

November 6, 2007

David Gustafson, Acting Community Development Director
Community Development Dept.
City of Santa Barbara
P.O. Box 1990
Santa Barbara, CA 93102-1990

Re: Flores Casita, 1809 Stanwood Drive

Dear Mr. Gustafson,

The Board of Directors of the Pearl Chase Society respectfully requests that the State Historic Building Code (SHBC) be utilized when assessing approval of the proposed restoration of the Flores Casita located at 1809 Stanwood Drive.

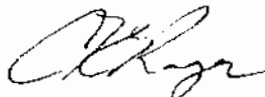
As stated in the July 2007 Historic Structures Report prepared by Alexandra Cole of Preservation Planning Associates, "the building is eligible for designation as a City of Santa Barbara Structure of Merit, principally due to its association with persons important to the early history and culture of Santa Barbara and the State of California, and its homestead-style vernacular architecture."

With the Historic Landmarks Commission's recent decision that the building is eligible for designation as a City of Santa Barbara Structure of Merit, we understand that the structure must, therefore, be considered a "Qualified Historic Building" as defined by the State Historic Building Code.

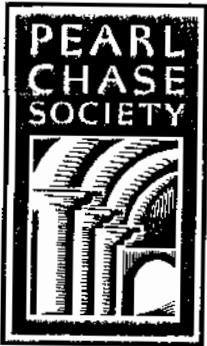
According to a letter dated October 29, 2007 issued by the State Historical Building Safety Board, "The mitigation of a structural deficiency resulting in improved seismic resistance without negatively affecting the historic fabric or character of a qualified historic building is precisely what the State Legislature intended in establishing the SHBC." The letter goes on to say that "Local agencies are statutorily immune from liability in the exercise of their normal regulatory enforcement duties. The use of the SHBC has no effect on such statutory immunities."

Therefore, we encourage you to utilize the State Historic Building Code to help preserve the Flores Casita and any of our community's other historically significant buildings whenever there is the opportunity to do so.

Sincerely,



Caren K. Rager
President



Preserving Santa Barbara's
Historic Sites of Enduring
Community Value

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