

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

Primary # \_\_\_\_\_  
 HRI # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Trinomial \_\_\_\_\_  
 NRHP Status Code \_\_\_\_\_

Other Listings \_\_\_\_\_  
 Review Code \_\_\_\_\_ Reviewer \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Page 1 of 3 Resource name(s) or number (assigned by recorder) 4191 N. Blackstone Ave.

**P1. Other Identifier:** Guarantee Savings & Loan

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 Location:**  Not for Publication  Unrestricted

**\*a. County** Fresno County

**\*b. USGS 7.5' Quad:** Fresno North 1965, Photorevised 1981

**\*c. Address** 4191 N. Blackstone Ave.

**City** Fresno

**Zip** 93726

**\*e. Other Locational Data:** APN# 43409202

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

This property is located on the southwest corner of North Blackstone Avenue and East Ashlan Avenue and contains a one- and two-story commercial bank building constructed ca. 1957. The Mid-Century Modern style bank has an irregular rectangular plan with asymmetrical low-pitched gable roofs and masonry cladding. The roofs are clad with asphalt shingles and have turned-down eaves with enclosed plaster soffits. The eastern portion of the building, which contains the main banking room, facing Blackstone Avenue, has floor-to-ceiling metal frame windows on three sides with a monumental masonry wall at the northeast corner. The roof here is supported by curved glue-lam beams and metal posts and has four openings in the overhang of the southern portion. There is a ceramic tile mural on the west wall of the banking room that can be seen from the exterior. The western portion of the building is two-stories and clad with red brick and bands of metal frame windows. There is a covered open-air stairwell at the west end of the building leading to a second story open-air walkway overlooking an enclosed landscaped patio with brick screen walls. An oversized sculpture of an abacus on wood posts supports a roof overhang at the north side of the building. The building has surface parking on the south and west sides with a stand-alone flat roof cement plaster (stucco) clad drive-through pavilion with red brick pilasters in the south parking area. The building appears to have had few alterations since its construction and has high integrity.

**\*P3b. Resource Attributes:** (list attributes and codes) HP6. 1-3 Story Commercial Building

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

P5a. Photo



**\*P5b. Photo:** (view and date)  
 Northwest; August 15, 2012

**\*P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources:**   
 1957 (Tax Assessor)

**\*P7. Owner and Address:**  
 Guarantee Savings  
 c/o Citigroup Realty SVCS  
 710 Riverpoint Drive #268  
 W. Sacramento, CA 95605

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

**\*P9. Date Recorded:**  
 August 2012

**\*P10. Survey Type:**  
 Intensive

**\*P11. Report Citation:** (Cite survey report and other sources, or enter "none")  
 Fresno Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)

**\*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**

Page 2 of 3

\*NRHP Status Code 3S, 3CS, 5S3

\*Resource Name or #: 4191 N. Blackstone Ave.

**B1. Historic Name:** Guarantee Savings & Loan

**B2. Common Name:** Citibank

**B3. Original Use:** Commercial -- Bank

**B4. Present Use:** Commercial -- Bank

\***B5. Architectural Style:** Mid-Century Modern

\***B6. Construction History:** (Construction date, alterations, and date of alterations):

A building permit from 1963 lists an unspecified alteration with a value of \$3,000. No additional building permits were located for this survey but it appears that only minor alterations have been made since construction.

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

\***B8. Related Features:** None

**B9a. Architect:** Robert W. Stevens

**b. Builder:** R.G. Fisher Co.

\***B10. Significance:**

**Theme** Mid-20<sup>th</sup> Century Commercial Development

**Period of Significance:** 1957

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

**Area**

**Property Type:** Commercial Bank

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

4191 N. Blackstone Ave. is significant as a excellent example of Mid-Century Modern commercial architecture in Fresno and as the work of Robert W. Stevens, a noted and prolific local architect. A 1942 graduate of the USC School of Architecture, Stevens moved to Fresno after World War II, where he spent several years working in local firms. In 1949, Stevens established his own practice, which operated for approximately 20 years before he formed a partnership with long-time associate Gene Zellmer in 1969. Known for the regional character he infused in his work, Stevens designed some of the most notable Mid-Century Modern buildings in Fresno. His projects include a range of commercial, civic, religious and residential commissions including the Fresno Convention Center Complex (1966). He is also noted for his innovative garden court office complex designs.

The building's low horizontal massing, large expanses of glazing, wide overhanging eaves and bands of windows are notable characteristics of Mid-Century Modern design. The building appears to have had few alterations since its construction. It has a high level of integrity and continues to convey its significance.

**B11. Additional Resource Attributes:**

\***B12. References:**

City of Fresno Building Permits  
County of Fresno Tax Assessor Data  
Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps

**B13. Remarks:**

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

\***Date of Evaluation:** October 2012

(This space reserved for official comments.)

Sketch Map



Page 3 of 3

\*Recorded by: Historic Resources Group

\*Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) 4191 N. Blackstone Ave.

\*Date August 2012

Continuation  Update

**P5a. Photograph or Drawing (continued from page 1)**



