

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUL 2 1979
DATE ENTERED	AUG 31 1979

**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 Spurgeon Block

AND/OR COMMON Spurgeon Building

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 206 W. 4th Street

CITY, TOWN Santa Ana VICINITY OF NOT FOR PUBLICATION
 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
 40

STATE California CODE 06 COUNTY Orange CODE 059

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" 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
	<input type="checkbox"/> 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:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Robert Windle Heath

STREET & NUMBER 206 W. 4th St.

CITY, TOWN Santa Ana VICINITY OF STATE California

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Orange County Recorder's Office

STREET & NUMBER 630 N. Broadway

CITY, TOWN Santa Ana STATE California

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Point of Historical Interest

DATE 1976 _FEDERAL STATE _COUNTY _LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS State Office of Historic Preservation

CITY, TOWN Sacramento STATE California

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Spurgeon Building is a four-story, wood-frame commercial building on the southwest corner of 4th and Sycamore Streets in the original townsite of Santa Ana. Facing 4th, it includes numbers 202-212 with some tenants in residence for 29 years.

The rectangular building of white-enameled pressed brick is 100 feet wide by 136 feet long and includes a basement, excavated in 1923. The upper three floors contain approximately 35 offices each. The building has received very little exterior alteration since 1914, when it was completed. A fire in 1946 did \$5,000 worth of damage to the building and contents, but was confined mainly to the basement and caused no structural damage to the exterior or to the upper floors.

Neo-classical in style, the building has articulated horizontal divisions with a molded course separating the first floor from the upper three. The roof has a projecting cornice with modillions. The main entrance on 4th has a projecting cornice. Near the roof line are decals decoration. The simplicity of the commercial building is emphasized by the use of windows and brick work as the main ornamentation. The 3 corners, which face streets, contain wide sash windows; these corners are set out from the building by the noncontinuous roof cornice. The straight-head recessed square windows of the center section are in pairs with patterned brick work to emphasize the bays. The upper floor has decorations between the windows and under the cornice to articulate the upper story from the bottom floors. The rear continues the bay pattern with the windows being recessed into semi-elliptical arches. A metal fire escape has also been attached to the rear.

The interior has undergone various alterations to satisfy tenants. Presently the owner is restoring certain portions of the building to turn-of-the-century decor. Oak paneling and woodwork are being installed in the first floor lobby, and a glass-doored elevator, original with the building is an outstanding interior feature.

The domed Swiss clock tower on the northeast corner of the building, is a Santa Ana landmark. The four clock faces are each 6 feet in diameter. Details of the tower include fluted columns and rounded arches culminating in a domed roof. A round balustrade at the tower-roof intersection contrasts with the rectangular base. The elaborately decorated keystone decoration with urns at the feet of the columns mark the contrast with the simplicity of the rest of the building. The tower provides a somewhat baroque touch to the building which is otherwise noted for its neo-classical simplicity.

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	___ECONOMICS	___LITERATURE	___SCULPTURE
___1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	___EDUCATION	___MILITARY	___SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
___1700-1799	___ART	___ENGINEERING	___MUSIC	___THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	___PHILOSOPHY	___TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	___COMMUNICATIONS	___INDUSTRY	___POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	___OTHER (SPECIFY)
		___INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1914 (completed)

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Metcalf & Davis, Long Beach, CA

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Spurgeon Building and its site are significant for their association with the growth and development of the City of Santa Ana. W. H. Spurgeon, its' owner, founded the City; and it is largely through his efforts that the city became a major center in Southern California and the seat of Orange County government. Today, only this building remains in Santa Ana to commemorate his influence.

Architecturally the building has local significance as the first four-story building in Santa Ana, the city's first skyscraper. Built on the site of previous Spurgeon commercial operations, the structure is one of a series of increasingly imposing buildings built by Spurgeon as he became successful. The site of the building is also important to the area through its association with the city's first water supply. The area's first artesian well, now located under the building, played a major role in providing water to this semi-arid region and aided the growth of the county.

A true California pioneer and entrepreneur, W. H. Spurgeon built his first store, of redwood, on the corner of Fourth and Broadway in 1869 (Photo 1). He had just purchased the land now comprising the downtown and proceeded to sell lots to establish the city. In addition to the water supply, he established the post office and a stage line to promote the growth of the community. By 1874, he had built a "handsome two-story rustic frame building, about 30' x 60' with a wing 20' x 20' " (4, p. 176). The upper story contained the lodges of the Masons, Odd Fellows and Good Templars. This building was moved to allow the expansion of the business in 1886. By this time, Granville Spurgeon had joined his brother in the business. The Los Angeles City and County Directory of 1886 says that "among the present noted improvements which are in progress may be mentioned the elegant two-story brick block now being erected by the Spurgeon Bros. adjoining their present block". This was the third building on the site (Photo 2). An advertisement in the same directory states: "The Spurgeon Bros. Dealers in general merchandise and farm machinery. The oldest and leading merchants of Santa Ana." (7) The family would continue the commercial operations and the prominence of the Spurgeon name in the city's business affairs through the 1900's.

With his family to manage the business, Spurgeon turned to civic affairs. He served as representative in the California legislature, on the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, and was the first president of the Orange County Board of Supervisors. With a group of local citizens, he was instrumental in the partition of the two counties and the naming of Santa Ana as the county seat. The Blade of Feb. 1898 states that "No man has worked harder or accomplished more for Santa Ana than has Mr. Spurgeon," and that "...the cut of the Spurgeon block on Fourth Street represents a part of the result of Mr. Spurgeon's hard work in this community." (18)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET 2

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 13,600 sq.ft.

UTM REFERENCES Tustin Quadrangle 1:24,000

A

1	1	4	1	9	5	8	0	3	7	3	4	3	2	0
ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING								

B

ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING							

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property nominated is a rectangular building situated on a lot 43,560 sq.ft., bounded on the north by 4th St., south by 3rd St., and east by Sycamore St.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Donna Minick

Staff revision by State Historic Preservation Office

ORGANIZATION

DATE
May 19, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

11311 Twinspan Ave.

TELEPHONE
(714) 531-8969

CITY OR TOWN

Fountain Valley

STATE
California

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

Knorr M. Egan

TITLE

DATE 6/25/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Coral Shull

DATE 8-31-79

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ANTHROPOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE 8/30/79

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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CONTINUATION SHEET 1 ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

On August 7, 1913, ground was broken for the "culmination" of the Spurgeon commercial enterprises--the present Spurgeon Building. The building was Santa Ana's first skyscraper--a fitting tribute to a man who had devoted himself to the growth of the city. The Santa Ana Register of August 8, 1913, states that the building will be the first four-story structure in the city and will have hot and cold water, steam heat, and a modern elevator. The "modern elevator" remains in the building and is the last remaining non-automatic, person-operated elevator in a commercial building in Orange County. A note of modern architectural interest is that the present owner has had murals depicting historic scenes in downtown Santa Ana painted on the interior of the elevator shaft so that passengers riding from floor to floor may view these through the glass doors of the elevator. Located on the site of the previous Spurgeon buildings, the family continued to own and operate it until 1973.

One interesting feature of this otherwise typical Santa Ana commercial building, is the Swiss clock tower, which is said to have been built because of disappointment that no clock had been placed in the cupola atop the Courthouse, down the street from the Spurgeon Building. The building is listed in David Gebhard's Guide to Architecture in Los Angeles and Southern California, with the comment: "A strange tower makes its appearance at the corner." The tower is the most visually identifiable symbol of Santa Ana, and is sometimes used as a logo for city publications.

Fourth Street became the commercial street in Santa Ana as the Spurgeon store location attracted other businesses. This building served as an anchor for the commercial district. Similar to the other vintage 1910-1920's buildings in the city which survived the 1933 earthquake and the disruption of the downtown through suburban flight and burn-outs, the Spurgeon Building remains a fine example of a neo-classical commercial building.

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CONTINUATION SHEET 2 ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

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2. Bradford, Major Ward. Biographical Sketches of the Life of Major Ward Bradford (Old Pioneer). n.d.
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10. Sleeper, Jim. Second Orange County Almanac. Trabuco Canyon: OCUSA Press, 1974.
11. Swanner, Charles D. Santa Ana: A Narrative of Yesterday, 1870-1910. Claremont, CA: Saunder Press, 1953.
12. Talbert, Thomas. Historical Volume and Reference Works, 3 vol. Whittier, CA: Historical Publishers, 1963.

UNPUBLISHED SOURCES

13. Los Angeles County. Deeds, Book 14, dated Oct. 27, 1869.
Book 15, dated April 16, 1870.
14. Orange County Records. Book 10916, p. 29, dated Sept. 25, 1973.
15. Santa Ana Building Dept. Building Permits.
16. Santa Ana Cultural Heritage Committee. Historical Landmarks Inventory, #C-3.

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

17. Los Angeles Times, 1-5-69.
18. Santa Ana Evening Blade, Special Edition, Feb. 1898.
19. Santa Ana Register, 8-8-13.
20. " " , 3-23-14.
21. " " , 6-4-46.

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