

1 [Preservation of the Giant Camera Obscura]  
2 SUPPORTING THE GOLDEN GATE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA'S APPLICATION FOR  
3 THE SUTRO HISTORIC DISTRICT TO BE INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER  
4 OF HISTORIC PLACES AND URGING THE GGNRA TO PRESERVE THE GIANT CAMERA  
5 OBSCURA IN ITS PRESENT STRUCTURE AND LOCATION AS PART OF THE SUTRO  
6 HISTORIC DISTRICT.

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8 WHEREAS, The Camera Obscura, or "Giant Camera," was built in  
9 1946 and been in continuous operation at a site facing the ocean,  
10 just west of the Cliff House, since that time; and,

11 WHEREAS, The Giant Camera at the Cliff House was built by a San  
12 Francisco businessman, Floyd Jennings, who became interested in the  
13 idea of a camera obscura through reading scientific publications;  
14 and,

15 WHEREAS, In 1957, the then-owner of the Cliff House, George K.  
16 Whitney, Sr., suggested housing the Giant Camera in a structure  
17 designed to resemble a camera - a style of architecture known as  
18 "signature architecture" in which the building looks like its name;  
19 and,

20 WHEREAS, The Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA)  
21 submitted an application for the Giant Camera to be included in the  
22 National Register of Historic Places in 1980, but the application was  
23 denied because the Camera was then less than the fifty years old  
24 required for approval; and,

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1           WHEREAS, In conjunction with this application, the San Francisco  
2 Board of Supervisors unanimously passed a resolution requesting the  
3 Secretary of the Interior to issue a determination regarding the  
4 eligibility of the Giant Camera Obscura for inclusion in the National  
5 Register of Historic Places and supporting the "retention of the  
6 Giant Camera Obscura as a project of special historical and cultural  
7 importance and for its preservation and inclusion in the Masterplan  
8 of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area," and this resolution was  
9 Resolution #650-80; and,

10           WHEREAS, The Giant Camera has been a popular tourist attraction  
11 at its location next to the Cliff House for fifty-three years because  
12 it provides a spectacular view of the ocean and Seal Rocks; now,  
13 therefore, be it

14           RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors supports the Golden Gate  
15 National Recreation Area's application for the Sutro Historic  
16 District to be included in the National Register of Historic Places;  
17 and be it

18           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the GGNRA  
19 to preserve the Giant Camera Obscura in its present structure and  
20 location as part of the Sutro Historic District; and be it

21           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Board forward a copy of  
22 Resolution #650-80 to the GGNRA for inclusion in the application of  
23 the Sutro Historic District to the National Register of Historic  
24 Places.  
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# City and County of San Francisco

City Hall  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

## Tails Resolution

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**File Number:** 991782

**Date Passed:**

Resolution supporting the Golden Gate National Recreation Area's application for the Sutro Historic District to be included in the National Register of Historic Places and urging the GGNRA to preserve the Giant Camera Obscura in its present structure and location as part of the Sutro Historic District.

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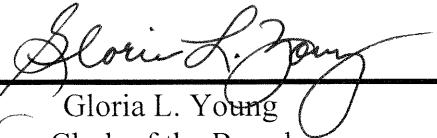
September 27, 1999 Board of Supervisors — ADOPTED

Ayes: 10 - Ammiano, Becerril, Bierman, Katz, Kaufman, Leno, Newsom, Teng,  
Yaki, Yee

Absent: 1 - Brown

File No. 991782

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on September 27, 1999 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.



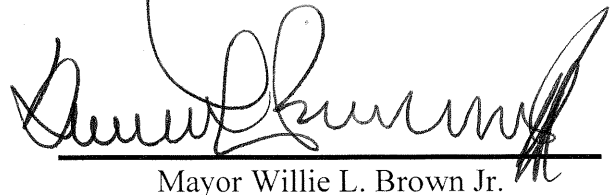
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Gloria L. Young  
Clerk of the Board

OCT - 8 1999

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Date Approved



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Mayor Willie L. Brown Jr.