



# Save Our Heritage Organisation

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*Saving San Diego's Past for the Future*

Wednesday, July 18, 2018

City of San Diego  
Historical Resources Board (HRB)  
Chair David McCullough  
202 C Street  
San Diego, CA 92101

Re: July 26 HRB agenda – Items 5 & 7

Chair McCullough and Board Members,

Item 5: 1659-1663 Dairy Mart Road - Save Our Heritage Organisation (SOHO) concurs with the staff report that the Italianate building at 1663 Dairy Mart Road is historically significant under Criterion C.

1663 Dairy Mart Road is an excellent and rare intact example of the Italianate style, worthy of designation under Criterion C, especially as there are few resources of this period and style within the San Ysidro area. Retaining a high level of historical integrity due to the amount of intact and original historic fabric as well as the “Great Boom” era when it was constructed, the style of this late Victorian era building is emblematic of a growing boom city, which resulted from the 1885 completion of the transcontinental railroad in National City.

This resource continues to retain high integrity of style as well as the period and method of construction. As stated in the 2005 East Village survey, residential buildings from the 1880s are extremely rare in San Diego because local lumber was scarce and imported wood was valuable. Therefore, wooden buildings were often moved and recycled, such as 1663 Dairy Mart Road. San Diego has very few Italianate buildings left and, since this style was fairly passé in 1885, San Diego never had many to begin with. Consistent with the Italianate style, as specified within McAlester & McAlester, features include the simple hipped roof with wide overhanging eaves, decorative brackets, tall narrow and paired windows, and the elaborate window surrounds. Modifications to the rear of the southeast façade do not detract from the building’s historical significance and the intact historical fabric is strongly present. The 2005 survey also explains the integrity of these “Great Boom” era buildings may be compromised; however this resource has few integrity issues, making it especially worthy of designation in addition to the San Ysidro location, where few resources are brought forward for designation.

Due to the high level of integrity, amount of intact fabric, and rarity-- from this “Great Boom” time era of San Diego’s history, SOHO strongly asserts that 1663 Dairy Mart Road is significant under Criterion C and worthy of historical designation.

Item 7: 1398 Lieta Street - Save Our Heritage Organisation (SOHO) very strongly asserts that the residence at 1398 Lieta Street has an undeniably unique and important history and is significant under Criteria A and B. Further, it should be evaluated as an Arts and Crafts era bungalow, not as illustrating the Minimal Traditionalist style. <https://www.redfin.com/CA/San-Diego/1398-Lieta-St-92110/home/5218681>

SOHO concurs with the report conclusion that the site is significant under Criterion A for the use of Japanese-American agricultural practices; however, SOHO also concludes that the Arts and Crafts era bungalow itself is significant under Criterion A as a special element of San Diego’s social and political development.

The house at 1398 Lieta Street represents a special element of social and political development that is associated with the California Alien Land Law of 1913. Aizo and Komume Sogo lived at this residence from at least 1938, which was built for them and their family. Under this legislation, they weren't allowed to own the property they farmed or the house their family occupied until laws had changed, which occurred after returning from WWII in 1954. The development and habitation of this bungalow by the Sogo family, reflects the stymied relations and discrimination focused toward those of Japanese descent around the WWII time period in San Diego and on a national scale. This property, and specifically the bungalow at 1398 Lieta Street, is a special social and political element of the Mission Bay area, because the ownership of this property and habitation of the Sogo house are directly associated with this 1913 discriminatory Law, which is why their American born daughter Alice held ownership of their property and house until 1954. Uniquely significant under Criterion A, this building is the earliest known property under the ownership of a Japanese-American within San Diego County, and possibly the first.

Also strongly significant under Criterion B for both Aizo and Komume Sogo, their demonstrable achievements include being two of the first five Japanese-Americans to be granted citizenship in 1953 within San Diego County, which enabled them to pursue ownership of the bungalow at 1398 Lieta Street in 1954. Living here from at least 1937 through the remainder of their lives, this bungalow is directly associated with both Aizo and Komume during their significant San Diego achievement as two of the first five Japanese American persons to be granted citizenship.

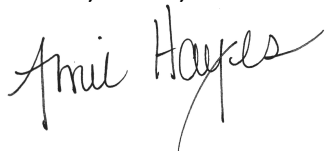
Below is proposed language for a revised resolution under Criteria A and B:

The property is historically significant under CRITERION A with a period of significance of 1938-1983 as a special element of the Issei/Japanese-American agricultural practices within the Mission Bay area during the 1930s through the 1950s and the restrictive property rights/ownership measures taken against minorities, specifically Japanese nationals, during the 1930s through the 1950s. The residence is also historically significant under CRITERION A as special elements of social and political development associated with the discriminatory laws that precluded Sogo ownership of land until after WWII, which led to the development of the Sogo family residence, owned by Alice Sogo until 1954.

The property is historically significant under CRITERION B with a period of significance of 1938-1983 as importantly associated with Aizo and Komume Sogo whose demonstrable achievements include being two of the first five Japanese-Americans to be granted citizenship in 1953 within San Diego County while living at this residence.

SOHO strongly asserts the residence at 1398 Lieta Street, along with the property, has a unique and rare history, making it historically significant and worthy of designation under Criteria A and B. Further, this building should be evaluated as an Arts and Crafts era bungalow.

Thank you for your careful consideration of these important historical resources,



Amie Hayes  
Historic Resources Specialist  
Save Our Heritage Organisation