

FILE NO. 90-70-7 ORD. NO. 100-70-7
DESIGNATING THE OLD HOLY VIRGIN
RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL 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 Old Holy Virgin Russian Orthodox Cathedral 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 11, Part 11 of the San Francisco Municipal Code, the Old Holy Virgin Russian Orthodox Cathedral 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 11, Part 11 of the San Francisco Municipal Code, a landmark site is hereby designated for the said Landmark, located and bounded as follows:

Beginning at a point on the northerly line of Fulton Street distant thereon 137 feet 6 inches easterly from the easterly line of Fillmore Street; running thence 55 feet easterly long said line of Fulton Street; thence at a right angle northerly 137 feet 6 inches; thence at a right angle westerly 55 feet; thence at a right angle southerly 137 feet 6 inches to the point of beginning; being lots 13 and 14 in Assessor's Block 780.

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

Built in 1880 as a Protestant Episcopal church, this building became the principal San Francisco cathedral of the International Russian Orthodox Church in 1930. It remained the church's sole cathedral here until the completion of the new cathedral at 26th and Geary in 1961. Still a consecrated cathedral, the church will continue to serve the Russian community in the vicinity.

(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. LM69.3; the summary description being as follows:

Of weathered brown wood, the church is of an architectural style described as late German Renaissance. The facade is covered with yellow plaster (replacing the original shingles) although the sides and rear of the church are shingled. Brown wood trim around windows and doors contrasts with the plaster and shingles of the exterior walls. The church is narrow and high, rising to a steep double-pitched roof. The entrance porch also has a steep double-pitched roof, and like the roof of the nave is shingled. The main entrance has a double doorway, each having a round arch above. Centered over these is an icon. Above the porch are three narrow sharply-pointed windows, each sub-divided into multiple lozenge panes, and each containing small rose windows near the apex of the windows. The wooden framing of the windows is quite prominent, and is a dominant feature. Both nave and porch are outlined below the steep roofs by curvilinear elements originally of exposed wood which has been plastered. On either side of the church, high in the nave, there are five gables, each containing two windows surmounted by a small rose window near the apex. Below these, a slanted shingled roof protects small windows of the side aisles which protrude angularly from the nave itself.

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 March 23, 1970.

ROBERT J. DOLAN, Clerk
March 28, 1970—11

NOTICE OF FINAL PASSAGE
FILE NO. 90-70-7 ORD. NO. 100-70-7
DESIGNATING THE OLD HOLY VIRGIN
RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL AS A LANDMARK PURSUANT
TO ARTICLE 10 OF THE CITY PLANNING CODE.

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 March 30, 1970.

ROBERT J. DOLAN, Clerk
Approved: April 2, 1970
JOSEPH L. ALIOTO, Mayor
April 8, 1970—11

CITY PLANNING COMMISSION
RESOLUTION NO. 6445

WHEREAS, A proposal to designate the Old Holy Virgin Russian Orthodox Cathedral as a Landmark pursuant to the provisions of Article 10 of the City Planning Code was initiated by the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board on SEpt.10,1969 and said Landmarks Preservation 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 13, 1969 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;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, First, That the proposal to designate the Old Holy Virgin Russian Orthodox Cathedral 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:

Beginning at a point on the northerly line of Fulton Street distant thereon 137 feet 6 inches easterly from the easterly line of Fillmore Street; running thence 55 feet easterly along said line of Fulton Street; thence at a right angle northerly 137 feet 6 inches; thence at a right angle westerly 55 feet; thence at a right angle southerly 137 feet 6 inches to the point of beginning; being lots 13 and 14 in Assessor's Block 780.

Second, That the special character and special historical, architectural and aesthetic interest and value of the said Landmark justifying its designation are as follows:

Built in 1880 as a Protestant Episcopal church, this building became the principal San Francisco cathedral of the International Russian Orthodox Church in 1930. It remained the church's sole cathedral here until the completion of the new cathedral at 26th and Geary in 1961. Still a consecrated cathedral, the church will continue to serve the Russian community in the vicinity.

Third, That 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. LM 69.3; the summary description being as follows:

Of weathered brown wood, the church is of an architectural style described as late German Renaissance. The facade is covered with yellow plaster (replacing the original shingles) although the sides and rear of the church are shingled. Brown wood trim around windows and doors contrasts with the plaster and shingles of the exterior walls. The church is narrow and high, rising to a steep double-pitched roof. The entrance porch also has a steep double-pitched roof, and like the roof of the nave is shingled. The main entrance has a double doorway, each having a round arch above. Centered over these is an icon. Above the porch are three narrow sharply-pointed windows, each subdivided into multiple lozenge panes, and each containing small rose windows near the apex of the windows. The wooden framing of the windows is quite prominent, and is a dominant feature. Both nave and porch are outlined below the steep roofs by curvilinear elements originally exposed wood which has been plastered.

On either side of the church, high in the nave, there are five gables, each containing two windows surmounted by a small rose window near the apex. Below these, a slanted shingled roof protects the small windows of the side aisles which protrude angularly from the nave itself.

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 November 13, 1969.

R. Bruce Anderson
Acting Secretary

AYES: Commissioners Brinton, Finn, Fleishhacker, Kearney, Mellon, Newman,
Porter
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
PASSED: November 13, 1969

LANDMARKS PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD
Final Case Report for Meeting of
August 20, 1969

LM69.3
Old Holy Virgin Russian
Orthodox Cathedral

OWNER Holy Virgin Community of San Francisco.

LOCATION AND BOUNDARY OF SITE 858 - 864 Fulton Street; north line of Fulton Street, 137½ feet east of Fillmore Street. A parcel 55 feet wide and 137.5 feet deep, consisting of Lots 13 and 14 in Assessor's Block 780.

NATURE AND HISTORY The church was originally constructed in 1880 for St. Stephens Parish, Protestant Episcopal church, founded in 1875 as a Mission. The original chapel was built at the rear of the parcel; then in 1880 the church was built on the front of the parcel. The present church was consecrated in 1889, and remained an Episcopal church until 1930 when the buildings and lots were sold to the Russian Orthodox Church. This then became the principal cathedral of the International Russian Orthodox church until the new cathedral was built at 26th Avenue and Geary in 1961. Still a consecrated cathedral, the church will continue to be used by the Russian Community in the area.

ARCHITECTURAL AND STRUCTURAL DESCRIPTION The architecture of the church has been described as late German Renaissance. The building is of a weathered brown wood. Originally, the exterior was entirely shingled. However, in the 1930's the facade was covered with plaster, although the sides are still shingled. Today the yellow plaster contrasts with brown wood trim. The church is narrow and high, rising to a steep double-pitched roof. The entrance porch also has a steep double-pitched roof, and like the roof of the nave is shingled. The main entrance has a double doorway, each having a round arch above. Centered over these is an icon. Above the porch are three narrow sharply-pointed windows, each subdivided into multiple lozenge panes, and each containing small rose windows near the apex of the windows. The wooden framing of the windows is quite prominent, and is a dominant feature. Crosses typical of the Eastern Church surmount both nave and porch which are outlined below the steep roofs by curvilinear elements originally exposed wood which has been plastered. A brick chimney and flue, extend above the main roof on the East side.

On either side of the church, high in the nave, there are five gables, each containing two windows surmounted by a small rose window near the apex. Below these, a slanted shingled roof protects the small windows of the side aisles which protrude angularly from the nave itself.

LANDMARKS PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD
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SURROUNDING LAND
USE AND ZONING

The church is situated on the Southern boundary of the Redevelopment Agency's A-2 project. The Redevelopment Agency has selected this building for retention, and favors designation as does the parish.

The Redevelopment Plan's zoning and the Land Use Map indicates that the blocks in the immediate vicinity would be used for medium and high density dwellings. It is presently R-3, as are adjacent properties to the right and left; the majority of the block, however, on the other three streets are zoned commercial. Uses across the street are residential.