ORDINANCE NO. 507-85

DIRECTING THE BEACH CHALET AT 1000 GREAT HIGHWAY 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 the Beach Chalet
located at 1000 Great Highway, Lot 1 in Assessor's Block 1709, 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 1009 of the City Planning Code,
Chapter 11, Part 11 of the San Francisco Municipal Code, the Beach Chalet is
hereby designated as a Landmark, this designation having been duly approved by
Resolution No. 10318 of the City Planning Commission, which Resolution is on
file with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors under File No. 90-85-3.

(b) Required Data. The description of the location and boundaries of the
Landmark site, 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 fully set forth.

(c) Interior Architectural Features. Proposed changes to major interior
architectural features shall require a Certificate of Appropriateness pursuant
to Section 1009 of the City Planning Code.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
George Agnost
City Attorney

RECOMMENDED:
CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

Finally Passed
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 Kopp
Molinari Nelder

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

Chair

Date Approved

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 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

57508/541A
FINAL CASE REPORT  APPROVED 3/20/1985 LANDMARKS PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD

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.

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 Curltn Assoc., 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 sconce 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? 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 fresco.

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 Caredio'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 newel-post is an octopus whose long tenacles 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 teafort 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.