

**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 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 June 1, 1971.

PHILIP P. ENGLER, Acting Clerk
Approved: June 10, 1971
JOSEPH L. ALIOTO, Mayor
June 12, 1971—11

**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 II, 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—11

CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

RESOLUTION No. 6680

WHEREAS, A proposal to designate Saint Mark's Evangelical Lutheran 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 December 2, 1970, and said Advisory Board, after due consideration, has recommended approval of this proposal; and

WHEREAS, The City Planning Commission, after due notice given, held a public hearing on January 21, 1971, 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 Saint Mark's Evangelical Lutheran 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 a point on the south line of O'Farrell Street (vacated), distant thereon 137 feet 6 inches westerly from the west line of Franklin Street; running thence southerly 137 feet 6 inches; thence at a right angle westerly 70 feet; thence at a right angle northerly 137 feet 6 inches to the said line of O'Farrell Street (vacated); thence easterly along said line of O'Farrell Street 70 feet to the point of beginning; being lot 28 in Assessor's Block 720.

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 Lutheran church in California had its beginnings in 1849 when Pastor Friederick Mooshake held services near Portsmouth Plaza. The first church building was occupied in 1855, on the south side of Sutter Street between Stockton Street and Dupont Street (Grant Avenue). At this time it was called the First German Evangelical Church. In 1859, the congregation bought a building from a dismantling church on Greenwich Street, and renamed itself the First German Evangelical Lutheran Church. Rev. Mooshake was replaced in 1860 by Jacob M. Buehler of Baltimore.

In 1862 the congregation split over the desirability of building a new church building; one group stayed in the Greenwich Street location, while others led by Buehler proceeded to build a new structure on the south side of Geary Street east of Powell Street. A portion of the purchase price was borrowed from Claus Spreckels of later sugar fame. The cornerstone was laid on October 31, 1863 and the church completed

December 30, 1866. The Greenwich Street congregation rejoined the fold in 1867-68, and Rev. Buehler continued to lead the church until 1883 when he was compelled to resign. He and some members of St. Mark's later formed St. Paulus German Lutheran Church, which is near the present St. Mark's.

Rev. Julius Fuendeling was called to the church in 1883 and was to lead it for 28 years, including the period of construction of the present building. In 1894 the O'Farrell Street property was purchased for \$17,500, the Geary Street church having been sold in 1893 for \$105,000. Henry Geilfuss was selected as architect; the cornerstone was laid on June 24, 1894 and the church dedicated March 10, 1895. The church survived the 1906 disaster with little damage, Van Ness Avenue having served as a barrier to the heaviest destruction; the church was used as a refuge for many injured, bereaved and homeless.

The building is red brick, in Romanesque style, having a number of Gothic elements. Solid and heavy, it presents a sense of massiveness, of bulk.

Through its active and enlightened participation in the city's redevelopment program, St. Mark's has given rise to a complex of related but independent buildings and institutions which immediately surround the church. These residential and cultural facilities are not limited to church members, but they have helped give St. Mark's a new sense of purpose and involvement as an "inner city" church which has held its own and strengthened its role in the midst of rapid urban change.

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. LM70.8; the summary description being as follows:

St. Mark's is a red brick church in Romanesque style, with a number of Gothic elements.

The church sanctuary is oblong rather than cruciform, and without apse. The nave is divided into bays defined by brick buttresses.

The central entrance is reached by a flight of stone steps rising to three doorways separated by white stone columns. A great rose window dominates the upper portion of the central facade. The major cornices are delineated in white stone. The central facade is recessed and flanked by two towers, very

unequal in size and form. The west tower is low, round, and topped by a conical roof. In contrast, the east tower is square, high, and surmounted by four turrets at the corners, and by a pyramidal roof. There are numerous horizontal elements, including ornamented stone courses, on the towers as well as the central facade.

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 January 21, 1971.

Lynn E. Pio
Secretary

AYES: Commissioners Fleishhacker, Mellon, Newman, Porter, Ritchie, Rueda
NOES: None
ABSENT: Commissioner Crowley
PASSED: January 21, 1971

- OWNER:** Saint Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church
- LOCATION:** 1135 O'Farrell Street (vacated), south side 137.5 feet west of Franklin Street; being Lot 28 in Assessor's Block 720.
- HISTORY:** The Lutheran church in California had its beginnings in 1849 when Paster Friederick Mooshake held services near Portsmouth Plaza. The first church building was occupied in 1855, on the south side of Sutter Street between Stockton Street and Dupont Street (Grant Avenue). At this time it was called the First German Evangelical Church. In 1859, the congregation bought a building from a disbanding church on Greenwich Street, and renamed itself the First German Evangelical Lutheran Church. Rev. Mooshake was replaced in 1860 by Jacob M. Buehler of Baltimore.
- In 1862 the congregation split over the desirability of building a new church building; one group stayed in the Greenwich Street location, while others led by Buehler proceeded to build a new structure on the south side of Geary Street east of Powell Street. A portion of the purchase price was borrowed from Claus Spreckels of later sugar fame. The cornerstone was laid on October 31, 1863 and the church completed December 30, 1866. The Greenwich Street congregation rejoined the fold in 1867-68, and Rev. Buehler continued to lead the church until 1883 when he was compelled to resign. He and some members of St. Mark's later formed St. Paulus German Lutheran Church, which is near the present St. Mark's.
- Rev. Julius Fuendeling was called to the church in 1883 and was to lead it for 28 years, including the period of construction of the present building. In 1894 the O'Farrell Street property was purchased for \$17,500, the Geary Street church having been sold in 1893 for \$105,000. Henry Geilfuss was selected as architect; the cornerstone was laid on June 24, 1894 and the church dedicated March 10, 1895. The church survived the 1906 disaster with little damage, Van Ness Avenue having served as a barrier to the heaviest destruction; the church was used as a refuge for many injured, bereaved and homeless. Rev. Fuendeling died in 1912 and was succeeded by Rev. Henry Feix who served until 1930.
- It was in 1936 that St. Mark's finally joined a Synod -- the Lutheran Church in America. At about this time, the German language question became acute and in 1938, the then pastor resigned and German language services were completely discontinued. Pastor Oslund, who served until 1940, left to achieve distinction as the founder of the Lutheran Servicemen's Center. In 1942, Dr. George Dorn was called from Hollywood and remained until 1957.
- The chancel area was completely refurbished in 1944 to mark the 50th anniversary of the building. In 1949, the congregation celebrated its Centennial with both extensive physical improvements to the church and an ecumenical service embracing Lutherans of many synodical connections as well as other Protestants. St. Mark's was closely connected with the founding of the Pacific Lutheran Seminary (Berkeley) in 1952, an enterprise in which the Rev. Ross Hidy -- later to become Pastor of the church -- was deeply involved. It was in 1952 also

HISTORY:
(continued)

that St. Mark's commenced its participation in the redevelopment of the inner city. Under Rev. Hidy's leadership from 1957 on, the service functions of the church and its concern with renewal, displaced persons and the underprivileged have increased greatly.

ARCHITECTURE:

St. Mark's is a red brick church in Romanesque style, having a number of Gothic elements. Solid and heavy, it presents a sense of massiveness, of bulk. The church sanctuary is oblong rather than cruciform, and without apse.

The central entrance is reached by a flight of stone steps rising to three doorways, each of double wooden doors, separated by white stone columns. Each doorway is surmounted by heavy flattened arches. Above the carved stone courses projecting over the entrance doors, a great rose window dominates the upper portion of the central facade. The pitched roof rises to a peak above the rose window, with small arched, louvered openings immediately below the roof ridge at the center. A white stone cornice outlines the roof line.

The central facade is recessed and flanked by two towers, very unequal in size and form. The west tower is low, round, and topped by a conical roof. In contrast, the east tower is square, high, and surmounted by four turrets at the corners, and by a pyramidal roof. Both towers enclose stairways visible through the lower story windows. The ground story windows of the west tower are of tracery, while the lower windows of the east tower are threefold, arched, and rise in the walls as the staircase rises. Above the second story rectangular windows of this tower, its principal features appear: arched and louvered openings above inset stone arches and columns, with the turrets and roof above.

The facade has ornamental stone elements, including carved blocks, lintels and dentillations. Arched entrances on the facade, and tower openings, are outlined in yellow brick. Horizontal elements in the design are numerous. There are principal stone courses below the rose window and at its midline, linked in the latter case to the towers. On the east tower is a stone course — highly ornamented — below the turrets, and another a story below; between them is a round window opening surmounted by a triangular projecting pediment, a pattern repeated on each face of the tower. The heavy tower bases are pierced by door and window openings. The upper portion of the west tower is pierced by small windows arranged so as to light the staircase as it rises; it is strongly reminiscent of medieval fortifications.

The nave, extending to the rear of the lot, is divided into bays, with a steeply pitched roof. The bays of the side elevations are defined by brick buttresses, as in the Gothic style. There are four stained glass windows on each side, with rose windows above. The rear elevation or altar end of the nave is flat, without apse, and is pierced by seven windows. The roof of the towers and nave is of shingles.

ARCHITECTURE:
(continued)

The interior of the church is distinguished by the ornate new altar of carved white stone, with a stained glass window in the center portraying the Ascension. The pulpit is strikingly beautiful, and there is oak and redwood panelling.

THE CHURCH'S
SURROUNDINGS:

Through its active and enlightened participation in the city's redevelopment program, St. Mark's has given rise to a complex of related but independent buildings and institutions which immediately surround the church. These include the Martin Luther Towers for the elderly, the Urban Life Building with its continuing education programs serving the community (both east of the church on Franklin Street) and the Carillon Apartments (west of the church) all of which were developed through the efforts of Rev. Ross Hidy and church members. These residential and cultural facilities are not limited to church members, but they have helped give St. Mark's a new sense of purpose and involvement as an "inner city" church which has held its own and strengthened its role in the midst of rapid urban change.

Beyond the church and the other related buildings that comprise what is sometimes called "St. Mark's Square" lies a variety of buildings and uses, new and old. To the north are towering apartments of the Western Addition redevelopment and the triangular block containing the First Unitarian Church, itself a notable old-new complex. To the west is the new and impressive St. Mary's Cathedral. To the south is the Sacred Heart High School and its auxiliary facilities. To the east are high density older apartments and the commercial and auto service establishments of Van Ness Avenue.

The church and its surroundings to the west, south and immediate east are zoned R-4 (High Density Multiple Residential); to the north and along Van Ness Avenue to the east, the zoning is C-2 (Community Business).