

## STRUCTURES OF MERIT

BLOCK 311 LOT 13  
ADDRESS 57 POST  
NAME MECHANICS INST.  
HERITAGE SURVEY RATING A  
1976 INVENTORY RATING 3/3



**R147 MAP II**  
**57-65 Post Street**  
**Mechanic's Institute**  
**Albert Pissis**  
**1909**

One of the state's earliest educational institutions, located at this site since 1866, and an excellent example of a mixed use building whose internal functions are clearly expressed in the external design. The ground floor with its commercial space and monumental entranceway is surmounted by two floors of well-lit library floors, with offices above that. The composition is a three part vertical block. Ornamentation is Renaissance/Baroque. The marble elevator lobby is decorated with an Arthur Mathew's mural and is the endpoint of a very beautiful circular iron and marble stairway. The Mechanic's Institute itself occupies three floors, two of them housing the merged Mechanic's Institute and Mercantile libraries, and the third including one of the oldest chess clubs in America. The rest of the building is occupied by offices. It is a steel frame structure with brick curtain walls. The building is a major San Francisco cultural landmark.



57 Post St. 311 13 3  
 street address block number lot number summary

Mechanics Institute / 4/0/9  
 building type/use/number of floors landmark number

RELATIONSHIP WITH SURROUNDING BUILDINGS  
 Relationship of setting to building -2 -1 0 1 2 3 4 5  
 Importance as contribution to a cluster/streetscape -2 -1 0 1 2 3 4 5  
 ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN VALUATION  
 Facade proportions -2 -1 0 1 2 3 4 5  
 Richness/Excellence of detailing/decoration -2 -1 0 1 2 3 4 5  
 Unique visual feature of interest 0 1 2 3 4 5  
 Example of a rare or unusual style or design 0 1 2 3 4 5  
 Overall architectural quality -2 -1 0 1 2 3 4 5

☐ PROPOSED FOR FURTHER INVESTIGATION  
☐ CORNICE, PARAPET, APPENDAGE  
 Importance of cornice to building design -2 -1 0 1 2 3 4 5  
 Cornice contribution to streetscape -2 -1 0 1 2 3 4 5  
 FACADE CONDITION  
 Physical condition -2 -1 0 1 2 3 4 5  
 Paint/Material color -2 -1 0 1 2 3 4 5  
☐ REMODELING  
 Appropriateness of improvements -2 -1 0 1 2 3 4 5

10/8 KOTAS  
 date

# Field Notes

## Review Notes

Junior League Listing  
☐ text ☐ index ☐ file  
☐ Northern California Guide  
☐ Other Listing \_\_\_\_\_



286-11 photo 4-24, 22

D1



