State of California — The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

PRIMARY RECORD

Primary #
HRI #
Trinomial
NRHP Status Code
Other Listings
Review Code Reviewer Date

Page 1 of 1 *Resource name(s) or number (assigned by recorder) 135 Sanchez St.

P1. Other Identifier: SFFD Fire Station #6

*P2. Location: ☐ Not for Publication ☒ Unrestricted *a. County: San Francisco

and (P2b and P2c or P2d. Attach a Location Map as necessary.)

*b. USGS 7.5' Quad: San Francisco North, Calif. Date: 1956 (rev. 1973)

*c. Address: 135 Sanchez St. City: San Francisco Zip: 94118

d. UTM: Zone: 10 mE/ mN (G.P.S.)

e. Other Locational Data: Assessor's Parcel Number (Map, Block, Lot): 3542-025

*P3a. Description: (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries.)

San Francisco Fire Department Fire Station #6 at 135 Sanchez St. is located on a 100' x 125' lot on the east side of Sanchez Street, between 14th and Market Streets. The building is a 2-story, steel-frame fire station, designed in the International style. The square-plan building, clad in brick veneer and scored concrete, sits on a reinforced concrete foundation and is capped by a flat roof. To the south of the building is an open lot, enclosed within a brick perimeter wall and a metal gate, adorned with a concentric square pattern. The building's primary façade faces west and is asymmetrical organized with bay entrances in the left three bays and a solid, brick masonry stair tower bay on the right. The left bays of the first floor feature three full-height metal overhead doors separated by thin two-story high piloti, while the right bay contains a single metal pedestrian door. The left three bays have a recessed balcony with channeled metal parapet wall on the second story A red light fixture is set on the balcony wall above each of the engine bays below. The balcony features full-height, metal-sash windows and a single doorway. The second story of the stair tower bay has affixed letters reading "SFFD" and mounted flagpole. The primary façade terminates in a simple concrete cornice. The secondary, north elevation has large areas of fixed glazing in each bay on the first story. The second story has paired metal window systems with fixed top and bottom sash and central awning sash. A tall concrete hose tower rises from the east end of the building. The building appears to be in good condition.

*P3b. Resource Attributes: (list attributes and codes) HP9. Public utility building

*P4. Resources Present: ☒ Building ☐ Structure ☐ Object ☐ Site ☐ District ☐ Element of District ☐ Other

P5b. Photo: (view and date)
View of west and south façades
8/9/2006

*P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources: ☒ Historic
1949
Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps

*P7. Owner and Address:
City of San Francisco
25 Van Ness Ave #400
San Francisco CA

*P8. Recorded by:
Page & Turnbull, Inc.
724 Pine Street
San Francisco, CA 94108

*P9. Date Recorded:
8/9/2006

*P10. Survey Type:
Reconnaissance

*P11. Report Citation: (Cite survey report and other sources, or enter "none") None

*Attachments: ☒ None ☐ Location Map ☐ Sketch Map ☐ Continuation Sheet ☐ Building, Structure, and Object Record ☐ Archaeological Record ☐ District Record ☐ Linear Feature Record ☐ Milling Station Record ☐ Rock Art Record ☐ Artifact Record ☐ Photograph Record ☐ Other (list)

State of California The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Primary #
HRI No.

BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD

*NRHP Status Code 3CS

Page 1 of 2 *Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) 135 Sanchez Street

B1. Historic Name San Francisco Fire Department Engine Co. No. 27

B2. Common Name San Francisco Fire Department Station 6

B3. Original Use firehouse B4. Present Use: firehouse

* B5. Architectural Style Late Moderne

*B6. Construction History
135 Sanchez Street was constructed in 1948. The building was retrofitted in 2000, but there have been no exterior alterations to the original construction.

*B7. Moved? ☒ No ☐ Yes Date: _____ Original Location: _____

*B8. Related Features none

B9a. Architect Spencer & Ambrose . Builder unknown

*B10. Significance: Theme Depression, World War II and Postwar Aftermath Area: Duboce Triangle

Period of Significance 1929-1950 Property Type government building Applicable Criteria 3

(Discuss importance in terms of historical or architectural context as defined by theme, period, and geographic scope. Also address integrity)

In regard to California Register Criterion 1 (History/Events) this property is considered under the Depression, World War II and Postwar Aftermath context of the Historic Context Statement, Market & Octavia Neighborhood Plan Area, since it is both an identified building type (government building) and dates from the Period of Significance (1929-1950) of that context. Based on its appearance, the building is also considered under California Register Criterion 3 (Design/Construction). There is no indication the property is eligible for listing in the California Register under Criterion 2 (Important Persons) or Criterion 4 (Information Potential).

Criterion 1:

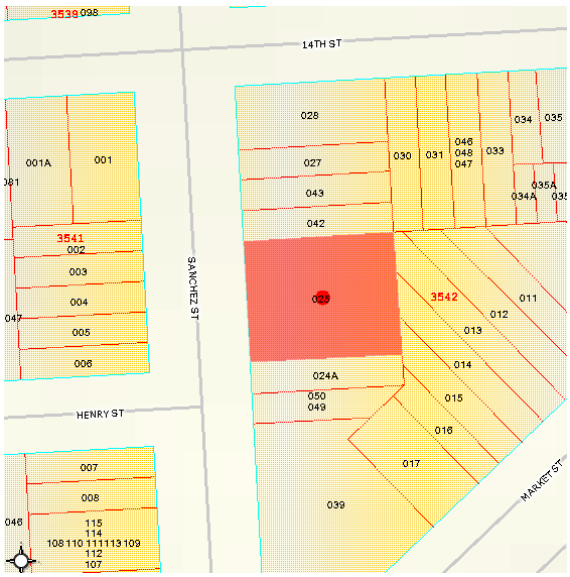
135 Sanchez Street was constructed in 1948 by the firm Spencer & Ambrose for the City and County of San Francisco. The firehouse was built on previously vacant land for the San Francisco Fire Department Engine Co. No. 27, which was joined soon after construction was completed by Truck Company 6. In 1973, this building changed its official name to San Francisco Fire Department Station 6. (continued)

B11. Additional Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) _____

*B12. References: Historic Context Statement, Market & Octavia Neighborhood Plan Area, Page & Turnbull, Inc. July 20, 2007
Guardians of the City Website, accessed 01/12/10: http://guardiansofthecity.org/sffd/companies/trucks/truck6.html

B13. Remarks

(Sketch Map with north arrow required.)



*B14. Evaluator Kelley & VerPlanck

*Date of Evaluation 05/01/2010

(This space reserved for official comments)

B10: Significance (continued)

The building continues to operate as a firehouse.

Duboce Triangle had been generally built out by the Depression, World War II and Postwar Aftermath period of significance, due to successive waves of residential building associated with the opening of the Market & Castro Street Cable Car line in 1886 along Market Street to Castro Street, and the post-1906 trend of conversion from single family dwellings to multi-family apartments and flats. With its construction date of 1948, 135 Sanchez was the only new building constructed in the neighborhood during the immediate postwar period, and the building contrasts accordingly with surrounding structures in the area. Construction of government buildings is not generally associated with the Depression, World War II and Postwar Aftermath period of significance in Duboce Triangle. Therefore, 135 Sanchez Street does not accurately reflect the Depression, World War II and Postwar Aftermath period of significance.

Criterion 3:

The firm of Spencer & Ambrose was helmed by Eldridge T. Spencer (1893-1978) and William Clement Ambrose (1888-1962). Other public and municipal buildings by Spencer & Ambrose in the Bay Area include Sunnyside Elementary School in San Francisco, a residence hall at Stanford University, and a guest unit, Pine Cottage, at Yosemite Lodge in Yosemite National Park.

The Late Moderne style emerged in the 1940s, and reflects the continuing interest during this era in future-oriented design. The style incorporates the geometric influences of the Art Deco style and the machine aesthetic of the Moderne style, as well as referencing the emerging International Style, in which windows became larger, walls structurally unnecessary, and cantilevered facade elements increasingly common. Characteristics of Late Moderne buildings include severe straight lines, flat roofs with unadorned rooflines, metal case ribbon windows, asymmetrical facade arrangement, varying surface texture treatment, streamlined fixtures, and blocky volumetric massing. 135 Sanchez Street is a good example of the Late Moderne style as applied to a government building, and displays many Moderne stylistic elements, including an asymmetrical facade arrangement, articulated brick stair tower, slim two-story high piloti, full-height metal-sash windows, streamlined red light fixtures, and a simple concrete cornice. The building retains sufficient character defining features and integrity to accurately embody the distinctive characteristics of the Late Moderne type, period and method of construction.

Integrity:

135 Sanchez Street has undergone very few if any exterior alterations since construction. The building was retrofitted in 2000, but the retrofit has not interfered with the exterior elevations of the building. The facade retains all of its character-defining features, including its two-story height and rectangular massing, asymmetrical facade, brick stair tower with "SFFD" signage and prominent flagpole, slim two-story high piloti, full-height metal-sash windows, streamlined red light fixtures, and simple concrete cornice. The building retains the following aspects of integrity: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

Conclusion:

135 Sanchez Street appears to be eligible for listing in the California Register under Criterion 3 (Design/Construction) as a well-preserved example of a Late Moderne institutional building. The building retains sufficient character defining features and integrity and embodies the distinctive characteristics of a the Late Moderne type, period and method of construction.

Character Defining Features:

Character defining features include two story height and rectangular massing, asymmetrical facade arrangement, brick stair tower with "SFFD" signage and prominent flagpole, slim two-story high piloti, full-height metal-sash windows, streamlined red light fixtures, and simple concrete cornice.