

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received AUG 20 1984
date entered SEP 20 1984

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

1. Name

RECEIVED

MAR 30 1984

historic Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, ~~Los Angeles Branch~~

OHP

and/or common Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, Los Angeles Branch

2. Location

street & number 409 West Olympic ^{Bld.} Boulevard

N/A not for publication

city, town Los Angeles

N/A vicinity of

state California

code 06

county Los Angeles 90015

code 037

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public (quasi-	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> buildings	<input type="checkbox"/> private public)	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industrial
	X N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Federal

Reserve Bank

4. Owner of Property

name Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco

street & number 101 Market Street

city, town San Francisco

N/A vicinity of

state California 94105

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County of Los Angeles Hall of Records

street & number 227 North Broadway

city, town Los Angeles

state California 90015

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title California Historic

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date Resource Inventory form, April, 1983

federal state county local

(prepared by Hatheway & Associates)

depository for survey records

Community Redevelopment Agency

city, town 354 South Spring Street, Los Angeles

state California 90013

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	1953 addition	

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, Los Angeles Branch, is a five-story, steel frame, granite clad bank building. Its use, in 1930, of heavy, geometric massing, recessed spandrels, ornate grillwork, stark relief sculpture and virtually flush piers mark it as one of the earliest examples of the Classical Moderne style in Los Angeles, as well as one of the finest and most refined. Unaltered but for an identically detailed and designed 1953 addition, which in scale, style and feeling is a harmonious addition, the bank has retained the refined dignity and precise elegance which set it off as a vital and important Los Angeles landmark.

The two main, articulated facades of the original structure - those facing Olympic Boulevard to the south and Olive Street to the east - were each strictly symmetrical and five bays across. The 1953 addition added two identical, five-story bays to the left side of the Olympic elevation and a one-story, three bay addition to the Olive elevation. The materials and decorative elements of the addition, which wraps around the two secondary facades in an L-shape, are identical to those of the original structure.

The entrance to the banking floor is located in the central bay of the original five bays fronting Olympic Boulevard. Two fluted classical pilasters without capitals stand to either side of the doorway, which is filled with ornamental brass grillwork. Projecting slightly forward, they provide virtually the only break to the smooth articulation of the structure (the main piers project forward a bare few inches also); a structure which relies on recesses, rather than protrusions, for its rhythm and decoration. Triple lanterns of brass, attached to the pilasters, flank the doorway. A granite relief above the doorway, carved by Edgar Walters, depicts a spread-winged eagle between two severely modeled kneeling figures. Brass grillwork fills not only the doorway, but the ground floor window openings as well. Incised reliefs of predatory birds and beasts are sculpted into the granite above the openings; a band of chevrons is cut into the wall below the openings.

The two ground floor bays of the identical Olympic Boulevard addition are also filled with grillwork, underscored by chevrons and capped by predators. The bay to the far left of the addition provides access to the garage. The bay to its right is the entryway to the upstairs offices. (The original office entryway, which occupied the original left-most bay, was filled in at the time of the addition.)

A zigzag band, alternating with diamonds incised into the piers, separates the first floor openings from the vertical window groupings above. This band, coupled with the greater height and

(See Continuation Sheet attached)

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solidity of the ground floor, provides a visual separation of the base of the building from the upper stories. The massive piers of the upper four stories are simply extensions of those below, set off only by their fluting. Their vertical thrust is emphasized by the recessed spandrel panels which hold the windows. These spandrels, of lead, are embossed with an elongated diamond pattern.

Diamond and cross-shaped patterns pierce the topmost part of the building above each window bay. The top of the flat-roofed structure is decorated with an alternating pattern of plain, inset squares and carved geometric reliefs in a pre-Columbian influenced style.

The Olive Street facade is, in materials, details and articulation, identical to the Olympic Boulevard facade. Its five original bays at the ground level are now all filled with windows. The original far right bay once held a garage entrance. Access to the basement garage is now provided through the far right bay of the one-story addition. The other two bays of the addition hold windows.

The secondary two facades of the building are plain and unadorned, faced with white brick and concrete. The west facade is the five-story leg of the L-shaped addition. It is of brick faced with stucco. Its right third is blank, its center third shows the recessed outline of three bays, free of windows, and its left third features three recessed bays of the same size, each containing five windows.

The back facade is also plainly articulated. The one-story leg of the addition is a blank stuccoed brick wall stretching across the left two-thirds of the facade. Above and behind it rises the back facade of the original building, which is of white brick, broken by an irregular pattern of windows and fire escapes.

The most noteworthy feature of the building's interior is the main banking room, which has remained largely unaltered over the years. Its original features include an Italian Renaissance-influenced coffered ceiling, marble floors and Roman travertine walls and piers. The protective screen rising above the tellers' booths to the ceiling, which divides the banking floor in two, is a non-historic addition, located in the place of an earlier screen.

8. Significance

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

Specific dates 1929-1930 **Builder/Architect** Architects: Parkinson and Parkinson
 Builder: P.J. Walker Construction Co

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, Los Angeles Branch, is significant for its design by the prominent Los Angeles architectural firm of Parkinson and Parkinson, its association with a major financial institution of the city, the quality of its design and workmanship, the appropriateness of its solid, dignified design to its tenant and its position as one of the earliest Classical Moderne structures in Los Angeles. An anchor to the southwestern edge of downtown Los Angeles' commercial and financial center, the building has remained basically unaltered through the years, but for an identically detailed and designed conforming addition added in 1953. It continues to possess the integrity of location, setting, feeling and association that it had at its opening in 1930. The quality of the design was attested to by the American Institute of Architects, which awarded it an A.I.A Honor Award in 1939.

John Parkinson, one of Los Angeles' most prominent and accomplished architects during the more than 40 years he designed buildings there, was born in Scorton, Lancashire County, England, on December 12, 1861. He permanently emigrated to the United States in 1885. Practicing first in Napa, California, then in Seattle, he opened his architectural office in Los Angeles in 1894. By 1895 he was well established, already having designed the city's first Class "A" steel frame structure, the Homer Laughlin Building downtown. In 1904, a year before entering into a ten-year partnership with G. Edwin Bergstrom, he designed the Braly Block on Spring Street, the building generally regarded as the city's first skyscraper. In association with Bergstrom, Parkinson designed an additional six buildings now included within the Spring Street National Register Historic District.

Parkinson took his son Donald on as a partner in 1920. Their partnership, which lasted until Parkinson's death on December 9, 1935, produced some of Los Angeles' finest Beaux Arts and, in particular, Moderne structures. Among the Los Angeles landmarks designed by the Parkinsons are the Los Angeles City Hall, in association with John C. Austin and Albert C. Martin (1926-28), the Title Insurance and Trust Company Building (1928), Bullock's Wilshire Department Store (1929), Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum (1932), Los Angeles Union Passenger Terminal (1934-1939, completed after Parkinson's death) and, of course, the Federal Reserve Bank Building. The firm Parkinson founded in 1894 is still in operation, under the name of Woodford and Bernard, who designed the 1953 addition, making it one of the oldest firms in continuous operation in the country.

(See Continuation Sheet attached)

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet attached

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property .58

Quadrangle name Hollywood

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	1	3	8	3	8	2	0	3	7	6	7	4	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 Block 62 Ord's Survey, por. lot 2; Tract No. 1869, por. lot B; Tract No. 4260, por. lot A: all as shown on attached survey map. Boundaries are drawn on the historic lot lines of the resource, and include the historic building and additions. Property is a 160' x 160' lot at the northernmost corner of Olive Street and Olympic Blvd.

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

state N/A code county N/A code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Marvin A. Brown

organization N/A

date March 14, 1984

street & number 904 5th Street #2

telephone 213-395-4243

city or town Santa Monica

state California 90403

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 Maureen Mitchell Wilson

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date 8/13/84

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

J. Delores Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

9-20-84

Attest:

Chief of Registration

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The monumental structure the Parkinsons' designed was well-suited stylistically to its first, and only, tenant. The Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco and its Los Angeles branch are an integral part of the nation's central banking structure. Its presence in Los Angeles has contributed to the establishment of the city as a major financial center. The appropriateness of the design was born out by the subsequent use of a stripped-down, monumental style of architecture utilized throughout the 1930's for governmental and public buildings.

The Federal Reserve Bank Building marks the transition for the Parkinsons from Beaux Arts and Art Deco design to the Classical Moderne. One of the earliest full-blown examples of the style in Los Angeles, the watershed nature of the bank's design for the Parkinsons becomes apparent when one compares the final structure with a proposed design illustrated in the Southwest Builder and Contractor, January 4, 1929, p. 40. This design, with its tripartite division, clearly delineated by cornices, rusticated base and projecting center bays, creating a portico effect, was more Beaux Arts than Moderne. By the time the building was completed, the Parkinsons had stripped away the Beaux Arts details, leaving an almost pristine structure, noteworthy for its crisp serenity and classical simplicity.

Viewed against the backdrop of such Art Deco fantasies as the United Artists Theatre and Eastern Columbia Building to the east a few blocks and the serene Italian Renaissance style Standard Oil and Petroleum Buildings to the west, the building's continuing integrity of location, setting, feeling and association is easily discernible. It is the Classical Moderne hallmark of this end of downtown Los Angeles. Coupled with these structures, the bank building is a major contributor to the streetscape.

The quality of the building's design, and its stature as a major element of the streetscape, was not diminished by the 1953 addition. The addition possesses the same quality of material, workmanship and design as the original 1930 structure; in detail and style the new and old buildings are identical. The integrity of the total structure establishes the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, Los Angeles Branch, as a significant and major Los Angeles building.

The Federal Reserve System is the nation's central bank, determining and carrying out federal monetary policy. It also acts as a bank regulatory agency, a provider of wholesale banking services, an administrator of consumer protection laws and as fiscal agent for the U. S. government. The Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco is headquarters for the Twelfth Federal Reserve District; the Los Angeles Branch of the San Francisco Bank is the second largest central banking center in the country, serving Southern California, Southern Nevada, Arizona and New Mexico.

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American Architect, June, 1932, pp. 71-76 (photographs).

Architect and Engineer, January, 1936, p. 57 (John Parkinson obituary).

Architectural Digest, volume 7, number 3, 1929, p. 124 (illustration).

Architectural Digest, volume 8, number 2, 1931, p. 50 (photograph).

Gebhard, David and Robert Winter, A Guide to Architecture in
Los Angeles & Southern California, Santa Barbara, 1977.

John Parkinson & Donald B. Parkinson, Architects (firm brochure,
located at offices of Woodford and Bernard)

John Parkinson's notebooks (located at offices of Woodford and
Bernard).

Southwest Builder and Contractor, January 4, 1929, p. 40
(construction notice and illustration).

Southwest Builder and Contractor, July 11, 1930, p. 23
(advertisement with photograph).

Southwest Builder and Contractor, November 23, 1945, p. 5
(Donald Parkinson obituary).

Withey, Henry F. and Elsie Rathburn, Biographical Dictionary
of American Architects (Deceased), Los Angeles, 1956.

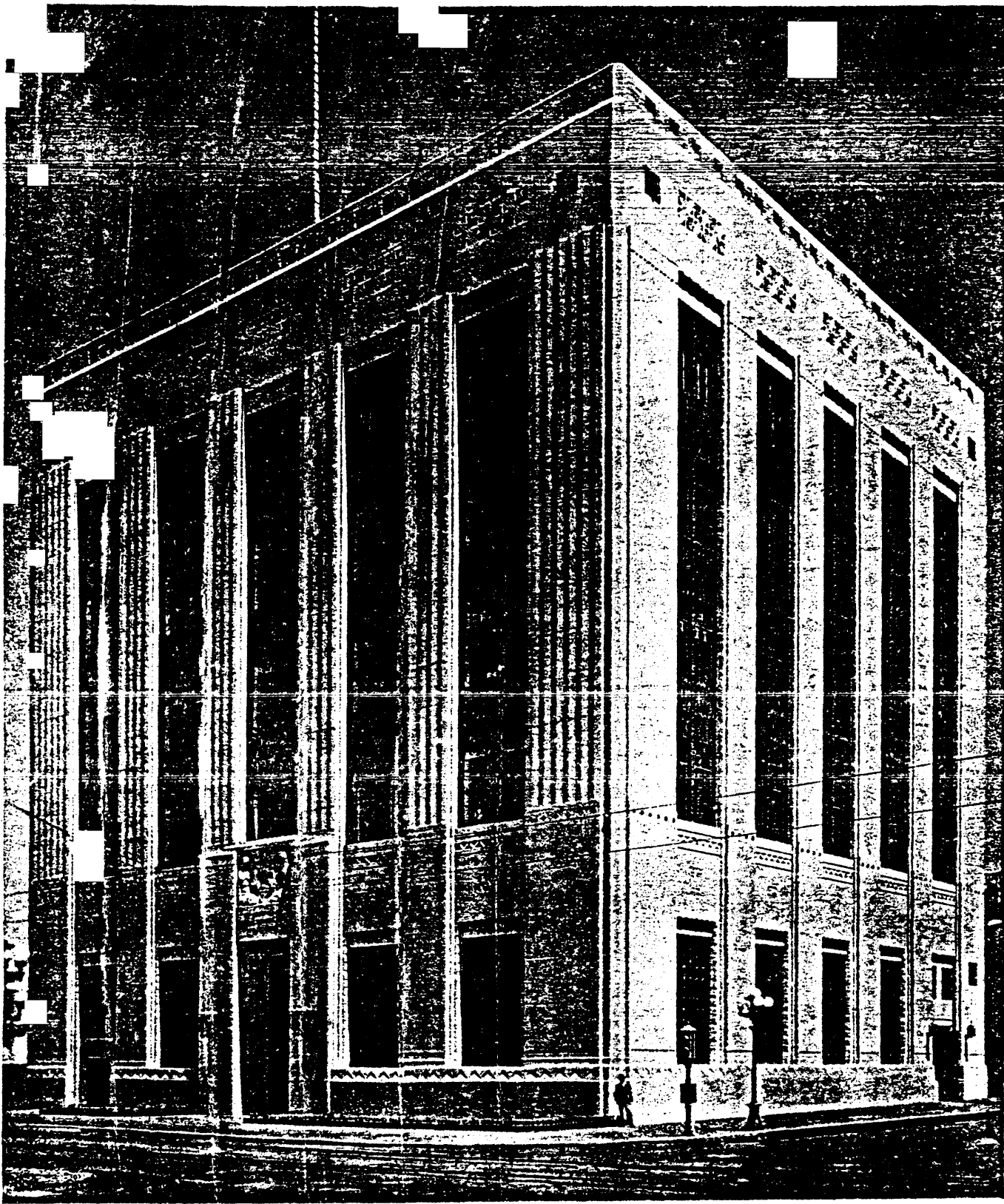


Panels above main entrance and over first story windows executed in low relief by Edger Walter, sculptor

MILES BERNE

MAIN ENTRANCE • LOS ANGELES BRANCH
FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF SAN FRANCISCO

JOHN PARKINSON AND DONALD B. PARKINSON, ARCHITECTS



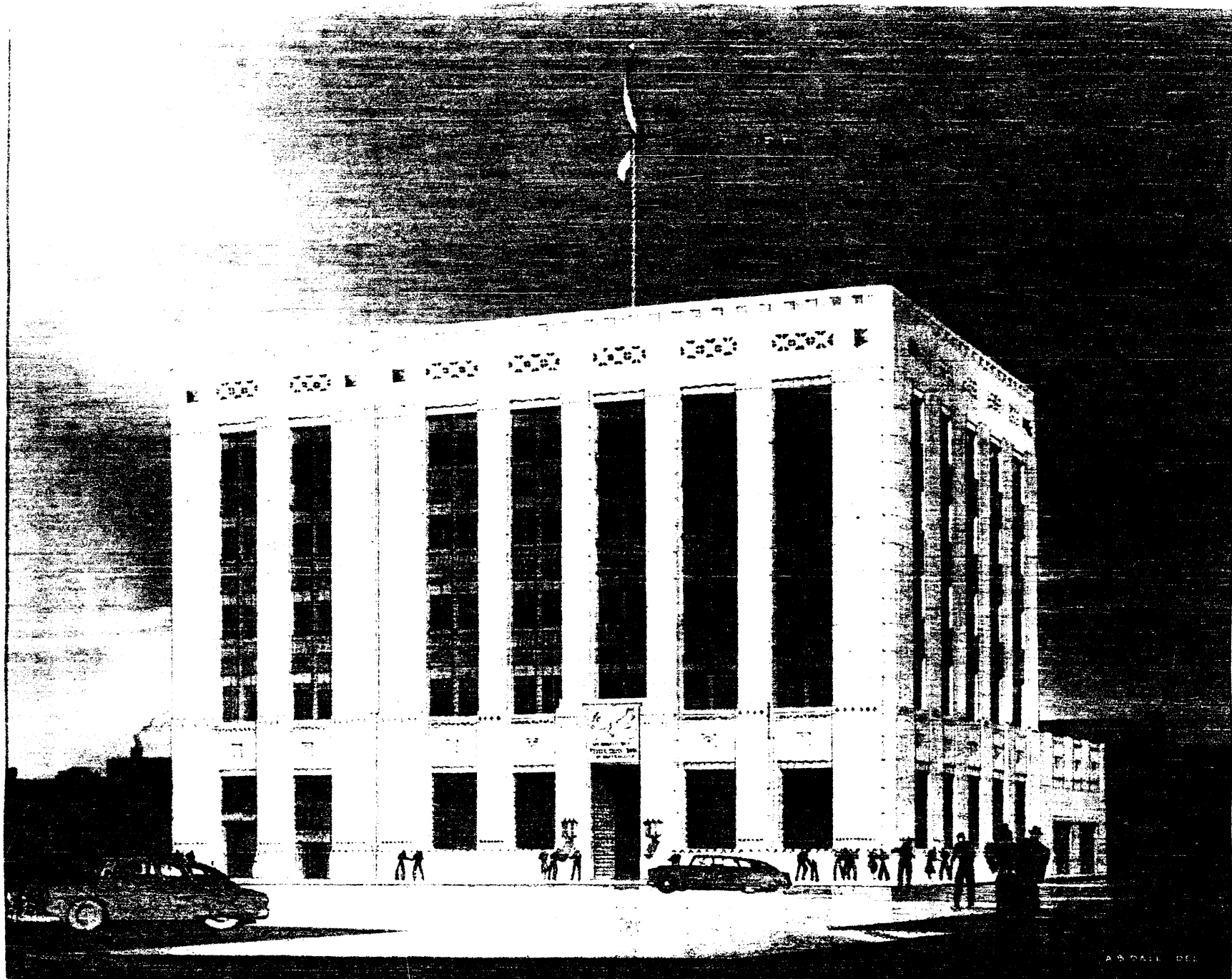
✓
1 story
drive to
entrance

MILES BERRY

LOS ANGELES BRANCH
FEDERAL RESERVE BANK
OF SAN FRANCISCO

JOHN PARKINSON AND DONALD B. PARKINSON, ARCHITECTS

Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, Los Angeles Branch



ARCHITECTURAL · OFFICE · PARKINSON · POWELSON · BRINEY · BERNARD & WOODFORD

12-6-63

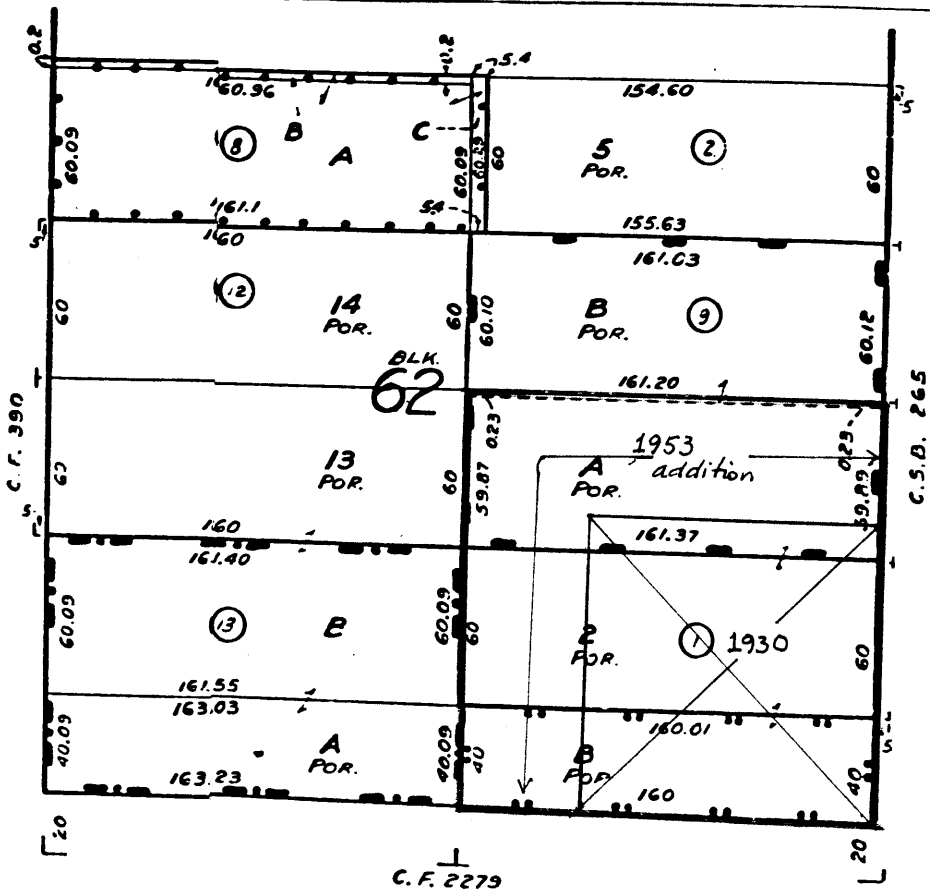
89 5
1" = 50'

AVE.
GRAND

GRAND

90

90



ST.

OLIVE

90

90

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF SAN FRANCISCO
LOS ANGELES BRANCH
409 West Olympic Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90015

TRACT NO. 1869
M.B. 21-5

TRACT NO. 4260
M.B. 46-68

TRACT NO. 4998
M.B. 52-73

TRACT NO. 3009
M.B. 39-36

BLOCK 62 ORD'S SURVEY

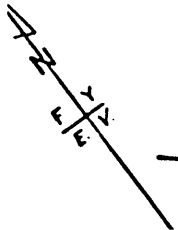
M.R. 43-74

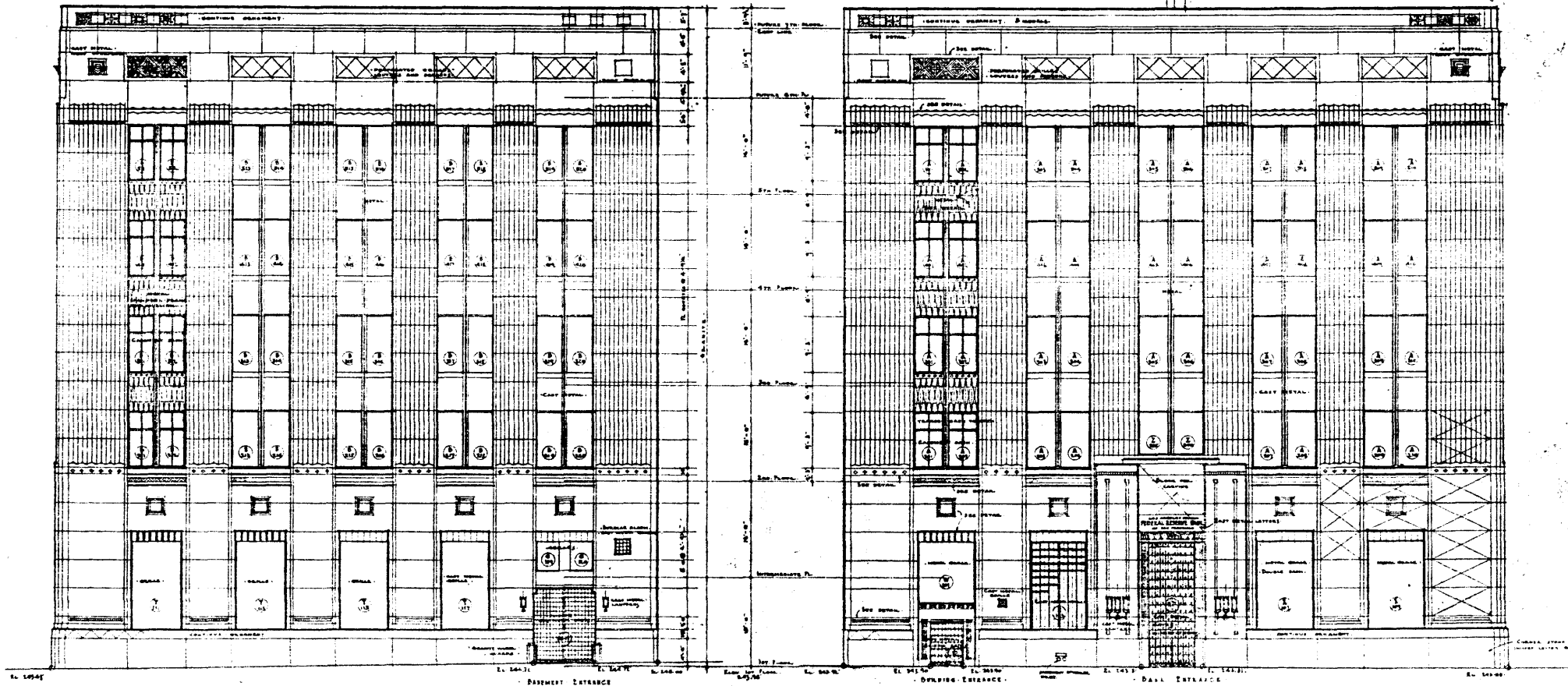
OLYMPIC

BLVD.

80

80



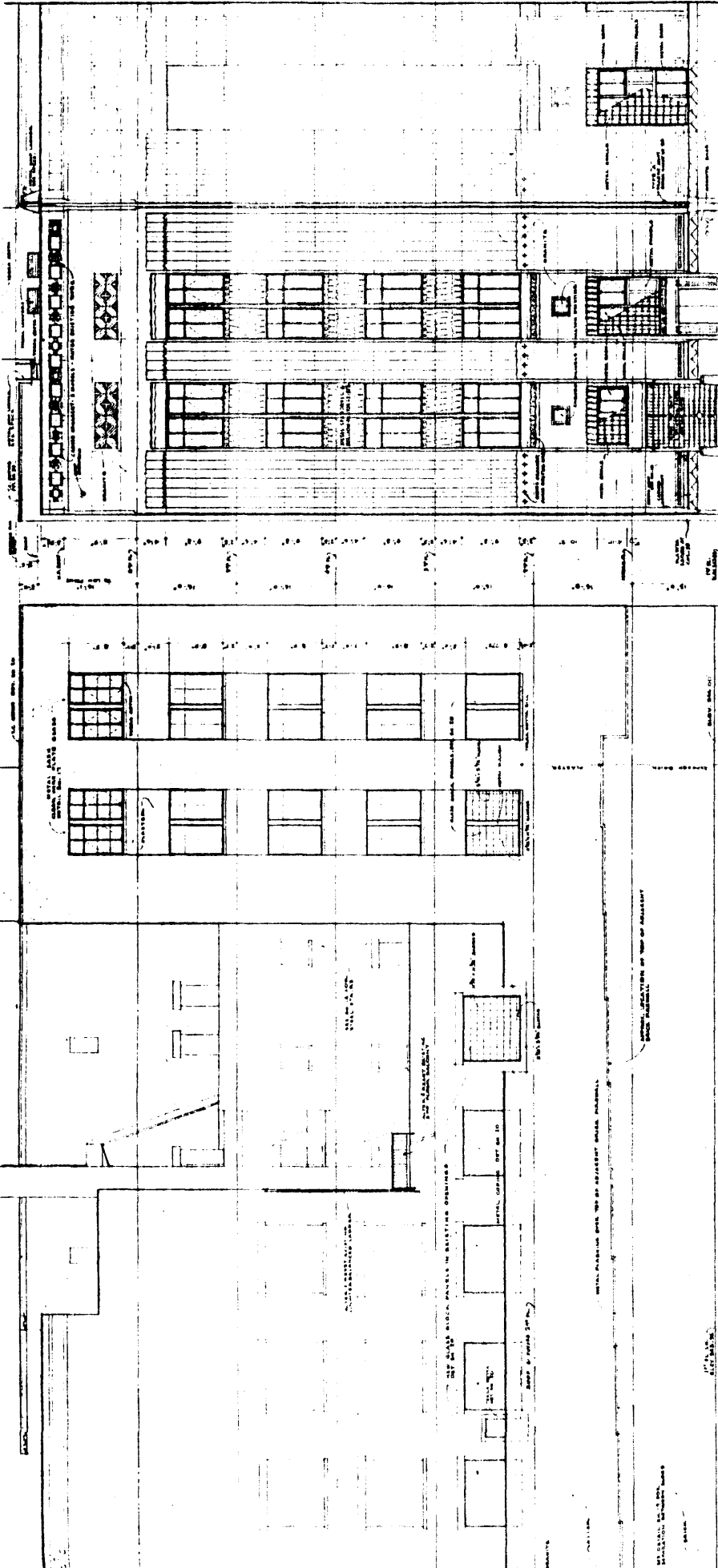


LIST OF REVISIONS

DATE	DESCRIPTION	NO.	DATE	DESCRIPTION

JOHN PARKINSON & DONALD B. PARKINSON

TRUST AND TRUST COMPANY - ELEVATIONS
FEDERAL RESERVE BANK

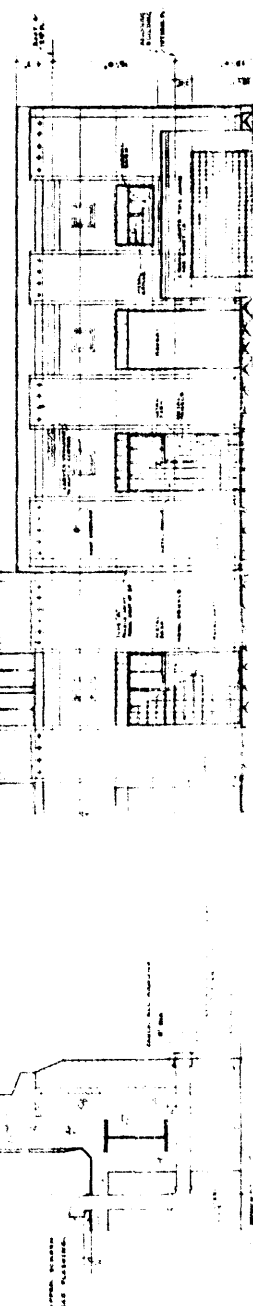


NORTH ELEVATION

OLYMPIC BLYD. SOUTH ELEVATION

SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

ADDITION TO
LOS ANGELES BRANCH
FEDERAL RESERVE BANK

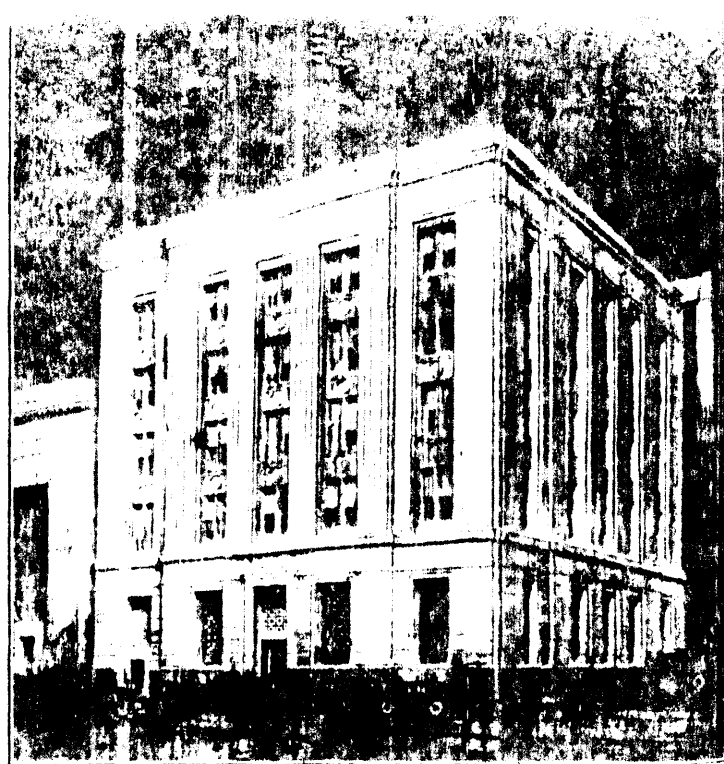


NORTH ELEVATION

OLYMPIC BLYD. SOUTH ELEVATION

SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

ADDITION TO
LOS ANGELES BRANCH
FEDERAL RESERVE BANK



Left, Office Building for Southern California Edison Co. at Fifth St. and
 Grand Ave., Allison & Allison, Los Angeles, Architects.

Above, Federal Reserve Bank Building to Be Erected at Tenth and Flower
 Sts., John Parkinson and Donald B. Parkinson, Los Angeles, Architects.

Building Prospects for 1929 Are Equally Good as Those Reported a Year Ago

Projects Aggregating Sixty Millions in Sight
 Interesting Figures Disclosed by Annual Review

Southwest Builder and Contractor's annual survey of building prospects in Los Angeles and other cities of the Pacific Southwest shows approximately the same amount of construction in sight for 1929 as was reported a year ago for a compilation of reports on buildings just being started or which are expected to be started during the new year, estimated to cost \$75,000,000 or more projects in sight aggregating about \$60,241,000. Building in sight in Los Angeles at the beginning of 1928 amounted to \$62,700,000, at the beginning of 1927 \$74,600,000, at the beginning of 1925 \$75,500,000, and at the beginning of 1924 \$87,000,000. It is interesting to note that the trend of building as shown by records of building permits in the Pacific Southwest shows a very close relation to the trend indicated by prospects as reported each year by Southwest Builder and Contractor.

The general feeling of confidence now prevailing means anything but a pessimistic outlook for building in 1929 is distinctly better than it was a year ago. A large number of prospects not included in the report compiled here await only favorable developments in some particular line of business in some particular locality. A favorable trend in business means that some, if not many, of these will develop into actual building operations. At the same time the upward trend in activity will help some promotion projects not listed in the summary of the building projects in sight for 1929 shows the following: Office buildings, \$13,015,000; apartment houses and hotels, \$3,830,000; store and loft buildings, \$3,985,000; club and lodge buildings, \$2,300,000; public buildings, \$3,204,000; hospital, \$3,135,000; theatres, \$1,630,000; factories and warehouses, \$3,250,000; industrial buildings, \$2,825,000; public schools, \$7,514,000; educational buildings, \$2,300,000; miscellaneous buildings, \$7,100,000. Following are the projects in the survey:

Bank and Office Buildings

Office building, 12 stories and basement, 128x119 ft., Class A steel frame, Sixth and Flower Sts.; Risco Inv. Co., owner; Richfield Oil Co. to erect; Morgan, Walls & Clements, Van Nuys Bldg., architects; P. J. Walker Co., 1111 W. M. Garland Bldg., general contractor; footing built, permit just issued. \$1,280,000

Office building, 13 stories and basement, 175x175 ft., Class A steel frame construction, Fifth St. and Grand Ave., Southern California Edison Co., owner; Allison & Allison, 1005 Hibernian Bldg., architects; working plans now being made. \$2,000,000

Bank building, 4 stories and basement, 100x160 ft., Class A steel frame, N.E. cor. Tenth and Flower Sts.; Federal Reserve Bank, owner; John Parkinson and Donald Parkinson, 808 Title Insurance Bldg., architects; P. J. Walker Co., 1111 W. M. Garland Bldg., general contractor; working plans made, awaiting action by Congress. \$800,000

Bank and office building, 6 stories and basement, 300x100 ft., Class A reinforced concrete and steel, Beverly Hills; California Bank of Los Angeles, owner; John Parkinson and Donald Parkinson, 808 Title Insurance Bldg., architects; working plans being completed. \$300,000

Office building, 12 stories and basement, 160x57 ft., Class A reinforced concrete, N.W. cor. Eighth and Hill Sts.; Sun Realty Co., owner; Claud Beckman, 1019 Union Bank Bldg., architect; H. M. Baruch Corp., Lincoln Bldg., general contractor; site being cleared. \$800,000

Addition to office building, 7 stories and basement, Class A steel frame, Sixth St. at Olive St.; Pacific Mutual Life Ins. Co., owner; John Parkinson and Donald Parkinson, 808 Title Insurance Bldg., architects; Scofield Twaits Co., Pacific Finance Bldg., general contractor; plans being prepared. \$350,000

Office building, 13 stories and basement, 100x110 ft., reinforced concrete, N.W. cor. Eighth and Bixel Sts.; W. W. Bearman, owner; \$

Garfield Bldg.
 Central
 \$1,000,000

Charles E. Metcher, architect; prefabricated concrete; Building 3, Eighth St. completed. Office building, 10 ft., Class Metcher & Bldg., and coln Bldg.

Office building, 10 ft., Class Life Ins. Co. Bldg. Wilcox Ave.

Office building, concrete; Louis C. Parkinson, architect; prefabricated concrete.

Bank building, Monier, steel and concrete; prefabricated.

Office building, steel and concrete; prefabricated; completed.

Office building, wood; prefabricated; 611 ft.; prefabricated.

Office building, Class A steel frame; prefabricated; plans being prepared.

Stores building, Department