

1 [Landmark Designation of 451 Jersey Street (Carnegie Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Branch
2 Library).]

3 Ordinance designating 451 Jersey Street, the Carnegie Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Branch
4 Library, (Assessor's Block Number 6539, Lot Number 034), as a Landmark under
5 Planning Code Article 10; and adopting General Plan, Planning Code Section 101.1(b)
6 and environmental findings

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

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

12 Section 1. Findings.

13 A. On November 8, 2007, at a duly noticed public hearing, the Planning
14 Commission in Resolution No. 17508 found that the proposed landmark designation of 451
15 Jersey Street (the Carnegie Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Branch Library) was consistent with the
16 City's General Plan and with Planning Code Section 101.1(b). In addition, the Planning
17 Commission recommended that the Board of Supervisors adopt the landmark designation. A
18 copy of said Resolution is on file with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors in File No.
19 _____ 080189 _____ and is incorporated herein by reference. The Board finds that the proposed
20 landmark designation is consistent with the City's General Plan and with Planning Code
21 Section 101.1(b) for the reasons set forth in said Resolution.

22 B. Pursuant to Planning Code Section 302, the Board finds that the proposed
23 landmark designation will serve the public necessity, convenience and welfare for the reasons
24 set forth in Planning Commission Resolution No. 17508, which reasons are incorporated
25

1 herein by reference as though fully set forth. A copy of said Resolution is on file with the Clerk
2 of the Board of Supervisors in File No. 080189.

3 C. The Planning Department has determined that the actions contemplated in this
4 Ordinance are in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (California Public
5 Resources Code section 21000 et seq.). Said determination is on file with the Clerk of the
6 Board of Supervisors in File No. _____ and is incorporated herein by reference.

7 D. The Board of Supervisors hereby finds that 451 Jersey Street (the Carnegie Noe
8 Valley/Sally Brunn Branch Library), Lot No 034 in Assessor's Block No. 6539, has a special
9 character and special historical, architectural, and aesthetic interest and value, and that its
10 designation as a Landmark will further the purposes of and conform to the standards set forth
11 in Article 10 of the San Francisco Planning Code.

12 Section 2: Designation. Pursuant to Section 1004 of the Planning Code, 451 Jersey
13 Street (the Carnegie Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Branch Library), Lot No 034 in Assessor's Block
14 No. 6539, is hereby designated a Landmark under Article 10 of the Planning Code. This
15 designation was initiated by the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board through its
16 Landmark Designation Work Program for fiscal year 1999-2000, and affirmed with Resolution
17 No. 619 of the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board and Resolution No. 17508 of the
18 Planning Commission, which Resolutions are on file with the Clerk of the Board of
19 Supervisors in File No. 080189 and which Resolutions are incorporated herein by
20 reference as though fully set forth.

21 Section 3. Required Data.

22 (a) The description, location, and boundary of the Landmark site consists of the City
23 parcel located at the south side of the middle of Jersey Street, on Assessor's Block 6539, Lot
24
25

034, with a street address of 451 Jersey Street (the Carnegie Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Branch Library).

(b) The characteristics of the Landmark that justify its designation are described and shown in the Landmark Designation Report adopted by the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board on October 17, 2007 and other supporting materials contained in Planning Department Docket No. 2001.0565 L. In brief, the National Register of Historic Places characteristics of the Landmark that justify its designation are as follows:

(1) Association with the work of a master architect, John Reid, Jr.;

(2) 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;

(3) 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

(4) Architectural embodiment of the distinctive characteristics of an early branch library building.

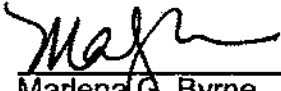
(c) The particular exterior features that shall be preserved, or replaced in-kind as determined necessary, are those generally shown in photographs and described in the Landmark Designation Report, which can be found in Planning Department Docket No. 2001.0565L and which is incorporated in this designation by reference as though fully set forth. In brief, the description of the particular exterior and interior features that should be preserved are the exterior composition and materials, the paneled vestibule, the primary stairway, the spatial volume of the Main Reading Room, the ornamental ceiling of the Main

1 Reading Room, and the glazed and paneled partition between the Main Reading Room and
2 the Children's Room.

3 Section 4. The property shall be subject to further controls and procedures, including
4 Certificate of Appropriateness requirements, pursuant to Planning Code Article 10.

5
6 APPROVED AS TO FORM:
7 DENNIS J. HERRERA, City Attorney

8 By:


9 Marlena G. Byrne
10 Deputy City Attorney
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City and County of San Francisco

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

Tails

Ordinance

File Number: 080189

Date Passed:

Ordinance designating 451 Jersey Street, the Carnegie Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Branch Library, (Assessor's Block Number 6539, Lot Number 034), as a Landmark under Planning Code Article 10; and adopting General Plan, Planning Code Section 101.1(b) and environmental findings.

February 26, 2008 Board of Supervisors — PASSED ON FIRST READING

Ayes: 9 - Ammiano, Chu, Daly, Elsbernd, Maxwell, McGoldrick, Mirkarimi, Peskin, Sandoval

Absent: 1 - Alioto-Pier

Excused: 1 - Duffy

March 4, 2008 Board of Supervisors — FINALLY PASSED

Ayes: 11 - Alioto-Pier, Ammiano, Chu, Daly, Duffy, Elsbernd, Maxwell, McGoldrick, Mirkarimi, Peskin, Sandoval

File No. 080189

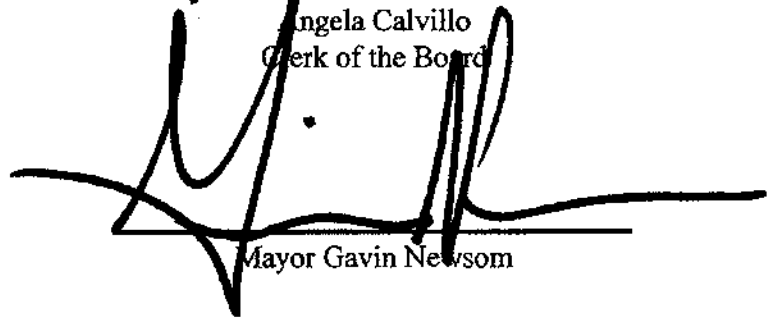
I hereby certify that the foregoing Ordinance
was **FINALLY PASSED** on March 4, 2008 by
the Board of Supervisors of the City and
County of San Francisco.



Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

3.10.08

Date Approved



Mayor Gavin Newsom

Proposed Landmark Designation of the Carnegie Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Branch Library

SAN FRANCISCO

PLANNING COMMISSION

RESOLUTION NO. 7508

ADOPTING FINDINGS RELATED TO THE RECOMMENDATION OF APPROVAL OF THE LANDMARK DESIGNATION OF THE CARNEGIE NOE VALLEY/SALLY BRUNN BRANCH LIBRARY (LOCATED AT 451 JERSEY STREET, ASSESSOR'S BLOCK 6539, LOT 034) AS A SAN FRANCISCO LANDMARK UNDER ARTICLE 10 OF THE PLANNING CODE.

WHEREAS, On June 2, 1999 the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board (LPAB) established its Landmark Designation work program for fiscal year 1999-2000. Eight sites, seven of which are Carnegie Branch libraries, were selected to have landmark designation reports developed and brought to the Landmarks Board for review, comment, and consideration of initiation of landmark designation. Included on that list was the Carnegie Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Branch Library; and

To date, five of the Carnegie Branch libraries have been designated by the Board of Supervisors as local landmarks through Article 10 of the Planning Code – the Carnegie Chinatown, Mission, Sunset, Presidio, and Richmond Branch libraries; and

Tim Kelley, past President of the LPAB, prepared the landmark designation report for the Carnegie Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Branch library (**Attachment A**), and the Department of Recreation and Park's DPR 532(A) form (**Attachment B**). The property owner, San Francisco Public Library, reviewed the designation report in May, 2001 and supports the designation of the Carnegie Noe Valley Branch library as a City landmark. Planning Department staff reviewed the report and prepared comments and opinions for the Landmarks Board; and

The Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board, at its regular meeting of October 17, 2007, reviewed the Landmark Designation Report for the Carnegie Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Branch Library. The Landmarks Board found that the Designation Report describes the location and boundaries of the landmark site, describes the characteristics of the landmark that justify 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

The Landmarks Board unanimously adopted Resolution No. 619, in which they recommended to the Planning Commission that they adopt a Resolution recommending that the Board of Supervisors adopt an ordinance to designate the Carnegie Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Branch Library as a local San Francisco landmark pursuant to Article 10 of the Planning Code; and

The Commission held a duly noticed hearing at a regularly scheduled meeting on November 8, 2007 to consider the proposed Ordinance and the Landmarks Board's recommendation.

The Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board, in considering the proposed landmark designation employed the National Register of Historic Places criteria and found the Carnegie Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Branch Library to be eligible for listing on the National Register under Register under Criterion A (Associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history), as well as Criterion C (Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master,

or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction); and

The Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board reviewed and endorsed the following description of the characteristics of the landmark which justify its designation:

- a. Association with the work of a master architect, John Reid, Jr;
- b. 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;
- c. 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;
- d. Architectural embodiment of the distinctive characteristics of an early Branch library building, especially those delineated in "Notes on the Erection of Library Buildings¹;" and

The Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board has reviewed and endorsed the following particular features that should be preserved:

- a. Exterior composition and materials.
- b. The paneled vestibule.
- c. The primary stairway.
- d. The spatial volume of the Main Reading Room.
- e. The ornamental ceiling of the Main Reading Room.
- f. The glazed and paneled partition between the Main Reading Room and the Children's Room; and

The Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board found that the designation of the Carnegie Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Branch Library meets the required findings of Planning Code Section 101.1 in the following manner:

- a. The proposed Project will further Priority Policy No. 7, that landmarks and historic buildings be preserved. Landmark designation will help to preserve a significant historical resource that is associated with architecture that embodies the work of a master, and that embodies the tenets of the City Beautiful movement.
- b. The proposed project will have no significant impact to the other seven Priority Policies: the City's supply of affordable housing, existing housing, or neighborhood character, public transit or neighborhood parking, preparedness to protect against injury and loss of life in an earthquake, commercial activity, business or employment, or public parks or open space; and,

The Planning Commission concurs with the Landmarks Board's findings and its recommendation of approval

¹ "Notes on the Erection of Library Buildings," excerpted from *Free to All, Carnegie Libraries and American Culture: 1890-1920*, Abigail Van Slych (Chicago, 1995), Appendix I, Page 1.

of the landmark designation of the Carnegie Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Branch Library.

The proposed landmark designation is consistent with the following General Plan Policies:

Urban Design Element

- | | |
|------------|---|
| POLICY 2.4 | 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. |
| POLICY 2.6 | Respect the character of older development nearby in the design of new buildings. |
| POLICY 2.7 | Recognize and protect outstanding and unique areas that contribute in an extraordinary degree to San Francisco's visual form and character. |

The proposed landmark designation would increase the protection of and outstanding and unique historical resource, thereby helping to better implement the above policies.

The proposed amendments to the Planning Code are consistent with the eight Priority Policies set forth in Section 101.1(b) of the Planning Code in that:

1. That existing neighborhood-serving retail uses be preserved and enhanced and future opportunities for resident employment in and ownership of such businesses enhanced;

The proposed landmark designation will not impact such uses or opportunities.
2. That existing housing and neighborhood character be conserved and protected in order to preserve the cultural and economic diversity of our neighborhoods;

The proposed landmark designation will not negatively impact existing housing or neighborhood character.
3. That the City's supply of affordable housing be preserved and enhanced;

The proposed landmark designation will not negatively impact the City's supply of affordable housing.
4. That commuter traffic not impede MUNI transit service or overburden our streets or neighborhood parking;

The proposed landmark designation will not impede transit service or overburden our streets or neighborhood parking.
5. That a diverse economic base be maintained by protecting our industrial and service sectors from displacement due to commercial office development, and that future opportunities for resident employment and ownership in these sectors be enhanced;

The proposed landmark designation will not impact the diversity of economic activity.
6. That the City achieve the greatest possible preparedness to protect against injury and loss of life in an

earthquake;

The proposed Ordinance would not modify any physical parameters of the Planning Code or other Codes. It is furthermore not anticipated that the proposed Ordinance would result in any building activity and therefore would have no affect on the City's preparedness for an earthquake.

7. That the landmarks and historic buildings be preserved;

Designating this significant historic resource as a local landmark will further a continuity with the past because the character-defining features 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 review any proposed work that may have an impact on character-defining features. Both entities will utilize the Secretary of Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties 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.

8. That our parks and open space and their access to sunlight and vistas be protected from development;

The proposed Ordinance would not impact or facilitate any development which could have any impact on our parks and open space or their access to sunlight and vistas.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Planning Commission hereby recommends to the Board of Supervisors that it approve the proposed ordinance; and

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Commission at its meeting on November 8, 2007.

Linda Avery
Commission Secretary

AYES: Alexander, Antonini, S. Lee, W. Lee, Moore, Olague, Sugaya

NOES: 0

ABSENT: 0

HISTORIC NAME: Noe Valley Branch Library
POPULAR NAME: same

ADDRESS: 451 Jersey Street
BLOCK & LOT: 6539-034
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) ☒ 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) ☒ 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:** 1915-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**
Boundaries of the Landmark Site are the footprint of the building and the Jersey Street setback.
- * **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**

LANDMARK DESIGNATION REPORT**DATE:****CASE NO.:****PAGE 2****LANDMARKS BOARD VOTE:****APPROVED:****PLANNING COMMISSION VOTE:****APPROVED:****PROPOSED LANDMARK NO.:**

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

DESCRIPTION

Exhibiting mainly Classical Revival features, the Noe Valley Branch Library is rectangular in plan, with a smaller rectangular extension at the rear. The main mass is one story over a raised basement, with a tiled end-gabled roof. The roof overhangs on all sides, and features carved rafter ends. The building is set back slightly from the street, and is several feet above sidewalk level, reached by a low central flight of steps.

The composition is symmetrical, dominated by five tall rectangular casement windows on the upper floor and the pedimented central entrance. The upper windows are framed together, separated by pilasters, with a common sill and lintel. The lintel is inscribed "NOE VALLEY BRANCH PUBLIC LIBRARY". A dentilated cornice with frieze runs beneath the eaves, a belt cornice marks the upper floor level, and a plinth forms the building's base. On the lower level, beneath each of the flanking four upper windows, is a small rectangular, barred window.

Walls are tawny brick laid in a tapestry pattern, while polychrome glazed terra cotta is used for ornament. The upper cornice and frieze feature several courses of terra cotta molding, including a dentil course, glyptic course and a key molding. The lower cornice is similarly complex, featuring several courses including a wave scroll, a beaded molding, and a floral or dogtooth pattern. The plinth too is decorated with a strip of molding. Beneath the sill for the upper windows is a row of fruit garlands punctuated with open books.

The pedimented door surround is elaborately ornamented with glazed terra cotta, and is crowned by a large medallion featuring another open book. The double doors are wooden framed glass. Inside is a small vestibule and a wide, straight stairway that leads up to the middle of the main reading room, which occupies nearly all of the upper floor. The check-out desk is at the head of the stairs. To the rear, through a paneled partition with glazed upper half, lies the children's room, occupying the rear extension of the building. The doorway is pedimented, with a clock enclosed in the pediment.

In the main room, the ceiling is ornately paneled. The room is lighted by the high windows, five in the front and three on each side. Low shelving serves as a ballustrade around the stairwell, and peripheral shelving runs under the windows. The transition from the main part of the building to the rear extension is marked by plaster pilasters.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**CRITERION A: SIGNIFICANT HISTORIC PATTERNS**

The Noe Valley Branch Library was the third of seven branch buildings financed by a Carnegie grant. The grant itself was the subject of

LANDMARK DESIGNATION REPORT

DATE:

CASE NO.:

PAGE 3

LANDMARKS BOARD VOTE:

APPROVED:

PLANNING COMMISSION VOTE:

APPROVED:

PROPOSED LANDMARK NO.:

twelve years of intense political and class conflict in San Francisco. This branch was constructed in the well established Noe Valley 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 Noe Valley Branch Library possesses high artistic values. The pedimented entrance and large grouped windows create the sense of a temple. The entry path is carefully controlled, with the transition from the street, through the small constricted vestibule upwards to the grand, high ceilinged main reading room conveying a sense of aspiration, and of intellectual and civic rebirth.

REFERENCES:

Bean, Walton. *Boss Ruef's San Francisco*. U.C. Press. 1952

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

Cahill, B. J. S. "The Work of Bliss & Faville" *The Architect and Engineer of California*. Jan 1914

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

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

Faville, W. B., F. A. I. A. "Phases of Panama-Pacific International Exposition Architecture" *The American Architect*. January 6, 1915

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

Jones, Theodore. *Carnegie Libraries Across America, a Public Legacy*. Washington, D.C. Preservation Press; New York : John Wiley, 1997.

Kahn, Judd. *Imperial San Francisco; Politics and Planning in an American City, 1897-1906*. Lincoln, NB, University of Nebraska Press. 1979

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

LANDMARK DESIGNATION REPORT

DATE:

CASE NO.:

PAGE 4

LANDMARKS BOARD VOTE:

APPROVED:

PLANNING COMMISSION VOTE:

APPROVED:

PROPOSED LANDMARK NO.:

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

Morrow, Irving F. "Work by John Reid, Jr., A. I. A." *The Architect and Engineer.* February 1920

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

RATINGS: 1976 Citywide Survey "2"

PREPARED BY: Tim Kelley
San Francisco Landmarks Board
1660 Mission Street, SF, CA

ADDRESS:

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

State of California - The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
PRIMARY RECORD

Primary # _____
HRI# _____
Trinomial _____
NRHP Status Code _____

Other Listings _____
Review Code _____ Reviewer _____ Date _____

Page 1 of 4 *Resource Name or #: (Assigned by recorder) Noe Valley Branch Library

P1. Other Identifier:

*P2. Location: ☐ Not for Publication ☒ Unrestricted

*a. County San Francisco and (P2c, P2e, and P2b or P2d. Attach a Location Map as necessary.)

*b. USGS 7.5' Quad na Date na T _____; R _____; 1/4 of 1/4 of Sec _____; B.M. _____

c. Address 451 Jersey Street City San Francisco Zip 94114

d. UTM: (Give more than one for large and/or linear resources) Zone _____ mE/ _____ mN

e. Other Locational Data: (e.g., parcel #, directions to resource, elevation, etc., as appropriate) Block 6539, lot

*P3a. Description: (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries)

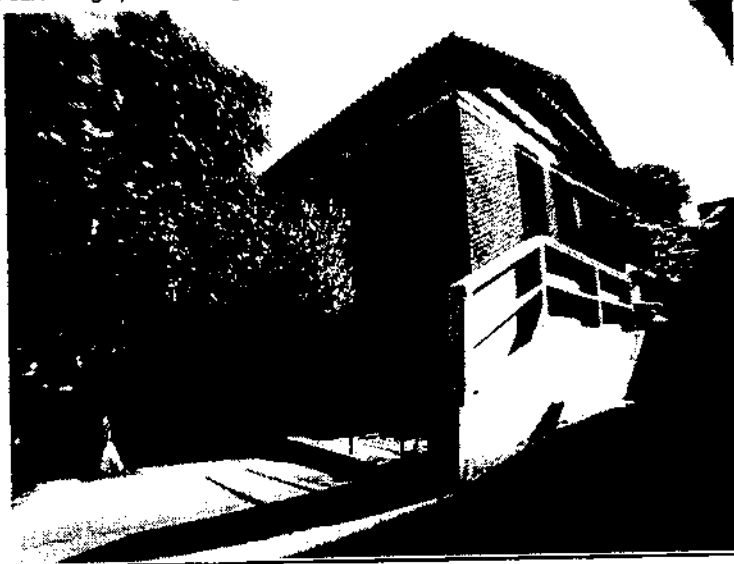
Exhibiting mainly Classical Revival features, the Noe Valley Branch Library is rectangular in plan, with a smaller rectangular extension at the rear. The main mass is one story over a raised basement, with a tiled end-gabled roof. The roof overhangs on all sides, and features carved rafter ends. The building is set back slightly from the street, and is several feet above sidewalk level, reached by a low central flight of steps.

The composition is symmetrical, dominated by five tall rectangular casement windows on the upper floor and the pedimented central entrance. (continued)

*P3b. Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) HP14 Govt. Building; HP13 Community Center;

*P4. Resources Present: ☒ Building ☐ Structure ☐ Object ☐ Site ☐ District ☐ Element of District ☐ Other

P5a. Photograph or Drawing (Photograph required for buildings, structures, and objects.)



P5b. Description of Photo: (view, date, accession #)

NW corner; 11/17/00

*P6. Date Constructed/Age and

Source: ☒ Historic ☐ Prehistoric
☐ Both

1916, San Francisco Public Library Trustees Report

*P7. Owner and Address:

San Francisco Public Library
Civic Center
San Francisco, CA 94102

*P8. Recorded by:

(Name, affiliation, and address)

Tim Kelley
San Francisco Landmarks Board
1660 Mission Street, SF, CA

*P9. Date Recorded: 12/1/00

*P10. Survey Type: (Describe) Thematic Landmark Nomination

*P11. Report Citation: (Cite survey report and other sources, or enter "none.")

*Attachments: ☐ NONE ☐ Location Map ☒ Continuation Sheet ☒ Building, Structure & Object
☐ Archaeological Record ☐ District Record ☐ Linear Feature Record ☐ Mining Station Record ☐ Rock Art Record
☐ Artifact Record ☐ Photograph Record ☐ Other (List): _____

State of California -- The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD

Primary # _____

HRI # _____

*NRHP Status Code _____

Page 2 of 4 *Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) Noe Valley Branch Library

B1. Historic Name: Noe Valley Branch Library

B2. Common Name: same

B3. Original Use: Public branch library

B4. Present Use: Public branch library

*B5. Architectural Style: Classical Revival

*B6. Construction History: (Construction date, alterations, and date of alterations)

Built 1915

*B7. Moved? ☒ No ☐ Yes

Date: _____

Original Location: _____

*B8. Related Features: Deck and garden in rear

B9a. Architect: John Reid Jr.

b. Builder: C. C. Terrill

*B10. Significance: Theme Cultural History, Library Area: San Francisco

Period of Significance: 1915-present Property Type: Branch Library Applicable Criteria: A, C

(Discuss importance in terms of historical or architectural context as defined by theme, period, and geographic scope. Also address integrity.)

CRITERION A: SIGNIFICANT HISTORIC PATTERNS

The Noe Valley Branch Library was the third 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 well established Noe Valley 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 (continued)

B11. Additional Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) HP14 Govt. Building; HP13 Community Center; HP39 Other

*B12. References: See continuation sheet, page 4

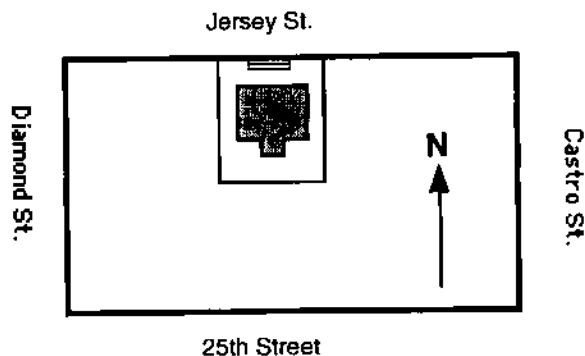
B13. Remarks:

*B14. Evaluator: San Francisco Landmarks Board

*Date of Evaluation: _____

(This space reserved for official comments)

Sketch Map with north arrow required.



State of California – The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
CONTINUATION SHEET

Primary # _____

HRI # _____

Trinomial _____

Page 3 of 4

*Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) Noe Valley Branch Library

Recorded by: Tim Kelley

Date: 12/1/00

☒ Continuation

☐ Update

P3a. Description: (continued)

The upper windows are framed together, separated by pilasters, with a common sill and lintel. The lintel is inscribed "NOE VALLEY BRANCH PUBLIC LIBRARY". A dentilated cornice with frieze runs beneath the eaves, a belt cornice marks the upper floor level, and a plinth forms the building's base. On the lower level, beneath each of the flanking four upper windows, is a small rectangular, barred window.

Walls are tawny brick laid in a tapestry pattern, while polychrome glazed terra cotta is used for ornament. The upper cornice and frieze feature several courses of terra cotta molding, including a dentil course, glyphic course and a key molding. The lower cornice is similarly complex, featuring several courses including a wave scroll, a beaded molding, and a floral or dogtooth pattern. The plinth too is decorated with a strip of molding. Beneath the sill for the upper windows is a row of fruit garlands punctuated with open books.

The pedimented door surround is elaborately ornamented with glazed terra cotta, and is crowned by a large medallion featuring another open book. The double doors are wooden framed glass. Inside is a small vestibule and a wide, straight stairway that leads up to the middle of the main reading room, which occupies nearly all of the upper floor. The check-out desk is at the head of the stairs. To the rear, through a paneled partition with glazed upper half, lies the children's room, occupying the rear extension of the building. The doorway is pedimented, with a clock enclosed in the pediment.

In the main room, the ceiling is ornately paneled. The room is lighted by the high windows, five in the front and three on each side. Low shelving serves as a ballustrade around the stairwell, and peripheral shelving runs under the windows. The transition from the main part of the building to the rear extension is marked by plaster pilasters.

B10. Significance: (continued)

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 Noe Valley Branch Library possesses high artistic values. The pedimented entrance and large grouped windows create the sense of a temple. The entry path is carefully controlled, with the transition from the street, through the small constricted vestibule upwards to the grand, high ceilinged main reading room conveying a sense of aspiration, and of intellectual and civic rebirth.