

1 DESIGNATING THE LILLIE HITCHCOCK COIT TOWER AS A LANDMARK PURSUANT TO ARTICLE
2 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 Lillie Hitchcock
6 Coit Tower located on Telegraph Hill Boulevard, being Lot 12 in Assessor's
7 Block 86, has a special character and special historical, architectural and
8 aesthetic interest and value, and that its designation as a Landmark will be
9 in furtherance of, and in conformance with the purposes of Article 10 of the
10 City Planning Code and the standards set forth therein.

11 (a) Designation. Pursuant to Section 1004 of the City Planning Code, Chap-
12 ter 11, part 11 of the San Francisco Municipal Code, the Lillie Hitchcock Coit
13 Tower is hereby designated as a Landmark, this designation having been duly
14 approved by Resolution No. 272 of the City Planning Commission, which Resolu-
15 tion is on file with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors under File No. 90-83-7.

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

21
22 APPROVED AS TO FORM:

23 George Agnost
24 CITY ATTORNEY

25 BY Deputy City Attorney
26

27 JEM:vr
28 5663A

RECOMMENDED:

CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

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

Passed for Second Reading
Board of Supervisors, San Francisco

NOV 21 1983

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

~~Noes: Supervisors~~

Absent: Supervisors HONGISTO WARD

John L. Taylor Clerk

90-83-7
File No.

DEC 2 1983
Approved

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

NOV 28 1983

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

~~Noes: Supervisors~~

Absent: Supervisors KENNEDY 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.

John L. Taylor Clerk

John L. Taylor Mayor

SAN FRANCISCO
CITY PLANNING COMMISSION
RESOLUTION NO. 9843

WHEREAS, A proposal to designate the Lillie Hitchcock Coit Tower as a Landmark pursuant to the provisions of Article 10 of the City Planning Code was initiated by the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board on September 7, 1983, 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 September 20, 1983 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, Lillie Hitchcock Coit Tower on Telegraph Hill Boulevard, 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 12 in Assessor's Block 86;

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 #272 as adopted on September 7, 1983 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 described and depicted in the photographs, case report and other material on file in the Department of City Planning Docket No. 83.450L;

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 above Resolution was ADOPTED by the City Planning Commission.

Lee Woods, Jr
Secretary

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

DATED: October 20, 1983

5971A
JHM:vr

LANDMARK # 165

BUILDING NAME: Lillie Hitchcock Coit Tower OWNER: City & County of San Francisco
BUILDING ADDRESS: Telegraph Hill Boulevard BLOCK & LOT: 86/12 ZONING: P (Public)
ORIGINAL USE: Observation Tower, Monument NO. OF FEET: 155 LPAB VOTE: 6-1
CURRENT USE: same EXTERIOR MATERIALS: concrete

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

(Describe special CHARACTER, or special HISTORICAL, ARCHITECTURAL or AESTHETIC interest or value:) Erected with funds from a bequest of Lillie Hitchcock Coit, the tower is significant as a powerful visual landmark, as a reminder of the role Telegraph Hill played in San Francisco's maritime history, as an example of early support for civic improvement and beautification, and as the site of an important series of murals by a number of noted twentieth century artists.

(may be continued on back)

EVALUATION CRITERIA

A. ARCHITECTURE

1. Style: Art Moderne
2. Construction Type: reinforced concrete
3. Construction Date: 1933
4. Design Quality: (LPAB ONLY)
5. Architect: Arthur Brown, Jr. (Young & Hortmeyer, contractor)
6. Interior Quality: (LPAB ONLY)
(Publicly owned buildings) The decorative murals inside the tower were the first project funded under the federal Depression era Public Works of Art Project. Scenes depicted represent contemporary California life executed by a number of experienced as well as promising young artists. Most of the (over)

B. HISTORY

(as building is significantly associated with specific)

7. Persons: The tower was built through a bequest of Lillie Hitchcock Coit (over)
8. Events: -
9. Patterns of history:
(cultural, social, political, military, economic or industrial) The construction of Coit Tower by the City and County of San Francisco with funds (over)

C. ENVIRONMENT

(relation to surroundings, specifically in terms of:)

10. Continuity: The summit of Telegraph Hill served as a lookout point to spot vessels arriving through the Golden Gate. The original signaling system was a (over)
11. Setting: The Tower and park setting highlight Telegraph Hill, a natural feature of the city which has been a literal and figurative center of San Francisco history.
12. Importance as a Visual Landmark: By its unique design and central location atop Telegraph Hill, protected by zoning restrictions dating back to the time of its construction, Coit Tower is a preeminent visual landmark for San Francisco and the Bay area.

D. INTEGRITY

(cite alterations and physical conditions) Intact

RATINGS

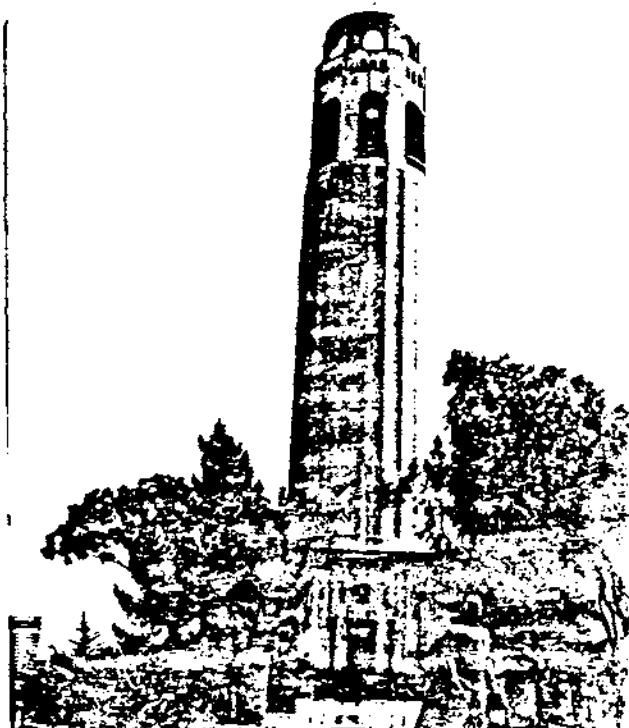
DCP: 4
HERE TODAY: P. 60
SPLENDID SURV.: Not applicable
NAT'L REGISTER: -
NAT'L LANDMARK: -
STATE LANDMARK: -

BIBLIOGRAPHY

(list sources on back)

PREPARED BY: Jonathan Malone
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PHONE: 558-2816
DATE: September 7, 1983

JHM:vr
5522A



6. Interior quality cont'd

entries are frescoes (four are oil, one is egg tempura), a technique wherein paint is applied to damp lime plaster, with the lime acting as the binding agent by incorporating the pigment. Certain aspects of the finished murals were considered too controversial in political overtone by the Art Commission, which saw that changes were made before the unveiling on October 12, 1934. (See also Landmark No. 107 - Anton Refregier murals in Rincon Annex Post Office). The artists also entered a touch of humor by incorporating the faces of several of their colleagues in the finished product.

7. Persons cont'd

(1842-1929). Lillie Coit, born in New York, came to San Francisco as a child. An admirer of San Francisco's fire brigades, she was made an honorary member of Knickerbocker Engine Company No. 5. A colorful figure in the traditions of the city, Lillie Coit lived in Paris from 1903 to 1924. Her bequest to San Francisco specified that the \$118,731 be used "for the purpose of adding to the beauty of this city I have always loved".

9. Patterns of History cont'd

from a private bequest reflects the late nineteenth, early twentieth century pattern of private contribution toward, or commissioning of, public art in the form of sculpture, monuments or fountains (see Landmark Nos. 73 and 96, Lotta's Fountain and Francis Scott Key Monument). The San Francisco Art Commission survey of 1975 records 24 works commissioned by private benefactors during the period 1879-1929, and none from 1943 to publication.

10. Continuity cont'd

manually operated device consisting of arms on a long pole. By 1853, an electric telegraph was in place. A major storm destroyed the station in 1870. Out of concern for possible future development, a group of 22 businessmen lead by J. M. MacDonald (mining stockbroker) purchased four 50-vara lots at the top of Hill, donating them in 1876 to the City to be used as "Pioneer Park". Much consideration was given to a suitable cap for the Hill. These included Daniel H. Burnham's 1905 plan for drives and terraces; John McLaren's vision of a man-made waterfall down the east side of the cliffs, and Greek Consul General Richard de Fontana's proposed replica of the Parthenon in 1912, among others.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Myrick, David, Telegraph Hill

A Survey of Art Work in the City and County of San Francisco, Office of the Mayor, 1975

1976 Department of City Planning Architectural Survey