

1 [Initiating Landmark Designation - Holy Innocents Church]

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3 **Resolution initiating landmark designation under Article 10 of the Planning Code for**
4 **Holy Innocents Church, located at 455 Fair Oaks Street, Assessor's Parcel Block No.**
5 **6533, Lot No. 027.**

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7 WHEREAS, Under Planning Code, Section 1004.1, the Board of Supervisors may by
8 Resolution initiate landmark designations; and

9 WHEREAS, Planning Code, Section 1004.2(b), requires the Historic Preservation
10 Commission to respond to historic district or individual landmark designations initiated by the
11 Board of Supervisors within 90 days, and authorizes the Board, by Resolution, to extend the
12 time within which the Historic Preservation Commission is to render its decision; and

13 WHEREAS, Holy Innocents Church, located at 455 Fair Oaks Street, Assessor's
14 Parcel Block No. 6533, Lot No. 027, in the Mission neighborhood was constructed in 1890;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, The building was built as a mission chapel of St. John the Evangelist
17 Church; and

18 WHEREAS, The building remains in its original location and is an early and rare
19 example of Carpenter Gothic architecture in San Francisco; and

20 WHEREAS, The building was designed by Architect of Merit Ernest Coxhead; and

21 WHEREAS, The building was Coxhead's first commission in San Francisco; and

22 WHEREAS, Coxhead helped create the Bay Area Shingle Style by designing brown-
23 shingled churches and urban homes; and

24 WHEREAS, The building remains in its original location and is an early and rare
25 example of Carpenter Gothic architecture in San Francisco; and

1 WHEREAS, The property includes intact features including its exterior shingles, gable
2 roof, lancet windows, and ogee arches; and

3 WHEREAS, Gothic Revival style was a popular choice for residential and religious
4 buildings during the early years of San Francisco's establishment and expansion after the
5 Gold Rush; and

6 WHEREAS, By 1880, the Gothic Revival style had mostly been replaced by Edwardian
7 style architecture but remained a popular choice for religious architecture well into the 20th
8 century, though extant examples of Gothic Revival architecture are rare in San Francisco; and

9 WHEREAS, In 2025 the San Francisco Historic Preservation Commission adopted the
10 Early Settlement Era Styles (1848-1906) Historic Context Statement, which provided
11 frameworks for identifying and evaluating Gothic Revival and other early settlement era style
12 buildings for historical significance and integrity; and

13 WHEREAS, Through applying the evaluative framework as outlined in the Early
14 Settlement Era Styles (1848-1906) Historic Context Statement, the property can be
15 considered as an individually eligible historic resource based on year built, architectural
16 significance, extant character-defining features, and sufficient integrity; now, therefore be it

17 RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors hereby initiates landmark designation of the
18 Holy Innocents Church under Planning Code, Section 1004.1; and, be it

19 FURTHER RESOLVED, The Board requests that the Planning Department prepare a
20 landmark designation report to submit to the Historic Preservation Commission for its
21 consideration of the full historical, architectural, aesthetic, and cultural interest and value of
22 the Holy Innocents Church; and, be it

23 FURTHER RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors requests that the Historic
24 Preservation Commission consider whether the Holy Innocents Church warrants landmark
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1 designation and submit its recommendation to the Board according to Article 10 of the
2 Planning Code.