

PRIMARY RECORD

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*Resource name(s) or number: 655 Dolores Street

P1. Other Identifier: Second Church of Christ Scientist

*P2. Location: Not for Publication Unrestricted *a. County San Francisco
and (P2b and P2C or P2d. Attach a Location Map as necessary.)

*b. USGS 7.5' Quad San Francisco North, CA Date: 1995 T ___; R ___; 1/4 of ___ 1/4 of Sec ___; _____ B.M.

c. Address: 655 Dolores Street City: San Francisco Zip 94114

d. UTM: (Give more than one for large and/or linear resources.) Zone ___; _____ mE/ _____ mN

e. Other Locational Data: Assessor's Parcel Number: Block: 3598 Lot: 28

***P3a. Description:**

This monumental three story Beaux Arts structure contained a major domed roof with clerestory windows. The classically designed façade visible on three elevations. The principal façade reveals a two story portico with three sets of wooden doors symmetrically arranged leading into the church lobby, The marble staircases conform to the downsloping hillside parcel. The tripartite arrangement of pilasters with bases and capitals. The cornice line contains egg and dart molding with the name of the church encised on the principal facade. A raised, rusticated base is surmounted by large arched, segmented windows which are symmetrically placed throughout the structure. Stucco wall surfaces, the symmetrical arrangement of fenestration, wood paneled doors, a monumental dome which is highly visible all contribute to the architectural significance of this religious property which is largely intact. As such, the building displays a high degree of integrity. The subject property is listed as Unreinforced Masonry Building, (although the Here Today citation indicates that the building contains a steel frame). A dwindling congregation and a proposed reuse of the site currently under consideration has resulted in a threatened cultural resource. The surrounding area is characterized by two and three-story multi-family residential units and Dolores Park is located to the east of the church. The Beaux Arts style in America derives from the Chicago World's Columbian Exposition of 1893. Major public institutions, such as banks, libraries, churches, early skyscrapers, governmental buildings, railroad stations and large-scaled mansions and churches dating from approximately 1890 to 1930 were constructed in the Beaux Arts style. The style is derivative of the Greek and Roman structures and refers to the aesthetic principles enunciated and perpetuated by the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in France.

*P3b. Resource Attributes: HP16:Religious Building Style or Period: Beaux Arts

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

P5b. Photo: (view and date)

View from Dolores Park,
northwest corner at Cumberland Street, 08/06

*P6. Date Constructed/Age and Source:

1916, prehistoric, historic

*P7. Owner and Address:

Second Church Christ Scientist

655 Dolores Street

San Francisco, CA 94110

*P8. Recorded by:

Vincent Marsh

Preservation Consultant

2134 Green Street, Apt. No. 3

San Francisco, CA 94123

*P9. Date Recorded:

September 20, 2006

*P10. Survey Type: Reconnaissance

*P11. Report Citation: H.T. pg. 262 & A.S. bldg.
Victorian Alliance/Mission Dolores Survey



*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)

- B1. Historic name: Second Church Christ Scientist
- B2. Common name: Second Church Christ Scientist
- B3. Original Use: religious building
- B4. Present use: religious building
- *B5. Architectural Style: Beaux Arts
- *B6. Construction History:

"The Church of Christ, Scientist was founded in 1879 when fifteen students of Mary Baker Eddy voted to "organize a church designed to commemorate the word and works of our Master, which should reinstate primitive Christianity and its lost element of healing." The church comprises the Mother Church in Boston together with branch churches and societies all over the world. The optimistic faith holds that sickness, sin, and death, as aspects of falsehood, can be overcome by understanding spiritual truth. Members are expected to study the Scriptures and the writings of the founder, Science and Health, with Key to the Scriptures, and to live by these teachings. There are no ministers as such in the church; each congregation elects a first and second reader for a specified term of office; the weekly lesson-sermon is the same in Christian Science churches everywhere."¹

The Second Church Christ Scientist, is one of a handful of Christ Scientist Churches extant in the City. The First Church of Christ, Scientist at 1700 Franklin Street, dating from 1913, designed by Edgar A. Matthews, in the Romanesque style is also a Unreinforced Masonry Building (UMB) and has also been considered to be a threatened cultural resource. During the 1940's and 1950's, there were up to twelve Christ Scientist churches in the City, many of these have ceased to exist due to a lack of congregations.

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

*B8. Related Features:

B9a. Architect: William H. Crim

b. Builder:

*B10. Significance: Theme: Religious Architecture

Area: San Francisco

Period of Significance 1916

Property Type: religious building

Applicable Criteria C

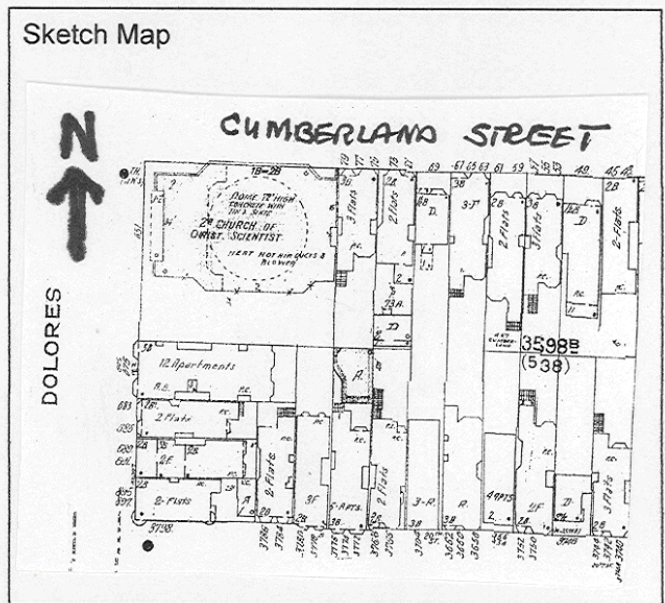
B11. Additional Resource Attributes: HP-16

*B12. References: See Continuation Sheet

B13. Remarks: See Continuation Sheet

*B14. Evaluator: Vincent Marsh

*Date of Evaluation: September 20, 2006



¹ Hendricks, Ruth Willard and Carol Green Wilson, Sacred Places of San Francisco, Novato, CA. Presidio Press, 1985, pg. 152.

William H. Crim, Architect

Master Architect, was born in San Francisco in 1879, he was a member of the first graduating class of the Lick High School of San Francisco. His professional training was at the CA School of Mechanical Arts. For eight years he practiced in the offices of Percy and Hamilton, architects. "Later he was employed by Willis Polk, with whom he remained until 1906. In 1910, Mr. Crim took over his partner's interest and continued to carry on his profession alone until his death on July 12, 1930, at which time he was one of the leading architects of the Pacific Coast. Among the many handsome buildings for which he drew the plans are the Second Christian Science Church in the Mission, San Francisco; the Sixth Christian Science Church, at Clay and Divisadero Streets....Mr. Crim was a member of the leading organizations of his profession and belonged also to a number of fraternal and civic bodies. He was always a public-spirited citizen and was identified with a number of movements for the betterment and beautification of his native city"² Mr. Crim was a member of the Commercial and Bohemian and Architectural Clubs of San Francisco and belonged to the S.F. Chapter of the A.I.A.. Other extant works by William Crim include the Pacific Coast Envelope Building located at the southwest corner of Second and Harrison Streets and the Tadich Grill at 240-242 California Street under the firm of Crim and Scott (Earl B.). Other building on William Crim's job list include the Mission Savings Bank Building, the Temple Building in Los Angeles, and a number of residential commissions throughout the City.

Second Church Christ Scientist contains significant and intact interior spaces. Interior features and finishes include a centralized, monumental dome with clerestory windows, oak pews which are arranged in a semi-circular fashion and oak paneling (painted over), marble flooring in a spacious lobby, original lighting fixtures, sixteen windows symmetrically arranged and a significant organ which was moved to the church from the Panama Pacific Exposition of 1915. All of these elements contribute greatly to the elegant, classical design of the interior.

This building retains a high degree integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. This building appears to be eligible for the National Register under Criterion C, for its design. It is an excellent example of the Beaux Arts style in San Francisco that conforms to a steeply sloping Dolores Street site. The symmetrical massing, window treatments, use of marble, a majestic dome, stucco finishes, monumental wooden doors, the siting and location all contribute to its architectural significance. The period of significance is 1916, the date of construction. In addition to possessing individual significance under Criterion C, this building also appears to be a contributor to a potential local, state or national Mission Dolores Historic District. By virtue of its apparent National Register eligibility, this property also appears to be a historical resource for the purposes of CEQA, per CEQA guidelines 15064.5, as it meet the California Register criteria as outlined in PRC 5024.1.

Context for the building

"The Mission location was wisely chosen by the founding padres from their church [Mission Dolores] and settlement as the sunniest and most sheltered area of the northern peninsula. It was the recreation area of the early city, gradually becoming built up in the 1870's and 80's, with very substantial houses, most of which have either disappeared or been divided into apartments. Mission Street is the commercial spine of very self-contained and heavily Spanish speaking area. The handsomest part of this area is along the palm-lined Dolores, with the Mission itself, Dolores Park, and a fair number of surviving Victorian mansions. The hills to the west were built up around the turn of the century with smaller working class speculative houses, which now form the most interesting supply of older middle-income housing in the city, and so have become something of a melting pot, combining older blue-collar and younger middle-class families of all races."³

² Hunt, Rockwell D. California and Californians, [Architects], Chicago, Illinois, Lewis Publishing Company, 1932, pg 355.

³ Gebhard, David, et. al. The Guide to Architecture in San Francisco and Northern California, Salt Lake City: Gibbs-Smith, Publishers, 1985, Revised Edition, pgs. 104-105.

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

Primary # _____
HRI _____
Trinomial _____

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Resource Name or # 655 Dolores Street

*Recorded by: Vincent Marsh, Preservation Consultant *Date 09/20/06 Continuation Update

B14: References:

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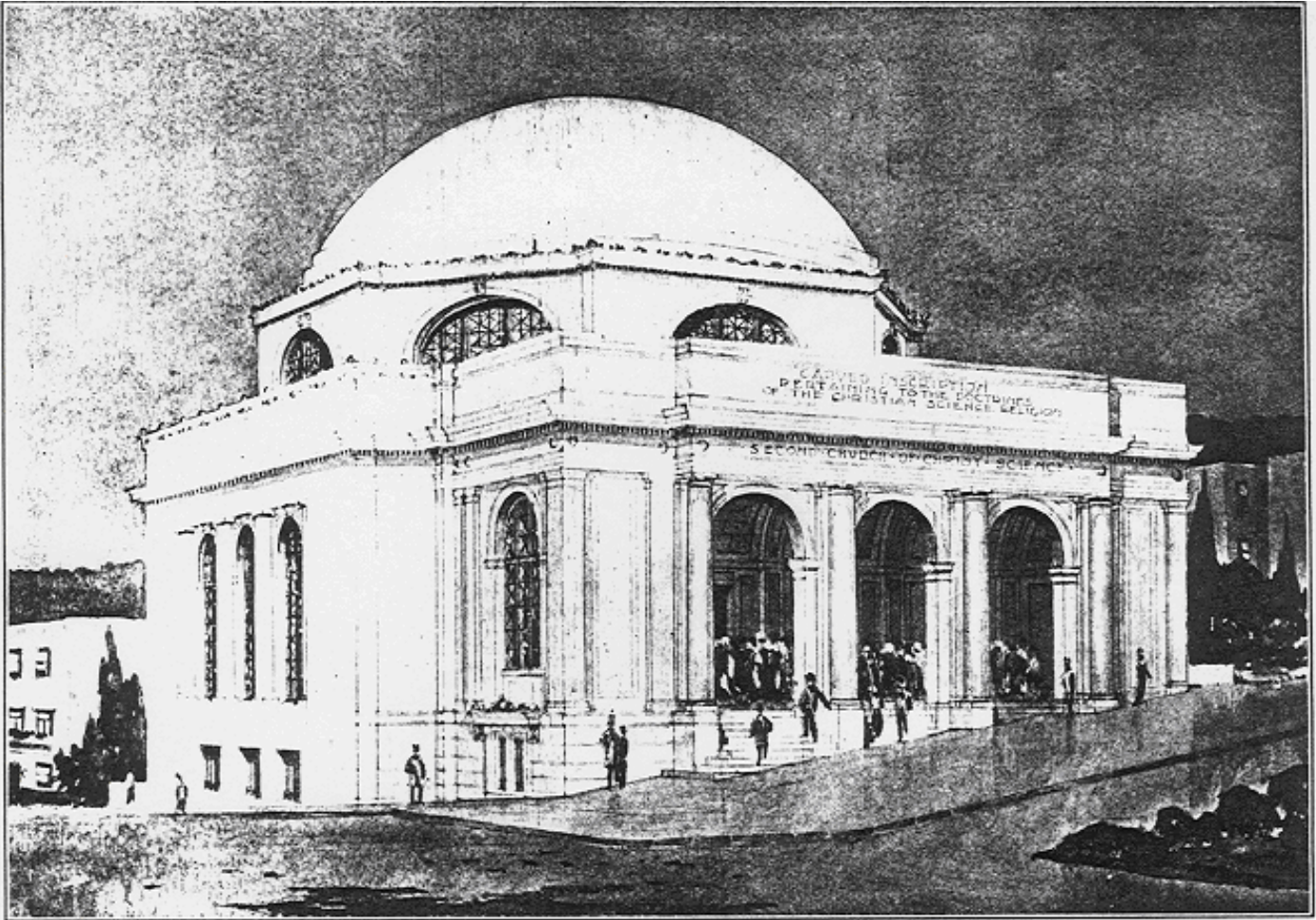
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Second of Church Christ, Scientist, 655 Dolores Street, S.F. History Room Collection, AAB-1110, 09/27/30.



SECOND CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST, SAN FRANCISCO
WM. H. CRIM, JR., ARCHITECT

Rendering of the Second of Church Christ, Scientist, 655 Dolores Street, William H. Crim, Jr., Architect.,
The Architect and Engineer, Circa 1916.