

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Historic Resources Board](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Historic homes \$Millions risk to City  
**Date:** Thursday, November 9, 2023 4:31:22 PM  
**Importance:** High

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November 9, 2023

Historic Resources Board:

Here is a message I've sent to the City Council and the City Attorney that might affect your policy decisions going forward.

Mike Forster, Evergreen Park

[REDACTED]

Palo Alto, CA 94306

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 3, 2023 11:50 AM  
**To:** 'city.attorney@cityofpaloalto.org' <city.attorney@cityofpaloalto.org>;  
'city.attorney@cityofpaloalto.org' <city.attorney@cityofpaloalto.org>  
**Subject:** Historic homes \$Millions risk to City

September 3, 2023

City Attorney:

My goal here is to prevent our City from inadvertently putting itself into a position where the City could be obligated to compensate hundreds of homeowners to the amount of hundreds of millions of dollars.

Mike Forster, Evergreen Park

[REDACTED]

Palo Alto, CA 94306

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

=====

>> On September 1, 2023, I posted this message in the discussion page at Palo Alto Online. Some weeks ago, I had sent a similar email message to the City Council.

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Today, in the 2020s, a historic preservation designation without homeowner approval might expose our City to hundreds of millions of dollars in eminent domain costs.

California SB9 has established a new floor for the potential value of homes in California. Any homeowner can split a lot, build up to two homes on each lot, and gain financially. Any City actions without homeowner approval that would prevent the homeowner from doing so might require the City to provide just compensation for that lost potential gain.

In Palo Alto, a back-of-the-envelope calculation would show that the lost potential value could be at least \$1M and \$2M per property. For 148 homes, the City compensation required by our U.S. Constitution could be at least \$148M, and likely higher.

The City should investigate this potential financial risk thoroughly before proceeding.

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>> Today, September 3, 2023, I followed this up with this comment with a more detailed analysis:

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In response to Norman Beamer: My point is the following:

In the past, "Classifying a home under the historic inventory" might not have been "an eminent domain issue." However, now that the State of California has changed the laws that essentially place a new floor under the value of a home, it may have become an eminent domain issue. Here's a hypothetical example:

In Palo Alto, a 1800-sqaure-foot house on a 7,500 square foot lot in College Terrace would likely sell for about \$3M. Per the new state laws and Palo Alto floor-area-ratio limits, the owner could demolish the house, split the lot, and build two 800-square foot houses on each new lot, for a total of 3,200 square feet. At about \$500 per square foot, the new construction total cost would be about \$1.6M.

Based on recent sales of old, small houses on small lots in College Terrace, each of those new small houses would likely sell for at least \$1.5M, for a total of \$6M, or a net increased value of \$1.4M over the previous value of \$3M plus construction costs of \$1.6M.

Classifying a home under the historic inventory without the homeowner's consent would reduce the potential value of this home by \$1.4M. Our US Constitution states, "nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation." An historic designation very likely constitutes a "public use", and therefore the homeowner would be entitled to compensation - i.e., eminent domain.

\$1.4M times 128 (or 130 or 148) possibly designated homes could make the City liable for hundreds of millions of dollars in eminent domain costs.

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**From:** [French, Amy](#)  
**To:** [Don Jackson](#)  
**Cc:** [City Mgr](#); [Historic Resources Board](#); [Lait, Jonathan](#)  
**Subject:** Additional comments on Historic Resources Inventory process  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 15, 2023 2:42:37 PM  
**Attachments:** [image009.png](#)  
[image012.png](#)  
[image013.png](#)  
[image014.png](#)  
[image016.png](#)  
[image017.png](#)

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Good afternoon Mr. Jackson,

I hope you received my November 8<sup>th</sup> 5:18 pm email discussing the metal roof and solar panels topic you raised in your November 8<sup>th</sup> 3:18 pm email. Please confirm receipt, and please let me know if you have other questions on that topic. I would like to thoroughly understand the context of your comments about staff comments regarding the solar panels project, about your property that was found National Register eligible in 2000 and recently found Palo Alto inventory eligible as a category 4 resource.

In your November 8<sup>th</sup> email, you asked why the non-R1 properties are being considered for nomination to the City's local inventory. You expressed that the motivation for doing the nominations was the passage of SB9. Though the passage of the SB9 law in late 2021 was a catalyst to request Council direction, the reason to move forward on the reconnaissance project is the implementation of our Comprehensive Plan that Council adopted in December 2017. Council gave us direction to proceed on implementation of the Comprehensive Plan policy and this effort has been noted as a goal on the HRB's work plan for several years. Also of note, Palo Alto is a Certified Local Government; this carries responsibilities under our certification agreement with the State Office of Historic Preservation (OHP), such as providing an annual report to the state Office of Historic Preservation. You can read the FAQs on OHP's webpage here: [https://ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=24494](https://ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=24494). Due to timely annual reports I file each year, we qualify for grants to offset the costs of our historic program.

And, following our small group meeting on Friday November 3, you sent several questions. Staff has reviewed the National Register properties list to determine each property's zoning district, so now I can respond to your earlier questions.

**Answering your questions 1, 2, and 4:**

154 properties still exist/integrity from the prior 165 National Register eligible list from the 2000 survey. We found approximately 57% of these 154 properties - 88 properties - are zoned single family residential (R1, R1 (10,000), RE) and currently subject to SB 9 development because they are not formally listed on our local inventory, state register or national register. Your research found these zones among the eligible properties:

- R-1
- R-1 (10000)
- R-2
- RM-20

- RM-30
- RM-40
- RMD (NP)
- RT-35
- CD-C (P)
- DHS

Our review found the above zones plus these zones: RE, AMF, AMF (MUO), CC-2(R)(P), CDC(GF)(P), HD, PC, PF, PF(D).

**Answering your questions 3 and 5:** What is the difference between "R-1" and "R-1 (10000)"? What is the meaning/definition of each of these zoning districts?

The R1 zone and R1 (10,000) are both subject to the development standards and uses outlined in Palo Alto Municipal Code Chapter 18.12. R1 (10,000) designation sets the minimum lot size as 10,000 square feet whereas R1 designation sets the minimum lot size as 6,000 square feet. For instance, the interior side minimum setbacks for properties zoned R1 10,000 are greater than the side setbacks in the R1 zone.

#### HRB Consideration of Property Owner Objections

As to your thoughts regarding the HRB's consideration of properties for which owner objection letters have been received, the January 25 HRB Meeting was noted in the staff report and stated during the November 9<sup>th</sup> meeting, as the meeting date for the HRB to consider all of the objections properties. This enables objectors' reasons to be noted in a staff report for the HRB's understanding and discussion in a single meeting devoted to this issue, before the HRB make their recommendation to Council on those properties. It allows the HRB to get through the work of reviewing the category recommendations and nominations of the other properties on the lists during the three meetings November 9, December 14 and January 11.

The process we are in is similar to the process the State Office of Historic Preservation uses to do its work. At OHP, the trigger for an NR or CR nomination prepared by someone else is also writing a letter of objection (the owner doesn't need to write a letter of support – no comment after receiving OHP's notification letter is taken as a "go"). The owner has something like 45 days to send in a letter before the scheduled SHRC hearing. As a comparison, when Mountain View created its Historic Register in 2005 or so, they allowed owners to de-list within 6 months after the list of local was made. So that did require owners to speak up, just on a little bit longer timeline. I plan to research how other California cities handle objections to nominations, to share with the HRB in January.

Please let me know if you have other questions.

Best,

**AMY FRENCH**

Chief Planning Official

Planning and Development Services

(650) 329-2336 | [amy.french@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:amy.french@cityofpaloalto.org)



[www.cityofpaloalto.org](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org)



Service Feedback

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

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November 8, 2023

Honorable Council Members, Historic Resource Board Members, and Staff:

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

It is unambiguously clear from the Council minutes that the primary motivation for this review and update to the historic inventory was to prevent such properties from utilizing SB-9 authorized subdivision.

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:** [Susan Stuermer Thomas](#)  
**To:** [French, Amy](#); [Historic Resources Board](#)  
**Cc:** [Council, City](#)  
**Subject:** Objection to Designation of 1757 Park Blvd. as a Historic Home  
**Date:** Thursday, November 16, 2023 6:09:19 PM

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I believe that my home identified above may have been put on a list to be categorized as a historic home. I am sorry I did not have an opportunity to object sooner, but I very, very strongly object. I do not think that any such designation should be made without the homeowner's consent. I have reviewed the incentives for so doing, and decided that they do not adequately compensate homeowners for the possible diminution in the value of their homes, the imposition of procedural requirements, and the limitation of the homeowners' rights with respect to their own homes. If my home was added to this list, please remove it immediately. If my home has not already been put on this list, but may be put on it in the future, please take into account my extremely strong objections.

I would appreciate a prompt response and notification as to what future steps I should take with respect to this matter.

Susan Stuermer Thomas

[REDACTED]  
Palo Alto, CA 94306

Phone and text: [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad



**From:** [Isabel Castellano](#)  
**To:** [Julie Good](#); [Dan Kaleba](#)  
**Cc:** [Historic Resources Board](#); [French, Amy](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Homeowner letter for 1590 California Ave - for November 9th meeting  
**Date:** Thursday, November 16, 2023 7:32:01 PM

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Hello Julie and Dan,

Thank you for sharing your letter. We have recorded your objection to the nomination of your property, 1590 California Avenue. As part of the 2023 Reconnaissance Survey Project, we anticipate presenting all the nomination objections to the Historic Resource Board on a January 2024 hearing agenda.

Please note that mailed notices will continue to be sent to property owners in advance of a Historic Resource Board and the City Council meeting to keep you informed. If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me.

Regards,  
Isabel



**ISABEL CASTELLANO**  
historic preservation specialist  
707.540.0723 x220

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**From:** Julie Good <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 8, 2023 1:10 PM  
**To:** [hrb@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:hrb@cityofpaloalto.org); [Amy French <amy.french@cityofpaloalto.org>](mailto:Amy.French@cityofpaloalto.org); [Isabel Castellano <icastellano@m-group.us>](mailto:isabel.castellano@m-group.us)  
**Cc:** Dan Kaleba <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Homeowner letter for 1590 California Ave - for November 9th meeting

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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

**From:** [Erika Journey](#)  
**To:** [French, Amy](#); [Historic Resources Board](#)  
**Cc:** [Council, City](#)  
**Subject:** Palo Alto Historical Inventory - Objection Letter for 230 Kellogg Avenue  
**Date:** Friday, November 17, 2023 8:09:18 AM

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Historical Resources Board and Amy French,

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

This email conveys my objection to any such listing/inclusion of my property at 230 Kellogg Avenue. I love my home which is why I purchased it, but I do not want to be part of the Palo Alto Historical Inventory program and its implications.

### **Not a unique example of design**

- My home is wonderful to me, but it is hardly an exemplar of Craftsman design. It has a quite ordinary exterior and interior.

### **Impact to home salability**

- Realtors with extensive experience buying and selling Palo Alto properties have advised 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)

### **SB-9 not applicable**

- My property is zoned R-2 and is therefore exempt from SB-9 sub-division. If a motivation to make my home historic is to exempt it from SB-9, it is already exempt.

### **Added restrictions and requirements**

- I do not want my property to have more restrictions and requirements above and beyond the City's already rigorous and lengthy permit approval process.

### **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.
- I want to live in a 1900s home, not live in the 1900s.
- "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,  
Erika Journey  
Homeowner - [REDACTED]

**From:** [Isabel Castellano](mailto:isabel.castellano@cityofpaloalto.org)  
**To:** [sthomas210@comcast.net](mailto:sthomas210@comcast.net)  
**Cc:** [French, Amy](#); [Historic Resources Board](#); [Council, City](#); [City Mgr](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Objection to Designation of 1757 Park Blvd. as a Historic Home  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 4:06:31 PM  
**Attachments:** [ParkBlvd\\_1757.pdf](#)

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Hello Susan,

Thank you for corresponding with us and requesting an objection to the Palo Alto Inventory nomination for 1757 Park Blvd. I would like to note that we have received and recorded your objection request.

As part of the 2023 Reconnaissance Survey Project, we anticipate presenting all the nomination objections to the Historic Resource Board on the January 25, 2024 hearing agenda. Please note that mailed notices will continue to be sent to property owners in advance of a Historic Resource Board and the City Council meeting to keep you informed. If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me.

Attached is a copy of the Nomination Form with a Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) form of your property, 1757 Park Blvd, for your record.

Regards,  
Isabel



**ISABEL CASTELLANO**  
historic preservation specialist  
707.540.0723 x220

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**From:** Susan Stuermer Thomas <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 16, 2023 6:08:59 PM  
**To:** French, Amy <[Amy.French@CityofPaloAlto.org](mailto:Amy.French@CityofPaloAlto.org)>; Historic Resources Board <[hrb@CityofPaloAlto.org](mailto:hrb@CityofPaloAlto.org)>  
**Cc:** Council, City <[city.council@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:city.council@cityofpaloalto.org)>  
**Subject:** Objection to Designation of 1757 Park Blvd. as a Historic Home

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I believe that my home identified above may have been put on a list to be categorized as a historic

home. I am sorry I did not have an opportunity to object sooner, but I very, very strongly object. I do not think that any such designation should be made without the homeowner's consent. I have reviewed the incentives for so doing, and decided that they do not adequately compensate homeowners for the possible diminution in the value of their homes, the imposition of procedural requirements, and the limitation of the homeowners' rights with respect to their own homes. If my home was added to this list, please remove it immediately. If my home has not already been put on this list, but may be put on it in the future, please take into account my extremely strong objections.

I would appreciate a prompt response and notification as to what future steps I should take with respect to this matter.

Susan Stuermer Thomas

[REDACTED]

Palo Alto, CA 94306

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Isabel Castellano](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [French, Amy](#); [Historic Resources Board](#); [Council, City](#); [City Mgr](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Palo Alto Historical Inventory - Objection Letter for 230 Kellogg Avenue  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 4:09:21 PM  
**Attachments:** [KelloggAvenue\\_230.pdf](#)

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Some people who received this message don't often get email from [icastellano@m-group.us](mailto:icastellano@m-group.us). [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello Erika,

Thank you for corresponding with us and requesting an objection to the Palo Alto Inventory nomination for 230 Kellogg Avenue. I would like to note that we have received and recorded your objection request.

As part of the 2023 Reconnaissance Survey Project, we anticipate presenting all the nomination objections to the Historic Resource Board on the January 25, 2024 hearing agenda. Please note that mailed notices will continue to be sent to property owners in advance of a Historic Resource Board and the City Council meeting to keep you informed. If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me.

Attached is a copy of the Nomination Form with a Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) form of your property, 230 Kellogg Avenue, for your record.

Regards,  
Isabel



**ISABEL CASTELLANO**  
historic preservation specialist  
707.540.0723 x220

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**From:** Erika Jurney <[erika@thejurneys.com](mailto:erika@thejurneys.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 17, 2023 8:09 AM  
**To:** French, Amy <[Amy.French@CityofPaloAlto.org](mailto:Amy.French@CityofPaloAlto.org)>; Historic Resources Board <[hrb@CityofPaloAlto.org](mailto:hrb@CityofPaloAlto.org)>  
**Cc:** Council, City <[city.council@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:city.council@cityofpaloalto.org)>  
**Subject:** Palo Alto Historical Inventory - Objection Letter for 230 Kellogg Avenue

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Historical Resources Board and Amy French,

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

This email conveys my objection to any such listing/inclusion of my property at 230 Kellogg Avenue. I love my home which is why I purchased it, but I do not want to be part of the Palo Alto Historical Inventory program and its implications.

**Not a unique example of design**

- My home is wonderful to me, but it is hardly an exemplar of Craftsman design. It has a quite ordinary exterior and interior.

**Impact to home salability**

- Realtors with extensive experience buying and selling Palo Alto properties have advised 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)

**SB-9 not applicable**

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

**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.
- I want to live in a 1900s home, not live in the 1900s.
- “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,

Erika Journey

Homeowner - 

**From:** [Susan Stuermer Thomas](#)  
**To:** [Isabel Castellano](#)  
**Cc:** [French, Amy](#); [Historic Resources Board](#); [Council, City](#); [City Mgr](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Objection to Designation of 1757 Park Blvd. as a Historic Home  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 5:00:49 PM  
**Attachments:** [ParkBlvd\\_1757.pdf](#)

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Thank you for your email, Isabel.

Sent from my iPad

On Nov 20, 2023, at 4:06 PM, Isabel Castellano <[icastellano@m-group.us](mailto:icastellano@m-group.us)> wrote:

Hello Susan,

Thank you for corresponding with us and requesting an objection to the Palo Alto Inventory nomination for 1757 Park Blvd. I would like to note that we have received and recorded your objection request.

As part of the 2023 Reconnaissance Survey Project, we anticipate presenting all the nomination objections to the Historic Resource Board on the January 25, 2024 hearing agenda. Please note that mailed notices will continue to be sent to property owners in advance of a Historic Resource Board and the City Council meeting to keep you informed. If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me.

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Regards,  
Isabel



**ISABEL CASTELLANO**  
historic preservation specialist  
707.540.0723 x220

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---

**From:** Susan Stuermer Thomas [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 16, 2023 6:08:59 PM



**To:** French, Amy <Amy.French@CityofPaloAlto.org>; Historic Resources Board <hrb@CityofPaloAlto.org>  
**Cc:** Council, City <city.council@cityofpaloalto.org>  
**Subject:** Objection to Designation of 1757 Park Blvd. as a Historic Home

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I would appreciate a prompt response and notification as to what future steps I should take with respect to this matter.

Susan Stuermer Thomas

[REDACTED]  
Palo Alto, CA 94306

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Don Jackson](#)  
**To:** [French, Amy](#); [Historic Resources Board](#); [Council, City](#)  
**Cc:** [Lait, Jonathan](#); [Shikada, Ed](#); [City Attorney](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Historic Resources Inventory Process and Property Owner Objections  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 3:43:26 PM  
**Importance:** High

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Ms French,

Thank you for your email of November 15, 2023.

That email thread combines several different issues, moving forward I will address them in separate emails, this email being the first.

On Nov 15, 2023, at 2:42 PM, French, Amy <[Amy.French@CityofPaloAlto.org](mailto:Amy.French@CityofPaloAlto.org)> wrote:

[HRB Consideration of Property Owner Objections](#)

As to your thoughts regarding the HRB's consideration of properties for which owner objection letters have been received, the January 25 HRB Meeting was noted in the staff report and stated during the November 9<sup>th</sup> meeting, as the meeting date for the HRB to consider all of the objections properties.

This enables objectors' reasons to be noted in a staff report for the HRB's understanding and discussion in a single meeting devoted to this issue, before the HRB make their recommendation to Council on those properties.

It allows the HRB to get through the work of reviewing the category recommendations and nominations of the other properties on the lists during the three meetings November 9, December 14 and January 11.

The process we are in is similar to the process the State Office of Historic Preservation uses to do its work.

At OHP, the trigger for an NR or CR nomination prepared by someone else is also writing a letter of objection

(the owner doesn't need to write a letter of support – no comment after receiving OHP's notification letter is taken as a "go").

The owner has something like 45 days to send in a letter before the scheduled SHRC hearing.

As a comparison, when Mountain View created its Historic Register in 2005 or so, they allowed owners to de-list within 6 months after the list of local was made.

So that did require owners to speak up, just on a little bit longer timeline.

I plan to research how other California cities handle objections to nominations, to share with the HRB in January.

You characterize the current city/HRB process as “similar” to the CA-OHP process, but I see two important differences:

1. Reasonable Advance Notice of Hearing:

You stated the CA-OHP provides a 45 day window for an owner to respond/object to the listing of their property.

The HRB [Nomination Notification Letter](#) you sent to owners of properties heard at the HRB Thursday, November 9th meeting was mailed on Friday, November 3rd, and my letter was received on Monday, November 6, leaving just 2 full work days prior to the hearing.

That is not reasonable advance notice.

The two postcards mailed October 27th (with an incorrect eligible property address) and November 2nd (with a corrected eligible property address) stated “NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Palo Alto Historic Resources Board (HRB) will conduct a public hearing on Thursday, November 9, 2023 at 8:30am”. I received the November 2nd postcard on Saturday, November 4th, only 3 full working days prior to the hearing.

2. “A resource cannot be listed over an owner’s objection”:

The California legal code (sections 4852-5) states "Consent of owner is not required, but a resource cannot be listed over an owner’s objections”

The current city/HRB process does not include this important governance.

Once this discrepancy was realized, the fair, productive, and transparent course of action would have been to pause the Historic Inventory Nomination Process, for the HRB to recommend to Council (and/or for staff to advise Council) that this be clarified in the ordinance, and to resume the process only after this was complete.

Other homeowners have made this same point (e.g. at the Tuesday, October 24th Community Meeting, at timestamp 1:35:12)

I have not seen an example CA-OHP notification letter for comparison, but in my opinion the HRB [Nomination Notification Letter](#) does not provide clear expectations about, or a fair and balanced representation of, the potential impacts to a property due to its inclusion on the Historic Inventory, to wit:

- Nowhere in the letter does it state that unless an owner objects that the property will be added to the inventory
- The letter does not provide any indication that there may be important limitations and constraints to a property by its inclusion on the inventory, for example, limitations on future development (building permits), or potential impacts to the property’s market value. Instead, the letter represents this listing as an “exciting” event, with no downsides.

I understand that the CA-OHP process is “opt-out”, that is, listing on the state registry is precluded by a owner’s objection,

that no-response from an owner is treated as no-objection, and CA-OHP may proceed with the listing/designation.

The city/HRB process is not “opt-out” like the CA-OHP process.

In documenting and recording the historic inventory process, I urge you and the HRB to clearly indicate the factual response status of each property’s owner, specifically one of:

- No-response
- Responded-with-no-objection
- Responded-with-objection

I understand that the current HRB and staff intention is to proceed with listing both non-responding and responding-with-no-objection properties for the HRB’s recommendation to Council.

In the spirit of transparency and clarity to both Council and residents, given the lack of reasonable advance notice that many owners have received to date, combined with the incomplete representation of inventory impacts in the HRB [Nomination Notification Letter](#),

providing and preserving these factually accurate response distinctions would be important in the event of any potential future litigation.

Regards,

Don Jackson

**From:** [Gretchen Harding](#)  
**To:** [French, Amy](#); [Historic Resources Board](#)  
**Cc:** [Michael Harding](#); [darlene.yaplee@gmail.com](mailto:darlene.yaplee@gmail.com); [Council, City](#)  
**Subject:** 336 Byron Street OBJECTION to being on the historic inventory  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 22, 2023 2:18:23 PM

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Hello All,

Properties should *not* be nominated to the Historical Inventory without the homeowners explicit agreement.

As the owners of 336 Byron Street, we object to our property being nominated to be listed on the Historical Inventory. This is not something we want and we feel forced to engage on this issue. The presumption that our home should be added without our consent creates current and future burdens that we don't want.

Significantly, the inclusion of 336 Byron on the listing does not make sense.

The exterior of our house looks old, but it is not significant. For some unknown reason, the house immediately next to ours, which was built at the same time, in the same style, and by the same builders is not on the list of nominated properties. No one significant has lived in either home. No other homes near ours are listed, but there are at least 10 homes in the 100-200 block of Byron that seem to have been overlooked from the list.

Why isn't 667 Lytton, which I can see from my front window, listed for nomination. That home is architecturally significant with a brick facade and decorative Victorian shingles listed. Older neighbors said that Joan Baez once lived there and that Jerry Garcia spent time there too.

The 300 block of Byron street represents the constant evolution of buildings in Palo Alto over time, with no dominant style. Other homes on our block were built in the 1940s, 1980s and 2010s, with a new street facing ADU under construction right now. We also have a 3 story 1980s condo building immediately next door.

Regards,  
Gretchen & Michael Harding  
[REDACTED]

--  
Gretchen Harding  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [James Noh-Kuhn](#)  
**To:** [French, Amy](#); [Historic Resources Board](#)  
**Cc:** [Saiganesh Sairaman](#); [Lakshmi](#); [Shanti Rubenstone](#)  
**Subject:** HRB Nomination for Historic Inventory  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 22, 2023 4:39:01 PM

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Hello friends,

It was recently brought to our attention by a neighbor that the City of Palo Alto Historic Resources Board is considering our church for inclusion as a historic property. We're a little unclear on what the details are (maybe I've misstated things?), and more importantly, what the implications are. Apparently, there is a board meeting scheduled for Dec 14th where our property, along many others, will be considered. This was all new news to us, and don't recall receiving any kind of notification from you.

Can you please provide any information as to what this process entails, and what the implications may be so that we can make an informed decision as to whether we object or not?

Our address is [REDACTED], Palo Alto, CA, 94306.

Thank you,  
James Noh-Kuhn,  
Co-Manager and Board of Director Member  
Ananda Church of Self-Realization of Palo Alto.

**From:** [Fan Yang](#)  
**To:** [French, Amy](#); [Historic Resources Board](#)  
**Cc:** [Council, City](#); [Hui Tan](#)  
**Subject:** Regarding Historical Designation for our property  
**Date:** Friday, November 24, 2023 7:28:57 PM

---

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Dear Historical Resource Board,

We are the owners of 755 Hamilton Ave, Palo Alto, CA 94301. We would like to express our objection to list our property on any historic inventory. Please remove the property from the nomination list. Thanks.

--

Fan Yang & Hui Tan

**From:** [Don Yarkin](#)  
**To:** [French, Amy](#); [Historic Resources Board](#)  
**Cc:** [Council, City](#)  
**Subject:** Re: 945-9 Emerson Street - SOS Market/Village Cobbler  
**Date:** Monday, November 27, 2023 11:34:46 AM

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Dear Ms. French:

I am writing you to express my objection to my family's property on Emerson being on the list of properties considered for Historic designation. I am not sure if you or members of the Historic Board have actually seen the inside of the SOS Market, now the Village Cobbler. but the only historic note that I can think of, is that it is old and falling apart. My family has owned the property for a long time, and our long term plan was always at some point to build it into a small residential project. After my parents passed away, this property got put on the family's back burner. Now I see that it again is in the news...

With the City in need of more housing, it strikes me that this would be an ideal spot to put in housing. My family has no interest in trying to rehabilitate the building. I have made some attempts to see what the City will actually allow, and have not received any clear answers other than its Historic, and any project will be difficult to get thru the City.

Please note my objection, and please keep me in the loop with any further correspondence on this matter.

Thanks for your attention,

*Don*

Don Yarkin

YARKIN REALTY

<http://www.yarkinrealty.com>

152 Homer Ave • Palo Alto, CA 94301

License #00673086

cell: [REDACTED]



**From:** [Susan Dunn](#)  
**To:** [French, Amy](#); [Historic Resources Board](#)  
**Cc:** [Eric Dunn](#)  
**Subject:** 509 Coleridge  
**Date:** Monday, November 27, 2023 2:28:49 PM

---

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Hello,

It has come to our attention that our home at 509 Coleridge will be nominated for inclusion in the Palo Alto Historic Inventory at an HRB hearing on January 11, 2024 based on "an association with Persons."

Can you please tell us more? For example, who are the "Persons" with whom our property is associated?

Can you tell us whether our home is also eligible for the California Register of Historical Resources, or the National Register of Historic Places?

Finally, what are the consequences of inclusion in the Palo Alto Historic Inventory? For example, will our house receive a brass plaque of the type we have noticed on other houses that are more than 100 years old?

Thank you,

Susan Dunn

**From:** [French, Amy](#)  
**To:** [Don Yarkin](#); [Historic Resources Board](#)  
**Cc:** [City Mgr](#); [Isabel Castellano](#)  
**Subject:** RE: 945-9 Emerson Street - SOS Market/Village Cobbler  
**Date:** Monday, November 27, 2023 5:08:33 PM  
**Attachments:** [EmersonSt\\_945-949.pdf](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image006.png](#)  
[image007.png](#)  
[image008.png](#)  
[image009.png](#)

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Hello Mr. Yarkin,

Thank you for reaching out – we have received your objection well in advance of the December 14 packet preparation; the packet will contain recommendations for nominations to the City’s local historic inventory. I am copying Isabel Castellano, who is assisting the city with outreach for this effort; she can inform you regarding anticipated notice cards and staff report availability.

We are preparing the packet for the December 14<sup>th</sup> HRB meeting now. It will have the attached nomination form and 1997-2000 survey ‘DPR’ for your property included based on the criteria for nomination. The nomination form recommends local inventory category 4, and the DPR for is the National Register eligibility evaluation from the 1997-2001 survey showing the reasons for eligibility.

Staff published the intent for all properties for which we received objections from the owner to be considered on the January 25, 2024 HRB meeting for a full discussion.

Please note that 945 Emerson is one of the addresses listed in the Appendix B-1 SOFA 2 Historic Resource List and 949 Emerson is noted on the SOFA 2 Seismic Hazard List. See below excerpt of the historic resource list pulled from the SOFA 2 Plan, viewable here:

<https://www.cityofpaloalto.org/files/assets/public/v/1/planning-amp-development-services/file-migration/current-planning/forms-and-guidelines/south-of-forest-coordinated-area-plan-phase-2.pdf>

## APPENDIX B SOFA 2 HISTORIC RESOURCES AND SEISMIC HAZARDS

Appendix B contains the list of historic resources and seismic hazards in SOFA 2 at the time of adoption of this Coordinated Area Plan. These lists will be maintained by the city and may be updated from time to time. Appendix B-1 lists buildings and sites that are SOFA 2 Historic Resources, and therefore are entitled to bonuses and subject to restrictions under this CAP. Appendix B-2 lists buildings and sites that are SOFA 2 Potential Historic Resources, and will require further study to establish their historic status prior to undergoing exterior alteration. Appendix B-3 lists those buildings that have been designated as seismic hazards, and are given incentives under this CAP to reduce those hazards.

### Appendix B-1 SOFA 2 Historic Resource List

The following buildings are SOFA 2 Historic Resources:

<u>Address</u>	<u>Parcel Number</u>
<u>Alma Street</u>	
799.....	120-27-079
<u>Emerson Street</u>	
731.....	120-27-071
800.....	120-28-006
945.....	120-28-079
<u>High Street</u>	
790.....	120-27-078
865.....	120-28-039
900.....	120-28-049
<u>Homer Avenue</u>	
140.....	120-28-002
200.....	120-28-007
201.....	120-27-070
209.....	120-27-070
210.....	120-28-008
212-214.....	120-28-009
230.....	120-28-010
233.....	120-28-011

Your property is within the SOFA 2 Coordinated Area Plan area, zoned Residential Transition/ RT-35. The SOFA 2 plan includes RT development standards which note a floor area bonus of 25% or 2,500 sf ft, whichever is greater, available for rehab of buildings on the SOFA 2 historic resources list. Seismic bonus floor area is available as well, for seismic rehab. It does not appear to be a requirement for your property to be listed separately on the local inventory in order for you to be able to take advantage of these floor area bonuses, if you do change your mind and decide to rehabilitate the structures.

I would be happy to meet with you regarding your property to discuss existing regulations, SOFA 2, architectural review process for redevelopment, and your thoughts regarding creating housing. Please let me know if you would like to make an appointment.

**AMY FRENCH**  
Chief Planning Official



Planning and Development Services  
(650) 329-2336 | [amy.french@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:amy.french@cityofpaloalto.org)  
[www.cityofpaloalto.org](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org)



---

**From:** Don Yarkin <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 27, 2023 11:32 AM  
**To:** French, Amy <Amy.French@CityofPaloAlto.org>; Historic Resources Board <hrb@CityofPaloAlto.org>  
**Cc:** Council, City <city.council@cityofpaloalto.org>  
**Subject:** Re: 945-9 Emerson Street - SOS Market/Village Cobbler

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Dear Ms. French:

I am writing you to express my objection to my family's property on Emerson being on the list of properties considered for Historic designation. I am not sure if you or members of the Historic Board have actually seen the inside of the SOS Market, now the Village Cobbler. but the only historic note that I can think of, is that it is old and falling apart. My family has owned the property for a long time, and our long term plan was always at some point to build it into a small residential project. After my parents passed away, this property got put on the family's back burner. Now I see that it again is in the news...

With the City in need of more housing, it strikes me that this would be an ideal spot to put in housing. My family has no interest in trying to rehabilitate the building. I have made some attempts to see what the City will actually allow, and have not received any clear answers other than its Historic, and any project will be difficult to get thru the City.

Please note my objection, and please keep me in the loop with any further correspondence on this matter.

Thanks for your attention,

*Don*

Don Yarkin

YARKIN REALTY

<http://www.yarkinrealty.com>

152 Homer Ave • Palo Alto, CA 94301

License #00673086

cell: 

**From:** [Isabel Castellano](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [French, Amy](#); [REDACTED] [Historic Resources Board](#)  
**Subject:** FW: HRB Nomination for Historic Inventory  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 28, 2023 9:48:05 AM  
**Attachments:** [ElCaminoReal\\_2171.pdf](#)  
[property-groupings-for-hrb-hearings-hyperlinked.pdf](#)

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Good morning James,

Thank you for reaching out regarding the 2023 Reconnaissance Survey including the property 2171 El Camino Real for the nomination to the Palo Alto Inventory. I would be happy to schedule a phone call with you anytime this week. Please share with me your phone number and your preferred times to meet. We may discuss the project, benefits for a property listed in a historic inventory, and the next steps for the nomination. Documents related to the project are available on the city's [webpage](#).

Attached is a copy of the Nomination Memo with a Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) form for your property for your records.

Please note that mailed notices will continue to be sent to property owners in advance of a Historic Resource Board and the City Council meeting to keep you informed. Notices for the December 14<sup>th</sup> meeting will be sent out in the next couple of days. If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me.

Regards,  
Isabel



**ISABEL CASTELLANO**  
historic preservation specialist  
707.540.0723 x220

---

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**From:** James Noh-Kuhn [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 22, 2023 4:38:40 PM  
**To:** French, Amy <[Amy.French@CityofPaloAlto.org](mailto:Amy.French@CityofPaloAlto.org)>; Historic Resources Board <[hrb@CityofPaloAlto.org](mailto:hrb@CityofPaloAlto.org)>  
**Cc:** Saiganesh Sairaman <[REDACTED]>; Lakshmi [REDACTED]>; Shanti Rubenstone <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** HRB Nomination for Historic Inventory

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Hello friends,

It was recently brought to our attention by a neighbor that the City of Palo Alto Historic Resources Board is considering our church for inclusion as a historic property. We're a little unclear on what the details are (maybe I've misstated things?), and more importantly, what the implications are. Apparently, there is a board meeting scheduled for Dec 14th where our property, along many others, will be considered. This was all new news to us, and don't recall receiving any kind of notification from you.

Can you please provide any information as to what this process entails, and what the implications may be so that we can make an informed decision as to whether we object or not?

Our address is [REDACTED], Palo Alto, CA, 94306.

Thank you,  
James Noh-Kuhn,  
Co-Manager and Board of Director Member  
Ananda Church of Self-Realization of Palo Alto.

**From:** [Isabel Castellano](#)  
**To:** [yangfancornell@gmail.com](mailto:yangfancornell@gmail.com)  
**Cc:** [French, Amy](#); [Historic Resources Board](#); [tanhui@gmail.com](mailto:tanhui@gmail.com); [Council, City](#); [City Mgr](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Regarding Historical Designation for our property  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 28, 2023 10:04:15 AM  
**Attachments:** [property-groupings-for-hrb-hearings-hyperlinked.pdf](#)  
[HamiltonAvenue\\_755.pdf](#)

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Good morning Fan Yang & Hui Tan,

Thank you for corresponding with us and requesting an objection to the Palo Alto Inventory nomination for 755 Hamilton Avenue. I would like to note that we have received and recorded your objection request.

Attached is a copy of the Nomination Memo with a Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) form for your property for your records.

As part of the 2023 Reconnaissance Survey Project, we anticipate presenting all the nomination objections to the Historic Resource Board on the January 25, 2024 hearing agenda. Please note that mailed notices will continue to be sent to property owners in advance of a Historic Resource Board and the City Council meeting to keep you informed. If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me.

Regards,  
Isabel



**ISABEL CASTELLANO**  
historic preservation specialist  
707.540.0723 x220

---

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---

**From:** Fan Yang [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 24, 2023 7:28:34 PM  
**To:** French, Amy <[Amy.French@CityofPaloAlto.org](mailto:Amy.French@CityofPaloAlto.org)>; Historic Resources Board <[hrb@CityofPaloAlto.org](mailto:hrb@CityofPaloAlto.org)>  
**Cc:** Council, City <[city.council@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:city.council@cityofpaloalto.org)>; Hui Tan [REDACTED] >  
**Subject:** Regarding Historical Designation for our property

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Dear Historical Resource Board,

We are the owners of 755 Hamilton Ave, Palo Alto, CA 94301. We would like to express our objection to list our property on any historic inventory. Please remove the property from the nomination list. Thanks.

--


Fan Yang & Hui Tan

**From:** [Megan McCaslin \(via Google Docs\)](#)  
**To:** [Historic Resources Board](#)  
**Cc:** [French, Amy](#); [Council, City](#); [darlene.yaplee@gmail.com](mailto:darlene.yaplee@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Document shared with you: "November 29, 2023"  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 28, 2023 10:48:15 AM

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## Megan McCaslin shared a document

 Megan McCaslin ([REDACTED]) has invited you to **view** the following document:

I am sending this letter to request that my home not be included December 14 for inclusion in the Historic inventory.  
Thanks, Megan McCaslin

 November 29, 2023



This email grants access to this item without logging in. Only forward it to people you trust.

Open

Google LLC, 1600 Amphitheatre Parkway, Mountain View, CA 94043, USA

You have received this email because [REDACTED] shared a document with you from Google Docs.



**From:** [French, Amy](#)  
**To:** [Megan McCaslin](#)  
**Cc:** [Isabel Castellano](#); [Darlene Yaplee](#); [City Mgr](#); [Historic Resources Board](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Document shared with you: "November 29, 2023"  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 28, 2023 2:23:35 PM  
**Attachments:** [image006.png](#)  
[image009.png](#)

---

Thank you Megan. Please confirm your receipt of this email.

Thank you for corresponding with us and requesting an objection to the Palo Alto Inventory nomination for 1485 Edgewood Drive. We have received and recorded your objection request.

As part of the 2023 Reconnaissance Survey Project, we anticipate presenting all the nomination objections to the Historic Resource Board on the January 25, 2024 hearing agenda. Please note that mailed notices will continue to be sent to property owners in advance of a Historic Resource Board and the City Council meeting to keep you informed.

There is no need for you to attend the meeting on December 14 - your objection will be noted in the staff report. I have forwarded your letter to our qualified consultants to follow up on the research - as you noted additional information that the home is not actually a Birge Clark home...

Also copying others you copied on the email you sent to me.

If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me and Isabel Castellano, also copied.

---

**From:** Megan McCaslin (via Google Docs) <drive-shares-dm-noreply@google.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 28, 2023 10:48 AM  
**To:** French, Amy <Amy.French@CityofPaloAlto.org>  
**Cc:** Historic Resources Board <hrb@CityofPaloAlto.org>; Council, City <city.council@cityofpaloalto.org>; [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Document shared with you: "November 29, 2023"

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## Megan McCaslin shared a document



Megan McCaslin ([REDACTED]) has invited you to **view** the following document:



I am sending this letter to request that my home not be included

December 14 for inclusion in the Historic inventory. Thanks, Megan McCaslin

November 29, 2023



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You have received this email because [REDACTED] shared a document with you from Google Docs.



**From:** [Isabel Castellano](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [French, Amy](#); [Historic Resources Board](#); [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: 509 Coleridge  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 28, 2023 2:39:52 PM  
**Attachments:** [ColeridgeAvenue\\_509.pdf](#)

---

Hello Susan,

Thank you for reaching out regarding the 2023 Reconnaissance Survey project. Below are responses related to your inquiries. I would be happy to follow up with you in a phone call. Please feel free to share your available time for this week.

1. Significant Persons: Attached is a copy of the Nomination Memo with a Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) form for your property for your records. The memo includes a summary of the structure and the significant person identified, also referenced below.

**Statement of Significance:** The building is significant as a good example of the Mediterranean Revival style in Palo Alto and for its association with Armand T. Mercier, who served as the president of the Southern Pacific Company during the years of American involvement in World War II. Mercier's leadership at the Southern Pacific is notable for beginning just days after Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor and the United States' declaration of war and then for being marked by the recordbreaking work of the employees of the Southern Pacific during the war years. Mercier lived at 509 Coleridge Avenue with his wife Helen from 1936 until his death in 1957. He appears to have balanced his professional work with a personal interest in camellias and was considered a notable camellia fancier nationwide. The building was Mercier's home during his tenure as the president of the Southern Pacific Company during World War II and is sufficiently associated with his professional and personal accomplishments. The building retains a high level of integrity.

**Period of Significance:** 1925-1957

**Palo Alto Historic Inventory Category:** Category 2

2. Register Eligibility: The property, 509 Coleridge, was identified as eligible for the National Register of Historic Places during the 1997-2001 Palo Alto Survey Update. The 2023 Reconnaissance Survey project re-evaluates the properties listed in the 1997-2001 survey and has determined the property is eligible for the Palo Alto Inventory (Local Register). This project would nominate the property to the Local Register. The property may be eligible for nomination for the California Register of Historic Resources (State Register) and the National Register of Historic Resources (National Register). The state and national register would require a separate nomination process. Happy to further discuss this with you.
3. Historic Plaque: The local organization, Palo Alto Stanford Heritage (PAST), offers a historic plaque. Additional information to the local organization and the plaque review process may be available through their [website](#).

4. Preservation Incentives: A property that is listed within the Palo Alto Inventory have access to preservation incentives, primarily related to work for maintenance, addition, alterations, etc. A summary and [preservation incentives](#) and examples are available within the Community Meeting #2 [presentation](#).

Benefits Include:

- Application of the California Historic Building Code
- Palo Alto Building Code (PABC) and 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
- 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
- Potential property tax reduction incentive through a Mills Act Program, if Council adopts a program

5. Drawbacks: In terms of restrictions and applicable review, a property listed within the Palo Alto Inventory would be subject to the City of Palo Alto Municipal Code, [Chapter 16.49 Historic Preservation](#).

Drawbacks include:

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

Regards,  
Isabel



**ISABEL CASTELLANO**  
historic preservation specialist  
707.540.0723 x220

---

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---

**From:** Susan Dunn [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 27, 2023 2:28 PM  
**To:** French, Amy <[Amy.French@CityofPaloAlto.org](mailto:Amy.French@CityofPaloAlto.org)>; Historic Resources Board <[hrb@CityofPaloAlto.org](mailto:hrb@CityofPaloAlto.org)>  
**Cc:** Eric Dunn [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** 509 Coleridge

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---

Hello,

It has come to our attention that our home at 509 Coleridge will be nominated for inclusion in the Palo Alto Historic Inventory at an HRB hearing on January 11, 2024 based on "an association with Persons."

Can you please tell us more? For example, who are the "Persons" with whom our property is associated?

Can you tell us whether our home is also eligible for the California Register of Historical Resources, or the National Register of Historic Places?

Finally, what are the consequences of inclusion in the Palo Alto Historic Inventory? For example, will our house receive a brass plaque of the type we have noticed on other houses that are more than 100 years old?

Thank you,

Susan Dunn

**From:** [Isabel Castellano](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [French, Amy](#); [City Mgr](#); [Historic Resources Board](#); [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Document shared with you: "November 29, 2023"  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 28, 2023 2:53:56 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[EdgewoodDrive\\_1485.pdf](#)

---

Hello Megan,

Please see Amy's response below and confirm your receipt of this email.

Also, attached to this email is a copy of the Nomination Memo with a Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) form for your property for your records. If you have any additional questions, I would be happy to assist.

Isabel

---

**From:** French, Amy  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 28, 2023 2:24 PM  
**To:** Megan McCaslin <[REDACTED]>  
**Cc:** Isabel Castellano <[icastellano@m-group.us](mailto:icastellano@m-group.us)>; Darlene Yaplee <[REDACTED]>; City Mgr <[CityMgr@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:CityMgr@cityofpaloalto.org)>; Historic Resources Board <[hrb@CityofPaloAlto.org](mailto:hrb@CityofPaloAlto.org)>  
**Subject:** RE: Document shared with you: "November 29, 2023"

Thank you Megan. Please confirm your receipt of this email.

Thank you for corresponding with us and requesting an objection to the Palo Alto Inventory nomination for 1485 Edgewood Drive. We have received and recorded your objection request.

As part of the 2023 Reconnaissance Survey Project, we anticipate presenting all the nomination objections to the Historic Resource Board on the January 25, 2024 hearing agenda. Please note that mailed notices will continue to be sent to property owners in advance of a Historic Resource Board and the City Council meeting to keep you informed.

There is no need for you to attend the meeting on December 14 - your objection will be noted in the staff report. I have forwarded your letter to our qualified consultants to follow up on the research - as you noted additional information that the home is not actually a Birge Clark home...

Also copying others you copied on the email you sent to me.

If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me and Isabel Castellano, also copied.

---

**From:** Megan McCaslin (via Google Docs) <[drive-shares-dm-noreply@google.com](mailto:drive-shares-dm-noreply@google.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 28, 2023 10:48 AM  
**To:** French, Amy <[Amy.French@CityofPaloAlto.org](mailto:Amy.French@CityofPaloAlto.org)>



**Cc:** Historic Resources Board <[hrb@CityofPaloAlto.org](mailto:hrb@CityofPaloAlto.org)>; Council, City <[city.council@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:city.council@cityofpaloalto.org)>; [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Document shared with you: "November 29, 2023"

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## Megan McCaslin shared a document



Megan McCaslin [REDACTED] has invited you to **view** the following document:



I am sending this letter to request that my home not be included December 14 for inclusion in the Historic inventory. Thanks, Megan McCaslin

[November 29, 2023](#)



If you don't want to receive files from this person, [block the sender](#) from Drive

Google LLC, 1600 Amphitheatre Parkway, Mountain View, CA 94043, USA  
You have received this email because [REDACTED] shared a document with you from Google Docs.



**From:** [Lian Bi](#)  
**To:** [French, Amy](#); [Historic Resources Board](#)  
**Cc:** [Council, City](#)  
**Subject:** 12/14 public hearing for home at 380 Coleridge Ave, Palo alto  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 28, 2023 11:34:06 PM

---

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Hi City of Palo Alto:

My name is Lian Bi and I am the owner of the house located at 380 Coleridge Ave, Palo Alto.

I recently received a flyer showing that there will be a public hearing on 12/14 to vote on the grouping of the homes  
And I would like to OBJECT to vote my home to be historic inventory.

I will attend the meeting on 12/14.

Thank you!

Lian Bi

**From:** [Kathy Phung](#)  
**To:** [French, Amy](#); [Historic Resources Board](#)  
**Cc:** [Council, City](#); [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** 669 Channing and 555 Forest Ave  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 1:50:32 PM

---

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---

Hi;

I just received letters regarding nominated to historic inventory above two properties. I did not receive any notification for November 9th meeting. I hope it is not too late to asking revise and remove the above two properties off the inventory list.

- I do not have the 669 Channing Ave. property, it must be mistake. I have 667 Channing Ave & 671 Channing Ave on one lot.

- 555 Forest Ave. is not blend with neighbor house and Marc tall building design, current there are 7 units little townhouses, I has plan to develop into 5-6 townhouses as cross street building with underground parking.

*-Kathy Phung* [REDACTED]

**From:** [Elizabeth Laufer](#)  
**To:** [French, Amy](#); [Historic Resources Board](#); [Council, City](#)  
**Subject:** Palo Alto Historical Inventory - Objection Letter for 1341 University Avenue  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 2:13:28 PM

---

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---

To The 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. At this time, we would like to opt out of inclusion for 1341 University Avenue.

As a lifelong Palo Altan, I am familiar with the restrictions placed on historical homes, which have changed from time to time. I am not comfortable with the constant shifting rules and regulations governing such homes. Our house is completely remodeled, and, without any other incentives offered by Palo Alto or by the State of California, we do not want to lose 10-20 % of our property value in order to place it on the Inventory. Our realtors have also advised us not to encumber our home with a historical designation. We can instruct our heirs and assigns to sell the property to a buyer who will appreciate the historical significance of the home and preserve it. Therefore, we respectfully opt out of the Historical Inventory.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely yours,

Elizabeth and Michael Laufer

**From:** [Isabel Castellano](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [French, Amy](#); [Historic Resources Board](#)  
**Subject:** FW: 1545 Waverley  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 10:47:10 AM  
**Attachments:** [WaverleySt\\_1545.pdf](#)

---

Good morning Greg,

Thank you for corresponding with us and requesting an objection to the Palo Alto Inventory nomination for 1545 Waverley Street. I would like to note that we have received and recorded your objection request and no additional appointment is necessary. Happy to have a phone call with you if you have other questions.

Attached is a copy of the Nomination Memo with a Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) form for your property for your records.

As part of the 2023 Reconnaissance Survey Project, we anticipate presenting all the nomination objections to the Historic Resource Board on the January 25, 2024 hearing agenda. Please note that mailed notices will continue to be sent to property owners in advance of a Historic Resource Board and the City Council meeting to keep you informed. If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me.

Regards,  
Isabel



**ISABEL CASTELLANO**  
historic preservation specialist  
707.540.0723 x220

---

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---

**From:** Greg Avis [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 28, 2023 4:25 PM  
**To:** French, Amy <[Amy.French@CityofPaloAlto.org](mailto:Amy.French@CityofPaloAlto.org)>; [hrb@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:hrb@cityofpaloalto.org)  
**Subject:** 1545 Waverley

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---

Dear Ms. French and the HRB,

I understand that our home at 1545 Waverley St. was nominated to the "Historical Inventory" at the 11/9 meeting of the HRB. While I do not fully understand the implications of this designation, I do object, as a homeowner, to having our home, or any home for that matter, be nominated without consultation with and/or consent of the owner.

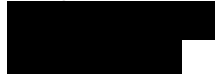
Please advise as to the implications of our home being put on the historical inventory and the status of the designation process.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Greg Avis

Greg Avis



**From:** [Isabel Castellano](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [French, Amy](#); [Historic Resources Board](#); [Council, City](#); [City Mgr](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Palo Alto Historical Inventory - Objection Letter for 1341 University Avenue  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 11:00:06 AM  
**Attachments:** [UniversityAve\\_1341.pdf](#)

---

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Good morning Elizabeth and Michael Laufer,

Thank you for corresponding with us and requesting an objection to the Palo Alto Inventory nomination for 1341 University Avenue. I would like to note that we have received and recorded your objection request.

Attached is a copy of the Nomination Memo with a Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) form for your property for your record.

As part of the 2023 Reconnaissance Survey Project, we anticipate presenting all the nomination objections to the Historic Resource Board on the January 25, 2024 hearing agenda. Please note that mailed notices will continue to be sent to property owners in advance of a Historic Resource Board and the City Council meeting to keep you informed. If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me.

Regards,  
Isabel



**ISABEL CASTELLANO**  
historic preservation specialist  
707.540.0723 x220

---

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---

**From:** Elizabeth Laufer <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 2:13 PM  
**To:** French, Amy <[Amy.French@CityofPaloAlto.org](mailto:Amy.French@CityofPaloAlto.org)>; Historic Resources Board <[hrb@CityofPaloAlto.org](mailto:hrb@CityofPaloAlto.org)>; Council, City <[city.council@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:city.council@cityofpaloalto.org)>  
**Subject:** Palo Alto Historical Inventory - Objection Letter for 1341 University Avenue

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---

To The 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. At this time, we would like to opt out of inclusion for 1341 University Avenue.

As a lifelong Palo Altan, I am familiar with the restrictions placed on historical homes, which have changed from time to time. I am not comfortable with the constant shifting rules and regulations governing such homes. Our house is completely remodeled, and, without any other incentives offered by Palo Alto or by the State of California, we do not want to lose 10-20 % of our property value in order to place it on the Inventory. Our realtors have also advised us not to encumber our home with a historical designation. We can instruct our heirs and assigns to sell the property to a buyer who will appreciate the historical significance of the home and preserve it. Therefore, we respectfully opt out of the Historical Inventory.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely yours,

Elizabeth and Michael Laufer



**From:** [Isabel Castellano](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [French, Amy](#); [Darlene Yaplee](#); [City Mgr](#); [Historic Resources Board](#)  
**Subject:** FW: 669 Channing and 555 Forest Ave  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 11:19:53 AM  
**Attachments:** [ForestAvenue\\_555.pdf](#)  
[ChanningAve\\_669.pdf](#)

---

Good morning Kathy,

Thank you for corresponding with us and requesting an objection to the Palo Alto Inventory nomination for 669 Channing Avenue and 555 Forest Avenue. I would like to note that we have received and recorded your objection request. We will continue to collect objection requests during the entirety of the project, up to the City Council meeting, anticipated for the Spring of 2024.

Attached is a copy of the Nomination Memo with a Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) forms for your properties for your record.

As part of the 2023 Reconnaissance Survey Project, we anticipate presenting all the nomination objections to the Historic Resource Board on the January 25, 2024 hearing agenda. Please note that mailed notices will continue to be sent to property owners in advance of a Historic Resource Board and the City Council meeting to keep you informed. If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me.

Regards,  
Isabel



**ISABEL CASTELLANO**  
historic preservation specialist  
707.540.0723 x220

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---

**From:** Kathy Phung [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 1:50 PM  
**To:** French, Amy <[Amy.French@CityofPaloAlto.org](mailto:Amy.French@CityofPaloAlto.org)>; Historic Resources Board <[hrb@CityofPaloAlto.org](mailto:hrb@CityofPaloAlto.org)>  
**Cc:** Council, City <[city.council@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:city.council@cityofpaloalto.org)>; [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** 669 Channing and 555 Forest Ave

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---

Hi;

I just received letters regarding nominated to historic inventory above two properties. I did not receive any notification for November 9th meeting. I hope it is not too late to asking revise

and remove the above two properties off the inventory list.

- I do not have the 669 Channing Ave. property, it must be mistake. I have 667 Channing Ave & 671 Channing Ave on one lot.

- 555 Forest Ave. is not blend with neighbor house and Marc tall building design, current there are 7 units little townhouses, I has plan to develop into 5-6 townhouses as cross street building with underground parking.

-Kathy Phung

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [French, Amy; Historic Resources Board](#)  
**Cc:** [Council, City](#)  
**Subject:** 446 Forest Historic  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 8:11:24 PM  
**Attachments:** [Forest Ave PA HRB Oject Let 11-27-23\(15\).pdf](#)

---

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Hello all-

Please see the attached file.

Best regards,

Steve Devich

# Steve A. Devich

---

Ms Amy French  
City of Palo Alto Historic Resource Board  
250 Hamilton Ave  
Palo Alto, CA

Re.: 446 Forest Ave.  
Palo Alto, CA

November 27, 2023

Dear Ms. French,

I am the owner of the above referenced property. It has come to my attention that my property was nominated for addition to the Palo Alto Historic Property Inventory at the recent meeting held on November 9, 2023.

I am taking this opportunity in writing to you to state my very strong objection to having my property being added to the Historic Inventory. As a person who has, in the past, owned property included in the Historic Inventory, I am well apprised of the difficulty and economic losses I suffered from having that property listed / classified as such. I most certainly do not want to have an additional property included in the Historic Inventory.

Over the course of the last 50 years, I have owned a number of properties in Palo Alto, several of them were very nice, very old "traditional Palo Alto type" homes, but in all honesty, 446 Forest I would not consider as being one of those appealing homes. The front elevation is asymmetric, unbalanced and very plain. It is a hodgepodge of architectural elements and of poor proportional balance and mass. It certainly does not have anywhere near the charm and architectural elegance, of say, the nearby neighboring Downing House. That truly is a beautiful old traditional Classic Palo Alto home. 446 is as best an "ugly duckling" compared to that, and will most certainly never be transformed into a swan.

The development of the parcel formerly being the CSAA building was a great improvement to this block of Forest. That was truly an awful building. Most likely a similar development will occur in the near future at 462 Forest. That will certainly be an improvement as well as that CMU building is also truly a terrible building from an architectural perspective. Any additional upgrading of this block of Forest will serve to further highlight and amplify the unattractiveness of 446 Forest. And of course, if placed in the Historic Inventory, I will certainly not have any economic incentives to make any improvements to the building other than necessary maintenance / repairs. It will remain as is: An old, tired uncharming building. Palo Alto definitely has much better homes / buildings to preserve in its attempts to carry on some of the traditional Palo Alto charm and beauty.

Please include this letter as part of the presentation to the City Council for consideration prior to their vote pertaining to my property being made.

Thank you for your attention to my request to having my objection being made part of the decision making process in this matter.

Sincerely,

Steve Devich



**From:** [Isabel Castellano](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [Christina Dikas](#); [French, Amy](#); [City Mgr](#); [Historic Resources Board](#)  
**Subject:** FW: 446 Forest Historic  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 9:12:48 PM  
**Attachments:** [ForestAve\\_446.pdf](#)  
[Forest Ave PA HRB Oject Let 11-27-23\(15\).pdf](#)

---

Hello Steve,

Thank you for corresponding with us and requesting an objection to the Palo Alto Inventory nomination for 446 Forest Avenue. I would like to note that we have received and recorded your objection request.

Attached is a copy of the Nomination Memo with a Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) form for your property for your record.

As part of the 2023 Reconnaissance Survey Project, we anticipate presenting all the nomination objections to the Historic Resource Board on the January 25, 2024 hearing agenda. Please note that mailed notices will continue to be sent to property owners in advance of a Historic Resource Board and the City Council meeting to keep you informed. If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me.

Regards,  
Isabel



**ISABEL CASTELLANO**  
historic preservation specialist  
707.540.0723 x220

---

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---

**From:** [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 8:11 PM  
**To:** French, Amy <[Amy.French@CityofPaloAlto.org](mailto:Amy.French@CityofPaloAlto.org)>; Historic Resources Board <[hrb@CityofPaloAlto.org](mailto:hrb@CityofPaloAlto.org)>  
**Cc:** Council, City <[city.council@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:city.council@cityofpaloalto.org)>  
**Subject:** 446 Forest Historic

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---

Hello all-

Please see the attached file.

Best regards,

Steve Devich

**From:** [Carolyn Godfrey](#)  
**To:** [Historic Resources Board](#); [French, Amy](#)  
**Cc:** [Council, City](#); [Carolyn Godfrey](#); [Hal Prince](#)  
**Subject:** Objection to inclusion in Historical Inventory (211 Middlefield Road)  
**Date:** Saturday, December 2, 2023 9:03:22 PM

---

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Dear Historical Resources Board and Amy French,

We strongly object to the inclusion of our property, 211 Middlefield Road, in the Palo Alto Historical Inventory because:

1. Involuntary inclusion in the inventory is grossly unfair to homeowners, who must bear the financial burden of this policy, including a loss in resale value.
2. The justification for including our house ("identified with the lives of historic people", in our case Earl C. Thomas) is very weak. We believe that essentially no one in Palo Alto has heard of Earl C. Thomas, or knows or cares where he lived.

Sincerely,  
Carolyn Godfrey and Hal Prince

  
Palo Alto

**From:** [maria kwok](#)  
**To:** [French, Amy](#); [Council, City](#); [Historic Resources Board](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** 471 Addison Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94301 - Objection Letter for inclusion in the Palo Alto Historical Inventory  
**Date:** Sunday, December 3, 2023 1:08:25 PM

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To all concerned parties,

In connection with the Palo Alto 2023 reconnaissance survey, we respectfully request that 471 Addison Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94301 be excluded from the City of Palo Alto Historic Registry.

Thank for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,  
Maria Kwok and Hoover Kwok



**From:** [Katherine Clark](#)  
**To:** [French, Amy](#); [Historic Resources Board](#)  
**Cc:** [Larry Clark](#); [Council, City](#)  
**Subject:** Request for Meeting & Objection to Designation  
**Date:** Sunday, December 3, 2023 4:33:09 PM

---

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Hi Amy,

My husband and I own, through a family trust, the R-1 residential property located at 555 Center Drive, Palo Alto in the Crescent Park neighborhood. We have owned our home since 1984. We understand that our property has been added to your list of homes that is eligible for Historic designation.

We received your Notice of the December 14 meeting by mail yesterday.

We are requesting a timely meeting with you to discuss this matter further. Please provide us your available times for December 4 through 8, 2023. Time is of the essence.

We also need to obtain the "packet" of materials related to our property that you referenced in the 10/24/23 HRB meeting. Please send via return email.

In the meantime, this email shall serve as a FORMAL OBJECTION to the proposed designation. We must respectfully OBJECT to the proposed designation and the potential listing on the Historical Inventory because we have received INSUFFICIENT information about the incentives for such designation and no ORDINANCE has been enacted by the City to specify the rules and implications of such designation.

Thank you,

Katherine Clark

[REDACTED]  
Palo Alto, CA 94301  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [Don Jackson](#)  
**To:** [French, Amy](#); [Historic Resources Board](#)  
**Cc:** [Lait, Jonathan](#); [City Attorney](#); [Shikada, Ed](#); [Council, City](#)  
**Subject:** Prior public disclosure of HRB staff presentations and letters to the HRB, Brown Act requirements?  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 3:47:38 PM

---

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Honorable Board members and Ms French,

I request that staff presentations to the HRB and public communications (emails & letters) to the HRB be made available publicly, **prior** to each HRB meeting.

In my previous experience as a commissioner on the UAC, it was my understanding that both items were required to be accessible by the public **before the meeting** in order to comply with the Brown Act.

For example, on the UAC "[2023 and 2022 Utilities Advisory Commission Agendas & Minutes](#)" web page, the "[Agenda and Packet](#)" link for the "December 06, 2023" meeting provides the agenda, copies of all staff presentations and reports that will be discussed/presented at the meeting, and includes a link to "[Public Letter\(s\) to the UAC](#)".

Why isn't the HRB and staff providing these documents, before the meetings, or at all?

I have not seen/found a link to access public letters to the HRB for previous (or the upcoming December 14th) HRB meetings.

In addition, the December 14th agenda has not been posted to the HRB website as of today, but was published (as a legal notice) on December 1st in the Palo Alto Daily Post.

The [staff presentation for the November 9th meeting](#) was not made available **prior** to that meeting (AFAICT, I wasn't able to find it...), but seems to have been made available at some point thereafter on the "[2023 Reconnaissance Survey](#)" web page.

(and that page is not referenced/linked-to from the meeting documents on the meeting calendars!)

Because it was not provided beforehand, and it was not presented prior to the public comments time for that agenda item,

I was unable to comment on important information within the presentation at that meeting.

Please provide copies of any staff presentations/reports and public letters to the HRB prior to the upcoming December 14th, January 11th, and January 25th meetings.

Additionally, please provide copies of public letters to the HRB for the past November 9th meeting, including objection letters Ms French asked to be sent to directly to her or to the consultant.

Finally, why doesn't the HRB web page provide a way to sign up for automatic notices of upcoming meeting agendas, like the UAC web page?

E.g. "Subscribe to the [Utilities Advisory Commission email list](#) to receive agendas directly in

your inbox"

Regards

Don Jackson

**From:** [Isabel Castellano](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [City Mgr](#); [French, Amy](#); [LClark@creditcorp.com](mailto:LClark@creditcorp.com); [Historic Resources Board](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Request for Meeting & Objection to Designation  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 10:00:28 PM  
**Attachments:** [CenterDr\\_555.pdf](#)

---

Hello Katherine,

My name is Isabel Castellano, and I am a Consulting Historic Preservation Specialist for the City of Palo Alto assisting with the 2023 Reconnaissance Survey project. Thank you for corresponding with us and requesting an objection to the Palo Alto Inventory nomination for 555 Center Drive. I would like to note that we have received and recorded your objection request. We will continue to collect objection requests during the entirety of the project, up to the City Council meeting, anticipated for the Spring of 2024.

Documents related to the nomination are available on the city's [webpage](#). Attached is a copy of the Nomination Memo with a Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) forms for your property for your reference.

As part of the 2023 Reconnaissance Survey Project, we anticipate presenting all the nomination objections to the Historic Resource Board on the January 25, 2024 hearing agenda. Please note that mailed notices will continue to be sent to property owners in advance of a Historic Resource Board and the City Council meeting to keep you informed.

If you have any additional questions, I would be happy to speak with you this week. I am available Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday through Friday. Please let me know of your preferred day and time.

Regards,  
Isabel



**ISABEL CASTELLANO**  
historic preservation specialist  
707.540.0723 x220

---

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**From:** Katherine Clark <[kclark@clarklaw.com](mailto:kclark@clarklaw.com)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 3, 2023 4:33 PM  
**To:** French, Amy <[Amy.French@CityofPaloAlto.org](mailto:Amy.French@CityofPaloAlto.org)>; Historic Resources Board <[hrb@CityofPaloAlto.org](mailto:hrb@CityofPaloAlto.org)>  
**Cc:** Larry Clark <[LClark@creditcorp.com](mailto:LClark@creditcorp.com)>; Council, City <[city.council@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:city.council@cityofpaloalto.org)>  
**Subject:** Request for Meeting & Objection to Designation

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Hi Amy,

My husband and I own, through a family trust, the R-1 residential property located at 555 Center Drive, Palo Alto in the Crescent Park neighborhood. We have owned our home since 1984. We understand that our property has been added to your list of homes that is eligible for Historic designation.

We received your Notice of the December 14 meeting by mail yesterday.

We are requesting a timely meeting with you to discuss this matter further. Please provide us your available times for December 4 through 8, 2023. Time is of the essence.

We also need to obtain the “packet” of materials related to our property that you referenced in the 10/24/23 HRB meeting. Please send via return email.

In the meantime, this email shall serve as a FORMAL OBJECTION to the proposed designation. We must respectfully OBJECT to the proposed designation and the potential listing on the Historical Inventory because we have received INSUFFICIENT information about the incentives for such designation and no ORDINANCE has been enacted by the City to specify the rules and implications of such designation.

Thank you,

Katherine Clark

[REDACTED]

Palo Alto, CA 94301

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Isabel Castellano](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [French, Amy](#); [Historic Resources Board](#); [City Mgr](#); [Hoover Kwok](#)  
**Subject:** FW: 471 Addison Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94301 - Objection Letter for inclusion in the Palo Alto Historical Inventory  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 10:13:08 PM  
**Attachments:** [AddisonAve\\_471.pdf](#)

---

Hello Maria and Hoover,

My name is Isabel Castellano, and I am a Consulting Historic Preservation Specialist for the City of Palo Alto assisting with the 2023 Reconnaissance Survey project. Thank you for corresponding with us and requesting an objection to the Palo Alto Inventory nomination for 471 Addison Avenue. I would like to note that we have received and recorded your objection request. We will continue to collect objection requests during the entirety of the project, up to the City Council meeting, anticipated for the Spring of 2024.

Documents related to the nomination are available on the city's [webpage](#). Attached is a copy of the Nomination Memo with a Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) forms for your property for your reference.

As part of the 2023 Reconnaissance Survey Project, we anticipate presenting all the nomination objections to the Historic Resource Board on the January 25, 2024 hearing agenda. Please note that mailed notices will continue to be sent to property owners in advance of a Historic Resource Board and the City Council meeting to keep you informed.

If you have any additional questions, I would be happy to speak with you this week. Please let me know of your preferred day and time.

Regards,  
Isabel



**ISABEL CASTELLANO**  
historic preservation specialist  
707.540.0723 x220

---

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-----Original Message-----

From: maria kwok [REDACTED]  
Sent: Sunday, December 3, 2023 1:08 PM  
To: French, Amy <[Amy.French@CityofPaloAlto.org](mailto:Amy.French@CityofPaloAlto.org)>; Council, City <[city.council@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:city.council@cityofpaloalto.org)>;  
Historic Resources Board <[hrb@CityofPaloAlto.org](mailto:hrb@CityofPaloAlto.org)>  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: 471 Addison Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94301 - Objection Letter for inclusion in the Palo Alto Historical Inventory

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

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To all concerned parties,

In connection with the Palo Alto 2023 reconnaissance survey, we respectfully request that 471 Addison Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94301 be excluded from the City of Palo Alto Historic Registry.

Thank for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,  
Maria Kwok and Hoover Kwok

**From:** [Isabel Castellano](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [French, Amy](#); [City Mgr](#); [REDACTED] [Historic Resources Board](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Objection to inclusion in Historical Inventory (211 Middlefield Road)  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 10:33:42 PM  
**Attachments:** [Middlefield Road 211.pdf](#)

---

Hello Carolyn and Hal,

My name is Isabel Castellano, and I am a Consulting Historic Preservation Specialist for the City of Palo Alto assisting with the 2023 Reconnaissance Survey project. Thank you for corresponding with us and requesting an objection to the Palo Alto Inventory nomination for 211 Middlefield Road. I would like to note that we have received and recorded your objection request. We will continue to collect objection requests during the entirety of the project, up to the City Council meeting, anticipated for the Spring of 2024.

Documents related to the nomination are available on the city's [webpage](#). Attached is a copy of the Nomination Memo with a Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) forms for your property for your reference.

As part of the 2023 Reconnaissance Survey Project, we anticipate presenting all the nomination objections to the Historic Resource Board on the January 25, 2024 hearing agenda. Please note that mailed notices will continue to be sent to property owners in advance of a Historic Resource Board and the City Council meeting to keep you informed.

If you have any additional questions, I would be happy to speak with you this week. Please let me know of your preferred day and time.

Regards,  
Isabel



**ISABEL CASTELLANO**  
historic preservation specialist  
707.540.0723 x220

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**From:** Carolyn Godfrey [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 2, 2023 9:03 PM  
**To:** Historic Resources Board <[hrb@CityofPaloAlto.org](mailto:hrb@CityofPaloAlto.org)>; French, Amy <[Amy.French@CityofPaloAlto.org](mailto:Amy.French@CityofPaloAlto.org)>  
**Cc:** Council, City <[city.council@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:city.council@cityofpaloalto.org)>; Carolyn Godfrey [REDACTED]  
Hal Prince [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Objection to inclusion in Historical Inventory (211 Middlefield Road)

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[is important](#)

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Dear Historical Resources Board and Amy French,

We strongly object to the inclusion of our property, 211 Middlefield Road, in the Palo Alto Historical Inventory because:

1. Involuntary inclusion in the inventory is grossly unfair to homeowners, who must bear the financial burden of this policy, including a loss in resale value.
2. The justification for including our house ("identified with the lives of historic people", in our case Earl C. Thomas) is very weak. We believe that essentially no one in Palo Alto has heard of Earl C. Thomas, or knows or cares where he lived.

Sincerely,  
Carolyn Godfrey and Hal Prince

  
Palo Alto

**From:** [Jim Migdal](#)  
**To:** [French, Amy](#); [Historic Resources Board](#)  
**Cc:** [Council, City](#); [Victoria Thorp](#)  
**Subject:** HRB Considerations - 555 Hale Street -  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 5, 2023 9:37:16 AM

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Hi Amy and HRB,

I am writing regarding my home at 555 Hale St, Palo Alto, Ca 94301 which I think is on the list for consideration by the HRB. Victoria Thorp, my wife, and I bought our home in 2011 and remodeled it in 2012. The house was built in the 30s and then extensively remodeled and expanded in 1997.

We love the house and the neighborhood, but it's not a historic house and we do not want it to be considered by the HRB. I believe we are late in responding - I think a response was requested initially in October, but I think there is another consideration in January.

Let me know what other input may be helpful. We changed the address from 551 to 555 Hale in 2012 and sometimes the databases don't update.

Thanks,

Jim

**From:** [Sean Stettner](#)  
**To:** [French, Amy](#); [Historic Resources Board](#)  
**Cc:** [Council, City](#); [azadeh nezhat](#)  
**Subject:** HRB Nomination Notice - 2277 Byron Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 5, 2023 2:01:51 PM

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Simply stated, my wife and I, Azadeh Nezhat and Sean Stettner, OBJECT to a historical designation on our property at 2277 Byron Street, Palo Alto, CA 94301.

The city's decision to establish a historic designation on our property is completely arbitrary. Essentially the house has been deemed to be an "attractive early California Ranch style building." While we agree that the house is attractive, which is why we bought it, the reason for designating the house "historic" is no more than a description of the house and its apparent history. By this logic nearly every old building could qualify as "historic" simply by reciting its history and then explaining that the construction reflects some particular style. The analysis supporting the established criteria is severely lacking.

**Criteria 2** requires the structure represent a style "important to the city, state, or nation." But the nomination does not explain why this house's style was important to anyone, let alone the city, state, or nation. An example of a building that would qualify under Criteria 2 would be a building that served as an important fortification in a war or possibly a home that used an innovative design to make the home more likely to withstand earthquakes. The reason the nomination package does not explain why our house qualifies under Criteria 2 is simple: there is no coherent way to make such a case. The house simply is not (and never was) important.

**Criteria 5** simply says "the architect or building was important." This criteria is a tautology as there is no explanation as to how one determines if an architect or building "was important." To the degree that the building itself was important it should qualify under Criteria 2, which (as explained above) our house does not. Criteria 5 also says the "architect was important." ***But our house was not designed by an architect.*** Notably, a close inspection of the Stedman history reveals that **NONE** of their houses should qualify because ***the Stedmans were not actual architects.*** Marcus Stedman "in fact never finished the internship required for an architectural license." (<https://www.pastheritage.org/Stedman.html>) And his brother simply obtained an engineering degree. The Palo Alto Stanford Heritage itself admits that Marcus Stedman "couldn't legally call himself an architect." (<https://www.pastheritage.org/Stedman.html>) Because neither brother was an architect, our house literally cannot qualify under the "architect" portion of Criteria 5.

Rather than truly focus on the actual criteria, a very small group of people have deemed the period or house significant in their personal opinion. In reality the lack of history of this house demonstrates this this house has no historical significance. No significant recorded historical events took place in or around the home. A lawyer and his wife commissioned the house. They were not significant historical figures. The brothers who built the house are not important historical figures. They designed and built dozens of well-built homes from the 1930's to the 1960's. But that alone does not make the home "historic."

Aside from the fact that the home does not meet any of the criteria set forth, an individual historic designation on our property does not provide any benefit to the neighborhood or community as a whole. No one cares, except for the city employees responsible for this project and us, the homeowners.

The proposed designation will come at cost to us, not only financially, but also infringe on our ownership rights to our property. When we bought the house we understood existing regulations, such as zoning laws applied. And we bought the house subject to those existing rules. But to impose a new restriction on our specific house almost certainly would be deemed to be a taking under the Constitution's Takings Clause.

Our family already must incur additional cost to enhance our property for live-ability, energy efficiency, and aesthetic design. We already appreciate our property, and if we choose to improve it for ourselves, we do not need a government designation to regulate our options and choices. We know how to make decisions that will maintain the integrity, style and design of our home, while making it more livable for us. The city does not need to make it more restrictive for us compared to our neighbors.

In summary, we love our property and will care for it without the need of a government's historical designation. We object to the proposal to list our property included any historical index or designated in any way that infringes on our rights to modify or improve the property.

Sincerely,  
Sean Stettner  
Azadeh Nezhat

**From:** [Mark Vershel](#)  
**To:** [French, Amy](#); [Historic Resources Board](#)  
**Cc:** [Council, City](#); [Mark Vershel](#); [Teri Vershel](#)  
**Subject:** Objection to having 381 Guinda Street added to the Palo Alto Historical Inventory  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 5, 2023 4:52:05 PM

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Dear Amy and the HRB,

To our knowledge there has been no interior review of our house (at 381 Guinda St) by the city or their consultants. In addition there have been substantial changes to the home since its initial construction that have eliminated any historic character that may have existed.

We object to including our home in the Palo Alto Historical Inventory.

Regards,  
Mark & Teri Vershel

---

Mark Vershel  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [Marshall Koch](#)  
**To:** [French, Amy](#); [Historic Resources Board](#)  
**Cc:** [Council, City](#); [Stewart Koch](#)  
**Subject:** Historic Home Designation  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 5, 2023 9:12:10 PM

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To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in response to our home at 1726 Fulton Street in Palo Alto being placed on the historic home designation list. I would like to state for the record that we do not want our home included on this list. My brother Stewart Koch who is cc'd on this email and I are co owners of the house. The house is currently for sale and we are not comfortable burdening the future owner with a designation they may not want.

If for any reason we choose to take the house off of the market we do not want to be included on this list. To be clear and blunt please remove 1726 Fulton Street from your list of historic homes. There needs to be greater outreach to homeowners about this process and all that it entails. Simply sending a letter that states if you do not respond by a certain date a decision will be made for you is not neighborly or legal.

Respectfully,

Marshall Koch

**From:** [French, Amy](#)  
**To:** [Don Jackson](#)  
**Cc:** [Rice, Danille](#); [Lait, Jonathan](#); [Shikada, Ed](#); [City Attorney](#); [Historic Resources Board](#)  
**Subject:** Response to Don Jackson Monday  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 6, 2023 11:09:28 AM  
**Attachments:** [image009.png](#)  
[image012.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image008.png](#)  
[image011.png](#)

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Good morning Don Jackson,

Below are the staff responses to requests/questions you emailed to me late afternoon on Monday (with copies to the HRB, Council, City Manager Shikada and Planning Director Lait; please note that Danille Rice sends staff responses to City Council, which is why she is copied here):

DC 1: I request that staff presentations to the HRB and public communications (emails & letters) to the HRB be made available publicly, **prior** to each HRB meeting.

Staff response: It is not the City's practice to publish the power point presentations for the ARB, HRB, or PTC. These presentations are not provided to these Boards or Commissions in advance as they often are not available until the day of the meeting. Staff uploads the videos of these meetings to the webpage, once they are available and the presentations are available in that format. Staff will review whether these presentations can be separately uploaded to the Board or Commission website.

Public communications are generally to be made available to both the Boards and Commissions, as well as the public in agenda packets. To the extent communications are received after the agenda packet is printed, staff will make these available to both the Boards and Commissions and the public either in a future agenda packet or as a separate document, as appropriate. It appears some documents may be missing from the HRB and ARB websites; staff is researching this issue and will work toward a solution. The ARB webpage now has a new column for public comments, thanks to support staff, who will also add the same new column for public comments on the HRB webpage.

DC 2: In my previous experience as a commissioner on the UAC, it was my understanding that both items were required to be accessible by the public **before the meeting** in order to comply with the Brown Act.

Staff response: The Brown Act only requires that the agenda, with a succinct description of the matters to be discussed, be provided 72 hours in advance of a regular meeting. Staff reports and other materials are not required to be provided in advance of the meeting, though the City does have a policy of providing such materials approximately one week in advance, to the extent possible.

DC 3: For example, on the UAC "[2023 and 2022 Utilities Advisory Commission Agendas & Minutes](#)" web page, the "[Agenda and Packet](#)" link for the "December 06, 2023" meeting provides the agenda, copies of all staff presentations and reports that will be discussed/presented at the meeting,

and includes a link to [“Public Letter\(s\) to the UAC”](#).

Why isn't the HRB and staff providing these documents, before the meetings, or at all?

Staff response: **See above.**

DC 4: I have not seen/found a link to access public letters to the HRB for previous (or the upcoming December 14th) HRB meetings.

In addition, the December 14th agenda has not been posted to the HRB website as of today, but was published (as a legal notice) on December 1st in the Palo Alto Daily Post.

Staff response: **Meeting notices are published in the Daily Post well in advance of public meetings. As noted above, we are looking into the issue of posting public correspondence for the HRB.**

DC 5: The [staff presentation for the November 9th meeting](#) was not made available **prior** to that meeting (AFAICT, I wasn't able to find it...),

but seems to have been made available at some point thereafter on the [“2023 Reconnaissance Survey”](#) web page.

(and that page is not referenced/linked-to from the meeting documents on the meeting calendars!)

Because it was not provided beforehand, and it was not presented prior to the public comments time for that agenda item,

I was unable to comment on important information within the presentation at that meeting.

Please provide copies of any staff presentations/reports and public letters to the HRB prior to the upcoming December 14th, January 11th, and January 25th meetings.

Additionally, please provide copies of public letters to the HRB for the past November 9th meeting, including objection letters Ms French asked to be sent to directly to her or to the consultant.

Staff response: **Staff will ensure that materials are made available to the public at the same time that they are provided to the HRB, as required under the Brown Act. To the extent some correspondence was provided to the HRB without being posted for the public, we are working to remedy that as soon as possible.**

DC 6: Finally, why doesn't the HRB web page provide a way to sign up for automatic notices of upcoming meeting agendas, like the UAC web page?

E.g. "Subscribe to the [Utilities Advisory Commission email list](#) to receive agendas directly in your inbox"

Staff response: **Nobody has requested this.**

Regards,





**AMY FRENCH**

Chief Planning Official

Planning and Development Services

(650) 329-2336 | [amy.french@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:amy.french@cityofpaloalto.org)

[www.cityofpaloalto.org](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org)



**From:** [Isabel Castellano](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [Rice, Danille](#); [French, Amy](#); [Historic Resources Board](#); [azzie.nezhat@gmail.com](mailto:azzie.nezhat@gmail.com); [Barrett Reiter](#); [City Mgr](#); [Lait, Jonathan](#)  
**Subject:** FW: HRB Nomination Notice - 2277 Byron Street  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 6, 2023 4:13:46 PM  
**Attachments:** [Byron Street 2277.pdf](#)

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Hello Sean,

My name is Isabel Castellano, and I am a Consulting Historic Preservation Specialist for the City of Palo Alto assisting with the 2023 Reconnaissance Survey project. Thank you for corresponding with us and requesting an objection to the Palo Alto Inventory nomination for 2277 Byron Street. I would like to note that we have received and recorded your objection request. We will continue to collect objection requests during the entirety of the project, up to the City Council meeting, anticipated for the Spring of 2024.

Documents related to the nomination are available on the city's [webpage](#). Attached is a copy of the Nomination Memo with a Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) form for your property for your reference. Also, thank you for sharing additional information related to the architects/engineers. We will also share with consultant Page & Turnbull for their review to determine modifications to the Nomination Memo.

As part of the 2023 Reconnaissance Survey Project, we anticipate presenting all the nomination objections to the Historic Resource Board on the January 25, 2024 hearing agenda. Please note that mailed notices will continue to be sent to property owners in advance of a Historic Resource Board and the City Council meeting to keep you informed. If you have any additional questions, I would be happy to speak with you this week. Please let me know of your preferred day and time.

Regards,  
Isabel



**ISABEL CASTELLANO**  
historic preservation specialist  
707.540.0723 x220

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**From:** Sean Stettner <[sean.stettner@gmail.com](mailto:sean.stettner@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 5, 2023 2:02 PM  
**To:** French, Amy <[Amy.French@CityofPaloAlto.org](mailto:Amy.French@CityofPaloAlto.org)>; [Historic Resources Board](#) <[hrb@CityofPaloAlto.org](mailto:hrb@CityofPaloAlto.org)>  
**Cc:** Council, City <[city.council@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:city.council@cityofpaloalto.org)>; azadeh nezhat <[azzie.nezhat@gmail.com](mailto:azzie.nezhat@gmail.com)>  
**Subject:** HRB Nomination Notice - 2277 Byron Street

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [sean.stettner@gmail.com](mailto:sean.stettner@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.**

Simply stated, my wife and I, Azadeh Nezhat and Sean Stettner, OBJECT to a historical designation on our property at 2277 Byron Street, Palo Alto, CA 94301.

The city's decision to establish a historic designation on our property is completely arbitrary. Essentially the house has been deemed to be an "attractive early California Ranch style building." While we agree that the house is attractive, which is why we bought it, the reason for designating the house "historic" is no more than a description of the house and its apparent history. By this logic nearly every old building could qualify as "historic" simply by reciting its history and then explaining that the construction reflects some particular style. The analysis supporting the established criteria is severely lacking.

**Criteria 2** requires the structure represent a style "important to the city, state, or nation." But the nomination does not explain why this house's style was important to anyone, let alone the city, state, or nation. An example of a building that would qualify under Criteria 2 would be a building that served as an important fortification in a war or possibly a home that used an innovative design to make the home more likely to withstand earthquakes. The reason the nomination package does not explain why our house qualifies under Criteria 2 is simple: there is no coherent way to make such a case. The house simply is not (and never was) important.

**Criteria 5** simply says "the architect or building was important." This criteria is a tautology as there is no explanation as to how one determines if an architect or building "was important." To the degree that the building itself was important it should qualify under Criteria 2, which (as explained above) our house does not. Criteria 5 also says the "architect was important." **But our house was not designed by an architect.** Notably, a close inspection of the Stedman history reveals that **NONE** of their houses should qualify because **the Stedmans were not actual architects.** Marcus Stedman "in fact never finished the internship required for an architectural license." (<https://www.pastheritage.org/Stedman.html>) And his brother simply obtained an engineering degree. The Palo Alto Stanford Heritage itself admits that Marcus Stedman "couldn't legally call himself an architect." (<https://www.pastheritage.org/Stedman.html>) Because neither brother was an architect, our house literally cannot qualify under the "architect" portion of Criteria 5.

Rather than truly focus on the actual criteria, a very small group of people have deemed the period or house significant in their personal opinion. In reality the lack of history of this house demonstrates this this house has no historical significance. No significant recorded historical events took place in or around the home. A lawyer and his wife commissioned the house. They were not significant historical figures. The brothers who built the house are not important historical figures. They designed and built dozens of well-built homes from the 1930's to the 1960's. But that alone does not make the home "historic."

Aside from the fact that the home does not meet any of the criteria set forth, an individual historic designation on our property does not provide any benefit to the neighborhood or community as a whole. No one cares, except for the city employees responsible for this project and us, the homeowners.

The proposed designation will come at cost to us, not only financially, but also infringe on our ownership rights to our property. When we bought the house we understood existing regulations, such as zoning laws applied. And we bought the house subject to those existing rules. But to impose a new restriction on our specific house almost certainly would be deemed to be a taking under the Constitution's Takings Clause.

Our family already must incur additional cost to enhance our property for live-ability, energy efficiency, and aesthetic design. We already appreciate our property, and if we choose to improve it for ourselves, we do not need a government designation to regulate our options and choices. We know how to make decisions that will maintain the integrity, style and design of our home, while making it more livable for us. The city does not need to make it more restrictive for us compared to our neighbors.

In summary, we love our property and will care for it without the need of a government's historical designation. We object to the proposal to list our property included any historical index or designated in any way that infringes on our rights to modify or improve the property.

Sincerely,  
Sean Stettner  
Azadeh Nezhat

**From:** [Phillip Stein](#)  
**To:** [French, Amy](#); [Historic Resources Board](#)  
**Cc:** [andrew stein](#); [Julie Bolanos Bolanos](#); [Laura Santora Stein](#); [Council, City](#); [Paul Stein](#)  
**Subject:** Opposition to Historic Home status for 1449 and 1451 Edgewood Drive, Palo Alto  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 6, 2023 4:15:20 PM

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Dear Ms. French:

My name is Bonnie Stein. My address is **1449 Edgewood Drive** in Palo Alto. I am 50 percent owner of my home, along with my four children who own the other 50 percent. On my property I also have a separate in-law apartment unit above my garage with the address **1451 Edgewood Dr.** Palo Alto.

I received word that a Historical Resources Board Meeting is holding a public hearing, upcoming on Jan 11, 2024 @ 8:30 a.m., regarding whether a third grouping of Palo Alto homes will be designated as having historic status or not.

I would like to go on record as being staunchly **opposed** to my home being designated as having historic status. My four children, copied on this email, feel the same way. To be clear, since there is an address confusion, and the HRB believes the main home is at 1451 (the in-law unit), I want to make sure that neither the 1449 or the 1451 addresses are designated as having Historic status.

Will registering my objection with you ensure that my home will not be subjected to the historic status designation, or is further action required?

Please reply all and let me know.

Best,  
Bonnie Stein  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [Isabel Castellano](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [French, Amy](#); [Rice, Danille](#); [City Mgr](#); [Historic Resources Board](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Objection to having 381 Guinda Street added to the Palo Alto Historical Inventory  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 6, 2023 4:30:48 PM  
**Attachments:** [Guinda Street 381.pdf](#)

---

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Hello Mark & Teri,

My name is Isabel Castellano, and I am a Consulting Historic Preservation Specialist for the City of Palo Alto assisting with the 2023 Reconnaissance Survey project. Thank you for corresponding with us and requesting an objection to the Palo Alto Inventory nomination for 381 Guinda Street. I would like to note that we have received and recorded your objection request. We will continue to collect objection requests during the entirety of the project, up to the City Council meeting, anticipated for the Spring of 2024.

Documents related to the nomination are available on the city's [webpage](#). Attached is a copy of the Nomination Memo with a Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) form for your property for your reference. The property's interior is not included in the nomination and would not be subject to a historic review. The survey was completed with photographs from the public right-of-way only.

As part of the 2023 Reconnaissance Survey Project, we anticipate presenting all the nomination objections to the Historic Resource Board on the January 25, 2024 hearing agenda. Please note that mailed notices will continue to be sent to property owners in advance of a Historic Resource Board and the City Council meeting to keep you informed. If you have any additional questions, I would be happy to speak with you this week. Please let me know of your preferred day and time.

Regards,  
Isabel



**ISABEL CASTELLANO**  
historic preservation specialist  
707.540.0723 x220

---

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---

**From:** Mark Vershel <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 5, 2023 4:52 PM  
**To:** French, Amy <[Amy.French@CityofPaloAlto.org](mailto:Amy.French@CityofPaloAlto.org)>; Historic Resources Board <[hrb@CityofPaloAlto.org](mailto:hrb@CityofPaloAlto.org)>  
**Cc:** Council, City <[city.council@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:city.council@cityofpaloalto.org)>; Mark Vershel <[REDACTED]>; Teri Vershel <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Objection to having 381 Guinda Street added to the Palo Alto Historical Inventory

You don't often get email from [mark@vershel.com](mailto:mark@vershel.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

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---

Dear Amy and the HRB,

To our knowledge there has been no interior review of our house (at 381 Guinda St) by the city or their consultants. In addition there have been substantial changes to the home since its initial construction that have eliminated any historic character that may have existed.

We object to including our home in the Palo Alto Historical Inventory.

Regards,  
Mark & Teri Vershel

---

Mark Vershel



**From:** [Isabel Castellano](#)  
**To:** [Historic Resources Board](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Object to be historic property  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 6, 2023 4:41:19 PM  
**Attachments:** [LincolnAvenue\\_1145.pdf](#)

---

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Hello,

I am forwarding this email response as a record for the HRB email as well. The "HRB" email was incorrect in the response below. All other email recipients were correct.

Regards,  
Isabel



**ISABEL CASTELLANO**  
historic preservation specialist  
707.540.0723 x220

---

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**From:** Isabel Castellano  
**Sent:** Monday, December 4, 2023 11:28 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** French, Amy <Amy.French@CityofPaloAlto.org>; City Mgr <CityMgr@cityofpaloalto.org>; hrb@cityofpaloalto.org; Darlene Yaplee [REDACTED]; Lait, Jonathan <jonathan.lait@cityofpaloalto.org>  
**Subject:** FW: Object to be historic property

Hello Zhu and Feng,

My name is Isabel Castellano, and I am a Consulting Historic Preservation Specialist for the City of Palo Alto assisting with the 2023 Reconnaissance Survey project. Thank you for corresponding with us and requesting an objection to the Palo Alto Inventory nomination for 1145 Lincoln Avenue. I would like to note that we have received and recorded your objection request. We will continue to collect objection requests during the entirety of the project, up to the City Council meeting, anticipated for the Spring of 2024.

Documents related to the nomination are available on the city's [webpage](#). Attached is a copy of the Nomination Memo with a Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) forms for your property for your reference. As noted in the Nomination Memo, the property has been evaluated to meet the Palo Alto Inventory Category 3 as its recent alterations and addition, is best suited to Category 3 as a good local example of an architectural style relating to the character of a neighborhood grouping in scale, materials, proportion, or other factors.



As part of the 2023 Reconnaissance Survey Project, we anticipate presenting all the nomination objections to the Historic Resource Board on the January 25, 2024 hearing agenda. Please note that mailed notices will continue to be sent to property owners in advance of a Historic Resource Board and the City Council meeting to keep you informed.

If you have any additional questions, I would be happy to speak with you this week. Please let me know of your preferred day and time.

Regards,  
Isabel



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---

**From:** feng, zhu lee, chen [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Monday, December 4, 2023 11:05 AM  
**To:** [amy.french@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:amy.french@cityofpaloalto.org); Council, City <[city.council@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:city.council@cityofpaloalto.org)>;  
[hrb@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:hrb@cityofpaloalto.org)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Object to be historic property

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [fengzhu99@gmail.com](mailto:fengzhu99@gmail.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

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Good morning Amy,

My name is Zhu Chen and my husband is Feng Li. We're the homeowners of 1145 Lincoln Ave, Palo Alto, CA 94301.

We want to OBJECT to our home being on the historic inventory to be voted on by the HEB. Please add us to the email list to keep us updated.

Thanks for your attention  
Have a good day  
Zhu and Feng

**From:** [Isabel Castellano](#)  
**To:** [Historic Resources Board](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Object to be historic property  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 6, 2023 4:41:19 PM  
**Attachments:** [LincolnAvenue\\_1145.pdf](#)

---

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Hello,

I am forwarding this email response as a record for the HRB email as well. The "HRB" email was incorrect in the response below. All other email recipients were correct.

Regards,  
Isabel



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historic preservation specialist  
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---

**From:** Isabel Castellano  
**Sent:** Monday, December 4, 2023 11:28 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** French, Amy <Amy.French@CityofPaloAlto.org>; City Mgr <CityMgr@cityofpaloalto.org>; hrb@cityofpaloalto.org; [REDACTED]; Lait, Jonathan <jonathan.lait@cityofpaloalto.org>  
**Subject:** FW: Object to be historic property

Hello Zhu and Feng,

My name is Isabel Castellano, and I am a Consulting Historic Preservation Specialist for the City of Palo Alto assisting with the 2023 Reconnaissance Survey project. Thank you for corresponding with us and requesting an objection to the Palo Alto Inventory nomination for 1145 Lincoln Avenue. I would like to note that we have received and recorded your objection request. We will continue to collect objection requests during the entirety of the project, up to the City Council meeting, anticipated for the Spring of 2024.

Documents related to the nomination are available on the city's [webpage](#). Attached is a copy of the Nomination Memo with a Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) forms for your property for your reference. As noted in the Nomination Memo, the property has been evaluated to meet the Palo Alto Inventory Category 3 as its recent alterations and addition, is best suited to Category 3 as a good local example of an architectural style relating to the character of a neighborhood grouping in scale, materials, proportion, or other factors.

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If you have any additional questions, I would be happy to speak with you this week. Please let me know of your preferred day and time.

Regards,  
Isabel



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---

**From:** feng, zhu lee, chen [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, December 4, 2023 11:05 AM  
**To:** [amy.french@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:amy.french@cityofpaloalto.org); Council, City <[city.council@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:city.council@cityofpaloalto.org)>;  
[hrb@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:hrb@cityofpaloalto.org)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Object to be historic property

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Good morning Amy,

My name is Zhu Chen and my husband is Feng Li. We're the homeowners of 1145 Lincoln Ave, Palo Alto, CA 94301.

We want to OBJECT to our home being on the historic inventory to be voted on by the HEB. Please add us to the email list to keep us updated.

Thanks for your attention  
Have a good day  
Zhu and Feng

**From:** [Isabel Castellano](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [French, Amy](#); [Rice, Danille](#); [skoch@kochfamilyoffice.com](mailto:skoch@kochfamilyoffice.com); [Historic Resources Board](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Historic Home Designation  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 6, 2023 4:51:54 PM  
**Attachments:** [Fulton Street 1726.pdf](#)

---

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Hello Marshall,

My name is Isabel Castellano, and I am a Consulting Historic Preservation Specialist for the City of Palo Alto assisting with the 2023 Reconnaissance Survey project. Thank you for corresponding with us and requesting an objection to the Palo Alto Inventory nomination for 1726 Fulton Street. I would like to note that we have received and recorded your objection request. We will continue to collect objection requests during the entirety of the project, up to the City Council meeting, anticipated for the Spring of 2024.

Documents related to the nomination are available on the city's [webpage](#). Attached is a copy of the Nomination Memo with a Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) form for your property for your reference.

As part of the 2023 Reconnaissance Survey Project, we anticipate presenting all the nomination objections to the Historic Resource Board on the January 25, 2024 hearing agenda. Please note that mailed notices will continue to be sent to property owners in advance of a Historic Resource Board and the City Council meeting to keep you informed. If you have any additional questions, I would be happy to speak with you this week. Please let me know of your preferred day and time.

Regards,  
Isabel



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**From:** Marshall Koch [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 5, 2023 9:11:47 PM  
**To:** French, Amy <[Amy.French@CityofPaloAlto.org](mailto:Amy.French@CityofPaloAlto.org)>; Historic Resources Board <[hrb@CityofPaloAlto.org](mailto:hrb@CityofPaloAlto.org)>  
**Cc:** Council, City <[city.council@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:city.council@cityofpaloalto.org)>; Stewart Koch [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Historic Home Designation

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To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in response to our home at 1726 Fulton Street in Palo Alto being placed on the historic home designation list. I would like to state for the record that we do not want our home included on this list. My brother Stewart Koch who is cc'd on this email and I are co owners of the house. The house is currently for sale and we are not comfortable burdening the future owner with a designation they may not want.

If for any reason we choose to take the house off of the market we do not want to be included on this list. To be clear and blunt please remove 1726 Fulton Street from your list of historic homes. There needs to be greater outreach to homeowners about this process and all that it entails. Simply sending a letter that states if you do not respond by a certain date a decision will be made for you is not neighborly or legal.

Respectfully,

Marshall Koch

**From:** [Isabel Castellano](#)  
**To:** [phllp\\_stein@yahoo.com](mailto:phllp_stein@yahoo.com)  
**Cc:** [French, Amy](#); [Historic Resources Board](#); [REDACTED]; [Rice, Danille](#); [City Mgr](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Opposition to Historic Home status for 1449 and 1451 Edgewood Drive, Palo Alto  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 6, 2023 5:46:12 PM  
**Attachments:** [Edgewood Drive\\_1451.pdf](#)

---

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Hello Bonnie,

My name is Isabel Castellano, and I am a Consulting Historic Preservation Specialist for the City of Palo Alto assisting with the 2023 Reconnaissance Survey project. Thank you for corresponding with us and requesting an objection to the Palo Alto Inventory nomination for 1449-1451 Edgewood Drive. I would like to note that we have received and recorded your objection request. No further action is required at this time. We will continue to collect objection requests during the entirety of the project, up to the City Council meeting, anticipated for the Spring of 2024.

As part of the 2023 Reconnaissance Survey Project, we anticipate presenting all the nomination objections to the Historic Resource Board on the January 25, 2024 hearing agenda. Please note that mailed notices will continue to be sent to property owners in advance of a Historic Resource Board and the City Council meeting to keep you informed. If you have any additional questions, I would be happy to speak with you this week. Please let me know of your preferred day and time.

Documents related to the nomination are available on the city's [webpage](#). Attached is a copy of the Nomination Memo with a Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) form for your property for your reference.

Regards,  
Isabel



**ISABEL CASTELLANO**  
historic preservation specialist  
707.540.0723 x220

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---

**From:** Phillip Stein [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 6, 2023 4:12 PM  
**To:** French, Amy <[Amy.French@CityofPaloAlto.org](mailto:Amy.French@CityofPaloAlto.org)>; Historic Resources Board <[hrb@CityofPaloAlto.org](mailto:hrb@CityofPaloAlto.org)>  
**Cc:** andrew stein <[REDACTED]>; Julie Bolanos Bolanos <[REDACTED]>; Laura Santora Stein <[REDACTED]> Council, City <[city.council@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:city.council@cityofpaloalto.org)>; Paul Stein <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Opposition to Historic Home status for 1449 and 1451 Edgewood Drive, Palo Alto

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Dear Ms. French:

My name is Bonnie Stein. My address is **1449 Edgewood Drive** in Palo Alto. I am 50 percent owner of my home, along with my four children who own the other 50 percent. On my property I also have a separate in-law apartment unit above my garage with the address **1451 Edgewood Dr.** Palo Alto.

I received word that a Historical Resources Board Meeting is holding a public hearing, upcoming on Jan 11, 2024 @ 8:30 a.m., regarding whether a third grouping of Palo Alto homes will be designated as having historic status or not.

I would like to go on record as being staunchly **opposed** to my home being designated as having historic status. My four children, copied on this email, feel the same way. To be clear, since there is an address confusion, and the HRB believes the main home is at 1451 (the in-law unit), I want to make sure that neither the 1449 or the 1451 addresses are designated as having Historic status.

Will registering my objection with you ensure that my home will not be subjected to the historic status designation, or is further action required?

Please reply all and let me know.

Best,  
Bonnie Stein  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [Mark Vershel](#)  
**To:** [Isabel Castellano](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]; [French, Amy](#); [Rice, Danille](#); [City Mgr](#); [Historic Resources Board](#)  
**Subject:** Re: FW: Objection to having 381 Guinda Street added to the Palo Alto Historical Inventory  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 6, 2023 6:37:14 PM

---

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Hi Isabel,

Much of the outside of the building (the part facing the backyard) was changed in the last remodel before we bought the property. The entire kitchen area was pushed out as a kitchen nook was added as well as a bathroom and additional back entry/coat room. This is not visible from the street but is part of the changes I mentioned that changed the historical character of the building that was originally constructed. The upstairs bedroom looking out the back yard was also extensively changed in that remodel.

Regards  
Mark

On Wed, Dec 6, 2023 at 4:30 PM Isabel Castellano <[icastellano@m-group.us](mailto:icastellano@m-group.us)> wrote:

Hello Mark & Teri,

My name is Isabel Castellano, and I am a Consulting Historic Preservation Specialist for the City of Palo Alto assisting with the 2023 Reconnaissance Survey project. Thank you for corresponding with us and requesting an objection to the Palo Alto Inventory nomination for 381 Guinda Street. I would like to note that we have received and recorded your objection request. We will continue to collect objection requests during the entirety of the project, up to the City Council meeting, anticipated for the Spring of 2024.

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Regards,

Isabel



**ISABEL CASTELLANO**  
historic preservation specialist  
707.540.0723 x220

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---

**From:** Mark Vershel <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 5, 2023 4:52 PM  
**To:** French, Amy <[Amy.French@CityofPaloAlto.org](mailto:Amy.French@CityofPaloAlto.org)>; Historic Resources Board <[hrb@CityofPaloAlto.org](mailto:hrb@CityofPaloAlto.org)>  
**Cc:** Council, City <[city.council@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:city.council@cityofpaloalto.org)>; Mark Vershel <[REDACTED]>  
Teri Vershel <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Objection to having 381 Guinda Street added to the Palo Alto Historical Inventory

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Dear Amy and the HRB,

To our knowledge there has been no interior review of our house (at 381 Guinda St) by the city or their consultants. In addition there have been substantial changes to the home since its initial construction that have eliminated any historic character that may have existed.

We object to including our home in the Palo Alto Historical Inventory.

Regards,

Mark & Teri Vershel

Mark Vershel

**From:** [Isabel Castellano](#)  
**To:** [Mark Vershel](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] [French, Amy](#); [Rice, Danille](#); [City Mgr](#); [Historic Resources Board](#)  
**Subject:** RE: FW: Objection to having 381 Guinda Street added to the Palo Alto Historical Inventory  
**Date:** Friday, December 8, 2023 6:32:21 PM

---

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Thanks Mark for your additional description and feedback.

Many nominated properties have experienced additions, improvements, and alterations that may not have impacted the overall character of the property. I will record your description along with your objection for the record.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any additional questions.

Regards,  
Isabel



**ISABEL CASTELLANO**  
historic preservation specialist  
707.540.0723 x220

---

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---

**From:** Mark Vershel [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 6, 2023 6:36 PM  
**To:** Isabel Castellano <icastellano@m-group.us>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]; French, Amy <Amy.French@cityofpaloalto.org>; Rice, Danille <Danille.Rice@cityofpaloalto.org>; City Mgr <CityMgr@cityofpaloalto.org>; Historic Resources Board <hrb@cityofpaloalto.org>  
**Subject:** Re: FW: Objection to having 381 Guinda Street added to the Palo Alto Historical Inventory

**[EXTERNAL EMAIL]** DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you know the content is safe. Be aware that the sending address can be faked or manipulated.

Hi Isabel,

Much of the outside of the building (the part facing the backyard) was changed in the last remodel before we bought the property. The entire kitchen area was pushed out as a kitchen nook was added as well as a bathroom and additional back entry/coat room. This is not visible from the street but is part of the changes I mentioned that changed the historical character of the building that was originally constructed. The upstairs bedroom looking out the back yard was also extensively changed in that remodel.

Regards  
Mark

On Wed, Dec 6, 2023 at 4:30 PM Isabel Castellano <[icastellano@m-group.us](mailto:icastellano@m-group.us)> wrote:

Hello Mark & Teri,

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Regards,  
Isabel

  
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historic preservation specialist  
707.540.0723 x220

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---

**From:** Mark Vershel [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 5, 2023 4:52 PM  
**To:** French, Amy <[Amy.French@CityofPaloAlto.org](mailto:Amy.French@CityofPaloAlto.org)>; Historic Resources Board <[hrb@CityofPaloAlto.org](mailto:hrb@CityofPaloAlto.org)>  
**Cc:** Council, City <[city.council@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:city.council@cityofpaloalto.org)>; Mark Vershel [REDACTED]; Teri

Vershel [REDACTED] >

**Subject:** Objection to having 381 Guinda Street added to the Palo Alto Historical Inventory

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Dear Amy and the HRB,

To our knowledge there has been no interior review of our house (at 381 Guinda St) by the city or their consultants. In addition there have been substantial changes to the home since its initial construction that have eliminated any historic character that may have existed.

We object to including our home in the Palo Alto Historical Inventory.

Regards,  
Mark & Teri Vershel

---

Mark Vershel  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [Mark Vershel](#)  
**To:** [Isabel Castellano](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]; [French, Amy](#); [Rice, Danille](#); [City Mgr](#); [Historic Resources Board](#)  
**Subject:** Re: FW: Objection to having 381 Guinda Street added to the Palo Alto Historical Inventory  
**Date:** Friday, December 8, 2023 7:02:29 PM

---

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We disagree and continue to object.

On Fri, Dec 8, 2023 at 6:30 PM Isabel Castellano <[icastellano@m-group.us](mailto:icastellano@m-group.us)> wrote:

Thanks Mark for your additional description and feedback.

Many nominated properties have experienced additions, improvements, and alterations that may not have impacted the overall character of the property. I will record your description along with your objection for the record.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any additional questions.

Regards,

Isabel



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historic preservation specialist  
707.540.0723 x220

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---

**From:** Mark Vershel [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 6, 2023 6:36 PM  
**To:** Isabel Castellano <[icastellano@m-group.us](mailto:icastellano@m-group.us)>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]; French, Amy <[Amy.French@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:Amy.French@cityofpaloalto.org)>; Rice, Danille <[Danille.Rice@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:Danille.Rice@cityofpaloalto.org)>; City Mgr <[CityMgr@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:CityMgr@cityofpaloalto.org)>; Historic Resources Board <[hrb@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:hrb@cityofpaloalto.org)>  
**Subject:** Re: FW: Objection to having 381 Guinda Street added to the Palo Alto Historical Inventory

**[EXTERNAL EMAIL]** DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you know the content is safe.  
Be aware that the sending address can be faked or manipulated.

Hi Isabel,

Much of the outside of the building (the part facing the backyard) was changed in the last remodel before we bought the property. The entire kitchen area was pushed out as a kitchen nook was added as well as a bathroom and additional back entry/coat room. This is not visible from the street but is part of the changes I mentioned that changed the historical character of the building that was originally constructed. The upstairs bedroom looking out the back yard was also extensively changed in that remodel.

Regards

Mark

On Wed, Dec 6, 2023 at 4:30 PM Isabel Castellano <[icastellano@m-group.us](mailto:icastellano@m-group.us)> wrote:

Hello Mark & Teri,

My name is Isabel Castellano, and I am a Consulting Historic Preservation Specialist for the City of Palo Alto assisting with the 2023 Reconnaissance Survey project. Thank you for corresponding with us and requesting an objection to the Palo Alto Inventory nomination for 381 Guinda Street. I would like to note that we have received and recorded your objection request. We will continue to collect objection requests during the entirety of the project, up to the City Council meeting, anticipated for the Spring of 2024.

Documents related to the nomination are available on the city's [webpage](#). Attached is a copy of the Nomination Memo with a Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) form for your property for your reference. The property's interior is not included in the nomination and would not be subject to a historic review. The survey was completed with photographs from the public right-of-way only.

As part of the 2023 Reconnaissance Survey Project, we anticipate presenting all the nomination objections to the Historic Resource Board on the January 25, 2024 hearing agenda. Please note that mailed notices will continue to be sent to property owners in advance of a Historic Resource Board and the City Council meeting to keep you informed. If you have any additional questions, I would be happy to speak with you this week. Please let me know of your preferred day and time.

Regards,

Isabel

**ISABEL CASTELLANO**  
historic preservation specialist  
707.540.0723 x220

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**From:** Mark Vershel [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 5, 2023 4:52 PM  
**To:** French, Amy <[Amy.French@CityofPaloAlto.org](mailto:Amy.French@CityofPaloAlto.org)>; Historic Resources Board <[hrb@CityofPaloAlto.org](mailto:hrb@CityofPaloAlto.org)>  
**Cc:** Council, City <[city.council@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:city.council@cityofpaloalto.org)>; Mark Vershel <[REDACTED]>; Teri Vershel [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Objection to having 381 Guinda Street added to the Palo Alto Historical Inventory

You don't often get email from [mark@vershel.com](mailto:mark@vershel.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 Amy and the HRB,

To our knowledge there has been no interior review of our house (at 381 Guinda St) by the city or their consultants. In addition there have been substantial changes to the home since its initial construction that have eliminated any historic character that may have



existed.

We object to including our home in the Palo Alto Historical Inventory.

Regards,

Mark & Teri Vershel

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Mark Vershel



**From:** [Naji Bekhazi](#)  
**To:** [French, Amy](#); [Historic Resources Board](#)  
**Cc:** [Council, City](#)  
**Subject:** Historical Designation Objection  
**Date:** Saturday, December 9, 2023 7:12:22 PM

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

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To whom it may concern,

My name is Naji Bekhazi and I am the owner of the house at 1570 University Ave., Palo Alto (APN: 003-08-006). This correspondence is to indicate my objection to my house being on the historical inventory to be voted on by the HRB.

My house's external facade has been altered by the previous owner. The entire back of the house has been modified. Also, the original barn garage door was replaced because it was rotten from mold. Some of the external doors need to be replaced as they have rusted over the years. In addition, the house has been modified internally by previous owner. Kitchen and bathrooms have been remodeled and original fixtures have been replaced.

The external facade and the internal of the house have been greatly altered, and therefore my objection to include my house on the historical inventory. Not to mention, that all windows and doors are single pane glass, which eventually need to be replaced with new windows and doors with double pane glass to be more heat efficient and reduce gas footprint as well as noise from University Ave.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best Regards,

Naji Bekhazi  
Address: 1570 University Ave., Palo Alto, CA, 94301  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [Katherine Clark](#)  
**To:** [Isabel Castellano](#); [Council, City](#); [Historic Resources Board](#); [French, Amy](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] [Katherine Clark](#)  
**Subject:** Supplemental Objections to Historic Designation  
**Date:** Sunday, December 10, 2023 1:42:32 PM

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

Re: 555 Center Drive, Palo Alto, CA  
Owners: Lawrence and Katherine Clark  
Trustees of the Clark Family Trust

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Our home is located in Crescent Park on a street that is primarily made up of very charming 1920s and 1930s homes. We have no intention of changing the charming appearance of our home. When we remodeled our home in 1993, we copied features from the original home, such as steel casement windows, in the extension. We also obtained a Homeowner Improvement Exception to allow us to move the original garage to the back of the lot, thus preserving the architecture of the garage.

Since we sent our preliminary objection to the designation of our residential property's inclusion on the list of historic residences on December 3 (copy below), we had an opportunity to have a telephone conference with Isabel Castellano at M-Group. We explained our position and she was sympathetic. The purpose of this email is to submit our supplemental objections to the historic designation.

First, we learned that, currently, there are NO INCENTIVES to the Historic designation for us. We have already remodeled our home, maximized the FAR and we recently installed a new roof, consistent with the English Tudor style of the house, which will last beyond our lifetimes. We have no plans to remodel so we will not require any special exceptions to the Building Code. We do not see any benefit coming from the Mills Act, even if were adopted by the City, since we purchased our home in 1984 and our property taxes are set under Prop 13.

Second, our property is the only one identified by the HRB on Center Drive which is over 6 blocks long. Under SB 9, if everyone on our block was given permission to replace their old houses with new multi-unit structures, we would be the only historic single family house in a sea of multi-unit structures and the value of our home to subsequent buyers or developers would be substantially decreased.

Third, as stated in our earlier correspondence, it is our understanding that there are no clear rules and guidelines to this Historic designation in published city ordinances.

For the above reasons, we must respectfully OBJECT to the inclusion of our property in the City's Historic Property List.

Similar to what we understand was done with the Professorville neighborhood, we would have no objection to the City designating all of the Crescent Park neighborhood, including University Avenue, from Woodland to Fulton, as a Historic District and exempt from SB 9.

Very Respectfully,  
Lawrence and Katherine Clark  
Trustees of Clark Family Trust

555 Center Drive  
Palo Alto, CA 94301

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**From:** Isabel Castellano <icastellano@m-group.us>  
**Date:** Friday, December 8, 2023 at 4:57 PM  
**To:** Katherine Clark [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Request for Meeting & Objection to Designation

Hello Katherine and Larry,

Glad we were able to speak this week. Please reach out if you have any additional questions. As a reminder, HRB meetings are held in-person and on Zoom. If you would like to review the Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> staff report and watch on Zoom, details are available on the City's [HRB website](#). Select the "Meeting" tab and the meeting's agenda and packet are viewed by selecting the three dots next to the meeting date.

Have a great weekend,  
Isabel



**ISABEL CASTELLANO**  
historic preservation specialist  
707.540.0723 x220

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**From:** Isabel Castellano  
**Sent:** Monday, December 4, 2023 10:00 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** City Mgr <CityMgr@cityofpaloalto.org>; French, Amy <Amy.French@CityofPaloAlto.org>; [REDACTED] Historic Resources Board <hrb@cityofpaloalto.org>  
**Subject:** FW: Request for Meeting & Objection to Designation

Hello Katherine,

My name is Isabel Castellano, and I am a Consulting Historic Preservation Specialist for the City of Palo Alto assisting with the 2023 Reconnaissance Survey project. Thank you for corresponding with us and requesting an objection to the Palo Alto Inventory nomination for 555 Center Drive. I would like to note that we have received and recorded your objection request. We will continue to collect objection requests during the entirety of the project, up to the City Council meeting, anticipated for the Spring of 2024.

Documents related to the nomination are available on the city's [webpage](#). Attached is a copy of the

Nomination Memo with a Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) forms for your property for your reference.

As part of the 2023 Reconnaissance Survey Project, we anticipate presenting all the nomination objections to the Historic Resource Board on the January 25, 2024 hearing agenda. Please note that mailed notices will continue to be sent to property owners in advance of a Historic Resource Board and the City Council meeting to keep you informed.

If you have any additional questions, I would be happy to speak with you this week. I am available Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday through Friday. Please let me know of your preferred day and time.

Regards,  
Isabel



**ISABEL CASTELLANO**  
historic preservation specialist  
707.540.0723 x220

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**From:** Katherine Clark [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 3, 2023 4:33 PM  
**To:** French, Amy <[Amy.French@CityofPaloAlto.org](mailto:Amy.French@CityofPaloAlto.org)>; Historic Resources Board <[hrb@CityofPaloAlto.org](mailto:hrb@CityofPaloAlto.org)>  
**Cc:** Larry Clark [REDACTED]; Council, City <[city.council@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:city.council@cityofpaloalto.org)>  
**Subject:** Request for Meeting & Objection to Designation

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

Hi Amy,

My husband and I own, through a family trust, the R-1 residential property located at 555 Center Drive, Palo Alto in the Crescent Park neighborhood. We have owned our home since 1984. We understand that our property has been added to your list of homes that is eligible for Historic designation.

We received your Notice of the December 14 meeting by mail yesterday.

We are requesting a timely meeting with you to discuss this matter further. Please provide us your available times for December 4 through 8, 2023. Time is of the essence.

We also need to obtain the “packet” of materials related to our property that you referenced in the 10/24/23 HRB meeting. Please send via return email.

In the meantime, this email shall serve as a FORMAL OBJECTION to the proposed designation. We must respectfully OBJECT to the proposed designation and the potential listing on the Historical Inventory because we have received INSUFFICIENT information about the incentives for such designation and no ORDINANCE has been enacted by the City to specify the rules and

implications of such designation.

Thank you,

Katherine Clark  
555 Center Drive  
Palo Alto, CA 94301



**From:** [Tony Svensson](#)  
**To:** [French, Amy](#)  
**Cc:** [Historic Resources Board](#)  
**Subject:** Palo Alto Historical Inventory - 2264 Bowdoin Street Objection  
**Date:** Monday, December 11, 2023 7:22:57 AM  
**Importance:** High

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Historical Resources Board and Amy French:

Our house on 2264 Bowdoin Street is under consideration for historical status. We object to this.

We have lived in this house since 1990 and have made numerous costly renovations. This includes rebuilding the front steps and walkway to the sidewalk, replacing all single pane windows with double pane, adding insulation throughout, changing the dormer and portions of the outside siding, and most recently installing 17 solar panels on the roof.

We perused the city's material and see NO incentives to becoming a Palo Alto historical property.

Please take our objections into consideration by NOT moving forward with forcing historical status upon our home. We will continue to respect our property and its significance without that additional burden.

Sincerely,  
Sharon & Tony Svensson  
2264 Bowdoin Street  
Palo Alto, CA 94306

**From:** [Alan Cooper](#)  
**To:** [Historic Resources Board](#)  
**Cc:** [Council, City](#); [Alan Cooper](#)  
**Subject:** Owner consent: Historical property listing  
**Date:** Monday, December 11, 2023 11:13:53 AM

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Dear HRB members,

I am writing to ask that you recommend to City Council that historic resource properties **NOT** be placed on the local Palo Alto historical inventory over the objections of the property owner.

I am owner of a Historic resource property at 270 Kellogg Ave. I believe that, like eminent domain, fair compensation must be provided for a city to take over property rights. Greater incentives than now exist are needed to fairly compensate property owners, if the City is to place the property on the Palo Alto historic register without property owner consent.

As an example, the city of Mountain View has MORE incentives than Palo Alto, and they will NOT put a property on their historical inventory if the property owner objects.

Thank you!

Alan Cooper  
270 Kellogg Ave



**From:** [Julie Bolanos](#)  
**To:** [Historic Resources Board](#); [Council, City](#); [French, Amy](#); [icastellano@m-group.us](mailto:icastellano@m-group.us)  
**Cc:** [Bonnie Stein](#); [Andy Stein](#); [Paul Stein](#); [Julie Bolaños](#)  
**Subject:** 12/14 HRB MEETING - AGENDA ITEM #2  
**Date:** Monday, December 11, 2023 2:33:47 PM

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Dear Honorable Board Members,

We are writing to ask that you recommend to City Council that historic resource properties **\*NOT\*** be placed on the local Palo Alto historical inventory over the objections of the property owner.

Kind regards,  
Bonnie Stein  
1449 and 1451 Edgewood Drive, Palo Alto

**From:** [Perry Irvine](#)  
**To:** [Historic Resources Board](#)  
**Subject:** Objection to Inclusion of 635 Bryant Street on Palo Alto Historic Inventory List  
**Date:** Monday, December 11, 2023 3:06:49 PM

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Dear Members of The Historic Resources Board

As you may recall, I am one of the owners of 635 Bryant Street, Palo Alto. Just prior to the November 9th meeting, I submitted a letter stating why we did not wish to be included in the listing of historic properties. The objecting owners of a number of properties will have their objections considered at a meeting on January 25, 2024.

I have just reviewed the staff report to the Board for its meeting on December 14, 2023 which, as I read it, contained the staff's position that the Board *"Affirm that the HRB would not recommend that Council place properties on the local historic inventory 'over the expressed objections of property owners'"*

We, as the owners of 635 Bryant Street, hope that the Board will follow the suggestion and advice of its staff. We are sure that the staff has made the recommendation after very careful consideration.

We look forward to the Board bringing this process to a conclusion in the manner that allows owners who want to be included to do so, and those who do not to be able to opt out of the process.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter and our thoughts about the process.

Sincerely,

Perry A. Irvine  
635 Bryant Street  
to, [REDACTED] 4301  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [At Amy Sung](#)  
**To:** [French, Amy](#); [Historic Resources Board](#)  
**Cc:** [Council, City](#); [Sarah Luo](#); [Mao Sipian](#); [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Resending - Objection Letter for 2150 Cowper  
**Date:** Monday, December 11, 2023 3:44:46 PM  
**Attachments:** [2150 Cowper objection Letter for 2150 Cowper Street.pdf](#)  
[IMG\\_8277.PNG.pdf](#)  
[IMG\\_8278 2.PNG.pdf](#)

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

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Honorable Board members and Ms French,

I am writing on behalf of my clients Jianqiang Qiu and Mao Sipian who sent an email dated November 9th objecting to their home at 2150 Cowper Street being nominated for listing on the Palo Alto Inventory (see attached). They have not received confirmation that their objection was received by the HRB. Additionally, given their email was sent November 9th it looks like it did not arrive in time to be noted as an objection property to be pulled from the 11-9 voting on the slides presented at the meeting.

Given my clients live overseas it is possible their emails were sent and not received by HRB, Ms French or the City Council given screening email filters. They also resent their email after the 11/9 HRB meeting. They did receive City Council auto response ticket numbers #2425 and #2419 (see attached) but their letters have not appeared in the Council's packet nor did they receive subsequent confirmation emails after the Council ticket numbers emails.

Please confirm receipt of their objection per this email. Is there a list somewhere that has all the objection letters so we can check at a later date that their property is listed accordingly.

Kind regards,

Amy Sung

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** 转发: Palo Alto Historical Inventory - Objection Letter for 2150 Cowper Street  
**Date:** December 4, 2023 at 7:05 PM  
**To:** At Amy Sung [REDACTED]

SL

FYI

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发件人: [REDACTED]  
发送时间: 2023年11月11日 10:22  
收件人: 'Amy.French@cityofpaloalto.org' <Amy.French@cityofpaloalto.org>;  
'hrb@CityofPaloAlto.org' <hrb@CityofPaloAlto.org>  
抄送: 'city.council@cityofpaloalto.org' <city.council@cityofpaloalto.org>; '毛思翩'  
[REDACTED]; 'At [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
主题: 回复: Palo Alto Historical Inventory - Objection Letter for 2150 Cowper Street

Historical Resources Board and Amy French,

As the homeowners - 2150 Cowper Street, I have sent the objection letter on Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> Beijing time as below, but did not receive any response. So I sent 2<sup>nd</sup> email to you all on Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> Beijing time.

Please confirm the receipts of our previous emails sent on (date of your first email) and (2nd email date). We are concerned our address was NOT crossed out on the November 9th hearing. Many thanks!

Regards

Jianqiang Qiu and Mao Sipian

Homeowners - 2150 Cowper Street

---

发件人 [REDACTED]  
发送时间: 2023年11月9日 11:36  
收件人: 'Amy.French@cityofpaloalto.org' <Amy.French@cityofpaloalto.org>;  
'hrb@CityofPaloAlto.org' <hrb@CityofPaloAlto.org>  
抄送: 'city.council@cityofpaloalto.org' <city.council@cityofpaloalto.org>; '毛思翩'  
[REDACTED]  
主题: Palo Alto Historical Inventory - Objection Letter for 2150 Cowper Street

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 2150 Cowper Street.

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

- **Incentives not applicable or of interest**

- We do not plan on using the residential [incentives available](#) on the website.
- 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, older homes are not energy efficient or earthquake safe and may contain materials not allowed in today's standard.

- **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,

Jianqiang Qiu and Mao Sipian

Homeowners - 2150 Cowper Street

[Request received] Ticket # 2429



City Council <city.council@cityofpaloalto.org>  
收件人: Lxm13911690166



2023/11/11 (周六) 10:22

Thank you for your comments to the City of Palo Alto. If your message is for City Council, it will be forwarded to all seven Council Members and a printout of your correspondence will also be included in the next available Council packet. If your comments are about an item that is already scheduled for a City Council agenda, you can call (650) 329-2571 to confirm the item is still on the agenda for the next meeting.

If your message mentions a specific complaint or request for service, we'll either reply with an explanation or send it to the appropriate department for clarification.

We appreciate hearing from you. Thank you!

This email is a service from City of Palo Alto. Delivered by **Zendesk**

## [Request received] Ticket # 2425



City Council <city.council@cityofpaloalto.org>  
收件人: Lxm13911690166



2023/11/10 (周五) 15:56

Thank you for your comments to the City of Palo Alto. If your message is for City Council, it will be forwarded to all seven Council Members and a printout of your correspondence will also be included in the next available Council packet. If your comments are about an item that is already scheduled for a City Council agenda, you can call (650) 329-2571 to confirm the item is still on the agenda for the next meeting.

If your message mentions a specific complaint or request for service, we'll either reply with an explanation or send it to the appropriate department for clarification.

We appreciate hearing from you. Thank you!





**From:** [Isabel Castellano](#)  
**To:** [Mark Vershel](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]; [French, Amy](#); [Rice, Danille](#); [City Mgr](#); [Historic Resources Board](#)  
**Subject:** RE: FW: Objection to having 381 Guinda Street added to the Palo Alto Historical Inventory  
**Date:** Monday, December 11, 2023 8:24:33 PM

---

Hello Mark,

Thank you for corresponding with us and requesting an objection to the Palo Alto Inventory nomination for 381 Guinda Street. I would like to note that we have received and recorded your objection request. If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me.

Regards,

Isabel



**ISABEL CASTELLANO**  
historic preservation specialist  
707.540.0723 x220

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---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, December 8, 2023 7:02 PM  
**To:** Isabel Castellano <[icastellano@m-group.us](mailto:icastellano@m-group.us)>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]; French, Amy <[Amy.French@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:Amy.French@cityofpaloalto.org)>; Rice, Danille <[Danille.Rice@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:Danille.Rice@cityofpaloalto.org)>; City Mgr <[CityMgr@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:CityMgr@cityofpaloalto.org)>; Historic Resources Board <[hrb@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:hrb@cityofpaloalto.org)>  
**Subject:** Re: FW: Objection to having 381 Guinda Street added to the Palo Alto Historical Inventory

**[EXTERNAL EMAIL]** DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you know the content is safe. Be aware that the sending address can be faked or manipulated.

We disagree and continue to object.

On Fri, Dec 8, 2023 at 6:30 PM Isabel Castellano <[icastellano@m-group.us](mailto:icastellano@m-group.us)> wrote:

Thanks Mark for your additional description and feedback.

Many nominated properties have experienced additions, improvements, and alterations that may not have impacted the overall character of the property. I will record your description along with your objection for the record.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any additional questions.

Regards,  
Isabel

**ISABEL CASTELLANO**

historic preservation specialist

707.540.0723 x220

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**From:** Mark Vershel [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 6, 2023 6:36 PM  
**To:** Isabel Castellano <[icastellano@m-group.us](mailto:icastellano@m-group.us)>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] French, Amy <[Amy.French@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:Amy.French@cityofpaloalto.org)>; Rice, Danille <[Danille.Rice@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:Danille.Rice@cityofpaloalto.org)>; City Mgr <[CityMgr@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:CityMgr@cityofpaloalto.org)>; Historic Resources Board <[hrb@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:hrb@cityofpaloalto.org)>  
**Subject:** Re: FW: Objection to having 381 Guinda Street added to the Palo Alto Historical Inventory

**[EXTERNAL EMAIL]** DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you know the content is safe. Be aware that the sending address can be faked or manipulated.

Hi Isabel,

Much of the outside of the building (the part facing the backyard) was changed in the last remodel before we bought the property. The entire kitchen area was pushed out as a kitchen nook was added as well as a bathroom and additional back entry/coat room. This is not visible from the street but is part of the changes I mentioned that changed the historical character of the building that was originally constructed. The upstairs bedroom looking out the back yard was also extensively changed in that remodel.

Regards  
Mark

On Wed, Dec 6, 2023 at 4:30 PM Isabel Castellano <[icastellano@m-group.us](mailto:icastellano@m-group.us)> wrote:

Hello Mark & Teri,

My name is Isabel Castellano, and I am a Consulting Historic Preservation Specialist for the City of Palo Alto assisting with the 2023 Reconnaissance Survey project. Thank you for corresponding with us and requesting an objection to the Palo Alto Inventory nomination for 381 Guinda Street. I would like to note that we have received and recorded your objection request. We will continue to collect objection requests during the entirety of the project, up to the City Council meeting, anticipated for the Spring of 2024.

Documents related to the nomination are available on the city's [webpage](#). Attached is a copy of the Nomination Memo with a Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) form for your property for your reference. The property's interior is not included in the nomination and would not be subject to a historic review. The survey was completed with photographs from the public right-of-way only.

As part of the 2023 Reconnaissance Survey Project, we anticipate presenting all the nomination objections to the Historic Resource Board on the January 25, 2024 hearing agenda. Please note that mailed notices will continue to be sent to property owners in advance of a Historic Resource Board and the City Council meeting to keep you informed. If you have any additional questions, I would be happy to speak with you this week. Please let me know of your preferred day and time.

Regards,  
Isabel



**ISABEL CASTELLANO**  
historic preservation specialist  
707.540.0723 x220

---

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---

**From:** Mark Vershel [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 5, 2023 4:52 PM  
**To:** French, Amy <[Amy.French@CityofPaloAlto.org](mailto:Amy.French@CityofPaloAlto.org)>; Historic Resources Board <[hrb@CityofPaloAlto.org](mailto:hrb@CityofPaloAlto.org)>  
**Cc:** Council, City <[city.council@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:city.council@cityofpaloalto.org)>; Mark Vershel [REDACTED]; Teri Vershel [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Objection to having 381 Guinda Street added to the Palo Alto Historical Inventory

You don't often get email from [mark@vershel.com](mailto:mark@vershel.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear Amy and the HRB,

To our knowledge there has been no interior review of our house (at 381 Guinda St) by the city or their consultants. In addition there have been substantial changes to the home since its initial construction that have eliminated any historic character that may have existed.

We object to including our home in the Palo Alto Historical Inventory.

Regards,

Mark & Teri Vershel

---

Mark Vershel



**From:** [Isabel Castellano](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [French, Amy](#); [Rice, Danille](#); [City Mgr](#); [Historic Resources Board](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Historical Designation Objection  
**Date:** Monday, December 11, 2023 9:01:24 PM  
**Attachments:** [UniversityAvenue\\_1570.pdf](#)

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

Hello Naji,

My name is Isabel Castellano, and I am a Consulting Historic Preservation Specialist for the City of Palo Alto assisting with the 2023 Reconnaissance Survey project. Thank you for corresponding with us and requesting an objection to the Palo Alto Inventory nomination for 1570 University Avenue. I would like to note that we have received and recorded your objection request. No further action is required at this time. We will continue to collect objection requests during the entirety of the project, up to the City Council meeting, anticipated for the Spring of 2024.

As part of the 2023 Reconnaissance Survey Project, we anticipate presenting all the nomination objections to the Historic Resource Board on the January 25, 2024 hearing agenda. Please note that mailed notices will continue to be sent to property owners in advance of a Historic Resource Board and the City Council meeting to keep you informed. If you have any additional questions, I would be happy to speak with you this week. Please let me know of your preferred day and time.

Documents related to the nomination are available on the city's [webpage](#). Attached is a copy of the Nomination Memo with a Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) form for your property for your reference.

Regards,  
Isabel



**ISABEL CASTELLANO**  
historic preservation specialist  
707.540.0723 x220

---

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---

**From:** Naji Bekhazi [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 9, 2023 7:11 PM  
**To:** French, Amy <[Amy.French@CityofPaloAlto.org](mailto:Amy.French@CityofPaloAlto.org)>; Historic Resources Board <[hrb@CityofPaloAlto.org](mailto:hrb@CityofPaloAlto.org)>  
**Cc:** Council, City <[city.council@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:city.council@cityofpaloalto.org)>  
**Subject:** Historical Designation Objection

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To whom it may concern,

My name is Naji Bekhazi and I am the owner of the house at 1570 University Ave., Palo Alto (APN: 003-08-006). This correspondence is to indicate my objection to my house being on the historical inventory to be voted on by the HRB.

My house's external facade has been altered by the previous owner. The entire back of the house has been modified. Also, the original barn garage door was replaced because it was rotten from mold. Some of the external doors need to be replaced as they have rusted over the years. In addition, the house has been modified internally by previous owner. Kitchen and bathrooms have been remodeled and original fixtures have been replaced.

The external facade and the internal of the house have been greatly altered, and therefore my objection to include my house on the historical inventory. Not to mention, that all windows and doors are single pane glass, which eventually need to be replaced with new windows and doors with double pane glass to be more heat efficient and reduce gas footprint as well as noise from University Ave.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best Regards,

Naji Bekhazi

Address: 1570 University Ave., Palo Alto, CA, 94301

Cell: [REDACTED]

**From:** [Isabel Castellano](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [French, Amy](#); [Historic Resources Board](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Palo Alto Historical Inventory - 2264 Bowdoin Street Objection  
**Date:** Monday, December 11, 2023 9:32:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [BowdoinSt\\_2264.pdf](#)  
**Importance:** High

---

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

Hello Sharon & Tony,

My name is Isabel Castellano, and I am a Consulting Historic Preservation Specialist for the City of Palo Alto assisting with the 2023 Reconnaissance Survey project. Thank you for corresponding with us and requesting an objection to the Palo Alto Inventory nomination for 2264 Bowdoin Street. I would like to note that we have received and recorded your objection request. No further action is required at this time. We will continue to collect objection requests during the entirety of the project, up to the City Council meeting, anticipated for the Spring of 2024.

As part of the 2023 Reconnaissance Survey Project, we anticipate presenting all the nomination objections to the Historic Resource Board on the January 25, 2024 hearing agenda. Please note that mailed notices will continue to be sent to property owners in advance of a Historic Resource Board and the City Council meeting to keep you informed. If you have any additional questions, I would be happy to speak with you this week. Please let me know of your preferred day and time.

Documents related to the nomination are available on the city's [webpage](#). Attached is a copy of the Nomination Memo with a Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) form for your property for your reference.

Regards,  
Isabel



**ISABEL CASTELLANO**  
historic preservation specialist  
707.540.0723 x220

---

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-----Original Message-----

From: Tony Svensson [REDACTED]  
Sent: Monday, December 11, 2023 7:23 AM  
To: French, Amy <[Amy.French@CityofPaloAlto.org](mailto:Amy.French@CityofPaloAlto.org)>  
Cc: Historic Resources Board <[hrb@CityofPaloAlto.org](mailto:hrb@CityofPaloAlto.org)>  
Subject: Palo Alto Historical Inventory - 2264 Bowdoin Street Objection  
Importance: High

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---

Historical Resources Board and Amy French:

Our house on 2264 Bowdoin Street is under consideration for historical status. We object to this.

We have lived in this house since 1990 and have made numerous costly renovations. This includes rebuilding the front steps and walkway to the sidewalk, replacing all single pane windows with double pane, adding insulation throughout, changing the dormer and portions of the outside siding, and most recently installing 17 solar panels on the roof.

We perused the city's material and see NO incentives to becoming a Palo Alto historical property.

Please take our objections into consideration by NOT moving forward with forcing historical status upon our home. We will continue to respect our property and its significance without that additional burden.

Sincerely,  
Sharon & Tony Svensson  
2264 Bowdoin Street  
Palo Alto, CA 94306



**From:** [Carolyn Godfrey](#)  
**To:** [Historic Resources Board](#)  
**Cc:** [Council, City](#); [French, Amy](#)  
**Subject:** Agenda item #2 for 12/14 meeting: Please do not list houses over owners" objections  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 12, 2023 9:51:26 AM

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Honorable Board members,

We request that the HRB **NOT** recommend that Council place properties on the local historic inventory over the expressed objections of property owners. Palo Alto should follow the California State Office of Historic Preservation (CA-OHP) process for nominations to the California Historic Register which states "A resource cannot be listed over an owner's objection" (California legal code, sections 4852-5).

We wish again to emphasize the gross unfairness of the proposed process.

Regards,  
Carolyn Godfrey and Hal Prince  
211 Middlefield Road

**From:** [JEFF SID](#)  
**To:** [French, Amy](#); [Historic Resources Board](#)  
**Cc:** [Council, City](#)  
**Subject:** 544,546,548,550,552,554 Hawthorn Ave  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 12, 2023 11:22:15 AM

---

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I am formally requesting that my property NOT be included within the historic inventory.

Jeffrey Sid  
554 Hawthorne Ave  
Palo Alto CA 94301

[REDACTED]  
APN:120-02-002

**From:** [Ryan Palmer](#)  
**To:** [French, Amy](#); [icastellano@m-group.us](mailto:icastellano@m-group.us)  
**Cc:** [Chris Wade](#); [Historic Resources Board](#)  
**Subject:** 435 Santa Rita Avenue // Objection to Historic Inventory Nomination  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 12, 2023 12:35:29 PM  
**Attachments:** [2023.12.12 Letter to City Staff re HRB objection - 435 Santa Rita \(01328147xA4507\).PDF](#)

---

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Good Afternoon – on behalf of Christine R. Wade, attached please find correspondence regarding the above referenced subject matter, which is being sent on behalf of our client, The 435 Santa Rita Family Trust, dated January 13, 2021, the owner of the above referenced property. Please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions.

Thank you,

**RYAN PALMER** | *PARALEGAL* | **SSL LAW FIRM LLP** | 505 Montgomery Street, Suite 620 | San Francisco, CA 94111 |  
[REDACTED] | Fax: 415.814.6401 | Email: [REDACTED]

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SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94111  
TELEPHONE: 415.814.6400  
FACSIMILE: 415.814.6401  
[business@sslfirm.com](mailto:business@sslfirm.com)

CHRISTINE R. WADE  
DIRECT TEL: 415.243.2088  
[chris@sslfirm.com](mailto:chris@sslfirm.com)

December 12, 2023

**VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL**

Ms. Amy French  
Chief Planning Official  
City of Palo Alto  
[Amy.French@CityofPaloAlto.org](mailto:Amy.French@CityofPaloAlto.org)

Planning and Development Services Department  
City Hall  
250 Hamilton Avenue-Fifth Floor  
Palo Alto, CA 94301

Ms. Isabel Castellano  
Historic Preservation Consultant  
Metropolitan Planning Group  
[icastellano@m-group.us](mailto:icastellano@m-group.us)

**Re: Objection to Nomination to the Palo Alto Historic Inventory – 435 Santa Rita Avenue**

Dear Ms. French and Ms. Castellano:

We write on behalf of The 435 Santa Rita Family Trust, dated January 13, 2021, the owner of real property located at **435 Santa Rita Avenue, Palo Alto, CA 94301**.

In accordance with the directions provided on the 2023 Reconnaissance Survey website,<sup>1</sup> the property owner **objects** to the property's nomination to the Palo Alto Historic Inventory.

Further, in accordance with the directions provided on the website, we request digital copies of the property's (a) Nomination Memo, and (b) 1997-2001 Department of Parks and Recreation Form or Historic Resources Evaluation.

Given the lack of detail on the website or in the Historic Preservation Ordinance (Chapter 16.49 of the Palo Alto Municipal Code) regarding the manner by which a property owner objects to such a nomination, we reserve the right to supplement this objection as necessary to support it.

Finally, we ask that you please notify us of any meetings of the Historic Resources Board or City Council regarding the property at the following email address: [chris@sslfirm.com](mailto:chris@sslfirm.com).

Very truly yours,

SSL LAW FIRM LLP

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. Wade', written over the printed name.

Christine R. Wade

cc (by email): Historic Resources Board ([hrb@CityofPaloAlto.org](mailto:hrb@CityofPaloAlto.org))

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cityofpaloalto.org/Departments/Planning-Development-Services/Historic-Preservation/2023-Reconnaissance-Survey>.

**From:** [Ryan Palmer](#)  
**To:** [French, Amy](#); [icastellano@m-group.us](mailto:icastellano@m-group.us)  
**Cc:** [Chris Wade](#); [Historic Resources Board](#)  
**Subject:** 980 Middlefield Road // Objection to Historic Inventory Nomination  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 12, 2023 12:35:34 PM  
**Attachments:** [2023.12.12 Letter to City Staff re HRB objection - 980 Middlefield \(01328145xA4507\).PDF](#)

---

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---

Good Afternoon – on behalf of Christine R. Wade, attached please find correspondence regarding the above referenced subject matter, which is being sent on behalf of our client 980 Middlefield, LLC, the owner of the above referenced property. Please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions.

Thank you,

**RYAN PALMER** | *PARALEGAL* | **SSL LAW FIRM LLP** | 505 Montgomery Street, Suite 620 | San Francisco, CA 94111 |  
[REDACTED] | Fax: 415.814.6401 | [REDACTED]

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FACSIMILE: 415.814.6401  
[business@sslfirm.com](mailto:business@sslfirm.com)

CHRISTINE R. WADE  
DIRECT TEL: 415.243.2088  
[chris@sslfirm.com](mailto:chris@sslfirm.com)

December 12, 2023

***VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL***

Ms. Amy French  
Chief Planning Official  
City of Palo Alto  
[Amy.French@CityofPaloAlto.org](mailto:Amy.French@CityofPaloAlto.org)

Planning and Development Services Department  
City Hall  
250 Hamilton Avenue-Fifth Floor  
Palo Alto, CA 94301

Ms. Isabel Castellano  
Historic Preservation Consultant  
Metropolitan Planning Group  
[icastellano@m-group.us](mailto:icastellano@m-group.us)

**Re: Objection to Nomination to the Palo Alto Historic Inventory - 980 Middlefield Road**

Dear Ms. French and Ms. Castellano:

We write on behalf of 980 Middlefield, LLC, a California limited liability company, the owner of real property at **980 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto, CA 94302**.

In accordance with the directions provided on the 2023 Reconnaissance Survey website,<sup>1</sup> the property owner **objects** to the property's nomination to the Palo Alto Historic Inventory.

Further, in accordance with the directions provided on the website, we request digital copies of the property's (a) Nomination Memo, and (b) 1997-2001 Department of Parks and Recreation Form or Historic Resources Evaluation.

Given the lack of detail on the website or in the Historic Preservation Ordinance (Chapter 16.49 of the Palo Alto Municipal Code) regarding the manner by which a property owner objects to such a nomination, we reserve the right to supplement this objection as necessary to support it.

Finally, we ask that you please notify us of any meetings of the Historic Resources Board or City Council regarding the property at the following email address: [chris@sslfirm.com](mailto:chris@sslfirm.com).

Very truly yours,

SSL LAW FIRM LLP

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. Wade'.

Christine R. Wade

cc (by email): Historic Resources Board ([hrb@CityofPaloAlto.org](mailto:hrb@CityofPaloAlto.org))

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cityofpaloalto.org/Departments/Planning-Development-Services/Historic-Preservation/2023-Reconnaissance-Survey>.

**From:** [Ryan Palmer](#)  
**To:** [French, Amy](#); [icastellano@m-group.us](mailto:icastellano@m-group.us)  
**Cc:** [Chris Wade](#); [Historic Resources Board](#)  
**Subject:** 2160 Bryant Street // Objection to Historic Inventory Nomination  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 12, 2023 12:38:02 PM  
**Attachments:** [2023.12.12 Letter to City Staff re HRB objection - 2160 Bryant St \(01328144xA4507\).PDF](#)

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Good Afternoon – on behalf of Christine R. Wade, attached please find correspondence regarding the above referenced subject matter, which is being sent on behalf of our client Group LLC (formerly 2160 Bryant Street LLC), the owner of the above referenced property. Please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions.

Thank you,

**RYAN PALMER** | *PARALEGAL* | **SSL LAW FIRM LLP** | 505 Montgomery Street, Suite 620 | San Francisco, CA 94111 |  
[REDACTED] | Fax: 415.814.6401 | [REDACTED]

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CHRISTINE R. WADE  
DIRECT TEL: 415.243.2088  
[chris@sslfirm.com](mailto:chris@sslfirm.com)

December 12, 2023

**VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL**

Ms. Amy French  
Chief Planning Official  
City of Palo Alto  
[Amy.French@CityofPaloAlto.org](mailto:Amy.French@CityofPaloAlto.org)

Planning and Development Services Department  
City Hall  
250 Hamilton Avenue-Fifth Floor  
Palo Alto, CA 94301

Ms. Isabel Castellano  
Historic Preservation Consultant  
Metropolitan Planning Group  
[icastellano@m-group.us](mailto:icastellano@m-group.us)

**Re: Objection to Nomination to the Palo Alto Historic Inventory - 2160 Bryant Street**

Dear Ms. French and Ms. Castellano:

We write on behalf of Group LLC fka 2160 Bryant Street LLC, a California limited liability company, the owner of real property at **2160 Bryant Street, Palo Alto, CA 94301**.

In accordance with the directions provided on the 2023 Reconnaissance Survey website,<sup>1</sup> the property owner **objects** to the property's nomination to the Palo Alto Historic Inventory.

Further, in accordance with the directions provided on the website, we request digital copies of the property's (a) Nomination Memo, and (b) 1997-2001 Department of Parks and Recreation Form or Historic Resources Evaluation.

Given the lack of detail on the website or in the Historic Preservation Ordinance (Chapter 16.49 of the Palo Alto Municipal Code) regarding the manner by which a property owner objects to such a nomination, we reserve the right to supplement this objection as necessary to support it.

Finally, we ask that you please notify us of any meetings of the Historic Resources Board or City Council regarding the property at the following email address: [chris@sslfirm.com](mailto:chris@sslfirm.com).

Very truly yours,

SSL LAW FIRM LLP

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. Wade', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Christine R. Wade

cc (by email): Historic Resources Board ([hrb@CityofPaloAlto.org](mailto:hrb@CityofPaloAlto.org))

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cityofpaloalto.org/Departments/Planning-Development-Services/Historic-Preservation/2023-Reconnaissance-Survey>.



**From:** [Ryan Palmer](#)  
**To:** [French, Amy; icastellano@m-group.us](#)  
**Cc:** [Chris Wade; Historic Resources Board](#)  
**Subject:** 559 Kingsley Avenue // Objection to Historic Inventory Nomination  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 12, 2023 12:42:05 PM  
**Attachments:** [2023.12.12 Letter to City Staff re HRB objection - 559 Kingsley \(01328146xA4507\).PDF](#)

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Good Afternoon – on behalf of Christine R. Wade, attached please find correspondence regarding the above referenced subject matter, which is being sent on behalf of our client 559 Kingsley Avenue LLC, the owner of the above referenced property. Please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions.

Thank you,

**RYAN PALMER** | *PARALEGAL* | **SSL LAW FIRM LLP** | 505 Montgomery Street, Suite 620 | San Francisco, CA 94111 |  
[REDACTED] | Fax: 415.814.6401 | [REDACTED]

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CHRISTINE R. WADE  
DIRECT TEL: 415.243.2088  
[chris@sslfirm.com](mailto:chris@sslfirm.com)

December 12, 2023

**VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL**

Ms. Amy French  
Chief Planning Official  
City of Palo Alto  
[Amy.French@CityofPaloAlto.org](mailto:Amy.French@CityofPaloAlto.org)

Planning and Development Services Department  
City Hall  
250 Hamilton Avenue-Fifth Floor  
Palo Alto, CA 94301

Ms. Isabel Castellano  
Historic Preservation Consultant  
Metropolitan Planning Group  
[icastellano@m-group.us](mailto:icastellano@m-group.us)

**Re: Objection to Nomination to the Palo Alto Historic Inventory - 559 Kingsley Avenue**

Dear Ms. French and Ms. Castellano:

We write on behalf of 559 Kingsley Avenue LLC, a California limited liability company, the owner of real property at **559 Kingsley Avenue, Palo Alto, CA 94301**.

In accordance with the directions provided on the 2023 Reconnaissance Survey website,<sup>1</sup> the property owner **objects** to the property's nomination to the Palo Alto Historic Inventory.

Further, in accordance with the directions provided on the website, we request digital copies of the property's (a) Nomination Memo, and (b) 1997-2001 Department of Parks and Recreation Form or Historic Resources Evaluation.

Given the lack of detail on the website or in the Historic Preservation Ordinance (Chapter 16.49 of the Palo Alto Municipal Code) regarding the manner by which a property owner objects to such a nomination, we reserve the right to supplement this objection as necessary to support it.

Finally, we ask that you please notify us of any meetings of the Historic Resources Board or City Council regarding the property at the following email address: [chris@sslfirm.com](mailto:chris@sslfirm.com).

Very truly yours,

SSL LAW FIRM LLP

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. Wade', written over a horizontal line.

Christine R. Wade

cc (by email): Historic Resources Board ([hrb@CityofPaloAlto.org](mailto:hrb@CityofPaloAlto.org))

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cityofpaloalto.org/Departments/Planning-Development-Services/Historic-Preservation/2023-Reconnaissance-Survey>.

**From:** [richard Leask](#)  
**To:** [French, Amy](#); [Historic Resources Board](#)  
**Cc:** [Council, City](#); [Barbara Means](#)  
**Subject:** Historic inventory  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 12, 2023 1:36:54 PM

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Amy,

My wife and I were out of town for an extended period. Upon returning, we discovered that our house at 1235 Webster Street has been included in proposed additions to the historical inventory.

While we have no intention of materially modifying our house, we are opposed to its arbitrary addition to a list that could have an adverse impact on its value.

What do we do about this?

Richard Leask

**From:** [Stewart Koch](#)  
**To:** [French, Amy](#); [Historic Resources Board](#); [Rice, Danille](#); [Isabel Castellano](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]; [Council, City](#)  
**Subject:** Letter of Objection for 1726 Fulton Street to be include in Historic Inventory  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 12, 2023 2:01:59 PM  
**Attachments:** [Letter of Objection To Amy French - City of Palo Alto - 1726 Fulton Street.pdf](#)

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Please see below and attached for letter of objection.

Dear Mrs. French

My brother Marshall Koch and I are the owners of 1726 Fulton Street in Palo Alto. I am writing to submit my strong objection to 1726 Fulton Street being placed on any historical registry. The process for nomination is arbitrary and inconsistent, and therefore patently unfair to those homeowners that are nominated without their request nor approval.

In reviewing the homes that are nominated by the Historic Resources Board (HRB) I can find no method of logical inclusion. The 2001 survey report by Dames & Moore identified 13 potentially historic districts within Palo Alto, the first of which is noted to be Christmas Tree Lane, the 1700-1800 block of Fulton St. Yet in their finding of eligible homes, only 1726 Fulton St. was singled out as historically significant enough to be nominated for the historic inventory. How can a two-block section of Fulton St., identified as a significant historic district, only have 1 of 31 homes nominated to the historic inventory? This makes no sense. The singular nomination of 1726 is inconsistent with the 1700-1800 block Fulton St. being designated a historic district and demonstrates the completely arbitrary nature of the nominating process.

If 1726 Fulton Street in and of itself should be considered historic, then surely an identical home, of the same vintage, and within a designated historic district in Palo Alto should be included as well. If the HRB's nomination process was fair and logical, rather than arbitrary and inconsistent, one would agree. But this is not the case. 1250 Hamilton Avenue is located within the "potentially significant historic district" of Crescent Park. 1250 Hamilton Avenue is literally a mirror image copy of 1726 Fulton St.

**1726 Fulton Street**



**1250 Hamilton Avenue**



1250 Hamilton Avenue was designed by the same architect and is of the same vintage, why is it not nominated for the historic inventory? Because the nominating process is arbitrary and inconsistent.

For these reasons I strongly object to 1726 Fulton St. being given any historic designation and suggest the historic resources board make a review of its process to date. The inconsistencies in this example demonstrate the harm that may be imposed on an individual homeowner when the process is not fairly and equally applied to all homeowners in Palo Alto.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Stewart Koch". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "S" and "K".

Stewart Koch  
Owner, 1726 Fulton St

Stewart Koch  
1726 Fulton St.  
Palo Alto, CA 94303

12/12/2023

Amy French  
City of Palo Alto Planning Department  
250 Hamilton Ave.  
Palo Alto, CA 94301

Dear Mrs. French

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**1726 Fulton Street**



**1250 Hamilton Avenue**



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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Stewart Koch". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "S" and "K".

Stewart Koch  
Owner, 1726 Fulton St

**From:** [Mark Vershel](#)  
**To:** [Historic Resources Board](#)  
**Cc:** [Teri Vershel](#); [Mark Vershel](#)  
**Subject:** Comment for December 14th meeting  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 12, 2023 3:32:41 PM

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Although we can not attend the meeting in person, we want to have a comment added to the record.

We would like the HRB to ensure that the City Council **does not** place properties on the local historic inventory without express approval of property owners. If a property owner objects to being included on the list, then the HRB should honor that objection and remove the property from this list.

Palo Alto should follow the California State Office of Historic Preservation (CA-OHP) process for nominations to the California Historic Register which states that a resource cannot be listed over an owner's objection (California legal code, sections 4852-5).

We see no reason that Palo Alto should overrule the method that the State of California uses for historic properties and add such properties over the objections of the owners.

Thanks  
Mark & Teri Vershel

---

Mark Vershel  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [Sheila Kothari](#)  
**To:** [Historic Resources Board](#)  
**Cc:** [French, Amy](#); [Council, City](#)  
**Subject:** Objection Letter for 2025 Columbia Street and 12/14 HRB Meeting - Agenda Item #2  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 12, 2023 4:23:13 PM

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Honorable Board members,

We are writing to object to placing our home at 2025 Columbia Street on the Palo Alto Inventory List. In addition, we request the HRB to recommend to City Council that historic resource properties \*not\* be placed on the local Palo Alto historical inventory over the objections of the property owner.

We would like to raise several concerns about the HBR's proposal to put properties on the Local Historical Inventory over the expressed objection or without the approval of homeowners.

Our biggest concerns are regarding the limitations and additional costs imposed upon homeowners in case of any remodels or improvements. We believe that we have to consult with planning staff on any projects, and that we have to pay for it. This adds to the already increasing costs of any work done on homes currently, in addition to the environmental review. We had a very bad experience dealing with the city on a remodel 20+ years ago leading to a big delay in completing our project and additional costs.

This is all very opaque. The city needs to issue very clear guidelines about the process, cost to homeowners and anything else that could impact any

repairs or changes that need to be made to a home. For example, what is the process for replacing a roof? As you are aware, most insurance companies will not insure homes that have wood shingle roofs. What if we plan to go solar and replace the roof with a Tesla solar roof?

There are so many unanswered questions that you need to address fully. Once again, we would like to reiterate that the homeowners must not be placed on the registry without their full approval and that all questions regarding cost, time and limitations on changes are addressed fully.

Sincerely

Sheila & Ketan Kothari  
2025 Columbia Street

**From:** [geetha srikantan](#)  
**To:** [Council, City; Historic Resources Board](#)  
**Cc:** [geetha srikantan](#); [geetha srikantan](#)  
**Subject:** Comment regarding Agenda item #2 at the 12/14/2023 meeting  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 13, 2023 7:16:07 AM

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Dear City Council and HRB Members,

I request the HRB to recommend to Council that Council do \*not\* place properties on the local historical inventory over the objections of the property owner. Palo Alto should follow the California State Office of Historic Preservation (CA-OHP) process for nominations to the California Historic Register which states "A resource cannot be listed over an owner's objection" (California legal code, sections 4852-5).

My property at 385 Waverley Street, Palo Alto, CA 94301, was included in the list of properties nominated for inclusion in the historical inventory, without prior consultation with me. I have objected to this nomination previously, and believe this matter needs careful consideration by homeowners, before requesting for such a nomination.

I request that you please take into consideration the above comment and request, as I am unable to attend the 12/14/2023 meeting in person or via zoom, due to other commitments.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dr Geetha Srikantan  
385 Waverley Street, Palo Alto, CA 94301

**From:** [Susan Dunn](#)  
**To:** [Historic Resources Board](#); [French, Amy](#); [icastellano@m-group.us](mailto:icastellano@m-group.us)  
**Cc:** [Eric Dunn](#); [Council, City](#)  
**Subject:** Objection to Inclusion in Palo Alto Historic Inventory  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 13, 2023 2:08:52 PM  
**Attachments:** [2023 12 13 Ltr to Historical Resources Board.pdf](#)

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Please see attached letter.

Regards,

Susan Dunn

Eric C.W. and Susan A. Dunn  
509 Coleridge Ave  
Palo Alto, CA 94301

December 13, 2023

Historical Resources Board ([hrb@CityofPaloAlto.org](mailto:hrb@CityofPaloAlto.org))  
Amy French ([amy.french@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:amy.french@cityofpaloalto.org))  
Isabel Castellano ([icastellano@m-group.us](mailto:icastellano@m-group.us))

Re: Objection to Inclusion in Palo Alto Historic Inventory

To Whom It May Concern:

As the owners of the property at 509 Coleridge Avenue, my husband and I respectfully object to inclusion in the Palo Alto Historic Inventory.


We appreciate the report by Page & Turnbull, send to us by Isabel Castellano, describing the reasons why our property might be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places and for the Palo Alto Historic Inventory. We were interested to learn of our property's association with Armand T. Mercier, the President of the Southern Pacific Railroad during World War II. We agree that our house is a good example of the Mediterranean Revival Style.

Nevertheless, we feel that the disadvantages of inclusion in the Palo Alto Historic Inventory outweigh the benefits. My husband and I currently intend to maintain the house as it is; however, we do not wish to burden our heirs or possible future owners with restrictions that might not be appropriate for them. For example, we are aware of the regional need for additional housing. A future owner might decide to demolish the house in order to subdivide the lot for multiple residences.

I will endeavor to attend the January 11, 2024 meeting at which 509 Coleridge will be considered for inclusion in the Palo Alto Historic Inventory. Regardless of what transpires at that meeting, please exclude 509 Coleridge from the Palo Alto Historic Inventory.

Kindly acknowledge receipt of this letter.

Very truly yours,



Susan A. Dunn

Cc: Eric Dunn [REDACTED]  
[City.council@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:City.council@cityofpaloalto.org)

**From:** [Tim Lindholm](#)  
**To:** [French, Amy](#); [Historic Resources Board](#)  
**Cc:** [Council, City](#)  
**Subject:** Objection of 218 Middlefield nomination for historical inventory  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 13, 2023 9:23:36 AM

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Dear Palo Alto Historical Resource Board and City Council,

I'm sending this email to object to our home at 218 Middlefield Rd being nominated for the Palo Alto historic inventory at this time.

I consider this objection to be only preliminary, and understand that the process would allow us to change our minds later, once we have more information.

Our reasoning for this decision has several parts:

1) In the short term, being on the historic inventory (or not) will not change anything.

Prior to our purchase of it the house had been completely updated inside, largely leaving the exterior intact. The interior needs nothing, and we would never significantly change the exterior. Both were important contributors to our buying it. There will be no 4-plex at 218 Middlefield, even if we would be permitted to build one! So both the incentives and limitations of the historical inventory program are mostly moot, at least as long as we will live here.

2) We don't yet have all the information about some potentially interesting incentives.

There are incentives around having or potentially improving a basement in an historic house in a flood zone. These could be significant to us. We have reached out to City staff to understand these relaxations better, but they have not had much time to respond.

3) The implications in the long term of being in the historic inventory are unpredictable.

The long term means when we decide to sell the house. This is only likely to happen years from now. As rules around zoning and housing in Palo Alto are changing so rapidly, it seems short-sighted to lock in restrictions that would only first have effects when we would sell in an environment that's unpredictable today.

Unfortunately my work schedule means I'm unable to attend the December 14 meeting, but we'll stay in touch with the program.

Best wishes,

Tim Lindholm



Re HRB hearing scheduled for December 14, 2023;  
House address: 1423 Hamilton Avenue

Do Not Desire to Be Included on Inventory

I understand that the Historic Resources Board ("HRB") and City Council will consider the owners' response to a suggested placement on the Palo Alto's Historic Inventory (PAHI). I am writing to make clear that we **do not** wish to have our house, 1423 Hamilton Avenue, placed on Palo Alto's Historic Inventory.

Fortunately, several other Spanish colonial revival houses might equally warrant nomination: This house is not a unique gem

I also wish to indicate why I think adding 1423 Hamilton Avenue ("1423") to Palo Alto's Historic Inventory is not a necessary nor appropriate choice. Palo Alto retains many "well-designed" Spanish Colonial Revival houses that could just as well merit nomination. Indeed, in Palo Alto's parcel maps or other City records, multiple homes are labeled "Deemed potentially eligible for the California Register by Dames and Moore in 1998" but were not part of the recent Reconnaissance Survey. Some of the Spanish Colonial Revival homes have features, unlike 1423, that would allow owners to take advantage of certain benefits Palo Alto offers homes listed on the Inventory.

It is premature to nominate this perhaps-not-as-distinctive house before the Board or City have considered these other "deemed potentially eligible" homes. Rather than imposing historic status, staff could invite owners of those "potentially eligible" Spanish Colonial Revival homes to consider having their residences nominated, and evaluate whether some of those houses are more suitable or more "significant" than 1423.

The Primary Report does not present a strong case for 1423 being of great significance

1423 is designated under category C: Property "found eligible for Architecture." (Property groupings page 2.) The "evaluation" also tells us that 1423 is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C (Primary Record B10, p2) explaining that:

"This house is significant as an example of a well-designed Spanish Colonial Revival house for an upper middle class market. It is an important example of the work of EJ Smalling."

Who was the architect of this "well designed" house? The architect is unknown. (Primary Record B9a, p2.)

Who was Schmaling? He was the builder of 1423; he never lived there. (*Id.* BB9b.) Schmaling was one of dozens of pre-1950 builders in Palo Alto. The Report surmises: The residence "seems to have been built by the Palo Alto contractor EJ Smalling on speculation" and "the rapid turnover would seem typical of a rental property but the city directory identifies the occupants as owners." (*Id.* History)

Moreover, while the Primary report broadly asserts that 1423 is an “important example” of his work, it neither specifies what features of the home are particularly exemplary of Schmaling’s “work” nor indicates that it was Schmaling, as opposed to an architect, who was responsible for such features. Nor does it address whether Schmaling’s “work” may already be sufficiently represented in the Inventory. In fact, Palo Alto’s existing Historic Inventory currently lists 5 homes in which Schmaling was the contractor:

- 2240 Cowper Architect William Wilson Wurster Inventory Category 3
- 1570 Emerson Architect William Wilson Wurster Category 4
- 2261 Waverley Schmaling builder along with EJ Stenblat Category 4
- 1220 Hamilton Architect Birge Clark Inventory Category 2
- 1184 Palo Alto Avenue Architect CK Summer Category 2

Perhaps the at least 5 properties already on the inventory, and others in the 140+ additional nominees, are sufficient to cover the “work” of EJ Schmaling. There is no analysis given as to whether these historic houses would also be considered “important” examples of Schmaling’s work. Does each of the many builders in Palo Alto at that time warrant having more than 5 houses on the inventory? If indeed, the HRB aims to have additional “important examples” of Schmaling’s “work”, reviewing “deemed potentially eligible” homes might locate one which has documented features attributable to his “work.”

Neither the Primary Report nor the Dames and Moore Report characterize Schmaling as a “master.” (See Dames and Moore at 6-103, attached.) There is no dispute that Schmaling was an active building contractor who did work for some significant architects. The Dames and Moore summary for Schmaling describes him as a builder without mentioning design, and thereby stands in contrast with the Dames and Moore description of a different builder, William Klay, who is lauded as “a building contractor who was also an unusually sophisticated designer.” (Compare Dames and Moore at 6-63 with *id.* at 6-103.) For 1423, the report also does not specify any particularly well-crafted handiwork. That is different from the Norris house, of which Architect Birge Clark had complimented the workmanship of the wrought iron gate, noting “all the little curlicues have been hammered so they are splayed out.” (<https://www.pastheritage.org/Articles/1247CowperMF.html>. Centennial houses.) “They are little spirals like the tendrils of a vine.” (*Id.*)

1423 was not listed as eligible for the National Register of Historic places in the 1979 survey nor placed on the Master List of Structures on Local Inventory. ( 1979 Beach & Boghosian Survey and Inventory at p 58, 74-75; see at p. 2 “structures of significance built prior to 1940”)

Other homes deemed “potentially eligible” should be considered in determining whether 1423 should be nominated

According to City records, Dames and Moore had deemed “potentially eligible for the CRHR in 1998” several Spanish Colonial Revival houses built during the same period. The longer list was trimmed down by a not-very-intensive method, such as street views and whether remodeling permits had been issued. Multiple other Palo Alto Spanish Colonial Revival, or Early California Style, homes have some similar characteristics to those listed for 1423 -- “wood frame structure clad and stucco with red tiled gable roofs,” a decorative iron balcony, a heavy wood panel door, steel casement windows, and an “aesthetically balanced composition.”

Indeed, other “deemed potentially eligible” homes can obtain a benefit from historic designation for which 1423 is not eligible. Whereas 1423 has 1990’s half-round aluminum gutters, other Spanish Colonial Revival homes retain characteristic rectangular gutters and downspouts with decorative brackets/straps. Owners of 1930’s era homes with those apparently copper drainage fixtures might prefer to use the historic home exemption to renovate with prepatinated copper, a benefit which would not apply to 1423’s aluminum gutters and downspouts. (See PAMC 16.09.180b14.)

Similarly, for qualified historic buildings, Palo Alto’s subdivision code allows creation of flag lots with smaller than the otherwise required minimum lot size. We are not, however, interested in creating a flag lot, and even if we were, that would entail substantial costs to remove a pool. (PAMC 21.20.301.) Another owner of a “potentially eligible” residence, with a more suitable yard configuration, may be attracted by the flag lot opportunity.

As was explained at the October 24 meeting I attended, and in other materials, the Reconnaissance Survey was designed to check whether properties already designated as “potentially eligible” for registration should continue to remain on the consideration list. The survey did not independently assess the earlier consultant’s basis for finding a property was eligible, nor how it compared to other earlier “deemed potentially eligible” properties which were excluded from the Reconnaissance Survey.

The City acknowledges that other “deemed eligible” properties were not studied in the recent survey:

[W]ill only look at the approximately 155 properties previously identified by the survey update as eligible as individual resources for the national register... No additional properties will be studied, and the lack of inclusion of your property does not mean it is not a historic resource; merely that it may still need to be evaluated for historic significance at a future date

“Deemed potentially eligible” houses might not have been studied further because foliage blocked a clear view or a permit was on file but without regard to whether any renovation resulted in a loss of integrity. Among the many other properties that were determined by

Dames and Moore to be "potentially eligible" for a historic register, but are not yet nominated, are Spanish colonial revival houses that have traditional copper downspouts, or better appearing roof tiles, or were designed by Birge Clark, or near or at the same time as 1423, or have original plans on file in architectural collections. Before nominating 1423, the HRB/City should reach out to the owners of such "deemed eligible" but not yet nominated homes. Given the existence of other likely eligible residences, it seems more sensible for the HRB to consider additional Spanish Colonial Revival homes for voluntary participation, rather than nominating 1423, which seems no more significant, and perhaps less significant, than other homes. Were 1423 Hamilton to be compared to other "deemed eligible homes," 1423 might not be deemed "significant."

#### Reluctance to Delay Repairs

We do not have any imminent plans to do extensive remodeling nor to sell our home. We appreciate the appearance and age of our house, but that's not the same as saying that we want to endure additional layers of requirements if we have necessary renovations to make. A major reason for our reluctance to be on the Inventory is that in the event of creek overflow, falling tree, earthquake, broken pipe, or other damage, we fear that the well-intentioned review process and materials restrictions would delay our ability to repair our home, where we wish to live. Delays are not intended, but there may be a backlog of proposals to be reviewed by the HRB, and City staff already have heavy workloads. Other homeowners who live outside the creek overflow range or otherwise feel less risk-averse might appreciate being listed in Palo Alto's Inventory more than we do.

Finally, I want to thank the members of the Historic Review Board, and the volunteers who assisted with the survey, for their work on preserving some of Palo Alto's historic character. I do not think Palo Alto's historic character will be diminished if 1423 Hamilton is not nominated. We have lived happily at 1423 for decades without being on the Historic Inventory and also without substantially changing the exterior.

Charlotte Lowell

1423 Hamilton Avenue

## SCHMALING, E.J.

Edward Joseph Schmaling was born in San Francisco in 1899. According to an obituary which appeared in the *Palo Alto Times* on 4 May 1955, he served in the Merchant Marine in the First World War and after the war worked in a shipyard. He came to Palo Alto in 1924 and worked as a carpenter and contractor. In 1929, Schmaling built a house for his family at 863 Melville. In 1942, at 43 years of age, he attended the Naval Reserve Officers School and went back to sea a senior first mate. He was eventually promoted to captain. While he was away, the house on Melville was rented to a navy man and his wife. When he came home from the war, Mr. and Mrs. Schmaling moved to 3 Frederick Court in Menlo Park, and Mr. Schmaling went into a partnership called Schmaling and Stenbit Building Contractors that was located at 300 Bryant Street.

According to an obituary that appeared in the *Palo Alto Times* on 10 November 1972, Ruth Grove Schmaling was a native of Palo Alto, a graduate of the Castilleja School for Girls, and Johns Hopkins University. She was also a registered nurse.

### Source

Miller, Guy. *Palo Alto Community Book*. "Edward Joseph Schmaling."

Palo Alto Historical Association. Consolidated and sorted Index to Newspapers and Architectural Journals.

*Palo Alto Times*. 31 July 1929. (obituary Edward Schmaling) 9 May 1955. (obituary Ruth Schmaling) 10 November 1972.

**From:** [Isabel Castellano](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [French, Amy](#); [Rice, Danille](#); [City Mgr](#); [Historic Resources Board](#); [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Resending - Objection Letter for 2150 Cowper  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 13, 2023 9:03:52 PM  
**Attachments:** [2150 Cowper objection Letter for 2150 Cowper Street.pdf](#)  
[IMG\\_8277.PNG.pdf](#)  
[IMG\\_8278 2.PNG.pdf](#)  
[Cowper Street\\_2150.pdf](#)

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Hello Amy,

My name is Isabel Castellano, and I am a Consulting Historic Preservation Specialist for the City of Palo Alto assisting with the 2023 Reconnaissance Survey project. Thank you for corresponding with us and requesting an objection to the Palo Alto Inventory nomination for 2150 Cowper Street. I would like to note that we have received and recorded your objection request. No further action is required at this time. We will continue to collect objection requests during the entirety of the project, up to the City Council meeting, anticipated for the Spring of 2024.

As part of the 2023 Reconnaissance Survey Project, we anticipate presenting all the nomination objections to the Historic Resource Board on the January 25, 2024 hearing agenda. Please note that mailed notices will continue to be sent to property owners in advance of a Historic Resource Board and the City Council meeting to keep you informed. Documents related to the nomination are available on the city's [webpage](#). Attached is a copy of the Nomination Memo with a Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) form for your property for your reference.

If you have any additional questions, I would be happy to speak with you. Please let me know of your preferred day and time.

Regards,  
Isabel



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**From:** At Amy Sung [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, December 11, 2023 3:44 PM  
**To:** French, Amy <[Amy.French@CityofPaloAlto.org](mailto:Amy.French@CityofPaloAlto.org)>; Historic Resources Board <[hrb@CityofPaloAlto.org](mailto:hrb@CityofPaloAlto.org)>  
**Cc:** Council, City <[city.council@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:city.council@cityofpaloalto.org)>; Sarah Luo [REDACTED]; Mao Sipian <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Resending - Objection Letter for 2150 Cowper

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Honorable Board members and Ms French,

I am writing on behalf of my clients Jianqiang Qiu and Mao Sipian who sent an email dated November 9th objecting to their home at 2150 Cowper Street being nominated for listing on the Palo Alto Inventory (see attached). They have not received confirmation that their objection was received by the HRB. Additionally, given their email was sent November 9th it looks like it did not arrive in time to be noted as an objection property to be pulled from the 11-9 voting on the slides presented at the meeting.

Given my clients live overseas it is possible their emails were sent and not received by HRB, Ms French or the City Council given screening email filters. They also resent their email after the 11/9 HRB meeting. They did receive City Council auto response ticket numbers #2425 and #2419 (see attached) but their letters have not appeared in the Council's packet nor did they receive subsequent confirmation emails after the Council ticket numbers emails.

Please confirm receipt of their objection per this email. Is there a list somewhere that has all the objection letters so we can check at a later date that their property is listed accordingly.

Kind regards,

Amy Sung

**From:** [Isabel Castellano](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [French, Amy; Historic Resources Board](#)  
**Subject:** FW: 435 Santa Rita Avenue // Objection to Historic Inventory Nomination  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 13, 2023 9:32:27 PM  
**Attachments:** [2023.12.12 Letter to City Staff re HRB objection - 435 Santa Rita \(01328147xA4507\).PDF](#)  
[Santa Rita Ave 435.pdf](#)

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Hello Ryan and Christine,

My name is Isabel Castellano, and I am a Consulting Historic Preservation Specialist for the City of Palo Alto assisting with the 2023 Reconnaissance Survey project. Thank you for corresponding with us and requesting an objection to the Palo Alto Inventory nomination for 435 Santa Rita Avenue. I would like to note that we have received and recorded your objection request. No further action is required at this time. We will continue to collect objection requests during the entirety of the project, up to the City Council meeting, anticipated for the Spring of 2024.

As part of the 2023 Reconnaissance Survey Project, we anticipate presenting all the nomination objections to the Historic Resource Board on the January 25, 2024 hearing agenda. Please note that mailed notices will continue to be sent to property owners in advance of a Historic Resource Board and the City Council meeting to keep you informed. Documents related to the nomination are available on the city's [webpage](#). Attached is a copy of the Nomination Memo with a Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) form for your property for your reference.

If you have any additional questions, I would be happy to speak with you. Please let me know of your preferred day and time.

Regards,  
Isabel



**ISABEL CASTELLANO**  
historic preservation specialist  
707.540.0723 x220

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**From:** Ryan Palmer [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 12, 2023 12:35 PM  
**To:** Amy.French@CityofPaloAlto.org; Isabel Castellano <icastellano@m-group.us>  
**Cc:** Chris Wade [REDACTED]; hrb@CityofPaloAlto.org  
**Subject:** 435 Santa Rita Avenue // Objection to Historic Inventory Nomination

**[EXTERNAL EMAIL]** DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you know the content is safe. Be



aware that the sending address can be faked or manipulated.

Good Afternoon – on behalf of Christine R. Wade, attached please find correspondence regarding the above referenced subject matter, which is being sent on behalf of our client, The 435 Santa Rita Family Trust, dated January 13, 2021, the owner of the above referenced property. Please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions.

Thank you,

**RYAN PALMER** | *PARALEGAL* | **SSL LAW FIRM LLP** | 505 Montgomery Street, Suite 620 | San Francisco, CA 94111 |  
[REDACTED] | Fax: 415.814.6401 | [REDACTED]

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**From:** [Isabel Castellano](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [French, Amy; Historic Resources Board](#)  
**Subject:** FW: 980 Middlefield Road // Objection to Historic Inventory Nomination  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 13, 2023 9:35:26 PM  
**Attachments:** [2023.12.12 Letter to City Staff re HRB objection - 980 Middlefield \(01328145xA4507\).PDF](#)  
[Middlefield Road\\_980.pdf](#)

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Hello Ryan and Christine,

My name is Isabel Castellano, and I am a Consulting Historic Preservation Specialist for the City of Palo Alto assisting with the 2023 Reconnaissance Survey project. Thank you for corresponding with us and requesting an objection to the Palo Alto Inventory nomination for 980 Middlefield Road. I would like to note that we have received and recorded your objection request. No further action is required at this time. We will continue to collect objection requests during the entirety of the project, up to the City Council meeting, anticipated for the Spring of 2024.

As part of the 2023 Reconnaissance Survey Project, we anticipate presenting all the nomination objections to the Historic Resource Board on the January 25, 2024 hearing agenda. Please note that mailed notices will continue to be sent to property owners in advance of a Historic Resource Board and the City Council meeting to keep you informed. Documents related to the nomination are available on the city's [webpage](#). Attached is a copy of the Nomination Memo with a Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) form for your property for your reference.

If you have any additional questions, I would be happy to speak with you. Please let me know of your preferred day and time.

Regards,  
Isabel



**ISABEL CASTELLANO**  
historic preservation specialist  
707.540.0723 x220

---

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**From:** Ryan Palmer [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 12, 2023 12:35 PM  
**To:** Amy.French@CityofPaloAlto.org; Isabel Castellano <icastellano@m-group.us>  
**Cc:** Chris Wade <chris@SSLLAWFIRM.COM>; hrb@CityofPaloAlto.org  
**Subject:** 980 Middlefield Road // Objection to Historic Inventory Nomination

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aware that the sending address can be faked or manipulated.

Good Afternoon – on behalf of Christine R. Wade, attached please find correspondence regarding the above referenced subject matter, which is being sent on behalf of our client 980 Middlefield, LLC, the owner of the above referenced property. Please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions.

Thank you,

**RYAN PALMER** | *PARALEGAL* | **SSL LAW FIRM LLP** | 505 Montgomery Street, Suite 620 | San Francisco, CA 94111 |  
[REDACTED] | Fax: 415.814.6401 | [REDACTED]

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**From:** [Isabel Castellano](#)  
**To:** [Ryan Palmer](#); [Chris Wade](#)  
**Cc:** [Historic Resources Board](#); [French, Amy](#)  
**Subject:** RE: 2160 Bryant Street // Objection to Historic Inventory Nomination  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 13, 2023 9:37:14 PM  
**Attachments:** [2023.12.12 Letter to City Staff re HRB objection - 2160 Bryant St \(01328144xA4507\).PDF](#)  
[Bryant St 2160.pdf](#)

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Hello Ryan and Christine,

My name is Isabel Castellano, and I am a Consulting Historic Preservation Specialist for the City of Palo Alto assisting with the 2023 Reconnaissance Survey project. Thank you for corresponding with us and requesting an objection to the Palo Alto Inventory nomination for 2160 Bryant Street. I would like to note that we have received and recorded your objection request. No further action is required at this time. We will continue to collect objection requests during the entirety of the project, up to the City Council meeting, anticipated for the Spring of 2024.

As part of the 2023 Reconnaissance Survey Project, we anticipate presenting all the nomination objections to the Historic Resource Board on the January 25, 2024 hearing agenda. Please note that mailed notices will continue to be sent to property owners in advance of a Historic Resource Board and the City Council meeting to keep you informed. Documents related to the nomination are available on the city's [webpage](#). Attached is a copy of the Nomination Memo with a Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) form for your property for your reference.

If you have any additional questions, I would be happy to speak with you. Please let me know of your preferred day and time.

Regards,  
Isabel



**ISABEL CASTELLANO**  
historic preservation specialist  
707.540.0723 x220

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**From:** Ryan Palmer [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 12, 2023 12:35 PM  
**To:** Amy.French@CityofPaloAlto.org; Isabel Castellano <icastellano@m-group.us>  
**Cc:** Chris Wade [REDACTED]; hrb@CityofPaloAlto.org  
**Subject:** 2160 Bryant Street // Objection to Historic Inventory Nomination

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aware that the sending address can be faked or manipulated.

Good Afternoon – on behalf of Christine R. Wade, attached please find correspondence regarding the above referenced subject matter, which is being sent on behalf of our client Group LLC (formerly 2160 Bryant Street LLC), the owner of the above referenced property. Please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions.

Thank you,

**RYAN PALMER** | *PARALEGAL* | **SSL LAW FIRM LLP** | 505 Montgomery Street, Suite 620 | San Francisco, CA 94111 |  
[REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | Fax: 415.814.6401 | [REDACTED]

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**From:** [Isabel Castellano](#)  
**To:** [Ryan Palmer](#); [Chris Wade](#)  
**Cc:** [Historic Resources Board](#); [French, Amy](#)  
**Subject:** RE: 559 Kingsley Avenue // Objection to Historic Inventory Nomination  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 13, 2023 9:39:04 PM  
**Attachments:** [Kingsley Avenue\\_559.pdf](#)  
[2023.12.12 Letter to City Staff re HRB objection - 559 Kingsley \(01328146xA4507\).PDF](#)

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Hello Ryan and Christine,

My name is Isabel Castellano, and I am a Consulting Historic Preservation Specialist for the City of Palo Alto assisting with the 2023 Reconnaissance Survey project. Thank you for corresponding with us and requesting an objection to the Palo Alto Inventory nomination for [559 Kingsley Avenue](#). I would like to note that we have received and recorded your objection request. No further action is required at this time. We will continue to collect objection requests during the entirety of the project, up to the City Council meeting, anticipated for the Spring of 2024.

As part of the 2023 Reconnaissance Survey Project, we anticipate presenting all the nomination objections to the Historic Resource Board on the January 25, 2024 hearing agenda. Please note that mailed notices will continue to be sent to property owners in advance of a Historic Resource Board and the City Council meeting to keep you informed. Documents related to the nomination are available on the city's [webpage](#). Attached is a copy of the Nomination Memo with a Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) form for your property for your reference.

If you have any additional questions, I would be happy to speak with you. Please let me know of your preferred day and time.

Regards,  
Isabel



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historic preservation specialist  
707.540.0723 x220

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**From:** Ryan Palmer [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 12, 2023 12:35 PM  
**To:** Amy.French@CityofPaloAlto.org; Isabel Castellano <icastellano@m-group.us>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] hrb@CityofPaloAlto.org  
**Subject:** 559 Kingsley Avenue // Objection to Historic Inventory Nomination

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aware that the sending address can be faked or manipulated.

Good Afternoon – on behalf of Christine R. Wade, attached please find correspondence regarding the above referenced subject matter, which is being sent on behalf of our client 559 Kingsley Avenue LLC, the owner of the above referenced property. Please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions.

Thank you,

**RYAN PALMER** | *PARALEGAL* | **SSL LAW FIRM LLP** | 505 Montgomery Street, Suite 620 | San Francisco, CA 94111 |  
[REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | Fax: 415.814.6401 | [REDACTED]

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**From:** [Isabel Castellano](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [French, Amy](#); [Historic Resources Board](#); [Rice, Danille](#); [City Mgr](#)  
**Subject:** FW: 544,546,548,550,552,554 Hawthorn Ave  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 13, 2023 9:55:34 PM  
**Attachments:** [HawthorneAve\\_544.pdf](#)

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Hello Jeffrey,

My name is Isabel Castellano, and I am a Consulting Historic Preservation Specialist for the City of Palo Alto assisting with the 2023 Reconnaissance Survey project. Thank you for corresponding with us and requesting an objection to the Palo Alto Inventory nomination for [544-554 Haworth Avenue](#). I would like to note that we have received and recorded your objection request. No further action is required at this time. We will continue to collect objection requests during the entirety of the project, up to the City Council meeting, anticipated for the Spring of 2024.

As part of the 2023 Reconnaissance Survey Project, we anticipate presenting all the nomination objections to the Historic Resource Board on the January 25, 2024 hearing agenda. Please note that mailed notices will continue to be sent to property owners in advance of a Historic Resource Board and the City Council meeting to keep you informed. Documents related to the nomination are available on the city's [webpage](#). Attached is a copy of the Nomination Memo with a Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) form for your property for your reference.

If you have any additional questions, I would be happy to speak with you. Please let me know of your preferred day and time.

Regards,  
Isabel



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historic preservation specialist  
707.540.0723 x220

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**From:** JEFF SID [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 12, 2023 11:22 AM  
**To:** French, Amy <[Amy.French@CityofPaloAlto.org](mailto:Amy.French@CityofPaloAlto.org)>; Historic Resources Board <[hrb@CityofPaloAlto.org](mailto:hrb@CityofPaloAlto.org)>  
**Cc:** Council, City <[city.council@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:city.council@cityofpaloalto.org)>  
**Subject:** 544,546,548,550,552,554 Hawthorn Ave

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---

I am formally requesting that my property NOT be included within the historic inventory.

Jeffrey Sid  
554 Hawthorne Ave  
Palo Alto CA 94301



APN:120-02-002

**From:** [Isabel Castellano](#)  
**To:** [Stewart Koch](#)  
**Cc:** [French, Amy](#); [Historic Resources Board](#); [Rice, Danille](#); [REDACTED]; [City Mgr](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Letter of Objection for 1726 Fulton Street to be include in Historic Inventory  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 13, 2023 10:15:08 PM  
**Attachments:** [Letter of Objection To Amy French - City of Palo Alto - 1726 Fulton Street.pdf](#)  
[fulstonst\\_1726.pdf](#)

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Hello Stewart,

My name is Isabel Castellano, and I am a Consulting Historic Preservation Specialist for the City of Palo Alto assisting with the 2023 Reconnaissance Survey project. Thank you for corresponding with us and requesting an objection to the Palo Alto Inventory nomination for [1726 Fulton Street](#). I would like to note that we have received and recorded your objection request. No further action is required at this time. We will continue to collect objection requests during the entirety of the project, up to the City Council meeting, anticipated for the Spring of 2024.

As part of the 2023 Reconnaissance Survey Project, we anticipate presenting all the nomination objections to the Historic Resource Board on the January 25, 2024 hearing agenda. Please note that mailed notices will continue to be sent to property owners in advance of a Historic Resource Board and the City Council meeting to keep you informed. Documents related to the nomination are available on the city's [webpage](#). Attached is a copy of the Nomination Memo with a Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) form for your property for your reference.

If you have any additional questions, I would be happy to speak with you. Please let me know of your preferred day and time.

Regards,  
Isabel



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**From:** Stewart Koch [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 12, 2023 2:01 PM  
**To:** French, Amy <Amy.French@CityofPaloAlto.org>; Historic Resources Board <hrb@cityofpaloalto.org>; Rice, Danille <Danille.Rice@CityofPaloAlto.org>; Isabel Castellano <icastellano@m-group.us>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]; city.council@cityofpaloalto.org  
**Subject:** Letter of Objection for 1726 Fulton Street to be include in Historic Inventory

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Please see below and attached for letter of objection.

Dear Mrs. French

My brother Marshall Koch and I are the owners of 1726 Fulton Street in Palo Alto. I am writing to submit my strong objection to 1726 Fulton Street being placed on any historical registry. The process for nomination is arbitrary and inconsistent, and therefore patently unfair to those homeowners that are nominated without their request nor approval.

In reviewing the homes that are nominated by the Historic Resources Board (HRB) I can find no method of logical inclusion. The 2001 survey report by Dames & Moore identified 13 potentially historic districts within Palo Alto, the first of which is noted to be Christmas Tree Lane, the 1700-1800 block of Fulton St. Yet in their finding of eligible homes, only 1726 Fulton St. was singled out as historically significant enough to be nominated for the historic inventory. How can a two-block section of Fulton St., identified as a significant historic district, only have 1 of 31 homes nominated to the historic inventory? This makes no sense. The singular nomination of 1726 is inconsistent with the 1700-1800 block Fulton St. being designated a historic district and demonstrates the completely arbitrary nature of the nominating process.

If 1726 Fulton Street in and of itself should be considered historic, then surely an identical home, of the same vintage, and within a designated historic district in Palo Alto should be included as well. If the HRB's nomination process was fair and logical, rather than arbitrary and inconsistent, one would agree. But this is not the case. 1250 Hamilton Avenue is located within the "potentially significant historic district" of Crescent Park. 1250 Hamilton Avenue is literally a mirror image copy of 1726 Fulton St.

**1726 Fulton Street**



**1250 Hamilton Avenue**



1250 Hamilton Avenue was designed by the same architect and is of the same vintage, why is it not nominated for the historic inventory? Because the nominating process is arbitrary and inconsistent.

For these reasons I strongly object to 1726 Fulton St. being given any historic designation and suggest the historic resources board make a review of its process to date. The inconsistencies in this example demonstrate the harm that may be imposed on an individual homeowner when the process is not fairly and equally applied to all homeowners in Palo Alto.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Stewart Koch". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "S" and a prominent "K".

Stewart Koch  
Owner, 1726 Fulton St

**From:** [Isabel Castellano](#)  
**To:** [Sheila Kothari](#)  
**Cc:** [French, Amy](#); [Rice, Danille](#); [City Mgr](#); [Historic Resources Board](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Objection Letter for 2025 Columbia Street and 12/14 HRB Meeting - Agenda Item #2  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 13, 2023 10:38:23 PM  
**Attachments:** [ColumbiaStreet\\_2025.pdf](#)

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Hello Sheila & Ketan,

My name is Isabel Castellano, and I am a Consulting Historic Preservation Specialist for the City of Palo Alto assisting with the 2023 Reconnaissance Survey project. Thank you for corresponding with us and requesting an objection to the Palo Alto Inventory nomination for [2025 Columbia Street](#). I would like to note that we have received and recorded your objection request. No further action is required at this time. We will continue to collect objection requests during the entirety of the project, up to the City Council meeting, anticipated for the Spring of 2024.

As part of the 2023 Reconnaissance Survey Project, we anticipate presenting all the nomination objections to the Historic Resource Board on the January 25, 2024 hearing agenda. Please note that mailed notices will continue to be sent to property owners in advance of a Historic Resource Board and the City Council meeting to keep you informed. Documents related to the nomination are available on the city's [webpage](#). Attached is a copy of the Nomination Memo with a Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) form for your property for your reference.

If you have any additional questions, I would be happy to speak with you. Please let me know of your preferred day and time.

Regards,  
Isabel



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**From:** Sheila Kothari <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 12, 2023 4:23 PM  
**To:** Historic Resources Board <[hrb@CityofPaloAlto.org](mailto:hrb@CityofPaloAlto.org)>  
**Cc:** French, Amy <[Amy.French@CityofPaloAlto.org](mailto:Amy.French@CityofPaloAlto.org)>; Council, City <[city.council@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:city.council@cityofpaloalto.org)>  
**Subject:** Objection Letter for 2025 Columbia Street and 12/14 HRB Meeting - Agenda Item #2

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Honorable Board members,

We are writing to object to placing our home at 2025 Columbia Street on the Palo Alto Inventory List. In addition, we request the HRB to recommend to City Council that historic resource properties \*not\* be placed on the local Palo Alto historical inventory over the objections of the property owner.

We would like to raise several concerns about the HBR's proposal to put properties on the Local Historical Inventory over the expressed objection or without the approval of homeowners.

Our biggest concerns are regarding the limitations and additional costs imposed upon homeowners in case of any remodels or improvements. We believe that we have to consult with planning staff on any projects, and that we have to pay for it. This adds to the already increasing costs of any work done on homes currently, in addition to the environmental review. We had a very bad experience dealing with the city on a remodel 20+ years ago leading to a big delay in completing our project and additional costs.

This is all very opaque. The city needs to issue very clear guidelines about the process, cost to homeowners and anything else that could impact any repairs or changes that need to be made to a home. For example, what is the process for replacing a roof? As you are aware, most insurance companies will not insure homes that have wood shingle roofs. What if we plan to go solar and replace the roof with a Tesla solar roof?

There are so many unanswered questions that you need to address fully. Once again, we would like to reiterate that the homeowners must not be placed on the registry without their full approval and that all questions regarding cost, time and limitations on changes are addressed fully.

Sincerely  
Sheila & Ketan Kothari  
2025 Columbia Street

**From:** [Isabel Castellano](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [French, Amy](#); [Historic Resources Board](#); [Rice, Danille](#); [City Mgr](#); [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Historic inventory  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 13, 2023 10:38:32 PM  
**Attachments:** [WebsterSt\\_1235.pdf](#)

---

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Hello Richard,

My name is Isabel Castellano, and I am a Consulting Historic Preservation Specialist for the City of Palo Alto assisting with the 2023 Reconnaissance Survey project. Thank you for corresponding with us and requesting an objection to the Palo Alto Inventory nomination for [1235 Webster Street](#). I would like to note that we have received and recorded your objection request. No further action is required at this time. We will continue to collect objection requests during the entirety of the project, up to the City Council meeting, anticipated for the Spring of 2024.

As part of the 2023 Reconnaissance Survey Project, we anticipate presenting all the nomination objections to the Historic Resource Board on the January 25, 2024 hearing agenda. Please note that mailed notices will continue to be sent to property owners in advance of a Historic Resource Board and the City Council meeting to keep you informed. Documents related to the nomination are available on the city's [webpage](#). Attached is a copy of the Nomination Memo with a Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) form for your property for your reference.

If you have any additional questions, I would be happy to speak with you. Please let me know of your preferred day and time.

Regards,  
Isabel



**ISABEL CASTELLANO**  
historic preservation specialist  
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**From:** richard Leask [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 12, 2023 1:37 PM  
**To:** French, Amy <[Amy.French@CityofPaloAlto.org](mailto:Amy.French@CityofPaloAlto.org)>; Historic Resources Board <[hrb@CityofPaloAlto.org](mailto:hrb@CityofPaloAlto.org)>  
**Cc:** Council, City <[city.council@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:city.council@cityofpaloalto.org)>; Barbara Means <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Historic inventory

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Amy,

My wife and I were out of town for an extended period. Upon returning, we discovered that our house at 1235 Webster Street has been included in proposed additions to the historical inventory.

While we have no intention of materially modifying our house, we are opposed to its arbitrary addition to a list that could have an adverse impact on its value.

What do we do about this?

Richard Leask

**From:** [Isabel Castellano](#)  
**To:** [Tim Lindholm](#)  
**Cc:** [French, Amy](#); [Historic Resources Board](#); [Rice, Danille](#); [City Mgr](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Objection of 218 Middlefield nomination for historical inventory  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 13, 2023 11:02:49 PM  
**Attachments:** [MiddlefieldRoad\\_218.pdf](#)

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Hello Tim,

My name is Isabel Castellano, and I am a Consulting Historic Preservation Specialist for the City of Palo Alto assisting with the 2023 Reconnaissance Survey project. Thank you for corresponding with us and requesting an objection to the Palo Alto Inventory nomination for [218 Middlefield Road](#). I would like to note that we have received and recorded your objection request. No further action is required at this time. We will continue to collect objection requests during the entirety of the project, up to the City Council meeting, anticipated for the Spring of 2024.

As part of the 2023 Reconnaissance Survey Project, we anticipate presenting all the nomination objections to the Historic Resource Board on the January 25, 2024 hearing agenda. Please note that mailed notices will continue to be sent to property owners in advance of a Historic Resource Board and the City Council meeting to keep you informed. Documents related to the nomination are available on the city's [webpage](#). Attached is a copy of the Nomination Memo with a Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) form for your property for your reference.

If you have any additional questions, I would be happy to speak with you. Please let me know of your preferred day and time.

Regards,  
Isabel



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**From:** Tim Lindholm [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 13, 2023 9:23 AM  
**To:** French, Amy <[Amy.French@CityofPaloAlto.org](mailto:Amy.French@CityofPaloAlto.org)>; Historic Resources Board <[hrb@CityofPaloAlto.org](mailto:hrb@CityofPaloAlto.org)>  
**Cc:** Council, City <[city.council@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:city.council@cityofpaloalto.org)>  
**Subject:** Objection of 218 Middlefield nomination for historical inventory

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Dear Palo Alto Historical Resource Board and City Council,

I'm sending this email to object to our home at 218 Middlefield Rd being nominated for the Palo Alto historic inventory at this time.

I consider this objection to be only preliminary, and understand that the process would allow us to change our minds later, once we have more information.

Our reasoning for this decision has several parts:

1) In the short term, being on the historic inventory (or not) will not change anything.

Prior to our purchase of it the house had been completely updated inside, largely leaving the exterior intact. The interior needs nothing, and we would never significantly change the exterior. Both were important contributors to our buying it. There will be no 4-plex at 218 Middlefield, even if we would be permitted to build one! So both the incentives and limitations of the historical inventory program are mostly moot, at least as long as we will live here.

2) We don't yet have all the information about some potentially interesting incentives.

There are incentives around having or potentially improving a basement in an historic house in a flood zone. These could be significant to us. We have reached out to City staff to understand these relaxations better, but they have not had much time to respond.

3) The implications in the long term of being in the historic inventory are unpredictable.

The long term means when we decide to sell the house. This is only likely to happen years from now. As rules around zoning and housing in Palo Alto are changing so rapidly, it seems short-sighted to lock in restrictions that would only first have effects when we would sell in an environment that's unpredictable today.

Unfortunately my work schedule means I'm unable to attend the December 14 meeting, but we'll stay in touch with the program.

Best wishes,

Tim Lindholm

**From:** [Isabel Castellano](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [French, Amy](#); [Historic Resources Board](#); [Rice, Danille](#); [City Mgr](#); [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Objection to Inclusion in Palo Alto Historic Inventory  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 13, 2023 11:16:31 PM  
**Attachments:** [2023 12 13 Ltr to Historical Resources Board.pdf](#)  
[coleridgeavenue\\_509.pdf](#)

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

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Hello Susan,

My name is Isabel Castellano, and I am a Consulting Historic Preservation Specialist for the City of Palo Alto assisting with the 2023 Reconnaissance Survey project. Thank you for corresponding with us and requesting an objection to the Palo Alto Inventory nomination for [509 Coleridge Avenue](#). I would like to note that we have received and recorded your objection request. No further action is required at this time. We will continue to collect objection requests during the entirety of the project, up to the City Council meeting, anticipated for the Spring of 2024.

As part of the 2023 Reconnaissance Survey Project, we anticipate presenting all the nomination objections to the Historic Resource Board on the January 25, 2024 hearing agenda. Please note that mailed notices will continue to be sent to property owners in advance of a Historic Resource Board and the City Council meeting to keep you informed. Documents related to the nomination are available on the city's [webpage](#). Attached is a copy of the Nomination Memo with a Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) form for your property for your reference.

If you have any additional questions, I would be happy to speak with you. Please let me know of your preferred day and time.

Regards,  
Isabel



**ISABEL CASTELLANO**  
historic preservation specialist  
707.540.0723 x220

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**From:** Susan Dunn <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 13, 2023 2:08 PM  
**To:** [hrb@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:hrb@cityofpaloalto.org); [amy.french@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:amy.french@cityofpaloalto.org); Isabel Castellano <[icastellano@m-group.us](mailto:icastellano@m-group.us)>  
**Cc:** Eric Dunn <[REDACTED]>; [city.council@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:city.council@cityofpaloalto.org)  
**Subject:** Objection to Inclusion in Palo Alto Historic Inventory

**[EXTERNAL EMAIL]** DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you know the content is safe. Be aware that the sending address can be faked or manipulated.

Please see attached letter.

Regards,

Susan Dunn

Darlene Yaplee  
Public Comment  
12/14/23 - Agenda Item #2

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VERSION: NOV 3, 2023 (CURRENT)

SEC. 36.54.45. - Designation and preservation of historic resources.

SEC. 36.54.50. - Council findings.

SEC. 36.54.55. - Definitions.

SEC. 36.54.60. - Preservation of resources.

SEC. 36.54.65. - Designation criteria.

SEC. 36.54.70. - Designation process for Historic Register.

SEC. 36.54.75. - Removal from Register.

SEC. 36.54.80. - Incentives and benefits.

SEC. 36.54.85. - Requirement of permit—Development review process.

SEC. 36.54.90. - National and California Register properties.

SEC. 36.54.95. - Application of other laws.

SEC. 36.54.97. - Appeals.

SEC. 36.54.70. - Designation process for Historic Register.

2007

a. **Initial Register.** The city council may, by resolution, adopt an "Initial Mountain View Register of Historic Resources." Owners of properties on the Register will be notified by certified mail within thirty (30) days of adoption of the ordinance providing for the designation and preservation of historic resources. If the council adopts a Historic Register, all properties, including those designated pursuant to this section, shall be included in the Register.

b. **Initiation by owner.** The property owner may request designation of a building, structure or other improvement as a historic resource. Applications for designation must be accompanied by such historical and architectural information as is required to allow city staff to make an informed recommendation concerning the application. The application shall be filed with the community development department.

c. **Initiation of individual historic resource by the council.** The council may initiate the designation by majority vote which will begin the review process. Within thirty (30) days of the initiation of the designation by the council, the city shall notify the property owner of such application. The application will be processed only if the property owner agrees in writing to such designation.

d. **Public hearings.**

1. **Public hearing before zoning administrator.** For applications initiated pursuant to subsections "b." and "c." above, the zoning administrator shall hold a public hearing in accordance with Section 36.56 (Applications, Hearings and Appeals) to consider the application. The zoning administrator shall review the evidence in support of the application and determine whether the property meets the criteria for designation, and forward a recommendation to the city council on whether the property should be placed on the Register.

2. **Public hearing before city council.** Upon receipt of the zoning administrator's recommendation, the council shall hold a public hearing in accordance with Section 36.56 (Applications, Hearings and Appeals). The council shall review the evidence in support of the application and the recommendation of the zoning administrator and determine whether the property meets the criteria for designation and make a final decision on whether the property should be placed on the Register.

(Ord. No. 18.13, § 1, 12/10/13.)

SEC. 36.54.75. - Removal from Register.

a. **Removal from Initial Register.** Within six (6) months of the adoption of this ordinance, any property owner may submit a



SEC. 36.54.45. - Designation and preservation of historic resources.

SEC. 36.54.50. - Council findings.

SEC. 36.54.55. - Definitions.

SEC. 36.54.60. - Preservation of resources.

SEC. 36.54.65. - Designation criteria.

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SEC. 36.54.75. - Removal from Register.

SEC. 36.54.80. - Incentives and benefits.

SEC. 36.54.85. - Requirement of permit—Development review process.

SEC. 36.54.90. - National and California Register properties.

SEC. 36.54.95. - Application of other laws.

SEC. 36.54.97. - Appeals.

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### SEC. 36.54.75. - Removal from Register.

- a. **Removal from Initial Register.** Within six (6) months of the adoption of this ordinance, any property owner may submit a request in writing, on a form approved by the community development director, that their property be removed from the Register. The application for removal shall be signed by all owners of the property. The director shall determine whether the request for removal is in compliance with this article and shall grant the request if it complies with the requirements of this article.
- b. **Removal from Register.** Properties remaining on the Register pursuant to Section 36.54.70.a, and following the six (6) month removal period, and properties entered on the Register pursuant to Section 36.54.70 "b," "c," and "d," shall remain on the Register and cannot be removed for ten (10) years from the initial designation. Every five (5) years thereafter, on the anniversary of the designation, properties may apply for removal. The application shall be submitted and reviewed consistent with subsection "a." above.
- c. **Recapture of property tax incentive.** The application for removal of the Historic Resource from the Register shall include a payment for property tax rebates, with interest. The city council, by separate action, shall designate the appropriate interest rate.
- d. **Predemolition review.** Prior to the issuance of a demolition permit for any building, which had been designated as a historic resource pursuant to Section 36.54.70, the applicant shall meet with city staff to review the alternatives, incentives and options to demolition. The applicant shall be notified in writing of the time and place of the meeting within thirty (30) days of filing a complete application for a demolition permit. The council may, by resolution, require additional historic buildings, not otherwise designated, to go through this review process.

(Ord. No. 18.13, § 1, 12/10/13.)

### SEC. 36.54.80. - Incentives and benefits.

- a. Historic resources are eligible for special incentives and benefits as determined and adopted by the city council. The availability of the following incentives and benefits is contingent upon the determination that the approval, exemption or benefit will protect and enhance the character-defining features or retention of the historic resource.

1. Variances pursuant to [Section 36.46.35](#).
2. Major floor area ratio exceptions pursuant to Section 36.14.90.b.
3. [Cathedral and minor floor area variances pursuant to Section 36.14.90 and 36.14.90.](#)



16.49.010 Purpose

It is found that the protection, enhancement, perpetuation and use of structures, districts and neighborhoods of historical and architectural significance located within the city are of cultural and aesthetic benefit to the community. It is further found that the economic, cultural and aesthetic standing of this city will be enhanced by respecting the heritage of the city. The purposes of this chapter are to:

- (a) Designate, preserve, protect, enhance and perpetuate those historic structures, districts and neighborhoods which contribute to the cultural and aesthetic heritage of Palo Alto;

(b) Foster civic pride in the beauty and accomplishments of the past;

(c) Stabilize and improve the economic value of certain historic structures, districts and neighborhoods;

(d) Develop and maintain appropriate settings for such structures;

(e) Enrich the educational and cultural dimensions of human life by serving aesthetic as well as material needs and fostering knowledge of the living heritage of the past;

(f) Enhance the visual and aesthetic character, diversity and interest of the city;

(g) Establish special requirements so as to assure the preservation and the satisfactory maintenance of significant historic structures within the downtown area.

(Ord. 3721 § 1 (part), 1986)

16.49.020 Definitions.

Throughout this chapter, the following definitions shall apply:

(a) "Downtown area" means that area of the University Avenue business district

