

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Planning Code - Landmark designation of 546-548 Fillmore Street, 554 Fillmore Street, 735 Fell Street, and 660 Oak Street (also known as the Sacred Heart Parish Complex)]

Ordinance amending the Planning Code to designate 546-548 Fillmore Street, 554 Fillmore Street, 735 Fell Street, and 660 Oak Street (also known as the Sacred Heart Parish Complex), Lots Nos. 21, 22, 22A and 12 in Assessor's Block No. 0828, as a Landmark under Article 10; affirming the Planning Department's determination under the California Environmental Quality Act; and making 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. 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 ("HPC"). (Planning Code Section 1006; Charter of the City and County of San Francisco, Section 4.135.) Thus, landmark designation affords a high degree of protection to historic and architectural structures of merit in the City. There are currently more than 260 individual landmarks in the City under Article 10, in addition to other structures and districts in the downtown area that are protected under Article 11. (See Appendix 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: 546-548 Fillmore Street, 554 Fillmore Street, 735 Fell Street, and 660 Oak Street (known as Sacred Heart Parish Complex).

The ordinance finds that the Sacred Heart Parish Complex is eligible for designation as a City landmark under National Register of Historic Places Criteria A, B and C (as it is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; embodies distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction; and represents the work of a master). Specifically, designation of the Sacred Heart Parish Complex is proper given its association with the growth and development of the Western Addition and Catholic religious institutions in San Francisco in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries; with prominent and influential civil rights activist Father Eugene Boyle, pastor of the church from 1968 to 1972; as

a distinctive and well-executed example of a Romanesque Revival-style Catholic parish grouping and for its association with master architect Thomas J. Welsh.

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

Background Information

The landmark designation was initiated by the HPC pursuant to its authority under the Charter to recommend approval, disapproval, or modification of landmark designations and historic district designations under the Planning Code to the Board of Supervisors. The HPC held a hearing to initiate the landmark designation of the Sacred Heart Parish Complex on October 5, 2016. On September 20, 2023, after holding a public hearing on the proposed designation and having considered the Landmark Designation Case Report prepared by Planning Department staff Shannon Ferguson, the HPC voted to recommend approval of the Sacred Heart Parish Complex to the Board of Supervisors.

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