

Client:
Don Nisja
104 Calumet Ave.
San Anselmo, 94960



URBAN FORESTRY ASSOCIATES, INC.

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ARBORIST REPORT

For

104 Calumet Avenue, San Anselmo, 94960

PURPOSE

Urban Forestry Associates (UFA) was hired to assess one mature valley oak tree. The client is concerned with the tree's proximity to the home and potential for damage. Zach Vought of UFA performed a site inspection to assess the tree on December 6, 2018.

SCOPE OF WORK AND LIMITATIONS

Urban Forestry Associates has no personal or monetary interest in the outcome of this investigation. All observations regarding trees in this report were made by UFA, independently, based on our education and experience. All determinations of health condition, structural condition, or hazard potential of a tree or trees at issue are based on our best professional judgment. The health and hazard assessments in this report are limited by the visual nature of the assessment. Defects may be obscured by soil, brush, vines, aerial foliage, branches, multiple trunks or other trees. Even structurally sound, healthy trees are wind thrown during severe storms or other weather events. Consequently, a conclusion that a tree does not require corrective surgery or removal is not a guarantee of no risk, hazard, or sound health.

OBSERVATIONS

History

The subject tree predates the home at 104 Calumet Ave. which has been in the family for two generations. The Nisja's have cared for the tree regularly over the years, and since becoming a permanent resident of the house the family has commissioned biennial pruning of the tree. Due to the long relationship with the tree, the family has a strong emotional attachment. The family has gone as far as augmenting the roof line adjacent to the garage and kitchen some years ago to accommodate the tree but continued radial growth has closed the gap. Most recently, significant pruning was performed of the south canopy in an attempt to achieve clearance from the home. Unfortunately, no clearance was achieved.

Tree 1

Species	<i>Quercus lobata</i> (valley oak)
Size	Two stems; 40, 16 DBH ¹ The diameter was visually estimated due to poor access between the house and fence, though it qualifies as "Heritage" pursuant to San Anselmo Municipal Code.
Location	Figure 1. The tree stands (approximately 60-feet tall) in the side yard(s) between 100 and 104 Calumet Avenue, though most of the trunk and canopy are distributed toward 100 Calumet Ave. Respectively, the main trunk and subordinate trunks are directly contacting the cut-out in the roof and roof line. The lower main trunk is directly contacting the siding and foundation of the Nisja home (Figures 2-4) The main trunk is within approximately 3 feet of the siding for the home at 100 Calumet Ave.

¹ Trunk diameter (in inches) measured across the long axis of the main stem at 4.5' above grade from the upslope side of the tree.

Condition Relative to its trunk diameter the canopy is compact, in part due to the history of pruning, and recent pruning, resulting in significant unweighting of the south canopy quadrant.

A decay cavity exists on the north face of the lower trunk, where a large stem was removed in the distant past. Access to the 100 Calumet side yard was afforded to inspect the cavity. A 4-foot long metal probe inserted its whole length (downward) into the cavity. Solid wood within the cavity did not allow for thorough probing horizontally so the full extent of decay was not determined. Considering the age of the pruning wound the amount of decay observed was not surprising but is significant. Aside from the area directly adjacent to the cavity opening no audible hollow resonance was produced (that would suggest significant internal decay) during sounding of the main trunk.

No obvious signs of disease or decay were observed on the lower main trunk/ roots near grade.

Conclusion Unfortunately the subject tree has outgrown the available space near the Nisja home and is posing risk of structural damage to the roof, siding and foundation.

From an arboricultural perspective, whole tree removal is the only reasonable option to abate all risk posed to the Nisja home. Aggressive unweighting of the canopy was already attempted but did not relieve the conflict. If nothing is done, continued radial growth of the tree will result in further impact to the home.

Recom'd Whole tree removal to abate the risk.

Zachary Vought, Urban Forester
ISA Certified Arborist & TRAQ
WE-9995A



Figure 1. Tree location map. Subject tree's canopy outlined in green.



Figure 2. Nisja home (right). Note main trunk directly contacting siding/ foundation.



Figure 3. Photo taken from Nisja side yard looking up at the main trunk contacting roof.



Figure 4. View of both trunks against Nisja roof. Phot taken from 100 Calumet Ave. side yard.



Figure 5. Subject tree's canopy