



Tom Rasmussen
Seattle City Councilmember

August 6, 2014

Landmarks Preservation Board
PO Box 94649
Seattle, WA 98124

Subject: Charlestown Court Apartments

Honorable Landmarks Preservation Board:

Thank you for your public service to carry out Seattle's commitment to historic preservation.

I urge you to support the designation of the Charlestown Court Apartments as a Seattle landmark structure. I am familiar with the building and its significance to the neighborhood in which it is located.

The building fulfills two of the six criteria for designation in the Seattle Landmarks Preservation Ordinance (SMC 25.12.350):

d) It embodies the distinctive visible characteristics of an architectural style, or period, or a method of construction; and

f) Because of its prominences of spatial location, contrasts of siting, age, or scale, it is an easily identifiable visual feature of its neighborhood or the City.

Clearly it meets the requirement of "criteria d" because the building is constructed in the unique style of bungalow court apartments and, with the exception of few very minor modifications, it continues to retain all of the visible characteristics of this style designed by prominent architect William H. Whitely and built in 1927.

Also it meets "criteria f" because it is one of the few if not the only remaining bungalow court apartment type of buildings along California Ave. S.W. and because of that it stands out and is prominent for its unique scale along this rapidly developing corridor of new larger buildings. Clearly it is now one of the most easily identifiable visual features of the neighborhood.

I urge you to vote to approve the nomination of this building which is one of the few if not the only Bungalow Court style apartments located along the entire length of California Ave. S.W. in West Seattle designed by prominent architect William H. Whitely.

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Also, I would like to urge the Board to approve this designation knowing that our goal is not to eliminate change but rather to manage change. We have seen that a designation does not mean that more development cannot occur on a site but rather it must be done in a way that reflects and honors the uniqueness of a landmark on the site and yet development can occur.

Thank you for considering my recommendations and for your public service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tom Rasmussen". The signature is fluid and includes a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.

Tom Rasmussen
Seattle City Council