



EDWARD J. VOGEL

Architect

(1867-1937)

Edward John Vogel was born in New York in 1867, the younger of two sons born to John and Eliza Vogel. Edward's father was a German craftsman from the Grand Duchy of Hesse-Darmstadt, working as a contractor in New York. His mother, known as Lizzy, brought up the boys, Louis and Edward, alone after their father died in 1873. In his twenties, Edward moved out to San Francisco and started work as a draftsman for architect Henry Geilfuss in 1890. In 1891, Vogel opened his own practice with a variety of Downtown offices, moving in 1898 to the newly-completed Claus Spreckels Building at 3rd and Market (the Call Building). A few other notable architects had offices there, including James Francis Dunn, and the designers of the building, the Reid Brothers, who had the 18th floor penthouse. Vogel maintained his office there until it was burned out in April 1906 following the earthquake.

A sampling of his earlier single-family homes and apartment buildings would include:

- Buena Vista Park - 737 Buena Vista West (1897 for Richard Spreckels);
- Presidio Heights - 3526 Sacramento (1899), 3476-80 Clay (1900, for himself),
- 3696 Clay (1900), 3675 Jackson (1901); 3268-78 Sacramento (1904);
- Lake Street - 95 5th Avenue (1904) and 420-24 Lake (6 apts., also 1904);
- Pacific Heights - 1760 Pacific (1905, 10 apts., now condominiums).

In 1901, when licensing of California architects was first legislated, Vogel was awarded one of the first State Architects Certificates ever issued, with the prestigiously early number of A12. One-half of the architects issued licenses with lower numbers were from Southern California.

After the 1906 earthquake and fire, Vogel relocated his office to the quickly-restored Shreve Building, 210 Post at Grant, where it was to remain through 1918. In 1906 he supervised the restoration of the Stevenson Building, 609 Mission at 2nd Street. His next major project was the design and construction of 2335 Pacific, for his own account. This is a large apartment building (21 units, 36,650 sq. ft.) on a prominent Pacific Heights block.

In common with most architects of his time, Vogel designed a variety of buildings, but a fine example of his houses can be seen at **2151 Green Street**, designed in 1915 for Emma B. Hufschmidt. It has rectangular form in a Classical Revival style. A cornice with block modillions wraps around the top of the house. The first story is rusticated, imparting a feeling of solidity. Windows are tripartite, and in the top story, transom bars and muntins divide each part into many small lights above a single large one. The entrance is to the side, where an oriel window can also be found. In general, the house is rich in surface texture and fine detailing, while restrained or formal in its composition and overall feeling.



Vogel wound down his practice in the 1920's, retiring to the East Bay. He died on October 10, 1937, in San Francisco, at the age of 70.