

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: Rose Hillson

Date of evaluation: May 23, 2014

Scientific name: Cuprocyparis leylandii (Tree #1 – northeast part of lot, closest to Bennington)

Common name: Leyland's cypress

Street address: 38 Newman Street

Cross streets: Bennington / Holly Park Circle

PICTURES at end of THIS report for BOTH Cypress #1 & #2 tree evaluations

Rarity ___ Yes ___ Partially ___ No

Rarity: ___ Rare X Uncommon ___ Common ___ Other

Unusual species in San Francisco or other geographic regions.

Comment: Leyland's cypress is not rare but is uncommon in SF. For other SF locations besides in Golden Gate Park, see sample pictures within this report.

Physical Attributes ___ Yes ___ Partially ___ No

Size: ___ Large X Medium ___ Small

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

Comment: Species can get very large and this is in the mid-range; other examples of same species in SF have larger diameter (see Masonic Avenue and Brotherhood Way examples, many along Geary). This tree: Ht=40'; Average canopy=12'; Circumference at chest level=42" (diameter=13.5")

Age: ___ Yes X No

Significantly advanced age for the species.

Comment: Property owner stated to me that neighbor's grandfather planted this tree about 40 years ago.

Distinguished form: ___ Yes X No

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

Describe: Typical lush form for Leyland cypress species.

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Tree condition: Good Poor Hazard

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

Describe: Trunk looks good as far up as 10 feet. Growth a bit higher more difficult to view due to what appeared to be a longtime growth of trumpet vines and ivy which caused blockage of sunlight there and at the base area of the tree. See photos.

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: _____

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: Asked property owner and she stated that there was no coverage of this tree in print or media; however she also stated that if a blog is what it takes to landmark the tree she would start one.

Environmental Yes Partially No

Prominent landscape feature: Yes No

A striking and outstanding natural feature.

Describe, attach photo if possible: This tree stands behind a Purple-leaf plum tree and is hidden behind a tea tree and other taller shrubs and trees. It is located at the very rear of the property close to the rear fence. It is also close to a 10'x12' shed on concrete pavers which the property owner says existed when she bought the land about a year and a half ago. There is a shiny, apparently new, 18"- or 24"- high chicken wire "fence" that seems to have been erected about 2 ft. in front of this tree. Overall impression is that this tree is not a prominent landscape feature.

Low tree density: Low Moderate High

Tree exists in a neighborhood with very few trees.

Describe: There is a park one block away with trees in adjacent properties.

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: _____

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Visible or Accessible from public right-of-way: Yes No
High visibility and/or accessibility from public property.

Describe: This tree is visible from the sidewalk along Bennington because the lot is the second one from the corner of Newman/Bennington Sts. The corner building at Newman and Bennington and the corner building at Highland and Bennington have their rear yards exposed to Bennington St. This creates an unobstructed open mid-block open space which allows this cypress (Tree #1) to be visible.

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: _____

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. Property owner says hummingbirds were seen around the tree. My note about this is that there are many red trumpet vines in the tree and it is uncertain if the birds could be visiting them rather than the tree. When a crow flew over, she asked what that was and I told her. It did not land in the cypress. Owner also stated raccoons and other birds and the mourning doves seen in tree.

Erosion control: Yes No
Tree prevents soil erosion.
Describe: This is on flat ground going north and south. There is a slight slope east to west but it is for the most part a level lot.

Wind or sound barrier: Yes No
Tree reduces wind speed or mitigates undesirable noise.
Describe: Both prior to and after the tree evaluation, the wind readings on the streets and sidewalks in the area topped at 12.3 mph per anemometer readings. Reading in yard reached 0.8 mph. The area was windy on this partly-sunny day.

See COMMENTS below.

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: _____

Cultural appreciation: _____ Yes X None apparent

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

Describe nature of appreciation: _____

Planting contributes to neighborhood character: _____ Yes X No

Tree contributes significantly to, or represents, neighborhood aesthetic.

Describe contribution: _____

Profiled in a publication or other media: _____ Yes X Unknown

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

Describe coverage: See above under "HISTORICAL" for comments.

Prominent landscape feature: _____ Yes X No

A striking and outstanding natural feature.

Describe, attach photo if possible: See above under "ENVIRONMENTAL" for comments.

Additional comments

This species is used historically to create a wind and privacy barrier per sources on the Internet. It grows fast and creates dense foliage to block out unwanted visual blights. A case in the United Kingdom, it is reported, caused the murder of an environmental officer because he would not cut down his cypress which was over 100 ft. tall and created such a dense hedge that no sunlight got to the adjoining property.

This cypress was created in Great Britain in 1888 as a cross between a Monterey cypress and a Nootka cypress. Other hybrids have also been created. It is hardy in USDA Zones 6 – 10. Fast-growing evergreen, grows in sunny areas but can tolerate shade for part of the day.

38 Newman St. – Pictures for Evaluations of Leyland Cypressess #1 & #2 + Other Examples



L: Facing west from Bennington St.; closest smaller cypress is #1, larger one in back is #2
R: Facing northeast at Newman St. / Bennington St.



Facing west; north half.



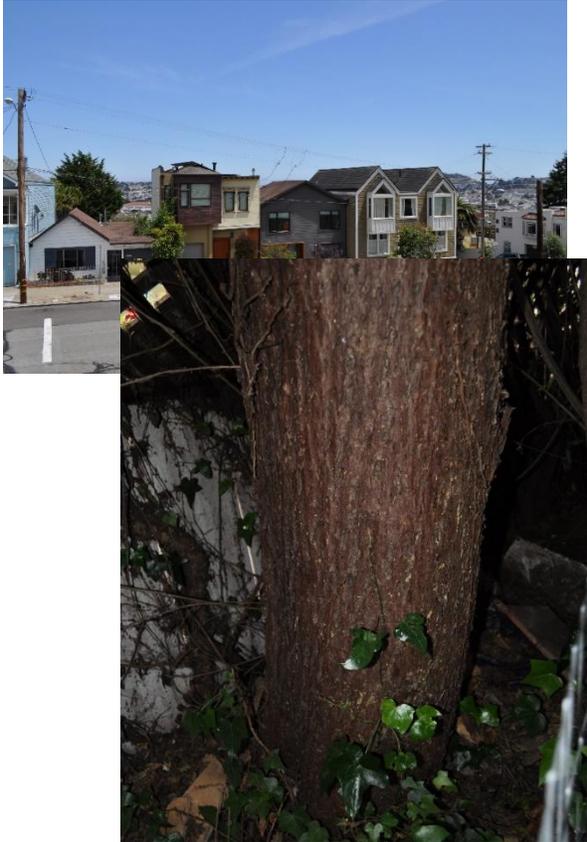
Facing west; south half.



L: Highland St. / Bennington St.



R: South side of Newman St. near Holly Park Circle; tip of cypress visible on upslope



L: Facing east from Holly Park Circle – cypress visible over 1-story building
R: Cypress #1 (east side of lot, left tree as one faces it from property front)



L: Cypress #2 trunk is dark area where fence boards are strewn about.
R: Cypress #2 trunk is on right part of picture at the rear.



L: Cypress tree #1 next to shed at rear

R: Cypress tree #2 in back of the shed and other vines, shrubs and trees – not visible at this level.



L: Brotherhood Way (d=40")*



C: Brotherhood Way (d=25")*



R: Masonic Ave (d=100")*

* Per www.urbanforestmap.org which states there are 86 of these trees in SF (user-entry based)