

Freda A. ...
CITY ATTORNEY

Introduced by Councilman _____

ORDINANCE NO. 9746 C.M.S.

AN ORDINANCE DESIGNATING AS A LANDMARK THE OAKLAND AUDITORIUM AT 10 TENTH STREET.

WHEREAS, the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board has recommended designation of the Oakland Auditorium at 10 Tenth Street as a Landmark under the provision of Section 7002 of the Oakland Zoning Regulations; and

WHEREAS, notice of a public hearing on this matter was given to the owners of the subject property on December 14, 1978, and the property was posted and a hearing was held by the City Planning Commission on February 28, 1979; and

WHEREAS, at the meeting of the City Planning Commission, held on February 28, 1979, it was voted to recommend the designation of the building as a Landmark; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970, as amended, and City Council Resolution No. 56051 C.M.S. (adopting objectives, criteria, and procedures for implementation of said Act) the designation of Landmarks is categorically exempt under Class 8 Regulatory Actions for the Protection of the Environment and no environmental document is required; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that the proposed Landmark has historical significance as described and presented in Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board Resolution No. 1979-4: That the proposed Landmark is of special design and is a unique architectural asset to the City; that the proposed Landmark provides a reminder of past eras important to Oakland's history and culture; and that for these reasons, the Landmark is found to be worthy of preservation; now, therefore,

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OAKLAND DOES ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The Oakland Auditorium at 10 Tenth Street is hereby designated a Landmark pursuant to Section 7002 of the Oakland Zoning Regulations, with the Landmark Site as described and presented in Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board Resolution No. 1979-4, which resolution is on file in office of City Clerk, is available there for public inspection and is incorporated herein by reference.

SECTION 2. This ordinance complies with the California Environmental Quality Act.

I certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of an Ordinance passed by the City Council of the City of Oakland, Calif., on April 3, 1979

ARRECE JAMESON, City Clerk

Per *M. J. ...*

Deputy

WHEREAS, a proposal to designate the following building and site as a Landmark pursuant to the provisions of Section 7002, Special Regulations for Designated Landmarks and Section 9507, Planning Commission action on Commission or Landmarks Board Proposal, of the Oakland Zoning Regulations has been considered by the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board; and

WHEREAS, the Advisory Board 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 Sections 7002 and 9507; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that this Advisory Board intends to and does formally initiate proceedings for the designation of a Landmark pursuant to the provisions of Sections 7002 and 9507 of the Oakland Zoning Regulations, the following:

Municipal Auditorium, 10 Tenth Street; and that this Board recommends to the City Planning Commission that this designation as described by the following Section be approved:

SECTION 1.

Municipal Auditorium: 10 Tenth Street
Original Owner: City of Oakland
Present Owner: City of Oakland
Date or Period: 1913 - 1915
Original Use: Auditorium, theatre, arena
Present Use: Auditorium and arena, theatre, ballroom, meeting rooms
Architect: John J. Donovan, W. J. Mathews, Henry Hornbostel, consulting architects
Builder: Unknown
Construction: Reinforced concrete, granite
Style: Eclectic with classical motifs, highly functional interior
Number of stories: Four plus

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

Few people in the early days of Oakland's history could have dreamed that the marshy lands south of San Antonio Slough, as the present Lake Merritt was known, would ever become the area of civic and cultural development of today. San Antonio Slough, a tidal basin navigable at times and a mud flat at low tide was bridged by the legendary Horace W. Carpenter only to irk the citizenry by the collection of tolls in 1853, but in 1857 sold the bridge to the city for \$6,000. The ebb and the flow of the tides and the problems of the swampy marshlands continued unabated for years, but finally the 12th Street dam was erected with its channel to the estuary and gates to control the tides. The city fathers then set about to acquire the adjoining mud flats controlled by the Oakland Water Front Company, a subsidiary of Southern Pacific. Negotiations continued until 1898 when the city was allowed to purchase the land for \$5000, a bargain for within a few years it was valued at \$750,000. In 1907 Mayor Frank Mott acquired the funds and authority to dredge Lake Merritt and use the fill to develop the tide flats where it was contemplated that a large recreation area could be created. In 1909 the idea of erecting an auditorium became popular, and soon the project was under way. The creative and imaginative project was completed in 1915 at a cost of \$941,618, or nearly a million dollars, but Oakland had a structure which was copied around the world.

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The auditorium features a huge arena as well as an intimate theatre suitable for concerts or stage productions, both sharing the same stage. Curtains can be changed to allow the back-to-back areas to use the stage, or the whole area can be joined together as one. As many as five functions can go on at the same time, for the auditorium also contains a ballroom, meeting rooms, an art gallery, banquet rooms and more. An orchestra pit which can accommodate 100 musicians allows for major extravaganzas and pageants which were popular in the early years of the century as well as balls, operas, circuses, prize fights, conventions. During the 1918 influenza epidemic, the arena was turned into a huge hospital in which to care for the many victims. Other unusual features for the time included provision for parking, a press room with telephone and telegaph service, large storage areas, many dressing rooms for performers, elevators, provisions for the showing of films, showers for participants in athletic contests.

In 1957 the auditorium underwent a major refurbishing, and today it still enjoys a thriving patronage with gospel services on Sundays, the annual children's Christmas Pageant, concerts, travelogues and athletic events constantly filling the huge building.

The said Landmark should be preserved generally in all 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 case file IM 79-040, a summary description being as follows:

The auditorium has been built in what can be described as an eclectic style with classic motifs. The interior is highly functional. The construction materials are reinforced concrete and granite for the exterior, oak and marble in the interior. The main facade is on the north side of the building, facing Lake Merritt. It is composed of seven arches, forming deep niches, each decorated with elaborate terra cotta bas relief sculptures. The entrances to the auditorium and arena are separated and placed at opposite ends of the facility. The stage entrance and working areas are positioned on the south side of the building. This south wall has been given minimal architectural treatment when compared to the north facade.

The location of said Landmark is as follows:

Beginning at a point on the northerly line of Tenth Street, approximately 668 feet easterly of the intersection of said line with the easterly line of Oak Street, thence at right angle northerly a distance of 200 feet, thence at right angle easterly a distance of 398 feet, thence at right angle southerly a distance of 200 feet, thence at right angle westerly a distance of 398 feet to the point of beginning; commonly known as 10 Tenth Street.

I certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of a Resolution passed by the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board, City of Oakland, California, on February 21, 1979.

Marc Herbert

MARC HERBERT

Secretary

Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board