State of California — The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

PRIMARY RECORD

Primary # _____
HRI # _____
Trinomial _____
NRHP Status Code _____
Other Listings _____
Review Code _____ Reviewer _____ Date 6Z

 *Resource Name or #: (Assigned by recorder) 149 Fell Street

P1. Historic name of building (if any): Carburetor Exchange Company
P2. Location: *a: County San Francisco ☐ Not for Publication ■ Unrestricted
*b. USGS 7.5' Quad _____ Date _____ T ___; R ___; ___¼ of ___¼ of Sec ___; _____B.M.
c. Address 149 Fell Street City San Francisco Zip 94102
d. UTM: Zone _____; _____mE/ _____ mN *e. Assessor's parcel #: Block 834, lot 17

*P3a. Description: (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries)

This is a one-story, reinforced concrete, stucco-clad auto repair shop that fills the width of its 27'-6" wide lot. Most of the façade has been altered, and only the gabled parapet, which is divided into panels and possesses spare ornament, and the base, which is scored to resemble masonry, remain intact. The window has a non-original metal frame and is probably relatively recent in its dimensions and placement as well. The door is made of metal and is also non-original.

*P3b Resource Attributes: HP8 – industrial building

*P4. Resources Present:
■ Building ☐ Structure ☐ Object ☐ Site ☐ District ☐ Element of District ☐ Other

P5b. Description of Photo: (View, date, accession #)
View looking south
June 2009

*P6. Date Constructed/Age and Source: ■ Historic ☐ Prehistoric ☐ Both
1919; published building contract

*P7. Owner and Address:
COLIN FAMILY TRUST
1641 GREEN ST
SAN FRANCISCO CA 94123

*P8. Recorded by: (Name, affiliation, and address)
William Kostura
P. O. Box 60211
Palo Alto, CA 94306

*P9. Date Recorded: August 2009

*P10. Survey Type: (Describe) intensive

P11. Report Citation*: (Cite survey report.) William Kostura. *Van Ness Auto Row Support Structures*. San Francisco Department of City Planning, 2010.

*Attachments: ☐ NONE ☐ Location Map ☐ Sketch Map ■ Continuation Sheet ■ Building, Structure and Object Record ☐ Archaeological Record ☐ District Record ☐ Linear Feature Record ☐ Milling Station Record ☐ Rock Art Record ☐ Artifact Record ☐ Photograph Record ☐ Other (List)

BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD

 ***NRHP Status Code** 6Z

***Resource Name or #** (Assigned by recorder) 149 Fell Street

B1. Historic Name: Carburetor Exchange Company
B2. Common Name: _____
B3. Original Use: auto repair B4. Present Use: vacant
***B5. Architectural Style:** none
***B6. Construction History:** (Construction date, alterations, and date of alterations)
Built in 1919. Most of the façade was altered at an unknown date.

***B7. Moved?** ■ No ☐ Yes ☐ Unknown **Date:** _____ **Original Location:** _____
***B8. Related Features:**
none

B9a. Architect: Rousseau and Rousseau b. Builder: unknown
***B10. Significance: Theme** auto industry **Area** San Francisco
Period of Significance n/a **Property Type** auto repair shop **Applicable Criteria** n/a
(Discuss importance in terms of historical or architectural context as defined by theme, period, and geographic scope. Also address integrity.)

History

This building was built to be an automobile repair shop, and was used as such for most of its history through 1964. Its first use, from 1919-1921, was as Melvin M. Swain's engine repair shop and Paige service station. The next known use, from 1926 to at least 1929, was completely different in character: it was The Bonboniere, a confectionary shop owned by Mary Nowlan and Margaret Doyle. In 1935 the building housed an automobile supply shop. The longest-term occupant was the Carburetor Exchange, which was here from at least 1946 to at least 1964.

The date the building façade was altered is unknown, but the current metal window suggests that alterations occurred in recent decades.

B11. Additional Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) _____

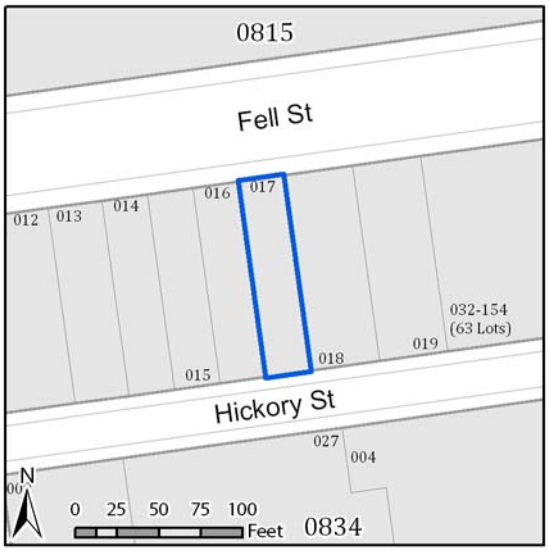
***B12. References:**
Building permit #87937 (August 13, 1919)
Building and Engineering News, August 20, 1919.
Crocker-Langley and Polk's city directory, and PT&T reverse directory listings for occupants of this building, 1920-1964
1928 Sanborn map: 149-151 Fell, "store"

B13. Remarks:

***B14. Evaluator:** William Kostura
Date of Evaluation: August 2009

(This space reserved for official comments.)

(Sketch map with north arrow required)



Integrity

This building possesses integrity of location and setting. The façade alterations resulted in loss of integrity of design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Evaluation

Due to loss of integrity, this building does not appear to be eligible for the California Register of Historical Resources under criteria 1, 2, or 3.

This is part of a cluster of five auto-related buildings in a row of six lots. (The others are #s 131, 155, 159, and 165-167 Fell.) Only two of these, #s 159 and 165-167 Fell, possess more than 50% integrity, and thus no possibility of a potential automobile-related historic district appears to exist in this cluster.