

SAN FRANCISCO URBAN FORESTRY COUNCIL

Landmark Tree Nomination Form

Disclaimer: Any information you include on this form will be part of the public record. Anyone may request to see the information you submit for a landmark tree nomination. For more legal information, see the last page of this form.

Who can nominate a landmark tree?

- The Board of Supervisors, Planning Commission, and Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board may nominate a tree.
The head of a City department or agency may nominate a tree on property under their jurisdiction. City departments and agencies should conduct an internal approval process before nominating a tree.
A property owner may nominate a tree on his or her property.
A member of the public may ask an authorized nominator to nominate a tree.

Please note that a permit will be required for any future removal of a landmark tree.

Pursuant to Ordinance 0017-06 and Public Works Code 810, the Urban Forestry Council requests the following information.

I am one of the following authorized nominators

- XX Property owner
Board of Supervisor member
Head of a city department or agency
Planning Commission member
Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board member

Authorized nominator (Supervisor, Planning Commission, Landmarks Advisory Board, Head of City Department, Property Owner):

Member of the public who initiated nomination (if applicable):

Jane von Bothmer, Property Owner

Name

2853 Vallejo Street

Address

San Francisco, CA 94123

Address

[Redacted]

Phone (day)

[Redacted]

Fax #

[Redacted]

Email

[Redacted]

I am an authorized nominator and I support this nomination.

Name

Address

Address

Address

Phone (day)

Phone (day)

Fax #

Fax #

Email

Email

I am the property owner and I grant permission for city staff to evaluate the nominated tree on the property with advance notice.

Signature

March 31, 2011

Date

Signature

Date

The Urban Forestry Council will use the following criteria to evaluate each potential landmark tree. If you need more space to describe the tree, please attach additional sheets.

TREE DESCRIPTION

Tree name (species and common name): Acacia melanoxylon, Blackwood Acacia

Number of trees: 1

Street address: 2853 Vallejo Street, San Francisco, CA 94123

Location of Tree: Front yard Rear yard Side yard Corner-side yard
 Public right-of-way Public lands Not sure
 Other: _____

If the tree which extends beyond multiple properties:

Which part of the tree does so?

Trunk Canopy (extends partially over Sam Husbands' property at
 2841 Vallejo Street, San Francisco, CA 94123

Where in the neighboring area?

Front yard Rear yard Side yard Corner-side yard

GPS units (OPTIONAL): _____

Height 70 feet

Average canopy width 58 feet
 Distance from one edge to opposite edge of tree canopy

Circumference at chest level 120 inches
 Distance around trunk at 4.5 ft off the ground. <http://www.isa-arbor.com/publications/tree-ord/heritage.aspx>

Circumference at ground level 150 inches
 Distance around trunk on the ground where the trunk meets the soil.

Rarity

Rarity: ___Rare ___Uncommon XXCommon ___Other
Unusual species in San Francisco or other geographic regions.

Comment: This superb Acacia melanoxydon is on the Gold Coast of Pacific Heights, and was likely planted when the house was built in 1925 by George Adrian Applegarth's team. Applegarth studied under Bernard Maybeck, and is the famed architect of the California Legion of Honor and The Spreckels Mansion at 2080 Washington (now home to Danielle Steel, the world's 8th best selling author). Applegarth built 2853 Vallejo Street in 1925, and centered this unique Italian villa around a lush garden, anchored by the acacia tree. The acacia tree is the focal point of this double-lot garden, and Applegarth's architecturally-significant villa is focused around this garden.

In 2004, Sotheby's magazine wrote the attached article on the bird-scaping that was done for this garden, and the wild parrots of Telegraph Hill, hummingbirds, and other species are frequent visitors. In 2004, the acacia was registered in California's Register of Big Trees by Art Cowley, California's Big Tree Coordinator, but was misidentified as a Golden Wattle. A photo of Art's wife (and the property owner's mother) is posted on this registry at <http://www.ufei.org/bigtrees/bigtreelist.lasso>

In 2011, two Bay Area Certified Arborists (Roy Leggitt and Ian Butler) recommended applying for Landmark Tree status for this magnificent acacia.

Physical

Size: XXLarge ___Medium ___Small
Notable size compared to other trees of the same species in San Francisco.

Comment: This very large tree is a statement unto itself. It is majestic, bold, and a true anchor to a beautiful villa. It is surrounded by a number of other trees, including three majestic redwood trees.

Age: Significantly advanced age for the species. The acacia was likely established in the original garden designed by the noted George Adrian Applegarth's team. The house was built in 1925, and this tree was likely installed shortly thereafter.

Distinguished form: XXYes ___No
Tree is an example of good form for its species, has a majestic quality or otherwise unique structure.

Describe: Upon viewing the garden, with the tree as the main focal point, Melissa Barber (the wife of then Sotheby's President Patrick Barber) said repeatedly "I had no idea... I had no idea... I had no idea). The tree commands this type of response.

Tree condition: XXGood ___Poor ___Hazard
Consider overall tree health and structure, and whether or not tree poses a hazard

Describe: The tree has been maintained by Tim Lockfeld, Certified Arborist. Two other arborists, Roy Leggitt (in 2005 and 2011) and Ian Butler (in 2006), have also assessed the tree's health. Although the tree was topped many years ago, adaptive limb structure is now reasonably structurally sound and stable. Foliage health is good. No evidence of decay was found.

Historical

Historical Association: Yes None apparent

Related to a historic or cultural building, site, street, person, event, etc.

Describe nature of appreciation: George Adrian Applegarth likely supervised the installation of the tree as well as designed the overall garden at 2853 Vallejo Street in San Francisco. This type of double lot, with a total of 40 trees on the property, is unique to San Francisco. The property is an Italian villa located within an urban city.

Profiled in a publication or other media: Yes Unknown

Tree has received coverage in print, internet, video media, etc.

See attached documentation.

Describe coverage: Sotheby's Magazine profiled the garden in 2004. (Also, the producers of the *Bachelor* were in talks with the new owners to film the series at 2853 Vallejo in 2004 because of their interest in the unique nature of the villa's garden, but they decided to film that episode in Paris. The Japanese Embassy also requested to use the property when their Embassy was being remodeled, but the new owners declined due to their own need to access the property from time to time. The new owners moved in shortly thereafter in 2005.

Environmental

Prominent landscape feature: Yes No

A striking and outstanding natural feature.

Describe, attach photo if possible: Absolutely. This tree must be seen to be believed. Truly unique. The tree dominates this properties landscape, and the top of the tree is visible from the street.

Low tree density: Low Moderate High

Tree exists in a neighborhood with very few trees.

Describe: The tree is located one block from the Presidio, so there are a number of trees in the neighborhood.

Interdependent group of trees: Yes No

This tree in an integral member of a group of trees and removing it may have an adverse impact on adjacent trees.

Describe: Absolutely. This tree has been in place for over 85 years, and is an integral part of the habitat. The adjacent coast redwood trees are dependent on the wind protection afforded by the blackwood acacia.

Visible or Accessible from public right-of-way: Yes No

High visibility and/or accessibility from public property.

Describe: The top of this tree can be viewed from the street level.

High traffic area: Yes No

Tree is located in an area that has a high volume of vehicle, pedestrian or bike traffic and has a potential traffic calming effect.

Describe.

Important wildlife habitat: Yes No

Species has a known relationship with a particular local wildlife species or it provides food, shelter, or nesting to specific known wildlife individuals. A number of birds can be seen in the tree throughout the

day. Owners have a number of videos, where they are filming other events, and the Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill are in the tree.

Erosion control: Yes No

Tree prevents soil erosion.

Describe: This wonderful tree has an incredible ability to absorb water. Within an hour after the tremendous storms of March 2011, there is no visible water on the owner's property... the tree has absorbed it all. There is no mud run off either. This tree is located in the upper part of the rear yard that is sloping. The root structure of this tree extends throughout this part of the garden to stabilize the soil.

Wind or sound barrier: Yes No

Tree reduces wind speed or mitigates undesirable noise.

Describe: This area is prone to prevailing winds from the west and northwest, particularly during the summer months, and this tree buffers those winds. The tree is an evergreen species and is very large, and thereby provides significant sound absorption at all times.

Cultural

Neighborhood appreciation: Yes None apparent

Multiple indicators such as letters of support, petition, outdoor gatherings, celebrations adjacent or related to tree, etc. Attach documentation:

Describe: Property owners on the last two blocks of Vallejo and near the Presidio value our tree-lined neighborhood. We have a unique neighborhood, in that we are in a city, but it truly is a wonderful respite for the neighbors and visiting community (many come enjoy the Lyon Street Steps, located just a block away).

Cultural appreciation: Yes None apparent

Particular value to certain cultural or ethnic groups in the city.

Describe nature of appreciation: All cultures can enjoy the beauty and majesty of this grand dame.

Planting contributes to neighborhood character: Yes No

Tree contributes significantly to, or represents, neighborhood aesthetic.

Describe contribution: This tree-lined neighborhood appreciates the value of a tree as part of the overall beauty of the neighborhood. There are a number of gorgeous trees in this neighborhood, and this tree is unique in that it is the focal point of a double-lot villa, in a truly unique garden in one of San Francisco's loveliest neighborhoods.

Profiled in a publication or other media: Yes Unknown

Tree has received coverage in print, internet, video media, etc. **Attach documentation** if appropriate.

Describe coverage: Yes, see above.

Prominent landscape feature: Yes No

A striking and outstanding natural feature.

Describe, attach photo if possible: This gorgeous acacia is THE focal point of George Adrian Applegarth's villa. The entire villa was centered around the garden, and this acacia tree is the focal point of the garden. In 2011, two Bay Area Certified Arborists have recommended applying for Landmark Status (Ian Butler and Roy Leggitt).

Additional comments

This magnificent acacia must be seen to be believed. The unique garden setting of this large Italian villa, situated in an urban environment, is truly rare, and the "Grand Dame" acacia tree is the focal point of this George Adrian Applegarth masterpiece.

If you have any questions about this form, tree terms or tree concepts, please contact the Urban Forestry Council staff (below). It is acceptable if you cannot provide some of the information requested on this form.

A photograph of the tree must be submitted with this form.

Please attach **optional** supporting documents such as letters, arborist report, etc.

Send to: Urban Forestry Council, c/o Mei Ling Hui, 11 Grove Street, San Francisco, CA 94102
OR meiling.hui@sfgov.org

Any information you submit will be part of the public record.

The Public Records Act defines a "public record" broadly to include "any writing containing information relating to the conduct of the public's business prepared, owned, used or retained by any state or local agency, regardless of the physical form or characteristics." Govt. Code § 6252(e). The Sunshine Ordinance defines "public information" as the content of "public records" as defined in the Public Records Act. Admin Code § 67.20(b). Pursuant to the Public Records Act and Sunshine Ordinance, this document is a public record and will be available to the public upon request, at the hearing site, at the San Francisco Main Library, and on the Urban Forestry Council's website. Admin Code §§ 8.16, 67.7 (b), and 67.21(a).



Tree peeking over owner's property, 2004



Certified Arborist's Tim Lockfeld's team in tree, 2010

Application received date _____	Received by _____
Tree evaluation form _____	UFC recommendation date _____
Board of Supervisors Decision _____	_____
Landmark Tree # _____	Title recorded date _____