

1 [Planning Code - Landmark Designation - 200 Rhode Island Street (aka Takahashi Trading
2 Company)]

3 **Ordinance amending the Planning Code to designate 200 Rhode Island Street (aka**
4 **Takahashi Trading Company), Assessor’s Parcel Block No. 3936, Lot No. 001, as a**
5 **Landmark consistent with the standards set forth in Article 10 of the Planning Code;**
6 **affirming the Planning Department’s determination under the California Environmental**
7 **Quality Act; and making public necessity, convenience, and welfare findings under**
8 **Planning Code, Section 302, and findings of consistency with the General Plan, and the**
9 **eight priority policies of Planning Code, Section 101.1.**

10 NOTE: **Unchanged Code text and uncodified text** are in plain Arial font.
11 **Additions to Codes** are in *single-underline italics Times New Roman font*.
12 **Deletions to Codes** are in *strikethrough italics Times New Roman font*.
13 **Board amendment additions** are in double-underlined Arial font.
14 **Board amendment deletions** are in ~~strikethrough Arial font~~.
15 **Asterisks (* * * *)** indicate the omission of unchanged Code
16 subsections or parts of tables.

17 Be it ordained by the People of the City and County of San Francisco:

18 Section 1. Findings.

19 (a) CEQA and Land Use Findings.

20 (1) The Planning Department has determined that the Planning Code
21 amendment proposed in this ordinance is subject to a Categorical Exemption from the
22 California Environmental Quality Act (California Public Resources Code Sections 21000 et
23 seq., "CEQA") pursuant to Section 15308 of California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Sections
24 15000 et seq., the Guidelines for implementation of the statute for actions by regulatory
25 agencies for protection of the environment (in this case, landmark designation). Said

1 determination is on file with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors in File No. 220507 and is
2 incorporated herein by reference. The Board of Supervisors affirms this determination.

3 (2) Pursuant to Planning Code Section 302, the Board of Supervisors finds that
4 the proposed landmark designation of 200 Rhode Island Street (Assessor's Parcel Block No.
5 3936, Lot No. 001 (aka Takahashi Trading Company) ("200 Rhode Island Street"), will serve
6 the public necessity, convenience, and welfare for the reasons set forth in Historic
7 Preservation Commission Resolution No. 1226, recommending approval of the proposed
8 designation, which is incorporated herein by reference.

9 (3) The Board of Supervisors finds that the proposed landmark designation of
10 200 Rhode Island Street is consistent with the General Plan and with Planning Code Section
11 101.1(b) for the reasons set forth in Historic Preservation Commission Resolution No. 1226.

12
13 (b) General Findings.

14 (1) Pursuant to Charter Section 4.135, the Historic Preservation Commission
15 has authority "to recommend approval, disapproval, or modification of landmark designations
16 and historic district designations under the Planning Code to the Board of Supervisors."

17 (2) The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet was prepared by Planning
18 Department Preservation staff. All preparers meet the Secretary of the Interior's Professional
19 Qualification Standards for historic preservation program staff, as set forth in Code of Federal
20 Regulations Title 36, Part 61, Appendix A. The report was reviewed for accuracy and
21 conformance with the purposes and standards of Article 10 of the Planning Code.

22 (3) The Historic Preservation Commission, at its regular meeting of February
23 16, 2022, reviewed Planning Department staff's analysis of the historical significance of 200
24 Rhode Island Street set forth in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet dated February 16,
25 2022.

1 (4) On November 17, 2021, after holding a public hearing on the proposed
2 initiation, the Historic Preservation Commission initiated the proposed landmark designation of
3 200 Rhode Island Street by Resolution No. 1213. Said resolution is on file with the Clerk of
4 the Board in File No. 220507.

5 (5) On February 16, 2022, after holding a public hearing on the proposed
6 designation and having considered the specialized analyses prepared by Planning
7 Department staff and the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, the Historic Preservation
8 Commission recommended designation of 200 Rhode Island Street as a landmark under
9 Article 10 of the Planning Code by Resolution No. 1226. Said resolution is on file with the
10 Clerk of the Board in File No. 220507.

11 (6) The Board of Supervisors hereby finds that the 200 Rhode Island Street
12 Street has a special character and special historical, architectural, and aesthetic interest and
13 value, and that its designation as a Landmark will further the purposes of and conform to the
14 standards set forth in Article 10 of the Planning Code. In doing so, the Board hereby
15 incorporates by reference the findings of the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet.

16
17 Section 2. Designation.

18 Pursuant to Section 1004 of the Planning Code, 200 Rhode Island Street, Assessor's
19 Block No. 3936, Lot No. 001 (aka Takahashi Trading Company), is hereby designated as a
20 San Francisco Landmark consistent with the standards set forth in Section 1004. Appendix A
21 to Article 10 of the Planning Code is hereby amended to include this property.

1 Section 3. Required Data.

2 (a) The description, location, and boundary of the Landmark site consists of the City
3 parcel located at 200 Rhode Island Street (Takahashi Trading Company), Assessor's Block
4 No. 3936, Lot No. 001, in San Francisco's South of Market neighborhood.

5 (b) The characteristics of the Landmark that justify its designation are described and
6 shown in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet and other supporting materials contained in
7 Planning Department Record Docket No. 2021-007060DES. In brief, 200 Rhode Island Street
8 is eligible for local designation as it is associated with events that have made a culturally and
9 historically significant contribution to the broad patterns of San Francisco history and with
10 persons significant to San Francisco history. Specifically, designation of 200 Rhode Island
11 Street is proper given its association with Japanese American history and culture in San
12 Francisco. Specifically, for over 50 years, circa 1965-2019, the venue served as the
13 headquarters of the Takahashi Trading Company, which imported high-caliber home goods
14 from Japan for Takahashi retail stores in the Bay Area and New York City. The Takahashi
15 family acquired the property after their original Japantown shop was demolished due to a San
16 Francisco Redevelopment Agency program; thus, the building has an association with the
17 hardships faced by Japanese Americans who were forcibly displaced from Japantown due to
18 redevelopment. The building also served as the headquarters of the Henri & Tomoye
19 Takahashi Charitable Foundation, which was established in 1986 to support the Japanese
20 American community through cultural and educational projects. Furthermore, the original 1912
21 portion of the building is significant as an early distinctive project of famed San Francisco
22 master architect Gustave Albert Lansburgh. The property lies within the Showplace Square
23 Heavy Timber and Steel Frame Brick Warehouse and Factory District, which is eligible for the
24 California Register of Historical Resources as San Francisco's most important concentration
25 of large heavy timber and steel-frame American Commercial Style industrial buildings.

1 (c) The particular features that should be preserved, or replaced in-kind as determined
2 necessary, are those generally shown in photographs and described in the Landmark
3 Designation Fact Sheet, which can be found in Planning Department Record Docket No.
4 2021-007060DES, and which are incorporated in this designation by reference as though fully
5 set forth. Specifically, all those physical and spatial features which define the historic
6 character of the building should be preserved or replaced in-kind, including:

7 (1) General

8 (A) Integrated plan of the original building and subsequent additions.

9 (2) 1912 Building

10 (A) Heavy timber frame;

11 (B) Five-story height;

12 (C) Irregular plan conforming to the triangular parcel;

13 (D) Flat roof;

14 (E) Red brick cladding laid in English bond pattern;

15 (F) Brick belt courses separating the first and second and fourth and fifth
16 stories;

17 (G) Shallow pilasters with diamond-shaped wall anchor plates;

18 (H) Fenestration with alternating columns of window types;

19 (I) Brick window surrounds with terra cotta keystones and springers;

20 (J) Yellow brick window sills;

21 (K) Yellow brickwork laid in a diamond-shaped pattern at the fifth story of
22 the west façade; and

23 (L) "Takahashi" signage, including metal lettering and painted brick.

24 (3) 1968 Concrete Tilt-Up Addition

25 (A) Two-story height;

1 (B) Irregular plan conforming to the triangular parcel;
2 (C) Flat roof;
3 (D) Boxy shape and massing;
4 (E) Exposed aggregate concrete walls;
5 (F) Shallow relief pilasters constructed of smooth concrete;
6 (G) Narrow, metal-sash windows across both stories;
7 (H) Overall austerity and lack of adornment; and
8 (I) Painted "Takahashi" signage on the transom window on the east
9 façade and on a wood panel affixed to the north façade.

10 (4) 1976 Brick Addition

11 (A) Three-story height;
12 (B) Rectangular plan;
13 (C) Flat roof;
14 (D) Brick veneer cladding laid in running bond pattern;
15 (E) Decorative brickwork cornice;
16 (F) North facing concrete belt course with "Takahashi" signage
17 separating the first and second stories;
18 (G) Fenestration including segmental arched, industrial windows at the
19 third story; and
20 (H) Height and width of the area at first floor of the east façade reflecting
21 the historic location and dimensions of original loading dock.

22
23 Section 4. Effective Date.

24 This ordinance shall become effective 30 days after enactment. Enactment occurs
25 when the Mayor signs the ordinance, the Mayor returns the ordinance unsigned or does not

1 sign the ordinance within ten days of receiving it, or the Board of Supervisors overrides the
2 Mayor's veto of the ordinance.

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4 APPROVED AS TO FORM:

5 DAVID CHIU, City Attorney

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7 By: /s/ Victoria Wong

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9 VICTORIA WONG
10 Deputy City Attorney

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