

## **LEGISLATIVE DIGEST**

[Planning Code - Landmark Designation - 1345 Ocean Avenue (aka Ingleside Presbyterian Church and the Great Cloud of Witnesses)]

**Ordinance designating 1345 Ocean Avenue (aka Ingleside Presbyterian Church and the Great Cloud of Witnesses), Assessor's Parcel Block No. 6942, Lot No. 050, as a Landmark under Planning Code, 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 250 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: 1345 Ocean Avenue (also known as Ingleside Presbyterian Church and the Great Cloud of Witnesses).

The ordinance finds that 1345 Ocean Avenue is eligible for designation as a City landmark under National Register of Historic Places Criterion C (as it embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction; and represents the work of a master architect). Specifically, designation of the Ingleside Presbyterian Church is proper given that it contains a culturally and artistically significant interior "collage-mural," a folk artist's environment entitled The Great Cloud of Witnesses. The collage-mural was created by church pastor Reverend Roland Gordon to inspire the community and highlight the accomplishments of African Americans. This collage-mural covers many of the interior surfaces of the church. The Great Cloud of Witnesses provides an illustrated history of the church itself, its post-1906 Earthquake beginnings, and the community at large; and it highlights prominent people who have helped shape San Francisco. A work-in-progress since

1980, The Great Cloud of Witnesses is a rare tribute and the largest, most imaginatively executed Folk Artists' Environment dedicated to religion, culture, African American history and role models in the country.

Ingleside Presbyterian Church is also significant for its association with master architect Joseph Leonard, who designed the Neoclassical style building in 1923.

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. The ordinance also provides that the property shall be subject to further controls and procedures pursuant to the San Francisco Planning Code and Article 10, except that, with respect to the collage-mural known as the Great Cloud of Witnesses, a Certificate of Appropriateness shall be required only for the proposed removal, demolition, or permanent covering of the collage-mural.

#### 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 1345 Ocean Avenue (Ingleside Presbyterian Church and The Great Cloud of Witnesses) on May 4, 2016. On June 1, 2016, after holding a public hearing on the proposed designation and having considered the Landmark Designation Case Report prepared by Planning Department staff Susan Parks, the HPC voted to recommend approval of the proposed landmark designation of 1345 Ocean Avenue to the Board of Supervisors.