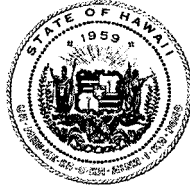


**GM 540**

**EDT**



SHAN S. TSUTSUI  
PRESIDENT

DONNA MERCADO KIM  
VICE PRESIDENT

SAM SLOM  
MINORITY LEADER

## The Senate

STATE CAPITOL  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

March 22, 2011

FIRST DISTRICT  
MALAMA SOLOMON

SECOND DISTRICT  
GILBERT KAHELE

THIRD DISTRICT  
JOSH GREEN, M.D.

FOURTH DISTRICT  
SHAN S. TSUTSUI

FIFTH DISTRICT  
ROSALYN H. BAKER

SIXTH DISTRICT  
J. KALANI ENGLISH

SEVENTH DISTRICT  
RONALD D. KOUCHI

EIGHTH DISTRICT  
SAM SLOM

NINTH DISTRICT  
LES IHARA, JR.

TENTH DISTRICT  
BRIAN T. TANIGUCHI

ELEVENTH DISTRICT  
CAROL FUKUNAGA

TWELFTH DISTRICT  
BRICKWOOD GALUTERIA

THIRTEENTH DISTRICT  
SUZANNE CHUN OAKLAND

FOURTEENTH DISTRICT  
DONNA MERCADO KIM

FIFTEENTH DISTRICT  
GLENNWAKAI

SIXTEENTH DISTRICT  
DAVID Y. IGE

SEVENTEENTH DISTRICT  
MICHELLE N. KIDANI

EIGHTEENTH DISTRICT  
CLARENCE K. NISHIHARA

NINETEENTH DISTRICT  
MIKE GABBARD

TWENTIETH DISTRICT  
WILL ESPERO

TWENTY-FIRST DISTRICT  
MAILE S.L. SHIMABUKURO

TWENTY-SECOND DISTRICT  
DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ

TWENTY-THIRD DISTRICT  
CLAYTON HEE

TWENTY-FOURTH DISTRICT  
JILL N. TOKUDA

TWENTY-FIFTH DISTRICT  
POHAI RYAN

CHIEF CLERK  
CAROL TANIGUCHI

Mr. George Casen



Dear Mr. Casen:

Re: Nomination to the Hawai'i Historic Places Review Board GM540

Congratulations on being nominated by Governor Neil Abercrombie to the Hawai'i Historic Places Review Board. To assist the Senate with its confirmation process, I would like to request that the following information be submitted to my office by **Monday, April 4, 2011**:

- (1) A resume with a list of references
- (2) A written statement that addresses the following questions:
  - (a) Why do you wish to be a member of the Hawai'i Historic Places Review Board?
  - (b) How do you perceive the role and responsibilities of a member of the Hawai'i Historic Places Review Board?
  - (c) Given your understanding of the role and responsibilities of a member of the Hawai'i Historic Places Review Board, why do you believe that you are qualified for the position? Please include a brief statement of your skills, expertise, or knowledge that would aid in your decision-making ability as a member of the Hawai'i Historic Places Review Board.
  - (d) What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service?
  - (e) Name three qualities that best describe you and that would make you stand out. How would these qualities benefit the Hawai'i Historic Places Review Board?
  - (f) Name one previous experience that would make you stand out. How would this benefit the Hawai'i Historic Places Review Board?
  - (g) Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interests that could arise during your service on the Hawai'i Historic Places Review Board? How would you overcome any possible conflicts of interest?

Page 2  
March 22, 2011

Your prompt response in providing the above information will ensure that the Senate confirmation process can proceed in a timely manner.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carol Fukunaga". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair  
Senate Economic Development Committee

GEORGE CASEN

Mailing Address:

March 26, 2011

Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair  
Senate Committee on Economic Development and Technology  
State Capitol, Room 216  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Senator Fukunaga,

Re: Nomination to the Hawai'i Historic Places Review Board GM540

Thank you for considering me for a position on the Hawai'i Historic Places Review Board.

Answers to questions listed under point (2) in your correspondence of March 22 are as follows:

(a) My wish to serve as a member of the Hawai'i Historic Places Review Board emanates from my interest in nurturing the preservation of Hawai'i's historic and cultural heritage. This endeavor will contribute to the understanding and enjoyment of history and culture by residents, as well as, build a stronger tourist industry. I recently completed a Masters thesis on Singapore that explained how historic preservation legislation helped re-energize the economy and bond the citizenry to the state. I wish to influence Hawai'i in that direction.

My interest in historic preservation was piqued at an early age. I was raised in a suburb founded as a farming community in 1695. As an elementary school student on my way to school, I walked each day past a home built in 1700 that had three sub-basements. The downtown of our community retained the feel of a nineteenth century farm village. This interest thrust me into a career in historic preservation.

Upon moving back to Hawai'i in 1998, I volunteered to work as a docent at Bishop Museum. A cultural awareness course given for docents increased my interest in the history and culture of Hawai'i. This led me to enroll in the Graduate Certificate Program in Historic Preservation at the University of Hawai'i.

(b) The roles and responsibilities of the Hawai'i Historic Places Review Board are clearly delineated in Chapter 6E, §6E-5.5, of Hawaii Revised Statutes. These duties include (1) assessing the integrity and historic significance of properties considered for listing on the Hawai'i Register according to established Register criteria, (2) recommending said properties for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places, if appropriate, (3) reviewing the State survey of historic properties, (4) reviewing the content of the State historic preservation plan, (5) electing a chairperson and vice-chairperson for the Board, (6) maintaining the Hawai'i Register of Historic Places inclusive of all Hawai'i properties listed on the National Register, and (7) instituting a program to notify and publish information regarding properties listed. I would also be available to consult with State Historic Preservation Division staff concerning specific resources, should the need arise.

(c) My qualifications for a seat on the Board are my experience and training in this field. I hold a Graduate Certificate in Historic Preservation from the University of Hawai'i. The focus of my Master of Urban and Regional Planning degree from the University of Hawai'i was Historic Preservation Planning. I also hold a Master's degree in Secondary Education / History from Long Island University. During the completion of a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from the State University of New York at Stony Brook, I completed numerous courses in architectural history.

I prepared numerous Determinations of Eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places during the 17 years I worked as an architectural historian. I also reviewed the architectural history reports of private consultants, as well as the work of staff archaeologists, in my role as Heritage Resource Coordinator for two regional districts of the California Department of Transportation. I prepared architectural history surveys for an architectural firm in Honolulu.

(d) I hope to be able to promote the recognition of additional landscapes and trails for their cultural and historic value, as well as expand the number of recognized built properties. I would also like to develop a program to encourage public agencies and private parties to create revolving funds to restore historic properties for adaptive reuse. I would like to see Hawai'i replicate Singapore's success in achieving the goal of "creating a tourist hub, a dream destination of memorable experiences."

(e) I am innovative. I was at the cutting edge of an effort to broaden the National Register to be more inclusive of historic landscapes. I did research at the Library of Congress in 1982 to satisfy the concerns of the Keeper of the National Register about a Determination of Eligibility that I helped prepare for Beverly Gardens Park in Beverly Hills, California.

I am not easily discouraged by initial failure. I was able to discover the location of the only existing copies of a rare architectural journal printed in the 1890s that had been lost by UCLA for 20 years. The contents of this journal were then copied and distributed to architectural libraries throughout California.

I have unusual and unorthodox research skills. While researching the history of El Sereno, California, formerly known as Bairdstown, I was able to locate the great-granddaughter of the developer, who had inexplicably disappeared close to a century before. She possessed materials concerning the initial development of the community that were previously unknown to exist.

Knowledge of potential sources of information is critical when assessing the significance or integrity of historic properties. At times Board members may require additional research before making a final decision. My individual qualities will help during discussions of the Board. Relating my experiences to other board members and/or those submitting nominations will help resolve issues of inadequate research on properties.

(f) A dilemma was faced in the tourist dollar-dependent historic community of San Juan Capistrano, California. A major highway had to be widened to accommodate commuter traffic and commercial vehicles. Adjacent to the roadway on the south was the National Register listed mansion of the nephew of the last Mexican Governor of California. At the top of the slope on the north side of the roadway was a National Register eligible cemetery. Engineers proposed a 60-foot high retaining wall to replace the slope adjacent to the cemetery. This would have disturbed the historic setting of both historic properties. The grandson of the historically significant nephew, whose parents were buried in the historic cemetery, threatened to sue the State of California if it proceeded with the project. He was a wealthy landowner with deep pockets. He also lobbied City staff and local NGOs against the project. I was able to bring all the parties to a mutually acceptable solution. There was a 40-foot wide parcel of land at the top of slope, adjacent to the cemetery, not suitable for any zoned use. The City agreed to purchase the parcel from the owner and quit claim it to the state DOT. The slope was then replicated 40-feet to the north, leaving space below for two additional lanes. This preserved the historic ambiance of the City.

The Hawai'i Historic Places Review Board does not operate in a vacuum. There are times when controversial issues are brought before the Board and the State Historic Preservation Division. My ability to discover innovative solutions to difficult problems will benefit the discussions of the Board.

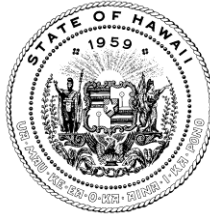
(g) I do not currently own any real property in Hawai'i, nor do I have an interest in any commercial establishment. Should I purchase real property during my term on the Board or find future employment in a private firm or public agency, I would recuse myself from discussion and voting for any property presented where I would have a potential conflict of interest.

My resume, references, and lists of current memberships and volunteer activities are included in this submittal.

Sincerely,

George Casen

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of  
WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.  
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY**

**Wednesday, April 13, 2011  
1:15 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 016**

**In consideration of  
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 540 AS AMENDED BY GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 575 -  
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE HAWAII  
HISTORIC PLACES REVIEW BOARD GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE  
GEORGE CASEN FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2014**

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports the gubernatorial appointment of George Casen to the Hawaii Historic Places Review Board for a term to expire 6-30-2014.

The Hawaii Historic Places Review Board was established under Section 6E-5.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), to: (1) Order and enter historic properties into the Hawaii Register of Historic Places on the basis of their value to Hawaii's heritage; (2) Evaluate and, when appropriate, recommend the nomination of historic properties to the National Register of Historic Places; (3) Review the state survey of historic properties; (4) Review the content of the State Historic Preservation Plan; and (5) Maintain the Hawaii Register of Historic Places (including all those listed on the National Register of Historic Places).

Section 6E-5.5, HRS, also requires that the Hawaii Historic Places Review Board include at least one professionally qualified member of each of the following disciplines: Archaeology, Architecture, History, and Sociology. In addition, there shall be on person knowledgeable in traditional Hawaiian society and culture.

George Casen was born in Queens County, New York. He has lived in New York, France, California, and Hawaii. His education includes a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, from the State University of New York at Stony Brook; a Master of Science in Secondary Education/History from Long Island State University; a Certificate in French Studies from the University of Paris, Sorbonne; a Master of Urban and Regional Planning from the University of

**WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.**  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

**GUY H. KAULUKUKUI**  
FIRST DEPUTY

**WILLIAM M. TAM**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES  
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION  
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT  
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS  
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT  
ENGINEERING  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

Hawaii at Manoa; and a Graduate Certificate in Historic Preservation also from the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

Positions held by Mr. Casen include Lead Environmental Planner at Parsons Brinkerhoff in Organ County, California; Associate Environmental Planner in Architectural History for California Department of Transportation, Santa Ana, California; Architectural Historian at Mason Architects, Honolulu, Hawaii; Programs and Operations Manager for Historic Hawaii Foundation, Honolulu; Planner at the Office of Environmental Quality Control, Honolulu; and Planner at the Hawaii State Department of Transportation, Honolulu.

During his tenure in these positions Mr. Casen has worked with communities and other government agencies to reach consensus on challenging issues. He is particularly proud of a highway project that succeeded in improving transportation capacity while protecting the environment and architecture of the San Juan Capistrano Mission in Southern California.

The Department welcomes the knowledge and experience Mr. Casen will bring to the Hawaii Historic Places Review Board, and as such, supports his appointment.

**From:** [Gloria Scott](#)  
**To:** [EDTTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** George Casen - GM540 - Hawai`i Historic Places Review Board  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 05, 2011 2:13:35 PM

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To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of Mr. George Casen's nomination to the Hawai`i Historic Places Review Board. He would be an excellent addition to the Board.

Mr. Casen and I worked together when he was an architectural historian at the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). In that position he evaluated many buildings and a variety of property types within our project areas to determine their eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places (National Register), as well as to determine whether project effects would have the potential adverse effects to historic properties. This work was done in order to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, as well as state environmental laws. Caltrans policy is to use the National Register eligibility criteria and its accompanying bulletins and guidance for these evaluations. One specific project was very controversial, involved hundreds of potential historical resources, and required working under difficult time lines. he was tactful, professional and thorough in his evaluations.

Mr. Casen's knowledge of the National Register program and its criteria is comprehensive and he is very experienced in synthesizing information and concluding whether a property meets these criteria. His expertise in cultural resources evaluation and management enables him make expert decisions on properties that are complex, controversial or borderline in their ability to meet National Register criteria.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Mr. Casen.

Sincerely,

Gloria Scott, Chief  
Built Environment Preservation Services Branch  
Cultural Studies Office  
Division of Environmental Analysis (MS27)  
Caltrans  
Ph: 916-653-1029  
Fax 916-653-6126



Testimony for EDT 4/13/2011 1:15:00 PM GM540

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Margaret Buss  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail:  
Submitted on: 4/8/2011

Comments:

Honorable members of the Hawaii State Legislature: My name is Margaret Buss. I am writing in support of the nomination of George Casen for the Hawai'i Historic Places Review Board. I worked with George for many years during the time he was an architectural historian for the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). In my capacity as the Caltrans "Section 106" Cultural Resources Coordinator for half the state at that time, I both reviewed his reports and advised him on cultural resource issues under both state and federal law. George's work was exceptionally well-thought-out and well-written. He did careful and thoughtful analyses on historic and cultural resources, and, while he has a passion for historic preservation, his evaluations were always fair and balanced -- that is, he was never so zealous as to stretch the criteria for historic evaluation, but when he advocated for a resource, his supporting research and analysis were impeccable. His instincts were excellent. He would ask for review and advice to ensure he was making good decisions, and without exception he was right. He was open to new ideas, open to critiques, and open to input from those of different views and from affected groups. His professionalism and good common sense about historic properties were beyond dispute, and his graciousness made working with him a real pleasure. I think Hawai'i would be well-served by having him on the Review Board.

Sincerely,  
Margaret L Buss  
Supervising Environmental Planner  
Caltrans Division of Local Assistance  
1120 N Street  
Sacramento CA 95814

**From:** [Dee Ruzicka](#)  
**To:** [EDTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Hawaii Historic Places Review Board - George Casen  
**Date:** Monday, April 04, 2011 9:50:09 AM

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To whom it may concern,

I was contacted by George Casen, who related to me that he has been nominated to the Hawaii Historic Places Review Board by the Office of the Governor. George asked me to provide a letter to this email address stating my recommendations concerning his suitability for this position.

I worked with George for about 2 years (2003-2005) while he was employed at Mason Architects here in Honolulu where we were both architectural historians. During that time I found him to have an excellent understanding of National Register requirements and the historic preservation process, both at Hawaii State and National levels. We worked on a couple projects that required evaluating many different types and sizes of properties along roadways for their eligibility, Nimitz Highway corridor on Oahu and Kapaa bypass route on Kauai. During these projects George displayed valuable insight and accurate preservation analysis during the initial examination and subsequent research of eligible properties. He showed a good ability to quickly determine eligibility potential and selecting property types to focus on in further research. George also revealed his expertise in federal preservation compliance and its applications to transportation projects.

I feel that his familiarity with the National Register requirements and his eye for preservation would make him an effective member of the Hawaii Historic Places Review Board, and I recommend him for a place on that Board.

Sincerely,  
Dee Ruzicka

Dee Ruzicka  
Mason Architects Inc.  
119 Merchant St. Suite 501  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
808-536-0556 ext 1012  
dr@masonarch.com

**From:** [Carol Stimson](#)  
**To:** [EDTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** George Casen for Hawaii Historic Places Review Board  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 05, 2011 10:28:53 PM

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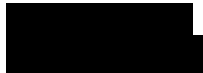
I would like to submit testimony in favor of George Casen's nomination for the Hawaii Historic Places Review Board. I worked with George for about four years beginning in late 2003 at Mason Architects, Inc, where he was employed as an architectural historian. Our desks were adjacent to one another and I got to know him fairly well. He was completing his Graduate Certificate in Historic Preservation at that time, and I and another employee attended his practicum presentation on initiatives to preserve historic buildings and neighborhoods in Singapore. I observed that he was a diligent researcher, particularly good at uncovering information about people and families connected with historic buildings in Hawaii, and he had stories to tell about his many years experience as an architectural historian in California, where he worked on the preservation of historic buildings potentially impacted by the actions of CalTran. Once I assisted him in conducting a "windshield survey" to identify and evaluate historic buildings along Nimitz Highway that were potentially eligible for the National and Hawaii Registers. This survey was done as a preliminary part of planning for the Nimitz Flyover. Although a windshield survey may often be no more than a drive by and superficial perusal, George asked me (I drove his car) to stop at every site on our list, where he got out of the car and examined the property from as close a vantage point as was possible. He identified four properties along Nimitz Highway that were potentially eligible and subsequently made the case for preserving them. I remember that he spotted the Kapalama Gates, which had not been on our list of properties to evaluate, recognized them as historic, and then returned to the office to research their origins. The gates were subsequently added to the list of eligible properties.

George is also interested in local politics and frequently contributes letters to local newspapers, particularly on issues relating to historic preservation.

He appears to me to be perceptive, committed, and humane, and I believe he would contribute valuable insights to the Board.

Respectfully,

Carol Stimson



## TESTIMONY

Committee on Economic Development and Technology  
Tuesday, April 13, 2011  
Conference Room 016  
1:15 p.m.

Chair Fukunaga and members of the Committee Economic Development and Technology:

I am testifying in favor of GM 540.

George Casen has a very long history of service to our community and a trusted member of our Honolulu community who has proven time and again his commitment to the welfare of all citizens of our State.

I firmly believe that George will diligently uphold the commitment of the State Historic Places Review Board to preservation of our indigenous culture as he has applied himself in voluntary service to our State.

He is a person of great integrity dedicated to local culture and the arts. I ask that you act favorably on his appointment to the Historic Places Review Board.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles K. Torigoe

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [EDTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Testimony for GM540 on 4/13/2011 1:15:00 PM  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 12, 2011 3:43:17 PM

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Testimony for EDT 4/13/2011 1:15:00 PM GM540

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Jeyan Thirugnanam  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [REDACTED]  
Submitted on: 4/12/2011

**Comments:**

I strongly support George Casen's appointment to the Hawai`i Historic Places Review Board.

I worked with Mr. Casen at the Office of Environmental Quality Control in 2007, where he reviewed historic, cultural and archaeological assessments. I found him to be an expert in these issues, dilligent in performing his work and passionate about public service.

He will make good judgements in determining whether properties meet the significance criteria for inclusion in the historic register.

Please approve his appointment. Mahalo!

**From:** [Linda LeGrande](#)  
**To:** [EDTTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** George Casen  
**Date:** Friday, April 08, 2011 5:01:46 AM

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Aloha,

My name is Linda LeGrande and I am on the Board of Malama Manoa. I am writing today to give my support for George Casen's nomination on the Hawai'i Historic Places Review Board. George has been an invaluable and dependable volunteer for my organization over the last ten years as a docent for our historic home tours in Manoa Valley. I feel his knowledge and dedication to preservation would nicely support the Review Board's mission. Sincerely, Linda LeGrande

**From:** [Thomas Cummings](#)  
**To:** [EDTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Endorsement of George Casen  
**Date:** Sunday, April 03, 2011 9:22:26 PM

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April 2, 2011

Senator Fukunaga:

I write this Email in support of George Casen, whom I've known nearly three years and closely worked with as volunteers in Abercrombie's campaign for Governor.

As an experienced architect, he would serve Hawai'i excellently as a member of the Hawai`i Historic Places Review Board. George is a hard-working and thorough individual. To that -- with scholarship -- is his dedication to researching every issue fully.

As important, George has demonstrated his commitment to serving the community. Dedicated to maintain and promote the vibrant and rich historic places of our Hawaiian islands. You may be sure that George will work cooperatively with other members of the board. Yet have the competency to work individually. To work willingly on any assignment in a timely, ethical and complete manner.

Therefore, I wholly endorse George Casen as a candidate to be a member of the Hawai`i Historic Places Review Board.

Thomas C. Cummings, Jr.  
Cultural Educator & Storyteller  
Cell: [REDACTED]

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [EDTTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Testimony for GM540 on 4/13/2011 1:15:00 PM  
**Date:** Friday, April 08, 2011 8:26:58 AM

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Testimony for EDT 4/13/2011 1:15:00 PM GM540

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Tonia S. Moy  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [REDACTED]  
Submitted on: 4/8/2011

Comments:

I worked with George many years ago while at the State Historic Preservation Division. George has always been very diligent and truly concerned about historic resources. I support his nomination.