

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Planning Code - Landmark Designation - St. Matthew's Church]

Ordinance amending the Planning Code to designate St. Matthew's Church, located at 3281 16th Street, Assessor's Parcel Block No. 3567, Lot No. 34, on the south side of 16th Street between Dolores and Guerrero Streets, as a landmark consistent with the standards set forth in Article 10 of the Planning Code; affirming the Planning Department's determination under the California Environmental Quality Act; and making public necessity, convenience, and welfare findings under Planning Code, Section 302, and findings of consistency with the General Plan, and the eight priority policies of Planning Code, Section 101.1.

Existing Law

Under Article 10, Section 1004 of the Planning Code, the Board of Supervisors may, by ordinance, designate an individual structure that has special character or special historical, architectural or aesthetic interest or value as a City landmark. Unless prohibited by state law, once a structure has been named a landmark, any construction, alteration, removal or demolition for which a City permit is required necessitates a Certificate of Appropriateness from the Historic Preservation Commission. (Planning Code § 1006; Charter of the City and County of San Francisco, § 4.135.) Thus, landmark designation generally affords a high degree of protection to historic and architectural structures of merit in the City. There are currently more than 300 individual landmarks in the City under Article 10, in addition to structures and districts in the downtown area that are protected under Article 11. (See App. A to Article 10.)

Amendments to Current Law

This ordinance amends the Planning Code to add a new historic landmark to the list of individual landmarks under Article 10: St. Matthew's Church, located at 3281 16th Street, Assessor's Parcel Block No. 3567, Lot No. 34. The ordinance finds that St. Matthew's Church is eligible for local designation because it is significant for its exuberant architectural expression as a Gothic Revival church. The Gothic Revival style was a popular choice for residential and religious buildings during the early years of expansion and Gold Rush period in San Francisco. Extant examples of Gothic Revival architecture are rare in San Francisco, though most surviving buildings are churches, with very few residences. The building at the property was erected in 1907 by the German Evangelical Lutheran Church, and has been owned and occupied by the group since then. The property is located in the Inner Mission North area. Development of the church was part of the first wave of Inner Mission redevelopment following the Great 1906 Earthquake and Fire. As required by Section 1004, the ordinance lists the particular features that shall be preserved, or replaced in-kind, as determined necessary.

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