



# LANDMARK RESOLUTION RECOMMENDATION RESOLUTION NO. 1280

**HEARING DATE: NOVEMBER 2, 2022**

**Record No.:** 2022-008664DES  
**Project Address:** 240 Leland Avenue (St. James Presbyterian Church)  
**Zoning:** RH-2 RESIDENTIAL- HOUSE, TWO FAMILY  
40-X Height and Bulk District  
**Cultural District:** Pacific Islander (proposed)  
**Block/Lot:** 6246/012  
**Project Sponsor:** SF Planning Department  
49 South Van Ness Avenue, Suite 1400  
San Francisco, CA 94103  
**Property Owner:** Presbytery of SF  
240 Leland Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94134  
**Staff Contact:** Pilar LaValley (628-652-7372)  
[pilar.lavalley@sfgov.org](mailto:pilar.lavalley@sfgov.org)

RESOLUTION TO RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS LANDMARK DESIGNATION OF ST. JAMES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (240 LELAND AVENUE), ASSESSOR'S PARCEL BLOCK NO. 6246, LOT NO. 012, AS LANDMARK NO. XXX CONSISTENT WITH THE PURPOSES AND STANDARDS OF ARTICLE 10

1. WHEREAS, on June 7, 2022, Supervisor Walton introduced a proposed Resolution under Board of Supervisors (hereinafter "Board") File No. 220716 to initiate the Landmark designation process for St. James Presbyterian Church (240 Leland Avenue), Assessor's Parcel Block No. 6246, Lot No. 012; and
2. WHEREAS, on July 11, 2022, the Board of Supervisors at its Land Use and Transportation Committee meeting voted unanimously to Recommend to the full Board approval of the Resolution to initiate Landmark Designation (Board File No. 220716); and
3. WHEREAS, on July 19, 2022, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the Resolution to initiate Landmark Designation, and on July 28, 2022, Resolution No. 337-22 became effective (Board File No. 220716); and
4. WHEREAS, Department Staff, who meet the Secretary of Interior's Professional Qualification Standards, prepared the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet for St. James Presbyterian Church (240 Leland Avenue), which

was reviewed for accuracy and conformance with the purposes and standards of Article 10; and

5. WHEREAS, the Historic Preservation Commission, at its regular meeting of November 2, 2022, reviewed Department staff's analysis of St. James Presbyterian Church historical significance pursuant to Article 10 as part of the Landmark Designation Executive Summary dated October 26, 2022, and recommended Landmark designation through this Resolution; and
6. WHEREAS, the Historic Preservation Commission finds that the nomination of St. James Presbyterian Church as a Landmark is in the form prescribed by the Historic Preservation Commission and contains supporting historic, architectural, and/or cultural documentation; and
7. WHEREAS, the Historic Preservation Commission finds that St. James Presbyterian Church is eligible for local designation for its association with events that have made a culturally, historically, and architecturally significant contribution to the broad patterns of San Francisco history and represents the work of an architect of merit; and
8. WHEREAS, the Historic Preservation Commission finds that the designation of St. James Presbyterian Church, originally established in 1908 and one of the oldest religious congregations in southeastern San Francisco, is proper for its association with early development of the Visitacion Valley neighborhood; and
9. WHEREAS, the Historic Preservation Commission finds that the designation of St. James Presbyterian Church is also proper given its architectural significance as it is a representative example of the work of architect of merit Julia Morgan; and
10. WHEREAS, the Historic Preservation Commission finds that St. James Presbyterian Church meets one of the Historic Preservation Commission's four priority areas for designation: property types in underrepresented geographies in the city. There are no other designated landmarks in the Visitacion Valley neighborhood. St. James Presbyterian Church was selected as the first prospective landmark for the neighborhood during an online campaign, co-sponsored by SF Heritage and the Visitacion Valley History Project, to address this lack of representation in the city's landmark program. Within this portion of San Francisco, the closest designated landmarks are Arthur H. Coleman Medical Center (6301 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Landmark No. 279) and University Mound Old Ladies Home (350 University Street, Landmark No. 269); and
11. WHEREAS, the Historic Preservation Commission finds that St. James Presbyterian Church meet the eligibility requirements of Section 1004 of the Planning Code and warrants consideration for Article 10 landmark designation; and
12. WHEREAS, the Historic Preservation Commission finds that the boundaries and the list of character-defining features, as identified in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, should be considered for preservation under the proposed landmark designation as they relate to the building's architectural and historical significance and retain historical integrity; and
13. WHEREAS, the proposed designation is consistent with the General Plan priority policies pursuant to Planning Code, Section 101.1 and furthers Priority Policy No. 7, which states that landmarks and historic buildings be preserved, and will serve the public necessity, convenience and welfare pursuant to Planning Code, Section

302; and

14. WHEREAS, the Department has determined that landmark designation is not defined as a project under CEQA Guidelines Section 15060(c) and 15378 because it does not result in a physical change in the environment; and,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Historic Preservation Commission hereby recommends to the Board of Supervisors approval of landmark designation of St. James Presbyterian Church (240 Leland Avenue), Assessor's Parcel Block No. 6246, Lot No. 012 consistent with the purposes and standards of Article 10 of the Planning Code.

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Historic Preservation Commission at its meeting on November 2, 2022.



Jonas P. Ionin  
*Commission Secretary*

AYES: Black, Foley, Johns, So, Nageswaran, Matsuda

NOES: None

ABSENT: Wright

ADOPTED: November 2, 2022