United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Page SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD NRIS Reference Number: 04000595 Date Listed: 6/15/2004 Young's Market Comapny Building Los Angeles CA	
NRIS Reference Number: 04000595 Date Listed: 6/15/2004 Young's Market Comapny Building Los Angeles CA	
Young's Market Comapny Building Los Angeles CA	
	1
Property Name County State	
<u>N/A</u> Multiple Name	
This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments notwithstanding the National Park Service certification including the nomination documentation.	з,
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action	
Amended Items in Nomination:	

Location:

The correct county code for Los Angeles County is: 37

Certification:

The SHPO has verified that in his opinion the property meets the National Register Criteria.

Period of Significance:

The period of significance is revised to read: 1924–1940.

[This period best reflects the era in which the property served as a significant commercial marketplace, ending with the closure of firm's retail operations in the building. The end date marks the gradual termination of retail activity by the firm, although the building continued to serve as the headquarters for the company's extensive wholesaling activities.]

These clarifications were confirmed with the CA SHPO office.

DISTRIBUTION:

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property
historic name Young's Market Company Building
other names/site number
2. Location
street & number 1610 W. Seventh Street not for publication
city or town_Los Angeles vicinity
state <u>California</u> code <u>CA</u> county <u>Los Angeles</u> code <u>039</u> zip code <u>90017</u>
3. State/Federal Agency Certification
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this important on the National Register of Historic Plages and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property impets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant in nationally statewide in locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.) California Office of Historic Preservation State or Federal agency and bureau
State or Federal agency and bureau
4. National Park Service Certification
hereby certify that this property is: Centered in the National Register See continuation sheet. Additional Register See continuation sheet. See continuation sheet. Additional Register See continuation sheet. Additional Register See continuation sheet. Additional Register Additional Register
removed from the National Register other (explain):

5.	Classification						
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	☐ public-state	☐ site	<u>o</u>	<u>0</u>	sites		
	☐ public-federal	☐ structure	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures		
		□ object	<u>o</u>	<u>0</u>	objects		
		2 3.3,433	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total		
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6. Fu	Inction or Use						
Histo	ric Functions		Current Function	ns			
(Enter categories from instructions) COMMERCE/TRADE, specialty store			(Enter categories from instructions) <pre>COMMERCE/TRADE, specialty store</pre>				
7. D	escription						
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(Descr	ibe the historic and cur	rent condition of the property o	on one or more continu	uation sheets.)			
8. St	atement of Signifi	cance					
Applic	able National Regi	ster Criteria	Areas of Signifi	icance			
(Mark	"x" in one or more box	xes for the criteria	(enter categories	from instructions)			
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The boundary includes the land area historically associated with the building.

Boundary Justification

Young's Market Company Building

Name of Property

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Teresa Grimes

organization N/A

date October 31, 2002

street & number 4211 Glenalbyn Drive

telephone 323-221-0942

city or town Los Angeles

state California

zip code 90065

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location. A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Fred Leeds, Seven Union LLC

street & number

12304 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 204

telephone

310-826-2466

city or town Los Angeles

state CA

zip code

90025

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determined eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions (102400018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Young's Market Company Building Los Angeles County, California

Narrative Description: The Italian Renaissance Revival Young's Market Building dominates the southwest corner of Seventh Street and Union Avenue. Four-stories in height, with a mezzanine and basement as well, the building is constructed of reinforced concrete with hollow clay tile infill walls. On the exterior, the building has remained largely unaltered from its 1924 appearance. The interior, however, has been substantially altered.

The street-facing elevations have a granite base and a limestone clad body. Large arched openings are supported by granite columns on Seventh and pilasters on Union. The composition is crowned with a classical bracketed terra cotta cornice, surmounted by a limestone parapet. The south and west elevations face a parking lot and an alley, respectively, and are strictly utilitarian in design. Perhaps the most interesting feature on the primary elevations is the polychromatic frieze below the cornice. The 42" tall frieze depicts Florentine-styled figures bringing to market various products handled by the Young's Market Company. Inside each of the arched openings, five on Union and six on Seventh, are tripartite windows with bronze mullions. The mezzanine level is expressed on the exterior with a bronze screen that clearly evokes Roman architectural detailing. Between the second and third stories are decorative bronze spandrel panels. The tripartite windows consist of a fixed central panel with operable casements to each side. On the Seventh Street elevation, the five monolithic columns are about 26 feet in height and about 3 feet in diameter at their largest dimension. The columns, as well as the pilasters on Union Avenue, are topped with limestone Corinthian capitals. The southernmost bay on Union Avenue includes the entrance to the garage in the basement, the fire escape, and a bracketed cantilevered balcony at the fourth story. The balcony is faced with terra cotta panels as a continuation of the frieze.

While the granite bulkheads at the ground level remain, the original storefronts have been replaced. The storefronts were originally constructed with a cast iron frame and clad in bronze. Thin, decorative bronze columns divided the storefronts into three sections, like the windows on the upper stories. The storefronts were damaged by the heat of the 1992 fire and decorative elements were removed by looters. The new storefronts and doors are modern metal units with a black finish. Notably, the semi-circular canopy remains over the original entrance to Young's Market on the Seventh Street elevation; however, decorative trim was removed by looters. Rehabilitation work in 1992 included cleaning the exterior, repairing the granite, removing the paint from the parapet (which had been painted white to cover graffiti), and repairing the bronze screens. The screens that were beyond repair were recreated in a substitute material.

The secondary elevations have painted, board-formed concrete walls and steel-framed casement windows. Some of the windows have been filled and the rear entrance has been enlarged as a part of a certified rehabilitation project still in progress. The metal framework that supported the original rooftop signage remains intact.

The original interior design of the building is well documented by original drawings and photographs. Sadly, it is no longer intact. It is not known, if the original features remained when the building changed hands in 1958 and again in 1986. From 1940 to 1958, Young's Market Company continued to use the building as their headquarters, but the store was closed. From 1958 until about 1985, it was used as a hardware store. Presumably, the interior features remained intact, but may have suffered from abuse and lack of maintenance. In 1984, the upper floors were converted to artists lofts. Two years later, the first floor and mezzanine were converted into an indoor flea market. Whatever features remained were substantially damaged by fire and looting during the 1992 riots.

The first floor originally consisted of three commercial spaces: a corner drug store, the Young's Market store, and a bank. The Owl Drug Company occupied the two easternmost bays on Seventh Street and the three

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Young's Market Company Building Los Angeles County, California

northernmost bays on Union Avenue. A branch of the Security Trust and Savings Bank occupied the west part of the first floor facing Seventh Street. The focal point of the building was the highly decorated market itself. The main room featured six massive freestanding columns constructed for cast-in-place concrete. The first six feet were covered with black tile, which has since been removed. The upper portions, which remain intact, were covered with plaster and fluted. The exposed concrete floor above was decoratively stencilled, giving an appearance of a coffered ceiling. After the riots a new sprinkler system and lighting were installed, partially obscuring the decorative ceiling. A grand staircase lead to the mezzanine level, which overlooked the main room on four sides. All of the decorative finishes, including a bronze railing and tiled walls, were damaged by fire or stolen by looters. They were restored, however, based upon the historic design.

A certified rehabilitation project is still in progress. Beginning in 2003, the upper floors were converted to residential lofts. A corridor was added in the approximate location of one that was added when the building was used as artists lofts in the early 1980s. The new lofts retain the original concrete floor, concrete ceiling, and floor to ceiling height. The flea market that recently occupied the ground floor and mezzanine has been removed, along with all of the associated counters and partitions. Residential lofts are being constructed in the southeast corner of the mezzanine, while the rest remains open as it was originally. No other use is proposed for the mezzanine. The ground floor is proposed as a single retail space, although a tenant has not been identified. The original stenciled ceiling in the main room will be preserved and exposed and the tile at the case of the columns may be restored.

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Young's Market Company Building Los Angeles County, California

Narrative Statement of Significance:

The Young's Market Company Building was constructed in 1924 as their headquarters. Contextually, the building relates to the history of commerce in Los Angeles. The Young's Market Company is the oldest wholesale grocer in Southern California and a veritable institution in the restaurant business. The building meets National Register Criterion A as the oldest and most significant building associated with Young's Market. Secondarily, the building relates to the Beaux Arts movement of architecture in Los Angeles during the 1920s and 30s. The building is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion C as one of the best examples of the Italian Renaissance Revival style in Los Angeles.

The history of Young's Market Company begins in 1888 when John G. Young, eldest of five sons, obtained a meat concession in a small retail store in downtown Los Angeles, to which he gave the family name. Prior to coming to Los Angeles, Peter Young, the patriarch, had made his fortune in cattle in the Mid-West. His son, John, had worked very closely with him learning the business as they raised fine cattle for the Chicago market. The others, Peter M., William G., George F., and Charles T., each went off in various directions, continuing in most instances to work in businesses closely related to food. One by one they came back to join their brother John in Los Angeles. In 1906, urged by their father to stick together in a line they all knew, the sons pooled their money and incorporated the Young's Market Company.

The company began to grow, acquiring one at a time moderate sized stores in downtown Los Angeles. They began building their reputation on service and on the quality of their meat, poultry, delicatessen products, produce, and baked goods. They soon began to look toward the wholesale market and opened a manufacturing and wholesale operation at 431 S. Central Avenue. It was equipped with coolers for properly aging beef and a milk feeding station for their poultry. Next they installed kitchens to make their own sausages, cured corned beef, mayonnaise, and salad dressings. In a nearby building on Towne Avenue, they established a receiving station for fresh fish and seafood, which they sold to the wholesale trade as well as supplying their own evergrowing chain of Young's Markets.

In 1924, they decided to build a headquarters in a fashionable neighborhood east of downtown Los Angeles that would also house their flagship store. The million dollar building, dedicated in 1925, was the most lavish and elegant market in Southern California. Young's Market became known as purveyors of supreme quality food products from every food producing country in the world. In addition to offering market essentials such as meat, poultry, produce, and groceries, the store included a myriad of specialty departments such as cigars, perfumes, coffee, candy, housewares, and an in-house bakery. From this location, trucks went out delivering to the carriage trade. Each week for instance, a Young's Market truck journeyed up the coast to make a delivery to Hearst Castle. The catering department was another major service offered by the store. Many of the area's most lavish parties and most important civic functions were catered by Young's Market.

As the population of Southern California exploded during the late 1920s and early 1930s, Young's neighborhood stores expanded to sixty, and extended from Santa Barbara to San Diego. During this period the company also branched out in other directions. With the success of their flagship store at Seventh and Union, the company constructed five other "supermarkets", which they named Thriftymart Cash and Carry. They also purchased and operated a slaughter house. They bought a substantial interest in Huggins Young Coffee, and acquired franchises for Dr. Pepper, Welch Ade, and Pabst Blue Ribbon Beer. The wholesale end of the business continued to prosper as the company built a strong following among hotel, restaurant, and institutional trade, which they still enjoy today.

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Young's Market Company Building Los Angeles County, California

Shortly after the repeal of Prohibition in 1933, another major decision was reached by the management of the company when it decided to become strongly involved in the wine and spirits business. In the turmoil which accompanied the end of the fourteen year stretch of prohibition, laws pertaining to the representation of liquor brands were non-existent. It resulted in a total disorganization of this potentially enormous new industry. Due to the prevailing circumstances, the Young's Market Company formulated a policy of exclusivity with particular liquor brands. It affiliated itself with small independent suppliers, whose potential it believed in and who were interested in growing with the Young's Market Company. History appears to have proven that it was a prophetic choice for today Young's Market Company is recognized as a giant in the wholesale liquor industry.

As conditions in the liquor industry stabilized and guidelines were drawn up with Federal and State control, it became evident that there could be a conflict of interest between the wholesale and retail operation of the Young's Market Company. Management made the decision to discontinue all retail operations and devote itself to the wholesale market. Gradually all of the retail stores were sold off. Interestingly, just as Young's Market Company was withdrawing from food retailing, the drive-in supermarket was well on its way to becoming a national phenomenon. In June 1940, the most beautiful supermarket of them all at Seventh and Union closed its doors to the public. Company headquarters remained in that location until January 1958, when the entire operation was consolidated at the newly completed building and warehouse at 500 S. Central Avenue.

Ralph's Grocery Store Company is the only other company that was equally large and influential in the retail food business. George A. Ralphs founded the company in 1873 at Sixth and Spring Streets in downtown Los Angeles. At an early date, Ralphs formulated an operational structure, based on volume purchases and sales as well as on competitive prices, that gained the company prominence among the city's retail food businesses. The store itself moved into larger quarters five years later and again in 1913. Ralphs increasingly catered to an elite trade that sought a wide range of fancy foods as well as stock items. The third building fully embodied this shift. Its ornate interior was filled with genteel displays and a well-trained staff. None of these buildings still stand.

Ralphs pioneered the decentralization of the food retail business, opening their first branch in 1911 at Pico and Normandie. The store was a modest one story brick building, which still stands but is much altered. A second, and considerably more opulent, branch was constructed on Vermont Avenue and 35th Street in 1915. It has been demolished. Over the next decade, Ralphs opened seven additional branches, making it one of the largest food retailers in the metropolitan area. Slowly and incrementally, Ralph's internal organization came to function more like that of a chain than of a centralized business with satellites. The Spring Street store remained the flagship store, but it became ever less pivotal to the operation as a whole. In 1926, Ralph's hired the prominent architecture firm, Morgan, Walls and Clements to design a prototype for its supermarkets. The design drew from Spanish sources, a mode then in the height of fashion. The first of these buildings was constructed on Wilshire Boulevard in 1928. This expansion coincided with the decision to eliminate home deliveries. As such, the design of the buildings became even more important than before. These stores were more elegant than the earlier branches, and parking space became an important part of the design. Unfortunately, the Westwood store is the only building remaining from this period in the company's growth.

Public markets were the other types of businesses associated with food retailing during the early part of the twentieth century. Before World War I there were only a few public markets in Los Angeles, the oldest and most prominent of which was the Grand Central Market on Broadway in downtown. By the late 1920s, there were several constructed that rivaled the supermarket chains such as Ralphs and Young's. Experienced

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Young's Market Company Building Los Angeles County, California

retailers spearheaded these ventures because they too saw the potential profit in offering a variety of goods at reasonable prices. While public markets operated in a variety of ways, typically they involved the developer leasing concessions to a range of small businesses specializing in fish, poultry, tobacco products, produce, baked goods, etc. The number of departments could range from five to twenty depending on the size of the buildings. Large public markets of the 1920s and 30s tended to be more visually prominent than their predecessors. The Art Deco Hattem's Shopping Center at 8035 S. Vermont Avenue (1929) was perhaps the most overtly fashioned as a beacon to passing motorists with its tiered corner tower. This building still stands, but has been altered.

The Young's Market Company was unique in terms of its diverse activities in the retailing and wholesaling of food. The company is the oldest, continuously operating food wholesaler in Southern California. The Young's Market Building at Seventh and Union was one of the first and most opulent supermarkets in Los Angeles, and the oldest still standing. The early buildings associated with Young's are no longer standing. For that matter, the early buildings associated with Ralph's have been demolished as well. The oldest building associated with Ralph's is their bakery at 3617 W. Washington Boulevard. It is now used as public storage. The two other architecturally distinguished supermarkets in the area were constructed after the Young's Market Company Building: Ralph's Westwood branch (1929) and Hattem's Shopping Center on Vermont (1930-31).

Just prior to the turn of the twentieth century, central Los Angeles was blossoming into the commercial, financial, and administrative center of a rapidly growing metropolitan area. Los Angeles was no longer a desert boom town, but a respectable city whose population would exceed 100,000 by 1900. As in many American cities, downtown borrowed its architecture from Classical Rome and the Renaissance, as interpreted by the Beaux Arts movement. A Beaux Arts facade was generally styled after the three horizontal divisions of an Italian Renaissance palazzo. Traditionally, the palazzo rested on a "basement" which was half above ground and facade with smooth or rusticated stone. Above it was the "piano nobile", the main floor of the house, often recessed slightly from the basement and differentiated in style and facing material. Above the piano nobile was the "attic," an imposing roof or upper story, usually more ornate than the features below it and crowned with a Classical cornice. Beaux Arts architects used these elements freely, but maintained their basic relationships. The decoration of Beaux Arts buildings was derived from a broader historical field within the Western European tradition. Sometimes it borrowed from Imperial Roman architecture, and at other times from the Renaissance or Baroque. In any case, decorative elements were frequently exaggerated in an attempt to achieve originality and excitement.

The Young's Market Building can be understood generally within the context of the Beaux Arts movement, and more specifically in terms of the Italian Renaissance Revival. Interest in Renaissance architecture was ushered in by the New York firm of McKim, Mead & White. First in the Villard Houses (New York, 1883), and then in the Boston Public Library (1888-95). The Beaux Arts skyscraper was an American contribution to the movement. In Los Angeles, a conservative but well executed vision of Beaux Arts Classicism began to unfold along Spring Street after 1900. The image of the Italian Renaissance palace was lost, however, in stretching the tripartite form over as many as twelve stories. The best interpretations of the Italian Renaissance palace in downtown are the Subway Terminal Building (1924-26) on Hill Street; the Broadway-Spring Arcade Building (1924); and the Standard Oil Company Office Building (1923-24) at 605 W. Olympic Blvd. These buildings, however, lack the horizontal orientation and proportions of their historical prototypes. The Pasadena, Glendale, and Beverly Hills Post Offices are also good examples of the Italian Renaissance Revival style. The Young's Market Company Building, along with the three aforementioned post offices, are more literal in their interpretation of the style.

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Young's Market Company Building Los Angeles County, California

Overall the quality of the design and materials in the Young's Market Company Building distinguishes it from other examples in the Los Angeles area. In a land of concrete and stucco, the limestone, bronze, and granite exterior of the Young's Market Company Building is both sumptuous and unique. The building embodies the distinguishing characteristics of the Italian Renaissance Revival style in its proportions, horizontal organization, and repetitive arches. The bronze screens at the mezzanine level are remarkably similar in pattern to the window mullions in the arched openings of the Boston Public Library. The polychromatic frieze was inspired by the work of the Italian sculptor Luca della Robbia. Della Robbia (1399-1482), along with his contemporary Brunelleschi and others, set the course for the Florentine Renaissance style. Della Robbia is known for pioneering the use of enamelled terra cotta reliefs on architecture from that period. The architect of the building, Charles Plummer, creatively made use of the technique to reinforce the image of the Young's Market Company as the finest grocery store in Los Angeles.

Despite the loss of the storefronts, the exterior of the building retains the integrity of its location, setting, Italian Renaissance Revival design, workmanship, and quality materials including the bronze screens and spandrel panels, terra cotta frieze, limestone cladding, and granite columns. Although the interior has been lost as well, the exterior of the building looks much as it did when it was associated with the Young's Market Company, 1924 through 1958. The building was identified as National Register eligible in a 1977 survey and is included in Gebhard and Winter's guide book to architecture in Los Angeles.

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Young's Market Company Building Los Angeles County, California

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City of Los Angeles Building Permit Records

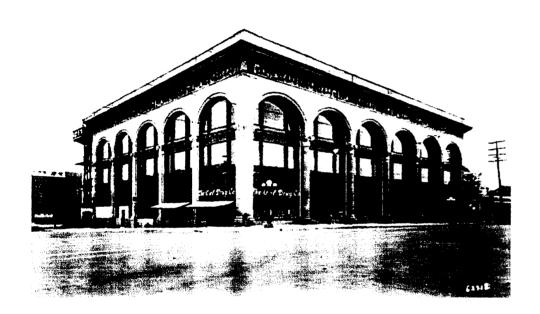
City of Los Angeles Cultural Heritage Commission Records

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Young's Market Company Building Los Angeles County, California

Historic Photograph of Young's Market Company Building, 1925 Los Angeles Central Library Photograph Collection

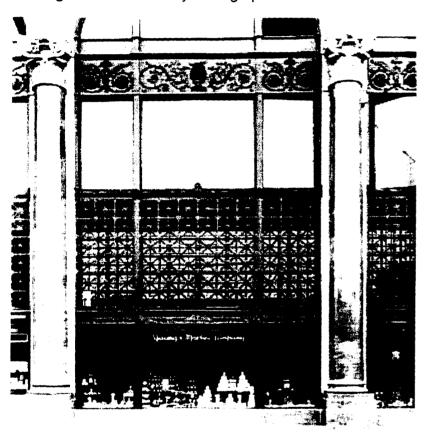


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Young's Market Company Building Los Angeles County, California

Historic Photograph of Young's Market Company Building, 1925 Los Angeles Central Library Photograph Collection



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