

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

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

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*Final*

**1. Name**

OHP

historic Jastro Building (Standard Oil Building)

and/or common Standard Oil Building

**2. Location**

street & number 1800 19th Street

n/a not for publication

city, town Bakersfield

n/a vicinity of

congressional district 18

state California

code 06

county Kern

code 029

**3. 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 type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> n/a	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name John Pulskamp, M.D., Tim Gannon 19th Street Properties

street & number 4101 Union Avenue

city, town Bakersfield

n/a vicinity of

state CA 93306

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Kern County Hall of Records

street & number Civic Center

city, town Bakersfield

state CA 93301

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Preliminary Historic Survey

has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date June, 1982

federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records City of Bakersfield, Redevelopment Agency

city, town Bakersfield

state CA 93301

# 7. Description

Condition  excellent  good  fair  deteriorated  ruins  unexposed  unaltered  altered (minor)  original site  moved date \_\_\_\_\_ N/A

## Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Constructed in 1917/1921, the Jastro Building/Standard Oil Building is a two-storey rectangular structure situated on the corner of 19th and G Streets in Bakersfield, California. Constructed of hollow tile and faced with vitrified brick, the building is situated on a major intersection in the heart of the downtown business section of the city. With its ornate terra cotta on the second storey balcony, and boxed cornice with parapet, the building is a good local example of Second Renaissance Revival. Surrounding blocks include small businesses and some housing.

The first storey of the original building was constructed in a "C" shape, with the indentation being at the rear of the building. The second storey was of "H" shape design with the continuance of the indentation at the rear of the building, plus a porch indented in the front center, over the main doorway (see drawing).

The original building is a substantial two-storey structure, with a frontage of 98 feet on 19th Street and 74 feet on G Street. It is constructed of hollow tile faced with vitrified brick. The interior rooms are furnished with quartered oak woodwork and the original building's lobbies and corridors are of mosaic tile. The building has a partial basement, now used for the heating and cooling machinery, and a flat roof with bracketed boxed cornice and low parapet. The windows are flat with sill, except for those in the second-storey center porch section which are molded arches with freize. All windows are casement, vertical two-sash with transom. The two front doors are flat with transom, and framed by three round columns. The front stairs are concrete, open railing, with a stoop; the original balustrade has been removed.

In 1921, plans were drawn up and construction was started on a new \$125,000 addition to the building. This addition measured 67 feet on 19th Street with a 72 foot depth, making this wing slightly smaller than the original building, yet the architecture is identical. This addition gives the building 141 feet of frontage on 19th Street. The new wing, which provided 10,000 additional square feet of office space, is rectangular in shape with no indentations or protrusions. The wing was constructed on the west side of the original building being cut through in the first and second storey hallways.

As with the original building, the new addition was constructed of steel-reinforced concrete, and was considered to be thoroughly fireproof. Contractors for both building projects were Currie and Dulger. The architect for both projects was Everett M. Hinshaw of Whittier, California.

The first-floor of the building is separated from what would be the basement level by a plain belt course which wraps completely around the building. The vitrified brick facing also is on all sides of the building. A notably distinguishing feature of the first floor is on the front of the building (south side). The entry to the building is constructed in the Corinthian order complete with 3 columns, capitals, architrave multiple fascias with frieze and dentils. This entablature supports the second-storey porch which will be described later.

The windows on all four sides of the building, both first and second floor, are flat with sill, constructed in sets of 2 with plain surround. Each set of windows has a plain trim running between it giving the appearance of a mullion.

The south side of the building has, from west to east, four sets of windows, a slight protrusion towards the street where the new wing meets the old, two sets of windows, the entry way, and two sets of windows. Above the windows runs a very plain belt course of vertical bricks which is hardly noticeable to the eye.

See Continuation Sheet

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The second storey on the south side or front of the building, is identical to the first with the exception of a porch being where the first floor entry is. This porch is "C" shaped with an iron railing on the outside over the entablature. Both indenting walls of the porch have one flat with sill, casement with transom windows. The inside or south-facing wall is ornately decorated with terra cotta ornamentation over semi-circularly arched doorways with moulded trim. Each doorway has multi-paneled glass french doors which exit onto the porch from second storey offices.

Above the second storey windows is another plain belt course of vertical bricks which also completely surrounds the building. This is followed by approximately 1 foot of vitrified brick above which a plain frieze with decorated vents begins. Above the frieze are scroll-like modillion supporting a stepped crown moulding and parapet. The above item and description apply to the entire building, all walls.

The east side of the building from south to north has one set of windows followed by a singular window, followed by two sets of windows. Applying to both elevations, the windows are spaced as those on the south side with the exception of the singular window which is closer to the middle set than the normal spacing.

The north side of the building which faces the alley is now strangely shaped, though the original building was "C" shape. With the addition of the 1921 building, the first elevation remained virtually the same shape, but with an additional full wall to the west. Windows on the north side of the rear of the building are as follows: the east wing, first and second elevations have three windows, flat with sill, casement with transom. The inside wall of the east wing both elevations have 2 windows, flat with sill, casement with transom. The north wall of the main wing has a narrow single casement window with transom next to a set of double casement with transom windows. Following is a set of two single doors with transom. To the west of the set of doors is a protrusion or outcropping in the building approximately 12 feet square with two single casement windows.

This addition was subsequent to the building's construction but has little appearance effect on the architecture. Butting up against the west wall of the alcove, the addition is next to an existing set of double casement windows with transom.

Going back to the north side of the building in the alcove, second elevation from east to west, are two sets of double casement windows with transom at floor level followed by a double set of casement windows on a mezzanine level (actually at a slightly lower level than normal floor level due to the central staircase in the building). Continuing at the floor level are another set of double casement windows with transom equalizing the design.

The west wall of the alcove on the second elevation has two sets of double casement windows with transom.

The rear of the original west wing is the same as that of the east wing with the exception of the center of the three single casement windows having been filled in.

Continuing with the first elevation, the 1921 addition began with a single storey connecting wing in the rear of the building. This wing has a set of two double casement windows with transom. The wing connects to what became the new west wing of the building in 1921. This

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wing, on the first elevation, has 2 sets of double casement windows with transom, a single doorway, on a slightly lower elevation, followed by another 2 sets of double casement windows with transom.

The second elevation of the new west wing rear from east to west also has 2 sets of double casement windows with transom but these are followed by a single casement with transom window at a mezzanine level (accommodating the inside stairwell). Continuing the first floor pattern are 2 more sets of double casement windows with transom, completing the rear of the wing.

The west wall of the new wing, both first and second elevations, is characterized by four sets of two, double casement windows transom.

Both portions of this building were designed in the Second Renaissance Revival style of architecture, and were originally constructed to allow for three storeys, although only two were ever built. The exterior historic fabric of the Jastro Building/Standard Oil Building remains intact having suffered little or no damage from the devastating earthquakes of 1952.

# 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** 1917/1921

**Buider/Architect** Currie & Dulger, Builders

Everett M. Hinshaw,  
Architect

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Standard Oil Company's roots go back to 1879 with the Pacific Oil Company. Entering Kern County in 1902, Standard Oil became Kern County's largest taxpayer for a period of over 25 years. Building refineries and bringing in oil fields, Standard developed a great deal of oil property in Kern County. With vast holdings in Kern, Standard Oil built its Central Valley offices in Bakersfield in 1917 becoming one of the earliest oil companies to realize the potential of the Kern County oilfields. The building is a good local example of Second Renaissance Revival styling, and is one of the few historic structures in downtown Bakersfield. The Pacific Coast Oil Company was incorporated under the Laws of the State of California, February 19, 1879, and for reasons unknown, reincorporated September 10, 1879. In 1900 Pacific Coast Oil Company (PCO) was purchased by the Standard Oil Company (New Jersey). In 1906 the parent company arranged for PCO to acquire the business of the Standard Oil Company (Iowa), whereupon PCO was renamed the Standard Oil Company.

Standard Oil Company entered the petroleum picture of Bakersfield on July 7, 1902 with completion of an eight-inch pipeline from the Kern River and Coalinga fields to the Richmond Refinery, at the time the most important pipeline property in California. Prior to this time, dry farming and cattle raising had been the major industries of the Bakersfield area.

Standard acquired Sections 5, 15, and 21 on the Great Kern Front in 1911, and in 1912 built a refinery five miles north of the city. This refinery was replaced in 1949 by one of the most modern refineries in the country, and at that time, the largest in the Bakersfield area.

For a period of over 25 years, Standard Oil was the largest taxpayer in Kern County. The school system in Bakersfield is among the finest in the state. The elementary school in North Bakersfield is named "Standard" because of the cooperation that company gave the school district in acquiring the site.

The company's Bakersfield office was built in 1917, and enlarged in 1921 after it moved its Central Valley offices from Fresno to Bakersfield in 1920. One feature of the building is the fact that it marked the crossing of "G" Street as the limit to Bakersfield's business center. Prior to the erection of the Jastro Building/Standard Oil Building, "G" Street had been considered the outside boundary of the city's business district.

The Jastro Building/Standard Oil Building, named for Henry Jastro, the original owner whose heirs subsequently sold it to Standard Oil, was the first Standard Oil Building in Bakersfield, and was indicative of the company's realization that the city was important to the company's growth and commerce. It was apparent by 1921 that the expansion level of the company was so great as to require the addition of 10,000 square feet of office space.

The original building was constructed at a cost of approximately \$110,000 which included property. The addition (1921) with its vast amount of floor space was constructed at a cost of \$125,000. Both structures having been designed and built by the same architect and contractors were constructed identically and only a keen eye can discern the older building from the addition.

See Continuation Sheet

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Bailey, Richard C. Explorations in Kern. Bakersfield, CA: Kern County Historical Society, 1959.

See Continuation Sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property .308 acre

Quadrangle name Oildale

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UMT References

A	<u>11</u>	<u>3</u> <u>16</u> <u>35</u> <u>10</u>	<u>39</u> <u>16</u> <u>46</u> <u>10</u>
	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 237 lots 14 through 20 of the Northern Division in the city of Bakersfield, County of Kern, State of California as per map recorded April 19, 1904 in Book 1, pages 13 and 14 in the Office of the County Recorder of said county. Dimensions are 182 feet, east and west; 122 feet north and south.

Building occupies its original lot.

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

state n/a code n/a county n/a code n/a

state n/a code n/a county n/a code n/a

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Christopher D. Brewer

organization Brewer's Historical Consultants

date August 25, 1982

street & number 3204 Perry Place

telephone (805) 872-2423

city or town Bakersfield

state California 93306

# 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*15 m ell*

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date

6/29/83



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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Since Standard Oil vacated the building in the mid-1960's, it has changed ownership several times. The present owners have been restoring the interior of the building to its original appearance and are interested in preserving this fine historic building for future generations.

The Standard Oil Building is unique in its context to the local environment. It is one of the last remaining buildings of Second Renaissance Revival architecture in the Bakersfield area. Other buildings surrounding the Standard Oil Building are both commercial and residential in nature. The building has been landscaped to be compatible with the local environment and will match that of its neighbor to the east, the Kern County Land Company Building.

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PAGE 1

Bailey, Richard C. Heritage of Kern. Bakersfield, CA: Kern County Historical Society, 1957.

The Bakersfield Californian, Bakersfield, CA. July 10, 1917, p. 1.  
July 20, 1917, p. 6.  
August 21, 1917, p. 6.  
September 6, 1917.  
January 3, 1918, p. 5.  
March 27, 1918, p. 1.  
July 31, 1918, p. 1.  
February 5, 1921, p. 1.  
March 1, 1921, p. 7.  
April 15, 1921, p. 1.  
October 16, 1956, p. 19, 23.

California Division of Mines. Earthquakes in Kern County, California During 1952. San Francisco, 1952.

Kreiser, Ralph F. and Thomas Hunt. Kern Panorama. Bakersfield, CA: Kern County Historical Society, 1961.

Latta, Frank F. Black Gold in the Joaquin. Caldwell, Idaho: Caxton Printers Ltd., 1949.

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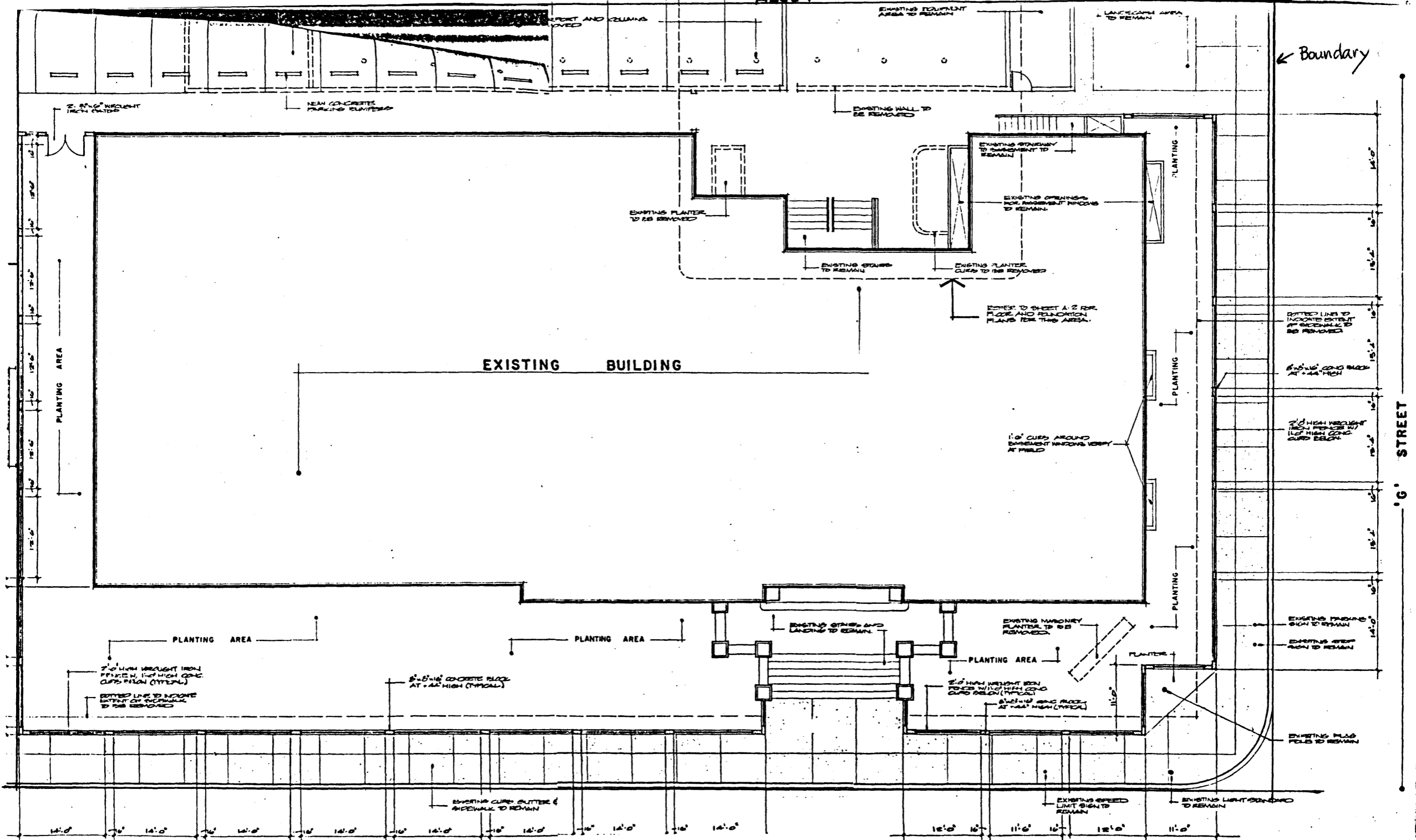
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One Hundred Years Helping to Create the Future. San Francisco: Standard Oil Company, 1979.

White, Gerald T. Formative Years in the Far West. New York: Appleton-Century-Crofts, 1962

Wines, Howie, ed. Kern County Centennial Almanac. Bakersfield, CA: Kern County Centennial Observation Committee, 1966.





JASTRO BUILDING (STANDARD OIL BUILDING), 1800 19th Street, Bakersfield, Kern County, CA

19th STREET

'G' STREET