

## Q&A / CITY GOVERNMENT

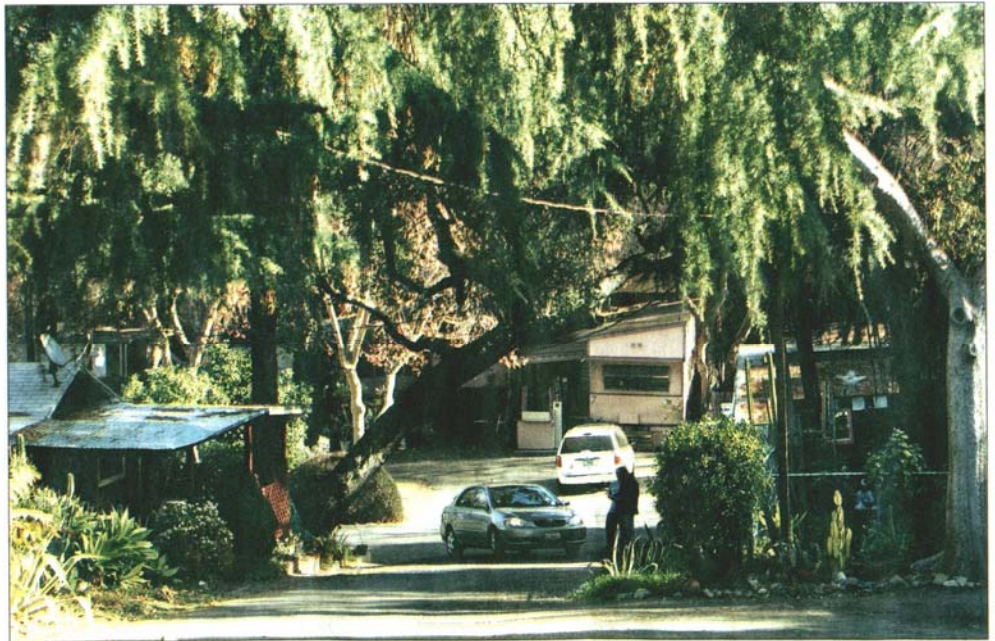
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***What did the owner of Los Angeles' only historic trailer park want to do with the land?***

Sell it for condos.

But the **Monterey Trailer Park** is safe for now.

The back story: The trailer park is in **the Los Angeles community of Hermon**, tucked into a leafy hillside between the Arroyo Seco and the Monterey Hills.



FRANCINE ORR Los Angeles Times  
**SALE PLAN UNHITCHED:** Due to its historic status, the Monterey Trailer Park in Hermon (between South Pasadena and Highland Park) is safe for now. The site's owner had tried to sell it to a real-estate developer.

Back in the 1920s and '30s, the trailer park was the site of an old auto camp, where migrants toding into town on Route 66 would pull over and set up a tent while searching for a new home. In 2002, the City Council declared the park a historic landmark.

Francis Tang of Temple City bought the park in 2003 and in 2005 applied for a property-tax discount under the state Mills Act, which is intended to help owners preserve historic sites.

Then, last year, Tang put the property on the market for \$2.5 million. "Monterey Mobile Home Park offers an investor/developer the opportunity to re-zone and redevelop into a high-rise condominium project," read the real estate ad.

Today, the trailer park is home to 22 residents, and looks like it hasn't changed much since the 1960s.. Only a handful of the old buildings remain, but many of the residents have been there for decades, and many are under the city's rent-control program.

"My boss teases me about being trailer trash, but it's quiet here, I like my neighbors and we're like a family," said Kathleen Osmon, 70, who has lived in the park since 1981. "And it gives me some pride to live somewhere that is part of the city's history."

On Tuesday, the real estate agent for Tang told The Times the property had been pulled off the market because the historic preservation issues made it a difficult sell and that Tang intended to leave it as is even though the rent control is hurting him.

Tang could not be reached for comment.

Wendi Riser, a neighborhood activist, said she knows that not every community fights to save its local trailer park. Often, it's quite the opposite. But, she said, that's Hermon.

"We're a community -- a little one -- and that trailer park is part of us, and they are one of the lovely quirky things that makes Hermon special," Riser said. "We value our history, and that trailer park is part of it."