



Exhibit D

# ARTICLE 10 LANDMARK DESIGNATION FACT SHEET

<b>Historic Name:</b>	Site of the Compton’s Cafeteria Riot
<b>Address:</b>	Intersection of Turk and Taylor Streets and 101 Taylor Street
<b>Block/ Lot(s):</b>	Between Assessor Blocks 0339, 0340, 0342 and 0343 Assessor’s Block 0339, Lot 003
<b>Parcel Area:</b>	N/A
<b>Zoning:</b>	N/A / RC-4
<b>Year Built:</b>	Year of Event: 1966
<b>Architect:</b>	N/A
<b>Prior Historic Studies/Other Designations:</b>	The proposed Landmark is within the Transgender Cultural District. Citywide Historic Context Statement for LGBTQ History in San Francisco (Donna Graves and Shayne Watson-2015); Contributor to a district or multiple resource property listed in NR by the Keeper. Listed in the CR.
<b>Prior HPC Actions:</b>	HPC Work Program – under-represented communities.
<b>Significance Criteria:</b>	A/1 Association with associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
<b>Period of Significance:</b>	1966
<b>Statement of Significance (abbreviated, see detailed discussion below):</b>	The Site of the Compton’s Cafeteria riot is significant for its association with the first large-scale collective direct action on the part of people marginalized by sexuality/gender that resulted in lasting institutional change, surpassing Cooper Donut in impact, Dewey’s in militancy, and preceding the more important/larger Stonewall in time. By acting collectively, instead of as individuals, members of the community were able to further the cause to enable a greater freedom of gender expression without oppression. Moreover, after the Riot, the City’s Health and Police Departments began to develop supportive programs for the transgender people in San Francisco, some of which would also enable people to gain access to State and Federal anti-poverty programs. The Riot to demand dignity succeeded in starting the long process to change society. [See below for a more comprehensive statement]
<b>Assessment of Integrity:</b>	The seven aspects of Integrity are: location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

	<p>As a resource significant for association for an event, certain aspects of integrity are more relevant than others. The location, setting feeling and association remain intact, as the essential characteristics of an urban intersection are unchanged. Workmanship, design and materials are less important. The storefront that had contained the Compton's Cafeteria has undergone two significant changes since 1966, and is no longer an active storefront. The design and materials have been changed, yet it is still completely recognizable as the location, setting, feeling and associations are extant.</p>
<p><b>Character-Defining Features:</b></p>	<p>Within the public right-of-way: spatial relationships of the intersection and parts of adjacent streets.          At 101 Taylor Street: The lower 11-feet of the building which housed the storefronts of the former Gene Compton's Cafeteria; extending north 52 feet from the corner of Turk Street and 40 feet west from the corner of Taylor Street</p>

**Statement of Significance**

**Site of the Compton's Cafeteria Riot, August 1966<sup>1</sup>**

**Background Context**

In 1966, a group of transgender women and young gay men took direct action during the Compton's Cafeteria riot, which "resulted in lasting institutional change"<sup>2</sup>. In the 1960s, the Tenderloin saw an influx of socially and economically marginalized people who had been forced out of areas in San Francisco that had been targeted for redevelopment, especially the Western Addition and South of Market areas. The combination of the increased and very mixed population, along with the Tenderloin's already high number of low-income residents living in single-room-occupancy hotels or on the streets, led to neighborhood activists organizing for financial and social assistance.

Part of a local chain, the Gene Compton's Cafeteria at 101 Taylor Street at the corner of Turk and Taylor Streets in the heart of the Tenderloin was a popular hangout for transgender women, young male hustlers, and others who lived and worked in the Tenderloin in the early 1960s. Compton's

<sup>1</sup> Much of this text is based on the CITYWIDE HISTORIC CONTEXT STATEMENT FOR LGBTQ HISTORY IN SAN FRANCISCO by Donna J. Graves & Shayne E. Watson, October 2015.

<sup>2</sup> Susan Stryker, Transgender History (Berkeley: Seal Press, 2008) 64. Earlier transgender protests have been documented in Los Angeles (Cooper's Donuts in 1959) and Philadelphia (Dewey's in 1965).

Cafeteria was a brightly lit, inexpensive restaurant that was open 24 hours a day, and was one of the few places where transgender women could feel safe socializing.

Cheap residential hotels in the neighborhood were among the very few places that would rent rooms to them. Transgender activist Felicia “Flames” Elizondo found her first San Francisco home near Compton’s, where a transgender clerk named Amanda St. Jaymes “let us take tricks up to the room for five dollars.”<sup>3</sup> Elizondo says, “Golden Gate, Mason, Geary and Hyde Streets were the blocks where we felt comfortable.” Tamara Ching, another long-time transgender activist, says the Tenderloin was the easiest place for transgender women to engage in sex work “because everyone knew what was what, the customers knew who we were, what we were.”<sup>4</sup>

Members of the Tenderloin LGBTQ+ youth group Vanguard also gathered at Compton’s, bringing a more assertive and anti-assimilation<sup>5</sup> attitude that annoyed management, who began asking police to remove some patrons. In July 1966, a few dozen Vanguard youth organized a picket line in front of Compton’s to protest “physical and verbal abuse by the management and the “Pinkerton” Special Officers assigned there.”<sup>6</sup> Police at the time had the reputation for capriciousness, arrests were frequent, the charges being for female impersonation, and could result in placement in isolation for days at a time.<sup>7</sup>

### **The Riot August 1966**

Susan Stryker’s pioneering work on the Compton’s Cafeteria Riot documents transgender women in the Tenderloin participating in one of a series of early incidents of militant resistance against

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<sup>3</sup> Felicia Elizondo Flames, interviewed by Donna Graves, 15 March 2014. Elizondo also mentioned hotels named Camelot, King Edwards, and 111 Mason as places transgender women lived.

<sup>4</sup> Tamara Ching, interviewed by Donna Graves, 10 March 2014.

<sup>5</sup> Manolis, Sophia, “Vanguard Then and Now: An Evolution of Gay Youth Activism in the Tenderloin” FoundSF.org accessed 7.14.2022: [https://www.foundsf.org/index.php?title=Vanguard\\_Then\\_and\\_Now:\\_An\\_Evolution\\_of\\_Gay\\_Youth\\_Activism\\_in\\_the\\_Tenderloin](https://www.foundsf.org/index.php?title=Vanguard_Then_and_Now:_An_Evolution_of_Gay_Youth_Activism_in_the_Tenderloin)

<sup>6</sup> Both protests received media coverage. The Compton’s picket received television coverage by local ABC news. “Young Homos Picket Compton’s Restaurant” Cruise News & World Report, vol. 2, no. 8 August 1966 p 1. accessed [http://auralstories.blogspot.com/2013/07/vanguard-revisited-online-exhibit\\_1.html](http://auralstories.blogspot.com/2013/07/vanguard-revisited-online-exhibit_1.html)

<sup>7</sup> Amanda St. Jaymes, Interview in Screaming Queens: The Riot at Compton's Cafeteria, 2005 Victor Silverman and Susan Stryker

police harassment.<sup>8</sup> The riot took place over several days in August 1966—three years before the more well-known Stonewall riots in New York.

In August 1966, a police attempt to evict transgender women from the cafeteria inspired patrons to rebel, rather than submit to arrest as they had done previously. Transgender women and drag queens threw crockery and turned over tables as they fought with police, shattering the restaurant's plate-glass windows in the process. An angry crowd gathered at the intersection of Turk and Taylor Streets, and police called in backup, but the night ended with a police car wrecked and a corner newsstand set on fire. Many went to jail, but "there was a lot of joy after it happened" according to Amanda St. Jaymes. The next night a picket line with placards appeared at Compton's and again, shattered glass littered the sidewalk. Although the event did not receive press coverage at the time, Stryker notes that the Compton's Cafeteria Riot demonstrated a growing assertiveness and community consciousness among some transgender people and represented what Stryker describes as "the transgender community's debut on the stage of American political history."<sup>9</sup>

### **Cultural Significance**

The Turk & Taylor Streets Intersection witnessed the first documented uprising of trans and queer people, In August of 1966, what is known as the Compton's Cafeteria Riot, due to the fact that it started as a confrontation between a police officer and a drag queen at Compton's Cafeteria at the intersection of Turk & Taylor and spilled out into the streets. The Compton's Cafeteria Riots of 1966 transpired three years before the Stonewall Inn Riots, which has been regarded as the quintessential event for the gay liberation movement, eclipsing other trailblazing events such as the Cooper Do-nuts Riot in Los Angeles in 1959 which did not evoke cultural changes. However, the revolutionary event that took place at the intersection of Turk & Taylor Streets must also be

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<sup>8</sup> Faderman and Timmons, *Gay L.A.: A History*, 1.

<sup>9</sup> Susan Stryker in documentary film, *Screaming Queens: The Riot at Compton's Cafeteria*, 2005. The film states that Compton's started closing at midnight after the riot, and patronage decreased. It closed in 1972 and was replaced by a porn shop.

recognized as a seminal event in the history of transgender liberation. As decades have passed San Francisco-based publications such as the San Francisco Chronicle and zines used by Tenderloin-based organizations like Vanguard, continue to uphold the prominence and impact of the Compton's Cafeteria Riots and regard the intersection of Turk & Taylor Streets as a historically and culturally important space.

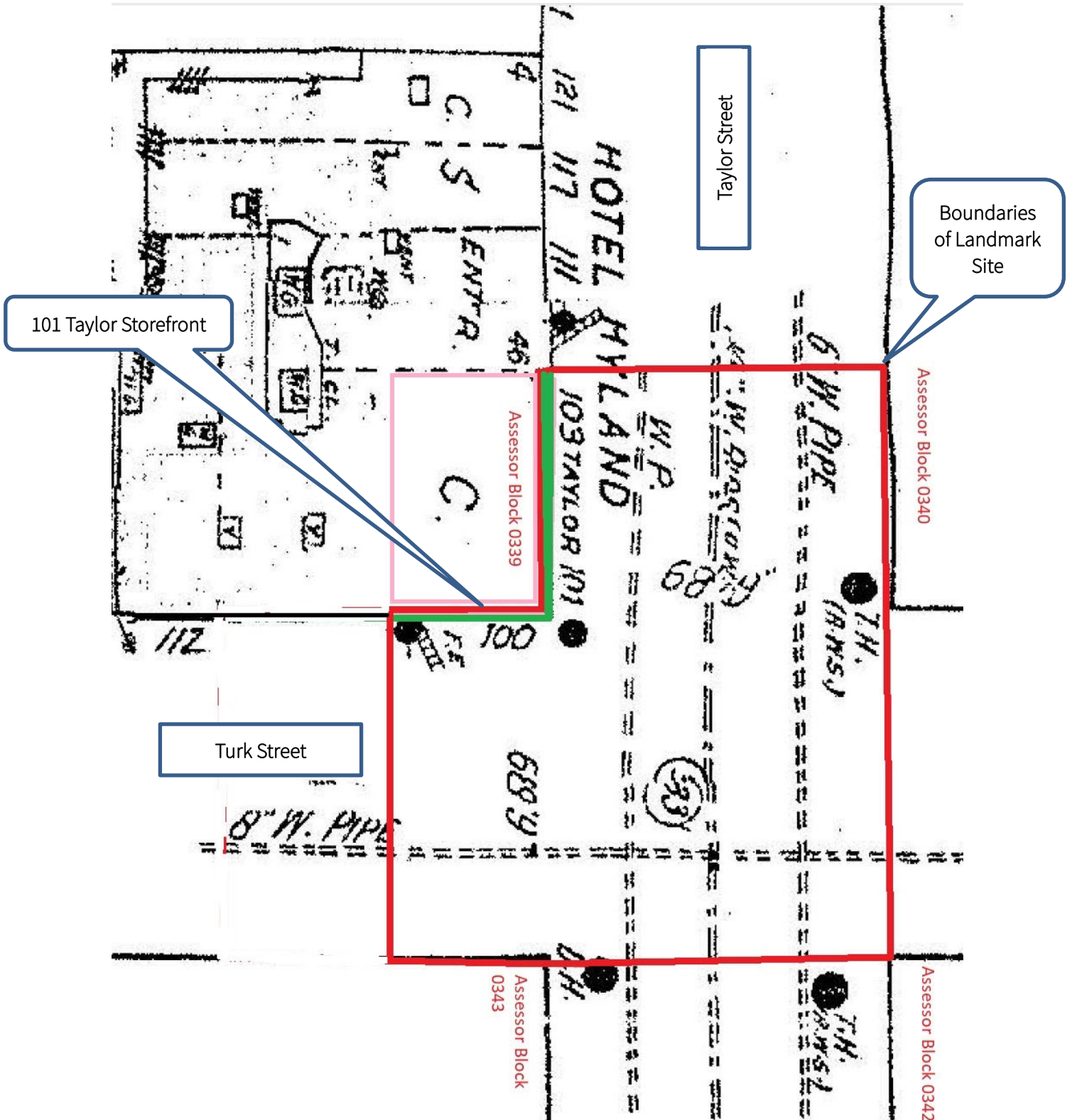
The "Site of the Compton's Cafeteria Riot" is significant given its association with an early documented "instance of collective militant queer resistance to police harassment United States history<sup>10</sup>". By acting collectively, instead of as individuals, members of the community were able to further the cause to enable a greater freedom of gender expression without oppression. Moreover, after the Riot, the City's Health and Police Departments began to develop supportive programs for the transgender people in San Francisco, some of which would also enable people to gain access to State and Federal anti-poverty programs. The Riot to demand dignity succeeded in starting the long process to change society.

The corner of Turk & Taylor continues to be a valuable asset tethered to the history of transgender and queer individuals in San Francisco's Tenderloin neighborhood and is a key monument for The Transgender Cultural District. The Turk & Taylor Streets Intersection represent a sacred site for the transgender community capable of furthering social and historical awareness, educational opportunities, and economic investment in a neighborhood that has memorialized a prominent transgender presence. The Turk & Taylor Streets Intersection was selected to be the site of the Black Trans Lives Matter Mural, a visual demonstration calling for awareness of the alarming violence perpetrated against transgender women, and disproportionately impacting Black transgender women. Recognizing symbols and monuments tethered to transgender liberation and activism supports and empowers an embattled community that struggles for equitable representation in documented history.

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<sup>10</sup> Ibid

Exhibit E: Map and Photos







Intersection of Turk Street and Taylor Street looking northwest with 101 Taylor Street wall outlined.

