



Office of the City Manager

September 16, 2015

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: *DWR* Dee Williams-Ridley, Interim City Manager
Subject: Shattuck Avenue Historic Context and Survey Project Report

On September 9, 2014 the City Council adopted Resolution No. 66,762-N.S., authorizing City staff and consultants to develop the Shattuck Avenue Historic Context and Survey Project (Project Report). After issuing a Request for Proposals from qualified consultants, the City entered into a contract with qualified historical consultants Archives & Architecture, LLC, to carry out the Project. A link to the complete final Project Report, including appendices, is available online at:
http://www.cityofberkeley.info/Planning_and_Development/Home/Landmarks_Preservation_Commission.aspx

The purpose of the Survey Project is consistent with Downtown Area Plan (DAP) Policy HD-2:2 to identify and analyze the potential for a Shattuck Avenue commercial corridor historic district within the Downtown according to professional survey practices. It provides information that will be required to inform environmental review; to allow for historic rehabilitation tax credit applications; and to assist in broader outreach and marketing efforts for transit-oriented development.

The methodology involved developing an iterative historic context statement based on research conducted at local repositories, consulting records, newspaper accounts, building construction records, personal narratives, historic maps, and historic photographs. Intensive field survey work was conducted, photographing each property from the public right-of-way, and taking detailed notes on the architecture, features, and integrity of original building fabric, in order to identify potential district boundaries and contributors.

A downtown Project kick-off meeting was held in February 2015. The Project was overseen by the AdHoc Survey Subcommittee of the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC), which met between February and August 2015, to take public comment, hear reports from city staff and consultants and make recommendations to the full LPC. Each meeting was publicized through posting and email notification to interested parties of public meeting notices. Members of the public in attendance at

subcommittee meetings included representatives of the Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association, the Berkeley Chamber of Commerce, and the Downtown Berkeley Association, among others. Reports on the status of the project were given by city staff, consultants, and Subcommittee members at regular LPC meetings, and a special LPC meeting was held on June 17, 2015 to discuss and provide comment on the first draft of the Project Report.

The Landmarks Preservation Commission discussed the final draft of the Project Report at its September 3, 2015 meeting. Approximately nineteen members of the public spoke on the item. Some Commissioners expressed concern about the character of the Downtown and potential regulations associated with any future nomination of a historic district; while one Commissioner expressed concern with issues raised by the public relating to the primary significance criteria within which properties were evaluated. The Commission then voted to accept the final draft of the Project Report with potential boundaries as identified for submittal to the California Office of Historic Preservation in compliance with the Certified Local Government Grant. (6-3-0-0; Yes: Beil, Brown, Hall, Linvill, Olsen, Suczynski Smith; No: Belser, Shenoy, Schwartz; Absent: None; Abstained: None)

The Project Report will be forwarded to the California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) by September 30, 2015 in compliance with the grant requirements. The Survey Project is not a historic district nomination, rather it documents the historic development patterns, architectural character, and integrity of the properties within a potential historic district. The historic context and individual property evaluations provide information from which the City can make future nomination decisions. City Council action would be required if the City desired to nominate a National Register historic district within the survey area. Creation of a historic district or additional landmarks would require: a separate application, based on information gathered in the Survey as well as additional materials; appropriate levels of environmental review; all required public outreach; and appropriate Commission and Council reviews and actions.

Attachments:

http://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Planning_and_Development/Level_3_-_LPC/Attachments%20to%20Off-Agenda%20Council%20Memo.pdf

1. Resolution 66,762-N.S.
2. September 3, 2015 LPC Staff Report
3. Final Draft Shattuck Avenue Historic Context and Survey

cc: Gil Dong, Interim Deputy City Manager
Ann-Marie Hogan, City Auditor
Mark Numainville, City Clerk
Eric Angstadt, Planning & Development Director
Matthai Chakko, Public Information Officer