

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 4 *Resource name(s) or number (assigned by recorder) 555 Fulton 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 Location: Not for Publication Unrestricted *a. County: San Francisco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: 555 Fulton 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): 0794-028

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

555 Fulton Street is located on a 38,730 square-foot lot that includes most of the city block bounded by Fulton, Laguna, Birch, and Octavia Streets. The lot is fenced along most of the perimeter, and the interior of the parcel is not visible from the street. The parcel includes the building at 555 Fulton Street, a large paved parking area, and two canopy structures for sheltering vehicles. The canopy structures are only minimally visible from the street. Built in 1957, 555 Fulton Street is a 2-story, reinforced concrete commercial building designed in a modified International style. The square-plan building, clad in smooth stucco, is capped by a flat roof. The foundation is not visible from the street. The primary façade faces north toward Fulton Street. A small portion of the west façade is visible, and the south elevation fronts on Birch St. The primary façade is 5 bays wide. The first story features an off-center main entrance at the west end of the elevation fitted with a steel door and aluminum-frame sidelights and transom. Narrow bands of vertical wood siding outlined in a projecting concrete band molding extend across the elevation on both sides of the entrance. The band contains three pairs of steel, 4-light awning sash over divided or undivided metal bottom lights. The second story has a full-length band of vertical wood siding with single and paired sets of the same window type. The west elevation has a bay (continued)

*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 north
11/6/2006

*P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources: Historic
1957
SF Assessors Office

*P7. Owner and Address:
Trusts For Children Of Henr
% Cynthia Wong
1155 Tartan Trail Rd
Hillsborough, 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)

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*Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) 555 Fulton St.

*Recorded by: Page & Turnbull

*Date 11/6/2006



Continuation



Update

P3a. Description, continued.

entrance with steel overhead door in the first bay and a secondary entrance with glazed aluminum door in the adjacent bay. The second story has a pair of awning sash in the first bay with a wide projecting concrete surround. The remaining visible bays have utilitarian divided metal awning sash. The rear elevation on Birch Street has no openings. The building appears to be in good condition.



Detail of windows on primary façade



Primary entrance

BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD

*NRHP Status Code 6Z

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*Resource Name or # (assigned by recorder) 555 Fulton Street

___ B1. Historic name: Christopher Dairy Farms
 ___ B2. Common name: None
 ___ B3. Original Use: Industrial, dairy processing; commercial
 ___ B4. Present use: Commercial
 ___ *B5. Architectural Style: International

***B6. Construction History:** (Construction date, alterations, and date of alterations)

Built in 1956. "Christopher Dairy Farms" signage, including 3-dimensional reproductions of milk cartons, installed on front of building, 1957. Changes to interior partitions made in 1962 and 1990.

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

*B8. Related Features: None

B9a. Architect: August E. Waegemann (Engineer) b. Builder: William Burrows Inc.

*B10. Significance: Theme Commercial Development Area: Western Addition, San Francisco
Period of Significance 1956 - 1970 Property Type Commercial Applicable Criteria None

(Discuss importance in terms of historical or architectural context as defined by theme, period, and geographic scope. Also address integrity) 555 Fulton Street was constructed in 1956 for Christopher Dairy Farms as a dairy processing facility. August E. Waegemann served as the building engineer and William Burrows Inc. as contractor. The building site was purchased in 1954 from B. Samuels, Leone Palmer, Marius Giland, et. al. Prior to construction, the site was occupied by a printer's shop, store, and gas station.

Christopher Dairy Farms was owned by George Christopher (1907 – 2000), who served as Mayor of San Francisco from 1956 to 1964. Born in Greece, Christopher immigrated to the United States with his family in 1910, settling in South of Market Area. He studied accounting at Heald College and later went to work for Excelsior Dairy where he became a company official in 1937. Christopher subsequently entered into a partnership with the Meadow Glen Dairy, which eventually evolved into Christopher Dairy Farms.

In 1945, Christopher was elected to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. In 1951 he ran unsuccessfully for mayor, but was elected on his second try in 1955. Christopher's two terms as mayor were marked by some of the most substantial—and controversial—changes to San Francisco's urban grid since the 1906 earthquake and fire. These included the redevelopment of the Embarcadero Center and Golden Gateway, the massive urban renewal projects in the Fillmore and Japantown, (continued)

B11. Additional Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) (HP8): Industrial building

***B12. References:**

San Francisco City Directories: 1948-49, 1955-56, 1964, 1969, 1974, 1978, 1982.
Sanborn Map: 1950.
San Francisco Building Permits: #170667, #176867, #176868, #235676, #660075
(continued)

B13. Remarks: Market & Octavia Survey

*B14. Evaluator: Jonathan Lammers, Caitlin Harvey; Page & Turnbull

(This space reserved for official comments.)



*Date of Evaluation: April 2007

State of California & The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
CONTINUATION SHEET

Primary# _____

HRI # _____

Trinomial _____

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*Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) 555 Fulton Street

*Recorded by: Page & Turnbull

*Date May, 2007

Continuation Update

B10. Significance (continued)

construction of a new city jail, and the opening of the Embarcadero Freeway along the central waterfront. While still serving as mayor he made an unsuccessful bid for the U.S. Senate in 1958, and in 1962 ran for Lt. Governor of California. In 1966, he lost the Republican primary for Governor of California to Ronald Reagan.

Christopher Dairy Farms occupied the building at 555 Fulton Street between 1956 and 1970, when the company was sold to Berkeley Farms, Inc. City directories for the 1970s indicate the building was occupied by both Berkeley Farms and the Juice Pak Corporation. However, George Christopher apparently continued to maintain an office in the building. The City Directory for 1982 shows the Juice Pak Corporation as well as Christopher Commercial Corporation Business Consulting. More recently, the building has housed a variety of commercial tenants, including a furniture warehouse, plumbing and food services.

555 Fulton does not appear to be eligible for the National or California Registers or for local designation. The building retains integrity of location, with somewhat diminished integrity of setting and feeling due to large, modern residential complexes having been constructed on many of the surrounding blocks. The building retains integrity of design, materials and workmanship. The façade has been minimally altered since construction, though the original signage has been removed. 555 Fulton Street is a well-preserved, modest example of an international style commercial and industrial building, but is not distinctive architecturally. The building is not associated with any significant events in the history of San Francisco or the State of California. While the building is associated with a noted figure in San Francisco politics, it does not appear to be eligible for designation under criterion B/2, due to the fact that much of that period of association occurred outside of the historic period and that, the dairy itself was not associated with George Christopher's political career or any of his accomplishments in various government roles.

The status code of 6Z assigned to this property means that it has been found ineligible for National Register, California Register or Local designation. This property was not fully assessed for its potential to yield information important in prehistory or history, per National Register Criterion D.

B12. References (continued)

George Christopher Papers 1950 – 2000, biographical section. On file with the S.F. Public Library
San Francisco Assessor's Office sales ledgers.

Company History of Berkeley Farms, Inc. Answers.com (<http://www.answers.com/topic/berkeley-farms-inc>)



Christopher Dairy Farms, August 24, 1964. Image courtesy the San Francisco Public Library.