

DESIGNATING ITALIAN AMERICAN BANK AS A LANDMARK PURSUANT TO
ARTICLE 10 OF THE CITY PLANNING CODE.

Be It Ordained by the People of the City and County of

San Francisco:

Section 1. The Board of Supervisors hereby finds that the Italian American Bank located at 460 Montgomery Street, being a portion of Lot 4 in Assessor's Block 239, has a special character and special historical, architectural and aesthetic interest and value, and that its designation as a Landmark will be in furtherance of and in conformance with the purposes of Article 10 of the City Planning Code and the standards set forth therein.

(a) Designation. Pursuant to Section 1004 of the City Planning Code, Chapter II, Part II of the San Francisco Municipal Code, the Italian American Bank is hereby designated as a Landmark, this designation having been duly approved by Resolution No. 8417 of the City Planning Commission, which Resolution is on file with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors under File No. 90-79-12.

(b) Required Data. The descriptions of the location and boundaries of the landmark site; of the characteristics of the landmark which justify the designation; and of the particular features that should be preserved; as included in the said Resolution, are hereby incorporated herein and made a part hereof as though fully set forth.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

CLODISE AGOST
CITY ATTORNEY

By [Signature]
Deputy City Attorney

RECOMMENDED:

CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

By [Signature]
Rai Y. Okamoto
Director of Planning

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Passed for Second Reading
Board of Supervisors, San Francisco
FEB 25 1980

Ayes: Supervisors Bardis, Britt, Horanzy, Hutch, Kopp, Lawson, Molinari, Renne, Silver, Walker, ~~Ward~~

~~None~~

Absent: Supervisors WARD

[Signature] Clerk

Read Second Time and Finally Passed
Board of Supervisors, San Francisco

Ayes: Supervisors Bardis, ~~Britt~~ Horanzy, Hutch, Kopp, Lawson, Molinari, Renne, ~~Ward~~, Walker, Ward.

~~None~~

Absent: Supervisors BRITT, SILVER

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

[Signature] Clerk

SAN FRANCISCO

CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

RESOLUTION NO. 8417

WHEREAS, A proposal to designate the Italian American Bank at 460 Montgomery Street as a Landmark pursuant to the provisions of Article 10 of the City Planning Code was initiated by the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board, and said Advisory Board, after due consideration, has recommended approval of this proposal under Resolution No. 178; and

WHEREAS, The City Planning Commission, after due notice given, held a public hearing on November 15, 1979 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 said Article 10;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, First, That the proposal to designate the Italian American Bank at 460 Montgomery Street 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 only that portion of Lot 14 in Assessor's Block 239 on which the Italian American Bank, 460 Montgomery Street is located; and

Second, That the special character or special historical, architectural or aesthetic interest or value are described and depicted in the Photographs and other materials on file in the Department of City Planning in Docket No. LM78.11 and as more fully set forth in the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board's case report titled "Italian American Bank, Final Case Report - 460 Montgomery Street, approved October 18, 1978"; and

Third, That the particular features of said Landmark which should be preserved are those shown on the said photographs and described in said case report under the heading "ARCHITECTURE".

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 at its regular meeting of November 1, 1979.

Lee Woods, Jr.
Secretary

AYES: Commissioners Bierman, Dearman, Nakashima, Rosenblatt and Starbuck.

NOES: None.

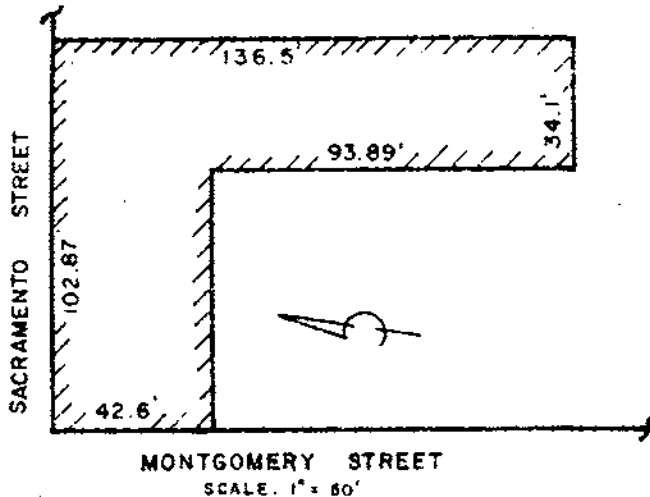
ABSTAINED: None.

ABSENT: Commissioners Christensen and Mignola.

PASSED: November 15, 1979.

This is a true and exact copy of the Resolution approved by the City Planning Commission and any changes on its face were made by me in my hand and initialed.

Lee Woods, Jr.
Secretary



Owner: Kam Chan Overseas,
Incorporated

Location: Southeast corner of
Montgomery and Sacramento
Streets, Lot 14, Block
239

STATEMENT OF
SIGNIFICANCE:

The first waves of Italian immigrants to San Francisco came from Northern Italy. They came from an area with a centuries-old tradition of quality in urban living, one manifestation of which was the architectural integrity of public or semi-public and corporate buildings; a fine example of this tradition is the Italian American Bank Building.

Its designer, John Galen Howard, is usually associated with the design of larger buildings or with grand Beaux Arts plans (UC Berkeley and San Francisco Civic Center); however, this building demonstrates that the size of the project notwithstanding, Howard's goal was excellence.

Finally, this building occupies a key position in the almost continuous row of classically colonnaded bank buildings on Montgomery Street between Clay and California Streets, and is a finely detailed example of the type.

The existing building, designed by John Galen Howard, architect, and John Debo Galloway, engineer, was constructed in 1907 for the Italian American Bank, which was founded in March 1899 by Andrea Sbarboro. Writing in the San Francisco Chronicle of May 5, 1924 on the 25th anniversary of the bank, the son and namesake of the principal founder capsulized its history:

The Italian American Bank was established in April 1899 by Andrea Sbarboro and a group of local Italian and American capitalists who foresaw the need of such a bank to care for the rapidly increasing Italian business.

The bank was the first Italian commercial and savings bank incorporated in the United States and was opened for business on the 9th day of April, 1899 with modest headquarters at 518 Montgomery Street between Sacramento and Clay.

...

During the fall of 1903, in order to properly take care of the increasing business of the bank, the directors found it necessary to move into new and larger quarters. On the morning of the 14th day of May of the following year a magnificent building was inaugurated on the corner of Montgomery and Sacramento. The inauguration was honored by the presence of his royal highness, the Duke D'Abruzzi who happened at the time to be in San Francisco as commander of the steamship Liguria, anchored in the bay.

HISTORY
(Continued):

The bank was not long installed in the new building when, on the fateful morning of the 18th of April 1906, the building was destroyed by the terrific flames which were sweeping over the city of San Francisco.

One month after the fire and earthquake the Italian American Bank announced that a new and no less magnificent building would be erected on the same location as the old one and on the morning of December 2, 1907, the present building was inaugurated. It was one of the first buildings commenced by Italians in San Francisco after the fire.

...

In 1917 it (the bank) established its branch at Columbus and Broadway.

In November, 1923, the Columbus Savings and Loan Society was merged with the Italian American Bank.

In 1927, the bank was merged into the Bank of Italy, which, after additional statewide mergers, in 1930 became the Bank of America. Andrea Sbarboro was born in Acero, Italy, on November 26, 1839; he migrated to San Francisco at the age of 13, and after working 20 years in his brother's grocery, established his own store. The financial collapse of 1873 gave rise to the formation of mutual loan associations and Sbarboro eventually founded five of these groups which financed over 2,500 homes in the Bay Area. Sbarboro was the driving force behind the establishment of the Italian Swiss Colony at Asti in 1881, and he was the first president of the Italian American Bank, an office held until his death of February 28, 1923.

Since 1955, the Italian American Bank Building has served as headquarters for Sutro and Company, stock and bond brokers, who have been established on Montgomery Street for 123 years. The firm was founded by Charles Sutro as a money and exchange office dealing in foreign coins and exchange, bullion and gold dust. Sutro was the first firm in San Francisco to handle bonds and when private wire connections with the New York Stock Exchange became available in 1900, the company was the first in San Francisco to provide the service to its customers. That wire service was the last to be operating out of the city in the fire of 1906. Sutro was the sole financial house in the downtown that was not destroyed at that time and its records are intact since 1858.

The two principals in the firm of Howard and Galloway were John Galen Howard and John Debo Galloway. Both achieved considerable stature in their professions while still relatively young. Howard, the son of Dr. Levi and Lydia Howard, was born at Chelmsford, Massachusetts on May 8, 1864. Following his graduation from the Boston Latin School in 1882, he spent three years at M. I. T., after which he entered the prestigious firm of Shepley, Rutan and Coolidge to work under the supervision of H. H. Richardson for five years. He undertook further studies at the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris. He came to San Francisco at the invitation of Phoebe Apperson Hearst to design the Hearst Mining Building at the University of

HISTORY
(Continued):

California in Berkeley. Although he had come west for what he believed would be only a temporary assignment, he stayed to accept the position of Supervising Architect, and Professor of Architecture at the University. In 1913, when the Department of Architecture was established on the campus, he became its director.

Other buildings he designed at Berkeley include the Greek Theatre, California and Wheeler Halls, Sather Gate, Sather Campanile, Boalt Hall, Doe Library, Agriculture Hall, Stephens Union, Gilman Hilgard, Hesse and Haviland Halls. He maintained an office in San Francisco for over twenty years, but apparently did not design many buildings in the city. His known work there are the Adam Grant Building at the northeast corner of Bush and Sansome and Le Conte School. He was a member of the Reconstruction Committee (of San Francisco) following the disaster of 1906. He was also Chairman of the Advisory Board for the San Francisco Civic Center and was largely responsible for its location and arrangement. He was deeply involved in the program and conduct of the competition for the City Hall and the design of the Exposition (Civic) Auditorium. Additional involvement with the Civic Center included his presence on the Advisory Committee for the San Francisco War Memorial. He served on advisory committees for three world's fairs: Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo in 1901, Alaske-Yukon-Pacific Exposition in Seattle in 1909, and the Panama-Pacific International Exposition in this city in 1915. Howard died on July 18, 1931, having spent 30 years in the service of the University of California. University President Robert Sproul had this to say of him:

"...As a teacher he impressed his students with higher ideals; as administrator, he was primarily responsible for the development of the present school of architecture.

"As a master builder he visualized and created the majority of buildings on the university campus. These buildings, in classical simplicity, are symbolic of the man, and they will preserve his memory as no other monument ever can."

John Debo Galloway was a native of San Jose, born about 1870. He attended Rose Polytechnic Institute from which he received a civil engineering degree in 1889. Major projects in which he was involved include the (old) San Mateo bridge, the Stanislaus, Las Plumas and Mocassin hydroelectric plants; and the Coyote and Shasta Dams. He died on March 10, 1943 and his obituary noted that he had been connected with nearly every major engineering project in northern California for the previous forty years.

ARCHITECTURE: Although two stories high on the Montgomery/Sacramento wing of the "L" shaped plan, this fine granite-clad steel frame structure appears from Montgomery Street to be a monumentally scaled single story structure. In the symmetrical facade, two monolithic doric columns rise from a granite base the full height of the building to an entablature surmounted by a balustrade, rather than the pediment of a true temple form.

ARCHITECTURE (Continued): The columns are set well forward of a cast iron and glass wall, and are contained between two pilasters, an arrangement termed "in antis". The window wall is deeply shadowed, and the dark green marble spandrels between upper and lower windows minimize the distinction between floors. The granite base is broken to mark the entry to the building, and paired fluted cast-iron pilasters behind the columns flank the door. The balustrade is punctuated by pedestals located directly above the columns and pilasters. The name "Sutro & Company" is carved in the frieze and is bracketed with a vegetal decoration. The cornice soffit is richly decorated, and the projection casts a strong shadow line. On the north or Sacramento Street facade, the building base, the entablature and balustrade run uninterrupted for the full length of this facade. There are no stone columns or pilasters here; rather, beginning at the corner structural steel columns are encased in granite dressed in shallow rustication for the full vertical distance between the base and the entablature. This same rustication exists at the extremities of the front facade beyond the pilasters. The north facade is divided into seven bays, that nearest Montgomery Street being about half the width of the other six. First and second story windows framed by 2 tiers of cast iron $\frac{1}{2}$ pilasters occupy the full space between the rusticated bay divisions and the base and entablature. The framework is deeply inset, and upper and lower windows are separated by marble spandrels, as at the Montgomery Street facade.

The 1904 building which was on this site prior to the present building was the bank's second home, and was seven stories high; part of its structural system and most of its foundation was found to be reuseable after the 1906 fire. Because the bank was desirous of having a columnless, monumental banking room, Howard and Galloway devised a unique structural system utilizing part of the old steel framework. The need for interior columns to support the second floor and roof was eliminated by the installation of new transverse trusses forty feet long and eight feet deep. These not only supported the roof but also had sufficient strength so that the second floor could be suspended from them. Upon completion of the building, the bank occupied the front portion of the first floor and the basement. The rest of the building, including the other wing of the "L", which runs parallel to Montgomery at the rear of 450 and 440 Montgomery, with a three story element at the end of the wing, was commercial rental space.

SURROUNDING LAND USE AND ZONING: This property is zoned C-3-0 and is located in a 450-I height limit district. The immediate area to the north on Montgomery Street is improved with low buildings, with the exception of the TransAmerica Pyramid and the 601 Montgomery Building. To the south and east there are many high-rise office buildings.

RECOGNITION IN OTHER SURVEYS: This building received a rating of A, which is the highest rating given in the Heritage Downtown Inventory. The Architectural Survey of the Department of City Planning, done in July of 1976, gives the building a rating of 3.