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

PRIMARY RECORD

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

 *Resource Name or #: (Assigned by recorder) 1143 Post Street

P1. Historic name of building (if any): _____
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 Location: *a: County San Francisco ☐ Not for Publication ■ Unrestricted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 1143 Post Street City San Francisco Zip 94109
d. UTM: Zone _____; _____mE/ _____ mN *e. Assessor's parcel #: Block 694, lot 15

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

This one-story-plus-mezzanine brick masonry building fills the width of its 27'-6" wide lot and runs through the block to Cedar Street. At the first story level the building is clad in stucco, and in the mezzanine level the red brick walls are exposed. In composition the building is symmetrical, and two bays in width. The top of the façade is a simplified Doric order; it consists of a parapet topped by a course of slightly projecting headers, a profiled cornice supported by block modillions, a frieze with triglyphs, and a narrow architrave of three layers. End piers in the form of pilasters support the order. Within the mezzanine are two arched windows with layered casings, each with a keystone that also lends visual support to the order above. Half-pilasters with capitals support the arches. All window and entrance openings have non-original metal fames or sash.

*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
1917, building permit

*P7. Owner and Address:
KIRCHER GERDA H
3518 WEBSTER 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: October 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) 1143 Post Street

B1. Historic Name: _____

B2. Common Name: _____

B3. Original Use: electrical shop B4. Present Use: unknown

***B5. Architectural Style:** Classical Revival

***B6. Construction History:** (Construction date, alterations, and date of alterations)

Built in 1917. Window and door openings altered at an unknown date. First story wall surface possibly altered.

***B7. Moved?** ■ No ☐ Yes ☐ Unknown **Date:** _____ **Original Location:** _____

***B8. Related Features:**

none

B9a. Architect: Earle B. Bertz b. Builder: Allen and Co.

***B10. Significance: Theme** architecture **Area** San Francisco

Period of Significance n/a **Property Type** commercial **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 in 1917 by the prominent real estate developer Allen and Co. to designs by architect Earle B. Bertz. Bertz trained as a draftsman under architect Albert Farr and opened his own office in 1917, the year 1143 Post was built. During his long career (into the 1940s) he did mainly residential design. His major client, by far, was Allen and Co., for whom Bertz designed dozens of houses in Sea Cliff during 1919-1925, many of them quite fine. (Examples include 2700, 2720, 2900, and 2910 Lake, 540 El Camino del Mar, 45 McLaren, 80 Sea View, and 250 Sea Cliff, all 1923-1929.) His work for Allen and Co., in turn, led to commissions from other clients for large houses in Sea Cliff, St. Francis Wood, and other locales. 1143 Post is one of Bertz's earliest commissions, and it predates all of Bertz' known residential work for Allen and Co. It is possible that this building paved the way for Bertz's later, important career as a residential architect.

(See Continuation Sheet, page 3.)

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

***B12. References:**

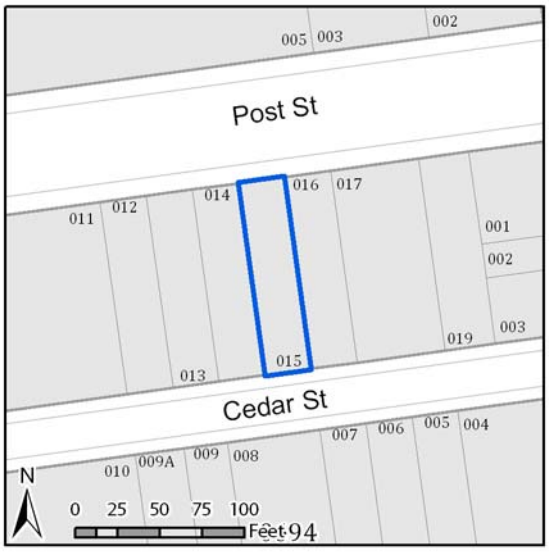
Building permit #78580 (October 3, 1917)
Crocker-Langley and Polk's city directory, and PT&T reverse directory listings for occupants of this building, 1918-1953
1929 Sanborn insurance map ("auto repair")
1948 Sanborn insurance map ("Turkish baths")

B13. Remarks:

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

(This space reserved for official comments.)

(Sketch map with north arrow required)



History (continued)

The intended use of this building was stated to be an "office and shop," according to the original building permit. The first occupant, during 1917-1919, was Motor Electrical Specialty Co., an electric supplies business. It does not seem that they specialized in automotive work.

The next nine occupants were connected with the automotive industry. Five were auto repair shops, two sold auto supplies, and two offered automobile financing. All occupied this building for only a few years or less, and some occupied this building simultaneously. They included:

1921-1922: San Francisco Auto Service and Repair Station
1922: Norman Piston Ring Co.
1923: Warford-Pacific auto supplies
1927-1929: Floyd Rucker, auto repair
1927: Hammel-Gerke Co., auto accessories
1933: Walter W. Carr, auto finance
1933: R. E. Lahey, auto finance
1937: A&M Service garage
1938: Dunn Brothers auto repair

The total known use of this building by auto-related businesses was for less than seventeen years. Afterward, from 1941 through at least 1953, this building was occupied by a Turkish baths.

Integrity

Clearly the windows and entrance have been altered with new sash and frames. Less certain is whether the stucco surface on the first story is an alteration. Building permits do not say, but it seems likely that the entire façade was originally faced in brick, and that the stucco surfacing is an alteration.

In sum, this building retains integrity of location and setting, while integrity of design, materials, workmanship, and feeling have been largely diminished. Integrity of association has been largely lost as no vehicle entrance remains.

Evaluation

This is one of more than 100 buildings along the Van Ness Avenue corridor that have a history as automobile support structures, and that are being evaluated for possible historic significance according to the criteria of the California Register of Historical Resources. With a few exceptions, these buildings were auto showrooms, public garages, auto repair shops, auto parts and supplies stores, and auto painting shops. The time period that is being studied is from the initial years of the automobile industry in San Francisco through 1964. Among the factors that have been considered when evaluating a building are its date of construction, its longevity of auto-related use, the importance of its occupants in local auto industry history, integrity, and architectural quality. These factors, and how they apply to evaluations of buildings, are discussed in a cover report, *Van Ness Auto Row Support Structures, 1908-1964*.

(Continued next page.)

Evaluation (continued)

This building was completed in 1913, but the first known auto-related use came in 1921. Thus, this is a moderately early example of an automobile repair shop and auto accessories store; and a moderately late example of an auto financing office. Longevity for each use was brief, and longevity for all auto uses combined was moderate.

For these reasons, and because of its lessened integrity, this building does not appear to be eligible for the California Register of Historical Resources under criteria 1 or 2.

Architecturally, the upper zone of this building is rather fine, especially for a building of such modest dimensions. Its quality is partially offset by the definite alteration of the window sash and the likely alteration of the first story finish. This building is also interesting due to its being from the first year of Earle B. Bertz' practice, and its being his first known work for Allen and Company, the firm that lifted Bertz's career into prominence. However, Bertz is important mainly for his residential work, and this is a commercial building. All in all, this building does not appear to be eligible for the California Register under Criterion 3, primarily due to loss of integrity.

Cornice detail