



City of Los Altos

## 2025 HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARD NOMINATION

I am nominating Walter Chapman for the 2025 Historic Preservation Award.

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.

The preservation of historic homes in Los Altos  
is one very important aspect of historic  
preservation, and the role of a good designer  
to facilitate such restorations is an essential  
part of the process.

Walter Chapman is a good, experienced  
designer and he has helped with the restoration  
of many historic homes, including two current  
projects, the Winchester-Merriman house and  
the Morris house.

The timing is perfect for Chapman this year!

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

Nominated by: Gary Hedden Date: April 21, 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](mailto: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.

## Nomination of Walter Chapman for the 2025 Historic Preservation Award

Honored Commissioners,

We have some truly historic homes in Los Altos and each and every one is a treasure. We rely on the homeowners to fall in love with their home, want to maintain it and often, even restore it. This is a benefit to the entire community.

It takes a determined homeowner to undertake a significant restoration. It is expensive, time consuming and understanding the process and the rules can be intimidating. A good architect or designer can make a difference.

Walter Chapman is a good, experienced designer. He is currently working on the most historically significant house in Los Altos, the Winchester-Merriman house. The owners, Jung Yoon and Warren Yang, credit Chapman for getting them through the approval process but more importantly, for providing creative layouts that ultimately converted two interior rooms, one large and one small, into two equally sized rooms, perfect for their twins. He managed this by adding a second dormer that closely, but not perfectly, matched an existing dormer. Chapman continues to pay visits to check on the progress of the restoration work.

Chapman is also currently working on another historic home, the Morris house on Eleanor Avenue. As above, the owners, Jennifer Jacobsen and Todd Parmacek, credit Chapman for getting them through the approval process and beyond that coming up with designs that saved as much of the original house as possible. He was able to save most of the leaded glass windows and he discovered a balcony that was not part of the original house and had it removed.

The important role of a good architect/designer has not previously been recognized by the Historical Commission in their annual preservation awards. You now have that opportunity with Walter Chapman who is a good, experienced designer, and as an added incentive for the approval, a former Historical Commissioner.

Sincerely,  
Gary Hedden

April 20, 2025