

The Los Altos Historical Landmark Apricot Orchard:

✓ *Smith House*

Is our oldest City Landmark.

It is protected by string of ordinances we've discovered that go back forty-six years. These require the City to hold public hearings if it wants to do anything to change this Landmark.

The Orchard is mentioned in Wikipedia as an iconic feature of Los Altos.

And the Orchard is in good company:

Dave Packard and Steve Jobs both cultivated apricot orchards after they became billionaires. In Jobs' case he bought the house next door to his in Palo Alto and tore it down so he could plant his.

We urge you tonight: 1) to follow the law; and, 2) be visionary like Steve and Dave!  
Save Our Orchard!

Robin Chapman

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author of

*California Apricots: the Lost Orchards of Silicon Valley* (History Press: 2013)

Submitted @ Los Altos City Council Meeting

*March 8, 2016*

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DATE

Timeline of Historic Designations/Actions Regarding the Los Altos Historical Landmark Orchard

- 1962 Los Altos Civic Center Orchard on the Santa Clara County Inventory of Historical Landmarks.
- 1970 Los Altos City Council votes to preserve Orchard. (Los Altos Town Crier 1/28/1970.)
- 1975 "Smith House and Apricot Grove" appear on Santa Clara County's Heritage Resource Inventory.
- 1977 Orchard is given City of Los Altos, Historical Commission and the Association of the Los Altos Historical Museum landmark/recognition designation.
- 1978 City of Los Altos wins Santa Clara County Historical Heritage Commission Award for Excellence for preserving the Smith house and the Orchard.
- 1978 Los Altos City Council passes Ordinance 78-16 designating portions of the Smith Orchard a Historical Landmark. This establishes the process to be followed in designating portions of the Orchard as a Historical Landmark. The Los Altos Historical Commission is named the key provider of research and advice on all phases of the project, including any future alterations, if any, to the Orchard.
- 1979 Smith House and Historical Landmark Orchard again on the Santa Clara County Heritage Resource Inventory.
- 1981 The Los Altos City Council approves Resolution 81-23. This action follows the process created in 1978 and designates the Orchard area surrounding City Hall and the Los Altos Police Station as a Historical Landmark Orchard.
- 1982 Smith House and Historical Landmark Orchard again on the Santa Clara County Heritage Resource Inventory.
- 1987 Historical Landmark Orchard at the Los Altos Civic Center appears on California State Parks Office of Historic Preservation, Points of Interest.
- 1990 The Los Altos City Council approves Ordinance 90-225, Chapter 8. This lists many details and descriptions regarding the preservation of the Historical Landmark Orchard as a designated landmark. The Historical Commission is again named the key provider of information and advice to the Planning Commission and the City Council on these matters. Also included in this ordinance are the criteria of what constitutes a historical landmark and how that designation can be altered or changed by the City Council.
- 1991 The City Council passes Resolution 91-31, operating within the constraints of Ordinance 90-225, which modifies the Historical Landmark Orchard (walkways were added and the front section of the orchard on San Antonio Road added to the designation) to create the Historical Landmark Orchard as it appears today.
- 1999 The Historical Landmark Orchard is given the City of Los Altos, Historical Commission and the Association of the Los Altos Heritage Museum landmark/recognition.
- 2000 "Purchase agreement with Gilbert Smith was to keep apricot orchard in perpetuity according to Don McDonald." Los Altos Town Crier, October 4, 2000.
- 2011 The Historical Landmark Orchard is honored by the City of Los Altos and the County of Santa Clara Parks & Recreation Department's Historical Heritage Grant Program.

(This is a copy/summation of documents on file in the archives of the Los Altos History Museum)  
(Addendum to Robin Chapman presentation.)

Statement to the City Council for March 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting

This evening we are here to receive an update from the City's Public Lands Subcommittee representatives and have the City Council provide direction.

I recommend that moving forward, the Hillview/ Civic Center site be removed from any further discussion. Here's why.

LASD owns 115 acers of land while The City of Los Altos only owns 41.8 acres of land. (See handout) The 41.8 acers is all park land with Hillview being the largest park, sized at 8.3 acres. If potentially a new school is placed the Hillview/ Civic Center site, the residents will lose 8.2 acres of park and recreation land which includes the Community Center, the soccer field, the baseball field, the bus barn theater and most of the Heritage Orchards and parking. This is unacceptable. The parks and recreation facilities are highly used and extremely valued by the entire community. In the past I have supported bond measures, parcel taxes, volunteered at the schools and given financial support to the PTA's. LASD may lose future support. Many of my neighbors have written to me, including those who voted for measure N who feel that LASD should stop putting pressure on the City Council. Do not move forward with discussing a 900 student school on this site.

Sincerely

Roberta Phillips  
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City Owned park Land in Los Altos / Chamber of Commerce web page

Grant Park	4.5 acres
Heritage Oaks Park	5.33 acres
Hillview Park	8.3 acres
Marymeade Park	2.47 acres
McKenzie Park	4.3 acres
Montclair Park	1.1 acres
Redwood Grove	6.12 acres
Rosita Park	5 acres
Shoup Park	3.9 acres
Village Park	.78 acres
TOTAL	41.8 ACRES

\*\* Lincoln Park is not included as the land does not belong to the City of Los Altos

If added in this park is 4.44 acres for a total of 46.24 ACRES