

PRIMARY RECORD

Primary # _____
HRI # _____
Trinomial _____
NRHP Status Code 3CS

Other Listings _____
Review Code _____ Reviewer _____ Date _____

Page 1 of 3 *Resource name(s) or number (assigned by recorder) 398 KANSAS ST

P1. Other Identifier General Electric (historic)

*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 Location: ☐ Not for Publication ☒ Unrestricted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: SF North

Date: 1994

*c. Address: 398 Kansas St

City: San Francisco

Zip: 94103

d. UTM: (Give more than one for large and/or linear resources) Zone _____; _____mE/ _____mN

e. Other Locational Data: Assessor's Parcel Number: 3958001G

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

398 Kansas Street is a two-story, heavy timber-frame brick industrial building capped with a flat roof. The American Commercial style building is located on the northwest corner of Kansas and 17th Streets. The east façade is three bays wide and the south façade is five bays wide. Brick piers separate the bays on both facades. The east façade features a two-story arched opening with a large sheet metal sculptural element in it. The arched opening, secured by a security gate, is flanked by two bays with arched windows on both levels. All window openings feature steel sash industrial windows. The south façade features another large arched opening at the west end secured by a metal security gate, and five bays with arched windows containing steel sash industrial windows. The facades terminate in a plain frieze and a corbelled brick cornice. The moderately altered building appears to be in good condition.

*P3b. Resource Attributes: (list attributes and codes) HP8. Industrial Building

P4. Resources Present: ☒ Building ☐ Structure ☐ Object ☐ Site ☐ District ☐ Element of District ☐ Other (Isolates, etc.)

P5a. Photograph or Drawing (Photograph required for buildings, structures, and objects)

*P5b. Photo (view, date, accession #

View toward southwest,
11.20.07, 100_2174.JPG

*P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources

☒ Historic ☐ Prehistoric ☐ Both
1912, Assessor's Office

*P7. Owner and Address:

Hargreaves @ 17th & Kansas
George Hargreaves
398 Kansas St.
San Francisco, Ca 94103

*P8. Recorded by

Christopher VerPlanck
Tim Kelley Consulting
2912 Diamond St. #330

*P9. Date Recorded:
6/12/08

*P10. Survey Type: (Describe)

Intensive



*P11. Report Citation: (Cite survey report and other sources, or enter "none") San Francisco Office of the Assessor/Recorder

*Attachments

☒ BSOR ☐ None ☒ Continuation Sheet
☐ Archaeological Record ☐ District Record ☐ Location Map ☐ Other...
☐ Artifact Record ☐ Photograph Record ☐ Linear Feature Record

State of California The Resources Agency Primary #
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION HRI #
BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD

NRHP Status Code 3CS

Page 2 of 3 *Resource Name of # (Assigned by recorder) 398 KANSAS ST

B1. Historic Name: General Electric
B2. Common Name 398 Kansas Street
B3. Original Use Industrial B4. Present Use Commercial

*B5. Architectural Style American Commercial

*B6. Construction History (Construction Date, alterations and date of alterations)
Constructed in 1912. (permit #44024)

*B7. Moved? ☒ No ☐ Yes

Date

Original Location:

*B8. Related Features:

B9a. Architect Herbert B. Maggs

b. Builder Charles Gompertz

*B10 Significance: Theme Industrial and Commercial
Development

Area Showplace Square Survey Area

Period of Significance 1912

Property Type Industrial

Applicable Criteria 3

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

The building at 398 Kansas Street was constructed on land belonging to early Mission District land owner John Center. For most of its history the site remained undeveloped and surrounded by semi-rural conditions. In 1912, the General Electric Corporation hired architect Herbert Maggs to design a two-story repair facility, machine shop, and laboratory for the site. Throughout the time that General Electric occupied the building, the property remained in the hands of the Center family. In 1934, the Center family sold the property to Charles W. Gompertz, the engineer who built the building. Gompertz in turn sold it to Joseph Kraus. Kraus, a longtime German-born brewer, reopened his famous Anchor Brewing Company in 1933 after the end of Prohibition. After his brewery at 13th and Harrison burned he purchased the former General Electric repair facility. This building served as the home of Anchor Brewing Company until 1959 when Kraus closed the company due to declining sales. After Anchor departed, Kraus owned the building until 1963, at which point he sold it to Edward W. Johnson. During the 1970s, Johnson rehabilitated the building for use as a wholesale showroom associated with Showplace Square.

Herbert B. Maggs was a San Francisco-based architect. Not much is known about his career except that he was listed in San Francisco city directories as an architect between 1898 and 1930. He was apparently experienced in the design and construction of industrial buildings, having also designed the prominent National Register-listed Long Syrup factory, also within the survey area. (continued)

B11. Additional Resource Attributes (List attributes and codes)

HP8. Industrial Building

B12. References Sanborn Maps, San Francisco Sales Ledgers, San Francisco Water Department, San Francisco Architectural Heritage building files, Anchor Brewery Co., "Our History." San Francisco City Directories

B13. Remarks

B14. Evaluator Christopher VerPlanck

*Date of Evaluation 08.24.09

(This space reserved for official comments)

(Sketch Map with north arrow required.)



CONTINUATION SHEET

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Resource Name or # (Assigned by Recorder)

398 KANSAS ST

*Recorded by: Christopher VerPlanck

Date 6/12/08

☒ Continuation ☐ Update

B10 Significance (continued)

398 Kansas Street appears eligible for listing in the California Register under Criterion 3 (Design/Construction) as a rare and relatively well-preserved example of the American Commercial style. The exterior bears all of the hallmarks of the style, including its load-bearing brick walls, punched arched window openings, steel industrial sash, brick pilasters, corbelled brick cornice, and flat roof. Although the Kansas Street facade was evidently altered to install the sheet metal sculpture, the building retains the rest of its historic fabric, retaining the following aspects of integrity: location, materials, design, setting, workmanship, feeling, and association.