TO: HONORABLE CITY COUNCIL
FROM: CITY MANAGER
DEPARTMENT: PLANNING AND COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT
DATE: JANUARY 10, 2005
SUBJECT: 445 COLORADO AVENUE: RECOMMENDATION FROM THE HISTORIC RESOURCES BOARD AT THE REQUEST OF GUY PLUCHON, OWNER, TO REMOVE A CATEGORY 3 BUILDING ON THE CITY OF PALO ALTO'S HISTORIC INVENTORY PURSUANT TO MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 16.49 (HISTORIC PRESERVATION ORDINANCE)

RECOMMENDATION
The Historic Resources Board (HRB) and staff recommend that the City Council remove the Category 3 residence at 445 Colorado Avenue from the City's Historic Inventory due to loss of most of the character-defining features of the street-facing façade.

DESCRIPTION OF THE BUILDING
The residence at 445 Colorado Avenue, originally designed circa 1914, was maintained until 1989 when a substantial remodeling was carried out. Substantial dry rot and termite activity were detected throughout the character-defining street-facing façade, and the damaged fabric was replaced by a contemporary façade exhibiting simplified Victorian references. In the spring of 1999, the City's Historic Survey consultant, Dames and Moore, Inc., was asked to identify Historic Inventory properties in Categories 3 and 4 that had lost integrity since their original designation. Dames and Moore included 445 Colorado Avenue in its evaluation as follows: "The integrity of this house is lost due to the replacement of the original Mission Revival style front façade with a completely different Victorian style facade, changes in the fenestration, and moving the front door."

HISTORIC RESOURCES BOARD REVIEW
The HRB, at its meeting on October 16, 2002, reviewed the application for the removal of the Category 3 residence at 445 Colorado Avenue (see Attachment A) from the Historic Inventory. Staff gave a presentation to the Board indicating support for the removal of the designation due to the structure’s loss of its historic integrity. Staff explained that the removal of the front façade in 1989 resulted in the loss of the structure’s most significant character-defining features. The HRB unanimously voted (5-0-0-2, Haviland and Mario absent) to support the staff recommendation and recommend that the City Council remove the residence at 445 Colorado Avenue from the Historic Inventory based on loss of historic integrity.
ATTACHMENTS
Attachment B: Verbatim Minutes of the HRB Meeting of October 16, 2002.

PREPARED BY: ______________________________
JULIE CAPORGNO
Advance Planning Manager

DEPARTMENT HEAD REVIEW: ______________________________
STEVE EMSLIE
Director of Planning and Community Environment

CITY MANAGER APPROVAL: ______________________________
EMILY HARRISON
Assistant City Manager

cc: Historic Resources Board
Guy Pluchon
David Bubenik