

**NOTICE OF FINAL PASSAGE
FILE NO. 425-68 ORD. NO. 285-68
DESIGNATING THE AUDIFFRED
BUILDING AS A LANDMARK PUR-
SUANT TO ARTICLE 10 OF THE CITY
PLANNING CODE.**

I hereby certify that the foregoing ordinance was read for the second time and finally passed by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco at its meeting of Sept. 3, 1968.

ROBERT J. DOLAN, Clerk
Approved: Sept. 13, 1968
JOSEPH L. ALIOTO, Mayor
Sept. 19, 1968—1t

**FILE NO. 425-68 ORD. NO. —
DESIGNATING THE AUDIFFRED
BUILDING AS A LANDMARK PUR-
SUANT 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 Audiffred Building has a special character and special historical, architectural and aesthetic interest and value and that its designation as a Landmark will be in furtherance of and in conformance with the purposes of Article 10 of the City Planning Code and the standards set forth therein.

(a) **Designation.** Pursuant to Section 1004 of the City Planning Code, Chapter II, Part II of the San Francisco Municipal Code, the Audiffred Building is hereby designated as a Landmark, this designation having been duly approved by resolution of the City Planning Commission.

(b) **Location and Boundaries.** Pursuant to Section 1004 of the City Planning Code, Chapter II, Part II of the San Francisco Municipal Code, a landmark site is hereby designated for the said Landmark, located and bounded as follows:

Southwest Corner of Mission Street and the Embarcadero. Beginning at the point of intersection of the southeasterly line of Mission Street, with the southwesterly line of the Embarcadero running thence 45 feet 10 inches along said line of the Embarcadero; thence at a right angle southwesterly 137½ feet to the northeasterly line of Steuart Street; thence at a right angle along said line of Steuart Street 45 feet 10 inches northwesterly to the said line of Mission Street; thence at a right angle 137½ feet northeasterly along said line of Mission Street to the point of beginning; being Lot 1 in Assessor's Block 3715.

(c) **Justification.** The special character and special historical, architectural and aesthetic interest and value of the said Landmark justifying its designation are as follows:

Erected in 1889 as an example of French commercial architecture of the late nineteenth century of the Empire period, the Audiffred Building has stood for nearly eighty years as a monument to the maritime commerce of the city, saved from the Fire and Earthquake and destruction by dynamite through an unusual circumstance; last stand of the old waterfront, and first home of the Sailor's Union of the Pacific.

(d) **Features.** The said Landmark should be preserved generally in all of its particular exterior features as existing on the date hereof and as described and depicted in the photographs, case report and other material on file in the Department of City Planning in Docket No. LM68.6; the summary description being as follows:

Three story, brick, with slate roof. French mansard style. Windows tall, narrow and surmounted by triangular pediments. White quoins outline the corners. Cast iron ornaments representing maritime emblems and objects (wheels, lighthouses, and anchors) adorn the first story cornice. There are brick cornices at first and second ceilings. Third story windows are dormers. Second story windows are surmounted by eyebrow moldings, joined in a continuous line around the building. Brick chimneys surmount the building. Flat pilasters adorn the ground story facade.

I hereby certify that the foregoing ordinance was passed for second reading by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco at its meeting of Aug. 26, 1968.

ROBERT J. DOLAN, Clerk
Aug. 30, 1968—1t

FIRST REVISION

LANDMARKS PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD

AUDIFFRED BUILDING

OWNERS

William M. Weiner, M.D.
Wayne Collins, Attorney

LOCATION AND
BOUNDARIES OF SITE

1 through 21 Mission Street; southwest corner of Mission Street and the Embarcadero. Lot is 45 feet 10 inches wide and 137-1/2 feet long; running from the Embarcadero to Steuart Street; being lot 1 in Assessor's Block 3715.

NATURE AND HISTORY

The building was erected in 1889 according to records of the Water Department, by Hipolite d'Audiffret (anglicised to Audiffred), a Frenchman. He built it in the style of late nineteenth century French business buildings, "to remind him of home". According to the story told by his son, it was one of the few buildings in the vicinity, privately owned, which escaped destruction during the Fire and Earthquake of 1906, the rest being destroyed either by the natural events or by dynamite. The story of its preservation is that when soldiers and firemen were about to blow up the building to stop the spread of flames, as had already been done on lower Market Street, the bartender of the saloon in the building approached them and made a bargain; for two quarts of whiskey per man, and a fire hose cart full of wine, they would spare the structure. The bargain was agreed on, and the building was saved. The structure has existed for almost eighty years with much of the ground story devoted to its original use -- a saloon, once the Bulkhead, later the Silver Dollar. The upper stories have had a variety of uses ranging from rooms for sailors to studios for artists and musicians, a school of art (a break-away from the California School of Fine Arts), offices for Scandinavian seamens associations, and Seven Seas Club, only half-jokingly known as "Our Lady of the Embarcadero" -- an alcoholics anonymous type of rescue mission. The building was the site of headquarters for the Seafarers Union which later became the Sailors Union of the Pacific. For many years the ground story was also the location of the Maritime or Embarcadero branch of the Bank of America which left when business declined due to the loss of maritime trade. The owners feel confident that completion of the BART system and the proposed Ferry Park will stimulate new activity.

ARCHITECTURAL AND
STRUCTURAL
DESCRIPTION

Three story, brick, with a slate roof. The architecture is reminiscent of the French mansard style, with the third story being covered with slate, while the lower stories have exposed brick. The windows are tall, narrow and surmounted by triangular pediments. The corners of the building are outlined by white painted quoins. Probably the unique feature of the building, and most visible from the street, are the cast iron ornaments on the exterior; marine emblems and objects, including lighthouses, steering wheels, and anchors, and fishes.

There are brick cornices at the first and second story ceiling levels: that at second story ceiling level is supported by brick brackets; both are dentillated with brick. The third story windows are dormers, surmounted

by triangular pediments. Above the second story windows there are eyebrow mouldings, which are joined by a continuous line of moulding around the building at that level. There is a series of brick chimneys around the building which are adorned and surmounted by chimney pots, a rather rare architectural feature in San Francisco. The ground story facade is adorned with flat pilasters, regularly spaced along all three side walls; and the quoins are of brick.

SURROUNDING LAND
USE AND ZONING

Zoning is C-3, Downtown Central Business District. To the east is the Embarcadero Freeway and the port. To the north, are a parking lot and the municipal railway bus turnaround, soon to be the Ferry Park. To the west the Rincon Annex Post Office. To the south, saloons, lodging houses and the Army and Navy YMCA.

The block immediately to the northwest of the building will become the site of the Ferry Park, an open space from which the building may now be viewed in proper perspective and be seen as a whole for the first time in years.

File Copy

CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

RESOLUTION NO. 6232

WHEREAS, A proposal to designate the Audiffred Building 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, 1968 and said Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board, after due consideration, has recommended approval of this proposal;

WHEREAS, The City Planning Commission, after due notice given, held a public hearing on June 13, 1968 to consider the proposed designation and the report of said Advisory Board; and

WHEREAS, The 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;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, First, That the proposal to designate the Audiffred Building as a Landmark pursuant to Article 10 of the City Planning Code is hereby APPROVED, the location and boundaries being as follows:

Southwest Corner of Mission Street and the Embarcadero. Beginning at the point of intersection of the southeasterly line of Mission Street with the southwesterly line of the Embarcadero running thence 45 feet 10 inches along said line of the Embarcadero; thence at a right angle southwesterly 137½ feet to the northeasterly line of Steuart Street; thence at a right angle along said line of Steuart Street 45 feet 10 inches northwesterly to the said line of Mission Street; thence at a right angle northeasterly along said line of Mission Street to the point of beginning; being lot 1 in Assessor's Block 3715.

Second, That the special character and special historical, architectural and aesthetic interest and value of the said Landmark justifying its designation are as follows:

Erected in 1889 as an example of French commercial architecture of the late nineteenth century of the Empire period, the Audiffred Building has stood for nearly eighty years as a monument to the maritime commerce of the city; saved from the Fire and Earthquake and destruction by dynamite through an unusual circumstance; last stand of the old waterfront, and first home of the Sailor's Union of the Pacific.

Third, That the said Landmark should be preserved generally in all of its particular (exterior) features as existing on the date hereof and as described and depicted in the photographs, case report and other material on file in the Department of City Planning in Docket No. LM68.6; the summary description being as follows:

Three story, brick, with slate roof. French mansard style. Windows tall, narrow and surmounted by triangular pediments. White quoins outline the corners. Cast iron ornaments representing maritime emblems and objects (wheels, lighthouses, and anchors) adorn

the first story cornice. There are brick cornices at first and second ceilings. Third story windows are dormers. Second story windows are surmounted by eyebrow mouldings, joined in a continuous line around the building. Brick chimneys surmount the building. Flat pilasters adorn the ground story facade.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the 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 at the regular meeting of the City Planning Commission on June 13, 1968.

Lynn E. Pio
Secretary

AYES: Commissioners Brinton, Elliott, Fleishacker, Kearney, Newman, Porter
and Wight
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
PASSED: June 13, 1968