



## **HISTORICAL COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA**

**7:00 PM - Monday, April 11, 2022**

*Via Videoconference*

**Please Note: Per California Executive Order N-29-20, the Commissions will meet via teleconference only. Members of the Public may call (650) 242-4929 to participate in the conference call (Meeting ID: 146 745 5648 or via the web at: Historical Commission Meeting. If you are able to open the web page link for the meeting, please click the following web link: <https://meetings.ringcentral.com/j/1467455648>**

**Members of the Public may only comment during times allotted for public comments. Public testimony will be taken at the direction of the Commission Chair and members of the public may only comment during times allotted for public comments. Those wishing to comment on an agenda item are asked to text their name and which item they wish to speak on to 650-947-2750 to better organize the public comment period. An opportunity will be provided to those who do not text to speak on each item. Members of the public are also encouraged to submit written testimony prior to the meeting at [HCpubliccomment@losaltosca.gov](mailto:HCpubliccomment@losaltosca.gov). Emails received prior to the meeting will be included in the public record.**

### **ESTABLISH QUORUM**

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

Members of the audience may bring to the Commission's attention any item that is not on the agenda. Please complete a "Request to Speak" form and submit it to the Staff Liaison. Speakers are generally given two or three minutes, at the discretion of the Chair. Please be advised that, by law, the Commission is unable to discuss or take action on issues presented during the Public Comment Period. According to State Law (also known as "the Brown Act") items must first be noticed on the agenda before any discussion or action.

### **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION/ACTION**

**1. Santa Clara County Historical Preservation Award**

Consideration of nominations for the 2022 Santa Clara County Historical Preservation Award. *Project Planner: Liu*

### **COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS AND COMMENTS**

### **POTENTIAL FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**SPECIAL NOTICES TO PUBLIC**

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Altos will make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting. If you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Clerk at least 48 hours prior to the meeting at (650) 947-2720.

Agendas, Staff Reports and some associated documents for Historical Commission items may be viewed on the Internet at <http://www.losaltosca.gov/meetings>

If you wish to provide written materials, please provide the Commission Staff Liaison with **10 copies** of any document that you would like to submit to the Commissioners in order for it to become part of the public record.

For other questions regarding the meeting proceedings, please contact the City Clerk at (650) 947-2720.



DATE: April 11, 2022

AGENDA ITEM #1

**TO:** Historical Commission

**FROM:** Jia Liu, Associate Planner

**SUBJECT:** 2022 Santa Clara County Historic Preservation Award

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Consider a nomination for the 2022 Santa Clara County Historical Preservation Award

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### **BACKGROUND**

On February 28, 2022, the city received an invitation (Attachment A) from the Santa Clara County Preservation Alliance<sup>1</sup> to participate in the Santa Clara County Preservation Alliance Awards Night on May 21, 2022 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at History Park San Jose. The event is intended to highlight local preservation efforts and bring awareness to the need for historic preservation in May, which is National Preservation Month. While the night will include historic music, historic video presentations, food truck, and photo and art contest and exhibition, there will also be an award ceremony to honor projects, individuals, groups or organizations who made significant preservation efforts in the County.

Nominations for these awards will come from and be presented by the participating groups such as the Historical Commission. The Santa Clara County Heritage Commission would provide plaques to recipients to be displayed at historic sites. The Historical Commission's awardee for the Santa Clara County Preservation will be recognized by the Santa Clara County Preservation Alliance if submitted by April 15, 2022.

### **DISCUSSION**

In the past ten years since 2013, the Historic Commission has granted nine awards to historic properties and individuals, groups or organizations in the community that exemplify the spirit of historic preservation in Los Altos. Staff has considered those award receipts as potential nominees for the County's Historical Preservation Award. A list of the previous award recipients is outlined below and the previous agenda reports for the Historic Commission's consideration for each award are also attached through Attachment B through Attachment J for Commissioners reference.

- 2013: Marion Grimm (Honored posthumously)
- 2014: Margaret Thompson
- 2015: Bob Grimm

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<sup>1</sup> The Santa Clara County Preservation Alliance is patterned by the Santa Clara County Historical Heritage Commission, Preservation Action Council of San Jose, San Jose Historic Landmarks Commission, California Pioneers of Santa Clara County, and History San Jose.

- 2016: Valorie Cook Carpenter
- 2017: Pinky Whelan
- 2018: 10 Yerba Buena Avenue
- 2019: Nan Geshcke
- 2020: Jane Reed
- 2021: 1365 Grant Road

Additionally, staff posted the event on the Historic Commission website and asked for nominations from the public. Before the publication of the agenda report, staff has not received any interests from the public.

The Commission is not obligated but can consider and vote on a nomination for the County's 2022 Historical Preservation Award. The information of the nominee, if voted, will be sent to the Santa Clara County Preservation Alliance for the recognition for the County's Historical Preservation Award.

**Attachments**

- A. 2022 Santa Clara County Preservation Alliance Awards Night Invitation
- B. 2013 City Historic Preservation Award Agenda Report
- C. 2014 City Historic Preservation Award Agenda Report
- D. 2015 City Historic Preservation Award Agenda Report
- E. 2016 City Historic Preservation Award Agenda Report
- F. 2017 City Historic Preservation Award Agenda Report
- G. 2018 City Historic Preservation Award Agenda Report
- H. 2019 City Historic Preservation Award Agenda Report
- I. 2020 City Historic Preservation Award Agenda Report
- J. 2021 City Historic Preservation Award Agenda Report

**Jia Liu**

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**To:** Sean Gallegos; David Moore; Kirk Paige; Larry Lang; Margo Horn; Nazaneen Healy; Nomi Trapnell; Russ Bartlett; Sepideh Zoufonoun  
**Cc:** Nazaneen Healy  
**Subject:** RE: Santa Clara County Preservation Alliance

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**From:** Bill Hare <[bill@billhare.tv](mailto:bill@billhare.tv)>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 28, 2022 8:30 PM  
**Subject:** Santa Clara County Preservation Alliance



Hello again (or welcome to first time invitees to our upcoming Santa Clara County Preservation Alliance Awards Night on May 21st)!

For those who weren't yet on the list for the first mailing, my name is Bill Hare, of the Santa Clara County Historical Heritage Commission, Milpitas Historical Society, and the new Santa Clara County Preservation Alliance.

I've also attached the first mailing at the bottom for those who didn't receive it the first time and need to catch up - this email will be the first update to that initial contact.

We are a "GO" for our Preservation Awards Night celebration on May 21, from 7:00 to 9:00 PM, at History Park San Jose! We are hoping that your historical/preservation organization can participate, and share your historic pride with the other like-minded groups in Santa Clara County.

The night will include historic music by the StarGeezers, short historic video presentations on a large screen, food trucks, and presentation of awards (nominated by you) to those who have helped preserve the history of Santa Clara County. There will also be tables for attending organizations to display their wares and artifacts.

Admission to the event is \$15 per adult, and those under 18 years of age are free.

We are working hard to make this event into something that can be enjoyed, repeated and improved upon year after year, but for that to happen, we need your participation! As we will be providing the individually engraved plaque awards, we need to get an idea of how many will be needed, as well as good lead time to have them personally engraved for each recipient by the time of the event.

To help us plan and budget, we would appreciate it if you could let us know before March 15:

- 1) Does this sound like an event that you and members your organization would be interested in attending?
- 2) Would your organization possibly have a person, project, or group in mind to nominate for a 2022 Preservation Alliance Award?

Whether or not your organization has a preservation project to honor, we would still love to see you there! Admission to the event is what will hopefully cover our costs (though of course any donations or sponsorships are welcome) - this is not a fundraiser nor for profit, our organizations have partnered to celebrate the good works of people such as yourselves in Santa Clara County.

For more information and to purchase tickets, please visit our website at <https://www.preservation.org/npm2022>

Best regards,

Bill Hare

President, Milpitas Historical Society

Commissioner, Historical Heritage Commission  
District 3, Santa Clara County

[bill@billhare.tv](mailto:bill@billhare.tv)



Here is the first mailing that went out at the end of January:

# National Preservation Month

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## Santa Clara County

To all who are interested in historical preservation in Santa Clara County:

My name is Bill Hare, District 3 Commissioner on the Santa Clara County Historical Heritage Commission, as well as President of the Milpitas Historical Society.

May is National Preservation Month. The National Trust for Historic Preservation created this yearly celebration highlighting local preservation efforts nearly half a century ago. In many other parts of the country, the month of May is marked with historical tours, preservation award ceremonies, photo/art contests, and other festivities to bring awareness to the need for historic preservation.

It is time to bring these traditions to Santa Clara County, while at the same time educating our residents about the importance of historic preservation before any more of our historically-significant structures and sites are lost forever!

The Santa Clara County Historical Heritage Commission, Preservation Action Council of San Jose, San Jose Historic Landmarks Commission, California Pioneers of Santa Clara County, and History San Jose are partnering together as the new *Santa Clara County Preservation Alliance*! We are now planning an event to honor the efforts of historical preservation projects in every corner of Santa Clara County.

In order to fully represent the efforts in every corner of our county, we are hoping community historical and preservation/conservation entities as well as preservation-minded individuals will join with us so we can all spread the excitement about local history as well as show the urgency of preserving local historical landmarks.

These are some of the plans/ideas so far:

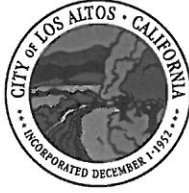
- \* A National Historic Preservation Month celebration will be held at History San Jose at 7PM on May 21, 2022. The event will be held outside, with live historical music, a big screen for presentations, and more! You, of course, can help us with ideas for the “more” part.
- \* An awards ceremony during the May 21 event, to honor those individuals and groups who have made a significant difference in preservation efforts all over Santa Clara County. Nominations for these awards will come from (and be presented by) the participating groups such as yours. Again, it is your participation that will help us make this a successful countywide event.
- \* Other possibilities include a Photo and Art contest and exhibition, history tours given by docents of various societies around the county, an online space where we can all share ideas and take pride in the history of the entire county, and more!

We are interested in hearing any other ideas from the local historical entities, as well as any experience any group has had in conjunction with National Historic Preservation Month in years past. We hope you can join us in this endeavor!

Please contact me via email ([bill@billhare.tv](mailto:bill@billhare.tv)) or phone (408) 262-1776 to let me know if you would be interested in becoming a part of this!



Bill Hare  
SCC Historical Heritage Commission  
Milpitas Historical Society



DATE: April 29, 2013

Agenda Item 1.

AGENDA ITEM # 4

## AGENDA REPORT

**TO:** Historical Commission  
**FROM:** Zachary Dahl, Staff Liaison  
**SUBJECT:** Historic Preservation Award

### RECOMMENDATION:

Consider nominations for the 2013 Los Altos Historic Preservation Award

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### BACKGROUND

The Los Altos Historic Preservation Award was adopted by the City Council in May 2012 with the intent of recognizing individuals, groups, organizations or projects that exemplify the spirit of historic preservation in the City of Los Altos. Nominees should demonstrate a dedication to historic preservation in the City of Los Altos within at least one of the following criteria:

1. Demonstration of pioneering or innovative efforts in historic preservation or education;
2. Conformance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Rehabilitation;
3. Public Benefit received (educational, beautification, advocacy, etc.); and/or
4. Impact to the City of Los Altos.

The purpose of the award is to encourage public knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the City's past, and foster civic and neighborhood pride and sense of identity based upon the recognition and use of the City's historic resources.

### DISCUSSION

A total of three nominations were received by staff: 1) Irene Grenier, nominated by Marie Backs and Wendell Lehr, 2) King Lear, nominated by Roy Lave, 3) Marion and Robert Grimm, nominated by Walter Chapman

The Commission should consider all written evidence and oral testimony from members of the public before voting on the award recipient. Nominees who do not receive the award may be resubmitted for consideration in subsequent years. The award recipient will be recognized with a Mayor's Proclamation at the City Council meeting on May 14, 2013.

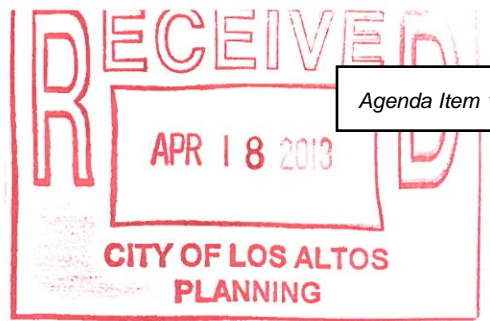
#### Attachments:

- A. Irene Grenier Nomination
- B. King Lear Nomination
- C. Marion and Robert Grimm Nomination





City of Los Altos



Agenda Item 1.

### 2013 HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARD NOMINATION

I am nominating MARION & ROBERT GRIMM for the 2013 Historic Preservation Award.

Describe the reasons why the nominee should receive the Historic Preservation Award and how the nominee meets the following criteria:

1. Demonstration of pioneering or innovative efforts in historic preservation or education.
2. Conformance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Rehabilitation.
3. Public Benefit received (educational, beautification, advocacy, etc.).
4. Impact to the City of Los Altos.

MARION GRIMM POSTHUMOUSLY AS PRIMARY DRIVING FORCE  
OF THE FOUNDING OF THE LOS ALTOS HISTORICAL MUSEUM  
ASSOCIATION & ROBERT GRIMM FOR HIS CONTINUING  
SUPPORT & SERVICE THROUGHOUT THE YEARS TO ENSURE  
THAT LOS ALTOS HISTORY WOULD LIVE ON FOR FUTURE  
GENERATIONS

*If applicable, submit copies of letters of commendation or any other supporting documentation (not required). Attach additional sheets as needed.*

Nominated by: WALTER CHAPMAN Date: 4-18-2013

In order to officially submit a nomination for the 2013 Historic Preservation Award, please submit one copy of all necessary documentation to the Historical Commission staff liaison Zachary Dahl. Materials can be submitted at City Hall, 1 North San Antonio Road, Los Altos, CA 94022. All nominations must be submitted by **Thursday, April 18, 2013 at 5:00 pm.**

At the April 22, 2013 meeting, the Historical Commission will hold a vote to determine the recipient of the 2013 Historic Preservation Award. The 2013 Historic Preservation Award winner will be recognized by the City Council with a proclamation at their meeting on May 14, 2013.

## Historical Preservation Award Nomination

This is to recommend that this year's "Historical Preservation Award" be awarded (posthumously) to Marion Grimm with Bob Grimm accepting on Marion's behalf for her involvement in the creation of the Los Altos Historical Association. As a founding member of the Association and as one of the city's first Historical Commissioners, Marion's tireless and unwavering dedication to preserving the history of Los Altos led directly to the development of the City of Los Altos' first Historical Museum.

The original Historical Museum was located within the Smith House after it was gifted to the City of Los Altos. Before it was converted into the "History House" as we know it today, it served as the depository of the City's Historical Archives for over twenty years. Realizing the limitations of the Smith House to serve as a proper museum, Marion enlisted the help of many supporters, none more dedicated to her endeavors than her husband Bob. Together and with great support from the community, their goal of a full-fledged museum was realized.

For their dedication and efforts, Marion & Bob Grimm should be recognized and honored for their gift to the City of Los Altos: the preservation of the city's history for future generations.

DATE: April 28, 2014

AGENDA ITEM # 2



## AGENDA REPORT

**TO:** Historical Commission  
**FROM:** Sierra Davis, Staff Liaison  
**SUBJECT:** Historic Preservation Award

### RECOMMENDATION:

Consider nominations for the 2014 Los Altos Historic Preservation Award

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### BACKGROUND

The Los Altos Historic Preservation Award was adopted by the City Council in May 2012 with the intent of recognizing individuals, groups, organizations or projects that exemplify the spirit of historic preservation in the City of Los Altos. Nominees should demonstrate a dedication to historic preservation in the City of Los Altos within at least one of the following criteria:

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2. Conformance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Rehabilitation;
3. Public Benefit received (educational, beautification, advocacy, etc.); and/or
4. Impact to the City of Los Altos.

The purpose of the award is to encourage public knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the City's past, and foster civic and neighborhood pride and sense of identity based upon the recognition and use of the City's historic resources.

### DISCUSSION

One nomination was received by staff, Margaret Thompson, nominated by Denise Welsh.

The Commission should consider the written evidence and oral testimony from members of the public before voting on the award recipient. The award recipient will be recognized with a Mayor's Proclamation at the City Council meeting on May 13, 2013.

#### Attachments:

- A. Margaret Thompson Nomination



Nomination of Margaret Thompson for the  
**Historical Preservation Award**  
**2014**

I would like to submit for the 2014 Historic Preservation Award Margaret Thompson.

Ms. Thompson has been a resident of Los Altos since 1950 and has been an active member in many local committees serving the Los Altos Area since then. In 2008, she was recognized by the joint Los Altos/Los Altos Hills committee for a Community Volunteer Award.

Through the years, Ms. Thompson's volunteer work has included many activities that meet the criteria for the Historic Preservation Award:

- Her innovative effort to enlighten the youth about their hometown and its history with an Annual Essay Contest and offer opportunity to the students from 3<sup>rd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> to achieve recognition outside of sports has resulted in a 30 year long tradition that bears her name.
- In 1977, Ms. Thompson joined the auxiliary for the History Museum when Marion Grimm recruited her to offer her journalistic talents to publicize their fundraisers. Since then, she has drawn on her education background to connect the museum to the Community through education.
- Margaret Thompson served as a Commissioner on the Historical Commission (1982 – 1989), dedicated to the preservation and the restoration of historical buildings and sites, for seven years.
- As a Historical Commissioner and pioneering member of the team that launched the History Museum, she created the Essay Contest as a combined effort merging the two entities towards a mutually beneficial awareness of their common interests.
- Ms. Thompson was also involved with the development of the government segment of the History Museum's fourth grade tour

program to help student understand the Civic activities of the local, County and State Governments.

The greatest tribute is from a former Los Altos fourth grader who wrote in 2008 that the participation in the essay contest and her 'surprise win' boosted her nine year old self's confidence and resulted in improving her academics immensely. She wrote the letter as a student at Stanford University.

Margaret Thompson also volunteers at the Christ Episcopal Church, is a member of AAUW and a 25 year participant in the Morning Forum. Margaret Thompson's contributions to our town, her gracious demeanor and her legacy as an educator and a proponent of local history are immeasurable. She is truly one of the town's great treasures.

Denise Welsh  
Commissioner  
2014

History inspires imagination,  
stimulates thought and  
transforms society.

The Los Altos History Museum  
preserves and shares our local  
history to enrich our community  
and to shape a more  
informed future.

**Board of Directors**

Jane Reed, *President*

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Nomi Trapnell, *2nd Vice President*

Ed Taft, *Treasurer*

Marilyn Henderson, *Secretary*

Ginger Beman, *Past President*

Marie Backs, Phyllis Dorricott,

Maureen Fraser, Dan Haley,

Karen Purtich, Anne Roberts,

Sande Stuart, Ginger Summit,

Jim Thurber

A past essay contest winner,  
Stanford student Jill Wurzburg  
remembered in 2009:

"...being really excited about  
the topic for the annual  
Margaret Thompson historical  
essay contest.

"I knew immediately that I  
wanted to write about my  
great-great-grandmother, who  
organized aid for Mexican  
immigrants working on the  
railroad in Wichita, Kansas.

"It helped me learn the  
importance of history on a  
personal level, which I later  
took with me to other history  
classes...

"[winning the essay contest]  
boosted my nine-year-old self's  
confidence tremendously. My  
academics improved greatly  
during the course of my fourth  
grade experience, and  
education has been a priority  
in my life since then."

April 15, 2014

Sierra Davis, Liaison  
Los Altos Historical Commission  
City of Los Altos  
1 North San Antonio Road  
Los Altos, CA 94022

RE: Historic Preservation Awards

Dear Sierra:

On behalf of the Los Altos History Museum and its Education Committee, it is with great pleasure that we recommend **Margaret Thompson** for the 2014 Historic Preservation Award.

Margaret served as a Historical Commissioner from 1982-89. During her time of service, she believed that local students should know more about the history of their community and be rewarded for writing about that history. Margaret felt that many students were recognized for their *athletic* abilities, but there were few *academic* awards. She thought it very important that student writing be honored. Thus, the Historical Commission began the Margaret Thompson Essay Contest 30 years ago!

The Museum's Education Committee, along with the Historical Commission, administers the essay contest every year. Margaret has continued to be an integral part of the contest by attending the Education Committee meetings in the fall and helping with the selection of the topic. Her knowledge of the history of the contest and her input regarding topics has been invaluable!

Each May, Margaret always attends the ice cream social held for the winning students. The number of students participating annually has continued to grow; this year there were over 500 essays submitted resulting in 15 winners, 3 for each grade level participating (Grades 3-6). Without Margaret's interest and involvement, the contest might well have stopped, instead of experiencing this growth.

In May, 2009, to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the contest, Margaret personally obtained a trophy to annually recognize the school with the most winners. The trophy passes each year to the winning school, helps publicize the contest and encourages students to participate.

In 1950, Margaret and her husband, a Navy pilot, Commander "Tommy" Thompson, along with their two children, Chris and Susie, moved to Los Altos. Margaret was widowed in 1960 and raised her children as a single parent. Besides her History Museum membership, Margaret's volunteer activities include 45 years with AAUW, 25 years with the Morning Forum, and as past Historian for Christ Episcopal Church, where Margaret's archives were instrumental to their centennial book last year.

Again, it is with great pleasure that we recommend Margaret Thompson. We feel she would be the perfect recipient for this award!

Sincerely,

  
Anne Roberts  
Chair, Education Committee

  
Jane Reed  
President, Board of Directors

April 17, 2014

The Los Altos Historical Commission  
1 N. San Antonio Road  
Los Altos, CA 94022

Dear Los Altos Historical Commission Chair Bishop and Commissioners:

I would like to add my enthusiastic support for Margaret Thompson's selection as the Los Altos Historical Commission's 2014 recipient of its Historic Preservation Award.

A former Los Altos Historical Commissioner and past Chair myself, I have participated in many ice cream socials recognizing the winners of the annual Margaret Thompson Historical Essay Contest. This program, which Margaret initiated over 30 years ago, is a wonderful way to introduce children to both local history and essay writing. It has become a beloved tradition in our community that is a tribute to her vision as well as a lasting legacy. Through the decades, Margaret has stayed involved with the program she created. It's always a pleasure to see her at the event.

I can't think of a more deserving recipient of the Historic Preservation Award, and I hope you all agree and select her as your 2014 honoree.

Best,

Val Carpenter  
Los Altos City Councilwoman  
Mayor of Los Altos 2011-12 & 2007-08  
[vccarpenter@gmail.com](mailto:vccarpenter@gmail.com)  
650-941-0487 phone/FAX





DATE: April 27, 2015

AGENDA ITEM # 2

## AGENDA REPORT

**TO:** Historical Commission  
**FROM:** Sean K. Gallegos, Staff Liaison  
**SUBJECT:** Historic Preservation Award

### RECOMMENDATION:

Consider nominations for the 2015 Los Altos Historical Preservation Award

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### BACKGROUND

The Los Altos Historic Preservation Award was adopted by the City Council in May 2012 with the intent of recognizing individuals, groups, organizations or projects that exemplify the spirit of historic preservation in the City of Los Altos. Nominees should demonstrate a dedication to historic preservation in the City of Los Altos within at least one of the following criteria:

1. Demonstration of pioneering or innovative efforts in historic preservation or education;
2. Conformance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Rehabilitation;
3. Public Benefit received (educational, beautification, advocacy, etc.); and/or
4. Impact to the City of Los Altos.

The purpose of the award is to encourage public knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the City's past, and foster civic and neighborhood pride and sense of identity based upon the recognition and use of the City's historic resources.

### DISCUSSION

One nomination was received by staff, Bob Grimm, nominated by Walter Chapmen for the Historic Preservationist Award (posthumously).

The Commission should consider the written evidence and oral testimony from members of the public before voting on the award recipient. The award recipient or their designee will be recognized with a Mayor's Proclamation at the City Council Meeting on May 12, 2015.

#### Attachments:

- A. Bob Grimm Nomination



City of Los Altos

## 2015 HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARD NOMINATION

I am nominating BOB GRIM for the 2015 Historic Preservation Award.

Describe the reasons why the nominee should receive the Historic Preservation Award and how the nominee meets the following criteria:

1. Demonstration of pioneering or innovative efforts in historic preservation or education.
2. Conformance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Rehabilitation.
3. Public Benefit received (educational, beautification, advocacy, etc.).
4. Impact to the City of Los Altos.

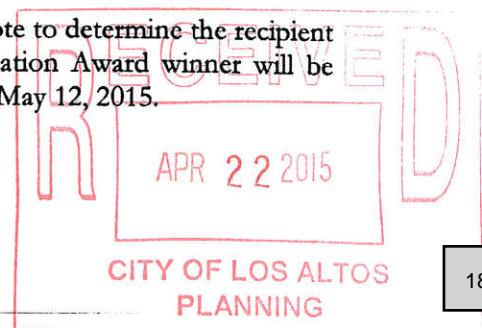
WHILE WORKING BEHIND THE SCENES  
BOB'S SEEMINGLY UNTIRING EFFORTS  
HELPED BRING TO FRUITION THE REALM  
OF THE HISTORY MUSEUM. HIS ENERGY  
WILL BE SORELY MISSED IN THE WORLD  
OF HISTORICAL PRESERVATION - HONORING HIM  
POSTHUMOUSLY IS A FITTING TRIBUTE TO  
HIS WORK OVER THE YEARS

*If applicable, submit copies of letters of commendation or any other supporting documentation (not required). Attach additional sheets as needed.*

Nominated by: WALTER CHAPMAN Date: 4-22-15

In order to officially submit a nomination for the 2015 Historic Preservation Award, please submit one copy of all necessary documentation to the Historical Commission staff liaison Sean Gallegos. Materials can be submitted at City Hall, 1 North San Antonio Road, Los Altos, CA 94022. All nominations must be submitted by **Thursday, April 22, 2015 at 5:00 pm.**

At the April 27, 2015 meeting, the Historical Commission will hold a vote to determine the recipient of the 2015 Historic Preservation Award. The 2015 Historic Preservation Award winner will be recognized by the City Council with a proclamation at their meeting on May 12, 2015.





51 South San Antonio Road  
 Los Altos, California 94022  
 www.LosAltosHistory.org  
 650.948.9427

History inspires imagination,  
 stimulates thought and  
 transforms society.

The Los Altos History  
 Museum preserves and  
 shares our local history to  
 enrich our community and to  
 shape a more informed  
 future.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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 Dan Haley, Secretary  
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 Grace Perry, Assistant to the E.D.  
 Stefanie Midlock, Asst.  
 Collections Mgr.  
 Kristin Morris, Collections Specialist  
 Mark Perry, Facility &  
 Rentals Manager  
 Faustino Carillo, Gardener

The Los Altos History Museum's legal name  
 is the Association of the Los Altos Historical  
 Museum; i.d. number 94-2542813.

April 22, 2015

Walter Chapman, Chair & Sean Gallegos, Liaison  
 Los Altos Historical Commission  
 City of Los Altos  
 1 North San Antonio Road  
 Los Altos, CA 94022

RE: Historic Preservation Award 2015

Dear Walter and Sean:

On behalf of the Los Altos History Museum, it is a great honor to support the nomination of **Bob Grimm** for the 2015 Historic Preservation Award. No one thought Bob would go when he did – even at 88, he seemed to have more life in him than folks half his age.

But the time is right to be sure his contribution to this community is marked with an award like this. Personally, I am convinced that without the Grimms, this community would be virtually indistinguishable from any other in the valley. No parade of lights, and certainly no history museum that consistently outperforms its peers, and even some much larger museums.

Bob was a **do-er** as much as a donor to Los Altos, although he (quietly) did both on a grand scale. He built things. He led by example. He was a kind and thoughtful council-member and one of our best mayors—because he listened, considered all the angles, and then made sure the job got done, right—the first time.

Where others talk, Bob DID. Once, he left a meeting where something was being planned, came back 15 minutes later, and quietly said – “it’s done.” When Bill Hewlett was being asked to support the (now) Tech Museum, he told them: “let me know when Bob Grimm gets involved; **then I know it will happen.**” Or words to that effect.

History and nostalgia often get confused, but not for Bob. His vision was so clear. He gave me some of the best advice I’ve ever heard as a leader, and he always had the right perspective. Once, when the topic of whether or not to have more third stories in downtown was all the news, he told me that when he was on Council, the fire department was still all-volunteer. (Now it’s County.) Our fire truck would only go up two stories, so building beyond that was a bad idea.

It wasn’t “village charm,” it was logic, and what was safe. And we all said “oh, that makes a lot of sense.” Oh, and by the way, he and buddy Art Carmichael bought that old fire truck, so it could come back to Los Altos. The two of them rented a local barn, where they still have lots of old stuff. When Art & Jean built their new house recently, a gorgeous custom garage was part of the plan – housing only that shiny fire truck.

Without Bob and Marion to take the lead, our heritage would not be so well preserved, nor our Museum so successful. From the very beginnings of “History

House" in 1977 to the new Museum that opened in 2001, Marion knew what needed to be done to keep the past in good shape for the future, and Bob figured out how to make it happen.

They re-roofed the Smith House when the City couldn't afford it. They studied other museums and learned what best practices were, and then found people to make it happen. Yes, many others helped, but if they hadn't led, the projects would have faltered.

Bob and Marion Grimm were the lead funders to the \$3.5 million capital campaign to build the long-wanted new museum, along with the David & Lucile Packard Foundation and Nan and Chuck Geschke. People could **trust that the job would get done well**, because Bob was leading the way.

It wasn't just funding. Nan and Bob co-managed the building of the new museum, which included her having him outside on a ladder testing paint colors until the right shade was found. Nan chaired the exhibits program committee our first few years and came up with the theme of the "changing use of land over time" for the permanent exhibit. They got stuck on how to get the 'people stories' included... so Bob designed the Family Tree.

When he wasn't building the new museum, moving and restoring the tank house, or building our storage barn, Bob built exhibits. He served on every committee Nan chaired, including the phenomenal exhibits on Wallace Stegner, Lucile & David Packard, Josephine & Frank Duveneck, and most recently, the 100+ Los Altos/Hills residents who have been essential to creating what we call "Silicon Valley." He worked on many others, building terrific hands-on exhibits loved by kids and adults. Some of these live on today, liked *Shaped by Water*, which we gave to History San Jose and is still teaching about being water-wise.

In my ten years here as executive director, Bob and I met with folks from other communities who wanted to build a history museum like what we have here. Bob would talk community engagement, and I would talk infrastructure. I was also clear to state, "**you need a Bob Grimm of your own**, someone who knows how to get it done, gets others to the right place, and leads the funding drive." As of today, Palo Alto still struggles to get their museum developed, Cupertino has grown slowly, Mountain View's plans were shot down by neighbors, and Los Gatos is gingerly stepping into a new museum home after almost a decade getting their team in order. They don't have Bob. We did.

Bob's energy always seemed so forward-thinking, like the tech life he led. But his heart treasured the past, too, and knew it had to be protected. He was severely modest and didn't cotton to having his name put on things. He, Lou Brossard and Al Bagley were the "Miracle Construction Company" with the motto – "if it works, it's a miracle." Oddly enough, nothing I ever saw them build ever failed to perform, despite the efforts of many tiny fingers.

His is an example few can live up to... all the more reason to remark on his legacy while it is fresh in our minds. Thank you for an opportunity to share these thoughts with you about a man who will be greatly, greatly missed. He is now part of our history.

Sincerely,



Laura S. Bajuk, Executive Director  
Los Altos History Museum



DATE: April 25, 2016

AGENDA ITEM # 3

## AGENDA REPORT

**TO:** Historical Commission  
**FROM:** Sean K. Gallegos, Staff Liaison  
**SUBJECT:** Historic Preservation Award

### RECOMMENDATION:

Consider nominations for the 2016 Los Altos Historical Preservation Award

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### BACKGROUND

The Los Altos Historic Preservation Award was adopted by the City Council in May 2012 with the intent of recognizing individuals, groups, organizations, or projects that exemplify the spirit of historic preservation in the City of Los Altos. Nominees should demonstrate a dedication to historic preservation in the City of Los Altos within at least one of the following criteria:

1. Demonstration of pioneering or innovative efforts in historic preservation or education;
2. Conformance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Rehabilitation;
3. Public benefit received (educational, beautification, advocacy, etc.); and/or
4. Impact to the City of Los Altos.

The purpose of the award is to encourage public knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the City's past, and foster civic and neighborhood pride and sense of identity based upon the recognition and use of the City's historic resources.

### DISCUSSION

Staff received two nominations for the Historic Preservation Award. A nomination was received for Val Carpenter, nominated by Rich Carpenter. A nomination was also received for Robin Chapman, nominated by Kathleen Richards and Roger Heyder.

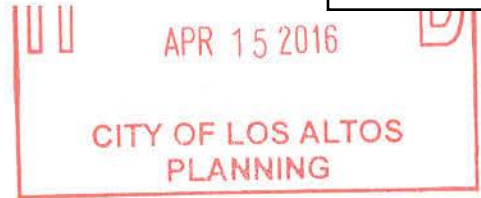
The Commission should consider the written evidence and oral testimony from members of the public before voting on the award recipient. The award recipient or their designee will be recognized with a Mayor's Proclamation at the City Council Meeting on May 10, 2016.

Attachments:

- A. Val Carpenter, Nomination
- B. Robin Chapman, Nomination



City of Los Altos



2016 HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARD NOMINATION

I am nominating VAL CARPENTER for the 2016 Historic Preservation Award.

Describe the reasons why the nominee should receive the Historic Preservation Award and how the nominee meets the following criteria:

- 1. Demonstration of pioneering or innovative efforts in historic preservation or education.
- 2. Conformance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Rehabilitation.
- 3. Public Benefit received (educational, beautification, advocacy, etc.).
- 4. Impact to the City of Los Altos.

VAL CARPENTER HAS DEMONSTRATED PIONEERING AND INNOVATIVE  
EFFORTS IN HISTORIC PRESERVATION IN THE CITY OF LOS ALTOS  
FOR THE PAST 15 YEARS ... PLEASE SEE ATTACHED SUPPORTING  
DOCUMENTATION AND REFERENCE LETTERS.

*If applicable, submit copies of letters of commendation or any other supporting documentation (not required). Attach additional sheets as needed.*

Nominated by: Rach Carpenter Date: APRIL 7, 2016

In order to officially submit a nomination for the 2016 Historic Preservation Award, please submit one copy of all necessary documentation to the Historical Commission staff liaison Sean Gallegos. Materials can be submitted at City Hall, 1 North San Antonio Road, Los Altos, CA 94022. All nominations must be submitted by **Wednesday, April 20, 2016 at 5:00 pm.**

At the April 25, 2016 meeting, the Historical Commission will hold a vote to determine the recipient of the 2016 Historic Preservation Award. The 2016 Historic Preservation Award winner is tentatively scheduled to be recognized by the City Council with a proclamation at their meeting on May 10, 2016.

## 2016 Historic Preservation Award Nomination

### Val Carpenter

Val Carpenter has demonstrated pioneering and innovative efforts in historic preservation in the City of Los Altos for the past 15 years, with particular emphasis on City-owned buildings and City committees. She served a 4-year term on the Los Altos Historical Commission, including a year as Chair, from 2001 to 2005. In that role she participated in the 2002 California Preservation Conference and became thoroughly familiar with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Rehabilitation.

Val was an active member of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of incorporation committee in 2002 and helped plan many events during the year-long celebration, including chairing the Los Altos History Museum exhibit "Los Altos: Celebrating 50 Years of Community". In 2003, as Chair of the Historical Commission, she led a series of public hearings on an emergency basis which protected the remaining row of Canary Island date palm trees planted over 100 years ago to line the drive to the historic home at 439 Rinconada Court. Also while serving on the Historical Commission, she supported acquiring the Neutra House and moving it to its present location on City land in the civic center.

While serving as the Mayor of Los Altos twice and on the Los Altos City Council for nine years, Val has been a steadfast and vocal proponent of preserving the local landmark heritage Blenheim apricot orchard on the civic center property. She also worked closely with City staff to renovate the local landmark San Antonio Club to expand its use for City programs and the community. As the Mayor of Los Altos in 2012, she co-chaired the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of incorporation committee that held many events in the year-long celebration – see [www.LosAltosAt60.org](http://www.LosAltosAt60.org) - and produced the video "Los Altos: The Decades of Celebration" – see <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OLRr0H4Slis>.

Val founded and chaired the Friends of Historic Redwood Grove committee which successfully raised over \$25,000 to fund the City's evaluation of the City-owned local landmark Halsey House in Redwood Grove – see [www.friendsofhistoricredwoodgrove.org](http://www.friendsofhistoricredwoodgrove.org). Most recently, she founded the Creekside Oaks community center committee to renovate and adaptively reuse the historic Costello barn on the property as a community center.

In addition to volunteering her time and talent, Val has made significant financial contributions to both the Neutra House and the Halsey House.

All of these activities have provided substantial public benefit to the Los Altos community and have had a major positive impact on the City of Los Altos, by showcasing its history and preserving its local landmarks and historic structures.



April 8, 2016

City of Los Altos  
Historical Commission

Re: Historic Preservation Award

Dear Committee members:

I consider it a pleasure to offer my observations and recommendation of Mrs. Valorie Carpenter for the Historic Preservation Award. As well as Rotary Club committees, I served with her on the 60th Anniversary of Los Altos Committee.

In my professional experience of over 40 years, it has been possible for me to observe a substantial number of professionals, and Mrs. Carpenter is certainly one of the most outstanding members of that group.

Mrs. Carpenter served as co-chair of the committee and she was always punctual, polite, creative and highly-organized. I was impressed with how she approached her work which was in a creative framework and included attention to detail and follow-through often absent in the work of creative individuals. While she was the chair and could assign all of the tasks to committee members, she often volunteered to take on the responsibility for many of the most tedious and difficult ones.

In addition to possessing outstanding leadership skills, she is a sincere, considerate and refreshing person. She is an excellent listener, is extremely sensitive to her colleagues and has a good sense-of-humor. I enjoyed very much serving with her and would gladly do it again.

Mrs. Valorie Carpenter has dedicated much energy and time in maintaining and protecting the City of Los Altos historic resources. I highly recommend her for the Los Altos Historic Preservation Award.

Sincerely,

**Richard L. Henning**

Dr. Richard L. Henning  
Professor/Dean/Vice-President, Emeritus  
Founder & CEO Foothill College Celebrity Forum  
Foothill College  
Los Altos Hills, CA 94022  
650/949-7723  
<http://www.celebrityforum.net>

April 9, 2016

To the Historical Commission:

I heartily endorse Val Carpenter for the Historic Preservation Award. Before she became well-known as a member of the Los Altos City Council, Val did great work for the City's Historical Commission, which I then headed. Her work with me and later as the Commission's head, was always marked with creative vigor. For example, she devised and saw to the details of a highly effective and imaginative display to help celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Incorporation of Los Altos. I was also much impressed by Val's careful attention to giving public credit where it was deserved and giving, person-to-person, full appreciation for good work done under her direction.

Don McDonald <doncmcd@sbcglobal.net>

April 10, 2016

To the Historical Commission

Nomination of Val Carpenter

Val Carpenter launched an effort to investigate the possibility of renovating the Costello Barn, an historic building in the Creekside Oaks community of Los Altos, for reuse as a Community Center for Creekside Oaks residents. She applied her knowledge of the unique requirements for work on an historic building. After assessing that the Costello Barn might be able to be renovated, she helped organize a committee and, together with the committee, wrote a Request for Proposal (RFP). The RFP has been distributed to 3 contractors including 2 who Val knew through her work on the Halsey House in Redwood Grove. Due to Val's work and expertise, the project will be able to continue through review of the responses to the RFP and a possible decision to renovate and reuse the Costello Barn.

Irene H. Hashfield  
29 Deep Well Lane  
Los Altos, CA 94022

April 12, 2016

To: City of Los Altos Historical Commission

Re: 2016 Historic Preservation Award Nomination

Dear Historical Commission:

Val Carpenter was an enormous asset to me, Chuck Lane, in trying to determine if the Costello barn, that is on the Los Altos Historic Inventory registry, might be able to be converted to a community center for the area where I live. Through her expertise and knowledge Val has been able to guide us thru the paperwork to see if is going to possible to complete our project.

Best!

Chuck Lane

To: City of Los Altos

Re: 2016 Historic Preservation Award Nomination

I am writing this letter in support of Val Carpenter's nomination to receive the 2016 Los Altos Historic Preservation Award.

I have known Val for more than a decade in her roles on the Historical Commission, the Los Altos City Council and as founder and chair of the Friends of Historic Redwood Grove committee. Val has an unending abundance of energy and commitment to historic preservation. She did so on the Historical Commission; she did so while serving on City Council. She did so when she spearheaded FOHRG. Val was not only able to form a broad based committee but was also successful in a fundraising effort. Those funds were instrumental in enabling the City to undertake an evaluation of feasibility of adaptively reusing Halsey House. Without Val's leadership and strong organizational efforts the committee would not have been able to raise the funds and build the necessary support within the City for preserving the house.

There are many people who talk about historic preservation. Val gets things done.

Jonathan Baer



DATE: April 24, 2017

AGENDA ITEM # 3

## AGENDA REPORT

**TO:** Historical Commission  
**FROM:** Sean K. Gallegos, Staff Liaison  
**SUBJECT:** Historic Preservation Award

### RECOMMENDATION:

Consider nominations for the 2017 Los Altos Historical Preservation Award

---

### BACKGROUND

The Los Altos Historic Preservation Award was adopted by City Council Resolution on March 13, 2012. The intent of the award is to recognize exemplary rehabilitation and preservation of historic properties, and individuals, groups or organizations in the community that exemplify the spirit of historic preservation in Los Altos. Nominees should demonstrate a dedication to historic preservation within at least one of the following criteria:

1. Demonstration of pioneering or innovative efforts in historic preservation or education;
2. Conformance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Rehabilitation;
3. Public benefit received (educational, beautification, advocacy, etc.); and/or
4. Impact to the City of Los Altos.

The purpose of the award is to encourage public knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the City's past, and foster civic and neighborhood pride and sense of identity based upon the recognition and use of the City's historic resources. If the Historical Commission finds that none of the nominees meet the above criteria, the Commission is not obligated to grant the Preservation award.

### DISCUSSION

Staff received two nominations for the Historic Preservation Award. A nomination was received for Pinky Whelan, nominated by Gary Hedden, Jane Reed, Laura Bajuk, Kathy Lera and Don McDonald (Attachment A). A nomination was also received for Robin Chapman, nominated by Marjorie Rauch, Catherine Nunes, Pat Marriott, Roberta Phillips, and George and Laura Cline. (Attachment B).

The Commission should consider the written evidence and oral testimony from members of the public before voting on the award recipient. The award recipient or their designee will be recognized with a Mayor's Proclamation at the City Council Meeting on May 3, 2017.

Attachments:

- A. Pinky Whelan, Nominations
- B. Robin Chapman, Nomination



City of Los Altos

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

2017 APR 19 PM 3 21

**2017 HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARD NOMINATION**  
CITY OF LOS ALTOS  
CALIFORNIA

I am nominating Pinky Whelan for the 2017 Historic Preservation Award.

Describe the reasons why the nominee should receive the Historic Preservation Award and how the nominee meets the following criteria:

1. Demonstration of pioneering or innovative efforts in historic preservation or education.
2. Conformance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Rehabilitation.
3. Public Benefit received (educational, beautification, advocacy, etc.).
4. Impact to the City of Los Altos.

Attachments -

<u>1. Nomination Letter</u>		
<u>2. Jane Reed, Support letter</u>		
<u>3. Laura Bajuk,</u>	<u>u</u>	<u>u</u>
<u>4. Kathy Leva,</u>	<u>u</u>	<u>u</u>
<u>5. Don McDonald</u>	<u>u</u>	<u>u</u>

*If applicable, submit copies of letters of commendation or any other supporting documentation (not required). Attach additional sheets as needed.*

Nominated by: Gary Hedden Date: 19 Apr 2017

In order to officially submit a nomination for the 2017 Historic Preservation Award, please submit one copy of all necessary documentation to the Historical Commission staff liaison Sean Gallegos. Materials can be submitted at City Hall, 1 North San Antonio Road, Los Altos, CA 94022. All nominations must be submitted by **Wednesday, April 19, 2017 at 5:00 pm.**

At the April 24, 2017 meeting, the Historical Commission will hold a vote to determine the recipient of the 2017 Historic Preservation Award. The 2017 Historic Preservation Award winner is tentatively scheduled to be recognized by the City Council with a proclamation at their meeting on May 9, 2017.



Honored Historical Commission  
Sean Gallegos

It is my pleasure and honor to nominate Pinky Whelan to receive the 2017 Historic Preservation Award. This year is the 40th anniversary of a significant event in Los Altos history, the moment in time when the Smith House became the History House.

The transfer was made possible by the hard work of many dedicated, energetic volunteers. Certainly, elected officials such as Audrey Fisher, Art Carmichael and Roy Lave were involved, but many members of the general public with an interest in the preservation of history played a part. In the first episode of Nan Geschke's very informative series, The Los Altos History Show, Geraldine Kavanaugh and Pinky Whelan give us insight into the formation of the Historical Commission that guided the process after the passing of Margaret Smith in 1973. An auxiliary association was formed, memorabilia collected, events planned and funds raised. Pinky was there helping with events, fund raising and fun raising. One classic example that she brought to the community is the Crab Feed. She recalled such events from her early days in New England and brought that idea to us. A major fund raiser, the History Museum hosted its 30th Crab Feed in February.

Pinky has been a part of the History House every year for over 40 years now. Just last week she was decorating the House for Easter celebrations. Her consistent good-natured hard-work is one of the reasons the Museum has been so successful for so many years. Her support is inspiring to us all and it deserves our heartfelt recognition.

Please warmly consider this nomination, especially this year, the 40th anniversary of the opening of the History House.



Gary Hedden

To: Los Altos Historical Commission and Sean Gallegos, staff liaison

I would like to nominate Mary "Pinky" Whelan for the annual Los Altos Historic Preservation Award.

As a young girl Pinky grew up in Springfield, Massachusetts, surrounded with the trappings of early American history. Once she and her husband arrived in Los Altos she brought American history to town. As owner of the Yankee Pedlar antique shop, she got acquainted with everyone, and fell in love with Los Altos. Busy as a mother of six children, she began her California lifetime of creating and preserving history for Los Altos.

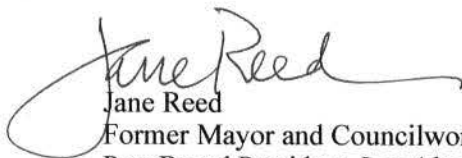
When the call went out by the City of Los Altos in 1977 for people to apply to be a historical commissioner on its new Historical Commission, dedicated to the J. Gilbert Smith History House (built in 1905), Pinky applied and became one of the first seven commissioners for Los Altos. That set the course for Pinky to forever be associated with preserving the history of Los Altos. Forty years later, she is still the go-to gal to answer the questions relating to the past, serving as a hostess at the Smith House or participating in the ongoing Museum events.

Pinky, forever a red, white and blue girl, has worked her magic in every aspect of the Gilbert Smith House, treating it like a beloved home. Since the newer History Museum has existed, she has made sure we have a decorated holiday tree, that the Smith House is seasonally decorated, and that the community knows about the house and its historical significance. She has curated fun exhibitions including the current Raggedy Ann and Andy showcase, and has supported others in their endeavors to keep history alive in Los Altos.

She started by volunteering in town, creating a pumpkin patch downtown, and every year she and her neighbors celebrated the famous Orange Avenue Halloween tradition with her always in a witch outfit. She helped lead her neighborhood's efforts to dream up an Alley Party as another community tradition for neighbors. She makes sure the red white and blue bunting is up on the house every 4<sup>th</sup> of July, and she envisioned and began the traditional Crab Feed, which has been going for around 30 years. She and a friend began the former public Antique Faire of Americana furniture and objects that used to happen every year under the oaks and then at Hillview Community Center.

Her friends know her as collaborative, fun loving, down to earth, creative, with a style of her own, always ready to help or assist in what every project that could benefit the community. She always goes that extra mile, kicks off projects, and makes connections that last a lifetime. She greets everyone as a friend, finding out about their lives and their own love of Los Altos.

I highly recommend Pinky for this award. She is one of a kind, special person that has inspired a comment of many people to preserve the history of Los Altos.



Jane Reed

Former Mayor and Councilwoman

Past Board President, Los Altos History Museum

To: Los Altos Historical Commission and Sean Gallegos, staff liaison

In support of the nomination of Pinky Whelan for the 2017 Los Altos Historic Preservation Award.

Pinky Whelan is the heart of the history museum - and quite possibly the community at large.

Widowed early in life, she raised her large family here in a house that is tiny - while working as an antiques dealer. They all turned out well and are leading interesting, fulfilling lives. And they are still in touch with the (now-grown) kids they grew up with.

Pinky is the quiet leader of her neighborhood, where kids still play together, neighbors know each other by name, and even gather monthly to sip wine and talk.

Because of people like Pinky, Los Altos still has a "Mayberry" feeling to it... even if today it's more PhD than RFD.

And she helps preserve and share what it is that makes Los Altos special.

She was one of the first historical commissioners, and a founder of the museum.

She is the loving caretaker and advocate for the J. Gilbert Smith House, and all it stands for. Every season the house gets refreshed, with artifacts that help tell the stories of our past, from woolen bathing suits that make you itch just looking at them, to the small dining table set for a holiday dinner.

Pinky started the first crab feed fundraiser decades ago to raise money so the museum could add professional staff and improve exhibits. It has grown into a mega-event, providing substantial support for the Museum.

Her personal accomplishments are long, but the one that always stands out is that she inspires others to get involved... making the entire community a better place.

Laura Bajuk  
Executive Director of the Los Altos History Museum, 2005-2016

To: Los Altos Historical Commission  
 Attn: Sean Gallegos  
 Date: April 18, 2017  
 Re: Nomination of Pinky Whelan for the 2017 Historic Preservation Award

Dear Commission Members,

In 2008 I had the honor of presenting Pinky Whelan with Los Altos Community Foundation's John W. Gardner Award. The following is an excerpt from my speech, which I thought appropriate to include as part of this recommendation. Pinky's devotion to preserving our local history, while also bringing our community together, has been steadfast.

*"...Pinky Whelan is a very special lady! And, Los Altos changed for the better when she came to our little town.*

*"Why me?" These were Pinky's first words upon hearing that she was selected for the Gardner Award. Pinky Whelan, here's why you -*

*You love history, you love your family, your friends, your community, your Orange Avenue neighborhood, AND you make life fun for us just to be here!*

*Born and raised in Springfield, MA, Pinky was steeped in history from the time she was a youngster. In a family of avid preservationists she has lived in and restored historic homes. She and her husband, Chuck, moved their expanding family to Los Altos in 1964 where she opened her antique shop here in Los Altos, The Yankee Peddler. It wasn't long before she was appointed to the Historical Commission, serving for 2 terms spanning 3 decades and becoming a charter member of what is now the Los Altos History Museum. Pinky is always willing to do whatever it takes to help the Los Altos History Museum, from being President to Queen of our Crab Feed Fundraiser every year, she has done it all. Other projects have been creating celebrations to mark the Nation's Bicentennial and key City anniversaries. She's one of the first awardees of the Los Altos/Los Altos Hills Community Service Award, and been honored by the Business and Professional Women's Club and the DAR. Additionally, she's been recognized by our local schools, their PTAs, and Booster Clubs, for her service.*

*In closing I'd like to share a poem, written for this evening by Pinky's dear friend and fellow lover of history, Bea Teer ~*

*PINKY*

*She's up and running  
 Out the door  
 It's a meeting at 10  
 Another at 4*

*Committees are forming  
 Ideas are spun  
 However, it's Pinky  
 Who gets it all done.*

*A party for 6?  
 A hundred or more?  
 She's phoning and asking  
 Someone to pour  
 Tables unfolded  
 Chairs cover the space  
 The flowers are lovely  
 Food in its place*

*Another great gathering  
 Fun for us all  
 Thanks to Miss Pinky  
 With help from that call"*

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this recommendation. In my opinion, no one is more deserving. Pinky is our local treasure.

Sincerely,  
 Kathy Lera  
 Past President, Member of the Board of Directors  
 Los Altos History Museum

2017 Historic Preservation Award, Pinky Whelan

18 April 2017

Honored Historical Commission  
Sean Gallegos

To my knowledge, no one knows more about the early days of our History Museum than Pinky Whelan, who was on our History Commission when it was founded. Also, no one has had more to do with making the old Smith house a vividly useful part of our City's festive life than Pinky who has always led in decorating the house for the Christmas season.

To publicly honor her for her work, I heartily recommend that she receive the Historic Preservation Award.

Respectively submitted,

Don McDonald



DATE: April 23, 2018

AGENDA ITEM # 3

## AGENDA REPORT

**TO:** Historical Commission  
**FROM:** Sean K. Gallegos, Staff Liaison  
**SUBJECT:** Historic Preservation Award

### RECOMMENDATION:

Consider nominations for the 2018 Los Altos Historical Preservation Award

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### BACKGROUND

The Los Altos Historic Preservation Award was adopted by City Council Resolution on March 13, 2012. The intent of the award is to recognize exemplary rehabilitation and preservation of historic properties, and individuals, groups or organizations in the community that exemplify the spirit of historic preservation in Los Altos. Nominees should demonstrate a dedication to historic preservation within at least one of the following criteria:

1. Demonstration of pioneering or innovative efforts in historic preservation or education;
2. Conformance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Rehabilitation;
3. Public benefit received (educational, beautification, advocacy, etc.); and/or
4. Impact to the City of Los Altos.

The purpose of the award is to encourage public knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the City's past, and foster civic and neighborhood pride and sense of identity based upon the recognition and use of the City's historic resources. If the Historical Commission finds that none of the nominees meet the above criteria, the Commission is not obligated to grant the Preservation award.

### DISCUSSION

Staff received two nominations for the Historic Preservation Award. A nomination was received for Nan Geschke and the restoration of the Historic Resource at 10 Yerba Buena Avenue, nominated by Gary Hedden (Attachments A and B).

The Commission should consider the written evidence and oral testimony from members of the public before voting on the award recipient. The award recipient or their designee will be recognized with a Mayor's Proclamation at the City Council Meeting on May 8, 2018.

Attachments:

- A. Nan Geschke, Nominations
- B. 10 Yerba Buena Avenue, Nomination



City of Los Altos

APR 18 2018  
CITY OF LOS ALTOS  
PLANNING

## 2018 HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARD NOMINATION

I am nominating 10 Yerba Buena for the 2018 Historic Preservation Award.

Describe the reasons why the nominee should receive the Historic Preservation Award and how the nominee meets the following criteria:

1. Demonstration of pioneering or innovative efforts in historic preservation or education.
2. Conformance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Rehabilitation.
3. Public Benefit received (educational, beautification, advocacy, etc.).
4. Impact to the City of Los Altos.

The Historic Preservation Award has previously gone to individuals, but it can go to "groups, organizations or projects." Recognizing the time, effort and expense required to adaptively restore a historic property is worthwhile and the restoration of 10 Yerba Buena certainly qualifies.

Attachments -

My nomination letter, homeowner's letter, architect's letter and neighbor's letter.

If applicable, submit copies of letters of commendation or any other supporting documentation (not required). Attach additional sheets as needed.

Nominated by: Sam Holden Date: 14 APR 2018

In order to officially submit a nomination for the 2018 Historic Preservation Award, please submit one copy of all necessary documentation to the Historical Commission staff liaison Sean Gallegos. Materials can be submitted at City Hall, 1 North San Antonio Road, Los Altos, CA 94022. All nominations must be submitted by **Wednesday, April 18, 2018 at 5:00 pm.**

At the April 23, 2018 meeting, the Historical Commission will hold a vote to determine the recipient of the 2018 Historic Preservation Award. The 2018 Historic Preservation Award winner is tentatively scheduled to be recognized by the City Council with a proclamation at their meeting on May 8, 2018.



Honored Historical Commissioners,

I look forward to the nominations that are presented to the Commission each Spring. It is a time to hear about the people who have helped tell the story of Los Altos and who have helped preserve our past. This connection to the past is an important part of the charm of our small city.

People obviously play a critical role in saving our history and the past recipients, people like Don McDonald, Margret Thompson, Marion and Bob Grimm and others have been recognized for truly significant work. The award is not limited to people, however. It can also be presented to “groups, organizations or projects that exemplify the spirit of historic preservation in the City of Los Altos.”

Tonight, let’s try something new. Specifically, I encourage you to recognize a project, the adaptive restoration of the 1911 Craftsman style farmhouse at 10 Yerba Buena.

You know about this project. It first came before the Commission in Oct. 2013 for your approval allowing the conversion of the water tower into a second living unit and the conversion of the barn (aka carriage house) into a two-car garage, and in a second phase the restoration of the main house. A 1968 subdivision of the property had left the front of the main house facing a side yard and a fence, so the owners asked to lift the house, turn it 90 degrees and move it closer to Yerba Buena. You approved their requests and more than that, you applauded the effort as a way to keep historical properties in Los Altos while allowing homeowners the flexibility to create modern, functional homes.

With your approval, the homeowners, Duco and Laurie Pasmooij, began a four year journey. The Los Altos History Museum followed them along the way with updates in the newsletter. Most recently, a picture in the Winter 2017 issue shows them celebrating Thanksgiving and the completion of the project.

Now, it’s your turn. Celebrate the completion of the project and show your appreciation for the huge effort by Duco and Laurie and their family. Show your appreciation for doing the restoration so well, with great attention to detail and for following the standards set by the Secretary of the Interior for the Treatment of Historic Properties. Their example is an inspiration to all Los Altans. It shows what can be done and seeing nicely restored historic homes is a tremendous source of community pride. There are other restorations currently underway in town and many more potential projects. You should encourage and support them all, and you can do that tonight by expanding the traditional scope of the award - make it about both *People and Places*.

Please seriously consider 10 Yerba Buena for the 2018 Historic Preservation Award.

Thank you,  
Gary Hedden



Los Altos  
April 16, 2018

Honored Historical Commissioners,

We are humbled and excited about the nomination of our project at 10 Yerba Buena Ave for the 2018 Historic Preservation Award.

It has been a thrill to restore this property and we are extremely proud of the results. We moved in about a year ago after a 4-year journey of planning, designing and renovating. In September, our home was featured on the Historic Bicycling Tour of Los Altos, and we are very pleased that the community is enjoying the results of this restoration.

With the support of your commission, we were able to update this property to a functional home for our family of 5, while maintaining the Craftsman character of the house, barn and water tower. Our architect, Greg Evard from Los Altos, worked closely with historic architect Leslie Dill of Archives & Architecture, LLC from San Jose to ensure compliance with the standards set by the Secretary of the Interior for the Treatment of Historic Properties. To achieve this goal, we hired a high-quality construction firm (Pete Moffat Construction) to renovate these structures and assist us with restoring critical features like windows, front door and rafter tails. It took time and focus to get the details right, but it feels great to have preserved a piece of our city's history.

Thank you for your support over the years, and thank you for considering our project for the 2018 Historic Preservation Award.

With friendly regards,

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The signature on the left is a stylized, cursive signature that appears to be 'Duco'. The signature on the right is also cursive and appears to be 'Laurie Pasmooij'.

Duco and Laurie Pasmooij

4-12-2018

Honored Historical Commissioners,

When I was approached by the Pasmooij family to help with the rehabilitation and restoration of the historic property at 10 Yerba Buena, I was excited by the possibilities. A walk through of the property revealed a small farm compound consisting of a craftsman home, a barn and a water tower. Once a jewel of the many small orchard operations in the Santa Clara Valley, this collection of buildings had lost its original purpose to the changing culture of the valley. With the Pasmooij's determination and vision we set out to reuse and repurpose these buildings as a vibrant modern family home.

With clear direction from the owner that the goal was to create a state of the art modern home that was also built to the standards set by the Secretary of the Interior for the Treatment of Historic Properties, a skilled team was assembled. An architectural historian, town planners, engineers, designers and builders all participated, as a plan was developed to rearrange the site to facilitate a modern lifestyle. The house was moved, foundations were replaced, and a basement was dug. Existing character defining features were carefully repaired and restored while appropriate new materials were researched and sourced. Windows were carefully removed, restored and reinstalled. Cabinets, siding and trim were carefully salvaged, restored and reinstalled as modern electrical systems, plumbing, heating and insulation were woven into the historic fabric. The original sense of craft that was so evident in the original structure was an inspiration to and matched by the craftsmen from Pete Moffat Construction. With the original front façade now visible and properly restored the house has an easy feeling of confidence and pride that it must have had when it was originally built. Thanks to the exceptional efforts of everyone on the team this Los Altos home is a delightful link to our past and a bridge to our future.

I am proud to have had the opportunity to participate in this project and enthusiastically support it's nomination for the 2018 Historic Preservation Award.

With best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. P. Evard', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Gregory P. Evard, Architect

15 April 2018

Honored Historical Commissioners,

We write today to support the nomination of 10 Yerba Buena for the 2018 Historic Preservation Award. This property is directly behind our home at 21 Sylvian Way here in Los Altos and as such we have been intimately aware of the transformation of this property from an intolerable eyesore to a world class historical property. As neighbors and 19 year members of this community we believe all of us should be thrilled to have, in our city, this property in its beautifully renewed state.

From the Beginning Duco and Laurie have paid attention to the details of the restoration and spared no expense in getting the final product right. We've watched as the run down, overgrown and rat infested property transformed into a beautiful, historically relevant property. From our yard, the water tower and second story of the main house are visible and what was once a sad commentary about the state of an old Orchard House has become a beautiful and proud view scape.

While the final product is wonderful and there is no doubt as to the beauty and emotionally satisfying result, it is worth noting that the way the project was tackled was a blueprint of how these projects should be done. Well before any construction began, Duco and Laurie shared details of their plan with neighbors and listened to and tried to accommodate any concerns that might have been voiced. As the project proceeded they kept us updated on the progress and informed us of key dates when significant activities would be occurring. The community felt like part of the process, admittedly the easy part.

When we walked into the home upon completion, we were awed by how well the look and feel of the original home was preserved. We had visited the original structure many times in the past and never could have imagined how beautifully it could have been restored, but the Pasmooij team pulled it off in spades.

We think the property is worthy of recognition and believe that in doing so, you recognize the value of saving these old homes and appreciate the efforts of Duco and Laurie. We cannot say enough about how happy we are that the Pasmooij's invested their time money and emotional capital into this project. The city now has an historic property that is in keeping with the values and legacy of the community and we believe it should be recognized.

Thank you,



Mark A. Lunsford  
Terri Champ



DATE: June 24, 2019

AGENDA ITEM # 2

## AGENDA REPORT

**TO:** Historical Commission  
**FROM:** Sean K. Gallegos, Staff Liaison  
**SUBJECT:** Historic Preservation Award

### RECOMMENDATION:

Consider nominations for the 2019 Los Altos Historical Preservation Award

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### BACKGROUND

The Los Altos Historic Preservation Award was adopted by City Council Resolution on March 13, 2012. The intent of the award is to recognize exemplary rehabilitation and preservation of historic properties, and individuals, groups or organizations in the community that exemplify the spirit of historic preservation in Los Altos. Nominees should demonstrate a dedication to historic preservation within at least one of the following criteria:

1. Demonstration of pioneering or innovative efforts in historic preservation or education;
2. Conformance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Rehabilitation;
3. Public benefit received (educational, beautification, advocacy, etc.); and/or
4. Impact to the City of Los Altos.

The purpose of the award is to encourage public knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the City's past, and foster civic and neighborhood pride and sense of identity based upon the recognition and use of the City's historic resources. If the Historical Commission finds that none of the nominees meet the above criteria, the Commission is not obligated to grant the Preservation award.

### DISCUSSION

Staff received one nomination for the Historic Preservation Award. A nomination was received for Nan Geschke, nominated by Gary Hedden (Attachments A).

The Commission should consider the written evidence and oral testimony from members of the public before voting on the award recipient. The award recipient or their designee will be recognized with a Mayor's Proclamation at a future City Council Meeting.

**Attachments:**

A. Nan Geschke, Nominations



City of Los Altos

## 2019 HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARD NOMINATION

I am nominating Nan Geschke for the 2019 Historic Preservation Award.

Describe the reasons why the nominee should receive the Historic Preservation Award and how the nominee meets the following criteria:

1. Demonstration of pioneering or innovative efforts in historic preservation or education.
2. Conformance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Rehabilitation.
3. Public Benefit received (educational, beautification, advocacy, etc.).
4. Impact to the City of Los Altos.

Nan Geschke has contributed to historical preservation in Los Altos for over 30 years. She served on the Historical Commission, produced the acclaimed "Los Altos History Show," played a key role in creating the History Museum and more.

Attachments - nomination letter, supporting letters from Jane Reed, Marie Backs, Julie Ruse, Indra Dahl, Pinks Whelan & Elisabeth Ward.

In addition, a copy of the Town Crier's "2003 Los Altos of the Year," Nan & Chuck Geschke.

*If applicable, submit copies of letters of commendation or any other supporting documentation (not required). Attach additional sheets as needed.*

Nominated by: Gary Hedden Date: 12 MAY 2019

In order to officially submit a nomination for the 2019 Historic Preservation Award, please submit one copy of all necessary documentation to the Historical Commission staff liaison Sean Gallegos. Materials can be submitted at City Hall, 1 North San Antonio Road, Los Altos, CA 94022. All nominations must be submitted by **Tuesday, May 14, 2019 at 5:00 pm.**

At the May 21, 2019 meeting, the Historical Commission will hold a vote to determine the recipient of the 2019 Historic Preservation Award. The 2019 Historic Preservation Award winner is tentatively scheduled to be recognized by the City Council with a proclamation at their meeting on June 11, 2019.

4/27/19

To: Los Altos Historical Commission

We support the nomination of Nan Geschke for the Historic Preservation Award. It is our opinion that Nan exemplifies the spirit of historic preservation in the City of Los Altos.

Over the years Nan has combined her personal interest in education and research, the cultural arts, and her commitment to the Los Altos community in tireless support of the Los Altos Historical Association and Museum. She has served on both the Museum Board of Directors and as a Historical Commissioner for the City of Los Altos. From their initial inception, Nan has been an advocate and contributor to the annual 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade school education visits that give students a lesson on the history of Los Altos. Recently she is serving on the Strategic Planning Committee and is keeping an active interest in promoting the future refurbishing of the Permanent Exhibits.

In 1987, Nan began a project in which she eventually produced and edited over 65 videos of interviews with many of our community leaders and community volunteers, which have aired on public access television and are available for viewing at our public library. She followed this project by chairing several changing exhibits, which have been extraordinary. These include exhibits featuring the Los Altos Hills author Wallace Stegner, residents Frank and Josephine Duveneck, the legacy of David and Lucille Packard and the Lure and the Legends featuring the early story of Silicon Valley.

There have been several people who were instrumental in the Museum's development and Nan has been one who stands out. She and her husband, Chuck, partnered with Bob and Marion Grimm to ensure the Museum building was constructed to a high standard. In the three years prior to the 2001 opening, Nan served as chair of a committee that planned what would become the permanent exhibit area of the museum.

In addition, the Geschkes often opened their historic home and grounds for many fundraising events. They recognized the importance of preserving Los Altos history by seeking and receiving the California Register of Historic Resources (CRHR) designation for their former home in 2017.

We believe Nan Geschke is an excellent choice for this award.

Sincerely,

Marie Backs



Jane Reed





**JULIE ROSE**

938 CLARK AVENUE #31, MOUNTAIN VIEW, CA 94040

April 20, 2019

Los Altos Historical Commission  
City of Los Altos  
1 North San Antonio Road  
Los Altos, CA 94022

Dear Commissioners:

I enthusiastically support the nomination of Nan Geschke for the 2019 Los Altos Historical Preservation Award. Over the past three decades she has clearly demonstrated a significant dedication to historic preservation in the City of Los Altos through her time, talent and financial support.

Beginning in the early 1990's, Nan produced and/or hosted as many as 35 productions of the *Los Altos History Show*, a program that began as a project of the Los Altos Historical Commission. Nan served as a commissioner during the 1990's and has continued to be involved in Los Altos history in a wide variety of capacities.

The Geschkes donated nearly 1/3 of the \$3.5 million needed to build the new museum that opened in 2001. In addition to the funding, Nan took a major role in its creation, with hands-on involvement in the building design, construction, exhibits and programs—all based on best practices. She chaired the interpretive committee responsible for the museum's permanent exhibit, as well as several other changing exhibits in the museum's early days. She continues to fund the annual third and fourth grade student education tours.

I had the privilege and pleasure of co-chairing four home and garden tours (2002-2005) with Nan and Pinky Whelan. These were highly successful fundraising events for the Los Altos History Museum, primarily due to Nan's exemplary leadership. Also, I was recruited by Nan to plan and manage the programs associated with three of the four of the major exhibitions she chaired for the museum (Lucile & David Packard 2008, Frank & Josephine Duvneck 2011 and Lure & Legends 2015). In all instances, it was Nan's organizational and management skills that resulted in great successes.

Nan Geschke is a quintessential leader, motivator and role model and she has a unique ability to encourage the active participation of others. She has been steadfast in her commitment to the history of City of Los Altos and the surrounding region. We have realized substantial benefit from her dedication to preserving our past and planning for our future.

Sincerely,



Julie Rose

To: Honored Historical Commissioners  
Re: Recommendation for Nan Geschke  
From: Judy Dahl  
April 27, 2019

My nomination for Nan for this honor is related to working with her on four History Museum exhibits. She has been involved with many projects for the museum and city. These exhibits were primarily her idea for highlighting outstanding residents of our community and their contributions, not only to our city, but the world - memorializing them for generations to come.

We live in a very creative and innovative area, and the story of the people involved in the birth and growth of Silicon Valley was another idea of hers. Recounting the history of Los Altos and how it fit in the transformation from the agricultural Valley of the Heart's Delight to Silicon Valley was her final exhibit.

I met Nan for the first time when I was invited to join the team for the Wallace Stegner exhibit at LAHM. I had just retired from Stanford University and was open to a literary project. Nan welcomed me and in no time we became very good friends with a terrific working relationship. I respected her vision for this exhibit and was excited about the topic of recognizing locale "heroes".

Her organizational skills are amazing, and there isn't anyone I know who can conduct such an efficient meeting like her. Start on-time, allot minutes to each contributor and end with "what are our next steps?"

Her insight and people skills are also a gift. She can intuit individuals' strengths and find the right slot on a committee – where they would thrive, have a high interest level and contribute. This is commonly known as "finding the right people for the bus, and more importantly, finding the right seats for the people on the bus." Her committee members are extremely loyal. Once you worked with, and for, Nan – you can never say no to her requests! Plus she's fun to work with!

Nan is also a project manager extraordinaire. How she can keep a multitude of tasks and projects in her head is remarkable.

With husband Chuck, they are generous, supportive and creative for all exhibits.

I was very lucky to participate as a member and eventually co-chair on four exhibits of local distinguished residents (Wallace Stegner, the Packards, and the Duvenecks) including the last great one on Silicon Valley. Our swan song was to produce and print a book, "Silicon Valley – the Lure and the Legends", which is available at all local libraries. It is currently used as a gift to large museum donors.

I highly recommend Nan for this special historical honor. She is certainly deserving.



Judy Dahl  
2060 Madelaine Ct  
Los Altos CA 94024



51 South San Antonio Road  
Los Altos, California 94022  
www.LosAltosHistory.org  
650.948.9427

Historical Commission  
City of Los Altos

May 12, 2019

Dear Commissioners,

*The Los Altos History Museum gathers and presents compelling stories and artifacts that bridge the past and the present by fostering the creative energy of volunteers, challenging established narratives, and producing stimulating educational programs and exhibits.*

I am writing in support of the nomination of Nan Geschke for the Historic Preservation Award. Although known for her philanthropic work through the Geschke Family Foundation, Nan Geschke is in my mind first and foremost a dedicated educator and historic advocate. A librarian by training, Nan has a deep love of learning and a passion for the past.

Nan volunteers not only for the Los Altos History Museum in various capacities, including as past Chair of our Changing Exhibition Committee and our Strategic Planning Committee, but also for a museum in Nantucket dedicated to preserving its history. Her commitment to local history, and to residents knowing the history of the town they live in is heartfelt, sincere, and has guided much of her life work.

Before the Los Altos museum was built, Nan started the Los Altos History Show in order to appeal to residents of the area through the best means available at the time: local access cable television. She was a consummate hostess, often researching subjects for months before undertaking the interviews. And her preparation shows in careful, enlightening programs that we still publicize on the Los Altos History Museum's website.

As the Curator of the "Crown of the Peninsula" permanent exhibition on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Los Altos History Museum, Nan ensured that a comprehensive, historically accurate presentation of the settlement phases of this area were presented. That exhibition has stood the test of time, and still serves our 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Grade tours wonderfully.

Once the Museum was operational, Nan assembled a team to create a series of changing exhibitions. For each exhibition, Nan understood the most important component was the historic research behind the story, and would pour resources into ensuring the accuracy of what was presented in the exhibitions. The research alone was incredibly valuable.

Recently, she has continued her commitment to educating residents about local history through her sponsorship of our 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade educational tours. This signature program of the Museum, and one that educates over 1300 students every year, is completely funded by a personal grant from the Geschkes.

It is no overstatement to say that the Museum would not have the historic integrity and education value it currently has for the local residents of this area were it not for the intelligence, dedication, and vision of Nan Geschke.

**Board of Directors**

- Eleanor Watanabe, Co-President
- Linda Eckols, Co-President
- Julia Lovin, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President
- John Beman, Treasurer
- Gary Hedden, Secretary
- Marcia Adams      Robin Chapman
- Carole Flores      Gunilla Follett
- Janet Klinke      Larry Lang
- Dwight Matthews      John Ralston
- Julie Rose      Brandon Smith

**Staff**

- Dr. Elisabeth Ward, Executive Director
- Heather Farquhar, Deputy Director
- Dr. Amy Ellison, Exhibition Curator
- Diane Holcomb, Outreach Coordinator
- Deepti Devanagondi, Bookkeeper

The Los Altos History Museum's legal name is the Association of the Los Altos Historical Museum; tax i.d. number 94-2542813. We are a 501(c)(3) organization and your gifts are tax deductible.

# Changing the world through innovation, excellence and ethics

Published: 06 January 2004 Written by Bruce Barton - Town Crier Staff

## **Nan and Chuck Geschke are Town Crier's 2003 Los Altans of the Year.**

Nan and Chuck Geschke don't like to draw attention to themselves. But they can't help it. Together, this quiet couple from Ohio have made Los Altos and the world a better place through their innovation, intelligence, ethics and drive for excellence.

Chuck, the son of a photo engraver, revolutionized the printing and publishing business by co-founding Adobe Systems in 1982 with kindred spirit John Warnock. Millions around the world benefit from their transformation of the personal computer from a calculating to a publishing machine.

Locally, Nan has played a major role in the creation of the Los Altos History Museum through philanthropy and volunteering. In large part due to her efforts, residents benefit from a first-class museum they can attend free of charge to learn how Los Altos and Silicon Valley came to be.

Together, the Geschkes are solid role models, living their lives with integrity and continued community involvement. Nan and Chuck, whose actions speak far louder than their words, are the Town Crier's 2003 Los Altans of the Year. It is the 10th year the paper has bestowed the honor on a person or couple who have created goodwill for the community.

Said former Los Altos mayor Bob Grimm, who worked with the Geschkes on building the Los Altos History Museum, "They're a class act. I have tremendous respect for them."

## **Roots in the Midwest**

The two former teachers, who moved to Los Altos in the early 1970s, celebrated 39 years of marriage the day after Christmas. They met while Chuck was in college at Cincinnati. It turns out, they grew up in Cleveland a mere three blocks apart.

"We had the same outlook on life," Nan recalled of their compatibility. "We were studying to be teachers, and we wanted to get advanced degrees."

"She was drop-dead gorgeous," Chuck added.

The Geschkes married in Cleveland in 1964. Their first son, Peter, was born in 1965, followed by Kathy in 1968. Their third child, John, was born in 1970.

Chuck earned a doctorate in mathematics and was teaching math at John Carroll University in Cleveland when he received a life-changing visit from a former student who thanked him for his teaching. The student went on to tell Chuck about how he had created a computer program and he was making a lot of money in the field.

"Nan said, 'Maybe we ought to change (careers),' " Chuck recalled.

## **From teaching to technology**

In 1968, Chuck went back to school at Carnegie-Mellon University in Pittsburgh for a doctorate in computer science. After graduating in 1972, he accepted a job at the Xerox Palo Alto Research Center. During his 10 years at PARC, Geschke worked on the design and development of the Mesa programming language and machine architecture.

"The technology became the basis for the Xerox Star workstation which, in 1981, was the first commercially available product embodying the graphical user interface designs that were subsequently emulated by the Macintosh and Windows operating systems later in the 1980s," Chuck said.

In 1978, Chuck formed the Imaging Sciences Laboratory at PARC to focus research on computer graphics and electronic printing systems. He hired John Warnock, whom he had heard give a technical presentation, to help design a device-independent printing protocol named Interpress. Xerox executives' indecision about the protocol's public release led Chuck and Warnock to leave the company. The two formed Adobe Systems in 1982 to design PostScript, a programming language for describing the appearance of a printed page.

PostScript, introduced in 1985, "transformed the worldwide printing and publishing industry from a manual and mechanical process to a fully automated, electronic workflow," Chuck said.

Apple co-founder (and Los Altos native) Steve Jobs was a fan from the beginning. "I was simply blown away by what I saw," he said of PostScript.

Adobe, named after the Los Altos creek that flows by Chuck's and Warnock's homes, has since become the world's second largest provider of personal computer software with more than half its revenue earned outside the United States.

With its emphasis on ethical practices and respect for employees and customers, Adobe consistently is ranked among the best companies nationwide in which to work. Last week, Adobe ranked sixth in Fortune magazine's annual list of the 100 best companies for which to work.

Despite numerous accolades, including Geschke and Warnock's being ranked seventh as the most influential graphics persons of the last millennium (by Graphic Exchange magazine), modesty still overwhelms Chuck when asked to speak about his place in history.

"I consider myself the luckiest man on Earth," he said, borrowing a line from Lou Gehrig's famous 1939 speech at Yankee Stadium. "An engineer lives to have his idea embodied in a product that impacts the world."

## **Business partners, friends**

The partnership with Warnock cannot be overestimated as a key to Chuck and Adobe's success. Both Renaissance men with similar philosophies, the two proved ideal business partners and great friends. "Adobe is an extension of our own set of values," Chuck said. Both employ the golden rule: "Treat others the way you would want to be treated."

"We pretty much built the company around this from the beginning," said Warnock, also a Los Altos resident.

"Chuck and I have very complementary talents and have respect and empathy for each other's opinions," Warnock said. "In our 20-year partnership, we have always been close friends. We have never had a major disagreement."

While Warnock and Chuck were changing the world, Nan made and continues to make a strong impact locally. In fact, those around Los Altos know much more of Nan's work, principally through the Los Altos History Museum.

### **History interests benefit all**

Nan's interest in history had early roots, graduating from Marygrove College in Detroit with a bachelor's degree in history and political science in 1964. She taught social studies in junior high school before putting career aspirations on hold to raise a family. She continued her education out West in the 1970s, receiving her master's degree in library science in 1977 from San Jose State University.

"I received my degree right at the cusp of Proposition 13 (the Jarvis-Gann Initiative, which slashed schools funding). I had planned to be a school librarian," Nan said.

Undaunted, Nan applied her degree to business libraries. She worked as a librarian at OceanRoutes in Palo Alto and as a consulting director with Advanced Information Management in Mountain View, and established the engineering library at Westinghouse in Sunnyvale.

She also served as president of the Silicon Valley Special Libraries Association (1986-87) and served on the Silicon Valley Information Center's board. Nan showed her commitment to libraries locally, serving on the task force for Vision 21, a 1996 fund-raising initiative that raised more than \$200,000 for Los Altos library science and technology materials.

At the dawn of the 1990s, Nan joined the Los Altos Historical Commission. It is no coincidence that the current state-of-the-art history museum, the envy of cities twice the size of Los Altos, has come about since Nan's involvement.

She also made a visual impact, producing a monthly cable access TV show on local history. Nan produced more than 50 shows, often as the host, during her 10 years on the historical commission.

In 1992, Nan began working on the realization of a dream held by a group of Los Altos history buffs: a new museum. She was among the principals who oversaw the museum's creation from planning and fund raising to design.

### **Hands on efforts**

Besides providing considerable financial resources toward the effort, Nan also employed the services of her husband in the construction of the permanent exhibit.

"When I retired (from Adobe) in 2000, Nan said, 'I don't want you to get lazy - I've got a job for you,'" Chuck recalled.

"It's important for us to give back," Nan said, recalling as a student, hearing her teacher talking about Andrew Carnegie building libraries all over the United States. "I thought, 'Wouldn't it be wonderful to have enough money to give away?'"

"We tend to focus a lot of our giving around education and for the disadvantaged," Chuck said. "You want to do the right thing for something that's going to have an impact."

The Geschkes have been matching grant donors for the Town Crier Holiday Fund each year since its inception four years ago.

### **Bounce back from near tragedy**

The one shadow cast on their otherwise shining, unbelievably successful lives came in May 1992 when Chuck was kidnapped for four days, the details relived in a 1997 three-part Town Crier series. Lifelong Roman Catholics, the Geschkes used their faith in God and in each other to get through the ordeal. Chuck was rescued and the kidnappers prosecuted.

People of lesser character might have succumbed to paranoia after the experience. But for Nan and Chuck, the impact, if any, is in counting their blessings.

"I really cherish the ordinary day," Nan said. "We went through an incredible experience together."

Focus on family and church were always priorities, but perhaps even stronger now, according to Nan. Chuck himself seems nearly unfazed by the incident 11 years later. "I don't think it's changed our lives all that much," he said.

Despite their financial and professional success, the Geschkes seem free of the pretense and arrogance that have befallen so many wealthy Silicon Valley executives. They have no personal assistants. They laugh when told that one museum employee marveled over how they answer their own phone.

McCreight, taking note of Chuck's modesty, used the familiar line: "There's no limit to what a man can do if he doesn't get the credit. That seems to be Chuck's motto."

"We're from blue-collar families," Chuck said. "As residents, we're not all walled off. We're very approachable."

Historic home tours  
fund raisers and  
Speaker series.

nan is smart,  
professional, thoughtful  
and good natured.

(a few things to  
remember.)

Thank you for  
your attention and  
I await your  
decision.

Best regards  
Puky Whelan

Honorable Commissioners

I would encourage  
the Los Altos Historical  
Commission to  
consider the nomination  
of nan  
Geschke as the  
2019 recipient of  
the Los Altos Historic  
Preservation award

By now you are  
aware of nan's many  
accomplishments -  
curating of several  
important exhibitions  
at the museum.

Honorable Commissioners

May 2019





DATE: June 29, 2020

AGENDA ITEM # 4

## AGENDA REPORT

**TO:** Historical Commission  
**FROM:** Sean K. Gallegos, Staff Liaison  
**SUBJECT:** Historic Preservation Award

### RECOMMENDATION:

Consider nominations for the 2020 Los Altos Historical Preservation Award

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### BACKGROUND

The Los Altos Historic Preservation Award was adopted by City Council Resolution on March 13, 2012. The intent of the award is to recognize exemplary rehabilitation and preservation of historic properties, and individuals, groups or organizations in the community that exemplify the spirit of historic preservation in Los Altos. Nominees should demonstrate a dedication to historic preservation within at least one of the following criteria:

1. Demonstration of pioneering or innovative efforts in historic preservation or education;
2. Conformance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Rehabilitation;
3. Public benefit received (educational, beautification, advocacy, etc.); and/or
4. Impact to the City of Los Altos.

The purpose of the award is to encourage public knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the City's past, and foster civic and neighborhood pride and sense of identity based upon the recognition and use of the City's historic resources. If the Historical Commission finds that none of the nominees meet the above criteria, the Commission is not obligated to grant the Preservation award.

### DISCUSSION

Staff received one nomination for the Historic Preservation Award. A nomination was received for Jane Reed, nominated by Gary Hedden (Attachments A).

The Commission should consider the written evidence and oral testimony from members of the public before voting on the award recipient. The award recipient or their designee will be recognized with a Mayor's Proclamation at a future City Council Meeting.

**Attachments:**

- A. Jane Reed, Nominations



City of Los Altos

2020 HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARD NOMINATION

I am nominating JANE REED for the 2020 Historic Preservation Award.

Describe the reasons why the nominee should receive the Historic Preservation Award and how the nominee meets the following criteria:

1. Demonstration of pioneering or innovative efforts in historic preservation or education.
2. Conformance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Rehabilitation.
3. Public Benefit received (educational, beautification, advocacy, etc.).
4. Impact to the City of Los Altos.

See attached document.

*If applicable, submit copies of letters of commendation or any other supporting documentation (not required). Attach additional sheets as needed.*

Nominated by: Gary Hedden Date: 8 June 2020

In order to officially submit a nomination for the 2020 Historic Preservation Award, please submit one copy of all necessary documentation to the Historical Commission staff liaison Sean Gallegos. Materials can be submitted at City Hall, 1 North San Antonio Road, Los Altos, CA 94022. All nominations must be submitted by **Tuesday, June 9, 2020 at 5:00 pm.**

At the June 22, 2020 meeting, the Historical Commission will hold a vote to determine the recipient of the 2020 Historic Preservation Award. The 2020 Historic Preservation Award winner is tentatively scheduled to be recognized by the City Council with a proclamation at their meeting on July 14, 2020.

Historic Preservation Award  
June 8, 2020

Honored Historical Commissioners,

It is with great pleasure that I nominate Jane Reed for the 2020 Historic Preservation Award.

Jane has been and continues to be one of the key people working on behalf of the Los Altos History Museum. She joined the History House Auxiliary in the 80s, worked on the plans for the new Museum in the 90s and helped with the clever family-tree design of the upstairs gallery. She was on the Board of Directors for many years, twice serving as Board President! She has chaired many fundraising benefits and worked on many exhibitions. She is now involved with planning and fundraising for a major upgrade to the Museum's upstairs gallery.

Jane loves working on exhibitions. I met her and worked with her in 2011 as we worked with Linda Gass on the award-winning exhibition *Shaped By Water: Past, Present and Future*. Jane always has good ideas, but in addition she will pitch in and get her hands dirty. She is not shy about picking up a paint brush and helping out, or finding just the right spot to hang a picture.

I really valued her help when I put together the exhibition *Pedal Power: From Wacky to Workhorse* with my friends from GreenTown Los Altos. Jane handed me a book with the unpretentious title, "Exhibit Labels," and said, "Read this." Turns out, it was a very good little book about creating an impactful exhibition. One message I took to heart, "Keep the text short" as most people want to look at the objects and not spend a lot of time reading. Thank you Jane for the good advice.

Please read the many supporting letters that recognize Jane's exemplary and truly remarkable work over many years with the Museum, with Redwood Grove and with her many civic activities. Then, please select Jane Reed for the well-deserved 2020 Historic Preservation Award.

Sincerely yours,

*Gary Hedden*

## 2020 Historic Preservation Award

I support the nomination of Jane Reed for the Historic Preservation Award. It is my opinion that Jane exemplifies the spirit of historic preservation in the City of Los Altos.

Jane joined the History House Auxiliary when she was serving on the Los Altos City Council in the 1980s. When members of the Auxiliary began making plans for a museum, Jane joined the permanent exhibit committee at the urging of Nan Geschke. She worked with The Donald Sibbett Group on the design of historical displays, and was instrumental in arranging for the fabrication of boxes housing photos of important community members and organizations for the family tree. She was also instrumental in the hugely important effort of building our membership base when the museum opened in 2001.

Jane spent the better part of 15 years serving in a number of important roles. These include exhibit manager and producer, and volunteer coordinator for the History Museum's changing exhibits.

She applied to the John F. Kennedy University Museum Studies Program in Berkeley, CA and was accepted into their two-year graduate school program. While enrolled in this program, she learned a great deal about museum programming and exhibit production, and in the process realized how much she loved what she was already doing at the Los Altos History Museum. She truly was the perfect fit. She has noted that, had she known about museum studies as a curriculum earlier, she would have chosen it as her major in college.

Jane has held many board positions at the Los Altos History Museum Association. She has held the positions of President and Vice President, and served two 4-year terms on the board. She also has been instrumental with evaluation, hiring, and nominating committees.

She is currently volunteering on the content and fundraising committees for the revamping of our permanent exhibit.

Jane's motto is "know your skills and build relationships".

There are many people who have been instrumental in the History Museum's development, and Jane has, and continues to be, one that stands out.

Marie Backs

Long time volunteer at the Los Altos History Museum

Edward A. Taft

10655 Eloise Circle

Los Altos Hills, CA 94024

---

June 1, 2020

Los Altos Historical Commission  
1 N San Antonio Road  
Los Altos, CA 94022

Dear Commissioners:

It is my pleasure to support the nomination of Jane Reed for the Historic Preservation Award.

Jane has volunteered at the Los Altos History Museum since its inception. She has served the museum in many capacities, one of which is overseeing and helping to create many historically focused exhibits at the museum. She was on the committees responsible for many of the changing exhibits, including the award-winning *Shaped by Water* and *Eichler Homes* exhibits, as well as upgrades to the museum's permanent exhibits.

Additionally, Jane organized many historically focused benefit events for the museum. She managed the project to produce the Arcadia book, *Early Los Altos and Los Altos Hills*. As chair of the collections and exhibitions committees, she has been a tireless advocate for the preservation and presentation of the museum's historical collection.

Jane has served Friends of Historic Redwood Grove in its many years' effort to rescue and rehabilitate Halsey House.

In recognition of her service to the Los Altos community over many decades, Jane is eminently worthy of this award.

Sincerely,



Edward A. Taft

June 1, 2020

Historic Preservation Award Committee:

It is my pleasure to support the nomination of Jane Reed for the Historic Preservation Award. As a Past President and longtime member of the Los Altos History Museum Board of Directors, Jane worked tirelessly to develop activities and exhibitions that preserved the stories of Los Altos/Los Altos Hills. She also chaired a number of Gala fundraisers that featured local historic homes and raised funds for Museum programs.

Jane returned to school to complete a Masters in Museum Studies to prepare her to develop stronger Museum exhibitions and programs. Her natural sense of design, attention to detail, and skill in developing partnerships helped the Museum produce a number of outstanding exhibitions ranging from the stories of the Duvenecks, the Packards, and Joseph Eichler to the popular *Shaped by Water* Exhibition which educated the community – young and old - about the importance of conserving water.

The *Paint the Town* series was also extremely popular. The shows featured new work from local artists whose art depicted historic Los Altos sites, buildings, memorials, and homes that showcased the story of our community's rich history.

As a past Mayor of Los Altos, Jane Reed has also been involved with many collaborative efforts to preserve historic sites and the spirit of Los Altos. She served on the Friends of Redwood Grove committee to raise funds toward restoration of the historic Halsey House; facilitated discussions of the Los Altos Community Coalition whose twenty organizational members were charged to help develop a plan and vision for the future of civic life in Los Altos; and member of the Los Altos Women's Caucus which encouraged civic engagement in planning a well-designed new Community Center.

Jane Reed's commitment to the historic preservation of our community has set a high bar and has inspired so many to support the cause. She is richly deserving of recognition.

Regards,

Eleanor Watanabe  
Past President, Los Altos History Museum



51 South San Antonio Road  
Los Altos, California 94022  
www.LosAltosHistory.org  
650.948.9427

Historical Commission  
City of Los Altos

June 8, 2020

Dear Commissioners,

*The Los Altos History Museum gathers and presents compelling stories and artifacts that bridge the past and the present by fostering the creative energy of staff and volunteers to challenge established narratives and produce engaging educational programs and exhibits for the community.*

I am writing in support of the nomination of Jane Reed as the 2020 recipient of the Historical Award.

While Jane Reed herself is a part of Los Altos history—as a former Mayor of Los Altos who initiated our Public Arts and recycling projects in the 1980s—it is her work behind the scenes at the Los Altos History Museum since then that has truly made her a champion of local history.

**Board of Directors**

- Julia Lovin, President
- Gary Hedden, 1st Vice President
- Julie Rose, 2nd Vice President
- John Beman, Treasurer
- Carole Flores, Secretary
- Eleanor Watanabe, Co-Past President
- Linda Eckols, Co-Past President
- Marcia Adams            Nicole Andrews
- Janis Ahmadjian-Baer, PhD
- Ginny Badros            Vicki Holman
- Janet Klinke            Larry Lang

As the Executive Director of the Los Altos History Museum, I have seen first-hand what a tremendous source of energy and inspiration Jane has been, and continues to be. Her passion for telling the Los Altos story has led to countless hours of volunteer work. She served on the Board of the Museum from 2002 to 2008, and again from 2012 to 2018, including twice as Board President. She also has served as the chair of the Collection Committee and later as chair of the Exhibits Committee, both during and after Board service. In these capacities, Jane has shaped the Los Altos History Museum to be the premier local cultural organization it is. It was her vision that made the Museum a place not just for exhibits about local historic figures, but also one that encompassed the role of the art community in our local culture.

**Staff**

- Dr. Elisabeth Ward, Executive Director
- Dr. Amy Ellison, Exhibition Curator
- Diane Holcomb, Outreach Coordinator
- Dianne Shen, Collection Strategist
- Andrew Mendoza, Office Administrator

Jane Reed’s vision also expanded our understanding of history. In her role on the Board, she helped craft a mission statement very unique for local history museums: “History inspires imagination, stimulates thought, and transforms society. The Los Altos History Museum preserves and shares our local history to enrich our community and to shape a more informed future.” It was Jane’s leadership that led the Museum to embrace the idea that we are more than a historical association holding on to nostalgia for the past; she pushed the organization to see all the ways we could be addressing contemporary issues today and for the future by bringing to bear the perspective of the past.

The Los Altos History Museum’s legal name is the Association of the Los Altos Historical Museum; tax i.d. number 94-2542813. We are a 501(c)(3) organization and your gifts are tax deductible.

The Museum is deeply indebted to Jane Reed’s extraordinary capacity to see wide trends and to make connections both intellectual and personal between them. She has made the museum a sophisticated, engaged organization that does credit to the status and role of history in our local community. By forging connections between art, history, and contemporary issues, Jane Reed made the Los Altos History Museum, and local history itself, relevant for our community. For that, she definitely deserves recognition, thanks, and the 2020 award.

Thank you,

Dr. Elisabeth I. Ward, Executive Director



June 4, 2020

Members of the Historical Commission:

Jane Reed has been and is a great asset to the Los Altos History Museum. She has done everything from serving and chairing on Boards and important committees to painting museum walls and cleaning out sheds. No matter the task one can always call on Jane.

She particularly excels at forming committees. She's a master of organization and detail while making it all look easy. She has the rare talent of listening to her co-members' ideas and suggestions and being flexible enough to incorporate them into her well thought out plan. She turns a committee into a team!

Jane is and has always been an asset to the Museum and our community.

Sincerely,

Diane Simmons

Linda Eckols  
709 Glenborough Drive  
Mountain View, CA 94041  
[lindaeckols@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lindaeckols@sbcglobal.net)

June 3, 2020

Dear Historical Commissioners,

It is my pleasure to nominate Mrs. Jane Reed for the 2020 City of Los Altos Historic Preservation Award. I believe that Jane's commitment to the City of Los Altos, her commitment to the community, and her commitment to the historic and present day betterment of Los Altos makes her a logical and qualified recipient for this prestigious award!

Whenever anyone mentions Jane Reed's name, there is always an instant recognition. Whether it be by those who observed her in action while serving as Mayor of Los Altos for two terms, 1982-1983 and 1987-88, or whether by those who served on the many city committees dedicated to improving businesses in Los Altos, or by those helping to preserve the Halsey House, or by those committed to building a History Museum for the City of Los Altos or by those needing support as they ran for public office or by those seeking to improve the lives of women and children in our community. Jane Reed was there, she actively participated, and she has continued to do so on a daily basis. Some people commit to helping for the short term, but Jane Reed exemplifies someone who has dedicated their life to helping improve the life and the community of Los Altos.

I first became acquainted with Jane Reed while she was serving as President of the Board of the Los Altos History Museum. I had been asked to join the Board and was thrilled to think that I would be working with and serving on the same Board as Jane. However, I soon learned that Jane was terming off the Board and that we wouldn't be serving together at the same time. However, what I also learned was that Jane Reed couldn't, wouldn't, and didn't leave the Los Altos History Museum for this was a place she had been so instrumental in launching.

In the late 1990's Jane Reed, along with several other grass roots organizers and community volunteers, came together to fundraise, to design, and to build Los Altos' first History Museum. While the original History House Museum was opened in December 1977 in the J. Gilbert Smith House, it took the vision and desire of members of the community to dream big and to create a larger and better facility to showcase the history of Los Altos and its surrounding communities. Jane Reed was instrumental in the design and the content development for the upstairs permanent exhibit and the other Museum spaces within the brand new 8,000 square foot museum. The new Los Altos History Museum was completed and dedicated in 2001.

While continuing her involvement in civic duties, Jane returned to college in 2006-2008 to pursue a MA Certificate in Museum Studies. Using her experience and education about museums, Jane continued her involvement with the Los Altos History Museum. She remained active on several Museum committees, she chaired many major fundraisers including the Annual Crab Feed, tours of historical homes, and she provided guidance for a five-year Strategic Plan, besides serving on the selection committee for most new Museum staff.

Jane also shared her expertise in planning; designing and coordinating, well over 10 of the Museum's major exhibits. A few of those changing exhibits included "**Spirits Return**: Cultural Traditions Keeping Memories Alive," "**Over Here**: A Centennial Observation of the US Involvement in WWI," "**Right Here**: A Follow-Up exhibit showcasing the stories of our local Los Altos Community," and "**Eichler Homes**: Modernism for the Masses." Ironically, "masses" of visitors came to the Museum to share their stories of living in Eichler Homes and learn more about Joseph Eichler's affordable contemporary homes build from 1949-1974. It was one of our most successful exhibits!

The Los Altos History Museum is fortunate to have the support of many dedicated and committed volunteers who serve as Museum Docents, who sort and label the items in our Collections Archive, who lead and serve on Museum committees, but only a few remain as dedicated to the preservation of the history and the betterment of our community, like Jane Reed.

Jane Reed is the kind of individual that all communities and organizations want and need to keep their vision, their mission, and their goals alive, vibrant, and moving forward. Jane has dedicated her life to our community. We are grateful for her service, for her commitment, and for her dedication to Los Altos, its history, and its people!

Sincerely,

Linda Eckols,  
Former Los Altos History Museum Co-President, 2017-2019  
Current Museum Board Member

June 1, 2020

Mr. Gary Hedden:

It's with great pleasure I respond to your request about Jane's being nominated for the Historic Preservation Award! I can't think of anyone more deserving!

Jane Reed has been a friend of mine since working with her on the Board of the Los Altos History Museum. She was President, for the second time, in 2013, which means she had served 6 years prior.

She has served on the Exhibits Committee FOREVER - including being the Exhibits Chair during the time between Directors! Jane had gone back to school which helped her fulfill this huge role. She is an ongoing fountain of knowledge in matters about 'Our Town' and its Museum! When the rest of us don't know - we go to Jane!!

I have seen Jane in several rolls: Exhibits Curator, Fundraiser, Marketing Management, Artistic Advisor, Business Management, and Community Communications. She has the ability to analyze a problem, organize a plan, and make it work all the while being very pleasant!!!

I only regret I could never get Jane to sign up as a docent!! She has spent much of her life being one of Los Altos' best docents!

As I write this, thinking of her, I know of no one with such a broad and thorough understanding of our community and its assets with the abilities she has to make 'it happen!'

GO JANE!!

Marilyn Henderson  
Past President, Los Altos History Museum

June 7, 2020

Dear Honored Historical Commissioners,

My name is Jan Davis, a Los Altos resident. I write to you to nominate Jane Reed for the 2020 Historic Preservation Award.

I have had the honor and privileged to have worked with Jane Reed on numerous temporary exhibits for the Los Altos History Museum these past five years. I was drawn to her passion and vision for history and presenting local stories in engaging ways. As Exhibition Chair, she has been the guiding force behind award-winning exhibits with supporting programs like: *Shaped by Water*, *Eichler Homes*, *Paint the Town*, *WWI: Right Here*, *Reflect + Create*, just to name a few.

There are many qualities I admire about Jane; her warm and energetic personality; her strong commitment to the community; and her creative spirit to navigate challenges to make a project happen. She combines her decades of history museum and leadership experiences and her relationships to achieve extraordinary exhibits and programs that not only benefits our community, but the broader general public.

Jane's influences are strongly felt in our community; as a former mayor of Los Altos, member of the Women's Caucus, former president of the Los Altos History museum and member of the board, Advisory Board Member of Pilgrim Haven, Project Itzaes, and the start of the Los Altos Community Coalition. She never stops looking for opportunities for connecting people and further a cause or to shape the future of our city and preserving the history. I highly recommend Jane Reed for the prestigious Historic Preservation Award.

Sincerely,



Jan Davis  
1423 Ranchita Drive  
Los Altos, CA 94024

jan@jandavisdesign.com  
650.961.1673

6/7/2020

**Dear Historic Preservation Judges**

I'm writing to support the nomination of Jane Reed for the 2020 Historic Preservation Award. I met Jane when I joined the Board of the Los Altos History museum. She was also a Board member and a very active one. For many years the museum didn't have a staff exhibition curator and Jane stepped into the role. She was instrumental to the success of so many exhibits, including "Shaped by Water", which won a Silicon Valley Water Conservation award, "Eichler Homes", and "Paint the Town II". She organized numerous fund raisers and did whatever was needed to make them successful. Although no longer a Board member, she continues to be active with the museum as we work on expanding its permanent exhibit.

Jane has also worked extensively with the Friends of the Historic Redwood Grove and Halsey House.

I admire Jane's energy, versatility, and talent. I think of her as a mentor, someone from whom I can seek advice in community matters. She helped me develop a love for the history of our area. She would be a wonderful addition to the roster of Historic Preservation honorees.

**Thank you very much for considering my recommendation,**



Julia Lovin  
President, Los Altos History Museum  
Los Altos resident

May 31, 2020

Dear Historical Commissioners,

I am writing to you in support of Gary Hedden's nomination of Jane Reed for the Historic Preservation award. I have worked with Jane for over 25 years on projects for the Los Altos History Museum. She was instrumental in the building of the museum and its opening in 2001. She was part of a committee I led in putting together the permanent exhibit on the second floor of the museum. She chaired the Exhibits committee for the museum for many years, putting together a legion of interesting and timely exhibits.

Jane has also served on the board of the museum and has been part of many committees that have brought changes to the museum. She was part of the hiring committee that hired Elisabeth Ward as the museum's Executive Director. Currently she is on the Fundraising committee for the advancement of the revamping of the permanent exhibit. She is also part of the Content Committee for the revamping of the permanent exhibit.

Jane has been a tireless supporter of the Los Altos History Museum and has been a great contributor to its success in the last 20 years. I highly recommend her for the Historic Preservation Award.

Sincerely,

Nan Geschke



DATE: April 26, 2021

AGENDA ITEM # 1

## AGENDA REPORT

**TO:** Historical Commission  
**FROM:** Sean K. Gallegos, Associate Planner  
**SUBJECT:** Historic Preservation Award

### RECOMMENDATION:

Consider nominations for the 2021 Los Altos Historical Preservation Award

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### BACKGROUND

The Los Altos Historic Preservation Award was adopted by City Council Resolution on March 13, 2012. The intent of the award is to recognize exemplary rehabilitation and preservation of historic properties, and individuals, groups or organizations in the community that exemplify the spirit of historic preservation in Los Altos. Nominees should demonstrate a dedication to historic preservation within at least one of the following criteria:

1. Demonstration of pioneering or innovative efforts in historic preservation or education;
2. Conformance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Rehabilitation;
3. Public benefit received (educational, beautification, advocacy, etc.); and/or
4. Impact to the City of Los Altos.

The purpose of the award is to encourage public knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the City's past, and foster civic and neighborhood pride and sense of identity based upon the recognition and use of the City's historic resources. If the Historical Commission finds that none of the nominees meet the above criteria, the Commission is not obligated to grant the Preservation award.

### DISCUSSION

Staff received one nomination for the Historic Preservation Award. A nomination was received for 1365 Grant Road, nominated by Gary Hedden (Attachments A).

The Commission should consider the written evidence and oral testimony from members of the public before voting on the award recipient. The award recipient or their designee will be recognized with a Mayor's Proclamation at a future City Council Meeting.



**Attachments:**

- A. 1365 Grant Road, Nomination



City of Los Altos

2021 HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARD NOMINATION

I am nominating 1365 Grant Road for the 2021 Historic Preservation Award.

Describe the reasons why the nominee should receive the Historic Preservation Award and how the nominee meets the following criteria:

- 1. Demonstration of pioneering or innovative efforts in historic preservation or education.
- 2. Conformance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Rehabilitation.
- 3. Public Benefit received (educational, beautification, advocacy, etc.).
- 4. Impact to the City of Los Altos.

The Historic Preservation Award typically goes to individuals, but once it has gone to a "project," 10 Yerba Buena, in recognition of the time, effort and expense required to restore and protect historic properties. Another project at 1365 Grant Road is worthy of such recognition.

My nomination letter, the homeowners' letter, the lengthy staff report from the Historical Commission meeting of Nov. 23, 2015, at which approval of exterior alterations was granted, a copy of the lengthy staff report from the City Council meeting of Jan. 10, 2017, at which approval of a Mills Act agreement was granted, and a copy of page 2 of the Winter 2019 quarterly, *Under the Oaks*, with a story about the project.

*If applicable, submit copies of letters of commendation or any other supporting documentation (not required). Attach additional sheets as needed.*

Nominated by: Gary Hedden Date: 14 Apr. 2021

In order to officially submit a nomination for the 2021 Historic Preservation Award, please submit one copy of all necessary documentation to the Historical Commission staff liaison Sean Gallegos at [sgallegos@losaltosca.gov](mailto:sgallegos@losaltosca.gov). Materials may also be submitted at City Hall, 1 North San Antonio Road, Los Altos, CA 94022. All nominations must be submitted by Thursday, April 12, 2021 at 12:00 pm.

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At the May 26, 2021 meeting, the Historical Commission will hold a vote to determine the recipient of the 2021 Historic Preservation Award. The 2021 Historic Preservation Award winner is tentatively scheduled to be recognized by the City Council with a proclamation at their meeting on June 22, 2021.

## 2021 Historic Preservation Award Nomination

14 April 2021

Honored Historical Commissioners,

I look forward to the nominations that are presented to the Commission each Spring. It is when we hear about the people who have helped preserve and protect the story of Los Altos. This connection to the past is an important part of the charm of our small city.

Some of the people you have already considered have played a critical role in saving our history. People like Don McDonald, Margaret Thompson, Marion and Bob Grimm, Nan Geschke, Jane Reed and others have been recognized for truly significant work. However, as you know, the award is not limited to people, but can also be presented to “groups, organizations or projects that exemplify the spirit of historic preservation in the City of Los Altos.”

I encourage you to recognize a project, the adaptive restoration of the 1913 Craftsman style farmhouse at 1365 Grant Road. The house was built for Oliver Holt, on an apricot orchard. In addition to running the orchard, Holt was a projectionist at a local movie theater. The house stayed with the Holt family until it was sold to Daniil and Divya Reouk in 2015. The two-story farmhouse features shingle cladding, a distinctive arched corner entry porch and the attractive use of river rock along the front elevation. The Reouks quickly recognized and appreciated the importance of owning and protecting such a gem, and came up with a plan to restore it.

You know this project. It came before the Commission in Nov. 2015 for your approval to allow the removal and replacement of several exterior windows, plus the addition of a patio slab along one side of the structure. Historical professional Jill Johnson with Historic Preservation Services reviewed the project and determined that the proposed exterior alterations would not adversely affect the historic significance of the property and would be consistent with the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards. You approved the request and expressed your appreciation for the effort as a way to keep historical properties in Los Altos, while allowing homeowners the flexibility to create modern, functional homes.

With your approval the Reouks began a journey of almost four years. The journey was not without its challenges. Removing the river rock exposed a brick foundation that did not meet current earthquake standards. The house was raised to allow the installation of a reinforced concrete foundation, then the bricks and cobblestones were carefully replaced to match the original look. The attention to detail even included matching the yellow color of the original mortar. Halfway through the project, to keep the budget under control, the Reouks moved from a rental house in Mountain View to a detached in-law unit at the back of their property. The family of four, with children of ages three and eight at the time, lived in one room for over a year. They did have indoor plumbing,

although they used a sink outside to wash the dishes! The Reouks love that they are living on an old orchard and they have planted many new trees to capture that history. They have apple, cherry, peach, lemon, grapefruit, persimmon, avocado and of course, apricot. The Los Altos History Museum has followed them along the way and had a picture and a story in the Winter 2019 newsletter.

Now, it's your turn. Show your appreciation for the effort by the Reouk family and for doing the restoration with such great attention to detail. Their example should be an inspiration to all Los Altans. It shows what can be done, and seeing nicely restored historic homes is a source of community pride. Your recognition of this project will encourage similar projects and support your effort to honor both *People and Places* important to the history of Los Altos.

Please approve the Holt House at 1365 Grant Road for the 2021 Historic Preservation Award.

Thank you,  
Gary Hedden



DATE: November 23, 2015  
AGENDA ITEM #3

## AGENDA REPORT

**TO:** Historical Commission  
**FROM:** Sean Gallegos, Staff Liaison  
**SUBJECT:** 15-H-04 – 1365 Grant Road

### RECOMMENDATION:

Recommend of approval of minor exterior alterations to a Historic Resource property subject to the findings

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### BACKGROUND

The house is two-story Craftsman Farmhouse that was constructed in 1915. Character defining features include the one-and-a-half-story form; shingle cladding; front-facing gable with brackets; gabled dormers at side elevations; squared, shed-roof bay at front facade with five one-over-one double-hung wood windows; arched corner entry porch elaborated with decorative shingle work along the right (north) facade. All exterior wall surfaces are clad in uncoated wood shingles, and river rock cladding occurs along the front elevation. The house is characterized by a compact rectangular mass under cross gable roofs at the east and an essentially flat roof at the west.

A two-story addition was constructed along the rear elevation of the original residence prior to the mid-1940s. Along the left (south) side elevation, the modifications include the staircase leading to the second level, the existing multi-light door and canopy, metal sliding sash and vinyl sash windows. The concrete and steel staircases with iron railings are visible along the second story of the rear (west) elevation

A one-story, rectangular, gable roofed garage sits southwest of the main house.

### DISCUSSION

The proposed project includes exterior alterations to the left (south) side, right (north) side and rear (north) elevations. The exterior alterations include shingle repair, the removal and replacement of a second story window along the left (south) side, the replacement of two second story windows along left (south) side with shingled wall surfaces; the removal and replacement of six second story windows along the right (north) side, the addition of a second story window along the north elevation, the replacement of a second story windows with shingled wall surfaces along right (north) side, the replacement of three first story windows with a foldable four panel door and addition of patio slab along the right (north) side of the structure; and the removal and replacement of five second story windows along the rear (west) elevation. The windows shall be replaced with

compatible wood sash windows. A letter from the owner (Attachment A) includes additional information about the project.

Historical professional Jill Johnson with Historic Preservation Services reviewed the project to ensure that it was consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Structures. As outlined in the attached letter, the proposed exterior alterations do not adversely affect the physical integrity or the historic significance of the property and are consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards. Therefore, staff recommends approval of this project.

In order to make a positive advisory recommendation, the Commission will need to find that the project is consistent with the provisions of the Historic Preservation Ordinance and does not adversely affect the physical integrity or the historic significance of the property. Once the Commission provides a recommendation, the project will be reviewed at an administrative level by staff.

CC: Daniil Reouk, Owner

**Attachments**

- A. Application
- B. Applicant Letter
- C. Area Map and Vicinity Map
- D. Secretary of the Interior's Standards Review Letter

**FINDINGS**

15-H-04 – 1365 Grant Road

With regard to the Advisory Review, the Historical Commission finds the following in accordance with Section 12.44.140 of the Municipal Code:

1. The project complies with all provisions of the Historic Preservation Ordinance (Chapter 12.44);  
and
2. The project does not adversely affect the physical integrity or the historic significance of the subject property.







CITY OF LOS ALTOS  
GENERAL APPLICATION

Type of Review Requested: *(Check all boxes that apply)*

Permit # 1106928

<input type="checkbox"/>	One-Story Design Review	<input type="checkbox"/>	Commercial/Multi-Family	<input type="checkbox"/>	Environmental Review
<input type="checkbox"/>	Two-Story Design Review	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sign Permit	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rezoning
<input type="checkbox"/>	Variance	<input type="checkbox"/>	Use Permit	<input type="checkbox"/>	R1-S Overlay
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lot Line Adjustment	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tenant Improvement	<input type="checkbox"/>	General Plan/Code Amendment
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tentative Map/Division of Land	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sidewalk Display Permit	<input type="checkbox"/>	Appeal
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Historical Review	<input type="checkbox"/>	Preliminary Project Review	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:

Project Address/Location: 1365 GRANT RD LOS ALTOS CA 94024

Project Proposal/Use: RESIDENTIAL Current Use of Property: RESIDENTIAL

Assessor Parcel Number(s): 197-18-104 Site Area: \_\_\_\_\_

New Sq. Ft.: 0 Altered/Rebuilt Sq. Ft.: N/A Existing Sq. Ft. to Remain: N/A

Total Existing Sq. Ft.: 2,428 Total Proposed Sq. Ft. (including basement): 2,428

Applicant's Name: DANIEL REOUK

Telephone No.: 952-212-5582 Email Address: dv222@yahoo.com

Mailing Address: 1050 CRESTVIEW DRIVE APT 45 #

City/State/Zip Code: MOUNTAIN VIEW CA 94040

Property Owner's Name: SAME

Telephone No.: SAME Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Designer's Name: RANEL CORTEZ

Telephone No.: 510-305-0139 Email Address: zet.design4@gmail.com

Mailing Address: 1079 ADASON DR.

City/State/Zip Code: SAN LEANDRO CA 94578

\*\*\* If your project includes complete or partial demolition of an existing residence or commercial building, a demolition permit must be issued and finalized prior to obtaining your building permit. Please contact the Building Division for a demolition package. \*\*\*

*(continued on back)*



The Historical commission  
City of Los Altos  
c/o Sean Gallegos

November 2, 2015

Dear Sirs / Madams,

This letter is to request permission to do the following exterior modifications to the house at 1365 Grant Road, Los Altos CA 94024. This house is a Craftsman-style farmhouse built in 1914.

- Replace all upstairs windows;
- Build new frames, sills etc around all windows in the house while meticulously preserving original 1910-1920s Craftsman style;
- Install decorative wood brackets supporting the roof;
- Extend existing patio into the yard area (not visible from the street);
- Replace 3 downstairs windows in the yard area (not visible from the the street) with folding glass doors to allow an easy access to the patio;
- Install a new, ultra quiet AC system.

Existing residence has original windows upstairs that probably date back to the time when house was originally built. They are very old and need to be replaced. We plan to replace them with white fiber glass windows that will preserve original Craftsman style of the house. See drawings for details.

We also would like to build new custom Craftsman style window casing, sill and apron for all the windows in the house (both first and second floor). Currently if you look at the house from the outside, house appears to have windows of somewhat different styles (with and without grids, positioned at different levels etc). We would like to remedy that. We believe that replacement of windows at the second level and installment of exactly the same Craftsman style window casing, sill and apron on all the house windows will allow to create a common style and uniform look across all four sides of the house.

We would like to also further enhance the Craftstman look of the house by applying to the roof decorative brackets that are currently supporting porch only (see drawings).

Finally, we would like to improve functionality of the house by installing foldable doors in the side of the house facing the yard that is not visible from the street, and extending adjoining patio to create an indoor / outdoor living experience. We would also like to install an ultra quiet AC unit at the property (noise level 59 db) approximately 27ft away from the property line (see details in attached drawings).

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me at 952-212-5582 (email [dreouk@yahoo.com](mailto:dreouk@yahoo.com)) or to my designer Ranel Cortez at 1-510-305-0139.

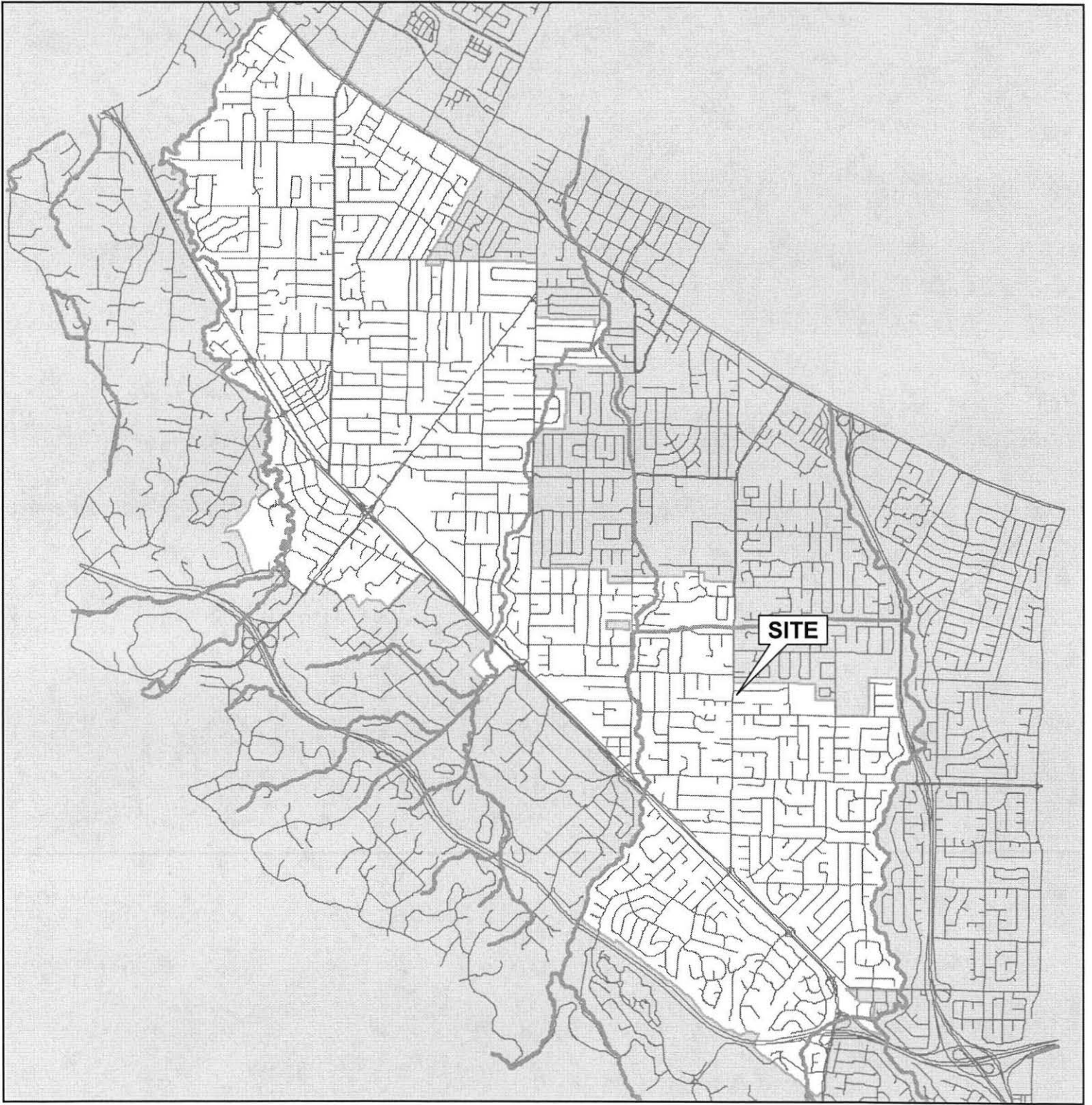
Thank you,



Daniil Reouk



# AREA MAP



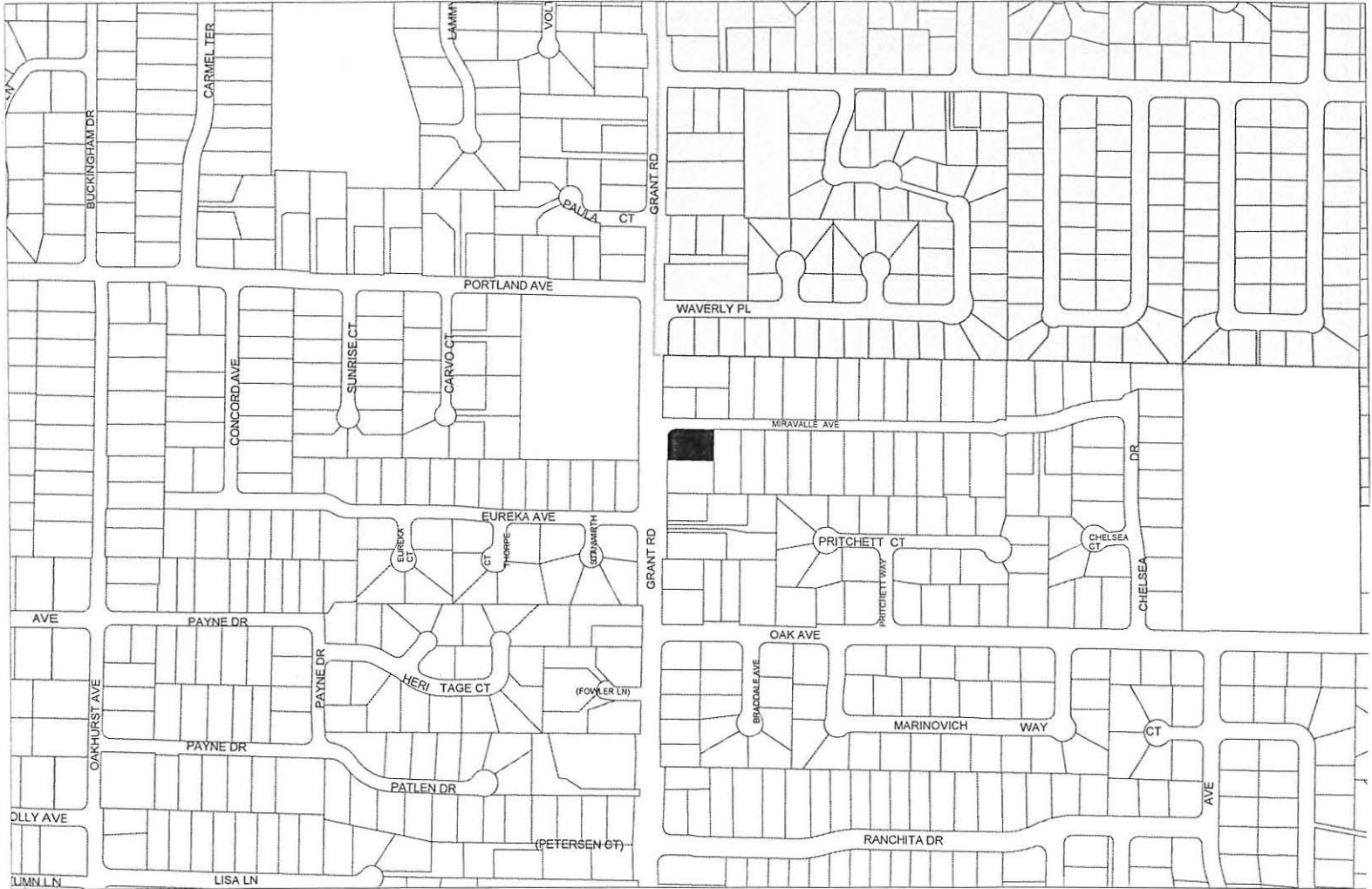
## CITY OF LOS ALTOS

**APPLICATION:** 15-H-04  
**APPLICANT:** D. Reouk  
**SITE ADDRESS:** 1365 Grant Road

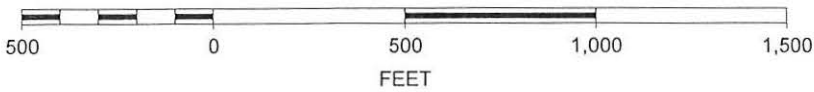


Not to Scale

# VICINITY MAP



SCALE 1 : 6,000



CITY OF LOS ALTOS

**APPLICATION:** 15-H-04  
**APPLICANT:** D. Reouk  
**SITE ADDRESS:** 1365 Grant Road

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## I. INTRODUCTION

Proposed exterior building modifications to 1365 Grant Road, Los Altos—a historic resource pursuant to Section 12 of the Los Altos Municipal Code—triggered a review of proposed exterior work by the Los Altos Historical Commission. The review board is charged with assessing the conformance of the proposed work with *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation* and providing recommendations to the community development director, planning commission or the city council concerning the work. The Historical Commission's findings will be taken into account by one of these three divisions of city government in acting on the permit application.

City staff requested a review of the proposed work for conformance with *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation* by a professional meeting *The Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards*. This report was prepared by Jill Johnson who meets the *Professional Qualifications Standards* in historic architecture and architectural history.

The house at 1365 Grant Road is a one and one-half story, wood shingled Craftsman dwelling with a two-car wood shingle garage containing a small residential unit at the rear. The house and garage/in-law unit are located on a diagonal axis through the site, with the house set back over 60 feet from the Grant Road and the garage/in-law unit sited about 27 feet from the road. The buildings occupy a corner lot, shaded by two magnificent native oaks and Redwoods located on the subject property and neighboring lots, but sited close to property lines so they shade the subject property.

The proposed project is limited to the house only and includes interior modifications and selected exterior modifications, as shown on the drawings. This work will proceed in phases with the interior work at the second floor and related exterior work

occurring first. In addition, the first phase will include some mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems upgrades and removal of the brick chimney. Subsequent phases include interior work at the first floor and related exterior work and other exterior work (unrelated to interior changes). Work to the garage/in-law unit has not been defined as of the present time and is not shown on the drawings.



View of 1365 Grant Road. The house is located to the right of center and the garage/in-law unit is located below center. (Google Maps.) A graphic site plan is included in the architectural drawings.

Because the first phase of interior work impacts the exterior of the house, the owner is submitting now for review of all exterior work that affects the second floor interior remodeling. After commission approval is received, the owner will prepare a Mills Act application for all proposed exterior work—inclusive of the work in this application plus additional work—and their contractors will begin construction at the second floor interior while the application is prepared. Additional work not shown in the current application will include further window work and work to the garage/in-law unit.

## II. SUMMARY EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The house at 1365 Grant Road is a one and one-half-story, wood-frame dwelling on a brick foundation. It is a good local example of a Craftsman dwelling, clad with uncoated wood shingles and river rock cladding. The house is characterized by a compact rectangular mass under cross gable roofs at the east and an essentially flat roof at the west.

The primary or east elevation is distinguished by a dominant central bay consisting of a shed-roofed bay window with five one-over-one light wood windows, ganged one-over-one light wood windows at the upper floor and tongue-and-groove soffits and exposed purlins. At the south side of the elevation, a brick exterior stair rises a half story to a multi-light wood door under a bracketed canopy. To the north, the roof line is extended to cover the side entrance porch.

The entrance porch described above wraps around the northeast corner to the north elevation. The original front door is located at this elevation, behind a wood screen door. The gridded concrete porch floor continues past the porch posts to merge with a patio at the west. The fenestration of this elevation is irregular in placement, size and type of windows—a function of original and early interior light and ventilation requirements and replacement windows which differ in style with the original windows. This varied fenestration continues across the west and south elevations.

### Alterations

It appears an addition was built at the rear of the house at an early date, probably before the mid-1940s. At this time, it appears the brick exterior stairs were most likely added as well as the existing multi-light door and canopy. In all likelihood, the original interior staircase was removed for the construction of the addition and the existing staircase was created at that time. All features related to this change, including the mud room, would be considered early, historic features with varying degrees of significance.

The concrete and steel staircase with wrought iron railings at the west elevation and the door at the second floor stair landing were added at the end of the third or the beginning of the fourth quarter of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Several windows have been replaced with metal sash, in both sliding and single hung configurations.

(Although no work is proposed at present to the garage/in-law unit, an addition was built onto the rear of the garage at an early date.)

## IV. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANCE

Pursuant to Section 12.44.060 of the Los Altos Municipal Code, 1365 Grant Road has been determined to be a historic resource. A historic resource is a property or structure that has been determined to be over 50 years old, retains its physical integrity, has historical, architectural, cultural, and/or aesthetic value, and is



listed on the historic resources inventory. The Historic Resources Inventory of the City of Los Altos (2011, as amended) is the city's official inventory of historic resources, as adopted and amended from time to time by resolution of the historical commission and/or the city council. A property or structure must be designated as a historic landmark, a historic resource or located within a historic district in order to be listed. The Historic Resources Inventory form (DPR 523) for 1365 Grant Road is included as an appendix to this report.

This form establishes the house was built in 1915 in an area that was largely devoted to orchards, although the exact nature of the property's association with the area's agricultural past is unknown at present. The house is cited for its architectural significance—as a good example of a Craftsman house with a high degree of historic integrity of workmanship, design and materials. It was assigned California Register Status Code 5S1, which indicates that it is an “individual property that is listed or designated locally.”

### III. CHARACTER-GIVING FEATURES THAT SHOULD BE PRESERVED

The Los Altos Municipal Code defines character-defining features as the defining elements which, individually or in combination, identify a historic property, building or landscape. The code cites prominent architectural features, materials and craftsmanship among the elements that typically merit preservation.

The following is a list of character-giving features of the house at 1365 Grant Road that should be preserved:

- Substantial set-back of the house from Grant Road and intervening deep front yard
- Diagonal axis through lot created by the axial relationship of the house to the garage/in-law unit
- Native oak at Grant Road
- Compact two-story house mass with crossed roof gables at the east
- Projecting features at each of the four elevations including a shed-roofed bay window at the east, entrance porch at the north, mud room at the west and projecting eastern bay at the south
- Covered side entrance porch with arched openings and substantial pillars
- River rock cladding set in light brown mortar at the entrance porch and wrapping across the front elevation to the east bay of the south elevation; angled red brick cap above stone cladding
- Wood shingled exterior walls with decorative shingling at the porch arches, above door and window openings, the base of the shingling at the porch posts and selected locations. The original shingles appear to be redwood, although cedar replacement shingles are apparent. Shingles are not coated.
- Brick exterior stair with wrought iron railing rising to a multi-light wood door; a bracketed porch canopy protects the door. (This appears to be an early alteration; the door opening may have been a window opening at the interior stair landing.)
- Projecting wood purlins and tongue-and-groove soffits at the gable ends. Same soffit cladding and exposed rafter tails at the eaves.
- Heavy wood front door, possibly varnished or oiled, with six lights possibly over panels. (The lower portion of the door was hidden from view by the screen door.)
- Early and original wood window sash at street elevations consisting of:
  - One-over-one double-hung sash, typically ganged
  - Four-light casement sash, ganged
  - Six-light casement sash, paired

(While chimneys are typically a feature that should be preserved, the chimney is not readily visible from Grant Road and appears to be a minor feature in the hierarchy of the building's significant features. It is, however, visible from Miravalle Avenue, a side street.)

## VII. DESIGN REVIEW

The Los Altos Municipal Code defines integrity the authenticity of the character-defining features from which resources derive their significance. Integrity is the composite of seven qualities: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. When definitions for these terms are absent, the National Register definitions are typically employed. National Register Bulletin No. 15 defines the seven qualities a property must retain, in various combinations, to possess integrity; these terms are defined in a footnote to this report.<sup>1</sup>

The basis for the design review is to determine if the proposed project does or does not adversely affect the physical integrity and historic significance of the subject property. The following is an illustrated discussion of the proposed work

---

<sup>1</sup> **Location** is the place where the historic property was constructed or the place where the historic event occurred. Location is important to an understanding of why the property was created or why a historic event occurred, critical to imparting a sense of a historic property's time and place.

**Design** is the combination of elements that create a property's form, plan, space, structure, and style of a property.

**Setting** refers to the physical environment of a historic property, in contrast to location which refers to the specific place a property was built or an event occurred. Setting refers to the character of the place during the property's period(s) of significance. Setting often takes into account the physical conditions under which a property was built and the functions it was intended to serve. The relationship of the historic resource to its surroundings, whether natural or manmade, constitute its setting and include such elements as topographic features, vegetation, manmade site features and relationships between buildings, site features and open space.

**Materials** are the physical elements used to create a historic resource and reveal the information about design intent and period materials and technologies.

**Workmanship** refers to evidence of craftsmanship indicative of period technological practices and aesthetic principles.

**Feeling** is a property's expression of the esthetic or historic sense of a particular period in time. Feeling is a critical concentration of physical features that collectively convey the property's historic character.

**Association** is the intellectual link between an important historic event or person and a historic property. A property retains integrity of association if it is the place where a historically significant event or activity occurred and it remains sufficiently intact to convey that relationship.

EAST/FRONT ELEVATION, FACING GRANT ROAD



*View of the east exterior wall of the house facing northwest. The garage/in-law unit is at the right.*



*View of the garage/in-law unit looking west from Grant Road.*



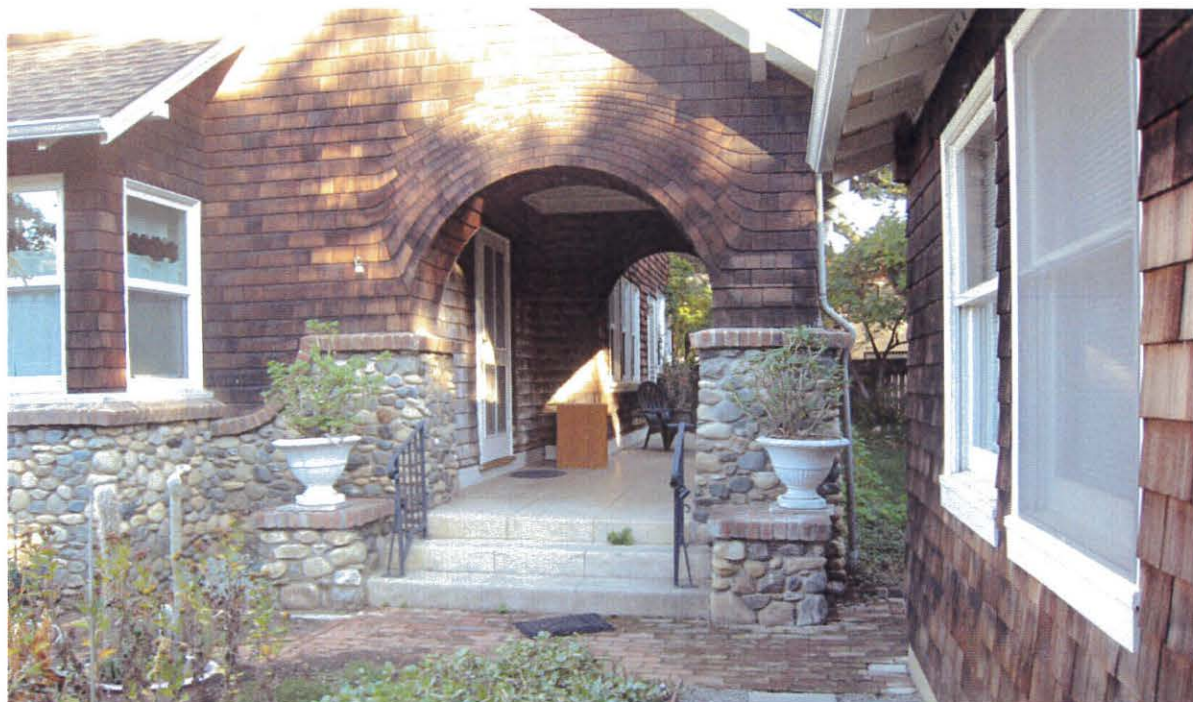
*View of the garage/in-law unit looking west from Grant Road.*



*View of the east/front elevation of the house. Work to the first floor windows is not included in this phase. Work to the second floor windows is discussed below.*



*View of the house at the left and the garage/in-law unit at the right.*



*View of the house at the left and the garage/in-law unit at the right. Note the decorative shingles over the porch arch.*



*View of the brick exterior stair at the south side of the east elevation.*



*Cracks in the stone masonry will remain, but failing mortar in the brick masonry (a very limited amount) and gray Portland cement based mortar may be removed (without damaging the brick) and the brick may be repointed with a mortar that will be softer than the existing and match the existing in color.*



*View of the second floor windows at the east elevation. These windows are wood one-over-one light, double hung sash in good condition. The windows will remain, but they will be re-glazed with laminated glass without a tint.*



*Interior view of the same windows.*

**NORTH/SIDE ELEVATION, FACING GARDEN**



*View of the original wood front door and wood screen door.*



*View from the porch into the side garden.*



*View of the existing patio proposed for removal and replacement with a larger concrete patio. Given that the patio is screened from public view by the side porch, the new patio will not be visible from Grant Road.*



*Photograph of the east garden, near the patio.*



*View of the three windows proposed for replacement with bi-fold doors. The decorative shingles above the windows will be retained.*



*View of the easternmost windows at the second floor. These windows are not original nor are they considered historic. The windows will be replaced with double glazed wood casement sash with applied exterior and interior grids to suggest four lights per leaf. Please see window cut sheets incorporated into the drawings. The drawings show a new window to the right of the above window; it will be similar to the new sash proposed for the above opening, but double hung.*





*View of the existing second floor windows adjacent to the east porch. The windows will be replaced with double glazed wood four-over-four light sash with applied exterior and interior grids to suggest four lights per sash. Please see window cut sheets incorporated into the drawings for section details.*



*The above window is proposed for removal. It faces the east side garden and is not visible from a public right-of-way.*



*Image showing warped casement sash in the western grouping of casement windows at this elevation.*



*The above windows—the westernmost windows in this wall—will be replaced with double-glazed, wood casement sash with interior and exterior grids to suggest the same light configuration as the existing.*

**WEST/REAR ELEVATION**



*View of the west or rear yard.*



*View of the west or rear elevation. Although this elevation is visible from Miravalle Avenue, the owner is proposing to replace all of the second floor windows with double-glazed, wood casement sash with interior and exterior grids to suggest the light configuration of the existing. The 12-light sash shown above is a fixed (inoperable) window; it is proposed for replacement with operable casement windows. The exterior staircase at the right will remain.*

**SOUTH/SIDE ELEVATION, FACING MIRAVALLE AVENUE**



*View of the south exterior wall of the house facing northeast.*



*View of the south exterior wall of the house facing northwest. The chimney is proposed for removal. Because of its location at the crossing of the east gable roof forms, it is visible from Miravalle Avenue, but not readily visible from Grant Road.*



*View of the south and east exterior walls of the house facing northwest. The garage/in-law unit is at the right. The chimney, discussed immediately above, is proposed for removal.*



*View of the window openings in the west exterior wall.*



*This is one of four windows proposed for removal from the first floor during phase 1. (The other three windows are at the north elevation: they are proposed to be replaced with doors.) This window illuminates the laundry room and is largely concealed behind the exterior staircase.*



*These are the westernmost casement sash in the south wall. They will be retained and possibly re-glazed with laminated glass with no tint.*



*The windows at the left are non-historic sash which will be replaced with double-glazed, wood casement sash with interior and exterior grids to suggest the same light configuration as the adjacent historic windows. The small window at the right is the third and final small window proposed for removal.*



*The gable end windows will be re-glazed with laminated glass with no tint.*

**WOOD SHINGLES**



*Detail view of north porch shingles which appear to be sawn redwood. These shingles are probably original to the building.*



*View of wood shingle deterioration due to the loss of lignin, probably caused by ultra-violet light.*



*View of wood shingle damage at the north porch.*



*View of wood shingle damage at the north porch.*



*View of wood shingle damage at the south side of the west wall, between the first and second story windows. Damaged shingles will be replaced with cedar shingles. Less than 10% of the shingles need replacement. Transparent shingles stains will be tested to determine if staining will blend the new with the old; if successful, the new shingles will be stained to blend new shingles with the adjacent old shingles.*

**VI. CONCLUSION**

The above review was conducted to determine if the proposed project does or does not adversely affect the physical integrity and historic significance of the subject property. The following is a summary of the consultant’s findings:

<b>FEATURE/WORK</b>	<b>INTEGRITY/CONDITION</b>	<b>AFFECT ON HISTORIC INTEGRITY AND SIGNIFICANCE</b>
Shingle Repair: Replacement of Damaged Shingles with Cedar Shingles to Match Existing	Most of the shingles are in fair to good condition. An estimated 10% (maximum) are so deteriorated they no longer function to shed water. Damaged shingles will be replaced with new cedar shingles to match the existing. Decorative shingles (those with ornamental butts) will be cut to match the existing. The new shingles may be stained with transparent stain(s) to blend the shingle patches with the surrounding wall surface.	No affect on historic integrity or significance.
Window Re-glazing with Laminated Glass	In two or three locations, the existing float glass will be replaced with clear, laminated	No affect on historic integrity or significance.

	glass to preserve the original/early wood sash and reduce noise at street-facing elevations.	
Window Removal and Replacement with Shingle Wall Surface and Patio Doors	Three small windows, largely closet windows, will be removed and replaced with shingled wall surfaces. One of these windows is at the north elevation and cannot be seen from the street. The remaining two windows are at the south or Miravalle Avenue elevation. Three first floor double hung windows at the patio are proposed to be replaced with doors. Typically greater latitude is afforded to changes that affect elevations that do not face or are visible from a public right-of-way; therefore the removal/replacement of windows at the north elevation has no affect on the building's integrity or significance. The two windows at the south elevation, along with the small window at the north elevation, are the least significant windows in the house; they illuminate service areas. As such, the owner wishes to remove them to accommodate proposed plan changes.	Although two of the small windows proposed for removal are at a street-facing elevation, in the hierarchy of window significance they are at the bottom. The consultant feels the removal of two of the least significant windows from a street elevation has no affect on the historic integrity or significance of the property. The removal of four windows from an elevation that is not visible from a street has no affect on the historic integrity or significance of the property.
Non-Historic Window Removal and Replacement with Compatible Wood Sash		No affect on historic integrity or significance.
Historic Window Removal at North Elevation (not Visible from a Street) and Replacement with Compatible Wood Sash	Some of these windows appear to be in good condition; but at least one is warped and does not close properly.	No affect on historic integrity or significance.
Historic Window Removal at West Elevation (Visible from Miravalle Avenue) and Replacement with Compatible Wood Sash	Most of these windows appear to be in good condition; one window is a large fixed (inoperable) sash. These windows are at second floor of the rear elevation and visible only from a side street.	Except for the fixed sash, the windows are proposed to be replaced with Marvin (or similar) wood windows that match the historic windows in configuration and approximate the dimensions of the historic wood window components. Given these windows are in the rear elevation and given the owner originally wished to use extruded aluminum windows (which differed in

		profile from the historic wood windows), the consultant feels this window replacement has no affect on the historic integrity or significance of the property.
Addition of a Small Window at North Elevation (not Visible from a Street), Using Compatible Wood Sash		No affect on historic integrity or significance.
Paint Colors		The wood door and window frames, doors and sash and roof trim will be painted either: 1) white or 2) two light colors i.e., the frames may be painted one color and the doors and sash another).
Chimney Removal	Condition unknown. As a short brick chimney located at the crossing of the gable roof forms, the chimney is not a dominant exterior feature. It is readily visible only from a side street.	Given the chimney is not one of the most salient exterior features and is only readily visible from Miravalle Avenue, the consultant feels the chimney removal has no affect on the historic integrity or significance of the property.
Patio Window and Patio Slab and Stair Removal and Replacement	Good condition. These elements are not visible from a public right-of-way.	No affect on historic integrity or significance.
Mechanical, Electrical, Plumbing Upgrades	Condition unknown.	A HVAC unit will be installed on a concrete pad near the exterior stair at the south elevation. Although this is a street-facing elevation, existing services enter the building at this location. No affect on historic integrity or significance.

**VII. REFERENCES**

*The Repair of Historic Wooden Windows.*  
<http://www.nps.gov/tps/how-to-preserve/briefs/9-wooden-windows.htm>

*The Repair and Replacement of Historic Wooden Shingle Roofs.*  
<http://www.nps.gov/tps/how-to-preserve/briefs/19-wooden-shingle-roofs.htm>

*Repointing Mortar Joints in Historic Masonry Buildings.*  
<http://www.nps.gov/tps/how-to-preserve/briefs/2-repoint-mortar-joints.htm>

*The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings.*  
<http://www.nps.gov/tps/standards/rehabilitation.htm>



*The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and Illustrated Guidelines on Sustainability for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings.*

<http://www.nps.gov/tps/standards/rehabilitation/guidelines/index.htm>

## VIII. APPENDICES

City of Los Altos. Planning Services. Historic Resources Inventory. DPR 523 Form for 1365 Grant Road (HRI No. 33).

Resume for Jill Johnson, historic preservation consultant.

(Submitted separately and included by reference: Cortez, Ranel. *Reouk Residence*. Eight Sheets, November 16, 2015.)

State of California The Resources Agency  
 DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
**PRIMARY RECORD**

Primary # \_\_\_\_\_  
 HRI # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Trinomial \_\_\_\_\_  
 NRHP Status Code \_\_\_\_\_

Other Listings \_\_\_\_\_  
 Review Code \_\_\_\_\_ Reviewer \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Page 1 of 2 \*Resource Name or #: (Assigned by recorder) 1365 Grant Road

P1. Other Identifier: HRI #: 33

\*P2. Location:  Not for Publication  Unrestricted

\*a. County Santa Clara and (P2c, P2e, and P2b or P2d. Attach a Location Map as necessary )  
 \*b. USGS 7.5' Quad \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ T \_\_\_\_\_ R \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ of Sec \_\_\_\_\_ B.M.  
 c. Address 1365 Grant Road City Los Altos Zip 94024  
 d. UTM: (Give more than one for large and/or linear resources) Zone \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ mE/ \_\_\_\_\_ mN  
 e. Other Locational Data: (e.g., parcel #, directions to resource, elevation, etc., as appropriate)  
197 19 104

\*P3a. Description: (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries)  
 1365 Grant Road is a one and one-half story shingled Craftsman farmhouse with an applied (decorative) stone base (likely applied over the original brick base). The house is generally rectangular in form and features a large front-facing gable with brackets, and smaller gabled dormers at the side elevations. A squared, shed-roof bay projects from the front facade and contains five one-over-one double-hung wood windows. The arched corner entry porch is located to the facade right and elaborated with decorative shingle work. All exterior wall surfaces are clad in unpainted wood shingles. A second entry porch with a projecting gable roof and multi-pane glazed wood entry door is located at the facade left. A set of brick entry stairs with a metal railing lead to this entrance; it is not known if this was part of the original design. A two-story addition attaches to the rear elevation of the original residence and has a c.1960 staircase leading to the second level; metal sliding sash and vinyl sash windows have been added on this elevation. A one-story, rectangular-plan, gable roofed garage sits southwest of the main house.

\*P3b. Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) HP2. Single family property

\*P4. Resources Present:  Building  Structure  Object  Site  District  Element of District  Other (Isolates, etc.)



P5b. Description of Photo:  
Primary Elevation

July 2011

\*P6. Date Constructed/Age and Source:  Historic  Prehistoric  Both

1915  
(Los Altos Planning Dept)

\*P7. Owner and Address:  
Virginia M. & Don M. Holt Trustee  
1365 Grant Road Los Altos, CA  
94024

\*P8. Recorded by:  
Circa: Historic Property Development  
582 Market Street, Suite 1800  
San Francisco, CA 94104

\*P9. Date Recorded: \_\_\_\_\_  
July 2011

\*P10. Survey Type:  
Intensive

\*P11. Report Citation: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Attachments:  NONE  Location Map  Continuation Sheet  Building, Structure, and Object Record  
 Archaeological Record  District Record  Linear Feature Record  Milling Station Record  Rock Art Record  
 Artifact Record  Photograph Record  Other (List): \_\_\_\_\_

State of California The Resources Agency Primary #  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION HRI#  
**BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD**

\*NRHP Status Code CA Reg. 5S1

Page 2 of 2 \*Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) 1365 Grant Road

B1. Historic Name: \_\_\_\_\_

B2. Common Name: \_\_\_\_\_

B3. Original Use: Residential B4. Present Use: Residential

\*B5. Architectural Style: Craftsman

\*B6. Construction History: (Construction date, alterations, and date of alterations)

Built 1915. Repair shingle siding, 1979; garage, 1986; partial re-roof, 1986; reshingle front of residence, 1988; add bathroom behind garage, 1995.

\*B7. Moved?  No  Yes  Unknown Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Original Location: \_\_\_\_\_

\*B8. Related Features:

Detached garage.

B9a. Architect: Unknown b. Builder: Unknown

\*B10. Significance: Theme Architecture/Agriculture Area Los Altos

Period of Significance 1915-1961 (50 year mark) Property Type Residence Applicable Criteria NR/CR/Local

(Discuss importance in terms of historical or architectural context as defined by theme, period, and geographic scope. Also address integrity.)

This Craftsman Bungalow home is an excellent example of the style...This home was located originally in an orchard area and [may have] been associated with [orchards or other] agriculture originally. The original occupants are unknown. (G. Laffey).

Character Defining Features: one-and-a-half-story form; shingle cladding; front-facing gable with brackets; gabled dormers at side elevations; squared, shed-roof bay at front facade with five one-over-one double-hung wood windows; arched corner entry porch elaborated with decorative shingle work. All exterior wall surfaces are clad in unpainted wood shingles.

Evaluation: 1365 Grant Road is a good example of a Craftsman style farmhouse and retains a good degree of integrity of workmanship, design and materials. Therefore, it is listed on the Los Altos Historic Resources Inventory as a Historic Resource and is assigned the California Register Status Code 5S1: "Individual property that is listed or designated locally."

Note: This finding is based on architectural merit alone and further research for association with historically significant events and/or people should be conducted.

B11. Additional Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) \_\_\_\_\_

\*B12. References:

Los Altos Historical Commission: Los Altos HRI (9.28.1997); McAlester, Virginia and Lee. A Field Guide to American Houses. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2002; DPR series forms by G. Laffey (1997); Sanborn Maps; Los Altos HRI (February 2011).

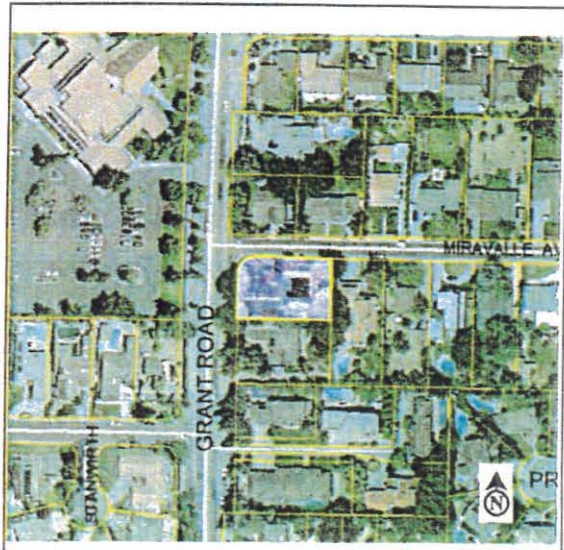
B13. Remarks:

Vicinity map provided by the City of Los Altos and amended by Circa: Historic Property Development.

\*B14. Evaluator: Circa: Historic Property Development

\*Date of Evaluation: July 2011

(This space reserved for official comments.)



**JILL JOHNSON**  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION SERVICES

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510.848.9006 | jill\_r\_johnson@sbcglobal.net

Jill Johnson has over 33 years of experience preparing historical documentation, planning studies, construction documents, condition assessments and maintenance recommendations. Drawing upon her background in architectural history, she brings insight about historic construction techniques and cultural history from this discipline to bear about on her planning and design projects. She meets *The Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards* in historic architecture, architecture and architectural history.

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

Jill Johnson, Historic Preservation Services, Berkeley, California, 2005-Present: Principal  
Architectural Resources Group, San Francisco, California, 1995-2005: Associate/Project Manager  
Gensler & Associates Architects, San Francisco, California, 1994-1995: Job Captain  
Page & Turnbull, Inc., San Francisco, California, 1988-1994: Job Captain  
University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon, 1988: Instructor, Summer Architecture Academy  
Historic American Buildings Survey, National Park Service, Summer 1985  
Historian, Illinois & Michigan Canal Survey  
Historic Preservation Program, Missouri Department of Natural Resources, 1980-84: Architectural  
Historian, Technical Preservation Services Section and Survey and Registration Section  
Landmarks Association of St. Louis, Inc., 1977-79: Researcher, City landmark and National  
Register nominations

**EDUCATION**

Master of Architecture, University of Oregon, 1988  
*Real Estate Law*, Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri, 1979  
Bachelor of Arts, Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri, 1976

**PUBLICATIONS (SELECTED)**

"Seismic Damage Repairs to the Sheraton Palace Hotel following the Loma Prieta Earthquake,"  
David R. Bonneville and Jill Johnson. Reproduced for the Annual Meeting of the Earthquake  
Engineering Research Institute, 1995.  
*An Inventory of Historic Structures Within the Illinois and Michigan Canal National Heritage  
Corridor*. Volume III: Lemont. Unpublished Document in the Library of Congress, 1985.

**PRESENTATIONS (SELECTED)**

*Developing Recommendations for Historic Interiors that are Compatible with Art and Object  
Conservation Recommendations: a Case Study*. Western Association for Art Conservation  
Annual Meeting, Portland, OR, September 19, 2010.  
*Measuring Buildings and Measured Drawings*. Introduction to Historic Preservation in California  
(CP 290C, Department of City and Regional Planning), University of California, Berkeley, April  
16, 2007.  
*Field Work and Measured Drawings*. Introduction to Historic Preservation and Adaptive Reuse in  
the Built Environment (EDES 420, College of Architecture and Environmental Design),  
California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, November 4, 2005.  
*Historic Structure Reports*. East Bay Chapter of the AIA, September 28, 2005.  
Kopelson, Evan, and Johnson, Jill, "Conservation Issues at the Scorpion Ranch House, Santa Cruz  
Island, and the Vail & Vickers Ranch House, Santa Rosa Island: Wood, Metal and Coatings,"  
*California Islands Symposium*, Ventura, 2003.  
*Preserving Rural Landscapes from Sprawl*, Moderator, California Preservation Foundation  
Conference, Berkeley, CA, 1998.

**JILL JOHNSON**

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Bonneville, David, and Johnson, Jill, "Seismic Damage Repairs to the Sheraton Palace Hotel following the Loma Prieta Earthquake," *The Seismic Retrofit of Historic Buildings Conference*, San Francisco, 1991.

**PROJECT EXPERIENCE (SELECTED)**

## DESIGN | CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS | CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATION

John Marsh House, California State Parks, Brentwood, CA: Stabilization Construction Documents and Construction Administration (Two Phases)  
 St. Joseph's Senior and Affordable Housing, Oakland, CA: Masonry Survey and Construction Documents  
 Mt. Diablo State Park, Contra Costa County, CA: Diablo Stoves Conservation  
 Pt. Sur State Historic Park, Big Sur, CA: Masonry Survey and Construction Documents  
 Mission San Jose, Phase III Restoration, Fremont, CA: Design for Reconstruction of Destroyed Portion of Residential and Administrative Adobe Wing  
 Vail & Vickers Ranch House, Scorpion Ranch House and Smugglers Ranch House, Channel Islands National Park: Seismic Strengthening and Rehabilitation  
 South San Francisco City Hall, City of South San Francisco, CA: Seismic Strengthening  
 Garnier Building, Los Encinos State Historic Park, Los Angeles, CA: Earthquake Repairs  
 Sepulveda Adobe, Malibu Creek State Park, Los Angeles, CA: Earthquake Repairs  
 Forest Home Farms, City of San Ramon, CA: Exterior Rehabilitation of David Glass House and Tank House  
 Children's Hospital Oakland Research Institute, Oakland, CA: Construction Documents and Construction Administration for Exterior Repairs  
 Sheraton Palace Hotel, San Francisco, CA: Stone and Terra Cotta Elements and Garden Court; Seismic Upgrade and Rehabilitation Project

## CONDITION ASSESSMENTS

Petaluma Historical Library and Museum, Petaluma, CA: Condition Assessment and Recommendations  
 Astoria Column, Astoria, OR: Condition Assessment and Recommendations  
 Officers' Row and Band Master's House, Camp Reynolds, Angel Island State Park, Marin County, CA: Roofing Evaluation and Recommendations  
 Officers' Row, Camp Reynolds, Angel Island State Park, Marin County, CA: Condition Assessments, Interior Finish Analyses and Recommendations  
 House of Happy Walls, Jack London State Historic Park, Glen Ellen, CA: Second Floor Deck Assessment  
 Carrington Ranch House, Sonoma Coast State Beach, Bodega Bay, CA: Condition Assessment and Recommendations  
 Triton Museum of Art, Santa Clara, CA: Condition Assessment and Recommendations  
 Southern Oregon Historical Society, Medford, OR: Condition Assessment and Recommendations  
 Benicia Capitol State Historic Park, Benicia, CA: Condition Assessment and Recommendations  
 Kenney Cottage, Berkeley, CA: Building Assessment, Recommendations and Cost Estimate  
 Swedenborgian Church, San Francisco, CA: Existing Condition Study and Recommendations  
 Children's Hospital Oakland Research Institute, Oakland, CA: Roof Investigation and Recommendations

## HISTORIC STRUCTURE REPORTS

Hilgard Hall, University of California, Berkeley, CA: Historic Structure Report (with Knapp Architects)  
 House of Happy Walls, Jack London State Historic Park, Glen Ellen, CA: Historic Structure Report  
 Empire Clubhouse, Empire Mine State Historic Park, Grass Valley, CA: Historic Structure Report

**JILL JOHNSON**

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William Randolph Hearst Greek Theatre, University of California, Berkeley, CA: Historic Structure Report (with Knapp Architects)  
 Durant Hall, University of California, Berkeley, CA: Historic Structure Report (with Knapp Architects)  
 John Marsh House, California State Parks, Brentwood, CA: Historic Structure Report (2002) and Amendment (2011)  
 Scorpion Ranch House, Channel Islands National Park, CA: Historic Structures Report  
 Smugglers Ranch House, Channel Islands National Park, CA: Historic Structures Report  
 Vail & Vickers Ranch House, Channel Islands National Park, CA: Historic Structures Report

**MASTER PLANS**

Forest Home Farms, City of San Ramon, CA: Master Plan  
 Sanchez Adobe Historical Site, Pacifica, CA: Master Plan

**STATE PARK GENERAL PLANS**

Marsh Creek State Park General Plan, Brentwood, CA

**PEER REVIEWS**

Fox Theater Rehabilitation, Oakland, CA

**MAINTENANCE MANUALS**

Petaluma Historical Library and Museum, Petaluma, CA: Maintenance Manual  
 Presidio of San Francisco (Phase Two) and Presidio of Monterey, CA: Maintenance Manuals

**FEDERAL TAX INCENTIVES | CEQA | SECTION 106 CONSULTING**

Buildings 1-3, USGS, Menlo Park, CA: Determination of Eligibility for the National Register  
 Battery Townsley, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Marin County, CA: Section 106 Review and Report  
 General Plan Update and M2 Area Plan Update, City of Menlo Park, CA: Report Prepared as Part of Environmental Review Process  
 Housing Element and General Plan Updates and Zoning Ordinance Amendments, City of Menlo Park, CA: Report Prepared as Part of Environmental Review Process  
 Haviland Hall, University of California, Berkeley: Recommendations  
 Terraces of Lafayette, Lafayette: Report Prepared as Part of Environmental Review Process  
 227 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 25 16th Avenue, 25-35 Dolores Street, 111 Townsend Street and 231 Franklin Street, San Francisco, CA: Historic Resource Evaluations  
 4050 Horton Street, Emeryville: Report Prepared as Part of Environmental Review Process  
 Camp 1 Dining Hall, Mendocino Woodlands, Mendocino, CA: Section 106 Report and Public Consultation  
 Highland Hospital, Oakland, CA: Environmental Impact Report  
 El Nido, San Ramon, CA: CEQA Consultation  
 Dana Adobe, Nipomo, CA: CEQA Evaluation and Report  
 Children's Hospital Research Institute, Oakland, CA: Historic Preservation Design Consultant, Historic Preservation Certification Application  
 San Francisco Opera House, San Francisco, CA: State Historic Preservation Office Representative for Section 106 Review  
 FEMA Technical Assistance Contractor, Nisqually Earthquake, Olympia, WA: Provided technical assistance regarding earthquake damaged historic buildings.

**NOMINATIONS TO THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

St. Joseph's Home for the Aged, Oakland, CA

**JILL JOHNSON**

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Pier One, San Francisco, CA  
Forest Home Farms, San Ramon, CA

**HABS | HALS**

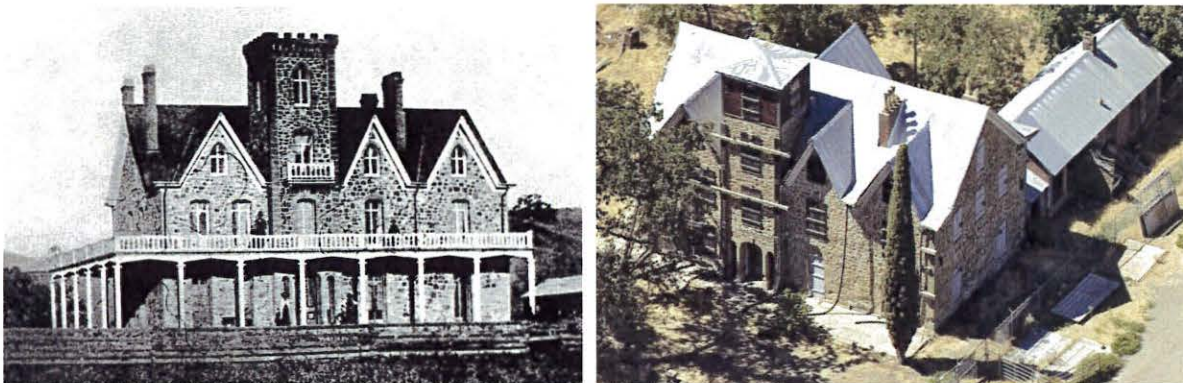
John Marsh House, California State Parks, Brentwood, CA: HABS  
Kenney Cottage, Berkeley, CA: HABS  
Mission Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, CA: HALS

**HISTORIC AND PHOTOGRAPHIC RESEARCH**

50 United Nations Plaza, San Francisco, CA: Research for Historical Exhibit

**ANTIQUÉ FURNITURE, FURNISHINGS AND FINE ART CONSULTING**

Enid Dillon Estate, San Francisco, CA



View of the house between 1856-1868 (left). View of the house c. 2005 (right).



View of a portion of the west wall before and after reconstruction in 2004 as part of the Emergency Stabilization Projects (left). View of the south wall, after selective demolition to remove piles of building materials and debris (center right). (The south wall collapsed in 1977.) View of the south wall with stucco cladding, 2010 (right). The stucco will be replaced by stone, attached to newly-installed steel stud framing, in the future.

### **JOHN MARSH HOUSE, MARSH CREEK STATE PARK, BRENTWOOD CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS / JOHN MARSH HISTORIC TRUST**

Completed in 1856, the massive sandstone and brick Gothic villa style house was built for John Marsh, one of the first Anglos to settle on the California frontier during the mid-1830s. Because of poor original roof details, poor quality sandstone, and almost 120 years of absentee ownership, the building fell into disrepair during the late 1880s, culminating in the collapse of the south wall in 1977 and subsequent localized collapses.

Before starting her own business, Jill Johnson served as project manager for the preparation of a conceptual design for stabilization of the house (1999); a Historic Structure Report, including Historic American Building Survey drawings (2002); and two phases of emergency repairs (2003-2005). She served as project architect for the partial stabilization of the building (2011) and was the primary author of a Historic Structure Report Amendment (2010). She is currently serving as project architect for completion of the building's stabilization.

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View of the Carrington Ranch House (left) and Officers Row (right).



View of the Fisher-Hanlon House (left) and the Benicia State Capitol (right).

**CONDITIONS ASSESSMENTS, CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

**HISTORIC BUILDING CONDITION ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TREATMENT, CARRINGTON RANCH HOUSE AND TANK HOUSE, SONOMA COAST STATE BEACH**

The purpose of this study was to document the condition of the c. 1862 house and later tank house, identify significant character-giving features of the buildings and develop scopes of work and cost estimates for the stabilization, rehabilitation and restoration of the buildings. The report includes a construction chronology and drawings of significant architectural and structural details.

**ARCHITECTURAL ASSESSMENT OF THE HISTORIC BUILDINGS OF THE BENICIA CAPITOL STATE HISTORIC PARK**

The recommendations contained in this report encompass maintenance work and capital improvements for five historic buildings at the Benicia Capitol State Historic Park, including the 1852 Old Capitol Building and the 1850s Fischer-Hanlon House.

**DOCUMENTATION, EVALUATION, AND CONDITION ASSESSMENT OF INTERIORS AT CAMP REYNOLDS OFFICERS ROW, ANGEL ISLAND STATE PARK**

This study concerns the single-family dwellings and duplexes that comprise Officers Row at Camp Reynolds, Angel Island State Park. The scope of work included an investigation of 21 rooms in six of the seven Officers Row dwellings, identification of the finishes and features for each period in the evolution of the 21 rooms, a determination of the relative significance of finishes and elements, recommendations to stabilize the interiors, recommendations for the long-term maintenance of the buildings, development of treatment strategies for restoration of the interiors and associated cost estimates for budgeting purposes, and preparation of guidelines and management objectives for the interiors as part of a leasing process. In a later project, Ms. Johnson undertook a condition assessment of the buildings' roofs and prepared roofing recommendations. The findings were published in *Roof Investigation and Recommendations, Officers Row and the Band Master's House, Camp Reynolds, Angel Island State Park*.

*The above work was undertaken by Jill Johnson, Historic Preservation Services.*

**JILL JOHNSON**  
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*View of St. Patrick's Seminary, evaluated for the Menlo Park environmental assessment.*



*View looking down the asphalt-clad rosary walk at the Corpus Christi Monastery, evaluated for the Menlo Park environmental assessment (left). The building at the right above is single wall construction house, probably dating to the 1850s or early 1860s, on the monastery grounds. This building, which dates to the founding of Menlo Park, was not documented prior to this environmental assessment.*

## **ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS FOR PROPERTIES IN SAN FRANCISCO, EMERYVILLE, LAFAYETTE AND MENLO PARK**

Jill Johnson completed environmental review reports pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act for 227 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 25 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 25-35 Dolores Street, 111 Townsend Street and 231 Franklin Street in San Francisco; 4050 Horton Street in Emeryville and the Terraces of Lafayette development in Lafayette. The environmental assessment prepared for the City of Menlo Park addressed properties throughout the City, informing updates to the City's housing element update and amendments to the zoning ordinance. The Menlo Park assessment concerned 14 scattered sites with existing structures, numerous infill sites throughout the downtown and potential second units on every single-family parcel in the City. She is currently working on an update to Menlo Park's general plan.

For the projects enumerated above, she conducted research, evaluated and identified potential architecturally and historically significant resources and documented her findings, interpreting the criteria of the California Register of Historical Resources and the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards for Rehabilitation*. These projects entailed completion of a variety of forms for the subject sites—typically with multiple buildings and multiple building types, including the City of San Francisco's Historic Resource Evaluations and DPR 523a and b forms.

*Jill Johnson, Historic Preservation Services, served as a sub-consultant on the above projects.*

**JILL JOHNSON**  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION SERVICES

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*View of the 1926 the 1956 buildings above and the 1920s portion of the historic Highland Hospital campus below.*

## **HIGHLAND HOSPITAL ACUTE CARE REPLACEMENT FACILITY ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT, ALAMEDA COUNTY**

The Alameda County Medical Center, also known as Highland Hospital, occupies the entire city block in Oakland, California, bounded by East 31<sup>st</sup> Street on the north, 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue on the east and south and Vallecito Place on the west. The original hospital complex of 14 detached structures linked by a network of three-story corridors was completed in 1926. The Clinic Building and Auditorium were built at the northwest corner of the site in 1956. The Acute Care Tower and a two-level parking garage were built in 1969 and the Koret Foundation Critical Care and Clinical Center with attached parking structure was built in 2004

The historic hospital complex was built using a pavilion plan, commonly used in the United States before World War II. Based on early 20<sup>th</sup> century theories about the transmission of disease by miasma, or vapors, patients were dispersed in separate buildings to maximize exposure to fresh air and sunlight, thereby reducing the risk of air-borne disease. Post-war medical breakthroughs in the causes of disease disproved early miasma theories and allowed American hospital plans to become centralized, consolidating patients and functions in high-rise structures to enhance efficiency.

Not uncharacteristic of mainstream institutional architecture of the period, hospital architect Henry H. Meyers combined elements of Beaux-Arts classicism with Spanish Colonial Revival in designing the earliest remaining hospital buildings. Corlett & Anderson’s 1950s Clinic Building and Auditorium typify mid-century, institutional modernism.

Jill Johnson served as the architectural historian for environmental impact report, consulting to a local architectural firm. She conducted architectural and historical research concerning the facility, surveyed the complex to determine the extent of remaining physical fabric and changes that have occurred over time, and prepared portions of the report narrative.

**JILL JOHNSON**  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION SERVICES

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## President's Pen

Where were you on October 17, 1989? Perhaps you were settling in with friends to watch game 3 of the "Battle of the Bay" World Series. Perhaps you were driving home from work or, like me, still at work. I was in a meeting and at first, we were blasé. After all, it's the Bay Area, there are earthquakes. But as the clock ticked and the shaking continued we all got up and stood in doorways, looking at each other, unsure what to do.



Our community reacted quickly, assessing damage and helping those in need. In the next months, as things returned to normal, there was lots of information about what to have on hand and how to stay prepared. But that was 30 years ago and I have to admit that I've again grown blasé about being prepared.

That's why I'm so excited about our newly opened exhibit, *Our Community Prepares*. We're not only looking back at how the community has been affected by previous acts of nature, we're focusing on how to ensure you and your family remain safe no matter what mother nature sends our way.

If you attended our opening you would have seen historic fire trucks and rescue vehicles and had the opportunity to speak with our community's first responders. We have also had programs about water safety, being prepared to take care of your pet in an emergency, and how to stay safe during the holidays. If you weren't around in 1989, or if you just want a thrill, join us January 11 to take a ride on an earthquake simulator.

It's hard to believe that it's been 30 years since the Loma Prieta earthquake. We hope our exhibit inspires you to take steps to prepare for any emergency. It allows us to gather stories about recent history. We are always actively working to preserve our unfolding history. Please come see the exhibits, shop at the store, and attend an event.

I look forward to seeing you at the Museum!

~ Julia Lovin

## Staff

- Dr. Elisabeth Ward, *Executive Director*
- Dr. Amy Noel Ellison, *Exhibition Curator*
- Diane Holcomb, *Outreach Coordinator*
- Dianne Shen, *Collections Strategist*
- Mark Perry, *Facility & Rentals Manager*
- Faustino Carrillo, *Gardener*

**LOS ALTOS HISTORY MUSEUM**  
**"UNDER THE OAKS"**

Gary Hedden, *Editor*    Judi Eichler, *Graphic Design*

A publication of interest to citizens of Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, and neighboring communities, produced by the Association of the Los Altos Historical Museum.  
 A special thanks to the newsletter mailing team!

## History in the News

An important priority for the Los Altos Historical Commission is preservation of our historical treasures. The effort to save the Halsey House in Redwood Grove Nature Preserve took a step forward in October with a draft report finding historical significance due to association with the Halsey family, early Los Altos residents, and as a good example of the Spanish Revival style of architecture. Designated a local historic resource and City Landmark in 1981, the house functioned as a nature center for many years, serving summer camps and school groups. It was also used as a community meeting center. Allowed to fall into disrepair, the City closed the house to public use in 2008. Lacey Bubnash with the Architectural Resources Group, author of the report, told the Commissioners that the first task should be protecting the house from further deterioration. After that, she explained, the next steps and costs depend on the future use. The Commissioners discussed options, including adaptive restoration in partnership with the Parks Commission.



Divya and Daniil Reouk, two weeks after moving into their newly restored home, Oct. 2019.

Very good news on the Craftsman-era house at 1365 Grant Ave. Built by Oliver Holt in 1913, the house reflects the Craftsman style of the early 20th century with a gable roof, exposed rafters and eaves, wood shingles and brick and river rock foundation. Sold by the Holt family in 2015, the current owners, Daniil and Divya Reouk, worked with the Historical Commission and the City to complete a beautiful restoration that retains the exterior character while updating the interior to modern standards. The attention to detail included saving the cobblestones and reapplying them to a brick foundation, now supported by concrete and steel. They even matched the yellow color of the original grout. The project took over three years, but the Reouk family is proud of their accomplishment. We, and generations to come, thank them for their determined and thoughtful generosity.

~ Gary Hedden

April 13, 2021

Honored Historical Commissioners,

We are excited about the nomination of our house renovation project at 1365 Grant Road for the 2021 Historic Preservation Award. We moved into our house in late 2019 after a 4-year renovation journey. We fell in love with the house the moment that we saw it, as we could see that it was a 'diamond in the rough'. We could see that with proper restoration efforts the house could come back to its former glory and be a beautiful reminder of Los Altos history to all the passersby on Grant Road. The main renovation project included putting in a concrete foundation in place of the old brick, which was a one of a kind engineering feat, given all the complexities involved with preservation of the stone veneer and brick stairs attached to the house. But more visible improvement to the house included power washing and re-staining its wood shingles, which changed the color of the house from black to its natural wood color, as well as repainting windows and eaves in its original white color. A lot of people who just walk by on Grant Road or Miravalle Avenue tell us what a beautiful job we did with restoring our house and how happy they are to see that something was finally done to it. We are happy to live in a house that represents Los Altos history and will do our best to preserve its legacy for future generations.

*Daniil Reouk*

*DJR*  
Daniil and Divya Reouk