

FILE NO. 90-87-3

ORDINANCE NO. 118-87

(Landmarks)

1 DESIGNATING THE MARK HOPKINS HOTEL AT 850 MASON STREET (ONE NOB HILL) AS A
2 LANDMARK PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 10 OF THE CITY PLANNING CODE.

3
4 Be it Ordained by the People of the City and County of San Francisco:

5 Section 1. The Board of Supervisors hereby finds that the Mark Hopkins
6 Hotel located at 850 Mason Street (One Nob Hill), Lot 2 in Assessor's Block
7 255, has a special character and special historical, architectural and
8 aesthetic interest and value, and that its designation as a landmark will
9 further the purposes of, and conform to the standards set forth in Article 10
10 of the City Planning Code.

11 (a) Designation. Pursuant to Section 1004 of the City Planning Code,
12 Chapter 11, Part 11 of the San Francisco Municipal Code, the Mark Hopkins
13 Hotel is hereby designated as a Landmark, this designation having been duly
14 approved by Resolution No. 10823 of the City Planning Commission, which
15 Resolution is on file with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors under File
16 No.

17 (b) Required Data. The description of the location and boundaries of the
18 Landmark site, of the characteristics of the Landmark which justify its
19 designation, and of the particular features that should be preserved as
20 included in the said Resolution, are incorporated in this designating
21 ordinance as though fully set forth.

22
23 APPROVED AS TO FORM:

24 LOUISE H. RENNE

25 CITY ATTORNEY

26
27
28 By Deputy City Attorney
29 Deputy City Attorney

RECOMMENDED:

CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

30
By Dean L. Macris
Dean L. Macris
Director of Planning

Board of Supervisors, San Francisco

Passed for Second Reading
March 30, 1987

§ Finally Passed
§
§ April 6, 1987
§

Ayes: Supervisors Britt Gonzalez
Hongisto Hsieh Kennedy Maher
Molinari Nelder Silver Walker

§ Ayes: Supervisors Hsieh Maher
§ Molinari Nelder Silver Walker
§ Ward
§

Absent: Supervisor Ward

§ Absent: Supervisors Britt Gonzalez
§ Hongisto Kennedy

I hereby certify that the foregoing ordinance
was finally passed by the Board of Supervisors
of the City and County of San Francisco

File No.
90-87-3

APR 17 1987
Date Approved

John L. Taylor
Clerk
Dean L. Macris
Mayor

SAN FRANCISCO
CITY PLANNING COMMISSION
RESOLUTION NO. 10823

WHEREAS, A proposal to designate the Mark Hopkins Hotel as a Landmark pursuant to the provisions of Article 10 of the City Planning Code was initiated by the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board on July 2, 1986, and said Advisory Board, after due consideration, has recommended approval of this proposal; and

WHEREAS, The City Planning Commission, after due notice given, held a public hearing on September 25, 1986 to consider the proposed designation and the report of said Advisory Board; and

WHEREAS, The Commission believes that the proposed Landmark has a special character and special historical, architectural and aesthetic interest and value; and that the proposed designation would be in furtherance of and in conformance with the purposes and standards of the said Article 10;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, First, the proposal to designate the aforementioned structure, the Mark Hopkins Hotel, as a Landmark pursuant to Article 10 of the City Planning Code is hereby APPROVED, the precise location and boundaries of the Landmark site being those of Lot 2 in Assessor's Block 255, excepting that portion of the southerly portion of the lot as indicated on the site plan attached hereto as Exhibit A.

Second, That the special character and special historical, architectural and aesthetic interest and value of the said Landmark justifying its designation are set forth in the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board Resolution 385 as adopted on July 2, 1986 which Resolution is incorporated herein and made a part thereof as though fully set forth;

Third, That the said Landmark should be preserved generally in all of its particular exterior features as existing on the date hereof and described and depicted in the photographs, case report and other material on file in the Department of City Planning Docket No. 86.237L;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Commission hereby directs its Secretary to transmit the proposal for designation, with a copy of this Resolution, to the Board of Supervisors for appropriate action.

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was ADOPTED by the City Planning Commission on September 25, 1986.

Lori Yamauchi
Secretary

AYES: Commissioners Allen, Hemphill, Karasick and Rosenblatt

NOES: Commissioners Bierman and Nakashima

ABSENT: Commissioner Nothenberg

ADOPTED: September 25, 1986

0068R
JHM:jmg

BUILDING NAME: The Mark Hopkins OWNER: Intercontinental Hotel Corporation/Lurie Company
 BUILDING ADDRESS: One Nob Hill BLOCK & LOT: 255/2 ZONING: RM-4
 (850 Mason)
 ORIGINAL USE: Hotel NO. OF STORIES: 18 LPAB VOTE: 7-0
 CURRENT USE: Hotel EXTERIOR MATERIALS: Stone, ornamental iron & bronze; terra cotta trim

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

(Describe special CHARACTER, or special HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURAL or AESTHETIC interest or value:) The Mark Hopkins is significant as a fine example of the work of the well-known architectural firm, Weeks and Day. The site of the Hotel is designated as State of California Historical Landmark No. 754. The granite retaining wall on the perimeter of the site was constructed in 1875 to support the grade for the original Mark Hopkins Mansion. The hotel was the site of meetings for the historic founding of the United Nations and during subsequent charter meetings in 1945. One of the other grand hotels in San Francisco, it became a social and cultural entertainment center of the City by the Golden Gate.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

A. ARCHITECTURE

1. Style: Spanish Renaissance, French influence in a 20th Century American expression.
2. Construction Type: Steel framework encased in concrete and faced with brick & terra cotta trim: tower crowned with Berkeley tile.
3. Construction Date: 1925 - 1926
4. Design Quality:
5. Architect: Weeks (Charles Peter) and Day (William P.)
6. Interior Quality:

B. HISTORY

(as building is significantly associated with specific)

7. Persons: Ambassadors, statesmen & crowned heads from around the world have stayed here. Since its opening, every President of the United States has been a guest. The guest roster includes Great (over)
8. Events: The hotel was the site of meetings for the historic founding of the United Nations and subsequent charter meetings in 1945. (over)
9. Patterns of History: When the United States entered World War II, San Francisco became the point of embarkation for thousands of servicemen bound for the Pacific theatre. The Top of the Mark became a popular spot for these men to spend a last liberty before (over)

C. ENVIRONMENT

(relation to surroundings, specifically in terms of:)

10. Continuity: The main entrance of The Mark Hopkins faces a triangular plaza which is in fact an extension of the plateau of Nob Hill, (over)
11. Setting: The building stands as a monumental sentinel overlooking the marvelous Bay region.
12. Importance as a Visual Landmark: By its size and prominent location, a distinctive visual symbol of the City.

D. INTEGRITY

(cite alterations and physical condition)

The top floor penthouse was converted in 1939 into a glass-walled lounge designed by the office of Timothy Phlueger. (over)

RATINGS

DCP: 1
 HERE TODAY: Page 67
 SPLENDID SURV.: N/A
 NAT'L REGISTER: --
 NAT'L LANDMARK: --
 STATE LANDMARK: #754

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

(list sources on back)

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 DATE: 7/1/86



7. Persons (contd.)

Britain's Foreign Minister Anthony Eden, Herbert Hoover, Emperor Haillie Selassie, King Ibn Saud of Saudi Arabia and Queen Juliana of Holland.

8. Events (contd.)

Although the Mark Hopkins Institute was destroyed by the fire of 1906, the original granite retaining wall which surrounds the site remains. A commemorative plaque designating the site as California Registered Historical Landmark No. 754 was dedicated on March 23, 1961.

9. Patterns of History (contd.)

Shipping out, bringing their wives and sweethearts for a drink and last look at home shores. As the ships left the Golden Gate, anxious loved ones gathered in the northwest corner of the skyroom to watch the departure, earning that section the nickname "Weeper's Corner".

Glittering balls and receptions for royalty and rollicking New Year's Eve celebrations were broadcast from the lounge by radio waves to every corner of the globe. The great dance bands of Anson Weeks, Carmen Caballero, Xavier Cugat and a host of others played at the Peacock Court. Other entertainers of the era performing here included Hildegarde, Rudy Vallee, and Dorothy Shay.

In 1973, Intercontinental Hotel Corporation assumed management of the Mark Hopkins and continues the hotel's tradition of quality service.

10. Continuity (contd.)

pedestalled by flanking precipitous Mason and California Streets. Together with the mammoth Fairmont Hotel, the Pacific Union building, the Gothic style Grace Cathedral and other 20th century towering structures, there are distinctive differences in mass, style, detail and proportion, which create a unique charm to the expansive view of the city.

D. Integrity (contd.)

In 1943, an annex was constructed on the south side of the hotel, to house KSFO radio station. The structure was also designed by the Phlueger office. It has undergone numerous interior and exterior alterations, and is not compatible with the hotel. Also by this time the stable yard south of the annex was filled for a drive, parking area and planted slope.

As part of ongoing renovation, wood window sash is being replaced with matching metal sash.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Pacific Coast Architect, Jan. 1927, page 21.
The Architect and Engineer, Jan. and April, 1931.
Catalogue of the S. F. Art Assn., Mark Hopkins Inst. of Art 1905.
S. F. Art Assn. Catalogue 1896.
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San Francisco - The Mark Hopkins 1966.
Page, Anderson and Turnbull, Mark Hopkins Hotel, June 18, 1986

Note: Credits given to Mr. Michael Corbett, Architectural Historian of Heritage, and Mrs. Gladys Hansen, San Francisco Archivist, for furnishing most of the above materials for my research.

A.B.S.