

Jacob, Melinda

Subject: FW: 2777 Shattuck, Honda Application

From: j kitchel [mailto:j_kitchel@sbcglobal.net]

Sent: Thursday, October 01, 2015 10:59 AM

To: Burns, Anne M <ABurns@ci.berkeley.ca.us>; Burns, Anne M <ABurns@ci.berkeley.ca.us>

Cc: Allen, Shannon <ShAllen@ci.berkeley.ca.us>; Allen, Shannon <ShAllen@ci.berkeley.ca.us>; Zarnowitz, Sally <SZarnowitz@ci.berkeley.ca.us>

Subject: 2777 Shattuck, Honda Application

Dear Landmarks Preservation Commissioners,

The building at 2777 Shattuck Avenue was placed on the State Historic Resources Inventory in 1977.

Quoting from the description of the physical appearance:

"The tower is the most distinctive part of the building with fluted buttress-like elements flanking a section of grille-work, all in a kind of stripped, machine like Streamline Moderne style."

This facade should not be broken into with a 24' rolling door.

The interior contains:

". . . a clerestory . . . [and a] splendid series of warm-tinted wooden arched beams."

This "spectacular" interior should not be converted to an auto repair shop which would be a travesty, and would effectively deny the public the right to its enjoyment.

Please deny the application for this remodel.

Sincerely,

Jane Kitchel

Berkeley Landmarks Preservation Commission
Re: Honda proposal/2777 Shattuck (DRCP2015-0014)

September 30, 2015

Dear Commissioners—

The applicant's architectural report by Preservation Architecture contains the following statement:

Permit records indicate that the interior space was originally opened to the vault, but in 1955 a suspended acoustic ceiling was added and which was subsequently removed at the time of its conversion to a market . . . Based on building permit records, from 1940 to 1975, the several shops that lined the front of the building housed many different businesses, including restaurants and cafes, offices and retail, exercise studios – even a small theater.

What is not disclosed in this passing mention in the Preservation Architecture report is the significance of the "small theater" that was housed there.

Since the last LPC hearing on this project, we have learned that one of the most important cultural & literary events of the 20th century occurred on the proposed Honda site. That event was the first complete performance of Allen Ginsberg's historic long poem "Howl" on March 18, 1956.

This has been confirmed by Peter Hale, director of the Ginsberg estate. Ginsberg had previously performed Part I at the Six Gallery in San Francisco in October 1955, and at Reed College in February 1956, but the poem was not finished then. Much of the writing of the complete 3-part poem was done at the Caffè Mediterraneum on Telegraph Ave, and its first performance was at the Town Hall Theater on the site of the proposed Honda project.

This 1956 performance was recorded by Walter Lehrman. Lehrman's recording at the Town Hall Theater is the definitive recording of Ginsberg reading the complete poem. It is the performance that is documented in the Ginsberg recording anthology "Holy Soul Jelly Roll." I have learned that Walter Lehrman also photographed the performance, and that his photographs from the interior of the Town Hall Theater have been placed with the Nora Eccles Harrison Museum of Art at Utah State University. This has been confirmed by the writer and photographer John Suiter, who restored Walter Lehrman's photos and acted as his agent to place them with the university museum.

Before proceeding with the Honda proposal, I think it's important for the public to know where exactly in this building the small theater was sited, and what features of the theater remain. These historical details are absent from the applicant's

Preservation Architecture report.

We know from Ginsberg's own notes on the recording that the theater was of sufficient size to house a couple hundred people at the 1956 reading. Here is an excerpt from Ginsberg's own notes on the recording:

"The first celebrated reading of 'Howl', Part I only, at 6 Gallery, October 7, 1955, wasn't taped. Prof. Tom Parkinson, member of Rexroth's old Buddhist anarchist circle, organized another reading at Berkeley's little Town Hall Theater festooned with Chinese ink brush orgy drawings by Robert LaVigne—a couple hundred people crowded in, a mixture of artists from San Francisco, poetry aficionados, friends of Robert Duncan, ladies from the Potrero District, North Beach Bohemians, Lawrence Ferlinghetti, Cassady, Ann Charters, and an amazing group of poets on stage including Gary Snyder, Philip Whalen, Michael McClure, with Kenneth Rexroth as Master of Ceremonies. Five months after the 6 Gallery reading I'd finished Parts II and III of 'Howl'. This added a huge dimension, extending the power of the poem into the Moloch section and beyond. And this was the first time I'd read "Howl" all the way through aloud, beginning to end, as well as 'Sunflower Sutra', 'A Strange New Cottage In Berkeley' and 'America' ... "

Although this property has not yet been recognized as an historical landmark, the landmark application is being prepared and will be submitted. I ask the Commission to please consider whether the Honda proposal could result in destructive alteration of a property with major historic significance for Berkeley and the world.

Sincerely,

Thomas Ferrell
2146 Stuart St.

Jacob, Melinda

Subject: FW: Impact of 2211 Harold Way on Berkeley City College

-----Original Message-----

From: Barbara Rydlander [mailto:arthistoryvista@yahoo.com]

Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2015 10:19 AM

To: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB) <Planningzab@ci.berkeley.ca.us>; City Clerk <clerk@ci.berkeley.ca.us>

Cc: Burns, Anne M <ABurns@ci.berkeley.ca.us>

Subject: Impact of 2211 Harold Way on Berkeley City College

To members of ZAB, City Council, Design Review Committee Yesterday I received a copy of the attorney's letter sent to your office re impact of the proposed project at 2211 Harold Way on the students and staff at BUSD. This detailed response to the concerns on the several thousands of students and staff at BUSD was impressive in terms of unanswered problems with the EIR particularly with respect to the demolition phase, specifically noise, air quality, toxic fallout, and pollution due to increased traffic from auto as well as large construction vehicles. The parking issue for staff, pedestrian safety, increase in sewage demands by the expected residents in this proposal made it very clear to me that these very same problems equally impact the thousands of students as well as staff and faculty at Berkeley City College. The College will be next door to this project and will most certainly face identical problems in terms of noise, emissions pollution, and toxic fallout especially during the demolition phase. In addition, the parking garage used by staff and students may not be available to those who are not able to use public transit. Most important is the loss of classroom space currently used by a growing student population in the annex at 2211 Harold Way. Has Berkeley City College been advised of this proposal? I encountered a fellow colleague, a tenured faculty, this past week and she told me that she had heard nothing about the project. Many of the same students who have attended Berkeley High School will be the same ones who may be attending the College. A number of these students may suffer from asthma or other pulmonary conditions that make them more vulnerable to air-particle pollution. The problems of instruction delivery as well as finding quiet places to study or to take exams will most certainly have a detrimental impact on both students and faculty. I urge the committees involved to consider this population and the vital role that this institution serves in our community before signing off on the approval process. Please make an effort to get more information on the impact on Berkeley City College.

Sincerely,

Barbara Rydlander

Retired instructor for 35 years at Berkeley City College

Sent from my iPad

Jacob, Melinda

Subject: FW: Landmarks Preservation Commission/2227 Shattuck.

From: Christine Byrne [mailto:cebyrne9@gmail.com]

Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2015 12:13 PM

To: Burns, Anne M <ABurns@ci.berkeley.ca.us>

Cc: Zarnowitz, Sally <SZarnowitz@ci.berkeley.ca.us>; Allen, Shannon <ShAllen@ci.berkeley.ca.us>

Subject: Landmarks Preservation Commission/2227 Shattuck.

Dear Landmarks Preservation Commission,

I am writing to comment on the amended plans for 2227 Shattuck, the Honda project that is the basis for this referral item. As the owner of one of the architecturally significant Victorians in the immediate neighborhood, I urge you to recommend against the 2777 Shattuck development:

• **The modified plan *still* does not respect the architecture of the building or the neighborhood.**

To accommodate their full-service repair shop, the developers now propose to blow out a petite 6.5 foot delivery door into a 24-foot long open maw on the Shattuck Avenue frontage --at *exactly* the spot where Shattuck narrows. They'll also strip the pedestrian-friendly awnings off the rest of the frontage, and convert the mellow and gracious three-color facade to ice-white with blue Honda signage.

• **The modified design not only destroys an historic facade, but is detrimental to the quality of life of the neighborhood.**

The new doors will invite a constant stream of traffic to dive right across a busy pedestrian sidewalk, 7am to 10pm, seven days a week, degrading both the walk-ability of the neighborhood and the streetscape. There has never been even a narrow driveway on this frontage!

• **There has never been a car dealership, repair shop, or gas station at 2777 Shattuck.** Large buildings with unbroken histories of recreational and community-serving retail uses are rare in our South Campus neighborhood; losing one that is also an architectural and cultural gem would be a blow.

Please return a recommendation against this over-sized, over-commercialized cement block, and help us preserve our historic and family friendly neighborhood.

Christine (Chris) Byrne
2140 Ward Street

September 28, 2015

To the Landmarks Preservation Commission:

Re: 2777 Shattuck Referral Item

I am writing in response to the changes made to the plans for 2227 Shattuck, the Honda project that have been posted at the site and are the basis for this referral item

It should be clear to everyone that this redesign fails, in the same way the previous design did, to meet the standard of fitting into the neighborhood. And fitting is the crucial word here. Once again the developers are trying to cram a size 11 shoe into a size 8 shoebox. In fact in their applicant statement they acknowledge as much. The original applicant statement which is attachment 2 to the DRC documents on 7-16-2015 states that they were ***“able to convince Honda USA to approve this “inferior” urban site, despite its small size”***

This admission that 2777 Shattuck is an inadequate site is repeated in the applicant statement of their current redesign as posted on the notice for this hearing. Once again the applicants say they were

able to convince Honda USA to approve this “inferior” urban site, despite its small size

Please stand up for our neighborhood. Just because Honda USA is willing to allow a full service dealership at an inferior site doesn't mean that a Berkeley city commission should do the same.

Thank you for your taking time to read this letter and your consideration of the impact this project will have on our neighborhood.

Louise Rosenkrantz
2124 Derby Street

To: Berkeley Landmarks Preservation Commission
Re: 2777 Shattuck, 10/1/15 referral

Dear Commission Members,

The east side of Shattuck Avenue between Ward and Stuart has been a pedestrian-friendly block on which to gather, shop, and perambulate for at least 75 years. Siting a car repair service entrance across the sidewalk does not use 2777 Shattuck as it was historically, is not successful adaptive reuse, and does not protect the integrity of the property or its environment.

The Shattuck service entry roll-up door would likely remain open from 7:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. daily, leaving a gaping hole along the street frontage. This “missing tooth” would degrade both the fabric of the street and the beauty of the building.

Sconehege, a beloved café and local gathering spot, is located in the southernmost wing of the building and represents adaptive reuse done right. The café and the repair shop would open at the same time, creating a dangerous convergence of groggy pedestrians on their way to coffee and drivers crossing the sidewalk to get their cars serviced.

One of the historically significant aspects of the 2777 Shattuck building is that it has never been a car repair shop, dealership, or gas station. Large buildings with unbroken histories of recreational and community-serving retail uses are rare on South Shattuck; losing one that is also an architectural and cultural gem would be a blow. And having Honda dominate the Shattuck/Adeline gateway would identify our neighborhood as Gasoline Alley—something residents have been trying to change for decades.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely,

Marianne Sluis
2139 Derby St.

Jacob, Melinda

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From: Christine Byrne [<mailto:cebyrne9@gmail.com>]

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