

NOPNA News

A Publication of the North of Panhandle Neighborhood Association

2019 : issue 1

DEVELOPING NOPA | HOW NEIGHBORS INFLUENCED PETRINI PLAZA

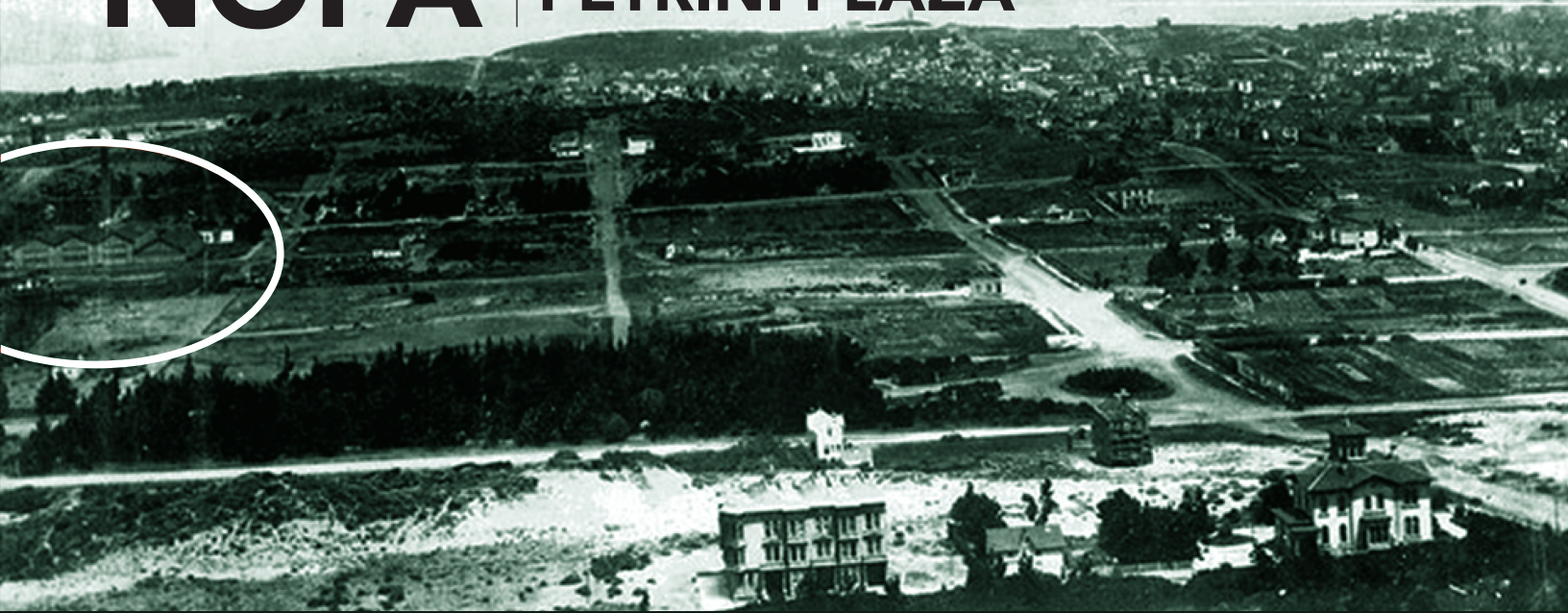


IMAGE: Market Street Cable Car Company (highlighted). Panhandle; 1883. Source unknown.

UPCOMING EVENTS

NOPNA GENERAL MEETING

[NOPNA.org]

New Location! City Real Estate - 629 Divsadero
Thursday, May 16th - 7pm
Thursday, July 17 - 7pm

NOPNA BLOCK PARTY

Saturday, June 1st
Baker between Fulton and Grove

SFPD PARK STATION COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Park Station Community Room
Second Tuesday each month, 6pm

DIVISADERO FARMERS MARKET

Grove@Divisadero, Sundays, 10am-2pm

PANHANDLE PARK STEWARDS

[panhandlepark.blogspot.com]

Bulletin Board near Panhandle Playground
Second Saturday each month - 9am-12pm

When it comes to change, especially to somewhere as personal as your street or your neighborhood, most people have a hard time seeing the positive. And what brings change to NoPa? New, large real estate developments.

Will it block a view? Shadow my outside space? Bring more cars to our already crowded street parking? But this fear of change, and a tendency to react too quickly with opposition, is less likely to garner the best outcome for our neighborhood. It may seem like yesterday to some, but two decades ago our neighbors organized a coalition to work together and influence the developers that built Petrini Village at Fulton/McAllister at Masonic (current home to Lucky supermarket).

The block bounded by Fulton/McAllister and Masonic/Central was owned by the Market Street Cable Car Company and the block was used as a cable car barn. The car house, originally built to house McAllister Street cable cars, was built in 1883. It occupied the entire block and originally had a powerhouse to drive the cable car machinery. The powerhouse was decommissioned after the 1906 earthquake and fires. After the earthquake, the car house was used to contain streetcars.

"In June 1951 the property was sold to F Petrini Company (FPC), a fruit and vegetable outlet in the city. Four years later, in 1955, the 'Plaza Foods'

(continued on page 3)



North
Of
Panhandle
Neighborhood
Association

Contact us:

board@nopna.org or www.nopna.org

FROM THE BOARD

Focus for 2019

At the end of 2018, the NOPNA Board met to take stock of our neighborhood, our work, and ourselves and to set forward the areas where we wanted to focus our energy in 2019. In 2018, we focused on community events, growing the board, transportation safety, better communication and marketing, and becoming more financially stable. In 2019, we are seeking to build on those areas, while addressing what we believe are the central community needs.

Community Engagement — In 2019 we want to be more proactive in our outreach: growing and extending our email list (sign up at NOPNA.org), strengthening our volunteer community and outreach, and ensuring we are engaged with as many neighbors as possible.

General Meeting Improvement and Community Input — Local politicians, entrepreneurs, and others look to the NOPNA General meeting as a way to collect input from our neighborhood. Oasis has been a very generous host for the past several years, but we decided we want to try an alternate location with more seating and where speakers may be easier to hear. In March, we will be moving the General Meeting to a new location with more seating and where speakers are better able to be heard.

Housing and Land Use — To help address planned developments in our neighborhood, the NOPNA Board has kicked off a Housing and Land Use subcommittee, led by newly elected VP Julian Mackie. Please email Julian at julian@nopna.org to learn more.

Board Effectiveness — We will continue to improve our internal function to be more responsive and active (through greater financial stability, improving board meeting effectiveness and decision-making speed, and updating our outdated bylaws).

This doesn't mean we stop the work from previous years and we'll work to deliver a best-ever Spring Block Party, Halloween, and Holiday event. Additionally, we'll address long-standing issues such as pedestrian safety through existing subcommittees like the "Vision Zero" subcommittee.

We'd like to hear from you if you would like to get involved in any of these areas, or if you think we've got it wrong and should be focused on other things. This neighborhood will be what we all make of it — so if you have some thoughts on what it should be, we want to hear from you! Please send any questions, comments, concerns, or other thoughts about NOPNA's 2019 Priorities or other board work to board@nopna.org.



Jason Cauthen - NOPNA board member; Editor of NOPNA News.



The NOPNA News is published by the North of Panhandle Neighborhood Association for the residents, businesses, and friends of our neighborhood, which is bounded by Masonic Avenue and Turk, Divisadero and Fell Streets.

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NOPNA's mission: The purpose of this association shall be to establish neighborhood unity, maintain multi-ethnic and multi-cultural diversity, foster a sense of neighborhood pride, promote a safe and clean community, and improve the quality of life for all residents of the neighborhood.

Your financial support allows NOPNA to cover the costs of our newsletters, community building events like our block party and holiday party, public art projects in the neighborhood, and other activities that enrich our dynamic neighborhood. It also supports this site.

Make a difference on our streets and become a member today!

Contact NOPNA

board@nopna.org

www.nopna.org

PETRINI PLAZA (continued)



PHOTO: Petrin Plaza at the corner of Fulton at Masonic. **Photo Credit:** Joseph Wilinski. www.joewilinski.com

complex was built to house several small specialty stores — butcher, baker, general grocery items, wine, etc. The buildings were situated across the northern section of the block, along McAllister Street. The rest of the lot was dedicated to surface parking,” said Michael Helquist, former NOPNA President.

The property was sold again for a large, modern commercial development in the 1990s, when our neighbors stepped in.

At the time, the neighborhood was in the midst of change; the composition of the neighborhood was changing, historic homes were being upgraded, and rent and real estate prices were rising. Neighbors didn’t want to see their favorite market disappear. They were concerned about a loss of street parking. The original, modern design was not in character with the historic homes in the neighborhood.

As Michael Helquist noted, a new organization formed to represent the neighborhood. Friends of the Plaza Coalition (FPC) was led by active members of NOPNA. (Michael Helquist, former NOPNA President, and Jim Cowan, long-time NOPNA member, were co-chairs as the effort got underway.) A committee of about a dozen members met weekly to set goals and strategies.

The advocacy of FPC led to a reduced number of units, major changes to the positioning of the commercial buildings on the lot (setback rather than lining the Fulton sidewalk as originally planned), limited hours of operation (not after 10 p.m.), less generic building styles (avoiding a “Walnut Creek” look), enough reserved parking underground for shoppers, and several neighborhood improvements: funding for NOPNA newsletter, financing for a porchlight program, and others.

(continued on page 4)



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PETRINI PLAZA (continued)

There are several new developments currently proposed for our neighborhood (such as 400 Divisadero, 650 Divisadero, and 1355 Fulton). When it comes to these new projects, change makes us uneasy and private developers don't exactly have great reputations in the community. But one hostile meeting with neighbors isn't going to scare them away. The majority of our beautiful city was planned, designed, built by and financed by private developers. Our city badly needs new housing and developers are vital to that growth.

On the other side of the coin, developments affect everything from home values, to views, to the use of public streets. As such, members of the community should

play a role in the shaping of their community.

Reasonable, calm communication and focusing on the items we CAN change is a good place to start.

Special thanks to Suzanne and Jim Cowan and Michael Helquist for sharing notes and memories regarding the FPC.

Editor's Note: If you are interested in engaging to shape neighborhood development, get involved in NOPNA's newly-formed Land Use Committee - chaired by NOPNA VP Julian Mackie — julian@nopna.org

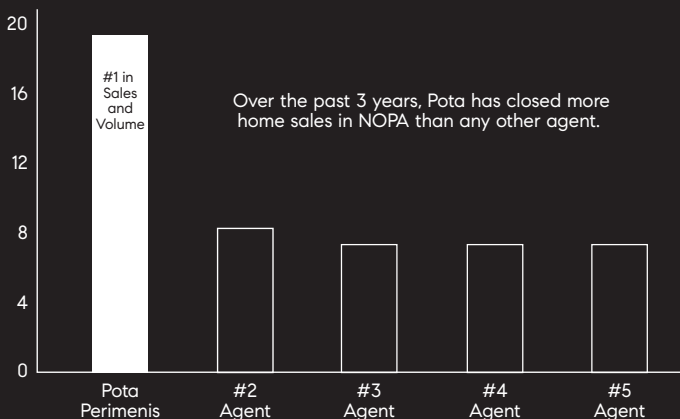
Michelle Petersen has lived in NOPA for 2 years and loves walking her dogs around the neighborhood and researching the history of her surroundings.



When I shop, I shop local. Pota was the natural choice for our Realtor when the time came to sell our NOPA property. She has local knowledge and lots of it.

- J. Briscoe

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VISION ZERO

GETTING AROUND NOPA ON TWO WHEELS



PHOTO: Cyclist on Panhandle bicycle path. **Photo Credit:** Joseph Wilinski. www.joewilinski.com

Many would consider the neighborhood north of the Panhandle ideal for people who love to bike, with its proximity to the hill-avoiding commuter route the Wiggle and to beautiful Golden Gate Park. But what if you're not already one of those people?

People all over the city who don't yet ride a bicycle frequently repeat dueling sentiments when I encourage them to attend the SF Bicycle Coalition's free bike education classes: either "I don't feel safe!" or "I'm not one of those people!" I'm reminded of the importance of robust bicycle education. It empowers those who don't yet bike and reminds people who do to adhere to the rules of the road, generating a more welcoming environment for all.

What are the most important urban biking guidelines to keep everyone safe? I recommend checking out sfbike.org/rotr for a quick primer on the rules of the road. Two are of particular importance in and around the Panhandle.

First, on shared-use paths like the one winding through the Panhandle, people on bikes should yield to people on foot or in wheelchairs. They are most vulnerable on the path, and thus their safety is highest priority. People on bikes should ride slowly and politely use their bell or voice — "On your left!" — to announce their approach.

Second, a person on a bike has the right to take up a full general traffic lane if it feels like the safest thing to do, particularly to stay outside the dangerous "door zone" of parked cars. Taking the lane on narrow neighborhood streets communicates to people driving that it's not safe to pass, so please stay behind for now.

Enabling more people to use healthier, more sustainable transportation options will require cooperative efforts to make everyone feel safe. If you'd like to sign up for the monthly Bike Ed Newsletter, visit sfbike.org/education.

Christopher White - is the Program Director of the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition.

THE AFRICAN AMERICAN CHURCH IN NOPA: A SHORT SKETCH OF ONE HISTORIC INSTITUTION'S WILL TO SURVIVE



PHOTO: First A.M.E. Church on Golden Gate Avenue. Photo Credit: Joseph Wilinski. www.joewilinski.com

The decline of the African American population in San Francisco is well documented and much lamented by San Francisco politicians, policy-makers, and citizens of every ethnicity. With this steady exodus of African Americans from San Francisco, one would presume that the African American church would be in similar demise — but is that so? My interest in this phenomenon was piqued late last year when I glanced at the “Church Directory” in the San Francisco Sun-Reporter, which in this particular edition (October 18, 2018) listed 24 African American churches with addresses in San Francisco. As a homeowner on Broderick Street since 1977, I was particularly curious as to the number of African American churches in NOPA.

I recently walked through our neighborhood in search of African American churches and my count is seven, two of which are listed in the Sun-Reporter “Church Directory.” My count of seven includes: First A.M.E. Zion, 2159 Golden Gate Avenue; New Strangers Home Baptist Church, 1442 Fulton Street; Pentecostal Temple Church of God In Christ, 1915 McAllister Street; Mt. Herman Missionary Baptist Church, 429 Lyon Street; St. John Coltrane AOC, 2097 Turk and Lyon; New Liberation Presbyterian Church, 1100 Divisadero Street; Little Zion Missionary Baptist Church, 1245 Divisadero Street. In this and future articles, I hope to provide narrative portraits of several of these churches, excepting those that have already been featured in recent issues of NOPNA News. The African American church — wherever it is located — is a deeply rooted institution in the long arc of the African American struggle. Regardless of its physical size, number in attendance on any given Sunday, the African American church stands as an enduring emblem

of African American resilience, pride, place of worship and respite from the varied multitudinous slings and arrows of American racism.

Of my seven count, First A.M.E. Zion has the deepest legacy in San Francisco. In the very accessible publication, *Images of America African Americans of San Francisco*, Jan Batiste Adkins writes that First A.M.E. Zion was organized in 1852, with its first home on Stockton Street, between Broadway and Pacific. First A.M.E., now frequently referred to as “First Church,” has had several locations in San Francisco before locating to its current site in 1960.

The current pastor, Rev. Sharon Cheek, was assigned to First A.M.E. in June 2017 and has been an ordained Elder in the AME Zion Church for 20 years. Because First Church, like the majority of the other six is nestled on all sides by well-appointed Victorian and ultra-modernist structures, I asked Pastor Cheek in an email, “What concerns, if any, do you have for the future of First A.M.E. at its current site?” Her response typifies her effervescent ministry and steely resolve: “My major concern is that First Church would continue to stay relevant in a changing community.” To that end, she said, “We have a Compassion in Action Ministry that meets the needs of those who have basic, food, clothing, transportation, and minor financial assistance.” With a current membership of 76, all African Americans, Pastor Cheek says that “other races have begun to visit.” Exposure to one of her ebullient sermons and the genuine Christian fellowship exhibited by the congregation will, I believe, cause many, many others to visit — again and again.

Carl Williams is an attorney and writer with a wide-ranging interest in African American history, religious and literary culture; he and his wife Jayne, also an attorney, are homeowners on Broderick Street since 1977.



With every neighborhood comes a community of unique and diverse people, restaurants and locales. Moving to a new neighborhood and becoming part of a new community is one of the many joys of building a new life in a new area. Choose NOPA for your next move and establish roots in the distinct community that comes with it. Take it from Bonnie, who has lived in NOPA for over 25 years.



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MICRO HISTORY THE SANS SOUCI ROADHOUSE



PHOTO: Sans Souci Roadhouse in the early 1920s; photo attributed to Jesse Brown Cook.

One of NOPA's earliest buildings was a ten room hotel called the Sans Souci (French for "without a care") Roadhouse, located at what's now 1333 Fulton St., just west of Divisadero. It was the Sonoma Mission Inn of its day, a rustic retreat from the alcohol-soaked kernel of the Gold Rush city that boomed around Portsmouth Square. It

sat at the edge of a vernal pool called Sans Souci Lake, roughly between Fulton and Fell St. and Broderick and Divisadero. A vernal pool is a seasonal body of water that's created by winter rains but disappears during dry summer months in places with a Mediterranean climate like that of San Francisco. Between 1850 and 1856, William Fell, the Danish immigrant after whom Fell St. is named, was the off and on owner of the roadhouse. If you think San Francisco real estate is a blood sport now, consider that Sans Souci changed hands six times in 1851, appreciating by 200 percent from its first sale in February for \$1,000 to \$3,000 when it was last sold at the end of the year. Fell eventually leased it in 1856 and subsided into the quiet life of a

bookkeeper. Except, that is, for taking part in the Committee of Vigilance, the vigilante group that took the law in lawless San Francisco into its own hands in 1851 and again in 1856.

The Sans Souci lost the cachet of being even an ephemeral waterfront property during the very wet winter of 1861–62. One night heavy rains broke the bank of Sans Souci Lake and the water ran downhill, although it's not clear where it ended up. The hotel was encroached upon by the growing city and put to other uses, but the building survived until the 1920s, when it either burned or was torn down.

Linda Ackerman leads free City Guides tours of NOPA. For the next tour see http://sfcityguides.org/current_schedule.html.

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HOW DID NOPNA VOTE?

	NOPA	SF	CA
Prop. 1 <small>(Yes)</small> <small>Authorizes bonds for existing affordable housing programs.</small>	86%	74%	56%
Prop. 2 <small>(Yes)</small> <small>Authorizes bonds for housing individuals with mental illness.</small>	89%	79%	63%
Prop. 6 <small>(No)</small> <small>Transportation taxes/fees for road repairs and public transit.</small>	90%	83%	57%
Prop. 10 <small>(No)</small> <small>Restricts the scope of rent control policies.</small>	36%	47%	59%
Measure C <small>(Local)</small> <small>Increase business taxes to fund homeless services in the city.</small>	73%	61%	NA

	NOPA	SF	CA
Newsom <small>Governor (D)</small>	94%	64%	62%
Feinstein <small>U.S. Senate (D)</small>	57%	86%	54%

The elections were months ago and I'm always curious as I walk around and wonder if my neighbors disagree with me on policy issues and who we want to represent us. How do our votes compare to our city or our state? How many of us vote, and how do we submit our ballots?

Thankfully, the Department of Elections publishes the data so we can determine just how others voted in the community. Some of the hot issues up were Proposition 10 (repeal of Costa Hawkins, a 1995 rent control limiting law), Local Measure C — Additional Business Taxes to Fund Homeless Services, and some of the state races. I hope this information is interesting, but the NOPNA board wants readers to know that we use this information to determine how to best represent the will of our community.

Proposition 6, (which would have repealed the 2017 Road Repair and Accountability Act that raised gas taxes for repairs and improvements to local roads, state highways, and public transportation) was rejected by 90% of residents, something that indicates a mandate for us when determining if there's support for transportation improvements among our neighbors. This is important input for NOPNA as we consider our positions to local infrastructure projects.

https://www.sfelections.org/results/20181106/data/20181126/20181126_psov.xlsx

<https://elections.cdn.sos.ca.gov/sov/2018-general/sov/2018-complete-sov.pdf>

NOPA NEIGHBORS READY TO HELP NEIGHBORS

What can you and your family do to prepare for the next earthquake?

Following the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake, the citizens of San Francisco helped the San Francisco Fire Department and various emergency services manage and recover from its effects. This ad hoc collaboration spawned the creation of the Neighborhood Emergency Response Team program (NERT) in 1990.

San Francisco Fire Department NERT is a community-based training program dedicated to a neighbor-helping-neighbor approach. Training includes hands-on disaster response skills to help individuals manage a personal emergency as well as act as members of a neighborhood response team.

In our neighborhood, NOPA NERT is here to help our community in the event of a catastrophe. NOPA NERT is coordinated by David Dull and Nathan Karkoski, both long time residents of NOPA. Monthly NERT meetings include training and review of skills necessary to be a valuable NERT, including the basics of personal preparedness and prevention. NERT Rule No 1 "NERTS don't get hurt!"

Are you ready for the (next) "big one"? Geologists tell us that there is a 70% chance of a major earthquake occurring in the Bay Area in the next 30 years. Learning what to do for a major earthquake and taking the steps to become prepared for it increases our knowledge, skills, and confidence. Volunteering to work with our neighbors increases our connection with them.

Anyone over 18 can become a NERT. For more information check the NERT website, which includes the current training schedule at <https://sf-fire.org/neighborhood-emergency-response-team-nert>.

Elisabeth Kvitashvili has been a member of NOPA NERT since April 2018.



PHOTO: The NERT crew.



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NEIGHBOR SPOTLIGHT: ATTICUS, THE BELOVED PANHANDLE PIG

If your morning routine involves a walk to the Panhandle, chances are you may have seen a 120 pound pig on a leash. Meet your neighbor, Atticus. Born in Michigan and now seven years old, Atticus lives with Luke Sweeney, his wife Rohini, and their six year old daughter Pele. Luke, a laid-back musician originally from Chico, and his family moved to NOPA from the Sunset district about a year ago. "I like this neighborhood a lot," said Luke, "In some ways it's strange because the Sunset seems more classic and suburb-ish, but here it feels more tightly knit."

I had the pleasure of meeting Atticus on a recent drizzly Tuesday morning to tag along on his daily morning walk. Atticus was coaxed down the twelve porch steps with a tortilla chip and off we ventured to the park. "He's cleaning up our streets," said Luke as Atticus almost immediately got into remnants of Chinese food on Masonic. Over

the next several blocks, nearly everyone we encountered reacted with an instant smile, often pulling out their phones to snap a photo. "Can we say hi?" said a neighbor walking her chihuahua. "Be nice," she told the barking dog, "This is a pig!" Shortly thereafter, another woman

approached us, smiling ear-to-ear, asking a range of questions. She then pointed out Atticus was eating a piece of bread off the grass. Luke joked, "It's okay, he's not a gluten-free pig."

Atticus lives his life similarly to the existence of a San Francisco dog. He has a large dog bed he typically sleeps on in the Sweeney apartment, but occasionally sleeps on the couch. Luke whistles at him, he responds to commands

like "sit," and will instantly become your best friend if you're eating a snack (notably chips, bread, and Chinese food, so it seems.) Atticus eats organic pig food and goes on walks regularly. He also roams the backyard with a pair of bunnies, Patti the chicken, and a puppy, Princess Crystals (you guessed it, named by Pele).

2019 is Year of the Pig according to Chinese

Zodiac, so make sure you say hello to Atticus next time you see him out and about. In the meantime, you can follow Atticus virtually; he's on Instagram @AtticusthePig.



PHOTO: Atticus (and Luke). Photo Credit: Meg Rahner.

Meg Rahner is a Pennsylvania native who has lived in NOPA since she moved to San Francisco in 2010. She works for a public relations agency downtown and recently joined the NOPNA board.



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Active

2385 Bush Street

3 BED | 3.5 BATH | \$3,595,000

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www.2385BushStreet.com



Coming Soon

1332 Waller Street

3 BED | 2 BATH | PRICE UPON REQUEST

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