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FILE NO. 90-77-8

ORDINANCE NO. 212-77

1 DESIGNATING THE FORMER FIREHOUSE AT 1152 OAK STREET AS A LANDMARK PURSUANT TO
2 ARTICLE 10 OF THE 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 former Firehouse,
5 1152 Oak Street, being Lot 10 in Assessor's Block 1215 has a special character
6 and special historical, architectural and aesthetic interest and value, and that
7 its designation as a Landmark will be in furtherance of and in conformance with
8 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, Chapter
11 II, Part II of the San Francisco Municipal Code, the former Firehouse at 1152 Oak
12 Street is hereby designated as a Landmark, this designation having been duly
13 approved by Resolution No. 7664 of the City Planning Commission, which Resolution
14 is on file with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors under File No. 90-77-8.
15 (b) Required Data. The descriptions of the location and boundaries of the
16 landmark site; of the characteristics of the landmark which justify its designation;
17 and of the particular features that should be preserved; as included in the said
18 Resolution, are hereby incorporated herein and made a part hereof as though fully
19 set forth.
20

Passed for Second Reading
Board of Supervisors, San Francisco

MAY 23 1977

Ayes: Supervisors Barbagelata, Feinstein, Fran-
cos, Gorman, ~~Hamm~~ Mendicino, Molinari, Nel-
der, Pelosi, Tamaras, von Beroldingen.

Noes: Supervisors

Absent: Supervisors
AUG 22

Harold Brown Clerk

90-77-8
File No.

JUN 9 1977
Approved

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

MAY 31 1977

Ayes: Supervisors Barbagelata, Feinstein, Fran-
cos, Gorman, Hopp, ~~Mendicino~~ Molinari, Nel-
der, Pelosi, Tamaras, von Beroldingen.

Noes: Supervisors

Absent: Supervisors
BARBARA LATA MENDICINO

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

George R. Brown Clerk
George R. Brown Mayor

SAN FRANCISCO

CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

RESOLUTION NO. 7664

WHEREAS, A proposal to designate the former Firehouse, 1152 Oak 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 December 15, 1976 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 February 10, 1977, 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, the proposal to designate the former Firehouse, 1152 Oak Street, as a Landmark pursuant to Article 10 of the City Planning Code is hereby APPROVED, the precise location and boundaries of the Landmark site being Lot 10 in Assessor's Block 1215.

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. 154 as adopted December 15, 1976, 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 Docket L176.12.

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 has been ADOPTED by the City Planning Commission at its regular meeting of February 10, 1977.

Lynn E. Pio
Secretary

AYES: Commissioners Bierman, Dearman, Elliott, Finn, Lau, Rosenblatt, Starbuck.

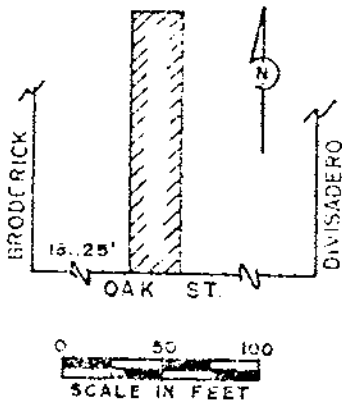
NOES: None.

ABSENT: None.

PASSED: February 10, 1977.

LANDMARKS PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD
FINAL CASE REPORT - Approved December 15, 1976

FIRE HOUSE
ENGINE COMPANY NO. 2
and TRUCK NO. 6
1152 Oak Street



OWNER: CITY & COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

LOCATION: 1152 Oak Street, North line of Oak Street, 181.25 feet east of Broderick; Being Lot 10 in Assessor's Block 1215

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: Typical of its counterpart of a by-gone era, the firehouse recalls a time when buildings for Municipal services were designed not only to fulfill a utilitarian purpose but also to visually complement their immediate neighborhoods. So highly esteemed are the old firehouses that when surplus to the City's needs a ready market vies for the opportunity to restore and rehabilitate for other uses.

HISTORY: On October 25, 1876, the City acquired a lot on the north side of Oak Street near Broderick from Paul Rousset and Sydney Law Johnson in exchange for a lot a short distance away in Block 524, bounded by Baker, Broderick, Page and Oak. Rousset was a well-known land owner and real estate operator who not only owned property in downtown San Francisco, but also had vast amounts of acreage in the Outside Lands. Johnson was a prominent attorney whom Shuck describes as an "imminent lawyer and scholar". Born in New Haven in 1808, he graduated from Yale and after several years in Europe came to California in 1856. He died in 1837 in Fruitvale, Alameda County, California. His daughter married attorney Edward J. Pringle. Their sons were Attorney Edward J. Pringle and William B. Pringle.

In the 1890's, the city was expanding westward in the area near Oak and Divisadero. The paving of Oak Street from Divisadero to Broderick in 1891 is an indication of this growth. The Fire Department began urging the City to build fire stations in the new districts -- the Mission and Western Addition. The Oak Street lot was a designated site for a fire house and on May 7, 1892, the Chief Engineer (a term similar to the present Chief of the Fire Department) reported progress in the establishment of the station. Also in 1892, the City enlarged the original lot which had a 25 foot frontage and an 80 foot depth by a purchase from Mrs. Mary A. Fritz, wife of Eugene N. Fritz. This purchase, for which Mrs. Fritz was paid \$500.00, was recorded on October 5th. This added a parcel of land 25 feet in width by 57 feet 6 inches in length, thus creating a parcel that was 25 feet by 137.5 feet. Mrs. Fritz was well-known in real estate circles and was a major developer of the Haight-Ashbury district. Her son Eugene, Junior, also was a major San Francisco land owner, having acquired the largest number of parcels on Nob Hill, including the Park Lane, Brocklebank and 1055 California Street apartments as well as the Huntington Hotel. His daughter was the late Dolly Fritz Cope.

HISTORY:

(Continued)

On June 22, 1893, the plans for three firehouses were approved and transmitted to the Board of Supervisors. These were stations located at Oak near Broderick, Folsom near 22nd Street and Washington near Broderick Street. The architects were Henriksen and Mahoney. The architect Bernhardt E. Henriksen was described in the April 1884 issue of the California Architect and Building News as "the pioneer native born architect". Born in San Francisco April 19, 1851, he entered the office of the architects Prosper Huerne and Edouard Harant in 1866 as an apprentice. He remained with that firm until 1881. However, in 1880, he patented a pneumatic safety clutch for elevators and for the next several years, he promoted his invention.

Henriksen had his own office at 218 Post Street from 1883 until 1894. He also served for a number of years as trustee and as Secretary of the San Francisco Chapter of the American Institute of Architects. For many years his residence was at 1322 Fell Street, only one block distant from the Oak Street firehouse. After 1902, his name disappears from the Directories. His Associate, William C. Mahoney first appears in 1893; later, he was a member of the architectural firm of Mahoney and Ryland until the 1906 disaster.

The two story frame building for the engine house was constructed by R. Doyle and Son at a cost of \$5,468. Richard S. Doyle, who in the 1880's was listed as a carpenter with his son Stephen R. Doyle in the 1890's. The son continued as a contractor until the 1906 Fire.

On June 24, 1893, Engine #21 and Truck #6 were organized and assigned to the Oak Street Fire House. For a number of years, Engine #21 used a La France, double (engine), a very popular steam fire engine. The La France Manufacturing Company of Elmira, New York, commenced building fire engines in 1875 and continued to be successful because of their superior engines.

In 1901, a Capp and Jones double was in use. This firm was long established, having been founded in 1862 in Hudson, New York, and was long a successful one. In 1902, Engine #21 had a Amoskeag second class. This fire engine was built by the Amoskeag Manufacturing Company of Manchester, New Hampshire, one of the oldest such firms, having been founded in 1859, and having established an international reputation for excellence.

In 1908, a Metropolitan, double was in use and in 1909 an American, double, and it became the last of the horse-drawn engines. The American Fire Engine Company was founded in 1891 at Seneca Falls, New York and Cincinnati, Ohio, and in the 1890's, became through mergers the largest manufacturer of engines and fire department supplies in the world. It included the old Capp and Jones firm. In 1911, the Fire Department urged the acquisition of automobile fire engines, and in 1912, the first ones were purchased. In 1915, a Seagrave, double, motor driven, was assigned to the Oak Street Fire House.

An account of Engine #21 and Truck #6 appeared in Harry C. Pendleton's History of the San Francisco Fire Department, published in 1900. While the Oak Street Fire House had only been in existence a few short years, it had a fine record. Truck #6 consisted of a unit of nine men. At that time, it had a "second class straight frame" truck carrying hook and ladders. Engine #21 had a membership of eight men. A notable fire in which Engine #21 "upheld the honor of the Fire Department"

HISTORY: was the fire that destroyed Lucky Baldwin's great hotel at
(Continued) Market and Powell where the Flood Building now stands. No. 21
was engaged four hours during this November 23, 1898 fire.
The three-million-dollar uninsured hotel and theater went up
in flames. That fire is, of course, insignificant when compared
to the disaster that took place in 1906.

The reports written just after the 1906 fire are fearsome tales. Captain M. Boden wrote that because the alarm and telephone systems which were not in order after the earthquake, they proceeded eastward "where we observed a column of smoke". They fought fire after fire, mostly in the Hayes Valley, trying again and again to obtain water. They finally returned to their station at 11:30 a.m. on April 20th, "having been on duty for fifty four hours". Besides Captain Boden, James Feeny, M. J. O'Connor, P. J. Meehan, W. Leonhardt, E. Long, T. Meacham, D. O'Connell and Charles Tyson fought these fires.

Truck #6, under the leadership of Captain John F. Dryer, a native of San Francisco, who had joined the force in 1897, had similar experiences. They, too, fought for the most part in the Hayes Valley although later they were South of Market, and finally at Church and Twentieth Streets. They returned to their quarters "having been on duty for fifty hours".

ARCHITECTURE: As originally constructed, this firehouse was very nearly a twin to the one at 3022 Washington Street whose ornamentation was restored in 1970 and is now used as a private residence. The most evident difference between the two is in the height and detailing of the towers. On Oak Street, the tower is shorter and surfaced with varied patterns of shingles typical of the 1890's.

The firehouse is of wood, two-stories in height, Stick-Eastlake in style with Italianite overtones found on some of the detailing. The ground floor facade features a centered double doorway for the apparatus, with a transom overhead. To the left is a single door and to the right, a window, both rectangular in shape. Above the transom, a slightly raised cornice extends the full width of the building.

The second story has three vertical divisions set off by pilasters. The center section is the width of the double doorway below and contains tall, rectangular, paired windows; in the outer sections, single windows are found. All windows are capped with a slightly raised cornice supported by brackets.

At the top of the second story there is a deep cornice with brackets above the pilasters. The outer or side sections of the cornice feature shingled treatment between the brackets; the center section of the facade terminates in a gable and the cornice observes its elevation. A circle encased by moulding in the gable reveals the date of construction - 1893. The tower rises above the second story at the extreme left of the facade and is surmounted by a simple cornice.

Early photographs reveal the ground floor of this building to have been identical with that at 3022 Washington Street; the now rectangular side door and window were both originally arched doorways and the surface of the facade at this level was simulated stone work. Additionally, there was a triangular pediment above the lower cornice which extended the full width of the double doorways.

SURROUNDING LAND USE AND ZONING: The property is zoned C-2 (Community Business District) and is in a 40-X height and bulk district. Almost half of the westerly portion of the block is occupied by a bank and parking lot. Directly to the east of the firehouse is a small apartment building and the remainder of the Oak Street frontage is a vacant lot. The proposed Phelps Place properties, which include the Miah and Abner Phelps Houses, both landmarks, are located across Oak Street to the south.