

State of California — The Resources Agency  
 DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
**PRIMARY RECORD**

Primary # \_\_\_\_\_  
 HRI # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Trinomial \_\_\_\_\_  
 NRHP Status Code \_\_\_\_\_

Other Listings \_\_\_\_\_  
 Review Code \_\_\_\_\_ Reviewer \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Page 1 of 3 Resource name(s) or number (assigned by recorder) *Chart House Restaurant*

**P1. Other Identifier:**

\*P2. Location:  Not for Publication  Unrestricted

\*b. USGS 7.5' Quad

\*c. Address *69-934 Highway 111*

\*e. Other Locational Data: Assessor's Parcel Number Block: Lot:

\*a. County *Riverside*

Date:

City *Rancho Mirage*

Zip *92270*

\*P3a. Description: (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries.)

*Situated at the foot of a small hill along Highway 111, the arrestingly designed Chart House restaurant follows the natural curvature of the site. The hill appears to slope down through the one-story, southwest-facing, Organic Modern building designed by architect Ken Kellogg in 1978. There is 9,296 square feet covered by the roof. Gently sloping roof, with four inches of urethane foam, the roof undulates around the perimeter of the hill, resting on recycled roof boards that are supported by laminated curved beams. Fixed windows are mostly clerestory and opaque with black anodized aluminum mullions. The center skylight is made of three layers of translucent plastic running the full length of the restaurant. The skylight culminates in a raised, ribbed dome from which a round natural rock chimney emerges. The rock in the subterranean walls and the chimney was quarried on site. The double doors of the recessed entrance are made of laminated beveled glass in curved wood frames for keeping out the summer heat. A low-profile waterfall of about 20 feet runs in and out through the glass on the east side of the entrance. Low concrete walls form planters on either side. A curved concrete walkway leads from the parking lot which, together with the restaurant, is on 5.48 acres of land. Landscaping consists of a front lawn, gravel, cacti, shrubs, and queen palms. Although the interior has been extensively remodeled, the exterior is original and in excellent condition.*

\*P3b. Resource Attributes: (list attributes and codes) *HP6. 1-3 story commercial building*

\*P4. Resources Present:  Building  Structure  Object  Site  District  Element of District  Other

P5a. Photo



**P5b. Description of Photo:** (view and date)

*Southwest elevation  
 August 2002*

\*P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources:  historic  
*1978/ Source: City of Rancho Mirage Building Permits*

\*P7. Owner and Address:  
*Wessman Holdings LLC  
 1555 South Palm Canyon Drive #G-10  
 Palm Springs, CA 92264*

\*P8. Recorded by:  
*P. Moruzzi, T. Grimes, L. Heumann  
 Leslie Heumann and Associates  
 600 N. Sierra Bonita Ave.  
 Los Angeles, CA 90036*

\*P9. Date Recorded:  
*September 23, 2002*

\*P10. Survey Type:  
*Intensive Survey .*

\*P11. Report Citation: (Cite survey report and other sources, or enter "none")  
*None.*

\*Attachments:  None  Location Map  Sketch Map  Continuation Sheet  Building, Structure, and Object Record  
 Archaeological Record  District Record  Linear Feature Record  Milling Station Record  Rock Art Record  
 Artifact Record  Photograph Record  Other (list)

**BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD**

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\*NRHP Status Code 3S

\*Resource Name or #: *Chart House Restaurant*

B1. Historic Name: *Chart House Restaurant*

B2. Common Name: *Same*

B3. Original Use: *Restaurant*

B4. Present Use: *Restaurant*

\*B5. Architectural Style: *Organic Modern*

\*B6. Construction History: (Construction date, alterations, and date of alterations):

*June 6, 1978. Restaurant. Value: \$317,320.*

*July 25, 1985. Monument sign.*

*March 23, 1998. Interior strip out of finishes including carpet, wood booths, fixtures, pavers, adobe tile, etc.*

\*B7. Moved? No Yes Unknown Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Original Location: \_\_\_\_\_

\*B8. Related Features:

*None.*

B9a. Architect: *Kendrick Bangs Kellogg*

b. Builder: *Wessman Construction Company*

\*B10. Significance: Theme *Cityhood*

Area *Rancho Mirage*

Period of Significance: *1973 - Present*

Property Type: *Single-family Residence*

Applicable Criteria: *C*

(Discuss importance in terms of historical or architectural context as defined by theme, period, and geographic scope. Also address integrity)

*The Chart House is architecturally significant as a unique and outstanding example of "Organic Modern" design, sensitively integrated into its site and responsive to the desert climate. Designed by architect Kendrick Bangs Kellogg, it was built in 1978 and appeared on the cover of Restaurant Design magazine in 1981. In 1994, it received the Vintage Pinot Noir Award sponsored by AIA, APA, ASLA, AEP, CSPE, IEDI of the Inland Empire of California, in large part due to its energy efficiency.*

*Kellogg attended university at San Diego State, University of Colorado, University of Southern California, and the University of California at Berkeley. He received an architect's license in California in 1964 and a building contractor's license in 1966, a national license in 1979, and a global (international) license in 1998. Kellogg's motto is: "the more unusual the site, the better the Architecture."*

*(See Continuation Sheet 3 of 3.)*

B11. Additional Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) \_\_\_\_\_

\*B12. References:

*Alan Hess and Andrew Danish, Palm Springs Weekend, Chronicle Books, 2001.*

*Kendrick Bangs Kellogg website. <http://sandiegoart.com/KKellogg/restps.html>*

*City of Rancho Mirage Building Permits.*

B13. Remarks:

\*B14. Evaluator: *Peter Moruzzi, Teresa Grimes, Leslie Heumann*

\*Date of Evaluation: *September 23, 2002*

(This space reserved for official comments.)

Sketch Map

**\*B10. Significance (continued):**

*Kellogg's diversified experience emphasizes composing a totally unified concept. He has a rather unorthodox philosophy regarding architecture and the profession. "Although the 'architectural school' taught basic engineering, it also inadvertently taught me what not to do. Architecture cannot be taught. Beauty comes from within. I learned early that license does not make Architecture. Competitions are, for the most part, political. The technology of any time is only a tool. The AIA is composed of those, with and without license, who primarily are in the business of promoting themselves rather than Architecture. And a committee will never be composed of anything more than another level of mediocrity." Kellogg believes "Organic Architecture is the Mother of the Arts. Beauty is the sustainable essence of life. Nature is not sentimental. Both beauty and nature are the practical aspects of our compassion for survival."*

*The Chart House, Kellogg's only known Coachella Valley commission, brilliantly demonstrates Kellogg's design philosophy. Here he created a building that is an integral and 'organic' part of the environment as it grows out of the hill. Hugging the land, the partially subterranean building folds, curves, and undulates with the topography. It is clearly one-of-a-kind. The property appears eligible for separate listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for exceptional merit as an example of Organic Modern design (a "3S" National Register Status Code). In addition, the property would be eligible for designation under an existing or proposed local ordinance.*

**P5b. Description/Date of Photo:** *View from beneath entrance overhang, August 2002.*

