

Mr. and Mrs. Eberhard H. Rohm
7932 Prospect Place
La Jolla, CA 92037

September 15, 2020

Mr. David McCulloch, Chair
City of San Diego Historical Resources Board
1222 First Avenue, 5th Floor
San Diego, CA 92101

Dear Mr. McCulloch and Members of the HRB Board.

It is said that there is a perfect buyer for every house. This is certainly true of us for the Henry Hester house at 7932 Prospect Place, which we bought six years ago today. It seems auspicious that we received notice this morning that the Historical Resources Board has agreed to review our request for designation at its October 22nd meeting. We are grateful and very excited.


Our section of Prospect (called Prospect Place) in downtown La Jolla, is a showcase of homes built by San Diego's modern master architects. Colloquially, we call our neighborhood "Modern Way." Our block boasts masterpieces by Henry Hester (three houses), Jonathan Segal, Russell Forrester, and Wally Cunningham. We've discussed a walking tour for architecture buffs interested in learning more about our neighborhood, and have convinced at least one neighbor to seek historic designation too.

A little about us.... We moved to La Jolla from New York in 2012. Our son attended UCSD and, ever since that time, we were enthralled with La Jolla and San Diego. We searched for the perfect home for two years. My husband heard about this house at a board meeting for California Western Law. Upon seeing the house, with its unique architecture (like a tree!), we knew we had found our forever home. We bought it directly from the then owners. Slowly we learned about its historical significance and important features. We thought about applying for designation at the time, and asked our neighbor to join us since her house was also designed by Henry Hester and built by Mrs. Copley at the same time. Her reaction? "You'll never be able to sell it."

Well, we never want to sell it! In fact, we are fretful that she will sell hers and someone will tear it down.

If you grant us this prestigious designation, we will display the plaque on the front of our house with honor, and do our best to be proud stewards for the rest of our lives.

Sincerely,


Eberhard H. Rohm


Jessica Dee Rohm

Mr. David McCulloch, Chair
City of San Diego Historical Board
1222 First Avenue, 5th Floor
San Diego, CA 92101

Dear Mr. McCulloch,

I am honored to provide a letter of recommendation regarding my father's architectural accomplishments. The designs of **Henry Hartwell Hester, AIA**, significantly influenced the Mid-Century architectural movement.


Many communities in California such as San Francisco, Palm Desert and San Jose benefited from his work, but his focus was in San Diego. La Jolla, being his home town, holds a number of Hester residential designs, including 7932 Prospect Place.

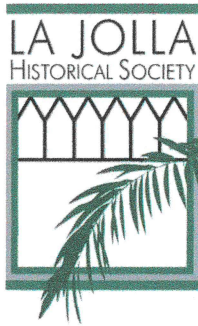
My father came out of retirement for his client, the great Helen Copley, who also has contributed greatly to San Diego. He designed this architecturally significant village property for her.

This was one of his favorite projects. It reflects his unique design sense and understanding of how to site a residence on a parcel giving it a balanced and harmonious feel, even in a dense village area.

I encourage awarding this property a historical designation so that an original Henry Hartwell Hester, AIA, design can be enjoyed and protected for decades to come.

It gives me great pleasure to support this effort. In 2016 we were so proud that our father received the **AIA Lifetime Achievement Award** for this body of work at a presentation attended by over 60 devoted "Hester Residence Owners" at the San Diego History Center in Balboa Park. This additional historical designation award would be in line with that honor.


Lorraine Hester Dyson



September 3, 2020

Suzanne Segur, Senior Planner
Historical Resources, Development Services Department
City of San Diego
1222 First Avenue, MS 401
San Diego CA 92101

RE: Helen K. Copley/Henry Hester House, 7932 Prospect Place, La Jolla

Suzanne:

The La Jolla Historical Society supports the designation of the Helen K. Copley/Henry Hester House under HRB Criterion C: Architecture and Criterion D: Master Architect. This home, designed by Master Architect Henry Hester, is an outstanding example of Neoelectic Postmodern design of the Mansard sub-style, combining elements of modernism with Mansard rooflines, through-the-cornice windows, and wrought iron balconettes.

This house is the final project in the storied career of a master architect. Hester temporarily came out of retirement specifically to work with a venerable client and through this collaboration created a unique piece of Postmodern work not seen in his earlier career, which stayed very much along the lines of modernism without historical reference. Importantly, this design provides insight into how one of San Diego's preeminent mid-century modern architects envisioned a transition to the emerging post-modern style.

Dating to 1986, this structure is highly representative of the response from postmodernists to the clean and unadorned styles of modernism and ranch-style architecture that dominated residential design and construction in the decades after World War II. Postmodern residential designs in general, especially those by master architects, remain relatively uncommon, and makes their preservation all the more important.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this submission, and strongly recommend HRB designation for the Helen K. Copley/Henry Hester House.

Sincerely,

Heath Fox
Executive Director



Save Our Heritage Organisation

Protecting San Diego's architectural and cultural heritage since 1969

Thursday, October 1, 2020

Historical Resources Board
City of San Diego
1222 First Avenue, MS 401
San Diego, CA 92101

Re: 7932 Prospect Place, La Jolla

Chair McCullough and Board members,

Save Our Heritage Organisation (SOHO) finds the Helen K. Copley, Henry Hester House at 7932 Prospect Place in La Jolla to be significant under Criteria C and D for its Neoelectic Post-Modern design of the French Mansard style and for being the notable work of Master Architect, Henry Hartwell Hester. SOHO encourages the Historical Resources Board to designate this resource under both Criteria C and D.

Significant under Criterion C, the 1987 Helen K. Copley, Henry Hester House embodies distinctive characteristics of the Neoelectic French Mansard style, which is a sub-set of Post-Modern residential architecture that gained popularity starting early in the 1960s and concluding in the 1980s. Constructed in 1987, this house retains excellent integrity as well as several character-defining French-inspired features of the style. These include the Mansard roof elements, "through the cornice windows," and balconies with wrought iron railings.

Also significant under Criterion D, as the remarkable work of San Diego Master Architect Henry Hartwell Hester, this project was uniquely designed during the "retirement" phase of his career. Hester specifically came out of retirement only for the project of this very prominent client, Helen Kinney Copley. A masterpiece and culmination of Hester's career, this is the only residence Hester designed in this style as the French Mansard style roof was a client request. Of exceptional important for the collaboration between Helen Copley and Master Architect Hester, in addition to being an architectural masterpiece, and as the last known design of Hester's 40-year long career, this resource is highly significant under Criterion D.

SOHO finds 7932 Prospect Place in La Jolla highly significant under Criteria C and D as an excellent example of the Post-Modern Neoelectic French Mansard style as well as for being the notable work of Master Architect Henry Hester, and warrants historical designation.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment,

Bruce Coons
Executive Director
Save Our Heritage Organisation