Urban Forestry Council
Landmark Tree Evaluation Form and Criteria

Pursuant to Ordinance 0017-06 and Public Works Code Article 16, Section 810, the Urban Forestry Council 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 the comment sections, as appropriate, to explain or support evaluation.

Evaluator's name	Pam Nagle
Date of evaluation	July 21, 2020
Start time of evaluation	1:00 PM
End time of evaluation	1:45 PM
Botanical name	*Hesperocyparis macrocarpa*
Common name	Monterey Cypress
Street address	44th Avenue near Irving
Cross streets	Irving Street

(4 trees in front yard)

Rarity

Unusual species in San Francisco or other geographic regions.
☐ Rare
☐ Uncommon
☒ Common
☐ Other

Comments	Common tree, particularly in parks/open spaces.

Physical Attributes

Size: Notable size compared to other trees of the same species in San Francisco.
☐ Large
☒ Medium
☐ Small

Comments	

Age: Significantly advanced age for the species.
☐ Yes
☒ No

Comments	

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

☐ Yes

☒ No

Comments	4 trees on lot, 3 in fair condition and 1 in poor condition (suppressed by one of the others and leaning with not much live foliage). Form is typical of the species.

Tree condition: Consider overall tree health and structure, including hazard potential.

☐ Good

☒ Poor   1 tree is in poor condition, the other 3 are in fair condition.

☒ Potential hazard   The tree in poor condition is a potential hazard.

Comments	(see above)

OVERALL CATEGORY RATING

Do the **physical attributes** of this tree support a recommendation for Landmark status?

☐ Yes

☐ Partially

☒ No

Historical Attributes

Historical association: Any relation to a historic or cultural building, site, street, person, event, etc.

☐ Yes

☒ None apparent

Comments	

Profiled in a publication or other media for its *historic* value: Tree has received coverage in print, internet, media, etc. Attach documentation or provide links if appropriate.

☐ Yes

☒ Unknown

Comments	

OVERALL CATEGORY RATING

Do the **historic attributes** of this tree support a recommendation for Landmark status?

☐ Yes

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☐ Partially
☒ No

Environmental Attributes

Prominent landscape feature: A striking and outstanding natural feature.
☒ Yes
☐ No

Comments	It is true that most small front yards in SF, particularly raised yards formed with retaining walls, do not contain as many large trees.

Low tree density: Tree exists in a neighborhood with very few trees.
☒ Low
☐ Moderate
☐ High

Comments	Correct – the Outer Sunset near the Pacific Ocean does not have many trees, large or small. The climate is challenging for trees, although this Cypress native to California is well adapted.

Interdependent group of trees: This tree is an integral member of a group of trees and removing it may have an adverse impact on the adjacent trees.
☒ Yes
☐ No

Comments	This is an interdependent stand of trees.

Visible or accessible from public right-of-way: High visibility and/or accessibility.
☒ Yes
☐ No

Comments	Highly visible from street and sidewalk.

High traffic area: Tree is in an area that has a large volume of vehicle, pedestrian, or bike traffic and has a potential traffic-calming effect.
☐ Yes
☒ No

Comments	Not an especially high-volume traffic neighborhood.

Important wildlife habitat: Species has a known relationship with wildlife to which it provides food, shelter, nesting potential, etc.
☒ Yes

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☐ No

Comments	

Erosion control: Tree prevents soil erosion.
☒ Yes
☐ No

Comments	True for the front yard location they inhabit.

Wind or sound barrier: Tree reduces wind speed or mitigates undesirable noise.
☐ Yes
☒ No (not sure)

Comments	It is possible the trees shield the property, its neighbors and some area of the street from on-shore winds.

OVERALL CATEGORY RATING
Do the **environmental attributes** of this tree support a recommendation for Landmark status?
☐ Yes
☐ Partially
☐ No

Cultural Attributes

Neighborhood appreciation: Multiple indicators such as letters of support, petition(s), outdoor gatherings, celebrations adjacent or related to the tree, etc. Attach documentation.
☐ Yes
☒ None apparent

Comments	Owner may have submitted this documentation; I have not reviewed.

Cultural appreciation: Tree is of value to a certain cultural or ethnic group(s) in the City.
☐ Yes
☒ None apparent

Comments	

Profiled in a publication or other media for its *cultural* value: Tree has received coverage in print, internet, media, etc. Attach documentation or provide links if appropriate.
☐ Yes
☒ Unknown

Comments	

OVERALL CATEGORY RATING
Do the **cultural attributes** of this tree support a recommendation for Landmark status?
☐ Yes
☐ Partially
☒ No

Additional comments:

→

The trees, considering their size, number and location, provide an unusual oasis of green in this neighborhood of low tree density. The surrounding blocks are fairly barren of trees, particularly large ones. They are a pleasant feature on this property; but because of their size and structure will need to be managed in the future by the owners.

But it must be pointed out that the location is only one block south of Golden Gate Park, which is full of Monterey Cypress trees of greater size and distinction.

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