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) 1116 Post Street

P1. Historic name of building (if any): James W. McAlister auto showroom annex
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 Location: *a: County San Francisco ☐ Not for Publication ■ Unrestricted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 1130 Post Street City San Francisco Zip 94109
d. UTM: Zone _____; _____mE/ _____ mN *e. Assessor's parcel #: Block 691, lot 3

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

This five-story, stucco-clad reinforced concrete building fills the width of its 68'-9" wide lot and runs through the block to Hemlock Street. In composition the façade is divided into three bays, of which the wider central bay projects a few inches forward relative to the others. Windows are rectangular and filled with industrial steel sash. In style, the building may be considered to be a very restrained example of Streamlined Moderne. The first story has been generally remodeled.

*P3b Resource Attributes: HP7 – five-story commercial building. HP8 – industrial building

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

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

*P6. Date Constructed/Age and Source: ■ Historic ☐ Prehistoric ☐ Both
1947; Sanborn map

*P7. Owner and Address:
VAN NESS POST CENTER LLC
50 CALIFORNIA ST #1900
SAN FRANCISCO CA 94111

*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) 1116 Post Street

B1. Historic Name: James W. McAlister auto showroom annex

B2. Common Name: _____

B3. Original Use: annex to auto showroom B4. Present Use: _____

***B5. Architectural Style:** Streamlined Moderne

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

Built in 1947. First story altered ca. 1990.

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

***B8. Related Features:**

none

B9a. Architect: unknown b. Builder: unknown

***B10. Significance: Theme** auto industry **Area** San Francisco

Period of Significance n/a **Property Type** auto sales annex **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 constructed in 1947 for owner James W. McAlister as an annex to his auto showroom, which was located next door at 1200 Van Ness Avenue. McAlister had been a stockholder in the auto sales business of H. O. Harrison since at least 1911, when Harrison built 1200 Van Ness as his showroom. In about 1931 McAlister succeeded to Harrison's business of selling Chrysler and Plymouth automobiles, and he acquired the building at 1200 Van Ness then as well. McAlister sold Chryslers and Plymouths until the early 1950s, and then switched to selling Buicks. He purchased lots to the east of 1200 Van Ness in 1945-1946 and built 1116 Post on the land the following year. The 1948 Sanborn insurance map states that this building was used for auto storage and spray painting. A 1955 yellow pages display ad for McAlister's Buick sales business includes a crude drawing showing 1200 Van Ness and 1116 Post as the home of his business. It is clear that McAlister's business was so extensive that 1200 Van Ness – itself quite a large building – was insufficient to his needs, requiring the construction of this building as an annex. *(Continued next page.)*

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

***B12. References:**

Crocker-Langley and Polk's city directory listings for occupants of the adjacent building, 1200 Van Ness, 1912-1953

1948 Sanborn insurance map ("auto storage, spray painting, built 1947")

Sales Ledgers 1945-1946 (lots sold to James W. McAlister)

PT&T yellow pages, Sept. 1955, display ad for Jas. W. McAlister

Note: No building permit for this building could be found.

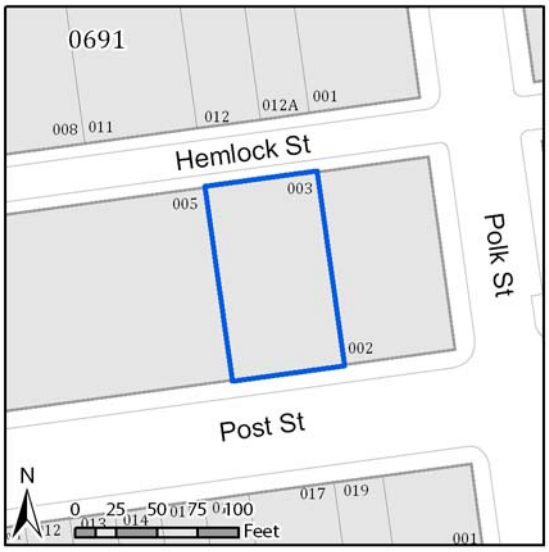
B13. Remarks:

***B14. Evaluator:** William Kostura

Date of Evaluation: October 2009

(This space reserved for official comments.)

(Sketch map with north arrow required)



History (continued)

The auto showroom at 1200 Van Ness was thoroughly altered in ca. 1990. That project left the façade of 1116 Post untouched, save for the first story.

Besides 1116 Post, several large auto showrooms stand in the study area that included spaces for auto storage and auto painting as well as for auto sales. Furthermore, three buildings stand that housed independent auto painting shops well before 1947 (e.g. 731-799 Van Ness, 1349 Larkin and 1575-1595 Bush).

Integrity

The first story has been altered, and the rest of the façade is unchanged. The building retains integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, setting, feeling, and association.

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*.

Built in 1947, this is a late example of a building used to support automobile sales. With up to 17 years of such use in its history through 1964, it has moderate longevity in this use.

Many buildings in the study area were used as automobile showrooms at much earlier dates. Some of them also held large storage spaces and auto painting shops. The fact that 1116 Post was used only as an annex for an auto showroom diminishes its importance further. Finally, a few buildings in the study area held auto painting shops at a substantially earlier date than this one did. For these reasons, this building does not appear to be eligible for the California Register of Historical Resources under Criterion 1.

With the alteration of 1200 Van Ness, this is the last building standing that represents James W. McAlister, a fairly important, if relatively late, San Francisco auto dealer. This building, however, does not represent McAlister very well, as it was only an annex to his auto showroom. Accordingly, this building does not appear to be eligible for the California Register under Criterion 2.

Architecturally, this building is an extremely restrained example of the Streamlined Moderne style. It thus does not appear to be eligible for the California Register under Criterion 3.