Scott A. Moomjian Attorney at Law 5173 Waring Road, #145 San Diego, California 92120 Telephone (619) 230-1770 Facsimile (619) 785-3340 smoomjian68@yahoo.com

#### April 16, 2024

Mr. Tim Hutter, Chair & City of San Diego, Historical Resources Board (HRB) Members 1222 First Avenue, Fifth Floor San Diego, CA 92101

### <u>Re: Draft "Arnold and Choate's Addition-North Florence Heights Historic District</u>" <u>National Register Nomination; 4128 Ibis Street, San Diego, California (District</u> <u>Resource #108); HRB Agenda For April 25, 2024 (Item-2)</u>

Dear Chair Hutter & HRB Members:

I represent David and Sarah Potter, owners of the 4128 Ibis Street property ("Property") with regard to the above-referenced Draft "Arnold and Choate's Addition-North Florence Heights Historic District" National Register Nomination.

As detailed in my attached letter to the Office of Historic Preservation/State Historical Resources Commission, we believe that the Property should be reclassified as a "Contributor" to the Historic District.

It is important to understand that the Property was included in the *Uptown Community Plan Area, Historic Resources Survey Report.* This Survey was *adopted by the City* in November 2016 and specifically identified the Property as a "Minimally Altered" Craftsman bungalow that was a "*Contributor*" to a future "Arnold And Choate's Historic District."

In addition, most changes to the Property occurred a long time ago. They are minor in nature, and do not adversely impact original integrity. As discussed in the HRB Staff Report for the Item, contributing resources are those that are unaltered, or have "some alterations that are minor and do not compromise original design intent." Alterations to district contributors "do not significantly impair integrity and include minor alterations such as window replacements in original openings...."<sup>1</sup> The Property is exactly in this class of resources.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> City of San Diego, Report To The Historical Resources Board, *Arnold and Choate's Addition-North Florence Heights Historic District National Register Nomination*, Report Number HRB-24-016, April 11, 2024, p.7.

On behalf of the Potter family, we request that you concur with our request for reclassification and urge the State Historical Resources Commission to act accordingly.

Sincerely,

d. Mro .... Scott A. Moomjian

Attorney at Law

Scott A. Moomjian Attorney at Law 5173 Waring Road, #145 San Diego, California 92120 Telephone (619) 230-1770 Facsimile (619) 785-3340 smoomjian68@yahoo.com

### April 15, 2024

Ms. Julianne Polanco, State Historic Preservation Officer Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) State Historical Resources Commission (SHRC) 1725 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, Suite 100 Sacramento, CA 95816-7100

## Re: <u>Draft "Arnold and Choate's Addition-North Florence Heights Historic District</u>" <u>National Register Nomination; SHRC Agenda For May 3, 2024; 4128 Ibis Street, San</u> <u>Diego, California (District Resource #108)</u>

Dear Ms. Polanco, Chair Brandes & State Historical Resources Commissioners:

I represent David and Sarah Potter, owners of the property located at 4128 Ibis Street, San Diego, California, Assessor's Parcel Number 444-382-12-00 ("Property"). This property corresponds to the Draft Arnold and Choate's Addition-North Florence Heights National Register Historic District ("District") Nomination, Resource Number 108 (*See Attachment #1*).

While my clients are strongly in favor of the establishment of the District, they disagree with the survey assessment that the Property is a "Non-Contributor" to the significance of the District. To the contrary, based upon the information and documentation herein presented, we respectfully request that the SHRC (1) formally determine the Property to be a "Contributor" to the District; (2) amend that Draft Nomination to reflect such reclassification, and (3) forward the amended Nomination to the Keeper for inclusion within the National Register of Historic Places.

Historical research indicates that the Property was constructed as a one-story, Craftsman style, single-family residence for original owner/builder, J.S. Graves in 1920 (*See Attachment #2*). Graves is known to have been an active builder within the Mission Hills community during this period. The 1920 date of construction is also supported by the Residential Building Record. Modifications made to the structure over the years include the replacement of some windows and the front entry door, as well as the introduction of metal porch railings along the main (east) elevation. In addition, while the exterior is largely composed of original stucco, a section of non-original horizontal siding exists along the northeast elevation. Review of the Residential Building Building Record indicates that the home featured a stucco exterior with wood clapboard siding

Ms. Julianne Polanco, OHP April 15, 2024

Page Two

"*on the front only.*" (Italics added). Because this observation was made in 1956 (the first year the Property was assessed), and the Record notes that a "Remodel" occurred in 1950, it is believed that the wood siding was added to the Property at this time as part of the remodeling effort (*See Attachment #3*).

It is important to note that in November 2016, the Property was included as part of the *Uptown Community Plan Area, Historic Resources Survey Report* as a "Minimally Altered" Craftsman bungalow which was a "Contributor" to a future "Arnold And Choate's Historic District," and therefore, eligible for local historical designation (*See Attachment #4*). However, despite this determination, the National Register District survey inexplicably and curiously reaches a different conclusion. While the Nomination identifies changes to the Property, including "primary door replaced, railings added/replaced, some windows replaced, and wall cladding replaced," our review of the Nomination has identified many other properties which have been determined to be contributors to the District with similar changes to primary doors, railings, and windows.<sup>1</sup>

Thus, it appears that the only plausible explanation as to why the Property was not classified as a Contributor to the National Register District must be based upon the belief that the introduction of non-original wood cladding which replaced stucco along the northeast elevation, resulted in a substantial, adverse impact to the home's original integrity.

In an effort to determine whether original construction material presently exists underneath the wood clapboard, an experienced stucco contractor was retained. According to Mr. Paul Burgio (President of Burgio Stucco), there exists intact, minimally damaged, and "rather smooth stucco" underneath the wood clapboard along the northeast elevation. The presence of the stucco is evidenced by Mr. Burgio's letter and accompanying photographs (*See Attachment #5*). Moreover, in Mr. Burgio's professional opinion, "the stucco underneath the clapboard is original, and that the wood siding was added in later years as a way to defer maintenance, and/or change the appearance of the home...." As a result, since the wood clapboard merely obscures the underlying historic stucco material, a condition which the property owners intend to soon remedy through restoration efforts, we submit that the Property has a high degree of original integrity and must be reclassified as a resource which contributes to the significance of the District.

In conclusion, on behalf of the Potter family, we thank you for consideration of our request and look forward to a proper determination of District inclusion.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> A cursory review of the Nomination, for example, reveals several examples of other properties deemed to be "Contributors" with these same changes, including but not limited to, homes located at 1212 West Arbor Drive (Resource #5); 1225 West Arbor Drive (Resource #8); 905 Barr Avenue (Resource #10); 4074 Eagle Street (Resource #15); and 4094 Eagle Street (Resource #20).

Ms. Julianne Polanco, OHP April 15, 2024

Page Three

Respectfully Submitted,

hotel .M 20 Scott A. Moomjian

Attorney at Law

# Attachment #1

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service / National Register of Historic Places Registration Form NPS Form 10-900 OMB Control No. 1024-0018

Arnold and Choate's Addition-North Florence Heights Historic District San Diego, CA County and State Name of Property A one-story single-family residence in a vernacular idiom. It has an irregular plan and its cladding is wood shingles. Details include a projecting porch. The roof is side gabled and hipped with open eaves, surfaced with composition shingle. Related features include ancillary building(s) and a carport. Alterations: rear addition, some windows replaced, and carport added. 4125-4129 Ibis Street APN: 4443950300 107 Contributor 1926 Builder: G.F. Stone A one-and-a-half story multiple-family residence (triplex) in the Spanish Colonial Revival style. It has an irregular plan and its cladding is textured stucco. Details include applied decoration, arch(es), and a stoop. The roof is cross gabled and flat with clay tile coping, a flat parapet, and vents, surfaced with clay tile and a material not visible. Related features include an attached garage. Alterations: restuccoed (compatible). 108. 4128 Ibis Street APN: 4443821200 1920 Non-contributor Builder: J.S. Graves A one-story single-family residence in the Craftsman style. It has an irregular plan and its cladding is wood vertical board and engineered wood siding. Details include a recessed porch.

The roof is front gabled with open eaves, exposed rafter tails, exposed purlins, and decorative vents, surfaced with composition shingle. Related features include a detached garage. Alterations: primary door replaced, railings added/replaced, some windows replaced, and wall cladding replaced.

109. 4135 Ibis Street

APN: 4443950200

APN: 4443950200

A one-story single-family residence (now a duplex) in the Craftsman style. It has an irregular plan and its cladding is wood shingles. Details include decorative wood elements and a projecting porch. The roof is front gabled with bargeboards, brackets, decorative vents, and exposed rafter tails, surfaced with composition shingle. Related features include an attached garage. Alterations: side addition, rear addition, and conversion of single-family to multi-family.

110. 4136 Ibis Street

APN: 4443821300

Non-contributor c. 1914

1914

Contributor

A two-story single-family residence with no identifiable architectural style. It has an irregular plan and its cladding is smooth stucco and stacked stone. Details include a stoop. The roof is hipped and pent with open eaves and exposed rafter tails, surfaced with composition shingle. Related features include an attached garage. Alterations: completely altered.

Section 7 page 35

# PERMITS ARE ISSUED FOR NEW COTTAGES

Among permits issued by the city building department yesterday afternoon was one to Nat Sebastian for a flat building and garage at 3611 Park Row. La Jolla, to cost \$15,000.

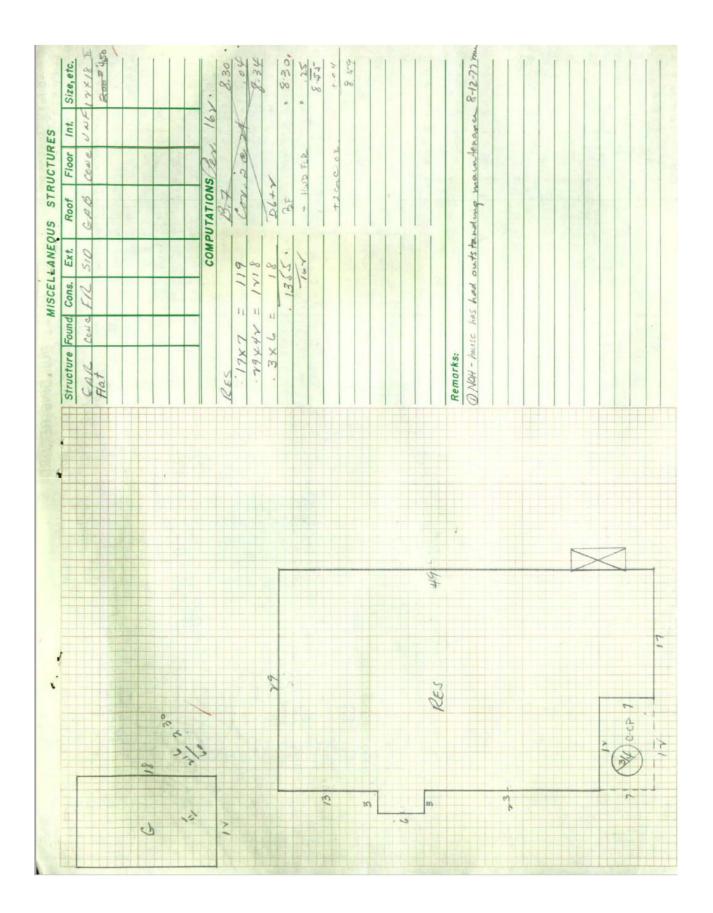
Other permits were issued yesterday and this morning as follows:

To N. Z. Thornhill for M. Lainson 5-room cottage at 3776 Fioneer place rooms at 3766 Kite, to cost \$5000; 1 rooms at 3766Kite, to cost \$5000: Calloway. W. J. rooms 3 nt. Lincoln, to cost \$3500; to Charlotte Orr. 6 roms at 1349 Park Row. \$2500: to J. C. Fraas, 5 rooms cost at 4073 Hhirtieth, to cost \$4500; to J. S. Graves, 5 rooms at 4128 Ibis, to cost \$5000.

> San Diego Evening Tribune September 16, 1920

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## Attachment #3



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Attachment #4

## Uptown Community Plan Area

## **Historic Resources Survey Report**



Prepared by City of San Diego Planning Department

> Final Document November 2016

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APN		DIR	STREET	STATUS	ARCHITECTURAL	DESCRIPTION	DATI
				CODE	STYLE		
44331036			Hunter St	7 <b>R</b>			c.198
44331005			Hunter St	5D3	Prairie	Minimally Altered	192
44438309			Ibis St	5D3	Craftsman Bungalow	Minimally Altered	191
44438310			Ibis St	7 <b>R</b>	Craftsman Bungalow	Heavily Altered	191
44438311			Ibis St	5D3	Craftsman Bungalow	Minimally Altered	191
44438312	4086		Ibis St	5D3	Craftsman Bungalow	Minimally Altered	191
44438313	4096		Ibis St	7 <b>R</b>	Craftsman Bungalow	Heavily Altered	c.191
44438209	4102		Ibis St	5D3	Victorian Vernacular	Minimally Altered	c.190
44439505	4109		Ibis St	5D3	Spanish Colonial Revival	Unaltered	192
44438210	4114		Ibis St	5D3	Craftsman Bungalow	Minimally Altered	191
44439504	4117		Ibis St	5D3	Spanish Colonial Revival	Minimally Altered	192
44438211	4124		Ibis St	5D3	Craftsman Bungalow	Heavily Altered	191
44439503	4125		Ibis St	5D3	Spanish Colonial Revival	Minimally Altered	c.193
44438212	4128		Ibis St	5D3	Craftsman Bungalow	Minimally Altered	192
44439502			Ibis St	5D3	Craftsman Bungalow	Minimally Altered	191
44438213			Ibis St	7 <b>R</b>	No Longer Apparent	Altered Beyond Recognition	191
4443821402	4144		Ibis St	5D3	Craftsman Bungalow	Minimally Altered	192
44439501	4145		Ibis St	5D3	Craftsman Bungalow	Minimally Altered	191
44439108			Ibis St	5D3	Craftsman Bungalow	Minimally Altered	191
44439109			Ibis St	5D3	Craftsman Bungalow w/Classical elements	Minimally Altered	c.191
44439202	4171		Ibis St	5D3	Craftsman/Swiss Chalet Bungalow	Minimally Altered	191
44439113	4176		Ibis St	5D3	Queen Anne Free Classic/Contemporary	Minimally Altered	c.190
44439201	4179		Ibis St	7R	Ranch	Heavily Altered	196
44426409			Ibis St	7 <b>R</b>	Ranch	Minimally Altered	195
44426309	4227		Ibis St	5D3	Craftsman Bungalow	Minimally Altered	191
44426410			Ibis St	5D3	Craftsman Bungalow	Unaltered	192
44426310			Ibis St	7R	No Longer Apparent	Altered Beyond Recognition	195
44426412	4236		Ibis St	5D3	Mission Revival	Minimally Altered	192
44426205			Ibis St	5D3	Craftsman Bungalow	Minimally Altered	191
44426204			Ibis St	5D3	Craftsman Bungalow	Minimally Altered	191
44426107			Ibis St	7R	No Longer Apparent	Altered Beyond Recognition	194
44426203	4269		Ibis St	5D3	Mission Revival	Minimally Altered	192
44426108			Ibis St	5D3	Craftsman Bungalow	Minimally Altered	191
44426109			Ibis St	5D3	Victorian Vernacular/transitional	Heavily Altered	c.190
44426202	4077		Ibis St	5D3	Craftsman Bungalow Minimal Traditional	Unaltered	102
44426202							193
44368410			Ingalls St	7R	Vernacular Bungalow	Heavily Altered	192
44368411 44368303			Ingalls St Ingalls St	5D3 5D3	Craftsman Bungalow Victorian Vernacular/transitional	Minimally Altered Minimally Altered	c.191 c.190
44260412	4020		Incolle St	5D2	Craftsman Bungalow	Minimally Altarad	0.101
44368412	4028		Ingalls St	5D3	Craftsman Bungalow	Minimally Altered	c.191



453 Vernon Way El Cajon, CA 92020 619.448.9900 Lic #528441

4/11/24

Mr. David Potter 4128 Ibis Street San Diego, CA 92103

## Re: Forensic Inspection - Presence Of Original Stucco Underneath Non-Original Wood Clapboard

Dear Mr. Potter:

At your request, I conducted a site visit of your home, located at 4128 lbis Street, San Diego, to determine whether original construction material exists underneath the wood clapboard along the northeast elevation.

In terms of my experience, I've been licensed and operating since 1988 when I started Burgio Stucco and have completed over 16,000 projects. I specialize in residential projects, lath and stucco of exterior homes and re-stucco of historical homes for historical designation and was the past president of the APLC (Associated Plastering and Lathing Contractors). As you know, your home was designed in the Craftsman architectural style.

I understand that it was built in 1920 by its original owner, J.S. Graves. While most of the exterior is composed of stucco, horizontal clapboard siding exists along the northeast elevation. I further understand that historical documentation strongly suggests that the clapboard was added to the residence around 1950. However, forensic inspection of the area was necessary to confirm or dispel this belief.

During my site visit, I carefully pulled a clapboard upward to reveal the presence of rather smooth stucco underneath (See Photographs #1-4). Overall, while the stucco was found to have been cracked, the damage appears to be minimal and can easily be repaired through patching efforts or a re-stuccoing of the entire affected area. Based upon the above, in my professional opinion, I believe that the stucco exterior underneath the clapboard is original, and that the wood siding was added in later years as a way to defer maintenance, and/or change the original appearance of the home based upon the taste of the property owner at that time.

If you have any questions regarding my site inspection or which to discuss proposed restorative work, please contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Paul Burgio

Paul Burgio President, Burgio Stucco, Inc.

