



NAME	Southern Counties Gas Company			REF. NO. 4
ADDRESS	207 West Second Street			
CITY	Santa Ana	ZIP	92701	ORANGE COUNTY
YEAR BUILT	1923	LOCAL REGISTER CATEGORY: Landmark		
HISTORIC DISTRICT	Downtown Santa Ana	NEIGHBORHOOD	N/A	
NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION	C	NATIONAL REGISTER STATUS CODE	1B	

Location: Not for Publication Unrestricted

USGS 7.5" Quad _____ Date: _____ T _____ R _____ ¼ of _____ ¼ of Sec _____ : _____ B.M.

Prehistoric Historic Both

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: Colonial Revival (Georgian Revival)

DESCRIPTION/BACKGROUND RELATED TO PERIOD ARCHITECTURE:

A variant of the Colonial Revival, the Georgian Revival looked specifically to the architectural vocabulary of the Georgian period (the 18th century) in the United States and Great Britain. Georgian Revival buildings are, like other Colonial Revival buildings, symmetrical in design and rectangular in plan. Hip, gable, or gambrel roofs are classically detailed at the cornice and occasionally topped by a railing-enclosed deck or accented by dormers. Façades are often divided into three or five parts or pavilions, with alternating sections projecting and receding. Pediments over the central bay and/or the central doorway provide a focal point; the pediments may be triangular or arched and may be closed or broken. Doorways are classically enframed, frequently topped by fanlights, and contain paneled wood doors, sometimes with sidelights. Palladian windows are featured; other windows are typically double-hung sash.

CONSTRUCTION HISTORY: (Construction data, alterations, and date of alterations)

March 1923. Office & storage warehouse.	July 22, 1944. Alteration to business building.
May 2, 1924. Alterations.	April 13, 1973. Saloon & restaurant.
February 18, 1925. Alterations.	July 27, 1973. Mezzanine.
January 18, 1929. Alterations.	August 12, 1982. Remove interior partitions & skylights.
May 8, 1933. Re-anchoring firewalls, repair stone cornice.	September 20, 1982. Seismic reinforcement (completed August 30, 1983).
June 1, 1937. Repair garage.	December 28, 1984. Remove interior partitions.
August 24, 1937. Repairs and alterations.	January 31, 1985. Tenant improvements.
May 11, 1944. Repair fire damage.	

RELATED FEATURES: (Other important features such as barns, sheds, fences, prominent or unusual trees, or landscape)

Enclosed yard east of building

DESCRIPTION: (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, settings, and boundaries.)

Facing south onto Second Street, this is a one and a half story multi-colored brick building in the Georgian Revival style. The raised parapets of the end walls flank a side gable roof. Crowned by an iron-railed deck, the roof features three identical dormers topped by segmental arch roofs and pediments. The three bay division is carried through to the façade, articulated by slightly raised plastered piers with decorative caps. A denticulated frieze, which bears the legend “Southern Counties Gas Company,” tops the piers. Each bay contains a large, arched opening accented by a keystone; boarded over windows are located in the side bays and the pilaster framed entry in the center bay. Additional arched openings are located on the side elevations. The building retains strong design integrity on the exterior; the principal alterations appear to be the “Victorianization” of the entry and the boarding of the windows.

Note: This property has a façade easement with Heritage Orange County.

HISTORIC HIGHLIGHTS:

The Southern Counties Gas Company building was constructed in 1923 to a design by one of the premier architectural firms of Los Angeles, Walker and Eisen. Other well known commissions by this renowned firm include San Gabriel City Hall (San Gabriel, 1923), the Fine Arts Building (Los Angeles, 1925), the Beverly Wilshire Hotel (Beverly Hills, 1926), the El Cortez Hotel (San Diego, 1926), the Title Insurance and Trust Building (Los Angeles, 1928), Upland City Hall (Upland, 1939), and the San Luis Obispo County Courthouse (1940). Builders of the \$50,000 improvement were Clark Bros. of Los Angeles. The new building occupied the site of the Santa Ana Gas and Electric Light Works, established at this location in 1891. In 1911 the utility was purchased by the Southern Counties Gas Company. The Gas Company operated at this site from 1923 until the mid-1960s. From the early 1970s through late 1980, Handlebars Saloon utilized the space.

RESOURCE ATTRIBUTES: (List attributes and codes from Appendix 4 of Instructions for Recording Historical Resources, Office of Historic Preservation.)

(HP 6) 1-3 story Commercial Building

RESOURCES PRESENT:

Building Structure Object Site District Element of District Other

MOVED? No Yes Unknown Date: _____ Original Location: _____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: (Discuss importance in terms of historical or architectural context as defined by theme, period, geographic scope, and integrity.)

Santa Ana was founded by William Spurgeon in 1869 as a speculative townsite on part of the Spanish land grant known as Rancho Santiago de Santa Ana. Early growth and development was stimulated by the arrival of the Southern Pacific Railroad in 1878 and the Santa Fe Railroad in 1886. By the end of the 1880s, Santa Ana’s downtown business district was defined by five city blocks of brick commercial buildings on Fourth Street, with the heart of the city at the intersection of Fourth and Main Streets (Thomas, 8:1). The early 1900s witnessed the construction of many new business blocks or remodels along Fourth and the adjacent streets, and by the 1920s Santa Ana’s downtown had expanded in all directions to include both commercial and civic development.

The Southern Counties Gas Company building is primarily significant for its pristine version of Georgian Revival styling, said by some to be the best example of its kind in Orange County as a whole and Santa Ana in particular (Thomas). It is also noteworthy as an example of the work of Walker and Eisen, whose architectural oeuvre mostly encompassed large commercial and institutional buildings in the Beaux Arts, Italian Renaissance, and Moderne styles. Additionally, the building is symbolic of the historic importance of gas service in Santa Ana, which began with the installation of gas mains and streetlights in 1886. Character-defining exterior features of the Southern Counties Gas Company building, which should be preserved, include but may not be limited to: building massing and organization; roof configuration, materials, and features; variegated brick exterior walls and other finishes; architectural detailing, including frieze, piers, keystones, window and door framing; arched openings; and original glazing where extant.

SUMMARY/CONCLUSION:

This building was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1983 as an individual resource and again in 1984 as a contributor to the Downtown Historic District. Under the regulations implementing the California Register of Historical Resources, the building is also listed in the California Register. The property is included in the Santa Ana Register of Historical Property and has been categorized as “Landmark” because it “is on the national register,” “is on the state register,” “has historical/cultural significance to the City of Santa Ana,” and “has a unique architectural significance” (Municipal Code, Section 30-2.2).

OWNER AND ADDRESS: _____

RECORDED BY: (Name, affiliation, and address)
Leslie J. Heumann
Science Applications International Corporation
35 S. Raymond Avenue, Suite 204, Pasadena, CA 91105

DATE RECORDED: July 30, 2001

SURVEY TYPE: (Intensive, reconnaissance, or other)
Intensive Survey Update

REPORT CITATION: (Cite survey report and other sources)
Les, Kathleen. "Santa Ana Historic Survey, Final Resources Inventory: Downtown." May 1980.
Thomas, Harold M. "Downtown Santa Ana Historic District" National Register nomination form, 1984.
Unknown. "Southern Counties Gas. Co." National Register nomination form, no date (1982-83).

REFERENCES: (List documents, date of publication, and page numbers. May also include oral interviews.)
Harris, Cyril M. *American Architecture: An Illustrated Encyclopedia*. New York, WW Norton, 1998.
Heritage Orange County and the City of Santa Ana. *Downtown Walking Tour*, Santa Ana, 1986.
Marsh, Diann. *Santa Ana, An Illustrated History*. Encinitas, Heritage Publishing, 1994.
McAlester, Virginia and Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984.
National Register Bulletin 16A. "How to Complete the National Register Registration Form."
Washington DC: National Register Branch, National Park Service, US Dept. of the Interior, 1991.
Whiffen, Marcus. *American Architecture Since 1780*. Cambridge: MIT Press, 1969.

EVALUATOR: Leslie J. Heumann **DATE OF EVALUATION:** July 30, 2001

EXPLANATION OF CODES:

- National Register Criteria for Evaluation: (From Appendix 7 of Instructions for Recording Historical Resources, Office of Historic Preservation)
 - A:** that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
 - C:** that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.

- National Register Status Code: (From Appendix 2 of Instructions for Recording Historical Resources, Office of Historic Preservation)
 - 1B:** Separately listed and contributor to a listed district.