

Re: The Samuel Raymond house by Irving Gill (2749 East Ocean Blvd.)

Dear Cultural Heritage Commission Chair Irvine, Vice Chair McGuan, and Commissioners Grisafe, Hinds, Hunter, Ramos, and Bodek:

I respectfully request that you deny the C of A of the proposed addition to the Samuel Raymond house, designed by world-renowned modernist architect, Irving Gill. This house is one of his last existent intact single-family homes and plays a key role in the history of Gill's development as an architect.

The more I look at the proposed plans, the more alarmed I am about how much this addition will forever alter the home to accommodate it, not just on the outside, but the interior as well! Moving and adding stairwells, excavating in the basement—these are clear violations of Standard 9 of the Secretary of Interior Standards for historic buildings.

That said, the main focus of my letter today is the Samuel Raymond house back garden. Gill's mastery of extending the physical building into the backyard landscape (well documented in photos from his other noteworthy homes) is evident through the use of low walls, some connected to the main building (photo 1); short stairs/steps to different levels (photo 2), planting beds, and a fountain (photo 3). Gill was conceptualizing the entire environment as wholly complete—how the home is positioned/sited to all views front and back. The proposed addition reorients the garden away from the home to the addition—this is a major disruptive change to the original site.

I would like to reiterate that I want you to deny the C of A outright. Regardless, it is imperative for you to have Staff add a condition to have the original layout of the backyard and garden be recorded: via photographs, plans/drawings with measurements detailing all hardscape elements mentioned above—before any of the new addition(s) including ADU, swimming pool, and outdoor spa are added. Since Staff has a condition to record the window and door, it should not be difficult to make this a condition as well.

Thank you for your consideration.
Mauna Eichner
Member of Long Beach Heritage



Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3