

## SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

### **Minor Permit to Alter Case Report**

**HEARING DATE: NOVEMBER 15, 2017** 

1650 Mission St. Suite 400 San Francisco, CA 94103-2479

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 Filing Date:
 March 5, 2013

 Case No.:
 2013.0254H

 Building Permit:
 2017.01.18.7427

 Project Address:
 56 Mason Street

Conservation District: Kearny-Market-Mason-Sutter Conservation District

Category: Category IV - Contributing

Zoning: RC-4 (Residential-Commercial High Density) District

80-T-120-T Height and Bulk District

*Block/Lot:* 0341/008

Project Sponsor: Deilly Echeverri

Sinbordes Design 450 Pittman Road, #237

Fairfield, CA 94534

Staff Contact: Alexandra Kirby - (415) 575-9133

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*Reviewed By* Tim Frye - (415) 558-6625

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#### PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

**56 MASON STREET** is located on the southeast corner of Mason Street at Eddy Street (Assessor's Block 0341; Lot 008). The subject building is a Category IV (Contributing) building and locally designated under Article 11, Appendix E of the Planning Code. It is located within a RC-4 (Residential-Commercial High Density) Zoning District with an 80-T-120-T Height and Bulk limit.

56 Mason Street was originally constructed in 1908 as the Bristol Hotel and is listed as a Contributory building in the Kearny-Market-Mason Sutter Conservation District under Article 11 of the Planning Code as well as a contributor to the Uptown Tenderloin Historic district on the National Register of Historic Places. The building is a four-story masonry Beaux-Arts-influenced apartment-hotel typical to the surrounding district.

#### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed scope of work is for the restoration of existing windows on the upper (2<sup>nd,</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>) floors of the two primary facades, along Mason Street (west) and Eddy Street (north) and the replacement of the non-historic storefront along the Eddy Street (east) frontage. The existing hotel windows are comprised of double hung windows with wood frames including ogee lugs and are arranged in alternating rows of double and single windows. The rows of double windows terminate with an arched window on the third (top) floor. Of the 75 windows, 73 retained both original sashes, one retained the original upper sash, and one had been entirely replaced with a non-original casement window. On 47 windows, the historic glazing has either been replaced with Plexiglas or is broken or missing, and many

windows will require partial replacement of sash, framing, or hardware. In total there are 68 window sashes that appear to be sound enough to be repaired and rehabilitated, and only seven require either total or partial replacement, according to the conditions assessment provided by the project sponsor. The seven new windows will match the original windows in size, material, configuration and profile.

As part of the scope of work, two non-historic storefronts along the Mason Street façade will be modified with new fenestration to better match the historic design of the building. There are no original historic storefront windows on the building to inform the proposed design, and historic photos don't provide clear details on the original storefronts. The subject property is called out as the location of the Black Cat Café in the *LGBTQ Historic Context Statement*, however no photos exist to corroborate the location of the café at the ground story or reflect to historic design of the café, which was located at 56 Mason from 1911 to 1921.<sup>1</sup>

The new storefront design will create a more cohesive ground story and simplify the Mason Street façade by removing eclectic non-historic fenestration. The new storefront window system will consist of a powder-coated aluminum frame with a transom to match the window configuration shown in historic photographs. The three existing entry doors along this façade will be replaced with new ADA-compliant glazed doors with a push-button system. A vent at the far south end of the storefront will be covered with a minimal powder-coated grille. The bulkhead will be clad in a smooth stucco finish to match the existing finishes along the Eddy Street façade.

Please see photographs and plans for details.

#### OTHER ACTIONS REQUIRED

The proposed project will require a Building Permit.

#### COMPLIANCE WITH THE PLANNING CODE PROVISIONS

The proposed project is in compliance with all other provisions of the Planning Code.

#### APPLICABLE PRESERVATION STANDARDS

#### **ARTICLE 11**

Pursuant to Section 1110 of the Planning Code, unless delegated to the Planning Department Preservation Staff through the Minor Permit to Alter process pursuant to Section 1111.1 of the Planning Code, the Historic Preservation Commission is required to review any applications for the construction, alteration, removal, or demolition for Significant buildings, Contributory buildings, or any building within a Conservation District. In evaluating a request for a Permit to Alter, the Historic Preservation Commission must find that the proposed work is in compliance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, Section 1111.6 of the Planning Code, as well as the designating Ordinance and any applicable guidelines, local interpretations, bulletins, related appendices, or other policies.

The proposed work conforms to the scopes of work delegated to Department staff for Minor Permit to Alter review in HPC Motion No. 0289; however a hearing was requested by a member of the public. The

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Donna J. Graves & Shayne E. Watson. *Citywide Historic Context Statement for LGBTQ History in San Francisco*. 2015. All extant photos of the Black Cat Café show the business' second location in North Beach, address unknown.

proposed work most closely relates to Scope No. 2(a) (Window replacement) and Scope No. 8 (Replacement of non-historic storefronts). All of the work described above is consistent with the architectural character of the building, District, and the Secretary Standards.

#### **SECTION 1111.6 OF THE PLANNING CODE**

Section 1111.6 and Section 1111.2, as it relates to signage, of the Planning Code outline the specific standards and requirements the Historic Preservation Commission shall use when evaluating Permits to Alter. These standards, in relevant part(s), are listed below:

(a) The proposed alteration shall be consistent with and appropriate for the effectuation of the purposes of this Article 11.

The proposed project is consistent with Article 11.

- (b) For Significant Buildings/Properties Categories I and II, and for Contributory Buildings Categories III and IV, proposed alterations of structural elements and exterior features shall be consistent with the architectural character of the building, and shall comply with the following specific requirements:
  - (1) The distinguishing original qualities or character of the building may not be damaged or destroyed. Any distinctive architectural feature which affects the overall appearance of the building shall not be removed or altered unless it is the only feasible means to protect the public safety.

The distinguishing historic qualities and character of the building will not be damaged or destroyed. All existing wood windows at the upper floors will be retained and restored by Wooden Window in accordance with the Conditions Assessment report provided by Page and Turnbull on December 5, 2016. Of the windows that will require replacement, 47 require replacement of glazing on one or both sashes due to inappropriate replacement with Plexiglas or other damage. Although the proposal would remove historic fabric by replacing seven of the original wood windows with new windows comprised of clear glass and wood sashes, the replacement windows will accurately match the size, shape, and profiles of the original windows, ensuring that the distinguishing historic character of the building will not be damaged or destroyed. No other historic fabric is proposed to be removed as part of this proposal.

The proposed storefront window modification will replicate the historic fenestration pattern of the property, reintroducing a traditional layout with a transom and bulkhead to set an appropriate precedent for future alterations. The existing storefront designs include a four-over-three aluminum frame window with clipped upper corners that have no clear permit history, but are not present in the 1976 Survey image; and a metal system that mimics a traditional storefront design with a modular aluminum bulkhead, central display window, and an opaque transom system with a vent at the far right (north) corner. No historic fabric will be removed in the reconstruction of the storefronts.

In compliance with Article 11, and with the Secretary's Standards Rehabilitation Standards 2 and 5, the proposed work will retain distinguishing historic qualities and character of the building and will avoid alteration of spaces, features, and spatial relationships that characterize the property and surrounding district.

(2) The integrity of distinctive stylistic features or examples of skilled craftsmanship that characterize a building shall be preserved.

The proposed window replacement work will not impact the integrity of any distinctive features or examples of skilled craftsmanship on the building or within the district. The existing wood windows that are in poor condition will be replaced with wood windows that match the historic conditions based on the existing original windows including matching the existing in size, profile, materials and finishes.

The proposed storefront design will not destroy any significant exterior materials as the storefront is a later alteration to the Mason Street frontage. The new design will be compatible with the historic property and surrounding district in size, scale, material, and character of the property and surrounding district. A contemporary aluminum frame sash will be used, although it will have a minimal depth and width, and be powder coated to minimize its visibility and the window design will replicate traditional proportions of the bulkhead, window and transom.

(3) Distinctive architectural features which are to be retained pursuant Paragraph (1) but which are deteriorated shall be repaired rather than replaced, whenever possible. In the event replacement is necessary, the new material shall match the material being replaced in composition, design, color, texture and other visual qualities. Repair or replacement of missing architectural features shall be based on accurate duplication of features, substantiated by historic, physical or pictorial evidence, if available, rather than on conjectural designs or the availability of different architectural elements from other buildings or structures. Replacement of non-visible structural elements need not match or duplicate the material being replaced.

The proposed work is limited to window repair where feasible and will only involve the replacement of windows as deemed necessary in the conditions assessment. The in-kind replacement of the irreparable windows is based on physical and photographic evidence and will not introduce conjectural designs or different architectural elements form other buildings or structures.

There is limited documentation of the original storefront design, but all new storefront features will replicate traditional storefront design with a consistent pattern and remove the non-historic windows.

(4) Contemporary design of alterations is permitted, provided that such alterations do not destroy significant exterior architectural material and that such design is compatible with the size, scale, color, material and character of the building and its surroundings. All historic residential windows will be restored and repaired as necessary in conformance with the provided conditions assessment report, retaining the greatest amount of historic material as possible. Where necessary, replacements will be comprised of clear glazing and wood sashes and matching the size, shape, profile and character of the historic windows that currently exist on the building. In-kind replacement of the irreparably damaged windows will not affect the integrity of distinctive features or craftsmanship that characterizes the contributing building.

The reconstruction of the storefronts at the ground story will not remove any historic material or character-defining features of the building.

(5) All exterior alterations, including signage and awnings, shall be compatible with the character-defining features of the building and/or the historic district.

The proposal is found to be compatible with Appendix E of Article 11 of the Planning Code in terms of Massing, Composition, Scale, Materials, Detailing, and Ornamentation.

#### THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR'S STANDARDS

Rehabilitation is the act or process of making possible a compatible use for a property through repair, alterations, and additions while preserving those portions or features that convey its historical, cultural, or architectural values. The Rehabilitation Standards provide, in relevant part(s):

**Standard 2:** The historic character of a property shall be retained and preserved. The removal of historic materials or alteration of features and spaces that characterize a property shall be avoided.

The proposal is to repair all historic windows at the upper residential levels; all necessary replacement windows will match the existing in size, texture, color, shape, massing and finish. These changes will not remove distinctive materials, nor irreversibly alter features that characterize the building.

The storefront replacement at the Mason Street (east) façade will remove non-historic materials to create a more compatible storefront design.

Standard 3: Each property shall be recognized as a physical record of its time, place, and use. Changes that create a false sense of historical development, such as adding conjectural features or architectural elements from other buildings, shall not be undertaken.

No proposed work shall add conjectural features to the subject property. The proposed storefront replacement will introduce a compatible yet contemporary design to the east ground story facade by using contemporary materials (powder-coated aluminum frame windows) in a traditional design.

#### Standard 5:

Distinctive features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of fine craftsmanship that characterize a property will be preserved.

The distinctive features and finishes of the building will be retained and preserved to the greatest extent possible. The scope of work will be limited to the repair and rehabilitation of the residential windows and replacement of a non-historic storefront.

#### Standard 6:

Deteriorated historic features will be repaired rather than replaced. Where the severity of deterioration requires replacement of a distinctive feature, the new feature will match the old in design, color, texture, and where possible, materials. Replacement of missing features will be substantiated by documentary and physical evidence.

In accordance with the window assessment report prepared by Page & Turnbull, the proposed window treatment will repair all windows that remain adequately intact. All replacement features will match the existing in design, color, texture, and materials.

No documentary evidence exists for the original design of the historic storefronts. As such, the sponsor will install a simple powder-coated aluminum sash storefront system with features that mimic the historic design of the building date of construction, including a transom and solid bulkhead.

#### Standard 9:

New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction will not destroy historic materials and features that characterize the building. The new work will be differentiated from the old and will be compatible with the historic materials, features, size, scale and proportion, and massing to protect the integrity of the property and its environment.

The proposed work will not destroy historic materials or features that characterize the building. The new storefront system will be differentiated from the old fabric in physical material properties and will be compatible in materials, features, size, scale, and finish.

#### PUBLIC/NEIGHBORHOOD INPUT

The Department has received three public inquiries for general information about the proposed project and was requested to hold a public hearing during the 20-day notification period to the Historic Preservation Commission for the Minor Permit to Alter. The primary concern referenced was the potential effect on the existing authorized 41 Residential Hotel units at the subject property. No concerns regarding the proposed window rehabilitation or storefront replacement were referenced in the request for a hearing.

#### **ISSUES & OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

The attached Court Order dated September 12, 2017, stipulates that the property owner retain a Special Master and Receiver to oversee the completion of the project in a timely manner and that the property owner shall pay a rent differential for the prior tenants until the property is habitable at which point they have first right to reoccupy the property.

#### STAFF ANALYSIS

Staff has determined that the proposed work will be in conformance with the requirements of Article 11 and the *Secretary of Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation*. Proposed work will not damage or destroy distinguishing original qualities or character of the subject building. The overall proposal includes restoration of the historic windows and replacement of a non-historic storefront. Staff finds that the historic character of the building will be retained and preserved and will not result in the removal of historic fabric.

In order to ensure that details of the replacement GFRC units are consistent with the character and visual qualities of existing terra cotta cladding and that the units are installed appropriately, the Department recommends the following conditions of approval:

- 1. That prior to issuance of the Architectural Addendum, submittal of updated plans including a bulkhead section, material sample of the proposed grille, and transom details to shall require Planning Department Preservation Staff review and approval.
- 2. Prior to issuance of the Architectural Addendum, an on-site mock-up of the storefront, transom, and grille shall require review and approval by Planning Department Preservation Staff.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW STATUS**

The Planning Department has determined that the proposed project is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") as a Class 1 (State CEQA Guidelines 15301 – Minor alteration of existing facilities with negligible or no expansion of use) Categorical Exemption because the project is an alteration of an existing structure and meets the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*.

#### PLANNING DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

Planning Department staff recommends APPROVAL WITH CONDITIONS of the proposed project as it appears to meet the provisions of Article 11 of the Planning Code regarding Major Alteration to a Category I (Significant) Property and the Secretary of the Interior Standards for Rehabilitation.

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

**Draft Motion** 

Parcel Map

Sanborn Map

Aerial Photo

Zoning Map

Site Photos

Minor Permit to Alter Application

Project Sponsor submittal, including:

- Drawings including elevations and details

- Page & Turnbull Window Conditions Assessment Report
- Photos of Existing Building

Court Statement of Decision dated January 4, 2017 Court Receivership Order dated September 12, 2017

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## SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

# Historic Preservation Commission Draft Motion Permit to Alter

**MINOR ALTERATION** 

**HEARING DATE: NOVEMBER 15, 2017** 

1650 Mission St. Suite 400 San Francisco, CA 94103-2479

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*Block/Lot:* 0341/008

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Staff Contact: Alexandra Kirby - (415) 575-9133

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*Reviewed By* Tim Frye - (415) 558-6625

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ADOPTING FINDINGS FOR A PERMIT TO ALTER FOR MINOR ALTERATIONS DETERMINED TO BE APPROPRIATE FOR AND CONSISTENT WITH THE PURPOSES OF ARTICLE 11, TO MEET THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR'S STANDARDS FOR REHABILITATION, FOR THE CATEGORY IV (CONTRIBUTING) PROPERTY LOCATED ON LOT 008 IN ASSESSOR'S BLOCK 0341. THE SUBJECT PROPERTY IS WITHIN A RC-4 (RESIDENTIAL-COMMERCIAL HIGH DENSITY) ZONING DISTRICT AND AN 80-T-120-T HEIGHT AND BULK DISTRICT.

#### **PREAMBLE**

WHEREAS, on March 5, 2013, Deilly Echeverri of Sinbordes Design ("Applicant") filed an application with the San Francisco Planning Department ("Department") for a Permit to Alter for an exterior restoration. The subject building is located on Lot 008 in Assessor's block 0341, a Category IV (Contributing) building historically known as the Bristol Hotel and locally designated under Article 11, Appendix E of the Planning Code. Specifically, the proposal includes restoration of 68 historic windows at the residential levels (2<sup>nd</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> floors), replacement of seven (7) irreparable residential windows, and the replacement of a non-historic storefront system at the ground story of the Mason Street (east) façade.

Motion No. XXXX CASE NO 2012.1440H Hearing Date: March 20, 2013 300 Montgomery Street

WHEREAS, the Project was determined by the Department to be categorically exempt from environmental review. The Historic Preservation Commission (hereinafter "Commission") has reviewed and concurs with said determination.

WHEREAS, on November 15, 2017, the Commission conducted a duly noticed public hearing on Permit to Alter application No. 2013.0254H ("Project").

WHEREAS, in reviewing the application, the Commission has had available for its review and consideration case reports, plans, and other materials pertaining to the Project contained in the Department's case files, and has reviewed and heard testimony and received materials from interested parties during the public hearing on the Project.

**MOVED**, that the Commission hereby APPROVES WITH CONDITIONS the Permit to Alter, in conformance with the architectural plans dated July 31, 2017 and labeled Exhibit A on file in the docket for Case No. 2013.0254H based on the following findings:

#### CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL

- That prior to issuance of the Architectural Addendum, submittal of updated plans including a
  bulkhead section, material sample of the proposed grille, and transom details to shall require
  Planning Department Preservation Staff review and approval.
- Prior to issuance of the Architectural Addendum, an on-site mock-up of the storefront, transom, and grille shall require review and approval by Planning Department Preservation Staff.

#### **FINDINGS**

Having reviewed all the materials identified in the recitals above and having heard oral testimony and arguments, this Commission finds, concludes, and determines as follows:

- 1. The above recitals are accurate and also constitute findings of the Commission.
- 2. Findings pursuant to Article 11:

The Commission has determined that the proposed work is compatible with the exterior character-defining features of the subject property and meets the requirements of Article 11 of the Planning Code:

- That the seven new windows will match the existing in design, color, texture and finish;
- That the proposal respects the character-defining features of the subject building;
- That the architectural character of the subject building will be maintained and that replacement elements will not affect the building's overall appearance;
- That the integrity of distinctive stylistic features and examples of skilled craftsmanship that characterize the building shall be preserved; and,

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> That all new materials shall match the historic material in composition, design, color, texture, finish and other visual qualities and shall be based on accurate duplication of features.

For these reasons, the proposal overall, is appropriate for and consistent with the purposes of Article 11, meets the standards of Article 1111.6 of the Planning Code and complies with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation.

3. **General Plan Compliance.** The proposed Permit to Alter is, on balance, consistent with the following Objectives and Policies of the General Plan:

#### I. URBAN DESIGN ELEMENT

THE URBAN DESIGN ELEMENT CONCERNS THE PHYSICAL CHARACTER AND ORDER OF THE CITY, AND THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PEOPLE AND THEIR ENVIRONMENT.

#### **GOALS**

The Urban Design Element is concerned both with development and with preservation. It is a concerted effort to recognize the positive attributes of the city, to enhance and conserve those attributes, and to improve the living environment where it is less than satisfactory. The Plan is a definition of quality, a definition based upon human needs.

#### **OBJECTIVE 1**

EMPHASIS OF THE CHARACTERISTIC PATTERN WHICH GIVES TO THE CITY AND ITS NEIGHBORHOODS AN IMAGE, A SENSE OF PURPOSE, AND A MEANS OF ORIENTATION.

#### POLICY 1.3

Recognize that buildings, when seen together, produce a total effect that characterizes the city and its districts.

#### **OBJECTIVE 2**

CONSERVATION OF RESOURCES WHICH PROVIDE A SENSE OF NATURE, CONTINUITY WITH THE PAST, AND FREEDOM FROM OVERCROWDING.

#### POLICY 2.4

Preserve notable landmarks and areas of historic, architectural or aesthetic value, and promote the preservation of other buildings and features that provide continuity with past development.

#### POLICY 2.5

Use care in remodeling of older buildings, in order to enhance rather than weaken the original character of such buildings.

#### POLICY 2.7

Recognize and protect outstanding and unique areas that contribute in an extraordinary degree to San Francisco's visual form and character.

**Motion No. XXXX CASE NO 2012.1440H** Hearing Date: March 20, 2013 300 Montgomery Street

The goal of a Permit to Alter is to provide additional oversight for buildings and districts that are architecturally or culturally significant to the City in order to protect the qualities that are associated with that significance.

The proposed project qualifies for a Permit to Alter and therefore furthers these policies and objectives by maintaining and preserving the character-defining features of the subject property for the future enjoyment and education of San Francisco residents and visitors.

- The proposed project is generally consistent with the eight General Plan priority policies set forth in Section 101.1 in that:
  - A) The existing neighborhood-serving retail uses will be preserved and enhanced and future opportunities for resident employment in and ownership of such businesses will be enhanced:
    - The proposed project will improve storefront transparency and help to activate and enhance neighborhood-serving businesses. The existing storefront has been vacant for approximately two years.
  - B) The existing housing and neighborhood character will be conserved and protected in order to preserve the cultural and economic diversity of our neighborhoods:
    - The proposed project will strengthen neighborhood character by respecting the character-defining features of the building in conformance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards. Further, the proposed window replacement will ensure that the existing 41 Residential Hotel units in the building are adequately insulated and that the windows meet standard egress requirements, improving the safety and cultural and economic diversity of the surrounding neighborhood.
  - C) The City's supply of affordable housing will be preserved and enhanced:
    - The project will improve the prior conditions of the existing affordable housing on-site by providing improved operability and insulation. Previously many of the windows had been filled in with plexiglass to keep the elements out. All window restoration and replacement will meet present Code requirements.
  - D) The commuter traffic will not impede MUNI transit service or overburden our streets or neighborhood parking:
    - The proposed project will not result in commuter traffic impeding MUNI transit service or overburdening the streets or neighborhood parking. The project proposes no change in the number of existing residential and tourist hotel rooms on-site.
  - E) A diverse economic base will be maintained by protecting our industrial and service sectors from displacement due to commercial office development. And future opportunities for resident employment and ownership in these sectors will be enhanced:

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The proposed project is located in the Tenderloin neighborhood and will not have any direct impact on the displacement of industrial and service sectors.

F) The City will achieve the greatest possible preparedness to protect against injury and loss of life in an earthquake.

All construction will be executed in compliance with all applicable construction and safety measures.

G) That landmark and historic buildings will be preserved:

The proposed project is in conformance with Article 11 of the Planning Code and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards.

H) Parks and open space and their access to sunlight and vistas will be protected from development:

The proposed project will not impact the access to sunlight or vistas for the parks and open space.

5. For these reasons, the proposal overall, appears to meet the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards* and the provisions of Article 11 of the Planning Code regarding Major Alterations to Category I (Significant) buildings.

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#### **DECISION**

That based upon the Record, the submissions by the Applicant, the staff of the Department and other interested parties, the oral testimony presented to this Commission at the public hearings, and all other written materials submitted by all parties, the Commission hereby **GRANTS WITH CONDITIONS a Permit to Alter** for the property located at Lot 008 in Assessor's Block 0341 for proposed work in conformance with the architectural submittal dated July 31, 2017 and labeled Exhibit A on file in the docket for Case No. 2013.0254H.

APPEAL AND EFFECTIVE DATE OF MOTION: The Commission's decision on a Permit to Alter shall be final unless appealed within thirty (30) days after the date of this Motion No. XXXX. Any appeal shall be made to the Board of Appeals, unless the proposed project requires Board of Supervisors approval or is appealed to the Board of Supervisors as a conditional use, in which case any appeal shall be made to the Board of Supervisors (see Charter Section 4.135). For further information, please contact the Board of Appeals in person at 1650 Mission Street, (Room 304) or call (415) 575-6880.

**Duration of this Permit to Alter:** This Permit to Alter is issued pursuant to Article 11 of the Planning Code and is valid for a period of three (3) years from the effective date of approval by the Historic Preservation Commission. The authorization and right vested by virtue of this action shall be deemed void and canceled if, within 3 years of the date of this Motion, a site permit or building permit for the Project has not been secured by Project Sponsor.

THIS IS NOT A PERMIT TO COMMENCE ANY WORK OR CHANGE OF OCCUPANCY UNLESS NO BUILDING PERMIT IS REQUIRED. PERMITS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF BUILDING INSPECTION (and any other appropriate agencies) MUST BE SECURED BEFORE WORK IS STARTED OR OCCUPANCY IS CHANGED.

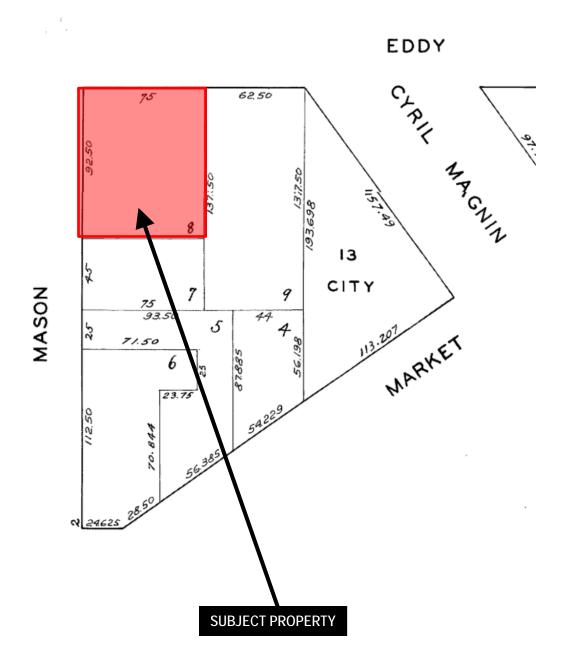
I hereby certify that the Historical Preservation Commission ADOPTED the foregoing Motion on November 15, 2017.

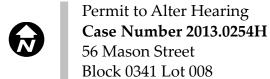
AYES:
NAYS:
RECUSED:
ABSENT:

ADOPTED: November 15, 2017

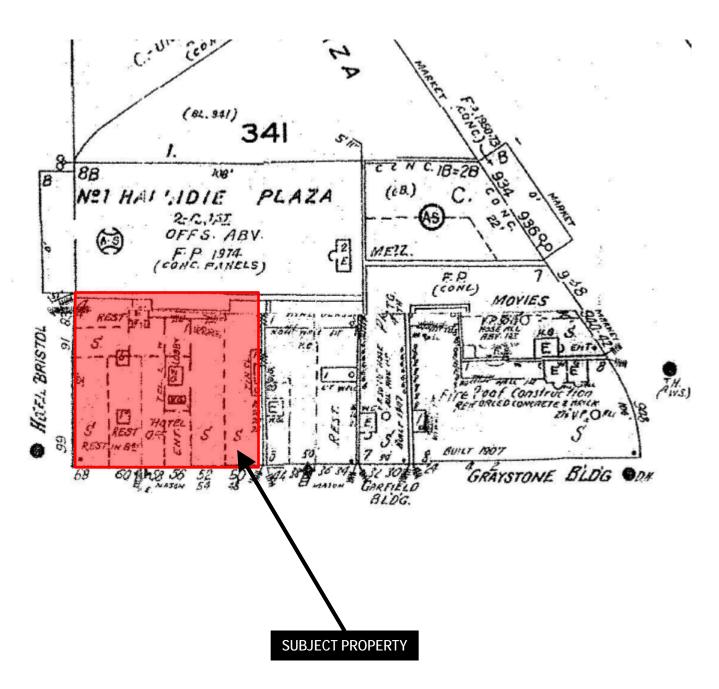
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## **Parcel Map**

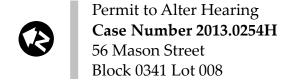




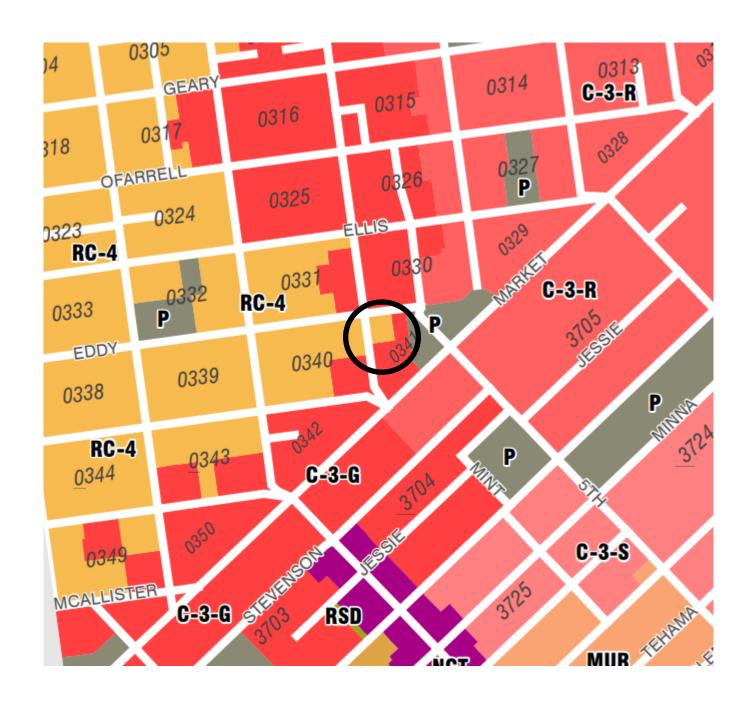
## Sanborn Map\*

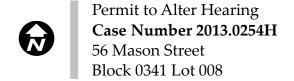


<sup>\*</sup>The Sanborn Maps in San Francisco have not been updated since 1998, and this map may not accurately reflect existing conditions.

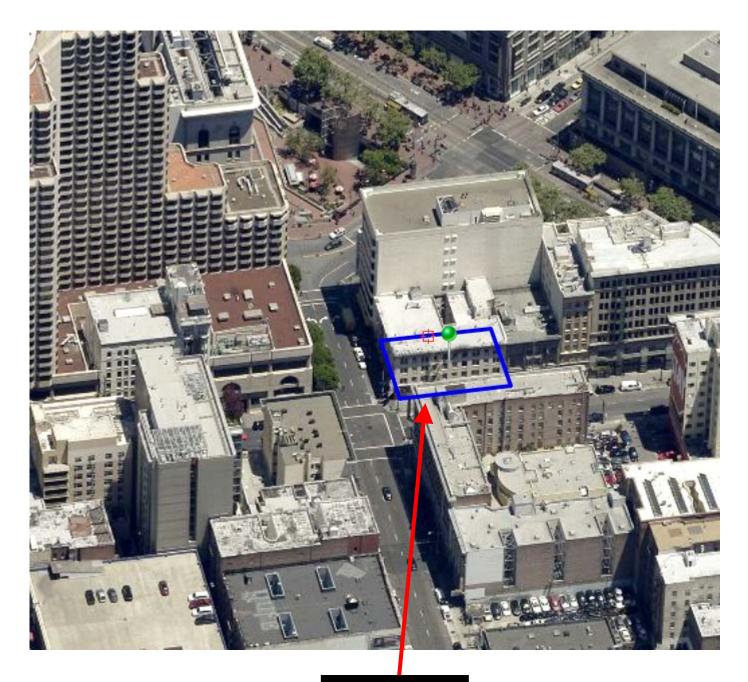


## **Zoning Map**





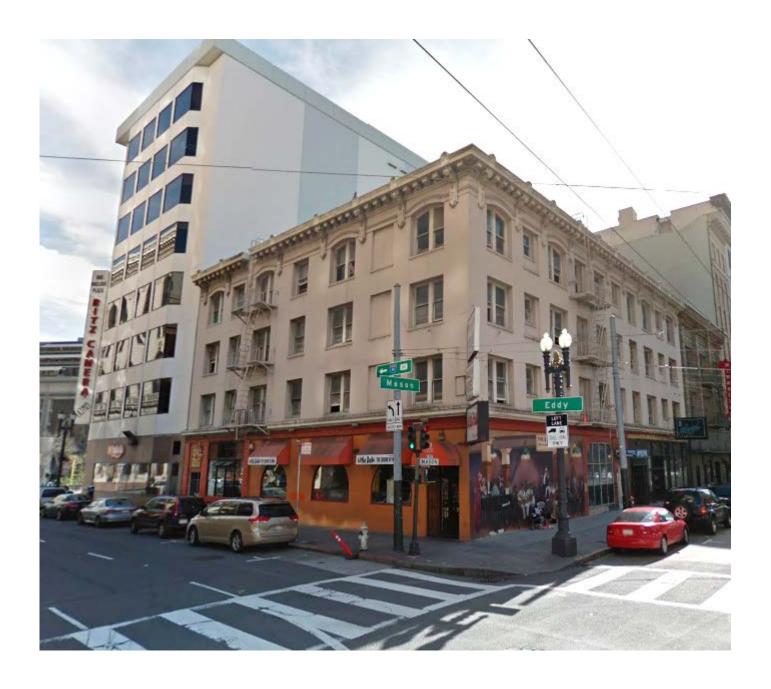
## Aerial Photo (looking east)



SUBJECT PROPERTY

Permit to Alter Hearing **Case Number 2013.0254H** 56 Mason Street Block 0341 Lot 008

## **Site Photo**

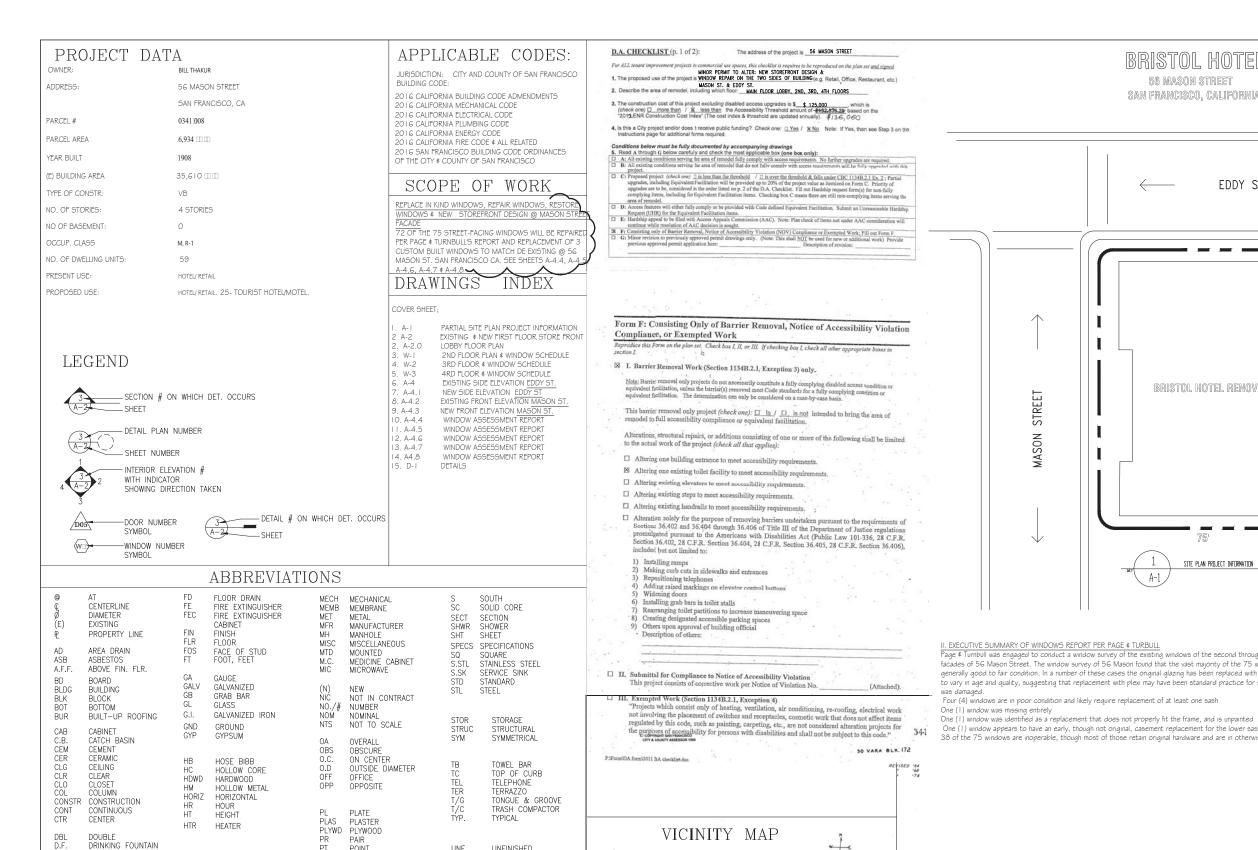


Permit to Alter Hearing Case Number 2013.0254H 56 Mason Street Block 0341 Lot 008

## **Historic Photo**



Permit to Alter Hearing Case Number 2013.0254H 56 Mason Street Block 0341 Lot 008



UNFINISHED

VERTICAL

WEST

WOOD

WITHOUT WATERPROOF

WATER HEATER

WAINSCOT

WEIGHT

WINDOW

UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

UON

VERT

W/ WD

WSCT

WDW

Q.T. QUARRY TILE

RISER

RADIUS

ROOF DRAIN

REFERENCE

REFRIGERATOR

REINFORCED

ROUGH OPENING

RAIN WATER LEADER

REQUIRED

RESILIENT

ROOM

RAD RD REF REFR

REINF REQ'D RESIL RM RO

INSIDE DIAMETER

INTERIOR

KITCHEN

LAMINATI

LAVATORY

LIGHT

JOINT

INSUL INT

KIT

LT

DIM DIA

DWR

DWG

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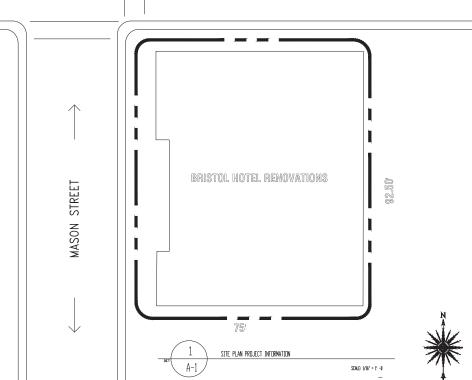
EQUAL

# VICINITY MAP -56 MASON S

#### BRISTOL HOTEL

EDDY STREET

**56 MASON STREET** SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA



Page \$ Tumbull was engaged to conduct a window survey of the existing windows of the second through fourth floors of the primary facades of 56 Mason Street. The window survey of 56 Mason found that the vast majority of the 75 windows are original, and in generally good to fair condition. In a number of these cases the original glazing has been replaced with plexiglass; the plexiglass appears o vary in age and quality, suggesting that replacement with plexi may have been standard practice for some time when a glass pane

Four (4) windows are in poor condition and likely require replacement of at least one sash

One (I) window appears to have an early, though not original, casement replacement for the lower sash

38 of the 75 windows are inoperable, though most of those retain original hardware and are in otherwise good to fair condition



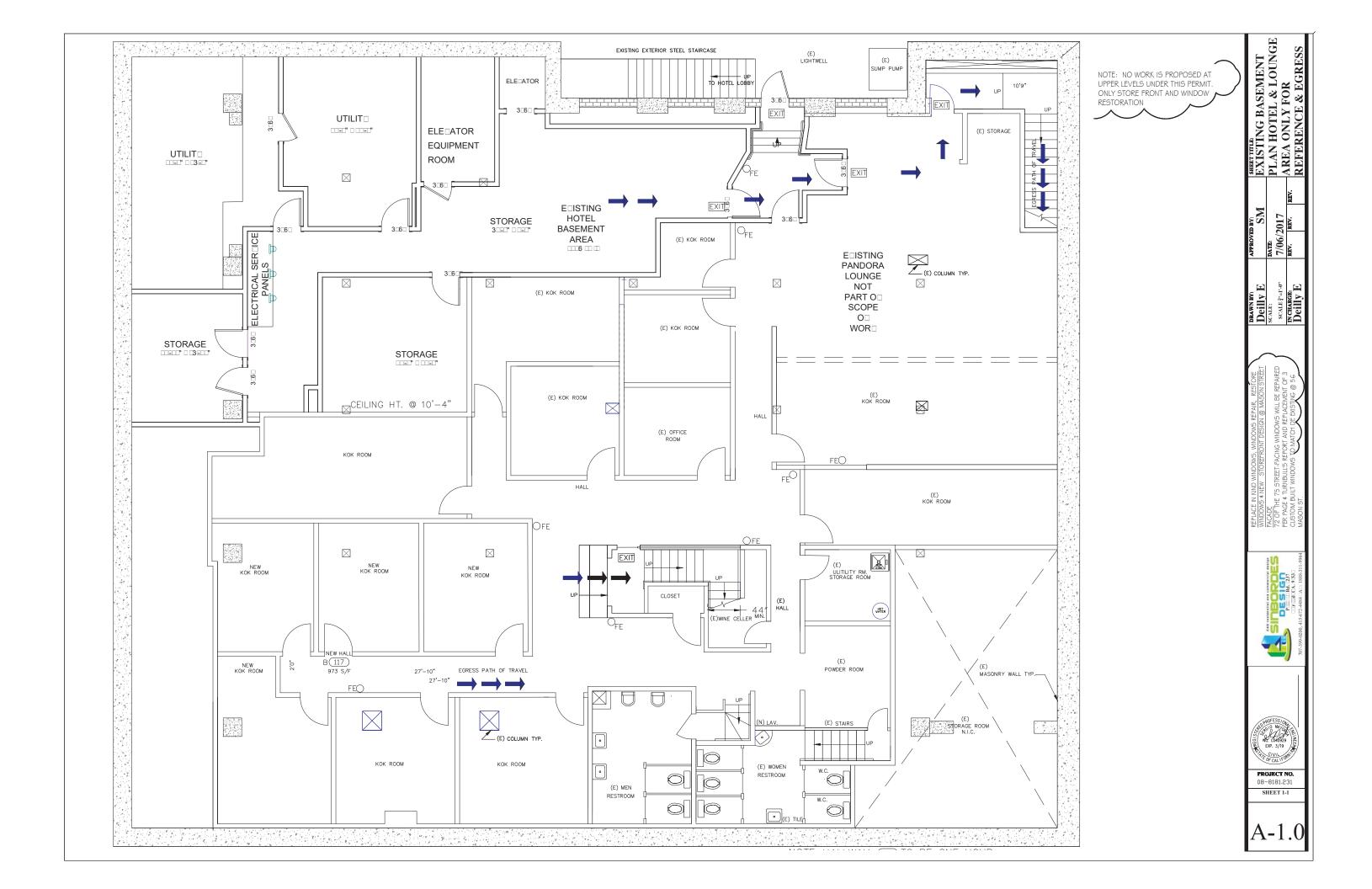
PARTIAL SITE P PROJECT INFORMATION

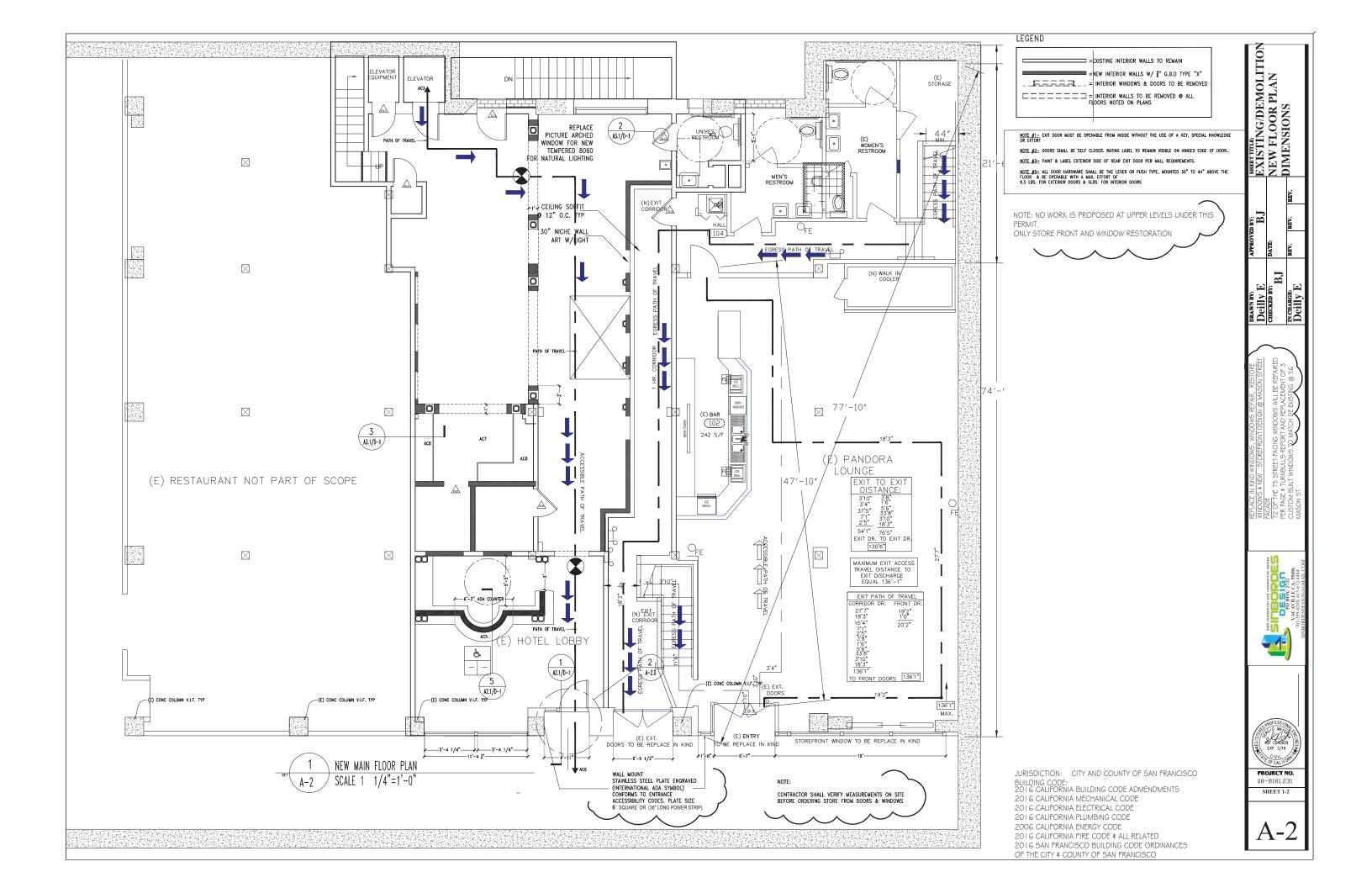
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08-8181.231 SHEET 1-1















EXISTING FRONT ELEVATION

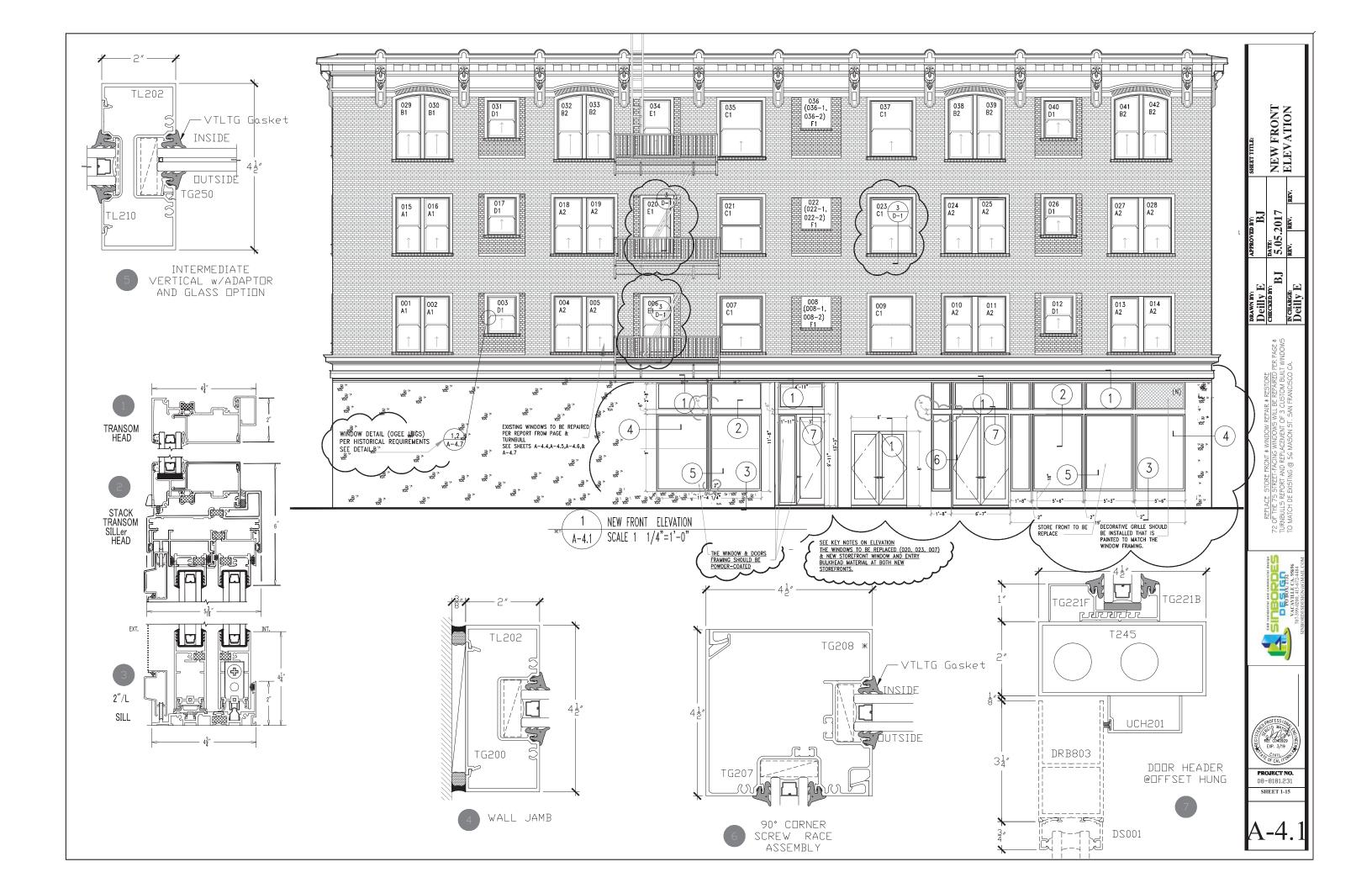
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PROJECT NO. 08-8181.231 SHEET 1-15

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JURISDICTION: CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO BUILDING CODE:

2016 CALIFORNIA BUILDING CODE ADMENDMENTS

2016 CALIFORNIA MECHANICAL CODE

2016 CALIFORNIA ELECTRICAL CODE 2016 CALIFORNIA PLUMBING CODE

2016 CALIFORNIA ENERGY CODE

2016 CALIFORNIA FIRE CODE \$ ALL RELATED

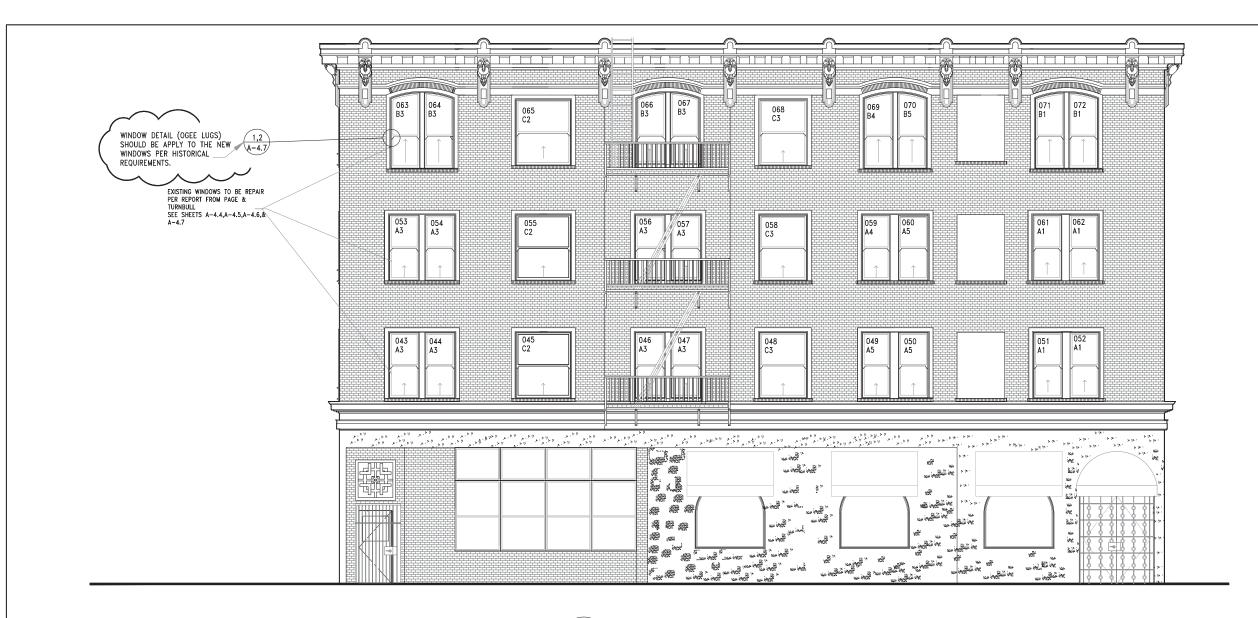
2010 SAN FRANCISCO BUILDING CODE ORDINANCES OF THE CITY & COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

EXISTING SIDE ELEVATION SCALE 1 1/4"=1'-0"

EXISTING SIDE ELEVATION BJ BJ



08-8181.231 SHEET 1-15



JURISDICTION: CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

BUILDING CODE: 2016 CALIFORNIA BUILDING CODE ADMENDMENTS

2016 CALIFORNIA MECHANICAL CODE

2016 CALIFORNIA ELECTRICAL CODE

2016 CALIFORNIA PLUMBING CODE

2016 CALIFORNIA ENERGY CODE

2016 CALIFORNIA FIRE CODE \$ ALL RELATED 2016 SAN FRANCISCO BUILDING CODE ORDINANCES

OF THE CITY & COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

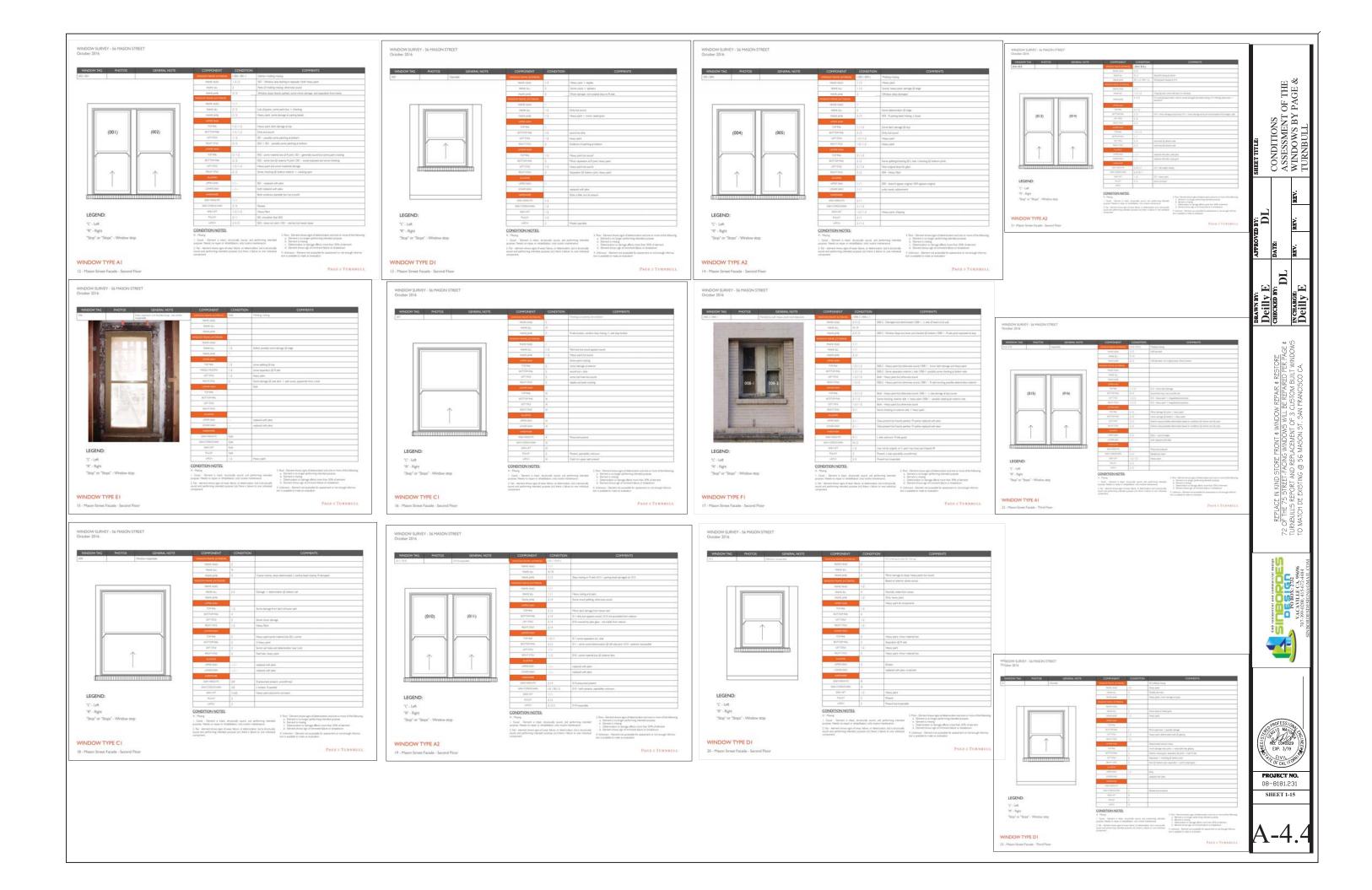
NEW SIDE ELEVATION A-4.3 SCALE 1 1/4"=1'-0"



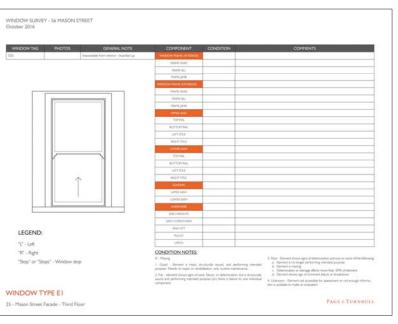


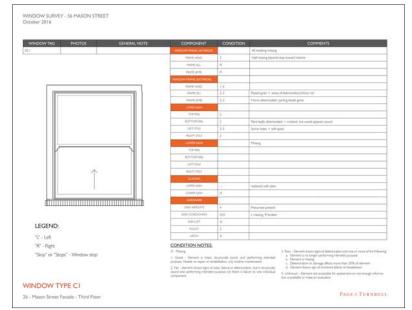


08-8181.231 SHEET 1-15

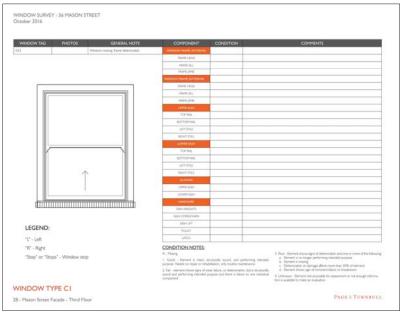


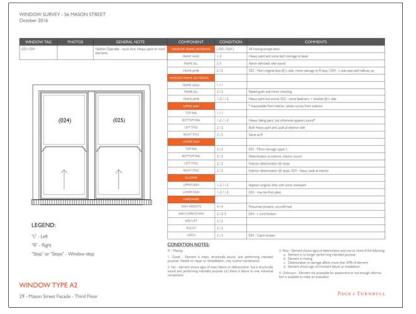


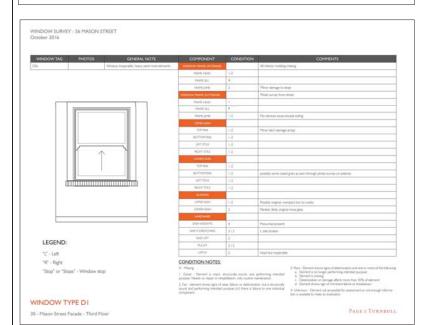




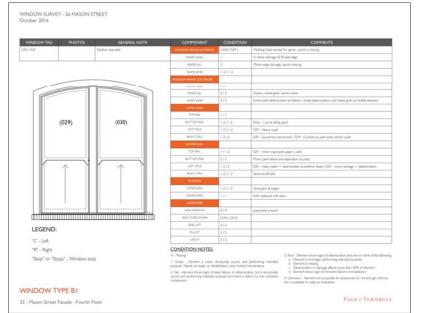




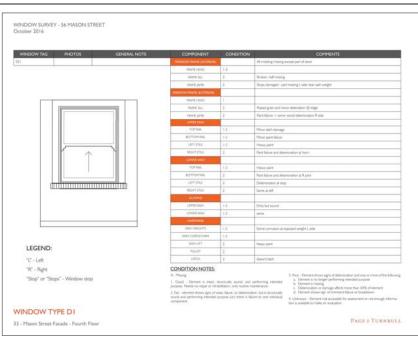




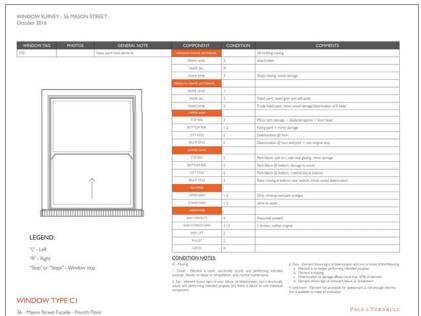






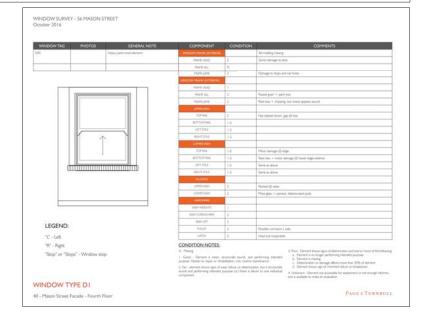


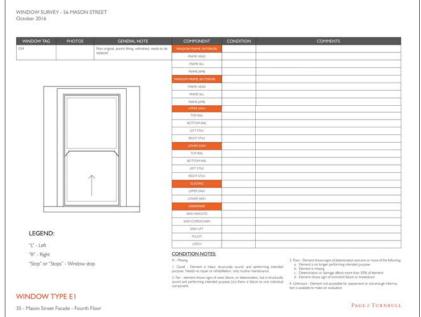


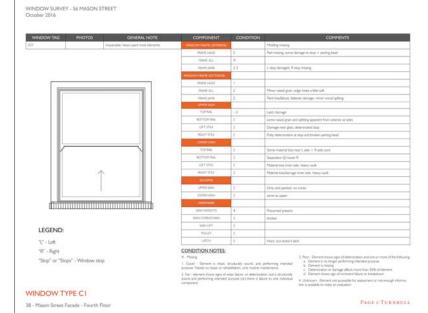


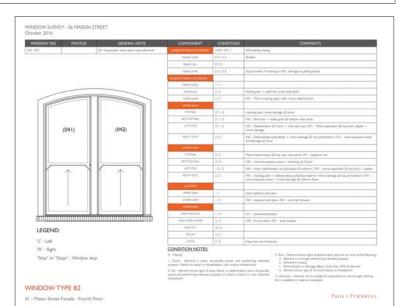










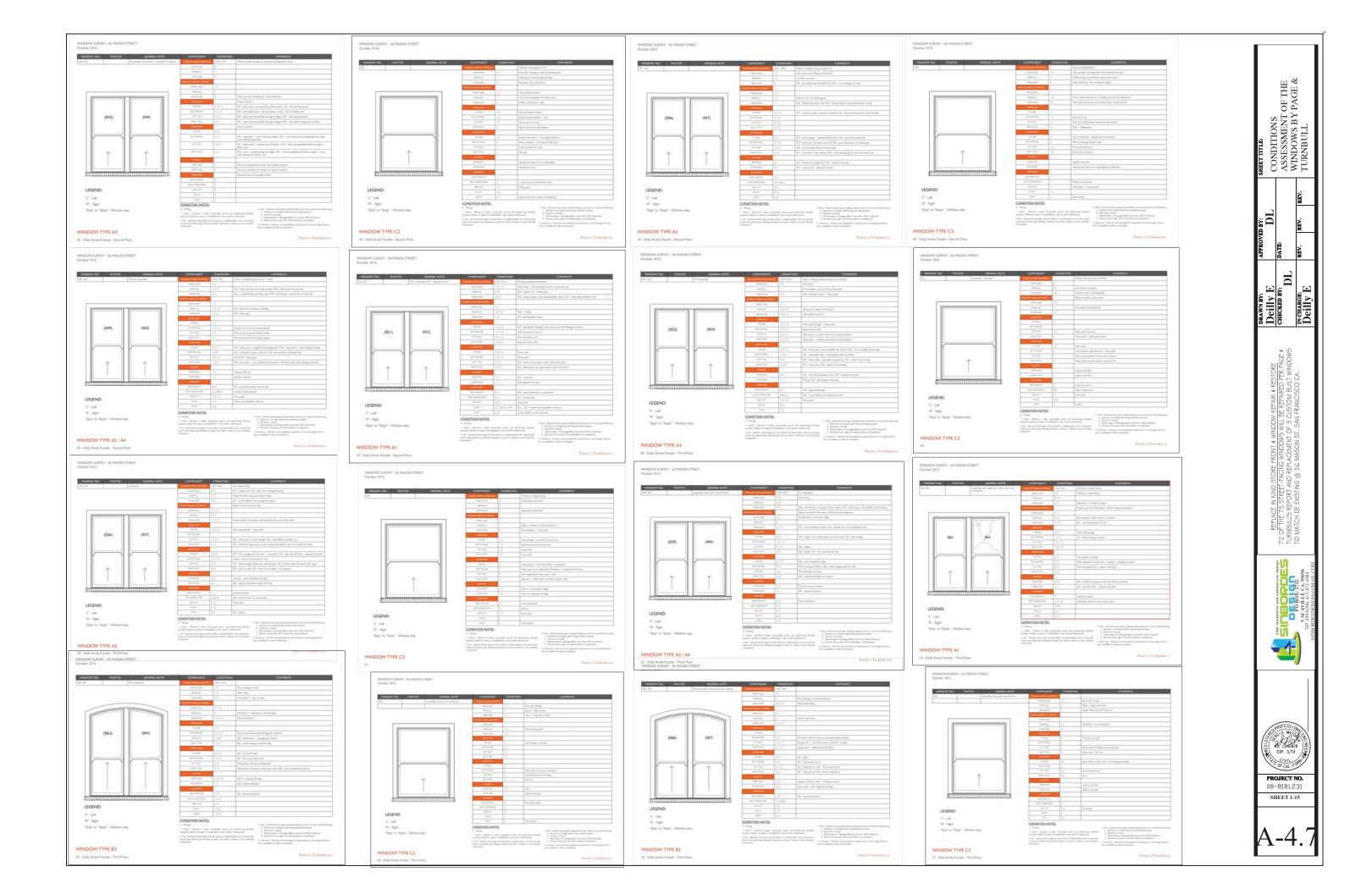


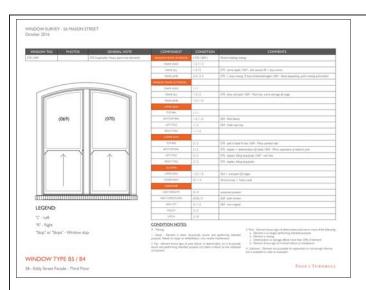


CONDITIONS ASSESSMENT OF THE WINDOWS BY PAGE & TURNBULL

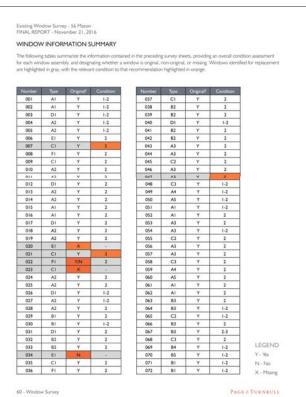
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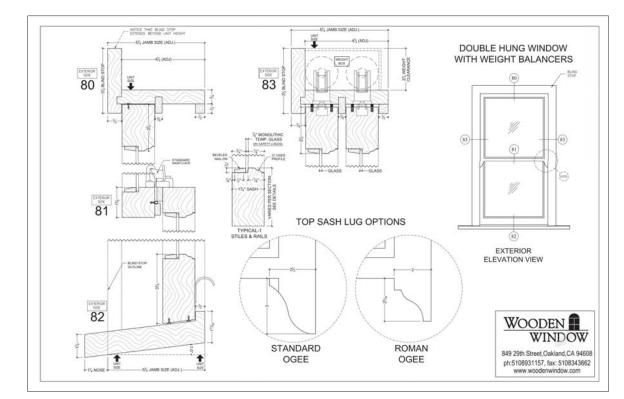




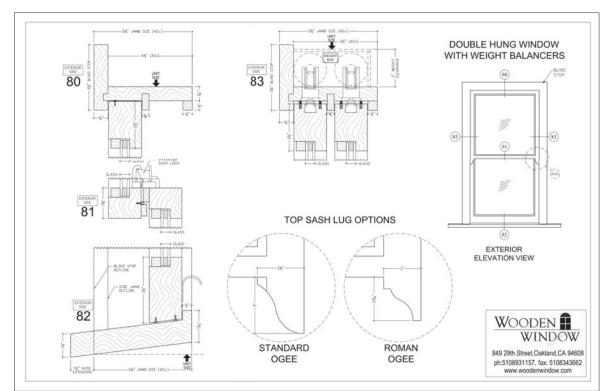


VI. CONCLUSION

PAGE & TURNBULL



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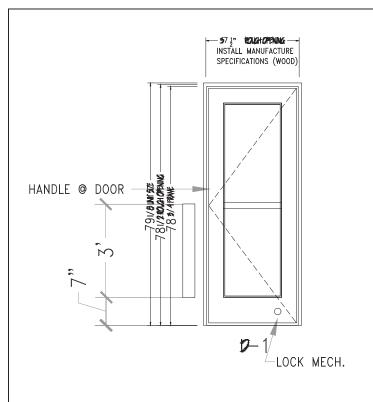
REPLACE IN KIND STORE FRONT & WINDOW REPA 72 OF THE 75 STREET-FACING WINDOWS WILL BE REI TURNBULL'S REPORT AND REPLACEMENT OF 3 CUSTO TO MATCH DE EXISTING @ 56 MASON ST. SAN FRAN

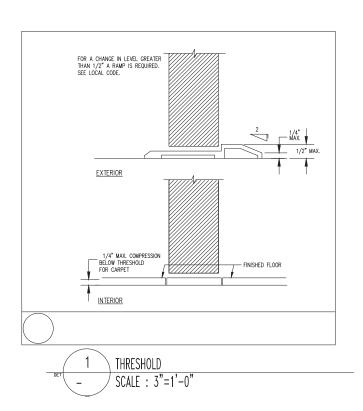


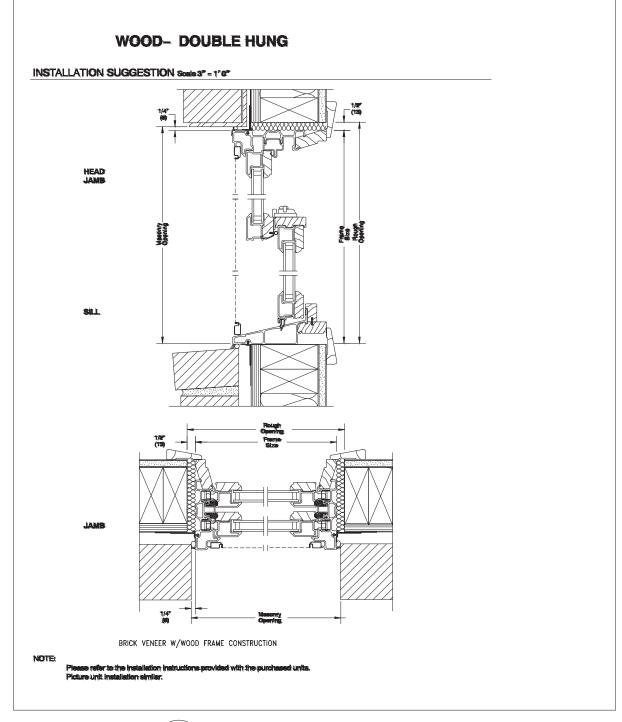


PROJECT NO. 08-8181.231 SHEET 1-15

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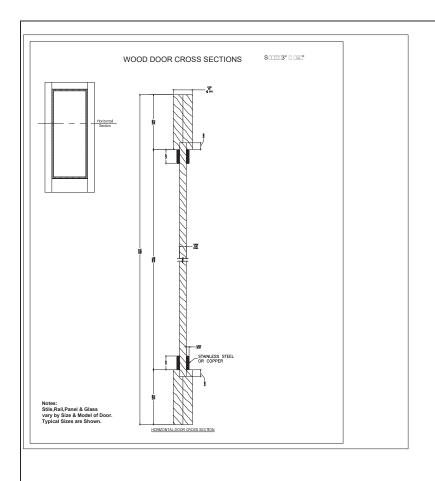




DETAILS

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PROJECT NO. 08-8181.231 SHEET 1-15

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# SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

# **Document Scanning Lead Sheet**

Jan-04-2017 10:23 am

Case Number: CGC-16-549984

Filing Date: Jan-04-2017 10:22

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Image: 05691200

STATEMENT OF DECISION

DAVID JARAMILLO ET AL VS. BALWANTSINH THAKOR ET AL

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# SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA

# JAN 9 4 2017 CLERK OF THE CO

### County of San Francisco

## **Department 624**

DAVID JARAMILLO, et al.,

CGC-16-549984

Plaintiffs,

v.

BALWANTSINH THAKOR,

individually and DBA THE BRISTOL

Defendants.

HOTEL, and DOES 1 to 100,

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STATEMENT OF DECISION

### **INTRODUCTION**

This matter was heard before the Court as a court trial since Plaintiffs sought the equitable remedy of specific performance of the subject contracts and no damages, which are the subject of other litigation currently before the appellate court. Trial commenced on October 25, 2016, and evidence concluded on October 27, 2016. Closing arguments were heard on November 4, 2016.

Further briefing and proposed statements of decision were ordered to be submitted by the parties by November 18, 2016, and the matter was ordered submitted at that time. The late filed declaration by Defendant long after the close of the evidence and closing arguments was nevertheless considered by the Court over Plaintiffs' objection. Having heard and considered all of the evidence presented, arguments of counsel, and reviewed all briefing, the Court issues its Statement of Decision.

### STATEMENT OF PLAINTIFFS' CLAIMS

Plaintiffs' Complaint contains two causes of action that went to trial (Defendant prevailed on demurrer to the third cause of action and Plaintiffs' counsel dismissed the second cause of action).

Both the first cause of action for specific performance<sup>1</sup> and the fourth cause of action for breach of contract are premised upon an alleged contractual right of the tenant Plaintiffs to return to the Bristol Hotel contained in settlement agreements which followed notices to temporarily vacate their units at the Bristol Hotel issued in November and December 2012 pursuant to subdivision (a)(11) of section 37.9 of the San Francisco Administrative Code. <sup>2</sup> The prayer for relief is "for specific performance of the obligation to return Plaintiffs to their apartments."

#### FINDINGS OF FACT

The Court makes the following findings of fact based upon the preponderance of the evidence presented at trial, and many were in fact undisputed:

1. Two prior settlement agreements in other actions for damages involving the same units at the Bristol Hotel and the same parties (hereinafter referred to as the *McCoy* and *Melvin* settlements) resulted in payments of monies to some of the Plaintiffs collectively in the total amount of \$1.5 million in one action and to the remaining Plaintiffs collectively in the total amount of \$1.25 million in

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> "Specific performance" is not a cause of action, but rather a remedy. As the Court is unable to issue judgments on *remedies*, it limits its analysis here to the fourth cause of action.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Chapter 37 of the San Francisco Administrative Code is customarily referred to as the "S.F. Rent Control Ordinance." Hereinafter, Chapter 37 will be referred to as the "Rent Control Ordinance."

the other. The *McCoy* and *Melvin* settlements were executed in November 2013 and June 2014 respectively, long after the subject temporary notices to evict had been served on Plaintiffs. (Exhibits 23 and 24.)

- 2. It is undisputed that the *McCoy* and *Melvin* settlements each contained carve out language expressly stating that the settlements did **not** affect the rights of the Plaintiffs to move back into the Bristol Hotel. In this respect, the *McCoy* settlement agreement provided that "this agreement does not release any right of any entitled claimant that previously received relocation fees to move back into the Bristol." (Exhibit 23, §(8)(e).) The *Melvin* agreement similarly exempted from the release language "the rights of those relocated pursuant to Notices of Relocation to move back into the Bristol Hotel," and provided that "those tenants who were relocated pursuant to the mandatory relocation will have the right to move back into the Bristol Hotel pursuant to their relocation rights." (Exhibit 24, §§ (4) and (10)(a).)
- 3. In August 14, 2014, Plaintiffs filed another action for damages based upon the delay in completion of the work preventing them from moving back into the Hotel. (See *Jaramillo v. Thakor*, # CGC 14-541227.) In October 2015, this trial court determined that as a matter of law all of Plaintiffs' claims for damages were barred by the broad release language contained in the *Melvin* and *McCoy* settlement agreements. There was no claim for specific performance of the carve outs in #CGC 14-541227.
- 4. Notices to evict Plaintiffs were issued pursuant to section 37.9(a)(11) in November and December 2012. (Exhibits 1-18.) Relocation expenses due under the Rent Control Ordinance were paid.
- 5. The initial permit application that pertained to the subject notices to quit was for a remodeling of rooms on the third and fourth floors, not for renovation or rehabilitation work that was

required to fall within the purview of section 37.9(a)(11). (Exhibit 110.) That permit application lapsed and was later cancelled. (Exhibit 89.)

- 6. Plaintiffs' expert's testimony that numerous permits were cancelled or expired due to numerous code violations was unrefuted. Mr. Kearney's testimony that the initial permit applications misrepresented the actual scope of work in an effort to take short cuts and to avoid required seismic and other code upgrades was similarly unrefuted. His testimony that, had the work been done in accordance with all code requirements in the first place and during regular working hours, the renovation should have been completed by mid-2014 at the latest, was also unrefuted.
- 7. The Hotel was gutted in early 2013. Almost four years later, at the time of trial the rough framing was not yet complete. This should have taken no more than six months. Defendant's own contractor testified that no electrical or plumbing permits had yet been obtained in contravention of the Rent Control Ordinance requirements that all permits be obtained before issuing the subject notices to vacate.
- 8. Work performed on the renovation has been woefully sporadic in the past three years. For example, no work was done between April 2014 and September 2015 because the framing contractor, Michael McNulty, was not paid. Moreover, he did not do any work for the first nine months of 2016 after Mr. Thakor stopped paying him at the end of 2015, and only started again later in September 2016, shortly before the trial date.
- 9. As of November 2013, Mr. Thakor's net worth was over \$15 million. In the first six months of 2013, he generated over \$1 million in net income. (Exhibit 38.) He owned and/or operated several other hotels in the city. He opted not to access more than a small fraction of his own assets and instead sought to obtain a construction loan for the subject renovation. The Bank of Guam met all of Mr. Thakor's terms and approved a loan of \$4.8 million in October 2013. (Exhibit 29.) The bank

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added terms of a \$50,000 mechanic's lien reserve and additional accepted collateral which the bank's vice president Mr. Hui-Bon-Hoa, as well as the loan broker called by the defense, Mr. Parajanwala, testified were standard practice in the industry. Mr. Thakor testified he had no problem with a mechanic's lien reserve. Yet, after receiving loan approval, Mr. Thakor chose not to move forward on the alleged basis that "my concern is about the result and additional time involved in securing a real estate appraisal." (Exhibit 31.) The unrefuted testimony by Mr. Hui-Bon-Hoa was that it would take two to three weeks to obtain an updated appraisal. Other banks were not interested in making a loan given a lis pendens on the property that was filed by the City of San Francisco in connection with a Stipulated Injunction action (Exhibit 43) and Mr. Thakor's low FICA score that, according to David Gonzales, a commercial loan officer called by the defense, was below the minimum required under commercial bank lending standards.

10. Defendant's son Kiran Thakor prepared a "marketing plan" for the Bristol that was submitted to various banks and to their loan broker. (Exhibit 37.) The plan indicated that after the renovation, which would "be completed by March of 2014 ... [t]he Hotel will be a mixed use with student housing and tourist guests staying." In August 2013, a Conversion Plan was prepared in which it was misrepresented that "agreements were made with existing tenants ... for them to move out permanently and convert the building into a fully tourist licensed hotel." (Exhibit 26.) Also in August 2013, Mr. Thakor signed an agreement with DKR Partners to effectuate the conversion. (Exhibit 25.) It "skipped" his mind to let anyone know that Plaintiffs had the right to return to the Bristol, notwithstanding that Defendants always knew and understood that they had that absolute right.

11. Defendant represented to various banks that he was in the process of converting the Bristol to exclusively tourist use and repeatedly failed to disclose that Plaintiffs were entitled to move

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back into the Hotel. Indeed, bankers Juan Abito, Nathan LaBudde and Mr. Hui-Bon- Hoa all indicated in their testimony at trial that they had entered into commercial loan discussions with Mr. Thakor upon the understanding that the Hotel was vacant and that no rent-controlled tenants would be returning. Tourist units would have had a much higher stream of income than was projected by the banks. Moreover, Defendant represented in loan applications in early 2013 that no litigation was pending at the time, which was false. (Exhibits 28, 32, and 84.)

12. More than six months after the Plaintiffs had been served with notices to vacate, in June 2013, Defendant filed a petition<sup>3</sup> before the Rent Board for an extension of time beyond the maximum allowable three-month period before a tenant must be allowed to move back in following an eviction under section 37.9(a)(11). Defendant sought to extend the time to April 2014 (based on Mr. Thakor's estimate of an additional nine months to complete the work). The petition was denied on a number of grounds including that it was untimely, that Defendant had failed to obtain all of the required permits in contravention of section 37.9(a)(11), and that "the landlord chose to schedule reduced work hours to accommodate the commercial tenants at the expense of a more timely completion of the work." (Exhibit 20.)

- 13. Mr. Thakor admitted that he scheduled the contractor's hours on a reduced schedule in at least parts of the building from 4:00 or 5:00 am until 9:00 am because he chose to keep the restaurant in the Hotel building in operation at all times.
- 14. At the time of trial, the City of San Francisco still had not approved window permits due to the failure of Defendant to provide the information requested by the City. The roof was not secure from leaks and the building was partially open to the outside. Structural work was still needed in the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> This procedure is provided for in subdivision (e)(1) of section 12.15 of the San Francisco Rent Board Rules and Regulations, as well as section 37.9(a)(11) of the Rent Control Ordinance.

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lobby, penthouse, and roof areas. Speedy Construction has a contract with Mr. Thakor for \$1.6 million to perform the plumbing, electrical, HVAC, and finishing work.

- 15. Only a four-person crew was working at the Hotel since recommencing work in late September 2016.
- 16. Great hardship has been suffered by the Plaintiffs because of the continued delays in being able to return to their homes at the Hotel. During the four years since their eviction, several Plaintiffs have been rendered homeless for lengthy periods of time, one having to live in a van for eighteen months and one living on church steps for many months. Several are scrambling to pay much higher rents with great difficulty. Several are severely disabled or suffer from significant health problems. Others have had to stay nightly in various hotels at a cost of \$100-200 per night when their rent at the Bristol had been \$800 per month. And on some nights they simply cannot afford to pay and have to go to a shelter. Others have had to "couch-surf" each night.
- 17. At the time of trial Mr. Thakor had obtained a major loan commitment to fund the completion of the project. In November 2016, he obtained a loan of \$2.5 million.
- 18. At the time of trial, the necessary electrical or plumbing permits still had still not been obtained for the work, which may implicate Mr. Thakor's Stipulated Injunction<sup>4</sup> with the City and County of San Francisco. (Exhibit 43.)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> On November 19, 2014, Mr. Thakor entered into a Stipulated Injunction with the City and County of San Francisco in order to resolve a lawsuit brought by the City. The Complaint was based on various causes of action, including deprivation of tenancy rights; public nuisance per se based on violations of San Francisco's Building Code, Housing Code, and Health Code; general public nuisance; and violations of state housing law, among others. The Stipulated Injunction enjoins and restrains Mr. Thakor from maintaining properties in such as manner and condition that 1) violates California Civil Code section 1941 (which mandates that a landlord must provide habitable premises); 2) violates the San Francisco Building Code; 3) violates the San Francisco Health Code and 4) violates San Francisco Administrative Code. The Stipulated Injunction further provides the City an option to seek the appointment of a receiver to the Bristol Hotel in the event Mr. Thakor violates the terms.

# THE PRIOR SETTLEMENT AGREEMENTS PRESERVED A CONTRACTUAL RIGHT FOR THE PLAINTIFFS TO MOVE BACK INTO THE BRISTOL WITHIN A REASONABLE TIME

As stated above, both the *McCoy* and *Melvin* settlement agreements carved out a narrow exemption to the broad release language which consisted of an express contractual right of the Plaintiffs who were served with relocation notices and/or received relocation payments under section 37.9(a)(11) to move back into the Bristol. No time was specified. Where a contract does not specify the time for performance a reasonable time is allowed. (Civ. Code, § 1657.) When confronted with the question of what constitutes a reasonable time, courts consider the situation of the parties, the nature of the transaction, and the facts of the particular case. (*Marshall & Co. v. Weisel* (1966) 242

Cal.App.2d 191, 194.)

Here, the situation and nature of the transaction involved the service on Plaintiffs by

Defendant of sixty-day Notices of Intent to Remove Unit for Capital Improvements and/or Substantial
Rehabilitation under section 37.9(a)(11) of the Rent Control Ordinance in November and/or

December 2012. (Exhibits 1-18.) The Notices specified that the required relocation expenses would
be paid under section 37.9C and evidence was adduced that they were paid to the remaining Plaintiffs.

In determining whether four or more years is a reasonable amount of time within which to perform

such work, the statutory language in section 37.9(a)(11) must be considered. It provides, in pertinent
part, that "the tenant shall not be required to vacate pursuant to this Section 37.9(a)(11) for a period in
excess of three months; provided, however, that such time period may be extended by the Board or its

Administrative Law Judges upon application by the landlord." As described in the Court's findings of
fact, Defendant's application for an extension was denied on multiple grounds over three years ago
on or about October, 16 2013. (Exhibits 19 and 20.) It appears that no appeal was taken.

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The evidence was overwhelming that the continued failure of the Defendant to return Plaintiffs to their homes at the Bristol for years is grossly unreasonable. Contrary to the requirements of section 37.9(a)(11), virtually none, let alone all, of the required permits for the renovation had been obtained prior to serving the notices to relocate in violation of the law and, indeed, at the time of trial, several had still not been obtained. Mr. Thakor chose to invest very little of his assets and net worth, choosing instead to seek a construction loan. Notwithstanding that he was offered a \$4.8 million loan over three years ago on the terms he had requested, he rejected it. The evidence showed that other banks were concerned about Defendant's low FICA score, which David Gonzalez, a commercial loan officer who was called by the defense, testified was below the minimum threshold required for making commercial loans. Mr. Thakor admitted that he restricted working hours for construction in parts of the building near the restaurant to only 5:00 am-9:00 am because he wanted to keep the restaurant in operation at all times. Significantly, there were huge gaps in any work being done at the Hotel, at times extending beyond a one year period. Indeed, in 2016, zero work was performed until late September, shortly before trial commenced, and then only with a woefully small crew. The evidence established that in 2013, Defendant engaged a third party to convert the SRO units to tourist units. (Exhibit 25.) His son, Karin Thakor, prepared a marketing plan which represented that "the hotel will be a mix-use with student-housing and tourist guest staying," and included rent projections based on same. Mr. Thakor admitted to knowing and understanding that Plaintiffs had an absolute right to move back, yet he failed to disclose that to the banks. The Court finds that Mr. Thakor's testimony at trial that he intended only to "partially" convert the Hotel and to keep the SRO units of the tenants was not credible and was belied by prior admissions, how he marketed the hotel, documentation to the contrary on his behalf that unequivocally referenced the conversion of all SRO units, and his repeated failure to disclose the existence of the Plaintiffs' relocation rights to third

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parties. Four years have elapsed since Defendant served Plaintiffs with notices to temporarily vacate and failed to return them to their homes, and such time lapse is grossly unreasonable under the terms of the carve out language that preserves their right to return.

# **EQUITY JURISDICTION IS PROPER**

The absence of an adequate remedy at law is reason for the Court's exercise of equity jurisdiction. (See Bond v. Bulgheroni (1932) 215 C. 7, 10, 8 P.2d 130.) "[S]pecific performance will be decreed only when no other adequate relief is available to the plaintiff. Where the legal remedy of compensatory damages is sufficient to do complete justice between the parties, equity will not assume jurisdiction." (Wehen v. Lundgaard (1940) 41 Cal. App. 2d 610, 612.)

The very settlement agreements which provided Plaintiffs damages also expressly reserved their rights to move back in. In other words, Plaintiffs waived only their rights to damages, while maintaining a contractual right to reoccupy their units. Defendant's unreasonably excessive failure in this regard constitutes a continuous breach for which Plaintiffs have no adequate legal remedy, since they waived further damages. Therefore, equity jurisdiction is proper.

# COURTS HAVE BROAD DISCRETIONARY POWER TO FASHION THEIR OWN **EQUITABLE REMEDIES**

When proceeding in equity, trial courts have broad equitable power to fashion any appropriate remedy. (Zarrahy v. Zarrahy (1988) 205 Cal. App. 3d 1, 4-5.) "'[A] court of equity may exercise the full range of its inherent powers in order to accomplish complete justice between the parties, restoring if necessary the status quo ante as nearly as may be achieved.' [citation.]" (Troyk v. Farmers Group, Inc. (2009) 171 Cal.App.4th 1305, 1339.) It will further "'dispose of all issues with respect to the property as to which [its powers in equity] are invoked, and make such orders as are necessary to make its decree effective.' [citation.]" (McClenny v. Superior Court of Los Angeles County (1964) 62 Cal.2d 140, 148.)

# THE ONLY WORKABLE REMEDY IS SPECIFIC PERFORMANCE BY A FUTURE DATE

The requisites for specific performance include "(1) the inadequacy of [a] legal remedy; (2) an underlying contract that is both reasonable and supported by adequate consideration; (3) the existence of a mutuality of remedies; (4) contractual terms which are sufficiently definite to enable the court to know what it is to enforce; and (5) a substantial similarity of the requested performance to that promised in the contract." (*Tamarind Lithography Workshop, Inc. v. Sanders* (1983) 143 Cal.App.3d 571, 575.)

Here, all requisites are present. First, as previously discussed, the Plaintiffs have no adequate remedy at law. Second, there is no argument from either side that the settlement agreements were not reasonable or supported by adequate consideration and no evidence was presented that bore upon those issues. Indeed, both agreements were prepared and approved by counsel for both parties. Third, mutuality of remedies exists, as the Plaintiffs are precluded from seeking damages they would otherwise be entitled to for the Defendants' continuous wrongful eviction. Fourth, the contract terms are sufficiently definite for the Court to know what to enforce, because the carve out provisions specifically maintain the Plaintiffs' right to return, and the law permits the Court to infer a reasonable time for performance of this term. (Civ. Code § 1657.) Finally, there is undoubtedly substantial similarity between the requested performance and that promised in the contract; indeed, they are one and the same.

Obviously, the Court is unable to order specific performance immediately since the premises are currently uninhabitable and no certificate of occupancy has been issued. In fashioning a judgment for specific performance, the court has discretion to effectuate the purpose for which the original contract was made (*Rogers v. Davis* (1994) 28 Cal.App.4th 1215, 1225) so long as it does not make an entirely new contract. (See *American Marine Paint Co. v. Tooley*,

(1942) 53 Cal.App.2d 530 (a contract requiring a corporation to satisfy a claim from stock owned by a decedent does not justify a money judgment against the decedent's estate with the option of satisfying it from the stock since this would allow a personal judgment against the estate contrary to the terms of the agreement).) As stated in Rogers, "[A] 'decree [of specific performance] need not be absolute in form, and the performance that it requires need not be identical with that promised in the contract; it may be so drawn as best to effectuate the purposes for which the contract was made, and it may be granted on such terms and conditions as justice requires' ... 'The exact performance that is promised in a contract may be, in part or in whole, very difficult of enforcement, it may have become impossible or unlawful, and it may be such that exact enforcement would work unreasonable hardship. The court may nevertheless be able to achieve substantially the same result without undue difficulty, without hardship to the defendant, and without violation of law or of the rights of third persons.' "(Rogers v. Davis, supra, 28 Cal.App.4th at pp.1221-22.) Courts have previously affirmed their broad power to shape timing requirements in equitable decrees. For example, in Gibson v. River Farms Co. of California (1942) 49 Cal. App. 2d 278, 281, the trial court had issued a decree which effectively quieted title to several tracts of land to a defendant, conditioned upon its payment of all assessments and tax obligations existing against the land before a specified date. In the decree, the court retained jurisdiction to modify it, and the trial judge subsequently made multiple orders extending the time for the defendant to make said payments. (Id. at pp. 281-82.) On review, the court of appeals affirmed this practice, finding that the trial court had the power to extend the time within which, by the terms of a judgment for specific performance, a defendant is required to pay. (*Id.* at p. 283.)

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succession of continuous acts, even those requiring protracted supervision, so long as doing so is practically feasible. Indeed, California's modern view on specific performance permits this. (13 Witkin, Summary 10th Equity § 45 (2005); See Ellison v. Ventura Port District (1978) 80 Cal.App.3d 574, 581.) For example, in Ellison, the court of appeal affirmed the trial court's judgment ordering the defendant to specifically perform on its agreement to periodically dredge a drainage channel. (Ellison 80 Cal.App.3d 574, at pp. 577-78, 583.) The court acknowledged California's old rule, which precluded specific performance "where the contracts stipulate a succession of continuous acts which require protracted supervision and direction by the court with the exercise of special knowledge, skill and judgment by the parties performing the acts." (Id. at p. 580.) However, it rejected application of the old rule, finding that periodic dredging was not similar to other obligations for which California courts had denied specific performance. (Ibid.) It held, "Compared to the complexity of the acts required in contracts for development or operation of railroads, mines, oil fields, or even citrus groves, the dredging of a channel pales to insignificance and should place no great burden on the court to supervise. Additionally, unlike exclusive distribution or sales agency contracts, no cooperation between the parties is required to fulfill [the defendant's] obligation to maintain the channel. Thus, we see no reason to invoke [the old rule] in the case at bar. Especially since [the old rule] is an archaic one and should not be unduly extended." (Id. at p. 581.)

Further, in fashioning its equitable remedy, the Court may order specific performance of a

Here, the weight of the testimony established that with a full crew working regular hours on all permissible days in all parts of the building, construction will be finished by July 2017. Mr. Thakor previously represented to the Rent Board that it would be completed in less than a year, when at that time, far less work had been done. (Exhibit 19.) To the Court, he specifically represented, "At present, based on the work left to complete, THAKOR estimates the work will be complete in July or

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August 2017." <sup>5</sup> Certainly the work can be completed within this time if Mr. Thakor makes this project his number one priority instead of working on multiple other buildings he owns or operates that have no protected tenants, and has a full crew working in all parts of the building during all hours and all days that they are permitted under the laws to work. As Richard Stratton testified on behalf of the defense, the subject property has good potential and having a vacant and uninhabitable building in San Francisco is a waste for everyone concerned. The Court has tried to fashion a remedy that is workable for both sides, since, unfortunately the Court is between a rock and a hard place given that it is impossible to order that the Defendant return the tenants to an uninhabitable property, which is the case at present.

Therefore, pursuant to its broad equitable powers, and on the preponderance of the evidence. the Court HEREBY ORDERS AND ADJUDGES as follows:

1. Defendant shall restore Plaintiffs to their units at the Bristol Hotel no later than August 1, 2017. This means that, pursuant to section 12.16 of the S.F. Rent Board Rules and Regulations, he shall issue written "offers of reoccupancy" no later than August 1, 2017, advising the Plaintiffs that the rehabilitation work is completed.<sup>6</sup> Construction shall take place throughout the entire Hotel during all permissible hours and days under the law and with a full and sufficient crew at all times. Plumbing, electrical and any other applicable permits shall be obtained within fifteen days, with the exception of window permits .Defendant shall submit the survey of all windows to the City by January 31. 2017.

See Defendants' Trial Brief "Re: Court Cannot Do Equity Under the Circumstances of this Case," page 3, lines 11-12. See also Defendants' Trial Brief "Re: Matter Not Ripe for Adjudication," page 3, lines 14-15.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Pursuant to section 12.16 of the S.F. Rent Board Rules and Regulations, the Plaintiffs will then have thirty days from receipt of this "offer of reoccupancy" to notify Mr. Thakor of their acceptance or rejection. If accepted, they shall reoccupy their units within forty-five days of receipt of Mr. Thakor's offer.

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- 2. If Plaintiffs are not in receipt of Mr. Thakor's "offers of reoccupany" by August 1, 2017, they shall have the right to seek the appointment of a receiver in the Housing Court in Dept. 501, to manage and/or sell the subject property and to seek an Order that Defendant shall pay all associated fees and costs. Prior to August 1, 2017, Defendant may seek an extension of time in Dept 501 to issue written offers of reoccupancy described above only due to an Act of God, fire, earthquake, or other extraordinary and exceptional conditions completely beyond Defendant's control. Claimed financial difficulty does not qualify. Mr Thakor owns several other buildings and his personal net worth exceeds the cost of construction many times over.
- 3. The Court finds that Mr. Thakor breached the terms of the *McCoy* and *Melvin* settlement agreements by failing to move the Plaintiffs back into the Bristol Hotel within a reasonable time and, further, that the clear and convincing evidence described in the statement of undisputed facts established that he acted in bad faith with respect to the tenants' statutory and contractual rights.
- 4. Judgment on the fourth cause of action shall be entered against Defendant Balwantsinh Thakor, Individually and DBA The Bristol Hotel, and in favor of Plaintiffs and each of them except for Angela Brontley (nonsuit granted) and Chris Woodell and Terry McCoy, who unfortunately are deceased.

Dated: January 4,2017

ANGELA BRADSTREET
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

# SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA County of San Francisco

	DAVID	<b>JAR</b>	AMI	LLO.	et al
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Plaintiff(s)

vs.

BALWANTSINH THAKOR, individually and DBA THE BRISTOL HOTEL, and DOES 1 TO 100,

Defendant(s).

Case Number: CGC-16-549984

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTRONIC SERVICE (CCP 1010.6(6) & CRC 2.260(g))

I, Rosallie Gumpal, a Deputy Clerk of the Superior Court of the County of San Francisco, certify that I am not a party to the within action.

On January 4, 2017, I electronically served the attached STATEMENT OF DECISION via File & ServeXpress on the recipients designated on the Transaction Receipt located on the File & ServeXpress website.

Dated: January 4, 2017

T. MICHAEL YUEN, Clerk

Rosallie Gumpal Deputy Clerk



# SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

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ORDER

DAVID JARAMILLO ET AL VS. BALWANTSINH THAKOR ET AL

001C06022823

### Instructions:

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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL HEATH Michael Heath SBN 196747 Howard Olsen SBN 255888 3251 Steiner Street San Francisco, CA 94123 415-931-4207 FAX 415-931-4117 mheath_law@sbcglobal.net  Attorneys for Defendant BALWANTSINH THAKOR, individually and dba THE BRISTOL HOTEL	F E D San Francisco County Superior Court  SEP 12 2017  CLERK OF THE COURT  BY: Deputy Clerk				
9 10 11	HANSON BRIDGETT LLP Richard J Stratton, SBN 54648 rstratton@hansonbridgett.com Alexander J. Berline, SBN 158098 aberline@hansonbridgett.com 425 Market Street, 26 <sup>th</sup> Floor San Francisco, CA 94105 Telephone: 415-777-3200 Fax: 415-541-9366					
13 14 15	Attorneys for Defendant BALWANTSINH THAKOR, individually and dba THE BRISTOL HOTEL  SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORN	IA, COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO				
16 17	UNLIMITED CIVIL JURISDICTION					
18 19 20 21 22 23	DAVID JARAMILLO, ERIC BOICE, JAMES ) BRYAN TURNER, COSSANDRA MCCOY, ) VINETTA BOICE, JENNIFER HAWKINS, ) ROBERT WEST, MANUEL GARCIA, ) MELISSA EZELL, ELIZABETH CRUZ, ) ROBERT GREEN, MATTHEW NICHOLSON, ) FREDDIE HILL, ANGELA BRONTLEY, ) BRITTANY RODRIGUEZ, MICHAEL ) MARION, VERNON ROBINSON, WAH TIM ) (SAM) YUEN, STELLA YUEN, MARIA ACOSTA, CHRISTY GRIFFITH, AUDREY ) VINCENTE					
24	Plaintiffs,					
25	v.					
26 27	BALWANTSINH THAKOR, INDIVIDUALLY AND DBA THE BRISTOL HOTEL, AND DOES 1 TO 100					
28	Defendants					

# TO ALL PARTIES AND THEIR ATTORNEYS OF RECORD:

Good cause having been shown it is hereby ordered that the Plaintiffs' Motion To Appoint receiver for the Bristol Hotel, located at the real property at 56 Mason Street in San Francisco, CA (the Bristol Hotel) is Granted as follows:

- One individual shall be appointed in dual capacity as a Special Master and Receiver. The
  appointment of a Special Master was requested by the Defendant. The services of the Special
  Master shall be paid for by the Defendant within 20 days of receipt of an invoice from the
  Special Master.
- The parties shall meet and confer re: appointment of the Special Master/Receiver and submit the name(s) of the proposed Special Master/Receiver within no later than September 20, 2017.
- As a Special Master the appointee shall evaluate and monitor the progress of the construction project at the Bristol Hotel (the Construction Project). Within 1 month of appointment, the Special Master shall provide the court with a report evaluating the current status and future prospects of the Construction Project. The Special Master shall evaluate the Bristol Hotel to provide an accurate estimate of the estimated completion date based on defendant's management, effort, and progress thus far. The Special Master shall also evaluate Defendant's current financial investment into the Bristol Hotel. Special Master shall also evaluate whether completion of the Construction Project may be accomplished more quickly based on the application of additional resources and/or better management. Based on the Special Master's report, the Court shall determine whether the Special Master shall transition into the capacity of a Receiver to complete the construction project and/or sell the Property.
- 4. Each side may file briefs (not to exceed 5 pages) addressing whether, based on the report, the Property shall be sold in order to complete the Project. Briefs must be filed within 10 days of filing of the Special Master's report. The hearing date shall be set for 2 weeks after the filing

of the briefs and shall be indicated on the briefs. If the Court determines that the property shall be sold or independently managed, the Special Master will immediately transition into the capacity of a Receiver.

- During the review and evaluation period the Defendant shall continue to carry out the construction project at the Bristol Hotel. Construction shall continue to take place throughout the entire Bristol Hotel Property during all permissible hours and days under the law and with a full and sufficient crew at all times.
- Plaintiff within 5 days of receipt of the demand for payment of said differential starting
  August 1, 2017 and though the month of September. The rent differential shall thereafter be
  tendered on the first day of each month starting October 1, 2017; and (2) rooms in
  Defendant's residential hotels shall be provided by Defendant to those Plaintiffs who require a
  room within 5 days of receipt of written request from any Plaintiff. The alternate rooms shall
  be comparable to the rooms in Bristol Hotel upon completion of the project. Only Plaintiffs,
  and their spouses and/or minor children, may be placed in these alternate rooms. Plaintiffs'
  right to occupy these alternate rooms shall continue through the expiration of their notice to
  re-occupy their respective units at the Bristol Hotel, or upon expiration of these alternate
  rooms shall be subject to all applicable federal, state and local laws.
- 7. During the time the Special Master/Receiver has jurisdiction over this matter, the Special Master/Receiver shall be provided full, unimpeded access to the Bristol Hotel, the Construction areas therein, and any other place or location related to the Bristol Hotel and/or the construction project.

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- 8. The Special Master shall not have jurisdiction over the two tenant-occupied commercial units at the building where the Bristol Hotel is located, except to the extent these areas of the building are affected by the Construction Project. The two commercial properties are:
  - a. The Little Delhi, 83 Eddy Street, San Francisco, CA 94102
  - b. 50-52 Mason Street, San Francisco, CA 94102

Dated: September 12, 2017

Judge of the Superior Court

RONALD E. QUIDACHAY