



OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS REGINA DICK-ENDRIZZI, DIRECTOR

Legacy Business Registry Staff Report

HEARING DATE SEPTEMBER 25, 2017

CABLE CAR CLOTHIERS

Application No.: LBR-2017-18-004 Business Name: Cable Car Clothiers

Business Address: 110 Sutter Street, Suite 108

District: District 3

Applicant: Jonathan M. Levin, President, CEO and Shareholder

Nomination Date: July 11, 2017

Nominated By: Supervisor Aaron Peskin

Staff Contact: Richard Kurylo

legacybusiness@sfgov.org

BUSINESS DESCRIPTION

Established in 1954, Cable Car Clothiers is the oldest men's retailer located in and serving the downtown and greater San Francisco community. Its origins date back to 1946 when Mr. Charles Pivnick opened a war surplus store called Vet's Mercantile. In the 1950s, as World War II military surpluses began to dry up, the store became a more traditional clothing store and, in 1954, was renamed "Cable Car Clothiers." The shop began to focus its products more on traditional, British-style clothing, selling items such as that have been described as a blend of "East Coast Ivy style with a West Coast flavor" and offering customer-focused services such as having an in-house tailor and a custom-suit service.

From 1970, Cable Car Clothiers became known for its quarterly mail-order catalog, which eventually reached a circulation of two million and helped to make the store a tourist destination. In 1972, Cable Car Clothiers purchased the lease, trademarks, fixtures, customer lists and goodwill of Robert Kirk, Ltd., a San Francisco retailer founded in 1939. Cable Car Clothiers continued its focus on traditional, British-style clothing and adopted the motto "San Francisco's British Goods Store Since 1939."

After having relocated a number of times since opening, the shop settled back into its roots on Sutter Street in 2012 and opened a 1930s-style barber shop to complement its selection of clothing, hats and caps. Cable Car Clothiers prides itself on its respect for the people who make it what it is – dedicated employees and loyal customers. For over 60 years, the business has built its reputation on the quality of products sold and a strong dedication to providing exceptional customer service. The shop hosts a variety of special events such as book signings and trunk shows to bring the community together. Additionally, for many years the shop has granted the "Cable Car Scholarship" awards that recognizes and honors the academic achievements of select high school students in San Francisco by awarding handmade wooden Cable Car replicas and cash awards for college. Cable Car Clothiers has become deeply rooted in San Francisco's fashion history and traditions, providing a high quality shopping experience with outstanding customer service and services offered frequented by residents and tourists alike.





OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS REGINA DICK-ENDRIZZI, DIRECTOR

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

200 Powell Street from 1954 to 1970 (16 years)

205 Sutter Street from 1961 to 1973 (12 years)

150 Post Street from 1972 to 1989 (17 years)

1 Grant Avenue from 1989 to 1993 (4 years)

256 Sutter Street from 1993 to 2002 (9 years)

441 Sutter Street from 1993 to 2002 (9 years)

200 Bush Street from 2002 to 2012 (10 years)

110 Sutter Street, Suite 108 from 2012 to Present (5 years)

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

Yes, the applicant has contributed to the Financial District neighborhood's history and identity.

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:

- Cable Car Clothiers is associated with the tradition of offering high quality unique clothing and outstanding customized customer service.
- Cable Car Clothiers has contributed to the Financial District community's history and identity by offering a
 unique variety of men's clothing and maintaining high quality individualized custom services.
- The 1906 property has been previously evaluated by the Planning Department for potential historical significance and is considered an individual Article 11, Category I (Significant Building, No Alterations) building, is listed on the California Register and is also individually eligible for listing on the National Register.
- The business has been cited in the following publications:
 - > Style and the Man, by Alan Flusser (1996).
 - > SF Examiner, 5/25/1968, "Cable Car Awards: 10 S.F. Students Honored."
- The business has received a Certificate of Honor from the City and County of San Francisco Board of Supervisors.

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

Yes, Cable Car Clothiers is committed to maintaining the physical features and traditions that define its presence and role in San Francisco fashion history.





CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO EDWIN M. LEE, MAYOR

OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS REGINA DICK-ENDRIZZI, DIRECTOR

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

The Historic Preservation Commission recommends that Cable Car Clothiers 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.

Physical Features or Traditions that Define the Business:

- The "CCC" label.
- Traditional signage painted "Cable Car Clothiers" in cursive on the storefront window.
- Iconic cable car logo.
- Inventory of traditional brands (i.e. Stetson, Southwick, Kent, Filson, etc.).
- Commitment to expert customer service (i.e. in-house tailoring, bespoke customer service).
- Staff attired in clothing that reflects the lvy League character of the shop (including bow ties, and hats).
- 1930s-style barber shop.
- Displays of products on vintage mahogany fixtures handmade in England.
- Location in downtown.

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.

Retail menswear.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the San Francisco Small Business Commission include Cable Car Clothiers currently located at 110 Sutter Street, Suite 108 in the Legacy Business Registry as a Legacy Business under Administrative Code Section 2A.242.

Richard Kurylo, Manager Legacy Business Program







OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS REGINA DICK-ENDRIZZI, DIRECTOR

Small Business Commission Draft Resolution

HEARING DATE SEPTEMBER 25, 2017

CABLE CAR CLOTHIERS

LEGACY BUSINESS REGISTRY RESOLUTION NO.

Application No.: LBR-2017-18-004 Business Name: Cable Car Clothiers

Business Address: 110 Sutter Street, Suite 108

District: District 3

Applicant: Jonathan M. Levin, President, CEO and Shareholder

Nomination Date: July 11, 2017

Nominated By: Supervisor Aaron Peskin

Staff Contact: Richard Kurylo

legacybusiness@sfgov.org

ADOPTING FINDINGS APPROVING THE LEGACY BUSINESS REGISTRY APPLICATION FOR CABLE CAR CLOTHIERS, CURRENTLY LOCATED AT 110 SUTTER STREET, SUITE 108.

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 in 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 September 25, 2017, the San Francisco Small Business Commission reviewed documents and correspondence, and heard oral testimony on the Legacy Business Registry application; therefore





CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO EDWIN M. LEE, MAYOR

OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS REGINA DICK-ENDRIZZI, DIRECTOR

BE IT RESOLVED that the Small Business Commission hereby includes Cable Car Clothiers 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 Cable Car Clothiers:

Physical Features or Traditions that Define the Business:

- The "CCC" label.
- Traditional signage painted "Cable Car Clothiers" in cursive on the storefront window.
- Iconic cable car logo.
- Inventory of traditional brands (i.e. Stetson, Southwick, Kent, Filson, etc.).
- Commitment to expert customer service (i.e. in-house tailoring, bespoke customer service).
- Staff attired in clothing that reflects the Ivy League character of the shop (including bow ties, and hats).
- 1930s-style barber shop.
- Displays of products on vintage mahogany fixtures handmade in England.
- Location in downtown.

Absent -

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

• Retail menswear.

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was A	DORTED by the Small Rusiness Commission on
September 25, 2017.	DOFTED by the Small Business Commission on
	Regina Dick-Endrizzi Director
RESOLUTION NO	-
Ayes – Nays – Abstained –	







OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS REGINA DICK-ENDRIZZI, DIRECTOR

Legacy **Business** Registry

Application Review Sheet

Application No.:	LBR-2017-18-004
Business Name:	Cable Car Clothiers
December 1 Addison	440 0

110 Sutter Street, Suite 108 Business Address:

District: District 3

Applicant: Jonathan M. Levin, President, CEO and Shareholder

Nomination Date: July 11, 2017

Nominated By:	Supervisor Aaron Pesk	kin		
CRITERION 1: Has the applement of the complete that the complete t	•		_	h no No
200 Powell Street from 195 205 Sutter Street from 196 150 Post Street from 1972 1 Grant Avenue from 1989 256 Sutter Street from 199 441 Sutter Street from 199 200 Bush Street from 2002 110 Sutter Street, Suite 10	1 to 1973 (12 years) to 1989 (17 years) to 1993 (4 years) 3 to 2002 (9 years) 3 to 2002 (9 years) to 2012 (10 years)	years)		
CRITERION 2: Has the apparticular neighborhood or		neighborhood's hist XYes	tory and/or the ider	ntity of a
CRITERION 3: Is the application of the business, including		0 . ,		s that No

NOTES: NA

DELIVERY DATE TO HPC: July 21, 2017

Richard Kurylo

Manager, Legacy Business Program



Member, Board of Supervisors District 3



City and County of San Francisco

AARON PESKIN

佩斯金 市參事

July 11, 2017

Director Regina Dick-Endrizzi San Francisco Office of Small Business City Hall, Room 110 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place San Francisco, CA 94102 Regina.dick-endrizzi@sfgov.org

Dear Director Dick-Endrizzi:

It is my esteemed privilege to nominate Cable Car Clothiers for inclusion on the Legacy Business Registry.

Cable Car Clothiers is the oldest men's retailer in San Francisco and holds special historical significance. When founded in 1946, it was originally called Vet's Mercantile and sold war surpluses from World War II. It was renamed to Cable Car Clothiers in 1954, when the store became a more traditional clothing store. It has garnered national notoriety since 1970, when it began publishing its quarterly mail-order catalog, which reached nationwide circulation. The store now doubles as a tourist destination. Not only has the store been highly successful, it has also given back to the San Francisco community, through the Cable Car Scholarship which awards exceptional high school students with a cash award for college.

Cable Car Clothiers' historical significance and its continued philanthropy in the San Francisco community more than justify its inclusion on the Legacy Business Registry.

Sincerely

Aaron Peskin

Legacy Business Registry

Application

Section One:

NAME OF BUSINESS:

Cable Car Clothiers, Inc.

Business / Applicant Information. Provide the following information:

- The name, mailing address, and other contact information of the business;
- The name of the person who owns the business. For businesses with multiple owners, identify the person(s) with the highest ownership stake in the business;
- The name, title, and contact information of the applicant;
- The business's San Francisco Business Account Number and entity number with the Secretary of State, if applicable.

BUSINESS OWNER(S) (identify the per	son(s) with the highest ownersh	ip stake	in the business)	
Jonathan M. Levin, Presider	nt, CEO and Shareholde	er		
CURRENT BUSINESS ADDRESS:		TELER	PHONE:	
110 Sutter Street, Suite 108 San Francisco, CA 94101		(415) 397-4740		
		EMAIL:		
		jonath	anlevin@cablecarclothiers.com	
WEBSITE:	FACEBOOK PAGE:		YELP PAGE	
www.cablecarclothiers.com	Cable Car Clothiers	othiers Cable Car Clothie		
APPLICANT'S NAME				
APPLICANT'S TITLE			√ Same as Business	
APPLICANT'S ADDRESS:		TEL	EPHONE:	
		+)	
		EM	AIL:	
SAN FRANCISCO BUSINESS ACCOUN	T NUMBER: SECRET	ARY OF	STATE ENTITY NUMBER (if applicable):	
OFFICIAL USE: Completed by OSB Sta	off .			
NAME OF NOMINATOR:			OF NOMINATION:	
Supervisor Aaron Peskin		July	11, 2017	

Section Two:

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. For businesses with more than one location, list the additional locations in section three of the narrative.

ORIGINAL SAN FRANCISCO ADDRESS:	ZIP CODE:	START DATE OF BUSINESS
200 Powell Street	94102	1954
IS THIS LOCATION THE FOUNDING LOCATION OF THE BUSINESS?	DATES OF OPE	RATION AT THIS LOCATON
☐ No ■ Yes	1954-1970	
		T =
OTHER ADDRESSES (if applicable):	ZIP CODE:	DATES OF OPERATION
205 Cuttor Ctroot	04400	Start: 1961
205 Sutter Street	94108	^{End:} 1973
OTHER ADDRESSES (if applicable):	ZIP CODE:	DATES OF OPERATION
OTHER ADDRESSES (II applicable).	ZIF CODE.	
150 Post Street	94108	Start: 1972
130 FOSt Street	34 100	^{End:} 1989
OTHER ADDRESSES (if applicable):	ZIP CODE:	DATES OF OPERATION
, , ,		Start: 1989
1 Grant Avenue	94108	
1 Grant / Worlds	01100	^{End:} 1993
OTHER ADDRESSES (if applicable):	ZIP CODE:	DATES OF OPERATION
		Start: 1993
256 Sutter Street	94108	End: 2002
		2002
OTHER ADDRESSES (if applicable):	ZIP CODE:	DATES OF OPERATION
	0.4.4.0.0	Start: 1993
441 Sutter Street	94108	End: 2002
OTHER ADDRESSES (if applicable):	ZIP CODE:	DATES OF OPERATION
OOO Decale Of the of	04404	Start: 2002
200 Bush Street	94104	^{End:} 2012
	•	•

4 V.5- 6/17/2016

Legacy Business Registry

Application

Section Two:

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. For businesses with more than one location, list the additional locations in section three of the narrative.

ORIGINAL SAN FRANCISCO ADDRESS:	ZIP CODE:	START DATE OF BUSINESS
IS THIS LOCATION THE FOUNDING LOCATION OF THE BUSINESS?	DATES OF OPE	RATION AT THIS LOCATON
☐ No ☐ Yes		
OTHER ADDRESSES (if applicable):	ZIP CODE:	DATES OF OPERATION
110 Suttor Stroot Suito 100	94104	Start: 2012
110 Sutter Street, Suite 108	94 104	^{End:} Present
OTHER ADDRESSES (if applicable):	ZIP CODE:	DATES OF OPERATION
		Start:
		End:
		•
OTHER ADDRESSES (if applicable):	ZIP CODE:	DATES OF OPERATION
		Start:
		End:
OTHER ADDRESSES (if applicable):	ZIP CODE:	DATES OF OPERATION
		Start:
		End:
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OTHER ADDRESSES (if applicable):	ZIP CODE:	DATES OF OPERATION
		Start:
		End:
	I	<u>I</u>
OTHER ADDRESSES (if applicable):	ZIP CODE:	DATES OF OPERATION
		Start:
		End:
		<u> </u>

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Section Two:

Vet's Mercantile 1946-1954.

<u>Cable Car Clothiers, Inc. 9/29/1954 through 1970</u> 200 Powell Street, SF [Corner of Powell and O'Farrell]

Cable Car Clothiers opened at corner of Powell and O'Farrell and adopted the Business and Trade Name "Cable Car Clothiers" under leadership of Charles Pivnick. The storefront focused on traditional, British-style clothing and hats. The business grew rapidly leasing the entire corner and remodeled the larger location and mezzanine.

<u>Cable Car Clothiers, Inc. 1961 through 1973</u> <u>205 Sutter Street, SF [Corner of Sutter and Kearney]</u>

Cable Car Clothiers opened a second location at the corner of Sutter and Kearney and closed the Powell and O'Farrell store in 1970 when the building was sold and the lease expired.

<u>Cable Car Clothiers, Inc. 1972 through 1989</u> 150 Post Street, San Francisco

Cable Car Clothiers purchased the lease, trademarks, fixtures, customer lists, and goodwill of Robert Kirk, Ltd and adopted the combined business name "Cable Car Clothiers-Robert Kirk, Ltd." The corporation applied for and was granted additional trademarks for "Cable Car Clothiers-Robert Kirk, Ltd." This became the primary trademark along with the various trademarks owned by Robert Kirk, Ltd., as Robert Kirk, Ltd was well known for its focus on traditional, British-style clothing. Cable Car Clothiers adopted the motto "San Francisco British Goods Store Since 1939" and continues today to promote that its roots good back to 1939. The building at 150 Post Street was sold in approximately 1989 and the lease expired.

<u>Cable Car Clothiers, Inc. 1989 through 1993</u> <u>One Grant Avenue, San Francisco</u>

Temporary space was leased on Grant Avenue while the Pivnick family purchased the grand banking temple located at One Grant Avenue as a permanent retail location for its expanding business. The basement bank vaults were demolished and the entire building was utilized for retail, mail order operations and offices. One Grant Avenue was later leased to Emporio Armani.

Cable Car Clothiers, Inc. 1993 through 2002

256 Sutter Street, SF and 441 Sutter Street, San Francisco

Cable Car Clothiers then relocated to two small retail locations along Sutter Street namely 256 Sutter San Francisco and then 441 Sutter, San Francisco until it located much larger permanent location at 200 Bush and expanded its retail operations.

<u>Cable Car Clothiers, Inc. 2002 through 2012</u> <u>200 Bush Street, San Francisco</u>

Cable Car Clothiers moved to the historic ground floor historic marble bank at 200 Bush in the original Chevron Oil Building in 2002.

<u>Cable Car Clothiers, Inc. 2012 through Present</u> 108 – 110 Sutter Street, San Francisco, CA

On October 1, 2012 Cable Car returned to its roots on Sutter Street and opened a 1930's style barber ship to complement its fine selection of clothing, hats, and caps. Currently located in the historic French-American Bank Building at 108-110 Sutter, the shop is the oldest men's retailer in San Francisco.

Legacy Business Registry

Application

Section Three:

Disclosure Statement.

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 and a business deemed not current in 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 the Business Assistance Grant.

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.

 is their sight 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

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Ionathan	6/6/1	
Jonathan		

Name (Print):

Date:

on the Registry does not entitle the business to a grant of City funds.

ignature:

<u>Cable Car Clothiers Legacy Business Registry Application</u> <u>Section 4: Written Historical Narrative</u>

CRITERION 1

a. Provide a short history of the business from the date the business opened in San Francisco to the present day, including the ownership history. For businesses with multiple locations, include the history of the original location in San Francisco (including whether it was the business's founding and or headquartered location) and the opening dates and locations of all other locations.

Cable Car Clothiers, named after the Cable Car line on Powell and O'Farrell streets, was founded in 1954 in San Francisco by Charlie Pivnick. Its origins date back to 1946 when Mr. Pivnick opened a war surplus store called Vet's Mercantile. In 1954, as military surplus sources dried up and the store began to focus more on traditional, British-style clothing, the business moved to the corner of Powell and O'Farrell Streets and on September 29, 1954 incorporated under the name Cable Car Clothiers, Inc.

From 1970, it became known for its quarterly mail-order catalog, which eventually reached a circulation of two million and which helped to make the store a tourist destination. In 1972, Cable Car Clothiers purchased the lease, trademarks, fixtures, customer lists, and goodwill of Robert Kirk, Ltd., a San Francisco retailer founded in 1939. Cable Car Clothiers adopted the tradename and trademarks "Cable Car Clothiers – Robert Kirk, Ltd." and continued its focus on traditional, British-style clothing, thus adopting the motto "San Francisco's British Goods Store Since 1939."

The flagship store was consolidated in 1972 at 150 Post Street and thrived in conjunction with a booming catalog and mail order business. After its lease at 150 Post Street expired and the building was sold Cable Car Clothiers was temporarily located on Grant Avenue. Looking to expand its men's and women's departments, the company moved to what is presently the Emporio Armani building, a wonderful Greek Revival banking temple, located at One Grant Avenue. After moving from One Grant Avenue to two smaller shops on Sutter Street in the Financial District, the company moved to 200 Bush Street. Finally, in late 2012, Cable Car Clothiers moved back to its roots on Sutter Street and opened a 1930s-style barber shop to complement its fine selection of clothing, hats, and caps. Currently located in the historic French-American Bank Building at 108-110 Sutter Street, the shop is the oldest men's retailer in the city.

b. Is the business a family-owned business? If so, give the generational history of the business.

Incorporated on September 9, 1954, Cable Car Clothiers established itself as a gentleman's retailer offering a blend of "East Coast Ivy style with a West Coast flavor," featuring made-to-measure suits and a large collection of men's accessories. In his seventy-something years at the shop, Charles Pivnick (1919-2014), the store's founder, became a legend and an icon in the men's retail industry across the country. Today, Cable Car Clothiers continues to be family-owned and is owned and managed by Charles Pivnick's grandson, Jonathan Levin.

In 1972 Cable Car Clothiers purchased the retail business of Robert Kirk, Ltd., obtained an assignment of the lease at 150 Post Street along with an assignment of the trademarks and name "Robert Kirk, Ltd." Business operations were consolidated and Cable Car Clothiers adopted and trademarked the name "Cable Car Clothiers – Robert Kirk, Ltd." Cable Car Clothiers then adopted 1939, start date of the original Robert Kirk, Ltd., as its date of founding.

c. Describe the ownership history when the business ownership is not the original owner or a family-owned business.

Cable Car Clothiers has been family owned and operated for over 60 years.

d. Note any 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.

Since 2012, Cable Car Clothiers has been located in the French-American Bank Building at 108-110 Sutter Street, a Category I-rated historic resource under Article 11 of the San Francisco Downtown Plan (Buildings of Individual Importance, Excellent in Architectural Design). Originally built in 1902 and remodeled with an overlay of Beaux-Arts details in 1913, the French-American Bank Building "is extremely important as a supportive structure to the Hallidie Building and as part of one of the finest rows of buildings in downtown San Francisco…" (Splendid Survivors, San Francisco Heritage, 1978).

CRITERION 2

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

Despite multiple locations over the years, Cable Car Clothiers has maintained a constant presence in downtown San Francisco and has long been recognized as a destination for men who seek fine clothing and accessories that are often hard to find – products that are crafted with care and good taste, and made of first-rate materials.

b. Is the business (or has been) associated with significant events in the neighborhood, the City, or the business industry?

Charles Pivnick was awarded the San Franciscan of the Year by then Mayor Art Agnos in 1989 and was active in the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce. In 1970, he also served as president of the MBA Alumni Association for the USF Business School.

c. Has the business ever been referenced in an historical context? Such as in a business trade publication, media, historical documents?

In his 1996 book *Style and the Man*, author Alan Flusser described Cable Car Clothiers as follows: "Much like its namesake, this is the type of store that gives San Francisco an irresistible allure. Step through its doors and you step back in time—way back. Cable Car Clothiers is an anomaly in an age where museums or old photo albums are often the only medium able to connect one with his roots...Charles (Pivnick) is the Sir Lancelot of the herringbone grail."

Cable Car Clothiers ran regular weekly ads in the *Wall Street Journal* and *New York Times* weekend and business editions as well as being the longest consecutive advertiser in the *New Yorker* magazine during the 1970s and 1980s. Herb Caen and Carl Nolte are both valued friends of the shop and have written numerous pieces about Cable Car Clothiers.

d. Is the business associated with a significant or historical person?

Charles Pivnick, Haberdasher Emeritus (1919-2014): Charles Pivnick began his career in the retail business in 1946 when he opened Vets Mercantile, a military surplus enterprise on Fillmore Street. Subsequently adding a store on Van Ness Avenue, for a while operated two San Francisco stores, then ultimately ran one store on Market Street where work and later dress clothes were sold along with

surplus merchandise. Mr. Pivnick served in the Army in World War II in combat in the South Pacific. When he came home to San Francisco after the war, he recalls looking in the windows at upscale men's stores and wishing he could afford the clothes on display

Charles Pivnick always liked to dress well. His goals approached realization when in 1954 when he incorporated a new retail store at the historic corner of Powell and O'Farrell Streets which ne named Cable Car Clothiers. He stocked the retail store with traditional clothing for the mid-to-upper income bracket. The boundless energy which typified his early retail history continued as he opened additional retail stores at the corner of Sutter and Kearny, downtown Oakland and Hillsdale Mall during the late fifties and early sixties while simultaneously attending college in the evenings. Charles Pivnick received his Bachelor's Degree in 1959 and his Master's Degree in Marketing in 1969, both from the University of San Francisco. While continuing as Cable Car's President and CEO, in 1970 he also served as president of the MBA Alumni Association for the USF Business School and was active in many other community organizations.

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

Cable Car Clothiers has built its reputation on the quality of its goods and dedication to providing exceptional customer service. Many of the customers are multi-generational and have become friends as well as customers. Special events, book signings, and trunk shows bring the Cable Car community together to highlight the finest in classic apparel.

For many years, Cable Car Clothiers hosted the Cable Car Scholarship awards where select San Francisco high school students were honored with a handmade wooden Cable Car replica and cash award for college. The awards were presented at an annual gala at the Westin St. Francis in Union Square. Mr. Pivnick presided over the awards and took great pride in honoring the achievements of San Francisco public school students. To this day, Cable Car Clothiers continues to support and donate to a variety of local charitable organizations, including San Francisco Heritage.

f. Provide a description of the community the business serves.

For over 60 years, Cable Car Clothiers has offered classic natural shoulder clothing to men across the country who appreciate quality without compromise. The shop's excellent relationships with the premier menswear manufacturers in the British Isles, Europe, and in the U.S., have allowed the store to be a dependable and often the exclusive resource for hard-to-find items, such as our traditional three-buttoned natural sportscoats and vested suits. In addition, Cable Car Clothiers has an outstanding selection of handsome Harris Tweed coats and impeccably tailored trousers, luxurious cashmere and lamb's wool sweaters, tasteful shirts and neckwear, and comfortable sleepwear.

g. Is the business associated with a culturally significant building/structure/site/object/interior?

Cable Car Clothiers is currently located in the heart of the Financial District within the grand columns of the original French-American Bank, erected in 1902.

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

Cable Car Clothiers is a true English haberdashery. Every item in the clothing emporium is carefully chosen for quality and style. Many people who seek a shopping experience with the highest quality staff and inventory, steeped with San Francisco tradition, would be greatly disappointed if the business were to shut down due to escalating rents and the changing economic climate of San Francisco. When they step into the shop, loyal customers feel like they are transported to a different era, where they can

peruse fine tailored clothing, hats and caps, and accessories made in England, Europe and the USA. In this day in age, when competing with on-line shopping and clothing made overseas, it is crucial to pay attention to the details. This includes providing excellent customer service, music and ambiance, and especially a well-curated inventory. The Cable Car Clothiers staff prides itself on building personal relationships with its customers, encouraging them to touch and feel the quality of the fabrics and the construction. This is something that is lost when you press and click on a computer. Its 1930s barbershop has been incredibly successful and has brought in a whole new demographic of customers looking for authenticity and consistency.

CRITERION 3

a. Describe the business and the essential features that define its character.

Cable Car Clothiers specializes in the total fashion experience for the gentleman, carrying all the traditional brands you'd imagine (Stetson, Southwick, Kent, Filson, and many more in both "business and dress" and "casual" wear). To complement this, there's an in-house tailor and bespoke custom-suit service. Under the leadership of Charles Pivnick, Cable Car Clothiers made its name known to over two million customers nationwide through its pioneering catalogue business. Mr. Pivnick produced his popular catalogue through the 1990s, offering all of the store's high-quality products for mail order. Charlie's grandson Jonathan Levin has upgraded the virtual shopping experience with an on-line store, bringing Charlie's catalog vision to the 21st century and thus appealing to a new generation of customers. Jonathan and master barber Nicky the Barber (Nick Calvanese) started a 1930s-style barber shop in the current Sutter Street location. Cable Car Clothiers offers a truly unique experience in the 1930s-style shaving parlor and barber shop. The barber shop is a veritable museum of vintage barber tools, chairs, and hair tonics. Nicky is proud of his heritage as a traditional men's barber and the barber shop makes you feel like you have traveled back in time to a more stylish and genteel era.

b. How does the business demonstrate a commitment to maintaining the historical traditions that define the business, and which of these traditions should not be changed in order to retain the businesses historical character? (e.g. business model, goods and services, craft, culinary, or art forms)

As described by author Laura Smith Borrman in *Discovering Vintage San Francisco* (2015), Cable Car Clothiers has remained faithful to the standards, traditions, and values established by its founder, Charles Pivnick: "Though management no longer makes the staff a daily lunch of egg and tuna sandwiches, as the founder once did, it still feels like an old-fashioned family operation that prides itself on respect for the people who make it what it is – dedicated employees and loyal customers. The whole place-with its archetypal products, full-service offerings, and overall approach to running a family business – feels like a perfect example of when modernity and tradition marry and push through the decades."

Cable Car Clothiers has had private label clothing since 1954 at its original location on Powell and O'Farrell. The CCC label is very important to the historical character of the store and people collect old clothing pieces off eBay and vintage stores.

Other traditions that should not be changed include the shop's traditional signage and iconic cable car logo, its inventory of traditional brands (i.e., Stetson, Southwick, Kent, Filson, etc.), its commitment to expert customer service (i.e., in-house tailoring, bespoke custom-suit service), and its staff attired in clothing that reflects the ivy league character of the shop, including suits, bow ties, and especially hats.

c. How has the business demonstrated a commitment to maintaining the special physical features that define the business? Describe any special exterior and interior

physical characteristics of the space occupied by the business (e.g. signage, murals, architectural details, neon signs, etc.).

The interior of the shop boasts the classic décor of an exclusive English club, with a refined masculine atmosphere complete with a 1930s-style barber shop. The shop continues to display its wares on vintage mahogany fixtures handmade in England that have followed the store for decades from location to location.

d. When the current ownership is not the original owner and has owned the business for less than 30 years; the applicant will need to provide documentation that demonstrates the current owner has maintained the physical features or traditions that define the business, including craft, culinary, or art forms.

Current ownership operates under the leadership of Charlie's grandson Jonathan Levin. Jonathan is a fourth generation San Franciscan and the oldest grandson of founder Charles Pivnick. He first appeared in the Cable Car Clothiers catalog at the age of three, modeling a life size rocking chair horse from England. Growing up, he worked in the stock room and on the sales floor during holidays and summer vacations. After attending UC Berkeley and a stint on the East Coast, Jonathan worked as a broker in downtown San Francisco. However, his true passion was traditional Men's Clothing, and he returned to the family business and orchestrated the store's move to Sutter Street in late 2012. Jonathan has carried on the legacy of his grandfather and his enthusiasm for the traditions and finery abounds at the little shop that began as a humble military surplus store so many years ago.

Early Years



The "Art" of Tailoring

Bravo!

artist takes his last bow . . . the jootlights dim. Another virtuoso makes musical history in San Francisco.

Good tailoring, too, though its practitioners seldom achieve immortality, may be classified among the creative arts . . . for the nimble needle of an inspired tailor is as sensitive as the stroke of a bow across a violin string. At Cable Car Clothiers the fine tailoring and superlative fabrics of our suits are winning bravos. Time and again we have curtain calls from men and women who rhapsodize about our natural shoulder suits.

We're onstage six days a week . . . performing for an admiring public. And we're reserving two seats for you right on the aisle. Come in . . . anytime.



CABLE CAR CLOTHIERS

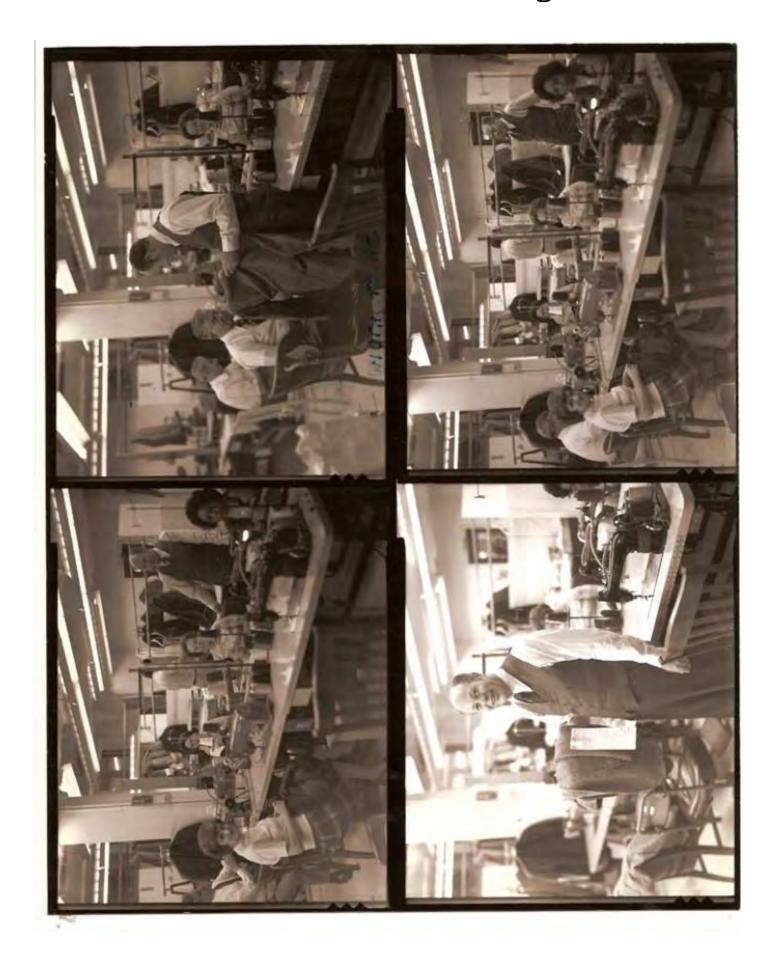
SAN FRANCISCO: Sutter at Grant • Powell at O'Farrell
OAKLAND: 416-14th Street
Hillsdale Shopping Center, San Mateo

ক্ষরিং প্রাণ্ড প্রতি প্রতি প্রাক্তি প্রাণ্ড প্রাণ প্রাণ প্রাণ প্রাণ প্রাণ্ড প্রাণ্ড প্রাণ প্র

The "Art" of Tailoring



The "Art" of Tailoring



Community Service

May 25, 1968 San Francisco Examiner



CHARLES PIVNICK (center) GIVES CABLE CARS TO WINNERS Ronald Reeves and Joyce Castellano are honored for their "involvement"

—Examiner photo by Howard Robbins

Cable Car Awards

10 S.F. Students Honored

school students today held High School: Joyce Castel-Cable Car Awards for their lano, 274 Silver Ave., Balboa against Stanford University "significant activity in High; Christine Yee, 51 Jas-school, community and civic per Place, Galileo; Mark Duprojects.'

Hotel yesterday, sponsored by Charles Pivnick, presi- Army St., Mission; Tony

be involved in what's hap- oires School. pening.

keminier, 520 44th Ave.. They were honored at a George Washington; Ronald luncheon in the St. Francis Reeves, 50 Church St., Lowdent of Cable Car Clothiers. Medina, 3126 Laguna St., Po-It was the third annual lytechnic; Arthur Montenegaward.
"These young people were picked," Pivnick said, "from stein, 1129 87th St., Daly City, among many other fine stu- St. John's High School: Mary

Young Dukeminier wasn't Charles Bernauer, 926 Wa- the All-City golf champion- of San Francisco.

Ten San Francisco high wona St., Abraham Lincoln ship and yesterday was com-

ART PROJECTS

Reeves, the Lowell High honoree, was selected because of his leadership among student groups there and his organizing work with black students from other schools, particularly in art projects.

The 17 year old youth placed second in Northern dents because they represent dents because they represent today's need by our youth to Drive, Notre Dame des Victors peech competitions this year and has been offered scholarships to both the Uni-Honorees and their schools present to accept his award versity of California at because on Thursday he won Berkeley and the University

Community Service



Grand Openings & Mayors





Grand Openings & Mayors



at Powell and O'Farrell streets was celebrated yesterday by (from left) the ryin' Sam" in "Li'l Abner" now at the Curran theater, and Mayor George Christo-



CABLE CAR GRAND OPENING - Among the revelers at the grand opening reception Wednesday night of Cable Car Clothiers/Robert Kirk Ltd. a trio of dapper fellows appeared at the shop's new location in the historic Savings Union Bank Building, 1 Grant Ave. Hisayuki Nakamota (left), President of the Iwakyu Company Ltd. of Japan — the Cable Car Clothiers Business group in Japan — was joined by Mayor Art Agno's and (right) Charles Pivnick, Cable Car Clothiers/Robert Kirk Ltd. founder and president. Cable Car Clothiers' new home was designed by San Francisco architect Walter Bliss and opened in January, 1911.

Accolades





Accolades

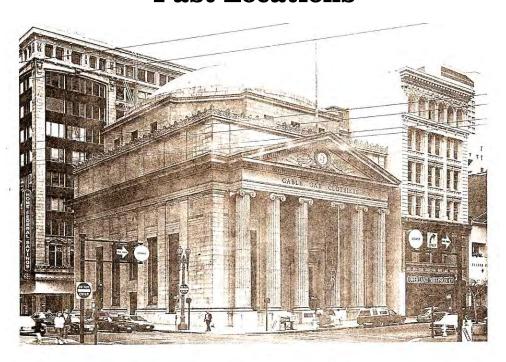




Accolades



Past Locations



SAVINGS UNION BANK (Cable Car Clothiers) 1 Grant Avonue

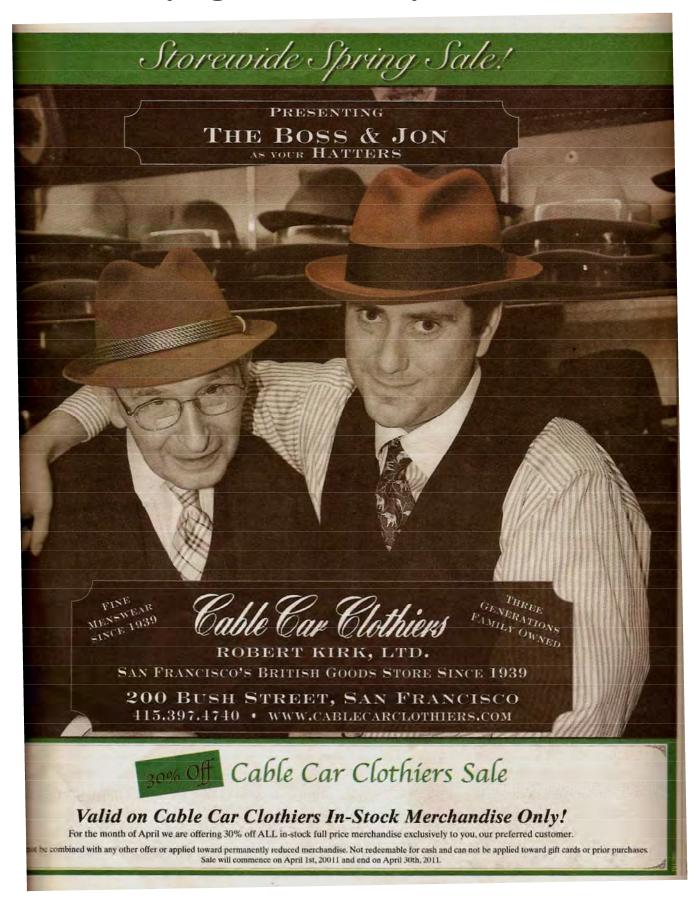
The Savings Union Bank of San Francisco is an example of what Architect and Engineer called the "first period" of Bliss and Faville's work, characterized by an "enthusiasm for the antique" and influenced by the work of McKim, Mead & White, in whose office both architects had apprenticed. Together with the Union Trust Bank across the street, it forms a gateway to Grant Avenue. The building is a modified temple reputedly derived from the Roman Pantheon. It is a steel-frame structure clad in granite and topped by a reinforcedconcrete dome. The main Grant Avenue façade was conceived as a pedimented Ionic temple form featuring a bas-relief of "Liberty" by sculptor Haig Patrigan. The bronze doors (representing the historical succession of the races in the state) and the original interior furnishings were executed by Arthur and Lucia Mathews. Lundmark Number 132



Past Locations















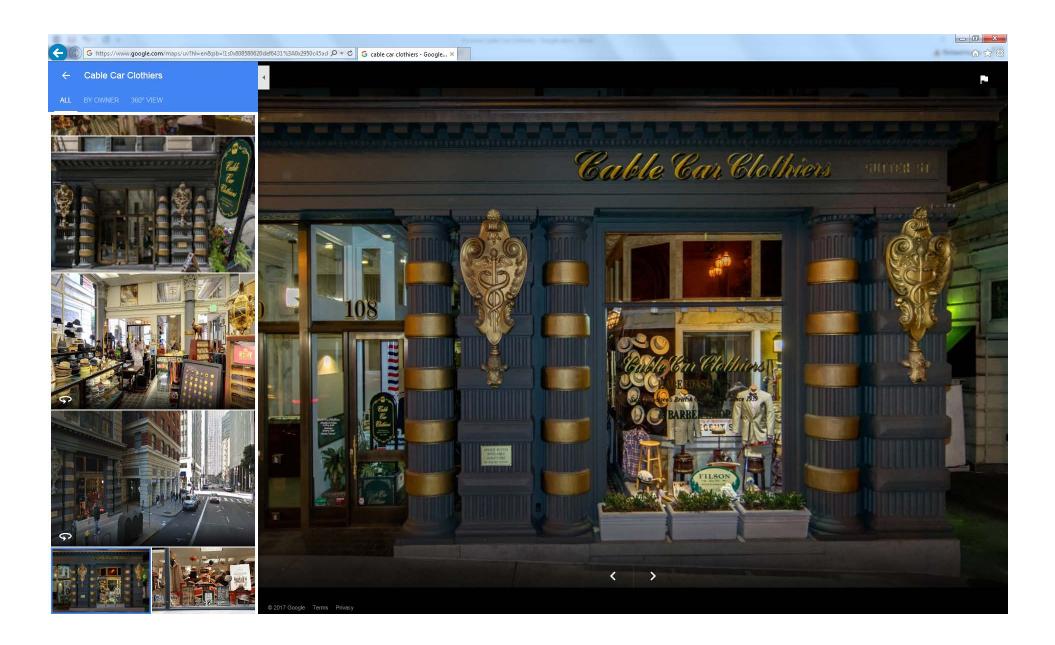


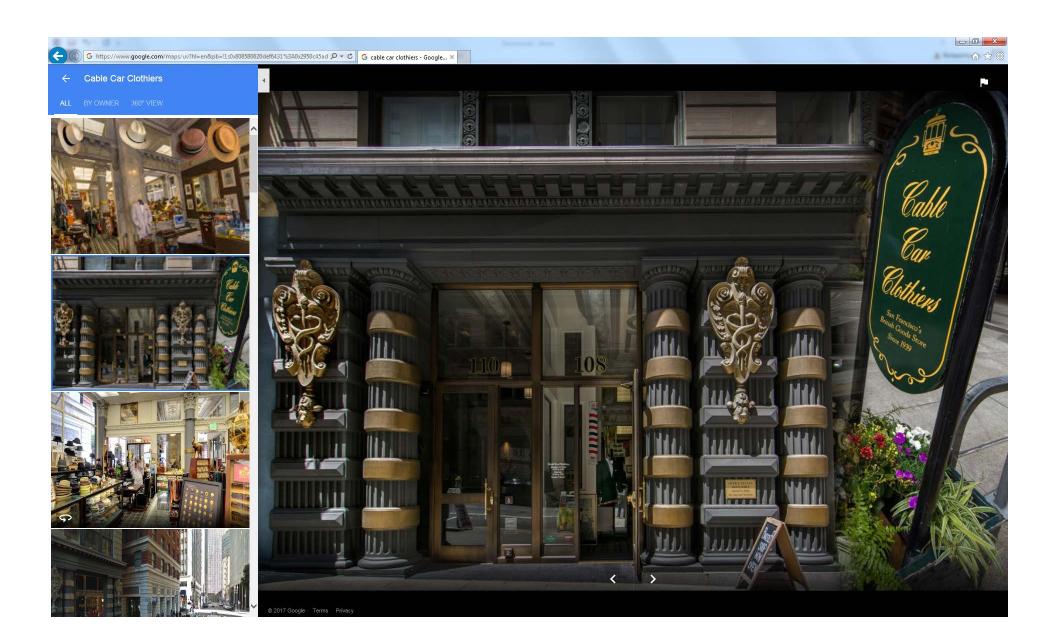


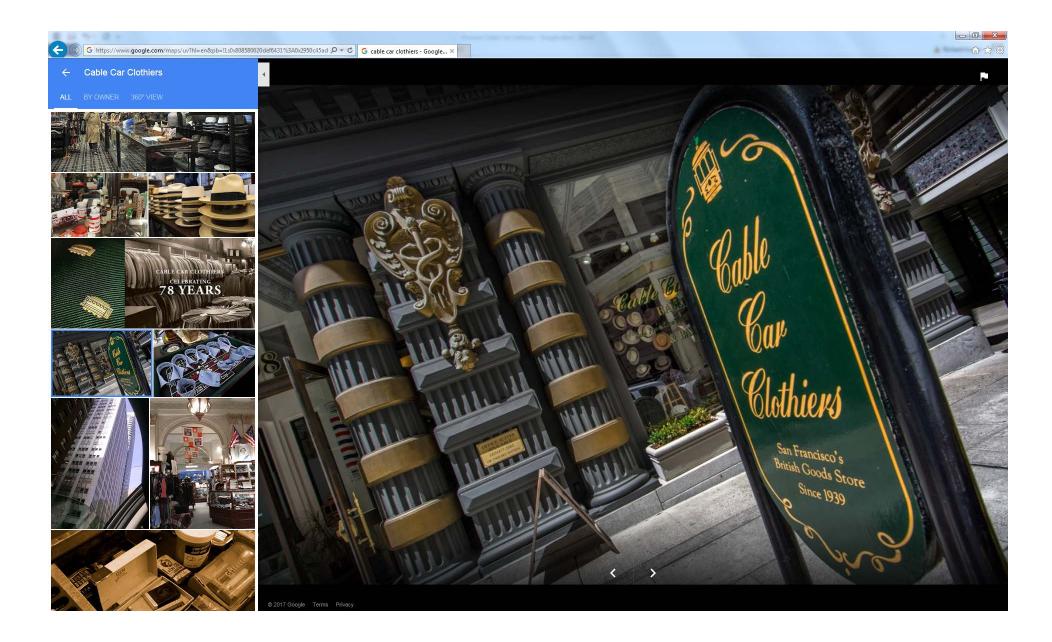






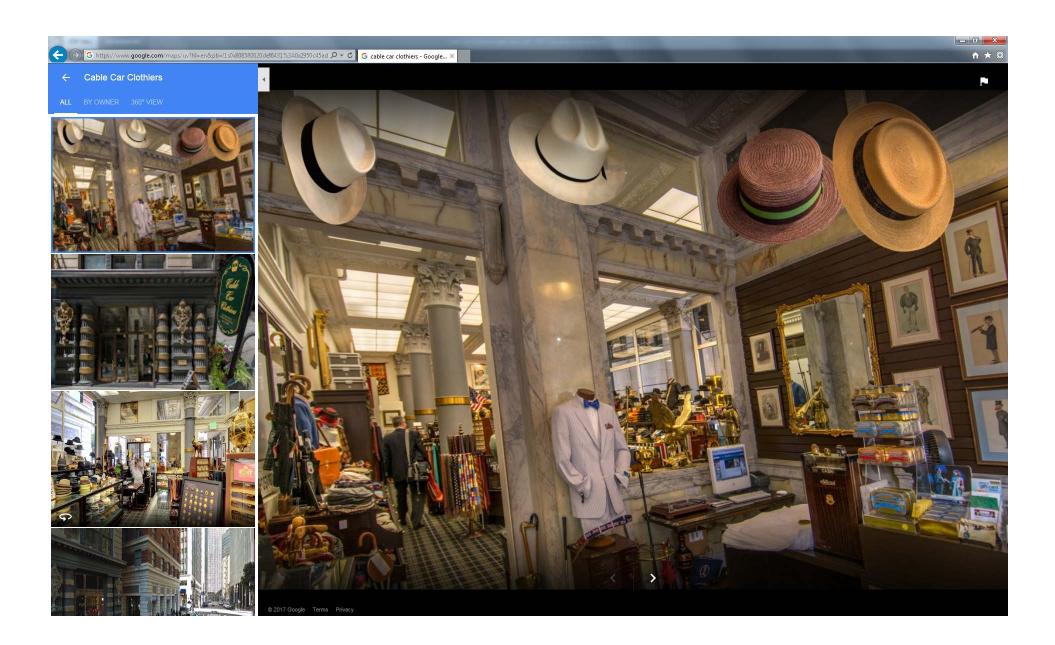


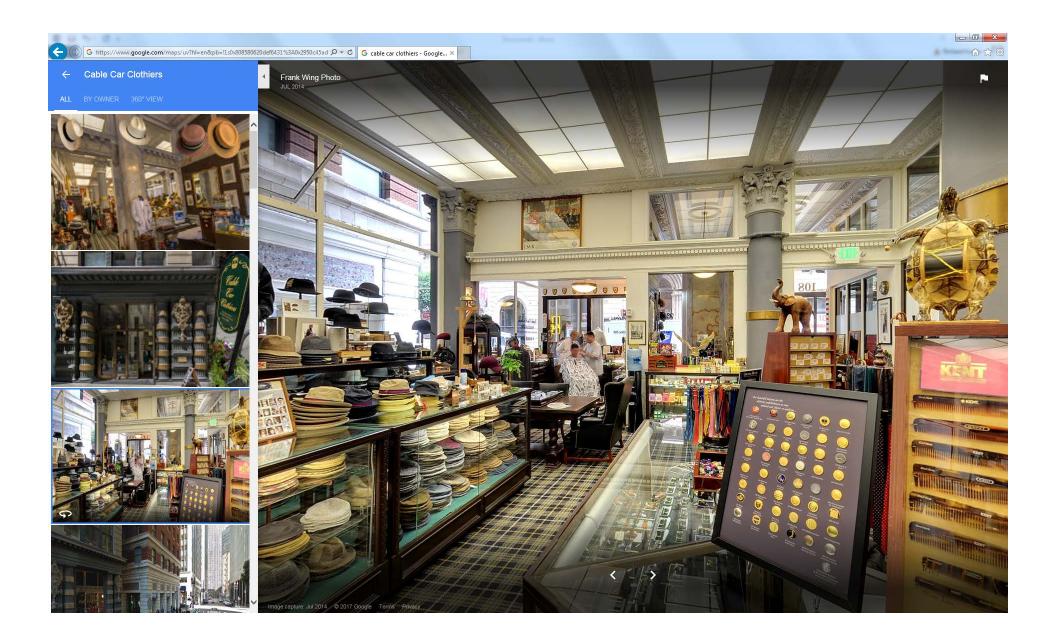


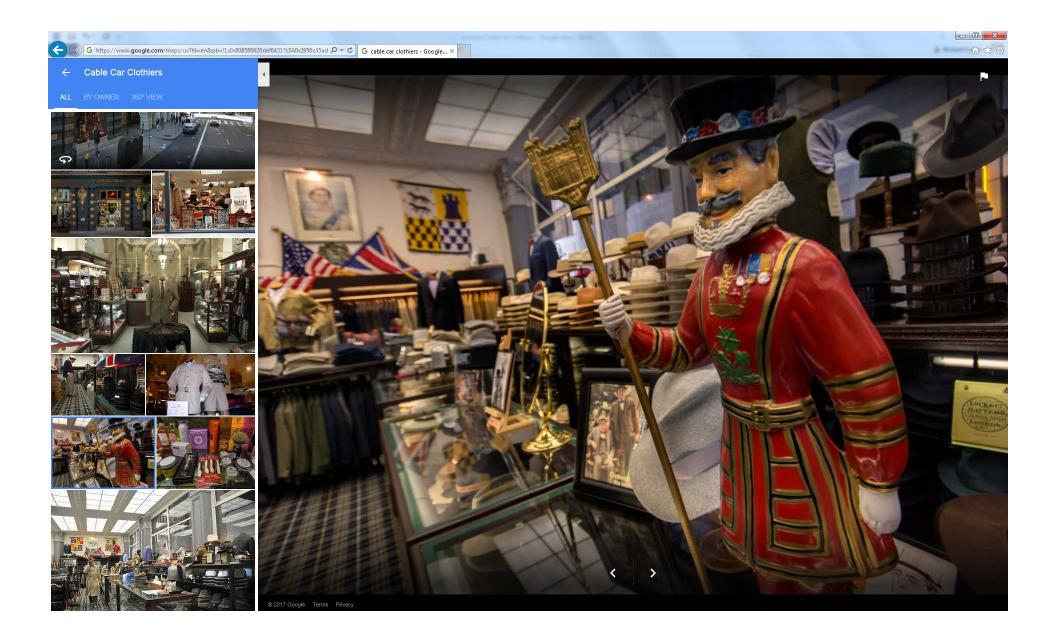


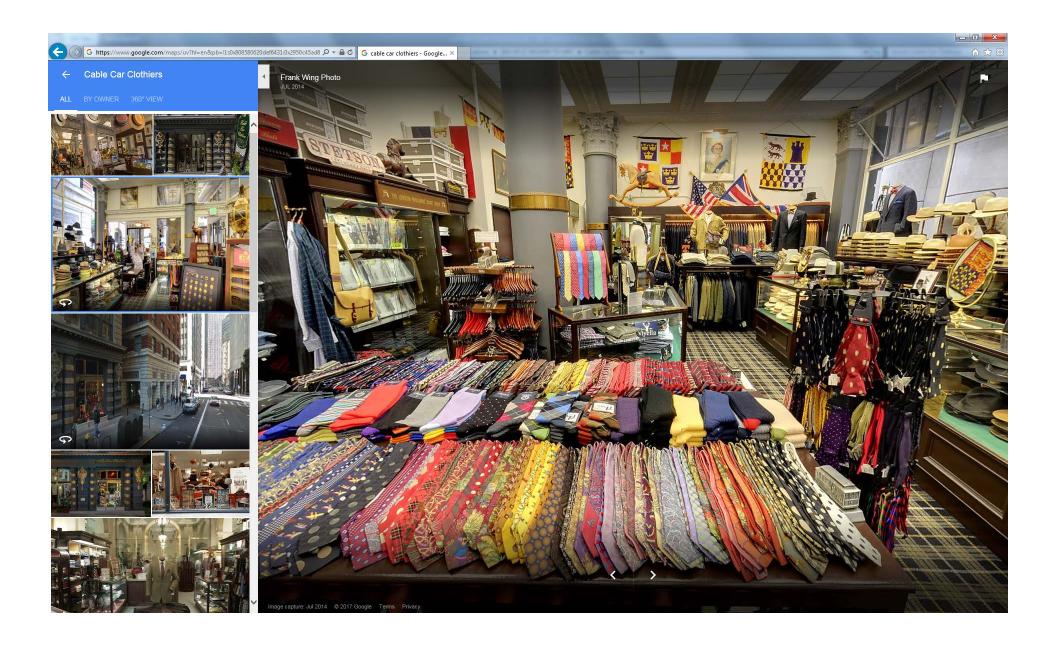


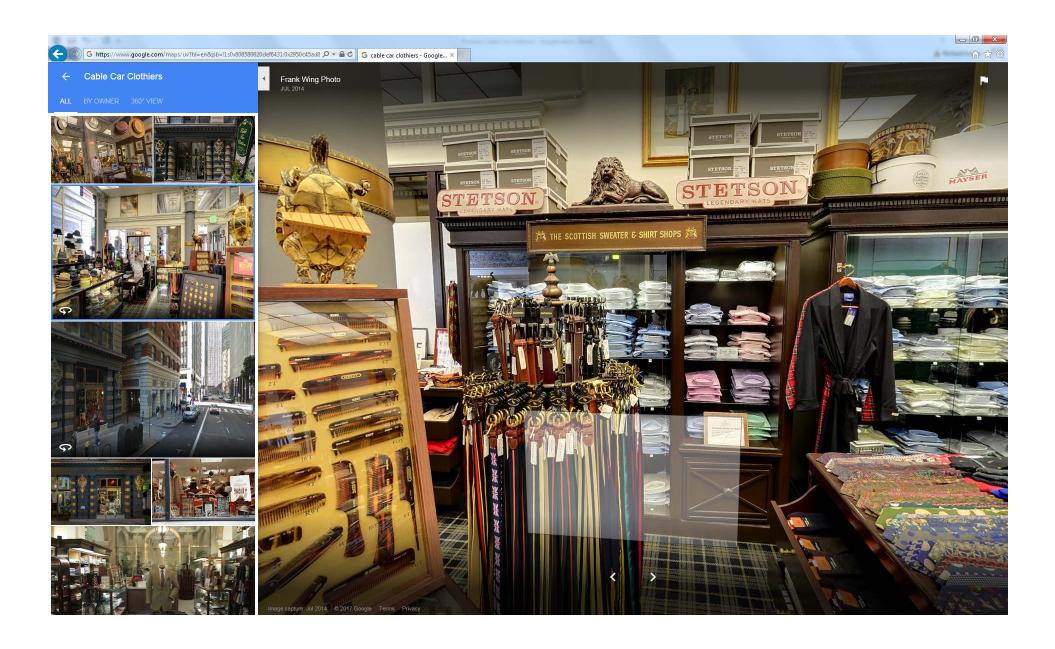


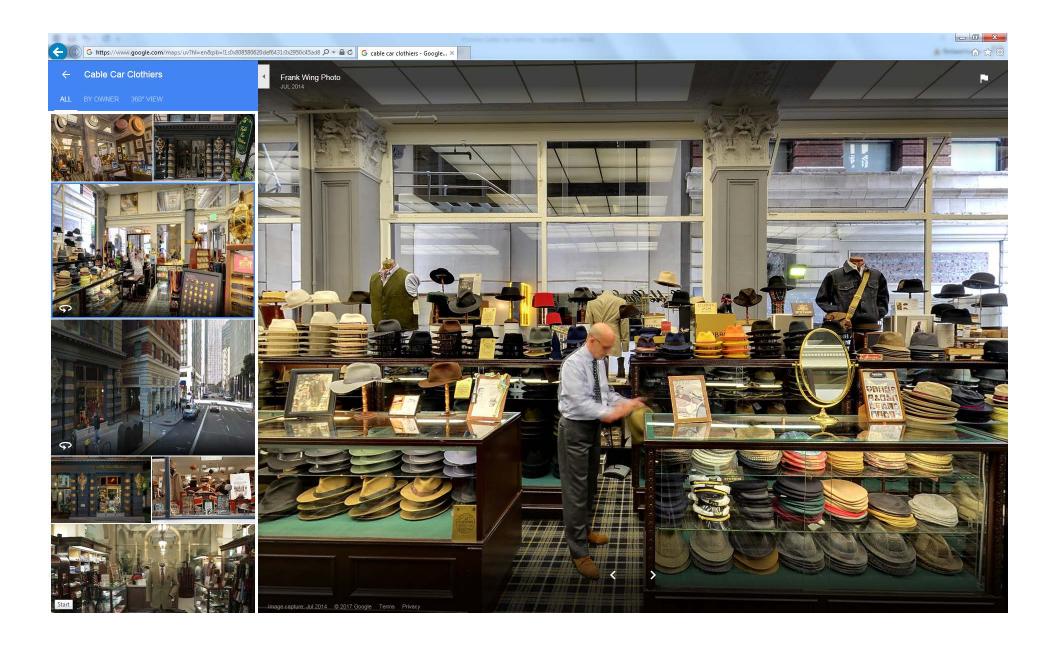


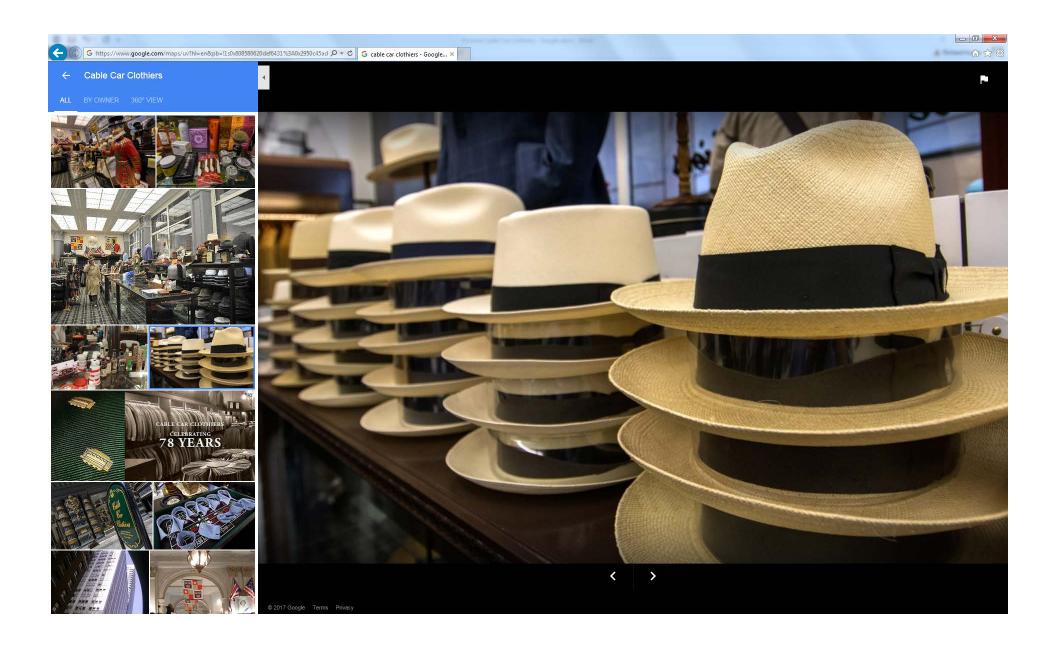


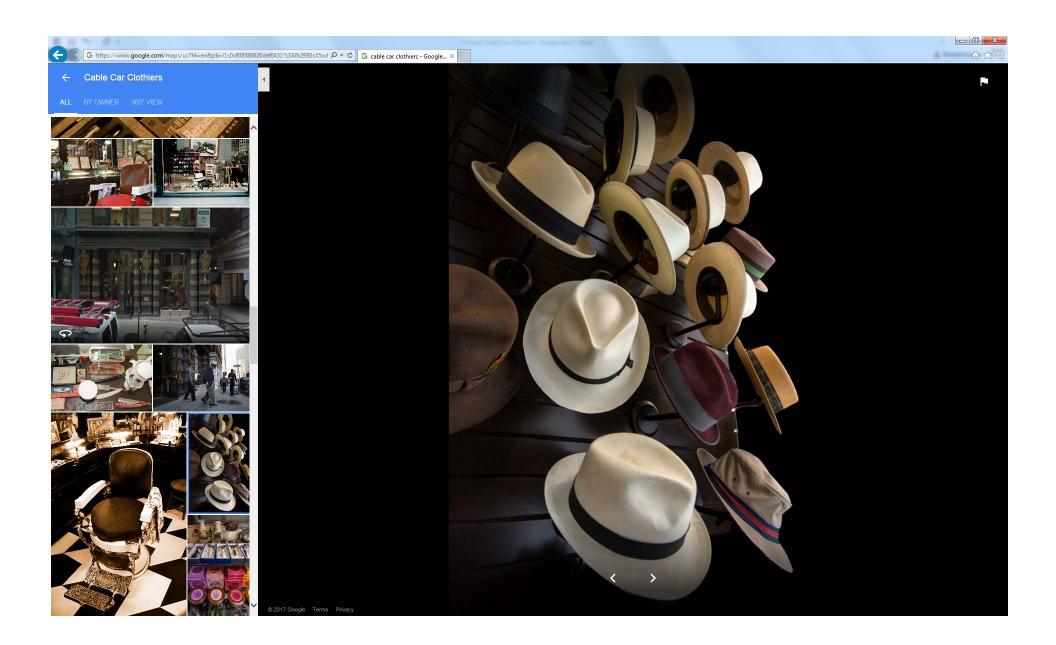








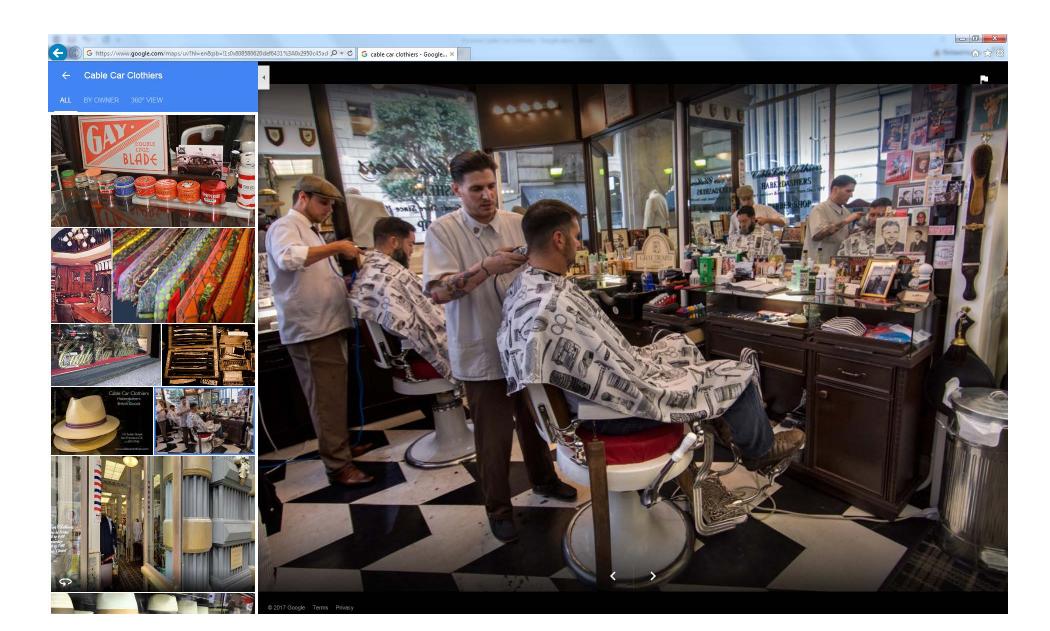


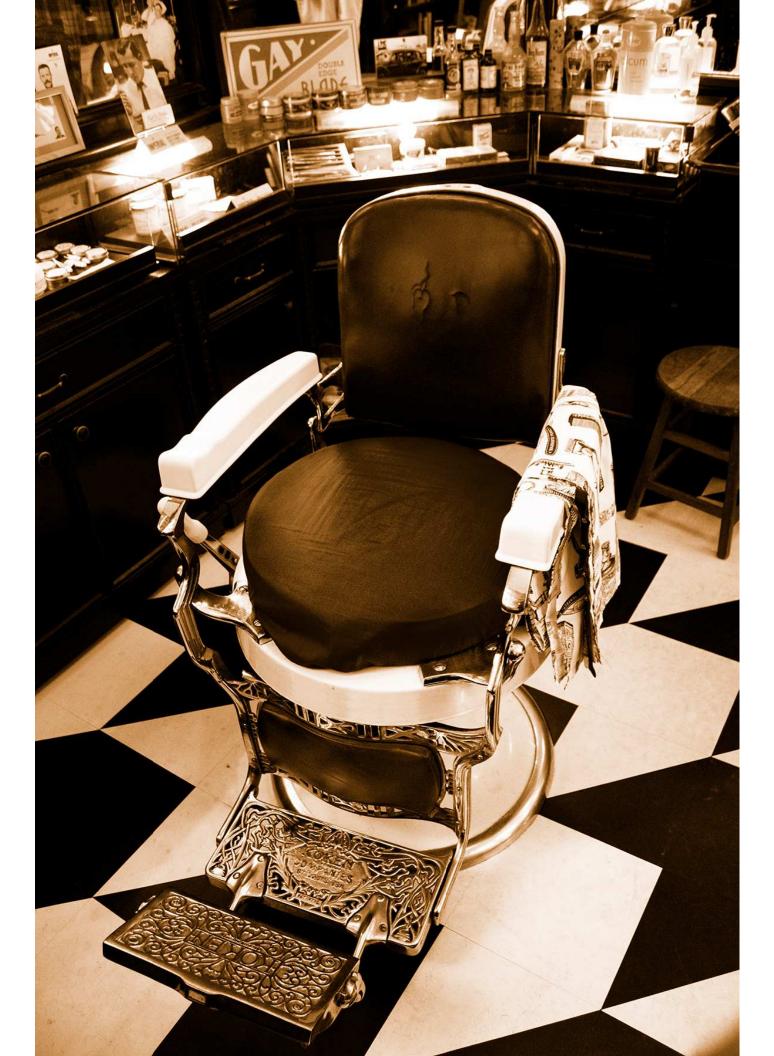




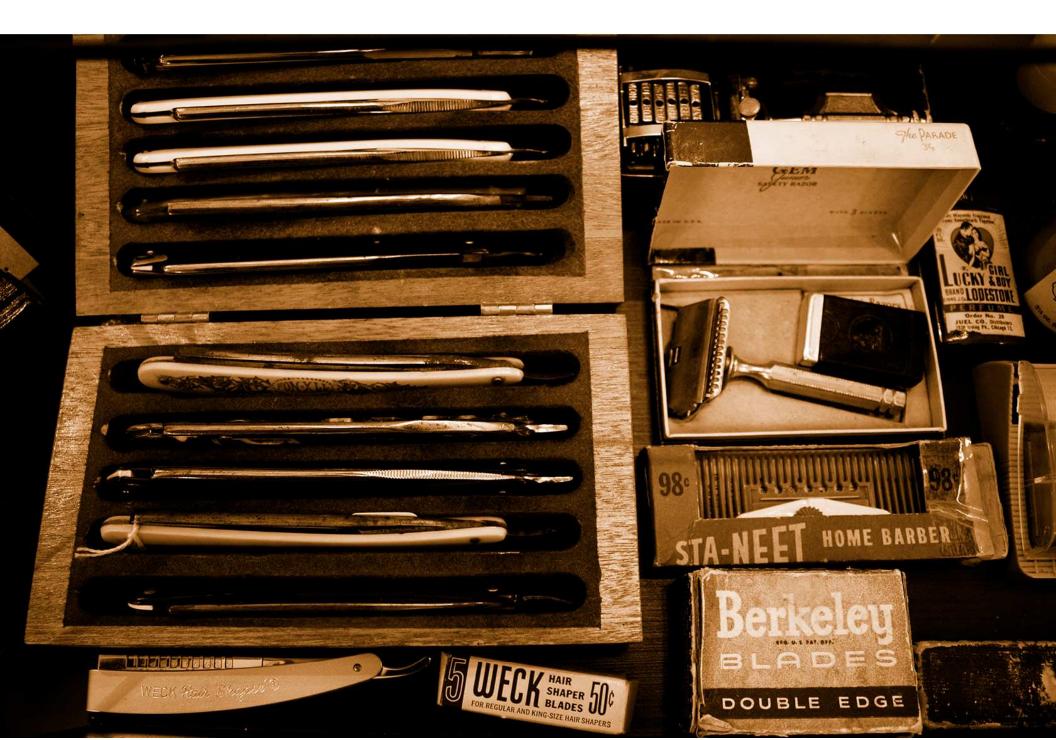




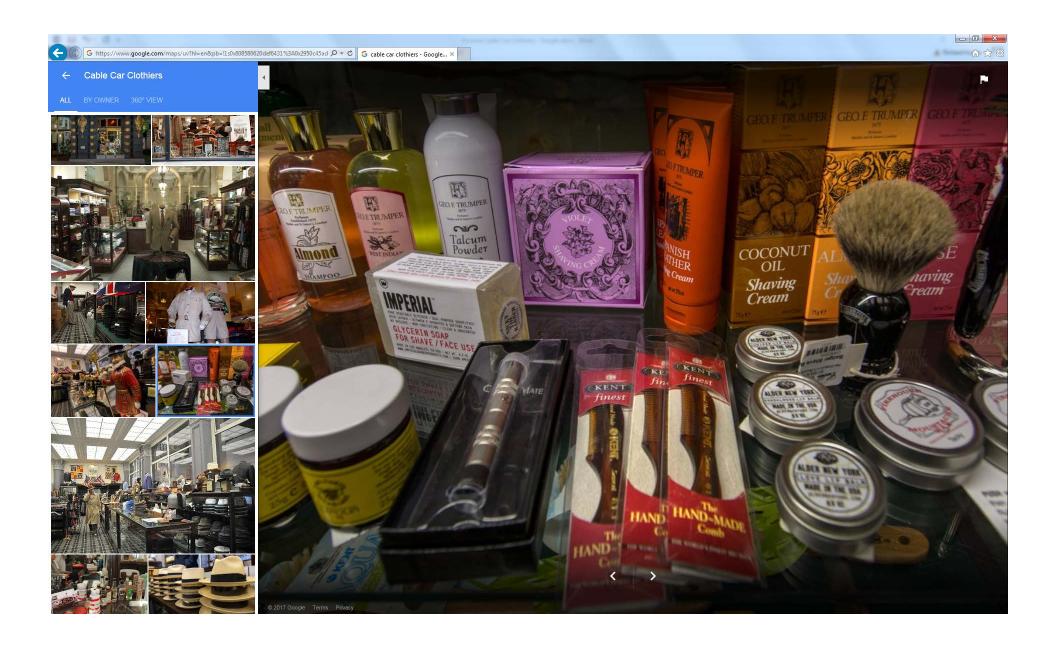














Legacy Business Registry Case Report

HEARING DATE: AUGUST 16, 2017

 Filing Date:
 July 21, 2017

 Case No.:
 2017-009556LBR

Business Name: Cable Car Clothiers
Business Address: 110 Sutter Street, Suite 108
Zoning: C-3-O (Downtown-Office)

C-3-O (Downtown-Office)/ 250-S Height and Bulk District

Block/Lot: 0288/007

Applicant: Jonathan M. Levin, President, CEO and Shareholder

110 Sutter Street, Suite 108 San Francisco, CA 94108

Nominated By: Supervisor Aaron Peskin, District 3
Staff Contact: Stephanie Cisneros - (415) 575-9186

stephanie.cisneros@sfgov.org

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

tim.frye @sfgov.org

BUSINESS DESCRIPTION

Cable Car Clothiers is the oldest men's retailer located in and serving the downtown and greater San Francisco community. The retailer was founded in 1946 by Mr. Charles Pivnick under the name "Vet's Mercantile" and sold war surpluses from World War II. However, in 1954, as the military surpluses began to dry up, the store became a more traditional clothing store and was renamed "Cable Car Clothiers." The shop began to focus its products more on traditional, British-style clothing, selling items such as that have been described as a blend of "East Coast Ivy style with a West Coast flavor" and offering customer-focused services such as having an in-house tailor and a custom-suit service. After having relocated a number of times since opening, the shop settled back into its roots on Sutter Street in 2012 and opened a 1930s-style barber shop to complement its selection of clothing, hats and caps.

Cable Car Clothiers prides itself on its respect for the people who make it what it is – dedicated employees and loyal customers. For over 60 years, Cable Car Clothiers has built its reputation on the quality of products sold and a strong dedication to providing exceptional customer service. The shop hosts a variety of special events such as book signings and trunk shows to bring together the community. Additionally, for many years the shop has granted the "Cable Car Scholarship" awards that recognizes and honors the academic achievements of select high school students in San Francisco by awarding handmade wooden Cable Car replicas and cash awards for college. Cable Car Clothiers has become deeply rooted in San Francisco's fashion history and traditions, providing a high quality shopping experience with outstanding customer service and services offered frequented by residents and tourists alike.

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

Reception: 415.558.6378

Fax:

415.558.6409

Planning Information: 415.558.6377

STAFF ANALYSIS

Review Criteria

1. When was business founded?

The business was renamed and transformed into Cable Car Clothiers in 1954.

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

Yes, Cable Car Clothiers qualifies for listing on the Legacy Business Registry because it meets all of the eligibility Criteria:

- i. Cable Car Clothiers has operated for 63 years.
- ii. Cable Car Clothiers has contributed to the Downtown community's history and identity by offering a unique variety of men's clothing and maintaining high quality individualized custom services.
- iii. Cable Car Clothiers is committed to maintaining the physical features and traditions that define its presence and role in San Francisco fashion history.
- 3. Is the business associated with a culturally significant art/craft/cuisine/tradition?

The business is associated with the tradition of offering high quality unique clothing and outstanding customized customer service.

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

Yes. The 1906 property has been previously evaluated by the Planning Department for potential historical significance and is considered an individual Article 11, Category I (Significant Building, No Alterations) building, is listed on the California Register and is also individually eligible for listing on the National Register.

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

 The property is listed in the local Article 11 registry and in the California Register.
- 6. Is the business mentioned in a local historic context statement?

No.

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

The business has been cited in a number of publications including but not limited to: *Style and the Man*, by Alan Flusser (1996); and SF Examiner, 5/25/1968, "Cable Car Awards: 10 S.F. Students Honored." The business has also received a Certificate of Honor from the City and County of San Francisco Board of Supervisors.

Physical Features or Traditions that Define the Business

Location(s) associated with the business:

• 110 Sutter Street, Suite 108

Recommended by Applicant

- The "CCC" label
- Traditional signage painted "Cable Car Clothiers" in cursive on the storefront window
- Iconic cable car logo
- Inventory of traditional brands (i.e. Stetson, Southwick, Kent, Filson, etc.)
- Commitment to expert customer service (i.e. in-house tailoring, bespoke customer service)
- Staff attired in clothing that reflects the ivy league character of the shop (including bow ties, and hats)
- 1930s-style barber shop
- Displays of products on vintage mahogany fixtures handmade in England

Additional Recommended by Staff

• Location in Downtown

Historic Preservation Commission Draft Resolution

HEARING DATE AUGUST 16, 2017

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

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ADOPTING FINDINGS RECOMMENDING TO THE SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSION APPROVAL OF THE LEGACY BUSINESS REGISTRY NOMINATION FOR CBABLE CAR CLOTHIERS, CURRENTLY LOCATED AT 110 SUTTER STREET (BLOCK/LOT 0288/007).

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 Downtown 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 August 16, 2017, 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 Cable Car Clothiers 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 Cable Car Clothiers

Location (if applicable)

• 110 Sutter Street

Physical Features or Traditions that Define the Business

- The "CCC" label
- Traditional signage painted "Cable Car Clothiers" in cursive on the storefront window
- Iconic cable car logo
- Inventory of traditional brands (i.e. Stetson, Southwick, Kent, Filson, etc.)
- Commitment to expert customer service (i.e. in-house tailoring, bespoke customer service)
- Staff attired in clothing that reflects the ivy league character of the shop (including bow ties, and hats)
- 1930s-style barber shop
- Displays of products on vintage mahogany fixtures handmade in England
- Location in Downtown

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 2017-009556LBR to the Office of Small Business.

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED by the Historic Preservation Commission on August 16, 2017.

Jonas P. Ionin Commission Secretary

NOES:

AYES:

ABSENT:

ADOPTED: