

**D. M. and Carrie Proper Meredith House
1421 Garden Street
Mills Act Application**

The D. M. and Carrie Proper Meredith House was added to San Luis Obispo's Master List of Historic Properties in 2023 for association with early San Luis Obispo City and County leader in education and finance D. M. Meredith and for embodiment of the Swiss Revival/Heimatstil style, at 1883 the earliest documented of the city's Swiss Revival resources, which include the Master List Snyder House (by 1886) and Angel and Greenfield Houses (circa 1890) and, of course, Madonna Inn, designed in 1957 and built over the ensuing decade.

The owners of the Meredith House, Beau and Jennifer Narragon, are applying for Mills Act tax abatement, innovated by State Senator Jim Mills and voted in referendum by the citizens of California in 1976 to assist owners of historic buildings with the additional expenses of preservation. The program reduces property taxes on a formula set by the county, while the city mandates a contract to ensure that the historic resource is properly maintained. The undertaking for the Meredith House focuses on maintenance of the historic structure and fabric of the house against water damage, including

- spot maintenance of the recent exterior painting
- repair of porch and other areas of rotting wood
- window upgrades to historic standards
- repair of incorrectly installed drains
- new roof shingles toward the end of their lifespan in the next ten years

Following precedent of the Cultural Heritage Committee, these expenses relate to maintenance of the historic structure itself and not to ancillary aspects of the property.

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Submitted 26 August 2025 on behalf of Beau and Jennifer Narragon, 1421 Garden Street