

July 4, 2020

Board of Supervisors  
C/O Planning & Building Dept.  
Ukiah CA 95482

Dear members,

Back in January I wrote the letter below in regards to the Colin Maxwell development that is a few doors down from the State Historic Landmark # 927, Temple of Kwan Tai. I had listed several issues in which the changes to said property is not in conformance with the historic district standards. My family goes back to when the town of Mendocino was first established and I was appalled at the continuous fabrications on the history on this property spoken by the current land owner. I am also a childhood friend of one the daughters who lived on the property until she attended college. Mr. Collins keeps stating to the public that he is planning to live there and yet low behold the day after he received his approval for his permit a "for sale sign" appeared on the property. Truthfulness seems to be lacking with the applicant. Please uphold the MHRB's findings.

I am sure you will not find it in the minutes but I also taken back to hear the Mendocino County inspector commenting on the cost the applicant has spent. The comment was out of order and inappropriate. It certainly was not his place to try to influence a decision based on cost! The employee needs to be reminded he works for all of us.

Below are my original objections and they still stand. I am requesting you deny the Colin Maxwell project for the following reasons;

The so-all reconstruction of a priority 1 building is not in keeping with the State and Federal guidelines for historic structures, one has to ask why this applicant is not required see a professional organization that can do a feasibility report on what can be realistically saved and how it should be approached? Carey and Associated did this exact procedure before the Temple of Kwan began it restoration of the building back in 1998. Why is it that this applicant gets to decide what is salvable and not an expert in this field? What is his credentials on preservation of historic structures?

Why do all of the additions have separate front entrances. Looking at the plans gives it the look of separate units that are attached. Is this a guise and that they will be become separate rentals? The overall project is not "in keeping with the character" of the its surrounding block. There is no project on this block of this magnitude. This project in not in "character with the west side of Albion Street." In the last meeting one board member stated he had no objection to dormers on the rebuild because the board has allowed dormers in the district. Where in the immediate area are there dormers? As I have said in the past when I served on MHRB that people come and go but the buildings stay. It is the community that has to live and look at what is left for generations to come.

MHRB has the right to deny this project because it is not in character with the surrounding neighborhood or the town as a whole. I support a smaller footprint of this project that is in keeping with the surrounding neighborhood.

Thank you for your service.

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