
From: Planning Public Comment <PlanningPublicComment@santaclaraca.gov>

Sent: Thursday, June 5, 2025 8:15 AM

To: Mary Gottschalk <mary_gottschalk@sbcglobal.net>; Alex Tellez <ATellez@Santaclaraca.gov>;
Rebecca Bustos <RBustos@SantaClaraCA.gov>; Planning Public Comment
<PlanningPublicComment@santaclaraca.gov>

Subject: RE: File PLN25-00049 Historical and Landmarks Commission 6/5/2025

PMM
HLC Meeting 6/5/25
RTC 25-455
Item 2
File 2

Good Morning,

Your email has been received in the Planning Division and by way of my reply I am including the appropriate Planning Division staff for their review.

Please note, your comments will be part of the public record on this item.

Thank you for taking the time to provide your input on this item.

Regards,

Elizabeth Elliott | Staff Aide II

Community Development Department | Planning Division

1500 Warburton Avenue | Santa Clara, CA 95050

O: 408.615.2450 | D: 408.615.2474

www.SantaClaraCA.gov

From: Mary Gottschalk <mary_gottschalk@sbcglobal.net>

Sent: Wednesday, June 4, 2025 4:32 PM

To: Planning Public Comment <PlanningPublicComment@santaclaraca.gov>

Subject: File PLN25-00049 Historical and Landmarks Commission 6/5/2025

You don't often get email from mary_gottschalk@sbcglobal.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

Commission:

I am writing in regard to a Proposed 987 Square Foot First Floor Addition and 942 Square Foot Second Story Addition (PLN25-00049) to an Existing Potentially Historic Resource at 642 Park Court.

This proposal will set an over-sized, unappealing structure in the middle of what is now a charming

neighborhood of bungalow-style houses with some interesting and quirky architectural details.

What you have is a jewel of a neighborhood that most cities would treasure and preserve, This proposed structure is about three times the size of existing homes and will stick out like a thumb hit with a sledge hammer.

Aside from putting an ugly blot on what is currently a beautiful canvas of homes, it opens the door to additional conversions of small houses into McMansions, likely for lease at exorbitant rents to students at Santa Clara University.

It really is not compatible or comfortable in this wonderful neighborhood, which I enjoy walking through.

Please do the right thing and reject this proposal.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mary Gottschalk

June 4, 2025

Hello Historic & Landmarks Commission, City of Santa Clara and fellow neighbors,

Park Court is a gem that is hidden in the busy surroundings of Silicon Valley. Guests that come to visit family and friends in the neighborhood or visitors that happen to stumble upon the Court while they are out for a gentle walk comment on how quiet, beautiful and lovely the neighborhood is. Park Court is a meaningful place in the community and what has drawn homeowners to live in the Court are the same things that visitors have experienced. The history of Park Court, such as being the last intact subdivision of the 1920's & 1930's, the multiple homes within the Court with Mills Act status and just recently, the Court celebrating its Centennial, is something to preserve. For a reference of the architecturally or historically significant homes in the Court, please refer to the Santa Clara Historic and Preservation clips at the end of the document.

Over the years there have been upgrades and renovations to the homes on Park Court. Most exterior renovations have kept the look and feel of the neighborhood intact with a nod to the history of the Court. Some neighbors have opted to add a basement as opposed to adding a second story which preserves the single-story sight line, especially in the middle of the Court.

The current lot layouts of the homes on the Court are tight with zero lot lines making privacy minimal. A towering addition in the neighborhood will take away any remaining privacy and would directly affect the adjacent neighbors. The shadow cast by a second story addition will also impact gardening and natural light of the neighbors. From our house (south-east) location, the massive addition will be visible while exiting the front door as well as having a line of sight out the front living room and bedroom windows.

A remodel expansion of the proposed size will change the aesthetic of the Court. The proposed schematic of the front elevation is trying to pull in the surrounding elements of the Court but it is still overpowering (reference elevations at the end of the document). Currently, available parking around the Court is minimal and the street itself is extremely narrow. A large addition, with multiple rooms and an attached garage towards the front of the lot, would increase the number of cars and parking issues and hinder easy access for emergency and city services.

For the addition/remodel of the subject property to fit within the elements of Park Court, a single-story expansion to the rear, not adding a new entry porch and keeping the garage at the rear of the property would blend seamlessly with the architecture of the Court.

Please consider the input from those in the neighborhood opposing this proposed massive remodel expansion and help preserve the current neighborhood atmosphere and architecture that has kept Park Court special to many of those who not only live in the Court but also visit it.

Neighborhoods like Park Court are unique, rare, and integral to documenting the history of Santa Clara. We are the owners of these beautiful homes but more importantly we are the caretakers of these homes during our time owning and living in them. We are responsible for preserving and safeguarding these treasures and the Court for future generations.

590 Park Court

Cheyenne Beatty

&

Jorge Cano, P.E.

The following are clips from the reference: City of Santa Clara Historic Preservation and Resource Inventory

Internet address:

<https://www.santaclaraca.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/12893/635713044859030000>

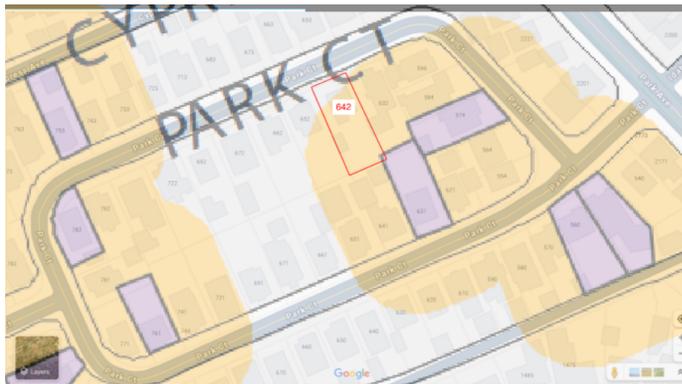
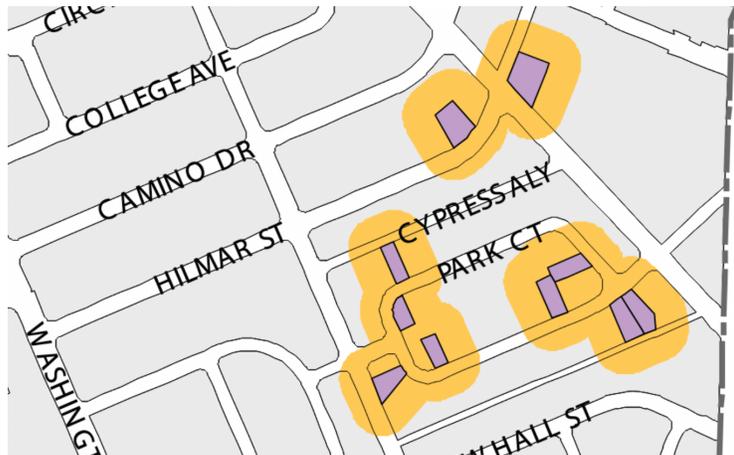
TABLE 8.9-1: ARCHITECTURALLY OR HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT PROPERTIES

Address	APN	Name	Architectural Style	Estimated Date of Construction	Zoning/Contract
550 Park Ct	26952104		Bungalow Cottage	c.1925-35	
560 Park Ct	26952072		Bungalow Cottage	c.1925-35	
574 Park Ct	26952039		Period Revival Cottage	c.1920s	
631 Park Ct	26952043		Bungalow Cottage	c.1925-35	
691 Park Ct	26952048		Bungalow Cottage	c.1927	MA
753 Park Ct	26952019	Draper House	Bungalow Cottage	c.1927	MA
761 Park Ct	26952051		Bungalow Cottage	c.1925-35	
782 Park Ct	26952027		Bungalow Cottage	c.1924	MA
792 Park Ct	26952055		Bungalow Cottage	c.1925-35	

Figure 8.9-2
Architecturally Significant & Historic Places

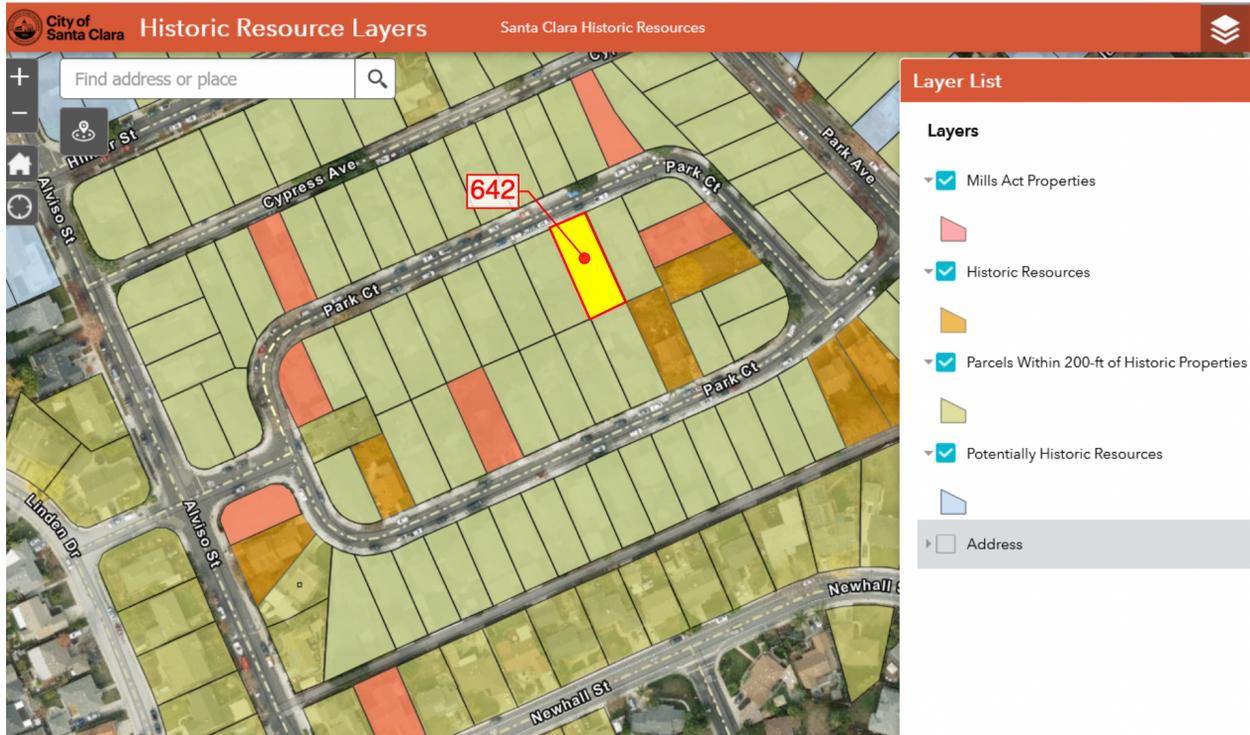
-  Architecturally Significant & Historic Sites
-  100ft buffer around Historic Sites
-  Rail & Light Rail
-  Stations
-  City Limits
-  Creek
-  Existing Creek Trail

Source: City of Santa Clara, 2009, Dyett & Bhatia 2009.



All the homes in Park Court are labeled as one of the following:

- Mills Act Property
- A Historic Resource
- Parcel within 200 feet of Historic Properties
- Potentially Historic Resource



Internet address:

<https://missioncity.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=370b9f857f354a68a83f0f0e8ff4d945>

Comparison of current and proposed property front elevations



Figure 1: Existing Front Elevation - 642 Park Ct.



RENDERING 2

Figure 2: Schematic of Proposed Front Elevation - 642 Park Ct.

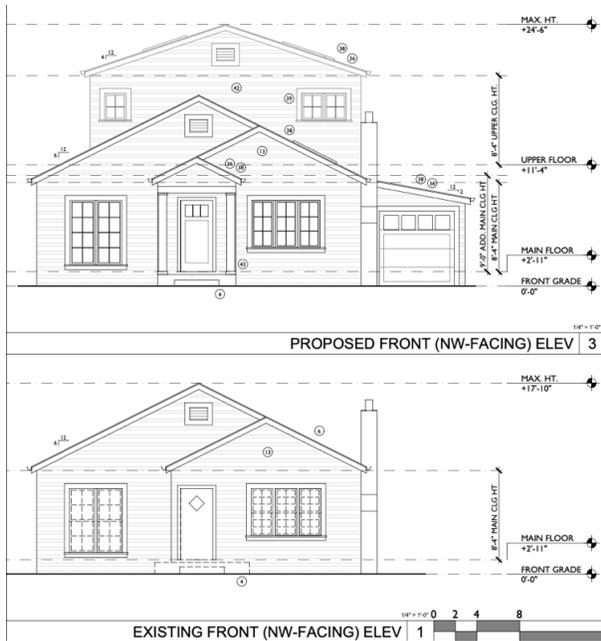


Figure 3: Proposed & Existing Front Elevation - 642 Park Ct.