

REVISED LEGISLATIVE DIGEST
(Amended in Committee, 9/12/2022)

[Planning Code - Landmark Designation - City Cemetery]

Ordinance amending the Planning Code to designate City Cemetery, the majority of Assessor's Parcel Block No. 1313, Lot No. 029, located in Lincoln Park on the north side of Clement Street, to the east of the San Francisco Veteran Affairs Medical Center (formerly the Fort Miley Military Reservation), to the east and south of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, and to the west of Assessor's Parcel Block Nos. 1312, 1392, and 1401, 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 approximately 301 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: City Cemetery, the majority of Assessor's Parcel Block No. 1313, Lot No. 029, located in Lincoln Park on the north side of Clement Street, to the east of the San Francisco Veteran Affairs Medical Center (formerly the Fort Miley Military Reservation), to the east and south of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, and to the west of Assessor's Parcel Block Nos. 1312, 1392, and 1401.

The ordinance finds that City Cemetery is eligible for local designation as it is associated with events that have made a culturally and historically significant contribution to the broad patterns of San Francisco history, embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, and has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in the

history of San Francisco. Specifically, regarding its association with events that have made a culturally and historically significant contribution to the broad patterns of San Francisco history, designation of City Cemetery is proper because it represents an early incarnation of social safety nets related to burial of the dead for socially, ethnically, and culturally diverse populations of San Franciscans in the late nineteenth century, and its establishment on the margins of the city and its closure are associated with shifting attitudes regarding cemeteries in urban spaces during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Regarding the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, designation of City Cemetery is proper because it contains the extant Kong Chow funerary structure and Ladies' Seamen's Friends Society obelisk, both of which embody distinctive characteristics of late nineteenth century funerary design and practice. Finally, regarding its ability to yield information important in the history of San Francisco, designation of City Cemetery is proper because it contains the buried remnants of the cemetery, including human remains, which are likely to yield important information about the history of San Francisco. The period of significance is 1868 to 1909.

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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