

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0676772

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED MAR 26 1979
MAY 10 1979
DATE ENTERED

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC The Audiffred Building

REGISTERED
FEB 8 1979

AND/OR COMMON The Audiffred Building

OHP

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 100 The Embarcadero (1-- 21 Mission Street)

CITY, TOWN San Francisco

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 6

STATE California

VICINITY OF
CODE 06

COUNTY San Francisco CODE 075

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: vacant

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME See Continuation Sheet

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Office of County Recorder

STREET & NUMBER City Hall

CITY, TOWN San Francisco

STATE California

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE The Architectural Inventory

DATE 1976

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Planning Department

CITY, TOWN San Francisco

STATE California

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED *
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Built in 1889 by Hippolite D'Audiffred, the building is in a style common to late Nineteenth Century business buildings. The designer is unknown; however, the intent to duplicate French Mansard architecture is clear. Details are modified and simplified to suit the construction techniques of that period in San Francisco.

The building as it now exists is a three-story type N (masonry exterior bearing walls with wood frame interiors) structure. The ground level is composed of a common brick party wall and three exposed walls of regularly spaced cast iron columns with fixed glass windows. Subsequent modifications have replaced some bays with masonry in-filling.

The second floor is brick masonry, common bond, with headers at each eighth course. At the third (attic) floor, the masonry common wall continues to the roof while the three exposed walls are of wood frame covered with slate shingles, tilted inward to form the mansard.

At street level the cast iron columns are flat, decorated with fluting and a stylized lattice decor at wainscot height. The column capital is adorned with a console containing a floral "A" (for Audiffred). The entablature of the ground level ceiling line was originally a simple fascia to receive sign boards decorated with a shallow 3 pointed arch in relief, crowned with a cornice of soldier course brick, angled to provide a saw tooth. This remains evident on the west half of the facade. In 1924 the eastern entablature was modified by the Bank of Italy (Harbor Branch) with a decorative cast frieze of bas relief nautical designs: seahorses, festoons and finials. This feature is most apparent to foot traffic on the adjacent sidewalk.

The second floor is brick with projecting brick quoins at each corner. A corbeled brick molding forms an "eyebrow" at each window and continues horizontally, tying each window together in a continuous line. There is a curious inconsistency in the masonry work, wherein the quoins of each corner do not always begin or end with the same brick course; the brick corbel molding meets the top of one quoin and the bottom on the quoin opposite. Apparently, the work was accomplished with sketches rather than detailed drawings and probably was not supervised by the designer.

The second floor windows are narrow, double hung windows with a segmented arch soffit. The corner windows of the east and west end facades are double width. A decorative corbeled brick coping ends the brick work at the ceiling of the second floor. The corbel table is formed of a brick soldier course above brick dentils.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE - CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
	<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Audiffred Building was erected, according to San Francisco Water Department records, in 1889. In the ninety years of its existence it has witnessed and symbolized much of the history of San Francisco's waterfront. A San Francisco landmark, it is "one of the last buildings that convey any of the flavor of the more modest commercial buildings of pre-1906 downtown San Francisco," being the only structure left intact on the landward side of The Embarcadero after the Great Earthquake. Since its interior has been almost entirely demolished by a recent fire, the owners are anxious to rehabilitate this landmark and help restore the declining attractiveness of this part of The Embarcadero.

In the latter part of the Nineteenth Century, Hippolite D'Audiffret (anglicized to Audiffred), a Frenchman living in Mexico, fled persecution in the wake of anti-Maximillian sentiment. He is said to have walked from Veracruz to the San Francisco area, where he quickly became involved in the production of charcoal, supplying the businessmen and residents of Chinatown. The building, built in the style of late Nineteenth Century French commercial buildings "to remind him of home," was most likely constructed to house this business.

During the years before the earthquake, the ground floor housed a seamen's saloon, 'The Bulkhead.' San Francisco's waterfront was a rough, brutal place in its Nineteenth Century heyday. Sailors were looked upon as outcasts and were treated worse than chattel. It was "an era of crimps and shanghaiers, of brutal skippers and worse mates." In the 1880's a Scandinavian named Andrew Faruseth laid the foundations for a much needed Coast Seamen's Union (later called the Sailor's Union of the Pacific and the International Seamen's Union) which was to be housed in the Audiffred Building through the 1930's.

It was a stroke of luck, as well as a flash of entrepreneurial genius that saved the building from destruction during the Fire and Earthquake of 1906. As soldiers and dynamiters approached the building, ready to blow it up to stop the spread of flames, the saloon's bartender made a bargain with the firefighters: For two quarts of whiskey per fighter and a firehouse cart full of wine, The Bulkhead and the building were spared.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Dillon, Richard H., Embarcadero, Coward-McCann, Inc., New York, 1959
 Junior League of San Francisco, Here Today: San Francisco's Architectural Heritage, Chronicle Books, San Francisco, 1968
San Francisco Chronicle, July 6, 1934
San Francisco Chronicle, May 24, 1964

(See Continuation Sheet)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .145

QUADRANGLE NAME San Francisco North

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,0 55,35,8,0 4,18,28,6,0

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Southwest corner of intersection of Mission Street and The Embarcadero. Lot is 45 feet 10 inches wide and 135½ feet long, running from The Embarcadero to Steuart Street. Lot #1 in Assessor's Block 3715.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Belinda Tencer, Projects Coordinator

ORGANIZATION

Baker & Co.

DATE

January 30, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

125 Camino Alto

TELEPHONE

(415) 388-3936

CITY OR TOWN

Mill Valley

STATE

California

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Kenneth M. Ellison 3-6-79

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

[Signature]
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 5-10-79

ATTEST *[Signature]*
 CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 5-8-79

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Frederick A. Baker, Jr.
Baker & Co.
125 Camino Alto
Mill Valley, California 94941

Dusan Mills
Baker & Co.
125 Camino Alto
Mill Valley, California 94941

John Cofrin
121 Jamaica
Tiburon, California 94920

Jack Benjamin
c/o Orbit on Mezzanine
1350 Broadway
New York, New York 10018

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Here Today: San Francisco's Architectural Heritage

1968

Junior League of San Francisco

San Francisco, California

San Francisco City Landmark
June 30, 1948
Department of City Planning
100 Larkin Street
San Francisco, California

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The apparent mansard "attic" is, in fact, the third floor. The shallow mansard walls are clad with hand-cut blue-grey slate in simple running shingle pattern excepting a center band which is diamond cut to provide a hexagonal pattern exposed to the weather. Dormer windows approximating the spacing of the windows below occur on each facade. The window pediments have been incised to provide a simplified copy of the more ornate entablature of their French model. A minor crown mold caps the roof line interrupted only by the corbeled brick chimney caps.

The interior of the building was extensively damaged by fire in August 1978. Restoration work will include the complete demolition of interior structures and framing while carefully protecting the exterior facades which were not seriously damaged. Because of the extent of new work, all new work will be done to meet existing codes regarding fire and seismic safety, thus insuring the preservation of the facade.

Sufficient evidence of original materials: molding, ceiling fixture escutions, cast iron grill work, wainscot, and fireplace design and details remain to enable us to accurately duplicate the original details of the period. Microfilmed permit drawings of the modifications made by the Bank of Italy (now Bank of America) in July 1924 are available and include details and material specifications.

Because the exterior of the building is the historically significant element in question, the reconstructed interior, while accurately illustrating the San Francisco waterfront of the period, will not be restored to its original layout, which, due to subsequent modifications, is unknown.

With the assistance of the Foundation for San Francisco's Architectural Heritage and the City's Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board, we will make every effort to preserve the character and architectural integrity of this property.

This section of the waterfront area is in desperate need of rehabilitation. The City now has funds for such rehabilitation, which will include a lineal pedestrian walk from the Ferry Building (across the street) to the Oakland Bay Bridge, wider sidewalks, etc. The block immediately to the northwest of the building will become the site of Ferry Park, an open

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space from which the building will be seen in proper perspective and as a whole for the first time in years.

We feel it is incumbent upon us to rehabilitate the Audiffred Building--not only to preserve one landmark, but also to do our share of the overall improvement of San Francisco's Waterfront Area.

Note: With regard to the section of the facade altered by "Dori's 21," the original elevation is unknown. However, the structural system and cast iron columns do not seem to have been modified except for one column, which will probably have to be relocated. Dori's filled in some windows with used brick masonry in-filling and applied a sign to the brickwork. Our plans include the reversal of Dori's alterations to restore the faded archway system on the Mission Street side and possibly reglazing on the corner of Mission and Steuart Streets to match the rest of the facade.

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No other building on that side of the waterfront remained. Henry Audiffred, Hippolite's grandson, recalls, "Gripping my hand, father walked me through the smoking ruins and suddenly spied our building . . . only missing a few bricks. Father gasped and said, 'Well, I'll be a sad son of a bitch!'"³

San Francisco's waterfront continued to see calamities, not the least of which were the events leading up to the Waterfront Strike of 1934. On July fifth of that year, armed guardsmen did battle with rioting strikers in the streets, killing two longshoremen, one of which, Howard Sperry, lived at the Audiffred Building, and injuring hundreds. Harry Bridges, then President of the International Longshoremen's Association, Local 38-79, had his offices in the Audiffred Building, overlooking the site of these murders. To this day, the seagoing unions of San Francisco sponsor a yearly ceremony in front of the Audiffred Building, commemorating the tragic events of Bloody Thursday.

World War II brought more bad times to the area surrounding the Ferry Building (directly across the street from 100 The Embarcadero), and it became the skid row of the waterfront. Cheap rents attracted an unusual array of tenants, including the Finnish Seamen's Club and the Seven Seas Foundation, more or less a flop house for reformed alcoholics, run by an ex-sailor named Frank Brennan.

In 1948 a schism occurred at the San Francisco School of Art, and painter Hassel Smith set up his own school on the third floor of the Audiffred Building. Famous tenants of the building at this time included Smith, the poet, Lawrence Ferlinghetti, and composer Peter Burriskov.

The school went out of existence in 1955, at which time the building became occupied by a succession of offices and saloons. The upper floors fell into disuse during the early 1960's. In 1970, Riordon's Saloon opened its doors and remained in existence, sharing the lower story with Dori's 21 Club, until 1978.

Since it was built, and especially since the Great Earthquake, the Audiffred Building has been a well-known feature of San Francisco's waterfront. Having housed sailors and served as headquarters for the maritime unions, this landmark retains a strong link with the City's history.

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San Francisco's waterfront has sunken into a serious state of decay and disuse in the past few decades. It is, therefore, imperative that strong attention be paid to its rehabilitation and that its historical significance be respected. Moreover, in an age when large contemporary buildings crowd the skyline, some care must be taken to save the older structures which are so much a part of the City's heritage. The Audiffred Building has a delicacy and charm to it that make it unquestionably the finest piece of architecture on that section of The Embarcadero. It serves as a reminder to residents and tourists alike of earlier waterfront days. Our eagerness to rehabilitate this property is based on our understanding of its historical significance, as well as our firm conviction that the architectural beauty of this building is indeed rare; and we are proud to join the City of San Francisco in hoping this property can be restored to its proper condition.

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- 1 Here Today: San Francisco's Architectural Heritage, Junior League of San Francisco, Chronicle Books, San Francisco, 1968, p. 94
 - 2 Embarcadero, Richard H. Dillon, Coward-McCann, Inc., New York, 1959, p. 8
 - 3 San Francisco Chronicle, "The Old Embarcadero," John Bryan, May 24, 1964, p. 1A

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Mr. Henry Audiffred, oral history

Mr. Wayne M. Collins, oral history

Dr. William M. Weiner, oral history

The Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board, San Francisco
Case Report, 6/31/48