



**DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

Armando Quintero, *Director*

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December 13, 2021

Joy Beasley

Keeper of the National Register

National Register of Historic Places

1849 C Street, NW, Mail Stop 7228

Washington, DC 20250

Subject: **Murer House and Gardens National Register Nomination**

Dear Ms. Beasley:

**Enclosed please find the Murer House and Gardens Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.** On October 29, 2021, at its regular quarterly meeting, held via the web-based Zoom video conferencing platform, the California State Historical Resources Commission (Commission) voted unanimously to approve the nomination for forwarding to the Keeper of the National Register. We will send the original signature page and the nomination on compact disk when instructed to do so.

The Commission found the **Murer House and Gardens** eligible for the National Register at the local level of significance, under Criteria A and C, in the area Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Ethnic Heritage/European. The period of significance dates from 1927, the year the house was completed, to 1965, when Murer no longer hosted social gatherings at his house and gardens.

The nomination was prepared with the full support of the property owner, the City of Folsom. If you have questions, please contact Jay Correia at 916-445-7008 or [jay.correia@parks.ca.gov](mailto:jay.correia@parks.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "JP", followed by a horizontal line.

State Historic Preservation Officer

**Murer House and Gardens**  
**Folsom, Sacramento County**  
**Staff Report**

The Murer House and Gardens sits on a triangular-shaped lot of one-half acre in the City of Folsom. The house was designed and built between 1925 and 1927 by Guiseppe “Joe” Murer, an immigrant from Crespano del Grappa, Italy. Constructed in a vernacular Italian Renaissance style, similar to the villas found in the countryside surrounding Murer’s hometown, his garden, including grape arbors, chestnut trees, fruit and lemon trees, and rock terracing, survive and contribute to a sense of time and place. The property retains high historical integrity and appears eligible for the National Register under Criteria A and C at the local level of significance.

The Murer House is one-story, asymmetrically shaped, with a central tower and red terra cotta tile roof. Decorative trim under the eaves, square pilasters at the corners, and long, narrow multi-paned windows and French doors add architectural detailing. Tall narrow chimneys, the elevated square tower, and matching garage lends the house dignity and creates the feeling of a graceful miniature Italian villa. Interior wood trim, a built-in hutch, wood pillars, and arched openings, reflect Murer’s artistry and illustrate his skills as a master carpenter. Outdoors, Murer used locally available river cobbles to create terraces and a fishpond and fountain. The terraces contain grape arbors and numerous fruit and nut trees. These landscaping features are visible today, with much of the garden thriving, even after 95 years. The house, garage, workshop where Murer crafted his much of his woodwork, and gardens, have a distinct Italian feel and reflect the care that Murer took to create his house and gardens. Murer’s technical and aesthetic achievements embodied in his Italian Renaissance house and gardens are significant to the history of Folsom and appear to make the property eligible for the National Register at the local level of significance under Criterion C.

The Murer House and Gardens also meets National Register Criterion A at the local level of significance for its association with Italian immigrant history in Folsom as a social gathering place for local Italian immigrants. The property’s grape arbors, chestnut and lemon trees, terracing, fountains, and other landscaping elements, were the regular location for Italian immigrant community picnics and gatherings. Murer was widely known and an active member of numerous organizations, including the Raddichio Club of Sacramento, a club comprised of immigrants northeastern Italy, a region known for growing raddichio. The Murer house often served as the place for the club’s frequent card games and picnics. The period of significance under Criterion A begins in 1927, when the house was completed and Murer held his first gathering, and continues until 1965 when Murer, then 80 years of age, no longer hosted picnics.

The property is nominated by the Murer House Foundation. OHP has received six letters of support for the nomination, include a letter of support from the City of Folsom, the owner of the property. Staff supports the nomination and recommends the State Historical Resources Commission determine the Murer House and Gardens eligible under Criteria A and C at the local level of significance with a 1927 to 1965 period of significance.

Jay Correia  
State Historian  
October 8, 2021



**Murer House Foundation  
1125 Joe Murer Court  
Folsom, CA 95630**

August 10, 2021

Mr. Jay Correia  
Supervisor, Cultural Resources Management  
Office of Historic Preservation  
1725 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, Suite 100  
Sacramento, CA 95816

**Subject: Nomination of Murer House and Gardens to the National Register of Historical Places**

Dear Mr. Correia,

On behalf of the applicant, the Murer House Foundation, and with the support of the property owner, the City of Folsom, as well as other interested parties, please accept this nomination of the Murer House and Gardens, located at 1125 Joe Murer Court in Folsom, for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

In 1997, when the City of Folsom acquired this property as part of the construction of the Lake Natoma Crossing, the Murer House and Gardens were identified by Mary Maniery of PAR Environmental Services, Inc., as eligible for listing on the NRHP. The State Office of Historic Preservation concurred with that finding. The Murer House Foundation and the City of Folsom believe that formal listing on the NRHP will further encourage awareness, preservation, and stewardship of this important and exceptional historical resource.

Constructed between 1925 and 1926, by Giuseppe Murer, an Italian immigrant who designed and built many buildings in historic Folsom, the Murer House and Gardens consisting of Joe's residence, garage, workshop, and landscape gardens reflect his northern Italian heritage. The house itself is a vernacular example of the Italian Renaissance style of architecture. It is the work of a master craftsman and replicates the Italian Renaissance villas found in the countryside around Joe's birthplace in the Veneto region of Italy. The house and adjacent garage are the only examples of its kind in Folsom.

The setting for the Murer House and Gardens is largely unchanged since its construction nearly 100 years ago. The site has been continuously maintained with only minor modifications over the years. Despite the passage of time since its construction, the Murer House and Gardens retain their historical integrity.

For your convenience, included below is contact information for the property owner:

**Property Owner**

Elaine Andersen  
City Manager  
City of Folsom  
50 Natoma Street  
Folsom, CA 95630

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Joseph W. Luchi  
President  
MHF Board of Directors

# H | P | L

Preserving Folsom's History

August 10, 2021

Mr. Jay Correia  
Supervisor, Cultural Resources Management  
Office of Historic Preservation  
1725 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, Suite 100  
Sacramento, CA 95816

**Subject: Nomination of Murer House and Gardens, 1125 Joe Murer Court, Folsom, CA to the National Register of Historic Places**

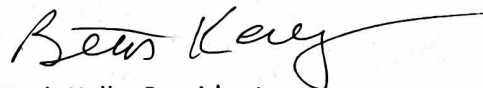
Dear Mr. Correia,

The Heritage Preservation League (HPL) is eager to see the Murer House and Gardens placed on the National Register of Historic Places. While located on the edge of the City's designated Historic District; and, the Murer House and Gardens are one of the most exceptionally historic properties in Folsom.

The residence, garage, workshop, and surrounding gardens on the site contribute architecturally and esthetically to the community; and, preserves a design style, Italian Renaissance, seen no where else in Folsom. Giuseppe Murer, the Italian immigrant who designed and build the Murer House and Gardens, also constructed several buildings within the Historic Folsom. All of which still stand today furthering Folsom's unique character and preserving, for current and future generations, our links to the past.

The HPL was formed in 2003 with the express purpose of advocating for preservation of the historic and prehistoric resources of our area. We successfully worked with the City of Folsom, CalTrans and the Lincoln Highway Association to restore the Orangevale Avenue Bridge; the bridge is now listed on the National Register and won a top national award from the American Public Works Association. HPL considers the Murer House and Gardens as of equal or greater importance to the region, and we fully support its inclusion on the National Register.

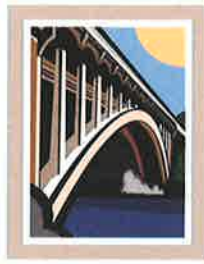
Sincerely,



Beth Kelly, President  
The Heritage Preservation League of Folsom

**THE HERITAGE PRESERVATION LEAGUE OF FOLSOM**  
P.O. Box 353, Folsom, CA 95763-0353  
[www.FolsomPreservation.org](http://www.FolsomPreservation.org)





CITY OF  
**FOLSOM**  
DISTINCTIVE BY NATURE

August 17, 2021

Mr. Jay Correia  
Supervisor, Cultural Resources Management  
Office of Historic Preservation  
1725 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, Suite 100  
Sacramento, CA 95816

**Subject: National Register of Historic Places, Murer House and Gardens, 1125 Joe Murer Court, Folsom, CA**

Dear Mr. Correia:

On behalf of the City of Folsom, I would like to add the City's support for the Murer House and Gardens being listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Since the City of Folsom acquired the property over 20 years ago, we have enjoyed a long and productive partnership with the Murer House Foundation (MHF). As the City's custodian of the Murer House and Gardens, the MHF has worked tirelessly and effectively to preserve and promote awareness of the history of Italians in Folsom as well as in the surrounding region. The MHF's ongoing mission of providing historical, educational, and recreational programs and activities for the public has ensured the Murer House and Gardens remains one of Folsom's key community assets.

The Murer House and Gardens has been a defining element of Folsom's historic heritage for nearly 100 years, connecting our community with the important contributions of hard-working immigrants like Giuseppe Murer. The Murer House and Gardens' unique design style highlighting the Italian Renaissance is architecturally and aesthetically pleasing, as well as educational. Folsom has always celebrated its abundant history; the Murer House and Gardens continues to be an essential part of our rich story.

The City of Folsom is proud to support the listing of the Murer House and Gardens on the National Register. Its listing would help ensure the site is protected and preserved so that it may continue to serve as an important community asset for future generations. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Elaine Andersen  
City Manager



August 6, 2021

Mr. Jay Correia  
Supervisor, Cultural Resources Management  
Office of Historic Preservation  
1725 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, Suite 100  
Sacramento, CA 95816

**Subject: National Register of Historic Places, Murer House and Gardens, 1125 Joe Murer Court, Folsom, CA**

Dear Mr. Correia,

On behalf of the Folsom Chamber of Commerce, I would like to express our firm support of the Murer House and Gardens being listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Murer House and Gardens have been a defining element of Folsom's historic heritage for nearly 100 years. This site serves as a key reminder of this community's connection to our rich past full of important contributions from hard-working immigrants like Giuseppe Murer. These are the same people that helped shape and guide Folsom into what it is today, an economically vibrant and culturally diverse community. Just as importantly, the Murer House and Gardens' unique design style, highlighting the Italian Renaissance, brings to the forefront a select architectural aspect for visitors to enjoy and appreciate now and for years to come.

The Folsom Chamber of Commerce stands alongside other civil organizations here in Folsom who support the listing of the Murer House and Gardens on the National Registry. In this way, the site will be protected and preserved; so, it can continue as an important community asset for this and future generations.

Joseph P. Gagliardi

CEO/President



August 6, 2021

Mr. Jay Correia  
Supervisor, Cultural Resources Management  
Office of Historic Preservation  
1725 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, Suite 100  
Sacramento, CA 95816

**Subject: National Register of Historic Places, Murer House and Gardens, 1125 Joe Murer Court, Folsom, CA**

Dear Mr. Correia,

On behalf of the Folsom Tourism Bureau, I would like to join others in this community who support the Murer House and Gardens being listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Murer House and Gardens have been a defining element of Folsom's historic heritage for nearly 100 years. This site serves as a key reminder of this community's connection to our rich past full of important contributions from hard-working immigrants like Giuseppe Murer. From a tourism perspective, the Murer House and Gardens' unique design style, highlighting the Italian Renaissance, brings to the forefront a select architectural aspect that appeals to visitors now and for years to come. Folsom's brand has always celebrated our history and worked to making it a part of the visitor experience today. The Murer House and Gardens promises to be another chapter of that story.

The Folsom Tourism Bureau is proud to support the listing of the Murer House and Gardens on the National Registry. In this way, the site will be protected and preserved; so, it can continue as an important community asset for this and future generations.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Ann McAlea". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal dotted line.

Mary Ann McAlea  
Senior Vice President, The Greater Folsom Partnership



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO**



**SUE FROST  
SUPERVISOR  
FOURTH DISTRICT**

August 27, 2021

Mr. Jay Correia  
Supervisor, Cultural Resources Management  
Office of Historic Preservation  
1725 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, Suite 100  
Sacramento, CA 95816

**Subject: National Register of Historic Places, Murer House and Gardens, 1125 Joe Murer Court, Folsom, CA**

Dear Mr. Correia,

As County Supervisor of the 4<sup>th</sup> Supervisorial District, I would like to join others in our community who support of the Murer House and Gardens being listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Murer House and Gardens have been a defining element of Folsom's historic heritage for nearly 100 years. This site serves as a key reminder of this community's connection to its rich past full of important contributions from hard-working immigrants like Giuseppe Murer. Additionally, the Murer House and Gardens' unique design style, highlighting the Italian Renaissance, brings to the forefront a select architectural aspect rarely seen in this area. Folsom takes pride in celebrating its history. The Murer House and Gardens promises to be another part of that long and distinguished story.

The 4<sup>th</sup> Supervisorial District is proud to lend its support to listing the Murer House and Gardens on the National Registry. In this way, the site will be protected and preserved; so, it can continue as an important community asset for this and future generations.

Respectfully,

Supervisor Sue Frost, Chair  
Fourth Supervisorial District  
County of Sacramento



August 7, 2021

Mr. Jay Correia  
Supervisor, Cultural Resources Management  
Office of Historic Preservation  
1725 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, Suite 100  
Sacramento, CA 95816

**Subject: National Register of Historic Places, Murer House and Gardens, 1125 Joe Murer Court, Folsom, CA**

Dear Mr. Correia,

On behalf of the Folsom Historical Society (FHS), I would like to add our support of the Murer House and Gardens being listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Murer House and Gardens have been a defining element of Folsom's historic heritage for nearly 100 years. The site serves as a key reminder of this community's connection to our rich past full of important contributions from hard-working immigrants like Giuseppe Murer. The Murer House and Gardens' unique design style, highlighting the Italian Renaissance, brings to the forefront a select architectural aspect for visitors to enjoy and appreciate now and for years to come.

The FHS strongly supports the listing of the Murer House and Gardens on the National Register to be protected and preserved so it can continue as an important community asset for this and future generations.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeff Ferreira-Pro". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "J" and "F" at the beginning.

Jeff Ferreira-Pro  
President  
Folsom Historical Society