



July 19, 2021

Benjamin Wrigley
Solomon Cordwell Buenz,
255 California Street
San Francisco CA 94549

Re: 34 6th Street – Santa Rosa
Design Narrative

To whom it may concern,

34 6th Street sits within the Railroad Square Historic District adjacent to the West End Historic District in Santa Rosa. The specific site, on the west side of the railroad tracks and new SMART station is immediately adjacent to the historic and listed cannery buildings. The building design is a response to each of these historic elements.

The building's siting and orientation is a direct response to Railroad Square to the east. Positioned perpendicular to railroad tracks the project preserves the view corridors along both 5th and 6th streets, maintaining visual access from Railroad Square to the historic cannery buildings and the creek beyond. Balconies activate the end of the building facing railroad square providing a strong visual connection across the SMART rail lines.

The sites western edge is formed by the historic cannery buildings and the 6th Street Playhouse, itself a renovation of the Del Monte Cannery. The architectural form and language of the historic cannery structures, with their linear massing, is the main design driver for the vocabulary and scale of the new building. The linear forms of the canneries are organized into simple masonry bays with large, punched windows; their loading docks and appurtenant structures utilize metal and wood to create canopies and raised dock elements. Pilaster elements define the bays in the historic structures. These design features and materials are reinterpreted in the new structure with contemporary materials.

In the new building residential stoops and canopies at the ground floor are comprised of dark metal frames with wood soffits pulling from the canneries industrial palette of materials; weathered steel guardrails and fence elements extend the industrial materials away from the building in to the adjacent landscape further tying the new structure to the historic district. . An organized series of bays of large dark metal framed punched windows, and dark metal picket railed balconies on the upper stories apply the industrial palette to the fine details of the building. These elements combined orchestrate a compatibly scaled architectural composition with a rich, industrial materiality.

The major façade materials, contrasting dark and light plaster finishes, are a nod to both the dark stone of Railroad Square and lighter character of the residential buildings to the north in the West End Historic District. This combination of contrasting materials bring clarity and drama to the composition, while allowing the building to sit comfortably with each of the adjacent districts. Within this overall



framework, wooden panels accent the façade and add warmth while maintaining a reference to the wooden elements of the cannery buildings.

Finally, along 6th Street, a consistent architectural vocabulary is scaled down to address the West End Historic District, a predominantly residential and walkable neighborhood. The building is modulated into a series of residential bays with a townhouse scale and aesthetic. Each bay contains a single residential stoop with front door and porch structure utilizing the same wood, metal and glass detailing and framed by pilaster structures similar to the cannery. Additional residential motifs such as bay windows and Juliet balconies, rendered in dark metal, sit above the entryways, helping to bring the scale of the 6-story building down to the more residential scale of the West End Historic District. A vibrant, heavily landscaped edge along the ground floor at 6th street activates the sidewalk providing a safe, lush, walkable connection between Railroad Square and the neighborhoods to the west.

Sincerely,

Solomon Cordwell Buenz
Benjamin Wrigley
Principal

cc: File