

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

Ser. No. _____
HABS _____ HAER _____ NR 4 SHL _____ Loc X
UTM: 10/552130/41835108
C _____ D _____

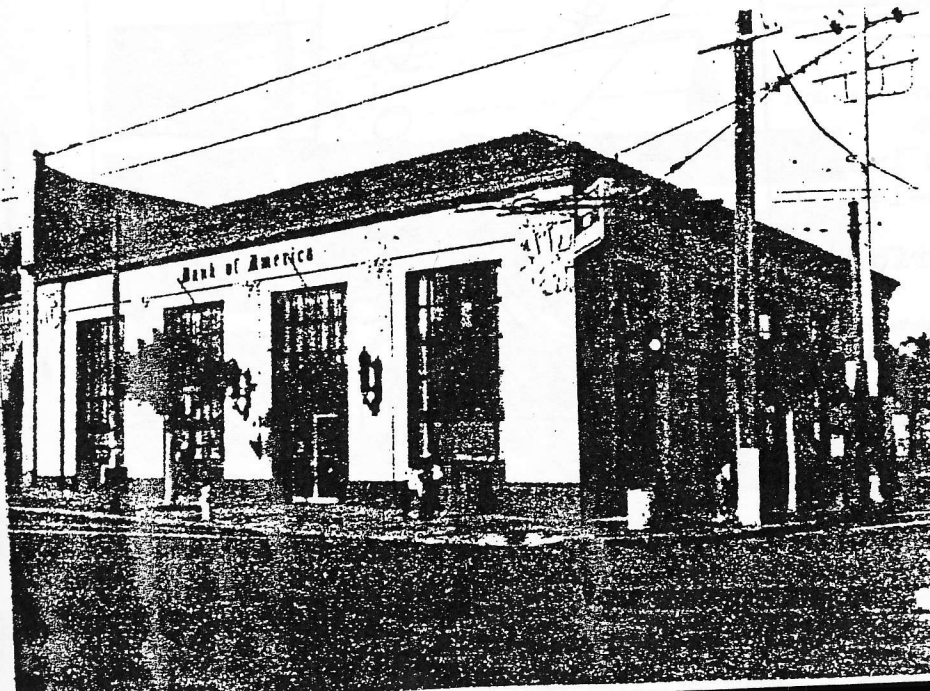
IDENTIFICATION

1. Common name: Bank of America, Columbus Branch
2. Historic name: Bank of Italy, Columbus Branch
3. Street or rural address: 1455 Stockton Street
City San Francisco, CA Zip 94133 County San Francisco
4. Parcel number: 130/1
5. Present Owner: Alfred E. & Beverly C. Sassus Address: _____
City _____ Zip _____ Ownership is: Public _____ Private _____
6. Present Use: bank Original use: bank

DESCRIPTION

- 7a. Architectural style: Art Deco
- 7b. Briefly describe the present *physical description* of the site or structure and describe any major alterations from its original condition:

This 1-story-&-basement, 20-foot-high reinforced concrete, nearly square bank building has a hipped roof of tile, and Mayan-inspired sculptures as capitals on wide, solid piers. Moorish-feeling lamps flank the entrance, which has a lacy, vernacular Classic iron pediment featuring the ship symbol of Bank of America. Four tall and wide windows on each facade relate the building to the ground-floor shops of the neighborhood and successfully tie together the building's seemingly disparate elements.



8. Construction date: 1927
Estimated _____ Factual X
9. Architect H.A. Minton
10. Builder unknown
11. Approx. property size (in feet)
Frontage 71 Depth 80
or approx. acreage _____
12. Date(s) of enclosed photograph(s)
1982

13. Condition: Excellent ___ Good Fair ___ Deteriorated ___ No longer in existence ___
14. Alterations: mottled tile base replaces paneling shown in architect's rendering
15. Surroundings: (Check more than one if necessary) Open land ___ Scattered buildings ___ Densely built-up
Residential Industrial ___ Commercial Other: ___
16. Threats to site: None known ___ Private development ___ Zoning Vandalism ___
Public Works project ___ Other: ___
17. Is the structure: On its original site? Moved? ___ Unknown? ___
18. Related features: street trees

SIGNIFICANCE

19. Briefly state historical and/or architectural importance (include dates, events, and persons associated with the site.)

This bank was built as the Columbus Branch of the Bank of Italy, one of three rivals for the patronage of the local Italian Community. The competitors, Andrea Sbarbaro's Italian-American Bank at 460 Montgomery and John F. Fugazi's Italian Popular Bank at 4 Columbus, eventually merged into this institution, which became the Bank of America. A.P. Giannini placed this special branch for North Beach after Sbarbaro had opened his branch at 270 Columbus (q.v.) Both men had contributed to the swift rebuilding of North Beach after the 1906 fire by providing easy credit and specially ordered lumber. The building is intact on the exterior except for a glazed tile base which replaces the paneling shown on Minton's rendering exhibited inside. Henry A. Minton also built a Bank of America building at 540 Montgomery and the Shaw Hotel at 1100 Market St. The bank's parking lot next door is the site of the Green Street Theater, which successively played Italian variety theater, the world premiere of Steinbeck's Of Mice & Men, and a 5-year run of The Drunkard.

20. Main theme of the historic resource: (If more than one is checked, number in order of importance.)
 Architecture 1 Arts & Leisure ___
 Economic/Industrial 2 Exploration/Settlement ___
 Government ___ Military ___
 Religion ___ Social/Education ___

21. Sources (List books, documents, surveys, personal interviews and their dates).
architect's rendering shown inside Gumina, Italians of SF: 143-149.
Myrick, Telegraph Hill: 162
San Francisco Directory, various.

22. Date form prepared June 1982
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