



Sharon Dickinson &lt;sharon.dickinson@lacity.org&gt;

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**re Historic-Cultural Monument Status for 626 Siena Way**

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Haydi Sowerwine &lt;haydi@villagetechnologies.org&gt;

Mon, Jan 9, 2017 at 5:39 PM

To: Sharon.Dickinson@lacity.org

Cc: "Caldwell, Anne" &lt;Annecaldwell@earthlink.net&gt;, "Caldwell, Jim" &lt;jim@jimcaldwellart.com&gt;, Jonathan Caldwell &lt;jacaldwell52@gmail.com&gt;, Julie Tave &lt;julietave@gmail.com&gt;, Garth Bostic &lt;gbostic@nixonpeabody.com&gt;

Dear Ms. Dickinson,

I am Hannah Sowerwine, eldest daughter of Hannah Carter.

I am writing in support of Historic-Cultural Monument Status for my mother and step-father, Ed Carter's previous home at 626 Siena Way. Although I was already married when Mother and Ed bought the property, I visited on many happy occasions with my family.

It seems that tearing down houses and building 'mansions' is rampant in Bel Air and so many areas in the LA Area as well as where we live in the Bay Area. When a home such as 626 Siena Way represents an architectural period so well and when there are so few examples left of such architecture, it seems incumbent upon the PLUM Committee to do all they can to grant Historic-Cultural Monument status to the property to preserve a 'living' example for future generations.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if there is any way I can be of help.

Hannah Sowerwine

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Letter in support of monument status for 626 Siena Way.

9 January 2017

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to support the application for monument status for 626 Siena Way. It was the home of my mother Hannah Carter for forty years and my home as a teenager.

Others will speak with more knowledge and authority as to the architectural significance of the home. I will address simply the practical matter of considering monument status for the house and the adjacent Hannah Carter Japanese Garden together.

As the site inspection no doubt revealed, the house and Garden are closely linked.

- The landscaping of the house flows in harmony in transition to the Garden.
- The Garden suffered catastrophic damage from a landslide caused by flooding in 1968 and was painstakingly repaired. Geologically, the house and Garden are linked. Any major changes in the footings for the house will undoubtedly threaten the integrity of the Garden hillside. If the house is destroyed for the construction of an entirely new structure, damage to the Garden would be inevitable.
- Water and electric service is currently provided by the house to the Garden.
- The three upper gates to the Garden are within a few dozen feet of the house.
- The Garden currently belongs to the owners of the house. While that could change after the current 30 year agreement expires, it would make no sense for the Garden to be owned by an owner separate from the owner of the house at 626 Siena Way.
- The owners of the house need to provide significant oversight and supervision of the Garden regardless of the expertise of gardeners and consultants employed. Hannah Carter was able to do that on a daily basis based on the proximity of the house and Garden.
- Should the current or future owners of the house and Garden wish to provide public access to the Garden at some point in the future, the property of 626 Siena Way could provide an access point.

For these and other reasons I am sure to have overlooked, I urge to those considering monument status to grant it to the house and Garden.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Caldwell  
7 Drury Plains Road  
Stratham, New Hampshire 03885

Sent unsigned by email as I received this request on short notice and am travelling.

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Jan. 9, 2017

To: the Planning and Land Use Management Committee of the Los Angeles City Council and district representative Paul Koretz.

I am Hannah Carter's daughter and I would like to express my support of the Landmark Status designation of 626 Siena Way - the property that was once a part of, and now is adjacent to, the Hannah Carter Japanese Garden, that my siblings and I worked to protect.

I am excited that the City can see the value of the preservation of this unusual property and the Hannah Carter Japanese Garden.

I lived there when I was in high school, with my brother, Jonathan, my mother, Hannah and Step-father Ed Carter.

The land is at the end of a small ridge and drops off in all directions. The view is stunning and the house is very comfortably built. I was in this house during the Northridge Earthquake years later, and it withstood it well.

During my years living there, a lot of time was spent in the library, the pool, using the adjacent pool house, and the Japanese Garden. There were many gatherings that started in the Japanese Garden and ended at the house for dinner. All of my siblings, and their families enjoyed many sojourns, even months, on the property being considered for Landmark Status.

My mother, Hannah, was always very involved with the gardens on the property. We were outside a lot and the pathways connected both

properties. She often worked with the gardeners of both, and a lot of activity involved the grounds.

The 1938 Shepherd Residence, at 626 Siena Way, would be a valuable Cultural Historic Landmark Monument for the City of Los Angeles. This house blends Neo-classical style and Regency Revival architecture designed in 1938, by William J. Gage. It is supremely situated on the end of a ridge, with an expansive view of the city and with the attendant surrounding structures well placed. The way the property is linked with the Hannah Carter Japanese Garden makes it even more unique. The placement of the house on the land, the house's classic style and intact condition are Landmark quality.

My brother, Jim Caldwell, renowned architect and artist in the Bay Area - Woodside, California, whole-heartedly agrees. Together we support this Landmark Status Designation.

Thank you.

Anne Caldwell [annecaldwell@earthlink.net](mailto:annecaldwell@earthlink.net)

Jim Caldwell [jim@jimcaldwellart.com](mailto:jim@jimcaldwellart.com)