

# HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF JACKSON SQUARE

The Jackson Square Landmark District is a rare group of survivors from one of San Francisco's early central business districts. Jackson Square's location along the waterfront was key to its development in the 1850s. At the time, Montgomery Street was the principal thoroughfare in the City, and was characterized by the major businesses and offices located along the nine blocks north of Market Street. The brick buildings, many with cast iron storefronts and iron shutters, are reminiscent of typical brick and masonry industrial buildings of the same period on the East Coast. After 1870, the central business district moved south and west away from the Jackson Square area, and many of these buildings gradually lost their more affluent occupants. Due to its proximity to the waterfront, many buildings were repurposed into manufacturing and wholesaling uses into the early decades of the 1900s. The 1906 earthquake damaged some of these buildings; however, many blocks were spared by the resulting fire. Through the post-quake reconstruction to the Great Depression of the 1930s, the industrial and commercial bases of the Jackson Square Area were further weakened by the growing prominence of developing areas along the waterfront.

Beginning in the 1920s, many artists and writers were attracted to the area, centered on Montgomery Street, by cheap rents. Soon, storefronts were occupied by art dealers and antique shops that are still characteristic of the district today. Jackson Square has proven its adaptability to changing uses without losing its essential historic form.

## HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

The preservation of significant historic and cultural properties is a vital component of planning and managing the built and natural environment in San Francisco. Landmarks and landmark districts are unique and irreplaceable assets to the City and its neighborhoods. Landmark districts are regulated by Article 10 of the Planning Code. Since 1967 San Francisco's Historic Preservation Program has identified and protected a wide range of the City's rich history as depicted in its buildings, districts, places, structures, or objects.

As staff to the Historic Preservation Commission, the Planning Department's preservation planners work with property owners, city departments, and the general public to promote the preservation of these resources through incentives, long-range preservation planning efforts, public outreach, and technical assistance.



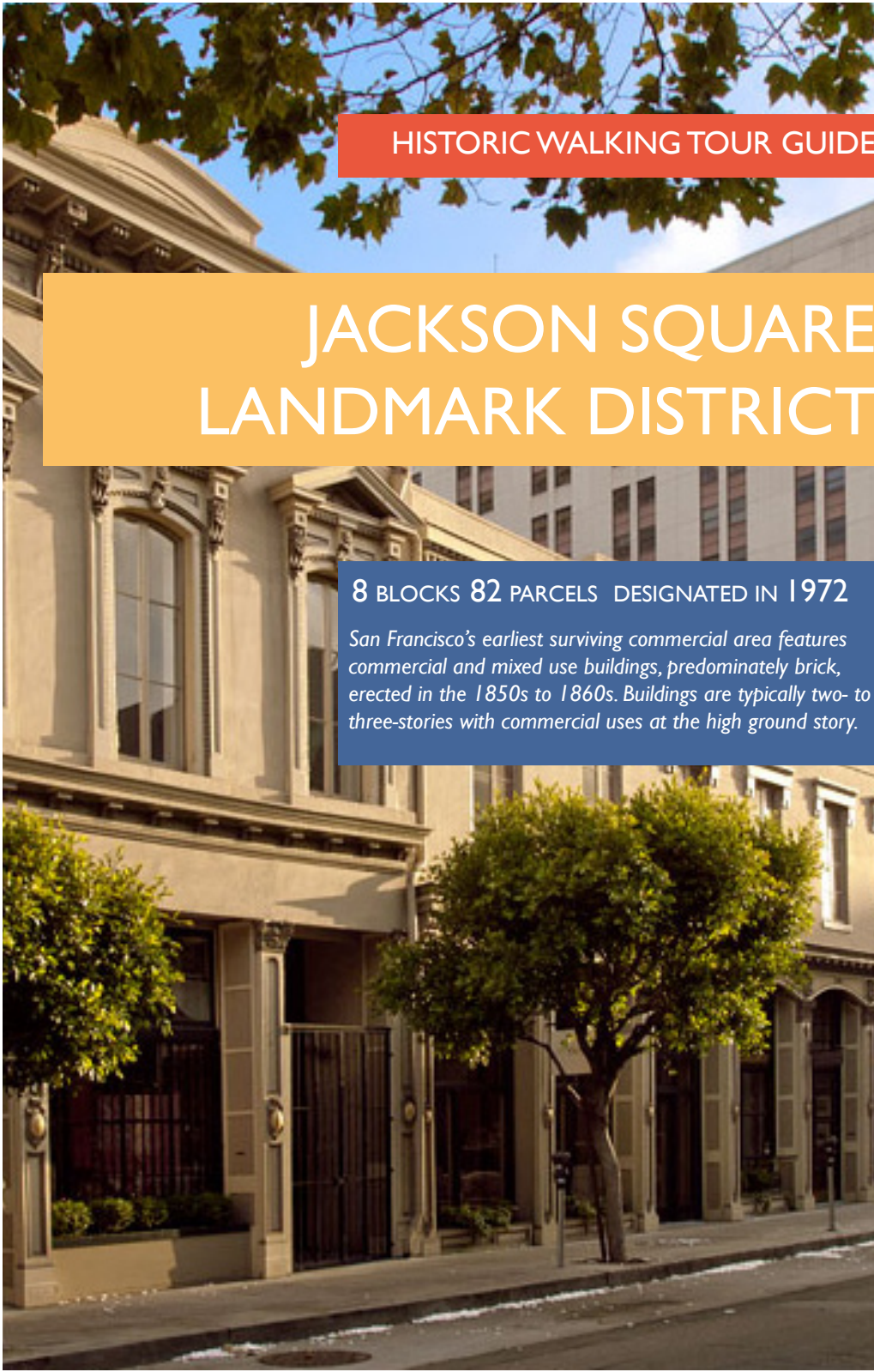
The locator map above shows the Landmark Districts found throughout the City of San Francisco.

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This guide highlights a small selection of the area's historical buildings. To learn more about landmark districts and historical buildings, visit [sfplanning.org](http://sfplanning.org).

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## HISTORIC WALKING TOUR GUIDE

# JACKSON SQUARE LANDMARK DISTRICT

**8 BLOCKS 82 PARCELS DESIGNATED IN 1972**

*San Francisco's earliest surviving commercial area features commercial and mixed use buildings, predominately brick, erected in the 1850s to 1860s. Buildings are typically two- to three-stories with commercial uses at the high ground story.*





## 1 COLUMBUS SAVINGS BUILDING 700 Montgomery Street SF Landmark #212

This Classical Revival building was designed by prolific San Francisco architect, Frederick Meyer and his then-partner, Smith O'Brien, in 1904. John Fugazi, one of the founders of the bank, catered his business to the needs of his Italian-American community. It is the oldest of four Italian-founded banks in the city.



## 3 OLD FUGAZI BANK 4 Columbus Avenue SF Landmark #52

After leaving Columbus Savings Bank, John Fugazi founded the Banco Popolare Italiano Operais Fugazi in 1909. Within a few years, the bank merged with Amedeo Giannini's Bank of Italy which eventually became Bank of America.



## 2 CANESSA BUILDING 710 Montgomery Street

Originally, this building was home to the Canessa Printing Co. During the 1920s and 1930s, the building housed a number of local artists' studios, while the ground floor was the popular Black Cat Cafe. In the 1940s and 1950s, the Black Cat attracted Beatnik poets and Bohemians such as Allen Ginsburg. It became the City's most well-known gay bar, providing a sense of community, and place of respite and socializing for LGBT San Franciscans. After thirty years and many moral and legal disputes, the Black Cat was forced to close in 1964, when its liquor licence was revoked.



## 4 BANK OF LUCAS, TURNER & COMPANY 800 Montgomery Street SF Landmark #26

This building was constructed in 1854 under the supervision of bank manager William Tecumseh Sherman. The company was a well-known St. Louis firm involved in western trading. Sherman later became famous as a general in the Civil War.



## 5 SOLARI BUILDINGS 470-472 Jackson Street SF Landmark #22-23

These two buildings were constructed around 1852 by Nicholas Larco, prominent Italian immigrant merchant. During the 1850s and 1860s, it housed the consulates of Chile, Spain, and France.



## 6 MOULINIE BUILDING 458-460 Jackson St. SF Landmark #25

This one story-brick building dates from the 1850s – but its simple lines are due to a modernist remodel from the 1950s. During this time, the area was home to the "Jackson Square Idea", a revitalization movement that encouraged architects, designers, and other creative firms to occupy the District.



## 7 HOTALING BUILDING 451 Jackson Street SF Landmark #12

This brick Italianate building was most likely built in 1866 by A.P. Hotaling, for his liquor manufacturing and dealership. It, along with the buildings across the alley, served as Hotaling's headquarters for almost 50 years.



## 8 GHIRARDELLI BUILDING 415-431 and 407 Jackson St. SF Landmark #15

In 1853, Domingo Ghirardelli opened a chocolate factory on the first floor of this brick Italianate building. In 1880, he purchased the buildings next door. In 1894, the factory moved to Ghirardelli Square on North Point Street.



## 9 TREMONT HOTEL (YEON BUILDING) 432 Jackson Street SF Landmark #24

While its history is unverifiable, this building is believed to be the Tremont Hotel, which was built in 1855 and occupied this site. Based on historic illustrations from the 1860s, this building had two additional stories and was wider. The missing portions of the building may have been destroyed in the 1906 Earthquake.



## 10 GROGEN-LENT-ATHERTON BUILDING 400 Jackson Street S.F. Landmark #27

Named for its original builders, this building has been called the first brick building constructed after the 1906 Earthquake and Fire. Most likely, it was built in the 1850s and remodeled in 1906.