

Urban Forestry Council Landmark Tree Evaluation Form and Criteria

Pursuant to Ordinance 0017-06 and Public Works Code Section 810, the UFC has developed these criteria for evaluating potential landmark trees in San Francisco. When evaluating or considering potential landmark trees, please consider the context of the tree within its site location. For example, a tree on PUC land may not have the same community importance that a street or park tree would. Use comment sections, as appropriate, to explain or support evaluation. Attach sheets if more space is needed.

Evaluator's name: Megan Sutherland

Date of evaluation: 07/01/2012

Scientific name: Magnolia x soulangiana 'Alba'

Common name: Alba Saucer Magnolia

Street address: 439 Brussels St

Cross streets: Bacon St

Rarity Yes Partially No

Rarity: Rare Uncommon Common Other

Unusual species in San Francisco or other geographic regions.

Comment: _____

Physical Attributes Yes Partially No

Size: Large Medium Small

Notable size compared to other trees of the same species in San Francisco.

Comment: The tree was approximately 25' tall. CalPoly lists the average height for this species at 25'.

Age: Yes No

Significantly advanced age for the species.

Comment: According to the applicant, the tree was purchased more than 30 years ago, however, this species has an average longevity between 50-150 years.

Distinguished form: Yes No

Tree is an example of good form for its species, has a majestic quality or otherwise unique structure.

Describe: This tree has been well cared for, however, I have a couple concerns. The canopy has been

Thinned in order to enable light to penetrate to the garden floor. While this may add to the garden's

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overall appeal, I think it takes away from this individual tree. Additionally, the branching structure near the base of the tree has many laterals connecting to the trunk in close proximity to one another. This is not a very structurally sound branching arrangement.

Tree condition: Good Poor Hazard
Consider overall tree health and structure, and whether or not tree poses a hazard
Describe: The tree is in good health and does not pose a hazard. It is evident that the tree is being maintained by a professional.

Historical Yes Partially No

Historical Association: Yes None apparent
Related to a historic or cultural building, site, street, person, event, etc.
Describe nature of appreciation: _____

Profiled in a publication or other media: Yes Unknown
Tree has received coverage in print, internet, video media, etc. **Attach documentation** if appropriate.
Describe coverage: The applicant cited coverage of this tree on the Facebook page and website for the Portola Garden Tour. I was unable to locate any reference to this specific tree on the Facebook page or the website (though a picture of the garden fountain was featured).

Environmental Yes Partially No

Prominent landscape feature: Yes No
A striking and outstanding natural feature.
Describe, attach photo if possible: The garden in the backyard is incredibly dense and beautiful. However, the very density of the garden reduces the prominence of the tree.

Low tree density: Low Moderate High
Tree exists in a neighborhood with very few trees.
Describe: _____

Interdependent group of trees: Yes No
This tree in an integral member of a group of trees and removing it may have an adverse impact on adjacent trees.
Describe: _____

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Visible or Accessible from public right-of-way: ___ Yes X No
High visibility and/or accessibility from public property.

Describe: The tree is located in the backyard.

High traffic area: ___ Yes X No
Tree is located in an area that has a high volume of vehicle, pedestrian or bike traffic and has a potential traffic calming effect.

Describe: The tree is located in the backyard.

Important wildlife habitat: X Yes ___ No
Species has a known relationship with a particular local wildlife species or it provides food, shelter, or nesting to specific known wildlife individuals. The applicant indicates that many birds frequent the

tree for food and shelter. Magnolias are known to be a food source for small birds and mammals.

Erosion control: ___ Yes X No
Tree prevents soil erosion.

Describe: _____

Wind or sound barrier: X Yes ___ No
Tree reduces wind speed or mitigates undesirable noise.

Describe: The tree is located at a property very near highway 101 and San Bruno Ave. The tree acts as a sound barrier. However, due to the wispy nature of the branches, it is unlikely to provide a substantial wind break.

Cultural ___ Yes X Partially ___ No

Neighborhood appreciation: X Yes ___ None apparent
Multiple indicators such as letters of support, petition, outdoor gatherings, celebrations adjacent or related to tree, etc. Attach documentation:

Describe: A letter was received from the Portola Garden Tour Organizer (Ruth Wallace) in support of landmark status. The letter from Supervisor Cohen speaks to the beauty of the garden and the premises, but does not specifically mention the tree in question or landmark status.

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Cultural appreciation: Yes None apparent

Particular value to certain cultural or ethnic groups in the city.

Describe nature of appreciation: The applicant states that the garden and landscaping are an homage to the family's and neighborhood's Italian immigrants of the early 1900's.

Planting contributes to neighborhood character: Yes No

Tree contributes significantly to, or represents, neighborhood aesthetic.

Describe contribution: The Portola is historically known as the Garden District. This tree is part of a magnificent garden that is featured on the Portola Garden Tour.

Profiled in a publication or other media: Yes Unknown

Tree has received coverage in print, internet, video media, etc. **Attach documentation** if appropriate.

Describe coverage: The applicant cited coverage of this tree on the Facebook page and website for the

Portola Garden Tour. I was unable to locate any reference to this specific tree on the Facebook page

or the website (though a picture of the garden fountain was featured).

Prominent landscape feature: Yes No

A striking and outstanding natural feature.

Describe, attach photo if possible: The garden in the backyard is incredibly dense and beautiful.

However, the very density of the garden reduces the prominence of the tree.

Additional comments

I think this is a beautiful tree in a breathtaking garden. However, the bar for landmark status is necessarily high. I have a few concerns related to this tree: canopy thinning, branching pattern near the base, and a lack of public visibility (with the exception of the Portola Garden Tour). I think the tree thinning (performed to increase the amount of light reaching the garden floor) sacrificed some of the beauty of the tree for the beauty of the garden. I like the tree and think that it is a well-cared for example of the species in a gorgeous garden, but I don't think it stands out by itself as worthy of landmark status.

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Evaluator's name: Chris Buck
Date of evaluation: Monday, June 25, 2012
Scientific name: Magnolia campbellii 'Alba'
Common name: (white flowering magnolia, deciduous magnolia)
Street address: 439 Brussels street
Cross streets: Wayland and Bacon

Rarity ___ Yes Partially ___ No

Rarity: ___ Rare Uncommon ___ Common ___ Other

Unusual species in San Francisco or other geographic regions.

Comment: Deciduous magnolias are planted in San Francisco. Typically

it is Magnolia soulangeana. I don't know how many of this species are planted on private property in S.F.

Physical Attributes ___ Yes ___ Partially ___ No

Size: ___ Large Medium ___ Small

Notable size compared to other trees of the same species in San Francisco.

Comment: Large for a deciduous magnolia in a backyard in San Francisco, but not large based on potential growth habit/size for species.

Age: ___ Yes No

Significantly advanced age for the species.

Comment: What I have researched on internet, this tree age and size is typical of species.

Distinguished form: ___ Yes No

Tree is an example of good form for its species, has a majestic quality or otherwise unique structure.

Describe: Tree ~~structure~~ does have interesting structure and character, but not necessarily the "ideal" structure. Multiple leaders join and form unusual union without a main trunk. Multiple trunks have formed.

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Tree condition: Good Fair Poor Hazard

Consider overall tree health and structure, and whether or not tree poses a hazard

Describe: Tree condition overall is good to fair. I think the height of tree will remain a little taller than short building, kept in check by afternoon winds. House provides a nice shelter and wind break. No decay visible. Some wind stress to upper canopy. Root crown and rooting appears to be in good condition.

Historical Yes Partially No

Historical Association: Yes None apparent

Related to a historic or cultural building, site, street, person, event, etc.

Describe nature of appreciation: _____

Profiled in a publication or other media: Yes Unknown

Tree has received coverage in print, internet, video media, etc. **Attach documentation** if appropriate.

Describe coverage: It appears that this ~~rear~~ backyard is a popular tour on the Portola Garden Tour. Indirectly, tree is receiving coverage in this manner.

Environmental Yes Partially No

Prominent landscape feature: Yes No

A striking and outstanding natural feature.

Describe, attach photo if possible: It is a striking feature to the backyard garden, but for the purposes of the Landmark Tree Program, not to the level this question is intended.

Low tree density: Low Moderate High

Tree exists in a neighborhood with very few trees.

Describe: Neighborhood has few street trees. Less is known for certain about backyards, but impression of neighborhood is that a large amount of population does not embrace the planting of trees and gardens.

Interdependent group of trees: Yes No

This tree in an integral member of a group of trees and removing it may have an adverse impact on adjacent trees.

Describe: However, it is definitely a key feature ~~the~~ within the backyard landscaping, but strictly speaking, not inter-dependent.

Visible or Accessible from public right-of-way: Yes No

High visibility and/or accessibility from public property.

Describe: Height is just above roof line. Not easily visible from the front of the house.

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High traffic area: Yes No

Tree is located in an area that has a high volume of vehicle, pedestrian or bike traffic and has a potential traffic calming effect.

Describe: compared to other areas of city, no. There is some spillover traffic from Bacon Street from San Bruno Avenue commercial district.

Important wildlife habitat: Yes No

Species has a known relationship with a particular local wildlife species or it provides food, shelter, or nesting to specific known wildlife individuals.

The tree certainly contributes generally speaking.

Erosion control: Yes No

Tree prevents soil erosion.

Describe: Level backyard - No issue of erosion here.

Wind or sound barrier: Yes No

Tree reduces wind speed or mitigates undesirable noise.

Describe: Yes, if you are in immediate area, sitting underneath the tree canopy. But generally speaking, not a significant impact.

Cultural Yes Partially No

Neighborhood appreciation: Yes None apparent

Multiple indicators such as letters of support, petition, outdoor gatherings, celebrations adjacent or related to tree, etc. Attach documentation:

Describe: Backyard is part of Portola Garden Tour.

Cultural appreciation: Yes None apparent Some

Particular value to certain cultural or ethnic groups in the city.

Describe nature of appreciation: There is some cultural appreciation - Annual garden tour. Letters from District 10 Supervisor Malia Cohen re: backyard garden and letter from Ruth Wallace.

Planting contributes to neighborhood character: Yes No

Tree contributes significantly to, or represents, neighborhood aesthetic.

Describe contribution: Neighborhood is aspiring (some segments of population) to become a neighborhood of gardens - so these efforts are appreciated by many in neighborhood and throughout city

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Profiled in a publication or other media: Yes Unknown

Tree has received coverage in print, internet, video media, etc. Attach documentation if appropriate.

Describe coverage: Some coverage of backyard in general due to Portola Garden Tour.

Prominent landscape feature: Yes No

A striking and outstanding natural feature.

Describe, attach photo if possible: Within the backyard garden, it is a remarkable feature. However, it is limited to the rear yard at this property.

Additional comments

Tree is located close to property line with neighbor to south. Most of the tree is located within nominator's own yard. There would be only minor impact if neighbor pruned back branches to their property line. (these are long term considerations)

The backyard is most impressive and this tree is a key element within the landscaping.

There are deciduous trees in S.F., but typically they are Magnolia soulangeana.

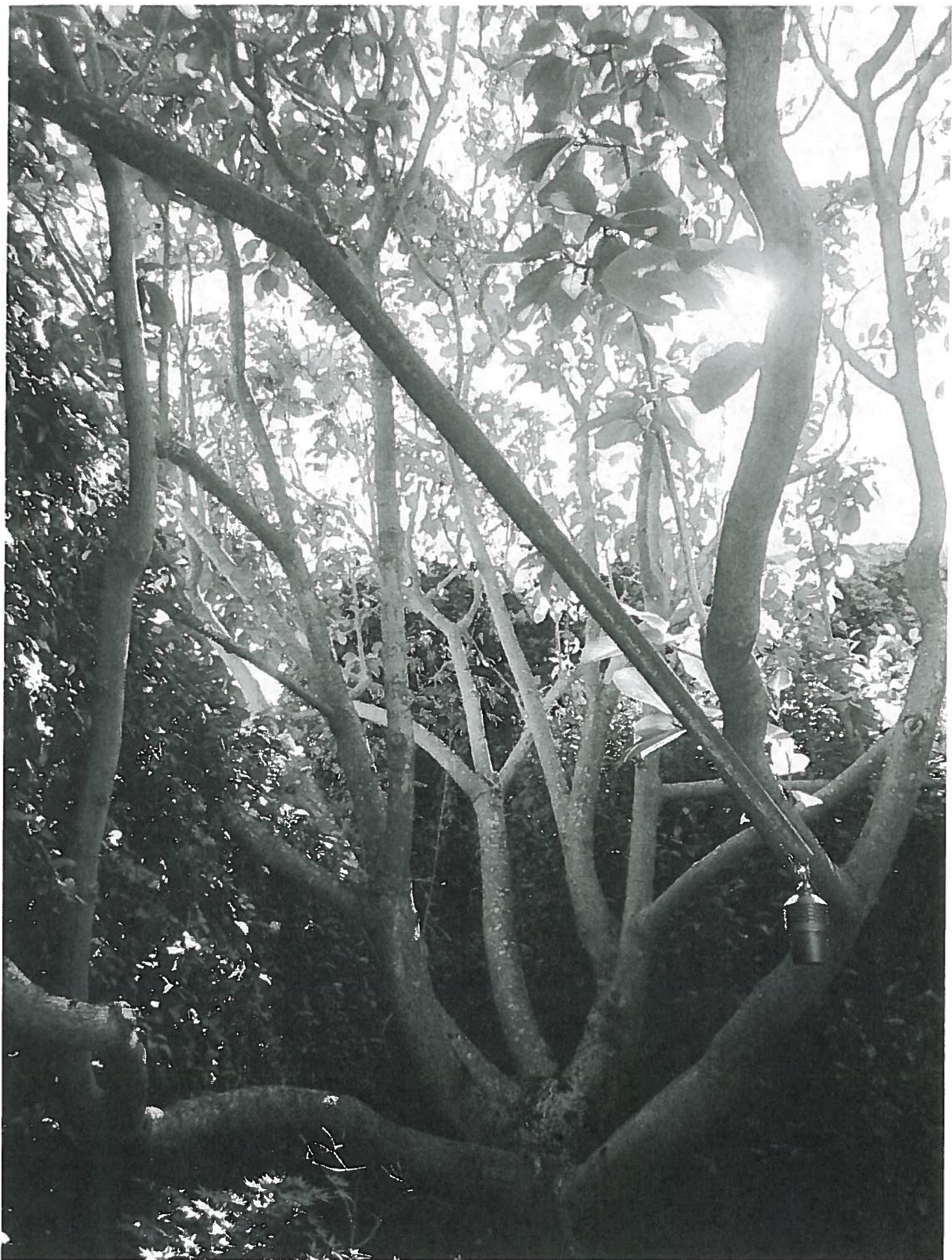
Not sure how many of this species exist in S.F.

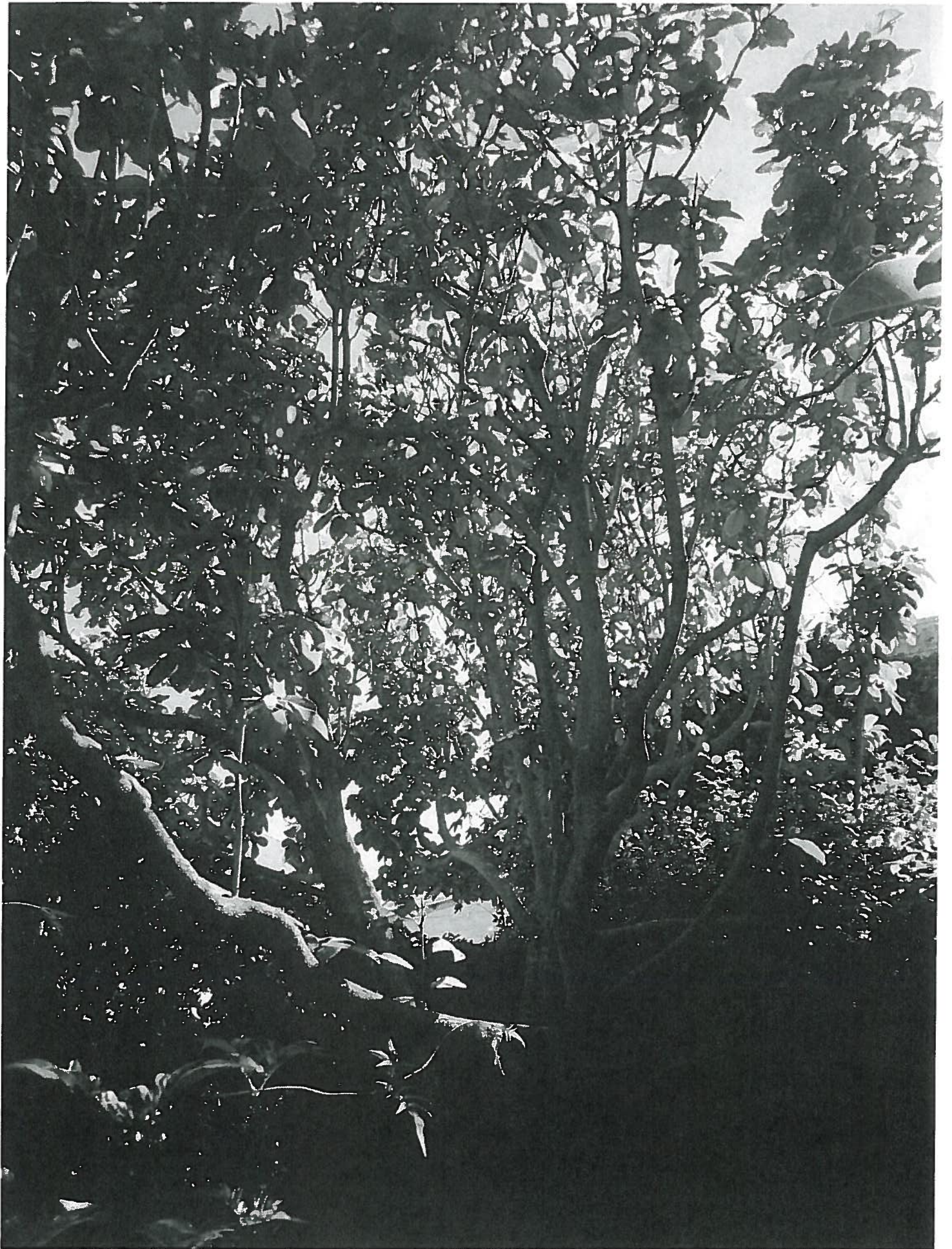
However, research on internet shows that this species does grow large (at maturity) and can be long lived.

A pleasant surprise - this tree and the backyard landscaping.











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Evaluator's name: Larry Costello

Date of evaluation: 6/25/12

Scientific name: Magnolia campbellii

Common name: Chinese Magnolia

Street address: 439 Brussels

Cross streets: _____

Rarity ___ Yes Partially ___ No

Rarity: ___ Rare Uncommon ___ Common ___ Other

Unusual species in San Francisco or other geographic regions.

Comment: Not rare for the species _____

Physical Attributes ___ Yes ___ Partially No

Size: ___ Large Medium ___ Small

Notable size compared to other trees of the same species in San Francisco.

Comment: Not a notable size for the species _____

Age: ___ Yes No

Significantly advanced age for the species.

Comment: _____

Distinguished form: ___ Yes No

Tree is an example of good form for its species, has a majestic quality or otherwise unique structure.

Describe: _____

Tree condition: Good ___ Poor ___ Hazard

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Consider overall tree health and structure, and whether or not tree poses a hazard
Describe: No hazard

Historical Yes Partially No

Historical Association: Yes None apparent
Related to a historic or cultural building, site, street, person, event, etc.
Describe nature of appreciation: _____

Profiled in a publication or other media: Yes Unknown
Tree has received coverage in print, internet, video media, etc. **Attach documentation** if appropriate.
Describe coverage: _____

Environmental Yes Partially No

Prominent landscape feature: Yes No
A striking and outstanding natural feature.
Describe, attach photo if possible: In a backyard, so not a prominent feature in the landscape

Low tree density: Low Moderate High
Tree exists in a neighborhood with very few trees.
Describe: _____

Interdependent group of trees: Yes No
This tree in an integral member of a group of trees and removing it may have an adverse impact on adjacent trees.
Describe: _____

Visible or Accessible from public right-of-way: Yes No
High visibility and/or accessibility from public property.
Describe: _____

High traffic area: Yes No

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Tree is located in an area that has a high volume of vehicle, pedestrian or bike traffic and has a potential traffic calming effect.

Describe: _____

Important wildlife habitat: _____ Yes No

Species has a known relationship with a particular local wildlife species or it provides food, shelter, or nesting to specific known wildlife individuals.

Erosion control: _____ Yes No

Tree prevents soil erosion.

Describe: _____

Wind or sound barrier: _____ Yes No

Tree reduces wind speed or mitigates undesirable noise.

Describe: _____

Cultural _____ Yes _____ Partially No

Neighborhood appreciation: _____ Yes None apparent

Multiple indicators such as letters of support, petition, outdoor gatherings, celebrations adjacent or related to tree, etc. Attach documentation:

Describe: _____

Cultural appreciation: _____ Yes None apparent

Particular value to certain cultural or ethnic groups in the city.

Describe nature of appreciation: _____

Planting contributes to neighborhood character: _____ Yes No

Tree contributes significantly to, or represents, neighborhood aesthetic.

Describe contribution: _____

Profiled in a publication or other media: _____ Yes Unknown

