

FILE NO. 90-71-7

ORDINANCE NO. 232-71

1 DESIGNATING VARIOUS STRUCTURES AS LANDMARKS PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 10 OF
2 THE CITY PLANNING CODE.

3
4 Be it ordained by the People of the City and County of San Francisco:

5 Section 1. The Board of Supervisors hereby finds that the herein-
6 after structures have a special character and special historical, archi-
7 tectural or aesthetic interest or value, and that their designation as
8 Landmarks will be in furtherance of and in conformance with the purposes
9 of Article 10 of the City Planning Code and the standards set forth
10 therein.

11 (a) Designation. Pursuant to Section 1004 of the City Planning
12 Code, Chapter II, Part II of the San Francisco Municipal Code, the
13 following are hereby designated as Landmarks:

14 Dennis T. Sullivan Memorial Fire Chief's Home, located at 870
15 Bush Street, being Lot 10 in Assessor's Block 274, for its
16 special historical, architectural and aesthetic interest and
17 value;

18 Cable Car Barn and Power House, located at the northwest
19 corner of Washington and Mason Streets, being Lot 5 in
20 Assessor's Block 190, for its special historical, archi-
21 tectural and aesthetic interest and value;

22 Donaldina Cameron House, located at 920 Sacramento Street,
23 being Lot 8 in Assessor's Block 224, for its special
24 historical interest and value;

25 these designations have been duly approved by Resolutions No. 6726,
26 6725, and 6729, respectively, of the City Planning Commission, which
27 resolutions are on file with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
28 under File No. 90-71-7, 90-71-6, and 90-70-16.

29 (b) Required Data. The locations and boundaries of the landmark
30 sites, the characteristics of the landmarks which justify their designa-
tion, 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.

31 APPROVED AS TO FORM:
32 THOMAS M. O'CONNOR, City Attorney

33 By one [Signature]
Deputy City Attorney

(See Files 90-70-16, 90-71-6 and -7 for departmental recommendations.)

Passed for Second Reading - Board of Supervisors,

San Francisco, **AUG 23 1971**

Ayes: Supervisors Barbagelata, Boas, Driscoll, Feinstein, Francois, Gonzales, Mailhard, Mendelsohn, Pelosi, ~~Tamara~~, von Beroldingen

~~Mays, Supervisors~~

Absent: Supervisor **TAMARAS**

[Signature] Clerk

90-71-7
File No

SEP 1 5/1
Approved

Read Second Time and Finally Passed—Board of Supervisors,

San Francisco, **AUG 30 1971**

Ayes: Supervisors ~~Barbagelata~~, Boas, Driscoll, Feinstein, Francois, Gonzales, Mailhard, Mendelsohn, Pelosi, ~~Tamara~~, von Beroldingen

~~Mays, Supervisors~~

Absent: Supervisors **BARBAGELATA TAMARAS**

I hereby certify that the foregoing ordinance was finally passed by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

[Signature] Clerk

[Signature] Mayor

CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

RESOLUTION NO. 6726

WHEREAS, A proposal to designate the Dennis T. Sullivan Memorial Fire Chief's House as a Landmark pursuant to the provisions of Article 10 of the City Planning Code was initiated by the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board on April 28, 1971, 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 June 17, 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 the Dennis T. Sullivan Memorial Fire Chief's House 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 Bush Street distant thereon 91 feet 8 inches east of the easterly line of Taylor Street; running thence northerly at a right angle to the said line of Bush Street 137.5 feet; thence at a right angle easterly 51 feet 11 inches; thence at a right angle southerly 137.5 feet; thence at a right angle westerly along said line of Bush Street 51 feet 11 inches to the point of beginning; being lot 10 in Assessor's Block 274.

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

At the time of the 1906 Earthquake and Fire, Fire Chief Dennis T. Sullivan resided on the third floor of the engine house on Bush Street east of Kearny Street, in the shadow of the California Hotel and Theatre. When the Earthquake struck, it shook parapet wall and chimney fixtures off the top of the Hotel and Theatre and these fell into the firehouse, breaking the floors. The Chief was severely injured, and died four days later. He was thus unable to lead the Department in its hours of greatest trial. Such an event was itself sensational, even amidst the horror of the day.

In 1908 Raphael Weill, of the White House department store, who had been a close personal friend of Chief Sullivan and principal speaker at his funeral, announced the beginning of a fund to construct a statue or other monument to the late Chief. In 1910 then Chief Thomas Murphy appointed a committee to oversee fund raising. An annual baseball game between police and firemen was inaugurated, admissions going to the Fund. Eventually, many business firms, merchants, insurance companies, firemen and citizens contributed to the \$20,000 total collected. The Park Commission granted permission for erection of a statue in Golden Gate Park, but the matter remained unresolved due to the opposition of John McLaren to statues in the park.

Meanwhile around 1920 the matter of constructing a new fire chief's house became imperative; the Board of Supervisors appropriated \$15,000, but the sum was held insufficient to build a suitable house. Trustees of the Memorial Monument Fund then included Herbert Fleishhacker, well-known banker and philanthropist, William Humphrey, President of the Olympic Club (both Park Commissioners); Dr. John Gallwey, leading physician; and Sigmund Stern, financier and philanthropist. The trustees, led by Fleishhacker and Humphrey who well knew of McLaren's feelings, gave up the idea of a statue and donated the money to the city so that a more distinguished chief's residence might be built.

The money from the Memorial Fund was used to add the brick facade, the bronze firehouse doors, the bronze gutters, and the bronze memorail plaque or tablet on the front, together with the tile roof above the facade. The building was commenced in the summer of 1921, finished in February 1922, and accepted by the fire commissioners on April 5, 1922. Chief Murphy thereupon took up residence; followed by Chiefs Brennan, Sullivan, Walsh, Kelly and Murray.

In consequence of the actions of the trustees in using the funds collected, the House, built to resemble a firehouse with its great double doors, is dedicated to Chief Sullivan.

The chief's residence has now served as quarters for the Chief of the Department for almost fifty years, as well as home for his family.

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. LM71.3; the summary description being as follows:

Red brick, with an English style of architecture, the house has two stories over a full basement, which contains apparatus and living quarters for the Chief's driver. The entrance is at the right of the ground story. Large double firehouse doors of bronze close the two large arched entrances to the apparatus floor. The facade is surmounted by a sloping roof of Spanish tiles at the front. The house is recessed from the street with a small yard in front. Upper story windows are rectangular.

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 June 17, 1971.

Lynn E. Pio
Secretary

AYES: Commissioners Crowley, Fleishhacker, Mellon, Newman, Porter, Ritchie, Rueda
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
PASSED: June 17, 1971

LANDMARKS PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD
Revised Case Report - March 10, 1971

DENNIS T. SULLIVAN MEMORIAL
FIRE CHIEF'S HOME

OWNER: City and County of San Francisco (Fire Commission)

LOCATION: 870 Bush Street; north line, 91 feet 8 inches east of Taylor Street. Lot is 51 feet 11 inches wide and 137½ feet deep; being Lot 10 in Assessor's Block 274.

HISTORY: This house owes its existence to the fact that at the time of the 1906 Earthquake and Fire, Fire Chief Dennis T. Sullivan resided on the third floor of the engine house on Bush Street east of Kearny Street, in the shadow of the California Hotel and Theatre, a large brick building which towered over the firehouse. When the earthquake struck on the morning of April 18, 1906, it shook parapet wall and chimney fixtures off the top of the Hotel and Theatre and these fell into the firehouse, breaking the floors and reaching Chief Sullivan's bedroom. The Chief fell two stories to the apparatus floor and was severely injured; he was conveyed to Letterman Hospital in the Presidio where he died four days later. He was thus unable to lead the department in its hours of greatest trial. Such an event was itself sensational, even amidst the horror of the day.

After the Fire, Chief Thomas Murphy, who took command after an interim under Chief Patrick Shaughnessy, resided in temporary quarters behind the engine house at Ellis and Octavia, in Willow Alley. This arrangement was to last for fifteen years.

In 1908 Raphael Weill, of the White House department store, who had been a close personal friend of Chief Sullivan and principal speaker at his funeral, announced the beginning of a fund to construct a statue or other monument to the late Chief, and to that end Weill donated \$1,000. Contributions were slow in coming, however, and it was not until 1910 that Chief Murphy appointed a committee to oversee fund raising. An annual baseball game between police and firemen was inaugurated, admissions going to the Fund. Eventually, many business firms, merchants, insurance companies, firemen and citizens contributed to the \$20,000 total collected. The Park Commission granted permission for erection of a statue in Golden Gate Park, but the matter remained unresolved for the next ten years.

Meanwhile around 1920 the matter of constructing a new fire chief's house became imperative; the Board of Supervisors appropriated \$15,000, but the sum was held insufficient to build a suitable house. Opposition to a monument or statue was growing, since John McLaren was known to dislike them in the Park. Trustees of the Memorial Monument Fund then included Herbert Fleishhacker, well-known banker and philanthropist, William Humphrey, President of the Olympic Club (both Park Commissioners); Dr. John Gallwey, leading physician; and Sigmund Stern, financier and philanthropist. The trustees, led by Fleishhacker and Humphrey who well knew of McLaren's feelings, gave up the idea of a statue and donated the money to the city so that a more distinguished chief's residence might be built.

HISTORY:
(continued)

After many years of indecision, a location was found for the new house; the site on Bush Street, which had been bought in 1902 and used 1903 to 1906 to house Engine 38 (that firehouse was demolished during the Fire, 1906).

The money from the Memorial Fund was used to add the brick facade, the bronze firehouse doors, the bronze gutters, and the bronze memorial plaque or tablet on the front, together with the tile roof above the facade. The building was commenced in the summer of 1921, finished in February 1922, and accepted by the fire commissioners on April 5, 1922. Chief Murphy thereupon took up residence; followed by Chiefs Brennan, Sullivan, Walsh, Kelly and Murray.

In consequence of the actions of the trustees in using the funds collected, the House, built to resemble a firehouse with its great double doors, is dedicated to Chief Sullivan, and the commemorative plaque affixed to the facade reads as follows:

MEMORIAL HOME
IN MEMORIAM
DENNIS T. SULLIVAN
1852 - 1906

By fire shall hearts be proven
Lest virtue's gold grow dim
And his by fire was tested
In life's ordeal of him.
Now California renders
The laurels that he won
Dead on the field of honor
Her hero and her son.

The chief's residence has now served as quarters for the Chief of the Department for almost fifty years, as well as home for his family. A small apartment on the ground story serves as quarters for the Chief's Operator or Driver, on duty.

ARCHITECTURE:

Red brick, with an English style of architecture, the house has two stories over a full basement, which contains apparatus and living quarters for the Chief's driver. The entrance is at the right of the ground story. Large double firehouse doors of bronze close the two large arched entrances to the apparatus floor. The facade is surmounted by a sloping roof of Spanish tiles at the front. The house is recessed from the street with a small yard in front. Upper story windows are rectangular.