

(Landmarks)

DESIGNATING THE FEDERAL RESERVE 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
Federal Reserve Bank located at 400 Sansome Street, being Lot 3 in
Assessor's Block 229, 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 11, Part 11 of the San Francisco Municipal Code, The
Federal Reserve Bank is hereby designated as a Landmark, this
designation having been duly approved by Resolution No. 9547
of the City Planning Commission, which Resolution is on file with
the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors under File No. 90-82-16.

(b) Required Data. The description of the location and bounda-
ries 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 full set forth.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

George Agnost
CITY ATTORNEY

BY Thomas J. Carr
Deputy City Attorney

RECOMMENDED:

CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

BY Dean L. Macris
Director of Planning

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Passed for Second Reading
Board of Supervisors, San Francisco

NOV 29 1982

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

~~Noes: Supervisors~~~~Absent: Supervisors~~

John L. Taylor
90-82-16
File No.

DEC 8 1982
Approved

Clerk

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

NOV 29 1982

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

~~Noes: Supervisors~~

Absent: Supervisors SILVER WARD

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

John L. Taylor
Clerk
Dean L. Macris
Mayor

SAN FRANCISCO
CITY PLANNING COMMISSION
RESOLUTION NO. 9547

WHEREAS, A proposal to designate the Federal Reserve Bank Building at 400 Sansome 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 July 21, 1982, and said Advisory Board, after due consideration, has recommended approval of such designation; and

WHEREAS, The City Planning Commission, after due notice given, held public hearings on September 2, September 24, and October 28, 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, That the proposal to designate the Federal Reserve Bank Building at 400 Sansome Street as a Landmark pursuant to Article 10 of the City Planning Code is hereby APPROVED, the location and boundaries of said building described as the following improvements located on Lot 3 in Assessor's Block 229:

The U-shaped structure containing three principal eight-story facades facing Sansome Street (to the west), Sacramento Street (to the south), and Battery Street (to the east), which facades are completed in granite, and a northern facade facing Commercial Street, the eastern and western portions of which facade are eight stories high and completed in granite and the middle portion of which facade steps back four to eleven stories in height and is completed in brick (the middle portion of this facade defines the U-shape of the bank building); the western facade is set back approximately 26 feet from Sansome Street and the eastern facade is set back approximately 41 feet from Battery Street; the northern and southern facades are not set back from the street line. Specifically excluded from this designation are all the improvements located on the lot and being to the east of the eight-story Battery Street facade, including the service area/motor security platform;

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 final Case Report as adopted on July 21, 1982, which Case Report is incorporated herein and made a part thereof as though fully set forth;

Third, That the significant exterior features of said Landmark as described and depicted in the photographs affixed to the final Case Report on file in the Department of City Planning Docket No. 82.363L, shall be retained generally as they exist on the date hereof.

CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

RESOLUTION NO. 9547
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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 October 28, 1982.

Lee Woods, Jr.
Secretary

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

NOES: None.

ABSENT: None.

PASSED: October 28, 1982.

BUILDING NAME: Federal Reserve Bank Bldg.	OWNER: Federal Reserve Bank	
BUILDING ADDRESS: 400 Sansome Street	BLOCK & LOT: 229/3	ZONING: C-3-O
ORIGINAL USE: Banking hall, offices	NO. OF STORIES: 8	LPAB VOTE: 4-2
CURRENT USE: Same (proposed for sale)	EXTERIOR MATERIALS: Granite (brick in north light court)	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

(Describe special CHARACTER, or special HISTORICAL, ARCHITECTURAL or AESTHETIC interest or value.) The Federal Reserve Bank building is significant as the first structure built for this system in San Francisco, as a representative of the federal government's then (1919) growing association with monumental architecture, as an intact contribution to San Francisco's important collection of classically designed banking halls, and as an expression of the design ideals of the Panama Pacific International Exposition of 1915. 400 Sansome Street was the first location for San Francisco's regional office of the Federal Reserve which was authorized by Congressional act in 1913 with the intent of reforming the United States banking industry and monetary system. As designed by George Kelham in 1919 and completed in 1924, the building incorporates the monumental classicism favored by the federal government; the row of free-standing eagles across the entablature particularly expresses the federal presence.

(may be continued on back)

EVALUATION CRITERIAA. ARCHITECTURE

1. Style: Neo-classical
2. Construction Type: Steel frame, granite clad, supported by wooden piles. P. J. Walker Company construction superintendents
3. Construction Date: Designed 1919, completed 1924
4. Design Quality: (LPAB ONLY) Very good
5. Architect: George Kelham
6. Interior Quality: (LPAB ONLY) Notable interior banking hall, murals by Jules Guerin. Public spaces to be included in this designation.

B. HISTORY

(as building is significantly associated with specific)

7. Persons: George Kelham, an architect whose works included the Public Library, 200 Larkin Street, 1910; Russ Building, 235 Montgomery Street, 1927; Anglo-California National Bank, 1 Sansome Street, 1910 & 1924; demolished 1982; and the Shell Building, 200 Bush Street, 1912 & 1916.

8. Events: -

9. Patterns of History:

(cultural, social, political, military, economic or industrial; Throughout the history of the United States there has been considerable debate on the issue of federal (continued on back)

C. ENVIRONMENT

(relation to surroundings, specifically in terms of:)

10. Continuity: In its references to San Francisco's banking halls, the design reflects the early 20th century character of the city.
11. Setting: Original site, approximately lot line development. Due to the location on filled land, construction excavation encountered the remains of a Gold Rush era vessel 30 feet below grade. Artifacts unearthed at the time were donated to the National Maritime Museum (4/23/80).
12. Importance as a Visual Landmark: This imposing structure is a conspicuous and familiar structure in the downtown.

D. INTEGRITY

(cite alterations and physical condition) Basically intact, with important early light standards flanking the entrance, the building was expanded into the original light court in the 1920s and 1950s. The original design by Kelham was modified by the Building Committee before construction began.

RATINGS

UCP: 1

HERE TODAY: Not mentioned

SPLENDID SURV.: 8

NAT'L REGISTER: Eligible¹

NAT'L LANDMARK: -

STATE LANDMARK: -

¹ Dr. Knox Mellon, Federal Reserve
Environmental Impact Report, June 1979

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

(list sources on back)

PREPARED BY: Jonathan H. Malone

ADDRESS: 450 McAllister Street
San Francisco, CA 94102

PHONE: 438-2810

DATE: June 24, 1982

July 21, 1982

August 4, 1982



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE cont'd

As Chairman of the Architectural committee for the Panama Pacific International Exposition (PPIE) Architect Kelham was influenced by the fair's design concepts, color scheme and building materials. Jules Guerin served as the coordinator of the color scheme for this event and worked closely with Kelham. Guerin's mural depicting "Traders of the Adriatic" in the Federal Reserve Bank Building is the only known example of his work in San Francisco. The Bank Building, in terms of Kelham's overall design and Guerin's interior mural, reflects the physical expression of design ideals generated by the PPIE and exhibited only briefly in the temporary structures of the fair itself.

9. Patterns of History (economic), cont'd

versus state jurisdiction. This question has been particularly debated relative to the regulation of banking and commerce, where the added question of government interference in the marketplace came into play. The cyclical nature of the U.S. economy through the 19th and into the 20th century garnered support for federal level reforms of the banking industry. The Federal Reserve Act was signed into law on December 23, 1913. The intent of the legislation was "an act to provide for the establishment of Federal Reserve banks to furnish an elastic currency, to afford means of rediscounting commercial paper, to establish a more effective supervision of banking, and for other purposes."

Although the Federal Reserve system did not achieve all of the early goals of its proponents, it did significantly reform the banking system and serve to even out fluctuations in the U.S. economy. Its importance significantly increased throughout the 20th century, and it stands today as one of the major influences in global economics.

(BIBLIOGRAPHY, cont'd)

Corbett, Michael R., Splendid Survivors, California Living, 1979.

Stodenski, Paul and Herman E. Kross, Financial history of the United States, McGraw Hill Book Co., Inc., 1963.