compliance with Special Conditions.** Any special conditions that require approval by the Director of Community Development, or designee, shall be submitted to the staff liaison to the commission within fourteen (14) days of approval or prior to submittal of the plan check review application, whichever is greater.
5. **Project Rendering.** Prior to issuance of a building permit, the applicant shall incorporate into the building permit set of plans, an updated color rendering of all building facades. The quality and detail of the rendering shall be subject to approval from the Director of Community Development, or designee, and shall include sufficient design information to evaluate project compliance during construction.
6. **Approval Resolution.** A copy of the signed resolution of approval shall be scanned onto the cover sheet(s) of the building permit set of plans.

7. **Substantial Compliance with Approved Plans.** The Director of Community Development, or designee, shall determine if changes to the approved project are in substantial compliance with the commission's action. This determination shall be subject to applicable fees and charges. A substantial modification to the approved project requires approval from the Architectural Commission.
8. **Validity of Permits.** The rights granted by this approval shall remain valid for three (3) years from the date of approval, unless extended pursuant to Beverly Hills Municipal Code Section 10-3-207.

Section 8. The Secretary of the Architectural Commission shall certify to the passage, approval, and adoption of this resolution, and shall cause this resolution and its certification to be entered in the administrative record maintained by the Community Development Department.

Section 9. Decisions of the Architectural Commission may be appealed to the City Council within fourteen (14) days of the final action by filing a written appeal and paying appropriate fees with the City of Beverly Hills City Clerk.

Approved as to Form and Content:

Adopted: **January 20, 2016**

---

Ryan Gohlich, AICP, Commission Secretary  
Community Development Department

---

Andrea Gardner Apatow, Chair  
Architectural Commission