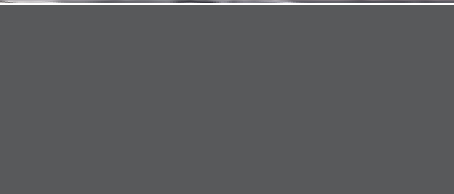


*San Francisco
Civic Center Historic District
Cultural Landscape Inventory*

SITE HISTORY
EXISTING CONDITIONS
ANALYSIS & EVALUATION



JUNE 2015



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IN ASSOCIATION WITH A+H ARCHITECTURE + PLANNING, LLC

CIVIC CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT CULTURAL LANDSCAPE INVENTORY

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA
JUNE 2015

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COVER PHOTOS

Clockwise from top left: c. 1945 Aerial of Civic Center (University of California Berkeley, WBE Collection, College of Environmental Design Library), 1945 War Memorial Court (San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library), 1964 Aerial of Civic Center (University of California Berkeley, WBE Collection, College of Environmental Design Library), 2012 Pioneer Monument (MIG), 2012 Seat Wall near San Francisco Public Library (MIG), 2012 Civic Center Plaza (MIG), 2012 Allée near Asian Art Museum (MIG), 2012 Civic Center Plaza and City Hall (MIG), 2012 War Memorial Court (MIG), 2012 Fire Call Box (MIG), 2012 War Memorial Complex Gate (MIG), 2012 Simon Bolivar Statue (MIG), 2012 AWSS Fire Hydrant (MIG)

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- San Francisco Examiner
- San Francisco Public Utilities Commission
- San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library
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- United States Geological Survey
- United States Library of Congress

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INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

The Civic Center Historic District comprises a roughly 58-acre and 15-block part of San Francisco that has multiple historic designations. It was designated locally as a San Francisco Landmark District in December 1994 (1994 SFLD), which followed a listing in the National Register of Historic Places on October 10, 1978 (1978 NR) for state and national levels of significance and a designation as a National Historic Landmark on February 27, 1987 (1987 NHL), which is the highest designation for a historic property in the United States. Both the National Register listing and National Historic Landmark designation comprise a smaller area boundary than the San Francisco Landmark District. The national listings include nearly an 8-block area just over 25 acres.

The historic district is located in the City and County of San Francisco, California, in downtown just north of Market Street

between Franklin Street and 7th Street. It extends north to McAllister Street and Golden Gate Avenue. It is surrounded by several neighborhoods including South of Market (SOMA), Western Addition, Tenderloin, Nob Hill and the Financial District. Properties in the Civic Center are primarily public in nature, but owned and managed by several different city, state and federal agencies.

Most of the city’s major government and cultural institutions are located in the Civic Center Historic District including City Hall, San Francisco Public Library, War Memorial Complex including the Veterans Building and Opera House, Exposition (Civic) Auditorium, United Nations Plaza, Asian Art Museum, Civic Center Plaza, San Francisco Superior Court, Supreme Court of California, Louise M. Davies Symphony Hall, Federal Building at United Nations Plaza, Edmund G. Brown State Office Building, Hiram W. Johnson State Office Building, the

Figure 1.2 The Civic Center Historic District Cultural Landscape Inventory Study Area (MIG)



Nourse Theater and several educational institutions, including the University of California, Hastings College of the Law. Multi-modal transportation networks that run through Civic Center are overseen by the City of San Francisco, State of California, Bay Area Rapid Transit, and San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency.

SUMMARY OF HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

Historically, this area has served as the center of the city’s public services, including a city hall and other municipal and private buildings that were destroyed in the Great 1906 San Francisco Earthquake and Fires. That event and the near total destruction of this area necessitated the planning and construction of a new civic center. The plan for San Francisco’s Civic Center was developed by many leading Beaux Arts era architects and urban planners including Daniel Burnham and John Galen Howard. Many plans were debated and major portions of the Civic Center were developed over the next few decades up through the construction, dedication and opening of the War Memorial Complex in 1936 (the buildings within the Complex were completed in 1932, but the Memorial Court was not complete until 1936). The Beaux Arts era plans for the Civic Center (See Figures 2.7 and 2.8) were never fully realized. The Great Depression and World War II ceased major development, though some changes were made during these years.

Focus was placed on the Civic Center again in the 1950s resulting in the construction of an underground exhibit hall, parking garage and the redesign of Civic Center Plaza. Controversy surrounded the plaza design and though discussions took place and plans were developed to renovate the major landscape space on more than one occasion (the first effort coming not long after the new plaza opened), no major changes were implemented. This pattern of intense focus and little to no action was a trend during the later half of the 20th century with multiple efforts to reimagine the Civic Center, but with few major changes actually implemented.

That trend of inaction was halted with dramatic developments in the last decade of the 20th century, with the building of the new public library in 1996 and rehabilitation of the old library into the Asian Art Museum in 2003. Also at this time the San Francisco Superior Court Building at Polk and McAllister Streets was built (using plan guidelines from 1912 and other Beaux Arts

principals), City Hall was seismically repaired and restored to its 1915 configuration, and the State of California demolished and replaced its building on Golden Gate Avenue and restored the Supreme Court Building on McAllister Street as one integrated State building complex.

The construction of BART and the Market Street transportation corridor improvements in the 1960s – 1970s also had a major impact on the southern edge of the Civic Center. A similar focus is currently being placed on Van Ness Avenue to implement transportation corridor improvements, including a bus rapid transit route. Bicycle facilities have also been added to the Civic Center to improve cyclist safety and convenience, such as the Polk Street Bikeway Improvement Project which was completed in May 2014.

SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Civic Center Historic District is significant for its association with events and architectural styles connected to the Panama-Pacific International Exposition, the Beaux Arts Civic Center Plan, the formation of the United Nations, and the United States peace treaty with Japan. All of these areas of significance have been established through the 1994 SFLD, 1987 NHL and 1978 NR. Studies of related area of significance are planned or currently being completed by the San Francisco Planning Department which will further clarify the district's historic significance.

The Civic Center Historic District relates to several areas of National Register significance themes, including Architecture, Art, Beaux Arts, Community Planning and Development, Entertainment/Recreation (World’s Fair), Landscape Architecture, Politics/Government, and Social History. It has been demonstrated to meet two of the four National Register of Historic Places and National Historic Landmark program significance criteria: Criterion A/1 - a property associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; and Criterion C/4 - a property that embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.

Architects, landscape architects and craftspeople associated with designing or building significant features in the Civic Center

Historic District include: Arthur Brown, Jr.; John Bakewell, Jr.; John Baur; Jean-Louis Bourgeois; Willis Polk; B. Marcus Priteca; Bernard J.S. Cahill; Daniel H. Burnham; DeLeuw, Cather and Company; Frederick H. Meyer; G. Albert Lansburgh; George Kelham; Jean Louis Bourgeois; John Galen Howard; John Bakewell, Jr.; John Reid, Jr.; Christopher H. Snyder; Paul Deniville; Thomas D. Church; Walter D. Bliss; and William B. Faville.

The boundary of the historic district reflects the limit outlined in the 1994 SFLD, which is more expansive than the boundary outlined in the 1978 NR and 1987 NHL. The period of significance for the Civic Center Historic District is 1896-1951. The end date for the period of significance was established by the 1987 NHL.

RELATED STUDIES

There are a few distinct areas of significance that are the focus of current studies and planned future studies that could change the documented significance for the Civic Center Historic District. In particular a study is currently being completed to review the mid-century modern era urban development, planning and landscape architecture for the construction of the underground exhibit hall, parking garage and redesign of Civic Center Plaza which were designed by known masters of architecture and landscape architecture including Douglas Baylis; Skidmore, Owings and Merrill (SOM); and Wurster, Bernardi and Emmons (WBE). If the work associated with these efforts is found to be significant then the period of significance would extend to 1961. The area being studied primarily affects block 0788, but also relates to features on block 0812. In addition, the work of known master landscape architect Lawrence Halprin and his work associated with BART, Market Street and the United Nations Plaza is currently being studied. If work associated with that project is found to be significant then the period of significance would be extended to the 1970s. The area designated for this future study is outlined on maps of blocks 0351 and 0355, which are located in the Existing Conditions and Analysis section. Finally, Civic Center Historic District should be studied in terms of its relationship to numerous national level civic protests and social movements such as the Vietnam War, the House Committee on Un-American Activities, the White Night Riots and the gay rights movement.

NEED FOR A CULTURAL LANDSCAPE INVENTORY

A great deal of research and documentation has been completed for the historic district’s buildings, structures and some landscape features, most notably through the National Register of Historic Places (NR) and National Historic Landmark (NHL) nominations that were completed in 1978 and 1987, respectively. In 2006, Jeffrey T. Tilman published a book that examined the career of Arthur Brown, Jr., chief architect of four main buildings in the Civic Center designed and built following the Great 1906 San Francisco Earthquake and Fires. These buildings include City Hall, War Memorial Opera House and Veterans Building, and the Federal Building. Through these efforts and other endeavors, some knowledge of the landscape’s developmental history had emerged. However, in order to make sound decisions for the Civic Center Landmark District today and in the future, a more comprehensive understanding of the district’s landscape features, its history and significance was needed. This is particularly true for three main reasons:

- The San Francisco Landmark District (1994 SFLD), established by Article 10 of the San Francisco Planning Code in 1994, encompasses a larger geographic boundary than the National Historic Landmark documentation covers. Developing an understanding of resources that are outside the NHL historic district, but included in the San Francisco Landmark District is critical for the City of San Francisco’s future planning efforts.
- None of the prior documentation efforts provides a comprehensive inventory or understanding of landscape features that relate to the periods and areas of significance. The previous studies focused on documenting the buildings with little attention to the surrounding landscape features and context. For every landscape feature that is documented, there are several that are not, and that gap of information will only thwart future planning and design efforts in the Civic Center Historic District which need to be sensitive to the district’s history.
- Some discrepancies and contradictions occur between the three previous documentation efforts (1978 NR, 1987 NHL, 1994 SFLD) which needed clarification.

A Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) is necessary for planning efforts associated with National Historic Landmarks that include cultural landscapes, as outlined in the National Historic Preservation Act Section 110 (as amended). Therefore, it is an early and critical step in the process to provide the City of San Francisco and its partners with the guidance needed for a property possessing national level of significance and integrity that enjoys ongoing use. A CLI is a versatile document that:

- Provides the stewards of the Civic Center Historic District a valuable reference which enriches people’s knowledge of the history of the site;
- Deepens the understanding of extant features and whether they contribute to the historic character of the district; and
- Provides an understanding of the district’s significance.

In particular, because the historic district is owned and managed by multiple agencies and departments, it is critical to have a CLI which provides a common source of knowledge and guidance for its stewards. It is a guiding document more than a prescriptive document; a resource which guides and manages decisions rather than making them outright. It culls historic and current information, bringing it together in one place and providing a database, analysis and framework for future decisions affecting the Civic Center Historic District. In essence it documents and evaluates the current status of extant features and includes an evaluation of their historic significance. Though many understand its significant place in the city, both historically and geographically, many of the current users of the Civic Center have differing missions, goals, and resources inherent to their organizations. There are places where these goals and missions overlap, and there are areas where compromise and balance are necessary to achieve the overall goals for the Civic Center. This CLI provides a solid base of information for stewards of the Civic Center Historic District to work together to achieve long-lasting protection and viability for a place that has impacted and provided inspiration for the citizens of San Francisco and the world.

This CLI incorporates information from previous inventories, documentation efforts, reports and studies which are relevant to the current understanding and future planning of the district. The

CLI also provides new information gathered through field survey and archival research. It is clear that the Civic Center Historic District holds a strong association with the citizens of San Francisco. The district has often been the site of civic protests, celebrations and other events. The Civic Center has been heavily involved in the City’s most important historic moments including the Great 1906 San Francisco Earthquake and Fires, the rise of San Francisco as a major west coast urban center, use as temporary housing and as a victory garden during World War II, the signing of the United Nations Charter, post World War II urban development efforts, and the assassination of Mayor George Moscone and City Supervisor Harvey Milk and subsequent riots. While other studies go into depth about specific events this CLI provides a comprehensive overview of significant historic events that have impacted its development.

It is the historic district as a whole, its buildings, its spaces and landscape features that need to be fully understood since they were designed to exhibit a harmonious whole and should be treated as such now and into the future. Focusing on the major building elements only includes half the picture. In fact, it is the open spaces and landscape features that were used to reinforce the design aesthetics of the Civic Center that have experienced the greatest threats to their design integrity. For example, Memorial Court was recently the focus of a design competition to determine how best to sensitively incorporate a Veteran's Memorial. Understanding the character-defining features of that landscape was critical in determining a preservation-minded solution that sensitively inserted a new design into a historic landscape. The same is true of many non-building contributing features; with little recognition and limited understanding they have been and could continue to be at a high risk of loss or damage. With very few of those historic features left in the district, it is imperative that the remaining contributing landscape features that date to the historic period and contribute to the significance of the district are recognized and preserved.

CULTURAL LANDSCAPE INVENTORY BENEFITS

This Cultural Landscape Inventory for the Civic Center Historic District develops a greater understanding of the extant landscape features and their relationship to the historic period; lays the groundwork for approval by the City of San Francisco and the California’s State Office of Historic Preservation for future design interventions; and assists future efforts to update

the National Historic Landmark documentation. The Cultural Landscape Inventory will directly affect preservation planning, design and maintenance for the site by:

- Deepening the understanding of the site’s history and its extant resources as they relate to the historic district;
- Providing a compilation of current analysis and evaluation of the site’s extant character-defining features and its historical significance; and
- Providing information about the important landscape elements of the Civic Center that were not included in previous documentation, which focused on the individual buildings within the district.

METHODOLOGY AND SCOPE OF WORK

WHAT IS A CULTURAL LANDSCAPE INVENTORY?

A Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) is a comprehensive tool critical for the understanding of a cultural landscape associated with a National Historic Landmark property.

Section I: Site History includes a narrative and graphic account of the landscape’s development through the present focusing on the historic period to provide context for the later sections.

Section II: Existing Conditions & Analysis documents and assesses the extant features in the landscape, focusing on landscape characteristics and features that contribute to the significance of the historic property. It analyzes each feature’s relationship to the historic period, and determines which extant landscape characteristics and features date to the historic period and therefore contribute to the significance of the historic district.

Section III: Evaluation reviews the existing historic documentation and makes recommendations for updates to the documentation using National Register of Historic Places and National Historic Landmark program guidelines. The boundary, period of significance, areas of significance, and criteria are all evaluated.

Work for all sections was performed in conformance with guidelines established by various documents that lead this work including *The Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for the Treatment*

of Cultural Landscapes; A Guide to Cultural Landscape Reports: Contents, Process, and Techniques; and the *Cultural Landscapes Inventory Professional Procedures Guide*.

METHODOLOGY

The methodology for developing this Cultural Landscape Inventory blends traditional research, documentation and analysis methods with modern methods and tools. In particular, the site history was developed using traditional research methods by visiting select archives and repositories known to hold written and graphic materials relating to the history of the Civic Center’s development. Additional research was gleaned through various online sources, some relating to the brick and mortar repositories that the research team visited, but also extending to solely online sources of verifiable data.

The existing conditions were documented using a base of information gathered from various City of San Francisco departments and public agencies. This base information was sparse and/or needed a great deal of verification by the project team. A field team verified or recorded landscape features that were not previously captured or captured accurately on base maps and with photographs in September 2012. Individual features were verified during subsequent visits. This information was transferred to GIS along with a table of information associated with each feature. Photographs of each feature were tagged in the GIS data. The printed report provides a thorough view of the data that is available in the comprehensive digital GIS inventory, which has been transferred to the San Francisco Planning Department.

The existing conditions of the study area are organized using the San Francisco Office of the Assessor-Recorder’s numbering convention which assigns each block a unique number. With the exception of blocks 0765 and 0347 which are combined, each block has its own subset of information including a map, a features list, photos of select features, and a summary narrative. There are 15 “blocks” total.

The analysis and evaluation merges the information gleaned through the research and development of the site history with the inventory of extant features that were documented during field work and verification. Reports, newspaper articles, maps and photographs were used to determine what year or time period a particular feature was built or established. The date or era

was added to the features inventory and then an evaluation was made noting whether a particular feature dates to the historic period and contributes to the historic character of the district, or post-dates the historic period and is non-contributing to the historic character of the district.

The Civic Center survey area includes two known documented and significant archeological sites: the site of the former Yerba Buena Cemetery (a triangular site bounded by McAllister Street to the north, Market Street to the south, and Larkin Street to the west); and portions of Old City Hall foundation located at the current site of blocks: 0353, part of 0354 and part of 0351 (see 1905 period plan). This area was studied in depth before construction of the new public library in the 1990s and during rehabilitation of the Federal Building in 2012. The rehabilitation of the former library into the Asian Art Museum may have also included an archaeological study, but no records were found that outlined that type of effort.¹ Although a study of archeological sites was not within the scope of the CLI, it is important to recognize that these sites exist within the district and should be considered in future planning.

STUDY BOUNDARY

The Civic Center Historic District study area encompasses the

1 The 1998 Final Environmental Impact Report for the Asian Art Museum Rehabilitation includes guidelines for mitigating the disturbance of archaeological resources, but there are no findings pertaining to any known resources.

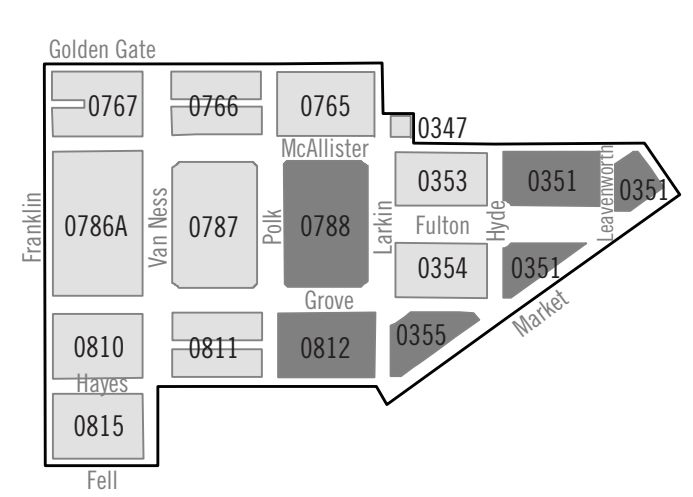


Figure 1.3 Cultural Landscape Inventory Study Area key map with SF assessor's block numbers. The blocks associated with current and future studies into potential additional areas of significance are indicated in dark grey. (MIG)

San Francisco Landmark District designated in 1994 through Article 10 of the San Francisco Planning Code with the addition of the northern half of block 0766 and the southern half of block 0811. These half-block areas were added based on a request from the City of San Francisco, but should not be considered part of the historic district boundary (See Figure 1.2). This study area is larger than the historic district established through the National Register and National Historic Landmark designations. All features located above ground within the block boundaries were included in the inventory. Elements that were not individually inventoried include features that are directly attached and associated with a building, such as stairs, ramps and other exterior decorative building features. These features were considered part of the building and already included in the historic district evaluation. Elements that exist within the streetscape were included when they have an impact on the character of the district. This did not include marking individual parking spaces, car and bike lanes, but the report does note the width and type of transportation modes that occur on streets in the study area. Finally, there are some features like the Van Ness Single Pendant Street Lights², Fire Boxes, and A.W.S.S. Fire Hydrants that exist within this district and are part of larger city-wide systems that extend beyond the district boundaries. This inventory and evaluation only addresses these types of “city-wide” features that are physically located within the Civic Center Historic District and did not look at any of these features outside the geographic study boundary nor their relationship to any other historic contexts.

As noted earlier, current and future studies are exploring a few distinct areas of significance for the Civic Center Historic District. One current study is reviewing resources on block 0788 and 0812 associated with the mid-century modern era urban development, planning and landscape architecture for the construction of the underground exhibit hall, parking garage and redesign of Civic Center Plaza which were designed by known masters of architecture and landscape architecture including Douglas Baylis; Skidmore, Owings and Merrill (SOM); and Wurster, Bernardi and Emmons (WBE). Another current study is reviewing the work of known master landscape architect Lawrence Halprin

2 The Van Ness Single Pendant Street Lights were also studied as part of the Van Ness Bus Rapid Transit Project in 2012. An EIR was prepared which supported the removal of these lights and replacement with modern fixtures. However, since the lights were still in existence when the existing conditions were inventoried for this report, they are included in this CLI.

and his designs for BART, Market Street and the United Nations Plaza associated with resources on blocks 0351 and 0355. Future studies will review Civic Center's relationship to numerous national level civic protests and social movements such as the Vietnam War, the House Committee on Un-American Activities, the White Night Riots and the gay rights movement.

SITE HISTORY

SITE HISTORY

LATE 19TH CENTURY – 1906: BEFORE THE EARTHQUAKE AND FIRES

SELECTED DEVELOPMENT CHRONOLOGY

c. 1849: The Yerba Buena Cemetery (c. 1849 – mid-1860s) was established in March of 1850 as the City’s first municipal Cemetery, although unofficial use occurred by at least 1849. The cemetery encompassed the site currently occupied by blocks 0351, 0353, 0354 and 0355. Approximately 9,000 people were buried there, including burials that were moved from the North Beach cemetery in 1852.

1860s: The focus shifted and proposals were entertained to use the site for a public plaza or park.³ The project of relocating bodies from Yerba Buena Cemetery to the Lone Mountain Cemetery began and was concluded by 1870.⁴ Soon after the cemetery was converted into Yerba Buena Park, although no funds were made available to improve it, so it remained as "sand lots" before being slated as the site for the new City Hall.⁵ The San Francisco Public Library, Asian Art Museum, UN Plaza and Federal Building were later built over the site.

1850s: Van Ness Avenue, which served as the western boundary for downtown San Francisco until the 1850s was originally called Marlette Street. It was widened from 68’-9” to 125’ in the 1850s.⁶

1870: On April 4, 1870 the State Legislature passed a bill designating the Yerba Buena Cemetery property as the location of a new City Hall.⁷

1870: On May 11, 1870 Yerba Buena Park was given to the Board of City Hall Commissioners by the City. Proceeds of the sale of the lots were expected to help fund the design and construction of a new City Hall. The property was divided into 99 "city hall

3 Archaeological Monitoring and Architectural Documentation, San Francisco Public Library Project, 1994, 9

4 Archaeological Monitoring and Architectural Documentation, San Francisco Public Library Project, 1994, 9

5 Archaeological Monitoring and Architectural Documentation, San Francisco Public Library Project, 1994, 9

6 Historical Resources Evaluation Report for the Van Ness Avenue Streetscape Improvement Project, Attachment VI, DPW, 2007, 7

7 The Consolidation Act and Other Acts Relating to the Government of the City and County of San Francisco, A.E.T. Worley, 1887, 196-202

lots" that were 25' x 100' lots stretching from Market Street to Park Avenue (City Hall Avenue). The lots that were located in line with 8th Street were left open to create "a long vista up Eight Street which would eventually be terminated by the main tower of the City Hall."⁸ This would eventually become Marshall Square, also known as City Hall Square (see 1905 period plan).

1870: A design competition, based on a design program developed by Williams & Wright, is held for the design of the City Hall which attracts 20 entries. The firm of Laver, Fuller & Company from New York is chosen. The building's architecture was modeled after the Second Empire style that was in vogue at the time following prominent buildings of a similar style including a new wing of the Louvre and city halls in Philadelphia and Detroit.⁹

8 The Consolidation Act and Other Acts Relating to the Government of the City and County of San Francisco, A.E.T. Worley, 1887, 196-202

9 Archaeological Monitoring and Architectural Documentation San Francisco Main Library Project, 1994, 12



Figure 2.2 c. 1890 image of Old City Hall (California State Library)



FIGURE 2.1 C. 1956 CIVIC CENTER PLAZA (J. Baird)

1870s: Photographs of Van Ness Avenue during this decade depict trees and planters lining the street.¹⁰

1872: On February 22 the cornerstone is laid for Old City Hall (destroyed in 1906) and construction begins. The Old City Hall was built over an expansive area encompassing three blocks: 0353, part of 0354 and part of 0351 (see 1905 period plan).

1880s – 90s: Van Ness Avenue had wood plank sidewalks, gaslights on street corners, and trees planted in front of residential buildings. By the 1890s Van Ness Avenue was a stately boulevard flanked by Queen Anne style mansions. Street trees, brick gutters, and a cable car line can be seen in historical photographs.¹¹

1882: The Mechanics Pavilion opened on the block bound by Grove, Larkin, Hayes and Polk Streets (block 0812). The Pavilion was a huge wooden meeting hall and served as the City's convention, meeting and exhibit hall until it was destroyed by fire in the Great 1906 San Francisco Fire and Earthquake.¹²

1893: Various buildings were located along Van Ness Avenue including: St. Ignatius College, the Priests' House and theatre buildings on block 0810; two and three story residential buildings on blocks 0786A and 0787; and one and two story dwellings on blocks 0767 and 0766. The sidewalks along Van Ness Avenue between Hayes and Grove were around 20' wide and the sidewalks between Grove and McAllister were between 10-15' wide. Blocks 0786A and 0787 were originally bisected by Fulton Street into four blocks.¹³

1894: The Pioneer Monument, designed by Frank H. Happesberger,¹⁴ was completed with \$100,000 in funding which was left for the establishment of the monument by James Lick in his will. He died in 1876, but the trustee's of his estate ensured the

10 Historical Resources Evaluation Report for the Van Ness Avenue Streetscape Improvement Project, Attachment VI, DPW, 2007, 4

11 Historical Resources Evaluation Report for the Van Ness Avenue Streetscape Improvement Project, Attachment VI, DPW, 2007, 7

12 SF Examiner, "Remembering Mechanics' Pavilion," April 20, 2010. <http://www.examiner.com/article/remembering-mechanics-pavilion> (accessed June 4, 2015).

13 Historical Resources Evaluation Report for the Van Ness Avenue Streetscape Improvement Project, Attachment VI, DPW, 2007, 10-12

14 Civic Center Pioneer Monument, Art + Architecture, January 27, 2012

project was completed.¹⁵ It was originally placed between City Hall Avenue (originally named Park Avenue) and Market Street, within what was known as City Hall Square and later Marshall Square, located in the SE corner of block 0354 (see 1905 period plan).

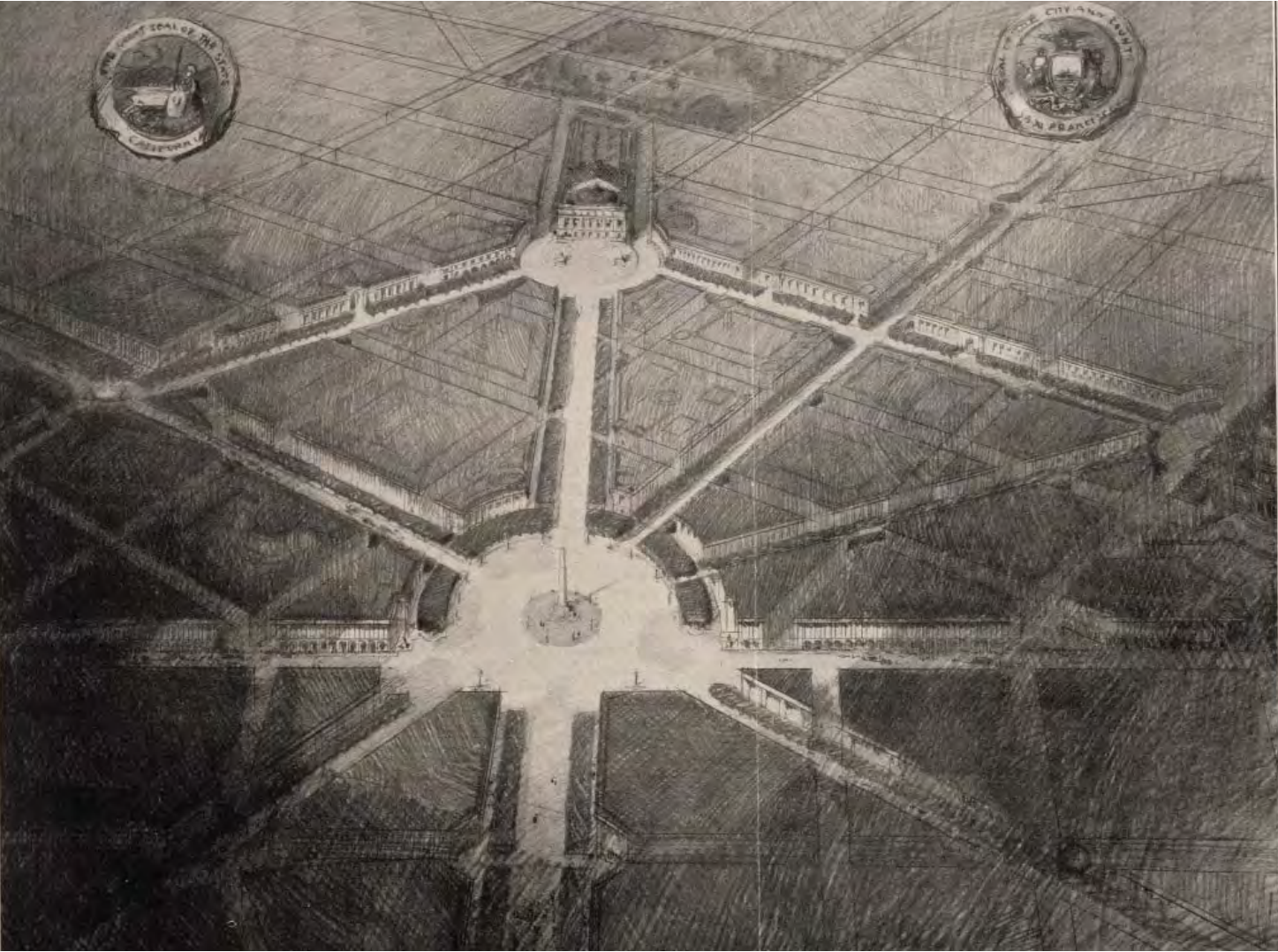
1897: The Old City Hall is finished after years of construction. Some sources point to a construction process that was characterized by rampant corruption which contributed to cost overages, and which some deemed the cause of the building's

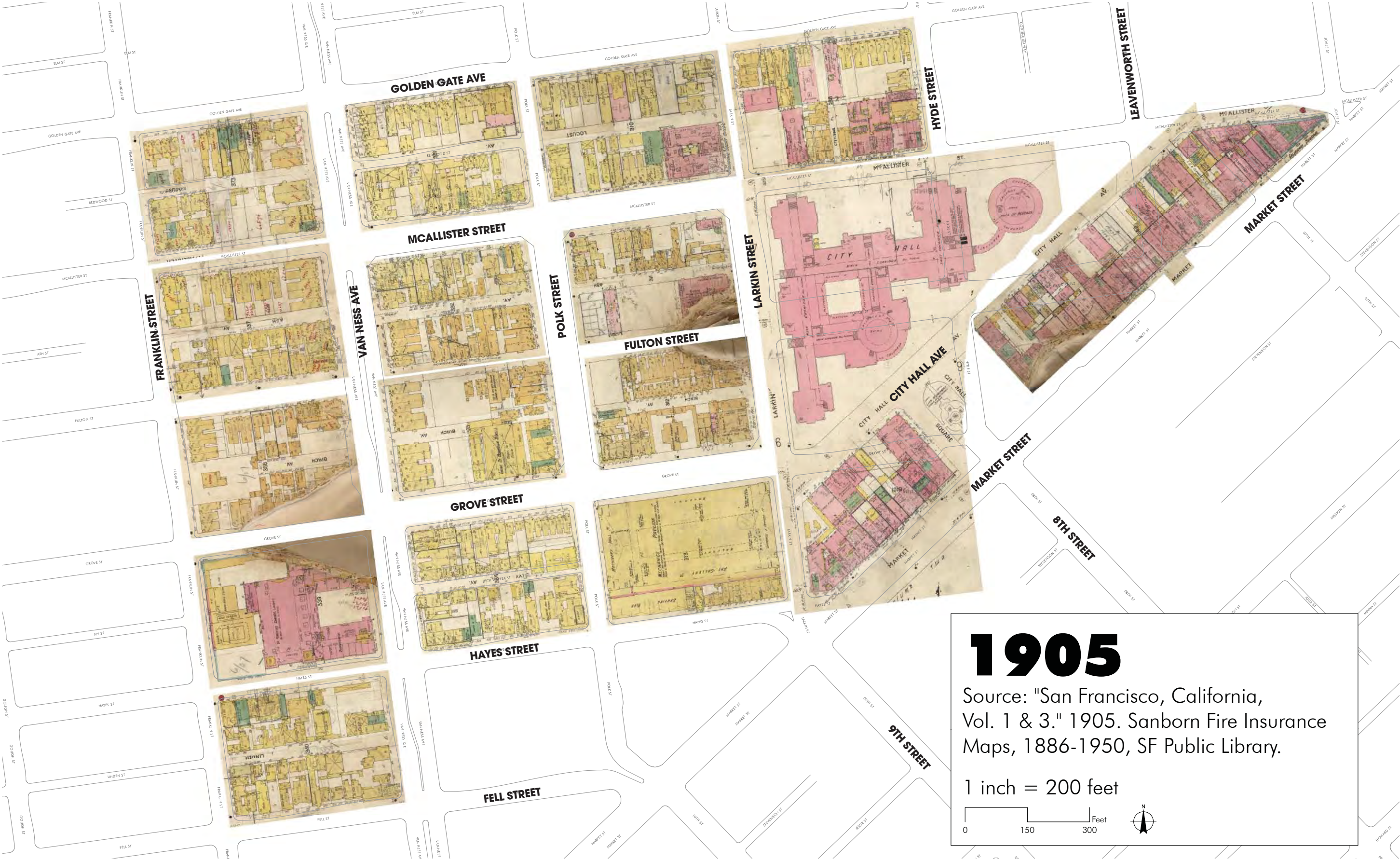
15 Archaeological Monitoring and Architectural Documentation San Francisco Main Library Project, 1994, 24

Figure 2.3 (upper right) c. 1899 view of McAllister Street and City Hall Avenue (which used to cut diagonally through block 0354) and no longer exists (California State Library), Figure 2.4 (lower right) 1905 axonometric view image of the Daniel Burnham Plan for San Francisco (D. Rumsey)



Figure 2.5 (above) 1905 plan view image of the Daniel Burnham Plan for Civic Center (D. Rumsey)





failures during the 1906 earthquake and fire.¹⁶ Another source notes that the corruption only amounted to contractors, who were being supervised by an inexperienced group of commissioners, substituting inferior materials during the construction.¹⁷ Stephen Tobriner notes that the eventual failure of City Hall was the result of a series of bad decisions that had more to do with its long construction history and the aspirations of the growing city than with corruption.¹⁸ "Like most American civic structures it had a strongly classicist Baroque flavor, although individual details betrayed its Victorian setting. Somewhat awkwardly proportioned in its main building, with a lofty tower and dome embarrassedly set on the tower's top..."¹⁹

1899: By 1899, City Hall Square becomes known as Marshall Square (block 0354), named after James W. Marshall, who discovered gold at John Sutter's mill on the American River in 1848.²⁰

1899: The fire box system is established in the City of San Francisco. Some boxes remain which bear that date.²¹ A handful remain in the Civic Center Historic District.

1899: Bernard J.S. Cahill develops a plan for the Civic Center area at the request of Mayor James D. Phelan. Plan proposed a bifurcated Market Street, creating an island in the middle on which a large hotel could be built and redeveloping the property on either side of the street so that the U.S. Court House and Post Office could be visually connected with City Hall. No action is taken to implement the ambitious plan.²²

16 Photographs, Written Historical and Descriptive Data: City Hall, Civic Center, HABS No. CAL-1881, 38-SANFRA71, Historic American Building Survey, National Park Service, 2; Archaeological Monitoring and Architectural Documentation San Francisco Main Library Project, 1994, 19-20; San Francisco Chronicle, "City Hall Frauds: Brick Walls Filled in With Rubbish" June 6, 1890, 8
17 James W. Haas comments, 2014, 4
18 Tobriner, Stephen. Bracing for Disaster: Assessment of Damage in the 1906 Earthquake, 173
19 Photographs, Written Historical and Descriptive Data: City Hall, Civic Center, HABS No. CAL-1881, 38-SANFRA71, Historic American Building Survey, National Park Service, 2
20 Archaeological Monitoring and Architectural Documentation San Francisco Main Library Project, 1994, 24-25
21 San Francisco Chronicle, "Why SF Still Counts on Street Fire Alarm Boxes," by John Wildermuth, February 7, 2012
22 B.J.S. Cahill "A Plan to Beautify Market Street." The California Architect and Building News, Vol. XX No. 10, October 20, 1899, pgs 110-119

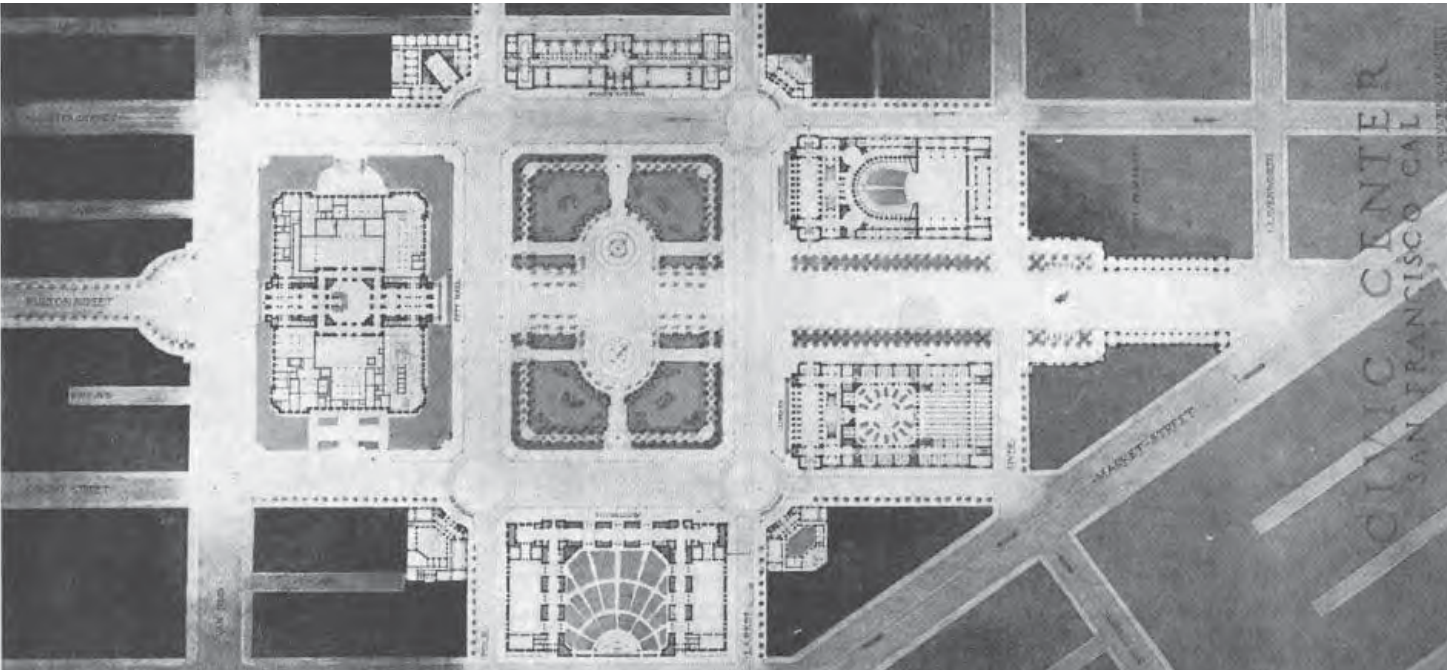
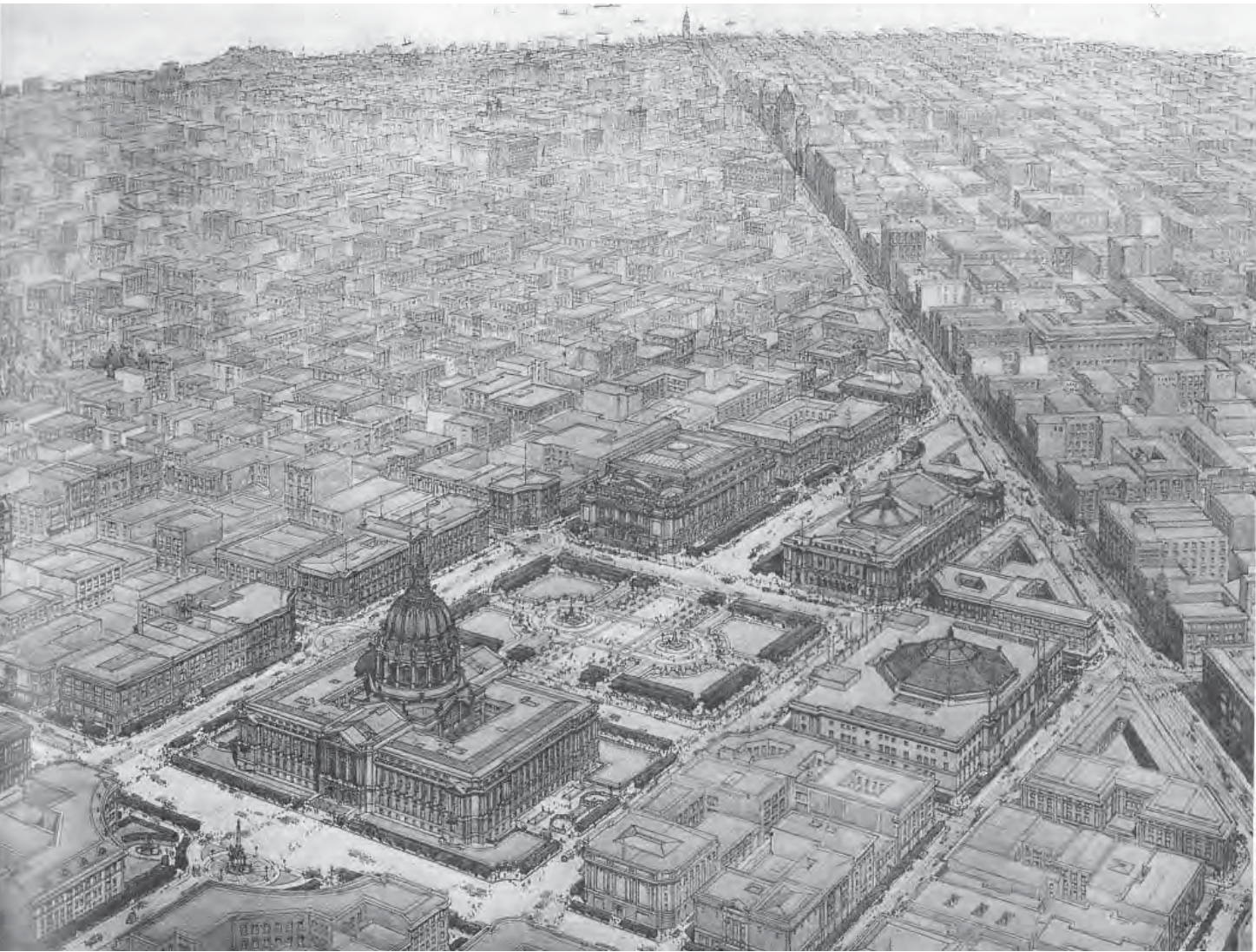
1900: Various buildings were located along Van Ness Avenue including a mixture of residential and commercial buildings on block 0815; St. Ignatius College on block 0810; residential buildings, a commercial building and bike shop on block 0811; a mixture of two to three story residential and commercial buildings such as a hotel and drug store on blocks 0786A and 0787; and one and two story dwellings plus a stable on blocks 0767 and 0766. The sidewalks along Van Ness Avenue between Hayes and McAllister were roughly 10' wide.²³

1904: The Association for the Improvement and Adornment of San Francisco was established on January 15, 1904 and unanimously elected former Mayor James Phelan as its president. The association included an executive committee. Membership was broadened to include any citizen genuinely interested in improving the city.²⁴ Membership grew to include 450 individuals. Goals of the association included promoting in every practical way the beautifying of streets, public buildings, parks, squares and places of San Francisco and to stimulate the sentiment of civic pride in the improvement and care of private property.²⁵ It was through this organization's efforts that Daniel Burnham was asked to develop a plan for San Francisco. In response Burnham
23 Historical Resources Evaluation Report for the Van Ness Avenue Streetscape Improvement Project, Attachment VI, DPW, 2007, 10-12
24 Mell Scott, The San Francisco Bay Area: A Metropolis in Perspective, 99
25 Rufus M. Steele, "Making San Francisco Beautiful," Susn-set Magazine, June 1905, 120

Figure 2.7 (top right) 1914 Jules Guerin bird's eye view rendering of John Galen Howard's 1912 Civic Center plan (J. Tilman), Figure 2.8 (bottom right) 1912 lay out map of John Galen Howard's 1912 Civic Center plan (J. Tilman)



Figure 2.6 (above) Portion of 1906 plan highlighting street widening projects (Earth Sciences & Map Library, UC Berkeley),



sent associate Edward Bennett to San Francisco to begin the effort. He in turn solicited the help of Willis Polk, John McLaren and Arthur Brown.²⁶

1905: Van Ness Avenue was largely a residential street. Photographs taken in 1905 show trees planted in front of residences, cable car tracks set into brick pavers, gaslights on street corners, wide concrete sidewalks, and brick gutters.²⁷

1905: Daniel Burnham and his associates develop a plan for the City of San Francisco including the Civic Center, though no momentum to implement it immediately follows.²⁸ While Burnham had recently completed a high profile commission for Washington, D.C. this was his first opportunity to develop a plan for an entire city.²⁹ “In laying out his plan for San Francisco, Burnham and his associates visited and drew inspiration from L’Enfant’s Washington, D.C. design; Burnham’s plan intended to bring imperial grandeur to San Francisco.”³⁰ The Burnham Plan exemplified Burnham's "conceptual view of the ideal city" and was modeled on Paris.³¹ The plan was "built around a set of

- 26
- J. Tilman, Arthur Brown, Jr. Progressive Classicist, 69
- 27
- Historical Resources Evaluation Report for the Van Ness Avenue Streetscape Improvement Project, Attachment VI, DPW, 2007, 7
- 28
- J. Tilman, Arthur Brown, Jr. Progressive Classicist, 68
- 29
- J. Tilman, Arthur Brown, Jr. Progressive Classicist, 69
- 30
- Freebairn-Smith, Rod, Jennifer Devlin and Sarah Karlinsky, “Extending the City Beautiful,” The Urbanist, Issue 488, January 2010
- 31
- J. Tilman, Arthur Brown, Jr. Progressive Classicist, 69

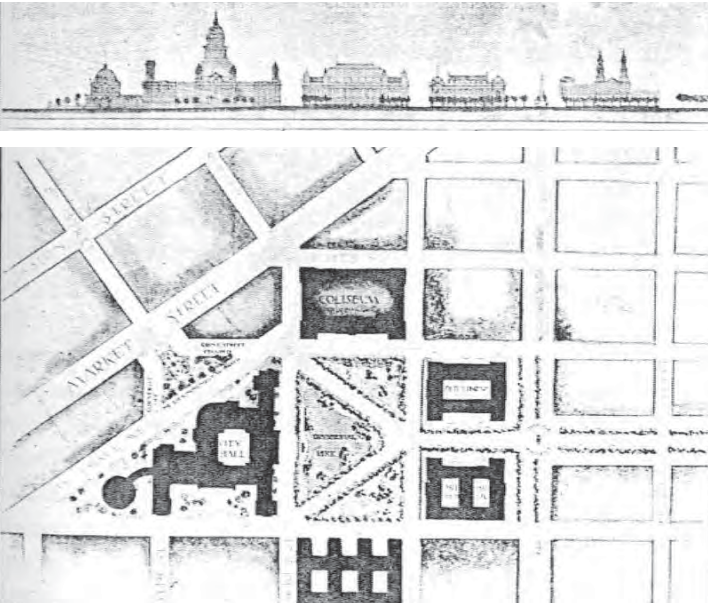


Figure 2.9 B.J.S. Cahill's 1904 section and plan for the Civic Center which was redrawn in 1909 (J. Tilman)

monumental civic buildings, from which radiate grand diagonal streets and concentric boulevards. Buildings of particular importance.... are placed at the intersection of these avenues, on prominent topography."³² It called for “a city traversed by graceful roadways and diagonal boulevards; an abundance of fountains, parks, and plazas; and lakes filled with water flowing from reservoirs built in the city’s hills. It also called for a grand Beaux Arts style civic center situated at Market Street and Van Ness Avenue, the geographical heart of the city.”³³ Though portions of Burnham’s plan were incorporated into the Civic Center Plan that was eventually built, “several key pieces of Burnham’s Plan for the Civic Center were never realized. These include the creation of a *rond-point* (a roundabout at the convergence of streets) at the intersection of Market Street and Van Ness Avenue; a new promenade connecting the rond point to an opera house; extending the panhandle [of Golden Gate Park] to the Civic Center; and a different site for City Hall.”³⁴ The plan was revisited following the 1906 earthquake which is outlined later in the site history.

1905: Simultaneously Bernard J.S. Cahill revised his 1899 plan in response, but like the Burnham plan it was not acted upon at this time. Cahill's plan called for a collection of civic buildings grouped around a public open space. His drawing was published in local newspapers and he sent copies to both Phelan and Burnham.³⁵

32

J. Tilman, Arthur Brown, Jr. Progressive Classicist, 69

33

Triptych, Asian Art Museum of SF, Fall 1993, 14

34

Freebairn-Smith, Rod, Jennifer Devlin and Sarah Karlinsky, “Extending the City Beautiful,” The Urbanist, Issue 488, January 2010

35

J. Tilman, Arthur Brown, Jr. Progressive Classicist, 70



Figure 2.10 1910 City Hall Avenue from Leavenworth Street, Hall of Records to right (San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library)

1906: On April 18 at 5:12 AM an earthquake hits San Francisco which causes massive damage to the buildings and infrastructure. The initial damage is exacerbated by fires that rage through the city for days after the earthquake. This event became known as the Great 1906 San Francisco Earthquake and Fires.

1906-1937: CITY BEAUTIFUL AND THE BEAUX ARTS

SELECTED DEVELOPMENT CHRONOLOGY

1906: The Great 1906 San Francisco Earthquake and Fires wreaked great destruction on Van Ness Avenue and the City of San Francisco. The buildings on the east side of Van Ness Avenue were dynamited in an attempt to contain the fire, and as a result, most of the buildings on the west side of the street were saved. After the earthquake, many of the remaining mansions on Van Ness Avenue were converted to commercial uses.³⁶

1906: The Great 1906 San Francisco Earthquake and Fires damaged City Hall causing a great deal of the façade to collapse. The tower and dome superstructure remained standing with the underlying steel structure open and exposed. The dome's drum lost its cladding and the huge exterior column drums fell away from the building onto Larkin Street, creating a mountain of debris. The Hall of Records, reinforced with iron and isolated from the rest of the building, was not badly damaged. The eastern portion of City Hall also fared better than the rest, and its basement was reinhabited and used for the temporary City Hall.³⁷ The Mechanics Pavilion across from City Hall survived the earthquake and was set up as a temporary hospital, but it later burned to the ground.³⁸

1908: Wells Fargo building (1256 Market Street) is constructed originally as a stable and coach house on old City Hall Avenue.³⁹ City Hall Avenue used to run diagonally across block 0354 where the new San Francisco Public Library now exists (see 1905 period plan).

- 36
- Historical Resources Evaluation Report for the Van Ness Avenue Streetscape Improvement Project, Attachment VI, DPW, 2007, 7
- 37
- Tobriner, Stephen. Bracing for Disaster: Assessment of Damage in the 1906 Earthquake, 173-175
- 38
- Richard Reinhardt, Four Books 300 Dollars and A Dream, 2005, pg 68
- 39
- 1978 NRHP Inventory Nomination Form, continuation sheet 1

1909: “Although the Great 1906 San Francisco Earthquake and Fires offered a prime opportunity to implement either the Burnham or Cahill plans, the idealism of a formal, grand plan lost out to eagerness to rebuild the city quickly.”⁴⁰ Much of San Francisco was rebuilt along the same grid and plan that existed prior to the earthquake. However, by 1909 civic leaders were interested in revisiting Burnham’s plan, so they asked him to revise and update it. Burnham’s colleague, Willis Polk, led the revision effort. Hearing of this, Bernard J.S. Cahill also revised his 1904 plan and voiced his concern that the Burnham Plan would be too expensive to implement. Based on his previous interaction with Daniel Burnham and his associates before the earthquake and fire, Cahill felt disrespected and "thus began a campaign to frustrate any civic center campaign"⁴¹ that would implement Burnham's plan. The buildout of Civic Center reflects more of what Cahill envisioned, but "in recompense for his obstructionist position, Cahill had no official role with the Civic Center Commission, nor did he receive any credit for his contribution to the design."⁴²

1908: City Architect Newton J. Tharp recommends razing the Old City Hall ruins. He was supported by John Galen Howard and a special committee of the Board of Supervisors.⁴³

1909: The Old City Hall is demolished with the exception of the Hall of Records and a portion of the McAllister Street wing. That same year the Board of Supervisors proposed a \$5 million bond for a "modern, fire proof city hall" which was still slated to be placed on the site of the Old City Hall.⁴⁴ The new structure was planned to house various municipal departments⁴⁵ (see 1905 period plan).

1909: San Francisco Auxiliary Water Supply System (AWSS) hydrants are installed in the Civic Center Historic District and are part of a larger city-wide system. The hydrants are short and painted white with a blue cap and stamped with the following

- 40
- Freebairn-Smith, Rod, Jennifer Devlin and Sarah Karlinsky, “Extending the City Beautiful,” The Urbanist, Issue 488, January 2010
- 41
- J. Tilman, Arthur Brown, Jr. Progressive Classicist, 70
- 42
- J. Tilman, Arthur Brown, Jr. Progressive Classicist, 70
- 43
- Archaeological Monitoring and Architectural Documentation San Francisco Main Library Project, 1994, 20
- 44
- Archaeological Monitoring and Architectural Documentation San Francisco Main Library Project, 1994, 20
- 45
- Coffey, Alfred I. "Tentative Program for the San Francisco City Hall Competition," Architect & Engineer, June 1911

letters: “1909, S.F., A.W.S.”⁴⁶ Note: As of today, there are 16 AWSS hydrants dated 1909 within the study boundary.

1909: San Francisco voters are swayed in part by Bernard J.S. Cahill’s argument that the Burnham Plan is too expensive to implement. Even though some city leaders were interested in implementing Burnham’s revised plan, the ballot measure authorizing the appropriation of funds for a reduced version of the 1905 Burnham plan failed.⁴⁷ Planning for a new Civic Center is delayed.

1910: Newton J. Tharp Commercial School is designed and constructed on a site fronting on Grove Street between Polk and Larkin Streets (block 0788, the future location of Civic Center Plaza). The school is moved after three years and reconstructed at 170 Fell Street.⁴⁸

- 46
- Historic Resources Evaluation Report for the Van Ness Avenue Streetscape Improvement Project, Attachment VI-a - National Register of Historic Places, SFCC NHLD, 17-3
- 47
- J. Tilman, Arthur Brown, Jr. Progressive Classicist, 71
- 48
- School of the Arts Master Plan: Draft Environmental Impact Report. San Francisco Unified School District, 4-16.



Figure 2.11 1912 View of Market Street at 8th with Hall of Records at left (Bancroft Library, UC Berkeley)

1910: On October 24, 1910, the Board of Supervisors accepted an offer from the Whitcomb Estate Co. to construct a seven story building on their property on the south side of Market between Eighth and Ninth Streets to act as a temporary City Hall. This building, later named the Whitcomb Hotel, was sufficient to accommodate all the City agencies including the Courts currently in rental space.⁴⁹ City offices remained at this location until 1916.⁵⁰

1911: Mayor Rolph, recently elected in some part for his promise to make major civic improvements in San Francisco, announces a competition for planning the new City Hall and Exposition (Civic) Auditorium. Over fifty teams respond and fall into one of two camps: either they propose using the site outlined in Burnham’s plan or the site of the Old City Hall, as recommended in Cahill’s plan.⁵¹

- 49
- SF Chronicle, unnamed article, October 25, 1910, 16
- 50
- Civic Center Proposal, Dianne Feinstein, November 1987, 10
- 51
- J. Tilman, Arthur Brown, Jr. Progressive Classicist, 72

1912: The debate over where to site City Hall continues into early 1912. On January 29 the Board of Supervisors officially selects the site of the Old City Hall for the new City Hall. Mayor Phelan appoints a committee of architects led by John Galen Howard and including Frederick Meyer and John Reid, Jr. to work with the city to plan the new civic center. They are often referred to as the "Consulting Architects."⁵²

1912: Following the decision to use the site of the Old City Hall for the new City Hall, a special election is held on March 28 which overwhelmingly passes a \$8.8 million bond for the purchase of land for the Civic Center and construction of City Hall.⁵³

1912: In April a competition for the design of the City Hall was announced which identified the project site as the site of the Old City Hall and a fairly detailed building program.⁵⁴

1912: Just a month later the Consulting Architects, "sensing that the old city hall site would not be cleared in a timely fashion" decided to start a debate between the two proposed sites. The two proposed schemes for the layout of the Civic Center were drafted and published in newspapers to gauge public opinion. In essence Scheme A retained the site of the Old City Hall for reuse since the City already owned that property. Scheme B proposed to site the new City Hall on Van Ness between Grove and McAllister, on block 0787. Both schemes recommended that the existing street grid be established on the old site which would allow Hyde and Leavenworth to extend to Market. The proposed Schemes A and B were released and commented upon through editorial coverage in a local newspaper.⁵⁵

1912: Ultimately the site was switched and the competition garnered over seventy submissions for a City Hall designed on its current site.⁵⁶

- 1912: On May 28, while proposers are still in the midst of drafting submissions for the City Hall design competition, the Consulting Architects issued their report on the design of Civic Center calling for the location of City Hall on Van Ness (Scheme B). They proposed a two block square plaza in front of it, a new Auditorium on the south side (Mechanics Pavilion block) and
- 52
- J. Tilman, Arthur Brown, Jr. Progressive Classicist, 72
- 53
- San Francisco Civic Center Development Plan 1958, 5; J. Tilman, Arthur Brown, Jr. Progressive Classicist, 73
- 54
- J. Tilman, Arthur Brown, Jr. Progressive Classicist, 74
- 55
- “The Proposed Schemes for Civic Center: Which scheme, in your opinion, is best?”, May 15, 1912, Bancroft Library
- 56
- J. Tilman, Arthur Brown, Jr. Progressive Classicist, 74

an Art Museum on the north side. Across the plaza from the City Hall a Public Library and Opera House would be located. They also suggested that their report be circulated for a month to get public reaction.⁵⁷ In essence, the location of the City Hall follows the Burnham Plan and the configuration of civic buildings surrounding a central open space reflects the Cahill Plan.

1912: Competition for the architectural design of City Hall, led by John Galen Howard, Frederick Meyer and John Reid, Jr., receives 73 entries. The commission is awarded to Arthur Brown, Jr. and John Bakewell, Jr. (Bakewell & Brown) along with a \$25,000 commission.⁵⁸

1912: One key aspect of the Civic Center Plan that was adopted by John Galen Howard’s committee is that each building diagonally across from the plaza’s four corners would have a concave curvature at the corner facing the plaza. This curvature followed a proposed circular configuration at each of the plaza’s four intersections. The circular intersection design, only partially realized was intended to visually reinforce the concave curvature design of the corner buildings.⁵⁹ The Department of Public Health Building, with its flat chamfered corner entrance area, was the first of just two buildings whose corners were designed and built in the spirit of Howard’s Civic Center Plan. The San Francisco Superior Court Building on block 0766 also has a flat chamfered corner.

1912: Historic photographs show planting strips located in the wide sidewalks paralleling Van Ness Avenue and trees planted equidistantly apart in sidewalk planters near the future site of City Hall.⁶⁰

1913: Construction of City Hall, designed by Arthur Brown, Jr. and John Bakewell, Jr. begins in April.⁶¹

1913: Exposition (Civic) Auditorium, designed by John Galen Howard, Frederick Meyer and John Reid, Jr., is slated for use during the San Francisco Panama-Pacific International

- 57
- San Francisco Chronicle, unnamed article, May 29, 1912, 20
- 58
- J. Tilman, Arthur Brown, Jr. Progressive Classicist, 74; HABS
- 59
- Civic Center Proposal, Dianne Feinstein, November 1987, 14
- 60
- Historical Resources Evaluation Report for the Van Ness Avenue Streetscape Improvement Project, Attachment VI, DPW, 2007, 8
- 61
- J. Tilman, Arthur Brown, Jr. Progressive Classicist, 93

Exposition. Priority is given for this building to be finished in time for the Exposition, a goal that is ultimately achieved.⁶²

1913: Throughout the early 20th century a location for the public library was often at the periphery of discussions by city officials and those involved in planning the Civic Center. Prior to the 1906 Earthquake and Fires the library was located in the Old City Hall. However, the facilities were considered insufficient and following the failure of the Old City Hall, a search was on to find a permanent home. To that end Library Trustees acquired property on block 0787, which later became the preferred site for the City Hall. In December 1913, Library Trustees transferred ownership of their property on block 0787 to the City in exchange for property on block 0353 for the future main public library.⁶³

1913: (Newton J. Tharp) Commercial High School building was moved from its location on Grove Street (today's Civic Center Plaza) to the southwest corner of block 0815 (135 Fell Street) when that block was given to the Board of Education in exchange.⁶⁴ It
62 J. Tilman, Arthur Brown, Jr. Progressive Classicist, 96
63 Joan Draper, San Francisco Civic Center: Architecture, Planning and Politics, 1979, 161-162
64 Joan Draper, San Francisco Civic Center: Architecture, Planning and Politics, 1979, 162; Historical Resources Evaluation Report for the Van Ness Avenue Streetscape Improvement Project, Attachment VI, DPW, 2007, 8



Figure 2.12 1914 view of Marshall Square with the Pioneer Monument (Bancroft Library, UC Berkeley)

should not be confused with the High School of Commerce which was built in 1926 on the same block.

1914: In anticipation of the Panama-Pacific International Exposition, which spurs work in and around the Civic Center including the Exposition (Civic) Auditorium, the Van Ness Avenue trolley tracks are completed in less than five months to accommodate the anticipated attendance predicted for the city during the 1915 Exposition. A 1913 report by City Engineer M.M. O'Shaughnessy predicted that during days of maximum attendance it would be necessary to transport up to 60,000 people per hour on rail, a staggering number that far outstripped the city's capacity, prior to the completion of this rail line.⁶⁵

1914: The Van Ness Avenue trolley track was flanked by 259 trolley poles to support the overhead wires that powered the cars. The columns of the poles were composed of reinforced concrete, with a slender, tapered square form, a decorative finial, and cast iron footings with a modest foliated design and square base. The poles were initially erected without attached streetlights, but the city ultimately found the resources to install light fixtures. By the time of the Exposition's opening, pairs of electric streetlights were

65 HREIR Van Ness Avenue Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Project, 22

hung on each trolley pole, making Van Ness Avenue the "best lit thoroughfare in the city."⁶⁶ The finial features a tapered square crown cradled by abacus and medallions terminating in volute detailing and the base is square with foliated detailing. The door is stamped "Joshua Hendy Iron Works S.F. CA", a Bay area foundry commissioned to make the base. Several of the doors are stamped "Steiger and Kerr Stove and Foundry Company S.F. CAL." Most likely these doors were early replacements for the original Hendy products. The replacement fiberglass bases do not have access doors and do not bear a maker's mark.⁶⁷

1914: The City of San Francisco introduced tall, slender street lights to Van Ness Avenue sidewalks around 1914, which reflects

66 HREIR Van Ness Avenue Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Project, 22
67 HREIR Van Ness Avenue Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Project, 35



Figure 2.13 1915 Trolley Pole with lights (SF Dept. of Public Works historic photos, San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library)

the City's plan at the time to develop the Civic Center area according to City Beautiful design principals.

1914: The Consulting Architects set up a competition for the design of the Main Library. George Kelham's design is selected. Some controversy surrounded the selection since Kelham's design resembled fellow architect Cass Gilbert's design for the Detroit Public Library, and Gilbert was a member of the jury. However, Joan Draper stated that Kelham "won on the basis of his plan as much as his facades."⁶⁸

68 Cahill, B.J.S. "The San Francisco Public Library Competition." Architect and Engineer of California and the Pacific Coast 37, no. 1 (1914): 63; Joan Draper, San Francisco Civic Center: Architecture, Planning, and Politics, 1979, 216.



Figure 2.14 c. 1915 image of City Hall under construction (J. Tilman)



Figure 2.15 1915 bear statue on pedestal at Civic Center Plaza as part of the Panama-Pacific Exposition (SF Dept. of Public Works historic photos, San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library)



Figure 2.16 1915 photograph of trolley service opening on Van Ness Avenue for the Panama-Pacific Exposition (San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library)



Figure 2.19 1915 view of the SW corner of Civic Center Plaza with City Hall in the background (J. Tilman)



Figure 2.21 c. 1915 image of Civic Center Plaza with City Hall in the background (J. Tilman)



Figure 2.17 1915 City Hall near Van Ness and Grove (SF Dept. of Public Works historic photos, San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library)



Figure 2.18 1915 image of City Hall with Civic Center Plaza in the foreground (J. Tilman)



Figure 2.20 1915 detail of City Hall with part of Civic Center Plaza in the foreground (J. Tilman)



Figure 2.22 (above) c. 1915 rendering of Exposition (Civic) Auditorium from direction of Civic Center Plaza (CED Library, UC Berkeley)

1914: In his plan for Civic Center, John Galen Howard called for a large plaza based on Beaux Arts principles, landscaped quadrants, two round pools, and generous paved spaces in front of City Hall available for public gatherings of up to 20,000 people from the City Hall steps to Larkin Street. Final plans for Civic Center Plaza prepared by the Consulting Architects were finished and approved by the Board of Supervisors on May 11, 1914. This was the last major contribution of the Consulting Architects.⁶⁹

1915: Though dedicated by Mayor Rolph on December 28 the new City Hall, designed by Arthur Brown, Jr. and John Bakewell, Jr. (Bakewell & Brown) for \$3.4 million, was not completed until March 1916.⁷⁰ It was not finished in time for the Panama-Pacific International Exposition. Although the general feeling of the building's style is Baroque, both inside and out, the details are generally Classical, with a generous addition of French Baroque ornamental features.⁷¹

1915: Civic Center Powerhouse is built (block 0347).⁷²

1915: The Consulting Architects engagement with the Civic Center ends on June 30, 1915. John Reid, Jr. stays on part-time as a consultant to look after remaining projects which largely involved schools. Reid, who was Mayor Rolph's brother-in-law, later became City Architect.⁷³

1915: By 1915, commercial buildings and an automobile/motorcycle showroom are located on block 0811. Block 0786A includes commercial buildings such as a paint shop, auto showroom, machine shop, restaurant and hotel. Blocks 0767 and 0766 contained an assortment of auto showrooms, supply shops and repair shops.⁷⁴ Some of this development and the configuration of these blocks are still evident on the 1919 period plan, based on the 1919 Sanborn Map.

69 San Francisco Chronicle, unnamed article, May 7, 1914, 13; Joan Draper, *San Francisco Civic Center: Architecture, Planning, and Politics*, 1979, 222.
70 San Francisco Civic Center Development Plan 1958, 5; J. Tilman, Arthur Brown Jr., *Progressive Classicist*, 2005, 95
71 HABS No. CAL-1881, 8
72 1987 NHL, 7,11
73 Joan Draper, *The San Francisco Civic Center: Architecture, Planning, and Politics*, 1979, 223; J. Tilman, Arthur Brown Jr., 2006, 249n23
74 Historical Resources Evaluation Report for the Van Ness Avenue Streetscape Improvement Project, Attachment VI, DPW, 2007, 13

1915: Civic Center Plaza was established in time for the Panama-Pacific International Exposition, but the full implementation of its design was not completed until 1925. A. Lacy Warswick, who was with the City Architect's office, designed the plan which included major and minor design axes and preserved important sight lines between the Civic Center's major buildings. "Two fountains, each located at the juncture of the cross axis, flanked the main ceremonial axis. Functionally the plan provided for a clear and open central plaza area which was available for important civic events, and permitted parades to proceed along Fulton Street directly to City Hall. The twin fountains were framed by large sweeping semi-circles which were lined with seating bays and in turn framed a double row of trees around the perimeter."⁷⁵

1915: A temporary, but elaborate balustrade wall made of plaster is constructed and decorated with large urns and sculpture around the perimeter of Civic Center Plaza. Linear shrubs lined the balustrade. Each fountain contained a large sculptural composition, all of plaster. The Consulting Architects explained that the temporary nature of the plaster works was intended to be a trial to determine whether these adornments would be suitable and appreciated by the public.⁷⁶ Built for the Panama Pacific Exposition, these features of the Plaza design were removed within a few short years⁷⁷ (See Figures 2.15, 2.18, 2.19 and 2.21). Archival drawings dated 1914 confirm plaster construction of these and other features.⁷⁸

1916: About this time, blue police telephone call boxes are installed around the city including in Civic Center to serve as a pre-radio and phone communication system allowing police officers walking a beat to check in with their station houses.⁷⁹ Some of these remain in the Civic Center Historic District.

1916: Pedestrian light poles and young London plane trees exist along Polk Street and the Civic Center Plaza.⁸⁰

1917: The Public Library designed by George Kelham is constructed (present day Asian Art Museum) with a structural

75 Diane Feinstein, *City Center Proposal*, 1987, 14
76 San Francisco Chronicle, unnamed article, May 7, 1914, pg. 13
77 J. Tilman, Arthur Brown, Jr. *Progressive Classicist*, 97; *Civic Center Proposal*, Dianne Feinstein, November 1987, 14
78 WBE Collection, *Environmental Design Archives*
79 SF Chronicle, "Why SF Still Counts on Street Fire Alarm Boxes," February 7, 2012
80 J. Tilman, Arthur Brown, Jr. *Progressive Classicist*, 97



Figure 2.23 c. 1915 bird's eye aerial of Civic Center Plaza (San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library)



Figure 2.24 1917 View of Civic Center Plaza with the fountain and City Hall in the background (SF Dept. of Public Works)



Figure 2.25 1918 image from City Hall looking over Civic Center Plaza and down Fulton Street towards Market Street (SF Planning Dept.)

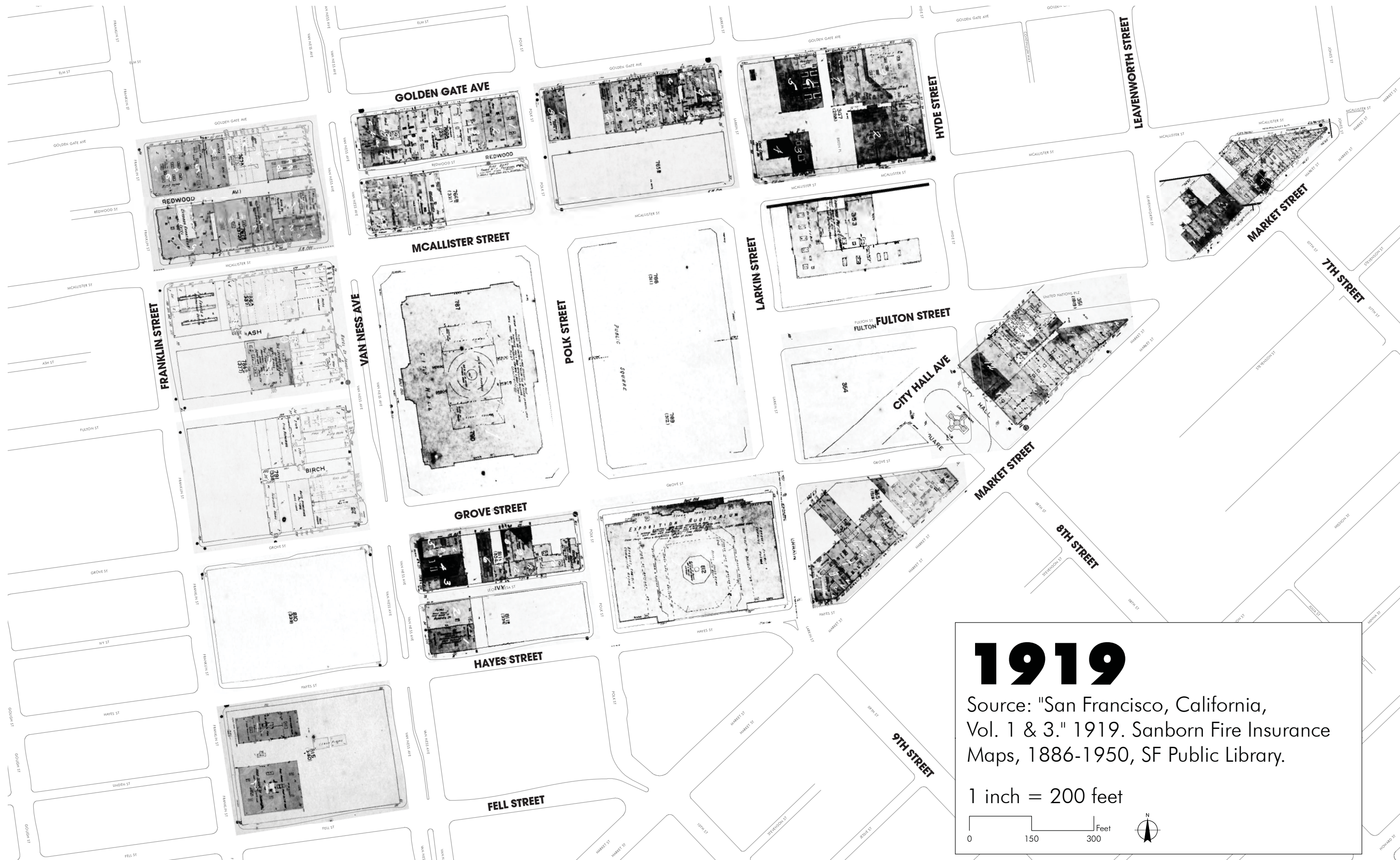




Figure 2.26 c. 1920 image of Marshall Square with the Pioneer Monument in the foreground at intersection of Grove and Hyde, the Civic Center Plaza in the midground, and the City Hall in the background (Library of Congress)

steel frame, reinforced concrete floors, and unreinforced brick walls (block 0353).⁸¹

1917: A design competition is announced for the State Building (now Supreme Court of California) on McAllister Street. Bliss & Faville are awarded the prize with their Italian Renaissance-influenced design for the building.⁸²

1918-1919: Specifications call for protection of existing granite curbs during construction of the State Building (now Supreme Court of California).⁸³

1920: The cornerstone for the State Building (now Supreme Court of California) is laid.⁸⁴

- 81
- Civic Center Development Plan: Preliminary Report, Appendix V
- 82
- J. Tilman, Arthur Brown, Jr. Progressive Classicist, 98
- 83
- Specifications for San Francisco State Building Fund Chapters 541-1913, 618-1919
- 84
- J. Tilman, Arthur Brown, Jr. Progressive Classicist, 98

1922: Future site of the War Memorial Complex (block 0786A) is purchased and cleared by the City.⁸⁵

1922: Arthur Brown, Jr. expresses concern about the design of the space between the two buildings of the War Memorial Complex and how they would frame City Hall from this open plaza⁸⁶ (See Figure 2.28). Thomas Church is later commissioned to design the courtyard between the buildings.

1923: Architectural Advisory Commission for the War Memorial presents drawings for buildings separated by a large memorial court with a victory column.⁸⁷

1924: The trustees for the War Memorial hire Willis Polk, G. Albert Lansburgh and Arthur Brown to develop designs for the War

- 85
- Historical Resources Evaluation Report for the Van Ness Avenue Streetscape Improvement Project, Attachment VI, DPW, 2007, 8
- 86
- J. Tilman, Arthur Brown, Jr. Progressive Classicist, 100
- 87
- J. Tilman, Arthur Brown, Jr. Progressive Classicist, 100

Memorial Complex buildings based on the 1923 drawings. "It was agreed that Polk and Lansburgh would collaborate on the opera house, and that Bakewell & Brown would design the Veterans Building and the memorial court (which was later designed by Thomas Church)." However Polk's death in 1924 put the project on hold and the dissolution of the firm of Bakewell & Brown meant that Lansburgh was the principal designer of the Opera House and Brown the principal designer of the Veterans Building.⁸⁸

1924: High School of Commerce Athletic Field and Grandstand is built on block 0810.⁸⁹

1926: State Building (now Supreme Court of California), designed by Bliss & Faville, is finished.⁹⁰

- 88
- J. Tilman, Arthur Brown, Jr. Progressive Classicist, 101-103
- 89
- Historical Resources Evaluation Report for the Van Ness Avenue Streetscape Improvement Project, Attachment VI, DPW, 2007, 11
- 90
- J. Tilman, Arthur Brown, Jr. Progressive Classicist, 98; 1987 NHL, 7-8



Figure 2.27 1921 oblique aerial of the Civic Center district (J. Tilman)

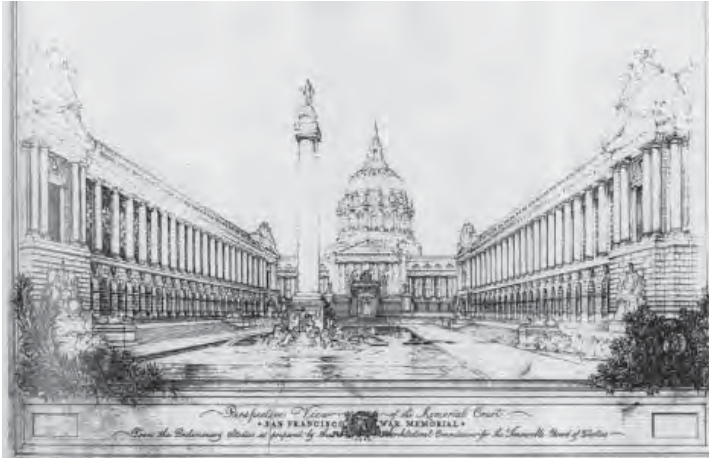


Figure 2.28 1923 perspective illustration of War Memorial Court (J. Tilman)



Figures 2.29 1924 photo of the Civic Auditorium (San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library)



Figure 2.30 1928 image of Pantages (Orpheum) Theater at Market and Hyde Streets (Bancroft Library, UC Berkeley)



Figure 2.31 1929 photo looking south along Van Ness Avenue (San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library)



Figure 2.32 1930 oblique aerial of the Civic Center district (San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library)



Figure 2.34 1932 view of City Hall through the War Memorial Court (Architect & Engineer)



Figure 2.35 1932 image of the War Memorial Complex (J. Tilman)



Figure 2.33 Undated hand tinted postcard of the Civic Center during a major civic celebration. Note absence of the War Memorial Complex and San Francisco Department of Public Health Building. (CED Library, UC Berkeley)



Figure 2.36 1930s annotated oblique aerial of the Civic Center district (San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library)

1926: High School of Commerce at 135 Van Ness Avenue was completed in 1926 in the Spanish Colonial Revival style. The building was composed of three separate building wings and the Nourse Auditorium (Theater)⁹¹ and designed by John Reid, Jr.⁹² It was built on the same block as the Newton J. Tharp Commercial High School.

1926: The Pantages Theater (now the Orpheum Theater) opened its doors at Hyde and Market Streets as the fifth of Market Street's six major movie palaces. The theater was designed by B. Marcus Priteca, a prominent Bay Area architect.⁹³

1927: In the late 1920s, the west side of Van Ness Avenue between Fell and Grove Streets was lined with trees in sidewalk planters.⁹⁴

1930: A Standard Oil service station occupies the SE corner of block 0766 near the Polk and McAllister intersection after it was forced to move from its previous location on the War Memorial Complex site. The site, which is owned by the City, was frequently slated as the site for a consolidated fire and police station, but was never built.⁹⁵

1930: In the early 1930s, the historic photographs show curb cuts in the sidewalks directly in front of the entrances to the War Memorial Opera House and Veterans Building. Historically, these sidewalk cuts allowed vehicles traveling southbound on Van Ness Avenue to pull over and drop off or pick up passengers going to and coming from the War Memorial Complex buildings. Historic photographs show awnings extending from the Opera House's façade to the sidewalk cuts.⁹⁶

1931: Construction on the War Memorial Complex buildings, including the Opera House and Veterans Building, commences

91 School of the Arts Master Plan: Draft Environmental Impact Report. San Francisco Unified School District, 4-18 - 4-19.
92 "San Francisco Landmark #140: High School of Commerce." San Francisco Landmarks. <http://www.noehill.com/sf/landmarks/sf140.asp>. (accessed January 5, 2015).
93 "San Francisco Landmark #94: Orpheum Theater." San Francisco Landmarks. <http://noehill.com/sf/landmarks/sf094.asp> (accessed March 13, 2015).
94 Historical Resources Evaluation Report for the Van Ness Avenue Streetscape Improvement Project, Attachment VI, DPW, 2007, 8
95 1978 NRHP Inventory Nomination Form, continuation sheet 2
96 Historic Resources Evaluation Report for the Van Ness Avenue Streetscape Improvement Project, Attachment VI-a - National Register of Historic Places, SFCC NHL, 17-3

in January and the cornerstones were laid on Armistice Day (Veterans Day), November 11.⁹⁷

1932: The War Memorial Complex buildings, including the Opera House and Veterans Building, are dedicated on California State Admission Day, September 9.⁹⁸

1932: The French Renaissance style of the Opera House, designed by Arthur Brown and G. Albert Lansburgh, opens with performance of Puccini's *Tosca*. The frame is structural steel with reinforced concrete floors. The walls are reinforced concrete with some unreinforced brick.⁹⁹ The Veterans Building, designed by Arthur Brown, Jr., is constructed with similar specifications.¹⁰⁰

1932: The Department of Public Health Building, located on the NE corner of block 0811, is constructed with a structural steel frame and reinforced concrete floors.¹⁰¹

1932: Perpendicular parking (90 degree) is visible in front of the Veterans Building, part of the War Memorial Complex.¹⁰²

97 Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board Final Case Report, War Memorial Complex, Approved September 4, 1974, 4
98 Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board Final Case Report, War Memorial Complex, Approved September 4, 1974, 4
99 J. Tilman, Arthur Brown, Jr. Progressive Classicist, 107; Civic Center Development Plan: Preliminary Report, Appendix V; Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board Final Case Report, War Memorial Complex, Approved September 4, 1974, 6
100 1987 NHL, 7,4; Civic Center Development Plan: Preliminary Report, Appendix V; Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board Final Case Report, War Memorial Complex, Approved September 4, 1974, p.6
101 1987 NHL, 7,10
102 J. Tilman, Arthur Brown, Jr. Progressive Classicist, 102



Figure 2.37 c. 1936 photograph of Fulton and Hyde near the Federal Building (J. Tilman)

1932: Crosswalk treatments (dotted lines) are visible on the street at the corner of McAllister and Van Ness Avenue.¹⁰³

1932: The 25' wide sidewalks in front of the War Memorial complex are not landscaped.¹⁰⁴

1932: Decorative iron fencing is visible along the Van Ness side of Memorial Court. Low wide curbs are visible at the edge of each building's lawn course.¹⁰⁵

1932: Light poles along Van Ness Avenue between McAllister and Grove Streets are double globe lights that are attached to the pole about 2/3 up in height on every other pole.¹⁰⁶

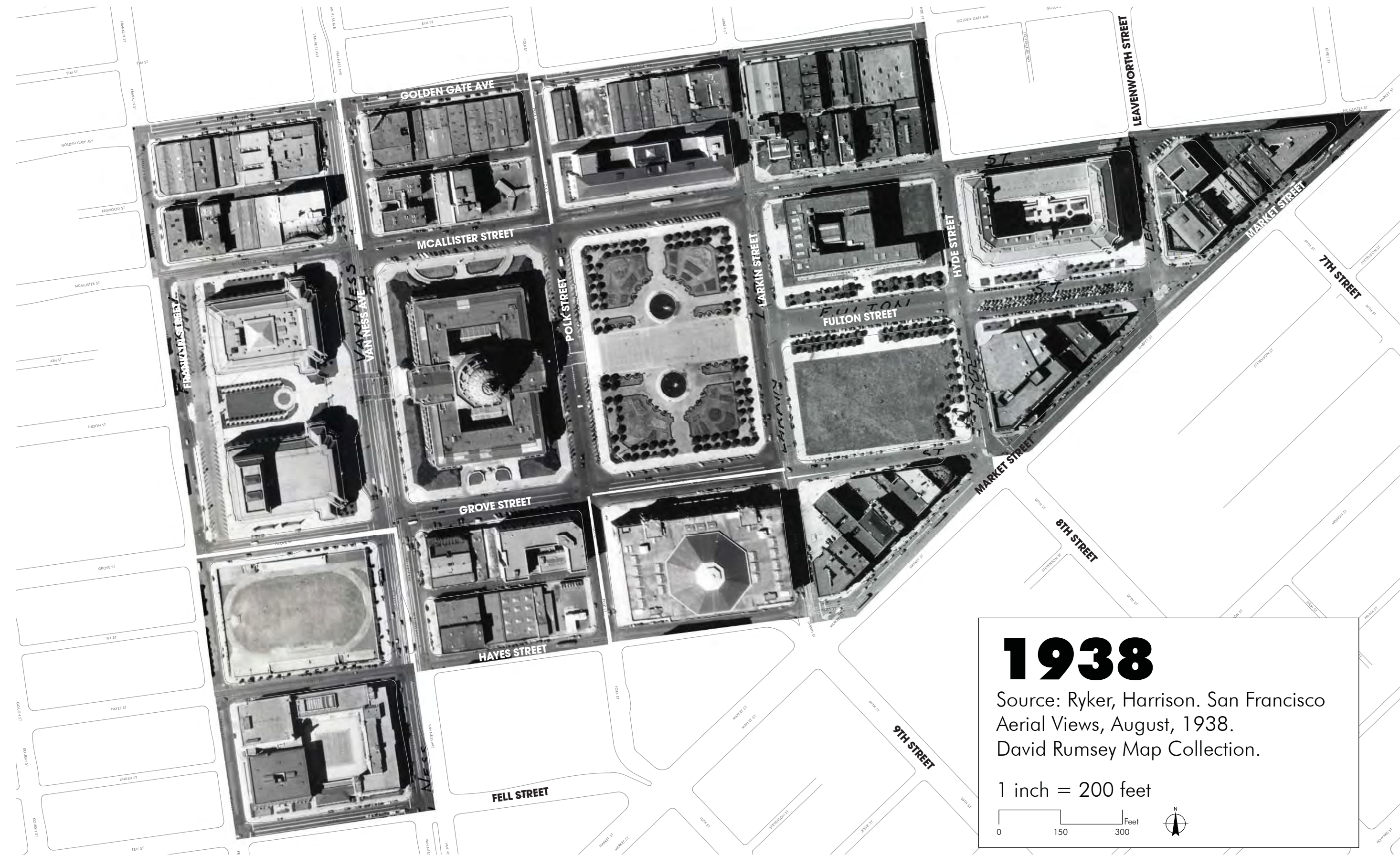
103 J. Tilman, Arthur Brown, Jr. Progressive Classicist, 102
104 Historical Resources Evaluation Report for the Van Ness Avenue Streetscape Improvement Project, Attachment VI, DPW, 2007, 8
105 J. Tilman, Arthur Brown, Jr. Progressive Classicist, 102
106 J. Tilman, Arthur Brown, Jr. Progressive Classicist, 102



Figure 2.39 1938 storefronts along Fulton at Hyde (San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library)



Figure 2.38 c. 1941 oblique aerial of the Civic Center including the War Memorial Complex (J. Tilman)



1932: Single columnar trees (possibly *Taxus* sp.) are located in landscape planters at the corners of the Veterans Building and Opera House along Van Ness Avenue. No other plantings are visible except turf. The austere plantings were due to the lack of funds to complete landscape work. The planters are irregular in plan and approximately fifteen-feet wide and twelve-feet deep. The corners of the planters are chamfered, a landscape design feature that echoes a vocabulary used in the corners of the War Memorial Complex buildings, City Hall, and the Department of Public Health Building. The planters are demarcated with low, white, granite walls, approximately one-foot tall by one-foot wide.¹⁰⁷

1932: War Memorial Court contains soil from various cities around the world where Americans had been in battle which was gathered by American War Veterans.¹⁰⁸

1933: Construction begins on Federal Building designed by Arthur Brown, Jr.¹⁰⁹

1936: Construction of the Federal Building is completed. Planting beds are visible around the exterior of the Federal Building, but no planting materials are installed.¹¹⁰

1936: War Memorial Court finished, designed by Thomas Church and H. Leland Vaughn. Blue and gold painted ornamental iron fencing is installed at west and east entrances.¹¹¹

1936: Van Ness Avenue is widened and the sidewalks are narrowed to 16 feet on both sides to anticipate surge of traffic due to completion of Golden Gate Bridge. To accommodate the street widening all of the trolley poles are moved back from the road.¹¹²

1936-37: Following the widening of Van Ness the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission undertook the relighting of the poles, affixing a single tear-drop luminaire. The uniform lighting standards replaced the small electric lights from the Exposition

107 J. Tilman, Arthur Brown, Jr. Progressive Classicist, 102; Historic Resources Evaluation Report for the Van Ness Avenue Streetscape Improvement Project, Attachment VI-a-National Register of Historic Places, SFCC NHL, 17-3

108 Civic Center Study, SF Planning Department, 97

109 J. Tilman, Arthur Brown, Jr. Progressive Classicist, 109

110 1987 NHL, 7,9; J. Tilman, Arthur Brown, Jr. Progressive Classicist, 109

111 1987 NHL; 1987 NHL, 7,4

112 HREIR Van Ness Avenue Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Project, 29

era (c. 1914), which had largely been considered a temporary expedient for the occasion, and many of which had already been taken out of service. In all, 259 specially designed pendant brackets mounted on the Municipal Railway trolley poles, supporting 6000 lumen pendants.¹¹³

1936: Specifications for light standards along Van Ness Avenue describe luminaires to have 6,000 lumen lamps, with bronze finials and globe fitters, mounted to poles brush-painted with buff colored paint.¹¹⁴

113 HREIR Van Ness Avenue Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Project, 29; San Francisco Public Utilities Commission Reports, Volume II, 1936-40, Electric Power Bureau, 130

114 Public Utilities Commission: Proposal for Street Lighting Construction on Van Ness (Market to North Point), McAllister (Polk to Franklin), and Grove (Hyde to Franklin), October 1936, 38; Public Utilities Commission: Proposal for Street Lighting Construction on Van Ness (Market to North Point), McAllister (Polk to Franklin), and Grove (Hyde to Franklin), October 1936, 47



Figure 2.40 1941 Hospitality House construction with street lighting, fire hydrant and traffic signal (San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library)



Figure 2.41 1941 Larkin Street façade of the Hospitality House (The Argonaut)



Figure 2.42 1942 photo of Civic Center Plaza with the Civic Auditorium in the background (San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library)



Figure 2.43 1940s view of a parking lot, Hospitality House with the Civic Center Plaza and City Hall in the background. (San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library)



Figure 2.44 1943 image of paving detail of Civic Center Plaza with barracks and State Building in background (San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library)



Figure 2.45 1943 barracks in Civic Center Plaza (The Argonaut)

1936: Streets adjacent to the Federal Building are fitted with 32 16.5' concrete standards carrying 4,000 lumen lamps¹¹⁵

1936-37: 32 16.5' light standards with 4,000 lumens are installed on McAllister and Grove Streets¹¹⁶

1936: By 1936, small 12' pedestrian lights are visible along Fulton Street, and ornate 30' tri-globe lights are visible along Hyde Street.¹¹⁷

1936: Around 1936, the Civic Center Plaza includes four rows of parking down the center of Fulton Street reaching from Leavenworth to Larkin Street. The parking area between Hyde and Larkin is lined with a double row of plane trees.¹¹⁸

115 San Francisco Public Utilities Commission Reports, Volume I, 1930-36, Electric Power Bureau, 133

116 San Francisco Public Utilities Commission Reports, Volume II, 1936-40, Electric Power Bureau, 130

117 J. Tilman, Arthur Brown, Jr. Progressive Classicist, 109

118 J. Tilman, Arthur Brown, Jr. Progressive Classicist, 109

1936: By 1936, shrub massing are planted near a corner of City Hall, and large trees are located near the main entrance of City Hall at Van Ness Avenue. Trees are planted in double rows in Civic Center Plaza. There are no street trees.¹¹⁹

1938-1961: WORLD WAR II AND MID-CENTURY MODERN

SELECTED DEVELOPMENT CHRONOLOGY

1941: The Hospitality House opens to serve visiting military personnel, citizens and soldiers during World War II. It is located on Larkin Street on the site of Marshall Square (block 0354). It was one of the last New Deal projects in the Bay Area, and built by the Building Trades Council labor unions and private construction companies as an entirely volunteer effort. This building later housed the San Francisco Planning

119 J. Tilman, Arthur Brown, Jr. Progressive Classicist, 108



Figure 2.46 1943 oblique aerial of the Civic Center Plaza during World War II (San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library)



Figure 2.47 1945 aerial of Civic Center Plaza with the barracks in place (San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library)

Department, and was removed prior to the 1993 construction of the new San Francisco Public Library.¹²⁰

1941: Prefabricated barracks, built to provide lodging for visiting service personnel at a cost of 50 cents per night, are located in the Civic Center Plaza (block 0788) during World War II.¹²¹ Based on photographs of the area it appears they were removed by the end of 1946.

1945: The United States Navy constructs a three-story wood frame stucco temporary office building on the NE corner of block 0353, later referred to as the 45 Hyde Street Annex. In 1948, the Navy transferred the building to the City of San Francisco, and it was used as an annex to the public library until it was removed 1997 during the conversion of the Public Library to the Asian Art Museum.¹²²

1945: Around 1945, a gas station, potentially the same as the Standard Oil station that was relocated here in 1930, is located on the SE corner of block 0766 at the intersection of Polk and McAllister Streets. This site later becomes the San Francisco Superior Court in 1995.

1945: Light poles with an aggregate concrete base are located along Fulton Street near the Federal Building by 1945 (block 0351).

1945: The Pioneer Monument remains located on the SE corner of Marshall Square (block 0354), where it stood since its origination in 1894. Today, Marshall Square is now gone and the Pioneer Monument has been moved to the middle of Fulton Street between the Asian Art Museum (block 0353) and the Public Library (block 0354).

1945: Around 1945, yews are planted near the vehicular entrance to the Opera House on Grove Street.

1945: In the late spring and summer of 1945, representatives from 50 nations gathered in San Francisco to attend the founding conference of the United Nations, which was hosted in the Civic Center. It was during this conference that they drafted and later signed the United Nations Charter. President Truman and other dignitaries signed the United Nations Charter “in the auditorium

120 San Francisco Independent, "Historic Hospitality House faces razing," by Nora Leishman, January 29, 1991
121 1987 NHL, 7,11
122 San Francisco Department of Planning, San Francisco Main Library Final Environmental Impact Report, 1992, 61a

of Veterans Memorial Hall” on June 26 in which the President addressed the delegates.¹²³ The UN Charter was ratified by nations later that year.

1946: Bird's eye aerial photos and existing landscape plans¹²⁴ dated 1946 show trimmed acacia trees located in two rows at the perimeter of Civic Center Plaza. Irish yews are planted around the circular fountains and along the Fulton Mall. Civic Center Plaza also contains decorative flower beds, hedge species, flagpoles, drinking fountains, and brick paving.

123 History of the United Nations, San Francisco Conference <http://www.un.org/en/aboutun/history/sanfrancisco_conference.shtml> August 19, 2013; Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board Final Case Report, War Memorial Complex, Approved September 4, 1974, 4

124 Bird's eye black and white photographs of Civic Center dated 1946, WBE Archive; Existing Landscape Plan for Civic Center Plaza drawn up by Board of Park Commissioners' Division of Engineering and Landscape Design, 1946, WBE Archive



Figure 2.48 1943 view of barracks being constructed in Civic Center Plaza (San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library)



Figure 2.49 1945 photo of the Powerhouse at the corner of Larkin and McAllister (San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library)

1947: In front of the new Federal Building, newly planted trees (most likely London Plane trees) are visible.

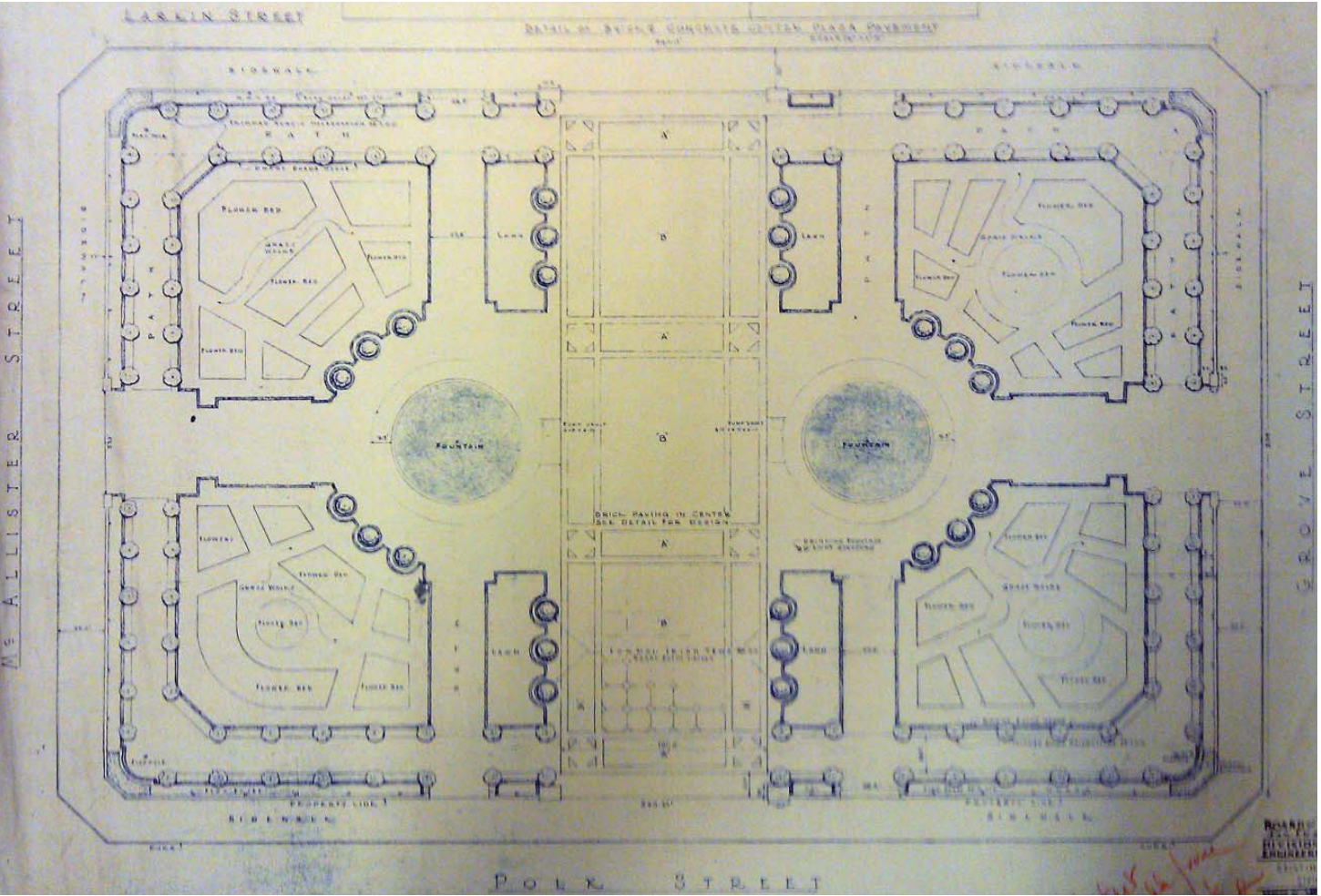
1950: The H Trolley Line, running along Van Ness Avenue since the 1915 Exposition, is abandoned in March and replaced with motor coach service. The tracks are quickly removed with a median replacing the rail lines.¹²⁵

1950: An apartment building, as well as commercial buildings, automobile repair shops and show rooms remain located along Van Ness Avenue on the west side of block 0811, near the Department of Public Health Building.¹²⁶

1950: In 1950, block 0767 contained a variety of commercial buildings, including an automobile dealer, single-story electric

125 HRIER Van Ness Avenue Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Project, 31

126 Historical Resources Evaluation Report for the Van Ness Avenue Streetscape Improvement Project, Attachment VI, DPW, 2007, 11



Figures 2.50 1946 Civic Center Plaza landscape plans of existing conditions showing areas for flower beds, trimmed Irish yew hedges around fountains and along Fulton Mall, and two rows of acacia trees at the plaza's perimeter.



Opera House on September 8, officially ending strife between the Allied Powers and Japan, effectively ending World War II. The Treaty went into effect in April 1952.¹²⁹

1952: The High School of Commerce Athletic Field and Grandstand are removed from block 0810 along Van Ness Avenue.¹³⁰

1953: In June, the San Francisco Planning Department publishes *An Introductory Plan for the Civic Center* suggesting a modernist approach for its redevelopment. The 1953 plan is eventually rejected for not adhering to the 80 foot height and bulk limit and

129 “Security Treaty Between the US and Japan, September 8, 1951,” The Avalon Project, Yale Law School Library <http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/japan001.asp> April 2013; Price, John, “The 1951 San Francisco Peace Treaty Historical Perspective,” Japan Policy Research Institute, Working Paper 78, June 2001

130 Historical Resources Evaluation Report for the Van Ness Avenue Streetscape Improvement Project, Attachment VI, DPW, 2007, 11

Figures 2.51 - 2.52 (left and below) 1945 bird’s eye view of the War Memorial Court from Franklin Street (San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library), c. 1947 bird’s eye view of the Civic Center areas flanking Fulton Street with view of new Federal Building at lower right (CED Library, UC Berkeley)



spatial layout around the plaza.¹³¹ Despite controversy, a \$3.25 million bond measure is eventually passed in November 1954 to upgrade the Civic Auditorium for conventions and build an exhibit hall under Civic Center Plaza.¹³²

1956-1957: Excavation begins for the construction of Brooks Exhibit Hall which necessitates the removal of the Beaux Arts-era Civic Center Plaza.¹³³ Brooks Hall and the associated underground parking garage (later built in 1959) were designed by the architectural firms Wurster Bernardi Emmons (WBE) and Skidmore Owings and Merrill (SOM) to modernize and expand San Francisco’s convention facilities at the Exposition (Civic) Auditorium, which had not changed since the building’s construction in 1915. Douglas Baylis was the team’s landscape

131 An Introductory Plan for the Civic Center, SF Planning, June 1953, 16-17

132 The Argonaut, 76, 78; San Francisco Civic Center Development Plan 1958, 5

133 The Argonaut, 77; Amendment to Article 10 in the City Planning Code, 7



architect; he was tasked with redesigning Civic Center Plaza after the completion of Brooks Hall.¹³⁴

1957: The California State Building Annex, located on the north end of block 0765, is completed.¹³⁵ This addition was located behind the California State Building, designed by Bliss & Faville and built in 1926. The 1957 California State Building Annex was damaged in the 1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake and subsequently replaced by the Hiram W. Johnson State Office Building, designed by SOM.¹³⁶

1958: Brooks Exhibit Hall below Civic Center Plaza is completed.

1958: Tied to their work on Brooks Hall and the anticipated redesign of Civic Center Plaza, a Civic Center Development Plan is completed by WBE and SOM.¹³⁷

1958: Several recommendations are made for the buildings and landscape spaces in the Civic Center Development Plan, but only some were implemented, including the new underground parking

134 The Cultural Landscape Foundation, “Civic Center Plaza San Francisco,” <<http://tclf.org/landscapes/civic-center-plaza-san-francisco>> April 8, 2013

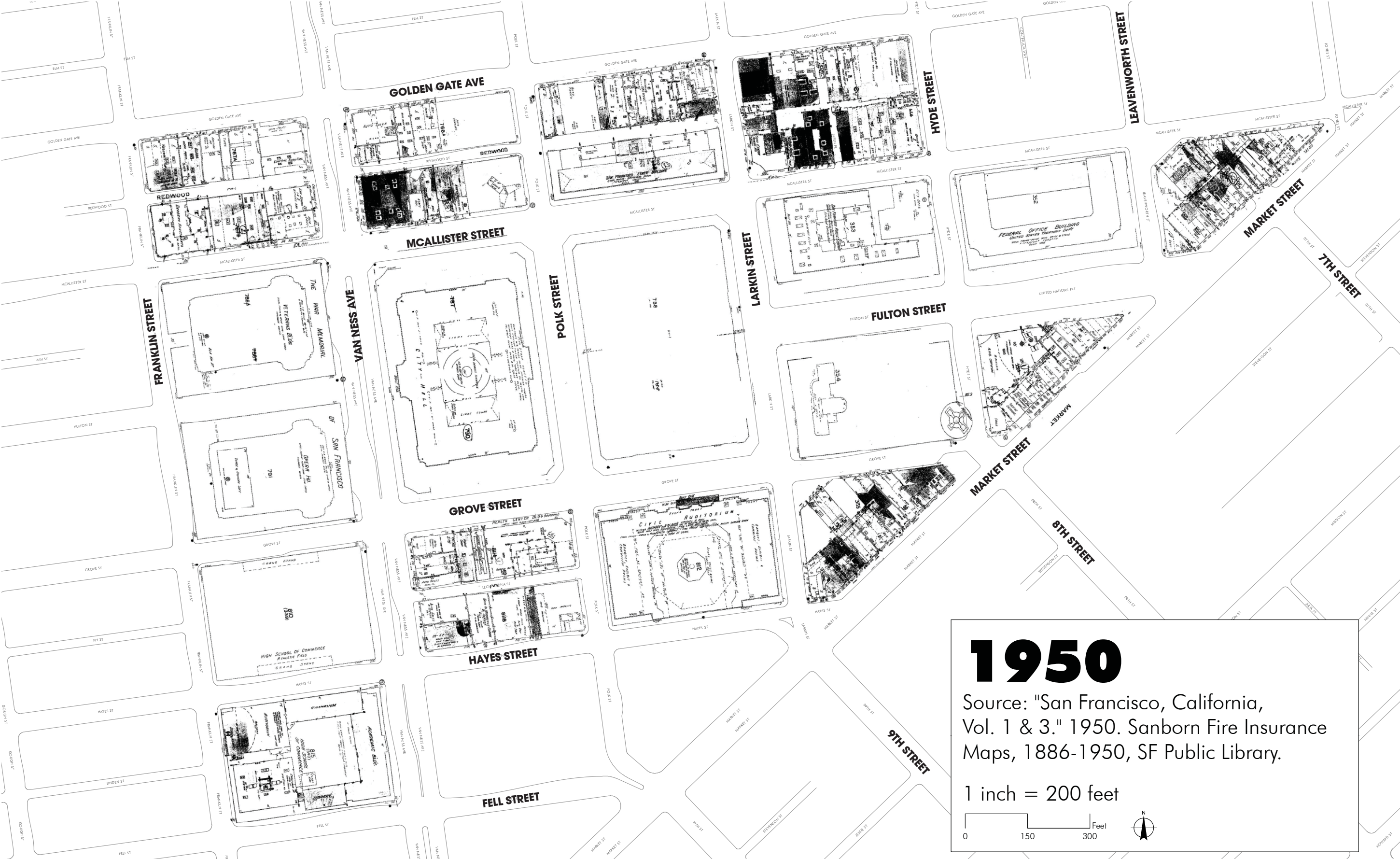
135 1987 NHL, 7,8

136 Forell/Elsesser Engineers, “Hiram W. Johnson State Office Building and Earl Warren Supreme Court Building,” <<http://www.forell.com/projects/historic-renovation/hiram-w-johnson-state-office-building/>> April 8, 2013

137 San Francisco Civic Center Development Plan 1958; The Argonaut, 77

Figures 2.53 - 2.55 (clockwise from upper left) 1947 view of Civic Center with the Auditorium in the background, 1950 image of traffic on McAllister with the Civic Center Plaza in the background, 1955 view of the entrance to the War Memorial Court from Franklin Street with hedge in place east of gate opening (all images from San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library)





1950

Source: "San Francisco, California, Vol. 1 & 3." 1950. Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1886-1950, SF Public Library.

1 inch = 200 feet

0

150

300

Feet

N

garage adjacent to Brooks Hall, new plaza landscape, and street closings to increase open space. Some recommendations that were not implemented include the demolition of the Department of Public Health Building and replacement of the Power House.¹³⁸

1958: An assessment of City and County buildings in the Civic Center area finds that they do not have modern design requirements for lateral loads, rendering remodeling for expansions physically challenging and economically unfeasible. This study, completed by WBE and SOM, noted: “Even if the structural frames remain in good condition, plumbing, wiring, HVAC, and space allocations render the buildings obsolete and expendable.” However, City Hall receives fair condition assessment and “with proper upkeep may operate in present way indefinitely.”¹³⁹

1958: Transportation recommendations in the Civic Center Redevelopment Plan include a subway along Market Street (BART was built in the early 1970s), changes to traffic direction (one-way to two-way or vice versa), closing portions of Polk and Larkin Streets (not executed) and closing portions of Fulton Street (executed and made way for design of United Nations Plaza).¹⁴⁰

1958-1961: The restoration plan for Civic Center Plaza, outlined in the *1958 Civic Center Development Plan*, was necessitated by the construction of Brooks Hall and the associated parking garage, both located underneath the 1915 era Civic Center Plaza. The first version of the Civic Center Plaza redesign, completed by landscape architect Douglas Baylis, closely reflected the 1915 era design, but was met with criticism by Mayor George Christopher. This design was never constructed. Baylis completed another version of the site design, which followed the modern design aesthetic in vogue at the time.¹⁴¹ However, following construction in 1961, this design was met with major public criticism, again from Mayor Christopher and joined by San Francisco architecture critic Allan Temko. This criticism resulted in an international design competition to redesign the plaza in the mid-1960s.¹⁴² Though modifications have been made, it is the 1961 Baylis design that remains today. It's interesting to note that there is no reference to this project in the Douglas Baylis

138 San Francisco Civic Center Development Plan 1958, 4
139 Civic Center Development Plan: Preliminary Report, Appendix V
140 San Francisco Civic Center Development Plan 1958, 10
141 1960 Site & Paving Plan, A3; 1960 Planting Plan, L1
142 Civic Center Proposal, Dianne Feinstein, November 1987, 18; The Argonaut, 81

collection at the University of California at Berkeley College of Environmental Design Archives. It has been theorized that this omission was deliberate since Baylis was involved in at least one other controversial project in San Francisco for Portsmouth Square, but materials related to that project are included in his professional archives and papers.¹⁴³

1959-1960: Civic Center Parking Garage is built adjacent to Brooks Hall and designed by WBE/SOM. The two structures are built independently of each other, although by the same designers. It opens on March 1, 1960.¹⁴⁴

1960: Pollarded sycamores were added to landscape planters at
143 The Argonaut, 82
144 The Argonaut, 79



Figure 2.56 1956 photo of Civic Center Plaza (J. Baird)



Figure 2.57 1956 removal of acacia trees from Civic Center Plaza prior to excavation for Brooks Hall and underground parking garage (San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library)



Figure 2.58 1955 oblique aerial of Civic Center showing the west side of the War Memorial Complex and athletic field associated with the high school (San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library)

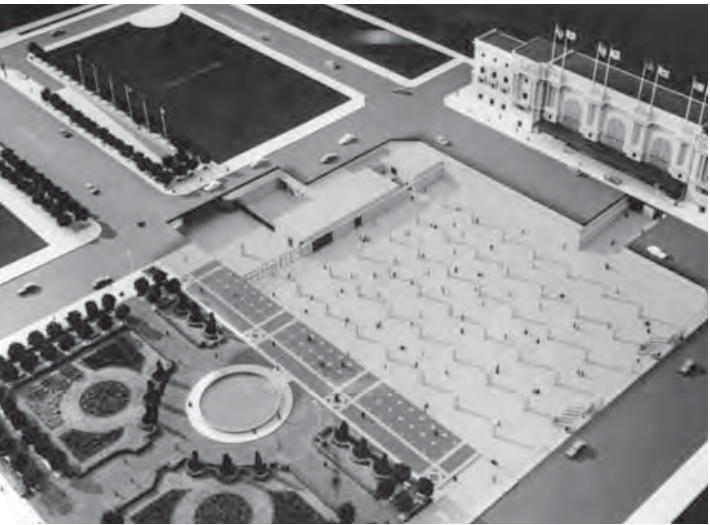


Figure 2.59 c. 1950s model of planned Brooks Hall construction (San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library),



Figure 2.60 1958 photo of Civic Center Plaza demolition (San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library)



Figure 2.61 1958 dedication of Brooks Hall from Hyde Street access ramp (San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library)



Figure 2.62 1961 photo of fountain pool at Civic Center Plaza with City Hall in background (San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library)

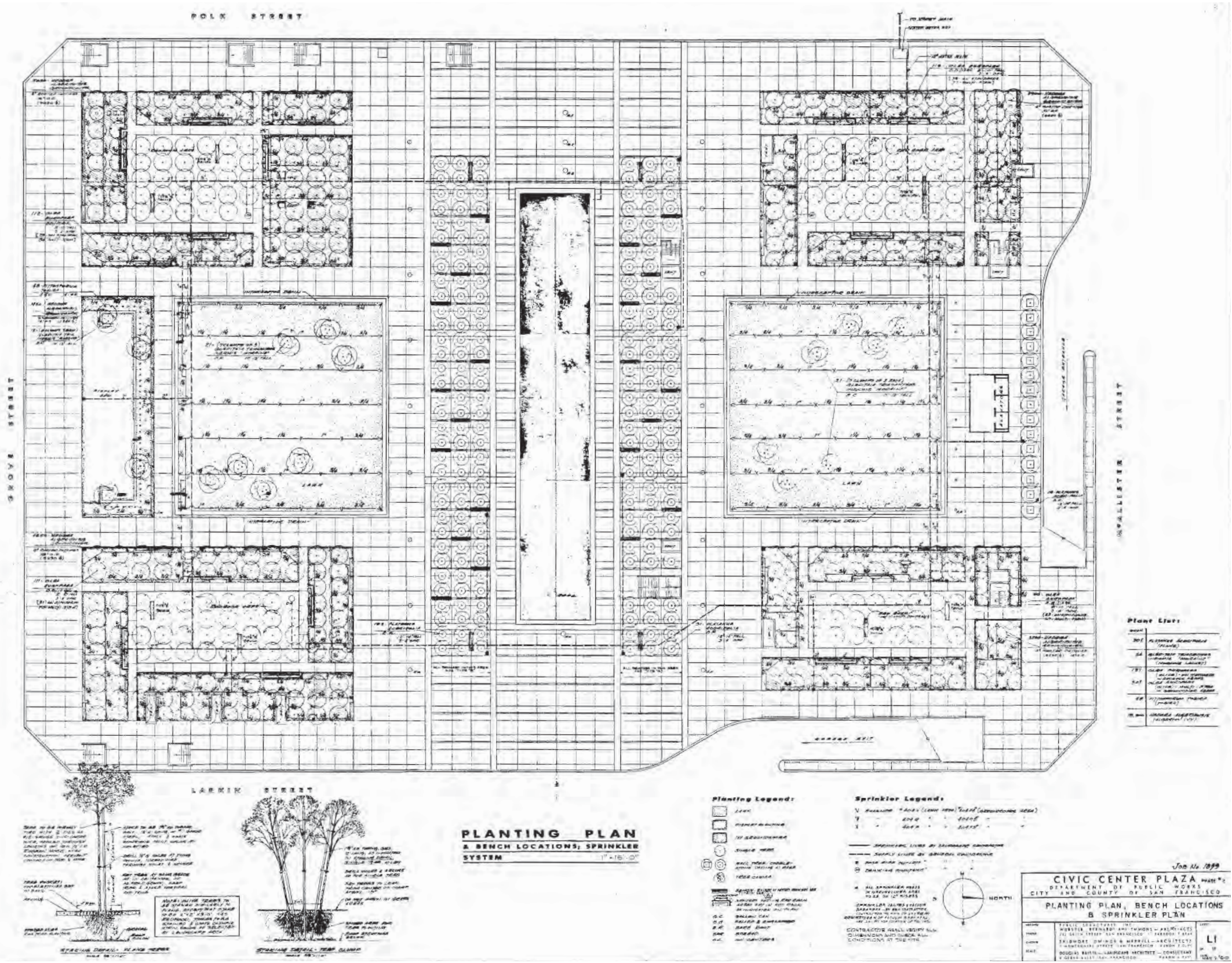


Figure 2.63 1960 Douglas Baylis planting plan for Civic Center Plaza. Notes indicate that trees along the pool were to have a "3' - 4' spread" indicating they are pollarded London plane trees. (SF Dept. of Public Works)



Figures 2.64 - 2.68 (clockwise from top left) 1961 photo of Civic Center Plaza fountain filled with soap foam, 1961 photo of flagpoles in Civic Center Plaza, 1961 view of ramp to parking garage located underneath Civic Center Plaza, 1961 view of Civic Center Plaza from City Hall, 1960s bird's eye view of Civic Center Plaza from roof of Civic Auditorium (all images from San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library).



the corners of the Veterans Building and Opera House in the War Memorial Complex along Van Ness Avenue after 1960.¹⁴⁵

1962-1976: CONTROVERSY AND CHANGE

SELECTED DEVELOPMENT CHRONOLOGY

1964: A distinguished jury is selected for the Civic Center Plaza redesign which includes Thomas Church (landscape architect), Luis Barragán (architect), Andre Bloc (sculptor), Moses Lasky (art patron), and Sybil Moholy Nagy (art historian).¹⁴⁶ Though a great deal of effort is exerted on the redesign (which is reflected in this section of the site history), no plans are ever approved or executed as part of this effort.

1964: City Hall is documented by the Historic American Building Survey.

1964: The Civic Center Technical Coordinating Committee determines “that a review of the Civic Center Development Plan is necessary at this time because of changes that have occurred with the passing of time and because of proposed new developments which will require decisions of far reaching

145 Historic Resources Evaluation Report for the Van Ness Avenue Streetscape Improvement Project, Attachment VI-a - National Register of Historic Places, SFCC NHL, 17-3
146 The Argonaut, 83



Figure 2.69 1961 photo of newly planted Platanus x acerifolia trees and planter boxes of rhododendrons (San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library)

consequence to the physical development of the Civic Center.”¹⁴⁷

1964: The International Competition for the Enhancement of the San Francisco Civic Center is announced to solicit plans for a redesign of Civic Center Plaza.

1964: Exterior renovations to Civic Auditorium include extending the western most pier to accommodate an escalator to Brooks Auditorium.¹⁴⁸

1965: 317 submittals are received in response to the International Competition for the Enhancement of the San Francisco Civic Center Plaza. The winning design by architects Ivan Tzvetin and Angela Danadjieva of Paris, France was the unanimous choice by the Competition’s jury who urged its realization. However the modernist design was considered so far removed from the character of the Civic Center that no action was ever taken to implement the design.¹⁴⁹ The jury provided several reasons for choosing the Tzvetin and Danadjieva¹⁵⁰ design, including “that if there was to be a departure from the present design, it should be so decisive that a truly original and new space experience was created. The scheme, comprising a series of flat and varied terraces, represents a fresh and, in many ways, surprising approach.”¹⁵¹

1966: The Civic Center Plaza Fountain, which had been a center for controversy surrounding the Plaza, is described in the *San Francisco Chronicle* as “the mayor’s urinal” due to the position and phallic appearance of the spouts.¹⁵² This criticism likely leads to the fountain’s jets being replaced in 1970 (see below).

1966: Landscape architect Lawrence Halprin is asked by civic leader and philanthropist Walter Haas, Sr. to develop a design for Civic Center Plaza. The plan includes two circular pools and flagpoles. The unveiling was followed by hearings, but nothing was ever implemented due to a concern that the plan is too

147 A Report on the Civic Center Development Plan, October 1964
148 1987 NHL, 7,5
149 SF Examiner, “\$6000 Gift to Speed Design for Civic Plaza,” by Chas Cruttenden, March 1966, WBE Archives
150 It is interesting to note that Angela Danadjieva went on to work for Lawrence Halprin and Associates.
151 Internet Archive, “SF Arts Commission Minutes from January 4, 1965,” Internet Archive, <http://archive.org/stream/artcommissionmin1965sanf/artcommissionmin1965sanf_djvu.txt> April 8, 2013
152 SF Examiner, “Civic Center’s pond a font of controversy,” by Gerald Adams, August 9, 1993

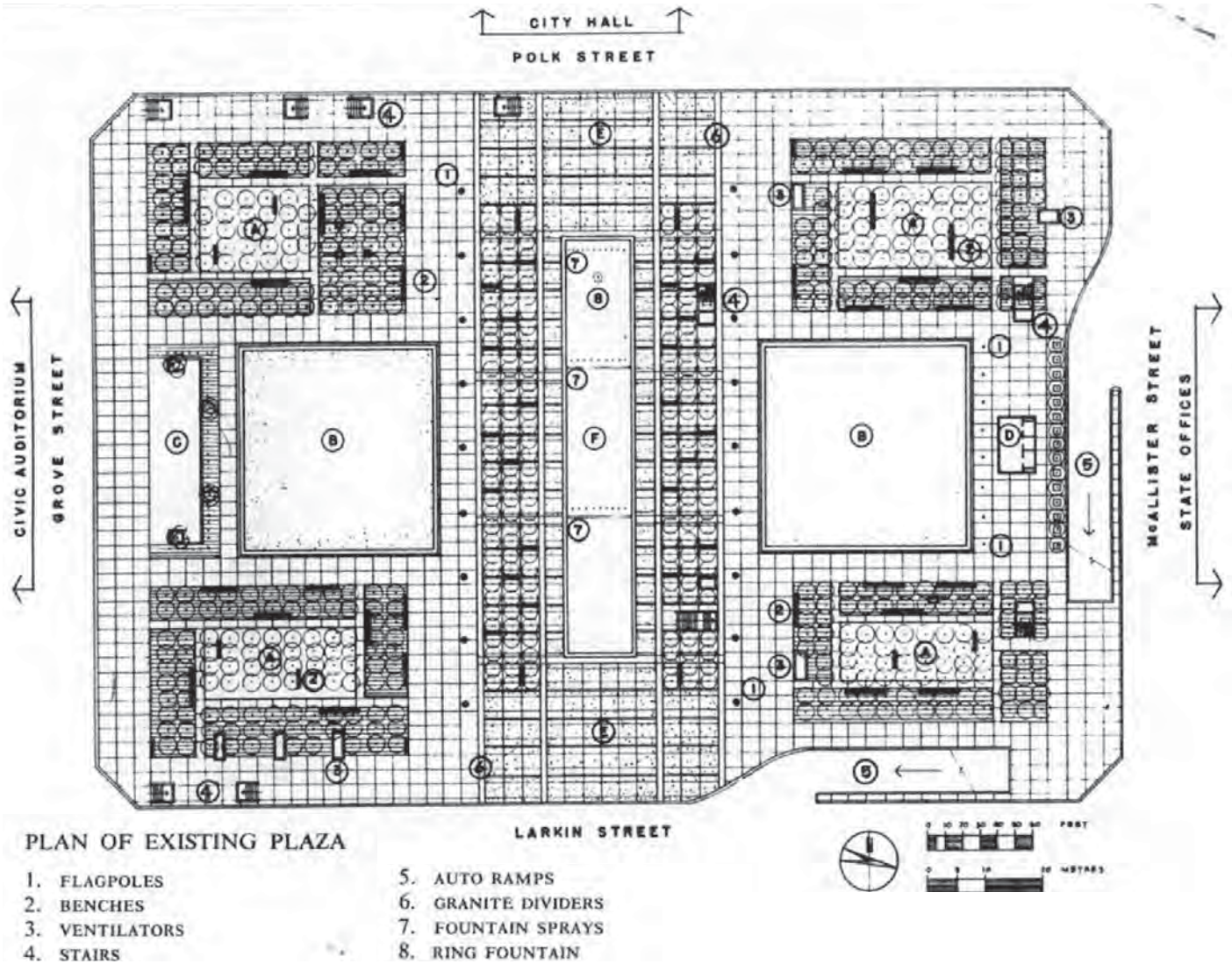
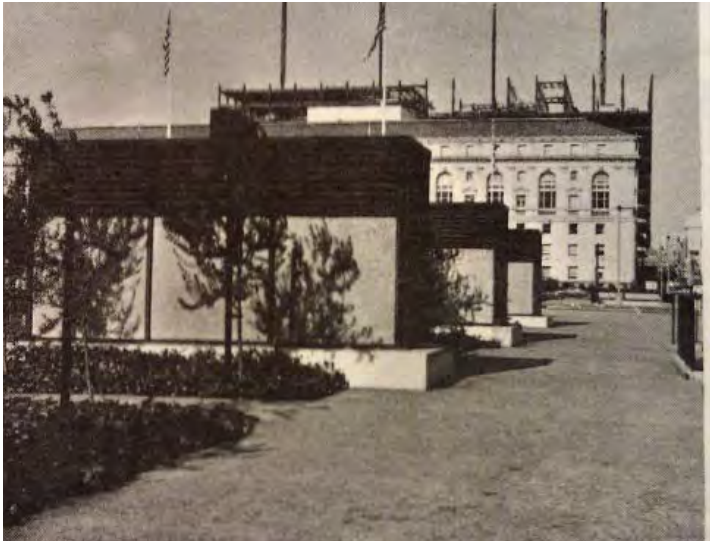


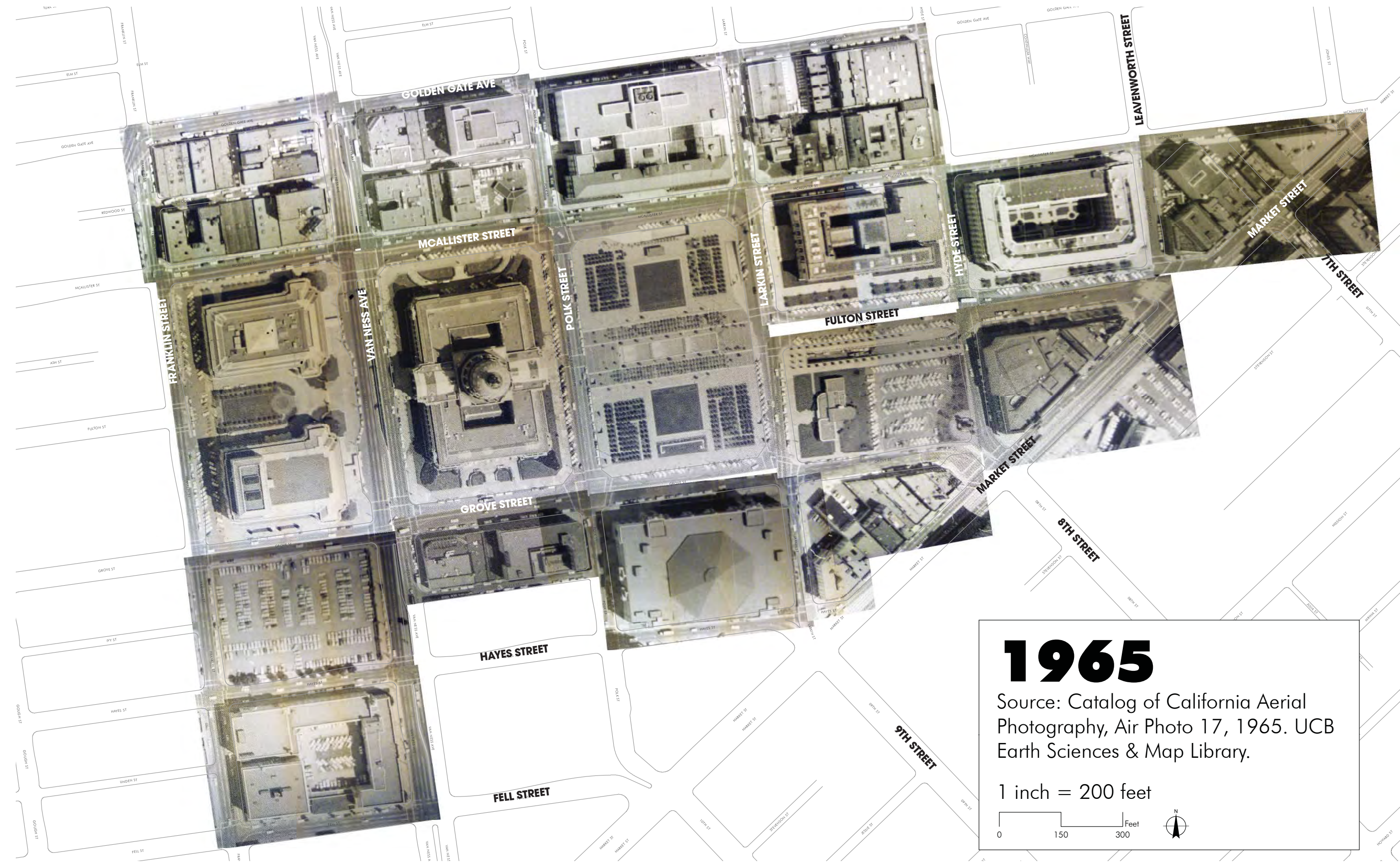
Figure 2.70 1964 plan of existing plaza for the International Competition for the Enhancement of the SF Civic Center (CED Library, UC Berkeley)



Figures 2.71 - 2.72 1964 photographs documenting existing conditions of Civic Center Plaza, including olive groves (left) and above ground ventilators above Brooks Hall (right) (Environmental Design Archives, UC Berkeley)



Figures 2.73 - 2.75 (clockwise from top) 1964 photographs documenting existing conditions of Civic Center Plaza including the flagpoles, water features, benches and trees (Environmental Design Archives, UC Berkeley)

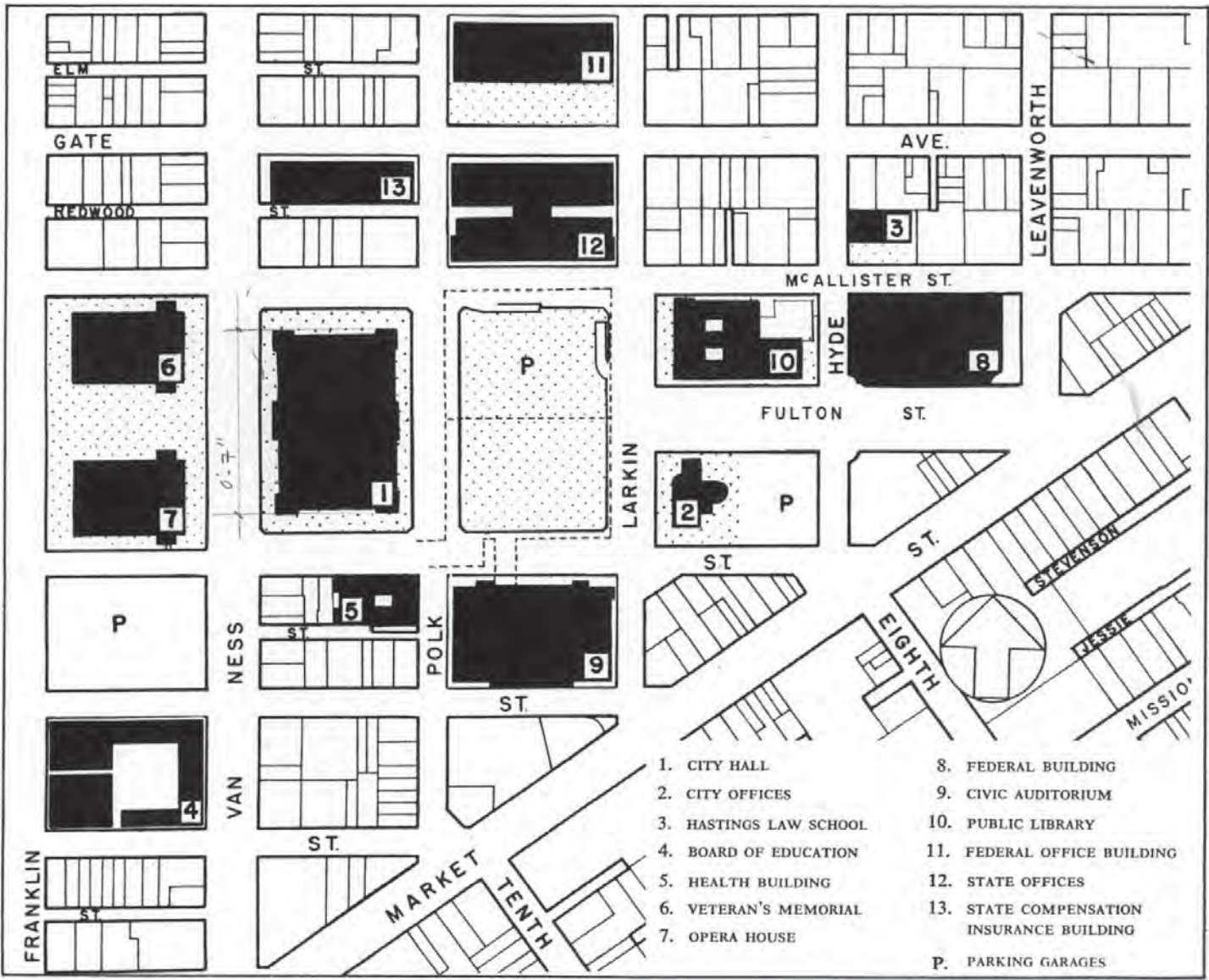
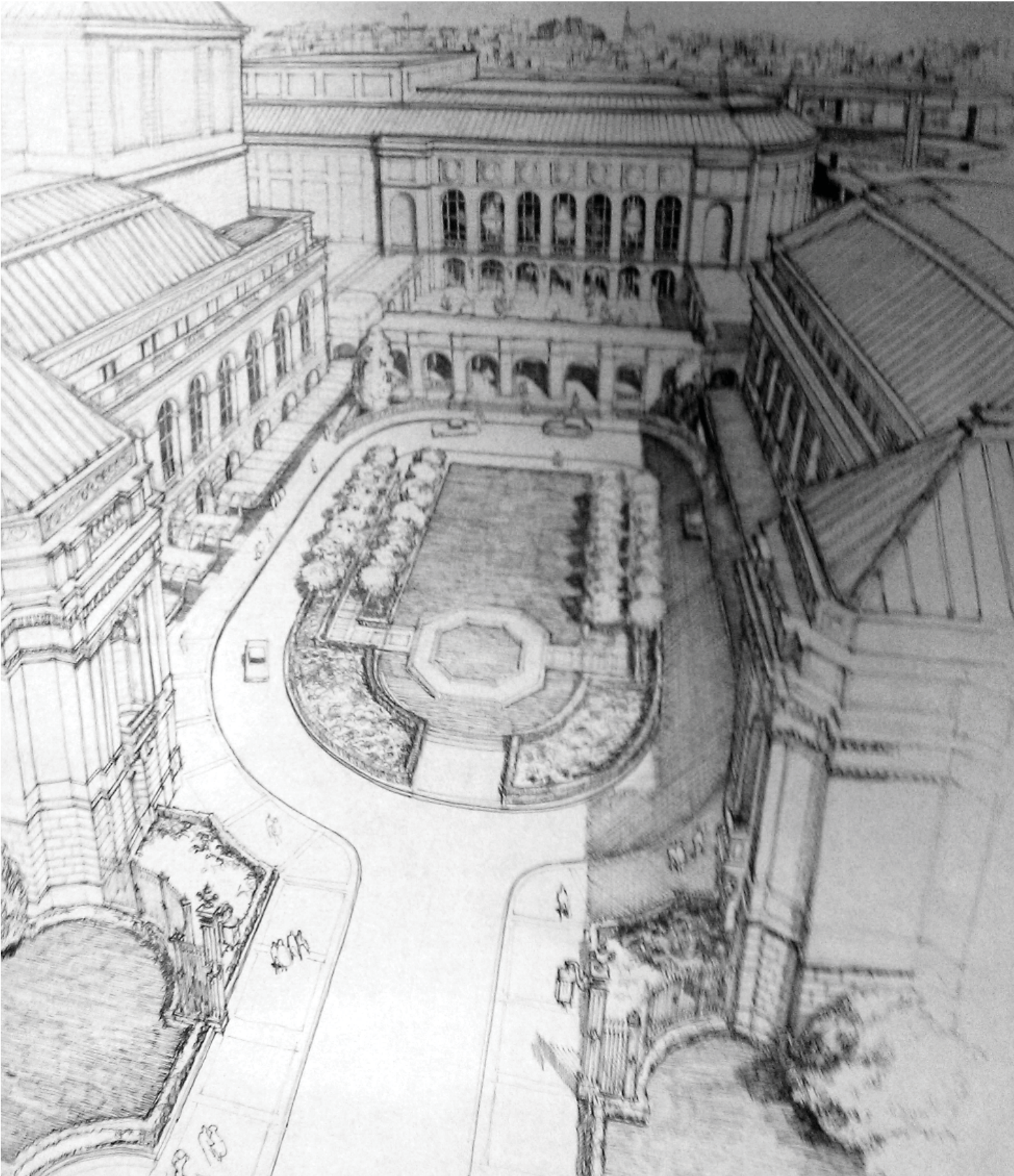


1965

Source: Catalog of California Aerial Photography, Air Photo 17, 1965. UCB Earth Sciences & Map Library.

1 inch = 200 feet





expensive.¹⁵³ It is important to note that based on a review of the finding aid of archived materials from Halprin's design firm, his work on the Civic Center Plaza spanned between 1955-1968, but was not related to his later work associated with UN Plaza and BART work along Market Street.¹⁵⁴

1966: Wells Fargo building (1256 Market Street) is remodeled after it is purchased by the bank.¹⁵⁵

¹⁵³ SF Chronicle, "Powers that be can revive Civic Center," by John King, August 15, 2012; The Argonaut, 85

¹⁵⁴ It is likely that Halprin was consulted or submitted design plans on multiple occasions for Civic Center. Further research about Halprin's role was deemed outside the scope of this project, but needs to be researched and analyzed.

¹⁵⁵ 1978 NRHP Inventory Nomination Form, continuation sheet 1

1967: Work begins on the Market Street Subway and underground stations, including a station at Civic Center.¹⁵⁶

1970: Following complaints, city engineers dismantle the Civic Center Plaza fountain's multi-spouts of water and replace them with a conventional single jet of water shooting vertically. The height is not deemed satisfactory.¹⁵⁷

1973: Service at the Civic Center/UN Plaza BART Station begins in November.¹⁵⁸

¹⁵⁶ A History of BART: The Project Begins <<http://www.bart.gov/about/history/history2.aspx>> April 2013

¹⁵⁷ SF Examiner, "Civic Center's pond a font of controversy," by Gerald Adams, August 9, 1993

¹⁵⁸ BART Chronology, January 1947-May 2009 <<http://www.bart.gov/docs/BARTHistory.pdf>> April 2013

Figure 2.76 (above) 1964 sketch of the War Memorial Court with Franklin Street development proposal (Environmental Design Archives, UC Berkeley); Figure 2.77 (right) 1964 map of existing Civic Center land uses for the International Competition for the Enhancement of the San Francisco Civic Center (CED Library, UC Berkeley)

1974: *Civic Center: A Comprehensive Plan* developed by the San Francisco Department of Planning is adopted by the San Francisco City Planning Commission on July 25 (Resolution No. 7216).¹⁵⁹ No additional information or references about this plan have been found to date.

1975: Construction begins in January on United Nations Plaza, designed by landscape architect Lawrence Halprin, and is completed in June. The United Nations Plaza was part of the Market Street/Civic Center Station project (Halprin office job numbers 6721 and 6842).¹⁶⁰ It was a joint venture with John Carl Warnecke & Associates and Mario Ciampi & Associates, and funded by a 1968 bond issue. The plaza is located along

159 Civic Center Proposal, Dianne Feinstein, November 1987, 20
160 Based on a review of the Halprin archives finding aid and information provided by the University of Pennsylvania archivist it appears that work on the Market St. and United Nations Plaza was split over two jobs, which may correspond to the Market St. work and the United Nations Plaza work. Further research about Halprin’s role was deemed outside the scope of this project, but needs to be researched and analyzed.

Fulton Street, between Market and Hyde, and Leavenworth, between Market and McAllister. The 1-acre pedestrian plaza was designed to commemorate the founding of the United Nations in the Civic Center in 1945. The original design consisted of 117,000 square feet of brick paving laid in a herringbone pattern, over 20,000 square feet of lawn area, 16 light standards and 24 wood slate benches (later removed) lining the outer edges of the promenade, low granite walls bordering the promenade and planting areas, 192 *Platanus acerifolia* (London plane) and *Populus nigra* (Lombardy poplar) trees, and a large granite slab fountain.¹⁶¹ The granite materials were chosen to echo the principal materials of the Civic Center buildings. UN Plaza functions to provide a pedestrian approach to the Civic Center and a view from Market Street to City Hall.¹⁶² The entrance to the Civic Center BART Station is located just south of the pedestrian promenade.

161 Market Street Redevelopment Project Newsletter, San Francisco Public Library, UN Plaza folder; and architectural drawings dated December 22, 1973
162 1978 NRHP Inventory Nomination Form, continuation sheet 12



Figure 2.78 1970s view of the Fulton Mall and Civic Center Plaza from City Hall (San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library)

1975: The first tree at UN Plaza is dedicated by Mayor Alioto on June 26 in honor of the late Dag Hammarskjold, United Nations Secretary General from 1953 to 1961.¹⁶³

1977-2015: HISTORIC DISTRICT ESTABLISHED TO PRESENT DAY

SELECTED DEVELOPMENT CHRONOLOGY

1977: Design guidelines are drafted for UN Plaza and describe the site as a hard edge open space where buildings rise directly from the plaza pavement without intervening grass or other plantings, and where main entrances of the surrounding buildings should open into the plaza. The fountain consists of major granite slabs symbolizing the earth’s major continents, with the lower block in the center signifying the mythical lost continent. Tidal action of the earth’s oceans is represented by a surge of water into the fountain basin, a short pause at flood stage, followed by a rapid draining period. This cycle repeats
163 Market Street Redevelopment Project Newsletter, San Francisco Public Library, UN Plaza folder

every two minutes. Jets shoot up in the air to alert people that the surge will begin. Jets also make the fountain more visible from Market Street and other areas of the plaza.¹⁶⁴

1978: The Civic Center is listed in the National Register of Historic Places as a historic district.

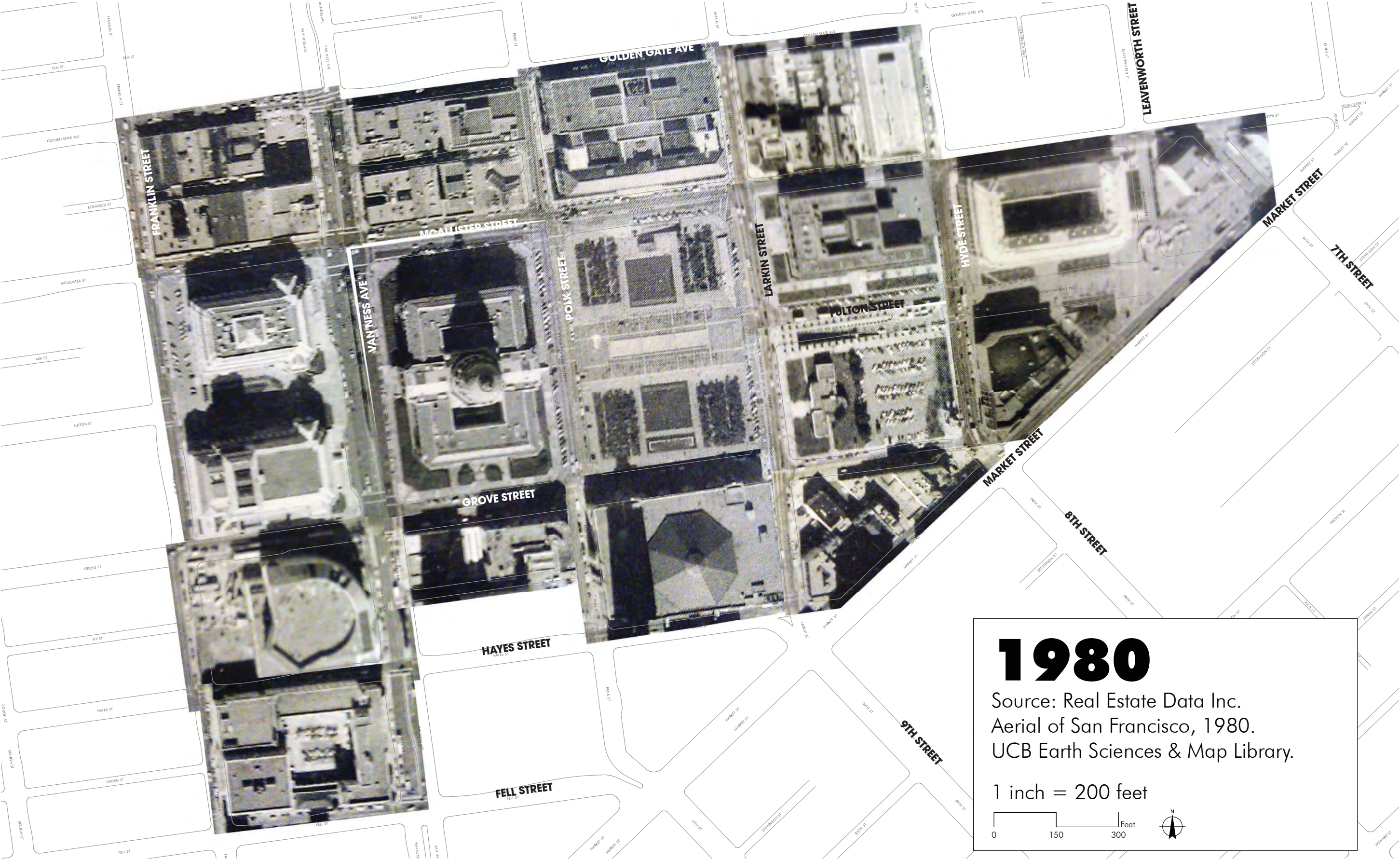
1978: Discussions are held to discuss the implications of the 80’ height limit surrounding the United Nations Plaza and its impact on framing the axial view west toward City Hall.¹⁶⁵

1979: Opera House Addition is completed, extending west side of Opera House out to Franklin Street.¹⁶⁶

164 Memorandum - Design Guidelines for UN Plaza north of Fountain site; United Nations Plaza: Site Assessment Report, 10
165 Memorandum - Resolution 8064 to Explore Appropriate Height of Development around UN Plaza, 1
166 VerPlanck, Christopher. "Eighty Years of the War Memorial Opera House." San Francisco Opera. 2012. http://sfopera.com/SanFranciscoOpera/media/SiteAssets/8_About/History/Opera-House-Feature---FINAL.pdf. (accessed January 15, 2015).



Figure 2.79 1973 photo of Civic Center Plaza fountain and plane tree allees with City Hall in the background (San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library)



1980: Hiro II sculpture installed near the SE corner of the Veterans Building (created by artist Peter Voulkos in 1967).

1980: Louise M. Davies Symphony Hall (designed by Skidmore Owings and Merrill) opens, anchoring the western corner of Civic Center.¹⁶⁷

1980s: Glass domed bus shelters are installed for MUNI stations. They are later deemed inaccessible.¹⁶⁸

1980s: United Nations Plaza begins hosting Farmer’s Markets on Wednesdays and Sundays.¹⁶⁹

- 167
- Triptych, Asian Art Museum of SF, Fall 1993, 14
- 168
- SF Chronicle, “San Francisco’s snazzy bus shelters let rain in, riders say,” by Will Kane, January 3, 2011
- 169
- R. Solnit, Infinite City: A SF Atlas, 2010



Figure 2.80 undated photo of work being completed on Civic Auditorium (San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library)



Figure 2.81 1981 Historic American Building Survey photo of Civic Auditorium at Grove and Polk Streets

1981: Harold L. Zellerbach Rehearsal Hall is completed and opened, adjacent to Davies Symphony Hall at the corner of Hayes and Franklin Streets.

1982: San Francisco Public Library (now Asian Art Museum) adds symmetrical handicap access ramps to the Larkin Street entrance.¹⁷⁰

1984: Simon Bolivar Monument is dedicated on the 200th anniversary of his birth. The statue was a gift from Venezuela to San Francisco.¹⁷¹

- 170
- SF Civic Center Historic District, Prepared for the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board, Jan 1995, 5
- 171
- United Nations Plaza: Site Assessment Report, 11



Figure 2.82 1981 Historic American Building Survey photo of Opera House (foreground) and Veterans Building (background) from corner of Grove Street and Van Ness Avenue



Figure 2.83 1981 Historic American Building Survey photo of SF Public Library (now Asian Art Museum) along Larkin Street

1986: Edmund G. Brown State Office Building is completed. It is designed by Skidmore Owings & Merrill to echo Davies Symphony Hall with semi circular curbs and a triple tiered façade.¹⁷²

1987: *The Civic Center Proposal*, submitted by Mayor Dianne Feinstein, includes many recommendations. These include a new consolidated courthouse, improvements to Civic Center Plaza, added retail along the Fulton Street Mall, and painting the Orpheum Theater façade. It also calls for the construction of a pedestrian mall along Fulton Street in concert with construction of a new library on the Marshall Square site and a remodeling

- 172
- SF Civic Center Historic District, Prepared for the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board, Jan 1995, 5



Figure 2.84 1981 Historic American Building Survey photo of State Building from corner of Polk and McAllister



Figure 2.85 1982 blank façade of Orpheum Theater along Hyde Street and Brooks Hall entry sign

of the existing library into the Asian Art Museum.¹⁷³ The proposal calls for the preservation of the War Memorial Court as a special urban space within the Civic Center, and improving the appearance of the Van Ness Avenue streetscape with new a median, landscaping and crosswalk areas (medians and landscaping exist today).¹⁷⁴ The proposal also calls for the street light system to be redesigned so they are uniform.¹⁷⁵

1987: The San Francisco Chapter of the American Institute of Architects propose a design for Civic Center Plaza similar to the one proposed and built based on the 1912 civic center plan and the 1914 A. Lacy Warwick design. The proposal would have restored the public assembly area (location of rectangular fountain) and rebuilt the two oval fountains, on either side of the assembly area. Voters later fail to pass the bond that would finance the redesign in November 1991.¹⁷⁶

1987: The San Francisco Recreation and Park Commission adopts guidelines and a master plan calling for the restoration of the Civic Center Plaza with the intent to recreate the major Beaux Arts elements as the plaza existed from 1915-1958.¹⁷⁷ However, by 1989 this plan is halted.

1988: San Francisco Planning Commission Resolution #11428 proposes the Civic Center as local historic district pursuant to Article 10 in the City Planning Code. The local historic district is not formally designated until 1994.

1988: San Francisco voters approve a bond issue to construct a new library on block 0354, which was the site of Marshall Square. The building’s design will integrate Beaux Arts detailing on two sides to complement other Civic Center Buildings and a contemporary façade on the other two sides to meet the “city of commerce” on Market and Hyde streets.¹⁷⁸

- 173
- Civic Center Proposal, SF Planning Dept, 22
- 174
- Civic Center Proposal, SF Planning Dept, 22
- 175
- Civic Center Proposal, SF Planning Dept, 3
- 176
- SF Examiner, “Civic Center’s pond a font of controversy,” by Gerald Adams, August 9, 1993; The San Francisco Civic Center: A Study in Urban Form, 10
- 177
- Certificate of Appropriateness from Recreation and Park Commission
- 178
- San Francisco Civic Center News, May 1993, Issue 1, 2

1989: San Francisco Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board halts plans to renovate Civic Center Plaza to Beaux Arts era design.¹⁷⁹ Based on available research it is not known why this action was taken.

1989: Loma Prieta Earthquake strikes on October 17, 1989 at 5:04 PM. The earthquake severely damages City Hall and other buildings in the Civic Center Historic District.

1990: A \$332 million bond is passed in June 1990 to fund Phase 2 of the Earthquake Safety Program which provided funds to repair City Hall, the Exposition (Civic) Auditorium, and the War Memorial Opera House.¹⁸⁰ Separate arrangements and funding were made for other buildings such as the Old Main Library (Asian Art Museum) and Veterans Building. The Department of Public Health Building is the only City building which has not yet been seismically upgraded as of January 2015.

1990: Mayor Agnos announced that homeless people will no longer be allowed to sleep in Civic Center Plaza.¹⁸¹

1990: Deteriorated site furnishings and cracked/damaged paving are repaired in Civic Center Plaza.¹⁸²

1991: Hospitality House, built during World War II and which had been serving as an office for the Planning Department, is slated for removal, but plans to move the building are also considered. In the end the building is demolished.¹⁸³

1992: Friends of the Library initiate two bond issues on the June 2 ballot to restore and improve Civic Center Plaza and create a Fulton Street Mall (\$26.7 million) and to expand the Civic Center Parking Garage under Fulton Street during the library construction (\$24 million).¹⁸⁴ Neither bond measure passed.

179 San Francisco Independent, "Civic Center plans stalled," by Susan Herbert, April 5, 1989
180 San Francisco Civic Center News, May 1993, Issue 1, 2
181 "Homeless Banned From Center Plaza," LA Times, July 1, 1990 <http://articles.latimes.com/1990-07-01/news/mn-980_1_center-plaza> April 2013
182 Civic Center Historic District Improvement, General Obligation Bond Program Report, 2
183 San Francisco Independent, "Historic Hospitality House faces razing," by Nora Leishman, January 29, 1991
184 City and County of San Francisco, San Francisco Voter Information Pamphlet and Sample Ballot for June, 2, 1992 Consolidated Primary Election, Office of the Registrar of Voters (San Francisco, CA: 1992), 44. http://sfpl.org/pdf/main/gic/elections/June2_1992short.pdf (accessed January 15, 2015).

1993-1994: A children’s playground is constructed on NE corner of Civic Center Plaza near intersection of Larkin and McAllister.¹⁸⁵

1993: Construction begins on the new Main Library on the former Marshall Square block (block 0354). Pei Cobb Freed & Partners of New York and Simon Martin-Vegue Winkelstein Moris of San Francisco are awarded the commission.¹⁸⁶

1993: Various proposals for the Civic Center Plaza Fountain are voiced, some in response to the Department of Public Health’s concern about the safety of the water, including planting it with flowers and shrubs and filling it with Styrofoam.¹⁸⁷ It is not clear if any of these proposals were implemented.

1994: The Civic Center Landmark District is designated under Article 10 of the San Francisco Planning Code, after first being nominated in 1988.

1994: City Hall is vacated to accommodate seismic upgrades. Staff move to the Veterans Building.¹⁸⁸

1994: *Civic Center Study* completed by Planning Department is released. Few of the recommendations are implemented.

Recommendations that are implemented include a bicycle plan,
185 Civic Center Historic District Improvement, General Obligation Bond Program Report, 2; SF Examiner, “Civic Center gets a place for kids to play,” by Rachel Gordon, A-6, March 1994
186 San Francisco Civic Center News, May 1993, Issue 1, 2
187 SF Examiner, “Civic Center’s pond a font of controversy,” by Gerald Adams, August 9, 1993
188 SF Examiner, “Civic Center Exodus Inspires Renewal Ideas,” by Gerald Adams, San Francisco City Planning Archive



Figure 2.86 1995 Historic American Building Survey photo of State Building from the Public Library showing corner of Larkin Street and McAllister Street and NE corner of Civic Center Plaza

some of the Van Ness Avenue changes including sidewalks and new planters, and improvements are made to outdoor lighting for pedestrian safety.¹⁸⁹

1994: A recommendation is made to remove the UN Plaza Fountain due to the homeless presence and suggestion that the feature is “out of scale”. Landscape architect Lawrence Halprin rejects this assertion.¹⁹⁰

1995: Concerns that water recirculated in the UN Plaza Fountain could harm city’s water supply since bird droppings, public bathing and urination occur here.¹⁹¹

1995: An assessment of the UN Plaza Fountain determines that the fountain has been functioning at a reduced capacity with only vertical and arching jets being operated by a single pump. The filtration system, equipment that provides waterfall effects, blow holes, mist jets, and “tidal effects” have been idle for 15 years. These features are considered the centerpiece of the fountain.¹⁹²

1995: To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the signing of the United Nations Charter in San Francisco, the “walk of great ideas” is added to UN Plaza using brass and granite paving

189 Draft Historic Property Survey Report and Finding of Effect: Minor Site Improvements at UN Plaza, 3
190 SF Examiner, “Civic Center Exodus Inspires Renewal Ideas,” by Gerald Adams, San Francisco City Planning Archive
191 United Nations Plaza: Site Assessment Report, Appendix 2: Fountain Assessments, 2
192 United Nations Plaza: Site Assessment Report, Appendix 2: Fountain Assessments, 1



Figure 2.87 1995 Historic American Building Survey photo of California State Building’s east façade along Larkin Street

stones which includes the United Nations Charter preamble, a list of member nations, and the preamble for the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Sixteen hooded luminaires mounted on granite columns line the central promenade. The names of United Nations member nations are engraved in the granite light standards that line the Plaza. Several pedestrian scale lights are placed along Market Street façade of the commercial building at 10 UN Plaza. It is designed by Andrew Detsch.¹⁹³

1995: Bond funds were not available to refurbish and restore City Hall to its 1916 condition so a \$64 million bond issue was placed on the November 7 ballot to fund that work. The bond measure passed.¹⁹⁴

1995: Public self-cleaning toilets installed throughout city including some in Civic Center.¹⁹⁵

1996: New Main Library opens to the public on April 18, 1996.¹⁹⁶

193 SF Chronicle, “Work Begins on Memorial in UN Plaza,” by Edward Epstein; United Nations Plaza: Site Assessment Report, 5
194 City and County of San Francisco, San Francisco Voter Information Pamphlet and Sample Ballot for November 7, 1995 Consolidated Municipal Election, Office of the Registrar of Voters (San Francisco, CA: 1992), 31. http://sfpl.org/pdf/main/gic/elections/November7_1995short.pdf (accessed January 15, 2015).
195 SF Chronicle, “It’s time to raise a stink over public toilets,” by C.W. Nevius, December 10, 2011
196 San Francisco Public Library, Library Timeline. <http://sfpl.org/index.php?pg=2000105801> (accessed January 15, 2015).



Figure 2.88 1995 Historic American Building Survey photo of California State Building’s west façade along Polk Street

1996: The War Memorial Opera House is vacated to complete seismic upgrades.¹⁹⁷

1997: Improvements are recommended for the Civic Center Historic District by the Department of Public Works, but few are implemented. The exceptions were removal of the fountain in Civic Center Plaza, the addition of some seating areas (which were later removed), and the removal of some olive trees.¹⁹⁸

1998: The central pool in Civic Center Plaza is replaced by a lawn panel¹⁹⁹ and later a decomposed granite pathway.²⁰⁰

1998: Civic Center Plaza’s name is formally changed to Joseph L. Alioto Performing Arts Piazza.²⁰¹

1998: The Department of Public Works begins leading a process for a "people-friendly makeover" of Civic Center Plaza. The public is engaged with the help of Olin Partnership to help guide
197 SF Examiner, “Civic Center Exodus Inspires Renewal Ideas,” by Gerald Adams, San Francisco City Planning Archive
198 Civic Center Historic District Improvements, General Obligation Bond Program Report, 2
199 Civic Center Historic District Improvements, General Obligation Bond Program Report, Figure 3
200 SF Chronicle, “Powers that be can revive Civic Center,” by John King, August 15, 2012
201 SF Examiner, “Plaza named for Alioto,” by Anastasia Hendrix, October 28, 1998



Figure 2.89 2008 DIY Victory Garden with City Hall in background (Flickr Creative Commons, edibleoffice)

the process for the "historic, spacious and underused" plaza. Public outreach events were held, but nothing came of the effort. Landscape Architect Laurie Olin was quoted as saying that the plaza is "too loose, vapid and open."²⁰²

1998: 136 olive trees are removed from Civic Center Plaza to make room for events and prevent damage by the trees’ roots to the below grade parking garage. The olive trees were originally planted in 1961 as part of Douglas Baylis’ redesign of the Plaza. According to Jorge Alfaro of the Department of Public Works, “The idea is to make more and better use of the plaza....”²⁰³

1998: Rehabilitation of the California State Building (now the Supreme Court of California known as the Earl Warren Building) is completed by Page & Turnbull. This project is done in association with SOM’s design and construction of the Hiram W. Johnson State Office Building located on the north side of block 0765.

1999: Another children’s playground is constructed in Civic Center Plaza in the SE corner near the intersection of Polk and Grove Streets.²⁰⁴

- 202 SF Chronicle, "S.F. to Give Civic Center A New Look / Ideas for renovation aired at public meeting" by Dan Levy, June 11, 1998. <http://www.sfgate.com/news/article/S-F-to-Give-Civic-Center-A-New-Look-Ideas-for-3004604.php> (accessed March 13, 2015).
- 203 Hearst Newspapers, “Olive Trees Being Taken From Civic Center Plaza,” November 3, 1998
- 204 Civic Center Historic District Improvements, General Obligation Bond Program Report, 2



Figure 2.90 2008 Detail of DIY Victory Garden plots (Flickr Creative Commons, squash)

1999: City Hall reopens after seismic upgrades are completed and damage from the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake is fixed.²⁰⁵

1999: California Supreme Court relocates to the Earl Warren Building at 350 McAllister after renovations and seismic upgrades are completed.²⁰⁶

1999: The Department of Public Works completes a site assessment of UN Plaza. Recommendations include increasing programming of scheduled events, installing vertical elements to frame views of City Hall and direct pedestrian flow, and replacing the original modernist light standards with more “historically appropriate” light standards.²⁰⁷

1999-2000: Department of Public Works receives funding to implement street light improvements along Market Street near the United Nations Plaza including four along the north side of the Orpheum, four along the south façade of the Federal Building, and seven along the south and west sides of 83 McAllister.²⁰⁸

2003: Former public library rehabilitated to become Asian Art Museum.

- 205 SF Chronicle, “Civic Center: A Blend of All Things San Francisco,” by Gail Todd, March 15, 2012
- 206 Celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the Supreme Court
- 207 United Nations Plaza: Site Assessment Report, pgs. 1, 9, 14, 22, San Francisco Planning Department Archives
- 208 Draft Historic Property Survey Report and Finding of Effect: Minor Site Improvements at UN Plaza, 3; Draft Historic Property Survey Report and Finding of Effect: Minor Site Improvements at UN Plaza, Figure 1



Figure 2.91 2009 Patrick Dougherty willow saplings sculptures at Civic Center Plaza (Flickr Creative Commons, sinterbear)

2003: Controversy erupts again over calls for removal of United Nations Plaza Fountain.²⁰⁹ The fountain is fenced off during this time and landscape architect Lawrence Halprin outlines his distaste for recent changes in local newspaper articles.²¹⁰

2005: United Nations Plaza receives \$1.5 million “facelift” to coincide with the City’s celebration of United Nations World Environmental Day. The project includes the insertion of new globe lighting fixtures on pylons, new pedestrian lighting, two new location kiosks, new utility and electrical connections for kiosks, replacing the grassy SE corner with an eating and performance space, adding tables and moveable seating, relocation of the Simon Bolivar Monument to its current location, removing portions of walls blocking a footpath and behind the fountain, hanging flags of all 191 UN member nations, replacing the bollards and chains around the fountain, and installing a new stone monument to commemorate the event and the 60th anniversary of the signing of the UN Charter.²¹¹ Lawrence Halprin was consulted in the redesign.

2006-2007: Department of Public Works installs 31 Fixed Pedestal (pedmount) newspaper racks in Civic Center which replace 137 free standing news racks.²¹²

- 209 LA Times, “Artistry Loses in Reaction to SF Homeless,” by Carol Pogash, LA Times, May 4, 2003
- 210 SF Chronicle, “UN Plaza’s Architect to Fight Redesign,” by Ilene Leichuk, April 18, 2003
- 211 UN Plaza finally getting new look / Spruced-up site to have more events, outdoor markets; San Francisco Office of the Mayor, Press Release: “United Nations Plaza Transformation,” March 9, 2005
- 212 Department of Public Works, “News Rack Program”; Department of Public Works, Van Ness Avenue Enhancement Project, Great Streets Program Newsletter



Figure 2.92 SantaCon 2010 at Civic Center Plaza (Flickr Creative Commons, Gil Riego Jr.)

2007: Civic Center designated a “Sustainable Resource District” by Mayor Newsom.

2008: Victory Gardens are installed at Civic Center Plaza as a temporary display.²¹³

2010: Lagunaria pattersoni (primrose) trees added to north side of block 0351 by Friends of the Urban Forest (located at McAllister and Leavenworth).²¹⁴

2010: Glass domed MUNI bus shelters are deemed inaccessible and replaced with shelters with wavy red roofs.²¹⁵

2010: San Francisco awarded grant from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to develop Civic Center Sustainable District Plan. A portion of the EPA funds were originally proposed to pay for the preparation of a new plan for Civic Center Plaza but were eventually diverted to retrofit the plumbing in City Hall and other buildings.²¹⁶

2011: Mayor Gavin Newsom signs legislation on January 9, 2011 establishing a Community Benefit District (CBD) for Civic Center covering some thirty blocks of public and private property. The CBD is a special assessment district conceived and organized by a group of concerned Civic Center property owners, arts organizations, government entities and other stakeholders. The CBD provides additional cleaning and maintenance in the area as well as safety and serves the primary public advisory body for Civic Center.²¹⁷

2012-2013: The Federal Building undergoes rehabilitation project which is managed by GSA and being led by HKS Architects, with Knapp Architects as consulting historic preservation architect.

213 SPUR, “DIY Urbanism,” The Urbanist, Issue 496, September 2010

214 Friends of the Urban Forest

215 SF Chronicle, “San Francisco’s snazzy bus shelters let rain in, riders say,” by Will Kane, January 3, 2011; Dwell Magazine, “San Francisco’s New Bus Shelters,” April 22, 2010 <<http://www.dwell.com/travel-reports/article/san-franciscos-new-bus-shelters>> April 2013

216 San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, Water Conservation Program 2011-2012 Annual Report, 3. <http://sfwater.org/modules/showdocument.aspx?documentid=3024> (accessed June 5, 2015).

217 Civic Center Community Benefits District. <http://sfcivic-center.org/the-cbd/> (accessed January 15, 2015).

2013: Veterans Building is closed in May for seismic upgrades and rehabilitation including installation of the new San Francisco Opera Center and will reopen in June 2015.²¹⁸

2014: Construction begins in April on a new Veterans Memorial in the War Memorial Court. Susan Narduli and landscape architect Andrea Cochran designed a granite octagon monolith, reflecting pool and polished granite wall inscribed with the poem "The Young Dead Soldiers" by Archibald MacLeish. The project is completed in October.²¹⁹

2014: A new separated northbound bike lane (also known as a contra-flow lane) installed on Polk Street (which runs southbound one-way) between Grove and Market Streets as part of the DPW Polk Street Bikeway Improvement Project.²²⁰

2014: In Civic Center Plaza, the sunken square-shaped turf sections in the north and south areas of the plaza were replaced with at-grade turf to improve accessibility. In addition, the arc-shaped flower planting beds in these turf areas were removed.

2014-2017: Final concept designs for Civic Center playground renovations complete by the end of 2014. A draft project schedule sets construction drawings to be complete by the end of 2016 and construction to be complete by the end of 2017. Playgrounds to be designed at no cost to the City through an agreement with the Trust for Public Land. The project is funded through a pledge agreement between the Helen Diller Family Foundation and Trust for Public Land.²²¹

218 "Charles Pankow Builders - War Memorial Veterans Building." Construction Today. May 1, 2013. <http://www.construction-today.com/index.php/sections/civil/1728-charles-pankow-builders-war-memorial-veterans-building> (accessed January 15, 2015).

219 Whiting, Sam. "After 82 years, War Memorial Complex monument honors vets at last." San Francisco Chronicle, October 5, 2014. <http://www.sfgate.com/entertainment/article/After-82-years-War-Memorial-Complex-monument-5803009.php> (accessed January 15, 2015).

220 San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency, New Bike Lane Creates Key Link between Market Street and Civic Center. <http://sfdpw.org/modules/showdocument.aspx?documentid=4194> (accessed January 15, 2015).

221 Karen Mauney-Brodek to the Capital Committee and Recreation and Park Commission, September 3, 2014, Civic Center Playground Renovation and Gift Acceptance, San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department, San Francisco, CA. <http://sfrecpark.org/wp-content/uploads/Item-6-Joseph-L.-Alitoto-Piazza-and-Civic-Center-Plaza-Playgrounds-MOU-Staff-Report-Final-090314.pdf> (accessed January 15, 2015).



EXISTING CONDITIONS & ANALYSIS

Orientation to the study area:

The Civic Center study area is broken up into fifteen “blocks” using the San Francisco Office of the Assessor-Recorder’s numbering convention. Each block has its own photos, map and table except for blocks #0765 and #0347, which are combined. Contributing features have bolded blue photo captions and table entries.

The blocks are organized north to south and west to east. They are discussed in the following order:

Block #0767 - State of California Building

Block #0786A - War Memorial Complex

Block #0810 - Davies Symphony Hall

Block #0815 - San Francisco Unified School District

Block #0766 - San Francisco Superior Court

Block #0787 - San Francisco City Hall

Block #0811 - San Francisco Department of Public Health

Block #0765 - Supreme Court of California

Block #0347 - San Francisco Powerhouse Building

Block #0788 - Civic Center Plaza

Block #0812 - San Francisco Exposition (Civic) Auditorium

Block #0353 - Asian Art Museum

Block #0354 - San Francisco Public Library

Block #0355 - Wells Fargo and other Market Street Buildings

Block #0351 - United Nations Plaza

Key to acronyms and abbreviations in tables:

Jurisdiction:

ADM - Admin Services

BART - Bay Area Rapid Transit

BEWS - Bureau of Engineering & Water Supply

DPW - Department of Public Works

LOC - Library of Congress

MUNI - San Francisco Municipal Railway

ROW - Right-of-Way

RPD - San Francisco Recreation and Park Department

SFDPH - San Francisco Department of Public Health

SFDT - San Francisco Department of Technology

SFFD - San Francisco Fire Department

SF PUC - San Francisco Public Utilities Commission

SFUSD - San Francisco Unified School District

USPS - United States Postal Service

US Govt - United States Government

VA - Veterans Administration

WAR - War Memorial Board of Trustees

Character Defining:

C - Contributing

NC - Not Contributing

U - Undetermined

Guide to photos in this chapter:

All photos in the Existing Conditions chapter were taken during field work completed by MIG, Inc. in September 2012 and January 2013. A limited number of building photos were pulled from Google Street View. Those images have an asterisk (*) in their caption.

Period of significance:

The period of significance for the San Francisco Civic Center Historic District is 1896-1951. A more detailed discussion of the period of significance and how it relates to Civic Center Plaza and UN Plaza, which are the focus of further studies, is contained in the Evaluation section.



Metrosideros excelsa/Pohutukawa trees along Redwood St



Square metal grate, Franklin St



Van Ness trolley pole with single pendant



Phoenix canariensis/Canary Island Date Palm in the courtyard of the Barbara Apartments



Corymbia ficifolia/Red Flowering Gum trees along Franklin St



Newspaper box, Van Ness Ave



Planter box with camelia shrubs and Acacia melanoxylon/Black Acacia trees along Van Ness Ave



Circular metal grate, Van Ness Ave



Single cobra street light on Redwood St



6" granite curb at McAllister St



State of California Building*



Lophostemon confertus/Brisbane Box trees, Franklin St



High pressure auxiliary water supply hydrant, Golden Gate Ave



Curb ramp at McAllister St and Van Ness Ave



Barbara Apartments at Franklin St*

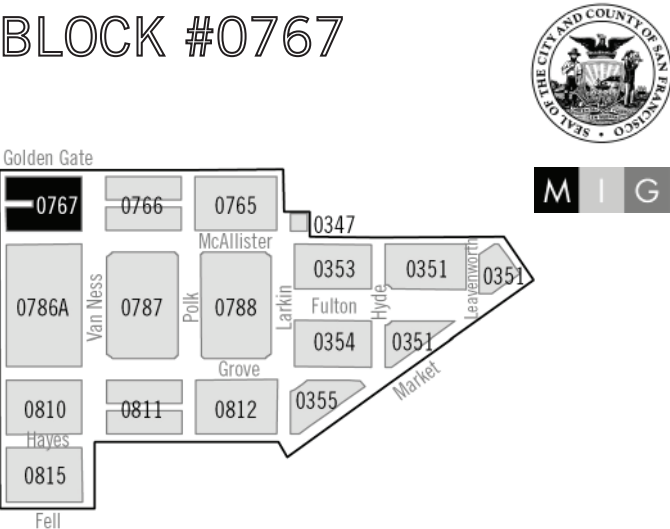


Lophostemon confertus/Brisbane Box and Eucalyptus polyanthemos/Silver Dollar Gum trees in Van Ness Ave median

San Francisco Civic Center Historic District
Planning Department, San Francisco, California

Cultural Landscape Report

BLOCK #0767



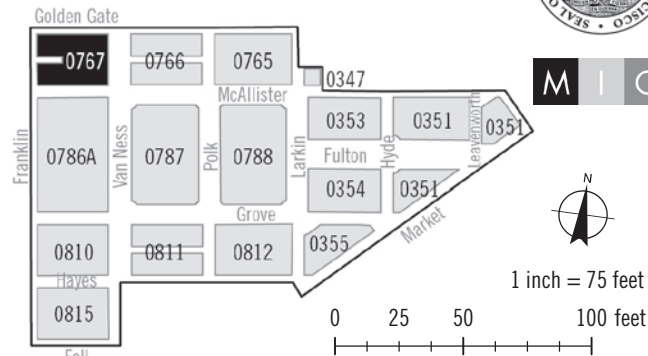
As the north bookend to the War Memorial Complex, block #0767 has few landscape elements that date to the period of significance. Elements that remain on this block include Van Ness trolley poles, fire hydrants and granite curbs.

The California State Building, home of the California Public Utilities Commission, was constructed in 1986. This development cleared existing buildings on publicly owned property, though an historic apartment building remains along Franklin Street.

San Francisco Civic Center Historic District
Planning Department, San Francisco, California

Cultural Landscape Report

BLOCK #0767



- SOURCES:**
- 1. MIG field work, September 10-14, 2012
 - 2. Hand drawn inventory field maps, September 2012
 - 3. Bing aerial imagery online for ArcGIS, 2012
 - 4. San Francisco Utility Commission light pole data, 2012
 - 5. San Francisco publicly available GIS city lot, block and curb data, 2012

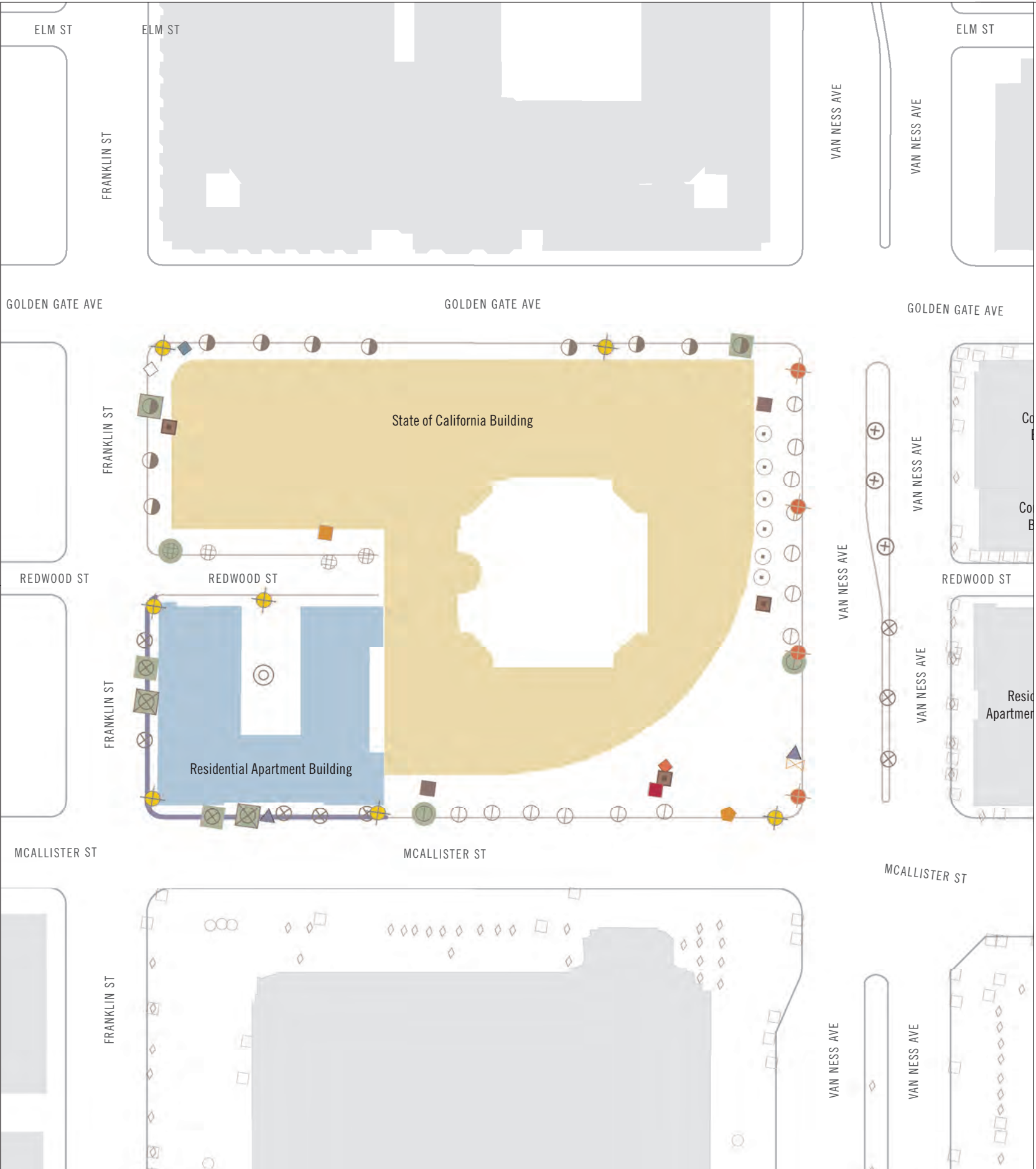
DRAWN BY:
MIG: Rachel Edmonds, Steve Leathers and Heather Buczek using Arc GIS 10.

DRAWN DATE:
March 2013, updated Septemeber 2013

LEGEND FOR SURROUNDING LANDSCAPE FEATURES:

- vegetation
- small scale feature
- circulation
- circulation - curb
- building or structure

- LEGEND:**
- bench - cement (two)
 - bench - cement built into planter box
 - bus shelter - covered with bench
 - fire hydrant - built into the planter wall
 - fire hydrant - painted white
 - fire hydrant - painted white with blue top
 - mail box
 - newspaper box
 - street light - Van Ness single pendant
 - street light - single cobra
 - street tree - Platanus x acerifolia
 - street tree - Corymbia ficifolia
 - street tree - Lophostemon confertus
 - street tree - Metrosideros excelsa
 - street tree - Eucalyptus polyanthemus
 - tree - Acacia melanoxylon
 - tree - Phoenix canariensis
 - planter box - cement
 - planter box - cement, camelia shrub
 - tree well - square with no grate
 - tree well - square with metal grate
 - tree well - square cement grate
 - tree well - circular metal grate
 - curb - granite
 - curb - cement
 - contributing building or structure
 - non-contributing building or structure



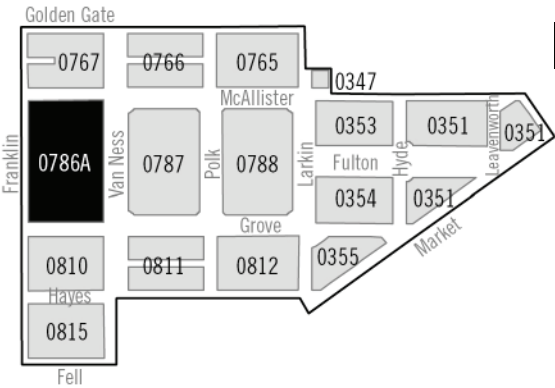
BLOCK #0767 - STATE OF CALIFORNIA BUILDING								
CHARACTERISTIC	QTY.	FEATURE	DESCRIPTION	ADDRESS/LOCATION	DATE BUILT	PRIMARY SOURCE	JURISDICTION	CHARACTER DEFINING
buildings & structures	1	Residential apartment building	Barbara Apartments	580 McAllister	1912	1994 SFLD	private	C
buildings & structures	1	State of California Building	State of California Building - California Public Utilities Commission Building (Edmund G. Brown State Office Building)	505 Van Ness	1986	1994 SFLD	State of CA	NC
circulation	6	curb	6" cement curb	Block #0767 on Franklin, McAllister, Redwood, Van Ness		site visit	DPW	NC
circulation	2	curb	6" granite curb	Block #0767 on Franklin, McAllister	1915-1919	site visit	DPW	C
small scale feature	1	bench	bench - cement (two)	Block #0767 on Redwood	1986	site visit	-	NC
small scale feature	1	bench	bench - cement built into planter box	Block #0767 on McAllister	1986	site visit	-	NC
small scale feature	1	bus stop	bus shelter - covered with bench	Block #0767 on McAllister	2010	site visit	MUNI	NC
small scale feature	1	fire hydrant	fire hydrant - four valves built into the planter wall	Block #0767 on McAllister	1986	site visit	SFFD	NC
small scale feature	1	fire hydrant	fire hydrant - painted white	Block #0767 on Franklin	-	site visit	SFFD	-
small scale feature	1	fire hydrant	fire hydrant - painted white with blue top	Block #0767 on Golden Gate	1909c	site visit	BEWS	C*
small scale feature	2	mail box	mail box	Block #0767 on McAllister, Van Ness	-	site visit	USPS	NC
small scale feature	1	newspaper box	newspaper box	Block #0767 on Van Ness	2006	site visit	DPW	NC
small scale feature	3	tree well	tree well - circular metal grate	Block #0767 on McAllister, Redwood, Van Ness	-	site visit	DPW	-
small scale feature	2	tree well	tree well - square cement grate	Block #0767 on Franklin, McAllister	-	site visit	DPW	-
small scale feature	1	tree well	tree well - square with metal grate	Block #0767 on Franklin	-	site visit	DPW	-
small scale feature	3	tree well	tree well - square with no grate	Block #0767 on Franklin, McAllister, Golden Gate	-	site visit	DPW	-
small scale feature	7	street light	street light - single cobra	Block #0767 on Franklin, Redwood, McAllister, Golden Gate	-	SF PUC	SF PUC	-
small scale feature	4	street light	street light - Van Ness single pendant	Block #0767 on Van Ness	1915-1936	site vist, 1915 SFPL image	SF PUC	C*
vegetation	3	planter box	planter box - cement	Block #0767 on Franklin, McAllister, Van Ness	1986	site visit	State of CA	NC
vegetation	2	planter box	planter box - cement, camelia shrub	Block #0767 on McAllister, Van Ness	1986	site visit	State of CA	NC
vegetation	15	tree	street tree - 1 of 15 with same metal grate; Platanus x acerifolia, London Plane	Block #0767 on McAllister, Van Ness	1986c	site visit	DPW	NC
vegetation	14	tree	street tree - Corymbia ficifolia, Red Flowering Gum	Block #0767 on Franklin, Golden Gate, Van Ness	1986c	site visit	DPW	NC
vegetation	9	tree	street tree - Lophostemon confertus, Brisbane Box	Block #0767 on Franklin, McAllister	-	site visit	DPW	-
vegetation	4	tree	street tree - Metrosideros excelsa, New Zealand Christmas Tree	Block #0767 on Redwood	1986c	site visit	DPW	NC
vegetation	6	tree	tree - in elevated planting box with double row of camelia shrubs; Acacia melanoxylon, Black Acacia	Block #0767 on Van Ness	1986	site visit	State of CA	NC
vegetation	1	tree	tree - located in courtyard - Phoenix canariensis, Canary Island Date Palm	Block #0767 on Redwood	1912c	site visit	private	C
vegetation	3	tree	street tree - Eucalyptus polyanthemos, Silver Dollar Gum	Block #ROW on Van Ness	1950	2009 HRIER Van Ness BRT Project	DPW	C
vegetation	3	tree	street tree - Lophostemon confertus, Brisbane Box	Block #ROW on Van Ness	-	site visit	DPW	-

*This feature has been determined to be a contributing feature of the Civic Center Historic District. Features similar to this one located outside the district boundaries were not evaluated as part of this project.

San Francisco Civic Center Historic District
Planning Department, San Francisco, California

Cultural Landscape Report

BLOCK #0786A



Block #0786A is the home to San Francisco’s Opera House, Veterans Building, and the War Memorial Court, collectively known as the War Memorial Complex. The Van Ness frontage still features trolley poles installed as early as 1914, but most landscape features date from between 1932-1936. Thomas Church, landscape architect of the War Memorial Court, advised on plantings for the block’s streetscape, building entrances, and other interstitial spaces.

Completed in 1936, the War Memorial Court features a palette of trimmed evergreen shrubs, deciduous pollarded London Plane trees, lawn panels and walkways constructed of aggregate pavement, concrete, red brick and black unit pavers. Since construction, much of the original planting material has been replaced with the same or similar species. Groupings of Victorian Box trees (*Pittosporum undulatum*) at building corners along Van Ness are originals from Church’s design but are overgrown and shadow the building façades. Boxwood shrubs were added by 1955 at the Franklin entrance to prevent foot traffic across the lawn. Groundcover along the paved walkways has periodically been replaced with species including low-growing junipers, English ivy and, most recently, creeping raspberry.



Pittosporum undulatum/Victorian Box trees at the War Memorial Court’s Van Ness Ave entrance



War Memorial Court lawn edged with Buxus sempervirens/Boxwood hedge



Van Ness trolley pole with single pendant



Accessible ramp to Opera House and Memorial Court with granite curbs at Van Ness Ave



Combination police box and fire box at Van Ness Ave with planted median in background



Pollarded *Platanus x acerifolia*/London Plane trees at southeast corner of Opera House



Sunken path at Memorial Court with pollarded *Platanus x acerifolia*/London Plane trees



Veterans Building parking lot with bollards, chains and stall dividers along Franklin St



Opera House at Van Ness Ave*



Taxus baccata ‘Stricta’/Irish Yew, *Buxus sempervirens*/Boxwood and roses at Opera House, Grove St



Taxus baccata ‘Stricta’/Irish Yew and *Buxus sempervirens*/Boxwood at east Court entrance



War Memorial Court acorn light painted blue



Driveway to Opera House with textured paving along Grove St



Granite steps at south entrance to Opera House on Grove St



Patina tube metal fence at parking lot, Franklin St



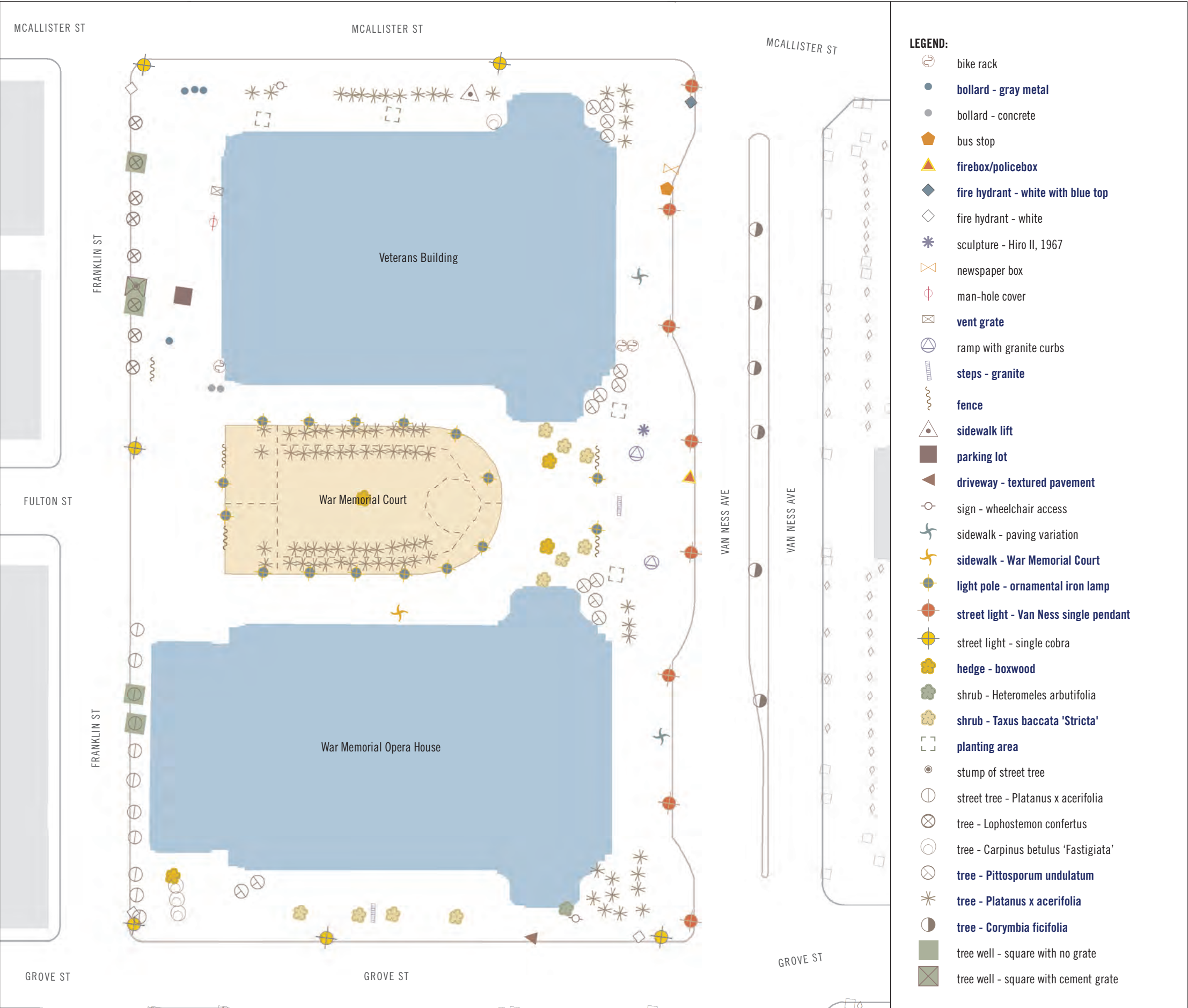
Detail of brick and aggregate path and lawn area at War Memorial Court



Blue and gold ornamental iron lamp and fence at Memorial Court east entrance, Van Ness Ave



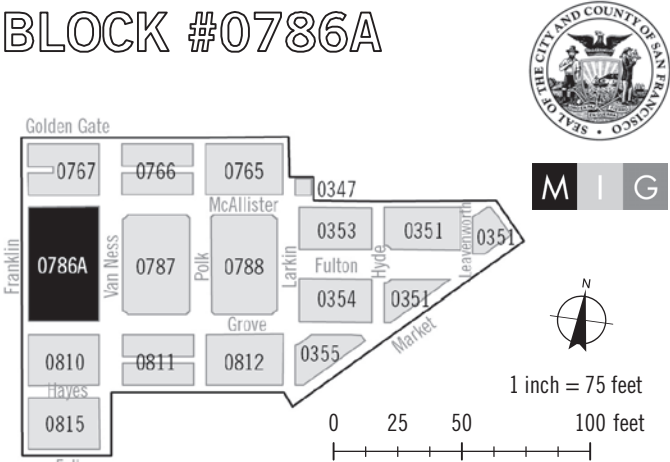
Veterans Building at Van Ness Ave*



San Francisco Civic Center Historic District
Planning Department, San Francisco, California

Cultural Landscape Report

BLOCK #0786A



- SOURCES:**
1. MIG field work, September 10-14, 2012
 2. Hand drawn inventory field maps, September 2012
 3. Bing aerial imagery online for ArcGIS, 2012
 4. San Francisco Utility Commission light pole data, 2012
 5. San Francisco publicly available GIS city lot, block and curb data, 2012

DRAWN BY:
MIG: Rachel Edmonds, Steve Leathers and Heather Buczek using Arc GIS 10.

DRAWN DATE:
March 2013, updated September 2013

LEGEND FOR SURROUNDING LANDSCAPE FEATURES:

- pathway
- curb - cement
- contributing building or structure
- spatial organization
- ◇ vegetation
- small scale feature
- circulation
- circulation - curb
- building or structure

BLOCK #0786A - WAR MEMORIAL COMPLEX								
CHARACTERISTIC	QTY.	FEATURE	DESCRIPTION	ADDRESS/LOCATION	DATE BUILT	PRIMARY SOURCE	JURISDICTION	CHARACTER DEFINING
buildings & structures	1	War Memorial Veterans Building	Veterans Building; similar in appearance to Opera House with long stairway approach	401 Van Ness	1932	1978 NR, 1987 NHL, 1994 SFLD	WAR	C
buildings & structures	1	War Memorial Opera House	Opera House; similar in appearance to Veterans Building	301 Van Ness	1932	1978 NR, 1987 NHL, 1994 SFLD	WAR	C
circulation	4	curb	6" cement curb	Block #0786A on Franklin, Grove, McAllister, Van Ness	1932	site visit	DPW	C
circulation	3	bollard	bollard - gray metal; one in a set of three	Block #0786A on McAllister	1932c	site visit	WAR	C
circulation	1	bollard	bollard - gray metal; one of many with chain for closing off parking spots	Block #0786A on Franklin	1932c	site visit	WAR	C
circulation	2	bollard	bollard - concrete, painted light grey; pair	Block #0786A on Franklin	-	site visit	WAR	-
circulation	1	driveway	driveway - south entry to building, textured paving	Block #0786A on Grove	1932c	site visit	WAR	C
circulation	1	pathway	pathway - Memorial Court pathway of brick, aggregate concrete, black unit pavers	War Memorial Court	1936	site visit	WAR	C
circulation	1	parking lot	parking lot - with bollards and chains	Block #0786A on Franklin	1932c	site visit	WAR	C
circulation	2	ramp	ramp - at entrance with granite curbs and ornate edge treatment	Block #0786A on Van Ness	1990c	site visit	WAR	-
circulation	1	sidewalk	sidewalk - three paving treatments	Block #0786A on Van Ness	-	site visit	-	-
circulation	1	sidewalk	sidewalk - adjacent to driveway and edged by boxwood hedge	War Memorial Court	1932c	site visit	WAR	C
circulation	1	sidewalk	sidewalk - variation in paving treatment and evidence of repair patching	Block #0786A on Van Ness	-	site visit	-	-
circulation	1	steps	steps - granite leading up to central courtyard	War Memorial Court	1932	1987 NHL	WAR	C
circulation	1	steps	steps - located in the middle of hedge row	Block #0786A on Grove	1932	site visit	WAR	C
small scale feature	3	bike rack	bike rack - gray metal 3 loop wave	Block #0786A on Franklin, Van Ness	-	site visit	WAR	NC
small scale feature	1	bus stop	bus stop - covered with bench	Block #0786A on Van Ness	2010	site visit	WAR	NC
small scale feature	4	fence	fence - ornate iron fence painted blue w/gold trim, lantern on end post	War Memorial Court	1932	1987 NHL	WAR	C
small scale feature	1	fence	fence - patina steel tube fencing with 3 rails separating sidewalk from parking area	Block #0786A on Franklin	1932c	site visit	-	C
small scale feature	1	fire box	firebox/policebox - red/blue with gold trim, metal	Block #0786A on Van Ness	1899c	site visit	-	C*
small scale feature	1	fire hydrant	fire hydrant - painted white	Block #0786A on Franklin	-	site visit	SFFD	-
small scale feature	1	fire hydrant	fire hydrant - painted white with blue top; embossed 1909	Block #0786A on Van Ness	1909	site visit	BEWS	C*
small scale feature	1	fire hydrant	fire hydrant - painted white; embossed 1980	Block #0786A on Grove	1980	site visit	SFFD	NC
small scale feature	1	fire hydrant	fire hydrant - painted white; embossed 1998	Block #0786A on Franklin	1998	site visit	SFFD	NC
small scale feature	1	manhole cover	manhole cover for utility located in pathway	Block #0786A on Franklin	-	site visit	DPW	-
small scale feature	1	newspaper box	newspaper box	Block #0786A on Van Ness	2006	site visit	DPW	NC
small scale feature	1	sculpture	sculpture - SE corner of Veterans Building - bronze, Hiro II by Peter Voulkos, 1967; acquired by SF MoMa in 1971; installed in front of Veterans Building in 1981	Block #0786A on Van Ness	1981	site visit	SF Museum of Modern Art	-
small scale feature	1	sidewalk lift	sidewalk lift - exterior basement access next to sidewalk with bollard barrier	Block #0786A on McAllister	1932	site visit	WAR	C
small scale feature	2	sign	sign - wheelchair access	Block #0786A on Grove, McAllister	1990c	site visit	WAR	NC
small scale feature	4	tree well	tree well - square no grate	Block #0786A on Franklin	-	site visit	DPW	-
small scale feature	1	tree well	tree well - square with cement grate	Block #0786A on Franklin	-	site visit	DPW	-
small scale feature	1	vent grate	vent grate along sidewalk adj. to buiding	Block #0786A on Franklin	1932	site visit	WAR	C
small scale feature	4	light pole	light pole - ornamental iron lamp located on fence	War Memorial Court	1932	1987 NHL	WAR	C
small scale feature	12	light pole	light pole - ornate iron lamp post with single globe, blue with gold trim	War Memorial Court	1932	site visit	WAR	C
small scale feature	6	street light	street light - single cobra	Block #0786A on Franklin, Grove, McAllister	-	SF PUC	SF PUC	-
small scale feature	8	street light	street light - Van Ness single pendant	Block #0786A on Van Ness	1915-1936	site vist, 1915 SFPL image	SF PUC	C*
spatial organization	1	War Memorial Court	War Memorial Court; central lawn encircled by sidewalk with box hedges and sycamore trees, ornamental iron lamps and fencing	301-401 Van Ness	1932-36	1987 NHL	WAR	C
vegetation	4	hedge	hedge - boxwood hedge lining tree walkways and perimeter planting areas	Block #0786A on Grove, War Memorial Court	1936	1987 NHL	WAR	C
vegetation	2	planting area	planting area - entry trees at War Memorial Court	Block #0786A on Van Ness	1932	site visit	WAR	C
vegetation	1	planting area	planting area - granite edging with grass and wood chips	Block #0786A on McAllister	1932	site visit	WAR	C
vegetation	1	planting area	planting area with wood chips, grass and trees with wood edging	Block #0786A on McAllister	1932	site visit	WAR	C
vegetation	1	stump	stump of street tree	Block #0786A on Franklin	-	site visit	-	-
vegetation	1	hedge	shrub - Heteromeles arbutifolia, Toyon, 5'- 10' tall	Block #0786A on Grove	-	site visit	WAR	-
vegetation	4	shrub	shrub - in row of boxwood hedges; Taxus baccata 'Stricta', Irish Yew	Block #0786A on Grove	1936	Church planting plan	WAR	C
vegetation	6	shrub	shrub - Taxus baccata 'Stricta', Irish Yew	War Memorial Court	1936	Church planting plan	WAR	C
vegetation	8	tree	street tree - Lophostemon confertus, Brisbane Box	Block #0786A on Franklin	-	site visit	DPW	-
vegetation	11	tree	street tree - Platanus x acerifolia, London Plane	Block #0786A on Franklin	-	site visit	DPW	-
vegetation	4	tree	tree - adjacent to building in planting area; Carpinus betulus Fastigiata, Pyramidal European Hornbeam	Block #0786A on McAllister, Grove	-	site visit	WAR	NC
vegetation	14	tree	tree - adjacent to building and courtyard entry; Pittosporum undulatum, Victorian Box	Block #0786A on Grove, Van Ness	1936	Church planting plan	WAR	C
vegetation	82	tree	tree - Platanus x acerifolia, pollarded London Plane	Block #0786A on Grove, McAllister, Van Ness	1936	Church planting plan	WAR	C
vegetation	6	tree	tree - street median - Corymbia ficifolia - Red Flowering Gum	Block #ROW on Van Ness	1950	2009 HRIER Van Ness BRT Project	DPW	C

*This feature has been determined to be a contributing feature of the Civic Center Historic District. Features similar to this one located outside the district boundaries were not evaluated as part of this project.



Metrosideros excelsa/Pohutukawa trees along Franklin St in square tree wells



Tree well along Hayes St - semicircle, no grate, filled with decomposed granite



Van Ness trolley pole with single pendant and high pressure auxiliary water supply hydrant



Metal signs with symphony advertising along Grove St



Wide granite curb along Van Ness Ave



Platanus x acerifolia/London Plane trees along Grove St in decomposed granite-filled tree wells



Nerium oleander/Oleander in building planter at Van Ness Ave and Grove St



Established Platanus x acerifolia/London Plane tree on Grove St



Tree well along Van Ness Ave - circular, metal edging, filled with decomposed granite



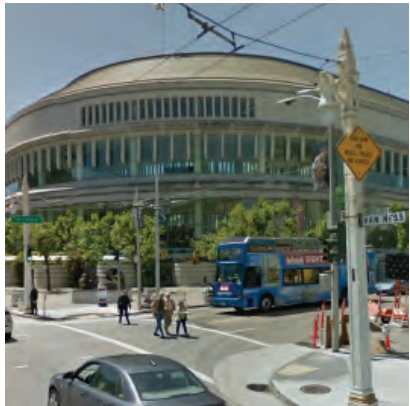
Single cobra street light with banners



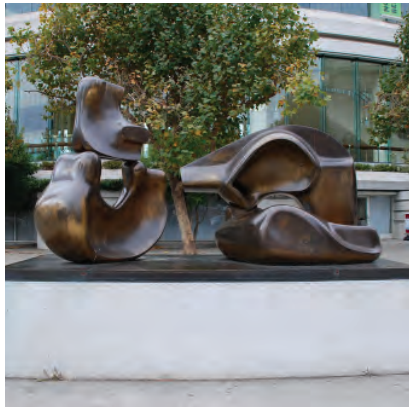
Concrete bollards with domed tops along Grove St



Bike rack - metal staple style, installed incorrectly along Grove St



Louise M. Davies Symphony Hall*



Sculpture - Large Four Piece Reclining at Grove St and Van Ness Ave



Platanus x acerifolia/London Plane trees, Hayes St

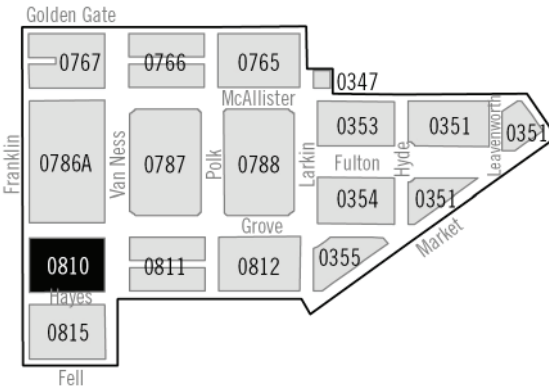


Fenced planter box along Van Ness Ave

San Francisco Civic Center Historic District
Planning Department, San Francisco, California

Cultural Landscape Report

BLOCK #0810



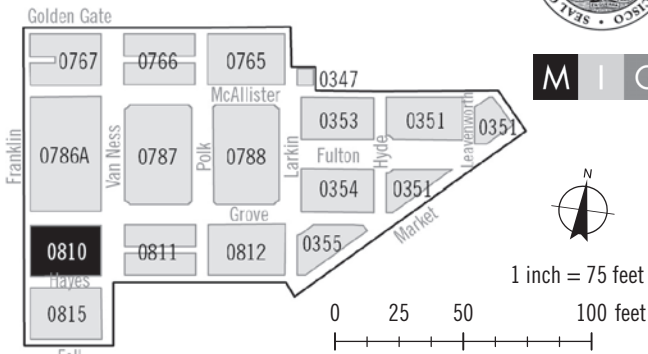
As the south bookend to the War Memorial Complex, block #0810, bounded by Van Ness Avenue, Hayes, Franklin and Grove Streets existed as a sports field for the San Francisco Unified School District between 1924 and 1952. In 1980, the Louise M. Davies Symphony Hall was built, and in 1981 the Harold L. Zellerbach Rehearsal Hall was built. These new buildings added a new palette of landscape features including new sidewalks, street trees, tree grates, access drives, public artwork, signage, etc.

Landscape elements that remain from the historic period of significance include Van Ness trolley poles and granite curbs of varying widths. Newest additions to the block include fenced landscape planters installed as part of the Van Ness greening project through the Department of Public Works.

San Francisco Civic Center Historic District
Planning Department, San Francisco, California

Cultural Landscape Report

BLOCK #0810



SOURCES:

- 1. MIG field work, September 10-14, 2012
- 2. Hand drawn inventory field maps, September 2012
- 3. Bing aerial imagery online for ArcGIS, 2012
- 4. San Francisco Utility Commission light pole data, 2012
- 5. San Francisco publicly available GIS city lot, block and curb data, 2012

DRAWN BY:

MIG: Rachel Edmonds, Steve Leathers and Heather Buczek using Arc GIS 10.

DRAWN DATE:

March 2013, updated September 2013

LEGEND FOR SURROUNDING LANDSCAPE FEATURES:

- vegetation
- small scale feature
- circulation
- circulation - curb
- building or structure

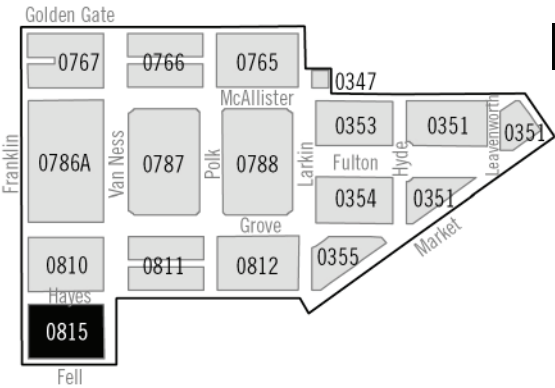


BLOCK #0810 - DAVIES SYMPHONY HALL								
CHARACTERISTIC	QTY.	FEATURE	DESCRIPTION	ADDRESS/LOCATION	DATE BUILT	PRIMARY SOURCE	JURISDICTION	CHARACTER DEFINING
buildings & structures	1	Louise M. Davies Symphony Hall	Louise M. Davies Symphony Hall	201 Van Ness	1980	1994 SFLD	WAR	NC
buildings & structures	1	Harold L. Zellerbach Rehearsal Hall	Harold L. Zellerbach Rehearsal Hall	300 Franklin	1981	site visit	WAR	NC
circulation	4	curb	6" cement curb	Block #0810 on Franklin, Grove, Hayes	-	site visit	DPW	-
circulation	3	curb	6" granite curb	Block #0810 on Franklin, Van Ness	1915c	site visit	DPW	C
small scale feature	3	bike rack	bike rack - metal staple type	Block #0810 on Grove	-	site visit	WAR	NC
small scale feature	4	bollard	bollard - metal adjacent to garage door	Block #0810 on Hayes	1980c	site visit	WAR	NC
small scale feature	4	bollard	bollard - cement with domed top	Block #0810 on Grove	1980c	site visit	WAR	NC
small scale feature	1	bus stop	bus stop - covered	Block #0810 on Hayes	1980c	site visit	MUNI	NC
small scale feature	3	fire hydrant	fire hydrant - painted white with blue top; embossed 1909	Block #0810 on Grove, Van Ness	1909	site visit	BEWS	C*
small scale feature	1	fire hydrant	fire hydrant - painted white; embossed 1998	Block #0810 on Franklin	1998	site visit	SFFD	NC
small scale feature	1	sculpture	sculpture - southeast corner of Davies Hall, bronze, "Large Four Piece Reclining Figure" by Henry Moore, 1973	Block #0810 on Van Ness	1980	site visit	WAR	NC
small scale feature	3	sign	sign - advertising Louise M. Davies Symphony Hall	Block #0810 on Grove	-	site visit	WAR	NC
small scale feature	1	sign	sign - information	Block #0810 on Grove	-	site visit	WAR	NC
small scale feature	1	tree well	tree well - circular with brick cover	Block #0810 on Grove	-	site visit	DPW	-
small scale feature	1	tree well	tree well - semicircle (elongated) no grate	Block #0810 on Hayes	1980c	site visit	DPW	NC
small scale feature	1	tree well	tree well - semicircle with smaller semicircle (filled in with cement)	Block #0810 on Hayes	-	site visit	DPW	-
small scale feature	1	tree well	tree well - semicircle with smaller semicircle and no grate	Block #0810 on Hayes	1980c	site visit	DPW	NC
small scale feature	1	tree well	tree well - semicircle with smaller semicircle and no grate (no tree)	Block #0810 on Hayes	1980c	site visit	DPW	NC
small scale feature	6	tree well	tree well - circular with metal edging, filled with decomposed granite	Block #0810 on Van Ness	1980c	site visit	-	NC
small scale feature	6	street light	street light - single cobra	Block #0810 on Franklin, Grove, Hayes	-	SF PUC	SF PUC	-
small scale feature	4	street light	street light - Van Ness single pendant	Block #0810 on Van Ness	1915-1936	site vist, 1915 SFPL image	SF PUC	C*
small scale feature	1	street signal	street signal - ornate gold paint on base of pole	Block #0810 on Franklin	-	SF PUC	SF PUC	-
vegetation	3	planter box	planter box - east side of the building - black iron decorative fencing	Block #0810 on Van Ness	2010	site visit	DPW	NC
vegetation	5	tree	street tree - Metrosideros excelsa, New Zealand Christmas Tree	Block #0810 on Franklin	1980c	site visit	DPW	NC
vegetation	17	tree	street tree - Platanus x acerifolia, London Plane	Block #0810 on Grove, Hayes, Van Ness	1980c	site visit	DPW	NC
vegetation	4	tree	tree - adjacent to building in planting area - Nerium oleander, Oleander	Block #0810 on Grove, Van Ness	1980c	site visit	WAR	NC
vegetation	6	tree	tree - northeast edge of building - Platanus x acerifolia, London Plane	Block #0810 on Grove, Van Ness	1980c	site visit	DPW	NC
vegetation	2	tree	tree in median - Corymbia ficifolia, Red Flowering Gum	Block #ROW on Van Ness	1950	2009 HRIER Van Ness BRT Project	DPW	C

*This feature has been determined to be a contributing feature of the Civic Center Historic District. Features similar to this one located outside the district boundaries were not evaluated as part of this project.

San Francisco Civic Center Historic District
Planning Department, San Francisco, California

Cultural Landscape Report
BLOCK #0815



The San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) has maintained presence on the block bound by Hayes, Van Ness, Fell and Franklin since 1913. That year, the Newton J. Tharp Commercial High School (b. 1910) was moved from its original location along Grove Street (between Polk and Larkin Streets) to its present location at the northeast corner of Franklin and Fell Streets. Moving the building allowed construction of Civic Center Plaza for the 1915 Panama Pacific International Exposition. In 1926, the High School of Commerce and Nourse Theater (Auditorium) was built in the Spanish colonial revival style at 135 Van Ness Street. These three SFUSD buildings on block #0815 date to the period of significance.

Landscape elements that remain from the period of significance include Van Ness trolley poles, brick paving treatment along Van Ness and granite curbs. Newest additions to the block include fenced landscape planters installed as part of the Van Ness greening project through the Department of Public Works.



Syzygium paniculatum shrubs at southeast corner of SFUSD administration building along Fell St



Staked Lophostemon confertus trees in square tree wells along Fell St



Taxus baccata 'Stricta'/Irish Yew trees and Rhampholepis indica/Indian Hawthorn shrubs along Van Ness Ave



Single cobra street light along Franklin St



Brick paving pattern along Van Ness Ave



San Francisco Unified School District Administration Building from Van Ness Ave*



Established Lophostemon confertus tree along Fell St



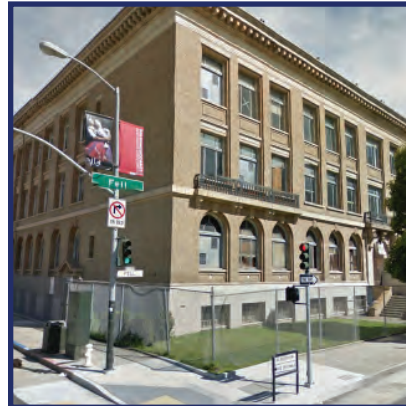
Low pressure hydrant along Franklin St



Van Ness trolley pole with single pendant



Concrete sidewalk with granite curbs along Van Ness Ave



Newton Tharp Commercial High School from Fell St*



Fenced planter box along Van Ness Ave



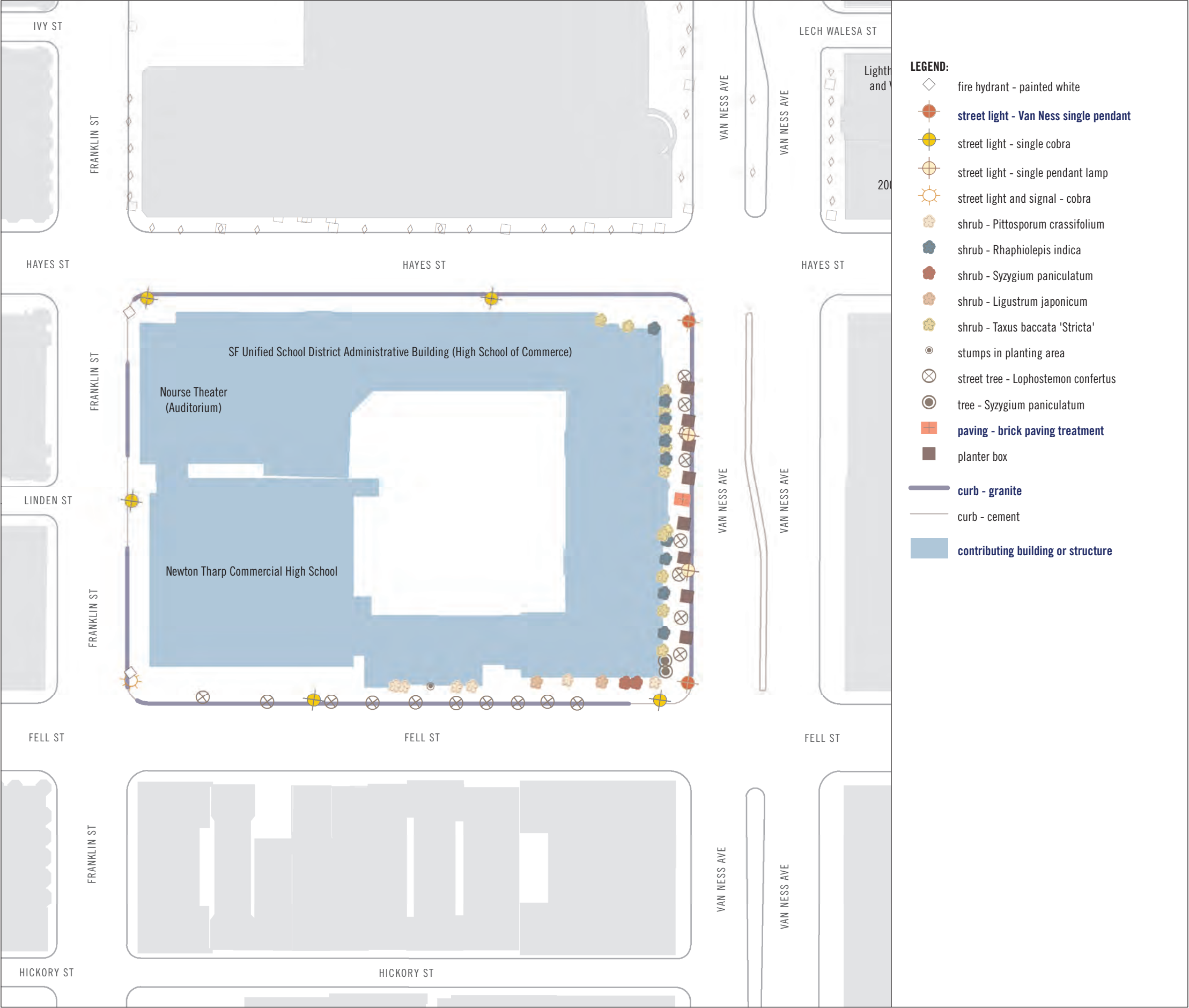
US Postal Service mail boxes along Van Ness Ave



Concrete sidewalk paving pattern along Hayes St

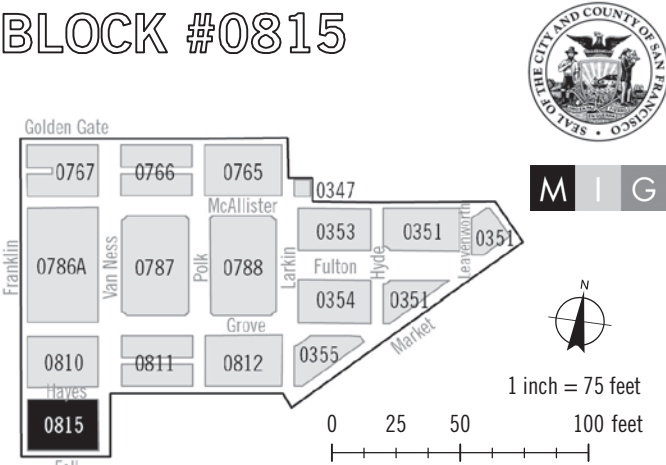


6" granite curb along Fell St



San Francisco Civic Center Historic District
Planning Department, San Francisco, California

Cultural Landscape Report
BLOCK #0815



- SOURCES:**
1. MIG field work, September 10-14, 2012
 2. Hand drawn inventory field maps, September 2012
 3. Bing aerial imagery online for ArcGIS, 2012
 4. San Francisco Utility Commission light pole data, 2012
 5. San Francisco publicly available GIS city lot, block and curb data, 2012

DRAWN BY:
MIG: Rachel Edmonds, Steve Leathers and Heather Buczek using Arc GIS 10.

DRAWN DATE:
March 2013, updated September 2013

- LEGEND FOR SURROUNDING LANDSCAPE FEATURES:**
- vegetation
 - small scale feature
 - circulation
 - circulation - curb
 - building or structure

BLOCK #0815 - SAN FRANCISCO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT								
CHARACTERISTIC	QTY.	FEATURE	DESCRIPTION	ADDRESS/LOCATION	DATE BUILT	PRIMARY SOURCE	JURISDICTION	CHARACTER DEFINING
buildings & structures	1	Newton Tharp Commercial High School	Newton Tharp Commercial High School	170 Fell	1910	1994 SFLD	SFUSD	C
buildings & structures	1	SF Unified School District Administrative Building	SF Unified School District Administrative Building (High School of Commerce)	135 Van Ness	1926	1994 SFLD	SFUSD	C
circulation	6	curb	6" cement curb	Block #0815 on Fell, Franklin, Van Ness	-	site visit	DPW	-
circulation	5	curb	6" granite curb	Block #0815 on Fell, Franklin, Hayes, Van Ness	1915c	site visit	DPW	C
circulation	1	paving	paving - brick paving treatment	Block #0815 on Van Ness	1926c	site visit	SFUSD	C
small scale feature	2	fire hydrant	fire hydrant - painted white; embossed 2002 and 2007	Block #0815 on Franklin	2002	site visit	SFFD	NC
small scale feature	5	street light	street light - single cobra	Block #0815 on Fell , Franklin, Hayes	-	SF PUC	SF PUC	NC
small scale feature	2	street light	street light - single pendant lamp	Block #0815 on Van Ness	-	SF PUC	SF PUC	-
small scale feature	2	street light	street light - Van Ness single pendant	Block #0815 on Van Ness	1915-1936	site vist, 1915 SFPL image	SF PUC	C*
small scale feature	1	street light	street light and signal - cobra	Block #0815 on Franklin	-	SF PUC	SF PUC	-
vegetation	8	planter box	planter box - faux granite curb edges with black metal fencing	Block #0815 on Van Ness	2010	site visit	DPW	NC
vegetation	2	shrub	shrub - Ligustrum japonicum, Japanese Privet	Block #0815 on Fell	-	site visit	SFUSD	-
vegetation	6	shrub	shrub - Pittosporum crassifolium, Karo Pittosporum	Block #0815 on Fell	-	site visit	SFUSD	-
vegetation	1	shrub	shrub - Rhamphiolepis indica, Indian Hawthorn	Block #0815 on Hayes	-	site visit	SFUSD	-
vegetation	8	shrub	shrub - Rhamphiolepis indica, Indian Hawthorn	Block #0815 on Van Ness	-	site visit	SFUSD	-
vegetation	2	shrub	shrub - Syzygium paniculatum, Brush cherry	Block #0815 on Fell	-	site visit	SFUSD	-
vegetation	12	shrub	shrub - Taxus baccata 'Stricta', Irish Yew	Block #0815 on Hayes, Van Ness	-	site visit	SFUSD	-
vegetation	1	stump	stumps in planting area	Block #0815 on Fell	-	site visit	SFUSD	-
vegetation	18	tree	street tree - Lophostemon confertus, Brisbane Box	Block #0815 on Fell , Van Ness	2010c	site visit	DPW	-
vegetation	2	tree	tree - Syzygium paniculatum, Brush cherry (diseased)	Block #0815 on Van Ness	-	site visit	SFUSD	-

*This feature has been determined to be a contributing feature of the Civic Center Historic District. Features similar to this one located outside the district boundaries were not evaluated as part of this project.



Platanus x acerifolia/London Plane trees along McAllister St



Van Ness trolley pole with single pendant



Fire box at Polk and McAllister Streets

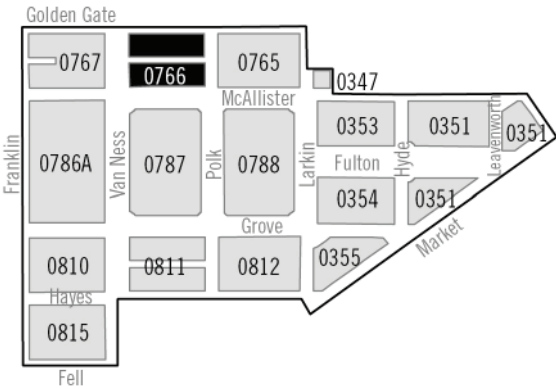


Former Standard Motor Car Company showroom at Van Ness and Golden Gate Ave

San Francisco Civic Center Historic District
Planning Department, San Francisco, California

Cultural Landscape Report

BLOCK #0766



Platanus x acerifolia/London Plane trees along Polk St with staple style bike racks



Square tree well with metal grate along Polk St

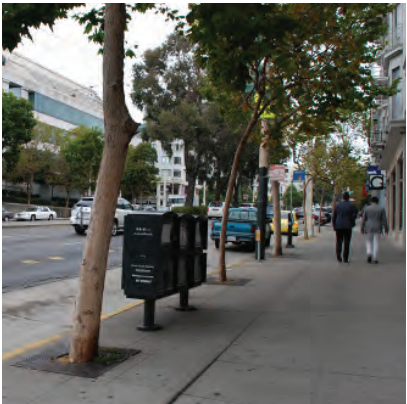


6" granite curb detail along Van Ness Ave



San Francisco Superior Court, McAllister St*

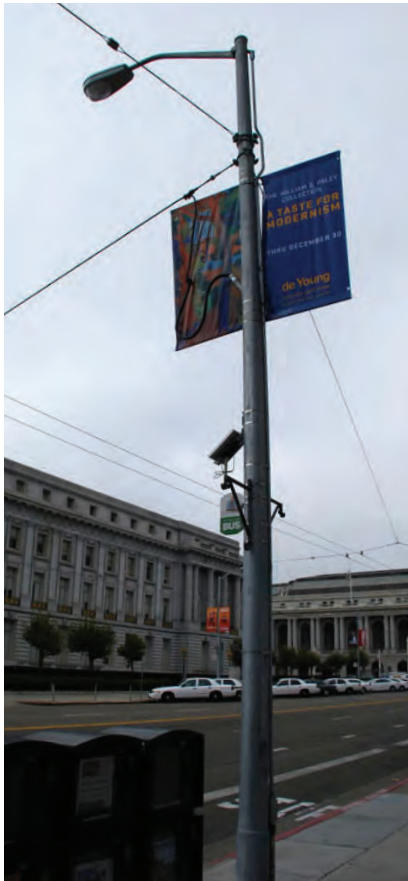
Block #0766, bounded by Polk and McAllister Streets and Golden Gate and Van Ness Avenues, is home to San Francisco's Superior Court, several commercial buildings, a residential apartment building and the newly constructed San Francisco Public Utilities Commission building. Before 1995, a corner gas station and surface parking lot occupied the location of the courthouse. The northern half of this block is included in the project study area, but not within the 1994 San Francisco Landmark District.



Platanus x acerifolia/London Plane trees in square tree wells with metal grates along Van Ness Ave



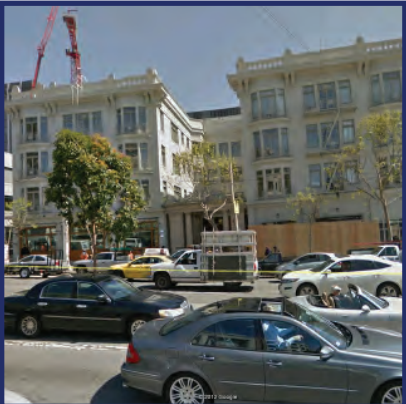
Square tree well with DG fill and ring and post style bike rack along Van Ness Ave



Single cobra street light



Low pressure hydrant at Redwood St



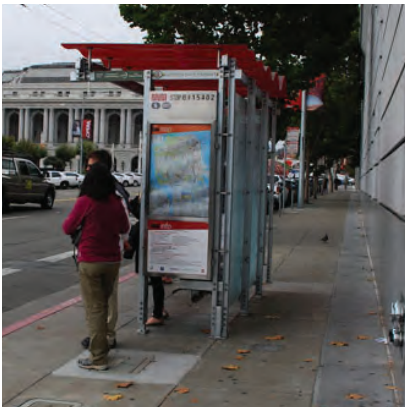
Residential apartment building at Van Ness Ave*



Bike rack - metal staple style, installed along Polk St



Former Trader Vic's building at 555 Golden Gate Ave

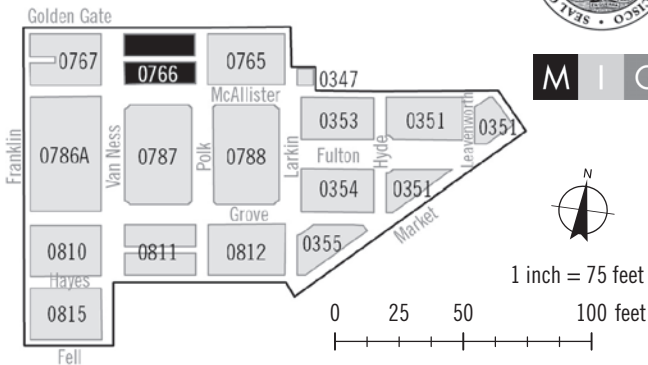


MUNI bus shelter with wavy red roof on McAllister St

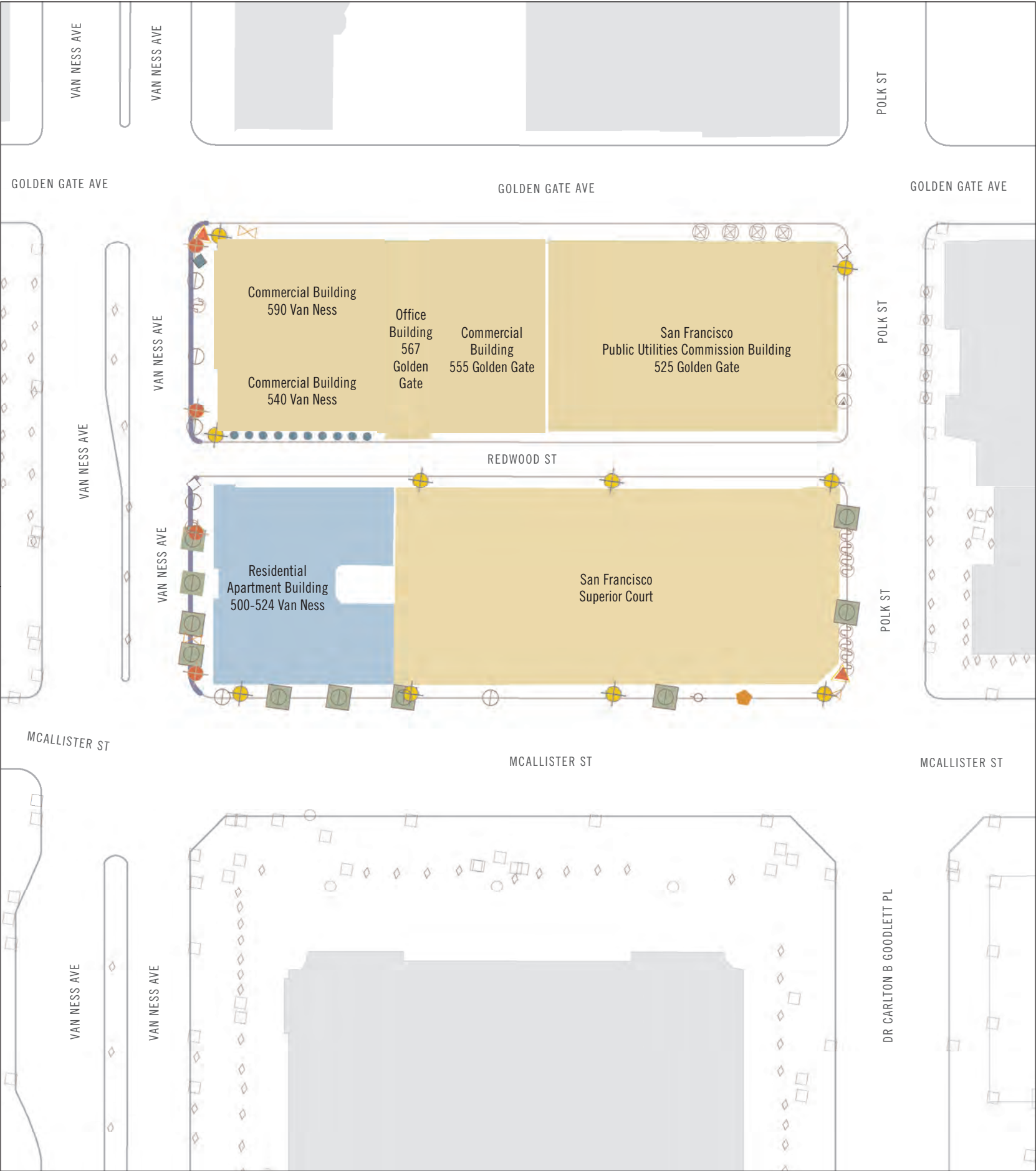
San Francisco Civic Center Historic District
Planning Department, San Francisco, California

Cultural Landscape Report

BLOCK #0766



- LEGEND:**
- bollards - black metal
 - ⊗ bike rack
 - ⊖ sign - bus stop information
 - ◇ fire hydrant - painted white
 - ◆ fire hydrant - painted white with blue top
 - ⊞ newspaper box
 - ▲ fire box
 - ⬠ bus stop
 - ⊙ street light - Van Ness single pendant
 - ⊙ street light - single cobra
 - ⊙ street tree - Platanus x acerifolia
 - ⊙ street tree - Arbutus 'Marina'
 - ⊙ street tree - Ulmus parvifolia, Chinese Elm
 - tree well - square with metal gate
 - tree well - square with no grate
 - curb: granite
 - curb: cement
 - contributing building or structure
 - non-contributing building or structure



- SOURCES:**
1. MIG field work, September 10-14, 2012
 2. Hand drawn inventory field maps, September 2012
 3. Bing aerial imagery online for ArcGIS, 2012
 4. San Francisco Utility Commission light pole data, 2012
 5. San Francisco publicly available GIS city lot, block and curb data, 2012

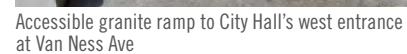
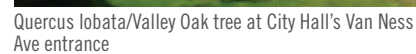
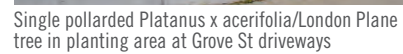
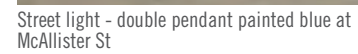
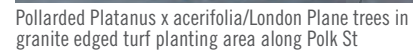
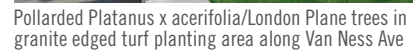
DRAWN BY:
MIG: Rachel Edmonds, Steve Leathers and Heather Buczek using Arc GIS 10.

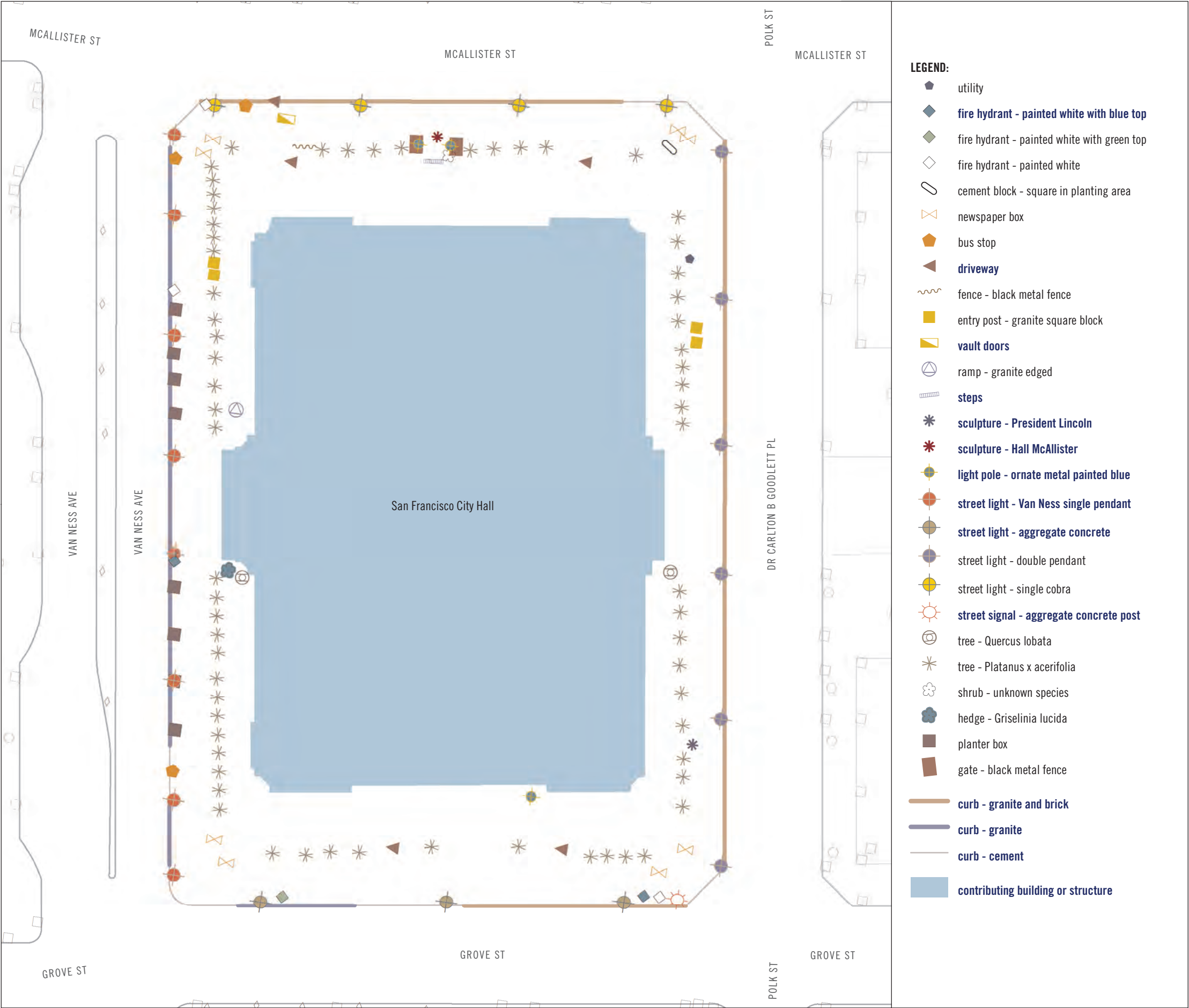
DRAWN DATE:
March 2013, updated September 2013

- LEGEND FOR SURROUNDING LANDSCAPE FEATURES:**
- ◇ vegetation
 - small scale feature
 - circulation
 - circulation - curb
 - building or structure

BLOCK #0766 - SAN FRANCISCO SUPERIOR COURT								
CHARACTERISTIC	QTY.	FEATURE	DESCRIPTION	ADDRESS/LOCATION	DATE BUILT	PRIMARY SOURCE	JURISDICTION	CHARACTER DEFINING
buildings & structures	1	San Francisco Superior Court	San Francisco Superior Court Building	400 McAllister (450 McAllister)	1995c	1994 SFLD	City/County	NC
buildings & structures	1	San Francisco Public Utilities Building	San Francisco Public Utilities Commission Building	525 Golden Gate	2012	site visit	City/County	NC
buildings & structures	1	Commercial building	Commercial building - formerly Trader Vic's	555 Golden Gate	1909	SF Assessor's Office	private	NC
buildings & structures	1	Office building	Office building	567 Golden Gate	-	SF Assessor's Office	private	NC
buildings & structures	1	Commercial building	US Bank Building	540 Van Ness	1909	SF Assessor's Office	private	NC
buildings & structures	1	Commercial building	Commercial building - formerly William Hughson's Standard Motor Car Company	590 Van Ness	1909	SF Assessor's Office	private	NC
buildings & structures	1	Residential apartment building	Corinthian Court Apartments	500-524 Van Ness	1915	1994 SFLD	private	C
circulation	6	curb	6" cement curb	Block #0766 on McAllister, Polk, Redwood, Golden Gate	-	site visit	DPW	-
circulation	2	curb	6" granite curb	Block #0766 on Van Ness	1915c	site visit	DPW	C
small scale feature	1	bike rack	bike rack - inverted U-style	Block #0766 on Polk	-	site visit	DPW	NC
small scale feature	1	bike rack	bike rack - ring and post style	Block #0766 on Van Ness	-	site visit	DPW	NC
small scale feature	8	bike rack	bike rack - single staple-style	Block #0766 on Polk, Van Ness	-	site visit	DPW	NC
small scale feature	10	bollard	bollards - black metal	Block #0766 on Redwood	-	site visit	private	NC
small scale feature	1	bus stop	bus stop with cover and bench	Block #0766 on McAllister	2010	site visit	MUNI	NC
small scale feature	2	fire box	fire box	Block #0766 on Polk, Van Ness	1899	site visit	SFDT	C*
small scale feature	1	fire hydrant	fire hydrant - painted white with blue top: embossed 1909	Block #0766 on Van Ness	1909	site visit	BEWS	C*
small scale feature	2	fire hydrant	fire hydrant - painted white	Block #0766 on Van Ness, Polk	-	site visit	SFFD	NC
small scale feature	3	newspaper box	newspaper box	Block #0766 on McAllister, Van Ness, Golden Gate	2006	site visit	DPW	NC
small scale feature	1	sign	sign - bus stop information	Block #0766 on McAllister	-	site visit	Golden Gate Transit	NC
small scale feature	10	street light	street light - single cobra	Block #0766 on McAllister, Redwood, Golden Gate, Polk	-	SF PUC	SF PUC	-
small scale feature	4	street light	street light - Van Ness single pendant	Block #0766 on Van Ness	1915-1936	site vist, 1915 SFPL image	SF PUC	C*
small scale feature	8	tree well	tree well - square with metal grate	Block #0766 on McAllister, Polk, Van Ness	-	site visit	DPW	NC
small scale feature	2	tree well	tree well - square with no grate	Block #0766 on Van Ness	-	site visit	DPW	NC
vegetation	4	tree	street tree - Arbutus 'Marina', Strawberry Tree	Block #0766 on Polk	2012	site visit	DPW	NC
vegetation	2	tree	street tree - Ulmus parvifolia, Chinese Elm	Block #0766 on Golden Gate	2012	site visit	DPW	NC
vegetation	16	tree	street tree - Platanus x acerifolia, London Plane	Block #0766 on McAllister, Polk, Van Ness	-	site visit	DPW	-

*This feature has been determined to be a contributing feature of the Civic Center Historic District. Features similar to this one located outside the district boundaries were not evaluated as part of this project.

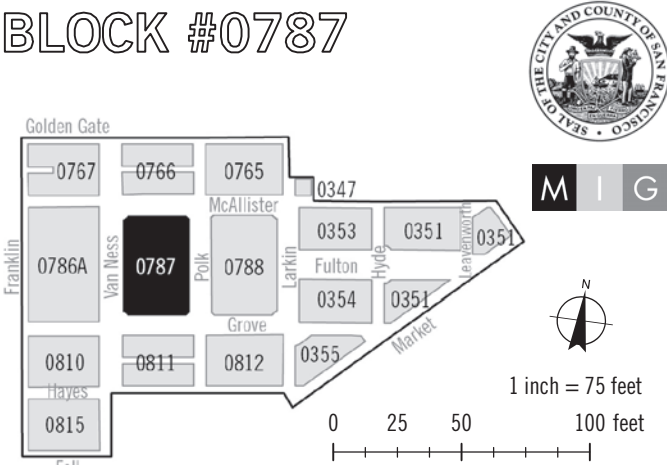




San Francisco Civic Center Historic District
Planning Department, San Francisco, California

Cultural Landscape Report

BLOCK #0787



- SOURCES:**
- 1. MIG field work, September 10-14, 2012
 - 2. Hand drawn inventory field maps, September 2012
 - 3. Bing aerial imagery online for ArcGIS, 2012
 - 4. San Francisco Utility Commission light pole data, 2012
 - 5. San Francisco publicly available GIS city lot, block and curb data, 2012

DRAWN BY:
MIG: Rachel Edmonds, Steve Leathers and Heather Buczek using Arc GIS 10.

DRAWN DATE:
March 2013, updated September 2013, updated July 2014

LEGEND FOR SURROUNDING LANDSCAPE FEATURES:

- ◇ vegetation
- small scale feature
- circulation
- circulation - curb
- building or structure

BLOCK #0787 - SAN FRANCISCO CITY HALL								
CHARACTERISTIC	QTY.	FEATURE	DESCRIPTION	ADDRESS/LOCATION	DATE BUILT	PRIMARY SOURCE	JURISDICTION	CHARACTER DEFINING
buildings & structures	1	San Francisco City Hall	San Francisco City Hall - structure with dome	1 Carlton B. Goodlett Place	1913-1915	1978 NR, 1987 NHL, 1994 SFLD	DPW	C
circulation	10	curb	6" cement curb	Block #0787 on Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Grove, McAllister, Van Ness	1915	site visit	DPW	C
circulation	3	curb	6" granite and brick curb	Block #0787 on Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Grove, McAllister	1915	site visit	DPW	C
circulation	3	curb	6" granite curb	Block #0787 on Grove, Van Ness	1915	site visit	DPW	C
circulation	2	driveway	driveway	Block #0787 on Grove	1915	site visit	-	C
circulation	1	driveway	driveway - combination brick with cement	Block #0787 on McAllister	1915	site visit	-	C
circulation	2	driveway	driveway flanked by walls to lower level of buidling	Block #0787 on McAllister	1915	site visit	-	C
circulation	1	ramp	ramp - granite edged by hedges and railing	Block #0787 on Van Ness	1990c	site visit	-	NC
circulation	1	steps	steps - leading to the lower level of the building	Block #0787 on McAllister	1915	site visit	-	C
small scale feature	3	bus stop	bus stop - covered with bench	Block #0787 on McAllister, Van Ness	2010	site visit	MUNI	NC
small scale feature	1	cement block	cement block - square pedestal in planting area	Block #0787 on Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place	-	site visit	-	-
small scale feature	4	entry post	entry post - granite square block and wheelchair access sign	Block #0787 on Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Van Ness	1990c	site visit	-	NC
small scale feature	1	fence	fence - black iron fence with mesh concealing children's play area	Block #0787 on McAllister	1999	site visit	SF Chronicle	NC
small scale feature	2	fire hydrant	fire hydrant - painted white	Block #0787 on Grove, Van Ness	-	site visit	SFFD	-
small scale feature	2	fire hydrant	fire hydrant - painted white with blue top; embossed 1909	Block #0787 on Grove, Van Ness	1909	site visit	BEWS	C*
small scale feature	1	fire hydrant	fire hydrant - painted white with green top; embossed 1988	Block #0787 on Grove	1988	site visit	SFFD	NC
small scale feature	1	fire hydrant	fire hydrant - painted white; embossed 1993	Block #0787 on McAllister	1993	site visit	SFFD	NC
small scale feature	2	gate	gate - black metal fence	Block #0787 on McAllister	1999	site visit	SF Chronicle	NC
small scale feature	8	newspaper box	newspaper box	Block #0787 on Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Grove, McAllister, Van Ness	2006	site visit	DPW	NC
small scale feature	1	sculpture	sculpture - at north entry of the building, Hall McAllister, bronze statue by Robert Aitken on cylindrical stone/concrete pedestal base located on 400 block of McAllister St	Block #0787 on McAllister	1915	1978 HR	DPW	C
small scale feature	1	sculpture	sculpture - President Lincoln, bronze statue by Haig Patigan on rectangular stone/concrete base located south of the Polk St entrance to City Hall overlooking Civic Center Plaza	Block #0787 on Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place	1927	1978 HR	DPW	C
small scale feature	1	utility	utility	Block #0787 on Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place	-	site visit	-	-
small scale feature	1	vault doors	vault doors in sidewalk	Block #0787 on McAllister	1915	site visit	-	-
small scale feature	3	light pole	light pole - ornate metal painted blue with gold trimming	Block #0787 on Grove, McAllister	1915	site visit		C
small scale feature	3	street light	street light - aggregate concrete post and single pendant lamp	Block #0787 on Grove	1945c	1945c aerial CED Archives	SF PUC	C
small scale feature	6	street light	street light - double pendant on ornate blue iron post	Block #0787 on Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place	2000-2009	Pelosi Press Relase, SF Chronicle	SF PUC	-
small scale feature	4	street light	street light - single cobra	Block #0787 on McAllister	-	SF PUC	SF PUC	-
small scale feature	8	street light	street light - Van Ness single pendant	Block #0787 on Van Ness	1915-1936	site vist, 1915 SFPL image	SF PUC	C*
small scale feature	1	street signal	street signal - aggregate concrete post and post top	Block #0787 on Grove	pre 1945	1945c aerial CED Archives	-	C
vegetation	1	hedge	hedge - Griselinia lucida, Akapuka	Block #0787 on Van Ness	-	site visit	-	-
vegetation	8	planter box	planter box - faux granite curb edges with black metal fencing	Block #0787 on Van Ness	2010	site visit	DPW	NC
vegetation	1	shrub	shrub - unknown species in space between fence and stairway wall	Block #0787 on McAllister	-	site visit	DPW	NC
vegetation	2	tree	tree - older, Quercus lobata, Valley Oak	Block #0787 on Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Van Ness	-	site visit	DPW	NC
vegetation	66	tree	tree - Platanus x acerifolia, pollarded London Plane	Block #0787 on Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Grove, McAllister, Van Ness	post 1957	SFPL image	DPW	U

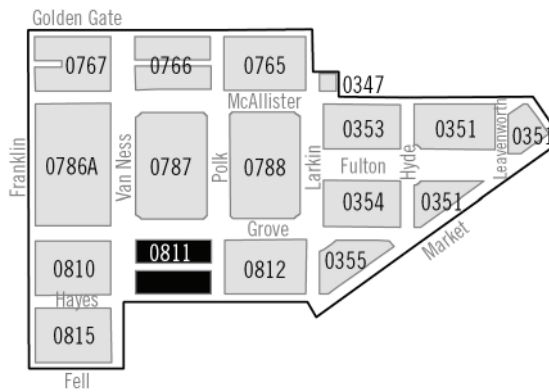
*This feature has been determined to be a contributing feature of the Civic Center Historic District. Features similar to this one located outside the district boundaries were not evaluated as part of this project.

A close-up photograph of the base of a tree trunk. The trunk is thick and has rough, brown bark. It is surrounded by a square patch of light brown, sandy soil. On the left side of the trunk, near the base, there is a small, round, white object. At the bottom left corner of the soil patch, there is a small, green, leafy plant growing. The surrounding area is paved with large, light gray concrete tiles.

A close-up photograph of a yellow-painted curb. A white square marker with the number '23' and a small blue logo is attached to the curb. To the right of the curb is a red brick sidewalk. A dark, possibly wet, area is visible between the curb and the bricks.

A photograph of a white fire hydrant with a blue top, situated on a sidewalk with a red stripe. The hydrant has a small chain hanging from its side.

A photograph of the Church of Christ building, a two-story structure with a prominent corner tower and arched windows. The building is surrounded by trees and a street with a pedestrian crossing.



The block bounded by Grove, Polk, Hayes Streets and Van Ness Avenue is home to the Department of Public Health Building (b. 1926). The block is divided in half by Lech Walesa Street. While many of the buildings on block #0811 date to the period of significance, most have been altered over the years from their original form. The northern half block has more buildings that date to the period of significance than the south half block. The southern half of this block is included in the project study area, but not within the 1994 San Francisco Landmark District.

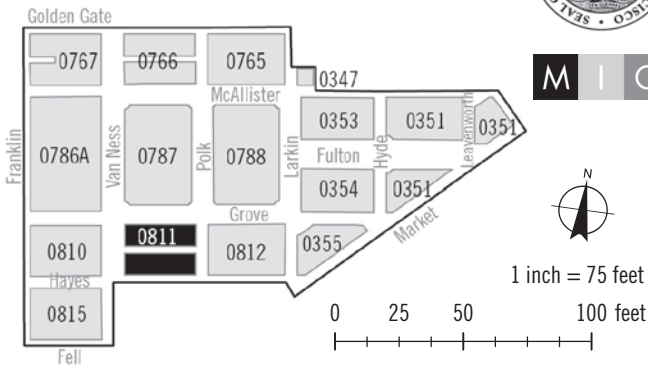
There are no street trees associated with the health building, but there are a number of mature London Plane trees facing the Church of Christ and San Francisco Arts Commission Gallery. Other landscape elements that date to the historic period of significance include the Van Ness trolley poles, aggregate base light poles, granite curbs and brick gutters.

New additions to the block include fenced landscape planters installed as part of the Van Ness greening project through Department of Public Works.

San Francisco Civic Center Historic District
Planning Department, San Francisco, California

Cultural Landscape Report

BLOCK #0811



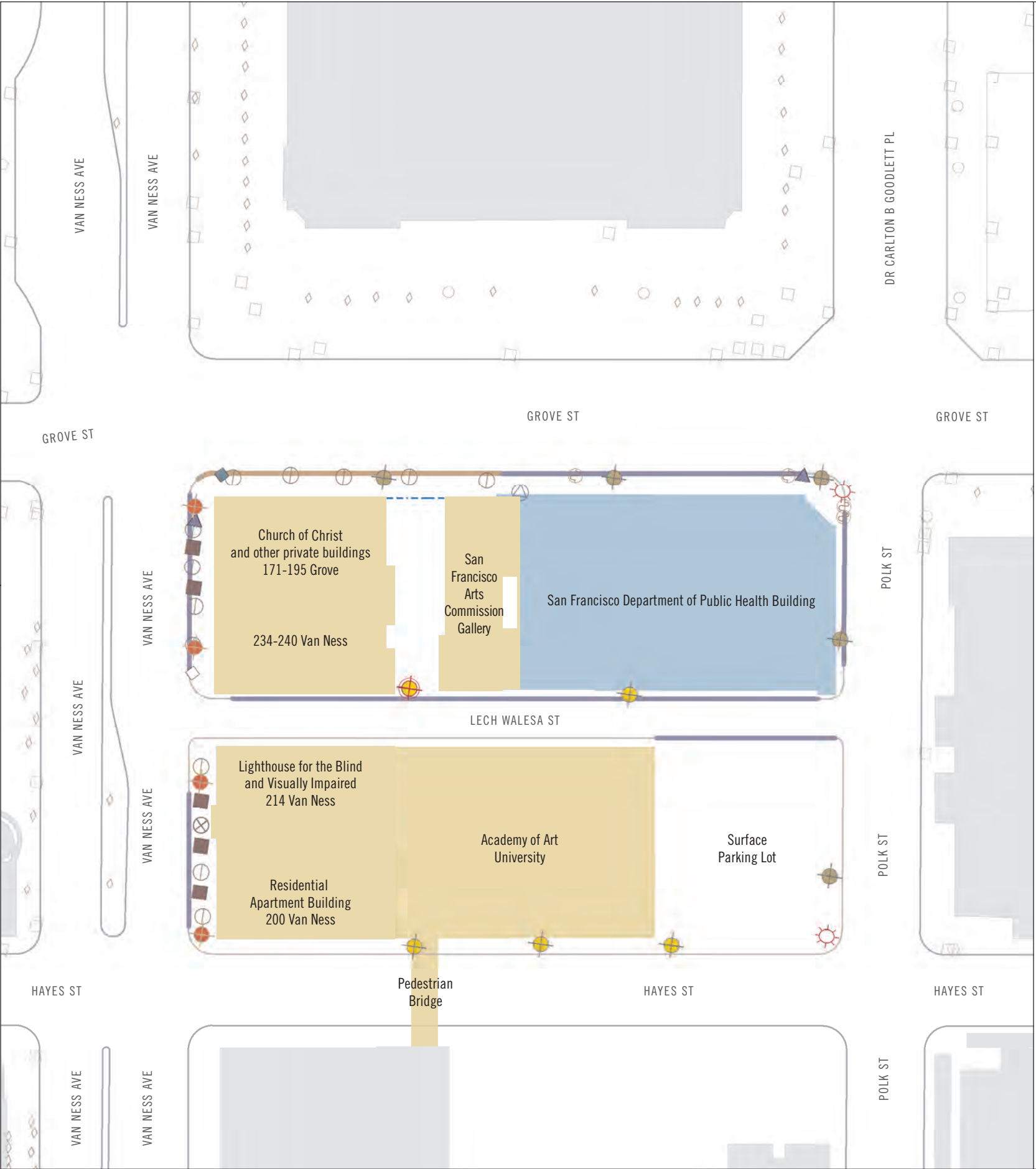
- LEGEND:**
- bike rack
 - fire hydrant - painted white with blue top
 - fire hydrant - painted white
 - mail box; mail box
 - ramp
 - street signal - aggregate concrete post
 - street light - Van Ness single pendant
 - street light - aggregate concrete
 - street light - single cobra
 - street light - single cobra with ornate detail
 - street tree - Platanus x acerifolia
 - street tree - Lophostemon confertus
 - planter box
 - fence - blue metal
 - curb - granite and brick
 - curb - granite
 - curb - cement
 - contributing building or structure
 - non-contributing building or structure

- SOURCES:**
- MIG field work, September 10-14, 2012
 - Hand drawn inventory field maps, September 2012
 - Bing aerial imagery online for ArcGIS, 2012
 - San Francisco Utility Commission light pole data, 2012
 - San Francisco publicly available GIS city lot, block and curb data, 2012

DRAWN BY:
MIG: Rachel Edmonds, Steve Leathers and Heather Buczek using Arc GIS 10.

DRAWN DATE:
March 2013, updated September 2013

- LEGEND FOR SURROUNDING LANDSCAPE FEATURES:**
- vegetation
 - small scale feature
 - circulation
 - circulation - curb
 - building or structure



BLOCK #0811 - SAN FRANCISCO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH								
CHARACTERISTIC	QTY.	FEATURE	DESCRIPTION	ADDRESS/LOCATION	DATE BUILT	PRIMARY SOURCE	JURISDICTION	CHARACTER DEFINING
buildings & structures	1	Church of Christ and other private buildings	Church of Christ Building and other private buildings	171-195 Grove St	1913	1994 SFLD	private	NC
buildings & structures	2	buildings	buildings	234-240 Van Ness	-	1994 SFLD	-	NC
buildings & structures	1	Pedestrian bridge	Elevated pedestrian bridge at 2nd floor connecting north and south sides of Hayes St	150 Hayes	1968	site visit	private	NC
buildings & structures	1	Office building	Academy of Art University	150 Hayes	1968	SF Assessor's website	private	NC
buildings & structures	1	Office building	Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired	214 Van Ness Ave	1917	SF Assessor's website	private	NC
buildings & structures	1	San Francisco Department of Public Health Building	San Franciso Department of Public Health Building	101 Grove	1932	1978 NR, 1987 NHL, 1994 SFLD	City/County	C
buildings & structures	1	San Francisco Arts Commission Gallery	San Francisco Arts Commission Gallery	155 Grove	1914	1994 SFLD	City/County	NC
circulation	11	curb	6" cement curb	Block #0811 on Grove, Lech Walesa, Polk, Van Ness, Hayes	-	site visit	DPW	-
circulation	1	curb	6" granite and brick curb	Block #0811 on Grove	1915-1932	site visit	DPW	C
circulation	6	curb	6" granite curb	Block #0811 on Grove, Lech Walesa, Polk, Van Ness	1915-1932	site visit	DPW	C
circulation	1	ramp	ramp - for building accessibility with ornat blue metal railings	Block #0811 on Grove	1990c	site visit	SFDPH	NC
small scale feature	2	bike rack	bike rack - ring and post style	Block #0811 on Grove, Polk	-	site visit	DPW	NC
small scale feature	2	bike rack	bike rack - single staple-style	Block #0811 on Grove, Polk	-	site visit	DPW	NC
small scale feature	1	fire hydrant	fire hydrant - painted white with blue top; embossed 1958	Block #0811 on Grove	1958	site visit	BEWS	NC
small scale feature	3	fire hydrant	fire hydrant - painted white; embossed 1968	Block #0811 on Van Ness, Hayes	1968c	site visit	SFFD	NC
small scale feature	2	mail box	mail box - blue metal with USPS logo	Block #0811 on Grove, Van Ness	-	site visit	USPS	NC
small scale feature	1	fence	fence - blue painted metal fence	Block #0811 on Grove	-	site visit	City/County	NC
small scale feature	4	street light	street light - aggregate concrete post and single pendant lamp	Block #0811 on Grove, Polk	pre 1945	1945c aerial CED Archives	SF PUC	C
small scale feature	1	street light	street light - aggregate concrete post with single pendant arm style with cobra luminaire	Block #0811 on Polk	pre 1945	SF PUC	SF PUC	-
small scale feature	4	street light	street light - single cobra	Block #0811 on Lech Walesa, Hayes	-	SF PUC	SF PUC	-
small scale feature	1	street light	street light - single cobra with ornate support detail	Block #0811 on Lech Walesa	-	SF PUC	SF PUC	-
small scale feature	4	street light	street light - Van Ness single pendant	Block #0811 on Van Ness	1915-1936	site vist, 1915 SFPL image	SF PUC	C**
small scale feature	2	street signal	street signal - aggregate concrete post and post top	Block #0811 on Polk	pre 1945	site visit	-	-
spatial organization	1	parking lot	parking lot - asphalt	Block #0811 on Hayes, Van Ness, Lech Walesa	-	site visit	-	NC
spatial organization	1	vacant lot	vacant lot	165 Grove	-	1994 SFLD	-	NC
vegetation	5	planter box	planter box - faux granite curb edges with black metal fencing	Block #0811 on Van Ness	2010	site visit	DPW	NC
vegetation	1	tree	street tree - Lophostemon confertus, Brisbane Box	Block #0811 on Van Ness		site visit	DPW	-
vegetation	12	tree	street tree - Platanus x acerifolia, London Plane in square tree well	Block #0811 on Grove, Van Ness	-	site visit	DPW	-

**This feature has been determined to be a contributing feature of the Civic Center Historic District. Features similar to this one located outside the district boundaries were not evaluated as part of this project.



Platanus x acerifolia/London Plane street trees along McAllister St



Elevated granite planter with anchored metal skateboard guards at Larkin & McAllister Streets



Single cobra street light with banners along McAllister St



Fire box at Golden Gate Ave and Larkin St

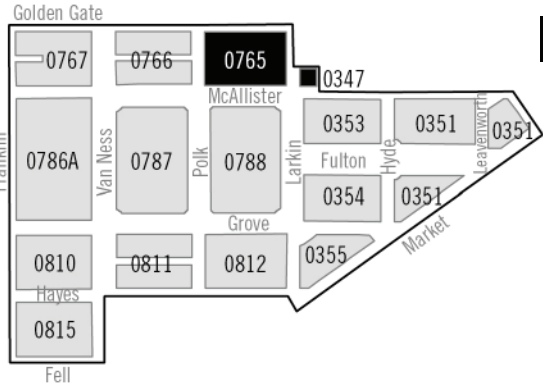


Powerhouse building*

San Francisco Civic Center Historic District
Planning Department, San Francisco, California

Cultural Landscape Report

BLOCKS #0765, #0347



The Supreme Court of California (Earl A. Warren Building), the Hiram S. Johnson State Office Building and the San Francisco Powerhouse occupy blocks #0765 and #0347 of the project study area.

Renovations to the Supreme Court of California Building following the 1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake resulted in additions to the landscape at the building perimeter in the 1990s. The San Francisco Powerhouse Building remains unchanged, but the exterior landscape area has been altered by new community garden uses and installation of protective metal fencing along McAllister and Larkin Streets.

Landscape elements that date to the period of significance are few in number, but notable in that similar features are found throughout the historic district. These features include fire utilities and granite curbs. Much of the planting material at the exterior of the Supreme Court of California Building was present by 1980 but has been updated since the building's most recent renovation in 1999.



Platanus x acerifolia/London Plane trees, Buxus sempervirens/Boxwood and Agapanthus orientalis/Lily-of-the-Nile in fenced planter along Polk St



Wide granite planter edging with anchored metal skateboard guards at McAllister St



Metrosideros excelsa/Pohutukawa trees planted in square metal tree grates along Polk St



Detail of square metal grate on Polk St



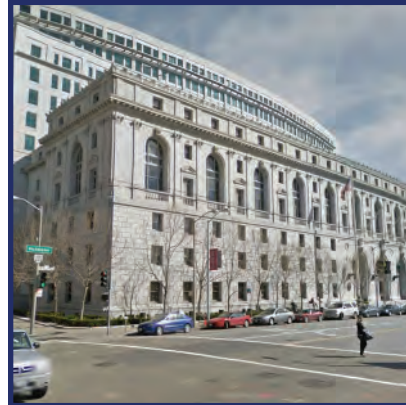
Plaza light pole - black post and cap at Larkin St



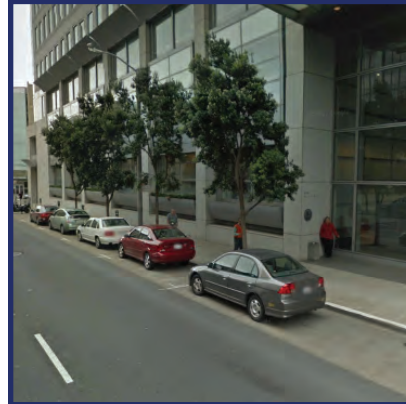
Blue metal fence around Powerhouse courtyard



High pressure auxiliary water supply hydrant along Polk St



Supreme Court of California along McAllister St*



State Building Annex along Golden Gate Ave *



Concrete pathway leading to Powerhouse building



Hardscape plaza planted with Ginkgo biloba/Maidenhair trees along Larkin St



Newspaper box - six compartments on two posts along Larkin St



MUNI bus shelter with domed glass roof along Hayes St

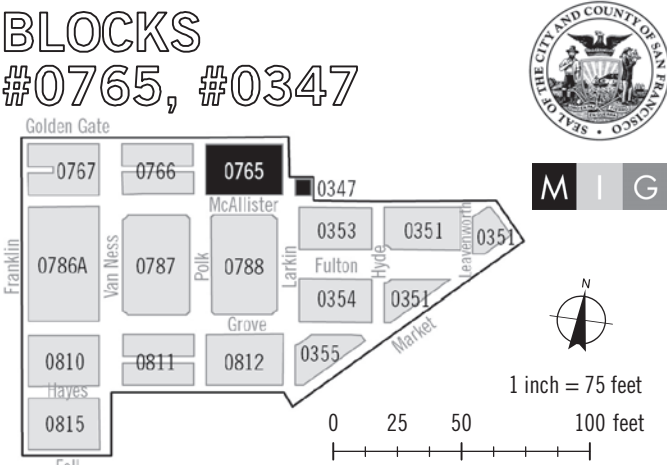


- LEGEND:**
- bike rack
 - newspaper box
 - fire hydrant - painted white with blue top
 - fire hydrant - painted white
 - fire box
 - bus stop
 - mail box
 - street light - single cobra
 - light pole - black post and cap
 - street tree - Ginkgo biloba
 - street tree - Metrosideros excelsa
 - street tree - Platanus x acerifolia
 - tree - Ginkgo biloba
 - tree - Platanus x acerifolia
 - community gardens
 - tree well - square with metal grate
 - curb - granite
 - curb - cement
 - pathway
 - fence - blue metal
 - contributing building or structure
 - non-contributing building or structure

San Francisco Civic Center Historic District
Planning Department, San Francisco, California

Cultural Landscape Report

BLOCKS
#0765, #0347



- SOURCES:**
- MIG field work, September 10-14, 2012
 - Hand drawn inventory field maps, September 2012
 - Bing aerial imagery online for ArcGIS, 2012
 - San Francisco Utility Commission light pole data, 2012
 - San Francisco publicly available GIS city lot, block and curb data, 2012

DRAWN BY:
MIG: Rachel Edmonds, Steve Leathers and Heather Buczek using Arc GIS 10.

DRAWN DATE:
March 2013, updated September 2013

- LEGEND FOR SURROUNDING LANDSCAPE FEATURES:**
- vegetation
 - small scale feature
 - circulation
 - circulation - curb
 - building or structure

BLOCK #0765 - SUPREME COURT OF CALIFORNIA								
CHARACTERISTIC	QTY.	FEATURE	DESCRIPTION	ADDRESS/LOCATION	DATE BUILT	PRIMARY SOURCE	JURISDICTION	CHARACTER DEFINING
buildings & structures	1	Supreme Court of California	Supreme Court of California (Earl Warren Building, State Office Building, or California State Building) by Bliss & Faville; earthquake rehabilitation by Page & Turnbull (1998)	350 McAllister	1926	1978 NR, 1987 NHL, 1994 SFLD	State of CA	C
buildings & structures	1	State Building Annex	Hiram W. Johnson State Office Building (California State Courts Building) by Skidmore Owings Merrill	455 Golden Gate	1998	1994 SFLD	State of CA	NC
circulation	5	curb	6" cement curb	Block #0765 on Larkin, McAllister, Polk, Golden Gate	-	site visit	DPW	-
circulation	1	curb	6" granite curb	Block #0765 on McAllister	1915-1926	site visit	DPW	C
small scale feature	1	bike rack	bike rack	Block #0765 on Golden Gate	-	site visit	DPW	NC
small scale feature	1	bike rack	bike rack - gray metal 3 loop wave	Block #0765 on McAllister	-	site visit	DPW	NC
small scale feature	1	bike rack	bike rack - narrow staple (installed in the incorrect direction)	Block #0765 on Golden Gate	-	site visit	DPW	NC
small scale feature	1	bus stop	bus stop - covered	Block #0765 on McAllister	1980c	site visit	MUNI	NC
small scale feature	1	fire box	fire box - red metal on single post	Block #0765 on Golden Gate	1899	site visit	SFDT	C**
small scale feature	1	fire hydrant	fire hydrant - painted white	Block #0765 on Polk	-	site visit	SFFD	-
small scale feature	2	fire hydrant	fire hydrant - painted white with blue top; embossed 1909	Block #0765 on Larkin, Polk	1909	site visit	BEWS	C**
small scale feature	1	mail box	mail box - blue metal with USPS logo	Block #0765 on McAllister	-	site visit	USPS	NC
small scale feature	2	newspaper box	newspaper box - six compartment on two posts	Block #0765 on Larkin, Golden Gate	2006	site visit	DPW	NC
small scale feature	9	tree well	tree well - square with metal grate	Block #0765 on Polk, Golden Gate	1959	site visit	DPW	-
small scale feature	4	light pole	light pole - black post and cap	Block #0765 on Larkin, Polk	1999	California Supreme Court Historical Society, Feb 2000	State of CA	NC
small scale feature	10	street light	street light - single cobra	Block #0765 on Larkin, McAllister, Polk, Golden Gate	-	SF PUC	SF PUC	-
vegetation	4	tree	street tree - Ginkgo biloba, Maidenhair Tree	Block #0765 on Larkin, Polk	1999	California Supreme Court Historical Society, Feb 2000	DPW	NC
vegetation	18	tree	street tree - Metrosideros excelsa, New Zealand Christmas Tree	Block #0765 on Larkin, Polk, Golden Gate	1998	site visit	DPW	NC
vegetation	12	tree	street tree - Platanus x acerifolia, London Plane	Block #0765 on Larkin, McAllister, Polk	1980-1995	1980 Real Estate Data Aerial; 1994 SFLD	DPW	NC
vegetation	8	tree	tree - Ginkgo biloba, Maidenhair Tree with Agapanthus orientalis, Lily of the Nile	Block #0765 on Larkin, Polk	1999	California Supreme Court Historical Society, Feb 2000	State of CA	NC
vegetation	29	tree	tree - in planting area adjacent to building, fencing, ramp - Platanus x acerifolia, London Plane	Block #0765 on Larkin	1999	California Supreme Court Historical Society, Feb 2000	State of CA	NC

BLOCK #0347 - POWERHOUSE								
CHARACTERISTIC	QTY.	FEATURE	DESCRIPTION	ADDRESS/LOCATION	DATE BUILT	PRIMARY SOURCE	JURISDICTION	CHARACTER DEFINING
buildings & structures	1	San Francisco Powerhouse Building	San Francisco Powerhouse Building	320 Larkin	1915	1987 NHL	City/County	C*
circulation	2	curb	6" cement curb	Block #0347 on Larkin, McAllister	-	site visit	DPW	-
circulation	1	pathway	pathway - located within fenced courtyard	Block #0347 on Larkin	1915-1927	Argonaut	-	C
small scale feature	1	fence	fence - blue metal around small courtyard	Block #0347 on Larkin	post 1995	1994 SFLD	-	NC
small scale feature	1	fire hydrant	fire hydrant - painted white	Block #0347 on Larkin	2000	site visit	SFFD	NC
small scale feature	1	street light	street light - single cobra	Block #0347 on Larkin	-	SF PUC	SF PUC	-
vegetation	1	vegetable garden	vegetable garden beds - community gardens	Block #0347 on Larkin	2010	site visit	City/County	NC

*The 1994 San Francisco Landmark District designation does not recognize the Powerhouse building as a contributory building, but the 1987 NHL does.
**This feature has been determined to be a contributing feature of the Civic Center Historic District. Features similar to this one located outside the district boundaries were not evaluated as part of this project.



Double allée of pollarded *Platanus x acerifolia*/London Plane trees



Elevated display planting bed and small flag poles north of Exposition (Civic) Auditorium



Decorative blue pedestrian light pole along Dr. Carlton B Goodlett Place



Concrete paving band and large flagpoles related to US and CA history



Bronze plaque affixed to large flagpole related to US and CA history



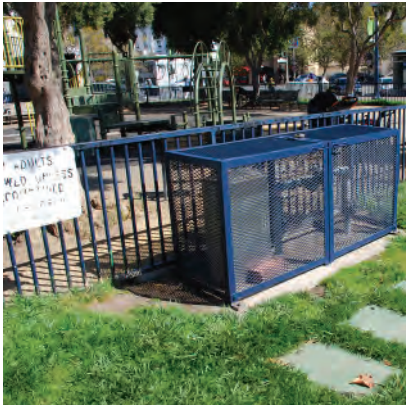
At-grade square-shaped turf area with granite edging



Retaining wall for display planting bed north of Exposition (Civic) Auditorium along Grove St



Double cobra street light along Larkin St



Blue painted metal utility cage near south playground

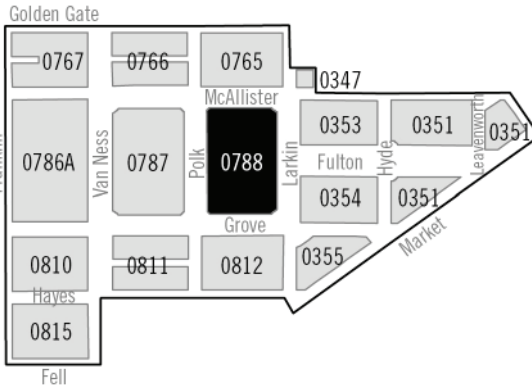


Overview of Civic Center Plaza from corner of Larkin and McAllister Streets*

San Francisco Civic Center Historic District
Planning Department, San Francisco, California

Cultural Landscape Report

BLOCK #0788



Since it was first built as a formal processional space for the Panama-Pacific International Exposition in 1915, Civic Center Plaza has played an important role in San Francisco's public life. For more than 40 years, the Plaza's design reflected a Beaux Arts aesthetic that helped complement the scale and ornamentation of civic buildings that surrounded it.

As the Civic Center's urban fabric continued to develop at a hurried pace between the 1930s and 1960s, the Plaza would be transformed several times over and even demolished to build underground parking and convention facilities. By 1961, the Plaza was redesigned with a modern aesthetic that reorganized the Plaza's spatial relationships, altered circulation through the site, removed traditional ornamentation, and introduced new planting material. Much of what exists today at the time of writing this report reflects the 1961 Douglas Baylis landscape design.

Features have also been added and/or removed to respond to public demand and safety concerns. These features include new public restrooms, playgrounds, art exhibit space, removal of the Plaza's central water feature, and abandonment of stairwells leading underground to Brooks Hall.

Civic Center Plaza is currently being studied to fully understand how it contributes to the significance of the larger Civic Center district.



Olea europaea/European Olive trees lining north playground along Larkin St



Commemorative inlaid plaque along Larkin St



Street light - double pendant painted blue along Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place



Self-cleaning unisex toilet along Grove St



Brooks Hall ventilation structures near south playground along Larkin St



Processional path of decomposed granite



Granite curb with brick gutter along Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place



High pressure auxiliary water supply hydrant at Larkin St

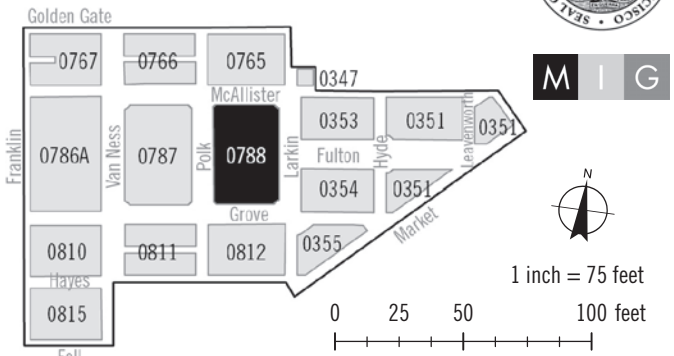


Civic Center Plaza Garage kiosk building and small perimeter flagpoles along McAllister St

San Francisco Civic Center Historic District
Planning Department, San Francisco, California

Cultural Landscape Report

BLOCK #0788



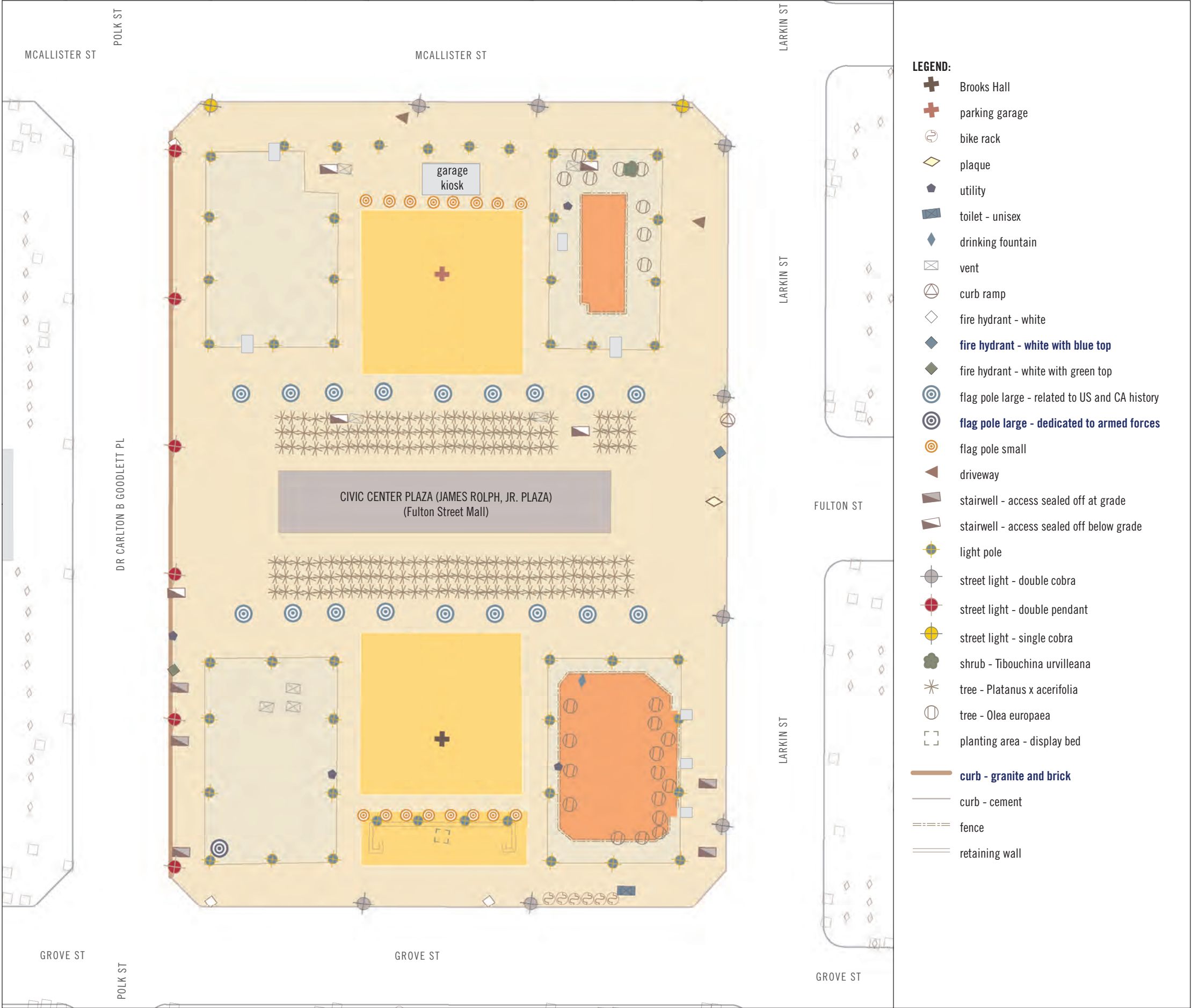
- SOURCES:**
- 1. MIG field work, September 10-14, 2012
 - 2. Hand drawn inventory field maps, September 2012
 - 3. Bing aerial imagery online for ArcGIS, 2012
 - 4. San Francisco Utility Commission light pole data, 2012
 - 5. San Francisco publicly available GIS city lot, block and curb data, 2012

DRAWN BY:
MIG: Rachel Edmonds, Steve Leathers and Heather Buczek using Arc GIS 10.

DRAWN DATE:
March 2013, updated September 2013, updated July 2014

LEGEND FOR SURROUNDING LANDSCAPE FEATURES:

- processional pathway
- Civic Center Plaza
- playground
- planting area - slight modification
- planting area
- vegetation
- small scale feature
- circulation
- circulation - curb
- building or structure



BLOCK #0788 - CIVIC CENTER PLAZA								
CHARACTERISTIC	QTY.	FEATURE	DESCRIPTION	ADDRESS/LOCATION	DATE BUILT	PRIMARY SOURCE	JURISDICTION	CHARACTER DEFINING
buildings & structures	1	Brooks Hall	Brooks Hall - located under south half of Civic Center Plaza	99 Grove	1958	1960 Extg Surface Cond, A2	ADM	U****
buildings & structures	1	garage kiosk	Civic Center Plaza Parking Garage kiosk building	Civic Center Plaza	1958	1960 Extg Surface Cond, A2	RPD	U****
buildings & structures	1	parking garage	Civic Center Plaza Parking Garage - located under north half of Civic Center Plaza	355 McAllister	1958	1960 Extg Surface Cond, A2	RPD	U****
buildings & structures	3	ventilation structure	ventilation structure for Brooks Hall	Block #0788 on Larkin	1958	1960 Extg Surface Cond, A2	RPD	U****
buildings & structures	4	ventilation structure	ventilation structure for Civic Center Plaza Garage	Civic Center Plaza	1958	1960 Extg Surface Cond, A2	RPD	U****
circulation	5	curb	6" cement curb	Block #0788 on Grove, Larkin, McAllister	1961	1960 Site & Paving Plan, A3	DPW	U****
circulation	1	curb	6" granite and brick curb	Block #0788 on Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place	1915	1960 Site & Paving Plan, A3	DPW	C
circulation	1	curb ramp	curb ramp	Civic Center Plaza	-	site visit	RPD	NC
circulation	2	driveway	driveway into lower level parking garage	Civic Center Plaza	1958	1960 Site & Paving Plan, A3	RPD	U****
circulation	1	pathway	processional pathway - decomposed granite	Civic Center Plaza	1990	SF Chronicle	RPD	NC
small scale feature	2	fence	fence - metal fence around play area	Block #0788 on Larkin	1993 north, 1998 south	1992 Layout Plan & Construction Details, L-3; SF Chronicle	RPD	NC
small scale feature	1	retaining wall	retaining wall - cement around planting area	Block #0788 on Grove	1961	1960 Site & Paving Plan, A3	RPD	U****
small scale feature	6	bike rack	bike rack - ring and post style	Civic Center Plaza	-	site visit	RPD	NC
small scale feature	1	drinking fountain	drinking fountain - metal	Civic Center Plaza	1993	site visit	RPD	-
small scale feature	3	fire hydrant	fire hydrant - painted white	Civic Center Plaza	-	site visit	SFFD	-
small scale feature	1	fire hydrant	fire hydrant - painted white with blue top; embossed 1909	Civic Center Plaza	1909	site visit	BEWS	C**
small scale feature	1	fire hydrant	fire hydrant - painted white with green top	Civic Center Plaza	-	site visit	SFFD	-
small scale feature	18	flag pole	flag pole large - with flags related to US & CA history	Civic Center Plaza	1961	1960 Site & Paving Plan, A3	RPD	U****
small scale feature	1	flag pole	flag pole large - white metal, plaque on base dedicated to the City's armed forces, dedicated 2007	Civic Center Plaza	1915-1921	Tillman image	RPD	C
small scale feature	16	flag pole	flag pole small - one of eight	Civic Center Plaza	1961	1960 Site & Paving Plan, A3	RPD	U****
small scale feature	1	plaque	plaque - in the walkway "Joseph L. Alioto Performing Arts Plaza"	Civic Center Plaza	1998	SF Chronicle	RPD	-
small scale feature	2	playground	playground in fenced area	Civic Center Plaza	1993, 1998	SF Chronicle	RPD	NC
small scale feature	5	stairwell	stairwell - access sealed off at grade	Civic Center Plaza	1958	1960 Extg Surface Cond, A2	RPD/ADM***	U****
small scale feature	5	stairwell	stairwell - access sealed off below grade	Civic Center Plaza	1958	1960 Extg Surface Cond, A2	RPD/ADM***	U****
small scale feature	1	toilet	toilet - unisex	Civic Center Plaza	1995	SF Chronicle	DPW	NC
small scale feature	3	utility	water utility - protected by metal cage	Civic Center Plaza	1961	1960 Utility Plan, P1	RPD	U****
small scale feature	3	utility	vent - green painted metal - Brooks Hall	Civic Center Plaza	1958	1960 Extg Surface Cond, A2	RPD	U****
small scale feature	4	utility	vent - metal cover with railing - Civic Center Plaza Parking Garage	Civic Center Plaza	1958	1960 Extg Surface Cond, A2	RPD	U****
small scale feature	1	utility	gas meter box - protected by white bollard	Civic Center Plaza	1958	1960 Extg Surface Cond, A2	RPD	U****
small scale feature	48	light pole	light pole - decorative blue painted metal	Civic Center Plaza	2000-2009	Pelosi Press Release, SF Chronicle	RPD	NC
small scale feature	8	street light	street light - double cobra	Block #0788 on McAllister, Larkin, Grove	-	SF PUC	SF PUC	NC
small scale feature	6	street light	street light - double pendant on ornate blue iron post	Block #0788 on Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place	2000-2009	Pelosi Press Release, SF Chronicle	SF PUC	NC
small scale feature	2	street light	street light - single cobra	Block #0788 on McAllister	-	SF PUC	SF PUC	NC
spatial organization	1	Civic Center Plaza	Civic Center Plaza (James Rolph, Jr. Plaza); city block, flagpoles, lawn panels, London Plane trees	Civic Center Plaza	1961	1960 Planting Plan, L1; 1960 Site & Paving Plan, A3	RPD	U****
spatial organization	1	Fulton Street Mall	Fulton Street Mall - associated with Blocks #0351, #0353, #0354, #0788	Block #0788	c. 1916	c. 1918 SF Planning image	DPW	C
spatial organization	2	playground	playground area for children	Block #0788 on Larkin	1993, 1998	SF Chronicle	RPD	NC
vegetation	1	planting area	planting area - display bed	Civic Center Plaza	1961	1960 Planting Plan, L1	RPD	U****
vegetation	2	planting area	planting area - lawn around playgrounds	Block #0788 on Larkin	1993, 1998	1992 Planting & Irrigation Plan, L-6; SF Chronicle	RPD	U****
vegetation	2	planting area	planting area - turf along Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place	Block #0788 on Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place	1998	SF Chronicle	RPD	U****
vegetation	3	planting area	planting area - lawn, concrete coping	Civic Center Plaza	1961	1960 Planting Plan, L1	RPD	U****
vegetation	1	shrub	shrub - Tibouchina urvilleana, Princess Flower	Civic Center Plaza	-	site visit	RPD	NC
vegetation	191	tree	tree in allee - pollarded Platanus x acerifolia, London Plane	Civic Center Plaza	1961	1960 Planting Plan, L1	RPD	U****
vegetation	23	tree	tree in playground - Olea europaea, Olive	Civic Center Plaza	1961	1960 Planting Plan, L1	RPD	U****

*The 1994 San Francisco Landmark District designation recognizes these buildings as contributory/altered and non-contributing.

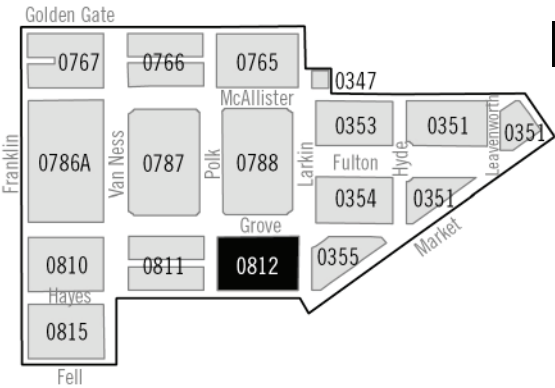
**This feature has been determined to be a contributing feature of the Civic Center Historic District. Features similar to this one located outside the district boundaries were not evaluated as part of this project.

***RPD has jurisdiction over below ground features on the north side of Civic Center Plaza (parking garage). ADM has jurisdiction over below ground features on the south side of Civic Center Plaza (Brooks Hall). RPD has jurisdiction over all above ground f

****The Civic Center Plaza will require a future study to fully understand how it contributes to the significance of the larger Civic Center district.

San Francisco Civic Center Historic District
Planning Department, San Francisco, California

Cultural Landscape Report
BLOCK #0812



The Exposition (Civic) Auditorium was the first building constructed in the Beaux Arts style in the Civic Center in 1915. As a main assembly facility for attendees of the 1915 Panama Pacific Exposition, the Auditorium has long been in public use as a performance space, and has undergone extensive lighting, sound, seismic, and other upgrades before and after the 1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake. The Auditorium acts as the southern bookend of Civic Center Plaza (block #0788).

There are very few landscape elements for block #0812 that date to the period of significance. These include a series of aggregate post ornamental street lights, granite curbs and fire utilities. There are other elements that may be contributing features, such as embedded brass street name labels that are not found on other blocks in the district. No information is available about these brass labels, so further investigation is necessary to confirm whether they date to the period of significance.

Stairwells to subterranean Brooks Hall underneath Civic Center Plaza added to the Grove Street sidewalk between 1958-1960 have long since been barricaded and do not provide access to Brooks Hall from the street and are in poor condition. Features constructed on block #0812 in conjunction with Civic Center Plaza will require a future study to fully understand how they contribute to the significance of the larger Civic Center district.



Granite curbs at Exposition (Civic) Auditorium block along Hayes St



Inlaid metal street name in concrete sidewalk on Hayes St



Aggregate concrete streetlight post with pendant arm style cobra luminaire at Larkin St



Inlaid plaque along Grove St



Bike rack along Grove St - ring and post style



Established Platanus x acerifolia/London Plane trees along Grove St



Inlaid metal street name in concrete sidewalk on Hayes St



High pressure auxiliary water supply hydrant along Grove St



Exposition (Civic) Auditorium from Grove St*



Newly planted Platanus x acerifolia/London Plane trees along Grove St



Inlaid metal street name in concrete sidewalk on Larkin St



Aggregate concrete streetlight post with right angle pendant along Grove St



Stairwell to Brooks Hall along Grove St



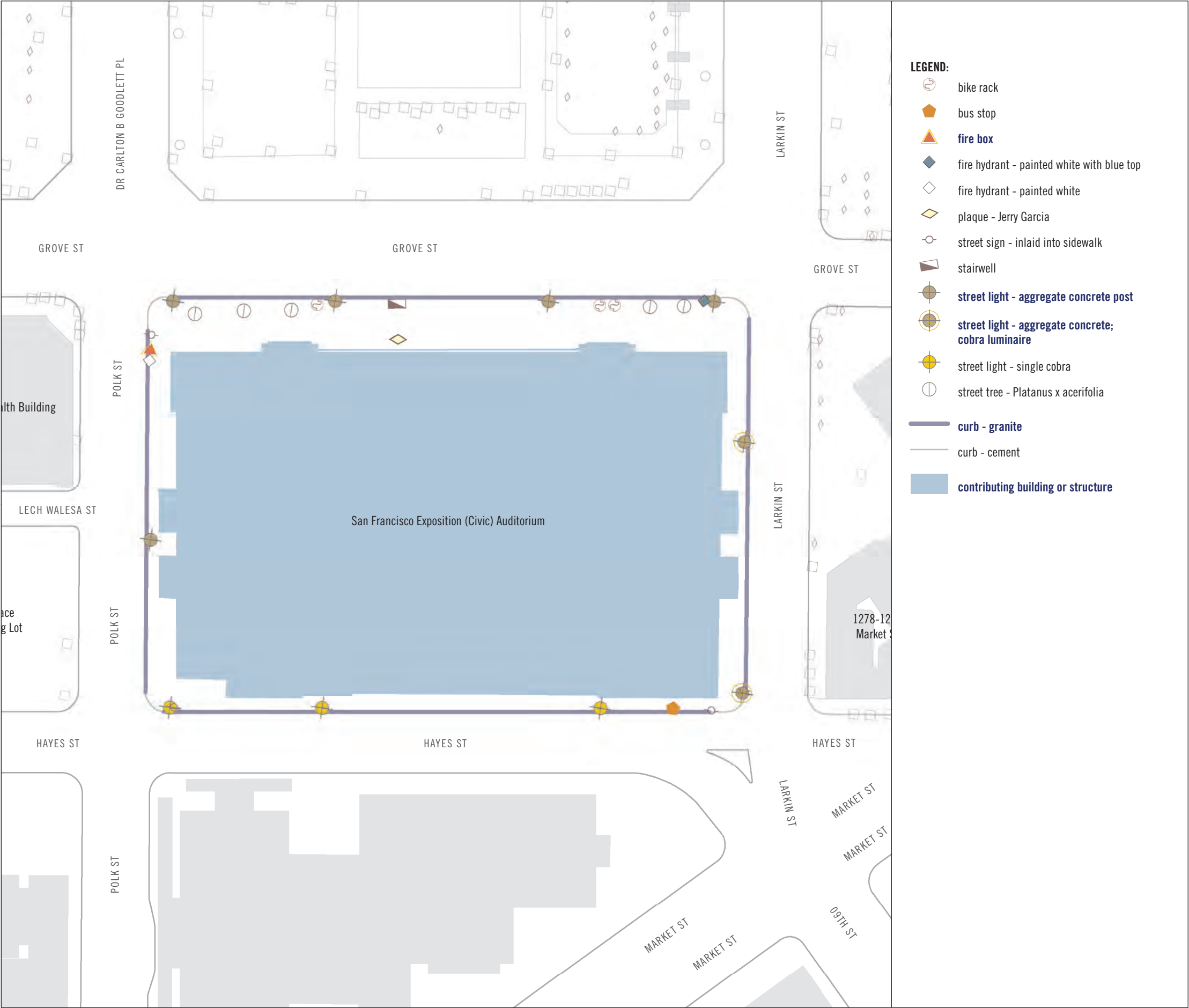
MUNI bus shelter with domed glass roof along Hayes St



Inlaid metal street name in concrete sidewalk on Polk St



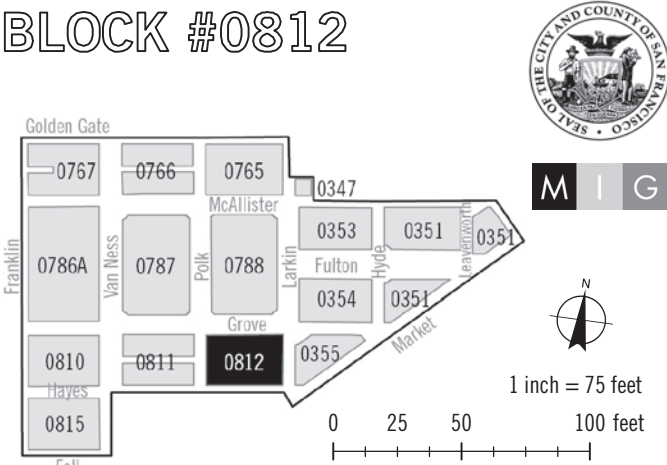
Fire box along Polk St



San Francisco Civic Center Historic District
Planning Department, San Francisco, California

Cultural Landscape Report

BLOCK #0812



SOURCES:

1. MIG field work, September 10-14, 2012
2. Hand drawn inventory field maps, September 2012
3. Bing aerial imagery online for ArcGIS, 2012
4. San Francisco Utility Commission light pole data, 2012
5. San Francisco publicly available GIS city lot, block and curb data, 2012

DRAWN BY:

MIG: Rachel Edmonds, Steve Leathers and Heather Buczek using Arc GIS 10.

DRAWN DATE:

March 2013, updated September 2013, updated July 2014

LEGEND FOR SURROUNDING LANDSCAPE FEATURES:

- vegetation
- small scale feature
- circulation
- circulation - curb
- building or structure

BLOCK #0812 - SAN FRANCISCO EXPOSITION (CIVIC) AUDITORIUM								
CHARACTERISTIC	QTY.	FEATURE	DESCRIPTION	ADDRESS/LOCATION	DATE BUILT	PRIMARY SOURCE	JURISDICTION	CHARACTER DEFINING
buildings & structures	1	San Francisco Exposition (Civic) Auditorium	San Francisco Exposition (Civic) Auditorium	99 Grove	1915	1978 NR, 1987 NHL, 1994 SFLD	DPW	C
circulation	8	curb	6" cement curb	Block #0812 on Grove, Hayes, Larkin, Polk	-	site visit	DPW	-
circulation	4	curb	6" granite curb	Block #0812 on Grove, Hayes, Larkin, Polk	1915	site visit	DPW	C
circulation	4	sign	street sign - brass lettering inlaid into the sidewalk	Block #0812 on Hayes, Larkin, Polk	-	site visit	DPW	-
small scale feature	2	bike rack	bike rack	Block #0812 on Grove	-	site visit	DPW	-
small scale feature	1	bike rack	bike rack - ring and post style	Block #0812 on Grove	-	site visit	DPW	-
small scale feature	1	bus stop	bus stop - covered	Block #0812 on Hayes	1980s	site visit	MUNI	-
small scale feature	1	fire box	fire box - red metal single post	Block #0812 on Polk	1899c	SF Chronicle	SFDT	C*
small scale feature	1	fire hydrant	fire hydrant - painted white with blue top; embossed 1958	Block #0812 on Grove	1958	site visit	BEWS	U**
small scale feature	1	fire hydrant	fire hydrant - painted white; embossed 1993	Block #0812 on Polk	1993	site visit	SFFD	-
small scale feature	1	plaque	plaque - bronze, in the sidewalk, Jerry Garcia	Block #0812 on Grove	-	site visit	DPW	-
small scale feature	1	stairwell	stairwell - access to Brooks Hall with black metal railing	Block #0812 on Grove	1958	site visit	DPW	U**
small scale feature	5	street light	street light - aggregate concrete post and single pendant lamp	Block #0812 on Grove, Polk	pre 1945	1945c aerial CED Archives	SF PUC	C
small scale feature	2	street light	street light - aggregate concrete post with single pendant arm style with cobra luminaire	Block #0812 on Larkin	pre 1945	1945c aerial CED Archives	SF PUC	C
small scale feature	3	street light	street light - single cobra	Block #0812 on Hayes	-	SF PUC	SF PUC	-
vegetation	5	tree	street tree - Platanus x acerifolia, London Plane	Block #0812 on Grove	post 1965	1965 CA Aerial photo, UCB	DPW	NC

*This feature has been determined to be a contributing feature of the Civic Center Historic District. Features similar to this one located outside the district boundaries were not evaluated as part of this project.

**Features constructed in conjunction with Civic Center Plaza will require a future study to fully understand how they contribute to the significance of the larger Civic Center district.



Double allée of Platanus x acerifolia/London Plane trees in turf area at Fulton Mall



Concrete sidewalk along south entrance to Asian Art Museum at Fulton Mall



Platanus x acerifolia/London Plane trees and turf planting area at Larkin St entrance



Square metal tree grate along McAllister St



Light pole at Hyde St driveway and gate



Granite curb along McAllister St



Fire box along Larkin St



Planting area along Fulton Mall entrance



Elevated planter box with Buxus sempervirens/Boxwood at Hyde St



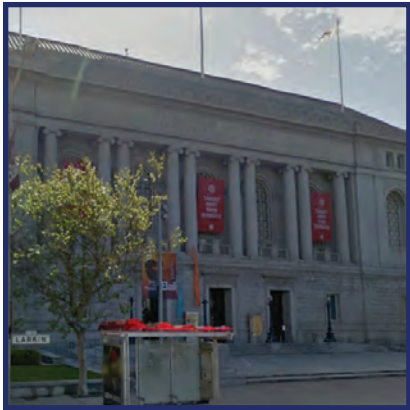
Single cobra street light at McAllister and Larkin Streets



Bronze statue of Ashurbanipal at Fulton St museum entrance



High pressure auxiliary water supply hydrant along Grove St

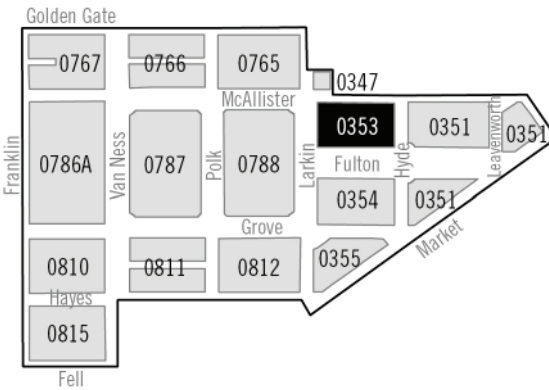


Asian Art Museum entrance at Larkin St*

San Francisco Civic Center Historic District
Planning Department, San Francisco, California

Cultural Landscape Report

BLOCK #0353



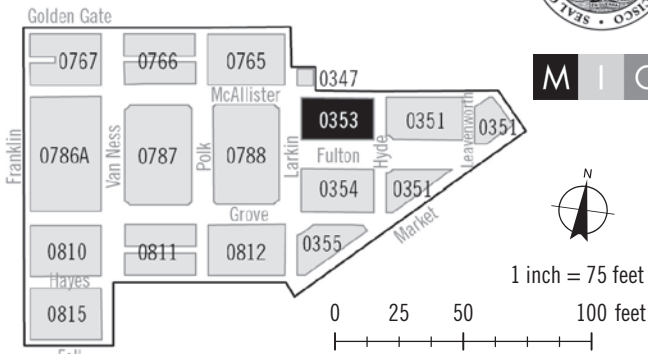
Block #0353, bounded by McAllister, Hyde, Fulton and Larkin Streets, is home to the Asian Art Museum. The building previously functioned as the San Francisco Public Library between 1917-1995. The museum opened in 2003.

Aside from the building itself, the block today has few landscape elements that date to the period of significance. These features include London Plane trees planted in turf beds at the building's south side, fire utilities and granite curb remnants.

San Francisco Civic Center Historic District
Planning Department, San Francisco, California

Cultural Landscape Report

BLOCK #0353



- SOURCES:**
- 1. MIG field work, September 10-14, 2012
 - 2. Hand drawn inventory field maps, September 2012
 - 3. Bing aerial imagery online for ArcGIS, 2012
 - 4. San Francisco Utility Commission light pole data, 2012
 - 5. San Francisco publicly available GIS city lot, block and curb data, 2012

DRAWN BY:
MIG: Rachel Edmonds, Steve Leathers and Heather Buczek using Arc GIS 10.

DRAWN DATE:
March 2013, updated September 2013

LEGEND FOR SURROUNDING LANDSCAPE FEATURES:

- vegetation
- small scale feature
- circulation
- circulation - curb
- building or structure

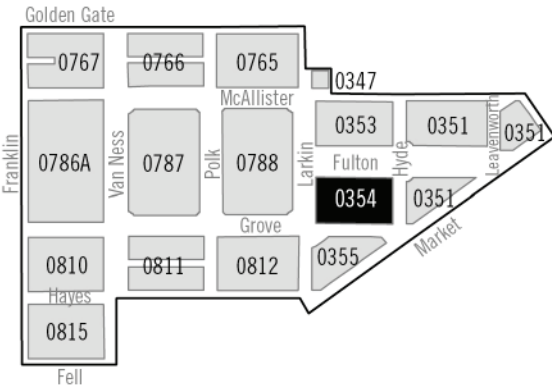


BLOCK #0353 - ASIAN ART MUSEUM								
CHARACTERISTIC	QTY.	FEATURE	DESCRIPTION	ADDRESS/LOCATION	DATE BUILT	PRIMARY SOURCE	JURISDICTION	CHARACTER DEFINING
buildings & structures	1	Asian Art Museum	Asian Art Museum; ten murals (former San Francisco Public Library)	200 Larkin	1916	1978 NR, 1987 NHL, 1994 SFLD	-	C
circulation	6	curb	6" cement curb	Block #0353 on Fulton, Hyde, Larkin, McAllister	-	site visit	DPW	-
circulation	2	curb	6" granite curb	Block #0353 on Hyde, McAllister	1910c	site visit	DPW	C
circulation	1	driveway	driveway with light pole	Block #0353 on Hyde	2003	site visit	-	NC
small scale feature	1	bike rack	bike rack	Block #0353 on McAllister	2003	site visit	DPW	NC
small scale feature	1	bus stop	bus stop - covered with bench	Block #0353 on Larkin	2010	site visit	MUNI	NC
small scale feature	1	fire box	firebox - red metal post	Block #0353 on Larkin	pre 1936	site visit	SFDT	C*
small scale feature	1	fire hydrant	fire hydrant - painted white with blue top	Block #0353 on Larkin	1909c	site visit	BEWS	C*
vegetation	1	planter box	planter box - adjacent to building	Block #0353 on Hyde	2003	site visit	-	NC
vegetation	1	planter box	planter box - granite with tall shrub	Block #0353 on Hyde	2003	site visit	-	NC
vegetation	2	planting area	planting area adjacent to building with box hedge	Block #0353 on Fulton	pre 1938	site visit	-	C
vegetation	2	planting area	planting area adjacent to building with turf and box hedge	Block #0353 on Larkin	pre 1938	site visit	-	C
small scale feature	1	sculpture	sculpture - at entry steps; bronze statue on a concrete base of Ashurbanipal - by Fred Parhad and Frank Tomsick	Block #0353 on Fulton	1985	site visit	DPW	NC
small scale feature	1	sign	sign - logo for SFPD inlaid into the sidewalk	Block #0353 on Fulton	-	site visit	-	-
small scale feature	1	sign	sign - street name 'FULTON' engraved into curbcut ramp apron	Block #0353 on Fulton	-	site visit	DPW	-
small scale feature	1	traffic control box	traffic control box - green metal post	Block #0353 on Fulton	1916c	site visit	-	C
small scale feature	6	tree well	tree well - square metal grate	Block #0353 on Hyde	2003	site visit	DPW	NC
small scale feature	1	utility	utility protected by a green mesh cage	Block #0353 on Larkin	1916c	site visit	-	C
small scale feature	1	light pole	light pole - double lamp on metal post on median into driveway	Block #0353 on Hyde	2003	site visit	-	NC
small scale feature	3	street light	street light - aggregate concrete post with single pendant arm style with cobra luminaire	Block #0353 on Fulton, Larkin	-	SF PUC	SF PUC	-
small scale feature	6	street light	street light - single cobra	Block #0353 on Fulton, Hyde, McAllister	-	SF PUC	SF PUC	-
small scale feature	1	sculpture	Pioneer Monument - see Block #0354 for more information	Fulton between Larkin and Hyde	1894, 1993	1987NHL, 1994 SFLD	DPW	C
spatial organization	1	Fulton Street Mall	Fulton Street Mall - associated with Blocks #0351, #0353, #0354, #0788	Block #0353	c. 1916	c. 1918 SF Planning image	DPW	C
vegetation	20	tree	street tree - Platanus x acerifolia, London Plane	Block #0353 on Hyde, McAllister	2003	site visit	DPW	NC
vegetation	5	tree	street tree - adjacent to planting area - Platanus x acerifolia, London Plane	Block #0353 on Larkin	1980-1993	site visit	-	NC
vegetation	20	tree	tree in an allee with turf - (historically) pollarded Platanus x acerifolia, London Plane	Block #0353 on Fulton	c. 1936	J. Tilman image courtesy of Moulin Archive	-	C

*This feature has been determined to be a contributing feature of the Civic Center Historic District. Features similar to this one located outside the district boundaries were not evaluated as part of this project.

San Francisco Civic Center Historic District
Planning Department, San Francisco, California

Cultural Landscape Report
BLOCK #0354



Block #0354, bounded by Fulton, Hyde, Grove and Larkin Streets, is home to the San Francisco Public Library, completed in 1995 and opened in April 1996.

North of the Fulton Street façade is the location of an historic sculpture that has been part of the Civic Center since 1894, the Pioneer Monument (James Lick Memorial). Today, the sculpture functions as a median in the Fulton Street/Fulton Mall right-of-way that slows through-traffic between Larkin and Hyde Streets. The sculpture was relocated from the corner of Hyde and Grove Streets to this location in 1993 when construction for the new library commenced.

There are few landscape elements from Block #0354 that date to the period of significance. These features include London Plane trees planted in turf beds at the building's north side, the Pioneer Monument, fire utilities and granite curb remnants.



Platanus x acerifolia/London Plane trees in square tree wells filled with square tiles along Fulton Mall



Square tree well filled with square tiles along Grove St



Platanus x acerifolia/London Plane trees in turf planting area along Fulton Mall



Ornate metal light poles at SF Public Library's Larkin St entrance



Single cobra street light along Fulton Mall



Pioneer Monument at Fulton Mall



MUNI bus shelter with domed glass roof along Larkin St



San Francisco Public Library*



Raised planting area with Platanus x acerifolia/London Plane trees at Larkin St



Elevated planting area and seat wall with skateboard deterrent clips at Larkin St



Single cobra street light along Larkin St



Sculpture in planting area - Double L Excentric Gyrotory



High pressure auxiliary water supply hydrant along Larkin St



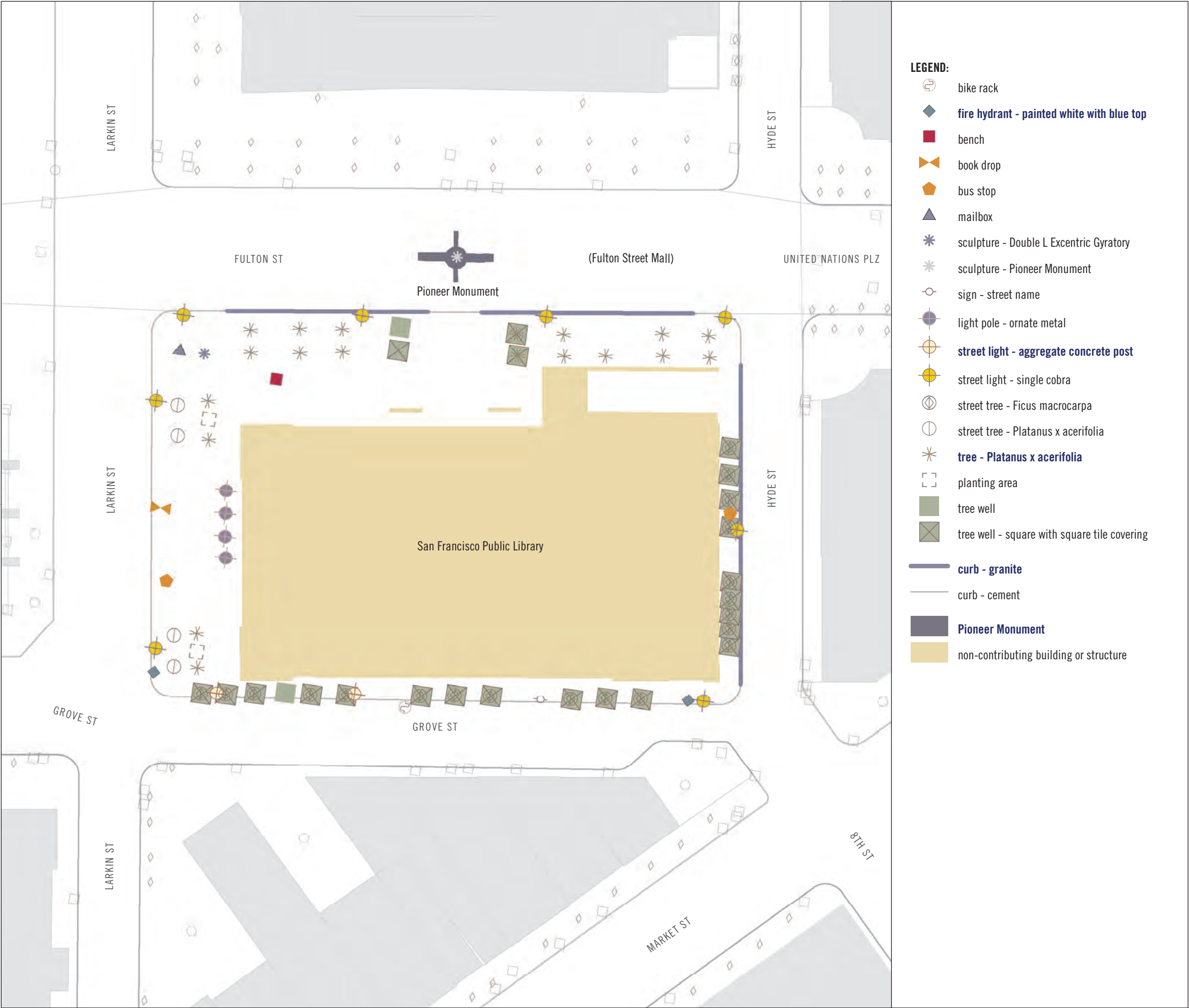
Ficus microcarpa/Ficus trees along Grove St



On street bike parking at library's Grove St entrance

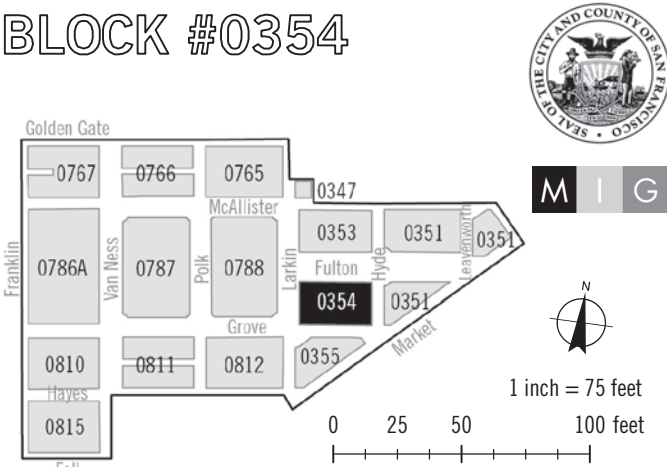


US Postal Service mail boxes along Larkin St



San Francisco Civic Center Historic District
Planning Department, San Francisco, California

Cultural Landscape Report
BLOCK #0354



- SOURCES:**
1. MIG field work, September 10-14, 2012
 2. Hand drawn inventory field maps, September 2012
 3. Bing aerial imagery online for ArcGIS, 2012
 4. San Francisco Utility Commission light pole data, 2012
 5. San Francisco publicly available GIS city lot, block and curb data, 2012

DRAWN BY:
MIG: Rachel Edmonds, Steve Leathers and Heather Buczek using Arc GIS 10.

DRAWN DATE:
March 2013, updated September 2013

- LEGEND FOR SURROUNDING LANDSCAPE FEATURES:**
- vegetation
 - small scale feature
 - circulation
 - circulation - curb
 - building or structure

BLOCK #0354 - SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY								
CHARACTERISTIC	QTY.	FEATURE	DESCRIPTION	ADDRESS/LOCATION	DATE BUILT	PRIMARY SOURCE	JURISDICTION	CHARACTER DEFINING
buildings & structures	1	San Francisco Public Library	San Francisco Public Library; former site of Marshall Square constructed in 1870; site of south wing of Old City Hall until 1906	100 Larkin	1995	1994 SFLD	City/County	NC
circulation	7	curb	6" cement curb	Block #0354 on Fulton, Grove, Hyde, Larkin	-	site visit	DPW	NC
circulation	3	curb	6" granite curb	Block #0354 on Fulton, Hyde	-	site visit	DPW	C
small scale feature	1	bench	bench - built into planting area with turf	Block #0354 on Fulton	1995c	site visit	-	NC
small scale feature	1	bike rack	bike corral - metal bollards with sunken ring racks (6 total)	Block #0354 on Grove	1995c	site visit	DPW	NC
small scale feature	1	book drop box	book drop box - brushed steel with blue text	Block #0354 on Larkin	1995c	site visit	City/County	NC
small scale feature	2	bus stop	bus stop - covered with bench	Block #0354 on Hyde, Larkin	1980c, 2010	site visit	MUNI	NC
small scale feature	1	fire hydrant	fire hydrant - painted white with blue top	Block #0354 on Grove	1909	site visit	SFFD	C*
small scale feature	1	fire hydrant	fire hydrant - painted white with blue top; embossed 1909	Block #0354 on Larkin	1909	site visit	BEWS	C*
small scale feature	1	mail box	mail box - two blue metal mail boxes no logo	Block #0354 on Larkin	1995c	site visit	USPS	NC
small scale feature	1	sculpture	sculpture - Double L Excentric Gyrtatory - located in square turf planting area; 30' tall stainless steel by George Rickey	Block #0354 on Larkin	1982, 1997	site visit	DPW	NC
small scale feature	1	sign	sign - street name 'GROVE' engraved into curbcut ramp apron	Block #0354 on Grove		site visit	DPW	-
small scale feature	1	tree well	tree well - missing tree	Block #0354 on Grove	1995c	site visit	DPW	-
small scale feature	23	tree well	tree well - no tree and filled in with small square tiles	Block #0354 on Fulton, Grove, Hyde	1995c	site visit	DPW	-
small scale feature	4	light pole	light pole - ornate metal postes with glass lamps, appear historic	Block #0354 on Larkin	1995c	site visit	City/County	-
small scale feature	2	street light	street light - aggregate concrete post with single pendant arm style with cobra luminaire	Block #0354 on Grove	pre 1945	1945c aerial CED Archives	SF PUC	C
small scale feature	8	street light	street light - single cobra	Block #0354 on Fulton, Grove, Hyde, Larkin	-	SF PUC	SF PUC	-
small scale features	1	Pioneer Monument	Pioneer Monument (James Lick Memorial) by Frank Happersberger, built 1894; modeling of large figures, ordinary people depicted in heroic groupings. Located at NE corner of Hyde & Grove until 1993 when moved to Fulton Street ROW between Larkin & Hyde.	Fulton between Larkin and Hyde	1894, 1993	1987 NHL, 1994 SFLD	DPW	C
spatial organization	1	Fulton Street Mall	Fulton Street Mall - associated with Blocks #0351, #0353, #0354, #0788	Block #0354	c. 1916	c. 1918 SF Planning image	DPW	C
vegetation	2	planting area	planting area - with turf; skateboard chips on edges	Block #0354 on Larkin	1995	site visit	-	NC
vegetation	20	tree	street tree - Ficus macrocarpa, Chinese Banyan	Block #0354 on Grove, Hyde	1995c	site visit	DPW	NC
vegetation	4	tree	street tree - Platanus x acerifolia, London Plane	Block #0354 on Larkin	1995c	site visit	DPW	NC
vegetation	17	tree	tree - in planting area with turf - Platanus x acerifolia, London Plane	Block #0354 on Fulton, Larkin	1920s, 1995	c. 1920 LOC image	DPW	C
vegetation	2	tree	tree in plaza with square tree wells filled with square tiles - Platanus x acerifolia, London Plane	Block #0354 on Fulton	1920s, 1995	c. 1920 LOC image	DPW	C

*This feature has been determined to be a contributing feature of the Civic Center Historic District. Features similar to this one located outside the district boundaries were not evaluated as part of this project.



Plantanus x acerifolia/London Plane trees along Larkin St



Platanus x acerifolia/London Plane trees along Market St



Market St three arm street light with globe pendants



High pressure auxiliary water supply hydrant along Market St



BART escalator entrance at Grove St



Square tree well with no grate along Larkin St



Circular tree well with radial metal tree grate along Market St



Market St pole base



Low pressure hydrant along Larkin St

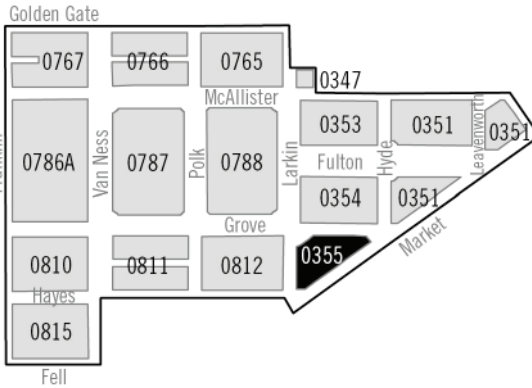


Wells Fargo building entrance at Grove St*

San Francisco Civic Center Historic District
Planning Department, San Francisco, California

Cultural Landscape Report

BLOCK #0355



Buildings on block #0355 are oriented towards Market Street and include restaurants, offices, commercial services, BART station access, and other uses. The Grove Street façades feature parking and delivery access as well as restaurants and offices.

There are few landscape elements that date to the period of significance. These include granite curbs, fire utilities, and Market Street pedestrian lighting.

Features on block #0355 built in conjunction with UN Plaza and the Market Street redesign will require a future study to fully understand how they contribute to the significance of the larger Civic Center district. More information about UN Plaza is in the Evaluation section.



Granite curbs and inlaid metal street sign at Hyde St



Granite curbs at Hayes St



Single cobra street light at Grove St



Fire and police box at Larkin and Hayes Streets



Surface parking lot adjacent to Wells Fargo building at Larkin St



Limit of Market St brick paving at Grove St



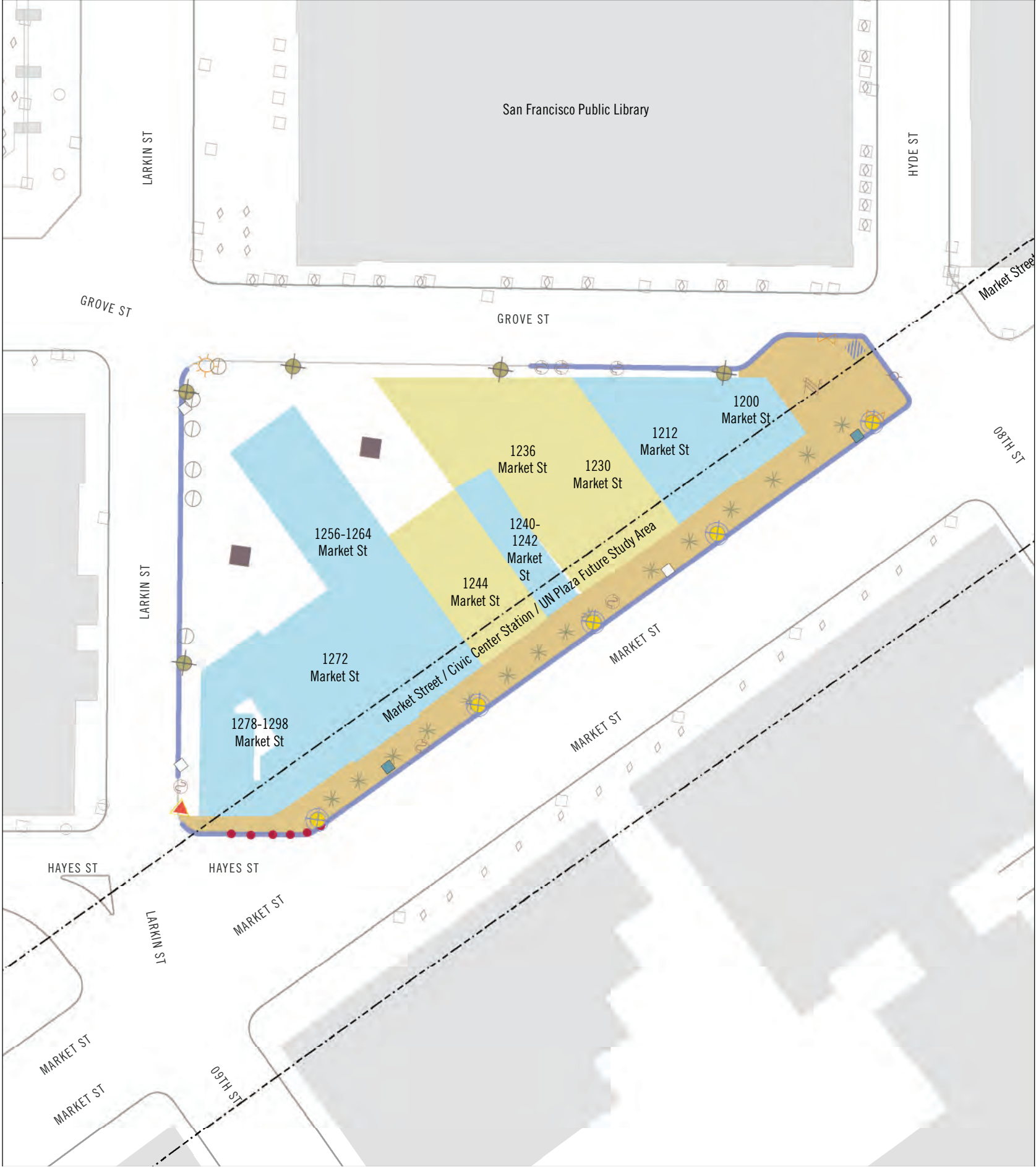
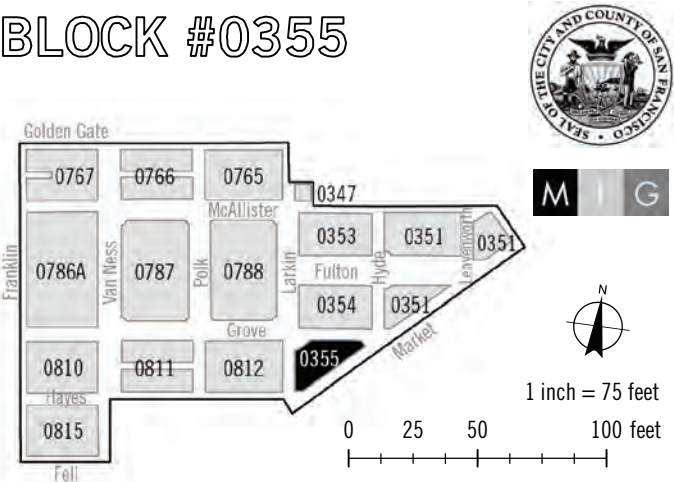
Granite bollards with chain along Hayes and Market Streets



Informational kiosk located at Hyde and Grove Streets

San Francisco Civic Center Historic District
Planning Department, San Francisco, California

Cultural Landscape Report
BLOCK #0355



- SOURCES:**
- 1. MIG field work, September 10-14, 2012
 - 2. Hand drawn inventory field maps, September 2012
 - 3. Bing aerial imagery online for ArcGIS, 2012
 - 4. San Francisco Utility Commission light pole data, 2012
 - 5. San Francisco publicly available GIS city lot, block and curb data, 2012

DRAWN BY:
MIG: Rachel Edmonds, Steve Leathers and Heather Buczek using Arc GIS 10.

DRAWN DATE:
March 2013, updated July 2014

- LEGEND FOR SURROUNDING LANDSCAPE FEATURES:**
- ◊ vegetation
 - small scale feature
 - circulation
 - circulation - curb
 - building or structure

BLOCK #0355 - WELLS FARGO & OTHER MARKET STREET BUILDINGS								
CHARACTERISTIC	QTY.	FEATURE	DESCRIPTION	ADDRESS/LOCATION	DATE BUILT	PRIMARY SOURCE	JURISDICTION	CHARACTER DEFINING
buildings & structures	1	Commercial building	Marye Building	1200 Market	1908	1994 SFLD	private	C*
buildings & structures	1	Commercial building	Commercial building	1212 Market	1907	1994 SFLD	private	C
buildings & structures	3	Commercial buildings	Commercial buildings	1230 Market, 1236 Market*, 1244 Market	1906-1924	1994 SFLD	private	NC
buildings & structures	1	Commercial building	Commercial building	1240-42 Market	1908	1994 SFLD	private	C*
buildings & structures	1	Wells Fargo Building	Wells Fargo Building - 2-story brick building extending through the block from Market (front side) to Grove (back side)	1256-64 Market	1908	1994 SFLD	private	C*
buildings & structures	1	Commercial building	Commercial building (Hotel Avalon)	1272-76 Market	1907	1994 SFLD	private	C
buildings & structures	1	Commercial building	Commercial building	1278-98 Market	1907	1994 SFLD	private	C
circulation	2	curb	6" cement curb	Block #0355 on Grove, Larkin	-	site visit	DPW	-
circulation	2	curb	6" granite curb	Block #0355 on Larkin	1915c	site visit	DPW	C
circulation	3	curb	12" granite curb	Block #0355 on Market, Grove, Hayes	1915c	site visit	DPW	C
circulation	1	escalator	escalator to Bay Area Transit subway tunnel	Block #0355 on Hyde	1973	site visit	BART	U***
circulation	2	parking lot	parking lot - asphalt (vacant lot)	Block #0355 on Larkin, Grove (41-47 Grove, SE corner of Grove & Larkin)	1966c	1994 SFLD	private	NC
circulation	1	sidewalk	sidewalk - brick sidewalks with a herringbone pattern	Block #0355 on Market	1973c	site visit	DPW	U***
small scale feature	4	bike rack	bike rack - metal staple (three in a row)	Block #0355 on Market, Grove, Larkin	-	site visit	DPW	NC
small scale feature	2	bike rack	bike rack - ring and post style	Block #0355 on Grove	-	site visit	DPW	NC
small scale feature	6	bollard	bollard - 1 of many linked by chain around the curve of the block	Block #0355 on Hayes	1973c	site visit	DPW	U***
small scale feature	1	fire box	fire and police box - red metal on single post, blue compartment	Block #0355 on Larkin	1899c	site visit	SFDT	C**
small scale feature	1	fire hydrant	fire hydrant - painted white; embossed 2001	Block #3701 on Larkin Street	2001	site visit	SFFD	NC
small scale feature	1	fire hydrant	fire hydrant - painted white; embossed 1980	Block #3701 on Larkin Street	1980	site visit	SFFD	NC
small scale feature	1	fire hydrant	fire hydrant - painted white; embossed 1995	Block #3701 on Market Street	1995	site visit	SFFD	NC
small scale feature	1	fire hydrant	fire hydrant - painted white with blue top; embossed 1909	Block #3701 on Market Street	1909	site visit	BEWS	C**
small scale feature	1	fire hydrant	fire hydrant - painted white with blue top	Block #3701 on Market Street	1909c	site visit	BEWS	C**
small scale feature	1	kiosk	kiosk - round metal with dome and advertising	Block #0355 on Hyde	1975	site visit	DPW	U***
small scale feature	2	newspaper box	newspaper box	Block #0355 on Grove, Market	2006	site visit	DPW	NC
small scale feature	1	sign	sign - metal street sign inlaid to brick sidewalk 'HYDE ST.'	Block #0355 on Hyde	1975	site visit	DPW	U***
small scale feature	5	street light	street light - aggregate concrete post with single pendant arm style with cobra luminaire	Block #0355 on Grove, Larkin	pre 1945	1945c aerial CED Archives	SF PUC	C
small scale feature	5	street light	street light - Market Street three arm; globe luminaires on cast iron post	Block #0355 on Market	1915-1928	Bancroft image	SF PUC	C
small scale feature	1	street signal	street signal - aggregate concrete post	Block #0355 on Grove	pre 1945	1945c aerial CED Archives	SF PUC	C
vegetation	6	tree	street tree - Platanus x acerifolia, London Plane, no tree grate	Block #0355 on Grove, Larkin	1973c	site visit	DPW	NC
vegetation	15	tree	street tree - circular tree well - Platanus x acerifolia, London Plane, with metal radial grate	Block #0355 on Market	1973	site visit	DPW	U***

*The 1994 San Francisco Landmark District designation recognizes these buildings as contributory/altered and non-contributing.

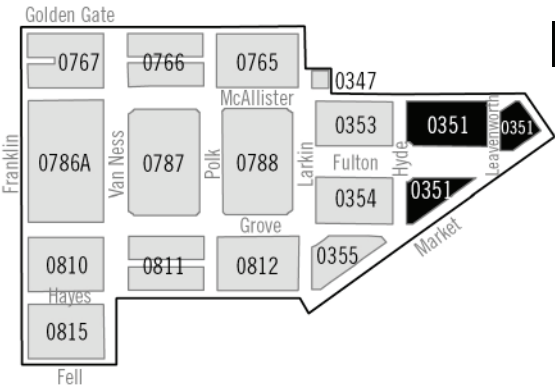
**This feature has been determined to be a contributing feature of the Civic Center Historic District. Features similar to this one located outside the district boundaries were not evaluated as part of this project.

***The Market Street area will require a future study to fully understand how it contributes to the significance of the larger Civic Center district.

San Francisco Civic Center Historic District
Planning Department, San Francisco, California

Cultural Landscape Report

BLOCK #0351



The three city blocks that comprise block #0351 form an open space known as the UN Plaza, designed by master landscape architect Lawrence Halprin. The Plaza established Fulton Street/Fulton Mall as a pedestrian-only space between Market and Hyde Streets. UN Plaza’s distinct palette of landscape features links to and complements Market Street on one side, while its other side is linked to the Civic Center. Fulton Mall provides a significant view shed of City Hall.

Landscape elements that date to the period of significance include granite curbs of varying width, and Market Street pedestrian lighting.

The UN Plaza will require a future study to fully understand how it contributes to the significance of the larger Civic Center district. More information about UN Plaza is in the Evaluation section.



Plantanus x acerifolia/London Plane trees in turf planting area along Leavenworth St



Granite bollards with chain along McAllister St east of Federal Building



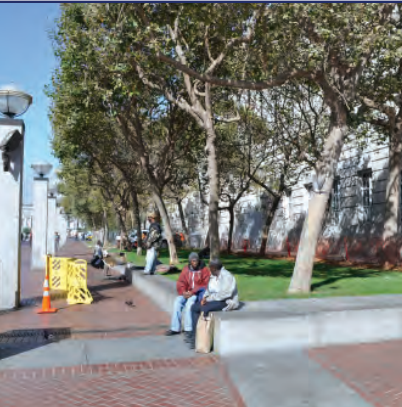
Market St three arm street light with globe pendants



Square granite column lights with frosted globes along Fulton Mall



Commercial building at 10 United Nations Plaza*



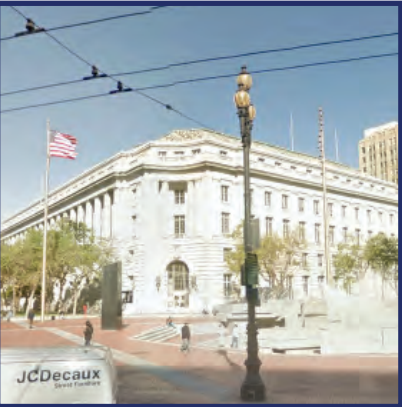
Double row of Platanus x acerifolia/London Plane trees in elevated planting area along Fulton Mall



Decorative metal covers over tree wells near BART entrance at UN Plaza



Simon Bolivar bronze statue along Fulton Mall at Hyde St



Federal Building*



Plantanus x acerifolia/London Plane trees in circular tree grates along Hyde St



Limit of Market St brick paving at Grove St



Gold spotlights at UN Plaza fountain



Fire box at UN Plaza and base of gold flag pole



Orpheum Theater at Hyde and Grove Streets*



Double row of Plantanus x acerifolia/London Plane trees along Market St



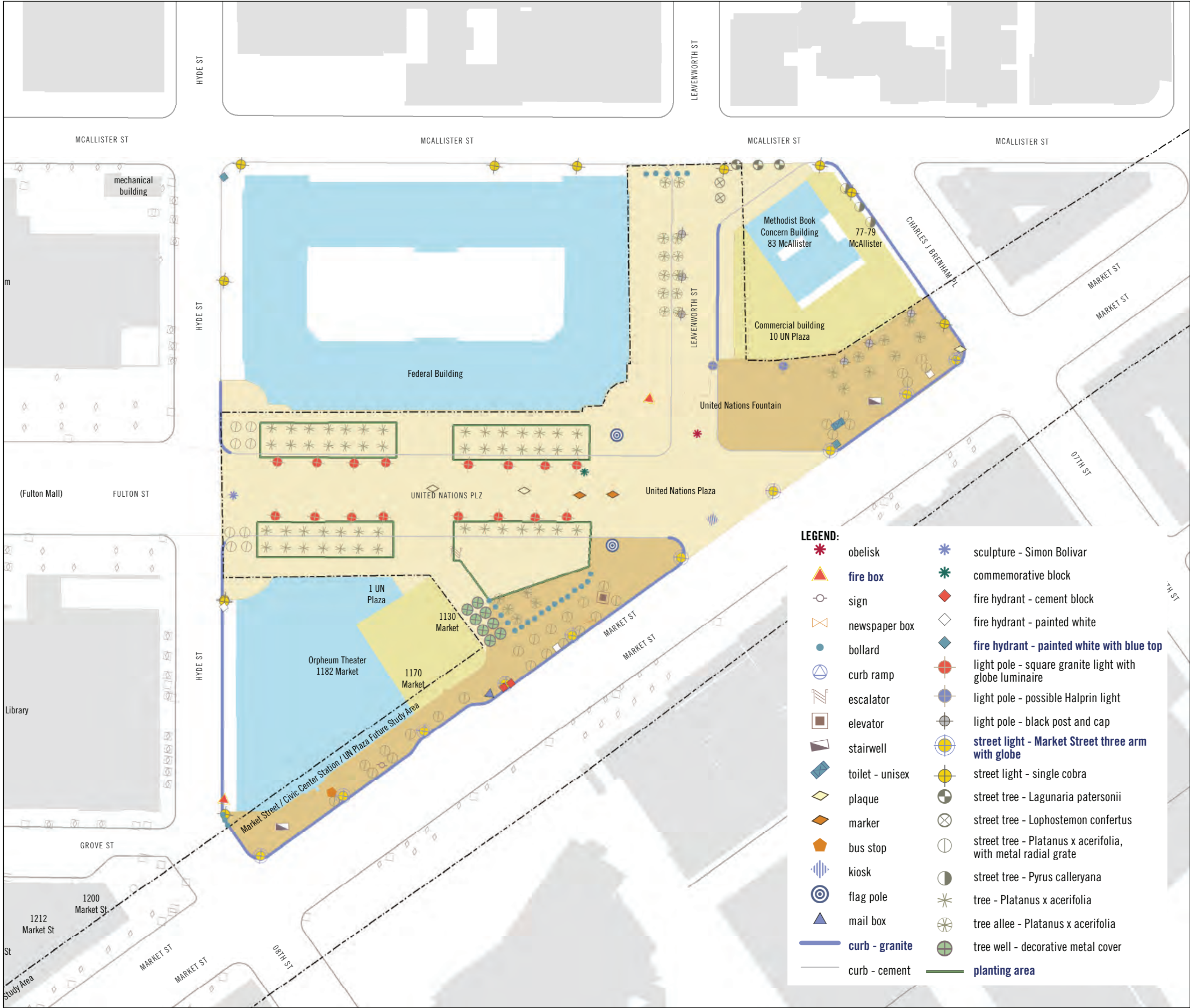
Circular tree well with radial metal tree grate along Market St



UN Seal embedded in brick at UN Plaza



United Nations Plaza Fountain

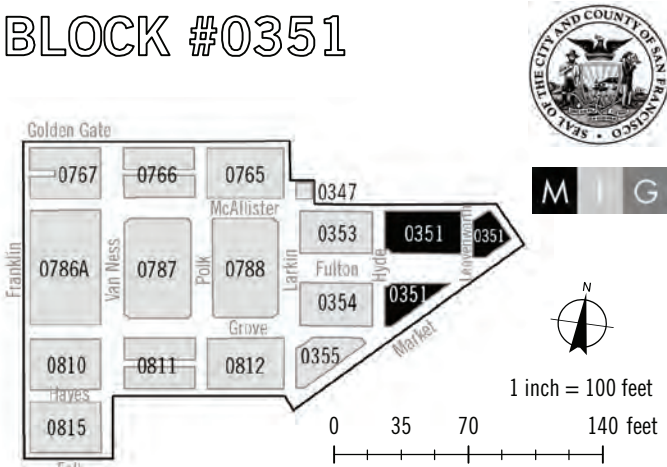


- LEGEND:**
- | | | | |
|--|-----------------|--|--|
| | obelisk | | sculpture - Simon Bolivar |
| | fire box | | commemorative block |
| | sign | | fire hydrant - cement block |
| | newspaper box | | fire hydrant - painted white |
| | bollard | | fire hydrant - painted white with blue top |
| | curb ramp | | light pole - square granite light with globe luminaire |
| | escalator | | light pole - possible Halprin light |
| | elevator | | light pole - black post and cap |
| | stairwell | | street light - Market Street three arm with globe |
| | toilet - unisex | | street light - single cobra |
| | plaque | | street tree - Lagunaria patersonii |
| | marker | | street tree - Lophostemon confertus |
| | bus stop | | street tree - Platanus x acerifolia, with metal radial grate |
| | kiosk | | street tree - Pyrus calleryana |
| | flag pole | | tree - Platanus x acerifolia |
| | mail box | | tree allee - Platanus x acerifolia |
| | curb - granite | | tree well - decorative metal cover |
| | curb - cement | | planting area |

San Francisco Civic Center Historic District
Planning Department, San Francisco, California

Cultural Landscape Report

BLOCK #0351



SOURCES:

1. MIG field work, September 10-14, 2012
2. Hand drawn inventory field maps, September 2012
3. Bing aerial imagery online for ArcGIS, 2012
4. San Francisco Utility Commission light pole data, 2012
5. San Francisco publicly available GIS city lot, block and curb data, 2012

DRAWN BY:

MIG: Rachel Edmonds, Steve Leathers and Heather Buczek using Arc GIS 10.

DRAWN DATE:

March 2013, updated July 2014

LEGEND FOR SURROUNDING LANDSCAPE FEATURES:

- | | |
|--|-----------------------|
| | vegetation |
| | small scale feature |
| | circulation |
| | circulation - curb |
| | building or structure |

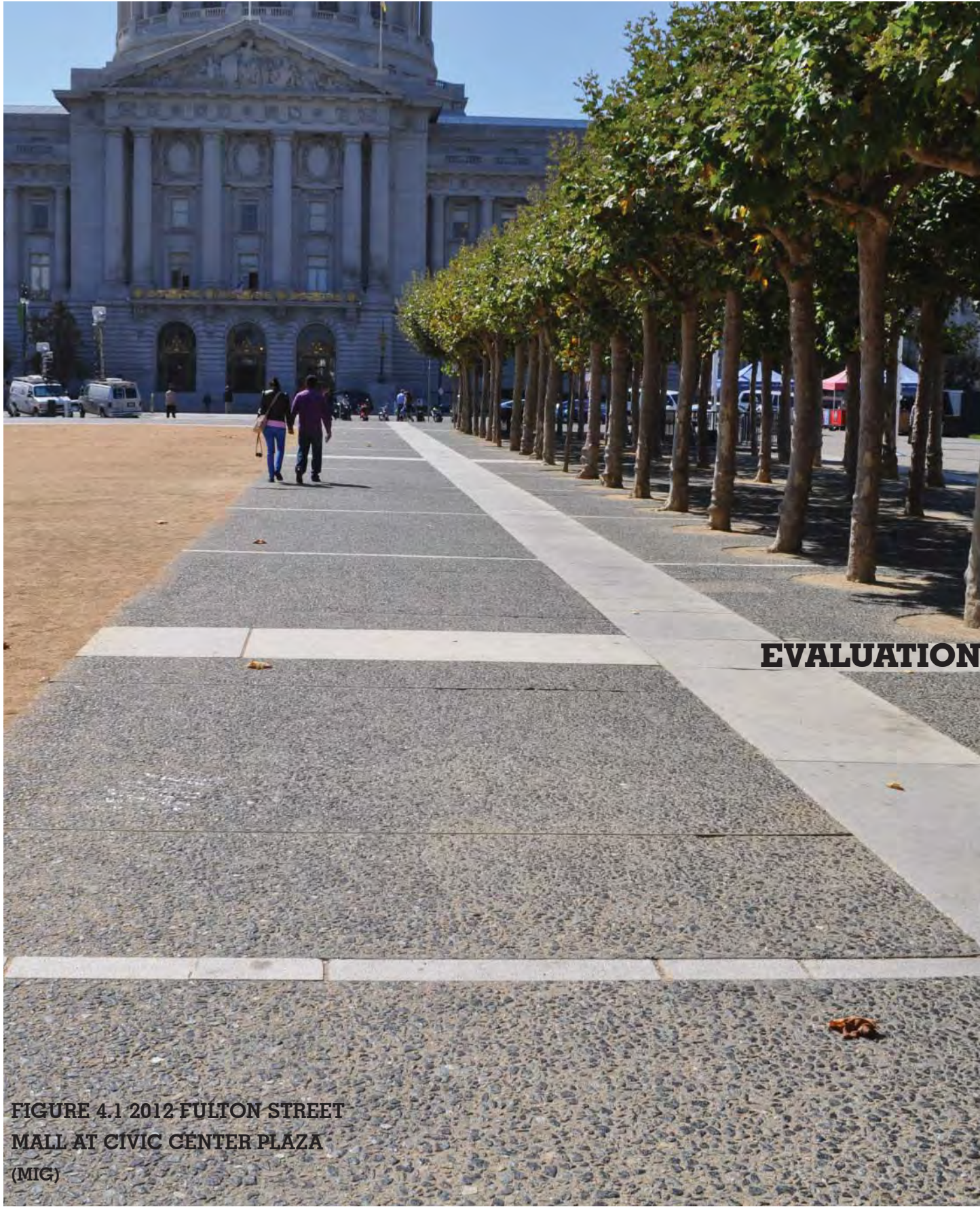
LEGEND BLOCK N, O, P (cont.):

- | | |
|--|---|
| | Market Street / Civic Center Station / UN Plaza Future Study Area |
| | contributing building or structure |
| | United Nations Plaza |
| | non-contributing building or structure |
| | sidewalk - brick with herringbone pattern |

BLOCK #0351 - UNITED NATIONS PLAZA									
CHARACTERISTIC	QTY.	FEATURE	DESCRIPTION	ADDRESS/LOCATION	DATE BUILT	PRIMARY SOURCE	JURISDICTION	CHARACTER DEFINING	
buildings & structures	1	Commercial building	Commercial building	10 United Nations Plaza	1982	1994 SFLD	private	NC	
buildings & structures	1	Commercial building	Commercial building	1 United Nations Plaza	1927	1994 SFLD	private	C	
buildings & structures	2	Commercial buildings	Commercial buildings	1130-1170 Market	1983	1994 SFLD	private	NC	
buildings & structures	1	Commercial building	Commercial building	79 McAllister	1906	1994 SFLD	private	NC	
buildings & structures	1	Residential building	Methodist Book Concern Building	83 McAllister	1907	1994 SFLD	private	C	
buildings & structures	1	Federal Building	Federal Building	50 United Nations Plaza	1936	1978 NR, 1987 NHL, 1994 SFLD	US Govt	C	
buildings & structures	1	Orpheum Theater	Orpheum Theater	1182 Market Street	1925	1978 NR, 1994 SFLD	private	C	
circulation	4	curb	12" granite curb	Block #0351 on Charles J. Brenham Place, Hyde, Market	-	site visit	DPW	C	
circulation	8	curb	6" cement curb	Block #0351 on Hyde, Leavenworth, McAllister, UN Plaza	-	site visit	DPW	-	
circulation	4	curb	6" granite curb	Block #0351 on Hyde, Leavenworth	-	site visit	DPW	C	
circulation	1	curb ramp	curb ramp - brick	Block #0351 on Market	1975	site visit	DPW	U**	
circulation	1	elevator	elevator into the BART substation	United Nations Plaza	1973-1975	site visit	BART	U**	
circulation	1	escalator	escalator - down into to BART subway station	United Nations Plaza	1973-1975	site visit	BART	U**	
circulation	1	sidewalk	sidewalk - brick sidewalks with a herringbone pattern	Block #0355 on Market	1973c	site visit	DPW	U**	
circulation	2	stairs	stairwell - down into to BART subway station	Block #0351 on Market, United Nations Plaza	1973-1975	site visit	BART	U**	
small scale feature	25	bollard	bollard - cement linked with chain	Block #0351 on Hyde, McAllister, United Nations Plaza	1976c	site visit	DPW	U**	
small scale feature	1	bus stop	bus stop - covered with bench	Block #0351 on Market	2010	site visit	MUNI	-	
small scale feature	1	commemorative block	commemorative block - stone with UN emblem and text	United Nations Plaza	1995	site visit	DPW	-	
small scale feature	2	fire box	fire box - red metal on single post	Block #0351 on Hyde, United Nations Plaza	1899c	site visit	SFDT	C*	
small scale feature	2	fire hydrant	fire hydrant - cement block with two spouts	Block #0351 on Market	1970c	site visit	SFFD	U**	
small scale feature	3	fire hydrant	fire hydrant - painted white	Block #0351 on Hyde, Market	-	site visit	SFFD	-	
small scale feature	2	fire hydrant	fire hydrant - painted white with blue top; one embossed 1909	Block #0351 on Hyde, Market	1909	site visit	BEWS	C*	
small scale feature	2	flag pole	flag pole - metal base in radial pattern	United Nations Plaza	1975	site visit	DPW	U**	
small scale feature	1	fountain	fountain - located in plaza, large stones	United Nations Plaza	1975	site visit	DPW	U**	
small scale feature	1	kiosk	kiosk - advertisements	Block #0351 on Market	1975	site visit	DPW	U**	
small scale feature	1	mail box	mail box - two army green embossed U.S. Mail	Block #0351 on Market	-	site visit	USPS	-	
small scale feature	1	marker	marker - lettering noting the latitude coordinates	United Nations Plaza	1995	site visit	DPW	NC	
small scale feature	1	marker	marker - stone with text	United Nations Plaza	1995	site visit	DPW	NC	
small scale feature	1	newspaper box	newspaper box	Block #0351 on Market	2006	site visit	DPW	NC	
small scale feature	1	obelisk	obelisk - black stone witht the UN emblem	United Nations Plaza	1975	site visit	DPW	U**	
small scale feature	1	plaque	plaque - in walkway "C.J. Brenham Pl."	Block #0351 on Charles J. Brenham Place	-	site visit	DPW	-	
small scale feature	1	plaque	plaque - inlaid in pathway	United Nations Plaza	-	site visit	DPW	-	
small scale feature	1	plaque	plaque - United Nations emblem	United Nations Plaza	1995	site visit	DPW	NC	
small scale feature	1	sculpture	sculpture - bronze Simon Bolivar	United Nations Plaza	1984	site visit	DPW	NC	
small scale feature	1	sign	sign - advertisements	Block #0351 on Market	-	site visit	DPW	-	
small scale feature	1	toilet	toilet - green painted metal with gold detail - unisex	United Nations Plaza	1995	site visit	DPW	NC	
small scale feature	36	tree well	tree well - metal grate with radial pattern	Block #0351 on Market	1975	site visit	DPW	U**	
small scale feature	8	tree well	tree well - no tree, filled in with decorative metal cover	United Nations Plaza	1975	site visit	DPW	U**	
small scale feature	2	light pole	gold spotlight pole with 12 lamps - possible Halprin light fixture	United Nations Plaza	1975	SF PUC	SF PUC	U**	
small scale feature	6	light pole	light pole - black post and cap	United Nations Plaza	-	SF PUC	SF PUC	-	
small scale feature	16	light pole	UN Plaza square granite light standard with sphere globe luminaire	United Nations Plaza	1975, 1995	site visit	DPW	U**	
small scale feature	10	street light	street light - Market Street three arm; globe luminaires on cast iron post	Block #0351 on Market	pre 1928	Bancroft image	SF PUC	C	
small scale feature	11	street light	street light - single cobra	Block #0351 on Charles J. Brenham Place, Hyde, McAllister	-	SF PUC	SF PUC	-	
spatial organization	1	United Nations Fountain	United Nations Fountain	United Nations Plaza	1975	site visit	DPW	U**	
spatial organization	1	United Nations Plaza	United Nations Plaza; brick plaza with granite borders, rows of trees, bronze flag pole	United Nations Plaza	1975	1994 SFLD	DPW	U**	
spatial organization	1	Fulton Street Mall	Fulton Street Mall - associated with Blocks #0351, #0353, #0354, #0788	Block #0351	c. 1916	c. 1918 SF Planning image	DPW	C	
vegetation	1	planting area	planting area with stairs and escalator	Block #0351 on United Nations Plaza	1936, 1975	site visit	DPW	U**	
vegetation	3	planting area	planting area with tree alley	Block #0351 on United Nations Plaza	1936	site visit	DPW	C	
vegetation	3	tree	street tree - Lagunaria patersonii, Norfolk Island Hibiscus	Block #0351 on McAllister	2010-2012	site visit	DPW	NC	
vegetation	2	tree	street tree - Lophostemon confertus, Brisbane Box	Block #0351 on Leavenworth	-	site visit	DPW	-	
vegetation	36	tree	street tree - Platanus x acerifolia, London Plane, with metal radial grate	Block #0351 on Market, Hyde and United Nations Plaza	1975	site visit	DPW	U**	
vegetation	3	tree	street tree - Pyrus calleryana, Callery Pear	Block #0351 on Charles J. Brenham Place	-	site visit	DPW	-	
vegetation	8	tree	tree alley east of fountain - Platanus x acerifolia, London Plane	Block #0351 on Market	1975	site visit	DPW	U**	
vegetation	49	tree	tree in planting area - Platanus x acerifolia, London Plane	United Nations Plaza	1936	site visit	DPW	C	
vegetation	12	tree	tree alley north of fountain - Platanus x acerifolia, London Plane	Block #0351 on Leavenworth St	1975	site visit	DPW	U**	
vegetation	5	tree	tree alley protected by bollards with chains - Platanus x acerifolia, London Plane	Block #0351 on Market	1975	site visit	DPW	U**	

*This feature has been determined to be a contributing feature of the Civic Center Historic District. Features similar to this one located outside the district boundaries were not evaluated as part of this project.

**The United Nations Plaza, Halprin Fountain and Market Street will require a future study to fully understand how it contributes to the significance of the larger Civic Center district.



**FIGURE 4.1 2012 FULTON STREET
MALL AT CIVIC CENTER PLAZA
(MIG)**

EVALUATION

This section evaluates the historical significance of the San Francisco Civic Center Historic District according to the National Register Criteria for the Evaluation of Historic Properties, focusing upon areas of significance related to the cultural landscape. The section begins with a primer on the National Register of Historic Places including definitions of key terms that are referenced throughout this section. That is followed by a review of existing documentation of the Civic Center Historic District completed for the National Register of Historic Places and National Historic Landmarks programs, and the City of San Francisco Landmark District under Article 10 of the Planning Code. This section ends with recommendations for updating existing documentation to include a more complete discussion of the significance of the cultural landscape, including features that date to previously established periods, and periods and areas of significance that were not previously recognized. It also includes recommendations for further research into potential areas and periods of significance that were outside the scope of this project.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORICAL PLACES

A set of guidelines have been developed for properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places or properties designated National Historic Landmarks by the United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service. These guidelines establish the standards a property must meet to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places, provides the context necessary for understanding the current documentation, and guidance for proposed changes to the documentation.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CRITERIA²²²

Any property listed in the National Register or designated a National Historic Landmark must meet at least one of these criteria. The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and:

222 “How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation Bulletin,” U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, revised 2002 <<http://www.nps.gov/nr/publications/bulletins/nrb15/>> August 19, 2013

- A. That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- B. That are associated with the lives of significant persons in or past; or
- C. That embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; (design) or
- D. That have yielded or may be likely to yield, information important in history or prehistory. (archaeological resources)

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS CRITERIA²²³

The quality of national significance is ascribed to districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess exceptional value or quality in illustrating or interpreting the heritage of the United States in history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture and that possess a high degree of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and:

- 1. That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to, and are identified with, or that outstandingly represent, the broad national patterns of United States history and from which an understanding and appreciation of those patterns may be gained; or
- 2. That are associated importantly with the lives of persons nationally significant in the history of the United States; or
- 3. That represent some great idea or ideal of the American people; or
- 4. That embody the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type specimen exceptionally valuable for a study of a period, style or method of construction, or that

223 “How to Prepare National Historic Landmark Nominations,” U.S. Department of the Interior, National Parks Service, 1999 <<http://www.nps.gov/nr/publications/bulletins/nhl/index.htm>>

represent a significant, distinctive and exceptional entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or

5. That are composed of integral parts of the environment not sufficiently significant by reason of historical association or artistic merit to warrant individual recognition but collectively compose an entity of exceptional historical or artistic significance, or outstandingly commemorate or illustrate a way of life or culture; or
6. That have yielded or may be likely to yield information of major scientific importance by revealing new cultures, or by shedding light upon periods of occupation over large areas of the United States. Such sites are those which have yielded, or which may reasonably be expected to yield, data affecting theories, concepts and ideas to a major degree. (archaeological resources)

PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE

Simply defined, the period of significance is “the span of time in which a property attained the significance for which it meets the National Register criteria.”²²⁴ A work of architecture or landscape architecture typically has a period of significance that relates to the period of construction or end of its construction date. If a property is significant for its association with an event or a person, then the length of the period of significance typically relates to the length of time that the event or person was associated with the property.

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE

An area of significance is the “aspect of historic development in which a property made contributions for which it meets the National Register criteria, such as agriculture or politics/ government.”²²⁵ Though constantly evolving as historic periods are researched and defined as having local, state or national

significance, there is a broad set of areas of significance that have been defined by the United States Department of the Interior. These include, but are not limited to: Agriculture, Architecture, Archeology, Art, Commerce, Communications, Community Planning and Development, Conservation, Economics, Education, Engineering, Entertainment/Recreation, Ethnic Heritage, Exploration/Settlement, Health/Medicine, Industry, Invention, Landscape Architecture, Law, Literature, Maritime History, Military, Performing Arts, Philosophy, Politics/ Government, Religion, Science, Social History, Transportation, and Other.

CATEGORIES

Each property listed in the National Register of Historic Places is placed in a category that is closely linked to the resource type. There are five categories: buildings, sites, districts, structures and objects. “The National Register does not list cultural events, or skilled or talented individuals, as is done in some countries. Rather, the National Register is oriented to recognizing physically concrete properties that are relatively fixed in location. For purposes of National Register nominations, small groups of properties are listed under a single category, using the primary resource. For example, a city hall and fountain would be categorized by the city hall (building), a farmhouse with two outbuildings would be categorized by the farmhouse (building), and a city park with a gazebo would be categorized by the park (site). Properties with large acreage or a number of resources are usually considered districts.”²²⁶

Building | A building, such as a house, barn, church, hotel, or similar construction, is created principally to shelter any form of human activity. “Building” may also be used to refer to a historically and functionally related unit, such as a courthouse and jail or a house and barn. Examples: carriage house, detached kitchen/privy, house, shed, stable, garage

Structure | The term “structure” is used to distinguish from buildings those functional constructions made usually for purposes other than creating human shelter. Examples: bridge, canal, fence, corncrib, gazebo, lighthouse, windmill

226 “How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation Bulletin,” U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, revised 2002 <<http://www.nps.gov/nr/publications/bulletins/nrb15/>> August 19, 2013.

Object | The term “object” is used to distinguish from buildings and structures those constructions that are primarily artistic in nature or are relatively small in scale and simply constructed. Although it may be, by nature or design, movable, an object is associated with a specific setting or environment. Examples: boundary marker, monument, sculpture, statuary

Site | A site is the location of a significant event, a prehistoric or historic occupation or activity, or a building or structure, whether standing, ruined, or vanished, where the location itself possesses historic, cultural, or archeological value regardless of the value of any existing structure. Examples: battlefield, campsite, designed landscape, trail, ruins of building or structure, habitation site

District | A district possesses a significant concentration, linkage, or continuity of sites, buildings, structures, or objects united historically or aesthetically by plan or physical development. Examples: canal systems, college campuses, estates with large acreage, rural historic districts, transportation networks, residential areas

REVIEW OF EXISTING HISTORIC DISTRICT DOCUMENTATION

The Civic Center Historic District has been officially documented on three separate occasions: the 1978 National Register of Historic Places nomination (1978 NR), the 1987 National Historic Landmark documentation (1987 NHL), and the 1994 San Francisco Landmark District (1994 SFLD).

Each document provides a summary of the site history, a description of the district, information about the district’s significance, and evaluations of the resources within the district. While there is a lot of duplicative information, each also contains a unique perspective on the district and its resources. These documents also contain contradictory elements both within a single document and between the three documents. For example, the 1994 SFLD contains conflicting information about the 1236 Market Street building on block 0355 listing it under both the contributing-altered and non-contributing categories. The 1987 NHL provides descriptions of the district’s resources, but is vague in terms of establishing clear evaluations of whether some resources are contributing or non-contributing. Contradictions between the documents are more numerous. For example, the Powerhouse on block 0347 is contributing in the 1987 NHL, but non-contributing in the 1994 SFLD.

This Cultural Landscape Inventory highlights these contradictions and others and provides clarification regarding the evaluation of extant features located in the district, which are outlined feature by feature in the Existing Conditions and Analysis section. To further clarify the similarities and differences between each of the documents, each document has been summarized below to provide an easy comparison of information relating to common information such as the district’s boundary, period of significance, evaluation criteria, areas of significance, architects/builders, resources that are deemed contributing, and statements of significance. A synthesis of the statements of significance from each of the documentation efforts is included in the appendix for reference. Summaries of the documents are listed below in reverse chronological order, with most recent first.

1994 SAN FRANCISCO LANDMARK DISTRICT²²⁷

Boundary: See Figure 1.2

Period of Significance: 1906-1936

Evaluation Criteria: Structures that have special character and special historical, architectural and aesthetic interest and value; constitutes a distinct section of the City.

Areas of Significance: Beaux Arts style

Architect/Builders (listed): Arthur Brown Jr., Bernard Cahill, Daniel H. Burnham, Frederick H. Meyer, George Kelham, John Bakewell, Jr., John G. Howard, John Merrill, John Reid, Jr., Pietro Belluschi, Walter D. Bliss

Category: District

Historic resources described in documentation (listed by determination category, if noted)²²⁸: see “Resources Documented in Historic District Documentation” table.

227 Copies of the documentation and amendments provided by the City of San Francisco were used as the primary source to develop this summary.
228 Even though buildings and sites were described in the documentation, not all resources received a clear determination.

RESOURCES DESCRIBED IN DOCUMENTATION							
RESOURCE	CONTRIBUTING	NON-CONTRIBUTING	CONTRIBUTING ALTERED	NON-CONTRIBUTING - REMOVED	REMOVED	NO DETERMINATION	NEUTRAL
1 United Nations Plaza (35-37 Fulton Street)	1994 SFLD						1978 NR
10 United Nations Plaza		1994 SFLD					
1170 Market Street (Buker's Pet Store)		1994 SFLD		1978 NR			
1172 Market Street (McCarthy's Cocktail Lounge)				1978 NR			
1212 Market Street	1994 SFLD						
1220-1232 Market Street		1994 SFLD	1994 SFLD				
1236 Market Street		1994 SFLD	1994 SFLD				
1240-1242 Market Street	1994 SFLD						
1244-1254 Market Street		1994 SFLD					
1278-98 Market Street	1994 SFLD						
234 Van Ness Avenue		1994 SFLD					
240 Van Ness Avenue		1994 SFLD					
450 McAllister Street (City Hall Annex)				1994 SFLD			
456 McAllister				1994 SFLD			
460 McAllister				1994 SFLD			
77-79 McAllister Street (7th & McAllister Building)		1994 SFLD					1978 NR
Barbara Apartments	1994 SFLD						
Brooks Hall						1978 NR	
Brooks Hall Ramp						1978 NR	
California State Building (Supreme Court of California, Old State Office Building)	1994 SFLD, 1987 NHL, 1978 NR						
California State Courts Building (State Buidling Annex)		1994 SFLD					
Church of Christ		1994 SFLD					
City Hall	1994 SFLD, 1987 NHL, 1978 NR						
City Hall Annex				1978 NR			
City Hall Statues						1994 SFLD	
Civic Center Garage							1978 NR
Civic Center Plaza (James Rolph Jr. Plaza)			1994 SFLD			1987 NHL, 1978 NR	
Corinthian Court Apartments	1994 SFLD						
Department of City Planning Building/USO Hospitality House				1987 NHL, 1978 NR			
Department of Public Health Building	1994 SFLD, 1987 NHL, 1978 NR						
Edmund G. Brown State Office Building		1994 SFLD					

Note: Contributing features are bold in this table to match the information in the Existing Conditions Analysis section.

RESOURCES DESCRIBED IN DOCUMENTATION							
RESOURCE	CONTRIBUTING	NON-CONTRIBUTING	CONTRIBUTING ALTERED	NON-CONTRIBUTING - REMOVED	REMOVED	NO DETERMINATION	NEUTRAL
Exposition (Civic) Auditorium	1994 SFLD, 1987 NHL, 1978 NR						
Federal Building	1994 SFLD, 1987 NHL, 1978 NR						
Fulton Street Mall						1994 SFLD	
High School of Commerce (SF Unified School Dist Administrative Building)	1994 SFLD						
Hotel Avalon	1994 SFLD						
Library Annex				1994 SFLD, 1987 NHL, 1978 NR			
Louise M. Davies Symphony Hall		1994 SFLD					
Marshall Square					1994 SFLD, 1987 NHL, 1978 NR		
Marye Building			1994 SFLD				
Memorial Court	1987 NHL					1994 SFLD, 1978 NR	
Methodist Book Concern	1994 SFLD						1978 NR
Newton Tharp Commercial High School	1994 SFLD						
Orpheum Theater Building	1994 SFLD, 1978 NR						
Parking Lot - 24 Grove						1978 NR	
Pioneer Monument (Pioneer Memorial)						1994 SFLD, 1987 NHL, 1978 NR	
Powerhouse	1987 NHL	1994 SFLD					1978 NR
San Francisco Art Commission		1994 SFLD					
San Francisco Public Library (Asian Art Museum)	1994 SFLD, 1987 NHL, 1978 NR						
San Francisco Public Library (new Main Library, former Marshall Square site)		1994 SFLD					
Standard Station				1978 NR			
United Nations Plaza						1994 SFLD, 1987 NHL, 1978 NR	1978 NR
Vacant Lot - 165 Grove Street		1994 SFLD					
Vacant Lot - 401 Polk Street		1994 SFLD					
Vacant Lot - 41-47 Grove Street		1994 SFLD					
Vacant Lot - SE corner of Grove Street at Larkin Street		1994 SFLD					
War Memorial Opera House	1994 SFLD, 1987 NHL, 1978 NR						
War Memorial Veterans Building	1994 SFLD, 1987 NHL, 1978 NR						
Wells Fargo Building			1994 SFLD				1978 NR

Note: Contributing features are bold in this table to match the information in the Existing Conditions Analysis section.

1987 NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK²²⁹

Boundary: See Figure 1.2

Period of Significance: 1913-1951 with specific dates of 1912, 1915 and 1945

Evaluation Criteria: NHL 1 (events) and 4 (works of art and architecture)

Areas of Significance: Architecture, Art, Community Planning, Entertainment/Recreation (World’s Fair), Landscape Architecture, Politics/Government, Social History, Beaux Arts

Architects/Builders (listed): Arthur Brown, Jr., Bernard J.S. Cahill, Daniel Burnham, Frederick H. Meyer, G. Albert Lansburgh, George Kelham, Jean Louis Bourgeois, John Bakewell, Jr., John G. Howard, John Reid, Jr., Paul Deniville, Thomas D. Church, Walter D. Bliss, William B. Faville

Category: District

Resources described in documentation (listed by determination category, if noted)²³⁰: see “Resources Documented in Historic District Documentation” table.

1978 NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES²³¹

Boundary: See Figure 1.2

Period of Significance: 1800-1974²³² with specific dates of 1912, 1915 and 1945

Evaluation Criteria: A (event) and C (work of art and architecture)

Areas of Significance: Architecture, Art, Community Planning and Development, Entertainment/Recreation, Landscape Architecture, Politics/Government, Social History, Beaux Arts

Architects/Builders (listed): A.L. Warswick; Arthur Brown, Jr.; B. 229 A copy of the documentation and information from the National Register of Historic Places database were used to develop this summary. 230 Even though buildings and sites were described in the documentation, not all resources received a clear determination. 231 A copy of the documentation and information from the National Register of Historic Places database were used to develop this summary. 232 During the time this nomination was completed, periods of significance were not listed with as much certainty as they are today and were more focused on building construction dates.

Marcus Priteca; Bernard J.S. Cahill; C. A. Meussdorger; Daniel Burnham; Frederick H. Meyer; G. Albert Lansburgh; George Kelham; Hanz Kainz and Associates; Jean Louis Bourgeois; John Bakewell, Jr.; John G. Howard; John Reid, Jr.; Meyers and Ward; Paul Deniville; Skidmore, Owings and Merrill; Thomas D. Church; Walter D. Bliss; William B. Faville; Wurster, Bernardi and Emmons

Category: District

Resources described in documentation (listed by determination category, if noted)²³³: see “Resources Documented in Historic District Documentation” table.

STATEMENTS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Each of the documents, the 1978 NR, the 1987 NHL, and the 1994 SFLD have their own statement of significance which have numerous similarities. The 1994 NHL, which provided the best overview of the district’s significance, is a more concise and updated version of the 1978 NR and is the basis for the significance statement in the 1994 SFLD. They each profile the district’s history, its association with the Panama-Pacific International Exhibition, the Civic Center Plan, and international and national events such as the formation of the United Nations and the signing of the peace agreement with Japan at the end of World War II. They also profile the primary architects and civic leaders who influenced the design and building of the district. Each contains descriptions of architectural and open space elements. A synthesis of these three statements of significance is included in the appendix.

UPDATING AND CLARIFYING CIVIC CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT DOCUMENTATION

The following narrative focuses on recommendations (which are in bold) for updating and clarifying inconsistencies in the existing documentation for the Civic Center Historic District. It supports the evaluations for buildings and landscape features contained in the Existing Conditions and Analysis section.

It is important to note that the planning and design work associated with Civic Center Plaza, UN Plaza, and the Market Street BART development, which overlaps in part with the southeast corner of the Civic Center Historic District, is potentially eligible and is currently being evaluated as part of another study. 233 Even though buildings and sites were described in the documentation, only buildings were given a determination.

Due to the complex issues and geographic reach of UN Plaza and BART work along Market Street (which overlaps with the Civic Center Historic District but also extends beyond it), this evaluation was determined to be outside the scope of this project. However, in the meantime any features associated with UN Plaza should be considered eligible as contributing resources to the historic district until the more detailed study is completed.

BOUNDARY RECOMMENDATION

The boundary should reflect what was identified in the 1994 SFLD, which is more expansive than the boundary outlined in the 1978 NR and 1987 NHL. The 1994 SFLD boundary more accurately outlines the area that includes extant resources which contribute to the established areas and periods of significance.

PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE RECOMMENDATION

The period of significance should reflect all areas of significance associated with the Civic Center Historic District and the extant features that are associated with that significance which date to 1896-1951. No consistency or clarity for the period of significance exists within the documents associated with the Civic Center Historic District. Part of this is due to the evolving nature of how a period of significance is determined. In the past, the period of significance was often a rough bracket of dates in 25-year increments that encompassed the construction dates for buildings listed in the National Register documentation, either as individual buildings or as part of a district. The construction dates were often listed individually after the period of significance. Today the prevailing guidance advises that the period of significance more tightly bracket the dates of extant elements or features that are individually listed or contribute to the significance of the property, especially when a property has more than one area of significance. This approach is most appropriate for the San Francisco Civic Center Historic District because it has more than one area of significance dating to different periods of time, and also has an extended era of development related to the Beaux Arts style. The beginning date of 1896 corresponds to the Pioneer Monument, which is the earliest known feature in the district associated with the civic planning and design of this area, predating the loss and destruction of much of the district during the Great 1906 San Francisco Earthquake and Fires. The end date of 1951 was established by the 1987 NHL. It will remain

in place until the current studies that are evaluating the mid-century modern design of Civic Center Plaza, and the design of UN Plaza and Market St. BART development are completed. Additional information related to both of these potentially new areas of significance is included in the Statement of Significance Recommendation at the end of this section.

CRITERIA RECOMMENDATION

The Civic Center Historic District meets two of the four National Register/National Historic Landmark significance criteria:

- **Criterion A/1: a property associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history**
- **Criterion C/4: a property that embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction**

The first criterion, National Register Criteria A (National Historic Landmark Criteria 1), is documented in both the 1978 NR and the 1987 NHL. The second criterion, National Register Criteria C (National Historic Landmark Criteria 4), is documented in the 1978 NR, the 1987 NHL, and the 1994 SFLD.

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE RECOMMENDATION

The areas of significance that have been documented for the Civic Center Historic District today are: Architecture, Art, Beaux Arts, Community Planning and Development, Entertainment/Recreation (World’s Fair), Landscape Architecture, Politics/Government, and Social History. These areas of significance are listed in one or more of the three existing documents associated with the Civic Center Historic District. The Beaux Arts style relates primarily to the areas of Architecture, Art, Community Planning and Development and Landscape Architecture. Information about significance related to the mid-century modern era design of Civic Center Plaza, and the design of UN Plaza and Market Street BART, both of which are the focus of other studies, is included in the Statement of Significance Recommendation at the end of this section.

CATEGORY RECOMMENDATION

The property should remain a District, as it has been designated in the 1978 NR, 1987 NHL and 1994 SFLD. However, sites and objects that contribute to the district should be more clearly defined and evaluated. For example, plazas and open spaces, such as Memorial Court, should be listed as sites within the district. Similarly, objects such as the Pioneer Monument and others listed as contributing should be listed as objects within the district.

DESIGNER RECOMMENDATION

Architects, landscape architects and craftspeople associated with designing or building previously documented significant features in the Civic Center Historic District include: Arthur Brown, Jr.; B. Marcus Priteca; Bernard J.S. Cahill; C. A. Meussdorffer; Daniel H. Burnham; Frederick H. Meyer; G. Albert Lansburgh; George Kelham; Jean Louis Bourgeois; John Galen Howard; John Bakewell, Jr.; John Reid, Jr.; Meyers and Ward; Paul Deniville; Thomas D. Church; Walter D. Bliss; and William B. Faville. All of these designers have been listed in one or more of the three existing documents associated with the Civic Center Historic District. Designers associated with the Architecture, Art, Community Planning and Development and Landscape Architecture of the Modern Style are Douglas Baylis; Lawrence Halprin; Skidmore, Owings and Merrill; DeLeuw, Cather and Company; and Wurster, Bernardi and Emmons. Their work is currently being studied in relationship to the designs for Civic Center Plaza, UN Plaza and Market Street BART.

HISTORIC RESOURCES RECOMMENDATION

All features that have been designated as contributing (C) in the Existing Conditions and Analysis section should be treated as resources that contribute to the historic character of the Civic Center Historic District. Any features that are the focus of ongoing studies were designated as undetermined (U) and, as stated in the *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*, should be treated as potentially eligible until those studies are completed.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE RECOMMENDATION

The Statement of Significance should be updated to include information about landscape features that were not previously documented which relate to established eras and areas of significance, such as the City Beautiful/Beaux Arts era.

For Criterion C (Design):

City Beautiful/Beaux Arts Era

1. The documentation should be updated to include landscape features associated with the City Beautiful/Beaux Arts era that were not previously recognized. Landscape features associated with the civic scale improvements of the City Beautiful/Beaux Arts era include granite curbs, single pendant light poles on Van Ness Avenue, fire hydrants associated with the San Francisco Fire Department Auxiliary Water Supply System improvements completed between 1909 and 1913, and sculptures associated with the design of City Hall. A few landscape features which survived the Great 1906 San Francisco Earthquake and Fires that are extant today include select fire boxes and the Pioneer Monument.

The Pioneer Monument, granite curbs, single pendant light poles and sculptures reflect the vision of the architects and designers of the Beaux Arts era to exert influence over all elements in the design of the district and to create a harmonious whole between the buildings, landscape spaces, and landscape features. This type of design influence typified the Beaux Arts era. Utilitarian features such as the fire hydrants and fire boxes reflect the comprehensive city-wide efforts to improve the infrastructure of the city following the Great 1906 San Francisco Earthquake and Fire in order to prevent another cataclysmic disaster of the same proportion.

2. The documentation should also be updated to provide a more detailed description of the significance of the War Memorial Court, a landscaped open space set between the Opera House and Veterans Building, that was planned by Arthur Brown, Jr. as part of the War Memorial Complex, but was not built until 1936

following the design of landscape architects H. Leland Vaughn and Thomas D. Church. Church is considered a leader in forging the iconic California garden style and modern landscape architecture style. Noted modernist landscape architect Garrett Eckbo described him as “the last great traditional designer and the first great modern designer.”²³⁴ In fact, the War Memorial Court, an early commission for Church is a rare example of his early work when he was transitioning between the Beaux Arts style and Modern style, and of his public work since he is more well-known for his residential garden designs. The design predates a pivotal 1937 trip to Europe where he studied modern architectural master works by LeCorbusier and Alvar Aalto that altered the course of his career. The War Memorial Court possesses a high level of integrity to its original design, though some minor alterations including the replacement-in-kind of plant materials have been completed, and the insertion of the "Passage of Remembrance" veterans memorial.²³⁵ Extant character-defining features of the War Memorial Court include the overall symmetry of the design, the symmetrical horseshoe shaped courtyard inscribed with a rectangular lawn; the octagonal shaped lawn at the east end of the court; the horseshoe shaped drive; concrete curbing and brick and cast stone pathways; the central axis and view to City Hall; boxwood hedges along the perimeter, the walkways, and at the east end of the court; the double allée of plane trees, the slight rise in topography in the direction of City Hall; and the iron and bronze fences, lanterns, and light standards.²³⁶

Thomas Church

Thomas Church, born in Boston and raised in California, was trained at the University of California at Berkeley and Harvard Graduate School of Design. He taught briefly before opening a practice in San Francisco in 1933, where he worked until his retirement in 1977. In

234 Harris, Becky. “Design Icons: Thomas Dolliver Church,” <http://www.houzz.com/ideabooks/4664821/list/Design-Icons--Thomas-Dolliver-Church>
235 San Francisco Planning Department, War Memorial Court Review Comments, 5 April 2012
236 San Francisco Planning Department, War Memorial Court Review Comments, 5 April 2012

1955, he authored *Gardens Are for People: How to Plan for Outdoor Living* which outlined his design philosophy: *unity*, which is the consideration of the schemes as a whole, for both architecture and landscape; *function*, which is the relationship of practical service areas to the needs of the house, and the relationship of decorative areas to the desires and pleasures of those who use the space; *simplicity*, both in terms of the economic and aesthetic success of the layout; and *scale*, which rests upon the pleasant relationship of elements to each other. His most notable works include the Donnell Garden (Sonoma, CA), Parkmerced (San Francisco, CA), Bloedel Reserve (Bainbridge Island, WA), and General Motors Technical Center (Warren, MI).²³⁷

237 The Cultural Landscape Foundation, “Thomas Dolliver Church,” <<http://tclf.org/pioneer/thomas-church>> August 29, 2013.



Figure 4.1 Thomas Church (Bancroft Library)

ADDITIONAL STUDIES

There are a few distinct areas of significance that are the focus of current studies and planned future studies that could change the documented significance for the Civic Center Historic District. In particular a study is currently being completed to review the mid-century modern era urban development, planning and landscape architecture for the construction of the underground exhibit hall, parking garage and redesign of Civic Center Plaza which were designed by known masters of architecture and landscape architecture including Douglas Baylis; Skidmore, Owings and Merrill (SOM); and Wurster, Bernardi and Emmons (WBE). If the work associated with these efforts is found to be significant then the statement of significance should be revised to include it. The area being studied primarily affects block 0788, but also relates to features on block 0812.

In addition, the work of known master landscape architect Lawrence Halprin and his work associated with BART, Market Street and the United Nations Plaza is currently being studied. If work associated with those projects is found to be significant and retain integrity, then the statement of significance should be revised to include it. The area designated for this future study is outlined on maps of blocks 0351 and 0355.

Finally, Civic Center Historic District should be studied in terms of its relationship to numerous national level civic protests and social movements such as the Vietnam War, the House Committee on Un-American Activities, the White Night Riots and the gay rights movement, and the statement of significance revised accordingly.

Though these studies are currently underway or planned for the future, the following information about these potentially new areas of significance is provided for contextual understanding of the Civic Center Historic District's more recent historic development. While final determinations are forthcoming, it's helpful to understand the potential significance related to these development eras.

UNDER CRITERION A (EVENTS):

Events which have occurred in the Civic Center Historic District but were not previously documented include pivotal events in the founding of the gay rights movement in the United States associated with the murder in 1978 of San Francisco Mayor

George Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk, the first openly gay elected official, by former City Supervisor Dan White and the subsequent White Night riots in 1979 following the lenient sentencing of Dan White for their murders. More research is needed to put this event in its rightful context and determine which level of significance it reaches: national, state or local. It was determined that level of research was outside the scope of this project.

UNDER CRITERION C (DESIGN):

Modern Era

Following the end of World War II, a nationwide movement began to re-imagine urban areas, especially civic centers that had been neglected during the Great Depression and World War II years. This new aesthetic movement centered on progressive ideas and a modern future was also reflected in the rise of the space program and the presidency of John F. Kennedy. "Many cities after the end of the war wanted to look toward a bright new future, and turned (their) view toward an architecture that could convey that the city was in step with a post-World War II modern world."²³⁸ An influx of private and public funding contributed to the rise in these types of projects, which transformed urban areas to reflect the modern or international style of architecture in vogue at the time. Modern materials, such as concrete, steel and glass, were combined in designs that exhibited clean lines and strong geometric forms.

Similar to the Beaux Arts era, the prevailing thought of the modern era was to have a city possess architectural symbols that reflect its citizens' values on the importance of government and civic spaces in public life. Greater attention was being paid to civic government and discourse following World War II, which was personified by John F. Kennedy's presidency and his emphasis on public service. A by-product of this movement included a celebration of the future, which in many ways included a rejection of the past. Architectural styles of this era were marked with flat roofs, minimal ornamentation in geometric shapes with typical materials of concrete, steel and glass. Buildings possessed strong vertical and/or horizontal lines, minimal fenestration and were often built using curtain walls. Modern landscapes retained a similar formality with clean

238 National Register nomination for Tulsa Civic Center Historic District, 2012

geometric lines and minimal ornamentation which was typically expressed in a landscape's plant palette and modern materials such as concrete. Views and focal points were part of the design treatments and abstraction was often used as a design expression.

For San Francisco, the modern era of civic scale design manifested in the construction of Brooks Hall and underground parking garage and the redesign of Civic Center Plaza. These projects were meant, much like the Beaux Arts design of Civic Center Plaza, to align San Francisco with the prevailing national and international design movements and the modern civic principles it espoused. It also set to expand the capabilities of the city to host large scale public and private events both indoors in Brooks Hall and outdoors in the Civic Center Plaza, and provided underground parking for an era of design centered on the automobile.

Civic Center Plaza's 1961 landscape design reflects the modern era's design styles, aesthetics and materials. In particular, the Civic Center Plaza design features garden rooms shaped by rows and bosques of trees and rectilinear concrete forms. It uses a minimal palette of hardscape materials, namely concrete, decomposed granite and metal, and has a limited palette of vegetation species, relying on a few species of trees, lawn and few shrubs and ornamental plantings. The vegetation is meant less for ornamentation and more for organization and structure. There is symmetry to the landscape elements and spaces that merges both the modern era of landscape design with the Beaux Arts character of the Civic Center District – as both touted symmetry as one of their tenants. In fact, much of the design, its materials and aesthetic are a modern interpretation of Paris' public parks, namely the Jardin du Luxembourg that used a similar palette: pollarded trees, decomposed granite or gravel, lawn, a few species of shade trees, and concrete or stone.

In some cases, this reliance on Paris as a design inspiration reflects the same type of influence Paris had on the Beaux Arts era as well. Typical of the time the automobile is accommodated in the design, but the infrastructure related to its use is tucked into discrete spaces. Those infrastructure elements, such as the garage elevator building, vents and access routes all conform to the established grid of the design so that both the aesthetic and functional elements are in sync with each other across the space. For example one of the vents and two of the staircases are positioned within the plane tree grove to line up and be on center

with the adjacent trees, keeping them tucked into a dominant landscape feature so they blend in with the overall site.

The mid-century modern urban redevelopment projects in Civic Center were led by the firm of Wurster Bernardi and Emmons (WBE) with consulting architects Skidmore, Owings and Merrill (SOM). Douglas Baylis, the WBE team's landscape architect, was the lead designer for the Civic Center Plaza landscape redesign project.

Wurster, Bernardi and Emmons

WBE was founded in 1945 by William Wurster, Theodore Bernardi and Donn Emmons in San Francisco. Bernardi and Emmons were both former employees of Wurster when he had his own firm between 1924 and 1943. Bernardi and Emmons effectively managed the firm during the early years when Wurster was Dean of Architecture at MIT between 1944-1950 and Dean of the College of Environmental Design at the University of California, Berkeley between 1950-1963. Wurster, in particular, often collaborated with Thomas Church. The firm, well-known for their modern designs, won the American Institute of Architects architectural firm award in 1965, and Wurster was honored with the AIA Gold Medal in 1969. Some of their projects include: San Francisco's adaptive reuse of Ghirardelli Square in which they collaborated with landscape architect Lawrence Halprin; 555 California, also in San Francisco, in which they collaborated with SOM and Italian architect Pietro Belluschi; and several projects for the University of California, Santa Cruz including the University's Long Range Development Plan and designs for Cowell College.²³⁹

Douglas Baylis

Douglas Baylis studied at the University of California, Berkeley before working briefly for Thomas Church. Following that, he worked for the City of San Francisco Housing Authority before establishing his own practice. He also served as consulting landscape architect for the University of California, Berkeley between the

239 Online Archive of California, Inventory of the William W. Wurster/Wurster, Bernardi & Emmons Collection, 1922-1974 <http://www.oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/tf8k40079x/en-tire_text/> September 10, 2013

years 1956-1959. His most notable public design work includes: Washington Square in San Francisco; the Monterey Freeway; IBM Headquarters in San Jose; and the Unit House in Hayward, California which was a collaboration with architect Gordon Drake. He also often collaborated with landscape architect Lawrence Halprin. He ushered in a new era of garden writing with "how-to" articles he wrote for *Landscape Architecture*, *House Beautiful* and *Better Homes and Gardens*.²⁴⁰

Skidmore, Owings and Merrill (SOM)

SOM was formed in the 1930s by Louis Skidmore, Nathaniel Owings and John Merrill opening their first branch in New York City in 1937. They are well known for influencing the wide-spread use of the modern or international style of steel and glass skyscrapers indicative of the mid-20th century in the United States. In 1962 and 1996 SOM received the Architecture Firm Award from the AIA, and at this writing they are the

only firm to have received this award twice. Some of their notable designs include: Lever House in New York City, Memorial Coliseum in Portland, Oregon, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library in New Haven, Connecticut, and San Francisco’s 555 California Street for Bank of America and the Louise M. Davies Symphony Hall in the Civic Center.

UNDER CRITERION CONSIDERATION G:

United Nations Plaza and Civic Center BART Station

Further research is being conducted to evaluate landscape features associated with the United Nations Plaza and BART improvements in the Civic Center that were not previously documented. The existing National Register documentation references significant events including the formation of the United Nations in 1945 and the signing of the peace agreement with Japan at the end of World War II in 1951, and does recognize the importance of UN Plaza in commemorating these events. However, no evaluation of UN Plaza, the Civic Center BART Station, or associated landscape features has been conducted to establish significance under National Register Criterion Consideration G (Properties That Have Achieved Significance within the Past Fifty Years). A general summary of the history of UN Plaza is below.

UN Plaza is located at the east end of the Civic Center complex on Market Street between 7th and Hyde Streets and includes an approximately two-acre tree-lined plaza and a large granite slab fountain to the east. The plaza was designed by master landscape architect Lawrence Halprin and lead designer Donald Ray Carter and is the most recent addition to the Civic Center open space. The plaza was constructed in 1975 to commemorate the 30th Anniversary of the signing of the 1945 United Nations Charter at the nearby Veteran’s Building. UN Plaza was realized as part of the Market Street Reconstruction Project in conjunction with the underground BART system, including the station at Civic Center. The Market Street Reconstruction Project was designed by Mario Ciampi and Associates, John Carl Warnecke and Associates, and Lawrence Halprin and Associates.²⁴¹

Halprin designed UN Plaza as a dynamic and active public

241 Market Street Reconstruction: United Nations Plaza drawings. Department of Public Works, Bureau of Engineering Archive, 1973-1976.

space connected physically and visually to both the Civic Center and to Market Street. In the mid-1960s and 1970s, Halprin’s designs became increasingly focused on the experience of moving through the landscape, and he often utilized his RSVP Cycles theory and participatory workshops to inform the design process. Halprin’s design for Market Street created a pedestrian-oriented open space sequence that includes United Nations Plaza, Hallidie Plaza, and Embarcadero Plaza (an earlier example of his work now known as Justin Herman Plaza). The three plazas are tied together by Market Street, acting as the central transportation spine of the City.

UN Plaza is composed of an asymmetrical brick pedestrian promenade featuring two rows of granite pylons topped by lights.²⁴² Rectangular lawns are set within granite borders and feature double allées of London plane trees located to the north and south of the columns, forming the edges of the plaza. An equestrian statue of Simón Bolívar, a gift from the government of Venezuela to the city of San Francisco, is located at the western terminus of the plaza. The eastern side of the plaza features a sunken sculptural fountain formed by asymmetrical stacked granite blocks which is animated with arcing water jets.²⁴³ Halprin employed his signature elements of water and stone in the design of fountain. The fountain’s stacked granite slabs, powerful water jets, and asymmetrical design creates not only a focal point for the plaza, but also an anchoring feature to entice pedestrians to move through the large open space. The granite materials were chosen to tie the plaza to the buildings in the Civic Center. The stacked slab fountain design recalls the Ira Keller Fountain in Portland, Oregon and other signature fountains Halprin designed in the 1960s. The fountain is lit by two tall light standards with multiple spot lights that likely date to the 1975 design and are similar to stage light types Halprin used for other fountain projects he designed in the late 20th century.

Changes have been made to UN Plaza since Halprin’s original design. To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the signing of the United Nations Charter, a permanent memorial was created in 1995 at UN Plaza to honor the principles of international cooperation and human rights embodied in the establishment of the United Nations. The memorial included the following

242 The original lights were rectangular, and replaced with the current spherical lights in 2005.

243 The Cultural Landscape Foundation, "United Nations Plaza," <<http://tclf.org/landscapes/united-nations-plaza>> September 10, 2013.

elements: the Walk of Great Ideas, featuring granite paving panels embedded in the walkway inlaid with brass letters outlining the preamble to the United Nations Charter; the United Nations symbol engraved in granite and installed at the center of the plaza; the addition of granite markers inscribed with the names of the fifty nations that signed the United Nations Charter; a polished black granite obelisk engraved with the preamble to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was installed near the fountain; the latitude and longitude of the City of San Francisco was inlaid with brass in granite strips in the pavement; the existing granite pylons were engraved with the names of the United Nations member countries in the order that they joined; and the existing fountain was engraved with quotes from a speech delivered to Congress by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.²⁴⁴ The fountain was refurbished and re-dedicated at this time as well, following consultation with Lawrence Halprin.

In the early 21st century, additional modifications to the plaza were made and features were added to further commemorate the signing of the United Nations Charter at the Veterans Building. In 2003, temporary fencing was installed around the fountain to thwart public bathing that was occurring at the site (Halprin publicly voiced his distaste for this change). In 2005, improvements were made including: upgrading utilities to allow for kiosks and events, replacing existing light fixtures with new globe light fixtures on the pylons, adding new pedestrian lighting, replacing the bollards and chains around the fountain, removing the wall behind the fountain at 50 UN Plaza, improving accessibility (ADA), commemorating the 191 member nations of the UN by hanging their flags, inscribing the names of new member nations on the pylons, and installing a new stone monument commemorating United Nations World Environment Day in 2005 which was the 60th anniversary of the signing of the charter.²⁴⁵

Although Halprin was consulted on some aspects of the late-20th century alterations to the plaza and fountain, newspaper articles from the period and Halprin’s own writings indicate that he did not fully support these change.

244 UN Plaza Site Assessment Report, 1995, p.26
245 United Nations Plaza Transformation, press release from the City and County of San Francisco Office of the Mayor, March 9, 2005

240 The Cultural Landscape Foundation, “Douglas Baylis,” <<https://tclf.org/pioneer/douglas-baylis>> August 29, 2013.



Figure 4.2 Douglas Baylis teamed with Wurster Bernardi Emmons to design Civic Center Plaza in 1960 (CED Archives)

Lawrence Halprin

Lawrence Halprin was born in Brooklyn, New York in 1916 and moved to San Francisco after World War II. Halprin worked for Thomas Church’s office from 1945 until opening his own practice in 1949. Halprin was an influential landscape architect and theorist whose career spanned nearly 65 years until his death at the age of 93 in 2009. He authored nine books on landscape theory and design and encouraged innovation in the field through such concepts as his RSVP Cycles, which focused on user experience and community participation as drivers of the design process. His most notable works include: Sea Ranch site plan (1962-1967), renovation of Ghirardelli Square (1962-1968), Portland Open-Space Sequence (1965-1978), Freeway Park in Seattle (1970-1974), Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorial in Washington, D.C. (1976-1997), and numerous civic,

campus master planning and institutional projects in the United States and abroad.²⁴⁶

Halprin’s urban designs focused on the role of the landscape architect in reshaping the American city. Halprin understood his designs as inseparable from the social, cultural and natural contexts in which his projects were located.²⁴⁷ Halprin received much recognition for his work during his lifetime, including such honors as the AIA Medal for Allied Professionals in 1964, the ASLA gold medal in 1978, the Presidential Design Award for the FDR Memorial in 2000, and the National Medal of the Arts in 2002.



Figure 4.3 Lawrence Halprin at the dedication of Lovejoy Fountain in Portland, Oregon in the early 1970s (portlandoregon.gov)

246 Charles Birnbaum and Stephanie Foell, *Shaping the American Landscape: New Profiles from the Pioneers of American Landscape Design Project* (University of Virginia Press, 2009), 124-127.
247 John King, “Lawrence Halprin-landscape architect-dies,” *San Francisco Chronicle*, October 27, 2009.

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APPENDIX

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This Statement of Significance is compiled directly from the 1987 NHL with added references from the 1978 NR and the 1994 SFLD when appropriate to provide a comprehensive and accessible link to the areas of significance that have already been established for the Civic Center Historic District. This provides context for the recommendations that were made for updating the current historic documentation.

The San Francisco Civic Center, the scene of events of national and international importance, including the founding of the United Nations and the drafting and signing of post-World War II peace treaties with Japan, outstandingly illustrates the era of turn-of-the-century municipal reform movements in the United States and early public and city planning. By general consensus, its architecture and plan are regarded as one of the finest and most complete manifestations of the City Beautiful movement in the United States. Henry Hope Reed, a well-known scholar of Classical architecture, has called it “the greatest architectural ensemble in America.”

The Civic Center also embodies the city’s phoenix-like resurgence after the disastrous 1906 earthquake and fires. The Civic Center remains the permanent manifestation of this phenomenon; it shared its origins, however, with its Siamese twin, the Panama-Pacific International Exposition of 1915. Exposition (Civic) Auditorium, in the Civic Center, remains as a link between these two great projects and one of only two intact survivors of the Exposition, one of the most notable of America’s World’s Fairs. The other surviving feature of the Panama-Pacific International Exposition is the lagoon built around the Palace of Fine Arts in the Marina District of San Francisco.

THE CITY BEAUTIFUL MOVEMENT

The City Beautiful Movement, an aspect of the general drive for municipal reform that sprang up in the 1890s and continued after the turn of the century, intended to bring order and beauty to American cities. The national impetus to the movement was the World’s Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893, called the White City by its admirers for its large white classical buildings that were arranged in an orderly manner around a lagoon in a “Court of Honor.” The apparent harmony, cleanliness, and

grandeur of the White City captivated the American public and directly influenced urban planners and architects for almost 40 years. A western echo of this idealist spirit was expressed in Joaquin Miller’s novel, *The Building of the City Beautiful*, published the same year as the Chicago fair, in which the hero pursues a visionary scheme to erect an ideal city athwart the Golden Gate.

The most immediate effect of the City Beautiful movement was the imitation of the White City in the world’s fairs that were held around the country in the next two decades. The fairs spread the ideals of classical architecture, Beaux Arts planning, and the example of cooperation among architects for greater effect in an ensemble. But, like the White City, these expositions, which involved multiple structures and elaborate landscape plans, lasted for a season or two and were then largely demolished.

A spectacular and well-known longer-term application of City Beautiful principles was in the revival of L’Enfant’s plan for Washington, D.C. More characteristic and widespread results of the movement were city, park, and civic center plans. Of the number prepared for major cities, however, only San Francisco’s civic center came near to completion. It originated in tandem with a great exposition to be held in the city. Both were intended to fulfill the visions of San Francisco’s elite, who saw their city as a modern day Florence.

HISTORY

San Francisco’s old City Hall crumbled in the first 60 seconds of the 1906 earthquake, and its replacement became a lively public and political issue. That structure, on the site now occupied by the San Francisco Public Library and the Asian Art Museum, had been begun in 1872, but principally because of corruption in city government, was not completed until 1897 at the then-phenomenal cost of \$5.75 million.

There were suggestions that the superstructure or foundation of the old building be reused, but, by the end of 1908, demolition was under way. Those who supported a new City Hall would eventually join with other efforts to promote San Francisco, including a drive to erect a new public auditorium to attract conventions.

Already in 1899, Bernard J.S. Cahill, with the encouragement of reform-minded Mayor James D. Phelan, had put forth a Civic

Center plan that came to naught. Out of office, in 1904, Phelan had also been instrumental in the establishment of the Society for the Improvement and Adornment of San Francisco. The Society invited Daniel Burnham to provide the city with a grand plan and also suggested to Cahill that he revise his 1899 plan. (The latter plan was the similar to the tightly grouped one later adopted.) Burnham’s grandiose master plan for the city, including a Civic Center, was ready in 1905 and was delivered from the printer the day before the earthquake on April 18, 1906; it, like Cahill’s plan, languished.

In 1909, although San Francisco had been reconstructed essentially on pre-earthquake lines, Burnham was asked to revive and revise his Civic Center plan. Willis Polk, his deputy, handled the design, placing a semicircular group at the corner of Van Ness Avenue and Market Street. Stirred by what he conceived to be the impracticality of the plan, Cahill revised his 1904 scheme slightly and argued that the Burnham/Polk proposal was too expensive, disruptive, and likely to be delayed by litigation. The Burnham/Polk plan was put before the public and easily defeated.

These conflicting views of the form the Civic Center should take became linked to plans for a major international exposition to be held in San Francisco. In 1910, the Panama-Pacific International Exposition Company was formed to hold a fair in 1915. By the mid-summer of 1911, the directors of the company had decided to build an Exposition (Civic) Auditorium as a lasting reminder of the grandeur of the Exposition and as a permanent contribution to the city. To justify the Auditorium as an Exposition expense, its conferences would meet there without paying rent.

A vice-president of the Exposition Company, James Rolph, ran for mayor in September 1911. A municipal street railway, the Hetch-Hetchy water project, and other civic improvements were parts of this program, but the Exposition and the Civic Center ideas were its cornerstones. The Civic Center would permanently exhibit the grandeur which the Exposition would only briefly evoke. They would together demonstrate convincingly to the world that San Francisco had not simply recovered from the earthquake but had become a thriving and civilized metropolis of international importance. Rolph won a landslide victory, and the city moved forward on both projects.

THE FINAL CIVIC CENTER PLAN

After Rolph’s election, steps toward planning of the Civic Center and the construction of the Exposition moved quickly, in hopes of completing at least the City Hall and Auditorium in time for the Exposition. In January 1912, the board of supervisors endorsed a revival of Cahill’s Civic Center Plan of 1909. The issue of its location was turned over to an architectural commission under the auspices of the Exposition, including Willis Polk, William B. Faville and John Galen Howard, among others; a clear majority chose the present site.

The mayor appointed another commission (John Galen Howard, Frederick W. Meyer and John J. Reid, Jr.) to select a final plan, oversee a City Hall design competition, and implement the plan. Howard, the chairman, guided the initial stages and campaigned for a March 1912 bond issue to finance the Civic Center and City Hall. Spurring public approval was the announcement by the State, just before the election, of its intention to erect a State building in the Civic Center. The bond issue passed overwhelmingly and the City Hall competition began quickly.

The approved Civic Center plan, then, consisted of a central plaza with the City Hall to the west, a State Building (now Supreme Court of California) to the north, the Public Library (now Asian Art Museum) and an Opera House to the east, and Exposition (Civic) Auditorium to the south. Four corner lots between the main buildings were reserved for a Health Building, a Fire and Police Building, a Powerhouse, and an undetermined public building. The use of the site of the present Federal Building was also unspecified. Narrow strips, to be lined with arcades and peristyles, were also to be acquired on all properties fronting the Civic Center.

THE PANAMA-PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION

The Panama-Pacific International Exposition of 1915, held in a 635-acre site in the Marina District of San Francisco, was, from the viewpoint of scholars who have studied the history of world’s fairs, a notable event. As a recreational spectacle, it presented the same variety of amusements, exhibits, technological innovations, and spectacular architecture as others in the tradition. The “car trains” used in zoos, for example, originated there, and the world’s first indoor airplane flight took place in the giant Palace of Machinery.

World’s fairs, though they have their lighter side, which tends to capture popular fancy, can also be appreciated from serious perspectives. Architectural historians, for example, have stressed the attention to the color schemes of the buildings and plantings and the use of soft indirect light as notable innovations at the Panama-Pacific International Exposition. They have also noted the Exposition’s emphasis on the arts, rather than technical sciences, that would have been expected in light of the fact that the primary event the Exposition was celebrating was the opening of the Panama Canal.

While it would be possible to elaborate on the legacy of the Panama-Pacific International Exposition in terms of both its architectural and recreational aspects, which are both highly significant, such a discussion would conclude with regrets that, aside from the Exposition (Civic) Auditorium, no structures from it have survived intact.

The Palace of Fine Arts, by Bernard Maybeck, a structure of great architectural interest, survived until the 1960s. Then, however, it fell prone to the temporary character of the materials of which it and most other Exposition structures had been built, and had to be demolished. It had won such a place in the hearts of San Franciscans, however, that it was shortly thereafter reconstructed.

Certain tangential legacies of the Exposition have also survived, including much of the artwork in the early Civic Center structures and the great municipal pipe organ, from the Exposition’s Festival Hall, which was installed in Exposition (Civic) Auditorium in 1917.

Exposition (Civic) Auditorium, however, intended as a permanent contribution to the city by the Exposition, does remain, though it is in a detached location from the Exposition’s main site. Exposition (Civic) Auditorium is the link between the two great events of 1915: hosting the Exposition in San Francisco and the development of the Civic Center. The Civic Center would grow, endure and transcend even the significance its planners had envisioned.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CIVIC CENTER PLAN

John Bakewell, Jr., and Arthur Brown, Jr., designed the City Hall, while Howard, Meyer and Reid received the Exposition (Civic) Auditorium commission. Construction of City Hall began quickly, in April 1913, and of Exposition (Civic) Auditorium in July of the same year. The Auditorium was dedicated on January 15, 1915, in

time for the Exposition. The Powerhouse and Civic Center Plaza were also finished when the Exposition opened. The new City Hall, on the other hand, was not ready until early 1916, after the Exposition had closed.

With the City Hall, Exposition (Civic) Auditorium and Civic Center Plaza as anchors and the approved City Center plan as a guide, other buildings and features were added. A home for the San Francisco Public Library (now Asian Art Museum), which had been moving around in various temporary quarters since its establishment in 1878, was relocated to a building designed by George Kelham. World War I and the subsequent depression delayed further progress into the 1920s. The State Building (now Supreme Court of California), begun in 1920, was thus not completed until 1926.

On the other hand, the proposed arcades and peristyles were never built. And, although the builders of the Orpheum (then Pantages) Theater planned to face the theater’s blank rear walls to match the Civic Center’s buildings, a never-resolved dispute arose over who would pay for the facing. The walls have never been faced.

CONSTRUCTION OF THE WAR MEMORIAL COMPLEX

The Civic Center, then, as it was originally approved, gradually reached virtual completion. A new development west of the City Hall, the War Memorial Complex, expanded the Center. Completed in 1932, the buildings and Memorial Court thoroughly harmonize with the original plan.

Even before the end of World War I, a memorial to honor those who had died in the struggle was proposed in San Francisco. There was great public debate over the nature of the project, and whether it should take the form of a monument; a “living memorial” such as an opera house; or some other character.

San Francisco had been an enthusiastic opera town almost since the Gold Rush, but it had little luck with opera houses, with several burning down. The last of these, the Tivoli, perished in 1906. Every version of the Civic Center plan had called for an opera house.

In 1918, a citizens’ group revived the idea and invited the American Legion to join in support of a War Memorial Opera House. Together the two groups raised substantial funds and

gained public support. A prestigious architectural advisory commission (Bernard Maybeck, John Galen Howard, Willis Polk, Ernest Coxhead, G. Albert Lansburgh, John Reid, Jr., Frederick Meyer, and Arthur Brown, Jr.) drew up the site plan. By 1925, it had been decided that Brown would design the buildings with Lansburgh collaborating on the Opera House.

The scope of the project required far more money than had been raised privately and, with the help of local newspapers, a bond election was approved in 1927. It was four more years before construction began, because of disagreements between veterans, opera supporters, the mayor, and the Board of Supervisors over allocation of funds and space. Construction on the buildings finally began in the summer of 1931 and was complete in the fall of 1932.

Although there were sound aesthetic reasons for designing the two buildings of the War Memorial as a matched pair, in the end they were made identical because neither the opera supporters nor the veterans would consent to the other having a more complete, costly or magnificent home. As the Opera House was the more complicated structure, it was designed first and the Veterans Building derived its shape and design from it.

ADDITIONAL 1930S ERA CIVIC CENTER PLAN IMPLEMENTATION PROJECTS

Contemporary with the War Memorial Complex buildings, the Department of Public Health Building was constructed in 1931-32, under the direction of Samuel Heiman of the City Architect’s office. A landscaped Memorial Court, between the Opera House and the Veterans Building, was planned by Arthur Brown along with the two structures, but was not built until 1936, from designs by Thomas Church.

Construction of the long-promised Federal Building, also designed by Brown (in his capacity as an architect for the Treasury Department), was begun in late 1933 and completed in 1936. Its addition essentially brought the Civic Center to completion.

EVENTS IN THE CIVIC CENTER

The beauty, monumental character, and excellent and varied facilities of the San Francisco Civic Center have drawn important people, meetings, and events to it. Two of these events are of

international importance: the organization of the United Nations (1945) and the Peace Treaties with Japan (1951).

The United Nations Conference on International Organization met in the Civic Center between April 25 and June 26, 1945. Heads of state and delegates from 50 countries attended the conference. Organizational details and the drafting of the United Nations Charter occurred in the Veterans Building; the Charter was signed in an 8-hour ceremony in the Veterans Auditorium (now the Herbst Theater) on June 26.

Ceremonial events and speeches took place in the Opera House. Concerts and public gatherings for the delegates, including the welcoming ceremony, were held in the Exposition (Civic) Auditorium. The Public Library (now Asian Art Museum) provided its facilities and services. The United Nations Conference demonstrated how successfully the buildings in the complex support one another in function as well as design.

A little more than six years later, on September 8, 1951, representatives of 49 nations signed a general peace treaty with Japan, returning full sovereignty to her after World War II. Japan, in the treaty, relinquished her claims to territories outside the home islands. In a separate treaty between the United States and Japan, concluded the same day, Japan granted the United States permission to continue stationing armed forces there. Both treaties, drawn in the Veterans Building, were signed in the Opera House.

Nationally important events associated with the Civic Center have been varied in character. The Democratic National Convention of 1920, in Exposition (Civic) Auditorium, at which James M. Cox and Franklin D. Roosevelt were nominated for President and Vice-President, respectively, helped to fulfill a key role foreseen for that structure. City Hall’s magnificent domed space has been utilized on state occasions, including the reception of distinguished visitors, such as the Presidents of the United States and French President Charles de Gaulle. President Warren G. Harding lay in state there in August 1923, after his sudden death in San Francisco, as did former Mayor James Rolph, the leading political figure behind the success of the Civic Center, in 1934. He died while Governor of California. That same year, events associated with the violent San Francisco general strike swirled around the Civic Center. Later events have included House Un-American Activities Hearings in City Hall in the 1950s, anti-Vietnam War demonstrations in the 1960s.

**ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC EVALUATION OF
THE CIVIC CENTER PLAN AND BEAUX ARTS ERA
BUILDINGS**

Within the scope of turn-of-the-century classical architecture in the United States, the San Francisco Civic Center contains a superlative example, in the City Hall, and several fine examples of the mode. They cannot, however, properly be evaluated solely in isolation. Seen in the context of the Civic Center as a whole, and in relation to City Hall, they together achieve distinction, if they are judged on the degree to which each enhances the group without distracting from the City Hall. These qualities are achieved through a harmony of color, materials, scale, size, texture, rhythm and style. The ensemble is a monument of architecture and a triumph of early 20th century American city planning.

The Civic Center carries out City Beautiful planning concepts in its classical style of architecture, in its association with municipal reform, in the restraint shown by the individual architects in the integration of their structures into the Civic Center plan, and in the manner in which the Civic Center defined its importance in architectural terms. In San Francisco, moreover, the Civic Center represented the city’s emergence as a regional center of national importance.

The San Francisco City Hall is widely regarded as one of the finest examples of Beaux Arts classical architecture in the United States. A very conservative building for its day, it is within the tradition of American capitol buildings such as the U.S. Capitol. Yet the influence of the Beaux Arts revival of the Baroque ideal and Arthur Brown, Jr.’s masterful and scholarly hand set it apart.

City Hall also serves as a powerful centerpiece and focal point for the civic complex, with the dome serving as the end point of major vistas from the east and west and as a dominant point of reference. Although not the first building constructed in the complex, the City Hall was the first to be designed and all subsequent buildings have deferred to its grandeur. Many Civic Center buildings constructed after 1915 echo the spirit and details of City Hall, in such general matters as the character of the office wings and in such details as the rusticated bases. Recent building construction has produced taller, larger-scaled buildings and has introduced contemporary design aesthetics and materials.

The finest feature of the City Hall is its dome, whose exterior has been described as an effective and coherent synthesis of the European dome from the 16th to 18th centuries. The interior domed area, with its elaborate detail, its imaginative but correct use of classical elements, its grand staircase, handsome blue and gold metalwork, and dramatic lighting, is a magnificent Baroque space, comparable to the finest in the world.

The siting and design of the War Memorial Complex extended the Civic Center to an area not included in the original plan. Although designed 15 years later than the City Hall, the War Memorial is, nevertheless, aesthetically inseparable from it. The success of the complex is due principally to the designer of its buildings by Arthur Brown, Jr., and the War Memorial Court by Thomas D. Church.

The planning of the War Memorial was masterful in terms of its relationship to the City Hall, which had been criticized as being too short for its block and in need of two or three more bays at each end. By lengthening the front façades of the War Memorial buildings, they protrude beyond the wings of the City Hall and permit an imposing view of the War Memorial from the Civic Center Plaza. The lower scale of the two War Memorial buildings and the Court between them are also effective in highlighting the City Hall. Viewed from the west end of the complex, the War Memorial buildings in concert with the War Memorial Court, frame the view on the dome of the City Hall. This viewshed, though foreshortened, is on axis with and mirrors the one extending along the Fulton Street Mall from the east end of the Civic Center Historic District back toward the east façade of the City Hall.

The Asian Art Museum (former Public Library) is an excellent example of American Beaux Arts architecture in the tradition of Classical Revival European and American libraries, such as Cass Gilbert’s Detroit Public Library, on which it is closely modeled. The long arcade of the Fulton Street façade, with the colonnade of the Federal Building, defines the principal planning axis of the Civic Center and directs the eye from Market Street to the City Hall dome. The Larkin Street façade, across the Civic Center Plaza from City hall, reflects the design of the City Hall and its main features.

The principal issue in the Library’s design competition, the shape of the building and its relation to the others in the Civic Center, clearly illustrates the impact of the City Beautiful movement of an

individual building. The winning architect conformed his building in shape and exterior decoration to integrate his structure with the Civic Center plan.

The Exposition (Civic) Auditorium is designed in a very traditional Beaux Arts manner with a multi-faceted façade, huge bays and paired columns. As an aesthetic element of the Civic Center, it plays a unique role. The other buildings defer to the City Hall and reflect its rhythmic and classical qualities. They might almost serve as the base for the dome themselves in their style, but the form of the Auditorium’s details, on the other hand, serves to harmonize it with the City Hall and other buildings.

The Federal Building links Market Street and the Civic Center visually. The uninterrupted rhythmic colonnade leads the eye up UN Plaza and Fulton Street to the City Hall dome. The reentrant corners and the frontage of UN Plaza (relative to the setback Asian Art Museum (former Public Library) make the building more visible from the Civic Center Plaza and thus appear to be more a part of the group.

The State Building (now Supreme Court of California), occupying the full-block street frontage, balances Exposition (Civic) Auditorium across the Plaza. The masterful handling of the War Memorial Complex brings the State Building (now Supreme Court of California) into relationship with the other Civic Center buildings.

The Civic Center Plaza, as the central feature of the principal grouping of Civic Center buildings, provides views that emphasize the unity of all the monumental buildings.

The 1912 plans for the Civic Center called for the four corner sites surrounding the Civic Center Plaza to be reserved. Therefore the buildings on these blocks would, in addition to the major buildings on the blocks directly facing the Civic Center Plaza, would complete a classical wall all the way around the Plaza. On the four corner sites only two structures, the Powerhouse and Department of Public Health Building, were constructed by the end of the Beaux Art era build out in the 1930s. Today, one more of the corner lots has been developed with a large civic structure, namely the San Francisco Superior Court at the corner of Polk and McAllister Streets.

The Department of Public Health Building is a simple but pleasing exercise in the Italian Renaissance style. In its shape

and orientation, however, it helps to fill the gap between the Exposition Auditorium and City Hall; it is the same height as those two buildings and mixes their decorative features.

**THE ARCHITECTS AND ADVOCATES OF THE
PANAMA-PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION,
THE CIVIC CENTER PLAN, AND THE MID-CENTURY
MODERN URBAN REDEVELOPMENT**

Just as the beauty and importance of the Civic Center is diffused among many elements, so no one person can be singled out as having presided over its development and that of the Panama-Pacific International Exposition. The same individuals were, with a few exceptions, involved in both projects. Mayor Phelan, Bernard J.S. Cahill, the Society for the Improvement and Adornment of San Francisco, Daniel Burnham, and the supporters of the Exposition all helped mold the Civic Center idea. Mayor Rolph and architect John Galen Howard were probably the most responsible for winning its acceptance. Arthur Brown, Jr., designed most of the buildings. Many of the men and groups were involved at more than one stage, and some, like Willis Polk, never left any tangible marks of their influence, yet were significantly involved through their support and service on the various commissions and design review boards that participated in the Civic Center’s growth and the building of the Exposition. A number of other individuals deserve credit, because the architects involved in the conception and execution of the Civic Center were an exceptional group, and some discussion of their background and accomplishments will make clearer the character of the individuals involved in these achievements.

The architects associated with the Beaux Arts era Civic Center Plan and Development were well grounded in the formal training required for their tasks. Six (John Galen Howard, John Reid, Jr., George Kelham, Arthur Brown, Jr., John Bakewell, Jr., and G. Albert Lansburgh) attended the Ecole de Beaux Arts, and three (Howard, Walter D. Bliss, and William B. Faville) had apprenticed under McKim, Mead and White.

The École des Beaux Arts in Paris, the most important school of architecture late in the 19th century, purveyed the ideas which in the United States became incarnated as the City Beautiful movement. Certain American school and east coast architectural firms provided similar training and promoted many of the same ideas. The New York City firm of McKim, Mead and White was one of the most influential.

Arthur Brown, Jr. was the architect of more buildings in the Civic Center than any other individual, and they stand out as the finest. With John Bakewell, Jr., his partner, he planned the San Francisco, Berkeley, and Pasadena City Halls; the Horticulture Building at the Panama-Pacific International Exposition, which was a domed structure larger than the Pantheon; the Santa Fe Depot in San Diego; and many buildings at Stanford University. Bakewell & Brown operated between 1905-27. Later, he designed the War Memorial Complex, Federal Building, and Coit Tower in San Francisco, and the Department of Labor and Interstate Commerce Commission Buildings in Washington, D.C.'s Federal Triangle. He served on the architectural boards of the Panama-Pacific International Exposition and the 1933 Chicago World's Fair, and chaired the Golden Gate Exposition held on Treasure Island in San Francisco in 1939-40.

G. Albert Lansburgh, who assisted Arthur Brown, Jr. with the Opera House, also served on the Panama-Pacific International Exposition board. He was principally known as a theater designer for the Orpheum chain, and built vaudeville and movie house for the company throughout the United States.

George Kelham, the architect of the Public Library (now Asian Art Museum), chaired the architecture committee of the Panama-Pacific International Exposition and designed its Court of Flowers and Court of Palms. He had arrived in San Francisco in 1909 to supervise construction of the Palace Hotel, for the firm of Trowbridge and Livingston. Kelham's greatest impact on the city was as a skyscraper designer in the late 1920s and early 1930s. As much as any person, he gave definition to the famous skyline that lasted in the 1960s. His most prominent buildings are the Standard Oil Building, the Russ Building (the city's tallest from 1927 to 1964), and the Shell Building. As supervising architect for the University of California, he also did the plan and four buildings at UCLA.

John Galen Howard chaired the advisory board that selected the plan for the Civic Center (1912) and oversaw the early stages of its implementation. Although Howard collaborated with Frederick H. Meyer and John Reid, Jr. on the Exposition Auditorium, his major role in the Civic Center was that of advisor and persuasive advocate. Howard had served on the board of the Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo (1901), where he designed the prize-winning Electric Tower, and chaired the board of the Alaska-Yukon Exposition in Seattle (1909). He was also the

architect of the Hearst Memorial Mining Building at the University of California in Berkeley (1900), remained to plan the university campus, and founded its department of architecture, over which he presided for 25 years. During his tenure, he designed most of the university's new buildings. Later in his career, he sat on the committee that advised the city on the War Memorial Complex.

Frederick H. Meyer, the German-born architect who shared in the design of the Exposition (Civic) Auditorium, was influential in art education in the Bay Area. He was most closely associated (1907-61) with the California School of Arts and Crafts in Berkeley, which he founded. He served on the original advisory board of architects for the Civic Center and on the alter War Memorial board. His most notable architectural achievements, both in San Francisco, are the Humboldt Bank Building and the Monadnock Building.

John Reid, Jr. was the San Francisco City Architect (1912-28). In that capacity he played a long-term role in executing the Civic Center plan. Aside from his part in the Exposition Auditorium, the laid out the original Civic Center Plaza, made interior alterations to the Department of Public Health Building, and designed a large number of the city's public schools.

Walter D. Bliss and William B. Faville had one of the most prominent and well-respected firms in San Francisco when they won the State Building competition in 1915. They had just designed the key buildings at the Panama-Pacific International Exposition. Their other San Francisco commissions included the St. Francis Hotel, the Bank of California, and the Geary Theater. Virtually all of their commissions are extant, except the Exposition structures.

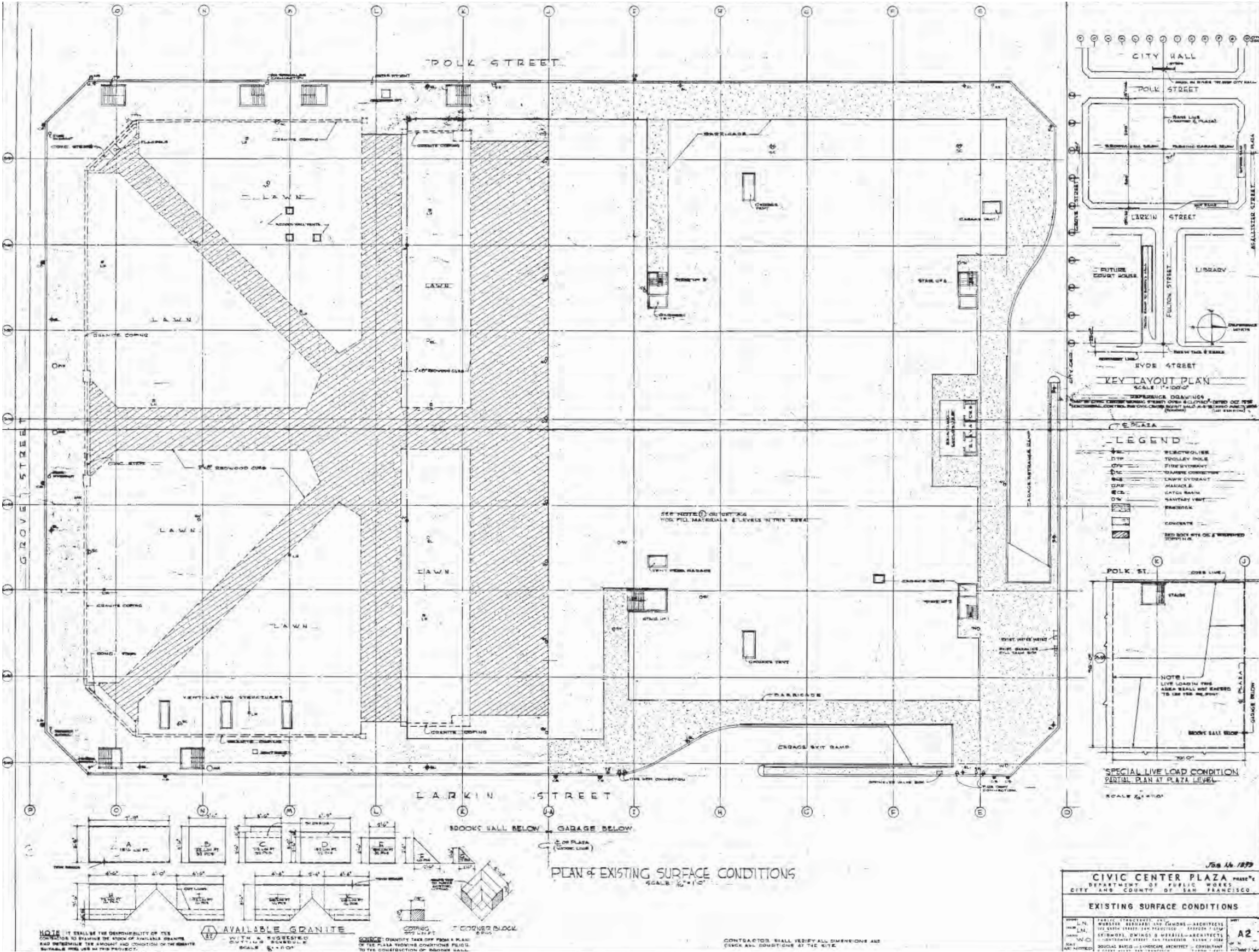
Bernard J.S. Cahill, an Englishman who came to San Francisco in 1891 to practice architecture, prepared the first Civic Center plan in 1899. His 1909 plan, revised around 1912, served as basis for the final design of the Civic Center. He specialized in mausoleums but was most influential as an early advocate of city planning. He also invented the "butterfly" or octahedral map projection.

Several contributors to the Civic Center's "decorations" also deserve mention. Jean-Louis Bourgeois assisted with the interiors of City Hall. Paul Deniville, who executed the decorative plaster and artificial stone of City Hall's interior, also did the travertine interiors of the San Francisco Public Library (now Asian Art

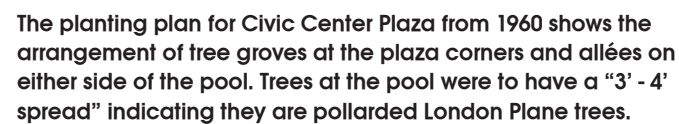
Museum) and the huge Palace of Machinery at the Panama-Pacific International Exposition, as well as Pennsylvania Station in New York City, both of which have been demolished. Thomas D. Church, a nationally prominent landscape architect associated with the Bay Region Style, planned the War Memorial Court.

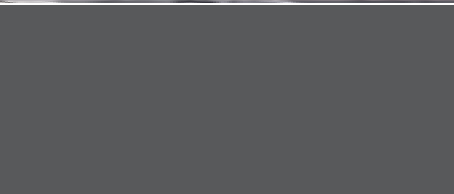
CIVIC CENTER PLAZA
HISTORIC DESIGN PLANS
(1960)

The existing conditions plan for Civic Center Plaza from 1960 shows a significant amount of utilities to be worked around from the construction of Brooks Hall and the Civic Center Plaza Garage (SF Department of Public Works).









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