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

PRIMARY RECORD

Primary # _____
HRI # _____
Trinomial _____
NRHP Status Code 6Z
Other Listings _____
Review Code _____ Reviewer _____ Date _____

 *Resource Name or #: (Assigned by recorder) 1348-1380 Bush Street

P1. Historic name of building (if any): Julius Brunton and Son battery shop
P2. Location: *a: County San Francisco ☐ Not for Publication ■ Unrestricted
*b. USGS 7.5' Quad _____ Date _____ T ___; R ___; ___¼ of ___¼ of Sec ___; _____B.M.
c. Address 1348-1380 Bush Street City San Francisco Zip 94109
d. UTM: Zone _____; _____mE/ _____ mN *e. Assessor's parcel #: Block 668, lot 4

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

This is a two-story brick masonry building that fills the width of its 71'-6" wide lot. Near the top of the building, immediately below the low parapet, is a shallow cornice that is embossed with a swirling pattern. Below this cornice is a course of dentils, a blank frieze, and a plain belt course. A subordinate cornice of bricks runs at the second floor level. The first story is framed by paneled end piers, each of which is decorated by a cartouche. Aside from these piers, the first story has been completely remodeled with new siding and replacement metal framed windows and doors. The second story is faced in original brick, painted white, but its windows also have replacement framing or sash. A portion of the red brick eastern wall can be seen from the sidewalk in front of the 1969 parking garage next door.

*P3b Resource Attributes: HP6 – two-story commercial building

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

P5b. Description of Photo: (View, date, accession #)
View looking north
June 2009

*P6. Date Constructed/Age and Source: ■ Historic ☐ Prehistoric ☐ Both
1917; published building contract

*P7. Owner and Address:
PEGASUS VI INVESTMTS LLC
P O BOX 10476
PLEASANTON CA 94588

*P8. Recorded by: (Name, affiliation, and address)
William Kostura
P. O. Box 60211
Palo Alto, CA 94306

*P9. Date Recorded:
July 2009

*P10. Survey Type: (Describe)
intensive

P11. Report Citation*: (Cite survey report.) William Kostura. *Van Ness Auto Row Support Structures*. San Francisco Department of City Planning, 2010.

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

BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD

***NRHP Status Code** 6Z

***Resource Name or #** (Assigned by recorder) 1348-1380 Bush Street

B1. Historic Name: Julius Brunton and Son battery shop

B2. Common Name: _____

B3. Original Use: storage battery shop B4. Present Use: _____

***B5. Architectural Style:** Classical Revival

***B6. Construction History:** (Construction date, alterations, and date of alterations)
Built in 1917.

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

***B8. Related Features:**
none

B9a. Architect: A. W. Burgren b. Builder: unknown

***B10. Significance: Theme** automobile industry **Area** San Francisco
Period of Significance n/a **Property Type** battery shop **Applicable Criteria** n/a
(Discuss importance in terms of historical or architectural context as defined by theme, period, and geographic scope. Also address integrity.)

History

This building was built in 1917 for owner Thomas G. Taylor Co. to designs by architect A. W. Burgren. Its first occupant, from 1917 to 1921, was the Willard Storage Battery Company. It seems that Willard Storage Battery was a local battery maker who owned its own shop building here. The next occupant, Julius Brunton and Sons, was also a battery shop owner, and during most or all of their time here they sold Willard batteries. Previous to 1922 the Bruntons had had a Willard battery station at 553 Golden Gate Avenue and at 19th and Valencia streets, so it seems clear they took over the use of this building by arrangement with the Willard company. From 1922 through 1929 the Bruntons maintained several battery service stations in San Francisco in addition to this building – e.g. at 1300 Fell, 4228 Geary, 1744 Market, 800 Valencia, and others – but 1380 Bush appears to have been their main location. After 1929 it became their only location. The 1929 Sanborn map calls this building the Willard Storage Battery and Service Garage, which makes clear that the Bruntons were dealing primarily in automobile batteries. During the late 1920s and 1930s, according to city directories, the Bruntons also sold radio batteries, automobile radios, and Zenith carburetors, and worked as automobile electricians. In 1937 the Bruntons moved to 1460 Pine, a building that still stands but has been heavily altered.

(See Continuation Sheet, page 3.)

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

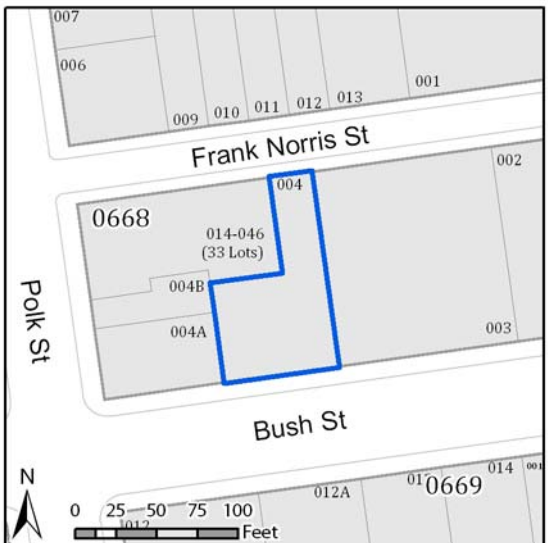
***B12. References:**
Edwards Abstracts, March 28, 1917 (via Heritage files)
Crocker-Langley and Polk's city directory and PT&T reverse directory listings for occupants of this building, 1918-1953
1929 Sanborn insurance map: Willard Storage Battery and Service Garage, 1366-1380 Bush

B13. Remarks:

***B14. Evaluator:** William Kostura
Date of Evaluation: July 2009

(This space reserved for official comments.)

(Sketch map with n



History (continued)

The classified section of city directories lists 22 storage battery businesses in 1921, when this building was built; 29 in 1924; 47 in 1927, and 43 in 1929. It is not clear how many of these businesses sold batteries for automobiles vs. other types of batteries. It is also unknown how many other buildings stand that sold automobile batteries for many years.

Within the study area, one building stands that had a related use for many years. This is 930-950 Van Ness Avenue, which had as an occupant an auto electrical service company, the Automotive Service Agency, from 1920-1941. This building has better integrity than 1348-1380 Bush does.

After 1936, 1348-1380 Bush had non-auto-related uses, e.g. the Belmont X-Ray Company in 1938, the Brooks Manufacturing Co. in 1946, and Purcell Brother water heaters in 1953.

Integrity

Due to the extensive first story alterations and the complete replacement of original window sash and doors, this building no longer retains integrity of design, materials, workmanship, and association. Buildings to the immediate east and west are relatively new (1969 and ca. 2000, respectively), so this building has also lost integrity of setting. Because the general dimensions of the building and the second story brick wall remains, it retains some integrity of feeling. It also retains integrity of location.

Evaluation

Due to loss of integrity this building does not appear to be eligible for the California Register of Historical Resources under criteria 1, 2, or 3.