



Legacy Business Registry Staff Report

Hearing Date: March 25, 2024

GFDS ENGINEERS

Application No.: LBR-2023-24-032
Business Name: GFDS Engineers
Business Address: 99 Green St., 3rd Floor
District: District 3
Applicant: Liz Eugene Davis, Operations Manager
Nomination Date: February 20, 2024
Nominated By: Supervisor Aaron Peskin
Staff Contact: Richard Kurylo and Michelle Reynolds
legacybusiness@sfgov.org

BUSINESS DESCRIPTION

GFDS Engineers is a structural engineering firm founded in 1952 by William B. Gilbert at 202 Green Street in the Jackson Square/Embarcadero area. After completing his service in the U.S. Navy and working as a civil engineer at Nishkian & Associates, William ventured out to establish his own firm, "William B. Gilbert CE." Among his notable clients were Wurster, Bernardi & Emmons, as well as Lawrence Halprin. William also dedicated time to teaching structural engineering to UC Berkeley architectural students. Recollections from former colleagues highlight his collaborative spirit, often seen exchanging ideas with architects using tracing paper and thick pencils, adapting to each other's drawing preferences. It was during this period that he instilled two enduring principles into what is now known as GFDS Engineers: prioritizing structures that align with the architect's vision and delivering services with the utmost professionalism.

GFDS Engineers expanded over the years and acquired new partners including Robert Forsberg, Edward Diekmann, Harry Schmidt, Karl Kaspin, Nicolai Kalugin, Otto Avvakumovits, Russell Fudge, Kris Johnson, and David Kallmeyer. The business also changed locations several times throughout the years to support the company's expansion and opened new offices in Hawaii and Colorado (no longer extant).

GFDS Engineers has a rich history of providing structural engineering expertise to clients in the San Francisco Bay Area and beyond. The company's dedication to fine architecture and design sensibility has earned it an award-winning client list, and their portfolio includes distinctive residential estates and signature landmarks. The ownership and leadership of GFDS Engineers over the years have contributed to its success and reputation in the field of structural engineering. Their highly trained engineering staff is skilled in the latest structural analysis techniques, building information modeling (BIM) technologies such as Revit, and the most current construction methods, including integrated processes with design build suppliers.

Servicing all of San Francisco, GFDS Engineers' clients are architects, homeowners, schools, local and state government, and contractors. Additionally, GFDS Engineers has had the honor of collaborating with renowned architects such as Robert A.M. Stern, Lawrence Halprin, William Wurster, and Joseph Esherick. These partnerships have resulted in the creation of architectural masterpieces that contribute to San Francisco's unique character. The company's portfolio includes work on distinctive residential estates and signature landmarks like the California Palace of the Legion of Honor. These landmarks are integral to San Francisco's cultural and historical heritage. GFDS Engineers is known for its dedication to innovation and its ability to provide creative and challenging structural solutions. By bringing architectural visions to life, the company has played a role in shaping the city's skyline and infrastructure. The firm's commitment to fine architecture and design sensibility has earned it an award-winning client list, which speaks to its influence and reputation within the architectural and engineering community.

Legacy Business Program

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San Francisco, CA 94102
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CRITERION 1

Has the applicant operated in San Francisco for 30 or more years, with no break in San Francisco operations exceeding two years?

Yes, GFDS Engineers has operated in San Francisco for 30 or more years, with no break in San Francisco operations exceeding two years:

202 Green St. from 1952 to 1961 (9 years)
1620 Montgomery St. from 1961 to 1980 (19 years)
100 North Point St., Suite 100 from 1980 to 1980 (1 year)
675 Davis St. from 1980 to 2005 (25 years)
543 Howard St., Suite 100 from 2005 to 2015 (10 years)
99 Green St., 3rd Floor from 2015 to Present (9 years)

CRITERION 2

Has the applicant contributed to the neighborhood's history and/or the identity of a particular neighborhood or community?

Yes, GFDS Engineers has contributed to the history and identity of the Embarcadero neighborhood and San Francisco.

The Historic Preservation Commission recommended the applicant as qualifying, noting the following ways the applicant contributed to the neighborhood's history and/or the identity of a particular neighborhood or community:

- GFDS Engineers is known for its work on the preservation of architectural significant buildings and has collaborated with renowned designers and architects, including Robert A.M. Stern, landscape architect and urban planner Lawrence Halprin, William Wurster and Joseph Esherick. The company's portfolio includes work on distinctive residential estates and signature landmarks. Notable projects include the California Palace of the Legion of Honor, Ghirardelli Square, Icehouse, the Lands End Visitor Center, Museum of Modern Arts Restaurant – In Situ, Boudin Bakery and Restaurant at SF Fisherman's Wharf, The Hamlin's School, Stern Grove Park, the Urban Garden at Pacific Heights and Justin Herman Plaza, amongst others.
- The property (99 Green, aka 962 Battery), which is situated two blocks from the current shoreline, is located within the California Register-eligible and Article 10 Landmark Northeast Waterfront Historic Districts, whose boundaries overlap. It is listed as compatible with the districts. Built in 1910, the three-story reinforced concrete industrial building, designed by Charles C. Tyre, was originally a printing facility.

The Northeast Waterfront Districts contain commercial warehouse buildings from nearly every decade of San Francisco's history. The area reflects the waterfront storage and maritime activities which, until recently, were an important aspect of San Francisco business history. These buildings range in age from the early clipper ship warehouses of Scotsman Daniel Gibb in the 1850s to the properties owned by the General Engineering and Drydock Co., a company crucial to the shipbuilding effort that made San Francisco Bay the major Pacific maritime support facility during World War II. These warehouse facilities have been in continuous industrial use from the Gold Rush to the mid-1960s. Since that decade, showrooms, office, and retail uses have been integrated into renovated warehouse structures.

The Historic Districts include historically and architecturally significant buildings dating from the 1850s to the present century. The buildings vary in height from approximately six stories closest to the base of Telegraph Hill to a maximum of four stories at The Embarcadero and the bay. Common architectural features tie the area together and provide visual distinction. Two major building materials were used in the area: brick since the Gold Rush era and

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reinforced concrete after the 1906 fire. Common architectural elements are repeated throughout the districts. Of particular note are the large bulk and minimal fenestration of the earlier warehouse structures. Other common features are scale and proportion, materials, color, texture, and the minimal use of decorative elements.

The area is architecturally significant as a representation of warehouse and industrial buildings from the brick structures of the Gold Rush era to the reinforced concrete buildings introduced after the turn of the century. Some of the present buildings date from well before the turn of the century, though they were rebuilt after the 1906 fire. Since warehouse architecture did not undergo profound stylistic changes until the introduction of reinforced concrete, the pre- and post-fire brick warehouses embody the original appearance and spirit of the early warehouse district. In addition, cobblestone paving and the standard and narrow gauge belt line railroad track which served the district are visible at the foot of Commerce Street. The area clearly serves as a visual reminder of San Francisco's earlier maritime-warehousing commerce.

- GFDS Engineers has been recognized for work done at the Legion of Honor, the Boudin at the Wharf project, and many other residential and commercial projects in San Francisco. Some notable media mentions are as follows:
 - "Civil Engineering," publication of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), August 1996.
 - "Engineering News Record (ENR)," June 6, 1994.
 - "Architecture," publication of The American Institute of Architects (AIA), December 1995.
 - "Building Design and Construction (BD&C)," May 1996.
- Additionally, GFDS Engineers have received the following awards:
 - Art House: Architecture & Design Collection (ADC), Award for Spatial Design – 2021.
 - In Situ Restaurant at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art – Merit Award for Interior Architecture – 2019.
 - Cow Hollow Residence: Gold Nugget Awards, Merit Award – 2018.
 - Telegraph Hill Stairs: 270 Green Street, Remodeling Design Award – 2016.
 - Urban Garden at Pacific Heights: American Society of Landscape Architects, Honor Award – 2010.
 - Haus Martin: Architectural Record, Kitchen Portfolio Award – 2007.
 - Boudin at the Wharf: Themed Entertainment Association (TEA), Award for Outstanding Achievement in Brand Retail Experience – 2006.
 - Haus Martin: AIA East Bay, Best of the Bay Interior Design Award – 2005.
 - Haus Martin: AIA East Bay, East Bay Exceptional Residential Design Award – 2004.
 - Icehouse Concourse: AISC, Architectural Award of Excellence – 1969.
 - Ghirardelli Square: AIA, Collaborative Achievement in Architecture Award – 1966.
- With regard to racial and social equity, GFDS Engineers donates to various institutions in San Francisco. The business collaborates with the Structural Engineers Association of Northern California to participate in Rebuilding Together San Francisco. This program helps keep people in their homes, revitalize low-income neighborhoods, and maintain the city's diverse character by providing free building repair, modification, clean-up, and renovation work to community members.

CRITERION 3

Is the applicant committed to maintaining the physical features or traditions that define the business, including craft, culinary, or art forms?

Yes, GFDS Engineers is committed to maintaining the physical features and traditions that define the business.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

The Historic Preservation Commission recommends that GFDS Engineers qualifies for the Legacy Business Registry under Administrative Code Section 2A.242(b)(2) and recommends safeguarding of the below listed physical features and traditions.

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Physical Features or Traditions that Define the Business:

- Preserving architectural integrity by providing structural engineering expertise to clients in the San Francisco Bay Area and beyond.
- Collaboration with renowned architects.
- Involvement in landmark projects.
- Commitment to innovation.
- Award-winning client list.

CORE PHYSICAL FEATURE OR TRADITION THAT DEFINES THE BUSINESS

Following is the core physical feature or tradition that defines the business that would be required for maintenance of the business on the Legacy Business Registry.

- Structural engineering.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the San Francisco Small Business Commission include GFDS Engineers currently located at 99 Green St., 3rd Floor, in the Legacy Business Registry as a Legacy Business under Administrative Code Section 2A.242.

Richard Kurylo and Michelle Reynolds
Legacy Business Program

Legacy Business Program

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Small Business Commission

Resolution No. _____

March 25, 2024

GFDS ENGINEERS

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Business Address: 99 Green St., 3rd Floor
District: District 3
Applicant: Liz Eugene Davis, Operations Manager
Nomination Date: February 20, 2024
Nominated By: Supervisor Aaron Peskin
Staff Contact: Richard Kurylo and Michelle Reynolds
legacybusiness@sfgov.org

Adopting findings approving the Legacy Business Registry application for GFDS Engineers, currently located at 99 Green St., 3rd Floor.

WHEREAS, in accordance with Administrative Code Section 2A.242, the Office of Small Business maintains a registry of Legacy Businesses in San Francisco (the "Registry") to recognize that longstanding, community-serving businesses can be valuable cultural assets of the City and to be a tool for providing educational and promotional assistance to Legacy Businesses to encourage their continued viability and success; and

WHEREAS, the subject business has operated in San Francisco for 30 or more years, with no break in San Francisco operations exceeding two years; or

WHEREAS, the subject business has operated in San Francisco for more than 20 years but less than 30 years, has had no break in San Francisco operations exceeding two years, has significantly contributed to the history or identity of a particular neighborhood or community and, if not included on the Registry, faces a significant risk of displacement; and

WHEREAS, the subject business has contributed to the neighborhood's history and identity; and

WHEREAS, the subject business is committed to maintaining the physical features and traditions that define the business; and

WHEREAS, at a duly noticed public hearing held on March 25, 2024, the San Francisco Small Business Commission reviewed documents and correspondence, and heard oral testimony on the Legacy Business Registry application; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Small Business Commission hereby includes GFDS Engineers in the Legacy Business Registry as a Legacy Business under Administrative Code Section 2A.242.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Small Business Commission recommends safeguarding the below listed physical features and traditions at GFDS Engineers.

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Physical Features or Traditions that Define the Business:

- Preserving architectural integrity by providing structural engineering expertise to clients in the San Francisco Bay Area and beyond.
- Collaboration with renowned architects.
- Involvement in landmark projects.
- Commitment to innovation.
- Award-winning client list.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Small Business Commission requires maintenance of the below listed core physical feature or tradition to maintain GFDS Engineers on the Legacy Business Registry:

- Structural engineering.

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED by the Small Business Commission on March 25, 2024.

Katy Tang
Director

RESOLUTION NO. _____

Ayes –
Nays –
Abstained –
Absent –

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Legacy Business Registry

Application Review Sheet

Application No.: LBR-2023-24-032
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Applicant: Liz Eugene Davis, Operations Manager
Nomination Date: February 20, 2024
Nominated By: Supervisor Aaron Peskin

CRITERION 1: Has the applicant has operated in San Francisco for 30 or more years, with no break in San Francisco operations exceeding two years?

Yes No

202 Green St. from 1952 to 1961 (9 years)
1620 Montgomery St. from 1961 to 1980 (19 years)
100 North Point St., Suite 100 from 1980 to 1980 (1 year)
675 Davis St. from 1980 to 2005 (25 years)
543 Howard St., Suite 100 from 2005 to 2015 (10 years)
99 Green St., 3rd Floor from 2015 to Present (9 years)

CRITERION 2: Has the applicant contributed to the neighborhood's history and/or the identity of a particular neighborhood or community?

Yes No

CRITERION 3: Is the applicant committed to maintaining the physical features or traditions that define the business, including craft, culinary, or art forms?

Yes No

NOTES: NA

DELIVERY DATE TO HPC: February 21, 2024

Richard Kurylo and Michelle Reynolds
Legacy Business Program

Legacy Business Program

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City and County of
San Francisco



President, Board of
Supervisors

AARON PESKIN

February 20, 2024

Director Katy Tang *via email* <Katy.Tang@sfgov.org>
San Francisco Office of Small Business
City Hall, Room 110
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlet Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Director Tang,

I write to you to nominate GFDS Engineers located at 99 Green Street for the Legacy Business Registry.

Established in 1952, GFDS Engineers has a rich history of providing structural engineering expertise to clients in the San Francisco Bay Area and beyond. Its dedicated engineers have spearheaded various projects and collaborated with renowned designers and architects, including Robert A.M. Stern, Lawrence Halprin, William Wurster, and Joseph Esherick.

GFDS Engineers is known for its work on the preservation of architectural integrity and has received notable recognition by Interior Architecture in 2019 "In Situ Restaurant at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art" and the Remodeling Design Award in 2016 for Telegraph Hill Stairs: 270 Green Street.

GFDS Engineers would benefit from being added to the Legacy Business Registry, and it is my honor to nominate it for inclusion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Aaron Peskin".

Aaron Peskin



Legacy Business Registry Application



Business Information

Business name: GFDS Engineers

Business owner name(s): Kris Johnson and David Kallmeyer

Identify the person(s) with the highest ownership stake in the business

Current business address: 99 Green Street, 3rd Floor, CA 94111

Telephone: (415) 512 - 1301 **Email:** gfds@gfdseng.com

Mailing address (if different than above):

Website: www.gfdseng.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064071456670 **Twitter:**

7-digit San Francisco Business Account Number (BAN): 0 0 4 5 9 4 3

Do any of these describe your business? (select all that apply)
Requires at least 51% of the business be owned, operated, and controlled by the business designation below.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Immigrant-Owned Business | <input type="checkbox"/> Owned by Person with a Disability |
| <input type="checkbox"/> LGBTQ+-Owned Business | <input type="checkbox"/> Veteran-Owned Business |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Minority-Owned Business* | <input type="checkbox"/> Woman-Owned Business |

**Minority is defined as one or more of the following racial or ethnic groups: American Indian or Alaska Native; Asian; Black or African American; Hispanic or Latino; Middle Eastern or North African; Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander*

Contact Person Information

Contact person name: Liz Eugene Davis

Contact person title: Operations Manager

Contact telephone: (415) 512 - 1301 **Contact email:**

Business Location(s)

List the business address of the original San Francisco location, the start date of business, and the dates of operation at the original location. Check the box indicating whether the original location of the business in San Francisco is the founding location of the business.

If the business moved from its original location and has had additional addresses in San Francisco, identify all other addresses and the dates of operation at each address.

Original San Francisco address: 202 Green Street **Zip Code:** 94111

Is this location the founding location of the business? (Y/N): Y

Dates at this location: From: 1952 **To:** 1961

Other address (if applicable): 1620 Montgomery Street **Zip Code:** 94111

Dates at this location: From: 1961 **To:** 1980

Other address (if applicable): 100 North Point Street, Suite 100 **Zip Code:** 94133

Dates at this location: From: 1980 **To:** 1980

Other address (if applicable): 675 Davis Street **Zip Code:** 94111

Dates at this location: From: 1980 **To:** 2005

Other Address (if applicable): 543 Howard Street, Suite 100 **Zip Code:** 94105

Dates at this location: From: 2005 **To:** 2015

Other address (if applicable): 99 Green Street, 3rd Floor **Zip Code:** 94111

Dates at this location: From: 2015 **To:** Present

Applicant Disclosures

San Francisco Taxes, Business Registration, Licenses, Labor Laws and Public Information Release.

This section is verification that all San Francisco taxes, business registration, and licenses are current and complete, and there are no current violations of San Francisco labor laws. This information will be verified. A business deemed not current with all San Francisco taxes, business registration, and licenses, or has current violations of San Francisco labor laws, will not be eligible to apply for grants through the Legacy Business Program.

In addition, we are required to inform you that all information provided in the application will become subject to disclosure under the California Public Records Act.

Please read the following statements and check each to indicate that you agree with the statement. Then sign below in the space provided.

- I am authorized to submit this application on behalf of the business.
- I attest that the business is current on all of its San Francisco tax obligations.
- I attest that the business's business registration and any applicable regulatory license(s) are current.
- I attest that the Office of Labor Standards and Enforcement (OLSE) has not determined that the business is currently in violation of any of the City's labor laws, and that the business does not owe any outstanding penalties or payments ordered by the OLSE.
- I understand that documents submitted with this application may be made available to the public for inspection and copying pursuant to the California Public Records Act and San Francisco Sunshine Ordinance.
- I hereby acknowledge and authorize that all photographs and images submitted as part of the application may be used by the City without compensation.
- I understand that the Small Business Commission may revoke the placement of the business on the Registry if it finds that the business no longer qualifies, and that placement on the Registry does not entitle the business to a grant of City funds.

Name: Liz Eugene Davis

Signature:



Date:

2/15/24

GFDS ENGINEERS, INC.

Written Historical Narrative

INTRODUCTION

a. Describe the business. What does it sell or provide?

GFDS Engineers, Inc. provide structural engineering services.

They understand and appreciate the incredible level of detail required to create good architecture. They believe the structural engineer must be clever and responsive, and keenly aware of all the systems – from mechanical and plumbing, to waterproofing and drainage – that must be woven together with the structure to create a successful project.

Their task is to design a structural system that is consistent with the architect's aesthetic and provides the level of performance expected by the owner. They strive to understand the requirements of the building beyond its structure, creating the best building solutions. GFDS is dedicated to quality design, technical innovation, and a thoughtful approach to integrating structure and architecture.

Their highly trained engineering staff is skilled in the latest structural analysis techniques, building information modeling (BIM) technologies such as Revit, and the most current construction methods, including integrated processes with design build suppliers.

b. Describe whom the business serves.

GFDS Engineers' clients are architects, home owners, schools, local and state government, and contractors. They service all of San Francisco.

c. In about 2-5 words (15-30 characters), describe what the business is known for.

Structural engineer expertise.

CRITERION 1: The business has operated in San Francisco for 30 or more years, with no break in San Francisco operations exceeding two years

a. Provide a short history of the business, including locations and owners.

GFDS Engineers is a structural engineering firm that was founded in 1952 by William B. Gilbert at 202 Green Street in the Jackson Square/Embarcadero area. After completing his service in the U.S. Navy and working as a civil engineer at Nishkian & Associates, William ventured out to

establish his own firm, "William B. Gilbert CE." Among his notable clients were Wurster, Bernardi & Emmons, as well as Lawrence Halprin. William also dedicated time to teaching structural engineering to UC Berkeley architectural students. Recollections from former colleagues highlight his collaborative spirit, often seen exchanging ideas with architects using tracing paper and thick pencils, adapting to each other's drawing preferences. It was during this period that he instilled two enduring principles into what is now known as GFDS Engineers: prioritizing structures that align with the architect's vision and delivering services with the utmost professionalism.

In 1961, the historic Del Monte Flour Company building at 1620 Montgomery Street was acquired by the firm's major clients, Wurster, Bernardi & Emmons, along with Lawrence Halprin. This prompted William to relocate his practice to this new site. Recognizing the potential for growth, William expanded the firm by welcoming three new partners in 1961: Robert Forsberg, Edward Diekmann, and Harry Schmidt. The firm underwent reorganization and became known as The Gilbert Forsberg Diekmann Trust Partnership. Robert, who received his engineering education in Sweden, had previously worked at Standard Structures. Edward, a graduate of the University of Iowa in civil engineering, served as a second lieutenant in the Army during the Korean War. Harry, who had experience as a draughtsman at Nishkian & Associates, rounded out the new additions to the partnership.

Continuing the tradition initiated by William Gilbert, the firm extended ownership opportunities to valued employees once more in 1968. This expansion saw the gradual promotion of four employees—Karl Kaspin, Nicolai Kalugin, Otto Avvakumovits, and Russell Fudge—to full share ownership. Karl, renowned for his project management skills, had previously worked in prominent local structural engineering firms. Nicolai, a Russian émigré, pursued his engineering education in Harbin, China, during his family's migration to the United States. Otto fled Hungary during the Soviet occupation, served in the U.S. Army, and then pursued structural engineering studies at UC Berkeley. Russell, who obtained a BSE degree from Princeton University and later a master's degree from UC Berkeley, joined the firm in 1964 after his service in the U.S. Army. To facilitate this transition of ownership, the firm was restructured as GFDS Engineers and maintained operations at 1620 Montgomery Street.

In 1980, faced with the impending sale of the 1620 Montgomery Street building and the ambitious renovation plans of the new owners, GFDS Engineers made the strategic decision to relocate. After scouting options, they settled on a suitable space on the first floor at 100 North Point Street, Suite 100, situated in the Fisherman's Wharf neighborhood. Coinciding with this move, another major tenant in the building, Williams Sonoma, expressed interest in expanding their presence. As a result, GFDS Engineers vacated the premises that same year and secured new accommodations at 675 Davis Street in the Embarcadero neighborhood.

In 2003, Kris Johnson acquired the majority shares of GFDS Engineers. A resident of San Francisco, Kris holds a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from UC Davis. With licenses as both a civil engineer and a structural engineer, Kris brings over three decades of expertise in the field of structural engineering to the firm.

In 2005, due to the company's staff expansion, the business relocated from 675 Davis Street to a bigger space on 543 Howard Street, Suite 100, situated in the South of Market neighborhood.

In 2012, David Kallmeyer joined the ownership of the business. Living in Marin, David earned his Master of Science degree in structural engineering from UC Davis and his Bachelor of Science in civil engineering from Ohio State University. With more than 25 years of experience in structural engineering, he is a licensed Structural Engineer. Kris remained the majority shareholder, while David held a minority stake in the company.

In July 2013, GFDS Engineers opened an office at 65-1291 Kawaihae Road, Suite 102B, in Kamuela (also called Waimea), Hawaii.

In 2015, the San Francisco office of the business relocated to their current location at 99 Green Street, 3rd Floor, in the Embarcadero neighborhood due to the expiration of the lease.

In 2017 or so, GFDS Engineers opened an office at 400 West Main Street, Suite 210, in Aspen, Colorado, but it closed shortly afterwards.

b. Provide the ownership history of the business in a consolidated year-to-year format.

1952 to 1961:	William B. Gilbert
1961 to 1968:	William B. Gilbert; Robert Forsberg; Edward Diekmann; Harry Schmidt
1968 to 2003:	William B. Gilbert; Robert Forsberg; Edward Diekmann; Harry Schmidt; Karl Kaspin; Nicolai N. Kalugin; Otto Avvakumovits; Russell Fudge
2003 to 2012:	Kris Johnson
2012 to Present:	Kris Johnson; David Kallmeyer

c. Describe any circumstances that required the business to cease operations in San Francisco for any significant length of time.

Not applicable.

CRITERION 2: The business has contributed to the neighborhood's history and/or the identity of a particular neighborhood or community

a. Describe the business' contribution to the history and/or identity of the neighborhood, community, business sector, or San Francisco as a whole.

GFDS Engineers has a rich history of providing structural engineering expertise to clients in the San Francisco Bay Area and beyond. The company's dedication to fine architecture and design sensibility has earned it an award-winning client list, and their portfolio includes distinctive residential estates and signature landmarks. The ownership and leadership of GFDS Engineers

over the years have contributed to its success and reputation in the field of structural engineering.

Collaboration with Renowned Architects: GFDS Engineers has had the honor of collaborating with renowned architects such as Robert A.M. Stern, Lawrence Halprin, William Wurster, and Joseph Esherick. These partnerships have resulted in the creation of architectural masterpieces that contribute to San Francisco's unique character.

Involvement in Landmark Projects: The company's portfolio includes work on distinctive residential estates and signature landmarks like the California Palace of the Legion of Honor. These landmarks are integral to San Francisco's cultural and historical heritage.

Commitment to Innovation: GFDS Engineers is known for its dedication to innovation and its ability to provide creative and challenging structural solutions. By bringing architectural visions to life, the company has played a role in shaping the city's skyline and infrastructure.

Award-Winning Client List: The firm's commitment to fine architecture and design sensibility has earned it an award-winning client list, which speaks to its influence and reputation within the architectural and engineering community.

Overall, GFDS Engineers' contributions to San Francisco can be seen in the structures it has helped create and the partnerships it has forged with visionary architects. The company's work has left an indelible mark on the city's built environment and its reputation for excellence in structural engineering.

b. Is the business associated with significant people or events, either now or in the past?

GFDS Engineers was founded by and has collaborated with renowned designers and architects. The company has also been involved in various iconic projects.

Owners and Founders: The original founders of GFDS Engineers were William Gilbert, Robert Forsberg, Edward Diekmann, and Harry Schmidt. Their expertise in structural engineering laid the foundation for its success.

Renowned Architects: GFDS Engineers has collaborated with distinguished architects who have had a significant impact on the architectural landscape of San Francisco, including:

- **Robert A.M. Stern:** A prominent architect known for his classical and traditional designs.
- **Lawrence Halprin:** A renowned landscape architect and urban planner who made substantial contributions to San Francisco's urban design.
- **William Wurster:** A renowned architect known for his modern approach to architecture who designed several homes in Pacific Heights and throughout San Francisco.
- **Joseph Esherick:** A prominent architect known for high-profile public buildings such as The Cannery at Fisherman's Wharf.

Notable Projects:

- California Palace of the Legion of Honor
- Ghirardelli Square
- Icehouse
- Lands End Visitor Center
- Museum of Modern Arts Restaurant – In Situ
- Boudin Bakery and Restaurant at SF Fisherman’s Wharf
- The Hamlin’s School
- Stern Grove Park
- Urban Garden at Pacific Heights
- Justin Herman Plaza

c. How does the business demonstrate its commitment to the community?

GFDS Engineers donates to various institutions in San Francisco. The business collaborates with the Structural Engineers Association of Northern California to participate in Rebuilding Together San Francisco. This program helps keep people in their homes, revitalize low income neighborhoods, and maintain the city’s diverse character by providing free building repair, modification, clean-up, and renovation work to community members.

d. Has the business ever been referenced in the media, business trade publication, and/or historical documents?

GFDS Engineers has been recognized for work done at the Legion of Honor, the Boudin at the Wharf project, and many other residential and commercial projects in San Francisco. Some notable media mentions are as follows:

1. “Civil Engineering,” publication of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), August 1996
2. “Engineering News Record (ENR),” June 6, 1994
3. “Architecture,” publication of The American Institute of Architects (AIA), December 1995
4. “Building Design and Construction (BD&C),” May 1996

e. Has the business ever received any awards, recognition, or political commendations?

Notable awards received by GFDS Engineers include the following:

- Art House: Architecture & Design Collection (ADC), Award for Spatial Design – 2021
- In Situ Restaurant at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art – Merit Award for Interior Architecture – 2019
- Cow Hollow Residence: Gold Nugget Awards, Merit Award – 2018
- Telegraph Hill Stairs: 270 Green Street, Remodeling Design Award – 2016

- Urban Garden at Pacific Heights: American Society of Landscape Architects, Honor Award – 2010
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- Haus Martin: AIA East Bay, East Bay Exceptional Residential Design Award – 2004
- Icehouse Concourse: AISC, Architectural Award of Excellence – 1969
- Ghiradelli Square: AIA, Collaborative Achievement in Architecture Award – 1966

f. How would the community be diminished if the business were to be sold, relocated, shut down, etc.?

If GFDS Engineers were to close, the community would lose a historic and iconic business that has been a part of its identity and architectural heritage for decades.

CRITERION 3: The business is committed to maintaining the physical features or traditions that define the business

a. Is the business associated with a culturally significant building, structure, object, signage, mural, architectural detail, neon sign, or any other special physical feature that defines the business?

The business is located in an old brick architectural landmark building.

b. In a few words, describe the main business activity you commit to maintaining.

GFDS Engineers is committed to maintaining the business activity of preserving architectural integrity.

c. What is the plan to keep the business open in the long term beyond the current ownership?

Following are plans to keep the business open in the long term:

- Develop a comprehensive succession plan to identify and groom potential future leaders within the company. This may involve mentoring and providing leadership training to key employees who show promise as future owners or managers.

- Explore options for transitioning ownership, such as selling the business to key employees, forming an employee stock ownership plan (ESOP), or seeking external investors who are committed to preserving the business's legacy.
- Explore opportunities to diversify the company's services or expand into related fields to mitigate risks associated with changes in the engineering and construction industry.
- Maintain the company's unique culture, values, and commitment to architectural excellence, as these are key aspects of its identity and legacy.
- Continue to prioritize and nurture client relationships, as a loyal client base is essential for long-term success.

d. What challenges is the business facing today?

GFDS Engineers is facing challenges related to increased competition in the San Francisco structural engineering industry. The growing number of engineering firms has led to a more competitive market, requiring GFDS to continuously innovate and differentiate themselves to secure new projects.

Another potential challenge that GFDS Engineers could be facing today, based on the general business environment, is the higher cost of doing business in San Francisco. This could encompass increased operating expenses, rising real estate costs, and compliance with stringent regulations and building codes. These factors may put pressure on the company's profitability and require careful financial management.

Legacy Business Program staff will add the following details:

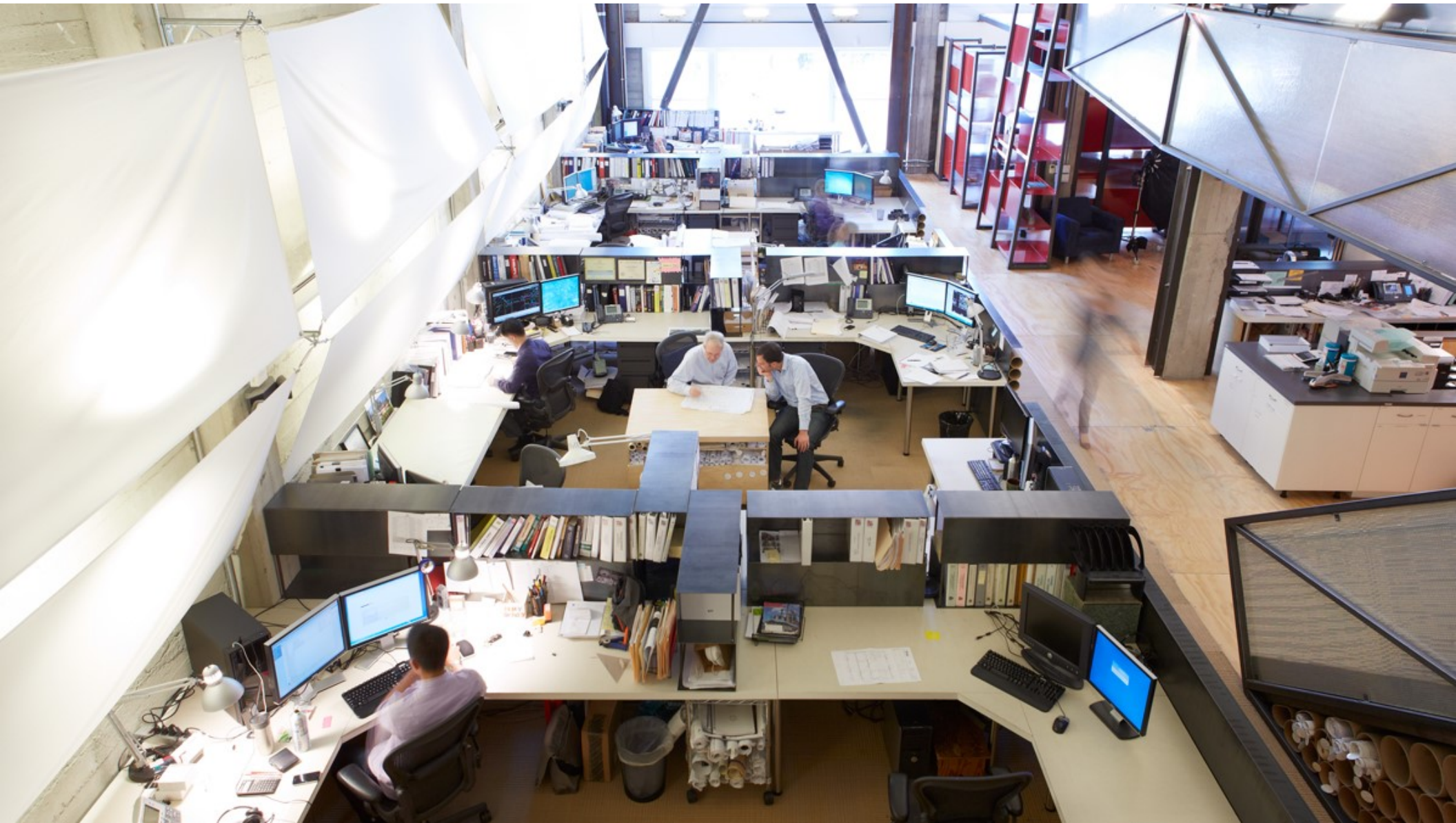
a. Features or traditions that define the business and should be maintained for the business to remain on the Legacy Business Registry.

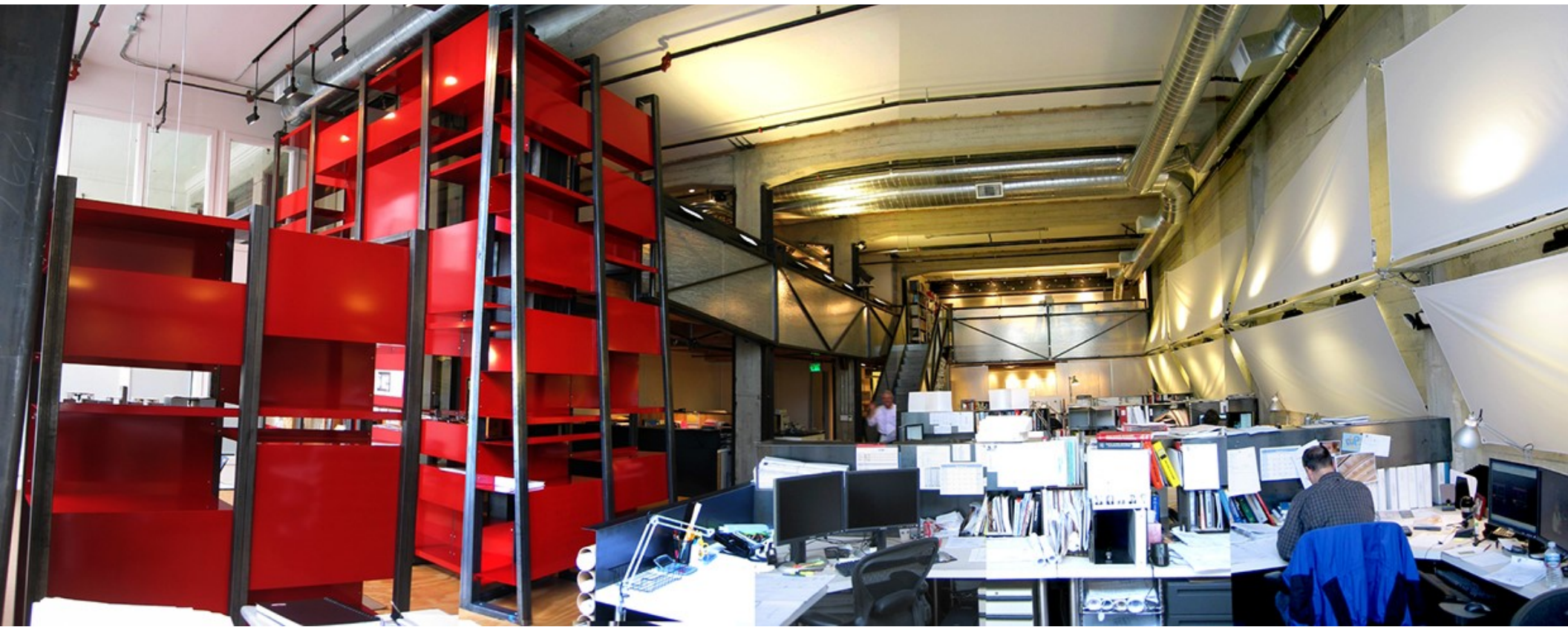
Structural engineering.

b. Other special features of the business location, such as if the property associated with the business is listed on a local, state, or federal historic resources registry.

The Planning Department Historic Resource Status of the building that houses GFDS Engineers is "A - Historic Resource Present." The building was constructed in 1910 in the 20th Century Industrial style and is a contributor to the Eligible Northeast Waterfront Historic District.









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<https://www.architectmagazine.com/project-gallery/hale-mauu>

ARCHITECT

PROJECT

Posted on: May 12, 2021

Hale Mau'u

[Walker Warner](#)





[View all images \(35\)](#)

PROJECT DETAILS

PROJECT NAME

Hale Mau'u

LOCATION

[Big Island, HI](#)

ARCHITECT

[Walker Warner](#)

PROJECT TYPES

[Single Family](#)

PROJECT SCOPE

[New Construction](#)

YEAR COMPLETED

[2020](#)

SHARED BY

[Walker Warner](#)

TEAM

Walker Warner Architects, Architect

CONSULTANTS

Landscape Architect: David Y. Tamura Associates,
Construction contractor: Metzler Contracting Co. LLC

PROJECT STATUS

[Built](#)

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

For anyone who has never visited Hawaii's Big Island, it can be surprising to discover that a vast arid plain occupies a significant portion of its western side, sloping gently down from the Hualalai Mountain to the coastline. Tufts of golden-green grass spring from the crumbled bed of black lava rock, with lacy Kiawe trees scattered throughout. When Walker Warner Architects was asked to design a vacation home in this setting, the design team decided to fully embrace the quiet beauty of this unique landscape. The project was named Hale Mau'u. In Hawaiian, hale (pronounced ha-lay) means house, and mau'u is a type of native grass.

The 2.9-acre site had several innate qualities — such as its location at the end of a cul-de-sac and its long driveway approach — that allowed the team to create what architect Greg Warner refers to as “an illusion of isolation.” In his words, “This site is unique in its ability to capture the ocean view and mountain view simultaneously. Not all parcels get that. The arrangement of the 4,817-square-foot compound had to do three things: catch the mountain view, catch the ocean view, and then block the view of the neighboring houses.”

From overhead, the site strategy is clear. A single raised boardwalk, floating respectfully above the ground, forms a linear axis pointing towards the mountains on one side and the ocean on the other. This pathway runs through a grassy courtyard, and around three sides of this central space the long, low haies are loosely clustered, like a village. On the fourth side of the courtyard lies the swimming pool, with a view of the ocean beyond, and the island of Maui rising up on the horizon.

According to Warner, the clients made it clear from the beginning what they really wanted: “A house like no other. Resort community architecture tends to fall back on a commonality of building types, but these clients wanted something very unique.” With this open attitude, they bought in immediately to the idea that a home on the dry side of Hawaii could provide circulation between rooms entirely on the outside, using covered walkways that wrap around each of the individual structures. The first building you encounter is the main hale (2,318 square feet), which contains the shared spaces: living room, kitchen, and family room. Passing through this building you arrive at the courtyard, and flanking the courtyard on both sides are the living quarters: on one side, a single hale for the grand bedroom suite (995 square feet), on the other, a long hale with a row of additional bedroom suites for family and guests (1,504 square feet). Each bedroom opens directly onto the central lawn. Each of the en suite bathrooms has its own shower (five in all), and uniquely, not a single shower is indoors.

All of the main rooms, including the bedrooms, are equipped with large barn doors, so that when fully opened there is little distinction between inside and out. The living room has this feature on both sides, allowing the landscape to sweep through the house from the mountains down to the sea. These doors were fabricated with gapped boards, so that when they are closed for privacy or shade, fresh air and light can still filter through. When lit from inside at night, the open gaps give the buildings a resemblance to warm glowing lanterns.

Perhaps the most striking and original visual element of the project is the roofs, which are long gables with eaves designed to be narrow at one end of the building but wide at the other, carefully oriented to provide extra shade where it is most needed. The roof cladding material is copper with standing seams, but laid up in random widths. This technique converts the appearance from something fairly common and utilitarian, to something intriguing and vaguely organic, which Warner describes as being similar in texture to the trunk of a coconut palm.

If the goal was “a house like no other,” then by every measure, Hale Mau’u is a success. Its extraordinary natural surroundings, its novel approach to site design, and its remarkable custom detailing all add up to a one-of-a-kind island retreat. Both unique, and uniquely Hawaiian.

Consultant team:

Architecture: Walker Warner Architects

Landscape: David Y. Tamura Associates

Builder: Metzler Contracting Co. LLC

Lighting Design: Anna Kondolf Lighting Design

Structural Engineering: GFDS Engineers

Mechanical Engineering: Hakalau Engineering, LLC

Electrical Engineering: Morikawa & Associates, LLC

Civil Engineering: Aina Engineers Inc.

Geotechnical Engineering: Geolabs, Inc

Walker Warner project team:

Greg Warner, Principal

Thomas Clapper, Senior Project Manager

Dan Baciaska, Matthew Yungert, Boyce Postma and Darcy Arioli, Architectural Staff



LEGACY BUSINESS REGISTRY EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

HEARING DATE: MARCH 20, 2024

Filing Date: February 21, 2024
Case No.: 2024-001551LBR
Business Name: GFDS Engineers
Business Address: 99 Green Street (aka 962 Battery), 3rd Floor
Zoning: C-2 (COMMUNITY BUSINESS) Zoning District
65-X Height and Bulk District
Cultural District: Not Applicable
Block/Lot: 0136/005
Applicant: Liz Eugene Davis
99 Green Street, 3rd Floor
Nominated By: Supervisor Aaron Peskin
Located In: District 3
Staff Contact: Michelle Langlie - 628-652-7410
Michelle.Langlie@sfgov.org

Recommendation: Adopt a Resolution to Recommend Approval

Business Description

GFDS Engineers is a structural engineering firm founded in 1952 by William B. Gilbert at 202 Green Street, in the Jackson Square/Embarcadero area. After completing his service in the U.S. Navy and working as a civil engineer at Nishkian & Associates, William ventured out to establish his own firm, "William B. Gilbert CE." Among his notable clients were Wurster, Bernardi & Emmons, as well as Lawrence Halprin. William also dedicated time to teaching structural engineering to UC Berkeley architectural students. Recollections from former colleagues highlight his collaborative spirit, often seen exchanging ideas with architects using tracing paper and thick pencils, adapting to each other's drawing preferences. It was during this period that he instilled two enduring principles into what is now known as GFDS Engineers: prioritizing structures that align with the architect's vision and delivering services with the utmost professionalism.

GFDS Engineers expanded over the years and acquired new partners including Robert Forsberg, Edward Diekmann, Harry Schmidt, Karl Kaspin, Nicolai Kalugin, Otto Avvakumovits, Russell Fudge, Kris Johnson, and

David Kallmeyer. The business also changed locations several times throughout the years to support the company's expansion and opened new offices in Hawaii and Colorado (no longer extant).

GFDS Engineers has a rich history of providing structural engineering expertise to clients in the San Francisco Bay Area and beyond. The company's dedication to fine architecture and design sensibility has earned it an award-winning client list, and their portfolio includes distinctive residential estates and signature landmarks. The ownership and leadership of GFDS Engineers over the years have contributed to its success and reputation in the field of structural engineering. Their highly trained engineering staff is skilled in the latest structural analysis techniques, building information modeling (BIM) technologies such as Revit, and the most current construction methods, including integrated processes with design build suppliers.

Servicing all of San Francisco, GFDS Engineers' clients are architects, homeowners, schools, local and state government, and contractors. Additionally, GFDS Engineers has had the honor of collaborating with renowned architects such as Robert A.M. Stern, Lawrence Halprin, William Wurster, and Joseph Esherick. These partnerships have resulted in the creation of architectural masterpieces that contribute to San Francisco's unique character. The company's portfolio includes work on distinctive residential estates and signature landmarks like the California Palace of the Legion of Honor. These landmarks are integral to San Francisco's cultural and historical heritage. GFDS Engineers is known for its dedication to innovation and its ability to provide creative and challenging structural solutions. By bringing architectural visions to life, the company has played a role in shaping the city's skyline and infrastructure. The firm's commitment to fine architecture and design sensibility has earned it an award-winning client list, which speaks to its influence and reputation within the architectural and engineering community.

The firm, found within the third floor of the warehouse building located at 99 Green Street/962 Battery Street, is in a Category A (Historic Resource Present) structure at the southeast corner of Green and Battery Streets in the Embarcadero neighborhood. It is within the C-2 (Community Business) Zoning District and a 65-X Height and Bulk District; the Waterfront 3 Special Use District, and the Northeast Waterfront Special Design District. 99 Green Street/962 Battery Street was included in the Foundation For San Francisco Architectural Heritage Historic Resource Survey (1978), where it was identified as having "Minor or No Importance." Additionally, is located within the California Register-eligible and Article 10 Landmark Northeast Waterfront Historic Districts, whose boundaries overlap; it is listed as Compatible with the Landmark District.

Staff Analysis

Review Criteria

1. *When was business founded?*

The business was founded in 1952.

2. *Does the business qualify for listing on the Legacy Business Registry? If so, how?*

Yes. GFDS Engineers qualifies for listing on the Legacy Business Registry because it meets all of the eligibility Criteria:

- a. GFDS Engineers has operated continuously in San Francisco for 72 years.
- b. GFDS Engineers has contributed to the history and identity of the Embarcadero neighborhood and San Francisco.
- c. GFDS Engineers is committed to maintaining the physical features and traditions that define the organization.

3. *Is the business associated with a culturally significant art / craft / cuisine / tradition?*

Yes. The business is associated with the art of structural engineering.

4. *Is the business or its building associated with significant events, persons, and / or architecture?*

Yes. The business is known for its work on the preservation of architectural significant buildings, and has collaborated with renowned designers and architects, including Robert A.M. Stern, landscape architect and urban planner Lawrence Halprin, William Wurster and Joseph Esherick.

The company's portfolio includes work on distinctive residential estates and signature landmarks. Notable projects include the California Palace of the Legion of Honor, Ghirardelli Square, Icehouse, the Lands End Visitor Center, Museum of Modern Arts Restaurant – In Situ, Boudin Bakery and Restaurant at SF Fisherman's Wharf, The Hamlin's School, Stern Grove Park, the Urban Garden at Pacific Heights and Justin Herman Plaza, amongst others.

The property (99 Green, aka 962 Battery) found two blocks from the current shoreline, is located within the California Register-eligible and Article 10 Landmark Northeast Waterfront Historic Districts, whose boundaries overlap. The Northeast Waterfront Districts contain commercial warehouse buildings from nearly every decade of San Francisco's history. The area reflects the waterfront storage and maritime activities which, until recently, were an important aspect of San Francisco business history. These buildings range in age from the early clipper ship warehouses of Scotsman Daniel Gibb in the 1850's to the properties owned by the General Engineering and Drydock Co., a company crucial to the shipbuilding effort that made San Francisco Bay the major Pacific maritime support facility during World War II. These warehouse facilities have been in continuous industrial use from the Gold Rush to the mid 1960's. Since that decade showrooms, office and retail uses have been integrated into renovated warehouse structures.

The Historic Districts include historically and architecturally significant buildings dating from the 1850's to the present century. The buildings vary in height from approximately six stories closest to the base of Telegraph Hill to a maximum of four stories at The Embarcadero and the Bay. Common architectural features tie the area together and provide visual distinction. Two major building materials were used in the area: brick since the Gold Rush era and reinforced concrete after the 1906 fire. Common architectural elements are repeated throughout the Districts. Of particular note are the large bulk and minimal fenestration of the earlier warehouse structures. Other common features are scale and proportion, materials, color, texture, and the minimal use of decorative elements.

The area is architecturally significant as a representation of warehouse and industrial buildings from the brick structures of the Gold Rush era to the reinforced concrete buildings introduced after the turn of the century. Some of the present buildings date from well before the turn of the century, though they were

rebuilt after the 1906 fire. Since warehouse architecture did not undergo profound stylistic changes until the introduction of reinforced concrete, the pre- and post-fire brick warehouses embody the original appearance and spirit of the early warehouse district. In addition, cobblestone paving and the standard and narrow-gauge belt line railroad track which served the district are visible at the foot of Commerce Street. The area clearly serves as a visual reminder of San Francisco's earlier maritime-warehousing commerce.

5. *Is the property associated with the business listed on a local, state, or federal historic resource registry?*

Yes. Built in 1910, the three-story early 20th Century reinforced concrete industrial building designed by Charles C. Tyre as a printing facility, is located within the Article 10 Northeast Waterfront Landmark District; it is listed as Compatible with the District.

6. *Is the business mentioned in a local historic context statement?*

No, not as of the date of this Executive Summary.

7. *Has the business been cited in published literature, newspapers, journals, etc.?*

GFDS Engineers has been recognized for work done at the Legion of Honor, the Boudin at the Wharf project, and many other residential and commercial projects in San Francisco. Some notable media mentions are as follows:

- “Civil Engineering,” publication of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), August 1996
- “Engineering News Record (ENR),” June 6, 1994
- “Architecture,” publication of The American Institute of Architects (AIA), December 1995
- “Building Design and Construction (BD&C),” May 1996

Additionally, GFDS Engineers have received the following awards:

- Art House: Architecture & Design Collection (ADC), Award for Spatial Design – 2021
- In Situ Restaurant at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art – Merit Award for Interior Architecture – 2019
- Cow Hollow Residence: Gold Nugget Awards, Merit Award – 2018
- Telegraph Hill Stairs: 270 Green Street, Remodeling Design Award – 2016
- Urban Garden at Pacific Heights: American Society of Landscape Architects, Honor Award – 2010
- Haus Martin: Architectural Record, Kitchen Portfolio Award – 2007
- Boudin at the Wharf: Themed Entertainment Association (TEA), Award for Outstanding Achievement in Brand Retail Experience – 2006
- Haus Martin: AIA East Bay, Best of the Bay Interior Design Award – 2005
- Haus Martin: AIA East Bay, East Bay Exceptional Residential Design Award – 2004
- Icehouse Concourse: AISC, Architectural Award of Excellence – 1969
- Ghirardelli Square: AIA, Collaborative Achievement in Architecture Award – 1966

Racial and Social Equity Analysis

On July 15th, 2020 the San Francisco Historic Preservation Commission adopted [Resolution No. 1127](#) centering Preservation Planning on racial and social equity. Understanding the benefits, burdens, and opportunities to advance racial and social equity that proposed Preservation Planning documents provide is part of the

Department's Racial and Social Equity Initiative. This is also consistent with the Mayor's Citywide Strategic Initiatives for equity and accountability and with the Office of Racial Equity, which required all Departments to conduct this analysis.

The Legacy Business Program is deeply intertwined with these goals. One of the primary purposes of the Legacy Business Program is to maintain San Francisco's cultural fabric and to foster civic engagement and pride by assisting long-operating businesses remain in the city. The Legacy Business Registry was established to recognize longstanding, community-serving businesses that are valuable cultural assets of the city. These businesses, ranging from restaurants to art galleries to tire shops to community shelters, are key to sustaining the racial and social diversity in San Francisco and adding to the identity and character of our city and the many communities within it.

GFDS Engineers donates to various institutions in San Francisco. The business collaborates with the Structural Engineers Association of Northern California to participate in Rebuilding Together San Francisco. This program helps keep people in their homes, revitalize low-income neighborhoods, and maintain the city's diverse character by providing free building repair, modification, clean-up, and renovation work to community members.

Physical Features or Traditions that Define the Business

Location(s) associated with the business:

Current Locations:

- 99 Green Street, 3rd Floor (2015 to Present)

Previous (No Longer Extant) Locations:

- 202 Green Street (1952 to 1961)
- 1620 Montgomery Street (1961 to 1980)
- 100 North Point Street, Suite 100 (1980 to 1980)
- 675 Davis Street (1980 to 2005)
- 543 Howard Street, Suite 100 (2005 to 2015)

Recommended by Applicant

- Preserving architectural integrity by providing structural engineering expertise to clients in the San Francisco Bay Area and beyond.
- Collaboration with renowned architects.
- Involvement in landmark projects.
- Commitment to innovation.
- Award-winning client list.

Additional Recommended by Staff

- None

Basis for Recommendation

The Department recommends the Historic Preservation Commission adopt a resolution recommending the business listed above be adopted by the Small Business Commission to the Legacy Business Registry.

ATTACHMENTS

Draft Resolution

Legacy Business Registry Application:

- Application Review Sheet
- Section 1 – Business / Applicant Information
- Section 2 – Business Location(s)
- Section 3 – Disclosure Statement
- Section 4 – Written Historical Narrative
 - Criterion 1 – History and Description of Business
 - Criterion 2 – Contribution to Local History
 - Criterion 3 – Business Characteristics
- Contextual Photographs and Background Documentation



HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION DRAFT RESOLUTION NO.

HEARING DATE: MARCH 20, 2024

Case No.: 2024-001551LBR
Business Name: GFDS Engineers
Business Address: 99 GREEN ST (aka 962 BATTERY ST), 3rd Floor
Zoning: C-2 (COMMUNITY BUSINESS) Zoning District
65-X Height and Bulk District
Block/Lot: 0136/005
Applicant: Liz Eugene Davis
99 Green Street, 3rd Floor
Nominated By: Supervisor Aaron Peskin
Located In: District 3
Staff Contact: Michelle Langlie - 628-652-7410
Michelle.Langlie@sfgov.org

ADOPTING FINDINGS RECOMMENDING TO THE SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSION APPROVAL OF THE LEGACY BUSINESS REGISTRY NOMINATION FOR GFDS ENGINEERS CURRENTLY LOCATED AT 99 GREEN ST, BLOCK/LOT 0136/005.

WHEREAS, in accordance with Administrative Code Section 2A.242, the Office of Small Business maintains a registry of Legacy Businesses in San Francisco (the "Registry") to recognize that longstanding, community-serving businesses can be valuable cultural assets of the City and to be a tool for providing educational and promotional assistance to Legacy Businesses to encourage their continued viability and success; and

WHEREAS, the subject business has operated in San Francisco for 30 or more years, with no break in San Francisco operations exceeding two years; and

WHEREAS, the subject business has contributed to the City's history and identity; and

WHEREAS, the subject business is committed to maintaining the traditions that define the business; and

WHEREAS, at a duly noticed public hearing held on March 20, 2024, the Historic Preservation Commission reviewed documents, correspondence and heard oral testimony on the Legacy Business Registry nomination.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Historic Preservation Commission hereby recommends that GFDS ENGINEERS qualifies for the Legacy Business Registry under Administrative Code Section 2A.242(b)(2) as it has operated for 30 or more years and has continued to contribute to the community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Historic Preservation Commission hereby recommends safeguarding of the below listed physical features and traditions for GFDS ENGINEERS.

Locations

Current Locations:

- 99 Green Street, 3rd Floor (2015 to Present)

Previous (No Longer Extant) Locations:

- 202 Green Street (1952 to 1961)
- 1620 Montgomery Street (1961 to 1980)
- 100 North Point Street, Suite 100 (1980 to 1980)
- 675 Davis Street (1980 to 2005)
- 543 Howard Street, Suite 100 (2005 to 2015)

Physical Features or Traditions that Define the Business

- Preserving architectural integrity by providing structural engineering expertise to clients in the San Francisco Bay Area and beyond.
- Collaboration with renowned architects.
- Involvement in landmark projects.
- Commitment to innovation.
- Award-winning client list.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Historic Preservation Commission's findings and recommendations are made solely for the purpose of evaluating the subject business's eligibility for the Legacy Business Registry, and the Historic Preservation Commission makes no finding that the subject property or any of its features constitutes a historical resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(a).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Historic Preservation Commission hereby directs its Commission Secretary to transmit this Resolution and other pertinent materials in the case file to the Office of Small Business on March 20, 2024.

Jonas P. Ionin
Commission Secretary

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

RECUSE:

ADOPTED: March 20, 2024