

FILE NO. 90-73-4

ORDINANCE NO. 175-73

1 DESIGNATING THE WORMSER-COLEMAN HOUSE AS A LANDMARK PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 10 OF THE
2 CITY PLANNING CODE.

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

4 Section 1. The Board of Supervisors hereby finds that the Wormser-Coleman
5 House at 1834 California Street, being Lot 5 in Assessor's Block 641 has a special
6 character and special historical, architectural and aesthetic interest and value,
7 and that its designation as a Landmark will be in furtherance of and in conformance
8 with the purposes of Article 10 of the City Planning Code and the standards set forth
9 therein.

10 (a) Designation. Pursuant to Section 1004 of the City Planning Code,
11 Chapter II, Part II of the San Francisco Municipal Code, the Wormser-Coleman House
12 is hereby designated as a Landmark, this designation having been duly approved by
13 Resolution No. 6958 of the City Planning Commission, which Resolution is on file
14 with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors under File No. 90-73-4

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

Passed for Second Reading
Board of Supervisors, San Francisco
APR 23 1973

Ayes: Supervisors Barbagelata, ^{CHINN} Feinstein,
Francois, Gonzales, Kopp, Mendelsohn, Molinari,
Peltus, Tamaras, von Beroldingen.

~~Supervisors~~

~~Supervisors~~

[Signature]
Clerk

90-73-4
File No.

MAY - 3 1973
Approved

Read Second Time and Finally Passed
Board of Supervisors, San Francisco
APR 30 1973

Ayes: Supervisors Barbagelata, ^{CHINN} Feinstein,
Francois, Gonzales, Kopp, Mendelsohn, Molinari,
Peltus, Tamaras, von Beroldingen.

~~Supervisors~~

~~Supervisors~~

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. 6958

WHEREAS, A proposal to designate the Wormser-Coleman house at 1834 California Street as a Landmark pursuant to the provisions of Article 10 of the City Planning Code was initiated by the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board on October 18, 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 January 18, 1973, 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 standard of said Article 10;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, First, that the proposal to designate the Wormser-Coleman House at 1834 California Street 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 along the northerly line of California Street, distant thereon 137 feet six inches from the westerly line of Franklin Street, thence at a right angle northerly for a distance of 137 feet six inches, thence at a right angle southerly for a distance of 137 feet six inches, then at a right angle easterly along the northerly line of California Street for a distance of 137 feet six inches to the point of beginning; being Lot 5 in Assessor's Block 641, which property is known as and located at 1834 California.

Second, That the special character and special historical, architectural and aesthetic interest and value of the said Landmark justifying its designation are set forth in the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board Resolution No. 74 as adopted on October 18, 1972 which Resolution is incorporated herein and made a part hereof as though fully set forth.

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 LM72.9;

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 18, 1973.

Lynn E. Pio
Secretary

AYES: Commissioners Farrell, Miller, Porter, Ritchie, Rueda

NOES: None

ABSENT: Commissioners Fleishhacker, Newman

PASSED: January 18, 1973

LANDMARKS PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD
Case Report - October 18, 1976

ISAAC WORMSER HOUSE
JOHN C. COLEMAN HOUSE

OWNER: Persis H., Simeon W., and Janet Coleman, et al.

LOCATION: 1834 California Street, north side of California Street between Gough and Franklin Streets. The lot has a 137-foot 6-inch frontage on California Street, being Lot 5 in Assessor's Block No. 641.

HISTORY: The house was constructed in 1876 for Isaac Wormser, a pioneer San Francisco merchant. Wormser resided in the house from 1877 to 1895, sharing it with his daughter Emilie and her husband Samuel Sussman from 1877 to 1880. Samuel Sussman came to America in his teens. He began working in Alaska for his uncle, Louis Sloss, and later developed an interest in the wholesale grocery business. By the time of his death in 1911, Sussman was a co-founder and partner of one of the largest wholesale grocery concerns on the Pacific Coast. Samuel Sussman, Samuel Wormser (Isaac's son), and their cousin Gustav Wormser formed the firm known as Sussman, Wormser and Company, later to become S and W Fine Foods.

In 1895 the house was sold to John C. Coleman, a successful miner. Born in England in 1823, Coleman came to California with his brother Edward. They discovered gold in Grass Valley, California and developed the Idaho Mine. When the Coleman brothers moved to San Francisco, the mine was sold to the Maryland group of miners and became known as the Great Idaho-Maryland Mine. John also owned the Morning Star Mine at Iowa Hill and was the first President of the narrow gauge railroad which ran from Colfax to Nevada City.

John Coleman moved to San Francisco in 1893 and became active in the development of public utilities. He invested in the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company, the Pacific Gas and Electric Company, and the North Pacific Coast Railroad Company. Coleman served as a member of the Board of Directors of the California Street Cable Railroad Company, as the Director of the Pacific Rolling Mills, and as Vice President of the Fireman's Fund Insurance Company.

John Coleman remodeled his house to accommodate his large family. He also added to the original site, which was an 87½ foot lot, by purchasing a strip of land with a 50 foot frontage and adding it to the western section of the original lot. The additional land was used for open space and gardens. In 1895 Edward Coleman arrived in San Francisco and built his house around the corner at 1701 Franklin. Immediately after the 1906 Earthquake and Fire, John Coleman's house became the temporary headquarters of the California Street Cable Railroad Company. After Coleman's death in 1919, his son Waldo succeeded him on the Board of Directors of the Railroad Company. In 1952, the company was sold to Municipal Railway.

Miss Persis Coleman, a daughter of John Coleman, presently resides in the house. The spacious house contains twenty rooms, an elegant reception room, and a grand staircase, in back of which is a large stained glass window. The interior is distinguished by fine wood work, high ceilings, carved fireplaces, a library, and other fine appointments.

ARCHITECTURE:

This two-story, wooden frame, Italianate structure is one of the most graceful homes in San Francisco. The house and gardens are situated at the crest of a hill on California Street. An ornate wrought iron fence of the Nineteenth Century extends in front of the house and across the entire 137½-foot frontage. Black and white marble steps lead into the front porch. Paired columns support the porch roof; the outer columns are square, whereas those on the inside are round. A balustrade, with urn-shaped carvings, surmounts the porch roof.

The central entrance stands between a set of bay windows. The curved west bay windows, one on each floor, form part of the tower, which is surmounted by a conical steep pitched roof. The lookout room in the tower has small windows, yielding an aerial view of the gardens and neighboring houses. The east bay windows, one on each floor, are equally striking. A cornice and ornately trimmed panels lie above each of these slanted bay windows. The second floor bay is surmounted by a balustrade with two wooden urns.

The roof cornice overhangs the front facade and side walls. Pilasters form the east corner of the facade and travel from the ground level to the roof.

The fenestration is regular; the windows are double-hung and rectangular, with slight wooden arches above each window. The attic story windows are small and slightly arched. Slanted bay windows are located on both the uphill and downhill sides of the house. These windows are slightly arched and surmounted by a balustrade and urns.

SURROUNDING LAND
USE AND ZONING:

The zoning of the lot and its surroundings is R-5. The surrounding land uses are residential, with low density prevailing to the east, and high density to the west and south. The lower, downhill, eastern half of Block 641 is predominantly low density with largely Nineteenth Century houses. These houses, with the Coleman House, form an enclave of architecturally significant structures.