



Legacy Business Registry Staff Report

Hearing Date: December 12, 2022

MARY ELIZABETH INN

Application No.: LBR-2021-22-016
Business Name: Mary Elizabeth Inn
Business Address: 1040 Bush St.
District: District 3
Applicant: Dion Roberts, Executive Director
Nomination Letter Date: February 16, 2022
Nominated By: Supervisor Aaron Peskin
Staff Contact: Richard Kurylo and Michelle Reynolds
legacybusiness@sfgov.org

BUSINESS DESCRIPTION

Mary Elizabeth Inn is a 92-unit Single-Room Occupancy (SRO) residential hotel in Nob Hill, which was founded in 1914 by Methodist philanthropist, Mrs. Elizabeth (Lizzie) Snyder Glide and designed by the famous architect Julia Morgan. The Mary Elizabeth Inn has been one of San Francisco's unsung heroes, providing permanent housing, supportive services, and free meals to women who are homeless, low-income, and, in many instances, survivors of domestic violence.

Lizzie Glide had lived her entire adult life dedicated to helping others. A wealthy widow at the time and residing in the Sacramento area, Mrs. Glide became aware of the need for safe and affordable housing for young working women in San Francisco. Mrs. Glide proceeded to use her personal resources to buy the land and erect The Mary Elizabeth Inn, naming it after her two daughters.

In 1915, shortly after building The Mary Elizabeth Inn, Lizzie Glide donated it to an iteration of the National Office of the United Methodist Women (UMW). From 1915 through 1932, per records, The Inn was managed by the religious women leaders. In April 1932, Mrs. Glide created a nonprofit organization, Mary Elizabeth Inn, to operate and administer The Mary Elizabeth Inn.

In November 2021, ownership of The Mary Elizabeth Inn was transferred to the nonprofit organization, Mary Elizabeth Inn, that Mrs. Glide created in 1932, and has since continuously operated and administered the programs at the historic building. This was a generous gift by UMW (which recently changed their name and branding to United Women in Faith).

Since 1914, The Mary Elizabeth Inn has served San Francisco's vulnerable female population. Originally, the target population was "young working girls" who arrived in San Francisco seeking an affordable and safe place to live. All residents in those early years were required to have jobs and pay rent. Over time, the organization saw the growing need for housing and supportive services to women who were homeless and at risk of being homeless. To this day, women served are homeless and low income, and many have co-occurring disorders and histories of sexual violence.

Legacy Business Program

Office of Small Business
City Hall Room 140
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102
(415) 554-6680
legacybusiness@sfgov.org
www.legacybusiness.org





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, Mary Elizabeth Inn has operated in San Francisco for 30 or more years, with no break in San Francisco operations exceeding two years:

1040 Bush St. from 1914 to Present (108 Years)

CRITERION 2

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

Yes, Mary Elizabeth Inn has contributed to the history and identity of the Nob Hill neighborhood and San Francisco.

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

- The Mary Elizabeth Inn is located within the boundaries of the Lower Nob Hill Apartment Hotel Historic District, which is a dense area primarily comprised of three- to seven-story multi-unit residential buildings. Most of the structures were built between 1906 and 1925, leading to a stylistically consistent district. Buildings often exhibit Art Deco or Spanish/Mission/Mediterranean influences. The building was constructed by architect of merit Julia Morgan, who has designed more than 700 buildings in California throughout her career. She is best known for her work on Hearst Castle in San Simeon, California. The Mary Elizabeth Inn is a four-story structure built in an Edwardian style of architecture with Tudor Revival ornaments which is contributing to the period and character of its surrounding neighborhood.
- The Mary Elizabeth Inn has hosted and homed numerous significant and famous people throughout its history. An event in 2006 featured guest panelist then-San Francisco District Attorney now Vice President Kamala Harris. Another event featured Dr. Melba Beals, one of the Little Rock Nine and Congressional Medal holder. She lived at The Mary Elizabeth Inn while a student at San Francisco State University.
- Over the years, The Mary Elizabeth Inn has been featured in local newspapers and other religious publications. A January 2013 article in the San Francisco Examiner by journalist Andrea Koskey featured one
- of their residents, and the story was promoted to highlight the centennial celebration in 2014.:

CRITERION 3

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

Yes, Mary Elizabeth Inn is committed to maintaining the physical features and traditions that define the organization.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

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

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Physical Features or Traditions that Define the Business:

- Service to a vulnerable population of women in San Francisco who are recovering from homelessness, insecurity, and sexual violence.
- Welcoming nature.
- Provision of onsite case managers, 24-hour property management services, and free meals.
- Ironing boards original to the building.

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.

- Housing and services for women.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the San Francisco Small Business Commission include Mary Elizabeth Inn currently located at 1040 Bush St. in the Legacy Business Registry as a Legacy Business under Administrative Code Section 2A.242.

Richard Kurylo and Michelle Reynolds
Legacy Business Program

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Small Business Commission

Resolution No. _____

December 12, 2022

MARY ELIZABETH INN

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Business Name: Mary Elizabeth Inn
Business Address: 1040 Bush St.
District: District 3
Applicant: Dion Roberts, Executive Director
Nomination Letter Date: February 16, 2022
Nominated By: Supervisor Aaron Peskin
Staff Contact: Richard Kurylo and Michelle Reynolds
legacybusiness@sfgov.org

Adopting findings approving the Legacy Business Registry application for Mary Elizabeth Inn, currently located at 1040 Bush St.

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, at a duly noticed public hearing held on December 12, 2022, the San Francisco Small Business Commission reviewed documents and correspondence, and heard oral testimony on the Legacy Business Registry application; therefore

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

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

Physical Features or Traditions that Define the Business:

- Service to a vulnerable population of women in San Francisco who are recovering from homelessness, insecurity, and sexual violence.
- Welcoming nature.
- Provision of onsite case managers, 24-hour property management services, and free meals.
- Ironing boards original to the building.

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

- Housing and services for women.

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED by the Small Business Commission on December 12, 2022.

Katy Tang
Director

RESOLUTION NO. _____

Ayes –
Nays –
Abstained –
Absent –

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Legacy Business Registry

Application Review Sheet

Application No.: LBR-2021-22-016
Business Name: Mary Elizabeth Inn
Business Address: 1040 Bush St.
District: District 3
Applicant: Dion Roberts, Executive Director
Nomination Letter Date: February 16, 2022
Nominated By: Supervisor Aaron Peskin

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

Yes No

1040 Bush St. from 1914 to Present (108 Years)

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

Yes No

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

Yes No

NOTES: n/a

DELIVERY DATE TO HPC: October 19, 2022

Richard Kurylo and Michelle Reynolds
Legacy Business Program

Legacy Business Program

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Member, Board of Supervisors
District 3



City and County of San Francisco

AARON PESKIN
佩斯金市參事

February 16, 2022

Director Katy Tang
San Francisco Office of Small Business
City Hall, Room 110
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102
katy.tang@sfgov.org

Dear Director Tang:

It is my honor and privilege to nominate Mary Elizabeth Inn at 1040 Bush Street for inclusion on the Legacy Business Registry.

Mary Elizabeth Inn, a 92-unit Single-Room Occupancy (SRO) residential hotel in lower Nob Hill, was founded in 1914 by Methodist philanthropist, Mrs. Elizabeth Snyder Glide and designed by the famous architect Julia Morgan. Operating continuously since its founding over 100 years ago, Mary Elizabeth Inn got its start providing affordable and independent dorm-style living for low-income single women in transition. Today, Mary Elizabeth Inn provides safe and affordable permanent supportive housing for women recovering from homelessness and sexual abuse. In 1932, Mrs. Glide incorporated a separate nonprofit public benefit corporation, Mary Elizabeth Inn, creating the organizational body that administers the housing program to this day.

It is the mission of Mary Elizabeth Inn to end the cycle of poverty and homelessness for San Francisco's most vulnerable female population, and its long history of service has helped shape a community institution. While San Francisco explores permanent solutions to homelessness and housing insecurity, Mary Elizabeth Inn continues to build on the legacy of historic women's residential hotels across the country by providing vital supportive housing to women struggling without a safety net locally.

I hereby nominate Mary Elizabeth Inn for inclusion on the Legacy Business Registry.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Aaron Peskin".

Aaron Peskin

Section One:

Business / Applicant Information.

Please 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:	
Mary Elizabeth Inn	
BUSINESS OWNER(S) (Identify the person(s) with the highest ownership stake in the business):	
n/a (non-profit organization)	
CURRENT BUSINESS ADDRESS:	TELEPHONE NUMBER:
1040 Bush Street San Francisco, CA 94109	(415) 673-6768
	EMAIL ADDRESS:
MAILING ADDRESS – STREET ADDRESS:	MAILING ADDRESS – CITY AND STATE:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Same as Business Address	
	MAILING ADDRESS – ZIP CODE:
WEBSITE ADDRESS:	
https://meinn.org/	
FACEBOOK PAGE:	
https://www.facebook.com/The-Mary-Elizabeth-Inn-233902248635	
TWITTER NAME:	
APPLICANT'S NAME:	APPLICANT'S TELEPHONE NUMBER:
Dion Roberts	
APPLICANT'S TITLE:	APPLICANT'S EMAIL ADDRESS:
Executive Director	
SAN FRANCISCO BUSINESS ACCOUNT NUMBER:	
0032800	
SECRETARY OF STATE ENTITY NUMBER (If applicable):	
C1106995	

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
1040 Bush Street	94109	1914
IS THIS LOCATION THE FOUNDING LOCATION OF THE BUSINESS?	DATES OF OPERATION AT THIS LOCATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	1914 - 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
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		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. A business deemed not current with all San Francisco taxes, business registration and licenses, or has current violations of San Francisco labor laws, will not be eligible to apply for grants through the Legacy Business Program.

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

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

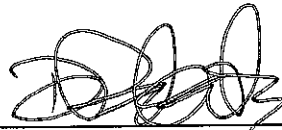
- I am authorized to submit this application on behalf of the business.
- I attest that the business is current on all of its San Francisco tax obligations.
- I attest that the business's business registration and any applicable regulatory license(s) are current.
- I attest that the Office of Labor Standards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

Dion Roberts

Name (Print):

2/14/2022

Date:



Signature:

THE MARY ELIZABETH INN

Section 4: Written 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.

For more than a century, The Mary Elizabeth Inn, a historic single room occupancy (SRO) hotel located at 1040 Bush Street in the Nob Hill neighborhood, has been one of San Francisco's unsung heroes, providing permanent housing, supportive services, and free meals to women who are homeless, low-income, and, in many instances, survivors of domestic violence.

The Mary Elizabeth Inn was founded in 1914 by Mrs. Lizzie Glide, who had lived her entire adult life dedicated to helping others. A wealthy widow at the time and residing in the Sacramento area, Mrs. Glide became aware of the need for safe and affordable housing for young working women in San Francisco. Mrs. Glide proceeded to use her personal resources to buy the land and erect The Mary Elizabeth Inn, naming it after her two daughters.

In 1915, shortly after building The Mary Elizabeth Inn, Lizzie Glide donated it to an iteration of the National Office of the United Methodist Women. From 1915 through 1932, per records, The Inn was managed by the religious women leaders.

In April 1932, Mrs. Glide created a nonprofit organization, Mary Elizabeth Inn, to operate and administer The Mary Elizabeth Inn.

The National Office of the United Methodist Women (UMW) held title of the building until 2021. Since the 1800s, UMW, a separate entity of the United Methodist Church, had accumulated buildings across the country where they operated "missions" helping the needy. Fast forward to the current period, UMW found themselves owning about 100 buildings across the country and decided to transfer ownership of the buildings to the nonprofits who had long been operating the programs, referred to as National Missions Institutions: [National Mission Institutions Roster by State \(uwfaith.org\)](http://uwfaith.org).

In November 2021, ownership of the Mary Elizabeth Inn was transferred to the nonprofit organization, Mary Elizabeth Inn, that Mrs. Glide created in 1932, and has since continuously operated and administered the programs at the historic building. This was an extremely generous gift by UMW (which recently changed their name and branding to United Women in Faith). Mary Elizabeth Inn and United Women in Faith maintain a close relationship.

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

The historic SRO, The Mary Elizabeth Inn, has operated continuously since 1914. The nonprofit organization, Mary Elizabeth Inn, has operated continuously since it was formed in 1932.

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

Neither The Mary Elizabeth Inn (the business) nor Mary Elizabeth Inn (the nonprofit organization) are family-owned businesses.

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

The historic building and business, The Mary Elizabeth Inn, was originally owned by Mrs. Lizzie Glide. She donated the building to the National Office of the United Methodist Women in the 1930s. In 1932, Mrs. Glide created the public benefit nonprofit to continue administering the housing programs out of The Mary Elizabeth Inn. From that time until 2021, the National Office of the United Methodist Women held title to The Mary Elizabeth Inn. Recently, in November 2021, the National Office of the United Methodist Women transferred ownership of the historic SRO to the nonprofit organization, Mary Elizabeth Inn.

The ownership history of The Mary Elizabeth Inn is as follows:

1914 to 1915:	Lizzie Glide
1915 to 2021	United Methodist Women
2021 to Present:	Mary Elizabeth Inn (nonprofit organization)

e. 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 of the existence of the business prior to current ownership to verify it has been in operation for 30+ years. 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.

Documentation of the existence of the business verifying it has been in operation for 30+ years is provided in this Legacy Business Registry application.

f. 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.

The historic resource status of the building at 1040 Bush Street is classified by the Planning Department as Category A, Historic Resource Present, with regard to the California Environmental Quality Act. The building is a contributor to the Lower Nob Hill Apartment Hotel Historic District, a dense area primarily comprised of 3- to 7-story multi-unit residential buildings. Most of the structures were built between 1906 and 1925, leading to a stylistic consistent district. Buildings often exhibit Art Deco or Spanish/Mission/Mediterranean influences. The district is significant for both its architecture as well as its association with its residents, often white-collar workers.

CRITERION 2

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

When Mrs. Glide solicited famed architect and engineer Julia Morgan to design The Mary Elizabeth Inn, she wanted the building to have a “home-away-from-home” appeal to the young women who had left their families behind to relocate to San Francisco. The building has a beautiful Edwardian design and contributes to the period architecture of the neighborhood.

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

The year 1914 was a period of growth in San Francisco, as only eight years earlier the city had suffered a devastating earthquake that had leveled a good part of the community. There was a burst of enthusiasm to rebuild and beautify San Francisco. Job opportunities brought young women to San Francisco seeking employment despite the many dangers that still existed in the notorious Barbary Coast. California granted women the right to vote in 1911, and by 1914 California had a female Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Northern California district. All these developments, as well as conversations with working girls in San Francisco, must have spurred Mrs. Glide’s decision to build The Mary Elizabeth Inn. During the First World War, some residents enlisted in the Women’s War Service League. A few others traveled overseas with the Red Cross and YMCA. During World War II, some women lived at The Mary Elizabeth Inn while serving in the Armed Forces. Following is an excerpt from a 1930 article from San Francisco highlighting The Mary Elizabeth Inn: “These young women hold a very responsible position in the future of our nation. Many of these girls work for very low wages; but we are fortunate in that California has a minimum wage law of sixteen dollars per week ...”

Throughout its history, The Mary Elizabeth Inn has held several events to educate the community about its mission and to celebrate its history. An event in 2006 featured guest panelist, then San Francisco District Attorney, Kamala Harris. Another event featured Dr. Melba Beals, one of the Little Rock Nine and Congressional Medal holder. We learned that she lived at The Mary Elizabeth Inn while a student at San Francisco State University.

In April 2014, The Mary Elizabeth Inn celebrated its centennial with a gala at the Mark Hopkins Hotel. Banners honoring the centennial were on display throughout San Francisco, in such places as along Sunset Boulevard and West Portal Avenue.

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

Over the years, The Mary Elizabeth Inn has been featured in local newspapers and other religious publications. A January 2013 article in the San Francisco Examiner by journalist Andrea Koskey

featured one of their residents, and the story was promoted to highlight the centennial celebration in 2014.

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

The business was founded by Mrs. Lizzie Glide, a prominent businesswomen and devout Christian, who invested a considerable amount of her time and personal funds to build The Mary Elizabeth Inn in 1914 and the Glide Memorial Church in 1931. In religious circles, Mrs. Glide is well known as a generous philanthropist. In his book, *The Life Story of Lizzie H. Glide* (c.1936), Julian C. McPheeters writes: "She has lived for others and not herself. The spirit of unselfish devotion which she exemplified is needed in every area of human life today." In the early 1930s, Mrs. Glide created the Glide Foundation for the purpose of managing and supporting the Glide Memorial Church, and later to purchase the California Hotel, formerly located at Taylor and O'Farrell streets.

The Mary Elizabeth Inn has hosted special events over the years at which significant or historical people have participated as speaking guests. Such guests have included Kamala Harris, Dr. Melba Pattillo Beals (one of the Little Rock Nine), and David Chui (then-President of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors). David Chui spoke at the centennial gala in October 2014. At the same gala, the city's beloved Wilkes Bashford took an interest in Mary Elizabeth Inn. When he visited, he, like many others, was fascinated by the ironing boards that are original to the building and exist to this day. He saw that they needed covers, so he had his tailor make custom covers for the organization.

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

The Mary Elizabeth Inn continues to be a vital partner in ending homelessness in San Francisco for its vulnerable female population.

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

Since 1914, The Mary Elizabeth Inn has served San Francisco's vulnerable female population. Originally, the target population was "young working girls" who arrived in San Francisco seeking an affordable and safe place to live. All residents in those early years were required to have jobs and pay rent. Over time, the organization saw the growing need for housing and supportive services to women who were homeless and at risk of being homeless. To this day, women served are homeless and low income, and many have co-occurring disorders and histories of sexual violence.

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

The Mary Elizabeth Inn is among the many structures designed by the architect Julia Morgan.

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

The Mary Elizabeth Inn is vital to the community. If the business were to no longer exist, many of the residents would be displaced, possibly returning to homelessness, even if only temporary while city

agencies coordinated to secure other similar housing. Also, a safe and affordable permanent supportive housing program focused on the needs of women would no longer be available to San Francisco's vulnerable female population.

CRITERION 3

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

The Mary Elizabeth Inn stands out on Bush Street as one of San Francisco's historic buildings that has not been altered in anyway. The historic 92-unit SRO houses formerly homeless and low income, single, adult, unaccompanied women. It is home to the current occupants.

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)

The Mary Elizabeth Inn serves a vulnerable population of women in San Francisco who are recovering from homelessness, insecurity, and sexual violence. The building is a welcome site for women in need of a safe and affordable place to live. The provision of onsite case managers, 24-hour property management services, and free meals help residents achieve housing stability and self-sufficiency. As early as 1996, The Mary Elizabeth Inn has partnered with the following San Francisco Agencies for the support of housing programs and operations, as well as a major building rehabilitation, and these partnerships continue to this day: The Department on the Status of Women (DOSW), the Division of Homelessness and Supportive Housing (DHS), and its predecessor; and The Mayor's Office of Housing (MOH).

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.).

Throughout the years, The Mary Elizabeth Inn has retained the original features of the building. Currently, the building is undergoing a roof replacement and special attention is being given to maintain the façade so that it is not altered in any way. The building has a laundry room, and while modern coin operated washing machines and dryers have replaced the early machines of 1908, the original ironing boards with heavy steel bases attached to the floor remain. In 2014, San Francisco's beloved Wilkes Bashford donated new ironing board covers that were crafted by his team of tailors.

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. 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.

Not applicable.



Google













Located on Bush Street in Lower Nob Hill, Mary Elizabeth Inn is named for founder Lizzie Glide's two daughters. (Google Maps)

Over one hundred years after its founding, Mary Elizabeth Inn continues its mission of providing housing and services for women in need from its historic property at 1040 Bush Street. The three-story, painted-brick Tudor-Revival building the organization calls home was originally constructed in 1913 by the organization's founder Lizzie Glide, who used her personal resources to build Mary Elizabeth Inn as safe and affordable housing for young working women in San Francisco.

At the time of the Inn's founding in the early part of the 20th century, San Francisco was a rough and dangerous place for women. As the story goes, one day Mrs. Glide asked a group of women on the street what she could do to help others if money were no object. The women replied that

they would build a safe home for working women. And that is what Mrs. Glide did: Mary Elizabeth Inn was her first gift to the city, followed by the now important legacy institution [Glide Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church](#) in 1929.

The Inn's 92-unit building is a design of trailblazing architect Julia Morgan, appropriate given the Inn's focus on women. In the 1930s, Mrs. Glide donated the building to the National Office of the United Methodist Women (UMW), and established the public nonprofit organization, Mary Elizabeth Inn (MEI), which continues to steward the building and its programs today. Early in 2021, the UMW donated the title to The Inn to MEI, which itself is celebrating over 90 years of service.

MEI is looking ahead to the next 90 years as caretakers of their historic building and its important service mission. It has long partnered with the Department on the Status of Women (DOSW) and the Human Services Agency (HSA) of the City and County of San Francisco to ensure housing at affordable rates, and with community-based organizations such as La Casa de La Madres and the San Francisco Food Bank to offer vital supportive services and food programs to residents. Comprehensive, onsite case management service are available as needed to assist women in getting back on their feet, some of which have been modified due to Covid-19. Other services include free meals, weekly food giveaways, free use of computers and peripherals, as well as free internet access. Clients are single adult, unaccompanied women who are formerly homeless and low income; many are survivors of domestic violence. The average length of stay for a majority of the residents is two to three years before moving on to more independent housing or reuniting with family. For many others, housing obtained at Mary Elizabeth Inn remains their only affordable housing option.

MEI recently submitted an application to join the San Francisco [Legacy Business Registry](#), which recognizes businesses that have operated in San Francisco for 30 years or longer and have contributed to San Francisco's history and identity.

To learn more about MEI's mission and to support their work, visit <https://meinn.org/>.





LEGACY BUSINESS REGISTRY EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

HEARING DATE: November 16th, 2022

Filing Date: October 19, 2022
Case No.: 2022-010324LBR
Business Name: 1040 Bush Street
Business Address: Mary Elizabeth Inn
Zoning: RC-4 (Residential-Commercial; High Density) Zoning District
65-A Height and Bulk District
Block/Lot: 0276/013
Applicant: Dion Roberts
1040 Bush Street
Nominated By: Supervisor Aaron Peskin
Located In: District 3
Staff Contact: Heather Samuels – (628) 652-7545
Heather.Samuels@sfgov.org

Recommendation: Adopt a Resolution to Recommend Approval

Business Description

Mary Elizabeth Inn is a 92-unit Single-Room Occupancy (SRO) residential hotel in Nob Hill, which was founded in 1914 by Methodist philanthropist, Mrs. Elizabeth Snyder Glide and designed by the famous architect Julia Morgan. The Mary Elizabeth Inn has been one of San Francisco's unsung heroes, providing permanent housing, supportive services, and free meals to women who are homeless, low-income, and, in many instances, survivors of domestic violence.

The Mary Elizabeth Inn was founded in 1914 by Mrs. Lizzie Glide, who had lived her entire adult life dedicated to helping others. A wealthy widow at the time and residing in the Sacramento area, Mrs. Glide became aware of the need for safe and affordable housing for young working women in San Francisco. Mrs. Glide proceeded to use her personal resources to buy the land and erect The Mary Elizabeth Inn, naming it after her two daughters.

In 1915, shortly after building The Mary Elizabeth Inn, Lizzie Glide donated it to an iteration of the National Office of the United Methodist Women (UMW). From 1915 through 1932, per records, The Inn was managed by the religious women leaders. In April 1932, Mrs. Glide created a nonprofit organization, Mary Elizabeth Inn, to operate and administer The Mary Elizabeth Inn.

In November 2021, ownership of the Mary Elizabeth Inn was transferred to the nonprofit organization, Mary Elizabeth Inn, that Mrs. Glide created in 1932, and has since continuously operated and administered the programs at the historic building. This was a generous gift by UMW (which recently changed their name and branding to United Women in Faith).

Since 1914, The Mary Elizabeth Inn has served San Francisco's vulnerable female population. Originally, the target population was "young working girls" who arrived in San Francisco seeking an affordable and safe place to live. All residents in those early years were required to have jobs and pay rent. Over time, the organization saw the growing need for housing and supportive services to women who were homeless and at risk of being homeless. To this day, women served are homeless and low income, and many have co-occurring disorders and histories of sexual violence.

Mary Elizabeth Inn is located at 1040 Bush Street. The building is a Category A (Historic Resource Present) structure on the North side of Bush Street between Leavenworth and Jones Streets in the Nob Hill neighborhood. It is within the RC-4 (Residential-Commercial, High Density) Zoning District and a 65-A Height and Bulk District. This building was included in several historical surveys including the National Register of Historic Places for being a contributor to a district and having multiple resources, California Register of Historic Resources, and the Apartment Hotel District survey, and the DCP 1976 Survey being rated as a 3 of 5 for its architecture.

Staff Analysis

Review Criteria

1. *When was business founded?*

The business was founded in 1914.

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

Yes. Mary Elizabeth Inn qualifies for listing on the Legacy Business Registry because it meets all of the eligibility Criteria:

- a. Mary Elizabeth Inn has operated continuously in San Francisco for 108 years.
- b. Mary Elizabeth Inn has contributed to the history and identity of the Nob Hill neighborhood and San Francisco.
- c. Mary Elizabeth Inn is committed to maintaining the physical features and traditions that define the organization.

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

No.

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

Yes. The Mary Elizabeth Inn is listed in the Lower Nob Hill Apartment Hotel Historic District which is a dense area primarily comprised of three- to seven-story multi-unit residential buildings. Most of the structures were built between 1906 and 1925, leading to a stylistically consistent district. Buildings often exhibit Art Deco or Spanish/Mission/Mediterranean influences.

The building was constructed by architect of merit Julia Morgan, who has designed more than 700 buildings in California throughout her career. She is best known for her work on Hearst Castle in San Simeon, California. The Mary Elizabeth Inn is a four-story structure built in an Edwardian style of architecture with Tudor Revival ornaments which is contributing to the period and character of its surrounding neighborhood.

The Mary Elizabeth Inn has hosted and homed numerous significant and famous people throughout its history. An event in 2006 featured guest panelist, then San Francisco District Attorney, now Vice President Kamala Harris. Another event featured Dr. Melba Beals, one of the Little Rock Nine and Congressional Medal holder. She lived at The Mary Elizabeth Inn while a student at San Francisco State University.

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

Yes. The site has is within the boundaries of the listed California Register and National Register Lower Nob Hill Apartment Hotel Historic District.

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

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

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

Yes. Over the years, The Mary Elizabeth Inn has been featured in local newspapers and other religious publications. A January 2013 article in the San Francisco Examiner by journalist Andrea Koskey featured one of their residents, and the story was promoted to highlight the centennial celebration in 2014.

Physical Features or Traditions that Define the Business

Location(s) associated with the business:

Current Locations:

- 1040 Bush Street (1914 – Current)

Recommended by Applicant

- Service to a vulnerable population of women in San Francisco who are recovering from homelessness, insecurity, and sexual violence
- Welcoming nature
- Provision of onsite case managers, 24-hour property management services, and free meals
- Ironing boards original to the building

Basis for Recommendation

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

ATTACHMENTS

Draft Resolution

Legacy Business Registry Application:

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



HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION RESOLUTION NO. 1288

HEARING DATE: NOVEMBER 16, 2022

Case No.: 2022-010324LBR
Business Name: Mary Elizabeth Inn
Business Address: 1040 Bush Street
Zoning: RC-4 (Residential-Commercial; High Density) Zoning District
65-A Height and Bulk District
Block/Lot: 0276/013
Applicant: Dion Roberts
1040 Bush Street
Nominated By: Supervisor Aaron Peskin
Located In: District 3
Staff Contact: Heather Samuels – (628) 652-7545
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ADOPTING FINDINGS RECOMMENDING TO THE SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSION APPROVAL OF THE LEGACY BUSINESS REGISTRY NOMINATION FOR MARY ELIZABETH INN CURRENTLY LOCATED AT 1040 BUSH STREET, BLOCK/LOT 0276/013.

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, at a duly noticed public hearing held on November 16th, 2022, 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 Mary Elizabeth Inn located at 1040 BUSH ST 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 the Mary Elizabeth Inn.

Location(s):

Current Locations:

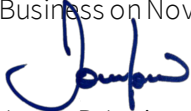
- 1040 Bush Street (1914 – Current)

Physical Features or Traditions that Define the Business:

- Service to a vulnerable population of women in San Francisco who are recovering from homelessness, insecurity, and sexual violence
- Welcoming nature
- Provision of onsite case managers, 24-hour property management services, and free meals
- Ironing boards original to the building

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 2022-010324LBR to the Office of Small Business on November 16, 2022.



Jonas P. Ionin
Commission Secretary

AYES: Wright, Black, Johns, So, Nageswaran

NOES: None

ABSENT: Foley, Matsuda

ADOPTED: November 16, 2022