

LANDMARKS PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD

LM67.3

(Old St. Mary's Church)

LOCATION	660 California Street, northeast corner of California Street and Grant Avenue; irregular shaped lot having a frontage of 90.5 feet on California Street and 102.5 feet on Grant Avenue; Lot 12 in Assessor's Block 241.
HISTORY	Old St. Mary's Church, erected 1853-54. Brick Victorian Gothic Church. Original Catholic Cathedral in San Francisco, gutted in 1906 and subsequently rebuilt. Stone foundations were cut to order in China, bricks came from New England. The original design included a 200 foot spire, but it was never built. It continued until 1893 as the Cathedral when the new St. Mary's Church was built on Van Ness Avenue. On May 7, 1966 the church was designated as a California Registered Historical Landmark number 810.
STRUCTURAL DESCRIPTION	Built of red brick on stone foundations undamaged by the 1906 earthquake, but burned out in the fire. The building was rebuilt and reopened in 1909. In 1966 another fire occurred in the attic of the church. There was serious water damage requiring considerable renovation, and closing of the building for 9 months.
SURROUNDING LAND USE AND ZONING	The site is in a transitional area between the downtown financial district and Chinatown. The area is zoned C-3 (Central Business District). As the downtown area has grown, this location increasingly has been a counterpoint to the surrounding high rise business buildings. Future developments such as the coming of the 52-story Bank of America headquarters building would indicate its further involvement in the fabric of downtown San Francisco.

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STRUCTURAL DESCRIPTION	Built of red brick on stone foundations undamaged by the 1906 earthquake, but burned out in the fire. The building was rebuilt and reopened in 1909. In 1966 another fire occurred in the attic of the church. There was serious water damage requiring considerable renovation, and closing of the building for 9 months.
SURROUNDING LAND USE AND ZONING	The site is in a transitional area between the downtown financial district and Chinatown. The area is zoned C-3 (Central Business District). As the downtown area has grown, this location increasingly has been a counterpoint to the surrounding high rise business buildings. Future developments such as the coming of the 52-story Bank of America headquarters building would indicate its further involvement in the fabric of downtown San Francisco.

LM 67.3

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NOTICE OF FINAL PASSAGE
FILE NO. 100-68 ORD. NO. 53-68
DESIGNATING OLD ST. MARY'S
CHURCH AS A LANDMARK.

I hereby certify that the foregoing ordinance was read for the second time and finally passed by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco at its meeting of Mar. 4, 1968.

ROBERT J. DOLAN, Clerk
 Approved: Mar. 11, 1968.
 JOSEPH L. ALIOTO, Mayor
 Mar. 15, 1968—11

FILE NO. 100-68 ORD. NO. 53-68
DESIGNATING OLD ST. MARY'S
CHURCH AS A LANDMARK.

Be it Ordained by the People of the City and County of San Francisco:

Section 1. The Board of Supervisors hereby finds that OLD ST. MARY'S CHURCH has a special character and special historical, architectural and aesthetic interest and value and that its designation as a Landmark will be in furtherance of and in conformance with the purposes of Article 10 of the City Planning Code and the standards set forth therein.

(a) Designation. Pursuant to Section 1004 of the City Planning Code, Chapter II, Part II of the San Francisco Municipal Code, OLD ST. MARY'S CHURCH is hereby designated as a Landmark, this designation having been duly approved by resolution of the City Planning Commission.

(b) Location and Boundaries. Pursuant to Section 1004 of the City Planning Code, Chapter II, Part II of the San Francisco Municipal Code, a landmark site is hereby designated for the said Landmark, located and bounded as follows:

Commencing at the point of intersection of the northerly line of California Street and the easterly line of Grant Avenue, thence northerly 162 feet 6 inches along the said line of Grant Avenue; thence at a right angle easterly 112 feet 6 inches; thence at a right angle southerly 25 feet; thence easterly at a right angle 25 feet; thence at a right angle southerly 81 feet; thence at a right angle westerly 47 feet; thence southerly at a right angle 56 feet 6 inches; thence westerly 90 feet 6 inches along said line of California Street to the point of commencement; being lot 12 in Assessor's Block 241.

(c) Justification. The special character and special historical, architectural and aesthetic interest and value of the said Landmark justifying its designation are as follows:

The first church erected as a Roman Catholic Cathedral in California, in 1854, it is the monument to the Most Reverend Joseph Alemany, first Archbishop of San Francisco. It is the second oldest remaining church in San Francisco, still in use. The church, once the most prominent landmark in the young City, stands today as one of the few visible links with the Days of Gold. Facing in one direction the commercial district of the City, and in the other Chinatown, it unites the East and the West, the Occident and the Orient, and in its congregation, the cosmopolitan population of our City.

(d) Features. The said Landmark should be preserved generally in all of its particular exterior features as existing on the date hereof and as described and depicted in the photographs, case report and other material on file in the Department of City Planning in Docket No. LM67.3; the summary description being as follows:

Victorian Gothic architecture, in red brick, with massive stone foundations. Sloping roof, and central tower 90 feet high. The tower has a clock with four dials, facing the four cardinal points of the compass. The plinth, embrasure caps, buttresses, tower door, moldings and crockets, as well as the corbels of the windows, are of cut stone. The pinnacles and parapet of the tower are also of cut stone. There is an inscription on the front of the tower, "Son, observe the time, and flee from evil." There are Spanish coats of arms on the tower and there is a Rose window of Art Glass on Grant Avenue.

I hereby certify that the foregoing ordinance was passed for second reading by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco at its meeting of Feb. 26, 1968.

ROBERT J. DOLAN, Clerk
 March 4, 1968—11

CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

RESOLUTION NO. 6162

WHEREAS, A proposal to designate Old Saint Mary's Church as a Landmark pursuant to the provisions of Article 10 of the City Planning Code was initiated by the Landmarks Preservation Board on October 11, 1967, and the said Advisory Board, after due consideration, has recommended approval of this proposal;

WHEREAS, The City Planning Commission, after due notice given, held a public hearing on November 30, 1967 to consider the report of the said Advisory Board and the conformance or lack of conformance of the proposed designation with the purposes and standards of the said Article 10; 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 of the said Article 10;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: First, That the proposal to designate Old St. Mary's Church as a Landmark pursuant to Article 10 of the City Planning Code is hereby APPROVED, the location and boundaries of the landmark site being as follows:

Commencing at the point of intersection of the northerly line of California Street and the easterly line of Grant Avenue, thence northerly 162 feet 6 inches along the said line of Grant Avenue; thence at a right angle easterly 112 feet 6 inches; thence at a right angle southerly 25 feet; thence easterly at a right angle 25 feet; thence at a right angle southerly 81 feet; thence at a right angle westerly 47 feet; thence southerly at a right angle 56 feet 6 inches; thence westerly 90 feet 6 inches along said line of California Street to the point of commencement; being lot 12 in Assessor's Block 241;

and the Commission hereby directs its Secretary to transmit the said proposal and a copy of this Resolution to the Board of Supervisors for appropriate action;

Second, That the characteristics of the Landmark justifying its designation are as follows:

The first church erected as a Roman Catholic Cathedral in California, in 1854, it is the monument to the Most Reverend Joseph Alemany, first Archbishop of San Francisco. It is the second oldest remaining church in San Francisco, still in use. The church, once the most prominent landmark in the young City, stands today as one of the few visible links with the Days of Gold. Facing in one direction the commercial district of the City, and in the other Chinatown, it unites the East and the West, the Occident and the Orient, and in its congregation, the cosmopolitan population of our City;

Third, That the particular features of the Landmark that should be preserved are:

Victorian Gothic architecture, in red brick, with massive stone foundations. Sloping roof, and central tower 90 feet high. The tower has a clock with four dials, facing the four cardinal points of the compass. The plinth, embrasure caps, buttresses, tower door, mouldings and crockets, as well as the corbels of the windows, are of cut stone. The pinnacles and parapet of the tower are also of cut stone. There is an inscription on the front of the tower, "Con, observe the time, and flee from evil". There are Spanish coats of arms on the tower and there is a Rose window of Art Glass on Grant Avenue.

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED by the City Planning Commission at its regular meeting of November 30, 1967.

Lynn E. Pio
Secretary

AYES: Commissioners Brinton, Elliott, Porter, Stockwell, Wight, Willard
NOES: None
ABSENT: Commissioner Kearney
PASSED: November 30, 1967