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From: Jacque Lynn Foltyn, PhD

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Contributor: The Arnold and Choate's Addition - Florence Heights Historic District

To the Members of the Historical Resources Board

I live in North Mission Hills and enthusiastically support the nomination of The Arnold and Choate's Addition - Florence Heights Historic District to the National Register of Historic Places and this be supported by the Historical Resources Board. My house at 1115 West Montecito Way, San Diego, California, is a contributor to the district and was built by George A Huerman in 1914. I bought the house in 1993 with my first book advance and chose the house and the street on which it is situated because I was absolutely charmed by the history, architectures, and beauty of the neighborhood, as well as by the love and care that had gone into the Arts & Crafts design and building of my house. The district has a remarkably high degree of integrity; is a strong expression of how early suburban expansion was directly facilitated by the use of electric streetcar as a primary mode of transportation; has an excellent intact concentration of early twentieth century architectural styles, expressed in the form of single-family residential buildings along with grand homes, and augmented by multi-family residential buildings, churches, retail buildings, and more.

The district is lovely! It is pedestrian friendly and is lined with towering Queen Palms and a variety of long established towering trees such as cypress, pepper, jacaranda, magnolia, and willow, and magnificent azalea and camellia shrubs and bougainvillea, and trumpet vines. The district's residential, commercial, and institutional buildings, along with landmarks such as the Francis Parker School, tell the story of our community's history over time. It's a walking district with a village-like atmosphere. Residents know each other, treasure the neighborhood's history, and beautifully maintain their houses and the integrity of the architecture.

As a resident and property owner within The Arnold and Choate's Addition - Florence Heights Historic District, I know that inclusion of this new district on the National Register is critical to preserving the character, cultural heritage, architectural significance, and rich history of our neighborhood for future generations. Preserving the district not only safeguards its buildings, it safeguards memories, traditions, and a way of life. I belong to Mission Hills Heritage and am a Professor of Sociology. For several years, I volunteered to head its Oral History Project, the purpose of which is to preserve the cultural, architectural, and personal memories of the neighborhood. What stories we have within the district, from Charles Lindbergh renting a house (a block from my own) as he trained for his transcontinental flight, to being on the path of San Diego's annual marathon run.

The Arnold and Choate's Addition - Florence Heights Historic District is a treasure to be preserved for the following reasons:

--It is a historical location, an early 20th century suburban expansion above San Diego's historic Old Town and Presidio, site of the first California Mission.

--It is a treasure trove of architecture diversity, a mixture of Craftsman, Prairie, American Four Square Classic, Spanish Colonial Revival, Colonial Revival, Mediterranean Revival, Italianate and Renaissance Revival, Puebla, and Tudor Revival styles, reflecting not only rich architectural diversity but the ethnic diversity of California, indeed of the USA.

-- The new district is historically significant in terms of houses designed by nationally and internationally known architects such as William Templeton Johnson (1877-1957) master architect designer builder of magnificent homes and public buildings in Mission Hills, Coronado, and La Jolla, and Nathan Rigdon, along with half a dozen other master builders.

-- The botanist, horticulturalist, landscape architect Kate Sessions (1857-1940), the "Mother of Balboa Park," lived in a couple houses in the proposed new district and founded her famous nursery here in 1910, the oldest nursery in San Diego. Sessions co-founded the San Diego Floral Association in 1907, which is now the oldest garden club in Southern California.

-- The historically significant Francis Parker School is in the district. What a beauty it is, designed by William Templeton Johnson.

-- The new district is part of a neighborhood committed to historic preservation. People buy homes in this neighborhood because of its charm, aesthetics, and history, and take great pride in the care of their historic homes.

--Preserving the buildings of the The Arnold and Choate's Addition - Florence Heights Historic District is an exercise in sustainability. The houses were built to last and last they have!

I ask that the Historical Resources Board recognize the importance of this nomination and support the inclusion of The Arnold and Choate's Addition - Florence Heights Historic District on the National Register of Historic Places. May we work together to honor our history, preserve legacies, and uphold the future integrity and spirit of our community.

We are proud of our community and the new proposed district and thank you so much for appreciation our efforts.

Sincerely,

Jacque Lynn Foltyn, PhD

Owner/Resident

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