

DAVID SALFIELD & HERMAN KOHLBERG

Architect
(1861-1930)

Architect
(1855-1916)

David Salfield was born in Keyesport, Illinois on April 25, 1861 of German parents, who took him back to Germany when he was 6. He was educated there, including attending architectural school, but returned to the United States in 1880, settling in San Francisco. He worked as a draftsman for several architects for 4 years and then formed a partnership with Emil John, which lasted for a year.

Herman Kohlberg was born in Beverungen, Westphalia, Germany in June 1855. He graduated from high school in nearby Lippstadt and studied architecture at the technical college in Braunschweig. After a 3-year course he worked in the profession until 1882, when he emigrated to the United States, working in New York for a year and moving to San Francisco in 1883. He worked in association with other architects for 2 years and in 1885 formed a partnership with David Salfield that lasted for 30 years until he retired in 1915. Kohlberg died on July 21, 1916 in Santa Cruz at 61 years old.

In 1901, when licensing of California architects was first legislated, Salfield and Kohlberg were awarded State Certificates A51 (Kohlberg) and A52 (Salfield), the 'A' indicating that their experience exempted them from formal examinations. They had an extensive body of work from 1885 on, including homes, apartments, hotels and commercial buildings. Many were Downtown and succumbed to the the 1906 earthquake and fire, but some of the others that survived include in:

- Pacific Heights - 2441 Jackson (1891), 3014 Washington (1892), 2518 Jackson (1898),
- 1770 Pacific (1902, now 17 condos), 2137-39 Pacific (1904, 2 flats);
- Cow Hollow - 2833-35, 2837-39, 2938-40 Laguna (1897, 2 units, the last now 2 condos);
- Lower Pac. Hts. - 1947-51, 1953-57 & 1959-63 Pine (1899, 3 triplexes, all now condos),
- 2400-04 Bush/1901-11 Pierce (1900, 6 apts.);
- Presidio Heights - 3763-65 Clay (1904, now 2 condos).

In the Haight, the house at **1461 Page**, between Central and Masonic, was designed by Salfield and Kohlberg in 1902 for John G. Rapp, Vice-President and General Manager of John Rapp & Son, agents for Rainier Beer, on what was a 75 foot wide lot. The lot was later subdivided and the house now sits on the eastern 41 foot wide portion.



Sentinel Bldg.

In North Beach, the flatiron Sentinel Building (141 Columbus/916 Kearny) was designed by Salfield and Kohlberg and under construction at the time of the 1906 earthquake. The framing survived and it was completed in 1907. In 1970 it was designated San Francisco Landmark #33 and in 1989 it was bought by Francis Ford Coppola. Other buildings designed by them in the vicinity include 153-55 Columbus/935-51 Kearny, which includes the Hotel North Beach, 217-41 Columbus, 325-29 Kearny and 353-59 Kearny (all from 1907). A sample of their post-earthquake designs in other areas includes:

- Russian Hill - 1463-75 Green (1907, 7 TICs), 2401-09 Larkin (1909, 7 apts.),
- 1688 Sacramento (1909, 19 apts.), 1280 Union (1909, 6 apts.);
- Pacific Heights - 3016-20 Jackson (1910, 15 apts.);
- Inner Richmond - 4505 California/205 7th Ave. (1911, 9 apts.).

Salfield moved to Stockton in 1915, a town he knew well since the partnership had designed the court house and jail there, and developed the El Dorado Heights subdivision. He died on March 7, 1930.