

Murray, Dillan

From: Henry Levy House <henrylevyhouse@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 22, 2025 2:55 PM
To: Murray, Dillan; Maier, Tricia
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Subject: Submission for 444 S. G Application for a COA
Attachments: PastedGraphic-5.tiff; PastedGraphic-1.tiff; PastedGraphic-2.tiff; PastedGraphic-3.tiff; PastedGraphic-4.tiff

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Cutural Heritage Board, et al,

I would like this information submitted in regard to the "Certificate of Appropriateness" for 444 S. G in Oxnard. This is my own opinion solicited solely by myself.

County of Ventura
May 19, 2025
Cultural Heritage Board Meeting
Item 6a
Exhibit 4 – Public Comment, Eric
Andrist



FIRST, It is because of ridiculous **bullshit** like the "Cultural Heritage Board," and their high-falutin arrogance and supremacy, that homeowners are just letting their homes in the historic district go to pot. Good people like the Carranza's, trying to do it the "right" way, are having to pay out money just for YOUR "approval" on something they want to do to improve their own home. IT'S NONE OF YOUR FUCKING BUSINESS. That they had to pay their architect for all these reports just to satisfy this agency, on top of dealing with Oxnard's failing Building Department, is ludicrous. You're just draining money from

homeowners to funnel money into this program and pay the unqualified Dillan Murray. The City of Oxnard already pays \$50,000 every 5 years to this agency to run it, and they you charge unknowing homeowners like this even more for your stamp of approval. You should all be ashamed.

SECOND, the Cultural Heritage Survey Phase I Oxnard & Santa Paula by Judy Triem, and the 1999 National Register of Historic Places Registration Form used to create the Henry T. Oxnard Historic District, are both HIGHLY FLAWED documents and shouldn't be used as evidence of anything when making determinations about Certificates of Appropriateness. At best, they can be guides only, knowing that the information could be flawed.

THIRD, it is RIDICULOUS that these homeowners at 444 S. G are being forced to jump through hoops and pay this Agency just to have a new and legal unit built in their back yard.

1. There is NOTHING "Historic" about 444 S. G (or a multitude of other houses here). It is a cute, but extremely generic house thrust into the middle of the Henry T. Oxnard Historic District simply because of its location and an arbitrary decision by historic district founders in 1999. It was supposedly built for a "sheet metal worker at a furnace and plumbing company," so no historical significance in its original owner, and they had to guess at who actually built it. If you were to lift this house and put it in Bakersfield, there would be nothing noteworthy about it....not unlike this one at 2709 Lake St., in Bakersfield in 1926, just two years after the house in question.

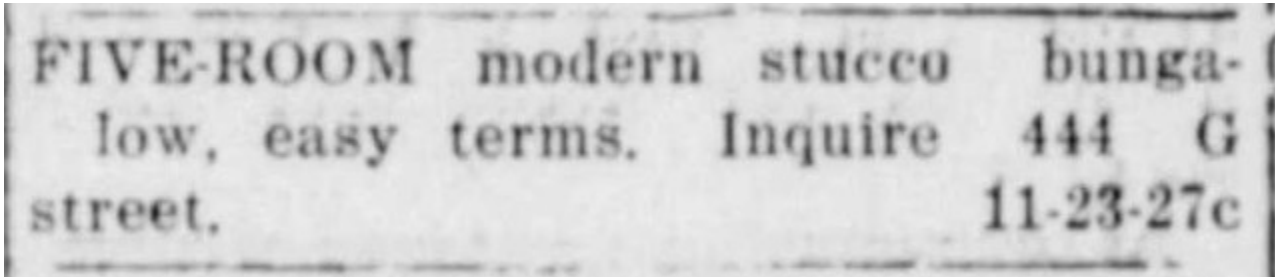


2. This is the detailed description that appeared for 444 S. G in the registration for the historic district in 1999:

"This square shaped Mediterranean style house has an offset front gable flat roof with arched porch entry."

That's it. That's how "historic" they thought it was in 1999.

Records show that almost immediately after being built, this house was used as a rental property, so far, I can find nothing that says that it was actually built for "Walter Hamilton." The first time his name appears in archived newspapers is 1931. Prior to that it was a rental.



Clipping from the Oxnard Daily Courier 11/27/1925.

BRIDGE AND PAJAMA PARTY HONORS DAUGHTER

A very delightful bridge and pajama party was given Saturday evening by Mrs. Walter Harmilton in honor of her daughter, Aleta Noreen, at their home 444 G street.

Three tables of bridge were arranged by the hostess on the lawn in the rear of their home which was prettily decorated in various colored lights. Dainty refreshments were served at the conclusion of the playing. High score prize was awarded to Miss Bernice LeRoy of Moorpark and consolation went to Miss Marjorie Miller.

Guests bidden were the Misses Daryline Timberlake, Melba Ruth Edwards, Jacqueline Taylor, Elizabeth Culver, Louise LaClair, Irmgard Bachler, Marian Pell, Mary Anne Petre and Jean Weill.

Clipping from the Oxnard Daily Courier 6/30/1931.

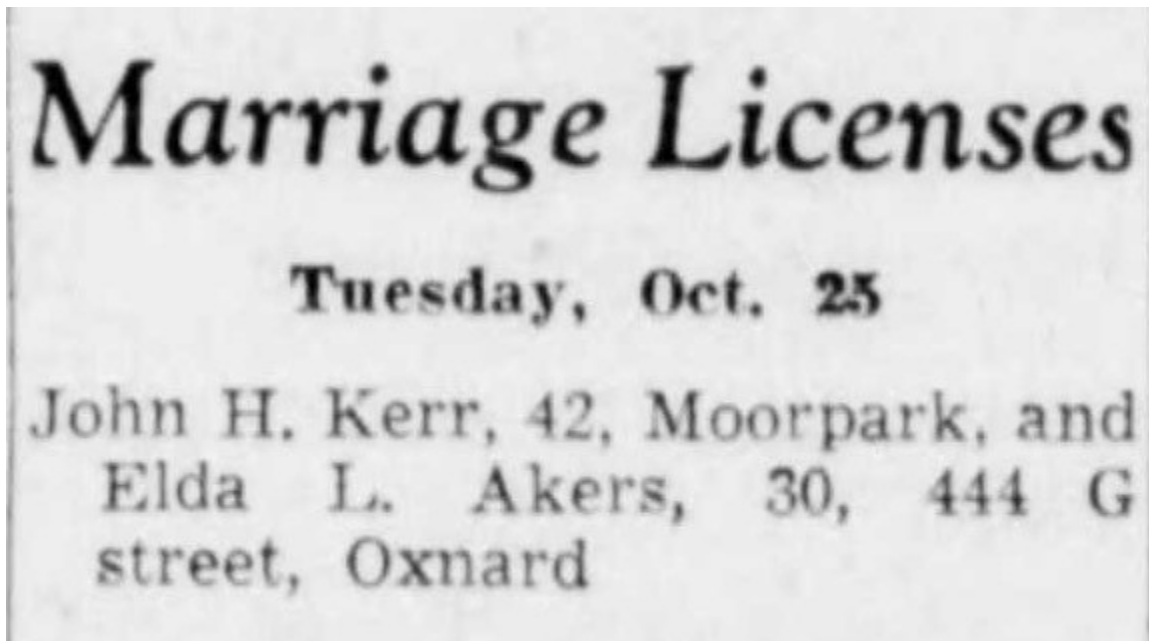
Mrs. Hamilton's mother died in the house in 1935.

Mother of Mrs. W. W. Hamilton Passes Away

Mrs. E. L. McColgan, 72, mother of Mrs. W. W. Hamilton of 444 G street, died this morning at the the home of her daughter after an illness of a year and a half. Diabetes together with a stroke of paralysis suffered about a year ago were causes of death. Death came at 6:30 a. m. .

Mrs. McColgan has lived 12 years in Oxnard. Funeral services will be held in Oroville, probably on Friday. Arrangements are being made by S. H. Diffenderffer & Son.

The Hamilton's no longer lived in the house by 1955.



Clipping from the Oxnard Daily Courier 10/29/1955.

By 1964, it was being rented out again and continued to be rented at least through the 70's.



Clipping from the Oxnard Daily Courier 11/27/1964.

3. As my research has found out, MOST of the homes in this historic district were not built to be thought of with any significance, they were built as rental properties for outlying farmers for extra income. Many of these houses, like this one, were utilitarian because a lot of money wasn't spent thinking it would be the builder's permanent home.

4. This house looks like a million other houses that can be found in Southern California, so why are you picking on it as though it's something special that needs to be preserved? As I said, it's only included in the historic district because it fell within the boundaries that were originally picked.

5. At least 80% of the homes in the Henry T. Oxnard Historic District should be disqualified from having to go through this Cultural Heritage Board "Certificate of Appropriateness" ridiculousness, based on their lack of "history" and "architectural significance" alone.

I recommend to Mr. & Mrs. Carranza that they take their lovely home and do whatever they want with it. They should fight this agency's clutches on their home. If you want to redo the plaster, redo the plaster. Ask for your money back for this ridiculous "certificate of appropriateness." They aren't even qualified to tell you what's appropriate. Go look at Gary Blum's house on F Street....he's on this

commission and can't even keep up his own house. Dillan Murray said when I wanted to redo my roof that the copper flashing on the top was not original, and yet it shows on my original blueprints. He has no idea what he's talking about most of the time.

They probably haven't told the homeowners that if the agency says no to something, they can just wait 6 months and do it anyway...it's right in the law and what many others are choosing to do.

I'm currently petitioning to have the "Historic" designation removed from this historic district so good people don't have to deal with this bullshit.

Sincerely,

Eric Andrist
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