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SECONDARY SUBMISSIONS

November 3, 2020

Melissa Jones
Office of Historic Resources, Department of City Planning
221 N. Figueroa St., Suite 1350
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Email: chc@lacity.org
cc: Vivian@BoyleHeightsCommunityPartners.com
melissa.jones@lacity.org

RE: Support the Historic-Cultural Monument nomination for our Nishiyama Residence/Otomisan Japanese Restaurant

CASE NO.: CHC-2020-6022-HCM
ENV-2020-6023-CE
[https://planning.lacity.org/odocument/368185b9-1378-4d17-a983-139ea3ab9334/CHC-2020-6022-HCM_Nishiyama_Residence_Otomisan_Japanese_Restaurant_\(11-5\).pdf](https://planning.lacity.org/odocument/368185b9-1378-4d17-a983-139ea3ab9334/CHC-2020-6022-HCM_Nishiyama_Residence_Otomisan_Japanese_Restaurant_(11-5).pdf)

Dear Ms. Jones and Members of the Cultural Heritage Commission:

On behalf of Andrea Griego and a group of historians and preservationists, I support the Historic-Cultural Monument nomination for Nishiyama Residence/Otomisan Japanese Restaurant, located at 2504-2508 East First Street in Boyle Heights.

A 1924 building permit identified Ryohei Nishiyama as the owner of the 1.5-story, Queen Anne-style residence at 2508 East First Street, originally built for Mrs. Anna E. Littleboy at the height of Boyle Heights' early development period.

From the mid-1920s through the present day, there has been a Japanese American commercial presence at this property. In 1956, Otemo Sushi Café (now called Otomisan Japanese Restaurant) opened in the easternmost storefront of the commercial building. The building that houses Otomisan is the last Japanese restaurant in Boyle Heights and tells a story of Japanese American entrepreneurship in Los Angeles before and after World War II. The buildings and signage represent multiple layers of historical and cultural significance, including early residential and commercial development of Japanese Americans in Boyle Heights.

I am supporting the nomination of Nishiyama Residence/Otomisan Japanese Restaurant as a Boyle Heights native, an 11-year docent with Las Angelitas del Pueblo sharing the history of El Pueblo de Los Angeles, and my work with several local historical societies in pursuit of preserving the multi-ethnic history of Los Angeles. In Dolores Hayden's seminal 1995 book about representation when it comes to preserving and commemorating public landscapes entitled "The Power of Place: Urban Landscapes as Public History," she cites a 1986 study where all the city of Los Angeles's designated cultural-historic landmarks were counted. Landmarks honoring the history of Anglo Americans was 97.7% and only 2.3% celebrated all others including Native American, African American, Latinx or Asian American history. Places that matter where people of color contributed to the cultural and historical landscape of Los Angeles continue to go largely ignored over 30 years later. With the nomination of Nishiyama Residence/Otomisan Restaurant, the city of Los Angeles can right this wrong and add to the number of cultural-historic landmarks representing the contributions of Japanese Americans in the city of Los Angeles. Not only that, but this site is an excellent example of East First Street Streetcar Commercial Development.

My paternal family has roots in Boyle Heights that date back to 1909. My great-grandparents Francisco and Manuela Cano fled their state of Chihuahua where the Mexican-American War was literally waging in their backyard and moved to Chinatown and later, Gless Street in Boyle Heights. My grandparents married and purchased the only house they ever owned at 3336 E. 2nd Street in 1942. My father, the youngest of six siblings, purchased the home in 1996 and he has never called any other place home.

As a graduate student at California State University, Los Angeles and a Ph.D. candidate in the Anthropology Department at Stanford University from 2006 to 2013, my passion and dedication to learning and preserving the history of Los Angeles flourished. In 2006 when the MTA Gold Line Extension project disturbed over 170 human remains in the parking lot of LA County Crematorium within Evergreen Cemetery, many of Chinese descent, I was motivated to become involved. I joined the MTA Community Planning Committee for the memorial plaque within Evergreen Cemetery and at the corner of 1st and Lorena dedicated on March 7, 2010.

Next, from 2008 to 2010 I worked with the short-lived Maravilla Historical Society to preserve the history of one particular site within the East Los Angeles portion of unincorporated Los Angeles County. In 2012, the State Historical Resources Commission voted to list the Maravilla Handball Court and El Centro Grocery on the CA Register of Historical Resources. This site tells the history of a Japanese American couple who settled in the community of Belvedere, known today as Maravilla, after World War II and took ownership of a beloved handball court built brick-by-brick by the local residents in 1928. Maravilla Handball Court not only represents one of the last remaining handball courts in the state, but it is a place that mattered to the community at the time made up of Mexican, Irish, and Basque people who all shared a love of handball. Again, this was a site that represented the diverse history that has defined Los Angeles since its inception on September 4th, 1781.

I rode the 30 RTD bus line to both Francisco Bravo Medical Magnet High School and East Los Angeles College with my day beginning and ending on 1st Street. As a woman who never drove a day in her life, my grandmother depended on taking the bus and I learned to love taking the bus as early as 4 years old to accompanying her to Resurrection Church for 9am Sunday mass. For her, the bus on 1st Street meant she could go wherever she needed because everything was on 1st Street. And that is the reality I grew up with. Taking the same path of my grandmother is an example of the long and rich cultural history all along 1st Street that defined the development of the community of Boyle Heights and the city of Los Angeles. Today, though E. 1st Street has changed, Nishiyama Residence/Otomisan Restaurant has remained largely unchanged.

I am honored to have assisted Rosalind Sagara to prepare the application for the nomination of the Nishiyama Residence and Otomisan Restaurant. This site was within one of the largest concentration of Japanese Americans residing in Boyle Heights. It is no coincidence it is within walking distance from the Japanese Hospital, Tenrikyo Junior Church, Japanese Baptist Church, and the Rafu Chuo Gakuen Japanese Language School. As far back as I remember, Otomisan Restaurant was the only place in Boyle Heights where you could eat authentic Japanese food.

What I didn't know and what the passing of this nomination would preserve is this site was so much more. It was home to Ryohei and Koto Nishiyama family as early as 1924. Ryohei Nishiyama paid to construct the commercial building after moving the residence to the rear of the lot and it served the Japanese American ever since with a pause when the Nishiyamas and other Japanese Americans were

incarcerated in concentration camp during World War II following the bombing of Pearl Harbor. The commercial building served the Japanese American community with a grocery store, florist shop, and barber shop. In the 1950s, the grocery store was converted into Otemo Sushi Café, known today as Otomisan Restaurant making it one of the continuously-operating Japanese restaurants in Los Angeles.

There are many historic and culturally significant resources in Boyle Heights, yet few have been locally designated. We urge you to take this nomination into consideration at your meeting on November 5, 2020.

Please contact me at (626) 733-2273 or andregriego@yahoo.com if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrea Griego".

Andrea Griego



Planning CHC <chc@lacity.org>

RE : Support for Historic-Cultural Monument Nomination of the Nishiyama Residence/Otomisan Japanese Restaurant

1 message

Bernard Kahiga <bkahiga@gmail.com>
To: chc@lacity.org, melissa.jones@lacity.org
Cc: rsagara@laconservancy.org

Wed, Nov 4, 2020 at 2:03 PM

I would like to support the preservation of the site as a cultural institution.

We need these hubs, we need this history- it ties to the journey and fabric of our past (glorious or painful) and it needs to be remembered. Japanese Americans have suffered greatly through bias and prejudice blanketing innocent people because of Pearl Harbor. They resettled and rebuilt our city. We need to respect them and their culture by preserving their heritage.

Thank you,

Bernard

Cindy Abrams
Little Tokyo Historical Society, Secretary
2446 Moreno Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90039

11/1/2020

Melissa Jones
Office of Historic Resources, Department of City Planning
221 N. Figueroa St., Suite 1350
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Email: chc@lacity.org
cc: Vivian@BoyleHeightsCommunityPartners.com
melissa.jones@lacity.org, littletokyohs.org

RE: Support the Historic-Cultural Monument nomination for our Nishiyama Residence/Otomisan Japanese Restaurant

CASE NO.: CHC-2020-6022-HCM
ENV-2020-6023-CE
[https://planning.lacity.org/odocument/368185b9-1378-4d17-a983-139ea3ab9334/CHC-2020-6022-HCM_Nishiyama_Residence_Otomisan_Japanese_Restaurant_\(11-5\).pdf](https://planning.lacity.org/odocument/368185b9-1378-4d17-a983-139ea3ab9334/CHC-2020-6022-HCM_Nishiyama_Residence_Otomisan_Japanese_Restaurant_(11-5).pdf)

Dear Ms. Jones and Members of the Cultural Heritage Commission:

I married into a family of Japanese Americans who had roots in Boyle Heights during the 1930s and 1940s. They described it as a community of multiple nationalities all living together and sharing each other's cultures, especially their food. Because of this, **I support the Historic-Cultural Monument nomination for Nishiyama Residence/Otomisan Japanese Restaurant, located at 2504-2508 East First Street in Boyle Heights.**

As you know by now, a 1924 building permit identified Ryohei Nishiyama as the owner of the 1.5-story, Queen Anne-style residence at 2508 East First Street, originally built for Mrs. Anna E. Littleboy at the height of Boyle Heights' early development period.

From the mid-1920s through the present day, there has been a Japanese American commercial presence at this property. In 1956, Otemo Sushi Café (now called Otomisan Japanese Restaurant) opened in the easternmost storefront of the commercial building. The building that houses Otomisan is the last Japanese restaurant in Boyle Heights and tells a story of Japanese American entrepreneurship in Los Angeles before and after World War II. The buildings and signage represent multiple layers of historical and cultural significance, including early residential and commercial development of Japanese Americans in Boyle Heights.

There are many historic and culturally significant resources in Boyle Heights, yet few have been locally designated. We urge you to take this nomination into consideration at your meeting on November 5, 2020.

Please contact me at 818-621-1122 or cindyabrams2010@aol.com if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Cindy Abrams
Little Tokyo Historical Society

Charles D. Cummings
Gary A. Kovacic
D. Daniel Pranata
Karyn A. M. Jakubowski
Theresa M. Pranata
Kristen E. Robison

Roger M. Sullivan (1926 - 2016)
Henry K. Workman (1926 - 2020)
John J. Dee (1941 - 2003)

Author's Email Address
ccummings@swdlaw.net



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Pasadena Office (mailing address)

600 N. Rosemead Blvd., Suite 209
Pasadena, California 91107-2154
213.624.5544 | 626.656.8700

San Diego Office

3111 Camino Del Rio North
Suite 400
San Diego, California 92108
800.717.4990

October 30, 2020

Ms. Melissa Jones
Mr. Lambert Giessinger
Cultural Heritage Commissoin
200 N. Spring Street, Room 272
Los Angeles, CA 90012-4801

Re: 2504 - 2508 East First Street, Los Angeles
Historical-Cultural Monument Designation

Dear: Ms. Jones and Mr. Giessinger:

Our law firm represents Arturo Yoshimoto, one of the owners of the real property located at 2504 - 2508 East First Street, Los Angeles (hereinafter the "Property"). Attached hereto are 56 photographs which depict numerous and substantial changes to the buildings located on the Property. These changes include, but are not limited to the following:

1. 28 new and different windows installed;
2. 14 windows are now protected by security bars;
3. 3 new heaters installed;
4. 16 door knobs changed;
5. 22 light fixtures changed;
6. 4 sinks changed;
7. 3 toilets changed;
8. 7 doors changed;
9. 8 metal screen doors added;

October 30, 2020

Page 2

10. 5 rooms had new and different floors installed;
11. 3 stairs added;
12. The outdoor restaurant sign added in the 1980's;
13. The Japanese writing on the front of the restaurant changed in 2007.

The changes to the buildings on the Property were made: to replace dry rot and terminate infested wood; to replace unsafe and/or broken electrical wiring, broken electrical fixtures and broken plumbing fixtures; to provide security and safety to the occupants and tenants of the buildings; to protect the buildings from water intrusion and rodent and vermin infestation; to provide safe floors and stairs for the occupants to walk on without fear of tripping and falling; to provide safe and reliable heating for the occupants of the buildings; to provide safe interior and exterior stairs and porches for the occupants of the buildings; to provide better lighting to the occupants of the buildings; to modernize the toilets, sinks and showers in the buildings to make them safer and more convenient for the occupants of the buildings.

All of the changes to the buildings on the Property were reasonable and necessary to maintain the buildings and to make them functional in the twenty-first century. The new windows, doors, security screen doors, and security bars on the windows do not preserve the cultural and historical character of the buildings, but they make these buildings safer and more secure for the current and future occupants of these buildings. The owners of the Property are good and responsible landlords. Do not punish them for maintaining the old buildings on the Property in good condition and repair by designating the Property an Historical-Cultural Monument.

The Cultural-Heritage Commission cannot turn back the clock on these buildings and pretend that they are in the pristine condition they were in when they were first new. The buildings on the Property are old, but that does not make them culturally or historically significant. There is nothing about this Property that is of any particular significance. It is not identified with any important event of national, state or local history or the social history of our nation, California, Los Angeles or any community. The Property is not associated with the lives of any historical personages. The buildings on the Property do not have distinctive characteristics; nor, do they represent a notable work of any master designer, builder or architect. The Property is without any significant architectural, cultural or historical significance.

October 30, 2020

Page 3

For the reasons set forth above, Arturo Yoshimoto respectfully requests that the Property should not be designated an Historical-Cultural Monument. Please provide a copy of this letter and the attached photographs to each member of the Historical Heritage Commission.

Very truly yours,



Charles D. Cummings
SULLIVAN, WORKMAN & DEE, LLP

CDC/CDC

Enclosures

cc: Arturo Yoshimoto (with enclosures)

NISHIYAMA RESIDENCE/OTOMISAN RESTAURANT; 2504-2508 E 1ST STREET.
CHC-2020-6022-HCM;ENV-2020-6023-CR;CD-14



Security bars installed

PICTURE 1

Pictures taken by Arturo Yoshimoto

NISHIYAMA RESIDENCE/OTOMISAN RESTAURANT; 2504-2508 E 1ST STREET.
CHC-2020-6022-HCM;ENV-2020-6023-CR;CD-14



New awning was installed in 2017

PICTURE 2

Pictures taken by Arturo Yoshimoto



Changed Locks and door.

PICTURE 3

Pictures taken by Arturo Yoshimoto



Changed of Bathroom sink 2008

Added Bathroom Window

PICTURE 4

Pictures taken by Arturo Yoshimoto



Changed toilet and flooring in 2008

PICTURE 5

Pictures taken by Arturo Yoshimoto



Changed Light fixtures in the kitchen

PICTURE 6

Pictures taken by Arturo Yoshimoto



Changed light fixture in bathroom and window

PICTURE 7

Pictures taken by Arturo Yoshimoto



Changed bathroom window

PICTURE 8

Pictures taken by Arturo Yoshimoto



Change light fixture and Added cooler system

PICTURE 9

Pictures taken by Arturo Yoshimoto

**NISHIYAMA RESIDENCE/OTOMISAN RESTAURANT; 2504-2508 E 1ST STREET.
CHC-2020-6022-HCM;ENV-2020-6023-CR;CD-14**



Changed light fixture in storage area of restaurant

PICTURE 10

Pictures taken by Arturo Yoshimoto



Changed plumbing and new water heater

PICTURE 11

Pictures taken by Arturo Yoshimoto

**NISHIYAMA RESIDENCE/OTOMISAN RESTAURANT; 2504-2508 E 1ST STREET.
CHC-2020-6022-HCM;ENV-2020-6023-CR;CD-14**



Windows Changed in 2006

PICTURE 12

Pictures taken by Arturo Yoshimoto



Door changed and electrical work in 2006

PICTURE 13

Pictures taken by Arturo Yoshimoto

**NISHIYAMA RESIDENCE/OTOMISAN RESTAURANT; 2504-2508 E 1ST STREET.
CHC-2020-6022-HCM;ENV-2020-6023-CR;CD-14**



Installation of Door screen in 2007 and installation of light fixtures in 2006

PICTURE 14

Pictures taken by Arturo Yoshimoto

**NISHIYAMA RESIDENCE/OTOMISAN RESTAURANT; 2504-2508 E 1ST STREET.
CHC-2020-6022-HCM;ENV-2020-6023-CR;CD-14**



Upgraded Kitchen

PICTURE 15

Pictures taken by Arturo Yoshimoto

**NISHIYAMA RESIDENCE/OTOMISAN RESTAURANT; 2504-2508 E 1ST STREET.
CHC-2020-6022-HCM;ENV-2020-6023-CR;CD-14**



Changed 5 windows to vinyl windows in 2020

Changed 1 window to Aluminum window

PICTURE 16

Pictures taken by Arturo Yoshimoto

**NISHIYAMA RESIDENCE/OTOMISAN RESTAURANT; 2504-2508 E 1ST STREET.
CHC-2020-6022-HCM;ENV-2020-6023-CR;CD-14**



Changed 5 windows to Vinyl frame windows.

Changed 2 windows to Aluminum Frame window

Added security windows in 2020 to prevent falling from 2nd floor

PICTURE 17

Pictures taken by Arturo Yoshimoto

**NISHIYAMA RESIDENCE/OTOMISAN RESTAURANT; 2504-2508 E 1ST STREET.
CHC-2020-6022-HCM;ENV-2020-6023-CR;CD-14**



Changed 3 windows to Vinyl frame window

Changed 2 windows to Aluminum frame window

Added extra space for a laundry room by previous owner

PICTURE 18

Pictures taken by Arturo Yoshimoto

**NISHIYAMA RESIDENCE/OTOMISAN RESTAURANT; 2504-2508 E 1ST STREET.
CHC-2020-6022-HCM;ENV-2020-6023-CR;CD-14**



Changed 6 windows to Vinyl frame windows in 2020

Added Security metal window bars

PICTURE 19

Pictures taken by Arturo Yoshimoto

**NISHIYAMA RESIDENCE/OTOMISAN RESTAURANT; 2504-2508 E 1ST STREET.
CHC-2020-6022-HCM;ENV-2020-6023-CR;CD-14**



Changed 2 windows to vinyl frame windows in 2020

Added Security metal window bars

PICTURE 20

Pictures taken by Arturo Yoshimoto

**NISHIYAMA RESIDENCE/OTOMISAN RESTAURANT; 2504-2508 E 1ST STREET.
CHC-2020-6022-HCM;ENV-2020-6023-CR;CD-14**



Changed 3 windows to Vinyl Frame windows

PICTURE 21

Pictures taken by Arturo Yoshimoto



Changed Door Lock

PICTURE 22

Pictures taken by Arturo Yoshimoto



Changed of Wood in Porch area

PICTURE 23

Pictures taken by Arturo Yoshimoto



Added Metal door to main entrance

PICTURE 24

Pictures taken by Arturo Yoshimoto

**NISHIYAMA RESIDENCE/OTOMISAN RESTAURANT; 2504-2508 E 1ST STREET.
CHC-2020-6022-HCM;ENV-2020-6023-CR;CD-14**



Changed handrail in 2020 to minimize fall hazard

PICTURE 25

Pictures taken by Arturo Yoshimoto

**NISHIYAMA RESIDENCE/OTOMISAN RESTAURANT; 2504-2508 E 1ST STREET.
CHC-2020-6022-HCM;ENV-2020-6023-CR;CD-14**



Changed of porch rails to minimize fall hazard

PICTURE 26

Pictures taken by Arturo Yoshimoto



Changed to new wood floor in 2019

PICTURE 27

Pictures taken by Arturo Yoshimoto



Change of Door and doorknobs

PICTURE 28

Pictures taken by Arturo Yoshimoto



Changed of doorknobs

PICTURE 29

Pictures taken by Arturo Yoshimoto



Change of Doorknob

PICTURE 30

Pictures taken by Arturo Yoshimoto



Changed of doorknob

PICTURE 31

Pictures taken by Arturo Yoshimoto



Changed of Bathroom flooring,
Changed Shower
Changed Sink

PICTURE 32

Pictures taken by Arturo Yoshimoto

**NISHIYAMA RESIDENCE/OTOMISAN RESTAURANT; 2504-2508 E 1ST STREET.
CHC-2020-6022-HCM;ENV-2020-6023-CR;CD-14**



Changed of Doorknob

PICTURE 33

Pictures taken by Arturo Yoshimoto



Changed of Doorknob

PICTURE 34

Pictures taken by Arturo Yoshimoto



Changed of doorknob

PICTURE 35

Pictures taken by Arturo Yoshimoto



Changed to New Outside door and
Installation of New Metal Door

PICTURE 36

Pictures taken by Arturo Yoshimoto



Installation of New Metal Door and
Changed Door Knobs

PICTURE 37

Pictures taken by Arturo Yoshimoto



Installation of New Metal Door and
Changed Door Knobs

PICTURE 38

Pictures taken by Arturo Yoshimoto



Installation of New Metal Door and
Changed Door Knobs

PICTURE 39

Pictures taken by Arturo Yoshimoto



Installation of New Metal Door and
Changed Door Knobs

PICTURE 40

Pictures taken by Arturo Yoshimoto

**NISHIYAMA RESIDENCE/OTOMISAN RESTAURANT; 2504-2508 E 1ST STREET.
CHC-2020-6022-HCM;ENV-2020-6023-CR;CD-14**



Changed of electrical

Changed of Light Fixture

PICTURE 41

Pictures taken by Arturo Yoshimoto



Changed and moved sink area to adjacent area.

Changed of electrical light fixture

PICTURE 42

Pictures taken by Arturo Yoshimoto



Changed Light Fixture in kitchen

PICTURE 43

Pictures taken by Arturo Yoshimoto



Added light fixture

PICTURE 44

Pictures taken by Arturo Yoshimoto



Changed of light Fixture

PICTURE 45

Pictures taken by Arturo Yoshimoto



Changed of Flooring on 2nd Floor in 2019

PICTURE 46

Pictures taken by Arturo Yoshimoto



Changed of flooring in staircase in 2017

PICTURE 47

Pictures taken by Arturo Yoshimoto



Changed of flooring in staircase in 2017

PICTURE 48

Pictures taken by Arturo Yoshimoto



Addition of stairs to laundry room

Addition of metal handrail

PICTURE 49

Pictures taken by Arturo Yoshimoto



Changed light fixture

PICTURE 50

Pictures taken by Arturo Yoshimoto



Changed wall heater in 2006

PICTURE 51

Pictures taken by Arturo Yoshimoto



Changed wall heater in 2006

PICTURE 52

Pictures taken by Arturo Yoshimoto



Added new electrical circuit for light fixture in 2006

PICTURE 53

Pictures taken by Arturo Yoshimoto



Added light circuit

Added smoke detector circuit

PICTURE 54

Pictures taken by Arturo Yoshimoto



Changed light Fixture

Added Bathroom exhaust system

PICTURE 55

Pictures taken by Arturo Yoshimoto



Changed light Fixture

PICTURE 56

Pictures taken by Arturo Yoshimoto



Planning CHC <chc@lacity.org>

2504 - 2508 East First Street, Los Angeles - Arturo Yoshimoto1 message

Charles Cummings <CCummings@swdlaw.net>

Fri, Oct 30, 2020 at 1:56 PM

To: "chc@lacity.org" <chc@lacity.org>

Cc: "arturo ayrealtor.com" <arturo@ayrealtor.com>, Melissa Jones <melissa.jones@lacity.org>, "lambert.giessinger@lacity.org" <lambert.giessinger@lacity.org>

Ms. Jones and Mr. Giessinger, attached hereto are a letter to the Cultural Heritage Commission and 56 photographs of the buildings on the properties at 2504 - 2508 East First Street. Please make sure that each member of the Cultural Heritage Commission has copies of this letter and the attached photos. Thank you for your assistance and cooperation.

Charlie

Charles D. Cummings, Esq.

Sullivan, Workman & Dee, LLP

[600 N. Rosemead Blvd., Suite 209](#)[Pasadena, CA 91107](#)

Telephone: (213) 624-5544; (626) 656-8700

Facsimile: (213) 627-7128

ccummings@swdlaw.netwww.eminentdomainprofessionals.com**From:** Melissa Jones <melissa.jones@lacity.org>**Sent:** Friday, October 30, 2020 11:01 AM**To:** Charles Cummings <CCummings@SWDLAW.NET>**Cc:** lambert.giessinger@lacity.org; arturo ayrealtor.com <arturo@ayrealtor.com>**Subject:** Re: Historical Application

Hi Charlie,

Thank you for your e-mail. You can e-mail any correspondence to our Commission Office at chc@lacity.org and copy me and Lambert. I will be sending out an e-mail with information on participating in the meeting next week and will copy you. You and/or Mr. Yoshimoto are welcome to present, which can include a PowerPoint presentation, for up to 10 minutes at the hearing. If you want to present a PowerPoint, we are requesting that they be submitted by 5pm today.

Thank you.

Best regards,

Melissa



Melissa Jones

City Planning Associate

Office of Historic Resources, Los Angeles City Planning

221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 1350

Los Angeles, CA 90012

Planning4LA.org

T: (213) 847-3679



On Fri, Oct 30, 2020 at 10:35 AM Charles Cummings <CCummings@swdlaw.net> wrote:

Melissa and Lambert, I represent Arturo Yoshimoto, one of the owners of the real property located at [2504-2508 East First Street, Los Angeles, California](#). Mr. Yoshimoto opposes the designation of this property as an Historical Cultural Monument. May I submit a letter together with photographs in opposition to this designation by email to each of you. Thank you for your courtesy and cooperation.

Charlie

Charles D. Cummings, Esq.

Sullivan, Workman & Dee, LLP

[600 N. Rosemead Blvd., Suite 209](#)

[Pasadena, CA 91107](#)

Telephone: (213) 624-5544; (626) 656-8700

Facsimile: (213) 627-7128

ccummings@swdlaw.net

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2 attachments



Yoshimoto Let LACHC 2504 2508 East First St.pdf
131K



Photos and Explanations 10 30 2020.pdf
12617K



Planning CHC <chc@lacity.org>

Support for Nishiyama/Otomisan, CASE NO. CHC-2020-6022-HCM2 messages

Cindy Olnick <cindy@cindyolnick.com>

Tue, Nov 3, 2020 at 2:45 PM

To: chc@lacity.org

Cc: "Vivian@boyleheightscommunitypartners.com" <Vivian@boyleheightscommunitypartners.com>, melissa.jones@lacity.org

November 3, 2020

Melissa Jones

Office of Historic Resources, Department of City Planning

[221 N. Figueroa St., Suite 1350](#)[Los Angeles, CA 90012](#)

Email: chc@lacity.org

cc: Vivian@BoyleHeightsCommunityPartners.com, melissa.jones@lacity.org

RE: Support HCM nomination for Nishiyama Residence/Otomisan Japanese Restaurant

CASE NO.: CHC-2020-6022-HCM, ENV-2020-6023-CE

Dear Ms. Jones and Members of the Cultural Heritage Commission:

I strongly support the Historic-Cultural Monument nomination for the Nishiyama Residence / Otomisan Japanese Restaurant, located at 2504-2508 East First Street in Boyle Heights.

The neighborhood of Boyle Heights is as a particularly strong example of our city's vast multiculturalism and layered history. This building has maintained a Japanese American commercial presence since the 1920s. Otemo Sushi Café opened in the building in 1956. Now called Otomisan, it is the last Japanese restaurant in Boyle Heights.

Otomisan tells the authentic, often overlooked story of Japanese American entrepreneurship in Los Angeles before and after World War II. The buildings and signage represent multiple layers of historical and cultural significance, including early residential and commercial development by Japanese Americans in Boyle Heights.

Despite its wealth of cultural resources, Boyle Heights has few designated HCMs. Please help correct this oversight by taking this nomination into consideration at your meeting on November 5, 2020.

Many thanks for your time, and please contact me (cindy@cindyolnick.com) if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Cindy Olnick

Cindy Olnick

Heritage communications

cindyolnick.com

323.363.2133



Otomisan- olnick.pdf

38K

Melissa Jones <melissa.jones@lacity.org>

To: Planning CHC <chc@lacity.org>

Wed, Nov 4, 2020 at 7:53 AM



LOS ANGELES
CITY PLANNING

Melissa Jones

City Planning Associate

Office of Historic Resources, Los Angeles City Planning

221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 1350

Los Angeles, CA 90012

Planning4LA.org

T: (213) 847-3679



----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Cindy Olnick** <cindy@cindyolnick.com>

Date: Tue, Nov 3, 2020 at 2:47 PM

Subject: Fwd: Support for Nishiyama/Otomisan, CASE NO. CHC-2020-6022-HCM

To: <melissa.jones@lacity.org>

Cindy Olnick

Heritage communications

cindyolnick.com

323.363.2133

Begin forwarded message:

[Quoted text hidden]

Cindy Olnick

Heritage communications

cindyolnick.com

323.363.2133



Otomisan- olnick.pdf

38K

Cindy Olnick Communications

1048 Olancha Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90065 cindyolnick.com cindy@cindyolnick.com (323) 363-2133

November 3, 2020

Melissa Jones

Office of Historic Resources, Department of City Planning

221 N. Figueroa St., Suite 1350

Los Angeles, CA 90012

Email: chc@lacity.org

cc: Vivian@BoyleHeightsCommunityPartners.com, melissa.jones@lacity.org

RE: Support HCM nomination for Nishiyama Residence/Otomisan Japanese Restaurant

CASE NO.: CHC-2020-6022-HCM, ENV-2020-6023-CE

Dear Ms. Jones and Members of the Cultural Heritage Commission:

I strongly support the Historic-Cultural Monument nomination for the Nishiyama Residence / Otomisan Japanese Restaurant, located at 2504-2508 East First Street in Boyle Heights.

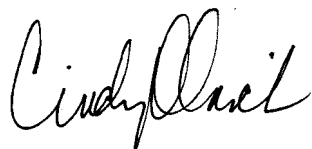
The neighborhood of Boyle Heights is as a particularly strong example of our city's vast multiculturalism and layered history. This building has maintained a Japanese American commercial presence since the 1920s. Otemo Sushi Café opened in the building in 1956. Now called Otomisan, it is the last Japanese restaurant in Boyle Heights.

Otomisan tells the authentic, often overlooked story of Japanese American entrepreneurship in Los Angeles before and after World War II. The buildings and signage represent multiple layers of historical and cultural significance, including early residential and commercial development by Japanese Americans in Boyle Heights.

Despite its wealth of cultural resources, Boyle Heights has few designated HCMs. Please help correct this oversight by taking this nomination into consideration at your meeting on November 5, 2020.

Many thanks for your time, and please contact me (cindy@cindyolnick.com) if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Cindy Olnick Communications

1048 Olancha Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90065 cindyolnick.com cindy@cindyolnick.com (323) 363-2133

November 3, 2020

Melissa Jones

Office of Historic Resources, Department of City Planning

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Email: chc@lacity.org

cc: Vivian@BoyleHeightsCommunityPartners.com, melissa.jones@lacity.org

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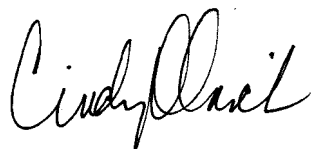
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Despite its wealth of cultural resources, Boyle Heights has few designated HCMs. Please help correct this oversight by taking this nomination into consideration at your meeting on November 5, 2020.

Many thanks for your time, and please contact me (cindy@cindyolnick.com) if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



November 2, 2020

Melissa Jones
Office of Historic Resources, Department of City Planning
221 N. Figueroa St., Suite 1350
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Email: chc@lacity.org
cc: Vivian@BoyleHeightsCommunityPartners.com
melissa.jones@lacity.org

RE: Support the Historic-Cultural Monument nomination for our Nishiyama Residence/Otomisan Japanese Restaurant

CASE NO.: CHC-2020-6022-HCM
ENV-2020-6023-CE
[https://planning.lacity.org/odocument/368185b9-1378-4d17-a983-139ea3ab9334/CHC-2020-6022-HCM_Nishiyama_Residence_Otomisan_Japanese_Restaurant_\(11-5\).pdf](https://planning.lacity.org/odocument/368185b9-1378-4d17-a983-139ea3ab9334/CHC-2020-6022-HCM_Nishiyama_Residence_Otomisan_Japanese_Restaurant_(11-5).pdf)

Dear Ms. Jones and Members of the Cultural Heritage Commission:

On behalf of the James Rojas and a group of historians and preservationists, I support the Historic-Cultural Monument nomination for Nishiyama Residence/Otomisan Japanese Restaurant, located at 2504-2508 East First Street in Boyle Heights.

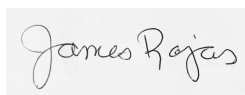
A 1924 building permit identified Ryohei Nishiyama as the owner of the 1.5-story, Queen Anne-style residence at 2508 East First Street, originally built for Mrs. Anna E. Littleboy at the height of Boyle Heights' early development period.

From the mid-1920s through the present day, there has been a Japanese American commercial presence at this property. In 1956, Otemo Sushi Café (now called Otomisan Japanese Restaurant) opened in the easternmost storefront of the commercial building. The building that houses Otomisan is the last Japanese restaurant in Boyle Heights and tells a story of Japanese American entrepreneurship in Los Angeles before and after World War II. The buildings and signage represent multiple layers of historical and cultural significance, including early residential and commercial development of Japanese Americans in Boyle Heights.

Born in Boyle Heights I respect it's diverse history There are many historic and culturally significant resources in Boyle Heights, yet few have been locally designated. We urge you to take this nomination into consideration at your meeting on November 5, 2020.

Please contact me at 626 437-4446 or jamestrojas@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Sincerely,





Board of Directors

Jamie Tijerina
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November 2, 2020

Melissa Jones
Office of Historic Resources, Department of City Planning
221 N. Figueroa St., Suite 1350
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Email: chc@lacity.org
cc: Vivian@BoyleHeightsCommunityPartners.com
melissa.jones@lacity.org

RE: Support the Historic-Cultural Monument nomination for our Nishiyama Residence/Otomisan Japanese Restaurant

CASE NO.: CHC-2020-6022-HCM
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Dear Ms. Jones and Members of the Cultural Heritage Commission:

The Highland Park Heritage Trust supports the Historic-Cultural Monument nomination for Nishiyama Residence/Otomisan Japanese Restaurant, located at 2504-2508 East First Street in Boyle Heights.

A 1924 building permit identified Ryohei Nishiyama as the owner of the 1.5-story, Queen Anne-style residence at 2508 East First Street, originally built for Mrs. Anna E. Littleboy at the height of Boyle Heights' early development period.

From the mid-1920s through the present day, there has been a Japanese American commercial presence at this property. In 1956, Otemo Sushi Café (now called Otomisan Japanese Restaurant) opened in the easternmost storefront of the commercial building. The building that houses Otomisan is the last Japanese restaurant in Boyle Heights and tells a story of Japanese American entrepreneurship in Los Angeles before and after World War II. The buildings and signage represent multiple layers of historical and cultural significance, including early residential and commercial development of Japanese Americans in Boyle Heights.

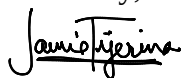
The Highland Park Heritage Trust is a 38-year old non-profit organization whose mission it is to preserve the heritage of Los Angeles' Arroyo Seco communities through education, advocacy and preservation projects for the benefit of present and future generations.

This nomination is in line with our mission, highlighting the historic diversity of Boyle Heights and the Eastside, and ensuring that it can be appreciated for generations to come. Additionally, the building located at 2504-2508 East First Street is not facing demolition – the proactive nature of this nomination demonstrates how important it is to the community to preserve this special place.

Finally, there are many historic and culturally significant resources in Boyle Heights, yet few have been locally designated. We hope that this nomination will be the first of many more in the neighborhood. Boyle Heights is such an important place in Los Angeles, known for its diversity and rich cultural history. There are many significant buildings that are recognized informally by the community, but formal recognition by the City of Los Angeles sends an important message that the city itself understands and cares about the value of this community's history.

We urge you to take this nomination into consideration at your meeting on November 5, 2020. Please contact me at jamie.hpht@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jamie Tijerina". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jamie Tijerina

President, Highland Park Heritage Trust

HIGHLAND PARK HERITAGE TRUST

P.O. Box 50894, LOS ANGELES, CA 90050-0894
(323) 908-4127 • www.hpht.org • info@hpht.org

November 3, 2020

City of Los Angeles Cultural Heritage Commission
200 North Spring St., Room 272
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Support for Historic Cultural Monument Nomination of the Nishiyama
Residence/Otomisan Japanese Restaurant CHC_2020-6022-HCM

Dear Cultural Heritage Commissioners,

On behalf of the Japanese American National Museum (JANM), I am writing in support of a City of Los Angeles Historic Cultural Monument (HCM) designation for the Nishiyama Residence/Otomisan Japanese Restaurant.

JANM's dedication to preserving and sharing the Japanese American experience is analogous to the efforts to designate the Nishiyama Residence/Otomisan Japanese Restaurant as a historic cultural monument.

The Japanese-operated businesses that operated at 2504-2508 East First Street, from 1925 to the present, broadly symbolize the vitality of the historically diverse and largely immigrant neighborhood of Boyle Heights, while also representing the Japanese American presence in the neighborhood. It is remarkable that on this one block in Boyle Heights, the Nishiyama Residence/Otomisan Japanese restaurant building and the Japanese Hospital remain extant and represent the brave acts of Japanese immigrants to challenge *dejure* and *defacto* discrimination that barred landownership. Together, these two sites stand as social justice monuments at a time when Japanese Angelenos' opportunities were severely restricted. Additionally, they demonstrate how Japanese immigrants looked inward within their community for support to develop businesses, service organizations, and social institutions to navigate deeply entrenched discrimination.

An HCM designation for the Nishiyama Residence/Otomisan Japanese Restaurant would increase the number of historic buildings and sites that help to tell the Japanese American experience in Los Angeles and underscore the economic and multicultural contributions that Japanese immigrants and subsequent generations have made in the city. I hope that you will support the proposed HCM nomination.

Sincerely,



Kristen Hayashi, Ph.D.
Curator and Director of Collections
Japanese American National Museum

Neighborhood Music School



358 South Boyle Avenue Los Angeles, CA 90033-3813 (323) 268-0762

www.neighborhoodmusic.org

November 2, 2020

Melissa Jones
Office of Historic Resources, Department of City Planning
221 N. Figueroa St., Suite 1350
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Email: chc@lacity.org
cc: Vivian@BoyleHeightsCommunityPartners.com
melissa.jones@lacity.org

RE: Support the Historic-Cultural Monument nomination for our Nishiyama Residence/Otomisan Japanese Restaurant

CASE NO.: CHC-2020-6022-HCM
ENV-2020-6023-CE
[https://planning.lacity.org/odocument/368185b9-1378-4d17-a983-139ea3ab9334/CHC-2020-6022-HCM_Nishiyama_Residence_Otomisan_Japanese_Restaurant_\(11-5\).pdf](https://planning.lacity.org/odocument/368185b9-1378-4d17-a983-139ea3ab9334/CHC-2020-6022-HCM_Nishiyama_Residence_Otomisan_Japanese_Restaurant_(11-5).pdf)

Dear Ms. Jones and Members of the Cultural Heritage Commission:

On behalf of the Neighborhood Music School and a group of historians and preservationists, we support the Historic-Cultural Monument nomination for Nishiyama Residence/Otomisan Japanese Restaurant, located at 2504-2508 East First Street in Boyle Heights.

A 1924 building permit identified Ryohei Nishiyama as the owner of the 1.5-story, Queen Anne-style residence at 2508 East First Street, originally built for Mrs. Anna E. Littleboy at the height of Boyle Heights' early development period.

From the mid-1920s through the present day, there has been a Japanese American commercial presence at this property. In 1956, Otemo Sushi Café (now called Otomisan Japanese Restaurant) opened in the easternmost storefront of the commercial building. The building that houses Otomisan is the last Japanese restaurant in Boyle Heights and tells a story of Japanese American entrepreneurship in Los Angeles before and after World War II. The buildings and signage represent multiple layers of historical and cultural significance, including early residential and commercial development of Japanese Americans in Boyle Heights.

There are many historic and culturally significant resources in Boyle Heights, yet few have been locally designated. We urge you to take this nomination into consideration at your meeting on November 5, 2020.

Please contact me at [insert phone] or [insert email] if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Karen Louis
Executive Director
karen@neighborhoodmusic.org

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Karen Louis



November 3, 2020

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Office of Historic Resources, Department of City Planning
221 N. Figueroa St., Suite 1350
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Email: chc@lacity.org
cc: Vivian@BoyleHeightsCommunityPartners.com
melissa.jones@lacity.org

RE: Support the Historic-Cultural Monument nomination for our Nishiyama Residence/Otomisan Japanese Restaurant

CASE NO.: CHC-2020-6022-HCM, ENV-2020-6023-CE

Dear Ms. Jones and Members of the Cultural Heritage Commission:

On behalf of the Little Tokyo Historical Society (LTHS) and a group of historians and preservationists, we support the Historic-Cultural Monument nomination for Nishiyama Residence/Otomisan Japanese Restaurant, located at 2504-2508 East First Street in Boyle Heights.

A 1924 building permit identified Ryohei Nishiyama as the owner of the 1.5-story, Queen Anne-style residence at 2508 East First Street, originally built for Mrs. Anna E. Littleboy at the height of Boyle Heights' early development period.

From the mid-1920s through the present day, there has been a Japanese American commercial presence at this property. In 1956, Otemo Sushi Café (now called Otomisan Japanese Restaurant) opened in the easternmost storefront of the commercial building. The building that houses Otomisan is the last Japanese restaurant in Boyle Heights and tells a story of Japanese American entrepreneurship in Los Angeles before and after World War II. The buildings and signage represent multiple layers of historical and cultural significance, including early residential and commercial development of Japanese Americans in Boyle Heights.

LTHS has over the years partnered with organizations in Boyle Heights such as the Boyle Heights Historical Society, Boyle Heights Community Partners, and Boyle Heights Neighborhood Council. Together, we are able to increase awareness of the very old Japanese American community in Boyle Heights. LTHS focuses on researching and discovering the historical resources, stories and connections of sites, buildings, and events related to Little Tokyo as an ethnic heritage neighborhood of Los Angeles, and is committed to documenting, preserving and sharing the history and personal stories of Little Tokyo and its residents.

There are many historic and culturally significant resources in Boyle Heights yet few have been locally designated. We urge you to take this nomination into consideration at your meeting on November 5.

Please contact me at littletokyohs@gmail.com should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael G. Okamura'.

Michael G. Okamura
President

November 2, 2020

Melissa Jones

Office of Historic Resources, Department of City Planning

221 N. Figueroa St., Suite 1350

Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Ms. Jones and Members of the Cultural Heritage Commission:

This letter is to express my support for the Historic-Cultural Monument nomination of the Nishiyama Residence/Otomisan Japanese Restaurant located at 2504-2508 East First Street in the Boyle Heights neighborhood of Los Angeles. This property is significant for its association with early Japanese American settlement patterns in Boyle Heights and for its association with commercial development along the East First Street streetcar line in the 1920s.

In 1925, Ryohei Nishiyama, my great grandfather, moved the residence to the rear of the lot and constructed a one-story commercial building facing East First Street. By doing so, he created economic mobility for Japanese and Japanese Americans in Los Angeles during a time when their opportunities were restricted due to land ownership, housing, and job discrimination.

My mother, Linda Nishiyama, has fond memories of being raised in the Martha Sindell Residence from 1950-1968 after my grandparents were released from internment. She recalls that the multicultural neighborhood was warm and friendly. The streets were filled with the sounds of different music, aromas of cooking, and laughter emanating from Japanese, Latino, and African American homes.

Perhaps as a result of internment, my great grandparents and grandparents made it a point to instill Japanese culture into my mother and her siblings by having them learn the language, Japanese classical dance, judo, and karate in addition to participating in the annual Nisei Week Festival in Little Tokyo and Japanese prefectural picnics. My mother instilled those same values into my brother and me by having us participate in cultural lessons and activities as well.

As the last remaining Japanese restaurant in the neighborhood and one of the oldest continuously-operating Japanese restaurants in Los Angeles, the Otomisan Japanese Restaurant represents multiple layers of historic and cultural significance. In the 1950s and 60s, business was booming at the restaurant, former flower shop, and barbershop. All of the tenants' children helped out with the businesses whether

they liked it or not, but this helped build family and community ties. Today, the interior of the restaurant remains mostly unchanged, serving as a site to share memories and experiences of the past.

I strongly request that the Commission support this nomination. The Nishiyama Residence/Otomisan Japanese Restaurant represents a significant aspect of not only Japanese and Japanese American settlement patterns, but also of my own family history. As a fourth generation Japanese American, I hope to one day share the significance of this landmark and its associated family memories with my own family and future generations to come. A Historic-Cultural Monument nomination would mean so much to my family and to the Los Angeles Japanese American community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nana" followed by a stylized flourish.

Nana Kaneko



Planning CHC <chc@lacity.org>

HCM Letter of Support for Nisiyama Residence Otomisan Restaurant Boyle Heights

2 messages

Paul Spitzzeri <p.spitzzeri@homesteadmuseum.org>

Tue, Nov 3, 2020 at 4:56 PM

To: "chc@lacity.org" <chc@lacity.org>

Cc: "melissa.jones@lacity.org" <melissa.jones@lacity.org>, "Vivian Escalante Boyle Heights Community Partners (vivian@boyleheightscommunitypartners.com)" <vivian@boyleheightscommunitypartners.com>

Hello,

Please see the attached letter of support for HCM status for the Nisiyama Residence and Otomisan Restaurant in Boyle Heights.

Sincerely,

Paul R. Spitzzeri

Museum Director

Workman and Temple Family Homestead Museum

[15415 East Don Julian Road](#)[City of Industry, California 91745-1029](#)

Phone: (626) 968-8492

**Letter of Support for HCM Status Nisiyama Residence Otomisan Restaurant Boyle Heights.docx**

16K

Vivian Escalante Boyle Heights Community Partners

<vivian@boyleheightscommunitypartners.com>

Wed, Nov 4, 2020 at 10:16

To: Paul Spitzzeri <p.spitzzeri@homesteadmuseum.org>

AM

Cc: chc@lacity.org, CHC Melissa Jones <melissa.jones@lacity.org>

Thank you Paul.

Sincerely,

Vivian Escalante,

Founder, President/CEO

<http://www.BoyleHeightsCommunityPartners.com>, a California Nonprofit Mutual Benefit Corporation

#4164647

formally CTDR Committee To Defend Roosevelt

Unity with strength for History, Community and Historic Preservation

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4103 W. Adams Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90018
323.648.8548
tax ID/EIN: 95-4845105

November 3, 2020

Melissa Jones
Office of Historic Resources, Department of City Planning
221 N. Figueroa St., Suite 1350
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Support the Historic-Cultural Monument nomination for our Nishiyama Residence/Otomisan Japanese Restaurant

CASE NO.: CHC-2020-6022-HCM

ENV-2020-6023-CE

[https://planning.lacity.org/odocument/368185b9-1378-4d17-a983-139ea3ab9334/CHC-2020-6022-HCM_Nishiyama_Residence_Otomisan_Japanese_Restaurant_\(11-5\).pdf](https://planning.lacity.org/odocument/368185b9-1378-4d17-a983-139ea3ab9334/CHC-2020-6022-HCM_Nishiyama_Residence_Otomisan_Japanese_Restaurant_(11-5).pdf)

Dear Ms. Jones and Members of the Cultural Heritage Commission:

I'm writing to offer support for the Historic-Cultural Monument nomination for Nishiyama Residence/Otomisan Japanese Restaurant, located at 2504-2508 East First Street in Boyle Heights.

A 1924 building permit identified Ryohei Nishiyama as the owner of the 1.5-story, Queen Anne-style residence at 2508 East First Street, originally built for Mrs. Anna E. Littleboy at the height of Boyle Heights' early development period.

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As the CEO and Founder of Youth Mentoring Connection, my organization serves youth in traditional neighborhoods and we value the importance of preserving neighborhood integrity and shrinking the persistent diversity deficit in community landmarks.

There are many historic and culturally significant resources in Boyle Heights, yet few have been locally designated. I urge you to take this nomination into consideration at your meeting on November 5, 2020.

sincerely,

Tony Lore
CEO/Founder, Youth Mentoring Connection

DAY OF HEARING SUBMISSIONS



Planning CHC <chc@lacity.org>

Fwd: Support for Historic-Cultural Monument Nomination of Nishiyama Residence/Otomisan Japanese Restaurant (CHC-2020-6022-HCM)

1 message

Melissa Jones <melissa.jones@lacity.org>
To: Planning CHC <chc@lacity.org>

Thu, Nov 5, 2020 at 8:30 AM

LOS ANGELES
CITY PLANNING**Melissa Jones**

City Planning Associate

Office of Historic Resources, Los Angeles City Planning

221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 1350

Los Angeles, CA 90012

Planning4LA.org

T: (213) 847-3679



----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Aimee Munton** <akmunton@gmail.com>

Date: Thu, Nov 5, 2020 at 8:23 AM

Subject: Support for Historic-Cultural Monument Nomination of Nishiyama Residence/Otomisan Japanese Restaurant (CHC-2020-6022-HCM)

To: <melissa.jones@lacity.org>

Cc: <rsagara@laconservancy.org>

Dear Melissa,

I am writing this email in support of the Historic-Cultural Monument Nomination of Nishiyama Residence/Otomisan Japanese Restaurant (CHC-2020-6022-HCM). This building helps tell the story of so many immigrants in Los Angeles and celebrates the history of diversity and acceptance in Boyle Heights.

Thank you,
Aimee Munton



Planning CHC <chc@lacity.org>

Fwd: Support for Historic-Cultural Monument Nomination of the Nishiyama Residence/Otomisan Japanese Restaurant (CHC-2020-6022-HCM)

1 message

Melissa Jones <melissa.jones@lacity.org>
To: Planning CHC <chc@lacity.org>

Thu, Nov 5, 2020 at 7:42 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Carol Cheh** <carol.c.cheh@gmail.com>

Date: Wed, Nov 4, 2020, 9:22 PM

Subject: RE: Support for Historic-Cultural Monument Nomination of the Nishiyama Residence/Otomisan Japanese Restaurant (CHC-2020-6022-HCM)

To: <melissa.jones@lacity.org>

Cc: <rsagara@laconservancy.org>

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express my strong support for designating the Otomisan building as a historic-cultural monument.

For four years, I worked at the Japanese American National Museum as their Communications Writer. One of my duties was writing for their weekly blog, through which I learned a ton about Japanese American history. I am happy to say that the very last blog post I wrote for them was about a staff visit to Otomisan. This blog post is a strong statement in itself as to why the building should be a historic cultural monument. Below, I provide a link to the post, plus a brief excerpt.

<https://blog.janm.org/2018/03/01/a-visit-to-otomisan-the-last-japanese-restaurant-in-boyle-heights/>

"When our entrees came, we all marveled at how good the food was and how home-cooked it tasted. It felt like we were hanging out in our grandmother's kitchen—the most nourishing of places. A steady flow of people came in and out of the place while we were there, some looking like they were regulars. The clientele was diverse: Mexican, Japanese, Caucasian.

"When asked if she had any news for our readers, Watanabe thought of her impending hire of a second cook, which is indeed significant given the restaurant's long history of operating with just one. Perhaps the real news here, however, is simply that Otomisan still stands, serving comforting and authentic Japanese diner food to a diverse clientele much as it always has, even as the world around it continues to change."

Thank you for your consideration.

Carol Cheh
Leimert Park, Los Angeles, CA

Virus-free. www.avg.com



Planning CHC <chc@lacity.org>

RE: Support for Historic-Cultural Monument Nomination of the Nishiyama Residence/Otomisan Japanese Restaurant (CHC-2020-6022-HCM)

1 message

Carol Cheh <carol.c.cheh@gmail.com>

Wed, Nov 4, 2020 at 9:18 PM

To: chc@lacity.org

Cc: rsagara@laconservancy.org

Dear Commissioner,

I am writing to express my strong support for designating the Otomisan building as a historic-cultural monument.

For four years, I worked at the Japanese American National Museum as their Communications Writer. One of my duties was writing for their weekly blog, through which I learned a ton about Japanese American history. I am happy to say that the very last blog post I wrote for them was about a staff visit to Otomisan. This blog post is a strong statement in itself as to why the building should be a historic cultural monument. Below, I provide a link to the post, plus a brief excerpt.

<https://blog.janm.org/2018/03/01/a-visit-to-otomisan-the-last-japanese-restaurant-in-boyle-heights/>

"When our entrees came, we all marveled at how good the food was and how home-cooked it tasted. It felt like we were hanging out in our grandmother's kitchen—the most nourishing of places. A steady flow of people came in and out of the place while we were there, some looking like they were regulars. The clientele was diverse: Mexican, Japanese, Caucasian.

"When asked if she had any news for our readers, Watanabe thought of her impending hire of a second cook, which is indeed significant given the restaurant's long history of operating with just one. Perhaps the real news here, however, is simply that Otomisan still stands, serving comforting and authentic Japanese diner food to a diverse clientele much as it always has, even as the world around it continues to change."

Thank you for your consideration.

Carol Cheh

Virus-free. www.avg.com



Planning CHC <chc@lacity.org>

Support for Historic-Cultural Monument Nomination of the Nishiyama Residence/Otomisan Japanese Restaurant (CHC-2020-6022-HCM)

1 message

Carmel Ni <carmeljni@gmail.com>

Wed, Nov 4, 2020 at 10:23 PM

To: chc@lacity.org, melissa.jones@lacity.org

Cc: rsagara@laconservancy.org

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in support of nominating the Nishiyama Residence/Otomisan Japanese Restaurant to be recognized as a Historic-Cultural Monument.

Los Angeles has been losing its cultural identity at a devastating rate and this trend is exacerbated during the Covid-19 pandemic with restaurants (many operated by immigrants) struggling to survive during this unprecedented time. Boyle Heights is a quintessentially historic neighborhood in Los Angeles and stands to tell the story of the struggles and successes of the many immigrants who have made Los Angeles home and whose legacies make up the pivotal roots of Los Angeles' varied cultures.

The Nishiyama Residence/Otomisan Japanese Restaurant as it survives today is an important window into our past and stands witness to how our City has grown, shifted, and adapted to the ever changing climate of politics, housing, and demographics. In this fast-paced, social media based culinary journey of yelp "searchdom" Otomisan Restaurant stands out as a bulwark, steadily serving up the same homestyle Japanese cooking since it opened its doors in 1956. You do not dine-in for a fast meal rather, in contrast, you sit down for a carefully prepared meal in a completely unique and intimately curated setting.

As Angelenos we need to save and protect these institutions. Their existence, which many we take for granted, have quietly but persistently made our City what it is today. It's our time to recognize their contribution.

I hope you take my nomination into consideration.

Thank you for your time.

Much appreciated,
Carmel Ni

--

Carmel Ni



Planning CHC <chc@lacity.org>

RE: Support for Historic-Cultural Monument Nomination of Nishiyama Residence/Otomisan Japanese Restaurant (CHC-2020-6022-HCM)

1 message

Elizabeth Lim <lizlim613@gmail.com>

Wed, Nov 4, 2020 at 10:39 PM

To: chc@lacity.org, melissa.jones@lacity.org

Cc: rsagara@laconservancy.org

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of the nomination of the Nishiyama Residence/Otomisan as a historic-cultural monument. I believe it is important to preserve historic buildings that have shaped LA as the beautiful and culturally diverse city that it is today. Especially, when gentrification has been seeming to take over historic areas of LA, I beg you to help keep another part of LA's history from being erased and forgotten. Please help preserve this building and maintain a rare view into LA's past.

Thank you,
Elizabeth Lim



Planning CHC <chc@lacity.org>

RE: Support for Historic-Cultural Monument Nomination of the Nishiyama Residence/Otomisan Japanese Restaurant (CHC-2020-6022-HCM)

1 message

Ed. Shorer <eshorer@gmail.com>

Wed, Nov 4, 2020 at 6:41 PM

To: chc@lacity.org, melissa.jones@lacity.org, rsagara@laconservancy.org

To Whom It May Concern:

As a native of Boyle Heights, born in 1951, I am happy to add my support to the Historic-Cultural Monument Nomination of the Nishiyama Residence/Otomisan Japanese Restaurant (CHC-2020-6022-HCM). Growing up on Chicago Street just north of Brooklyn Avenue, I still recall fondly my visit to my neighbors across the street, the Kubo's, and my introduction to the fascinating culture of Japan. Kubo Obaa-san always wore her kimono, and ate with chopsticks. It was there that I first took a stab at eating food with them. Literally.

I'm sure such contact had an effect on my majoring in Japanese and English Intercultural Studies in college, which took me to Japan where I taught for six years.

There is so little left of Japanese culture in Boyle Heights, save for the grave markers in the Evergreen Cemetery, and perhaps an old-age home. Giving the Nishiyama Residence/Otomisan a "protective" status would go a long way toward reminding those who pass by of the profound Japanese contributions to our side of town. As a retired East L.A. middle school teacher I always made a point to include such history when appropriate, especially in lessons regarding the internment that took place in Arcadia, so very nearby.

I hope this will help with your decision.

Sincerely,

Edward E. Shorer

Montecito Heights



Planning CHC <chc@lacity.org>

RE: Support for Historic-Cultural Monument Nomination of the Nishiyama Residence/Otomisan Japanese Restaurant (CHC-2020-6022-HCM)

1 message

Erica Silverman <ericas521@yahoo.com>

Wed, Nov 4, 2020 at 6:31 PM

Reply-To: Erica Silverman <ericas521@yahoo.com>

To: "melissa.jones@lacity.org" <melissa.jones@lacity.org>, "chc@lacity.org" <chc@lacity.org>

Cc: "rsagara@laconservancy.org" <rsagara@laconservancy.org>

I'm writing to support the nomination of the Nishiyama Residence/Otomisan Japanese Restaurant (CHC-2020-6022-HCM) as a Historic-Cultural monument. Boyle Heights is a neighborhood with a history rich in diversity before diversity was a valued concept. The Japanese community has roots in Boyle Height and was a vital part of that diversity. This property, dating back to the 1890s, along with the restaurant, in operation since the 1950 should stand as a monument to a history that deserves to be preserved. When I worked in the neighborhood, I ate at Otomisan and along with the food, I appreciated the feeling of old Boyle Heights.

Thank you.

Erica Silverman



Planning CHC <chc@lacity.org>

RE: Support for Historic-Cultural Monument Nomination of the Nishiyama Residence/Otomisan Japanese Restaurant (CHC-2020-6022-HCM)

1 message

Heath Row <kalel@well.com>

Wed, Nov 4, 2020 at 8:39 PM

To: chc@lacity.org, melissa.jones@lacity.org

Cc: rsagara@laconservancy.org

I would like to voice my strong support for the Historic-Cultural Monument nomination of the Nishiyama Residence/Otomisan Japanese Restaurant.

Not only does the property represent the self-sufficiency and productivity of a Japanese-American family in Los Angeles, it represents success despite land ownership and housing restrictions, as well as job discrimination.

The property's Queen Anne style residential architecture and neighboring commercial building have value -- symbolic and actual -- worth preserving to help tell the stories of our city and its history.

Please give every due consideration to the nomination.

Sincerely,
Heath Row
Culver City

--

ONE BIG EVERYWHERE

Sign up for my occasional email newsletter, Media Diet: <http://tinyurl.com/joinmediadiet>



Planning CHC <chc@lacity.org>

Nishiyama Residence/Otomisan Restaurant

1 message

jay falconer <jayfalconer@live.com>
To: "chc@lacity.org" <chc@lacity.org>

Wed, Nov 4, 2020 at 7:10 PM

I am asking you to please consider making the Nishiyama Residence/Otomisan Restaurant a cultural heritage site. As a Japanese American from Los Angeles, this would preserve a vital piece of cultural history for the community and my family.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jay Falconer

Sent from my iPhone



Planning CHC <chc@lacity.org>

RE: Support for Historic-Cultural Monument Nomination of the Nishiyama Residence/Otomisan Japanese Restaurant (CHC-2020-6022-HCM)

1 message

jean hines <jeankhines@gmail.com>

Thu, Nov 5, 2020 at 7:38 AM

To: chc@lacity.org, rsagara@laconservancy.org, melissa.jones@lacity.org

Dear Historic-Cultural Monument Committee

I understand that the Nishiyama Residence/Otomisan Japanese Restaurant is being considered for preservation as a historic cultural monument. Please add my endorsement for its recognition and preservation.

This structure has been in existence from the nineteenth century and is significant for its association with Japanese American settlement and commercial development, transforming from a grocery store to a barbershop and florist shop and finally a restaurant. It's status as one of the oldest continuously operating Japanese businesses from 1890 to its eventual incarnation as a restaurant makes it a significant cultural entity worthy of preservation. It would be tragic if such a culturally significant monument to the Japanese in America were allowed to disappear. I hope you will seriously consider its preservation.

Sincerely,

Jean Hines



Planning CHC <chc@lacity.org>

Support for Historic-Cultural Monument Nomination of the Nishiyama Residence/Otomisan Japanese Restaurant (CHC-2020-6022-HCM)

1 message

Janette Lee <JanetteLee123@hotmail.com>

Wed, Nov 4, 2020 at 11:10 PM

To: "melissa.jones@lacity.org" <melissa.jones@lacity.org>, "chc@lacity.org" <chc@lacity.org>

Cc: "rsagara@laconservancy.org" <rsagara@laconservancy.org>

Good evening to whomever it may concern,

I am writing this e-mail in support of nominating the Nishiyama Residence/Otomisan Restaurant as a Historic Cultural Monument. I believe this site holds value and is of historic and cultural significance. By designating this property as a historical site, it would give recognition to the Asian American businesses that have existed in Los Angeles for decades. This business also exhibits what can happen when multiple cultures meet, and represents the beauty of the American Dream and the cultures that merge together as a result. I hope you take this into consideration, and nominate this property.

Thank you,
Janette



Support for Historic-Cultural Monument Nomination of the Nishiyama Residence/Otomisan Japanese Restaurant (CHC-2020-6022-HCM)

1 message

Jay Ross <ross_jay@hotmail.com>

Thu, Nov 5, 2020 at 6:29 AM

To: "chc@lacity.org" <chc@lacity.org>, "melissa.jones@lacity.org" <melissa.jones@lacity.org>

To the City:

I support the LA Conservancy's opinion that the Nishiyama Residence/ Otomisan Restaurant merit protection as a historic cultural monument, per below.

Jay Ross

Los Angeles 90064



Developed over a period of thirty years beginning in 1890 through the 1920s, the property which includes a Queen Anne style residence and a commercial building, is significant for its association with early Japanese American settlement in Boyle Heights and for its association with commercial development along the East First Street streetcar line.

The commercial building was initially home to a Japanese-operated grocery store and later included a Japanese-operated florist shop and barbershop. Since 1956,

the easternmost storefront has housed a Japanese restaurant, first Otemo Sushi Café, and then **Otomisan Japanese Restaurant**.

Otomisan is the last remaining Japanese restaurant in the neighborhood and believed to be one of the oldest continuously operating Japanese restaurants in Los Angeles.



Planning CHC <chc@lacity.org>

RE: Support for Historic-Cultural Monument Nomination of the Nishiyama Residence/Otomisan Japanese Restaurant (CHC-2020-6022-HCM)

1 message

Jackie Yaeger <jackie@crustzine.com>
To: chc@lacity.org, melissa.jones@lacity.org
Cc: rsagara@laconservancy.org

Wed, Nov 4, 2020 at 9:25 PM

Hello,

I would like to extend my support for nominating the Nishiyama Residence/Otomisan Japanese Restaurant as a Historic-Cultural Monument.

There are so many Angelinos who aren't aware of the true history of Los Angeles. Preserving establishments like this one allows for pieces of this city's true history to remain both for educational purposes, and to support legacy, tradition, and diversity (one of my favorite things about LA) in the face of gentrification and time. Time allows us to forget, but you have the power to change that.

Please do your part in supporting the Japanese contribution to the city of Los Angeles, and the resilience and strength of the Boyle Heights community, by recognizing this building as an important monument.

Thank you,
Jackie



Via Email

November 4, 2020

Los Angeles Cultural Heritage Commission

Dear Commissioners:

My name is Jean-Paul R. Contreras deGuzman and I write to urge you designate the Nishiyama Residence/Otomisan Japanese Restaurant as a Historic-Cultural Monument.

As a scholar of both Asian American Studies and the history of Los Angeles, a public historian who helped found the Tuna Canyon Detention Station Coalition, a former adviser to the SurveyLA Asian American Advisory Committee (Office of Historic Resources), and a life-long citizen of Los Angeles, I resolutely believe in the importance of preserving that historic space. Japanese Americans have left an indelible imprint on LA history going back to the Gilded Age. Despite the ravages of war, hysteria, and segregation the community has persisted. Due to a variety of factors, however, much of the built environment that bursted with stories of Japanese American survival, community-building, and resilience have been lost over time. Nowhere is that more acute than in Boyle Heights, once the home to a vibrant multiethnic community comprised of Mexican Americans, Eastern European Jews, and Japanese Americans. The Nishiyama Residence/Otomisan Japanese Restaurant stands as a proud vestige of a community that has dispersed across the Southland. What is so significant about this space is not just its storied past as a commercial and cultural hub but its current status as the last remaining Japanese restaurant in the neighborhood. This is truly a living and breathing institution that deserves official recognition.

Our nation is at a crossroads where we are reckoning with a tortured history of racial inequality. Los Angeles is at the forefront of imagining a more equitable, inclusive society and part of that process includes remembering the past. Your commission can advance that bold vision through recognizing the truly unique space that is the Nishiyama Residence/Otomisan Japanese Restaurant.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jean-Paul R. Contreras deGuzman, Ph.D.

jeanpaul.deguzman@ucla.edu

Lecturer

Department of Asian American Studies & Interracial Dynamics Cluster
University of California, Los Angeles

Founding Member

Tuna Canyon Detention Station Coalition

Former Member

SurveyLA Asian American Advisory Committee,
Office of Historic Resource
City of Los Angeles



Planning CHC <chc@lacity.org>

RE: Support for Historic-Cultural Monument Nomination of the Nishiyama Residence/Otomisan Japanese Restaurant (CHC-2020-6022-HCM)

2 messages

Kim Fay <slendermeans@yahoo.com>

Wed, Nov 4, 2020 at 6:48 PM

Reply-To: Kim Fay <slendermeans@yahoo.com>

To: "chc@lacity.org" <chc@lacity.org>, "melissa.jones@lacity.org" <melissa.jones@lacity.org>

Cc: "rsagara@laconservancy.org" <rsagara@laconservancy.org>

Dear Cultural Heritage Commission,

I am writing to respectfully ask you to support Historic-Cultural Monument Nomination of the Nishiyama Residence/Otomisan Japanese restaurant. The diverse history of Boyle Heights cannot be written without including the legacy of its Japanese inhabitants. So little of that legacy remains in the form of historic buildings. To support this nomination would mean more than simply supporting the preservation of a building. It would recognize the contributions made by the Japanese community to Boyle Heights' rich past.

Thank you so much for taking the time to consider this nomination.

With warm regards,
Kim Fay

Kim Fay

The Map of Lost Memories (Edgar Award Finalist for Best First Novel)

Communion: A Culinary Journey Through Vietnam

www.kimfay.nettwitter.com/kimkfay

Ryan Hawkins <ryan@ryanhawkins.com>

Wed, Nov 4, 2020 at 7:09 PM

To: chc@lacity.org, melissa.jones@lacity.org

Cc: rsagara@laconservancy.org

Otomisan is an incredible gem and one of the last remnants of the Japanese community in Boyle Heights.

Not only does the building itself serve as a lesson in history, the restaurant also provides a window into history where most people would not likely be aware that some many Japanese residents, restaurants and business used to occupy the area. Just like the many immigrant communities that came before and with them, Otomisan stands nearly alone in preserving that history and the stories of the people who once built their lives in the community.

Please protect Otomisan and the Nishiyama Residence to preserve them for future generations to enjoy and learn from.

-Ryan Hawkins

Sent from my iPhone □



Planning CHC <chc@lacity.org>

Nishiyama Residence/Otomisan Japanese Restaurant

1 message

Kenna McRae <kennamcrae@me.com>
To: melissa.jones@lacity.org, chc@lacity.org
Cc: rsagara@laconservancy.org

Thu, Nov 5, 2020 at 12:09 PM

Please save this treasured place!



Planning CHC <chc@lacity.org>

Support for Historic-Cultural Monument Nomination of the Nishiyama Residence/Otomisan Japanese Restaurant (CHC-2020-6022-HCM)

1 message

Liz Hawkins <elizabethmartinez@mac.com>
To: chc@lacity.org, melissa.jones@lacity.org
Cc: rsagara@laconservancy.org

Wed, Nov 4, 2020 at 9:09 PM

To Whom It May Concern:

Sometimes home doesn't look like the one you live in or the place you grew up. Home can be a feeling, a place with history and filled with special people. That's how I feel about Otomisan. It brings back the nostalgia of the small restaurants I used to go to when I lived in rural Japan. At the same time, it's in the same L.A., I grew up in, near the tortilleria I would go to with my Mexican grandma. Then I met Judy and her mother, Ya-Ya and they felt so familiar. They felt like my own family.

Ya-Ya and Judy do more than preserve a place with history, they preserve a space for culture and community - the entire community and the many rich cultures that live and have lived in Boyle Heights. It's a place where both Japanese culture and food is respected and devoured and where Latino history and neighborhood lore is shared freely. I truly have never felt more at home than I am when I'm sitting at the counter, holding a cup of Ocha, scanning the paper and talking with Judy and Ya-Ya about life.

Otomisan and the Nishiyama residence is a part of Los Angeles history that needs to be preserved for future generations. People need to know why Japanese families settled in Boyle Heights and they need to know that this place and the Nishiyama residence are still standing and are a part of the beautiful quilt of our city's history and our future. I urge you to protect the Nishiyama residence and Otomisan, my second home.

Sincerely,

- Liz Hawkins
Orange, CA



Planning CHC <chc@lacity.org>

Nishiyama Residence/Otomisan Japanese Restaurant

1 message

ljonsson <ljonsson@earthlink.net>
To: chc@lacity.org, melissa.jones@lacity.org
Cc: rsagara@laconservancy.org

Thu, Nov 5, 2020 at 7:35 AM

Hello:

I support the nomination of the Nishiyama Residence/Otomisan Japanese Restaurant as a Historical Cultural Monument.

Thank you for your consideration.

Lorraine Jonsson



Planning CHC <chc@lacity.org>

RE: Support for Historic-Cultural Monument Nomination of the Nishiyama Residence/Otomisan Japanese Restaurant (CHC-2020-6022-HCM)

1 message

Maya Kambe <kammay122@gmail.com>
To: chc@lacity.org, melissa.jones@lacity.org
Cc: rsagara@laconservancy.prg

Thu, Nov 5, 2020 at 11:13 AM

To Whom It May Concern,

I am reaching out today to voice my support for the Historic-Cultural Monument Nomination of the Nishiyama Residence/Otomisan Restaurant. As a Japanese native who has called Los Angeles home since I was 4 years old, Japanese comfort food is a must for me. In a city filled with aggressively trendy and overpriced Japanese eateries, Otomisan is a mainstay that celebrates its uniquely Angeleno roots while maintaining the charm and comfortability of a family business. Yayoi-san always greets me in Japanese, making me feel like I've been transported to a family diner in Japan. A truly special place that caters to diverse clientele, Otomi-san remains as one of the only places left in Boyle Heights that acknowledges the Japanese American history of the area.

I hope this letter helps voice the community's support for this beloved and distinctly Angeleno institution.

Best,
Maya Kambe



Planning CHC <chc@lacity.org>

Fwd: Support for Historic-Cultural Monument Nomination of the Nishiyama Residence/Otomisan Japanese Restaurant (CHC-2020-6022-HCM)

1 message

Melissa Jones <melissa.jones@lacity.org>
To: Planning CHC <chc@lacity.org>

Wed, Nov 4, 2020 at 7:45 PM

LOS ANGELES
CITY PLANNING**Melissa Jones**

City Planning Associate

Office of Historic Resources, Los Angeles City Planning

221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 1350

Los Angeles, CA 90012

Planning4LA.org

T: (213) 847-3679



----- Forwarded message -----

From: **MARLA KOOSSED** <mkoosed@me.com>

Date: Wed, Nov 4, 2020 at 6:29 PM

Subject: Support for Historic-Cultural Monument Nomination of the Nishiyama Residence/Otomisan Japanese Restaurant (CHC-2020-6022-HCM)

To: <melissa.jones@lacity.org>

Cc: <rsagara@laconservancy.org>

Good evening Ms. Jones,

I am in full support of the nomination to support the Nishiyama Residence/Otomisan Japanese Restaurant as a Historic Cultural Monument.

Thank you for your consideration,

Marla Koosed



Planning CHC <chc@lacity.org>

RE: Support for Historic-Cultural Monument Nomination of the Nishiyama Residence/Otomisan Japanese Restaurant (CHC-2020-6022-HCM)

1 message

Prisca Gloor <priscagloor@gmail.com>
To: melissa.jones@lacity.org, chc@lacity.org
Cc: rsagara@laconservancy.org

Wed, Nov 4, 2020 at 7:16 PM

Hello,

Please nominate the beautiful Nishiyama Residence/Otomisan Japanese restaurant as a historic-cultural monument! It is very important for all of us and it is very special as one of the oldest continuously operating Japanese restaurants in Los Angeles.

Thank you very much,

Prisca Gloor



Planning CHC <chc@lacity.org>

RE: Support for Historic-Cultural Monument Nomination of the Nishiyama Residence/Otomisan Japanese Restaurant (CHC-2020-6022-HCM)

1 message

Renee Windman <tvparty@sbcglobal.net>
To: chc@lacity.org, melissa.jones@lacity.org
Cc: rsagara@laconservancy.org

Wed, Nov 4, 2020 at 7:50 PM

Cultural Heritage Commission,

I am writing to you in my support of the Historic Monument Cultural Nomination for the Nishiyama Residence / Otomisan Japanese Restaurant located in Boyle Heights. This property signifies the early Japanese American settlement in Boyle Heights (beginning in the 1890's) and Otomisan is the last remaining Japanese restaurant in the neighborhood.

It is of utmost importance to preserve the history of Japanese Americans in Los Angeles, and this property deserves recognition with the nomination as a Historic Cultural Monument.

Thank You,
Renee Windman



Planning CHC <chc@lacity.org>

RE: Support for Historic-Cultural Monument Nomination of the Nishiyama Residence/Otomisan Japanese Restaurant (CHC-2020-6022-HCM)

1 message

Sarah Kissell <sarah@puremagenta.com>
To: chc@lacity.org, melissa.jones@lacity.org
Cc: rsagara@laconservatory.org

Wed, Nov 4, 2020 at 6:13 PM

Dear Melissa, Rosalind and all of those at the city:

Please kindly accept this letter in support of Otomisan Restaurant as a registered Historic-Cultural Monument in Los Angeles.

Otomisan is a place of character, warmth (and great food!)—it embodies LA's unique Japanese cultural community and culinary history that has transcended the city's many evolutions. On top of that, the staff (Yayoi and family) are the kindest people and deserve to be recognized for their commitment towards continuing the restaurant's legacy. There is nowhere else in the city *quite* like Otomisan.

Please do not hesitate to call me if you have any questions 612-202-6091

All the best,
Sarah Kissell



Planning CHC <chc@lacity.org>

RE: Support for Historic-Cultural Monument Nomination of the Nishiyama Residence/ Otomisan Japanese Restaurant (CHC-2020-6022-HCM)

1 message

Nava, Susana <SusanaNava@mednet.ucla.edu>

Wed, Nov 4, 2020 at 7:38 PM

To: "chc@lacity.org" <chc@lacity.org>, "melissa.jones@lacity.org" <melissa.jones@lacity.org>

Cc: "rsagara@laconservancy.org" <rsagara@laconservancy.org>

I am writing this letter in SUPPORT of the nomination of OTOMISAN Restaurant in Boyle Heights as a Historic –Cultural Monument. As a Boyle Heights Resident I know the significance of this location to the Japanese Community here! We must preserve the history and cultural heritage of Japanese Americans in Los Angeles.

Thank You!

Susana Nava

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A non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation

Founded July 4, 1943

Society Headquarters:
Andres Pico Adobe
Established 1834
10940 Sepulveda Blvd.
Mission Hills, CA 91346-7039
818-365-7810

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 7043
Mission Hills, CA 91346-7039
Web site: www.sfohs.com
Email: sfohs@verizon.net

San Fernando
Pioneer Memorial Cemetery
Established 1874
14451 Bledsoe St.
Sylmar, CA 91342
818-365-7810

September 16, 2020

Melissa Jones
Attention: Commissioner Richard Barrons
Office of Historic Resources, Los Angeles City Planning
221 N. Figueroa Street, Suite 1350
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Ms. Jones and Commissioner Barrons:

The San Fernando Valley Historical Society would like to support the nomination
Of the Hatterschied Residence located at 14535 Killion Street, Sherman Oaks, CA
CHC-2020-4788-HCM

The Board of Directors of the San Fernando Valley Historical Society feels this home
Represents an important part of Van Nuys history. Mr. Hatterschied was a very
Prominent banker and contributed much to the development of the City of
Van Nuys. Please consider our request.

Very truly yours

Ron Van Deest
President

San Fernando Valley Historical Society
Board of Directors



Planning CHC <chc@lacity.org>

Nishimaya Residence and Otomisan Restaurant

2 messages

Toby Horn <thorn626@gmail.com>

Wed, Nov 4, 2020 at 9:57 PM

To: melissa.jones@lacity.org, chc@lacity.org

Please designate the referenced residence and restaurant as Historic Cultural Monuments. The heritage that these locations represent may be among the last vestiges of an irreplaceable and very successful multi cultural era in (East) Los Angeles that represents an ideal of how a city can function.

Thr Otomisan Restaurant, too, is beloved by employees of theLosOis Angeles

TMH

Toby Horn <thorn626@gmail.com>

Wed, Nov 4, 2020 at 10:26 PM

To: melissa.jones@lacity.org, chc@lacity.org

Please designate the referenced residence and restaurant as Historic Cultural Monuments. The heritage that these locations represent may be among the last vestiges of an irreplaceable and very successful multi cultural era in (East) Los Angeles that represents an ideal of how a city can function.

The Otomisan Restaurant, too, is beloved by employees of the Los Angeles County+USC Medical Center - almost 10,000 strong know of, eat there and support this institution. From one historic institution to another, please designate the Nishimaya Residence amd Otomisan Restaurant as an Los Angeles HCM.

Thank you.

Toby Horn
146 South Fuller Avenue
Los Angeles 90036
(323)934-5611

TMH



Planning CHC <chc@lacity.org>

nishiyama as cultural landmark

1 message

Valerie Dunlap <vdunlap5@gmail.com>
To: chc@lacity.org, melissa.jones@lacity.org
Cc: rsagara@laconservancy.org

Wed, Nov 4, 2020 at 6:48 PM

Just adding my voice that NISHIYAMA RESIDENCE/RESTAURANT should be declared a historic-cultural landmark. Please keep Los Angeles history intact. The Jewish and Japanese history of Boyle Heights is going going, don't let it be gone.
Thank you.
V. Dunlap