535 Green Street

Buon Gusto Sausage Factory
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Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places

7 October 2020
The Buon Gusto Sausage Factory is located at 535 Green Street in the heart of the City’s North Beach Neighborhood.
The Buon Gusto Sausage Factory is a contributor to the California Register-eligible Upper Grant Avenue Historic District.
Historic view of Green Street, looking east from Columbus Avenue, 1936.
Built in 1948 as the only purpose-built sausage factory in North Beach.
The construction of the Buon Gusto Sausage Factory merited a newspaper notice, 1948.
In the Districts: Portsmouth Square Should Be Turned Into a Playground for Chinatown

By BILL SIMONS

PEOPLE AND PLACES: Dr. and Mrs. Gustave B. Hetmo— who are very extra special people but not newly - wed by any means—are away “somewhere” on their annual honeymoon; they’ll be back here in San Francisco this week. But before they left, Gus dropped a note to the mail to us:

“Was reading Father Donovan’s very interesting article about the Catholic Chinese Mission in your column this morning, and it brings me back to the early 90’s and the birth of that Mission. The pioneer missionary, who I believe is now in San Francisco with the Paulist Fathers, was Father Charles Bradley—and to him credit should be given for laying such a wonderful foundation for this Mission under the most adverse and trying circumstances. All due credit must be given to those Fathers who have carried on since.”

Many thanks to Gus for this little footnote; it is one of many comments we’ve received on Father Donovan’s story. The other night Bill Tong, who is the barkeep at Taps Too, remarked while we admiringly prepared a couple of Manhattan’s: “Father Donovan had the right idea in his article: It’s the shame of Chinatown that attracts people to this district, but while they’re here they should be shown the ‘other side’—the illness and poverty of Chinatown that they can help correct.”

Later that same evening we were talking with Kenneth Y. Fung, secretary of the Chinese American Citizens’ Alliance. His idea was the same as ours—that San Franciscans looked affectionately on the Chinatown that was visible to the tourist, not the troubled one.

Fred Cassissa, owner of the Buon Gusto Sausage Factory.
Interior view of typical sausage-making operations in North Beach, 1926.
The Buon Gusto Sausage Factory is located at 535 Green Street in the heart of the City’s North Beach Neighborhood.

Locally significant under National Register Criteria A and C.
The building embodies distinctive characteristics of the International style.
- Directly associated with the commercial development of North Beach and the Italian community during the 20th century.
- The last vestige of the area’s sausage-making trade.
- A tangible link to the community’s Italian heritage.
- An excellent example of the International/Modern style applied to a utilitarian building type.
- A rare resource in San Francisco.