

## Project Description

1. **Purpose of the proposal:** To add a new front porch and modify the front façade of our residence to increase the functionality of the home and to enhance the appearance.
2. **Scope of work:** The project consists of adding a 108 sq. ft. covered porch to the front of the house, modifying the doors and windows, adding craftsman-style detailing and replacing the old shingles with new shingles.
3. **Architectural style, materials and colors:** The existing house does not have an identifiable style, so the new porch and detailing are intended to make the home into a craftsman style home, while utilizing the same shingle siding.
4. **Basis for site layout:** There are no proposed changes to the footprint and layout of the existing house – just the addition of a new front porch.
5. **Existing & proposed uses:** The existing and proposed use for the property does not change – a single family residence.

## Project Justification

We moved into our home at 33 Tait Avenue twenty-four years ago. We were impressed then (and remain so now) by the charm of Almond Grove, including the welcoming feeling of neighbors sitting on their porches and children playing on the sidewalks. The porches on our street structurally create a sense of community – community that extends into the greater Los Gatos. Neighbors wave to those setting up for the Annual Holiday Parade from their porches, as well as greet Halloween trick-or-treaters there. Indeed, they have even hosted water and shade stands on their porches for cyclists as they have prepared for the Cats Hill Race.

Although we desired a porch from the day we purchased our home, we could not fathom constructing one while two towering redwood trees (located only twelve inches from our front façade) were healthy. Things changed two years ago when the trees unfortunately had to be removed. Without the trees, the non-descript front façade of our home and the underutilized front yard became immediately apparent.

All of the older homes on our block (and some of the newer ones) have lovely front porches, where our neighbors sit and entertain. We too, now would like to have a front porch, which would allow us to also sit outside, enjoy the neighborhood, and “be neighborly.” The porch will additionally allow us to make our home more beautiful (and enhance the aesthetics of the neighborhood), as it is currently quite frankly the ‘ugly duckling’ of the block.

Our proposed porch will need to be closer to the sidewalk than is normally allowed, in order to make the porch 5’ - 8” deep (which we feel is the minimum needed to fit the 2 chairs and café table that we would like to place there). Our architect has told us that this should be possible, since our lot is of substandard size, and because many of the neighbor’s porches are also less than 15’ from the sidewalk. For example, please note the following:

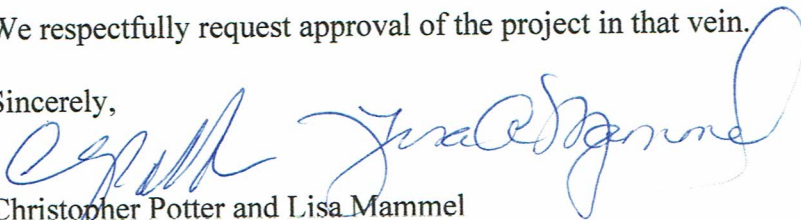
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Address	distance of [E] porch to sidewalk
18 Tait	11'
21 Tait	8'
25 Tait	11'-6"
29 Tait	10'
30 Tait	12'-6"

We note that, in its plans and in its printed policies, the Town encourages the use of porches so as to promote architectural harmony, neighborhood aesthetics, and community cohesion.

We respectfully request approval of the project in that vein.

Sincerely,

  
Christopher Potter and Lisa Mammel  
33 Tait Avenue  
Los Gatos, CA 95030