



Historic Resources Board

Staff Report (ID # 7903)

Report Type:	Study Session	Meeting Date: 3/23/2017
Summary Title:	Study Session Regarding Historic Resource Relocation	
Title:	Study Session: Presentation and Discussion Regarding Moving of Historic Resources	
From:	Hillary Gitelman	

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Historic Resources Board (HRB) receive the presentation regarding moving historic buildings and discuss the topic in a study session.

Background

The HRB had previously requested that the City provide some training and opportunity for discussion about moving historic resources elsewhere on historic properties. In the past year or so, the HRB reviewed several single family home projects that involved moving the historic resource elsewhere on the same property, either slightly forward or back on a property, or re-orient the front of a home to a different frontage. Some of these projects were located within the Professorville Historic District and predated Council's adoption of the Professorville Design Guidelines in October 2016. These Guidelines, prepared by Page and Turnbull following public input and review process, are viewable at this link:

<http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/civicax/filebank/documents/54881>.

Staff asked Page and Turnbull staff to provide this training to the HRB, with the expectation that the HRB would welcome a discussion specific to relocation of historic resources within Professorville.

There have been other instances where historic resources or potential resources had been relocated from the original site to an entirely new location, within the 'period of significance'. Two examples that come to mind are the Girl Scout House, aka Lou Henry Hoover House, and the Hostess House, located at 27 University. Staff is unaware of any more recent historic resource locations from the original site to a new site in Palo Alto.

Discussion

In general, moving buildings is an issue of integrity—a move should not change the relationship of the building to its setting or affect the historic features and materials. There are several handy tools to use in evaluations of moving historic resources on a site:

- The National Preservation Standards Bulletin 15, “Consideration B”: “How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation” is accessed via the following link: https://www.nps.gov/NR/PUBLICATIONS/bulletins/nrb15/nrb15_7.htm#crit,
- Guidance provided in the Professorville Design Guidelines, when a site is in that district, and
- A discussion in a document from the State Office of Historic Preservation (OHP), page 3: <http://ohp.parks.ca.gov/pages/1069/files/technical%20assistance%20bulletin%206%202011%20update.pdf>.

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