



CITY OF FOLSOM
Community Development Department

memorandum

Date: February 18, 2005

To: Historic District Commission

From: Nelia Dyer, Associate Planner

RE: The nomination of the Southern Pacific Railroad Company's Section Superintendent's House at 815 Oakdale Street to the Cultural Resource Inventory List (PN04-654)

BACKGROUND

On November 5, 1998, the Folsom City Council approved the 'Historic Preservation Master Plan'. This document established goals and objectives for historic preservation within the City of Folsom, identified a process for the listing of locally significant historic sites and structures, and authorized the Historic District Commission to determine the eligibility of sites nominated for listing. The master plan also specifies that properties that have been determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places or the California Register of Historical Resources are automatically eligible for local listing.

NOMINATION

The Community Development Department has received a request for the listing of the Southern Pacific Railroad Company's Section Superintendent's House at 815 Oakdale Street as a locally significant historical structure. The submitted registration form was prepared by Bill Anderson on behalf of the Folsom Historical Society. The City of Folsom owns the building. Based on the previous listing of this property in the 'Historic Preservation Master Plan,' staff has determined that a decision by the Historic District Commission will not be required.

CRITERIA FOR LISTING

The Historic Preservation Master Plan specifies criteria for listing a resource in the City's Cultural Resources Inventory:

- 1) Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- 2) Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- 3) Property embodies distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or construction method, or represent the work of a creative individual; or
- 4) Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in Folsom's prehistory or history.

The Superintendent's House meets two of the four criteria for listing as established by the Historic Preservation Master Plan. First of all, the residence accommodated the section gang superintendent who oversaw the maintenance of the Southern Pacific railroad grade from Nimbus in Sacramento County to Shingle Springs in El Dorado County between 1915 and 1946. The Southern Pacific Railroad (and its predecessor, the Sacramento Valley Railroad) was a vital link in the transportation network that served the Town of Folsom. Secondly, the Superintendent's House was constructed by the Southern Pacific Railroad Company around 1915. The house is a bungalow with asphalt shingles and shiplap siding, which are architectural features that date back to the early 20th century.

DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY

The integrity of the property surrounding the Superintendent's House has been compromised since the 1950s when the section gang and their superintendent no longer inhabited the property. A landscape storage yard occupies the property to the north of the house. Also, the small speeder building that sits near the tracks at the south periphery of the lot was moved approximately 40 feet to its current location in 1996 to allow soils testing for the Folsom Corridor Light Rail Project. However, within the fenced area that separates the residence from the remainder of the parcel, the property retains its domestic setting with grass and ornamental plantings albeit overgrown. Moreover, the house still remains within the triangular parcel of land that became known as Folsom Junction where the railroad tracks of the Central Pacific Railroad and the Southern Pacific Railroad Companies bounded the site.

LISTING

The Superintendent's House is listed in the Preliminary Cultural Resources Inventory (Appendix D) of the Historic Preservation Master Plan. Therefore, staff has determined that a decision by the Historic District Commission will not be required. The information provided in this nomination will be used to supplement the listing in the Historic Preservation Master Plan.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Assessors Parcel Map
2. Site Photograph, dated February 15, 1943
3. Cultural Resource Inventory Nomination Form

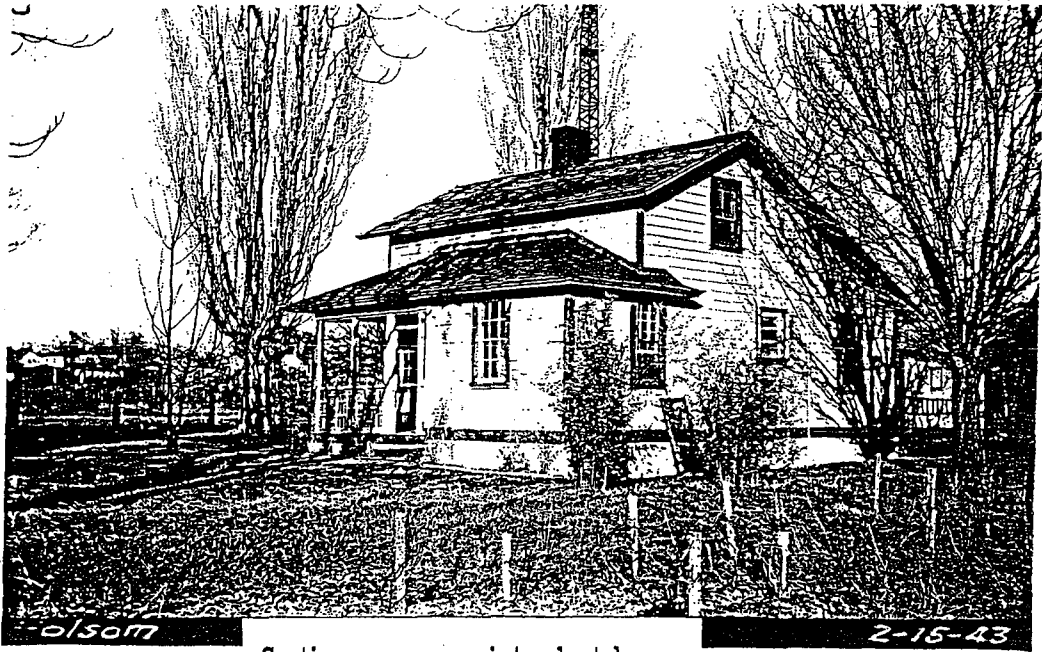
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION ACTION

No action is required by the Historic District Commission.

SOUTHERN PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY

SECTION SUPERINTENDENT HOUSE

815 Oakdale Street
Folsom, CA



Folsom

2-15-43

Section gang superintendent house