



DATE: April 28, 2025

AGENDA ITEM # 2

AGENDA REPORT

TO: Historical Commission

FROM: Sean Gallegos, Senior Planner

SUBJECT: Historic Preservation Award

RECOMMENDATION:

The Historical Commission review and consider the nominations received for the 2025 Los Altos Historic Preservation Award and select a recipient based on the established award criteria.

BACKGROUND

The Los Altos Historic Preservation Award was established by City Council Resolution on March 13, 2012, to honor and recognize exceptional achievements in the preservation, rehabilitation, and celebration of the City's historic resources. The award is intended to spotlight individuals, organizations, or projects that significantly contribute to the historical fabric of Los Altos.

Eligible nominees should reflect one or more of 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 to the City of Los Altos..

The goal of the award is to deepen public understanding and appreciation of the City's historic heritage by recognizing efforts that preserve, interpret, and celebrate Los Altos' architectural, cultural, and social history. Through this recognition, the award aims to encourage civic and neighborhood pride, foster a sense of continuity and identity, and inspire future preservation activities. By honoring exemplary contributions, the award reinforces the value of local history and the role it plays in shaping a vibrant, informed community. If the Commission determines that none of the current nominations adequately fulfill the established criteria, it retains the discretion to forgo presenting the award in 2025.

DISCUSSION

Staff have received four nominations for the 2025 Historic Preservation Award:

- **The Fucilla Family (1485 Fremont Avenue)**
Nominated by: Anonymous

Summary: Preservation of the Italian Renaissance Revival-style residence and relocation of an existing accessory structure, in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation.

- **Los Altos Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR)**

Nominated by: Ann Hepenstal (Attachment A)

Summary: Recognized for its long-standing commitment to historic education and patriotic community engagement, including documenting 75 years of history of the Los Altos Chapter of NSDAR.

- **Walter Chapman**

Nominated by: Gary Hedden (Attachment B)

Summary: Acknowledged for his substantial contributions to preserving Los Altos history through the preservation of historic houses in Los Altos as a designer, including the Winchester-Merriman and the Morris houses, and volunteer service.

- **Jon and Lois Baer**

Nominated by: Phoebe Bressack (Attachment C)

Summary: Commended for their exemplary rehabilitation of a historic property and their dedication to maintaining its original character and integrity.

The Commission is encouraged to evaluate the written nominations and any oral public testimony during the meeting. Following deliberation, the Commission should determine whether any of the nominees meet the award criteria and, if so, select a recipient.

The award recipient, or their representative, will be formally recognized with a Mayor's Proclamation.

Attachments:

- A. The Fucilla Family (1485 Fremont Avenue), Nomination
- B. Los Altos Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Nomination
- C. Walter Chapman, Nomination
- D. Jon and Lois Baer, Nomination