Form No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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7 DESCRIPTION

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located in Downtown Fresno's south-central financial and commercial district, <u>The Fresno Republican Printery Building</u> is situated a short half-block from the Fulton Mall. To the immediate west of the building is a mid-block alley and an adjoining Art Deco-detailed two story parking structure. To the south and east is an unimproved ground level parking lot. For almost sixty years, <u>The Printery</u> has enjoyed the uncommon good fortune of remaining virtually unaltered, while numerous neighboring buildings from the same era have either vanished or have been rudely face-lifted into architectural anonymity.

When architects Edward Glass and Charles Butner were planning the structure, with its specialized purpose to accommodate the job printing division of the then powerful <u>Fresno Morning Republican</u> newspaper, they were required to produce what was essentially a large warehouse space, with six banks of northern exposure skylights to naturally illuminate over 8500 square feet of print shop. Structurally, the building was designed with two-story high exposed brick walls on the east and west sides, as well as at the rear. A series of twelve exposed trusses, engineered by Edward Glass, continue to span the print shop in pairs, which rest on six centrally aligned posts. A small reinforced concrete basement exists at the rear of the building in the southeast corner, and houses a boiler room, a small foundry area, and two above-level lavatories. The 80' x 140' building is fronted by an office complex which, although only 25' deep, represents almost 3400 square feet of usable space, including a beautifully conceived mezzanine work area. A 3000 square foot storage basement is located beneath the formal offices, and is accessible by both stairwell and freight elevator.

From its sidewalk frontage on Kern Street, <u>The Printery</u> presents an elegantly symmetrical and carefully proportioned commercial facade of plastered brick; with simple exposed-brick window sills and headers; painted window sash and door casements; repetitive diamond-shaped decorative tiles; and a long shallow canopy eave of red Spanish roofing tile, which provides a wet weather shelter for the mezzanine windows. The central entrance survives with only one of an original pair of natural oak French doors, which were damaged by an inebriated driver who misnegotiated a turn into the adjacent alley. Flanking the formal entry doors, and a vast expanse of bilaterally positioned showcase windows, are two small office entrances with individual French doors, and double-hung sash windows to each side. Design architect Charles Butner completed the facade of <u>The Printery</u> by specifying that banner-sized Roman Majuscules be engraved over both the main office entrance and the street level showcase windows, thus indicating the building by name and craft.

Although the building's soft sandstone exterior colour contrasts informally with the auburn tones of roofing tiles and bricked window details (a condition which suggests a genuine indebtedness to California's Mediterranean Revival tradition), <u>The Printery's</u> formally delineated elevation suggests Charles Butner's quite personalized application of the classical visual vocabulary generally associated with the eastern academic and professional education which he had enjoyed. His office interior is expertly detailed in solid oak, with a dramatic staircase leading to the mezzanine work area. The oak panelling, counters and floors remain entirely

intact, and have taken on that subtle patina which only time can grant.

(continued ..)



PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
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1600-1699	XARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT		TRANSPORTATION
<u>X</u> _1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	XOTHER (SPECIFY)
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			and the second	Publishing
SPECIFIC DAT	ES 1919–1920	BUILDER/ARCI	HITECT Glass and Butr	ner, Architects

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

During the course of the research involved with the restoration of the <u>Physicians</u> <u>Building</u> (1926), and the formal nomination of that building to the National Register with architectural significance, <u>The Fresno Republican Printery Building</u> (1919) was found and recognized as yet an earlier design by the same architect, Charles E. Butner (1888-1957). At the time of the building's construction, Charles Butner maintained a partnership with Edward Glass (1886-1954), with whom both formal and informal associations were kept from 1914 until the middle Depression years, as Glass and Butner, Architects.

Glass and Butner met at the University of Pennsylvania, when both were studying under Paul Cret, the greatly influential Beaux Arts instructor at that time. After taking their Certificates of Proficiency in Architecture (Glass in 1912, and Butner in 1911), both men remained on the east coast while completing their apprenticeship training. Glass worked in the Philadelphia offices of Heacock and Hokinson, and later for the firm of Mills and Bonkirk. Butner, on the other hand, ventured to New York, where he worked on the Russell Sage Foundation housing project at Forest Hills Gardens, Long Island, under architects Grosvenor Atterbury, FAIA, and Frederick Law Olmsted; and later worked for the prestigious classicists McKim, Mead, and White.

Upon returning to his home on the west coast, Edward Glass opened a practice in Fresno, and was soon joined by Charles Butner in 1914. The young firm aggressively pursued a variety of residential and commercial projects, including many school commissions, and during the boom period which followed World War I, Glass and Butner enjoyed a solid position in the state's architectural community. In October of 1919, Edward Glass was appointed to the California State Board of Architecture by Governor Stevens, and later that same year the firm of Glass and Butner was honored in competition for its design proposal for a Veterans' Memorial Building, which was to have been built in San Francisco at a cost of \$2,500,000. Clouded in apparent controversy, the proposed structure was never built, and after completing several small projects for William Randolph Hearst, Glass and Butner redirected their energies to projects in the central San Joaquin Valley.

<u>The Printery</u> was originally planned when the job printing division of <u>The Fresno</u> <u>Morning Republican</u> newspaper outgrew its space in the publishing headquarters at Van Ness and Tulare Streets in Fresno. In order to accommodate the expanding commercial business, an annex went into construction at the Kern Street address in late 1919. A significant amount of original press equipment, historical type, and print shop furniture which had been used by the newspaper since 1876, was relocated to the new Fresno Republican Printery Building in early 1920. That same year, a series of corporate and editorial policy battles resulted in the eventual sale of the newspaper

(continued ..)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Please see Continuation Sheet for listing of Resource Bibliography.
- _____ Because of the significant amount of original research which was required to assemble information on the architectural practice of Edward Glass and Charles Butner, a complete list of those who were consulted is attached to this nomination form.

10 GEOGRAPHICA	L DATA		
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Kern Street and No running thence Nor	ortheasterly line of theásterly along th	E alley running ne Northeasterl	the Southeasterly line of through said Block and y line of said Lot 1, 80 feet; (continued. G STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES
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STREET & NUMBER			TELEPHONE
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12 STATE HISTOR	C PRESERVATIO	ON OFFICER	CERTIFICATION
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hereby nominate this property criteria and procedures set fort	r for inclusion in the Nationa h by the National Park Servic	I Register and certify e.	eservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I that it has been evaluated according to the c $\partial \Omega$
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2130 Kern Street Fresno, California 93721



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7 DESCRIPTION (continued)

It should be acknowledged that it is the very specific desire of the historical owners, William Camy and Elaine Camy Barber, as well as the committed intention of The Klein Group, to restore this exquisite historical piece to the community with the greatest of care. San Francisco architect Joseph Esherick (Esherick, Homsey, Dodge and Davis) has been selected to conduct the architectural work on the project. Esherick's firm is nationally recognized for having cultivated an exceptionally sensitive approach to difficult restoration and renovation projects, including The Cannery in San Francisco, and most recently work at Stanford University on the Frederick Law Olmsted/Shepley, Rutan and Coolidge designed Outer Quadrangle.

The development scheme for <u>The Printery</u> includes the creation of an historical restaurant in about 8000 square feet of the approximately 16,000 square foot building, and will utilize and display much of the original print-house contents, including furniture, selected equipment, and graphic printed matter from the company archives. The historical offices will be carefully integrated into the plan for the restaurant, and the balance of the warehouse space is planned for conversion into two floors of alley-entrance office locations, the upper floor enjoying the architectural distinction of northern-exposure skylights. These skylights will allow for an interior garden which will be viewable from both the restaurant and commercial wings: At least one bank of skylight offices may be designed into an art gallery, where natural illumination of visual work is an extremely desirable condition.

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2130 Kern Street Fresno, California 93721

8 SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

... and publishing company. William Glass, father of archited Glass, had been the business manager of The Fresno Morning Republican since 1890, when Founder and Publisher Dr. Chester Rowell had recruited him from the San Francisco Bulletin. The elder Rowell's nephew and namesake became editor of the paper in 1898, and shared the triumphant rise to power of The Republican in partnership with William Glass. When the newspaper division was ultimately sold to the Osborne Brothers, the founding families severed their partnership, and William Glass assumed control of the job printing business as his share of the settlement. Ex-Republican Editor Chester Rowell later joined the San Francisco Chronicle, where he continued his career in journalism with editorial responsibilities. In 1925, William Glass was elected Commissioner of Finance in the City of Fresno, after selling The Evening Herald - one of his several attempts to keep a hand in the newspaper business. The Herald was unknowingly sold to agents for the James McClatchey Publishing Company, and was shut down in 1924. Likewise, the McClatchey empire eventually absorbed the ailing Fresno Morning Republican on March 21, 1932, catapulting The Fresno Bee into exclusive prominence in this community.

When William Glass entered public service in 1925, he had relinquished control of <u>The Fresno Republican Printery Company</u> to his son-in-law, Leon Camy, whose forebears had settled in the San Joaquin Valley as sheepherders in the early 1860's, and had then become proprietors of Camy's French Hotel in the still sparcely populated town of Fresno in 1874. Leon Camy continued the operation of the commercial printing business well into the 1970's, when advanced technology finally caught up with the company, and <u>The Republican Printery</u> ceased to function as a major printing house in the valley.

When the Klein Group first surveyed the structure in 1978, it was readily apparent why this long-established printing house had succumbed. Literally everything in the building was antique, including print shop furniture, press equipment, extensive foundry and engravers type cases, and a vintage wood type collection - which dates to the founding of <u>The Fresno Morning</u> <u>Republican</u> in 1876. In today's publishing industry, virtually none of these labor intensive items finds use in an increasingly computerized craft, and similar materials have consistently been inopportunely directed to scrap collectors and industrial dumps. A preliminary review of the building and its contents, with curatorial assistance from the Bancroft Library at the University of California, Berkeley; the Oakland Museum; and the Smithsonian Institute; indicates that the building is significantly valuable both in historical hardware, and in its formal relationship as direct heir to The Fresno Morning Republican newspaper.

The early Republican paper is unquestionably viewed as having been a major force in the social, cultural, and publishing history of early California.

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2130 Kern Street Fresno, California 93721

8 SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

Architecturally, The Fresno Republican Printery Building (1919) is a sophisticated interpretation of the mezzo-mediterranean styles which evolved during California's regional and rather eclectic architectural revival era (1915-1930). Glass and Butner's decidedly refined and personalized transcription of classically defined details, fused with less strict revival forms, produced an elegantly symmetrical commercial facade, which continues to grace the downtown community with its quiet dignity. The rare survival of this building, with its original appearance and function almost entirely intact, has not come about by accident. The historical owners, William Camy and Elaine Camy Barber, have repeatedly avoided selling this remarkable property to insensitive developers, whose interests have generally embraced demolition for expansion of commercial parking ventures. It is, therefore, with a profound sense of responsibility, desirable for The Fresno Republican Printery Building to be recognized as one of the more architecturally eloquent statements in the city center, and as such to be assisted along its way to a careful restoration for a dynamically new, yet historically sensitive use.

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2130 Kern Street Fresno, California 93721

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9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (continued)

THE FOLLOWING IS A LISTING OF INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS CONSULTED DURING THE COURSE OF THE RESEARCH ON THE FIRM OF GLASS AND BUTNER, ARCHITECTS, AND ON THE SPECIFIC HISTORY OF <u>THE FRESNO REPUBLICAN</u> PRINTERY BUILDING.

AN ATTACHMENT IS ALSO INCLUDED WHICH DOCUMENTS THE FIRST PHASE OF ORIGINAL RESEARCH CONDUCTED ON CHARLES BUTNER, AND THE HISTORICAL PHYSICIANS BUILDING.

Marjorie Arnold Claudine Steinhauer Mable Belton La Ree Moulden <u>The Fresno Bee</u> Archive Collection Fresno, California

Inez Brooks-Myers Print Collection Oakland Museum Oakland, California

William G. Camy Fresno Republican Printery Company Fresno, California RE: Camy Family History

Elizabeth Day Office of the Managing Director War Memorial Veterans Building San Francisco, California

Hans Graff Glass, Architect San Francisco, California RE: Additional biographical information on Edward Glass

Gladys Hansen Archivist San Francisco Public Library San Francisco, California

Dr. Elizabeth Harris Mr. Speers Division of Graphic Arts N.M.H.T. No. 5703 Smithsonian Institute Washington, D.C.



2130 Kern Street Fresno, California 93721

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (continued)

Dr. James Hart Bancroft Library University of California Berkeley, California

Ray Hilmann Curator Stockton Pioneer Museum Stockton, California

Historical Microfilm Collection California State Library Sacramento, California

Mickey Karpis History Curator Oakland Museum Oakland, California

Alfred Kennedy Book Club of California San Francisco, California

Ernest Lindner Historical Print Appraiser Los Angeles, California

Walter Paulsen Harvard University Library of the Graduate School of Design (Architecture) Cambridge, Massachusetts RE: Information on The Sage Foundation and Forest Hills Gardens

Frank R. Quinn Researcher History Room San Francisco Public Library San Francisco, California

Rare Periodicals Collection California State University, Fresno Fresno, California 3

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- 1. Anonymous, "Award to Glass and Butner," <u>The Fresno Morning Republican</u>, December 26, 1919.
- Anonymous, "Chas. Butner to Locate in Fresno Architect of Much Prominence Forms Partnership with Ed Glass," <u>The Fresno Morning Republican</u>, February 28, 1914.
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- Anonymous, "Edward Glass Now Member of State Board of Architects," <u>The Fresno Morning Republican</u>, October 17, 1919.
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- 9. Anonymous, "William Glass, City Finance Chief, Dies," <u>The Fresno Bee</u>, July 24, 1940.
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- 11. Atterbury, Grosvenor, "Model Towns in America," <u>Scribner's Magazine</u>, Volume LII, July-December, 1912.
- 12. Mullgardt, Louis Christian, "Proposed Memorial in Honor of Citizens Who Rendered Distinguished Service in World War 1914-1918," <u>The</u> Architect, Volume XVII, Number 2-3, February-Marcy, 1919.
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- Veiller, Lawrence, "The National Housing Association," <u>The Survey</u>, Volume XXIII, No. 23, March 5, 1910.
- Walters, John A., "A Model Town in America," <u>Arts and Decoration</u>, January, 1911.



2130 Kern Street Fresno, California 93721

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9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (continued)

Albert Sperisen Printer and Print Historian San Francisco, California

Norman Strouse Robert Lewis Stevenson Museum St. Helena, California

John Waterman, AIA Emeritus Felton, California RE: Additional information on Charles Butner

Roby Wetz Editor, <u>California Print and Lithographer</u> Santa Monica, California

S. Cottrell White
(Stepson of Charles Butner)
Carmel, California
 RE: Biographical information on Charles Butner



2130 Kern Street Fresno, California 93721

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA (continued)

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

...thence at right angles Southeasterly parallel to the Northeasterly line of said alley to a point 10 feet distant from Southeasterly line of said Lot 6, thence at right angles Southwesterly and parallel to Southeasterly line of said Lot 6, to the Northeasterly line of said alley, thence Northwesterly along said new line of alley to the point of beginning, together with that portion described as follows:

The strip of property one-half inch in width, contiguous to and extending along the entire Northeasterly line of hereinabove described property, also the strip of property 2-1/2 inches in width contiguous to and extending along the entire Southeasterly line of hereinabove described property and to a point one-half inch beyond the Northeasterly line of said described real property.

PARCEL 2:

A right of way for ingress and egress over and across that portion of the Southeasterly 10 feet of Lot 6 in Block 96 of the TOWN OF FRESNO, according to the Map recorded June 8, 1876 in Volume 1 Page 2 of Plats, lying adjacent to and Southeasterly of the hereinabove described Parcel 1.



KERN STREET

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