Form No. 10-300 REV. (9/77)

CITY, TOWN

Sacramento

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

STATE California

RECEIVED OCT 191978

SEE I	NSTRUCTIONS IN <i>HOW</i> TYPE ALL ENTRIES	TO COMPLETE NATION COMPLETE APPLICAB		5
NAME				
HISTORIC				
SPRII AND/OR COMMON	NG STREET FINANCIAL D	ISTRICT		
AND/ON COMMON	•			
LOCATION		•	•	
STREET & NUMBER	9	g	·	
354-704	4 South Spring Street		NOT FOR PUBLICATION	
CITY, TOWN Los Ang	geles	- :	CONGRESSIONAL DISTR	ICT
STATE		_ VICINITY OF CODE	COUNTY	CODE OK
Califor		06	Los Angeles	037
CLASSIFIC	ATION		-	
CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PREG	ENT USE
X_DISTRICT	X_PUBLIC	.XOCCUPIED	AGRICULTURE	MUSEUM
BUILDING(S)	PRIVATE	UNOCCUPIED	X_COMMERCIAL	PARK
STRUCTURE	BOTH	WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIONAL	PRIVATE RESIDEN
SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	·ENTERTAINMENT	RELIGIOUS ·
OBJECT	IN PROCESS	X_YES: RESTRICTED	GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC
	BEING CONSIDERED	YES: UNRESTRICTED	INDUSTRIAL	_TRANSPORTATION
		NO	MILITARY	OTHER:
OWNER OF	PROPERTY			
AME.			•	
Mu1ti	iple Ownership (see 1:	ist)		
STREET & NUMBER		• •		•
CITY, TOWN			STATE	
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LOCATION	OF LEGAL DESCR	RIPTION	•	
COURTHOUSE.			•	•
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, E	Los Angeles Coun	ty Hall of Records		
STREET & NUMBER	320 West Temple S	Street		
CITY, TOWN	Jao west Temple (	Jereet	STATE	
	Los Angeles		California	a
	TATION IN EXIST	ING SURVEYS		•
REPRESEN		•	• •	
TITLE	rnia Historical Resour	rces Inventory		•
TÏTLE			STATE,COUNTYLOCAL	

### 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

CHECK ONE

**CHECK ONE** 

EXCELLENT	
XXGOOD	

\_\_DETERIORATED

\_\_UNALTERED

XXALTERED

XX ORIGINAL SITE

\_\_FAIR

\_\_UNEXPOSED

RUINS

\_\_MOVED DATE\_\_\_\_

#### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Spring Street Financial District comprises 26 significant structures lining both sides of this thoroughfare for a little more than three city blocks. The buildings range in construction date from about the turn of the century until the mid-1930's. Most of the buildings were erected to house financial institutions and are somewhat homogeneous in both style and function. The district itself is densely built up with several parking lots breaking the fairly even skyline. Besides the 23 financial structures, the district includes 3 hotels, 2 retail buildings, 2 sandwich shops, and a multi-level parking structure. Most of the buildings are in very good condition, although many are now partially vacant.

- 1. Van Nuys Building (210 W. 7th St.): 1911; a 11-story reinforced concrete structure in Classical style with Italianate details by Morgan, Walls, & Morgan, almost unaltered except for a garage addition to south side in 1929. The Van Nuys Building garage addition is a two-story reinforced-concrete structure by Morgan, Walls, & Clements; it is of the same architectural style as the office structure with fluted columns, decorative cornice and other ornament.
- 2. Bartlett Building (651 S. Spring St.): c. 1911; 10 story financial and office structure in Commercial style with some details and little alteration.
- 3. Barclay's Bank (639 S. Spring St.): 1919; 13-story reinforced concrete and brick with terra cotta details by Morgan, Walls & Morgan, with little alteration.
- 5. California-Canadian Bank (625 S. Spring St.): c. 1923; a 12-story office structure in Neo-Classical design; ornamentation includes terra cotta ornament on the top two levels, and a decorative cornice and pillasters; ground floor has been modernized.
- 6. E. F. Hutton Building (623 S. Spring St.): c. 1931; a 12-story Zig Zag Moderne structure of reinforced concrete with continuous window columns, gargoyles, and other figures on facade; very little alteration.
- 7. Hotel Hayward (601 S.Spring St.): 1905; 9-story Commercial style structure of concrete and brick by C. F. Whittlesey; 1918 addition to south side of original by R. D. King is of seven stories in same design; 1925 addition of western side by John and Donald Parkinson is of 14 stories and a similar design with decorative cornice and rear tower.
- 8. Pacific Southwest Bank (NW 6th and Spring St.): 1910; 11-story bank of reinforced concrete with ornamental tile and terra cotta facade by Parkinson & Bergstrom, Classical styling with fluted columns.
- 9. Spring Arcade Building (541 S. Spring St.): 1924; 12-story double-wing office building by Kenneth MacDonald, designed to resemble the Burlington Arcade in London.
- 10. Stationers Building (525 S. Spring St.): c. 1922; 3-story brick structure with some ornamentation, cornice removed.



PECIFIC DAT	ES 1902	BUILDER/ARCH	HITECT various	
		INVENTION	• •	·
900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GÖVERNMENT	OTHER (SPECIFY)
800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION
700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
600-1699	XARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
500-1599	AGRICULTURE	<b>X</b> ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE
REHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RÊLIGION
PERIOD	. <b>AF</b>	REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	IECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	,

TATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

As the city of New York has its Wall Street, a thoroughfare which dominates the financial affairs of the city and surrounding areas, Los Angeles has its counterpart in South Spring Street. Known for many years as the "Wall Street of the West," Spring Street is a remarkably homogeneous collection of financial structures which document the economic activity of the city.

Prior to 1900 South Spring Street was still a predominately residential neighborhood. The northern terminus at Temple Street was in the heart of the 1890's business district and large commercial structures were common as far south as Fifth Street. Although the financial center of the city was still located along North Main Street, several banks were built on Spring Street north of Second during the late 80's and early 90's. By the turn of the century the trend was clearly moving south.

The earliest remaining structures in the present district were both begun in 1902. The Continental Building (first known as the Braly Building) was considered the first "skyscraper" in Los Angeles. Directly north of it across Fourth Street, the Herman Hellman Building (now Banco Popular) was constructed for its namesake. The construction of these two bank and office buildings began the push southward. In the next two decades, a number of financial structures followed suit including the Security Building (1906), the Rowan Building (built as the Title Insurance Building) and the Pacific Southwest Bank (the Los Angeles Trust and Savings Bank) in 1910, the Bartlett Building and I.N. Van Nuys Building in 1911, Lloyds Bank (Merchants National Bank) and the Mortgage Guarantee Building and Isais W. Hellman's Annex to the Farmers and Merchants Bank in 1913, the Crocker Bank (Citizen's National Bank) in 1914, the President Trading Company Building (Security National Bank) in 1916, and Barclay's Bank (built as the Los Angeles Stock Exchange) in 1919. In addition, several hotel buildings which complemented and supported the financial district were built at the same time; the Alexandria and Hayward in 1905, and the colorful El Dorado (Stowell Hotel) in 1913.

As financial activity accelerated after World War I, the Spring Street district as developed to Seventh Street was expanding internally by a number of new structures. The Financial Center Building and the California-Canadian Bank were erected in 1923, and the following year saw the construction of the Arcade Building and the Bank of American Building (then another Herman Hellman Building). By the end of the decade the mammoth Title Insurance and Trust Building (1928) and the Pacific Stock Exchange (1929) were completed. Only two other major structures, the Banks & Hundley

#### 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES Assessment Records of Los Angeles County, 1900-40. Los Angeles County Archives. Building Permits. Department of Buildings & Safety. Los Angeles City Hall -cont.-**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA** ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_ QUADRANGLE NAME Los Angeles, California; Hollywood, CA; QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000 UTM REFERENCES 1, 1 1 3 8, 4 3, 4, 0 3, 7, 6, 7, 6, 2, 0 768220 5, 0, 0 3, 7, 6, 7, 4, 9, 0 VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION A large area of the downtown business district beginning at the intersection of Fourth and Spring Streets, extending 118.51' northward along Spring Street, then 199.73' eastward, then 118.51' southward to Fourth Street, then 113.33' westward, LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES STATE CODE COUNTY CODE STATE CODE COUNTY CODE **III** FORM PREPARED BY NAME / TITLE Tom Sitton Curatorial Assistant **ORGANIZATION** Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History STREET & NUMBER 900 Exposition Blvd CITY OR TOWN Los Angeles California 2 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS: STATE XX LOCAL\_ NATIONAL\_ 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.

TITLE

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER THE NATIONAL REGISTER ATTEST:

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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#### **CONTINUATION SHEET**

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE 1

4

#### PROPERTY OWNERS

- I. Investment Properties Associates
  60 E. 42nd St., New York, New York, 10017
- 2. Lee National Corp. & Bartlett Building 11 W. 42nd St., New York, New York, 10036
  - 3. National Automobile Casualty Insurance 639 S. Spring St., Los Angeles, CA, 90014
- 4. Denmarst, Ltd. 819 Santee St., Los Angeles, Ca, 90014
- 5. Harrell J. Harrell % Spring St. Properties 621 S. Spring St., Los Angeles, CA 90014
- 6. Consolidated International, Inc. P.O. Box 12585, El Paso, Texas, 79912
- 7. Michael & Ann Frontiera 5533 Hollywood Blvd., Los Angeles, Ca, 90028
  - 8. Pacific Southwest Realty Co.
    333 South Hope St., Los Angeles, CA, 90017
- 9. Standard Management Company, agent 125 W. 4th St., Los Angeles, CA, 90013
- ∠10. Stationers Corp. 525 S. Spring St., Los Angeles, CA, 90013
- 11. Stationers Corp. 525 S. Spring St., Los Angeles, CA 90013
- 12. Hotel & Motel Properties, Inc.
   624 S. Grand Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90017
- $\sim$  13. Intracal P.O. Box 38015, San Francisco, CA, 94138
- 14. Title Insurance & Trust Co.
  433 S. Spring St., Los Angeles, CA, 90054
- ∠15. Banco Popular de Puerto Rico
  Banco Popular Center, Hat Rey, Puerto Rico, 00918
- 16. Norman & Lily Sternlieb 408 S. Spring St., Los Angeles, CA, 90013 DCB LTD., P.O. Box 5729, Los Angeles, CA 90014



#### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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#### **CONTINUATION SHEET**

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PAGE 2

- 17. Pacific Southwest Realty Co.
  333 South Hope St., Los Angeles, CA, 90017
- 18. Ben Basner & Abraham Mouskopf 416 S. Spring St., Los Angeles, CA, 90013
  - 19. Uni-Cal Financial Corp.
    426 S. Spring St., Los Angeles, CA, 90013
- 20. Gabriel Rubin, et al 400 E. 7th St., Los Angeles, CA 90014
- 21. Connecticut Mutual Life 140 Garden St., Hartford, Conn., 06115
- Connecticut Mutual Life
  140 Garden St., Hartford, Conn., 06115
- ∠23. Aaron E. & Hilda Aslan 529 S. Main St., Los Angeles, CA, 90013
- 24. American National Insurance Co., Real Estate Div. 524 S. Spring St., Los Angeles, CA, 90013
- 25. Merchants Fireproof Building Co. 458 S. Spring St., Rm. 300, Los Angeles, CA, 90013
- 26. Sixth & Spring St. Corp. 600 S. Spring St., Los Angeles, CA, 90014
- ∠27. Mabel J. Bauer, Co-tr. for Estate of Harry Bauer
  618 S. Spring St., #1100, Los Angeles, CA, 90014
- 28. Jack & Annette Needleman 120 E. 8th St., Los Angeles, CA, 90014
- ✓ 29. 634 South Spring Street Building 1615 Carla Ridge, Beverly Hills, CA, 90210
- 30. Bank of America 650 S. Spring St., Los Angeles, CA, 90014
- 31. E. & R. Ghodsian 5780 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA, 90036
- 32. Keystone Mortgage Co., agent

  Suite 300, 11340 West Olympic Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90064

#### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES **INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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#### **CONTINUATION SHEET**

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

#### Parking lots within the district:

- A. 649 S. Spring St. Arthur Lumer, et al 400 E. 7th St., Los Angeles, CA 90014
  - B. 633 S. Spring St. Denmarst Ltd. 819 S. Santee St., Los Angeles, CA 90014
  - C. 617 S. Spring St. Holly Thomson 3278 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90010
- D. 533 S. Spring St. Spring Arcade Company 125 E. 4th St., Los Angeles, CA 90013
- XE. 445 S. Spring St. Intracal Properties, Inc. P.O. Box 38015, San Francisco, CA 94138.
  - Security Pacific National Bank, Tr. F. 403 S. Spring St. Tr. # 01-5-02520-0 P.O. Box 60802, Terminal Annex Los Angeles, CA 90060
- Union Federal Savings & Loan ⊀ G. 420 S. Spring St. 426 S. Spring St., Los Angeles, CA 90013
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  \( Lewis & Bessie Wolner, Trs. 1100 Holly Oak Circle, Palm Springs, CA 92262 (approximate)
- ↓ I. 450 S. Spring St. ✓ William T. & Adele Sharp 2269 Via Puerta, Unit Q, Laguna Hills, CA 92653
- √ J. 520 S. Spring St. ~ Motor Parks, Inc. 1651 N. Argyle, Hollywood, CA 90028
  - nMotor Parks, Inc. K. 540 S. Spring St. 1651 N. Argyle, Hollywood, CA
- L. 640 S. Spring St. Morco Investment Co., et al 1010 S. Flower St., Los Angeles, CA 90015 % Milton H. Handman

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PAGE 1

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

#### **CONTINUATION SHEET**

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- 11. (Building) (523 S. Spring St.): c. 1914; 3-story, reinforced concrete, very plain with stuccoed facade, most ornamentation removed.
- 12. Alexandria Hotel (210 W. 5th St.): 1906; 8-story hotel of concrete and pressed brick by John Parkinson, 12-story annex added in 1912, completely refurbished in 1972.
- 13. Crocker Bank (453 S. Spring St.): 1914; 12-story bank and office structure of reinforced concrete by Parkinson and Bergstrom, ornamental bands and cornice removed but first-story ornamentation remains.
- 14. Title Insurance Building (433 S. Spring St.): 1928; 10-story office building of concrete with terra cotta and brick facade by John & Donald Parkinson, Zig-Zag Moderne styling with marble lobby and details by Herman Sachs and Hugo Ballin.
- 15. Banco Popular (NE 4th & Spring Sts.): 1902; 8-story, brick and concrete bank in Commercial style with much ornamentation by Alfred Rosenheim.
- 16. Continental Building (408 S. Spring St.): 1902; Los Angeles' first skyscraper, 12-story brick office building by John Parkinson with ornamental cornice and bands and little alteration.
- 17. Hellman Annex (410 S. Spring St.): 1913; 7-story concrete structure faced with terra cotta and brick by Morgan, Walls, and Morgan, with only street-level alterations.
- 18. El Dorado Hotel (416 S. Spring St.): 1913; 12-story reinforced concrete building faced with enameled brick and terra cotta by Frederick Noonan, highly stylized facade with bright coloration.
- 21. Rowan Building (131 W. 5th St.): 1910; 11-story stone and brick office building with terra cotta and stone facade by Parkinson and Bergstrom, Commercial style with ornamental cornice and altered first floor.
- 22. Security Building (510 S. Spring St.): 1906; ll-story steel-frame structure with glazed tile and brick facade, somewhat Italianate in style by Parkinson & Bergstrom.
- 23. President Trading Company (514 S. Spring St.): 1916; 1-story, steel-reinforced bank structure by John Parkinson in Greek-Revival style with Ionic columns, interior has been remodeled but exterior is substantially the same.

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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- 25. Lloyd's Bank (548 S. Spring St.): 1913; 12-story concrete structure faced with stone, pressed brick, and terra cotta in Commercial style by William Curlett & Son, minor modifications to street level.
- 27. Pacific Stock Exchange (618 S. Spring St.): 1929; 5-story box-shaped Moderne structure of concrete by Samuel Lunden, granite facade features columns and reliefs.
- 28. Mortgage Guarantee Building (626 S. Spring St.): c. 1913; 6-story concrete structure with decorative cornice, fluted columns, and other details, window structures remodeled.
- 29. Banks & Huntley Building (632 S. Spring St.): 1930; multi-storied concrete office building in Moderne styling by John & Donald Parkinson.
- 30. Bank of America Building (117 W. 7th St.): 1924; 12-story banking structure of concrete faced with Indian limestone and terra cotta in a Sullivanesque style by Scultze & Weaver.
- 31. Financial Center Building (704 S. Spring St.): 1923; 13-story financial building of concrete faced with pressed brick and terra cotta with many ornamental details, basically Commercial style by S. Tilden Norton & Fredrick Wallis.

#### Nonconforming intrusions detracting from the integrity of the district:

- 4. Husky Boy Sandwich Shop (633 S. Spring St.): 1-story contemporary structure of wood and concrete.
- 19. Union Federal Savings & Loan (426 S. Spring St.): 1906; 7-story brick structure with flat remodeled facade.
- 20. Friend's Burgers (432 S. Spring St.): contemporary 1-story structure of cement blocks.
- 24. Parking Structure (524 S. Spring St.): c. 1967; steel and concrete parking structure of contemporary design.
- 26. United California Bank (600 S. Spring St.): 1959; multi-story bank and office structure of contemporary concrete and glass construction.
- 32. Title Insturance Building Annex (419 S.Spring St.): A multi-story reinforced concrete structure of contemporary design with a flat facade punctuated by three vertical window bands

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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Building (1930) and the E.F. Hutton Building (1931) were to be added after the beginning of the Great Depression.

By 1931 the Spring Street district was complete. Major local investors in the institutions located there such as Col. J.B. Lankershim, I.N. Van Nuys, the Hellman Brothers, and the leading bankers of the city had constructed a thoroughfare composed of banks, insurance companies, the stock exchange, and investment companies which became known as the "Wall Street of the West." Decisions made on this street vitally affected all of Southern California. The district continued in this capacity until the 1960's when a number of banks began moving westward to the developing "Gold Coast" area around Wilshire Boulevard and Figueroa Street. Although the district continued to lose its financial members, it is attempting to turn in the opposite direction with present plans for its redevelopment by the city.

From an architectural standpoint, the almost homogeneous streetscape of the district in Classical, Commercial and Moderne styles emits an aura of stability and permanence usually associated with financial structures. Most ornamentation was kept to a minimum and the more flamboyant styles of the 1920's and 30's did not gain favor here. Since the height limit for these types of buildings did not fluctuate too drastically during the 1900-1930 period, the buildings were kept somewhat uniform in scale along both sides of the street. The visual appeal of the district no doubt played an important role in convincing the public that this was indeed the center of financial strength on the West Coast.

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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#### CONTINUATION SHEET

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Greene and Behrendt Photograph Collections. Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History Archives.

<u>Insurance Maps of Los Angeles, California</u>. New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1906-37.

Los Angeles Daily Journal, November 18, 1902, p. 8.

Los Angeles Times, November 10, 1902, I, 6; November 23, 1902, II, 12;
March 6, 1904, V, 2; June 26, 1904, V, 1; November 12, 1905, II, 8;
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then 82' southward, then eastward to Harlem Place, then along Harlem Place southward to Seventh Street, then 16' eastward along Seventh Street, then 58' southward, then 135' westward to Spring Street, then 102' southward, then 155' westward, then northward along an alley to Sixth Street, then westward to a point on Sixth Street 165' west of Spring Street, then 120' northward, then 165' westward to Broadway, then 119' northward along Broadway, then 165' eastward, then 361' northward, then 45' westward, then 100' northward to a point on Fifth Street 205' west of Spring Street, then eastward to Frank Court, then north along Frank Court to Fourth Street, then 155' eastward along Fourth Street to the original point.



