COMMERCIAL EXCHANGE BUILDING 416-436 West 8th Street and 800 South Olive Street CHC-2017-1565-HCM ENV-2017-1566-CE

Agenda packet includes:

- 1. Final Determination Staff Recommendation Report
- 2. Categorical Exemption
- 3. Under Consideration Staff Recommendation Report
- 4. <u>Historic-Cultural Monument Application</u>

Please click on each document to be directly taken to the corresponding page of the PDF.

Los Angeles Department of City Planning RECOMMENDATION REPORT

| CULTURAL HERITA | GE COMMISSION | CASE NO.: CHC-2017-1565-HCM ENV-2017-1566-CE |
|--|--|---|
| HEARING DATE: TIME: PLACE: EXPIRATION DATE: | June 15, 2017 10:00 AM City Hall, Room 1010 200 N. Spring Street Los Angeles, CA 90012 | Location: 416-436 West 8th Street and 800 South Olive Street Council District: 14 - Huizar Community Plan Area: Central City Area Planning Commission: Central Neighborhood Council: Downtown Los Angeles Legal Description: Portion of Block 53 Huber Tract, |
| EXPIRATION DATE. | Suly 10, 2017 | Lot FR LT 20 |
| PROJECT: | Historic-Cultural Monu COMMERCIAL EXCH | ment Application for the ANGE BUILDING |
| REQUEST: | Declare the property a | Historic-Cultural Monument |
| OWNER/ APPLICAN | T: YSHRE LA LLC c/o Je 30 West 26 th Street, 12 New York, NY 10010 | |
| PREPARER: | Tara Hamacher and R Historic Consultants 256 South Robertson B Beverly Hills, CA 9021 | - Boulevard, #2401 |

<u>RECOMMENDATION</u> That the Cultural Heritage Commission:

- 1. **Declare the subject property** a Historic-Cultural Monument per Los Angeles Administrative Code Chapter 9, Division 22, Article 1, Section 22.171.7.
- 2. Adopt the staff report and findings.

VINCENT P. BERTONI, AICP Director of Planning

[SIGNED ORIGINAL IN FILE]

Ken Bernstein, AICP, Manager Office of Historic Resources [SIGNED ORIGINAL IN FILE]

Lambert M. Giessinger, Preservation Architect Office of Historic Resources

[SIGNED ORIGINAL IN FILE]

Melissa Jones, Planning Assistant Office of Historic Resources

Attachment: Historic-Cultural Monument Application

FINDINGS

- The Commercial Exchange Building "reflects the broad cultural, economic, or social history of the nation, state, or community" for its association with the development of a new commercial core in downtown Los Angeles during the 1920s.
- The Commercial Exchange Building "embodies the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural-type specimen, inherently valuable for study of a period, style, or method of construction" as an excellent example of Beaux Arts commercial architecture in Downtown Los Angeles.
- The Commercial Exchange Building is "a notable work of a master builder, designer, or architect whose individual genius influenced his or her age" as an excellent example of the work of Los Angeles-based master architects Albert R. Walker and Percy Eisen.

CRITERIA

The criterion is the Cultural Heritage Ordinance which defines a historical or cultural monument as any site (including significant trees or other plant life located thereon) building or structure of particular historic or cultural significance to the City of Los Angeles, such as historic structures or sites in which the broad cultural, economic, or social history of the nation, State or community is reflected or exemplified, or which are identified with historic personages or with important events in the main currents of national, State or local history or which embody the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type specimen, inherently valuable for a study of a period style or method of construction, or a notable work of a master builder, designer or architect whose individual genius influenced his age.

SUMMARY

The Commercial Exchange Building, constructed in 1924, is a 13-story Renaissance Revivalstyle commercial building located in downtown Los Angeles at the southeast corner of West 8th Street and South Olive Street. It was designed by prominent Los Angeles architects Albert R. Walker and Percy A. Eisen, and was built by the William Simpson Construction Company for Rudolph Rosenberg of the Eighth and Olive Holding Company. The building was constructed to be an office building in a period of major skyscraper development in the city's central business district.

Characterized by two primary elevations—Olive Street on the west and 8th Street on the north the subject property has a rectangular plan with a classical, tripartite composition conveyed by a horizontal division of base, shaft, and cornice. The main entry is at the northeast corner and is recessed and framed by terra cotta. The building is clad in red brick with contrasting terra cotta window sills. Windows at the street facing facades are one-over-one, wood sash units grouped in sets of two. The first floor is capped with a metal cornice that spans across the storefronts on both facades and at the base there are inlaid terra cotta bands and a terra cotta stringcourse above the second story. The top two floors feature a decorative floral treatment, engaged pilasters, Corinthian capitals, and a terra cotta cornice. An original fire escape is at the center of the west façade that spans between floors two through thirteen and a neon blade sign is located at the southwest corner. On the interior, the ground floor features an elevator lobby sheathed with buff-colored marble, a barrel-vaulted, coffered ceiling over the lobby area, and a marble staircase. Floors 2 through 12 feature a T-shaped, stacked plan comprised of an elevator lobby at the east side of each floor with a central corridor spanning east to west. The corridors have marble baseboards and wood-frame doors, with sidelights and transoms.

Both Albert R. Walker and Percy A. Eisen were native Californians. Walker was born in Sonoma, California in 1881. He attended a special study at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island in 1902. Following apprenticeships with firms that included Hebbard and Gill, Parkinson and Bergstrum, A.E. Rosenheim, and Hunt and Grey, Walker established his own practice in 1909. In 1919, Walker partnered with Percy A. Eisen to form Walker & Eisen Architects and Engineers. Eisen was born in San Francisco in 1885 and was trained alongside his architect father, Theodore Eisen. As early as 1908, Percy was in architectural practice with his father as Eisen and Son, Architects. Together, Walker & Eisen designed over 200 buildings and are responsible for such prominent landmarks as the Fine Arts Building (1927, Historic-Cultural Monument #125); the Texaco/United Artists Building (1927, Historic-Cultural Monument #523); the Oviatt Building (1928, Historic Cultural-Monument #195); the Beverly Wilshire Hotel (1928); and the Normandie Hotel (1926, Historic-Cultural Monument #1013).

Over the years, the subject property has experienced several alterations, the most significant of which were the removal of a five-foot section of the building and the resulting modifications to the storefronts, to accommodate a City of Los Angeles sidewalk widening project in 1935. Other alterations include the installation of awnings in 1936, the addition of two doors and transoms over the basement entrance on the Olive Street façade in 1947, modifications to the lobby in 1955, and the removal of the overhanging projection of the cornice in 1965.

The citywide historic resources survey, SurveyLA, identified the Commercial Exchange Building as individually eligible for listing or designation at the national, state and local levels as an excellent example of Beaux Arts commercial architecture in Downtown Los Angeles and a work of noted Los Angeles architects Walker and Eisen.

DISCUSSION

The Commercial Exchange Building successfully meets three of the Historic-Cultural Monument criteria. The property "reflects the broad cultural, economic, or social history of the nation, state, or community" for its association with the development of a new commercial core in downtown Los Angeles during the 1920s. Between the turn of the twentieth century and the late 1920s, Los Angeles' central business district shifted south and west from its beginnings around 3rd Street and matured into a quintessential American downtown. Scores of new buildings, including the subject property, were erected at the maximum allowable height at the time-150 feet, or roughly 13 stories-to house the entire gamut of commercial uses including banks and financial institutions, hotels, offices, department stores, and smaller retail outlets. Similar to the subject property, many of these buildings featured some combination of commercial uses, typically with retail on the ground story and offices above. Almost all were intended to be bold architectural statements that showcased an architect's mastery of the Beaux Arts tradition or other, similar architectural styles that exuded formality and prosperity, and the subject property was no exception. When the Commercial Exchange Building was completed it was the only height-limit building on the block and immediate vicinity and helped to define the face of downtown Los Angeles as a metropolitan city.

The Commercial Building also "embodies the distinguishing characteristics of an architecturaltype specimen, inherently valuable for study of a period, style, or method of construction" as an excellent example of Beaux Arts commercial architecture in Downtown Los Angeles. Reflective of the Beaux Arts style, the subject property has a Classical tripartite composition, symmetrical façade, flat roof, brick walls, rusticated first floor, and panels with floral low-relief carvings. Other distinguishing characteristics are the property's dentiled cornice, engaged pilasters, and original blade sign.

Further, the Commercial Exchange Building is "a notable work of a master builder, designer, or architect whose individual genius influenced his or her age" as an excellent example of the work of Los Angeles-based master architects Albert R. Walker and Percy Eisen. The firm of Walker & Eisen Architects and Engineers was the preeminent architectural firm in Southern California during the 1920s and 1940s. They were especially prolific in Los Angeles designing many commercial buildings, apartment houses and hotels. Together with contemporary peer firms that included Allison and Allison, Parkinson and Parkinson, and Albert C. Martin and Associates, Walker and Eisen were responsible for significantly shaping the urban form of Los Angeles during the early 20th century. While in practice together from 1919 to 1941, they designed more than 250 buildings, primarily focused on larger scale commercial office buildings, apartment houses, hotels, and movie theaters. The subject property is significant not only for Walker and Eisen's original 1924 design in the archetypal revival-style aesthetic used for early 20th century American skyscrapers, but also for their involvement with repairing the building after the removal of a section in 1935.

Although there have been interior and exterior alterations over the years, the subject property continues to maintain a high level of integrity of location, design, materials, setting, workmanship, and feeling.

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT ("CEQA") FINDINGS

State of California CEQA Guidelines, Article 19, Section 15308, Class 8 "consists of actions taken by regulatory agencies, as authorized by state or local ordinance, to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of the environment where the regulatory process involves procedures for protection of the environment."

State of California CEQA Guidelines Article 19, Section 15331, Class 31 "consists of projects limited to maintenance, repair, stabilization, rehabilitation, restoration, preservation, conservation or reconstruction of historical resources in a manner consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring, and Reconstructing Historic buildings."

The designation of the Commercial Exchange Building as an Historic-Cultural Monument in accordance with Chapter 9, Article 1, of The City of Los Angeles Administrative Code ("LAAC") will ensure that future construction activities involving the subject property are regulated in accordance with Section 22.171.14 of the LAAC. The purpose of the designation is to prevent significant impacts to a Historic-Cultural Monument through the application of the standards set forth in the LAAC. Without the regulation imposed by way of the pending designation, the historic significance and integrity of the subject property could be lost through incompatible alterations and new construction and the demolition of an irreplaceable historic site/open space. The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation are expressly incorporated into the LAAC and provide standards concerning the historically appropriate construction activities which will ensure the continued preservation of the subject property.

CHC-2017-1565-HCM 416-436 West 8th Street and 800 South Olive Street Page 5 of 5

The use of Categorical Exemption Class 8 in connection with the proposed designation is consistent with the goals of maintaining, restoring, enhancing, and protecting the environment through the imposition of regulations designed to prevent the degradation of Historic-Cultural Monuments.

The use of Categorical Exemption Class 31 in connection with the proposed designation is consistent with the goals relating to the preservation, rehabilitation, restoration and reconstruction of historic buildings and sites in a manner consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.

Categorical Exemption ENV-2017-1566-CE was prepared on May 31, 2017.

BACKGROUND

On May 4, 2017 the Cultural Heritage Commission voted to take the property under consideration. On May 25, a subcommittee of the Commission consisting of Commissioners Barron and Milofsky visited the property, accompanied by staff members from the Office of Historic Resources.

| COUNTY CLERK'S USE | (200 NC LOS | OFFICE OF TH ORTH SPRING S ANGELES, C | S ANGELES E CITY CLERK STREET, ROOI ALIFORNIA 900 MENTAL QUA | M 360 12 | C | CITY CLERK'S USE |
|---|--|--|--|---|---|---|
| | NOTIC | E OF | - | PTION | | |
| Filing of this form is optional. If fil pursuant to Public Resources Coo starts a 35-day statute of limitation results in the statute of limitations | le Section 21152 ns on court challer | (b). Pursuant to nges to the app | Public Resource | es Code Sectio | on 21167 (d), the | e filing of this notice |
| LEAD CITY AGENCY City of Los Angeles Depar | tment of City | Planning | | | COL 14 | JNCIL DISTRICT |
| PROJECT TITLE Commercial Exchange Building |] | | | | LOG REFEREN ENV-2017-15 CHC-2017-15 | 66-CE |
| PROJECT LOCATION 416-436 West 8 th Street and 80 | 0 South Olive S | treet, Los Ang | geles, CA 900 [°] | 14 | | |
| DESCRIPTION OF NATURE, PU Designation of the Commercia | | | | Monument | | |
| NAME OF PERSON OR AGENCY | | - | | | ENCY: | |
| CONTACT PERSON Melissa Jones | | | AREA CODE 213 | TELEPHONI 978-1192 | ENUMBER | EXT. |
| EXEMPT STATUS: (Check One) | | | | | | |
| | | STATE CEQA | GUIDELINES | | CITY CEQA GU | JIDELINES |
| MINISTERIAL | | Sec. 15 | 268 | | Art. II, Sec | 2b |
| DECLARED EMERGEN | CY | Sec. 15 | 269 | | Art. II, Sec | c. 2a (1) |
| EMERGENCY PROJEC | Т | Sec. 15 | 269 (b) & (c) | | Art. II, Sec | c. 2a (2) & (3) |
| × CATEGORICAL EXEMP | TION | Sec. 15 | 300 et seq. | | Art. III, Se | c. 1 |
| Class <u>8 & :</u> | 31 Catego | ory (C | ty CEQA Guidel | ines) | | |
| OTHER (See Public | c Resources Code | Sec. 21080 (b) | and set forth st | ate and City gu | ideline provision | |
| JUSTIFICATION FOR PROJECT consists of "actions taken by regu enhancement, or protection of the Class 31 applies "to maintenance in a manner consistent with the Commercial Exchange Building project review regulations based of IF FILED BY APPLICANT, ATTAC THE DEPARTMENT HAS FOUND | ulatory agencies, a e environment whe , repair, stabilization e Secretary of Int g as an Historic-Cu on the Secretary of CH CERTIFIED DO | as authorized b ere the regulate on, rehabilitation terior's Standa Iltural Monume f Interior's Stan DCUMENT ISS | y state or local ory process invol n, restoration, pr rds for the Tre that will assure the dards to maintai UED BY THE C | ordinance, to a lves procedures eservation, or r atment of Hist protection of t n and preserve | ssure the mainte s for protection of econstruction of oric Buildings." he environment the historic site. | enance, restoration, of the environment." historical resources Designation of the by the enactment of |
| | | | iotont | | DATE | 2017 |
| [SIGNED COPY IN FILE] FEE: | RECEIPT NO. | Planning Ass | REC'D. BY | | May 31 DATE | , 201 <i>1</i> |
| L DISTRIBUTION: (1) County Clerk | I , (2) City Clerk, (3 |) Agency Recor | rd | | | |
| IF FILED BY THE APPLICANT: | | | | | | |

NAME (PRINTED)

SIGNATURE

Los Angeles Department of City Planning RECOMMENDATION REPORT

| CULTURAL HERITA | AGE COMMISSION | CASE NO.: CHC-2017-1565-HCM ENV-2017-1566-CE |
|----------------------------------|--|---|
| HEARING DATE: TIME: PLACE: | May 4, 2017 10:00 AM City Hall, Room 1010 200 N. Spring Street Los Angeles, CA 90012 | Location: 416-436 West 8th Street and 800 South Olive Street Council District: 14 - Huizar Community Plan Area: Central City Area Planning Commission: Central Neighborhood Council: Downtown Los Angeles Legal Description: Portion of Block 53 Huber Tract, Lot FR LT 20 |
| PROJECT: | Historic-Cultural Mon COMMERCIAL EXCI | ument Application for the HANGE BUILDING |
| REQUEST: | Declare the property | a Historic-Cultural Monument |
| OWNER/ APPLICA | NT: YSHRE LA LLC c/o J 30 West 26 th Street, 7 New York, NY 10010 | 12 th Floor |
| PREPARER: | Tara Hamacher and I Historic Consultants 256 South Robertson Beverly Hills, CA 902 | Boulevard, #2401 |
| RECOMMENDATIC | <u>DN</u> That the Cultural He | ritage Commission: |

- 1. **Take the property under consideration** as a Historic-Cultural Monument per Los Angeles Administrative Code Chapter 9, Division 22, Article 1, Section 22.171.10 because the application and accompanying photo documentation suggest the submittal warrants further investigation.
- 2. Adopt the report findings.

VINCENT P. BERTONI, AICP Director of Planning

[SIGNED ORIGINAL IN FILE]

[SIGNED ORIGINAL IN FILE]

Ken Bernstein, AICP, Manager Office of Historic Resources Lambert M. Giessinger, Preservation Architect Office of Historic Resources

[SIGNED ORIGINAL IN FILE]

Melissa Jones, Planning Assistant Office of Historic Resources

Attachment:

Historic-Cultural Monument Application

SUMMARY

The Commercial Exchange Building, constructed in 1924, is a 13-story Renaissance Revivalstyle commercial building located in downtown Los Angeles at the southeast corner of West 8th Street and South Olive Street. It was designed by prominent Los Angeles architects Albert R. Walker and Percy A. Eisen, and was built by the William Simpson Construction Company for Rudolph Rosenberg of the Eighth and Olive Holding Company. The building was constructed to be an office building in a period of major skyscraper development in the city's central business district.

Characterized by two primary elevations—Olive Street on the west and 8th Street on the north the subject property has a rectangular plan with a classical, tripartite composition conveyed by a horizontal division of base, shaft, and cornice. The main entry is at the northeast corner and is recessed and framed by terra cotta. The building is clad in red brick with contrasting terra cotta window sills. Windows at the street facing facades are one-over-one, wood sash units grouped in sets of two. The first floor is capped with a metal cornice that spans across the storefronts on both facades and at the base there are inlaid terra cotta bands and a terra cotta stringcourse above the second story. The top two floors feature a decorative floral treatment, engaged pilasters, Corinthian capitals, and a terra cotta cornice. An original fire escape is at the center of the west façade that spans between floors two through thirteen and a neon blade sign is located at the southwest corner. On the interior, the ground floor features an elevator lobby sheathed with buff-colored marble, a barrel-vaulted, coffered ceiling over the lobby area, and a marble staircase. Floors 2 through 12 feature a T-shaped, stacked plan comprised of an elevator lobby at the east side of each floor with a central corridor spanning east to west. The corridors have marble baseboards and wood-frame doors, with sidelights and transoms.

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Over the years, the subject property has experienced several alterations, the most significant of which were the removal of a five-foot section of the building and the resulting modifications to the storefronts, to accommodate a City of Los Angeles sidewalk widening project in 1935. Other alterations include the installation of awnings in 1936, the addition of two doors and transoms over the basement entrance on the Olive Street façade in 1947, modifications to the lobby in 1955, and the removal of the overhanging projection of the cornice in 1965.

The citywide historic resources survey, SurveyLA, identified the Commercial Exchange Building as individually eligible for listing or designation at the national, state and local levels as an excellent example of Beaux Arts commercial architecture in Downtown Los Angeles and a work of noted Los Angeles architects Walker and Eisen.

CRITERIA

The criterion is the Cultural Heritage Ordinance which defines a historical or cultural monument as any site (including significant trees or other plant life located thereon) building or structure of particular historic or cultural significance to the City of Los Angeles, such as historic structures or sites in which the broad cultural, economic, or social history of the nation, State or community is reflected or exemplified, or which are identified with historic personages or with important events in the main currents of national, State or local history or which embody the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type specimen, inherently valuable for a study of a period style or method of construction, or a notable work of a master builder, designer or architect whose individual genius influenced his age.

FINDINGS

Based on the facts set forth in the summary and application, the Commission determines that the application is complete and that the property may be significant enough to warrant further investigation as a potential Historic-Cultural Monument.



1. PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION

| Proposed Monument Name: Commercial E | xchange Building | | Original historic n | ame |
|--|----------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| Other Associated Names: | | | | |
| Street Address: 436 W. 8th Street | | Zip: | 90015 C | ouncil District: 14 |
| Range of Addresses on Property: 416-436 V | V. 8th Street | Com | munity Name: | |
| Assessor Parcel Number: 5144-018-030 Tract: Portion of block | | ock 53 Huber | Block: none | Lot: FR LT 20 |
| Identification cont'd: | | | | |
| Proposed Monument Property Type: • Building | Structure | Object | Site/Open Spa | ace Natural Feature |
| Describe any additional resources located on the | property to be included in | the nomination, h | ere: none | |

2. CONSTRUCTION HISTORY & CURRENT STATUS

| Year built: 1924 • Factual | Estimated | Threatened? None | |
|--|-----------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Architect/Designer: Walker and Eisen | | Contractor: William Simpson | Construction |
| Original Use: Retail and Office | | Present Use: Hotel | |
| Is the Proposed Monument on its Original Site? | • Yes | No (explain in section 7) | Unknown (explain in section 7) |

3. STYLE & MATERIALS

| Architectural Style | Select from menu or type style directly into box | | Stories: | Plan Shape: Rectangular |
|---------------------|--|------------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| FEATURE | PRIMARY | | | SECONDARY |
| CONSTRUCTION | Type: Concrete poured/precast | Туре | : Select | |
| CLADDING | Material: Brick | Mate | erial: Terra c | otta |
| ROOF | Type: Flat | Type: Select | | |
| | Material: Rolled asphalt | Material: Select | | |
| WINDOWS | Type: Double-hung | Type | : | |
| in toons | Material: Wood | Mate | rial: Select | |
| ENTRY | Style: Corner | Style | Recessed | |
| DOOR | Type: Glass | Type: | Select | |



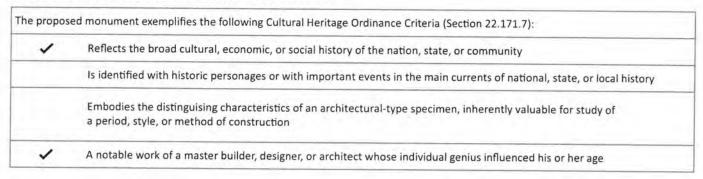
4. ALTERATION HISTORY

| List date a Include co | nd write a brief description of any major alterations or additions. This section may also be completed on a separate document. pies of permits in the nomination packet. Make sure to list any major alterations for which there are no permits, as well. |
|---------------------------|--|
| 12463 | July 1935. Move west half of building 5 feet to east, reconnect. |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |

5. EXISTING HISTORIC RESOURCE IDENTIFICATION (if known)

| | Listed in the California Register of Historical Resources | |
|---|--|--|
| 1 | Formally determined eligible for the National and/or California Re | gisters |
| | Located in an Historic Preservation Overlay Zone (HPOZ) | Contributing feature Non-contributing feature |
| | Determined eligible for national, state, or local landmark status by an historic resources survey(s) | Survey Name(s): |

6. APPLICABLE HISTORIC-CULTURAL MONUMENT CRITERIA





7. WRITTEN STATEMENTS

This section allows you to discuss at length the significance of the proposed monument and why it should be designated an Historic-Cultural Monument. Type your response on separate documents and attech them to this form.

A. Proposed Monument Description - Describe the proposed monument's physical characteristics and relationship to its surrounding environment. Expand on sections 2 and 3 with a more detailed description of the site. Expand on section 4 and discuss the construction/alteration history in detail if that is necessary to explain the proposed monument's current form. Identify and describe any character-defining elements, structures, interior spaces, or landscape features.

B. Statement of Significance - Address the proposed monument's historic, cultural, and/or architectural significance by discussing how it satisfies the HCM criteria you selected in Section 6. You must support your argument with substantial evidence and analysis. The Statement of Significance is your main argument for designation so it is important to substantiate any claims you make with supporting documentation and research.

8. CONTACT INFORMATION

Applicant

| Name: Jeremy Selman | | Company: YSHRE LA LLC | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------|
| Street Address: 30 W | . 26th Street, FL 12 | City: New | York | State: NY |
| Zip: 10010-2063 | Phone Number: 646-307-9600 | | Email: jselman@sydell | group.com |

| Property Owner | Is the ow | ner in support of the nomination? • Yes | No Unknown |
|--------------------|----------------------------|---|------------|
| Name: Jeremy Selma | an | Company: YSHRE LA LLC | |
| Street Address: 30 | W. 26th Street, FL 12 | City: New York | State: NY |
| Zip: 10010-2063 | Phone Number: 646-307-9600 | Email: jselman@sydellgr | oup.com |

Nomination Preparer/Applicant's Representative

| Name: Tara Hamache | er & Roger Brevoort | Company: Historic Consultants | |
|---------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------|
| Street Address: 256 | S. Robertson Blvd. #2401 | City: Beverly Hills | State: CA |
| Zip: 90211 | Phone Number: 213-379-1040 | Email: tara@historiccon | sultants |

CITY OF LOS ANGELES Office of Historic Resources/Cultural Heritage Commission

HISTORIC-CULTURAL MONI NOMINATION FORM



9. SUBMITTAL

When you have completed preparing your nomination, compile all materials in the order specified below. Although the entire packet must not exceed 100 pages, you may send additional material on a CD or flash drive.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

- 1.
 V Nomination Form
- 2. Vritten Statements A and B
- 3. 🗸 Bibliography
- Yuo Primary Photos of Exterior/Main Facade (8x10, the main photo of the proposed monument. Also email a digitial copy of the main photo to: planning.ohr@lacity.org)
- 5. Copies of Primary/Secondary Documentation
- Copies of Building Permits for Major Alterations (include first construction permits)
- Additional, Contemporary Photos
- 8.
 Historical Photos
- Zimas Parcel Report for all Nominated Parcels (including map)

10. RELEASE

Please read each statement and check the corresponding boxes to indicate that you agree with the statement, then sign below in the provided space. Either the applicant or preparer may sign.

I acknowledge that all documents submitted will become public records under the California Public Records Act, and understand that the documents will be made available upon request to members of the public for inspection and copying.

I acknowledge that all photographs and images submitted as part of this application will become the property of the City of Los Angeles, and understand that permission is granted for use of the photographs and images by the City without any expectation of compensation.

I acknowledge that I have the right to submit or have obtained the appropriate permission to submit all information contained in this application.

Jelman 18.10.16 Name: Date: Signature

Mail your Historic-Cultural Monument Submittal to the Office of Historic Resources.

Office of Historic Resources Department of City Planning 200 N. Spring Street, Room 620 Los Angeles, CA 90012

Phone: 213-978-1200 Website: preservation.lacity.org



7. WRITTEN STATEMENTS

This section allows you to discuss at length the significance of the proposed monument and why it should be designated an Historic-Cultural Monument. Type your response on separate documents and attech them to this form.

A. Proposed Monument Description - Describe the proposed monument's physical characteristics and relationship to its surrounding environment. Expand on sections 2 and 3 with a more detailed description of the site. Expand on section 4 and discuss the construction/alteration history in detail if that is necessary to explain the proposed monument's current form. Identify and describe any character-defining elements, structures, interior spaces, or landscape features.

B. Statement of Significance - Address the proposed monument's historic, cultural, and/or architectural significance by discussing how it satisfies the HCM criteria you selected in Section 6. You must support your argument with substantial evidence and analysis. The Statement of Significance is your main argument for designation so it is important to substantiate any claims you make with supporting documentation and research.

8. CONTACT INFORMATION

Applicant

| Name: Jeremy Selman | | Company: YSHRE LA LLC | |
|----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| Street Address: 30 W | /. 26th Street, FL 12 | City: New York | State: NY |
| Zip: 10010-2063 | Phone Number: 646-307-9600 | Email: jselman@syde | llgroup.com |

| Property Owner | Is the ov | wner in support of the nomination? • Yes | No Unknown |
|--|-----------------------|--|------------|
| Name: Jeremy Selma | n | Company: YSHRE LA LLC | |
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Nomination Preparer/Applicant's Representative

| Name: Tara Hamache | er & Roger Brevoort | Company: Historic Consultants | |
|--|---------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|
| Street Address: 256 S. Robertson Blvd. #2401 | | City: Beverly Hills | State: CA |
| Zip: 90211 Phone Number: 213-379-1040 | | Email: tara@historio | cconsultants |

Historic and Cultural Monument Nomination Form Commercial Exchange Building, 416-436 W. 8th Street Attachment A: Item 7 - Description

A: PROPOSED MONUMENT DESCRIPTION:

CONTEXT

The Commercial Exchange Building, constructed in 1924 and rehabilitated in 2016, is located in downtown Los Angeles at the southeast corner of West 8th Street and South Olive Street. This intersection is at the southern end of the principal business district. The building is set amongst a variety of mid-rise buildings from the early twentieth century. The Commercial Exchange Building is a 13-story Renaissance Revival style building, rectangular in plan with a classical, tripartite composition conveyed by a horizontal division of base, shaft, and cornice, a typical format for downtown Los Angeles architecture in the 1920s. The 2016 rehabilitation converted the building from its historic office use into an active hotel with a restaurant activating the ground floor.

EXTERIOR

The Commercial Exchange Building is characterized by two formal elevations: Olive Street (west elevation) and 8th Street (north elevation). The 8th Street facade is composed of eleven vertical bays and the Olive Street facade composed of three vertical bays, reflecting the narrow, rectangular plan.

The main entry is at the northeast corner. The terra cotta frame (restored 2016) extends nearly the full height of the ground. The door is recessed in this opening, and framed by terra cotta. The walls of the building are constructed of red brick with contrasting terra cotta window sills. Windows at the street facing facades are one-over-one, wood sash units. The first floor is capped with a metal cornice that spans across the storefronts on both facades. The original storefront design has been restored based on the 1924 Walker and Eisen design, with the exception of one later storefront on 8th Street that was retained as the entrance to the new restaurant for the hotel.

Further ornamentation at the base of the main facades includes inlaid terra cotta bands and a terra cotta stringcourse above the second story. The stringcourse extends across both primary facades and is composed of a classical entablature with a plain cornice and a frieze depicting swags of garland and fleur-de-lis. The upper floors have one-over-one wood windows throughout, symmetrically placed on the facades. The original fire escape, dating to 1924, is extant at the center of the west elevation and spans between floors 2 through 13 (the landings are in place, the diagonal ladders were removed for safety reasons). The windows on the north and west walls are original double-hung, wood sash, all repainted and restored. The 2nd floor windows have been replicated based on the upper floor style and materials.

In 1935, a five foot portion of the building was removed from the center of the north elevation. The building was reconnected at the cut line which entailed moving the west half of the building approximately five feet east, all on the same parcel. This alteration is now only reflected by the fifth bay having only a single window, but this anomaly on the facade in not readily apparent from casual observation.

The top two floors of the building retain the original glazed terra cotta facings, recently restored with GFRC, glazed to match the original material. The details feature engaged pilasters, decorative floral treatment, Corinthian capitals, and a terra-cotta cornice. The cornice features decorative modillions on the underside and acanthus leaves above. The original cornice was modified by the removal of its

Historic and Cultural Monument Nomination Form Commercial Exchange Building, 416-436 W. 8th Street Attachment A: Item 7 - Description

overhanging projection, however, the components that remain still provide a cap to the building indicative of the buildings' historic appearance. The cornice alteration occurred in 1966, likely due to deterioration. The other prominent feature of the exterior is the neon blade sign located at the southwest corner. This sign, now restored, was installed prior to 1935.

The secondary elevations, the south and east walls, are not readily visible. Original steel sash multi-lite awning style windows are horizontally and vertically aligned. Steel sash units are installed at all levels of the south elevation and a few additional steel sash units are at the east elevation. Both the south and east elevations are constructed of brick infill between the exposed concrete structural framing, and have no formal ornamentation. Historic-era painted signage advertising is visible at both elevations, and has been recently repainted.

The roof of the building has now been activated into a roof deck and pool area. There is an outdoor bar at the east end, incorporated into the former elevator penthouse. The rooftop features are not visible from the ground level, and therefore do not impact the historic appearance or overall integrity of the building. A painted sign on the east wall of the elevator penthouse, now repainted, is visible from the intersection of 8th and Hill Streets.

INTERIOR

The primary, significant historic space of the building is a ground floor elevator lobby accessed through the northeast entrance. The lobby is sheathed with buff colored marble. There are three arched openings for the elevators on the east wall, echoed by blind arches with inset black marble on the west wall. This lobby features a barrel-vaulted, coffered ceiling over the entire space. The lobby also features a marble staircase at the southeast corner that spans between the basement and the 13th floor. One of the arches on the west wall of the lobby was opened during the rehabilitation to provide a passage from the lobby into the former retail space that is now the hotel reception area.

The upper floors, 2-13, feature a T-shaped, stacked plan comprised of an elevator lobby at the east side of each floor with a central corridor spanning east-west in the middle of each floor. The corridors have marble baseboards and wood frame office doors, with sidelights and transoms. Elevator lobbies feature marble clad walls, marble base, and ceilings framed by a crown molding.

INTEGRITY

Today the Commercial Exchange Building retains a high degree of integrity, with its Renaissance Revival features and full-height corner blade sign, and serves as a visual monument that stands out amidst the surrounding historic and contemporary buildings in the commercial core. The original ground floor elevator lobby has been restored, and features marble walls, flooring, and the original barrel vaulted ceiling. The marble staircase at the southeast corner is also a dominant feature. The original elevator lobbies on floors 2-13 have been restored, and the upper corridors rehabilitated to reflect their historic appearance with doors and transoms at each room.

B STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Commercial Exchange Building was designed by prominent Los Angeles architects Albert R. Walker and Percy A. Eisen, and was built by the William Simpson Construction Company. Upon completion of construction in 1924, the Renaissance Revival style Commercial Exchange Building was touted by the Los Angeles Times as one of the most "substantial, utile, and handsome [buildings] that talent and money can produce" (January 1, 1925). The building was constructed in a period of major skyscraper development in the city's central business district, at the maximum allowable height limit, and in an area of downtown intended to accommodate growing business interests by offering a two-hour parking zone rather than the typical 45-minute limitations found on other streets in the commercial core. In 1935 a five-foot section of the building was removed, now evidenced by the single column of windows on the north elevation along 8th Street. The purpose of the alteration was to accommodate a long-disputed City of Los Angeles sidewalk widening project on Olive Street. In order to save the Olive Street facade, recognized as the more notable of the two principal elevations, Walker & Eisen returned to the building that they had designed nine years prior and worked with house moving contractor - the Kress House Moving Company, to devise a method of removing and reconnecting the building at the cut line. Through its historic period the building was occupied by commercial retail, restaurant, and office tenants, which contributed to the bustling environment of Downtown Los Angeles, and supported the city's growing economic base.

The Commercial Exchange Building meets two of the criteria for designation as a Los Angeles Historic and Cultural Monument. First, for its association with the broad economic and social history of Los Angeles as related to the expansion of the city's metropolitan core in the early 1920s. Secondly, the Commercial Exchange Building meets the criteria for architecture, as a representation of the work of master architects Albert R. Walker and Percy Eisen, and their firm, Walker and Eisen.

The period of significance begins in 1924, upon completion of construction, and extends through 1937. This period incorporates the date of 1935 when the building was modified with the removal of a fivefoot section, and the west portion moved and reconnected to the east portion as well as storefront alterations that occurred after the move. Several of the storefronts were modified and updated after the move, until the period following WWII when commercial activity in the downtown core began to decline. The retail tenants vacated, and the storefronts deteriorated over time.

With the exception of the partial removal of the projecting metal cornice, the building substantially retains its appearance and integrity to the 1924-1937 period as a Renaissance Revival skyscraper. Also, the storefront level has been substantially restored to authentically reflect the original 1924 appearance, as documented by historic photographs.

A DISCUSSION OF THE BUILDING'S ELIGIBILITY UNDER THE APPLICABLE CRITERION IS INCLUDED BELOW:

REFLECTS THE BROAD ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL HISTORY OF DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES AND THE ECONOMIC BOOM OF THE EARLY 1920S.

The Commercial Exchange Building is significant for its association with the economic boom of downtown Los Angeles in the 1920s. The building was constructed in a period of major skyscraper development in the city's central business district, at the maximum allowable height limit of 150 feet. It was located in an area of downtown intended to accommodate growing business interests by offering a two-hour parking zone rather than the typical 45-minute limitations found on other streets in the commercial core.

The building is located in the oldest section of Los Angeles, on lands that were part of the original Spanish pueblo. The area surrounding the subject property was depicted on Ord's 1857 Map of the City Of Los Angeles, which illustrate nearly the entirety of the city as it existed at the time, and identified areas proposed for future development. On Ord's Map, most buildings surrounded the Plaza and were sited along Main Street (Calle Principal). The property on which the Commercial Exchange Building sits is delineated on Ord's Map on the western outskirts of the pueblo lands between an ephemeral stream on the north and the riverbed on the south. The property was subdivided in 1872 as part of the Huber Tract (1) in the American period. As more Americans settled in Los Angeles, the city began to take on the appearance of an American town with wood and brick clad buildings. By 1890, the business district had moved south away from the Pueblo and the Plaza. Fort Street, now Broadway, was originally a residential boulevard, home to many of the city's prominent citizens. The character of the street transformed into a commercial thoroughfare in the later part of the 19th Century, beginning with the construction of City Hall and followed by the many of the region's most important stores, including Coulter's Dry Goods, the Broadway Department Store, and Hamburger's retail store in 1908 (later to become the May Company).

Congestion of the area pushed commercial office buildings and retailers south. This trend continued throughout the first half of the 20th Century, and ultimately, the center of the central business district moved from 3rd Street to Broadway and 7th Street, just two blocks east of the Commercial Exchange Building location. This new commercial core was considered to be the most prominent location for commercial office buildings. By 1920 the business district covered fifty square blocks with the intersection of 8th and Olive Streets, situated at a prime location in the Downtown district. The 150 foot building height limit transformed downtown Los Angeles to resemble metropolitan cities of the eastern United States, replete with skyscrapers that housed a variety of commercial and office uses. High quality height-limit buildings in downtown were viewed by merchants and the general public as the essential expression of a successful metropolis (2).

Entertainment venues followed the offices and retailers. By the 1920s and 1930s the downtown district featured the largest concentration of theaters in the world. Downtown Los Angeles continued to thrive throughout the 1920s, with continued activity in the 1930s, although somewhat diminished by the

economic constraints of the Great Depression. In the mid-to-late 20th Century the economic activity of Downtown Los Angeles began to shift to suburban enclaves (3).

The Commercial Exchange Building was constructed as an investment for Rudolph Rosenberg of the Eighth and Olive Company. Rosenberg was an industrialist and real estate developer who held a number of buildings in his portfolio. He understood the city center was shifting south and west from its beginnings around 3rd Street and envisioned an opportunity in the form of a new rental building to be located at the center of the new commercial core. The Commercial Exchange Building was to be sited immediately adjacent to the RKO Hill Street Theatre, which opened in 1922 at the northeast corner of the block (the theatre building was demolished in 1963). While under construction the Commercial Exchange Building was advertised in the Los Angeles Times as a "modern edifice of dignity and beauty" accessible to all districts including "banking, shopping, wholesale, and the post office" and was geared towards the "modern office tenant" (*Los Angeles Times*, March 9, 1924).

The building was constructed to attract a variety of tenants including dentists. A March 9, 1924 Los Angeles Times advertisement, announces that four floors of the building were fitted up for dental services. In order to construct a distinguished building, Rosenberg hired one of the best architectural firms in Los Angeles, Walker & Eisen, to ensure a high quality building that would attract tenants and help define the face of downtown Los Angeles as a metropolitan city on par with the likes of Chicago and New York. When the Commercial Exchange Building was completed it was the only height limit building on the block and in the immediate vicinity. Through the decades the building was occupied by the Owl Drugs Company (c.1925-1940s), the publishing house for writer Edgar Rice Burroughs (4), physicians, insurance companies, attorneys, and miscellaneous businesses and restaurants on the ground floor.

1935 Bay Removal and Reconnection Campaign

In as early as 1923, one year before the Commercial Exchange Building was constructed, area landholders petitioned the City's Public Works Committee (PWC) to widen Olive Street between 7th Street and Pico Avenue. The PWC did not take immediate action and the proposal sat essentially unaddressed until early 1925, just after the Commercial Exchange Building was completed. Between 1925 and 1928 the Olive Street sidewalk widening project was processed at multiple City Council meetings and other public hearings until the City Council approved the project in March of 1928. The city soon awarded payments to owners of condemned properties, collected assessments, and completed the widening project except at the corner of 8th and Olive Streets in the vicinity of the Commercial Exchange Building. The project was not completed at the subject property because of an error in the project's legal filing wherein Owl Drugs, a long term tenant, was not named in the condemnation suit and as a result would not release the property for the widening project. The project was further delayed by the bankruptcy of the building owner and the property's liquidation. When the dust settled in 1935, the decision was made to finally comply with the City's instructions to remove five feet of the building frontage along Olive Street (16).

Rather than removing and rebuilding the entire Olive Street facade to make room for the street widening, the owners hired Kress House Moving Company to remove a five-to-ten foot section of building at the north elevation and through the center, equating to one half of one vertical bay,

approximately 55 feet east from Olive Street. This plan was intended to save the ornate Olive Street facade and to also reduce costs, as tearing down and rebuilding a portion of the entire building would have been much more expensive. Original architects Walker & Eisen returned to their design from eleven years prior to help oversee the operation. Engineer Murray Erich provided expertise, and the Kress House Moving Company executed the monumental task of moving the western half of the building and reconnecting it to its eastern half.

After cutting the building into two separate parts and installing the complex systems of jacks and cribbing in the building basement, a crew of twenty men worked approximately nine hours to move the western half to connect it to its counterpart. It has been said that not a single window was broken and the building tenants were not impacted. Most impressively, at the time it was claimed that the Commercial Exchange Building was the tallest building in the world to be moved. The work was supervised by Walker & Eisen. The repairs completed after the move, including new brick at the cut line, and Olive Street facade repairs, were consistent with the original 1924 building appearance (17). Overall the Commercial Exchange Building is consistent in look and feel with Walker & Eisen's most celebrated buildings, while maintaining its own distinctive appearance. The appearance of the building after the 1935 cut and reconnection campaign is consistent with the 1924 appearance.

A NOTABLE WORK OF A MASTER BUILDER, DESIGNER, OR ARCHITECT: ALBERT R. WALKER AND PERCY A. EISEN, AND THE FIRM OF WALKER AND EISEN

Walker & Eisen Architects and Engineers (Walker & Eisen) was the preeminent architectural firm in Southern California during the 1920s to the 1940s. They were especially prolific in Los Angeles designing many commercial buildings, apartment houses and hotels. The duo were peers of Allison and Allison, Parkinson and Parkinson, Albert C. Martin and Associates, Nordstrom and Anderson, and Morgan, Walls and Clements. These firms were collectively responsible for significantly shaping the urban form Los Angeles. Albert R. Walker and Percy A. Eisen established the firm Walker & Eisen in 1919, on the eve of the 1920s population explosion that more than doubled the number of city residents (from roughly 575,000 in 1920 to over 1.2 million in 1929) (5). They were responsible for designing a number of buildings that are now Los Angeles Historic and Cultural Monuments (listed below).

Both Walker and Eisen were native Californians. Albert R. Walker was born in Sonoma, California, in 1881. After the death of his father and younger sibling, he moved to San Diego with his mother to live with relatives. He attended a special study at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island, in 1902. Later that year he was back in San Diego working for the firm Hebbard and Gill. His association with Hebbard and Gill lasted only for one year. He continued his apprenticeship in Los Angeles, first with Parkinson and Bergstrum and then with A. E Rosenheim, and Hunt and Grey. He ventured out on his own, establishing his independent practice in 1909 working mainly on residential and ecclesiastical projects. A year later he partnered with John Terrell Vawter, a graduate of the University of Illinois and a student of Gustave Umbdenstock's atelier associated with the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris (6). Walker and Vawter worked together for seven years designing buildings around Los Angeles, their most ambitious being the Italian Renaissance Bible Institute of Los Angeles (1915) on Hope Street. From his

work with Vawter, Albert Walker acquired an appreciation of the Beaux Arts paradigm. Walker and Vawter dissolved their partnership in October 1917 when Vawter joined the military. Two years later Walker partnered with Percy A. Eisen to create one of the most important design firms in Los Angeles during the first half of the 20th Century (7).

Percy A. Eisen was born in San Francisco in 1885, the son and grandson of prominent architects. In late 1885, Percy's father Theodore Eisen went to work for the San Francisco firm Curlett and Cuthbertson, moving the family to Los Angeles to work on projects like the Richardsonian Romanesque Los Angeles County Courthouse (1891). Theodore Eisen became a partner in 1886, forming Curlett, Eisen and Cuthbertson. Theodore stayed with the firm for a few years but by the 1890s. Theodore was working as the City Superintendent of Buildings, with an office at City Hall (8). By 1898 he was in partnership with Sumner P. Hunt, working under the name Eisen and Hunt (9). Percy Eisen attended public schools and trained alongside his father to learn the practice of architecture. As early as 1908, Percy was in architectural practice with his father as Eisen and Son, Architects (10). In this capacity Percy dealt with many of the city's business people and forged connections that would serve him well in his future endeavors. Percy left the firm in 1919 to partner with Albert Walker; his father Theodore continued to practice architecture until his death in 1924 (11).

Together, Walker & Eisen were a powerful team. During their productive life they were responsible for the design of more than 200 buildings. Their work focused on larger scale commercial office buildings, apartment houses, hotels, and movie theaters. The firm gained recognition from their work on larger structures. There was a time that Walker & Eisen successfully obtained the bulk of the contracts in the city. Because of their success they were able to recruit many highly skilled designers, several who trained in Paris at the Ecole des Beaux Arts as well as draftsmen who came from the Beaux Arts Institute of New York. At the height of the boom the firm employed fifty draftsmen. While both partners shared design responsibilities, Eisen tended to focus on business development using his well-established connections to secure contracts for the firm. Walker was the creative force who primarily focused on guiding their design effort (12).

While in practice together from 1919 to 1941, Walker & Eisen designed major buildings in the Southern California region in the cities of Los Angeles, San Diego, Long Beach, Beverly Hills and Palm Springs, and collaborated on numerous buildings now designated as City of Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monuments (HCM) or listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

Designated properties designed by Walker & Eisen include:

Silverwoods, six-story building built for a clothing retailer in 1920, Los Angeles, CA (Contributor to the Broadway Theater District NRHP No. 79000484),

The Hotel Normandie, a four-story Renaissance Revival style building erected in 1926, Los Angeles, CA (HCM 1013),

Fine Arts Building, a 12-story Romanesque Revival building built in 1927, Los Angeles, CA (HCM 125), James Oviatt Building, a 12-story building with a penthouse and mezzanine in the Art Deco style completed in 1927, Los Angeles, CA (HCM No. 195; NRHP No. 83004529),

United Artists Theater Building, a 13-story building in the Spanish Gothic style completed 1927, Los Angeles, CA (Contributor to the Broadway Theater District NRHP No. 79000484; HCM 523),

The Wurlitzer Building, a 13-story Gothic Revival building billed as "the world's largest music house" when it was completed in 1924, Los Angeles, CA (Contributor to the Broadway Theater District NRHP No. 79000484),

The Western Pacific Building, a 12-story Renaissance Revival style building, Los Angeles, CA (Contributor to the Broadway Theater District NRHP No. 79000484),

El Cortez Apartment Hotel, a 1927 14-story building in the Spanish Colonial Revival, San Diego, CA (NRHP No. 01001458), and

The Beverly Wilshire Hotel, a nine-story building in the Renaissance Revival style 1928, Beverly Hills, CA (NRHP No. 87000908).

Walker and Eisen dissolved the firm in 1941, after 22 successful years in partnership, having designed 293 buildings throughout southern California. During the war years Eisen served with the Air Corps Procurements Division. Following the war Eisen partnered with Eugene C. Hart, focusing their efforts on designing residential architecture for returning veterans in the booming post-WWII communities of Inglewood and the San Fernando Valley. Percy A. Eisen died of a heart attack at his office on November 18, 1946 (13).

After dissolving the firm, Walker partnered with Gus W. Kalionzes and Charles A. Klingerman, both former draftsmen at Walker & Eisen (14). Both men were at least twenty years younger than the 50 year old Walker. Walker, Kalionzes and Klingerman projects include: the Saint Sophia Greek Orthodox Cathedral (1948) (HCM 120), significant additions to Santa Monica Hospital (1954/1956), the Centinela Hospital Medical Center (1954) in Inglewood, buildings for the Teamsters Union in Los Angeles (1956), buildings for the University of Southern California (1957), and the California Medical Center (1958). Albert R. Walker died at home September 17, 1958 (15).

The Commercial Exchange Building exemplifies Walker & Eisen's work during the 1920s when Los Angeles was booming and investors were looking for architects to stretch every inch of floor space, without concern for the architecture. The firm successfully managed its clients' needs without resorting to substandard design. Walker & Eisen produced excellent architecture while conforming to program and budget. The Renaissance Revival style Commercial Exchange Building was designed in the archetypal aesthetic for the early 20th Century American skyscraper based on the Renaissance period palazzo and classical Beaux Arts ideology, but elongated the form to fit the programming requirements of a commercial office building in the central business district of Los Angeles.

SUMMARY

The building warrants recognition for its association with the development of the commercial core of Los Angeles in the 1920s, and as a significant work of architects Walker and Eisen. It is notable for their original 1924 design, as well as their involvement with repairing the incision after the partial move in 1935.

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17. "Remember when They Moved a Building?"



Commercial Exchange Building, 416-436 W. 8th Street Attachment C: Historic Photographs.



Image 1 Commercial Exchange Building, nearing completion in 1924, showing final assembly of original storefront design and configuration. This image is the basis for the 2016 rehabilitation.

Historic and Cultural Monument Nomination Form Commercial Exchange Building, 416-436 W. 8th Street Attachment C: Historic Photographs.

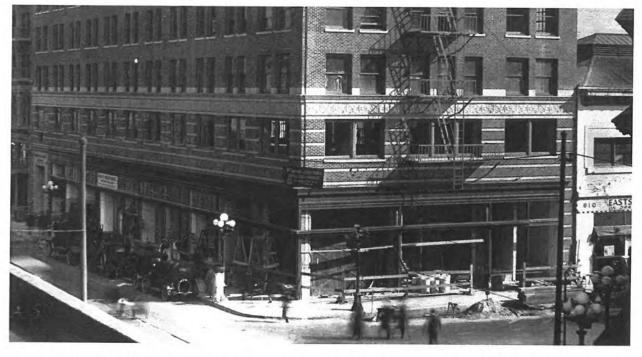


Image 2 Storefront in Progress, 1924. Note primary entrance to the building at the far left, (NE corner)



Image 3 Owl Drug Company, at corner of 8th Street and Broadway, prior to 1935. Note also storefront on 8th Street that is a ca. 1929 alteration. This storefront has also been retained and incorporated into the restoration of the 1924 Walker and Eisen design.

Commercial Exchange Building, 416-436 W. 8th Street Attachment C: Historic Photographs.

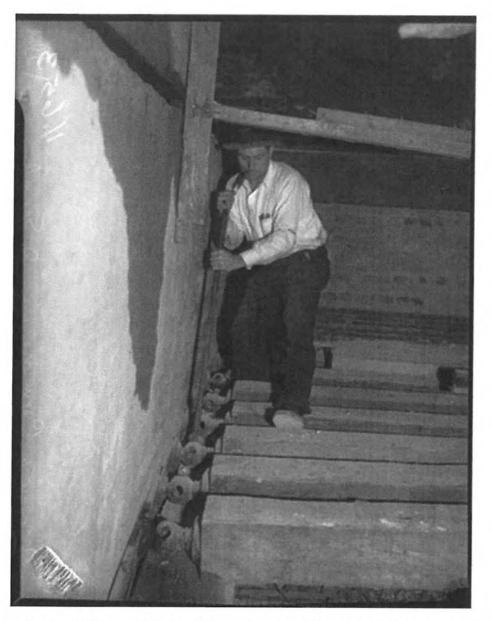


Image 4 - Relocation of West portion of building was accomplished using jacks and steel rollers. 1935

Historic and Cultural Monument Nomination Form Commercial Exchange Building, 416-436 W. 8th Street Attachment C: Historic Photographs.

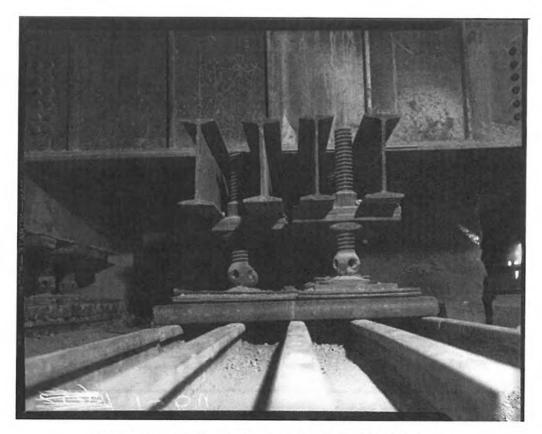


Image 5 Building jacks, used to lift weight of building. 1935

Commercial Exchange Building, 416-436 W. 8th Street Attachment C: Historic Photographs.



Image 6 - Cut line of building, as illustrated prior to moving. The final cut was one bay west.

Commercial Exchange Building, 416-436 W. 8th Street Attachment C: Historic Photographs.



Image 7 - Relocation in progress, 1935. As a result of the move, this bay was made narrower, removing one of the windows. After the move, this bay has one window, but the change in appearance is very subtle. Photo in 1935.

Commercial Exchange Building, 416-436 W. 8th Street Attachment C: Historic Photographs.



Image 8 - The building was cut in the 4th bay. This image shows the building as relocated, prior to replacing the window sash and restoring the brick wall so the building could be reconnected. The joint is now virtually seamless and invisible. 1935 image

Historic and Cultural Monument Nomination Form Commercial Exchange Building, 416-436 W. 8th Street Attachment C: Historic Photographs.



Image 9 -1939 Image looking up Eight Street. The bases of the building contained several retail storefronts and the street enjoyed active retail activity.

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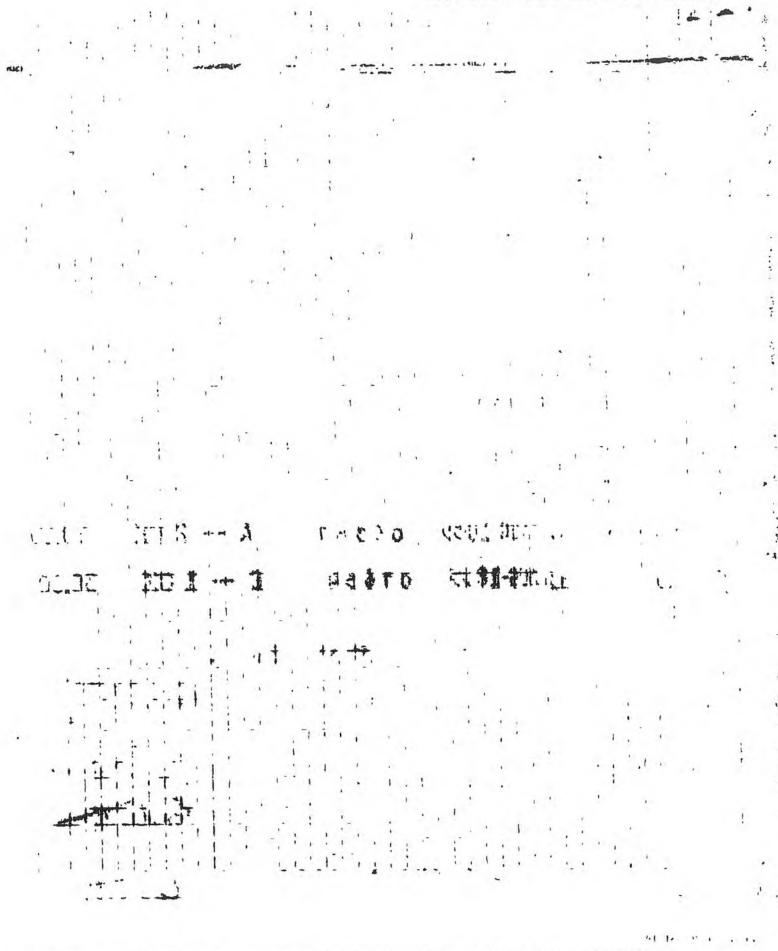
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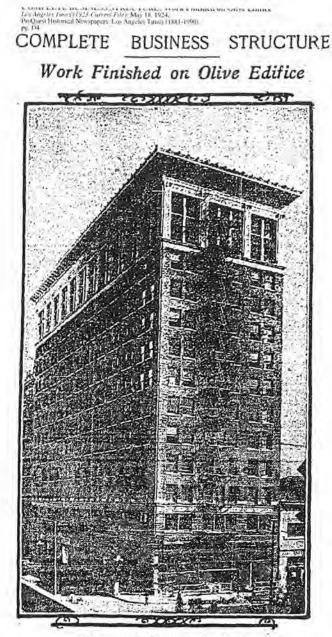
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Commercial Exchange Building

OMPLETING the Commercial Exchange Building at Eighth and Olive streets, the William Simpson Construction Company, local building firm. and a member of the Southern California Chapters Associated General Contractors

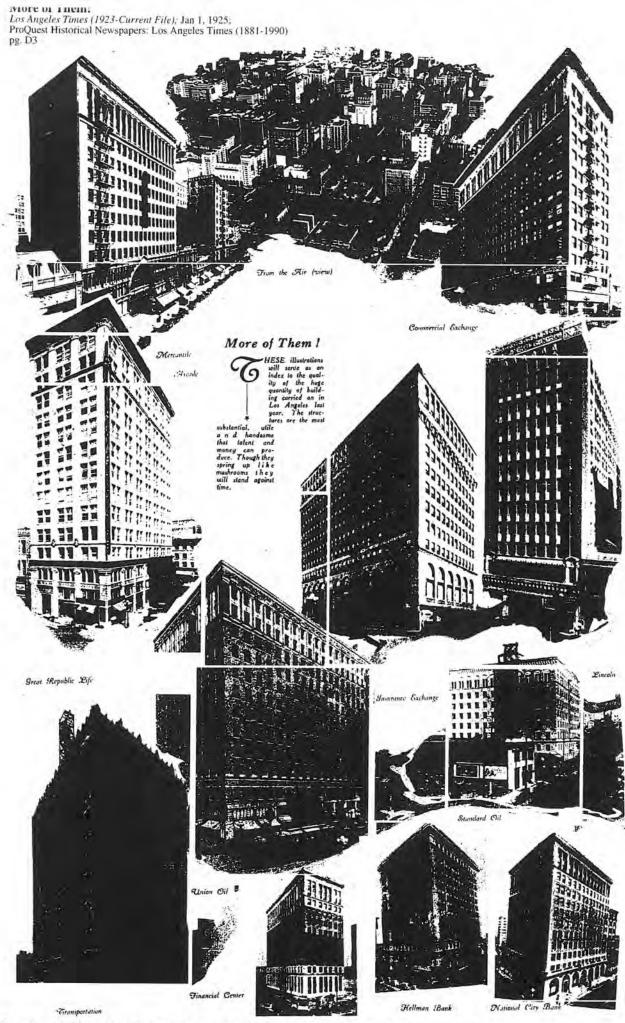
of the Southern California Chap-ters Associated General Contractors of America, have added another worthy achievement to their rec-ord for successful construction work. The building, which was de-signed by Walker & Elsen, Los Angeles architects, is of height-limit proportions, and cost approx-imately 3650,000. It is of the Class A reinforced concrete and steel type, trimmed on the exterior with ruffed brick and terrs cotta. The interior finish is mahogany. The ground floor of the struc-ture is occupied by shops of vari-ous sizes, while the second and third floors have been leased to the Southern California Telephone Company. The remainder of the building contains 220 rooms, di-vided into individual office auites of one, two and three rooms. A large cafeteria is to be installed in the basement. The building aleo powered elevators by the Liwellyn fron Works. The Eighth and Olive Company, a local corporation, is the contracting firm which erected the building aleo built the First Methodist Episcopai Church, Eighth and Hope streets, and a number of the large buildings in Hollywood.

Los Angeles Times (1923-Current File); Mar 9, 1924; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Los Angeles Times (1881-1990) pg. D9





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SIDEWALK PLAN COST PROTESTED: Action on Olive-Street Widening Continued Until De-Lex Angelex Data (1923-Current File): Nov 11, 1927). ProQuest lintorical Newspaper- Los Angeles Times (1881-1990)

SIDEWALK PLAN COST PROTESTED

Action on Olive . Street. Widening Continued Until December 7

Appeals against the \$1.731,670 is-sessments for the widening of the form Seventh street to Pico street form Seventh street to Pico street and years ago on a majority peli-bion of Olive street property owner, a to Olive street property owner, bill be project is consummated, it will be necessary to cut dive fee bion the Olive-street front of the bion bion the Olive-street front of the bion bion the Olive-street front of the bion bion the Olive-street for the additional bion the Olive-street for the additional bion the fee bion bion bion bion bion bion the bion bion

ALUMNI TO HOLD BANQUET

Members of the Southern Califor-nia branch of the Alumni Association of Western College for Women, Ox-ford, O., will hold their annual fall juncheon at the Ellite Cafe, 633 South Flower street, tomorrow at 1 p.m.

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ORDER GIVEN IN SET BACK OF BUILDING: Board of Public Works Takes Action to Remo-Los Angeles Times (1923-Carteen File): Jun 9, 1932. ProQuest Ilistonical Newspapers: Low Angeles Tames (1881-1990) pp. A5

ORDER GIVEN IN SETBACK OF BUILDING

Board of Public Works Takes Action to Remove Street Obstruction

One week's notice to start set-One week's notice to start set-ling back the White Garage five lect to the new line of Olive street was served yesterday on the build-ing owners, the Junior Orpheum Holding Company, by the Board of Publi. Works. Some years ago when Olive street I was widened five feet some one in the City Attorney's office failed to include the ground floor tenant of the Commercial Exchange Building at Eighth and Olive streets, a drug

at Eighth and Olive streets, a drug store, as a defendant.

store, as a defendant. The proceedings were completed, but the drug store refused to move. The Eighth and Olive Holding Cor-poration, Inc., owners of the Com-merclai Exchange Building, was paid \$174,206 in excess of the as-seasment levied for the cost of re-constructing the building and the loss of land. Because the ground-floor tenant

constructing the building and the loss of land. Because the ground-floor tenant held out, the building has not been disturbed, and because the corner property continued to jut out into the sidewalk, the Board of Public Works did not feel called upon to force the garage front cut off. Walter Sanborn of 818 South Olive street, next door to the garage, complained to the board that his property is injured by the garage, and yesterday the board heeded his plea. If the owners do not start work remodeling the building next Wednesday it is the intention of the board to send the construction de-pariment to tear down the wall. Meanwhile the City Attorney's of-fice reports the condemnation suit against the drug company as awalt-ing setting for trial in Superior Court.

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Los Angeles Times (1923 Current File), Aug 29, 1935, ProQuest Historical Newspapers Los Angeles Times (1881-1990)) pg A2



The thirteen-stary, height-limit Commercial Exchange Building at Eighth and Olive streets is being sliced in half to conform to the aelback line of Olive street. Superimposed dotted lines indicate the ten-foot section which is being removed.

Plagiarism Action but Court Rules for Actor WIFE FICKLE Height-Limit Building SAYS SPOUSE Cut for Setback Lines

George De l'ita lPins Decree on Unapposed Plea of Lost Love

Do his complaint that his young bonds wife Lois carried on an in-imate correspondence with another nan. George De Vita a banker, ges-créday was granted a diverce by Supriro Judge Parker Wood.

An annulug engineering feat the hears of Las Angeles. The r moval of a ten-foct slice through the center of a huge office builds -was well under my yresterday. The structure undergoing the a

Undertaking is \$50,000. Story. "Curbs The building is canned by the studios were Eighth and Olive Holding Company, suit by the g





Suspect Faces Death Charges

Faints in Cafe Elits Pali r, arrested ting in a cate at 1939 South street, White Rose Wanakha wahenkawa, 48-year-old Cher-ndian woman once the sub-a marterious disappearance

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NEW TARZAN TWINS TALE IN "TIMES"

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Mrs. Lois DeVita

TO NATIONAL COMMITTEE

WILSHIRE EXHIBIT PERMIT HELD OVER Indian Woman

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City of Los Angeles Department of City Planning

4/19/2017 PARCEL PROFILE REPORT

| PROPERTY ADDRESSES | Address/Legal Information | |
|-------------------------|---|--|
| 800 S OLIVE ST | PIN Number | 127-5A209 58 |
| 432 W 8TH ST | Lot/Parcel Area (Calculated) | 9,013.3 (sq ft) |
| 430 W 8TH ST | Thomas Brothers Grid | PAGE 634 - GRID E5 |
| 428 W 8TH ST | Assessor Parcel No. (APN) | 5144018030 |
| 426 W 8TH ST | Tract | PORTION OF BLOCK 53 HUBER TRACT |
| 424 W 8TH ST | Map Reference | M R 84-22 |
| 422 W 8TH ST | Block | None |
| 420 W 8TH ST | Lot | FR LT 20 |
| 418 W 8TH ST | Arb (Lot Cut Reference) | None |
| 416 W 8TH ST | Map Sheet | 127-5A209 |
| | Jurisdictional Information | 121-58203 |
| ZIP CODES | Community Plan Area | Central City |
| 90014 | Area Planning Commission | Central |
| | Neighborhood Council | |
| RECENT ACTIVITY | Council District | Downtown Los Angeles |
| ZA-2016-4298-CUB | Census Tract # | CD 14 - Jose Huizar |
| ENV-2016-4299-CE | | 2077.10 |
| ENV-2010-4233-CE | LADBS District Office | Los Angeles Metro |
| CASE NUMBERS | Planning and Zoning Information | |
| CPC-2017-432-CPU | Special Notes | None |
| CPC-2010-213-CA | Zoning | C5-4D |
| | Zoning Information (ZI) | ZI-2452 Transit Priority Area in the City of Los Angeles |
| CPC-2008-4502-GPA | | ZI-2385 Greater Downtown Housing Incentive Area |
| CPC-2008-4502-GPA | | ZI-2374 LOS ANGELES STATE ENTERPRISE ZONE |
| CPC-2005-361-CA | General Plan Land Use | Regional Center Commercial |
| CPC-2005-1124-CA | General Plan Footnote(s) | Yes |
| CPC-2005-1122-CA | Hillside Area (Zoning Code) | No |
| CPC-1986-606-GPC | Specific Plan Area | None |
| ORD-164307-SA2023 | Special Land Use / Zoning | None |
| ORD-137036 | Design Review Board | No |
| ORD-135901 | Historic Preservation Review | No |
| ORD-129944 | Historic Preservation Overlay Zone | None |
| ZA-2014-4048-CUB-CUX-ZV | Other Historic Designations | None |
| ZA-2002-9999-ZV | Other Historic Survey Information | None |
| ENV-2017-433-EIR | Mills Act Contract | None |
| ENV-2014-4049-MND | CDO: Community Design Overlay | None |
| ENV-2013-3392-CE | CPIO: Community Plan Imp. Overlay | None |
| ENV-2010-214-ND | District | None |
| ENV-2008-4505-ND | Subarea | None |
| ENV-2008-4505-ND | CUGU: Clean Up-Green Up | None |
| ENV-2005-362-CE | NSO: Neighborhood Stabilization Overlay | No |
| ENV-2005-1125-CE | POD: Pedestrian Oriented Districts | None |
| ENV-2005-1123-CE | SN: Sign District | No |
| ENV-2002-9998-CE | Streetscape | No |
| | Adaptive Reuse Incentive Area | Adaptive Reuse Incentive Areas |
| | Ellis Act Property | No |
| | Rent Stabilization Ordinance (RSO) | No |
| | and the second of the second se | |

| CRA - Community Redevelopment Agency | City Control Destantion of Destantion |
|---|--|
| Central City Parking | City Center Redevelopment Project |
| Downtown Parking | Yes |
| | Yes |
| Building Line 500 Ft School Zone | None |
| 500 Ft Park Zone | No |
| | No |
| Assessor Information | |
| Assessor Parcel No. (APN) | 5144018030 |
| Ownership (Assessor) Owner1 | |
| Address | YSHRE LA LLC |
| Address | 30 W 26TH ST 12TH FL NEW YORK NY 10010 |
| Ownership (Bureau of Engineering, Land Records) | |
| Owner | WENDT, RICHARD E. "TR" (OCEAN FRONT PROPERTIES TRUST 12-2-78) |
| Address | 6350 CAMINO DE LA COSTA LA JOLLA CA 92037 |
| APN Area (Co. Public Works)* | 0.207 (ac) |
| Use Code | 1706 - Commercial - Office Building - 6 to 13 Stories |
| Assessed Land Val. | \$3,834,697 |
| Assessed Improvement Val. | \$12,727,756 |
| Last Owner Change | 07/03/2014 |
| Last Sale Amount | \$2,778,527 |
| Tax Rate Area | 13264 |
| Deed Ref No. (City Clerk) | 637485 L |
| | 351132 L |
| | 264470 |
| | 2602 |
| | 1566737 |
| | 1277171 |
| | 1042081 |
| | 1036221 |
| Building 1 | |
| Year Built | 1924 |
| Building Class | A8 |
| Number of Units | 0 |
| Number of Bedrooms | 0 |
| Number of Bathrooms | 0 |
| Building Square Footage | 107,965.0 (sq ft) |
| Building 2 | No data for building 2 |
| Building 3 | No data for building 3 |
| Building 4 | No data for building 4 |
| Building 5 | No data for building 5 |
| Additional Information | and the second |
| Airport Hazard | None |
| Coastal Zone | None |
| Farmland | Area Not Mapped |
| Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone | No |
| Fire District No. 1 | Yes |
| Flood Zone | None |
| Watercourse | No |
| Hazardous Waste / Border Zone Properties | No |
| Methane Hazard Site | Methane Buffer Zone |
| High Wind Velocity Areas | No |

| Special Grading Area (BOE Basic Grid Map A- 13372) | No |
|---|--|
| Oil Wells | None |
| Seismic Hazards | |
| Active Fault Near-Source Zone | |
| Nearest Fault (Distance in km) | 0.6929628 |
| Nearest Fault (Name) | Puente Hills Blind Thrust |
| Region | Los Angeles Blind Thrusts |
| Fault Type | B |
| Slip Rate (mm/year) | 0.7000000 |
| Slip Geometry | Reverse |
| Slip Type | Moderately / Poorly Constrained |
| Down Dip Width (km) | 19.0000000 |
| Rupture Top | 5.00000000 |
| Rupture Bottom | 13.00000000 |
| Dip Angle (degrees) | 25.00000000 |
| Maximum Magnitude | 7.10000000 |
| Alquist-Priolo Fault Zone | No |
| Landslide | No |
| Liquefaction | No |
| Preliminary Fault Rupture Study Area | No |
| Tsunami Inundation Zone | No |
| Economic Development Areas | |
| Business Improvement District | DOWNTOWN CENTER |
| Promise Zone | No |
| Renewal Community | No |
| Revitalization Zone | Central City |
| State Enterprise Zone | LOS ANGELES STATE ENTERPRISE ZONE |
| | None |
| Public Safety | and the second sec |
| Police Information | |
| Bureau | Central |
| Division / Station | Central |
| Reporting District | 162 |
| ire Information | |
| Bureau | Central |
| Batallion | 1 |
| District / Fire Station | 10 |
| Red Flag Restricted Parking | No |

CASE SUMMARIES

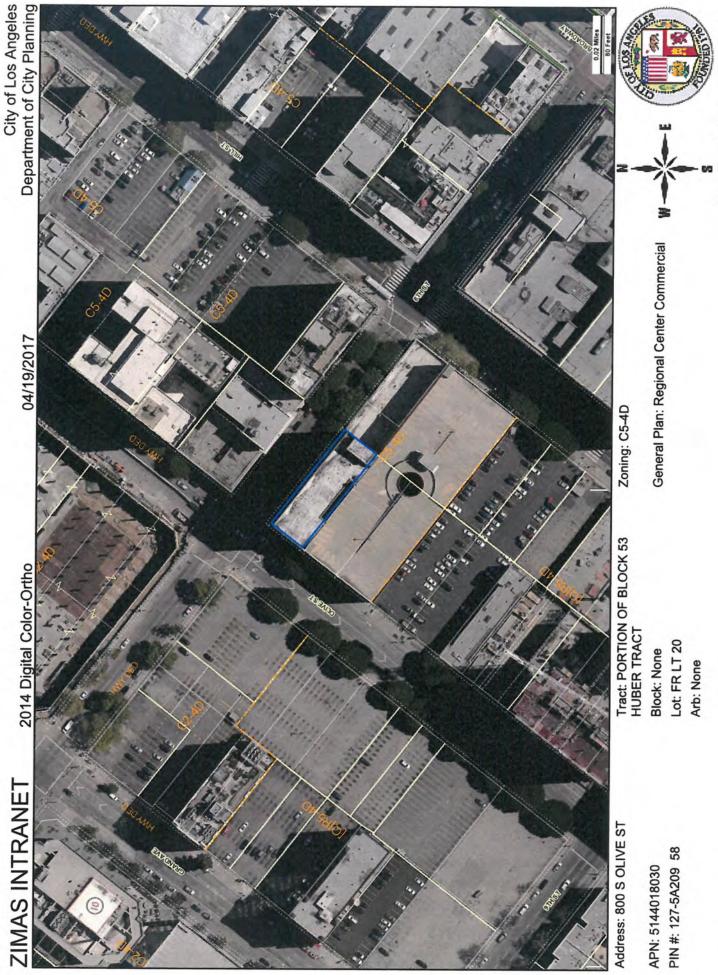
Note: Information for case summaries is retrieved from the Planning Department's Plan Case Tracking System (PCTS) database.

| Note, information for ca | ase summaries is retrieved from the Planning Department's Plan Case Tracking System (PCTS) database. |
|--------------------------|--|
| Case Number: | CPC-2017-432-CPU |
| Required Action(s): | CPU-COMMUNITY PLAN UPDATE |
| Project Descriptions(s): | |
| Case Number: | CPC-2010-213-CA |
| Required Action(s): | CA-CODE AMENDMENT |
| Project Descriptions(s): | AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 4.5 AND SECTION 16.05 OF ARTICLE 6.1 OF THE LOS ANGELES MUNICIPAL CODE (LAMC), AND RELEVANT SECTIONS OF THE LOS ANGELES ADMINISTRATIVE CODE, TO MODIFY THE AUTHORITY AND PROCEDURES FOR EFFECTUATING A TRANSFER OF FLOOR AREA RIGHTS (TFAR) AND TO MAKE OTHER TECHNICAL CHANGES TO REFLECT THE EXPIRATION OF THE AMENDED CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT AREA. |
| Case Number: | CPC-2008-4502-GPA |
| Required Action(s): | GPA-GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT |
| Project Descriptions(s): | |
| Case Number: | CPC-2008-4502-GPA |
| Required Action(s): | GPA-GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT |
| | PLAN AMENDMENT, PLAN MAP AMENDMENT |
| Case Number: | CPC-2005-361-CA |
| Required Action(s): | CA-CODE AMENDMENT |
| Project Descriptions(s): | CODE AMENDMENT TO UPDATE RESIDENTIAL STANDARDS AND INCENTIVIZE HOUSING IN THE CENTRAL CITY AREA. |
| Case Number: | CPC-2005-1124-CA |
| Required Action(s): | CA-CODE AMENDMENT |
| Project Descriptions(s): | TO REQUIRE PROJECTS IN THE CENTRAL CITY COMMUNITY PLAN TO COMPLY WITH DESIGN AND STREETSCAPE GUIDELINES |
| Case Number: | CPC-2005-1122-CA |
| Required Action(s): | CA-CODE AMENDMENT |
| Project Descriptions(s): | INCENTIVES FOR HTE PRODUCTION OF AFFORDABLE AND WORKFORCE HOUSING IN THE CENTRAL CITY PLAN AREA |
| Case Number: | CPC-1986-606-GPC |
| Required Action(s): | GPC-GENERAL PLAN/ZONING CONSISTENCY (AB283) |
| Project Descriptions(s): | GENERAL PLAN/ZONE CONCSISTENCY - CENTRAL CITY AREA - COMMUNITYWIDE ZONE CHANGES AND COMMUNITY PLAN CHNAGES TO BRING THE ZONING INTO CONSISTENCY WITH THE COMMUNITY PLAN. INCLUDING CHANGESOF HEIGHT AS NEEDED |
| Case Number: | ZA-2014-4048-CUB-CUX-ZV |
| Required Action(s): | CUB-Conditional Use Beverage-Alcohol |
| | CUX-ADULT ENTERTAINMENTS |
| | ZV-ZONE VARIANCE |
| Project Descriptions(s): | PURSUANT TO SECTION 12.24-W.1, A CUB FOR THE SALE AND DISPENSING OF A FULL LINE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES IN CONJUNCTION WITH A 116,954 SQ FT HOTEL/HOSTEL, PURSUANT TO SECTION 12.24-W.18, A CUX TO ALLOW LIVE ENTERTAINMENT AND DANCING THROUGHOUT THE HOTE/HOSTEL, AND PURSUANT TO SECTION 12.27, A ZV TO ALLOW THE USE OF AN OPEN AIR OUTDOOR ROOFTOP BAR AND POOL WITH DANCING ON THE ROOFTOP, ALL WITH THE HOURS OF OPERATION FROM 6AM TO2AM DAILY. |
| Case Number: | ZA-2002-9999-ZV |
| Required Action(s): | ZV-ZONE VARIANCE |
| Project Descriptions(s): | TO PERMIT A 132-UNIT RESIDENTIAL APARTMENT ADAPTIVE RE-USE OF EXISTING HISTORIC COMMERCIAL BUILDING IN THE C5 ZONE. |
| Case Number: | ENV-2017-433-EIR |
| Required Action(s): | EIR-ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT |
| Project Descriptions(s): | COMMUNITY PLAN UPDATE |
| Case Number: | ENV-2014-4049-MND |
| | MND-MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION |
| | PURSUANT TO SECTION 12.24-W.1, A CUB FOR THE SALE AND DISPENSING OF A FULL LINE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES IN CONJUNCTION WITH A 116,954 SQ FT HOTEL/HOSTEL, PURSUANT TO SECTION 12.24-W.18, A CUX TO ALLOW LIVE ENTERTAINMENT AND DANCING THROUGHOUT THE HOTE/HOSTEL, AND PURSUANT TO SECTION 12.27, A ZV TO ALLOW THE USE OF AN OPEN AIR OUTDOOR ROOFTOP BAR AND POOL WITH DANCING ON THE ROOFTOP, ALL WITH THE HOURS OF OPERATION FROM 6AM TO2AM DAILY. |
| | ENV-2013-3392-CE |
| | CE-CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION |

| Project Descriptions(s): | THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE MODIFIES SECTION 22.119 OF THE LOS ANGELES ADMINISTRATIVE CODE TO ALLOW ORIGINAL ART MURALS ON LOTS DEVELOPED WITH ONLY ONE SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL STRUCTURE AND THAT AF LOCATED WITHIN COUNCIL DISTRICTS 1, 9, AND 14. |
|--------------------------|---|
| Case Number: | ENV-2010-214-ND |
| Required Action(s): | ND-NEGATIVE DECLARATION |
| Project Descriptions(s): | AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 4.5 AND SECTION 16.05 OF ARTICLE 6.1 OF THE LOS ANGELES MUNICIPAL CODE (LAMC), AND RELEVANT SECTIONS OF THE LOS ANGELES ADMINISTRATIVE CODE, TO MODIFY THE AUTHORITY AND PROCEDURES FOR EFFECTUATING A TRANSFER OF FLOOR AREA RIGHTS (TFAR) AND TO MAKE OTHER TECHNICAL CHANGES TO REFLECT THE EXPIRATION OF THE AMENDED CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT AREA. |
| Case Number: | ENV-2008-4505-ND |
| Required Action(s): | ND-NEGATIVE DECLARATION |
| Project Descriptions(s): | PLAN AMENDMENT, PLAN MAP AMENDMENT |
| Case Number: | ENV-2008-4505-ND |
| Required Action(s): | ND-NEGATIVE DECLARATION |
| Project Descriptions(s): | PLAN AMENDMENT, PLAN MAP AMENDMENT |
| Case Number: | ENV-2005-362-CE |
| Required Action(s): | CE-CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION |
| Project Descriptions(s): | CODE AMENDMENT TO UPDATE RESIDENTIAL STANDARDS AND INCENTIVIZE HOUSING IN THE CENTRAL CITY AREA. |
| Case Number: | ENV-2005-1125-CE |
| Required Action(s): | CE-CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION |
| Project Descriptions(s): | TO REQUIRE PROJECTS IN THE CENTRAL CITY COMMUNITY PLAN TO COMPLY WITH DESIGN AND STREETSCAPE GUIDELINES |
| Case Number: | ENV-2005-1123-CE |
| Required Action(s): | CE-CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION |
| Project Descriptions(s): | INCENTIVES FOR HTE PRODUCTION OF AFFORDABLE AND WORKFORCE HOUSING IN THE CENTRAL CITY PLAN AREA |
| Case Number: | ENV-2002-9998-CE |
| Required Action(s): | CE-CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION |
| Project Descriptions(s): | TO PERMIT A 132-UNIT RESIDENTIAL APARTMENT ADAPTIVE RE-USE OF EXISTING HISTORIC COMMERCIAL BUILDING IN THE C5 ZONE. |
| | |

DATA NOT AVAILABLE

ORD-164307-SA2023 ORD-137036 ORD-135901 ORD-129944



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