FILE NO. 260581

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Planning Code - Landmark Designation - Holy Innocents Church]

Ordinance amending the Planning Code to designate the Holy Innocents Church, located at 455 Fair Oaks Street, Assessor's Parcel Block No. 6533, Lot No. 027, on the east side of Fair Oaks Street between 25th and 26th 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 Holy Innocents Church, located at 455 Fair Oaks Street, Assessor's Parcel Block No. 6533, Lot No. 027. The ordinance finds that the Holy Innocents Church is eligible for local designation because it was designed by Architect of Merit Earnest Coxhead and was Coxhead's first extant commission in San Francisco. Having immigrated from England in the 1880s, Coxhead is known for helping create the Bay Area Shingle Style by designing brown-shingled churches and urban homes. While the peaked roof entrance facing the street, constructed in 1913, is a later addition, it is similar in design to the original portion and considered significant in its own right. The church is considered San Francisco's oldest Episcopal Church.

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 Holy Innocents Church to the Board of Supervisors.