

RECEIVED

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

JAN 07 1988

NATIONAL
REGISTER

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property RECEIVED

historic name United States Mint (preferred name)

other names/site number San Francisco Assay Office OCT 27 1987

2. Location OHP

street & number 155 Hermann Street N/A not for publication

city, town San Francisco vicinity

state California code CA county San Francisco code 075 zip code 94102

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		_____	_____ Total

Name of related multiple property listing: None

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

[Signature] 10/20/87
Signature of certifying official Date

Asst. Secretary of the Treasury (Management), Dept. of the Treasury
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

[Signature] 12/17/87
Signature of commenting or other official Date

Signed by: Hans Kreutzberg
State or Federal agency and bureau Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, CA

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register. [Signature] 2/18/88
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)
Government

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
Government Office/manufacturing

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

Classical Revival

foundation Concrete

walls Granite

roof Concrete

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The San Francisco Mint is an imposing 3-story marble edifice built to replace operations some distance from the principal business district where the Old Mint was located. It is located on a small rock knoll, with interior court, and penthouse. Exterior is heavy, granite-faced, monumental-type construction, with large industrial steel sash windows. The interior contains a heavily ornamented marble lobby and stairs, and several offices with ornate plaster walls and moldings.

The construction of the building commenced in August, 1935; the cornerstone was laid on July 28, 1936 and the building was dedicated on May 15, 1937. The building contains 33,700 square feet with cubic content of 1,670,000 cubic feet. The land was purchased from the Spring Valley Co., Ltd. in September, 1934 at a cost of \$82,500.00. The building was built by the Clinton Construction Co., California for \$813,000.00. The contract was awarded on August 2, 1935; and the plans were prepared by the Office of Supervising Architect.

Remodeling of the building took place from May 12, 1958 to December 31, 1958. The demolition consisted of removal of the non-bearing metal lath and plaster partitions, concrete reinforced vaults, uneven concrete and damaged wood floors, heavy piping, ducts, equipment, electrical fixtures, power conduit, control panels, and pistol range.

Conversion included the construction of laboratories for the Department of Agriculture and Department of Standards, installation of luminous suspended ceiling, movable wood partitions, and additional telephone and electrical switchboard facilities. A new main entrance was cut through the three-foot thick walls. Floors and walls were patched with the entire area painted. Many items were renewed, including toilet plumbing, radiators, hardware, and all offices. Three elevators were converted to automatic operation.

The interior entry lobby is constructed of marble and bronze. Walls, floor, and the steps leading to the second and third floors are marble. Two carved marble eagles stand at each side of the staircase on the first floor. A bronze and marble compass is inlaid at the center of the floor. Two marble display cases are on opposite sides of the walls perpendicular to the entry door and staircase. A carved marble eagle is imbedded in the wall over the entry door. The room has three bronze entry doors and a bronze elevator door. The ceiling is suspended metal lath and plaster with gold leaf.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

Economics
Engineering
Industry
Government/Minting Coins

1937-1987

1937

Cultural Affiliation

Significant Person

Architect/Builder

Underwood, Gilbert Stanlay

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The United States Mint at San Francisco, CA was authorized by the Act of Congress approved July 3, 1852, and a small facility there began receiving gold and producing gold coins for the commerce of the area. The steadily increasing demand for coins forced the Mint to move two times; the last time in 1937 to its current location at 155 Hermann St. The San Francisco Mint produced coins for circulation from 1937 to 1955. In March, 1955, coinage operations were discontinued because a sufficient supply was provided by other U.S. Mint facilities. The equipment was removed, and other Government agencies occupied most of the facility. The San Francisco Mint continued its historic function of receiving gold and silver deposits, and conducting assays.

In July, 1964, with borrowed equipment, San Francisco began producing 1 cent and 5 cent coins blanks to assist the Denver Mint in producing coins during a national coin shortage. The coinage act of 1966, approved by President Johnson on July 23, 1966 authorized reactivation of Minting operations in San Francisco. On September 1, 1966, the renamed San Francisco Assay Office began producing coins again.

Since that time, the San Francisco Assay Office has gradually eliminated production of domestic coinage, and devotes full time to production of numismatic coins, and silver bullion pieces. The facility manufactures the annual proof coin sets for the nation, and produces the American Eagle silver bullion coin.

Due to the exceptional significance of the San Francisco Assay Office in our nation's economic history, the period of significance has been extended to within the past fifty years.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

United States Mint files
Coin World Almanac, First Edition, 1975

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Old Mint, 88 5th Street
San Francisco, CA 94103

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Three

UTM References

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5	5	0	5	4	9
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4	1	8	0	2	7	5
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the San Francisco Assay Office is shown as a dotted line on the accompanying US GS map.

Bounded by Duboce Street to Webster Street to Hermmman Street to Buchanan Street to Duboce Street.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

Legally recorded boundary lines.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Olga Widnes Chief, Museum and Public Sales Division

organization US Mint, San Francisco Assay Office date May 29, 1987

street & number 88 5th Street telephone 415-974-0788

city or town San Francisco state CA zip code 94103

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

US Mint

San Francisco County, California

The 1939 photograph accompanying this nomination accurately reflects the current condition and appearance of the mint. A more recent photograph is being secured and will be added to the file.



UTM Reference
 Zone 10 Easting 5 50 549
 Northing 41 80 275

SCALE 1:24000