

pbscommissions - RE: #MHRB_2021-0005, 10501 Evergreen St., Mendocino

From: broklcrofts <broklcrofts@sonic.net>
To: Mendocino Historical Review Board <pbscommissions@mendocinocounty.org>
Date: 7/29/2021 12:59 PM
Subject: RE: #MHRB_2021-0005, 10501 Evergreen St., Mendocino

Mendocino County

AUG 02 2021

Planning & Building Services

Attention: Mark Cliser

Dear Mendocino Historical Review Board:

We are writing regarding the application for an enclosed garage, greenhouse, and variance for setback reductions of the property at 10501 Evergreen St., Mendocino.

We are residents of Oakland, not Mendocino, but have been visiting your amazing town since the 1970s. In that time, we've observed the character of the town change. Many properties then showed evidence of deferred maintenance, but their character remained intact. Now, gentrification seems to pose its own problems: owners want amenities, improvements, and additions that affect not only the look of their own property, but the town itself.

Because of the efforts of the residents in the early 1970s, led by Emmy Lou Packard and others, the town acquired an historic designation. The austere, elemental, straightforward look of the buildings, many with color schemes of white with black trim or unpainted, match the rugged coastal bluff, and the powerful Pacific.

Importantly, the large lots surrounding many buildings, and numerous vacant lots and parks, create the wonderful feel of open space, unobstructed views of the ocean, trees, cemetery, and distinctive churches—typical of the patterns of development of the era.

To gussy up the town's residences and businesses with infill such as fussy additions and appurtenances like cabanas seems a bad precedent—the proverbial slippery slope. To lose the striking look of plain white picket fences and houses frankly facing the street, oblivious to visitors and sightseers, would be a step along the way to walled compounds and the urban look of heightened security.

Mendocino is a wonder, that deserves the utmost protection.

Thanks for your consideration. We were unable to access the staff report/recommendation on your website.

Robert Brokl Alfred Crofts