



SF Places: Landmark Designation

SF Places (Landmark Designation) is the City's primary tool for formally recognizing places of cultural, architectural, or historical importance and guiding their long-term care.

What is Landmark Designation?

Landmark designation is a public process that formally recognizes and helps protect places with important historic, cultural, or architectural value. It ensures these places are protected and considered in future planning, so decisions are made with a clear understanding of what matters and why.

There are two types of landmark designation:

- **Individual Landmarks:** A single property, building, or site recognized for its unique significance
- **Landmark Districts:** A group of buildings or an area that together tell an important story about a neighborhood or community

Landmark designation guides how physical changes to a property are reviewed. It does not "freeze" a place in time. Instead, it provides a framework for thoughtful care, allowing places to change and grow while keeping the qualities that make them meaningful.

SF CULTURAL HERITAGE

SF Places is part of **SF Cultural Heritage**, San Francisco's historic preservation program. It brings together community knowledge, cultural history, and preservation tools to recognize and care for the places and traditions that matter to San Francisco's diverse communities.

SF Histories: Understanding our Shared History

SF Survey: Identifying Historic and Cultural Resources

SF Places: Recognizing Important Places

To learn more about our efforts, scan the QR code or visit our website: sfplanning.org/preservation



What Landmark Designation *DOES*

- ✓ Formally recognizes a place as a City landmark and supports the long-term care
- ✓ Makes properties eligible for certain preservation incentives and benefits
- ✓ Highlights a site's historic, cultural, and/or architectural importance
- ✓ Requires a public process, including approval by the Board of Supervisors
- ✓ Draws on research from SF Histories and SF Survey
- ✓ Ensures proposed changes are reviewed thoughtfully to respect the landmark's character

What Landmark Designation *DOES NOT DO*

- ✗ Automatically happen because a place is old
- ✗ Guarantee funding for repairs or improvements
- ✗ Prevent all future changes to a property
- ✗ Replace other City planning or approval processes
- ✗ Control or guarantee how a building is used
- ✗ Stop new development from happening nearby

What Happens in a Landmark Designation Process

Landmark Designation typically includes:

- Research and documentation
- Evaluation of significance
- Public hearings and review
- A final decision through the City's landmark process

Where Cultural Significance and Intangible Heritage Fit

Landmarks are often associated with **people, events, traditions, and community life**, as well as **architecture**. Cultural significance can be recognized when a place is strongly connected to community history and lived experience.

Get Involved!

This important work is ongoing and collaborative with many ways to get involved. You can:

- Attend an upcoming event
- Review proposed landmarks and supporting materials
- Provide public comment at the Historic Preservation Commission for proposed landmarks
- Share information that may help document a place's history and significance

Are you a property owner and have questions?

If you think your building may be eligible for landmark designation or have questions about what it means, we're here to help. Contact us to learn more about the process, available incentives, and how to get started.

Contact us at:

-  CPC.Landmarks@sfgov.org
-  (628) 652-7573

Learn more about our efforts:



Scan the QR code or visit:
sfplanning.org/landmark-designation-program

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