



July 5, 2016

Suzanne Segur
San Diego Planning Department
1010 Second Avenue, Suite 1200
San Diego, CA 92101

RE: Historical Report for 2345 Via Sienna, La Jolla

Dear Ms. Segur:

The La Jolla Historical Society recommends that 2345 Via Sienna be considered for designation as a historically significant under HRB Criterion B for its association with Dr. Maria Goeppert-Mayer, who was awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics while living in the property. Maria Goeppert-Mayer is one of only two females awarded the Nobel Prize for physics since its inception in 1901. (The other was Mme. Curie, who was awarded the prize in 1903.) In fact, only 49 women have EVER won the Nobel Prize in ANYTHING, as opposed to 822 men. Ms. Goeppert-Mayer's biographies provide evidence regarding the difficulty she had in being taken seriously as a scientist because of her gender. It was with her hiring at UC San Diego that she became a full-time faculty professor, earning the respect her training and achievements deserved.

We believe Dr. Goeppert-Mayer's home is eligible for designation under Criterion B as defined in the Department of Interior Standards. Although the residence may read today as an interpretation of the mid-century era's California ranch style, it is not atypical of the kind of housing many UCSD professors and members of La Jolla's new scientific community resided in at the time – modest dwellings in tune with economic situations and their new lives as Californians enjoying the amenable climate of the West Coast. This realization of a lifestyle combining intellectual and cultural pursuits with informal living can be dated to La Jolla's historical origins of the late 19th and early 20th centuries when forward-thinking individuals such as Ellen Browning Scripps made their home here and, likewise, pursued ideas relating to literature, science, metaphysics and the arts.

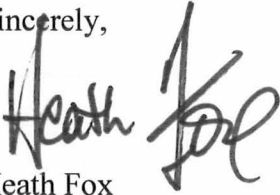
Dr. Goeppert-Mayer was one of six Nobel Laureates on the early UCSD faculty that enabled the fledgling graduate-level institution to gain international acclaim in the sciences. She was hired specifically because she was a noted senior physicist and the campus needed her gravitas for intellectual credibility. As noted in Dirk Sutro's 2010 *Campus Guide to UCSD*: "Physics played a catalytic role in UCSD's growth since the formative years in the late fifties. The university was launched during a Cold War boom in sciences and technology. A significant number of early faculty members were physicists, and the discipline has remained at the core of UCSD's curriculum. Mayer Hall is named after Maria Goeppert-Mayer, who was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1963 for her work in nuclear physics. The Mayer name figures prominently in UCSD history, and her

husband, Joseph Mayer, was a chemical physicist. Both had been among a circle of scientists involved with developing the atomic bomb, including eventual faculty member Harold Urey as well as Edward Teller, the “father of the hydrogen bomb. Both joined the faculty in 1960.”

We believe Dr. Goepfert-Mayer’s career and intellectual achievements are under-represented in the historical report and ask that the record be amended as follows:

- a. To reflect Dr. Goepfert-Mayer’s tenacity and brilliance despite overt institutional discrimination during her early career;
- b. To connect the recognition of her genius with her appointment to the Physics faculty at UCSD;
- c. To recognize her legacy as an inspiration for women in the STEM fields today;
- d. To document her contribution to San Diego’s scientific community associated with the founding of the UCSD campus and its emphasis on the sciences; and,
- e. To link UCSD’s early scientific prowess to today’s high-tech/bio-tech industries in San Diego.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Heath Fox". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font. The first name "Heath" is written in a larger, more prominent script, and "Fox" is written in a smaller, more compact script to its right.

Heath Fox
Executive Director



Save Our Heritage Organisation
Saving San Diego's Past for the Future

Friday, July 1, 2016

Suzanne Segur
San Diego Planning Department
1010 Second Avenue, Suite 1200
San Diego, CA 92101

Re: 2345 Via Siena, La Jolla

Ms. Segur and the Development Services Division,

After reviewing the report submitted for 2345 Via Siena in La Jolla, SOHO recommends this historic resource go before Historical Resources Board for historic designation under Criterion B, as the report clearly states that Professor Mayer is a historically significant figure in the field of physics. In addition, more in depth research should determine the level of impact and influence the female Professor had on the development of her two fields of research, physics and chemistry, specifically with regard to the female gender in these fields of study. Further, because Mayer received the Nobel Prize in 1963, while living at this address, and lived here until in death in the 1970s, as she continued to develop her career at UCSD, 2345 Via Siena is no less significant than her other residences. This property is possibly even more significant than the others, as receipt of the Nobel Prize appears to be the peak of her ambitious career, and the report should appropriately evaluate this important and significant accomplishment, instead of discarding it due to her career beginning in other parts of the country. Last, the Custom Ranch style house itself comprises a high degree of integrity, which is also noted in the report and contributes to the significance of this property.

2345 Via Siena is historically significant under Criterion B and should be brought before the full Historical Resources Board for historical designation.

Thank you,

Bruce Coons
Executive Director
Save Our Heritage Organisation

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