

Cultural Resources Nomination Application

City Landmark

Structure of Merit

Please check the Designation for which you are applying

IDENTIFICATION

1. Common name: Lionhead
2. Historic Name: The Howard Heisler House
3. Street address: 2881 Rumsey Drive
City Riverside State CA Zip 92506
4. Assessor Parcel number: 223-092-031
5. Present Legal Owner: Malissa McKeith
City Riverside State CA Zip 92506
6. Present Use: Single-family residence
7. Original Use: Single-family residence

Date form prepared: March 13, 2026

Preparer: Jen Mermilliod, JMRC

Sponsoring Organization (if any): _____

Address: 4076 Brockton Avenue, Suite 201

City, State and Zip: Riverside, CA 92501

Phone: (951) 233-6897

DESCRIPTION

8. Legal property description: 1.04 ACRES IN POR LOT E MB 004/092 VICTORIA HEIGHTS, PAR 2 AND POR PAR 4 (R.S. 031/012), AND POR LOT 1 (TR NO. 27804-R, MB 284/4-5) SEE ASSESSORS MB 223-09

Include approximate property size (in feet): Street Frontage 200 Depth 200

9. Architectural Style: Spanish Eclectic

10. Construction Date: Estimated _____ Factual X
Source of Information: ___ Assessor's Records ___ Building Permit ___ Sanborn Map
___ Publications ___ Oral Interviews X Newspapers

11. Architect's Name: _____ Builder's Name: _____

12. Condition: X Excellent ___ Good ___ Fair ___ Deteriorated
___ No longer in existence

13. Alterations: _____

14. Surroundings:
___ Open Land X Scattered Buildings ___ Densely Built-Up

15. Use type:
X Residential ___ Industrial ___ Commercial ___ Civic
___ Other

16. Is the structure on its original site?
X Yes ___ No ___ Unknown
If moved, approximate year _____

17. Related features and/or out-buildings: _____

SIGNIFICANCE

18. Historical Attributes:

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown | <input type="checkbox"/> Government Building | <input type="checkbox"/> Folk Art |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Single Family | <input type="checkbox"/> Educational Building | <input type="checkbox"/> Street Furniture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Multiple Family | <input type="checkbox"/> Religious Building | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ancillary Building | <input type="checkbox"/> Railroad Depot | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trees/Vegetation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hotel/Motel | <input type="checkbox"/> Train | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Open Space |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bridge | <input type="checkbox"/> Rural Open Space | <input type="checkbox"/> Canal/Aqueduct |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Farm/Ranch | <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial Building | <input type="checkbox"/> Dam |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Military Property | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Utility Building | <input type="checkbox"/> Lake/River/Reservoir |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CCC/WPA Structure | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | <input type="checkbox"/> Ethnic Minority Prop. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering Structure | <input type="checkbox"/> Highway/Trail | <input type="checkbox"/> Civic Auditorium |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Amusement Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Woman's Property | <input type="checkbox"/> Monument/Mural/Gravestone |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cemetery | <input type="checkbox"/> Hospital | <input type="checkbox"/> Stadium |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mine | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Center/Social Hall | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial Building, 1-3 stories | <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial Building, over 3 stories | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: | | |

19. Architectural Description

See DPR Forms, attached

20. Statement of Significance

See DPR Forms, attached

21. Bibliography

See DPR Forms, attached

22. Photographs

See DPR Forms, attached

23. Letter from property owner (if other than applicant)

See Letter, attached

Primary # _____
HRI# _____
Trinomial _____
CHR Status Code 3S
Other Listings _____
Review Code _____ Reviewer _____ Date _____

PRIMARY RECORD

*Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) Lionhead

P1. Other Identifier: _____

*P2. Location: Not for Publication Unrestricted *a. County Riverside

and (P2b and P2c or P2d. Attach a Location Map as necessary.)

*b. USGS 7.5' Quad Riverside East Date 1967 T 2S ; R 5W ; SW 1/4 of NE 1/4 of Sec 35 ; S.B. B.M.

c. Address 2881 Rumsey Drive City Riverside Zip Code 92506

d. UTM: (give more than one for large and/or linear resources) Zone _____ ; _____ mE/ _____ mN/

e. Other Locational Data: (e.g., parcel#, directions to resource, elevation, etc. as appropriate) APN: 223-092-031

*P3a. Description: (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries)

See Continuation Sheet.

P3b. Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) HP2 – Single Family Property

P4. Resources Present: Building Structure Object Site District Element of District Other (Isolates, etc.)

P5b. Description of Photo: (view, date, Accession #) View to northeast
Photo taken on October 7, 2025

*P6. Date Constructed / Age and Sources:
 Historic Prehistoric Both
1926 Newspaper Account

*P7. Owner and Address:
Malissa McKeith
2881 Rumsey Drive
Riverside, CA 92506

*P8. Recorded by: (Name, org., and addr.)
Jennifer Mermilliod
JM Research & Consulting (JMRC)
4076 Brockton Avenue, Suite 201
Riverside, CA 92501

*P9. Date Recorded: March 13, 2026

*P10. Survey Type
Intensive-Level



*P11 – Report Citation (Cite survey report and other sources, or enter "none.") Mermilliod, Jennifer (JMRC). 2026. Cultural Resources Survey & Mills Act Application: Lionhead, 2881 Rumsey Drive, Riverside, Riverside County, CA.

Attachments: None Location Map Sketch Map Continuation Sheet Building, Structure, and Object Record
 Archaeological Record District Record Linear Feature Record Milling Station Record Rock Art Record
 Artifact Record Photograph Record Other Other (List) _____

BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD

Page 2 of 7

*CHR Status Code 3S

*Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) Lionhead

B1. Historic Name: The Howard Heisler House

B2. Common Name: _____

B3. Original Use: Single-family Residence

B4. Present Use: Single-family Residence

*B5. Architectural Style: Spanish Eclectic

*B6. Construction History: (Construction date, alterations and date of alterations)

See Continuation Sheet.

*B7. Moved? No Yes Unknown Date: _____ Original Location: _____

*B8. Related Features:

Gatehouse, Front Perimeter Wall, Well/Cistern, Mature Trees, Original Interior Features

B9a. Architect: Henry L.A. Jekel

B9b. Builder: Henry L.A. Jekel

*B10. Significance: Theme Architecture Area City of Riverside

Period of Significance 1926 Property Type SFR Applicable Criteria C

(Discuss importance in terms of historical or architectural context as defined by theme, period, and geographic scope. Also address integrity.)

See Continuation Sheet.

B11. Additional Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) None

*B12. References:

See Continuation Sheet.

B13. Remarks:

*B14. Evaluator: Jennifer Mermilliod

*Date of Evaluation: March 20, 2026



CONTINUATION SHEET

Primary # _____

HRI# _____

Trinomial _____

Page 3 of 7 *Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder)

Lionhead

* Recorded by Jennifer Mermilliod

*Date March 13, 2026

Continuation

Update

***P3a. Description:**

This Spanish Eclectic style single-family residence (1926) faces west/northwest from an elevated knoll on the east side of Rumsey Drive, north of Carmel Way. The two-story masonry structure is laid on an irregular plan with intersecting masses, including cantilevered upper portions supported by carved wood beams, resting on a raised, concrete wall foundation structurally fortified with subgrade piers (2009). A low-pitched, combined hipped-and-gabled roof topped with red Mission barrel clay tiles ends in open eaves with mixed depth and exposed, heavy rafters with decorative carved ends and original copper half-trough or cornice line eave gutters and square downspouts. The central portion of the main roof ends in a front-facing gable end with minimal eave and cornice line gutter, and a south-facing gable end with extended shaped rafters shades a one-story, rear corner sunroom. A half-round Romanesque-like apse forms a central entry and staircase rotunda topped by a radial hip roof with moderate, rounded open eaves with carved rafters and copper trough gutter and cupula with weathervane. Walls are sheathed with Spanish finish stucco.

Original fenestration consists primarily of wood-framed, multi-paned single and French casement windows in square, rectangular, and arched sash. The most prominent windows are filled with leaded designs in clear and colored glass, including arched, fixed picture windows with lion/fleur-de-lis coat of arms on the front and rear elevations of the living room on the right façade. The rotunda is pierced by three arched casements of compatible leaded glass in stepped placement and is lined with wood-framed clerestory openings filled with vertical boards below the cornice line, mimicking the open-air scenic lookouts of an Italian Renaissance belvedere. A heavily carved wood entry door composed of thick, pointed square panels in alternating reveal is deeply recessed and the stuccoed jamb reveal decorated with hand-painted stenciling within a dropped hipped square mass with copper cornice line gutter integrated at the southerly base of the rotunda. Fenestration details in the cantilevered mass to the left, including a decorative wrought iron grille, an arched, diamond-paned leaded casement, and a stuccoed diamond-patterned recess, provide added privacy for the large original master bathroom. Two compatible single-paned tripartite windows reintroduce fenestration in the previously altered (1970s) sunroom. The three original rotunda windows were returned with the 2009 restoration of these original arched multi-colored rondel windows (two on the façade), along with another arched, fixed leaded glass window, in the cantilevered second story master bedroom addition (1966) over the original two-car attached garage with replacement paneled wood vehicular door (2010). Compatible wood-framed, six-light French casement and single-paned tripartite windows are employed in an added two-story rear elevator shaft and one-story gym (2010), which also features new French doors near an early-added diamond-patterned decorative iron grille over a single-paned double-hung window on the north elevation.

Patios, pergolas, and elevated balconies further articulate all elevations. Left of the main entry, a small brick patio partially enclosed with curved, stucco and exposed brick wing walls provides a direct service entry into the kitchen on the façade and features a wood door and screen, two leaded square casements, and a ribbon of three wood-framed, double-hung windows with two-over-two sash. Another brick patio on the façade fills the southwest elevation formed by the living room and recessed sunroom where a tall end-wall chimney with elaborate tiled gable cap and adjoined pass-through woodshed is anchored above the roofline by an arched flying buttress. Sparsely covered with a wood pergola supported by stuccoed corbels and columns spanned by wrought iron posts and chain on the southerly side, this patio leads to French doors that provide exterior entry to the sunroom. A wrought iron balconette on the rear elevation of the sunroom marks the location of a former French door and partially shelters the wood door to a semi-subterranean wine cellar. An elevated rear brick patio with a concrete balustrade of double balusters, square posts, wide top rail, and potted urns runs nearly the full length of the rear elevation with multiple garden entry points. French doors from the living and dining rooms lead to the rear patio, which is embellished by a brick tiled fountain and wall mounted lionheads, and partially sheltered by an extended linear cantilevered balcony with a dense, turned wood balustrade supported by carved post and beams. A matching ground floor railing below was added/modified with the elevator addition, and a compatible cantilevered, wrap-around rooftop deck added with the gym addition at the northeast corner features a matching replica railing and arched ground floor north elevation pergola closed to the façade with an X-pattern pierced screen in stucco. A small front balconette with matching wood balustrade and wood door marks the northerly extent of the original façade prior to the 1966 addition over the garage.

Plentiful original interior character-defining features and materials include: barrel ceiling with plastered beams, corbels, and frieze with hand-painted frescos; wood beamed and coffered ceilings with hand-painted stenciling; plaster wall finishes; curving staircase and balustrade of Lamoah mahogany; built-in wood cabinetry; arched hallway, doorways, and alcoves; pocket door, wood doors, and baseboards of Lamoah mahogany, wrought iron gate and ceiling light fixture in dining room; sliding Hollywood window screens; door and window hardware; walnut, bleached walnut, black walnut, and bird's eye maple wood and tile flooring; iron registers and grilles; and bath tiles, fixtures, and fittings.

The gatehouse (1926), a small secondary building of matching design originally used as a staff caretaker residence, is positioned near the front perimeter wall in the northwest corner of the property. Nearly rectangular in plan, the building rests on an elevated concrete wall foundation. In miniature to the main residence, the gatehouse is topped with a combined hipped-and-gabled roof covered in Mission barrel clay tile that ends in narrow eaves with exposed, shaped rafters and modern gutters over walls sheathed in stucco. Fenestration consists primarily of wood-framed, multi-paned single and double casement windows and multi-paned French doors; a 15-pane fixed window overlooks the circular vehicular drive on the southerly elevation, and a pair of double-hung windows are found on the rear. The main, recessed entry with wood door and screen at the southwest corner faces the street but features a square arch opening overlooking the vehicular drive and an arched opening overlooking Rumsey Drive. The elevated porch extends as a narrow walk along the southerly elevation to the brick, pergola-covered patio facing the main house on the southeast corner. Renovation and restoration work (2009) has included remodel of kitchen and laundry, replacement of the HVAC system, refinishing of hardwood flooring and retiling of bathroom flooring, interior plaster repair and reattachment, and replacement of the mudroom exterior door, interior closets, and bathroom pedestal sink and toilet.

The terraced and sloping property is crossed by a vehicular circular drive topped with ca. 1990s pavers (originals may be extant beneath) and patterned brick pedestrian walkways with some replacements. Landscape design includes turf, shrubs, and mature trees, including original palm, cypress, and avocado species. Fruit trees planted in 2023 are found in the southerly area of the property, and a small grove (2022-23) is planted beyond the swimming pool (1959), which includes a brick patio and water feature with lionhead wall fountain and bordering balustrades that match the rear patio. The pool area underwent unspecific site modifications in the 1990s and the addition of a compatibly styled detached shed, wrought iron fence and gate with stuccoed, exposed brick columns, brickwork, and other site work (2010). An inactive concrete well/cistern water feature (ca. 1890s-1904) in the southwest area of the property and the front perimeter wall (ca. 1890s-1904/1926) along Rumsey Drive predate the residence as remnant features of an earlier citrus grove. The curving stucco and exposed brick wall features lantern-topped square posts, scalloped top capped with wrought iron finials, and paneled metal replacement gates (2009) where previously missing from original locations—two sliding motorized vehicular gates and two swinging pedestrian gates—both paneled and matching the replaced garage door. A modern stucco wall borders the property on the north, and a concrete block wall aligns the south side and the rear property line, where a recent acquisition and lot line adjustment (2019) has added an easterly .10-acre strip of mature trees.

***B6. Construction History**

1890s-1904 Well/cistern & front perimeter wall
1926 Original construction (house & gatehouse)
1935 Mudroom addition to gatehouse
1959 Swimming pool and related site work—fountain, paving, balustrade
1966 Bedroom addition over garage (remodeled 2010)
1970s Removal of sunroom windows
ca. 1990s Kitchen remodel; removal of most lighting fixtures
ca. 2007 Removal of many mature trees
2009-2026 Extensive restoration work
2010 Elevator, rear gym with wrap around rooftop deck and north pergola, detached shed

***B10. Significance:**

Originally deeply set back from the intersection of Victoria and Central Avenues, the property was subdivided as part of the Victoria Heights tract (1903). The single-family residence and gatehouse were constructed and the terraced and sloping grounds laid out in 1926 amid a mature orange grove planted by Cornelius Rumsey in 1903.

Residential development of the property was commissioned by Howard G. Heisler, who is most associated with the development of Laguna Beach and its "Art Colony." Heisler came to California from New Jersey as a surveyor for the federal Department of the Interior, only later becoming a developer and, once in Riverside, an orchardist. Heisler spent seven short, but active, years in Riverside (1926-1933) during which time, Lionhead was used extensively for entertaining large groups, social evenings playing bridge, and meetings of the various organizations in which he and his wife, Lucinda, were involved. Splitting his time between Riverside and Laguna Beach, Heisler maintained his membership in Orange County civic and other groups, eventually becoming a multi-termed councilmember (1934-1939) and mayor (elected 1938) of Laguna Beach, while taking an active role in promoting Riverside and local concerns. Heisler was effective in the Riverside Chamber of Commerce—particularly the citrus committee—and a director of the Victoria Avenue Citrus Association by 1926. He worked on solving Riverside Water Company and Tri-county Conservation Association water concerns, was involved in the Victoria Avenue Improvement District, and was a member of the Riverside Lions and the Riverside Community Players theatre group. Lucinda was also active in the Riverside community, serving on the board of Riverside Community Hospital, participating as a member of the Riverside Plant, Flower, & Fruit Guild, and supporting Riverside Community Settlement, Daughters of American Revolution and the Riverside Women's Club. Her death in February 1932 forced the sale of Lionhead and the departure of Heisler from Riverside for Laguna Beach in 1933.

The residence was designed by renowned master architect, Henry L.A. Jelke to fit within the citriculture setting of Victoria Heights. A German-born American architect active in the late-19th and early-20th centuries, Jelke's prolific work helped shape the built environment of Southern California. Closely associated Riverside since 1921 his designs supported the city's early 20th-century growth, a key period of development. Jelke is credited with a number of residential, commercial, civic, and institutional buildings that reflected Victorian and Craftsman influences as well as prevailing revival and other styles of the period, demonstrating both versatility and responsiveness to regional tastes. In Riverside, he favored residential and commercial designs particularly in the Spanish tradition. His work contributed significantly to the development, architectural identity, and historic character of the city. Although fewer of his Riverside buildings are widely documented compared to his Los Angeles and Orange County work, those that remain contribute to the city's historic fabric and underscore his broader regional legacy.

With uncharacteristic freedom reportedly due to a lull in a concurrent local project, the nearby Benedict Castle, and lack of interference or input by an as-yet absentee owner in Heisler, the Rumsey Drive property was not only designed but also uniquely constructed by Jelke, suggesting Lionhead may be one of the purest local expressions of his ability and design intent. More than simply a blend of architectural or decorative elements, the highly ornamental Spanish Eclectic style draws from the broad context of Italian architectural evolution from the Medieval, Renaissance, and Romantic periods and borrows decorative details from the entire tradition of Spanish architecture, namely Moorish, Byzantine, Gothic, and Renaissance, mixing various influences into a single design. Popularized locally after the 1915 Panama-California Exposition, it reimagined earlier Spanish Colonial structures that were themselves a mix of Italian, Spanish, and indigenous influences. While inheriting

Italian symmetry, proportion, and classical orders, Spanish Eclectic departs from a strict adherence to structure. It prioritizes the picturesque, elevating asymmetrical appearance in the Italianate tradition of the Romantic Period. Commonalities with both the Spanish Colonial Revival and Spanish Renaissance Revival styles evoke features like stucco, low-pitched, red-tiled roofs, and asymmetry. The more academic, formal Spanish Renaissance Revival also brings a reliance on stucco but introduces Moorish-influenced delicate ornamentation and Gothic elements of the late-Medieval Period. Lionhead reflects this stylistic intent through skillful execution of character-defining features such as picturesque asymmetrical form; mixed height and cantilevered masses; low-pitched, red-tiled roof; dominant entry tower in Byzantine or Romanesque apse shape with belvedere-like features; stucco surfaces and pierced screens; balconies/balconettes and patios with turned wood and concrete balustrades; decorative, heavily carved doors; ornamental ironwork; and delicate detailing. Moreover, the property exemplifies the Combined Hipped-and-Gabled Roofs Subtype often found in landmark examples, which is characterized by rambling, compound plans, separate roof forms of varying height, and massing arranged in irregular or informal pattern and is.

Following Heisler, a series of subsequent owners made changes to the property, including the Minors (1933-1957), the Jones (1957-1966), the Nixens (1966-ca. 1996), the Difanis (1996-2003), the Millers (2003-2008), and the McKeiths (2009-present). The most substantial alterations include the replacement of the original rooftop garden with a master bedroom in 1966 and the addition of the gym with rooftop garden and elevator in the rear (2010); however, these as well as other small modifications, repairs, and substantial conscientious restoration efforts under the current ownership of the McKeiths since 2009 have been generally in keeping with original architectural styling, features, and materials, safeguarding integrity.

Lionhead is an excellent, high-style example of residential design, embodying both the Spanish Eclectic architectural style and Jekel's mastery of design. The property appears eligible for designation as a City of Riverside Landmark under Criterion 3: "Embodies distinctive characteristics of a style, type, period, or method of construction, or is a valuable example of the use of indigenous materials or craftsmanship" and under Criterion 4: "Represents the work of a notable builder, designer, or architect, or important creative individual." Further, the property meets the threshold of design intent and integrity for listing under the related Criteria 3/C in the California Register of Historical Resources and the National Register of Historic Places, respectively. Thus, the property has been assigned a California Historical Resource (CHR) Status Code of **3S: Appears eligible for NR as an individual property through survey evaluation.**

***B12. References:**

City of Riverside. 1933-2010. Building Permits.

City of Riverside. 2026. Historic Property Profile: 2881 Rumsey Drive. Website:

<https://mapriverside.riversideca.gov/GeocortexWV/WebViewer/?app=2d32ffc3b0f1409ea67a5023519d6f00>

Klotz & Hall. 2005. *Adobes, Mansions, and Bungalows*. Highgrove Press: Riverside, CA.

McKeith, Marylinda. No date. "McKeith Rumsey Renovation List." Unpublished electronic manuscript.

McKeith, Marylinda. No date. "Ownership History." Unpublished electronic manuscript.

Moses & Whitmore. 2017. *Myth & Mirage: Inland Southern California, Birthplace of the Spanish Colonial Revival*. Riverside Art Museum: Riverside, CA.

Moses & Whitmore. 2018. *Architect of Eastern Skyscrapers and the California Style*. Inlandia Institute: Riverside, CA.

NETR. 1948-2024. Aerial Photographs. Website: <http://www.historicaerials.com/>.

Riverside County Assessor's Records.

Assessor's Map 223-09

Assessor's Map 284/4-5

Assessor's Property Report

Record of Survey 031/012

Tract Map 004/092 Victoria Heights (1903)

Tract Map 27804-R

Quit Claim Deed 2019-0289413 (APN 223-092-002)

Riverside Daily Press. 1926. "Cites Building Progress Here," June 30.

Riverside Daily Press. 1926. "Heisler to Erect Pretentious Home," August 13.

Riverside Daily Press. 1926. "Victoria Property Sold," November 8.

Riverside Daily Press. 1926. "Unique Gatehouse for Heisler Estate," November 29.

Riverside Daily Press. 1927. "Completing Home," January 1.

Riverside Daily Press. 1927. "Architect Plans Homes of Beauty," January 1.

Riverside Daily Press. 1927. "Bridge-Luncheon at Heisler Home," April 20.

Riverside Daily Press. 1933. "Norman Irving made Member of Board: Elected director of Victoria Avenue Citrus Association," June 8.

Riverside Daily Press. 1933. "Miss Hagler and H.G. Heisler Wed: Marriage solemnized this morning in Prescott, Arizona," June 26.

Riverside Daily Press. 1933. "Building Permits," July 21.

Riverside Daily Press. 1935. "Building Permits," October 15.

Riverside Daily Press. 1937. "Scientist Extols Riverside Home," July 24.

Shamel, A.D. 1937. "The Esthetic Side of Orange Growing in the Southwest." *California Citrograph*, Article XIII of the Series.

UCSB. 1931-2004. Aerial Photographs. Website: <https://www.library.ucsb.edu/geospatial/aerial-photography>.

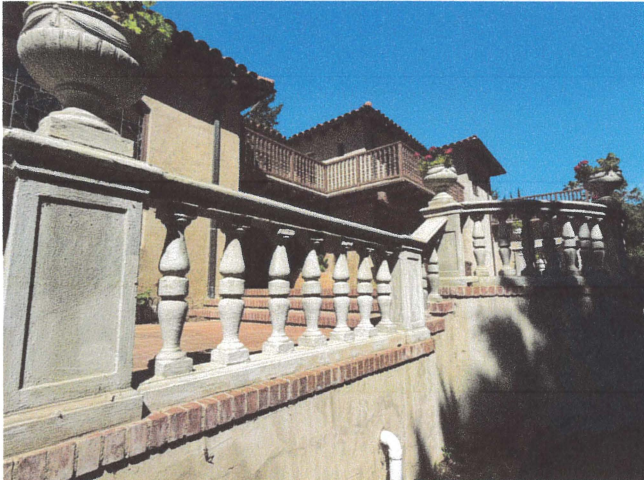
P5b. Additional Photographs:



Original southerly side and rear elevation, view NW



Elevator and Gym with Deck Addition (2010), view NW



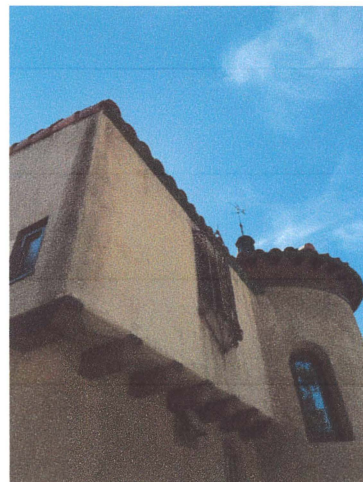
Rear elevation and patio detail, view N/NW



Northerly side elevation and façade, view SE



Entry and fenestration detail, view N/NE



Façade massing and design detail, view SE



Interior living room plaster, beams, flooring, window, view W



Interior dining room original ceiling and light fixture, view N



Interior rotunda stair, balcony, doorways, view NE



Gatehouse and grounds, view N/NW



Well/Cistern and grounds, view SW



Front perimeter wall detail (1890s-1904), view SW

Marylinda & Malissa McKeith
2881 Rumsey Drive
Riverside, CA. 92506
malissacurepres@gmail.com
213-300-3550

March 30, 2026

BY HAND DELIVERY

City of Riverside
Cultural Heritage Board

Re: Landmark Designation for Lionhead

This cover letter accompanies the Landmark Designation Application (Application) submitted by Jennifer Mermilliod, M.A., a preservation specialist and architectural historian, who has drafted the Application at our request for property located at 2881 Rumsey Drive, Riverside, CA. 92506, known as Lionhead. Lionhead was designed and constructed by Henry Jekel in 1926. We purchased the property in 2009.

We are fully in support of the Landmark Designation. Lionhead is an impressive example of Spanish and Italian style architecture designed by renowned local architect, Henry L. A. Jekel, for Laguna Beach developer and Riversider, H.G. Heisler. The restoration of this residential gem was costly; however, its recognition as a Landmark by the City of Riverside would further the preservation of its unique history and design in the hope that Lionhead will remain standing in another 100 years. We have concurrently submitted a Mills Act Application and intend to also file an application to place Lionhead on the National Register of Historic Places.

Please contact Jennifer Mermilliod or us if you need additional information.

Very truly yours,



Malissa Hathaway McKeith

Enclosures