



April 24, 2024

Kelley Stanco, Deputy Director
City Of San Diego, Planning Department
9485 Aero Drive, MS 413 San Diego, CA 92123

Tim Hutter, Chair
Historical Resources Board
City of San Diego

Re: Arnold and Choate's Addition-North Florence Heights Historic District

Chair Hutter and HRB Members,

As President of the Talmadge Historical Society, I strongly support the Arnold and Choate Addition-North Florence Heights Historic District (ACFH) being listed on the National Register of Historic Places. This district is not only beautiful but both locally significant and important. I would like to share why I have come to this conclusion.

This proposed historic district is exceptional in that it has 75% Contributors. In addition to the high level of integrity this proposed district reflects a complete early streetcar suburb full of single-family homes (both big and small/modest and grand), apartment buildings, businesses, a nursery, a school, a church, and a park. This district is a complete community in every way.

This proposed district includes two subdivisions that blend seamlessly together due to not only being contiguous but their similar historical architectural development and style. According to City staff, they aesthetically complement one another.

ACFH's period of significance from 1907-1950 demonstrates that many historic communities are organic and change and grow over time, in this case over a period of 43 years. This is something to celebrate, especially when that neighborhood has maintained architectural integrity within all historic time periods.

This district has some local early visionaries that not only shared their design talents within this district but made a lasting impact on San Diego's architectural heritage. I am referencing William Templeton Johnson who designed The San Diego Museum of Art in Balboa Park, and codesigned the iconic art deco County Administrative Building located at the San Diego Harbor. Richard Requa built within ACFH. He too is known for contributing to the design team on the County Administration Building. He also designed several significant buildings within Balboa Park. They are the Aerospace Museum and the Federal Building which reflects an Aztec structure. And lastly, Kate Sessions, the horticulturist for Balboa Park. She both lived, grew, and sold plants within the district.

Please recommend Arnold and Choate's Addition-North Florence Heights Historic District be listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It is a wonderful district that should be preserved for this generation and future generations to come.

Sincerely,

Laura Henson

President, Talmadge Historical Society