

September 2, 2021

SEP 08 2021

**RE: MHRB 2021-0011**

Planning & Building Services

Dear Review Board Members,

This proposed project requires careful review because it is located in the core section of the Mendocino Historic District and is surrounded by nearby landmark structures and historically important buildings on the north, south and east, including the Fraga Water Tower, Rego House reconstruction, Warren-Hegenmeyer House, Mansonic Hall, Red Baptist Church, as well as those listed in the Staff Report. (see *The Inventory of Historic Buildings – Town Plan*). (The Post Office and adjacent house are not historic.)

New construction in an historic district should be differentiated from the old buildings so as not to give a false sense of history, yet retain a level of compatibility by using similar elements found in surrounding historic structures.

Most of the nearby homes have simple gable rooflines while the proposed house appears to have a multi-leveled, more sophisticated and complicated design. The roof shape of a new building should respect those of its neighbors.

To my knowledge, screened porches are not found in Mendocino, although they may be common in other historic districts located in warmer climates. They are out of character in an old, foggy lumber town like Mendocino.

Aluminum clad window frames are not compatible with the architectural style and character of the surrounding historic structures (even when painted) and have a long history of not being permitted here. Please follow the *Mendocino Historic Review Board Design Guidelines* and permit wood framed, true-divided lights that are similar in design to the neighborhood, as Staff recommends.

You may see light tubes and bubble plastic skylights around town, but that does not mean they were permitted! They should not be perpetuated in future structures. They are examples of modern, eye-catching devices that stand out and detract from historic buildings in the neighborhood. Skylights that are flush to the roof surface are more appropriate.

Please carefully consider how you will make the required Findings when reviewing this project.

Thank you for your volunteer service and for considering my comments.

Kathleen Cameron, Town resident