

1 [Ordinance to Designate 1305 18th Avenue, the Carnegie Sunset Library, as a Landmark
2 Under Planning Code Article 10.]

3 *designating*
4 **Ordinance 1305 18th Avenue, the Carnegie Sunset Branch Library as Landmark No. 239**
5 **Pursuant To Article 10, Sections 1004 And 1004.4 Of The Planning Code.**

6 Note: Additions are single-underline italics Times New Roman;
7 deletions are ~~strikethrough italics Times New Roman~~.
8 Board amendment additions are double underlined.
9 Board amendment deletions are ~~strikethrough normal~~.

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

10 Section 1. Findings

11 The Board of Supervisors hereby finds that 1305 18th Avenue, the Carnegie Sunset
12 Library, Lot 1 in Assessor's Block 1773, has a special character and special historical,
13 architectural and aesthetic interest and value, and that its designation as a Landmark will
14 further the purposes of, and conform to the standards set forth in Article 10 of the City
15 Planning Code.

16 (a) Designation: Pursuant to Section 1004 of the City Planning Code, 1305 18th
17 Avenue, the Carnegie Sunset Library, is hereby designated as Landmark No. 239. This
18 designation has been fully approved by Resolution No. 565 of the Landmarks Preservation
19 Advisory Board and Resolution No. 16712 of the Planning Commission, which Resolutions
20 are on file with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors under File No. 040442 and which
21 Resolutions are incorporated herein and made part hereof as though fully set forth.

22 (b) Priority Policy Findings

23 (1) Pursuant to Planning Code Section 302, this Board of Supervisors finds that this
24 ordinance will serve the public necessity, convenience and welfare for the reasons set forth in
25 Planning Commission Resolution No. 16712 recommending approval of this Planning Code

Supervisors Peskin, McGoldrick, Maxwell, Ma, Gonzalez
PLANNING DEPARTMENT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

1 Amendment, and incorporates such reasons by this reference thereto. A copy of said
2 resolution is on file with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors in File No. 040442.

3 (2) Pursuant to Planning Code Section 101.1, this Board of Supervisors finds that this
4 ordinance is in consistent with the Priority Policies of Section 101.1(b) of the Planning Code
5 and, when effective, with the General Plan as proposed to be amended and hereby adopts
6 the findings of the Planning Commission, as set forth in Planning Commission Resolution No.
7 16712, and incorporates said findings by this reference thereto.

8 (c) Required Data:

9 (1) The description, location and boundary of the Landmark site encompass the 1305
10 the Carnegie Sunset Library at 1305 18th Avenue, which is the footprint of the building.

11 (2) The characteristics of the Landmark which justify its designation are described and
12 shown in the Landmark Designation Report adopted by the Landmarks Preservation Advisory
13 Board on September 3, 2003 and other supporting materials contained in Planning
14 Department Docket No. 2001.0566L. In brief, the National Register characteristics of the
15 landmark which justify its designation are as follows:

16 Its association with patterns of social and cultural history of San Francisco, particularly
17 with the contestation of political and cultural power between working class based groups and
18 middle class based Progressives (National Register Criterion A); its architectural embodiment
19 of Progressive and City Beautiful tenets of civic grandeur used as a means of social
20 organization, particularly the acculturation of working class and immigrant populations; and its
21 architectural embodiment of the distinctive characteristics of an early branch library building,
22 especially those delineated in "Notes on the Erection of Library Buildings" (National Register
23 Criterion C.)

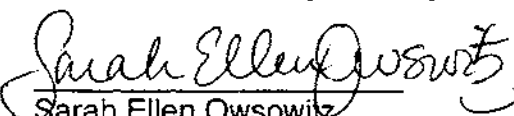
24 (3) The particular exterior features that should be preserved, or replaced in-kind as
25 determined necessary, are those generally shown in the photographs and described in the

1 Landmark Designation Report, both which can be found in the case docket 2001.0566L,
2 which is incorporated in this designation ordinance as though fully set forth. In brief, the
3 description of the particular features that should be preserved are as follows:

4 The building's exterior composition and materials, the paneled vestibule, the spatial
5 volume of the Main Reading Room, the ornamental ceiling of the Main Reading Room and the
6 glazed and paneled partition between the Main Reading Room and the Children's Room.

7 Section 2. The property shall be subject to further controls and procedures, pursuant
8 to this Board of Supervisor's Ordinance and Planning Code Article 10.

9
10 APPROVED AS TO FORM:
11 DENNIS J. HERRERA, City Attorney

12 By: 
13 Sarah Ellen Owsowitz
14 Deputy City Attorney

RECOMMENDED:
PLANNING COMMISSION

15 By: 
16 Lawrence B. Badiner
17 Director of Planning
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City and County of San Francisco
Tails
Ordinance

City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

File Number: 040442

Date Passed:

Ordinance designating 1305 18th Avenue, the Carnegie Sunset Branch Library as Landmark No. 239
Pursuant To Article 10, Sections 1004 And 1004.4 Of The Planning Code.

May 25, 2004 Board of Supervisors — PASSED ON FIRST READING

Ayes: 10 - Alioto-Pier, Ammiano, Daly, Dufty, Gonzalez, Ma, Maxwell,
McGoldrick, Peskin, Sandoval
Excused: 1 - Hall

June 8, 2004 Board of Supervisors — FINALLY PASSED

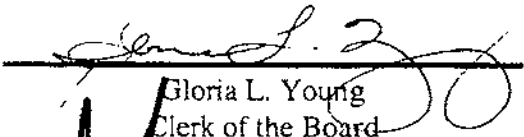
Ayes: 9 - Alioto-Pier, Ammiano, Daly, Dufty, Gonzalez, Maxwell, McGoldrick,
Peskin, Sandoval
Absent: 1 - Ma
Excused: 1 - Hall

File No. 040442

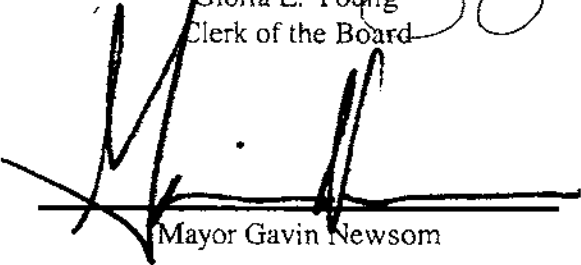
I hereby certify that the foregoing Ordinance
was **FINALLY PASSED** on June 8, 2004 by
the Board of Supervisors of the City and
County of San Francisco.

JUN 10 2004

Date Approved



Gloria L. Young
Clerk of the Board



Mayor Gavin Newsom

Case No. 2001.0566L
1305 18th Avenue, Carnegie
Sunset Branch Library,
Assessor's Block 1773, Lot 1

**SAN FRANCISCO
PLANNING COMMISSION
RESOLUTION NO. 16712**

ADOPTING FINDINGS RELATED TO THE APPROVAL OF LANDMARK DESIGNATION OF 1305 18th Avenue, THE CARNEGIE SUNSET BRANCH LIBRARY, ASSESSOR'S BLOCK 1773, LOT 1 AS LANDMARK NO. 239.

1. WHEREAS, on June 2, 1999, the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board (Landmarks Board) established its Landmarks Designation Work Program for fiscal year 1999 – 2000. Up to 8 sites were chosen to have Landmark Designation Reports developed and brought to the Landmarks Board for review and comment, and consideration of initiation of landmark designation. Included on that list was 1305 18th Avenue, the Carnegie Sunset Branch Library; and
2. Tim Kelley, President of the Landmarks Board, prepared and submitted a draft landmark Designation Report for 1305 18th Avenue, the Carnegie Sunset Branch Library, for the Landmarks Board to consider initiation of the landmark designation of the property; and
3. At its regular meeting of September 3, 2003, the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board (Landmarks Board) adopted Resolution No. 565, initiating designation of and recommending to the Planning Commission that they approve the Carnegie Sunset Branch Library as Landmark No. 239; and
4. The Landmarks Board finds that the Carnegie Sunset Branch Library Designation Report describes the location and boundaries, of the landmark site, describes the characteristics of the landmark which justifies its designation, and describes the particular features that should be preserved and therefore meets the requirements of Planning Code Section 1004(b) and 1004(c)(1). That Designation Report is fully incorporated by reference into this resolution; and
5. The Planning Commission reviewed and endorsed the description, location, and boundary of the landmark site, which is the footprint of the building; and
6. The Planning Commission, in considering the proposed landmark designation employed the "National Register of Historic Places" rating criteria and found 1305 18th Avenue, the Carnegie Sunset Branch Library to be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A, (association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history), and C (embodies distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction); and

7. The Planning Commission reviewed and endorsed the following description of the characteristics of the landmark which justify its designation:
 - (a) Association with patterns of social and cultural history of San Francisco during the period of significance, particularly with the contestation of political and cultural power between working class based groups and middle class based Progressives;
 - (b) Architectural embodiment of Progressive and City Beautiful tenets of civic grandeur used as a means of social organization, particularly the acculturation of working class and immigrant populations; and
 - (c) Architectural embodiment of the distinctive characteristics of an early branch library building, especially those delineated in "Notes on the Erection of Library Buildings."
8. The Planning Commission reviewed and endorsed the following particular features that should be preserved:
 - (a) Exterior composition and materials.
 - (b) The paneled vestibule.
 - (c) The spatial volume of the Main Reading Room.
 - (d) The ornamental ceiling of the Main Reading Room.
 - (e) The glazed and paneled partition between the Main Reading Room and the Children's Room.
9. The designation of the Carnegie Sunset Branch Library meets the required findings of Planning Code Section 101.1 in the following manner:
 - The proposed Project will further Priority Policy No. 7, that landmarks and historic buildings be preserved, such as the designation of the Carnegie Sunset Branch Library as City Landmark No. 239. Landmark designation will help to preserve a significant historic resource associated with patterns of social and cultural history in San Francisco.
 - That the proposed project will have no significant effect on the other seven Priority Policies: the City's supply of affordable housing, existing housing or neighborhood character, public transit or neighborhood paring, preparedness to protect against injury and loss of life in an earthquake, commercial activity, business or employment, or public parks and open space.
10. The designation of the Carnegie Sunset Branch Library is consistent with the following Urban Design Element of the General Plan:

OBJECTIVE 2: CONSERVATION OF RESOURCES THAT PROVIDE A SENSE OF NATURE, CONTINUITY WITH THE PAST, AND FREEDOM FROM OVERCROWDING.

Policy 4 Preserve notable landmarks and areas of historic, architectural or aesthetic value, and promote the preservation of other buildings and features that provide continuity with past development.

Designating this significant historic resource as a local landmark will further a continuity with the past because the exterior of the building will be preserved for the benefit of future generations. Landmark designation will require that the Planning Department and the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board would review any proposed work that may have an impact on character-defining features. Both entities will utilize the Secretary of Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation in their review to ensure that only appropriate, compatible alterations are made. The proposed landmark designation will not have a significant impact on any of the other elements of the General Plan.

11. The Planning Commission has reviewed documents, correspondence and oral testimony on matters relevant to the proposed landmark designation, at a duly noticed Public Hearing held on January 15, 2004 and finds the proposal will help to preserve a significant historic resource associated with patterns of social and cultural history in San Francisco.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Planning Commission hereby approves the landmark designation of 1305 18th Avenue, the Carnegie Sunset Branch Library, Assessor's Block 1773, Lot 1 as Landmark No. 239 pursuant to Article 10 of the Planning Code; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Planning Commission hereby directs its Recording Secretary to transmit this Resolution, the 1305 18th Avenue, the Carnegie Sunset Branch Library Landmark Designation Report and other pertinent materials in the Case File 2001.0566L to the Board of Supervisor's.

PLANNING COMMISSION

January 15, 2004

Case No. 2001.0566L

1305 18th Avenue, the Carnegie

Sunset Branch Library,

Assessor's Block 1773, Lot 1

Resolution No. 16712

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I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Planning Commission on January 15, 2004.

Linda Avery

Planning Commission Secretary

AYES: Antonini, Boyd, Bradford-Bell, Feldstein, Hughes, Sue Lee, William Lee

NOES:

ABSENT:

ADOPTED: January 15, 2004

HISTORIC NAME: Sunset Branch

POPULAR NAME: same

ADDRESS: 1305 18th Street, SW corner of Irving

BLOCK & LOT: 1773-001

OWNER: San Francisco Public Library
Civic Center
San Francisco, CA 94102

ORIGINAL USE: Public branch library

CURRENT USE: Public branch library

ZONING: "P"

National Register Criterion (a)

- (A) X Association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- (B) Association with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- (C) X Embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.
- (D) Has yielded, or may be likely to yield information important in history or prehistory.

* **Period of Significance:** 1918 to present

* **Integrity:** The building presently retains a high degree of integrity, both interior and exterior.

Article 10 Requirements—Section 1004 (b)

* **Boundaries of the Landmark Site**

The boundaries of the Landmark Site are the footprint of the building.

* **Characteristics of the Landmark which justify its designation**

1. Association with patterns of social and cultural history of San Francisco during the period of significance, particularly with the contestation of political and cultural power between working class based groups and middle class based Progressives.

2. Architectural embodiment of Progressive and City Beautiful tenets of civic grandeur used as a means of social organization, particularly the acculturation of working class and immigrant populations.

3. Architectural embodiment of the distinctive characteristics of an early branch library building, especially those delineated in "*Notes on the Erection of Library Buildings*".

* **Description of the Particular features that should be preserved**

1. Exterior composition and materials.
2. The paneled vestibule.
3. The spatial volume of the Main Reading Room.
4. The ornamental ceiling of the Main Reading Room.
5. The glazed and paneled partition between the Main Reading Room and the historic Children's Room.

DESCRIPTION

Italian Renaissance in style, the Sunset Branch Library is clad in matte glazed terra cotta. It is rectangular in plan, built to the sidewalk lines of its corner lot, with a smaller rectangular extension at the rear. The main mass is one story over a slightly raised basement, with a red tiled hipped roof. The roof overhangs on all sides, and features glazed terra cotta modillions. There is also a small dentilated cornice with ornamental frieze inscribed "SUNSET BRANCH SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY" on the 18th Street facade and "PUBLIC LIBRARY" on the Irving Street side. A belt cornice marks the upper floor level.

The composition is symmetrical, with a central loggia of three high arches with ornamented archivolts, as well as unfluted terra cotta columns and pilasters with composite capitals. The main entrance is in the middle of the loggia, with high, recessed arched windows flanking it and a matching arched transom above. There are two more identical windows in the main facade, and three on the Irving Street facade. Beneath each window is an ornamental tablet inscribed with the names of famous authors.

The main entrance leads through a small wood paneled vestibule into the main reading room, which occupies almost the entire upper floor. Peripheral shelving runs under the high windows. The high ornate ceiling is intact. At the rear of the main room is a wooden partition, the upper half glazed, separating the original children's room, which occupies the rear extension of the building, and has been converted to staff use. The doorway to the rear room is pedimented, with a clock enclosed in the pediment. The transition from the main part of the building to the rear extension is marked by plaster pilasters. Historic fabric in the old children's room is also intact, here including the historic skylight and multi-light diffuser.

In the main room, a wood paneled elevator enclosure has been added, free standing in the northeast corner of the room. The elevator, as well as a stairway behind the check-out desk, lead down to the new children's room, toilets, and service areas. There is a handicapped accessible entrance from Irving Street to the lower level.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

CRITERION A: SIGNIFICANT HISTORIC PATTERNS

The Sunset Branch Library was the fourth of seven branch buildings financed by a Carnegie grant. The grant itself was the subject of twelve years of intense political and class conflict in San Francisco. This branch was constructed in the new and growing Sunset neighborhood.

By providing easy access to published works for neighborhood residents, the building expresses the national and local ascendancy of Progressive

political and social values, as well as the development of public libraries. It also expresses the City Beautiful philosophy by presenting a building intended to create a sense of civic grandeur and dignity in the citizen who enters, or merely views it.

CRITERION C: POSSESSES HIGH ARTISTIC VALUES

In both its exterior composition and its grand main reading room, the Sunset Branch Library possesses high artistic values. The prominent windows impart an orderly rhythm to the design from the exterior, while inside they enshrine the books and create a site for acculturation. The entry path is carefully controlled, with the transition from the street, through the loggia and the small constricted vestibule into the grand, high ceilinged main reading room conveying a sense of intellectual and civic rebirth.

REFERENCES:

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Board of Supervisors. *San Francisco Municipal Reports*. various years 1900 to 1925

Carnegie Corporation of New York Archives, Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University

Carnegie Corporation of New York, website, "Andrew Carnegie's Legacy"

The Foundation for San Francisco's Architectural Heritage. "Libraries Reflect the City's Values". Heritage Newsletter, vol XVI, No. 4. uncredited author Donald Andreini

Issel, William and Robert W. Cherny. *San Francisco 1865-1932; Politics, Power, and Urban Development*. Berkeley, Los Angeles, London, University of California Press. 1986

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Kazin, Michael. *Barons of Labor*. University of Illinois Press. Urbana and Chicago. 1987

Kelley, Tim. "Origins of the Seven San Francisco Carnegie Branch Libraries, 1901-1921" Context Statement. Planning Department. January, 2001

Kortum, Lucy Deam. "Carnegie Library Development in California and the Architecture It Produced, 1899-1921". M.A. Thesis, Sonoma State University, 1990

Longstreth, Richard W. *On the Edge of the World: Four Architects in San Francisco at the Turn of the Century*. New York. Architectural History Foundation; Cambridge, Mass. MIT Press. 1983

Stern, Norton B. & William M. Kramer. "G. Albert Lansburgh, San Francisco's Jewish Architect from Panama" *Western States Jewish Historical Quarterly*. April-May 1981

Van Slyck, Abigail A. *Free to All, Carnegie Libraries and American Culture: 1890-1920*, The University of Chicago Press, Chicago, IL, 1995

LANDMARK DESIGNATION REPORT

DATE:

CASE NO.:

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LANDMARKS BOARD VOTE:

APPROVED:

PLANNING COMMISSION VOTE:

APPROVED:

PROPOSED LANDMARK NO.:

RATINGS: 1976 Citywide Survey "3"

PREPARED BY: Tim Kelley

San Francisco Landmarks Board

1660 Mission Street, SF, CA

ADDRESS:

Attachments: ☒ 523A ☒ 523B ☒ 523L (continuation sheets) ☒ Context Statement ☐ Other...