

From: [Lad Wilson](#)
To: [Historic Resources Board](#)
Cc: [French, Amy](#)
Subject: Objection to Historic Nomination of 334 and 342 High Street
Date: Saturday, November 4, 2023 2:51:11 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Dear Members of the Historic Resources Board,

Please see the attached letter stating my objection to have the Board nominate my properties at 334 and 342 High Street.

Thank you in advance of your consideration.

Sincerely, Carlyle "Lad" Wilson

[REDACTED]

11/3/2023

Palo Alto Historic Resources Board
Via email: hrb@CityofPaloAlto.org

Re: 2023 Historic Resources Reconnaissance Survey Project

Dear Board Members,

My name is Carlyle "Lad" Wilson. I own two of the properties that the Historic Resources Board (HRB) is considering for nomination to the Palo Alto Historic Inventory at its November 9 hearing: 334 and 342 High Street. These two properties have been in my family for 63 years. We have taken good care of them throughout the time that we have been stewards of these properties, as well as several others on the same block.

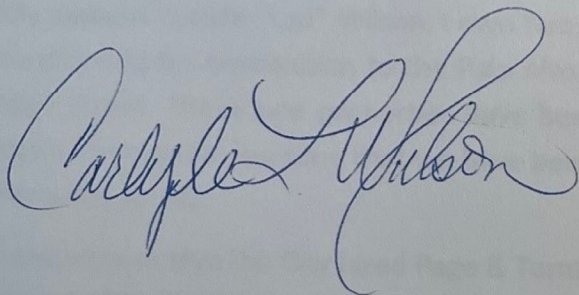
I understand that the City hired Page & Turnbull to evaluate a number of properties that were identified in the 1997-2001 Palo Alto Survey Update, including my two properties on High Street. As you know, these properties are located near the heart of downtown Palo Alto, one of the most desirable and expensive real estate markets in the United States - maybe the world. Needless to say, I am concerned what effect this designation will have the continued viability of my properties. Their location near the intersection of University Avenue and Alma Street, as well as the Palo Alto Caltrain Station, make them potentially valuable for redevelopment with higher-density, transit-centered uses. In this era of high energy prices, increased traffic congestion, and climate change, the City should be doing what it can to encourage this type of development in downtown Palo Alto.

First, although I appreciate these two properties and I have done my level best to maintain them in a historically appropriate manner, I do not think that either one rises to the level of individual significance. Furthermore, they are stranded on a block that is otherwise given over to later commercial development. There are several better examples across the street from my property, and the surrounding blocks all have higher quality and better-preserved examples of early twentieth century residential architecture.

Second, I am wondering if 334 and 342 High Street are designated for listing in the Historic Inventory if I will be allowed to either demolish or move them if I or my family decide to redevelop our property with higher-density uses. If this is the case, are there any actual financial benefits available that would help incentivize the retention of these two properties? I am somewhat familiar with the federal rehabilitation tax credits, but I do not think that these would apply to my properties if they are listed in the local inventory. Also, is the City prepared to offer real property tax relief if I am unable to redevelop such highly valued real estate?

I know that it is late in the game to register my objection to my two properties being listed in the Historic Inventory, but we did not receive much notice throughout this process, which has honestly been rather opaque and perfunctory. Please accept this letter as registering my opposition to 334 and 342 High Street being listed in the Palo Alto Historic Inventory.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Carlisle Gibson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'C'.

From: [Darlene Yaplee](#)
To: [French, Amy](#); [Historic Resources Board](#)
Cc: [Council, City](#); [Darlene E. Yaplee](#); [Don](#)
Subject: Palo Alto Historical Inventory - Objection Letter for 845 Waverley Street
Date: Sunday, November 5, 2023 12:39:15 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Historical Resources Board and Amy French,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input for your consideration on our property's potential nomination for listing on the Palo Alto Historical Inventory.

This email conveys our objection to any such listing/inclusion for our property at 845 Waverley Street.

We love our home which is why we purchased it. We just do not want to be part of the Palo Alto Historical Inventory program and its implications.

- **SB-9 not applicable**
 - Our property is zoned R-2 and is therefore exempt from SB-9 sub-division. If a motivation to make our home historic is to exempt it from SB-9, it is already exempt.
- **Incentives not applicable or of interest**
 - Our property is already upgraded and we do not plan on future building, so the residential [incentives available](#) on the website are not applicable.
 - We disregard any not yet available incentives or concepts which are unfunded or unapproved.
- **Impact to home salability**

- Our realtor has extensive experience buying and selling Palo Alto properties, and has advised us that the restrictions on potential/future development resulting from a historic designation can lower resale value by 10-20 percent.
- “Board Member Wimmer said she talked to some of the realtors trying to get their perspective on what it means to have a house that’s listed on an inventory, in terms of salability. They have said it narrows the buying pool and it is seen as a negative thing.” ([HRB retreat minutes, July 28, 2023](#))

- **Added restrictions and requirements**

- We do not want our property to have more restrictions and requirements above and beyond the City’s already rigorous and lengthy permit approval process.

- **We want to live in an 1800’s home, not live in the 1800’s**

- For example, historical homes can have solar panels, but not on the front of the house, this is where the sun is and where we have placed our panels for eco reasons.

- **Homeowner choice**

- For most people, their home is their most consequential asset. Palo Alto voters in 2000 sent a clear message to the City Council to let the homeowners decide by [defeating Measure G](#).
- “We don’t suspect the council would designate a property to the inventory over the objections of the property owners, French said.” ([Palo Alto Weekly, November 3, 2023](#))

Sincerely,

Darlene Yaplee and Don Jackson

Homeowners - [REDACTED]

From: [mike pitman](#)
To: [Historic Resources Board](#); [French, Amy](#); icastellano@m-group.us
Cc: [Antoinette Rector](#)
Subject: 313 Waverley St., Palo Alto
Date: Sunday, November 5, 2023 5:11:27 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hello HRB:

My Mother, Marie Antoinette Rector (cc'd here), is the owner of the home at 313 Waverley St. in Palo Alto. You may also see her name in the title history as Marie Antoinette Pitman, which was her name from a previous marriage. We recently learned that the HRB is considering adding 313 Waverley to the historic inventory - although we received no formal notice from HRB or the City. We were surprised that this process has gone this far with no apparent effort to give specific notice to the owner, much less any effort to explain the criteria for, or the consequences of, a historic designation. Given the opacity with which the process is being implemented, we are not in a position to agree to any change to the designation of 313 Waverley, and specifically object to 313 Waverley being added to the historic register.

This email serves as our clear objection to 313 Waverley's nomination for the HRB and City Council's review and consideration.

Please note our objection to the nomination/designation on the record during any meeting during which you consider the issue as we are not confident we have received notice of all relevant meetings.

Please let me know if we have to submit an objection in some other way, or if you have any other questions or concerns.

Thanks,
Mike Pitman
[REDACTED]

From: [Alana Karen](#)
To: [French, Amy](#); [Historic Resources Board](#)
Cc: [Council, City](#); [Michael Popek](#)
Subject: Objection to Historical Designation - 959 Waverley
Date: Sunday, November 5, 2023 7:29:06 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Hello Palo Alto City & City Council,

We understand our house, 959 Waverley St, is coming under consideration for historical status at an 11/9 Historical Resources meeting. Thank you for sending this information in advance, as we object to our home being considered.

We have lived in this house since 2011, and we have not pursued historical status. While there is a plaque outside, we understood this to be at our discretion whether to pursue further and we did not. We, in fact, understood it to be a long shot to get historical status given William Shockley was a known eugenicist who lived in the house as a child. So we were very surprised to learn our home would be under consideration via the city, and we do not wish it to be.

We already incur various costs and issues with having an old home including odd wiring and poor materials previously used. In addition to that burden, the additional cost and approvals occurred with even doing interior work for an official historical home will be an on-going impediment to our family of five. While we fully intend to respect the historical status and not make major changes to our structure, we cannot afford lengthy approvals and restrictions especially given the already rigorous permitting process in Palo Alto. We're also concerned that given market uncertainty, historical status would be considered an impediment to a housing sale (or lead to a reduced sales price) if we did need to sell at any point.

While we understand the criteria used to consider our home, and we agree the house is a good example of early Palo Alto architecture, we ask that you take our objections into consideration and not move forward with forcing historical status upon our home against our interests. We will continue to respect this property and its significance without that additional burden to our family.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Michael Popek & Alana Karen
[REDACTED]
Palo Alto, CA 94301

From: [Bryan Mazlish](#)
To: [Historic Resources Board](#); [French, Amy](#)
Cc: [Sarah Kimball](#)
Subject: 11/9/23 HRB Meeting, Agenda 2 Public Comment -- 951 Hamilton Owner Objection
Date: Sunday, November 5, 2023 8:59:55 PM
Attachments: [951 Hamilton Homeowner Objection.pdf](#)

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Hi Amy,

Please find attached our written public comment regarding the 2023 Reconnaissance Survey Nomination of our home at 951 Hamilton Ave. Please include the attached letter as a public comment for the upcoming HRB meeting.

Kindly confirm receipt of this email and the submission of the letter to the public comment docket at your convenience.

Best regards,
Bryan

[REDACTED]
Palo Alto, CA 94301
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

November 5, 2023

Palo Alto Historic Resources Board
285 Hamilton Ave
Palo Alto, CA 94301

Re: 951 Hamilton Ave homeowner objection to listing in Historic Registers

Dear Ms. French,

Thank you for sharing the 2023 HRB Nomination and DPR for our home at 951 Hamilton Ave. We read these materials as well as the further documentation presented on the 2023 Historic Resource Reconnaissance Survey Project Webpage. Following this review, we wanted to transmit our **clear objection to the nomination for the HRB and City Council's review and consideration of our property, 951 Hamilton Ave, to any of the proposed Historic Registers including the National Register of Historic Places, the California Register of Historic Resources, and the Palo Alto Historic Inventory.** We very much appreciate the historic character of our home and preserved much of it when we undertook a significant renovation in 2019-2020.

Please let us know if you have any questions and thank you in advance for communicating this letter to the HRB as a public comment for the November 9, 2023 meeting.

Kind regards,



Bryan Mazlish & Sarah Kimball
Owners, [REDACTED]

From: [French, Amy](#)
To: [Bryan Mazlish](#); [Historic Resources Board](#)
Cc: [Sarah Kimball](#); [Dao, Veronica](#); [Isabel Castellano](#)
Subject: RE: 11/9/23 HRB Meeting, Agenda 2 Public Comment -- 951 Hamilton Owner Objection
Date: Sunday, November 5, 2023 9:56:40 PM

Hello Bryan,

Received - and sharing with staff member who receives public comments for HRB meetings and our outreach consultant.

From: Bryan Mazlish [REDACTED] >
Sent: Sunday, November 5, 2023 8:59 PM
To: Historic Resources Board <hrb@CityofPaloAlto.org>; French, Amy <Amy.French@CityofPaloAlto.org>
Cc: Sarah Kimball [REDACTED] >
Subject: 11/9/23 HRB Meeting, Agenda 2 Public Comment -- 951 Hamilton Owner Objection

Some people who received this message don't often get email from bmazlish@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hi Amy,

Please find attached our written public comment regarding the 2023 Reconnaissance Survey Nomination of our home at 951 Hamilton Ave. Please include the attached letter as a public comment for the upcoming HRB meeting.

Kindly confirm receipt of this email and the submission of the letter to the public comment docket at your convenience.

Best regards,
Bryan

From: [French, Amy](#)
To: [mike pitman](#); [Historic Resources Board](#); icastellano@m-group.us
Cc: [Antoinette Rector](#)
Subject: RE: 313 Waverley St., Palo Alto
Date: Sunday, November 5, 2023 10:03:31 PM
Attachments: [WaverleySt_313.pdf](#)

Hello Mike,

I am acknowledging receipt of your email.

I am sorry to learn you have not received our notices.

Please see the attached nomination form and DPR form for 313 Waverley.

From: mike pitman [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, November 5, 2023 5:11 PM
To: Historic Resources Board <hrb@CityofPaloAlto.org>; French, Amy <Amy.French@CityofPaloAlto.org>; icastellano@m-group.us
Cc: Antoinette Rector [REDACTED] >
Subject: 313 Waverley St., Palo Alto

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hello HRB:

My Mother, Marie Antoinette Rector (cc'd here), is the owner of the home at 313 Waverley St. in Palo Alto. You may also see her name in the title history as Marie Antoinette Pitman, which was her name from a previous marriage. We recently learned that the HRB is considering adding 313 Waverley to the historic inventory - although we received no formal notice from HRB or the City. We were surprised that this process has gone this far with no apparent effort to give specific notice to the owner, much less any effort to explain the criteria for, or the consequences of, a historic designation. Given the opacity with which the process is being implemented, we are not in a position to agree to any change to the designation of 313 Waverley, and specifically object to 313 Waverley being added to the historic register.

This email serves as our clear objection to 313 Waverley's nomination for the HRB and City Council's review and consideration.

Please note our objection to the nomination/designation on the record during any meeting during which you consider the issue as we are not confident we have received notice of all relevant meetings.

Please let me know if we have to submit an objection in some other way, or if you have any other questions or concerns.

Thanks,

Mike Pitman
[REDACTED]

From: [geetha srikantan](#)
To: [French, Amy](#); [Historic Resources Board](#)
Cc: [Council, City](#); [REDACTED]
Subject: Objection: HRB inclusion - 385 Waverley Street
Date: Monday, November 6, 2023 8:23:23 AM

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear Ms Amy French, HRB members, City Council Members,

I learnt of the HRB / City Council meetings on October 24th 2023 and the planned meeting for November 9, 2023.

In the packet containing the list of homes being considered for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places, I see that my property at 385 Waverley Street, Palo Alto, CA 94301, is on this list.

I appreciate all the efforts from the HRB and City Council members in researching and putting this packet together, it is quite informative.

I would like to formally object to including my property - 385 Waverley Street, Palo Alto, CA 94301 - in the National Register of Historic Places.

Please let me know if you have any questions. I am reachable via email or cell phone as noted below.

Thank you,

Dr Geetha Srikantan

Email: [REDACTED]

Cell: [REDACTED]

From: [French, Amy](#)
To: [geetha srikantan](#); [Historic Resources Board](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]; [City Mgr](#); [Lait, Jonathan](#)
Subject: RE: Objection: HRB inclusion - 385 Waverley Street
Date: Monday, November 6, 2023 10:38:58 AM
Attachments: [WaverleySt_385.pdf](#)
[image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)

Hello Geetha,

On Thursday, the HRB is NOT considering whether to recommend Council place your home on the National Register. The Historic Resources Board is reviewing the forms prepared by a city consultant in the last survey 1997-2000; that consultant found your home ELIGIBLE for the National Register.

On Thursday, the HRB in a public hearing will review the local inventory nomination recommendations (cover sheet(s) attached to the form from the 1997-2000 survey for your home) prepared recently by our consultant.

The HRB will consider the consultant's recommendation as to which category on the local register the eligible properties would best fit (rather than the National Register). I will assume you are objecting to nomination of your home to the City's LOCAL historic inventory (but it would help if you can state this for the record). Staff recommends all properties for which we receive objections to local inventory listing be pulled out of the batch of properties to be considered on Thursday for an HRB discussion in late January 2024.

Please let me know if you would like to discuss your property with staff.

Best,



AMY FRENCH

Chief Planning Official

Planning and Development Services

(650) 329-2336 | amy.french@cityofpaloalto.org

www.cityofpaloalto.org



Service Feedback

From: geetha srikantan [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, November 6, 2023 8:23 AM

To: French, Amy <Amy.French@CityofPaloAlto.org>; Historic Resources Board <hrb@CityofPaloAlto.org>

Cc: Council, City <city.council@cityofpaloalto.org>; [REDACTED]

Subject: Objection: HRB inclusion - 385 Waverley Street

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Dear Ms Amy French, HRB members, City Council Members,

I learnt of the HRB / City Council meetings on October 24th 2023 and the planned meeting for November 9, 2023.

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I would like to formally object to including my property - 385 Waverley Street, Palo Alto, CA 94301 - in the National Register of Historic Places.

Please let me know if you have any questions. I am reachable via email or cell phone as noted below.

Thank you,

Dr Geetha Srikantan

Email: [REDACTED]

Cell: [REDACTED]

From: [mike pitman](#)
To: [French, Amy](#)
Cc: [Historic Resources Board](#); icastellano@m-group.us; [Antoinette Rector](#)
Subject: Re: 313 Waverley St., Palo Alto
Date: Monday, November 6, 2023 10:59:00 AM

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello Ms. French:

Thank you very much for getting back to me so quickly, and for providing that interesting information about 313 Waverley. However, since we still have no information about the consequences of the designation, our objection remains.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,
Mike

On Sun, Nov 5, 2023 at 10:03 PM French, Amy <Amy.French@cityofpaloalto.org> wrote:

Hello Mike,

I am acknowledging receipt of your email.

I am sorry to learn you have not received our notices.

Please see the attached nomination form and DPR form for 313 Waverley.

From: mike pitman [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, November 5, 2023 5:11 PM
To: Historic Resources Board <hrb@CityofPaloAlto.org>; French, Amy <Amy.French@CityofPaloAlto.org>; icastellano@m-group.us
Cc: Antoinette Rector <[REDACTED]>
Subject: 313 Waverley St., Palo Alto

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hello HRB:

My Mother, Marie Antoinette Rector (cc'd here), is the owner of the home at 313 Waverley St. in Palo Alto. You may also see her name in the title history as Marie Antoinette Pitman, which was her name from a previous marriage. We recently learned that the HRB is considering adding 313 Waverley to the historic inventory - although we received no formal

notice from HRB or the City. We were surprised that this process has gone this far with no apparent effort to give specific notice to the owner, much less any effort to explain the criteria for, or the consequences of, a historic designation. Given the opacity with which the process is being implemented, we are not in a position to agree to any change to the designation of 313 Waverley, and specifically object to 313 Waverley being added to the historic register.

This email serves as our clear objection to 313 Waverley's nomination for the HRB and City Council's review and consideration.

Please note our objection to the nomination/designation on the record during any meeting during which you consider the issue as we are not confident we have received notice of all relevant meetings.

Please let me know if we have to submit an objection in some other way, or if you have any other questions or concerns.

Thanks,

Mike Pitman



From: [French, Amy](#)
To: [mike pitman](#)
Cc: [Historic Resources Board](#); icastellano@m-group.us; [Antoinette Rector](#)
Subject: RE: 313 Waverley St., Palo Alto
Date: Monday, November 6, 2023 11:05:36 AM

Got it, thank you. So, your address has been placed on the 'objections' list.

We will provide information directly to you by email about the consequences of being on the list - including the benefits - and the different processes depending upon the project (discretionary versus ministerial process). We have discussed these in public meetings and there is information on the City's webpages - but many are not seeing the information which is challenging.

From: mike pitman <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, November 6, 2023 10:59 AM
To: French, Amy <Amy.French@CityofPaloAlto.org>
Cc: Historic Resources Board <hrb@CityofPaloAlto.org>; icastellano@m-group.us; Antoinette Rector <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Re: 313 Waverley St., Palo Alto

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello Ms. French:

Thank you very much for getting back to me so quickly, and for providing that interesting information about 313 Waverley. However, since we still have no information about the consequences of the designation, our objection remains.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Mike

On Sun, Nov 5, 2023 at 10:03 PM French, Amy <Amy.French@cityofpaloalto.org> wrote:

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To: Historic Resources Board <hrb@CityofPaloAlto.org>; French, Amy <Amy.French@CityofPaloAlto.org>; icastellano@m-group.us
Cc: Antoinette Rector <[REDACTED]>
Subject: 313 Waverley St., Palo Alto

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important

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Hello HRB:

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Please let me know if we have to submit an objection in some other way, or if you have any other questions or concerns.

Thanks,

Mike Pitman

[REDACTED]

From: [Marion Odell](#)
To: [Historic Resources Board; French, Amy](#)
Cc: city.council@cityofpalo.alto.org
Subject: Palo Alto Historical Inventory- Objection Letter for 482 Everett Ave
Date: Monday, November 6, 2023 1:13:38 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

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From: Marion Odell [REDACTED]

Historical Resources Board and Amy French,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input for your consideration on our property's potential nomination for listing on the Palo Alto Historical Inventory.

This email conveys our objection to any such listing/inclusion for our property at 482 Everett Ave.

We love our home, and we just do not want to be part of the Palo Alto Historical Inventory program and its implications.

- * Incentives not applicable or of interest

- * Added restrictions and requirements

We do not want our property to have more restrictions and requirements above and beyond the City's already permit approval

- * We don't suspect the council would designate a property to the inventory over the objections of the property owners.

Sincerely,

Marion Odell and Steve Diaz

Homeowners - [REDACTED]

From: [geetha srikantan](#)
To: [Historic Resources Board](#); [French, Amy](#)
Cc: [REDACTED] [City Mgr](#); [Lait, Jonathan](#); [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Objection: HRB inclusion - 385 Waverley Street
Date: Monday, November 6, 2023 3:36:00 PM
Attachments: [WaverleySt_385.pdf](#)
[image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello Amy,

Thank you so much for explaining the distinction - I re-read the letter from City and understand it is the nomination that's being discussed on November 9.

I am formally objecting to nomination of my home (385 Waverley Street, Palo Alto, CA 94301) to the City's LOCAL historic inventory.

Please do the needful to remove it from the list of properties in consideration for the November 9 meeting.

Thank you,
geetha

On Monday, November 6, 2023, 10:37:25 AM PST, French, Amy <amy.french@cityofpaloalto.org> wrote:

Hello Geetha,

On Thursday, the HRB is NOT considering whether to recommend Council place your home on the National Register. The Historic Resources Board is reviewing the forms prepared by a city consultant in the last survey 1997-2000; that consultant found your home ELIGIBLE for the National Register.

On Thursday, the HRB in a public hearing will review the local inventory nomination recommendations (cover sheet(s) attached to the form from the 1997-2000 survey for your home) prepared recently by our consultant.

The HRB will consider the consultant's recommendation as to which category on the local register the eligible properties would best fit (rather than the National Register). I will assume you are objecting to nomination of your home to the City's LOCAL historic inventory (but it would help if you can state this for the record). Staff recommends all properties for which we receive objections to local inventory listing be pulled out of the batch of properties to be considered on Thursday for an HRB discussion in late January 2024.

Please let me know if you would like to discuss your property with staff.

Best,



AMY FRENCH

Chief Planning Official

Planning and Development Services

(650) 329-2336 | amy.french@cityofpaloalto.org

www.cityofpaloalto.org



Service Feedback

From: geetha srikantan <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, November 6, 2023 8:23 AM
To: French, Amy <Amy.French@CityofPaloAlto.org>; Historic Resources Board <hrb@CityofPaloAlto.org>
Cc: Council, City <city.council@cityofpaloalto.org>; [REDACTED]
Subject: Objection: HRB inclusion - 385 Waverley Street

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Dear Ms Amy French, HRB members, City Council Members,

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I would like to formally object to including my property - 385 Waverley Street, Palo Alto, CA 94301 - in the National Register of Historic Places.

Please let me know if you have any questions. I am reachable via email or cell phone as noted below.

Thank you,

Dr Geetha Srikantan

Email: [REDACTED]

Cell: [REDACTED]

From: [Jessica Tsoong](#)
To: [French, Amy](#); [Historic Resources Board](#)
Cc: [Council, City](#); [Waynn Lue](#)
Subject: Palo Alto Historic Inventory - 360 Kellogg Ave Objection Letter
Date: Monday, November 6, 2023 4:49:02 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Dear Historic Resources Board and Amy French,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input regarding our property's potential nomination for listing on the Palo Alto Historic Inventory list.

We would like to object to our property, 360 Kellogg Ave, being included in the Historic Inventory list.

Historic Criteria:

1. In the 2023 Reconnaissance Survey, one of the reasons for Historic Inventory Criteria (Criterion 5) included in the Statement of Significance states that there is a "rear guest house designed by Birge M. Clark in 1928". This guest house is not a part of our property at 360 Kellogg Ave, but is now the house at 1450 Waverley St. as the lot was subdivided many years ago. This house at 1450 Waverley St. (designed by Birge Clark) has recently been approved for demolition and new construction.
2. In the 2023 Reconnaissance Survey, Page & Turnbull stated that there have been "no alterations identified" since 2001. In 2010, a 2-car garage and cabana were added and a carport was removed. From 2018-2021, the current homeowners did an extensive renovation to the home (addition of approx 4450 sq ft to the main house and an ADU), altering the front, side, and rear facades of the house, including significant material replacement and addition of new material.

Future Improvements & Eco-friendly changes

1. We are particularly concerned about additional restrictions and requirements imposed on us, especially as it pertains to green & eco-friendly improvements visible from the street that we may wish to make in the future that would make our house more environmentally conscious. (e.g. energy efficiency, etc.)

Homeowner choice:

1. We would like homeowners to have the choice to be listed on the Inventory List.
2. "We don't suspect the council would designate a property to the inventory over the objections of the property owners, French said." (Palo Alto Weekly, November 3, 2023)

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jessica Tsoong & Waynn Lue
Homeowners at [REDACTED]

From: [French, Amy](#)
To: [Jessica Tsoong](#); [Barrett Reiter](#); icastellano@m-group.us
Cc: [City Mgr](#); [Waynn Lue](#); [Historic Resources Board](#)
Subject: RE: Palo Alto Historic Inventory - 360 Kellogg Ave Objection Letter
Date: Monday, November 6, 2023 5:35:47 PM
Attachments: [KelloggAve_360.pdf](#)

Hello Jessica,

Thanks for providing this correspondence objecting to the proposed nomination of 360 kellogg. I am sharing with you the individual nomination memo prepared by our consultant along with the DPR form from the 1997-2000 survey.

I am sending your reasons below to our consultants as well.

From: Jessica Tsoong <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, November 6, 2023 4:48 PM
To: French, Amy <Amy.French@CityofPaloAlto.org>; Historic Resources Board <hrb@CityofPaloAlto.org>
Cc: Council, City <city.council@cityofpaloalto.org>; Waynn Lue <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Palo Alto Historic Inventory - 360 Kellogg Ave Objection Letter

Some people who received this message don't often get email from jnt2101@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Dear Historic Resources Board and Amy French,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input regarding our property's potential nomination for listing on the Palo Alto Historic Inventory list.

We would like to object to our property, 360 Kellogg Ave, being included in the Historic Inventory list.

Historic Criteria:

1. In the 2023 Reconnaissance Survey, one of the reasons for Historic Inventory Criteria (Criterion 5) included in the Statement of Significance states that there is a "rear guest house designed by Birge M. Clark in 1928". This guest house is not a part of our property at 360 Kellogg Ave, but is now the house at 1450 Waverley St. as the lot was subdivided many years ago. This house at 1450 Waverley St. (designed by Birge Clark) has recently been approved for demolition and new construction.
2. In the 2023 Reconnaissance Survey, Page & Turnbull stated that there have been "no alterations identified" since 2001. In 2010, a 2-car garage and cabana were added and a carport was removed. From 2018-2021, the current homeowners did an extensive renovation to the home (addition of approx 4450 sq ft to the main house and an ADU), altering the front, side, and rear facades of the house, including significant material replacement and addition of

new material.

Future Improvements & Eco-friendly changes

1. We are particularly concerned about additional restrictions and requirements imposed on us, especially as it pertains to green & eco-friendly improvements visible from the street that we may wish to make in the future that would make our house more environmentally conscious. (e.g. energy efficiency, etc.)

Homeowner choice:

1. We would like homeowners to have the choice to be listed on the Inventory List.
2. “We don’t suspect the council would designate a property to the inventory over the objections of the property owners, French said.” (Palo Alto Weekly, November 3, 2023)

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jessica Tsoong & Waynn Lue

Homeowners at [REDACTED]

From: [Jessica Tsoong](#)
To: [French, Amy](#)
Cc: [Barrett Reiter](#); icastellano@m-group.us; [City Mgr](#); [Waynn Lue](#); [Historic Resources Board](#)
Subject: Re: Palo Alto Historic Inventory - 360 Kellogg Ave Objection Letter
Date: Monday, November 6, 2023 5:53:40 PM

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Thank you very much Amy! We look forward to discussing together.

On Nov 6, 2023, at 5:35 PM, French, Amy <Amy.French@cityofpaloalto.org> wrote:

Hello Jessica,
Thanks for providing this correspondence objecting to the proposed nomination of 360 kellogg. I am sharing with you the individual nomination memo prepared by our consultant along with the DPR form from the 1997-2000 survey.
I am sending your reasons below to our consultants as well.

From: Jessica Tsoong [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, November 6, 2023 4:48 PM
To: French, Amy <Amy.French@CityofPaloAlto.org>; Historic Resources Board <hrb@CityofPaloAlto.org>
Cc: Council, City <city.council@cityofpaloalto.org>; Waynn Lue [REDACTED]
Subject: Palo Alto Historic Inventory - 360 Kellogg Ave Objection Letter

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear Historic Resources Board and Amy French,

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We would like to object to our property, 360 Kellogg Ave, being included in the Historic Inventory list.

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1. In the 2023 Reconnaissance Survey, one of the reasons for Historic Inventory

Criteria (Criterion 5) included in the Statement of Significance states that there is a "rear guest house designed by Birge M. Clark in 1928". This guest house is not a part of our property at 360 Kellogg Ave, but is now the house at 1450 Waverley St. as the lot was subdivided many years ago. This house at 1450 Waverley St. (designed by Birge Clark) has recently been approved for demolition and new construction.

2. In the 2023 Reconnaissance Survey, Page & Turnbull stated that there have been "no alterations identified" since 2001. In 2010, a 2-car garage and cabana were added and a carport was removed. From 2018-2021, the current homeowners did an extensive renovation to the home (addition of approx 4450 sq ft to the main house and an ADU), altering the front, side, and rear facades of the house, including significant material replacement and addition of new material.

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1. We would like homeowners to have the choice to be listed on the Inventory List.
2. "We don't suspect the council would designate a property to the inventory over the objections of the property owners, French said." (Palo Alto Weekly, November 3, 2023)

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jessica Tsoong & Waynn Lue

Homeowners at 

<KelloggAve_360.pdf>

From: [Isabel Castellano](#)
To: [mike pitman](#)
Cc: [Historic Resources Board](#); [Antoinette Rector](#); [French, Amy](#)
Subject: RE: 313 Waverley St., Palo Alto
Date: Monday, November 6, 2023 8:41:40 PM

You don't often get email from icastellano@m-group.us. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello Mike,

As Amy noted, your address has been placed on the 'objections' list.

For your inquiry regarding benefits and drawbacks, please refer to the October 25th Community Meeting [presentation](#) (slides 7 and 21) which outlines the benefits and drawbacks of a designated property.

The primary benefits include the following:

- Application of the California Historic Building Code
- Income-producing properties may be able to apply for Federal Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credits
- Palo Alto Planning Department is available to provide design guidance regarding proposed projects
- Palo Alto Municipal Code (PAMC) offer development incentives that assist owners of historic resources
- R-1 zoned parcels with two homes (one listed historic) can create a flag lot
- HRB provides guidance and recommendations on significant modifications to listed Inventory properties
- Potential property tax reduction incentive through a Mills Act Program, if Council adopts a program

The drawbacks include:

- Common fear about historic properties and review procedures
- Major alterations or demolition may undergo review by the HRB
- Environmental Review (CEQA) may be required (time/cost)

If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me. If you would like to have a phone call to further discuss, please share with me a couple of available times I may reach you.

Regards,
Isabel



ISABEL CASTELLANO
historic preservation specialist
707.540.0723 x220

From: French, Amy <Amy.French@CityofPaloAlto.org>
Sent: Monday, November 6, 2023 11:06 AM
To: mike pitman [REDACTED]
Cc: Historic Resources Board <hrb@CityofPaloAlto.org>; Isabel Castellano <icastellano@m-group.us>; Antoinette Rector [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: 313 Waverley St., Palo Alto

Got it, thank you. So, your address has been placed on the 'objections' list.

We will provide information directly to you by email about the consequences of being on the list - including the benefits - and the different processes depending upon the project (discretionary versus ministerial process). We have discussed these in public meetings and there is information on the City's webpages - but many are not seeing the information which is challenging.

From: mike pitman [REDACTED] >
Sent: Monday, November 6, 2023 10:59 AM
To: French, Amy <Amy.French@CityofPaloAlto.org>
Cc: Historic Resources Board <hrb@CityofPaloAlto.org>; icastellano@m-group.us; Antoinette Rector [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: 313 Waverley St., Palo Alto

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello Ms. French:

Thank you very much for getting back to me so quickly, and for providing that interesting information about 313 Waverley. However, since we still have no information about the consequences of the designation, our objection remains.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Mike

On Sun, Nov 5, 2023 at 10:03 PM French, Amy <Amy.French@cityofpaloalto.org> wrote:

Hello Mike,

I am acknowledging receipt of your email.

I am sorry to learn you have not received our notices.

Please see the attached nomination form and DPR form for 313 Waverley.

From: mike pitman [REDACTED] >
Sent: Sunday, November 5, 2023 5:11 PM
To: Historic Resources Board <hrb@CityofPaloAlto.org>; French, Amy <Amy.French@CityofPaloAlto.org>; icastellano@m-group.us
Cc: Antoinette Rector [REDACTED] >
Subject: 313 Waverley St., Palo Alto

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hello HRB:

My Mother, Marie Antoinette Rector (cc'd here), is the owner of the home at 313 Waverley St. in Palo Alto. You may also see her name in the title history as Marie Antoinette Pitman, which was her name from a previous marriage. We recently learned that the HRB is considering adding 313 Waverley to the historic inventory - although we received no formal notice from HRB or the City. We were surprised that this process has gone this far with no apparent effort to give specific notice to the owner, much less any effort to explain the criteria for, or the consequences of, a historic designation. Given the opacity with which the process is being implemented, we are not in a position to agree to any change to the designation of 313 Waverley, and specifically object to 313 Waverley being added to the historic register.

This email serves as our clear objection to 313 Waverley's nomination for the HRB and City Council's review and consideration.

Please note our objection to the nomination/designation on the record during any meeting during which you consider the issue as we are not confident we have received notice of all relevant meetings.

Please let me know if we have to submit an objection in some other way, or if you have any other questions or concerns.

Thanks,

Mike Pitman
[REDACTED]

From: [Jim Sharp](#)
To: [French, Amy](#); [Historic Resources Board](#); [Historic Resources Board](#)
Subject: Palo Alto Historical Inventory - Objection Letter for 333 Waverley Street
Date: Tuesday, November 7, 2023 7:41:24 AM

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Historical Resources Board and Amy French,

We are Pat and Jim Sharp, the owners of the property at 333 Waverley Street which has been nominated for listing on the Palo Alto Historical Inventory.

This email conveys our objection to any such nomination for this property.

We have lived in our house on the property since 1973. Due to our ages we can no longer maintain it as it should be maintained and we won't be living there much longer.

We think we should leave any historical register decision up to a new owner.

Sincerely,

Jim Sharp

Pat Sharp

From: [Carrie Jeffries](#)
To: [French, Amy](#); [Historic Resources Board](#); [Council, City](#); icastellano@m-group.us; [Jeffries, Tony](#)
Subject: Jeffries Home - 975 Hamilton Avenue: Remove Our Home From Historic Preservation Consideration
Date: Tuesday, November 7, 2023 8:20:18 AM

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TO:

Amy French, Chief Planning Official & HRB Liason
Isabelle Castellano, M-Group Historic Preservation Consultant
City Council: City of Palo Alto
Historic Review Board: City of Palo Alto

FROM: Carrie & Tony Jeffries, homeowners of 975 Hamilton Ave, Palo Alto, CA 94301

RE: Removal of our home from consideration by the 2023 Historic Resource Reconnaissance Survey team for designation as historic by the City of Palo Alto, the State of California or the National Register of Historic Homes.

Please see the signed attached letter that clearly states that we do not want our home designated as historic by the city of Palo Alto, the state of California or the federal government.

We will be dropping off a copy of this signed letter to all agencies prior to the Historical Resources Board meeting on Thursday, November 9th. We will be in attendance at this meeting to further state our vehement opposition to the action the City of Palo Alto is taking to force homes into a historic designation.

Carolyn & Neil Anthony Jeffries

[REDACTED]
Palo Alto, CA 94301
[REDACTED]

November 5, 2023

Amy French & Isabel Castellano
Palo Alto Development Center
285 Hamilton Avenue, Suite 100
Palo Alto, CA 94301

Dear Ms. French and Ms. Castellano,


Our property at 975 Hamilton Avenue is under consideration for designation as historic by the City of Palo Alto (NRHP Eligible under criteria A & C.) I would like to request a meeting regarding this action with one or both of you. We would like to clearly state that we do not want our property designated as historic and would like our property withdrawn from consideration prior to the HRB Hearing on November 9th, 2023.

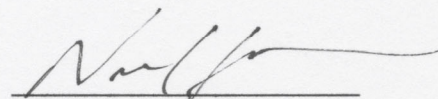
We purchased this stately old home with every intention of maintaining it, renovating it within the parameters set forth by the building code of the City of Palo Alto. At the time of purchase in 2018, there was no historic designation disclosed by the seller or disclosed on title documents. When we submitted renovation plans to the city, we were told that our home had a City of Palo Alto Planning Department designation of 'historically significant.' To be able to move forward with our renovation plans, we had to have our plans reviewed and approved by the Historic Review Board, even though the house was not listed as part of the Historic Register and we received no benefits from the designation as 'historically significant'. We worked in good faith with the City of Palo Alto to preserve the historic nature of our house and went through the process. This designation curbed our ability to change any exterior façades of our home that are seen from the street (which is considerable as our home sits on a corner.)

It is not lawful to arbitrarily designate a property historic without compensating homeowners for the loss of home value that comes with this designation. Homeowners who voluntarily decide to designate their home historic do so for a variety of reasons (tax advantages, altered permitting parameters, etc.) and willingly accept the devaluation of their property.

We have already dealt with the added time and cost of going through the Historic Review Board process for a home that didn't even have an official historic designation. We want our home removed from consideration for a historic designation by the Historic Resource Reconnaissance Survey committee and Palo Alto City Council.

Regards,


Carolyn Berndt Jeffries


Neil Anthony Jeffries

Carrie & Tony Jeffries

[REDACTED]
Palo Alto, CA 93401

CC: Palo Alto Historic Review Board
Palo Alto City Council

From: [French, Amy](#)
To: [Carrie Jeffries](#)
Cc: [City Mgr](#); [Historic Resources Board](#); icastellano@m-group.us; [Jeffries, Tony](#)
Subject: RE: Jeffries Home - 975 Hamilton Avenue: Remove Our Home From Historic Preservation Consideration
Date: Tuesday, November 7, 2023 9:24:18 AM
Attachments: [HamiltonAve_975.pdf](#)

Thank you Carrie,

We have recorded your response regarding your objection to listing on the City's local inventory.

Attached, please find your nomination form for the local inventory, paired with the DPR form from the 1997-2001 survey.

From: Carrie Jeffries <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, November 7, 2023 8:20 AM
To: French, Amy <Amy.French@CityofPaloAlto.org>; Historic Resources Board <hrb@CityofPaloAlto.org>; Council, City <city.council@cityofpaloalto.org>; icastellano@m-group.us; Jeffries, Tony [REDACTED]
Subject: Jeffries Home - 975 Hamilton Avenue: Remove Our Home From Historic Preservation Consideration

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TO:
Amy French, Chief Planning Official & HRB Liason
Isabelle Castellano, M-Group Historic Preservation Consultant
City Council: City of Palo Alto
Historic Review Board: City of Palo Alto

FROM: Carrie & Tony Jeffries, homeowners of 975 Hamilton Ave, Palo Alto, CA 94301

RE: Removal of our home from consideration by the 2023 Historic Resource Reconnaissance Survey team for designation as historic by the City of Palo Alto, the State of California or the National Register of Historic Homes.

Please see the signed attached letter that clearly states that we do not want our home designated as historic by the city of Palo Alto, the state of California or the federal government.

We will be dropping off a copy of this signed letter to all agencies prior to the Historical Resources Board meeting on Thursday, November 9th. We will be in attendance at this meeting to further state our vehement opposition to the action the City of Palo Alto is taking to force homes into a historic designation.

From: [PaloAlto GMI](#)
To: [French, Amy](#); [Historic Resources Board](#)
Subject: HRB Objection Letter - 1056 University Avenue
Date: Tuesday, November 7, 2023 10:08:06 AM
Attachments: [HRB Objection Letter 1056 University Ave.pdf](#)

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Please see attached objection letter. Thank you!

1056 University Avenue
Palo Alto, CA 94301

November 6, 2023

Palo Alto Historic Resources Board
285 Hamilton Avenue
Palo Alto CA 94301

Re: 1056 University Avenue Homeowner Objection to Listing in Historic Registries

Dear Ms. French,

We received a notice (postmarked October 26, 2023) regarding an HRB public hearing on November 9, 2023.

We would like to transmit our **objection in advance to any nomination for the HRB or City Council's review or consideration of our property, 1056 University Avenue**, for any proposed Historic Register (local, state, Federal or otherwise), including the National Register of Historic Places, the California Register of Historic Resources, and the Palo Alto Historic Inventory. Our home has undergone significant renovations in recent years and, in any case, the incentives would be worthless to us.

Thank you in advance for communicating this objection to the HRB in advance of the November 9, 2023 meeting. Unfortunately, we are not able to make it to the meeting but wish our clear objection to be conveyed. Thank you very much for your assistance in clearing this matter.

Kind regards,



From: Daniel
To: Historic Resources Board
Subject: Homes under review for Historic List
Date: Tuesday, November 7, 2023 1:50:27 PM

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To whom this may concern:

Please present this prior to November 9th Historic Review Board meeting.

My name is Daniel Robertson. I am the property owner and also live at 643 College Ave with my family which has been listed as a home to be on the Historic list of Palo Alto. This property has been in my family since my great grandfather purchased it from the original family in 1956. I do not want my property to be added to the list of historic homes. I hope that we as property owners have an option to not be added. In College terrace I have seen numerous houses that been bought and sold by Stanford. The process of trying to rebuild in Palo Alto is difficult and adding houses to an historic list but allowing Stanford to demolish any house is not fair or just to Palo Alto property owners. I love the city of Palo Alto and College terrace where I live. Please present this to the review board and to be noted.

Thank you,
Daniel Robertson
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

From: [John Bard](#)
To: [French, Amy](#); [Historic Resources Board](#)
Cc: [Council, City](#); [Maureen W Bard](#)
Subject: Palo Alto Historical Inventory - Objection Letter for 947 Waverley Street
Date: Wednesday, November 8, 2023 8:43:36 AM
Attachments: [johnbard.vcf](#)

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Historical Resources Board and Amy French,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input regarding our property's potential nomination for listing on the Palo Alto Historical Inventory.

This email conveys our objection to any such listing/inclusion for our property at 947 Waverley Street. Please withdraw our property from consideration.

We purchased our home almost 25 years ago with great appreciation for its historical character, and we intend to maintain its integrity as we make improvements going forward. That said, we do not see any relevant incentives and many potential risks to being listed in the Palo Alto Historical Inventory program.

We believe that listing a property in the historical inventory reduces the appeal to potential buyers, and creates inequities between two similar adjacent properties. Creating an involuntary inventory to preserve Palo Alto's character would unfairly apply regulations at the expense of a small group of homeowners.

We see a risk to having our property listed without fully understanding the code benefits and restrictions that you plan to determine later. That uncertainty is also a risk given inconsistencies and restrictions in the current building codes (energy efficiency requirements, setbacks/height limitations, R1/R2/RMD differences). We do not want our property to have more restrictions and requirements above and beyond the City's already rigorous and lengthy permit approval process.

The City has previously chosen not to participate in the Mills Act program

so it is unlikely to be a realistic incentive in the future for property owners to participate and offset costs. Other key benefits of the program as described on the web site primarily apply to commercial rather than residential property owners.

This program only protects individual properties and will not protect the character of neighborhoods. There are many examples in the City today where one older home is surrounded and overwhelmed by newer development (such as 640 and 650 Waverley Street, 533 Bryant Street, 564 University Avenue, 446 Forest Avenue). We run the same risk in our own immediate neighborhood of mixed zoning, lot sizes, and building styles.

Thank you for your consideration,

Maureen and John Bard

[REDACTED]

Palo Alto, CA 94301

[REDACTED]

From: [Julie Good](#)
To: [Historic Resources Board](#); [French, Amy](#); [Isabel Castellano](#)
Cc: [Dan Kaleba](#)
Subject: Homeowner letter for 1590 California Ave - for November 9th meeting
Date: Wednesday, November 8, 2023 1:11:08 PM
Attachments: [1590 Historic preservation meeting 11.9.23.pdf](#)

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear Historic Resources Board, Amy French, Isabel Castellano -

Please see attached our letter for presentation at the meeting tomorrow night.

Sincerely,
Julie and Dan

November 8, 2023

Historic Resources Board
City of Palo Alto
Palo Alto, CA 94301

Dear Board –

As the homeowners of 1590 California Avenue, Palo Alto, CA 94306, we are aware you are considering our home for designation as a historic home under criteria 2 and 6, category 2. We have thoroughly reviewed the documents from the original 1997-2001 survey as well as the 2023 Page and Turnbull Reconnaissance Survey nomination for this home.


We do not want our home listed. Our view is that homeowners should have the choice to put forward their home for consideration, after adequate opportunity to thoroughly evaluate City Council approved incentives before doing so.

Sincerely,



DK

Julie Good and Daniel Kaleba



Palo Alto, CA
94306

From: [REDACTED]
To: [French, Amy; Historic Resources Board](#)
Cc: [Council, City](#)
Subject: RE: Objection to declaring 162 Bryant St on the historic preservation list
Date: Wednesday, November 8, 2023 2:37:53 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Hello:

I strongly object to including my property at 162 Bryant St in the historic preservation inventory.

First, a radical remodel of this house was performed in 1989 costing more than \$150K, including:

- Raising the entire structure 4 feet, placing it on a new foundation
- Adding a full basement with a concrete floor which includes windows facing the street that did not exist in the previous structure, as well as adding outdoor stair access to the new basement and visible from the street, replacing the old cellar doors
- Demolishing the garage structure which was in poor repair and replacing it with completely new structure with a concrete floor
- Adding a full porch across the back of the house
- Replacing the concrete front porch and porch steps with a new wooden structure
- Replacing wooden columns at the foot of the front steps with stone columns
- Replacing the wooden siding with new wooden siding
- Replacing the wooden gutters which were no longer functional with modern sheet metal gutters
- Replacing the cracked parallel concrete strips that constituted the driveway with a full brick driveway
- Converting the interior of the structure from a duplex into a single family dwelling

To argue that this revised structure is historic is to make a mockery of the term. It is no more historic than completely new structures built in Victorian or Tudor styles.

Secondly, I believe that applying this designation to my property would have a significant negative impact on my property value. It seems obvious that adding constraints to the use of the property that do not apply to other residential properties would make the property less valuable.

Third, this designation would in all likelihood preclude me from making changes, such as adding an additional story (matching the height of structures on both sides of my house) to allow my son and his family to live close to me and allow my wife and I to gracefully age in place if we should choose to do this. It would also preclude making changes that would help the city to comply with the state mandate to create additional density.

Fourth, I believe that it is basically unfair to suddenly and selectively apply extra regulations to my property unless I opt in to some sort of historic preservation program. If the city is mandating preservation of historic structures, then surely the residences of the past, current, and future city

council members should be included in this list. These city leaders are defining the rules that determine the city's history, and preserving their environments at the time that these decisions were made has historic significance. Those structures certainly have more historic significance than the home of an ordinary citizen like me.

Finally, I object to the process by which this evaluation is being carried out. We were notified that our property may be on the list, but the implications of being on this list were not clarified. Since we were out of the country visiting relatives for the past 2 weeks, we missed a couple of the hastily scheduled meetings and are barely back in time to attend the Nov. 9 meeting to let our wishes be known. Also, it appears that my unavoidable absence could have resulted in decisions being made for me by the HRB, which hardly seems fair. Why is this policy being introduced so quickly and non-transparently when so many other pressing municipal issues drag out for years?

George (Jerry) Smith

From: [French, Amy](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [City Mgr](#); [Isabel Castellano](#); [Historic Resources Board](#)
Subject: RE: Objection to declaring 162 Bryant St on the historic preservation list
Date: Wednesday, November 8, 2023 3:04:15 PM
Attachments: [BryantSt_162.pdf](#)

Hello Jerry,

Thank you for your email. Your objection to the nomination of 162 Bryant has been recorded for the Historic Resource Board (HRB) and City Council's review and consideration. If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me.

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If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me. If you would like to have a phone call, please share with me a couple of available times I may reach you.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 8, 2023 2:38 PM
To: French, Amy <Amy.French@CityofPaloAlto.org>; Historic Resources Board <hrb@CityofPaloAlto.org>
Cc: Council, City <city.council@cityofpaloalto.org>
Subject: RE: Objection to declaring 162 Bryant St on the historic preservation list

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Hello:

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- Demolishing the garage structure which was in poor repair and replacing it with completely new structure with a concrete floor
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- Replacing the concrete front porch and porch steps with a new wooden structure
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To argue that this revised structure is historic is to make a mockery of the term. It is no more historic than completely new structures built in Victorian or Tudor styles.

Secondly, I believe that applying this designation to my property would have a significant negative impact on my property value. It seems obvious that adding constraints to the use of the property

that do not apply to other residential properties would make the property less valuable.

Third, this designation would in all likelihood preclude me from making changes, such as adding an additional story (matching the height of structures on both sides of my house) to allow my son and his family to live close to me and allow my wife and I to gracefully age in place if we should choose to do this. It would also preclude making changes that would help the city to comply with the state mandate to create additional density.

Fourth, I believe that it is basically unfair to suddenly and selectively apply extra regulations to my property unless I opt in to some sort of historic preservation program. If the city is mandating preservation of historic structures, then surely the residences of the past, current, and future city council members should be included in this list. These city leaders are defining the rules that determine the city's history, and preserving their environments at the time that these decisions were made has historic significance. Those structures certainly have more historic significance than the home of an ordinary citizen like me.

Finally, I object to the process by which this evaluation is being carried out. We were notified that our property may be on the list, but the implications of being on this list were not clarified. Since we were out of the country visiting relatives for the past 2 weeks, we missed a couple of the hastily scheduled meetings and are barely back in time to attend the Nov. 9 meeting to let our wishes be known. Also, it appears that my unavoidable absence could have resulted in decisions being made for me by the HRB, which hardly seems fair. Why is this policy being introduced so quickly and non-transparently when so many other pressing municipal issues drag out for years?

George (Jerry) Smith

From: [Don Jackson](#)
To: [Council, City](#); [Historic Resources Board](#); [Shikada, Ed](#); [Lait, Jonathan](#); [French, Amy](#)
Subject: Additional comments on Historic Resources Inventory process
Date: Wednesday, November 8, 2023 3:09:42 PM

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November 8, 2023

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In addition to our earlier letter objecting to the inclusion of our property, I want to make the following points:

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I asked Staff what percentage of eligible residential properties are subject to SB-9 and have not yet received an answer.

Subsequently I undertook the laborious and tedious effort to determine that **37% of the eligible properties are NOT zoned R-1, and thus ineligible for SB-9.**

Given this, why are these properties still being considered for inclusion?

I propose that at a minimum, all SB-9 ineligible properties be removed from consideration unless the property owner explicitly requests their inclusion.

As a former Commissioner on the Utilities Advisory Commission, I learned about the City's decarbonization and sustainability goals, of which I am now a strong proponent.

In order to "practice what I preach" I undertook the electrification of my home, which after 3+ years, is finally complete.

The City's existing permitting processes accounted for 1 year of delay to my projects.

I strenuously object to adding any additional reviews, consultations, or limitations to the permitting process, which would be the inevitable consequence of a historic designation of my property.

One element of my home's electrification was the addition of PV panels, which necessitated a roof replacement, and one of the best roof materials to support solar panels is standing-seam metal.

We've been told by Staff that had we undertaken this effort as a designated historic property, permitting for the metal roof and the addition of solar panels on the front of our house (which receives the most sunlight) would be denied.

These additional restrictions on historic homes are in direct conflict with the City's decarbonization goals.

Inexplicably, although my home now has both a metal roof, and front-yard facing solar panels, these not-allowed-on-historic-home features do not disqualify my home from a historic designation!

Property owner choice is crucial, if an owner favors inclusion on the historic register that is absolutely their right, but the current nomination and review process is unfair, burdensome, and stressful to owners

that object to their property's inclusion, to wit:

- Staff recommends to HRB that property owners who object be rescheduled to a later HRB meeting, with no guarantee HRB will defer objecting properties for another meeting.
- When the HRB reviews the properties of objecting owners, there is no guarantee the HRB will act in accordance with the owner's wishes.
- Although Staff has stated "We don't suspect the council would designate a property to the inventory over the objections of the property owners" there is no assurance that Council will do so.

As a result, the involuntary inclusion of an objecting owner's property to this inventory creates a "ticking time bomb" of uncertainty and stress, with no mechanism to opt-out of this multi-month ordeal.

I request that Council and the HRB define a process where a property owner can opt-out of this (or future) historic designation efforts, without any need for additional hearings or review.

Respectfully,

Don Jackson



From: [Shubhie Panicker](#)
To: [French, Amy](#); [Historic Resources Board](#)
Cc: [Council, City](#); [Kyle Scholz](#)
Subject: Palo Alto Historical Inventory - Objection Letter for 245 Ramona Street
Date: Wednesday, November 8, 2023 3:53:26 PM

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Dear Historical Resources Board and Amy French,

We appreciate the opportunity to provide our input for your consideration on our property's potential nomination for listing on the Palo Alto Historical Inventory.

This email conveys our objection to including our property at 245 Ramona Street for any such listings.

Based on our review, the drawbacks of inclusion (including impact on resale value) clearly outweigh the benefits for us.

Sincerely,
Shubhie Panicker and Kyle Scholz
Homeowners - [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [French, Amy](#)
Cc: [City Mgr](#); ["Isabel Castellano"](#); [Historic Resources Board](#)
Subject: RE: Objection to declaring 162 Bryant St on the historic preservation list
Date: Wednesday, November 8, 2023 4:40:28 PM

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Hello Amy:

Thank you very much for your prompt and courteous reply, for putting my mind at ease, and for pointing me to the additional materials.

It is a relief that I will not need to attend the meeting tomorrow night since I am recovering from major jet lag, having arrived this morning. I will review the materials that you indicated when my brain can sync to Pacific Standard time.

Best regards,
Jerry

From: French, Amy <Amy.French@CityofPaloAlto.org>
Sent: Wednesday, November 8, 2023 3:04 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: City Mgr <CityMgr@cityofpaloalto.org>; Isabel Castellano <icastellano@m-group.us>; Historic Resources Board <hrb@CityofPaloAlto.org>
Subject: RE: Objection to declaring 162 Bryant St on the historic preservation list

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George (Jerry) Smith

From: [French, Amy](#)
To: [Don Jackson](#)
Cc: [Isabel Castellano](#); [City Mgr](#); [Lait, Jonathan](#); [Historic Resources Board](#)
Subject: FW: Additional comments on Historic Resources Inventory process
Date: Wednesday, November 8, 2023 5:17:59 PM

Hello Don,

I reached out to Page and Turnbull to help shed light on the metal roof and solar panels, since you mentioned it in your email to Council, HRB, City Manager, Planning Director and me. I have more responses due to you generated from your earlier email to me and the below email, but I wanted you to have this right away in case it helps your understanding about your own property.

The metal roof and solar panels are essentially in the same situation here. Both are reversible and do not create a permanent impact on the historic resource. Do they detract from the historic character of the building? Yes, somewhat, but the overall form and details are not removed.

In the future, when reroofing the building or when solar/alternative energy production becomes more efficient, maybe the solar is removed and the roof replaced. Since these are reversible changes (meeting the recommendation of SOI Standard 10 "...if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired.") we don't weigh them as heavy impacts to historic integrity.

A general note is also that California has a Solar Rights Act and solar panel permits generally cannot be denied. While there are cases where there may be some discussion of the *best* location for solar panels from an aesthetic and historic perspective, having a historic resource does not remove your ability to get solar installed. And conversely, having solar doesn't mean you can't have a historic property.

There is a very brief blurb on OHP's website (partway down the page) :

https://ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=24592

Less directly relevant, but good to know about is this APA paper on Solar issues that are being seen nationally: <https://planning-org-uploaded-media.s3.amazonaws.com/publication/online/Balancing-Solar-Use-with-Potential-Competing-Interests.pdf>

[Sustainability](#)

Sustainability

ohp.parks.ca.gov

From: Don Jackson [REDACTED] >
Sent: Wednesday, November 8, 2023 3:10 PM
To: Council, City <city.council@cityofpaloalto.org>; Historic Resources Board <hrb@CityofPaloAlto.org>; Shikada, Ed <Ed.Shikada@CityofPaloAlto.org>; Lait, Jonathan <Jonathan.Lait@CityofPaloAlto.org>; French, Amy <Amy.French@CityofPaloAlto.org>
Subject: Additional comments on Historic Resources Inventory process

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November 8, 2023

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Don Jackson



From: [Michael Dreyfus](#)
To: [Council, City](#); [Historic Resources Board](#); [French, Amy](#)
Cc: [Darlene Yaplee](#); [Don Jackson](#); [Jessica Tsoong](#); [Monica Corman](#); [Mary Gullixson](#); [Sherry Bucolo](#); [John Young](#); [Noelle Queen](#); [David Gray](#); [Umang Santhorawala](#); [Mary Gilles](#); [Omar Kinaan](#); [Shena Hurley](#); [Mary Jo McCarthy](#)
Subject: Nomination of eligible historic resources to the City's historic inventory
Date: Wednesday, November 8, 2023 6:28:21 PM
Attachments: [MichaelDreyfushistoric.pdf](#)

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Honorable Council Members and Board Members,

My name is Michael Dreyfus, and with over three decades of experience as a real estate agent, 24 years of which I've worked in Palo Alto, I've sold more than 300 homes in Palo Alto and remain a dedicated participant in its market. I lived for 15 years in a historic home in Professorville. Many community members have sought my insights regarding the implications of the City's recent initiative to designate their properties as "Palo Alto Historic Inventory."

I'd like to first address the claim by some City officials and Board members that assigning a property historic status doesn't devalue it, and may in fact increase its worth. Based on my extensive experience, I can categorically refute this. In Palo Alto, a historic classification can reduce a property's value by 10% to 20%. This is essentially common sense; owning property is about the rights that come with it. The more these rights are limited, the lower the property's value becomes. Historic designation constrains the alterations one can make to a property. For example, I handled the sale of a home in the Old Palo Alto area, where the land alone was worth \$5.5 million, but due to historic restrictions, it sold for only \$4.5 million. Local realtors would unanimously prefer to lift the historic designation if possible. While it's arguable that such a status preserves a property's existing condition, it must be acknowledged that this preservation comes at a considerable financial cost to the owner.

For over two decades, Palo Alto has contended with the effects of an unofficial historic preservation policy, despite a 52% majority defeating Measure G in 2000. In the subsequent 23 years, this de facto policy has been inadvertently strengthened, by City staff and consultants, leading to the categorization of previously unmarked homes as historic. This has bred confusion within the real estate sector due to constantly evolving rules and a lack of consistent procedure. The 1-4 classification system currently in place is ineffectual. Decisions by the Historic Review Board seem capricious and lack clear directives. I recall an incident where, during a review concerning my property in Professorville, half of the board objected to replacing windows due to their "historic" nature, while the other half insisted on new windows to distinguish the historic sections of the house. We were left without a clear verdict and eventually abandoned our renovation plans.

Furthermore, there's a growing ambiguity and overreach surrounding what qualifies as historic. The City now tentatively considers any property labeled "eligible" for historic status as such, burdening homeowners with the responsibility, and expense, to prove otherwise. This involves engaging a City-appointed consultant at the owner's expense (often \$7,000 to \$10,000) and securing an affirmative ruling. This presumptive approach to historic status is not only burdensome for property owners but also disrupts the clarity and predictability that should be inherent in real estate processes.

It is time for the City to acknowledge the negative financial and procedural burden the historic system is placing on Palo Alto homeowners. The decision to declare a house "historic" should be brought out of the shadows and have a clear set of qualifications and process that requires the informed consent of the homeowner.

Michael Dreyfus

The following local real estate agents have indicated support for, and agreement with, the points I have raised here.

Mary Gullixson, Compass Realty
Sherry Bucolo, Compass Realty
Umang Sanchorawala, Compass Realty
Monica Corman, Compass Realty
Noelle Queen, Golden Gate Sotheby's International Realty
John Young, Golden Gate Sotheby's International Realty
Mary Gilles, Golden Gate Sotheby's International Realty
Omar Kinaan, Golden Gate Sotheby's International Realty
Shena Hurley, Golden Gate Sotheby's International Realty
Mary Jo McCarthy, Golden Gate Sotheby's International Realty
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THE DREYFUS GROUP



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Michael Dreyfus, Broker Associate

Golden Gate Sotheby's International Realty

650.704.7928 | m.dreyfus@ggsir.com | License No. 01121795

From: [Perry Irvine](#)
To: [Historic Resources Board](#); [French, Amy](#)
Cc: [Kendra Muscarella](#); [David L Cooper](#); [Linda Romley-Irvine](#)
Subject: Proposed designation of 635 Bryant Street, Palo Alto as an Historical Building
Date: Wednesday, November 8, 2023 10:15:56 PM
Attachments: [historicresources.ltr.110623.pdf](#)

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Dear Members of the Historical Resources Board

Attached is my letter in which we, as owners of 635 Bryant Street, Palo Alto, oppose inclusion of our building on any listing of historical buildings in the City of Palo Alto, for the reasons stated in the letter.

Thank you for your consideration of this.

Perry A. Irvine
635 Bryant Street
Palo Alto, [REDACTED] 4301
Mobile: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]

PERRY A. IRVINE
635 Bryant Street
Palo Alto, California 94301
[REDACTED]

November 8, 2023

HAND DELIVERY & EMAIL

City of Palo Alto
Historic Resources Board
Palo Alto City Hall
250 Hamilton Avenue
Palo Alto, California

Re: Designation of 635 Bryant Street as Historical Building

Dear Board Members:

My wife and I, and David and Nada Cooper, are the owners of 635 Bryant Street, Palo Alto, and have been since 1987. We do not want it included in any listing of historic buildings in Palo Alto. Let me explain why we do not desire to be listed.

I have been a resident of Palo Alto since 1972 and have lived in Professorville in a 97 year old house for almost 39 years. Dave Cooper and I were law partners in 1986 and were tenants in the building at 525 University Avenue. Late in 1986, we were informed that our space had been rented to another large company without notice to us and that we were out on the street, even though we had been great tenants for over five years. We decided that we never wanted to be treated that way again.

So we went looking for a building that we could buy and found 635 Bryant was going to be on the market. It had been badly neglected (not painted for over 20 years) and had been “remodeled” in the ‘50s with cheap wall paneling and doors, linoleum floors, lowered acoustical tile ceilings and florescent lights. Many of the original doors and moldings had been removed. In other words, it looked terrible. We decided to change that.

We hired a contractor who tore out the bad remodeling job, and discovered that beautiful old baseboards, wainscoting and fir floors were hiding under the terrible remodeling. This contractor brought in a master craftsman, who proceeded to find a few examples of the original woodwork and molding and recreated them throughout the building along with 23 doors that matched what been there when the building was erected many years before. At substantial expense, we restored it to its original glory.

In the 36 years since we bought and restored 635 Bryant, we have adhered to our original philosophy, that is to keep the building in the best condition possible and keep it true to its creation.

When work needs to be done, as it always does on an old building, we hire a local Palo Alto contractor who specializes in maintaining buildings like 635 as they were built originally.

In 1987, we made a conscious decision, in addition to restoring the building to its glory, to not seek any historical status, nor to seek any tax breaks, nor other government incentives. We did so because we felt that we should pay our fair share of the costs of government. In the process, for example, we have been levied a very substantial lien to pay for parking garages, which used a formula that had our tenants using far more parking spaces than we ever used.

Our tenants are all small businesses, therapists, lawyers, accountants and financial advisers who love working in our very friendly environment. We treat them with respect and appreciation for being part of our small office community.

We have no intention to tear down or alter the building in any material way. However, we also do not want our families to be tied to an historical designation that may make it impossible or difficult for them to sell the building, should circumstances warrant that.

This community has many issues with which it needs to deal e.g. permitting enough affordable housing to be built so that mere mortals can afford to live here; making it possible for Caltrain to serve the Peninsula (including many Palo Altans) without train whistles blowing day and night; dealing with the unhoused, with those with drug issues and the business district of University Avenue and California Avenue. All of these are far more pressing and important to our community

The effort to tag our property at 635 Bryant Street and these other buildings with an historical resources label is both unwise and unnecessary.

We respectfully request that 635 Bryant Street not be included in that listing.

Sincerely yours

Perry A. Irvine

cc: David & Nada Cooper

From: [French, Amy](#)
To: [Perry Irvine](#); [Historic Resources Board](#)
Cc: [Kendra Muscarella](#); [David L Cooper](#); [Linda Romley-Irvine](#); [Isabel Castellano](#)
Subject: RE: Proposed designation of 635 Bryant Street, Palo Alto as an Historical Building
Date: Wednesday, November 8, 2023 11:30:55 PM
Attachments: [BryantStreet_635.pdf](#)

Hello, thank you for reaching out, acknowledging we have received your objection letter. I am sending you the nomination form and DPR form from the 1997-2000 survey. And a link to the letter we sent with the notice cards, to make sure you have information at hand:

www.cityofpaloalto.org/files/assets/public/v/1/planning-amp-development-services/historic-preservation/nomination-notification-letter_11.9.2023.pdf

If you are unable to zoom into the meeting tomorrow morning at 8:30 am City Hall, there will be a recording and video posted after a day or so. MidPen media covers these meetings, as well as youtube.

I would say more but I need a little sleep before tomorrow morning's meeting. I am available tomorrow after the meeting to talk if you would like. If not, I can send another email with more information about next steps.

From: Perry Irvine [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 8, 2023 10:16 PM
To: Historic Resources Board <hrb@CityofPaloAlto.org>; French, Amy <Amy.French@CityofPaloAlto.org>
Cc: Kendra Muscarella [REDACTED]; David L Cooper [REDACTED]; Linda Romley-Irvine [REDACTED]
Subject: Proposed designation of 635 Bryant Street, Palo Alto as an Historical Building

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Dear Members of the Historical Resources Board

Attached is my letter in which we, as owners of 635 Bryant Street, Palo Alto, oppose inclusion of our building on any listing of historical buildings in the City of Palo Alto, for the reasons stated in the letter.

Thank you for your consideration of this.

Perry A. Irvine
635 Bryant Street
Palo Alto, California 94301
Mobile: 650-906-7279
Email: pirvine94301@yahoo.com