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) 52 Waller St.

P1. Other Identifier: First Baptist Chapel, SFFD Store House

*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 Location: ☐ Not for Publication ☒ Unrestricted *a. County: San Francisco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: 52 Waller St. City: San Francisco Zip: 94103

d. UTM: Zone: 10 mE/ mN (G.P.S.)

e. Other Locational Data: Assessor's Parcel Number (Map, Block, Lot): 0856-003

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

The First Baptist Chapel is one of three buildings associated with the First Baptist Church located on a 137.5' x 221.25' corner lot on the north side of Waller Street between Laguna and Octavia Streets. Constructed ca. 1900 as a San Francisco Fire Department storehouse, the First Baptist Chapel is a 1-story, brick building designed in the Gothic Revival style. The building, clad in common bond brick, is capped by a gable roof. The foundation is not visible. The south-facing primary façade is 3 bays wide. The first floor features a centered, bay opening with pointed arch in-filled with three glazed wood doors and wood panel system. A pointed arch wood transom light is set above the infill. The entrance is flanked by tall, recessed window openings with flared lintels and keystones in-filled with modern wood sash with hopper transoms. The façade terminates in a terra cotta cornice with end brackets and a lobed parapet with end piers. Side elevations have no envelope openings.

The building appears to be in good condition.

*P3b. Resource Attributes: (list attributes and codes) HP16: Religious Building; HP9 Public Utility Building

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

P5b. Photo: (view and date)
View from south
11/17/2006

*P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources: ☒ Historic
Ca. 1900
Sanborn maps

*P7. Owner and Address:
First Baptist Church Of S F
21 Octavia St
San Francisco, CA

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

*P9. Date Recorded:
11/17/2006

*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)

Detail, top of façade

Detail, entrance

State of California -- The Resources Agency
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PRIMARY RECORD

Primary # _____
HRI # _____
Trinomial _____
NRHP Status Code 2D
Other Listings _____
Review Code _____ Reviewer _____ Date / /

Page 1 of 2

*Resource Name or #: 856/3 portion

P1. Other Identifier: 1886. Engine 19

*P2. Location: ☐ Not for Publication ☒ Unrestricted a. County San Francisco

b. USGS 7.5' Quad San Francisco North Date 1980 T 02N; R 05W; ___ 1/4 of NE 1/4 of Sec 9; MDM B.M.

c. Address 52 Waller Street City San Francisco Zip 94102

d. UTM: (Give more than one for large and/or linear feature) Zone _____, _____mE/ _____mN

e. Other Locational Data: (e.g. parcel #, legal description, directions to resource, elevation, additional UTMs, etc. as appropriate)

Assessor's Parcel Number: 856/3, western portion

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

The historic Engine 19 Firehouse is a small 1-1/2-story brick structure on the north side of Waller Street on a sloping site between Octavia and Laguna. It has a wide center entry designed for the horse-drawn fire engine, set in a slightly projecting pavilion. The transom is a shallow basket-handle arch with terra cotta corner blocks, a radiating lintel of three brick soldier courses, and a large terra cotta keystone reading "1886" for the founding year of Engine Company 19. Flanking the center were two terra cotta keystoned pedestrian entries, which were subsequently bricked up and have recently been reconstituted as two levels of double-hung wood windows. The building has both a molded metal cornice and a brick parapet with a terra cotta plaque reading "Engine 19." The main opening has been changed at least twice and now has glazed wood doors in a slight recess. It is used as a chapel for First Baptist Church on the same parcel. In spite of the alterations to openings, the building appears to possess basic integrity as to location, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. It is a contributor to the Hayes Valley Historic District, which was determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places by HUD and SHPO in 1976.

*P3b. Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) HP14. Government Building; HP16. Religious Building

*P4. Resources Present: ☒ Building ☐ Structure ☐ Object ☐ Site ☐ District ☒ Element of District ☐ Other (Isolates, etc.)

P5a. Photograph or Drawing (Photograph required for buildings, structures, and objects)

Date of Photo: 08/11/1997

Photo Number: ABWK322/18

P5b. Description of Photo: (View, date, etc.)
Waller Street elevation
looking northeast

*P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources:
☐ Prehistoric ☒ Historic ☐ Both
1907, per Bloomfield, research/
lecture on SF firehouses, 1987

*P7. Owner and Address:
First Baptist Church of S.F.
21 Octavia Street
San Francisco, CA 94102
P--Private

*P8. Recorded by: (Name, affiliation, address)
Anne Bloomfield
Bloomfield Architectural History
2229 Webster Street
San Francisco, CA 94115

*P9. Date Recorded: 08/21/1997

*P10. Survey Type: (Describe)
Intensive
Mid-Market Redevelopment Project

*P11. Report Citation: (Cite survey report/other sources or "none") Bloomfield, Anne, Historic Architectural Survey Report for the Mid-Market Redevelopment Project, San Francisco, 1997.

*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) _____

52 Waller Street, Engine 19, 1886

Right:
Detail of upper facade
8/11/1997 (ABWK322/24)

Below:
Another facade view
8/16/1997 (ABCM330/1)

State of California The Resources Agency Primary #
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION HRI No.

BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD

*NRHP Status Code 3S

Page 1 of 2 *Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) 52 Waller Street

B1. Historic Name 52 Waller Street

B2. Common Name 52 Waller Street

B3. Original Use Firehouse B4. Present Use: Chapel

* B5. Architectural Style Gothic Revival

*B6. Construction History
52 Waller Street was constructed in 1886. Alterations include front entrance and double hung windows flanking entrance.

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

*B8. Related Features none

B9a. Architect C. Wilson . Builder Holm & Sheibley

*B10. Significance: Theme Gilded Age of Merchant Builders Area: Hayes Valley

Period of Significance 1870-1906 Property Type Government/Religious Building Applicable Criteria A and C

(Discuss importance in terms of historical or architectural context as defined by theme, period, and geographic scope. Also address integrity)

In regard to National Register A and California Register Criterion 1 (History/Events) this property is considered under the Gilded Age of Merchant Builders context of the Historic Context Statement, Market & Octavia Neighborhood Plan Area, since it is both an identified building type (Government/Religious Building) and dates from the Period of Significance (1870-1906) of that context. Based on its appearance, the building is also considered under National Register Criterion C and 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). Note: 52 and 54 Waller Street are located on the same parcel.

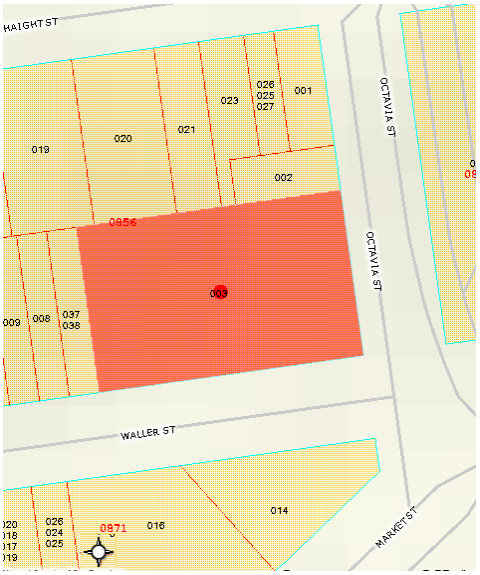
Criterion 1:
52 Waller Street was constructed in 1886 for the City and County of San Francisco as a San Francisco Fire Department storehouse for Engine Company No. 19. In 1895, an addition was designed by the architect C. Wilson and constructed by the building firm of Holm & Sheibley. (continued)

B11. Additional Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) HP14. Government Building: HPI6. Religious

*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)

The 1909 Block Book indicates that ownership of the lot had passed to the Trustees of the First Baptist Church, although the building continued to operate as an engine house. The 1913 Sanborn map describes the building as a one-story engine house housing 11 men, 5 horses, a steamer and a one-hose wagon. In 1920, the lot was still owned by the Trustees of the First Baptist Church. In 1950, the Sanborn maps indicate the property was still functioning as an engine house, housing 11 men. The building is presently used as a chapel by the adjacent First Baptist Church.

By the last decades of the nineteenth century, Hayes Valley had developed into a uniformly residential and densely developed area of the city, thanks in part to the expansion of public transportation. Other infrastructure needs including civic buildings like police and fire stations, necessary to serve this densely populated urban community. 52 Waller Street is an example of the variety of smaller neighborhood civic buildings that round out the neighborhood's predominantly residential character. With its early construction date of 1886, 52 Waller Street is an early example of a government building in Hayes Valley.

Criterion 3:

52 Waller Street exhibits characteristics of the American Commercial style with simplified Gothic Revival detailing. The American Commercial style arose during the last half of the nineteenth century in response to the need for durable, flexible, and largely functional brick buildings for commercial, industrial, and civic use. It is typically characterized by heavy timber or steel-frame and brick construction with minimal brick, stone, or terra cotta detailing. The Gothic Revival style is based on English and French precedents from the late 12th-15th centuries. Its revival began in England during the late 18th century, arriving in the United States by 1832. By the 1870s, the Gothic Revival style experienced a rebirth of interest due to the writings of John Ruskin. The Gothic Revival style is usually (but not always) rendered in brick or stone, often incorporating materials of differing colors and texture to create decorative bands highlighting corners, arches, and other architectural features. Traditional Gothic pointed arch windows and doors are frequently used. In addition, characteristic Gothic "drip" moldings or tracery windows designed in a lobed or quatrefoil shape are used. With its brick construction, segmental arched windows, and generally utilitarian detailing, 52 Waller Street is first and foremost an American Commercial style building. Its pointed arch vehicular bay and pitched roof and gabled end wall betray minor Gothic Revival influences.

Integrity:

In regards to integrity, 52 Waller Street appears to have undergone some alterations, including the in-filling of the central vehicular bay with three glazed wood doors. Flanking the entry, are two infilled pedestrian doors now containing modern wood sash windows with hopper transoms. Character-defining features include one-story height and massing, common bond brick cladding, sparse Gothic Revival ornament including the pointed arch vehicular entrance. Despite alterations to the openings, 52 Waller Street retains the following aspects of integrity: location, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. It does not retain integrity of design as the front and pedestrian entrances have been infilled.

Conclusion:

52 Waller Street is a contributor to the Hayes Valley Historic District, which was determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places by SHPO in 1976. The building retains integrity and still appears to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A (event/history) and C (design/construction) as a well preserved and intact example of an American Commercial/Gothic Revival government building constructed during the Period of Significance (1870-1906) of the Gilded Age of Merchant Builders context. Constructed at the height of the 1880s-era building boom, the fire station was presumably an important representation of local governmental authority in the neighborhood. It is also likely that the crew of the firehouse played a role in stopping the fires that destroyed most of the city east of Hayes Valley during the aftermath of the 1906 Earthquake. In regard to its brick construction, 52 Waller Street is an unusual example of an early government building in Hayes Valley. The building clearly expresses its association with broad patterns of local history and embodies the distinctive characteristics of its type, period and method of construction.

Character Defining Features:

Character-defining features include one-story height and massing, common bond brick cladding, Gothic Revival ornament including pointed arch wood transom light above entry, flared lintels and keystones at infilled pedestrian entrances, terra cotta cornice with end brackets and a lobed parapet with end piers, and gable roof.