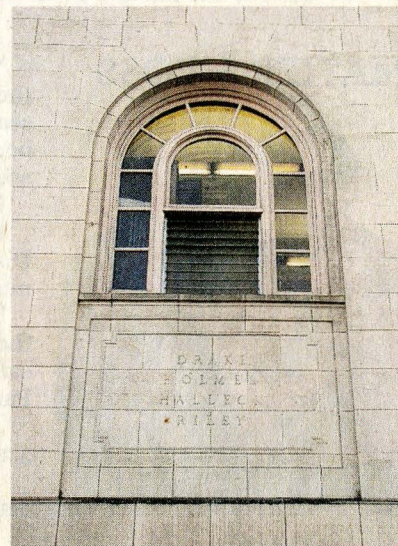
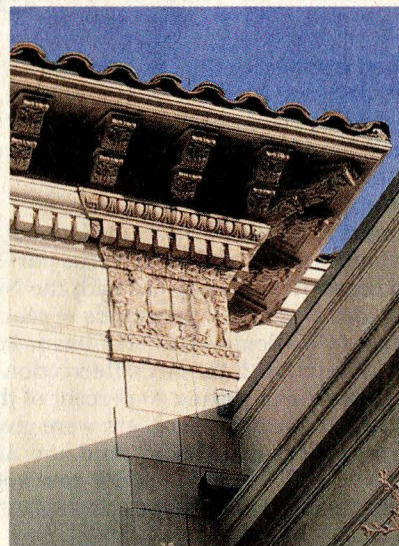
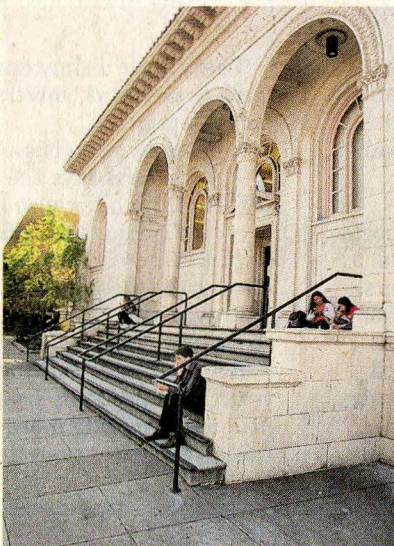


BAY AREA

CITYSCAPE *By John King*

A stately temple that's open to all

No building type proclaims the goal of social equality like a public library, open to all citizens for purposes ranging from edification to guilty fun. And the aura of civic aspiration is particularly strong in the early 20th century libraries funded nationwide by steel tycoon Andrew Carnegie. San Francisco has eight libraries built in part by a 1901 gift from Carnegie of \$750,000. The Sunset branch was the fifth, a vision of Classical order that remains potent, even if some of the “great writers” inscribed on the outer walls now draw a blank.



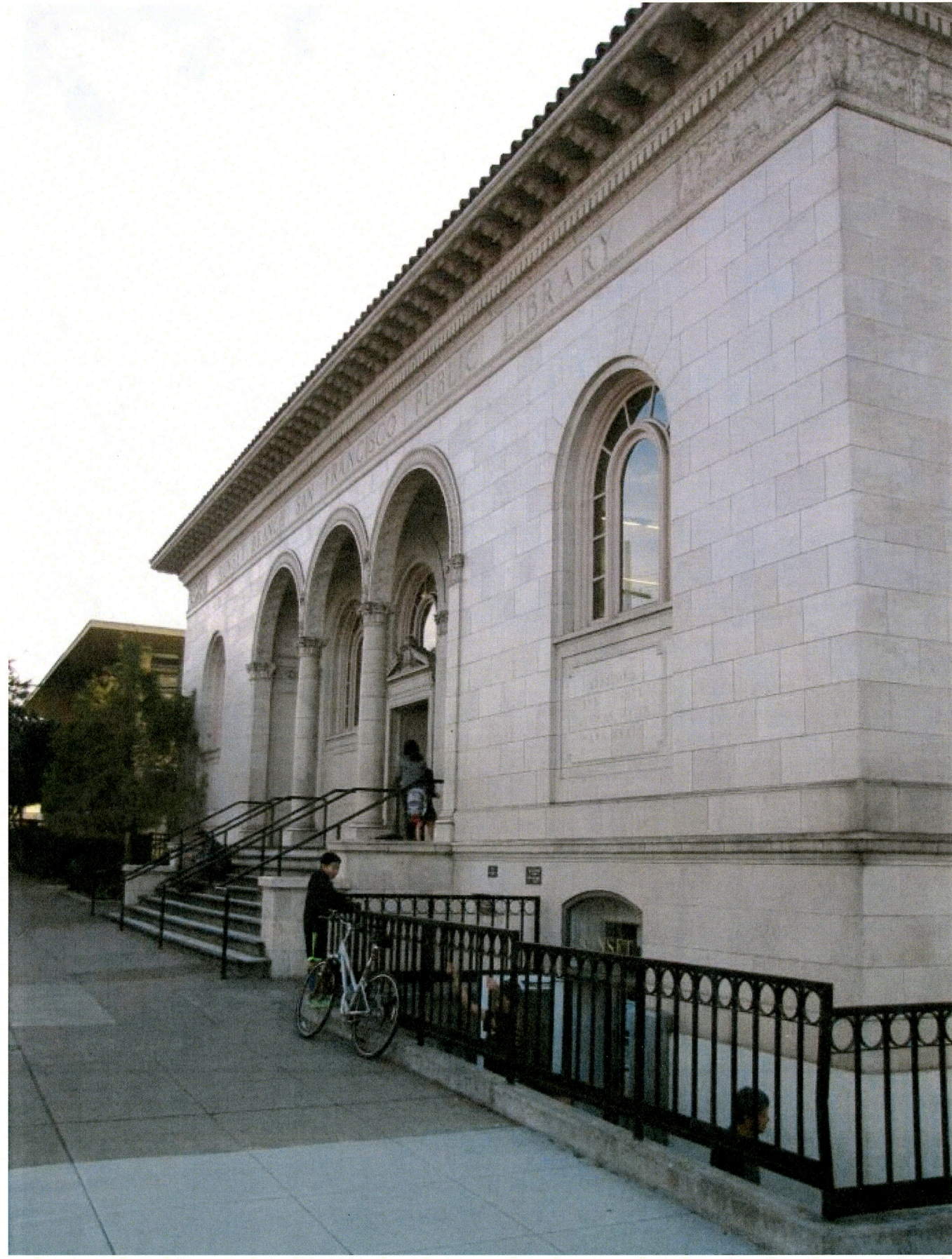
Photos by John King / The Chronicle

Sunset branch library 1305 18th Ave. | **Architect:** G. Albert Lansburgh
Style: Classical | **Size:** 1 story plus basement | **Date built:** 1918

Cityscape is a weekly look at a distinct slice of San Francisco, words and photos courtesy jking@sfnchronicle.com.









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