



SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Historic Preservation Commission Resolution No. XXX

HEARING DATE AUGUST 15, 2018

Case No. N/A
Project: Northern Rata Tree (Metrosideros Robusta),
1776 Vallejo Street
Recommendation to the Urban Forestry Council
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RESOLUTION TO RECOMMEND TO THE URBAN FORESTRY COUNCIL DESIGNATION OF THE NORTHERN RATA TREE (METROSIDEROS ROBUSTA) AT 1776 VALLEJO STREET, ASSESSOR'S BLOCK NO. 0552, LOT 031, AS A LANDMARK TREE UNDERS SECTION 810, ARTICLE 16 OF THE SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC WORKS CODE

WHEREAS, Section 810, Article 16 of the San Francisco Public Works Code establishes criteria for the designation of landmark trees, which includes consideration of the age, size, shape, species, location, historical association, visual quality, and other contributions to the City's character; and

WHEREAS, the Urban Forestry Council is charged with overseeing the nomination process and making a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors; and

WHEREAS, the Historic Preservation Commission may nominate a tree for landmark tree designation through the passing of a nominating resolution to the Urban Forestry Council; and

WHEREAS, the Historic Preservation Commission finds that the nomination of the Northern Rata tree (Metrosideros Robusta) at 1776 Vallejo Street in Assessor's Block No. 0552, Lot 031, as a landmark tree is in the form prescribed by the Urban Forestry Council and contains supporting location, description, historical, environmental, and/or cultural documentation; and

WHEREAS, the Historic Preservation Commission finds that the subject tree is exceptional in its size, form, and rarity while occupying a highly visible intersection; and

WHEREAS, the proposed designation is consistent with the General Plan priority policies pursuant to Planning Code, Section 101.1 and furthers Priority Policy No. 2, which states that existing neighborhood character will be conserved and protected; and

WHEREAS, the Department has determined that the proposal is not a project under CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378 and 15060(c)(2) as there will be no physical change to the environment.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Historic Preservation Commission hereby recommends to the Urban Forestry Council nomination of landmark tree designation of the Northern Rata tree (*Metrosideros Robusta*) at 1776 Vallejo Street.

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Historic Preservation Commission at its meeting on August 15, 2018.

Jonas P. Ionin
Commission Secretary

AYES: X

NAYS: X

ABSENT: X

ADOPTED: August 15, 2018

SAN FRANCISCO URBAN FORESTRY COUNCIL

Landmark Tree Nomination Form

Disclaimer: Any information you include on this form will be part of the public record. Anyone may request to see the information you submit for a landmark tree nomination. For more legal information, see the last page of this form.

Who can nominate a landmark tree?

- The Board of Supervisors, Planning Commission, and Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board may nominate a tree.
- The head of a City department or agency may nominate a tree on property under their jurisdiction. City departments and agencies should conduct an internal approval process before nominating a tree.
- A property owner may nominate a tree on his or her property.
- A member of the public may ask an authorized nominator to nominate a tree.

Please note that a permit will be required for any future removal of a landmark tree.

Pursuant to Ordinance 0017-06 and Public Works Code 810, the Urban Forestry Council requests the following information.

I am one of the following authorized nominators

- ☐ Property owner
- ☐ Board of Supervisor member
- ☐ Head of a city department or agency
- ☐ Planning Commission member
- ☐ Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board member

Authorized nominator (Supervisor, Planning Commission, Landmarks Advisory Board, Head of City Department, Property Owner):

Name _____
Address _____
Address _____
Phone (day) _____
Fax # _____
Email _____

I am an authorized nominator and I support this nomination.

Signature _____
Date _____

Member of the public who initiated nomination (if applicable):

JOHN MORAN
Name _____
1772 VALLEJO ST.
Address _____
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94123
Address _____
415-305-1155
Address _____
Phone (day) _____
Fax # _____
john@bright.com
Email _____

I am the property owner and I grant permission for city staff to evaluate the nominated tree on the property with advance notice.

Signature _____
Date _____

SAN FRANCISCO URBAN FORESTRY COUNCIL

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The Urban Forestry Council will use the following criteria to evaluate each potential landmark tree. If you need more space to describe the tree, please attach additional sheets.

TREE DESCRIPTION

Tree name (species and common name): Metrosideros Robusta (Northern Rata)

Number of trees: ONE

Street address: 1776 VALLEJO STREET

Location of Tree: ☒ Front yard ☐ Rear yard ☐ Side yard ☐ Corner-side yard
☐ Public right-of-way ☐ Public lands ☐ Not sure
☐ Other: _____

If the tree which extends beyond multiple properties:

Which part of the tree does so?

☒ Trunk ☒ Canopy

Where in the neighboring area?

☐ Front yard ☒ Rear yard ☐ Side yard ☐ Corner-side yard

GPS units (OPTIONAL): _____

Height ~ 55 feet

Average canopy width ~ 35 feet
Distance from one edge to opposite edge of tree canopy

Circumference at chest level 105 inches
Distance around trunk at 4.5 ft off the ground. <http://www.isa-arbor.com/publications/tree-ord/heritage.aspx>

Circumference at ground level 125 inches
Distance around trunk on the ground where the trunk meets the soil.

Rarity

Rarity: ☒ Rare ☐ Uncommon ☐ Common ☐ Other
Unusual species in San Francisco or other geographic regions.

Comment: A very rare tree from New Zealand.

Physical

Size: ☒ Large ☐ Medium ☐ Small
Notable size compared to other trees of the same species in San Francisco.

Comment: _____

Age: Significantly advanced age for the species.

Comment: _____

Distinguished form: ☒ Yes ☐ No
Tree is an example of good form for its species, has a majestic quality or otherwise unique structure.

Describe: The tree is well-formed and has a majestic quality.

Tree condition: ☒ Good ☐ Poor ☐ Hazard
Consider overall tree health and structure, and whether or not tree poses a hazard

Describe: _____

Historical

Historical Association: ☒ Yes ☐ None apparent
Related to a historic or cultural building, site, street, person, event, etc.

Describe nature of appreciation: The tree frames the Burr House, Landmark #31.
Also on the National Register of Historic Places.

Profiled in a publication or other media: ☒ Yes ☐ Unknown
Tree has received coverage in print, internet, video media, etc. **Attach documentation** if appropriate.
Describe coverage: "The Trees of San Francisco" by Mike Sullivan
pages 118-145. See attached.

Environmental**Prominent landscape feature:** ☒ Yes ☐ No

A striking and outstanding natural feature.

Describe, attach photo if possible: The tree is a striking and outstanding natural feature, particularly next to the Burr House.**Low tree density:** ☒ Low ☒ Moderate ☐ High

Tree exists in a neighborhood with very few trees.

Describe: The tree is only one of two trees taller than 20 feet on the block. The block has mostly apartment buildings up to sidewalk.**Interdependent group of trees:** ☐ Yes ☒ No

This tree is an integral member of a group of trees and removing it may have an adverse impact on adjacent trees.

Describe: _____

Visible or Accessible from public right-of-way: ☒ Yes ☐ No

High visibility and/or accessibility from public property.

Describe: The tree is visible and close to sidewalk.**High traffic area:** ☒ Yes ☐ No

Tree is located in an area that has a high volume of vehicle, pedestrian or bike traffic and has a potential traffic calming effect.

Describe: The tree is 75 feet from the corner of Gough and Vallejo. The tree blocks noise from Gough Street traffic.**Important wildlife habitat:** ☐ Yes ☒ No

Species has a known relationship with a particular local wildlife species or it provides food, shelter, or nesting to specific known wildlife individuals.

Erosion control: ☐ Yes ☒ No

Tree prevents soil erosion.

Describe: _____

Wind or sound barrier: ☒ Yes ☐ No

Tree reduces wind speed or mitigates undesirable noise.

Describe: The tree mitigates noise from Gough Street traffic.

Cultural**Neighborhood appreciation:** ☐ Yes ☒ None apparent

Multiple indicators such as letters of support, petition, outdoor gatherings, celebrations adjacent or related to tree, etc. Attach documentation:

Describe: _____
_____**Cultural appreciation:** ☐ Yes ☒ None apparent

Particular value to certain cultural or ethnic groups in the city.

Describe nature of appreciation: _____
_____**Planting contributes to neighborhood character:** ☒ Yes ☐ No

Tree contributes significantly to, or represents, neighborhood aesthetic.

Describe contribution: _____
_____**Profiled in a publication or other media:** ☒ Yes ☐ UnknownTree has received coverage in print, internet, video media, etc. **Attach documentation** if appropriate.Describe coverage: see attached.
_____**Prominent landscape feature:** ☒ Yes ☐ No

A striking and outstanding natural feature.

Describe, attach photo if possible: _____

Additional comments

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If you have any questions about this form, tree terms or tree concepts, please contact the Urban Forestry Council staff (below). It is acceptable if you cannot provide some of the information requested on this form.

A photograph of the tree must be submitted with this form.

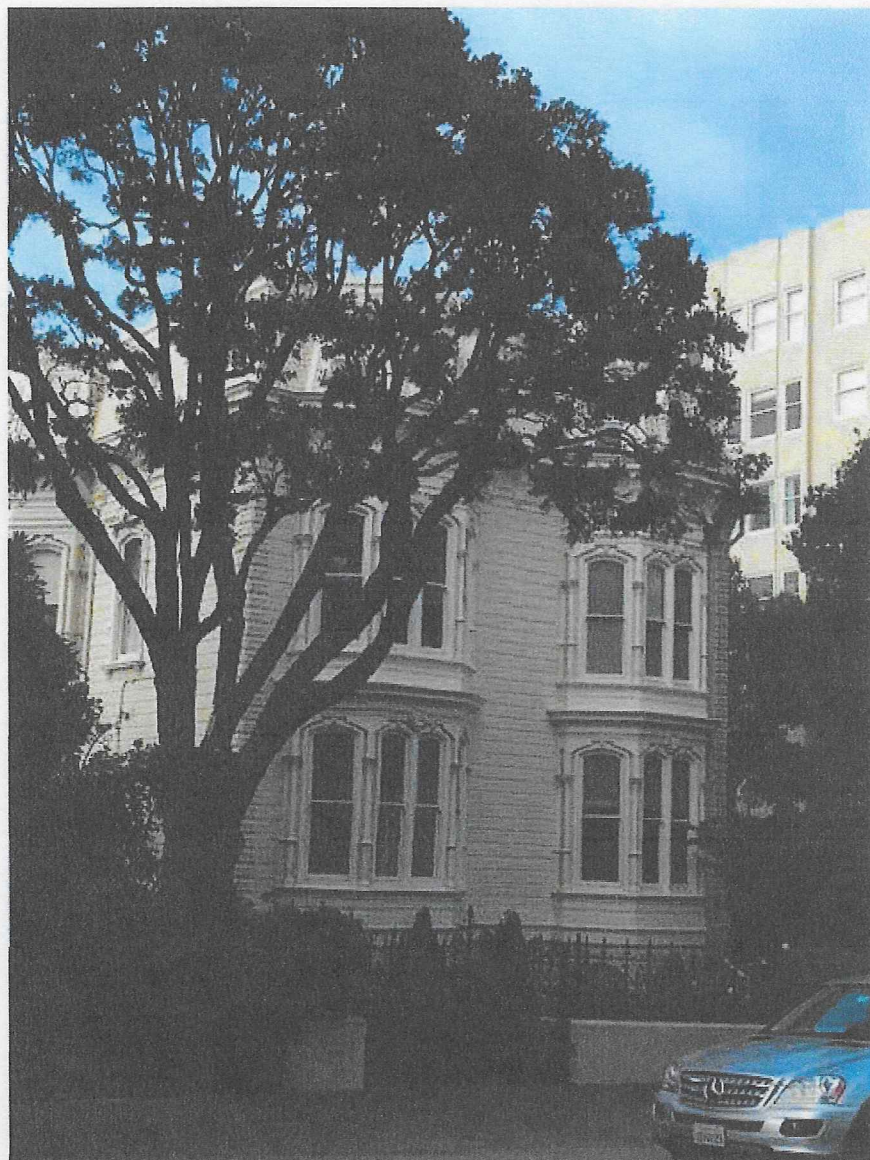
Please attach **optional** supporting documents such as letters, arborist report, etc.

Send to: Urban Forestry Council, c/o Mei Ling Hui, 1455 Market Street, San Francisco, CA 94102
OR meiling.hui@sfgov.org

Any information you submit will be part of the public record.

The Public Records Act defines a "public record" broadly to include "any writing containing information relating to the conduct of the public's business prepared, owned, used or retained by any state or local agency, regardless of the physical form or characteristics." Govt. Code § 6252(e). The Sunshine Ordinance defines "public information" as the content of "public records" as defined in the Public Records Act. Admin Code § 67.20(b). Pursuant to the Public Records Act and Sunshine Ordinance, this document is a public record and will be available to the public upon request, at the hearing site, at the San Francisco Main Library, and on the Urban Forestry Council's website. Admin Code §§ 8.16, 67.7 (b), and 67.21(a).

Application received date _____	Received by _____
Tree evaluation form _____	UFC recommendation date _____
Board of Supervisors Decision _____	
Landmark Tree # _____	Title recorded date _____



✧ TOUR 8: Pacific Heights (continued)

the leaves of this species helped save British Captain James Cook's sailors from scurvy as they were exploring Australia and New Zealand in the late 1700s.)

Follow Vallejo past Laguna Street, where on your right (still on Vallejo) you will see some STRAWBERRY TREES (*Arbutus 'Marina'*). Continue on Vallejo past Gough Street, just to the iron-gated Italianate Victorian home at 1772 Vallejo, where you'll find two very rare trees from New Zealand. To the left of the driveway at this address is a NORTHERN RATA (*Metrosideros robusta*), a close relative of the much more common NEW ZEALAND CHRISTMAS TREE (*Metrosideros excelsa*). In the yard to the right is one of my favorite trees in all of San Francisco—a gorgeous and extremely rare TITOKI TREE (*Alectryon excelsus*). Backtrack to Gough Street, turn left, and walk two blocks; just before Pacific Avenue, on your right, are three stately MEXICAN FAN PALMS (*Washingtonia robusta*). Continue on Gough to Jackson Street, and turn right, passing the German consulate at 1950–1960 Jackson, fronted by more strawberry trees. Continue on Jackson, where you will see on your left the white limestone walls and massive hedge above the Spreckels mansion. Sugar heir Adolph Spreckels built the home in 1913 for his bride, Alma de Bretteville Spreckels, who, with her husband, would donate the Palace of the Legion of Honor to the City of San Francisco in 1924. Alma lived in the Spreckels mansion until 1968, and the current resident is romance novelist Danielle Steele.

Turn left onto a brick-lined block of Octavia Street. This block has a median with two large AVOCADO TREES (*Persea americana*) and a CALIFORNIA BAY (*Umbellularia californica*) in between.

Continue uphill on Octavia until you hit Washington Street, turn right, and then enter Lafayette Park at the first sidewalk access. Follow the southbound path that curves gently to the left. Far to the right, toward Laguna Street and adjacent to a small park building, is one of the city's largest MORETON BAY FIG TREES (*Ficus macrophylla*). As you continue on the path and head downhill toward Sacramento Street, you'll pass, in the lawn to the right of the path, a GIANT DRACAENA (*Cordyline australis*) from New Zealand. Continue on the path and exit the park on Sacramento Street between two CANARY ISLAND DATE PALM TREES (*Phoenix canariensis*). Descend on Octavia Street, passing the St. Francis Xavier Japanese Catholic Church on your right, at 1801 Octavia, until you reach Bush Street, where the tour began.

TOUR 12: Upper Market Staircases (continued)

to the right of the address. To the left, you'll see a **DAWN REDWOOD** (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*) and an **ATLAS CEDAR** (*Cedrus atlantica*). Follow Roosevelt to 17th Street; turn right on 17th Street, and left on Clayton Street until you reach the converted fire station at Carmel Street—where this tour began.

For those who can endure a few more stairs, here is your route: cross Roosevelt and ascend Clifford Terrace, passing a **NEW ZEALAND CHRISTMAS TREE** (*Metrosideros excelsa*) at number 65–67. Turn left on Upper Terrace. At 219 Upper Terrace you will see a good example of “right tree, wrong place.” Here, a giant **COAST REDWOOD** has been topped to keep it at a fraction of the height it wants to be. It may have committed the cardinal San Francisco sin of getting in the way of someone’s view!





After assimilating thoughts of that misfortune, continue just past number 240 and head up a nearly hidden, narrow stairway that leads to the upper section of Upper Terrace. At the top of the stairs, the large, circular raised-concrete mound ahead of you is Mount Olympus. In 1887, seven years before becoming mayor of San Francisco, Adolph Sutro placed his *Triumph of Light* statue, depicting Lady Liberty triumphant over despotism, on the concrete pedestal here. The statue began to crumble as decades passed; it was declared beyond repair by the city’s Arts Commission and removed during the 1950s. Only the pedestal remains.

Stay to the right on Upper Terrace; just past number 353, descend the stairway to 17th Street, enjoying great views of Cole Valley and the Sutro Forest as you go. At the bottom of the stairs, take a right on 17th, and then a left on Clayton Street to return to your starting point at the converted fire station.







Landmark Trees

FOLLOWING is my personal list of the best, most interesting trees in San Francisco, grouped by neighborhood—alphabetically from Bayview to the West Portal. My criteria included tree size (some are exceptionally large and thriving), as well as rarity (some are the only known examples of particular species on San Francisco streets). But many factors make a tree exceptional. So please use this as a starting point for your own lists.


BAYVIEW/HUNTERS POINT

-  *Cryptomeria japonica* (**JAPANESE CRYPTOMERIA**); 1765 Revere Ave./Newhall St.
-  *Juglans regia* (**ENGLISH WALNUT**); 84 Latona St./Thornton Ave.
-  *Schinus terebinthifolius* (**BRAZILIAN PEPPER**); corner of 3rd St. and Yosemite St.
-  *Sophora japonica* (**JAPANESE PAGODA TREE**); 1751 Newhall St./Revere Ave. The only example of this tree in San Francisco (that I’m aware of).

BERNAL HEIGHTS

-  *Afrocarpus gracilior* (**FERN PINE**); 16 Bronte St./Cortland Ave.; 188 Winfield St./Virginia Ave.
-  *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* (**RED RIVER GUM**); 156 Cortland Ave./Winfield St. Severely pruned, but an unusual tree to see in San Francisco.
-  *Eucalyptus nicholii* (**NICHOL’S WILLOW-LEAF PEPPERMINT**); 201 Bonview St./Eugenia Ave.
-  *Eucalyptus sideroxylon* (**RED IRONBARK**); 229 Cortland Ave./Bonview St.; many good examples on Cortland between Bonview and Mission Sts.
-  *Fraxinus ornus* (**FLOWERING ASH**); 500 Cortland Ave./Moultrie St., in front of Bernal Heights Library. One of only a couple of examples of this tree in San Francisco.
-  *Michelia* × *foggii* ‘**Jack Fogg**’ (**MICHELIA**); 518 Ellsworth St./Tompkins Ave.

CASTRO/UPPER MARKET

-  *Acer buergerianum* (**TRIDENT MAPLE**); 992 20th St./Sanchez St., on Sanchez side, in planter area.

Landmark Trees

MISSION (continued)

- *Washingtonia filifera* (CALIFORNIA FAN PALM); Harrison St. between 21st and 22nd Sts., west side of street (several examples).

NOB HILL

- *Hymenosporum flavum* (SWEETSHADE); 1145 Pine St./Leavenworth St.; 1201-1235 Pine St./Leavenworth St. (several examples).

NOE VALLEY

- *Aurantiacarpa rhombifolium* (QUEENSLAND PITTOSPORUM); 1297 Noe St./26th St. (just to the right of the front door, as you face the building). Only example I know of in San Francisco.

- *Calocedrus decurrens* (INCENSE CEDAR); 514-518 Clipper St./Diamond St.

- *Cinnamomum camphora* (CAMPBOR); 3828 Cesar Chavez St./Dolores St.

- *Corymbia maculata* (SPOTTED GUM); downhill from 514-518 Clipper St./Diamond St.

- *Crataegus phaenopyrum* (WASHINGTON HAWTHORN); 247 28th St./Church St.

- *Eucalyptus pulverulenta* (SILVER-LEAVED MOUNTAIN EUCALYPTUS); 525 Jersey St./Diamond St. (the angular-looking tree in the yard just to the left of the front stairs).

- *Hymenosporum flavum* (SWEETSHADE); 1230-1252 Castro St./24th St.

- *Quercus agrifolia* (COAST LIVE OAK); 1514 Sanchez St./28th St.

- *Schinus molle* (CALIFORNIA PEPPER TREE); 322 28th St./Sanchez St.

OMI (OCEANVIEW, MERCED HEIGHTS, INGLESIDE)

- *Acacia melanoxylon* (BLACKWOOD ACACIA); 1 Northwood Dr./Montecito Ave.

- *Araucaria heterophylla* (NORFOLK ISLAND PINE); 98 Lakewood Ave./Fairfield Way.

- *Cedrus atlantica* (ATLAS CEDAR); 431 Yerba Buena Ave./Monterey Blvd. (two trees).

- *Hesperocyparis macrocarpa* (MONTEREY CYPRESS); corner of Cedro Ave. and Mercedes Way.

- *Jubaea chilensis* (CHILEAN WINE PALM); 460 Yerba Buena Ave./Monterey Blvd. A beautiful, mature, but slow-growing tree; uncommon in San Francisco.

PACIFIC HEIGHTS

- *Aesculus × carnea* (RED HORSE CHESTNUT); four trees at 2828 Vallejo St./Broderick St. The red candelabra-like flowers of these trees make a great show when they bloom in April.

- *Alectryon excelsus* (TITOKI TREE); 1772 Vallejo St./Gough St. A spectacular specimen of an extremely rare tree—this is one of my favorite trees in San Francisco.

- *Araucaria bidwillii* (BUNYA-BUNYA TREE); 1818 California St./Franklin St., in side yard.

- *Chamaecyparis lawsoniana* (PORT ORFORD CEDAR); in Alta Plaza Park, across from 2502-2510 Jackson St.

- *Eucalyptus globulus* (BLUE GUM); 1661 Octavia St./Bush St. (several trees). A historical marker in the sidewalk explains that these trees were planted by Mary Ellen Pleasant, often called California's "Mother of Civil Rights"—see page 11 for that story.

- *Metrosideros collina* 'Springfire' (POLYNESIAN METROSIDEROS); 2560 Washington St./Steiner St.; a relative of the more common New Zealand Christmas tree.

- *Metrosideros robusta* (NORTHERN RATA); 1772 Vallejo St./Gough St.

- *Podocarpus macrophyllis* (YEW PINE); directly in front of the Kabuki Theater on Post St./Fillmore St.

- *Quercus ilex* (HOLM OAK, HOLLY OAK); 1646 Lyon St./Pine St.

- *Quillaja saponaria* (SOAPBARK TREE); 2760 Sacramento St./Scott St.; another across the street at 2721 Sacramento St. These two are among my favorite trees in San Francisco.