

State of California X The Resources Agency DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION <b>PRIMARY RECORD</b>		Primary # HRI # Trinomial NRHP Status Code	
Other Review Code	Reviewer	Date	Listings

Page 1 of 1      \*Resource      Name      or      #:      (Assigned      by      recorder)

P1. Other      Identifier: 209-35-012

\*P2. Location: Not for Publication    ☒ Unrestricted

\*a. County Santa Clara County and (P2c, P2e, and P2b or P2d. Attach a Location Map as necessary.)

\*b. USGS 7.5' Quad \_\_\_\_\_ Date 1984 T   ; R   ;    of    of Sec   ;    B.M.

c. Address 2502 Town Center Dr. City Sunnyvale Zip 94087

d. UTM: (Give more than one for large and/or linear resources) Zone   ,    mE/    mN

e. Other Locational Data: (e.g., parcel #, directions to resource, elevation, etc., as appropriate)

\*P3a. Description: (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries)

The Town Center contains a group of seven (7) trees located along what was once Francis Street, just north of McKinley Avenue behind the old City Hall. These trees, planted by various community leaders and groups have become known as the "Heritage Grove". The group of trees consists of six (6) Coast Redwoods and one (1) Atlas Cedar. Redwood sizes: 38.2", 42", 36", 28.7", 21", 8.6" Cedar: 19.4"

\*P3b. Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) Coast Redwood (Sequoia sempervirens) & Atlas Cedar (Cedrus atlantic)

\*P4. Resources Present: Building    Structure    Object    Site    District    Element of District    **X Other**—Natural Resource (Tree)

P5b. Description of Photo: (view, date, accession #) Unknown

P5a. Photograph or Drawing (Photograph required for buildings, structures, and objects.)

*Picture*

\*P6. Date Constructed/Age and

Source: **X Historic**—(Planted cir. 1930-35)    Prehistoric    Both

\*P7. Owner and Address:

Sunnyvale Town Center  
2502 Town Center  
Sunnyvale, CA 94087

\*P8. Recorded by: (Name, affiliation, and address): Taryn Hanano, Planning Intern

\*P9. Date Recorded: August 2006

\*P10. Survey Type: (Describe): Cultural Resources Update

\*P11. Report Citation: (Cite survey report and other sources, or enter "none.")

Nomination Form  
Report to Mayor & Council No. 84-  
622

\*Attachments: **X NONE** Location Map Continuation Sheet Building, Structure, and Object Record  
Archaeological Record District Record Linear Feature Record Milling Station Record Rock Art Record  
Artifact Record Photograph Record Other (List):

The following inscriptions were taken from the plaques on the trees in Town Center Heritage Grove.

1. This grove of redwood and cedar trees was located along the east side of Frances Street, just north of McKinley Avenue.

Sequoia Sempervirens  
COAST REDWOOD  
Fred Drew, Mayor of Sunnyvale from 1927 to 1930 planted the first redwood tree in City Hall ground on the corner of McKinley Avenue and Frances Street. He was superintendent of Schuck's Cannery at that time.

2. Sequoia Sempervirens  
COAST REDWOOD  
Antone Schmitz, Mayor of Sunnyvale from 1932 to 1935, donated and planted the second redwood tree after the completion of the City Hall in 1929, which was located approximately 50 feet east of this tree.

- \* (Cedrus Atlantic  
ATLAS CEDAR  
The Sunnyvale Woman's Club donated and planted the "Cedar of Lebanon Tree" in the City Hall grounds. The tree was planted as a living gift to the City and in commemoration of Luther Burbank, a lover of trees and plants on May 2, 1930. A copy of the club's by-laws and list of members was sealed in a bottle and planted with the tree.)

3. Cedrus Atlantic  
ATLAS CEDAR  
The Sunnyvale Elementary School graduating class of June 6, 1930, which consists of 50 pupils, donated and planted this cedar tree. They were the first class to use the new City Hall Auditorium.

- \* This plaque remains, however, the tree was lost a few years ago.

4. Sequoia Sempervirens  
COAST REDWOOD  
Jean Bernardou donated this  
California redwood tree to the City  
and was planted by Mr. C. L. Ladd  
a custodian of the Civic Center  
on February 21, 1930.
5. Sequoia Sempervirens  
COAST REDWOOD  
Jean Bernardou donated this  
California redwood tree to the City  
and was planted by Mr. C. L. Ladd  
a custodian of the Civic Center  
on February 21, 1930.
6. Sequoia Sempervirens  
COAST REDWOOD  
The American War Mothers  
planted and dedicated a memory tree  
in commemoration of the Sunnyvale boys  
who lost their lives in World War II and  
to the three senior class members of  
Fremont High School, (Charles Donner,  
Nadine LLOYD, Walter Gachina), who lost their  
lives in an automobile accident near  
the high school on May 30, 1945.
7. Sequoia Sempervirens  
COAST REDWOOD  
In commemoration of the  
start of construction of  
Sunnyvale Town Center  
this tree is dedicated to  
Manuel Vargas, Mr. Sunnyvale,  
July 19, 1978.  
Earnest W. Hahn, Inc., and Macy's of  
California Developers.



REPORT TO MAYOR AND COUNCIL NO. 84-622

TO THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND COUNCIL

DATE: October 9, 1984

**SUBJECT:**

**Proposed Addition to Cultural Resources Inventory - TownCenter  
Trees**

**Report in Brief**

The Heritage Preservation Commission has nominated the above trees for inclusion in the Inventory of Cultural Resources in Sunnyvale. The Commission recommends, and staff concurs, that the Council approve the nomination. The Sunnyvale TownCenter has no objection to this nomination.

**Discussion**

These trees have been identified as meeting the adopted criteria for inclusion in the Cultural Resources Inventory. A description of the trees is included in the attached form.

It should be noted that the trees are nominated only for inclusion in the Inventory. This is not a landmark designation and, therefore, does not require public hearing by the Heritage Preservation Commission and the City Council.

**Public Contact**

The TownCenter trees were considered by the Heritage Preservation Commission at its meeting of April 11, 1984.

**Fiscal Impact**

Approval of the nomination will have no fiscal impact on the City.

**Alternatives**

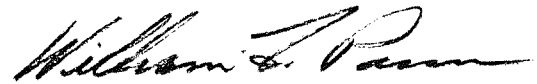
1. Approve the nomination
2. Disapprove the nomination

Proposed Addition to Cultural Resources Inventory -  
TownCenter Trees  
Page 2.

**Recommendation**

The Heritage Preservation Commission recommends that this nomination be approved.  
Staff concurs in this recommendation.

WFP:if  
attach.



William F. Powers, Director  
Community Development



Thomas F. Lewcock  
City Manager

NOMINATIONS OF A HERITAGE TREE OR TREES  
LOCATED IN SANTA CLARA COUNTY

CITY OF SUNNYVALE

March 30, 1984  
Month      Date

Common name of tree: (6) Coast Redwoods/ (1) Atlas Cedar  
(Include botanical name if you know it: Sequoia sempervirens/ Cedrus atlantic

Diameter of large or medium size tree at waist height: #1 38.2" (redwood) #2 42." (redwood)  
#3 19.4" (cedar) #4 36." (redwood) #5 23.7" (redwood) #6 21." (redwood)  
#7 8.6" (redwood)  
Diameter of small tree about 18" above ground: \_\_\_\_\_

Give street name and address, and whether on East, South, West, or North side of  
street or road: 2502 Town Center  
South east corner of Mathilda and Washington Streets

Give nearest cross-street or interesection: Mathilda at Washington

Indicate any tree or group which have any special historic significance (associated  
with a historic event or planted by a historic person or person on the bottom of this  
form and on the reverse.

Name of person or group submitting: Heritage Preservation Commission

Street address: 456 West Olive Avenue

City: Sunnyvale, State: Ca, ZIP: 94086  
Telephone: Area Code: (408) 738-5467  
By (name) David McKinney

Add comments, also attach a black and white glossy picture (snap-shot) if you can  
provide one within a few days.

Significance

A group of seven trees located along what was once the east side of Francis  
Street just north of McKinley Avenue and behind the old City Hall stand in  
what is now the Sunnyvale Town Center. These trees, planted by various  
community leaders and groups, have come to be known as the "Heritage Grove".

(over)

With the exception of the 100 block of Murphy Avenue these trees are all that remain of Sunnyvale's old down town. They were saved, primarily, because of the interest of long time Sunnyvale resident Mrs. Fern Ohrt. (See attached)

## Sources

Alillion Wilhelmy

Fern Ohrt

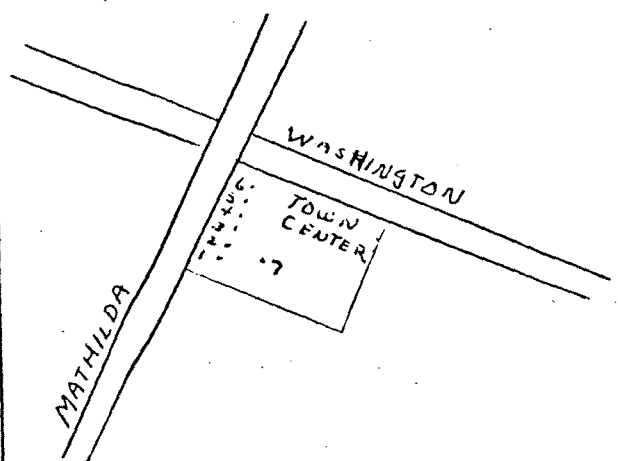
Manuel Vargas

Vince Calla

Sunnyvale Standard

Photo

Location sketch map

↑  
N





#### HERITAGE TREE GROVE

##### Sunnyvale TownCenter

In the mid-1970s, plans were revealed for a major redevelopment near Sunnyvale's older downtown core. The project was to be called Sunnyvale TownCenter. Concerned citizens led by long time resident Fern Ohrt petitioned the City to include in the plan the preservation of a group of heritage trees important in the community's history. Mrs. Ohrt's research revealed that several redwood trees were planted near the old City Hall by mayors Fred Drew (1927-1930) and Fred Schmitz (1932-1933) because the City could not afford landscaping. In 1939 a cedar tree was donated as a living gift to the City by the Sunnyvale Women's Club, and that same year a group of Sunnyvale elementary school children donated a tree in recognition of the newly opened Civic Center Auditorium. Six years later the local chapter of American War Mothers planted a memorial tree for the Sunnyvale men who lost their lives in World War Two, and three Fremont High School students who lost their lives in an automobile accident on May 30, 1945, also were memorialized.

The new TownCenter was built around the grove of trees, and picnic tables were situated throughout the area. At ground breaking ceremonies for the new center in 1978, Manuel Vargas, the City's oldest resident, planted a redwood tree to highlight the significance of preserving this heritage tree grove.