

**WALKING TOUR TO/FROM THE PAYNE MANSION
AS PART OF THE REX STOUT BANQUET
BOUCHERCON 2010**

The Payne Mansion (<http://thepaynemansion.com/>) is at 1409 Sutter Street, San Francisco – between Franklin and Gough Streets. This map will show you how to walk to or from the Payne Mansion to either enjoy the sunset to dinner, or walk off the five course meal afterward!



Designed by Curlett & Cuthbertson in 1881 as a residence for Theodore F. Payne, the Payne Mansion survived the 1906 fire to become a 128-year old historic San Francisco landmark. Serving in later years as a restaurant, an office building and even a YMCA, the Payne Mansion has kept all of its original charm and beauty. The Payne Mansion has been recently renovated, including marble flooring, lighting modifications and wall texturing to enhance the elegance of the building, while retaining the European stained glass windows and original wood work.

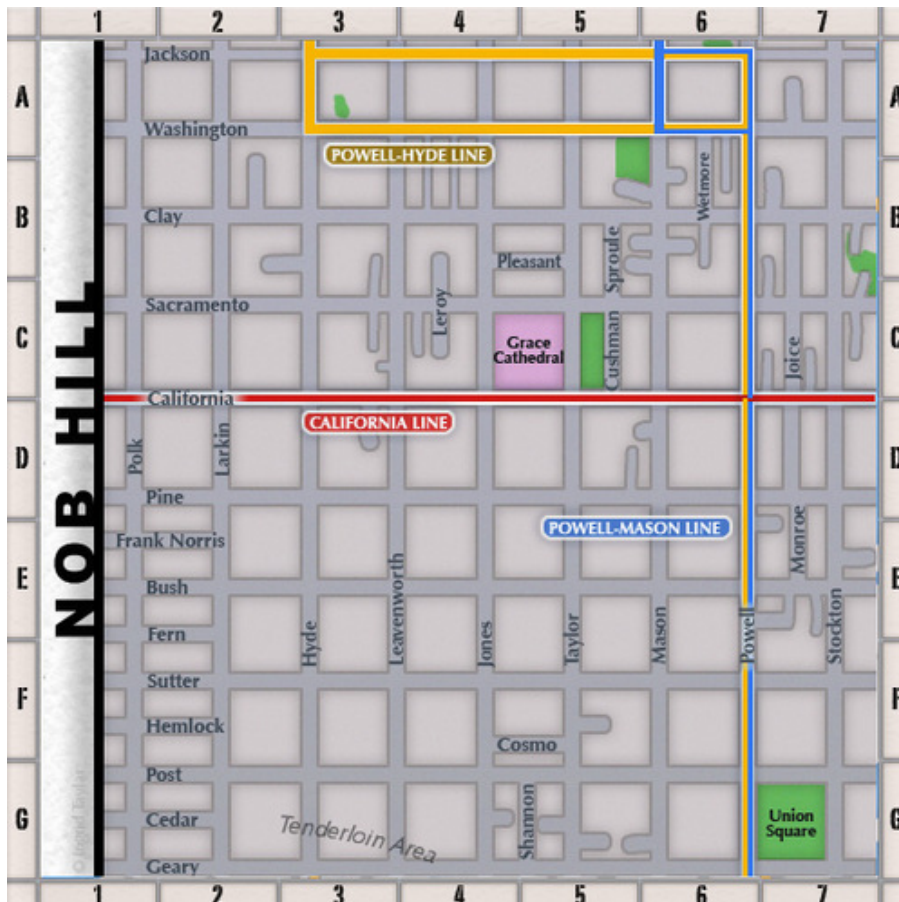
The Payne Mansion sits on Sutter between Franklin Street, just on top of the Nob Hill neighborhood (see below) with Cow Hollow to one side and Hayes Valley to the other. San Francisco is made up of many small neighborhoods and the faster you learn which neighborhood you're in, and what is next to what, the faster you'll learn your way around.

Nob Hill and Union Square. The Payne Mansion is in the Nob Hill neighborhood. It's an easy walk up or down Sutter Street, which goes through the heart of the Financial District and into the Union Square Area with its tony shops and lovely outdoor bars and bistros. You can have a drink on your way up at the bar right inside the park at Union Square. If you are walking up to the Payne Mansion, leave

the hotel and walk out to Market Street and then up Market about four short blocks to Sutter Street, and then up Sutter all the way to the Mansion. It's about 1.5 miles and will take 45 minutes to walk. If you are walking down Sutter Street, take Sutter all the way to Market Street, take a left and walk until you see the Hyatt Hotel.

Polk Gulch. If you want to be very adventurous, you can walk down Sutter Street to Polk Street. Polk Street was one of the original gay neighborhoods of San Francisco prior to the 1970's with a colorful history. It travels northward from Market Street to Beach Street and is one of the main thoroughfares of the Polk Gulch neighborhood, which moves through the Tenderloin, Nob Hill and Russian Hill neighborhoods. It was the location of the first official San Francisco Gay Pride Parade in 1972. The name arises because the street runs over an old street at the bottom of a gently-sloped alley. The neighborhood is sometimes referred to as Lower Nob Hill or the Tendernob.

Top of Nob Hill and the Big Four. Take a left on Polk Street (shown on the map below) and walk over to California Street, take a right on California and then walk the hills to Nob Hill. There you will see Grace Cathedral, and the hotels San Francisco affectionately calls the "Big Four." The intersection of California and Powell streets is the location of its four well-known and most expensive hotels: the Fairmont Hotel, the Intercontinental Mark Hopkins Hotel, the Stanford Court and the Huntington Hotel. The "Big Four" was the name popularly given to the chief entrepreneurs in the building of the Central Pacific Railroad, the west portion of the First Transcontinental Railroad in the United States: Leland Stanford (President); Collis P. Huntington (Vice President); Mark Hopkins (Treasurer) and Charles Crocker (Construction Supervisor).



Note the Cable Car lines on the map. The Cable Car fare is \$5 each way or all day passport is \$13.

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Nob Hill is an affluent district, home to many of the City's upper class families as well as a large young urban professional population, just on top of Chinatown. Opposite the Fairmont Hotel is the Pacific Union Club and Grace Cathedral.

Grace Cathedral is an Episcopal cathedral, dating from the gold rush times. Its first chapel was built in 1849, but was destroyed in the fire following the 1906 earthquake. The Crocker family donated their ruined Nob Hill property to rebuild the church. Grace Cathedral is famous for its mosaics by Jan Henryk De Rosen, a Polish painter who came to the U.S. in 1939. He ended up staying in the U.S. after the outbreak of the war and became a professor of church art at the Catholic University of America (Washington, D.C.). He designed so many murals and mosaics for churches and cathedrals over the span of his 50 year career that he lost count. There is also a replica of Ghiberti's Gates of Paradise, two labyrinths, varied stained glass windows, a Keith Haring AIDS Chapel altarpiece, and medieval and contemporary furnishings as well as its 44 bell carillon, three organs and choirs.



Grace Cathedral Doors are a copy of the doors of the Florence Baptistry by Lorenzo Ghiberti.

The Pacific-Union Club was an all male private social club founded in 1889, but originally built as the home of the silver magnate James Clair Flood and the first brownstone west of the Mississippi. Only it and the Fairmont Hotel survived the 1906 earthquake and fire of 1906 of the Nob Hill structures.

Once you have toured the top of Nob Hill, you can have a quick drink at the Top of the Mark in the Mark Hopkins (famous for its view) and then catch the cable car back down to the Embarcadero (it ends right at the Hyatt Regency).

Chinatown. Or walk down Polk Street a little further, and walk down Sacramento or Clay Streets into Chinatown. At Sacramento and Stockton you'll see the produce and live markets that line Stockton Street where the locals do their shopping. Fresh fish and Asian vegetables as well as noodles and other Asian foods are a feast for the eyes. At Bush and Grant Streets, you'll see the **Chinatown Gate:** A gloriously decorated gate marks the entry to Grant Avenue's Chinatown.



It was unveiled in 1970, and helped secure the street's status as the neighborhood's center. Once you're past the gate, you'll see elaborate 1920s streetlights sculpted to resemble golden dragons lighting the way.

Note for later: at 453 Bush Street is **Le Central**, one of the more famous restaurants in San Francisco. It is where Herb Caen, the SF Chronicle newspaper columnist, hung out and drank martinis with the likes of Willie Brown (former SF mayor) and other city dignitaries. Le Central is famous for its cassoulet.

You can then wander down Sacramento Street all the way to the Hyatt again, passing the new Wayfarer's Tavern, Chef Tyler Florence's new flagship restaurant with classic Victorian-era cocktails.



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You then find yourself coming upon the four Embarcadero Centers, a commercial complex of five office towers and two hotels. The development began in 1971 and was finally completed in 1989. The 4.8 million square foot office complex employees 14,000 people and contains retail, dining and entertainment spaces and a movie theatre.



The Embarcadero Regency is at the end (or the beginning if you walk up) of this adventure. Remember that most of where you walk is hills so be prepared to rest, and enjoy the very fresh air of San Francisco and the view.

