

**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

1. Name

historic Bank of Italy

and/or common Bank of America on Fulton Mall

2. Location

street & number 1015 Fulton Mall N/A not for publication

city, town Fresno N/A vicinity of congressional district 14th Calif

state California code 06 county Fresno code 019

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Vacant

4. Owner of Property

name Construction Development and Realty Corporation

street & number 5001 East 68th Street, Suite 500

city, town Tulsa N/A vicinity of state Oklahoma 74136

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number Tulare & "M" Streets

city, town Fresno state California

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title State Historic Resource Inventory (02/03/81)
has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 6/29/78 federal state county local

depository for survey records State Office of Historic Preservation, P.O. Box. 2390

city, town Sacramento state CA 95811

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u> N/A </u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The old Bank of Italy Building is an eight story steel and concrete building faced with brown brick and ornate terra cotta, with a two-story addition at the rear. It is located on a prominent corner site in the heart of the downtown commercial section of Fresno.

The building was built in two stages: the original office tower of 1917-18, and the two-story wing at the rear, added in 1928. Integrity of design is exceptionally high. The original office tower is a three-part vertical composition based upon Italian Renaissance design sources. The base is composed of a rusticated ground floor clad in terra cotta with an entresol story above a dentil course. The composition is symmetrical, consisting of seven bays on the Fulton Mall elevation, centering upon a central arched entrance. This is flanked by two arched openings on each side. The design is terminated at each end by rectangular windows with classical architraves and rich terra cotta antepagment. The entire ground floor is sheathed in terra cotta in a rusticated treatment, with exaggerated voussoirs terminating in cartouches above the arched openings. Rectangular decorative panels appear above the end windows; the one on the far right of the facade gives the date of construction in Roman numerals. The band of windows above the dentil course is capped by an elaborate terra cotta belt course with floral running ornament. The seven window units are separated by fanciful terra cotta decorative panels. The Tulare Street elevation repeats the treatment of the Fulton Mall facade, but is narrower, being four bays in width, centering upon two arched openings flanked by rectangular windows with classical architraves supported by ancons.

Above the base, the five-story shaft consists of piers faced with brick terminating in a terra cotta belt course with a discontinuous balustrade interrupted by the vertical continuation of the piers. On the Fulton Mall elevation, windows in the five central bays are paired, and are flanked by single windows at the edges. Floor levels are marked by elaborate terra cotta spandrel panels. The Tulare Street elevation is treated in similar fashion, carrying upward the four-bay division of the base.

In the top portion of the three-part composition, the piers climax in a series of Florentine arches with terra cotta surrounds. The arches enclose coupled windows in the five central bays on the Fulton Mall facade, flanked by single windows at the edges; the Tulare Street elevation repeats the treatment in its four bays. Cartouches mark the termination of each pier immediately below the cornice. The heavy terra cotta cornice is supported by arched corbels and is capped with a heavy balustrade.

The interior lobby area is distinguished with a 25', decorative plaster ceiling, marble floor and staircase, etched brass elevator doors, brass letter box, solid mahogany stair rails and original wall clock, as originally constructed.

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

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The 1928 addition successfully carries out the detailing of the ground floor of the original building. Seven arched windows with radiating voussoirs and cartouches above make up the Tulare Street elevation. The terra cotta sheathing has a rusticated character. The second story fenestration duplicates that of the original tower, but lacks the highly decorative terra cotta panels that separate the windows on the earlier building. The belt course of the original building is extended to form the cornice of the addition; it is capped by a balustrade moduled upon that which occurs above the seventh floor of the office tower.

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1918 and 1928 **Builder/Architect** R. F. Felchlin Company

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The old Bank of Italy Building is an excellent architectural statement of its type and period. Designed by a noted local architectural firm, the building is the city's finest example of Renaissance Revival styling. It was constructed during a major building boom in the local community and served as the home of one of the area's most important financial institutions.

Construction of the Bank of Italy Building began during a period of rapid economic growth as Fresno was becoming the center for the San Joaquin Valley's burgeoning agricultural industry. Within a few short years, a number of major office buildings appeared on the local skyline. The opening of the Bank of Italy's new office tower in the commercial heart of the city was a major event which brought the bank's president, A. P. Giannini; and vice-president, P. C. Hale to Fresno for the ceremonies. The Bank of Italy was fast becoming the state's major banking network, with branches being established throughout California; it later reorganized as the Bank of America. Throughout its history, the Bank of Italy/Bank of America was one of the most important financial institutions in Fresno.

The building is an excellent example of its type and period. The design is based upon Italian Renaissance models and features exquisite terra cotta detailing. It is one of the most beautiful and impressive commercial buildings in Fresno; its significance has been identified in the local historical and architectural survey, as well as in the authoritative guidebook, A Guide to Architecture in Los Angeles and Southern California, by Gebhard and Winter. The bank was the work of a noted local architectural firm, Richard F. Felchlin and Company, which designed most of the major office buildings and "skyscrapers" in Fresno, including the San Joaquin Power and Light Company Building (now Pacific Gas and Electric Company) of 1922, the Pacific Southwest Building (now Security Pacific Bank) of 1923, and the T. W. Patterson Building of 1922.

C-0971H

9. Major Bibliographical References

Historic Resources Inventory, State Office of Historic Preservation, California Department of Parks and Recreation, Sacramento, 1978. David Gebhard and Robert Winter, A Guide to Architecture in Los Angeles and Southern California, Peregrine Smith, Inc., Salt Lake City, 1977.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property .34

Quadrangle name Fresno South, California

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	1	2	5	0	9	0	0
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

Nominated property occupies its historic 100' x 150' lot on the western corner of Fulton Mall and Tulare Street, fronting on Fulton Mall.

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

state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code
state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code

state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Robert L. Triplett, Jr., President (OHP staff revision, 7/82)

organization Construction Development & Realty Corp. date 10-24-81

street & number 5001 East 68th Street, Suite 500 telephone (918) 494-5020

city or town Tulsa state Oklahoma 74136

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

K. M. Ellison

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date September 20, 1982

For HCERS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register
Entered in the
National Register

Alonzo B. ...
for Keeper of the National Register

date 10/29/82

Attest:

Chief of Register

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1015 Fulton Mall
Fresno, Fresno County
California

