



# Spring ON Spring

Welcome to Spring Street! This “**FACT AND FUN SHEET**” is for you to use as you tour with your family and friends. (Ask the adults with you to help locate the buildings, which are listed here from north to south on Spring Street.)

The buildings of Spring Street tell many stories about Los Angeles. Did you know that the first **SCHOOL** ever built in L.A. was on this street?

Theaters, hotels, banks, restaurants, and office buildings made this a busy, crowded place. Some of the city’s most famous architects built as high up into the sky as they could. There were city rules telling them just how tall a building could be.

When those rules changed, many businesses left their buildings on Spring Street behind to build taller ones.

The tallest building in L.A. today is 1,018 feet. That is almost **10 X’S AS HIGH** as most of the building on Spring Street.

Many of the old buildings are starting to be used again, but in different ways. You’ll see examples of this on your tour today. When you visit Spring Street, think about the season of spring, and how flowers bloom again as they did in the years before. Finding new uses for old buildings is one way to **PRESERVE**, or save, them for future generations like you

## STRANGE FACT

Can you guess why there used to be rules for how tall a building should be?<sup>1</sup>

As you walk along Spring Street, you will see a lot of **COLUMNS**. Columns hold up or decorate parts of buildings and look like tall, straight legs. Some are rounded and some are flat (*the flat ones are called pilasters*). Many have designs at the top that look like animal horns, or big curling leaves. A great variety of columns decorate the banks, office buildings, and hotels along Spring Street.

### HOW MANY DIFFERENT STYLES OF COLUMNS CAN YOU FIND ON YOUR WALK TODAY?

**DRAW SOME OF WHAT YOU FIND BELOW.**

On your tour, you’ll visit buildings that are used for different things than when they were first built. Make a list of the old uses and the new ones too. Do you have any more ideas about how to use old buildings in new ways?

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

## THE LOS ANGELES TIMES BUILDING

(202 West First Street) is where the people work who create our city’s biggest newspaper. It was built in 1935 using **GRANITE**, a very hard, gray stone. Like other buildings on Spring Street, it was designed to say “I am **STRONG** and I am here to stay!”

## STRANGE FACT

Many years before this building was here, government surveyors—people who mapped Los Angeles County—tried to use camels for transportation. Camels were kept on this spot from 1857 to 1863.



When you go into the Times building, look up! The lobby inside the building is round and has a domed ceiling.

This area is called a **ROTUNDA**.

The pictures on the walls are called **MURALS**. If you look down at the floor around the globe (now you know why this is called the *Globe Lobby!*), you’ll see a **MOSAIC**.

It is made out of tiny pieces of **MARBLE** (a multicolored stone).



Fill in the blanks with the missing words from sentences written around the rotunda. “The newspaper is a \_\_\_\_\_ to the people than uncounted \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.”<sup>2</sup>

What do you see pictured in the murals?<sup>3</sup>

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The idea for

## THE DOUGLAS BUILDING

(257 South Spring Street) came from a man named Thomas D. Stimson.

What was Thomas D. Stimson’s middle name?<sup>4</sup>

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### IF YOU WERE CARVING YOUR NAME ON THE OUTSIDE OF A BUILDING, WHAT WOULD THE DESIGN LOOK LIKE?

**DRAW IT BELOW.**

<sup>1</sup> Earthquakes were not the only reason. People were afraid that tall buildings would keep the sunshine from reaching the streets below, turning day into night! <sup>2</sup> “The newspaper is a greater treasure to the people than uncounted millions of Gold.” <sup>3</sup> The pictures include all the steps for making a newspaper. There are also scenes from California history, including a Spanish missionary, Mexican rancher, and American farmer. <sup>4</sup> Douglas

## STRANGE FACT

The upper floors of the Douglas building have been empty —with nobody working there— for over thirty years! Soon, people will live in this old office building.

### ONE BUILDING, THREE NAMES.

Can you find signs for the

**PACIFIC GRAND, THE HOTEL EL DORADO, AND THE HOTEL STOWELL**

(416 South Spring Street)?

Although the building is empty now, it was a hotel and went by three different names over its lifetime. It was originally called the Hotel Stowell.

### CAN YOU FIND THAT SIGN? <sup>6</sup>

“Hotel El Dorado” advertises its name with a blade sign.

Why do you think it is called a “**BLADE**” sign? And why do you think it is so big? <sup>7</sup>

Many buildings offer clues on the outside to tell us what year they were built. The information is carved into the **CORNERSTONE**.

### WHEN WAS THIS BUILDING CONSTRUCTED? <sup>8</sup>

Near the cornerstone you can see white tiles.

Tiles are squares of baked or glazed clay used for decoration or to cover walls, floors, and roofs.

### WHAT IS THE PATTERN USED FOR THE TILES ON THE OUTSIDE OF THE EL DORADO HOTEL? <sup>9</sup>

## THE LOS ANGELES THEATRE CENTER

which used to be the Security National Bank building (514 South Spring Street) was built almost 90 years ago by an architect named **JOHN PARKINSON**. Sometimes working with his son or his partner, he designed 21 buildings on Spring Street. There are 18 still standing.

### THAT MAKES SPRING STREET SPECIAL.

In fact, the buildings are so special that Spring Street has been put on a list of the most important historical places in the country!

### DO YOU SEE ANY CLUES ON THE INSIDE OF THE LOS ANGELES THEATRE CENTER THAT TELL YOU THIS WAS ONCE A BANK? <sup>10</sup>

## STRANGE FACT

Before the old Security National Bank Building was turned into the lobby for the Los Angeles Theatre Center, it was a storage space filled with boxes!

At the corner of 6th and Spring Street is a building once called the

## LOS ANGELES TRUST AND SAVINGS BANK

(215 West Sixth Street).

Look for “ghost” signs on the side of the building with this name. Only part of the name is visible, and you may need to cross the street to find it. Animals and people decorate the exterior of the building.

### WHAT ANIMALS DO YOU SEE WHEN YOU LOOK UP? <sup>11</sup>

When a bank leaves a building it doesn’t leave money behind! Sometimes, though, banks leave behind the steel vaults that stored the money. Steel, when heated, can be poured on thick making it almost impossible to cut through.

### WHAT SHAPE IS THE DOOR TO THE VAULT?

### IF THIS WERE YOUR BUILDING, WHAT WOULD YOU DO WITH THESE OLD VAULTS?

## THE STOCK EXCHANGE BUILDING

(618 S. Spring Street)

uses a design and building materials aimed to make people feel secure.

Its front doors are made of **BRONZE**, a hard metal that is a blend of copper and tin.

The doors alone weigh **2,000 POUNDS**.

Look up or cross the street to see the carvings in the upper part of the **FAÇADE** (or face).

Repeated across the top is a picture of a bundle of reeds (a kind of grass), an ancient symbol of authority.

### CAN YOU FIND IT?

## THE VAN NUYS BUILDING

(210 W. Seventh Street at Spring Street)

has a row of **CORINTHIAN** columns on the ground floor. This is the most ornate kind of column.

### WHAT DOES THE SHAPE AT THE TOP LOOK LIKE?

### IF YOU WERE TO DESIGN A COLUMN, WHAT PLANTS WOULD YOU USE TO INSPIRE YOUR CREATION?



## SEARCH FOR WORDS

that describe some of what you’ve seen on your tour. Words can be found up, down, across, forward, backward, or diagonally.

Preserve    Bronze    Marble  
Blade        Mosaic    Columns  
Rotunda     Tiles       Mural

T	A	M	A	R	B	L	E	O
B	V	O	K	N	S	L	R	E
U	J	S	R	E	Q	A	O	F
E	D	A	L	B	B	R	T	Q
X	Q	I	W	R	A	U	U	L
I	T	C	O	L	U	M	N	S
S	R	N	U	V	C	I	D	E
A	Z	H	Y	E	O	G	A	J
E	V	R	E	S	E	R	P	F



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<sup>5</sup> “Hotel Stowell” is painted on the north side of the building. <sup>7, 8</sup> The sign looks like the blade of a knife; it is big so that cars passing by would easily find the hotel. <sup>9</sup> The hotel was built in 1913; the white exterior tiles look like leaves or flowers. If you go inside, look closely to find the patterns in the wall and floor tiles. They have been covered with paint, so they are hard to see. <sup>10</sup> The lobby theatre was the main banking floor, and the tellers would have been in the areas to the left and right of the main door on Spring Street. <sup>11</sup> The “ghost” sign is on the 6th Street side. There are women’s faces and lions on the exterior of the building.]