



SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Landmark Designation Case Report

Hearing Date: September 5, 2018
Case No.: **2017-001773DES**
Project Address: 524 Union Street (Paper Doll)
Zoning: NCD – North Beach Neighborhood Commercial
Block/Lot: 0103/009
Property Owner: 524 Union Street, A General Partnership
76 Brentwood Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94127
Staff Contact: Shannon Ferguson – (415) 575-9074
shannon.ferguson@sfgov.org
Reviewed By: Tim Frye – (415) 575-6822
tim.frye@sfgov.org

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

Reception:
415.558.6378

Fax:
415.558.6409

Planning
Information:
415.558.6377

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION & SURROUNDING LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT

Located in the North Beach neighborhood, 524 Union Street (Paper Doll, subject property) was originally constructed in 1846 and reconstructed following the 1906 earthquake and fire. Alterations to the building were made in 1975-1978, including seismic strengthening, replacing the main corner entrance to the bar located at Union Street and Cadell Place with the current storefront windows, and moving the main entrance to its current location on Cadell Place (the original secondary entrance).

524 Union is a mixed use commercial building. The two-story plus basement, wood framed building is clad in rustic redwood siding and features pilasters with simple capitals that break the facades into bays. It is capped by a dentil cornice and flat roof. The façade facing Union Street is two bays wide. The west bay has a pass-through opening and pedestrian entrance to the second floor. The east bay has fixed, wood sash windows at the basement level topped by wood storefront windows with a transom. The west bay of the second floor features two punched openings with flat wood surrounds filled with double-hung, wood sash windows. The east bay has a wood door with wood balconette. The first story of the Cadell Place façade features three similar storefront windows and a pair of wood doors that lead to the bar/restaurant. The second floor features four similar punched openings with flat wood surrounds filled with double-hung, wood sash windows. The middle portion of the building, likely a very early addition, is also two stories with the second story set back to create a roof deck. This first level of this facade features several windows and two doors that lead to the kitchen and rear dining room. The rear portion of the building, also likely a very early addition, is two stories and is accessed by a wood stair.

North Beach is a mixed commercial and residential neighborhood consisting predominantly of small retail shops and restaurants and flats and medium sized apartment buildings with portions rebuilt after the earthquake and fire. Union Street slopes gently uphill from Stockton Street to Grant Avenue and is

defined on both sides by two- to four-story apartment buildings with commercial buildings clustered at Stockton Street and Grant Avenue.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The case before the Historic Preservation Commission is the consideration of the initiation of a community sponsored landmark designation application for 524 Union Street (Paper Doll) as a San Francisco landmark under Article 10 of the Planning Code, Section 1004.1, and recommending the Board of Supervisors approve such designation.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW STATUS

The Planning Department has determined that actions by regulatory agencies for protection of the environment (specifically in this case, landmark designation) are exempt from environmental review, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15308 (Class Eight - Categorical).

GENERAL PLAN POLICIES

The Urban Design Element of the San Francisco General Plan contains the following relevant objectives and policies:

- OBJECTIVE 2: Conservation of Resources that provide a sense of nature, continuity with the past, and freedom from overcrowding.
- POLICY 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.

Designating significant historic resources as local landmarks will further continuity with the past because the buildings will be preserved for the benefit of future generations. Landmark designation will require that the Planning Department and the Historic Preservation Commission review proposed work that may have an impact on character-defining features. Both entities will utilize the *Secretary of Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* in their review to ensure that only appropriate, compatible alterations are made.

SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING CODE SECTION 101.1 – GENERAL PLAN CONSISTENCY AND IMPLEMENTATION

Planning Code Section 101.1 – Eight Priority Policies establishes and requires review of permits for consistency with said policies. On balance, the proposed designation is consistent with the priority policies in that:

- a. The proposed designation will further Priority Policy No. 7, that landmarks and historic buildings be preserved. Landmark designation of 524 Union Street (Paper Doll) will help to preserve an important historical resource that is significant as one of the earliest lesbian bars associated with development of LGBTQ communities in San Francisco; and is also significant for its association with owner Dante Benedetti who became one of the people on the front lines in the fight for LGBTQ civil rights in San Francisco in the 1950s.

BACKGROUND / PREVIOUS ACTIONS

524 Union Street (Paper Doll) is currently listed as an A-Historic Resource building. The *Citywide Historic Context Statement for LGBTQ History in San Francisco*, by Donna Graves and Shayne E. Watson (Context Statement), identified the Paper Doll as potentially significant for its association with the development of LGBTQ communities in San Francisco.

The landmark designation nomination was submitted by the property owner. A final draft of the report was submitted to the Department on June 14, 2018. Department staff conducted site visit on June 28, 2018.

OTHER ACTIONS REQUIRED

If the Historic Preservation Commission adopts a resolution to initiate designation of the subject property as an Article 10 landmark at its September 5, 2018 hearing and directs staff to finalize the landmark designation report, a second Historic Preservation Commission hearing will be scheduled for the Commission's recommendation of approval of the designation. At the second hearing, if the Historic Preservation Commission recommends approval of the designation, its recommendation will be sent by the Department to the Board of Supervisors. The nomination would then be considered at a future Board of Supervisors hearing for formal Article 10 landmark designation.

APPLICABLE PRESERVATION STANDARDS

ARTICLE 10

Section 1004 of the Planning Code authorizes the landmark designation of an individual structure or other feature or an integrated group of structures and features on a single lot or site, having special character or special historical, architectural or aesthetic interest or value, as a landmark. Section 1004.1 also outlines that landmark designation may be initiated by the Board of Supervisors or the Historic Preservation Commission and the initiation shall include findings in support. Section 1004.2 states that once initiated, the proposed designation is referred to the Historic Preservation Commission for a report and recommendation to the Board of Supervisors to approve, disapprove or modify the proposal.

Pursuant to Section 1004.3 of the Planning Code, if the Historic Preservation Commission approves the designation, a copy of the resolution of approval is transmitted to the Board of Supervisors and without referral to the Planning Commission. The Board of Supervisors shall hold a public hearing on the designation and may approve, modify or disapprove the designation.

In the case of the initiation of a historic district, the Historic Preservation Commission shall refer its recommendation to the Planning Commission pursuant to Section 1004.2(c). The Planning Commission shall have 45 days to provide review and comment on the proposed designation and address the consistency of the proposed designation with the General Plan, Section 101.1 priority policies, the City's Regional Housing Needs Allocation, and the Sustainable Communities Strategy for the Bay Area. These comments shall be sent to the Board of Supervisors in the form of a resolution.

Section 1004(b) requires that the designating ordinance approved by the Board of Supervisors shall include the location and boundaries of the landmark site, a description of the characteristics of the

landmark which justify its designation, and a description of the particular features that should be preserved.

Section 1004.4 states that if the Historic Preservation Commission disapproves the proposed designation, such action shall be final, except upon the filing of a valid appeal to the Board of Supervisors within 30 days.

ARTICLE 10 LANDMARK CRITERIA

The Historic Preservation Commission on February 4, 2009, by Resolution No. 001, adopted the National Register Criteria as its methodology for recommending landmark designation of historic resources. Under the National Register Criteria, the quality of significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, feeling, materials, workmanship, and association, and that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or properties that have yielded, or may likely yield, information important in prehistory or history.

PUBLIC / NEIGHBORHOOD INPUT

There is no known public or neighborhood opposition to designation of 524 Union Street (Paper Doll) as an Article 10 landmark. The Department received one letter of support from the community. The Department will provide any public correspondence received after the submittal of this report in the Historic Preservation Commission's correspondence folder.

PROPERTY OWNER INPUT

Property owner is supportive of landmark designation.

STAFF ANALYSIS

The case report and following analysis was prepared by Department staff. The Department has determined that the subject property meets the requirements for Article 10 eligibility as an individual landmark. The justification for its inclusion is outlined below under the Significance and Integrity sections of this case report.

The subject property appears to meet two the Historic Preservation Commission's priorities for designation which are:

1. *The designation of underrepresented Landmark property types including landscapes*
There are currently only three landmark buildings associated with LGBTQ cultural heritage: Castro Camera and Harvey Milk Residence (573 Castro Street, LM #227); Twin Peaks Tavern (401

Castro Street, LM#264); and the Jose Theater/Names Project Building (2362 Market Street, LM #241).

2. *The designation of buildings of Modern design*
The subject property is not a Modern style building.
3. *The designation of buildings located in geographically underrepresented areas*
There are currently only three individual landmark buildings located in the nearby vicinity: Washington Square (LM #226); Old Spaghetti Factory (478 Green Street, LM #127); and St. Francis of Assisi Church (620 Vallejo Street, LM #5).
4. *The designation of properties with strong cultural or ethnic associations.*
The subject property has specific cultural associations with LGBTQ heritage.

SIGNIFICANCE

Significant events

Opened in 1944, the Paper Doll is significant as one of the earliest lesbian bars associated with the development of LGBTQ communities in San Francisco. The Paper Doll is located in North Beach, which became known as San Francisco's first bar-based LGBTQ Community. North Beach had an international, working-class feel, with a thriving Bohemian scene of artists and writers taking advantage of cheap rents. It was described as an exciting, vital neighborhood that was more accepting and tolerant of LGBTQ people. This atmosphere drew more queer men and women to the neighborhood, creating the city's first queer residential enclave and establishing the roots of San Francisco's LGBTQ communities. Bars were an important early gathering place for queer people. Bars in North Beach like the Paper Doll were able to create discrete spaces where LGBTQ people felt safe to congregate in public. The Paper Doll and these other bars provided the protection needed to establish and nurture the LGBTQ community.

The clientele of the Paper Doll were a mix of men and women, but it was mostly frequented by women because it was located away from the touristy Broadway Street. Bars that welcomed lesbians were few in number because most bars catered to white, gay men. The LGBTQ Context Statement notes that, "special consideration should be given to places associated with particularly underrepresented communities including people of color, lesbians, and people who identify as transgender or bisexual."

The Paper Doll was unique because it was one of the first restaurants catering to the queer community in San Francisco – if not the first – and because it provided a public alternative to nightclubs and bars. The Paper Doll operated through 1961. Because it was a restaurant, it was able to avoid policing by agencies such as the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board (ABC), because these agencies were more tolerant of bars with restaurants. Therefore it remained open for longer than most queer spaces.

Significant Persons

Dante Benedetti, as the owner of the Paper Doll, became one of the people on the front lines in the fight for LGBTQ civil rights in San Francisco in the late 1950s. Prior to 1955, serving alcohol to 'known homosexuals' was not illegal, although homosexual acts were still banned. Queer people could legally assemble in bars, but touching, nonnormative gender attire, or mannerisms that signified homosexual

status could be construed as an illegal act. A number of bars were closed based on charges related to homosexuality. This had a devastating effect on gay and lesbian bar owners.

Benedetti bought the Paper Doll in 1954. On August 20, 1956, the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control filed an accusation against Benedetti and the Paper Doll, charging violations of keeping of a disorderly house, alleging disturbance of the neighborhood, injury to the public welfare and morals, and the keeping of a resort for sexual perverts. On May 16, 1957, the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control revoked Benedetti's liquor license because it deemed that its continuance would be contrary to public welfare and morals. Although Benedetti would concede during the trial that the Paper Doll had a gay and lesbian clientele, an admission that made headlines in San Francisco newspapers, he claimed that he "never had any idea whatsoever that there was anything wrong with operating a gay bar." Benedetti would explain to anyone who asked, that he never made assumptions about the gender, or sexuality of his clientele at Paper Doll. Benedetti battled the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control between 1956-1961 arguing that gays and lesbians had the right to assemble in bars and restaurants. In 1961, Benedetti sold his license to Don Farber, a journeyman baseball player who spent time with the Pacific Coast League's Oakland Oaks, who renamed the bar Cadell Place.

PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Period of Significance is 1947-1961 reflecting the date Mona Sargent took over management of the Paper Doll and turned it into a gay bar and ending with the date Dante Benedetti sold the Paper Doll.

INTEGRITY

As noted in the Context Statement, "very few sites important to LGBTQ history in San Francisco will express their historic associations solely through their physical fabric, so integrity of design, workmanship, and materials are not generally critical when evaluating a property. Instead, the important aspects of integrity for most LGBTQ resources are location, feeling, and association"

524 Union Street (Paper Doll) was altered circa 1975 to 1978. Moulton & Clark, Inc. served as architects of the alterations. The most substantial exterior change that occurred at this time was the corner entrance to the bar (see page 18 of the attached landmark nomination report) was removed and replaced with the current storefront windows. The main entrance to the bar was moved to Cadell Place where the wood double doors are currently located. Commercial entrances and storefronts are commonly reconfigured, so this does not detract from its integrity.

524 Union Street retains integrity of location and setting. The building in which the Paper Doll operated during the period of significance has not been moved and the surrounding neighborhood appears much the same as it did after reconstruction following the 1906 fire.

The interior of 524 Union Street retains integrity of design, materials and feeling. The interior especially relates to the feeling of a bar/restaurant, including the long bar and back bar prominently located on the west side of the front dining room, and the restaurant configuration consisting of a front and rear dining room separated by the kitchen and bathrooms.

524 Union Street retains association as it provides a direct link between Dante Benedetti and his battle with the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control between 1956-1961 arguing that gays and lesbians had the right to assemble in bars and restaurants. The interior of 524 Union is sufficiently intact to convey that relationship.

CHARACTER-DEFINING FEATURES

Whenever a building, site, object, or landscape is under consideration for Article 10 landmark designation, the Historic Preservation Commission is required to identify character-defining features of the property. This is done to enable owners and the public to understand which elements are considered most important to preserve the historical and architectural character of the proposed landmark.

As described in the Landmark Designation Report, the following is a list of exterior character defining features of the Paper Doll:

The character-defining exterior features of the Paper Doll include the overall form, structure, height, massing, materials, and ornamentation of the house, carriage house and garden setting, specifically:

1. Exterior

- a. Two story height
- b. Low, boxy massing
- c. Flat roof
- d. Redwood channel rustic horizontal wood siding
- e. Regularly spaced punched window openings with simple, flat wood surrounds and wood sills
- f. Double-hung, wood sash windows at second floor
- g. Prominent corner siting at Union Street and Cadell Place
- h. Two entries and stair to second floor located on Cadell Place.

2. Interior

- a. A front dining room, an L-shaped rear dining room with raised area, and kitchen and bathrooms located between the front and rear dining rooms.
- b. Heavy timber support posts running north-south in both front dining room and back dining room
- c. Bar configuration and back bar with oak wood coolers located at the west wall of the front dining room
- d. Fireplace in rear dining room

INTERIOR LANDMARK DESIGNATION

According to Article 10, Section 1004(c) of the Planning Code, only those interiors that were historically publicly accessible are eligible for listing in Article 10. Article 10, Section 1004(c) of the Planning Code states,

(c) The property included in any such designation shall upon designation be subject to the controls and standards set forth in this Article 10. In addition, the said property shall be subject to the following further controls and standards if imposed by the designating ordinance:

- (1) For a publicly-owned landmark, review of proposed changes to significant interior architectural features.

- (2) For a privately-owned landmark, review of proposed changes requiring a permit to significant interior architectural features in those areas of the landmark that are or historically have been accessible to members of the public. The designating ordinance must clearly describe each significant interior architectural feature subject to this restriction.

As a bar and restaurant, the interior of 524 Union Street has been historically accessible to the public.

BOUNDARIES OF THE LANDMARK SITE

The boundaries of the landmark site encompass all of and are limited to Assessor's Parcel Block No. 0103, Lot No. 009.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

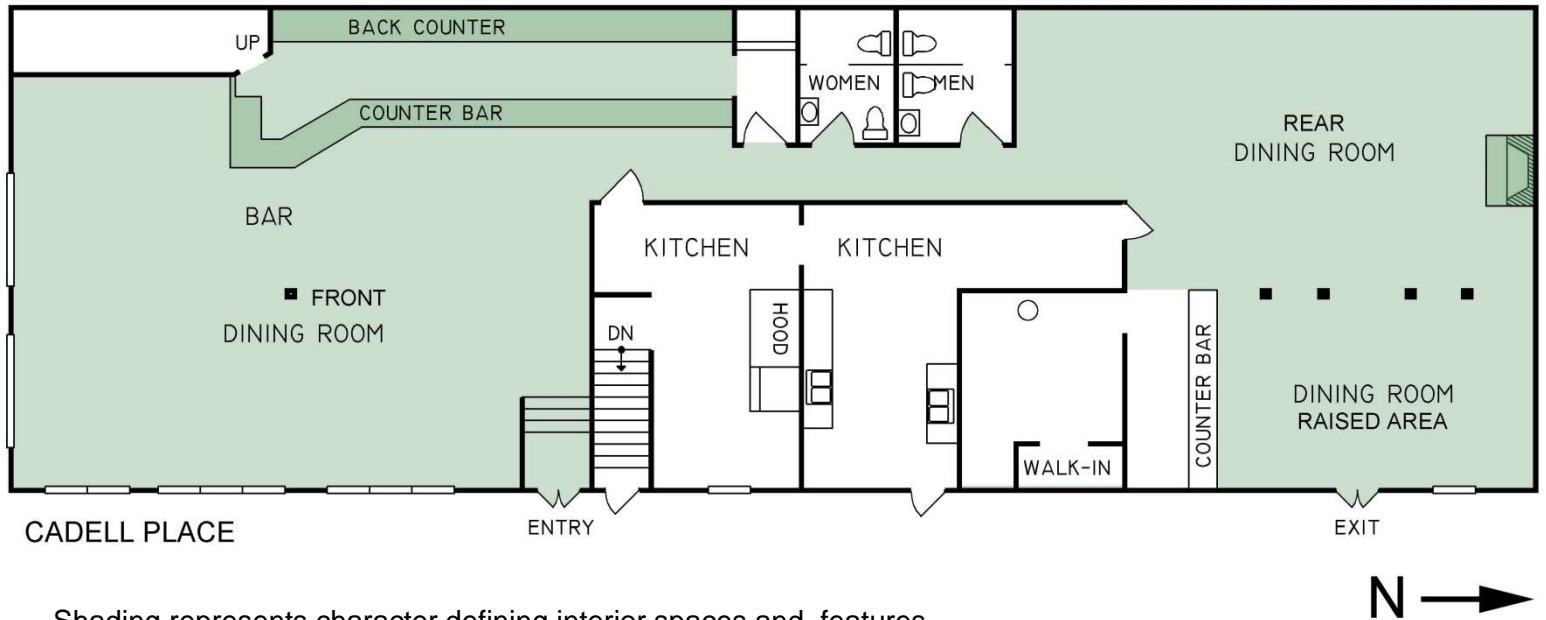
Based on the Department's analysis, 524 Union Street (Paper Doll) is individually eligible for Article 10 Landmark designation as it is associated with significant events and persons. The subject property is significant as one of the earliest lesbian bars associated with the development of LGBTQ communities in San Francisco. It is also significant for Dante Benedetti; as the owner of the Paper Doll he became one of the people on the front lines in the fight for LGBTQ civil rights in San Francisco in the late 1950s. Designation of 524 Union Street (Paper Doll) also appears to meet three of four of the Historic Preservation Commission's priorities for designation. Staff recommends approval of the proposed landmark designation of 524 Union Street (Paper Doll).

The Historic Preservation Commission may recommend approval, disapproval, or approval with modifications of the proposed designation of 524 Union Street (Paper Doll) as a San Francisco landmark under Article 10 of the Planning Code to the Board of Supervisors pursuant to Planning Code Section 1004.1. If the Historic Preservation Commission approves the designation, a copy of the motion of approval is transmitted to the Board of Supervisors, which holds a public hearing on the designation and may approve, modify or disapprove the designation (Section 1004.4). If the Historic Preservation Commission disapproves the proposed designation, such action shall be final, except upon the filing of a valid appeal to the Board of Supervisors within 30 days (Section 1004.5).

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Draft Landmark Designation Fact Sheet
- B. Draft Motion initiating designation
- C. Draft Ordinance
- D. Landmark Nomination
- E. Letter of Support

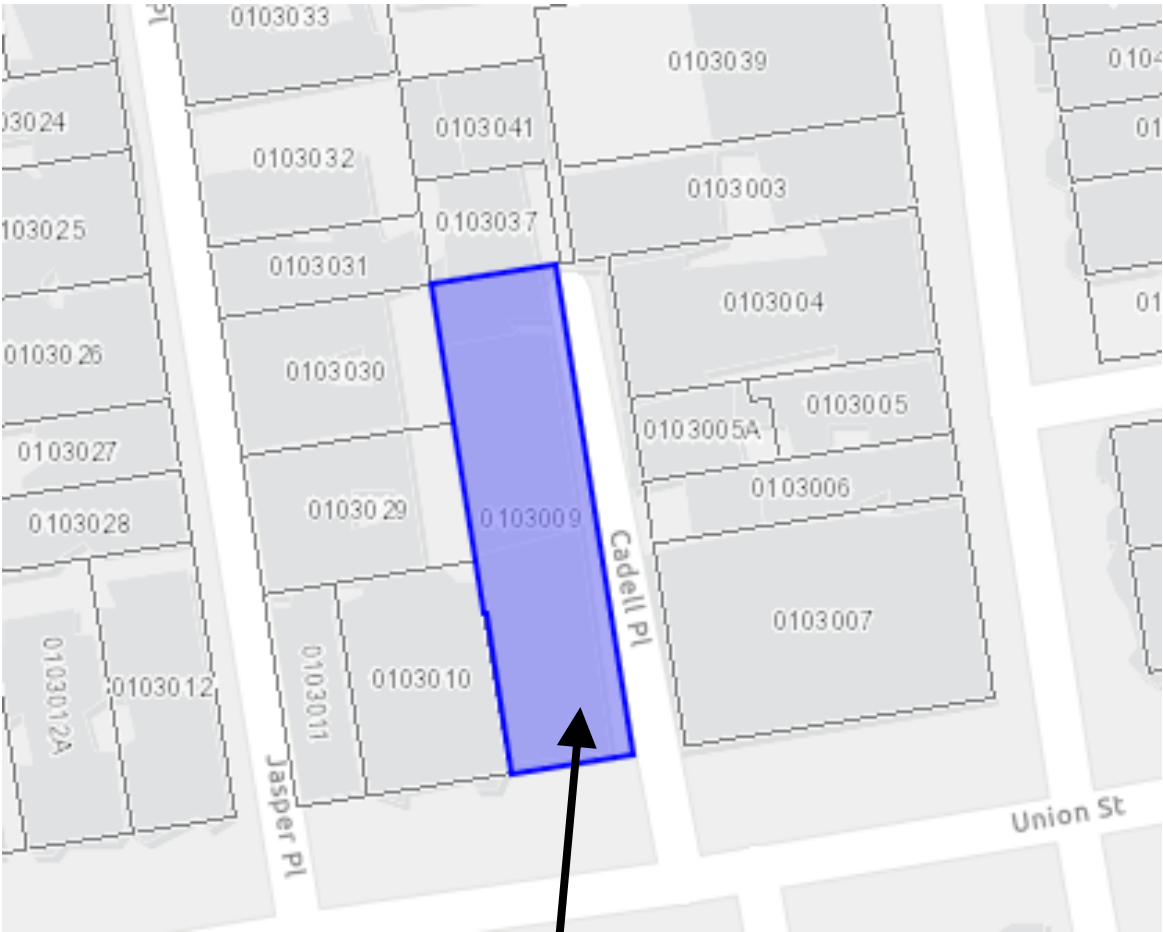
Interior Character Defining Features



Shading represents character defining interior spaces and features.

Article 10 Landmark Designation
2017-001773DES
524 Union Street (Paper Doll)

Parcel Map



SUBJECT PROPERTY



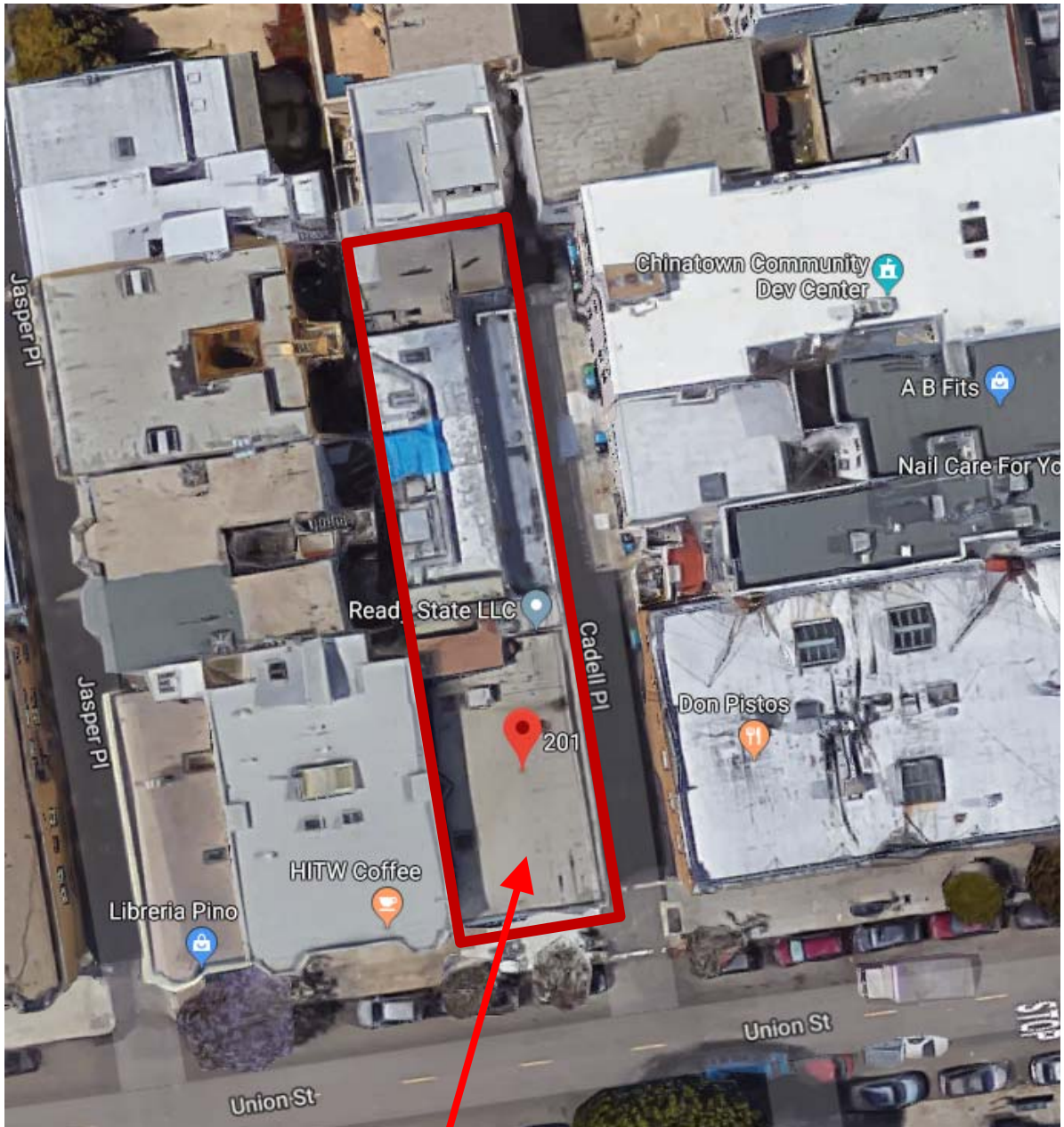
Zoning Map



SUBJECT PROPERTY



Aerial Photo

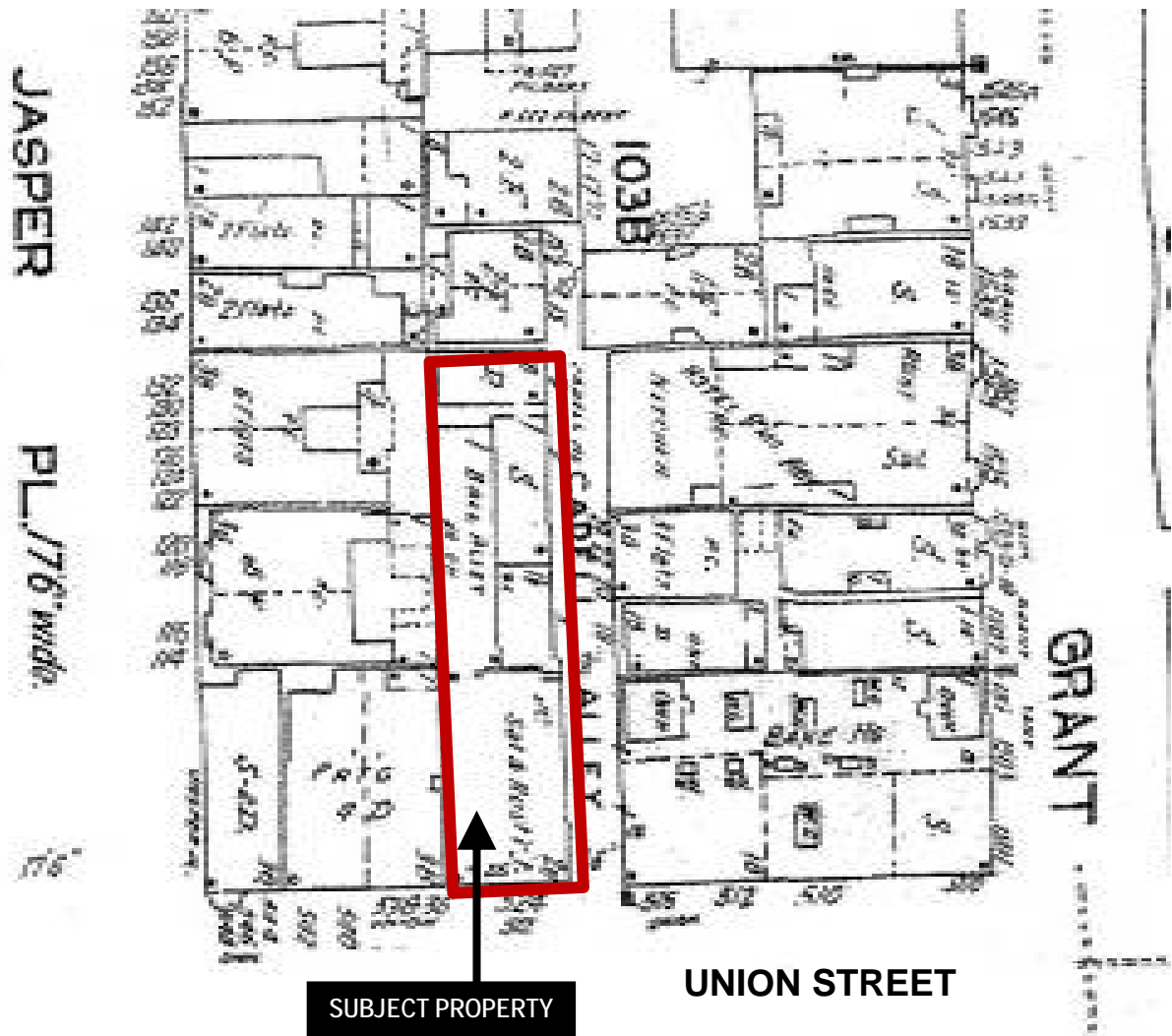


SUBJECT PROPERTY



Article 10 Landmark Designation
2017-001773DES
524 Union Street (Paper Doll)

Sanborn Map*



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



Article 10 Landmark Designation
2017-001773DES
524 Union Street (Paper Doll)

Site Photo



Article 10 Landmark Designation
2017-001773DES
524 Union Street (Paper Doll)



SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Landmark No. XXX Community-Sponsored Article 10 Landmark Designation

INITIATED BY THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION: XXX, X, 2018

APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS: XXX, X, 2018

SIGNED BY MAYOR: XXX, X, 2018

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

Reception:
415.558.6378

Fax:
415.558.6409

Planning
Information:
415.558.6377

Staff Contact: Shannon Ferguson – (415) 575-9074

shannon.ferguson@sfgov.org

Reviewed By: Timothy Frye – (415) 575-6822

tim.frye@sfgov.org



<i>Historic Name:</i>	Paper Doll
<i>Address:</i>	524 Union Street
<i>Block/Lot:</i>	0103/009
<i>Zoning:</i>	NCD – North Beach Neighborhood Commercial
<i>Height & Bulk</i>	40-X

<i>Year Built:</i>	Built circa 1846, Rebuilt 1906. Altered 1975-1978
<i>Architect:</i>	Unknown, Moulton & Clark, Inc. Architecture & Planning (alterations)
<i>Applicant:</i>	524 Union Street, A General Partnership; Beverly Smucha, Managing Partner
<i>Prior Historic Studies:</i>	Identified in the LGBTQ Historic Context Statement for its association with the development of LGBTQ communities in San Francisco
<i>Prior HPC Actions:</i>	None

<i>Significance Criteria</i>	<p><u>Events:</u> Associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.</p> <p><u>Persons:</u> Associated with the lives of significant persons in our past.</p>
<i>Period of Significance</i>	The Period of Significance is 1947-1961 reflecting the date Mona Sargent took over management of the Paper Doll and turned it into a gay bar and ending with the date Dante Benedetti sold the Paper Doll.
<i>Statement of Significance:</i>	<p><i>Events: Associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.</i></p> <p>According to the <i>Citywide Historic Context Statement for LGBTQ History in San Francisco</i>, the Paper Doll “was one of the earliest spaces in San Francisco that functioned as an informal community center where ‘gay, lesbian, and transgendered people could make friends, find lovers, get information, or plan activities.’”¹</p> <p>The Paper Doll is located in North Beach, which became known as San Francisco’s first bar-based LGBTQ Community. North Beach had an international, working-class feel, with a thriving Bohemian scene of artists and writers taking advantage of cheap rents. It was described as an exciting, vital neighborhood that was more accepting and tolerant of LGBTQ people. This atmosphere drew more queer men and women to the neighborhood, “creating the city’s first queer residential enclave and establishing the roots of San Francisco’s LGBTQ communities.”²</p> <p>Bar owners were able to create discrete spaces where LGBTQ people felt safe to congregate in public. These bars provided the protection needed to establish and nurture the LGBTQ community. Because any display or form of nonnormative sexuality was criminal forcing LGBTQ people to</p>

¹ Donna Graves and Shayne E. Watson, *Citywide Historic Context Statement for LGBTQ History in San Francisco*, March 2016, 78.

² Ibid., p. 59.

hide from the law, public spaces like the Paper Doll served as community centers for a disconnected and disparate population to coalesce.³

Opened in 1944 by Tom Arbulich, the Paper Doll had a long bar with 30 stools off to the left. Tables and booths were to the right. Two banquet rooms were located in the back that could seat over 100 people. It was decorated by members of the North Beach artists' community, with murals on the walls painted by Emmy Lou Packard, a friend of Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo, and had a "collage window" designed by Rita Covelick.⁴ The murals and collage window are no longer extant.

Mona Sargent, who had previously opened three other lesbian nightclubs, served as the Paper Doll's hostess and was responsible for making it into a gay bar in 1947. Clientele were a mix of men and women, but it was mostly frequented by women because it was located away from the touristy Broadway Street.⁵ Bars that welcomed women, as well as people of color, and those who identified as bisexual or transgender, were few in number as most bars catered to white, gay men.

The Paper Doll was unique because it was one of the first restaurants catering to the queer community in San Francisco – if not the first – and because it provided a public alternative to nightclubs and bars.⁶ The Paper Doll operated through 1961. Because it was a restaurant, it was able to avoid policing by agencies such as the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board (ABC), because these agencies were more tolerant of bars with restaurants.⁷ Therefore it remained open for longer than most queer spaces.

Persons: Associated with the lives of significant persons in our past.

Dante Benedetti, as the owner of the Paper Doll, became one of the people on the front lines in the fight for LBGTQ civil rights in San Francisco in the 1950s. Benedetti was born in North Beach, attended Saint Ignatius High School, and was a three-sport letter winner in football, boxing and baseball at USF from 1937-1940. After college, he served in the Coast Guard and Marine Corps during World War II and then ran the New Pisa restaurant with his father after the war. Benedetti was well known for coaching and sponsoring Little League and American Legion teams in San

³ Ibid., 54-55

⁴ Ibid., 76

⁵ Ibid., 78.

⁶ Ibid., 76.

⁷ Ibid., 78.

	<p>Francisco. In 1962-1980 he served as USF's head baseball coach.</p> <p>Benedetti bought the Paper Doll in 1954. During his ownership, Benedetti claimed that it was the most popular place in North Beach, serving steaks and roast beef for \$1.65 a dinner. The restaurant brought in all kinds of people and was filled with businessmen, artists, and Italians in the neighborhood. Benedetti noted, "I was doing a tremendous food business up there when they closed me down you know, how come there's just men in here? And they started to bring charges against me of what kind of place I was operating."⁸</p> <p>Prior to 1955, "serving alcohol to 'known homosexuals' was not illegal – although homosexual acts were still banned. Queer people could legally assemble in bars, but touching, nonnormative gender attire, or mannerisms that signified homosexual status could be construed as an illegal act. In 1955 California's alcohol control legislation was changed with the creation of the ABC. In the same year the California Business and Professional code was amended to allow the ABC the authority to investigate "resorts for sexual perverts." The ABC began policing of queer bars, relying on entrapment and scare tactics. Undercover agents seduced patrons and police cars were parked outside bars as a deterrent. Bar owners reported that their bars were consistently harassed and monitored by undercover ABC officers looking for morals violations. A number of bars were closed based on charges related to homosexuality. This had a devastating effect on gay and lesbian bar owners."⁹</p> <p>On August 20, 1956, the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control filed an accusation against Benedetti and the Paper Doll, charging violations of keeping of a disorderly house, alleging disturbance of the neighborhood, injury to the public welfare and morals, and the keeping of a resort for sexual perverts.¹⁰</p> <p>At the trial, state investigators testified that "indecent proposals were made to them by patrons of the Paper Doll."¹¹ On May 16, 1957, the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control revoked Benedetti's liquor</p>
--	---

⁸ Dante Benedetti, interviewed by Nan Alamilla Boyd, July 10, 1992, The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society.

⁹ Donna Graves and Shayne E. Watson, *Citywide Historic Context Statement for LGBTQ History in San Francisco*, March 2016, 114-116.

¹⁰ District Court of Appeal, First District, Division 2, California. Dante BENEDETTI, Petitioner and Appellant, v. DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL et al., Respondents. Civ. 19205. Decided: December 08, 1960. <https://caselaw.findlaw.com/ca-court-of-appeal/1811608.html>. Accessed June 25, 2018

¹¹ San Francisco Examiner, December 4, 1956.

	<p>license because it deemed that its continuance would be contrary to public welfare and morals.</p> <p>Although Benedetti would concede during the trial that the Paper Doll had a gay and lesbian clientele, an admission that made headlines in San Francisco newspapers, he claimed that he “never had any idea whatsoever that there was anything wrong with operating a gay bar”. Adding that “No one ever told me. It cleared the license, and I thought that’s all that was necessary.” Benedetti would explain to anyone who asked, that he never made assumptions about the gender, or sexuality of his clientele at Paper Doll saying, “Gay people are no different than a human — you know, a person that’s normal. You give a little acceptance to a normal person and he reacts to it. You know, and I think gay people did the same thing. That’s why they came to San Francisco.”¹²</p> <p>Benedetti battled the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control between 1956-1961 arguing that gays and lesbians had the right to assemble in bars and restaurants. Benedetti describes years in the courts, saying “in those days, they had what you call a - a court within the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board. It has nothing to do with the civil court. And I fought it all through those, and then I went into the civil court. And the first civil court I went into, they denied me the right to go ahead and fight it any further than that. [...] It was expensive, but I just thought I was right. I wasn’t doing anything wrong.”¹³</p> <p>In 1961, Benedetti sold his license to Don Farber, a journeyman baseball player who spent time with the Pacific Coast League’s Oakland Oaks, who renamed the bar Cadell Place.</p>
--	--

<i>Character-Defining Features</i>	<p>List of Character-Defining Features:</p> <p><i>Exterior</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Two story height ▪ Low, boxy massing ▪ Flat roof ▪ Redwood channel rustic horizontal wood siding
------------------------------------	--

¹² Dante Benedetti, interviewed by Nan Alamilla Boyd, July 10, 1992, The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society.

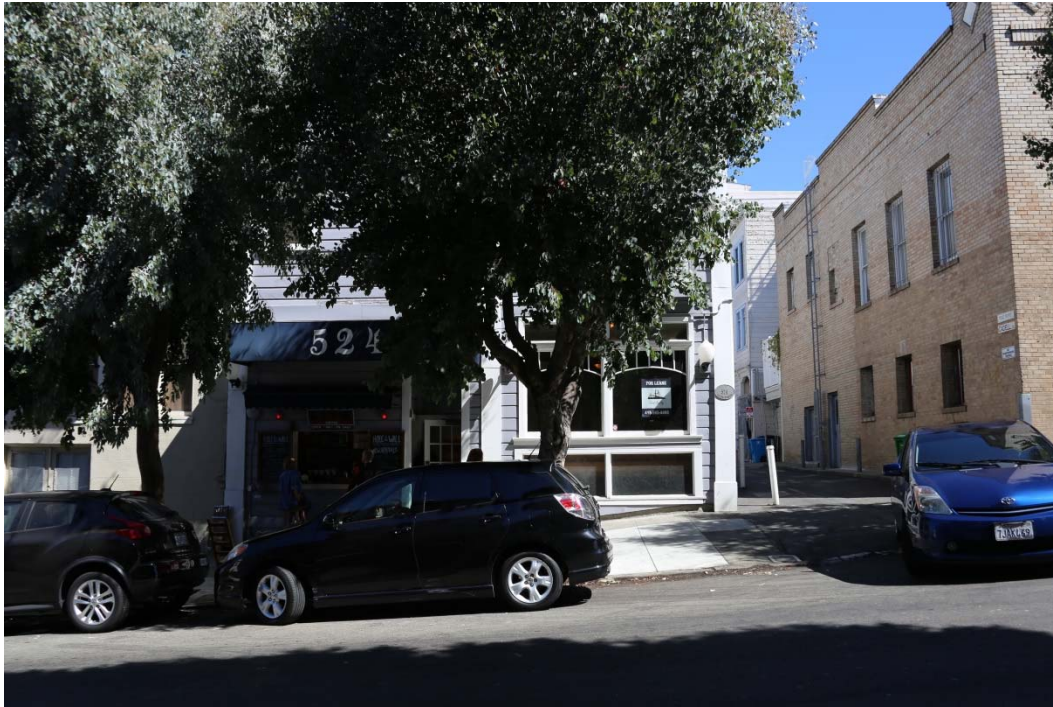
¹³ Ibid.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Regularly spaced punched window openings with simple, flat wood surrounds and wood sills▪ Double-hung, wood sash windows at second floor▪ Prominent corner siting at Union Street and Cadell Place▪ Two entries and stair to second floor located on Cadell Place. <p><i>Interior</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ A front dining room and a rear dining room with raised area separated by kitchen and bathrooms▪ Heavy timber support posts running north-south in both front dining room and back dining room▪ Bar configuration and back bar with oak wood coolers located at the west wall of the front dining room▪ Fireplace in rear dining room
--	--

Additional Photos



Primary façade facing Union Street, view west.



Secondary façade facing Cadell Place, view northwest.



Front dining room, view south.



Front dining room, view east. Note heavy timber framing at left.



Bar and back bar configuration located at the west wall of the front dining room, view southwest.



Corridor leading to kitchen and bathrooms between front dining room and rear dining room, view north.



Rear dining room, view north.



Detail of fireplace in rear dining room, view north.



Raised area in rear dining room, view southeast. Note heavy timber framing at left and right.