

1 (Landmarks)

2 DESIGNATING THE KERRIGAN HOUSE - RUTH CRAVATH STONEYARD AND STUDIO AS A
3 LANDMARK PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 10 OF THE CITY PLANNING CODE.

4
5 Be it Ordained by the People of the City and County of San Francisco:

6 Section 1. The Board of Supervisors hereby finds that The Kerrigan House -
7 Ruth Cravath Stoneyard and Studio located at 893 Wisconsin Street, Lot 57 in
8 Assessor's Block 4162, has a special character and special historical, archi-
9 tectural and aesthetic interest and value, and that its designation as a land-
10 mark will further the purposes of, and conform to the standards set forth in
11 Article 10 of the City Planning Code.

12 (a) Designation. Pursuant to Section 1004 of the City Planning Code, Chap-
13 ter II, Part II of the San Francisco Municipal Code, The Kerrigan House - Ruth
14 Cravath Stoneyard and Studio is hereby designated as a Landmark, this designa-
15 tion having been duly approved by Resolution No. 9326 of the City Planning
16 Commission, which Resolution is on file with the Clerk of the Board of Supervi-
17 sors under File No. 90-82-2.

18 (b) Required Data. The description of the location and boundaries of the
19 Landmark site, of the characteristics of the Landmark which justify its desig-
20 nation, and of the particular features that should be preserved as included in
21 the said Resolution, are incorporated in this designating ordinance as though
22 fully set forth.

23 APPROVED AS TO FORM:

24
25 George Aghost
26 CITY ATTORNEY

RECOMMENDED:

CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

27
28
29 By George Aghost
30 Deputy City Attorney

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

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Passed for Second Reading
Board of Supervisors, San Francisco

APR 26 1982

Ayes: Supervisors Britt, ~~DOLSON~~, Hongisto,
Kennedy, Kopp, Molinari, Nelder, Renne, ~~SILVER~~,
Walker, Ward.

~~Non-Supervisors~~

Absent: Supervisors ~~DOLSON~~ ~~SILVER~~ ~~WARD~~

Walter Korman Clerk

90-82-2
File No.

MAY - 8 1982
Approved

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

MAY 3 1982

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

~~Non-Supervisors~~

Absent: Supervisors ~~KOPP~~ ~~REANNE SILVER~~

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

John Taylor Acting Clerk
Dianne Feinstein Mayor

SAN FRANCISCO

CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

RESOLUTION NO. 9326

WHEREAS, A proposal to designate the Kerrigan House - Ruth Cravath Stoneyard and Studio at 893 Wisconsin 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 December 16, 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 February 25, 1982 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 Kerrigan House - Ruth Cravath Stoneyard and Studio at 893 Wisconsin 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 57 in Assessor's Block 4162;

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 #232 as adopted on December 16, 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. 81.654L;

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 February 25, 1982.

Lee Woods, Jr.
Secretary

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

NOES: NONE.

ABSENT: Commissioner Nakashima.

PASSED: February 25, 1982.

BUILDING NAME: Ruth Cravath Studio,
Stoneyard & Home, (Kerrigan House).

OWNER: James R. Gongwer

BUILDING ADDRESS: 893 Wisconsin Street BLOCK & LOT: 4162/57 ZONING: RH-2

ORIGINAL USE: Single family residence NO. OF STORIES: 2 LPAB VOTE:

CURRENT USE: 2 residential units, artists studio EXTERIOR MATERIALS: Cedar shingle, clinker brick

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

(Describe special CHARACTER, or special HISTORICAL, ARCHITECTURAL or AESTHETIC interest or value:) Significant as a San Francisco example of Bay Area Craftsman Bungalow domestic architecture and as the home and studio of sculptor Ruth Cravath set on a lushly landscaped double (50 foot wide) lot. Built in 1905 by Frank W. Kerrigan, a police officer, the property has been the home and studio of Ruth Cravath since 1958. Miss Cravath has been active as a sculptor for the past 60 years. Her career has traced the art community of the Bay Area through most of this century. A Chicago native, Miss Cravath has served as an Art Commissioner, has taught, and still maintains her studio at this Potrero Hill site. A partial list of her commissions would include:

(may be continued on back)

EVALUATION CRITERIA

A. ARCHITECTURE

1. Style: Craftsmen Bungalow
2. Construction Type: Wood frame
3. Construction Date: 1905 (police bulletin found in wall dated 10/5/05; water records illegible, but appear to date 1905)
4. Design Quality: (LPAB ONLY)
5. Architect: Unknown
6. Interior Quality: (LPAB ONLY) A good intact example of a Craftsman style interior with fireplace, beams, beveled edge diamond shaped window lights.

B. HISTORY

(as building is significantly associated with specific)

7. Persons: Ruth Cravath is an internationally recognized sculptor who works with a variety of sculptural media. She has exhibited widely and has received many commissions, both public and private. (see over)
8. Events: As the studio and home of Ruth Cravath since 1958, the home has been the site of unveilings, artist's gatherings and other events significant in Bay Area art circles.
9. Patterns of History: (cultural, social, political, military, economic or industrial) 893 Wisconsin Street is an example of the Craftsman Bungalow style of architecture (c. 1890-1920). The twentieth century brought new perspectives on American architecture. The ornamentative excesses of the (see other side)

C. ENVIRONMENT

(relation to surroundings, specifically in terms of:)

10. Continuity: Original structure on the site; stoneyard and studio still in use.
11. Setting: Set on a large (double size) landscaped lot as a detached house, the mature plantings convey a rural atmosphere and intimacy with nature.
12. Importance as a Visual Landmark: A familiar structure in the context of the neighborhood; a good example of a style more common in the East Bay than in San Francisco.

D. INTEGRITY

(cite alterations and physical condition) Second floor added during mid-1940's to blend with character of the house; being restored 11/81 by maintaining and/or replacing original materials.

RATINGS

DCP: 2
HERE TODAY: Not mentioned
SPLENDID SURV.: N/A
NAT'L REGISTER: --
NAT'L LANDMARK: --
STATE LANDMARK: --

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

(list sources on back)

PREPARED BY: Jonathan H. Malone
ADDRESS: 100 Larkin Street
San Francisco, CA 94102
PHONE: 558-3055
DATE: December 7, 1981

From material submitted by
L. Chisholm & J. Gongwer



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Cont'd)

A partial list of her commissions include: San Francisco City Hall (Rossi bust), University of California, Davis, Hanna Boy's Center, Sonoma, Starr King Elementary School, San Francisco, IBM Plant, San Jose, St. Albert's College, Oakland, Candlestick Park, San Francisco, Chapel of the Chimes, Oakland, Treasure Island, San Francisco, St. Mark's Church, Berkeley

7. Cont'd

Several of her works are on exhibit in the Bay Area, including her statues of Saint Francis at Candlestick Park, Thomas Starr King at the Unitarian Church and the bust of Mayor Angelo Rossi in City Hall. A friend and contemporary of Ralph Stackpole and Beniamino Bufano, Miss Cravath served as sculptor member of the San Francisco Art Commission from 1937 to 1943. Miss Cravath has held classes regularly in her Potrero Hill studio, and has also taught at Mills College, San Francisco Art Institute, The College of Notre Dame and the Mendocino Art Center.

9. Cont'd

Victorian era had reached their limit. Suburbs served by streetcar lines extended the commuters range from the downtown central business district. Reaction to crowded city conditions, fueled by land speculation, urged a return to country living and depicted it as healthy and moral. Gustav Stickley wrote in Craftsman Homes (New York, 1909, p.197)

"We have planned houses for country living because we firmly believe that the country is the only place to live in. The city is all very well for business, for amusement and some formal entertainment--in fact for anything and everything that, by its nature, must be carried on outside of the home. But the home itself should be in some place where there is peace and quiet, plenty of room and the chance to establish a sense of intimate relationship with the hills and valleys, trees and brooks and all the things which tend to lessen the strain and worry of modern life by reminding us that after all we are one with Nature."

The Craftsman style is characterized by the use of native materials in a manner that blends with the site. On the interior, living areas merged together with warm panelling, a fireplace, and semiprivate nooks. The kitchen was large enough to accommodate a family meal, thus abandoning the rigidity of the formal dining room. This use of native materials in their natural state, open floor plan, and informality combined to create/reflect a particular lifestyle. Rehab Right (Oakland City Planning Department, 1978) states:

"This new attitude toward comfort and convenience meant much more than the demise of the formal dining room. It marked the introduction of the Twentieth Century California way of life. At last, the Golden State had a residential style all its own, an architecture suited to its landscape, derived from native materials, and adapted to West Coast culture."

References Consulted

Assessor's Records 1910-1929

Block books 1906, 1910

City Directories 1868-1929

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Report of Residential Building Record

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Water Department Records 1905, 1906, 1910

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Wilson, Mark A., East Bay Heritage, San Francisco, California Living Books, 1979.

Interviews Conducted

Ruth Cravath, Sculptor, 893 Wisconsin Street

Tamara Patri, Architecture Critic, Author, Potrero Hill Historian, 801 Wisconsin Street

