

CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW  
FINDINGS REPORT/ZONING PERMIT

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516-15-HP  
October 14, 2015

APPLICATION NO.:  
DATE OF FINDINGS:

THIS DOCUMENT REPRESENTS THE ZONING PERMIT RECEIVED FOR THE SUBJECT SITE. THIS DOCUMENT DOES NOT WAIVE THE REQUIREMENT FOR SUBSEQUENT CITY APPROVALS AS APPLICABLE, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, BUILDING PERMITS, EXCAVATION PERMITS, ETC.

Applicant's Name:

City of Mountain View

Street Address of Property:	Assessor's Parcel No.:	Zone:
771 North Rengstorff Avenue	153-04-028	CS

Request:

Request for a Historic Preservation Permit to add the structure known as the Immigrant House, which will be located at 771 North Rengstorff Avenue, to the Mountain View Register of Historic Resources, and a determination that the project is categorically exempt pursuant to Section 15331 ("Historical Resource Restoration/Rehabilitation") of the CEQA Guidelines.

APPROVED     CONDITIONALLY APPROVED     DISAPPROVED     CONTINUED     OTHER

**\*\*\*\*ZONING ADMINISTRATOR RECOMMENDATION TO CITY COUNCIL\*\*\*\***

**FINDINGS OF APPROVAL:**

The Historical Preservation Permit to add the structure known as the Immigrant House, which will be located at 771 North Rengstorff Avenue, to the Mountain View Register of Historic Resources is approved based upon the following findings:

1. The structure known as the Immigrant House was constructed around 1888 and is a simple two-room house measuring 14'x20'. Channel rustic siding covers the front, while board and batten siding covers the other three sides. The house has a gable roof, a front and rear door, and four windows. Between 1888 and 1897, a rear porch was added which was later replaced with a small bathroom in the 1940s to 1950s.
2. The Immigrant House was originally located at 166 Bryant Street and was one of several outbuildings on the Charles Pearson property at 902 Villa Street.
3. In 2012, a commercial development was approved by City Council on the 902 Villa Street site which necessitated the removal of all the structures on the site, including the Immigrant House. As part of this development application, it was determined the structure would be temporarily moved to the City Municipal Operations Center (MOC) property at 231 North Whisman Road until a permanent location could be identified, where it is currently located.
4. In 2013, City Council approved a new park site at 771 North Rengstorff Avenue and determined this would be the new site for the Immigrant House. The structure is proposed to be moved to the park site at 771 North Rengstorff

Owner       Agent       File       Fire       Public Works

Avenue and used as a public display and example of life for early agricultural laborers.

5. The Mountain View Register of Historic Resources (MVRHR) evaluates a resource's historic significance based on four criteria. The four criteria include: Criterion A – Resources that are strongly identified with a person who, or in an organization which, significantly contributed to the culture, history, or development of the City of Mountain View; Criterion B – Resources that are the sites of a significant historic event in the City's past; Criterion C – Resources that embody distinctive characteristics significant to the City in terms of type, period, region, or method of construction or representative of the work of a master or possession of high artistic value; and Criterion D – Resources that have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important to the City's prehistory or history.
6. The City prepared a historic resource evaluation for the Immigrant House which provides a description and historic context for the structure as well as an evaluation of its eligibility for listing on the MVRHR.
7. The historic resource evaluation determined the Immigrant House is eligible for listing on the MVRHR under Criterion D as an example of a residence for early agricultural laborers associated with local industry.
8. Resident immigrant and migrant laborers were an important element during the agricultural era in Santa Clara County and Mountain View. The building is directly associated with the orchard and canning industry that was the most important economic industry in Mountain View and the greater Santa Clara Valley from the early 1900s through the 1940s, remaining a contributor to the economy into the 1960s, due to its use as a residence for immigrant and migrant workers who likely worked at the Mountain View Fruit Exchange, the California Supply Company (also known as the Pickle Factory) located on the same block in the early 1920s, the Libby fruit cannery in Sunnyvale, as well as in orchards in Mountain View and surrounding cities.
9. The addition of the Immigrant House to the MVRHR is in the best interest of the health, prosperity, social and cultural enrichment, and general welfare of the City because the addition furthers General Plan Goal LUD-11 which is to preserve and protect important historic and cultural resources.
10. The project is categorically exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15331 ("Historical Resource Restoration/Rehabilitation") because the project proposes to add the Immigrant House to the MVRHR which will further the preservation of a known historic resource within the community.

MELINDA M. DENIS, DEPUTY ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

MMD/SW/7/FDG  
516-15-HP