

180 New Montgomery Street
San Francisco 5, California

April 17, 1958

Handwritten signatures and initials
APR 25 1958

Mr. Barney Gould
281 Edgewood Avenue
San Francisco 17, California

Dear Mr. Gould:

Our Regional Historian, Dr. John A. Hussey, has called to our attention his telephone conversation with you concerning the possibility of the National Park Service taking legal action to stop the proposed imminent demolition of the Montgomery Block in San Francisco.

As Dr. Hussey informed you, there apparently is nothing the National Park Service could do at the present time to stop the owner of this building from razing his own property. As Dr. Hussey also mentioned, it is doubtful if this building would be considered by the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings and Monuments to possess the outstanding national significance which would qualify it for preservation as a National Historic Site or a National Monument. However, if you desire to make a formal proposal that the building be considered for national monument status, it is your right to request such action. Your letter should be addressed to the Secretary of the Interior or to the Director of the National Park Service, Interior Building, Washington 25, D. C.

In line with Dr. Hussey's discussion with you, it occurs to us that the most practicable way to save this building is to organize a group of private investors who would purchase it, restore it, and rent out the space for appropriate uses which would conform to the historical character of this building. There are other instances elsewhere in the nation where such a procedure has been followed with very happy results, both for historical values and for the pocket books of the investors.

No matter which approach you decide to take for the preservation of this building, either attempting to have it preserved by some public agency such as the Federal Government, the State of California, or the City of San Francisco, or attempting to raise private capital, you will require organized

Handwritten initials

130 ... Street
San Francisco, California

public support and aroused public opinion to delay the demolition of the building. In this connection we suggest you get in touch with Mr. Charles S. Pope, who is Preservation Officer of the Northern California Chapter, American Institute of Architects, and with the American Society of Architectural Historians whose officers can be reached through the Architecture Department of the University of California. We would also suggest that you write to the National Trust for Historic Preservation, 2000 K Street, N. W., Washington 6, D. C.

Although there appears to be little we can do officially to help you in this very important matter, a number of our staff members would be glad to help as individuals. As Dr. Bussey told you, he will be out of town for the next several weeks, but if you would like to get in touch with us further please call Mr. William C. Everhart who is the Historian in our office in charge of the National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings. His telephone number is ENbrook 2-6820, Ext. 9.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) Bennett T. Gale

Bennett T. Gale
Regional Chief of Interpretation

Copy to: Dr. Aubrey V. Neasham
Mr. Charles S. Pope
Director (2) ✓

In line with the Agency's frustration with you, it occurs to us that the most practical way to save this building is to organize a group of private investors who would purchase it, restore it, and rent out the space for appropriate uses which would contribute to the historic character of this building. There are other historical structures in San Francisco where such a procedure has been followed with very happy results, both for historical values and for the pocket books of the investors.

As matters stand, you would be able to take the preservation of this building, rather than trying to have it preserved by some public agency such as the Federal Government, the State of California, or the City of San Francisco, or otherwise be taken over by the city, you will probably be able to