



TOWN OF
SAN ANSELMO
EST. 1907

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONNAIRE FOR TREE WORK PERMIT

A permit is required to remove or significantly prune any heritage tree, any tree on undeveloped property and any street tree. A heritage tree is defined as a tree with a minimum diameter at breast height (DBH = 4.5 feet above grade) of 22 inches. A permit is required to remove any tree on undeveloped property with a DBH of 7 inches. Pruning is defined as, and limited to, removal of less than 25% of the tree's foliage. **An arborist's report and photograph of the tree(s) are required prior to an application being complete. Application must include at least one photo showing the context of the tree or application may be deemed incomplete.** NOTE: Acacia, Eucalyptus, Plum, Privet and Monterey Pine trees are considered nuisance trees and do not require a permit to remove. S.A.M.C. Sections 4-9 & 4-13

ANY PERSON VIOLATING THE PROVISIONS OF THIS CHAPTER SHALL BE GUILTY OF EITHER AN INFRACTION OR A MISDEMEANOR.

1. Value of work: \$4300 (A licensed contractor Class D-49, C-60 or C-27) is required for work of \$300 or more.
2. Describe the type of tree work that is proposed including **type of tree(s)**, number, remove, prune, etc.:
Whole tree removal of 1 California bay laurel
3. Describe the reason for the work: Abate high risk of continued damage to the home located at 19 Myrtle Ln, including, but not limited to, damage to the foundation and roof
4. Location of tree(s): Front Yard Side Yard Rear Yard
5. Is this proposed tree a: Heritage Tree Street Tree Undeveloped lot tree
6. What is the DBH? 40 Inches
7. What is the health of the tree(s)? Aggressively topped tree (by previous owner), with heartwood rot in main trunk
8. How close is the tree to a major structure(s) i.e. the house? House was built around the tree
9. Does the tree interfere with utility services? Not to my knowledge
10. Does the tree threaten or impede upon existing structures? Yes No If Yes, describe how The tree is growing into the home's roof and foundation
11. What is the topography of land in the vicinity of the tree? Will the proposed work cause increased soil erosion, soil instability, or will it cause the redirection of surface flow? Flat lot, will not cause increased erosion or instability to my knowledge.
12. What will the general effect of the tree work be on property values in the area? No effect to my knowledge

Client: John Anki

Arborist: Zach Vought

Project Address: 19 Myrtle Lane, San Anselmo

Inspection Date: November 16, 2020



ASSIGNMENT/ BACKGROUND

John Anki hired me to evaluate a heritage-size California bay laurel tree at 19 Myrtle Lane in San Anselmo. The purpose of the inspection was to document the tree's condition and provide a prognosis of health, structure, and potential issues with the tree as it relates to safety and the home. Mr. Anki is reportedly planning on performing repairs to the home and plans to remove the tree.

OBSERVATIONS

Tree-1

Species California bay laurel (*Umbellularia californica*)

Size The main trunk measured approximately 40 inches dbh¹ making it a heritage tree per San Anselmo Municipal Code.

Location The house was built around the tree which stands in a rectangular cut-out in the home between the garage and front entryway. There is less than a foot of space between the lower trunk and home foundation. The trunk is conflicting with the roof (See Figures 2,3).

Condition

The subject tree is mature and was once a large specimen, however, in the distant past the tree was pruned aggressively (topped) to a height of approximately forty feet. The canopy is composed of vertical stems from which small diameter sprouts have grown creating an unnatural/bushy appearance (See Figure 1).

Most of the tree's root system is covered by the home and the home foundation and the trunk is conflicting with the roof. There is established **heartwood rot** in the trunk which extends up into the main trunk and down to grade.

DISCUSSION/ CONCLUSIONS

I understand the home has structural issues that Mr. Anki plans on repairing, which will include foundation work. Typically, such work will require a significant amount of excavation and space. Currently the tree is prohibiting such work from occurring. The trunk of the subject tree is already conflicting with the roof, and although site conditions did not allow for me to fully examine the foundation it is possible the tree is contributing to the damage as the lower trunk is directly contacting the foundation (See Figure 4). The tree has clearly outgrown the space and is no longer an amenity tree due to its proximity to the home and established decay in the trunk. Although the tree qualifies as heritage its trunk diameter is not representative of its overall size due to the prior topping. The topping severely diminished the tree's contribution to the property and surrounding



Figure 1. Subject tree as viewed from the Myrtle Lane

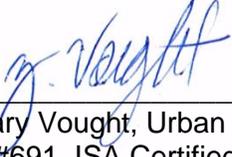
¹ Trunk diameter measured (in inches) at four- and one-half feet above grade, from the upslope side of the tree

community.

In my opinion whole tree removal is the only reasonable action to allow for the repairs to occur and to abate the high risk of continued damage to the home. Even if no work we're planned, removing the tree is a reasonable management option due to the tree having outgrown the space.

RECOMMENDATION

Whole tree removal.



Zachary Vought, Urban Forester
RCA #691, ISA Certified Arborist
WE-9995A & TRAQ



Figure 2. View of the tree relative to the home.

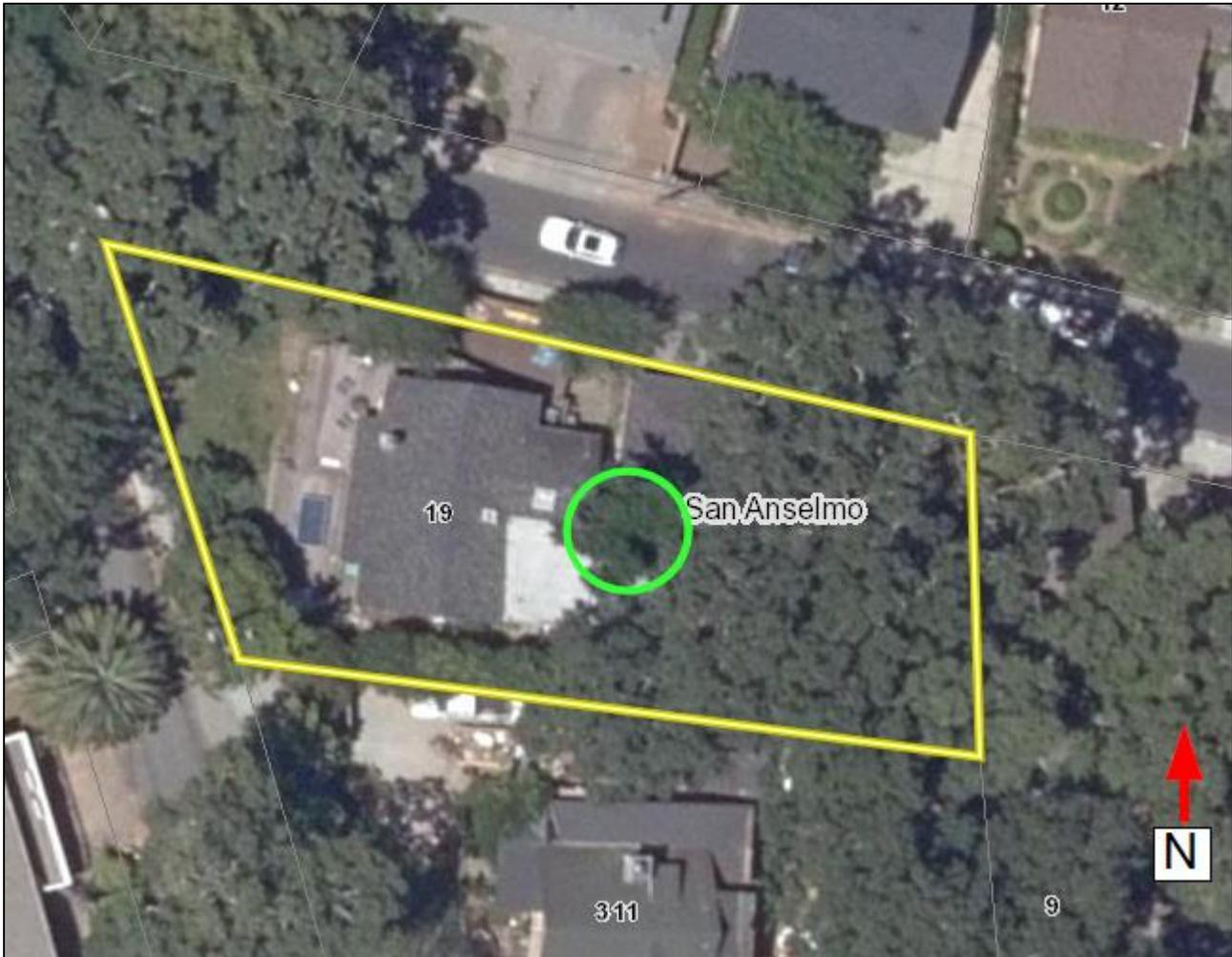


Figure 3. Site plan. Green circle indicates the approximate canopy outline.



Figure 4. View of lower trunk in relation to the foundation.

Glossary

Heartwood- wood that is altered (inward) from sapwood and provides chemical defense against decay-causing organisms and continues to provide structural strength to the trunk. Trees may or may not have heartwood. Contrast with sapwood.

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.