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) 801 Turk 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 Location: ☐ Not for Publication ☒ Unrestricted *a. County: San Francisco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: 801 Turk 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): 0761-001

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

801 Turk Street is located on an 120' x 138' corner lot on the south side of Turk Street between Franklin and Gough Streets. Built in 1953, 801 Turk Street is a reinforced concrete, government building designed in a modified International style. The building has a 4-story, square-plan massing and a narrow massing with slightly higher story height on the north side of the building. The structure is clad in concrete panels and has a flat roof. The foundation is not visible from the street. The primary façade faces north toward Turk St. and there are secondary elevations facing east toward Franklin St. and south toward Elm St. The first story of the primary façade features two recessed entrances set fitted with double-leaf, glazed aluminum doors with transoms and sidelights. All the other bays display blank wall faces. A box cornice separates the first story from the upper stories. The upper stories are characterized by bands of continuous fixed, metal-sash windows set within a projecting surround. The Franklin St. elevation is has a narrow strip of ribbon windows set high on the north end of the first story. The upper stories are identical to the Turk St. elevation. The rear block has vertical banks of fixed, metal windows divided by concrete panels. The Elm St. elevation has asymmetrical fenestration consisting of bands of contiguous fixed metal windows and single fixed metal windows of various sizes. The west elevation has a mechanical tower on the north end of the elevation and a symmetrical pattern of window openings with three contiguous metal fixed windows. All elevations end in plain rooflines. The building appears to be in good condition.

*P3b. Resource Attributes: (list attributes and codes) HP9: Public utility building

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

P5b. Photo: (view and date)
View from northeast
11/6/2006

*P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources: ☒ Historic
1953
SF Assessors Office

*P7. Owner and Address:
BAM Properties
66 Potrero Ave
San Francisco, CA

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

*P9. Date Recorded:
11/6/2006

*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)

View looking southeast on Turk St.

Elm St. (south) elevation

State of California The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Primary #
HRI No.

BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD

*NRHP Status Code 3CS

Page 1 of 3 *Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) 801 Turk Street

B1. Historic Name 801 Turk Street

B2. Common Name 801 Turk Street

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

* B5. Architectural Style International Style

*B6. Construction History
801 Turk Street was constructed in 1952.

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

*B8. Related Features none

B9a. Architect Angus McSweeney . Builder _____

*B10. Significance: Theme The Post-War Era Area: Western Addition

Period of Significance 1950-1961 Property Type Government 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 Post-War Era context of the Historic Context Statement, Market & Octavia Neighborhood Plan Area, since it is both an identified building type (Government Building) and dates from the Period of Significance (1950-1961) of that context. Based on its appearance, the building is also considered under California Register Criterion 3 (Design). 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:

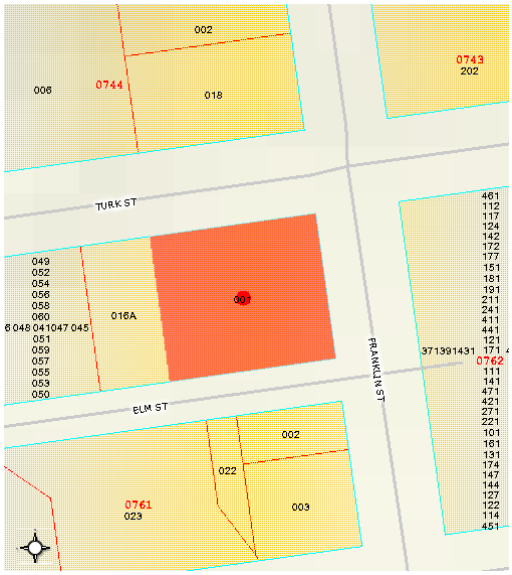
801 Turk Street was designed by local architect Angus McSweeney and constructed for the State of California in 1952. Prior to its construction, 1906 and 1909 Block Books indicate that the property was owned by Robert Mitchell. (continued)

B11. Additional Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) HP14: Public utility building

*B12. References: Edwards Abstract, March 21, 1952
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)

1899 Sanborn maps indicate that the parcel was occupied by seven two-story flats and single-family dwellings. The surrounding neighborhood was filled with similar building types. The 1913 Sanborn map shows that several of the dwellings have been demolished and two-story, single-family row houses constructed in their place. Similar building have been constructed in the surrounding neighborhood. The 1950 Sanborn map shows that these dwellings have been converted into housekeeping rooms and flats.

Between 1950 and 1961, the Market and Octavia Survey Area probably changed more, physically and socially, than it had at any time since the 1906 Earthquake. A large chunk of the Survey Area, bounded by Turk, Gough, Fulton, and Laguna streets, was subject to aggressive Redevelopment Agency projects which entailed the demolition of Victorian building which had become run-down and replacement with modern government buildings, both residential and commercial. Although constructed slightly before redevelopment of the Western Addition began in earnest (1960s), 801 Turk Street can still be seen within this redevelopment context. 801 Turk Street was constructed as a government building on the site of several formerly upper-middle-class rowhouses that may have become crowded and deteriorated because of the lack of maintenance by absentee landlords. These dwellings were likely seen as 'blighted" and in need of demolition for urban renewal. 801 Turk Street accurately expresses an association with this broad pattern of San Francisco history.

Criterion 3:

Angus M. McSweeney (1901-1971) was born in Pennsylvania and studied the Beaux Arts movement at the University of Oregon. He was an associate at renowned architecture firm Willis Polk & Co. until its dissolution in 1934. McSweeney served as the local architect of record collaborating with internationally known architects Pier Luigi Nervi and Pietro Belluschi on the design of the Cathedral of Saint Mary of the Assumption (1967-1970), located at Gough and Geary Streets. Other notable buildings include the Lloyd C. Simpson House in Hillsborough (1929) and Stonestown Mall (1952).

The International Style developed in Europe and the United States in the 1920s and 1930s and became the dominant tendency in Western architecture during the middle decades of the 20th century, especially in commercial and governmental urban office buildings. Guiding stylistic principles of the International Style include balance rather than symmetry, the expression of volume rather than mass, and the expulsion of all applied ornament. These principles are expressed through design elements including rectilinear forms, light, taut plane surfaces, the use of continuous windows and reflective surfaces, open interior spaces, and a visually weightless quality engendered by the use of cantilever construction. Glass and steel, in combination with usually less visible reinforced concrete, are the characteristic materials of construction. From 1950 through the 1970s, the International style dominated office tower design.

801 Turk Street is both an early and an accurate example of the International Style. The building exhibits characteristics of the International Style, including low, squat height and asymmetrical yet balanced massing, concrete and glass construction materials, absence of ornamentation, and use of continuous windows and reflective surfaces bounded by projecting bezel moldings. The upper stories appear to float over the first story due to their slight cantilevered construction. The building retains sufficient character defining features to embody the International Style type, period and method of construction.

Integrity:

801 Turk Street appears to have undergone few alterations since its construction in 1952. It retains character-defining features including its square-plan massing with narrow massing in the slightly higher tower on the north side of the building, low, squat height, blank first story on the primary (north) facade, upper story fenestration pattern characterized by bands of continuous fixed, metal-sash windows set within a projecting surround, and concrete panel exterior cladding. The property retains all aspects of integrity: location, design, setting, materials, feeling, and association.

(continued)

B10: Significance (continued)

Conclusion:

801 Turk Street appears eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources under Criterion 1 (Event) and Criterion 3 (Design/Construction) as an intact example of International Style government building constructed by well-known local architect Angus McSweeney during the Period of Significance (1950-1961) of the Post-War Era context of the Historic Context Statement, Market & Octavia Neighborhood Plan Area. 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.

Character Defining Features:

Character-defining features include asymmetrical massing, low, squat height, blank first story on the primary (north) facade, upper story fenestration pattern characterized by bands of continuous fixed, metal-sash windows set within a projecting surround, and concrete panel exterior cladding.