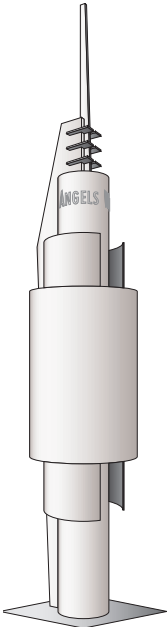


# Angels Walk Bunker Hill Select Stanchions

- 1 Historic Spring Street
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## BUNKER HILL / HISTORIC CORE

# BRADBURY BUILDING



L. Bradbury

### Mining Tycoon L. Bradbury Makes his Mark

His name endures in the eponymous town of wealth and horseflesh set against the San Gabriel Mountains, but mining tycoon Louis Bradbury made his loveliest mark on Southern California with the magnificent architectural gem that also bears his name —the Bradbury Building, known affectionately as “The Bradbury.”

One critic has called the space “a fairytale of mathematics,” from its red sandstone exterior to its brick and iron-lace inner spaces. It is one of Los Angeles’ truly breathtaking buildings, its interior as visually exciting for visitors and moviemakers now as it was a century ago — which is exactly what Bradbury envisioned, a building that would still be modern a hundred years after its cornerstone was laid.



Los Angeles Fire Department, 1913, working on a fire at the corner of Third Street and Broadway.

Bradbury, son of a wealthy Maine family, came west in the 1850s, striking it rich in the Mexican gold mines of Mazatlan. At 45, he followed the pattern of other ambitious Yankee newcomers, and married Simona Martinez, a Mazatlan heiress 20 years his junior.

After shuttling up and down California, the couple settled in Los Angeles, hoping the climate would improve Bradbury’s chronic asthma. Their “country place” was a 2,750-acre ranch, the core of a town that would eventually be named Bradbury, and their city home was a 50-room showplace on Bunker Hill.

It was from his Bunker Hill home that, in 1891, Bradbury fancied a unique office building he could walk to, and which would bear his name.

The man he commissioned for the project was Sumner P. Hunt, a leading Southland architect who had already designed homes and mansions. But Hunt’s design left Bradbury uninspired, and he offered the job to a young, \$5-a-week draftsman in the architect’s office.



Los Angeles cop Rick Deckard, a Blade Runner, played by Harrison Ford, specializes in terminating replicants, 21st-century androids, in the 1982 movie “Blade Runner.” Right: Actor Rutger Hauer as Roy Batty.

### It will Make You Famous

George Herbert Wyman at first judged it unethical to accept because he worked for Hunt. But while playing with a Ouija board, he said he received a message from his dead brother, Mark: “Take the Bradbury assignment. It will make you famous.”

So he undertook the project, with that assist from the occult and inspiration from a book, “Looking Backward,” by Edward Bellamy. The book, which eventually became a cult classic, imagined a 21st-century world of cooperative housing and workspaces organized around crystal courts.

Wyman turned that inspiration into the focal point of the building’s interior, a vertical courtyard bathed in the Southern California sunlight filtering through a massive glass roof.

# BRADBURY BUILDING

### Sandstone to Celluloid

Today, the Bradbury Building, home to corporations, real estate investment firms and the Los Angeles police department’s internal affairs division, is no stranger to fictional law enforcement; the Bradbury’s role in movies has made it familiar to people who have never crossed its threshold.

The unexpected death of its namesake and the otherwise undistinguished designs of its creator have not diminished the Bradbury Building’s reputation, and as one of the area’s most popular film settings, it seems assured of immortality as downtown Los Angeles’ most intriguing landmark.



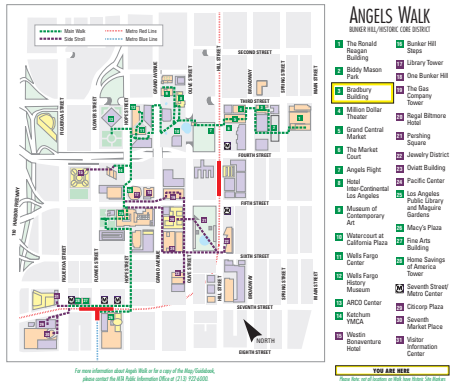
After publishing executive Will Randall, played by Actor Jack Nicholson, is bitten by a wolf, his life begins to change. Here he is seen in his office.



The meticulously restored interior of the Bradbury Building.

### Meticulously Restored

Purchased in 1989, and meticulously restored in 1991-92, with the help and encouragement of the Community Redevelopment Agency, by lawyer-turned-developer, Ira Yellin, the Bradbury Building has once again become one of the city’s most distinguished office buildings. The Bradbury Building was designated a National Historic Landmark by the United States Department of the Interior in 1977.



BACKGROUND PHOTO COURTESY OF SHIRLEY BLEVINS

TOP PHOTO AND LEFT PANEL: PHOTO COURTESY OF THE SECURITY PACIFIC COLLECTION / LOS ANGELES PUBLIC LIBRARY

Los Angeles Police Bicycle Squad, 1904  
PHOTO COURTESY OF DEPARTMENT OF SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA LIBRARIES

## BUNKER HILL / HISTORIC CORE



The Transit & Walking Districts of Historic Los Angeles

**Special Thanks to:**  
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Mayor Richard J. Rios  
Council Member Richard Alatorre  
Council Member Rita Walters

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Los Angeles Times

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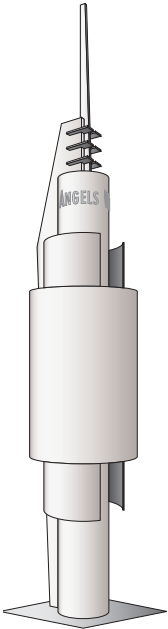
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Angels Walk Bunker Hill  
Select Stanchions

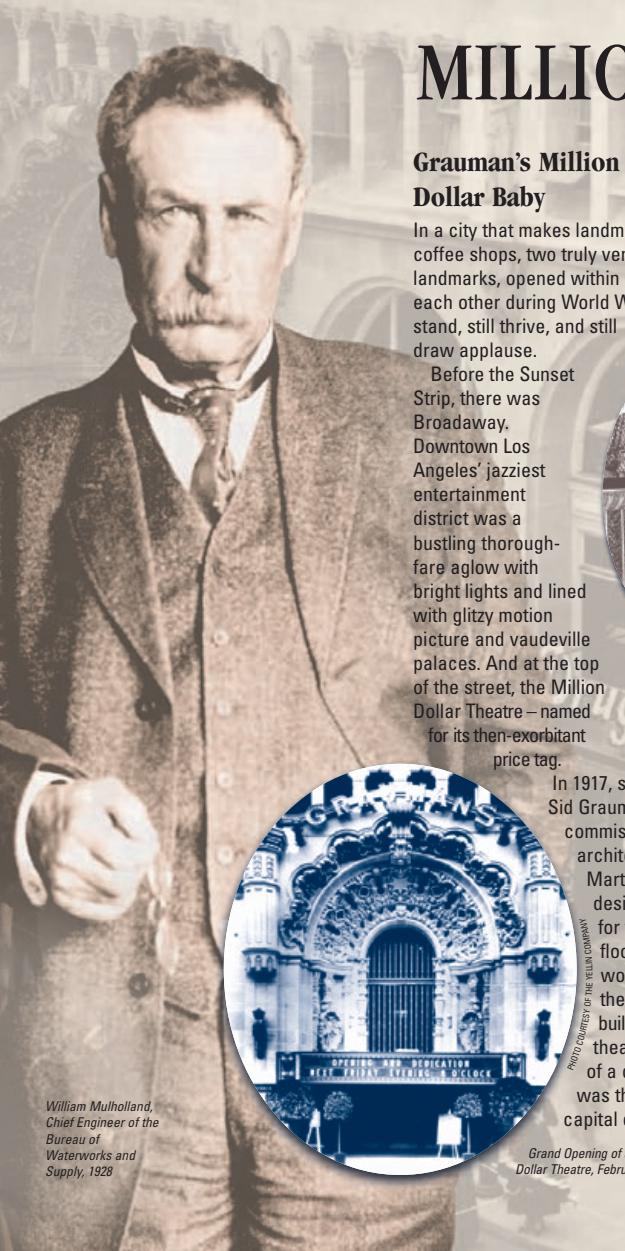
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BUNKER HILL / HISTORIC CORE



MILLION DOLLAR THEATRE



William Mulholland, Chief Engineer of the Bureau of Waterworks and Supply, 1928



Grand Opening of Sid Grauman's Million Dollar Theatre, February 1, 1918

Grauman's Million Dollar Baby

In a city that makes landmarks out of coffee shops, two truly venerable landmarks, opened within a year of each other during World War I, still stand, still thrive, and still draw applause.

Before the Sunset Strip, there was Broadway. Downtown Los Angeles' jazziest entertainment district was a bustling thoroughfare aglow with bright lights and lined with glitzy motion picture and vaudeville palaces. And at the top of the street, the Million Dollar Theatre – named for its then-exorbitant price tag.

In 1917, showman Sid Grauman commissioned architect Albert C. Martin Sr. to design a theatre for the ground floor of what would become the Edison building, a theatre worthy of a city that was the film capital of the world.



Interior of 2,200-seat auditorium inside Million Dollar Theatre Building, 1918

Water Wars and Latin Stars

After Edison moved to different quarters a dozen years later, several of the building's dozen floors were leased by the powerful Metropolitan Water District, and in its boardroom, the City Department of Water and Power's legendary engineer William



Actor Jack Nicholson as Private Eye J.J. (Jake) Gittes in "Chinatown", 1974

When the Million Dollar Theatre opened on February 1, 1918, it was hailed as one of the first great motion picture "palaces," a model for its future sister theatres, the Egyptian and fabled Chinese.

Silent stars **Mary Pickford**, **Lillian Gish** and **Charlie Chaplin** walked under its ornate Churrigueres-que terracotta arch to attend the opening-night premiere, the **Mack Sennett** comedy, "The Silent Man." Its success was instant, and durable. At exclusive after-hours screenings, Grauman entertained his private guests, among them **Chaplin**, **Gloria Swanson**, and comedian **Harold Lloyd**.



Charlie Chaplin and Mary Pickford, circa 1920

Mulholland worked with his sometimes-rivals in the region's water wars to bring water to the city.

By the lean 1930s, movies were hugely popular but movie palaces had become more common and less ornate. For more than four decades beginning in 1939, the theatre began showing Spanish-language movies and inviting stage acts. Stars from Latin America – **Javier Solis**, **Cantinflas**, **Vincente Fernandez** and **Lola Beltran** among them – performed over the years. The sidewalk in front bears plaques honoring Latino performers, among them Mexican screen idol Jorge Negrete. In 1954, as he prepared for a week long engagement at the theatre, he died. Hundreds of disbelieving fans showed up at the Million Dollar, hoping to hear that it wasn't true.

The Saga of Grand Central Market

But even as the theatre struggled, its next-door neighbor, the Grand Central Market, thrived. In 1898, Homer Laughlin Sr., a Civil War veteran who

made a fortune manufacturing fine dinner wear that carried his name, had commissioned architect John Parkinson to build the city's first reinforced steel and "truly fireproof" six-story building. It housed the Coulter Dry Goods Co., and eventually the ground floor was extended to Hill Street and two stories were added overhead, where the Central Library took up residence for two years.

By 1908, Coulter's store had moved, and the City of Paris department store set up shop. But an entrepreneur from Seattle had other ideas for the space. Chester A. Goss partnered with Laughlin's heir to open a huge ground-floor food hall. So in 1917, the City of Paris moved out and Grand Central Market was open for business, beginning a run of popularity that only the movies could rival.

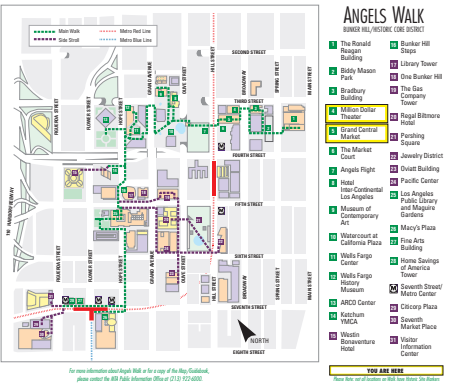
The twinned buildings, market and theatre, were purchased in the 1980s by Ira Yellin, a lawyer-turned-developer with a penchant for urban preservation who had them restored with the Community Redevelopment Agency's assistance and private funds as a staging ground for revival of a downtown residential and shopping district.



Flower Shop in Grand Central Market, 1919



Grand Central Market, circa 1940



Angels Walk LA  
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Gregory Scott, Director of Street Services

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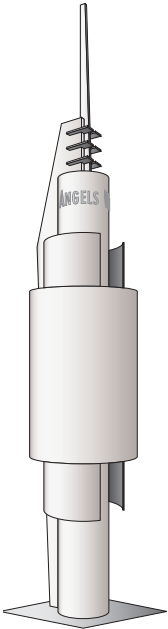
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Fine Arts Building



BUNKER HILL / HISTORIC CORE



Democratic Convention Los Angeles Headquarters, 1960

**Host of the Coast**  
Its lore is as rich as its tapestries, as its gilded cupids and carved marble. From the moment it opened on October 2, 1923, the 11-story Biltmore Hotel became Los Angeles' "Host of the Coast," a chandeliered statement to the rest of the world that, as a great American metropolis, Los Angeles had undoubtedly arrived.



Democratic Party hopefuls Senator John F. Kennedy and his running mate, Senator Lyndon B. Johnson, walk through Millennium Biltmore Hotel, July 16, 1960.



MILLENNIUM BILTMORE HOTEL



Ninth Annual Awards of Merit Presentation Dinner, Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences, Biltmore Hotel, March 4, 1937

**The Biltmore's Best Kept Secret**  
The Biltmore, like the rest of the city's hostelries, observed the official rules of Prohibition, but in the luxurious Presidential suite — accessible by private elevator and occupied by seven presidents and scores of luminaries — a button hidden in the paneling opened a secret liquor compartment that was kept stocked during the "dry" era and even today.

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, the organization that hosts the Academy Awards, was born at a gathering of film luminaries



11th Academy Awards, February 23, 1939, held at the Biltmore Bowl. Spencer Tracy receives Best Actor for "Boys Town" and Bette Davis receives Best Actress for "Jezebel"



**The Biltmore's Best Kept Guests**  
The Biltmore's pillows have been plumped for assorted royalty and seven presidents, including Franklin D. Roosevelt, Harry S. Truman and John F. Kennedy.

In 1964, the Beatles were dropped by helicopter to the hotel rooftop, and hid out for a few days during their first U.S. tour.

Lingerie saleswoman Thelma Becker was the hotel's best-known in-house celebrity, and its longest resident. She called the hotel home for 57 years, until 1997, when a broken hip forced her to check out and move into a convalescent home. If she was "in the mood and had time," she said, she conducted impromptu tours for VIP guests. When she retired in 1975, the hotel management cut her room rate to \$33 a night and kept it



Actors Jack Nicholson and Faye Dunaway in the film "Chinatown."

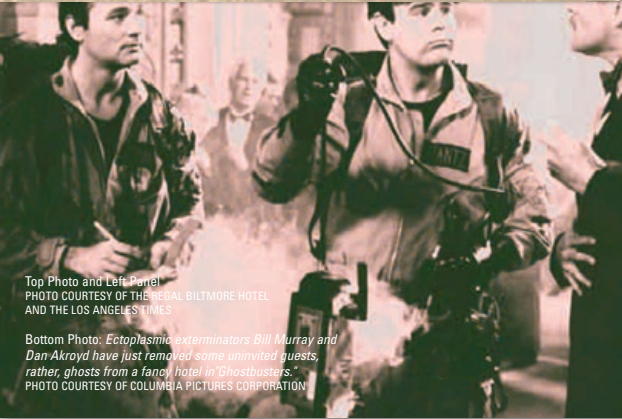
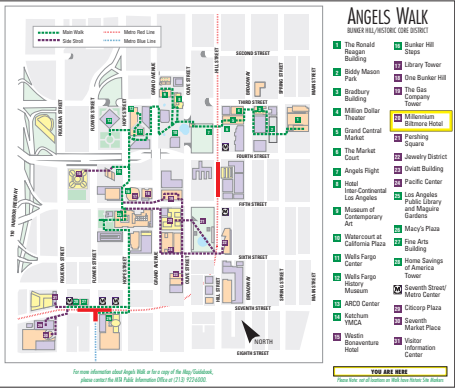
there for 22 years. In 1980, her suite, 308, was renamed the Becker Suite.

The hotel has long been a favorite location for films. Movie fans and Angelenos alike would recognize it from scenes in "The Sting," "Chinatown," "Ghostbusters," "Beverly Hills Cop," "The Fabulous Baker Boys," and "Vertigo," when director Alfred Hitchcock used the 11 flights of ornate, wrought-iron back-stairs to create dizzying scenes.

Listed as a historical cultural landmark in 1969, the building has charms for moviemakers and guests alike, including the cathedral-like ceilings in the public rooms, ornamented variously with murals of angels and cherubs, and teepees and bison, and Spanish conquistadors. The decorative friezes elegantly camouflage Prohibition-era lookout windows in the Gold Room.



Shirley Temple presents Best Actress Award to Claudette Colbert for "It Happened One Night," at the 7th Academy Awards, February 27, 1935, held at the Biltmore Bowl.



Top Photo and Left Panel: Photo of the Biltmore Hotel and the Los Angeles Times

Bottom Photo: Ectoplasma exterminators Bill Murray and Dan Akroyd have just removed some unwanted guests, rather, ghosts from a fancy hotel in "Ghostbusters."