

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Planning Code - Landmark Designation - Lyon-Martin House, 651 Duncan Street]

Ordinance amending the Planning Code to designate Lyon-Martin House, 651 Duncan Street, Assessor's Parcel Block No. 6604, Lot No. 036, 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 290 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: 651 Duncan Street (aka Lyon-Martin House), Assessor's Parcel Block No. 6604, Lot No. 036.

The ordinance finds that 651 Duncan Street is eligible for designation as it is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of San Francisco history and with persons significant to San Francisco history. Specifically, designation of Lyon-Martin House is proper given association with the history of development of homophile organizations in San Francisco, specifically the Daughters of Bilitis, the first lesbian-rights organization in the United States, and as the longtime home of pioneering lesbian-rights activists, Phyllis Lyon and Del Martin. The period of significance is 1955 to 2020.

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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