



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

Thursday, April 13, 2017

City of San Diego, Dept. of Development Services
Historical Resources Board
1222 First Avenue
San Diego, CA 92101

Re: 2001 Fourth Avenue, Rees Stealy Medical Clinic

Chair McCullough and the Historical Resources Board,

The Save Our Heritage Organisation (SOHO) Board of Directors voted (8-0) at their March 9, 2017 Board meeting to support the historical designation of sections A and B of the Rees Stealy Medical Clinic, located at 2001 Fourth Avenue in Bankers Hill, and that the corner entrance at Grape and Fourth Avenue be restored. Further, SOHO does not support the historical designation of section C and we additionally support the historical designation being limited to only sections A and B, and not the rest of the block.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment,

Bruce Coons
Executive Director
Save Our Heritage Organisation

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TRUST, SERVICE AND INNOVATION SINCE 1906

April 12, 2017

Mr. David McCullough, Chair &
City of San Diego Historical Resources Board Members
1222 First Avenue, Fourth Floor
San Diego, CA 92101

Subject: 2001 Fourth Avenue, San Diego, California 92101; HRB Agenda For April 27, 2017

Dear Chair McCullough & Historical Resources Board Members:

I represent H.G. Fenton Company, Applicant, with respect to the involuntary historic designation of the above referenced property (“Property”) which your Board will consider on April 27, 2017.

While we recognize and acknowledge San Diego Municipal Code Section 123.0202(c), which necessitates the Board’s timely consideration of the Property for designation within 90 calendar days, we have recently participated in a wide-ranging effort to find consensus and resolution regarding the historic disposition of the Property.

To this end, we support local historic preservation and planning groups, such as the Save Our Heritage Organisation (SOHO) and the Uptown Planners, in urging the HRB to adopt and approve the proposed two (2) motions for the Property, as detailed below.

The Motions can clearly be supported by all the written and oral material submitted on this matter to date, including but not limited to the Historical Resource Research Report (dated October 31, 2016, revised December 9, 2016), Historical Resource Research Report Addendum (dated February 14, 2017), City of San Diego Staff Report (dated January 12, 2017), and City of San Diego Memorandum (dated March 9, 2017). In addition, the Motions serve as an appropriate recognition of the Property’s role in San Diego’s history, and properly and reasonably tailor the scope of the designation to the physical footprint of the building sections proposed for designation.

Motion #1: Designate Sections “A” & “B” of the Rees-Stealy Medical Clinic located at 2001 4th Avenue, as a historical resource with a period of significance of 1926 under Criterion A; 1926-1961 under Criterion B; and 1926-1928 and 1938 under Criteria C and D. The historical designation shall be limited to the building exteriors of Sections “A” & “B” only, and specifically excludes the landscape/site; open surface parking lot; retaining walls; garage; parcel; and any other buildings, structures, and/or objects located on the property/parcel.

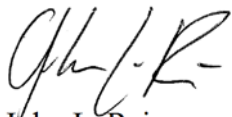
This recommendation is based upon the following findings:

1. The resource is a special element of the City’s historical development and retains integrity to its 1926 period of significance. Specifically, the resource is associated with the establishment and growth of the Rees-Stealy Medical Clinic which introduced a fundamentally new approach to the practice of medicine and treatment of patients. Among many other groundbreaking achievements, the clinic was the first medical facility in San Diego to incorporate an interdisciplinary approach to medicine, a practice very rarely, if ever conducted before that time.
2. The resource is identified with Drs. Clarence Rees and Clair Stealy, historically significant persons, and retains integrity for that association. Specifically, the resource housed the professional offices of Drs. Rees and Stealy during their most productive times in their careers from 1926-1961 for Rees and 1926-1956 for Stealy. Drs. Rees and Stealy were very prominent and influential San Diego doctors responsible for the establishment of the historically significant Rees-Stealy Medical Clinic.
3. The resource embodies the distinctive characteristics through the retention of character defining features of Spanish Eclectic and Art Deco styles and retains architectural integrity from its respective 1926–1928 and 1938 dates of construction and periods of significance. Specifically, the resource was constructed in two distinct phases, each embodying the historic characteristics of its respective style, without impeding each section of the building.
4. The resource is representative of a notable work of Master Architect Louis Gill and retains integrity as it relates to Gill’s original designs. Specifically, the resource is a unique example of Gill’s work, represented by two major sections of the building in the Spanish Eclectic and Art Deco styles (1926–28 and 1938), each possessing signature characteristics that represent Gill’s distinguished body of work.

Motion #2: Do not designate Section “C” of the 2001 4th Avenue building, and specifically exclude this Section from the scope of any historical designation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,



John LaRaia

Sr. Director, Development & Investments

cc: Elyse Lowe, City of San Diego
Shannon Anthony, City of San Diego
Scott Moomjian, Attorney

From: [Deirdre Lee](#)
To: [PLN Historical Resources](#); [Anthony Shannon](#); [Councilmember Christopher Ward](#); [Mayor Kevin Faulconer](#)
Subject: Designation of Rees-Stealy Clinic
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2017 9:32:17 PM

March 16, 2017

To the HRB Staff,

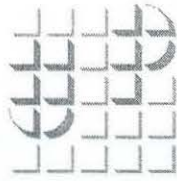
I attended the January HRB meeting and was very impressed with the scope and quality of the report presented by staff supporting the historic designation of the Sharp Rees-Stealy Clinic. The thorough understanding of the uniqueness of this structure and the importance it holds under all criteria represented excellent research. The developers rebuttal attempted to magnify insignificant issues but seemed very disingenuous. Some of it was plainly incorrect.

The building is an architectural asset to the neighboring community and the aesthetic and cultural texture of San Diego. It is important in it's place and is an excellent example of the gems that we should not allow to be erased.

I strongly urge you to designate this property when it comes before you in April.

Thank you,

Deirdre Lee
244 W. Brookes Avenue
San Diego, CA 92103



UPTOWN PLANNERS

Uptown Planners
San Diego, CA 92103
(619) 822-5103

Monday, March 13, 2017

Historical Resources Board
City of San Diego
c/o Kelley Stanco, Senior Planner/HRB Liaison
1010 Second Avenue, MS 413
San Diego, California 92101

Re: Rees-Stealy Medical Clinic, 2001 4th Avenue

Dear Ms. Stanco,

At the Uptown Planners meeting on Tuesday, March 7, 2017, the Board took three votes pertaining to the Rees-Stealy Medical Clinic located at 2001 4th Avenue in Bankers Hill. The first two motions passed, and motion three did not.

The motions are as follows:

- 1) Uptown Planners supports the historic consideration of Section C as separate from Sections A and B; vote 9-3-1 (Chair abstains).
- 2) Uptown Planners recommends the historical designation of Sections A and B under Criteria A, B, C & D; vote 8-4-1 (Chair abstains).
- 3) Uptown Planners recommends the historical designation of Section C under Criteria A & B; vote failed 6-6-1 (Chair abstains).

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Leo Wilson', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Leo Wilson
Chair, Uptown Planners

From: [Neil Haig](#)
To: [PLN Historical Resources](#)
Subject: 2001 4th Avenue
Date: Saturday, February 25, 2017 8:08:01 PM

Dear Historical Resources,

I understand there is a request to demo 2001 4th Avenue. This address is actually three buildings called the Rees-Stealy Medical Clinic, and I think each have significant historical value. These buildings include Spanish Mission on the corner, some sort of Federal style architecture in the middle, and mid-century on the end. I think they add significant value to the community and are a valuable addition to the diverse architectural styles of the Bankers Hill Neighborhood that should be considered in light of plans to demo the site.

Please let me know if you have any questions or if I can elaborate further in any way. Best regards,

Neil Ainslie Haig

Owner and Occupant of:
2734 2nd Avenue
San Diego, Ca 92103

Mobile: 678 464 1997



Carlisle C. Lewis, III, Esq.
 Senior Vice President and General Counsel
 Telephone: (858) 499-3026
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January 9, 2017

Ms. Courtney Coyle, Chair
 City of San Diego
 Historical Resources Board Members
 1222 First Avenue, Fourth Floor
 San Diego, California 92101

Dear Chair Coyle and HRB Board Members:

Thank you for providing Sharp HealthCare with this opportunity to comment on the potential designation of the property located at 2001 Fourth Avenue (the "Property") in San Diego's Uptown community as a historical resource. For the reasons described below, Sharp HealthCare formally objects in whole and/or in part to the historic designation of any part of the Property, including most specifically, all or any part of the building or its building sections.

The Rees-Stealy Medical Group, now known as the Sharp Rees-Stealy Medical Group, Inc. (the "Medical Group") has a long history in San Diego, beginning its medical practice at the Property in 1926. When the Medical Group affiliated with Sharp HealthCare in 1985, Sharp HealthCare purchased the Property and began to operate the Property as one of its Sharp Rees-Stealy Medical Centers. Shortly after the affiliation, it became apparent the buildings on the Property were clinically obsolete and no longer able to adequately meet the needs of either the Medical Group or its patients. In fact, one of the goals of the Medical Group's affiliation with Sharp was to create a new medical center downtown to replace the Property.

Sharp HealthCare began the long process of looking for and ultimately building a new Sharp Rees-Stealy Medical Center site across the street and one block south of the Property at 300 Fir Street (the "New Clinic"). The New Clinic, a beautiful and important health center offering comprehensive and technologically advanced medical services to those living and working in San Diego, Gaslamp, East Village and Little Italy, opened in 2012, and all patient care services previously provided at the Property moved to the New Clinic.

SHARP ORGANIZATIONS

Sharp HealthCare ■ Sharp Memorial Hospital ■ Grossmont Hospital Corporation ■ Sharp Chula Vista Medical Center
 Sharp Coronado Hospital and Healthcare Center ■ Sharp Mesa Vista Hospital ■ Sharp Mary Birch Hospital For Women and Newborns
 Sharp McDonald Center ■ Sharp Rees-Stealy Medical Centers ■ Sharp Health Plan
 Sharp HealthCare Foundation ■ Grossmont Hospital Foundation

Sharp HealthCare takes great pride in its history and greatly respects the enormous contributions and achievements the Medical Group and its founders, Dr. Clarence Rees and Dr. Clair Stealy, have made to advance the quality of medical research, care and health of San Diegans. When the New Clinic opened, we retained historic elements and dedicated a commemorative/interpretive History Wall in the New Clinic to celebrate and memorialize the vision and innovation of Drs. Rees and Stealy. The History Wall, open to the public, describes how the Medical Group and Sharp together have evolved and grown that vision into becoming one of the leading multi-specialty medical centers in the country. We believe each of the more than 21 Sharp Rees-Stealy Medical Centers located throughout San Diego County reflect and celebrate this innovation and original vision of Drs. Rees and Stealy, a belief that has been validated by recognition of excellence in population health management from the federal Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services and conferring of "Elite" status by the California Association of Physician Groups.

Sharp HealthCare's history is entwined with San Diego's history and we appreciate the important work done by the Historical Resources Board to preserve these important reminders of our community's past. Sharp believes the best recognition of Drs. Rees and Stealy's contributions to medicine in San Diego is the New Clinic, as well as the many Sharp Rees-Stealy Medical Centers located across the County.

Finally, we have reviewed the *Historical Research Report for 2001 Fourth Avenue, San Diego, California, prepared by Brian F. Smith & Associates, Inc.* (Revised December 9, 2016). We concur with the history presented within this study. Sharp HealthCare does not believe that the Property is eligible for designation under any of the Historical Resources Board criteria.

Thank you for considering Sharp HealthCare's position. I am happy to provide additional information upon request.

Sincerely,


Carlisle C. Lewis, III

cc: Alan Bier, M.D., President, Sharp Rees-Stealy Medical Group, Inc.