

Urban Forestry Council Landmark Tree Evaluation Form and Criteria

Pursuant to Ordinance 0017-06 and Public Works Code Section 810, the UFC has developed these criteria for evaluating potential landmark trees in San Francisco. When evaluating or considering potential landmark trees, please consider the context of the tree within its site location. For example, a tree on PUC land may not have the same community importance that a street or park tree would. Use comment sections, as appropriate, to explain or support evaluation. Attach sheets if more space is needed.

Evaluator's name: _____ Jon Swae _____

Date of evaluation: _____ June 6, 2014 _____

Scientific name: _____ Cupressus leylandii _____

Common name: _____ Leyland Cypress _____

Street address: _____ 38 Newman Street _____

Cross streets: _____ Bennington Street _____

Rarity ___ Yes ___ Partially __X__ No

Rarity: ___ Rare ___ Uncommon __X__ Common ___ Other

Unusual species in San Francisco or other geographic regions.

Comment: _____ I am not aware of this being a rare or unusual species in San Francisco.

Physical Attributes __X__ Yes ___ Partially ___ No

Size: __X__ Large ___ Medium ___ Small

Notable size compared to other trees of the same species in San Francisco.

Comment:

_____ Large cylindrical trees covered in flowering trumpet vines and ivy which somewhat obscure tree forms. They appear to be some of largest trees visible on the block. Located in rear of property in middle of block.

Age: ___ Yes __X__ No

Significantly advanced age for the species.

Comment: _____ Did not appear to be exceptionally old. _____

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Distinguished form: Yes No

Tree is an example of good form for its species, has a majestic quality or otherwise unique structure.

Describe: Large cylindrical trees covered in flowering trumpet vines which obscure tree forms.

Appears arborist and homeowner have made attempt to help trim vines which will likely die or fall off to reveal more of tree canopy in future.

Tree condition: Good Poor Hazard

Consider overall tree health and structure, and whether or not tree poses a hazard

Describe: Tree appeared to be in overall good health aside from some vine cover.

Historical Yes Partially No

Historical Association: Yes None apparent

Related to a historic or cultural building, site, street, person, event, etc.

Describe nature of appreciation: No apparent significant historical correlation.

Profiled in a publication or other media: Yes Unknown

Tree has received coverage in print, internet, video media, etc. **Attach documentation** if appropriate.

Describe coverage:

N/A

Environmental Yes Partially No

Prominent landscape feature: Yes No

A striking and outstanding natural feature.

Describe, attach photo if possible: The two trees do create a prominent landscape feature visible to a number of houses on the block both from backyards and from Bennington Street.

Low tree density: Low Moderate High

Tree exists in a neighborhood with very few trees.

Describe: Bernal Heights has an estimated 12.1% tree canopy cover (Urban Forest Plan 2014) which is in the moderate range for San Francisco's neighborhoods.

Interdependent group of trees: Yes No

This tree in an integral member of a group of trees and removing it may have an adverse impact on adjacent trees.

Describe: The two trees are planted closely together but are not connected to any larger assemblage of trees.

Visible or Accessible from public right-of-way: Yes No

High visibility and/or accessibility from public property.

Describe: Trees not very visible from front of property (Newman St) but can be seen from Bennington Street. _____

High traffic area: Yes No

Tree is located in an area that has a high volume of vehicle, pedestrian or bike traffic and has a potential traffic calming effect.

Describe: Residential neighborhood. No high vehicle or pedestrian traffic observed during site visit. _____

Important wildlife habitat: Yes No

Species has a known relationship with a particular local wildlife species or it provides food, shelter, or nesting to specific known wildlife individuals.

The trees did seem to be a popular site for birds with hummingbirds visible. Although, these birds seemed more drawn to trumpet flowers possibly for nectar sources than to trees themselves. Other birds were also observed flying in and out of branches. _____

Erosion control: Yes No

Tree prevents soil erosion.

Describe: Did not see evidence of this. _____

Wind or sound barrier: Yes No

Tree reduces wind speed or mitigates undesirable noise.

Describe: Height of trees could perform some sort of wind or sound blocking capability. However, no extreme evidence of this observed upon site visit.

Cultural Yes Partially No

Neighborhood appreciation: Yes None apparent

Multiple indicators such as letters of support, petition, outdoor gatherings, celebrations adjacent or related to tree, etc. Attach documentation:

Describe: No additional documentation available other than homeowner's landmark tree nomination form. _____

Cultural appreciation: Yes None apparent

Particular value to certain cultural or ethnic groups in the city.

Describe nature of appreciation: Unknown. _____

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Planting contributes to neighborhood character: Yes No

Tree contributes significantly to, or represents, neighborhood aesthetic.

Describe contribution: The trees do contribute to somewhat to overall neighborhood tree canopy in Bernal Heights neighborhood – a component of neighborhood character. Since trees are located behind property their visual impact on overall neighborhood is limited.

Profiled in a publication or other media: Yes Unknown

Tree has received coverage in print, internet, video media, etc. **Attach documentation** if appropriate.

Describe coverage: None available. _____

Prominent landscape feature: Yes No

A striking and outstanding natural feature.

Describe, attach photo if possible: While the trees represent a feature of prominence for the neighboring properties, they do not represent a prominent landscape feature for the larger neighborhood given their limited visibility from other nearby streets.

Additional comments

The homeowner is passionate with a strong commitment to maintaining the health of the trees.

The arborist report indicates the trees are in good health but that the ivy and other vines could compromise the trees' future health by weighing tree down and preventing light from penetrating interior branches.
