



SAN FRANCISCO
PLANNING
DEPARTMENT

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Director's Report

PLANNING DIRECTOR:
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December 3 - 7, 2012

UPCOMING LANDMARK DESIGNATION HEARINGS

Sam Jordan's Bar: Sam Jordan's Bar (4004 Third Street) is significant due to its association with the late Sam Jordan, a prominent African American community leader, Golden Gloves champion, pioneering African American business owner along the Third Street corridor in the Bayview District, and the first African American candidate for Mayor of San Francisco (1963). In 1959, Mr. Jordan opened Sam Jordan's Bar in a c.1880's building that was originally constructed adjacent to the corrals, slaughterhouses, and tanneries associated with "Butchertown." The bar is still in operation and is one of the oldest continuously operating African American businesses along the Third Street corridor. Sam Jordan's Bar was known as an organizing space and catalyst for community-based initiatives.

The project is scheduled to go the Land Use Committee December 10.

Twin Peaks Tavern: The Twin Peaks Tavern, a local bar at 401 Castro Street is at the major intersection of Market and 17th Streets. First opening in 1935, the bar lease was purchased in 1972 by two lesbians and refurbished as a fern bar for a gay clientele. The first known gay bar to feature full length open plate glass windows, the Twin Peaks Tavern is a living symbol of the liberties and rights gained by the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered (LGBT) community in the second half of the 20th century. Housed in a turn-of-the-century building with an intact 1923 Mediterranean Revival-style façade in the heart of the Castro, the bar retains its expansive windows and other character-defining features and continues to serve the LGBT community. Only two other San Francisco Landmarks, the Castro Camera and Harvey Milk Residence (573-575 Castro Street) and the Jose Theater / Names Project Building (2362 Market Street), have been designated based on their association with LGBT history.

The project is scheduled to go the Land Use Committee December 10.

SUNSET DISTRICT WALKING TOUR A SUCCESS

As part of the outreach for the Sunset District Historic Resource Survey, the department hosted a free tour of tract houses in the central Sunset District, featuring houses developed from 1925 – 1950. Led by department staff and Sunset district expert and local author, Lorri Ungaretti, the 60 attendees learned about how the neighborhood developed over the years and the architectural survey which is currently underway.

The California Office of Historic Preservation recently awarded the department with a grant to document the history and significance of builder tract developments in the Sunset District. The department is conducting an architectural survey of residential buildings of this era in the central Sunset District. There are plans to repeat this popular tour in the near future.

