UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

San Francisco

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

NAME HISTORIC GIRLS CLUB AND/OR COMMON MISSION NEIGHBORHOOD CAPP STREET CENTER LOCATION **STREET & NUMBER** 362 Capp Street NOT FOR PUBLICATION CITY, TOWN CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT San Francisco 6th VICINITY OF COUNTY CODE STATE CODE California 06 San Francisco 075 **CLASSIFICATION** CATEGORY **OWNERSHIP** STATUS **PRESENT USE** X_OCCUPIED __DISTRICT PUBLIC AGRICULTURE ___MUSEUM X_BUILDING(S) **X**PRIVATE __UNOCCUPIED COMMERCIAL __PARK ___STRUCTURE __BOTH X_WORK IN PROGRESS X EDUCATIONAL ___PRIVATE RESIDENCE SITE PUBLIC ACQUISITION ACCESSIBLE X.ENTERTAINMENT ___RELIGIOUS __OBJECT X_YES: RESTRICTED IN PROCESS __GOVERNMENT ___SCIENTIFIC ___BEING CONSIDERED ___YES: UNRESTRICTED _INDUSTRIAL _TRANSPORTATION X OTHER neighbor __NO __MILITARY **OWNER OF PROPERTY** NAME Mission Neighborhood Center, Inc. STREET & NUMBER 350-362 Capp Street & 534 Precita Avenue STATE CITY, TOWN San Francisco VICINITY OF California LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION COURTHOUSE REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. City Recorders Office STREET & NUMBER City Hall - Civic Center CITY, TOWN STATE San Francisco California **6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS** TÎTLE Architectural Inventory - 1976 DATE ___FEDERAL ___STATE ___COUNTY ___LOCAL Department of City Planning DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS 100 Larkin Street CITY, TOWN STATE California

7' DESCRIPTION

E)

CON	IDITION	CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
EXCELLENT	DETERIORATED	UNALTERED	X_ORIGINAL SITE
GOOD	RUINS	X_ALTERED	MOVED DATE
XFAIR	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 gales 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 wainscotting, 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.



PERIOD	AF	EAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	IECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	
PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
1600-1699	X_ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	X_SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	X_THEATER
1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION
X_1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	OTHER (SPECIFY)
		INVENTION		
			Ward & Blohme,	Architects

SPECIFIC DATES 1911

BUILDER/ARCHITECT L. A. Kern, Builden

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Mission Neighborhood Camp Street Center is significant for the quality of its design and its role in the history of social movements in San Francisco. Built in 1911, the building is an excellent example of the First Bay Tradition. This regional interpretation of the Shingle Style was characterized by the use of shingles and stained wood and picturesque changes in spatial and axial arrangement.¹ Its major practitioners were Ernest Coxhead, Willis Polk, Bernard Maybeck and Julia Morgan. The skillful execution of the design of the Mission Neighborhood Capp Street Center makes it a significant expression of this genre.

Out of 150,000 buildings in San Francisco, 120000 were entered in the 1976 Architectural Inventory. Only 59 were given a score of 5 on the overall architectural quality rating, 208 given a 4, and 867 given a 3. The subject building received a score of 3, indicating a superb building from a citywide point of view.²

The history of settlement and neighborhood centers dates back to 1884 when Samuel A. Barnett (Vicar of St. Judes Parish) epened the first one in an East London neighborhood. Students from Oxford and Cambridge Universities came to live and work with residents who were on the edge of the industrial revolution and feeling the pressures of urban life creeping in on them. There is no doubt that the early settlement movement was an out growth of the Protestant and other Christian churches, yet services and orientation remained nonsectarian. It didn't take long for the idea of settlement houses to cross the ocean and come to the United States. On Manhattan's Lower East Side, the immigrant mecca of America, a man by the name of Stanton Coil established the first settlement house in 1886, it was called Neighborhood Guild and is still standing and serving under the name University Settlement. As cities expanded, community based facilities with recreational and social services were ingrained into the philosophy of social work. Telegraph Hill was the first center of its kind in the city of San Francisco initiating its programs in 1892.

Mission Neighborhood Centers, Inc., whose executive offices are at 362 Capp Street has a history that goes back to the turn of the century when Rachel Wolfsohn, a social worker at Columnia Park Boys Club saw the needffor an equivalent service for girls and founded the San Francisco Girls Club which had an original site at Folsom and Seventh. According to Wolfsohn the club had "...two-fold purpose at that time...to assist girls in delinquency prevention and to prepare these young ladies for the responsibilities of womanhood". The Girls Club which was founded in 1896 did not become incorporated as a non-profit agency until 1910. When the 1906 earthquake destroyed the building at Seventh and Folsom, the lot of 362 Capp Street was obtained and the structure was specifically built to continue the functions of the club. City Hall records show that a permit to build was applied for on July 24st of 1911, five years after the earthquake. It is safe to speculate that the doors of 362 Capp Street opened as the Girls Club sometime in mid-1912. From that inception it has grown, always with the ability to change and accommodate with the In 1914 the Community Music Center, which now operates out of its own building on times.

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9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Continuation Sheet

10 GEOGRAPHICAL				
ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROP	PERTY2533 acres			
	Francisco North, Cal	ifornia	QUADRANGLE SCALE	1:24000
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GLI LII		нЦ ІІ		
VERBAL BOUNDARY DESC	RIPTION			
Se	e Continuation Sheet			
LIST ALL STATES AN	D COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIE	ES OVERLAPPING S	TATE OR COUNTY BOU	NDARIES
STATE	CODE	COUNTY		CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY		CODE
ORGANIZATION Mission Neighborhood STREET & NUMBER 362 Capp Street	Project Coordinator; Centers, Inc.		DATE 1 3) 826-0440 TELEPHONE	11-30-78
CITY OR TOWN San Francisco			STATE	
			California 94110	:
12 STATE HISTORIC	CPRESERVATION	OFFICER C	ERTIFICATIO	N
THE EVA	LUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF T	HIS PROPERTY WIT	HIN THE STATE IS:	
NATIONAL	STATE		LOCAL <u>X</u>	
As the designated State Historic hereby nominate this property f criteria and procedures set forth	or inclusion in the National Re	gister and certify that	at it has been evaluated	according to the
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION	OFFICER SIGNATURE	Mm	mellon	
TITLE			DATE 5-	16-79
FOR NPS USE ONLY I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE THE CERTIFY THAT THE THE CERTIFY THE	IS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN		GISTER	-6-79
ATTEST:	-1/1		DATE 11-0	-79
, <u>Land</u>				/

GPO 921-803

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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 Wolfschn 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, luncheons, talks, games and special events discussion." CONTINUATION SHEET

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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 Commitee 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 rehearsesals 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 stagewill 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: FHR-8-300A (11/78) UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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West Minster Senior Citizens Scandinavian Folk Dancers Twin Peaks Life Members Club of Pioneers of the Telephone Co. Misšion 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 mapy 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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- 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. <u>A Guide to Architecture in San Francisco and Northern California</u>, David Gebhard, et.al. Second edition 1973, Peregrine Smith, Inc., Santa Barbara and Salt Lake City.

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Girls **S**lub

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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.

