



CITY OF  
**FOLSOM**  
O. ESTABLISHED BY NATURE

# Folsom City Council Staff Report



<b>MEETING DATE:</b>	3/26/2024
<b>AGENDA SECTION:</b>	Consent Calendar
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Resolution No. 11181 – A Resolution Authorizing the Installation of a Monument and Plaque at the Cohn-Fait Mansion at 305 Scott Street
<b>FROM:</b>	Public Works Department

## **RECOMMENDATION / CITY COUNCIL ACTION**

The Public Works Department recommends that the City Council pass and adopt Resolution No. 11181 – A Resolution Authorizing the Installation of a Monument and Plaque at the Cohn-Fait Mansion at 305 Scott Street.

## **BACKGROUND / ISSUE**

The Cohn Mansion at 305 Scott Street was the first property in Folsom to be placed on the National Register of Historic Places. The late Simon Cohn actually constructed three different homes on the property over time. In 1858, he constructed a small house and barn, which still stand. He built a second home in 1879 which was eventually torn down to make way for the Queen Anne Victorian you see today.

The home has been owned and occupied by former Mayor Glenn Fait since January 1, 1966. In honor of Glenn’s 80th birthday, and in appreciation of his continuing efforts to faithfully restore the home, a group of residents donated funds for a bronze plaque. The plaque will give a brief history of the home as built by Simon Cohn and restored by Glenn Fait. The plaque will be mounted on a granite slab as a nod to the 18-inch-thick granite blocks quarried at Folsom Prison that were used to construct the home’s basement. The granite slab will be placed on a bed of concrete in the grassy strip between Scott Street and the sidewalk, near the Sutter Street intersection.

The language on the plaque has been reviewed by Glenn Fait and Folsom History for historical accuracy and is depicted in Attachment 1.

**POLICY / RULE**

None.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT**

All materials and labor will be donated at no cost to the city.

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

This action is exempt from environmental review.

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. Resolution No. 11181 – A Resolution Authorizing the Installation of a Monument and Plaque at the Cohn-Fait Mansion at 305 Scott Street.
2. Proposed message depicted on the plaque

Submitted,

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Mark Rackovan, Public Works Director

## Attachment 1

**RESOLUTION NO. 11181**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE INSTALLATION OF A MONUMENT AND  
PLAQUE AT THE COHN-FAIT MANSION AT 305 SCOTT STREET**

**WHEREAS**, the Cohn-Fait Mansion at 305 Scott Street was the first property in Folsom to be placed on the National Register of Historic Places; and

**WHEREAS**, the late Simon Cohn constructed three different homes on the property over time: a small house and barn, which still stand, were constructed in 1858, a second home was built in 1879, which was eventually torn down to make way for the Queen Ann Victorian located on the property today; and

**WHEREAS**, former Folsom Mayor Glenn Fait purchased the property and moved into the home on January 1, 1966 and began the restoration; and

**WHEREAS**, in honor of Glenn Fait's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday, and in appreciation of his continuing efforts to restore the home, a group of residents donated funds for a bronze plaque; and

**WHEREAS**, the plaque gives a brief history of the home and will be mounted on a granite slab that will be placed on a bed of concrete in the grassy strip between Scott Street and the sidewalk, near the Sutter Street intersection.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City Council of the City of Folsom authorizes the installation of a monument and plaque at the Cohn-Fiat Mansion at 305 Scott Street.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** this 26<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2024, by the following roll-call vote:

**AYES:** Councilmember(s):  
**NOES:** Councilmember(s):  
**ABSENT:** Councilmember(s):  
**ABSTAIN:** Councilmember(s):

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Michael D. Kozlowski, MAYOR

ATTEST:

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Christa Freemantle, CITY CLERK

## Attachment 2

# COHN-FAIT MANSION

## 305 Scott Street

This stunning Queen Anne Victorian owes its presence and preservation to two families - one built it and the other preserved it.

### **The Cohn Family – The Builders**

Simon Cohn emigrated from Poland during the gold rush and opened a general store on Sutter Street in Folsom. In 1858, he constructed a small house and barn on this property, and, in 1879, he built a larger house.

In the early 1890s, as Simon continued to prosper, he wanted an even larger home so, with granddaughter Dora on his lap, they each selected a set of plans from an architectural pattern book. Combining elements of both plans, they constructed the mansion you see today. The home featured five floors, a covered porch on three sides, and a cupola with a 360-degree view of the surrounding countryside. The basement was constructed a full story high with walls built of 18-inch thick granite blocks quarried at Folsom Prison. The Cohn family continued to use the original 1858 building as the cookhouse and barn.

Simon died in 1895, a year after his new home was completed. Simon's daughter, Alice, and her husband Philip Cohn (no relation), acquired the home and Simon's businesses. Philip became involved in civic affairs, serving in the California State Senate from 1913-1916.

Philip died in 1928. The stock market crash of 1929 and the Great Depression resulted in the loss of most of the Cohn family fortune. The family stayed in the house as it fell into disrepair until it was sold in 1964.

### **The Fait Family - The Preservers**

Two young college students, Glenn and Sharon Fait, scraped together \$21,000 to purchase the dilapidated home and moved in on New Year's Day of 1966. The house had more than 40 broken windows, a leaky roof, an infestation of rats, bats, and bees, and had not been painted in more than 50 years.

Restoration was a family affair with Glenn responsible for the electrical wiring, reroofing, painting, replacing most of the wooden shingles, and restoring all of the windows. Sharon, with daughters Kate and Marjie, helped by scraping off old exterior paint, applying fresh paint, and hanging wallpaper. The inside of the house was gutted one room at a time to add fire blocking, insulation, new wiring, and fire sprinklers.

Glenn and Sharon were deeply involved in the Folsom community. Glenn was president of the Folsom Historical Society in 1967 and president of the Rotary Club in 1990. He was elected to the Folsom City Council in 1994 and served two years as mayor. As associate dean at McGeorge School of Law, and director of the Institute for Administrative Justice for more than 40 years, Glenn was a nationally recognized expert in the field of administrative procedure.

On January 21, 1981, the Cohn mansion became the first property in Folsom to be placed on the National Register of Historic Places. The restoration continues.

This plaque was gifted by grateful friends and community members in celebration of Glenn Fait's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday – September 18, 2023