

May 12, 2015

Chair John Lemmo & HRB Members
City of San Diego
Historical Resources Board (HRB) members
1222 First Avenue, Fourth Floor
San Diego, CA 92101

RE: 1508-1544 E Street, San Diego (East Village); HRB Agenda for May 28, 2015

Dear Chair Lemmo & HRB Members:

The East Village Residents Group (EVRG) represents over fourteen thousand (14,000) residents who live in the East Village District of Downtown San Diego. EVRG's mission is to promote a better quality of life and family environment for every resident in our District. We know that new development provides more housing opportunities for residents and business opportunities for workers creating more variety and options as well as creating the density needed to sustain local retail and populate public spaces. Often times public amenities and improvements come with new development, these, along with the further build-out of East Village, help to provide a sense of place and defines a unique character for our neighborhood.

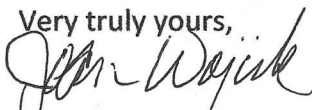
The 1508-1544 E Street property will be considered by your Board for potential historic site designation on May 28, 2015.

It is the understanding of EVRG that the building was designed and constructed in 1919 as a One-Part Commercial Block building with four automobile garages (bay sections). Over the years, the building has been substantially modified and altered. This fact is clear from a simple site visit. The eastern bay sustained extensive fire damage in 2010 and is no longer in existence. Today, approximately 75% of the original building still exists. It has also been the subject of vandalism and graffiti. The changes to the building are also apparent from the analysis and photographic documentation submitted by Scott Moomjian. Windows, door openings, bay openings, and the principal parapet have been altered beyond the original design. Based upon all of this, there can be no question that the building no longer retains a sufficient degree of integrity to be eligible for historic designation.

EVRG disagrees with the HRB Staff Report that states that the building is eligible for historic site designation under Criterion A (Community Development) as a property which is a "special element of the City's economic development" related to "auto sales and service" from 1919-1956. As stated previously, numerous physical features from this period have been removed and altered and we cannot concur with HRB Staff in concluding that the property is significant and is worthy of historic site designation.

The East Village Residents Group Board of Directors is, therefore, recommending that the request for historic designation of the 1508-1544 E Street property be denied.

Very truly yours,



Joan Wojcik, President
East Village Residents Group
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