



Legacy Business Registry Staff Report

HEARING DATE DECEMBER 12, 2016

HAMBURGER HAVEN

Application No.: LBR-2016-17-029
Business Name: Hamburger Haven
Business Address: 800 Clement Street
District: District 1
Applicant: Roozbeh Falahati, Manager
Nomination Date: October 3, 2016
Nominated By: Supervisor Eric Mar
Staff Contact: Richard Kurylo
legacybusiness@sfgov.org

BUSINESS DESCRIPTION

Located at the northeast corner of Clement and 10th streets in the Richmond District, Hamburger Haven has served affordable breakfast and hamburgers to neighborhood residents and families since 1968. The business is known for its signature 1960s interior and for its breakfast special, which has not changed since the restaurant first opened. The interior features a 1960s layout with an open kitchen and long counter where customers can enjoy their meals while watching the cooks in action. Its original green booths, unique orange and yellow stained glass in the dining area, orange tile, and wood paneling add to the 1960s diner experience. Virtually intact since 1968, Hamburger Haven is one of the oldest businesses in the neighborhood and is frequently sought after by film crews searching for a 1960s-1970s-era San Francisco setting. The current business owner, Mohammad Falahati, began his relationship with the business as a busboy, making his way into a managerial position and ultimately deciding to purchase the business in 1976. He was joined by his wife, Monir, and eventually his son. Popular among families, the restaurant has become a community hub and a destination for those nostalgic for the 1960s.

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:

800 Clement Street from 1968-Present (48 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 Richmond District's 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:



SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSION

MARK DWIGHT, PRESIDENT
REGINA DICK-ENDRIZZI, DIRECTOR



CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

EDWIN M. LEE, MAYOR

- Hamburger Haven is associated with the American diner tradition and is especially known for their breakfast special and hamburgers, as well as the 1960s diner experience.
- Hamburger Haven has contributed to the Richmond District community's history and identity by continuing to serve traditional American diner fare in an original 1960s setting for 48 years.
- The property has not been previously evaluated by the Planning Department for historic significance. It is currently considered a "Category B" building. Further evaluation is necessary to determine if the property is significant for events, persons, and/or architecture.
- The business has been cited in the following publications:
 - Avitaltours.com, 7/8/2014, "Hamburger Haven Restaurant Review: A 1960s Diner," by Avital Ungar.
 - Eater, 4/17/2015, "San Francisco's 9 Best Old-School Burger Joints," by Allie Pape.

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

Yes, Hamburger Haven is committed to maintaining the physical features and traditions that define its legacy of serving as a neighborhood restaurant and community hub that serves traditional American diner fare in an original 1960s setting.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

The Historic Preservation Commission recommends that Hamburger Haven 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:

- Original 1968 interior layout of the restaurant, including its open kitchen, long counter, green booths, orange tile and wood paneling.
- Affordable breakfast and burger options.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the San Francisco Small Business Commission include Hamburger Haven currently located at 800 Clement Street in the Legacy Business Registry as a Legacy Business under Administrative Code Section 2A.242.

Richard Kurylo, Manager
Legacy Business Program



SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE CENTER / SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSION
1 DR. CARLTON B. GOODLETT PLACE, ROOM 110, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94102-4681
Small Business Assistance Center (415) 554-6134 / Small Business Commission (415) 554-6481



Small Business Commission Draft Resolution HEARING DATE DECEMBER 12, 2016

HAMBURGER HAVEN

LEGACY BUSINESS REGISTRY RESOLUTION NO. _____

Application No.: LBR-2016-17-029
Business Name: Hamburger Haven
Business Address: 800 Clement Street
District: District 1
Applicant: Roozbeh Falahati, Manager
Nomination Date: October 3, 2016
Nominated By: Supervisor Eric Mar
Staff Contact: Richard Kurylo
legacybusiness@sfgov.org

ADOPTING FINDINGS APPROVING THE LEGACY BUSINESS REGISTRY APPLICATION FOR HAMBURGER HAVEN, CURRENTLY LOCATED AT 800 CLEMENT STREET.

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 December 12, 2016, the San Francisco Small Business Commission reviewed documents and correspondence, and heard oral testimony on the Legacy Business Registry application; therefore



SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSION

MARK DWIGHT, PRESIDENT
REGINA DICK-ENDRIZZI, DIRECTOR



CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

EDWIN M. LEE, MAYOR

BE IT RESOLVED that the Small Business Commission hereby includes Hamburger Haven 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 Hamburger Haven:

Physical Features or Traditions that Define the Business:

- Original 1968 interior layout of the restaurant, including its open kitchen, long counter, green booths, orange tile and wood paneling.
- Affordable breakfast and burger options.

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED by the Small Business Commission on December 12, 2016.

Regina Dick-Endrizzi
Director

RESOLUTION NO. _____

Ayes –
Nays –
Abstained –
Absent –



SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE CENTER / SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSION
1 DR. CARLTON B. GOODLETT PLACE, ROOM 110, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94102-4681
Small Business Assistance Center (415) 554-6134 / Small Business Commission (415) 554-6481



Legacy Business Registry

Application Review Sheet

Application No.: LBR-2016-17-029
Business Name: Hamburger Haven
Business Address: 800 Clement Street
District: District 1
Applicant: Roozbeh Falahati, Manager
Nomination Date: October 3, 2016
Nominated By: Supervisor Eric Mar

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? X Yes No

800 Clement Street from 1968-Present (48 years).

CRITERION 2: Has the applicant contributed to the neighborhood's history and/or the identity of a particular neighborhood or community? X 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? X Yes No

NOTES: NA

DELIVERY DATE TO HPC: October 17, 2016

Richard Kurylo
Manager, Legacy Business Program





ERIC MAR

Legacy Business Program
City and County of San Francisco
Office of Small Business
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 110
San Francisco, CA 94102

October 3, 2016

Re: Hamburger Haven's Application to the Legacy Business Registry

I am writing this letter in strong support of Hamburger Haven's application to be a designated as a Legacy Business. Since 1968, Hamburger Haven, located at the intersection of Clement and 10th Avenue, has served the Richmond District as one of the key destinations for our neighborhood that generations of Richmond residents have patronized with their families.

Hamburger Haven is a restaurant that doubles as a community hub for locals. They still have the same breakfast special being served since their inception in 1968. They have always provided affordable and quality food to residents in the Richmond District, even in the midst of rising costs of life around the city.

The restaurant still maintains its vintage 1960s layout complete with a counter, open kitchen, and interior design. Many patrons often sit at the counter top to watch Tony, the head cook, perform his artwork. The layout, comfort food, atmosphere and familiarity has built a loyal following that has come to eat here for decades. Dining at Hamburger Haven has become part of the Richmond District experience.

There is no other business like Hamburger Haven in the Richmond District and it has become part of the fabric of the Inner Clement neighborhood. It combines a throwback-charm and experience that enriches the area that is still felt today, and not just because it is my favorite on-the-go breakfast spot. I am proud to nominate it as a Richmond District legacy business.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Eric Mar", with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Eric Mar
Supervisor, District 1

Section One:

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.

NAME OF BUSINESS:		
Hamburger Haven		
BUSINESS OWNER(S) (identify the person(s) with the highest ownership stake in the business)		
Mohammad T Falahati		
CURRENT BUSINESS ADDRESS:		TELEPHONE:
800 Clement St. San Francisco, CA 94118		(415) 387-3260
		EMAIL:
WEBSITE:	FACEBOOK PAGE:	YELP PAGE
		yelp.com/bz/hamburger-haven-san-francisco

APPLICANT'S NAME	
Roozbeh Falahati	<input type="checkbox"/> Same as Business
APPLICANT'S TITLE	
Manager	
APPLICANT'S ADDRESS:	TELEPHONE:
10 West Harbor Dr. Sausalito, CA 94965	(415) 233-3124
	EMAIL:
	Roozbeh.Falahati@yahoo.com

SAN FRANCISCO BUSINESS ACCOUNT NUMBER:	SECRETARY OF STATE ENTITY NUMBER (if applicable):
0100952	

OFFICIAL USE: Completed by OSB Staff	
NAME OF NOMINATOR:	DATE OF NOMINATION:

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
800 Clement St.	94118	1968
IS THIS LOCATION THE FOUNDING LOCATION OF THE BUSINESS?	DATES OF OPERATION AT THIS LOCATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	1968 - 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:

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:

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.

- ☒ 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.

Roozbeh Falahati

Name (Print):

9/27/16

Date:


Signature:

Historical Narrative

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.

Hamburger Haven opened in 1968 at 800 Clement Street by the owners of Mel's. Andy Saberi took over the business shortly thereafter. Mohammad Falahati (Majid) started working for Andy in 1972 as a busboy, becoming manager in 1974 and taking over operations in 1976. In 1974, Andy Saberi opened a second branch of Hamburger Haven in San Mateo which has since closed. Hamburger Haven on Clement Street is the original location and the only location that remains.

b. Describe any circumstances that required the business to cease operations in San Francisco for more than six months?

Hamburger Haven has been open continuously without any break in operations since it was founded in 1968.

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

Majid arrived in San Francisco from Iran in 1970. While a student at USF he started working for his friend Andy at Hamburger Haven. He moved up from busboy to manager to owner in a few short years. He married Monir in 1982 and they have run the business together from the 1980s on.

In the late 1980s, Majid's sister Nahid and her husband Tom moved from Germany to California. Nahid worked as a waitress/manager and Tom as a cook through the 1990s.

In 2011, Majid underwent an operation and semi-retired for a few years. His son took over most of the responsibilities from 2011 until 2014. In 2015 Majid, sick of retirement, returned to work, and now father and son run the business together.

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

Andy Saberi was the previous owner of Hamburger Haven.

Criterion 2

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

Hamburger Haven is one of a dozen or so long time businesses that maintains our neighborhood's original feel while new businesses move in and improve the neighborhood in different ways. The Inner Richmond would not be the same without The Toy Boat, Green Apple

Books and Georgio's, among many others. There are great new businesses moving in, but what keeps the Inner Richmond and San Francisco unique is the support by customers and the city to long-standing small businesses like ours.

This is also a neighborhood that loves breakfast and that is something the Hamburger Haven has specialized in for decades, feeding churchgoers and treating hangovers alike.

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

Candidates for supervisor and various political offices have held many meet-and-greets in the back dining area over the years. Most of the current supervisor candidates have come in for breakfast and introduced and discussed their platforms.

Location scouts seek our restaurant out when they are making 60s-70s era films set in San Francisco. In 2014, Hamburger Haven was featured in the film Diary of a Teenage Girl. It has been featured in various commercials, including a Rav4 Toyota commercial starring Steve Young in the late 90s.

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

Like many businesses in San Francisco, our favorite customer was Robin Williams. We have a photo posted since early 2000 of one of his visits. We were so proud to have Robin Williams in our restaurant and to feel in some way connected to him.

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

Hamburger Haven is a meeting place for many in the neighborhood. It's one of the few places you can come in by yourself and not feel alone. You can sit down and read a book or enjoy a conversation with a fellow diner or your waiter/waitress. We know our regulars by name and treat them as our friends.

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

The Inner Richmond has a wonderful mix of Chinese-Americans, Irish-Americans and Russian-Americans, among many others. We have an aging senior population and a growing mix of 20- and 30-somethings. It's truly a diverse neighborhood. We are located a block away from the Star of the Sea and serve many of our Churchgoing customers throughout the week and after the sermon on Sundays, included gatherings with priests and the members of their flock. There is not a community that we do not serve. Everyone loves and needs their breakfast fix.

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

One of our most valuable assets is the interior layout of the restaurant. Hamburger Haven has a unique 1960s layout featuring an open kitchen in front of a 1960s countertop for customers to sit and watch our head cook Tony perform his artwork. We have green booths, and the walls are patterned with orange tile and wood paneling throughout. There are large one piece windows in the sides and a unique orange and yellow stained glass in the back dining area providing an interesting mix of ambient light.

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

Breakfast is important. There aren't many places open every day at 7 a.m. I'm sure the world would not end, but it is pretty clear that we would be missed by many. This is a restaurant that you can go to by yourself, pick up a paper, have a chat, drink your coffee and start your day, and many do just that every day. This is also a restaurant you can come to with your friends or your partner after a night of hard drinking and feed yourself back to life. It's a place where you can minister members of your church, which happens 5 days a week by Pastor Mike as our first customer 5 minutes before we open. And it's a place you can return to years after you left San Francisco to see that same faces, the same food, and pick up conversation like you never left. We have a strong following and it's clear that we are a part of the Inner Richmond community. We would like to stay at our location just as much as our customers do, for as long as we can.

Criterion 3

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

We open at 7 am every day and have the same breakfast special being served since 1968. We have always provided affordable dining to the Inner Richmond for those who want a good meal. We follow no gimmick or trend. It's a unique restaurant with a unique 1960s layout that we and our patrons have always appreciated.

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)

We are a breakfast and burger restaurant. We serve pancakes and waffles and omelets and hash browns. All served by the same great cook, Tony. People come not simply to eat, but to watch Tony cook up a storm on busy weekend mornings. There is something special about knowing who your cook is and watching him make your food. Open kitchen formats can be stressful and difficult, but with the right staff it's a form of artwork.

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.). Does the building occupied by the business relate to the immediate neighborhood?

The layout of the restaurant, from the orange tile and wood paneling and green booths to the long counter and open kitchen is part of the history of Hamburger Haven. It is all set up as the original 1968 layout. This is not a replica of 1968. Hamburger Haven is 1968. We will never change the makeup of the restaurant. The only changes we have made are by code and safety and health improvements. We are committed to keeping the original style the way it is.

On the 9th Avenue wall of the restaurant there is a large painting made by our close friend, the late Bob L Johnson. It's a wonderful mural. I always wished he would have signed it. It took me a year to see he signed his name inside his painting of a pipe.

d. When the current ownership is not the original owner and has owned the business for less than 30years; 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. Please use the list of supplemental documents and/or materials as a guide to help demonstrate the existence of the business prior to current ownership.

Majid has owned the restaurant for 40 years since 1976.



800
CLEMENT

HAMBURGERS
HAVEN

珠寶首飾

Watch & Jewelry
Repair & Change

HAMBURGER HAVEN

HAPPY HOUR

\$4.99

HAVEN
THE ORIGINAL COFFEE SHOP
SINCE 1960

HAMBURGER HAVEN

THE ORIGINAL COFFEE SHOP
SINCE 1968







HAMBURGER HAVEN RESTAURANT REVIEW: A 1960S DINER

Posted by Avital Ungar on 07.08.14

Hamburger Haven Restaurant Review written by Culinary Guide Leila N'Amara

Walking into the Richmond District's long-standing greasy spoon, Hamburger Haven, is like stepping into the sixties—you're greeted by wooden wall paneling, little green vinyl booths for two and a long row of vinyl covered stools lining the counter.

Video:

<http://avitaltours.com/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Hamburger-Haven-Restaurant-Review-Video.mp4>

The Place: Since 1968 locals have made this their morning haunt, even SF native Robin Williams is known to frequent Hamburger Haven (you can spot photos taken with him adorning the wooden walls of the restaurant). Once you find yourself a window seat be sure to slide into the booth and flip your coffee cup cover for a steady stream of caffeine!

The Dishes: Whenever I visit a new diner there are two things I absolutely have to try: a hearty breakfast and a slice of pie. Nothing is more complimentary to eggs and bacon than biscuits and gravy—and Hamburger Haven does not disappoint! Naturally, the fluffy biscuits were hidden under a mountain of surprisingly sweet gravy filled with sausage bits. The coffee is predictable, but the servers here always make sure your cup never goes cold or empty! Lastly, their savory and tart cherry pie was a perfect way to wrap up the meal.



Other Menu Must Haves:

Perhaps the best deal for breakfast in town is their Breakfast Special (before 11am) which gets you two eggs, two sausage links or strips of bacon with your choice of toast, pancakes or French toast for \$5.50.

Unlike most greasy spoons, Hamburger Haven offers \$3 mimosas—for those brunchers on a budget.



The Details: Hamburger Haven offers Biscuits & Gravy Breakfast for \$9.50, Never-Ending Coffee \$1.50 and Cherry Pie with Whipped Cream \$3.25

Hamburger Haven in the Inner Richmond

800 Clement St (between 9th & 10th)

[415-387-3260](tel:415-387-3260)

Open Daily from 7am-8pm



Eater San Francisco

San Francisco's 9 Best Old-School Burger Joints

by [Allie Pape](#) Apr 17, 2015, 10:42a

With locally-sourced, high-end burger chains proliferating across San Francisco, you could be forgiven for assuming that the city had no **old-school burger joints** left. But when you're looking for a simple burger without frills or pretense, these 9 icons, some of which date as far back as the '50s, will fill the bill without costing a lot of bills.

4 Hamburger Haven

This old-school diner has been holding it down on Clement since 1968 with its green vinyl booths and inexpensive menu. The late Robin Williams was a fan, and photos of him with customers are all over the walls.



800 Clement St
San Francisco, CA 94118
(415) 387-3260

**Legacy Business Registry
November 16, 2016 Hearing**

2016-014209LBR; 2016-013529LBR; 2016-013530LBR; 2016-013557LBR;
2016-014320LBR; 2016-013558LBR; 2016-013561LBR; 2016-013587LBR;
2016-013588LBR; 2016-014214LBR; 2016-013591LBR; 2016-013782LBR;
2016-013785LBR; 2016-013788LBR; 2016-013922LBR

Filing Date: October 17, 2016
Case No.: 2016-013561LBR
Business Name: Hamburger Haven
Business Address: 800 Clement Street
Zoning: NCD (Inner Clement Street Neighborhood Commercial)
40-X Height & Bulk Districts
Block/Lot: 1424/017
Applicant: Roozbeh Falahati, Manager
800 Clement Street
San Francisco, CA 94118
Nominated By: Supervisor Eric Mar, District 1
Staff Contact: Desiree Smith - (415) 575-9093
desiree.smith@sfgov.org
Reviewed By: Tim Frye – (415) 575-6822
tim.frye@sfgov.org

BUSINESS DESCRIPTION

Located at the northeast corner of Clement Street and 10th Street in the Richmond District, Hamburger Haven has served affordable breakfast and hamburgers to neighborhood residents and families since 1968. The business is known for its signature 1960s interior and for its breakfast special, which has not changed since the restaurant first opened. The interior features a 1960s layout with an open kitchen and long counter where customers can enjoy their meals while watching the cooks in action. Its original green booths, unique orange and yellow stained glass in the dining area, orange tile, and wood paneling add to the 1960s diner experience. Virtually intact since 1968, Hamburger Haven is one of the oldest businesses in the neighborhood and is frequently sought after by film crews searching for a 1960s-1970s-era San Francisco setting. The current business owner, Mohammad Falahati, began his relationship with the business as a busboy, making his way into a managerial position and ultimately deciding to purchase the business in 1976. He was joined by his wife, Monir, and eventually his son. Popular among families, the restaurant has become a community hub and a destination for those nostalgic for the 1960s.

STAFF ANALYSIS

Review Criteria

1. *When was business founded?*

1968

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

Yes, Hamburger Haven qualifies for listing on the Legacy Business Registry because it meets all of the eligibility Criteria:

- i. Hamburger Haven has operated for 48 years.
- ii. Hamburger Haven has contributed to the Richmond District community's history and identity by continuing to serve traditional American diner fare in an original 1960s setting for 48 years.

- iii. Hamburger Haven is committed to maintaining the physical features and traditions that define its legacy of serving as a neighborhood restaurant and community hub that serves traditional American diner fare in an original 1960s setting.

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

Yes. The business is associated with the American diner tradition and is especially known for their breakfast special and hamburgers, as well as the 1960s diner experience.

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

The property has not been previously evaluated by the Planning Department for historic significance. It is currently considered a "Category B" building. Further evaluation is necessary to determine if the property is significant for events, persons, and/or architecture.

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

No.

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

No.

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

Yes. The business has been featured in numerous publications, including but not limited to: Avitaltours.com, 7/8/2014, "Hamburger Haven Restaurant Review: A 1960s Diner," by Avital Ungar; Eater, 4/17/2015, "San Francisco's 9 Best Old-School Burger Joints," by Allie Pape.

Physical Features or Traditions that Define the Business

Location(s) associated with the business:

- 800 Clement Street

Recommended by Applicant

- Original 1968 interior layout of the restaurant, including its open kitchen, long counter, green booths, orange tile and wood paneling
- Affordable breakfast and burger options

Additional Recommended by Staff

No additional recommendations



SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Historic Preservation Commission Draft Resolution

HEARING DATE NOVEMBER 16, 2016

Case No.: 2016-013561LBR
Business Name: Hamburger Haven
Business Address: 800 Clement Street
Zoning: NCD (Inner Clement Street Neighborhood Commercial)
40-X Height & Bulk Districts
Block/Lot: 1424/017
Applicant: Roozbeh Falahati, Manager
800 Clement Street
San Francisco, CA 94118
Nominated By: Supervisor Eric Mar, District 1
Staff Contact: Desiree Smith - (415) 575-9093
Desiree.smith@sfgov.org
Reviewed By: Tim Frye - (415) 575-6822
tim.frye@sfgov.org

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

Reception:
415.558.6378

Fax:
415.558.6409

Planning
Information:
415.558.6377

**ADOPTING FINDINGS RECOMMENDING TO THE SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSION
APPROVAL OF THE LEGACY BUSINESS REGISTRY NOMINATION FOR HAMBURGER HAVEN,
CURRENTLY LOCATED AT 800 CLEMENT STREET (BLOCK/LOT 1424/017).**

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 Richmond District 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 November 16, 2016, 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 Hamburger Haven 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 Hamburger Haven.

Location (if applicable)

- 800 Clement Street

Physical Features or Traditions that Define the Business

- Original 1968 interior layout of the restaurant, including its open kitchen, long counter, green booths, orange tile and wood paneling
- Affordable breakfast and burger options

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 2016-013561LBR to the Office of Small Business.

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED by the Historic Preservation Commission on November 16, 2016.

Jonas P. Ionin
Commission Secretary

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ADOPTED: