

FILE NO. 90-77-17

ORDINANCE NO. 332-77

1 DESIGNATING THE ORTMAN-SHUMATE 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 Ortman-Shumate
5 house located at 1901 Scott Street, being Lot 3 in Assessor's Block 1027, has a
6 special character and special historical, architectural and aesthetic interest
7 and value, and that its designation as a Landmark will be in furtherance of and in
8 conformance with the purposes of Article 10 of the City Planning Code and the
9 standards set forth 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 Ortman-Shumate House is hereby
12 designated as a Landmark, this designation having been duly approved by Resolution
13 No. 7724 of the City Planning Commission, which Resolution is on file with the
14 Clerk of the Board of Supervisors under File No. 90-77-17.

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.

Passed for Second Reading
Board of Supervisors, San Francisco

JUN 27 1977

Ayes: Supervisors ~~Barbagelata~~, Feinstein, Fran-
cois, Gonzales, Kopp, Mendelsohn, Molinari, Nel-
der, ~~Pelosi~~, Tamaras, von Beroldingen.

~~Minor Supervisors~~

Absent: Supervisors ~~BARBAGELATA~~ PELOSI

Margaret H. Maguire, AG Clerk

90-77-17
File No.

JUL 1 1977
Approved

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

JUL 5 1977

Ayes: Supervisors Barbagelata, Feinstein, Fran-
cois, ~~Gonzales~~, Kopp, ~~Mendelsohn~~, Molinari, ~~Nel-~~
der, ~~Pelosi~~, Tamaras, von Beroldingen.

~~Minor Supervisors~~

Absent: Supervisors FRANCOIS GONZALES

MENDELSOHN NELDER

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

Margaret H. Maguire, AG Clerk

George R. ~~Maguire~~
Mayor

SAN FRANCISCO
CITY PLANNING COMMISSION
RESOLUTION NO. 7724

WHEREAS, A proposal to designate the Ortman-Shumate House at 1901 Scott 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 March 16, 1977, 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 May 12, 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, That the proposal to designate the Ortman-Shumate House at 1901 Scott 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:

Lot 3 in Assessor's Block 1027.

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. 161 as adopted on March 16, 1977, 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 LM75.6;

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 on May 12, 1977.

Lynn E. Pio
Secretary

AYES: Commissioners Bierman, Carey, Dearman, Lau, Rosenblatt, Starbuck
NOES: None
ABSENT: Commissioner Boas
PASSED: May 12, 1977

OWNER: Freida O. Shumate Trust

LOCATION: 1901 Scott Street,
Assessor's Block 1027, Lot 3

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: On the northwest corner of Scott and Pine Streets stands a stately Italianate residence constructed in 1870, continuously occupied by the same family for the last 107 years. The Ortman-Shumate residence is of further interest because of its extensive gardens in a city that has few private gardens of any size.

HISTORY: On February 25, 1870, John Frederic Ortman(n) purchased a fifty (50) vara lot (137½' by 137½') from Mathew Kerrigan for \$5,000. The San Francisco Reale Estate Circular of February 1870 states that this lot has been sold only one year earlier for \$3,500, an indication of the growing popularity and desirability of this portion of the Western Addition. According to members of the family, the Ortmans, then living at the northeast corner of Washington and Mason Streets, often drove to this area, the site of their future home, for picnics, and fell in love with the location. This family story has a basis in fact, as the San Francisco Reale Estate Circular of March 1868 records that the block between California, Pine, Scott and Pierce was sold for \$18,000. The article further states that it was "known as the pic-nic block ... which is covered by shrubbery."

John F. Ortman was born in Ostenbacck, Hanover, January 29, 1829. As a young man, he came to California in 1851. He apparently did not proceed to the gold fields, but instead obtained a position as a grocery store clerk (1854 Directory). In the 1856 San Francisco Directory, Ortman is listed as owning his own grocery business at the corner of Post and Kearny although the exact corner is not specified. Shortly afterward, however, he purchased the northeast corner of Post and Kearny for his store; his heirs still retain this property. In the 1860's or thereabouts, he married Jane Merchant, a young Irish lady. A few years after moving to Scott Street in 1870, he retired from the retail business, the Directory of 1876 listing him as a "Capitalist".

In the disaster of 1906, Ortman suffered severe losses, all of his property having been insured by German insurance companies which, in contrast to the English companies, refused to pay, calling the Earthquake an act of God; nevertheless, he rebuilt and at his death in 1912, his estate was valued at \$600,000, mostly in real estate. His daughters Mrs. Cornelius Nestor and Mrs. Thomas E. Shumate were his legatees.

After settlement of the estate and renovation of the Ortman home, Mrs. Shumate and her family moved in. Mrs. Shumate's husband was a physician and pharmacist who, having worked his way through both medical and pharmaceutical schools, developed a chain of 32 drug

HISTORY: stores located in San Francisco. Shumate served as a San Francisco Police Commissioner from 1912 until 1937. He was also a director of St. Francis Hospital, the Medico-Dental Building (490 Post), the old Liberty Bank and the Philippine Telephone Company. Dr. Shumate died in 1952; his wife in 1958.

(Continued)

Doctor and Mrs. Thomas E. Shumate had three children: Ortman, a physician who died in 1950; Virginia (Mrs. Andrew McLaughlin) who died in 1968, and Albert, also a physician, who continues to reside in the family home. Dr. Albert Shumate, long-interested in the history of the City of his birth, has served as President of the California Historical Society and as a member of San Francisco Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board, of which he was the first President.

PROPERTY MODIFICATIONS: The house and grounds have been modified several times over the years. Prior to 1890, Ortman acquired the adjoining 50 vara lot to the north, thus owning the entire block frontage from California to Pine. On this lot, he built residences for his two daughters when they married in the 1890's. He further enlarged his holdings some time between 1894 and 1906 by acquiring an adjoining lot at the west on California Street, this lot having a frontage of 100 feet and a depth of 137½ feet. This latter lot was taken by Emerson School when they demolished the wooden school on Pine Street and built the present concrete building in the 1920's. The loss of the lot resulted in the loss of the Shumate cow, one of the last, if not the very last, cows owned by a private family in the Western Addition. In 1959, a further expansion of the Emerson School resulted in the school obtaining the 50 vara lot at Scott and California after which the two houses were demolished, thus leaving the family with only the original 50 vara lot.

ARCHITECTURE: The house, too, has been modified from time to time to meet the changing needs of the owners and to correspond with the changing times. It is important to note, however, that each modification to the exterior has sensitively continued the original Italianate design and detailing, resulting in perhaps a more elegant whole.

Originally, the house had only one slanted bay window which was situated on the East end of the first floor facade. Around 1888-89, a bay window matching the original was added directly above it, creating a bay tier in the Italianate tradition. At the same time, the roof was raised; however, the enlarged attic floor was never finished. Further, there was a southerly addition constructed to the rear of the house.

In 1914, Dr. Thomas Shumate "modernized" the interior of the house in a tasteful manner. He also replaced the wooden front stairs with brick and tore down the stables in back of the house, erecting a four stall garage to which he later added 6 more stalls of which three remain to house his drug store delivery trucks. At that time, a gasoline pump, still in place but not presently functioning, was also installed. The wooden windmill used to pump water from the garden well was also demolished and replaced by an electric pump. This well, which helped many neighbors who were without water following the 1906 earthquake, still is used to water the garden.

A final exterior change took place in 1931 with the installation of additional bathrooms which resulted in minor changes to the south and west sides of the house.

A curious feature of the house, unexplained, is the driveway on the north of the property which runs under a portion of the second floor to the garages (stables) in back of the house.