

(Landmarks)

DESIGNATING MISSION TURN HALL AT 3543 18TH 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 Mission Turn Hall located at 3543 18th Street, Lot 82 in Assessor's Block 3588, 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, Mission Turn Hall at 3543 18th Street is hereby designated as a landmark, this designation having been duly approved by Resolution No. 10131 of the City Planning Commission, which Resolution is on file with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors under File No. 90-84-16.

(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 Dean L. Macris
Deputy City Attorney

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

JHM:vr

Board of Supervisors, San Francisco

Passed for Second Reading

January 22, 1985

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

Absent: Supervisor Kennedy

§ Finally Passed

§ January 28, 1985

§ Ayes: Supervisors Hongisto Maher
§ Molinari Nelder Renne Silver
§ Walker

§ 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.
90-84-16

JAN 30 1985
Date Approved

Clerk

Mayor

SAN FRANCISCO
CITY PLANNING COMMISSION
RESOLUTION NO. 10131

WHEREAS, A proposal to designate the Mission Turn Hall as a Landmark pursuant to the provisions of Article 10 of the City Planning Code was heard by the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board on September 5, 1984, and said 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 October 18, 1984, to consider the proposed designation and the report of said 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, Mission Turn Hall, 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 82 in Assessor's Block 3588;

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 296 as adopted on September 5, 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. 84.272L;

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 18, 1984.

Lee Woods, Jr.
Secretary

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: Commissioner Salazar

DATED: October 18, 1984

3083B
JHM:vr

BUILDING NAME: Mission Turn Hall (Women's Building)	OWNER: S.F. Women's Centers
BUILDING ADDRESS: 3543 18th Street	BLOCK & LOT: 3588/82 ZONING: RM-2
ORIGINAL USE: gymnasium/social club	NO. OF STORIES: 4 LPAB VOTE: 7-0
CURRENT USE: meeting hall/social services	EXTERIOR MATERIALS: stucco

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

(Describe special CHARACTER, or special HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURAL or AESTHETIC interest or value:) The structure known as Mission Turn Hall (1910 to 1935), Dovre Hall (1935 to 1976) and the Women's Building (1978 to present) is significant as a clear expression of San Francisco's social history. Commissioned by the German Turneverein and designed by A. Reinhold Denke, the building has housed numerous social organizations, gymnastic clubs and societies in its 74 year history. Its Mission Revival style accents the history of the Mission as San Francisco's earliest settled district, in a location only blocks from Mission Dolores.

(may be continued on back)

EVALUATION CRITERIA

A. ARCHITECTURE

1. Style: Mission Revival
2. Construction Type: masonry
3. Construction Date: 1910
4. Design Quality: (LPAB ONLY) Very good
5. Architect: A. Reinhold Denke (Crystal Cafeteria, Powell and Market; Humboldt Building, Larkin and Washington)
6. Interior Quality: (LPAB ONLY)
(Publicly owned buildings)

B. HISTORY

(as building is significantly associated with specific)

7. Persons: -
8. Events: -
9. Patterns of History:
(cultural, social, political, military, economic or industrial) The 1910 birth of the Mission Turn Hall sprang from the sizeable German-American population in early twentieth century San Francisco and from the Turneverein movement. "Turnen" in German means exercise and "Verein" translates as club or union. A Turneverein, thus, housed gymnastic equipment for its members. By the twentieth century, this gymnast movement with its "sound body, sound mind" philosophy had spawned Turnevereins throughout the country as well as "normal" school curriculum to train gymnast teachers. The Turners, as they sometimes called themselves, were instrumental in introducing physical education into American public schools. (over)

C. ENVIRONMENT

(relation to surroundings, specifically in terms of:)

10. Continuity: The structure relates in historic continuity by its role as a social center for a neighborhood of changing ethnic composition.
11. Setting: Built to the lot line, the structure responds to its broader context within the Mission by its Mission Revival design.
12. Importance as a Visual Landmark: By its height and massing a distinctive structure in the context of the neighborhood.

D. INTEGRITY

(cite alterations and physical condition): Detailing of northeast corner tower form removed. Mural added to 18th Street facade, designed by Patricia Rodriguez.

RATINGS

DCP: 1
HERE TODAY: -
SPLENDID SURV.: N/A
NAT'L REGISTER: -
NAT'L LANDMARK: -
STATE LANDMARK: -

attach photograph here

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

(list sources on back)

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DATE: August 28, 1984
From material researched and
prepared by Maida Solomon

9. Patterns of History:

The existence of a Mission Turneverein, one of half a dozen in the Bay Area, is recorded as early as 1894. After the earthquake of 1906, a group of German-Americans formed the German Turneverein Society to raise money for the construction of this substantial building on the 18th Street lot. It provided a gymnasium and meeting halls for several Turnevereins.

In the next two and a half decades, many groups--Swiss, Swedish, Finnish, as well as Germanic--used the new athletic facilities. A close look at one of the Turnevereins which moved to the building is illuminating. The Spartan Club (before World War I, known as the Turneverein "Eintracht") had a multigenerational, cross-cultural membership of women and men, reflective of the population of the Mission. Young and old, Irish, Italian, and German-Americans "turned together." The building saw classes held for the youngsters after school, practice sessions for the adults two evenings a week, a monthly exhibition followed by a social and a dance, and many get-togethers. Membership fees were a low and never rigid \$2.00 per month, special one-time courses, for 50¢, were offered to "civil servicers", people needing help to pass the physical requirements of the civil service exam. The Spartan Club rented facilities from the Mission Turn Hall for \$20.00 a month from 1916 to 1935.

In 1935, the Henry Ibsen Lodge No. 7, Sons of Norway, and the Anna Kolbjornsen Lodge No. 4, Daughters of Norway, became the new co-owners of the building. "Dovre Hall" referred to a large chain of mountains in Norway, "united and true until Dovre may fall." The two Lodges made major renovations, with members doing much of the work themselves. They replaced the gymnasium with a dance hall complete with stage and an area for refreshments. They built new stairwells and installed an elevator.

However, they left intact the independently-run, small bar on the northeast corner of the building, John and Max's. Before World War I, 10¢ bought a glass of beer and all the coldcuts one could eat. In the 1930s, politicians--such as Mayor James Rolph--frequented the bar.

With great pride, the Grand Opening of Dovre Hall took place on June 20, 1936.

Throughout both the Turneverein and Dovre Hall eras, many organizations, societies, and lodges used the building. Native Sons and Daughters of the Golden West made the Hall their regular meeting place over a fifty year period. Twin Peaks, Guadalupe, and Utopia Parlors (of the Native Daughters) date back to the 1920s in their continuous use of the Hall. Twin Peaks and Dolores Parlors (of the Native Sons) shifted their home base to the Hall in the 1950s.

Taking ownership in 1978, San Francisco Women's Centers followed this tradition. The philosophy and usage of the Women's Building is rooted in a concept of community involvement with and by mixed ethnic and social groups.

