

State of California - The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
PRIMARY RECORD

Primary # _____
HRI # _____
Trinomial _____
CHR Status Code: _____

Other Listings _____
Review Code _____ Reviewer _____ Date _____

Page 1 of 4 Resource Name or #: (Assigned by recorder) 665 HARRISON ST

P1. Other Identifier:

*P2. Location: Not for Publication Unrestricted

*a. County: San Francisco

*b. USGS Quad: San Francisco North, CA Date: 1995

c. Address: 665 HARRISON ST City: San Francisco ZIP 94107

d. UTM Zone: Easting: Northing:

e. Other Locational Data: Assessor's Parcel Number 3763 099

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

665 Harrison Street is located on a 57.5' x 80' rectangular lot on the south side of Harrison Street, between Hawthorne and 3rd streets. 665 Harrison Street is a 2-story reinforced concrete industrial building designed in the Art Moderne style. The rectangular-plan building, clad in smooth concrete, is capped by a built-up bow truss roof. The foundation is concrete. The primary façade faces north and includes 3 structural bays. Entrances include a partially-glazed wood door with a glazed transom and a cantilevered canopy. All windows are articulated by intermediate cornice detailing and have been boarded up with corrugated metal

The building appears to be in good condition.

*P3b. Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) HP6. 1-3 Story Commercial Building, HP8. Industrial Building

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



P5b. Description of Photo:

View of north facade on Harrison Street. 12/12/2007

*P6. Date Constructed/Age:

Historic Prehistoric Both

1946 SF Assessor's Office

*P7. Owner and Address

CAL HOTEL & RESTAURANT INC

% CRESLEIGH MNGMT INC

433 CALIFORNIA ST STE 700

SAN FRANCISCO CA 94104

*P8. Recorded By:

Page & Turnbull, Inc. (ER)

724 Pine Street

San Francisco, CA 94108

*P9. Date Recorded: 12/12/2007

*P10. Survey Type:

Reconnaissance

*P11. Report Citation: (Cite survey report and other sources, or enter "None")

Eastern Neighborhoods SOMA Survey

*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):

BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD

*NRHP Status Code 3S

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*Resource Name or # (assigned by recorder) 665 Harrison Street

B1. Historic name: Cal-Pictures, Golden State Recorders
B2. Common name: None
B3. Original Use: Commercial
B4. Present use: Commercial; office space
*B5. Architectural Style: Art Moderne

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

1946: constructed. 1947: install mezzanine at rear of building with stairs at north end. 1948: install dark room in one corner of warehouse. 1950: remove old partitions and replace with partitions to divide dark rooms, cement hallway floor, and remodel bathrooms. 1969: enclose furnace room and install fire door. 1976: replace roll-up door with windows and new door opening, add new exit stairway on Perry Street, add off-street parking area enclosed by fence and low retaining wall, install new sidewalk with street trees, paint exterior of building. 1978: install wood paneling on 3 walls, sliding doors on one wall, build landing and steps, install door in non-bearing wall. 1990: parapet bracing. 1997: underpinning. 2004: ventilation installation.

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

*B8. Related Features: None.

B9a. Architect: Unknown b. Builder: Jacks & Irvine

*B10. Significance: Theme Commercial Development Area: South of Market, San Francisco, California

Period of Significance 1965 – ca. 1985 Property Type Commercial Applicable Criteria A/1, B/2, G

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

665 Harrison Street was constructed in 1946 as a mercantile building for the California Pacific Title & trust Co. by contracting company Jacks & Irvine. 665 Harrison Street does possess significance as an example of an industrial building in the South of Market Area, a mixed-use district of industrial, commercial, and residential buildings erected after the 1906 Earthquake and Fire. Prior to 1906, the site of 665 Harrison Street was occupied by a number of dwellings in a largely residential neighborhood. After 1906, the area was rebuilt with a new industrial focus, and building booms occurred between 1906-13, 1918-20, and 1925-30. The site of 665 Harrison Street was occupied by a 3-story residential flats building constructed during the first building boom. Sometime between 1920 and 1946 the lot was cleared and the current building constructed in 1946. (Continued)

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

***B12. References:**

- Ace Records. "Various Artists (Golden State Recorders)," Internet: http://www.acerecords.co.uk/content.php?page_id=59&release=1035, accessed: 10/16/08.

(Continued)

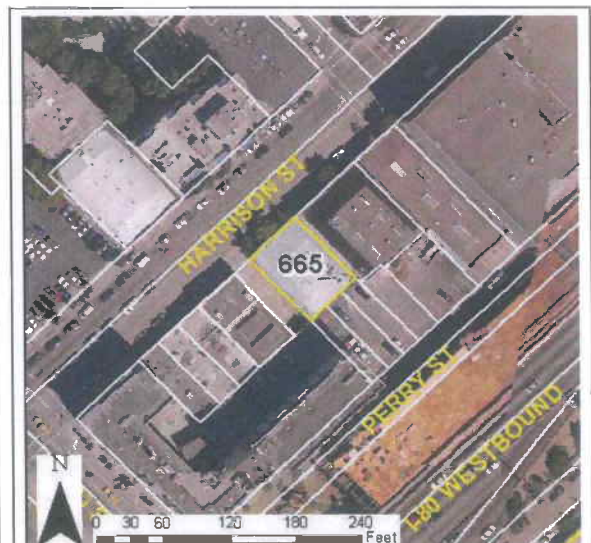
B13. Remarks:

*B14. Evaluator: Caitlin Harvey, Page & Turnbull, Inc.

*Date of Evaluation: September 2009

DPR 523B (1/95)

(This space reserved for official comments.)



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) 665 Harrison Street

*Recorded by: Page & Turnbull

*Date September 2009

Continuation Update

B10. Significance (continued)

The building at 665 Harrison Street first appears on the 1949 Sanborn map and is labeled as a shop. From at least 1948 through 1953, the property was occupied by Cal-Pictures, a commercial photography studio. In 1958, the building was vacant. By 1963, Chettle Art & Sign Service was located at the address, followed by Golden State Recorders Inc. and Mercury Records in 1965. The building continued to be used as a recording studio and for recording arts-oriented business into the 1980s. In addition to Golden State Recorders it also housed companies like Production House Inc. film production studio, the Sonic Arts Corporation, and the College for the Recording Arts. Golden State Recorders and the Sonic Arts Corporation were both owned and run by Leo Kulka (aka "Baron" Leo De Gar Ustinik-Kulka or Leo De Gar Kulka), a music producer who appears to have been prominent in the San Francisco music world from the 1960s to 1980s. Golden State Records was known as the only Hollywood-style recording studio in San Francisco for many years and attracted many local artists. The company recorded many punk and garage bands in the 1960s and had a spin off label called Golden State Soul, which recorded soul music. The Grateful Dead recorded their 1965 "Birth of the Dead" at Golden State Studios.

Leo De Gar Kulka was a native of Czechoslovakia who studied engineering there and moved to Los Angeles in 1938. He served in the U.S. Army Counter-Intelligence Corps (CIC) during World War II in Korea. His wartime experiences with wire recorders and radio transmission sparked a lifelong passion for recording and music. In the early 1950s, Kulka became a staff engineer at Radio Recorders, the fabled Hollywood studio at 7000 Santa Monica Blvd. In 1957, Kulka founded International Sound at Sunset & Western, one of the first multitrack studios in Hollywood. There, he recorded artists such as Frank Sinatra, Nat King Cole, Little Richard, Herb Alpert, Sam Cooke, and Sonny Bono. In 1964, Kulka moved to San Francisco and opened the Golden State Recorders, then one of the largest studios in Northern California. With a Stephens 16-track recorder and a custom multitrack console, he helped pioneer the "San Francisco Sound," recording artists like Sly Stone, Grace Slick, Janis Joplin, Michael Bloomfield, Big Brother, The Sons of Champlin, It's A Beautiful Day, and Quicksilver Messenger Service. For more than ten years, Kulka lectured about audio at San Francisco State University. In 1974, he organized and founded the College for Recording Arts, one of the first recording schools. Kulka died in 1998.

The property was owned by California Pacific Title & Trust Company from 1940 to 1956 and was responsible for the construction of the current building. In 1956, it was sold to Otto R., Edna I., Frank W., and Frieda Schrader. The Schraders owned and operated Schrader Iron Works, Inc., a structural steel business that was founded in San Francisco in 1893. Schrader Iron Works was located at 1247 Harrison Street, however. The building at 665 Harrison Street does not appear to have been associated with the business. The Schraders also owned nearby 75 Columbia Square Street and 653 Harrison Street, but like 665 Harrison Street, used them as rental properties. Various members of the Schrader family owned the subject property until 1991 when it was sold to the current owner, California Hotel & Restaurant, Inc.

665 Harrison Street is associated with contractors Jacks & Irvine. No information was found on this construction partnership in the course of archival research.

665 Harrison Street has undergone some alterations of its original features, but continues to be used as a commercial building. Therefore, it retains integrity of location, setting, feeling, and association. The physical alterations do not appear to be significant enough to have drastically diminished the building's integrity of design, materials, or workmanship. Overall, the property retains historic integrity.

665 Harrison Street appears to be associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history such that it would be locally eligible under National Register Criterion A (California Register Criterion 1), if Criterion G were also used to justify its significance, which is less than 50 years old. From 1965 through the 1980s, the building functioned as a prominent recording studio and recording arts center, presided over by well-known music producer Leo Kulka. The studio is said to have been the best appointed recording facility in the area and was responsible for the recording of many local music artists in the 1960s and 1970s.

665 Harrison Street is associated with Leo Kulka, who may be considered significant to the history of the City of San Francisco such that the building, which housed Kulka's Golden State Recorders and Sonic Art Corporation recording studios, would be eligible under National Register Criterion B (California Register Criterion 2), if Criterion G were also used to justify its significance, which is less than 50 years old. Kulka's most productive life as a music recorder in Northern California occurred at 665 Harrison Street.

665 Harrison Street does not appear to be eligible for local designation under National Register Criterion C (California Register Criterion 3). It is not an example of a commercial building that was constructed in the South of Market area during any of the identified building boom periods and does not significantly embody the distinctive characteristics of an architectural style or building type. It also does not appear to represent the work of a master architect.

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Continuation Update

The CHRSC of "3S" designates this property as "Appears eligible NR as an individual property through survey evaluation."

This property was not assessed for its potential to yield information important in prehistory or history, per National Register Criterion D (California Register Criterion 4).

B12. References (continued)

- The Foundation for San Francisco's Architectural Heritage: Field Survey Form- Buildings
- Page & Turnbull, *Historic Context Statement: South of Market Area, San Francisco, California* (2 March 2007).
- Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps: 1899, 1913, 1950.
- San Francisco Assessor's Office, sales ledgers.
- San Francisco Block Books: 1906, 1909.
- San Francisco City Directories.
- San Francisco Department of Building Inspection, permit records and plans.