



Agenda Report

Fullerton City Council

MEETING DATE: NOVEMBER 20, 2018

TO: CITY COUNCIL / SUCCESSOR AGENCY

SUBMITTED BY: KENNETH A. DOMER, CITY MANAGER

PREPARED BY: TED WHITE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: LOCAL HISTORICAL LANDMARK DESIGNATION FOR THE HUNT LIBRARY, 201 SOUTH BASQUE AVENUE

SUMMARY

Request to designate the Hunt Library as a Local Historical Landmark and to make a corresponding revision to Table 6 and Exhibit 3 of The Fullerton Plan, Local Register of Historical Resources and Map of Local and National Landmarks, respectively.

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt Resolution No. 2018-XX.

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-XX - A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FULLERTON, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING A LOCAL LANDMARK DESIGNATION FOR THE HUNT LIBRARY LOCATED AT 201 SOUTH BASQUE AVENUE (HISTORIC LANDMARK NO. HL-102) AND A GENERAL PLAN REVISION TO MAKE CORRESPONDING AMENDMENTS TO THE FULLERTON PLAN HISTORIC PRESERVATION ELEMENT, TABLE 6 – CITY OF FULLERTON LOCAL REGISTER OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES AND EXHIBIT 3 – MAP OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES – NATIONAL AND LOCAL

PRIORITY POLICY STATEMENT

Not applicable.

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

DISCUSSION

The Fullerton Plan Historic Preservation Element (Chapter 3) has the stated purpose of guiding “the preservation, protection, restoration and rehabilitation of historical resources in order to reaffirm their continuing value as a resource contributing to the vitality and diversity of the present.” Table 6 of The Fullerton Plan comprises the Local Register of Historical Resources, a listing of properties and features recognized as historically significant. Exhibit 3 of The Fullerton Plan is a location map showing all National and Local Landmarks.

The Local Register of Historical Resources recognizes several different types of property designations, including a Local Landmark. This designation is given to a building, structure or natural or manmade feature having a historic character or historic, cultural, architectural or aesthetic value with respect to the heritage of Fullerton, which merits preservation, restoration and/or protection.

As discussed in the Planning Commission staff report (Attachment 3), FMC §15.48.060 identifies the criteria under which a building can be designated as a Local Landmark. With this application, the property owner is requesting Local Landmark designation based on the following:

Architectural Significance

4. *Exemplification of a particular architectural style or way of life important to the city.*
7. *Embodiment of elements of outstanding attention to architectural design, detail, materials or craftsmanship.*

The Hunt Library and its companion four story office building on the adjoining property were completed in 1962 and are the best examples of International Style architecture in Fullerton. This style is characterized by rectilinear and modular forms, glass and steel construction, emphasis on volume rather than mass and absence of ornamentation. The Hunt Library building embodies all of these characteristics. Walls are composed of rows of black and clear glass panels in a repeated module pattern and a band of clear glass above the exterior walls forms a continuous clerestory window allowing light in and providing views of the surrounding treetops. Rectangular courtyards that are open to the sky are integrated into each corner of the buildings’ rectangular form.

The Hunt Library and grounds were a gift to the City from the Hunt-Wesson Foundation in conjunction with development of the adjacent Hunt-Wesson Corporate Headquarters (now owned by Grace Ministries). Company head Norton Simon installed artwork from his private collection for display inside the library and on the grounds. For many years the Hunt Library was viewed as a cultural center for Fullerton.

Noted Architect

6. *Identification as the work of a person or persons whose work has influenced the heritage of the city, the state of California or the United States.*

The Hunt Library was designed by the acclaimed architect William Pereira as a companion building to the four story Hunt-Wesson Headquarters Building in a 20 acre

park-like campus setting. Pereira designed hundreds of buildings over a fifty year career and was one of the most prolific architects of the twentieth century. Based in Los Angeles, his modern designs shaped the look of mid-twentieth century architecture in Southern California. Some of the most notable buildings designed by Pereira and Associates include the elliptical Great Western Savings Center in Beverly Hills, Transamerica Pyramid in San Francisco, Geisel Library at the University of California San Diego campus and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art complex. His work also encompassed city and campus master plans, including plans for the Irvine Ranch, University of California, Irvine, and corporate headquarters for a number of aerospace firms. Pereira was recognized by the American Institute of Architects for outstanding achievement and his contributions to architecture and society.

Planning Commission Recommendation

The Planning Commission reviewed the application at a noticed public hearing held on October 24, 2018. Following a presentation from staff, remarks by Fullerton Heritage as the project applicant and public comments, the six members of the Planning Commission present (Pendergraft absent) unanimously recommended approval for designation of the property as a Local Historical Landmark. Additional information is provided in the Planning Commission Staff Report (Attachment 3) and in the detailed background and analysis of the property prepared by Fullerton Heritage (Attachment 4).

Attachments:

- Attachment 1 – PowerPoint Presentation
- Attachment 2 – Draft City Council Resolution No. 2018-XX
- Attachment 3 – Planning Commission Staff Report, October 24, 2018
- Attachment 4 – Primary Record form (documentation of landmark eligibility)
- Attachment 5 – Planning Commission Resolution No. PC-2018-23
- Attachment 6 – Planning Commission Minutes, October 24, 2018