

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: California
COUNTY: San Francisco
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE JUN 20 1975

1. NAME

COMMON:	Lotta's Fountain
AND/OR HISTORIC:	Lotta Crabtree Fountain

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Market, Geary, and Kearny Streets			
CITY OR TOWN: San Francisco		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 6th	
STATE California	CODE 06	COUNTY: San Francisco	CODE 075

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY <small>(Check One)</small>	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE <small>(Check One or More as Appropriate)</small>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) SCULPTURE

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: City and County of San Francisco			
STREET AND NUMBER: City Hall			
CITY OR TOWN: San Francisco		STATE: California CODE 94102 06	

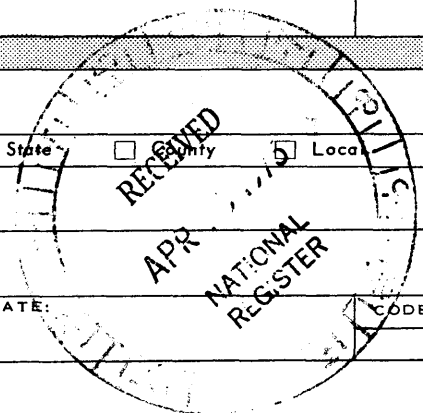
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: S.F. Public Library Board of Supervisors Minutes September 1875			
STREET AND NUMBER: Civic Center			
CITY OR TOWN: San Francisco		STATE: California CODE 94102 06	

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:			
DATE OF SURVEY:			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)
 Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)
 Altered Unaltered

(Check One)
 Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Lotta's Fountain is a cast iron statue and fountain, some 24 feet tall, with conventional lion heads and medallions of brass depicting typical California scenes. The fountain was presented to the City in September of 1875 by Lotta Crabtree, a noted entertainer of her time.

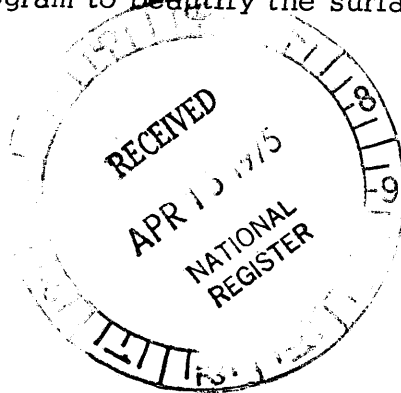
The fountain rests on a granite base, 8 feet square and some two feet thick. On each basin is a griffin's head, with the water flowing from the mouth. There is a lamp at the top of the fountain.

The original castings, in sections, were made in Philadelphia and shipped to San Francisco.

In 1916, the "Path of Gold" committee of San Francisco added an 8 foot section on top so that the height of Lotta's Fountain would be in conformity with the new "Path of Gold" lamps then being installed on Market Street.

One of the plaques added to the fountain commemorates the performance there of Madame Luisa Tetrizzini on Christmas Eve in 1910.

The fountain was renovated, repaired and painted in 1974 as part of the \$24.5 million program to beautify the surface of Market Street.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) Dedicated in 1875

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Lotta's Fountain is a familiar memorial passed daily by thousands. It was dedicated at official City ceremonies on 9 September 1875 by a group of dignitaries headed by Mayor James Otis. San Francisco has taken the tradition of Lotta's Fountain and built up a legend that is a permanent part of Market Street.

The fountain was contributed to the City by Lotta Crabtree, a noted entertainer of her time. She became one of the great figures of the vaudeville and legitimate stage of the last half of the 19th century.

At the age of eight, she joined a troupe of actors who toured the mining camps of the Sierras. She gained such popularity that cheering miners frequently rewarded her by tossing gold nuggets at her feet. Lotta went on to captivate San Francisco audiences in both vaudeville and legitimate productions. In the 1860s she set out on a national tour which earned her nationwide and eventually worldwide fame. Lotta never forgot the city which had grown up with her. In 1875, she expressed her gratitude by donating the famous fountain which memorializes her.

The fountain has become the source of a great amount of San Francisco history and many important events have taken place there. The fountain first acquired an aura of longevity by surviving the 1906 earthquake and fire.

On Christmas Eve in 1910, a crowd estimated at 250,000 people gathered to hear Madame Luisa Tetrazzini sing at Lotta's Fountain. It was the largest gathering of its kind in the west. Although Madame Tetrazzini sang without aid of a loud speaker system, her voice was carried 500 miles to Los Angeles over a telphone to members of the Bohemian Club.

MORE

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		37 ° 47 ' 17 "	122 ° 24 ' 08 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: .002

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Bernard Averbuch, Executive Director

ORGANIZATION: **Market Street Development Project** DATE: **5 Sept 1974**

STREET AND NUMBER:
870 Market street

CITY OR TOWN: **San Francisco** STATE: **California 94102** CODE: **06**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: *B. Averbuch*

Title: State Historic Preservation Officer

Date: JAN 2 1975

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

[Signature]
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 6/30/75

ATTEST:

[Signature]
Keeper of The National Register

Date: JUN 20 1975

HM 10/552650
4182260

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE California	
COUNTY San Francisco	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JUN 20 1975

(Number all entries)

Add info of Lotta's Fountain)

On Christmas Eve in 1911, Jan Kubelik, the foremost violinist of his time, performed at Lotta's Fountain before a crowd estimated at 100,000. Another entertainment highlight was Christmas Eve of 1924 when a native son, Misha Elman, gave a performance.

Lotta Crabtree made her first public visit to the fountain in November of 1915 when she made a sentimental visit from her home in Boston. She placed a wreath of flowers at the fountain and received the plaudits of a crowd estimated at 10,000. Mayor James Rolph presided.

In 1960, a re-creation of the performance of Madame Tetrzzini was held at the fountain. Mayor George Christopher presided.

Each April, on the anniversary of the 1906 earthquake, a group of San Franciscans meet at 5:18 a.m. at Lotta's Fountain to conduct a memorial service.

In 1974, as part of the \$24.5 million beautification program of Market Street, the fountain was renovated and painted. Dedication ceremonies were held on 20 August 1974 with speeches by Chief Administrative Officer Thomas Mellon and Board of Supervisor President Dianne Feinstein.

The two concluded the ceremonies by drinking the first water turned on from the renovated fountain. This was the same manner in which Mayor Otis and other dignitaries ended their ceremonies some 100 years before.

