

State of California — The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
PRIMARY RECORD

Primary # _____
HRI # _____
Trinomial _____
NRHP Status Code 3S, 3CS, 5S1

Other Listings _____
Review Code _____ Reviewer _____ Date _____

Page 1 of 4 Resource name(s) or number (assigned by recorder) 959 Fulton Mall

P1. Other Identifier: Radin-Kamp Dept. Store / J.C. Penney Building

***P2. Location:** Not for Publication Unrestricted

***a. County** Fresno County

***b. USGS 7.5' Quad** Fresno South **Date** 1963, revised 1981

T 14S **R** 20E

***c. Address** 959 Fulton Mall

City Fresno

Zip 93721

***e. Other Locational Data:** APN# 46631207; Fresno City Block 73, lots 1-7

***P3a. Description:** (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries.)

This four-story commercial block is located at the southwest corner of Fulton Mall and Tulare Street. The building was constructed in 1924 of reinforced concrete with brick cladding on two facades. The building is rectangular in plan with regular massing, symmetrical arrangement of architectural features, and a flat roof. It is designed in a commercial vernacular style with Classical Revival and Renaissance Revival stylistic details. The building's primary elevations are the northeastern elevation facing Fulton Mall and the northwestern elevation facing Tulare Street. The building's main facades are differentiated above and below the ground floor mezzanine to form a two-part composition. A simple dentil band delineates the ground floor and mezzanine from the upper floors. The ground floor is characterized by multiple bays containing large metal frame display windows with a band of metal frame transom windows above. A recessed corner entry with metal frame double doors provides the building's primary entrance. The sidewalk is shaded by a continuous metal canopy positioned between the display windows and the transom windows. The upper three stories are dominated by a regular fenestration pattern of side-by-side, wood frame, double-hung windows. A plain frieze with regularly spaced cast-stone medallions, a dentil band, and a shallow sculpted cornice form the building's crown. The secondary elevations display an irregular fenestration pattern and are devoid of architectural features.

***P3b. Resource Attributes:** (list attributes and codes) HP07 3+ story commercial building.

***P4. Resources Present:** Building Structure Object Site District Element of District Other

P5a. Photo



P5b. Photo: (view and date)

View from north
March 29, 2011

***P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources:** historic
1924 (City of Fresno Historic Resources Map)

***P7. Owner and Address:**
Fresno Ballpark Lofts LLC
18909 Sherman Way
Reseda, CA 91335

***P8. Recorded by:**
Historic Resources Group
12 S. Fair Oaks Avenue, Suite 200
Pasadena, CA 91105-1915

***P9. Date Recorded:**
April 29, 2011
(Updated from June 30, 1978)

***P10. Survey Type:**
Intensive

***P11. Report Citation:** (Cite survey report and other sources, or enter "none")
Downtown Fresno (Fulton Corridor) Survey Report. Patnaude Survey, DPR Form, 1978.

***Attachments:** None Location Map Sketch Map Continuation Sheet Building, Structure, and Object Record
 Archaeological Record District Record Linear Feature Record Milling Station Record Rock Art Record
 Artifact Record Photograph Record Other (list)

BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD

*Resource Name or #: 959 Fulton Mall

- B1. Historic Name:** Radin-Kamp Department Store
- B2. Common Name:** J.C. Penney Building
- B3. Original Use:** Commercial – Department Store
- B4. Present Use:** Vacant
- ***B5. Architectural Style:** Commercial Vernacular with Renaissance Revival design elements
- ***B6. Construction History:** (Construction date, alterations, and date of alterations):

The building was constructed in 1925 for the Radin-Kamp Department Store. It was leased by J.C. Penney's in 1945 and they remained on site until 1986.

***B7. Moved?** No Yes Unknown **Date:** _____ **Original Location:** _____

***B8. Related Features:** None

B9a. Architect: Felchlin, Shaw & Franklin

b. Builder: Felchlin, Shaw & Franklin

***B10. Significance:**

Theme Late 19th and Early 20th Century Commercial Development

Area Downtown Fresno

Period of Significance: 1925

Property Type: Commercial – Department Store

Applicable Criteria: NRHP: C; CRHR: 3; City of Fresno: iii.

(Discuss importance in terms of historical or architectural context as defined by theme, period, and geographic scope. Also address integrity)

959 Fulton Mall is significant under Criterion C/3/iii as a rare intact example of an early 20th century department store building in Fresno and as a representative example of the noted local architectural firm of Felchlin, Shaw & Franklin. The four-story commercial block with ground floor display windows and mezzanine is representative of American department store buildings constructed between the late 19th Century and World War II, and typically located in central business districts.

The partnership of R.F. Felchlin (1888-1960), Raymond Shaw (1890-1967), and Charles Franklin(1891-1856) designed and/or built many of Fresno's most important buildings within the Central Business District. A native of Stockton, Richard Ferdinand Felchlin (1888-1960) studied civil engineering at the University of California in Berkeley. He moved to Fresno in 1911 and in 1912 formed the R. F. Felchlin Company with San Francisco architect and engineer Charles Franklin (1891-1956). In 1917 architect Raymond Shaw (1890-1967) joined the firm as chief designer. Shaw had studied at Stanford University and previously worked with the San Francisco architect George Kelham.

(See Continuation Sheet)

B11. Additional Resource Attributes: None

***B12. References:**

- City of Fresno Building Permits
- City of Fresno Historic Preservation Database
- County of Fresno Tax Assessor Data
- A Guide to Historic Architecture in Fresno.* Web site, available at: <http://historicfresno.org/index.htm>.
- Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps
- Patnaude Survey*, 1978.

B13. Remarks:

***B14. Evaluator:** C. McAvoy & P. Travis

***Date of Evaluation:** April 2011.

(This space reserved for official comments.)

Sketch Map



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*Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) 959 Fulton Mall

*Recorded by: Historic Resources Group

*Date 1 September 2011

Continuation Update

*P5b. Photo (continued from page 1):



959 Fulton Mall placeholder.

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*Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) 959 Fulton Mall

*Recorded by: Historic Resources Group

*Date 1 September 2011

Continuation Update

***B10. Significance (continued from page 2):**

For the next decade Felchlin's firm designed or built many of downtown Fresno's most important buildings. Among the firm's major projects were the Bank of Italy Building (1918), the Patterson Building (1922), the San Joaquin Light & Power Building (1923), and the Pacific Southwest Building (1923). Felchlin, Shaw & Franklin dissolved their partnership in 1930.

Although ground floor display windows and entrance doors have been replaced, the building generally maintains a high degree of integrity. 959 Fulton Mall has been designated as a historic resource by the City of Fresno (HP# 124).