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

PRIMARY RECORD

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

Page 1 of 2 *Resource name(s) or number (assigned by recorder) 131 Fell St.

P1. Other Identifier:

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 Location: ☐ Not for Publication ☒ Unrestricted *a. County: San Francisco

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

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

*c. Address: 131 Fell St. City: San Francisco Zip: 94102

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

e. Other Locational Data: Assessor's Parcel Number (Map, Block, Lot): 0834019

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

131 Fell Street is located on a 120' x 41.25' through lot on the south side of Fell Street running to Hickory Street between Van Ness Avenue and Franklin Street. Built in 1929, 131 Fell Street is a 1-story with mezzanine, reinforced concrete commercial building designed in the Mediterranean Revival style. The rectangular-plan building, clad in stucco, is capped by a flat roof in the front section, and gable roof on the rear section. The foundation is not visible from the street. The primary façade faces north and is 3 bays wide. The building has an exposed east elevation and a secondary elevation on Hickory Street. The first story of the primary façade features a metal-frame, plate-glass window in the left bay, while the central bay features an in-filled bay entrance with pedestrian door. A second pedestrian entrance with wooden door is set in the right bay. The upper story features metal-frame fixed windows with top awning sash beneath blind arches. The façade is framed by piers with diamond shaped ornaments at the top. The elevation terminates in a pent roof with brackets and red clay tile cladding. The secondary elevation is 5 bays wide and is characterized by multi-light, fixed, metal windows. The windows in the first four bays have inset awning sash. The Hickory Street elevation is three bays wide. The left and center bay have bay entrances with exterior sliding wood, glazed doors. The right bay has fixed, divided, metal windows. The elevation ends in a stepped parapet wall. The building appears to be in good condition and contributes to the potential Civic Center Auto Repair Historic Resources (see DPR 523 D form).

*P3b. Resource Attributes: (list attributes and codes) HP6: 1-3 story commercial building

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

P5b. Photo: (view and date)
View from north
9/6/2006

*P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources: ☒ Historic
1929
SF Assessors Office

*P7. Owner and Address:
Rasmussen Family Revoc Lvg
Anthon H. Ramussen & Elizab
621 Alta Vista Dr
Sierra Madre, CA

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

*P9. Date Recorded:
9/6/2006

*P10. Survey Type:
Reconnaissance

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

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

Secondary (east) façade of 131 Fell Street

Hickory Street (south) elevation

State of California The Resources Agency Primary #
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION HRI No.

BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD

*NRHP Status Code 6Z

Page 1 of 2 *Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) 131 Fell Street

B1. Historic Name 131 Fell Street

B2. Common Name 131 Fell Street

B3. Original Use Commercial Building B4. Present Use: Commercial Building

* B5. Architectural Style Mediterranean Revival

*B6. Construction History

131 Fell Street was constructed in 1929. Alterations include metal-frame, plate-glass window in the left bay and in-filled bay entrance in central bay of the first story and metal-frame fixed windows with top awning sash on the second story.

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

*B8. Related Features none

B9a. Architect _____ . Builder R. Harms

*B10. Significance: Theme 1906 Earthquake and Fire Reconstruction Area: Hayes Valley

Period of Significance 1906-1929 Property Type Commercial Applicable Criteria n/a

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

In regard to California Register Criterion 1 (History/Events) this property is considered under the 1906 Earthquake and Fire Reconstruction context of the Historic Context Statement, Market & Octavia Neighborhood Plan Area, since it is both an identified building type (Commercial/Light Industrial) and dates from the Period of Significance (1906-1929) of that context. There is no indication the property is eligible for listing in the California Register under Criterion 2 (Important Persons), Criterion 3 (Design/Construction), or Criterion 4 (Information Potential).

Criterion 1:

131 Fell Street was constructed in 1929 by the builder R. Harms for the identified first owner, a Mr. Rasmussen. The 1886 Sanborn map indicates that this block was characterized by two- and three-story dwellings. This block was devastated by the 1906 Earthquake and Fire. The 1913 Sanborn map indicates that the parcel remained vacant. (continued)

B11. Additional Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) HP6. 1-3 story commercial building

*B12. References: Historic Context Statement, Market & Octavia Neighborhood Plan Area, Page & Turnbull, Inc. July 20, 2007

B13. Remarks

(Sketch Map with north arrow required.)

*B14. Evaluator Kelley & VerPlanck

*Date of Evaluation 5/1/2010

(This space reserved for official comments)

B10: Significance (continued)

At the time of its construction in 1929, it seems likely that Rasmussen leased the property to others because his name does not appear in the city directories at this address. By 1933, the property was occupied by Levi's Auto Supply. By 1940, the City Directory lists Speedometer Service, Auto Electric Service, and Auto Electric Speedometer Co. at this address. The 1950 Sanborn map shows the existing two-story shop in the front with a one-story portion in the rear constructed of reinforced concrete and lit by skylights. The 1953 City DIrectory lists Auto Electric Carburetor and Speedometer Service at this address. The building is currently occupied by Fernando's Auto Body.

131 Fell Street, like several similar properties on this block, was constructed as a light industrial building serving the rapidly growing Van Ness Auto Row. According to the 1913-15 Sanborn map, sections of the Western Addition, in particular burned-over blocks located between Van Ness Avenue and Franklin Street, became much more industrial in character as auto-related businesses such as machine shops, auto repair shops, tire factories, and paint shops opened to serve the auto showrooms and associated businesses along Van Ness Avenue. 131 Fell Street, with its 1929 construction date, Hayes Valley location, light industrial building typology, and automobile service use express a clear association several broad patterns of San Francisco history.

Integrity:

In regard to integrity, 131 Fell Street appears to have undergone some alterations to its first floor materials, including the installation of a contemporary aluminum-frame, plate-glass window in the left bay and the partially infilled vehicular entrance in central bay. In addition, the aluminum awning-sash windows on the second floor level do not appear to be original. However, 131 Fell Street retains the following aspects of integrity: location, design, setting, workmanship, feeling, and association. The building does not retain integrity of materials due to the alterations described above.

Conclusion:

131 Fell Street appears to be eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources under Criterion 1 (Event) as an an example of a light industrial building constructed in Hayes Valley during the Period of Significance (1906-1929) of the 1906 Earthquake and Fire Reconstruction context. The building is also associated with the evolution of San Francisco's primary Van Ness "Auto Row" during the 1910s and 1920s. The building clearly expresses its association with these broad patterns of San Francisco's history.

Character Defining Features:

Character-defining features include two-story height and rectangular massing, fenestration pattern, stucco cladding, piers with diamond shaped ornaments at the top, and bracketed pent roof clad in red clay tiles.