Title: International Hotel (I-Hotel) Anti-Eviction Organizing Materials


Collection Number: FA-DOC 063


Acquisition Information: Donated 2015 by Paul Cox who took part in the organizing efforts to save the I-Hotel.

Size: Three boxes

Abstract: This collection contains items related to the organizing efforts to keep residents in the International Hotel in San Francisco’s Manilatown neighborhood. The Four Seas Corporation bought the hotel and in 1968 began seeking to evict the residents in order to build a parking lot on the site. Residents organized and struggled to stay in their homes from 1968-1977. Final evictions were carried out in 1977 aided by local government and law enforcement. Continued community organizing after eviction prevented the corporation from constructing their planned development, even after the building was demolished in 1981.

This collection includes flyers, pamphlets, legal documents, tenant association by-laws, internal strategy notes, a draft manuscript and newspaper clippings addressing a two-year time period from 1976-1978. Materials from the year prior to eviction document the creation and work of the International Hotel Tenants Association (IHTA), communication between IHTA committees, interaction with supporting activist organizations from outside the I-Hotel community, and communication with city officials. The year following eviction includes the sustained efforts of the IHTA and other organizations to prevent the demolition of the building and to return the residents to the hotel, including the campaign to pass a local proposition to save the hotel, and actions to physically block demolition.

Language of Materials: Primarily English, with some materials including translations into other languages.

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Historical Note: The International Hotel was a residential hotel in San Francisco’s Manilatown neighborhood housing majority Filipino and Chinese low-income seniors. The Four Seas Corporation bought the hotel and in 1968 began seeking to evict the residents in order to build a parking lot on the site. From 1968 to 1977 residents resisted eviction from their homes and called on city leaders to provide low-rent housing that allowed people to continue to live in their communities. Final evictions were carried out in 1977 aided by local government and law enforcement. Continued community organizing after eviction prevented the corporation from constructing their planned development, even after the building was demolished in 1981. In 1994 the corporation agreed to sell the property to the Catholic diocese, leading to the construction of a new I-Hotel of low-cost senior housing and the Manilatown Center which opened in 2005.

Content Description: This collection includes flyers, pamphlets, legal documents, tenant association by-laws, internal strategy notes, a draft manuscript and newspaper clippings addressing a two-year time period from 1976-1978. Materials from the year prior to eviction document the creation and work of the International Hotel Tenants Association (IHTA), communication between IHTA committees, interaction with supporting activist organizations from outside the I-Hotel community, and communication with city officials. The year following eviction includes the sustained efforts of the IHTA and other organizations to prevent the demolition of the building and to return the residents to the hotel, including the campaign to pass a local proposition to save the hotel, and actions to physically block demolition.

Subjects: Gentrification, Asian-American, Filipino-American, Housing

Keywords: Affordable Housing, Chinatown, Community Action, Eviction, Filipino Community, Housing, International Hotel (I Hotel), Manilatown, Manong, San Francisco Police, San Francisco

BOX 1 of 3

Folder 001: Pre-Eviction Organizing Materials
Flyers, legal documents, correspondence, committee reports, planning documents, and newsletters created during the period of organizing before the eviction on August 4, 1977.

Folder 002: Post-Eviction Organizing Materials
Flyers, legal documents, correspondence, committee reports, planning documents, and newsletters created during the period of organizing following the eviction on August 4, 1977. Includes documents created in support of Proposition U, and others referring to solidarity with residents of Nihonmachi facing eviction due to redevelopment plans.

BOX 2 of 3

Folder 003: Periodicals and Clippings
Newspapers and newspaper clippings with articles related to the International Hotel.

BOX 3 of 3

Folder 004: Community Organizing Notes
Handwritten notes, author unknown, referring to organizing strategies and meetings.

Folder 005: Manuscript
Typewritten draft of a manuscript documenting events related to the fight for the International Hotel. Includes handwritten notes and edits. 155 hand-numbered pages.

Folder 006: Poetry
Loose pages of typewritten poetry on a variety of topics without a clear connection to the International Hotel. Originally dispersed throughout organizing notes. One poem has organizing notes written on the back of the page.