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Historic Preservation Committee

2022-005199DES Public Comment

This letter is to offer my fullest support for the Turk and Taylor Landmark Designation Recommendation being put forward. I have read carefully the recommendation and supporting documentation. I understand the premise behind the action as well as agreeing with the supporting arguments.

Over and above my support, I would like to thank the city planning staff, who have prepared the document, for their excellent work.

Community is about caring. Community is recognizing a level of care that manifests beyond the conscious. Community is about doing something positive to foster the intrinsic bonds that underpin the group. This legislation is one of those acts.

As an architect, I am familiar with the rhythms of the city, the solids, and voids - the windows and walls that make up a street. I am sensitive to how they serve as a backdrop to foster, rightly or wrongly, social interaction. Behind those solids and voids are uses and activities whose presence is viewed through the glass, echoed through open doors, and hidden by the walls. Like the transparency of the Twin Peaks bar, Gene Compton's Cafeteria offered others a glimpse at a place for a marginalized group to safely gather.

Buildings like people change over time, but they remain imbued with the experiences and memories that have shaped them over time. In my case - student to architect, man to woman, younger to older. In the case of Turk and Taylor, the essence is still there. I am so pleased that the area, although physically changed from the original, still has energy present which is being recognized and preserved.

I have been fortunate to have had a small audience with the Pope and I have met the Dali Lama. Recently I recently did a small project at the Twin Peaks bar and now I have the opportunity to support this project. I feel blessed.

I trust you will all support and pass this recommendation.

Jennifer Howard 25891