

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 3 *Resource name(s) or number (assigned by recorder) 425 Mission Street

P1. Other Identifier: Transbay Transit Terminal

*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 Location: ☐ Not for Publication ☒ Unrestricted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 Date: 1994

*c. Address: City: San Francisco Zip: 94105

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

e. Other Locational Data: Assessor's Parcel Number (Map, Block, Lot): Parcel #: 3720001

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

The Transbay Terminal occupies a large irregular swath of property encompassing the terminal itself and the oval viaduct. It occupies sections the following publicly owned parcels within the survey area: 3718/025 & 027; 3719/003, 3720/001, 3721/006 & 015A; 3736/007, 018 & 089; 3737/005, 012 & 027; 3738/004, and 3739/008. The terminal proper occupies most of APN 3720 with frontage along Mission, 1st, and Fremont streets. Sections of the terminal extend on viaducts above sections of 1st and Fremont streets. The main concourse building, designed in the Streamline Moderne style, faces a partially landscaped forecourt/bus turn-around facing Mission Street. Its primary facade is an enframed window wall, clad in California granite, that is seven bays (870 feet) long. A canopy shelters the principal entry at grade. Above are seven rectangular windows containing aluminum mullions. Aluminum letters spell the name of the building above. To either side of the main ticket hall are utilitarian wings of concrete and steel featuring steel industrial windows at regular intervals. The interior is organized with a parking garage in the basement, the waiting rooms and ticket booths on the first floor, and the passenger concourse on the second floor. Concrete viaducts form a loop behind the building, providing bus access to I-80 and the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge. The building appears to be in good condition.

*P3b. Resource Attributes: (list attributes and codes) HP17. Railroad Depot

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



P5b. Photo: (view and date)

View toward south, 9.19.07,
100_3669.JPG

*P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources:

☒ Historic ☐ Prehistoric ☐ Both

1939, Assessor's Office

*P7. Owner and Address:

State Property

*P8. Recorded by

Christopher VerPlanck
Kelley & VerPlanck
2912 Diamond Street #330
San Francisco, CA 94131

*P9. Date Recorded:

11.08.07

*P10. Survey Type:

Intensive: Transit Center District EIR

*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)

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) 425 Mission Street

*Recorded by: Christopher

*Date 11.08.07

☒ Continuation ☐ Update



Mission Street Façade, 100_3669, 9.19.07



Rear Façade, 100_3658, 9.19.07

BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD

*NRHP Status Code: 3S, 3CS

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*Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) 425 Mission Street

B1. Historic Name:	Transbay Transit Terminal		
B2. Common Name:	Transbay Terminal		
B3. Original Use:	Interurban Train Depot	B4. Present Use:	Bus Station
*B5. Architectural Style:	Moderne		

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

The Transbay Terminal was constructed in 1939 to accommodate the Key System interurban trains that ran on the Oakland-Bay Bridge between San Francisco and the East Bay.

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

*B8. Related Features: Oakland Bay Bridge and associated automobile and bus viaducts

B9a. Architect: Timothy Pflueger, Arthur Brown Jr. b. Builder: MacDonald & Kahn
*B10. Significance: Theme: Commercial/Industrial Development Area: South of Market: Transit Center District Plan

Period of Significance: 1906-1930 Property Type: Transit Station Applicable Criteria: 1 & 3

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

The completion of the Oakland-Bay Bridge required the construction of a new facility in downtown San Francisco to accommodate the electric Key System interurban trains that ran on the bridge between San Francisco and the East Bay. Designed as a collaboration of Timothy Pflueger, John J. Donovan, and Arthur Brown Jr., the Transbay Transit Terminal was completed in 1939 for the State of California. The building was not designed as a typical rail station on one level but rather as a multi-level facility divided vertically into four zones, facilitating the arrival and departure of passengers at a peak rate of 17,000 commuters every twenty minutes. In 1959, after years of declining ridership, buses replaced the Key System trains. Since then, the Transbay Terminal has operated as a bus station accommodating local commuter bus lines serving the East Bay and San Mateo and Marin counties. Since the early 1970s, several proposals have emerged to demolish the building and replace it with a modern intermodal transportation hub with office buildings above. The latest proposal intends to construct the proposed Transit Tower on top of a new intermodal station accommodating both local bus service, Caltrain, and the future bullet train service from San Diego to San Francisco. The Transbay Terminal is currently part of a Transit Center redevelopment project.

Previous evaluations have found the Transbay Terminal eligible for listing in the National Register under Criteria 1 (Events) and 3 (Design/Construction). As such, the property is also considered to be listed in the California Register.

B11. Additional Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) HP17. Railroad depot

*B12. References:

San Francisco City Directories
San Francisco Architectural Heritage, Building files
Sanborn Maps: 1899, 1913, 1950

B13. Remarks: Transit Center District Plan EIR, Heritage "B"-rated building

*B14. Evaluator: Christopher VerPlanck

*Date of Evaluation: 03.24.08

(This space reserved for official comments.)

(Sketch Map with north arrow required.)

