

ORDINANCE DESIGNATING LANDMARK

FILE NO. 90-81-8

ORDINANCE NO. 386-81

1 (DESIGNATING THE SAVINGS UNION BRANCH OF THE SECURITY PACIFIC NATIONAL BANK AS  
2 A 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 Savings Union  
6 branch of the Security Pacific National Bank located at 1 Grant Avenue, being  
7 Lot 8 in Assessor's block 313, has special character and special historical,  
8 architectural and aesthetic interest and value, and that its designation as a  
9 Landmark will be in furtherance of and in conformance with the purposes of  
10 Article 10 of the City Planning Code and the standards set forth therein.

11 (a) Designation. Pursuant to Section 1004 of the City Planning Code,  
12 Chapter II, Part 11 of the San Francisco Municipal Code, 1 Grant Avenue, The  
13 Savings Union branch of Security Pacific National Bank is hereby designated  
14 as a Landmark, this designation having been duly approved by Resolution No. 8901  
15 of the City Planning Commission, which Resolution is on file with the Clerk  
16 of the Board of Supervisors under File No. 91-81-8.

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

22 APPROVED AS TO FORM:

23 GEORGE AGOSTI  
24 CITY ATTORNEY

25 By Julian E. Holtzman  
26 Deputy City Attorney

27 RECOMMENDED:

28 CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

29 By Dean L. Macris  
30 Dean L. Macris  
31 Director of City Planning

Passed for Second Reading

Board of Supervisors, San Francisco

JUN 22 1981

AMB Ayes: Supervisors ~~Britt, Dolson, Hongisto,~~  
Kennedy, Kopp, ~~Molnari, Nelder, Renne,~~  
Walker, Ward.

~~Noes: Supervisors~~

AMB Absent: Supervisors ~~BRYTT~~ MOLINARI SILVER

Julian E. Holtzman Clerk

90-81-8  
File No.

JUL 03 1981  
Approved

Read Second Time and Finally Passed

Board of Supervisors, San Francisco

JUN 29 1981

Ayes: Supervisors Britt, ~~Dolson,~~  
Kennedy, Kopp, Molnari, Nelder, Renne,  
Walker, Ward.

~~Noes: Supervisors~~

Absent: Supervisors DOLSON HONGISTO  
SILVER

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

Julian E. Holtzman  
Mayor

SAN FRANCISCO  
CITY PLANNING COMMISSION  
RESOLUTION NO. 8901

WHEREAS, A proposal to designate the Savings Union Branch of the Security Pacific National Bank at One Grant Avenue as a Landmark pursuant to the provisions of Article 10 of the City Planning Code was initiated by the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board on March 4, 1981, 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 April 9, 1981 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 Savings Union Branch of the Security Pacific National Bank at One Grant Avenue, 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 8 in Assessor's Block 313;

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 No. 212 as adopted on March 4, 1981, 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 as described and depicted in the photographs, case report and other material on file in the Department of City Planning Docket No. LM81.3;

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 April 9, 1981.

Lee Hoods, Jr.  
Secretary

AYES: Commissioners Bierman, Karasick, Kelleher, Klein, Nakashima,  
Rosenblatt, Salazar

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

PASSED: April 9, 1981

BUILDING NAME: Savings Union Branch of the OWNER: Pacific Southwest Realty  
 Security Pacific National Bank      P.O. Box 2097, S.F., CA

BUILDING ADDRESS: 1 Grant Avenue      BLOCK & LOT: 313/8      ZONING: C-3-R

ORIGINAL USE: Bank      NO. OF STORIES: 2      LPAB VOTE: 9-0

CURRENT USE: Bank      EXTERIOR MATERIALS: Granite

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:**

(Describe special CHARACTER, or special HISTORICAL, ARCHITECTURAL or AESTHETIC interest or value:) Originally the Savings Union Bank of San Francisco. An example of what the "Architect and Engineer" called the first period of Bliss and Faville's work characterized by an "enthusiasm for the antique" and an interest in the work of McKim, Mead and White, in whose office both architects had apprenticed, its greatest importance lies in its function, together with the Wells Fargo Bank across the street as a gateway to Grant Avenue and together with the flatiron Phelan Building and other immediate neighbors, as part of a splendid group of contemporary designs. This gateway to Grant Avenue is altogether, perhaps the best of the remaining older Market Street intersections, and a suitably grand entrance to a street which comes closer than any other to embodying the ideals of the City Beautiful Movement. In composition, the building is a modified temple derived from the Roman Pantheon. Its steel frame is clad in granite and surmounted by a reinforced concrete dome. The main Grant Avenue facade is formed by a pedimented Ionic Temple front with a bas relief of Liberty by Haig Pattigan. The bronze

(may be continued on back) (over)

**EVALUATION CRITERIA**

**A. ARCHITECTURE**

1. Style: Beaux Arts Classicism
2. Construction Type: Steel Frame
3. Construction Date: 1910
4. Design Quality: (LPAB ONLY) Excellent
5. Architect: Bliss and Faville
6. Interior Quality: (LPAB ONLY) Excellent

**B. HISTORY**

(as building is significantly associated with specific)

7. Persons: Walter D. Bliss (1873-1956), architect employed by McKim, Mead and White in New York, returned to San Francisco in 1898 and formed a partnership with William B. Faville (1866-1946). Faville attended and taught at M.I.T. and also worked for McKim, Mead and White. He was elected head of the AIA in 1922. (over)
8. Events: The banking temples remain as a precise expression of the ideals of the City Beautiful Movement in architecture, social and city planning which shaped S.F.'s position.
9. Patterns of History: 1906 earthquake reconstruction. (cultural, social, political, military, economic or industrial)  
 The banking temples reflect San Francisco's important role as a center for commerce and finance. The Savings Union Bank was incorporated on June 18, 1862. (over)

**C. ENVIRONMENT**

(relation to surroundings, specifically in terms of:)

10. Continuity: Of particular importance in establishing the dominant character of the area.
11. Setting: Makes a major contribution to the streetscape.
12. Importance as a Visual Landmark: A conspicuous and familiar structure in the context of the city.

**D. INTEGRITY**

(cite alterations and physical condition) Has suffered no visible alteration and retains all of its original materials and design features.

**RATINGS**

DCP: 5  
 HERE TODAY: Architects- p.329  
 SPLENDID SURV.: "A" rating, p.75  
 NAT'L REGISTER: Eligible  
 NAT'L LANDMARK: -  
 STATE LANDMARK: -

BIBLIOGRAPHY: Statement of Significance from  
 (list sources on back) Splendid Survivors p.75.

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 San Francisco, CA  
 PHONE: 558-3055  
 DATE: 2/24/81

From material submitted by Patrick McGrew



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE, continued

doors representing "the historical succession of races in the state" and the interior furnishings are by Arthur Mathews."

HISTORY, continued

- 7) Among Bliss and Faville's works are the St. Francis Hotel, the Bank of California, and the University Club.
  
- 8) In 1910, it merged with the San Francisco Savings and Loan Society and became the Savings Union Bank and Trust Company. In 1920, this entity merged with the Mercantile Trust Company of California. In 1927, this company merged with the American Bank of San Francisco to form the American Trust Company, which in turn was absorbed by Wells Fargo Bank in 1960. Security Pacific National Bank purchased the 1 Grant Avenue structure and maintains a branch in the building.

Bibliography

Corbett, Michael R., Splendid Survivors, California Living Books, S.F., 1979.

Cross, Dr. Ira B., Financing an Empire; History of Banking in California (4 volumes) S.J. Clarke Publishing Co., S.F., L.A., and Chicago, 1927.