

PETITION LETTER

Neighborhood petition Support Landmark Tree Status Summer 2010

My name is George King and I have been the property owner and caretaker since 1996 of one of our neighborhood's valuable resources - the 85ft Monterey Cypress tree located on the southeast corner of 20th and Eureka Streets. I am working to get Landmark Status for this tree in order to save it, for the sake of our neighborhood's character, and all the benefits trees give us.

What is Landmark Status?

Landmark Tree Program

Trees that are designated by the city for landmark status are protected from physical damage and removal. The San Francisco Landmark Tree Program recognizes that trees are an important part of our city, whether for historical presence or other characteristics that makes them special, such as cultural significance, age or ecological value. The SF Landmark Tree Program recognizes the need to preserve their presence in the community.

Personal, Passionate - Why?

One of the reasons I bought this property was the mature Monterey Cypress (*cupressus macrocarpa*) tree on the lot. This type of cypress has very special personal meaning: it represents to me the ability to grow and thrive in adverse conditions. This tree, indigenous to Point Lobos State Reserve south of Carmel, is true testimony to strength in adversity. It survives and thrives on the rocky outcrops of stone cliffs, in the face of storms and strong winds. The tree represents what I have had to learn and adapt to in life, and is a powerful metaphor for survival. I passionately believe this symbol must be protected.

Neighborhood & Tree History

In early 1895 a stonecutter, William H. Johnson, purchased the lot and built a residence on it. Johnson immigrated to the United States in 1881 from Finland, was unmarried with two children, age 3 and 1. In 1895 he moved his family into the newly completed home. In the 1900 national census Johnson and his new bride Eugenia and their two children resided at the home.

In May of 1905 Johnson sold the building to Nicholas Morrisey, owner of a horseshoeing business south of market. With the detailed residential history I have obtained, it appears the Cypress tree was likely planted by Nicholas Morrisey. (more history available on request)

TREES' BENEFITS:

Trees reduce air pollution

- Help to settle out, trap and hold particulate pollutants (dust, ash, pollen and smoke) that can damage human lungs.
- Absorb CO₂ and other dangerous gases and in turn replenish the atmosphere with oxygen.
- Produce enough oxygen on each acre for 18 people every day.
- Absorb enough CO, on each acre over a year's time to equal the amount you produce when you drive your car 26,000 miles.

Trees add beauty and improve our health

- Add natural character to our cities and towns.
- Provide us with colors, flowers, and beautiful shapes, forms and textures.
- Screen harsh scenery.
- Soften the outline of masonry, metal and glass.
- Can be used architecturally to provide space definition and landscape continuity.

Trees impact deeply on our moods and emotions, providing psychological benefits impossible to measure. Create feelings of relaxation and well-being.

- Provide privacy and a sense of solitude and security.
- Shorten post-operative hospital stays when patients are placed in rooms with a view of trees and open spaces.

Trees conserve water and reduce soil erosion

Reduce surface runoff of water from storms.

- Reduce soil erosion and sedimentation of streams.
- Increase ground water recharge that is significantly reduced by paving
- Lesser amounts of chemicals transported to streams.
- Reduce wind erosion of soil.

Trees save energy-Tips for Planting

- Plant deciduous trees, which shed their leaves during winter. These trees provide shade and block heat from the sun during hotter months. By dropping their leaves in the fall they admit sun-light in the colder months.
- Place these trees on the south and west sides of buildings. Shade all hard surfaces e.g. driveways, patios and sidewalks to minimize landscape heat load. Place them to intercept and slow winter winds, usually on north side of your home.
- Do not plant them on the south or west sides of your home, because they block warming sunlight during winter. These trees also provide some shading benefits during summer.

PLEASE SUPPORT MY PETITION! To support this petition please contact

Urban Forestry Council

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For more information please contact me at bionicii@aol.com