

Cultural Heritage Commission  
c/o Office of Historic Resources  
Department of City Planning  
200 N. Spring Street, Room 559  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Date. 01/10/2017  
Submitted in PLUM Committee  
Council File No. 16-1448  
Item No. 7  
~~Dist.~~ Comm from Public

Dear Commissioners:

Due to health issues, I am unable to attend the Cultural Heritage Commission hearing scheduled for November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016, but wish for this letter to be read onto the record at the hearing on my behalf.

I strongly support the designation of 626 Siena Way as an Historic-Cultural Monument. As Chair of the Bel Air Association, I believe that one of the strongest assets of our community is our history. This history is exhibited perhaps most profoundly in the great homes built in the early days of Bel Air—homes that define a particular time and place in Los Angeles. 626 Siena Way is such a place, and it deserves to be preserved and recognized.

I was born in Bel Air and knew the house growing up. It is a lovely place and a fine example of the type of home that used to be built in our neighborhoods. Its grand yet refined nature is a fitting reflection of our community; it does not detract from its setting, but instead adds to the surrounding landscape with sensitivity. Houses like 626 Siena Way not only keep our history intact, but help preserve and recognize the character of Bel Air.

The house itself is currently in very good condition, including the large interior reception areas that provide ample space. The house's architect, William J. Gage, helped shape Bel Air and the surrounding communities. 626 Siena Way is an excellent example of his important work, work worthy of preservation.

While the house is architecturally significant, its connection to the Hannah Carter Japanese Garden should also be considered. The Japanese Garden is a wonderful part of our community and the Shepherd Residence is inextricably tied to it. The house, worthy on its own merits, should be preserved to ensure the integrity of the Garden as well.

626 Siena Way is exactly the kind of property that our city should be striving to protect. I want to urge the Commission to move forward with the nomination of this historical property. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Marcia Wilson Hobbs