

1 (Landmarks)

2 DESIGNATING THE PARK EMERGENCY HOSPITAL AT 811 STANYAN STREET AS A LANDMARK
3 PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 10 OF THE CITY PLANNING CODE.

4
5 Be it ordained by the People of the City and County of San Francisco:

6 Section 1. The Board of Supervisors hereby finds that the Park Emergency
7 Hospital, Kezar Corner, Golden Gate Park, being a portion of Assessor's Block
8 1700, has a special character and special historical, architectural and
9 aesthetic interest and value, and that its designation as a Landmark will
10 further the purposes of, and conform to the standards set forth in Article 10
11 of the City Planning Code.

12 (a) Designation: Pursuant to Section 1004 of the City Planning Code,
13 Chapter 11, Part 11 of the San Francisco Municipal Code, the Park Emergency
14 Hospital is hereby designated as a Landmark, this designation having been
15 fully approved by Resolution No. 13153 of the City Planning Commission,
16 which Resolution is on file with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors under
17 File No. 90-91-3 and is incorporated herein and made a part of hereof as though
18 fully set forth.

19 (b) Required Data: The description of the location and boundaries of the
20 Landmark site, of the characteristics of the Landmark which justify its
21 designation, and of the particular features that should be preserved are
22 included in the said Resolution, and incorporated in this designating
23 ordinance as though fully set forth.

24 APPROVED AS TO FORM:

25 LOUISE M. RENNE

26 CITY ATTORNEY

27 By [Signature]

28 Deputy City Attorney

RECOMMENDED:

CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

27 By [Signature]

28 Dean L. Macris

29 Director of Planning

Board of Supervisors, San Francisco

Passed for Second Reading

September 16, 1991

Ayes: Supervisors Achtenberg Alioto
Haieh Kennedy Maher Migden
Shelley Ward

Absent: Supervisors Britt Gonzalez
Hallinan

§ Finally Passed

§ September 23, 1991

§ Ayes: Supervisors Achtenberg Alioto
§ Gonzalez Haieh Kennedy Maher
§ Migden Shelley Ward

§ Absent: Supervisors Britt Hallinan

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

[Signature]
Clerk
[Signature]
Mayor

File No.
90-91-3

OCT 0 2 1991
Date Approved

File No. 91.150L
Park Emergency Hospital
811 Stanyan Street

SAN FRANCISCO
CITY PLANNING COMMISSION
RESOLUTION NO. 13153

WHEREAS, A proposal to designate the Park Emergency Hospital, Kezar Corner, Golden Gate Park, as a Landmark pursuant to the provisions of Article 10 of the City Planning Code was initiated by the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board on May 15 and June 19, 1991 and said Advisory Board, after due consideration, has recommended approval of this proposal; and

WHEREAS, The City Planning Commission, after due notice given, held a public hearing on August 15, 1991 to consider the proposed designation and the report of said Advisory Board; and

WHEREAS, This Commission believes that the proposed Landmark has a 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 the said Article 10;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, First, That this Landmark Board does hereby recommend APPROVAL of the designation of the Park Emergency Hospital, Kezar Corner, Golden Gate Park, being a portion of Assessor's Block 1700;

Second, That the special character and special historical, architectural and aesthetic interest and value of the said Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board Resolution No. 439 as adopted on June 19, 1991 which Resolution is incorporated herein and made a part thereof as though fully set forth;

Third, That the said Landmark should be preserved generally in all of its particular exterior features as existing on the date hereof and described and depicted in the photographs, case report and other material on file in the Department of City Planning Docket No. 91.150L.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board 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 August 15, 1991.

Martha Kessler
Acting Secretary

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ADOPTED: August 15, 1991

VFM:mj:1043

BUILDING NAME: PARK EMERGENCY HOSPITAL **OWNER:** City and County of San Francisco, Recreation and Park Department
 Kezar Corner, Golden Gate Park

BUILDING ADDRESS: 811 Stanyan Street **BLOCK & LOT:** 1700
 west side, between Beulah and Frederick Streets

ORIGINAL USE: Hospital **ZONING:** P (Public)/OS (Open Space)

CURRENT USE: Ambulance supply depot **NO. OF STORIES:** 1 **LPAB VOTE:** 8-0

LANDMARK NO: 201 **EXTERIOR MATERIALS:** Sandstone and stucco walls over red brick, with a red clay tile roof.

CASE NO: 91.150L

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: Park Emergency Hospital Building was the first permanent, freestanding building for the San Francisco Department of Public Health's emergency hospital service. This service had begun in 1872 (cont.)

EVALUATION CRITERIA

A. ARCHITECTURE

1. Style: Beaux Arts
2. Construction Type: Unreinforced masonry, sandstone and stucco finishes with a red clay tile roof.
3. Construction Date: 1902
4. Design Quality: One of the few surviving Beaux Arts hospital complexes.
5. Architect: Newton J. Tharp (1867-1909) is best known for his (cont.)
6. Interior Quality: Not applicable.

B. HISTORY

7. Persons: No significant persons closely connected. (cont.)
8. Events: On the morning of April the 18th, 1906, a major earthquake shook the San Francisco Bay Area. While most of the (cont.)
9. Patterns of History: Golden Gate Park, located in the western part of the City, has been a popular recreation area since its (cont.)

C. ENVIRONMENT

10. Continuity: Low rise to harmonize with surrounding and park (cont.)
11. Setting: A transitional building which defines the boundaries (cont.)
12. Importance as a Visual Landmark: A conspicuous and substantial landmark within the context of the eastern edge of Golden Gate Park and the surrounding neighborhoods of Haight Ashbury and Cole Valley.

D. INTEGRITY

13. Generally unaltered in good condition. Retains most of its original materials and design features and provides visual continuity to the park and neighborhood.

RATINGS

DCP:
 HERE TODAY:
 SPLENDID SURV.:
 NAT'L REGISTER:
 NAT'L LANDMARK:
 STATE LANDMARK:

INFORMATION

BIBLIOGRAPHY. page 7.
STAFF: Vincent Marsh, Secretary
 Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board
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DATE: May 15, June 19 and 25, July 10, 1991



Statement of Significance (cont.): as a Receiving Hospital in the basement of City Hall. The first branch operated in a wooden building in Golden Gate Park for about one year (1897-98). San Francisco's Emergency Hospital Service (and its "adjunct ambulance service", which began in 1895 and is today known as the Department of Public Health Paramedic Division). The first branch receiving hospital opened in 1897 in Golden Gate Park in a wooden building shared with the Park's Police. In the next year that hospital converted to an ambulance station only. This hospital at 811 Stanyan was built in 1901-1902 by Park employees through the cooperation of the Park Commission and the Board of Health. San Francisco's Emergency Hospital Service is today recognized as the first publicly financed service of its kind in the nation which brought free general and emergency medical care services into the neighborhoods where people lived and worked. The Emergency Hospitals, by virtue of their direct ties to San Francisco General Hospital, are also regarded as the first in the country to act as free standing neighborhood medical facilities that functioned as outreach arms of a major acute care general hospital. This meant that patients requiring more aggressive or extensive treatment than could be offered at the individual Emergency Hospitals could receive the needed medical treatment at the general hospital and the continuity of care remain unbroken.

After Park Emergency Hospital building closed in 1978 it continued to be used as an ambulance station where crews changed shifts, and where the ambulance was garaged between calls. It was not until 1979 that all the ambulances of the Emergency Medical Service were based at the PEH building.

At present the ambulance service (the Paramedic Division) continues to base all of its ambulance units as well as its supply depot and crews quarters at PEH. The Paramedic Division expects to vacate the PEH building in June of 1991. At that time the Division will move into newly remodeled quarters at 25th Street and Potrero Avenue.

The PEH building was transferred to the Recreation and Park Department in October, 1990.

5. Architect (cont.) work as San Francisco City Architect, for 18 months from 23 October 1907: a number of firehouses, several schools, and the basic outline of today's San Francisco General Hospital. In private practice he designed the base and column of the Dewey Monument in Union Square. Park Emergency Hospital, the Grant Building on Market Street, a few other business buildings and quite a few residences. Born in Petaluma, he learned his profession at the Mark Hopkins Institute of Art, in Chicago, in European travel that included a little study at the Ecole des Beaux Arts and in the San Francisco office of Edward Swain. He worked on the Ferry Building and at different times he was associated with Edward L. Holmes and Albert Farr, and he cooperated with Edgar Mathews in a joint advertising brochure. He designed a cover for The Lark, a local literary magazine.

7. Persons (cont.) Even after the original wooden hospital was closed the Board of Health and the Park Commission continued to lobby for a hospital in the Park. The closest hospital was still Central Emergency Hospital in the basement of the City Hall. Since the hospital had closed in 1898, a lot of new growth had taken place in the Western Addition of the City, especially west of Divisadero Street. Also, the number of people using the Park was once again on the rise.

Through the efforts of the Board of Health the City's Supervisors were made aware of the need for some form of emergency medical care in the Park area. The Supervisors were finally prevailed upon to allocate \$9,000.00 for the construction of a new permanent Branch Emergency Hospital.

On July 5th, 1901 a meeting was held between Commissioners M. J. McDonald, Reuben H. Lloyd and John Stanton of the Park Commission and members of the Board of Health to discuss the construction of a new hospital building.

Dr. Buckley, speaking for the Board of Health, emphasized two points. First, the new hospital should not be viewed as merely a City service catering to the patrons of the Park. To this end he said that the hospital should be located somewhere on the periphery of the Park rather than inside of it. And second, since the money for the hospital was placed in the Park Commission's budget the Commission should furnish the land as well as maintain the building.

Mr. McDonald, of the Park Commission, agreed with these conditions but added that under the circumstances the building should be built by Park employees. The Board of Health agreed and all that remained was to choose a building site. The meeting adjourned to Golden Gate Park and after some discussion about the relative merits of various sites it was decided that a site not far from the Park entrance at Haight and Stanyan Streets would satisfy everyone. The hospital would face east on Stanyan, near the intersection with Beulah Street; the actual address eventually became known as 811 Stanyan Street.

Work began almost immediately on the plans. Unfortunately problems also began to emerge concerning exactly who would pay for what. The Park Commission began to question the need to spend the entire \$9,000.00. On August the 1st the Park Commission decided that since it was furnishing the land and would pay for the maintenance of the building it would only spend \$3,000.00 to build the structure and the Board of Health would have to make up the difference.

How this issue was eventually resolved is unknown. We do know that in the end the hospital was built by the Park Commission and completed around the beginning of May 1902. The Park Commission reported in the Municipal Reports for fiscal year 1901-1902 that the hospital building was constructed at a cost of \$8,488.00.

The Board of Health for its part was very pleased with the building. The hospital was a substantial stone structure incorporating all of the most modern hospital equipment. In actuality though, the building was a standard red brick structure which was faced on the south, east and north walls with sandstone blocks. The west wall was covered in stucco. The hospital was dedicated on May the 15th, 1902 and scheduled to open the next day. Unfortunately tragedy struck.

On the morning of May the 16th, newly hired ambulance driver James Wynn (the brother of then City Supervisor William Wynn) arrived at Park Emergency Hospital and began unloading some last minute supplies from the back of the ambulance. Before he could finish, one of the horses became frightened and bolted. In an effort to stop the team from running away Driver Wynn tried to climb aboard the ambulance. As he tried to grasp the reins he fell to the ground and one wheel of the ambulance rolled over his head.

As PEH was not yet fully operational and since the most experienced surgeons were at the down-town hospital, Driver Wynn was transported to the Central Emergency Hospital located in the City Hall. There he was attended to by the Chief Surgeon, Dr. Edwin Bunnel. Driver Wynn was found to be suffering from a severe concussion. It was decided that nothing could be done for him. At the request of the family he was transported to his mother's home where he died several days later.

James Wynn became the first member of the service to die while on duty. A suitable period of mourning was observed but finally on May the 22d a new driver, Mr. C. A. Willis, was hired to replace Mr. Wynn.

Along with Driver Willis, Mrs. K. C. Johnson and Miss Gertrude Cousins were hired as matrons. The matron functioned both as nurse and attendant of the male/female ward (each Emergency Hospital was built with a male and female ward where patients who had been treated could remain for up to a week while they recovered). In the case of PEH one ward did double duty.)

With its full compliment of personnel finally in place Park Emergency Hospital was a hundred percent operational by the end of May, 1902. In early 1903 the Park Commission paid for the installation of the first telephone at PEH; it cost \$3.40.

8. Events (cont.) devastation to San Francisco was caused by the resulting fire, Park Emergency Hospital was, by contrast, immediately and completely incapacitated by the first few shock waves. The main entry way, which was used by the ambulances and located at the north wall of the building, collapsed. Both roof top chimneys also collapsed.

On duty that morning was Mrs. Mary Davidson. She was partially buried by the falling debris. Everyone else however escaped the building unhurt. It was several minutes before the other staff members realized that Matron Davidson was no where in sight. Medical Steward Steven Ward ran back into the dark building, the air choked with dust from the plaster and debris, and managed to locate Matron Davidson. After several more minutes of work he was able to free her and carry her to safety.

Park Emergency Hospital was uninhabitable. The medical staff, gathering what instruments and supplies they could salvage opened a temporary hospital in the tunnel located just inside the Park at Haight and Stanyan Streets. This tunnel, in better times, was used as the main entrance to Golden Gate Park.

When the City Hall collapsed Central Emergency Hospital was also destroyed. When efforts to establish a temporary emergency hospital in the downtown area failed the staff from Central moved to the Park. With the Central staff operating out of the tunnel, the Park Emergency Hospital staff, with the assistance of doctors and medical students from the University of California Medical School set up ten large Army tents in the field next to the abandoned Park Emergency Hospital building. They began treating patients and operating the ambulance in as normal a fashion as possible.

Several days after the earthquake Park Superintendent Mr. John McLaren surveyed the hospital building to assess the damage; he concluded it would cost about \$4,000.00 to repair it.

Mr. Callaghan, a San Francisco business man, who owned a building downtown heard about the damage to the hospital. His building was gutted by the fire, leaving only its stone facade. Since the building had to be torn down he offered to supply McLaren with all of the stone he needed to repair the exterior of the hospital building. On May the 29th, Mr. Callaghan's offer was accepted by the Park Commission and work began immediately to repair the building.

The hospital re-opened on July the 15th, 1906. It operated only for about a year after the earthquake before it was closed again, this time by the City for economic reasons. High costs and small numbers of people using the facility made it inefficient to keep open. The Hospital was closed and the building was used only as an ambulance base. In 1908 the City even went so far as to change the name of the building to Park Ambulance Station.

By 1911 the population in the western portion of the City was once again on the rise. The hospital was re-opened. From July 1911 to June 1912 the hospital treated nearly 2,500 people.

In April of 1912 Park Emergency Hospital was outfitted with the first automobile ambulance. The ambulance was built by the Pope-Hartford Company of Connecticut, the same company that built the City's first motorized fire trucks. The first automobile ambulance was stationed at Park Emergency Hospital principally so that drivers, who up until then were only accustomed to horse drawn vehicles, could learn to operate it in the relative emptiness of Golden Gate Park.

9. Patterns of History (cont.) accidents become common. As a result of injuries related to park usage both the Park Commission (forerunner of today's Recreation and Park Department) and the Board of Health decided on a cooperative venture to establish a small Branch Receiving Hospital in the Park. At the time only one Receiving Hospital existed in the City and it was located in the basement of the City Hall. The Receiving Hospital was the City's sole source of emergency medical care. It was felt that a branch hospital in the Park, which included an ambulance, would be able to respond more effectively to accidents in the western part of the City as well as Golden Gate Park.

It was decided that the building would do double duty as both a hospital and a Park Police Station. The building was wooden and located to the west of the Conservatory of Flowers. It cost the Park Commission \$1,1855.00 to build. The medical staff, ambulance, and supplies were all paid for the by the Board of Health. The Branch Receiving Hospital opened on February 9th, 1897.

Patient load was sporadic from the beginning, week-ends and holidays being the busiest times. Eventually the City decided that the number of patients was too small to justify the expense so the hospital was converted to an ambulance station.

Park Emergency Hospital remained opened until 1978. On July the 14th, 1978 the Emergency Hospital Service, which by then was comprised of five separate hospitals including Park, was closed by the City. Three principle factors accounted for the closure of the Service.

Proposition 13, a state wide ballot measure that limited property taxes that the City could levy had just recently passed. Suddenly the City was faced with a potential deficit and Chief Financial Officer Roger Boas felt that the Emergency Hospital Service was under-used and over-priced.

Dr. Mervyn Silverman, the then Director of the Department of Public Health, wanted the Emergency Hospitals closed because they could not offer state of the art medical care.

But perhaps the most influential factor of all was lobbying by the private hospitals. Most private hospitals in San Francisco had spent millions of dollars to build emergency rooms in order to draw in more patients to fill their expensive, empty hospital beds. They complained to the City politicians that the Emergency Hospital Service, by providing free emergency medical care was taking much needed revenue away from them. This pressure, from an important lobby, undoubtedly had an effect.

It is of interest to note that on the appointed day the closure of Park Emergency Hospital had to be temporarily postponed. Since Park Emergency had been, by then, in continuous operation twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, since 1911, and since there had never before been any reason to lock the front door, no one knew where to find the key. A new lock had to be hastily installed before the building could be formally locked up.

Though the Emergency Hospital Service ceased to exist after July of 1978 its "adjunct" ambulance service did continue. The service continued to be known as the Emergency Medical Service through out the late 1970's. In 1980, the Department of Public Health decided to change the name of the service to the Paramedic Division.

10. Continuity (cont.) areas. Since late 1989 the Paramedic Division has been seeking newer, larger quarters where it could consolidate all of its administrative operations as well as the activities that presently take place at the Park Emergency Hospital building.

At the same time the Recreation and Park Department has for some time wanted to get the Park Emergency Hospital building because it sits on land that is part of the "Golden Gate Park, Kezar Corner Master Plan."

The Department of Public Health has also been wanting to build a new Skilled Mental Health Nursing Facility on land adjacent to San Francisco General Hospital.

All three of these players came together in 1990. On October the 15th, 1990 the Board of Supervisors approved and Mayor Art Agnos signed a Resolution (No. 846-90) that transferred a parcel of land, known as McKinley Square, from the Recreation and Park Department to the Department of Public Health in exchange for the Park Emergency Hospital building.

Arguing that the Paramedic Division was soon to be homeless, pressure was brought to bear on the Board of Supervisors. For over a year negotiations had gone on between the Paramedic Division and the owners of the Plant Building, located on Potrero Avenue at 25th Street. On August the 1st, 1990, a deal was struck but because the lease was for ten years at a cost of seven million dollars the Board of Supervisors had to approve it. Finally on November the 5th, 1990, the Supervisors approved the lease. Work began immediately to renovate the Plant Building. This facility when completed will house all the ambulance vehicles, a supply depot, the 911 emergency medical dispatch center, crews quarters and the administrative offices of the Paramedic Division. The Paramedic Division anticipates vacating the Park Emergency Hospital building by June of 1991 for reuse by the Recreation and Park Department.

For a time the Park Emergency Hospital building was used by a single ambulance crew as a base. But by 1979, then Superintendent Robert Butcher, instituted a system where by all ambulances began and ended their watches at the Park building. Lockers were set up and the building was used as crews quarters.

At present the Park Emergency Hospital building continues to be used as a supply depot, an ambulance garage area for all of the Division's vehicles (no mechanical or repair work takes place there), and as a crews quarters where lockers, a kitchen, and showers are available.

11. Setting (cont.) of Golden Gate Park and the adjacent surrounding neighborhoods of Haight Ashbury and Cole Valley to the east and south. The Park Emergency Hospital is currently surrounded by a parking lot and to its north is the extant Kezar Basketball Pavilion. Kezar Stadium was dedicated in 1928 was demolished in 1990 for a new Kezar Amateur Athletic Facility which is currently under construction and will seat 10,000. Also located within Kezar Corner is the Park Police Station at Stanyan and Waller Streets.

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VFM:mj:1030

