

**CITY OF SEATTLE**  
**ORDINANCE** 126303  
COUNCIL BILL 120021

AN ORDINANCE relating to historic preservation; imposing controls upon the Swedish Club, a landmark designated by the Landmarks Preservation Board under Chapter 25.12 of the Seattle Municipal Code, and adding it to the Table of Historical Landmarks contained in Chapter 25.32 of the Seattle Municipal Code.

WHEREAS, the Landmarks Preservation Ordinance, Chapter 25.12 of the Seattle Municipal Code (SMC), establishes a procedure for the designation and preservation of sites, improvements, and objects having historical, cultural, architectural, engineering, or geographic significance; and

WHEREAS, the Landmarks Preservation Board (“Board”), after a public meeting on March 4, 2020, voted to approve the nomination of the improvement located at 1920 Dexter Avenue N and the site on which the improvement is located (which are collectively referred to as the “Swedish Club”) for designation as a landmark under SMC Chapter 25.12; and

WHEREAS, after a public meeting on September 2, 2020, the Board voted to approve the designation of the Swedish Club under SMC Chapter 25.12; and

WHEREAS, on December 16, 2020, the Swedish Club’s owner agreed to controls and incentives to be applied to specific features or characteristics of the designated landmark; and

WHEREAS, the City Historic Preservation Officer recommended that the City Council enact a designating ordinance approving the controls and incentives; NOW, THEREFORE,

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:**

Section 1. Designation. Under Seattle Municipal Code (SMC) 25.12.660, the designation by the Landmarks Preservation Board (“Board”) of the improvement located at 1920 Dexter

1 Avenue N and the site on which the improvement is located (which are collectively referred to as  
2 the “Swedish Club”) is acknowledged.

3 A. Legal Description. The Swedish Club is located on the property legally described as:

4 LOTS 13 THROUGH 17, BLOCK 4, WESTLAKE BOULEVARD ADDITION TO THE  
5 CITY OF SEATTLE, ACCODING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN  
6 VOLUME 11 OF PLATS, PAGE 69, RECORDS OF KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON;  
7 EXCEPT THAT PORTION CONDEMNED IN KING COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT  
8 CAUSE NO. 17628 FOR WIDENING OF DEXTER AVENUE NORTH; AND  
9 EXCEPT THAT PORTION CONVEYED TO THE CITY OF SEATTLE UNDER  
10 RECORDING NO. 4994727, TOGETHER WITH THOSE PORTIONS OF VACATED  
11 ALLEYS IN SAID BLOCK FOUR WHICH ATTACHED TO SAID PREMISES BY  
12 OPERATION OF LAW.

13 B. Specific Features or Characteristics Designated. Under SMC 25.12.660.A.2, the Board  
14 designated the following specific features or characteristics of the Swedish Club:

15 1. The site defined by lots 13-17 together with the vacated alleys to the south and  
16 east.

17 2. The exterior of the building.

18 3. A portion of the interior including the 2-story lobby, open stair, and  
19 landing/hallway at the top.

20 C. Basis of Designation. The designation was made because the Swedish Club is more  
21 than 25 years old; has significant character, interest, or value as a part of the development,  
22 heritage, or cultural characteristics of the City, state, or nation; has integrity or the ability to  
23 convey its significance; and satisfies the following SMC 25.12.350 provisions:

24 1. It is associated in a significant way with a significant aspect of the cultural,  
25 political, or economic heritage of the community, City, state, or nation (SMC 25.12.350.C).

26 2. It embodies the distinctive visible characteristics of an architectural style, or  
27 period, or of a method of construction (SMC 25.12.350.D).

1                   3. Because of its prominence of spatial location, contrasts of siting, age, or scale,  
2 it is an easily identifiable visual feature of its neighborhood or the City and contributes to the  
3 distinctive quality or identity of such neighborhood or the City (SMC 25.12.350.F).

4                   Section 2. Controls. The following controls are imposed on the features or characteristics  
5 of the Swedish Club that were designated by the Board for preservation:

6                   A. Certificate of Approval Process.

7                   1. Except as provided in subsection 2.A.2 or subsection 2.B of this ordinance, the  
8 owner must obtain a Certificate of Approval issued by the Board according to SMC Chapter  
9 25.12, or the time for denying a Certificate of Approval must have expired, before the owner  
10 may make alterations or significant changes to the features or characteristics of the Swedish Club  
11 that were designated by the Board for preservation.

12                   2. No Certificate of Approval is required for the following:

13                   a. Any in-kind maintenance or repairs of the features or characteristics of  
14 the Swedish Club that were designated by the Board for preservation.

15                   b. Removal of trees less than 6 inches in diameter measured 4-1/2 feet  
16 above ground.

17                   c. Removal or replacement, or both, of shrubs, perennials, and annuals in  
18 existing locations.

19                   d. Installation, removal, or alteration (including repair) of underground  
20 irrigation and underground utilities, provided that the site is restored in kind.

21                   e. Installation, removal, or alteration of the following site furnishings:  
22 benches, chairs, tables, swings, movable planters, and trash/recycling receptacles.

1 f. Installation or removal of interior, temporary window shading devices  
2 that are operable and do not obscure the glazing when in the open position.

3 g. Repaving and restriping of the existing asphalt driveways on the east  
4 and south sides of the building.

5 h. Installation, removal, or alteration of curbs, bollards, or wheelstops at  
6 the existing asphalt driveways on the east and south sides of the building.

7 i. Installation or removal of interior artwork on the gypsum wall and  
8 ceiling surfaces.

9 B. City Historic Preservation Officer (CHPO) Approval Process.

10 1. The CHPO may review and approve alterations or significant changes to the  
11 features or characteristics listed in subsection 2.B.3 of this ordinance according to the following  
12 procedure:

13 a. The owner shall submit to the CHPO a written request for the alterations  
14 or significant changes, including applicable drawings or specifications.

15 b. If the CHPO, upon examination of submitted plans and specifications,  
16 determines that the alterations or significant changes are consistent with the purposes of SMC  
17 Chapter 25.12, the CHPO shall approve the alterations or significant changes without further  
18 action by the Board.

19 2. If the CHPO does not approve the alterations or significant changes, the owner  
20 may submit revised materials to the CHPO, or apply to the Board for a Certificate of Approval  
21 under SMC Chapter 25.12. The CHPO shall transmit a written decision on the owner's request to  
22 the owner within 14 days of receipt of the request. Failure of the CHPO to timely transmit a  
23 written decision constitutes approval of the request.

1                   3. CHPO approval of alterations or significant changes to the features or  
2 characteristics of the Swedish Club that were designated by the Board for preservation is  
3 available for the following:

4                   a. The installation, removal, or alteration of ducts, conduits, HVAC vents,  
5 grills, pipes, panels, weatherheads, wiring, meters, utility connections, downspouts and gutters,  
6 or other similar mechanical, electrical, and telecommunication elements necessary for the normal  
7 operation of the building or site.

8                   b. Installation, removal, or alteration of exterior light fixtures, exterior  
9 security lighting, and security system equipment.

10                  c. Removal of trees more than 6 inches in diameter measured 4-1/2 feet  
11 above ground, identified as a hazard by an International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Certified  
12 Arborist.

13                  d. Installation, removal, or alteration of exterior building and site signage.

14                  e. Installation of improvements for safety or accessibility compliance.

15                  f. Installation, removal, or alteration of fire and life safety equipment.

16                  g. Changes to exterior paint colors when painting a previously painted  
17 material.

18                  h. Replacement of non-original windows and doors when located in  
19 original openings.

20                  i. Change from obscure glass to clear glass, in north-facing clerestory  
21 window sashes, at the first floor offices in the northwest corner of the building.

22                  j. Alterations to the designated interior features.

1 k. Emergency repairs or measures (including immediate action to secure  
2 the area, install temporary equipment, and employ stabilization methods as necessary to protect  
3 the public’s safety, health, and welfare) to address hazardous conditions with adverse impacts to  
4 the buildings or site as related to a seismic or other unforeseen event. Following such an  
5 emergency, the owner shall adhere to the following:

6 1) The owner shall immediately notify the City Historic  
7 Preservation Officer and document the conditions and actions the owner took.

8 2) If temporary structural supports are necessary, the owner shall  
9 make all reasonable efforts to prevent further damage to historic resources.

10 3) The owner shall not remove historic building materials from the  
11 site as part of the emergency response.

12 4) In consultation with the City Historic Preservation Officer and  
13 staff, the owner shall adopt and implement a long-term plan to address any damage through  
14 appropriate solutions.

15 Section 3. Incentives. The following incentives are granted on the features or  
16 characteristics of the Swedish Club that were designated by the Board for preservation:

17 A. Uses not otherwise permitted in a zone may be authorized in a designated landmark by  
18 means of an administrative conditional use permit issued under SMC Title 23.

19 B. Exceptions to certain of the requirements of the Seattle Building Code, adopted by  
20 SMC Chapter 22.100, and the Seattle Energy Code, adopted by SMC Chapter 22.700, may be  
21 authorized according to the applicable provisions.

22 C. Special tax valuation for historic preservation may be available under chapter 84.26  
23 RCW upon application and compliance with the requirements of that statute.

1           D. Reduction or waiver, under certain conditions, of minimum accessory off-street  
2 parking requirements for uses permitted in a designated landmark structure may be permitted  
3 under SMC Title 23.

4           Section 4. Enforcement of this ordinance and penalties for its violation are as provided in  
5 SMC 25.12.910.

6           Section 5. The Swedish Club is added alphabetically to Section II, Buildings, of the Table  
7 of Historical Landmarks contained in SMC Chapter 25.32.

8           Section 6. The City Clerk is directed to record a certified copy of this ordinance with the  
9 King County Recorder’s Office, deliver two certified copies to the CHPO, and deliver one copy  
10 to the Director of the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections. The CHPO is directed  
11 to provide a certified copy of this ordinance to the Swedish Club’s owner.

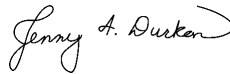
1 Section 7. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force 30 days after its approval by  
2 the Mayor, but if not approved and returned by the Mayor within ten days after presentation, it  
3 shall take effect as provided by Seattle Municipal Code Section 1.04.020.

4 Passed by the City Council the 29th day of \_\_\_\_\_ March, 2021,  
5 and signed by me in open session in authentication of its passage this 29th day of  
6 \_\_\_\_\_ March, 2021.

7 

8 President \_\_\_\_\_ of the City Council

9  Approved /  returned unsigned /  vetoed  
10 this 2nd day of April, 2021.

11 

12 Jenny A. Durkan, Mayor

13 Filed by me this 2nd day of April, 2021.

14 

15 Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk

16 (Seal)