

**NOTICE OF FINAL PASSAGE**  
**FILE NO. 90-71-5      ORD. No. 138-71**  
**DESIGNATING VARIOUS LOCATIONS**  
**AS LANDMARKS PURSUANT TO AR-**  
**TICLE 10 OF THE CITY PLANING**  
**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 June 1, 1971.

PHILIP P. ENGLER, Acting Clerk  
Approved: June 10, 1971  
JOSEPH L. ALIOTO, Mayor  
June 12, 1971—17

**FILE NO. 90-71-5      ORD. NO. —**  
**DESIGNATING VARIOUS LOCATIONS**  
**AS LANDMARKS PURSUANT TO AR-**  
**TICLE 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 hereinafter designations have a special character and special historical, architectural and aesthetic interest and value, and that their 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 II of the San Francisco Municipal Code, the following are hereby designated as Landmarks:

Saint Francis Lutheran Church, located at 152 Church Street, being Lot 10 in Assessor's Block 3537;  
First Unitarian Church, located at 1187 Franklin Street, being Lot 34 in Assessor's Block 713;  
Saint Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church, located at 1135 O'Farrell Street, being Lot 28 in Assessor's Block 720.

said designations having been duly approved by Resolution Nos. 6666, 6669, and 6680, respectively, of the City Planning Commission, which resolutions are on file with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors under File No. 90-71-5.

(b) **Required Data.** The locations and boundaries of the landmark sites, the characteristics of the landmarks which justify their designation, and the particular features that should be preserved, described and included in the said Resolutions, are hereby incorporated herein and made a part hereof as though fully set forth.

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 May 24, 1971.  
ROBERT J. DOLAN, Clerk  
May 29, 1971—17

CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

RESOLUTION NO 6669

WHEREAS, A proposal to designate the First Unitarian Church 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 First Unitarian 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:

Beginning at the point of intersection of the south line of Geary Boulevard and the west line of Franklin Street, running thence southerly to the northeasterly line of Starr King Way; running thence along the said line of Starr King Way northwesterly to the said line of Geary Boulevard; running thence easterly along said line of Geary Boulevard to the point of beginning; being lot 34 (formerly lots 1 and 30) of Assessor's Block 713.

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 primary historical association of the First Unitarian Church is with Thomas Starr King, who arrived from New England in 1860 to minister to the congregation. This great preacher and lecturer played a major role in saving California for the Union during the Civil War. He also bore a great part of the burden during that War on behalf of the U. S. Sanitary Commission, forerunner of the Red Cross; due largely to his efforts, California contributed one-fourth of the national total for that organization, a result widely disproportionate to the state's small population.

Aside from Starr King, a number of notable pioneers were associated with the Unitarian congregation. Among these were James King of William, the flamboyant newspaper editor whose death sparked the Second Vigilance Committee; Capt. Frederick W.

Macondray, New England sea captain who was in California as early as 1821, merchant, China trader, and Alderman, whose name is borne by a charming Russian Hill street; James Otis, descendant of the famed New England family, partner of Macondray, active financier, and Mayor of San Francisco 1873-75; Alpheus Bull, financier and president of a large insurance company; and George Shreve, founder of the pioneer jewelry firm which is still in existence and bears his name. Leland Stanford, Bret Harte, and Andrew S. Hallidie were also involved in the church's work, the latter serving as trustee and, in 1883-4, as moderator.

For many years this was the only Unitarian pulpit West of St. Louis (today it stands as the sole Unitarian Church in San Francisco). The first Unitarian services in San Francisco were held on September 1, 1850. The first meeting of the present congregation was on October 20 of the same year, and under the direction of the first pastor, Rev. Charles A. Farley, organization of the Society was completed that November 17th. The original church building was dedicated July 17, 1853 (the same date as the laying of the Old St. Mary's cornerstone) with services led by the Rev. F. T. Gray; it was located on the west side of Stockton Street between Sacramento and Clay Streets. The second church was on the south side of Geary Street below Stockton Street; the cornerstone was laid on December 3, 1862 and the impressive building dedicated on January 10, 1864. Starr King himself was heavily involved in its design and construction. The designer was William Patton, an Englishman who also designed the second building of Congregation Emanu-El.

Associated with the Geary Street church was Ralph Waldo Emerson, who preached and gave a series of lectures there in the early 1870's. The well-known Rev. Dr. Horatio Stebbins served the congregation for 35 years, from shortly after Starr King's death until the turn of the century; it was he who led the congregation to its present site. During construction of the present church, the congregation used Temple Emanu-El to hold services, and the favor was returned in 1924-25 when the Temple was building its present edifice.

The present church, designed by George W. Percy, was built 1887-89 and dedicated on February 9 of the latter year. It remains largely unchanged except that a bell tower and steeple destroyed in the 1906 disaster was replaced by a square turret base built along the original lines. This building has seen such persons participating in its work as Mrs. Julia Ward Howe, author of "Battle Hymn of the Republic"; Edward Everett Hale, the

orator and President Eliot of Harvard. A recent major addition to the church, designed by Callister, Payne and Rosse and dedicated in 1968, is sensitively integrated with the original building and occupies the remainder of a triangular block created through the Redevelopment process; the addition includes a chapel, meeting rooms, and school facilities.

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. LM70.7; the summary description being as follows:

Modified Gothic and Romanesque elements are used in the old church's eclectic architecture. It is built principally of dark blue-gray sandstone, with terra cotta trim and a blue slate roof. The facade is asymmetrical, with the central portion flanked by a round tower on the left and a higher square turret base on the right. The entrance consists of two heavy granite Gothic arches, supported on three light gray Corinthian columns. The arched openings are deep set, leading to large wooden doors. Behind the porch, the upper part of the facade has a large rose window, slightly recessed and surrounded by an arch etched in stone. A double flight of steps leads to the entrance; the lower flight is new and links the church proper to the new addition.

On the right side of the old church (Geary Blvd.) the nave is set back from the transept, and has three large windows traced with double-arch and quatrefoil, which are inset and surrounded by pointed stone arches. The facade of the transept has a large rose window similar to the one in front, below a roof gable also similar to the principal facade. The left side of the church, which now faces the new chapel across an interior court, has been refaced in concrete to harmonize with the architecture of the addition; the rose window has been retained. The Sanctuary was renovated in 1967.

The new addition consists of a number of generally rectangular structures loosely grouped around a central courtyard and joined or linked by a gallery, which is protected by a perimeter wall. The structures are of poured concrete and have sharply pointed pyramidal roofs; the concrete is unfinished and the roofs green shingled and in some cases, skylighted. The inner courtyard is surrounded by the enclosed, glass-in gallery, bordered by a wooden post and beam construction topped by outriggers. A central feature of the complex is the chapel, which lies between the old sanctuary and the newer hall, meeting rooms and offices. An octagonal building, the chapel has the same unfinished concrete construction as the outer structures, and the same steep, pyramidal roof. Fenestration is minimal in the addition.

Walls of stone from the old church are juxtaposed with the newer elements so as to achieve a skillful integration of the entire complex.

The tomb of Starr King, designated as California Registered Historical Landmark No. 691, is now located in the church yard near the intersection of Franklin Street and the new street named for King.

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 First Unitarian Society of San Francisco

LOCATION 1187 Franklin Street--  
entire block bounded by Franklin Street, Geary Boulevard  
and Starr King Way being Lot 34 in Assessor's Block 713.

HISTORY The primary historical association of the First Unitarian Church is with Thomas Starr King, who arrived from New England in 1860 to minister to the congregation. This great preacher and lecturer played a major role in saving California for the Union during the Civil War. He also bore a great part of the burden during that War on behalf of the U. S. Sanitary Commission, forerunner of the Red Cross; due largely to his efforts, California contributed one-fourth of the national total for that organization, a result widely disproportionate to the state's small population.

Starr King himself was heavily involved in the design and construction of the impressive Geary Street predecessor of the present church. Shortly after its dedication ( a hymn was written for the occasion by John Greenleaf Whittier) he died at the age of 39, on March 4, 1864. He was buried in the yard of the Geary Street church by special permission of the city officials "that the sight of his tomb might serve as a daily reminder of him and of his deeds and works to the people" (in Hittell's words). At his death, the State Legislature adjourned for three days.

A monument representing Starr King (by Daniel Chester French) is in Golden Gate Park, dedicated in 1892; he is also honored as one of the two Californians commemorated in the Congressional Hall of Statuary in Washington (the other being Father Junipero Serra).

Aside from Starr King, a number of notable pioneers were associated with the Unitarian congregation. Among these were James King of William, the flamboyant newspaper editor whose death sparked the Second Vigilance Committee; Capt. Frederick W. Macondray, New England sea captain who was in California as early as 1821, merchant, China trader, and Alderman, whose name is borne by a charming Russian Hill street; James Otis, descendant of the famed New England family, partner of Macondray, active financier, and Mayor of San Francisco 1873-75; Alpheus Bull, minister, financier, and president of a large insurance company; and George Shreve, founder of the pioneer jewelry firm which is still in existence and bears his name. Leland Stanford, Bret Harte, and Andrew S. Hallidie were also involved in the church's work, the latter serving as trustee and, in 1883-4, as moderator. For many years this was the only Unitarian pulpit west of St. Louis (today it stands as the sole Unitarian church in San Francisco).

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(continued)

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Associated with the Geary Street church was Ralph Waldo Emerson, who preached and gave a series of lectures there in the early 1870's. The well-known Rev. Dr. Horatio Stebbins served the congregation for 35 years, from shortly after Starr King's death until the turn of the century; it was he who led the congregation to its present site. During construction of the present church, the congregation used Temple Emanu-El to hold services, and the favor was returned in 1924-25 when the Temple was building its present edifice; there has been continuing close friendship between the two congregations, including a joint Thanksgiving Service held annually since 1921.

The present church, designed by George W. Percy, was built 1887-89 and dedicated on February 9 of the latter year. It remains largely unchanged except that a bell tower and steeple destroyed in the 1906 disaster was replaced by a square turret base built along the original lines. This building has seen such persons participating in its work as Mrs. Julia Ward Howe, author of "Battle Hymn of the Republic"; Edward Everett Hale, the orator; and President Eliot of Harvard. A recent major addition to the church, designed by Callister, Payne and Rosse and dedicated in 1968, is sensitively integrated with the original building and occupies the remainder of a triangular block created through the Redevelopment process; the addition includes a chapel, meeting rooms, and school facilities.

ARCHITECTURE

Modified Gothic and Romanesque elements are used in the church's eclectic architecture. It is built principally of dark blue-gray sandstone, with terra cotta trim and a blue slate roof. The facade is asymmetrical, with the central portion flanked by a round tower on the left and a higher square turret base on the right; the round tower is contained within the line of the pitched roof, while the turret base breaks the roof line. The entrance consists of two heavy granite Gothic arches, supported on three light gray Corinthian columns. The arched openings are deep set, leading to large wooden doors. The two arches are surmounted by pediments in low relief echoing the gable of the roof. Behind the porch, the upper part of the facade has a large rose window, slightly recessed and surrounded by an arch etched in stone. A double flight of steps leads to the entrance; the lower flight is new and links the church proper to the new addition. The square crenellated turret

ARCHITECTURE  
(continued)

base has two sets of narrow pointed-arch windows, with gargoyles at the upper corners.

On the right side of the church ( Geary Blvd.) the nave is set back from the transept, and has three large windows traced with double-arch and quatrefoil, which are inset and surrounded by pointed stone arches. On the transept as it projects from the nave there is a large arched window which was recently filled in. The facade of the transept has a large rose window similar to the one in front, below a roof gable also similar to the principal facade (and with a similar finial on top); below the rose window are four narrow pointed arch windows.

A small octagonal tower surmounts the roof at the conjunction of nave and transept; the lower portion consists of arched openings separated by columns, with the upper portion an eight-sided pyramid topped by a finial.

The left side of the church, which now faces the new chapel across an interior court, has been refaced in concrete to harmonize with the architecture of the addition; the rose window has been retained.

The Sanctuary was renovated in 1967. The rose window, pews and wainscoting are from the Geary Street church, as are two upholstered chairs. The two present pulpits were made from the pulpit used by Starr King. The marble font is a gift from the First Congregational Church of New York. The Rev. Henry W. Bellows, pastor of that church, was interim minister of the Geary Street church following Starr King's death; the two were intimately associated in the work of the U. S. Sanitary Commission, which Bellows headed. The canopy over the font is by Bruce Porter, and there are noteworthy plaster angels by Arthur Putnam. The church contains Tablets in tribute to both Starr King and the Rev. Dr. Stebbins.

The main church edifice has been thoroughly integrated into the new complex on the street frontages as well as the interior of the block. The round pastor's study to the left of the principal facade was removed prior to construction of the new addition, as were other auxiliary structures behind the main edifice.

The new addition consists of a number of generally rectangular structures loosely grouped around a central courtyard and jointed or linked by a gallery, which is protected by a perimeter wall. The structures are of poured concrete and have sharply pointed pyramidal roofs; the concrete is unfinished and the rooves green shingled and in some cases, skylighted.

The inner courtyard is surrounded by the enclosed, glassed-in gallery, bordered by a wooden post and beam construction topped by outriggers. A central feature of the complex is the chapel, which lies between the old sanctuary and the newer hall, meeting rooms and offices. An octagonal building, the chapel has the same unfinished concrete construction as the outer structures, and the same steep, pyramidal roof.

ARCHITECTURE  
(Continued)

Fenestration is minimal in the addition. Walls of stone from the old church juxtaposed with the newer elements so as to achieve a skillful integration of the entire complex.

OTHER SITE  
FEATURES

The tomb of Starr King is now located in the church yard, near the intersection of Franklin Street and the new street named for King.

A palm tree at that corner is said to be one of the oldest in the city.

ZONING

R-4, High Density Multiple Residential. The church lies within the Western Addition A-1 Redevelopment Area, which accounts for the triangular configuration of its block, since Starr King Way was one of two new streets cut through to connect with the widened Geary Boulevard. Nearby land uses include several churches, the Jack Tar Hotel, high-rise apartment houses and retirement homes, and commercial and office uses.

RECOGNITION

A plaque in the church yard near the tomb indicates that the Sarcophagus of Thomas Starr King is California Registered Historical Landmark No. 691.

The church complex received the John Merrill Award in 1970 from the S. F. Planning and Urban Renewal Assn. (SPUR) for the design quality of the new addition and the admirable blending of old and new elements.