

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: Gordon Matassa

Date of evaluation: 10/1/18

Scientific name: *Metrosideros robusta*

Common name: northern rata

Street address: 1776 Vallejo Street

Cross streets: Gough Street

Rarity Yes Partially No

Rarity: Rare Uncommon Common Other

Unusual species in San Francisco or other geographic regions.

Comment: Uncommon species in SF, unlike its relative *Metrosideros excelsa*.

Physical Attributes Yes Partially No

Size: Large Medium Small

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

Comment: Crown – good structure; trunk – appears to be two trees growing into each other. In a typical tree, there is potential for internal decay where the two trunks meet. This species is hemi-epiphytic; it will grow around other trees in its natural habitat and choke them out (similar to strangler fig). Likely no rot.

Age: Yes No

Significantly advanced age for the species.

Comment: Mature, but not reaching senescence yet.

Distinguished form: Yes No

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

Describe: well-distributed and large canopy

Tree condition: Good Poor Hazard

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

Describe: Looks healthy and happy.

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: Adjacent to the Burr Mansion (1772 Vallejo Street)

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: featured in Michael Sullivan’s *The Trees of San Francisco* as a landmark tree and included in self-guided tour (#8).

Environmental Yes Partially No

Prominent landscape feature: Yes No
A striking and outstanding natural feature.
Describe, attach photo if possible: One of the more mature trees on the block.

Low tree density: Low Moderate High
Tree exists in a neighborhood with very few trees.
Describe: Lots of street trees (*Pittosporum undulatum*) that have been pruned to be small along the entire block; low chance of interference with tree in question.

Interdependent group of trees: Yes No
This tree is 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: Yes No
High visibility and/or accessibility from public property.
Describe: About 3’ from sidewalk; technically a “significant tree.”

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: Moderate – located between two major arteries in SF (Gough and Franklin Streets). Vallejo has low traffic in comparison.

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.
None noted at this time.

Erosion control: Yes No
Tree prevents soil erosion.
Describe:

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Wind or sound barrier: Yes No
Tree reduces wind speed or mitigates undesirable noise.
Describe: Provides wind protection to the Burr Mansion next door.

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 None apparent
Particular value to certain cultural or ethnic groups in the city.
Describe nature of appreciation:

Planting contributes to neighborhood character: Yes No
Tree contributes significantly to, or represents, neighborhood aesthetic.
Describe contribution: Mature and stately tree; frames the Burr Mansion well.

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: Michael Sullivan's book.

Prominent landscape feature: Yes No
A striking and outstanding natural feature.
Describe, attach photo if possible: Stands out because of its size and how it frames the Burr Mansion.

Additional comments

Already protected as a significant tree. Definite a unique species, but looks a lot like its "cousin" the New Zealand Christmas tree (*Metrosideros excelsa*). Included bark typically a red flag, but this species does that kind of thing (hemi-epiphytic). This species is native to New Zealand and, according to one source, is a threatened species since the introduction of possums (which defoliate and kill these trees).