



SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Historic Preservation Commission Motion No. 0136

HEARING DATE: SEPTEMBER 21, 2011

Filing Date: July 26, 2011
Case No.: **2011.0808A**
Project Address: **400 Montgomery Street**
Historic Landmark: No. 161 – Kohl Building
Zoning: C-3-O (Downtown Office)
300-S Height and Bulk District
Block/Lot: 0239/009
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ADOPTING FINDINGS FOR A CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS FOR PROPOSED WORK DETERMINED TO BE APPROPRIATE FOR AND CONSISTENT WITH THE PURPOSES OF ARTICLE 10, TO MEET THE STANDARDS OF ARTICLE 10 AND TO MEET THE SECRETARY OF INTERIOR'S STANDARDS FOR REHABILITATION, FOR THE PROPERTY LOCATED ON LOT 009 IN ASSESSOR'S BLOCK 0239, WITHIN A C-3-O (DOWNTOWN OFFICE) ZONING DISTRICT AND A 300-S HEIGHT AND BULK DISTRICT.

PREAMBLE

WHEREAS, on July 26, 2011, David Wessel of Architectural Resources Group Inc. ("Project Sponsor") filed an application with the San Francisco Planning Department ("Department") for a Certificate of Appropriateness to repair, restore, and replace in select locations the Colusa sandstone cladding on the Montgomery Street façade of the building located on Lot 009 in Assessor's Block 0239. The work includes limited replacement of severely eroded decorative pieces with replica units cast in glass fiber reinforced concrete (GFRC), installation of weathered sheet metal coping on sky-facing stone surfaces at water tables and sills, repointing of masonry joints, dutchmen repair and limited in-kind replacement of sandstone units, patching of small areas of material loss, re-tooling of eroded decorative elements, and repainting existing wood windows. The use of substitute materials (GFRC) shall be limited to the carved lion's head belt course and window sills. New GFRC units will be cast to match as closely as possible the overall appearance, finish, and visual characteristics of the original material. All other replacement and dutchmen repairs – also limited in scope – shall be in-kind, utilizing sandstone from the same quarry as original material.

WHEREAS, the Project was determined by the Department to be categorically exempt from environmental review. The Historic Preservation Commission ("Commission") has reviewed and concurs with said determination.

WHEREAS, on September 21, 2011, the Commission conducted a duly noticed public hearing on the current project, Case No. 2011.0808A ("Project") for its appropriateness.

WHEREAS, in reviewing the Application, the Commission has had available for its review and consideration case reports, plans, and other materials pertaining to the Project contained in the Department's case files, has reviewed and heard testimony and received materials from interested parties during the public hearing on the Project.

MOVED, that the Commission hereby grants the Certificate of Appropriateness, in conformance with the architectural plans dated may 25, 2011 and labeled Exhibit A on file in the docket for Case No. 2011.0808A based on the following findings:

FINDINGS

Having reviewed all the materials identified in the recitals above and having heard oral testimony and arguments, this Commission finds, concludes, and determines as follows:

1. The above recitals are accurate and also constitute findings of the Commission.
2. Findings pursuant to Article 10:

The Historical Preservation Commission has determined that the proposed work is compatible with the character of the landmark as described in the designation report.

- Historic cladding materials would be retained in situ wherever possible and repaired. Severely deteriorated materials would be replaced in-kind, or with compatible substitute materials (cast glass fiber reinforced concrete (GFRC)) matching as closely as possible the overall appearance, finish, and visual characteristics of the original material. All other replacement and dutchmen repairs shall be in-kind, utilizing sandstone from the same quarry as original material. A conditions survey of the buildings has been conducted to inform the decisions regarding retention and repair or replacement of deteriorated elements.
- The proposed project meets the following Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation:

Standard 1.

A property shall be used for its historic purpose or be placed in a new use that requires minimal change to the defining characteristics of the building and its site and environment.

Standard 2.

The historic character of a property shall be retained and preserved. The removal of historic materials

or alteration of features and spaces that characterize a property shall be avoided.

Standard 5.

Distinctive features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a property shall be preserved.

Standard 6.

Deteriorated historic features will be repaired rather than replaced. Where the severity of deterioration requires replacement of a distinctive feature, the new feature will match the old in design, color, texture, and, where possible, materials. Replacement of missing features will be substantiated by documentary and physical evidence.

3. **General Plan Compliance.** The proposed Certificate of Appropriateness is, on balance, consistent with the following Objectives and Policies of the General Plan:

I. URBAN DESIGN ELEMENT

THE URBAN DESIGN ELEMENT CONCERNS THE PHYSICAL CHARACTER AND ORDER OF THE CITY, AND THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PEOPLE AND THEIR ENVIRONMENT.

GOALS

The Urban Design Element is concerned both with development and with preservation. It is a concerted effort to recognize the positive attributes of the city, to enhance and conserve those attributes, and to improve the living environment where it is less than satisfactory. The Plan is a definition of quality, a definition based upon human needs.

OBJECTIVE 1

EMPHASIS OF THE CHARACTERISTIC PATTERN WHICH GIVES TO THE CITY AND ITS NEIGHBORHOODS AN IMAGE, A SENSE OF PURPOSE, AND A MEANS OF ORIENTATION.

POLICY 1.3

Recognize that buildings, when seen together, produce a total effect that characterizes the city and its districts.

OBJECTIVE 2

CONSERVATION OF RESOURCES WHICH PROVIDE A SENSE OF NATURE, CONTINUITY WITH THE PAST, AND FREEDOM FROM OVERCROWDING.

POLICY 2.4

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.

POLICY 2.5

Use care in remodeling of older buildings, in order to enhance rather than weaken the original character of such buildings.

POLICY 2.7

Recognize and protect outstanding and unique areas that contribute in an extraordinary degree to San Francisco's visual form and character.

The goal of a Certificate of Appropriateness is to provide additional oversight for buildings and districts that are architecturally or culturally significant to the City in order to protect the qualities that are associated with that significance.

The proposed project qualifies for a Certificate of Appropriateness and therefore furthers these policies and objectives by maintaining and preserving the character-defining features of the former Kohl Building (Landmark #161) for the future enjoyment and education of San Francisco residents and visitors.

4. The proposed project is generally consistent with the eight General Plan priority policies set forth in Section 101.1 in that:

- A) The existing neighborhood-serving retail uses will be preserved and enhanced and future opportunities for resident employment in and ownership of such businesses will be enhanced:

The proposed project is for the restoration of a commercial office property and will not have any impact on neighborhood serving retail uses.

- B) The existing housing and neighborhood character will be conserved and protected in order to preserve the cultural and economic diversity of our neighborhoods:

The proposed project will strengthen neighborhood character by respecting the character-defining features of the landmark in conformance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards.

- C) The City's supply of affordable housing will be preserved and enhanced:

The project will not reduce the affordable housing supply as the existing ten units at the property are uninhabitable.

- D) The commuter traffic will not impede MUNI transit service or overburden our streets or neighborhood parking:

The proposed project will not result in commuter traffic impeding MUNI transit service or overburdening the streets or neighborhood parking. It will provide sufficient off-street parking for the proposed units.

- E) A diverse economic base will be maintained by protecting our industrial and service sectors from displacement due to commercial office development. And future opportunities for resident employment and ownership in these sectors will be enhanced:

The proposed will not have any impact on industrial and service sector jobs.

- F) The City will achieve the greatest possible preparedness to protect against injury and loss of life in an earthquake.

Preparedness against injury and loss of life in an earthquake is improved by the proposed work. The work will eliminate unsafe conditions at the site and all construction will be executed in compliance with all applicable construction and safety measures.

- G) That landmark and historic buildings will be preserved:

The proposed project is in conformance with Article 10 of the Planning Code and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards.

- H) Parks and open space and their access to sunlight and vistas will be protected from development:

The proposed project will not impact the access to sunlight or vistas for the parks and open space.

5. For these reasons, the proposal overall, is appropriate for and consistent with the purposes of Article 10, meets the standards of Article 10, and the *Secretary of Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation*, General Plan and Prop M findings of the Planning Code.

DECISION

That based upon the Record, the submissions by the Applicant, the staff of the Department and other interested parties, the oral testimony presented to this Commission at the public hearings, and all other written materials submitted by all parties, the Commission hereby **GRANTS a Certificate of Appropriateness** for the property located at Lot 009 in Assessor's Block 0239 for proposed work in conformance with the architectural plans dated May 25, 2011 and labeled Exhibit A on file in the docket for Case No. 2011.0808A.

APPEAL AND EFFECTIVE DATE OF MOTION: The Commission's decision on a Certificate of Appropriateness shall be final unless appealed within thirty (30) days. Any appeal shall be made to the Board of Appeals, unless the proposed project requires Board of Supervisors approval or is appealed to the Board of Supervisors as a conditional use, in which case any appeal shall be made to the Board of Supervisors (see Charter Section 4.135).

Duration of this Certificate of Appropriateness: This Certificate of Appropriateness is issued pursuant to Article 10 of the Planning Code and is valid for a period of three (3) years from the effective date of approval by the Historic Preservation Commission. The authorization and right vested by virtue of this action shall be deemed void and canceled if, within 3 years of the date of this Motion, a site permit or building permit for the Project has not been secured by Project Sponsor.

THIS IS NOT A PERMIT TO COMMENCE ANY WORK OR CHANGE OF OCCUPANCY UNLESS NO BUILDING PERMIT IS REQUIRED. PERMITS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF BUILDING INSPECTION (and any other appropriate agencies) MUST BE SECURED BEFORE WORK IS STARTED OR OCCUPANCY IS CHANGED.

I hereby certify that the Historical Preservation Commission ADOPTED the foregoing Motion on September 21, 2011

Linda D. Avery
Commission Secretary

AYES: Commissioners Damkroger, Hasz, Johns, Martinez, Matsuda, and Wolfram

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Commissioner Chase (recused)

ADOPTED: September 21, 2011