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FILE NO. 90-77-16 ORDINANCE NO. 219-77

DESIGNATING THE FRANCIS SCOTT KEY MONUMENT 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 Francis Scott Key Monument located in 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 Francis Scott Key Monument is hereby designated as a Landmark, this designation having been duly approved by Resolution No. 7712 of the City Planning Commission, which Resolution is on file with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors under File No. 90-77-16.

(b) Required Data. The descriptions of the location and boundaries of the Landmark site; of the characteristics of the Landmark which justify its designation; and of the particular features that should be preserved; as 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
MAY 23 1977

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

~~Noes: Supervisors~~

Absent: Supervisors KOPP

Clerk

Read Second Time and Finally Passed
Board of Supervisors, San Francisco
MAY 31 1977

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

~~Noes: Supervisors~~

Absent: Supervisors BARBAGELATA, MENDELSOHN

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

Clerk

90-77-16 JUN 9 1977
File No. Approved

Mayor

LANDMARKS PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD

of the

SAN FRANCISCO

CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

RESOLUTION NO. 159

WHEREAS, A proposal to designate the Francis Scott Key Monument, Golden Gate Park, as a Landmark pursuant to the provisions of Article 10 of the City Planning Code has been heard and considered by the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board; and

WHEREAS, The Advisory Board 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 said Article 10;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That this Advisory Board does hereby initiate the designation of the Francis Scott Key Monument, Golden Gate Park as a Landmark pursuant to the provisions of Article 10 of the City Planning Code and recommends to the City Planning Commission that this designation proposal be APPROVED;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That

1) the location of the landmark site is Golden Gate Park, northeast end of Concource (opposite bandshell), and

2) The description of

   a) the special character or special historical, architectural or aesthetic interest or value are described and depicted in the photographs and other materials on file in the Department of City Planning in Docket No. LM77.3 and as more fully set forth in the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board's case report titled "Francis Scott Key Monument", March 2, 1977" and

   b) the particular features existing as of this date which should be preserved are those shown on the said photographs.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board hereby directs its Secretary to report this action and to submit a copy of this Resolution to the Planning Commission for further action in accordance with the said Article 10.

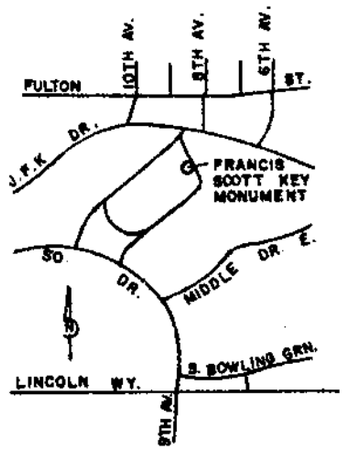
I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED by the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board at its regular meeting of March 2, 1977.

Edward N. Michael
Secretary to the Board

AYES: de Losada, Famarin, Kortum, Morton, Platt, and Shumate
NOES: None
ABSENT: Ream and Lanier
DATE: March 2, 1977

LANDMARKS PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD
Final Case Report - March 2, 1977

FRANCIS SCOTT KEY MONUMENT
Golden Gate Park



OWNER: City and County of San Francisco

LOCATION: Golden Gate Park, northeast end of Concourse (opposite bandshell)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: The Francis Scott Key Monument in Golden Gate Park bears the distinction of having been the first in the United States to memoralize Key, author of the words to "The Star-Spangled Banner". The monument was erected in 1888, seventy-four years after Key wrote his poem; however, it was to be another forty-three years, 1931, before Congress adopted the melody and lyrics as the official national anthem.

Funds for the erection of the monument were provided in a bequest from James Lick, noted San Francisco pioneer and philanthropist.

BACKGROUND: Francis Scott Key (1779-1843), the son of a Continental Army veteran who fought at Boston, was born in Carroll County, Maryland, where his family had extensive land holdings. He attended St. John's College in Annapolis from 1789 to 1796, studied law in the same city and eventually established his practice in Baltimore.

In the War of 1812, the British, after burning Washington, moved to attck Baltimore which, with its harbor, was of greater strategic importance than Washington. A friend of Key's, Dr. William Beanes, had been captured in Washington and Key was sent under a flag of truce to seek his release. The British were in the midst of preparing for a naval attack on Fort McHenry at Baltimore and the Commander decided to keep both Beanes and Key aboard ship. The attack came on the evening of September 13, 1814, and it was from the deck of a Britsih ship that Key observed the battle.

So long as the shelling of the Fort was in progress, Key knew that it had not surrendered; however, the attack suddenly ceased and Key passed the remainder of the night pondering its fate. It was not unitl "the dawn's early light" revealed the presence of the American flag still flying over the Fort that Key knew the outcome; inspired by the moment he immediately began writing his poem.

On September 18 or 19, 1914, Key's poem was published (without crediting him) as a broadside under his original title of "Defence of Fort M'Henry" (sic). It also appeared in the Baltimore Patriot on September 20, 1814, and on the following

day. in the Baltimore American & Commercial Daily Advertiser. The broadisde noted that it was to be sung to the tune "Anacreon in Heaven". (In that connection, Key, in 1805, had written a poem "When the Warrior Returns", to be sung to the same melody. That poem celebrated Stephen Decatur's triumph in the War with Tripoli.)

"Anacreon in Heaven" was first published in 1779 or 1780 in London where it became an immensely popular song -- the music notes that the song was being sung at the Crown and Anchor Tavern. The composer is believed to have been either John Stafford Smith, a member of The Anacreontic Society, or Samuel Arnold, conductor of the Society's orchestra. The song, particularly the melody, also acheived widespread popularity in America; between 1790 and 1820 there were at least 85 poems, mostly of a patriotic nature, set to the music.

Key's work appeared in sheet music form possibly as early as October 19, 1814. One source credits its immediate popularity to a Philadelphia-based traveling theater company which was frequently engaged in Baltimore; their handbills indicate that the work was sung by one Mr. Hardings on at least four occasions prior to the aforementioned date.

The song never lost its popularity as a patriotic song and long before 1931, the year it was offically adopted as the national anthem, it had achieved semi-official recognition by virtue of its having been played regularly by the bands of the Army and Navy.

. . . .

James Lick, grandson of a Revolutionary War veteran, was born on August 26, 1796, in Lebanon County, Pennsylvania. As a youth he was stirred by, and delighted in, the grandfather's retelling his experiences in the fight for independence.

Lick left his home in 1819 to seek his fortune; his initial travels took him to both Baltimore and Washington where, in the latter city, scars from the War of 1812 were still in evidence. Within a very few years, he journeyed to South America where he engaged in the manufacture of pianos. He lived in several cities there prior to making his way to San Francisco; he arrived here at the age of 51, just 17 days prior to the discovery of gold on January 24, 1848. Although he visited the gold fields, he chose to earn his fortune otherwise and returned to San Francisco where he immediately began buying property. Eventually, he also acquired extensive holdings near San Jose and in Soutern California. At one time he owned property which included what is now Griffith Park in Los Angeles; he also owned Santa Catalina Island.

In 1875, he established the James Lick Trust which was executed primarily after his death in San Francisco on October 1, 1876. The Trust established educational and scientific institutions and included bequests for many charities; it also specified that $60,000 was to be used for a monument to be erected to Francis Scott Key in Golden Gate Park.

The contract for the monument was awarded to William W. Story, a gifted sculptor and writer, on the 7th day of February, 1885, he agreeing to have it completed in four years. Mr. Story left immediately for Italy to commence work.

The monument arrived in San Francisco on January 25, 1888 aboard the Italian Bark "Pietro B," Captain Minetti commanding. The voyage consumed 187 days out of Genoa, the newspaper account remarking that the "Peitro B"did not have a very extended reputation for speed.

The following is a description of the statue, taken from the Golden Gate Park News, December 22, 1888:

"A square pedestal rests upon a platform reached by three steps, the pedestal being ornamented with corner buttresses, bevels, panels and mouldings, the panels being occupied by the words of the song, by the inscription and emblematic devices. From each corner of this pedestal rises a Corinthian column, between which are arches, properly supported, the whole forming a canopy beneath which the post is represented in bronze in a sitting posture, dressed rather picturesquely in a costume of the latter part of the last century and the first of the present; above the canopy, appropriately wreathed, is a small cupola, upon which stands the female figure of America, her left arm resting by the hand on her hip, and the right grasping at partial rest the staff of the American Flag, the folds of which fall gracefully upon her shoulders.

"The entire structure is 52 feet high, the figure of the poet is 8 feet, and that of the figure of America with the flag is 13 feet."

This was the first monument in the United States to honor the memory of the author of our National Anthem.

The site chosen for the monument was at the rear of the second music concourse in Golden Gate Park, now the site of the tennis courts.

It was dedicated on July 4, 1888 in the presence of approximately 60,000 people, with the playing of "The Star Spangled Banner," and with a 100 gun salute.

The monument was damaged by the Earthquake of 1906; and three years later, it was restored at a cost of $9,000 and moved to a new location at the side of the present concourse.

In 1967, the monument was removed and stored in the corporation yard of Golden Gate Park to make room for a new building for the Academy of Sciences. With the help of many civic groups and the State Bicentennial Committee, the State Bond Issue for Beaches and Parks, as well as patriotic and historical groups, the monument has again restored at a cost of approximately $130,000. The General Contractor was the Valentine Corporation and the work of restoration was done by Reginald Locke and Associates of San Francisco.

The Key monument in its second location just prior to being removed to make room for Cornell Hall.

