CIVIC CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT
CULTURAL LANDSCAPE INVENTORY

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA
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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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This project, led by MIG, consisted of an interdisciplinary team of preservation planning and design professionals with a deep understanding of the history of San Francisco, historic architecture, historic landscapes, and cartography. The breadth and depth of this team’s expertise was essential to developing a comprehensive survey of the cultural landscape features within the Civic Center Historic District.

The team was assisted by generous access to various online and brick and mortar repositories of information which allowed them to craft a comprehensive understanding of the area’s long and complicated development history and provide a thorough analysis of the historic district’s extant features. In particular the team wishes to thank the people and organizations who have spent considerable time and resources to provide online sources of information that are so critical to the success of this type of work. Access to online collections assisted the team, benefitted the project and will help those interested in the Civic Center Historic District craft more informed plans for its future.

Though the bibliography lists all of the sources that were consulted, the authors wish to acknowledge the following people and resources that were critical to developing key sections of the report.

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Statement of Significance
1960 Civic Center Plaza Historic Design Plans (1960)
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.

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
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 - a property associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; and Criterion C - 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.; B. Marcus Breeno; Bernard J. S. Cahill; C. A. Meussdorffer; Daniel H. Burnham; DeLaye, Catheter and Company; Frederick H. Meyer; G. Albert Lansburgh; George Kelham; Jean Louis Bourgeois; John Galen Howard; John Bakewell, Jr.; John Reid, Jr.; Moyer and Ward; Paul Deniville; Thomas D. Church; Walter D. Blais; and William B. Pirtle.

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

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 Wardian, 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 0780, 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 will require further study into its significance and integrity. It is 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 Right Riots and the gay rights movement.

**NEED FOR A CULTURAL LANDSCAPE INVENTORY**

Much research and documentation was 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 2005, Jeffrey T. Tilmann published a book that examined the career of Arthur Brown, Jr., chief architect of the Civic Center following the Great 1906 San Francisco Earthquake and Fire. 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 Landscape 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 (1984 SFLD), established by Article 10 of the San Francisco Planning Code in 1994, encompasses a larger geographical 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.
- Since the prior documentation efforts were completed (1978 NR, 1987 NHL, 1994 SFLD) potential areas of significance have been identified, but not evaluated in terms of their relationship to the Civic Center Historic District. These include architecture and landscape features in the Mid-Century Modern design era and work associated with master landscape architects Douglas Baylis and Lawrence Halprin.
- None of the prior documentation efforts provides a comprehensive inventory or understanding of landscape features that relate to the established or proposed 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.
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. 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 information necessary for future planning and design efforts within Civic Center by those who own, manage and care about this unique and historic place.

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 a guiding document more than a prescriptive document; a resource which guides and manages decision rather than making them outright. It calls upon 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. 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.

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 Vietnam 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.

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. It also 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.

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STUDY BOUNDARY

The Civic Center Historic District study area encompasses the San Francisco Landmark District designated in 1984 through Article 10 of the San Francisco Planning Code with the addition of the northern half of blocks 0766 and 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 1.1). 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 from curb edge to curb edge 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 Lights, 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, a current and future studies are exploring a few distinct areas of significance for the Civic Center Historic District. The current study is reviewing 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). Future studies will review the work of known master landscape architect Lawrence Halprin and his designs for BART, Market Street and the United Nations Plaza, and 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

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. By the mid-1860s, a cemetery was no longer desirable in this location, and the project of relocating bodies from Yerba Buena Cemetery to the Lone Mountain Cemetery began. By 1870, the cemetery was converted into Yerba Buena Park, a public park (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.1

1870s: By the 1870s, the Civic Center area was designated a City Hall reservation and Marshall Square existed on the SE corner of block 0354 (where the new San Francisco Public Library now stands).2

1870s: Photographs of Van Ness Avenue during this decade depict trees and planters lining the street.3

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 351 (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.4

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.5

1894: The Pioneer Monument, created by F.H. Happersberger, 4

FIGURE 2.2 c. 1890 image of Old City Hall (California State Library)
is dedicated to the City by James Lick.6 It was originally placed in Marshall Square, located in the SE corner of block 0354 (see 1905 period plan).

1897: The Old City Hall (destroyed in the Great 1906 San Francisco Earthquake and Fires) is finished after years of construction, and amid rampant corruption. The fact that the building collapsed is more reflective of the corruption and shoddy construction that plagued the building than the earthquake itself. "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 embarrassingly set on the tower’s top..."7

1899: The fire box system is established in the City of San Francisco. Some boxes remain which bear that date.8 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. No action is taken to implement the plan.

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.9

1905: Daniel Burnham develops a plan for the City of San Francisco including the Civic Center, though no momentum to implement it immediately follows.11 "In laying out his plan for San Francisco, Burnham visited and drew inspiration from L’Enfant’s Washington, DC design; Burnham’s plan intended to bring imperial grandeur to San Francisco."12 The Burnham Plan 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 DPW, 2007, 7

11 J. Tilman, Arthur Brown, Jr. Progressive Classicist, 68
12 Freebairn-Smith, Rod, Jennifer Devlin and Sarah Karsinsky, “Extending the City Beautiful,” The Urbanist, Issue 488, January 2010

Figure 2.3 (upper right) c. 1899 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 (below) 1905 plan view image of the Daniel Burnham Plan for Civic Center (D. Rumsey)
geographical heart of the city.”13 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.”14 The plan was revised following the 1906 earthquake which is outlined later in the site history.

1905: Simultaneously city leaders asked Bernard J.S. Cahill to revise his 1899 plan, but like the Burnham plan it was not acted upon.

1906: On April 18 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: Hotel Whitcomb (located just outside the study area at 1231 Market Street) serves as a temporary City Hall.15 City offices remained at this location until 1916.14

1906: Wells Fargo building (1256 Market Street) is constructed originally as a stable and coach house on old City Hall Avenue.16 City Hall Avenue used to run diagonally across block 0354 where the new San Francisco Public Library now exists. (see 1905 period plan)

1906: The Board of Supervisors orders the razing of the Old City Hall ruins in preparation for the building of a new structure to

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.19 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 revisited his 1904 plan and voiced his concern that the Burnham Plan would be too expensive to implement.

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 east side of the street were saved. After the earthquake, many of the remaining mansions on Van Ness Avenue were converted to commercial uses.15

1906: Several buildings were noted as either totally or partially destroyed during the catastrophe including the City Hall, Hall of Records, Hall of Justice, and Chemical Company No. 14.

13 Triptych, Asian Art Museum of SF, Fall 1993, 14 Freedbairn-Smith, Rod, Jennifer Devlin and Sarah Karinsky, “Extending the City Beautiful,” The Urbanist, Issue 488, January 2010
15 Historical Resources Evaluation Report for the Van Ness Avenue Streetscape Improvement Project, Attachment VI, DPW, 2007, 7
16 T.B. McGinnis Collection of the History of the City Hall and Civic Center, 1906-1934. Thomas B. McGinnis was the Assistant Clerk, San Francisco Board of Supervisors and Superintendent of City Hall

Figure 2.6 (above) Portion of 1906 plan highlighting street widening projects (Earth Sciences & Map Library, UC Berkeley), Figures 2.7 and 2.8 (top and bottom right) 1906 John Galen Howard bird’s eye view and plan for Civic Center (J. Tillman)
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 letters: “1909, S.F., A.W.S.”

22 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 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.23

1911: Mayor Rolph announces a competition for planning the new City Hall and Exposition (Civic) Auditorium. Fifty teams respond and fall into one of two camps: either they proposed the site outlined in Burnham’s plan or the site of the Old City Hall.24

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.25

1912: The debate over where to site City Hall continues into early 1912. Consulting architects for the San Francisco’s Board of Public Works draft two proposed schemes 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 block 0787, reflecting the Burnham Plan. The proposed schemes A and B are released and commented upon through editorial coverage in a local newspaper.26

1912: It is unclear exactly how the decision is made, but plans attributed to John Galen Howard and committee are published in 1912 showing that the location of City Hall is in line with the site proposed by the Burnham Plan and illustrated in Scheme B. These plans reflect a combination of ideas put forward by both the Burnham and Cahill plans.

1912: A bond passes providing $8.8 million for the purchase of land for the Civic Center and construction of City Hall.27

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.28

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. The Department of Public Health Building, with its curved entrance once, was the first and only building designed and built in accordance with the design concept for the key plaza corners.29

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.28

2007, 8

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

Figure 2.11 1912 View of Market Street at 8th (Bancroft Library, UC Berkeley)
1914: In anticipation of the Panama-Pacific International Exposition, which was to take place 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.33

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 hung on each trolley pole, making Van Ness Avenue the “best lit thoroughfare in the city.”34 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 doors are 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.35

1914: The City of San Francisco introduced tall, slender street lights to Van Ness Avenue sidewalks around 1914, which reflects the City’s plan at the time to develop the Civic Center area according to City Beautiful design principals.

1915: Arthur Brown, Jr. and John Bakewell, Jr. (Bakewell & Brown) complete construction of City Hall on December 28 for $3.4 million.36 It was not finished in time for the Panama-Pacific International Exposition.

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

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

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 2.17 1915 City Hall near Van Ness and Grove (SF Dept. of Public Works historic photos, San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library)
1915: Civic Center Powerhouse is built (block 0347).37

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.38 Some of this development and the configuration of these blocks are still evident on the 1919 period plan, based on the 1919 Sanborn Map.

37 1987 NHL, 7,11
38 Historical Resources Evaluation Report for the Van Ness Avenue Streetscape Improvement Project, Attachment VI, DPW, 2007, 13

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 temporary construction. Built for the Panama Pacific Exposition, these features of the Plaza design were removed within a few short years.39 See figures 2.8, 2.14 and 2.16. Archival drawings dated 1914 confirm plaster construction of these and other features.40

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.41 Some of these remain in the Civic Center Historic District.

39 J. Tilman, Arthur Brown, Jr. Progressive Classicist, 97; Civic Center Proposal, Dianne Feinstein, November 1987, 14
40 WBE Collection, Environmental Design Archives
1919


1 inch = 200 feet
1916: Pedestrian light poles and young London plane trees exist along Polk Street and the Civic Center Plaza.42

1917: The Public Library designed by George Kelham is constructed (present day Asian Art Museum) with a structural steel frame, reinforced concrete floors, and unreinforced brick walls (block 0353).43

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.44

1918-1919: Specifications call for protection of existing granite curbs during construction of the State Building (now Supreme Court of California).45

1920: The cornerstone for the State Building (now Supreme Court of California) is laid.46

1922: Future site of the War Memorial Complex (block 0786A) is purchased and cleared by the City.47

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 plaza.48 (see Figure 3.38) Thomas Church is later commissioned to design the courtyard between the buildings.

1922: Arthur Brown, Jr. and G. Albert Lansburgh, who had achieved recognition for his theater design, are selected to design the buildings in the War Memorial Complex, including an Opera House.49

1923: Architectural Advisory Commission for the War Memorial presents drawings for buildings separated by a large memorial court with a victory column.50

1924: High School of Commerce Athletic Field and Grandstand is built on block 0810.51

1926: State Building (now Supreme Court of California), designed by Bliss & Faville, is finished.52

1927: High School of Commerce Academic building, located on block 0815, is constructed.53

1927: In the late 1920s, the west side of Van Ness Avenue between Fell and Grove Streets was lined with trees in sidewalk planters.54
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.55

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.56

1931: Construction on the War Memorial Complex buildings, including the Opera House and Veterans Building, commences in January and the cornerstone were laid on Armistice Day (Veterans Day), November 11.57

1932: The War Memorial Complex buildings, including the Opera House and Veterans Building, are dedicated on California State Admission Day, September 9.58

57 Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board Final Case Report, War Memorial Complex, Approved September 4, 1974, 4
58 Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board Final Case

55 1978 NRHP Inventory Nomination Form, continuation sheet 2

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 image of 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)
1932: The French Renaissance style Opera House, designed by Arthur Brown, Jr. 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. The Veterans Building, designed by Arthur Brown, Jr., is constructed with similar specifications.

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.

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

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

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

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.

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.

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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 2.34 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 2.36 1930s annotated oblique aerial of the Civic Center district (San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library)
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 existing 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.67

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.68

1933: Construction begins on Federal Building designed by Arthur Brown, Jr.69

1936: Streets adjacent to the Federal Building are fitted with 32 16.5’ concrete standards carrying 4,000 lumen pendants.73

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.71

1936: By 1936, small 12’ pedestrian lights are visible along Fulton Street, and ornate 30-tri-globe lights are visible along Hyde Street.72

1936: War Memorial Court contains soil from various cities around the world where Americans had been in battle which was gathered by American War Veterans.64

1936: War Memorial Court finished, designed by Thomas Church. Blue and gold painted ornamental iron fencing is installed at west and east entrances.71

1936: Around 1936, the Civic Center Plaza includes four rows of parking down the center of the Veterans Building reaching to the Polk Street side entrance to City Hall. The parking area is lined with a double row of plane trees.76

1936: By 1936, shrub mounding are planted near a corner of City Hall, and large trees are located near the main entrance of City Hall at Van Ness Avenue. These are planted in double rows in Civic Center Plaza. There are no street trees.79

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

Figure 2.38 c. 1936 oblique aerial of the Civic Center including the War Memorial Complex (J. Tilman)

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

Source: Ryker, Harrison. San Francisco Aerial Views, August, 1938.
David Rumsey Map Collection.

1 inch = 200 feet
1938-1961: WORLD WAR II AND MID-CENTURY MODERN

SELECTED DEVELOPMENT CHRONOLOGY

1941: The Hospitality House opens to serve citizens and soldiers during World War II. It is located on Larkin Street on the site of the former Marshall Square (block 0354). It was one of the last New Deal projects in the Bay Area, and built by volunteers from the Building Trades Council labor unions and private construction companies. This building later housed the San Francisco Planning Department, and was removed prior to the 1993 construction of the new San Francisco Public Library.80

1941: Prefabricated barracks, presumably built to provide lodging for World War II soldiers, are located in the Civic Center Plaza (block 0788) during World War II.81 Based on photographs of the area it appears they were removed between 1946-1947.

1945: A Library Annex is constructed on the NE corner of block 0353.82 The Annex is removed during the conversion of the Public Library to the Asian Art Museum in the 1990s.

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 351).

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).

81 1987 NHL, 7,11
82 1987 NHL, 7,8
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 of Veterans Memorial Hall” on June 26 in which the President addressed the delegates.83 The UN Charter was ratified by nations later that year.

1946: Around 1946, London plane trees located in the Civic Center Plaza along Fulton Street are uniformly pollarded, with the exception of the trees in front of the Federal Building which are newly planted. The Civic Center Plaza also contains decorative flower beds, hedge species, flagpoles, drinking fountains, and brick paving.84

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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.85

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.86

1950: In 1950, block 0767 contained a variety of commercial buildings, including an automobile dealer, single-story electric supply shop, and a two-story automobile sales shop. Most of these buildings, including a law school, are no longer present since the State of California Building now resides here. The Barbara Apartments, located in the SW corner of block and present in 1950, remain.87

1950: Commercial buildings, state offices and an automobile dealer are located along Van Ness Avenue on block 0766.87

1950: The sidewalks along Van Ness Avenue range from 10’ wide near the High School of Commerce on block 0815 to 25’ wide near the War Memorial Complex on block 0786A.88

1951: The Treaty of San Francisco is signed at the War Memorial 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 1952.89

1952: The High School of Commerce Athletic Field and Grandstand are removed from block 0810 along Van Ness Avenue.90

1953: In June, the San Francisco Planning Department publishes An Introductory Plan for the Civic Center. Thomas A. Brooks is appointed to run the Technical Coordinating Committee to advance the development and expansion of the Civic Center. The Committee is comprised of directors from the Department of City Planning, Department of Public Works, City Architect, Department of Property and Parking Authority.91 Despite controversy, a $3.25 million bond measure is eventually passed to fund the plan in 1954. The plan is eventually rejected for not

86 Historical Resources Evaluation Report for the Van Ness Avenue Streetscape Improvement Project, Attachment VI, DPW, 2007, 11
87 Historical Resources Evaluation Report for the Van Ness Avenue Streetscape Improvement Project, Attachment VI, DPW, 2007, 14
88 Historical Resources Evaluation Report for the Van Ness Avenue Streetscape Improvement Project, Attachment VI, DPW, 2007, 12
90 Historical Resources Evaluation Report for the Van Ness Avenue Streetscape Improvement Project, Attachment VI, DPW, 2007, 11
91 Haas, James W., “Civic Center in the Post-War Years,” The Argonaut, Vol. 23:1, Spring 2012, 76; San Francisco Civic Center Development Plan 1958, 5
1950
1 inch = 200 feet
1956-1957: Excavation begins for the construction of Brooks Exhibit Hall and the underground parking garage which necessitates the removal of the Beaux Arts-era Civic Center Plaza.92 Brooks Hall and the associated underground parking garage 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 Boylis was the team’s landscape architect; he was tasked with redesigning Civic Center Plaza after the completion of Brooks Hall.94

1957: The California State Building Annex, located on the north end of block 0765, is completed.95 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.96

92 The Argonaut, 76; San Francisco Civic Center Development Plan 1958, 5
93 The Argonaut, 77; Amendment to Article 10 in the City Planning Code, 7
95 1987 NHL, 7,8

1958: Brooks Exhibit Hall and the associated underground parking garage structure at Civic Center Plaza are completed.

1958: Tied to their work on Brooks Hall, the underground parking garage structure and the anticipated redesign of Civic Center Plaza, a Civic Center Development Plan is completed by WBE and SOM.97

97 San Francisco Civic Center Development Plan 1958;
Figure 2.61 1961 photo of newly planted Platanus $x$ acerifolia trees and planter boxes of rhododendrons (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 (left) 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)
1958: Several recommendations are made for the buildings and landscape spaces in the Civic Center Redevelopment Plan, but only some were implemented, including the new underground parking garage and exhibit 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. 88

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.” 89

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). 90

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 Boylais, closely reflected the 1915 era design, but was met with criticism by Mayor George Christopher. This design was never constructed. Boylais completed another version of the site design, which followed the modern design aesthetic in vogue at the time. 91 However, following construction in 1961, this design was met with major public criticism, again from Mayor Christopher and joined by San Francisco architect critic Alon Teiko. This criticism resulted in an international design competition to redesign the plaza in the mid-1960s. 92 Though modifications have been made, it is the 1961 Boylais design that remains today. Note: Boylais removed any reference to this project from his professional archives and papers. 93

1960: Pollarded sycamores were added to landscape planters at the corners of the Veterans Building and Opera House in the War Memorial Complex along Van Ness Avenue after 1960. 94

1962-1975: CONTROVERSY AND CHANGE

SELECTED DEVELOPMENT CHRONOLOGY

1962: A distinguished jury is selected for the Civic Center Plaza redesign which includes Thomas Church (landscape architect), Luis Barragan (architect), Andre Bloc (sculptor), Moses Lasky (art patron), and Sybil Moholy Nagy (art historian). 95 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 consequence to the physical development of the Civic Center.” 96

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...
Figures 2.72 - 2.74 (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)

Figures 2.70 - 2.71 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)

Figure 2.69 1964 plan of existing plaza for the International Competition for the Enhancement of the SF Civic Center (CED Library, UC Berkeley)
the eastern most pier to accommodate an escalator to Brooks Auditorium. 107

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. 108 The jury provided several reasons for choosing the Tzvetin and Danadjieva109 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.” 110

1966: The Civic Center Plaza Fountains, which have been a center for controversy surrounding the Plaza, are described in the San Francisco Chronicle as “the mayor’s urinal” due to the

107 1987 NHL, 7.5 108 SF Examiner, “$6000 Gift to Speed Design for Civic Plaza,” by Chas Cruttenden, March 1966, WBE Archives

109 It is interesting to note that Angela Danadjieva went on to work for Lawrence Halprin and Associates.

1965
Source: Catalog of California Aerial Photography, Air Photo 17, 1965. UCB Earth Sciences & Map Library.
1 inch = 200 feet
position and phallic appearance of the spouts. 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 is likely led to the fountain’s jets being replaced in 1970 (see below).

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

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

1967: Hiro II sculpture is completed and later installed near the SE corner of the Veterans Building (Peter Voulkos, 1967).

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.

Research about Halprin’s role was deemed outside the scope of this project, but needs to be researched and analyzed.

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

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. 7218). 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 8721 and 8946). It was a joint venture with John Carl Ny.

111 SF Examiner, ”Civic Center’s pond a font of controversy,” by Gerald Adams, August 9, 1993

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

113 It is likely that Halprin was consulted or submitted design plans on multiple occasions for Civic Center. Further

114 1978 NRHP Inventory Nomination Form, continuation sheet 1

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

116 The Argonaut, 85

117 SF Examiner, ”Civic Center’s pond a font of controversy,


119 Civic Center Proposal, Diane Feinstei, November 1987, 20

120 Based on a review of the Halprin archives finding aid and information provided by the University of Pennsylvania

Wormsche & Associates and Mario Campi & Associates, and funded by a 1968 bond issue. The plaza is located along Fulton Street, between Market and Hyde, and Leavenworth, between Market and McAllister.

121 Market Street Redevelopment Project Newsletter, San Francisco Public Library, UN Plaza folder; and architectural draw-
SITE HISTORY

1980

Source: Real Estate Data Inc.
Aerial of San Francisco, 1980.
UCB Earth Sciences & Map Library.

1 inch = 200 feet
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. The entrance to the Civic Center BART Station is located just south of the pedestrian promenade.

1975: The first tree at UN Plaza is dedicated by Mayor Alioto on June 26 in honor of the late Dag Hammarskjöld, United Nations Secretary General from 1953 to 1961.

1977-2012: 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 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.

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.

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

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

1982: San Francisco Public Library (now Asian Art Museum) on Market Street and other areas of the plaza. The library contains a new glass dome 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 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.

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.

The proposal calls for the preservation of the War Memorial Building, the War Memorial Auditorium, and the War Memorial Greensward. It also calls for the redesign of the Civic Center Plaza to create a pedestrian mall along Fulton Street in concert with construction of a new library on the Marshall Square site.

1987: Edmund G. Brown State Office Building is completed. It is designed to echo Davies Symphony Hall with semi circular curbs and a triple tiered façade. Available research has not uncovered the designer of this building.

1989: Simon Bolivar Monument is dedicated on the 200th anniversary of his birth. The statue was a gift from Venezuela to San Francisco.


1984: Louise M. Davies Symphony Hall (designed by Skidmore Owings and Merrill) opens, anchoring the western corner of Civic Center.

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

1982: San Francisco Public Library (now Asian Art Museum) on Market Street and other areas of the plaza.

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

1975: The first tree at UN Plaza is dedicated by Mayor Alioto on June 26 in honor of the late Dag Hammarskjöld, United Nations Secretary General from 1953 to 1961.

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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 (median and landscaping exist today).133

1987: The Civic Center Proposal also calls for the street light system to be redesigned so they are uniform. The San Francisco Chapter of the American Institute of Architects proposes a 1912 Daniel Burnham design, similar to the 1925 A. Larry Warwark design. Voters later fail to pass the bond that would finance the redesign.134

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 on the plaza existed from 1915-1958.135

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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.

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1989: San Francisco Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board halts plans to renovate Civic Center Plaza to Beaux Arts era design.138 Based on available research it is not known why this action was taken.

1990: Mayor Agnos announced that homeless people will no longer be allowed to sleep in Civic Center Plaza.139

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1990: Deteriorated site furnishings and cracked/damaged paving are repaired in Civic Center Plaza.140

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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.141

1993-1994: A children’s playground is constructed on NE corner of Civic Center Plaza near intersection of Larkin and McAllister.142

1993: Construction of the new main library on the former Marshall Square block begins (block 0254). Pet Cobb Fossel & Partners of New York and Simon Martin-Vega’s Winkelstein Morris of San Francisco are awarded the commission.143

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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.147

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.148

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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.149

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.149

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 poining 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 Detch.

133 Civic Center Study, SF Planning Dept, 22
134 SF Examiner, “Civic Center’s pond a font of controversy,” by Gerald Adams, August 9, 1993
135 Certificate of Appropriateness from Recreation and Park Commission
136 San Francisco Civic Center News, May 1993, Issue 1, 2
137 San Francisco Civic Center News, May 1993, Issue 1, 2
138 San Francisco Independent, “Civic Center plans stalled,” by Susan Herbert, April 5, 1989
140 Civic Center Historic District Improvement, General Obligation Bond Program Report, 2
142 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
143 San Francisco Civic Center News, May 1993, Issue 1, 2
144 SF Examiner, “Civic Center’s pond a font of controversy,” by Gerald Adams, August 9, 1993
145 SF Examiner, “Civic Center Exodus Inspires Renewal Ideas,” by Gerald Adams, San Francisco City Planning Archive
146 Draft Historic Property Survey Report and Finding of Effect: Minor Site Improvements at UN Plaza, 3
147 SF Examiner, “Civic Center Exodus Inspires Renewal Ideas,” by Gerald Adams, San Francisco City Planning Archive

146 Civic Center Study completed by Planning Department is released. Few of the recommendations are implemented. Recommendations that are implemented include a bicycle plan, some of the Van Ness Avenue changes including sidewalks and new planters, and improvements are made to outdoor lighting for pedestrian safety.146

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1996: The War Memorial Opera House is vacated to complete seismic upgrades.152
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 fountains in Civic Center Plaza, the addition of some seating areas (which were later removed), and the removal of some olive trees.153
1998: The central pool in Civic Center Plaza is replaced by a new pool.154
1999: California Supreme Court relocates to the Earl Warren Building at 350 McAllister after renovations and seismic upgrades are completed.155
2003: Former public library rehabilitated to become Asian Art Building at 350 McAllister after renovations and seismic upgrades are completed.156
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.157
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.158
2001: Former public library rehabilitated to become Asian Art Museum.
2003: Controversy erupts again over calls for removal of United Nations Plaza Fountain.159 The fountain is fenced off during this time and landscape architect Lawrence Halprin outlines his dictates for recent changes in local newspaper articles.160

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151 SF Chronicle, “It’s time to raise a stink over public toilets,” by C.W. Nevius, December 10, 2011
152 SF Examiner, “Civic Center Exodus Inspires Renewal Ideas,” by Gerald Adams, San Francisco City Planning Archive
153 Civic Center Historic District Improvements, General Obligation Bond Program Report, 2
154 Civic Center Historic District Improvements, General Obligation Bond Program Report, Figure 3
155 SF Chronicle, “Powers that be can revive Civic Center,” by John King, August 15, 2012
156 SF Examiner, “Plaza named for Alioto,” by Anastasia Hendrix, October 28, 1998
158 Civic Center Historic District Improvements, General Obligation Bond Program Report, 2
159 SF Chronicle, “Civic Center: A Blend of All Things San Francisco,” by Gail Todd, March 15, 2012
160 By Rene Letchuk, April 18, 2003
161 United Nations Plaza: Site Assessment Report, pg. 1, 9, 14, 22, San Francisco Planning Department Archives
162 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
164 SF Chronicle, “UN Plaza’s Architect to Fight Redesign,”
2010: Lagunaria patersonii (primrose) trees added to north side of block 351 by Friends of the Urban Forest (located at McAllister and Leavenworth).168

2010: Glass domed MUNI bus shelters are deemed inaccessible and replaced with shelters with wavy red roofs.169

2010: San Francisco awarded grant from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to develop Civic Center Sustainable District Plan.

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

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.

168 Friends of the Urban Forest
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 #0255 - 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

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.
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 State of California 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
San Francisco Civic Center Historic District
Planning Department, San Francisco, California
Cultural Landscape Report

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 pycnantha
- 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

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
5. San Francisco publicly available GIS city lot, block and curb data, 2012

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

DRAWN DATE:
March 2013, updated September 2013

LEGEND FOR SURROUNDING LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
- vegetation
- small scale feature
- circulation
- circulation - curb
- building or structure
## BLOCK #0767 - STATE OF CALIFORNIA BUILDING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHARACTERISTIC</th>
<th>QTY.</th>
<th>FEATURE</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>ADDRESS/LOCATION</th>
<th>DATE BUILT</th>
<th>PRIMARY SOURCE</th>
<th>JURISDICTION</th>
<th>CHARACTER DEFINING</th>
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<tr>
<td>buildings &amp; structures</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Residential apartment building</td>
<td>Barbara Apartments</td>
<td>580 McAllister</td>
<td>1912</td>
<td>SFLD</td>
<td>private</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>circulation</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>curb</td>
<td>cement curb</td>
<td>Block #0767 on Franklin, McAllister, Redwood, Van Ness</td>
<td>site visit</td>
<td>DPW</td>
<td>WC</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>circulation</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>curb</td>
<td>granite curb</td>
<td>Block #0767 on Franklin, McAllister</td>
<td>1915-1919</td>
<td>site visit</td>
<td>DPW</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>bench</td>
<td>cement bench</td>
<td>Block #0767 on Redwood</td>
<td>1986</td>
<td>site visit</td>
<td>NC</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>small scale feature</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>bench</td>
<td>cement built into planter box</td>
<td>Block #0767 on McAllister</td>
<td>1966</td>
<td>site visit</td>
<td>NC</td>
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<tr>
<td>small scale feature</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>box shelter - covered with bench</td>
<td>Block #0767 on McAllister</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>site visit</td>
<td>MUNI</td>
<td>WC</td>
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<tr>
<td>small scale feature</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>fire hydrant</td>
<td>fire hydrant - four valves built into the planter wall</td>
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<td>1986</td>
<td>site visit</td>
<td>SFD</td>
<td>NC</td>
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<tr>
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<td>1</td>
<td>fire hydrant</td>
<td>fire hydrant - painted white</td>
<td>Block #0767 on Franklin</td>
<td>site visit</td>
<td>SFD</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>small scale feature</td>
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<td>fire hydrant</td>
<td>fire hydrant - painted white with blue top</td>
<td>Block #0767 on Golden Gate</td>
<td>1909c</td>
<td>site visit</td>
<td>BEWS</td>
<td>C</td>
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<td>small scale feature</td>
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<td>mail box</td>
<td>Block #0767 on McAllister, Van Ness</td>
<td>site visit</td>
<td>USPS</td>
<td>NC</td>
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<td>newspaper box</td>
<td>Block #0767 on Van Ness</td>
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<td>street light</td>
<td>single cobra</td>
<td>Block #0767 on Franklin, Redwood, McAllister, Golden Gate</td>
<td>SF PUC</td>
<td>SF PUC</td>
<td>C*</td>
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<tr>
<td>vegetation</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>planter box</td>
<td>cement planter box</td>
<td>Block #0767 on Franklin, McAllister, Van Ness</td>
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<td>State of CA</td>
<td>NC</td>
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<tr>
<td>vegetation</td>
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<td>planter box</td>
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<tr>
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<td>tree</td>
<td>street tree - 1 of 15 with same metal grate; Platanus x acerifolia, London Plane</td>
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<td>site visit</td>
<td>DPW</td>
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<td>vegetation</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>tree</td>
<td>street tree - Corymbia ficifolia, Red Flowering Gum</td>
<td>Block #0767 on Franklin, Golden Gate, Van Ness</td>
<td>1986c</td>
<td>site visit</td>
<td>DPW</td>
<td>NC</td>
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<td>vegetation</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>tree</td>
<td>street tree - Eucalyptus polyanthemos, Silver Dollar Gum</td>
<td>Block #0767 on McAllister, Van Ness</td>
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<td>site visit</td>
<td>DPW</td>
<td>NC</td>
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<tr>
<td>vegetation</td>
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<td>tree</td>
<td>street tree - in elevated planting box with double row of camelia shrubs; Acacia melanoxylon, Black Acacia</td>
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<td>site visit</td>
<td>DPW</td>
<td>NC</td>
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<td>2005 HRIER Van Ness BRT Project</td>
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<td>Block #ROW on Van Ness</td>
<td>site visit</td>
<td>MUNI</td>
<td>NC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*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.
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.
LEGEND:
- bike rack
- bollard - gray metal
- bollard - concrete
- bus stop
- fire hydrant/policebox
- fire hydrant - white with blue top
- fire hydrant - white
- sculpture - Him II, 1967
- newspaper box
- man-hole cover
- vent grate
- ramp with granite curbs
- steps - granite
- fence
- sidewalk lift
- parking lot
- driveway - textured pavement
- sign - wheelchair access
- sidewalk - paving variation
- sidewalk - War Memorial Court
- light pole - ornamental iron lamp
- street light - Van Ness single pendant
- street light - single cobra
- hedge - boxwood
- shrub - Hetromelles arbutifolia
- shrub - Taxus baccata 'Stricta'
- planting area
- stump of street tree
- street tree - Platanus x acerifolia
- tree - Lepidobrimmon confertus
- tree - Carpinus betulus 'Fastigiata'
- tree - Pittosporum undulatum
- tree - Platanus x acerifolia
- tree - Corymila ficifolia
- tree well - square with no grate
- tree well - square with cement grate

LEGEND FOR SURROUNDING LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
- - - - pathway
- curb - cement
- contributing building or structure
- spatial organization
- vegetation
- small scale feature
- circulation
- circulation - curb
- building or structure

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
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
EXISTING CONDITIONS & ANALYSIS

**War Memorial Veterans Building**: Veterans Building; similar in appearance to Opera House with long stairway approach.

**War Memorial Opera House**: Opera House; similar in appearance to Veterans Building.

**Vegetation**
- Planting area with wood chips, grass, and trees with wood edging (Block #0786A on McAllister, 1994 site visit).
- Granite edging with grass and wood chips (Block #0786A on McAllister, 1994 site visit).
- Entry trees at War Memorial Court (Block #0786A on Van Ness, 1990 site visit).
- Boxwood hedge lining tree walkways and perimeter planting areas (Block #0786A on Grove, War Memorial Court, 1990 NHL).

**Spatial Organization**
- War Memorial Court: Central lawn encircled by sidewalk with box hedges and sycamore trees, small scale feature.
- Van Ness single-paved brick sidewalk:
  - Three paving treatments (Block #0786A on Van Ness, 1990 site visit).
- Ramp at entrance with granite curbs and ornate edge treatment (Block #0786A on Van Ness, 1990 NHL).
- Street light - single pendant (Block #0786A on Franklin, 1932 site visit).
- Street light - single cobra (Block #0786A on Franklin, 1932 site visit).

**Buildings & Structures**
- War Memorial Veterans Building: Similar in appearance to Opera House with long stairway approach.
- War Memorial Opera House: Similar in appearance to Veterans Building.

**Small Scale Features**
- Ornamental iron lamp located on fence (War Memorial Court, 1932 site visit).
- Square with cement grate (War Memorial Court, 1932 site visit).
- Square no grate (War Memorial Court, 1932 site visit).
- Painted white with blue top; embossed 1909 (War Memorial Court, 1909 site visit).
- Painted white; embossed 1980 (War Memorial Court, 1980 site visit).
- Fire hydrant - painted white; embossed 1998 (War Memorial Court, 1998 site visit).

**Utilities**
- Fire hydrant - painted white (War Memorial Court, 1998 site visit).
- Fire hydrant - painted white with blue top; embossed 1909 (War Memorial Court, 1909 site visit).
- Fire hydrant - painted white; embossed 1980 (War Memorial Court, 1980 site visit).
- Street light - pollarded London Plane (War Memorial Court, 1932 site visit).

**Planting**
- Carpinus betulus Fastigiata, Pyramidal European Hornbeam (Block #0786A on McAllister, 1994 site visit).
- Platanus x acerifolia, London Plane (Block #0786A on Franklin, 1994 site visit).
- Lophostemon confertus, Brisbane Box (Block #0786A on Franklin, 1994 site visit).

**Art & Architectural Elements**
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 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.
LEGEND:

- bollard
- fire hydrant - painted white with blue top
- fire hydrant - painted white
- sculpture - Large Four Piece Reclining Figure
- sign - information and advertising
- bike rack
- bus stop
- street light - Van Ness single pendant
- street light - single cobra
- street signal - ornate gold paint
- tree - Platanus x acerifolia
- tree - Nerium oleander
- street tree - Platanus x acerifolia
- street tree - Corymbia ficifolia
- street tree - Pittosporum undulatum
- street tree - Metrosideros excelsa
- tree well - circular with brick cover
- tree well - circular, filled with decomposed granite
- tree well - semicircle (elongated) no grate
- tree well - semicircle (filled in with cement)
- tree well - semicircle no grate
- planter box
- curb - granite
- curb - cement
- 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
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

San Francisco Civic Center Historic District
Planning Department, San Francisco, California
Cultural Landscape Report
BLOCK #0810

Louise M. Davies Symphony Hall

San Francisco Civic Center Historic District
Planning Department, San Francisco, California
Cultural Landscape Report
BLOCK #0810
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHARACTERISTIC</th>
<th>QTY.</th>
<th>FEATURE</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>ADDRESS/LOCATION</th>
<th>DATE BUILT</th>
<th>PRIMARY SOURCE</th>
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<td>site visit</td>
<td>DPW</td>
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<tr>
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<td>site visit</td>
<td>DPW</td>
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<td>fire hydrant - painted white with blue top; embossed 1909</td>
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<td>fire hydrant - painted white; embossed 1998</td>
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<td>DPW</td>
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<td>sign</td>
<td>sign - information</td>
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<td>site visit</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>small scale feature</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>tree well</td>
<td>tree well - circular with brick cover</td>
<td>Block #0810 on Grove</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>site visit</td>
<td>DPW</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>small scale feature</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>tree well</td>
<td>tree well - semicircle (elongated) no grate</td>
<td>Block #0810 on Hayes</td>
<td>1980c</td>
<td>site visit</td>
<td>DPW</td>
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<tr>
<td>small scale feature</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>tree well</td>
<td>tree well - semicircle with smaller semicircle (filled in with cement)</td>
<td>Block #0810 on Hayes</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>site visit</td>
<td>DPW</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>small scale feature</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>tree well</td>
<td>tree well - semicircle with smaller semicircle and no grate</td>
<td>Block #0810 on Hayes</td>
<td>1980c</td>
<td>site visit</td>
<td>DPW</td>
<td>NC</td>
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<tr>
<td>small scale feature</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>tree well</td>
<td>tree well - semicircle with smaller semicircle and no grate (no tree)</td>
<td>Block #0810 on Hayes</td>
<td>1980c</td>
<td>site visit</td>
<td>DPW</td>
<td>NC</td>
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<tr>
<td>small scale feature</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>tree well</td>
<td>tree well - circular with metal edging, filled with decomposed granite</td>
<td>Block #0810 on Van Ness</td>
<td>1980c</td>
<td>site visit</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>NC</td>
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<tr>
<td>small scale feature</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>street light</td>
<td>street light - single cobra</td>
<td>Block #0810 on Franklin, Grove, Hayes</td>
<td>SF PUC</td>
<td>SF PUC</td>
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<tr>
<td>small scale feature</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>street light</td>
<td>street light - Van Ness single pendant</td>
<td>Block #0810 on Van Ness</td>
<td>1980</td>
<td>site visit, 1915 SIPL</td>
<td>SF PUC</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>small scale feature</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>street signal</td>
<td>street signal - small gold paint on base of pole</td>
<td>Block #0810 on Franklin</td>
<td>SF PUC</td>
<td>SF PUC</td>
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<tr>
<td>vegetation</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>planter box</td>
<td>planter box - east side of the building - black iron decorative fencing</td>
<td>Block #0810 on Van Ness</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>site visit</td>
<td>DPW</td>
<td>NC</td>
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<tr>
<td>vegetation</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>tree</td>
<td>tree - Metrosideros excelsa, New Zealand Christmas Tree</td>
<td>Block #0810 on Franklin</td>
<td>1980c</td>
<td>site visit</td>
<td>DPW</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>vegetation</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>tree</td>
<td>tree - Platanus x acerifolia, London Plane</td>
<td>Block #0810 on Grove, Van Ness</td>
<td>1980c</td>
<td>site visit</td>
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<tr>
<td>vegetation</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>tree</td>
<td>tree - northeast edge of building - Platanus x acerifolia, London Plane</td>
<td>Block #0810 on Van Ness</td>
<td>1980c</td>
<td>site visit</td>
<td>DPW</td>
<td>NC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vegetation</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>tree</td>
<td>tree in median - Corymbia ficifolia, Red flowering Gum</td>
<td>Block #0810 on Van Ness</td>
<td>1950</td>
<td>site visit</td>
<td>DPR</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*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 San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) has maintained presence on the block bound by Hayes, Van Ness, Fell and Franklin since 1913. That year, Commercial High School (High School of Commerce, b. 1910) was moved from its original location along Grove Street to its present location at Franklin and Fell. Moving the building allowed construction of Civic Center Plaza for the 1915 Panama Pacific International Exposition. Both 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.
San Francisco Civic Center Historic District
Planning Department, San Francisco, California

Cultural Landscape Report

LEGEND:
- fire hydrant - painted white
- street light - Van Ness single pendant
- street light - single cobra
- street light - single pendant lamp
- shrub - Pittosporum crassifolium
- shrub - Rhaphiolepis indica
- shrub - Syzygium paniculatum
- shrub - Ligustrum japonicum
- shrub - Taxus baccata 'Stricta'
- stumps in planting area
- street tree - Lophostemon confertus
- tree - Syzygium paniculatum
- paving - brick paving treatment
- planter box

- curb - granite
- curb - cement

contributing building or structure

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

DRAWN BY:

DRAWN DATE:
March 2013, updated September 2013

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

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

Cultural Landscape Report

LEGEND FOR SURROUNDING LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
- vegetation
- small scale feature
- circulation
- circulation - curb
- building or structure
<table>
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<tr>
<th>CHARACTERISTIC DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>ADDRESS/LOCATION</th>
<th>DATE BUILT</th>
<th>PRIMARY SOURCE</th>
<th>JURISDICTION</th>
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<td>Newton Tharp Commercial High School</td>
<td>170 Fell</td>
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<tr>
<td>buildings &amp; structures</td>
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<td>135 Van Ness</td>
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<td>street light</td>
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<td>SF PUC</td>
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<tr>
<td>vegetation</td>
<td>planter box</td>
<td>Block #0815 on Franklin</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>site visit</td>
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<td>shrub - Ligiustrum japonicum, Japanese Privet</td>
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<td>vegetation</td>
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<td>vegetation</td>
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<td>vegetation</td>
<td>tree - Syzygium paniculatum, Brush cherry (diseased)</td>
<td>Block #0815 on Van Ness</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>site visit</td>
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*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.
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.

Landscape elements that remain from the historic period of significance include Van Ness trolley poles, fire utilities, and granite curbs along Van Ness Avenue. The northern half of this block is included in the project study area, but not within the 1994 San Francisco Landmark District.

San Francisco Superior Court, McAllister St*

Residential apartment building at Van Ness Ave*

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

Former Trader Vic’s building at 555 Golden Gate Ave

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

Cultural Landscape Report

BLOCK #0766

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.

Landscape elements that remain from the historic period of significance include Van Ness trolley poles, fire utilities, and granite curbs along Van Ness Avenue. The northern half of this block is included in the project study area, but not within the 1994 San Francisco Landmark District.
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<th>CHARACTERISTIC</th>
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<th>FEATURE</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
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<th>DATE BUILT</th>
<th>PRIMARY SOURCE</th>
<th>JURISDICTION</th>
<th>CHARACTER DEFINING</th>
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<td>San Francisco Public Utilities Commission Building</td>
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<td>NC</td>
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<td>Commercial building - formerly Trader Vic's</td>
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<td>Office building</td>
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<td>US Bank Building</td>
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<td>Corinthian Court Apartments</td>
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<td>1994 SFLD</td>
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<td>6&quot; cement curb</td>
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<td>bike rack - ring and post style</td>
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<td>bike rack - single staple-style</td>
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<td>site visit</td>
<td>SFFD</td>
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<td>newspaper box</td>
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<td>sign - bus stop information</td>
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<td>tree well - square with no grate</td>
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</table>

*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.*
As the defining architectural feature of the Civic Center, City Hall is both the seat of the City’s political and administrative function and also the iconic image of San Francisco that prevails in the public consciousness. It occupies block #0787.

Until the postwar period, trees and plantings were sparse around City Hall, concentrated mainly at building corners and entrances. Historic photos show evidence of London Plane trees at the building’s perimeter by 1957.

Landscape elements that date to the historic period of significance include the Van Ness trolley poles, building perimeter statuary, granite and brick curbs, fire utilities, ornamental lighting fixtures, and pollarded London Plane trees - the characteristic vegetation that defines the building’s exterior.

New additions to the block include fenced landscape planters installed as part of the Van Ness greening project and updated MUNI bus shelters.
San Francisco Civic Center Historic District
Planning Department, San Francisco, California

Cultural Landscape Report

BLOCK #0787

San Francisco City Hall

LEGEND:
- utility
- fire hydrant - painted white with blue top
- fire hydrant - painted white with green top
- fire hydrant - painted white
- cement block - square in planting area
- newspaper box
- bus stop
- driveway
- fence - black metal fence
- entry post - granite square block
- vault doors
- ramp - granite edged
- steps
- sculpture - President Lincoln
- sculpture - Hall McAllister
- light pole - ornate metal painted blue
- street light - Van Ness single pendant
- street light - aggregate concrete
- street light - double pendant
- street light - single cobra
- street signal - aggregate concrete post
- tree - Quercus lobata
- tree - Platanus x acerifolia
- shrub - unknown species
- hedge - Griselinia lucida
- planter box
- gate - black metal fence
- curbs - granite and brick
- curbs - granite
- curbs - cement
- 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
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
- contributing building or structure

1 inch = 75 feet
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<th>CHARACTERISTIC</th>
<th>QTY.</th>
<th>FEATURE</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
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<td>utility post - granite square block and attachable access sign</td>
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<td>gate - black metal fence</td>
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<tr>
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<td>planter box - faux granite curb edges with black iron fencing</td>
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<td>tree</td>
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<td>post 1957</td>
<td>SFPL image</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*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.
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

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

LEGEND FOR SURROUNDING LANDSCAPE FEATURES:

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
5. San Francisco publicly available GIS city int, block and curb data, 2012

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

DRAWN DATE:
March 2013, updated September 2013

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<table>
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<th>CHARACTERISTIC</th>
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<th>JURISDICTION</th>
<th>CHARACTER DEFINING</th>
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<td>fire hydrant</td>
<td>fire hydrant - painted white with blue top; embossed 1958</td>
<td>Block #0811 on Grove St</td>
<td>1958</td>
<td>site visit</td>
<td>BEWS</td>
<td>NC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>small scale feature</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>fire hydrant</td>
<td>fire hydrant - painted white; embossed 1968</td>
<td>Block #0811 on Van Ness, Hayes St</td>
<td>1968c</td>
<td>site visit</td>
<td>SF PUC</td>
<td>NC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>small scale feature</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>mail box</td>
<td>mail box - blue metal with USPS logo</td>
<td>Block #0811 on Grove St</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>site visit</td>
<td>USPS</td>
<td>NC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>small scale feature</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>fence</td>
<td>fence - blue painted metal fence</td>
<td>Block #0811 on Grove St</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>site visit</td>
<td>City/County</td>
<td>NC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>small scale feature</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>street light</td>
<td>street light - aggregate concrete post and single pendant lamp</td>
<td>Block #0811 on Grove, Polk St</td>
<td>pre 1945</td>
<td>1945C, serial LED Archives</td>
<td>SF PUC</td>
<td>NC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>small scale feature</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>street light</td>
<td>street light - aggregate concrete post with single pendant arm style with cobra luminaire</td>
<td>Block #0811 on Polk St</td>
<td>pre 1945</td>
<td>1945C, serial LED Archives</td>
<td>SF PUC</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>small scale feature</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>street light</td>
<td>street light - single cobra</td>
<td>Block #0811 on Lech Walesa, Hayes St</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>SF PUC</td>
<td>SF PUC</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>small scale feature</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>street light</td>
<td>street light - single cobra with ornate support detail</td>
<td>Block #0811 on Lech Walesa, Hayes St</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>SF PUC</td>
<td>SF PUC</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>small scale feature</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>street light</td>
<td>street light - Van Ness single pendant</td>
<td>Block #0811 on Van Ness St</td>
<td>1915-1936</td>
<td>site visit, 1915 SFLD image</td>
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<td>C**</td>
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<tr>
<td>small scale feature</td>
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<td>street signal</td>
<td>street signal - aggregate concrete post and post top</td>
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<td>pre 1945</td>
<td>site visit</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>NC</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>vacant lot</td>
<td>vacant lot</td>
<td>155 Grove St</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1994 SFLD</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>NC</td>
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<tr>
<td>vegetation</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>planter box</td>
<td>planter box - faux granite curb edging with black metal fencing</td>
<td>Block #0811 on Van Ness St</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>site visit</td>
<td>DPW</td>
<td>NC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vegetation</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>tree</td>
<td>street tree - Platanus x acerifolia, London Plane in square base well</td>
<td>Block #0811 on Van Ness St</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>site visit</td>
<td>DPW</td>
<td>NC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Cultural Landscape Report

San Francisco Civic Center Historic District Cultural Landscape Inventory

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 garden
- tree well - square with metal grate
- curb - granite
- curb - cement
- pathway
- fence - blue metal
- contributing building or structure
- non-contributing building or structure

LEGEND FOR SURROUNDING LANDSCAPE FEATURES:

- vegetation
- small scale feature
- circulation
- circulation - curb

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
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

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

Cultural Landscape Report

Blocks
#0765, #0347

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 garden
- tree well - square with metal grate
- curb - granite
- curb - cement
- pathway
- fence - blue metal
- contributing building or structure
- non-contributing building or structure

LEGEND FOR SURROUNDING LANDSCAPE FEATURES:

- vegetation
- small scale feature
- circulation
- circulation - curb
- 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
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
## EXISTING CONDITIONS & ANALYSIS

### BLOCK #0765 - SUPREME COURT OF CALIFORNIA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHARACTERISTIC</th>
<th>QTY.</th>
<th>FEATURE</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>ADDRESS/LOCATION</th>
<th>DATE BUILT</th>
<th>PRIMARY SOURCE</th>
<th>JURISDICTION</th>
<th>CHARACTER DEFINING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>buildings &amp; structures</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Supreme Court of California</td>
<td>Supreme Court of California (Earl Warren Building, State Office Building, or California State Building) by Bliss &amp; Faville; earthquake rehabilitation by Page &amp; Turnbull (1998)</td>
<td>350 McAllister</td>
<td>1926</td>
<td>1978 NR, 1987 NHL, 1994 SFLO</td>
<td>State of CA</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>circulation</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>curb, 6&quot; cement curb</td>
<td>Block #0765 on Larkin, McAllister, Polk, Golden Gate</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>site visit</td>
<td>DPW</td>
<td>C</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>circulation</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>curb, 6&quot; granite curb</td>
<td>Block #0765 on Larkin, McAllister, Polk, Golden Gate</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>site visit</td>
<td>DPW</td>
<td>C</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>small scale feature</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>bike rack, bike rack: gray metal &amp; wood post</td>
<td>Block #0765 on Larkin, McAllister, Polk, Golden Gate</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>site visit</td>
<td>DPW</td>
<td>C</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>small scale feature</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>bus stop</td>
<td>Block #0765 on Larkin, McAllister, Polk, Golden Gate</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>site visit</td>
<td>MUNI</td>
<td>NC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>small scale feature</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>fire box, fire box: red metal on single post</td>
<td>Block #0765 on Larkin, McAllister, Polk, Golden Gate</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>site visit</td>
<td>SFDT</td>
<td>C**</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>small scale feature</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>fire hydrant</td>
<td>fire hydrant: painted white</td>
<td>Block #0765 on Polk</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>site visit</td>
<td>SFFD</td>
<td>C**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>small scale feature</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>fire hydrant</td>
<td>fire hydrant: painted white with blue top, embossed 1909</td>
<td>Block #0765 on Polk</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>site visit</td>
<td>BEWS</td>
<td>C**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>small scale feature</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>mail box, mail box: blue metal with USPS logo</td>
<td>Block #0765 on Larkin, McAllister, Polk, Golden Gate</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>site visit</td>
<td>USPS</td>
<td>NC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>small scale feature</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>newspaper box, newspaper box: six compartment on two posts</td>
<td>Block #0765 on Larkin, McAllister, Polk, Golden Gate</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>site visit</td>
<td>DPW</td>
<td>NC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>small scale feature</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>street light</td>
<td>street light - single cobra</td>
<td>Block #0765 on Larkin, McAllister, Polk, Golden Gate</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>site visit</td>
<td>SF PUC</td>
<td>SF PUC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vegetation</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>tree, street tree: Ginkgo biloba, Maidenhair Tree</td>
<td>Block #0765 on Larkin, Polk</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>site visit</td>
<td>City/County</td>
<td>NC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vegetation</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>tree, street tree: Metrosideros excelsa, New Zealand Christmas Tree</td>
<td>Block #0765 on Larkin, Polk, Golden Gate</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>site visit</td>
<td>SFFD</td>
<td>NC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vegetation</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>tree, street tree: Platanus x acerifolia, London Plane</td>
<td>Block #0765 on Larkin, McAllister, Polk</td>
<td>1980-1995</td>
<td>site visit</td>
<td>Real Estate Data Aerial; 1994 SFLD</td>
<td>DPW</td>
<td>NC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vegetation</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>tree, tree: Ginkgo biloba, Maidenhair Tree with Agapanthus orientalis, Lily of the Nile</td>
<td>Block #0765 on Larkin, Polk</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>site visit</td>
<td>SFFD</td>
<td>NC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vegetation</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>tree, tree: in planting area adjacent to building, fencing, ramp, Platanus x acerifolia, London Plane</td>
<td>Block #0765 on Larkin</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>site visit</td>
<td>SF PUC</td>
<td>SF PUC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*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.

### BLOCK #0347 - POWERHOUSE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHARACTERISTIC</th>
<th>QTY.</th>
<th>FEATURE</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>ADDRESS/LOCATION</th>
<th>DATE BUILT</th>
<th>PRIMARY SOURCE</th>
<th>JURISDICTION</th>
<th>CHARACTER DEFINING</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>buildings &amp; structures</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>San Francisco Powerhouse Building</td>
<td>San Francisco Powerhouse Building</td>
<td>320 Larkin</td>
<td>1915</td>
<td>1987 NHL</td>
<td>City/County</td>
<td>C*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>circulation</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>curb, 6&quot; cement curb</td>
<td>Block #0347 on Larkin, McAllister</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>site visit</td>
<td>DPW</td>
<td>C</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>small scale feature</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>pathway, pathway: located within fenced courtyard</td>
<td>Block #0347 on Larkin</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>site visit</td>
<td>Argonaut</td>
<td>C</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>small scale feature</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>fence, fence: blue metal around small courtyard</td>
<td>Block #0347 on Larkin</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>site visit</td>
<td>SF PUD</td>
<td>NC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>small scale feature</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>fire hydrant</td>
<td>fire hydrant: painted white</td>
<td>Block #0347 on Larkin</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>site visit</td>
<td>SFFD</td>
<td>NC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>small scale feature</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>street light</td>
<td>street light: single cobra</td>
<td>Block #0347 on Larkin</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>site visit</td>
<td>SF PUC</td>
<td>NC</td>
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<tr>
<td>vegetation</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>vegetable garden</td>
<td>vegetable garden beds - community gardens</td>
<td>Block #0347 on Larkin</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>site visit</td>
<td>City/County</td>
<td>NC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 stairways 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.
San Francisco Civic Center Historic District
Planning Department, San Francisco, California

Cultural Landscape Report

EXrBST INSTING CONDITIONS & ANALYSIS

LEGEND:

- Brooks Hall
- parking garage
- bike rack
- plaque
- utility
- toilet - unisex
- drinking fountain
- vent
- curb ramp
- fire hydrant - white
- fire hydrant - white with blue top
- fire hydrant - white with green top
- flag pole large - related to US and CA history
- flag pole large - dedicated to armed forces
- flag pole small
- driveway
- stairwell - access sealed off at grade
- stairwell - access sealed off below grade
- light pole
- street light - double cobra
- street light - double pendant
- street light - single cobra
- shrub - Tibouchina urvilleana
- tree - Platanus x acerifolia
- tree - Olea europaea
- planting area - display bed
- curb - granite and brick
- curb - cement
- fence
- retaining wall

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
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 curb

PAGE 65
## BLOCK #0788 - CIVIC CENTER PLAZA

| CHARACTERISTIC | QTY. | FEATURE | DESCRIPTION | ADDRESS/LOCATION | DATE BUILT | PRIMARY SOURCE | JURISDICTION | CHARACTER DEFINING
<table>
<thead>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Buildings &amp; Structures</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Brooks Hall</td>
<td>Brooks Hall - located under south half of Civic Center Plaza</td>
<td>99 Grove</td>
<td>1958</td>
<td>1960 Ext Surface Cond, A2</td>
<td>ADM</td>
<td>U****</td>
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<tr>
<td>Buildings &amp; Structures</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>garage structure</td>
<td>Civic Center Plaza Parking Garage - located under north half of Civic Center Plaza</td>
<td>355 McAllister</td>
<td>1958</td>
<td>1960 Ext Surface Cond, A2</td>
<td>RPD</td>
<td>U****</td>
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<tr>
<td>Buildings &amp; Structures</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>ventilation structure</td>
<td>ventilation structure for Brooks Hall</td>
<td>Block #0788 on Larkin</td>
<td>1958</td>
<td>1960 Ext Surface Cond, A2</td>
<td>RPD</td>
<td>U****</td>
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<tr>
<td>Buildings &amp; Structures</td>
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<td>ventilation structure</td>
<td>ventilation structure for Civic Center Plaza Garage</td>
<td>Civic Center Plaza</td>
<td>1958</td>
<td>1960 Ext Surface Cond, A2</td>
<td>RPD</td>
<td>U****</td>
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<tr>
<td>circulation</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>curb</td>
<td>curb - pavement curb</td>
<td>Block #0788 on Grove, Larkin, McAllister</td>
<td>1915</td>
<td>1960 Site &amp; Paving Plan, A3</td>
<td>CPW</td>
<td>C **</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>circulation</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>curb ramp</td>
<td>curb ramp</td>
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<td>1958</td>
<td>1960 Site &amp; Paving Plan, A3</td>
<td>RPD</td>
<td>U****</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>circulation</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>pathway</td>
<td>pedestrian path - decomposed granite</td>
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<td>1993</td>
<td>SF Chronicle</td>
<td>RPD</td>
<td>NC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>small scale feature</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>fence</td>
<td>fence - metal fence around play area</td>
<td>Block #0788 on Larkin</td>
<td>1993</td>
<td>north, 1998 south</td>
<td>1992 Layout Plan &amp; Construction Details, L-3</td>
<td>SF Chronicle</td>
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<tr>
<td>small scale feature</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>retaining wall</td>
<td>retaining wall - cement around plantings area</td>
<td>Block #0788 on Grove</td>
<td>1961</td>
<td>1960 Site &amp; Paving Plan, A3</td>
<td>RPD</td>
<td>U****</td>
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<tr>
<td>small scale feature</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>site rack</td>
<td>site rack - ring and post style</td>
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<td>1960</td>
<td>1960 Site &amp; Paving Plan, A3</td>
<td>RPD</td>
<td>U****</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>drinking fountain</td>
<td>drinking fountain - plaque on base dedicated to the City's armed forces, dedicated 2007</td>
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<td>1915-1921</td>
<td>Tillman image</td>
<td>RPD</td>
<td>C</td>
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<td>flag pole</td>
<td>flag pole small - one of eight</td>
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<td>1960 Site &amp; Paving Plan, A3</td>
<td>RPD</td>
<td>U****</td>
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<td>small scale feature</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>playground</td>
<td>playground area for children</td>
<td>Block #0788 on Larkin</td>
<td>1993, 1998</td>
<td>SF Planning image</td>
<td>DPW</td>
<td>C</td>
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<td>4</td>
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<td>light pole - decorative blue painted metal</td>
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<td>2000-2009</td>
<td>Pelosi Press Release, SF Chronicle</td>
<td>RPD</td>
<td>NC</td>
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<td>street light</td>
<td>street light - double cobra</td>
<td>Block #0788 on McAllister, Larkin, Grove</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>SF PUC</td>
<td>SF PUC</td>
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<tr>
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<td>6</td>
<td>street light</td>
<td>street light - double pendant on blue iron post</td>
<td>Block #0788 on Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place</td>
<td>2000-2009</td>
<td>Pelosi Press Release, SF Chronicle</td>
<td>SF PUC</td>
<td>NC</td>
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<tr>
<td>small scale feature</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>street light</td>
<td>street light - single cobra</td>
<td>Block #0788 on McAllister</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>Civic Center Plaza</td>
<td>Civic Center Plaza (James Rolph, Jr. Plaza); city block, flags/flagpoles, lawn panels, London Plane trees</td>
<td>99 Grove</td>
<td>1915</td>
<td>1960 planting plan, A3</td>
<td>RPD</td>
<td>U****</td>
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<td>Fulton Street Mall</td>
<td>Fulton Street Mall - associated with Blocks #0351, #0353, #0354, #0788</td>
<td>Block #0788</td>
<td>c. 1916</td>
<td>c. 1918, 1945 SF Planning image</td>
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<td>C</td>
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<td>playground area for children</td>
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<td>NC</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>planting area</td>
<td>planting area - display bed</td>
<td>Civic Center Plaza</td>
<td>1961</td>
<td>1960 Planting Plan, L1</td>
<td>RPD</td>
<td>U****</td>
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<td>planting area</td>
<td>planting area - lawn around playgrounds</td>
<td>Block #0788 on Larkin</td>
<td>1993, 1998</td>
<td>SF Planning &amp; Irrigation Plan, A1</td>
<td>RPD</td>
<td>U****</td>
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<td>planting area</td>
<td>planting area - lawn, concrete coping</td>
<td>Civic Center Plaza</td>
<td>1961</td>
<td>1960 Planting Plan, L1</td>
<td>RPD</td>
<td>U****</td>
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<td>shrub</td>
<td>shrub - Tibouchina urvilleana, Princess Flower</td>
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<td>1961</td>
<td>1960 Planting Plan, L1</td>
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<td>U****</td>
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<td>tree in playground - Olea europaea, Olive</td>
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<td>1961</td>
<td>1960 Planting Plan, L1</td>
<td>RPD</td>
<td>U****</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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

- bike rack
- bus stop
- fire box
- fire hydrant - painted white with blue top
- fire hydrant - painted white
- plaque - Jerry Garcia
- street sign - inlaid into sidewalk
- stairwell
- street light - aggregate concrete post
- street light - aggregate concrete; cobra luminaire
- street light - single cobra
- street tree - Platanus x acerifolia

- curb - granite
- curb - cement

- 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
5. San Francisco publicly available GIS city lot, block and curb data, 2012

DRAWN BY:
MIG: Rachel Edmonds, Steve Leathers and Heather Buczek using ArcGIS 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

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

Cultural Landscape Report

Block #0812

San Francisco Exposition (Civic) Auditorium

1 inch = 75 feet
0 25 50 100 feet
### BLOCK #0812 - SAN FRANCISCO EXPOSITION (CIVIC) AUDITORIUM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHARACTERISTIC</th>
<th>QTY.</th>
<th>FEATURE</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>ADDRESS/LOCATION</th>
<th>DATE BUILT</th>
<th>PRIMARY SOURCE</th>
<th>JURISDICTION</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Buildings &amp; structures</strong></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>San Francisco Exposition (Civic) Auditorium</td>
<td>San Francisco Exposition (Civic) Auditorium</td>
<td>99 Grove</td>
<td>1915</td>
<td>1978 NR, 1987 NHL, 1994 SFLO</td>
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<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>circulation</strong></td>
<td>8</td>
<td>curb</td>
<td>6” cement curb</td>
<td>Block #0812 on Grove, Hayes, Larkin, Polk</td>
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<td>DPW</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>curb</td>
<td>6” granite curb</td>
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<td>DPW</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>sign</td>
<td>street sign - brass lettering introd into the sidewalk</td>
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<td>site visit</td>
<td>DPW</td>
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<td>bike rack</td>
<td>Block #0812 on Grove</td>
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<td>site visit</td>
<td>DPW</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>bike rack</td>
<td>bike rack - ring and post style</td>
<td>Block #0812 on Grove</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>site visit</td>
<td>DPW</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>bus stop</td>
<td>bus stop - covered</td>
<td>Block #0812 on Hayes</td>
<td>1980s</td>
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<td>MUNI</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>fire box</td>
<td>fire box - red metal single post</td>
<td>Block #0812 on Polk</td>
<td>1899s</td>
<td>SF Chronicle</td>
<td>SFD</td>
<td>C*</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>fire hydrant</td>
<td>fire hydrant - painted white with blue top; embossed 1958</td>
<td>Block #0812 on Grove</td>
<td>1968</td>
<td>site visit</td>
<td>BEWS</td>
<td>F*</td>
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<tr>
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<td>1</td>
<td>fire hydrant</td>
<td>fire hydrant - painted white; embossed 1993</td>
<td>Block #0812 on Polk</td>
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<td>site visit</td>
<td>SFFD</td>
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<td>plaque</td>
<td>plaque - bronze, in the sidewalk, Jerry Garcia</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>site visit</td>
<td>DPW</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>stairwell</td>
<td>stairwell - access to Brooks Hall with black metal railing</td>
<td>Block #0812 on Grove</td>
<td>1968</td>
<td>site visit</td>
<td>DPW</td>
<td>D*</td>
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<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>street light</td>
<td>street light - aggregate concrete post and single pendant lamp</td>
<td>Block #0812 on Grove, Polk</td>
<td>pre 1945</td>
<td>1945c aerial CED Archives</td>
<td>SF PUC</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>street light</td>
<td>street light - aggregate concrete post with single pendant arm style with cobra luminaire</td>
<td>Block #0812 on Larkin</td>
<td>pre 1945</td>
<td>1945c aerial CED Archives</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>street light - single color</td>
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<td>SF PUC</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>tree - Platanus x acerifolia, London Plane</td>
<td>Block #0812 on Grove</td>
<td>post 1965</td>
<td>1965 CA Aerial photo, UC Berkeley</td>
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</table>

*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.
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

LEGEND:
- sign - street name
- sign - SFPD inlaid into the sidewalk
- bike rack
- utility
- fire hydrant - painted white with blue top
- bus stop
- driveway
- fire box
- traffic control box
- light pole
- street light - aggregate concrete post
- street light - single cobra
- street tree - Platanus x acerifolia
- tree - Platanus x acerifolia
- planting area
- planter box - granite with shrub
- planter box
- tree well - square metal 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
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**

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<td>DPW</td>
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<td>bus stop, covered with bench</td>
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<td>fire box - red metal post</td>
<td>Block #0353 on Larkin</td>
<td>1909c</td>
<td>site visit</td>
<td>SFLD</td>
<td>C*</td>
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<td>fire hydrant</td>
<td>fire hydrant - painted white with blue top</td>
<td>Block #0353 on Larkin</td>
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<td>site visit</td>
<td>SFLD</td>
<td>C*</td>
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<tr>
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<td>planter box - adjacent to building</td>
<td>Block #0353 on Larkin</td>
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<tr>
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<td>planter box - granite with tall shrub</td>
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<td>MUNI</td>
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<td>vegetation</td>
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<td>DPW</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>planting area</td>
<td>planting area adjacent to building with turf and box hedge</td>
<td>Block #0353 on Larkin</td>
<td>1998c</td>
<td>site visit</td>
<td>DPW</td>
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<tr>
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<td>sculpture - at entry steps; bronze statue on a concrete base of Ashurbanipal - by Fred Parhad and Frank Tomissi</td>
<td>Block #0353 on Fulton</td>
<td>1985</td>
<td>site visit</td>
<td>DPW</td>
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<td>small scale feature</td>
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<td>sign</td>
<td>sign - logo for SFPD inlaid into sidewalk</td>
<td>Block #0353 on Fulton</td>
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<td>site visit</td>
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<td>small scale feature</td>
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<td>sign</td>
<td>sign - street name 'FULTON' engraved into curbed ramp apron</td>
<td>Block #0353 on Fulton</td>
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<td>site visit</td>
<td>DPW</td>
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<tr>
<td>small scale feature</td>
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<td>traffic control box</td>
<td>traffic control box - green metal post</td>
<td>Block #0353 on Fulton</td>
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<td>site visit</td>
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<td>C*</td>
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<td>small scale feature</td>
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<td>tree well</td>
<td>tree well - square metal grate</td>
<td>Block #0353 on Hyde</td>
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<td>site visit</td>
<td>DPW</td>
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<td>utility</td>
<td>utility protected by a green mesh cage</td>
<td>Block #0353 on Larkin</td>
<td>1916c</td>
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<tr>
<td>small scale feature</td>
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<td>light pole</td>
<td>light pole - double lamp on metal post on median into driveway</td>
<td>Block #0353 on Hyde</td>
<td>2003</td>
<td>site visit</td>
<td>SFLD</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>small scale feature</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>street light</td>
<td>street light - aggregate concrete post with single pendant arm style with cobra luminaire</td>
<td>Block #0353 on Fulton, Larkin</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>SF PUC</td>
<td>SF PUC</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>small scale feature</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>street light</td>
<td>street light - single cobra</td>
<td>Block #0353 on Fulton, Hyde, McAllister</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>SF PUC</td>
<td>SF PUC</td>
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<tr>
<td>small scale feature</td>
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<td>sculpture</td>
<td>sculpture at entry steps; bronze statue on a concrete base of Ashurbanipal - by Fred Parhad and Frank Tomissi</td>
<td>Block #0353 on Fulton</td>
<td>1985</td>
<td>site visit</td>
<td>DPW</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>spatial organization</td>
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<td>Fulton Street Mall</td>
<td>Fulton Street Mall - associated with Blocks #0351, #0353, #0354, #0788</td>
<td>Block #0353</td>
<td>c. 1916</td>
<td>c. 1918 SF Planning Map</td>
<td>DPW</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>vegetation</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>tree</td>
<td>tree - Platanus x acerifolia, London Plane</td>
<td>Block #0353 on Hyde, McAllister</td>
<td>2003</td>
<td>site visit</td>
<td>DPW</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vegetation</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>tree</td>
<td>tree - adjacent to planting area - Platanus x acerifolia, London Plane</td>
<td>Block #0353 on Larkin</td>
<td>1980-1993</td>
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<tr>
<td>vegetation</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>tree</td>
<td>tree in an alley with turf - (historically) pollarded Platanus x acerifolia, London Plane</td>
<td>Block #0353 on Fulton</td>
<td>c. 1936</td>
<td>site visit</td>
<td>-</td>
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*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.*
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.
San Francisco Civic Center Historic District
Planning Department, San Francisco, California

Cultural Landscape Report

LEGEND:
- bike rack
- fire hydrant - painted white with blue top
- bench
- book drop
- bus stop
- mailbox
- sculpture - Double L Excentric Gyratory
- sculpture - Pioneer Monument
- sign - street name
- light pole - ornate metal
- street light - aggregate concrete post
- street light - single cobra
- tree - Ficus macrocarpa
- tree - Platanus x acerifolia
- tree well

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

San Francisco Public Library

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
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

1 inch = 75 feet
### BLOCK #0354 - SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY

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<th>FEATURE</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>ADDRESS/LOCATION</th>
<th>DATE BUILT</th>
<th>PRIMARY SOURCE</th>
<th>JURISDICTION</th>
<th>CHARACTER DEFINING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>buildings &amp; structures</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>San Francisco Public Library</td>
<td>San Francisco Public Library, former site of Marshall Square constructed in 1870; site of south wing of Old City Hall until 1906</td>
<td>Block #0354 on Fulton, Grove, Hyde, Larkin</td>
<td>1909</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>circulation</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>curb</td>
<td>6&quot; cement curb</td>
<td>Block #0354 on Fulton, Hyde</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>site visit</td>
<td>DPW</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>small scale feature</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>bench</td>
<td>bench - built into planting area + turf</td>
<td>Block #0354 on Fulton</td>
<td>1995c</td>
<td>site visit</td>
<td>City/County</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>small scale feature</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>bike rack</td>
<td>bike rack - metal bollards with aluminum ring racks (6 total)</td>
<td>Block #0354 on Grove</td>
<td>1995c</td>
<td>site visit</td>
<td>DPW</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>small scale feature</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>book drop box</td>
<td>book drop box - brushed steel with blue text</td>
<td>Block #0354 on Larkin</td>
<td>1995c</td>
<td>site visit</td>
<td>City/County</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>small scale feature</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>bus stop</td>
<td>bus stop - covered with bench</td>
<td>Block #0354 on Hyde, Larkin</td>
<td>1880s, 2010</td>
<td>site visit</td>
<td>MUNI</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>small scale feature</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>fire hydrant</td>
<td>fire hydrant - painted white with blue top</td>
<td>Block #0354 on Larkin</td>
<td>1909</td>
<td>site visit</td>
<td>City/County</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>small scale feature</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>fire hydrant</td>
<td>fire hydrant - painted white with blue top; embossed 1909</td>
<td>Block #0354 on Larkin</td>
<td>1995c</td>
<td>site visit</td>
<td>USFS</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>small scale feature</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>sign</td>
<td>sign - street name 'GROVE' engraved into curbed ramp apron</td>
<td>Block #0354 on Larkin</td>
<td>1982, 1997</td>
<td>site visit</td>
<td>DPW</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>small scale feature</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>tree well</td>
<td>tree well - no tree and filled in with small square tiles</td>
<td>Block #0354 on Fulton, Grove, Hyde</td>
<td>1995c</td>
<td>site visit</td>
<td>DPW</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>small scale feature</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>light pole</td>
<td>light pole - ornate metal posts with glass lamps, appear historic</td>
<td>Block #0354 on Larkin</td>
<td>1995c</td>
<td>site visit</td>
<td>City/County</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>small scale feature</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>street light</td>
<td>street light - aggregate concrete post with single pendant arm style with cobra luminaire</td>
<td>Block #0354 on Grove</td>
<td>pre 1945</td>
<td>1945c archiv</td>
<td>SF PUC</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>small scale feature</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>street light</td>
<td>street light - single cobra</td>
<td>Block #0354 on Fulton, Grove, Hyde, Larkin</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>SF PUC</td>
<td>SF PUC</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>small scale feature</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Pioneer Monument</td>
<td>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 &amp; Grove until 1993 when moved to Fulton Street ROW between Larkin &amp; Hyde.</td>
<td>Fulton between Larkin and Hyde</td>
<td>1894, 1993</td>
<td>1987 NHL, 1994 SFLD</td>
<td>DPW</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>spatial organization</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Fulton Street Mall</td>
<td>Fulton Street Mall - associated with Blocks #0351, #0353, #0354, #0788</td>
<td>Block #0354</td>
<td>c. 1916</td>
<td>C. 1918 SF Planning image</td>
<td>DPW</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vegetation</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>planting area</td>
<td>planting area - turf; skateboard chips on edges</td>
<td>Block #0354 on Larkin</td>
<td>1995c</td>
<td>site visit</td>
<td>DPW</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vegetation</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>tree</td>
<td>street tree - Ficus macrocarpa, Chinese Barberry</td>
<td>Block #0354 on Grove, Hyde</td>
<td>1995c</td>
<td>site visit</td>
<td>DPW</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vegetation</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>tree</td>
<td>Tree - in planting area + turf - Platanus x acerifolia, London Plane</td>
<td>Block #0354 on Larkin</td>
<td>1995c</td>
<td>site visit</td>
<td>DPW</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vegetation</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>tree</td>
<td>Tree - in planting area + turf - Platanus x acerifolia, London Plane</td>
<td>Block #0354 on Larkin</td>
<td>1920s, 1995</td>
<td>1920 LOC image</td>
<td>DPW</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vegetation</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>tree</td>
<td>Tree in plaza with square tree wits filled with square sites - Platanus x acerifolia, London Plane</td>
<td>Block #0354 on Fulton, Hyde</td>
<td>1920s, 1995</td>
<td>1920 LOC image</td>
<td>DPW</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*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.*
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, Market Street pedestrian lighting, and London Plane trees planted in conjunction with the redesign of Market Street after BART was installed in the early 1970s.

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

Cultural Landscape Report

LEGEND:

- bollard
- sign - street sign
- bike rack
- escalator
- newspaper box
- fire hydrant - painted white with blue top
- fire hydrant - painted white
- fire box
- kiosk
- street light - Market Street three arm with globe luminaire
- street light - aggregate concrete post
- street light - aggregate concrete post
- street tree - Platanus x acerifolia, no tree grate
- street tree - Platanus x acerifolia, radial grate
- parking lot
- curb - granite
- curb - cement
- contributing building or structure
- non-contributing building or structure
- sidewalk - brick with herringbone pattern
- Market Street / Civic Center Station / UN Plaza Future Study Area

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
5. San Francisco publicly available GIS city lot, block and curb data, 2012

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

DRAWN DATE:
March 2013, updated July 2014

LEGEND FOR SURROUNDING LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
- vegetation
- small scale feature
- circulation
- circulation - curb
- building or structure
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHARACTERISTIC</th>
<th>QTY.</th>
<th>FEATURE</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>ADDRESS/LOCATION</th>
<th>DATE BUILT</th>
<th>PRIMARY SOURCE</th>
<th>JURISDICTION</th>
<th>CHARACTER DEFINING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>buildings &amp; structures</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Commercial building</td>
<td>Marye Building</td>
<td>1200 Market</td>
<td>1908</td>
<td>1994 SFLD</td>
<td>private</td>
<td>C*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>buildings &amp; structures</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Commercial building</td>
<td>Commercial building</td>
<td>1212 Market</td>
<td>1907</td>
<td>1994 SFLD</td>
<td>private</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>buildings &amp; structures</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Commercial building</td>
<td>Commercial building</td>
<td>1240-42 Market</td>
<td>1908</td>
<td>1994 SFLD</td>
<td>private</td>
<td>C*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>buildings &amp; structures</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Wells Fargo Building</td>
<td>Wells Fargo Building - 2-story brick building extending through the block from Market (front side) to Grove (back side)</td>
<td>1256-64 Market</td>
<td>1908</td>
<td>1994 SFLD</td>
<td>private</td>
<td>C*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>buildings &amp; structures</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Commercial building</td>
<td>Commercial building (Hotel Avalon)</td>
<td>1272-76 Market</td>
<td>1907</td>
<td>1994 SFLD</td>
<td>private</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>circulation</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>curb</td>
<td>6&quot; granite curb</td>
<td>Block #0355 on Grove, Larkin</td>
<td>1915c</td>
<td>site visit</td>
<td>DPW</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>circulation</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>curb</td>
<td>6&quot; cement curb</td>
<td>Block #0355 on Grove, Larkin</td>
<td>1915c</td>
<td>site visit</td>
<td>DPW</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>circulation</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>curb</td>
<td>12&quot; granite curb</td>
<td>Block #0355 on Market, Grove, Hayes</td>
<td>1915c</td>
<td>site visit</td>
<td>DPW</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>circulation</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>sidewalk</td>
<td>sidewalk - brick sidewalks with a herringbone pattern</td>
<td>Block #0355 on Market, Grove, Larkin</td>
<td>1915c</td>
<td>site visit</td>
<td>DPW</td>
<td>U***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>circulation</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>parking lot</td>
<td>parking lot - asphalt (vacant lot)</td>
<td>Block #0355 on Larkin, Grove (41-47 Grove, SE corner of Grove &amp; Market)</td>
<td>1966c</td>
<td>1994 SFLD</td>
<td>private</td>
<td>NC</td>
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<tr>
<td>small scale feature</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>bike rack</td>
<td>bike rack - metal staple (three in a row)</td>
<td>Block #0355 on Market, Grove, Larkin</td>
<td>1973</td>
<td>site visit</td>
<td>DPW</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>small scale feature</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>bike rack</td>
<td>bike rack - ring and post style</td>
<td>Block #0355 on Grove</td>
<td>1973</td>
<td>site visit</td>
<td>DPW</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>small scale feature</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>bollard</td>
<td>bollard - 1 of many linked by chain around the curve of the block</td>
<td>Block #0355 on Hyde</td>
<td>1973</td>
<td>site visit</td>
<td>SFFD</td>
<td>NC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>small scale feature</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>fire box</td>
<td>fire and police box - red metal on single post, blue compartment</td>
<td>Block #0355 on Market</td>
<td>1899c</td>
<td>site visit</td>
<td>SFDT</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>small scale feature</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>fire hydrant</td>
<td>fire hydrant - painted white; embossed 2001</td>
<td>Block #3701 on Larkin Street</td>
<td>2001</td>
<td>site visit</td>
<td>SFFD</td>
<td>NC</td>
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<tr>
<td>small scale feature</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>fire hydrant</td>
<td>fire hydrant - painted white; embossed 1980</td>
<td>Block #3701 on Larkin Street</td>
<td>1980</td>
<td>site visit</td>
<td>SFFD</td>
<td>NC</td>
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<tr>
<td>small scale feature</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>fire hydrant</td>
<td>fire hydrant - painted white; embossed 1995</td>
<td>Block #3701 on Market Street</td>
<td>1995</td>
<td>site visit</td>
<td>SFFD</td>
<td>NC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>small scale feature</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>fire hydrant</td>
<td>fire hydrant - painted white with blue top; embossed 1909</td>
<td>Block #3751 on Market Street</td>
<td>1909</td>
<td>site visit</td>
<td>BEWS</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>small scale feature</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>fire hydrant</td>
<td>fire hydrant - painted white with blue top</td>
<td>Block #3751 on Hyde</td>
<td>1909</td>
<td>site visit</td>
<td>BEWS</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>small scale feature</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>kiosk</td>
<td>kiosk - round metal with dome and advertising</td>
<td>Block #0355 on Hyde</td>
<td>1973</td>
<td>site visit</td>
<td>DPW</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>small scale feature</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>newspaper box</td>
<td>newspaper box</td>
<td>Block #0355 on Grove</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>site visit</td>
<td>DPW</td>
<td>NC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>small scale feature</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>sign</td>
<td>sign - metal street sign inlaid to brick sidewalk ‘HYDE ST.’</td>
<td>Block #3751 on Hyde</td>
<td>1975</td>
<td>site visit</td>
<td>DPW</td>
<td>U***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>small scale feature</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>street light</td>
<td>street light - aggregate concrete post with single pendant arm style with cobra luminaire</td>
<td>Block #0355 on Grove, Market</td>
<td>1945</td>
<td>site visit</td>
<td>BEWS</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>small scale feature</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>street light</td>
<td>street light - Aggregate Market Street three arm globe luminaires on cast iron post</td>
<td>Block #0355 on Market Street</td>
<td>1915-1928</td>
<td>Bancroft image</td>
<td>SF PUC</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>small scale feature</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>street signal</td>
<td>street signal - aggregate concrete post</td>
<td>Block #0355 on Grove</td>
<td>1945</td>
<td>site visit</td>
<td>SF PUC</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vegetation</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>tree</td>
<td>tree - Platanus x acerifolia, London Plane, no tree grate</td>
<td>Block #0355 on Grove, Larkin</td>
<td>1973</td>
<td>site visit</td>
<td>DPW</td>
<td>NC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vegetation</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>tree</td>
<td>tree - circular tree well - Platanus x acerifolia, London Plane, with metal radial grate</td>
<td>Block #0355 on Market</td>
<td>1973</td>
<td>site visit</td>
<td>DPW</td>
<td>U***</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*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.
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 viewshed of City Hall.

Landscape elements that date to the period of significance include granite curbs of varying width, Market Street pedestrian lighting, London Plane trees along Fulton Mall and Market Street, and UN Plaza Fountain and associated lighting and paving treatments.

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.
### Existing Conditions & Analysis

**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.**

*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.*

### Vegetation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>Qty</th>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Address/Location</th>
<th>Date Built</th>
<th>Primary Source</th>
<th>Jurisdiction</th>
<th>Character Defining</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

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**Note:** 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, Haipin Fountain and Market Street will require a future study to fully understand how it contributes to the significance of the larger Civic Center district.**
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 landscape and areas of significance not previously documented. 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 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 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 both for properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places and for 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 and provide the structure for those listings. This information provides the context necessary for understanding the current documentation and the changes that are being recommended for any future updates of the documentation.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CRITERIA

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, archaeology, 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:

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; or
D. That have yielded or may be likely to yield, information important in history or prehistory. (archaeological resources)

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS CRITERIA

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, archaeology, 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 specimens exceptionally valuable for a study of a period, style or method of construction, or that 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.

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."172 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."173 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."174 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, conncnb, gazebo, lighthouse, windmill 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, statue

Sites | 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

1994 SAN FRANCISCO LANDMARK DISTRICT

Boundary: See map in Introduction
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: Bonus Arts style


1978 NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES\textsuperscript{179}

Boundary: See map in Introduction

PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE: 1800-1974\textsuperscript{180}

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 Architecture


Category: District

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

STATEMENT 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, 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.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 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 with the Civic Center Historic District but also extends beyond it, was determined this evaluation was 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 a more detailed study is completed.

BOUNDARY

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

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 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 reflecting a property that 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 this district during the Great 1906 San Francisco Earthquake and Fires. The end date of 1951 was established by the 1987 NHL. The end date of the period of significance will be re-evaluated as part of the current and future studies into areas of significance related to the mid-century modern design of Civic Center Plaza, the design of UN Plaza and Market St. Bart development. Additional information related to both of these areas of significance is included in the Statement of Significance recommendations at the end of this section.

CRITERIA

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

- Criterion A: a property associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history
- Criterion C: 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
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<tr>
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<td>1 United Nations Plaza (35-37 Fulton Street)</td>
<td>1994 SFLD</td>
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<td>1978 NR</td>
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<td>10 United Nations Plaza</td>
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<td>1170 Market Street (Buker's Pet Store)</td>
<td>1994 SFLD</td>
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<td>1172 Market Street (McCarthy's Cocktail Lounge)</td>
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<tr>
<td>450 McAllister Street (City Hall Annex)</td>
<td>1994 SFLD</td>
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<td>456 McAllister</td>
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<td>460 McAllister</td>
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<td>1978 NR</td>
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<td>Barbara Apartments</td>
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<td>California State Building (Supreme Court of California, Old State Office Building)</td>
<td>1994 SFLD, 1987 NHL, 1978 NR</td>
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<td>California State Courts Building (State Building Annex)</td>
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<td>City Hall</td>
<td>1994 SFLD, 1987 NHL, 1978 NR</td>
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<td>City Hall Statues</td>
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<td>Civic Center Garage</td>
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<td>Department of City Planning Building/USG Hospitality House</td>
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<td>1987 NHL, 1978 NR</td>
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<tr>
<td>Department of Public Health Building</td>
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<td>Edmund G. Brown State Office Building</td>
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Note: Contributing features are bold in this table to match the information in the Existing Conditions Analysis section.
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<td>Memorial Court</td>
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<td>Methodist Book Concern</td>
<td>1994 SFLD</td>
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<td>Nealon Tharp Commercial High School</td>
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<td>Orpheum Theater Building</td>
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<td>Parking Lot - 24 Grove</td>
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<td>Peacehouse</td>
<td>1987 NHL</td>
<td>1994 SFLD</td>
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<tr>
<td>San Francisco Art Commission</td>
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<td>San Francisco Public Library (new Main Library, former Marshall Square site)</td>
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<td>Standard Station</td>
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<td>Vacant Lot - SE corner of Grove Street at Larkin Street</td>
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<td>War Memorial Opera House</td>
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<td>War Memorial Veterans Building</td>
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<td>Wells Fargo Building</td>
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Note: Contributing features are bold in this table to match the information in the Existing Conditions Analysis section.
The first criterion, National Register Criteria A (National Historic Landmark Criteria 1), is documented in both the 1976 NR and the 1987 NHL. The second criterion, National Register Criteria C (National Historic Landmark Criteria 4), is documented in the 1976 NR, the 1987 NHL, and the 1994 SFLD.

**AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The areas of significance that have been documented to relate to 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. Designers associated with the Architecture, Art, Community Planning and Development, Landscape Architecture of the Modern Style are Douglas Baylis; Lawrence Halprin; Stidmon; Onorato and Merrill; DeLacer, Cather and Company; and Wurster, Bernardi and Emmons. Their work is currently being studied in relationship to the design for Civic Center Plaza, UN Plaza and Market Street BART development, as it pertains to the Civic Center Historic District. The Beaux Arts style relates primarily to the areas of Architecture, Art, Community Planning and Development and Landscape Architecture in the Civic Center Historic District. Information about significance related to the modern era, which is the focus of another study, is included in the Statement of Significance recommendations at the end of this section. In addition, a discussion of the yet to be fully evaluated resources associated with the UN Plaza and Market Street BART development, as it pertains to the Civic Center Historic District, is also included to provide information about that site.

**CATEGORY**

The property should remain a District, as it has been designated in the 1976 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.

**ARCHITECTS AND LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS**

Architects, landscape architects and craftsmen 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. Meusdsetter; 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. Blais; 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; Stidmon; Onorato and Merrill; DeLacer, Cather and Company; and Wurster, Bernardi and Emmons. Their work is currently being studied in relationship to the design for Civic Center Plaza, UN Plaza and Market Street BART development, as it pertains to the Civic Center Historic District. The Beaux Arts style relates primarily to the areas of Architecture, Art, Community Planning and Development and Landscape Architecture in the Civic Center Historic District. Information about significance related to the modern era, which is the focus of another study, is included in the Statement of Significance recommendations at the end of this section. In addition, a discussion of the yet to be fully evaluated resources associated with the UN Plaza and Market Street BART development, as it pertains to the Civic Center Historic District, is also included to provide information about that site.

**HISTORIC RESOURCES**

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 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**

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 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, landscapes, 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 catastrophic 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 two buildings, that was planned by Arthur Brown, Jr. along with the Opera House and Veterans Building, 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.” 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. Excerpt 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; bowdrow hedging along the perimeter, the walkways, and at the east end of the court; the double allees of plane trees, the slight rise in topography in the direction of City Hall; and the iron and bronze fencées, lanterns, and light standards.

**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 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 (Economia, CA), Parkmerced (San Francisco, CA), Bloedel Reserve ( Bainbridge Island, WA), and General Motors Technical Center (Warren, MD).

183 San Francisco Planning Department, War Memorial Court Review Comments, 5 April 2012
184 San Francisco Planning Department, War Memorial Court Review Comments, 5 April 2012
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 Boylston, 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 accordingly. The area being studied primarily affects block 0810, 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 will require further study into its significance and integrity. It was associated with that project is found to be significant then the statement of significance should be revised to include it. The area designated for this future study is outlined on maps of blocks 0811 and 0815, 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, and the statement of significance revised accordingly.

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 but were not previously documented include pivotal events in the founding of the gay rights movement in the United States and 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 boxwoods of trees and rectilinear concrete forms. It uses a minimal palette of hard scape 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 merge 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 turned 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 atriums are positioned within the plane that those grove to line up and be on center with the adjacent trees, leaving them tucked into a dominant landscape feature so they blend in with the overall site.

The Mid-Century Modern Urban Redevopment projects in Civic Center were led by the firm of Wurster Bernardi and Emmons (WBE) with consulting architects Skidmore, Owings and Merrill (SOM). Douglas Boylston, the WBE team’s landscape architect, was the lead designer for the Civic Center Plaza landscape redesign 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.”186 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 byproduct 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 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.

Douglas Boylston

Douglas Boylston 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 years 1958-1959. His most notable public design work included: 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.187

Wurster, Bernardi and Emmons

WBE was founded in 1945 by William Wurster, Theodore Bernardi and Don 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 Cornell College.188
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 widespread 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 Louise M. Davies Symphony Hall in the Civic Center.

UNDER CRITERION CONSIDERATION G:
United Nations Plaza and Civic Center BART Station
Further research should be 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-accord 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
UN Plaza is located at the east end of the Civic Center complex at 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 architects Lawrence Halprin and lead designer Donald Ray Carter and is the most recent addition to the Civic Center open spaces. 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 Champlin and Associates, John Carl Warncke and Associates, and Lawrence Halprin and Associates.

Halprin’s UN Plaza design was dynamic and active public space connected physically and visually to 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 (Recreational, Spectatorial, Participatory) Cycle’s 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. Rectangular benches are set within granite borders and feature double alleys of London plane trees located to the north and south of the column, forming the edges of the plaza. An equestrian statue of Simon Bolivar, 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 and animated with arcing water jets. Halprin employed his signature elements of water and rock in the design of the 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 light standards 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 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 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.

Halprin did not fully support these changes. Further evaluation will need to occur to determine if these later features contribute to the significance of the United Nations Plaza landscape.

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 60 years until his death at the age of 93 in 2009. He authored nine books and articles from the period and Halprin’s own writings indicate that Halprin did not fully support these changes. Further evaluation will need to occur to determine if these later features contribute to the significance of the United Nations Plaza landscape.

Roscuroe.

EVALUATION

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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. \(^{195}\) 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 1970, the Presidential Design Award for the FDR Memorial in 2000, and the National Medal of the Arts in 2002.

194 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.

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“The proposed schemes for Civic Center: which scheme, in your opinion, is best?” photograph of magazine article, May 15, 1912. Bancroft Library; publication and author unknown.

MEMORANDA


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The 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 Cashill 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, and, like Cashill's plan, languished.

In 1909, although San Francisco had been reconstructed essentially on pre-earthquake lines, Burnham was asked to revise and revive 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. Stained by what he conceived to be the impracticality of the plan, Cashill 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 Ralph, 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. Ralph won a landslide victory, and the city moved forward on both projects.

San Francisco Civic Center Historic District Cultural Landscape Inventory

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 documentary.

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 reforms 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 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 resurgence after the disastrous 1906 earthquake and fires.

A spectacular and well-known longer-term application of City Beautiful principles was in the revival of Leidy’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 the city as a modern day Florence.

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The final Civic Center plan

After Ralph’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 Cashill’s Civic Center Plan of 1899. The issue of its location was turned over to an architectural commission under the auspices of the Exposition, including Willis Polk, William R. Farnell 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 pergolas, 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 652-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 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. And, although the buildings of the Orpheum (then Pantages) Theater planed to face the theater’s blank rear walls to match the Civic Center’s buildings, a never-resolved dispute 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 proposed, 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 1897. The last of these, the Tivoli, perished in 1897. Its addition essentially brought the Civic Center to completion.

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 shapes 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 1938, from designs by Thomas Church.

Construction of the long-promised Federal Building, also designed by Brown (on his capacity as an architect for the Treasury Department), was begun in late 1933 and completed in 1938. Its addition essentially brought the Civic Center to completion.
the Civic Center, in 1934. He died while Governor of California. That same year, events associated with the violent San Francisco general strike swelled 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 detracting 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 classical 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 centrepiece 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 attic 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 staircases, 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, architecturally 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 façade 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 institutions, such as Cass Gilbert’s Detroit Public Library, on which it is closely modeled. The long arcades 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 illustrated the impact of the City Beautiful movement on an individualistic architect conforming his building in shape and exterior decoration to integrate his structure with the Civic Center plan.

The Exhibition (Civic) Auditorium is designed in a very traditional Beaux Arts manner with a multi-faceted façade, huge bays and pediment column. As an aesthetic element of the Civic Center, it plays a unique role. The other buildings defer to the City Hall and reflect its rhythm 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 rear central corners and the frontage of UN Plaza (relative to the setback Asian Art Museum (former Public Library) makes 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 streetfrontages, balances Exhibition (Civic) Auditorium across the Plaza. The monumental 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 Arts 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 size, 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.


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 Ralph 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 involved in both the traditions and the development, if unnamed, were individually active. Where no designations are given, therefore, 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.

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and three (Howard, Walter D. Blair, and William B. Farrill) 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 Cat 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 1891 to practice architecture, prepared the first Civic Center plan. Aside from his part in 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. Mayer, 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 (1897-61) 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. Blair and William B. Farrill 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 1893 to practice architecture, prepared the first Civic Center plan in 1899. His 1909 plan, revised around 1912, served as the basis for the final design of the Civic Center. He specialized in mansard roofs 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 trompe l’oeil 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.
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).
The site and paving plan for Civic Center Plaza from 1960 shows how circulation is arranged around elements such as water, lawn, groves and linear tree allees (SF Department of Public Works).
The planting plan for Civic Center Plaza from 1960 shows the arrangement of tree groves at the plaza corners and alleys on either side of the pool. Trees at the pool were to have a “3’ - 4’ spread” indicating they are pollarded London Plane trees.