

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Planning Code - Landmark Designation - Ladies' Protection and Relief Society (3400 Laguna Street)]

Ordinance amending the Planning Code to designate the Ladies' Protection and Relief Society, located at 3400 Laguna Street, Assessor's Parcel Block No. 0471, Lot No. 003, 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: the Ladies' Protection and Relief Society, located at 3400 Laguna Street, Assessor's Parcel Block No. 0471, Lot No. 003. The ordinance finds that the Ladies' Protection and Relief Society is eligible for local designation because it is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of San Francisco history (National Register of Historic Places Criterion A) and as an example that embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction and is representative of the work of an architect of merit (Criterion C). Specifically, the property is significant for association with the Ladies' Protection and Relief Society, San Francisco's second oldest charitable organization and the first established by and for women. Furthermore, the main building, constructed in 1925 by renowned architect Julia Morgan, is an excellent, rare, and well-preserved example of a commercial building designed in the Jacobethan Revival style by an architect of merit. Contributing elements of the property that support its architectural and historical significance are the 1925 Morgan Building, the 1929 Stone Cottage, and the landscape features of the Front Garden. The other buildings,

courtyards, and landscape features on the site were constructed outside of the period of significance and do not contribute to the architectural or historical significance of the Landmark site

As required by Section 1004, the ordinance lists the particular features that shall be preserved, or replaced in-kind, as determined necessary.

Background Information

On October 16, 2024, after holding a public hearing on the proposed designation and having considered the specialized analyses reviewed by Planning Department staff and the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, the Historic Preservation Commission voted to recommend landmark designation of the Ladies' Protection and Relief Society to the Board of Supervisors.

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