ORDINANCE NO/64-90

(Landmarks)

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DESIGNATING THE SPRECKELS MANSION AT 2080 WASHINGTON STREET AS A LANDMARK PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 10 OF THE CITY PLANNING CODE.

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

Section 1. The Board of Supervisors hereby finds that the Spreckels Mansion located at 2080 Washington Street, Lot 5 in Assessor's Block 601, has a special character and special historical, architectural and aesthetic interest and value, and that its designation as a Landmark will further the purposes of, and conform to the standards set forth in Article 10 of the City Planning Code.

(a) Designation: Pursuant to Section 1004 of the City Planning Code, Chapter II, Part II of the San Francisco Municipal Code, the Spreckels Mansion is hereby designated as a Landmark, this designation having been fully approved by Resolution No. 11748 of the City Planning Commission, which Resolution is on file with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors under File No. 90-89-7, and is incorporated herein and made a part hereof as though fully

(b) Required Data: The description of the location and boundaries of the Landmark site, of the characteristics of the Landmark which justify its designation, and of the particular features that should be preserved are as follows: said Landmark site (Lot 5) should be preserved generally in the following particular exterior features as existing on the date hereof: the prominent and visible residence and its grand setting including walls, garage and chauffeur's quarters.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

RECOMMENDED:

LOUISE H. RENNE

CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

CITY ATTORNEY

By FRHAVIALA

By Deschloring

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Board of Supervisors, San Prancisco

Passed for Second Reading

April 30, 1990

Finally Passed May 7, 1990

Gonzalez Hallinan Hongisto Hsieh Kennedy Maher Nelder Walker

Ayes: Supervisors Alioto Britt Ward & Ayes: Supervisors Alioto Britt Gonzalez Hallinan Heich Kennedy

Maher Walker Ward

Absent: Supervisors Hongisto Nelder

I hereby certify that the foregoing ordinance was finally passed by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco /

File No. 90-89-7

MAY 1.0 1990

Date Approved

RECEIVED

MAY 1 6 1990

CITY & COUNTY OF S.F. DEST, OF CITY PLANNING

File No. 89.074L Spreckels Mansion 2080 Washington Street

SAN FRANCISCO

CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

RESOLUTION NO. 11748

WHEREAS, A proposal to designate the Spreckels Mansion, at 2080 Washington Street, as a Landmark pursuant to the provisions of Article 10 of the City Planning Code was initiated by the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board on February 15, 1989, and said Advisory Board, after due consideration, has recommended approval of this proposal on April 5, 1989; and

WHEREAS, The City Planning Commission, after due notice given, held a public hearing on August 24, 1989 to consider the proposed designation and the report of said Advisory Board; and

WHEREAS, This Commission has reviewed and considered the studies, letters and other material in the Department's case file, including the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Boards Case Report and Resolution No. 415 ADOPTED on April 5, 1989, and has heard and considered oral testimony and argument; and

WHEREAS, On August 24, 1989 there was substantial public testimony from surrounding property owners and neighbors, preservation experts, neighborhood organizations and interested parties, overwhelmingly in support of designation of the entire site as a landmark; and

WHEREAS, Over 150 individual letters, over 600 petition signatures and over 50 letters from neighborhood organizations citywide have been submitted and are contained in File No. 89.074L; and

WHEREAS, Among the purposes of said Article 10 is the preservation, protection and enhancement of designated sites, structures and areas; and

WHEREAS, This Commission believes that the proposed Landmark has special character and special historical, architectural and aesthetic interest and value; and that the proposed designation would be in furtherance of and in conformance with the purposes and standards of said Article 10;

WHEREAS, A Landmark designation pursuant to Article 1D and other sections of the Planning Code does not preclude development of a landmark site if such development meets the criteria of the Code;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, First, that this Commission does hereby recommend APPROVAL of the designation of the Spreckels Residence at 2080 Washington Street as a landmark and all of Lot 5 in Assessor's Block 601 as a landmark site;

CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

File No. 89.074L Spreckels Mansion 2080 Washington Street Resolution No. 11748 Page Two

Second, That the special character and special historical, architectural and aesthetic interest and value of the proposed Landmark as enunciated in the said Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board Resolution 415 as adopted on April 5, 1989 is incorporated herein and made a part hereof as though fully set forth;

Third, That the said Landmark site (Lot 5) should be preserved generally in the following particular exterior features as existing on the date hereof: the prominent and visible residence and its grand setting including walls, garage and chauffeur's quarters;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this Commission hereby directs its Secretary to transmit the proposal for designation, with a copy of this Resolution, to the Board of Supervisors for appropriate action.

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED by the City Planning Commission on September 7, 1989.

Lori Yamauchi Secretary

AYES: Commissioners Bierman, Boldridge, Engmann, Hu, Karasick and Morales

NOES: None

ABSENT: Commissioner Dick

ADOPTED: September 7, 1989

VFM:mj:582

FINAL CASE REPORT

APPROVED 4/5/89 LANDMARKS PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD

BUILDING NAME:

Spreckels Residence

OWNERS: Dorothy Munn, Lois S.

Register, Joan Spreckels Adolph, Charles S. and John N. Rosekrans,

BUILDING ADDRESS: 2080 Washington St.

BLOCK & LOT: 601/5

ZONING: RH-1 and RH-2

ORIGINAL USE:

Residential

NO. OF STORIES: 3 LPAB VOTE: 8-0

CURRENT USE:

Residential

EXTERIOR MATERIALS: Utah Limestone

One of the best known private residences in City due to its French Baroque style limestone facade, sweeping grounds on a prominent site and its colorful occupants. Popularly known as the Sugar Palace. Principal residence has ornate 2-story columns; elaborate iron balconies; arched windows; decorative frieze and roofline balustrade. The original owners, Adolph Bernard (cont.)

EVAVALUATION CRITERIA

ARCHITECTURE

1. Style: French Baroque residence

Construction Type: Reinforced Concrete
Construction Date: 1912/1913

4. Design Quality: Excellent

Architect: MacDonald (Kenneth R.) and Applegarth (George (cont.)

6. Interior Quality: N/A; Privately Held Property

B. HISTORY

Persons: Adolph B. Spreckels (1857-1924) shipping interests, refining and sale of sugar; Vice President, Oceanic Steamship Company; son of Claus Spreckels who founded California Sugar Refinery. President Park Commission, secured the Dutch (cont.)

Events: Mrs. Spreckels entertained lavishly in the residence. (cont.) 8.

Patterns of History: Second wave of affluent construction in (cont.)

ENVIRONMENT

Continuity: Continued and amplified "mansion" tradition, which continues to the present, along high east-west ridge of Pacific Heights. The large site assemblege is remarkable since land values were increasing due to the start of apartment construction in the 10. Continuity: vicinity.

11. Setting: One of a handful of grand houses with ample ground (cont.)

Importance as a <u>Visual</u> Landmark: Residence is highly visible from streets, from the Bay, from Lafayette Park, and above sloping lawns from Jackson Street vantage.

D. INTEGRITY

13. Marble entry stairs on Washington Street removed in 1936 and principal entrance is now off a brick and concrete paved auto court to east. House divided into apartments for family members (cont.)

RATINGS

DCP:

HERE TODAY:

p. 28 & 32 N/A

SPLENDID SURV.: NAT'L REGISTER:

N/A N/A

NAT'L LANDMARK: STATE LANDMARK:

N/A

BIBLIOGRAPHY: (see p.3)

PREPARED BY:

Vincent Marsh, Staff 450 McAllister Street

ADDRESS:

San Francisco, CA 94102

PHONE:

558-6345

DATE:

2/7/89, 3/31/89

4/5/89

VFM:mj:445



(cont.) Spreckels & Alma de Bretteville Spreckels, were respectively a prominent financier and shipping owner and Park Commissioner, and a patron of the arts. Together the couple donated to the City the Palace of the Legion of Honor building, which was designed by George Adrian Applegarth who also designed this house. The couple lived out their lives in this residence which has stayed in the family to the present.

5. Architect: (cont.) Adrian). Buildings they designed that still stand include the Clift Hotel, Geary and Taylor Sts. (1913) and the King George Hotel, 334 Mason St. (1912). Applegarth probably designed the residence. Some drawings of the subject property are in the Rosekrans and Associates collections of Applegarth. Also the French Baroque style is logically connected with Applegarth's predominently French syle work (Eastern Outfitting Building on Market Street, Tillman and Bendel Building at Pine and Davis Streets, and the Legion). He studied at the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris. His practice continued through the 1954 Downtown Center Garage.

George Applegarth said later: "They [The Spreckels] wanted a place that would be beautiful and at the same time meet their requirements for entertaining. They also thought of the house as a monument." (Examiner, 1-6-87) George Livermore, architect for later work, said: "This was one of the last great houses rushed to completion before the 1915 Panama-Pacific International Exposition. Mrs. Spreckels wanted to be able to look over the fair." (ibid)

7. Persons: (cont.) Windmill. In 1908, he married Alma de Bretteville (1881-1968). The couple gave Palace of Legion of Honor (by the same architect) to San Francisco. Alma Emma Charlotte Corday le Normand de Brettevile was born in SF. Her brothers worked at the Fulton Iron Works. She started out in life as a stenographer by day, an art student at the old Mark Hopkins Institute of Art at night.

Before her marriage, while an art student at the Hopkins Institute of Arts, she was selected as the model in 1901 for Dewey Victory Monument by Robert Aitken, sculptor, which is located in Union Square. Conservative San Francisco society looked askanse at her flamboyance. She became a noted art patron, donating Rodin's the "Thinker" to the City and enabled Arthur Putnam (1873-1930), who is known especially for the "Path of Gold" light standards) to have his works cast in bronze by the shop Rodin used.

- 8. Events: (cont.) It was a locale for several films including: Pal Joey, with Hayworth, Novak and Sinatra, 1957. Eye of the Cat, Elinor Parker, 1969.
- 9. Patterns of History: (cont.) Pacific Heights came after the fire and in anticipation of the Panama Pacific International Exposition. Especially large site was cleared. It was important for the grandeur envisioned by Spreckels. Good works and arts groups favored by the owners were brought here. The San Francisco League of Servicemen was headquartered on the first floor during World War II. A museum of dance was housed on the first floor of the residence. A Thrift shop for the Legion of Honor operated in the garage until 1978. The garage was also used as a Air Raid Shelter.
- 11. Setting: (cont.) and direct street views of three of facades. From Washington Street there is a fine platform and stone wall. To the west on Octavia Street, Spreckels created landscaped islands to slow, quiet and discourage auto traffic. His cars were parked and some servants housed in space cut into rear of hill on Jackson Street.

The garage features large ornate cast iron gates and a turntable for cars. Iron gates removed from the former main entrance of the mansion are now housed in the garage. Part of the garage is a three room chauffeur's apartment; a ground floor residential space unique in San Francisco. Except for its windows on Jackson Street, the

- apartment is subterranean. In 1958 a 18 by 48 foot swimming pool was built near the north east corner of the house. Two years later a 30 ton steel roof was built to cover the swimming pool and to retract at the push of a button (Architect, George Livermore).
- 13. Integrity: (cont.) also in 1936. Terrace converted to solarium on north side of third floor in 1956 by George Livermore. Stone of facade and surrounding walls have deteriorated substantially.

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