

file LM 68.1
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NOTICE OF FINAL PASSAGE
FILE NO. 347-68 ORD. NO. 230-68
DESIGNATING ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH AS A LANDMARK
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 July 29, 1968.

PHILIP P. ENGLER, Acting Clerk
Approved: July 31, 1968
JAMES MAILLIARD, Acting Mayor
August 3, 1968—1t

FILE NO. 347-68 ORD. NO. 230-68
DESIGNATING ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH AS A LANDMARK
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 SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH 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, SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH 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 landmark site is hereby designated for the said Landmark, located and bounded as follows:

Beginning at a point on the northerly line of Vallejo Street distant 68 feet 9 inches west of the westerly line of Grant Avenue; thence at a right angle to the said line of Vallejo Street northerly 137 feet 6 inches; thence at a right angle westerly 34.375 feet; thence at a right angle southerly 6 inches; thence at a right angle westerly 38.875 feet; thence at a right angle southerly 137 feet 6 inches more or less to the said northerly line of Vallejo Street; thence easterly along said line of Vallejo Street 77 feet 3 inches to the point of beginning; being lot 9 in Assessor's Block 131.

(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 first Roman Catholic parish church in San Francisco, founded in 1849, it was established to serve residents of the city downtown and to save the long seven mile journey to Mission Dolores; the present church was built in 1857 to 1860, dedicated in the latter year by Archbishop Alemany. In this parish was the first parochial school in the city and here took place the first ordination of priests in Northern California. From this parish sprang the other parishes of North Beach and the Latin Quarter, so that it is the Mother of Parishes in San Francisco.

(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. LM68.1; the summary description being as follows:

Gothic style, red brick with cement facing; twin towers and double pitched roof; pointed windows; large central window over the main entrance, and small rose window above; towers project beyond the facade; light buttressing with prominent pinnacles and finials; pointed eyebrow arches above windows in low relief.

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 July 22, 1968.

PHILIP P. ENGLER, Acting Clerk
July 27, 1968—1t

REVISED

LANDMARKS PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD

Report for Preliminary Hearing of January 17, 1968

St. Francis of Assisi Church

LOCATION AND
SIZE OF SITE

Vallejo Street, northeast corner of Columbus Avenue. A rectangular lot, having a frontage of 77.25 feet on Vallejo Street and a depth of 137.5 feet (Lot 9 in Assessor's Block 131).

NATURE AND
HISTORY

The first Roman Catholic parish church in San Francisco; the parish was founded in 1849 to serve the residents of downtown San Francisco, once the village of Yerba Buena, and to save them the long seven mile dusty trip to Mission Dolores. Construction of the present church commenced in 1857 (date of cornerstone) and was completed in 1859-60. The church was dedicated in 1860 by Archbishop Alemany, and originally served the downtown population with services in English, Spanish and French.

The church is the mother of parish churches in San Francisco; the parishes in the North Beach and Latin Quarter are descended from this parish. After the Fire of 1906 had gutted the interior of the church, it was restored during 1907 to 1913, and rededicated in 1918.

The first Roman Catholic parochial school in San Francisco was in this parish; and the first ordination of priests in Norther California occurred here, performed by Archbishop Alemany. The previous church was used for a time (prior to December 1854) as the pro-Cathedral for the diocese.

ARCHITECTURAL
DESCRIPTION

Gothic style. The exterior walls are of red brick with cement facing. The building is rectangular in form, 40 feet wide by 125 feet deep, with twin towers 95 feet high and a double pitched roof 75 feet high at the ridge. The building has Gothic pointed windows and a large central window over the main door above which is a small rose window. Niches with statues are on either side of this central window. Towers are projected beyond the facade, approximately 10 feet, and have light buttressing and prominent pinnacles and finials. All windows have pointed eyebrow arches in low relief above them. On the interior, the high nave is vaulted and carries out the Gothic motif of the exterior. With side aisles, and without transepts, the nave has seven bays, separated by a double row of columns. There are frescoes depicting scenes in the life of Saint Francis in the apsidal arches over the altar.

LAND USE AND
ZONING

Surrounding land use is largely commercial on Columbus Avenue, Grant Avenue and on nearby parcels on Vallejo. The church rectory is to the east of the church, and a gymnasium is to the west. Stores, restaurants and a garment factory are also in the subject block. Zoning is C-2, Community Business District.

CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

RESOLUTION NO. 6200

WHEREAS, A proposal to designate St. Francis of Assisi 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 January 17, 1968, 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 March 14, 1968 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 St. Francis of Assisi 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 northerly line of Vallejo Street distant 68 feet 9 inches west of the westerly line of Grant Avenue; thence at a right angle to the said line of Vallejo Street northerly 137 feet 6 inches; thence at a right angle westerly 34.375 feet; thence at a right angle southerly 6 inches; thence at a right angle westerly 38.875 feet; thence at a right angle southerly 137 feet 6 inches more or less to the said northerly line of Vallejo Street; thence easterly along said line of Vallejo Street 77 feet 3 inches to the point of beginning; being Lot 9 in Assessor's Block 131.

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

The first Roman Catholic parish church in San Francisco, founded in 1849, it was established to serve residents of the city downtown and to save the long seven mile journey to Mission Dolores; the present church was built in 1857 to 1860, dedicated in the latter year by Archbishop Alemany. In this parish was the first parochial school in the city and here took place the first ordination of priests in Northern California. From this parish sprang the other parishes of North Beach and the Latin Quarter, so that it is the Mother of Parishes in San Francisco;

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. LM68.1; the summary description being as follows:

Gothic style, red brick with cement facing; twin towers and double pitched roof; pointed windows; large central window over the main entrance, and small rose window above; towers project beyond the facade; light buttressing with prominent pinnacles and finials; pointed eyebrow arches above windows in low relief.

CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

Resolution No. 6200

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.

Lynn Pio
Secretary

AYES: Commissioners Brinton, Elliott, Fleishhacker, Kearney, Porter
NOES: None
ABSENT: Commissioners Carr, Newman
PASSED: March 14, 1968