

Letter in support of MHRB 2020-0016

Mendocino County

JAN 28 2021

Planning & Building Services

Kelly & Michael Barrett
45141 Calpella St.
Mendocino, CA 95460

To: Mendocino Historical Review Board members

Dear board members,

As residents of Calpella St. in Mendocino, my husband Michael and I are writing to express our wholehearted support for MHRB 2020-0016, submitted by Felicia Rice. This proposal is to expand and convert the shed on her property into a letterpress studio.

There are many reasons that the board should approve this project, as proposed:

The proposed design is thoughtful and will make a fine addition to the property and the town. It also had been previously approved by the MHRB, and while that approval is now decades old, it would be perverse for today's board to reject it.

The town has a certain number of sheds and outbuildings that are in poor condition and do not serve the needs of today's residents. We recently converted a dilapidated barn on our property and the reception from passersby has been overwhelmingly positive.

If Mendocino is to have an economy that is not completely dominated by tourism, then it needs to be supportive of "cottage industries" such as art. Indeed, it's worth noting that Mendocino's survival can be directly traced to the interest that artists took in the town in the sixties, and that Ms. Rice is directly of that lineage.

An artist needs space to work, especially to house a press and all the necessary accoutrements. It is truly inspiring to have Felicia Rice returning home to Mendocino. We hope the HRB will approve this project to enable her to continue her work.

Sincerely,

Kelly and Michael Barrett