



# SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

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## Historic Preservation Commission Resolution No. 0656

HEARING DATE: OCTOBER 6, 2010

*Date:* September 29, 2010  
*Case No.:* 2010.0866U  
*Property Address:* 116 New Montgomery Street  
*Block/Lot:* 3722/071  
*Requestor:* Milford Wayne Donaldson, FAIA  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
Office of Historic Preservation  
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**ADOPTING FINDINGS RECOMMENDING TO THE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER THAT THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 116 NEW MONTGOMERY STREET, ON LOT 071 IN ASSESSOR'S BLOCK 3722, BE NOMINATED TO THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES AND THAT THE OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROCESS THE NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION.**

### PREAMBLE

WHEREAS, On September 1, 2010, Milford Wayne Donaldson, State Historic Preservation Officer forwarded a request to the San Francisco Planning Department (hereinafter "Department") for review and comment on the nomination of 116 New Montgomery Street, also known as the Rialto Building, on Lot 071 in Assessor's Block 3722, to the National Register of Historic Places (hereinafter "National Register").

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 sixty (60) 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.

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.

At its hearing on October 6, 2010, the Commission, acting in its capacity as San Francisco's Certified Local Government Commission, reviewed the nomination of the Rialto Building located at 116 New Montgomery Street, to the National Register.

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.

The property is a Category 1 (significant) Article 11 Building, and was previously surveyed by San Francisco Heritage where it received an A rating. The building was also included in the City's 1976 Architectural Survey where it was given a rating of 3 on a scale of -2 to 5.

According to the nomination's summary, the Rialto Building is significant at the local level for the National Register under the Criterion A for Community Planning and the Development themes and under Criterion C as an example of a unique architectural type. Initially constructed during the building boom in San Francisco at the turn of the twentieth century, the commercial office building featured a Chicago-inspired open plan and light courts and was designed by the San Francisco-based architecture firm of Meyer and O'Brien. The Rialto Building became a symbol of reconstruction efforts after the Earthquake and Fire of 1906 when its exterior shell remained, but the interior was gutted by fire. Prominently located at a major intersection in the newly expanded financial district, the reconstruction of the building was encouraged by the City of San Francisco. Architects Bliss & Faville reconstructed the building in 1910. When the work on the Rialto Building was complete, the project was heralded as a transformative project that restored faith in the City. The reconstructed building, which retained its original 1902 exterior, was unique in a cityscape now dominated by modern buildings and skyscrapers constructed after the Earthquake and Fire to replace those buildings lost by the disaster.

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 **recommends** that the property located at 116 New Montgomery Street, also known as the Rialto Building, on Lot 071 in Assessor's Block 3722, be nominated to the National Register of Historic Places and **further recommends** the State Historic Preservation Officer to process the National Register nomination.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Historic Preservation Commission hereby directs its Recording Secretary to transmit this Resolution, and other pertinent materials in the case file 2010.0866U to the State Historic Preservation Officer.

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was **Adopted** by the Historic Preservation Commission on October 6, 2010.

Linda Avery  
Recording Secretary

AYES: Martinez, Wolfram, Chase, Damkroger and Hasz

NOES: None

ABSENT: Buckley and Matsuda

ADOPTED: October 6, 2010

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