

ATTACHMENT A:
SHPO Request for Comments

**OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

1725 23rd Street, Suite 100
SACRAMENTO, CA 95816
(916) 445-7000 Fax: (916) 445-7053
calshpo@parks.ca.gov



May 30, 2012

Kevin Johnson
Senior Planner
Design & Historic Preservation
City of Pasadena
175 North Garfield Avenue
Pasadena, California 91109-7215

**RE: Historic Preservation Commission Review and Comment on the Nomination of
Markham Place Historic District to the National Register of Historic Places**

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Pursuant to the Certified Local Government Agreement between the Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) and your governmental entity, we are providing your historic preservation commission with a sixty (60) day review and comment period before the State Historical Resources Commission (SHRC) takes action on the above-stated National Register of Historic Places (National Register) nomination at its next meeting. Details on the meeting are enclosed.

As a Certified Local Government under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, your commission may prepare a report as to whether or not such property, in its opinion, meets the criteria for the National Register. Your commission's report should be presented to the Chief Elected Local Official for transmission, along with their comments, to California State Parks, Attn: Office of Historic Preservation, Milford Wayne Donaldson, FAIA, State Historic Preservation Officer, P.O. Box 94286, Sacramento, California 94296-0001. So that the SHRC may have adequate time to consider the comments, it is requested, but not required, that OHP receives written comments fifteen (15) days before the SHRC's meeting. If you have questions or require further information, please contact the Registration Unit at (916) 445-7008.

As of January 1, 1993, all National Register properties are automatically included in the California Register of Historical Resources and afforded consideration in accordance with state and local environmental review procedures.

Supplemental information on the National Register is available at our website at the following address: www.ohp.parks.ca.gov.

Thank you for your assistance in this program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Milford Wayne Donaldson".

Milford Wayne Donaldson, FAIA
State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosures: Nomination, Meeting Notice

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MEETING NOTICE

FOR: State Historical Resources Commission Quarterly Meeting

DATE: Friday, August 3, 2012

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PLACE: Beverly Hills City Hall
Council Chambers
455 North Rexford Drive
Beverly Hills, California 90210

This room is accessible to people with disabilities. Questions regarding the meeting should be directed to the Registration Unit (916) 445-7008

ATTACHMENT B:

Draft Comment Letter

DRAFT

July 18, 2012

State Historical Resources Commission
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

Ladies and Gentlemen:

In response to your request for comments, the Historic Preservation Commission and City Council urge your favorable consideration on August 3rd of the National Register nomination of the Markham Place Historic District. This distinctive grouping of properties is important for its representation of early settlement patterns and architectural styles from the earliest period in the city's development through the Period Revival era.

The attached comments from the Historic Preservation Commission are intended to enhance the excellent work of Pasadena Heritage in preparing the historic district nomination form. We look to your support on August 3rd to advance this nomination to the Keeper of the Register.

Sincerely,

BILL BOGAARD
Mayor

KNJ:knj

Attachment

COMMENTS ON MARKHAM PLACE HISTORIC DISTRICT NOMINATION FOR LISTING IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

1. The significance statement should provide further justification for the inclusion of buildings built after 1918 as contributing buildings.

The nomination includes contributing buildings built between 1887 and 1929, but the significance statement only describes the significance of buildings built between 1887 and 1918. The nomination would be strengthened if additional justification of the significance of buildings constructed after 1918 were included.

2. The nomination should provide further justification for the 1929 end date of the period of significance.

Although the neighborhood was largely built out by 1929, as stated in the nomination, there are a few buildings within the boundaries from the period revival era—which is defined in the City’s 2004 study of that period as ending circa 1942—that were built after 1929. It may be appropriate for those buildings to be contributing to the district rather than non-contributing as currently indicated in the nomination. One of the buildings identified as non-contributing to the historic district is contributing to the existing designated landmark district and this building is similar in character to the contributing buildings from the period revival era, retains integrity and should be contributing to the proposed historic district.

3. Additional historical information about Singer Park and its significance should be provided to justify its inclusion in the proposed district boundary.

City records indicate that the park was originally the grounds of the Emma R. Singer residence, which were designed by Thomas Chisolm (the original designer of Central and Memorial Parks). The site was originally comprised of two home sites: the corner site was the home of James Campbell and the adjoining property to the west was the home of George W. Stimson who owned and developed a portion of the proposed historic district that he named Carlisle Heights. Singer purchased the Stimson property and occupied the house and later purchased the Campbell property and demolished the house to expand her gardens. The property was donated to the City upon Singer’s death along with a fund for maintenance and instructions for Chisolm to handle any redesign of the grounds that would be necessary to turn the property into a public park. In a 1948 article, Mira C. Saunders, a prominent nature writer that lived in Pasadena, referred to the park as “a miniature arboretum, lacking only the labels on the trees...” and an article in the 1923 Pasadena Star-News indicates that some of the trees on the property were planted by Chisolm “as far back as 1886.”