

[Landmarks]
DESIGNATING THE FAIRMONT HOTEL AT 950 MASON 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 the
Fairmont Hotel located at 950 Mason Street, Lot 1 in Assessor's
Block 244, 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, the Fairmont Hotel at 950 Mason Street is hereby designated
as a Landmark, this designation having been duly approved by
Resolution No. 10816 of the City Planning Commission, which
Resolution is on File with the Clerk of the Board under File No.
90-87-4.

(b) Required Data. The location and boundaries of the
Landmark site encompass Lot 1 in Assessor's Block 244 excepting the
easterly portion upon which the roof garden structure, Crown Room
Tower, and Pavilion Room are constructed. The characteristics of
the Landmark which justify its designation, and the particular
features that should be preserved as included in the said
Resolution, are incorporated in this designating ordinance as
though fully set forth.

(SEE FILE FOR REQUIRED SIGNATURES)

Board of Supervisors, San Francisco

Passed for Second Reading

April 27, 1987

Ayes: Supervisors Britt Hongisto
Hsieh Kennedy Maher Molinari
Nelder Walker Ward

Absent: Supervisors Gonzalez Silver

§ Finally Passed

§ May 4, 1987

§ Ayes: Supervisors Britt Gonzalez
§ Hongisto Hsieh Maher Molinari
§ Nelder Silver Walker Ward

§ Absent: Supervisor Kennedy

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.
90-87-4

MAY 14 1987

Date Approved

Clerk

Mayor

SAN FRANCISCO
CITY PLANNING COMMISSION
RESOLUTION NO. 10816

WHEREAS, A proposal to designate the Fairmont Hotel at 950 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 May 21, 1986 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 September 18, 1986 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 Fairmont Hotel at 950 Mason Street, as a Landmark pursuant to Article 10 of the City Planning Code is hereby APPROVED.

Second, the precise location and boundaries of the Landmark site, 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 No. 382 as adopted on May 21, 1986 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. 86.236L;

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 September 18, 1986.

Michael Berkowitz
Acting Secretary

AYES: Commissioners Allen, Bierman, Hemphill, Karasick, Nakashima and Wright.
NOES: None.
ABSENT: Commissioner Rosenblatt.
ADOPTED: September 18, 1986.

BUILDING NAME: Fairmont Hotel OWNER: Fairmont Hotel Company
BUILDING ADDRESS: 950 Mason Street BLOCK & LOT: 244/1ptn. ZONING: RM-4
ORIGINAL USE: Hotel NO. OF STORIES: 7 LPAB VOTE: 7-0
CURRENT USE: Hotel EXTERIOR MATERIALS: Granite and brick

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

(Describe special CHARACTER, or special HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURAL or AESTHETIC interest or value:) The Fairmont is significant as a pre-1906 structure designed by noted architects James and Merritt Reid and Stanford White. The richly detailed exterior, elegant porte cochere and opulent lobby reflect the finest tradition of Nob Hill society life. Among San Francisco's grand hotels, the Fairmont maintains a standard of service true to its founding during the City's "golden age of millionaires".

EVALUATION CRITERIA

A. ARCHITECTURE

1. Style: Beaux Arts Classical.
2. Construction Type: Steel frame, granite with brick exterior.
3. Construction Date: 1902, completed and opened in 1906.
4. Design Quality: (LPAB ONLY)
5. Architect: 1902, James and Merritt Reid and Stanford White; 1906, Julia Morgan supervised the rehabilitation.
6. Interior Quality: (LPAB ONLY) The opulence of the lobby of the Fairmont echos pre-1906 Nob Hill wealth.

B. HISTORY

(as building is significantly associated with specific)

7. Persons: The Hotel Registry reads as a veritable "Who's Who" with entries for: Presidents Harding and Truman, Howard Taft, (over)
8. Events: The proceeds of the grand reopening of the hotel on 4/16/07 was acclaimed the "biggest banquet in a hotel" and netted \$22,000 for homeless children. The United Nations Charter was drawn up in (over)
9. Patterns of History: In the first decade of this century, the Fairmont Hotel was a prestigious stop for travelers, and a favorite meeting spot for West Coast society.

C. ENVIRONMENT

(relation to surroundings, specifically in terms of:)

10. Continuity: The hotel is a symbol of grace, charm, and dignity. Covering an entire city block (Powell, Sacramento, California) (over)
11. Setting: With the Flood Mansion (Pacific Union Club) and cable car lines, the Fairmont represents a portion of the pre-1906 character of Nob Hill. The front lawn, together with the grounds of the (over)
12. Importance as a Visual Landmark: Visible to ships entering the Golden Gate and from points in the East Bay, the Fairmont is a visual symbol of San Francisco.

D. INTEGRITY

(cite alterations and physical condition)

The hotel was restored after the earthquake in 1906. The 29-story Crown Room tower was built in 1960 and is not included in the landmark designation. The cornice was replicated in 1984 to meet parapet (over)

RATINGS

DCP: 4
HERE TODAY: pp. 66-68
SPLENDID SURV.: N/A
NAT'L REGISTER: --
NAT'L LANDMARK: --
STATE LANDMARK: --

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

(list sources on back)

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DATE: April 16, 1986
April 23, 1986



7. Persons (contd.)
General Mark Clark, Rudolph Valentino, Ernest Hemmingway, Chief Justice Earl Warren, Madam Chiang Kai Shek. Leading performing artists who have appeared at the hotel include Ella Fitzgerald, Tony Bennett, Count Basie, Sammy Davis Jr., Louis Armstrong and Nat King Cole.
8. Events (contd.)
1945 in the hotel. The Fairmont is currently the site for the ABC television program "Hotel", the model for the fictional "St. Gregory".
10. Continuity (contd.)
and Mason Streets), the structure relates to the predominant character on Nob Hill.
11. Setting (contd.)
Flood Mansion (Landmark No. 64), Huntington Park and Grace Cathedral Close (Landmark No. 170) create a continuum of open space on the crest of the hill.
- D. INTEGRITY (contd.)
safety requirements of the San Francisco Building Code. The California Street facade, at the rusticated base levels, has been altered to accommodate commercial tenancies. These alterations include new signage, entry doors, display windows, and awnings. The comparable area on the Sacramento Street facade has been altered with additional service entries. The east facade below floor two has been altered to connect the original building to the Crown Room tower addition. The Mason Street facade is essentially intact, with a new door added on the southeast corner.

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A.B.S.