

Cultural Heritage Board Memorandum

Community & Economic Development Department Planning Division 3900 Main Street, Riverside, CA 92522 | Phone: (951) 826-5371 | RiversideCA.gov

CULTURAL HERITAGE BOARD MEETING DATE: MAY 19, 2021
AGENDA ITEM NO.: 4

DISCUSSION ITEM

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Case Numbers	P20-0330 (Certificate of Appropriateness)	
Request	To receive and file an update on the rehabilitation of the leaning garden we	
.,	at the Mission Inn Hotel & Spa	
Project Location	3649 Mission Inn Avenue, on a full city block between Mission Inn Avenue and Sixth Street, and Orange and Main Streets.	
APN	214-090-013	
Ward	1	
Neighborhood	Downtown	
Historic District	Mission Inn; Seventh Street	
Historic Designation	National Historic Landmark; National Register Site; California Historic Landmark #761; County Landmark; City Landmark #1; District Contributor	
Staff Planner	Scott Watson, Historic Preservation Officer 951-826-5507 swatson@riversideca.gov	

RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff recommends that the Cultural Heritage Board receive and file this update on the rehabilitation of the leaning garden wall at the Mission Inn Hotel & Spa.

BACKGROUND

On June 9, 2020, the Mission Inn Hotel and Spa submitted a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) application (P20-0330) for the reconstruction of an approximately 24-foot segment of the brick garden wall along Mission Inn Avenue. The wall segment is currently leaning due to the roots of an adjacent ash tree located on the Mission Inn property. The proposal included the dismantling and reconstruction of the existing wall. The reconstruction of the wall would reinstall existing finish material and would match the design of the existing wall.

On July 13, 2020, the Historic Preservation Officer approved the COA request under Section 20.25.030 of the Riverside Municipal Code, which specifies that in-kind replacement of historically correct architectural features or building elements shall be reviewed administratively. The proposal was found in compliance with Title 20 of the Municipal Code and the Secretary of the Interior Standards because the project will repair and reconstruct the original wall in-place using original historic material and will match the size, height, proportions, and decorative features of the original wall.

DISCUSSION

Following the approval of the COA, representatives from the Mission Inn Hotel and Spa met the City Building Official, City Engineer, Urban Forrester, and Planning staff to discuss the reconstruction of the wall and the proposed preservation of the existing ash tree. It was determined that the roots of the tree were invasive and would impact the reconstruction as proposed, requiring a redesign of the proposed reconstruction.

To alleviate the hazard associated with the leaning wall over the public sidewalk, staff determined that, because of the potential public safety concerns and under the approved COA, the two leaning pillars could be partially dismantled in the interim. The pillars would be dismantled to the height of the existing half-wall.

Historic materials will be salvaged and securely stored in accordance with the approved COA. City Staff and representatives of the Mission Inn will work to develop an appropriate reconstruction alternative that allows the tree to remain, while still securing the property and ensuring there is no public safety risk.

EXHIBITS LIST

- 1. P20-0330 Administrative Staff Report
- 2. P20-0330 Approved Plans

Prepared by: Scott Watson, Historic Preservation Officer

Reviewed by: David Murray, Principal Planner Approved by: Mary Kopaskie-Brown, City Planner