



**CITY OF SANTA BARBARA  
HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION**

**RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING THAT CITY COUNCIL  
DESIGNATE AS A CITY LANDMARK  
THE UNITARIAN CHURCH AT  
1535 SANTA BARBARA STREET, SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA  
APN 027-241-026 (FORMERLY KNOWN AS APN 027-241-005)**

**RESOLUTION 2014-3  
MARCH 12, 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 February 12, 2014, the Historic Landmarks Commission adopted Resolution of Intention 2014-3 to hold a public hearing to consider a recommendation to City Council for designation of the Unitarian Church located at 1535 Santa Barbara Street as a City Landmark; and

WHEREAS, the Historic Structure Report accepted on August 22, 2007, by the Historic Landmarks Commission has determined that the property listed in the title of this document qualifies for historic designation under City of Santa Barbara Master Environmental Assessment (MEA) criteria; and

WHEREAS, the Historic Structure Report of 2007 found the church at 1535 Santa Barbara Street designed by the noted architect E. Keith Lockard in the Spanish Colonial Revival style is significant for its historical and architectural influence on the heritage of the City; and

WHEREAS, the proposed boundary of the City Landmark designation is 5 feet around the 1930 church and courtyard and excludes the 1957 building and portion of the parcel as noted on map on page 2 of 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 Unitarian Church 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 Unitarian Church located at 1535 Santa Barbara Street, Assessor's Parcel No. 027-241-026 (formerly 027-241-005), 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;
- 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 March 12, 2014, the Historic Landmarks Commission of the City of Santa Barbara hereby recommends to the City Council that it designate the Unitarian Church located at 1535 Santa Barbara Street, Assessor's Parcel No. 027-241-026 (formerly 027-241-005) 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:**

**HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION  
LANDMARK DESIGNATION  
STAFF REPORT**

**UNITARIAN CHURCH  
1535 SANTA BARBARA STREET)  
SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA  
APN 027-241-026 (FORMERLY 027-241-005)  
MARCH 12, 2014**

**Background:**

The 1930, Spanish Colonial Revival style, Unitarian Church building was designed by noted Santa Barbara architect E. Keith Lockard. The property was placed on the Potential Historic Resources List in 1978. The Church embodies character defining features of the Spanish Colonial Revival style with its ornate bell tower, red clay tile roof, deeply recessed, wood windows, and smooth stucco walls and courtyard surrounded by low stucco walls. The property includes not only the 1930s designed Church, but a Junior Church adjacent to it that was



*Above: View from the northern elevation of the Unitarian Church from the corner of Santa Barbara and East Arrellaga St., December 2013.*

constructed in 1957. Although compatible with the original 1930 church, the 1957 building it is not historically or architecturally significant and is excluded from the boundaries of the City Landmark designation. The proposed boundary of the City Landmark designation includes the Lockard designed 1930 church building and courtyard including the scalloped, stucco walls as per map on page 2. In 2007, a Historic Structures Report was accepted by the HLC, and determined that the church qualifies for listing on the California Register of Historic Places and for designation as a City Landmark under City of Santa Barbara Master Environmental Assessment criteria. Because the Church meets the City Landmark eligibility criteria for its architectural style, historical significance, and notable architect, it is the opinion of the Historic Landmarks Commission Designation Subcommittee that the building is an excellent candidate for City Landmark designation.



## Historic Context:

The Unitarian Society originated in Santa Barbara in 1876, when the Reverend George H. Young came from the East to become the first minister of the Santa Barbara congregation. The Unitarian Society's first stone Church on State Street was destroyed in the 1925 earthquake. After five years of fundraising, the church was able to hire the noted architect E. Keith Lockard to design the new Church in the Spanish Colonial Revival style. When the earthquake of 1925 occurred, the Santa Barbara Community Arts Association viewed the disaster as an opportunity to rebuild the downtown in definitive styles of the Spanish Colonial Revival, Mediterranean and Mission styles that reflect the unique heritage of the City. Many architects, later notable for their use of this style created commercial facades and whole new buildings in a variety of the style. In 1932, the Community Arts Association; Plans and Planting Committee awarded the Unitarian Church its first award for a distinctive example of civic architecture.

Many talented craftsmen were hired to create the intricate details of the building. For example, Los Manos Iron Works created the wrought iron details and stone contractor, G. Antolinio, cut and set the stone arch at the front entry. Von Walt-Hansen Studio created all of the art stone and cast concrete decorations, while Mary Wesselhoeft created and fabricated the rose window over the entrance on the east facade. Wesselhoeft created the window with hundreds of pieces of colored glass which were designed to harmonize with the cream walls of the church, the red of the cushions and floor tiles, the dark oak woodwork, and the touches of gilt in the furnishings. The fact that she was a woman artist was underscored in a newspaper article.



*Above: The east elevation of the 1930 Church with intricate rose window and stone arch over wood doors, December 2013.*



*Above: The east elevation of the Junior Church constructed in 1957, December 2013.*

By the 1950's, the Sunday school had outgrown its accommodations in the Annex, and the congregation raised funds to build a junior building for the Sunday School classes in 1957. This building was designed by architects Howell, Arendt, Mosher and Grant, with the contractor being Edward Bates. The 1957 building had stucco walls and a red tile roof to harmonize with the existing building and streetscape.

**Spanish Colonial Revival Style:**

The church embodies a Spanish Colonial Revival style of architecture. The Church is L-shaped with a dominant tower set into the corner of the L. The sanctuary is located in the east wing and the parish hall in the north wing. Character defining features of the church include the paired wood plank doors surrounded by a large stone arch in the gabled front façade, a round stained glass window in cast stone grilles set in a quatrefoil surround, as well as the red tile roof, deeply recessed windows, and smooth stucco walls. Another prominent feature is the Church's impressive bell tower, with its octagonal open belfry with wrought iron decorative railings, cast stone scrolled volutes, blind arches, and a ridged dome. The L-shaped building



*Above: East elevation of the belfry, December 2013*

forms a backdrop for the original courtyard with a fountain on the northeast corner of the property.

This building is an excellent example of the Spanish Colonial Revival style, which became an important part of Santa Barbara's heritage in the early 1920s, when the City deliberately transformed its architecture and look from an ordinary western style town into a romantic Spanish Colonial Revival city. This transformation was the result of the planning vision of a number of Santa Barbara citizens in the early 1920s with the founding of the Santa Barbara Community Arts Association, who urged that the town identify its individual character and then use planning principles to develop it.

**Architect:**

**E. Keith Lockard** was born in 1892 in Santa Ynez. Lockard graduated from Santa Barbara High School, attended Occidental College for a year, and graduated from the University of California at Berkeley in 1916 with a degree in architecture and engineering. For six years he was a draftsman in the offices of various Santa Barbara



*Above: The courtyard and fountain from the north elevation, December 2013.*

architects before joining with Roland Sauter in 1922. Together, the two men were major practitioners of the Spanish Colonial Revival style in the 1920s and were chosen by the Community Arts Association; Plans and Planting Committee to design the new City Hall on De la Guerra plaza in 1923. After the 1925 earthquake, Lockard and Sauter's firm rebuilt several of the downtown State Street buildings in the Spanish Colonial Revival style, including the Fithian Building at 629 State Street and the Neal Hotel, adjacent to the Southern Pacific Train Depot on lower State Street. Lockard made a significant contribution to the architectural heritage of Santa Barbara and his legacy lies in contributing to the Spanish Colonial Style character of the City.

**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. Unitarian Church 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;***

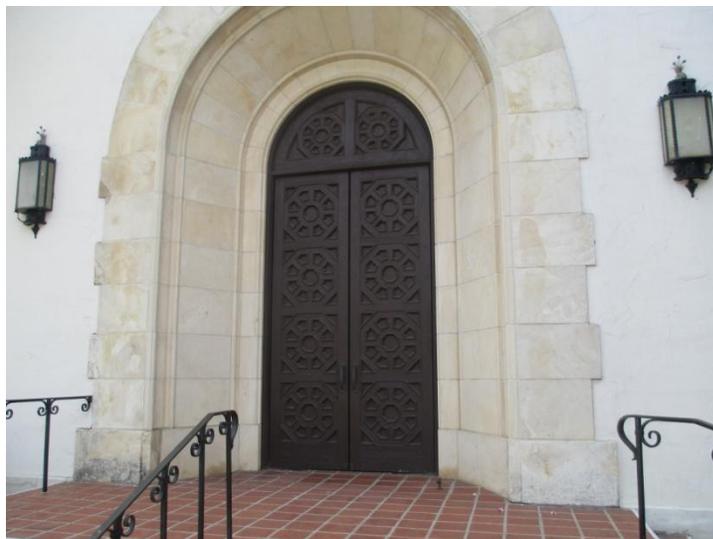
This building is an excellent example of the Spanish Colonial Revival style, which became an important part of Santa Barbara's heritage in the early 1920s, when the City deliberately transformed its architecture and look from an ordinary western style town into a romantic Spanish Colonial Revival city. This transformation was the result of the planning vision of a number of Santa Barbara citizens in the early 1920s with the founding of the Santa Barbara Community Arts Association, who urged that the town identify its individual character and then use planning principles to develop it. As an original 1930's, Spanish Colonial Revival structure, it qualifies as a City Landmark because it is a significant part of the heritage of the City.

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

The building embodies distinguishing characteristics of the Spanish Colonial Revival style that is an important architectural style of Santa Barbara. Its smooth stucco walls, deeply recessed wood windows, red clay tile roof, and unique bell tower are character defining features of the buildings Spanish Colonial Revival style. Between 1922 and 1925, several major cultural buildings within the downtown core, were built using the architectural motif of the City's Colonial and Mexican past. As a result, when the earthquake occurred in 1925, the Community Arts Association viewed the disaster as an opportunity to rebuild the downtown in Spanish Colonial Revival/Mediterranean/Mission styles that reflect the heritage of the city.

***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 is significant as the work of architect E. Keith Lockard, who with his partner Roland F. Sauter, was a major practitioner of the Spanish Colonial Revival style in the 1920's. Lockard and Sauter helped design the Santa Barbara City Hall and Santa Barbara High school in the



***Above: The intricate carved wooden doors and stone surround of the east elevation, December 2013.***

early 1920's and went on to help design the rebuilding of several downtown State Street buildings affected after the 1925 earthquake in the Spanish Colonial Revival style. His work is significantly influential to the heritage of the City as he used the Spanish Colonial Revival style to transform the architectural style of the downtown area.

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

The Unitarian Church demonstrates outstanding attention to architectural design, detail, materials, and craftsmanship. The hand cut stone archway, wrought iron details, intricately carved wood door, and intricately detailed windows are a few examples of the outstanding attention to detail, materials, and craftsmanship that the church embodies that qualify it as a City Landmark.



*Above: The intricate rose window of the front façade, December 2013.*

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

The intricate belfry rising over the corner of Santa Barbara and East Arrellaga Streets has been an established and familiar visual feature of the neighborhood since 1930.

***Historic Integrity:***

Integrity is the ability of a property to convey its original appearance. There are essential physical features that must be considered to evaluate the integrity of a significant building. Since 1930, its location, setting, association and feeling have not changed. The original design, materials, and workmanship have been retained so that the building conveys its original 1930 appearance. Thus, the building has retained a high level of historical integrity.

***Recommendation:***

Staff Recommends that the HLC adopt a resolution to recommend to City Council that the Unitarian Church be designated as a City Landmark. Staff recommends the proposed boundary of the City Landmark designation be five feet around the 1930 Spanish Colonial Revival structure and courtyard as delineated on map on page 2.

**Works Cited:**

Preservation Planning Associates, *Historic Structure Report for the Unitarian Society, 1535 Santa Barbara Street, August 2007*. City of Santa Barbara Planning Division Files, 630 Garden Street.