

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH 0680478

FOR NPS USE ONLY **DATA SHEET**  
RECEIVED **JUL 31 1978**  
DATE ENTERED **OCT 19 1978**

**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

THE TRAVELERS' HOTEL

AND/OR COMMON

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

428 J. Street

\_\_NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Sacramento VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

3

STATE

California CODE

COUNTY

Sacramento

CODE

067

**CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" 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	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<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 type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

Legal Owner: William W. Yim Family  
c/o George Hoffman  
Hoffman, Wrixon & Gin  
120 Montgomery Street  
San Francisco, Calif. 94104

NAME Option Holder:

The Travelers' Hotel Group

STREET & NUMBER

928 Second Street

CITY, TOWN

Sacramento VICINITY OF

STATE

California

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Sacramento County Court House

STREET & NUMBER

800 H. Street

CITY, TOWN

Sacramento

STATE

California

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Building Survey for Rehabilitation - Redevelopment Agency, City of Sacramento

DATE

1961

\_\_FEDERAL \_\_STATE \_\_COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency

CITY, TOWN

630 I. Street

STATE

Sacramento, California

# 7 DESCRIPTION

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

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

When the Travelers' opened in May, 1914, it was one of the finest and most modern hotels on the Pacific Coast. The unusual E-shape of the six-story building allowed all 226 rooms to face outside and was copied from the famous St. Francis Hotel in San Francisco. Sacramento residents often referred to the Travelers' as "the little St. Francis", due to the similarity of style.

The building has a height of 80 feet from the base of the sidewalk and is divided into three wings. It has a facing of locally manufactured brown brick over a frame of reinforced steel and concrete. The Travelers' was an early concrete and steel building, a construction technique that was not universally accepted in the building trades at that time. In the debate over the benefits of plain steel vs. concrete and steel construction, advocates of concrete stressed its relative cheapness and rust resistance but primarily its fireproof quality.

Among the hotel's modern conveniences were a system of dust chutes, which sent all dust to the basement, laundry chutes, and a central vacuum system, the first of its kind in Sacramento, which was operated from the engine room in the basement. The hotel had its own 257 foot deep well in addition to connections to the city water supply. The ice water circulating system, which connected with every room in the hotel, was available at only a few hotels on the Pacific Coast.

Marble stairs led to the basement which contained a marble dance floor which, when set with tables and chairs, seated 500 and served as the largest banquet facility in Sacramento. Carved wood borders on the ceiling and mirrors encased in marble on the walls made this room very elegant. The kitchen boasted the most modern equipment available, including an ice making machine and electric dishwashing machine.

The mezzanine was designed to accomodate traveling businessmen. Seventeen sample rooms with brass rods along the walls for display of goods and thirty-six feet of table space gave salesmen plenty of room to display their wares.

The main lobby extended the length of the building, in the European style which was just being copied in America. The floors were white tile and the walls of finished cement with large pillars of Alaskan marble dominating. Pilaster lights extended from the pillars providing, together with large arc lighting suspended from the ceiling on gilt chains, a soft diffused light. Cream-colored window shades of lancaster cloth matched the walls and lace curtains with TH interwoven discreetly completed the elegant effect created by the beautiful carpets, draperies and polished mahogany furniture.

The exterior and the interior lobby and other public areas have been altered only slightly, and retain the majority of the original elegance.

# 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

### Architect

The architectural firm that designed the Travelers' Hotel, Cuff & Diggs, was a partnership of Clarence C. Cuff and Maury I. Diggs, formed in 1911 while Diggs was Acting State Architect.

Clarence Cecil Cuff was born in Toronto, Canada, January 15, 1871. He studied at the Toronto School of Architecture and gained experience with an architectural firm in Buffalo, New York. He gained valuable construction experience working as a contractor for some buildings at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Later in San Francisco, he helped rebuild the City in 1906 after the great earthquake and fire. Both as a member of this partnership and later as a private architect, he designed many of Sacramento's fine turn of the century buildings. One of the highlights of his career, in addition to his work on the Travelers', was the distinction of being the first architect in Sacramento to design a building of ten stories or more.

Maury Diggs was born in Woodland, California, the son of Marshall Diggs who was the son of David Diggs, a 49er pioneer who worked for John Sutter at his mill in Coloma. Subsequent to his partnership and the design of the Travelers', he was active in his architectural business in the San Francisco bay area and his commissions included Golden Gate Fields Horse Race Track, Albany, California; Hollywood Park Horse Race Track, both with many customer comfort innovations. He also designed San Quentin State Prison.

### Developers and Stockholders

The Marsh Investment Company (MIC) developed the Travelers' and was formed by some of Sacramento's and California's prominent businessmen and politicians, who either served as officers of the MIC or owned stock in the hotel. John W. Marsh, who owned the lot when the idea of building the hotel was conceived, served as president of the MIC. Daniel W. Carmichael, active in real estate development and Democratic party politics, was vice-president; James Clarence Carly, a Sacramento real estate man, both promoted the Traveler and was secretary of MIC; Gus S. Turner, responsible for the idea of the hotel and a salesman for Carly, was a director of the MIC as was Adolph Heilbron, member of an Old Sacramento family. Major stockholders in the hotel included Weinstock, Lubin & Co. and John Breuner Co., two of Sacramento's oldest business firms, and James L. Flanagan, who also served as manager of the Travelers'.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. The Travelers' Hotel, Sacramento, California, by Kay Gibson, April, 1977. Also see footnotes and bibliography in the above.
2. History of Ransome Company; author unknown.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .2942 Acres

QUADRANGLE NAME \_\_\_\_\_

QUADRANGLE SCALE \_\_\_\_\_

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,0 63,0 67,0 4,2 7,1 2,3,0

B                  

C                  

D                  

E                  

F                  

G                  

H                  

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION All that certain real property situate in the City of Sacramento, State of California, particularly described as follows: Lot 4 in block bounded by J. and K., Fourth and Fifth Streets of the City of Sacramento, according to official map or plan thereof.

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

Edwin S. Astone

ORGANIZATION

Urban Revitalization Consultant

DATE

July 18, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

928 Second Street

TELEPHONE

446-1472

CITY OR TOWN

Sacramento

STATE

California

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL   

STATE   

LOCAL X

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

*Henry M. Ellison*

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

1-17-78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

10/19/78

ATTEST

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*William T. Sobush*

DATE

10/12/78

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

Contractor

Ransome Concrete Company, General Contractor.

The history of the Ransome Company and the Ransome Family's involvement in the construction industry goes back well over 100 years. Both the family and the company distinguished the Ransome name through many decades of pioneering in the construction field. The building industry owes a great deal to the Ransomes for their innovations in construction methods and equipment.

The first and by far the most important improvement in the manufacture of portland cement came with the kiln. In 1889, Mr. de Navarro built a kiln under the patents of Frederick Ransome. Mr. Ransome patented his invention in his native England, but not in the United States. To Mr. Ransome's great surprise his invention was universally adopted in America.

Frederick Ransome was also the inventor of Ransome Patent Stone. This stone was manufactured from silicate (glass) and sand. It was used for cornices, capitals, columns, balustrades, battlements and all decorative parts of a building. It was known for its strength, beauty, cheapness and utility.

E. L. Ransome was the contractor of the new City Hall in San Francisco. It was the first mechanical mixing of concrete that was tried in San Francisco. The mixer that was erected for was the most complete machinery for preparing concrete warehouse and two years later a factory. Other early endeavors included pre-casting of sidewalk slabs, some of which are still in service along the side of the Mark Hopkins Hotel, railroading, aggregate production as well as building construction throughout the Bay and Sacramento Valley areas.

In the late 19th century a great deal of experimentation was carried on with steel variously combined with concrete. E. L. Ransome was the originator of reinforcing bars for concrete. It was Mr. Ransome's goal to perfect an economical means to build a fireproof and permanent construction, built with cheap or unskilled labor. The idea which Ransome had was to unite the tensile strength of iron with the compressive strength of concrete in such a manner as to secure the full value of each material for its respective position.

Most of the early structures Ransome constructed with reinforced concrete were built with the frayed and abandoned cables of the San Francisco cable car lines. There appears to be little doubt that the spiraled lays of the strands of these cables inspired Ransome to apply for and receive a patent in 1884 for a spiraled square steel bar to be used for reinforcing.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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In the early 1900's, Ransome built the first reinforced concrete building. It was located in Alameda, at the site of the present Navy Air Base. Other early examples of Ransome's use of this method include the Bourn & Wise wine cellar at St. Helena, erected in 1888 and the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco. At the time of its construction by Ransome, the Leland Stanford Junior Museum at Stanford University was the largest and most important building in the world, constructed entirely of concrete.

Numerous other buildings on the Stanford University campus were constructed by Ransome, including the Women's Dormitory. Many of these buildings were the least damaged by the earthquake and fire of 1906.

The results of his early construction innovations are exemplified in the Travelers' Hotel.

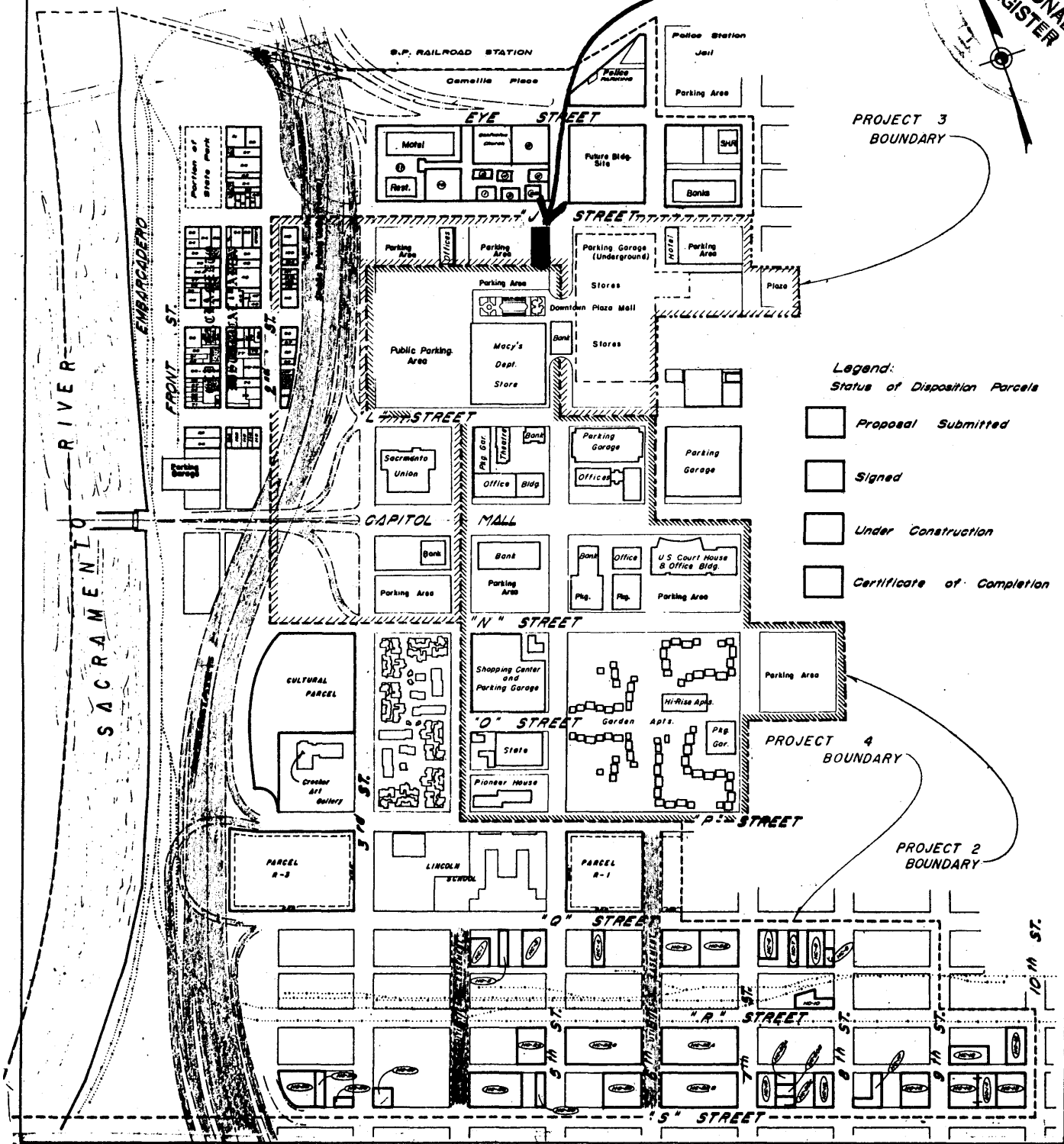
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# LAND DISPOSITION MAP

Redevelopment Agency City of Sacramento  
 scale: 1"=200'

The Travelers Hotel

01-1-3-1978



- Legend:**  
 Status of Disposition Parcels
- Proposal Submitted
  - Signed
  - Under Construction
  - Certificate of Completion

**CHINATOWN**

Parcel	Sq. Ft.	Parcel	Sq. Ft.	Parcel	Sq. Ft.	Parcel	Sq. Ft.
1	6,000	101-2	10,000	101-3	1,000	101-4	25,700
2	2,000	101-5	6,000	101-6	11,000	101-7	16,700
3	2,000	101-8	12,000	101-9	12,000	101-10	8,000
4	2,000	101-11	11,700	101-12	2,700	101-13	82,000
5	2,000	101-14	20,000	101-15	2,700	101-16	2,700
6	2,000	101-17	20,000	101-18	2,700	101-19	2,000
7	2,000	101-20	2,700	101-21	2,700	101-22	2,700
8	2,000	101-23	2,700	101-24	2,700	101-25	2,700
9	2,000	101-26	2,700	101-27	2,700	101-28	2,700
10	2,000	101-29	2,700	101-30	2,700	101-31	2,700
11	2,000	101-32	2,700	101-33	2,700	101-34	2,700
12	2,000	101-35	2,700	101-36	2,700	101-37	2,700
13	2,000	101-38	2,700	101-39	2,700	101-40	2,700
14	2,000	101-41	2,700	101-42	2,700	101-43	2,700
15	2,000	101-44	2,700	101-45	2,700	101-46	2,700
16	2,000	101-47	2,700	101-48	2,700	101-49	2,700
17	2,000	101-50	2,700	101-51	2,700	101-52	2,700
18	2,000	101-53	2,700	101-54	2,700	101-55	2,700
19	2,000	101-56	2,700	101-57	2,700	101-58	2,700
20	2,000	101-59	2,700	101-60	2,700	101-61	2,700
21	2,000	101-62	2,700	101-63	2,700	101-64	2,700
22	2,000	101-65	2,700	101-66	2,700	101-67	2,700
23	2,000	101-68	2,700	101-69	2,700	101-70	2,700
24	2,000	101-71	2,700	101-72	2,700	101-73	2,700
25	2,000	101-74	2,700	101-75	2,700	101-76	2,700
26	2,000	101-77	2,700	101-78	2,700	101-79	2,700
27	2,000	101-80	2,700	101-81	2,700	101-82	2,700
28	2,000	101-83	2,700	101-84	2,700	101-85	2,700
29	2,000	101-86	2,700	101-87	2,700	101-88	2,700
30	2,000	101-89	2,700	101-90	2,700	101-91	2,700
31	2,000	101-92	2,700	101-93	2,700	101-94	2,700
32	2,000	101-95	2,700	101-96	2,700	101-97	2,700
33	2,000	101-98	2,700	101-99	2,700	101-100	2,700

**RESIDENTIAL**

Parcel	Sq. Ft.
R-1	245,000
R-2	177,100

**MEXICAN CENTER**

Parcel	Sq. Ft.
M-1	180,000

**HISTORICAL BUILDING INDEX**

Parcel	Building Name	Year	Parcel	Building Name	Year	Parcel	Building Name	Year
101-1	California Building	1910	101-101	California Building	1910	101-201	California Building	1910
101-2	California Building	1910	101-102	California Building	1910	101-202	California Building	1910
101-3	California Building	1910	101-103	California Building	1910	101-203	California Building	1910
101-4	California Building	1910	101-104	California Building	1910	101-204	California Building	1910
101-5	California Building	1910	101-105	California Building	1910	101-205	California Building	1910
101-6	California Building	1910	101-106	California Building	1910	101-206	California Building	1910
101-7	California Building	1910	101-107	California Building	1910	101-207	California Building	1910
101-8	California Building	1910	101-108	California Building	1910	101-208	California Building	1910
101-9	California Building	1910	101-109	California Building	1910	101-209	California Building	1910
101-10	California Building	1910	101-110	California Building	1910	101-210	California Building	1910
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101-14	California Building	1910	101-114	California Building	1910	101-214	California Building	1910
101-15	California Building	1910	101-115	California Building	1910	101-215	California Building	1910
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101-49	California Building	1910	101-149	California Building	1910	101-249	California Building	1910
101-50	California Building	1910	101-150	California Building	1910	101-250	California Building	1910

REVISED 6-6-78 D.J.C.