

ORDINANCE 2166

ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF LOS GATOS AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 1921 RELATING TO ZONE CHANGE NO. 87 (BROADWAY HISTORIC DISTRICT)

The Town Council of the Town of Los Gatos does hereby ordain:

SECTION I

The district delineated on the attached map is hereby designated historically and culturally significant as the Broadway Historic District HD-84-2A.

SECTION II

The district is designated to be historically, architecturally, or aesthetically significant for the reasons listed below:

- A. Property: Broadway Historic District. Properties located generally south of West Main Street and west of South Santa Cruz Avenue. (see map Exhibit A).
- B. Historic designation no.: HD-84-2A
- C. Description of designation: District
- D. Description of characteristics which justify the designation:

Historical: The Broadway was the first residential subdivision and Broadway was the first residential street in the Town of Los Gatos. A 100-acre tract of land including what is now the Broadway area was purchased by a Henry D. McCobb in 1863. McCobb planned to subdivide the land into city lots and name the new city Cobbsville. The land was ultimately sold to ex-Vermont John W. Lyndon, one of the most well-known in early Los Gatos history, and it was Lyndon who on September 24, 1881, subdivided the area into 48 lots, selling for \$125 and up. On January 5, 1883, Broadway was opened up to access the Lyndon subdivision. Broadway was the first plotted street in Los Gatos. Scattered houses and businesses such as Forbes Mill preceded Broadway, but this subdivision marked the beginnings of a formally laid-out Town.

In addition to founding Broadway, John Lyndon, one of the original Town Trustees (equivalent to Town Councilmen), was a stockholder in the new Los Gatos Fruit Packing Co., organized a gas company, started a bank, built a new hotel (Ten Mile House, predecessor to the Lyndon Hotel) and deeded the land for the Southern Pacific Coast Railway depot where the post office now stands.

Among the first land purchasers was William L. Lingley, once a sailor from Maine, who bought the Lyndon "Subdivision A" for \$600 in gold coin in September, 1881. Part of the original Lingley home still stands near what are now the apartments at 350 W. Main Street. The creek running through that area and #1 Bayview (original location of the Victorian Abbey Inn) is called Lingley Creek. The historic John W. Lyndon home, which later became the Farwell home, was a Victorian mansion at 55 Broadway. John's brother built a stately two-story residence at the southwest corner of Broadway and S. Santa Cruz Avenue when Broadway was still a dirt road. The cottages built in 1887 for Mr. Thomas Hayselden still stand. Clifton Avenue was once called Hayselden Avenue. Among memorable people who have dwelt on Broadway was Marion Mace Lyndon, second wife of John Lyndon. Her mother was a minor poet and friend of Longfellow. The Mace home still stands on Clifton Avenue. According to neighbors, the present Bruce Berryman residence at 89 Broadway was once rented by writer Jack London's first wife.

Architectural: The proposed district contains approximately 51 structures, many of which were built before 1900 and are significant both historically and architecturally. A variety of architectural styles are represented in the area, including Victoria, Craftsman/Bungalow, Colonial Revival and one Norman French. The Norman French is unique not only to district, but to that era of the Town. Although it is not as old as many of the other houses, it was designed by Henry Crall whose family has been in Los Gatos since the late nineteenth century. The house was originally an exact replica of a house Mr. Crall had seen in Normandy, France. The exterior remains unchanged.

The structure located on the corner of Tait and Main Street was the first fire house built in Los Gatos for that specific purpose. It was constructed in 1927 with funds raised through a bond issue and housed a 750-gallon American LaFrance pumper. The building now houses the Los Gatos Museum.

One of the architectural gems of the area, the Waterman House built in 1883 at 45 Broadway, is a superb and excellently preserved example of Victorian Italianate style.

Taken together, the homes in the Broadway and Main Street area offer a diverse and irreplaceable sample of architectural styles, including some of Los Gatos' oldest and most distinctive buildings.

Sources: Mary Durham, William Wulf, Los Gatos Weekly of May 18, 1984.

E. Listed below are Town features recommended for preservation. Review by the Historic Preservation Committee is required for any changes to these features.

1. Roads are concrete and should be repaired to maintain appearance as of the year 1992.
2. Date stamp in concrete sidewalks.

SECTION III

This Ordinance was introduced at a regular meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Los Gatos on October 6, 2008, and adopted by the following vote as an ordinance of the Town of Los Gatos at a meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Los Gatos on October 20, 2008. This ordinance takes effect 30 days after it is adopted.

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

AYES: Steve Glickman, Diane McNutt, Joe Pirzynski, Mike Wasserman and Mayor Barbara Spector.

NAYS:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

SIGNED:

s/Barbara Spector

MAYOR OF THE TOWN OF LOS GATOS
LOS GATOS, CALIFORNIA

ATTEST:

s/Jackie Rose

CLERK OF THE TOWN OF LOS GATOS
LOS GATOS, CALIFORNIA