**File No.** [**201299**](http://sfgov.legistar.com/gateway.aspx?m=l&id=36735) **–** **Initiating Landmark Designation for Ingleside Terraces Sundial and Sundial Park** 12/7/20

Dear Supervisors:

The Ingleside Terraces sundial and park deserve landmark status.

The sundial and park were built in 1913, soon after the opening of Ingleside Terraces.  If you google "Ingleside Terraces sundial", there are hundreds of webpages and images online.  My website has several pages about the sundial, starting at <https://www.sfog.us/solar/sfsundials.htm>

DESCRIPTION

The sundial and its park have a beautiful layout.  The 28 foot long gnomon is parallel to the earth's axis and points to the [geographic north](https://www.sfog.us/solar/sundial_north.htm) and also to the North Star. (This is true of all horizontal sundials in the northern hemisphere, but it is much easier to appreciate when you stand near this 17 foot high gnomon).  The Ingleside Terraces sundial is surrounded by a unique compass rose design with four hearts and the apex of each heart pointing in the cardinal directions, north, south, east, or west; and four classical columns in the ordinal directions, northeast, southeast, southwest, and northwest.  These are best seen in the aerial views on my webpage.

ACCURACY

The Ingleside Terraces sundial is not a garden ornament; it is a precise astronomical instrument. The dial has a diameter of 34 feet and a circumference of over 100 feet.  Sun time on this dial can be read within an accuracy of two minutes, which is the limit of accuracy for a sundial.  This is easier to do in the middle of a sunny day.  Make use of the 15 minute marks in the outer edge of the concrete. This sundial is not the world's largest, but it is as accurate as larger sundials.

EQUATION OF TIME TABLE

I have put together a table that shows the number of minutes that must be added to or subtracted from sundial time on different dates in order to get local clock time, and I have asked the homeowners association to put a plaque with this information on or near the sundial, to replace a plaque that was originally present, but has been missing, possibly since the 1930's.  The plaque was located on the north side of the gnomon, as can be seen in historic photos from the San Francisco Public Library and on my webpage <https://www.sfog.us/homes/Sundial.htm>

I would be happy to answer any questions about the sundial.

Robert Karis

