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Trestle Grant Support Letter

Qualifications:

Experience

- 25 years actively involved in historic preservation in San Jose
- 6 years on the San Jose Historic Landmarks Commission which I Chaired when I was termed out.
- Over the same time I was on the Architectural Design Review Committee also for San Jose.
- I also own 4 historic properties, two of which are designated city landmarks and I have worked part-time, and the last 7 years full time doing the preservation work myself.

Education:

San Jose State University: BA in Business Management and Hotel Management, Masters in Business Management, Masters in Urban and City Planning, Masters in Public Administration, Masters in Environmental Studies and Human Factors with and emphasis on solar energy.

The Importance of this Monument to Our Past

The trestle is a “living” symbol of the economic engine that created the valley with the sweat of the early pioneers of Santa Clara Valley through most of the 1900’s. It does not just represent the capitalist who brought industry to the valley but also the diverse immigrants that worked the fields and factories. The number of immigrants far surpasses the number of businessmen.

It also represents the engineering and technology history of our country. As the industrial revolution progressed the methods of working the fields, processing

the product and transporting the product directly corresponded to the valley's ability to become an agricultural hub for the country.

The lack of preservation in the county, particularly in the City of San Jose shows a passion to suppress our architectural past. It is considered a detriment to the high technology reputation the city leaders are capitalizing on. In the words of the late redevelopment agency "we are interested in straight lines, concrete and stainless steel. " numerous proposals to recognize our past, including saving the trestle has not just had a lack of support but has been fought through design, planning, and in the case of the trestle, into the courts.

The SJ Landmarks Commission with out doubt or hesitation supported the landmarking of the trestle. The city refused to agendize the item several times and when we brought it forward without their consent, as an open agenda item and mock voted having it landmarked, they proceeded to try to remove the authority of the commission.

I support any effort to save the trestle as a monument for our predecessors who were all contributors of the economic engine of the valley. Even more important is to document the trestle and all the history it represents so it is not lost for the generations that follow us.

Sincerely,

Steve Cohen