



Save Our Heritage Organisation  
Protecting San Diego's architectural and cultural heritage since 1969

Thursday, May 21, 2020

City of San Diego  
Chair McCullough, Historical Resources Board & staff  
202 C Street  
San Diego, CA 92101

Re: May 28, 2020 agenda - Items 5 and 6

Chair McCullough, Board members & staff,

Item 5: 2528 Island Avenue – Save Our Heritage Organisation (SOHO) disagrees with staff and finds the Folk Victorian era cottage at 2528 Island Avenue significant under Criteria A and C. Of 19<sup>th</sup> century construction, indicated by its exterior cladding and original windows, this resource was likely relocated to the site in 1905. One block adjacent to both the Sherman Heights and Grant Hill historic districts, this is an early neighborhood element and a rare surviving example of the style.

The building materials and features indicate this is an uncommon c.1880s resource, likely constructed during the brief boom, which was related to the coming railroad during this period. A unique and humble-sized Victorian era survivor, it is easily discernable as the earliest component to this Island Avenue streetscape. Located on one of the blocks that separates the Sherman Heights and Grant Hill historic districts, this resource was part of the original Sherman Heights subdivision and conveys this period of significance through the level of material integrity, in addition to the style and character defining features. 2528 Island Avenue is significant under Criterion A as a special element of historical and architectural development.

This resource is also significant under Criterion C, as a good example of the Folk Victorian era style from the 1880s with Colonial Revival influences. Features include the wood shiplap clapboard exterior, fully enclosed gable pediment (highlighting the Colonial Revival influence), tall narrow windows with period trim, deep eaves, original entry door with trim, porch molding details and more. While some minor changes have occurred, it is expected of an 1880s building to have evolved over its years of use, and does not detract from the significance, material integrity, or rarity of this cottage.

Item 6: 1398 Lieta Street – SOHO supports the mitigation measures proposed by staff, which are a story board and etched fence panel to interpret the important story of the Sogo family and their farm related to Issei/Japanese-American agricultural practices. SOHO recognizes the educational value of having this interpretive board and panel at this site as it is crucial to recognize all San Diego ethnicities and cultures.

SOHO finds 2528 Island Avenue to be a rare surviving example of c.1880s Folk Victorian era architecture, significant under Criteria A and C, and warrants historical designation. Second, SOHO supports the staff's mitigation recommendation for 1398 Lieta Street and sees this interpretive mitigation as quite important to ensure important pieces of San Diego history are not lost.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment,

Bruce Coons  
Executive Director  
Save Our Heritage Organisation