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) 50-54 Webster St

P1. Other Identifier: 190-198 Hermann Street

*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 Location: ☐ Not for Publication ☒ Unrestricted *a. County: San Francisco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: 50-54 Webster 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): 0869-020

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

50-54 Webster St is one of two buildings located on a 50' x 87' lot at the southwest corner of Hermann and Webster Street. The second building is addressed as 190-198 Hermann Street. 50-54 Webster Street is a 3-story, wood frame, multiple-family residential building with three units that appears to have been heavily modified. The rectangular-plan building, clad in smooth stucco and drop wood siding, is capped by a flat roof. The Webster Street façade is three bays wide, including the corner bay, while the Hermann Street elevation is two bays wide. On Webster Street, the left bay of the ground floor contains a recessed entryway that is demarcated by a pointed trefoil arch and ornate metal security door. This entryway has a small flight of concrete stairs and three contemporary wood doors with transoms. The rest of the ground floor features single fenestration openings and a curved corner window. The second and third stories feature a rectilinear bay window in the left bay, single window openings in the center bay, and a rounded corner bay window in the right bay. The Hermann Street elevation has single window openings in the first bay on all three stories. The right end bay has paired window openings on the first story and a two-story semi-hexagonal window on the upper two stories. All window openings on the building have aluminum-sash slider windows with transoms. Both façades terminate in a simple cornice. The building appears to be in good condition, but all original architectural ornament has been removed.

*P3b. Resource Attributes: (list attributes and codes) HP3: Multiple family property

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

P5b. Photo: (view and date)
View of south and west façades
8/29/2006

*P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources: ☒ Historic
Ca. 1905
Sanborn maps

*P7. Owner and Address:
William D. & Robert Robertson
398 Ardendale Dr
Daly City CA 94014

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

*P9. Date Recorded:
8/29/2006

*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)

50-54 Webster Street, first story showing main entrance.

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

BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD

*NRHP Status Code 6Z

*Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) 50-54 Webster Street

B1. Historic Name 50-54 Webster Street

B2. Common Name 50-54 Webster Street

B3. Original Use Multiple Family Residence B4. Present Use: Multiple Family Residence

* B5. Architectural Style

*B6. Construction History

50-54 Webster Street was constructed in 1900. Alterations include stucco cladding and window sash.

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

*B8. Related Features none

B9a. Architect Henry Geilfuss . Builder n/a

*B10. Significance: Theme Gilded Age of Merchant Builders Area: Lower Haight

Period of Significance 1870-1906 Property Type Residential 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 Gilded Age of Merchant Builders context of the Historic Context Statement, Market & Octavia Neighborhood Plan Area, since it is both an identified building type (Residential) and dates from the Period of Significance (1870-1906) 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:

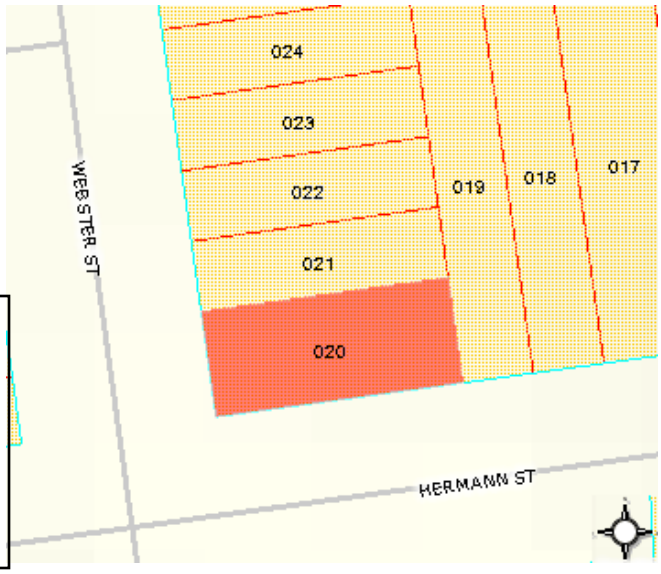
50-54 Webster Street, a three-story, wood frame, multiple-family residential building, is one of two buildings located on the lot. The second building is addressed as 190-198 Hermann Street and is a two-story, wood frame, multiple-family residential building. (continued)

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

*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)

50-54 Webster Street was designed by local architect Henry Geilfuss and constructed by an unidentified builder in 1900 for the identified first owners, George and Katherine Samsreithner. George Samsreithner was a grocer, and apparently leased this property as rental income. The property was owned by the Samsreithner family though at least 1909, and by 1920 it had been sold to a P. Barohelar. The 1936 City Directory lists renter Gustav Baier and O.J. Husmann at this address. In 1940, Margaret Baier was listed at this address. In 1953, the City Directory lists William J Adami and a painter named Lee G. Drever at this address. The building was constructed as an apartment building, a use pattern which it maintains today.

Henry Geilfuss (b. 1850) was born and educated in Germany and immigrated to the US in 1876. Among his best known works are the Westerfeld House in Alamo Square (1889) and St. Mark's Lutheran Church at 1135 O'Farrell (1894).

Laid out in 1856 as part of the Western Addition, the area known today as the Lower Haight began to develop during the early 1880s after cable car service opened along Haight Street. The section of the Lower Haight within the Survey Area was not built up until the late 1890s when the City ceded the northern half of Duboce Park to a plaintiff in a lawsuit, who then subsequently subdivided and developed the area. 50-54 Webster Street, with its 1900 construction date, Lower Haight location, and building typology, demonstrates a clear association with a broad pattern of San Francisco history.

Integrity:

50-54 Webster Street has undergone significant alterations, including removal of all original architectural ornament, re-cladding in stucco, and replacement window sash consisting of aluminum-sash slider windows with transoms. The building retains integrity of location, as it has not been moved. Although adjacent buildings appear to have been constructed during the same time period, 50-54 Webster Street does not retain integrity of setting because those adjacent buildings have also been heavily altered. In addition, the building does not retain integrity of materials, design, workmanship, feeling, or association due to the significant alterations described above.

Conclusion:

50-54 Webster 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 Gilded Age of Merchant Builders context, it no longer accurately expresses this association due to the 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, nor does it embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction. Although designed by well-known local architect Henry Geilfuss, it does not possesses high artistic values.