

# 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: Mei Ling Hui

Date of evaluation: July 14, 2015

Scientific name: Araucaria columnaris / Araucaria cookii

Common name: Cook Pine

Street address: 46a Cook Street, San Francisco, CA 94118

Cross streets: Geary Blvd.

**Rarity**    Yes    Partially    No

**Rarity:**  Rare    Uncommon    Common    Other

Unusual species in San Francisco or other geographic regions.

Comment: This tree was originally reported to be a Norfolk Island Pine, but new info was received identifying the tree as a Cook Pine. Two key distinguishing characteristics of the Cook Pine species are the bark and the canopy shape. Cook Pines have flakey peeling bark. The canopy shape can be described as a "rocket" shape, with a narrower spread than Norfolk Island Pines. In the images I took from next door and the street view on July 14<sup>th</sup>, flakey, peeling characteristics to the bark are evident as is the narrow, "rocket" shaped canopy.

These two species can be difficult to tell apart. The columnar form of this specimen may be caused by wind or by the proximity of buildings and trees that were recently removed. I am unfamiliar with this species and understand that is frequently misidentified as Norfolk Island Pine.

The rarity rating noted here assumes that the tree is a Cook Pine. If the tree is a Norfolk Island Pine, these trees are not especially common nor uncommon and I would amend my rating to "partially" for this section.

**Physical Attributes**    Yes    Partially    No

**Size:**  Large    Medium    Small

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

Comment: We weren't able to get close enough to the tree to perform measurements. The tree is visible from the street and appears to be the tallest tree in the neighborhood.

**Age:**  Yes    No

Significantly advanced age for the species.

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Comment: We have received several estimates for the tree's age, placing it between 70-120 years old. At the low end, this is still a very mature tree.

**Distinguished form:**  Yes  No

Tree is an example of good form for its species, has a majestic quality or otherwise unique structure. Describe: Norfolk Island and Cook Pines are difficult to distinguish; as such I will provide comments for either species. As a Cook Pine, it appears to be an ideal form for the species. As a Norfolk Island Pine, the crown is narrower than would be typical. The tree appears healthy and robust and is a prominent visual feature from neighboring lots and the public street.

**Tree condition:**  Good  Poor  Hazard

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

Describe: Both arborists reports that have been submitted have identified the tree as healthy. It appears that lower limbs were recently pruned away, raising the overall tree canopy. The canopy is as full as would be typically for a Cook Pine and has more density than would be expected with a Norfolk Island Pine.

**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: The tree is located adjacent to a carriage house that is a "Type A - Historic Resource." George J. Smith, the individual who built the house and who may planted the tree, was the Director of the Odd Fellows and was well know figure whose untimely death was reported in several papers.

**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: There is a reference which may refer to this tree in the *book Here Today: San Francisco's Architectural Heritage*, the text related to the subject property reads, "46 Cook Street (c. 1870) George J. Smith, a director of the Odd Fellows, planted his estate with many trees which he obtained from the cemetery. Today all that remains on his property is a one-story Italianate home and carriage house."

**Environmental**  Yes  Partially  No

**Prominent landscape feature:**  Yes  No

A striking and outstanding natural feature.

Describe, attach photo if possible: This is the tallest tree and is visible from the public right of way.

**Low tree density:**  Low  Moderate  High

Tree exists in a neighborhood with very few trees.

**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.

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

High visibility and/or accessibility from public property.

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Describe: The tree is the tallest tree in the area and is clearly visible from the roadway.

**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: Cook is a short street that dead ends. There doesn't appear to be a high amount of vehicle or pedestrian traffic on the small street.

**Important wildlife habitat:**      X 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.

Describe: Because it is the tallest tree around, it is likely that birds use the tree for a perch and for shelter.

**Erosion control:**      \_\_\_ Yes      X No

Tree prevents soil erosion.

Describe: The area is flat.

**Wind or sound barrier:**      X Yes      \_\_\_ No

Tree reduces wind speed or mitigates undesirable noise.

Describe: Neighbor report an increase in wind and noise with the recent changes to the landscape.

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

**Neighborhood appreciation:**      X Yes      \_\_\_ None apparent

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

Describe: The nomination was initiated by a neighbor. Petitions to support the nomination have been supplied as part of the meeting documents, which include comments from individuals on the value that the tree has for them.

**Cultural appreciation:**      \_\_\_ Yes      X None apparent

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

**Planting contributes to neighborhood character:**      X Yes      \_\_\_ No

Tree contributes significantly to, or represents, neighborhood aesthetic.

Describe contribution: It is a lovely tree.

**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: Describe coverage: There is a reference which may refer to this tree in the *book Here Today: San Francisco's Architectural Heritage*, the text related to the subject property reads, "46 Cook Street (c. 1870) George J. Smith, a director of the Odd Fellows, planted his estate with many trees which he obtained from the cemetery. Today all that remains on his property is a one-story Italianate home and carriage house."

**Prominent landscape feature:**    X Yes    \_\_\_ No

A striking and outstanding natural feature.

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Describe, attach photo if possible: As described above, the tree is visible from public areas, is the tallest tree around, and is an attractive and healthy tree.







