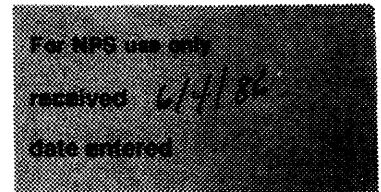


**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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



Continuation sheet 1

Item number

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Continuation Sheet
Yaun Ah Gim Groceries
(Phoenix Commercial MRA)
Resubmittal

This building is a significant reminder of the role the Chinese had in settling the territory of Arizona. The Chinese first entered the Southwest in large numbers as railroad workers during the 1880's, and by the turn of the century they had expanded into service industries, such as laundries, markets, and restaurants, and into agriculture. By the time Arizona reached statehood in 1912, Chinese communities were well established.

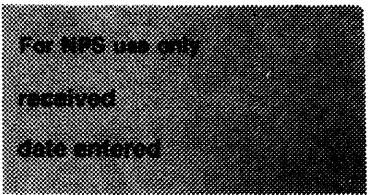
Between 1910 and 1920 the population and economy of Arizona grew because of Federal water reclamation projects and the need for raw materials during World War I. This growth was reflected in the Chinese communities, as well. In the early years of the twentieth century, the Chinese community in Phoenix was primarily centered around First, Jefferson, and Madison Streets in central Phoenix. As Phoenix began to grow, Chinese residents started to move outward from the central city. They intended to take advantage of perceived economic opportunities and to avoid the ghetto stigma attached to Chinatown. Economic displacement by Anglo-controlled inner city businesses also contributed to the dispersal of Chinatown. The location of the Yaun Ah Gim Groceries building reflects this outward movement since it is on the southwest corner of Tonto and Fourth Avenues, approximately four blocks west of the downtown commercial area.

This brick construction commercial building is typical of early twentieth century neighborhood markets. The building is one story in height, measures fifty feet long by forty feet wide, and has a single bay corner entry. Openings have segmental brick arch lintels. The north facade contains a small door. The east facade contains three small windows and one large display window. All of these openings are original to the structure. The plan of the building is unaltered. The window openings are presently blocked with wood boards, dating to circa 1975. The window infill is a protective measure, as the building is not currently in use, and does not impair the integrity of the structure. The boards could easily be removed.

It is likely that there was a structure at this location prior to the construction of the grocery store, but there is no documentation for this fact other than circumstantial evidence. In 1911 Yaun Ah Gim arrived in Phoenix and set up residence at 401 West Tonto. At this time two sets of concrete block row houses were erected on parcel 112-17-118. Based on the site plan of these concrete block structures, it is probable that there was already a building at the corner of Tonto and Fourth Avenues. In 1919 Yaun Ah Gim erected the brick market building at the corner of the block, abutting the brick building to the 1911 concrete block structure.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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



Continuation sheet 2

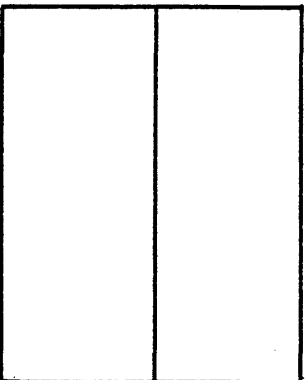
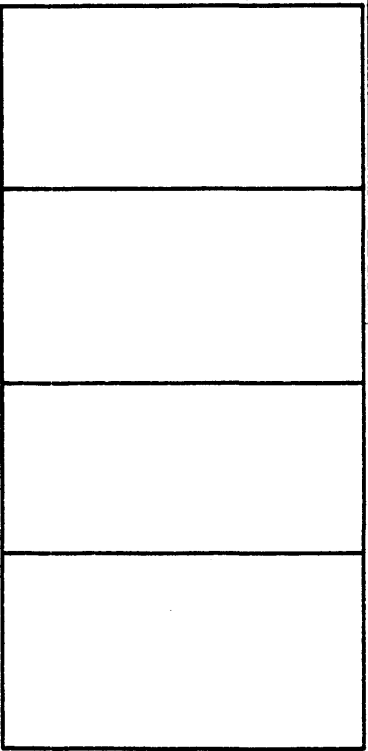
Item number

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While the Yaun Ah Gim Groceries building is an important representation of early twentieth century commercial architecture, its primary significance relates to the role of the Chinese population in the commercial and economic development of Phoenix. The setting and historic condition of the building are unaltered despite the minor wood window infill. Therefore, its historic association with the economic and commercial role of the Chinese community is unimpaired.

The Yaun Ah Gim Groceries building is nominated to the National Register as part of the Phoenix Commercial Multiple Resource Area. Because the MRA nomination is limited exclusively to commercial buildings, only the 1919 brick market building is nominated. Although the 1911 concrete block residential buildings are important, they are not part of the nominated property. The appended map clearly shows the site plan of parcel 112-17-118 and the extent of the nominated property.

TONTO AVE



PROPERTY LINE - TAX PARCEL 112-17-118

FOURTH AVE.

YUAN AH GIM GROCERIES

PHOENIX COMMERCIAL MRA RESUBMITTAL



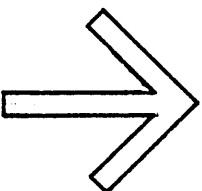
NOMINATED PROPERTY / Brick Construction



CONCRETE BLOCK ROW HOUSES



PROPERTY LINE



NORTH

APPROXIMATE SCALE 1" = 20'-0"