CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION

RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING THAT CITY COUNCIL DESIGNATE AS A CITY LANDMARK FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST 116-120 EAST VALERIO STREET SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA 027-191-012

RESOLUTION 2014-9

NOVEMBER 19, 2014

WHEREAS, Section 22.22.050 of the Municipal Code of the City of Santa Barbara grants the Historic Landmarks Commission the authority to initiate a designation process to recommend to the City Council the designation as a City Landmark of any structure, natural feature, site or area having historic, architectural, archaeological, cultural or aesthetic significance; and

WHEREAS, on October 22, 2014 the Historic Landmarks Commission adopted Resolution of Intention 2014-9 to hold a public hearing to consider a recommendation to City Council for designation of the First Church of Christ, Scientist located at 116-120 East Valerio Street as a City Landmark; and

WHEREAS, the Staff Report concluded that the Church at 116-120 East Valerio Street designed by the noted architect, Henry Gutterson in 1931, with a unique Byzantine style dome with Romanesque style arches and windows, is significant for its historical and architectural influence on the heritage of the City; and

WHEREAS, the building has retained a high level of historical integrity as its location, setting, association, footprint, design, materials, and workmanship have not been diminished by minor alterations and the building conveys its original 1931 appearance; and

WHEREAS, the proposed boundary of the City Landmark designation is limited to the footprint of the Henry Gutterson original designed (1931) church and six feet around the garden side of the church building; and included within this boundary is the decorative cement sidewalk on the garden side of the church building, with no specific flora included in this six foot area; and the designation also includes a) the courtyard fountain in its current location, b) the stepped concrete garden wall along Valerio and Santa Barbara streets and c) the significant mature trees along the garden wall, being character defining elements of the Lockwood de Forest landscape, as per the site plan on page two of the staff report; and

WHEREAS, under the provisions of Article 19, Section 15308 of the California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines and the City List of Activities Determined to Qualify for a Categorical Exemption (City council Resolution Dated November 10, 1998), staff has determined that designation of the First Church of Christ, Scientist as a City Landmark is eligible for a Categorical Exemption; and

WHEREAS, Section 22.22.050 of the Municipal Code of the City of Santa Barbara states that the City Council may designate as a Landmark any structure, natural feature, site or area having historic, architectural, archeological, cultural, or aesthetic significance by adopting a resolution of designation within 90 days following receipt of a recommendation from the Historic Landmarks Commission, and;

WHEREAS, in summary, the Historic Landmarks Commission finds that the First Church of Christ, Scientist at 116-120 East Valerio Street Assessor's Parcel No. 027-191-012, meets the following City Landmark criteria (A through K) listed in section 22.22.040 of the Municipal Code:

A. Its character, interest or value as a significant part of the heritage of the City, the State or the Nation;

D. Its exemplification of a particular architectural style or way of life important to the City, the State, or the Nation;

E. Its exemplification of the best remaining architectural type in a neighborhood;

F. Its identification as the creation, design, or work of a person or persons whose effort significantly influenced the heritage of the City, the State, or the Nation;

G. Its embodiment of elements demonstrating outstanding attention to architectural design, detail, materials and craftsmanship;

I. Its unique location or singular physical characteristic representing an established and familiar visual feature of a neighborhood;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that on November 19, 2014, the Historic Landmarks Commission of the City of Santa Barbara hereby recommends to the City Council that it designate the First Church of Christ, Scientist located at 116-120 East Valerio Street, Assessor's Parcel No. 027-191-012, as a City Landmark and makes findings based on the historic and cultural significance of facts presented in the Staff Report.

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION

Adopted: November 19, 2014

HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION
LANDMARK DESIGNATION
STAFF REPORT

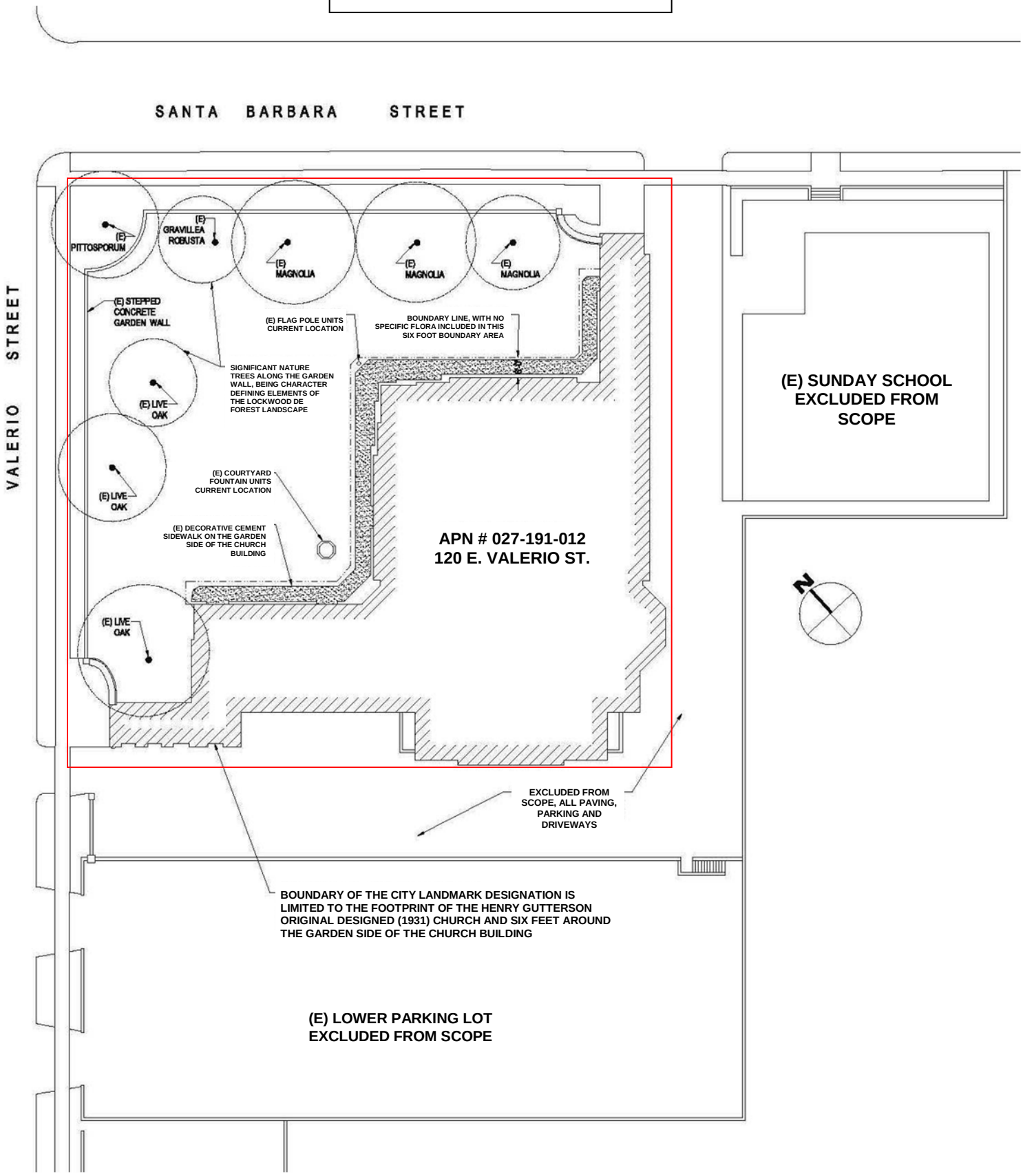
FIRST CHURCH CHRIST, SCIENTIST
116-120 EAST VALERIO STREET
SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA
APN 027-191-012
NOVEMBER 19, 2014

Background:
Constructed in 1931, the First Church of Christ, Scientist, was designed by noted San Francisco architect, Henry Gutterson in the Byzantine and Romanesque styles with Santa Barbara Mediterranean influence seen in the walls of poured concrete over form boards, and red, roof tiles. The form board of the walls recreates wood form board textures out of poured concrete. Construction of the form board work requires particular skill and craftsmanship. The design including the mature magnolia trees along Santa Barbara Street was designed by noted local landscape designer, Lockwood de Forest. The structure has been on the City's Potential Historic Resource list since 1986 as it is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, California Register of Historic Resources, and as a City Landmark for its architectural style, historical significance, and notable architect. It is the opinion of the Historic Landmarks Commission (HLC) Designation Subcommittee that the building is an excellent candidate for City Landmark designation.

The designation of the building as a City Landmark will honor and recognize the importance of the First Church of Christ, Scientist as it will join the elite list of important structures contributing to the City's unique historical and architectural traditions.

The elegant First Church of Christ, Scientist is topped with an octagonal dome covered in red terra cotta tiles.

Site plan illustrating designation boundaries.



Vicinity Map, City of Santa Barbara Mapping Analysis and Printing System, 2013

Historic Context:

Christian Science was introduced in Santa Barbara in 1882 by Mr. John Hiller and Mrs. Julia E. Hiller of Escanaba, Michigan, who came as winter visitors. After the organizing of the church, membership increased as both interest and attendance rose. In 1902, a small church building on State Street was purchased and refurnished. Services were held there until more space was needed in 1906. A 112-by-200-foot lot was purchased at the corner of Micheltorena and Anacapa Streets, facing Alameda Park. In 1910, the church building was moved to this lot and enlarged, doubling the seating capacity. The structure was completely refurnished and a pipe organ installed. The church remained in this location for 22 years.

The arcade to Santa Barbara Street has a rhythm of groin arches that leads to solid wood double doors.

On the day of the 1925 earthquake (June 29, 1925), this church was one of two church edifices in the city left standing. During the reconstruction period, the church members selected and purchased the property at the southwest corner of Valerio and Santa Barbara Streets to erect a new, larger church. In early 1930, the building committee began clearing the lot. As the Depression was at its height, local banks were not forthcoming with loans large enough to cover the cost of building. Church member Mrs. Lora J. Knight offered a generous sum to meet the need. A further motive for building came from the fact that employment was especially needed in the town. Construction took about two years.

The elongate Romanesque style windows are set deep behind three elongated arches. The gable is adorned with a band of corbelling.

Architectural Style:

The gabled arcade projecting to Valerio Street.

The massing of the building steps up to the octagonal drum.

The church was designed in the Byzantine style with some Romanesque detailing. Byzantine architecture is the architecture that originated in the Byzantine Empire, also known as the Later Roman or Eastern Roman Empire. This terminology is used by modern historians to designate a distinct artistic and cultural entity centered on the new capital of Constantinople rather than the city of Rome and the Western Roman traditions. The Eastern Roman Empire endured for more than a millennium, dramatically influencing Medieval architecture throughout Eastern Europe and the Near East. Stylistic drift, technological advancement, political and territorial changes meant that a distinct style gradually resulted in Eastern Europe adopting the Greek, square, cross plan in church architecture. As seen in First Church of Christ, Scientist, complex domes rested upon massive piers, and windows filtered light through stained glass to softly illuminate interiors. Architect Henry Gutterson incorporated smooth poured concrete walls and a red clay tile roof into the design to suit Santa Barbara's Spanish Colonial Revival and Mediterranean identity. This deviates from the patterned brick and rusticated finishes of traditional Byzantine architecture. The massing of the church steps up toward the octagonal drum at the center with its bell-shaped dome. The centrally planned church draws predominantly from Early Christian design elements. At First Church of Christ, Scientist, Santa Barbara the central dome is impressed through four gabled extensions. A narrow band of corbelling adorns the flush eaves of the drum and the gable ends of the main wing. Two gabled roof arcades project from the Valerio Street and Santa Barbara Street elevations. The arcade openings are divided by clustered columns. The use of the Byzantine style soaring central dome became associated with the Church of Christ, Scientist at the Mother church extension in Boston that was constructed in 1904.

Romanesque architecture is an architectural style of medieval Europe characterized by semi-circular elongated arches. The Romanesque elements of the church are the elongated arches and arched windows of the three of the gabled elevations.

Architect
Henry Gutterson (1884-1954)
The career of San Francisco architect Henry Gutterson spans the first half of the 20th Century. He graduated from the School of Architecture at the University of California Berkeley in 1905, he attended the Ecole De Beaux Arts in Paris from 1906 to 1909, then opened his own practice in 1914 in San Francisco. Gutterson's work closely relates to the Beaux-Arts, Bay Area Arts and Crafts and Academic Eclecticism. Gutterson's major works includes duplexes, cottages and houses in the San Francisco Bay Area. Gutterson was a practicing Christian Scientist which likely led to his commissions of a number of buildings at Principia College, a college for Christian Scientists in Illinois, the Christian Science Benevolent Society, Arden Wood in San Francisco, the Ninth Church of Christ, Scientist in San Francisco, First Church of Christ, Scientist in Berkeley, and the First Church of Christ, Scientist in Santa Barbara. When designing the Santa Barbara church it was noted that Gutterson asked, "What shall the building express?" The answer provided to him was "loveliness, beauty, hospitality, affluence, strength, light, joy, substance and healing."

The massing of the building steps up to the octagonal drum is accentuated with the sharp contrast of the white poured concrete walls against the diverse red clay tile roofs.

Gutterson taught briefly at the University of California from 1910 to 1911 and from 1920 to 1921. He was active in civic planning and was a member of the Berkeley Planning Commission and the co-founder and president of the Berkeley Planning and Housing Association. From 1927 to 1930, he served as president of the Sierra Nevada chapter of the AIA.

Landscape Architect:
Lockwood de Forest, Jr.
The original landscape of First Church of Christ, Scientist was designed by Lockwood de Forest. Although, the landscape has had some alterations of plants from the original plan, the large trees along the streetscape, the fountain and the decorative sidewalk along the church building remain. Lockwood de Forest, Jr. (1896-1949) was a major figure in Santa Barbara landscape design for almost thirty years, from 1920 to 1949. He was a prolific designer; a catalog of his works in the Berkeley Environmental Design Documents

The landscape seen through the trees that line Santa Barbara Street.

Collection lists 270 clients. He designed many private gardens, but he also produced for civic clients such as the Lobero Theater, the Santa Barbara Mission, the Santa Barbara Natural History Museum, the Santa Barbara Botanic Gardens, Thacher School, Cate School, La Cumbre Country Club and the First Church of Christ, Scientist. Born in New York City, de Forest, Jr.'s family moved to Santa Barbara permanently in 1915. De Forest, Jr. started his own landscape business in Santa Barbara in the early 1920s after working for Ralph Stevens, an established landscape architect in Santa Barbara. He was almost immediately successful for his services among Santa Barbara, Montecito and Southern California estate owners. He was known for employing the colors and textures of a property's natural surroundings as a principal organizing tool for his landscape projects.

Lockwood de Forest was chosen to design the landscape of the First Church of Christ, Scientist. Landscape architecture in the 1930s was undergoing a transformation towards simplicity spurred by the Depression. Landscape designs had to be simple, low maintenance and inexpensive. There were many mature trees already on the lot including the large oak off of Valerio Street. The magnolias that line Santa Barbara Street were a gift to the church later after the original landscape design. Two sisters, Mrs. Ella G. Reeve and Mrs. Mary G. Hutchinson, gave the fountain located in the center courtyard. Due to efforts to increase the amount of drought tolerant landscaping, some the plants and grass originally planted have been replaced over time.

That landscaping framed by the Magnolia Tree from Santa Barbara Street.

Significance:
The City of Santa Barbara defines historic significance as outlined by the Municipal Code, Section 22.22.040. Any historic building that meets one or more of the eleven criteria (Criteria A through K) established for a City Landmark or a City Structure of Merit can be considered significant. The First Church of Christ, Scientist meets the following six criteria:

Criterion A: its character, interest or value as a significant part of the heritage of the City, the State or the Nation;

Because the 1931, First Church of Christ, Scientist, represents an example of the work of noted San Francisco architect, Henry Gutterson and is one of the few buildings in Santa Barbara that incorporated the Byzantine and Romanesque styles with the Mediterranean influence, the building's character is a significant part of the heritage of Santa Barbara. In addition, the landscape designed by noted local landscape designer, Lockwood de Forest with the large magnolia trees lining Santa Barbara Street contributes to the character that is a significant part of the heritage of Santa Barbara.

North elevation of the church showing the many roof forms that make up the design.

Criterion D: its exemplification of a particular architectural style or way of life important to the City, the State, or the Nation;

The building is an exemplification of the Byzantine and Romanesque style with Mediterranean influences. With its central Byzantine dome, elongated Romanesque windows and arches with Mediterranean influences of the smooth poured concrete walls over form boards, red tile roof and arched arcades, the building is important to the City as it is one of the only buildings in the city of this style and it is important to the development of Santa Barbara's architectural repertoire.

Arcade of north elevation featuring subtle details of the cluster columns and arches.

Criterion E: Its exemplification of the best remaining architectural type in a neighborhood.

Because the First Church of Christ, Scientist is one of the only buildings in Santa Barbara that incorporates the Byzantine and Romanesque styles with Mediterranean influences, it is the best remaining architectural type in the neighborhood.

Criterion F: its identification as the creation, design, or work of a person or persons whose effort significantly influenced the heritage of the City, the State, or the Nation;

The building represents an example of the work of Henry Gutterson, one of the leading architects of San Francisco and California in the first half of the 20th century. He designed numerous buildings in the San Francisco Bay Area. The First Church of Christ, Scientist is an exemplary example of the work of Henry Gutterson, whose work has

Simple leaded glass windows along the arcade.

significantly influenced the heritage of Santa Barbara and California. In addition, the landscape is the design of noted local landscape designer Lockwood de Forest whose designs throughout Santa Barbara have contributed to the heritage of the City.

Criterion G. Its embodiment of elements demonstrating outstanding attention to architectural design, detail, materials and craftsmanship;

The building embodies not only outstanding attention to design, but extreme attention to detail, materials and craftsmanship in the intricate stained glass windows and wood doors, that qualify this building as a City Landmark.

The stained glass windows behind the arches are intricately, delicately detailed.

Criterion I, Its unique location or singular physical characteristic representing an establish and familiar visual feature of a neighborhood;

The domed church with its extending arcades on Santa Barbara and Valerio Streets has been an established and familiar visual feature of downtown Santa Barbara since 1931.

Historic Integrity:

Integrity is the ability to convey its original appearance. There are essential physical features that must be considered to evaluate the integrity. The church retains its character-defining features, including the intricate windows, dominate dome ceiling, elegant arches and arcades and simply designed solid wood doors are original and remain intact. Since 1931, the building has retained its integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association so that the building can still convey its appearance of 1931.The landscape of the courtyard on the corner of Santa Barbara and Valerio Streets retains the Magnolia and mature trees along the garden edge, the courtyard fountain and decorative sidewalk of the Lockwood de Forest design.

The solid wood doors at the end of the Santa Barbara St. arcade have simple carved panels contrasted by the intricate hardware of the door handles.

Recommendation:

Staff Recommends that the HLC adopt a resolution to recommend to City Council that the First Church of Christ, Scientist be designated as a City Landmark. the proposed boundary of the City Landmark designation is limited to the footprint of the Henry Gutterson original designed (1931) church and six feet around the garden side of the church building; and included within this boundary is the decorative cement sidewalk on the garden side of the church building, with no specific flora included in this six foot area; and the designation

also includes a) the courtyard fountain in its current location, b) the stepped concrete garden wall along Valerio and Santa Barbara Streets and c) the significant mature trees along the garden wall, being character defining elements of the Lockwood de Forest landscape, as per the site plan on page two of the staff report

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