

EXHIBIT B

LUTHER BURBANK HOME & GARDENS BACKGROUND AND TIMELINE

Luther Burbank was born in Lancaster, Massachusetts in 1849. As a young man he became interested in the potentials of plant-breeding, and encountered the writings of Charles Darwin, most especially *Variations of Animals and Plants Under Domestication*, which he later wrote was the turning point in his career. While still a truck gardener in Massachusetts he developed a seedling potato that would prove to be significant for the world. He sold the stock of the new "Burbank" potato to a seedsman who paid him \$150. Burbank used the money to travel by train to northern California in 1875 after hearing from relatives about the year-long growing climate there. Burbank spent the rest of his remarkable horticultural career working in Santa Rosa and nearby Sebastopol until his death in 1926.

In 1884, Luther Burbank purchased a four-acre plot in Santa Rosa which included the Home. He prepared the grounds, operated the Santa Rosa Nursery, and moved into the Home with his mother and sister. By 1888 he sold his nursery business to concentrate on plant breeding and experimentation. In 1889 he built the Greenhouse, which he used for his experiments from then on, as well as a barn now referred to as the Carriage House.

With the publication of his catalog, *New Creations*, in 1893, Luther Burbank became world-renowned as a plant breeder. He is credited with the introduction of more than 800 new or improved plant varieties.

Luther Burbank married Elizabeth Waters in 1916. He died in 1926 and was buried on site.

Site History

1935 - Registered State Historic Landmark status (No. 234) was awarded.

1955 - Elizabeth deeded the Home to the City of Santa Rosa but retained life tenancy. Later that year the City formed a Burbank Commission, which included Elizabeth.

1959 - The property was operated as a public park under the City's Recreation & Parks Department.

1964 - The property was awarded Registered National Historic Landmark status.

1977 - Elizabeth Burbank died in 1977 and left the entirety of the property to the City. An Advisory Committee was appointed to oversee the use of the property. The Committee formed a small grassroots Volunteer Association to carry out a plan for a museum complex with public tours, display space and a gift shop. They turned the Home into a House Museum with Volunteers acting as docents, presenting tours of the property with a 1926-era emphasis.

1984 - City Council dissolved the Advisory Committee and established a formal LBH&G City Board (five members appointed by Council and four Officers of the Volunteer Association) to set policies and approve the Association's programs and advise Council on the use and operation of the property. The Recreation and Parks Department kept responsibility for maintaining the buildings and grounds, including special capital and maintenance issues.

1991 – LBH&G was awarded City Landmark status (No.7). LBH&G won a statewide Award of Excellence for Park Operations and Maintenance from the California Parks and Recreation Society.

2003 - The composition of the Luther Burbank Home & Gardens Board was adjusted due to a change in City policy concerning their appointments to Boards and Commissions. Now seven members were appointed by City Council and the four elected Officers of the Volunteer Association continued as Board members, increasing the total number of members to 11.

2003 – The American Society for Horticulture Science (ASHS) awarded LBH&G the prestigious designation of *Horticultural Landmark*, a national honor.

2010 - City funding for maintenance, salaries and capital improvements was drastically reduced in response to the national recession leading to the formation of the Luther Burbank Home & Gardens Association (LBHGA). The LBH&G Board was dissolved by a formal action of City Council and under an agreement with the City, the nonprofit LBHGA Board of Directors assumed fiduciary responsibility for managing the site. The City retains ownership of the site and remains involved as its finances allow.

Home Improvements

1926 – Elizabeth Burbank remodeled the home adding windows and second story improvements.

1989 - The Home was tied to its foundation to prevent possible earthquake damage.

1991 – Preservation work surrounding the foundation occurred.

2005 – The Home was repainted.

Carriage House Improvements

1931 - A caretaker of the property built an addition to the Carriage House for the purpose of selling seeds.

1986 - An interior was designed and installed in the Carriage House creating an area for museum exhibits and a gift shop. The funding came from a bequest of a City lot by Robert Whiting, longtime carpenter and handyman for Mrs. Burbank.

1989 – The cupola that formerly graced the top of the Carriage House was replicated and installed with contributions from local construction businesses.

1997 – Improvements to the upper Carriage House entry were made.

2005 – The Carriage House was painted, and the upstairs office was reconfigured, painted and carpeted.

2007 - The Museum and Gift Shop in the Carriage House were re-stained.

2008 – The ceiling was painted white and lighting upgraded to reduce electricity usage.

2014 - Leaking gutters on the Carriage House were replaced with barely visible new ones and LED lighting was installed.