



# INVENTORY UPDATE

City Council Item #12

**April 22, 2024**

# OVERVIEW

---

- March 21, 2022 Council: Review the National Register eligible properties previously deemed eligible to designate them to the Palo Alto Historic Inventory
- 2023 survey, evening community meetings, 3 HRB meetings (11/9, 12/14, 1/11) – HRI categories
- January 25: HRB formally voted to decline to advance the ‘objections properties’ to the City Council for HRI
- 88 properties are zoned SFR; owners of these properties may propose SB 9 development; staff received 83 objections (51 SFR); many owners objected to listing – these properties were not forwarded to Council
- Staff sent certified letters to ‘non-objections’ property owners; staff did not receive responses from all
- Owners who ‘opted in’ (affirmatively indicated support prior to the packet publication) are for tonight
- The purpose of this meeting is to receive the HRB’s and staff’s recommendations and place three city properties and 13 privately owned properties summarized in the staff report

# 201 ALMA: CATEGORY 1, PER CRITERIA 1, 4, AND 5

## 2023 RECONNAISSANCE SURVEY SUMMARY

Alterations Since 2001: No alterations identified.

Status in 2023: Extant, retains historic integrity.

Recommended Revisions to Significance: None.



Figure 1: 1997-2001 Survey Update photograph.



Figure 2: 2023 Reconnaissance Survey photograph.

- Criterion 1: The structure or site is identified with the lives of historic people or with important events in the city, state, or nation
- Criterion 4: The structure or site is connected with a business or use which was once common, but is now rare
- Criterion 5: The architect or building was important

- **Period of Significance: 1910-1962**
- A distinctive example of a decorated municipal building that embodies the design principles of the City Beautiful movement
- Associated with early municipal water retention planning in Palo Alto.
- *This is one of the few properties with significance as an "Exceptional Building" of pre-eminent national or state importance. It is a meritorious work of an important local builder Maurice Couchot and an early example of reinforced concrete construction*

# 2601 E. BAYSHORE: CAT. 1, PER CRITERIA 1, 4, AND 5

- **Alterations Since 2001:** Three structures were demolished in 2017 and a fourth structure was demolished in 2019; the remaining building was fenced in 2017.
- **Status in 2023:** Extant, retains adequate historic integrity.
- **Period of Significance:** 1921-ca. 1977
- Significant under Criterion A as the best surviving remnant of the Federal Telegraph Company which was founded in Palo Alto and made groundbreaking contributions to the field of radio communications.
- *This is one of the few properties with significance as an “Exceptional Building” that is of preeminent national importance.*





# CISTERN AND PUMP HOUSE: CAT. 2, PER CRITERIA 1 AND 2



Figure 1: 1997-2001 Survey Update photograph.



Figure 2: 2023 Reconnaissance Survey photograph.

- Criterion 1: The structure or site is identified with the lives of historic people or with important events in the city, state, or nation
- Criterion 2: The structure is particularly representative of an architectural style or way of life important to the city, state, or nation.)

- **Period of Significance: 1924**
- The Cistern and Pump House also represents an important Northern California building typology that emerged from the City Beautiful Movement.
- It was designed to express pride in civic and public infrastructure.
- *The subject building is significant as only one of two remaining early Palo Alto decorated utility structures and as an important part of the Palo Alto municipal water system that was developed from well sources beginning in 1887.*

# PRIVATE PROPERTIES WITH 'OPT INS' CONFIRMED

---

1. 731 Emerson Street as a Category 2 resource, under local Criteria 2 and 5 (zoned RT35, SOFA2)
2. 243-245 Webster Street as a Category 2 resource, under local Criterion 2 (zoned R-2)
3. 330 Cowper Street as a Category 2 resource, under local Criterion 1 Page 4 of 4 (zoned RMD-NP)
4. 541 E Crescent Drive as a Category 2 resource, under local Criteria 2, 5, and 6 (zoned R-1(10,000))
5. 421 California Avenue as a Category 2 resource, under local Criteria 2 and 5 (zoned CC-2 R P)
6. 1401 Edgewood Drive as a Category 2 resource, under local Criteria 1, 2, and 5 (zoned R-1(10,000))
7. 1474 Edgewood Drive as a Category 2 resource, under local Criteria 2 and 5 (zoned R-1(10,000))
8. 2340 Tasso Street as a Category 2 resource, under local Criteria 2 and 5 (zoned R-1)
9. 311 El Carmelo Avenue as a Category 2 resource, under local Criterion 2 (zoned R-1)
10. 541 Bryant Street as a Category 2 resource, under local Criteria 2, 5, and 6 (zoned CD-C GF P)
11. 437 Kipling Street as a Category 2 resource, under local Criteria 1, 2, and 4 (zoned CD-C P)
12. 1275 Dana Avenue as a Category 1 resource, under local Criteria 5 and 6 (zoned R-1)
13. 832 Kipling Street as a Category 2 resource, under local Criterion 2 (zoned R-2)

Staff received two additional 'opt in' requests a few days after packet (Stanford's 211 Quarry Road in the PF zone, as a Category 1 resource, under local Criteria 1, 2, and 5, and 825 Kipling Street in the R-2 zone, as a Category 2 resource, under local Criteria 2 and 6).

# IMAGES OF PROPERTIES WHOSE OWNERS 'OPTED IN'



# IMAGES OF PROPERTIES WHOSE OWNERS 'OPTED IN'



Figure 2: 2023 Reconnaissance Survey photograph.



# NEXT STEPS: 'OPTING IN' AFTER 4/22 COUNCIL PACKET

Based on the recommendation in this report:

- Staff would continue to engage property owners whose properties are eligible for listing but who have not affirmatively expressed an interest in listing for the next two months
- Additional properties whose owners 'opted in' (e.g. below) post packet can go to a Council consent calendar
- 'Opt-in' property owners would have six months to reconsider and request their property not be listed on the inventory.

## 211 Quarry Road



Figure 1: 1997-2001 Survey Update photograph.



Figure 2: 2023 Reconnaissance Survey photograph.

**Statement of Significance:** The subject building is significant as a late and rare surviving example of a hospital based on the pavilion plan and was designed in the Art Deco style by the important Oakland firm of Reed and Corbett. It is also significant as an example of one of several Palo Alto municipal hospitals.

**Period of Significance:** 1931

**Palo Alto Historic Inventory Category:** Category 1\*

*\*Note, this is one of the few properties with significance at the national level given its Art Deco pavilion plan design. Due to this stylistic importance, it has been assigned a Category 1 rating for the Palo Alto Historic Inventory.*

## 825 Kipling Street



Figure 1: 1997-2001 Survey Update photograph.



Figure 2: 2023 Reconnaissance Survey photograph.

**Statement of Significance:** 825 Kipling Street is significant as one of the most elaborate early square cottages in Palo Alto that uses Queen Anne style detailing and is reminiscent of several typical pattern book designs of the late nineteenth century that used the diagonal projecting wing plan. The building illustrates the familiarity of local builders with the popular pattern book designs of the day.

**Period of Significance:** 1898

**Palo Alto Historic Inventory Category:** Category 2



CITY OF  
**PALO  
ALTO**

**AMY FRENCH**

*Chief Planning Official/ HRB Staff Liaison*

[Amy.french@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:Amy.french@cityofpaloalto.org)

650-329-2336