

# Legacy Business Registry Staff Report

HEARING DATE AUGUST 14, 2017

## DONALDINA CAMERON HOUSE

*Application No.:* LBR-2016-17-059  
*Business Name:* Donaldina Cameron House  
*Business Address:* 920 Sacramento Street  
*District:* District 3  
*Applicant:* William Vigna, Director of Finance & Operations  
*Nomination Date:* January 20, 2017  
*Nominated By:* Supervisor Aaron Peskin  
*Staff Contact:* Richard Kurylo  
legacybusiness@sfgov.org

### BUSINESS DESCRIPTION

The Donaldina Cameron House ("Cameron House") is a 501(c)(3) non-profit family resource center located in the Chinatown neighborhood. Founded in 1874, the Cameron House provides services such as youth activities, food distribution, leadership training, meals, and social services to the Chinese-American community. The origins of the Cameron House can be traced back to the opening of the Occidental Mission Home for Girls in 1874, a home founded by a local Presbyterian Church whose purpose was to intervene on behalf of vulnerable young Asian women that were smuggled into the country and sold as commodities during the "Yellow Slave Trade." The Occidental Mission Home for Girls rescued these young girls and women and taught them life skills and faith. In 1895, Donaldina Cameron, a 23 year old sewing teacher, arrived at the home to teach and eventually became the superintendent two years later. She continued to uphold the home's mission to rescue and educate girls victimized by violence and abuse despite receiving ongoing threats by those whose "profits" were hampered by her success. In 1942, the home was renamed the Donaldina Cameron House and by the time of Donaldina's death in 1968, the organization had become a "national icon" and was credited with rescuing and helping over 3,000 girls escape brutal enslavement. The Cameron House began to take on a new role and provide new services to the community after the repeal of the Chinese Exclusion Act in 1943, when the needs of the Chinatown community began changing. The organization expanded to now include faith-based programs for youth in addition to social services for women. The organization also offers counseling, domestic violence intervention, food distribution, adult ESL, and youth afterschool and summer programs, among other services. For over 100 years, the Donaldina Cameron House has continually served and provided support to low-income and immigrant Asian youth, women and their families.

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

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

920 Sacramento Street from 1874 to Present (143 years).



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

Yes, the applicant has contributed to the Chinatown neighborhood's history and identity.

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

- The Donaldina Cameron House is associated with offering services to low-income and immigrant Asian youth and families in Chinatown.
- The Donaldina Cameron House has contributed to the Chinatown community's history and identity through its rich history as a rescue agency for young girls during the "Yellow Slave Trade" and by adapting to and providing services for the changing needs of the community.
- The 1908 property has been previously evaluated by the Planning Department for potential historical significance. The property has been designated an Article 10 City Landmark (Landmark Number 44) and is considered a "Category A Property."
- The business has been cited in the following publications:
  - The Examiner, 12/19/2013, "Chinatown alleyways renamed in honor of community members," by Jessica Kwong.
  - SF Examiner, 7/6/2017, "Cameron House to hold annual carnival for Chinatown kids."

**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 Donaldina Cameron House is committed to maintaining the physical features and traditions that define its role as a historically significant service agency and humanitarian organization in Chinatown.

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION**

The Historic Preservation Commission recommends that Donaldina Cameron House 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:

- Commitment to offering community services to low-income and immigrant Asian youth and families.
- Exterior clinker bricks.
- Gas lamps that were used in the early 1900s.
- Tunnels running through the basement from a time when Donaldina used to hide from local Chinese gangs.
- Location in Chinatown.
- Staff recommends that all interior and exterior features outlined in the landmark designation be included.

**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.

- Assisting Chinese-American individuals and families.





SAN FRANCISCO

## OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO  
EDWIN M. LEE, MAYOR

OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS  
REGINA DICK-ENDRIZZI, DIRECTOR

### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the San Francisco Small Business Commission include Donaldina Cameron House currently located at 920 Sacramento Street in the Legacy Business Registry as a Legacy Business under Administrative Code Section 2A.242.

Richard Kurylo, Manager  
Legacy Business Program



# Small Business Commission Draft Resolution

HEARING DATE AUGUST 14, 2017

DONALDINA CAMERON HOUSE

LEGACY BUSINESS REGISTRY RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

<i>Application No.:</i>	LBR-2016-17-059
<i>Business Name:</i>	Donaldina Cameron House
<i>Business Address:</i>	920 Sacramento Street
<i>District:</i>	District 3
<i>Applicant:</i>	William Vigna, Director of Finance & Operations
<i>Nomination Date:</i>	January 20, 2017
<i>Nominated By:</i>	Supervisor Aaron Peskin
<i>Staff Contact:</i>	Richard Kurylo legacybusiness@sfgov.org

## ADOPTING FINDINGS APPROVING THE LEGACY BUSINESS REGISTRY APPLICATION FOR DONALDINA CAMERON HOUSE, CURRENTLY LOCATED AT 920 SACRAMENTO STREET.

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

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

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

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

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

**WHEREAS**, at a duly noticed public hearing held on August 14, 2017, the San Francisco Small Business Commission reviewed documents and correspondence, and heard oral testimony on the Legacy Business Registry application; therefore







SAN FRANCISCO

## OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO  
EDWIN M. LEE, MAYOR

OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS  
REGINA DICK-ENDRIZZI, DIRECTOR

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Small Business Commission hereby includes Donaldina Cameron House in the Legacy Business Registry as a Legacy Business under Administrative Code Section 2A.242.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Small Business Commission recommends safeguarding the below listed physical features and traditions at Donaldina Cameron House:

Physical Features or Traditions that Define the Business:

- Commitment to offering community services to low-income and immigrant Asian youth and families.
- Exterior clinker bricks.
- Gas lamps that were used in the early 1900s.
- Tunnels running through the basement from a time when Donaldina used to hide from local Chinese gangs.
- Location in Chinatown.
- Staff recommends that all interior and exterior features outlined in the landmark designation be included.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Small Business Commission requires maintenance of the below listed core physical feature or tradition to maintain Donaldina Cameron House on the Legacy Business Registry:

- Assisting Chinese-American individuals and families.

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I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED by the Small Business Commission on August 14, 2017.

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Regina Dick-Endrizzi  
Director

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

Ayes –  
Nays –  
Abstained –  
Absent –





SAN FRANCISCO

OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO  
EDWIN M. LEE, MAYOR

OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS  
REGINA DICK-ENDRIZZI, DIRECTOR

## Legacy Business Registry

# Application Review Sheet

*Application No.:* LBR-2016-17-059  
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*Business Address:* 920 Sacramento Street  
*District:* District 3  
*Applicant:* William Vigna, Director of Finance & Operations  
*Nomination Date:* January 20, 2017  
*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?       X       Yes                      No

920 Sacramento Street from 1874 to Present (143 years).

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

**CRITERION 3:** Is the applicant committed to maintaining the physical features or traditions that define the business, including craft, culinary, or art forms?       X       Yes                      No

**NOTES:** NA

**DELIVERY DATE TO HPC:** June 22, 2017

Richard Kurylo  
Manager, Legacy Business Program



Member, Board of Supervisors  
District 3



City and County of San Francisco

**AARON PESKIN**  
佩斯金 市參事

January 20, 2017

Director Regina Dick-Endrizzi  
San Francisco Office of Small Business  
City Hall, Room 110  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Director Dick-Endrizzi:

It is my honor and privilege to nominate Cameron House for inclusion on the Legacy Business Registry.

Cameron House, a nonprofit family resource center located at 920 Sacramento Street, has provided youth activities, food distribution, leadership training, meals, and social services to the Chinese-American community since 1874. This vital, life-changing community hub has served as a gateway to has empower generations of Chinese-American individuals and their families to fully participate in and create a healthy society.

Cameron House would benefit greatly from being added to the Legacy Business Registry, and I look forward to its inclusion.

Sincerely,

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

Aaron Peskin

## Section One:

### Business / Applicant Information. Provide the following information:

- The name, mailing address, and other contact information of the business;
- The name of the person who owns the business. For businesses with multiple owners, identify the person(s) with the highest ownership stake in the business;
- The name, title, and contact information of the applicant;
- The business's San Francisco Business Account Number and entity number with the Secretary of State, if applicable.

NAME OF BUSINESS:		
Donaldina Cameron House		
BUSINESS OWNER(S) (identify the person(s) with the highest ownership stake in the business)		
Non - Profit: Board of Directors		
CURRENT BUSINESS ADDRESS:		TELEPHONE:
920 Sacramento St. San Francisco, CA 94108		(415) 781-0401
		EMAIL:
		bill@cameronhouse.org
WEBSITE:	FACEBOOK PAGE:	YELP PAGE
www.cameronhouse.org	Cameron House	
APPLICANT'S NAME		
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Same as Business
APPLICANT'S TITLE		
APPLICANT'S ADDRESS:		TELEPHONE:
		( )
		EMAIL:
SAN FRANCISCO BUSINESS ACCOUNT NUMBER:		SECRETARY OF STATE ENTITY NUMBER (if applicable):
0347442		
OFFICIAL USE: Completed by OSB Staff		
NAME OF NOMINATOR:		DATE OF NOMINATION:

## Section Two:

### Business Location(s).

List the business address of the original San Francisco location, the start date of business, and the dates of operation at the original location. Check the box indicating whether the original location of the business in San Francisco is the founding location of the business. If the business moved from its original location and has had additional addresses in San Francisco, identify all other addresses and the dates of operation at each address. For businesses with more than one location, list the additional locations in section three of the narrative.

ORIGINAL SAN FRANCISCO ADDRESS:	ZIP CODE:	START DATE OF BUSINESS
920 Sacramento St	94108	1874
IS THIS LOCATION THE FOUNDING LOCATION OF THE BUSINESS?	DATES OF OPERATION AT THIS LOCATON	
<input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes		

OTHER ADDRESSES (if applicable):	ZIP CODE:	DATES OF OPERATION
		Start:
		End:

OTHER ADDRESSES (if applicable):	ZIP CODE:	DATES OF OPERATION
		Start:
		End:

OTHER ADDRESSES (if applicable):	ZIP CODE:	DATES OF OPERATION
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		Start:
		End:

OTHER ADDRESSES (if applicable):	ZIP CODE:	DATES OF OPERATION
		Start:
		End:



## Section Three:

### Disclosure Statement.

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

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

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

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

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

William Vigna  
Name (Print):

2-7-17  
Date:

William Vigna J  
Signature:

## **DONALDINA CAMERON HOUSE**

### **Section 4: Written Historical Narrative**

#### **CRITERION 1**

**a. Provide a short history of the business from the date the business opened in San Francisco to the present day, including the ownership history. For businesses with multiple locations, include the history of the original location in San Francisco (including whether it was the business's founding and or headquartered location) and the opening dates and locations of all other locations.**

#### 1874 — Occidental Mission Home for Girls

Founded in 1874 by the Presbyterian Church as the Occidental Mission Home for Girls, the home's initial purpose was to intervene on behalf of vulnerable young Asian immigrants. Forbidden from legally entering the United States by the Chinese Exclusion Act, these girls and women were smuggled into the country and sold as commodities in what came to be known as the "Yellow Slave Trade." Sold into slavery, often by their own families, and trapped into bogus "contracts" that made it impossible to buy their freedom, many thousands of immigrant women died as prostitutes and domestic servants in San Francisco.

The Occidental Mission Home for Girls, the "Home" as it was known then, rescued these girls and taught them skills and faith.

#### 1895 — Donaldina Cameron

At the tender age of 23, Donaldina arrived at the Occidental Mission Home for Girls as a sewing teacher. Two years later, without any prior experience, she became the superintendent. Little did she realize that the next 40 years would find her dashing through alleys and across rooftops to save thousands of Chinese girls from indentured servitude and human trafficking. Although her life was threatened by those whose profits were hampered by her success, she continued rescuing and educating the girls victimized by violence and abuse.

A great challenge for the Home came on April 18, 1906, when the great San Francisco earthquake and fire woke the girls in the early morning. Although the Home withstood the initial shaking, it was ultimately destroyed by dynamite as the city attempted to stop the fire from spreading. Donaldina and all the girls found safety in the East Bay while the Home was rebuilt in the same location at 920 Sacramento Street, where it still stands today.

Donaldina retired from the Home in 1934, and in 1942 it was renamed the Donaldina Cameron House.

By the time of her death in 1968, Donaldina had become a "national icon" and is credited with helping 3,000 girls escape brutal enslavement.



## 1940s — Chinatown Families

With the repeal of the Chinese Exclusion Act in 1943 and the falling numbers of girls being rescued throughout the late 1930s, the needs of the Chinatown community were changing. In response to the growing number of families needing support and a safe place away from the racism of greater San Francisco, Cameron House began expanding its services to offer faith-based programs for youth in addition to social services for women.

## Continuing Mission — Adapting to the Needs of Chinese American Families

The mission of Cameron House services has evolved over the years resulting in the comprehensive family service organization it is today. Thanks to thousands of volunteers, devoted staff, committed Board members and enthusiastic supporters, Cameron House provides a wide variety of programs to Asian youth and families. As part of Donaldina's heritage, we are proud to offer services like: counseling; domestic violence intervention; food distribution; adult ESL (English as a Second Language) and computer classes; support groups; youth afterschool and summer programs; sports, arts and camping experiences; leadership development; and volunteer opportunities. Today we serve over 1,000 low-income immigrant children and families.

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

Business ceased operations in San Francisco for one or two years after the 1906 earthquake and fire as the building was being rebuilt.

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

Not applicable.

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

Donaldina Cameron House has been a nonprofit organization since its founding.

### **e. When the current ownership is not the original owner and has owned the business for less than 30 years, the applicant will need to provide documentation of the existence of the business prior to current ownership to verify it has been in operation for 30+ years. Please use the list of supplemental documents and/or materials as a guide to help demonstrate the existence of the business prior to current ownership.**

Not applicable.

**f. Note any other special features of the business location, such as, if the property associated with the business is listed on a local, state, or federal historic resources registry.**

The building that houses Donaldina Cameron House is a registered landmark by the City of San Francisco: Landmark #44. It was constructed in 1907 after the original building was destroyed in the 1906 earthquake and fire. The building is also on the historic registry with the Presbytery USA.

## **CRITERION 2**

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

Donaldina Cameron House is a faith-based organization that has provided support to Asian women and their families for 143 years. Started by the Presbyterian Church as the Occidental Mission Home for Girls in 1874, its initial purpose was to intervene on behalf of young, Asian, immigrant females (some younger than the age of 10) who had become vulnerable and disenfranchised upon arrival into the United States. These women and girls were smuggled into the United States thereby circumventing immigration laws that excluded them. Asian women were commodities that were bought and sold (by their own families in many cases) as property in a system that became known as the "Yellow Slave Trade." Bogus "contracts" were created to enforce this system of slavery in which Asian women became domestics or prostitutes. The contractual conditions specified insurmountable recourse for women to purchase their own freedom. The number of Asian immigrant women who died in enslaved conditions in San Francisco was in the thousands. Miss Donaldina Cameron came to the Occidental Mission Home as a sewing teacher; she stayed 40 years devoting her life as a missionary creating a foundation and tradition of competency assisting Asian women who were victimized by violence and racial discrimination. Throughout the century, the mission of "... serving urban youth, adults and families through leadership, development peer group counseling, group support, crises intervention, education and advocacy" has continued without interruption.

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

Cameron House has been a part of the Chinatown fabric through its social services work for 143 years. In its very early history, Cameron House and Donaldina Cameron were part of helping young girls out of the slave trade of Chinese girls.

The organization is a survivor of the 1906 earthquake and fire. The original building was destroyed but Cameron House was rebuilt at its current location at 920 Sacramento Street. Clinker bricks that were used back in that era are very noticeable today.

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

There are numerous works about Donaldina Cameron and Donaldina Cameron House, including the following publications:

1. Gloria G. Harris and Hannah S. Cohen (2012) "Women Trailblazers of California: Pioneers to the Present (Donaldina Cameron (1869–1968), Angry Angel of Chinatown)." (<https://www.arcadiapublishing.com/Products/9781609496753>)
2. Laurene Wu McClaine (1983). "Donaldina Cameron: A Reappraisal." Pacific Historian. 27: 24–35.
3. Kirsten Twelbeck (2012). "Chinatowns in a Transnational World: Myths and Realities of an Urban Phenomenon (The Donaldina Cameron Myth and the Rescue of America, 1910–2012)." Routledge. pp. 135–163. (<https://books.google.com/books?id=FbisAgAAQBAJ>)
4. Mildred Crowl Martin (1977). "Chinatown's Angry Angel: The Story of Donaldina Cameron." ([https://sfpl.bibliocommons.com/item/show/1171866093\\_chinatowns\\_angry\\_angel](https://sfpl.bibliocommons.com/item/show/1171866093_chinatowns_angry_angel))

Other texts:

- "Ming Quong: a History of Rescuing Chinese American Girls." EMQ FamiliesFirst. Retrieved 22 April 2016. (<http://upliftfs.org/ming-quong-a-history-of-rescuing-chinese-american/>).
- Carol Green Wilson: *Chinatown Quest*, (Stanford, California, Stanford University Press, 1931 and 1950).
- Pascoe, Peggy. (1990). *Relations of Rescue: The Search for Female Moral Authority in the American West, 1874-1939*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Kristin and Kathryn Wong: "Fierce Compassion, The Life of Abolitionist Donaldina Cameron" (Saline, Michigan by New Earth Enterprises, 2012).
- Hasley, Karen J.: "Gold Mountain" (Denver, CO: Outskirts Press, 2012) character in work of fiction.

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

Yes, Donaldina Cameron.

The youngest of seven children, Donaldina was born in New Zealand and moved with her family to California when she was two. During her childhood, Donaldina had very little contact and experience with immigrant populations. Family friend Mary P.D. Browne - the former president of the Women's Occidental Board of Foreign Missionaries - took Donaldina to the Presbyterian Home in an effort to expose Donaldina to the world around her. At the home, Donaldina met Margaret Culbertson and became a sewing teacher. Culbertson and the Presbyterian Home acted as a place of refuge for freed indentured female Chinese servants, where they could be safe from the outside world and get an education. Together, Culbertson and Cameron worked to rescue Chinese immigrants until Culbertson's death in 1897.

Two years after Culbertson's death in 1897, Donaldina Cameron became superintendent of the Presbyterian Home at the young age of 25. She continued the mission of the Home, saving young Chinese immigrant women from indentured service. Contemporary sources referred to this work as "the only foreign mission enterprise ever carried on in the United States."

Many friends and relatives of these girls would leave secret messages for Donaldina at the Presbyterian Home indicating the house where a girl was held captive. Often, the Tongs, which nicknamed her "Jesus Woman," would threaten Cameron and the home. She once even spent a night in a San Jose jail while seeking the release of a Chinese woman. However, Cameron continued her mission. She was often dubbed the "Angry Angel of Chinatown," which would later become the title for a biography.

In April 1906, the great San Francisco earthquake and fire forced the evacuation of the Presbyterian Home. Donaldina was able to save records that gave her guardianship over the girls at the home, thus ensuring their safety from being forced back into servitude or prostitution. The Home itself was destroyed in the earthquake. It was rebuilt in 1907 at 920 Sacramento Street, where it still stands today.

Cameron also wrote extensively, seeking to gain financial support for her mission, in publications like *Women and Missions* and a pamphlet titled "The Yellow Slave Traffic." This writing often furthered orientalist depictions of Chinese women, but also challenged popular preconceptions that such women were incapable of integrating into American society.

Donaldina also founded two homes for Chinese children. Many of these children were orphans or the children of the rescued women. The Chung Mei Home served young boys, while the Ming Quong Home was for girls. The former Chung Mei house is today part of the Windrush School in El Cerrito, California, and the Ming Quong Home is now a part of Mills College in Oakland, California. In 1935, a third Ming Quong home--the "baby house"--was founded in Los Gatos, California. Younger Chinese American girls were taken care of here until they were old enough (age 13) to move to Oakland. That home today is part of nonprofit EMQ FamiliesFirst.

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

The mission of Cameron House services has evolved over the years resulting in the comprehensive family service organization it is today. Cameron House serves the needs of low-income and immigrant Asian youth and families in San Francisco. Thanks to thousands of faithful volunteers, devoted staff, committed Board members and enthusiastic supporters, Cameron House provides a wide variety of programs to Asian youth and families. As part of Donaldina's heritage, we offer services like: counseling; domestic violence intervention; food distribution; adult ESL and computer classes; support groups; youth afterschool and summer programs; sports, arts, and camping experiences; leadership development; and volunteer opportunities. Today we serve over 1,000 low-income immigrant children and families.

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

Cameron House serves low-income and immigrant Asian youth in San Francisco. Many of our participants are in Chinatown, but we serve all San Franciscans.

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

Yes, 920 Sacramento Street is Landmark 44 in the San Francisco historic registry. The building was built right after the 1906 earthquake. The site has housed many girls escaping the indentured servitude in Chinatown.

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

If the organization were to shut down, many families would be left without low-cost after school services and domestic violence counseling and case management. This would diminish the quality of life for this neighborhood and city. Losing a space for low income, non-English-speaking community members would diminish their quality of life.

### **CRITERION 3**

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

We are a nonprofit organization located in Chinatown. Our youth and social services have been a part of the fabric of this neighborhood for over 100 years. The historical rescues by Donaldina Cameron have resonated with the generations of families of the rescued. They give to Donaldina Cameron House and provide for a lasting legacy. The actual building itself, made of clinker bricks right after the great 1906 earthquake, remind the community of the long lasting legacy this nonprofit work has provided.

**b. How does the business demonstrate a commitment to maintaining the historical traditions that define the business, and which of these traditions should not be changed in order to retain the businesses historical character? (e.g., business model, goods and services, craft, culinary, or art forms)**

Our commitment to this part of San Francisco to provide social services and meet the needs of the community dates back to when Donaldina Cameron saved her first child from slavery in the late 1800s. We honor that by providing domestic violence counseling for women. We also provide programs that meet the needs of today's community in the spirit of the work that has been done in our over-100-year history.

**c. How has the business demonstrated a commitment to maintaining the special physical features that define the business? Describe any special exterior and interior physical characteristics of the space occupied by the business (e.g. signage, murals, architectural details, neon signs, etc.).**

The main physical feature is our clinker bricks on the outside of the building. We also still have gas lamps that were used back in the early 1900s. They are not in use, of course, but are still visible. We have tunnels running through our basement from a time where Donaldina used to hide the girls from local tongs (Chinese gangs).

**d. When the current ownership is not the original owner and has owned the business for less than 30years; the applicant will need to provide documentation that demonstrates the current owner has maintained the physical features or traditions that define the business, including craft, culinary, or art forms. Please use the list of supplemental documents and/or materials as a guide to help demonstrate the existence of the business prior to current ownership.**

The building owner, Presbytery of San Francisco, has owned the building since it was constructed in 1907. Presbytery of San Francisco owned the previous building as well, prior to the 1906 earthquake, where they did mission work.









Donaldin Cameron with Mission  
Home girl. Standing on what  
is Joice Alley today. Building  
to the left.







Ms. Cameron helping rescue a  
girl, on what is now an alley  
in Chinatown ~~the~~ named after her.



日新砂利常便





Ms. Cameron with community  
members on the front steps of  
Cameron House.







Cable Car going up Sacramento Street.  
Cameron House is the clinker brick building  
in the back ground. Photo taken across  
Sacramento on what is now Joice Alley.







30 Miss Cameron made a visit to Chicago to see some of the girls  
who had come from the mission.

1920-1930

















金美倫堂

DONALDINA CAMERON HOUSE

920 SACRAMENTO STREET  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94108

EST. 1874  
PRESBYTERIAN MISSION HOME  
於1874年建立為“長老會使命基地”

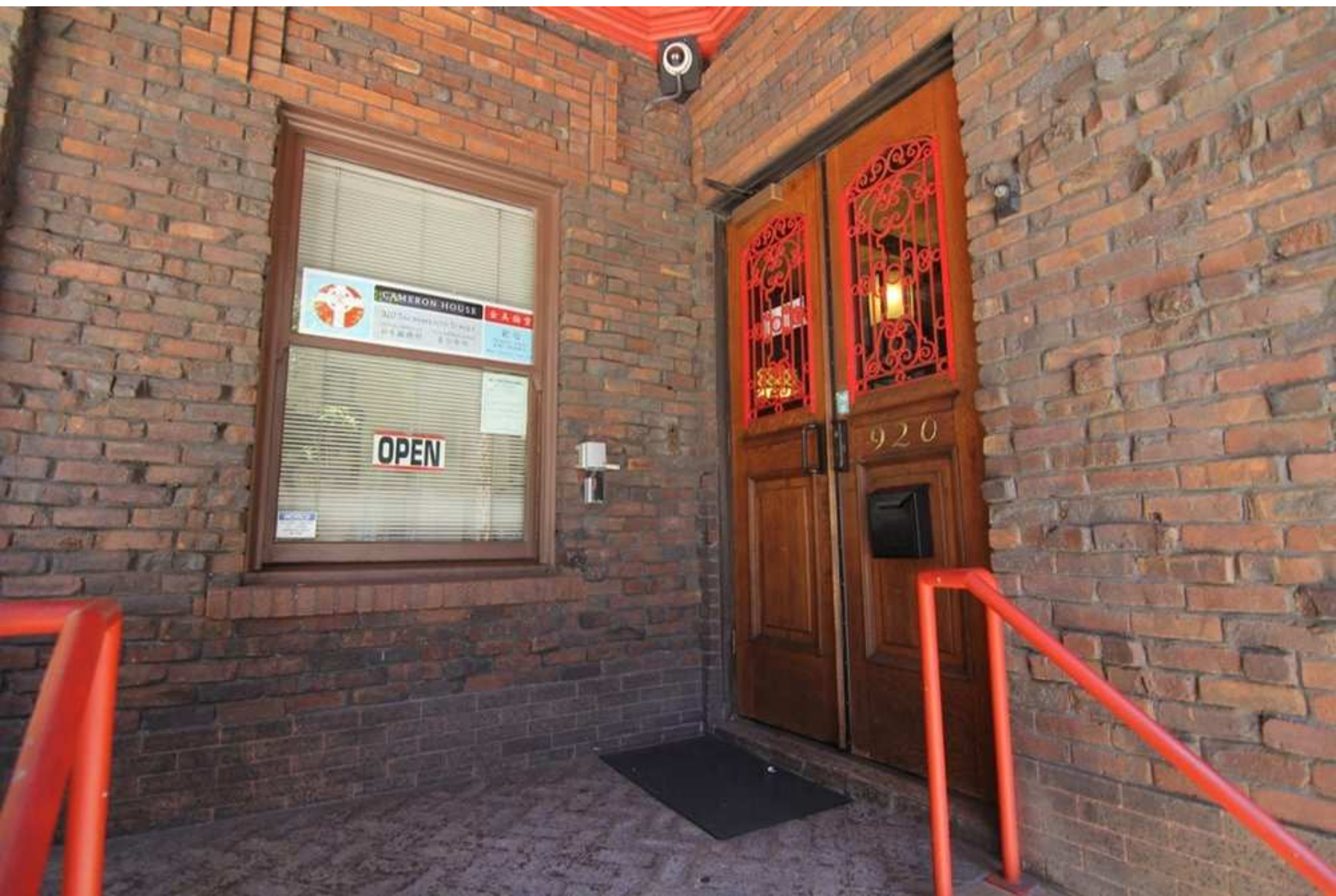
MONDAY - FRIDAY : 9AM - 12NOON, 1PM - 5PM



HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE ENTRANCE ON JOICE ALLEY  
殘障人士入口處

[www.cameronhouse.org](http://www.cameronhouse.org)











## IN THE LIGHT

We have searched for many years  
In the light of the sun  
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There the light is  
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◎ 中國國民黨駐美國代表部 ◎



三藩市華埠男青年會  
Chinatown YMCA  
San Francisco  
We build strong kids, strong families,  
strong communities.  
我們造就健全的青少年  
建立健全的家及社區

 CAMERON HOUSE  
Serving the Community  
since 1874  
金美倫堂 自1874年起就在華埠社區服務





## NoeHill in San Francisco

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### San Francisco Landmarks



17 February 2004  
(Click Photo to Zoom)

**San Francisco Landmark #44**  
**Donaldina Cameron House**  
**920 Sacramento Street at**  
**Joice**  
**Built 1908**

In 1873, the Presbyterian Church opened the Occidental Mission House at 920 Sacramento Street to rescue Chinese girls and women from prostitution, sweatshops and domestic service. The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, which prohibited Chinese men from sending for their families or marrying a non-Chinese woman, resulted in a huge imbalance between men and women in Chinatown.

In 1895, the young Donaldina Cameron from New Zealand began to teach sewing at the Mission Home. She soon learned to rescue girls in nighttime raids assisted by policemen with axes and sledgehammers and to provide them physical and legal protection from the Tongs who considered the girls to be their property. By 1900, Cameron

was superintendent of Mission Home. To the Tongs she is *Fahn Quai* ( white devil) and to her girls, *Lo Mo* (old mother).

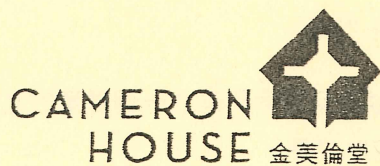
As Chinatown burned following the 1906 Earthquake, fireman dynamited the mission house in an unsuccessful effort to create a fire break. The building was rebuilt in 1908 in the same location using bricks salvaged from the original building. [Julia Morgan](#) was the architect.

Cameron continued to defend the rights of Chinese immigrants until her retirement in 1934, but Congress did not repeal the Chinese Exclusionary Acts until 1943. That same year, all San Franciscans of Japanese ancestry were transported to remote internment camps such as [Manzanar](#) and [Tule Lake](#).

Cameron died in Palo Alto in 1968.

Cameron House continues to serve Asian communities in the San Francisco Bay Area. You can read more about Donaldina Cameron and Cameron House at [cameronhouse.org](http://cameronhouse.org).





Serving San Francisco's Asian Community for 42 years

Donaldina Cameron House empowers generations of Chinese American individuals and their families to fully participate in and contribute positively toward a healthy society. We put our Christian faith in action to help people learn, heal, and thrive.

### CURRENT PROGRAMS

**Asian Domestic Violence** assistance is provided to Asian women and children who find themselves victims of batterers. Services include case management, counseling, advocacy, resources and referrals.

**Bilingual Afterschool Program (BAP)** is a mentoring program that offers academic tutoring, help with social and emotional development, and enrichment activities. Program provides children from the 1st to 8th grades a safe and fun environment to complete homework and learn new things. It featured 1 hour of school based enrichment classes to help further the learning of our youth. BAP includes: daily snacks, outdoor recreation, Kitchen Medicine (cooking for mind, body, and soul), arts and crafts, computer access for study and research, and special holiday events.

**Branches Youth Program (BYP)** is an educational and recreational summer program for 1st through 5th grade youth with a focus on academic subjects such as Math, English, Science, Cultural Studies, and Physical Education. We also include enrichment activities, including arts and crafts, music, cooking, and cooperative games that help children make new friends. Participants will go on field trips to get better acquainted with the City and to supplement enrichment activities. Through every activity, children learn the importance and value of self-esteem, friendship, teamwork, and community.

**Cameron Ventures** is a summer day camp program that offers outdoors recreational activities for 1st through 5th grade youth. Youth are challenged to increase their physical, mental, spiritual, and social skills through games, songs, field trips, devotions, cookouts, arts and crafts, and other educational and recreational activities.

**Cantonese Women's Support Group** offers emotional and spiritual support, friendship and networking tailored to the needs of women who are domestic violence survivors.

**Chinese Cancer Support Group** meets 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday from 1:30pm to 3:30pm offering support services in Mandarin and Cantonese to cancer survivors and their families. A group of trained volunteers known as the *Friends of Ai* makes home and hospital visits to members of the Chinese Cancer Support Group to offer emotional support.

**Community Education** is provided through the Chinese Current and the Chinese media. Staff provides training and education about our services to community service agencies and schools.

**Community Resources and Adult Education Program** offers small group beginner's level ESL classes and Computer classes for adults to improve their English proficiency and Computer skills and use them as a daily life skill. Support services are offered to individuals and families to navigate and access community resources.

**Counseling Services** in Cantonese, Mandarin, and English is provided to individuals, couples or families. Clients come seek help with spousal problems, intergenerational issues, relationship issues, etc.

**Food Pantry Distribution** provides food distribution for low-income families who need this assistance.

**Friday Night Club Program** is a year-round program that nurtures middle and high school youth to grow mentally, physically, socially and spiritually. It offers youth an experience in Christian community and leadership that teaches youth to be responsible for themselves and for their community. Participation in mission trips, basketball leagues, music, and film are activities also open to active participants.

**Interactive Parent-Child Workshop for Chinese Families** is an 8-session workshop for parents and their children to learn skills and tools to build better relationship and communication with each other. Facilitated in Cantonese.

**Solid Ground** is a summer program which helps middle school youth build a strong foundation upon which they can learn and grow into healthy teenagers. In addition to cookouts, field trips, camping trips, and other educational and recreational activities, this program emphasizes leadership development and community service.

**Summer Leadership Development Program** is a summer program open to all high school students interested in youth work and leadership development. It provides the opportunity to develop leadership and life skills in a safe and nurturing environment. Summer Leaders will engage in daily planning and leading of activities such as games, songs, and crafts for 1st-8th grade youth while they gain confidence and build community with their peers.

**Westminster Woods Youth Camp** is a week-long camp experience at the end of summer for middle and high school youth. Participants get away from city life and enjoy the gift of community in the beauty of God's creation through outdoor activities, campfire, Bible study, small group discussions, skits, hiking, singing, archery, sports, swimming, and more!





服務三藩市亞裔社區一百四十二年

金美倫堂賦予歷代美國華人和其家庭積極貢獻及全面參與建立一個健康的社會。我們活出基督信仰的原則來幫助人們學習，復愈和茁壯成長。

### 服務項目

亞裔反家庭暴力服務 為受家庭暴力的亞裔婦女及兒童提供個案處理，輔導及法律與庇護轉介服務。

雙語課餘補習班 (BAP) 為一至八年級學生輔導學業，協助社交與情緒上的發展和提供一小時教育活動。給孩童一個安全和樂趣的環境來完成功課和學習新事物。補習班活動包括：茶點，戶外遊戲，藥膳與有機食物栽培計劃 (心身靈健康烹飪)，勞作，電腦和特別節日慶祝等。

金美倫堂兒童暑期班 (BYP) 為一至五年級學童而設既好玩又有教育義意的暑期計劃。重點學科，如數學，英語，科學，文化研究和體育。計劃還包括手工藝，音樂，烹飪和促進孩子結交新朋友的合作遊戲。參加學童將會實地考察熟悉城市的環境和參與教育活動。通過各種活動，孩子學會自信，友誼，團隊精神和社會的價值和重要性。

金美倫探索者夏令營 (Cameron Ventures) 為一至五年級學童而設的戶外暑期計劃。透過遊戲，唱歌，旅行，靈修，野餐，勞作，和教育及戶外活動，提升青少年體能，智能，靈性及交際技巧。

粵語婦女互助組 為受家庭暴力的亞裔婦女的小組聚會。提供情緒及精神上的支持，建立友誼及知悉社區資源。

華語癌症互助組 每月逢第二及第四個星期六，下午一時半至三時半活動。為華語癌友及家人提供精神支持和幫助。副有“友愛之音”義工小組，對互助組成員進行家居關懷或醫院探訪。

社區教育 透過<金美倫堂通訊>及中文傳播媒介，向社區機構和學校提供訓練及教育講解金美倫堂的服務項目。

### 社區資源服務及成人教育

包括幫助個人及家庭瞭解社區提供的支援服務。成人日常英語班，為提高初學者日常生活的英語水平。電腦班，課程幫助個人學習基本電腦知識，使他們能夠應用在日常生活中。

輔導服務 為粵語，普通話及英語的個人，夫婦及家庭提供婚姻，代溝和感情問題等輔導服務。

分發糧食服務 金美倫堂向低收入及有需要的家庭定期分發食物。

星期五晚俱樂部 一個長年為培養初高中青少年智能，體能，社交與靈性上成長的計劃。給青少年體驗基督教團體活動及領導才能，教導青少年為自己及社區負責。團員可參與短宣旅遊，ACBA 籃球隊，音樂及制片等活動。

親子學堂 為家長和兒女共同參與而設的八節研習班。親子之間將學習建立良好關係與交流技巧。用粵語進行。

盤石初中生夏令營 為六至八年級學生開設的暑期計劃。除野外烹飪，旅行，露營等富有教育義意和創作性活動，此計劃注重領導才能發展和社區服務。

暑期計劃義工培訓 為九年級或以上學生而設。經全面訓練後，使義工在金美倫的暑期計劃 (BYP, Cameron Ventures, Solid Ground) 中領導小學及初中孩童進行各項活動。請於五月初遞交申請表。

西敏森林青少年營 為初、高中青少年而設的為期一週的暑假尾端夏令營。團員離開大城市來到上帝創造的美好大自然中享受戶外活動，營火晚會，查經，小組討論，短劇，爬山，歌唱，射箭，運動，游泳和更多！

## DONATE

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[Home](#) > [About Us](#) > [Mission & History](#)

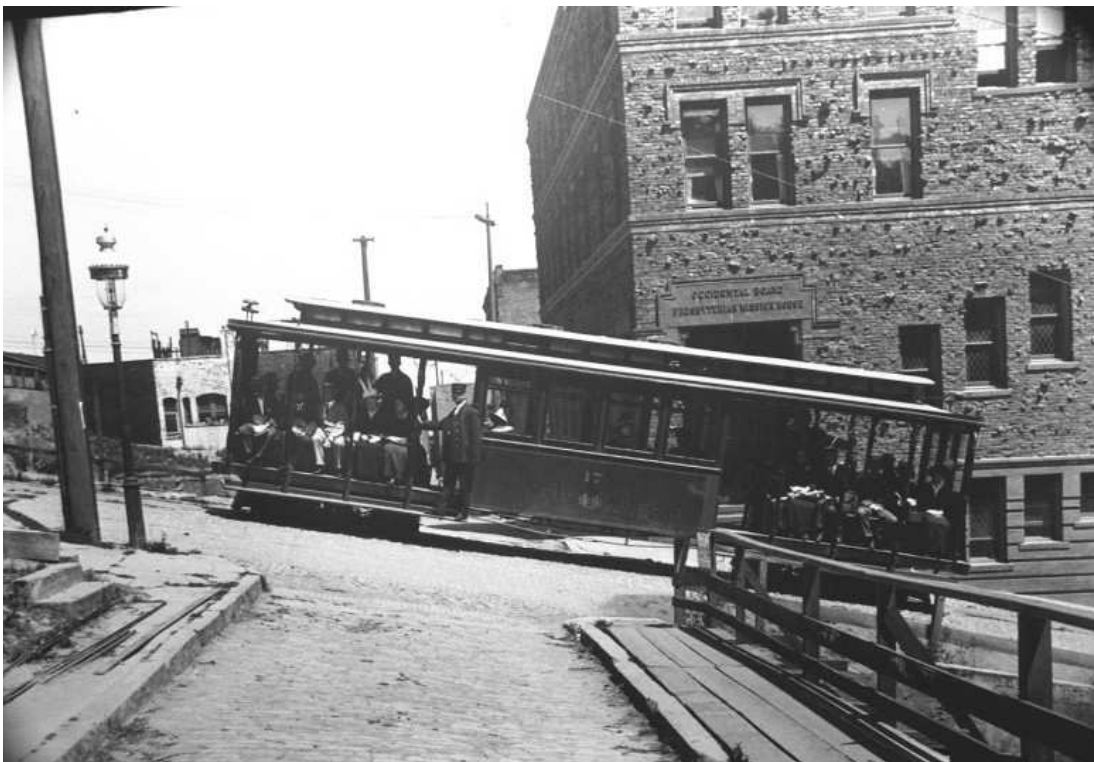
## Mission & History

### WE'RE ON A MISSION

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To empower generations of Chinese-American individuals and their families to fully participate in and contribute positively toward a healthy society. We put our Christian faith into action to help people learn, heal, and thrive.

Founded in 1874, Cameron House has a unique place in the heart of San Francisco's Chinatown, where we have served the changing needs of individuals and families in the community for generations.





## OUR ROOTS ARE DEEP

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[expand all](#) [collapse all](#)

### 1874 - OCCIDENTAL MISSION HOME FOR GIRLS

Founded in 1874 by the Presbyterian Church as the Occidental Mission Home for Girls, the home's initial purpose was to intervene on behalf of vulnerable young Asian immigrants. Forbidden from legally entering the United States by the Chinese Exclusion Act, these girls and women were smuggled into the country and sold as commodities in what came to be known as the "Yellow Slave Trade".



Sold into slavery, often by their own families, and trapped into bogus "contracts" that made it impossible to buy their freedom, many thousands of immigrant women died as prostitutes and domestic servants in San Francisco.

The Occidental Mission Home for Girls, the "Home" as it was known then, rescued these girls and taught them skills and faith.

### 1895 - DONALDINA CAMERON

At the tender age of 23, Donaldina arrived at the Occidental Mission Home for Girls as a sewing teacher. Two years later, without any prior experience, she became the superintendent. Little did she realize that the next forty years would find her dashing through alleys and across rooftops to save thousands of Chinese girls from indentured servitude and human trafficking. Although her life was threatened by those whose profits were hampered by her success, she continued rescuing and educating the girls victimized by violence and abuse.



A great challenge for the Home came on April 18th, 1906, when the great San Francisco earthquake and fire woke the girls in the early morning. Although the Home withstood the initial shaking, it was ultimately destroyed by dynamite as the city attempted to stop the fire from spreading. Donaldina and all the girls found safety in the East Bay while the Home was rebuilt in the same location at 920 Sacramento Street, where it still stands today.

Donaldina retired from the Home in 1934, and in 1942 it was renamed the Donaldina Cameron House. By the time of her death in 1968, Donaldina had become a “national icon” and is credited with helping 3,000 girls escape brutal enslavement.

## 1940'S - CHINATOWN FAMILIES

With the repeal of the Chinese Exclusion Act in 1943 and the falling numbers of girls being rescued throughout the late 1930s, the needs of the Chinatown community were changing. In response to the growing number of families needing support and a safe place away from the racism of greater San Francisco, Cameron House began expanding its services to offer faith-based programs for youth in addition to social services for women.



## CONTINUING MISSION - ADAPTING TO THE NEEDS OF CHINESE AMERICAN FAMILIES



The mission of Cameron House services has evolved over the years resulting in the comprehensive family service organization it is today. Cameron House serves the needs of low-income and immigrant Asian youth and families in San Francisco. . Thanks to thousands of faithful volunteers, devoted staff, committed Board members, and enthusiastic supporters like you, Cameron House provides a wide variety of programs to Asian youth and families. As part of Donaldina's heritage, we are proud to offer services like: counseling; domestic violence intervention; food distribution; adult ESL and computer classes; support groups; youth afterschool and summer programs; sports, arts, and camping experiences; leadership development; and volunteer opportunities. Today we serve over 1,000 low-income immigrant children and families.



## FAITH STATEMENT

Rooted in the Christian faith and our Presbyterian heritage, we believe that God calls us to be an empowering presence in the community. We provide a safe place, are a trusted friend and advocate, meet people where they are, and walk with them as they fulfill their lives. We are a resource for people to explore faith and spirituality, and we believe and share Christian principles:

Our work is a manifestation of God's love—we demonstrate God's loving kindness through our service and stewardship.

All people are welcomed. Every person is worthy of love and respect and will be treated as such.

We promote justice for all.

## VALUES STATEMENT

Our values guide our behavior toward each other and the people we serve. They embrace our demonstration of God's love through acts of kindness and sensitivity in all that we do and say:

**Community.** We value our shared legacy with the Chinese immigrant community, with the Cameron House community, and our partnerships in the greater community.

**Authenticity.** We are honest and genuine; we respectfully speak the truth with compassion and loving kindness that affirms and enriches each individual and our community as a whole.

**Servant leadership.** Our leadership approach is geared to advancing the common good. In order to lead, we must also follow, contribute as peers, and serve in our communities.

**Accountability.** We hold ourselves and each other accountable in the work we do and the communities we serve. We evaluate, learn and apply the knowledge gained to strengthen our impact and advance our mission.

SHARE THIS

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June 12 - July 28, 2017



**Summer Programs Start June 12!**



Cameron House empowers generations of Chinese American individuals and their families to fully participate in and contribute positively toward a healthy society. We put our Christian faith in action to help people learn, heal, and thrive.

## Contact Us →

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San Francisco, CA 94108

415-781-0401

[info@cameronhouse.org](mailto:info@cameronhouse.org)

English

*Filing Date:* June 22, 2017  
*Case No.:* 2017-008059LBR  
*Business Name:* Donaldina Cameron House  
*Business Address:* 920 Sacramento Street  
*Zoning:* RM-4 (Residential-Mixed, High Density)/  
65-A Height and Bulk District  
*Block/Lot:* 0224/008  
*Applicant:* Donaldina Cameron House  
920 Sacramento Street  
San Francisco, CA 94110  
*Nominated By:* Supervisor Aaron Peskin, District 3  
*Staff Contact:* Stephanie Cisneros - (415) 575-9186  
stephanie.cisneros@sfgov.org  
*Reviewed By:* Tim Frye – (415) 575-6822  
tim.frye@sfgov.org

## BUSINESS DESCRIPTION

The Donaldina Cameron House (“Cameron House”) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit family resource center located in the (AREA) neighborhood. Founded in 1874, the Cameron House provides services such as youth activities, food distribution, leadership training, meals, and social services to the Chinese American community. The origins of the Cameron House can be traced back to the opening of the Occidental Mission Home for Girls in 1874, a home founded by a local Presbyterian Church whose purpose was to intervene on behalf of vulnerable young Asian women that were smuggled into the country and sold as commodities during the “Yellow Slave Trade.” The Occidental Mission Home for Girls rescued these young girls and women and taught them life skills and faith. In 1895, Donaldina Cameron, a 23 year old sewing teacher, arrived at the home to teach and eventually became the superintendent two years later. She continued to uphold the home’s mission to rescue and educate girls victimized by violence and abuse despite receiving ongoing threats by those whose “profits” were hampered by her success. In 1942, the home was renamed the Donaldina Cameron House and by the time of Donaldina’s death in 1968, the organization had become a “national icon” and was credited with rescuing and helping over 3,000 girls escape brutal enslavement. The work that the home and Donaldina have carried out has often been referred to as “the only foreign mission enterprise ever carried on in the United States” by contemporary sources.

The Cameron House began to take on a new role and provide new services to the community after the repeal of the Chinese Exclusion Act in 1943, when the needs of the Chinatown community began changing. The organization expanded to now include faith-based programs for youth in addition to social services for women. The organization also offers counseling, domestic violence intervention, food distribution, adult ESL, and youth afterschool and summer programs, among other services. For over 100 years, the Donaldina Cameron House has continually served and provided support to low-income and immigrant Asian youth, women and their families.



## STAFF ANALYSIS

### *Review Criteria*

1. *When was business founded?*

1874

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

Yes, the Donaldina Cameron House qualifies for listing on the Legacy Business Registry because it meets all of the eligibility Criteria:

- i. The Donaldina Cameron House has operated for 143 years.
- ii. The Donaldina Cameron House has contributed to the Chinatown community's history and identity through its rich history as a rescue agency for young girls during the "Yellow Slave Trade" and by adapting to and providing services for the changing needs of the community.
- iii. The Donaldina Cameron House is committed to maintaining the physical features and traditions that define its role as a historically significant service agency and humanitarian organization in Chinatown.

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

The business is associated with offering services to low-income and immigrant Asian youth and families in Chinatown.

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

Yes. The 1908 property has been previously evaluated by the Planning Department for potential historical significance. The property has been designated an Article 10 City Landmark (Landmark Number 44) and is considered a "Category A Property."

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

Yes. The property is listed as City Landmark Number 44.

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

No.

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

The business has been cited in a number of publications including but not limited to: The Examiner, 12/19/2013, "Chinatown alleyways renamed in honor of community members," by Jessica Kwong; SF Examiner, 7/6/2017, "Cameron House to hold annual carnival for Chinatown kids."

*Physical Features or Traditions that Define the Business*

**Location(s) associated with the business:**

- 920 Sacramento Street

**Recommended by Applicant**

- Commitment to offering community services to low-income and immigrant Asian youth and families
- Exterior clinker bricks
- Gas lamps that were used in the early 1900s
- Tunnels running through the basement from a time when Donaldina used to hide the first from local Chinese gangs

**Additional Recommended by Staff**

- Location in Chinatown
- Staff recommends that all interior and exterior features outlined in the landmark designation be included.



# SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

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## Historic Preservation Commission Draft Resolution HEARING DATE JULY 19, 2017

*Case No.:* 2017-008059LBR  
*Business Name:* Donaldina Cameron House  
*Business Address:* 920 Sacramento Street  
*Zoning:* RM-4 (Residential-Mixed, High Density)/  
65-A Height and Bulk District  
*Block/Lot:* 0224/008  
*Applicant:* Donaldina Cameron House  
920 Sacramento Street  
San Francisco, CA 94110  
*Nominated By:* Supervisor Aaron Peskin, District 3  
*Staff Contact:* Stephanie Cisneros - (415) 575-9186  
stephanie.cisneros@sfgov.org  
*Reviewed By:* Tim Frye – (415) 575-6822  
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Planning  
Information:  
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**ADOPTING FINDINGS RECOMMENDING TO THE SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSION APPROVAL OF THE LEGACY BUSINESS REGISTRY NOMINATION FOR THE DONALDINA CAMERON HOUSE ("CAMERON HOUSE"), CURRENTLY LOCATED AT 920 SACRAMENTO STREET (BLOCK/LOT 0224/008).**

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

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

**WHEREAS**, the subject business has contributed to the Chinatown 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 July 19, 2017, 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 Donaldina Cameron House qualifies for the Legacy Business Registry under Administrative Code Section 2A.242(b)(2) as it has operated for 30 or more years and has continued to contribute to the community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the **Historic Preservation Commission hereby recommends** safeguarding of the below listed physical features and traditions for the Donaldina Cameron House

*Location (if applicable)*

- 920 Sacramento Street

*Physical Features or Traditions that Define the Business*

- Commitment to offering community services to low-income and immigrant Asian youth and families
- Exterior clinker bricks
- Gas lamps that were used in the early 1900s
- Tunnels running through the basement from a time when Donaldina used to hide the first from local Chinese gangs
- Location in Chinatown
- Staff recommends that all interior and exterior features outlined in the landmark designation be included.

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 2017-008059LBR to the Office of Small Business.

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED by the Historic Preservation Commission on July 19, 2017.

Jonas P. Ionin  
Commission Secretary

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:



ADOPTED:

DRAFT