

7/21/26, 8:54 AM

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Outlook

Historic Building Windows Proposal Support- 1619 Walnut St.

From Anna May <annasmay@yahoo.com>

Date Sun 7/19/2026 3:33 PM

To landmarks@berkeleywv.org <landmarks@berkeleywv.org>; Landmarks Preservation Commission <PlanningLPC@berkeleyca.gov>; Riemer, Allison <ARiemer@berkeleyca.gov>

Cc Leah Savage <leahsavage1496@gmail.com>

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Dear Chair Susan Crowell,

We, Anna May and Leah Savage, are residents of a historic building in Berkeley at 1619 Walnut St. While we appreciate the beauty and history of our building we are in need of upgrades for our windows. We currently have casement windows that no longer seal effectively and one sliding window that has even failed such that there is water intrusion, causing damage to a neighboring unit, and it has had to be covered with plastic since April of this year. Most of the windows in the unit cannot be opened due to warping in the frame and sills, and need replacing.

While it may be preferable to maintain all the historic structural design elements including the casement windows, functionality and architectural style should matter more than the specific design. The casement windows were the standard when the building was erected 100 years ago, but the design can be replicated effectively using modern sliding windows. The current windows are not weatherproof and cannot be opened to provide ventilation. Changing the restriction on the window design will facilitate a faster replacement for the failed windows, and also provide better functionality including bug screens and convenience with opening.

In addition, many of the windows in the building have already been replaced with sliding windows, at least as long as 5 years ago (2021) noted when we moved in. The unit we reside in already has two such windows (one of which is experiencing a major failure) and several other units have sliding windows as well, all from a minimum of five years ago. It seems logical to allow these windows to be replaced with functioning windows of the same kind.

Not all windows of the same type are created equal. We would ask that the specific model proposed be given consideration for how well it matches the existing windows and building facade rather than how it opens. Preserving the aesthetic matters to us, but so does functionality. The proposed window matches the visual profile of the existing casement windows, and will not affect our building's facade. Many commercially available casement windows look nothing like the existing windows and would appear out of place. The spirit of the requirement should supercede the letter, especially in a case where there are tenants who have not had functioning windows in half a decade.

In short, we believe that lifting the requirement for specifically casement windows for 1619 Walnut St will improve the functionality of the unit while maintaining the beauty and architectural design of this

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landmark building, maintaining the history and charm of the city. We respectfully ask for your approval of this proposal so that these urgently needed repairs can move forward without further delay. We have been waiting far too long for a resolution to what should be a straightforward repair.

Respectfully,

Leah Savage
Anna May
Unit F, 2nd Floor
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Berkeley, CA 94709