

FILE NO.

ORDINANCE NO.

RECEIVED

JAN 09 2002

CITY & COUNTY OF S.F.
DEPT. OF CITY PLANNING
ADMINISTRATION

[Ordinance to Designate the Carnegie Mission Branch Library At 300 Bartlett Street As a Landmark Under Planning Code Article 10.]

Ordinance Designating 300 Bartlett Street, The Carnegie Mission Branch Library, As Landmark No. 234 Pursuant To Article 10, Sections 1004 And 1004.4 Of The Planning Code.

Note: Additions are single-underline italics Times New Roman;
deletions are ~~strikethrough italics Times New Roman~~.
Board amendment additions are double underlined.
Board amendment deletions are ~~strikethrough normal~~.

Be it ordained by the People of the City and County of San Francisco:

Section 1. Findings:

The Board of Supervisors hereby finds that 300 Bartlett Street, the Carnegie Mission Branch Library, Lot 1 in Assessor's Block 6515, has a special character and special historical, architectural and aesthetic interest and value, and that its designation as a Landmark will further the purposes of, and conform to the standards set forth in Article 10 of the City Planning Code.

(a) Designation: Pursuant to Section 1004 of the City Planning Code, 300 Bartlett Street, the Carnegie Mission Branch Library, is hereby designated as Landmark No. 234. This designation has been fully approved by Resolution No. 535 of the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board and Resolution No. 16210 of the Planning Commission, which Resolutions are on file with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors under File No. _____ and which Resolutions are incorporated herein and made part hereof as though fully set forth.

(b) Priority Policy Findings.

Pursuant to Section 101.1 of the Planning Code, the Board of Supervisors makes the following findings:

1 (1) The designation is in conformity with the Priority Policies of Planning Code
2 Section 101.1 and with the General Plan as set forth in the letter dated January 7, 2002 from
3 the Director of Planning. Such letter is on file with the Clerk of the Board in File No.
4 _____

5 (2) The Board of Supervisors finds that this ordinance is in conformity with the
6 Priority Policies of Section 101.1 of the Planning Code and with the General Plan, and hereby
7 adopts the findings set forth in the letter dated January 7, 2002 from the Director of Planning
8 and incorporates such findings by reference as if fully set forth herein.

9 (c) Required Data:

10 (1) The description, location and boundary of the Landmark site is Lot 1 in
11 Assessor's Block 6515.

12 (2) The characteristics of the Landmark which justify its designation are described
13 and shown in the Landmark Designation Report adopted by the Landmarks Preservation
14 Advisory Board on June 20, 2001 and other supporting materials contained in Planning
15 Department Docket No. 2001.564L. In brief the characteristics of the landmark which justify
16 its designation are as follows:

17 (a) Association with patterns of social and cultural history of San Francisco during the
18 period of significance, particularly with the contesting of political and cultural power between
19 working class based groups and middle class based Progressives.

20 (b) Architectural embodiment of Progressive and City Beautiful tenets of civic grandeur
21 used as a means of social organization, particularly the acculturation of working class and
22 immigrant populations.

23 (c) Architectural embodiment of the distinctive characteristics of an early branch library
24 building, especially those delineated in "Notes of the Erection of Library Buildings".
25

1 (3) That the particular exterior features that should be preserved, or replaced in-kind
2 as determined necessary, are those generally shown in the photographs and described in the
3 Landmark Designation Report, both which can be found in the case docket 2001.564L which
4 is incorporated in this designation ordinance as though fully set forth. In brief, the description
5 of the particular features that should be preserved are as follows:

- 6 (a) Exterior composition and materials.
7 (b) The spatial volume of the Main Reading Room.
8 (c) The ornamental ceiling of the Main Reading Room.
9

10 Section 2. The property shall be subject to following further controls and procedures,
11 pursuant to this Board of Supervisor's Ordinance and Planning Code Article 10.
12

13 APPROVED AS TO FORM:
14 DENNIS J. HERRERA, City Attorney

RECOMMENDED:
PLANNING COMMISSION

15 By: _____
16 Sarah Ellen Owsowitz
17 Deputy City Attorney

By: 
18 Gerald G. Green
19 Director of Planning
20
21
22
23
24
25

SAN FRANCISCO
PLANNING COMMISSION
RESOLUTION NO. 16210

ADOPTING FINDINGS RELATED TO THE APPROVAL OF LANDMARK DESIGNATION AND RECOMMENDATION OF APPROVAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF SUCH DESIGNATION OF 300 BARTLETT STREET, THE CARNEGIE MISSION BRANCH LIBRARY, ASSESSOR'S BLOCK 6515, LOT 1, AS LANDMARK NO. 234.

1. **WHEREAS**, on June 2, 1999, the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board (Landmarks Board) established its Landmark Designation Work Program for fiscal year 1999-2000. Planning Department staff prepared Landmark Designation Reports for each of the eight sites chosen for the Landmark Designation Work Program. All eight sites were to be brought to the Landmarks Board for review, comment, and consideration of initiation of landmark designation. Included among the sites was the Carnegie Mission Branch Library, 300 Bartlett Street (also 3375 24th Street), Assessor's Block 6515, Lot 1; and
2. The Landmarks Board reviewed and endorsed the Context Statement, *Origins of the Seven San Francisco Carnegie Branch Libraries, 1901-1921*, on June 20, 2001 and directed that it be placed in the Landmarks Preservation Library. Included in the seven branch libraries was the Carnegie Mission Branch Library, 300 Bartlett Street (also 3375 24th Street), Assessor's Block 6515, Lot 1; and
3. The Landmarks Board, at its regular meeting of June 20, 2001, reviewed a draft the Carnegie Mission Branch Library Landmark Designation Report for 300 Bartlett Street prepared by Tim Kelley. The Landmarks Board considered the report to be a final Carnegie Mission Branch Library Landmark Designation Report; and
4. At its regular meeting of June 20, 2001, the Landmarks Board found that the Carnegie Mission Branch Library Landmark Designation Report described the location and boundaries of the landmark site, described the characteristics of the landmark which justifies its designations, and described the particular features that should be preserved and therefore meets the requirements of Planning Code Section 1004(b) and 1004(c)(1), such Designation Report is fully incorporated by reference into this resolution; and
5. At its regular meeting of June 20, 2001, the Landmarks Board reviewed and endorsed the description, location and boundary of the Landmark site as 300 Bartlett Street, encompassing all of and limited to Lot 1 in Assessor's Block 6515; and
6. The Landmarks Board, in considering the proposed landmark designation employed the National Register Criteria and found that the Carnegie Mission Branch Library is significant under Criterion A (associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history) and C (embodies distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose

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Carnegie Mission Branch Library
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components may lack individual distinction); and

7. At its regular meeting of June 20, 2001, the Landmarks Board reviewed and endorsed the following description of the characteristics of the Landmark which justify its designation:
 - (a) Association with patterns of social and cultural history of San Francisco during the period of significance, particularly with the contestation of political and cultural power between working class based groups and middle class based Progressives.
 - (b) Architectural embodiment of Progressive and City Beautiful tenets of civic grandeur used as a means of social organization, particularly the acculturation of working class and immigrant populations.
 - (c) Architectural embodiment of the distinctive characteristics of an early branch library building, especially those delineated in "Notes of the Erection of Library Buildings".
8. At its regular meeting of June 20, 2001, the Landmarks Board reviewed and endorsed the following particular features that should be preserved:
 - a) Exterior composition and materials.
 - b) The spatial volume of the Main Reading Room.
 - c) The ornamental ceiling of the Main Reading Room.
9. The Landmarks Board reviewed documents, correspondence and oral testimony on matters relevant to the proposed landmark designation, at the duly noticed public hearing held on June 20, 2001; and
10. At the same June 20, 2001 hearing, the Landmarks Board recommended that the Planning Commission approve the landmark designation of 300 Bartlett Street, the Carnegie Mission Branch Library, Assessor's Block 6515, Lot 1 as Landmark No. 234, pursuant to Article 10 of the Planning Code; and
11. At the same June 20, 2001 hearing, the Landmarks Board directed its Recording Secretary to transmit Landmarks Board Resolution No. 535, The Carnegie Mission Branch Library Landmark Designation Report and other pertinent materials in the case file 2000.564L to the Planning Commission; and
12. The Planning Commission reviewed the case file (No. 2000.564L) and considered the findings and recommendation of the Landmarks Board set forth in the Landmarks Board Resolution No. 535, and held a duly noticed public hearing on the matter on August 23, 2001;
13. THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, First, That the Planning Commission does hereby concur with the findings and recommendation of the Landmarks Board and **APPROVES** the landmark designation of the property at 300 Bartlett Street, known as the Carnegie Mission Branch Library, in Assessor's Block 6515, Lot 1, as Landmark No. 234;

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14. AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the special character and special historical, architectural and aesthetic interest and value of the landmark is set forth in the adopted the Carnegie Mission Branch Library Designation Report, Landmarks Board Resolution No. 535 and other materials on file in the Planning Department Docket No. 2000.564L, which is incorporated herein and made a part of thereof as though fully set forth;
15. AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Planning Commission hereby directs its Secretary to transmit the adopted the Carnegie Mission Branch Library Designation Report, the photographs and other pertinent materials in the Case File No. 2000.564L, and a copy of this Resolution of Approval to the Board of Supervisors for appropriate action.

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Planning Commission on August 23, 2001.

Linda D. Avery
Commission Secretary

AYES: Commissioners Baltimore, Chinchilla, Joe, Lim, Theoharis and Salinas

NOES: None

ABSENT: Commissioner Fay

ADOPTED: August 23, 2001

DATE:

CASE NO.:

PAGE 1

APPROVED:

PLANNING COMMISSION VOTE:

APPROVED:

PROPOSED LANDMARK NO.:

HISTORIC NAME: Mission Branch**POPULAR NAME:** same**ADDRESS:** 300 Bartlett Street, SW corner of 24th St.**BLOCK & LOT:** 6515-001**OWNER:** San Francisco Public Library
Civic Center
San Francisco, CA 94102**ORIGINAL USE:** Public branch library**CURRENT USE:** Public branch library**ZONING:** "P"**National Register Criterion (a)**

- (A) Association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- (B) Association with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- (C) Embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.
- (D) Has yielded, or may be likely to yield information important in history or prehistory.

* **Period of Significance:** 1915-present

* **Integrity:** The building presently retains reasonable integrity. Recent seismic work and alterations have resulted in the loss of the historic main stairway and conversion of the historic main entrance to a fire exit, as well as changes to the fabric of the Main Reading Room.

Article 10 Requirements—Section 1004 (b)

* **Boundaries of the Landmark Site**

The boundaries of the Landmark Site are the footprint of the building and its small lot.

* **Characteristics of the Landmark which justify its designation**

1. Association with patterns of social and cultural history of San Francisco during the period of significance, particularly with the contestation of political and cultural power between working class based groups and middle class based Progressives.
2. Architectural embodiment of Progressive and City Beautiful tenets of civic grandeur used as a means of social organization, particularly the acculturation of working class and immigrant populations.
3. Architectural embodiment of the distinctive characteristics of an early branch library building, especially those delineated in "Notes on the Erection of Library Buildings".

* **Description of the Particular features that should be preserved**

1. Exterior composition and materials.
2. The spatial volume of the Main Reading Room.
3. The ornamental ceiling of the Main Reading Room.

DESCRIPTION

Combining elements of Italian Renaissance and Spanish Eclectic styles, the Mission Branch Library is rectangular in plan, fully occupying its small lot, one story over a grade level basement, with a tiled, overhanging hipped roof. There are no major projections or recesses in the main mass. It is steel framed concrete construction, clad in cream colored glazed terra cotta.

The main elements of the symmetrical composition are large, recessed arched windows on the upper level, five on the front facade and two on each of the sides. Each has a monumental arched surround, and is divided by muntins into two concentric arches. Each is also divided in two horizontally, at the spring of the arch. Beneath each window, contained within the arched surround, is a terra cotta plaque inscribed with the names of famous authors. The plaques are topped with broken pediments. On the ground floor, beneath each upper window bay, are smaller, paired rectangular windows. There is a dentilated cornice with frieze under the overhanging roof, a belt cornice marks the upper floor level, and a plinth defines the base.

Polychrome glazed terra cotta is used for ornament, which consists of the arched window surrounds, with a garland motif interspersed with open books; the pedimented authors plaques; and the cornices. The historic main entrance, now used as an emergency exit, is centrally located on the 24th Street facade, and is flanked by pilasters and surmounted by a shallow bracketed portico. Atop the portico is a sculpted group of two figures and an open book, by Leo Lentelli. The frieze on the 24th Street facade is inscribed "MISSION BRANCH OF THE SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY".

The lower level windows are unadorned, but for iron grilles. Ornamental grillwork is also present in the transom for the historic main entrance. The original double main entrance doors also featured grillwork over glass. The new main entrance on Bartlett Street, formerly an entrance to the children's and community meeting rooms, is unornamented.

Recent alterations have resulted in the loss of the main stairway which formerly led from the 24th Street entrance up to the center of the main reading room. This stairway no longer exists. Instead, entry is in to a small lobby off Bartlett Street, which connects to a shallow new addition at the rear of the historic building. Contained in this addition are an elevator and stairway leading to a small rear entrance to the main reading room, which occupies most of the upper floor.

Most of the historic fabric of the high ceilinged main reading room is intact. The historic stairwell has been floored over. The ceiling has a central underpitched vault intersected by side vaults at each window bay, with ornamented spandrels between. Peripheral shelving beneath the windows has been supplemented with high, free standing shelves. Much of the original woodwork has survived.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

CRITERION A: SIGNIFICANT HISTORIC PATTERNS

The Mission Branch Library was the second of seven branch buildings financed by a Carnegie grant. The grant itself was the subject of

twelve years of intense political and class conflict in San Francisco. This branch was constructed in the populous, well established Mission neighborhood, which had been the site of the earliest branch library (in rented space). By providing easy access to published works for neighborhood residents, the building expresses the national and local ascendancy of Progressive political and social values, as well as the development of public libraries.

CRITERION C: POSSESSES HIGH ARTISTIC VALUES

In both its exterior composition and its grand main reading room, the Mission Branch Library possesses high artistic values. The prominent windows, chief compositional elements, impart an orderly rhythm to the design from the exterior, while inside they enshrine the books and create a site for acculturation. The historic entry path was carefully controlled, with the transition from the street, through the small constricted vestibule upwards to the grand, high ceilinged main reading room conveying a sense of intellectual and civic rebirth. Although recent alterations have redefined this entry sequence, enough of the historic fabric remains to recapture its intent.

REFERENCES:

Bean, Walton. *Boss Ruef's San Francisco*. U.C. Press. 1952

Board of Supervisors. *San Francisco Municipal Reports*. various years 1900 to 1925

Cahill, B. J. S. "The San Francisco Public Library Competition". *The Architect and Engineer of California*. May 1914.

Cahill, B. J. S. "The Work of Bliss & Faville" *The Architect and Engineer of California*. Jan 1914

Carnegie Corporation of New York Archives, Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University

Carnegie Corporation of New York, website, "Andrew Carnegie's Legacy"

Corbett, Michael R. & The Foundation for San Francisco's Architectural Heritage. *Splendid Survivors; San Francisco's Downtown Architectural Heritage*. San Francisco. California Living Books. 1979

Faville, W. B., F. A. I. A. "Phases of Panama-Pacific International Exposition Architecture" *The American Architect*. January 6, 1915

The Foundation for San Francisco's Architectural Heritage. "The Bay Region Styles: 1890-1930; Ernest Coxhead and the Regional Scene: The Transformation Game & Other Delights". (typescript, no date or author)

The Foundation for San Francisco's Architectural Heritage. "Libraries Reflect the City's Values". *Heritage Newsletter*, vol XVI, No. 4. uncredited author Donald Andreini

Issel, William and Robert W. Cherny. *San Francisco 1865-1932; Politics, Power, and Urban Development*. Berkeley, Los Angeles, London, University of California Press. 1986

Jones, Theodore. *Carnegie Libraries Across America, a Public Legacy*. Washington, D.C. Preservation Press; New York : John Wiley, 1997.

Kahn, Judd. *Imperial San Francisco; Politics and Planning in an American City, 1897-1906*. Lincoln, NB, University of Nebraska Press. 1979

LANDMARK DESIGNATION REPORT

DATE:

CASE NO.:

PAGE 4

LANDMARKS BOARD VOTE:

APPROVED:

PLANNING COMMISSION VOTE:

APPROVED:

PROPOSED LANDMARK NO.:

Kazin, Michael. *Barons of Labor*. University of Illinois Press. Urbana and Chicago. 1987

Kelley, Tim. "Origins of the Seven San Francisco Carnegie Branch Libraries, 1901-1921" Context Statement. Planning Department. January, 2001

Kortum, Lucy Deam. "Carnegie Library Development in California and the Architecture It Produced, 1899-1921". M.A. Thesis, Sonoma State University, 1990

Longstreth, Richard W. *On the Edge of the World: Four Architects in San Francisco at the Turn of the Century*. New York. Architectural History Foundation; Cambridge, Mass. MIT Press. 1983

Morrow, Irving F. "Work by John Reid, Jr., A. I. A." *The Architect and Engineer*. February 1920

Stern, Norton B. & William M. Kramer. "G. Albert Lansburgh, San Francisco's Jewish Architect from Panama"

RATINGS: 1976 Citywide Survey "3"

PREPARED BY: Tim Kelley
San Francisco Landmarks Board
1660 Mission Street, SF, CA

ADDRESS:

Attachments: 523A 523B 523L (continuation sheets) Context Statement Other...

PRIMARY RECORD

Primary # _____
HRI# _____
Trinomial _____
NRHP Status Code _____

Other Listings _____
Review Code _____ Reviewer _____ Date _____

Page 1 of 4 *Resource Name or #: (Assigned by recorder) Mission Branch Library

P1. Other Identifier:

*P2. Location: Not for Publication Unrestricted

*a. County San Francisco and (P2c, P2e, and P2b or P2d. Attach a Location Map as necessary.)

*b. USGS 7.5' Quad na Date _____ T _____; R _____; 1/4 of 1/4 of Sec _____; B.M.

c. Address 300 Bartlett Street, SW corner City San Francisco Zip 94110

d. UTM: (Give more than one for large and/or linear resources) Zone _____ mE/ _____ mN

e. Other Locational Data: (e.g., parcel #, directions to resource, elevation, etc., as appropriate) Block

*P3a. Description: (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries) 6515, lot

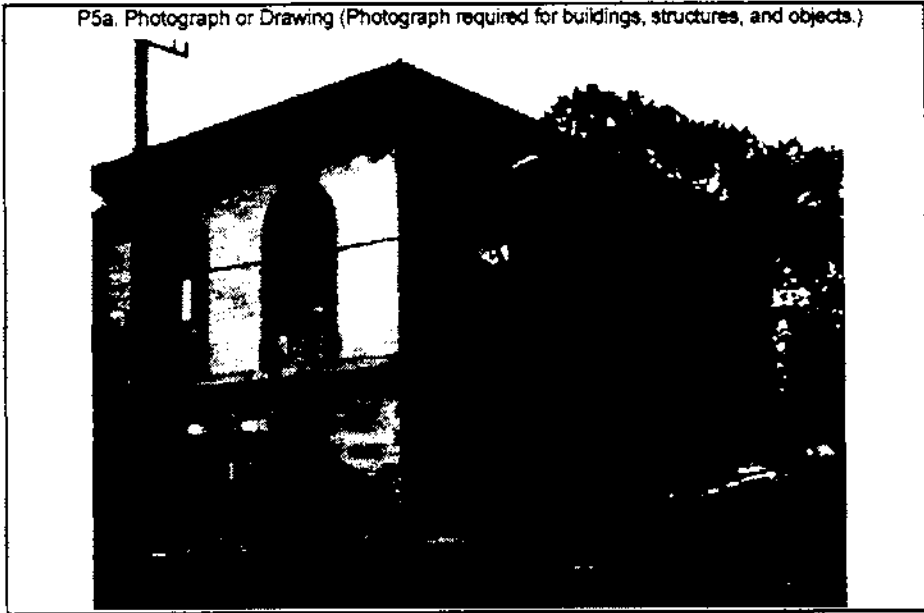
Combining elements of Italian Renaissance and Spanish Eclectic styles, the Mission Branch Library is rectangular in plan, fully occupying its small lot, one story over a grade level basement, with a tiled, overhanging hipped roof. There are no major projections or recesses in the main mass. It is steel framed concrete construction, clad in cream colored glazed terra cotta.

The main elements of the symmetrical composition are large, recessed arched windows on the upper level, five on the front facade and two on each of the sides.
(continued)

*P3b. Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) HP14 Govt. Building; HP13 Community Center;

*P4. Resources Present: Building Structure Object Site District Element of District Other

P5a. Photograph or Drawing (Photograph required for buildings, structures, and objects.)



P5b. Description of Photo: (view, date, accession #)

NE corner, new main entrance, 5/30/99

*P6. Date Constructed/Age and

Source: Historic Prehistoric Both

1915, San Francisco Public Library Trustees Report

*P7. Owner and Address:

San Francisco Public Library Civic Center San Francisco, CA 94102

*P8. Recorded by:

(Name, affiliation, and address)

Tim Kelley San Francisco Landmarks Board 1660 Mission Street, SE, CA

*P9. Date Recorded: 12/1/00

*P10. Survey Type: (Describe) Thematic Landmark Nomination

*P11. Report Citation: (Cite survey report and other sources, or enter "none.")

*Attachments: NONE Location Map Continuation Sheet Building, Structure & Object
 Archaeological Record District Record Linear Feature Record Milling Station Record Rock Art Record
 Artifact Record Photograph Record Other (List):

State of California – The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD

Primary # _____

HRI # _____

*NRHP Status Code _____

Page 2 of 4 *Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) Mission Branch Library

B1. Historic Name: Mission Branch

B2. Common Name: same

B3. Original Use: Public branch library

B4. Present Use: Public branch library

*B5. Architectural Style: Italian Renaissance, Spanish Eclectic

*B6. Construction History: (Construction date, alterations, and date of alterations)
Built 1915, Children's room added 1923, main entrance altered, stairway removed 1998

*B7. Moved? No Yes Date: _____ Original Location: _____

*B8. Related Features:

B9a. Architect: G. Albert Lansburgh b. Builder: _____

*B10. Significance: Theme Cultural History, Library Area: San Francisco

Period of Significance: 1915-present Property Type: Branch Library Applicable Criteria: A, C

(Discuss importance in terms of historical or architectural context as defined by theme, period, and geographic scope. Also address integrity.)

CRITERION A: SIGNIFICANT HISTORIC PATTERNS

The Mission Branch Library was the second of seven branch buildings financed by a Carnegie grant. The grant itself was the subject of twelve years of intense political and class conflict in San Francisco. This branch was constructed in the populous, well established Mission neighborhood, which had been the site of the earliest branch library (in rented space). By providing easy access to published works for neighborhood residents, the building expresses the national and local ascendancy of Progressive political and social values, as well as the development of public libraries. (continued)

B11. Additional Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) HP14 Govt. Building; HP13 Community Center; HP39 Other

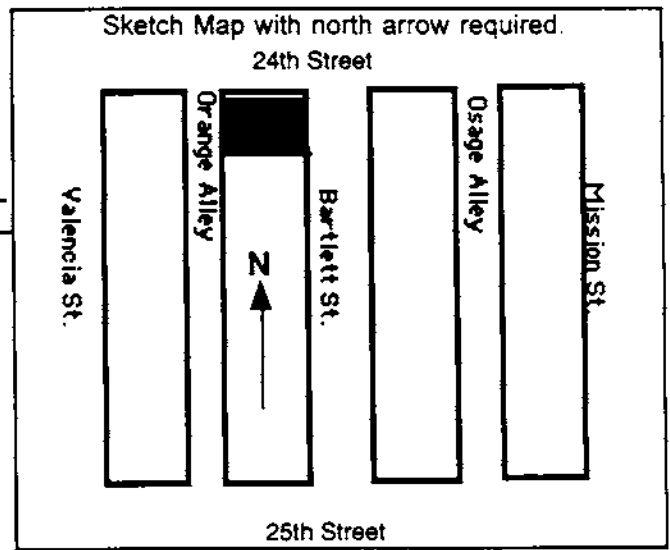
*B12. References: See continuation sheet, page 4

B13. Remarks:

*B14. Evaluator: San Francisco Landmarks Board

*Date of Evaluation: _____
(This space reserved for official comments)

Empty box for official comments.



Continuation

Update

P3a. Description: (continued)

Each has a monumental arched surround, and is divided by muntins into two concentric arches. Each is also divided in two horizontally, at the spring of the arch. Beneath each window, contained within the arched surround, is a terra cotta plaque inscribed with the names of famous authors. The plaques are topped with broken pediments. On the ground floor, beneath each upper window bay, are smaller, paired rectangular windows.

There is a dentilated cornice with frieze under the overhanging roof, a belt cornice marks the upper floor level, and a plinth defines the base.

Polychrome glazed terra cotta is used for ornament, which consists of the arched window surrounds, with a garland motif interspersed with open books; the pedimented authors plaques; and the cornices. The historic main entrance, now used as an emergency exit, is centrally located on the 24th Street facade, and is flanked by pilasters and surmounted by a shallow bracketed portico. Atop the portico is a sculpted group of two figures and an open book, by Leo Lentelli. The frieze on the 24th Street facade is inscribed "MISSION BRANCH OF THE SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY".

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Most of the historic fabric of the high ceilinged main reading room is intact. The historic stairwell has been floored over. The ceiling has a central underpitched vault intersected by side vaults at each window bay, with ornamented spandrels between. Peripheral shelving beneath the windows has been supplemented with high, free standing shelves. Much of the original woodwork has survived, including the doorway to staff space behind the librarian's desk, with a broken pediment enclosing a clock.

B10. Significance: (continued)

It also expresses the City Beautiful philosophy by presenting a building intended to create a sense of civic grandeur and dignity in the citizen who enters, or merely views it.

CRITERION C: POSSESSES HIGH ARTISTIC VALUES

In both its exterior composition and its grand main reading room, the Mission Branch Library possesses high artistic values. The prominent windows, chief compositional elements, impart an orderly rhythm to the design from the exterior, while inside they enshrine the books and create a site for acculturation. The historic entry path was carefully controlled, with the transition from the street, through the small constricted vestibule upwards to the grand, high ceilinged main reading room conveying a sense of intellectual and civic rebirth. Although recent alterations have redefined this entry sequence, enough of the historic fabric remains to recapture its intent.