



SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Historic Preservation Commission Resolution No. 707

HEARING DATE: JUNE 19, 2011

Date: June 19, 2013
Case No.: 2013.0570U
Project Address: 630 Sansome Street (U.S. Appraisers Stores and Immigration Station)
Zoning: C-2 (Community Business)
65-A Height and Bulk District
Block/Lot: 0197/002
Project Sponsor: General Services Administration
Beth L. Savage, Federal Preservation Officer
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ADOPTING FINDINGS RECOMMENDING TO THE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER THAT 630 SANSOME STREET (U.S. APPRAISERS STORES AND IMMIGRATION STATION), LOT 002 IN ASSESSOR'S BLOCK 0197, BE NOMINATED TO THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES AND THAT, SUBJECT TO REVISIONS, THE OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROCESS THE NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION.

PREAMBLE

WHEREAS, On April 29, 2013, Beth L. Savage, Federal Preservation Officer, General Services Administration, forwarded a request to the San Francisco Planning Department (hereinafter "Department") for review and comment on the nomination of 630 Sansome Street, also known as the U.S. Appraisers Stores and Immigration Station, on Lot 002 in Assessor's Block 0197, to the National Register of Historic Places (hereinafter "National Register").

WHEREAS, Pursuant to the Certified Local Government Agreement between the Office of Historic Preservation (hereinafter "OHP") and the City and County of San Francisco, the Historic Preservation Commission (hereinafter "Commission") is provided with a forty-five (45) day review and comment period to provide written comments to the OHP before the State Historical Resources Commission takes action on the above-stated National Register nomination.

WHEREAS, The National Register is the official list of the Nation's cultural resources worthy of preservation. The National Register's criteria for evaluating the significance of properties were designed to recognize the accomplishments of all peoples who have made a contribution to the Nation's heritage in the areas of Events, Persons, Design/Construction, and Information Potential. The four National Register criteria are designed to guide state and local governments, federal agencies and others in evaluating potential entries into the National Register.

WHEREAS, At its hearing on June 19, 2013, the Commission, acting in its capacity as San Francisco's Certified Local Government Commission, reviewed the nomination of 630 Sansome Street, the U.S. Appraisers Stores and Immigration Station, to the National Register.

WHEREAS, In reviewing the nomination, the Commission has had available for its review and consideration reports, photographs, and other materials pertaining to the nomination contained in the Department's case file, and has reviewed and heard testimony and received materials from interested parties during the public hearing on the Project.

WHEREAS, According to the nomination's summary, 630 Sansome Street, the U.S. Appraisers Stores and Immigration Station, is significant at the local level for the National Register under Criterion A for its association with U.S. customs and immigration operations.

WHEREAS, The Commission agrees that the property is locally significant under Criteria A; however, the Commission also recognizes that the nomination would benefit from additional documentation regarding U.S. Customs procedures and the types and quantities of goods processed at the facility, as well as an analysis of the significance of events associated with other government agencies housed in the building. These include events associated with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which occupied the building in the 1960s during a crucial period of planning for the future of San Francisco Bay.

WHEREAS, The Commission acknowledges that San Francisco has traditionally served as a vital gateway city for immigration, and that the U.S. Appraisers Stores and Immigration Station is a significant building for San Francisco's immigrant communities. The nomination should therefore provide further analysis regarding the numbers and nationalities of persons receiving immigration services at the building over time. This analysis should acknowledge the impact of key immigration legislation, including the repeal of the Chinese Exclusion Act, the Bracero Program, the McCarran-Walter Act, and the Immigration and Naturalization Act of 1965.

WHEREAS, The Commission agrees that the property appears to be a good example of Public Works Administration (PWA) Art Moderne style architecture and may also be significant under Criterion C for its design and construction. The Commission also believes that the building may be significant as the work of a master architect, Gilbert Stanley Underwood, who designed other Streamline Moderne buildings in San Francisco including the U.S. Mint and the U.S. Post Office Rincon Center. The nomination should also provide further clarification regarding the 1939 design of the building and a quote made by the architect in 1936 (Section 7, Page 2).

WHEREAS, The Commission relies on National Register nominations as vital documentation and evidence for the significance of historic resources in San Francisco.

WHEREAS, Properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places are automatically included in the California Register of Historical Resources and afforded consideration in accordance with state and local environmental review procedures.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Historic Preservation Commission hereby supports the nomination for 630 Sansome Street, U.S. Appraisers Stores and Immigration Station, but **recommends** that it be revised with additional information regarding U.S. Customs operations at the building, as well as additional information regarding events associated with other government agencies in the building. The Commission **further recommends** additional analysis that explores the impact of immigration legislation on the nature and numbers of persons processed through the facility. The Commission **further recommends** that the nomination be revised to include an evaluation of the building's potential for listing under Criterion C as a good example of Public Works Administration Art Moderne style architecture, including an evaluation of the building's historic integrity as supported by historic photographs. This evaluation should also provide additional exploration of architect Gilbert Stanley Underwood's works in the San Francisco Bay Area and nationally, including an assessment of his stature as a master architect.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, subject to these revisions, the Historic Preservation Commission hereby **recommends** that the property located at 630 Sansome Street, also known as the U.S. Appraisers Stores and Immigration Station, located on Lot 002 in Assessor's Block 0197, be nominated to the National Register of Historic Places, and that the Office of Historic Preservation process the National Register nomination.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Historic Preservation Commission hereby directs its Recording Secretary to transmit this Motion, and other pertinent materials in the case file 2013.0570U to the State Historic Preservation Officer.

I hereby certify that the foregoing Motion was **Adopted** by the Historic Preservation Commission on June 19, 2013.

Jonas P. Ionin
Acting Commission Secretary

AYES: K. Hasz, E. Johnck, R. Johns, D. Matsuda, J. Pearlman, A. Wolfram

NAYS:

ABSENT: A. Hyland

ADOPTED: June 19, 2011