

Historic Resources Board, City Staff
1222 First Avenue
MS 501
San Diego, CA 92101

RE: Item #4 Dr Paul Libby-Lloyd Ruocco House

City Staff and Historic Resources Board,

I am writing today in support of the HRB staff recommendation to designate the Dr. Paul Libby House under Criteria B and C. However, I disagree with the assertion made in the City Staff Report that, *"Since Ruocco's name and initials do not appear on the original plans as the draftsman, the resource cannot be directly attributed to Ruocco"*. This project is without question the work of Master Architect, Lloyd Ruocco.

The City Staff report claims that Ruocco's name does not appear on the original plans or permits. That statement is false. The original plans include Lloyd Ruocco's title block. Further, the original building permit includes "L. Ruocco" beside the word "Architect". These two facts alone confirm Ruocco as the architect of record. Fred Meyer's name appears in parenthesis after Ruocco's name as he was the person who pulled the original permit. His initials also appear in a box within the title block under "Drawn By". This is common practice at many architecture firms. It is in fact unusual for the project's principal designer to draw their own plans or pull their own permits unless it is a small office or sole proprietor.

I had the privilege of working with Paul Libby during his time at UC San Diego. Paul volunteered his time to serve on UC San Diego's Campus & Community Planning Committee. He also briefly served on the Design Review Board as a faculty representative. He sought out Ruocco as designer of his own home because of their shared interest in the transformative effect of good design. Paul was kind enough to show me the house and share his stories of working with Ruocco. I have known Fred Meyer for over 20 years and have spent hours discussing his work for Lloyd Ruocco and the construction of the Libby home in particular. Both credited Ruocco with the design of this home.

Criterion D requires more than establishing that a master architect designed the home. Supporting information and documentation should be included to support the designation under D and place the subject property contextually within the master's career but there should be no question as to who designed this house.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd Pitman", enclosed within a hand-drawn oval. The signature is stylized and somewhat cursive.

Todd Pitman ASLA

Landscape Architect & Planner

Lloyd Ruocco Archive