

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Planning Code - Landmark Designation of 1399 McAllister Street (aka Third Baptist Church Complex)]

Ordinance amending the Planning Code to designate 1399 McAllister Street (aka Third Baptist Church Complex), in Assessor's Parcel Block No. 0778, Lot No. 013, as a Landmark under 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. 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 260 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: 1399 McAllister Street (aka Third Baptist Church Complex).

The ordinance finds that 1399 McAllister Street is eligible for designation as a City landmark under National Register of Historic Places Criteria Criteria A (as it is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history), B (as it is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past), and C (as it embodies distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction). Specifically, designation of the Third Baptist Church Complex, the first African American congregation formed west of the Rocky Mountains, is proper given its crucial role in the social, economic, and political advancement of African Americans in San Francisco. As a flagship church within San Francisco's African American community, designation is further warranted due to its association with the nationally-recognized religious, community, and civil rights leader, Reverend Frederick Douglas Haynes, Sr. Designation of 1399 McAllister Street is also

appropriate given that it was one of the first Midcentury Modern ecclesiastical buildings constructed in the Western Addition during the postwar period, and represented one of the earliest to depart stylistically from the traditional Catholic-influenced architecture that characterized most Christian churches up until the mid-twentieth century.

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.

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 1399 McAllister Street on July 19, 2017. On July 19, 2017 the HPC held a public hearing on the proposed designation and considered the Landmark Designation Case Report prepared by Planning Department Preservation staff who meet the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards. At such hearing, the HPC voted to recommend approval of the designation of 1399 McAllister Street as a City landmark under Article 10 of the Planning Code to the Board of Supervisors.

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