

To the Redondo Beach City Council and Whom It May Concern,

My name is John Drake, and I'm writing about 1224 Harper Avenue in Redondo Beach the home my brothers and I inherited from our late father, Jack Drake. I understand there's a historical designation being considered for this property, and while I know my own interests are part of this, I also truly believe there are strong reasons why the designation shouldn't apply.

From looking at old Redondo Beach photos over the years, it's pretty clear to me this house no longer looks like the early Redondo homes from that time period. Over the decades, it's been changed so much that it's just not the same house it once was. The original exterior doorways and landing were removed, the siding was replaced with a different style, a smaller house out back was demolished, interior walls were changed, new exterior window frames were added, a fireplace and chimney were removed, and most noticeably a big two-story deck with pillars was added to the front. These changes really took it away from the original turn-of-the-century Redondo style.

The other reason I'm writing is more personal. The money from selling this home was meant by my dad to help give his sons some security in our later years. For my wife and I after years of modest-paying jobs, we'll be relying mostly on Social Security when we retire and we're in our 60's now, so that's coming soon. The sale of this home is our only real financial safety net. It's what we'll use for future medical costs, repairs on our own home and all the unexpected expenses that will come up over the next 20 or 30 years. If this designation stays in place, it'll cut the value of the home and take away a big part of that security.

I'm hoping the City Council will look at the facts and the human side of this decision and see that this property shouldn't be on the historic designation list anymore.

Thank you all for your time and attention on this matter.

Sincerely,  
John Drake