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FILE NO. 90-72-B ORDINANCE NO. 314-72

DESIGNATING THE GOLDEN GATE PARK CONSERVATORY 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 the Golden Gate Conservatory located on Mount Lick, north of John F. Kennedy Drive, east end of Golden Gate Park, 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, the Golden Gate Park Conservatory is hereby designated as a Landmark, this designation having been duly approved by Resolution No. 6887 of the City Planning Commission, which Resolution is on file with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors under File No.

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

Passed for Second Reading
Board of Supervisors, San Francisco
OCT 24 1972

Ayes: Supervisors ~~Barbagelata~~, Boas, ~~Feinstein~~, Francois, ~~Gonzales~~, Kopp, Mendelsohn, Molinari, Pelosi, Tamaras, von Beroldingen.

~~Noes: Supervisors~~

Absent: Supervisors BARBAGELATA, FEINSTEIN, GONZALES

Philip T. Kaplan ACTING Clerk

Read Second Time and Finally Passed
Board of Supervisors, San Francisco
OCT 30 1972

Ayes: Supervisors Barbagelata, Boas, Feinstein, Francois, Gonzales, Kopp, Mendelsohn, Molinari, ~~Pelosi~~, Tamaras, von Beroldingen

~~Noes: Supervisors~~

Absent: Supervisors PELOSI

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

Philip T. Kaplan ACTING Clerk

90-72-8 NOV 3 - 1972
File No. Approved

Joseph L. Alioto
Mayor

CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

RESOLUTION NO. 6887

WHEREAS, A proposal to designate the Golden Gate Park Conservatory as a Landmark pursuant to the provisions of Article 10 of the City Planning Code was initiated by the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board on August 2, 1972, 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 September 7, 1972 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 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 Golden Gate Park Conservatory 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 520 feet at true bearing S 25° 40' E from the point of intersection of the easterly line of Fourth Avenue and the northerly line of Fulton Street; running thence 260 feet at true bearing N 91° 20' E; thence 255 feet at true bearing S 21° 40' E; thence 525 feet at true bearing S 83° 50' W; thence 345 feet at true bearing N 29° E to the point of beginning.

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

> This "exquisitely anachronistic Victorian conservatory" was constructed between 1878 and 1879. The conservatory is modeled after the one in the Royal Botanic Gardens in Kew, England. As one of the largest conservatories in the United States, the structure covers 15,000 square feet. The great glass and wood building was the first municipal greenhouse in California and the first and most important building in Golden Gate Park. The building's 33 tons of glass are supported by a wood and iron framework and three tons of putty.
>
> Although constructed late in its period due to the death of James Lick, the conservatory actually was far advanced for the time, taking into consideration the prefabrication of elements, the vast use of glass, and its placement in a functional framework of great structural simplicity.
>
> Built by Lord and Burham, greenhouse manufactures, at Irvington, New York, upon order of San Francisco magnate James Lick, the building was shipped in crates to California around Cape Horn in a vessel chartered for that purpose. Lick had intended to have the structure erected on his estate near San Jose. No actual construction was begun on the project by the time of Lick's death in 1876.

> The conservatory, still in crates, was put up for sale by the executors of James Lick's estate. Twenty-seven prominent San Franciscans contributed equally to the purchase of the building and gave it to the park. Lord and Burham, the original builders, were hired by the City to erect the structure at its current site.
>
> The conservatory appears in the National Register of historic places it is recognized as a State Landmark Number 841.

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. LM72.5; the summary description being as follows:

> The conservatory measures two hundred and fifty feet wide and seventy-five feet deep. It is constructed in three parts with the emphasis concentrating on the center of the structure, suggestive of an old tradition of Baroque focus. The main part of the building is an elongated octagon topped with a dome; this is flanked on two sides with an "L" shaped wing (east and west of the central space). The smaller rooms at the end of each wing resemble the center room on the exterior in that they each contain a modified gable window and a "spire". The foundations are of brick, laid with several rows of stretchers topped by a single row of headers directly beneath the wood superstructure. This superstructure is an ingenious 19th Century modification of extremely old, medieval traditions of wood arch construction, with iron bands and tie rods to interlock and extend arches over large spaces.
>
> The multiple and rigid glass plates which form the basic character of the building are cleverly lapped over each other like shingles or tiles to form a continuous down curving surface with non-curved materials. These are set into the simple wood framework, and held together where necessary by putty. A small percentage of the glass is tinted and forms a simple band of color above the transparent 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 September 7, 1972.

Lynn E. Pio
Secretary

AYES: Commissioners Fleishhacker, Mellon, Newman, Porter, Ritchie, Rueda
NOES: None
ABSENT: Commissioner Crowley
PASSED: September 7, 1972

LM 72.5

NOTICE OF DESIGNATION OF LANDMARK

Notice is hereby given to all persons, pursuant to Section 1004.6 of the City Planning Code, Chapter II, Part II of the San Francisco Municipal Code, that the property described below, of which the current owner is City and County of San Francisco, Recreation and Park Department, has been designated as a Landmark by Ordinance No. 314-72 of the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco, effective December 4, 19 72. A copy of this Ordinance is on file with the Clerk of the said Board of Supervisors. The effect of this designation is to impose certain controls and standards on the said property and on the improvements thereon, as set forth in Article 10 of the City Planning Code and in the designating Ordinance.

The subject property is legally described and known as follows:

Beginning at a point 520 feet at true bearing S 24° 40' E from the point of intersection of the easterly line of Fourth Avenue and the northerly line of Fulton Street; running thence 260 feet at true bearing N 91° 20' E; thence 255 feet at true bearing S 21° 40' E; thence 525 feet at true bearing S 83° 50' W; thence 345 feet at true bearing N 29° E to the point of beginning; being a portion of Assessor's Block 1700.

W45857

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RECORDED AT REQUEST OF
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1974 JAN 22 PM 2:30
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.
LAWRENCE J. LE GUENNEC
RECORDER

OFFICIAL
N/C

Department of City Planning

Dated: JAN 28 1974

By: _____
R. Spencer Steele
Zoning Administrator

State of California)
City and County of San Francisco) ss

On JAN 28 1974, before the undersigned, personally appeared R. Spencer Steele, known to me to be the Zoning Administrator of the City and County of San Francisco, and acknowledged to me that he executed the same on behalf of the City and County of San Francisco.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the official seal of my office, the day and year last above written.

~~Martin Mongan~~ LAWRENCE J. LE GUENNEC, Recorder

By: _____ Deputy
Deputy County Recorder

L-42
(Rev. 8/14/72)

File Copy

LANDMARKS PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD GOLDEN GATE CONSERVATORY
REVISED CASE REPORT

OWNER: City and County of San Francisco (under jurisdiction of Recreation and Park Commission).

LOCATION: Mount Lick, north of John F. Kennedy Drive, east end of Golden Gate Park.

HISTORY: This "exquisitely anachronistic Victorian conservatory" was constructed between 1878 and 1879. The Conservatory is modeled after the one in the Royal Botanic Gardens in Kew, England. As one of the largest conservatories in the United States, the structure covers 15,000 square feet. The great glass and wood building was the first municipal greenhouse in California and the first and most important building in Golden Gate Park. The building's 33 tons of glass are supported by a wood and iron framework and three tons of putty.

The Conservatory utilizes fully the principles of assemblage and the re-use of elements made possible by the early techniques of mass production, and thus reflects not only the period of architecture in which it was built, but also some proto-modern technical features.

Although constructed late in its period due to the death of James Lick, the Conservatory actually was far advanced for the time, taking into consideration the prefabrication of elements, the vast use of glass, and its placement in a functional framework of great structural simplicity.

William Hammond Hall, planner of Golden Gate Park, had included the idea of a conservatory in his original concept and had chosen a site near the northwsst corner of the park known as Plateau Mound (renamed Mount Lick in 1874). There was considerable opposition to a conservatory, however, primarily on the basis of estimated cost. However, Hall influenced the State Legislature in 1873 to authorize the city to issue bonds, which included funds for the park and Conservatory (expenditures and responsibility for Golden Gate Park were not placed under the jurisdiction of the City until 1900).

Built by Lord and Burham, greenhouse manufacturers, at Irvington, New York, upon order of San Francisco magnate James Lick, the building was shipped in crates to California around Cape Horn in a vessel chartered for that purpose. Lick had intended to have the structure erected on his estate near San Jose, and there is evidence that he considered giving it to the city of San Jose, but no actual construction was begun on the project by the time of Lick's death in 1876.

The Conservatory, still in crates, was put up for sale by the executors of James Lick's estate. Wm. Alvord, Wm. F. Babcock, Samuel Crim, Charles Crocker, Isaac E. Davis, J. G. Eastland, W. P. Fuller, Adam Grant, R. N. Graves, George C. Hickox, A. P. Hotaling, James Irvine, Robert C. Johnson, M. P. Jones, S. L. Jones, J. C. Kittle, Milton S. Latham, Charles Lux, G. A. McDonald, J. McDonald, Charles Main, W. W. Montague, A. J. Pope, C. Spreckels, Leland Stanford, A. L. Tubbs, and Wm. F. Whittier composed the group of 27 prominent San Franciscans who contributed equally to the purchase of the building and gave it to the park. Lord and Burham, the original builders, were hired by the City to finally erect the structure at its current site.

The Conservatory was partly destroyed by fire in 1883, but was rebuilt the following year with the aid of $10,000 donation from Charles Crocker.

HISTORY: (cont.) The Conservatory appears in the National Register of historic places and is recognized as a State Landmark, Number 841.

ARCHITECTURE: The Conservatory measures two hundred and fifty feet wide and seventy-five feet deep. It is constructed in three parts with the emphasis concentrating on the center of the structure, suggestive of an old tradition of Baroque focus. The main part of the building is an elongated octagon topped with a dome; this is flanked on two sides with an "L" shaped wing (east and west of the central space). The smaller rooms at the end of each wing resemble the center room on the exterior in that they each contain a modified gable window and a "spire". The foundations are of brick, laid with several rows of stretchers topped by a single row of headers directly beneath the wood superstructure. This superstructure is an ingenious 19th Century modification of extremely old, medieval traditions of wood arch construction, with iron bands and tie rods to interlock and extend arches over large spaces.

The multiple and rigid glass plates which form the basic character of the building are cleverly lapped over each other like shingles or tiles to form a continuous down curving surface with non-curved materials. These are set into the simple wood framework, and held together where necessary by putty. A small percentage of the glass is tinted and forms a simple band of color above the transparent walls.

The style of the architectural detail is basically a mixture of later Victorian, Gothic and Italianate, which can be seen most clearly on the exterior of the building. In this ornamental melange, classical anthemia emerge along with spiky quasi-Gothic finials. Some of the details are closely related to then fashionable Eastlake patterns of turned and faceted forms. The overall effect is of some delicately opulent Oriental palace.

A glassed-in vestibule leads into the main rotunda, where rare palms from tropical and semi-tropical countries are present. Some other plants include giant Brazilian Philodendrons. The east wing contains ferns and palms from the jungle countries. The last room of the east wing, known as the "Pond Room", houses ferns, other small plants, and a small pool stocked with goldfish. In the center room or hallway of the west wing, semi-tropical plants grow. Permanent plants include huge Bird of Paradise clumps and a small orchid case. The last room of the west wing offers rotating seasonal exhibits of potted, flowering plants. In the years that the Conservatory has been in use, the arrangement in the rooms has changed very little.

LAND USE: The Conservatory is located north of John F. Kennedy Drive in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park. It is situated above the lawns of the shallow Conservatory Valley where formal flower beds bloom all year long. A broad flight of stairs leads to the Conservatory, and these stairs are bound on either side by two floral plaques; one plaque is a simple clock and the other is used to greet conventions and honor holidays throughout the year. The zoning of the Conservatory and its surrounding is P.