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## City Hall Features (Landmark #21)

San Francisco City Hall is considered one of the country's finest examples of the Beaux Arts architecture. Completed in 1915, it was designed by architects John Bakewell Jr. & Arthur Brown Jr. Brown who studied at the renowned École des Beaux Arts in Paris. City Hall is a National Historic Landmark. Historic landscape features around City Hall include ornate light poles, statues of President Abraham Lincoln and Judge Hall McAllister, granite curbs, and original staircases.



1915



1915

5

## AWSS Fire Hydrants

In the wake of the 1906 San Francisco Earthquake and Fire in which 80% of the City's buildings were destroyed, utilitarian features such as the Auxiliary Water Supply System – a gravity fed emergency water supply system – were installed throughout the City. The hydrants in Civic Center are stamped with "1909: S.F.A.W.S." and are painted white with a blue cap, indicating that they receive their water from the Jones Street Tank. Throughout the City, 135 miles of piping remain in usable condition today. Repairs and optimizations of the system are being implemented, making San Francisco one of few cities along the West Coast to maintain an auxiliary piping network for fire emergencies.



1909

6

## Fire Boxes

Ten years before the 1906 San Francisco Earthquake and Fire, the City established a citywide system of fire boxes. The fire boxes are recognizable by their red posts with red and gold boxes. A handful of boxes bearing the 1899 date remain in Civic Center. Using telegraph technology, the fire boxes are still used today in over 1,000 emergencies a year.

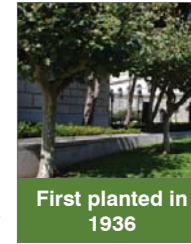


1899

7

## London Plane Trees

First planted in Civic Center to prepare for the 1915 Panama-Pacific Exposition, London Plane trees have been a prevalent landscape feature in the Historic District, included in landscape designs such as the 1932 War Memorial Complex and the 1975 United Nations Plaza. Since the 1940s, London Plane trees have been pollarded, a medieval French pruning measure that encourages new growth and a denser bulb of green. The London Plane tree is recognized by its gray bark and large leaves.

First planted in  
1936

8

## Pioneer Monument

The Pioneer Monument is the earliest known feature in Civic Center, predating the loss of much of the district during the 1906 San Francisco Earthquake and Fire. The monument has sat at its current location in the center of the Fulton Street Mall since the new Public Library building was constructed in 1995. Before the 1990s, the monument sat at its original location at the corner of Grove and Hyde Streets on the edge of Marshall Square, which was a grassy plaza until World War II when the Hospitality House and parking lot were constructed.



1896

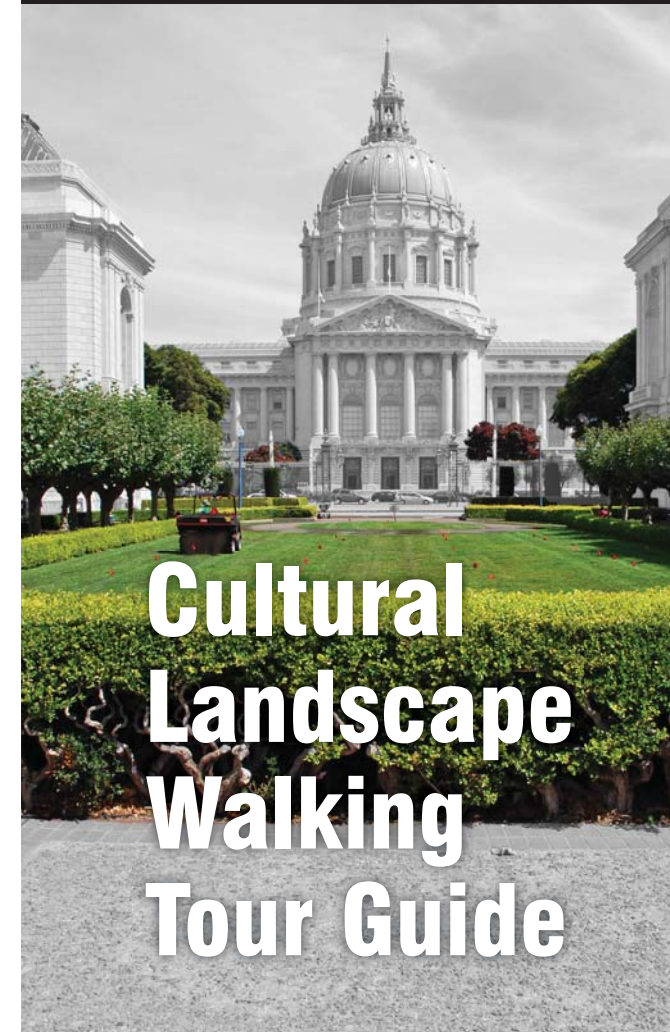
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## Path of Gold Light Standards (Landmark #200)

The Path of Gold street light standards are a significant legacy from the City Beautiful-era movement of the early 20th Century. Of the 327 total Path of Gold Light Standards from the Embarcadero to Castro Street, 15 line Market Street within the Civic Center Historic District boundaries. The "Winning of the West" bases designed by SF sculptor Arthur Putnam feature ox-drawn covered wagons, seated pumas, and American Indians. The tops were designed in 1916 by sculptor Leo Lentelli and engineer Walter D'Arcy Ryan, whose lighting designs for the Panama Pacific International Exposition of 1915 had inspired emulation on the City's principle thoroughfare. Path of Gold tops were added to the "Winning the West" bases from Seventh to Valencia Streets in the mid-1920s.



1915-1928



*Did you know that the oldest tree in Civic Center was planted over a hundred years ago in 1912?*

**CIVIC CENTER**  
— CULTURAL —  
LANDSCAPE  
INVENTORY



SAN FRANCISCO  
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

# ABOUT THE CIVIC CENTER CULTURAL LANDSCAPE INVENTORY

The cultural landscape features highlighted in this walking tour have been researched in detail as part of the Civic Center Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI). The CLI provides information about the historic landscape features that contribute to the Civic Center Historic District. The objective of the CLI is to inform planning decisions within Civic Center and to encourage sensitive design treatment and maintenance of landscape features within the historic district.

For a full interactive map and more information about the Civic Center CLI visit the project website:

Website: [www.sf-planning.org/CivicCenterCLI](http://www.sf-planning.org/CivicCenterCLI)  
 Planning Department Phone Number: (415) 558-6378



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## Historic Preservation in San Francisco

Since 1967 San Francisco's Historic Preservation Program has identified and protected a wide range of the City's historic places including buildings, sites, districts, and landscapes. As staff to the Historic Preservation Commission, the Planning Department's preservation planners work with property owners, city departments, and the general public to promote the preservation of these resources through incentives, long-range preservation planning efforts, public outreach, and technical assistance.

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## Canary Island Date Palm

The Canary Island Date Palm that resides within the courtyard of the residential apartments on the corner of McAllister and Franklin is the oldest tree in Civic Center. Planted in 1912, it is over 100 years old. First introduced in California in the 1800s, the Canary Island Date Palm grows only five feet a decade, but can grow over 60 feet tall with 20 foot long leaves.



1912

2

## War Memorial Court (Landmark #84)

Designed by landscape architect Thomas Dolliver Church in 1936, the War Memorial Court is located west of City Hall between the Veterans' Building and the Opera. The courtyard features a grass plaza surrounded by hedges with gold painted ornamental iron fencing. The courtyard contains soil gathered by veterans from various cities around the world where Americans have fought in battle. Rehabilitation of the courtyard began in Summer 2014 to address drainage issues, to design American Disabilities Act-compliant paths, and to install a new memorial in an area set aside for a memorial in Church's original plan but never built.



1936



1936

3

## Trolley Poles

Leading up to the 1915 Panama-Pacific Exposition hosted in San Francisco, 259 trolley poles were installed along Van Ness Avenue to prepare for an expected 60,000 people riding trolleys every hour. More than twenty years later, when Van Ness was widened to accommodate the anticipated surge of traffic due to the completion of the Golden Gate Bridge, the City improved the avenue's street lighting by affixing single drop luminaires to the trolley poles. Today, the trolley poles stretch from Market Street to Fisherman's Wharf, creating a consistent line of detailed cast iron trolleys and luminaires, 34 of which are within the Civic Center Historic District.



1915