

[Landmarks] DESIGNATING THE GRACE CATHEDRAL CLOSE EXCLUDING CATHEDRAL HOUSE AND PARKING LOT ON SACRAMENTO STREET 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 Grace Cathedral Close located 10 1051 Taylor Street, Lot 1 in Assessor's Block 246, has a special character and special historical, architectural and aesthetic interest and value, and that its designation as a Landmark will further the purposes of, and conform to the standards set forth in Article 10 of the City Planning Code.

(a) Designation. Pursuant to Section 1004 of the City Planning Code, Chapter II, part II of the San Francisco Municipal Code, Grace Cathedral Close at 1051 Taylor Street excluding Cathedral House and Parking Lot on Sacramento Street is hereby designated as a Landmark, this designation having been duly approved by Resolution No. 9917 of the City Planning Commission, which Resolution is on file with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors under File 90-84-6.

(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 incorporated in this designating ordinance as though fully set forth.

APPROVED AS TO FORM: George Agnost City Attorney

RECOMMENDED: CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

By [Signature] Deputy City Attorney BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

By [Signature] Dean L. Macris Director of Planning

RECEIVED AUG 2 1984 CITY & COUNTY OF S.F. DEPT. OF CITY PLANNING

Passed for Second Reading Board of Supervisors, San Francisco JUN 25 1984

Ayes: Supervisors Britt, Hongisto, Kennedy, Kopp, Maher, Molinari, Nelder, Renne, Silver, Walker, [Signature]

~~None~~

Absent: Supervisor WARD

[Signature] Clerk JUL 6 1984 90-84-6 File No. Approved

Read Second Time and Finally Passed Board of Supervisors, San Francisco JUL 2 1984

Ayes: Supervisors Britt, Hongisto, Kennedy, Kopp, Maher, Molinari, Nelder, [Signature], Silver, Walker, [Signature]

~~None~~

Absent: Supervisors 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.

[Signature] Clerk [Signature] Mayor

SAN FRANCISCO
CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

RESOLUTION NO.9917

WHEREAS, A proposal to designate the Grace Cathedral Close at 1051 Taylor 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 October 19, 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 January 12, 1984 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, Grace Cathedral Close at 1051 Taylor 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 1 in Assessor's Block 246;

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 276 as adopted on October 19, 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. 83.560L;

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 on January 12, 1984.

Lee Woods, Jr.
Secretary

AYES: Commissioners Bierman, Karasick, Klein, Nakashima and Wright

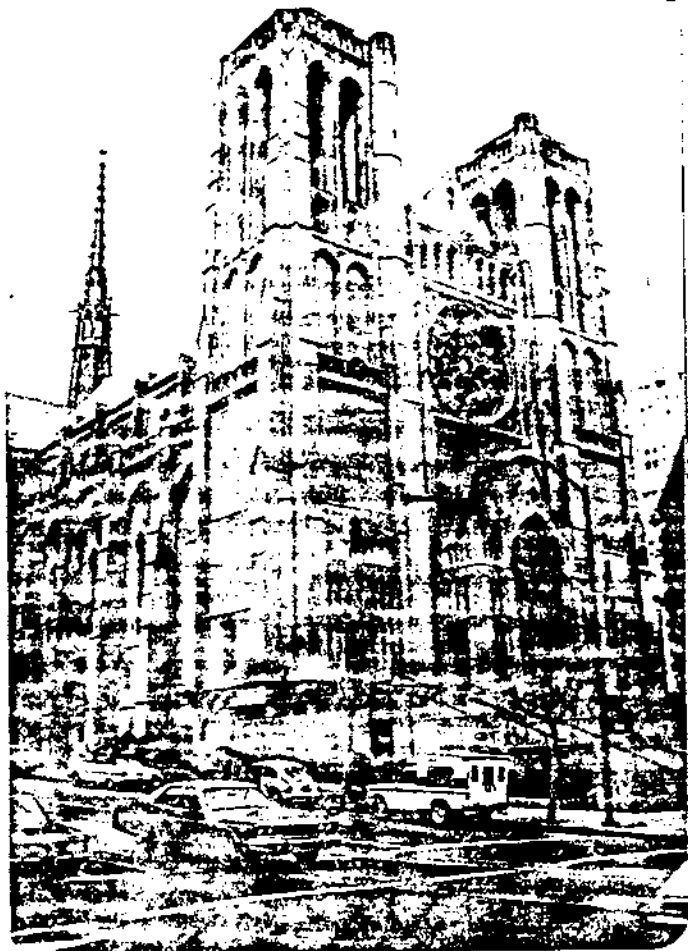
NOES: Commissioner Rosenblatt

ABSENT: Commissioner Salazar

PASSED: January 12, 1984

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE Cont'd.

the Divine in New York City and the Cathedral of Saint Peter and Saint Paul in Washington D.C.) and the only one with its basic structure completed. The original architect Lewis Hobart was an architect of significance in the Bay Area. Ralph Adam Cram, an architect of national importance, served as a consultant.



JHM:eh
6931A



LANDMARKS PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD
of the
SAN FRANCISCO
CITY PLANNING COMMISSION
RESOLUTION NO. 276

WHEREAS, A proposal to designate Grace Cathedral Close as a Landmark pursuant to the provisions of Article 10 of the City Planning Code has been heard and considered by the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board; and

WHEREAS, This Advisory Board 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;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That this Advisory Board does hereby initiate the designation of Grace Cathedral Close as a Landmark pursuant to Article 10 of the City Planning Code and recommends to the City Planning Commission that this designation proposal be APPROVED:

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That

- 1) the precise location and boundaries of the landmark site are to encompass Lot 1 in Assessor's Block 246 on which Grace Cathedral Close is located, and
- 2) the description of
 - a) the special character or special historical, architectural or aesthetic interest or value are described and depicted in the photographs and other materials on file in the Department of City Planning in Docket No. 83.560L and as more fully set forth in the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board's case report titled Grace Cathedral Close approved October 19, 1983 and
 - b) the particular features existing as of this date which should be preserved are those shown on the said photographs and described in said report under the heading "ARCHITECTURE," and

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board hereby directs its Secretary to report this action and to submit a copy of this Resolution to the Planning Commission for further action in accordance with the said Article 10.

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED by the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board at its regular meeting of October 19, 1983.

Jonathan H. Malone
Secretary to the Board

AYES: Choy, de Losada, Hartley, Klemeyer, Kortum, McGrew, Sabiniano, and Sontheimer

NOES: None

ABSENT: Ritchie

DATED: October 19, 1983

JHM:vr
5131A

RECORDED AT REQUEST OF

BOOK D723 PAGE 873

1984 AUG 31 AM 10:16

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.
RECORDER

RECORDING REQUESTED BY:
DEPARTMENT OF CITY PLANNING
And When Recorded Mail to:

Jonathan H. Malone
Secretary to the Board
450 McAllister Street

B543233

OFFICIAL
N/C

San Francisco, CA 94102 Space Above This Line For Recorder's Use

NOTICE OF DESIGNATION OF A LANDMARK

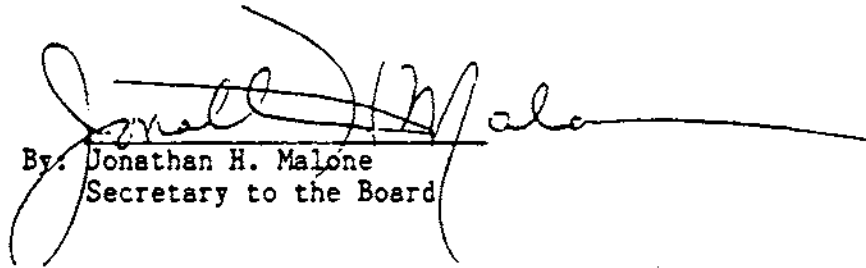
Notice is hereby given to all persons, pursuant to Section 1004.6 of the City Planning Code, Chapter II, Part II of the San Francisco Municipal Code, that the property described below, of which the current owner is Board of Directors of Grace Cathedral has been designated as a landmark by Ordinance No. 323-84 of the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco, effective August 5, 1984. A copy of this Ordinance is on file with the Clerk of the said Board of Supervisors. The effect of this designation is to impose certain controls and standards on the said property and on the improvements thereon, as set forth in Article 10 of the City Planning Code and in the designating Ordinance.

The subject property is legally described and known as follows:

Grace Cathedral Close at 1051 Taylor Street, being all of Lot 1 in Assessor's Block's 246, excluding the area known as the Cathedral House and the parking lot fronting on Sacramento Street.

Dated: August 30, 1984

at San Francisco, California
DEPARTMENT OF CITY PLANNING
LANDMARKS PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD

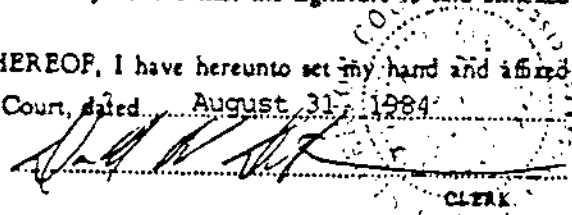

By: Jonathan H. Malone
Secretary to the Board

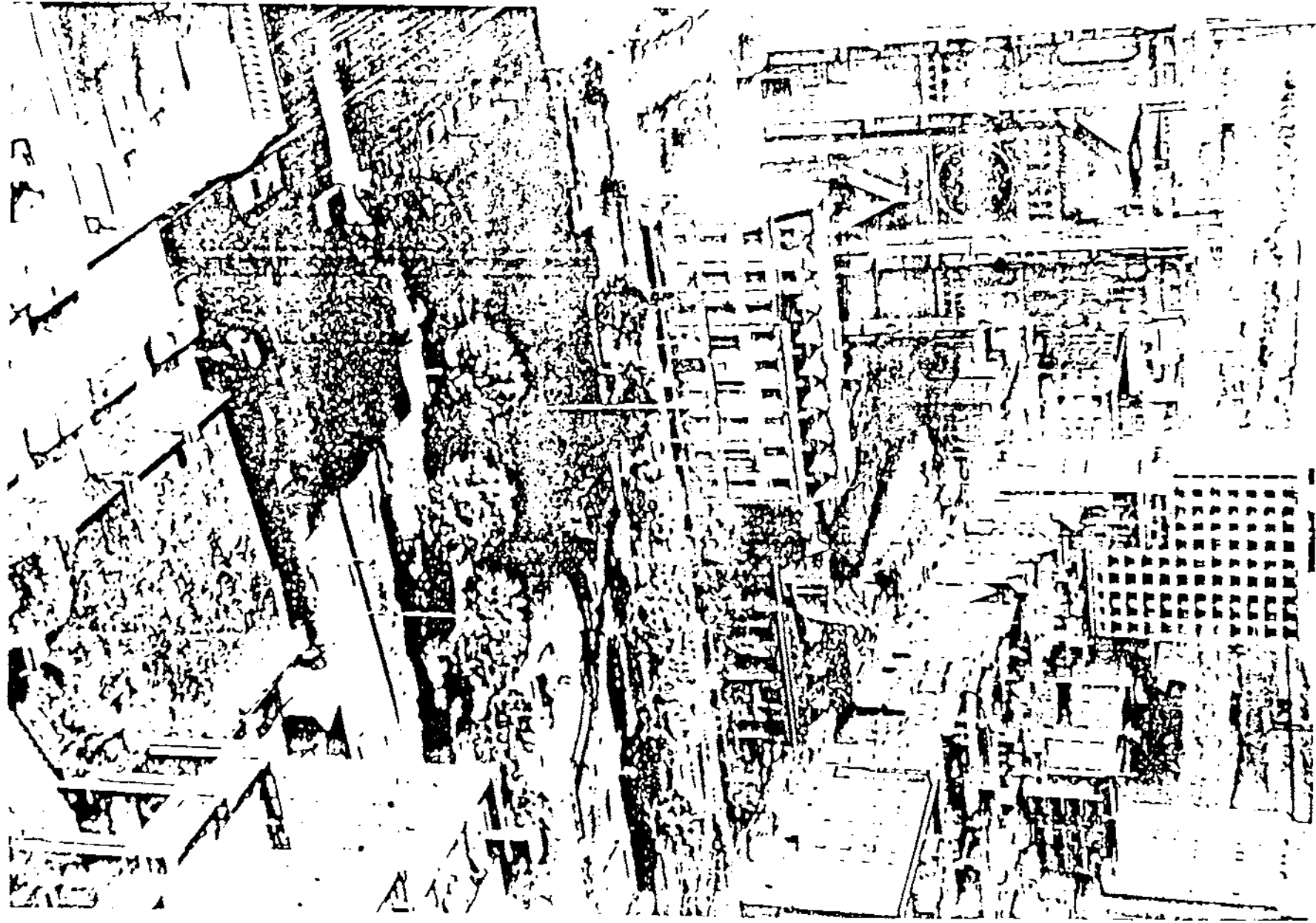
STATE OF CALIFORNIA
City and County of San Francisco } 28.

I, Donald W. Dickinson County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, State of California, and ex-officio Clerk of the Superior Court thereof, the same being a Court of Record,

DO HEREBY CERTIFY, That Jonathan Malone whose name is attached to the annexed Notice of Designation of Landmark is now and was at the date thereof Sec. Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board in and for said City and County, duly elected, commissioned and qualified; and authorized by law to sign the same, and full faith and credit are due to all his official acts as such officer. And I further certify that I am well acquainted with the handwriting of said official and verily believe that the signature to said annexed instrument is genuine.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the said Superior Court, dated August 31, 1984


CLERK



APPENDIX B: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION PREPARED BY GRACE CATHEDRAL ARCHIVIST
MICHAEL D. LAMPEN

BUILDING NAME: Cathedral School for Boys
BUILDING ADDRESS: 1275 Sacramento St. (Sacramento @ Jones Sts.)
ORIGINAL USE: School
CURRENT USE: School
OWNER: Grace Cathedral Corporation (but financially separate)
BLOCK & LOT: 246 ZONING: RM-4
HEIGHT: 160-A
LPAB VOTE:
NO. OF STORIES: Tower height above parking lot 52 feet
EXTERIOR MATERIALS: Concrete

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

As the first Episcopal boys' school west of Washington, D. C., and the third in the nation, the Grace Cathedral School for Boys follows the Anglo/Episcopal tradition, over 1300 years old. Europe's cathedral schools evolved into her first universities. Unique in its design, blending a design by Le Corbusier with the early Gothic designs of the adjacent cathedral choir wing, and featuring an unusual rooftop playground, the school is an understated architectural complement to the cathedral. Its low position maximizes light, views, and open space on central Nob Hill. Its 200-strong student body comes from many ethnic backgrounds and contributes boys to the nationally famed Grace Cathedral Choir.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

A. ARCHITECTURE

1. Style: Contemporary, influence of Le Corbusier.
Rooftop playground behind unusual cornice has aluminum fence.
2. Construction type: concrete and steel
3. Construction date: 1965-66
4. Design quality: LPAB ONLY
5. Architects: George Rockrise and William J. Watson
Other local Rockrise collaborations include John Shelley Firehouse, U.C. Med School Married Students' Housing, San Francisco Community College, The Apparel Mart, San Francisco Municipal Railway Maintenance Depot.
6. Interior quality: LPAB ONLY

B. HISTORY

7. Persons:

8. Events: Founded in 1957, the Cathedral School for Boys is the first Episcopal cathedral boys' school west of Washington, D. C., and the third in the U. S. The building was dedicated in September of 1966. A time capsule of school history was buried on the site.

9. Patterns of history:

Originally the site of the porched fac-board residence of Robert and Ross Adams, Hatters, (1853 ? - 1859). The site was bought by Charles Crocker in 1874. He built a retaining wall, groom's house, and stables and conservatory on the site. These buildings were destroyed in the 1906 fire. Retaining walls for the first planned Grace Cathedral design were constructed on the site in 1910. A tennis court/playground was constructed on the site in the 1920's and remained in use by clergy and students until 1965.

C. ENVIRONMENT

10. Continuity: The structure reflects the transition of central Nob Hill from residential mansions to public and institutional uses with an emphasis on community awareness.

11. Settings: The structure is designed in a deliberately understated style to complement the cathedral. It is set low into the hill to preserve light, views, and open space, and the dominant role of the cathedral. The courtyard next to the cathedral has a pleasant, cloister-like atmosphere.

12. Importance as a visual landmark: Consciously blended into its surroundings to preserve continuity of atmosphere on the cathedral close and Nob Hill.

RATINGS

DCP

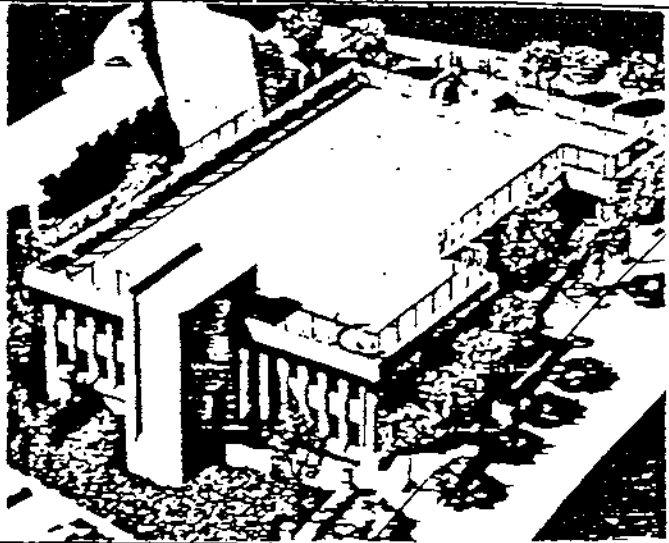
HERE TODAY

SPLENDID SURV:

NAT'L REGISTER:

NAT'L LANDMARK:

STATE LANDMARK:



BIBLIOGRAPHY: Grace Cathedral Archives

PREPARED BY: Michael D. Lampen, Archivist, in conjunction with the
Close Master Plan Committee
1051 Taylor St.
San Francisco, CA 94108

TELEPHONE: 776-5611

DATE: September 15, 1983

APPENDIX C: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION PREPARED BY GRACE CATHEDRAL ARCHIVIST
MICHAEL D. LAMPEN

BUILDING NAME: Crocker Gate, Walls & Fences

BUILDING ADDRESS: South side of Sacramento Street between Cathedral School for Boys on the west and Taylor Street on the east; also the west side of Taylor Street between Sacramento Street on the north and Grace Cathedral crypt entrance on the south.

ORIGINAL USE: Boundary walls and rear carriage gate of Crocker property.

CURRENT USE: Boundary walls and parking lot gate, Grace Cathedral close.

OWNER: Grace Cathedral Corporation

BLOCK & LOT: 246 ZONING: RM-4

HEIGHT: 160-A

LPAB VOTE:

NO. OF STORIES: Carriage gate pylons and lampstands average 13 feet tall. Fence and railing average 9 feet tall on Taylor Street.

EXTERIOR MATERIALS: Basalt, granite, and cast iron

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Significant as the last remaining relic of the Charles Crocker mansion, which occupied the Grace Cathedral site before the 1906 quake/fire. An outstanding example of Victorian masonry and iron-work construction (1877) probably designed and built by Central Pacific Railroad and Engineers. Retains original rear carriage gateway to the Crocker mansion and delineated frontage site of the Nicholas Yung (spite fence) house. Small portions of the wall have been altered for stairways.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

A. ARCHITECTURE

1. Style: Victorian (French influence)
2. Construction type: masonry and iron work (original fixtures still remain on iron gate)
3. Construction date: 1877
4. Design quality: LPAB ONLY
5. Architects: unknown, possibly Seth Babson, chief architect of the Central Pacific Railroad.
6. Interior quality:

B. HISTORY

7. Persons: Association with railroad and real estate magnate, Charles Crocker, and with undertaker Nicholas Yung, who refused to sell his house, the last remaining lot on the

-
8. Events: Survived the 1906 earthquake and fire; spalled and discolored masonry shows effects of fire in places; also, association with spite fence (see above).
 9. Patterns of history:

The wall once nearly surrounded the block (excepting the stable site), and the main carriage gate was just east of the present south transept entrance to Grace Cathedral. Of the remaining wall: the gas lamps were removed from their standards atop the carriage gate pylons shortly after 1906. The portion of wall between the eastern carriage gate pylon and the adjacent pylon to the east down Sacramento Street was built ca. 1904 by Harriet Crocker Alexander (daughter of Charles Crocker). This walled portion and flanking pylons mark the frontage of the Nicholas Yung house, which extended south past the palm trees and into the current parking lot. The frontage of the Yung house (demolished? 1904) was the only unfenced portion. Granite courses across the adjacent sidewalk emphasize these boundaries. The stairway further down the Sacramento Street slopes and eastern pylon date from 1935, and the central portion of the adjacent wall to the east was removed 1911 and replaced in 1935. The Sacramento/Taylor Street corner pylon still has its high polish, as does the adjacent fence capping. The Diocesan House gateway and part of the wall to the north alteration date from 1935. Further south on Taylor Street, the Cathedral House gateway and south end alterations date from 1911 (wrought-iron fence portions saved from the William H. Crocker mansion frontage on Jones Street are preserved there, set in concrete walls.

C. ENVIRONMENT

10. Continuity: The structure represents the evolution from Fern Hill, with its small simple dwellings, to Nob Hill, upon the arrival of San Francisco society in the mid-1870s, following the partial destruction of Rincon Hill in 1866. It is a miraculously surviving link with the historic past of Nob Hill.
11. Settings: An historic relic preserving the formal opulence of the original Nob Hill and complementing the formal style of Grace Cathedral.
12. Importance as a visual landmark: Its historical associations reflected in powerful confident design give it much value as a civic landmark.

D. INTEGRITY

Large portions intact (see 9 above); gate slightly damaged.

APPENDIX E: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION PREPARED BY GRACE CATHEDRAL ARCHIVIST
MICHAEL D. LAMPEN

BUILDING NAME: Grace Cathedral
BUILDING ADDRESS: 1051 Taylor Street
(California Street between Taylor & Jones Streets)
ORIGINAL USE: Church and offices
CURRENT USE: Church and music offices
OWNER: Grace Cathedral Corporation
BLOCK & LOT: 246
ZONING: RM-4
Height 160-A
LPAB VOTE:
NO. OF STORIES: Towers 174 feet, from Taylor St.
Fleche 247 feet, from California St.
EXTERIOR MATERIALS: Concrete, lead-coated copper, and composite roof

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Significant in its use of contemporary materials for a traditional design (due in part to earthquake risk). Grace Cathedral is one of the last major Gothic revival structures ever built, and the third largest Episcopal cathedral in the U. S. (after the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, New York, and the Cathedral of St. Peter and Paul, Washington, D. C.) -- the only one of the three with its basic structure completed. The architect (whose designs were largely followed in cathedral completion) was noted Bay Area architect Lewis P. Hobart. Ralph Adams Cram, architect of national importance, served as consultant.

EVALUATION CRITERIA;

A. Architecture

1. Style: Gothic, French, and some Spanish influence
2. Construction type: concrete and steel with some cut stone
3. Construction dates: 1928-31, 1931-33, 1936-43, 1961-64
4. Design Quality: as shown (LPAB ONLY)
5. Architect: Lewis P. Hobart (with Ralph Adams Cram as consultant) designer of the Bohemian Club, Macy's, Mills Tower: Weihe, Fricke, & Kruse completion.
6. Interior Quality: (LPAB ONLY)

B. History

7. Persons: Associations with all six cathedral deans (notably Deans J. W. Gresham and C. J. Bartlett), seven bishops of the Diocese (notably Bishop J. A. Pike) and two assistant bishops. Visitors, preachers, performers here include Helen Keller, Douglas MacArthur, Billy Graham, three archbishops of Canterbury, Martin Luther King, Jr., Duke Ellington, Princesses Margaret and Alexandria, etc.

8. Events: Numerous major services on every facet of civic and social concern, concerts, lectures, etc. Service of Consecration of Grace Cathedral took place November 20, 1964. The 1965 visit of Martin Luther King, Jr. saw the largest crowd ever gathered at Grace Cathedral. The carillon of bells, installed in 1941, were used at the 1939 Golden Gate International Exposition on Treasure Island.

9. Patterns of History: The site seems not to have been built on before purchase of the land by Charles Crocker, railroad and real estate magnate, in 1874. His lavish deuxième-empire redwood mansion, built 1876-77, stood in the site of the cathedral nave, and was a focus of Nob Hill society in the 1877 unemployment riots led by Dennis Kearny (following the spite-fence affair). In 1888 Crocker's son, William H. Crocker, built a Queen Anne-style mansion to the west on the site of the cathedral choir. This mansion hosted Nob Hill society after Charles Crocker's death. In 1906 both homes were destroyed in the fire following the earthquake. Bishop William F. Nichols, searching for an Episcopal cathedral site, found the Crockers willing, and the entire block was given to the Diocese of California in 1907. A cathedral design by noted English architect George F. Bodley, accepted in 1909, envisioned a building flanking Jones Street with its facade and main entrance on California Street. The cornerstone for this design was placed in 1910 and retaining/foundation walls constructed to the north. On the death of Bodley, local architect Lewis P. Hobart took charge and changed the design and position of the cathedral to flank California Street, with the main entrance on Taylor Street. This new design required the removal of Cathedral House. The Founder's Crypt (basement unit for this design) was opened in 1914. Final plans were begun in 1926, and construction of the present cathedral begun in 1928 (it was built on the site of, but did not incorporate, the Founder's Crypt).

Construction of Grace Cathedral was halted several times by financial lapses, including the Depression. After the death of Lewis P. Hobart, Weihe, Fricke, and Kruse, a noted local architectural firm, was engaged to complete his work. Consecration of the essentially completed Grace Cathedral took place in 1964.

C. ENVIRONMENT

10. Continuity: The structure reflects the evolution of Nob Hill from an area of fashionable residences to more intense public service and institutional uses after the 1906 earthquake and fire.
11. Settings: By style, scale, and function as a public building, the structure, without the obstruction of Cathedral House, complements the role of Huntington Park and Nob Hill as a formal urban open space.
12. Importance as a visual landmark: By its imposing scale, prominent site, and historical association, the structure is a visual landmark for the city as a whole.

D. INTEGRITY
Intact

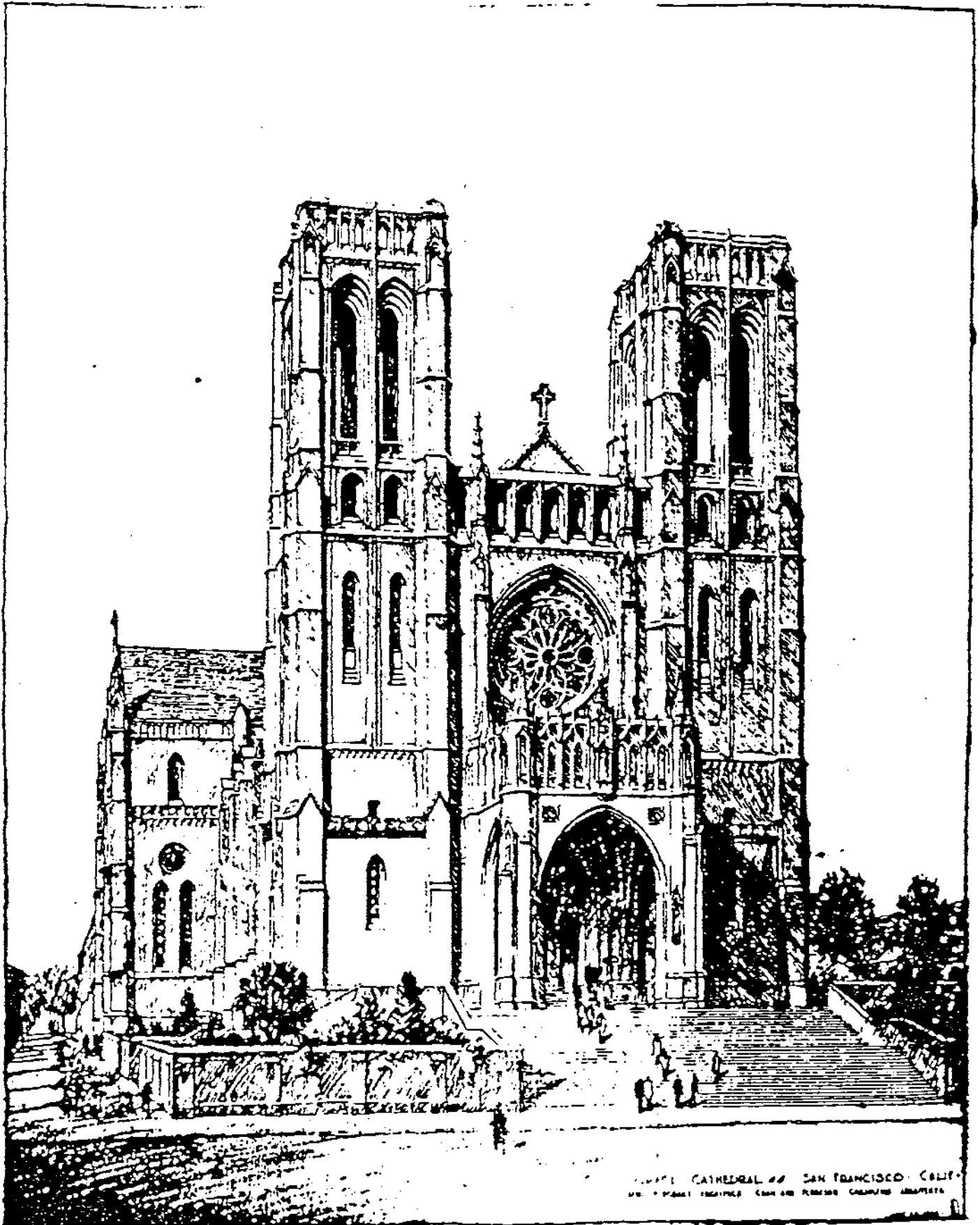
RATINGS

DCP: 5
HERE TODAY: p.69
SPLENDID SURV.:
NAT'L REGISTER:
NAT'L LANDMARK:
STATE LANDMARK:

See attached Lewis P. Hobart
Architect's drawings. Note clear
unobstructed main stairway.

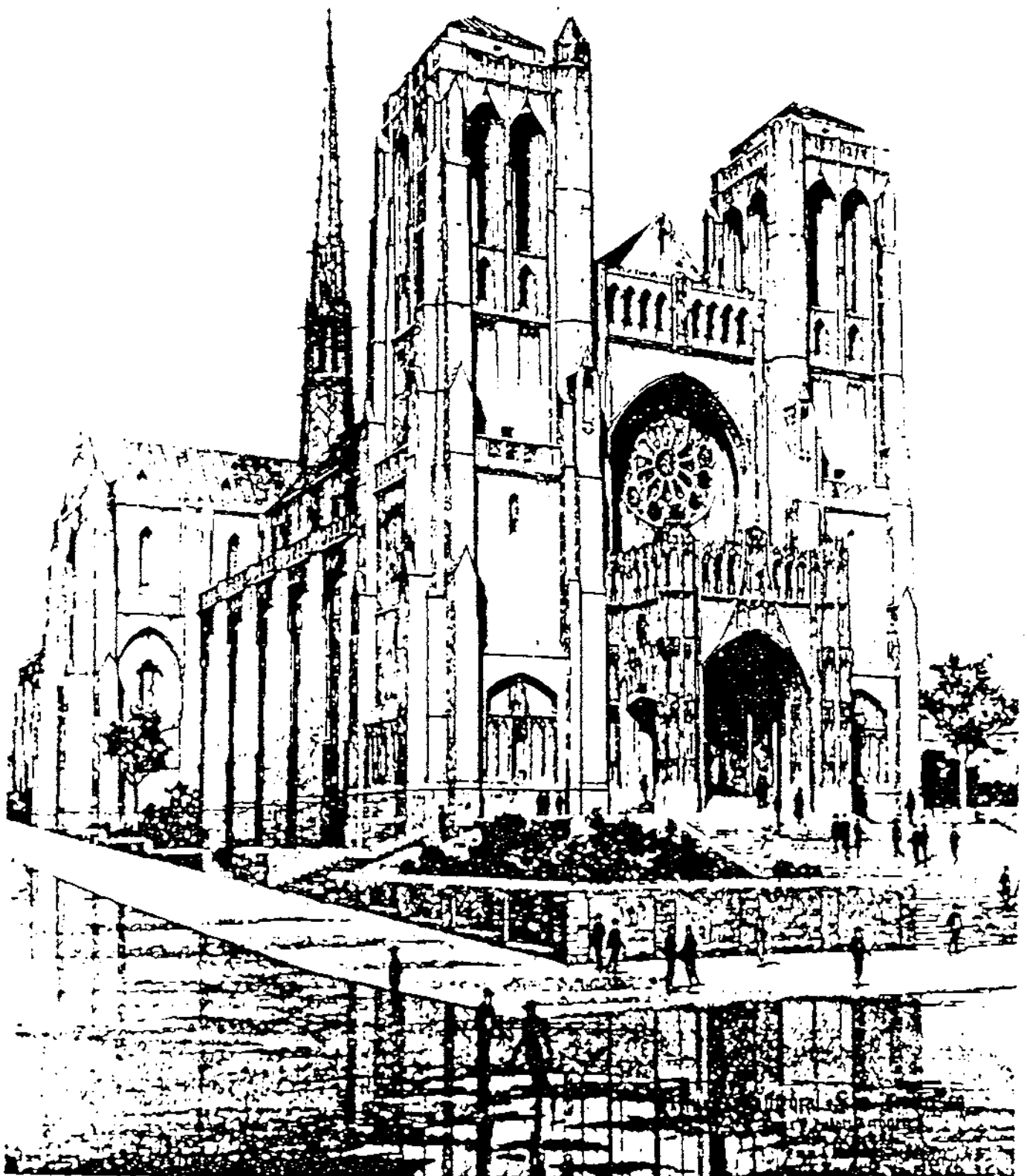
BIBLIOGRAPHY: Grace Cathedral Archives

PREPARED BY: Michael D. Lampen, Archivist, in conjunction with the
Close Master Plan Committee
ADDRESS: 1051 Taylor Street
San Francisco, California 94108
TELEPHONE: 776-6611 (Wednesdays)
DATE: September 15, 1983



CATHEDRAL OF SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.
ARCHITECT: PHILIP HERRING; ENGINEER: EDWIN S. RICHARDS; CARPENTER: ANTHONY...

July 25, 1926



B. HISTORY

7. Persons: The original name of Cathedral House was Gibbs Hall in memory of George W. Gibbs, who gave the original seminary in San Mateo. When the San Mateo building was destroyed in the 1906 earthquake Mrs. Gibbs gave this building (constructed in 1911/1912) in memory of her husband as a temporary replacement for the original seminary building. Subsequently, the building served as a residence for various diocesan clergy.
8. Events: Site of numerous classes, meetings, dinners, lectures.
9. Patterns of history: In the early 1850's several modest private dwellings were built on this site, notably the house of the Labatt family (Abraham C. Labatt, a founding member of Temple Emmanuel, and Henry J. Labatt, prominent attorney and Commissioner for Louisiana), and noted photographer William Vance.

When Taylor Street was graded in 1859 all houses required steps down to the street. In 1874 Charles Crocker bought up the lots and demolished the houses. The site was terraced and landscaped.

As early as 1907, after the 1906 earthquake and fire, English architect George Bodley, engaged by Grace Cathedral to submit cathedral designs, had envisioned a cathedral flanking Jones Street at the far end of the block. In 1910 a preliminary master plan for the cathedral close was prepared by Lewis P. Hobart, provisional cathedral architect. The planned orientation and location of Grace Cathedral were changed and came in conflict with the position of Cathedral House. Hobart's final plan (1926) required the demolition of Cathedral House to make way for a great stairway to the Cathedral's main entrance. The master plan currently being developed by the Board of Trustees is intended to be consistent with Hobart's 1906 design.

10. Continuity: The building reflects the early 1907 plans for the Grace Cathedral Close.
11. Settings: As noted in item 9, architect Hobart's plans called for eventual removal of Cathedral House, as its setting is an obstruction to the main stairway and facade of the cathedral.
12. Importance as a visual landmark: None, as its visual value outweighed by its obstruction of the magnificent and beautiful main facade of the cathedral and limits the capacity of the main stairway. In addition it obstructs the sweeping view from the cathedral plaza of Huntington Park and the city below Nob Hill. As noted, its position will require eventual removal.

D. INTEGRITY

Cathedral house has been reroofed and the exterior stone cleaned once and window frames painted. A balcony was added on the south side in 1964 for access to the parvis and a concrete porch added below for street access. The limestone facing is in poor shape (particularly on the west side) and spalls regularly during winter storms which bring slightly acid rain. Unfortunately, the stone has been cut and installed parallel to rather than perpendicular to the natural bedding, this condition permits continuing spalling.

RATINGS

DCP: 3

See attached photo.

HERE TODAY: p.69, 72

SPLENDID SURV.:

NAT'L REGISTER:

NAT'L LANDMARK:

STATE LANDMARK:

BIBLIOGRAPHY: Grace Cathedral Archives

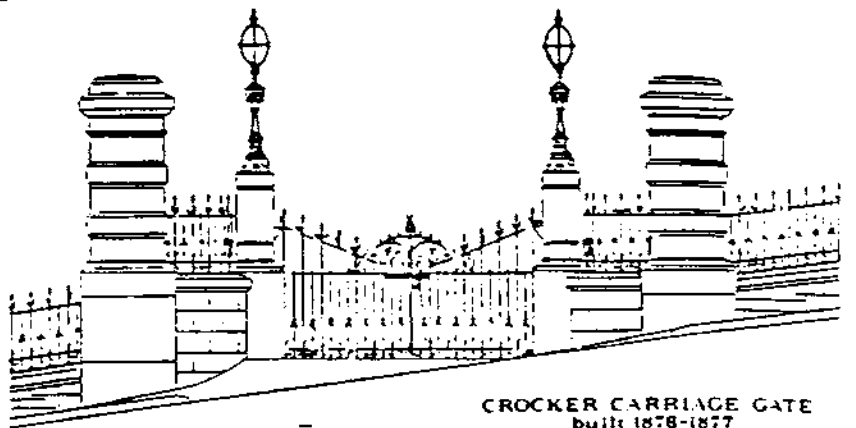
PREPARED BY: Michael D. Lampen, Archivist, in conjunction with the
Close Master Plan Committee
1051 Taylor Street
San Francisco, CA 94108

TELEPHONE: 776-6611

DATE: September 15, 1983

RATINGS

DCP:
HERE TODAY: P. 69
SPLENDID SURV:
NAT'L REGISTER:
NAT'L LANDMARK:
STATE LANDMARK:



CROCKER CARRIAGE GATE
built 1878-1877

with carriage
built 1878-1877
San Francisco, California

(Loop globe removed 1926)

(Sacramento Street entrance to Cathedral parking lot)

BIBLIOGRAPHY: Grace Cathedral Archives

PREPARED BY: Michael D. Lampen, Archivist, in conjunction with the
Close Master Plan Committee

ADDRESS: 1051 Taylor Street
San Francisco, CA 94108

TELEPHONE: 776-6611

DATE: September 15, 1983

APPENDIX D: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION PREPARED BY GRACE CATHEDRAL ARCHIVIST
MICHAEL D. LAMPEN

BUILDING NAME: Diocesan House
BUILDING ADDRESS: 1055 Taylor Street (Taylor at Sacramento Streets)
ORIGINAL USE: Offices of the Diocese of California (Bay Area administrative area of Episcopal Church)
CURRENT USE: Same
OWNER: Grace Cathedral Corporation.
BLOCK & LOT: 246 ZONING: RM-4
Height 160-A
LPAB VOTE:
NO. OF STORIES: 2, plus basement (attic not accessible)
Height from sidewalk 47 feet
EXTERIOR MATERIALS: Concrete, slate, and copper

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Diocesan House is the headquarters of the Episcopal Church in the San Francisco Bay Area--the Diocese of California--and contains the bishop's office and administrative offices. It is the headquarters for 85 parishes and over 70,000 parishioners. An attractive Gothic building designed by Bay Area architect Lewis P. Hobart, Diocesan House is the third diocesan office building (its predecessors demolished or destroyed) and stands on a site of historic interest (see 9 below).

EVALUATION CRITERIA

A. ARCHITECTURE

1. Style: Gothic (inspired by Palais Royal, Rouen, France (1505))
2. Construction type: concrete and steel
3. Construction date: 1935
4. Design quality: LPAB ONLY
5. Architect: Lewis P. Hobart, a designer of the Bohemian Club, Macy's, Mills Tower (wrongly attributed in most architectural guides to Austin Whittlesey)
6. Interior quality: LPAB ONLY

B. HISTORY

7. Persons: The bishop's office has been used by four of the six bishops of the diocese: Bishop Edward L. Parsons (tenure, 1924 to 1940), a leader in social reform, was followed by Karl M. Block (tenure, 1940-1958). His successor was James A. Pike (tenure, 1958-1966), the colorful and controversial church leader. C. Kilmer Myers (tenure, 1966-1979) followed, and William E. Swing (in office 1980) is presently bishop.

-
8. Events: The signing of contract for completion of Grace Cathedral in bishop's office, September 7, 1960. The Bishop Pike years saw much activity in Diocesan House.
 9. Patterns of history: The first dwelling on the present cathedral close (1852 or 1853), that of Lewis Cohn, import merchant, stood on this site. Siegmund T. Meyer, importer, and Augustus S. Tobias, merchant, were later residents in the dark-porched house, one of the first dwellings on Nob Hill's upper slopes. When Charles Crocker bought up the block in 1874 the house was demolished and the area was terraced and landscaped. The 1906 earthquake and fire followed, and refugees erected tents on the site. In Easter, 1907, Grace Pro-Cathedral, the first church building on the close, opened its doors. Grace Pro-Cathedral served a fledgling cathedral congregation until 1914, when it became a Sunday school, Boy Scout clubhouse, and storeroom. It was demolished in 1935 to make way for Diocesan House.

C. ENVIRONMENT

10. Continuity: The building reflects the growth and evolution of church communities in the Bay Area and the transition of central Nob Hill from private opulent residences to public and institutional use.
11. Settings: The small scale of this building preserves the open space and light of central Nob Hill, while its traditional formal design echoes the mansions formerly on Nob Hill.
12. Importance as a visual landmark: As a reminder of Nob Hill traditions and a pleasant visual contrast to its neighbors and Huntington Park, Diocesan House is a worthy visual Nob Hill landmark.

RATINGS

DCP: 3

HERE TODAY:

SPLENDID SUR.:

NAT'L REGISTER:

NAT'L LANDMARK:

STATE LANDMARK:



BIBLIOGRAPHY: Grace Cathedral Archives

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