

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAY 30 1979
DATE ENTERED	NOV 6 1979

**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 **GIRLS CLUB**

AND/OR COMMON **MISSION NEIGHBORHOOD CAPP STREET CENTER**

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER **362 Capp Street**

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN **San Francisco** VICINITY OF **6th**
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE **California** CODE **06** COUNTY **San Francisco** CODE **075**

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 type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: neighborhood center

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME **Mission Neighborhood Center, Inc.**

STREET & NUMBER **350-362 Capp Street & 534 Precita Avenue**

CITY, TOWN **San Francisco** VICINITY OF STATE **California**

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. **City Recorders Office**

STREET & NUMBER **City Hall - Civic Center**

CITY, TOWN **San Francisco** STATE **California**

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE **Architectural Inventory - 1976**

DATE **Department of City Planning** FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS **100 Larkin Street**

CITY, TOWN **San Francisco** STATE **California**

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input 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 DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Mission Neighborhood Capp Street Center is a two and one half story, wood frame structure in the shingle style. The original rectangular building and theatre, built in 1911, were joined by an oblong gymnasium to the north in 1923, making the building complex a U-shaped plan. The building covers 64 per cent of a .2533 acre lot, the open space being used for the inner courtyard and the brick alley way that leads both to the front door and the courtyard.

The roof is for the most part double sloped. It has a Georgian arch dormer on the front elevation and a twin peaked dormer that spans the back elevation. The gables on the back dormer, as well as the roof gables are decorated with rectangular molding and dentils.

Both the original structure and the gymnasium sit on a four foot base of clinker bricks. The upper stories are sheathed entirely in dark brown shingles. The heavy molding around the gables, eaves, windows, and main entry is painted white.

The main entry porch is framed with wide, rectangular molding and capped with a Georgian style broken arch pediment. The porch is three feet deep. There are two entries from the street that lead to the basement, and a third that is now used only as an emergency exit from the gymnasium.

The majority of the windows are of the paired, double-hung type. There is a central bay window that runs from the ground to roof on the East facade, and a similar bay on the West facade that ends in an enclosed porch framed with Tudor arch molding.

The courtyard is entered through an arched gate on the South. The west wall of the courtyard is an arcade articulated with paired, square columns which are capped with cantilevered members.

The original structure has a central hallway with a stair case at the end. One of the two larger rooms on the first floor has wood wainscoting, both rooms have large fireplaces. There are two smaller fireplaces on the second floor. The walls are painted plaster, accentuated with kick boards and a thin strip of molding at eye level. The doors are framed with simple rectangular moldings.

The gymnasium was added in 1923 and successfully imitates the style of the original building, using dark brown shingle, a brick base and a slope roof. Most of the structure is occupied by an open space for the gymnasium, which is spanned by six web trusses. At both ends there are stairs and small rooms. The east facade is articulated by three arches, two for windows, and one for a stairway and door.

The theatre, built in 1911 on the west side as the original building has a heavy beamed ceiling and is skirted by a picket-railed balcony on the east and south. This second level has three tiny rooms and a salon space with a fireplace. The small stage is poorly equipped but could be put to good use by a small theater company.

As the result of a fire in the 1940's, a sprinkler system was added, along with two metal fire escapes facing the courtyard.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Continuation Sheet

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .2533 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME San Francisco North, California

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 10 551330 4179220

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See Continuation Sheet

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

Contact Person: Lillian Ortiz - (415) 826-2433

NAME / TITLE

Rose Marie Pietras, Project Coordinator; Victor Cruz, Publicity Writer 11-30-78

ORGANIZATION

Mission Neighborhood Centers, Inc. (415) 826-0440

STREET & NUMBER

362 Capp Street TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

San Francisco California 94110

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL X

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

Henry Mellon

TITLE

DATE 5-16-79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Carol DeShall
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 11-6-79

ATTEST: *[Signature]*
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 11-6-79

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HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

In the files of the San Francisco Historical Archives, there is a collection of articles related to the commendatory community work of the two sisters, Rachel and Eva Wolfsohn. This data replies to the historical gaps in the previous pages of the application. It gives the legitimacy and justification needed to describe the importance of the Girls Club to the community during the period 1912 to 1930, and the support it received from influential corners of old San Francisco.

The following quotation is taken from the San Francisco-Call Bulletin, Monday, September 25, 1961, an article entitled "Girls Club Looks Back" written by Eloise Dungan:

"When grandmother was a girl and fluted collars and chignons were high fashion an earnest young woman named Rachel Wolfsohn dreamed a fiercely determined dream.

As a social worker, she'd seen the happy results accomplished by boys clubs. Why not the same kind of Community club for girls? One day in 1899, Miss Wolfsohn packed her bag and moved from her fashionable family home to a tiny flat on Clara St. South of Market. This was the beginning of the Girls Club.

Incorporated in 1910 with the backing of such local lights as Mrs. Jesse Lilienthal and Mrs. Leon Sloss, the club flourished to full bloom in 1912 when "Miss Ray" saw her "ideal clubhouse" completed at 362 Capp Street.

In 1916, two years after "Miss Ray's" death, the Rachel Wolfsohn Mother's Club succeeded the old Girls Club. It is now one of the City's oldest continuing women's organizations, has rolled up volunteer work records in two world wars and has continued to support philanthropies for hospitalized youngsters.

The 25 active members of the Rachel Wolfsohn Mother's Club met weekly at the 362 Capp St. Mission Adult Center for sewing, lunches, talks, games and special events discussion."

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Capp Street was started in this agency. 1923 saw the addition of the gym. Rachel Wolfson was soon joined by her sister Eva in the administration of the Club, by the mid 1930's members of the board and community people suggested that the Club change its nature and involve all segments of the Mission community; both Rachel and Eva were in accord with this sentiment. The wider community of children, boys and girls, adults and senior citizens had to be brought into the picture. The incorporation papers were amended in 1940, creating the name Mission Community Center. It began taking the shape towards the kind of multi service center that it is today. In 1942, it came under the financial guardianship of the San Francisco Community Chest, which has since developed into the United Way of the Bay Area, an agency which is at the fore front of support for many of the vital and successful programs in the Mission District.

John McDowell, who in 1949, while doing a study for National Federation of Neighborhood Houses and Settlements, made the recommendation that the three existing community centers in the Mission merge into a single agency to improve the quality and range of services in the area. The two other centers were Precita Valley Community Club Hall Association, Inc. and Good Samaritan, both were featuring similar services in different locales, amalgamation would add strength and an exchange of resources. Eight years later, after many studies and reports, observations by board members of each of the respective centers, who were weighing the pros and cons of uniting, the three centers signed the papers that have binded them together till this date. The coalition formulated to mediate, the Mission District Steering Committee made the announcement on October 15, 1957.

362 Capp Street, the Mission Adult Center is a milestone in the history of community oriented organizations in the United States. It has not only been a center of social change but has been the matrix of much artistic evolution. The nationally recognized and respected theater organization, the American Conservatory Theater (A.C.T.) was launched by a performance in the court yard, they also utilized the auditorium, which contains one of the few fully equipped theaters in the Mission District, deep set stage dressing rooms etc. A.C.T. used the center for rehearsals and meetings, it was initiated February of 1962, by directors Kenneth Dewey and Lee Breuer along with the Ann Halprin Dance Company of Marin County. Its first presentation was a performance of **THE MAIDS**, by France's highly acclaimed playwright Jean Genet, the San Francisco Progress reported in its pages "A new kind of theater...which could revolutionize the world of the stage--will be born next month in San Francisco's Mission District." The presense of A.C.T. was not the commencement of theater activity at the center, it maintained a group which was started by Adrian Trigallez, the Mission Playhouse of the Mission Adult Center, since the Spring of 1958, the group was unique in the sense that it announced itself as being "...multi-racial, multi-aged, multi-economic, and multi-cultural."

It is also interesting to note that the Mission Adult Center was one of the first meeting places of the League of Womens Voters who conducted registration drives and sponsored debates between candidates running for political offices. A list of programs and organizations working out of the building by the mid 1950's reads:

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West Minster Senior Citizens
Scandinavian Folk Dancers
Twin Peaks Life Members Club
of Pioneers of the Telephone Co.
Mission Playhouse
Dolores Grandmothers
Fan Club Folkdancers (square dance)

The current centers activities are still very rich in cultural and social programs. It maintains many of the founding principles of pioneers such as Rachel Wolfsohn, a dedication to people with the ability to change and evolve with its community. It is over all an achievement of endurance, contributing to the areas historical development and well being for close to 60 years. The pressing need of the center today is to restore and maintain the so many wonderful features, such as the brown shingles on the outside and to renovate the interior so that it could be a true reflection of the many years of service, of inspiration and accomplishment that it has been to the residents of the Mission District.

Footnotes:

1. David Gebhard, et.al. "A Guide to Architecture in San Francisco and Northern California" second edition 1973.
2. Written correspondence to Rose Pietras from Jeremy Kotas, Department of City Planning, November 29, 1978.

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ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

1. Files and Records of Mission Neighborhood Center;
2. Interview with past Executive Director, Mr. Conrad B. Rheiner, April 12, 1978.
3. San Francisco Chronicle, 1956 (citation).
4. Application for Building Permit, dated July 21, 1911, obtained from the San Francisco Bureau of Building Inspection; Deed of Trust and Assignment of Rents, obtained from the State of California; Recorders Office; Architectural Inventory Survey, obtained from the Department of City Planning; and Mission Neighborhood Capp Street Center Cost Estimate for Rehabilitation Study obtained from the Community Design Center, San Francisco, California.
5. A Guide to Architecture in San Francisco and Northern California, David Gebhard, et.al. Second edition 1973, Peregrine Smith, Inc., Santa Barbara and Salt Lake City.

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Girls Slub

CONTINUATION SHEET

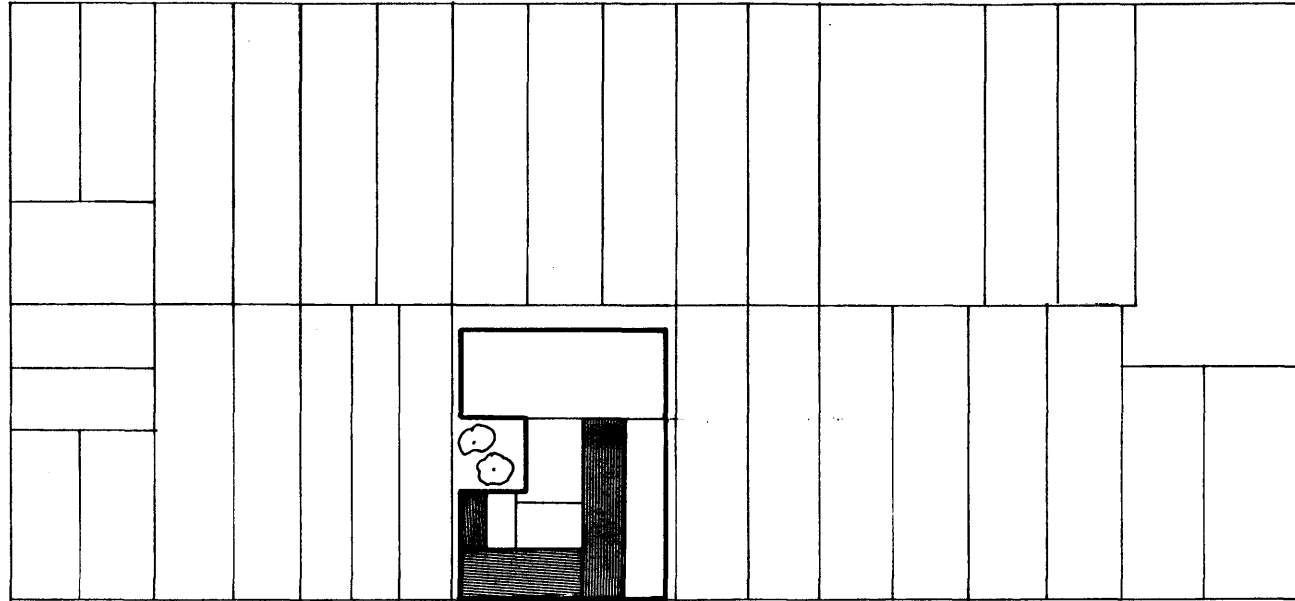
ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 2

Commencing at a point on the westerly line of Capp Street, distant thereon 180 feet northerly from the northerly line of 19th Street; running thence northerly along said line of Capp Street 90 feet; thence at a right angle westerly 122 feet 6 inches; thence at a right angle southerly 90 feet; thence at a right angle easterly 122 feet 6 inches to the point of commencement.

Mission Street

19th Street

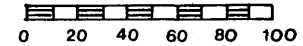
18th Street



north



Capp Street



**MISSION NEIGHBORHOOD CAPP STREET
CENTER**

362 Capp St. San Francisco CA.