3860 Mayfair Drive comments

A few years ago, when our Association was updating our Neighborhood Overlay, we asked members of the Planning Department to visit our neighborhood with the intention of asking Lower Hastings Ranch to be declared a historic neighborhood. We were told that the only part of the neighborhood that could qualify was Mayfair Drive because it was the only street that had not undergone changes since it was developed after World War II.

The house in question was in great disrepair and it is a relief that it will be upgraded. However, after reading the report of the Planning Department and examining the proposed new house plans, I need to object even though it is proposed as ranch style architecture. As stated in the staff report "Lower Hastings Ranch is predominantly defined by one-story, single-family dwellings exhibiting California Ranch and/or Modern Ranch style architecture. These types of architecture are defined as a series of set elements that address both the building form and the spaces in and around the house". The style on the plans diverges significantly from a traditional ranch and it is not consistent with the other houses in the street.

My main concern is the façade. The report says that it will be a two-car garage facing the street but it looks like a 4-car garage that overwhelms the front of the house. It would be inconsistent with the others in the street. The porch seems to be minimal but the front door is massive. These are major deviations from the style of the other houses on Mayfair.

I am a past member of the Historic Preservation Commission and I know that there is only one historic neighborhood in East Pasadena although there are many in other areas of Pasadena. Maybe Mayfair Drive can still qualify as historic but this building will not help in any way. I do not object to the rebuilding of the house, but I would like to see alterations to the plans to make it consistent with the rest of Mayfair.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Laura Rodriguez

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