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) 45 Polk 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 Location: ☐ Not for Publication ☒ Unrestricted *a. County: San Francisco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: 45 Polk 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): 0814-003

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

45 Polk St. is located on a 30' x 100' lot on the west side of Polk Street, between Fell and Hayes Streets. Built in 1924, 45 Polk St. is a 3-story, steel frame, brick, commercial building remodeled in the International style. The rectangular-plan building, clad in brick and stucco, is capped by a flat roof. The foundation is not visible from the street. The primary façade faces east and is 4 bays wide. The first floor is clad in brick and features a modern storefront at the left end of the elevation, fitted with an aluminum-frame, glass door with transom and flanking plate glass windows. An entrance to the upper stories is centered on the elevation and consists of an off-center, aluminum frame, glass door with transom and two plate glass windows with transoms. The upper stories are characterized by aluminum-frame, plate glass windows with bottom light. Several windows have inset awning sash. The windows have wide, stuccoed spandrel panels on the first story and shorter similar panels on the second story. Wide stucco transom panels are set above the third-story windows. The elevation ends in a plain roofline. Secondary elevations are clad in brick. The building appears to be in good condition.

*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 east
9/6/2006

*P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources: ☒ Historic
1924
SF Assessors Office

*P7. Owner and Address:
Fook Chong Hong Friendly So
835 Grant Ave
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)

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) 45 Polk Street

B1. Historic Name California Camera Club

B2. Common Name 45 Polk Street

B3. Original Use B4. Present Use:

* B5. Architectural Style International Style

*B6. Construction History

45 Polk Street was constructed in 1924 and remodeled in the International Style c. 1960.

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

*B8. Related Features none

B9a. Architect O'Brien Bros. . Builder

*B10. Significance: Theme 1906 Earthquake and Fire Reconstruction Area: Civic Center

Period of Significance 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) 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:

45 Polk Street was designed by the O'Brien Bros. and constructed in 1924. The first owner was the Lurie Co., with offices in the Mills Building and owned by Louis Lurie, who resided at the Palace Hotel.

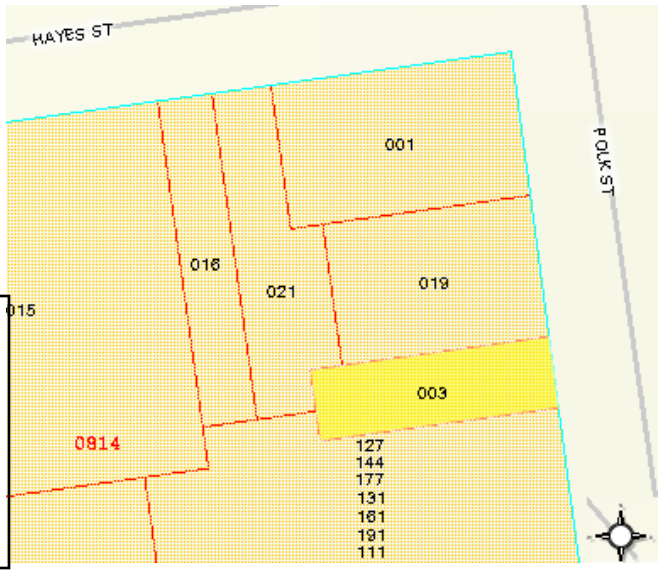
(continued)

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
Edwards Abstracts, April 18, 1924.

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)

According to the 1899 Sanborn map, the block appears to be occupied by the Cahn Nickelsburg & Co, a boot and shoe factory. The surrounding block was occupied by two- and three-story dwellings and shops, as well as a hotel on the corner of Polk and Fell streets. 45 Polk Street is located in the area that burned in the fire after the 1906 Earthquake. The 1913 Sanborn Map shows that most of the east half of the block was vacant except for a fire dispatch building on Hayes Street with the west half of the block occupied by one-story shops and auto repair garages, sales, and other auto-related businesses. The 1950 Sanborn map shows the present building as three stories, occupied by the Cal Camera Club. Adjacent buildings included the U.S. Navy Clinic, an apartment house, surface parking lots, gas and oil stations, and garages and repair shops operated by the nearby California State Automobile Association.

The O'Brien Bros., formed in 1906, was comprised of brothers Albert L. O'Brien, C.J. O'Brien, and W.J. O'Brien. The firm specialized in designing commercial loft buildings and light industrial facilities. One of their more notable designs is the Palace Garage at 111 Stevenson Street. They designed at least fifty buildings in San Francisco, most in the 1910s and 1920s.

Integrity:

45 Polk Street appears to have undergone substantial alterations since its construction in 1924. The first floor is clad in over-painted brick and features a modern storefront at the left end of the elevation, fitted with an aluminum-frame glass door with transom and flanking plate glass windows. An entrance to the upper stories is centered on the elevation and consists of an off-center, aluminum frame glass door with transom and two plate glass windows with transoms. The upper stories feature an International Style facade which is characterized by aluminum-frame plate glass windows with bottom light. Several windows have inset awning sashes. The windows have wide, stuccoed spandrel panels on the first story and shorter similar panels on the second story. Wide stucco transom panels are set above the third-story windows. 45 Polk Street retains integrity of location, as it has not been moved. It does not retain integrity of design, location, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association due to the substantial facade alterations described above.

Conclusion:

45 Polk Street does not appear to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, California Register of Historical Resources or local designation under any criterion. Although the construction date and building location demonstrate an association with the 1906 Earthquake and Fire Reconstruction context, it no longer accurately expresses this association due to the significant alterations to the exterior. As the building no longer conveys its original appearance at the time of construction, it does not clearly express an association with any broad pattern of events in San Francisco history or the State of California or significant persons, nor do the alterations appear to have taken on significance over time, as they do not rise to a high artistic level of other International Style facades or possess high artistic values.