



City of Palm Springs
Department of Planning Services
Memorandum

Date: February 14, 2012

To: HSPB Board Members

From: Craig A. Ewing, AICP, Director of Planning Services

Subject: Discussion of Outreach Letter and Candidate Properties

As requested at the last meeting, staff prepared a letter to the Palm Springs Unified School District and forwarded a draft (attached) to Chair Gilmer for signature and mailing. The next step would be for a Board member to call Ms. Arthur (760-416-6113) to follow up on the letter's suggestion that the District consider historic designation of its building at 333 S. Farrell Drive. The Board should so appoint a member to contact Ms. Arthur.

Staff also contacted the County of Riverside regarding its historic preservation program and learned that the County does not designate individual sites. However, the County has an ordinance regarding the establishment and regulation of historic districts:

<http://rivcocob.com/ords/500/578.4.pdf>

Absent a site-specific ordinance, it is not clear what the County's interest would be in City designation of County buildings. A letter to Supervisor John Benoit similar to that sent to the District might be an appropriate next step.

Attachment:

1. Draft Letter to Julie Arthur, Palm Springs Unified School District



City of Palm Springs

Historic Site Preservation Board

3200 East Tahquitz Canyon Way • Palm Springs, CA 92262
Tel: 760-323-8245 • Fax: 760-322-8360

Date

Julie Arthur, Executive Director – Facilities Planning and Development
Palm Springs Unified School District
980 E. Tahquitz Canyon Way, Ste. 202
Palm Springs, CA 92262

Dear Ms. Arthur,

As executive director of a public agency with an active role in the community, you may be aware that the City has recognized many of its valued public buildings with historic designation. We believe that the District's building at 333 S. Farrell Drive is another valuable building and the City's Historic Site Preservation Board would ask you to consider working with the City on a historic designation for this property.

I think you'll find that there are advantages to official historic status that would be of interest to the District. Historic designation of a public building can provide:

- Qualification for an engraved brass marker displayed on the property.
- City recommendations on ways to ensure that the identified historic characteristics of the property are maintained.
- Recognition by the local preservation community, including possible inclusion in publication materials and events celebrating our local heritage.

Historic designation of public property can protect an important part of the history of Palm Springs, preserving it for future generations while allowing for change and adaptability.

There are many public properties in the City which are Class One designated sites, including Palm Springs City Hall, the Welwood Murray Memorial Library, the Upper and Lower Tram Buildings, and portions of the Welwood Murray Cemetery. The Historic Site Preservation Board would welcome the chance to meet with you to develop a partnership between the School District and the City in the historic preservation of our public facilities.

A member of the Board will be calling you in the next week to speak with you directly about historic designation. We look forward to the possibility that the 333 S. Farrell building might join the community's treasured inventory of historic sites. If you have any questions, feel free to call Craig Ewing at the City at 760-323-8269.

Sincerely,

John Gilmer
Chair, Historic Site Preservation Board