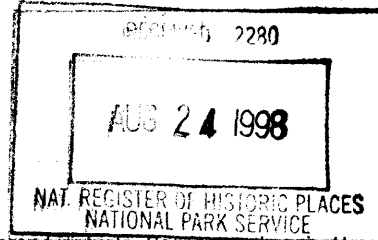


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



1195

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Hotel Californian

other names/site number n/a

2. Location

street & number 403 Taylor Street

not for publication

city or town San Francisco

vicinity

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

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] August 11, 1998
Signature of certifying official/Title State Historic Preservation Officer
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.
 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] 9-25-98
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action
Edson H. Beall

Hotel Californian
Name of Property

San Francisco, CA
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

n/a

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

n/a

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/hotel &
COMMERCE/restaurant

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/ hotel &
COMMERCE/ restaurant

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH & EARLY 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS:
Spanish Colonial Revival/
Art Deco

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete
concrete
walls
roof asphalt
other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1935-1948

Significant Dates

n/a

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

Young, Edward E.

Jacobs, Alfred Henry

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Hotel Californian
Name of Property

San Francisco, CA
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than 1 acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

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

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4			

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title John M. Tess, President

organization Heritage Investment Corp. date April 16, 1998

street & number 123 NW Second Ave., Suite 200 telephone (503) 228-0272

city or town Portland state OR zip code 97209

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Co., A Massachusetts Corp.

name c/o Sheppard, Mullin, Richter, & Hampton, LLP

street & number 333 South Hope Street, 48th Floor telephone (860) 509-2230

city or town Los Angeles state CA zip code 90071

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Hotel Californian
San Francisco County, California

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The Hotel Californian is located at 403 Taylor Street in San Francisco. The original twelve-story hotel, built in 1923 for owner/builder Matthew A. Little, was designed by prolific San Francisco architect Edward E. Young. A four-story addition, completed in 1929, was designed by architect Alfred Henry Jacobs. The building was originally designed in the Renaissance Revival style with a Spanish Colonial Revival style lobby. The 1929 addition altered the exterior style to reflect the popular Art Deco style. The lobby retains its original Spanish Colonial Revival style. Significant exterior features include decorative pressed metal panels, balconies, and elaborate cornice decoration. Significant interior features include Spanish Colonial decoration in the lobby such as twisted columns and decorative ironwork. The building was operated by Matthew A. Little as an upscale apartment-hotel until 1935 when the Elizabeth Glide and the Glide Foundation purchased the hotel for use as a temperance hotel. Numerous alterations have been made to the ground floor retail spaces. The upper floors are largely intact.

The building was evaluated in San Francisco's 1976 Architectural Heritage Inventory, and was graded a "B", indicating major importance. It was also included in the proposed San Francisco Apartment-Hotel Historic District National Register nomination.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Hotel Californian
San Francisco County, California

SETTING

The Hotel Californian is located on a sloped lot at the northwest corner of Taylor and O'Farrell streets, at the base of Nob Hill on lot 3 of block 317. This apartment-hotel is conveniently located two blocks from Union Square, and minutes from main theater, shopping, government, and financial districts. The building has a zero setback, and is conspicuous, being the tallest building on the block. It is situated at the eastern edge of the proposed apartment-hotel historic district.

EXTERIOR

The Hotel Californian is sixteen stories, however the floors are numbered through seventeen as there is no thirteenth floor. The building has a full basement and a mezzanine level and a total of 250 guest rooms, each with its own private bath. The steel frame brick clad building is rectangular with a two-story wing on the north elevation and a two-story extension along the east elevation. A single-story extension runs the length of the west elevation. These one- and two-story extensions allow for natural light to enter all of the hotel rooms. The architect designed the extensions to provide a buffer in the event another tall building were to be constructed in the immediate vicinity. The fact that each room could boast natural light was highly desirable for the hotels of the day. The flat roof of the main building is concealed by a parapet wall. The ground floor has retail spaces on the south elevation (O'Farrell Street) and the lobby entrance is on the east elevation (Taylor Street). Decorative elements are pressed metal. All four elevations are painted a buff color.

SOUTH ELEVATION

Originally, the ground floor of the south elevation was comprised of ten bays including the westernmost one story extension. There were nine storefronts, each with a central recessed glass paneled door and transom, flanked by store windows with marble bulkheads. A fanlight in each of the storefront bays provided ample lighting to the interior space. The fanlights were to have

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Hotel Californian
San Francisco County, California

decorative grillwork. All bays have been altered over the years. The retail storefronts have been

altered primarily with new surfacing materials such as stone, tile and brick. Many of the alterations occurred during an extensive 1942 remodel. A variety of newer awnings have also been added. None of the fanlights remain. In their place are mezzanine level windows with glass block infill. Presently there are five storefronts.

Above the mezzanine level, the building is intact as built in 1923 and 1929 (when four stories were added). Directly above the mezzanine level is a pressed metal course comprised of a series of swags topped by a course of dentils. An unadorned frieze divides the mezzanine and lower level from floors numbered two through seventeen (The building is sixteen stories, however there is no thirteenth floor). The second floor is distinguished from floors numbered three through seventeen. It is the only floor with pressed metal panels alternating with the windows. These terra cotta framed panels are decorated with raised swags and organic motifs. A frieze with a row of dentils separates this floor from floors numbered three through seventeen. In the center of the south elevation just above the second floor is a decorative balcony of terra cotta/cast stone, supported by scrolled modillions.

The third floor windows are topped with a course of buff bricks set on end. All windows have brick lintels and projecting brick sills.

There are eleven window bays on the south elevation. The existing wood sash hopper windows replaced original casement windows (as seen in a 1925 photograph). The date of this alteration is unknown. The corner windows (located at each end of the elevation) are comprised of a central hopper window flanked by fixed lights and topped with a three light transom with a central circle. The corner windows on floors numbered three through seventeen have slightly arched transom sash and lintels. Each of the corner windows above the second floor are topped with a slightly projecting keystone. The window pattern reads as A, B, B, C,C,C,C,C, B, B, A. This window pattern is consistent on all upper floors numbered two through seventeen.

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Hotel Californian
San Francisco County, California

At the top of the twelfth floor is another frieze. This frieze indicates the 1929 addition. It is embellished with raised swags and organic motifs. At each corner is large projecting cartouche. Two decorative balconies with raised ornamentation project from this frieze under windows B, B. Flanking either side of windows B, B uninterrupted from floor numbered fourteen through seventeen, is a panel of raised ornamentation. Another decorated frieze separates floors numbered sixteen and seventeen. Above floor number seventeen is a wide parapet with elaborate decoration, including cartouches and raised pendulate forms.

EAST ELEVATION

The east elevation is very similar to the south elevation. Original plans for the ground floor show four bays. These bays have also been altered with newer surface materials and awnings. This elevation houses the main hotel entrance. The original revolving lobby door have been replaced with aluminum swinging doors.

The mezzanine level is comprised of six windows alternating with decorative pressed metal panels. The window pattern for all floors on this elevation is A, B, B, B, B, A. A decorative balcony is located above the four center windows at the third floor. Another decorative balcony is at floor number fourteen.

1929 ADDITION AND ALTERATIONS

Hotel Californian opened in April 1924 and proved so popular that an addition was planned in its first year. The addition, which was not finished until 1929, added four floors and 100 rooms at a cost of \$500,000. It was designed by Alfred Henry Jacobs, and featured rich architectural ornamentation. The balconies at floor number eleven and the tenth story cornice were removed to better complement the new design. A plain wide frieze between the tenth and eleventh floors was left after the alteration. At the time of the addition, a third elevator was added, and the corner storefronts were remodeled into a coffee shop with both lobby and street entrances.

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Hotel Californian
San Francisco County, California

WEST AND NORTH ELEVATIONS

The west and north elevations are simpler than the two primary facades. A five story building abuts the west side and a two-story building abuts the north side. The frieze at floor number fourteen (there is no floor numbered thirteen) wraps around all but the north elevation. The embellished parapet wraps around all four elevations. An iron fire escape is on the west elevation.

INTERIOR

BASEMENT

The basement houses the furnace room, boiler, lavatories and various storage areas. Stairs to the basement are located in the southwest corner. Passenger elevators also reach this level. Presently the basement houses laundry and kitchen facilities, lavatories, employee break room, furnace/boiler room and storage areas.

FIRST FLOOR PLAN

The first floor plan is comprised of three shops (restaurant, barbershop, rent-a-car) and a secondary lobby entrance, along the O'Farrell Street elevation. All shops have lobby and street entrances. The main hotel entrance is located on the Taylor Street elevation. A coffee shop is located at the corner of Taylor and O'Farrell with the entrances on both O'Farrell and Taylor Street.

The check-in desk and office in the lobby is located on the north wall. The three elevators are along the south and west wall of the lobby with a stairwell immediately behind the elevators to the west. Stairs to the mezzanine are along the north wall of the elevators. A restaurant and kitchen occupies the western portion of the building from the north wall to the south wall. In addition to the exterior restaurant entrance, the restaurant can be accessed through the lobby.

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Hotel Californian
San Francisco County, California

LOBBY

The lobby of the Hotel Californian is richly decorated in a Spanish Colonial Revival style. The

lobby decorations, which cost \$65,000 in 1923, are largely intact, and consist of coffered ceilings elaborately painted and carved. Massive rectangular cast plaster columns are embellished with twisted columns at each corner. The column capitals are incised and each side is accented with a central cartouche. Scrolled brackets decorate the beams. A frieze that extends around the perimeter of the lobby and all the ceiling coffers is decorated with pairs of angels holding a medallion.

An elaborate iron screen decorated with the same angel motif separates the check-in area from the front lobby. Above the marble check-in desk between the columns is an iron panel decorated with the same elements as the screen. Next to the check-in desk on the north wall is a large fireplace with a face of on-edge herringbone brickwork and a mantle and surround of cast stone.

A large raised and painted crest above the fireplace has two lions holding shields and a crown. Newer carpet covers original hexagonal tile floors, except near the front entrance where the tiles are still visible. (The original plans list marble floors.) The base trim is marble and the walls are cast plaster. Some of the light fixtures appear to be original.

The elaborate gold painted coffee shop entrance is comprised of carved columns and pilasters supporting a full entablature topped with an arched pediment. An acanthus leaf projects from the very top of the opening. Other doorways are not as elaborate, but have wide painted wood trim and paneled doors.

A newer third elevator was added to the lobby space across from the original elevators in 1929, and the original elevator cabs were replaced in 1942. The stairwell, very utilitarian in design, is comprised of concrete stairs with simple metal balusters and a wood railing. The newel posts at each landing are slender and square with simple metal caps.

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Hotel Californian
San Francisco County, California

RESTAURANT

The original dining room, now Dudley's Bar and Grill, is almost completely remodeled, with new carpet and acoustical tile ceiling. The original restaurant space was expanded to the south and now occupies three of the original small shop spaces on O'Farrell Street.

STOREFRONTS

The coffee shop on the corner of O'Farrell and Taylor has been expanded from one to three of the original storefronts. The coffee shop was extensively remodeled in 1942 and continually over the years. The rent-a-car space occupies two of the original storefronts and the lobby entrance on O'Farrell was originally a newsstand. The only intact original storefront configuration is the barbershop. All storefront spaces were originally two stories in height. In 1942, the upper portion of these shops was made into a second floor at mezzanine level.

MEZZANINE

The mezzanine level originally had an open balcony looking over the lobby with stairs leading up from the lobby and a lavatory. Towards the west end of the mezzanine was an enclosed area, office spaces were above the kitchen. Banquet rooms and a beauty salon were added above the storefronts in 1942. After 1942, the front portion of the mezzanine was enclosed with glass panels between the original balcony columns and the space divided into offices.

Three bays comprised of pairs of twisted columns grace the mezzanine. The columns rest on low wall that is embellished with carved panels.

UPPER FLOORS

Only minor alterations have occurred on the upper floors. The fourteen floors of guestrooms are arranged in an "H" plan with the long hall running east/west. Two shorter halls at each end run

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Hotel Californian
San Francisco County, California

north/south. Each floor has an open stairway next to the elevator bay. A fire escape stairwell is located towards the front to the building on the north side of the hall. The halls are carpeted, and have painted and papered walls with wood crown, chair and base molding.

The guestroom lay-out is basically the same for all rooms. The bathrooms are placed against the hall walls, thus providing a sound barrier from the hall. The 250 guestrooms have single recessed-

panel doors with newer door handles. A few of the units are suites; two rooms and a bath. These rooms were originally designed for the 'permanent' residents. The rooms are carpeted and have wooden crown and base moldings. All rooms have outside exposure with operable hopper windows, and private bathrooms. Most bathrooms have been altered.

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Hotel Californian
San Francisco County, California

SIGNIFICANCE

The Hotel Californian is significant at the local level under Criterion A in the area of social history for its association with the temperance movement. In 1935 the hotel was purchased by the Glide Foundation for use as San Francisco's only temperance hotel. The Glide Foundation owned the hotel until 1978.

Lizzie Glide, a devout Methodist, devoted her life to helping others. She and her husband, millionaire stockman Joseph Glide, were generous contributors of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South of Sacramento. Lizzie Glide increased her personal involvement in missionary activities after having a spiritual experience. After Joseph Glide's death, oil was discovered on the Glide ranch lands, enabling Lizzie to accomplish the numerous charitable and missionary goals she pursued in the name of her faith. She moved to Berkeley and proceeded to build facilities for a variety of purposes such as a Christian girls' dormitory on the University of California at Berkeley campus, a Christian home for young San Francisco working women, the famous Glide Memorial Methodist Church in San Francisco, and in 1935 she acquired the Hotel Californian (just two blocks from the Glide Memorial Church) for use as a temperance hotel. The Hotel Californian operated as San Francisco's only temperance hotel from 1935 to 1978. Lizzie Glide established the private Glide Foundation in 1931 to oversee her many holdings. The Glide Foundation and the Glide Memorial Church continue to operate in San Francisco and are currently the largest private social service provider in the city.

Philanthropy amongst wealthy families in the early part of the 20th century was a common practice. Many names such as Rockefeller, Astor, Carnegie, and Mellon come to mind. Thus the fact that Joseph and Lizzie Glide were generous wealthy patrons of their church is not particularly surprising. What is unusual is Lizzie Glide's personal involvement. Her missionary work with the poor in Sacramento, her personal involvement with seminary students and poor young working women in San Francisco are what make her unique. She made a complete commitment to her Methodist faith and all her efforts were focused in this direction.

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Hotel Californian
San Francisco County, California

Lizzie Glide

Lizzie Glide, born Lizzie Helen Snyder, in 1852 in Bossier Parish, Louisiana, was the third child of ten. Her father was Dr. Thornton Andrew Snyder and her mother was Mary Cornell Snyder. Lizzie grew up in a deeply religious home in which each evening the family would gather for worship. At the age of ten she attended a school run by the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. Two years later she attended Greenwood Seminary in Tennessee.

In 1869, the Snyder family moved to Sacramento California. They joined the Southern Methodist Church where Lizzie taught Sunday School and was an active participant in all church activities. It was at church that she met Joseph Glide (17 years her senior). The two were married in 1871 and had five children.

Born in England in 1835, Joseph Glide came to America in 1852. He traveled to California where he made his fortune buying, raising and selling sheep and cattle. He owned ranches in Sacramento, Solano, Yolo, Colusa, Glenn, Tulare, and Kern Counties and became one of the leading stockmen in California. He was a pioneer in the work of reclaiming land and constructed the first system of big levees. He controlled 12,000 acres of reclaimed land opposite the city of Sacramento which later proved to have oil deposits. After Joseph Glide died in 1906, Lizzie became responsible for the family business and investments. She proved to be a good businesswoman, maintaining the Glide fortunes (mostly through the sale of oil leases) and using much of her earnings for missionary purposes.

In 1889, Lizzie Glide attended a revival meeting held by evangelist Sam P. Jones. Mr. Jones challenged the attendees to lives of 'entire consecration'. After much serious consideration and discussion with her husband and other family members, Lizzie Glide made a commitment to missionary work. At this point she and her husband had already been active members of the Methodist Church for twenty years. But after this spiritual turning point, Lizzie Glide became involved not only financially, but personally. (She came to refer to this experience as her 'sanctification'.) She established a mission in Sacramento where she worked with the indigent

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Hotel Californian
San Francisco County, California

and she conducted testimonial meetings. Her husband was known to have said, "I believe my wife is leading more souls to Christ than all the ministers in the city." (The Life Story of Lizzie H. Glide.)

She began her work in the bay area in 1913 when she established a Christian home for working girls in San Francisco (Mary Elizabeth Inn) and later a Christian girls' dormitory on the University of California campus at Berkeley (Epworth Hall). Lizzie Glide donated funds for the establishment of Glide Hall, a girls' dormitory on the Asbury College campus in Wilmore Kentucky. She also donated funds for the establishment of a Methodist radio station in California. She was a major contributor in the erection of Wesley Church in San Francisco, Epworth University Church in Berkeley and Central Church in Sacramento. Lizzie Glide moved to Berkeley in 1922 and resided in the Uplands neighborhood until her death in 1941.

Lizzie Glide had long cherished the idea of erecting a church in San Francisco and in 1929 she purchased two lots at the corner of Taylor and Ellis and had constructed the Mission style Glide Memorial Church. It was completed and dedicated as a memorial to Joseph H. Glide on January 11, 1931. Although the church was given to the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, it was Lizzie Glide's desire that it be "A house of prayer for all people". A San Francisco Chronicle article described the completion of the church as, "the culmination of a series of gifts which she made to the social and religious life of the Bay Region" (Jan. 7, 1933). The article goes on to describe the social services offered by the church.

With her numerous holdings, Lizzie Glide became aware of the need of a foundation to manage the properties. Just prior to the construction of the Glide Memorial Church, Lizzie Glide established the Glide Foundation, a charitable trust. The Foundation became the overseer of the Glide properties such as Epworth Hall and the Hotel Californian which the Foundation purchased in 1935. Located just one block from the church, the hotel functioned as a temperance hotel for numerous religious organizations and was owned by the Glide Foundation until 1978. The period of significance is arbitrarily ended in 1948.

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Hotel Californian
San Francisco County, California

Temperance and the Hotel Californian

The earliest temperance organizations in the United States began in New England, and the movement spread quickly, especially in rural areas, under the influence of churches. The Calvinist, Quaker, Baptist, Methodist, Episcopal, and Presbyterian churches all preached abstinence. The movement involved a huge number of women, inspired to run moral and temperate homes. Many states adopted prohibition laws independently prior to 1917. After years of mounting pressure from prohibitionist organizations such as the Sons of Temperance, the Anti-Saloon League, and the Women's Christian Temperance Movement, Congress passed the 18th amendment in 1917, prohibiting the production, transportation, or sale of alcohol. After 14 years of constant struggles to enforce prohibition, it was repealed in 1933 with the passage of the 21st amendment. After prohibition was repealed, the temperance movement waned. With the founding of Alcoholics Anonymous in 1935, most churches turned away from the moralistic approach and towards the recognition of alcoholism as a disease and thus to the treatment of alcoholism.

The Methodist Episcopal Church, South came out in support of Prohibition as early as 1870. This southern based church was the church which Lizzie Helen Snyder Glide would be born into in Louisiana. Temperance was a given in a Methodist household of the time and was an integral part of the practice of her religion.

At an interdenominational conference of religious workers in March 1935, Dr. Edward A. Wicher of San Francisco Theological Seminary announced the need for a temperance hotel in San Francisco, which could serve as the headquarters for various religious groups. Shortly thereafter the Glide Foundation purchased the Hotel Californian for a temperance hotel. Many doubted the potential of such an establishment, but it was very successful and housed several different permanent religious groups, as well as travelers. It being the only temperance hotel within San Francisco, there was considerable demand for such a place, as described:

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Hotel Californian
San Francisco County, California

“The president of the chamber of Commerce of a California city wrote, under date of July 13, 1935, his appreciation of the entertainment which his wife received while visiting San Francisco: ‘Mrs. ---- was delighted with your hotel, which pleased me very much, while I have been a fan for some time. I shall certainly pass the word along and get a notice before the public here in some way, since a hotel nowadays without the disgusting details of a bar or cocktail room is rare, and a thing much to be desired. You may count on our support in as many ways as we can show it.’ (The Life Story of Lizzie H. Glide.)

The Glide Foundation successfully ran the Hotel Californian for many years, and the Foundation continues to be a major part of the San Francisco social landscape, offering over 20 social programs for the poor and homeless. Affiliated with the inspiring Glide Memorial United

Methodist Church, they offer three free meals a day, health care, substance abuse recovery programs, low-income housing projects, and a wide range of services for women, children, and the elderly. Glide’s programs have been the model for other organizations nationwide. The Foundation and Church have been recognized in national publications including a front page article in September 1995 USA TODAY and in a Life magazine article from April 1997.

The Hotel Californian was commissioned by Matthew A. Little in 1923; owner, builder and manager of the hotel. San Francisco architect Edward E. Young designed the original 1923 Hotel Californian and architect Alfred Henry Jacobs designed the four story addition in 1929.

Upon completion of the additional four stories, the San Francisco Chronicle reported on July 27, 1929, “With the completion of its four-story addition, the Hotel Californian looms on San Francisco skyline as an imposing structure of seventeen stories with 325 rooms, one of the most beautiful and modern hostelries in the west.”

The newspaper went on to describe it as “...patterned after the finest hotel accommodations in the country and containing everything that modern ingenuity has devised for the happiness and comfort of guests.” It also describes the suites designed for the permanent guests as having “...Venetian furniture, beautiful walnut writing desks in antique style, modernistic tables and exquisite lamps and lighting fixtures.”

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Hotel Californian
San Francisco County, California

In the same article, owner/manager Matthew A. Little is quoted, "The additional rooms were built to meet an actual demand. They are the direct result of good business and San Francisco has every reason to expect a continuous influx of travel." The apartment-hotel was extremely popular in large cities and the Hotel Californian is a good representation of this building type. It remained under Little's auspices until 1935 when it was sold to the Glide Foundation.

Edward E. Young

Edward Eyestone Young was born in Carthage, Missouri, and little is known of him before his move to San Francisco in 1902, when he begins to appear in local documents as a contractor for a house on Fifth Avenue. He began working as an architect in 1903, and earned formal state certification in 1905. He married Julia Rapier Tharp, sister of city architect Newton Tharp, in

1906, and took up residence in a house of his own design. They had five children, including one, John Davis Young, who would take over his father's practice a few years before his death in 1934.

During his early career, E.E. Young designed buildings in the Queen Anne and Colonial styles. When the historical styles became popular in the 1920s, Young became a master at designing in

any of the styles a client might request. During his career, Young designed nearly six hundred residential buildings, including apartment buildings and large private residences. He had a very large body of consistently good work, and seemed to have a never-ending supply of ideas for making relatively similar apartment buildings original and exciting. He was extremely popular and prolific, and so has left his mark on the city of San Francisco.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Hotel California
San Francisco County, California

Young and Matthew A. Little, the owner/builder of the Hotel Californian, had collaborated on earlier speculative projects such as several residences on Fourth Avenue in Parnassus heights and another at Green and Divisadero. Young also collaborated with builder Frederick Grannis on many speculative projects. (San Francisco Architectural Heritage Foundation files, Heritage Newsletter).

Alfred Henry Jacobs

Alfred Henry Jacobs was born in San Francisco January 29, 1882. He attended San Francisco public schools, and earned a BS from the University of California in 1904. He earned an MS from MIT in 1905, and studied at the Ecole des Beaux Arts. He began practicing architecture in 1905 in San Francisco, and was partnered briefly with Walter H. Ratcliff. (1907-10) He married Lillian Wollenberg on December 24, 1908, and they had a daughter, Mary Ruth Jacobs.

In his fifty-year practice, he designed several major San Francisco theaters, including the California Theater (1917), The Granada (1921), and the Curran Theater (1922), which is still in use. He also erected the largest log cabin building of its time, The Winema Theater in Scotia, California, and designed the standardized white See's Candy stores. (San Francisco Architectural Heritage Foundation files)

The decoration on the Hotel Californian addition resembles the art deco ornamentation on the California Theatre, built in 1918, especially at the parapet. Both buildings have an emphasis on verticality. Jacobs strengthened this emphasis on the Hotel Californian by removing the original projecting cornice and adding a flat parapet with raised vertical decoration. Jacobs also designed several large apartment buildings in San Francisco.

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Hotel Californian
San Francisco County, CA

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Hotel Californian
San Francisco County, CA

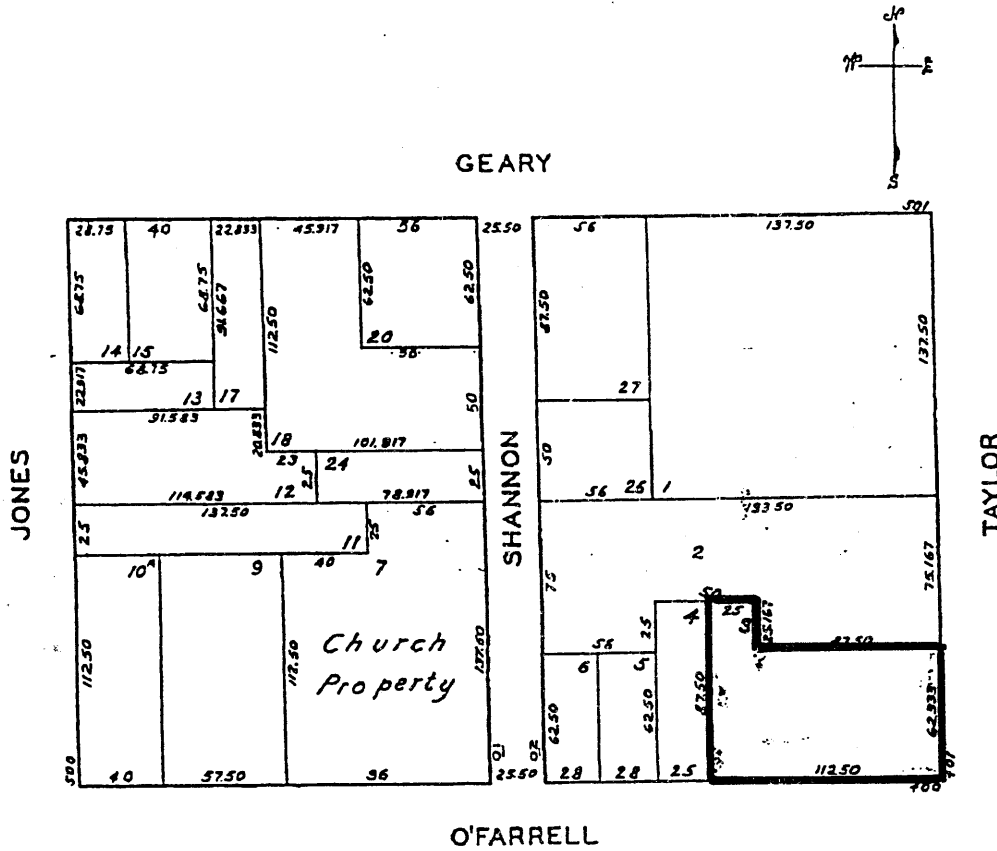
LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Beginning at the point of intersection of the northerly line of O'Farrell Street and the westerly line of Taylor Street; Running thence northerly along said line of Taylor Street 62 feet and 4 inches; Thence at a right angle westerly 87 feet and 6 inches; Thence at a right angle northerly 25 feet and 2 inches; Thence at a right angle westerly 25 feet; Thence at a right angle southerly 87 feet and 6 inches to the northerly line of O'Farrell Street; Thence easterly along said line of O'Farrell Street 112 feet and 6 inches to the point of the beginning.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary is the legally recorded boundary lines for the building for which the National Register status is being requested.

01	12	13
02	14	15
03	16	17
04	18	19
05	20	21



*Hotel Californian
 403 Taylor St.
 San Francisco, CA
 San Francisco County*

ASSESSED 106,425
 BLK. TOTAL 106,425 SQ. FT.