

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

Primary # _____
HRI # _____
Trinomial _____
NRHP Status Code 6X

Other Listings _____
Review Code _____ Reviewer _____ Date _____

Page 1 of 2 *Resource name(s) or number (assigned by recorder) 44 Page Street

P1. Other Identifier: Druid Building

*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 Location: Not for Publication Unrestricted *a. County: San Francisco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: 44 Page 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): 0837-006

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

The Druid Building is located on a 54.5' x 120' lot on the north side of Page Street, between Gough and Franklin Streets. Built in 1912, the Druid Building is a 5.5-story, concrete frame commercial building designed in the Beaux Arts style. The rectangular-plan building, clad in scored stucco, faces south and is arranged in a three-part vertical block composition. At the base (first and second floors) are two-story vertical piers with circular-inscribed capitals and center rosette ornaments, which form three bays. The center portion of the façade (third and fourth floors) feature five bays divided by simple pilasters with Doric-inspired capitals and bases. The primary is capped by a standing seam metal mansard roof The first floor features a gated, recessed entrance to the upper stories in the far left bay, followed by a glazed commercial entrance and plate glass window in the next bay, and the building's main entrance in the center bay, which protected by a cloth awning with signage. The two right bays of the first floor contain plate glass windows with a glazed clerestory. The second floor is characterized by single-light metal casement windows with four-light transoms, which form a continuous band across the façade except for in the far left bay, which features an open balcony. The third and fourth floors are characterized by balustrated wall openings in the far left bay, and multi-light, metal-sash windows in the bays to the right. The fourth floor windows are set within arched surrounds and feature keystone ornamentation and fanlight transoms. (See Continuation Sheet)

*P3b. Resource Attributes: (list attributes and codes) HP7. 3+ story commercial building

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

P5a. Photo



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

*P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources: Historic
1912
SF Assessors Office

*P7. Owner and Address:
San Francisco Girls Chorus
44 Page St
San Francisco, CA 94102

*P8. Recorded by:
Page & Turnbull, Inc.(CM)
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)

State of California & The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
CONTINUATION SHEET

Primary# _____

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*Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) 44 Page Street

*Recorded by: Page & Turnbull

*Date 9/6/2006



Continuation



Update

***P3a. Description: (cont'd)**

Above these windows are four-light casement windows, which form a narrow clerestory on the fifth story. Between the mansard roof and clerestory is an ornate cornice with a finely detailed entablature, dentil molding, scroll brackets, and front-facing circular ornamentation. The primary façade terminates in the standing seam metal mansard roof with five arched dormer windows. The building appears to be in good condition.

P5a. Photo (cont'd)



Lily Street (north) elevation.

BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD

*NRHP Status Code 3CS

Page 1 of 3 *Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) 44 Page Street

B1. Historic Name 44 Page Street

B2. Common Name 44 Page Street

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

* B5. Architectural Style Beaux Arts

***B6. Construction History**

44 Page Street was constructed in 1912. Alterations include contemporary metal storefronts surmounted by infilled transom, and open balcony in far left bay at all floors which houses fire stair

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

*B8. Related Features none

B9a. Architect E P Antonovich . Builder _____

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

Period of Significance 1906-1926 Property Type Assembly Building Applicable Criteria 1 and 3

(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 (public assembly) and dates from the Period of Significance (1906-1926) of that context. Based on its appearance, the building is also considered under California Register Criterion 3 (Design/Construction). There is no indication the property is eligible for listing in the California Register under Criterion 2 (Important Persons) or Criterion 4 (Information Potential).

Criterion 1:

44 Page Street was designed by the architect Emile P. Antonovich and constructed in 1912 for the identified first owner, The Druids of California. Prior to construction of the Druids' Hall, this area was characterized by single-family residences and residential flats. (continued)

B11. Additional Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) HP7. 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)

CONTINUATION SHEET

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Resource Name or # (Assigned by Recorder) 44 Page Street

*Recorded by: Kelley & VerPlanck

Date 5/1/2010

Continuation Update

B10: Significance (continued)

This block was heavily damaged during the 1906 earthquake and resultant fire, after which the neighborhood transitioned to a mixed-use district of commercial, industrial, and residential structures. According to The Architect and Engineer journal (March 1911), the new building at 44 Page Street was to contain the general offices of the order, a large ballroom, various lodge rooms, kitchen, dining room, library, and lounging room. The 1913 Sanborn map shows the present building as constructed of fireproof reinforced-concrete construction and containing two shops on the ground floor and a hall at the rear. The surrounding block was largely characterized by a mix of vacant lots, light industrial buildings that housed businesses such as wagon storage and sheet metal works, and a few residential flats. In 1936 and 1940, the Druids used this building as the Grand Secretary's office, as well as the Superintendent of Building's office. The 1950 Sanborn map shows the surrounding block occupied by several auto-related business, such as repair, washing and garages, as well as several residential flats. The 1953 City Directory lists this building as continuing to be used as the Druids' Temple, as well as housing Applewood Camp No. 696. The building now houses the San Francisco Girls Chorus.

The 1906 Earthquake shifted the Hayes Valley area, which was partially destroyed by the "Ham and Eggs Fire," from a neighborhood largely characterized by single-family residences and residential flats to one better described as a jumble of mixed uses, including residential, commercial, and other buildings, like the Druids' Hall at 44 Page Street, which served the important purpose of public assembly. Other fraternal halls were located nearby, including the Masonic Hall at Van Ness Avenue and Oak Street and the Odd Fellows Hall at 7th and Market streets. Public assembly buildings, including several prominent churches and social halls that served different ethnic, civic, and religious groups, are extremely important in place-making.

The Ancient Order of the Druids was founded in London in 1771 by Henry Hurle as a fraternal mutual aid society dedicated in part to fellowship and the revival of the pre-Christian rituals of pre-Anglo Saxon Britain. The society arrived in the United States in 1830, and gradually fanned out across the nation, arriving in Hang Town (Placerville), California in 1858. The rituals of the society often occurred out of doors in oak groves and were loosely based on the Druidic myths of ancient Britain. The society was especially popular in Northern California, with chapters located throughout San Francisco, Marin, and Sonoma Counties. The society continues to exist to this day.

44 Page Street, with its 1912 construction date, Hayes Valley location, and building typology, expresses a clear association with a broad pattern of San Francisco history, in particular the reconstruction of San Francisco after the 1906 Earthquake and the establishment of fraternal orders in the evolving Hayes Valley/Civic Center neighborhood.

Criterion 3:

Architect Emile P. Antonovich was born in San Francisco to Croatian parents, and served for some time as a Captain in the U. S. Army. By 1908 he had established an architectural practice, with an office located at 333 Kearny Street. Antonovich's other notable San Francisco buildings include the Shasta Hotel at 380 Bush and the Graff Building (1909) at 233 Post. Antonovich won the commission for 44 Page Street after entering a contest held by the Druid's Hall Association of San Francisco.

The Beaux Arts style was named for the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris and refers to the aesthetic principles practiced by the American architects who trained there. The Beaux Arts style is characterized by large and grandiose symmetrical compositions with exuberant details typically built of masonry. The primary inspiration for this style was Chicago's Columbian Exposition (known as the Great White City) in 1893. The style caught on for major public buildings and assembly buildings throughout the United States during the 1890s and the first decade and a half of the twentieth century. In 1915, San Francisco held its own exposition - the Panama-Pacific International Exposition (PPIE) - modeled on Chicago's exposition held 22 years earlier. The PPIE showcased visionary Beaux-Arts buildings designed by local and nationally known architects. The Beaux Arts style is typically found in colossal public buildings such as libraries, courthouses, banks, and railway stations. (continued)

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*Recorded by: Kelley & VerPlanck

Date 5/1/2010

Continuation Update

B10: Significance (continued)

44 Page Street exhibits Beaux-Arts characteristics in its three-part vertical block composition with two-story vertical piers capped by circular-inscribed capitals and center rosette ornaments, which form three bays at the base (first and second floors), five bays divided by simple pilasters with Doric-inspired capitals and bases at the center portion of the façade (third and fourth floors), and capital featuring a mansard roof.

44 Page Street retains sufficient character defining features to embody the distinctive characteristics of the Beaux Arts type, period and method of construction.

Integrity:

In regard to integrity, 44 Page Street appears to have undergone few substantial alterations since its construction in 1912. Alterations include the insertion of contemporary metal storefronts surmounted by infilled transoms, and open balconies in the far left bay of all stories which houses the fire stair. The building retains the vast majority of its character-defining features, including: its height and massing; scored stucco cladding; fenestration pattern consisting of multi-lite, metal-sash windows in the upper stories and fourth-floor windows set within arched surrounds and surmounted by fanlight transoms; Beaux-Arts ornamentation, including two-story vertical piers with circular-inscribed capitals and center rosette ornaments at the first story and simple pilasters with Doric-inspired capitals and bases at the center portion of the facade, and keystone ornamentation at the fourth story; and standing seam metal-clad mansard roof. The building retains integrity of location, setting, association, design, workmanship, materials, and feeling.

Conclusion:

44 Page Street appears to be eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources under Criterion 1 (Event) and Criterion 3 (Design/Construction) as an intact and well-preserved example of a Beaux Arts commercial building constructed as an assembly hall 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, and embodies the distinctive characteristics of its type, period and method of construction. The building is also a rare example of an assembly hall built for the Ancient Order of the Druids, an important fraternal organization during the first half of the twentieth century in northern California.

Character Defining Features:

Character-defining features include its height and massing, scored stucco cladding, fenestration pattern, Beaux-Arts ornamentation, and standing seam metal mansard roof.