



City of Los Altos

2025 HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARD NOMINATION

I am nominating The Fucilla Family for the 2025 Historic Preservation Award.
(1485 Fremont Ave)

Describe the reasons why the nominee should receive the Historic Preservation Award and how the nominee meets the following criteria:

1. Demonstration of pioneering or innovative efforts in historic preservation or education.
2. Conformance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Rehabilitation.
3. Public Benefit received (educational, beautification, advocacy, etc.).
4. Impact on the City of Los Altos.

see attachment

If applicable, submit copies of letters of commendation or any other supporting documentation (not required). Attach additional sheets as needed.

Nominated by: Anonymous Date: 4/23/2025

In order to officially submit a nomination for the 2025 Historic Preservation Award, please submit documentation supporting the nomination compiled into a single copy. Submit this documentation to the Historical Commission's staff liaison, Sean Gallegos, at sgallegos@losaltosca.gov. Materials may also be submitted at City Hall, 1 North San Antonio Road, Los Altos, CA 94022. All nominations must be received by **Wednesday, April 23, 2025 at 5:00 pm.**

Nominations will be considered at an upcoming Historical Commission meeting on April 28, 2025. The 2025 Historic Preservation Award winner will be recognized by the City Council with a proclamation at a future meeting.

Historic Preservation Award Nomination - Fucilla Family
(Audrey Fucilla Carlson, Lisa Fucilla Amoroso, Mollie Fucilla and Carrie Fucilla Thomas)

1485 Fremont Avenue

The property at 1485 Fremont Avenue was originally created in 1925 from the subdivision of a large agricultural site. The existing single-family home and detached garage with second-story ADU were constructed in 1927. The site has historically been used for agricultural and residential purposes. The property is developed with a single-family home and detached accessory structure, both of which associated with the Italian Renaissance Revival architecture style, which was popular throughout California in the 1920s-1940s. The property retains many character defining features of the Italian Renaissance Revival style.

In the 1960s, the property was acquired by a local family, the Fucilla Family. According to an article in the Los Altos Town Crier, "Dr. Ivan Fucilla, rescued it in 1962 from a land developer's plan to tear it down and build six or seven houses on the 1.8-acre site." The Fucilla daughters, some of whom continue to live on and maintain the property, characterize the 1962 purchase as "their parents scraping together all the resources that could to save the property from redevelopment".



Recently, four of the six Fucilla daughters approached the City with a project that involved relocating the existing accessory structure to a different location on the lot to allow the lot to be subdivided. The sisters envision creating an additional lot within the property where they can remain connected and age in place – a plan they've coined their "assistered living plan".

Their project, which was approved by the Historical Commission and City Council, was not only consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties – it was a thoughtful and creative approach to historic preservation and adaptive reuse.

Award Criteria

The family's ongoing commitment to preservation of the property and recent project make them an ideal candidate for the City of Los Altos Historic Preservation Award.

1. **Demonstration of pioneering or innovative efforts in historic preservation or education:**
The Fucilla family's thoughtful plan to preserve the existing property while adapting it to suit their evolving needs is innovative and creative and could serve as a model for owners of properties in similar positions.

2. **Conformance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties:** Their approved project, which involves relocation of the existing accessory structure to another location on the lot, adheres to the Secretary of the Interior Standards. The accessory structure retains a subordinate relationship to the main house. Both structures retain their character defining features, and the site retains its landscaping, which contributes to its long-standing pastorate sense of place.
3. **Public Benefit Received:** Through this project, the Fucilla Family will continue to preserve an important resource while creating additional housing capacity in the City of Los Altos – truly a win-win.
4. **Impact on the City of Los Altos:** Any visitor or resident who has driven, biked or walked down Fremont Ave has likely marveled at the Italian Renaissance Revival house at 1485 Fremont Avenue – which would likely not be here if not for the Fucilla family. Their ongoing commitment to preservation of the property and their innovative plans to adapt the property to suit their needs has made, and will continue to make, a lasting impact on the Los Altos community.