



**HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION STAFF REPORT**

**ITEM NO. 6.1**

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**DATE:** April 2, 2026  
**TO:** Chairperson and Members of the Historic Preservation Commission  
**FROM:** Emily LaDue, Assistant Planner  
**SUBJECT:** Consideration of one historic plaque for the Livermore Plaque Program: 1707 Third Street (PT25-019).

**RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Staff recommends the Historic Preservation Commission review and approve the proposed plaque text for clarity and historical accuracy.

**DECISION TYPE**

Not Applicable

**SUMMARY**

Plaques are an important part of Livermore's Historic Preservation Program and may be commissioned through Livermore's Plaque Program. The Historic Preservation Commission's role in reviewing these plaques is to approve the text language, ensuring historical accuracy and readability. This report includes one plaque commissioned through the voluntary Plaque Program. The plaque's text was prepared by City staff using research by the City Historian, Livermore Heritage Guild, and additional staff research. The plaque is consistent with the requirements of the Plaque Program. Approving plaque text is not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act.

**DISCUSSION**

**BACKGROUND**

Based on available records, Livermore has been memorializing properties, persons, and

events within the City of Livermore (City) with commemorative plaques since approximately 1935. Examples of such plaques include ones commemorating the Old City Hall and Firehouse, Carnegie Library, and Jacob Waggoner (an early pioneer of the Livermore Valley). According to the City Historian, there are at least 114 commemorative plaques located throughout Livermore.

Plaques are an important part of Livermore's Historic Preservation Program and may be commissioned through the City Plaque Program. These plaques are primarily reserved for residential properties that are significant to Livermore's history, and are typically awarded if:

1. the property, person, or event in question is notable to Livermore's past; or
2. the property, person, or event is unique within Livermore.

The City allocates funding for up to three plaques each year, which can be requested by homeowners or recommended by City staff or the City Historian. A property does not need to be designated historically "Significant" or "Potentially Significant" in the City's Historic Resource Inventory to be considered for the Plaque Program; however, if there are multiple applications being reviewed by the City at a given time, preference may be given to properties with a more significant historical status. Staff received one commemorative plaque request from the homeowner of 1707 Third Street in 2025.

Plaque content generally includes historical information about an individual who was significant to Livermore's history and related to the residence, or historic architectural characteristics of the property. Research and preparation are primarily conducted by the City Historian, City staff, and the Heritage Guild. Research materials are included in this packet as Attachment 1.

## PLAQUE CONTEXT

The Historic Preservation Commission's role in reviewing each type of plaque is to ensure historical accuracy and readability. In its review, the Commission may suggest the modification, removal, or addition of text. The plaques are cast in bronze with embossed (raised) letters and eight inches by eight inches in size. The layouts generally consist of a title section with information about the property, a text body with descriptive information, and a commemoration with date. A sample for reference is included as Attachment 2.

### 1707 Third Street

A plaque for 1707 Third Street was requested by the homeowner through the Plaque Program in July 2025. Given that no other plaques have been requested this year, there is sufficient budget for this plaque. Staff conducted research and found two notable persons associated with the residence:

1. Simon Foscalina
  - a. Born: October 9, 1847
  - b. Died: January 14, 1924
  - c. Pioneer Livermore resident who emigrated from Piedmont, Italy with his family, others of which are notable figures in Livermore. Worked as a stock raiser, horse breaker, and Alameda County court interpreter. Participated in local trotting matches and the annual Livermore horse parade, which ran from 1884 to 1914, a precursor to the Livermore Rodeo.
2. Ellen Frances Ladd-Foscalina
  - a. Born: April 18, 1852
  - b. Died: December 27, 1921
  - c. Eldest daughter of Alfonso Ladd, founder of Laddsville, and pioneer Livermore resident.

Attachment 1 contains the full research summary regarding Simon Foscalina and Ellen Ladd-Foscalina, conducted by staff and the City Historian using material produced by primary source newspaper articles, U.S. Census data, the Livermore Heritage Guild, and other local historians.

Given the size of each plaque, and to promote readability and clear layout, staff generally limits the plaque content to 10-40 words in addition to the plaque title, address, and commemoration. Based on research, staff has found the property suitable for a commemorative plaque, and recommends approval of the following language:

*Ladd-Foscalina House  
Built circa 1890*

*Simon Foscalina was a pioneer Livermore resident who emigrated from Northern Italy during the early 1850s. He was a farmer, stock raiser, horse trainer and well-known participant in the Livermore horse parades that predated the Livermore Rodeo. He spoke several languages fluently and worked as an interpreter for the Alameda County Court. Ellen Frances Ladd-Foscalina was the eldest child of Alphonso Ladd, founder of Laddsville, the precursor to Livermore. Simon and Ellen lived in the home from approximately 1890 to 1922 and raised four children.*

*Commemorated by City of Livermore Historic Preservation Commission April 2026*

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. Research
2. Bronze Plaque Sample

Prepared by: Jesse Garcia  
Assistant Planner