



**DATE:** January 22, 2019

**CATEGORY:** Consent

**DEPT.:** Community Development

**TITLE:** **National Register of Historic Places  
Nominations – 938 Villa Street and  
954 Villa Street**

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Approve the draft City response to the National Register of Historic Places nominations for 938 Villa Street and 954 Villa Street (Attachment 1 to the Council report).

### **BACKGROUND**

The community group “Livable Mountain View” has nominated 938 Villa Street (a.k.a. Chez TJ or the Weilheimer House) and 954 Villa Street (a.k.a. Tied House or Air Base Laundry) for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The State’s notice for these nominations and supplemental analysis are attached to this memo (Attachment 2).

### **ANALYSIS**

Both properties have been identified as local historic resources by the City, and, as such, building modifications and removal of the structures are subject to review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). This is the case whether or not they are added to the NRHP. In early 2017, an application was submitted to redevelop these sites with a new office building. Staff has not worked on the application since a Study Session in late 2017, when a majority of the City Council stated that they would not support relocation or demolition of the Weilheimer House.

The State Historical Resources Commission will make a recommendation to the National Parks Service (NPS) on this nomination on February 1, 2019. The NPS may make a final decision on the nomination within 45 days of the recommendation.

The attached letter (Attachment 1) documents the analysis the City has conducted to establish these properties as historic resources. It does not take a formal position on the nomination. The City’s previous analysis, conducted by consulting architectural

historians, indicated both sites are eligible for the Mountain View Register of Historic Resources, but neither meets the threshold for the State or National registers. The National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) criteria are stated below.

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and:

- A. That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- B. That are associated with the lives of significant persons in our past; or
- C. That embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- D. That have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in history or prehistory.

Regardless of whether either property is on the State or National Register, as noted above, both are required to conduct CEQA analysis before any modifications can be made.

**FISCAL IMPACT** – None.

### **ALTERNATIVES**

1. Take a formal City position on the nomination.
2. Do not send any letter.
3. Provide other direction.

## **PUBLIC NOTICING**

Agenda posting. Livable Mountain View and the owners and applicant of the subject properties were notified by e-mail, as were the Central Business Association, Old Mountain View Neighborhood Association, and Shoreline West Neighborhood Association.

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899-01-22-19CR

Attachments: 1. Draft Response to NRHP Nomination  
2. Notices and Supplemental Analysis