

October 24, 2022

Historical Resources Board
1222 First Avenue, MS 501
San Diego, CA 92101

Re: HRB October 27, 2022 Agenda
Item #07: 750 Fir Street

Chair Hutter, Board Members and Staff,

I am in support of the staff's recommendation to not designate at this time 750 Fir Street

The Board is now receiving the third proposed nomination for designation from this applicant. Self-nominations are infrequent and should be most welcomed; however, I have been troubled by the first two designations due to the recent, less than 10-year existence, as historic sites. I fear that potentially more self-nominated projects by other individuals of their architectural works within the recent past may come before the Board. That the Policy Subcommittee is reviewing this issue is appreciated and welcomed.

The test of time is needed to place such a recent past building into a historical designation. Relying solely on awards and acclamations is just one element of consideration that should be used for evaluation. Award contests, competitions and programs can often be misleading. Placing a nominated building in its context and relationship to other works is also necessary.

I concur with staff that time is needed when 750 Fir Street might be reconsidered. That time is not now. Future consideration will have 750 Fir Street mature and be analyzed for its influence and features in the context of its period.

Charles Kaminski

Architect, Preservationist