

13-0704
CP 14

MOTION PUBLIC WORKS
JUN 05 2013

John Parkinson was born in the small village of Scorton, in Lancashire, England in 1861. At the age of sixteen, he was apprenticed for six years to John Roberts, a contractor/builder in nearby Bolton, where he learned the meaning of craftsmanship and gained a strong knowledge of practical construction.

John Parkinson attended night school at Bolton's Mechanics Institute, where he developed architectural drafting and engineering skills. Upon completion of his apprenticeship at age 21, he immigrated to North America as an adventure, where he built fences in Winnipeg and learned stair building in Minneapolis.

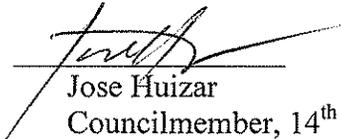
John Parkinson went to California, settling in Napa where he again worked as a stair-builder, but took on architectural commissions in his spare time. In January 1889, John moved to Seattle, Washington, where his career took off. He designed a host of important structures including the Butler Block, Seattle Athletic Club, and the Seattle National Bank building.

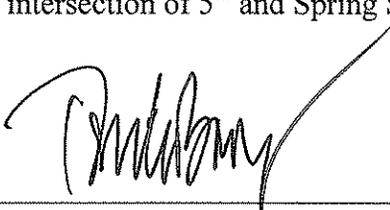
After the financial panic of 1893, John Parkinson moved to Los Angeles in 1894 and opened his architecture office on Spring Street between Second and Third Streets. During this time, John designed many of Los Angeles' finest buildings, which became some of the city's most enduring landmarks. Found on the impressive roster are: the Campus Master Plan and several noted buildings of the University of Southern California (1919-39), the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum (1923 and 1930-31), Los Angeles City Hall (1928, with Albert C. Martin/structural and John C. Austin/working drawings), Bullocks Wilshire (1929) and Union Station (1939).

On May 3rd, 2013, the Council of the City of Los Angeles honored John Parkinson by proclaiming it John Parkinson Day in the City of Los Angeles in conjunction with publication of Stephen Gee's book *Iconic Vision: John Parkinson, Architect of Los Angeles* and BritWeek and honoring his many accomplishments in Los Angeles.

In recognition of John Parkinson's lifetime achievements in the field of architecture, it is appropriate that the City honor John Parkinson by naming the intersection of 5th Street and Spring Street as "John Parkinson Square".

I THEREFORE MOVE that Department of Transportation, in consultation with Council District 14, the Historic Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council, and the Historic Core Business Improvement District be directed to report with recommendation for naming the intersection of 5th and Spring Street as "John Parkinson Square."

PRESENTED BY: 
Jose Huizar
Councilmember, 14th District


Tom LaBonge
Councilmember, 4th District



SECONDED BY: 

ORIGINAL