

1 [Ordinance to Designate 1201 Ortega Street, the Infant Shelter, as a Landmark Under
2 Planning Code Article 10.]

3 **Ordinance Designating 1201 Ortega Street, the Infant Shelter, As Landmark No. 242**
4 **Pursuant To Article 10, Sections 1004 And 1004.4 Of The Planning Code.**

5 Note: Additions are *single-underline italics Times New Roman*;
6 deletions are ~~*strikethrough italics Times New Roman*~~.
7 Board amendment additions are double underlined.
8 Board amendment deletions are ~~strikethrough-normal~~.

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

10 Section 1. Findings

11 The Board of Supervisors hereby finds that 1201 Ortega Street, the Infant Shelter, Lot
12 37 in Assessor's Block 2115, has a special character and special historical, architectural and
13 aesthetic interest and value, and that its designation as a Landmark will further the purposes
14 of, and conform to the standards set forth in Article 10 of the City Planning Code.

15 (a) Designation: Pursuant to Section 1004 of the City Planning Code, 1201 Ortega
16 Street, the Infant Shelter, is hereby designated as Landmark No. 242. This designation has
17 been fully ~~approved~~ ^{recommended for approval} by Resolution No. 574 of the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board
18 and Resolution No. 16794 of the Planning Commission, which Resolutions are on file with the
19 Clerk of the Board of Supervisors under File No. 040976 and which Resolutions are
20 incorporated herein and made part hereof as though fully set forth.

21 (b) Priority Policy Findings

22 (1) Pursuant to Planning Code Section 302, this Board of Supervisors finds that this
23 ordinance will serve the public necessity, convenience and welfare for the reasons set forth in
24 Planning Commission Resolution No. 16794 recommending approval of this Planning Code
25

1 Amendment, and incorporates such reasons by this reference thereto. A copy of said
2 resolution is on file with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors in File No. 040976.

3 (2) Pursuant to Planning Code Section 101.1, this Board of Supervisors finds that this
4 ordinance is consistent with the Priority Policies of Section 101.1(b) of the Planning Code and
5 with the General Plan and hereby adopts the findings of the Planning Commission, as set
6 forth in Planning Commission Resolution No. 16794, and incorporates said findings by this
7 reference thereto.

8 (c) Required Data:

9 (1) The description, location and boundary of the Landmark site encompass all of lot
10 37 in Assessor's block 2115. The 1975 addition to the building that is within the landmark site
11 is non-contributory to the historic property.

12 (2) The characteristics of the Landmark which justify its designation are described and
13 shown in the Landmark Designation Report adopted by the Landmarks Preservation Advisory
14 Board on April 21, 2004 and other supporting materials contained in Planning Department
15 Docket No. 20031250. In brief, the National Register characteristics of the landmark which
16 justify its designation are as follows:

17 Its status as one of the last remaining orphanages left standing in San Francisco, .
18 important institutions in the City from the 1850s to the 1950s (National Register Criterion A).
19 Its association with the work of architect Louis Christian Mullgardt, its status as one of only
20 two major institutional buildings remaining in the City designed by Mullgardt, with an
21 ornamental entrance reminiscent of Mullgardt's now-vanished Court of Ages and DeYoung
22 Museum (National Register Criterion C).

23 (3) The particular exterior features that should be preserved, or replaced in-kind as
24 determined necessary, are those generally shown in the photographs and described in the
25 Landmark Designation Report, both which can be found in the case docket 2003.1250L,


herein

1 which is incorporated in this designation ordinance as though fully set forth. In brief, the
2 description of the particular features that should be preserved are as follows:

3 All elements of the Ortega Street, Nineteenth Avenue, and Twentieth Avenue facades,
4 other than the 1975 addition including the stucco surface of the building; the Spanish tile roof;
5 the brick surrounding the main entrance; the terra cotta ornament that forms the main
6 entrance; the terra cotta surrounds, copper hoods, and copper hood supports in the
7 Nineteenth and Twentieth Avenue entrances; the glazed wooden doors and wooden transoms
8 on all three sides; the wooden window sash with wooden frames and sills on all three sides;
9 the two copper lanterns with ornamental mounting hardware on the Ortega Street side; the
10 Mission Revival parapets with their top surfaces of brick; the copper railing; and all elements --
11 wooden, stucco, copper, and clay tile -- of the tower.

12 Section 2. The property shall be subject to further controls and procedures, pursuant
13 to this Board of Supervisor's Ordinance and Planning Code Article 10.

14
15 APPROVED AS TO FORM:
16 DENNIS J. HERRERA, City Attorney

17 By: 
18 Sarah Ellen Owsowitz
19 Deputy City Attorney

RECOMMENDED:
PLANNING COMMISSION

20 By: 
21 Gerald G. Green
22 Director of Planning



City and County of San Francisco

City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

Tails

Ordinance

File Number: 040976

Date Passed:

Ordinance designating 1201 Ortega Street, the Infant Shelter, as Landmark No. 242 pursuant to Article 10, Sections 1004 and 1004.4 of the Planning Code.

August 10, 2004 Board of Supervisors — PASSED ON FIRST READING

Ayes: 11 - Alioto-Pier, Ammiano, Daly, Dufty, Elsbernd, Gonzalez, Ma, Maxwell, McGoldrick, Peskin, Sandoval

August 17, 2004 Board of Supervisors — FINALLY PASSED

Ayes: 11 - Alioto-Pier, Ammiano, Daly, Dufty, Elsbernd, Gonzalez, Ma, Maxwell, McGoldrick, Peskin, Sandoval

File No. 040976

I hereby certify that the foregoing Ordinance
was **FINALLY PASSED** on August 17, 2004
by the Board of Supervisors of the City and
County of San Francisco.

8/25/04

Date Approved

Gloria L. Young
Clerk of the Board

Mayor Gavin Newsom

SAN FRANCISCO

PLANNING COMMISSION

RESOLUTION NO. 16794

ADOPTING FINDINGS RELATED TO THE APPROVAL OF LANDMARK DESIGNATION AND RECOMMENDING TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF ADOPTION OF AN ORDINANCE TO DESIGNATE 1201 ORTEGA STREET, THE INFANT SHELTER / SAN FRANCISCO CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC BUILDING, AS LANDMARK NO. 242.

1. WHEREAS, on November 20, 2002, the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board (Landmarks Board) established its Landmarks Designation Work Program for fiscal year 2002 – 2003. Up to 8 sites were chosen to have Landmark Designation Reports developed and brought to the Landmarks Board for review and comment, and consideration of initiation of landmark designation. Included on that list was 1201 Ortega Street, the Infant Shelter / San Francisco Conservatory of Music Building; and
2. William Kostura, architectural historian, prepared the Landmark Designation Report for 1201 Ortega Street, the Infant Shelter / Conservatory of Music Building, for the Landmarks Board to consider initiation of the landmark designation of the property; and
3. Marc Duffett, President of Sunset Parkside Education and Action Committee (SPEAC), submitted the Landmark Designation Report for 1201 Ortega Street, the Infant Shelter / San Francisco Conservatory of Music Building, to the Planning Department; and
4. On April 21, 2004, the Landmarks Board held a duly noticed public hearing at which time they considered the designation of the Infant Shelter / San Francisco Conservatory of Music building as City Landmark No. 242. At that hearing, they unanimously approved Landmarks Board Resolution No. 574 which initiated the landmark designation of the property and recommended to the Planning Commission that they adopt a resolution approving the designation of the Infant Shelter / San Francisco Conservatory of Music building as City Landmark No. 242. Other than a few comments about possibly incorporating additional information about the history of the property (brought forward by Page and Turnbull, Inc.) and clarifying the non-contributory features, the Landmark Designation Report is considered a final Landmark Designation Report by the Landmarks Board; and
5. On May 20, 2004, the Planning Commission conducted a duly noticed public hearing on the Landmark Designation (Case No. 2003.1250L) for the above described project, at which time the Commission reviewed and discussed the findings prepared for its review by the staff of the Planning Department of the City and County of San Francisco; and
6. The Planning Commission finds that the Infant Shelter / San Francisco Conservatory of Music Building Designation Report describes the location and boundaries of the landmark site, describes the characteristics of the landmark which justifies its designation, and describes the particular features that should be preserved and therefore meets the requirements of Planning Code Section 1004(b) and 1004(c)(1). That Designation Report is fully incorporated by reference into this resolution; and

7. The Planning Commission reviewed and endorsed the description, location, and boundary of the landmark site as all of lot 37 in Assessor's block 2115. While the 1975 addition to the building is within the boundaries of the landmark site, it is non contributory to the historic property and that it is anticipated that at some future date, the 1975 addition may be replaced and the site developed through the authorization of a Certificate of Appropriateness; and
8. The Planning Commission, in considering the proposed landmark designation employed the "National Register of Historic Places" rating criteria and found 1201 Ortega Street, the Infant Shelter / San Francisco Conservatory of Music Building to be eligible locally for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under criterion "A" (association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history), and criterion "C" (embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction). The Infant Shelter / San Francisco Conservatory of Music Building is one of the last remaining orphanages left standing in San Francisco. It is also an excellent example, and one of the last survivors, of the work of architect Louis Christian Mullgardt; and
9. The Planning Commission reviewed and endorsed the following particular features that should be preserved:
 - a. Virtually all elements of the Ortega Street, Nineteenth Avenue, and Twentieth Avenue facades, other than the 1975 addition, are original, and are of sufficient importance to qualify as character defining features. All should be preserved. These include the stucco surface of the building; the Spanish tile roof; the brick surrounding the main entrance; the terra cotta ornament that forms the main entrance; the terra cotta surrounds, copper hoods, and copper hood supports in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Avenue entrances; the glazed wooden doors and wooden transoms on all three sides; the wooden window sash with wooden frames and sills on all three sides; the two copper lanterns with ornamental mounting hardware on the Ortega Street side; the Mission Revival parapets with their top surfaces of brick; the copper railing; and all elements – wooden, stucco, copper, and clay tile -- of the tower.
 - b. Non-original features that do not contribute to the historic significance of the building, and need not be preserved, are the second story fire escape and landing on the Twentieth Avenue side; small light fixtures on the Nineteenth and Twentieth Avenue sides; a wooden railing on the Twentieth avenue side, and the applied lettering reading "San Francisco Conservatory of Music" on the Nineteenth Avenue side; and
10. The designation of the Infant Shelter / San Francisco Conservatory of Music Building meets the required findings of Planning Code Section 101.1 in the following manner:

- The proposed Project will further Priority Policy No. 7, that landmarks and historic buildings be preserved, such as the designation of the Infant Shelter / San Francisco Conservatory of Music Building as City Landmark No. 242. Landmark designation will help to preserve a significant historic resource associated with being one of the last remaining orphanages left standing in San Francisco, as well as being one of the last survivors of the work of architect Louis Christian Mullgardt.
 - That the proposed project will have no significant effect on the other seven Priority Policies: (1) That existing neighborhood-serving retail uses be preserved and enhanced and future opportunities for resident employment in and ownership of such businesses enhanced. (2) That existing housing and neighborhood character be conserved and protected in order to preserve the cultural and economic diversity of our neighborhoods. (3) That the City's supply of affordable housing be preserved and enhanced. (4) That commuter traffic not impedes Muni transit service or overburden our streets or neighborhood parking. (5) That a diverse economic base be maintained by protecting our industrial and service sectors from displacement due to commercial office development, and that future opportunities for resident employment and ownership in these sectors be enhanced. (6) That the City achieves the greatest possible preparedness to protect against injury and loss of life in an earthquake; (8) That our parks and open space and their access to sunlight and vistas be protected from development; and
11. The designation of the Infant Shelter / Conservatory of Music Building is consistent with the following Urban Design Element of the General Plan:
- OBJECTIVE 2:** Conservation of resources which provide a sense of nature, continuity with the past, and freedom from overcrowding.
- Policy 4:** Preserve notable landmarks and areas of historic, architectural or aesthetic value, and promote the preservation of other buildings and features that provide continuity with past development.

The Urban Design Element of the General Plan has a direct correlation with the landmark designation of the Infant Shelter / San Francisco Conservatory of Music Building. Designating this significant historic resource as a local landmark will further continuity with the past because the exterior of the building will be preserved for the benefit of future generations. Landmark designation will require that any proposed work that may have an impact on character-defining features be reviewed by the Planning Department and the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board. Both entities will utilize the Secretary of Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation in their review to ensure that only

appropriate, compatible alterations are made. The proposed landmark designation will not have a significant impact on any of the other elements of the General Plan; and

12. The Planning Department has received letters of support from various neighborhood and preservation organizations and Board of Supervisor Fiona Ma and Board of Supervisor Tony Hall (See Attachment D: Letters of Support). Planning Staff is not aware of any opposition; and
13. The Planning Commission has reviewed documents, correspondence and oral testimony on matters relevant to the proposed landmark designation, at a duly noticed Public Hearing held on May 20, 2004 and finds the proposal will help to preserve a significant historic resource associated with being one of the last remaining orphanages left standing in San Francisco and with being excellent example, and one of the last survivors, of the work of architect Louis Christian Mullgardt.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Planning Commission hereby approves landmark designation of 1201 Ortega Street, the Infant Shelter / San Francisco Conservatory of Music Building, Assessor's Block 2115, Lot 37, as Landmark No. 242 pursuant to Article 10 of the Planning Code; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Planning Commission hereby recommends that the Board of Supervisors adopt an ordinance to designate 1201 Ortega Street, the Infant Shelter / San Francisco Conservatory of Music Building, Assessor's Block 2115, Lot 37, as Landmark No. 242 pursuant to Article 10 of the Planning Code; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission hereby directs its Commission Secretary to transmit this Resolution, the 1201 Ortega Street, the Infant Shelter / San Francisco Conservatory of Music Building Landmark Designation Report and other pertinent materials in the Case File 2003.1250L to the Board of Supervisors.

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Planning Commission on May 20, 2004.

Linda Avery
Commission Secretary

AYES: Commissioners Antonini, Boyd, Bradford Bell, Hughes, Sue Lee, William L. Lee

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ADOPTED: May 27, 2004

LANDMARK DESIGNATION REPORTDATE
CASE NO.PAGE 1 of 12**LANDMARKS BOARD VOTE**APPROVED
PLANNING COMMISSION VOTE
APPROVED

PROPOSED LANDMARK NO. 242

HISTORIC NAME Infant Shelter

POPULAR NAME S.F. Conservatory of Music

ADDRESS 1201 Ortega Street, San Francisco, 94122

BLOCK & LOT Block 2115, lot 37

OWNER S.F. Conservatory of Music, 1201 Ortega, S.F. 94122

ORIGINAL USE orphanage

CURRENT USE music conservatory

ZONING**NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA**

Check all National Register criteria applicable to the significance of the property that are then documented in the report. The criteria checked is (are) the basic justification for *why* the resource is important.

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| (A)_X_ | Association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. |
| (B)___ | Association with the lives of persons significant in our past. |
| (C)_X_ | Embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction. |
| (D)___ | Has yielded, or may be likely to yield information important in history or prehistory. |

Period of Significance

Under Criterion A, the Period of Significance is from 1929, when the Infant Shelter opened, to 1954, when the use of this building changed to that of a music school. Under Criterion C, the Period of Significance is 1927-1929, when the building was designed and built.

Integrity

The major change to the exterior of this building has been its coloration. The wall surfaces, now yellow, were originally a color that could be described as dark ochre, burnt apricot, or butterscotch. The effect of this color was to evoke the faded stucco colors of the Mediterranean. Several wooden elements, including the lowest level of the tower, the pilasters at the top of the tower, the wooden doors, and the window sash, all now red, were originally a dark forest green. This forest green picked up the green color of the oxidized copper elements of the building. (According to Robert Judson Clark, who studied this building in 1960, the Benjamin Moore Company makes a “black forest green” paint that is an exact match for this color.)

A narrow spire once rose from the tower of this building; it is now missing. The wooden railing on the Twentieth Avenue side is not original. The 1975 addition to the rear of the older building did not affect the design significantly. No other changes of note have taken place to the exterior of this building, and it retains its original character to a very high degree. Accordingly, the building retains integrity of location, materials, design, workmanship, feeling, and association. The setting has been somewhat altered by the 1975 addition and the widening of Nineteenth Avenue by thirty feet in 1940.

ARTICLE 10 REQUIREMENTS SECTION 1004 (b)

Boundaries of the Landmark Site

The boundaries of the landmark site are all of lot 37 in Assessor’s block 2115. The 1975 addition to the building is within the boundaries, but is not a contributor to the historic property.

Characteristics of the landmark that justify its designation

History – The Infant Shelter

Under Criterion A, the Infant Shelter is significant as one of the last orphanages or children’s aid buildings in San Francisco. The Infant Shelter was planned in 1927 and constructed in 1928-1929 for use as an orphanage. The Infant Shelter traces its historical roots back to the 1870s and was part of a tradition in San Francisco that had its beginnings in the Gold Rush.

The first important orphanage in San Francisco was the Protestant Orphan Asylum, which was organized in 1851. For many years (1854-1920) this institution was located on Haight Street, between Laguna and Buchanan. It was joined in later decades by the Roman Catholic Orphan Asylum, the Pacific Hebrew Orphan Asylum, and others that were founded by religious denominations. Other orphanages in San Francisco were secularly based. Among

the latter were the Maria Kip Orphanage, the Florence Crittenden Home, and the Infant Shelter. A few other institutions in San Francisco were focused on helping older children who were not necessarily orphans but who had particular needs. The Presbyterian Mission Home for Chinese Girls, for example, was founded by Donaldina Cameron in the Victorian era to care for girls that had been sold into prostitution as slaves, but were later rescued. The Society for Helping Boys was founded by Rev. Joseph Worcester to house and instruct boys from broken homes and troubled backgrounds, and to prepare them to make a living. Whether religious or secular, broad-based or focused, numerous institutions for orphans and other children could once be found in San Francisco.

The Infant Shelter was founded as a charitable day nursery in 1874 by wives of prominent businessmen and was originally located South-of-Market, at 512 Minna Street. After the earthquake and fire of 1906 it relocated to 1025 Shotwell, in the Mission District. In each case the buildings were in working-class and immigrant neighborhoods, where the need was greatest. By the 1920s, however, the wood-framed building on Shotwell Street was considered to be a shabby fire trap. After a fund-raising campaign, the Infant Shelter built an expansive new building at 1201 Ortega, in the middle-class Sunset District. The cost of the building was \$125,000, and furnishings and equipment costing \$40,000 were also said to be required. The architect was Louis Christian Mullgardt. At this time (1928) all of the officers and directors of the organization were women, but they were assisted in fund-raising by prominent men such as William H. Crocker, Marshal Hale, Joseph D. Grant, Francis V. Keesling, and James D. Phelan.

The new building was dedicated in November 1929. It had sixty beds segregated into three divisions, one for infants to age eighteen months; another for toddlers from eighteen months to three years of age; and the third, a kindergarten division, for children ages three to five. In addition there were playrooms, health care facilities, and doctors' and nurses' quarters. The children were admitted on a temporary basis. They came from poor families who had suffered trauma of one kind or another, such as illness of one or both parents, breakup of the family, or catastrophic financial situations. Parents who could pay for a portion of the cost of their children's care were required to do so, but those who were unable to pay could bring their children to the Infant Shelter without charge. The balance of the operating expenses were covered by the Community Chest of San Francisco. A 1935 newspaper article related that in the previous year, 137 children had been admitted, and of these, ninety-two were from families who could pay nothing for their care. The other families paid between \$2.50 to \$30.00 per month for the care of their children.

By 1950, tighter restrictions had been put in place regarding the admittance of children to the shelter. Children from three months to four years were admitted

for a maximum of three months. If the children's families could not take them back, the children were released to a foster home on a court order. Referrals to the shelter came from a variety of agencies such as Catholic Social Service and Jewish Welfare. At this time the shelter was staffed by doctors, nurses, teachers, social workers, and assistants. The shelter appears to have been a vital organization through this date.

Within a few years, however, changing ideas regarding the proper care of destitute children had led to a decline in use of the Infant Shelter. Increasingly, foster homes were relied upon as a substitute for the care of children by their own families. By April 1953, only twenty children were in residence at the Infant Shelter, and in October, the Community Chest decided to end its support. The Infant Shelter closed in 1954 and was sold to the Conservatory of Music.

Few orphanage or children's aid buildings are known to survive in San Francisco. Besides the Infant Shelter, they include the Presbyterian Mission Home for Chinese Girls (ca. 1908; 920 Sacramento Street), the Society for Helping Boys (1911; 2255 Mariposa Street), and the Protestant Orphanage Home, formerly S. F. Protestant Orphan Asylum (mid-1920s; 1801 Vicente). While all of these are in some way notable for their architecture, the Infant Shelter is the finest of the group.

History – The Conservatory of Music

The Conservatory of Music has been located at this site since the 1950s. This history is too recent to be considered for historical significance, and accordingly is not being cited to justify landmark status for the building. With the passage of time, however, this history will certainly be considered to be significant, and thus the history of the Conservatory is being briefly related here.

The Conservatory of Music was founded in 1917 by Ada Clement and Lillian Hodghead as the Ada Clement Piano School. For many years it occupied a Victorian house in the Pacific Heights neighborhood, gradually increasing its staff and expanding the scope of its programs. During the 1920s the noted composer Ernest Bloch was hired to lead the school, and it changed its name to the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. In the mid-1950s it moved to the Infant Shelter building on 19th Avenue, and after alterations to the interior opened there in January 1957. Its program was greatly expanded in the 1960s and 1970s under a new president, Milton Salkind, who served for twenty-four years. One of the purposes of this expansion was to allow the San Francisco Symphony, Opera, and Ballet orchestra members to teach at the Conservatory, so that Conservatory students might have an increased opportunity to join those orchestras. Admission requirements became more selective, and a performers-in-residence program was initiated, with visiting instructors such as Alfred Brendel. In 1975 the

Conservatory added a south wing with two auditoriums, allowing for recitals that have been open to the general public.

Architecture

Under Criterion C of the National Register, the building is an imaginative and boldly conceived blend of Mission Revival and Baroque styles, and is one of the last important buildings by architect Louis Christian Mullgardt that still stand. The intense decoration around the main entrance is characteristic of some of Mullgardt's best institutional work. The entrances on Ortega Street, Nineteenth Avenue, and Twentieth Avenue, and the Baroque tower make use of a variety of materials such as terra cotta, brick, wood, copper, bronze, clay tile, and stucco. These materials are extremely colorful, a quality that was also characteristic of much of the architect's work.

The size and form of the building make it a prominent landmark along Nineteenth Avenue, one of the principle thoroughfares in the western half of San Francisco. The building is one of the finest in the Sunset district of the city.

The Architect of the Infant Shelter

Louis Christian Mullgardt (1866-1942) was not a prolific architect, but he was one of the most original architects in San Francisco's history. Born in Missouri of Prussian ancestry, Mullgardt apprenticed under architectural firms in St. Louis before going to work for Shepley, Rutan and Coolidge in Boston and Henry Ives Cobb in Chicago. The latter were two of the major firms in the United States at the time. During 1903-1905 he was in England as supervising architect for the James Stewart Construction Company, where he worked on several projects, including a major addition to the famous Savoy Hotel in London. He next moved to the San Francisco Bay Area where he specialized at first in designing fine suburban residences. The Evans residence in Mill Valley (1907) and the Hotel residence in Piedmont (1909) are the most important of Mullgardt's several surviving houses from this period. Designed in a strongly individualistic craftsman style, they combine stucco and wood as surface materials and make dramatic use of their hillside locations. Much more ambitious residential designs by Mullgardt were either never built or have been demolished. The Taylor house in Berkeley (1908), a vast, sprawling collection of rectangular masses that stepped up the hillside in the manner of a Tibetan monastery, belongs to the latter category.

After Bernard Maybeck's Palace of Fine Arts, Mullgardt's Court of the Ages (1912-1914) was the most popular creation of the Panama Pacific International Exposition in San Francisco's Marina District. Monumental in scale and employing lengthy arcades on all four sides of the court, it was intensely ornamented with spiky, ultra-baroque confections in plaster. It was, of course, a temporary building, as all of the fair's structures were intended to be. Very

similar in its ornamental scheme was the M. H. de Young Memorial Museum in Golden Gate Park (1916-1919). The ornament, however, proved difficult to maintain, and ran counter to modern sensibilities; and it was ultimately scraped off of the building.

With these buildings, as Robert Judson Clark writes of Mullgardt, “Color and Texture became obsessions... decorative motifs increased his range of effects.” Mullgardt’s use of intense, finely detailed ornament can now be found in only two surviving commissions: The Knoll, or President’s House (1917-1918) at Stanford University, and the main entrance of the Infant Shelter.

Besides the Infant Shelter, only one important institutional building by Mullgardt survives to this day. It is the Juvenile Court and Detention Home at 150 Otis Street in San Francisco (1914). This nine story building relies on its monumentality for effect and eschewed the ornament and color of his Court of the Ages and de Young Museum.

Mullgardt’s career all but ceased after 1919. In 1922 he took a world tour, in 1924 he unveiled a Bay Bridge proposal, and in 1925 he completed a plan for a multi-level traffic system for San Francisco. By inclination he was a visionary, but few of his grand schemes were realized. The greatest, the Taylor house and the Court of Ages, were both demolished in his lifetime. He had a flamboyant personality, but became agitated when his work or ideas were criticized. “It was obvious,” writes Clark, “that the aging architect, whose confidence and pretense of genius had propelled him through several careers, professional disappointments and family tragedies, was now suffering a heavy toll behind his once optimistic facade.” The ultimate blow came in 1928, when his son died in an airplane accident. After that event he became susceptible to spiritualism, apparently in hopes of contacting his son. He also began carrying thick manuscripts in a satchel: these were the unfinished plays of Shakespeare, he said, finished versions of which Shakespeare was dictating to him.

The Infant Shelter was Mullgardt’s last important work. (Only a log cabin for the Bohemian Club, in the Bohemian Grove, came later.) He landed the commission through his close friendship with Mrs. Randolph Whiting, the chairman of the Shelter’s Building Fund Campaign. A charitable impulse on her part, due to the architect’s difficult life circumstances, seems to have contributed to his getting the job.

Working as a draftsman helped to keep Mullgardt alive in later years. Mullgardt’s marriage ended, and he then lived in a series of increasingly inexpensive hotels. He died in January 1942, in the pauper’s ward at the California State Hospital in Stockton.

In an obituary in *Architect and Engineer*, his friend Irving F. Morrow wrote, not of Mullgardt’s buildings, but of his artistic vision, his “imaginative insight,” and

his “buoyant inventiveness.” Morrow also noted that Mullgardt “was possessed by vision and conviction so intense that, in the face of incomprehension or opposition, he was powerless even to simulate the petty adjustments and shifts by which men are constrained to live.... And I think the greatest tragedy is that society remains unaware it has rejected the gift of one of its rarest spirits.”

John Beach has written, “Mullgardt’s career as an architect was star-crossed and erratic. Some of his most important designs were never built. Those which were built seem to exert an irresistible fascination upon bulldozers; many of the finest have disappeared.” A dozen houses, the Juvenile Court, and the Infant Shelter are the surviving structures by Louis Christian Mullgardt in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Description of the particular features that should be preserved

Virtually all elements of the Ortega Street, Nineteenth Avenue, and Twentieth Avenue facades, other than the 1975 addition, are original, and are of sufficient importance to qualify as character defining features. All should be preserved. These include the stucco surface of the building; the Spanish tile roof; the brick surrounding the main entrance; the terra cotta ornament that forms the main entrance; the terra cotta surrounds, copper hoods, and copper hood supports in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Avenue entrances; the glazed wooden doors and wooden transoms on all three sides; the wooden window sash with wooden frames and sills on all three sides; the two bronze lanterns with ornamental mounting hardware on the Ortega Street side; the Mission Revival parapets with their top surfaces of brick; the bronze railing; and all elements – wooden, stucco, copper, and clay tile -- of the tower.

Non-original features that do not contribute to the historic significance of the building, and need not be preserved, are the second story fire escape and landing on the Twentieth Avenue side; post-1950s light fixtures with associated conduit on the Ortega Street, Nineteenth Avenue, and Twentieth Avenue sides; a wooden railing on the Twentieth Avenue side; surface-mounted rain water leaders; and the applied lettering reading “San Francisco Conservatory of Music” on the Nineteenth Avenue side.

DESCRIPTION

The Infant Shelter occupies the entire south side of Ortega Street between Nineteenth and Twentieth avenues. The construction type of the building is reinforced concrete, built to fireproof standards. In style the building is principally Mission Revival, with strong Baroque elements. While the Mission elements in this building are used in a traditional manner, the Baroque elements in the entrance and tower are most unusual, and are comparable only to other (now vanished) examples of the work of architect Louis Christian Mullgardt.

The Ortega Street facade is symmetrical, with end pavilions that are crowned by Mission Revival parapets; and a central entrance, above and behind which is a tower. The Mission parapets are bold in their curvilinear outlines but are spare in their surface treatment. The main entrance is lushly ornamented, while the tower above it is composed of receding levels culminating in a temple-like crown. The levels of this tower are executed variously in wood, stucco, sheet copper, and Spanish tile. The second story is recessed from, is shorter than, and is subordinate to the main story. The Nineteenth Avenue and Twentieth Avenue facades are devoted primarily to bands of clustered windows, but each also has an ornamental entrance near the north end of each facade. Walls are clad in stucco that is painted yellow. Windows have double-hung wood sash, painted red; and are set in wooden frames that are painted white. The pitched roof is covered with Spanish tiles.

The door at the main entrance is wood, with full-length glazing, and appears to be original. Above it is a circular transom window made of wood. The door is framed by a series of fifteen white glazed terra cotta panels, each of which shows the head of an infant, in sculptural relief. These panels were executed by artist Carlo Taliabue, who studied in Milan at the Royal Academy and came to San Francisco in 1924. Taliabue also designed bas reliefs for the State Building and the Motor Vehicle Building in Sacramento.

The entrance is flanked by columns and pilasters of terra cotta. The columns are intensely ornamented with floral motifs and heads of infants in the capitals. In color this terra cotta is brown with a mottling of red. Surrounding the entrance and columns is a broad expanse of brickwork with a herringbone pattern. The bricks are in varying shades of brown, some verging toward yellow and red. Two narrow, arched windows, one on each side, are set in this brick frame.

The Nineteenth and Twentieth Avenue entrances are identical to each other. In each a wooden door glazed with many lights, and a semicircular transom, are enframed by alternating bands of orange and green terra cotta. Above this is a canopy of sheet copper that is supported by an elaborate copper bracket.

Also executed in copper is the roof to a chimney behind one of the parapets. Bronze elements include sconces that flank the main entrance and railings at the entrance and at the second story level.

In 1975 a new, reinforced concrete wing to the south was built on the site of the former playground. Although it lacks ornamentation, in scale and materials it is respectful of the main building.

Chromatically, the Infant Shelter is one of the most interesting buildings in San Francisco due to its colorful use of terra cotta, brick, copper, and bronze. The metalwork exhibits a high degree of craftsmanship, as does the terra cotta, all of which was created by Gladding, McBean and Co. The columns that flank the main entrance are the last examples in San Francisco of the sort of lush

ornamentation that Mullgardt employed in his Court of Ages and de Young Museum buildings.

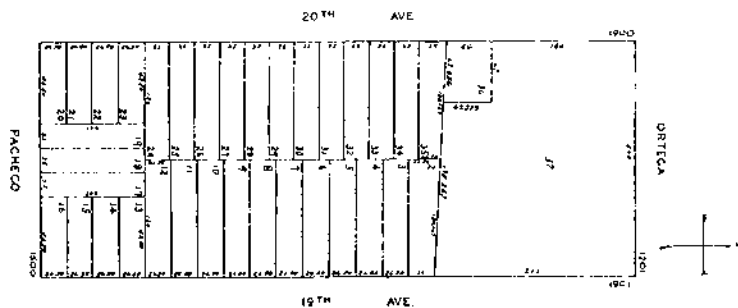
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Infant Shelter appears to be eligible for the National Register at the local level under Criterion A, as one of the last remaining orphanages left standing in San Francisco. Orphanages were an important institution in the city from the 1850s to the 1950s, and the Infant Shelter is an excellent example of this now-rare building type.

The Infant Shelter also appears to be eligible for the National Register at the local level under Criterion C, as an excellent example, and one of the last survivors, of the work of architect Louis Christian Mullgardt. It is one of only two major institutional buildings remaining by him. The ornamental entrance is reminiscent of Mullgardt's now-vanished Court of Ages and DeYoung Museum, and the intensely chromatic nature of the building is representative of the colorful effects that Mullgardt held dear. Architecturally, the building is one of the finest in the Sunset district.

For similar reasons, the Infant Shelter also appears to be eligible for the California Register of Historical Resources, under criteria 1 and 3.

CROSS STREET REFERENCE MAP



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RATINGS

1976 DCP Rating #2

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Check all that apply.

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