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**NOTICE OF FINAL PASSAGE**  
**FILE NO. 90-71-7    ORD. NO. 232-71**  
**DESIGNATING VARIOUS STRUCTURES AS LANDMARKS 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 Aug. 30, 1971.  
Approved: **ROBERT J. DOLAN**, Clerk  
**JOSEPH L. ALIOTO**, Mayor  
Sept. 15, 1971—1t

**FILE NO. 90-71-7    ORD. NO. \_\_\_\_\_**  
**DESIGNATING VARIOUS STRUCTURES AS LANDMARKS 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 hereinafter structures have a special character and special historical, architectural or aesthetic interest or value, and that their designation as Landmarks 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:  
Dennis T. Sullivan Memorial Fire Chief's Home, located at 870 Bush Street, being Lot 10 in Assessor's Block 274, for its special historical, architectural and aesthetic interest and value;  
Cable Car Barn and Power House, located at the northwest corner of Washington and Mason Streets, being Lot 5 in Assessor's Block 190, for its special historical, architectural and aesthetic interest and value;  
Donaldina Cameron House, located at 920 Sacramento Street, being Lot 8 in Assessor's Block 224, for its special historical interest and value;  
these designations have been duly approved by Resolutions No. 6726, 6725, and 6729, respectively, of the City Planning Commission, which resolutions are on file with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors under File No. 90-71-7, 90-71-6, and 90-70-16.  
(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 Aug. 23, 1971.  
**ROBERT J. DOLAN**, Clerk  
Aug. 28, 1971—1t

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CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

RESOLUTION NO. 6729

WHEREAS, A proposal to designate the Donaldina Cameron 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;

WHEREAS, The City Planning Commission, after due notice given, held public hearings on June 17, 1971 and July 1, 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 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 Donaldina Cameron 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 Sacramento Street, distant thereon 112.5 feet west of the westerly line of Stockton Street; running thence northerly at a right angle to the said line of Sacramento Street for a distance of 68 feet 9 inches; thence at a right angle westerly 8 inches; thence at a right angle northerly 68 feet 9 inches; thence at a right angle westerly 80 feet 4 inches; thence at a right angle southerly along the easterly line of Joice Street for a distance of 137.5 feet; thence at a right angle easterly along said line of Sacramento Street 81 feet to the point of beginning; being lot 8 in Assessor's Block 224.

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

This mission of the Presbyterian Church to the Chinese in San Francisco, the only "foreign mission" enterprise ever carried on within the United States, was founded in 1873. It originally stood at 8½ Prospect Street; in 1881 it moved to the present location. The original founders were Mrs. P. D. Browne, Miss Eleanor Olney, Miss Margaret Culbertson, and Mrs. I. C. Condit, wife of the second minister of the Chinese Presbyterian Church.

The fame of the building is indissolubly connected with the name of Donaldina Cameron, A Scotswoman born in New Zealand in 1869 but resident in California from 1871, who died in 1968 in her 99th year. Miss Cameron arrived at the home in 1895 and became director of the home soon thereafter. Miss Cameron headed the activities of the home for over 40 years.

The mission was founded in consequence of social and economic conditions in Chinatown, and because of certain practices resulting from the immigration laws of the time. Chinese immigration to California was, from 1848 onward, largely by male workers without wives. After the workers became permanent settlers, Chinese women were brought in. A kind of slave trade developed in Chinatown, with so-called "slave girls" or entertainers being kept by rich Chinese. Often the girls were held in bondage against their wills, either for concubinage or for prostitution.

The mission became a home for rescued girls, where they were housed until arrangements for repatriation, emigration or marriage could be made. At times as many as 50 girls were in the home. In addition, orphan and deserted Chinese children were the objects of the charity of these devoted women. This mission was instrumental in the founding of many other Chinese homes and orphanages in the state, where as here, girls were trained in domestic arts and science.

Among the police and members of the Bench and Bar who helped Miss Cameron were Judge George Barstow; Dan O'Brien, Jesse Cook, Jack Manion and Charles Goff, all at one time head of the Chinatown Detail; Abraham Ruef, Henry E. Monroe and Robert H. Borland, attorneys. Many nationally prominent persons assisted Miss Cameron financially, among them Captain Robert Dollar, Scott's shipmaster and owner; Cyrus McCormick, Andrew Carnegie, Grace Dodge and others. The unmarried Miss Cameron came to be known as "Lo Mo" (Little Mother or Old Woman in Cantonese) to the girls of Chinatown.

Today the House serves the needs of an Americanized Chinatown with playground and meeting rooms, offices and chapel. The older history of the home (and the city) is preserved by murals in the entrance hall portraying stirring episodes from the House's past. The building was officially dedicated as Donaldina Cameron House on June 7, 1942.

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. IM71.2; the summary description being as follows:

This is a rectangular, three story, red clinker brick building, without architectural pretension, with basement story of concrete. Rebuilt in 1907 on the site of the previous building, it is of different style.

There is a heavy cornice under the roof. Fenestration is rectangular with many windows having pressed smooth brick, simulating eyebrow molding, around their upper portions. The central portion of the facade reflects an interior staircase with windows rising upward. The basement story is rusticated concrete. Over the main doorway is the name "Occidental Board Presbyterian Mission House". The surviving original walls from the 1881 building are under the sidewalk of Joice Street approximately two feet west of the present building walls.

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 July 1, 1971.

Lynn E. Pio  
Secretary

AYES: Commissioners Fleishhacker, Mellon, Newman, Porter, Ritchie, Rueda  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: Commissioner Crowley  
PASSED: July 1, 1971

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

DONALDINA CAMERON HOUSE  
(Presbyterian Chinese Mission)

**OWNER:** Board of Missions of the Presbyterian Church of the United States (formerly Occidental Board of Missions)

**LOCATION:** 920 Sacramento Street, northeast corner of Joice Street; being Lot 8 in Assessor's Block 224. Lot is 80 feet wide by 137 1/2 feet deep.

**HISTORY:** The Occidental Board Home, the mission of the Presbyterian Church to the Chinese in San Francisco and the only "foreign mission" enterprise ever carried on within the United States, was founded in 1873. It originally stood at 8 1/2 Prospect Street, but soon moved to 933 Sacramento Street, and in 1881 moved again to the present location. The original founders were Mrs. P. D. Browne, Miss Eleanor Olney, Miss Margaret Culbertson, and Mrs. I. C. Condit, wife of the second minister of the Chinese Presbyterian Church.

The fame of the building is indissolubly connected with the name of Donaldina Cameron, a Scotswoman born in New Zealand in 1869 but resident in California from 1871, who died in 1968 in her 99th year. Miss Cameron arrived at the home in 1895, after a sheltered life on a California ranch, to assist Miss Culbertson, then the Director in residence. Miss Cameron became director of the home near the end of the century, succeeding Mrs. Mary H. Field, who served for a brief period after Miss Culbertson became ill. Miss Cameron headed the activities of the home for over 40 years.

The mission was founded in consequence of social and economic conditions in Chinatown, and because of certain practices resulting from the immigration laws of the time. Chinese immigration to California was, from 1848 onward, largely of male workers without wives. After the workers became permanent settlers, Chinese women were brought in. A kind of slave trade developed in Chinatown, with so-called "slave girls" or entertainers being kept by rich Chinese. Often the girls were held in bondage against their wills, either for concubinage or for prostitution.

The mission became a home for rescued girls, where they were housed until arrangements for repatriation, emigration or marriage could be made. At times as many as 50 girls were in the home. In addition, orphan and deserted Chinese children were the objects of the charity of these devoted women. This mission was instrumental in the founding of many other Chinese homes and orphanages in the state, where as here, girls were trained in domestic arts and science.

The annals of the mission are filled with dramatic stories of the hunt for and the rescue of the unfortunate girls who were enslaved. Distinguished attorneys and judges helped in the legal cases arising from the disputes between the rich Chinese masters and Miss Cameron. Among the police and members of the Bench and Bar who helped were Judge George Barstow; Dan O'Brien, Jesse Cook, Jack Manion and Charles Goff, all at one time head of the Chinatown Detail; Abraham Ruef, Henry E. Monroe and Robert H. Borland, attorneys. Many nationally prominent persons assisted Miss Cameron financially, among them Captain Robert Dollar, Scots shipmaster and

HISTORY:  
(cont.)

owner; Cyrus McCormick, Andrew Carnegie, Grace Dodge and others. The unmarried Miss Cameron came to be known as "Lo Mo" (Little Mother or Old Woman in Cantonese) to the girls of Chinatown.

By the 1930's and even more after World War II, the reception of new immigrants, their entrance into American life, recreation and training, became the objectives of the house. The slave trade being no more, modern social service replaced the older rescue and placement work. Today the Home serves the needs of an Americanized Chinatown with playground and meeting rooms, offices and chapel. The older history of the home (and the city) is preserved by murals in the entrance hall portraying stirring episodes from the House's past. The building was officially dedicated as Donaldina Cameron House on June 7, 1942.

ARCHITECTURE:

This is a rectangular, three story, red clinker brick building, without architectural pretension, with basement story of concrete. Rebuilt in 1907 on the site of the previous building, it is of different style. There is a heavy cornice under the roof. Fenestration is rectangular with many windows having pressed smooth brick, simulating eyebrow molding, around their upper portions. The central portion of the facade reflects an interior staircase with windows rising upward. The basement story is rusticated concrete. Over the main doorway is the name "Occidental Board Presbyterian Mission House". The surviving original walls from the 1881 building are under the sidewalk of Joice Street approximately two feet west of the present building walls.