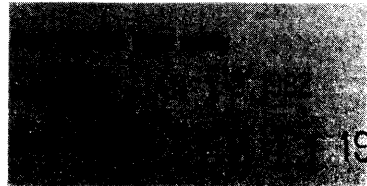


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



1982

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Saint Paulus Lutheran Church

and/or common same

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2. Location

street & number 999 Eddy Street (at Gough Street) not for publication

city, town San Francisco vicinity of _____ congressional district 5

state California 94102 code 06 county San Francisco code 037

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Saint Paulus Evangelical Lutheran Church

street & number 888 Turk Street

city, town San Francisco vicinity of _____ state California 94102

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number Room 167, City Hall

city, town San Francisco state California 94102

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title City Landmark has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1980 August 25 federal state county local

depository for survey records Recorder's Office, Room 167, City Hall

city, town San Francisco state California 94102

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

Located on the southeast corner of Eddy and Gough Streets, near the Civic Center of San Francisco, the church is built in the form of a cross in carpenter gothic style. Three slender spires dominate the external appearance. The largest, at the northwest corner, is 55 meters tall. The other two are 30 and 40 meters tall. The building nearly fills its lot, measuring approximately 26 by 40 meters. The basement of the structure is of brick; the superstructure is constructed of redwood, except for a slate gabled roof. The only other stone used is for the steps at the entrance of the church.

Over the triple-arched main entrance there is a large rose window, and smaller rose windows are located in each of the two transepts. The chancel is lighted by a stained-glass window that begins 2.5 meters above the raised altar floor and is 8 meters tall by 4.5 meters wide. This window was installed when the church was built and contains some rare German Btz glass, known for its rich colors. The two stained-glass windows on either side of the main window were added later. Each is less than a meter wide and approximately 3.5 meters tall. Two art-glass windows were placed on either side of the nave near the rear, and one more stained-glass window was placed on the east wall near the chancel. The remainder of the windows are colored glass.

The main entrance on Eddy Street, consisting of three sets of double doors, leads into the nave of the church. Below the nave is the parish hall, or undercroft, with an entrance on Gough Street and entry ~~through~~ a door on the east side. Here meeting rooms and a kitchen are found, in addition to a large auditorium. A subbasement is below the auditorium with entrance from the rear. Here is located the heating plant and other small rooms.

The nave floor is two meters above Eddy Street and slopes 60 centimeters to the chancel. The ceiling is 15 meters above the floor and is shingled with cedar. The pillars in the chancel are of solid redwood. The walls are either richly finished wood, plastered, or covered with flocked wallpaper. There is a mezzanine level on three walls of the sanctuary made of darkly stained pine.

The structure remains essentially unchanged from its original appearance. **Although** a fire broke out in the tallest spire's buttresses on 1940 May 28, causing fire and water damage to portions of the roof, efforts to restore the structure were successful. Some internal remodeling has occurred, most notably in the kitchen area of the parish hall, but only minor alterations to the exterior were required. A garage and utility building, constructed in 1929 on the adjacent lot to the east, connects below ground with the parish hall. It also shares a small section of one exterior wall with the church.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates See below. **Builder/Architect** Julius E. Krafft, architect

Statement of Significance (In one paragraph) C. Bluns, contractor

1892 September 7 -- ground breaking
 1892 October 30 -- cornerstone laid
 1894 February 11 -- dedicated

SUMMARY

Saint Paulus Lutheran Church is an excellent example of a late-19th-century carpenter-gothic-style church building. Its fine craftsmanship, well-maintained physical condition, and unaltered state make it among the premier examples of its style and period in the area. As a pioneer Lutheran church on the West Coast, Saint Paulus is also significant for its association with the history of American Lutheranism. Furthermore, as an early center of German cultural activities in Northern California and as an emergency hospital following the San Francisco Earthquake and Fire of 1906, Saint Paulus has social and humanitarian significance.

ARCHITECTURE

Architecturally, late-19th-century America was committed to a vigorous historical eclecticism, particularly with regard to public buildings such as banks, state capitols, universities, and churches. Julius E. Krafft, the architect of Saint Paulus Church, was no exception to this trend. In designing the church he apparently had in mind the magnificent cathedral at Chartres, France. Although the positions of the northern steeples are reversed and the copy lacks some of the stained glass of the original, the general resemblance of the western facade to that of Chartres is unmistakable. Krafft was quoted as saying about the plans, "The original idea has been developed and carried out in the style of the noblest Gothic at the height of its creativeness." A biographical sketch of Krafft is attached as an appendix.

-- continued --

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet.

UTM NOT VERIFIED
ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 0.3 (0.13 hectares)

Quadrangle name San Francisco North

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A 10 550850 41816110
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

The building nominated is situated on Assessor's parcel number 744-10, a rectangular lot 41.9 by 31.9 meters, less parcel number 744-10A (16.8 by 6.4 meters).

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

state n/a code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mark Scott Johnson, Director

organization Saint Paulus Evangelical Lutheran Church date 1980 September 1

street & number 388 Turk Street telephone 415/673-0497

city or town San Francisco state California 94102

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Kim Ellen

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 10-13-81

For HCRS use only

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

Delores Brown

date 2/11/82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

Chief of Register

Handwritten initials

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

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DATE ENTERED FEB 11 1982

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

RELIGION

Jacob M. Buehler, the founding pastor of Saint Paulus parish, arrived in San Francisco 1860 August 24 at the request of members of the local German-speaking community that assembled in San Francisco following the 1849 Gold Rush. On November 8 of the same year, Buehler organized Saint Mark's, the first Lutheran parish on the West Coast. Following a doctrinal dispute in 1867, Buehler resigned from the pastorate of Saint Mark's and organized a new parish on May 15, the German Evangelical Saint Paulus Congregation.

Buehler quickly became the leader of German Lutheran activities on the West Coast. Under his guidance Saint Paulus was instrumental in the founding of numerous Lutheran parishes during the 1870s and 1880s, including three sister parishes in San Francisco as well as parishes in Oakland, Alameda, Stockton, Sacramento, and Saint Helena. These activities culminated 1887 September 21 in the organization of the California and Oregon District of the Lutheran Church -- Missouri Synod (LCMS), which today is one of the five principal Lutheran churchbodies in North America. Saint Paulus was the pioneer parish of the LCMS on the West Coast, and Buehler was the first western bishop of the LCMS.

Following Buehler's death 1901 August 28, Saint Paulus continued as the center of the LCMS's western activities, serving as the site of many district conventions and establishing further sister parishes in Northern California. The two Saint Paulus pastors following Buehler both served as district LCMS bishops.

On 1976 December 5, Saint Paulus became a founding member of the Pacific Regional Synod of the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches (AELC), a new national Lutheran churchbody. The ordination of the first female pastor of the AELC occurred at Saint Paulus on Reformation Sunday in 1978. As it has since its earliest days, Saint Paulus continues its role as a leader of Lutheranism on the West Coast.

-- continued --

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

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN

Saint Paulus Church served as an early center of cultural activities for the German-speaking community of Northern California. In 1868 the Saint Paulus Frauenverein (Ladies' Aid Society) was organized to promote fellowship among German-speaking families, to carry out the welfare program of the parish, and to visit and assist the sick and the needy. During the 1870s and 1880s, some 300 baptisms a year were conducted by the pastors, in addition to numerous weddings of German-speaking people. Regular English-language services at Saint Paulus did not begin until 1920 April 11.

In the fall of 1872, Saint Paulus parish established the German-American Weekday School, the first Lutheran parochial day school on the West Coast. The school's main purpose was to instruct the children of the parish in the English language, while maintaining their German cultural heritage. Between 1894 and 1945, the school was housed in the undercroft of the church. Since then Saint Paulus Lutheran School has resided in two school buildings adjacent to the church to the south.

The church building withstood the San Francisco Earthquake of 1906 without significant damage, but the resulting fire swept toward the church from the east as close as Van Ness Avenue and from the south as close as Golden Gate Avenue. Since most water mains were broken and there was no available water, the decision was made to dynamite the buildings in the path of the fire. The church was scheduled for demolition, but before the explosives could be set off, Pastor G.A. Bernthal asked the workers to try the hydrant on the Eddy-Gough corner. Fortunately it worked, and the building was saved. In gratitude the parish offered the facilities of Saint Paulus Church to the city as the First Reserve Hospital, under the charge of Dr. J.H. Romig. For two months the Red Cross, the Army, and the California National Guard used the church's lower rooms to hospitalize over 3,000 injured persons and to administer first-aid treatment to more than 10,000.

Today Saint Paulus continues to open its doors. The parish hall is used regularly by many civic groups as a community meeting room. Annual Bach concerts have been held since 1937. Saint Paulus also serves as the home of the Bay Area Lutheran Chorale, a regional singing group that promotes the works of J.S. Bach and other chorale composers.

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

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DATE ENTERED	FEB 11 1982

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 4

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bernhardi, Robert C. *Great Buildings of San Francisco: A Photographic Guide*. New York: Dover Publications, 1980, p. 79.

DuBrau, Richard T. *The Romance of Lutheranism in California*. Oakland: California Concordia College, 1959.

Gebhard, David, et al. *A Guide to Architecture in San Francisco and Northern California*. Santa Barbara: Peregrine Smith, 1973, p. 80.

Olmsted, Roger and Watkins, T.H. *Here Today*. San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 1968, p. 119.

A BIOGRAPHY OF JULIUS E. KRAFFT, ARCHITECT

by Mark Scott Johnson
1980 August

Little is known of the career of Julius E. Krafft, the architect of Saint Paulus Lutheran Church, San Francisco. He was born 1855 November 11 in Stuttgart, Germany. After studying architecture in Germany, he emigrated to the United States in 1872, spending two years in Chicago before coming to San Francisco. He worked in the office of the architect T.J. Welsh for twelve years before entering into business for himself [1]. His name first appeared in the *Crocker-Langley San Francisco Directory* in 1889 [2].

Krafft apparently specialized in four types of structures: small five- and six-story commercial buildings, four- and five-story apartment buildings, residences, and churches. The Foundation for San Francisco's Architectural Heritage records the following buildings of his design in San Francisco [3]:

Bullock & Jones Company Building, 60 Kearny Street (1907)
Gaswyler Apartments, 409 Ellis Street
Hoechle Apartments, Eddy and Leavenworth Streets
Mercedes Building, 251-253 Post Street (1908)
Sahleim Building, Polk and Bush Streets

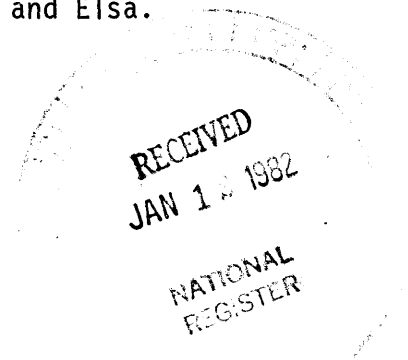
Of these, only the Bullock & Jones Company and Mercedes buildings appear to remain [4]. The others were apparently destroyed in the 1906 Fire. The proper names of the buildings above indicate a strong connection between Krafft and the close-knit early German community of San Francisco.

Only two of Krafft's reportedly numerous residential buildings are known to remain: 31 Liberty Street (1892) in San Francisco, a Queen Anne Victorian with tower [5], and 1536 Oxford Street (1893) in Berkeley [5,6]. The latter is the Captain Joseph Boudrow House, a large and substantial Queen Anne Victorian home that was recently declared a city landmark.

Saint Paulus was the second of the two churches that Krafft designed. The first was Immanuel Lutheran Church, 1420 Lafayette Street, Alameda (1891) [7]. Like many of the early German Lutheran churches in the Bay Area, Immanuel began as a mission extension of Saint Paulus. As such, the church's building is a rather modest (seating less than 100 people), yet "well-rendered example of a late-Victorian, wooden Gothic Revival church" [6].

It is not clear when Julius E. Krafft retired, but it apparently was some years before his death 1937 September 26 in Belmont, California [8]. He was survived by four children: Elmer J., Alfred J., Mabel, and Elsa. His architectural practice was carried on by his two sons.

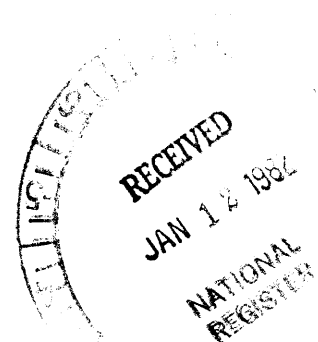
-- continued --



A Biography of Julius E. Krafft, Architect (continued)

REFERENCES

- [1] *The Bay of San Francisco*, vol. 2. Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co., 1892, p. 117.
- [2] *Crocker-Langley San Francisco Directory*. San Francisco: Francis, Valentine & Co., 1889, p. 777.
- [3] from the files of The Foundation for San Francisco's Architectural Heritage, 2007 Franklin Street, San Francisco 94109.
- [4] *Splendid Survivors*. San Francisco: California Living Books, 1979, pp. 138 and 152.
- [5] Waldhorn, Judith Lynch and Woodbridge, Sally B. *Victoria's Legacy*. San Francisco: 101 Productions, 1978, pp. 56 and 162.
- [6] Wilson, Mark A. *East Bay Heritage*. San Francisco: California Living Books, 1979, pp. 51 and 74.
- [7] Gebhard, David, et al. *A Guide to Architecture in San Francisco and Northern California*. Santa Barbara: Peregrine Smith, 1973, p. 307.
- [8] obituary. *The Architect and Engineer*. 1937 October, p. 66.
- Kirzker, Harold. *California's Architectural Frontier*. San Marino: Huntington Library, 1960, p. 210.



SUMMARY OF PHOTOGRAPHS

EXTERIOR

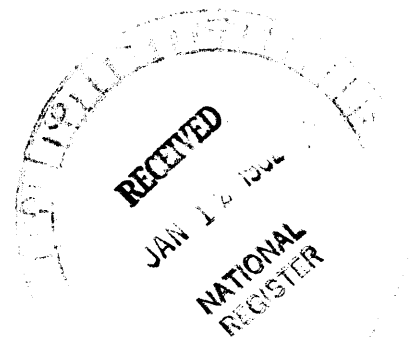
1. View looking southeast, from Gough and Eddy Streets.
2. View looking east, from Jefferson Square Park.
3. View looking northwest, from Turk Street.
4. View looking southwest, from Eddy Street.

INTERIOR

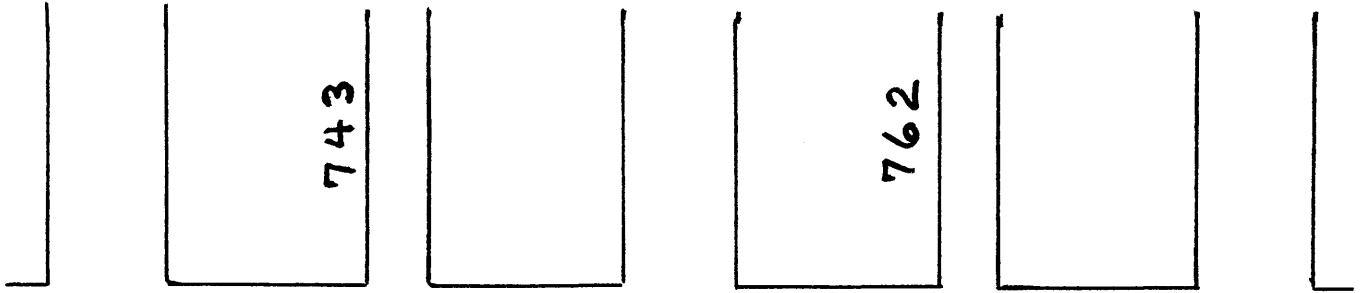
5. Chancel and altar, facing south.
6. Nave and balcony, facing north.

HISTORIC

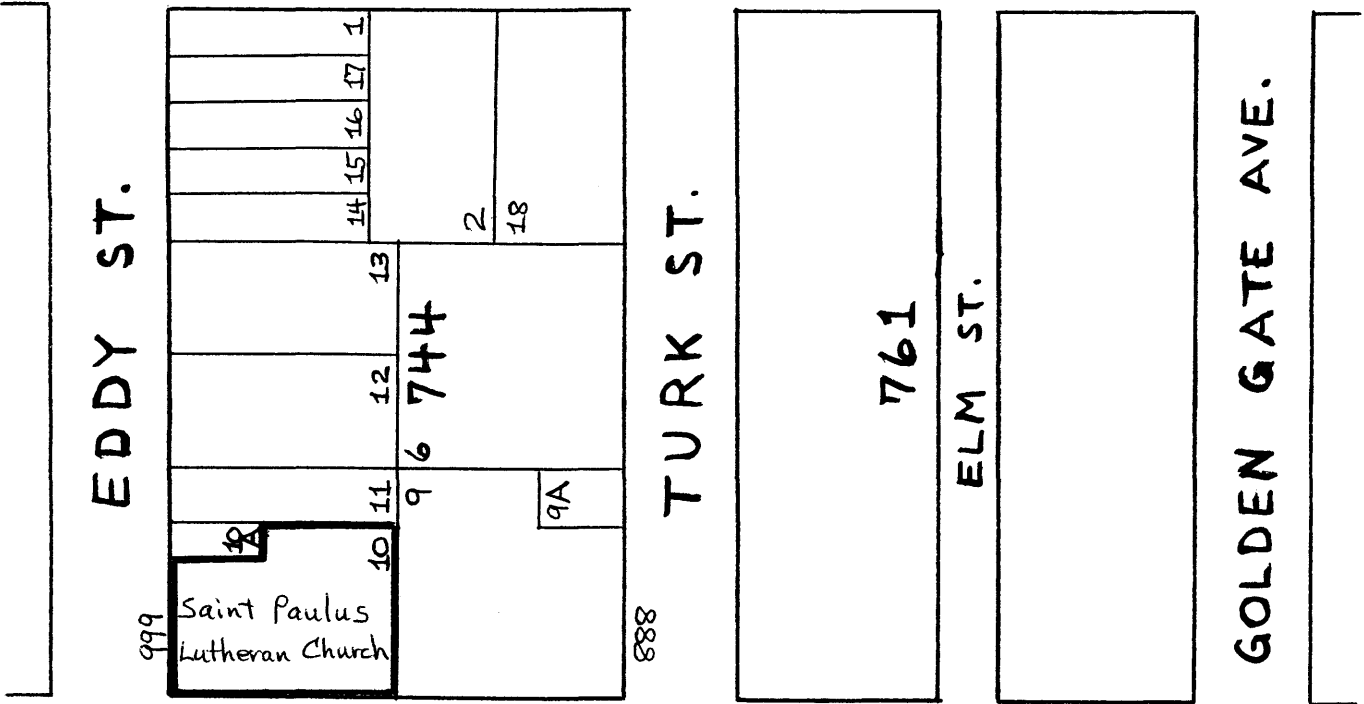
7. First Reserve Hospital (Saint Paulus undercroft), 1906.
View of the Gough Street entrance looking east.
Dr. J.H. Romig, physician-in-charge, center of photograph wearing cap.
8. Saint Paulus German and English School, 1907.
View looking southwest, from Eddy Street (same as photograph 4).
9. Saint Paulus Fire, 1940 May 28.
View looking east, from Eddy Street.



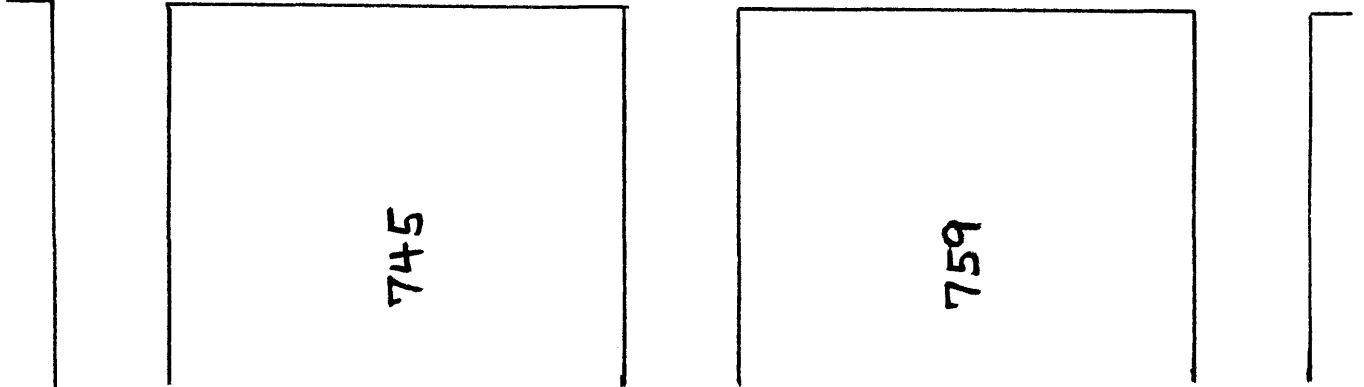
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA



FRANKLIN ST.



GOUGH ST.



35 meters

FEB 11 1982

1980 April

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

