

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-XX

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LOS ALTOS
DESIGNATING 347 FIRST STREET A HISTORIC LANDMARK**

WHEREAS, the City of Los Altos is a community that celebrates its history, the rich past that is incorporated into the fabric of the City and provides a link to the community's heritage and the remaining sites and structures of architectural and/or historic significance that enhance the community's unique character and contribute to a sense of place; and

WHEREAS, by virtue of its adoption of the Historic Preservation Ordinance (LAMC Chapter 12.44), the City Council of the City of Los Altos did establish a procedure for the designation and preservation of historic landmarks within the City of Los Altos; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with that Ordinance, relative to designation of a historic landmark, the Historical Commission held a public hearing on January 24, 2022 and recommended the property located at 347 First Street for designation as a Historic Landmark pursuant to Los Altos Municipal Code Section 12.44.070.C, (attached hereto as Exhibit "A" incorporated herein by reference); and

WHEREAS, this designation is categorically exempt from environmental review under Section 15308 (Actions for the Protection of the Environment), 15331 (Historic Resource Restoration), and 15061(b)(3) (Common Sense Exemption) of the California Environmental Quality Act, in that the project does not involve groundbreaking activity or other activities that may cause significant environmental impacts, but instead involves designating a structure as a historic landmark to help ensure its future preservation. Furthermore, none of the circumstances stated in CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 applies; and

WHEREAS, having considered the staff report, public comment, and other matters in the record, the City Council of the City of Los Altos concurs, in its independent judgment, with the recommendation of the Historical Commission.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Los Altos as follows:

1. The City Council hereby finds that the foregoing recitals are true and correct; and
2. The City Council hereby designates 347 First Street as a Historic Landmark, subject to the terms and conditions outlined in Chapter 12.44.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Los Altos at a meeting thereof on the 8th day of March 2022 by the following vote:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSENT:
ABSTAIN:

Anita Enander, MAYOR

Attest:

Andrea Chelemengos, CITY CLERK

EXHIBIT “A”

With regard to designating the American Legion Hall at 347 First Street as a Historic Landmark and listing it on the Los Altos Historic Resources Inventory, the City Council finds the following in accordance with Section 12.44.040 of the Municipal Code:

- A. Age. The structure is more than fifty (50) years in age.
- B. Determination of Integrity. The structure retains sufficient historic integrity in most of the following areas:
 - 1. Design: The property retains integrity of the original design. The American Legion Hall most closely resembles the Minimal Traditional style of architecture. The Minimal Tradition style of design has been altered due to replacing the original materials, including doors with commercial aluminum glass doors, replacing some of the original double hung window sashes with sliding or fixed sashes, and covering other window openings with plywood. However, the window fenestrations, window wood frames and wood sills have been left intact, and three facades have kept the original V-groove wood siding. The building retains the same horizontal massing, rectangular shape, and roof form. A rear addition alters the original scale and proportion of the original structure. Overall, the features of Minimal Traditional design of architecture including its form, interior layout, structure, design are intact.
 - 2. Setting: The building maintains its original location within the parcel, but the site has not preserved the integrity of the setting. The setting is the physical environment of a historic property. The property’s former landscaping is no longer extant, and the front, side and rear yards have been in filled with concrete. Concrete also surrounds the building on the sides and rear portion of the building. Originally, the site was in a more rural setting, but the original setting has become more urbanized due to the incorporation of the City in 1952
 - 3. Workmanship: The property maintains the physical evidence of the workmanship of a particular culture or people during any given period in history or prehistory. The American Legion Hall was constructed by WWI veterans. Traditional architectural elements include single story, with horizontal massing, and dominant gable front. Other features include small scale, minimal architectural decoration, and simple windows, typically double-hung windows. The Minimal Traditional building elements and original workmanship are still apparent; therefore, 347 First Street does maintain integrity of workmanship.
 - 4. Feeling and Association: The hall continues to embody the feeling of a Minimal Traditional architectural style, a representative style from 1935 to 1955. Feeling is a property's expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period of time. The hall continues to embody the feeling of a Minimal Traditional architectural style, a representative style from 1935 to 1955. The minimal alterations over time have not diminished its origins of that architectural style, and it continues to embody the property’s feeling with early 20th century development in Los Altos.

C. Historic Significance. The structure is clearly associated with one or more of the following areas of significance:

1. The subject property is associated with events, repeated activities and to the development trends, to qualify it as significant under criterion “Event.” The subject property is most closely associated with the area’s transition from an unincorporated town to become the incorporated city “Los Altos” and to the broad pattern of development of Los Altos and of Santa Clara County. The building functioned as the town hall building from 1940 up until the time that the Civic Center was occupied in 1959. The American Legion building at 347 First Street is strongly associated with the area’s transition from an unincorporated town to an incorporated city and to the broad pattern of development of Los Altos and of Santa Clara County. Therefore, the American Legion Hall building is associated with a single significant event or a pattern of events that have made a significant contribution to broad patterns of local or regional history, or cultural heritage of California or the United States. Therefore, the American Legion Hall at 347 First Street qualifies as historically significant under criterion 1: “Event.”

D. Historic Landmark Designation. In addition to the above listed findings, the property has special historical, cultural, archeological, scientific, architectural, or aesthetic interest or value as part of the heritage or history of the city, the county, the state or the nation. The American Legion Hall at 347 First Street has special historical, cultural, archeological, scientific, architectural or aesthetic interest or value as part of the heritage or history of the City. The Legion Hall Post 558 was instrumental in the formation of the City of Los Altos. The American Legion Hall was the meeting place for all the city functions prior to Los Altos becoming an official city of Santa Clara County on December 1, 1952. The building functioned as the town hall building from 1940 up until the time that the Civic Center was occupied in 1959. The subject property has been found to have a particular or important association with all of the towns’ activities and events until the late 1950’s, when other gathering places and the Civic Center are built. Therefore, 347 First Street does display a level of significance and integrity that would qualify it for designation as a local City of Los Altos landmark at the local level