

June 18, 2021

**823-833 Water St., Santa Cruz
Historic Resource Considerations**

This commercial property houses two buildings, one with four retail businesses at the addresses 825-827-831-833 Water, and the other a car wash building at 823 Water. The overall property consists of three parcels that were surveyed in 1965 followed by the construction of these buildings in three parts corresponding to each parcel: the store building at 833 Water (parcel 009-212-30) was first constructed in 1966 and to which the three shops at 825-827-831 Water (parcel 009-212-31) were added in 1967; and the car wash building at 823 Water (parcel 009-212-38) followed in 1971.

At 50-55 years of age, from an historic resource perspective, these commercial buildings are recent. Relative to which, under the California Environmental Quality Act, under which historic resource considerations are generally only triggered at fifty years of age, and as the subject property and buildings were not much changed from the origins, there would not have been any reason to address their historic resource potential.

Further, locally, the identification of historic resources is focused on late 19th and early 20th century properties, so there has been little historical consideration of mid-20th century resources. Moreover, the subject resource is a small and modest shopping center with the most basic design character, which is not the type of midcentury resource that has received attention.

In sum, there is no evidence of any prior historic resource consideration or identification:

- Under the State Office of Historic Preservation's *Built Environment Resource Directory*, a database listing historic resource records filed with the State, no historic resource records have been filed for the subject property, so this property is not included in the State's Historic Resource Inventory.
- The subject property and buildings are not listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
- Under the City and County of Santa Cruz, the property and buildings have not been designated historic overlay.

Thus, there are no historic resources on the subject property at 823-833 Water St. in Santa Cruz.

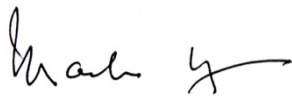
With respect to any potential historical identification:

- The subject resource is a small, late-mid 20th century commercial shopping center, which property and building type are very common.
- Like many others of its kind, this pair of flat-roofed concrete masonry boxes with wood and metal mansards is a completely unremarkable design.

Consequently, the subject buildings appear to be without potential historic architectural importance.

Further, at this juncture, no evidence has been found for any original building designer, architect or builder. While no specific historical research has been undertaken to consider whether the property's original developer, Robert W. Forward, is of any historical importance, a general search indicates that it is highly unlikely that Forward is a person of any historical or cultural importance.

Signed:



Mark Hulbert
Preservation Architect/Historic Resources Consultant