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 1 *Resource name(s) or number (assigned by recorder) 159 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 Location: ☐ Not for Publication ☒ Unrestricted *a. County: San Francisco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: 159 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): 0834-015

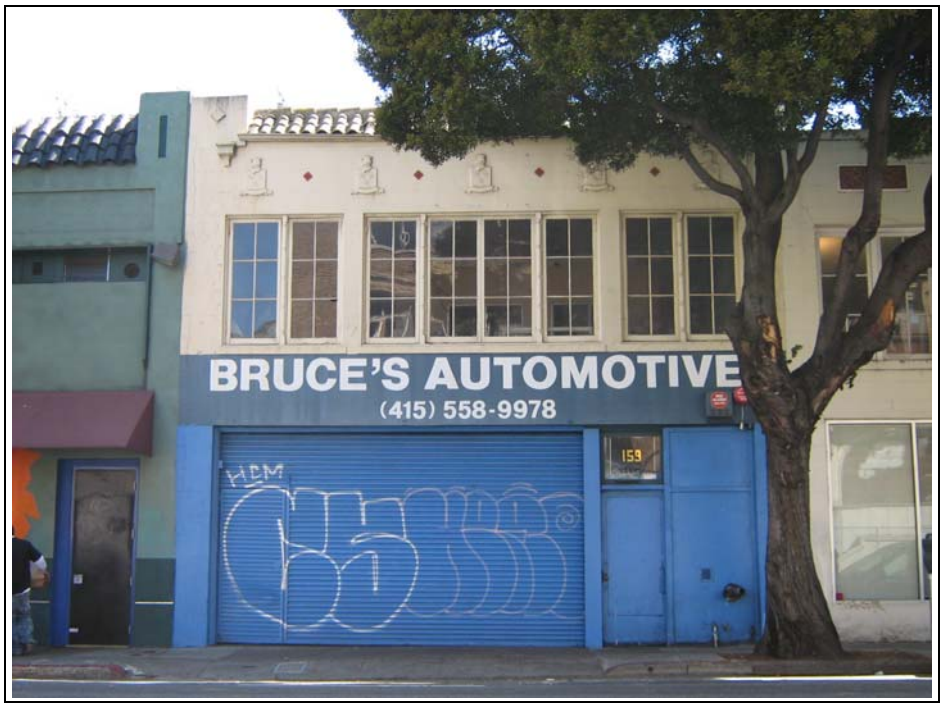
*P3a. Description: (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries.)

159 Fell Street is located on a 27.5' x 120' through-block lot on the south side of Fell Street between Van Ness Avenue and Franklin Street. Built in 1927, 159 Fell Street is a 2-story, concrete frame commercial building designed in the Spanish Colonial Revival style. The rectangular-plan building, clad in scored 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 first story features a wide bay entrance with metal overhead door spanning the left and center bays, while the right bay features a wood door beneath a transom and area of wood in-fill. The second floor features multi-light, wood casement windows divided by turned spindles in each bay. Heraldry ornament consisting of a coat of arms, banner, and armor headpiece are set above the windows, divided by diamond ornament. The primary facade terminates in a parapet with a centered, pent roof clad in red clay tile and end piers with diamond ornament and corbelled supports. The Hickory Street elevation is three bays wide and is clad in concrete. The elevation features a centered bay entrance with steel overhead door and divided, metal transom light. The end bays have large, fixed, divided metal windows with inset awning sash. 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:
George Chevalier
167 Somerset St
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

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) 159 Fell Street

B1. Historic Name 159 Fell Street

B2. Common Name 159 Fell Street

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

* B5. Architectural Style Spanish Colonial Revival

*B6. Construction History

159 Fell Street was constructed in 1926. Alterations include wood in-fill in the right bay.

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

*B8. Related Features none

B9a. Architect _____ . Builder Frank H. Nelson

*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:

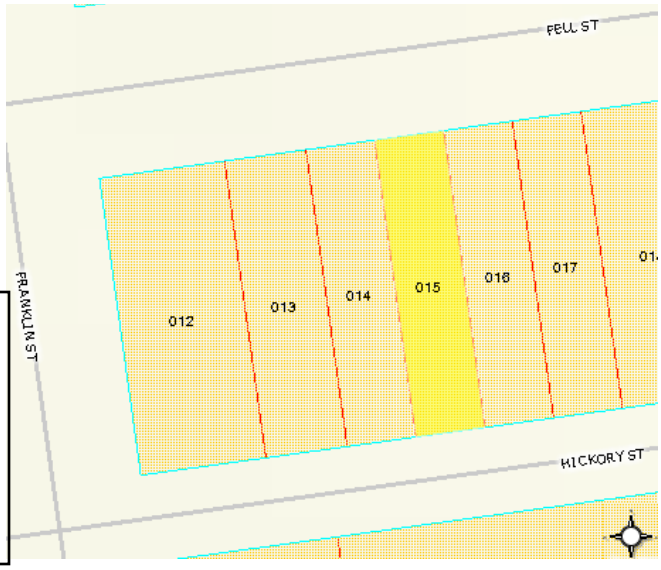
159 Fell Street was constructed in 1926 by the builder Frank H. Nelson for Gringg & Balcom, welders who had a shop nearby at 503 Van Ness Avenue. By 1929, the building was occupied by the Auto Wheel Aligning Co, operated by Charles Balcom. In 1936, Auto Wheel Aligning was still at this address, as was the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company. In 1940, Auto Wheel Aligning was listed as the only occupant. The 1953 City Directory lists the building occupied by Hydro Sleeve Co. (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)

It is currently used as an automotive repair shop.

The 1886 Sanborn map shows the parcel and adjacent parcels occupied by two- and three-story dwellings. This block was largely devastated by the 1906 Earthquake and resultant fire, and by 1913, the Sanborn map indicates that the parcel stood vacant. The 1950 Sanborn map shows the present building, constructed of reinforced concrete lit by skylights.

159 Fell Street, like several other properties on this block, was constructed as a light industrial building. According to the 1913-15 Sanborn map, during post-disaster reconstruction, 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. 159 Fell Street exhibits characteristics of light industrial buildings, such as its former vehicular opening in the left bay, a second story office portion above, and concrete construction. With its 1926 construction date, Hayes Valley location and light industrial building typology, 159 Fell Street expresses a clear association with a broad pattern of San Francisco history.

Integrity:

In regard to integrity, the building has undergone alterations to materials the first story, including an area of wood in-fill in the right bay and the replacement of the original pedestrian entrance with a modern door. The building retains integrity of location, setting, workmanship, feeling, and association, but only partial integrity of design and materials due to the first story alterations described above.

Conclusion:

59 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 clearly expresses its association with a broad pattern of San Francisco's history.

Character Defining Features:

Character-defining features include its two-story height and rectangular massing, fenestration pattern with second story windows featuring multi-light, wood casement sash, scored stucco cladding, and parapet with a centered, pent roof clad in red clay tile and end piers with diamond ornament and corbelled supports.