

(Landmarks)

1 DESIGNATING THE BEACH CHALET AT 1000 GREAT HIGHWAY AS A LANDMARK PURSUANT TO
2 ARTICLE 10 OF THE CITY PLANNING CODE.

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 Beach Chalet
6 located at 1000 Great Highway, Lot 1 in Assessor's Block 1700, has a special
7 character and special historical, architectural and aesthetic interest and
8 value, and that its designation as a Landmark will further the purposes of,
9 and conform to the standards set forth in Article 10 of the City Planning Code.

10 (a) Designation. Pursuant to Section 1004 of the City Planning Code,
11 Chapter II, Part II of the San Francisco Municipal Code, the Beach Chalet is
12 hereby designated as a Landmark, this designation having been duly approved by
13 Resolution No. 10318 of the City Planning Commission, which Resolution is on
14 file with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors under File No. 90-85-3.

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

20 (c) Interior Architectural Features. Proposed changes to major interior
21 architectural features shall require a Certificate of Appropriateness pursuant
22 to Section 1006 of the City Planning Code.

24 APPROVED AS TO FORM:
25 George Agnost
26 City Attorney

RECOMMENDED:
CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

27 By Thomas J. Agnost
28 Deputy City Attorney

27 By Dean L. Macris
28 Dean L. Macris
29 Director of Planning

30 JHM:vr
6857B/202A

Board of Supervisors, San Francisco

Passed for Second Reading	§	Finally Passed
November 5, 1985	§	November 12, 1985
Ayes: Supervisors Hongisto Kennedy Maher Renne Silver Walker Ward	§	Ayes: Supervisors Britt Hongisto Kennedy Maher Molinari Nelder Renne Silver Walker
Absent: Supervisors Britt Kopp Molinari Nelder	§	Absent: Supervisors 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.
90-85-3

NOV 22 1985
Date Approved

John H. Taylor
Clerk
William J. Harrison
Mayor

SAN FRANCISCO
CITY PLANNING COMMISSION
RESOLUTION NO. 10318

WHEREAS, A proposal to designate the Beach Chalet, 1000 Great Highway in Golden Gate Park as a Landmark pursuant to the provisions of Article 10 of the City Planning Code was initiated by the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board on April 3, 1985 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 May 23, 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;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, First, the proposal to designate the aforementioned structure, the Beach Chalet, 1000 Great Highway in Golden Gate Park as a Landmark pursuant to Article 10 of the City Planning Code is hereby APPROVED;

Second, That the special character and special historical, architectural and aesthetic interest and value of the said landmark justifying its designation, and the precise location and boundaries of the Landmark site, are set forth in the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board Resolution 303 as adopted on April 3, 1985 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. 85.133L;

Fourth, This Commission does hereby request the Board of Supervisors to provide for review of alterations to significant interior architectural features in the designating ordinance per Sec. 1004, Article 10 of the City Planning Code.

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 May 23, 1985.

Lee Woods, Jr.
Secretary

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

DATED: May 23, 1985

5750B/541A

BUILDING NAME: Beach Chalet OWNER: City & County of S.F., Recreation & Park Commission
 BUILDING ADDRESS: 1000 Great Highway BLOCK & LOT: 1700 ZONING: P
 ORIGINAL USE: restaurant NO. OF STORIES: 2 LPAB VOTE: 9-0
 CURRENT USE: vacant EXTERIOR MATERIALS: stucco, tile roof

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:
 (Describe special CHARACTER, or special HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURAL or AESTHETIC interest or value:) The Beach Chalet is significant as the work of noted Bay Area architect Willis Polk with important interior frescos by Lucien Labaudt. Constructed as a municipal restaurant and pavilion for Ocean Beach in 1925, the building's interior artwork was funded by the Federal Art Project division of the Work Progress Administration, established in 1935 on the initiation of President Franklin D. Roosevelt. The Beach Chalet reflects the historic recreational nature of San Francisco's ocean frontage.

(may be continued on back)

EVALUATION CRITERIA

A. ARCHITECTURE

1. Style: Spanish Colonial Revival
2. Construction Type: wood frame
3. Construction Date: 1925
4. Design Quality: An excellent example of the work of a master architect.
5. Architect: Willis Polk (Hallidie Building, 130 Sutter; Hobart Building, 582-592 Market; and Insurance Exchange Building, 433 California)
6. Interior Quality: (LPAB ONLY) Frescos by Lucien Labaudt; mosaic tile by Primo Ceredico; wood carving by Michael von Meyer.

B. HISTORY

(as building is significantly associated with specific)

7. Persons: Willis Polk (1897-1924) Born in Kentucky, raised in St. Louis, Polk came to San Francisco as an assistant to A. Page Brown. He was associated with Daniel H. Burnham in Chicago, and took over Burnham's San Francisco office in 1910, renaming it Willis Polk and Co. Polk's career reflects a free use of traditional architectural forms, but with a sense of imagination best expressed in the (over)
8. Events: -
9. Patterns of History: The murals of the Beach Chalet are an important example of New Deal artwork in a city fortunate to have a number of such works. The murals reflect an important evolution within (over)

C. ENVIRONMENT

(relation to surroundings, specifically in terms of:)

10. Continuity: The structure reflects the low scale development traditional to San Francisco's ocean frontage.
11. Setting: The park location contributes a complementary setting for the building.
12. Importance as a Visual Landmark: By its setting in the park and uninterrupted ocean exposure, a conspicuous and familiar structure in the context of the city.

D. INTEGRITY

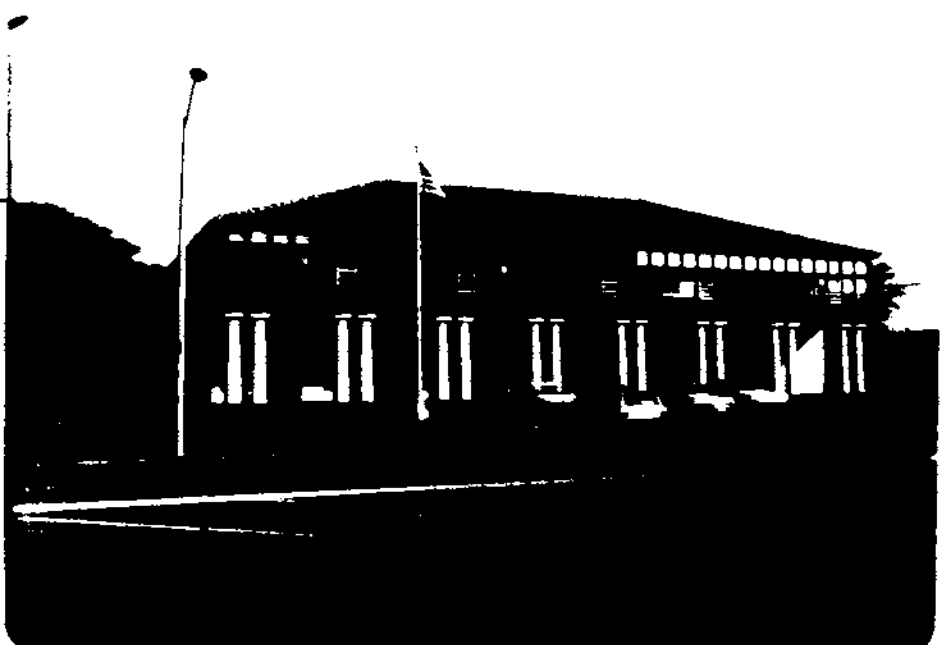
(cite alterations and physical condition) Essentially intact, in need of rehabilitation.

RATINGS

DCP: 2
 HERE TODAY: -
 SPLENDID SURV.: N/A
 NAT'L REGISTER: Listed 1981
 NAT'L LANDMARK:
 STATE LANDMARK:

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

(list sources on back)
 PREPARED BY: Edited by Jonathan Malone from material prepared by Molly Blauvelt, for Seth Curlin Assocs., 1980
 ADDRESS: 450 McAllister Street San Francisco, CA 94102
 PHONE: 558-2816
 DATE: March 20, 1985



7. visionary glass-walled Hallidie Building at 130 Sutter Street (1917). The Beach Chalet, his last design characteristically reflects Polk in the classic colonnade, flush second floor fenestration and traditional mission red tile roof.

Lucien Labaudt was born in France in 1880 and came to San Francisco in 1910. He opened a successful school of fashion design and became an instructor and board member at the California School of Fine Arts. His local work includes the Coit Tower stairwell fresco, "Powell Street", executed under a P.W.P.A. grant in 1934, and his Washington High School's library fresco, "The Advancement of Learning" done in 1936.

The Beach Chalet murals, depicting familiar scenes of Labaudt's friends and family at rest and play throughout the city, complement his earlier Coit Tower fresco cycles of Californians at work in the 1930's.

As in his earlier mural work, Labaudt employed the fresco technique, an ancient art form using earth pigment colors that are brushed directly onto a wet plaster surface. It is painstaking work because the artist must complete the section prepared before the plaster dries, or chip out dried blank spaces and hardened mistakes the next day. Working in sections of approximately two square feet per day, Labaudt spent over two years (1936 and 1937) creating his frescos.

Funding for the chalet's art work was provided by the Federal Art Project division of the Works Progress Administration, established by President Franklin Roosevelt in 1935. This unique sponsorship program was created in response to the desires of socialist-oriented artists' organizations and the practical necessities of setting up an effective art-relief program. A new artistic era was developing, which produced an expansion of the role of art as a means of social communication and change. Reviving an ancient Mexican artistic tradition, and responding to the influential work of artist Diego Rivera, muralists began to produce numerous public frescos, in an attempt to reach a "people's audience". According to his W.P.A. biography, Labaudt explained that the Beach Chalet murals "are to be specifically painted so that people without an understanding of art may recognize and enjoy the subject matter whether or not they are moved by considerations of design."

The murals are complemented by Primo Careddio's often whimsical mosaics, including an Indian shooting an arrow in the direction of the men's room, and Michael von Meyer's wood sculpture. A row of four free-standing, square-shaped support posts run longitudinally through the room. The posts were intricately carved by artist Michael von Meyer, with an algae-like pattern of shallow incised designs. Von Meyer also carved the magnolia wood balustrade for the stairway. Elaborately designed, the newell-post is an octopus whose long tentacles twist the length of the staircase, entwining mermaids and tiny divers.

9. American art history in which purely American sources were drawn upon as the major theme of art works. The Bay Area as a region was central to this evolution.

The first chalet at the site was a lunchroom, restaurant known as the "Swiss Chalet". It was designed by W. O. Banks, built in 1900, and located west of the current structure. After severe deterioration the building was sold to Boy Scout Troop No. 4 and moved to 24th Avenue and Irving. The structure burned in 1950.

The current Beach Chalet was commissioned by the Recreation and Park Commission for \$60,000. Willis Polk designed the building, however he died in 1924 prior to its completion. T.J.Dowd, manager, opened the Beach Chalet as a municipal restaurant in June of 1925. Successive uses included a tearoom operated by Hattie and Minnie Mauser through the 1930's; Army coastal defense headquarters during World War II; and a Veterans of Foreign Wars meeting hall and bar up to 1980.