

United States Department of the Interior



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Rosie the Riveter / WWII Home Front National Historical Park
1401 Marina Way South
Richmond, CA 94804

IN REPLY REFER TO

H30 (ROR)

October 16, 2009

Tom Panas
El Cerrito Historical Society
P.O. Box 304
El Cerrito, CA 94530

Reference: Historic Resources Evaluation of 10848 and 10860 San Pablo Avenue, The Contra Costa Florist site, El Cerrito, California

Dear Mr. Panas:

At your request, we reviewed the Historic Resources Evaluation prepared for 10848 and 10860 San Pablo Avenue in El Cerrito. The Contra Costa Florist property is outside of the legislated boundary for the Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front National Historical Park. However, the National Park Service is tasked in the park's enabling legislation with studying sites within Richmond that might be significant to World War II home front history. We have found the history of the Japanese American flower industry in Contra Costa County and the internment of Japanese American people during World War II to be significant historic themes.

A thorough context study is needed to assess significance under Criterion A (properties associated with events) of the National Register of Historic Places. With regards to the Historic Resources Evaluation for 10848 and 10860 San Pablo Avenue, we believe that the context study is not developed enough to adequately assess the significance of the Contra Costa Florist property within the Japanese American historic theme. Other properties in Contra Costa County and elsewhere throughout the nation have been determined eligible or entered into the National Register within this historic theme. We would anticipate that the context study would address how this property relates to the Japanese flower industry in California and evaluate the property relative to other properties that have been determined eligible or have been placed on the National Register. We would also anticipate the context study to address how internment of Japanese Americans during World War II did or did not affect the family and their business.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (510) 232-1544 or by electronic mail at ric_borjes@aol.com.

Sincerely,

Ric Borjes
Chief of Cultural Resources