

FILE NO. 90-81-23ORDINANCE NO. 53581

DESIGNATING PG & E OLD STATION J 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 PG & E Old Station J located at 569 Commercial Street, being Lot 11 in Assessor's Block 228, 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, PG & E Old Station J is hereby designated as a Landmark, this designation having been duly approved by Resolution No. 9119 of the City Planning Commission, which Resolution is on file with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors under File No. 90-81-23

(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. Patterson
Deputy City Attorney

BY Dean L. Macris
Dean L. Macris
Director of Planning

Passed for Second Reading
Board of Supervisors, San Francisco

OCT 26 1981

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

~~No Supervisors~~

Absent: Supervisor

BRITTE

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

NOV 2 1981

Ayes: Supervisors Britt, ~~Honristo~~ Honristo, ~~Kopp~~ Kopp, Molinari, Nelder, ~~Silver~~ Silver, Walker, ~~Ward~~

~~No Supervisors~~

Absent: Supervisors DOLSON KENNEDY

RENNE WARD

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

Ed. J. Brennan Clerk

Ed. J. Brennan Clerk

90-81-23
File No.

NOV
Approved 1981

Dean L. Macris
Mayor

DOCKET COPY
DO NOT REMOVE

SAN FRANCISCO

CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

RESOLUTION NO. 9119

WHEREAS, A proposal to designate the PG & E Old Station J at 569 Commercial 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 August 20, 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 PG & E Old Station J, 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 11 in Assessor's Block 228 on which the original portion of Station J stands;

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. 223 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 and as described and depicted in the photographs, case report and other material on file in the Department of City Planning Docket No. LM81.16;

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 August 21, 1981.

Lee Woods, Jr.
Secretary

AYES: Commissioners Bierman, Kerasick, Klein, Matsumura, Pakashima, Rosenblatt, Salazar

NOES: None.

ABSENT: None.

PASSED: August 21, 1981

BUILDING NAME: Pacific Gas & Electric Co. Old Station J OWNER: Paoli's Restaurant, Inc.
BUILDING ADDRESS: 569 Commercial Street BLOCK & LOT: 228/11 ZONING:
ORIGINAL USE: electrical power plant NO. OF STORIES: 2 + basement LPAB VOTE: 8-0
CURRENT USE: restaurant EXTERIOR MATERIALS: stucco

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

(Describe special CHARACTER, or special HISTORICAL, ARCHITECTURAL or AESTHETIC interest or value:)

A fine example of the high quality of architecture employed by PG&E to beautify its utility stations. The elegant proportions of the building focus attention on the concentrated burst of Renaissance/Baroque ornamentation over the entrance. This articulates a sense of power which becomes an architectural pun in light of the function for which the building was intended; the pulse generated here spread throughout the surrounding financial district.

An early example of the adaptive reuse of an industrial building for entertainment facilities, the structure housed nightclubs 'Station J' and 'Whiskey a go-go'. It is presently occupied by Paoli's restaurant.

(may be continued on back)

EVALUATION CRITERIA**A. ARCHITECTURE**

1. Style: Classical Revival with Renaissance/Baroque ornamentation (quoins, cartouche, denticulated cornice)
2. Construction Type: Concrete floors and roof with brick
3. Construction Date: 1914
4. Design Quality: (LPAB ONLY) 569 Commercial Street can be interpreted as an (over)
5. Architect: Frederick H. Meyer
6. Interior Quality: (LPAB ONLY)

B. HISTORY

(as building is significantly associated with specific)

7. Persons: Architect Frederick H. Meyer (1876-1961) was a member of the San Francisco Civic Center Commission (1913-1915), was co-architect of the Civic Auditorium, and designed other buildings including the Monadnock & Humbolt (over)
8. Events: The General John J. Pershing locomobile staff car was a familiar site parked at the doorway of the Station J nightclub.
9. Patterns of History:
(cultural, social, political, military, economic or industrial)
Exemplifies the "City" type of power station erected by PG&E in major city centers to generate electricity for "prosperity & comfort of the people of California", (over)

C. ENVIRONMENT

(relation to surroundings, specifically in terms of:)

10. Continuity: Its sophisticated design and original function set this building apart from its commercial neighbors.
11. Setting: Dignified building of modest size, in scale with block.

12. Importance as a Visual Landmark:

Dominates a crowded block due to its elegant styling.

D. INTEGRITY

(cite alterations and physical condition)

Little or no external alterations (canopy over Paoli's entrance); facade needs maintenance.

RATINGS

DGP: 4
HERE TODAY:
SPLENDID SURV.: A
NAT'L REGISTER:
NAT'L LANDMARK:
STATE LANDMARK:

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

(list sources on back)

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DATE: 3/22/81

Revised by staff 4/7/81
and 5/20/81.



4. Design Quality, continued

early, and probably unintended example of "form following function", the creed of modern architecture. The blank wall surfaces are a direct expression of the station's utilitarian function; the lack of fenestration provided optimum surfaces to attach equipment and insulate noise. However, the architectural conventions of the time and locale were acknowledged with applied Renaissance/Baroque ornamentation at the doorway, cornice, and edges of the building. The structure defers to the popular Classical Revival while at the same time it points to the approaching modern era.

7. Persons, continued

Bank buildings and eight projects for the city (branch libraries, firehouses and the DeYoung art galleries in Golden Gate Park).

9. Patterns of History, continued

their architectural style (after Willis Polk's classical prototype) was specifically chosen for its ability to "be pleasing and capable of inspiring confidence in the company's strength and ability to deliver perfect service".¹ Functionally related to adjoining PG&E plant (568 Sacramento) which is also attributed to architect Frederick H. Meyer.

¹

Architect & Engineer (Nov. 1915) page 55

Bibliography

1. Architect and Engineer of California Pacific Coast States, Volume XLIII, Number 2, November 1915, "Some Substations of the Pacific Gas & Electric Co." by Ivan C. Frickstad, pp. 55-59.
2. Architect and Engineer of California Pacific Coast States, Volume XVIII, Number 3, October 1909, article on Frederick H. Meyer.
3. Splendid Survivors: 569 Commercial Street (p. 200)
568 Sacramento Street (p. 214).

Biographical sheet on Frederick H. Meyer, produced by Ashley, Keyser and Runge - Architects (March 6, 1961.)

