

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received AUG 20 1984
date entered SEP 20 1984

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic The Chambord Apartments

and/or common The Chambord Apartments

2. Location

street & number 1298 Sacramento Street

N/A not for publication

city, town San Francisco

vicinity of N/A

state California 94108

code 06

county San Francisco

code 075

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>N/A</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Frederick Erck

street & number P.O. Box 18100

city, town San Antonio

vicinity of N/A

state Texas 78286

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. San Francisco Recorder's Office

street & number Room 167, San Francisco City Hall

city, town San Francisco

state California 94102

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Splendid Survivors

(Tax Act Certification, Part 1 - 6/3/83)
has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1978

federal state county local

depository for survey records Foundation for San Francisco's Architectural Heritage

city, town 2007 Franklin Street, San Francisco

state California 94109

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date <u> N/A </u>

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Chambord is a five-story apartment building located in the Nob Hill section of San Francisco, California. Often compared to a wedding cake, the tan-colored building features billowing poured concrete balconies and fanciful Beaux Arts ornamentation. Today the Chambord appears much as it did in its early days, although it has undergone a variety of exterior alterations over the years. In 1982-1983, restoration of the building was undertaken in compliance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. This effort included: 1) Cleaning, repair, and painting of the exterior plaster surface and underlying poured concrete; 2) re-creation of the original Beaux Arts ornamentation based on original drawings and other works by the architect, James Francis Dunn; 3) re-creation in cast stone of the balcony railings at the second floor and; 4) re-creation of the billowing soffits and columns of the fifth floor.

At the Chambord's ground floor level, a rusticated surface and a well-defined entry provide a strong base for the structure. At the main entrance on Sacramento Street, steps lead from the street level to the central recessed entry with its elaborate glass and wrought iron door. Above the entrance, the supporting brackets of the second floor balcony add a heavy but sculptural appearance to the front facade. Two small oval windows topped with ornamentation flank the entrance. Other windows at this level are round-headed with curved wooden sashes and wrought iron balconies.

At floors 2 through 5, the unusual billowing balconies reflect the interior floor plan with its bulging oval living rooms. Wooden frame French doors open onto each of the balconies, except at the center balcony of floor 5 where doors are of metal sash. As part of the original construction, the balcony rails at floors 3, 4, and 5 were embellished with richly ornamented plaster panels and the rails at floor 2 were filled with decorative stone work. This ornamentation was removed in the 1960s but was replaced during the most recent renovation.

Original plans and drawings of the exterior indicate a decorated cornice topped by urns but it is uncertain whether these details were actually part of the original appearance. A fire escape with ladders running between the center balconies on Sacramento Street also is shown on the drawings but it is not known whether it was ever installed.

The original cornice was removed from the Sacramento Street facade at an earlier date but was left intact at the east facade facing Jones Street. At the roof, a metal gas station structure was added in 1926; it is not visible from the street.

At the interior, the building houses nine apartments and a lobby. The lobby is a simple unadorned space with a tile floor and wooden molding. There are two apartment units on floors 1 through 4, each with an oval living room, bedroom with bay window, dining room, kitchen and bathroom. Although the units are small, their floorplans and architectural details add a touch of luxury. Wood molding and built-in book shelves provide decoration in the living rooms while the dining rooms feature wood-beamed ceilings.

The fifth floor was originally a single unit with rooms arranged around an open octagon-shaped garden room. In 1926 this room was walled in and the floor plan of the entire unit was altered. In the 1950s the construction of new partitions and bathrooms to accommodate two apartments further altered the original plans. Interior finishes from the 1920s that remain include two matching curved marble columns at the opening to the living room and finely detailed fireplaces and wood paneling. The 1982-1983 restoration included the removal of the c. 1950 additions and reinstatement of the original one-unit floor plan.

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 type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" 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 1921 **Builder/Architect** James Francis Dunn

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Chambord's extraordinary appearance distinguishes it as an architecturally significant building. Built in 1921 with features such as decorative balustrades, rich floral ornamentation, and classic columns, it clearly reflects the Beaux Arts influence of its period of construction. But it is the effect of overlaying these architectural details on a highly sculptural building form that creates the Chambord's unique image. As the San Francisco Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board Case Report notes, "The Chambord Apartment house is a first-rate architectural enigma which intrigues the casual passer-by and confounds the architectural historian." It is a building so unique in San Francisco that it has often been misattributed to Barcelona architect Antonio Gaudi. In fact, it was designed by San Francisco architect James Francis Dunn.

The Chambord, located near the crest of San Francisco's Nob Hill, is one of a number of luxury apartment houses built in that area in the decades following the 1906 Earthquake and Fire. Many of the buildings which date from the same period complement each other in style as well as size and scale. Within the 1200 block of Sacramento Street there is a distinctive cluster of Beaux Arts influenced buildings including the Chambord and the apartments at 1230 and 1242 Sacramento Street.

James Francis Dunn, architect of the Chambord, practised in San Francisco for fifteen years and at one time was a member of the firm of Dunn and Kearns, known for its design of luxury apartment houses. Dunn's designs favored the Beaux Arts style popular at that time. Other works in San Francisco attributed to him include:

1679-81 Haight Street
625 Hyde Street
1250 Pine Street
798 Post Street
Alhambra Apartments, 860 Geary (with Kearns)

James Witt Dougherty, developer of the Chambord, was the grandson of wealthy Alameda County pioneer and land-holder James W. Dougherty. After the building's completion, Dougherty and his parents occupied the top floor unit while other family members occupied several other units. In 1926 the Chambord was sold to Herbert E. Law. As in the case of Dougherty, Law had an active interest in local architecture. He owned the Lauriston Investment Co. Building and the Fairmont Hotel; he also commissioned the Monadnock Office Building at 681 Market Street and the residence at 1021 California Street, both architecturally significant San Francisco structures.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Architect and Engineer, November 1920.

Michael, Ed. San Francisco City Planning Department, Interview-February 1983.
San Francisco Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board Final Case Report, 10/5/77.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 0.11 acre

Quadrangle name San Francisco North

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

110	551171010	41181271610
Zone	Easting	Northing

B

Zone	Easting	Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Building occupies southernmost third of City Lot 89, Block 221, at the northeast corner of Sacramento Street in San Francisco. Boundaries encompass the historic building on its original site.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county N/A code

state N/A code county N/A code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Anne B. Frej, Consultant

organization Sugaya & Frej, Planners

date March 1984

street & number 55 Sutter Street

telephone (415)658-2817

city or town San Francisco

state California 94104

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 Naomi Mitchell Wilson

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

date 8-13-84

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

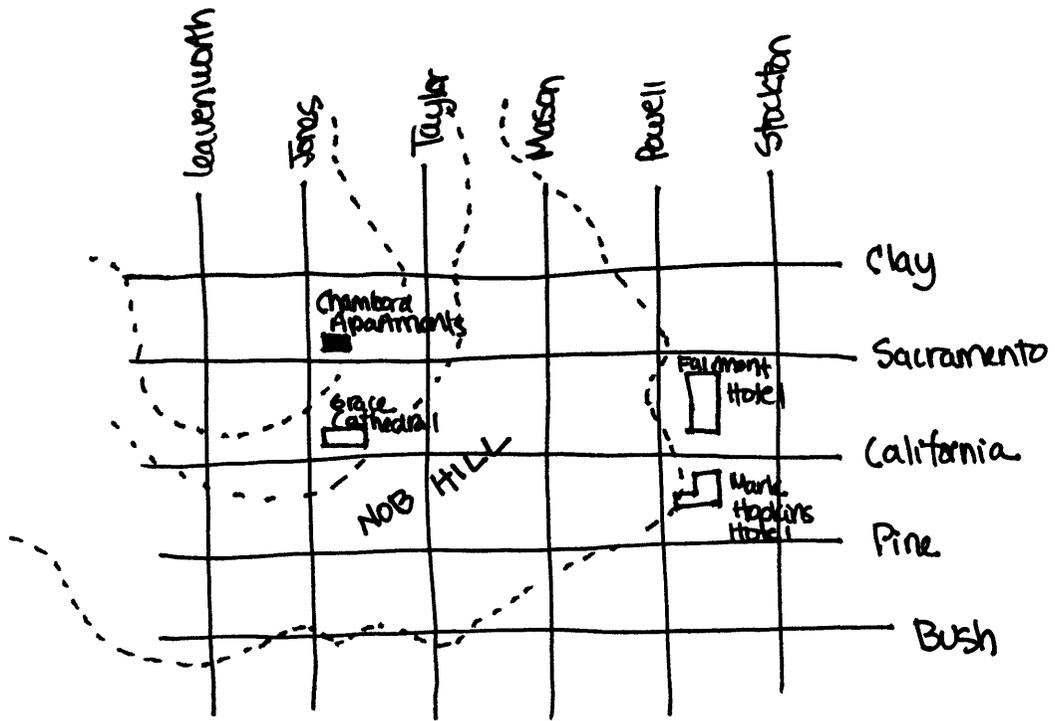
date 9-20-84

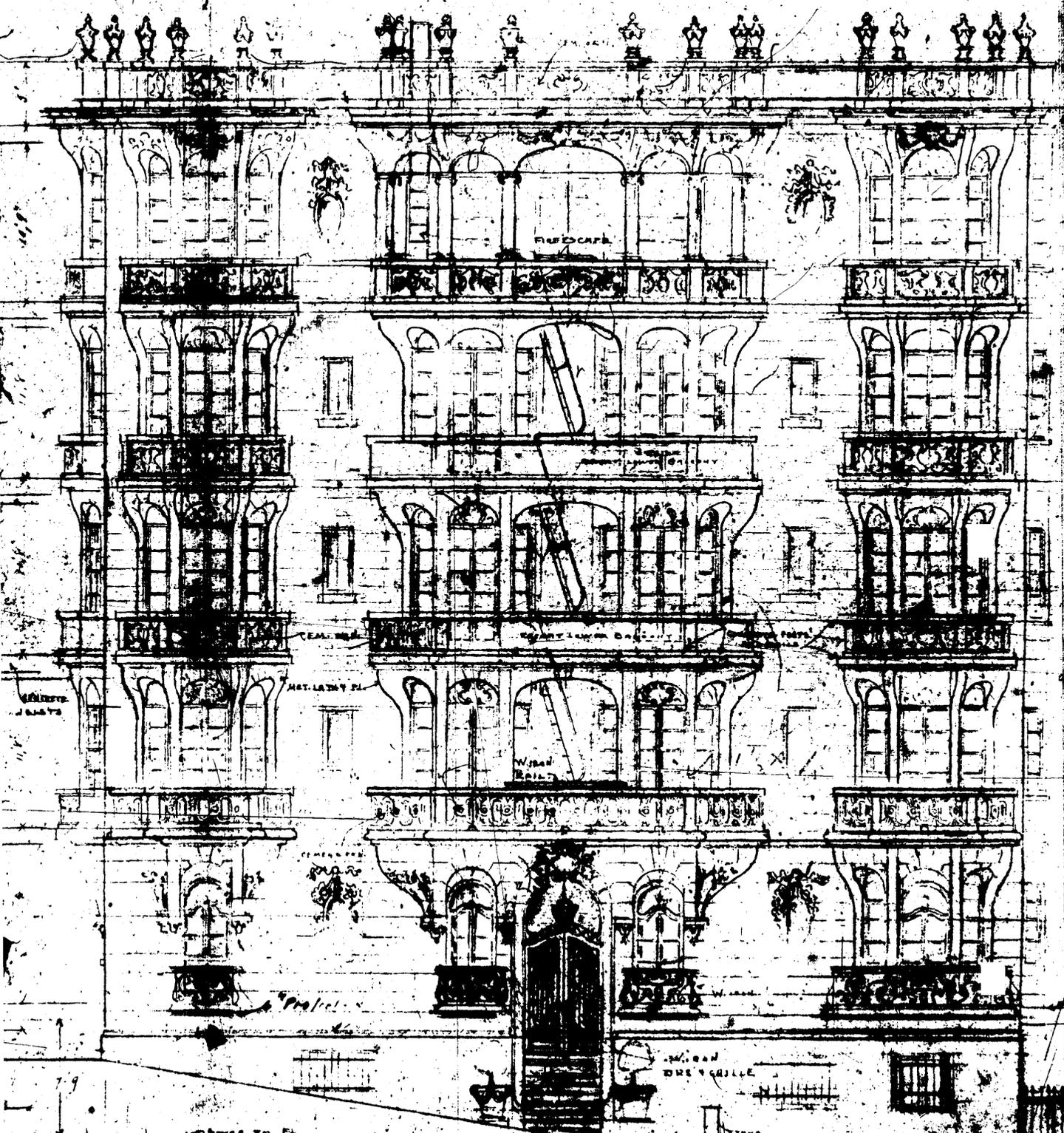
Allores Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

Chief of Registration

Chambard Apartments
1298 Sacramento Street
San Francisco, CA 94108





PLANO DI UNO DEI PALAZZI
S. ELEVATION