

# 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 #2 – northwest part of lot, farther from Bennington)

Common name: Leyland's cypress

Street address: 38 Newman Street

Cross streets: Bennington / Holly Park Circle

**\*\*\* Pictures for this tree are attached to Evaluation Report for Cypress #1 \*\*\***

**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=59.7" (diameter=19"). Circumference measurements based on guess from a distance as area was inaccessible and very dark. Flash needed to be used to take pictures of the lower trunk area in broad daylight hours.

**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

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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 and not oozing. Was not able to lay hands on bark or get behind shed which stood in front of this tree. There were trumpet vines and ivy which caused blockage of sunlight there and at the base area of the tree. See photos in Tree #1 eval report. This western-most located cypress is up against and may even be lifting up the fence in the back lot line area. Fence boards at rear of lot are falling off near or on base ? of tree. Hard to see if root / base of trunk. It looked like the tree is eating into the fence boards as it is so very close. Many branches of the tree are overhanging onto the north property at 321 Highland Ave. (Block 5715/Lot 003) by one-third to three-eighths of the diameter of the tree canopy.

**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: \_\_\_\_\_

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**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.

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**Environmental**      Yes      Partially      No

**Prominent landscape feature:**      Yes      No

A striking and outstanding natural feature.

Describe, attach photo if possible: This tree stands in the northwest portion of the lot behind a 10'x12'shed which existed, according to the property owner, when she bought the parcel. The tree is located at the very rear of the property at and appeared to be into the rear fence. The tree trunk appears to be a bit larger in diameter at breast height than the tree to the east (See separate evaluation report for Tree #1.). Trumpet vines and ivy grow all around it and it is blocked by other vegetation. The area was so dark, a flashlight would have been helpful. However, camera flash was used. In addition, the shed, wheel barrow and new chicken wire fencing precluded any further examination w/o jeopardizing potential health and safety of evaluator. It would have been better to have had better direct access to the tree vs. via long lens of camera. Top of it seen as rest is mostly blocked by shed, etc.

**Low tree density:**      Low      Moderate      High

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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      X No

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

Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

**Visible or Accessible from public right-of-way:**      X 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 the cypress to be visible. This tree is less visible from this mid-block space as it is behind the cypress tree to its east (Tree #1 in separate report).

**High traffic area:**      \_\_\_ Yes      X 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      X 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      X 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:**      X 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.

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See COMMENTS below.

**Cultural**    \_\_\_ Yes    \_\_\_ Partially    X No

**Neighborhood appreciation:**            \_\_\_ Yes            X 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**

Species background info: 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.