



City of Santa Barbara
Planning Division

Memorandum

DATE: September 7, 2016

TO: Historic Landmarks Commission

FROM: Nicole Hernandez, City Urban Historian

SUBJECT: **Addition to Potential Historic Resources List**

ADDRESS: **1332 Laguna Street**

The c. 1905 Queen Anne Free Classic house sits east of downtown between East Sola and East Victoria Streets. The house sits on an intact streetscape and has high integrity of design, materials, setting, workmanship, feeling, and association and can convey its original appearance. The building was recommended for listing on the City's Potential Historic Resources List by Commissioner Mahan in writing on August 30, 2016 to the HLC Designations Subcommittee. The HLC Designations Subcommittee reviewed the



property via e-mail on August 30, 2016 and found the building meets criteria outlined in the Santa Barbara Municipal Code, Section 22.22.040. The building meets Criterion A, D, and G and would qualify as a City of Santa Barbara Structure of Merit.

This listing allows the Historic Landmarks Commission to treat the building as a historic resource, and it is being added to the Potential Historic Resources List as per the Santa Barbara Municipal Code Section 22.22.030 C. Identification of Potential Resource by Commission Members. A member of the Commission may identify a structure, a real property site, or a natural feature that, in the Commissioner's opinion, may qualify for possible inclusion on the City's Potential Historic Resources List. Any such identification may be made by the filing of a written request for the listing of the structure, site, or natural feature as a Potential Historic Resource pursuant to the provisions of this Section. Such written request shall state in detail the reasons the Commissioner believes that such a listing is appropriate and

shall be made in accordance with criteria for listing a Potential Historic Resource established in the MEA Historic Resource Guidelines.

Criterion A. Its character, interest or value as a significant part of the heritage of the City, the State or the Nation

The structure was built circa 1905, in the Queen Anne Free Classic architectural style. A relative of the Queen Anne style, Queen Anne Free Classic has certain characteristics in common while still containing many distinct and important features that place it in a class of its own. As evidenced by the largely unadorned, classic porch posts, the Queen Anne Free Classic style emphasizes simpler lines than its predecessor. In Santa Barbara, examples of the Queen Anne Free Classic style can be found in the City's older residential neighborhoods, including the Upper and Lower Eastside and the Westside. This architectural style characterizes Santa Barbara's late-nineteenth and early-twentieth-century residential expansion that was largely driven by the growth in the City's resort industry and improvements to the transportation system. Therefore, as an exceptional example of the Queen Anne Free Classic style that is illustrative of the growth and development of Santa Barbara's middle class residential neighborhoods during the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century, the house at 1332 Laguna St. qualifies for listing as a City of Santa Barbara Structure of Merit under Criterion A.

Criterion D. Its exemplification of a particular architectural style or way of life important to the City, the State, or the Nation

The house at 1332 Laguna Street maintains sufficient design integrity to convey its Queen Anne Free Classic style. As part of the Victorian period, Queen Anne Free Classic was popular from the late 1800s to the early 1900s, with its peak from 1900 to 1910. In 1900, the highly decorative Queen Anne was steadily declining in popularity, while the Free Classic became the only Victorian style to grow in popularity. In Santa Barbara, it tended to come close stylistically to the early stages of American Colonial Revival yet retained Queen Anne characteristics such as asymmetrical plans, variously shaped shingles, and decorative bracket details. Although sometimes difficult to distinguish from American Colonial Revival because of similarities in moldings, siding, columns, etc., Queen Anne Free Classic is a distinct and important part of Santa Barbara's history and streetscape character. The Queen Anne Free Classic was popular during a period of great growth in Santa Barbara, and examples can be found throughout the historic neighborhoods surrounding downtown. The house at 1332 Laguna Street demonstrates typical Queen Anne Free Classic wide, overhanging eaves that are adorned with brackets, which are typically flatter and have less ornament than those of a Queen Anne. The lines on the gable ends and along the cornices are very elegant and streamlined rather than the intricate spindle work or gingerbread featured in the Queen Anne. The house demonstrates the strongest defining feature of the Queen Anne Free Classic, which are the simple Tuscan column porch posts. Rather than the turned spindles of the Queen Anne, the Free Classic has classical columns for porch supports. Across the country, these columns often ranged from simpler Tuscan columns to high-styled Corinthian, which featured leaves at the capital. Santa Barbara favored the simpler Tuscan style. As typical of the style, the columns are only partial height, sitting on a low wall or pedestal the height of the porch railing. Columns can be individually spaced but are often paired, especially when there is a large, open span in the porch. Railings and other details are usually simple and often lack the complex and delicate detailing of the Queen Anne houses. The house features Queen Anne Free Classic style windows, with intricate, leaded glass in the upper sash of the bay window, and draws from classical details of the Palladian window by employing a triple set of windows. Finally, the house features Queen Anne Free Classic walls of narrow wood weatherboards with decorative shingles in the open, front-facing gable.

Criterion G. Its embodiment of elements demonstrating outstanding attention to architectural design, detail, materials and craftsmanship

The house features wood, double-hung windows with leaded, decorative glass in the top sash of the front window. The house has simple brackets under the eaves, a pane over panel front door, decorative shingles in the upper front gable, and elegant, simple classical columns on the front porch. Thus, the house is eligible for listing as a Structure of Merit under Criterion G, as it embodies elements that demonstrate an outstanding attention to design, detail, materials, and craftsmanship.

Historic Integrity

The house is currently being restored, with almost all of the original materials still present. In addition, the house also contributes to the visual integrity of the surrounding neighborhood, which is primarily residential in character and encompasses a range of architectural styles, including Spanish Colonial Revival cottages, Queen Anne cottages, Craftsman, and post-World War II multi-residential buildings. The Queen Anne Free Classic is one of the architectural styles that typify the surrounding neighborhood. The house retains its integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, allowing it to convey its original appearance.

Recommendation

The HLC Designations Subcommittee and staff recommend that the Historic Landmarks Commission add the Queen Anne Free Classic style house at 1332 Laguna Street to the City's Potential Historic Resources List.

