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) 155 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 Location: ☐ Not for Publication ☒ Unrestricted *a. County: San Francisco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: 155 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): 0834-016

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

155 Fell Street is located on a 120' x 27.5' through-block lot on the south side of Fell Street between Van Ness Avenue and Franklin Street. Built in 1927, 155 Fell Street is a 2-story, steel-frame commercial building designed in the Mediterranean Revival style. The rectangular-plan building, clad in stucco, is capped by a flat roof. The foundation is not visible from the street. The primary façade faces north and is 3 bays wide. The left bay of the first floor features a sealed window opening, while the right and center bays feature recessed entrances with steel doors, shaded by a fabric awning. The second floor features a wide area of in-fill with later period, sealed, square window openings and vents along the top of the in-fill. The primary façade terminates in a parapet with centered pent roof clad in red clay tile. The Hickory Street elevation is three bays wide and clad in rough formed concrete. The elevation has a recessed pedestrian entrance in the left bay fitted with a steel door and a bay entrance in the center bay with a steel overhead door and divided, fixed metal transom light. The left bay has a sealed window opening. The elevation ends in a plain roofline.

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
1927
SF Assessors Office

*P7. Owner and Address:
Christopher C White
30 Child St #4
San Francisco, 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)

Hickory Street (south) elevation

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Primary #
HRI No.

BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD

*NRHP Status Code 6Z

Page 1 of 2 *Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) 155 Fell Street

B1. Historic Name 155 Fell Street

B2. Common Name 155 Fell Street

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

* B5. Architectural Style Mediterranean Revival

*B6. Construction History

155 Fell Street was constructed in 1925. Alterations include fenestration pattern and cladding.

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

*B8. Related Features none

B9a. Architect P.J. Herold, Des. . Builder R. McLeran Co.

*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), California Register Criterion 3 (Design/Construction) or Criterion 4 (Information Potential).

Criterion 1:

155 Fell Street was designed by P.J. Herold and constructed in 1925 by R. McLeran Co. for the identified first owner, E. Carlson. The 1886 Sanborn map shows that the parcel and adjacent parcels were occupied by two- and three-story dwellings. This block was largely devastated by the 1906 Earthquake and Fire. The 1913 Sanborn map indicates that the parcel was still 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 1925, the building was possibly used by E. Carlson, although extensive research has failed to reveal what Carlson's line of work was. By 1936, the building was occupied by The Fender and Body Shop. This company remained there in 1940. The 1950 Sanborn map shows a two-story shop in the front with a one-story portion in the rear constructed of reinforced concrete and lit by skylights. In 1953, the City Directory lists George Elson at this address, as well as Joy Manufacturing, a small machine shop. The building is now occupied by a live music venue.

155 Fell Street, like several similar properties on this block, was constructed as a light industrial building. Prior to the adoption of citywide zoning regulations in 1921, residential, industrial, and commercial uses could be built wherever the property owner desired, resulting in the jumbled mixed-use character of the parts of the Western Addition and Hayes Valley destroyed in the 1906 Earthquake. 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. 155 Fell Street exhibits characteristics of light industrial buildings, such as its former vehicular opening in the left bay, a second story office wing above, and concrete construction.

155 Fell Street, with its 1926 construction date, Hayes Valley location and light industrial building typology, expresses a clear association with a broad pattern of San Francisco history.

Integrity:

In regard to integrity, the building appears to have undergone substantial alterations to the facade, including a sealed window opening in the left bay of the first floor, and steel doors in the recessed entrances within the right and center bays. The second floor has also been heavily altered, with much of the fenestration removed and the opening infilled with stucco. Remaining character-defining features include the building's two-story height and massing, and a pent roof clad in red clay tiles. 155 Fell Street retains the following aspects of integrity: location and setting, as it has not been moved and there are similar light industrial buildings adjacent. The building does not retain integrity of materials, design, workmanship, feeling and association due to the alterations described above.

Conclusion:

159 Fell Street does not appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, California Register of Historical Resources or local designation under any criterion. Although the construction date, building location and building typology express an association with the 1906 Earthquake and Fire and Reconstruction context, substantial alterations have rendered the building no longer able to accurately express this association. Nor does it embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, represent the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values.