

PRIMARY RECORD

Primary # _____
HRI # _____
Trinomial _____
NRHP Status Code 7N

Other Listings
Review Code _____ Reviewer _____ Date _____

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Resource Name or #: (Assigned by recorder) Bank Americard Center

P1. Other Identifier:

P2. Location: ☐ Not for Publication ☐ Unrestricted
and (P2b and P2c or P2d. Attach a Location Map as necessary.)

a. County Los Angeles

b. USGS 7.5' Quad _____ Date _____ T _____ ; R _____ ; 1/4 of _____ 1/4 of Sec _____ ;

c. Address: 101 South Marengo Avenue City Pasadena Zip _____

d. UTM: (Give more than one for large and/linear resources) _____ ; mE/ _____ mN

e. Other Locational Data (Enter Parcel #, legal description, directions to resource, elevation, etc., as appropriate)

Parcel No. _____

P3. Description (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries)

Monumental in scale, the Bank Americard Center is a formal and austere rendition of late, International-style corporate architecture. Occupying a prominent 2.96-acre site bordering the Civic Center and Old Pasadena, the flat-roofed, 360,000 square foot office building is set behind a spacious open plaza. Built into a slope, the steel-framed structure rises to five stories on its west side, along S. Arroyo Parkway, and four stories on its principal elevation, facing S. Marengo Avenue. It is rectangular in plan. The bulk of the building is a colossal windowless box clad on all sides with a veneer of brilliant-white travertine, mounted in vertical and horizontal courses with matching veining. The main structure is thrust above the podium of the plaza on pilotis, wrapped in bronze-anodized aluminum; the fully glazed walls of the first-floor (lobby) level create the impression of a white box suspended in air. The voluminous mass of the building—angular, white, and imposing—creates a strong image on the street and skyline of downtown Pasadena. The plaza, paved in a rectilinear grid studded with 75 trees, a large circular fountain, and lofty flag poles, enhances the scale of the building and expresses the formalism associated with International-style commercial and institutional buildings. Subterranean parking (multi-level, 224,000 square feet) is beneath the plaza. Stylized ornamentation, originally applied on the north and south walls of the parking garage, has been obscured.

P3b. Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes)

P4. Resources Present ☐ Building ☐ Structure ☐ Object ☐ Site ☐ District ☐ Element of District ☐ Other (Isolates, etc.)

P5a. Photograph or Drawing (Photograph required for buildings, structures, and objects)
View looking southwest.



P5b. Description of Photo: (View, date, accession #)
(View toward south elevation).

P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources:

☐ Prehistoric ☐ Historic ☐ Both

1974 (completed)

P7. Owner and Address

McCaslin Holdings LLC
19 Suffolk Ave. #B
Sierra Madre, CA 91024

P8. Recorded by: (Name, affiliation, and address)
J. Cronin, City of Pasadena

P9. Date Recorded: Dec. 2001

P10. Survey Type: (Describe)
Intensive-level.

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

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