



Legacy Business Registry Staff Report

Hearing Date: August 28, 2023

THE IRISH BANK BAR AND RESTAURANT

Application No.: LBR-2022-23-040
Business Name: The Irish Bank Bar and Restaurant
Business Address: 10 Mark Ln.
District: District 3
Applicant: Ronan O'Neill, President
Nomination Date: April 13, 2023
Nominated By: Supervisor Aaron Peskin
Staff Contact: Richard Kurylo and Michelle Reynolds
legacybusiness@sfgov.org

BUSINESS DESCRIPTION

The Irish Bank Bar and Restaurant is an Irish pub nestled in its own alleyway in Union Square at the edge of the Financial District. The pub, originally opened in 1996 by Irish immigrants Christopher Martin and Rory Connolly, is an institution in the city of San Francisco. It is recognized by locals and – being located at the convergence of Union Square, the Financial District, and Chinatown – is a destination for tourists visiting the city and looking for a specific San Francisco experience.

The Irish Bank is a unique San Francisco experience. In a city filled with Irish pubs, The Irish Bank sets a unique tone and experience. The outdoor patio is one of the only dining experiences in the city that graces an entire alleyway, filling it with people and fun. The only other similar experience is Belden Lane, but The Irish Bank alleyway is entirely theirs, which makes the business very adept at catering to large groups. It has become a destination for people simply due to the unique environment they have created. The Irish Bank sells great Irish food, pub grub, and drinks/cocktails to their customers. They are able to serve up to 108 people inside and 100 people outside on the patio. The patio has helped double their capacity. The Irish Bank also provides a place for people to come and watch some European soccer as well as support all their favorite local teams.

CRITERION 1

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

No, The Irish Bank Bar and Restaurant has not operated in San Francisco for 30 or more years:

10 Mark Ln. from 1996 to Present (27 years)

PER CRITERION 1: Has the business operated in San Francisco for more than 20 years but less than 30 years, had no break in San Francisco operations exceeding two years, significantly contributed to the history or identity of a particular neighborhood or community and, if not included in the Registry, face a significant risk of displacement?

Yes, The Irish Bank Bar and Restaurant has operated in San Francisco for more than 20 years with no break in San Francisco operations exceeding two years, has significantly contributed to the history and identity of the (Neighborhood Name) neighborhood and, if not included on the Registry, would face a significant risk of displacement.

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CRITERION 2

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

Yes, The Irish Bank Bar and Restaurant has contributed to the history and identity of Union Square 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 Irish Bank and its outdoor dining area on Mark Lane is associated with the tradition of St. Patrick's Day celebrations. There have been annual block parties for 17 out of the last 19 years on St. Patrick's Parade Day and St. Patrick's Day.

The Irish Bank is also associated with the Irish cuisine. The business offers a great range of Irish food that would be very common on bar menus all over Ireland. Their most popular items are shepherd's pie, Irish beef stew, bangers and mash, and fish and chips. They also offer corned beef and cabbage around St. Patrick's Day. For Irish beverages, they serve a great range of Irish whiskeys with about 20 to 25 different varieties on the shelf at any one time along with great Irish beers such as Guinness and Smithwicks. Guinness is one of the world's most famous stout beers and is loved the world over. The Irish Bank takes great pride in the pouring of their Guinness, from teaching each new member of staff how to properly do the two-part pour to its presentation. Most of their beer lines can be up to 60 feet long, but the Guinness lines are only one-and-a-half feet. This means each pint comes fresh from the keg with a nice creamy head. Smithwick's, Ireland's oldest beer and established in 1710, is an Irish ale and a great substitute for those few people who don't like Guinness. Being an Irish bar in San Francisco, The Irish Bank feels it is very important for them to have these beers on draft, along with the food they serve, to give people a sense of what they would get if they went to Ireland.

- Pádraig Harrington, a famous Irish golfer, has frequented the bar on a number of occasions. On one occasion shortly after winning the British Open in 2007, he brought the Claret Jug trophy to the bar and all the customers got to have their photo taken and drink out of one of the most famous trophies in sports.

Comedian Dana Carvey did a standup comedy event at the pub during a private event.

- The building is also located within the Article 11 Kearny-Market-Mason-Sutter Conservation District and is rated as a Contributing Building.
- The Irish Bank, originally named The Bank of Ireland, was referenced in the media a number of times both in Ireland and here in San Francisco when The Bank of Ireland in Ireland sued the bar to change its name. It was a David vs. Goliath story.
- The Irish Bank is regularly featured in local media highlighting the best Irish bars and restaurants in San Francisco, the Bay Area, and the United States.
- The Irish Bank is an Immigrant-Owned business that's demonstrated its commitment to the community through various donations and fundraisers. The Irish Bank donates to the Irish Immigration Pastoral Center every year. This is a nonprofit group that helps Irish immigrants who have just arrived in the city or Bay Area, as well as those who have lived here for a number of years. The Irish Bank has done some functions and fundraisers for St. Cecilia School. In 2013, the San Francisco Fire Department teamed up with Guinness to do some fundraising for the Fire Department's Cancer Prevention Foundation. The Irish Bank was one of the venues used on a number of occasions, and the business was awarded a plaque by the Fire Department in recognition of the efforts made. In 2010 and 2011, The Irish Bank was an event host and did fundraisers for St. Baldrick's Foundation, a childhood

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cancer research charity. At these events, people would shave their heads and raise money for families that were affected by childhood cancer. In 2005, The Irish Bank did one of their big block parties and raised money for the victims of Hurricane Katrina. The Irish Bank sponsored a local soccer team in the San Francisco soccer league for about 8 years.

CRITERION 3

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

Yes, The Irish Bank Bar and Restaurant is committed to maintaining the physical features and traditions that define the business.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

The Historic Preservation Commission recommends that The Irish Bank Bar and Restaurant 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:

- Irish pub with a friendly atmosphere and an outdoor alleyway.
- Block party celebrations on St. Patrick's Day.
- The building façade, featuring whitewashed cottage appearance adorned with magnificent brass plaques, hanging flower baskets, and a breathtaking ancient 19th century water pump, creating an impression reminiscent of a distinctive rural tavern.
- A unique interior enhanced by a rare collection of antiques, award winning photographs, historical documents and advertisements, antique mirrors, church pews, a confessional, sewing machines, barrels, crockery, farm implements, horse tackle, and other memorable bric-a-brac.
- Authentic Irish Foods including Shepherd's pie, Irish beef stew, bangers and mash, and fish and chips.
- Irish drinks including a two-part Guinness pour and other fine beers.
- Beer lines up to 60 feet long.

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.

- Bar.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the San Francisco Small Business Commission include The Irish Bank Bar and Restaurant currently located at 10 Mark Ln. in the Legacy Business Registry as a Legacy Business under Administrative Code Section 2A.242.

Richard Kurylo and Michelle Reynolds
Legacy Business Program

Legacy Business Program

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Small Business Commission

Resolution No. _____

August 28, 2023

THE IRISH BANK BAR AND RESTAURANT

Application No.: LBR-2022-23-040
Business Name: The Irish Bank Bar and Restaurant
Business Address: 10 Mark Ln.
District: District 3
Applicant: Ronan O'Neill, President
Nomination Date: April 13, 2023
Nominated By: Supervisor Aaron Peskin
Staff Contact: Richard Kurylo and Michelle Reynolds
legacybusiness@sfgov.org

Adopting findings approving the Legacy Business Registry application for The Irish Bank Bar and Restaurant, currently located at 10 Mark Ln.

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 August 28, 2023, 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 The Irish Bank Bar and Restaurant 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 The Irish Bank Bar and Restaurant.

Physical Features or Traditions that Define the Business:

- Irish pub with a friendly atmosphere and an outdoor alleyway.
- Block party celebrations on St. Patrick's Day.
- The building façade, featuring whitewashed cottage appearance adorned with magnificent brass plaques, hanging flower baskets, and a breathtaking ancient 19th century water pump, creating an impression reminiscent of a distinctive rural tavern.
- A unique interior enhanced by a rare collection of antiques, award winning photographs, historical documents and advertisements, antique mirrors, church pews, a confessional, sewing machines, barrels, crockery, farm implements, horse tackle, and other memorable bric-a-brac.
- Authentic Irish Foods including Shepherd's pie, Irish beef stew, bangers and mash, and fish and chips.
- Irish drinks including a two-part Guinness pour and other fine beers.
- Beer lines up to 60 feet long.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Small Business Commission requires maintenance of the below listed core physical feature or tradition to maintain The Irish Bank Bar and Restaurant on the Legacy Business Registry:

- Bar.

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED by the Small Business Commission on August 28, 2023.

Katy Tang
Director

RESOLUTION NO. _____

Ayes –
Nays –
Abstained –
Absent –

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| | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Legacy Business Registry | Application Review Sheet |
|---|-------------------------------------|

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Business Name: The Irish Bank Bar and Restaurant
Business Address: 10 Mark Ln.
District: District 3
Applicant: Ronan O'Neill, President
Nomination Date: April 13, 2023
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 X No

10 Mark Ln. from 1996 to Present (27 years)

PER CRITERION 1: Has the business operated in San Francisco for more than 20 years but less than 30 years, significantly contributed to the history or identity of a particular neighborhood or community and, if not included in the Registry, face a significant risk of displacement?
 X Yes No

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: The area where The Irish Bank is located still has not rebounded from the COVID pandemic and associated business restrictions. The business is at risk of displacement. Getting listed on the Legacy Business Registry will provide greater recognition, marketing, and business assistance that could help The Irish Bank remain open and thrive.

DELIVERY DATE TO HPC: July 19, 2023

Richard Kurylo and Michelle Reynolds
Legacy Business Program

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City and County of
San Francisco



President, Board of
Supervisors

AARON PESKIN

April 13, 2023

Director Katy Tang *via email* <Katy.Tang@sfgov.org>
San Francisco Office of Small Business
City Hall, Room 110
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlet Place
San Francisco, CA 94102
(415) 554-6134

Dear Director Tang,

It is my honor to nominate The Irish Bank Bar & Restaurant, located at 10 Mark Lane, for inclusion on the Legacy Business Registry.

Christopher Martin and Rory Connolly, two immigrants from Dublin, Ireland, originally opened their restaurant and pub in 1996 as The Bank of Ireland but were forced to rename the fledgling institution The Irish Bank Bar & Restaurant the next year, after multinational corporation The Bank of Ireland sued for copyright infringement. Its grand re-opening under its current name was celebrated in true Irish fashion with a "St. Patty's Day wake" to commemorate the official death of its former identity. Former Mayor Willie Brown was the honorary master of ceremonies, and the festive wake was attended by San Francisco residents and tourists alike.

The Irish Bank Bar & Restaurant is one of America's most authentic, historically accurate and romantic Irish pubs, nestled in its own alleyway in the heart of Downtown San Francisco. It has long been meeting place for friends and Financial District co-workers to gather for a pint after work or on the weekends, generating its own catchphrase "Meet at the Bank." It is also known for its over-the-top block party celebrations on St. Patrick's Day and for its unique collection of antiques, historical documents, and award-winning photographs displayed on its walls.

Its traditional whitewashed cottage facade is adorned with magnificent brass plaques, hanging flower baskets, and a breathtaking ancient 19th century water pump, all creating the feel of a distinctive tavern in rural Ireland. The restaurant's menu also reflects traditional Irish tavern fare, including a unique array of classic homestyle dishes such as stew with mash, fish 'n' chips, and shepherd's pie, plus eclectic recipes like the popular chicken curry. All of these attributes embody the soul of Ireland, right here in the heart of San Francisco.

The Irish Bank Bar & Restaurant would benefit greatly from being added to the Legacy Business Registry, and it is my honor to nominate this institution for inclusion.

Sincerely,

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

Aaron Peskin



Legacy Business Registry Application



Business Information

Business name: The Irish Bank Bar and Restaurant

Business owner name(s): Ronan O'Neill

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

Current business address: 10 Mark Lane, San Francisco, CA 94108

Telephone: (415) 788 - 7152 **Email:** theirishbankbr@yahoo.com

Mailing address (if different than above):

Website: www.theirishbank.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/TheIrishBankSF/ **Twitter:** @irishbank

7-digit San Francisco Business Account Number (BAN): 0 4 1 6 4 5 5

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

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

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

Contact Person Information

Contact person name: Ronan O'Neill

Contact person title: President

Contact telephone: () - **Contact email:** theirishbankbr@yahoo.com

Business Location(s)

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

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

Original San Francisco address: **Zip Code:**

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

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

Other address (if applicable): **Zip Code:**

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

Other address (if applicable): **Zip Code:**

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

Other address (if applicable): **Zip Code:**

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

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

Other address (if applicable): **Zip Code:**

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

Applicant Disclosures

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

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

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

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

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

Name: Ronan O'Neill

Signature:



Date: 05/10/2023

THE IRISH BANK BAR AND RESTAURANT

Written Historical Narrative

INTRODUCTION

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

At The Irish Bank Bar and Restaurant, you'll find the soul of Ireland in the heart of San Francisco.

The Irish Bank is a unique San Francisco experience. In a city filled with Irish pubs, The Irish Bank sets a unique tone and experience. The outdoor patio is one of the only dining experiences in the city that graces an entire alleyway, filling it with people and fun. The only other similar experience is Belden Lane, but The Irish Bank alleyway is entirely theirs, which makes the business very adept at catering to large groups. It has become a destination for people simply due to the unique environment they have created. The Irish Bank sells great Irish food, pub grub, and drinks/cocktails to their customers. They are able to serve up to 108 people inside and 100 people outside on the patio. The patio has helped double their capacity. The Irish Bank also provides a place for people to come and watch some European soccer as well as support all their favorite local teams.

b. Describe whom the business serves.

The Irish Bank is an institution in the city of San Francisco. It is recognized by locals and – being located on the edge of the Financial District, Chinatown, and Union Square – is a destination for tourists visiting the city and looking for a specific San Francisco experience.

The Irish Bank has a huge number of regulars that frequent the premises, both locals and tourists. Every day, customers say that they used to live in the city, and The Irish Bank is on their must-return-and visit list when they return for a holiday. They are delighted to see that the bar is still open.

The Irish Bank has a lot of repeat business every year from the conferences that come to the city. Some groups reserve the same space in the restaurant or the patio as soon as the dates are announced for the following year.

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

Great outdoor patio.

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

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

The Irish Bank was established in 1996 by two men from Dublin, Ireland – Rory Connolly and Chris Martin. Rory and Chris were painters here in the city. The name of their company was Concepts in Color.

The bar started out as The Bank of Ireland Bar and Restaurant in 1996. Then the Bank of Ireland in Ireland sued them to change the name. As a result of the lawsuit, the bar changed its name to The Irish Bank Bar and Restaurant on St Patrick's Day 1997. Mayor Willie Brown did the grand reopening at that time, and the business has been The Irish Bank ever since.

Ronan O'Neill started working at The Irish Bank the first week they opened. He had an interview with the manager at the time, and as they got talking, they realized they were from the same part of Ireland and that Ronan's grandfather was his godfather, and that Ronan's mother used to babysit him as a kid. The manager gave Ronan his break, and Ronan took it. His first job was washing floors and working in the kitchen. He progressed to become busser and barback and eventually started waiting tables and bartending.

Rory and Chris also opened two other Irish Bank venues. One was in Portland and the other was in New York. Neither was open for very long. The Irish Bank here was the original venture and it's the only one still open today.

After 9 years, in May 2005, Ronan O'Neill, a colleague he worked with, Stephanie Perry, along with her husband, Peter Friel, bought the bar. The three business owners stayed partners until January 2020 when Stephanie and Peter decided they were moving back to New Zealand where Stephanie was from. Ronan bought them out just before the COVID pandemic and now owns the place on his own.

Although The Irish Bank is not yet 30 years old, the business is eligible for listing on the Legacy Business Registry because it has operated in San Francisco for more than 20 years; it has significantly contributed to the history and identity of Union Square, the Financial District, and San Francisco; and, if not included on the Registry, the business would face a significant risk of displacement.

The area where The Irish Bank is located – on the edge of Union Square, the Financial District, and Chinatown – still has not rebounded properly from the COVID pandemic and all the business restrictions that were put in place. Within a three-block radius from the restaurant are about 70 or 80 places that have gone out of business. A number of the employees who used to work in those businesses would often frequent The Irish Bank for lunch or an afterwork drink. Replacing these customers has been very difficult. Also, many people working in the Financial District are now only working in the office 2-3 days per week. The lost earnings for The Irish

Bank, especially on Fridays, are impossible to recover. Greater recognition, marketing, and business assistance resulting from listing on the Legacy Business Registry could help The Irish Bank remain open and thrive.

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

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| January 1996 to May 2005 | Rory Connolly; Chris Martin |
| May 2005 to January 2020 | Ronan O’Neill; Stephanie Perry; Peter Friel |
| January 2020 to Present | Ronan O’Neill |

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

The Irish Bank shut down twice since it was founded in 1996.

The first closure was in March 2020 due to the COVID pandemic and the business restrictions that were in place. The Irish Bank closed for 3 months from mid-March to mid-June.

The second shut down was in September 2020 due to a fire in the basement. A homeless individual started a fire in the middle of the night, which closed the business from September 19, 2020, through March 2021.

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

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

The Irish Bank has been a San Francisco staple since 1996. They offer a friendly place for all to experience the soul of Ireland in the heart of San Francisco. Office workers working in the Financial District come in to have a business lunch or after work drinks. Tourists staying in the hotels around the business or shopping in Union Square come in for dinner, drinks, or to relax after a day of sightseeing. And locals of all ages and demographics working nearby make The Irish Bank a destination. All are welcome, and the business’ ability to make them feel welcome keeps them coming back.

Ireland is world famous for some of its food and beverages. Irish food is considered comfort food by many people. It consists of a lot of meat and potatoes. The Irish Bank offers a great range of Irish food that would be very common on bar menus all over Ireland. Their most popular items are shepherd's pie, Irish beef stew, bangers and mash, and fish and chips. They also offer corned beef and cabbage around St Patrick's Day.

For Irish beverages, they serve a great range of Irish whiskeys with about 20 to 25 different varieties on the shelf at any one time along with great Irish beers such as Guinness and Smithwicks. Guinness is one of the world's most famous stout beers and is loved the world over. The Irish Bank takes great pride in the pouring of their Guinness, from teaching each new member of staff how to properly do the two-part pour to its presentation. Most of their beer lines can be up to 60 feet long, but the Guinness lines are only one-and-a-half feet. This means each pint comes fresh from the keg with a nice creamy head. Smithwick's, Ireland's oldest beer and established in 1710, is an Irish ale and a great substitute for those few people who don't like Guinness. Being an Irish bar in San Francisco, it is very important for The Irish Bank to have these beers on draft, along with the food we serve, to give people a sense of what they would get if they went to Ireland.

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

The main event The Irish Bank is associated with are the St. Patrick's Day celebrations. There have been annual block parties for 17 out of the last 19 years on St. Patrick's Parade Day and St. Patrick's Day. The business offers live music and a DJ every year. They have people from all over the world attend on these days as well as a lot of regulars from all over the Bay Area. It's a very festive celebration.

Being in the French District, The Irish Bank used to have a Bastille Day Block Party every year for about 15 years. That ended a few years ago when a much larger party started down at the bottom of Market Street.

Pádraig Harrington, a famous Irish golfer, has frequented the bar on a number of occasions. On one occasion shortly after winning the British Open in 2007, he brought the Claret Jug trophy to the bar and all the customers got to have their photo taken and drink out of one of the most famous trophies in sports.

A local business once booked the entire business space for an evening event. During their event, comedian Dana Carvey did a standup comedy gig for them.

The Irish Bank has a photo on the wall of a couple who first met at the business and then later got engaged there.

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

The Irish Bank Bar and Restaurant donates to the Irish Immigration Pastoral Center every year. This is a non-profit group that helps Irish immigrants who have just arrived in the city or Bay Area, as well as those who have lived here for a number of years.

The Irish Bank has done some functions and fundraisers for St. Cecilia School.

In 2013, the San Francisco Fire Department teamed up with Guinness to do some fundraising for the Fire Department's Cancer Prevention Foundation. The Irish Bank was one of the venues used on a number of occasions, and the business was awarded a plaque by the Fire Department in recognition of the efforts made.

In 2010 and 2011, The Irish Bank was an event host and did fundraisers for St. Baldrick's Foundation, a childhood cancer research charity. At these events, people would shave their heads and raise money for families that were affected by childhood cancer.

In 2005, The Irish Bank did one of their big block parties and raised money for the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

The Irish Bank sponsored a local soccer team in the San Francisco soccer league for about 8 years.

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

The Irish Bank was referenced in the media a number of times both in Ireland and here in San Francisco when The Bank of Ireland sued the bar to change its name. It was a David vs. Goliath story.

The Irish Bank is regularly featured in local media highlighting the best Irish bars and restaurants in San Francisco, the Bay Area, and the United States. Following are some sample articles from recent years:

- *St. Patrick's Day 2023: A guide to the Bay Area's best Irish-themed arts and entertainment options*
San Francisco Chronicle
May 15, 2023
<https://datebook.sfchronicle.com/guide/st-patrick-s-day-2023-bay-area-events-17789144>
- *San Francisco bars see pre-pandemic-size crowds on St. Patrick's Day*
CBS News Bay Area
March 17, 2023
<https://www.cbsnews.com/sanfrancisco/news/san-francisco-bars-see-pre-pandemic-size-crowds/>
- *15 Lively Irish Pubs to Grab a Pint in San Francisco*
Eater San Francisco
March 15, 2023
<https://sf.eater.com/maps/best-irish-bars-restaurants-san-francisco>

- *Our go-to guide for dining near San Francisco's Union Square*
SFGATE
February 17, 2023
<https://www.sfgate.com/local/article/restaurants-near-union-square-san-francisco-17769816.php>
- *The Best Irish Pubs In America*
Tasting Table
August 17, 2022
<https://www.tastingtable.com/968768/the-best-irish-pubs-in-america/>
- *SF St. Patrick's Day events back for 1st time since 2019*
ABC 7 News
March 17, 2022
<https://abc7news.com/sf-saint-patricks-day-events-san-francisco-st-patricks-celebrations-pub-crawls-block-parties-irish-party/11657923/>
- *St. Patrick's Day drinks taste better at these great U.S. venues*
The Manual
March 10, 2023
<https://www.themanual.com/travel/best-places-to-celebrate-st-patricks-day-in-the-us/>

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

The Irish Bank has won multiple awards over the years. Following are some of the key awards:

- “Best place to feed a partner you just forced to go shopping with you,” Best of the Bay, 1998
- “Best Irish Bar,” SF Weekly, 2003 and 2006
- Gold Standard Award for Guinness presentation

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

If the business were to shut down, San Francisco would lose a fantastic Irish Bar. The Irish Bank is one of the few bars left in the Union Square / Financial District area where people can get a great pint of Guinness and have a wonderful Irish beef stew, shepherd’s pie, or fish and chips. The Irish Bank is one of the few places that will serve food up until 10:30 p.m. every night and be open until midnight or 2 a.m. Most of the places in the neighborhood stop serving food before 9:00 p.m. and are fully closed by 10:00 p.m. Hotel guests really appreciate that the bar is open later. They are also one of the few places that have offered outside dining in the area since the 1990s.

Pre-COVID, The Irish Bank had a staff of 22-24 employees. Now, the business has 16 employees who are working hard to get the business back to that pre-COVID level. It would be bad if the 16 employees lost their jobs.

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

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

The Irish Bank Bar & Restaurant is one of America's most authentic, historically accurate and romantic Irish pubs. The business can be found snugly nestled in its own lane in the heart of downtown San Francisco.

The Irish Bank is located in a category 1 designated historical building on Mark Lane. Originally built in 1908 as a hotel by architects Ross & Burgren, the building has been surveyed and designated as a building of contextual importance and is cited as a contributory building within the Kearny-Market-Mason-Sutter Conservation District under article 11 Category Preservation.

The façade, with its traditional whitewashed cottage appearance, is adorned with magnificent brass plaques, hanging flower baskets, and a breathtaking ancient 19th century water pump, creating an impression reminiscent of a distinctive rural tavern. In addition, The Irish Bank is the only business on Mark Lane and has gotten to use the outside laneway since the business was founded. It is extremely important that the business can continue to use that laneway.

The interior of the Irish bank is truly unique. The friendly atmosphere is enhanced by a rare collection of antiques, award winning photographs, historical documents and advertisements, antique mirrors, church pews, a confessional, sewing machines, barrels, crockery, farm implements, horse tackle, and other memorable bric-a-brac creating a very warm and intimate decor.

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

The Irish Bank commits to maintaining a place where local residents, workers, and tourists can all come together to have a great time. The business will work very hard to rebuild the downtown area of San Francisco.

c. What challenges is the business facing today?

The City's Department of Building Inspection has never recognized the business address, which has made getting permits quite challenging over the years.

Another challenge is that the business is at serious risk of displacement or closure due to the City's Accessible Building Entrance Program. The business is located in an alleyway with a very narrow sidewalk and two entry steps of 14 inches that restricts making the space fully ADA compliant.

The Irish Bank is known for outdoor dining, and a huge amount of their business is outside. They are also extremely well known for their St. Patrick's Day Block Parties. Trying to find another alleyway that can cater to these events and what they have built the business on would not be possible in almost any other part of the city.

Despite the challenges, The Irish Bank employees love the location and really want to continue there.

Legacy Business Program staff will add the following details:

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

Restaurant and bar.

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

The Planning Department Historic Resource Status of the building that houses The Irish Bank is "A - Historic Resource Present." The building, constructed in 1908, is a contributing structure to the Kearny-Market-Mason-Sutter Conservation District.

IRISH BANK
Bar & Restaurant

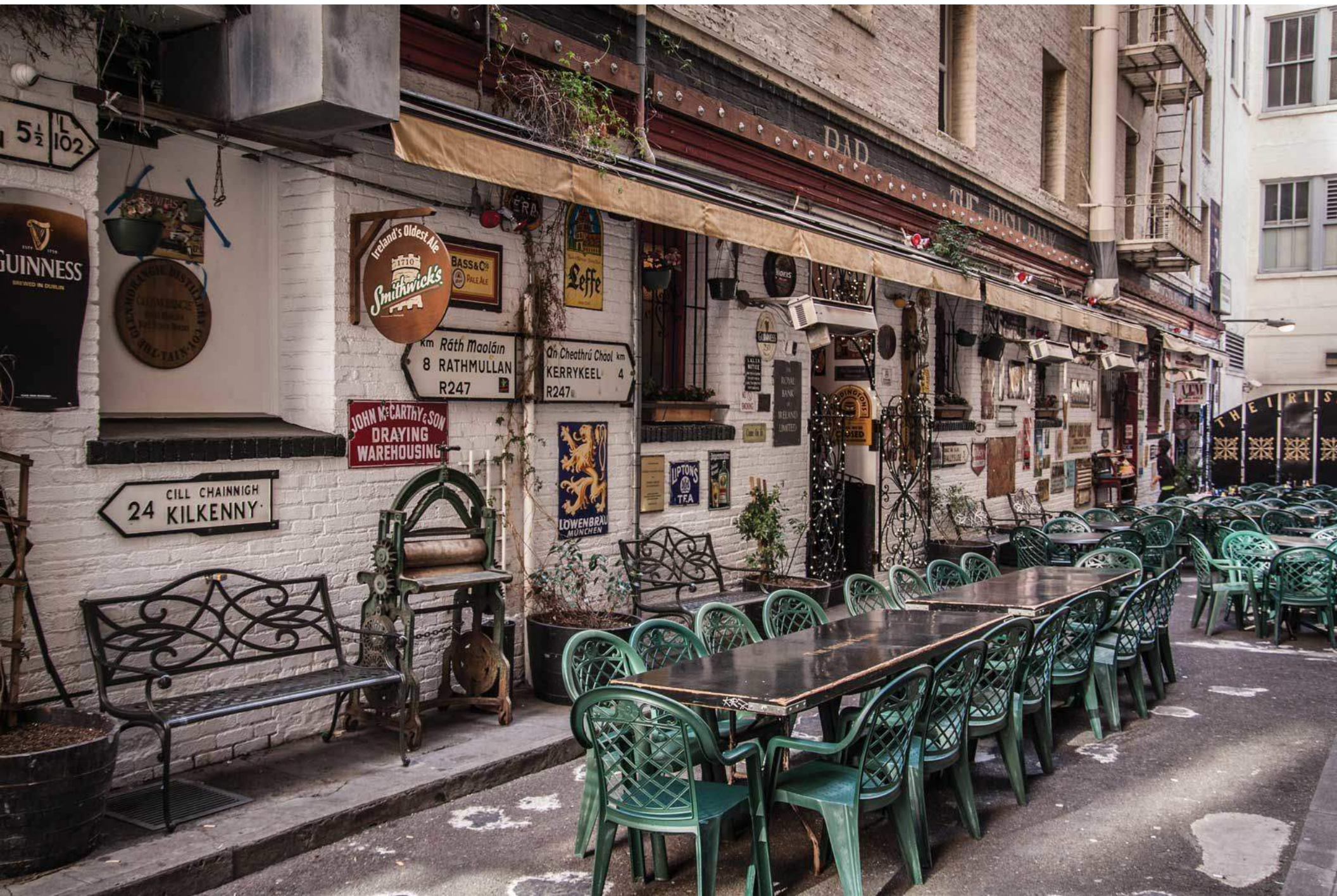
IRISH
Restaurant & Bar

SH

BAR



Carlsberg
Welcome to the
IRISH BANK
Come join us in our
Divey Pub &
Lunch Diner & Bar





L.&L.S.R. NOTICE
ANY PERSON LEAVING
THIS GATE OPEN IS
LIABLE TO A PENALTY OF
FORTY SHILLINGS.

NO SMOKING



Come On In

THE
ROYAL BANK
OF
IRELAND
LIMITED

MUSIC
SOFT
SANDWICHES



THE IRISH BANK
10
MARK LANE

NO SMOKING

BODDINGTONS
OPEN



Our house wine is
Jägermeister

BAILE NA SL
BALLYSL



SUPER BOV



THE IRISH BANK

IRISH BANK
Bar & Restaurant

THE IRISH BANK

An Cheathrú Chool km
KERRYKEEL 8

GUINNESS

GUINNESS

AVAILABLE
INSIDE



PROVINCIAL BANK
OFF OF IRELAND LTD

THE IRISH BANK DAILY SPECIALS
West Cork Irish Whiskey \$9.99
Gunpowder Orange Collins \$12
Calurosa Shot or Margarita \$10

BEST SERVED GOLD

BEST SERVED GOLD

BEST SERVED GOLD



ALL GAL 500 MILES

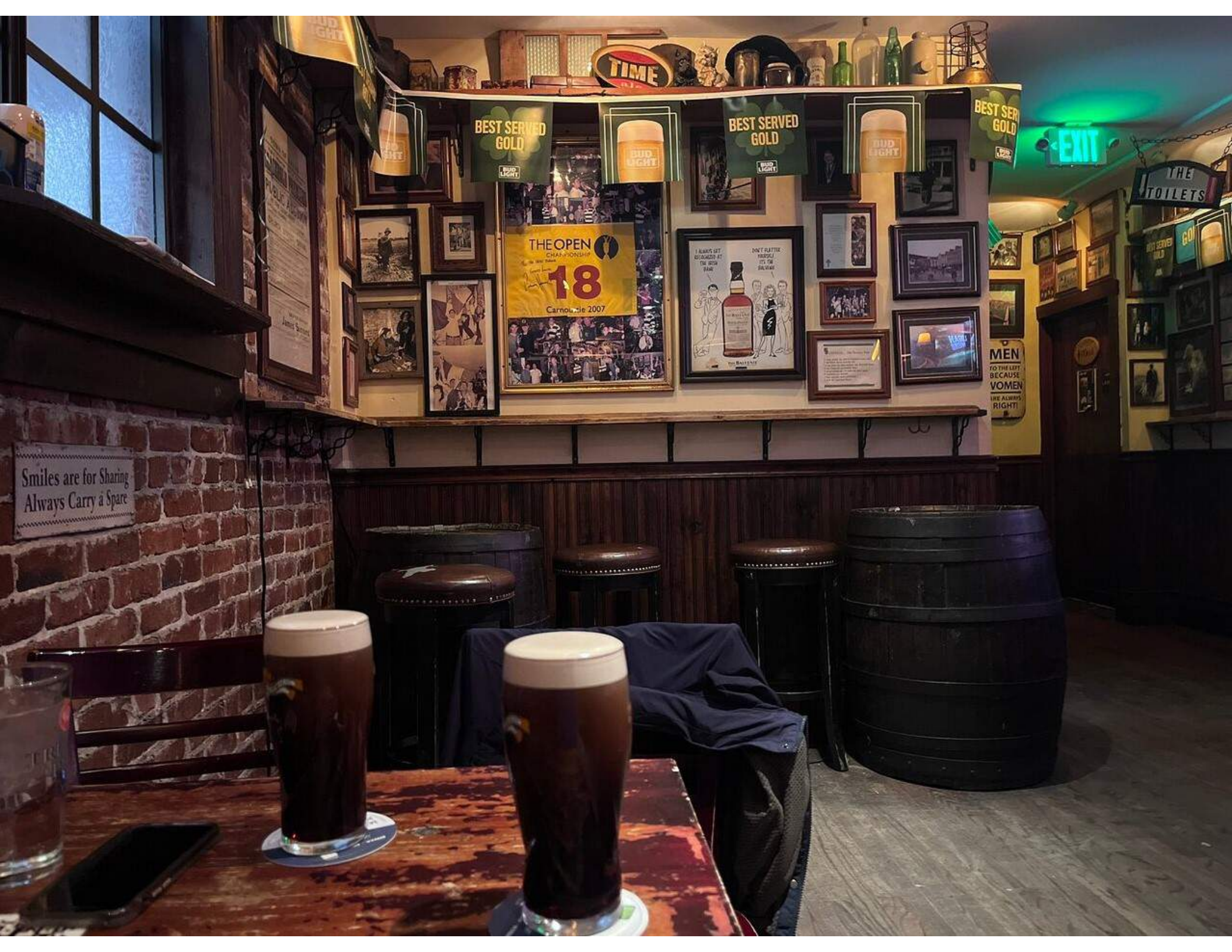
If it weren't for cocktails
I'd have no personality whatsoever!

TRAPPISTES CHIMAY

Five small circular lights arranged vertically on a wooden panel.



JA
Bis



Smiles are for Sharing
Always Carry a Spare

BEST SERVED GOLD
BUD LIGHT

THE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP
18
Carnoustie 2007

BEST SERVED GOLD
BUD LIGHT

BEST SERVED GOLD
BUD LIGHT

THE TOILETS

EXIT

MEN
TO THE LEFT
BECAUSE
WOMEN
LIVE ALWAYS
RIGHT







THE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP



To: THE IRISH BANK

Good luck

Pauline Hennessey

18

Carnoustie 2007



'Bank of Ireland' to mark passing with St. Patty's wake

S.F. tavern changing its name over beef with original bank

By Marsha Ginsburg
OF THE EXAMINER STAFF

When St. Patrick's Day dawns Monday, some of the fighting Irish will make peace — for a while anyway.

The tiny Bank of Ireland pub (in San Francisco) will officially change its name because the huge Bank of Ireland bank (in Ireland) won a lawsuit protesting the bar's use of the name.

But a federal court judge last month gave the pub the right to use a similar name. So, on St. Patrick's Day, the Bank of Ireland pub becomes the Irish Bank.

After a weekend of celebrating with Irish stew, Irish beer and Irish dancing, and an Alex Bennett show Friday morning, owners Chris Martin and Rory Connolly will finish the St. Patty's weekend with an "Irish wake" Monday honoring the passing of the bar's name. Then the pub officially opens as the Irish Bank and Bar Restaurant.

Mayor Brown, not your typical Irishman, will be honorary master of ceremonies.

"He epitomizes the American dream. He's passionate about young people and getting ahead in life," said Martin, 29.

Martin said the new name wasn't selected to goad the Bank of Ireland, which did not approve of the pub being called a bank at all.

"We wanted to keep the Irish aspect of this but we've also been known as 'Meet you at the bank,'" said Martin. "In terms of recognition it was important."

Although U.S. District Court Judge Charles Legge granted the real bank a preliminary injunction and ordered Martin and Connolly to change the pub's name, the lawsuit is still pending and lawyers for both sides say they're talking about a settlement.

Martin said he's wanted to settle. However, he said, the Bank of Ireland not only opposed the pub's name, but wanted it changed with 48 hours notice and wanted the owners to agree not to talk about the case, which has made news reports worldwide.

Legge's ruling gave the pub partners until St. Patrick's Day to change the name, and allows them to say whatever they want to anyone, Martin said.

Lawyers for Cromwell and Sullivan, representing the Bank of Ireland, issued a terse statement last week.

"It is regrettable the matter had to be resolved in legal proceedings. However, Bank of Ireland considered it essential to protect its long-established identity," the statement said.

Michael Steinberg, a partner in the Los Angeles office of Cromwell and Sullivan, said the bank no longer objects to the pub's new name.

But he would not comment on other aspects of the case, which began in November.

He said the Bank of Ireland "magnanimously" agreed to allow the pub until St. Patrick's Day to change its name "after the court said these people had directly and consciously ripped off the bank's name."

At the packed pub Friday night early St. Patrick's Day revelers — many of them regulars — laughed about the case.

"It's crap, it's ridiculous," said Diarmuid McGarry, an Irishman who regularly downs beer in the pub's authentic confession booth. "Everybody calls this place 'the bank' anyway."

Shrugged John Dunn, a law firm recruiter sporting a green carnation, "The atmosphere's the same, the Harp is the same, we're going to come here no matter what its name is. Even if they call it Big Mac."

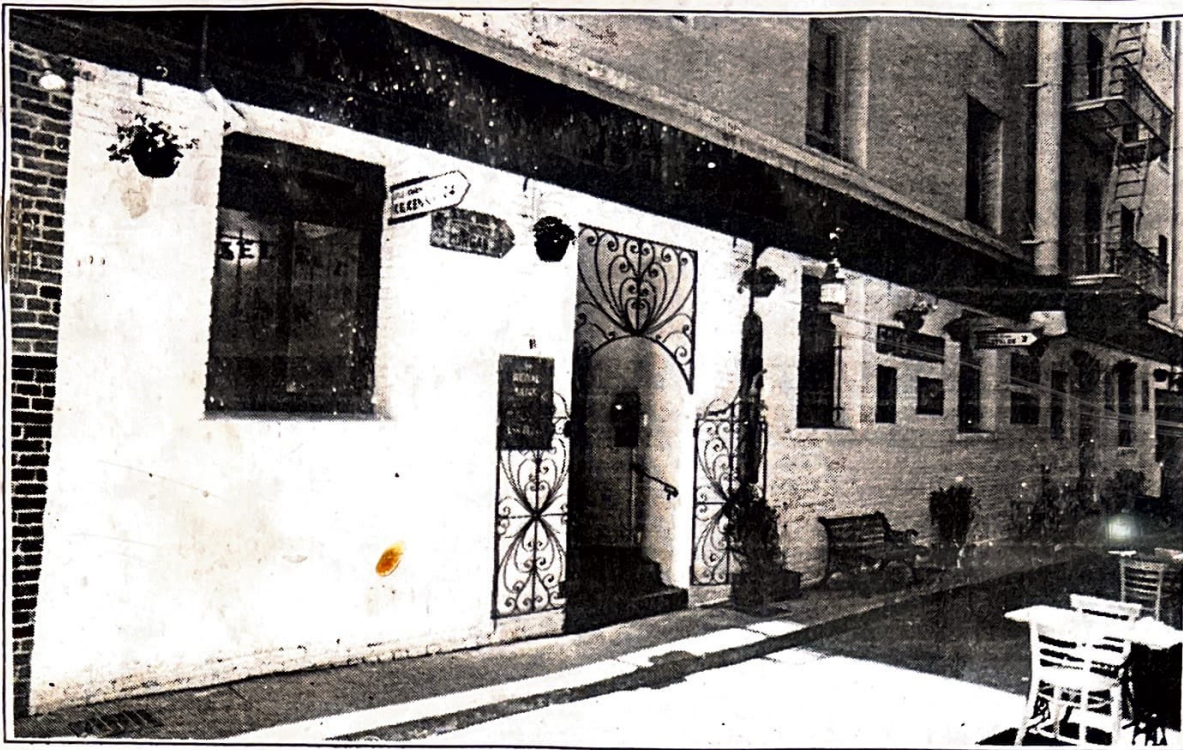
"Put it this way," added Peter Clarke, a manager at the Mark Hopkins Hotel, "I spent more money in the Bank of Ireland in San Francisco than I ever did at the Bank of Ireland in Ireland."

Donal Dempsey plans to close his Bank of Ireland account — which holds about one pound, the equivalent of \$1.50.

Cathy Sullivan, 24, said if she ever lived in Ireland, she'd probably use the Bank of Ireland because of the great times she's had at the pub by the same name.

Martin says he hopes the next few weeks result in a settlement.

"We just want to move on," says Martin. In fact, that's exactly what they are doing. They plan to start an Irish pub in Seattle this year.



The Bank of Ireland bar in San Francisco is girding for battle with the international banking giant

In San Francisco standoff, BOI insists on withdrawal

By Harry Keaney

Withdraw, or we'll sue.

Such is the high noon banking drama that's been simmering between the Bank of Ireland, Ireland's 200-year-old banking institution, and another "Bank of Ireland" in San Francisco, a bar and restaurant opened last January by Dubliners Chris Martin, from Donnybrook, and Rory Connolly, from Mount Merrion.

Right now, it seems the dispute over use of the name Bank of Ireland might erupt into a full-scale Californian-style legal shootout. And so far neither side is running for cover.

One of the things that particularly irks the real Bank of Ireland, it seems, is that the San Francisco "bank" is proudly strutting along the highway, the information superhighway, thus giving the bar and restaurant a worldwide exposure that the real bank is finding hard to swallow.

"It's one of these quirky sort of things in that they are using the Bank of Ireland name and, obviously, the fact that they are on the Internet means there is potential for a mix-up," Ailish O'Brien, speaking from the real Bank of Ireland's headquarters in Dublin on Monday,

told the Echo.

"It's very unusual," O'Brien said. "Bank of Ireland is very tightly controlled and it's unusual for any non-bank to use such a term. Use of a name that could be construed as something else is something we would feel strongly about. Bank of Ireland name, that's our company name."

For Martin and Connolly "Bank of Ireland" is the name of their bar and restaurant business too. But Chris Martin says they offered in good faith to change their name on all signs, letterheads, advertising, media sources, and on the Web page for a sum approximating \$20,000.

The real bank immediately rejected the offer.

"You will not be surprised to learn that the bank has no intention of paying your clients to stop misappropriating its name," Bank of Ireland's lawyer, Edward DuMont of the New York firm Sullivan & Cromwell, wrote to Terence Redmond, the San Francisco lawyer for the bar and restaurant.

"Even the breakdown of that figure in your letter is insupportable," DuMont wrote Redmond. "There is no reason, for instance, why the bank should compensate your clients for the cost of producing a Web page that was first put up in

September, well after they had explicit notice of the bank's objections to their use of its name. In any event, it costs \$100 to register a new domain name, and it could hardly cost much to change the dozen or so references to the [real] bank's name on the existing Web page. The other specific figures you put forward are equally unrealistic, unless perhaps your clients are handprinting their menus on aged vellum and making their T-shirts out of cashmere."

DuMont said that in order to resolve the matter quickly, Bank of Ireland was willing to consider sharing some part of the direct costs the Bank of Ireland bar and restaurant may incur in switching to the use of some other name, such as, for instance, the one it is legally registered to use.

But DuMont pointed out that any such agreement would be contingent on, among other things, transfer of the Internet domain name to the real Bank of Ireland, and the selection of the "Bank of Ireland" bar and restaurant of a new trade name acceptable to the banking institution.

However, Chris Martin described DuMont's letter as one offering "sarcasm and a derisory \$2,500."

"We will be rejecting this and letting them decide on a course of action," Martin said.

Banks tradition lawyer

THE BANK of Ireland in San Francisco has told "The Bank of Ireland" in San Francisco to change its name or else.

You cannot get a bank in the San Francisco "bank" can get a draft Guinness beer is a bar and restaurant run by Dubliners, Chris Martin and Rory Connolly since it opened last January. But for the real bankers, 200 years of banking tradition is being flouted. The name adorning a premises 'traditional whitewashed cottage look', where there is a Christmas Night, a Beer of the Week and Traditional Sessions.

To add insult to injury, the bank was being asked to stop Christmas party in the pub for staff and friends from the nearby Irish Consulate.

Last August the real bank's legal adviser wrote to Martin and Connolly to express its concern that "you are currently doing business in some form under its name without authorisation". The bank has an "exclusive common law right to its name", has been operating under its name for more than 200 years and has spent millions of dollars promoting its name and the services it delivers in that name both in the United States and abroad."

To spare the pub owners a bank the "unpleasantness and expense" of a lawsuit, the owners were urged to contact the bank's US lawyers, Sullivan and Cromwell, with a view to "an amicable solution to this problem".

The pub owners' idea of a solution was to seek \$20,000 to compensate for the expense of changing the name on the Internet website, on menus, T-shirts, letterheads etc. This

In fact, Connolly and Martin say the real bank did not bother to register its name in the U.S. or California, did not bother to secure a Website for itself, and has no presence west of New York.

And irony of ironies: Bank of Ireland, the real bank, does not have an office in San Francisco. The "Bank of Ireland" whitewashed cottage looking bar and restaurant is located at 10 Mark Lane — in the heart of San Francisco's financial district.

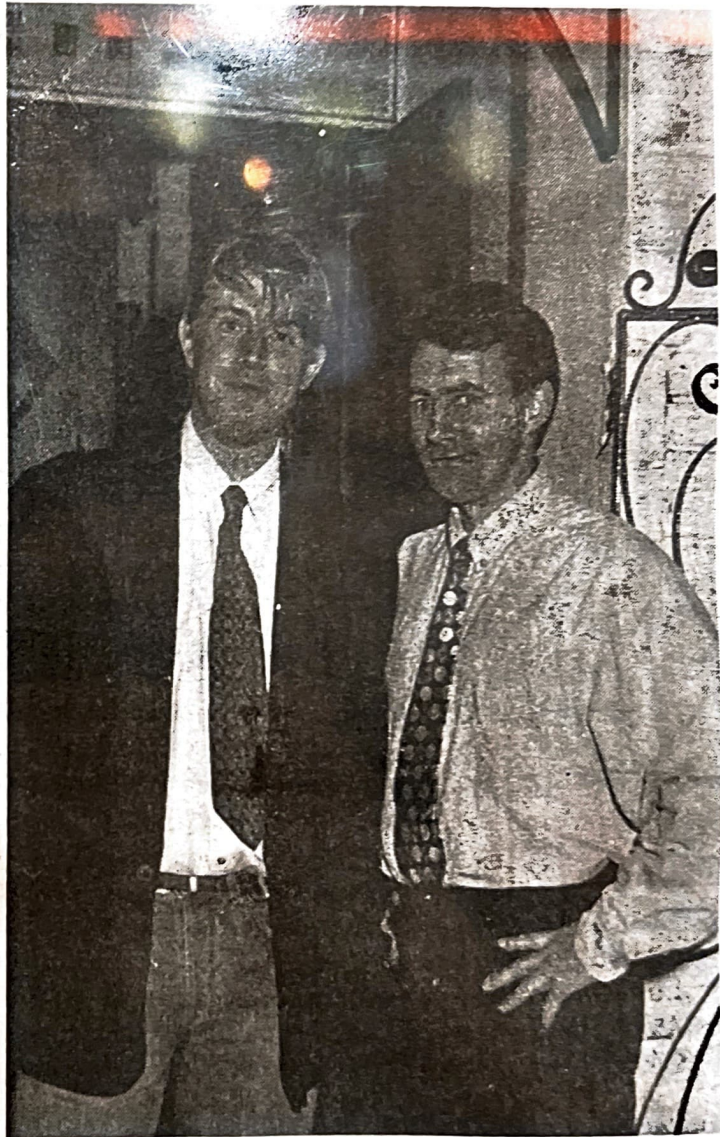
"Irish Bank" bar rises out of "Bank of Ireland" clashes

ON FEBRUARY 21ST, a preliminary injunction was granted requiring The Bank of Ireland Bar & Restaurant to change its name. While disappointed by the decision, bar owners Martin and Connolly stated that, effective March 17, the popular local establishment will be known as The Irish Bank Bar and Restaurant.

Mrsrs. Martin and Connolly say they have repeatedly tried to avoid this dispute by offering to change their establishment's name without compensation to the financial institution. The settlement was not possible because The Bank of Ireland opposed the bar/restaurant's new name, required the change to take place in 24 hours, and required Martin and Connolly to cease speaking to the public about the dispute.

"The whole case," says Martin, "revolves around whether the Bank has a name that is 'sufficiently famous' under U.S. law to justify usage by anyone else, even in a totally different line of business." "The bank claims that the bar/restaurant is capitalizing on the goodwill of Irish immigrants held towards the financial institution. I have yet to meet any Irish person with positive things to say about Irish Banks. The bank also claims that the bar is getting American downtown customers because they know of The Bank of Ireland in Ireland. Clearly, the average American downtown patron has never heard of the said financial institution," says Martin.

The court's decision to authorize the new name "The Irish Bank Bar & Restaurant" does not impose any restrictions on Connolly's and Martin's free speech, and provides adequate time for change to the new name. The owners of the bar/restaurant will be consulting with their counsel about possible appeal as well as the trial.

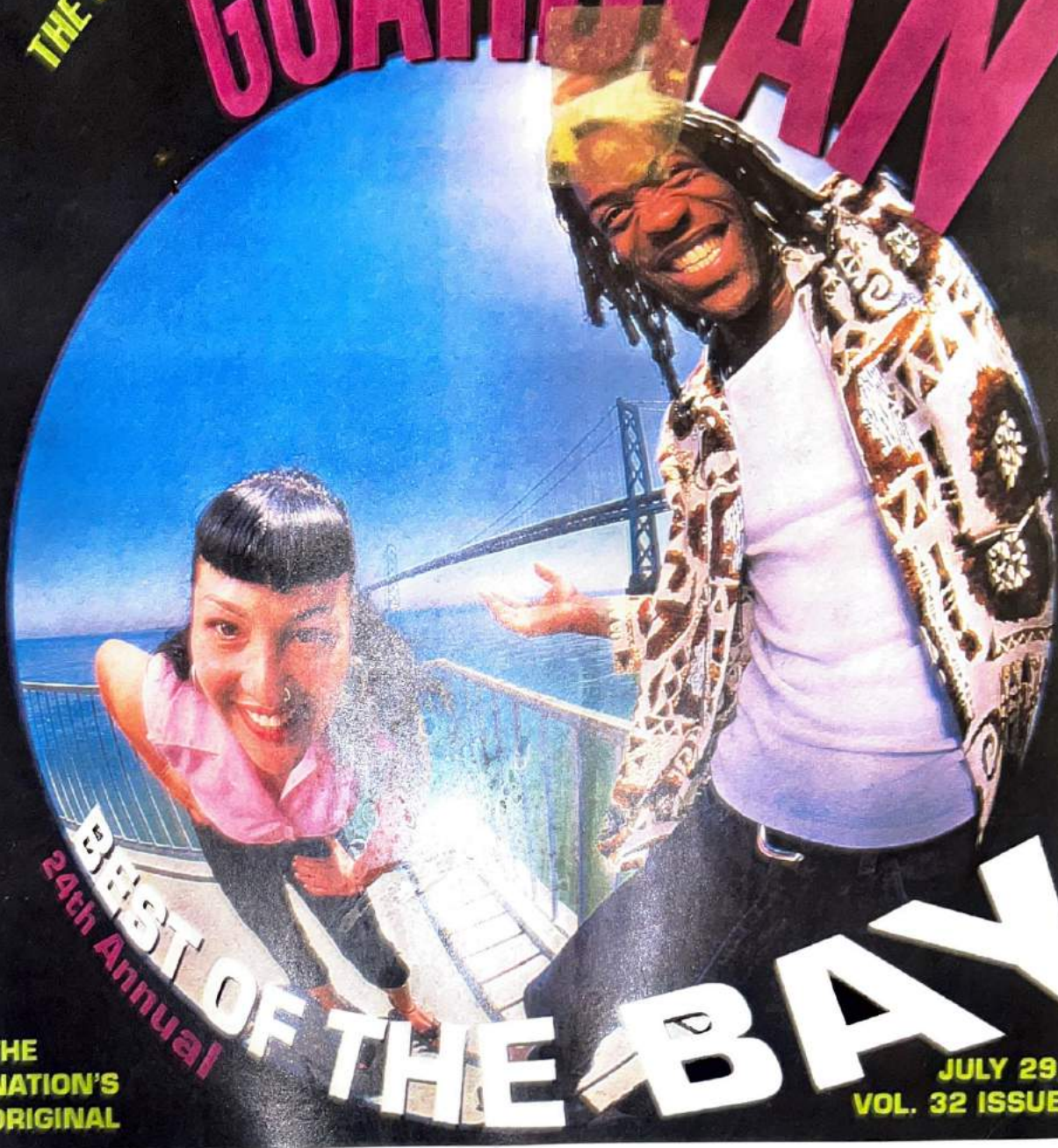


Chris Martin (L) and Martin Connolly (R), following their February 21 court case

THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY

GUARDIAN

FREE



24th Annual
BEST OF THE BAY

THE
NATION'S
ORIGINAL

JULY 29, 1998
VOL. 32 ISSUE # 43

Best Place to Feed a Partner You've Just Forced to Go Shopping with You
Irish Bank

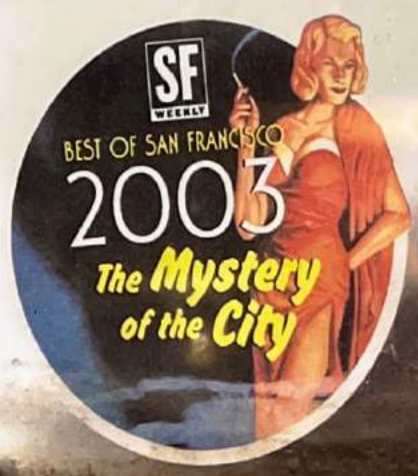


BEST OF SAN FRANCISCO 2003

READERS' POLL WINNER

BEST IRISH BAR

THE IRISH BANK

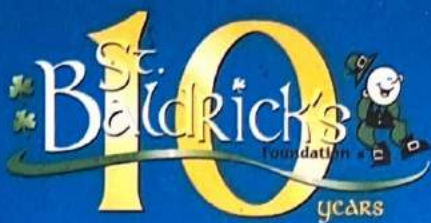


SF WEEKLY **BEST OF**
SAN FRANCISCO **2006**
LOSE YOURSELF IN THE CITY

READER'S CHOICE

BEST IRISH BAR
THE IRISH BANK





2010 Event Host

Shaving the Way to Conquer Kids' Cancer!

Thank you,

on behalf of all families
of children with cancer.

A close-up photograph of a woman and a young child, both with shaved heads, smiling warmly at the camera. The woman is on the right, and the child is on the left, leaning their heads against each other. They are both wearing dark clothing. The background is dark and out of focus.

The Irish Bank Bar & Restaurant
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

Thank you for being heroes for kids with cancer.

www.StBaldricks.org

Presented To

The Irish Bank

**Peter Friel, Stephanie Perry, Ronan O'Neill
& Staff**



*For Your Generous Support of
The San Francisco Fire Fighters
Local 798 Cancer Prevention Foundation*

2013





LEGACY BUSINESS REGISTRY EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

HEARING DATE: AUGUST 16, 2023

Filing Date: July 19, 2023
Case No.: 2023-006718LRB
Business Name: THE IRISH BANK BAR & RESTAURANT
Business Address: 10 MARK LANE
Zoning: C-3-O (DOWNTOWN- OFFICE) Zoning District
 80-130-F Height and Bulk District
Cultural District: None
Block/Lot: 0287/022
Applicant: Ronan O'Neill
 10 Mark Lane
Nominated By: Supervisor Aaron Peskin
Located In: District 3
Staff Contact: edgar oropez a - 628-652-7368
 edgar.oro peza@sfgov.org

Recommendation: Adopt a Resolution to Recommend Approval

Business Description

The Irish Bank Bar and Restaurant is an Irish pub nestled in its own alleyway in the heart of Downtown San Francisco. The pub, originally opened in 1996 by Irish immigrants Christopher Martin and Rory Connolly, is an institution in the city of San Francisco. It is recognized by locals and – being located on the edge of the Financial District, Chinatown, and Union Square – is a destination for tourists visiting the city and looking for a specific San Francisco experience.

The Irish Bank is a unique San Francisco experience. In a city filled with Irish pubs, The Irish Bank sets a unique tone and experience. The outdoor patio is one of the only dining experiences in the city that graces an entire alleyway, filling it with people and fun. The only other similar experience is Belden Lane, but The Irish Bank alleyway is entirely theirs, which makes the business very adept at catering to large groups. It has become a destination for people simply due to the unique environment they have created. The Irish Bank sells great Irish food, pub grub, and drinks/cocktails to their customers. They are able to serve up to 108 people inside and 100

people outside on the patio. The patio has helped double their capacity. The Irish Bank also provides a place for people to come and watch some European soccer as well as support all their favorite local teams.

The business' location at 10 Mark Lane (425 Bush Street) is a Category A (Historic Resource Present) structure on the south side of Bush Street between Mark and Claude Lanes in the Financial District neighborhood. The building is also located within the Article 11 Kearny-Market-Mason-Sutter Conservation District and is rated as a Contributing Building. It is within the C-3-O Downtown Office Zoning District and 80-130-F Height and Bulk District.

Staff Analysis

Review Criteria

1. *When was business founded?*

The business was founded in 1996.

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

Yes. The Irish Bank & Restaurant qualifies for listing on the Legacy Business Registry because it meets all of the eligibility Criteria:

- a. The Irish Bank & Restaurant has operated continuously in San Francisco for 27 years. Although The Irish Bank is not yet 30 years old, the business is eligible for listing on the Legacy Business Registry because it has operated in San Francisco for more than 20 years; it has significantly contributed to the history and identity of Union Square, the Financial District, and San Francisco; and, if not included on the Registry, the business would face a significant risk of displacement.
- b. The Irish Bank & Restaurant has contributed to the history and identity of the Financial District neighborhood and San Francisco.
- c. The Irish Bank & Restaurant is committed to maintaining the physical features and traditions that define the organization.

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

Yes. The Irish Bank and its outdoor dining area on Mark Lane is associated with the tradition of St. Patrick's Day celebrations. There have been annual block parties for 17 out of the last 19 years on St. Patrick's Parade Day and St. Patrick's Day.

The Irish Bank is also associated with the Irish cuisine. The business offers a great range of Irish food that would be very common on bar menus all over Ireland. Their most popular items are shepherd's pie, Irish beef stew, bangers and mash, and fish and chips. They also offer corned beef and cabbage around St Patrick's Day. For Irish beverages, they serve a great range of Irish whiskeys with about 20 to 25 different varieties on the shelf at any one time along with great Irish beers such as Guinness and Smithwicks. Guinness is one of the world's most famous stout beers and is loved the world over. The Irish Bank takes great pride in the pouring of their Guinness, from teaching each new member of staff how to properly do the two-part pour to its presentation. Most of their beer lines can be up to 60 feet long, but the Guinness lines are only one-and-a-half feet. This

means each pint comes fresh from the keg with a nice creamy head. Smithwick's, Ireland's oldest beer and established in 1710, is an Irish ale and a great substitute for those few people who don't like Guinness. Being an Irish bar in San Francisco, it is very important for The Irish Bank to have these beers on draft, along with the food we serve, to give people a sense of what they would get if they went to Ireland.

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

Yes. Pádraig Harrington, a famous Irish golfer, has frequented the bar on a number of occasions. On one occasion shortly after winning the British Open in 2007, he brought the Claret Jug trophy to the bar and all the customers got to have their photo taken and drink out of one of the most famous trophies in sports. Comedian Dana Carvey did a standup comedy event at the pub during a private event.

The building is also located within the Article 11 Kearny-Market-Mason-Sutter Conservation District and is rated as a Contributing Building.

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

Yes, the property is identified as a contributor to the Article 11 Kearny-Market-Mason-Sutter Conservation 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. The Irish Bank was referenced in the media a number of times both in Ireland and here in San Francisco when The Bank of Ireland sued the bar to change its name. It was a David vs. Goliath story.

The Irish Bank is regularly featured in local media highlighting the best Irish bars and restaurants in San Francisco, the Bay Area, and the United States.

Racial and Social Equity Analysis

On July 15th, 2020 the San Francisco Historic Preservation Commission adopted [Resolution No. 1127](#) centering Preservation Planning on racial and social equity. Understanding the benefits, burdens, and opportunities to advance racial and social equity that proposed Preservation Planning documents provide is part of the Department's Racial and Social Equity Initiative. This is also consistent with the Mayor's Citywide Strategic Initiatives for equity and accountability and with the Office of Racial Equity, which required all Departments to conduct this analysis.

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

The Irish Bank is an Immigrant-Owned business that's demonstrated its commitment to the community through various donations and fundraisers.

The Irish Bank Bar and Restaurant donates to the Irish Immigration Pastoral Center every year. This is a non-profit group that helps Irish immigrants who have just arrived in the city or Bay Area, as well as those who have lived here for a number of years.

The Irish Bank has done some functions and fundraisers for St. Cecilia School.

In 2013, the San Francisco Fire Department teamed up with Guinness to do some fundraising for the Fire Department's Cancer Prevention Foundation. The Irish Bank was one of the venues used on a number of occasions, and the business was awarded a plaque by the Fire Department in recognition of the efforts made.

In 2010 and 2011, The Irish Bank was an event host and did fundraisers for St. Baldrick's Foundation, a childhood cancer research charity. At these events, people would shave their heads and raise money for families that were affected by childhood cancer.

In 2005, The Irish Bank did one of their big block parties and raised money for the victims of Hurricane Katrina. The Irish Bank sponsored a local soccer team in the San Francisco soccer league for about 8 years.

Physical Features or Traditions that Define the Business

Location(s) associated with the business:

Current Locations:

- 10 Mark Lane (1996 – Present)

Recommended by Applicant

- Irish pub with a friendly atmosphere and an outdoor alleyway.
- Block party celebrations on St. Patrick's Day.
- The building façade, featuring whitewashed cottage appearance adorned with magnificent brass plaques, hanging flower baskets, and a breathtaking ancient 19th century water pump, creating an impression reminiscent of a distinctive rural tavern.
- A unique interior enhanced by a rare collection of antiques, award winning photographs, historical documents and advertisements, antique mirrors, church pews, a confessional, sewing machines, barrels, crockery, farm implements, horse tackle, and other memorable bric-a-brac.
- Authentic Irish Foods including Shepherd's pie, Irish beef stew, bangers and mash, and fish and chips.
- Irish drinks including a two-part Guinness pour and other fine beers.
- Beer lines up to 60 feet long.

Additional Recommended by Staff

- None

Basis for Recommendation

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

ATTACHMENTS

Draft Resolution

Legacy Business Registry Application:

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



HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION RESOLUTION NO. 1344

HEARING DATE: AUGUST 16, 2023

Case No.: 2023-006718LRB
Business Name: The Irish Bank Bar & Restaurant
Business Address: 10 MARK LANE
Zoning: C-3-O (DOWNTOWN- OFFICE) Zoning District
80-130-F Height and Bulk District
Block/Lot: 0287/022
Applicant: Ronan O'Neill
10 Mark Lane
Nominated By: Supervisor Aaron Peskin
Located In: District 3
Staff Contact: Edgar Oropeza - 628-652-7368
edgar.oropeza@sfgov.org

ADOPTING FINDINGS RECOMMENDING TO THE SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSION APPROVAL OF THE LEGACY BUSINESS REGISTRY NOMINATION FOR THE IRISH BANK BAR & RESTAURANT CURRENTLY LOCATED AT 10 MARK LANE, BLOCK /LOT 0287/023.

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 more than 20 years but less than 30 years, significantly contributed to the history and 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 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 August 16, 2023, 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 The Irish Bank Bar & Restaurant qualifies for the Legacy Business Registry under Administrative Code Section 2A.242(b)(2) as it has operated for 27 years and is still eligible for the Legacy Business Registry as it is older than 20 years, has significantly contributed to the identity of its neighborhood and city, and may face a risk of displacement if not included in the Registry

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Historic Preservation Commission hereby recommends safeguarding of the below listed physical features and traditions for The Irish Bank Bar & Restaurant.

Location(s):

Current Locations:

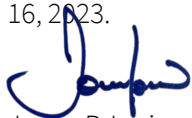
- 10 Mark Lane (1996 – Present)

Physical Features or Traditions that Define the Business:

- Irish pub with a friendly atmosphere and an outdoor alleyway.
- Block party celebrations on St. Patrick's Day.
- The building façade, featuring whitewashed cottage appearance adorned with magnificent brass plaques, hanging flower baskets, and a breathtaking ancient 19th century water pump, creating an impression reminiscent of a distinctive rural tavern.
- A unique interior enhanced by a rare collection of antiques, award winning photographs, historical documents and advertisements, antique mirrors, church pews, a confessional, sewing machines, barrels, crockery, farm implements, horse tackle, and other memorable bric-a-brac.
- Authentic Irish Foods including Shepherd's pie, Irish beef stew, bangers and mash, and fish and chips.
- Irish drinks including a two-part Guinness pour and other fine beers.
- Beer lines up to 60 feet long.

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Historic Preservation Commission hereby directs its Commission Secretary to transmit this Resolution and other pertinent materials in the case file to the Office of Small Business on August 16, 2023.



Jonas P. Ionin
Commission Secretary

AYES: Vergara, Wright, Foley, Nageswaran, Matsuda

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ADOPTED: August 16, 2023