

**DEPARTMENT OF  
CITY PLANNING**  
200 N. SPRING STREET, ROOM 532  
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012-4801

CULTURAL HERITAGE COMMISSION

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PRESIDENT

GAIL KENNARD  
VICE PRESIDENT

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BARRY A MILOFSKY

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<http://planning.lacity.org>

December 14, 2017

Los Angeles City Council  
c/o Office of the City Clerk  
City Hall, Room 395  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Attention: PLUM Committee

Dear Honorable Members:

**BENEFICIAL PLAZA AND LIBERTY PARK; 3700-3732 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD; 658-674  
SOUTH OXFORD AVENUE; 651-673 SOUTH SERRANO AVENUE  
CASE NO. CHC-2017-3695-HCM; ENV-2017-3696-CE**

At its meeting of **December 7, 2017**, the Cultural Heritage Commission took the actions below to include the above-referenced property in the list of Historic-Cultural Monuments, subject to adoption by the City Council:

1. **Determined** that the proposed designation is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to Article 19, Section 15308, Class 8 and Article 19, Section 15331, Class 31 of the State CEQA Guidelines;
2. **Determined** that the property conforms with the definition of a Monument pursuant to Section 22.171.7 of the Los Angeles Administrative Code; and
3. **Recommended** that the City Council consider and designate the subject property a Historic-Cultural Monument; and
4. **Adopted** the staff report findings as the findings of the Commission.

CHC-2017-3695-HCM

Moved: Milofsky  
Seconded: Kanner  
Ayes: Barron, Kennard  
Nays: Buelna

**Vote: 4 - 1**



Etta Armstrong, Commission Executive Assistant I  
Cultural Heritage Commission

The Cultural Heritage Commission would appreciate your inclusion of the subject property to the list of Historic-Cultural Monuments.

**Time for Council to Act** The Commission action will be transmitted to the City Council for consideration. Pursuant to Section 22.171.10 (f) of the Los Angeles Administrative Code, the Council may approve or disapprove in whole or in part an application or initiation for a proposed designation of a Monument. The Council shall act in 90-days of the public hearing held before the Commission. The 90-day time limit may be extended by the Council for good cause for a maximum of 15 days. If the Council does not act on the application or initiation within this 105-days total time limit, the application or initiation to designate a Monument shall be deemed to have been denied. The Council may override a Commission recommendation of denial of Council initiated designation by a minimum of 10-votes.

Enclosures: Staff Report with Findings

**BENEFICIAL PLAZA AND LIBERTY PARK**

3700-3732 West Wilshire Boulevard; 658-674 South Oxford Avenue; 651-673 South Serrano  
CHC-2017-3695-HCM  
ENV-2017-3696-CE

Agenda packet includes:

1. [Final Determination Staff Recommendation Report](#)
2. [Commission/ Staff Site Inspection Photos—November 9, 2017](#)
3. [Categorical Exemption](#)
4. [Under Consideration Staff Recommendation Report](#)
5. [Historic-Cultural Monument Application](#)
6. [Letters from Members of the Public](#)

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 HERITAGE COMMISSION

CASE NO.: CHC-2017-3695-HCM  
ENV-2017-3696-CE

HEARING DATE: December 7, 2017  
TIME: 10:00 AM  
PLACE: City Hall, Room 1010  
200 N. Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Location: 3700-3732 West Wilshire Boulevard;  
658-674 South Oxford Avenue;  
651-673 South Serrano Avenue  
Council District: 10 - Wesson  
Community Plan Area: Wilshire  
Area Planning Commission: Central  
Neighborhood Council: Wilshire Center-Koreatown  
Legal Description: Tract P M 896, Lots A and C

EXPIRATION DATE: December 19, 2017

PROJECT: Historic-Cultural Monument Application for  
BENEFICIAL PLAZA AND LIBERTY PARK

REQUEST: Declare the property a Historic-Cultural Monument

OWNER(S): Wilshire Park Place North, LLC  
c/o Thomson Reuters, Inc.  
P.O. Box 847  
Carlsbad, CA 92018

Wilshire Park Place, LLC  
15211 Vanowen Street, Suite 206  
Van Nuys, CA 91405

Wilshire Park Place North LLC  
c/o Jamison Properties, Inc.  
3530 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1800  
Los Angeles, CA 90010

APPLICANT: Annette van Duren  
Friends of Save Liberty Park  
3810 Wilshire Boulevard  
Los Angeles, CA 90010

PREPARERS: Katie E. Horak and Evanne St. Charles  
Architectural Resources Group, Inc.  
8 Mills Place, Suite 300  
Pasadena, CA 91105

**RECOMMENDATION**      **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.

CHC-2017-3695-HCM

3700-3732 West Wilshire Blvd.; 658-674 South Oxford Ave.; 651-673 South Serrano Ave.

Page 2 of 7

VINCENT P. BERTONI, AICP  
Director of Planning

**[SIGNED ORIGINAL IN FILE]**

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Ken Bernstein, AICP, Manager  
Office of Historic Resources

**[SIGNED ORIGINAL IN FILE]**

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Melissa Jones, Planning Assistant  
Office of Historic Resources

**[SIGNED ORIGINAL IN FILE]**

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Lambert M. Giessinger, Preservation Architect  
Office of Historic Resources

Attachments:           Historic-Cultural Monument Application  
                              Commission/ Staff Site Inspection Photos—November 9, 2017

## FINDINGS

- Beneficial Plaza and Liberty Park “reflects the broad cultural, economic, or social history of the nation, state, or community” for its association with the post-World War II development of the Wilshire Center business district as Los Angeles’ epicenter for the headquarters of insurance companies and other major corporations. It also reflects local discourse on the value of community open space during the height of postwar commercial development in Los Angeles.
- Beneficial Plaza and Liberty Park “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 a Late-Modern architectural style office tower.
- Beneficial Plaza and Liberty Park is “a notable work of a master builder, designer, or architect whose individual genius influenced his or her age” as a significant work of prominent architects Gordon Bunshaft and Edward Charles Bassett of the internationally-renowned architecture firm Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM), and an excellent example of a designed landscape (Liberty Park) by noted landscape architect Peter Walker of the renowned landscape architecture firm Sasaki, Walker & Associates.

## 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

Beneficial Plaza and Liberty Park is comprised of an 11-story office tower with a three-level underground parking garage, a plaza, and a park located on the south side of Wilshire Boulevard between Oxford and Serrano Avenues in the Wilshire Center/Koreatown community of Los Angeles. Completed in 1967, the Late-Modern architectural style office tower was designed by architects Gordon Bunshaft (1909-1990) and Edward Charles Bassett (1922-1999) of the prominent architectural firm Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM). The plaza in front of the office tower and the park facing Wilshire Boulevard was designed by noted landscape architect Peter Walker (born 1932) of Sasaki, Walker & Associates. The subject property was built as the headquarters of the Beneficial Standard Life Insurance Company, which occupied the building until 1985.

Wilshire Center emerged in the 1920s as a business improvement association to champion progress along the new boulevard and by 1941 it consisted of 12 blocks along Wilshire Boulevard, between Lafayette Park Place and Normandie Avenue. Over the decades the western and eastern boundaries continued to expand and in 1966, Wilshire Center was formally dedicated as a

four-mile business district extending from Union Avenue on the east to Sycamore Avenue to the west. A post-war commercial development boom in Los Angeles saw the congested downtown area being bypassed by major corporations who preferred to build their headquarters in Wilshire Center. From the late 1940s through the 1970s, insurance firms, oil companies, and major financial institutions, including Carnation, IBM and Texaco, built their headquarters in Wilshire Center, often hiring prominent architects to design their high-rise towers.

The Beneficial Plaza office tower is rectangular in plan and is set back 315 feet from the street on approximately four-and-a-half acres of land. The building is constructed of precast shocked concrete with panels of natural granite aggregate cladding and has a flat roof with a recessed metal parapet. It is characterized by a concrete exoskeletal frame with slender vertical elements and wide horizontal bands, which form rows of bays at each facade. Paired fixed aluminum floor-to-ceiling windows with solar bronze glazing are recessed behind each bay at the second through ninth stories. A coved gold colored header tops all windows. The first story at all façades is set back from regularly-spaced concrete piers that widen at their bases and is enclosed by fixed aluminum floor-to-ceiling windows, which are larger than the upper stories. A row of pyramidal-shaped waffle lighting lines the exterior corridor ceiling between the first story piers and fenestration. The interior features an H-shaped lobby with pyramidal-shaped waffle lighting and a circular reception desk. There is an elevator core at the center of the lobby that is clad with green marble and has smooth white and gray granite flooring.

The designed landscape to the north of the office tower, Liberty Park, consists of an open lawn with a grove of Canary Island pine trees slightly north and east of the park center. It is slightly raised from street level and bounded by a concrete retaining wall. A semi-circular promenade composed of a concrete path and wide strip planted with lawn and edged with shrubs hugs the south, east and west sides of the open lawn. Between the park and office tower is a rectangular plaza paved with concrete and patterned with a rectangular grid of black and red granite. A flight of shallow concrete steps provides egress from the plaza to the park. There is also an exact replica of the Liberty Bell in the hardscaped plaza in front of the office tower's main entrance.

Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM) was originally founded as Skidmore & Owings in 1936 in Chicago, Illinois. In addition to designing several of the world's tallest buildings, including the John Hancock Center (1969), the Sears Tower (1973) and the Burj Khalifa (2010), SOM is known for pioneering International-style architecture in high-end corporate buildings. Gordon Bunshaft was SOM's preeminent designer for 40 years. His most noted works include his post-war designs for H.J. Heinz (1950), Delta Airlines (1960), and First City National Bank (1961). Edward Charles Bassett, who worked for Eero Saarinen before starting with SOM, is known for San Francisco's Bechtel Building (1967) and Louise M. Davis Symphony Hall (1980). Starting the San Francisco office of Sasaki, Walker & Associates in 1957, landscape architect Peter Walker went on to head projects like the Golden Gateway commercial and residential development (1960-1968) and Fashion Island in Newport Beach (1970).

Alterations to the building exterior are minimal and include the replacement of the entrance doors on the north and south façades, removal and/or replacement of original signage, and a ramp added on top of the central entrance steps at the south façade, all at unknown dates. Numerous interior alterations between 1967 and 2009 consist of tenant improvements that include office remodeling, adding or removing interior partitions and dropped ceilings, and accessibility upgrades. Alterations to the plaza and park, also appear minimal and include the repair of the perimeter concrete wall in 1990. Replacement of a hedge surrounding the park with lawn and a row of shrubs, and the removal of two circular planters from the plaza also occurred at unknown dates.

## DISCUSSION

Beneficial Plaza and Liberty Park successfully meets three of the Historic-Cultural Monument criteria.

The subject property “reflects the broad cultural, economic, or social history of the nation, state, or community” for its association with the post-World War II development of the Wilshire Center business district as Los Angeles’ epicenter for the headquarters of insurance companies and other major corporations. It also reflects local discourse on the value of community open space during the height of postwar commercial development in Los Angeles. By the 1940s, a Wilshire Boulevard address had become synonymous with power and prestige in the world of international corporations. The postwar period ushered in a new era of commercial development to the Wilshire Center business district as major national and international corporations started constructing their new modern headquarter buildings along Wilshire Boulevard. In particular, Wilshire Center emerged as a hub for insurance companies, most of which commissioned their own headquarters buildings, such as the subject property.

When Liberty Park opened in 1967, the concept of dedicating private corporate property as community open space, particularly on a major commercial corridor such as Wilshire Boulevard, was unprecedented. At the time of its construction, Liberty Park and its adjoining plaza comprised the deepest setback of any major office building in the nation. Beneficial Insurance created the park with the intention of promoting the aesthetic and cultural values of the city, and the City of Los Angeles administered protection of that open space through zoning regulations, recognizing its benefit to the community. Through its own initiative on August 22, 1968, the Los Angeles City Planning Commission voted to change the zoning of the parcel containing Liberty Park from commercial (C4-4) to parking (P-4). Although the P zone is most often used as a means to ensure that land is only developed for specific purposes (typically surface parking), the City used the P zoning designation in an effort to protect Liberty Park from future development.

The subject property also “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 a Late-Modern architectural style office tower. Late Modern is a broad term that is used to describe an iteration of Modern architecture that came of age between the mid-1950s and 1970s. The hallmarks of Late Modern design, as exhibited by the Beneficial Plaza office tower, include bold geometric forms, lack of applied ornamentation, an exoskeletal structural frame, unpainted textured wall surfaces, unapparent door and window openings incorporated into the exterior cladding, and a modular design dictated by structural framing and glazing.

Further, the subject property is “a notable work of a master builder, designer, or architect whose individual genius influenced his or her age” as a significant work of prominent architects Gordon Bunshaft and Edward Charles Bassett of the internationally-renowned architecture firm Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM), and an excellent example of a designed landscape (Liberty Park) by noted landscape architect Peter Walker of the renowned landscape architecture firm Sasaki, Walker & Associates. SOM is large architectural firm that has offices in major cities in the United States and several countries around the world. The firm is known for its high-profile post-World War II corporate office design and large-scale urban development projects, such as the subject property, in the United States and worldwide. The Beneficial Plaza office tower project represented an unusual collaboration between architects Bunshaft and Bassett in that it brought together the signatures of both architects--Bassett’s sensitive siting of the building, deeply set

back on its north and south sides, and Bunshaft's contribution of the building's formal, Late Modern design and monolithic presence along a densely developed Wilshire corridor.

Throughout the 1960s, the landscape architecture firm Sasaki, Walker & Associates collaborated with multiple architects of note, among them McCue, Boone, Tomsick, Frank Gehry, and SOM. Peter Walker's signature style combined simple classicism with contemporary landscape principles, which is reflected in Liberty Park's formal, yet refined landscape design. While the design is almost completely symmetrical, the slightly offset grove of Canary Island pine trees is a subtle nod to contemporary landscaping and is exemplary of Walker's design aesthetic.

Beneficial Plaza and Liberty Park is highly intact and retains a high level of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

### **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 Beneficial Plaza and Liberty Park as a 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.

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-2017-3696-CE was prepared on November 14, 2017.

CHC-2017-3695-HCM

3700-3732 West Wilshire Blvd.; 658-674 South Oxford Ave.; 651-673 South Serrano Ave.

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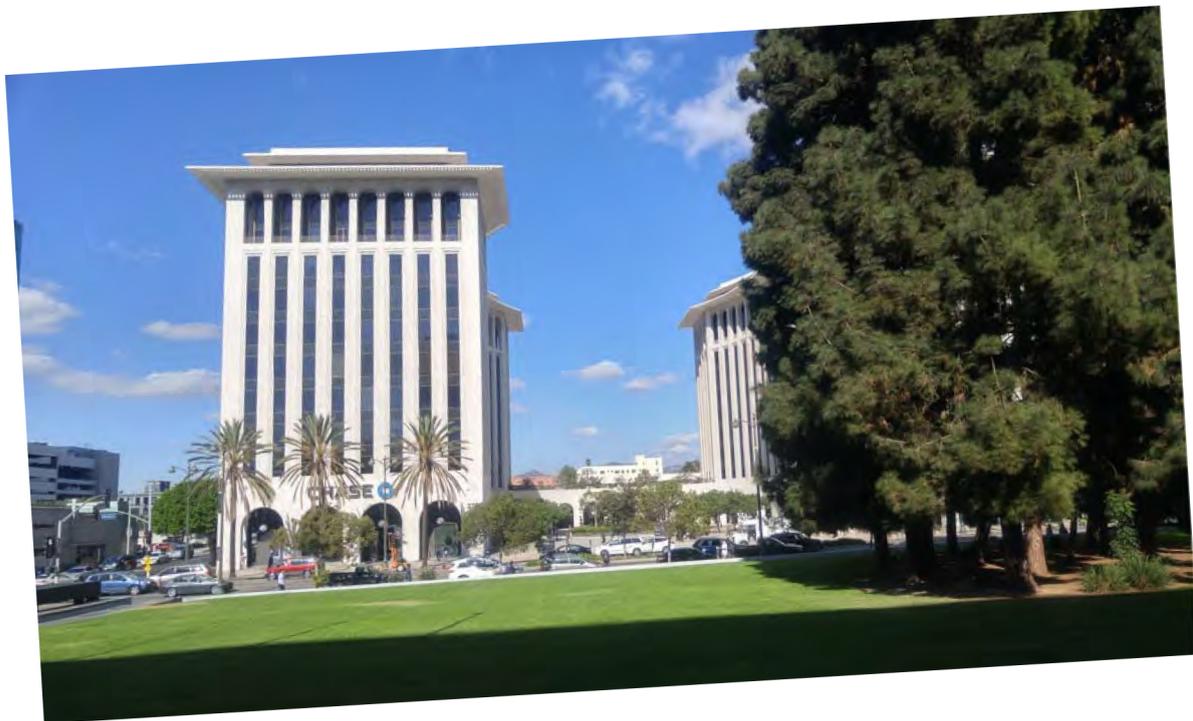
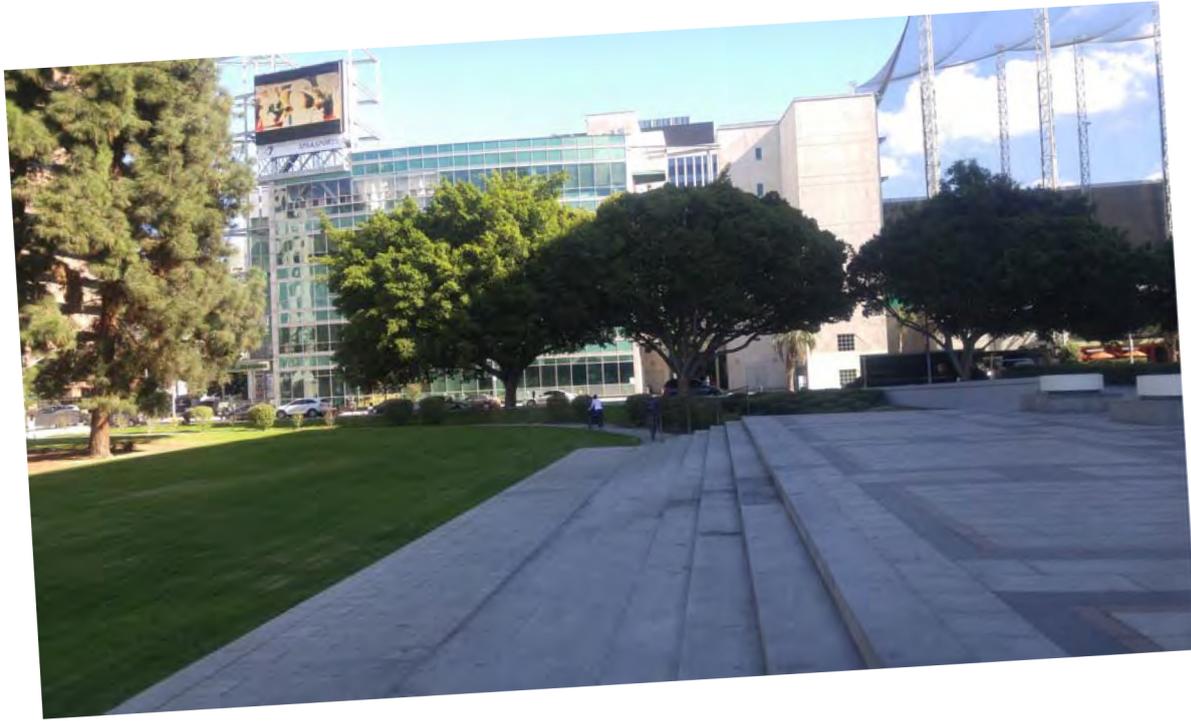
## **BACKGROUND**

On October 5, 2017, the Cultural Heritage Commission voted to take the property under consideration. On November 9, 2017, a subcommittee of the Commission consisting of Commissioners Barron and Kanner visited the property, accompanied by staff from the Office of Historic Resources.







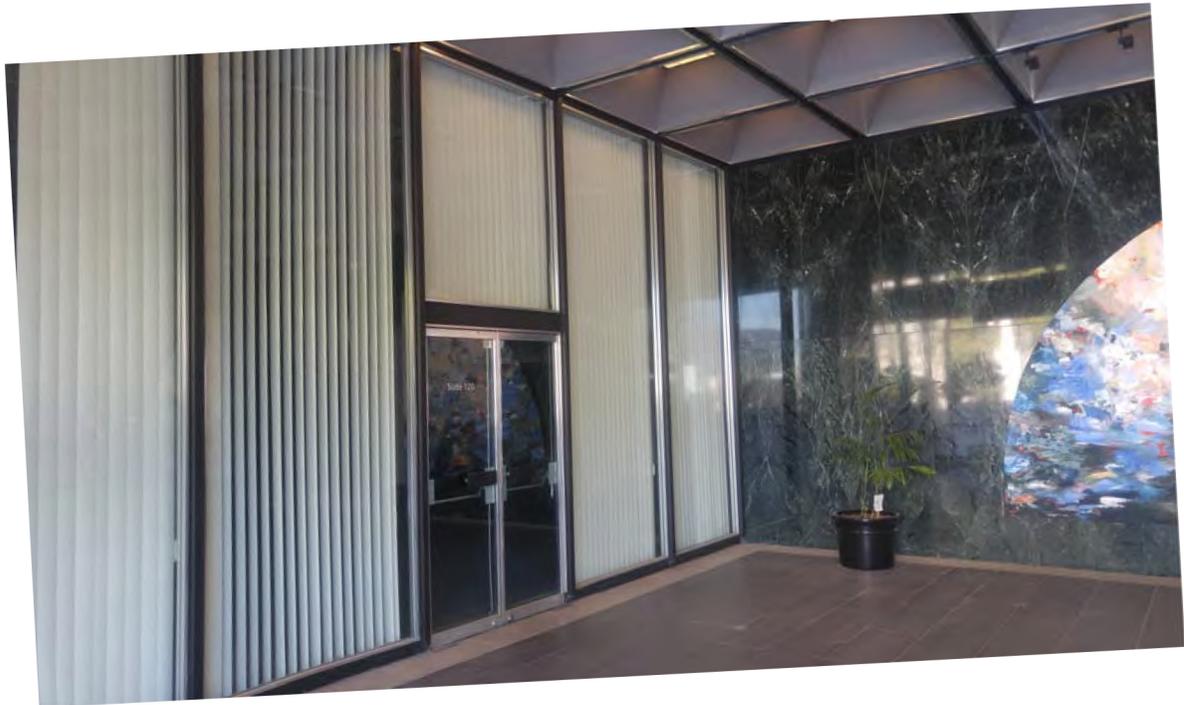
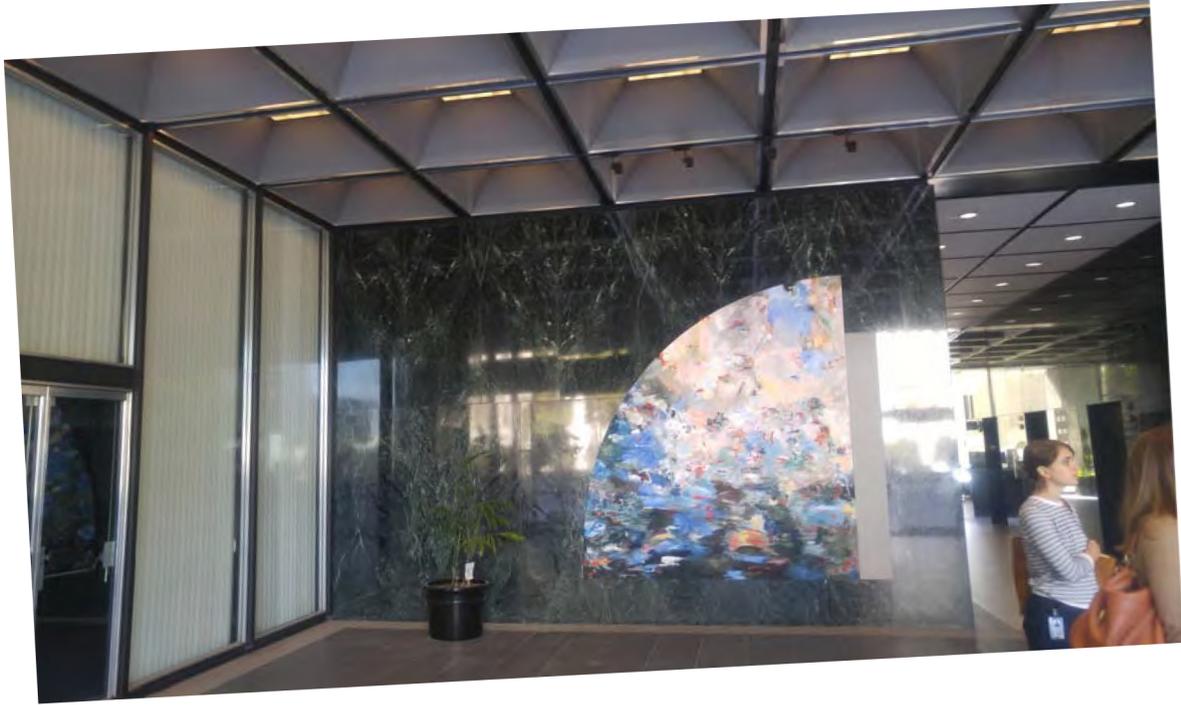




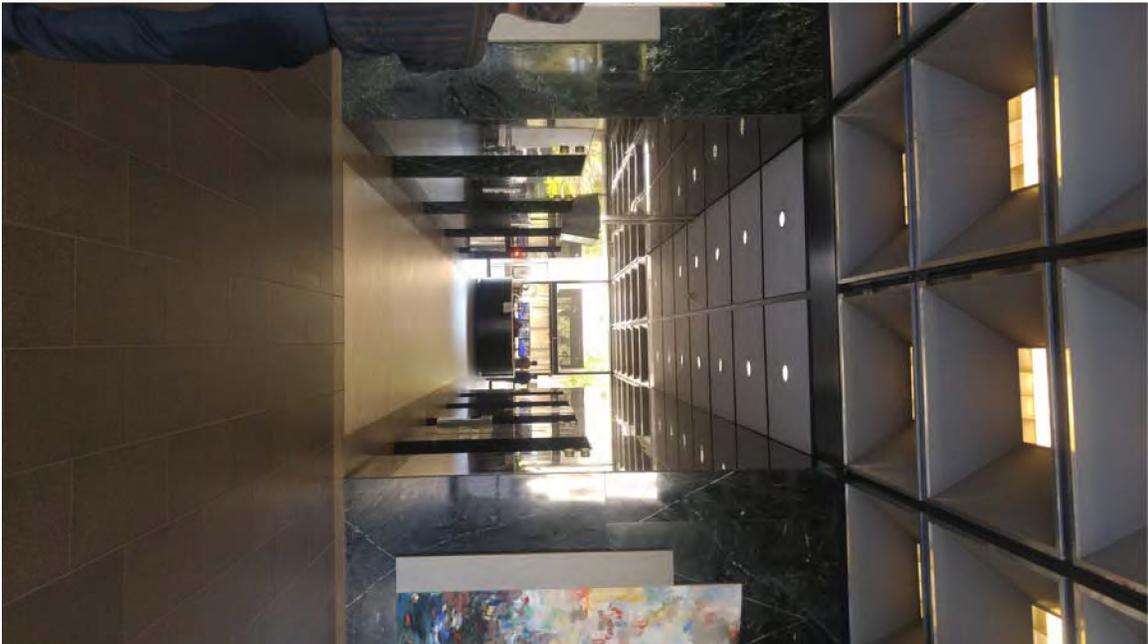






























COUNTY CLERK'S USE

**CITY OF LOS ANGELES**

CITY CLERK'S USE

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK  
 200 NORTH SPRING STREET, ROOM 360  
 LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012

**CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT**

**NOTICE OF EXEMPTION**

(California Environmental Quality Act Section 15062)

Filing of this form is optional. If filed, the form shall be filed with the County Clerk, 12400 E. Imperial Highway, Norwalk, CA 90650, pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21152 (b). Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21167 (d), the filing of this notice starts a 35-day statute of limitations on court challenges to the approval of the project. Failure to file this notice with the County Clerk results in the statute of limitations being extended to 180 days.

|  |                               |
|--|-------------------------------|
| LEAD CITY AGENCY<br><b>City of Los Angeles Department of City Planning</b> | COUNCIL DISTRICT<br><b>10</b> |
|--|-------------------------------|

|   |  |
|---|--|
| PROJECT TITLE<br><b>Beneficial Plaza and Liberty Park</b> | LOG REFERENCE<br><b>ENV-2017-3696-CE<br/>CHC-2017-3695-HCM</b> |
|---|--|

PROJECT LOCATION  
**3700-3732 West Wilshire Boulevard; 658-674 South Oxford Avenue; 651-673 South Serrano Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90010**

DESCRIPTION OF NATURE, PURPOSE, AND BENEFICIARIES OF PROJECT:  
**Designation of the Beneficial Plaza and Liberty Park as an Historic-Cultural Monument.**

NAME OF PERSON OR AGENCY CARRYING OUT PROJECT, IF OTHER THAN LEAD CITY AGENCY:

|  |                         |                                     |      |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|------|
| CONTACT PERSON<br><b>Melissa Jones</b> | AREA CODE<br><b>213</b> | TELEPHONE NUMBER<br><b>978-1192</b> | EXT. |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|------|

EXEMPT STATUS: (Check One)

|   | STATE CEQA GUIDELINES     | CITY CEQA GUIDELINES       |
|---|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| MINISTERIAL   | Sec. 15268                | Art. II, Sec. 2b           |
| DECLARED EMERGENCY  | Sec. 15269                | Art. II, Sec. 2a (1)       |
| EMERGENCY PROJECT   | Sec. 15269 (b) & (c)      | Art. II, Sec. 2a (2) & (3) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION | Sec. 15300 <i>et seq.</i> | Art. III, Sec. 1           |

Class 8 & 31 Category \_\_\_\_\_ (City CEQA Guidelines)

OTHER (See Public Resources Code Sec. 21080 (b) and set forth state and City guideline provision.)

JUSTIFICATION FOR PROJECT EXEMPTION: Article 19, Section 15308, Class 8 of the State's Guidelines applies to where project's 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." Class 31 applies "to maintenance, repair, stabilization, rehabilitation, restoration, preservation, or reconstruction of historical resources in a manner consistent with the Secretary of Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Buildings." Designation of the **Beneficial Plaza and Liberty Park** as an Historic-Cultural Monument will assure the protection of the environment by the enactment of project review regulations based on the Secretary of Interior's Standards to maintain and preserve the historic site.

IF FILED BY APPLICANT, ATTACH CERTIFIED DOCUMENT ISSUED BY THE CITY PLANNING DEPARTMENT STATING THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAS FOUND THE PROJECT TO BE EXEMPT.

|                                    |                             |                           |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| SIGNATURE<br>[SIGNED COPY IN FILE] | TITLE<br>Planning Assistant | DATE<br>November 14, 2017 |
| FEE:                               | RECEIPT NO.                 | REC'D. BY                 |
|                                    |                             | DATE                      |

DISTRIBUTION: (1) County Clerk, (2) City Clerk, (3) Agency Record

IF FILED BY THE APPLICANT:

NAME (PRINTED)

SIGNATURE

DATE

# Los Angeles Department of City Planning

## RECOMMENDATION REPORT

CULTURAL HERITAGE COMMISSION

CASE NO.: CHC-2017-3695-HCM  
ENV-2017-3696-CE

HEARING DATE: October 5, 2017  
TIME: 10:00 AM  
PLACE: City Hall, Room 1010  
200 N. Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Location: 3700-3732 West Wilshire Boulevard;  
658-674 South Oxford Avenue;  
651-673 South Serrano Avenue  
Council District: 10 - Wesson  
Community Plan Area: Wilshire  
Area Planning Commission: Central  
Neighborhood Council: Wilshire Center-Koreatown  
Legal Description: Tract P M 896, Lots A and C

PROJECT: Historic-Cultural Monument Application for  
BENEFICIAL PLAZA AND LIBERTY PARK

REQUEST: Declare the property a Historic-Cultural Monument

OWNER(S): Wilshire Park Place North, LLC  
c/o Thomson Reuters, Inc.  
P.O. Box 847  
Carlsbad, CA 92018

Wilshire Park Place, LLC  
15211 Vanowen Street, Suite 206  
Van Nuys, CA 91405

Wilshire Park Place North LLC  
c/o Jamison Properties, Inc.  
3530 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1800  
Los Angeles, CA 90010

APPLICANT: Annette van Duren  
Friends of Save Liberty Park  
3810 Wilshire Boulevard  
Los Angeles, CA 90010

PREPARERS: Katie E. Horak and Evanne St. Charles  
Architectural Resources Group, Inc.  
8 Mills Place, Suite 300  
Pasadena, CA 91105

### RECOMMENDATION

#### **That the Cultural Heritage 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]**

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Ken Bernstein, AICP, Manager  
Office of Historic Resources

**[SIGNED ORIGINAL IN FILE]**

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Lambert M. Giessinger, Preservation Architect  
Office of Historic Resources

**[SIGNED ORIGINAL IN FILE]**

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Melissa Jones, Planning Assistant  
Office of Historic Resources

Attachment:           Historic-Cultural Monument Application

## SUMMARY

Beneficial Plaza and Liberty Park is comprised of an 11-story office tower with a three-level underground parking garage, a plaza, and a park located on the south side of Wilshire Boulevard between Oxford and Serrano Avenues in the Wilshire Center/Koreatown community of Los Angeles. Completed in 1967, the Late-Modern architectural style office tower was designed by architects Gordon Bunshaft (1909-1990) and Edward Charles Bassett (1922-1999) of the prominent architectural firm Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM). The plaza in front of the office tower and the park facing Wilshire Boulevard was designed by noted landscape architect Peter Walker (born 1932) of Sasaki, Walker & Associates. The subject property was built as the headquarters of the Beneficial Standard Life Insurance Company, which occupied the building until 1985.

Wilshire Center emerged in the 1920s as a business improvement association to champion progress along the new boulevard and by 1941 it consisted of 12 blocks along Wilshire Boulevard, between Lafayette Park Place and Normandie Avenue. Over the decades the western and eastern boundaries continued to expand and in 1966, Wilshire Center was formally dedicated as a four-mile business district extending from Union Avenue on the east to Sycamore Avenue to the west. A post-war commercial development boom in Los Angeles saw the congested downtown area being bypassed by major corporations who preferred to build their headquarters in Wilshire Center. From the late 1940s through the 1970s, insurance firms, oil companies, and major financial institutions, including Carnation, IBM and Texaco, built their headquarters in Wilshire Center, often hiring prominent architects to design their high-rise towers.

The Beneficial Plaza office tower is rectangular in plan and is set back 315 feet from the street on approximately four-and-a-half acres of land. The building is constructed of precast shocked concrete with panels of natural granite aggregate cladding and has a flat roof with a recessed metal parapet. It is characterized by a concrete exoskeletal frame with slender vertical elements and wide horizontal bands, which form rows of bays at each facade. Paired fixed aluminum floor-to-ceiling windows with solar bronze glazing are recessed behind each bay at the second through ninth stories. A coved gold colored header tops all windows. The first story at all façades is set back from regularly-spaced concrete piers that widen at their bases and is enclosed by fixed aluminum floor-to-ceiling windows, which are larger than the upper stories. A row of pyramidal-shaped waffle lighting lines the exterior corridor ceiling between the first story piers and fenestration. The interior features an H-shaped lobby with pyramidal-shaped waffle lighting and a circular reception desk. There is an elevator core at the center of the lobby that is clad with green marble and has smooth white and gray granite flooring.

The designed landscape to the north of the office tower, Liberty Park, consists of an open lawn with a grove of Canary Island pine trees slightly north and east of the park center. It is slightly raised from street level and bounded by a concrete retaining wall. A semi-circular promenade composed of a concrete path and wide strip planted with lawn and edged with shrubs hugs the south, east and west sides of the open lawn. Between the park and office tower is a rectangular plaza paved with concrete and patterned with a rectangular grid of black and red granite. A flight of shallow concrete steps provides egress from the plaza to the park.

Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM) was originally founded as Skidmore & Owings in 1936 in Chicago, Illinois. In addition to designing several of the world's tallest buildings, including the John Hancock Center (1969), the Sears Tower (1973) and the Burj Khalifa (2010), SOM is known for pioneering International-style architecture in high-end corporate buildings. Gordon Bunshaft was

SOM's preeminent designer for 40 years. His most noted works include his post-war designs for H.J. Heinz (1950), Delta Airlines (1960), and First City National Bank (1961). Edward Charles Bassett, who worked for Eero Saarinen before starting with SOM, is known for San Francisco's Bechtel Building (1967) and Louise M. Davis Symphony Hall (1980). Starting the San Francisco office of Sasaki, Walker & Associates in 1957, landscape architect Peter Walker went on to head projects like the Golden Gateway commercial and residential development (1960-1968) and Fashion Island in Newport Beach (1970).

Alterations to the building exterior appear minimal and include the replacement of the entrance doors on the north and south façades, removal and/or replacement of original signage, and a ramp added on top of the central entrance steps at the south façade, all at unknown dates. Numerous interior alterations between 1967 and 2009 consist of tenant improvements that include office remodeling, adding or removing interior partitions and dropped ceilings, and accessibility upgrades. Alterations to the plaza and park, also appear minimal and include the repair of the perimeter concrete wall in 1990. Replacement of a hedge surrounding the park with lawn and a row of shrubs, and the removal of two circular planters from the plaza also occurred at unknown dates.

## 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.

# HISTORIC-CULTURAL MONUMENT NOMINATION FORM



## 1. PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION

|   |   |                                       |                                       |
|---|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Proposed Monument Name: <b>Beneficial Plaza and Liberty Park</b>  |   | Original historic name                |                                       |
| Other Associated Names: <b>Wilshire Park Place</b>  |   |                                       |                                       |
| Street Address: <b>3700 W. Wilshire Boulevard</b>   |   | Zip: <b>90010</b>                     | Council District: <b>10</b>           |
| Range of Addresses on Property: <b>3700-3732 W. Wilshire Boulevard</b>  |   | Community Name: <b>Wilshire</b>       |                                       |
| Assessor Parcel Number: <b>5093-006-019</b>   | Tract: <b>896</b>                         | Block: <b>N/A</b>                     | Lot: <b>A</b>                         |
| Identification cont'd: <b>Park APN: 5093-006-021</b>  |   |                                       |                                       |
| Proposed Monument Property Type:  | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Building | <input type="radio"/> Structure       | <input type="radio"/> Object          |
|   |   | <input type="radio"/> Site/Open Space | <input type="radio"/> Natural Feature |
| Describe any additional resources located on the property to be included in the nomination, here: <b>Liberty Park</b> |   |                                       |                                       |
| <b>site/open space (separate parcel, see above)</b>   |   |                                       |                                       |

## 2. CONSTRUCTION HISTORY & CURRENT STATUS

|   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| Year built: <b>1967</b>                                   | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Factual <input type="radio"/> Estimated | Threatened? <b>Private Development</b>   |
| Architect/Designer: <b>Skidmore, Owings &amp; Merrill</b> | Contractor: <b>Dinwiddie Construction Company</b>                        |  |
| Original Use: <b>office tower</b>                         | Present Use: <b>office tower</b>   |  |
| Is the Proposed Monument on its Original Site?            | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes                                     | <input type="radio"/> No (explain in section 7) <input type="radio"/> Unknown (explain in section 7) |

## 3. STYLE & MATERIALS

| Architectural Style: <b>Late Modernism</b> |                                      | Stories: <b>11</b>      | Plan Shape: <b>Rectangular</b> |
|--|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| FEATURE                                    | PRIMARY                              | SECONDARY               |                                |
| CONSTRUCTION                               | Type: <b>Concrete poured/precast</b> | Type: <b>Steel</b>      |                                |
| CLADDING                                   | Material: <b>Unknown</b>             | Material: <b>Select</b> |                                |
| ROOF                                       | Type: <b>Flat</b>                    | Type: <b>Select</b>     |                                |
|  | Material: <b>Unknown</b>             | Material: <b>Select</b> |                                |
| WINDOWS                                    | Type: <b>Fixed</b>                   | Type: <b>Select</b>     |                                |
|  | Material: <b>Aluminum</b>            | Material: <b>Select</b> |                                |
| ENTRY                                      | Style: <b>Centered</b>               | Style: <b>Select</b>    |                                |
| DOOR                                       | Type: <b>Glass</b>                   | Type: <b>Select</b>     |                                |

# HISTORIC-CULTURAL MONUMENT NOMINATION FORM



## 4. ALTERATION HISTORY

List date and write a brief description of any major alterations or additions. This section may also be completed on a separate document. Include copies of permits in the nomination packet. Make sure to list any major alterations for which there are no permits, as well.

|  |               |
|--|---------------|
|  | See attached. |
|  |               |
|  |               |
|  |               |
|  |               |
|  |               |
|  |               |
|  |               |

## 5. EXISTING HISTORIC RESOURCE IDENTIFICATION (if known)

|   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/>                            | Listed in the National Register of Historic Places   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                            | Listed in the California Register of Historical Resources  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                            | Formally determined eligible for the National and/or California Registers                            |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                            | Located in an Historic Preservation Overlay Zone (HPOZ)  | <input type="radio"/> Contributing feature<br><input type="radio"/> Non-contributing feature |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                            | Determined eligible for national, state, or local landmark status by an historic resources survey(s) | Survey Name(s):  |
| Other historical or cultural resource designations: |  |  |

## 6. APPLICABLE HISTORIC-CULTURAL MONUMENT CRITERIA

The proposed monument exemplifies the following Cultural Heritage Ordinance Criteria (Section 22.171.7):

|                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Reflects the broad cultural, economic, or social history of the nation, state, or community  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Is identified with historic personages or with important events in the main currents of national, state, or local history                                  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Embodies the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural-type specimen, inherently valuable for study of a period, style, or method of construction |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | A notable work of a master builder, designer, or architect whose individual genius influenced his or her age   |

# HISTORIC-CULTURAL MONUMENT NOMINATION FORM



## 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 attach 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: Annette van Duren                 |                              | Company: Friends of Save Liberty Park |           |
| Street Address: 3810 Wilshire Boulevard |                              | City: Los Angeles                     | State: CA |
| Zip: 90010                              | Phone Number: (213) 810-9965 | Email: savelibertypark@gmail.com      |           |

### Property Owner

Is the owner in support of the nomination?  Yes  No  Unknown

|                 |               |          |        |
|-----------------|---------------|----------|--------|
| Name:           |               | Company: |        |
| Street Address: |               | City:    | State: |
| Zip:            | Phone Number: | Email:   |        |

### Nomination Preparer/Applicant's Representative

|   |                              |  |           |
|---|------------------------------|--|-----------|
| Name: Katie E. Horak and Evanne St. Charles |                              | Company: Architectural Resources Group, Inc. |           |
| Street Address: 8 Mills Place, Suite 300    |                              | City: Pasadena                               | State: CA |
| Zip: 91105                                  | Phone Number: (626) 583-1401 | Email: k.horak@arg-la.com                    |           |



# HISTORIC-CULTURAL MONUMENT 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. ✓ Nomination Form  | 5. ✓ Copies of Primary/Secondary Documentation  |
| 2. ✓ Written Statements A and B   | 6. ✓ Copies of Building Permits for Major Alterations<br>(include first construction permits) |
| 3. ✓ Bibliography   | 7. ✓ Additional, Contemporary Photos  |
| 4. ✓ Two Primary Photos of Exterior/Main Facade<br>(8x10, the main photo of the proposed monument. Also<br>email a digital copy of the main photo to:<br>planning.ohr@lacity.org) | 8. ✓ Historical Photos  |
|   | 9. ✓ Zimas Parcel Report for all Nominated Parcels<br>(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. |   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>   | 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.                                     |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>   | 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. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>   | I acknowledge that I have the right to submit or have obtained the appropriate permission to submit all information contained in this application.  |

Name: Annette van Duren Date: 6/13/17 Signature: [Handwritten 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](http://preservation.lacity.org)



## **Beneficial Plaza and Liberty Park**

### Historic-Cultural Monument Nomination Continuation Sheet

#### **A. Property Description**

##### **Site**

The property at 3700 Wilshire Boulevard is located on the south side of Wilshire Boulevard in the Wilshire Center/Koreatown community, about four miles west of downtown Los Angeles. The subject property comprises two parcels, together approximately four-and-a-half acres, surrounded by office towers and other large commercial and institutional buildings dating from the 1920s to the present. The property contains an office tower, park, and plaza, which were originally known as Beneficial Plaza and Liberty Park, and are now known as Wilshire Park Place. Completed in 1967, Beneficial Plaza was designed by architects Gordon Bunshaft and Edward Charles Bassett of renowned architecture firm Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM). Liberty Park, the landscaped open space fronting Beneficial Plaza, was designed by noted landscape architect Peter Walker of Sasaki, Walker & Associates (SWA). The property was built as the headquarters of the Beneficial Standard Life Insurance Company.

The office tower is set back from Wilshire Boulevard 315 feet and is fronted by a hardscaped plaza and open lawn known as Liberty Park. The plaza and lawn comprise approximately 2.5 acres of the site. To the rear (south) of the building is a landscaped promenade composed of a concrete path bounded by sunken rectangular planters, which are planted with ficus trees (some of the planters are empty). Beyond the promenade is paved surface parking and the Pio Pico branch of the Los Angeles Public Library. The library building replaced half of the surface parking in the 1980s.<sup>1</sup>

##### **Office Tower – Exterior**

The Beneficial Plaza building is an 11-story Late Modern office tower with a three-level underground parking garage. The building has a rectangular plan, sits on a concrete foundation, and is capped with a flat roof featuring a recessed metal parapet. It is constructed of precast shocked concrete and its walls are clad with panels of natural granite aggregate. The main structure of the building is characterized by a concrete exoskeletal frame with slender vertical elements and wide horizontal bands, which form rows of bays at each façade. The top corners of each bay are curved. Paired fixed aluminum floor-to-ceiling windows with solar bronze glazing are recessed behind each bay at the second through ninth stories of each façade. A covered gold colored header tops all of the windows. Fenestration at the tenth story is recessed more than at the lower stories, and a metal railing lines the space between each concrete pier, suggesting a top floor balcony. The 11<sup>th</sup> story contains no fenestration, as it is likely dedicated to housing mechanical equipment.

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<sup>1</sup> The surface parking and library are on a separate parcel and are not included as part of this HCM nomination.



The first story at all façades is set back from, and supported by, regularly-spaced concrete piers that widen at their bases. The first story is enclosed by fixed aluminum floor-to-ceiling windows, which are larger than at the upper stories. A row of pyramidal-shaped waffle lighting lines the exterior corridor ceiling between the piers and fenestration at the first story. Between each pier along the first story of the south, east, and west façades is a low concrete railing with slightly tapered concrete supports.

The north (primary) façade contains three entrances. The central main entrance is composed of three grouped fully glazed doors with metal handles inscribed with the word "PULL." Above the doors is a black metal band containing metal lettering that reads "3700 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD." The doors at the east and west entrances on the north façade have been replaced with new fully glazed aluminum doors.

The central entrance on the south façade contains the same doors and signage as the main entry on the north facade. A concrete ramp with a metal railing and canopy was added on top of the steps leading to the central south façade entrance. The canopy connects to the rear entrance of the Pio Pico library. The doors at the east and west entrances on the south façade have been replaced with new fully glazed aluminum doors.

#### **Office Tower – Interior (First Floor Lobby)**

The first floor lobby has an H-shaped plan. At the center of the lobby are two elevator banks, each containing four elevator bays with simple recessed metal doors. The dropped ceiling of the lobby retains the same pyramidal-shaped waffle lighting as the exterior first floor corridor. The elevator core is clad with green marble, and the flooring is smooth white and gray granite. At the south end of the lobby is a circular reception desk. The east and west ends of space are lined with offices/retail enclosed with floor-to-ceiling windows and fully glazed doors.

#### **Liberty Park and Plaza**

The designed landscape to the front (north) of the office tower is known as Liberty Park. Liberty Park consists of an expansive open lawn with a grove of Canary Island pine trees slightly north and east of the center of the park. The lawn is set back from the street by a wide concrete sidewalk. It is slightly raised from street level and is bounded by a concrete retaining wall along its north, east, and west sides. At the northeast and northwest corners of the park, separated from the lawn by concrete walkways, are raised concrete platforms, atop which sit square metal structures with wide fascia accommodating signage (original signage has been removed/replaced). Three flagpoles sit at the southwest corner of the park. A semi-circular promenade composed of a concrete path and wide strip planted with lawn and edged with shrubs hugs the south, east, and west sides of the open lawn.

South of the lawn is a rectangular plaza paved with concrete and patterned with a rectangular grid of black and red granite. A flight of shallow concrete steps provides egress from the plaza to the park. The plaza is reached from Serrano and Oxford avenues via two curving ramps paved with concrete and



trimmed with granite. The ramps widen as they reach street level. Two rows of five rectangular podiums supporting circular concrete planters delineate a path as one enters the plaza from the east and west ramps. Two of the concrete planters have been removed. A replica of the Liberty Bell sits atop a concrete podium south of the circular planters. The central part of the plaza serves as a bridge over two vehicular ramps at Serrano and Oxford avenues that lead to the underground parking garage. The vehicular entrances are bordered on three sides by raised rectangular planters containing hedges. At its south end, the plaza extends east and west into a rectangular walk that stretches the length of the office tower's north façade. At the east and west ends of the walkway are flights of stairs leading to the street.

### Alterations

Historic and recent photos of the office tower and alteration permits from the Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety (LADBS) indicate that the exterior of the building has endured few alterations. Interior alterations, beginning in 1967 and continuing through 2009, largely consisted of tenant improvements (office remodeling and adding/removing interior partitions and dropped ceilings), as well as systems upgrades and disabled access accommodations. Due to the substantial number of interior alterations, each individual interior alteration is not included in the list below.

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| 1967-2009 | Interior tenant improvements, including office remodeling, removal/addition of non-loadbearing partitions and dropped ceilings, and systems/ADA upgrades were performed on all floors at various points in time  |
| Dec. 1990 | The perimeter concrete wall was repaired (LADBS Permit No. 30900500107)  |
| Oct. 1994 | The building was re-roofed (LADBS Permit No. 48780400176)  |
| Oct. 2002 | The building was re-roofed a second time (LADBS Permit No. 02016-10000-20217)  |
| Unknown   | East and west entrance doors on the north and south façades were replaced<br>A ramp was added on top of the central entrance steps at the south façade<br>Original signage was removed and/or replaced<br>Two circular planters were removed from the plaza<br>The semi-circular hedge surrounding the park was replaced with lawn and a row of shrubs<br>Some trees were removed from the sunken planters at the rear of the building |

### Character-Defining Features

#### *Site*

- Site plan, including a rectangular office tower (Beneficial Plaza building) deeply set back from Wilshire Boulevard and fronted by a plaza and park (Liberty Park)
- View of the Beneficial Plaza building from Wilshire Boulevard, rising above the plaza and park



- Promenade, composed of a wide concrete walkway bounded by sunken rectangular planters and shade trees, south of the building

#### *Office Tower – Exterior*

- Vertical massing
- Simple, rectilinear forms
- Flat roof with recessed metal parapet
- Exoskeletal concrete frame
- Granite aggregate exterior paneling
- Rows of bays with curved top corners framing fenestration at upper stories along all façades
- Recessed fixed floor-to-ceiling aluminum windows with solar bronze glazing and gold colored coved headers at the upper stories
- Concrete piers that widen at their bases and support the first story
- Fixed floor-to-ceiling aluminum windows recessed behind the first story piers
- Row of waffle lighting at the ceiling of the exterior first floor corridor
- Grouped fully glazed doors with metal handles inscribed with the word “PULL” at the central entrances on the north and south façades
- Metal signage reading “3700 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD” above north and south main entrances
- Low concrete railing with tapered concrete supports along the first floor exterior corridor of the south, east, and west façades

#### *Office Tower – Interior (First Floor Lobby)*

- H-shaped plan
- Central elevator core with eight bays of elevator doors (four on each side)
- Dropped ceiling with waffle lighting
- Green marble cladding along the elevator core
- Fully glazed office/retail enclosures on the east and west sides of the lobby
- White and gray smooth granite flooring

#### *Liberty Park and Plaza*

- Formal, symmetrical landscape and hardscape fronting the office tower, consisting of a plaza fronting the building and a park (Liberty Park) between the plaza and the street
- Expansive open lawn, slightly raised from street level
- Semi-circular promenade that wraps around the lawn on the south, east, and west sides
- Grove of mature Canary Island pines at the northeast corner of the park
- Rectangular concrete podiums supporting signage at the northeast and northwest corners of the park



- Concrete retaining wall bounding the park on the north, east, and west sides
- Flagpoles at the southwest corner of the park
- Hardscaped plaza paved with a rectangular pattern of concrete and red and black granite
- Flight of low steps providing egress from the park to the plaza
- Curved concrete granite-trimmed ramps bounded by concrete walls that lead from the sidewalk at Oxford and Serrano avenues to the center of the plaza
- Two rows of rectangular podiums containing circular planters in the north half of the plaza
- Liberty Bell replica atop a concrete podium at the central, south end of the plaza
- Bridged section of the plaza over vehicular parking ramps
- Vehicular ramps that lead to the underground parking garage from Oxford and Serrano avenues
- Raised rectangular planters bordering the vehicular ramps on the north, south, and east sides

## **B. Statement of Significance**

### **Summary**

Beneficial Plaza and Liberty Park meet the following criteria for designation as a Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument:

*It reflects the broad cultural, political, economic, or social history of the nation, state, or community.*

Constructed in 1967, the subject property reflects the development of the Wilshire Center business district as Los Angeles' epicenter for the headquarters of insurance companies and major national and international corporations after World War II. By the late 1940s, a Wilshire Boulevard address had become synonymous with power and prestige in the world of international corporations and Fortune 500 companies. From the late 1940s through the 1970s, insurance firms, oil companies, and major financial institutions built their headquarters in Wilshire Center, often hiring prominent architects to design their high-rise office towers. Designed as the headquarters of the Beneficial Standard Life Insurance Company, a major nationwide insurance corporation founded in Los Angeles in 1940, Beneficial Plaza and Liberty Park were completed at the height of the Wilshire Center corporate building boom. In keeping with other master architect-designed corporate headquarters, the company hired renowned architecture firm Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM) to design its new office tower, which it occupied until 1985.

The subject property also reflects local discourse on the value of community open space during the height of postwar commercial development in Los Angeles. Beneficial Insurance created Liberty Park as an open space intended to promote the aesthetic and cultural values of the city, and the City of Los Angeles administered protection of that open space through zoning practices in recognition of its benefit to the community.



*It embodies the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural-type specimen, inherently valuable for study of a period, style or method of construction.*

The Beneficial Plaza office tower embodies the distinguishing characteristics of Late Modern architecture. Specifically, the style is conveyed through the building's modular design, simple rectilinear form, exoskeletal structural frame, unpainted textured wall surfaces, unadorned window and door openings, and lack of applied ornamentation. Liberty Park complements the design of the building and draws upon the principles of Modern landscaping.

*It is a notable work of a master builder, designer, or architect whose individual genius influenced his or her age.*

The subject property is a notable work of the internationally-renowned architecture firm Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM), with its design led by master architects Gordon Bunshaft (1909-1990) and Edward Charles Bassett (1922-1999). Originally founded as Skidmore & Owings in 1936, the firm became known for its high-profile corporate office design and large-scale urban development projects in the United States and worldwide after World War II. The property also contains an excellent example of a designed landscape (Liberty Park) by noted landscape architect Peter Walker. Walker, a founding principal of the renowned landscape architecture firm Sasaki, Walker & Associates (SWA), is best known for his classical landscape designs that combine history and tradition with contemporary practices.

## **Historical Background**

### *Post-World War II Development of the Wilshire Center Business District*

Originally envisioned as a grand parkway lined with mansions and high-end hotels, by the 1920s Wilshire Boulevard was on its way to becoming a major commercial corridor serving multiple communities. The Ambassador Hotel, opened in 1921 on the 3400 block of Wilshire, set precedent for the development of the Wilshire corridor. By 1927, the wide boulevard, complete with concrete curbs and sidewalks, and lined with palm trees, had been paved from Westlake Park to Fairfax Avenue. Shortly thereafter, Angelenos voted to rezone 25 blocks of the street from Westlake Park to Western Avenue for commercial use, prompting a surge in construction. Soon, this portion of Wilshire Boulevard was lined with banks, cafes, high-end retail establishments, and automobile service stations, in addition to prominent houses of worship.<sup>2</sup> Many of the buildings were designed in dramatic architectural styles in an attempt to catch the eye of motorists passing by.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Kevin Roderick and J. Eric Lynxwiler, *Wilshire Boulevard: Grand Concourse of Los Angeles* (Santa Monica: Angel City Press, 2005), 85.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, 92.



Wilshire Center first emerged as a distinct identity along Wilshire Boulevard in the 1920s as one of several early business improvement associations formed to champion progress along the boulevard.<sup>4</sup> By 1941, the newly formed Wilshire Center Company, created by local business proprietors to attract tourists and residents to the district as a “Fifth Avenue of the West,” defined its boundaries as the 12 blocks of Wilshire between Lafayette Park Place and Normandie Avenue.<sup>5</sup> The western and eastern boundaries continued to expand in later years and in 1966, Wilshire Center was formally dedicated by the Wilshire Committee of the Wilshire Chamber of Commerce as a four mile business district extending from Union Avenue on the east to Sycamore Avenue at the edge of the Miracle Mile to the west.<sup>6</sup>

The postwar period ushered in a new era of commercial development to the Wilshire Center business district as major national and international companies quickly filled Wilshire Boulevard with their new modern corporate headquarters. Los Angeles’ post-World War II population boom and increased importance on the world stage motivated major corporations to establish headquarters in the city, but the central business district in downtown, with few exceptions, was bypassed during the early postwar years in favor of Wilshire Center as a preferred location. Speaking on the preference of Wilshire Center over downtown in 1950, Norman Tishman, president of Tishman Realty & Construction Company, which developed several buildings in the district, stated “we have selected this business site in the Wilshire center district because it is close to, but not in the city center congestion. We have come to Los Angeles, where the future seems so bright, to construct a magnificent community of new office buildings of which we can be very proud.”<sup>7</sup>

From the late 1940s through the 1970s, insurance firms, oil companies, and other Fortune 500 corporations built their modern headquarters in the Wilshire Center business district, often commissioning major architects to design them. Among the most prominent were headquarters for Carnation, IBM, Texaco, Tidewater Oil Company, and Ahmanson Financial, designed by the architecture firms of Stiles Clements, Pereira & Luckman, Welton Becket & Associates, Claud Beelman, and Edward Durell Stone, respectively.

In particular, Wilshire Center emerged as a hub for insurance companies, most of which commissioned their own headquarters buildings for the district, including Farmers Insurance at 4680 Wilshire (1949 expansion & remodel, Claud Beelman and Herman Spackler), Travelers Insurance at 3600 Wilshire (1961, Welton Becket & Associates), Pacific Indemnity at 3200 Wilshire (1962, Claud Beelman), Pierce National Life Insurance at 3807 Wilshire (1967, Welton Becket & Associates), Beneficial Life Insurance at 3700 Wilshire (1967, Skidmore, Owings & Merrill), and Equitable Life Insurance at 3435 Wilshire (1969, Welton Becket & Associates). Additionally, other insurance companies located their offices in prominent, existing buildings in Wilshire Center, including Franklin Life Insurance, which was for many

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<sup>4</sup> “Civic Council of Wilshire Area to Give Banquet,” *Los Angeles Times*, May 24, 1928, A2.

<sup>5</sup> “Wilshire Group to Incorporate,” *Los Angeles Times*, January 8, 1941, A8.

<sup>6</sup> “Wilshire Area Apartment Structure Completed,” *Los Angeles Times*, February 19, 1961, I8; “Wilshire Center to Be Dedicated,” *Los Angeles Times*, February 20, 1966, I2.

<sup>7</sup> “New Wilshire Buildings to Cost \$12,000,000,” *Los Angeles Times*, March 2, 1950, A2.



years headquartered in the Pellisier Building at 3780 Wilshire, and General of America, and later Mutual of Omaha, which were both located in the E. Clem Wilson Building at 5225 Wilshire at the junction of Wilshire Center and the Miracle Mile neighborhood.

### *Beneficial Standard Life Insurance Company*

The Beneficial Standard Life Insurance Company was founded by entrepreneurs and businessmen Edward D. Mitchell, Oscar S. Pattiz, and Joy C. Earl in Los Angeles in 1940.<sup>8</sup> In its first years of operation, the company primarily dealt with disability and automobile insurance. However, by 1944, Beneficial had switched gears and focused solely on providing life insurance. After World War II, Beneficial expanded its interests beyond the West Coast and acquired a controlling interest in the Pennsylvania health and accident firm, Fidelity Interstate Life Insurance Company, in 1954. In 1955, the corporation purchased a major interest in Union Casualty and Life Insurance of New York. The company continued to expand through the late 1950s in states across the country and into Canada.<sup>9</sup> By 1957, the company had reached a record high in sales with over \$45 million in revenue by September of that year.<sup>10</sup> In 1961, Beneficial acquired the Serrano Corporation for \$4 million, primarily to obtain access to a block of land Serrano owned along Wilshire Boulevard.<sup>11</sup> In 1967, the insurance group moved from its headquarters on 8<sup>th</sup> and Spring streets in downtown Los Angeles to its new office tower at 3700 Wilshire Boulevard.<sup>12</sup> By the mid-1960s, the company exceeded \$105 million in assets.<sup>13</sup>

In 1984, after struggling to keep up with new advances in the financial services industry, Beneficial Standard Life Insurance was acquired by CalFed, Inc. The company liquidated all \$700 million of its assets the following year. Shortly thereafter, the company's real estate holdings, including its headquarters at 3700 Wilshire Boulevard, were put up for sale.<sup>14</sup>

Beneficial's co-founders Edward D. Mitchell and Oscar S. Pattiz were major philanthropists in the Los Angeles Jewish community.<sup>15</sup> Born in Austria-Hungary (now Poland) to a working-class Jewish family,

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<sup>8</sup> Nancy Rivera, "End of a Venture: The Mitchells Bowing Out at Beneficial," *Los Angeles Times*, September 4, 1984, E1.

<sup>9</sup> "Beneficial Standard Life Insurance Co.," *Harvard Business School, Lehman Brothers Collection*, accessed February 9, 2017, [https://www.library.hbs.edu/hc/lehman/company.html?company=beneficial\\_standard\\_life\\_insurance\\_co](https://www.library.hbs.edu/hc/lehman/company.html?company=beneficial_standard_life_insurance_co).

<sup>10</sup> "Beneficial Life Record," *Los Angeles Times*, October 15, 1957, C8.

<sup>11</sup> "Beneficial Standard Life Insurance Co."

<sup>12</sup> "Beneficial Plaza Slates Opening Fete;" "Insurance Headquarters Scheduled," *Los Angeles Times*, February 21, 1965, L1.

<sup>13</sup> "Beneficial Standard Life Insurance Co."

<sup>14</sup> Rivera, "End of a Venture: The Mitchells Bowing Out at Beneficial."

<sup>15</sup> Research did not provide significant information regarding Beneficial's third co-founder, Joy C. Earle. According to the United States Social Security Death Index, Earle died in 1965, prior to the construction of 3700 Wilshire Boulevard.



Edward D. Mitchell moved with his family to New York when he was two years old. After amassing and losing two fortunes, one selling real estate in Canada and the other investing in grain, Mitchell moved his family to California, where he began selling and financing automobiles. Mitchell made his third fortune with Beneficial life insurance, much of which he then donated to organizations such as the United Jewish Fund, the Jewish Home for the Aged, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, the Salvation Army, the UCLA Foundation, the United Way, Pioneer Women, Wilshire Boulevard Temple, and a hospital, school, library, adult education center, and auditorium and symphony hall in Israel. Edward Mitchell died in 1985, shortly after Beneficial was sold.<sup>16</sup>

Oscar S. Pattiz was the son of Russian Jewish immigrants, born in Illinois in 1906. By 1930, Pattiz was working as an attorney and living in Los Angeles.<sup>17</sup> In addition to co-founding Beneficial insurance, Pattiz was an active leader in the Jewish community, and was one of two Angelenos invited to Israel in 1950 by Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion. Pattiz co-founded Hillside Memorial Park, a Jewish cemetery in Los Angeles, he was joint Chairman of the Los Angeles Committee for Bands of Israel, and he contributed to multiple social service organizations including the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, Cedars-Sinai, and the United Jewish Welfare Fund, among others. Oscar Pattiz died in 1979.<sup>18</sup>

#### *Development of Beneficial Plaza and Liberty Park*

Beneficial Plaza and Liberty Park were built at the height of Wilshire Center's corporate office building boom and when the Beneficial group ranked among the top five life insurance firms in the nation.<sup>19</sup> The Beneficial Plaza office tower was designed by the internationally-renowned architecture firm of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill in the Late Modern style. Dinwiddie Construction Company served as the general contractor, and K.S. Wilshire, Inc. was responsible for the building's interior design. Construction cost \$16.7 million and required 5,800 tons of shocked concrete, making the building the largest structure reportedly made out of the material on the West Coast at the time.<sup>20</sup> The building comprised ten stories of office space, some of which was leased to other corporations, and a three-level

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<sup>16</sup> Burt A. Folkart, "Philanthropist Edward D. Mitchell Dies: Amassed 3 Fortunes in Long Life; Was Major Benefactor of Israel," *Los Angeles Times*, February 6, 1985, OC16; Nick Brown, "Westside Digest: Closeup: Philanthropist Gives Fortunes," *Los Angeles Times*, August 19, 1982, WS2.

<sup>17</sup> United States Census Records, 1930.

<sup>18</sup> "Services Held for Philanthropist and Jewish Leader Oscar Pattiz," *Los Angeles Times*, April 18, 1979, OC\_A8; "Cantor Chairman of Dinner for Israel Official," *Los Angeles Times*, June 4, 1952, A11; "New Mt. Sinai Wing to Honor Julius Ceazan," *Los Angeles Times*, November 23, 1952, B2; "Style, Gem Show to Aid Welfare Fund," *Los Angeles Times*, March 21, 1965, H4; "\$3 Million Gifts to College Told," *Los Angeles Times*, November 8, 1965, 4.

<sup>19</sup> "The Top Insurance Firms: California-headquartered Companies Ranked by Assets as of Dec. 31, 1967," *Los Angeles Times*, May 12, 1968, N8.

<sup>20</sup> Tom Cameron, "Beneficial Plaza to Add Open Spaces to City," *Los Angeles Times*, August 14, 1966, L1; Display Ad 425, *Los Angeles Times*, June 30, 1968, Q19.



underground parking garage. Conference rooms and a 400-seat public dining facility, originally known as Manning's restaurant, were located on the second floor.<sup>21</sup>

In conjunction with the construction of the office tower, an expansive, 2.5-acre integrated landscape known as Liberty Park was completed in front of the building, oriented toward Wilshire Boulevard. It was designed by noted Modern landscape architect Peter Walker of Sasaki, Walker & Associates (SWA). Walker's sophisticated design featured a plaza with patterned paving fronting the office tower linked to an acre of open lawn. The grassy expanse of lawn was planted with an off-center grove of mature Canary Island pines sourced from a Compton nursery and was framed by a horseshoe-shaped hedge of evergreen Japanese yews (the hedge has since been replaced with lawn and a row of shrubs). A second, smaller landscaped area, comprising thirty shade trees, walkways, and sunken planters, was designed at the rear of the office tower, fronting a paved parking lot (this landscaped area was altered by the construction of the Pio Pico Library in the 1980s).<sup>22</sup>

Beneficial Plaza and Liberty Park opened on November 11, 1967 (Veterans Day), and included exhibits, tours, and special events that were open to the public. The Boy Scout Nisei Troop Band of Los Angeles sang while the American and Californian flags were raised. Lieutenant Governor Robert Finch delivered the main address.<sup>23</sup> On July 4, 1968, an exact replica of the Liberty Bell was unveiled at Liberty Park, which was envisioned as an "outdoor museum of patriotic objects heralding great moments in American history."<sup>24</sup> The bell, cast by the same London foundry and in the same molds as the original in 1752, was placed in the hardscaped plaza in front of the main entrance to the building where it remains today.<sup>25</sup> Unveiling ceremonies included a presentation by Executive Director of the U.S. Treasury Department Willard C. Ridely, a gala picnic, Boy Scout demonstrations, and outdoor games. A replica of the Mercury space ship, courtesy of McDonnell-Douglas Aircraft and the U.S. Treasury Department, was also placed on display. The following year, a full-scale model of the Apollo space capsule was displayed in the park, and in 1970, the park featured a display of the Air Force Rocket Propulsion Laboratory's Titan space launcher.<sup>26</sup>

#### *Liberty Park and the Creation of Community Open Space*

When Liberty Park opened in 1967, the concept of dedicating private corporate property as community open space, particularly on a major commercial corridor such as Wilshire, was unprecedented.

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<sup>21</sup> Cameron, "Beneficial Plaza to Add Open Spaces to City."

<sup>22</sup> Cameron, "Beneficial Plaza to Add Open Spaces to City."

<sup>23</sup> "Beneficial Plaza Slates Opening Fete," *Los Angeles Times*, November 5, 1967, O2; Philip Fradkin, "Ceremonies Honor U.S. Fighting Men on Veterans Day," *Los Angeles Times*, November 12, 1967, B.

<sup>24</sup> Display Ad 425.

<sup>25</sup> Bob Rawitch, "Parades, Picnics, Fireworks Highlight Traditional 'Fourth': Southlanders Flock to Beaches and Parks by Thousands, With Big Turnouts for Coliseum, Rose Bowl Pyrotechnics," *Los Angeles Times*, July 5, 1968, A1.

<sup>26</sup> "Space Capsule Model Shown," *Los Angeles Times*, June 15, 1969, I18; "Real Titan Aids U.S. Bonds Sale," *Los Angeles Times*, April 19, 1970, I14.



Recognizing the boulevard's lack of landscaping around office buildings, which "threaten[ed] to make the Wilshire Center business district something of another high-rise asphalt jungle," Joseph N. Mitchell, president and CEO of Beneficial insurance, and son of Beneficial co-founder Edward D. Mitchell, proposed a 315-foot setback and construction of an expansive park to the immediate north of the company's new headquarters. At the time of its construction, Liberty Park and its adjoining plaza comprised the deepest setback of any major office building in the nation.<sup>27</sup> The 2.5-acre integrated landscaped area, worth \$2.5 million of Beneficial's Wilshire property, was intended as a "contribution to [the] promotion of aesthetic values" in the Wilshire Center business district.<sup>28</sup> When interviewed by the *Los Angeles Times* about his company's grand gesture in providing the park as a benefit to the community, Mitchell explained that it was "much more realistic and useful to strengthen the central city, to beautify it, to make the city a positive influence, the center of culture as well as of business."<sup>29</sup> Mitchell was honored by a proclamation from the City of Los Angeles in 1966 and by the highest award of the U.S. Treasury Department, Savings Bond Division in 1969 for his contribution of community open space at Beneficial Plaza and Liberty Park.<sup>30</sup>

Recognizing at once the value Liberty Park served as community open space and its vulnerability to commercial development should Mitchell's vision ever lose priority among the property's ownership, the Los Angeles City Planning Commission, through its own initiative, voted on August 22, 1968 to change the zoning of the parcel containing Liberty Park from commercial (C4-4) to parking (P-4) via City Planning Case No. 21684.<sup>31</sup> Though the P zone is most often used as a means to ensure that land is only developed for specific uses (typically surface parking), the City used the P zoning designation in an effort to protect Liberty Park from future development, acknowledging its benefit to the general public. As noted in Case No. 21684, the City utilized its zoning authority in the interest of "public necessity, convenience and general welfare" in order to retain Liberty Park as an "open space asset to the community and preclude further intensification of land use" in the 3700 block of Wilshire.<sup>32</sup> Liberty Park remains the only landscaped community space on corporate property along Wilshire Boulevard.

### *Late Modernism*

Late Modern is a broad term that is used to describe an iteration of Modern architecture that came of age between the mid-1950s and 1970s. Compared to their Mid-Century Modern predecessors, which stressed simplicity and authenticity, Late Modern buildings often exhibited a more sculptural quality that included bold geometric forms, uniform glass skins or concrete surfaces, and sometimes a heightened expression of structure and system. Many Late Modern buildings represent broad

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<sup>27</sup> "Beneficial Plaza to Add Open Spaces to City," *Los Angeles Times*, August 14, 1966, L1.

<sup>28</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>29</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>30</sup> "Insurance Co. Head Honored," *Los Angeles Times*, November 27, 1966, I12; "Businessman Honored for Park Gift," *Los Angeles Times*, March 23, 1969, I16.

<sup>31</sup> City Plan Case No. 21684, Department of City Planning, City of Los Angeles, August 22, 1968.

<sup>32</sup> *Ibid.*



interpretations of the style. Subsets of Late Modern architecture include New Formalism, which integrates classical elements and proportions, and Brutalism, which typically features exposed, raw concrete (*béton brut*) and an expression of structural materials and forms. Late Modernism remained popular through the late 1970s, particularly in the design of commercial and institutional buildings, and was superseded by Postmodernism.

Typical character-defining features of Late Modern architecture include:

- Bold geometric volumes
- Modular design dictated by structural framing and glazing
- Unrelieved wall surfaces of glass, metal, concrete, or tile
- Unpainted, exposed concrete surfaces
- Unapparent door and window openings incorporated into exterior cladding or treated exterior form
- Minimal ornamentation

#### *Skidmore, Owings & Merrill*

Louis Skidmore was born in Lawrence, Indiana in 1897. He studied electrical engineering at Bradley Technical College in Peoria, Illinois before entering into World War I with the U.S. Air Corps and shipping off to England. Intrigued with architecture and design at a young age, Skidmore was inspired by England's architectural heritage. Upon his return to the United States after the war, Skidmore enrolled first at Boston Architectural School and then at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), where he was greatly influenced by William Emerson, dean of MIT's School of Architecture. Emerson encouraged Skidmore to apply for the Rotch Fellowship, an award offering two years of unrestricted travel, which Skidmore received in 1926. While traveling in Paris, Skidmore met Eloise Owings, sister of Nathaniel Owings. Skidmore and Eloise Owings married in 1930.<sup>33</sup>

Nathaniel Owings was born in Indianapolis, Indiana in 1903. As a Boy Scout, Owings won a competition that allowed him to go to the Scout Jamboree in London where he became enamored by architecture and design. When he reached college age, Owings enrolled at Cornell University to study architecture.<sup>34</sup>

During his travels in Europe, an old design friend offered Louis Skidmore a position as head of design at the Century of Progress Exposition at the Chicago World's Fair (set to open in 1933). In 1931, Skidmore moved to Chicago to begin planning for the exposition. He brought along his new brother-in-law, Nathaniel Owings, to assist him. While Skidmore enforced design regulations and managed the business end of the fair, Owings managed the drafting office, supervised construction, and planned concessions. After the World's Fair ended in 1934, Skidmore and Owings, both exhausted from the three-year endeavor, decided to take a hiatus. Skidmore and Eloise settled down and had their first child, Louis Jr.,

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<sup>33</sup> Nicholas Adams, *Skidmore, Owings & Merrill: SOM Since 1936* (London: Phaidon, 2007), 19.

<sup>34</sup> *Ibid.*, 19.



and Owings and his wife Emily set off to travel the world. In 1935, nearly a year after the closing of the Century of Progress, the couples convened in London, where it was officially decided that Skidmore and Owings would set up an architecture practice upon returning to Chicago. On January 1, 1936, the first office of Skidmore & Owings opened at 104 South Michigan Avenue.<sup>35</sup>

While their first year of practice proved trying (they mostly got by on small renovation commissions), Skidmore and Owings' luck soon changed when they opened a second office in New York upon receiving a commission to design a product display in Raymond Hood's Radiator Building.<sup>36</sup> The New York office excelled after Skidmore befriended Robert Moses, a city planner who played an instrumental role in shaping New York's development in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century through his massive construction campaign of bridges, highways, and recreation areas. Moses appointed Skidmore as resident architect of the Long Island State Park Commission Board, which gave Skidmore access to some of the city's most prestigious housing and civil engineering commissions as well as the New York State complex at the 1938 New York World's Fair. Through the New York World's Fair and his appointment to the Fair's Board of Design, Skidmore met Gordon Bunshaft, a young architect who designed the exposition's Republic of Venezuela pavilion. A graduate of MIT's School of Architecture, Bunshaft went on to become SOM's preeminent designer for nearly 40 years.<sup>37</sup> Bunshaft's most noted work with SOM came during the postwar period with his designs for H.J. Heinz (1950), Hilton Hotels (1955), Delta Air Lines (1960), and First City National Bank (1961), among others. He was particularly skilled at creating buildings that "expressed businesses' symbolic modernity" at an affordable price.<sup>38</sup>

While Skidmore headed the New York office, Owings managed the office in Chicago. The Chicago office, though less prestigious than that of New York, received several large commissions beginning in 1936 with the Trumbull Park public housing project. In 1939, the office oversaw the design of an additional government housing commission in Indianapolis, Indiana known as Marcy Village. For such high-profile Chicago projects as the Skyway Suites in the Stevens Hotel (1939) and the Hostess Center for the Great Lakes Naval Training Center (1942), Skidmore and Owings asked Bunshaft to temporarily relocate to the city to help with design.<sup>39</sup>

In 1939, Skidmore and Owings hired architect and engineer John Merrill. Merrill, who was born in St. Paul, Minnesota in 1896, began his career in architecture studying at the University of Wisconsin from 1915-1917. After serving in the military during World War I, Merrill returned to the United States and completed his degree at MIT in 1921. He worked for the Chicago architecture firm of Granger &

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<sup>35</sup> *Ibid.*, 19-20.

<sup>36</sup> *Ibid.*, 21; When Skidmore & Owings received the commission for the Radiator Building display, the firm had not set up practice in New York. However, in order to obtain the commission, Owings used the address of the practice of two friends from the Century of Progress Exposition. After winning the job, the two opened a second office in the city.

<sup>37</sup> *Ibid.*, 21.

<sup>38</sup> *Ibid.*, 27.

<sup>39</sup> *Ibid.*, 23.



Bollenbacher before serving as a chief architect for the Federal Housing Administration. Merrill was hired as a partner at Skidmore & Owings, which subsequently became Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM), and worked out of the Chicago office.<sup>40</sup>

The number of commissions slowed during World War II as many of the firm's employees enlisted in the armed services. Wartime projects included design competitions and demonstrations as well as a few government housing commissions. SOM's most significant wartime commission came in 1942 when the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers approached the firm to construct an undisclosed new town in Tennessee called Oak Ridge, the future production site for the development of the atomic bomb (known as the Manhattan Project). With a construction budget of \$160 million, the firm was tasked with designing the entire settlement from the ground up for a projected population of 75,000. The project comprised the development of simple, modernist residences, schools, churches, community centers, and other community amenities. Merrill served as the SOM partner on site. In 1950, SOM's Oak Ridge garden apartments design as well as other works by the firm were displayed in *Architectural Work by Skidmore, Owings & Merrill* (1950), an exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art.<sup>41</sup>

SOM's reputation for producing progressive, efficient, and economical designs was solidified during the postwar period. Satisfied with the firm's work at Oak Ridge, the federal government hired SOM to design major developments in Japan, Morocco, and Guam between 1952 and 1954. Throughout the 1950s and '60s, the firm was awarded several massive projects, including a \$25 million urban development for Creole Petroleum in Venezuela (1952); a residential development to house 5,000 Standard Vacuum Oil workers in Sumatra (1951); and large-scale factories for General Electric (1956, 1960), Reynold Metal Company (1958), Pepsi-Cola (1960), and Union Carbide (1960). Two of the six projects featured at the Museum of Modern Art's *Buildings for Business and Government* exhibition (1957) were designed by SOM.<sup>42</sup>

SOM expanded its operations westward in 1947 when it opened an office in San Francisco. The first head of the San Francisco office was Bauhaus-graduate John Barney Rodgers. In 1953, after a conflict-of-interest scandal regarding a public housing project at Lake Meadows, Owings left Chicago and moved to SOM's San Francisco office. In 1955, John Rodgers hired Edward Charles (Chuck) Bassett. Bassett, who received his Bachelor's from the University of Michigan in 1959 and Master's from Cranbrook in 1951, worked for Eero Saarinen before coming to SOM. Some of Bassett's most notable designs with SOM include the Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum in Oakland (1962-1966), the Bechtel Building in San Francisco (1967; one of the city's tallest buildings), and the Louise M. Davies Symphony Hall in San Francisco (1980). Bassett's ability to contextualize his designs set him apart from other designers in SOM's offices and influenced members of the firm's next generation.<sup>43</sup>

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<sup>40</sup> "John Merrill Sr., Architect, Dead," *New York Times*, June 13, 1975.

<sup>41</sup> Adams, 24; "Exhibition History List," *Museum of Modern Art*, accessed February 3, 2017, [https://www.moma.org/research-and-learning/research-resources/archives/archives\\_exhibition\\_history\\_list](https://www.moma.org/research-and-learning/research-resources/archives/archives_exhibition_history_list).

<sup>42</sup> Adams, 27.

<sup>43</sup> *Ibid.*, 36.



Louis Skidmore retired from SOM in 1955, leaving the New York office to Bunshaft, Severinghaus, Cutler, and Brown. Upon leaving SOM Chicago in 1953, Owings charged William E. Hartmann, an SOM partner since 1951, with heading the office. Though trained as an architect at MIT, Hartmann primarily served in a management role in Chicago. Hartmann hired architect Bruce Graham and structural engineer Fazlur Rahman Kahn, who played a key part in shaping SOM Chicago's design aesthetic in the 1960s and '70s. Whereas Gordon Bunshaft's designs for industrial parks and large-scale corporate developments characterized SOM in the immediate postwar era, Graham and Kahn's corporate office towers defined the firm in the 1960s and '70s. Major designs that were the product of the Graham-Kahn partnership included the Equitable Life Insurance building in Chicago (1965), the John Hancock Center in Chicago (1970), One Shell Plaza in Houston (1972), and Sears Tower in Chicago (1974). Recognizing that Graham and Kahn's skillset were not compatible with all design projects, Hartmann hired Walter A. Netsch to head SOM Chicago's institutional commissions, including the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey (1955), and the Air Force Academy in Chicago (1962).<sup>44</sup>

Completed in 1967, Beneficial Plaza represented an unusual collaboration between Gordon Bunshaft of SOM's New York office and Edward Charles Bassett of SOM San Francisco. While Bunshaft was known for designing high-profile company campuses that exuded corporate power and prestige through a modernist aesthetic, Bassett was highly skilled at designing buildings appropriate to their site and setting. Beneficial Plaza's monolithic presence along the densely developed Wilshire corridor and its formal, Late Modern design are signatures of Bunshaft. Its sensitive siting, deeply set back on its north and south sides and providing a relief from the high-rise nature of Wilshire Boulevard, is characteristic of Bassett's work.

### *Peter Walker*

Peter Walker was born in 1932 in Pasadena, California. When Walker was a child, his family moved to Berkeley. He studied landscape architecture at the University of California, Berkeley, before earning his Master's degree in landscape architecture at Harvard University's Graduate School of Design. Shortly after graduating from Harvard, Walker began working with Hideo Sasaki, a landscape architect and one of Walker's former professors. In 1957, Walker and Sasaki founded the firm Sasaki, Walker & Associates (SWA) in Watertown, a suburb of Boston.<sup>45</sup> In 1959, Walker opened SWA's San Francisco office after receiving a commission to design the landscape for Foothill College in Los Altos in collaboration with architects Ernest J. Kump and Masten and Hurd. Throughout the 1960s, SWA San Francisco collaborated with multiple architects of note, among them McCue, Boone, Tomsick (MBT), Frank Gehry, and SOM. Notable works headed by Walker and SWA San Francisco during the 1960s included the Golden Gateway commercial and residential development in San Francisco (1960-1968), the Del Mesa Carmel housing development in Carmel (1967-1972), and Fashion Island in Newport Beach (1970). After collaborating

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<sup>44</sup> *Ibid.*, 32.

<sup>45</sup> "Peter Walker," *The Cultural Landscape Foundation*, accessed February 10, 2017, <http://tclf.org/pioneer/peter-walker>.



with SOM on the landscape design for Liberty Park, Walker teamed with SOM on the landscaping for Weyerhaeuser Headquarters (1971), a corporate office park in Federal Way, Washington.<sup>46</sup>

In 1983, Walker left SWA to form the landscape firm Peter Walker and Partners, now PWP Landscape Architecture, which is based in Berkeley, California.<sup>47</sup> PWP describes its signature style as “one of simple classicism...” that combines the “knowledge of history and tradition with fluency in contemporary landscape debate.”<sup>48</sup> This aesthetic is conveyed through Liberty Park’s formal, yet refined landscape design. While its design is almost completely symmetrical (illustrated through the semi-circular promenade surrounding the park, the central hardscaped plaza, and the curving ramps leading up to the plaza on either side of it), the slightly offset grove of Canary Island pines is a subtle nod to contemporary landscaping and is exemplary of Peter Walker’s design aesthetic. PWP has undertaken many landmark designs including the Nasher Sculpture Center Garden in Dallas (2003), the United States Embassy in Beijing (2008), the National 9/11 Memorial in New York (2011), and the Newport Beach Civic Center and Park in Newport Beach (2015).

In addition to his landscape architecture practice, Walker has served as the chairman of the Landscape Architecture Department and acting director of the Urban Design Program at Harvard; head of the Department of Landscape Architecture at UC Berkeley; and consultant and advisor to several public agencies and institutions, including the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency, the San Diego Port Authority, and the Sydney 2000 Olympic Coordination Authority. He is a Fellow of the American Society of Landscape Architects and has won multiple landscape and urban design awards.<sup>49</sup>

### Period of Significance

The period of significance for Beneficial Plaza and Liberty Park has been defined as 1965-1967, the period of construction of the office tower, park, and plaza from start to completion.

### Integrity

In addition to meeting multiple eligibility criteria, Beneficial Plaza and Liberty Park are nearly unaltered and retain a high degree of integrity. Historic integrity is the ability of a property to convey its significance and is defined as the “authenticity of a property’s historic identity, evidenced by the survival

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<sup>46</sup> “The History of SWA Group,” *American Society of Landscape Architects*, accessed February 10, 2017, [https://www.asla.org/uploadedfiles/swa\\_history.pdf](https://www.asla.org/uploadedfiles/swa_history.pdf).

<sup>47</sup> “Peter Walker,” *PWP Landscape Architecture*, accessed February 13, 2017, <http://www.pwpla.com/firm/partners/peter-walker>.

<sup>48</sup> “PWP Landscape Architecture,” *American Society of Landscape Architects*, Firm Award Submittal, March 2, 2012, accessed February 16, 2017, <https://www.asla.org/uploadedFiles/PWP.pdf>; “Firm Profile,” *PWP Landscape Architecture*, accessed February 16, 2017, <http://www.pwpla.com/firm/profile>.

<sup>49</sup> “Peter Walker,” *The Cultural Landscape Foundation*.



of physical characteristics that existed during the property's prehistoric or historic period."<sup>50</sup> The aspects of integrity, as defined by the National Park Service, are location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

- Location: Beneficial Plaza and Liberty Park remain on their original site and therefore retain integrity of location.
- Design: The Beneficial Plaza building is largely unaltered, and therefore its character-defining features remain intact. It is still able to convey its historic significance as a Late Modern office tower designed by the renowned architecture firm SOM. Liberty Park's landscaping is also intact, so its original design intent is apparent. Thus, the property retains integrity of design.
- Setting: Beneficial Plaza and Liberty Park are still situated among several large commercial buildings along Wilshire Boulevard. Thus, the property retains integrity of setting.
- Materials: With the exception of its original roof, signage, secondary doors, and some landscape elements (primarily vegetation), the property retains all of its original materials. It therefore retains integrity of materials.
- Workmanship: The property retains its physical characteristics from the time it was constructed, including its granite aggregate wall cladding, primary entrance doors, fixed aluminum windows, hardscaped plaza, and open park space. Thus, it retains integrity of workmanship.
- Feeling: The property retains its essential character-defining features and appearance from its historical period. It therefore retains integrity of feeling.
- Association: Though the office tower is no longer occupied by its original owner, the Beneficial Standard Life Insurance Co., it appears almost exactly the way it did when occupied by the insurance corporation. Thus, Beneficial Plaza and Liberty Park retain integrity of association with the pattern of development of Wilshire Center as the epicenter for corporate headquarters in the post-World War II era and the unprecedented creation of community open space on corporate property along Wilshire Boulevard.

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<sup>50</sup> U.S. Department of the Interior, *National Register Bulletin 16A: How to Complete the National Register Registration Form* (Washington D.C.: National Park Service, 1997), 4.



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WILSHIRE PARK PLACE

RADIO K 101.1

MAIN FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

3700

Oxford

Wilshire

Denny's  
PARKING AVAILABLE

BUSES  
ONLY



Architectural  
Resources Group

## **Exhibit 1. Parcel Profile Reports**

**Exhibit 1a. Office building and plaza (APN: 5093006019)**

**Exhibit 1b. Liberty Park (APN: 5093006021)**

**Office building and plaza (APN: 5093006019)**



# City of Los Angeles Department of City Planning

## 9/18/2017 PARCEL PROFILE REPORT

### PROPERTY ADDRESSES

3732 W WILSHIRE BLVD  
672 S OXFORD AVE  
674 S OXFORD AVE  
673 S SERRANO AVE  
651 S SERRANO AVE  
658 S OXFORD AVE  
655 S SERRANO AVE  
3700 W WILSHIRE BLVD

### ZIP CODES

90005  
90010

### RECENT ACTIVITY

Adaptive Reuse Incentive Spec. Pln-  
Ord 175038

### CASE NUMBERS

CPC-9698  
CPC-8364  
CPC-21684  
CPC-21544-BL  
CPC-21543  
CPC-2016-2579-VZC-BL-MCUP-ZAD-  
SPR  
CPC-1986-834-GPC  
CPC-1964-16310-ZBA  
CASE-4853  
ORD-59577  
ORD-165302-SA100EE  
ORD-137726  
ORD-137725  
ORD-137629  
ORD-129944  
ORD-129926  
ORD-114320  
ORD-114092  
ZA-9340  
ZA-20300  
ZA-1996-1014-ZAI  
ZA-17611  
ZA-15029  
ZA-13132  
VTT-74191  
ENV-2016-2580-MND  
PKG-3336  
PKG-3325

### Address/Legal Information

PIN Number 132B193 66  
Lot/Parcel Area (Calculated) 108,181.0 (sq ft)  
Thomas Brothers Grid PAGE 633 - GRID H2  
PAGE 633 - GRID H3  
Assessor Parcel No. (APN) 5093006019  
Tract P M 896  
Map Reference BK 7-61  
Block None  
Lot A  
Arb (Lot Cut Reference) None  
Map Sheet 132B193

### Jurisdictional Information

Community Plan Area Wilshire  
Area Planning Commission Central  
Neighborhood Council Wilshire Center - Koreatown  
Council District CD 10 - Herb J. Wesson, Jr.  
Census Tract # 2125.02  
LADBS District Office Los Angeles Metro

### Planning and Zoning Information

Special Notes None  
Zoning C4-2  
CR-2  
P-2  
Zoning Information (ZI) ZI-2374 LOS ANGELES STATE ENTERPRISE ZONE  
ZI-2452 Transit Priority Area in the City of Los Angeles  
ZI-1117 MTA Project  
ZI-1940 Wilshire Center / Koreatown Redevelopment Project  
Regional Center Commercial  
General Plan Land Use Yes  
General Plan Footnote(s) No  
Hillside Area (Zoning Code) None  
Specific Plan Area None  
Special Land Use / Zoning None  
Design Review Board No  
Historic Preservation Review No  
Historic Preservation Overlay Zone None  
Other Historic Designations None  
Other Historic Survey Information None  
Mills Act Contract None  
CDO: Community Design Overlay None  
CPIO: Community Plan Imp. Overlay None  
Subarea None  
CUGU: Clean Up-Green Up None  
NSO: Neighborhood Stabilization Overlay No  
POD: Pedestrian Oriented Districts None  
SN: Sign District No  
Streetscape No

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(\* ) - APN Area is provided "as is" from the Los Angeles County's Public Works, Flood Control, Benefit Assessment.

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Adaptive Reuse Incentive Area                   | Adaptive Reuse Incentive Areas                           |
| Ellis Act Property                              | No   |
| Rent Stabilization Ordinance (RSO)              | No   |
| CRA - Community Redevelopment Agency            | Wilshire Center / Koreatown Redevelopment Project        |
| Central City Parking                            | No   |
| Downtown Parking                                | No   |
| Building Line                                   | 5  |
| 500 Ft School Zone                              | No   |
| 500 Ft Park Zone                                | No   |
| <b>Assessor Information</b>                     |  |
| Assessor Parcel No. (APN)                       | 5093006019   |
| Ownership (Assessor)                            |  |
| Owner1  | WILSHIRE PARK PLACE LLC C/O THOMSON REUTERS TAX SERVICES |
| Address   | 0 PO BOX 847<br>CARLSBAD CA 92018                        |
| Ownership (Bureau of Engineering, Land Records) |  |
| Owner   | WILSHIRE PARK PLACE, LLC.                                |
| Address   | 15211 VANOWEN STREET STE 206<br>VAN NUYS CA 91405        |
| APN Area (Co. Public Works)*                    | 2.480 (ac)   |
| Use Code  | 1706 - Commercial - Office Building - 6 to 13 Stories    |
| Assessed Land Val.                              | \$9,564,219  |
| Assessed Improvement Val.                       | \$8,070,812  |
| Last Owner Change                               | 03/17/1998   |
| Last Sale Amount                                | \$9  |
| Tax Rate Area                                   | 6657   |
| Deed Ref No. (City Clerk)                       | 677960   |
|   | 566335   |
|   | 439374   |
|   | 1632043  |
|   | 1611765  |
|   | 1526281  |
| Building 1                                      |  |
| Year Built                                      | 1966   |
| Building Class                                  | BX   |
| Number of Units                                 | 0  |
| Number of Bedrooms                              | 0  |
| Number of Bathrooms                             | 0  |
| Building Square Footage                         | 382,800.0 (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                                   |
| <b>Additional Information</b>                   |  |
| Airport Hazard                                  | None   |
| Coastal Zone                                    | None   |
| Farmland  | Area Not Mapped  |
| Urban Agriculture Incentive Zone                | YES  |
| 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                                      |

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 (\*) - APN Area is provided "as is" from the Los Angeles County's Public Works, Flood Control, Benefit Assessment.

|   |      |
|---|------|
| 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) | 0.77123544                      |
| Nearest Fault (Name)           | Puente Hills Blind Thrust       |
| Region                         | Los Angeles Blind Thrusts       |
| Fault Type                     | B                               |
| Slip Rate (mm/year)            | 0.70000000                      |
| Slip Geometry                  | Reverse                         |
| Slip Type                      | Moderately / Poorly Constrained |
| Down Dip Width (km)            | 19.00000000                     |
| 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    | WILSHIRE CENTER                   |
| Promise Zone                     | None                              |
| Renewal Community                | No                                |
| Revitalization Zone              | Central City                      |
| State Enterprise Zone            | LOS ANGELES STATE ENTERPRISE ZONE |
| Targeted Neighborhood Initiative | None                              |

### Public Safety

#### Police Information

|                    |         |
|--------------------|---------|
| Bureau             | West    |
| Division / Station | Olympic |
| Reporting District | 2033    |

#### Fire Information

|                             |         |
|-----------------------------|---------|
| Bureau                      | Central |
| Batallion                   | 11      |
| District / Fire Station     | 29      |
| 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.

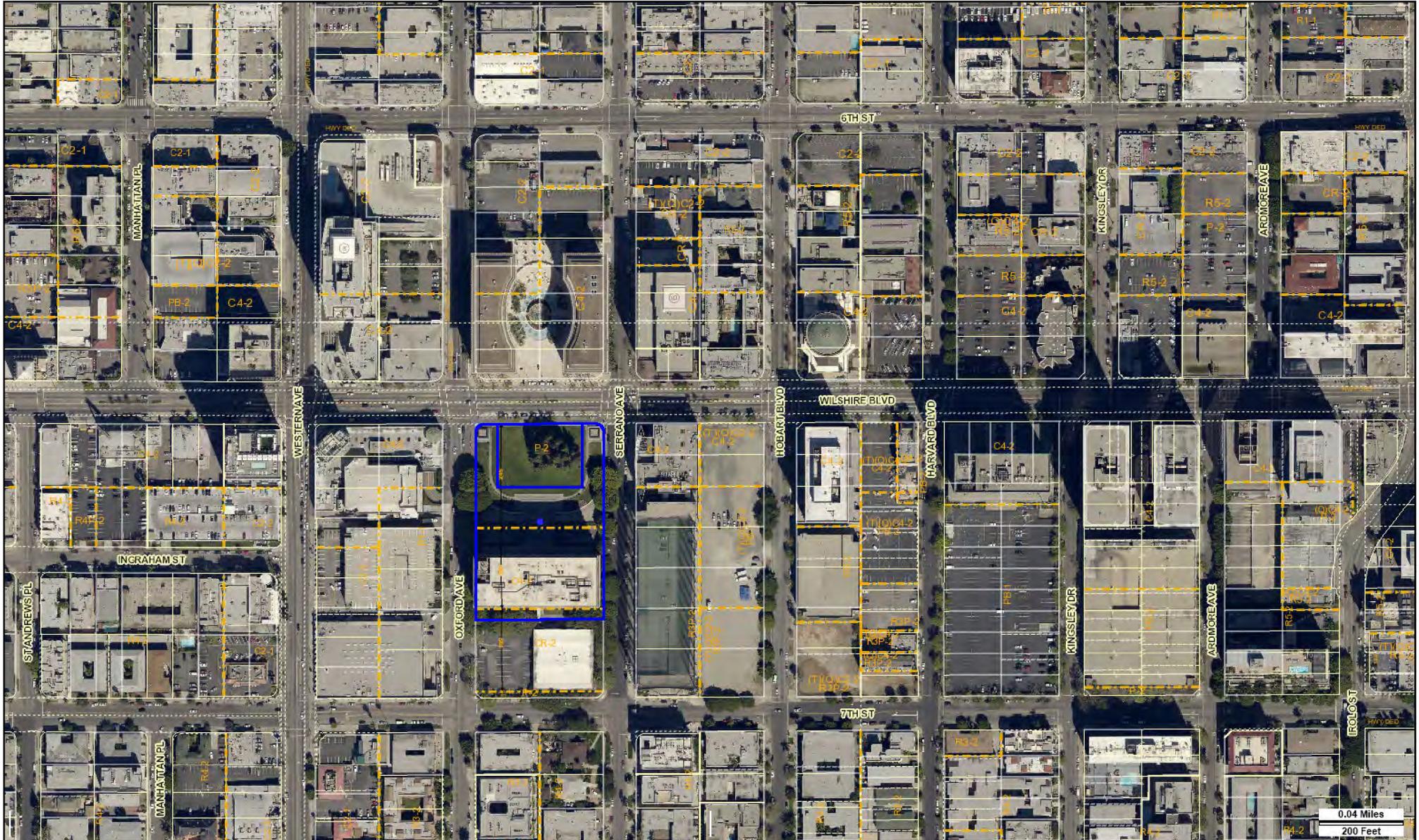
|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| Case Number:             | CPC-21544-BL  |
| Required Action(s):      | BL-BUILDING LINE  |
| Project Descriptions(s): | Data Not Available  |
| Case Number:             | CPC-2016-2579-VZC-BL-MCUP-ZAD-SPR   |
| Required Action(s):      | MCUP-MASTER CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT<br>BL-BUILDING LINE<br>SPR-SITE PLAN REVIEW<br>VZC-VESTING ZONE CHANGE<br>ZAD-ZA DETERMINATION (PER LAMC 12.27)  |
| Project Descriptions(s): | VESTING ZONE CHANGE PER SECTION 12.32.Q FROM C4-2, CR-2, AND P-2 TO [Q]C4-2; BUILDING LINE REMOVAL PER SECTION 12.32.R TO REMOVE A 5-FOOT BUILDING LINE ON WILSHIRE BLVD.; MASTER CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT PER SECTION 12.24.W.1 TO PERMIT THE ON-SITE SALE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES WITHIN FOUR ESTABLISHMENTS; ZONING ADMINISTRATOR'S DETERMINATION PER SECTION 12.24.X.20 TO PERMIT SHARED PARKING BETWEEN THE RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL, AND OFFICE USES; AND SITE PLAN REVIEW PER SECTION 16.05.C.1(B) FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF 506 RESIDENTIAL DWELLING UNITS AND 62,035 SF. OF NON-RESIDENTIAL FLOOR AREA.<br>VESTING TENTATIVE TRACT MAP PER SECTION 17.15 TO CREATE ONE GROUND FLOOR LOT AND 5 AIRSPACE LOTS. |
| Case Number:             | CPC-1986-834-GPC  |
| Required Action(s):      | GPC-GENERAL PLAN/ZONING CONSISTENCY (AB283)   |
| Project Descriptions(s): | GENERAL PLAN/ZONING CONSISTENCY - WILSHIRE, WESTLAKE, SHERMAN OAKS, STUDIO STUDIO, TOLUCA LAKE  |
| Case Number:             | CPC-1964-16310-ZBA  |
| Required Action(s):      | ZBA-ZONE BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT  |
| Project Descriptions(s): | Data Not Available  |
| Case Number:             | ZA-1996-1014-ZAI  |
| Required Action(s):      | ZAI-ZA INTERPRETATIONS  |
| Project Descriptions(s): | REQUEST FOR CHANGE OF USE FROM COMMERCIAL OFFICE TO DENTAL OFFICE WITH 3-STORY SUBTERRANEAN PARKING FOR 661 CARS WITH 7,731 SQ. FT. DENTAL OFFICE IN THE C4-2 AND CR-2 ZONE.  |
| Case Number:             | VTT-74191   |
| Required Action(s):      | Data Not Available  |
| Project Descriptions(s): | VESTING ZONE CHANGE PER SECTION 12.32.Q FROM C4-2, CR-2, AND P-2 TO [Q]C4-2; BUILDING LINE REMOVAL PER SECTION 12.32.R TO REMOVE A 5-FOOT BUILDING LINE ON WILSHIRE BLVD.; MASTER CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT PER SECTION 12.24.W.1 TO PERMIT THE ON-SITE SALE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES WITHIN FOUR ESTABLISHMENTS; ZONING ADMINISTRATOR'S DETERMINATION PER SECTION 12.24.X.20 TO PERMIT SHARED PARKING BETWEEN THE RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL, AND OFFICE USES; AND SITE PLAN REVIEW PER SECTION 16.05.C.1(B) FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF 506 RESIDENTIAL DWELLING UNITS AND 62,035 SF. OF NON-RESIDENTIAL FLOOR AREA.<br>VESTING TENTATIVE TRACT MAP PER SECTION 17.15 TO CREATE ONE GROUND FLOOR LOT AND 5 AIRSPACE LOTS. |
| Case Number:             | ENV-2016-2580-MND   |
| Required Action(s):      | MND-MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION  |
| Project Descriptions(s): | VESTING ZONE CHANGE PER SECTION 12.32.Q FROM C4-2, CR-2, AND P-2 TO [Q]C4-2; BUILDING LINE REMOVAL PER SECTION 12.32.R TO REMOVE A 5-FOOT BUILDING LINE ON WILSHIRE BLVD.; MASTER CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT PER SECTION 12.24.W.1 TO PERMIT THE ON-SITE SALE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES WITHIN FOUR ESTABLISHMENTS; ZONING ADMINISTRATOR'S DETERMINATION PER SECTION 12.24.X.20 TO PERMIT SHARED PARKING BETWEEN THE RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL, AND OFFICE USES; AND SITE PLAN REVIEW PER SECTION 16.05.C.1(B) FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF 506 RESIDENTIAL DWELLING UNITS AND 62,035 SF. OF NON-RESIDENTIAL FLOOR AREA.<br>VESTING TENTATIVE TRACT MAP PER SECTION 17.15 TO CREATE ONE GROUND FLOOR LOT AND 5 AIRSPACE LOTS. |

## DATA NOT AVAILABLE

CPC-9698  
CPC-8364  
CPC-21684  
CPC-21543  
CASE-4853  
ORD-59577  
ORD-165302-SA100EE  
ORD-137726  
ORD-137725  
ORD-137629  
ORD-129944  
ORD-129926

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ORD-114320  
ORD-114092  
ZA-9340  
ZA-20300  
ZA-17611  
ZA-15029  
ZA-13132  
PKG-3336  
PKG-3325  
AFF-35282



Address: 3732 W WILSHIRE BLVD

APN: 5093006019

PIN #: 132B193 66

Tract: P M 896

Block: None

Lot: A

Arb: None

Zoning: C4-2, CR-2, P-2

General Plan: Regional Center Commercial



**Liberty Park (APN: 5093006021)**



# City of Los Angeles Department of City Planning

## 9/21/2017 PARCEL PROFILE REPORT

### PROPERTY ADDRESSES

3720 W WILSHIRE BLVD  
3710 W WILSHIRE BLVD  
3728 W WILSHIRE BLVD

### ZIP CODES

90010

### RECENT ACTIVITY

Adaptive Reuse Incentive Spec. Pln-  
Ord 175038  
CHC-2017-3695-HCM  
ENV-2017-3696-CE

### CASE NUMBERS

CPC-21684  
CPC-2016-2579-VZC-BL-MCUP-ZAD-  
SPR  
CPC-1986-834-GPC  
CPC-1964-16310-ZBA  
ORD-59577  
ORD-165302-SA100EE  
ORD-137629  
ORD-129944  
ZA-1996-1014-ZAI  
VTT-74191  
ENV-2016-2580-MND  
AFF-35282

### Address/Legal Information

|                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| PIN Number                   | 132B193 67                               |
| Lot/Parcel Area (Calculated) | 29,721.6 (sq ft)                         |
| Thomas Brothers Grid         | PAGE 633 - GRID H2<br>PAGE 633 - GRID H3 |
| Assessor Parcel No. (APN)    | 5093006021                               |
| Tract                        | P M 896                                  |
| Map Reference                | BK 7-61                                  |
| Block                        | None                                     |
| Lot                          | C  |
| Arb (Lot Cut Reference)      | None                                     |
| Map Sheet                    | 132B193                                  |

### Jurisdictional Information

|                          |                             |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Community Plan Area      | Wilshire                    |
| Area Planning Commission | Central                     |
| Neighborhood Council     | Wilshire Center - Koreatown |
| Council District         | CD 10 - Herb J. Wesson, Jr. |
| Census Tract #           | 2125.02                     |
| LADBS District Office    | Los Angeles Metro           |

### Planning and Zoning Information

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Special Notes                           | None  |
| Zoning                                  | P-2   |
| Zoning Information (ZI)                 | ZI-2452 Transit Priority Area in the City of Los Angeles<br>ZI-1117 MTA Project<br>ZI-1940 Wilshire Center / Koreatown Redevelopment Project<br>ZI-2374 LOS ANGELES STATE ENTERPRISE ZONE |
| General Plan Land Use                   | Regional Center Commercial  |
| General Plan Footnote(s)                | Yes   |
| Hillside Area (Zoning Code)             | No  |
| Specific Plan Area                      | None  |
| Special Land Use / Zoning               | None  |
| Design Review Board                     | No  |
| Historic Preservation Review            | No  |
| Historic Preservation Overlay Zone      | None  |
| Other Historic Designations             | None  |
| Other Historic Survey Information       | None  |
| Mills Act Contract                      | None  |
| CDO: Community Design Overlay           | None  |
| CPIO: Community Plan Imp. Overlay       | None  |
| Subarea                                 | None  |
| CUGU: Clean Up-Green Up                 | None  |
| NSO: Neighborhood Stabilization Overlay | No  |
| POD: Pedestrian Oriented Districts      | None  |
| SN: Sign District                       | No  |
| Streetscape                             | No  |
| Adaptive Reuse Incentive Area           | Adaptive Reuse Incentive Areas  |
| Ellis Act Property                      | No  |

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(\* ) - APN Area is provided "as is" from the Los Angeles County's Public Works, Flood Control, Benefit Assessment.

|                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Rent Stabilization Ordinance (RSO)   | No  |
| CRA - Community Redevelopment Agency | Wilshire Center / Koreatown Redevelopment Project |
| Central City Parking                 | No  |
| Downtown Parking                     | No  |
| Building Line                        | 5   |
| 500 Ft School Zone                   | No  |
| 500 Ft Park Zone                     | No  |

#### Assessor Information

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Assessor Parcel No. (APN)                       | 5093006021  |
| Ownership (Assessor)                            |   |
| Owner1  | WILSHIRE PARK PLACE NORTH LLC C/O C/O THOMSON REUTERS INC   |
| Address   | 0 PO BOX 847<br>CARLSBAD CA 92018   |
| Ownership (Bureau of Engineering, Land Records) |   |
| Owner   | WILSHIRE PARK PLACE NORTH LLC C/O JAMISON PROPERTIES INC  |
| Address   | 3530 WILSHIRE BLVD STE 1800<br>LOS ANGELES CA 90010   |
| APN Area (Co. Public Works)*                    | 0.682 (ac)  |
| Use Code  | 2700 - Commercial - Parking Lot (Commercial Use Property) - Lots - Patron or Employee - One Story |
| Assessed Land Val.                              | \$856,484   |
| Assessed Improvement Val.                       | \$7,124   |
| Last Owner Change                               | 10/13/2005  |
| Last Sale Amount                                | \$0   |
| Tax Rate Area                                   | 6657  |
| Deed Ref No. (City Clerk)                       | 677960<br>566335<br>439374<br>2468889<br>1632043<br>1611765<br>1526281                            |
| Building 1                                      |   |
| Year Built                                      | 1967  |
| Number of Units                                 | 0   |
| Number of Bedrooms                              | 0   |
| Number of Bathrooms                             | 0   |
| Building Square Footage                         | 29,000.0 (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

|  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| Airport Hazard                           | None            |
| Coastal Zone                             | None            |
| Farmland                                 | Area Not Mapped |
| Urban Agriculture Incentive Zone         | No              |
| 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                      | None            |
| High Wind Velocity Areas                 | No              |

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 (\*) - APN Area is provided "as is" from the Los Angeles County's Public Works, Flood Control, Benefit Assessment.

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)       | 0.8429244                       |
| Nearest Fault (Name)                 | Puente Hills Blind Thrust       |
| Region                               | Los Angeles Blind Thrusts       |
| Fault Type                           | B                               |
| Slip Rate (mm/year)                  | 0.70000000                      |
| Slip Geometry                        | Reverse                         |
| Slip Type                            | Moderately / Poorly Constrained |
| Down Dip Width (km)                  | 19.00000000                     |
| 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    | WILSHIRE CENTER                   |
| Promise Zone                     | None                              |
| Renewal Community                | No                                |
| Revitalization Zone              | Central City                      |
| State Enterprise Zone            | LOS ANGELES STATE ENTERPRISE ZONE |
| Targeted Neighborhood Initiative | None                              |

### Public Safety

#### Police Information

|                    |         |
|--------------------|---------|
| Bureau             | West    |
| Division / Station | Olympic |
| Reporting District | 2033    |

#### Fire Information

|                             |         |
|-----------------------------|---------|
| Bureau                      | Central |
| Batallion                   | 11      |
| District / Fire Station     | 29      |
| 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.

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| Case Number:             | CPC-2016-2579-VZC-BL-MCUP-ZAD-SPR   |
| Required Action(s):      | MCUP-MASTER CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT<br>BL-BUILDING LINE<br>SPR-SITE PLAN REVIEW<br>VZC-VESTING ZONE CHANGE<br>ZAD-ZA DETERMINATION (PER LAMC 12.27)  |
| Project Descriptions(s): | VESTING ZONE CHANGE PER SECTION 12.32.Q FROM C4-2, CR-2, AND P-2 TO [Q]C4-2; BUILDING LINE REMOVAL PER SECTION 12.32.R TO REMOVE A 5-FOOT BUILDING LINE ON WILSHIRE BLVD.; MASTER CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT PER SECTION 12.24.W.1 TO PERMIT THE ON-SITE SALE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES WITHIN FOUR ESTABLISHMENTS; ZONING ADMINISTRATOR'S DETERMINATION PER SECTION 12.24.X.20 TO PERMIT SHARED PARKING BETWEEN THE RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL, AND OFFICE USES; AND SITE PLAN REVIEW PER SECTION 16.05.C.1(B) FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF 506 RESIDENTIAL DWELLING UNITS AND 62,035 SF. OF NON-RESIDENTIAL FLOOR AREA.<br>VESTING TENTATIVE TRACT MAP PER SECTION 17.15 TO CREATE ONE GROUND FLOOR LOT AND 5 AIRSPACE LOTS. |
| Case Number:             | CPC-1986-834-GPC  |
| Required Action(s):      | GPC-GENERAL PLAN/ZONING CONSISTENCY (AB283)   |
| Project Descriptions(s): | GENERAL PLAN/ZONING CONSISTENCY - WILSHIRE, WESTLAKE, SHERMAN OAKS, STUDIO STUDIO, TOLUCA LAKE  |
| Case Number:             | CPC-1964-16310-ZBA  |
| Required Action(s):      | ZBA-ZONE BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT  |
| Project Descriptions(s): | Data Not Available  |
| Case Number:             | ZA-1996-1014-ZAI  |
| Required Action(s):      | ZAI-ZA INTERPRETATIONS  |
| Project Descriptions(s): | REQUEST FOR CHANGE OF USE FROM COMMERCIAL OFFICE TO DENTAL OFFICE WITH 3-STORY SUBTERRANEAN PARKING FOR 661 CARS WITH 7,731 SQ. FT. DENTAL OFFICE IN THE C4-2 AND CR-2 ZONE.  |
| Case Number:             | VTT-74191   |
| Required Action(s):      | Data Not Available  |
| Project Descriptions(s): | VESTING ZONE CHANGE PER SECTION 12.32.Q FROM C4-2, CR-2, AND P-2 TO [Q]C4-2; BUILDING LINE REMOVAL PER SECTION 12.32.R TO REMOVE A 5-FOOT BUILDING LINE ON WILSHIRE BLVD.; MASTER CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT PER SECTION 12.24.W.1 TO PERMIT THE ON-SITE SALE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES WITHIN FOUR ESTABLISHMENTS; ZONING ADMINISTRATOR'S DETERMINATION PER SECTION 12.24.X.20 TO PERMIT SHARED PARKING BETWEEN THE RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL, AND OFFICE USES; AND SITE PLAN REVIEW PER SECTION 16.05.C.1(B) FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF 506 RESIDENTIAL DWELLING UNITS AND 62,035 SF. OF NON-RESIDENTIAL FLOOR AREA.<br>VESTING TENTATIVE TRACT MAP PER SECTION 17.15 TO CREATE ONE GROUND FLOOR LOT AND 5 AIRSPACE LOTS. |
| Case Number:             | ENV-2016-2580-MND   |
| Required Action(s):      | MND-MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION  |
| Project Descriptions(s): | VESTING ZONE CHANGE PER SECTION 12.32.Q FROM C4-2, CR-2, AND P-2 TO [Q]C4-2; BUILDING LINE REMOVAL PER SECTION 12.32.R TO REMOVE A 5-FOOT BUILDING LINE ON WILSHIRE BLVD.; MASTER CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT PER SECTION 12.24.W.1 TO PERMIT THE ON-SITE SALE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES WITHIN FOUR ESTABLISHMENTS; ZONING ADMINISTRATOR'S DETERMINATION PER SECTION 12.24.X.20 TO PERMIT SHARED PARKING BETWEEN THE RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL, AND OFFICE USES; AND SITE PLAN REVIEW PER SECTION 16.05.C.1(B) FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF 506 RESIDENTIAL DWELLING UNITS AND 62,035 SF. OF NON-RESIDENTIAL FLOOR AREA.<br>VESTING TENTATIVE TRACT MAP PER SECTION 17.15 TO CREATE ONE GROUND FLOOR LOT AND 5 AIRSPACE LOTS. |

## DATA NOT AVAILABLE

CPC-21684  
ORD-59577  
ORD-165302-SA100EE  
ORD-137629  
ORD-129944  
AFF-35282



Address: 3720 W WILSHIRE BLVD

APN: 5093006021

PIN #: 132B193 67

Tract: P M 896

Block: None

Lot: C

Arb: None

Zoning: P-2

General Plan: Regional Center Commercial



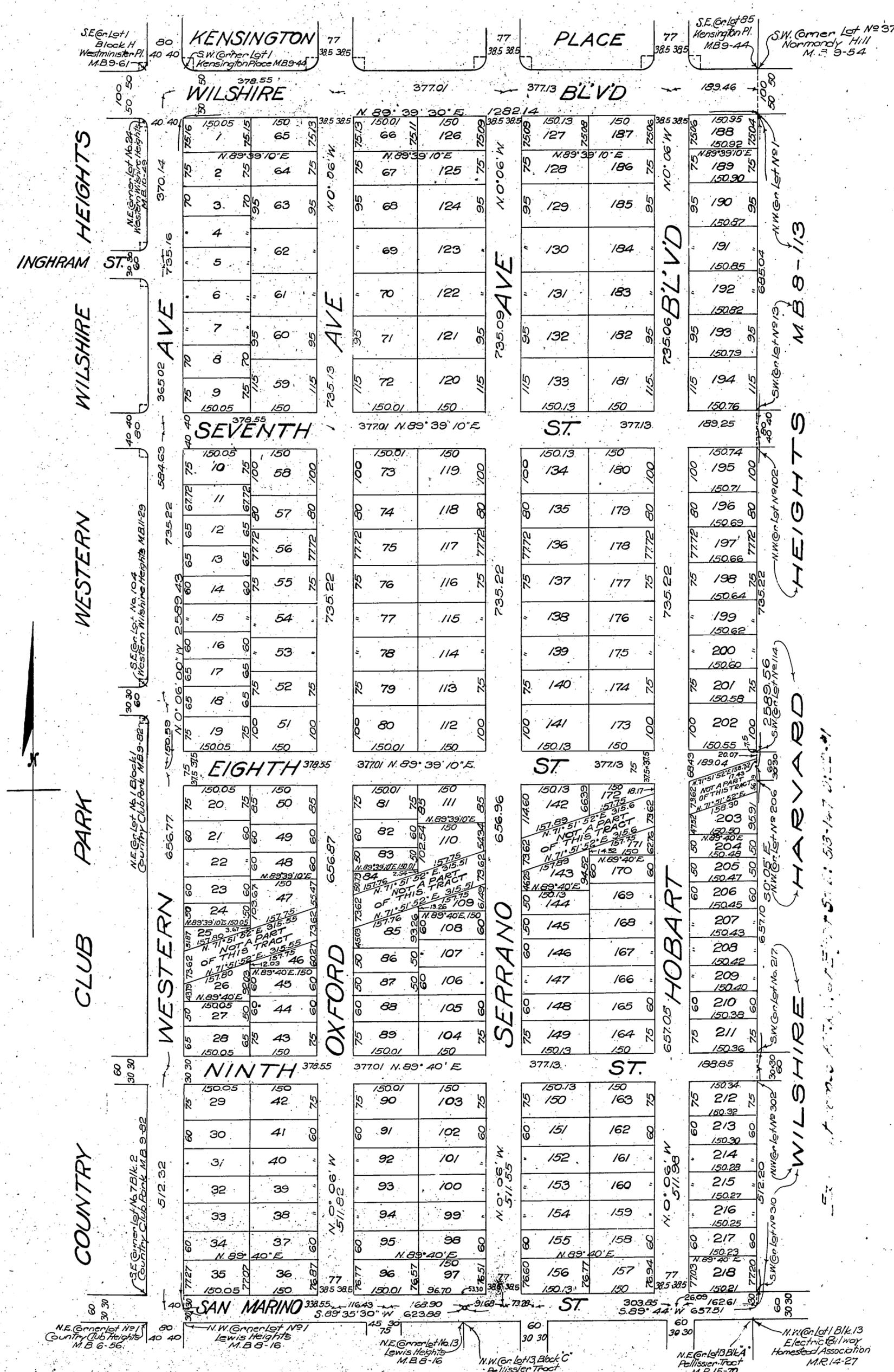


Architectural  
Resources Group

## Exhibit 2. Tract Map

# TRACT No. 2189

In the City and County of Los Angeles, State of California  
 Being a subdivision of a portion of the West One-half of the North West  
 One Quarter of Section 25 T. 1 S. R. 14 W. S. B. B. & M.  
 February 1913 Knapp and Woodard Civil Engineers  
 Scale 1" = 200'



Owners: Title Guarantees and Trust Co.

A-4412

Recorded April 9, 1913

EMPK.M.D.



Architectural  
Resources Group

### **Exhibit 3. Building Permits**

**Exhibit 3a. Original Building Permits**

**Exhibit 3b. Alteration Permits**

## **Original Building Permits**

RM 76

CITY OF LOS ANGELES  
Department of Building and Safety  
**REQUEST FOR CHANGE OF ADDRESS**

DATE May 19, 1966

I hereby request the change of address on:

Building Permit No. 01197 Issued on August 2, 1965  
3710-20-30  
From 3720 Wilshire Boulevard To 3700 Wilshire Boulevard  
ADDRESS ADDRESS

3720 Wilshire Blvd

REASON: Please Check

- Change because of location of physical access.
- Change because of error on part of applicant.
- Change from one street to another street for corner lot.
- Change because of error on part of some city department.

S. C. Davis 697 South Serrano Avenue, Los Angeles, Calif.  
OWNER, CONTRACTOR OR AUTHORIZED AGENT ADDRESS 90005

| CITY USE ONLY   |            |   |   |
|---|------------|---|---|
| LOT <u>66-72</u><br><u>20-126</u>   | BLOCK<br>— | TRACT<br><u>2189</u>  | DISTRICT MAP No.<br><u>7285</u>                       |
| BUREAU OF ENGINEERING APPROVAL<br><u>[Signature]</u><br>DATE <u>5-20-66</u> |            | APPLICATION CHECKED BY<br><u>Sullivan</u> DATE <u>5-21-66</u> | APPROVED<br><u>[Signature]</u><br>DATE <u>9/21/66</u> |

**APPLICATION FOR INSPECTION OF NEW BUILDING AND FOR CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY**

B&S B-1—Rev. 3-64

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPT. OF BUILDING AND SAFETY

**INSTRUCTIONS:** 1. Applicant to Complete Numbered Items Only.  
2. Plot Plan Required on Back of Original.

|   |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|
| 1. LEGAL DESCR. LOT <del>120' x 240'</del> BLK. <del>66 THRU TRACT</del> 120 THRU 126 2189                      |  |  | CENSUS TRACT                             |
| 2. PURPOSE OF BUILDING (13) Office Bldg & PARKING GAR. P. 4   |  |  | DIST. MAP 7285                           |
| 3. JOB ADDRESS 3700 3710-20-30 Wilshire Blvd  |  |  | ZONE C-4-4                               |
| 4. BETWEEN CROSS STREETS Oxford AND Serrano   |  |  | FIRE DIST. 0060 # 1 100/90/17            |
| 5. OWNER'S NAME Beneficial Standard Life Ins Co PHONE 626-6351  |  |  | INSIDE COR. LOT KEY TITL REV. COR.       |
| 6. OWNER'S ADDRESS 756 S. Spring St L.A.  |  |  | LOT SIZE 300 X 645                       |
| 7. ARCHITECT OR DESIGNER Skidmore, Owings & Merrill STATE LICENSE NO. C 1846 PHONE                              |  |  | REAR ALLEY                               |
| 8. ENGINEER Stephen Johnston STATE LICENSE NO. 714 PHONE  |  |  | SIDE ALLEY                               |
| 9. CONTRACTOR <del>DINWIDDIE CONST CO</del> Not Selected STATE LICENSE NO. 9072 PHONE 386-2880                  |  |  | BLDG. LINE 5 WILSHIRE 1/2 SERRANO        |
| 10. SIZE OF NEW BLDG. 120' x 240' STORIES 11 HEIGHT 160 NO. OF EXISTING BUILDINGS ON LOT AND USE 4-comm. & res. |  |  | AFFIDAVITS OVER PRETING 285 JLN ZA 17611 |
| 11. MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION EXT. WALLS CONC. ROOF CONC. FLOOR CONC.  |  |  | DISTRICT OFFICE LA                       |
| 12. JOB ADDRESS 3700 3710-20-30 Wilshire Blvd   |  |  | GRADING                                  |
| 13. VALUATION: TO INCLUDE ALL FIXED EQUIPMENT REQUIRED TO OPERATE AND USE PROPOSED BUILDING. 7,000,000          |  |  | CRIT. SOIL                               |

|   |             |             |                               |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. PURPOSE OF BUILDING OFFICE BLDG. & PARKING GAR. VALUATION APPROVED 7,000,000                                   |             |             | HIGHWAY DED. YES              |
| TYPE I # GROUP 1/F-1 STORIES 11 PLANS CHECKED OK  |             |             | FLOOD                         |
| BLDG. AREA 32,000 sq ft MAX. 3214 TOTAL 575 PLANS APPROVED OK   |             |             | CONS. BELOW                   |
| DWELL. UNITS 2 GUEST ROOMS SPACES PARKING REQ'D 579 PROVIDED 579 APPLICATION APPROVED OK                          |             |             | ZONED                         |
| SPRINKLERS REQ'D YES 7 BASEMENT LEVELS CONT. INSP. ALL CONC. INCL. LAB ON GRD; (2) ALL WELDS; (3) P.I. COL. CONN. |             |             | FILE WITH 98385/65            |
| P.C. No. T-2776 1023 757  |             |             | INSPECTOR Jansen              |
| P.C. 3,456.05   | S.P.C. 1054 | G.P.I. 6402 | I.F. / O.S. / C/O / TYPIST 1g |

|           |       |   |   |      |   |      |          |
|-----------|-------|---|---|------|---|------|----------|
| MAR 16-65 | 13543 | 5 | • | •    | X | 2 CK | 3,456.05 |
| AUG 2-65  | 40542 | 5 | • | 1197 | X | 2 CK | 1,023.75 |
| AUG 2-65  | 40543 | 5 | • | 1197 | X | 1 CK | 6402.00  |

*Inspector requested to withhold approval of entrance ramps until correlated with official street grade by McNeil*

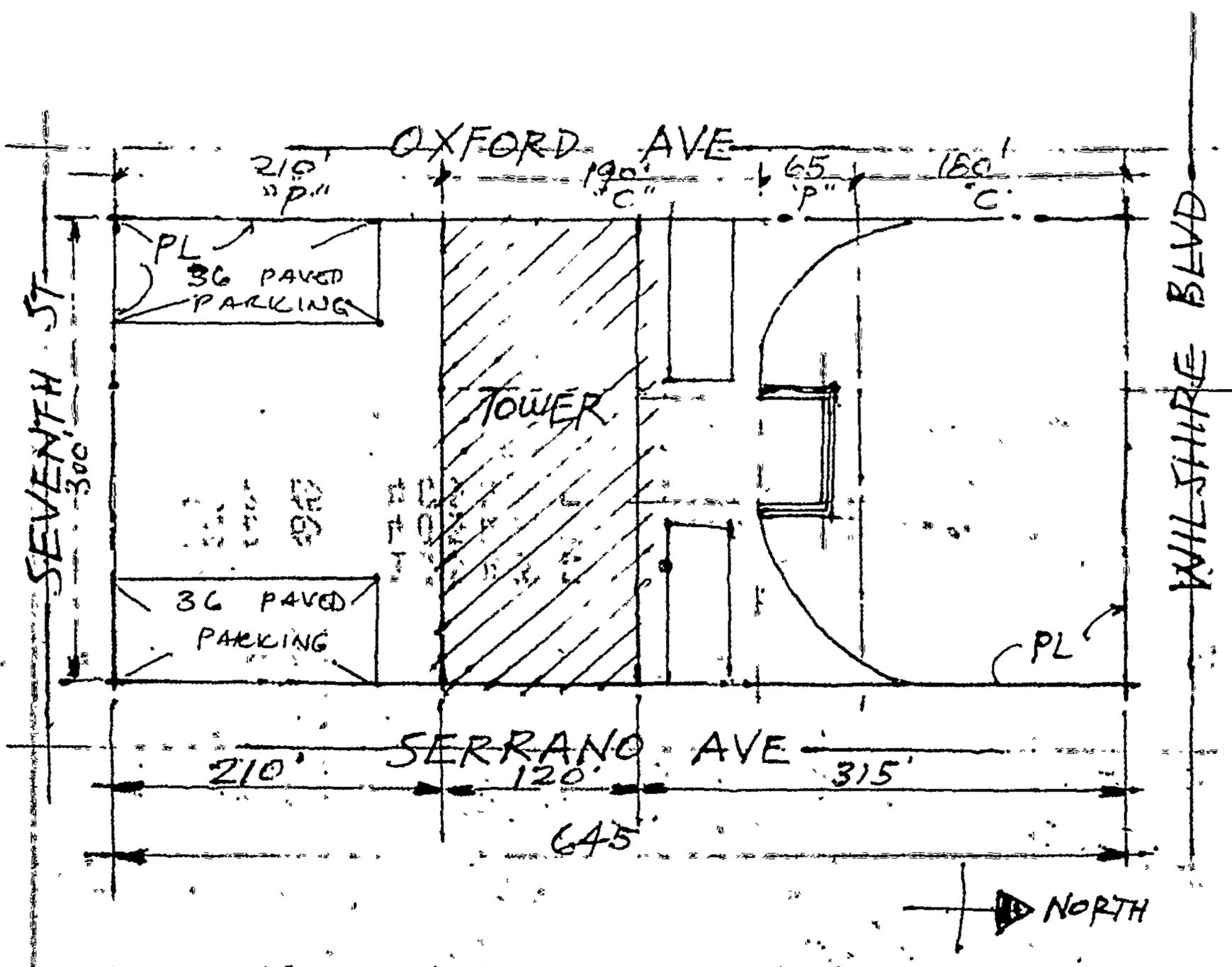
**STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY**

I certify that in doing the work authorized hereby I will not employ any person in violation of the Labor Code of the State of California relating to workmen's compensation insurance

"This permit is an application for inspection, the issuance of which is not an approval or an authorization of the work specified herein. This permit does not authorize or permit, nor shall it be construed as authorizing or permitting the violation or failure to comply with any applicable law. Neither the City of Los Angeles, nor any board, department, officer or employee thereof make any warranty or shall be responsible for the performance or results of any work described herein, or the condition of the property or soil upon which such work is performed." (See Sec. 91.0202 L.A.M.C.)

Signed *Henry H. Swank* BSLI Co (Owner or Agent)

|  |  |   |         |
|--|--|---|---------|
| Bureau of Engineering                        | ADDRESS APPROVED   | RJA   | 3-15-65 |
| Letters to City Eng. Office - E. G. Studley  | SEWERS AVAILABLE   | <i>Letter</i>   | 3-16-65 |
| Rm 708, Sewer Design                         | DRIVEWAY APPROVED  | <i>subject to correlation w/ street grade P. McNeil</i> | 3-25-65 |
| for availability to sewer for 11 story Bldg. | HIGHWAY DEDICATION REQUIRED                                    | <i>Completed</i>  | 7-29-65 |
| Conservation                                 | FLOOD CLEARANCE APPROVED                                       |   |         |
| Plumbing                                     | APPROVED FOR ISSUE   |   |         |
| Planning                                     | PRIVATE SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEM APPROVED                        |   |         |
| Fire   | APPROVED UNDER CASE #  |   |         |
| Traffic                                      | APPROVED (TITLE 19) (L.A.M.C.-5700)                            |   |         |
|  | APPROVED FOR <i>driveway locations change as noted on plan</i> | <i>M. Huber</i>   | 7/30/65 |



PARKING SUMMARY:

|                  |   |           |                 |
|------------------|---|-----------|-----------------|
| BASEMENT GARAGES | = | 507       | spaces          |
| SURFACE PARKING  | = | <u>72</u> | spaces          |
| TOTAL            |   | 579       | spaces provided |

**PLOT PLAN APPROVED**

as required by

.....2A.....CASE No. 17611.....

HUBER E. SMUTZ

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

Date...7-29-65... By *Wallace Pearson*

Address of Building 3700 Wilshire Boulevard



CITY OF LOS ANGELES  
**CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY**

**NOTE: Any change of use or occupancy must be approved by the Department of Building and Safety.**  
This certifies that, so far as ascertained by or made known to the undersigned, the building at the above address complies with the applicable requirements of the Municipal Code, as follows: Ch. 1, as to permitted uses, Ch. 9, Arts. 1, 3, 4, and 5; and with applicable requirements of State Housing Act—for following occupancies:

Issued 10-4-67 Permit No. and Year LA 1197/65 LA 98385/65  
LA 29475/66 LA 33876/66

11 story, type I, 120' X 290' Office Building and Parking Garage. Restaurant on 2nd floor with dining area 323 maximum occupants. 575 parking spaces required, 578 parking spaces provided. G-1 & F-1 Occupancy.

INSET FOR DEVIATIONS AS REQUIRED BY BOARD OF BLDG & SAFETY COMMISSIONERS

Owner Beneficial Standard Life Ins. Co.  
Owner's Address 3700 Wilshire Blvd.  
Los Angeles, California

COPY SENT FPB  
11-16-67 JS

R. BOZICK ha

By \_\_\_\_\_

room - 2nd floor restaurant (Mannings )

use - dining

occupants - 323

## **Alteration Permits**

3

APPLICATION

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPT. OF BUILDING AND SAFETY

TO ADD-ALTER-REPAIR-DEMOLISH AND FOR CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY

FOR INSPECTION 30900500107

INSTRUCTIONS: 1. Applicant to Complete Numbered Items Only.

7285

|  |                              |  |  |  |                   |
|--|------------------------------|--|--|--|-------------------|
| 1. LEGAL DESCR.  | LOT A & B                    | BLOCK  | TRACT PM 896                               | COUNTY REF. NO. BK 7-61  | DIST. MAP 132B193 |
| 2. PRESENT USE OF BUILDING (23) wall   | NEW USE OF BUILDING ( ) same |  |  | ZONE C4-2/CR-2/P-2   |                   |
| 3. JOB ADDRESS 3700 Wilshire Blvd.   | FIRE DIST. T&II              |  |  | COUN. DIST. 4  |                   |
| 4. BETWEEN CROSS STREETS Oxford AND Serano   | LOT TYPE cor/thru            |  |  | LOT SIZE irreg.  |                   |
| 5. OWNER'S NAME Becketl Realty   | CITY LA                      |  |  | PHONE (213) 382-1762   |                   |
| 6. OWNER'S ADDRESS 3700 Wilshire   | CITY LA                      |  |  | PHONE  |                   |
| 7. ENGINEER Brandow & Johnson Assoc.   | BUS. LIC. NO. 1695           |  |  | ACTIVE STATE LIC. NO. 484-8950   |                   |
| 8. ARCHITECT OR DESIGNER   | BUS. LIC. NO.                |  |  | ACTIVE STATE LIC. NO.  |                   |
| 9. ARCHITECT OR ENGINEER'S ADDRESS   | CITY                         |  |  | ZIP  |                   |
| 10. CONTRACTOR Ingram's Concrete Wks   | BUS. LIC. NO. 244029         |  |  | ACTIVE STATE LIC. NO. 213/772-1835                                       |                   |
| 11. SIZE OF EXISTING BLDG. WIDTH 30 LENGTH 30  | STORIES 1                    | HEIGHT 8   | NO. OF EXISTING BUILDINGS ON LOT AND USE 2 |  |                   |
| 12. FRAMING MATERIAL OF EXISTING BLDG. conc. blk.  | EXT. WALLS                   | ROOF   | FLOOR                                      |  |                   |
| 13. JOB ADDRESS 3700 Wilshire blvd.  | STREET GUIDE                 |  |  | AFFIDAVITS CPC 21687 Ord 137629 Pkg 3325 Pkg 3386 35282 CPC 16310 (OVER) |                   |
| 14. VALUATION TO INCLUDE ALL FIXED EQUIPMENT REQUIRED TO OPERATE AND USE PROPOSED BUILDING \$ 10,000   | DIST. OFF. LA                |  |  | P.C. REQ'D No  |                   |
| 15. NEW WORK (Describe) CMU wall along property line.  | GRADING                      |  |  | SEISMIC  |                   |
| NEW USE OF BUILDING Same   | SIZE OF ADDITION N/A         |  |  | STORIES 8-0  |                   |
| TYPE DWELL UNITS   | GROUP OCC.                   | FLOOR AREA   | PLANS CHECKED PASSED FOR FOUND             |  |                   |
| GUEST ROOMS  | PARKING REQ'D                | PARKING PROVIDED   | APPLICATION APPROVED                       |  |                   |
| PC 02-90   | G.P.I. + NP                  | CONT. INSP.  | INSPECTION ACTIVITY                        |  |                   |
| S.P.C.   | P.M.                         |  | CS GEN. MAJ.S. EQ.                         |  |                   |
| B.P. 14-00   | E.I. 1.50                    | Claims for refund of fees paid on permits must be filed: 1. Within one year from date of payment of fee, or 2. Within one year from date of expiration of extension for building or grading permits granted by the Dept. of B. & S. SECTIONS 22.12 & 22.13 LAMC. | CASHIER'S USE ONLY                         |  |                   |
| I.F.   | F.H.                         |  | 12/06/90 04:06:50PM LA06 T-3282 C 05       |  |                   |
| S.D. exempt  | O.S.S. 2 78                  |  | BUILD PLAN CHE 62.90                       |  |                   |
| ISS. OFF. LA   | S.O.S.S.                     | SPRINKLERS REQ'D SPEC.   | BLD PER COMMER 74.00                       |  |                   |
| P.C. NO. CC  | C/O                          | ENERGY DAS   | EI RESIDENTIAL 1.50                        |  |                   |
| Unless a shorter period of time has been established by an official action, plan check approval expires one year after the fee is paid and this permit expires two years after the fee is paid or 180 days after the fee is paid if construction is not commenced. |                              |  | ONE STOP 2.77                              |  |                   |
|  |                              |  | TOTAL 141.17                               |  |                   |
|  |                              |  | CHECK 141.17                               |  |                   |
|  |                              |  | 90LA 67612                                 |  |                   |

DECLARATIONS AND CERTIFICATIONS

LICENSED CONTRACTORS DECLARATION

I hereby affirm that I am licensed under the provisions of Chapter 9 (commencing with Section 7000) of Division 3 of the Business and Professions Code, and my license is in full force and effect. Date 12/6/90 Lic. Class C-B Lic. Number 244029 Contractor Ingram S. Iw. (Signature)

OWNER-BUILDER DECLARATION

I hereby affirm that I am exempt from the Contractor's License Law for the following reason (Sec. 7031.5, Business and Professions Code: Any city or county which requires a permit to construct, alter, improve, demolish, or repair any structure, prior to its issuance, also requires the applicant for such permit to file a signed statement that he is licensed pursuant to the provisions of the Contractor's License Law (Chapter 9 (commencing with Section 7000) of Division 3 of the Business and Professions Code) or that he is exempt therefrom and the basis for the alleged exemption. Any violation of Section 7031.5 by any applicant for a permit subjects the applicant to a civil penalty of not more than five hundred dollars (\$500).) I, as owner of the property, am exclusively contracting with licensed contractors to construct the project (Sec. 7044, Business and Professions Code: The Contractor's License Law does not apply to an owner of property who builds or improves thereon, and who contracts for such projects with a contractor(s) licensed pursuant to the Contractor's License Law.) I am exempt under Sec. B. & P. C. for this reason Date Owner's Signature

WORKERS' COMPENSATION DECLARATION

I hereby affirm that I have a certificate of consent to self-insure, or a certificate of Worker's Compensation Insurance, or a certified copy thereof (Sec. 3800, Lab. C.). Policy No. Insurance Company Certified copy is hereby furnished. Certified copy is filed with the Los Angeles City Dept. of Bldg. & Safety. Date Applicant's Signature

CERTIFICATE OF EXEMPTION FROM WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE

I certify that in the performance of the work for which this permit is issued, I shall not employ any person in any manner so as to become subject to the Workers' Compensation Laws of California. Date 12/6/90 Applicant's Signature

NOTICE TO APPLICANT: If, after making this Certificate of Exemption, you should become subject to the Workers' Compensation provisions of the Labor Code, you must forthwith comply with such provisions or this permit shall be deemed revoked.

CONSTRUCTION LENDING AGENCY

I hereby affirm that there is a construction lending agency for the performance of the work for which this permit is issued (Sec. 3097, Civ. C.). Lender's Name Lender's Address

I certify that I have read this application and state that the above information is correct. I agree to comply with all city and county ordinances and state laws relating to building construction, and hereby authorize representatives of this city to enter upon the above-mentioned property for inspection purposes.

I realize that this permit is an application for inspection, that it does not approve or authorize the work specified herein, that it does not authorize or permit any violation or failure to comply with any applicable law, that neither the city of Los Angeles nor any board, department, officer or employee thereof make any warranty or shall be responsible for the performance or results of any work described herein or the condition of the property or soil upon which such work is performed. (See Sec. 91.0202 LAMC)

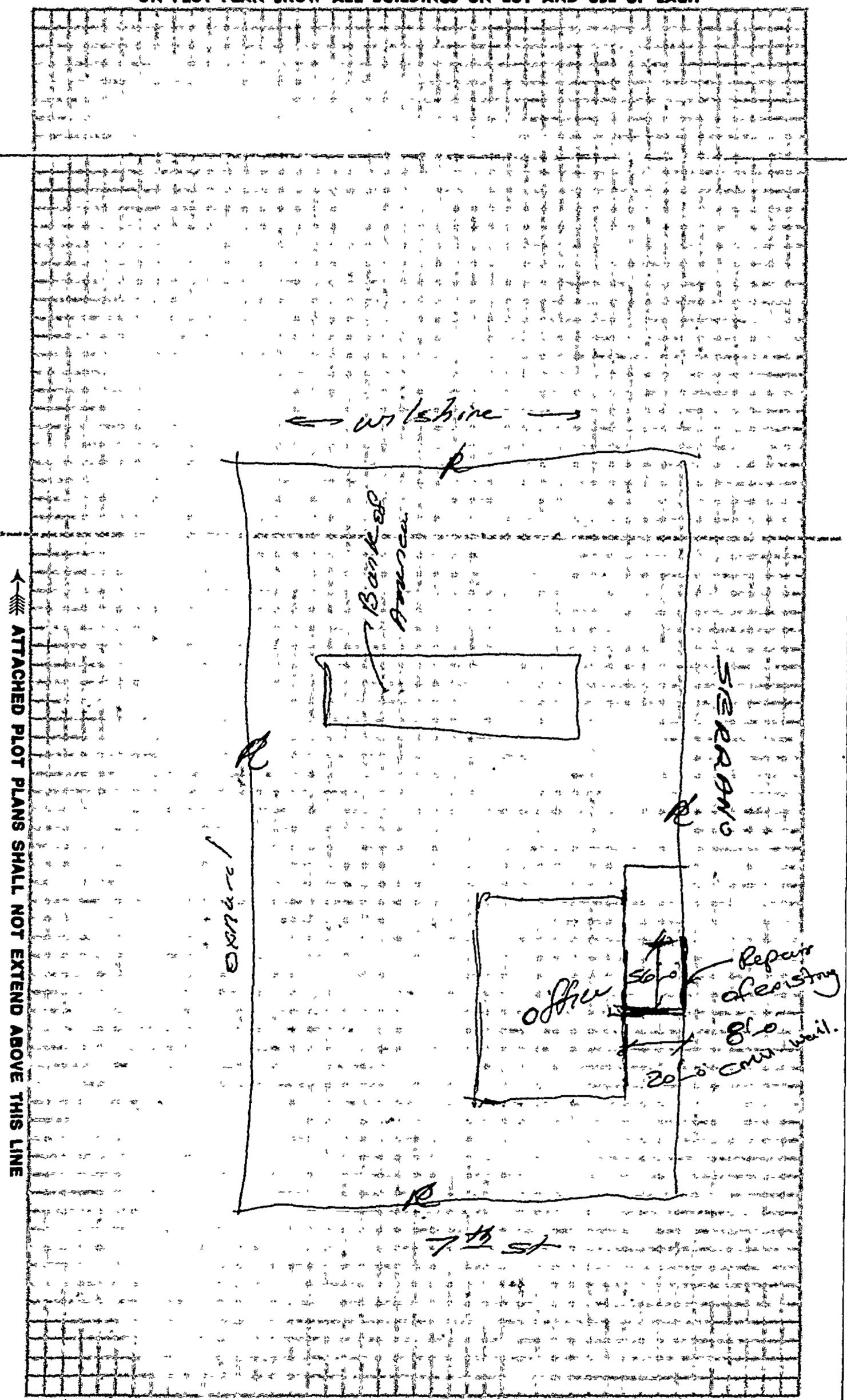
Signed (Owner or agent having property owner's consent) Position Date 12/6/90

3 0 9 0 0 5 0 0 1 0 8

|                       |   |                 |                        |
|-----------------------|---|-----------------|------------------------|
| Bureau of Engineering | ADDRESS APPROVED  |                 | Billard 12/6/90        |
|                       | DRIVEWAY  |                 |                        |
|                       | HIGHWAY   | REQUIRED        |                        |
|                       | DEDICATION  | COMPLETED       |                        |
| SEWERS                |   | FLOOD CLEARANCE |                        |
| RES. NO.              | SEWERS AVAILABLE  |                 |                        |
| CERT. NO.             | NOT AVAILABLE   |                 |                        |
|                       | SFC NOT APPLICABLE  | SFC PAID        |                        |
|                       |   | SFC DUE         |                        |
| Grading               | PRIVATE SEWAGE SYSTEM APPROVED  |                 |                        |
| Comm. Safety          | APPROVED FOR ISSUE <input type="checkbox"/> NO FILE <input type="checkbox"/> FILE CLOSED <input type="checkbox"/> |                 |                        |
| Fire                  | APPROVED (TITLE 19) (L.A.M.C.-S700)   |                 |                        |
| Housing               | HOUSING AUTHORITY APPROVAL  |                 |                        |
| Planning              | APPROVED UNDER CASE # <i>WS 90-5122</i>   |                 | <i>Billard 12/6/90</i> |
| Transportation        | APPROVED FOR  |                 |                        |
| Construction Tax      | RECEIPT NO.   | DWELLING UNITS  |                        |

LEGAL DESCRIPTION  
 Affidavits Cont'd: CPC 215843; ZA 20800

ON PLOT PLAN SHOW ALL BUILDINGS ON LOT AND USE OF EACH



INSTRUCTIONS: 1. Applicant to Complete Numbered Items Only.

|   |                                  |                                 |  |  |                      |
|---|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|--|----------------------|
| 1. LEGAL DESCR.   | LOT<br>A                         | BLOCK                           | TRACT<br>EM 896                          | CITY CLERK REF. NO.<br>MP7-61                                    | DIST. MAP<br>132B193 |
| 2. PRESENT USE OF BUILDING<br>(13) office   | NEW USE OF BUILDING<br>(13) same |                                 |  | ZONE<br>C4-2   |                      |
| 3. JOB ADDRESS<br>3700 Wilshire Blvd  | SUITE/UNIT NO.                   |                                 |  | FIRE DIST.<br>I  | COUN. DIST.<br>10    |
| 4. BETWEEN CROSS STREETS<br>Oxford Av   | AND<br>Serrano Av                |                                 |  | LOT TYPE<br>int thru   |                      |
| 5. OWNER'S NAME ( ) TENANT ( ) BUILDING<br>Fechtel Investment   | PHONE<br>213-383-1762            |                                 |  | LOT SIZE   |                      |
| 6. OWNER'S ADDRESS<br>3700 Wilshire Blvd  | CITY<br>LA                       |                                 |  | ZIP<br>90010   |                      |
| 7. ENGINEER   | BUS. LIC. NO.                    | ACTIVE STATE LIC. NO.           | PHONE                                    | ALLEY  |                      |
| 8. ARCHITECT OR DESIGNER  | BUS. LIC. NO.                    | ACTIVE STATE LIC. NO.           | PHONE                                    | BLDG. LINE   |                      |
| 9. ARCHITECT OR ENGINEER'S ADDRESS  | CITY                             |                                 |  | ZIP  |                      |
| 10. CONTRACTOR<br>Bligh Pacific   | BUS. LIC. NO.<br>101379242       | ACTIVE STATE LIC. NO.<br>339215 | PHONE<br>310-944-2663                    | DOCUMENTS/EASEMENTS<br>ZA 17611<br>pkg 3325<br>3386<br>AFF 35281 |                      |
| 11. SIZE OF EXISTING BLDG.<br>WIDTH, LENGTH   | STORIES                          | HEIGHT                          | NO. OF EXISTING BUILDINGS ON LOT AND USE |  |                      |
| 12. FRAMING MATERIAL OF EXISTING BLDG.  | EXT. WALLS                       | ROOF                            | FLOOR                                    |  |                      |
| 13. JOB ADDRESS<br>3700 Wilshire Blvd   | SUITE/UNIT NO.                   |                                 |  | DIST. OFF.<br>IA   |                      |
| 14. VALUATION TO INCLUDE ALL FIXED EQUIPMENT REQUIRED TO OPERATE AND USE PROPOSED BUILDING                  | \$ 72,000                        |                                 |  | P.C. REQ'D   |                      |
| 15. NEW WORK (Describe)<br>remove existing roof system, replace with new U.I. class A roof system 30,000 sf |                                  |                                 |  | GRADING<br>SEISMIC   |                      |

|                             |                   |                            |  |                       |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|--|-----------------------|
| NEW USE OF BUILDING<br>same | SIZE OF ADDITION  | STORIES                    | HEIGHT                                   | FILE WITH             |
| TYPE<br>N/C                 | GROUP OCC.<br>M/C | MAX. OCC.<br>N/C           | PLANS CHECKED                            | ZONED<br>DI           |
| DWELL UNITS                 | BUILDING AREA     | ZONING AREA                | APPLICATION APPROVED<br>9/20/94          | INSPECTOR             |
| GUEST ROOMS                 | PARKING REQ'D     | PARKING PROVIDED<br>S C HC | INSPECTION ACTIVITY<br>CS GEN MAJ.S. EQ. |                       |
| P.C.                        | G.P.I. + NP       | CONT. INSP.                | SYS YES                                  | B & S 08-B-3 (R 7/90) |
| S.P.C.                      | P.M.              |                            |  |                       |

|             |            |  |
|-------------|------------|--|
| B.P. 46540  | E.I. 15.12 | Claims for refund of fees paid on permits must be filed. 1. Within one year from date of payment of fee, or 2. Within one year from date of expiration of extension for building or grading permits granted by the Dept. of B. & S. SECTIONS 22.12 & 22.13 LAMC. |
| I.F.        | F.H.       |  |
| S.D.        | O.S.S. YES |  |
| ISS. OFF LA | S.O.S.S.   |  |
| P.C. NO.    | C/O        |  |

CASHIER'S USE ONLY  
 10/04/94 09:12:10AM LAD6 T-6106 C 09  
 BLDG PERMIT CO 465.40  
 INVOICE # 0048691 BB  
 EI RESIDENTIAL 15.12  
 ONE STOP 9.61  
 SYS DEV 28.83  
 CITY PLAN SURC 13.96  
 MISCELLANEOUS 5.00  
 TOTAL 537.92  
 CHECK 537.92

NEW AFFIDAVITS  
 PLAN CHECK EXTENDED TO \_\_\_\_\_ PER  
 ADMINISTRATIVE APPROVAL DATED \_\_\_\_\_  
 BY \_\_\_\_\_  
 D.A.D. PLANS CHECKED  
 HOUSING MITIGATION FEE ORDINANCE  
 REQUIRED  EXEMPT  
 ASBESTOS NOTIFICATION  
 Check Box:  Notification letter sent to AQMD or EPA.  
 I declare that notification of asbestos removal is not applicable to addressed project.  
 Signature: M. Kichler Date: 10/4/94

DECLARATIONS AND CERTIFICATIONS  
 LICENSED CONTRACTORS DECLARATION

16. I hereby affirm that I am licensed under the provisions of Chapter 9 (commencing with Section 7000) of Division 3 of the Business and Professions Code, and my license is in full force and effect.  
 Date: 10/4/94 Lic. Class: C39 Lic. Number: 33915 Contractor: M. Kichler (Signature)

OWNER-BUILDER DECLARATION

17. I hereby affirm that I am exempt from the Contractor's License Law for the following reason (Sec. 7031.5, Business and Professions Code: Any city or county which requires a permit to construct, alter, improve, demolish, or repair any structure, prior to its issuance, also requires the applicant for such permit to file a signed statement that he is licensed pursuant to the provisions of the Contractor's License Law (Chapter 9 (commencing with Section 7000) of Division 3 of the Business and Professions Code) or that he is exempt therefrom and the basis for the alleged exemption. Any violation of Section 7031.5 by any applicant for a permit subjects the applicant to a civil penalty of not more than five hundred dollars (\$500).):  
 I, as owner of the property, or my employees with wages as their sole compensation, will do the work, and the structure is not intended or offered for sale (Sec. 7044, Business and Professions Code: The Contractor's License Law does not apply to an owner of property who builds or improves thereon, and who does such work himself or through his own employees, provided that such improvements are not intended or offered for sale. If, however, the building or improvement is sold within one year of completion, the owner-builder will have the burden of proving that he did not build or improve for the purpose of sale.).  
 I, as owner of the property, am exclusively contracting with licensed contractors to construct the project (Sec. 7044, Business and Professions Code: The Contractor's License Law does not apply to an owner of property who builds or improves thereon, and who contracts for such projects with a contractor(s) licensed pursuant to the Contractor's License Law.).  
 I am exempt under Sec. \_\_\_\_\_, B. & P. C. for this reason: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Owner's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

WORKERS' COMPENSATION DECLARATION

18. I hereby affirm that I have a certificate of consent to self-insure, or a certificate of Worker's Compensation Insurance, or a certified copy thereof (Sec. 3800, Lab. C.).  
 Policy No. W44106703 Insurance Company: Cal. Compensation  
 Certified copy is hereby furnished.  
 Certified copy is filed with the Los Angeles City Dept. of Bldg. & Safety  
 Date: 10/4/94 Applicant's Signature: M. Kichler  
 Applicant's Mailing Address: PO Box 3083 Santa Fe Springs CA 90270

CERTIFICATE OF EXEMPTION FROM WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE

19. I certify that in the performance of the work for which this permit is issued, I shall not employ any person in any manner so as to become subject to the Workers' Compensation Laws of California.  
 Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Applicant's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

NOTICE TO APPLICANT: If, after making this Certificate of Exemption, you should become subject to the Workers' Compensation provisions of the Labor Code, you must forthwith comply with such provisions or this permit shall be deemed revoked.

CONSTRUCTION LENDING AGENCY

20. I hereby affirm that there is a construction lending agency for the performance of the work for which this permit is issued (Sec. 3097, Civ. C.).  
 Lender's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Lender's Address: \_\_\_\_\_

21. I certify that I have read this application and state that the above information is correct. I agree to comply with all city and county ordinances and state laws relating to building construction, and hereby authorize representatives of this city to enter upon the above-mentioned property for inspection purposes.

I realize that this permit is an application for inspection, that it does not approve or authorize the work specified herein, that it does not authorize or permit any violation or failure to comply with any applicable law, that neither the city of Los Angeles nor any board, department, officer or employee thereof make any warranty or shall be responsible for the performance or results of any work described herein or the condition of the property or soil upon which such work is performed. (See Sec. 91.02, LAMC.)

Signed: M. Kichler (Owner or agent having property owner's consent) Position: Contractor Date: 10/4/94

48700470177

|                             |   |                    |           |            |
|-----------------------------|---|--------------------|-----------|------------|
| Bureau of Engineering       |   | ADDRESS APPROVED   |           | DM 10-4-94 |
|                             |   | DRIVEWAY           |           |            |
|                             |   | HIGHWAY DEDICATION | REQUIRED  |            |
|                             |   |                    | COMPLETED |            |
|                             |   | FLOOD CLEARANCE    |           |            |
| Public Works Improvement    | Required YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>   | PERMIT             |           | #          |
| SEWERS                      |   | SEWERS AVAILABLE   |           |            |
| RES. NO.                    |   | NOT AVAILABLE      |           |            |
| CERT. NO.                   |   | SFC PAID           |           |            |
|                             | SFC NOT APPLICABLE  | SFC DUE            |           |            |
| Grading                     | PRIVATE SEWAGE SYSTEM APPROVED  |                    |           |            |
| Comm. Safety                | APPROVED FOR ISSUE <input type="checkbox"/> NO FILE <input type="checkbox"/> FILE CLOSED <input type="checkbox"/> |                    |           |            |
| CEQA                        |   |                    |           |            |
| Fire                        | APPROVED (TITLE 19) (L.A.M.C.-S700)   |                    |           |            |
|                             | APPROVED - HYDRANT UNIT, ROOM 920 CHE   |                    |           |            |
| CRA                         | APPROVED PER REDEV. PROJECT   |                    |           |            |
| Transportation              | APPROVED FOR DRIVEWAY LOCATION  |                    |           |            |
|                             | APPROVED FOR ORD. #   |                    |           |            |
| Planning                    | WORK SHEET #  |                    |           |            |
|                             | APPROVED UNDER CASE #   |                    |           |            |
|                             | LANDSCAPE / XERISCAPE   |                    |           |            |
|                             | SIGHT PLAN REVIEW   |                    |           |            |
| Housing                     | HOUSING AUTHORITY AFFIDAVIT NO.   |                    |           |            |
| Construction Tax            | RECEIPT NO.   | DWELLING UNITS     |           |            |
| Cultural Affairs            |   |                    |           |            |
| Rent Stabilization Division |   |                    |           |            |

LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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**ON PLOT PLAN SHOW ALL BUILDINGS ON LOT AND USE OF EACH**

↑  
**ATTACHED PLOT PLANS SHALL NOT EXTEND ABOVE THIS LINE**



13. STRUCTURE INVENTORY

02016 - 10000 - 20217

14. APPLICATION COMMENTS

In the event that any box (i.e. 1-16) is filled to capacity, it is possible that additional information has been captured electronically and could not be printed due to space restrictions. Nevertheless, the information printed exceeds that required by Section 19825 of the Health and Safety Code of the State of California.

15. Building Relocated From:

| 16. CONTRACTOR, ARCHITECT, & ENGINEER NAME | ADDRESS                           | CLASS | LICENSE# | PHONE #    |
|--|-----------------------------------|-------|----------|------------|
| (O) , Owner-Builder                        | 738 S New Hampshire #107, , 90005 |       | 0        | 2133889532 |

PERMIT EXPIRATION

This permit expires two years after the date of the permit issuance. This permit will also expire if no construction work is performed for a continuous period of 180 days (Sec. 98.0602 LAMC). Claims for refund of fees paid must be filed within one year from the date of expiration for permits granted by the Dept. of Building & Safety (Sec. 22.12 & 22.13 LAMC).

17. OWNER-BUILDER DECLARATION

I hereby affirm under penalty of perjury that I am exempt from the Contractors' State License Law for the following reason (Section 7031.5, Business and Professions Code: Any city or county which requires a permit to construct, alter, improve, demolish, or repair any structure, prior to its issuance, also requires the applicant for such permit to file a signed statement that he or she is licensed pursuant to the provisions of the Contractors License Law (Chapter 9 (commencing with Section 7000) of Division 3 of the Business and Professions Code) or that he or she is exempt therefrom and the basis for the alleged exemption. Any violation of Section 7031.5 by any applicant for a permit subjects the applicant to a civil penalty of not more than five hundred dollars (\$500).):

I, as the owner of the property, or my employees with wages as their sole compensation, will do the work, and the structure is not intended or offered for sale (Sec. 7044, Business & Professions Code: The Contractors License Law does not apply to an owner of property who builds or improves thereon, and who does such work himself or herself or through his or her own employees, provided that such improvements are not intended or offered for sale. If, however, the building or improvement is sold within one year from completion, the owner-builder will have the burden of proving that he or she did not build or improve for the purpose of sale).

OR  
 I, as the owner of the property, am exclusively contracting with licensed contractors to construct the project (Sec. 7044, Business & Professions Code: The Contractors License Law does not apply to an owner of property who builds or improves thereon, and who contracts for such projects with a contractor(s) licensed pursuant to the Contractors License Law.)

18. WORKERS' COMPENSATION DECLARATION

I hereby affirm, under penalty of perjury, one of the following declarations:

I have and will maintain a certificate of consent to self insure for workers' compensation, as provided for by Section 3700 of the Labor Code, for the performance of the work for which this permit is issued.

I have and will maintain workers' compensation insurance, as required by Section 3700 of the Labor Code, for the performance of the work for which this permit is issued. My workers' compensation insurance carrier and policy number are:

Carrier: \_\_\_\_\_ Policy Number: \_\_\_\_\_

I certify that in the performance of the work for which this permit is issued, I shall not employ any person in any manner so as to become subject to the workers' compensation laws of California, and agree that if I should become subject to the workers' compensation provisions of Section 3700 of the Labor Code, I shall forthwith comply with those provisions.

WARNING: FAILURE TO SECURE WORKERS' COMPENSATION COVERAGE IS UNLAWFUL, AND SHALL SUBJECT AN EMPLOYER TO CRIMINAL PENALTIES AND CIVIL FINES UP TO ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$100,000), IN ADDITION TO THE COST OF COMPENSATION, DAMAGES AS PROVIDED FOR IN SECTION 3706 OF THE LABOR CODE, INTEREST, AND ATTORNEY'S FEES.

19. ASBESTOS REMOVAL DECLARATION

I certify that notification of asbestos removal is either not applicable or was sent to the AQMD or EPA as per section 19827.5 of the Health and Safety Code.

20. FINAL DECLARATION

I certify that I have read this application INCLUDING THE ABOVE DECLARATIONS and state that the above information INCLUDING THE ABOVE DECLARATIONS is correct. I agree to comply with all city and county ordinances and state laws relating to building construction, and hereby authorize representatives of this city to enter upon the above-mentioned property for inspection purposes. I realize that this permit is an application for inspection and that it does not approve or authorize the work specified herein, and it does not authorize or permit any violation or failure to comply with any applicable law. Furthermore, neither the City of Los Angeles nor any board, department officer, or employee thereof, make any warranty, nor shall be responsible for the performance or results of any work described herein, nor the condition of the property nor the soil upon which such work is performed. I further affirm under penalty of perjury, that the proposed work will not destroy or unreasonably interfere with any access or utility easement belonging to others and located on my property, but in the event such work does destroy or unreasonably interfere with such easement, a substitute easement(s) satisfactory to the holder(s) of the easement will be provided (Sec. 91.0106.4.3.4 LAMC).

By signing below, I certify that:

- (1) I accept all the declarations above namely the Owner-Builder Declaration, Workers' Compensation Declaration, Asbestos Removal Declaration and Final Declaration; and
- (2) This permit is being obtained with the consent of the legal owner of the property.

Print Name: Carlos Campos Sign: Carlos Campos Date: 1/16/17  Owner  Authorized Agent



Architectural  
Resources Group

## **Exhibit 4. Periodicals**

**Exhibit 4a. *Los Angeles Times* Articles**

**Exhibit 4b. *Wilshire Press* Articles**

***Los Angeles Times* Articles**

# Insurance Headquarters Scheduled

The Beneficial Insurance Group announces completion of the design for a new home office building, to be located at 3700 Wilshire Blvd.

This is the first of a complex of structures eventually to comprise the Beneficial Plaza, which will occupy a square block bounded by Wilshire Blvd. on the north, 7th St. on the south, Serrano Ave. on the east, Oxford Ave. on

the west and covering approximately four and one-half acres.

Ground-breaking is scheduled for this Spring, with completion in December, 1966. Cost of the new building is estimated at \$16,750,000 (land, \$4 million; garage, \$2 million; main structure, \$10,750,000).

Architectural design of the building is by Skidmore, Owings & Merrill.

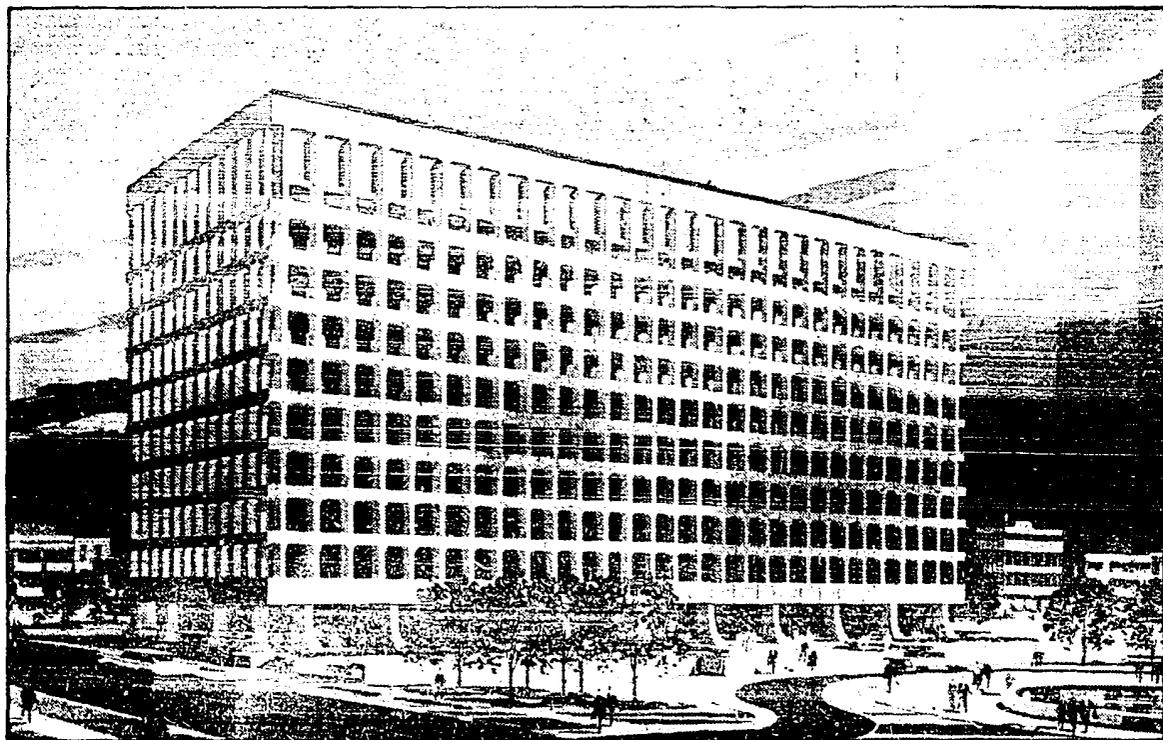
Plans call for an 11-story building containing approximately 300,000 square feet and a triple-level underground garage. The exterior will consist of precast concrete with granite chip facing and will be of an off-white color. It will be set back approximately 300 feet south from Wilshire Blvd. and landscaped to create a plaza.

A 400-seat cafeteria, open to the public, will

occupy one-half of the second floor.

Beneficial Standard Life Insurance Company of Los Angeles acquired the property in 1961 from the Serrano Corp. Present tenants are United California Bank, Lytton Savings and Loan Assn., and Manning's Restaurant.

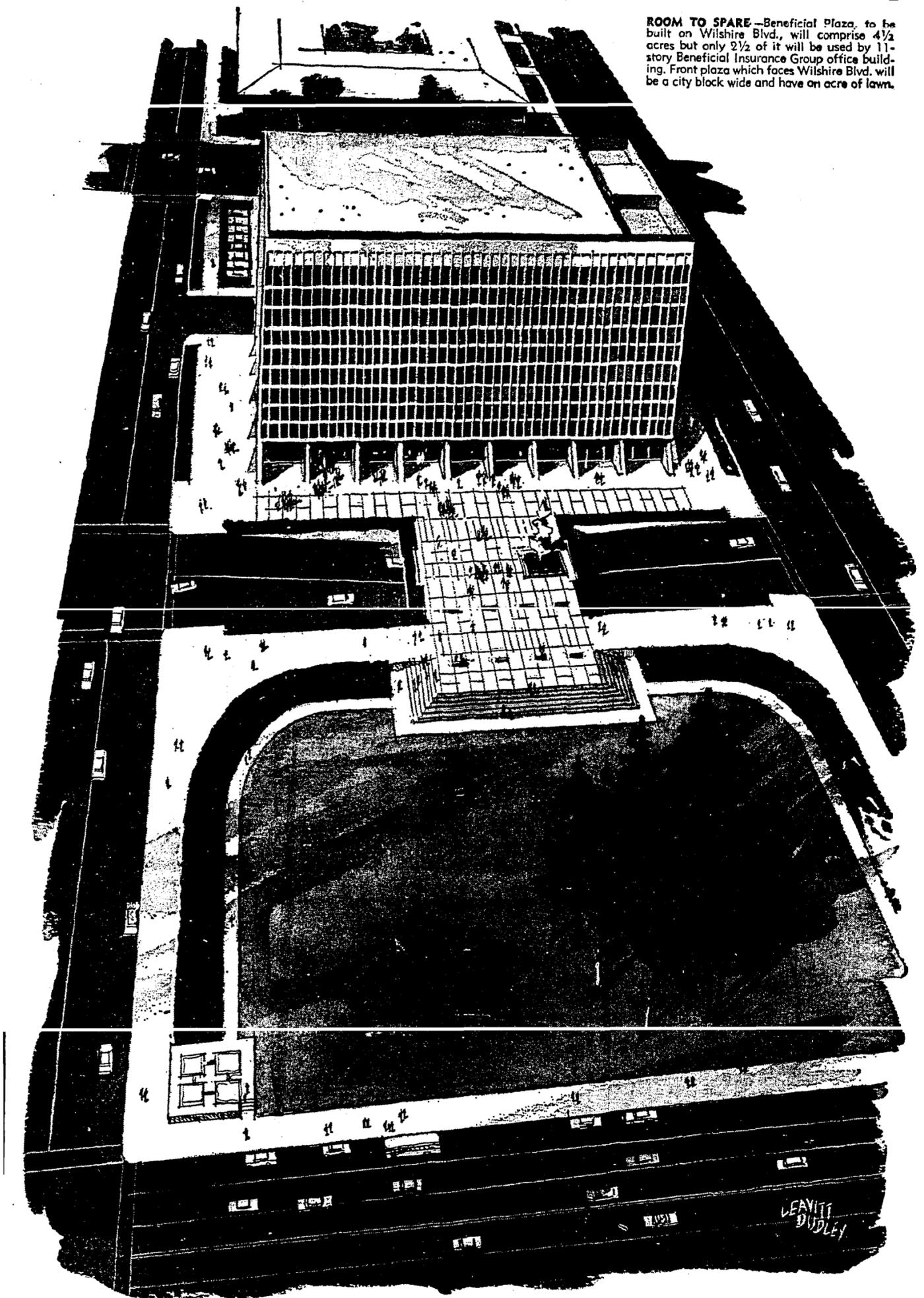
The Beneficial Insurance Group's present headquarters are at 8th and Springs Sts.



**HOME OFFICE**—Ground will be broken in Spring for this home office building for Beneficial Insurance

Group, at 3700 Wilshire Blvd., first of several structures which will comprise Beneficial Plaza.

# Beneficial Plaza to Add Open Spaces to City



**ROOM TO SPARE**—Beneficial Plaza, to be built on Wilshire Blvd., will comprise 4½ acres but only 2½ of it will be used by 11-story Beneficial Insurance Group office building. Front plaza which faces Wilshire Blvd. will be a city block wide and have an acre of lawn.

BY TOM CAMERON, Times Real Estate Editor

They're thinking "big" in the downtown Los Angeles and Wilshire districts these days, with high-rise the byword in both office buildings and apartment structures. We've announced dozens of construction projects involving 20 stories or more in the last couple of years.

One developer is not only going up, but out.

That this is not an impossibility is being demonstrated in the block bounded by Wilshire Blvd., Serrano, 7th St. and Oxford Ave., where Beneficial Insurance Group is erecting an 11-story office building to cost \$16.7 million.

The site comprises 4½ acres, but the building will occupy only 2½ acres, and with its front wall 315 feet from Wilshire Blvd. it will have the deepest setback of any major office building in the United States.

Its name is Beneficial Plaza. Address: 3700 Wilshire Blvd.

Total of \$2.5 million, representing the value of the land which is to be free of construction, is Beneficial's intended contribution to promotion of aesthetic values in the

area, explains Joseph N. Mitchell, chief executive officer of Beneficial Insurance Group, known in the industry as "BIG."

Beneficial Standard Life, parent firm of the group's eight member companies, is the fourth largest insurance company in California and ranks among the top 15 in the United States in accident and health insurance.

The organization recognizes an almost complete lack of landscaping around office buildings, which threatens to make the Wilshire Center business district something of another high-rise asphalt jungle, Mitchell said.

"Dr. James Hester, president of New York University, has said recently that Americans are learning that fleeing to the suburbs and allowing the central city to become run down can result in a social and economic cancer," Mitchell said. "It is much more realistic and useful to strengthen the central city, to enhance it, to beautify it, to make the city a positive influence, the

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# BENEFICIAL PLAZA

Continued from First Page

center of culture as well as of business," Mitchell added.

The front plaza will be a city block wide and will contain an acre of lawn. A grouping of Canary Island pines which have been growing in a Compton nursery will be transplanted to this area.

Bordering the walkways leading to the building's elevated entry area will be a hedge 20 feet wide and comprised of 2,000 Japanese evergreen yews. The yews, also being cultivated locally, were transplanted from Connecticut earlier this year. It is anticipated that from the air the semi-circular hedge will resemble a giant green horseshoe lying along Wilshire Blvd. It may well become another orientation point for incoming airline passengers somewhat like Hollywood Park, Century City and Inglewood Park Cemetery.

## Plaza at Rear

The rear of the building will be landscaped to form a second plaza. Thirty trees will shade the sidewalks on Serrano, 7th and Oxford. Ten-foot-square sunken planters will accommodate annual flowers which will be changed four times a year.

Beneficial Plaza will have 380,000 square feet of floor space, with 30,800 square feet per level—something more than the area of the average office building floor.

Precast shocked concrete is the primary building material used by Dinwiddie Construction Co. under plans by Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, whose architects, Gordon Bunschaft and E. Charles Bassett, designed the structure. The building is 50% completed.

(Shocked concrete, discovered 30 years ago by a Dutch farmer, has a low water-to-cement ratio and is considered 250% stronger than conventional "wet" concrete. The shocking process consists of bolting a mold filled with layers of almost waterless concrete to a shocking table, raising the table 5/16th of an inch and dropping it 250 times a minute. When removed

from the mold and permitted to harden, a precast section can withstand up to 10,000 pounds of stress or pressure per square inch.

More than 750 T-shaped precast concrete units, weighing five tons each, are being used in the facade. Finished in a natural granite aggregate, two sections frame one window. Twenty-eight precast concrete columns, 14 feet high and weighing 14 tons each, are anchored in the lobby and support the building.

## Largest in West

Rockwin Schokbeton Co. of Santa Fe Springs is supplying 5,800 tons of shocked concrete, making Beneficial Plaza the largest structure made of this material in the West.

The structure's core is reinforced by 3,500 tons of steel. There will be more than 50,000 square feet of solar bronze glass for the windows, which will be recessed five feet from the building line. Two types of marble will be used in the interior: verde ancient green in the main lobby and travertine in the elevator lobbies of the upper floors.

The garage will have 300,000 square feet and will accommodate 300 vehicles. Entrance to the garage will be by two ramps, each three lanes wide, from both Serrano and Oxford, leading underneath to the entry platform. A driveway for VIP's will permit unloading of passengers at the front door.

BIG's 600 employees will occupy four floors, and there will be a data processing center on the third floor. Among tenants already set for the new building are a major branch of United California Bank on the ground floor and a Manning's restaurant on the second level. The dining facilities will be open to the public and will seat 400. Completion of the building is set for January.

The building occupies land once exchanged (in 1882) by the Southern Pacific Railroad to Germain Pellissier at \$25 per acre for sheep grazing purposes. A generous portion of it, at least, is to become green again.

# Beneficial Plaza Slates Opening Fete

The \$16.7 million Beneficial Plaza office building will be officially opened Saturday, Veterans Day, Joseph N. Mitchell, president of Beneficial Standard Life Insurance Co., announced.

Tours, exhibits, and special events open to the public are planned, starting with an 11 a.m. ceremony dedicating Liberty Park, 94,500 square feet of land fronting the 11-story building at 3700 Wilshire Blvd.

A color guard will raise the American and California flags, with music accompaniment provided by the Boy Scout Nisei Troop Band of Los Angeles. Lt. Gov. Robert Finch will make a brief address.

A luncheon honoring Congressional Medal of Honor holders will take place in the Liberty Room.

**STAGE NEWS**

**3 Negro Plays Set**

Some prominent Negro playwrights, among them Lofton Mitchell, Owen Dodson and Ted Shine, will be working with the UC Santa Barbara Summer Institute in Repertory-Theater-next month. Plays scheduled are Mitchell's "Land Beyond the River," July 17-20; Ted Shine's "Morning, Noon and Night," July 24 through July 28 (matinee), and "Fly Blackbird," by C. Jackson and James Hatch, July 28 to Aug. 2. All plays will be staged in the UCSB Main Theater. Supported by the National Defense Education Act, the institute encourages Negro students and talented Negroes in the professional theater to enter the teaching profession on the elementary and secondary levels. "Land Beyond the River" deals with the plight of a small community of Negroes who petition for their rights when the floor of an all-black schoolhouse collapses. It is based on a true incident which took place in South Carolina. "Morning, Noon and Night" takes a comic view of the generation gap as it exists between three generations of black Americans in Texas. "Fly Blackbird," Obie Award winner as off-Broadway's best musical in 1962, takes a satirical poke at a society in which protest marches for civil rights assume more importance than actual change.

★ Checkmates, Ltd. share stellar billing with comedians Allen and Rossi, Monday and Tuesday nights at Melodyland on the arena theater's celebrity series. James Hetzer's Intercontinental Circus, complete with elephants, trapeze artists, clowns and chimpanzees, continues Wednesdays through Sundays at the Anaheim playhouse. "Carnival on Ice," featuring skating stars from all the major ice shows, opens July 17 at Melodyland for a four-week run. Leading the roster are Janet Champion (Ice Follies); Arthur Newman (Dick Buttons' World's Fair Ice Extravaganza); Jean Sakovich (Holiday on Ice); John Curtin and Patti Hittle (Ice Capades and Holiday on Ice) and Jack Rose (Holiday on Ice).

★ Two of the country's leading impressionists will play the Greek Theater this summer. George

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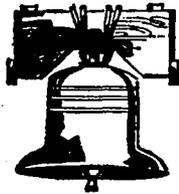


*An old-fashioned*  
**JULY 4<sup>th</sup> CELEBRATION**  
*Liberty Park at Beneficial Plaza*

3700 WILSHIRE BLVD. (ONE BLOCK EAST OF WESTERN)

Patriotic ceremonies and gala picnic will celebrate the opening of Liberty Park—a monument to our national heritage—soon to be an outdoor museum of patriotic objects heralding great moments in American history.

**OFFICIAL CEREMONIES START AT 11:30 A.M.**



**LIBERTY BELL**

Unveiling of an exact replica of the original in Philadelphia. Cast by the same London foundry and in the same molds as the original in 1752. The first of the objects of Americana to be placed in Liberty Park.



**SPACE CAPSULE**

See the Mercury space ship which took our early astronauts into outer space. A replica—on display through the courtesy of McDonnell-Douglas Aircraft Corporation and the U.S. Treasury Department.

- ★ Joint Armed Forces Color Guard ★ Award winning Los Angeles Police Junior Band
- ★ Vietnam War Heroes Honored ★ Government and Civic Dignitaries ★ Religious Leaders
- ★ Bea Benaderet, star of "Petticoat Junction" ★ Mrs. California of 1968
- ★ Presentation by Willard C. Ridley, Executive Director of U.S. Treasury Department

**BRING-YOUR-OWN-BASKET PICNIC FESTIVITIES**

Old-fashioned Fourth of July fun and games starting at 12:30. Bring a picnic lunch. Entertainment-shows for the kiddies. Exciting games. Boy Scout demonstrations. Come and have a great time.

**WE ARE PLEASED TO HAVE PARTICIPATED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF BENEFICIAL PLAZA AND SALUTE THIS HISTORICAL JULY 4th EVENT**

**GENERAL CONTRACTOR** Dinwiddie Construction Co. Los Angeles, California

**ACOUSTIC** The Harold E. Shugart Co., Inc. Glendale, California

**ELEVATORS** Houghton Elevator Co. Los Angeles, California

**FLOOR COVERING** Lawrence W. Rosine Co. Los Angeles, California

**ELECTRICAL, COFFERED CEILINGS** Fischbach & Moore Los Angeles, California

**HEATING, AIR CONDITIONING** Kilpatrick & Co. Alhambra, California

**GRANITE AND MARBLE** George W. Reed Construction, Inc. San Francisco, California

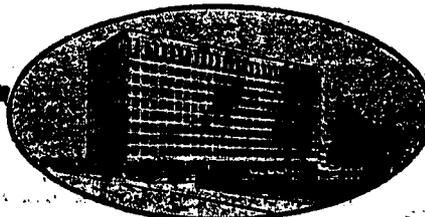
**INTERIOR DESIGN** KS Wilshire Inc. Los Angeles, California

**PRECAST CONCRETE** Rockwin Prestressed Concrete Corporation Santa Fe Springs, California

**REINFORCING STEEL** Southwest Steel Rolling Mills Los Angeles, California

**STEELFORM WORK** Steelform Contracting Company Los Angeles, California

**PARTITIONS** Vaughan Interior Walls, Inc. Los Angeles, California

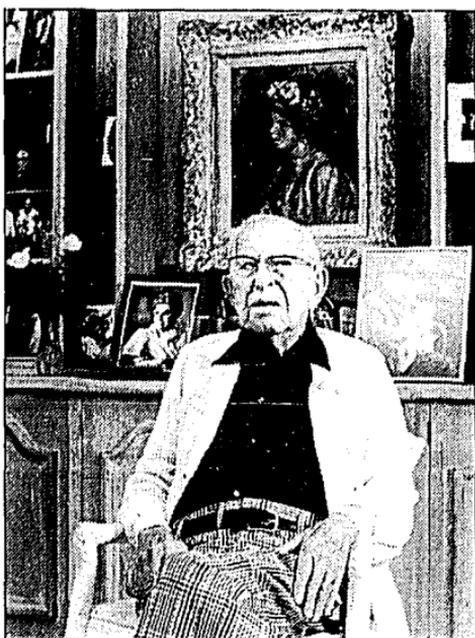




## Beneficial Standard Corporation

"I've had great adventures in my life. I was very ambitious—lucky for all concerned that I was."

—Edward D. Mitchell,  
chairman,  
Beneficial Standard Corp.



### End of a Venture

# The Mitchells Bowing Out at Beneficial

By NANCY RIVERA, *Time Staff Writer*

At Beneficial Standard's Wilshire Boulevard headquarters, the signs of liquidation are increasingly common.

Packing boxes sit in hallways, and many employees are wearing the C-shaped lapel pins distributed by CalFed Inc., which recently bought the heart of the business, Beneficial Standard Life Insurance Co. and related subsidiaries.

The parent company, Beneficial Standard Corp., is in the process of selling or liquidating all that remains. By May 21, 1985, Beneficial Standard Corp. will cease to exist, although many of its children will survive separately under new ownership.

Its demise marks the end of one of the last great ventures of Edward D. Mitchell, the 94-year-old entrepreneur and philanthropist who founded Beneficial in 1940 with two other Los Angeles businessmen, Oscar S. Pattiz and Joy C. Earl. Both are now dead.

#### Changing Marketplace

And while Beneficial Standard Corp. is just one of dozens of enterprises Mitchell has touched, "it breaks my heart" to see it go, said Mitchell, who is still chairman and until recently visited the company's offices every day.

Company President Joseph N. Mitchell, who joined his father's company in 1946, said the breakup of the company and the liquidation of the parent were forced by the changing marketplace.

"The financial services industry is going through a real revolution" toward the financial supermarket that combines the services of such formerly separate institutions as a savings and loan association, a stock brokerage and an insurance company, Mitchell said.

"We didn't have that large umbrella; we were just one part," he said. To compete in the new world of financial services, "either you enlarge your umbrella or you join with someone else, and that's what we opted to do."

In early February, Beneficial Standard said it had reached an agreement to sell its life insurance subsidiaries—which constituted \$456 million of the firm's \$700 million in assets—to CalFed Inc., parent of Los Angeles-based California Federal Savings & Loan Assn. That transaction was completed June 4.

Then, in March, Beneficial's directors announced a plan to liquidate the parent firm and sell or distribute the remaining assets other than the life



"Either you enlarge your umbrella or you join with someone else, and that's what we opted to do."

—Joseph N. Mitchell,  
president, Beneficial Standard Corp.

insurance subsidiaries. Shareholders approved the liquidation in May.

The first liquidation payments of 10 cents per share on the company's 5,803,744 common shares will be made Sept. 14 and another "large" cash payment will be made between December, 1984, and May, 1985. Mitchell and his family own about 30% of Beneficial Standard's stock.

Of the remaining assets, Transit Casualty Co., a property casualty firm, has been put up for sale. Beneficial's real estate—including its 10-story headquarters building at 3700 Wilshire Blvd. and several shopping centers and industrial parks—will be placed in a limited partnership to be traded on a national securities exchange and the shares will be distributed to Beneficial shareholders.

An \$18-million, two-year note received from CalFed will be placed in an entity that will distribute the funds to shareholders when the note matures.

#### 'The Stock Went Way Up'

The liquidation announcement created some confusion because many customers of Beneficial and Transit Casualty thought that their insurance companies were going out of business, Joseph Mitchell said. The companies remain, only the owners are changing, he said.

"I think it's a forward move. . . . I think everyone will benefit from this," he said. Beneficial Standard Life Insurance customers "are going to get the financial resources of a \$14-billion company" in CalFed.

The stockholders "were delighted. The stock went way up," Mitchell said.

Please see MITCHELLS, Page 6

# MITCHELLS: Bowing Out at Beneficial

Edward Mitchell, too, will remain busy.

## Continued from Page 1

The passing of Beneficial Standard Corp. is just one more business transaction in the varied life of Edward Mitchell, who arrived from Poland with his family in 1891 at the age of 2.

When he was 5 or 6 years old, Mitchell recalls, he worked the streets of New York selling shoe-strings, candy and buttons, and even persuaded financier J. P. Morgan to pay \$10 for a newspaper. Mitchell bypassed a formal education to travel with circuses and carnivals, sing in a chorus backing up actress Lillian Russell, and peddle "knickknacks" to farmers who wanted to save a trip to New York City.

At 18, Mitchell moved to Winnipeg, Canada, and made a fortune selling real estate to European immigrants. "Then World War I broke out, and I went broke" because the Canadian government placed a moratorium on real estate loan payments during the war, he said.

## Moved to Los Angeles

After the war, Mitchell made a second fortune in the real estate, grain and jewelry businesses. In 1929, Mitchell retired with his wife and four children to Europe "to live the good life," daughter Elaine Atlas said.

The stock market crash and the Depression took nearly all of Mitchell's money. So, in 1931, the family moved to Los Angeles for a fresh start.

Finding that used cars were a big seller in Los Angeles used cars, Mitchell borrowed money to sell and finance automobiles.

From that, Mitchell built a chain of finance companies. One of the

things he sold was fire and theft insurance on cars, and he quickly recognized the potential for growth and profits.

"The first thing I knew we had thousands of policies and we'd never pay any money out," he said. "I thought, 'This is a hell of a business.'

"I knew nothing about insurance. I'd never read a policy in my life," Mitchell said, but he was able to persuade his associates to start Beneficial Casualty Insurance Co. in 1940.

## Disability Policies

The company began selling disability income policies for \$1 a month to low- and middle-income people, who were then generally ignored by insurance companies. The firm pioneered mass insurance marketing by mail and even advertised on the radio, Mitchell said.

Beneficial introduced hospitalization and polio insurance soon after but didn't begin offering life insurance until 1944. The company sold its stock to the public in 1955 and made the New York Stock Exchange in 1967.

At the height of its agent system, Beneficial had offices in 15 states and was represented in 25 other states through general agents who worked on commission. But the agent force became too expensive to maintain and was scaled back. Today Beneficial Standard's insurance is sold in 48 states and Transit Casualty in all 50 states, primarily through brokers or general agents.

For Joseph Mitchell, 61, the liquidation of Beneficial Standard Corp. represents a chance for "a little change of pace."

"I started in the mail room, I believe, and then went through all

the departments of the company," he said. "I've been in the insurance business long enough."

Joseph Mitchell will move to Beneficial's real estate operation, which hasn't been named yet, when the liquidation is complete.

"He's reading 18 books, all at the same time," Atlas said. And he plays a mean game of bridge with comedian George Burns at the Hillcrest Country Club.

"I've had great adventures in my life," Mitchell said. "I was very ambitious—lucky for all concerned that I was."

***Wilshire Press Articles***

# *Beneficial Standard* **CORPORATION**

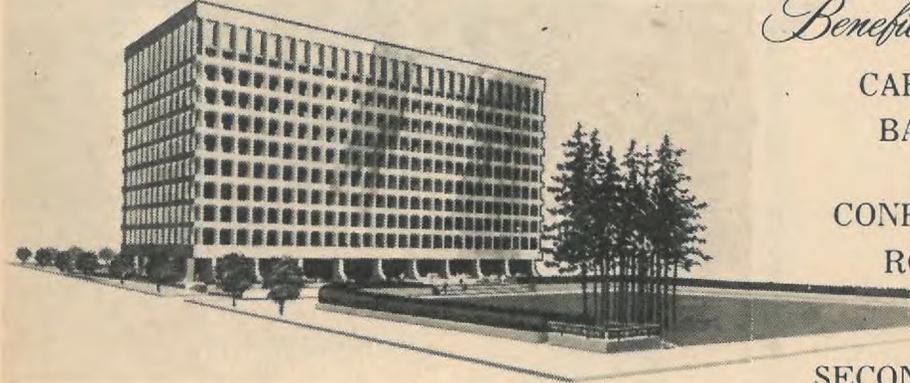
*One of America's fastest growing  
financial services corporations,  
parent of:*

- Beneficial Standard Life Insurance Company
- Beneficial Computer Services, Inc.
- Beneficial Equities, Inc.
- Beneficial National Life Insurance Company
- Beneficial Tax Services, Inc.
- Beneficial Standard Properties, Inc.
- BIG Service Corporation
- British Pacific Life Insurance Company
- California Investors
- Direct Marketing Corporation of America
- Fidelity Interstate Life Insurance Company
- National Investment Management Company
- Selective Insurance Company
- Transit Casualty Company



EXECUTIVE OFFICES:  
BENEFICIAL PLAZA  
3700 Wilshire Boulevard  
Los Angeles, California 90005

Beneficial Plaza advertisement, *Wilshire Press*, April 16, 1970 (courtesy Marcello Vavala).



*Beneficial Plaza*  
CAFETERIA  
BANQUET  
AND  
CONFERENCE  
ROOMS

SECOND FLOOR

3700 WILSHIRE BLVD.  
PHONE:  
380-9233

Contemporary elegance is the decor of the cafeteria and conference dining rooms. Convenient underground and street level parking is available. Try the Liberty Room.

**Luncheon and Cocktails Daily,  
Monday-Friday 11:30 A.M. to 7:00 P.M.**

Beneficial Plaza advertisement, *Wilshire Press*, April 16, 1970 (courtesy Marcello Vavala).



Architectural  
Resources Group

## **Exhibit 5. Historic Photos**



Bird's-eye view of Beneficial Plaza (bottom right), ca. 1968 (courtesy Los Angeles Public Library).



Bird's-eye view of Beneficial Plaza (bottom center), 1968 ("Dick" Whittington Studio. Courtesy of University of Southern California, on behalf of the USC Special Collections).



Beneficial Plaza with Titan Rocket, view south, ca. 1970 (courtesy www.alamy.com).



Beneficial Plaza with Titan Rocket, view southwest, ca. 1970 (courtesy www.alamy.com).



Architectural  
Resources Group



Beneficial Plaza and Liberty Park, view south, 1978 (Photo by Anne Laskey. Courtesy Los Angeles Public Library).



Beneficial Plaza and Liberty Park, view southeast, 1978 (Photo by Anne Laskey. Courtesy Los Angeles Public Library).



Architectural  
Resources Group



Detail of first floor exterior corridor, ca. 1968 (from 1970 film *Zabriskie Point*).



First floor lobby, view south, ca. 1968 (from 1970 film *Zabriskie Point*).



Architectural  
Resources Group

**Exhibit 6. City Plan Case No. 21684, Department of City Planning, City of Los Angeles**

DEPARTMENT OF CITY PLANNING  
Room 561-I, City Hall  
200 North Spring Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012  
624-5211 Ext. 3505

CITY OF LOS ANGELES  
DEPARTMENT OF CITY PLANNING

RECOMMENDATION OF COMMISSION HEARING EXAMINER

CITY PLAN CASE NO. 21684

Decision Date: August 22, 1968 (PM)  
50-Days Expiration Date: None  
Council District No. 4  
District: Wilshire

To: City Planning Commission

From: Commission Hearing Examiner Section

Requested by: Commission's Own Initiative

Subject: ZONE CHANGE REQUEST

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| EXAMINER'S COMMENTS . . . . .                          | p. 5     |
| DESCRIPTION OF EXHIBITS . . . . .                      | p. 5     |
| DESCRIPTION OF PHOTOS . . . . .                        | Appendix |

710100061

REQUEST AND RECOMMENDATION

PROPERTY INVOLVED: Approximately 1.1 acre located on the south side of Wilshire Boulevard between Oxford Avenue and Serrano Avenue to a depth of approximately 180 feet

EXISTING ZONE: C4-4

INITIATED ZONE: P-4

EXAMINER'S RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission

Recommend approval of the initiated change of zone to P-4.

Recommend adoption of the rezoning ordinance.

Adopt the following findings:

1. Beneficial Plaza, bounded by Wilshire Boulevard, Serrano Avenue, 7th Street and Oxford Avenue in the Wilshire-Ambassador District, presently comprises a 13-story office building in mid-block, together with an underground parking structure, an attractively designed plaza designated "Liberty Mall" adjoining Wilshire Boulevard and parking facilities in the southerly section of the block adjacent to 7th Street. Most of the block is zoned C4-4, but parking zoning is concentrated within the southerly 1.1 acres.
2. Under City Plan Case No. 21543, the Commission recommended the CR reclassification of the existing P Zone within the southerly 1.1 acre of the block in order to permit construction of additional needed office facilities.
3. Although the subject C4-4 zoned Wilshire Boulevard frontage is not utilized for commercial purposes, but developed with the aforementioned attractively landscaped plaza, the interests of good zoning practice and relevant considerations of public necessity, convenience and general welfare would best be served by retaining this open space asset to the community and preclude further intensification of land use in this block.



Edward J. Orth  
Commission Hearing Examiner

07101000062



ZONING AND LAND USE, PREVIOUS CASESZoning, Land Use and Previous Cases:

Approximately 1.1 acres in size, the initiative area is presently zoned C4-4 and represents slightly less than the northerly one third of the block bounded by Wilshire Boulevard, Serrano Avenue, 7th Street and Oxford Avenue, which is known as Beneficial Plaza. This unique block-wide business development, illustrated by the aerial photograph labeled Exhibit A-1, comprises the 1.6 acre Liberty Mall (initiative area) along the Wilshire Boulevard frontage (including underground parking structure entrance and exit ramps in the P-4 Zone), an 11-story office building extending southerly to within 215 feet of 7th Street, and a street-level landscaped parking area fronting 7th Street. Beneficial Plaza, as presently constituted, is a contemporary example of prime urban design. For Wilshire Boulevard, it is a pioneering achievement and reflects the type of front yard open space trend initiated and still retained by the Ambassador Hotel development and hopefully to be continued, with variations, by the future Ahmanson Office Building complex to be erected northerly of Wilshire Boulevard directly opposite Beneficial Plaza. In recommending a change of zone from P-4 to CR-4 within the southerly approximate one-third of the Beneficial Plaza block (City Plan Case No. 21543), the Commission voiced concern that a denial of limited expansion of the existing office complex could conceivably pave the way for utilization of the existing, but presently undeveloped (except for a mall), commercially zoned frontage on Wilshire Boulevard for intensive business purposes, thereby eliminating the attractive plaza area, which is such a visual asset to this entire business neighborhood. It was concluded that the recommended CR and P Zones would provide for a commercial category limited both as to intensity of development and height of structures and a landscaped buffer along the 7th Street frontage will further serve to assure the compatibility of the proposed development with the expanding residential uses to the south. The attractive plaza area should be permanently retained and in order to preclude its development with a now permitted, high-rise commercial structure, the instant zone change was initiated May 23, 1968.

REPORTS RECEIVED

The Advance Planning Division states that the subject property is located in the Wilshire Community Plan study area for which no land use studies have been finalized.

It would be desirable to retain the open space, fronting on Wilshire Boulevard which this zone change will permit.

The Department of Traffic states that under present conditions, the proposed change is acceptable to this Department. It also states that it would appear desirable to restrict the area involved by the prohibition of direct vehicular access on Wilshire Boulevard and on Oxford and Serrano Avenues within 100 feet of Wilshire Boulevard.

The Department of Fire suggests that hydrants are available.

The Bureau of Street Lighting indicates that additional street lighting facilities not be required.

The Los Angeles County Health Department will have no objection to the approval of the subject City Plan Case provided that sanitary sewers are used as the method of sewage disposal and that temporary private sewage disposal systems not be approved.

#### SUMMARY OF PUBLIC HEARING AND COMMUNICATIONS

##### Public Hearing:

The public hearing was conducted July 29, 1968 in the Downtown Los Angeles City Hall. Mr. Lawrence Mayer, Real Estate Consultant for Beneficial Standard Life Insurance Company, expressed the Company's concurrence with the initiative. Mr. Ronald P. Denitz, Attorney for the Tishman Realty and Construction Company, attended the hearing as an interested party. No further testimony was obtained and no opposition is apparent at this time.

##### Proponent's Points:

On May 23, 1968, the following resolution was adopted by the Commission:

WHEREAS, Section 12.32-B of the Comprehensive Zoning Plan provides that the City Planning Commission may initiate zone change proceedings; and

WHEREAS, the City Planning Commission, on May 23, 1968, recommended a change from the P-4 Zone to the CR-4 Zone on a portion of the block bounded by Wilshire Boulevard, Serrano Avenue, 7th Street and Oxford Avenue; and

WHEREAS, the major portion of said block is already classified in the C4-4 Zone, a high intensity, high-rise commercial zone; and

WHEREAS, although classified in the C4-4 Zone, the Wilshire Boulevard frontage is not being utilized for commercial purposes but is developed with an attractive landscaped plaza; and

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WHEREAS it would appear to be in the best interests of good zoning practice and the relevant considerations of public necessity, convenience and general welfare to retain this attractive asset to the community and preclude further intensification of land use in this block;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, etc.

Beneficial Standard Life Insurance Company has no objections to the initiative rezoning.

#### EXAMINER'S COMMENTS

The Beneficial Standard Life Insurance Company should be publicly commended and congratulated for their development incorporating the distinctive 1.4 acre "Liberty Mall" in the heart of the Ambassador-Wilshire Business District.

The only gnawing dissatisfaction felt by the Examiner is the Company's inability to increase the height of the principal 13-story office building to accommodate additional office space above, rather than providing same within the southerly one-third of the block, as has been approved by the recent zone change, or as previously proposed in 1958, erecting a high-rise building within the mall itself. The overall project would have gained more emphasis and forcefulness if the Central Office Tower had been similar to the scale and height of, for instance, Union Bank Square in the Bunker Hill Redevelopment area or the California Federal Savings Building on the Miracle Mile.

#### DESCRIPTION OF EXHIBITS

- A-1 Color air view of Beneficial Plaza and the Liberty Mall, adjacent to Wilshire Boulevard.
- A-2 Black and white air view of Wilshire-Ambassador District.

#### DESCRIPTION OF PHOTOS

The Examiner's photo Exhibit E-1 is contained in the Appendix.

EJO:ds

8-12-68  
(No Transcript)

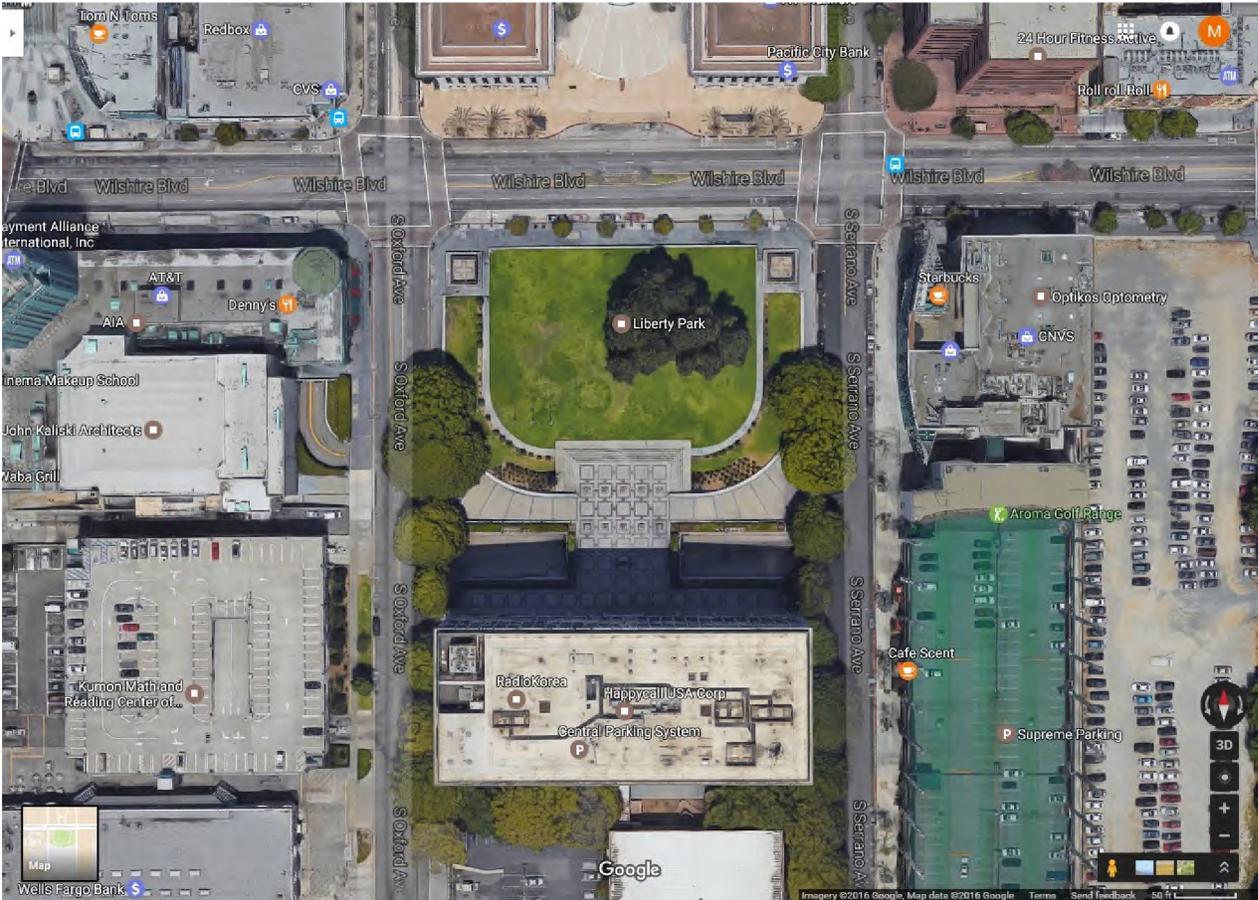


Architectural  
Resources Group

## **Exhibit 7. Aerial Photo (Courtesy Google Earth)**



Architectural  
Resources Group



Aerial photograph of Beneficial Plaza and Liberty Park, 2016 (courtesy Google Earth).



Architectural  
Resources Group

## **Exhibit 8. Existing Conditions Photos (ARG, 2017)**



Architectural  
Resources Group



Primary (north) façade and setting, view southeast (ARG, 2017).



North façade and front landscaping (Liberty Park), view southwest (ARG, 2017).



Architectural  
Resources Group



South façade and setting, view northeast (ARG, 2017).



Primary central entrance at the north façade, view south (ARG, 2017).



Architectural  
Resources Group



Close-up of upper floors and granite aggregate cladding at the north façade, view south (ARG, 2017).



First floor exterior corridor and concrete railing at the east façade, view southwest (ARG, 2017).



Architectural  
Resources Group



Concrete and granite hardscaped plaza with circular planters, view south (ARG, 2017).



Liberty Bell in hardscaped plaza, view southwest (ARG, 2017).



Architectural  
Resources Group



Vehicular ramp leading to underground parking, view west (ARG, 2017).



Canary Island pines and concrete ramp fronting the building, view northwest (ARG, 2017).



Architectural  
Resources Group



Promenade with sunken planters and ficus trees at the rear of the building, view west (ARG, 2017).



First floor lobby, view south (ARG 2017).



Architectural  
Resources Group



First floor lobby, view southeast (ARG, 2017).

**BENEFICIAL PLAZA AND LIBERTY PARK**

3700-3732 West Wilshire Boulevard; 658-674 South Oxford Avenue;

651-673 South Serrano Avenue

CHC-2017-3695-HCM

ENV-2017-3696-CE

**Letters from Members of the Public**



04 October 2017

Richard Barron, *President*  
**Cultural Heritage Commission**  
Attention: Melissa Jones  
Office of Historic Resources  
City Hall, 200 N. Sprint Street, Room 559  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
*Sent via email: [melissa.jones@lacity.org](mailto:melissa.jones@lacity.org)*

**Re: Beneficial Plaza and Liberty Park, 3700 Wilshire Boulevard**

Dear President Barron and Members of the Commission:

I write to you on behalf of The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF) to express our support for the nomination of Beneficial Plaza and Liberty Park as a Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument. A non-profit established in 1998, TCLF educates and engages the public to make our shared landscape heritage more visible, identify its value, and empower its stewards.

Located at 3700 Wilshire Boulevard, Beneficial Plaza and Liberty Park is significant as a prominent cultural landscape on corporate property in Los Angeles' Wilshire Center business district that exemplifies both the city's postwar commercial development and the value of community open space during that period of the city's growth.

Completed in 1967 as the new headquarters for Beneficial Standard Life Insurance Company, Beneficial Plaza and Liberty Park was collaboratively designed by master architects Gordon Bunshaft and Edward Charles Bassett of the architecture firm Skidmore, Owings & Merrill and noted landscape architect Peter Walker, FASLA, of Sasaki, Walker & Associates. The 11-story office tower of Late Modern design is fronted by a 2.5-acre designed landscape (Liberty Park) spanning the entire frontage of Wilshire that incorporates a hardscaped plaza, a lush lawn, and an off-centered grove of Canary Island pines. Walker's design features a horseshoe-shaped border that frames the central lawn and opens to embrace Wilshire Boulevard.

While Los Angeles was experiencing the height of a postwar development boom during the 1960s, with numerous new construction projects transforming the city's commercial corridors, the decisions that shaped the development of the property at 3700 Wilshire were unusual. As a corporate entity occupying privately owned property, the company and its ownership prioritized the creation of open space and the promotion of aesthetic values as part of the development project.

The concept of dedicating private corporate property as community open space, particularly on a major commercial corridor such as Wilshire, was uncommon at the time and remains so

today. In size and scope, the 315-foot setback of Liberty Park was described by the *Los Angeles Times* at the time of its construction as the deepest setback of any major office building in the nation.

Of particular note is the public discourse surrounding Liberty Park at the time of its completion, which reveals much about the value of community open space. While the developer's contribution of community open space was honored by a proclamation from the City of Los Angeles and by the highest award of the U.S. Treasury Department, Savings Bond Division, the City of Los Angeles used zoning practices in an effort to protect Liberty Park as an open space asset to the community for future generations. By changing the zoning of the parcel containing Liberty Park from commercial (C4-4) to parking (P-4) via City Planning Case No. 21684, the Los Angeles City Planning Commission attempted to protect the designed landscape and limit its vulnerability to commercial development—a threat often faced by cultural landscapes across the nation.

Beneficial Plaza and Liberty Park turned fifty years old this year, and both the building architecture and the landscape architecture retain a high degree of design integrity. The skillful and restrained design of this Modernist corporate undertaking by an internationally prominent design team results in a unified whole. In sum, Beneficial Plaza and Liberty Park is a significant cultural landscape for the City of Los Angeles that merits designation as a Historic-Cultural Monument.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'C' followed by a horizontal line that tapers to the right.

Charles A. Birnbaum, FASLA, FAAR  
President & CEO  
The Cultural Landscape Foundation

cc: Save Liberty Park

September 28, 2017

Richard Barron, President  
Cultural Heritage Commission  
Attention: Melissa Jones  
Office of Historic Resources  
City Hall, 200 N. Sprint Street, Room 559  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
Email: melissa.jones@lacity.org

Dear President Barron and Members of the Commission:

I've had the honor of working to improve public access to parks, open space, and natural systems in the City of Los Angeles for three decades. Part of my experience was in collaboration with Peter Walker, a longtime colleague and mentor. As a past Cultural Heritage Commissioner, I understand the importance and impact of your role in protecting significant cultural landscapes as well as important buildings.

I write today to urge the Board to designate Beneficial Plaza and Liberty Park as a Historic-Cultural Monument. While currently underappreciated and underutilized as a public park, it was conceived in direct response to the lack of open space associated with most postwar development of the time. The City of Los Angeles recognized the value of Liberty Park in the 1968 City Planning Commission Case No. 21684 when it wrote:

*Although the subject C4-4 zoned Wilshire Boulevard frontage is not utilized for commercial purposes, but developed with the aforementioned attractively landscaped plaza, the interests of good zoning practices and relevant considerations of public necessity, convenience and general welfare, would best be served by retaining this open space asset to the community and preclude further intensification of land use in this block.*

Beneficial Plaza and Liberty Park tells the story of postwar development along Wilshire Boulevard, of public-private partnership to give back to the City, of the City acting to protect open space for future generations, and of architects and landscape architects working together to create a cohesive and elegant design. And, it was designed by architects Gordon Bunshaft and Edward Charles Bassett of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM) with landscape architect Peter Walker of Sasaki, Walker & Associates (SWA) ... some of our nation's most talented designers of the time. As a cultural landmark, this place deserves to be protected.

Beneficial Plaza and Liberty Park is a flexible space with opportunities for different types of experiences. It's a respite from urban intensity both visually and physically. The landscape represents a period when architects and landscape architects developed an approach to the site and the city fabric that was human-scaled and responsive to its context: an approach that is now being recognized and re-adopted by designers. From a humanistic design perspective, this place deserves to be protected.

In addition to its cultural and humanistic attributes, Beneficial Plaza and Liberty Park serves a vital ecological role. Now more than ever we need green spaces, trees, and living landscapes to clean the air, absorb and treat urban runoff, and cool our city. From an ecological perspective, this place deserves to be protected.

Please vote to protect Beneficial Plaza and Liberty Park as a cultural landmark, a vital respite in a dense urban area, and an ecologically important landscape.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mia Lehrer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mia Lehrer  
President

cc: Save Liberty Park

**Alan Hess**  
ARCHITECT  
4991 CORKWOOD LANE  
IRVINE, CA 92612  
949 551 5343  
[alan@alanhess.net](mailto:alan@alanhess.net)

Sept. 27, 2017

Richard Barron, President  
Cultural Heritage Commission  
Attention: Melissa Jones  
Office of Historic Resources  
City Hall, 200 N. Sprint Street, Room 559  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
Email: [melissa.jones@lacity.org](mailto:melissa.jones@lacity.org)

Re: Beneficial Plaza and Liberty Park, 3700 Wilshire Boulevard

Dear President Barron and Members of the Commission:

As an architect and historian of Los Angeles architecture, I support the consideration of the Beneficial Life Building (1967) at 3700 Wilshire as a city landmark.

Among many factors that make the Beneficial building significant, I will highlight two:

1. The distinguished pedigree of its design architects, Gordon Bunshaft and Edward Charles Bassett of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM), and of its landscape architect, Peter Walker, a co-founder of Sasaki Walker Associates.
2. Its generous contribution to the high quality of architecture, landscape architecture, and urban space which have been integral to the success of Wilshire Blvd. as typified by the innovative standards of the Miracle Mile since its inception by A. W. Ross in the 1920s.

Skidmore, Owings & Merrill was one of the largest and most influential high-end architecture firms in the United States in the midcentury. They were known for setting a standard for Modern design that satisfied the demand for both functionality and prestige for many of the country's largest corporations. The Beneficial building is an excellent example of this.

Architects of the caliber of Bunshaft and Bassett assured SOM's leading status.

Gordon Bunshaft is known for major cultural and corporate landmarks, including Lever House in New York, the Beinecke Rare Book Library at Yale University, the Hirshhorn Museum in Washington, DC, Manufacturers Hanover Trust Branch Bank in New York, and the Lyndon Johnson Presidential Library in Austin, Texas.

Edward Charles Bassett was responsible for the Oakland/Alameda County Coliseum, the Mauna Kea Beach Hotel in Hawaii, the Louise M. Davies Symphony Hall in San Francisco, the

Bank of America tower in San Francisco, and the Weyerhaeuser headquarters in Washington state.

In keeping with Bunshaft and Bassett's other buildings at SOM, the Beneficial Building is elegantly expressive of its structure, handsomely proportioned, and well detailed. This can be seen, for example, in the graceful curve of the structural columns as they meet the ground.

Peter Walker's long landscape architecture career has been just as distinguished, including his recent design for the high profile National 9/11 Memorial in New York. Among many other significant projects, Walker was the landscape architect for the original villages of Irvine, CA, the largest master-planned community of the midcentury.

The Beneficial building is beautifully complemented by the large landscaped park and plaza fronting Wilshire, a generous and well-designed contribution of open space to the city. It displays all the hallmarks of high art Modernist landscape design. Of course Bunshaft, Bassett, and Walker worked together closely to achieve this design.

Beneficial Life's decision to choose such sophisticated architects matches A. W. Ross' original intention that Wilshire Blvd. would rise to a high standard of architecture and planning. The building is beautifully complemented by the large landscaped park and plaza (known as Liberty Park) fronting Wilshire, an extraordinarily generous and well-designed contribution of open space to the city. Its design shows the same high level as SOM's building. With the park's U-shaped promenade, asymmetrical plantings, podium, stairs, and corner sign/markers, the park and building form a unified, distinctive, and exemplary Modern spatial design.

Open space such as this cannot be considered wasted space. As Beneficial's president and his architects intended, well-designed green spaces are essential in urban areas. They are the lungs of the city, an antidote to urban claustrophobia. Note, for example, how the pairing of the Beneficial building and park and the Ahmanson Center's towers and courtyard directly across Wilshire forms a notable, even grand, urban open space.

It is useful to note that this high level of quality was carried throughout the Beneficial design. For example, the original interiors for one tenant were designed by noted Los Angeles architect Paul Laszlo, and the Liberty Bell feature of the plaza was designed by Harper Goff, one of the chief designers of Disneyland.

With the neighboring Wiltern Building by Morgan, Walls & Clements, and the Ahmanson Center by Edward Durell Stone across the street, the Beneficial Building and Liberty Park forms an architecturally distinguished district. They establish a model for good urban design that future architecture and planning decisions can follow with confidence.

I write this as author of nineteen books, most dealing with the history of Modern architecture in California and the West. I have written on architecture for *PlacesJournal*, *the Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*, *Architectural Digest*, *The Architects Newspaper*, and other journals. I have received awards for my work from the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Los Angeles Conservancy, and Docomomo-US.

As Los Angeles moves forward, it can maintain the standards of quality urban design that this building and the historic Miracle Mile embody.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Alan Hess". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

Alan Hess



October 3, 2017

Richard Barron, President  
Cultural Heritage Commission  
Attention: Melissa Jones  
Office of Historic Resources  
City Hall, 200 N. Sprint Street, Room 559  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
Email: [melissa.jones@lacity.org](mailto:melissa.jones@lacity.org)

523 West Sixth Street, Suite 826  
Los Angeles, CA 90014

213 623 2489 OFFICE  
213 623 3909 FAX  
[laconservancy.org](http://laconservancy.org)

**Re: Beneficial Plaza and Liberty Park, 3700 Wilshire Boulevard**

Dear President Barron and Members of the Commission:

On behalf of the Los Angeles Conservancy, I am writing in support of the nomination to designate Beneficial Plaza and Liberty Park at 3700 Wilshire Boulevard a City of Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument. The Conservancy finds the property significant for its design by master architects Gordon Bunshaft and Edward Charles Bassett of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill and noted landscape architect Peter Walker of Sasaki, Walker & Associates. Additionally, the property reflects both the postwar development of the Wilshire Center business district as Los Angeles' epicenter for the headquarters of insurance companies and local discourse on the value of community open space during that era of Los Angeles' growth.

The property at 3700 Wilshire Boulevard was developed by Beneficial Standard Life Insurance Company as the company's \$16.7 million international headquarters and completed in 1967. The 11-story Late Modern office tower was designed by the nationally prominent architecture firm Skidmore, Owings & Merrill with master architects Gordon Bunshaft and Edward Charles Bassett serving as lead architects. The building's exterior is comprised of modular units of precast shocked concrete finished in granite aggregate.

A unique feature of the property is Liberty Park, an expansive, 2.5 acre designed landscape fronting the office tower containing hardscape and softscape elements and a replica of the Liberty Bell. The sophisticated design features a central grassy expanse with an off-center grove of Canary Island pines framed by a horseshoe-shaped border and linked to the office tower by a plaza featuring patterned paving. Liberty Park was designed by noted landscape architect Peter Walker, of Sasaki, Walker & Associates.

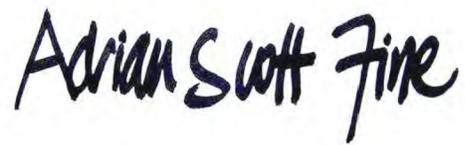
Beneficial Plaza and Liberty Park was constructed at the height of Los Angeles' postwar development boom when the Wilshire Center business district was transformed into one of the city's most prominent addresses for corporate headquarters and insurance companies and reflects local discourse on the value of community open space during this era of postwar growth.



The concept of the 315 foot building setback and park as community open space came from Edward D. Mitchell and son and CEO of Beneficial Insurance, Joseph N. Mitchell. At the time of its construction, it was noted in the *Los Angeles Times* as the deepest setback of any major office building in the nation. Beneficial Insurance created Liberty Park as an open space intended to promote the aesthetic and cultural values of the city, and the City of Los Angeles administered protection of that open space through zoning practices (City Planning Case No. 21684 in 1968) in recognition of its benefit to the community.

Accordingly, the Conservancy urges the Commission to vote to take the nomination under consideration for Historic-Cultural Monument status.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Adrian Scott Fine". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Adrian Scott Fine  
Director of Advocacy

cc: Save Liberty Park





Melissa Jones <melissa.jones@lacity.org>

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## Beneficial Plaza and Liberty Park, 3700 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles - Historic-Cultural Monument Nomination

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Stephen Sass <stephenjsass@gmail.com>  
To: melissa.jones@lacity.org

Thu, Oct 5, 2017 at 1:40 AM

VIA EMAIL

October 4, 2017

Richard Barron, President  
Cultural Heritage Commission  
City of Los Angeles  
Office of Historic Resources  
City Hall  
200 N. Spring Street, Room 559  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
Attention: Melissa Jones ([melissa.jones@lacity.org](mailto:melissa.jones@lacity.org))

Re: Beneficial Plaza and Liberty Park, [3700-3732 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA](#) - CHC-2017-3695-HCM

Dear President Barron and Members of the Commission:

On behalf of the Jewish Historical Society of Southern California, which since 1952 has worked to preserve the Jewish heritage of this region, I am writing to express our support for the nomination of the above property as a City of Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument. Unfortunately, we are unable to be present at tomorrow's hearing to make these remarks in person due to the Jewish holiday of Sukkot, which begins this evening at sundown.

In addition to the well-documented case for nominating the property on architectural grounds, the property also strongly merits nomination for its association with Edward and Joseph Mitchell and Oscar Pattiz, prominent members and leaders of the Los Angeles Jewish community.

Not only did the Mitchells and Pattiz demonstrate great business acumen in building Beneficial Standard Life Insurance Co. into one of the most successful firms in the insurance and financial services industry, it is all the more remarkable given the almost total exclusion of Jews and other minorities from those fields at that time due to widespread, institutionalized prejudice.

In turn, the Mitchells, Pattiz and their families used their great success to give back to their beloved City (and beyond) in countless ways. This is signified most notably by the very design of Beneficial Plaza and their determination to live their values and develop incredibly valuable Wilshire Boulevard frontage not for personal gain but as Liberty Park, much needed open space dedicated to the public.

In addition, their gifts of leadership and resources are indelibly intertwined with such lifesaving and lifegiving charitable organizations as American Red Cross, Assistance League, Brandeis-Bardin Institute, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Cerebral Palsy, Jewish Community Foundation, Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles, Joint Distribution Committee, KCET, L.A. Psychiatric Service, Music Center of Los Angeles County, National Conference of Christians and Jews (now National Conference for Community and Justice), State of Israel Bonds, Temple Israel of Hollywood, UCLA, United Jewish Appeal, United Way, Vista del Mar Child Care Service, Weizmann Institute for Science and Wilshire Boulevard Temple.

For all of the above reasons, Beneficial Plaza and Liberty Park deserve your Commission's nomination as a Historic-Cultural Monument.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Stephen J. Sass  
President

cc: Save Liberty Park