

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN JOSE DESIGNATING 484 EAST SAN FERNANDO STREET (GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH OF SAN JOSE) AS A CITY LANDMARK THAT HAS SPECIAL HISTORICAL, ARCHITECTURAL, CULTURAL, AESTHETIC, OR ENGINEERING INTEREST OR VALUE OF AN HISTORIC NATURE PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 13.48 OF THE SAN JOSE MUNICIPAL CODE**

**FILE NO. HL24-001  
APN: 467-25-099**

**WHEREAS**, Chapter 13.48 of Title 13 of the San José Municipal Code provides for the designation of structures and/or sites of special historical, architectural, cultural, aesthetic or engineering interest or value of a historical nature as landmarks by the City Council of the City of San José (“City Council”); and

**WHEREAS**, San José Municipal Code Section 13.48.110, subsection A, provides that any historic property can be nominated for designation as a City Landmark by the City Council, the Historic Landmarks Commission, or by application of the owner or the authorized agent of the owner of the property for which designation is requested; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council nominated the property for designation as a City Landmark and the Director of Planning, Building, and Code Enforcement initiated the procedure pursuant to San José Municipal Code Section 13.48.110, subsection C, for consideration of such landmark designation for the building located at 484 East San Fernando Street (Grace Baptist Church); and

**WHEREAS**, San José Municipal Code Section 13.48.110, subsection E, provides that before the City Council may designate any property as a landmark, it shall hold at least one public hearing on such proposed designation, and that before it holds said public

hearing, the Director of Planning, Building and Code Enforcement shall schedule a public hearing of said proposed landmark designation before the Historic Landmarks Commission of the City of San José for its consideration and recommendation; and

**WHEREAS**, on August 7, 2024, the Historic Landmarks Commission conducted a public hearing and recommended approval of the designation of 484 East San Fernando Street (Grace Baptist Church), as a landmark that has special historical, architectural, cultural, aesthetic, or engineering interest or value of a historic nature and made certain findings with respect thereto; and

**WHEREAS**, a copy of the City of San José Historic Landmark Nomination File No. HL24-001 upon which such recommendation was made is on file in the Planning Division of the City of San José and available for review at 200 East Santa Clara Street, 3rd Floor, San José, CA, 95113, and on the Department of Planning, Building and Code Enforcement webpage ([www.sanjoseca.gov](http://www.sanjoseca.gov)); and

**WHEREAS**, the Director of Planning, Building and Code Enforcement duly noticed a public hearing on said landmark designation before the City Council for September 24, 2024, or as soon thereafter as said matter could be heard, where the City Council provided all persons a full opportunity to be heard and considered all evidence and testimony presented regarding 484 East San Fernando Street (Grace Baptist Church); and

**WHEREAS**, an assessor's parcel map of 484 East San Fernando Street (Grace Baptist Church) is attached as Exhibit "A" and incorporated by reference;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN JOSE AS FOLLOWS:

**SECTION 1.** The foregoing recitals are hereby incorporated by reference.

**SECTION 2.** In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 13.48 of Title 13 of the San José Municipal Code, the Historic Preservation Ordinance, this Council does hereby designate 484 East San Fernando Street (Grace Baptist Church) as a landmark that has special historic, architectural, cultural, aesthetic, or engineering interest or value of historic nature.

**SECTION 3.** Said designation is based on Criterion 3, Criterion 4, Criterion 6, and Criterion 7 outlined in the Historic Preservation Ordinance:

- **Criterion 3:** *Its identification with a person or persons who significantly contributed to the local, regional, state, or national culture and history.*

*Analysis: Grace Baptist Church is associated with George L. “Shorty” Collins, who served as assistant pastor and college chaplain from 1957 until his retirement in 1986. Shorty Collins worked for peace for more than seventy years and helped found the San José Peace and Justice Center. Shorty Collins was titled, “The Most Peaceful Man in San José” by the Human Relations Committee of Santa Clara County in recognition for his activism.*

- **Criterion 4:** *Its exemplification of the cultural, economic, social, or historic heritage of the city of San José.*

*Analysis: The church has been an integral part of the religious community in San José since its founding in 1913. When the current building was constructed in 1941, Grace significantly expanded its outreach and offered programs and support that made a great difference to the community, aiding migrant families, single parents, seniors, developmentally disabled residents, and more. From the beginning, it offered programs that were open to all races and denominations.*

*Space was leased to the City of San José Recreation Department to provide an area for therapeutic recreation for clients living in local residential care homes. For fifty years, Grace has been a leader in opening its doors the developmentally disabled and mentally ill as well as the homeless population.*

- **Criterion 6:** *Its embodiment of distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type or specimen.*

*Analysis: The main church building is an excellent example of a simplified Gothic Revival style influenced by the Art Deco movement of the 1930s. This is a unique style within the city of San José. St. Patrick's School at 51 North Ninth Street is one of the few examples of large-scale Gothic Revival architecture in the city, but St. Patrick's was begun in 1899, when Gothic Revival architecture was more popular and is of a more classical inclination. The Grace Baptist Church incorporates Gothic Revival features such as buttresses, lancet windows, and pointed arches but simplifies the lines and eliminates the heavy ornamentation of standard Gothic Revival. Inspired by the Art Deco movement, the building's design pays homage to the classic Gothic and Gothic Revival churches while achieving a fresh, modern look with its clean lines.*

- **Criterion 7:** *Its identification as the work of an architect or master builder whose individual work has influenced the development of the City of San José.*

*Analysis: The subject property is the work of the architectural firm of Binder & Curtis, with Ernest Curtis the architect of record. William Binder (1871-1953) and Ernest Curtis (1889-1956) were partners in one of the most successful and prolific architectural firms in San José, having designed much of downtown San José during sixty years of active work that began in 1897. Many of Binder & Curtis's works are recognized today as significant buildings, a great number of them San José City Landmarks or Structures of Merit on the Historic Resources Inventory.*

**SECTION 4.** The City Clerk is hereby directed to notify those persons designated in San José Municipal Code Section 13.48.110, subsection L, in the manner specified by said Section and to direct the recordation of a Notice of Granting of this resolution in the Office of the Recorder of the County of Santa Clara.

ADOPTED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

DISQUALIFIED:

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MATT MAHAN  
Mayor

ATTEST:

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TONI J. TABER, MMC  
City Clerk

**EXHIBIT "A"**  
**ASSESSORS PARCEL MAP**  
**FOR**  
**484 EAST SAN FERNANDO STREET**  
**SAN JOSE, CA 95112**  
**FILE NO. HL24-001**  
**APN: 467-25-099**



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Council Agenda: 09-24-2024  
Item No.: 10.1(b)

**DRAFT – Contact the Office of the City Clerk at (408) 535-1260 or CityClerk@sanjoseca.gov for final document.**