

Sean Gallegos

From: james wing <jameswing@msn.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 26, 2019 10:31 PM
To: Sean Gallegos
Subject: Historical Commission - Website Inquiry

To: Los Altos Historic Commission Chair Horn and Distinguished Commission Members,

Subject: Los Altos Historic Commission 10/28/19 Meeting Agenda Item 2, Halsey House

I request you recommend the following items be added to Halsey House Draft Historic Structure Report [HRS] to ensure report has sufficient data for you to make future decisions:

- **HRS report should note required mitigation that complies with standards for historic restoration in flood plain.** Part of Halsey House 1923 structure is located in Adobe Creek flood plain. Prior staff investigations have confirmed flood plain location and some mitigation has been recommended.
- **Prior Halsey House flooding should be included in HRS.** I recommend 1976 and 1981 Halsey House flooding water levels. HRS should also note that 2014 Adobe Creek flash flood filled Halsey House 1923 structure foundation crawl space.
- **HRS should note that environment surrounding Halsey House is changing [loss of redwoods] and how it may impact restoration.** The “costal redwood seedlings’ that were planted by Halsey family, have now reached their “Los Altos fog free environment” expected lifetime and all are in various stages of above ground death. Signs of dying started to appear 12 years ago. Twelve percent [mostly near Halsey House] have already been cut back to stump or top half removed for public safety with more cutting expected in the next few years. Costal redwoods that are more than 50 feet tall need to obtain 50% of their water from daily early morning fog that Los Altos does not have. Todd Dawson [UC Berkeley Forestry Department] and Steve Sillett [Humboldt State] have published several papers on how costal redwoods receive and circulate water with permanent damage leading to above ground death when “fog” is not present.

Thank you for your consideration!

Jim Wing

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