

H 19 2211 5th St. from Sally Sacks



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22 June 2004 COUNCIL MEETING OF:

Mayor Tom Bates
Berkeley City Council

HAND DELIVERED

JUN 22 2004

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
CITY OF BERKELEY

Re: Council Agenda #19, Appeal, 2211 Fifth Street, Mary C. Amos Cottage, 1878

Dear Mayor Bates and Members of the Berkeley City Council:

The Board of Directors of the Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association (BAHA) respectfully urges the City Council to set a Public Hearing for reconsideration of the Landmarks Preservation Commission failure to designate the Mary C. Amos Cottage, 2211 Fifth Street, a City of Berkeley Landmark Structure of Merit. The Amos Cottage is one of a handful of pioneer Italianate structures documented to have been built during the city's first year of incorporation, 1878, and the only known structure to have been built by a pioneer woman.

In 1993 the City Council adopted the *West Berkeley Plan* goals and policies to encourage historic preservation as a planning tool within the framework of other planning policies for West Berkeley. At that time 2211 Fifth Street had already been identified (ranking "3") in the West Berkeley Historical Survey, undertaken jointly by members of the Landmarks Preservation Commission and BAHA. In November 2003 when an application request was made for demolition of 2211 Fifth Street, it was an oversight that its early origins were misrepresented. Furthermore, it was an oversight not to prepare an Initial Study in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) when at least fifty (50) residents and neighbors of the historic structure submitted an initiation application for its landmark designation, based upon new documentation that the structure was built by Mary C. Amos in 1878.

Again, BAHA urges the City Council to honor the pending Appeal and set a Public Hearing so as to fully consider the Mary C. Amos Cottage as a significant and irreplaceable historic resource contributing to the rich fabric of the City of Berkeley.

Sincerely,
Wendy Markel, President