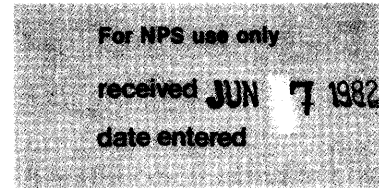


**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Jim Ong's Market

and/or common Jim Ong's Market

2. Location

street & number 1110 East Washington Street N/A not for publication

city, town Phoenix N/A vicinity of ~~Congressional District~~

state Arizona code 04 county Maricopa code 013

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	N/A being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Henry Diaz (Buena Vista Health Fitness Center, Inc.)

street & number 3003 N. Central Ave., Suite 2005

city, town Phoenix N/A vicinity of state Arizona 85012

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Maricopa County Assessor's Office

street & number 111 South Third Avenue

city, town Phoenix state Arizona 85003

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date Determination of Eligibility, March 1980 federal state county local

depository for survey records State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Phoenix state Arizona 85007

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Jim Ong's Market is a rectangular, one story brick building with a half basement located on East Washington Street in Phoenix, Arizona, one mile east of the downtown business district. It is attached to and located at the eastern end of a three unit commercial block. Historically, the area was a transitional residential/commercial zone developed in the 1920's on the eastern fringe of the city's center. The area is presently included within the Booker T. Washington Neighborhood Development Project where many buildings have recently been demolished to allow the development of commercial and office facilities.

The front facade is painted pink and has vertically scored brick. Two double doors flank a central display window. An iron canopy suspended from the upper wall spans the entire facade and shades the entrances. The outer edge of the canopy features Chinese embellishment. The bottom edge is scalloped, projecting cones are evenly spaced along the central band, and the top edge has sawtooth trim. An original sign panel for Jim Ong's Market is centered on the upper facade. The roofline over the facade is the building's primary stylistic feature and consists of a curvilinear parapet of Chinese derivation, terminating with reverse curves at the center and topped by stone coping. A central gap in the parapet is bridged by a wooden balustrade.

Three randomly placed window openings and a side entry are spaced along the east elevation. A stepped parapet gradually descends to a low point in the center and then rises to meet the front and rear parapets. The upper sections are slightly curved, echoing the shape of the facade parapet.

The rear elevation was masked by a wood-frame, pent roof addition which was added in 1932. This was removed in 1980. The wall is presently finished with three plastered panels and has irregular non-historic window and door openings. A simple parapet spans the rear wall, but it does not have the pronounced ornamental design of those on the front facade or east elevation.

Beneath the rear half of the building is a full basement where the Ong family lived. This is lit by a lightwell at the rear of the east elevation.

The interior of the building has two main rooms, each finished in a utilitarian manner with simple wooden trim. These spaces have been altered over the years and little of the original finishing remains in place.

Today Jim Ong's Market is located within the city's sponsored Booker T. Washington Neighborhood Development Project. Several buildings in the area have been cleared as part of the project, leaving vacant lots immediately to the east of Ong's Market. The building is presently undergoing rehabilitation into professional office space, a use consistent with the plans for the surrounding area, and will serve primarily as a doctor's office. Restoration of the facade is a major element of the rehabilitation scheme.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1928 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (In one paragraph)

SIGNIFICANCE:

Jim Ong's Market is significant for its historic associations with the early Chinese community in Phoenix. Constructed by the Ong family in 1928, the building is the only known Chinese market in the city built by the owner, rather than leased. The building is architecturally significant for its vernacular expression of Chinese architectural forms. Ong's Market was determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places in March 1980 (criteria A&C) for its association with the Chinese community and with the Chinese resettlement and investment in the outskirts of downtown Phoenix in the 1920's and for its architectural statement about the ethnic and cultural heritage of Phoenix.

The Chinese have long been a part of Phoenix's colorful and diverse population. Three Chinese men and two Chinese women were recorded living in the city in June 1872. Their names, ages and backgrounds are unknown, but they reportedly started a laundry. A major influx of Chinese immigrants did not occur until 1878-1880 when contractors brought in thousands of Chinese laborers to construct the Southern Pacific Railroad across Arizona. Chinese laborers were used again in the construction of the Atlantic & Pacific Railroad across northern Arizona between 1880-1883. When the railroads were completed, the majority of these Chinese returned to California or China, but 164 settled in Maricopa County, of which 109 settled in Phoenix.

These men, women and children remained in Phoenix to escape the wide-spread persecution in California, but the city was not immune to anti-Chinese sentiments. White citizens continued to discriminate against them as evidenced by thirteen pieces of anti-Chinese legislation passed by the U.S. Congress between 1882 and 1907. Many of these were not repealed until the second half of the 20th century. Among these was the Alien Land Act of 1887, prohibiting aliens from owning real estate, perhaps explaining why so many Chinese lived in their stores.

Although the Chinese population in Phoenix was small, it constituted a strong economic force. The Chinese dominated the restaurant business and operated most of the commercial vegetable gardens and produce distribution centers well into the 20th century.

In the early years of the 20th century, the Chinese community was primarily centered around First, Jefferson and Madison Streets in central Phoenix. This small Chinatown area offered a haven for the Chinese where they could maintain their cultural patterns. The stores and markets served as meeting places for the Chinese residents and were centers of the Chinese social and cultural activities.

Realizing that Phoenix would expand, the Chinatown residents began to move outside of the central city, intending to take advantage of perceived opportunities in the newer areas and to avoid the ghetto stigma attached to many Chinatown communities. Economic displacement by Anglo-controlled inner city businesses also may have contributed to the dispersal of Chinatown.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See attached

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less/Acre

Quadrangle name Phoenix, Arizona

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

1	2	4	0	1	6	9	8	3	7	0	1	3	2	0
Zone		Easting						Northing						

B

Zone		Easting						Northing						

C

Zone		Easting						Northing						

D

Zone		Easting						Northing						

E

Zone		Easting						Northing						

F

Zone		Easting						Northing						

G

Zone		Easting						Northing						

H

Zone		Easting						Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification

Porter and Baxter Division, Block 2, Lot 26, Phoenix, Arizona.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state N/A code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Margaret Welden/Edited, Roger Brevoort, Architectural Historian/William Perreault, Historian/Registrar, Historic Preservation Section, AZ State Parks, May 1982.

organization Charles Hall Page & Associates date September 14, 1981

street & number 364 Bush Street telephone (415) 362-5154

city or town San Francisco state California 94104

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Ann A. Puttloff

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 1 June 1982

For NPS use only

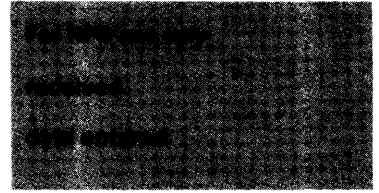
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Delores Byers Entered in the National Register date 7/8/82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 1

Jim Ong's Market, built in 1929 ten blocks out of the central business district, attests to this gradual shift of the Chinese population which began early in the 1920's after the population had reached its peak level.

Ong Fook Thing, Jim Ong's father, arrived in Phoenix in 1917 and was among the later immigrants who established a business on the edge of the city. He is reported to have had a grocery store at 14th Street and Van Buren, but there is no record in the Phoenix Business Directory between 1917 and 1924. In the 1924 Business Directory he is listed as the proprietor of a grocery at 1118 E. Washington Street. There is no listing for 1926, but in 1929 a listing appears for Jim Ong's Grocery and Meats at 1120 E. Washington. Although the business was named for his son, Ong Fook Thing was recorded as the owner. Like most of the Chinese merchants' families in Phoenix, the Ong's lived in the basement of their store. They continued to operate the market until the late 1970's when the property was purchased by the City of Phoenix.

ARCHITECTURE:

Jim Ong's Market is characterized by a curvilinear pagoda-shaped parapet and an overhanging iron canopy with a scalloped border, both reflecting Chinese motifs.

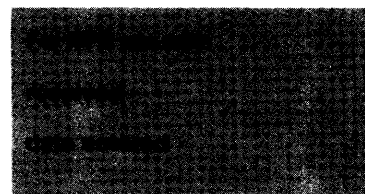
By the early 20th century, the anti-Chinese sentiments in the southwestern states diminished and Chinese architectural forms were increasingly incorporated into buildings in or adjacent to Chinese neighborhoods. Isolated buildings of Chinese derivation appeared in California in the late 19th century, the most prominent example being the Agricultural Pavillion in Stanton, designed by Charles Beasley in 1887. The primary introduction of Chinese architectural influence was the rebuilding of San Francisco's Chinatown following the 1906 earthquake with an intentional emphasis on incorporating Chinese forms into the new buildings.

Jim Ong's Market exhibits a vernacular interpretation of these Chinese architectural forms and serves to indicate the presence and influence of the Chinese community in Phoenix.

Few other historic buildings erected or occupied by the Chinese remain in Phoenix. With the decentralization of the Chinese community, the buildings were altered or demolished and the original Chinatown area in Phoenix lost its identity. In 1975 the last remnants of the original Chinatown were razed to make way for a city park. Jim Ong's Market, located at the eastern edge of the old downtown area, is a rare physical vestige of the Chinese community.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Item number 9

Page 1

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

City of Phoenix Business Directories, 1917-1929.

Desert Jade Women's Club, Lotus Pod, 1979.

Kirker, Harold, California's Architectural Frontier, The Huntington Library, San Marino, CA, 1960.

"Our Chinese American Heritage", Arizona Days & Ways Sunday Magazine, The Arizona Republic, October 7, 1956, pp. 8-13.

Tipton, Gary P., "Men Out of China - Origins of the Chinese Colony in Phoenix", The Journal of Arizona History, vol.8, no.3 (Autumn 1977), pp. 341-356.

Weitz, Karen J., "Charles Beasley, Architect 1827-1913 Issues and Images", Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians, vol.39, no.3, October 1980, p.187.

Willson, Roscoe G., "Chinese Had Rough Time", Arizona Days & Ways Sunday Magazine, The Arizona Republic, May 17, 1961, pp. 32-33.

Yen, Chiu Thai, "The Chinese in Phoenix", Phoenix, vol.5, no.1 (January 1970), pp.38-40.