

NOTICE OF FINAL PASSAGE
FILE NO. 80-71-4 ORD. NO. 51-71
DESIGNATING THE BOURN MAN-
SION AS A LANDMARK PURSUANT
TO ARTICLE 10 OF THE CITY PLAN-
NING 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 Mar. 1, 1971.

ROBERT J. DOLAN, Clerk
 Approved: Mar. 5, 1971
 JOSEPH L. ALIOTO, Mayor
 Mar. 10, 1971-1t

FILE NO. 80-71-4 ORD. NO. —
DESIGNATING THE BOURN MAN-
SION AS A LANDMARK PURSUANT
TO ARTICLE 10 OF THE CITY PLAN-
NING 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 Bourn Mansion at 2550 Webster Street 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, the Bourn Mansion 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 landmarks site is hereby designated for the said Landmark, located and bounded as follows:

Beginning at a point on the easterly line of Webster Street, distant thereon 75 feet 6 inches south of the southerly line of Broadway; running thence easterly at a right angle to the said line of Webster Street for a distance of 103 feet 6 inches; thence at a right angle southerly 57 feet 2 1/4 inches; thence at a right angle westerly 53 feet 7 1/2 inches; thence at a right angle southerly 2 feet; thence at a right angle westerly 49 feet 10 1/2 inches to the said line of Webster Street; thence at a right angle northerly along said line of Webster Street 59 feet 2 1/4 inches to the point of beginning; being lot 13 in Assessor's Block 580.

(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 mansion was designed in 1896 by Willis Polk, famed San Francisco architect, for William B. Bourn, Italianate in style, finished in brick and massive in appearance, it is a notable example of Polk's work. The handsomely detailed interior remains in excellent condition.

Bourn headed, variously, the Spring Valley Water Company, the Pacific Gas and Electric Company, and the long-lived Empire (gold) Mining Company of Grass Valley. He was the civic leader and philanthropist whose fortune was in large part responsible for the purchase of extensive lands surrounding the Lakes of Killarney and their gift to the government and people of the Irish Free State. He was a leader in the financing of the Panama-Pacific Exposition of 1915. Bourn lived in this mansion until 1923, and was one of the last of the West's empire builders to die (in 1936).

At the end of World War II, when the organizing conference of the United Nations was held in San Francisco, the mansion was the scene of receptions and parties for foreign delegates and dignitaries.

(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. LM70.6; the summary description being as follows:

Italianate in style, the Bourn Mansion is a brick, three-story and attic dwelling. It is massive in appearance, with large double doors at the main entrance. The street facade is symmetrical and formal in appearance, with simple fenestration. A single rectangular window flanks the main entrance at ground-floor level on either hand. The second story has one large, central window, flanked by pilasters and surmounted by a curvilinear pediment; a balcony with classical balustrades, decorated by wreaths, fronts this window. The third story has three small, double-hung windows, with flat arches, each with a central scroll-like element in lieu of a keystone. At the eave line is an ornate dentil course surmounted by a classical balustrade. Above this is the attic having three arched dormer windows protruding from the slate roof. Very large and heavy brick chimneys project well above the gable ends on each side of the house.

From the side, the mansion presents double gables. The roof-line cornice continues around the corner for several feet on each gable-end.

The walls are constructed of rough brick, with the corners along being of smooth brick in patterns, for contrast. At the sidewalk in front of the house are large, square brick corner posts, surmounted by pineapple ornaments in carved white stone.

To the rear of the mansion, a spacious conservatory opens onto a marble terrace overlooking the garden.

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 February 22, 1971.

ROBERT J. DOLAN, Clerk
 Feb. 27, 1971-1t

CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

RESOLUTION NO. 6668

WHEREAS, A proposal to designate the Bourn Mansion as a Landmark pursuant to the provisions of Article 10 of the City Planning Code was initiated by the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board on November 4, 1970, and 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 December 10, 1970 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 Bourn Mansion 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 easterly line of Webster Street, distant thereon 75 feet 6 inches south of the southerly line of Broadway: running thence easterly at a right angle to the said line of Webster Street for a distance of 103 feet 6 inches; thence at a right angle southerly 57 feet 2½ inches; thence at a right angle westerly 53 feet 7½ inches; thence at a right angle southerly 2 feet; thence a right angle westerly 49 feet 10½ inches to the said line of Webster Street; thence at a right angle northerly along said line of Webster Street 59 feet 2½ inches to the point of beginning; being lot 13 in Assessor's Block 580.

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

The mansion was designed in 1896 by Willis Polk, famed San Francisco architect, for William B. Bourn. Italianate in style, finished in brick and massive in appearance, it is a notable example of Polk's work. The handsomely detailed interior remains in excellent condition.

Bourn headed, variously, the Spring Valley Water Company, the Pacific Gas and Electric Company, and the long-lived Empire (gold) Mining Company of Grass Valley. He was the civic leader and philanthropist whose fortune was in large part responsible for the purchase of extensive lands surrounding the Lakes of Killarney and their gift to the government and people of the Irish Free State. He was a leader in the financing of the Panama-Pacific Exposition of 1915. Bourn lived in this mansion until 1923, and was one of the last of the West's empire builders to die (in 1936).

At the end of World War II, when the organizing conference of the United Nation was held in San Francisco, the mansion was the scene of receptions and parties for foreign delegates and dignitaries.

Third, That the said Landmark should be preserved generally in all of its particular 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. LM70.6; the summary description as follows:

Italianate in style, the Bourn Mansion is a brick, three-story and attic dwelling. It is massive in appearance, with large double doors at the main entrance. The street facade is symmetrical and formal in appearance, with simple fenestration. A single rectangular window flanks the main entrance at ground-floor level on either hand. The second story has one large, central window, flanked by pilasters and surmounted by a curvilinear pediment; a balcony with classical balustrades, decorated by wreaths, fronts this window. The third story has three small, double-hung windows, with flat arches, each with a central scroll-like element in lieu of a keystone. At the eave line is an ornate dentil course surmounted by a classical balustrade. Above this is the attic having three arched dormer windows protruding from the slate roof. Very large and heavy brick chimneys project well above the gable ends on each side of the house.

From the side, the mansion presents double gables. The roof-line cornice continues around the corner for several feet on each gable-end.

The walls are constructed of rough brick, with the corners alone being of smooth brick in patterns, for contrast. At the sidewalk in front of the house are large, square brick corner posts, surmounted by pineapple ornaments in carved white stone.

To the rear of the mansion, a spacious conservatory opens onto a marble terrace overlooking the garden.

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 December 10, 1970.

Lynn E. Pio
Secretary

AYES: Commissioners Fleishhacker, Miller, Newman, Porter, Ritchie, Rueda
NOES: None
ABSENT: Commissioner Crowley
PASSED: December 10, 1970

OWNER: Ed Farrah and Richard Fiore

LOCATION: 2550 Webster Street
Assessor's Block 580; Lot 13

HISTORY: The mansion was designed in 1896 by Willis Polk, famed San Francisco architect, for William B. Bourn, who headed, variously, the Spring Valley Water Company, the Pacific Gas and Electric Company, and the long-lived Empire (gold) Mining Company of Grass Valley. Bourn was also the civic leader and philanthropist whose fortune was in large part responsible for the purchase of ten thousand acres surrounding the Lakes of Killarney and their gift to the government and people of the Irish Free State. He was a leader in the financing of the Panama-Pacific Exposition of 1915, and was one of the last of the West's empire builders to die (in 1936).

Although perhaps completed earlier, the mansion was not occupied by Bourn until 1898; he lived there until 1923. The mansion was next owned by Dr. and Mrs. James Washington Edwards; he was founder of the flourishing dental supply company that bears his name.

The period following Bourn's ownership was perhaps most enlivened by the temporary use to which the building was put at the end of World War II, when the New York Herald-Tribune leased it to house its reportorial staff at the organizing Conference of the United Nations in 1945. From April to June of that year, the mansion was the scene of receptions and parties for foreign delegates and dignitaries.

To the rear of the mansion, a spacious conservatory opens onto a marble terrace overlooking the garden.

The handsomely detailed interior remains in excellent condition. The unusual vaulting in the ground floor hallway, the magnificent staircase with its polished bannisters, the imposing ballroom extending across the front of the house at second story level, the massive marble fireplaces in almost every room, the outstanding wall treatment including rare butterfly panelling, the Bruce Porter murals, and the innumerable imaginative and carefully executed details, combine to produce an unforgettable impression.

ARCHITECTURE: Italianate in style, the Bourn Mansion is a brick, three-story and attic dwelling. It is massive in appearance, with large double doors at the main entrance. The street facade is symmetrical and formal in appearance, with simple fenestration. A single rectangular window flanks the main entrance at ground-floor level on either hand. The second story has one large, central window, flanked by pilasters and surmounted by a curvilinear pediment; a balcony with classical balustrades, decorated by wreaths, fronts this window. The third story has three small, double-hung windows, with flat arches, each with a central scroll-like element in lieu of a keystone. At the eave line is an ornate dentil course surmounted by a classical balustrade. Above this is the attic having three arched dormer windows protruding from the slate roof. Very

ARCHITECTURE:
(continued)

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ZONING:

The zoning is R-5, high density, with surrounding land use residential.



















