FILE NO. 260570

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Planning Code - Landmark Designation - Alexander Adams Home]

Ordinance amending the Planning Code to designate the Alexander Adams Home, located at 1450 Masonic Avenue, Assessor's Parcel Block No. 2603, Lot No. 009, on the east side of Masonic Avenue between Frederick and Java Streets, 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 more than 300 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: the Alexander Adams Home, located at 1450 Masonic Avenue, Assessor's Parcel Block No. 2603, Lot No. 009. The ordinance finds that the Alexander Adams Home is eligible for local designation as an exemplary example of Queen Anne architecture. The property was constructed in 1891 in the Haight Ashbury neighborhood. Alexander P. Adams was the original homeowner and also served as builder, with assistance from day laborers. Mr. Adams was owner of coffee roasting company, A.P. Adams & Company; and along with M.E. Adams was the proprietor of Lind Vineyard Wine Cellar. The home was built at a time early in Haight Asbury's development history when many of the surrounding lots were not yet improved.

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

Background Information

On May 20, 2026, after holding a public hearing on the proposed designation and having considered the specialized analyses reviewed by Planning Department staff and the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, the Historic Preservation Commission voted to recommend landmark designation of the Alexander Adams Home to the Board of Supervisors.