

## MEMORANDUM

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TO: Sausalito Planning Commission  
FROM: Sausalito Historic Landmarks Board  
RE: 158 Edwards Ave  
DATE: 07-23-2014

### **Methodology**

Pursuant to City Council direction, it is the responsibility of the Sausalito Historic Landmarks Board to examine any remodel or demolition application in the City if the application involves a structure of fifty or more years of age. The Board assigns two members to review each project and to consider the gathered information and produce this report. Our report is not intended to replace or augment any technical reports pertaining to this project: any comments regarding structural integrity, engineering, etc., are purely observational.

### **Architectural Research**

The Historic Landmarks Board conducted research into the history of the property at 158 Edwards Avenue in response to a request by the property owners, Loring & Marherita Sagan, to make changes to the property.

### **Property Description:**

The property currently has a three-story, multi-family structure in a style that is prevalent in various Sausalito neighborhoods. The structure possesses features of a "Craftsman / Bungalow" style including a low-pitched hipped roof, with eave overhangs, asphalt shingle roof covering, wood shingle siding and wood frame windows (casement and fixed). Exterior features include wood decks with wood picket railings and a grape stake fence with an artisan gate. Additionally, there is a detached garage constructed similarly.

Due to the fenced nature of the property access to viewing all of the elevations was limited but appeared to consistent with the more observable sections of the structure. Elevation drawings of the existing structure (provided by applicant) verify these observations.

## **Historical Research**

### **Property History:**

The original construction of a residence on this property is recorded as 1902 with the Marin County Assessor's Office. The original address was #4 Third Street and was changed to 158 Edwards Avenue in 1995. It is unclear as when the structure became multi-unit.

There have been numerous modifications to the original structure including

- Enclosing the porch area in 1953, which is listed as returning it to a previous condition;
- Kitchen and bathroom remodels in 1965; and,
- A remodel in 1992. This appears to be an interior remodel and it's unclear if any exterior feature were modified at that time.

### **History of Ownership:**

The following is a chronological list of owners of the property determined accurately as possible with the research materials available. No owner information was available prior to 1953 ownership.

- Frederic & Belle Shaw (1953)
- James van Tassel (1974)
- Grant Barbour & Helena Jeffery(1992)

*This list of owners is not considered to be entirely exhaustive or complete. It has been compiled using resources available in the Sausalito Historical Society Archives as well as the City Permit Records.*

### **Notable and / or historically significant persons associated with 158 Edwards Ave.**

Our research found only one person that stands out as a possible notable and / or historically significant: Frederic Shaw

➤ Excerpt from an article written by Shelly Winters for "Historic Tacoma" website. *"By 1947, Frederic and his family had moved to Sausalito where he continued his involvement in local politics. In the early 1950s, he worked for the State of California as an architect for the Highway Division. His office was located at 4 Third Street in 1956. That year, Frederic became the chief architect for Henry Doelger, Inc., a large merchant builder in Daly City, CA. In 1961, the year of his death, he was associated with the firms Keenan & Shaw and Hall & Shaw.*

*Frederic was a lifelong active member of the Presbyterian Church. He was active in the Marin County Historical Society, the San Francisco Mechanics Institute, served as vice president of the local Sons of the American Revolution, as a steering committee member on the Citizen's Advisory Zoning Committee in Sausalito, and was a past commander of the American Legion. Frederic was an associate member of AIA (American Institute of Architects) for several years in Tacoma and became a corporate member in 1956."*

Complete article is attached as Exhibit E

### **Summary**

The existing multi-family structure appears to be of a common style throughout Sausalito and non-remarkable architecturally. No information as to the original architect, designer or builder was discovered. One of the earlier owners (Frederic Shaw) may be considered an interesting and community involved individual but the available information did not reveal any facts indicating that he should be considered a person of significance important to our past. Therefore this structure should be assessed on its own merit.

### **Findings**

- 1. Is the structure associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of the history or cultural heritage of Sausalito, California, or the United States?**

The board finds \_\_\_\_\_ under this criterion.

- 2. Is this structure associated with the life or lives of one or more people important to our past?**

The board finds \_\_\_\_\_ under this criterion.

- 3. Does the structure embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or represent the work of an important creative individual, or possess high artistic values?**

The board finds \_\_\_\_\_ under this criterion.

- 4. Has the structure yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history?**

The board finds \_\_\_\_\_ under this criterion.

### **Recommendations**

TBD

#### **Researched and Submitted by:**

John McCoy and Natascha Frazier

**The Sausalito Historic Landmarks Board, at their publicly noticed meeting of July 23, 2014, acknowledged this memorandum:**

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:



Exhibit A: 158 Edwards Ave., Street View





Exhibit C: 158 Edwards Ave., viewed through the front gate

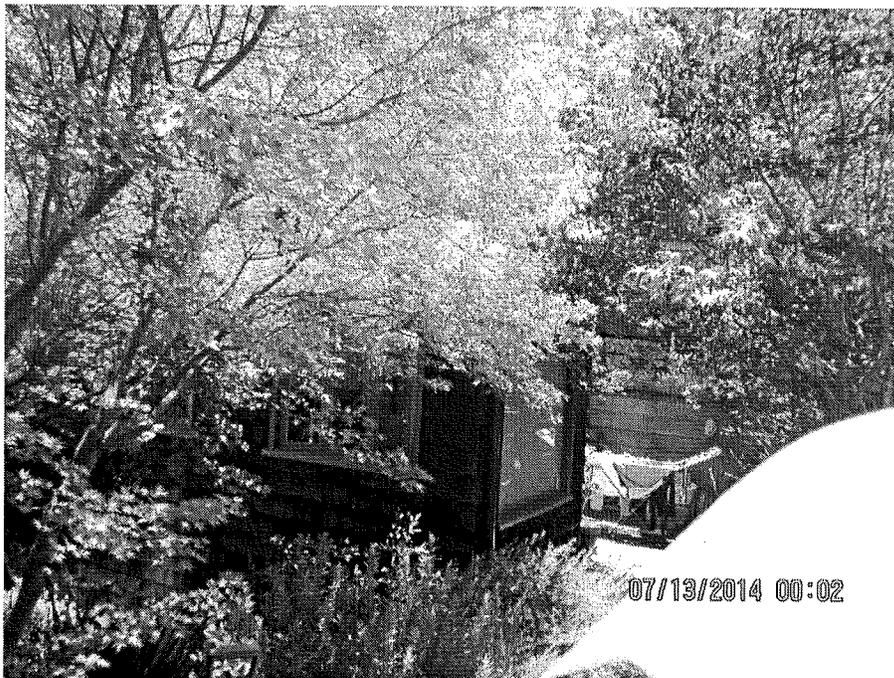


Exhibit D: 158 Edwards Ave.

Exhibit E: Article written by Shelly Winters for "Historic Tacoma" website  
<http://www.historictacoma.org/ht/frederic-j-shaw.html>

*Frederic Joseph Shaw was born in Sturgis, Michigan on August 21, 1883 to the Rev. Robert P. Shaw (D.D.) and Mary Thornton Shaw. The family moved to Tacoma shortly after his brother, Stanley's, birth in 1896; Frederic attended Stadium High School for one year. His father served as interim minister in the early 1900s during the organizing of Immanuel Presbyterian Church. Frederic received no further formal education other than through correspondence schools and University of CA extension courses later in his career.*

*During 1903, Frederic worked as a draftsman for James C. Teague in Seattle and Carl A. Darmer in Tacoma, moving on to work for George Gove from 1906-1909 and C. Frank Mahon from 1910-11. He served in several roles during his tenure with the City of Tacoma from 1911-15. As City Architect, he supervised the design and construction of Engine House #4 at 220 E. 26th Street in 1912. As an engineer, he worked on an irrigation project in Sunnyside in 1914.*

*Frederic opened his own architectural practice in 1915 or 1916. In 1916, he was engaged by a mining company to redesign the company-owned town of Carbonado. Frederic joined the U.S. Army in 1917 where he served as an artillery captain at coastal stations in the U.S. and in France during WWI. Returning from the war, he went into practice with his brother, Stanley, in 1919, and maintained that partnership until 1929. During that time they designed the 1922 Tacoma First United Presbyterian Church and the 1922 Miller Estate, known as "Milamar," in Lakewood. In the early 1920s, he also worked as a draftsman for Heath, Gove and Bell. Frederic was elected County Commissioner from the 2<sup>nd</sup> District of Pierce County in 1923, was re-elected in 1925, and served until 1929 when he moved to Los Angeles. Frederic returned to Tacoma in 1930 to marry Belle E. Shaw in April of that year. The couple had one child, Barbara Helen.*

*Frederic worked intermittently for the Union Oil Company in California between 1930 and 1952, designing service and marketing stations. He practiced architecture in the San Francisco area between 1936-40, designing all of the McKale service stations in San Francisco. In a 1946 questionnaire for the "Architect's Roster and/or Register of Architects Qualified for Federal Public Works," Frederic noted that he possessed a "wide range of experience covering railroad buildings, residences, churches, schools, service stations both retail and wholesale and some hospital work but of no great magnitude." As of 1946, his largest scale project, designed with his brother, Stanley, was the 1922 Tacoma First United Presbyterian Church at a cost of \$85,000.*

*By 1947, Frederic and his family had moved to Sausalito where he continued his involvement in local politics. In the early 1950s, he worked for the State of California as*

*an architect for the Highway Division. His office was located at 4 Third Street in 1956. That year, Frederic became the chief architect for Henry Doelger, Inc., a large merchant*

*builder in Daly City, CA. In 1961, the year of his death, he was associated with the firms Keenan & Shaw and Hall & Shaw.*

*Frederic was a lifelong active member of the Presbyterian Church. He was active in the Marin County Historical Society, the San Francisco Mechanics Institute, served as vice president of the local Sons of the American Revolution, as a steering committee member on the Citizen's Advisory Zoning Committee in Sausalito, and was a past commander of the American Legion. Frederic was an associate member of AIA (American Institute of Architects) for several years in Tacoma and became a corporate member in 1956.*

*Frederic's hobbies included cartography and miniature railroads and locomotives. He was an important and active figure in the San Francisco Bay Area railroading community and an author. His published books include Oil Lamps & Iron Ponies: a chronicle of the iron gauges (1949); Little Railways of the World (1958); Casey Jones' Locker: railroad historiana (1959); Map of common carrier narrow gauge railroads in Colorado since 1870 (1958); and, with Norman Sandley, The Sandley Story (1960).*

*Frederic Shaw died on December 21, 1961 in St. Paul, Minnesota; his wife Belle, daughter Barbara (Mrs. Walter Bjorkland), and brother Stanley, survived him.*