

2010 APR -1 PM 1: **OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL**  
**ORDINANCE NO. 18005 C.M.S.**

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**AN ORDINANCE DESIGNATING THE BUDDHIST CHURCH OF OAKLAND AT 825 JACKSON STREET AS A LANDMARK PURSUANT TO SECTION 17.136.070 OF THE OAKLAND PLANNING CODE.**

**WHEREAS**, the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board, at its duly noticed meeting of December 14, 2009, recommended designation of the Buddhist Church of Oakland at 825 Jackson Street as a Landmark pursuant to Section 17.136.070 of the Oakland Planning Code; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Planning Commission conducted a duly noticed public hearing on January 20, 2010, and at the close of the hearing voted unanimously to recommend landmark designation of the property; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council's Community and Economic Development Committee, considered this matter at its April 13, 2010 meeting; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council, at a duly noticed public hearing on April 20, 2010, determined that the proposed Landmark has historical and architectural significance as described and presented in the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board Resolution 2009-1, and is a unique asset to the City; and that for these reasons the Landmark is worthy of preservation; and

**WHEREAS**, the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) have been satisfied, and pursuant to Sections 15061(b)(3), 15305, 15308, 15331, and 15183 of the CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14) each as a separate and independent basis, this ordinance is exempt from CEQA; now therefore

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

**SECTION 1.** The Buddhist Church of Oakland at 825 Jackson Street is hereby designated as a Landmark pursuant to Section 17.136.070 of the Oakland Planning Code as described and presented in Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board Resolution 2009-1, attached as Exhibit A and incorporated herein by reference.

**SECTION 2.** Said Landmark shall be preserved in all its particular exterior features as existing on the date hereof, and as described and depicted in the photographs, case reports, Case File LM09-240, and other material in the Department of City Planning; provided, however, it may be modified to replicate or more closely resemble its original appearance.

**SECTION 3.** The Development Director is hereby directed to execute and cause to be recorded in the Recorder's Office of the County of Alameda a notice of designation of said Landmark.

**SECTION 4.** This ordinance complies with CEQA and the Development Director is directed to cause to be filed a Notice of Exemption with appropriate agencies.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, MAY 4 2010

**PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:**

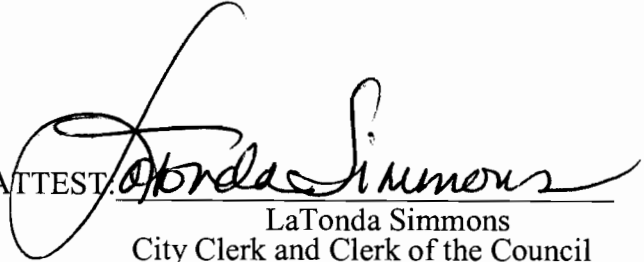
AYES- BROOKS, ~~DE LA FUENTE~~, KAPLAN, KERNIGHAN, NADEL, QUAN, REID, and  
PRESIDENT BRUNNER -7

NOES- 0

ABSENT- 0

ABSTENTION- 0

Excused - 1 - DeLaFuente

ATTEST:   
LaTonda Simmons  
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council  
of the City of Oakland, California

Introduction Date: APR 20 2010

DATE OF ATTESTATION: May 21, 2010

RESOLUTION 2009-1  
LANDMARKS PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD  
CITY OF OAKLAND

**Buddhist Church of Oakland  
825 Jackson Street**

WHEREAS, a proposal to designate the following property as an Oakland Landmark pursuant to Section 17.144 of the Oakland Planning Code has been considered by the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board; and

WHEREAS, the Board has reviewed and examined the material pertaining to this property in Case File **LM09-240** and the Oakland Landmark Nomination Application form, a copy of which is attached; and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that the property meets the landmark designation criteria found at Section 17.07.030P of the Planning Code and the Board's Guidelines for Determination of Landmark Eligibility in that the property:

- is an early local example of traditional Japanese temple architecture, featuring a roof with curved tiles, deeply overhanging eaves with a double set of projecting rafters, and carved wood stylized dragon's heads modeled after those from a Shinto shrine in Osaka, Japan; wood railings and stone lanterns leading to a wood-columned portico with carved decorative elements; and Japanese style landscaping, including bonsai pines and a Bodhi tree;
- is believed to be the first building designed by Gentoku Shimamoto, a prominent Japanese-American architect who designed other traditional Japanese style buildings in San Jose, San Francisco, New York and New Jersey;
- was used as a safe place to store the personal belongings of church members who were interned at the Japanese internment camp in Topaz, Utah during World War II, and was later used by many church members returning from the internment as a hostel until they could find regular places to live and work;
- was moved from its original location at 6<sup>th</sup> Street and Jackson Street in 1950 due to the construction of the Nimitz Freeway;
- has served as the focal point for Japanese-American Buddhist culture in Oakland for over 80 years; and
- continues to serve as a vital cultural center for Oakland's Japanese-American community by hosting various community events, sponsoring a Japanese language school, providing classes in Japanese cultural arts, sponsoring youth basketball teams, and providing many other programs and forms of support for church members.

And WHEREAS, an Evaluation Sheet for Landmark Eligibility has been prepared for the property in accordance with the Board's Guidelines for Determination of Landmark Eligibility; and

WHEREAS, the Evaluation Sheet shows that the property meets the Guidelines; and

WHEREAS, the Board has reviewed and accepted the Evaluation Sheet, a copy of which is attached; and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that this property merits Landmark designation, protective regulations, and preservation for the enjoyment of future generations;

Now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board hereby initiates, under Section 17.144.030C of the Oakland Planning Code, action to establish as a Landmark the following:

HISTORICAL NAME: Buddhist Church of Oakland  
COMMON NAME: Buddhist Church of Oakland  
ADDRESS: 825 Jackson Street  
DATE BUILT: 1927. Moved 1950.  
ARCHITECT: Gentoku Shimamoto, Oliver Thornton  
ORIGINAL USE: Buddhist church / temple  
PRESENT USE: Same  
PARCEL NUMBER: 001-0179-004 00

And be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That this property shall be preserved generally in all its exterior features as existing on the date hereof or may be modified to restore, replicate, or more closely resemble its original or other historical appearance; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That this action be forwarded to the City Planning Commission for public hearing and consideration;

Approved by the Landmarks Preservation Board,  
Oakland, California: December 17, 2009

ATTEST: Jean Parline, Secretary

# **NOTICE & DIGEST**

**AN ORDINANCE DESIGNATING THE BUDDHIST CHURCH OF OAKLAND AT 825 JACKSON STREET AS A LANDMARK PURSUANT TO SECTION 17.136.070 OF THE OAKLAND PLANNING CODE.**

This Ordinance designates The Buddhist Church of Oakland as a City of Oakland Landmark.