

McGurck Block
N.E. Corner of 5th Ave., & Market St.
San Diego, San Diego County
California

HABS No. CAL-428

HABS
CAL
37. SANDI
4

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Western Office, Division of Design and Construction
1000 Geary Street
San Francisco, California

HABS
CAL.
37. SANDI
4

PHOTOGRAPH-DATA BOOK REPORT
HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

CAL-428
Page 1

McGURCK BLOCK

San Diego, San Diego County, California

ADDRESS: Northeast corner of Fifth Avenue and Market Street.

OWNER: Charles H. Richards, Metropole Hotel, San Diego;
Frances R. Sutton and Mary R. Sanders, 124 Broadway,
San Diego.

OCCUPANT: Ferris and Ferris Drugstore, two other business concerns,
ground floor; Monroe Hotel on upper floors with entrance
from Fifth Avenue.

USE: Commercial.

BRIEF STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Three story commercial building constructed in classical revival style ca. 1880, featuring chimneys above parapet walls serving space heaters or fireplaces in individual rooms.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Title records of July 24, 1876, show Edward McGurck as owner. In 1881, the military role for San Diego County listed an Edward McGurck. In 1889-90, the San Diego City Directory listed E. McGurck living at 611 Fifth Street, McGurck Block, and in 1903 same address Edward McGurck, capitalist.

ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

EXTERIOR

This three story building is somewhat typical of those constructed in the late 1870's and early 1880's. It is essentially a brick structure but with steel lintels and some columns in the first floor interior.

The Fifth Avenue elevation consists of a central stairway entrance on the ground floor with two bays each side and round head openings at the second and third floors directly above with a pediment rising above the rather low parapet. At each side of this central feature are grouped four curved head windows. A belt course marks the second and third floors and a sheet metal classic entablature with frieze and modillions supporting a cornice at roof line. Four free standing chimneys and one engaged to the side of the pediment extending above the parapet are repeated each way from the entrance motif. The corner chimney is common to the two street elevations and is larger.

The Market Street elevation is similar but with six chimneys each side of the pediment which seems not to be related to an entrance motif. The upper story openings of the entrance motif on Fifth Avenue, which open to fire escapes, have semicircular mouldings at the head, with keystones down to the impost brackets, then simple rectangular architraves. The sill portion is carried on two brackets. All other openings have double hung windows with segmental head with hood mouldings similar to the semicircular head openings at the entrance motif.

Overall Dimensions: The Fifth Avenue width of the building is ninety feet eight inches. The Market Street length of the building is about one hundred one feet.

Roof: The roof is composition on wood sheathing and trussed rafters with four skylights.

INTERIOR

The ground floor plan is not significant as it is subject to alterations to accomodate variable tenants.

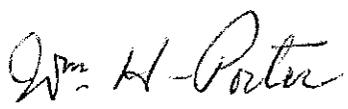
HABS
CAL
37 SANDI
4-

CAL-428
Page 3

REFERENCES

1. Mr. Jerry MacMullen - Director, Junipero Serra Museum.
2. Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Richards and other owners.
3. County Tax Assessors Office, San Diego, California.

Prepared by,



William H. Porter, AIA
San Diego Preservation Officer

September 1963

APPROVED *Charles S. Pope*
Charles S. Pope, AIA
Supervising Architect, Historic Structures
Western Office, Design and Construction
National Park Service

DATE: *2/20/64*