

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

Primary # _____
HRI # _____
Trinomial _____
NRHP Status Code 3CS, 5S3

Other Listings _____
Review Code _____ Reviewer _____ Date _____

Page 1 of 3 Resource name(s) or number (assigned by recorder) 801 Van Ness Avenue

P1. Other Identifier:

*P2. Location: Not for Publication Unrestricted

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

*c. Address 801 Van Ness Avenue / 860 Fulton Mall

*e. Other Locational Data: APN: # 46825511T and #46825515T

*a. County Fresno County

T 14S R 20E

City Fresno

Zip 93721

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

Located on the southwest side of Van Ness Avenue at the corner of Inyo Street, this parking garage features a dynamic, Expressionistic design. Accessed via two multi-level spiral ramps, the garage rises seven stories and has a rectangular plan and flat roof. The walls of the spiral ramps are faced with small square blocks of smooth concrete. Contrasting with the design of the spiral access ramps, the body of the garage consists of a steel post-and-beam structure, with vertical slats screening upper stories. The parking garage extends toward the Fulton Mall to the southwest. The mall-facing elevation displays a row of commercial storefronts. Alterations include some non-original doors in the tower section of the garage. In good condition, the parking structure exhibits a good level of integrity.

*P3b. Resource Attributes: (list attributes and codes) HP11. Engineering Structure.

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

P5a. Photo



P5b. Photo: (view and date)

Northeast elevation

March 1, 2011

*P6. Date Constructed/Age and

Sources: historic

1968 (City of Fresno Building Permits)

*P7. Owner and Address:

City of Fresno

*P8. Recorded by:

Historic Resources Group

12 S. Fair Oaks Avenue, Suite 200

Pasadena, CA 91105-1915

*P9. Date Recorded:

December 12, 2011

*P10. Survey Type:

Intensive

*P11. Report Citation: (Cite survey report and other sources, or enter "none")

Downtown Fresno (Fulton Corridor) Survey Report.

*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

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*NHRP Status Code 3CS, 5S3

*Resource Name or #: 801 Van Ness Avenue

- B1. **Historic Name:** Inyo-Van Ness Parking Structure
- B2. **Common Name:** Spiral Parking Garage
- B3. **Original Use:** Parking Structure
- B4. **Present Use:** Parking Structure
- *B5. **Architectural Style:** Mid-Century Modern (Expressionistic)
- *B6. **Construction History:** (Construction date, alterations, and date of alterations):

According to the original building permit, the parking garage at 801 Van Ness was constructed in 1968 at a cost of \$3,018,118. Alterations to the parking structure appear limited to the replacement of doors in the tower section of the garage. Building permits did not document any further major alterations to the parking structure.

- *B7. **Moved?** No Yes Unknown **Date:** _____ **Original Location:** _____
- *B8. **Related Features:** None.

- B9a. **Architect:** Walter Wagner & J. Martin Temple Architects
- B9b. **Builder:** Harris-Stephens Co.
- *B10. **Significance: Theme** Mid-20th Century Commercial **Area** Downtown Fresno
- Period of Significance:** 1968 **Property Type:** Parking Structure
- Applicable Criteria:** CRHR: 2, 3; City of Fresno: ii, iii.

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

801 Van Ness Avenue is significant under Criterion 2,3/ii, iii as a unique example of a parking structure featuring a multi-story spiral design and as a representative work of noted local architects Walter Wagner and J. Martin Temple. A 1934 graduate of the University of California, Berkeley, Wagner, along with his associates, contributed several buildings to postwar revitalization efforts in the downtown area, including the Fresno Police Headquarters and the Fresno County Courthouse, which was completed in 1966. Temple, a native of Arizona, also attended the University of California, Berkeley. Upon his graduation in 1958, Temple joined the firm of William Wagner & Partners; in 1966, Temple became a partner and the firm became Walter Wagner-Martin Temple, Architects, Engineers, and Planners. In 1967, then-mayor Floyd H. Hyde appointed Temple to the city's first architectural review committee. The spiral parking garage at 801 Van Ness Avenue, which is one of two architect-designed garages in downtown, reflects the ideas expressed in Victor Gruen's General Plan emphasizing the need for the strategic placement of structured parking facilities to accommodate downtown shoppers. The parking structure is in good condition and retains a good level of integrity.

801 Van Ness Avenue does not meet National Register Criterion Consideration G of "exceptional importance" required for properties that are less than fifty years old, and therefore it does not appear eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

B11. **Additional Resource Attributes:** None

- *B12. **References:**
 - "Architecture Group Named," *Los Angeles Times*, 21 September 1967.
 - City of Fresno Building Permits
 - County of Fresno Tax Assessor Data
 - Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps
 - Mid-Century Modernism Historic Context*, September 2008, prepared for the City of Fresno, Planning and Development Department, prepared by Planning Resource Associates, Inc., Fresno, CA.

B13. **Remarks:**

(This space reserved for official comments.)



- *B14. **Evaluator:** C. McAvoy & P. Travis
- ***Date of Evaluation:** April 2011.

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*Recorded by: Historic Resources Group

*Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) 801 Van Ness Avenue / 860 Fulton Mall

*Date December 11, 2011

Continuation Update

P5b. Photo (continued from page 1):



860 Fulton Mall, Southwest elevation, March 1, 2011.