

PRIMARY RECORD

Primary # _____
HRI # _____
Trinomial _____
CHR Status Code: 7

Other Listings _____
Review Code _____ Reviewer _____ Date _____

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Resource Name or #: (Assigned by recorder) 1450 LAGUNA ST

P1. Other Identifier: Chinese Consulate

*P2. Location: Not for Publication Unrestricted

*a. County: San Francisco

*b. USGS Quad: San Francisco North, Californi Date: 1995

c. Address: 1450 LAGUNA STREET

City: San Francisco

ZIP 94115

d. UTM Zone: Easting: Northing:

e. Other Locational Data: Assessor's Parcel Number 0711 012

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

1450 Laguna Street is located on a 137.5' x 91' lot on the southeast corner of Laguna Street and Geary Boulevard. It shares the same address as buildings on the two parcels to the east, which are under the same ownership and use. The primary façade faces west onto Laguna Street and the secondary façade faces north onto Geary Boulevard. Built in 1936, 1450 Laguna Street is a 3-story over raised basement, wood frame, government building designed in the Classical Revival style with Art Deco influences. The U-plan building, clad in smooth stucco, is capped by a flat roof. The foundation is not visible.

The primary façade faces west. The building features 2 entrances on the primary facade. The recessed main entry is located at the center of the primary façade at the first story level, and features paneled, wood double doors with a glazed transom. The entry has a molded surround that incorporates a prominent keystone. Sculpted stone Foo-dogs flank the entry and a gilded emblem is located above the entryway. Concrete stairs lead up from the main entry into an enclosed entry vestibule. (continued)

*P3b. Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) HP14. Government Building

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

P5a. Photo



P5b. Description of Photo:

View of primary and north facades, looking southeast. 11/13/2007

*P6. Date Constructed/Age:

Historic Prehistoric Both

1936 SF Assessor's Office

*P7. Owner and Address

CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE PE
1450 LAGUNA ST

SAN FRANCISCO CA 94115

*P8. Recorded By:

Page & Turnbull, Inc., DL
724 Pine Street
San Francisco, CA 94108

*P9. Date Recorded: 11/13/2007

*P10. Survey Type:

Reconnaissance - Level 1

*P11. Report Citation: (Cite survey report and other sources, or enter "None")

Japantown Better Neighborhood Plan

*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):

*Recorded By: Page & Turnbull, Inc., DL

*Date Recorded: November 2007 Continuation Update

*P3a: Description (continued):

A secondary entry is located on the south side of the main façade at the basement level, and features a paneled wood door with a molded surround and a broken pediment. Other basement level entries, denoted by molded surrounds and keystones, appear to have been infilled. The primary window type is a sliding aluminum sash with a transom light. The windows at the second and third story levels above the main entry are united by a molded surround with a keystone and a balcony decorated with brackets and sculpted panels is located below the second story window. Flagpoles project from the balcony. First story windows to the north of the primary entrance have round arched openings. The northwest corner is beveled and features a balcony supported by corbels. Quoining accents the corners of the primary facade and scored pilasters similar to the quoining separate the structural bays of the façade. A molded water-table delineates the basement level, and the primary façade terminates in a parapet adorned with a molded cornice. A square tower with round vents and a pyramidal roof clad in green ceramic tile rises above the roofline near the center of the façade, but not directly above the entry. There is a flagpole on top of the tower and the corners of the tower are adorned with pilasters.

The north façade is decorated in a manner similar to the primary façade. Windows on the first story, including some with round arch openings surmounted by keystones, appear to have been infilled. A molded water-table delineates the basement level, while a molded stringcourse separates the first and second stories. Quoining and horizontally scored pilasters divide the façade into structural bays at the second and third story levels. The cornice is identical to that on the primary façade.

The building appears to be in good condition.



Detail of primary façade.
Source: Page and Turnbull

State of California - The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
CONTINUATION SHEET

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*Recorded By: Page & Turnbull, Inc., DL

*Date Recorded: November 2007 Continuation Update



Detail of primary entrance.
Source: Page and Turnbull

BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD

*NRHP Status Code 3S

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*Resource Name or # (assigned by recorder) 1450 Laguna Street

___ B1. Historic name: San Francisco Japanese Salvation Army
 ___ B2. Common name: Consulate-General of the People's Republic of China
 ___ B3. Original Use: Community center
 ___ B4. Present use: Government; consulate
 ___ *B5. Architectural Style: Classical Revival; Art Deco

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

1937: Constructed. Second floor classrooms converted to meeting rooms. Post-1954: Gym addition constructed, two dormitories added. (Permit records were not available due to building's current status as a government consulate building. Construction history was derived from original DPR 523 A form completed in 1979.)

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

*B8. Related Features: Gym and dormitory buildings to east.

B9a. Architect: Unknown b. Builder: Unknown

*B10. Significance: Theme Cultural community development Area: Japantown, San Francisco, California
 Period of Significance 1937 - 1941 Property Type Civic Applicable Criteria A/1
 (Discuss importance in terms of historical or architectural context as defined by theme, period, and geographic scope. Also address integrity)

Salvation Army Major Masasuke Kobayashi was responsible for organizing the Japanese Division of the American Salvation Army in 1919. The son of a samurai, Kobayashi immigrated to the United States in 1902 and promptly converted to Presbyterianism. In 1910, he became involved with the Salvation Army of America as the general secretary of a Japanese American interdenominational evangelical board. He returned to Japan in 1915 to attend Salvation Army Officer's Training School in Tokyo and there became more familiar with the organization's operations in Japan. During his three year term in Japan, Kobayashi learned about the Japanese organization's ideals and structure, which were militaristic in a way that spoke to his own samurai background. Upon returning to the United States, he established the headquarters for a Japanese Division of the American Salvation Army in San Francisco. He later spread the Japanese Division to Hawaii and Washington. Within California, chapters of the Japanese Division quickly sprang up in Los Angeles, Fresno and Stockton within a year of its initial establishment in San Francisco. (continued)

B11. Additional Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) HP14. Government building, HP31. Community Center/Social Hall, HP36. Ethnic minority property (JA)

***B12. References:**

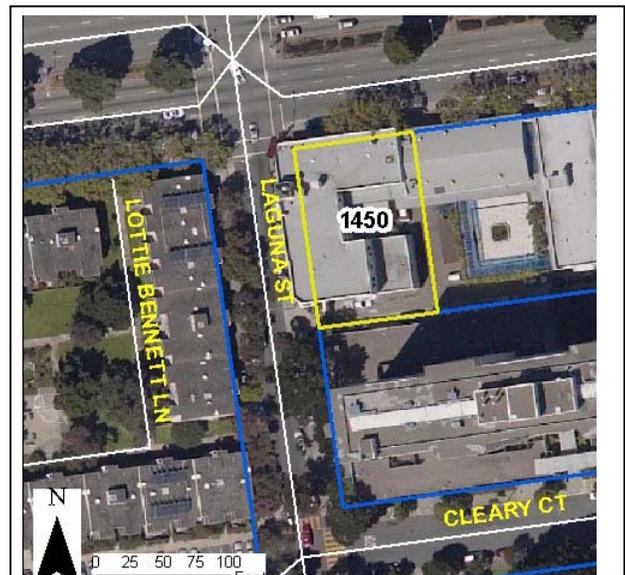
The Japanese American Directory, San Francisco: The Japanese American News, Inc., 1941.
Japantown Task Force, *Images of America: San Francisco's Japantown*. San Francisco: Arcadia Publishing, 2005.
(continued)

B13. Remarks:

*B14. Evaluator: Caitlin Harvey, Page & Turnbull/
Matt Weintraub, SF Planning Department

*Date of Evaluation: May 2009

(This space reserved for official comments.)



B10. Significance (continued)

The Japanese Division of the Salvation Army in San Francisco provided English classes; in fact, all classes were taught in English, for it was Major Kobayashi's belief that "anyone saved to God in the [Japanese Salvation Army] Center must be saved in the language of this nation. It is part of the Japanese convert's religion to speak and know the language of his adopted country." Other Salvation Army offerings included "Americanization" courses, antigambling campaigns, a publication known as *Tokinokoe* (Voice of the Time), and health services such as a dispensary, maternity hospital, a home for the elderly, and a shelter for Japanese girls. The organization was particularly concerned with the social welfare of widows, orphans and the elderly. The building at 1450 Laguna Street was used as an orphanage for Japanese children from broken homes.

In 1937, Major Kobayashi led the fundraising campaign to construct a new headquarters building at the corner of Laguna and Geary streets, a site formerly occupied by four residential buildings and a shop. The property was purchased by the Salvation Army in 1921 from Adam Gifford, a religious social worker. The Emperor of Japan donated \$5,000 to begin the fund and additional money was raised both within the Japantown community and in Japan. It was one of four community facilities in Japantown (along with Kinmon Gakuen, the Japanese YWCA and the Japanese YMCA) to be financed in this way. Due to the 1913 Alien Land Law, which restricted people of Japanese ancestry from owning property, however, Kobayashi and the Japanese Salvation Army could not purchase the property at 1450 Laguna Street. Therefore, a land trust was formed and the Salvation Army of America purchased the property using the funds raised by the Japanese American community. It then held the title to the property in its own name for the Japanese Division. Union labor was employed in the construction of the building, which was subsequently picketed by unemployed Japanese laborers who were denied membership to the union. Nevertheless, the building was completed in February 1937. It was the first Salvation Army facility that was exclusively Japanese in the United States.

In 1941, just prior to World War II, a Japanese American directory shows that an entity known as Social Settlement, as well as a women's home, were located at 1450 Laguna Street in conjunction with the Salvation Army. The Salvation Army, itself, was referred to as the Japanese Salvation Army Soko Shotai. 1941 was also the year that Major Kobayashi died, and subsequently, leadership of the Japanese Division of the Salvation Army weakened. A 1942 newspaper article reports that the Salvation Army cut all ties with Japan during World War II. The Salvation Army building at 1450 Laguna Street was used to store the personal belongings and property of Japantown community members who were interned. It was also utilized as a training center for the larger Salvation Army organization.

Ultimately, the war effectively weakened ties between the Salvation Army and the Japanese American community. When Japanese Americans returned to San Francisco after the war, a request was made to the Salvation Army that the community be allowed to use the building as a hostel to provide shelter for those left homeless by internment. Although the Salvation Army had agreed to hold the building in trust for the Japanese Americans, the request was refused. From that time on, Japanese American involvement with the Salvation Army diminished. It was noted that "one old ministry was gone: the Japanese Division was not restored after the war, nor were the few Japanese officers who had remained loyal sent back to California..." (McKinley) Those Japanese American officers who remained active with the Salvation Army were allied with the American Western Division rather than the Japanese Division.

In 1975, the Salvation Army decided to put the building at 1450 Laguna Street up for sale, which brought the issue of the land trust to the surface again. The impending sale evoked an outcry from the Japanese American community, which felt that since funds for the purchase of the property and construction of the building had been raised by the community, the structure belonged to them. As a result of this protest, an agreement was reached that stipulated that the Salvation Army would set aside \$75,000 from the sale of the building to go towards the construction of a Japanese community center. It is unclear if this promise was carried out, and if so, where the money was eventually used; however, the Japanese Salvation Army building was sold to the Chinese government and is now used as the Consulate-General of the People's Republic of China.

The San Francisco Japanese Salvation Army at 1450 Laguna Street has diminished integrity of association, as it is no longer used as community center, and now has government uses that are associated with a non-Japanese American ethnic group. The building retains integrity of location, having never been moved from its original location. Its integrity of setting is diminished as the neighborhood where it is located was drastically reshaped by redevelopment projects in the 1960s and 1970s. Though the area remains generally residential, the street grid around the Salvation Army building has been reconfigured and it is now surrounded by modern apartment buildings and complexes. The building possesses some integrity of design, materials, workmanship, and feeling. Few major alterations appear to have been made to the original building; however, a number of large additions were constructed at the rear of the building. They are differentiated in design and massing, and the form and materials of the original 1937 block remain generally intact.

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*Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) 1450 Laguna Street

*Recorded by: Page & Turnbull

*Date May 2009

Continuation

Update

B10. Significance (continued)

The San Francisco Japanese Salvation Army at 1450 Laguna Street appears to be eligible for listing in the National or California registers or for local listing. The building's associations with the Japanese American community began at its construction in 1937 and persisted until World War II. It represents the community-building efforts of Japanese Americans in San Francisco; the importance of religion, community values, civic service, and personal betterment in Japanese American society; and the struggles for civil rights and community recognition that the Japanese Americans encountered. Along with other significant properties like the Japanese YWCA and Japanese YMCA, the building fits into the context of community organizations in Japantown, particularly that of religiously affiliated Japanese missions.

The status code of 3S assigned to this property means that it has been determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as an individual property through survey evaluation. It is therefore also eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources and for local listing. This property was not assessed for its potential to yield information important in prehistory or history, per National Register Criterion D.

B12. References (continued)

Kerstetter, Todd M., *Gods Country, Uncle Sam's Land*, Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 2006.

Koga, Sumio. "A Centennial Legacy: History of the Japanese Christian Missions in North America, 1877-1977." Chicago: Nobart, Inc., 1977.

McKinley, Edward H. *Marching to Glory: The History of the Salvation Army in the United States of America, 1880-1980*. San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1980.

Pease, Ben. San Francisco's Japantown and Western Addition maps; 1910, 1920s, 1940, 1948-49, 1956-59, 1972, 2004.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps: 1893, 1899, 1913, 1950.

San Francisco Assessor's Office, sales ledgers.

San Francisco Japantown Better Neighborhood Plan Historic Context Statement, 2009.

San Francisco Block Books: 1894, 1901, 1906, 1909.

San Francisco Chronicle, "The Salvation Army Cuts Off Relations with Japanese," 1/21/1942, p. 9.

San Francisco City Directories.

San Francisco Department of Building Inspection, permit records and plans.

San Francisco Examiner, "Jap Salvation Army Home is Dedicated," 11/7/1921, p.13.

Yamato, Alex. California Department of Parks and Recreation Historic Resources Inventory forms: Japanese Salvation Army Building, 12/20/1979.