

FEB 06 2023

**Remarks RE: MHRB\_2022-0008**

Planning & Building Services

The the MHRB and PBS Staff,

I'll begin by complimenting Staff for compiling an enlightening, clear narrative in their Staff report on this proposed project. I see Staff was assisted by Staff of the Kelly House in assembling the history, and my kudos to everyone involved. Thank you.

There is one factual error which needs correcting. PROJECT DESCRIPTION: (Page 1) Misrepresents the full facts of this matter, when it states, "The site is listed as a category IVb non-historic resource in Appendix 1 of the Mendocino Town Plan ("deli and restaurant"). This characterization is mistaken, for what the HISTORIC HOUSE INVENTORY, of July 24, 1979, describes is the building housing the deli and restaurant, not the adjacent water tower.

This elision subtly distorts the historic significance of the historic water tower, which has been made clear in the historic narrative in the Staff Report Entitled: **Mendosa Store Water Tower**. Therein we learn this historic structure was built in 1904, which makes it almost 120 years old. The structure was modified twice. Once in 1923 (100 years ago) and again 1975, when it was dismantled and relocated to its current location, with only minor modifications. Jim Coupe, who owned the building at the time, is quoted, saying the relocated water tower was, "98 percent original".

So, we are not tonight considering what the Staff Report mischaracterizes as a "category IVb non-historic resource". We are considering the demolition of a Category I Landmark structure: "Construction dated, history substantiated, only minor alterations in character with original architecture".

There is nothing in the Staff Report indicating the current Landmark structure is failing or unsound. There are other remedies available to the Applicant to address the Accessibility Issues regarding the second floor which would not impinge upon the integrity of this existing Landmark Structure. There is, therefore, no rationale for approving the demolition of this Category I Landmark Historic Structure.

Regards,

Lee Edmundson, Mendocino