



CITY OF LONG BEACH

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND BUILDING

RES-18

333 W. Ocean Blvd., Long Beach, CA 90802 - 562/570-6864 - 562/570-6610

Neighborhood and Historic Preservation Office

October 12, 2004

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
City of Long Beach
California

SUBJECT: Resolution Supporting Nomination of the Bembridge House to the National Register of Historic Places (District 1)

DISCUSSION

The National Register of Historic Places is the nation's official list of buildings, structures, objects, sites, and districts worthy of preservation because of their significance in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture. The National Register recognizes resources of local, state and national significance, which have been documented and evaluated according to uniform standards and criteria.

Authorized under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Register is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect historic and archeological resources. The National Register is administered by each State's Office of Historic Preservation for the National Park Service, which is part of the U. S. Department of the Interior.

To be eligible for listing in the National Register, a resource must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- A. Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction, or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.
- D. Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in history or prehistory.

The Bembridge House, located at 953 Park Circle Drive, Long Beach, California, was designated as a local Long Beach Historic Landmark on November 20, 1980, and is significant under the National Register criterion C as the most elaborate and intact Queen Anne Victorian architecture extant in the City of Long Beach, California. The property consists of a three-story wood frame main house, a two-story carriage house, and a small octagonal aviary in the side yard. Architecturally, the exterior of the main

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house has complex and varied massing. The steep hip roof has multiple gables with stone, wood and decorative shingle cladding, and rich ornamental detailing. The house interiors are in pristine original condition, with original woodwork, wall finishes, and gas-electric chandeliers.

The Bembridge House is located in the original residential district of the City, where other more modest Victorian homes survive, but where subsequent development and increased density have altered the historic context. The carriage house is a rare example of a type of building that has all but disappeared from the City and the region. Constructed in 1906, the Bembridge House is the most monumental, elaborate and ornate Queen Anne surviving today in Long Beach and demonstrates the continued popularity of Victorian design in the first decade of the twentieth century. It represents an outstanding example of Victorian design and craftsmanship in the context of pioneering residential homes in Long Beach. The buildings have retained a high degree of original integrity and have unusually significant and intact interiors.

Assistant City Attorney Michael Mais reviewed this report on October 4, 2004, and prepared the attached Resolution.

TIMING CONSIDERATIONS

The State Historical Resources Commission will be considering this application at their meeting on Friday, November 5, 2004, and the City is required to return comments on the "Review and Comment" form to the State Office of Historic Preservation fifteen (15) days prior to that meeting.

FISCAL IMPACT

This is an information item only and has no fiscal impact.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL:

Adopt the attached Resolution supporting the nomination of the Bembridge House, a local Long Beach Historic Landmark, for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Respectfully submitted,



FADY MATTAR

ACTING DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND BUILDING

FM:CT:kmb

Att: Resolution

APPROVED:


GERALD R. MILLER
CITY MANAGER