



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

Report to the Historical Resources Board

DATE ISSUED: March 13, 2025 REPORT NO. HRB-25-013

HEARING DATE: March 27, 2025

SUBJECT: **ITEM #6 – Drs. Elsa and George Feher / Frederick Liebhardt / Joseph Yamada House**

RESOURCE INFO: [California Historical Resources Inventory Database \(CHRID\) link](#)

APPLICANT: STERNLIEB SHOSHANAH F TRUST 10-16-18, FEHER PAOLA LIVING TRUST 09-28-18; represented by IS Architecture

LOCATION: 2710 Bordeaux Avenue, La Jolla Community, Council District 1
APN 344-100-06-00

DESCRIPTION: Consider the designation of the Drs. Elsa and George Feher / Frederick Liebhardt / Joseph Yamada House located at 2710 Bordeaux Avenue as a historical resource.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Designate the Drs. Elsa and George Feher / Frederick Liebhardt / Joseph Yamada House located at 2710 Bordeaux Avenue as a historical resource under HRB Criterion B with periods of significance of 1968-1997 and 1967-2017, and Criteria C and D with a period of significance of 1967. The designation includes the original detached garage, pool, and contributing landscape design elements shown in Attachment 2. This recommendation is based on the following findings:

1. The resource is identified with Dr. Elsa Feher and Dr. George Feher, historically significant individuals, and retains integrity for that association under HRB Criterion B. Specifically, the resource is the primary residence and home office of the Fehers during their most productive years. Dr. Elsa Feher was a scientist, educator, and director of the Ruben H. Fleet Science Center who significantly transformed the Fleet Science Center and developed academic programming in science education at SDSU; her period of significance is 1968-1997. Dr. George Feher was a prominent scientist and researcher whose pioneering research in electron-nuclear double resonance, electron paramagnetic resonance spectroscopy, and photosynthesis made significant scientific contributions to the fields of physics and biophysics; his period of significance is 1967-2017.

2. The resource embodies the distinctive characteristics through the retention of character defining features of the Post-and-Beam style and retains integrity from its 1967 period of significance. Specifically, the resource features a direct expression of the wood structural frame, horizontal massing, flat roofs with deep overhangs and no parapet, floor-to-ceiling glass doors and windows, repetitive façade geometry, minimal use of solid load-bearing walls, absence of applied decoration, strong interior/exterior connections, and exterior finish material of wood and glass.
3. The resource is representative of a notable work of Master Architect Frederick Liebhardt and retains integrity as it relates to the original 1967 period of significance. Specifically, the resource is an excellent example of the Post-and-Beam style and reflects an earlier phase of Liebhardt's focus on residential architecture with an emphasis on organic principles. This resource is also representative of a notable work of Master Landscape Architect Joseph Y. Yamada and retains integrity to its original 1967 period of significance. Specifically, it is an excellent example of Yamada's residential landscape design which enhanced a Post-and-Beam residence's indoor-outdoor connection. Unique features include a custom mailbox, a convertible sandbox, and tributes to Harriet Wimmer.

BACKGROUND

This item is being brought before the Historical Resources Board in conjunction with the owner's desire to have the site designated as a historical resource.

The property has not been identified in any historic surveys, as the subject area has not been previously surveyed.

The historic name of the resource, the Drs. Elsa and George Feher / Frederick Liebhardt / Joseph Yamada House, has been identified consistent with the Board's adopted naming policy and reflects the names of Dr. Elsa Feher and Dr. George Feher, historically significant individuals, and the name of Frederick Liebhardt, Master Architect, and Joseph Y. Yamada, Master Landscape Architect.

In order to be eligible for designation and listing on the City's Register, a resource must meet one or more of the City's designation criteria as specified in the Historical Resources Guidelines of the Land Development Manual and retain integrity as it relates to the significance of the resource. Integrity is the ability of a property to convey its significance, which requires an understanding of the physical features and characteristics that existed during the resource's period of significance. The National, California, and City of San Diego Registers recognize location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association as the seven aspects of historical integrity.

Although not all seven aspects of integrity need to be present for a property to be eligible for designation, the record must demonstrate that the property retains enough physical and design characteristics to reflect and convey the significance of the property. Each resource depends on certain aspects of integrity, more than others, to express its historic significance. Determining which of the aspects are most important to a particular property requires an understanding of the property's significance and its essential physical features. The [Guidelines for the Application of Historical Resources Board Designation Criteria](#) provide information regarding the City's designation criteria, as well as guidance on their application and how to evaluate the integrity of a resource.

ANALYSIS

The property located at 2710 Bordeaux Avenue is a one-story with basement, Post-and-Beam style single-family residential building constructed in 1967 in the La Jolla Community Planning Area. Other buildings and structures present on site include an original detached garage. The property is located at the end of a cul-de-sac in a neighborhood of similarly scaled residential structures. The property is in its original location.

Since its construction in 1967, the property has been modified as follows: the addition of the entry arbor trellis pre-1980s, the replacement of the entry redwood planter post-1980s, and the installation of vertical wood siding and vertical posts along the perimeter fence circa 2009. Undated alterations include the addition of east elevation mosaic tiles at the guest shower below the exterior door.

A Historical Resource Research Report was prepared by IS Architecture, which concludes that the resource is significant under HRB Criteria B, C, and D, and staff concurs. This determination is consistent with the [Guidelines for the Application of Historical Resources Board Designation Criteria](#), as follows.

CRITERION B - Is identified with persons or events significant in local, state or national history.

Dr. Elsa Rosenvasser Feher (1932-2022) was a founding director of the Reuben H. Fleet Science Center, scientist, and educator. She was born in Argentina in 1932, studying in Buenos Aires and earning a bachelor's degree before obtaining a fellowship from UNESCO to pursue a doctoral degree in the United States. She studied at Columbia University in 1957, where she met Dr. George Feher. They married in 1961 and moved to San Diego, where she continued her PhD study in the University of California, San Diego (UCSD) physics laboratory, earning a doctorate degree in solid state physics in 1964. Later, Drs. Elsa and George Feher traveled to Argentina to develop an electron paramagnetic resonance research program at the University of Buenos Aires. When they returned in 1965, Dr. Elsa Feher became a Research Associate in the UCSD physics laboratory. In 1968, Feher was named an Institute Scholar member of the Radcliffe Institute located in Massachusetts, and she worked on collaborating with professional educators to develop ways of educating children and laypersons about physics. At this time, Feher shifted her attention from the academic field of solid-state physics to science education. When Feher returned to San Diego, she joined the faculty of the San Diego State University (SDSU) Natural Science Department. She developed a hands-on approach to science, developing courses in physical science for students who were pursuing non-science majors, mostly prospective teachers. In the 1970s, still working at SDSU, she developed a progressive research program addressing conceptual difficulties experienced by those studying physical sciences. In 1980, she chaired the SDSU's Natural Sciences Department for three years, being the first and only female to hold this position. In 1982, the Reuben H. Fleet Science Center, a museum located in Balboa Park, launched a \$250,000 renovation project. Feher was hired to become its director. She was responsible for developing funding and promoting interactive science modules and exhibitions. She also developed a technical team that supervised the construction of interactive science exhibits at the Science Center. Feher describes the Science Center as "dormant" since 1973, but under her management, the space was revitalized with modules and exhibits. In 1988, the "About Faces" exhibit opened. By 1984, 30 new exhibits have been added to the museum under Feher's leadership. In 1996, Feher opened the exhibit "Signals, From Semaphores to

Cyberspace," to positive reception. She was responsible for obtaining funding for these exhibits, securing \$1.5 million for the "About Faces" and "Signals" exhibits alone. Dr. Elsa Feher held the director position for 14 years, retiring in 1997.

Dr. George Feher was a founding faculty member of UCSD who helped establish the physics department and founded the biophysics program. Feher was born in 1924 in Slovakia (then Czechoslovakia). In 1941 when the country was under Nazi rule, Feher escaped to Israel (then Palestine) to escape persecution. He worked as an electronic technician at the Israeli Institute of Technology and worked for the *Haganah*. Feher moved to the United States in 1946 and attended the University of California, Berkeley, earning a bachelor's degree, a master's Degree, and later a PhD in physics. Afterwards, Feher worked at the Bell Telephone Research Labs which conducted research in solid state physics and condensed matter physics. He was closely involved in the development of the three-level maser that rode in the first U.S. satellite put in orbit in 1958. He also developed a technique for electron-nuclear double resonance (ENDOR) that is still widely applied today, including in quantum computing. Feher was teaching physics part-time at Columbia University around 1959 when he was offered a position at budding UCSD (then University of California, La Jolla) to set up experimental programs in the physics department. Dr. George Feher accepted and moved to San Diego. By 1961, Feher was one of the 15 professors leading the graduate program in the new Physics Department within the School of Science and Engineering at UCSD. In 1964, he founded the Biophysics program. He worked as a professor of physics from 1960 to 1992 and continued to work as a research professor of physics from 1993 until he died in 2017. Feher's research earned many awards and prizes for his work regarding ENDOR, the physics of photosynthesis, and electron paramagnetic resonance spectroscopy. He was also inducted and elected to many fellowships or memberships, such as the American Physical Society, the National Academy of Sciences, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the International EPR/ESR Society. These memberships and fellowships demonstrate recognition by peers for Feher's significant scientific contributions in the fields of physics and biophysics. Notably, in 2007 Feher was awarded the *Wolf Prize* in Chemistry for his achievements; the *Wolf Prize* is considered the second most important international award after the Nobel Prize.

Both Drs. Elsa Feher and George Feher resided in the subject property from 1967 until their respective deaths in 2022 and 2017. The period of significance for Dr. Elsa Feher's association is 1968-1997, capturing her shift to science education while at the Radcliff Institute, her academic development at SDSU, and her contributions to the Reuben H. Fleet Science Center, ending in 1997 when she retired from the Science Center. Dr. George Feher's period of significance is 1967-2017, capturing his productive career as a founding faculty member and professor at UCSD.

Under HRB Criterion B, the best representatives for significant persons are properties associated with the persons' productive life. The subject property contains at-home studies or workplaces for both Drs. Elsa and George Feher, demonstrating its association with their productive life. Other properties associated with Drs. Elsa and George Feher's productive life include UCSD, SDSU, and the Reuben H. Fleet Science Center. However, UCSD and SDSU properties are not within the City's or the HRB's jurisdiction, and cannot be designated under HRB Criterion B. The Fleet Science Center retains low integrity as the science exhibits once associated with Dr. Elsa Feher were ephemeral and non-extant. Thus, the subject property is the only structure within the City's jurisdiction that is strongly associated with both Drs. Elsa and George Feher's productive life.

Of the seven aspects of integrity, location, setting, feeling, and association are the most critical to the property's ability to convey significance under HRB Criterion B for its association with significant persons Drs. Elsa and George Feher. The property, which has been modified as detailed at the beginning of the analysis section of this report, retains integrity as the modifications are minimal in nature and made under Feher's ownership. Thus, these changes do not detract from the significance under HRB Criterion B. Therefore, the property does retain integrity to its 1968-1997 and 1967-2017 periods of significance under HRB Criterion B.

Significance Statement: The subject resource was the primary residence of Dr. Elsa Feher, a scientist, educator, and director of the Ruben H. Fleet Science Center, and Dr. George Feher, a prominent scientist and researcher in physics and biophysics, during their most productive years. Dr. Elsa Feher's achievements include developing academic programming in science education at SDSU, focusing on a progressive "hands-on" approach. As a director of the Ruben H. Fleet Science Center, she transformed the Science Center from an underutilized space to a fully integrated and interactive experience in the 1980s and 1990s, developing numerous exhibits and making a positive impact on visitors to the museum. Dr. George Feher founded the Physics department at UCSD with other staff, and later also founded the Biophysics department. Specifically, his pioneering research in electron-nuclear double resonance, electron paramagnetic resonance spectroscopy, and photosynthesis made a significant scientific contribution to the fields of physics and biophysics. Individually, the Feher's each made demonstrable achievements in the educational and scientific disciplines in San Diego. Therefore, staff recommends the designation of the subject property at 2710 Bordeaux Avenue under HRB Criterion B for its association with Drs. Elsa and George Feher, with respective periods of significance of 1968-1997 and 1967-2017.

CRITERION C - Embodies distinctive characteristics of a style, type, period or method of construction or is a valuable example of the use of natural materials or craftsmanship.

The subject property was designed and built in the Post-and-Beam style in 1967. The building is sited on a westerly sloping lot, and the building has a rectilinear, horizontal form. The roof is flat without parapets. Widely overhanging eave projections are visible on all building elevations. The overhanging eaves are accentuated by projecting beams directly below. The building is clad in wood siding and stucco. A wooden fence connects the residence and garage and fully encloses the pool and interior yard area.

The east elevation of the residence faces the pool and yard area. This elevation is characterized by two recessed facades containing a covered patio formed by overhanging eaves. Fixed glazing and sliding glass doors at these locations form floor-to-ceiling glass. The entry is also located along this elevation, featuring a plain door with sidelights and a fixed glass transom. The west elevation faces a downward sloping hill and the Pacific Ocean. This elevation prominently displays the structural columns and beam system, and both levels of the building are visible. Both levels contain exterior decks. The upper level is defined by a band of windows that is interrupted by stucco and wood siding. A ledge projection runs the length of this façade. The basement level is primarily sided with stucco, except at a room projection. This room projection is clad in vertical wood siding and features a deck, floor-to-ceiling glass doors, and floor-to-ceiling glazing. The south elevation displays a deck, sliding glass doors, and a band of windows. The north elevation also features a deck, sliding glass doors, and two floor-to-ceiling louver windows.

The detached garage is sited in between the residence and the street. It is rectangular in form and features a flat roof. It is clad in vertical wood siding with a blind-cut garage door. Its fenestration consists of full-height fixed glazing. The garage is an original building dating to the period of significance, and it is included in the designation.

The [2007 San Diego Modernism Context Statement](#) identifies 1950-1970 as the period for Post-and-Beam architecture, which is characterized primarily by direct expression of the structural system, usually wood or steel frames; horizontal massing; flat or shallow pitch roofs with deep overhangs or no parapet; and floor-to-ceiling glass. The style is characterized secondarily by repetitive façade geometry, minimal use of solid load-bearing walls, absence of applied decoration, strong interior/exterior connections, open interior floor plans, and exterior finish materials that usually include wood steel and glass. The Context Statement notes the relative rarity of the style and identifies the expression of the structural system through expansive floor-to-ceiling glass and wood or steel framing as critical elements to conveying the style.

Of the seven aspects of integrity, design, materials, and workmanship are the most critical to the property's ability to convey significance under HRB Criterion C as a resource that embodies the distinctive characteristics of the Post-and-Beam style. The property, which has been modified as detailed at the beginning of the analysis section of this report, retains integrity, as the exterior modifications to the building are minimal in scope, and all character-defining features are unimpacted and intact. Therefore, the property does retain integrity to its 1967 period of significance under HRB Criterion C.

Significance Statement: The subject resource continues to convey the historic significance of the Post-and-Beam style with a 1967 period of significance by embodying the historical characteristics associated with the style, including a direct expression of the wood structural frame, horizontal massing, flat roofs with deep overhangs and no parapet, floor-to-ceiling glass doors and windows, repetitive façade geometry, minimal use of solid load-bearing walls, absence of applied decoration, strong interior/exterior connections, and exterior finish material of wood and glass. Therefore, staff recommends designation under HRB Criterion C.

CRITERION D - Is representative of a notable work of a master builder, designer, architect, engineer, landscape architect, interior designer, artist or craftsman.

The residence and garage located at 2710 Bordeaux Avenue were designed by established Master Architect Frederick Liebhardt, as evidenced by original plans bearing his signature. Although Liebhardt was partnered with architect Eugene Weston III in 1967, there is no evidence to suggest that Weston was involved in any part of the architectural design. Therefore, the design of the property is attributed to Liebhardt only.

Frederick Charles Liebhardt (1924-1999) was born in Fresno, California. He attended the Curtis Wright Technical School and worked in aircraft engineering before obtaining a formal education in architecture from the University of Denver in architecture. He met Frank Lloyd Wright at a lecture, and Wright invited Liebhardt to visit Taliesin to study under him. Liebhardt attended the Taliesin fellowship until 1949. In the early 1950s, Liebhardt worked under Master Architect Lloyd Ruocco before establishing his own firm. He also worked briefly with Master Architect Henry Hester. By 1958, Liebhardt hired Eugene Weston III to his firm, forming a partnership. In 1967, architect Don

Goldman joined the firm. Liebhardt retired in 1991; his work, such as his private residence located at 7224 Carrizo Drive (HRB #1391) embodied the organic principles advocated by Frank Lloyd Wright and encompassed a wide variety of project types. Liebhardt's body of work includes single-family residences, hotels, institutional buildings, and the master planning of zoos, aquaria, wild animal parks, theme parks, and other outdoor recreation facilities. His works expressed a variety of architectural styles, including Post-and-Beam, Organic Geometric, and even neo-eclectic styles in later examples. The HRB established Frederick Liebhardt as a Master Architect in 2020 through the designation of HRB #1391.

The subject property is representative of a notable work of Master Architect Frederick Liebhardt in the Post-and-Beam style while also embodying organic principles such as integration with nature and a site-specific design. The property features an extensive natural material of wood, and its siting takes advantage of views, providing an indoor-outdoor connection. Additionally, the property represents a phase in his career when his work primarily involved private residences before he and his firm shifted to designing more institutional, commercial, and multi-family projects.

The existing landscape design was by established Master Landscape Architect Joseph Y. Yamada, whose name is on the original landscape plans and contract. Although Yamada was a partner of landscape architect Harriet Wimmer in 1967, there is no evidence to suggest that Wimmer was involved in any part of the landscape design at the subject property. Therefore, the landscape design of the property is attributed to Yamada only.

Joseph Y. Yamada (1930–2020) was born in San Diego. As a child, he was incarcerated in a Japanese internment camp during WWII. Returning to San Diego in 1944, Yamada attended San Diego High School. In 1948, he served one year in the United States Air Force before pursuing a degree in Landscape Architecture. After graduating from UC Berkeley in 1954, Yamada married Elizabeth Kikuchi. That same year, Robert Mosher, an established Master Architect, recommended that Yamada work under Harriet Wimmer, a well-regarded landscape designer. Yamada accepted and joined Harriet Wimmer's firm. In 1960, Wimmer made Yamada a partner, renaming the firm "Wimmer, Yamada & Associates." In 1967, Wimmer retired as the head of the firm, and Yamada became the firm's president that same year. For the next decade, Yamada served as San Diego's Park and Recreation Board member for seven years. In 1979, the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) named Yamada a Fellow and installed him as the treasurer. Yamada's projects from the 1980s indicate that his breadth of work includes private landscape work in La Jolla, La Plaza, Carlsbad, and Rancho Santa Fe. Throughout the 1960s and 1980s, Wimmer and Yamada were responsible for the landscape master plan of UCSD. The firm completed various projects ranging from residential landscape designs to institutional and large commercial works. It covers the City of San Diego and nearby environs, including Del Mar, El Cajon, Chula Vista, and the County of San Diego. City resolutions passed between the 1960s and 1980s show that Wimmer, Yamada & Associates has been authorized to provide consulting and design services for various city park projects. In 1995, Patrick "Pat" Caughey became the principal of Wimmer, Yamada & Associates. In 1998, Yamada retired from the firm. However, he did not fully stop working until 2012. The firm, now named "Wimmer Yamada and Caughey," has designed more than 4000 projects since its inception. Joseph Y. Yamada has demonstrated a high quality of design and detailing excellence. He led the firm from 1967 to 1988 as the principal. His work, which is primarily reflected by large projects in San Diego, has been recognized nationally and locally and acknowledged by design peers through formal awards and citations. His work consists of famous local landmarks that defined the San Diego

landscape, and much of his work is still extant today. The HRB established Joseph Y. Yamada as a Master Landscape Architect in 2022 during the designation of HRB #1477, which consists of Yamada's personal residence and designed landscape.

The landscape located at 2710 Bordeaux represents Yamada's notable landscape design work in the context of a residential mid-century property. Several features are unique to Yamada's design, such as a convertible sandbox, a custom mailbox, and tributes to Harriet Wimmer which includes shrub plantings of green and white flowers. His site-specific design of plants and planters complements the residence and enhances the indoor-outdoor connection. Contributing landscape elements included in the designation are located in the interior yard, along the entry path, and at the perimeter of the residence and garage. These elements are itemized in Attachment 2.

The swimming pool is an original feature dating to the 1967 period of significance. It is shown on both the original architectural drawings and landscape plans, appearing as early as 1965 on the preliminary plans by Frederick Liebhardt. As such, it is contributing to the original design of the property, and it is included in the designation under Criterion D.

Of the seven aspects of integrity, design, materials, and workmanship are the most critical to the property's ability to convey significance under HRB Criterion D as a resource that represents the notable work of Master Architect Frederick Liebhardt and Master Landscape Architect Joseph Y. Yamada. The property, which has been modified as detailed at the beginning of the analysis section of this report, does not significantly detract from the property's architectural integrity, as exterior modifications are minimal. Landscape alterations are also minimal, and the replacement planter boxes at the entry and newer trellis do not significantly impact the overall arrangement and location of plants and site features. Therefore, the property does retain integrity to its 1967 period of significance under HRB Criterion D.

Significance Statement: The property is representative of a notable work of Master Architect Frederick Liebhardt and retains integrity as it relates to the original 1967 design, intent, and aesthetic. Specifically, the resource is an excellent example of the Post-and-Beam style and reflects an earlier phase of Liebhardt's focus on residential architecture with an emphasis on organic principles. The landscape design at the subject property is representative of a notable work of established Master Landscape Architect Joseph Y. Yamada and retains integrity to its original 1967 design, intent, and aesthetic. Specifically, it is an excellent example of Yamada's residential landscape design which enhanced a Post-and-Beam structure's indoor-outdoor connection. Unique features include a custom mailbox, a convertible sandbox, and tributes to Harriet Wimmer. Therefore, staff recommends designation under HRB Criterion D as a notable work of Master Architect Frederick Liebhardt and Master Landscape Architect Joseph Y. Yamada with a 1967 period of significance.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Designation brings with it the responsibility of maintaining the building in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards. The benefits of designation include the availability of the Mills Act Program for reduced property tax; the use of the more flexible Historical Building Code; flexibility in the application of other regulatory requirements; the use of the Historical Conditional Use Permit which allows flexibility of use; and other programs which vary depending on the specific

site conditions and owner objectives. If the property is designated by the HRB, conditions related to restoration or rehabilitation of the resource may be identified by staff during the Mills Act application process, and included in any future Mills Act contract.

CONCLUSION

Based on the information submitted and staff's field check, it is recommended that the Drs. Elsa and George Feher / Frederick Liebhardt / Joseph Yamada House located at 2710 Bordeaux Avenue be designated under HRB Criterion B for significant persons Dr. Elsa Feher and Dr. George Feher with respective periods of significance of 1968-1997 and 1967-2017, under HRB Criterion C for the Post-and-Beam style with a 1967 period of significance, and under HBB Criterion D as a notable work of Master Architect Frederick Liebhardt and Master Landscape Architect Joseph Y. Yamada with a 1967 period of significance. The designation includes the original detached garage, pool, and contributing landscape design elements shown in Attachment 2.



Alvin Lin
Associate Planner
City Planning Department



Suzanne Segur
Senior Planner/ HRB Liaison
City Planning Department

AL/ss

Attachment(s):

1. Draft Resolution
2. Landscape Site Plan showing elements included in the designation
3. Applicant's Historical Report under separate cover

RESOLUTION NUMBER N/A
ADOPTED ON

WHEREAS, the Historical Resources Board of the City of San Diego held a noticed public hearing on , to consider the historical designation of the **Drs. Elsa and George Feher / Frederick Liebhardt / Joseph Yamada House** (owned by STERNLIEB SHOSHANAH F TRUST 10-16-18, FEHER PAOLA LIVING TRUST 09-28-18, 2710 Bordeaux Avenue, San Diego, CA 92037) located at **2710 Bordeaux Avenue, San Diego, CA 92037**, APN: **344-100-06-00**, further described as LOT 55 in the City of San Diego, County of San Diego, State of California; and

WHEREAS, in arriving at their decision, the Historical Resources Board considered the historical resources report prepared by the applicant, the staff report and recommendation, all other materials submitted prior to and at the public hearing, inspected the subject property and heard public testimony presented at the hearing; and

WHEREAS, the property would be added to the Register of Designated Historical Resources as **Site No. 0**, and

WHEREAS, designated historical resources located within the City of San Diego are regulated by the Municipal Code (Chapter 14, Article 3, Division 2) as such any exterior modifications (or interior if any interior is designated) shall be approved by the City, this includes but is not limited to modifications to any windows or doors, removal or replacement of any exterior surfaces (i.e. paint, stucco, wood siding, brick), any alterations to the roof or roofing material, alterations to any exterior ornamentation and any additions or significant changes to the landscape/ site.

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Historical Resources Board based its designation of the Drs. Elsa and George Feher / Frederick Liebhardt / Joseph Yamada House on the following findings:

(1) The property is historically significant under CRITERION B for its association with significant individuals Dr. Elsa Feher and Dr. George Feher. Specifically, the resource is the primary residence and home office of the Fehers during their most productive years. Dr. Elsa Feher was a scientist, educator, and director of the Ruben H. Fleet Science Center who significantly transformed the Fleet Science Center and developed academic programming in science education at SDSU; her period of significance is 1968-1997. Dr. George Feher was a prominent scientist and researcher whose pioneering research in electron-nuclear double resonance, electron paramagnetic resonance spectroscopy, and photosynthesis made significant scientific contributions to the fields of physics and biophysics; his period of significance is 1967-2017. This finding is further supported by the staff report, the historical research report, and written and oral evidence presented at the designation hearing.

(2) The property is historically significant under CRITERION C for its distinctive characteristics through the retention of character defining features of the Post-and-Beam style and retains integrity from its 1967 period of significance. Specifically, the resource features a direct expression of the wood structural frame, horizontal massing, flat roofs with deep overhangs and no parapet, floor-to-ceiling glass doors and windows, repetitive façade geometry, minimal use of solid load-bearing walls, absence of applied decoration, strong interior/exterior connections, and exterior finish material of wood and glass. This finding is further supported by the staff report, the historical research report, and written and oral evidence presented at the designation hearing.

(3) The property is historically significant under CRITERION D as a notable work of Master Architect Frederick Liebhardt and retains integrity as it relates to the original 1967 period of significance. Specifically, the resource is an excellent example of the Post-and-Beam style and reflects an earlier phase of Liebhardt's focus on residential architecture with an emphasis on organic principles. This resource is also representative of a notable work of Master Landscape Architect Joseph Y. Yamada and retains integrity to its original 1967

period of significance. Specifically, it is an excellent example of Yamada's residential landscape design which enhanced a Post-and-Beam residence's indoor-outdoor connection. Unique features include a custom mailbox, a convertible sandbox, and tributes to Harriet Wimmer. This finding is further supported by the staff report, the historical research report, and written and oral evidence presented at the designation hearing.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, in light of the foregoing, the Historical Resources Board of the City of San Diego hereby approves the historical designation of the above named property. The designation includes the parcel and exterior of the building as Designated Historical Resource **Site No. 0**.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the designation shall include the original detached garage, pool, and contributing landscape design elements shown in Attachment 2 of the staff report.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Secretary to the Historical Resources Board shall cause this resolution to be recorded in the office of the San Diego County Recorder at no fee, for the benefit of the City of San Diego, and with no documentary tax due.

Vote:

BY: _____
TIM HUTTER, Chair
Historical Resources Board

APPROVED: HEATHER FERBERT,
CITY ATTORNEY

BY: _____
LINDSEY SEBASTIAN,
Deputy City Attorney

DRAFT

ATTACHMENT 2 LANDSCAPE SITE PLAN

showing elements #1~17 included in the designation

