

ORDINANCE DESIGNATING LANDMARK

DESIGNATING THE MECHANICS INSTITUTE 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 Mechanics Institute located at 57-65 Post Street, being Lot 13 in Assessor's Block 311, 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 11 of the San Francisco Municipal Code, 57 Post Street, the Mechanics Institute is hereby designated as a Landmark, this designation having been duly approved by Resolution No. 8895 of the City Planning Commission, which Resolution is on file with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors under File No. .

(b) Required Data. The description of the location and boundaries of the Landmark site; of the characteristics of the Landmark which justify its 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:

George Agnost
CITY ATTORNEY

RECOMMENDED:

CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

By Julian E. Phillips
Deputy City Attorney

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

Passed for Second Reading
Board of Supervisors, San Francisco

JUL 27 1981

Ayes: Supervisors ~~Britt, Dolson, Hongisto, Kennedy, Kopp, Molinari, Nelder, Renne, Silver, Walker, Ward.~~

~~Noes: Supervisors~~

Absent: Supervisors BRITT, HONGISTO, KENNEDY

W. H. Brennan Clerk

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

AUG 3 1981

Ayes: Supervisors Britt, Dolson, Hongisto, Kennedy, Kopp, Molinari, Nelder, Renne, Silver, Walker, Ward.

~~Noes: Supervisors~~

Absent: Supervisors WALKER & WARD

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

W. H. Brennan Clerk

SAN FRANCISCO
CITY PLANNING COMMISSION
RESOLUTION NO. 8995

WHEREAS, A proposal to designate the Mechanics Institute at 57 Post Street as a Landmark pursuant to the provisions of Article 10 of the City Planning Code was initiated by the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board on May 20, 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 June 18, 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 Mechanics Institute at 57 Post 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 those of Lot 13 in Assessor's Block 311;

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. 221 as adopted on May 20, 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 except for the ground-floor facade alterations made in connection with the Ritz Old Poodle Dog Restaurant and Jay Briggs store, and as described and depicted in the photographs, case report and other material on file in the Department of City Planning Docket No. LM81.18;

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 June 18, 1981.

Lee Woods, Jr.
Secretary

AYES: Commissioners Bierman, Kelleher, Klein, Nakashima, Rosenblatt, Wortman

NOES: None

ABSENT: Commissioner Salazar

PASSED: June 18, 1981

BUILDING NAME: Mechanic's Institute OWNER:
 BUILDING ADDRESS: 57-65 Post BLOCK & LOT: 311/13 ZONING: C-3-0
 ORIGINAL USE: Library, office and commercial NO. OF STORIES: 9 LPAB VOTE:
 CURRENT USE: Library, office and commercial EXTERIOR MATERIALS: Granite, brick

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

(Describe special CHARACTER, or special HISTORICAL, ARCHITECTURAL or AESTHETIC interest or value:)" One of the state's earliest educational institutions, located at this site since 1866, and an excellent example of a mixed use building whose internal functions are clearly expressed in the external design. The ground floor with its commercial space and monumental entranceway is surmounted by two floors of well-lit library floors, with offices above that. The composition is a three part vertical block. Ornamentation is Renaissance/Baroque. The marble elevator lobby is decorated with an Arthur Mathew's mural and is the endpoint of a very beautiful circular iron and marble stairway. The Mechanic's Institute itself occupies three floors, two of them housing the merged Mechanic's Institute and Mercantile libraries, and the third including one of the oldest chess clubs in America. The rest of the building is occupied by offices. The building is a major San Francisco cultural landmark."¹

(may be continued on back)

EVALUATION CRITERIAA. ARCHITECTURE

1. Style: Beaux Arts Classicism
2. Construction Type: steel frame, brick curtain wall
3. Construction Date: 1909
4. Design Quality: (LPAB ONLY)
5. Architect: Albert Pissis
6. Interior Quality: (LPAB ONLY)

B. HISTORY

(as building is significantly associated with specific)

7. Persons: Albert Pissis; significant Bay Area architect whose work greatly influenced the development of the city.

8. Events:

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9. Patterns of History:

(cultural, social, political, military, economic or industrial)

(The history of the Mechanic's Institute and the Ritz Old Poodle Dog to be inserted upon compilation.)

C. ENVIRONMENT

(relation to surroundings, specifically in terms of:)

10. Continuity: The Mechanic's Institute has been located on this site since 1866. (over)

11. Setting: Built to the lot line and surrounded by office towers.

12. Importance as a Visual Landmark:

A familiar structure in the context of downtown.

D. INTEGRITY

(cite alterations and physical condition)

Minor ground floor alterations.

1. Splendid Survivors, p. 148RATINGS

DCP: 3
 HERE TODAY: -
 SPLENDID SURV.: A
 NAT'L REGISTER: -
 NAT'L LANDMARK: -
 STATE LANDMARK: -

attach photograph here

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

(list sources on back)

PREPARED BY: Jonathan H. Malone

ADDRESS: 100 Larkin Street

San Francisco, CA

PHONE: 558-3055

DATE: 4/8/81

10. Continuity

The Ritz Old Poodle Dog Restaurant, founded in 1849, has been located on this site since 1909.