



July 20, 2015

To: Historical Commissioners, City of Los Altos
From: Laura Bajuk, Executive Director, Los Altos History Museum
Re: Request for Clarification: Historical Designation of the Tank House at the Museum

As you aware, the tank house at the Los Altos History Museum, which is City property, has a severe leak which flooded both floors of the 1915 Spagnoli tank house this past winter.

I have applied for county funding to support this repair, a copy of which is attached. Dave Brees has been assigned as the City liaison/project manager.

In order to qualify for the funding, the tank house needs to be a "locally designated historic resource" defined by the county as a (1) landmark or (2) contributing resource to a local historic district or the equivalent, either of which is protected by a city or County historic preservation ordinance.

While it has always been treated as or assumed to be a "historic resource," I could not find anything in the HRI that specifically identifies the *tank house* (or outhouse, for that matter) as a historic resource or landmark. (As it isn't original to the site, connection to the *Smith House* which is a designated landmark, cannot be asserted.)

If possible, I would like to introduce the 1915 Tank House County grant project to the commissioners at their July 27 meeting, and work with you in a future meeting toward its recognition as a historic resource.

Information on the tank house is also attached. It was not original to this property--it was a working tank house on the Spagnoli family farm. That site is now home to The Terraces (formerly Pilgrim Haven) on Pine Lane. It was moved here in 1993 and restored, largely due to funding from Bob & Marion Grimm.

Many thanks for your assistance!

Cc: Dave Brees, Special Projects Manager

Enclosed: County grant application, publicity on the move of the 1915 Spagnoli tank house

APPENDIX B: MASTER APPLICATION FORM

County of Santa Clara
HISTORICAL HERITAGE GRANT PROGRAM

<p>PROJECT NAME 1915 Tank House Project (Los Altos)</p>	<table style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td>Requested GRANT Amount</td> <td style="text-align: right;">₹ 30,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other Funding Sources</td> <td style="text-align: right;">₹ 5,000</td> </tr> </table>	Requested GRANT Amount	₹ 30,000	Other Funding Sources	₹ 5,000		
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<p>PROJECT PHYSICAL ADDRESS (including zip code) 51 South San Antonio Road Los Altos, CA 94022</p>	<table style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td colspan="2">Estimated TOTAL PROJECT COST</td> <td style="text-align: right;">₹ 35,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="width: 70%;">Nearest Cross Street</td> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: right;">W. Edith Avenue</td> </tr> </table>	Estimated TOTAL PROJECT COST		₹ 35,000	Nearest Cross Street	W. Edith Avenue	
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<p>GRANT APPLICANT (entity applying for the grant) LOS ALTOS HISTORY MUSEUM (Assn. of the Los Altos Historical Museum) and the City of Los Altos</p>	<p>GRANT APPLICANT'S Mailing Address 51 South San Antonio Road Los Altos, CA 94022</p>						
<p>AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE AS SHOWN IN RESOLUTION OR CERTIFICATION LETTER</p>							
<p><u>Laura Bajuk, E.D.</u> Name (typed or printed) and Title</p>	<p><u>LBajuk@LosAltosHistory.org</u> Email address</p>	<p><u>650.948.8427 x10</u> Phone</p>					
<p>DIRECTOR/PRESIDENT/CEO</p>	<p><u>Laura Bajuk, E.D.</u> Name (typed or printed) and Title</p>	<p><u>LBajuk@LosAltosHistory.org</u> Email address</p>	<p><u>650.948.8427 x10</u> Phone</p>				
<p>DAY-TO-DAY CONTACT for ADMINISTRATION of the GRANT (if different from AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE)</p>							
<p>_____ Name (typed or printed) and Title</p>	<p><u>LBajuk@LosAltosHistory.org</u> Email address</p>	<p><u>650.948.9427 x10</u> Phone</p>					
<p>GRANT SCOPE: I represent and warrant that this Application Package describes the intended use of the requested grant to complete the project items listed in the attached Cost Estimate Form. I declare under penalty of perjury, under the laws of the State of California, that the information contained in this Application Package, including required attachments, is accurate.</p>							
<p>Signature AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE as shown in Resolution</p>		<p><u>June 29, 2015</u> Date</p>					
<p>Print Name</p>	<p><u>Laura Bajuk</u></p>						
<p>Title</p>	<p><u>Executive Director, Los Altos History Museum</u></p>						

2. APPENDIX C: Project Proposal

In conjunction with the Master Application Form (Appendix B), the information contained in the project proposal will serve as the project application. Please provide a written response to each of the following evaluation factors in the order in which they appear and cite any studies, reports, or other data that support the responses. The project proposal should be no more than ten pages (without attachments) printed double-sided on 8 1/2" x 11" paper in 12-point Arial font.

1. Project Description

Describe the proposed project and the specific work items to be funded by the grant.

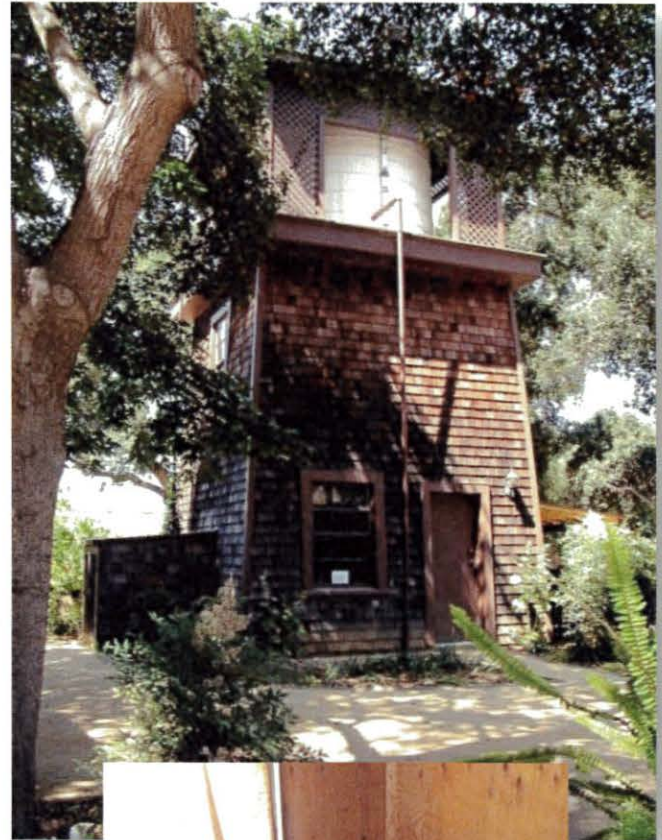
The tank house now located on the grounds of the Los Altos History Museum in the heart of the City's Civic Center was built exactly a century ago. It supplied water for the Spagnoli family home and orchard nearby on Pine Lane, until that land was sold to become senior housing (Pilgrim Haven, now The Terraces).

In 1993, it faced demolition. The Museum, led by Marion and Bob Grimm, decided to save it. Bob, a former mayor, pled the case to the City Council and they agreed to accept it.

But what was hoped to be a simple lift-and-move turned into a much larger project due to the neglected state of the tank house. Over \$40,000 later (raised by the Museum and led by the Grimms), the tank house got a new foundation, was restored, and began its educational life.

22 years later, the tank house needs help again. When we have rain, even in this drought, none of it is properly dispersed. Pooling under the historic tank, it leeches through the platform, flooding the top floor, drenching the stairs and soaking the bottom floor.

We have removed and dried all the historic exhibit materials and cleared the space. After temporary installation for the 3rd & 4th grade school tours this spring, they will go back in storage so the repairs are made.



While we await your consideration of this request, we will proceed with another necessary chore – carefully removing our natural hive of honeybees who moved into the tank house three years ago. (See beekeeper at right; they are living right above the doorway, on the second floor – right where work needs to happen.)



The good news is they are Italian or Carniolan bees – docile, hard workers, and essential to agriculture. We've not had a single sting in three years.

We will relocate them into a new hive to keep them close to the city's heritage orchard (which used to belong to J. Gilbert Smith, builder of the house we have enjoyed and interpreted as a community Museum since 1977).

Is the historic resource a designated landmark or an eligible landmark?

The Museum space was designated for historic use in 1974 with the formation of the City's Historical Commission, whose first task was to determine its civic use.

Who will be responsible for performing what activities (work items)?

The City of Los Altos will be the engineering and technical leads, while the Museum will seek funding, be on site, and work with the Historical Commission on all preservation issues.

Is the project part of a long-range project (multi-phased)? If so, where does the project fit into the anticipated larger program? No.

2. Historic Preservation Issues/Need

How does the project address the preservation of significant cultural, historical, and archaeological resources within Santa Clara County?

More than many others, you understand how few century-old tank houses remain in the county and publicly accessible. Except for the leak, it is in good shape, having been fully restored in 1993 when it was moved to the Museum site. (The City forced its restoration to be sturdy enough that the tank could be filled with water—although we never *planned* to do that.)

What is the historic preservation need the project will address? How will the project meet that need (beneficiaries, impact and expected result)?

This tank house is already restored, needs a major repair (water at this level will *destroy* it in short order). But it can continue its educational role, with your help.

Why is the project a priority?

Despite the drought, we know it will rain again – we may even get an el Nino this winter. Regardless, even a little rain is ruining the historic tank house. Action must be taken – now.

How will the project make a significant, long-term contribution to historic preservation in Santa Clara County?

By continuing to represent the last of its once-numerous kind, the tank house teaches our community about its past, and how that past has created the place we enjoy today.

3. Public Purpose

How will the project benefit the community? How will the project contribute to public education and awareness of the historic resource? Who is the targeted audience?

The tank house is an active part of the Museum's programming, whether enjoyed by the casual guest walking through our grounds and garden at any time of day, or seen by 22,000+ regular Museum visitors a year—including the hundreds of 3rd and 4th graders for whom the tank house is part of their curriculum tour.

It is interpreted both indoors and out. Inside, the ground floor exhibit is "home" to a migrant farm worker—as if they were out in the orchards and we can peer through their window. Outside, guests can explore a working mechanical water pump (on its left flank) and a Formway walnut huller invented in Los Altos and a point of local pride (on its right). Nearby is the cutting shed, sulfuring shed, tractor, sprayer, farm tools and related artifacts. New illustrated signage being developed will better tell the stories of our agricultural past.

Does this project involve work in areas that will not be programmed for public access (administrative areas)?

The tank house can be enjoyed 24 hours a day, as the gardens and grounds are open to the public year 'round. It's a popular place to sit and read, do tai chi (we have regular informal groups here weekly at 6am) or for moms and strollers to get their exercise. A true community "third space" — the tank house lords serenely over it all.

4. Budget

Explain how the project is the most efficient, cost effective way of addressing the identified preservation need.

Only a major repair will save the tank house. We've tried the last four years to stop the leak—by putting on a new roof, caulking windows (twice) and still the leak got worse—much worse. Now it threatens the entire building. The expensive part is safely removing the historic tank – using a crane.

Explain how the project budget was determined, and explain the competitive process that will be used to award contracts paid for by grant funds.

Because the original tank is so delicate, and two stories up, a crane and great care to keep it intact is required. The crane alone puts \$10,000 into the project budget.

Two contractors asked by the City of Los Altos refused to even bid on the project. A third gave a verbal estimate of "at least \$20,000." A fourth, Schiller Construction, who are just crazy enough to love old buildings, agreed to bid (we've yet to receive it before your grant deadline). We've worked with them on prior projects, and this is one reason we like them – because they feel *it's an honor to help the community by working on historical buildings.*

Are the anticipated costs to accomplish the project realistic, reasonable and necessary (the cost basis for the budget must be documented and justified)? Are the project costs clearly defined?

The costs are clearly defined--as much as working with old buildings can ever be, before we open up walls, lift off tanks, etc. and without a written contract. We are very fortunate to have City staff who really care and is very responsive.

Schiller Construction is unafraid of what they may find... even honeybees. (It doesn't mean we don't all occasionally swear at the mysteries we'll discover, but that can't be helped. People who care sometimes do that.)

Are sufficient funds currently available to complete the project?

While this is an immediate, pressing need, the overwhelming number of other projects in both the City of Los Altos and the Museum means we do not have sufficient funds to cover it all, unless we seriously drain our reserve meant to protect the Museum long-term. Your help will be invaluable.

Are matching funds from other sources being committed to the project? Demonstrate the availability of those funds.

We began fundraising this past February at our crab feed event. With our auctioneer's help (Joe Simitian, taking a break from his day job) almost \$5,000 was raised for the project. We continue to invite donors to help save the tank house in our fundraising appeals, and they are stepping forward with gifts from \$25-100.

We plan to reach out to our community corporate partners from our recent *Shaped by Water* exhibit, to see if they would help restore this icon of how water used to be delivered. (We gave this award-winning exhibit to History San Jose so that it can continue to educate the public about water – timely given the drought.)

Has your organization already received HHGP funding? If so, provide the name of the funded project(s), the funding year(s), and the grant amount(s).

In 2008, we applied for and received funding for a new roof on the 1905 J. Gilbert Smith History House – our community museum since 1977. It still looks great (and keeps the water out!) – thank you!

If the project is part of a long-range project (multi-phased), how many phases are required to complete the project? N/A

Do you intend to request additional funding in the future for the same project? No.

Does this project involve infrastructure improvements or other low funding priorities?

The second story is not used as display space due to poor access (one modern staircase), so was used for storage before the rains made that infeasible. It sits empty.

Contingency Funding: Applicant is to discuss how funds will be identified for contingencies and if not, how contingencies will be addressed if discovered during the project.

Small cost overruns may be able to be accommodated with a combination of donated and public funds, but we hope we've planned well enough that it won't be needed.

In-Kind Contributions: Applicant is to discuss any in-kind contributions to the project.

The City of Los Altos will waive fees for any needed permits. City and Museum staff time and all the volunteer efforts needed to make this happen are being contributed in-kind.

5. Long-Term Maintenance and Operation

Describe the plan for long-term maintenance and operation of the historic resource. What funding sources or other resources will be used to maintain and operate the property in the future? Who will be responsible for the maintenance and operation of the property and ensuring its on-going availability for public use?

The City of Los Altos, owner of the tank house, has a standing arrangement to care for all its facilities, including the Museum structures and grounds. Normal maintenance is performed regularly, in a partnership between the Museum and the City.

As the caretaker for the historic collection, Museum staff regularly inspect the facilities and collection, and work closely with the City as help is needed. This pairing unites the historic specialization and training of the Museum staff and the professional building and maintenance expertise of the City.

A third partner is the City's Historical Commission, whose charge is to preserve the historic nature of our community. The Commission was the founder of the Museum in 1977. The Association of the Los Altos Historical Museum (our legal name) began as an auxiliary to the Commission in 1978 and has managed the Museum and Smith History House and grounds ever since.

6. Project Administration/ Professional Capability/ Schedule

Describe the personnel and methods to be utilized to carry out the project. What individual or team will manage the project from the time the grant is awarded until project completion? What experience does this individual or management team have which qualifies them to manage the project? Is the proposed project schedule realistic and achievable? Have the needed agreements with other organizations or agencies been completed?

The Los Altos History Museum is the caretaker of the tank house, and until the storms last winter, we regularly interpreted it to visitors and on school tours. Talented people with years of experience are involved.

MUSEUM: In addition to a Museum Studies-trained E.D. with 35 years of nonprofit management experience (**Laura Bajuk**), and **Grace Perry**, Assistant to the E.D., both full-time, we have a diverse staff with deep experience in collections, education and exhibits:

- Collections & Exhibitions Manager - **Johanna Fassbender** (full-time). MA in Museum Studies, SFSU and MA in American Studies, Freie Universitat Berlin, Germany
- Asst. Collections Manager - **Stefanie Midlock** (half-time). MA in Museum Studies, SFSU. Native Los Altos.
- Collections Specialist – **Kristin Morris** (part-time). MA in Public History, University of Massachusetts, Amherst. 4th generation Californian, Los Altos resident.

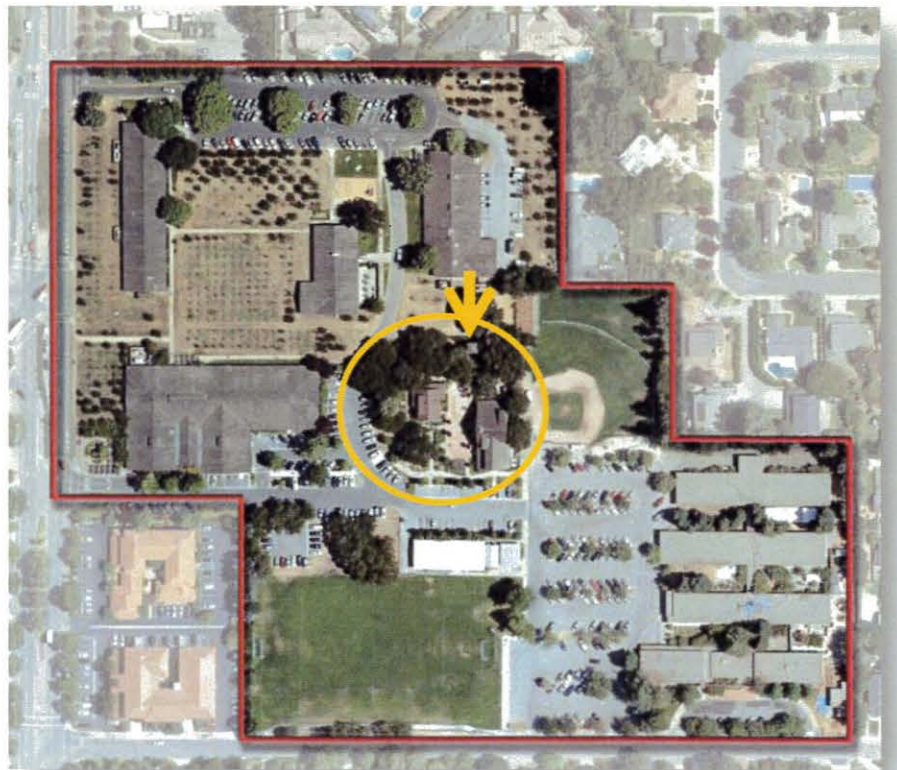
CITY: We are working closely with the City of Los Altos towards the successful repair and restoration of this historic resource, particularly:

- Public Works Director, **Susanna Chan**, with many years in city public works under her belt
- Maintenance Service Manager, **Kishor “Kiwi” Prasad**, formerly worked for the City of San Jose (he knows Kelley park very well). While in England, he worked on Tudor-era buildings.
- A supportive Historical Commission, chaired by architect **Walter Chapman**, and including realtors **Janis Ahmadjian-Baer** and **Denise Welsh**, vintage car guru **Bob Mabe**, **Frank Bishop**, **Margo Horn**, and Museum past president **Nomi Trapnell**.

7. Land Tenure

Demonstrate the project is located in a public or private park as defined in the eligibility criteria. If the grant applicant is a tenant or operator, provide the lease or agreement that adequately safeguards the twenty-year use requirement. If the lease or operating agreement will expire before twenty years, the resolution and property owner’s execution of the Grant funding agreement will serve as adequate evidence of continued public use.

The Los Altos History Museum (in orange circle) operated by the nonprofit Association of the Los Altos Historical Museum is on City property in the Los Altos Civic Center (outlined in red). The collection, managed by the Association, including the J. Gilbert Smith House and the 1915 Tank House (orange arrow), is also owned by the City. We share an Agreement outlining responsibilities for each party, **with NO end date.**



APPENDIX D: GRANT SCOPE/COST ESTIMATE FORM

APPLICANT Los Altos History Museum PROJECT NAME 1915 Tank House Project

WORK TO BE PERFORMED*	GRANTEE CASH CONTRIBUTION	GRANT	TOTAL
Work includes the following:			
Disconnect, brace and remove the water tank roof.			
Seal the top of the platform floor with Bituthene 3000.			
Seal the top of the platform floor with Bituthene 3000.			
Cover platform with galvanized sheet on top of the bituthene			
Replace damaged wood structures. Reinstall wanter & roof.			
Touch up paint as needed to match the existing exterior.			
Remove and rehouse resident honey bee colony.			
TOTAL PROJECT AMOUNT	\$5,000	\$30,000	\$35,000
Contingency (Optional)		XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX

*Distinguish preservation work from other work required by code or operational updates, for example, infrastructure, and technology and interior improvements.

Budget items incorporated for low priority items will be scored lower.

Only items which are funded by grantee cash or grant funded and are readily auditable 'hard costs' may be listed in the Grant Scope/Cost Estimate. Do not list In-Kind Contributions.

The APPLICANT understands that this form establishes the expected GRANT deliverables.

Signature _____
 APPLICANT'S AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE

Date 6/29/15

4. Property Owner Approval.

See Appendix E. Attach authorizing resolution from the project property owner, using the required language in the resolution.

PENDING:

We have verbal agreement on this project; the City of Los Altos which owns the tank house would VERY much appreciate the County's help in funding this project so that repairs can begin as soon as is possible.

To that end, City staff are scheduling review by the Historical Commission, whose recommendation then proceeds to City Council for final approval.

These actions will be forwarded as soon as they are completed.

APPENDIX F: FUNDING SOURCES FORM

APPLICANT Los Altos History Museum PROJECT NAME 1915 Tank House Project

FUNDING SOURCE	DATE COMMITTED	AMOUNT
HHGP Funding	TBD	\$ 30,000
Los Altos History Museum: Donated project funds	2/6/15	\$ 5,000
		\$
		\$
		\$
		\$
		\$
		\$
		\$
TOTAL FUNDING SOURCES Must Equal Estimated Total PROJECT Cost		\$
		\$35,000
CONTINGENCY		\$

The Applicant understands that the project cannot be funded unless the requested grant equals the estimated total project cost, or, the requested grant plus additional committed funds equals the estimated total project cost.

Signature _____
APPLICANT'S AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE

Date 7/1/2015

6. CEQA.

Grant projects require compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Check with your local city or county planning agency for more information on how to complete CEQA. Attach one of the following:

1. Notice of Exemption filed with, and stamped by, the county clerk, *or*
2. Initial Study with a Negative Declaration and a copy of the Notice of Determination filed with, and stamped by the county clerk, *or*
3. Initial Study and an Environmental Impact Report and a copy of the Notice of Determination filed with, and stamped by the county clerk.

City staff will address this.

7. 501(c)(3) Certification.

Attach copy of 501(c)(3) certification.

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE DISTRICT DIRECTOR 2 CUPANIA CIRCLE MONTEREY PARK, CA 91755-7406	DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
Date: <u>APR 30 1996</u>	Employer Identification Number: 94-2542813
ASSOCIATION OF THE LOS ALTOS HISTORICAL MUSEUM P O BOX 1165 LOS ALTOS, CA 94023	Case Number: 956073032
	Contact Person: SUSAN PALADINI
	Contact Telephone Number: (916) 974-5430
	Our Letter Dated: June, 1992
	Addendum Applies: No

Dear Applicant:

— This modifies our letter of the above date in which we stated that you would be treated as an organization that is not a private foundation until the expiration of your advance ruling period.

Your exempt status under section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code as an organization described in section 501(c)(3) is still in effect. Based on the information you submitted, we have determined that you are not a private foundation within the meaning of section 509(a) of the Code because you are an organization of the type described in section 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi).


Grantors and contributors may rely on this determination unless the Internal Revenue Service publishes notice to the contrary. However, if you lose your section 509(a)(1) status, a grantor or contributor may not rely on this determination if he or she was in part responsible for, or was aware of, the act or failure to act, or the substantial or material change on the part of the organization that resulted in your loss of such status, or if he or she acquired knowledge that the Internal Revenue Service had given notice that you would no longer be classified as a section 509(a)(1) organization.

If we have indicated in the heading of this letter that an addendum applies, the addendum enclosed is an integral part of this letter.

Because this letter could help resolve any questions about your private foundation status, please keep it in your permanent records.

If you have any questions, please contact the person whose name and telephone number are shown above.

Sincerely yours,



Richard R. Grosco
District Director

Letter 1950 (DO/CG)

8. Historic Designation.

Attach resolution or ordinance designating the project property as a landmark or contributing structure in a local historic district, or DPR 523 series forms documenting the property and evaluating its eligibility for local designation.

The Museum grounds were the gift of J. Gilbert and Margaret Smith, who specified that on their deaths the property would be used for public purposes. (This was the remainder of their property not already purchased by the City in 1954 to become its Civic Center. Note of interest: Architect Frank Lloyd Wright was consulting with the brand-new City and recommended this site over the two others being considered for purchase.)

In 1974, the Los Altos City Council formed the Historical Commission, and charged it to develop the property for historical use.

By 1977, the house was opened by the Commission as our first history museum, on the 25th anniversary of the city's incorporation. The Association of the Los Altos Historical Museum was formed in 1978 as an auxiliary to support the new Museum.

Shortly thereafter, the City signed an Agreement with the Association of the Los Altos Historical Museum to operate the house as a museum, which we have done since that time. In 1993, the tank house was moved to the site, and in 2001, the new Museum building was opened, as a joint City-Association (public/private) partnership.

9. Photos of Historic Resource.

December 2014 rains pelt the Los Altos History Museum

Hard to imagine as we sit in a hot summer office, but the rains last winter did a number on the tank house, whose small leak got huge. At left is the 1885 Kifer outhouse located to the immediate left of the tank house – a corner of which is visible below.



The tank house in good weather; pump motor exhibit is in the lean-to on the left, and barely visible is the lean-to on the right housing the Formway Walnut Huller.



Water seeping
through the
second floor/
first floor
ceiling

In only one
night's rain it
overflowed the
huge plastic
ice tub/ bucket
on the second
floor.





Splashing onto the stairs.



Soaking the first floor and the orchard worker's exhibit.



10. Required Regulatory Permits.

Attach a list of existing and additional permits required to complete the grant project, if applicable, the status of each, and indicate when permit approval would occur.

The permits required by the city of Los Altos will be administered by same, and they waive the regular fees for City-owned projects like this.

11. Public Access Schedule.

Attach a schedule of public accessibility, including hours of operation.

The grounds are open to the public year 'round, and are well-loved by the community. The Los Altos History Museum is open to the public Thursday-Sunday, noon-4pm.

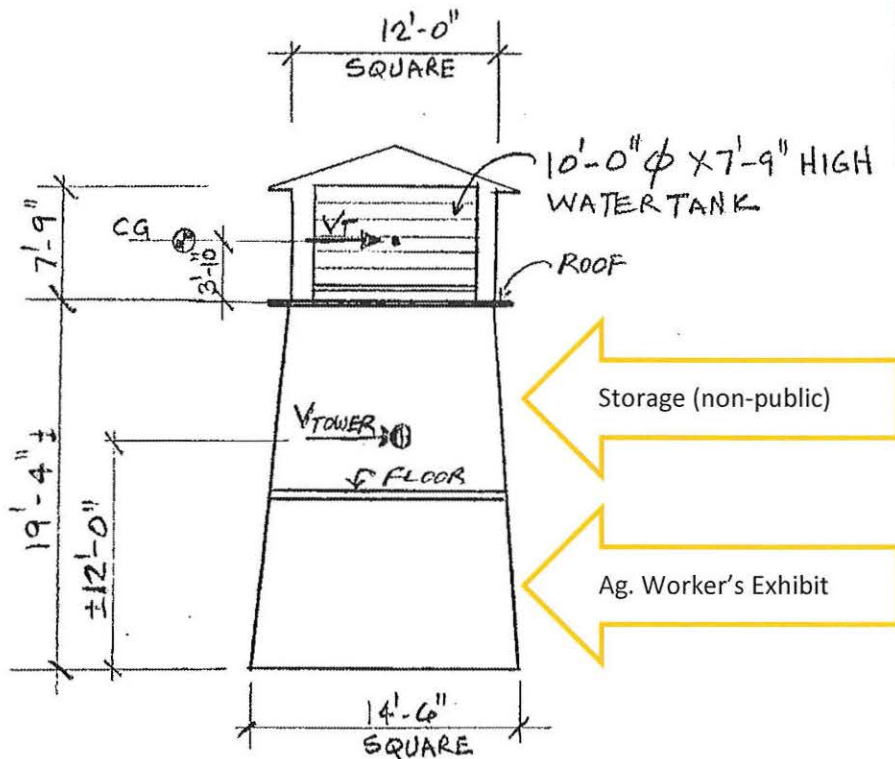
12. Project Use Diagram.

1993 Tank House Move & Restoration Drawings: we are fortunate to have recent engineering drawings to use as a starting point for this project. Samples follow.

STRUCTURE

JOB NO. _____ SHEET NO. 1
BY HP DATE 3/8/93

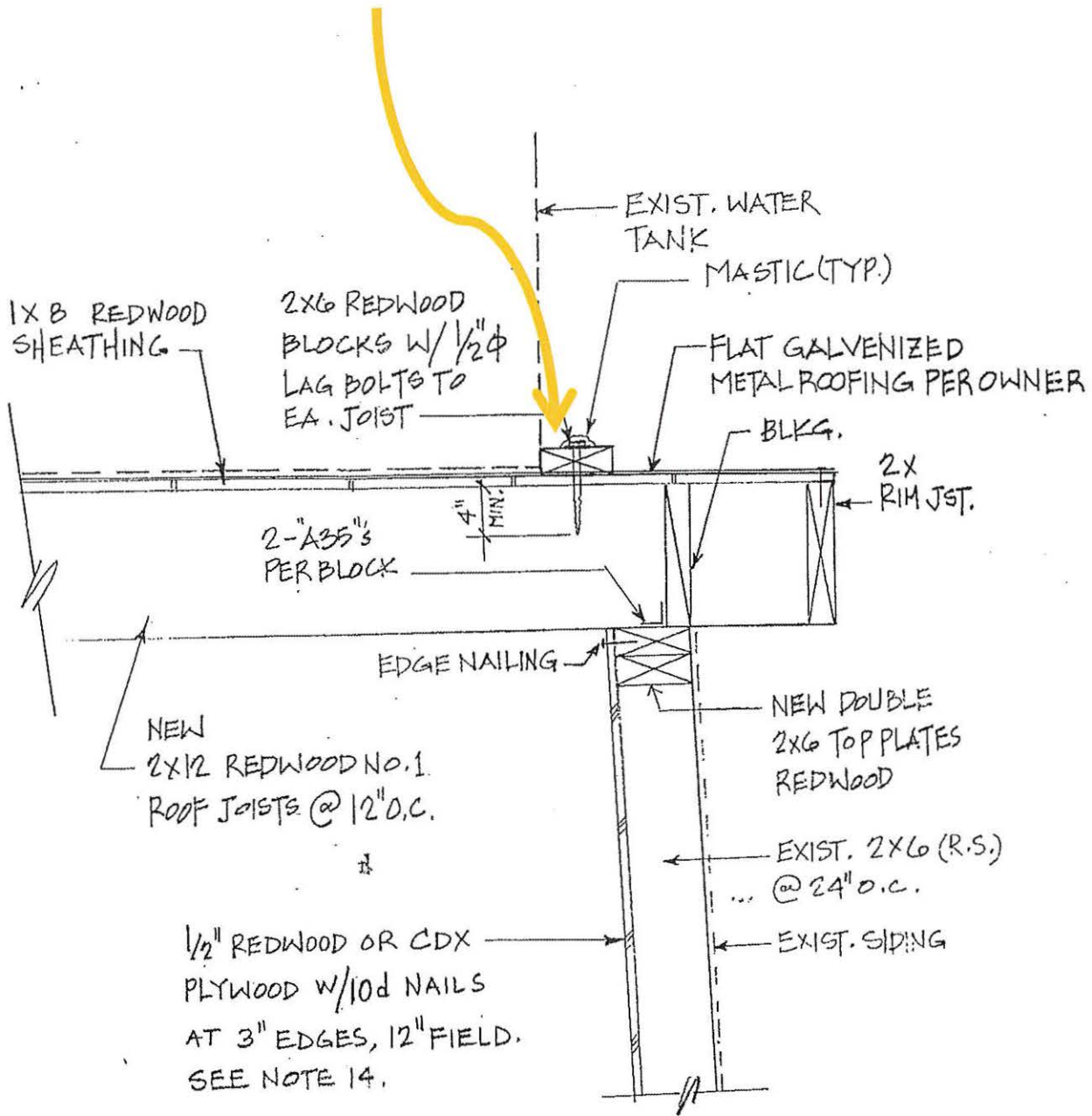
WATER TOWER INFORMATION:



WATER TOWER TO BE RELOCATED ADJACENT TO LOSALTOS HISTORY HOUSE AND BE PLACED ON NEW FOUNDATION AND SLAB.

1993 Tank House Move & Restoration Drawings, cont.:

Water is believed to be getting in here and soaking the ceiling below. Could be a combination of mastic letting go, holes due to nails/screws, or other breaks in the 1993 water sealing.



② SECTION @ TOP OF TOWER 1" = 1'-0"

13. Timeline.

Attach a timeline indicating the key milestones (such as design, engineering, construction) for project completion.

The timeline is reliant on funding approval; in fact, with winter rains the main threat, we wish to begin as soon as can be made possible, understanding the sequence outlined in the application process. Once approvals are made, the entire project should take about two weeks to complete.

Drop dead(line) for us? We would need the tank house to be able to operate for school tours in April & May.

ADDENDUM: In Closing -- and Thank you!

The tank house is an icon of our past, and as the tallest structure on the Museum site, cuts an imposing silhouette. It is a community treasure. Before the winter rains, the tank house “told” the Museum’s story in our fall fundraising appeal:

“There used to be many of us scattered over rolling land among a few oaks, and fewer houses. As the tallest thing around, I could see the trains running along the foothills, and wondered where people were going ... to jobs in San Francisco? shopping in Palo Alto? or even further?”

“In my younger years, I lived and worked on a farm on Pine Lane. I made sure the apricots flourished, and the Spagnoli family always had running water. I sheltered seasonal farm workers who came to pick the fruit—we grew the best in the world.

“With the years came more homes, more trees—I could no longer see any other tank houses. Modern plumbing made me obsolete. The Spagnolis moved away, and orchards like mine were replaced with housing for people young and old. Children played at my feet. As I got older, they talked about tearing me down ... I wasn’t needed any more.

“**But I got a happy ending.** People in the community—people like you—decided to save me, and moved me here to the Museum. They restored me, and soon I was teaching our history to young people on school tours and watching kids climb the tractors which had also been rescued.

“They gave me a farmhouse and orchard again, a beautiful garden and families picnicking under our oaks. I see them here, celebrate starting new lives together, or gather to remember loved ones. I even tasted an apricot when a hive of honeybees who work the last bit of Mr. Smith’s orchard moved in.

“The Museum has saved more than me, the farmhouse, orchard and gardens—thousands of photos, documents, newspapers and memories have been entrusted to the Museum over the past 40 years; more come in every day.

“I hear the docents telling those stories to guests who come from near and far. Whether they’ve just arrived or have been here for generations, everyone is welcome here.”

In this its 100th year, we hope that you will help the tank house have another “happy ending.”

Thank you for considering our application!

 Los Altos
HISTORY MUSEUM
51 S. San Antonio Road
Los Altos, CA 94022



PUBLICITY
NEWSPAPER
INQUIRIES

Subj: **Re: Tank house**
Date: Tuesday, May 21, 2002 8:25:57 PM
To: madelyn.crawford@ci.los-altos.ca.us,
Ginny.Kaminski@ci.mtnview.ca.us

Ginny Kaminski:
Madelyn Crawford forwarded your questions to me for reply.

How much did it cost? The tank house and water tower were donated to the City of Los Altos by Pilgrim Haven. The cost to move and rebuild was \$43,226.

Do you have architectural plans? We had Structech, a structural engineering firm, do structural drawings for the rebuilding. I have a copy of their drawing.

Is your water tank old or reproduced? The water tank is the same one that was moved from its previous Pine Lane location.

Who was your contractor? Our contractor for moving and rebuilding was Fred Wilcox, BCS Construction, 207 San Juan Road, P. O. Box 98, Watsonville, CA 95077, phone 831-724-2474.

What was the process you needed to go through with the City? The gift to the City of the water tower and the moving cost was proposed to and approved by the City Council on May 11, 1993. I had previously worked with the Building Department to resolve all details.

Did the City or your Association pay for it; did you do fundraising specifically for it? The Association paid for all costs with funds donated by Marion and Bob Grimm.

How long did construction take? The contract for moving and rebuilding was signed on April 25, 1993. The City Council approved the gift on May 11, 1993. The water tower was moved on May 12 to the new site. The project was completed on June 12, 1993.

Please let me know if there is other information you need.

Subj: **RE: Tank house**
Date: Tuesday, May 21, 2002 5:31:07 PM
From: madelyn.crawford@ci.los-altos.ca.us
To: Ginny.Kaminski@ci.mtnview.ca.us, robgrimm@aol.com

The tank house is old; it was moved from a property on Kifer Rd., there may be records related to the move which was organized by Bob Grimm, the museum's current board president and Vance Phillips, a former senior building official with Los Altos (City, now at Concord).

I think Bob and Marion Grimm might be willing to answer some questions about it. I think Pinky Whelan may have been involved with the preservation of it as well.

Thanks, Ginny. Madelyn (Bob--Ginny is with the Rengstorff House and City of Mountain View.)

-----Original Message-----

From: Kaminski, Ginny [mailto:Ginny.Kaminski@ci.mtnview.ca.us]
Sent: Tuesday, May 21, 2002 4:17 PM
To: 'Madelyn Crawford'
Subject: Tank house

Hi Madelyn,

Since your tank house is fairly new, I was wondering if you had details about it:

- * how much did it cost
 - * do you have architectural plans
 - * is your water tank old or reproduced
 - * who was your contractor
 - * what was the process you needed to go through with the City
 - * did the City or your association pay for it
- did you do fundraising specifically for it
- * how long did construction take

I appreciate any help I can get. Its hard to know where to start

----- Headers -----

Return-Path: <madelyn.crawford@ci.los-altos.ca.us>
Received: from rly-xe05.mx.aol.com (rly-xe05.mail.aol.com [172.20.105.197]) by air-xe02.mail.aol.com (v86.11) with ESMTP id MAILINXE23-0521203107; Tue, 21 May 2002 20:31:07 -0400
Received: from mail.ci.los-altos.ca.us (w224.z209220057.sjc-ca.dsl.cnc.net [209.220.57.224]) by rly-xe05.mx.aol.com (v86.11) with ESMTP id MAILRELAYINXE53-0521203101; Tue, 21 May 2002 20:31:01 -0400
Received: by EXCHANGE1 with Internet Mail Service (5.5.2653.19) id <KR3KSQT8>; Tue, 21 May 2002 17:28:02 -0700
Message-ID: <81834308435DD211A28B00A0C9DD41B695DA45@EXCHANGE1>
From: Madelyn Crawford <madelyn.crawford@ci.los-altos.ca.us>
To: ""Kaminski, Ginny"" <Ginny.Kaminski@ci.mtnview.ca.us>, ""robgrimm@aol.com"" <robgrimm@aol.com>
Subject: RE: Tank house
Date: Tue, 21 May 2002 17:28:01 -0700
MIME-Version: 1.0
X-Mailer: Internet Mail Service (5.5.2653.19)
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5/5/93

Water tower gets a lift across town to a historic new home

By Bill Kisliuk

Forty feet of Los Altos history will move next door to the Los Altos Police Station next month, when the History House Museum Association uproots an old water tower from a disappearing apricot orchard and places it at the Los Altos civic center.

The water tower once irrigated apricot trees and provided drinking water to the home of the Spagnoli family, which owned a small ranch near the corner of what is now Los Altos Avenue and Pine Lane. The Pilgrim Haven Retirement Community, which owns the adjacent land, bought the old Spagnoli house and property last fall, and plans to eventually develop the large corner lot.

Marion Grimm, president of the Association of the Los Altos Historical Museum, commonly known as the History House Association, said the association wanted to preserve the old farm structure.

"When we learned that the tank house might be demolished, we decided it would be a good idea to save it and use it for an

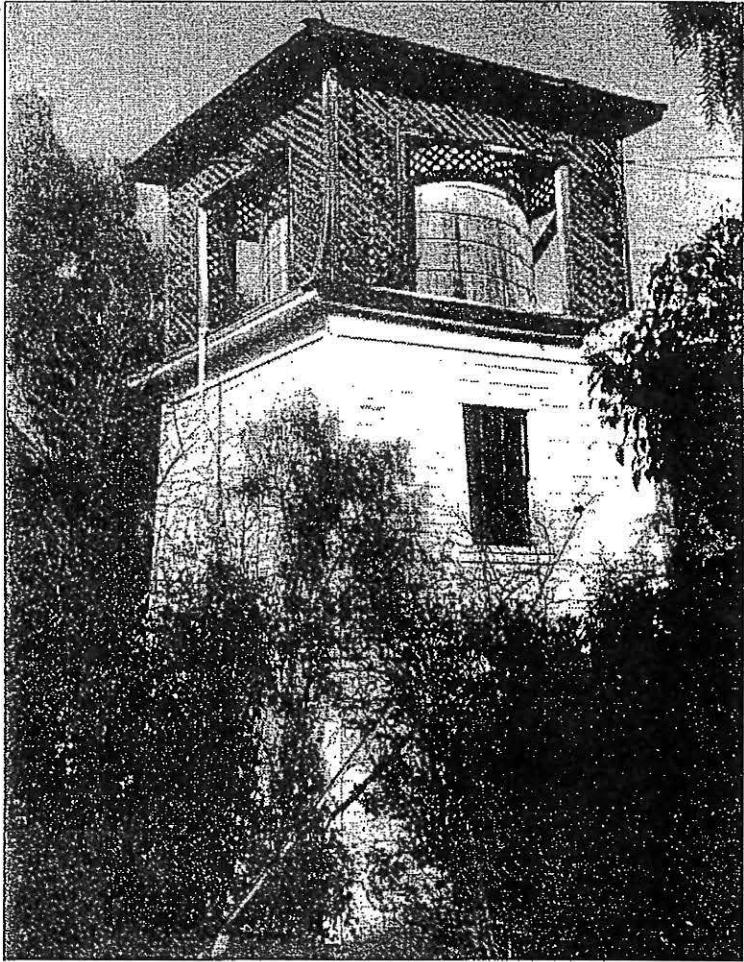
educational purpose," Grimm said. Association members have hired a Watsonville firm, BCS Transportation, to move the water tower to its new site near history house, a mile-and-a-half from where it currently stands.

The top of the tower will be dismantled for the move, scheduled for May 11 or 12, and reassembled at the Civic Center location. Workers will lay the tower sideways, on a trailer for its cross-town ride after dissembling the tank house on top. Grimm said the move is scheduled for May 11 or 12 and will be accomplished in a day.

The whole project, including laying a new foundation, disassembling and reassembling the tank and adding finishing touches, will take a month.

Once at its new home between History House and the police station, the water tower and tank house will get a makeover, with new natural wood-color shingle siding to replace its white wooden slats.

The tab for the move will be \$40,000, according to Bob Grimm. The money has come from private contributions to the History House



Charles Halleck

The water tower on the old Spagnoli property at Los Altos Avenue and Pine Lane will move to a new home at the Civic Center this month, courtesy of the History House Association.

Association.

In recent years, the tower has stood semi-obscured by pine and

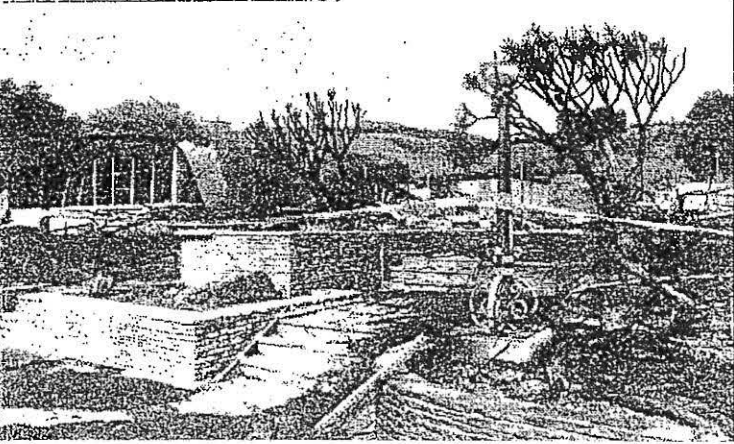
other trees at the far end of an apricot orchard that borders Los Altos Avenue.

Fire destroys abandoned Kaiser Cement building

By Bill Kisliuk

An abandoned building at the entrance to the Kaiser Cement Plant burned to the ground April 26, in a fire of undetermined cause. The building is one of three abandoned storage facilities located at the end of Stevens Creek Boulevard, on the border of Los Altos and Cupertino. The property is adjacent to Rancho San Antonio County Park.

San Jose County firefighters arrived at about 4:45



Charred remains near the abandoned structure that burned in a fire at Kaiser Cement.

Los Altos
Town

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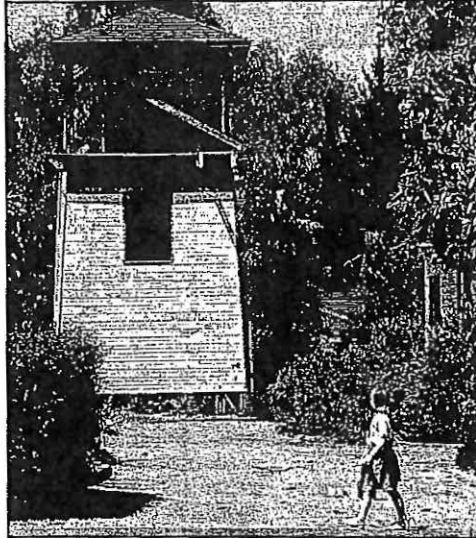
THURSDAY
MAY 13, 1993 PEN
San Jose Mercury

PENINSULA

NORTHERN SANTA CLARA COUNTY ♦ SOUTHERN SAN MATEO COUNTY ♦ EDITORIALS

Historic tower readied to go . . .

A 40-foot turn-of-the-century water tower, one of the few remaining in Los Altos, awaits removal Wednesday from property at Los Altos Avenue and Pine Lane to a new home at the Los Altos Civic Center between History House and the police department. The structure, which once was used to store water for drinking and to irrigate orchards, was housed on land next to the Pilgrim Haven Retirement Community.



. . . up, up, away to Los Altos center

Kelly Brothers House Movers of San Jose and San Jose Crane workers lift the bottom part of the tower Wednesday. The building was dismantled into sections, which were put onto trucks and transported a short distance away. The move and refurbishing will cost \$43,000, which will come from donations to the sponsor, the Association of the Los Altos Historical Museum.

TERESA HURTEAU — MERCURY NEWS

