

FILE NO. 90-84-2ORDINANCE NO. 5285

(Landmarks)

1 DESIGNATING THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH 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 First Congre-
6 gational Church located at 432 Mason Street, Lot 9 in Assessor's Block 307,
7 has a special character and special historical, architectural and aesthetic
8 interest and value, and that its designation as a Landmark will further the
9 purposes of, and conform to the standards set forth in Article 10 of the City
10 Planning Code.

11 (a) Designation. Pursuant to Section 1004 of the City Planning Code,
12 Chapter II, Part II of the San Francisco Municipal Code, the First Congrega-
13 tional Church located at 432 Mason Street is hereby designated as a Landmark,
14 this designation having been duly approved by Resolution No. ~~10202~~ ¹⁰²⁰² of the City
15 Planning Commission, which Resolution is on file with the Clerk of the Board
16 of Supervisors under File No. 90-84-2.

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

23 APPROVED AS TO FORM:
24 George Agnost
City Attorney

RECOMMENDED:
CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

25 By [Signature]
26 Deputy City Attorney

25 By [Signature]
26 Dean L. Macris
Director of Planning

27 JHM:vr
28 7361A
29
30

Board of Supervisors, San Francisco

Passed for Second Reading
January 22, 1985

\$ Finally Passed
\$
\$ January 28, 1985
\$

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

\$ Ayes: Supervisors Hongisto Maher
\$ Molinari Nelder Renne Silver
\$ Walker
\$

No: Supervisor Britt

Absent: Supervisor Kennedy

\$ Absent: Supervisors Britt Kennedy
\$ Kopp Ward

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

File No.
90-84-2

JAN 30 1985
Date Approved

[Signature]
Clerk

[Signature]
Mayor

SAN FRANCISCO
CITY PLANNING COMMISSION
RESOLUTION NO. 10202

WHEREAS, A proposal to designate the First Congregational Church at 432 Mason 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 November 21, 1984, 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 17, 1985 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;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, First, the proposal to designate the aforementioned structure, the First Congregational Church at 432 Mason 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 9 in Assessor's Block 307;

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 298 as adopted on November 21, 1984 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. 83.596L;

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 January 17, 1985.

Lee Woods, Jr.
Secretary

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: Commissioner Salazar

PASSED: January 17, 1985

BUILDING NAME: First Congregational Church OWNER: First Congregational Society of San Francisco

BUILDING ADDRESS: 432 Mason Street BLOCK & LOT: 307/9 ZONING: C-3-G
ORIGINAL USE: Church NO. OF STORIES: 2 LPAB VOTE: 6-0
CURRENT USE: Church EXTERIOR MATERIALS: Concrete

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: The First Congregational Church building is significant as an excellent example of the work of a prominent architectural firm whose work influenced the development of the City; as an early example of an innovative construction technique, reinforced concrete, increasingly used in the post 1906 earthquake and fire reconstruction period; and as a reflection of the role in the social history of San Francisco of this denomination. The building's design, in its use of the Classical Revival style most frequently exhibited by San Francisco's "banking temples", indicates the churches desire to remain in and reflect the business character of downtown.

These findings of significance are based on the facts entered under the following evaluation categories.

(may be continued on back)

EVALUATION CRITERIA

A. ARCHITECTURE

1. Style: The structure is designed in the Classical Revival style, as an enfram~~e~~ed pavilion with Corinthian colonnade, end bays and wings.
2. Construction Type: The building is constructed in reinforced concrete, a material and method of construction resulting from increased concern for fire proof methods of building following the 1906 earthquake and fire.
3. Construction Date: Constructed in 1913-1915.
4. Design Quality: An excellent design demonstrating Reid Bros. deft handling of the classical idiom in the structure's balanced composition and accurate detailing.
5. Architect: James and Merritt Reid, in a career from the 1880's to the 1920's designed such well known structures as the Call Building, 74 New Montgomery Street (1914), the Fairmont Hotel, 950 Mason Street (1906); the Fitzhugh Building 364-384 Post Street (1923, demolished 1979); and the Rose Building 216-220 Sutter Street (1908).
6. Interior Quality: (LPAB ONLY) Not Applicable

B. HISTORY (Publicly owned buildings)

(as building is significantly associated with specific)

7. Persons: -
8. Events: -
9. Patterns of History: (cultural, social, political, military, economic or industrial) This denomination was established in San Francisco in 1849. The current location has been the site of two previous structures, dating back to 1872. The Congregational Church has its roots in New England, and the interior of the church (as originally designed, since altered) reflects the non hierarchical meeting hall nature traditional to the theological precepts of the denomination.

C. ENVIRONMENT (relation to surroundings, specifically in terms of):

10. Continuity: The building, with its low rise scale, defines the historic character of the downtown.
11. Setting: Built to the lot line, the structure reflects traditional, downtown building patterns.
12. Importance as a Visual Landmark: By its monumental classicism and corner location, a conspicuous and familiar structure in the downtown.

D. INTEGRITY

(cite alterations and physical condition) Essentially intact, alterations include east facade windows filled in for construction of the St. Francis Hotel addition; lightwells on Mason Street removed.

RATINGS

DCP: 4
HERE TODAY: -
SPLENDID SURV.: A
NAT'L REGISTER: Probably eligible attach photograph here
NAT'L LANDMARK: -
STATE LANDMARK: -

BIBLIOGRAPHY: (list sources on back)

(list sources on back)

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DATE: November 6 and 21, 1984

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Architecture and Engineering, April 1915, Pages 50-53.

San Francisco Progress, October 12, 1974, Page 12.

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

JHM:vr

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