

Friends of the Bracewell Observatory Association

567 CANYON ROAD, REDWOOD CITY, CA 94062
PH. 650-888-2372 FAX: 650-365-6906

September 27th, 2005

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL

Dana A. Peak, Program Manager
Planning Office
County of Santa Clara
70 West Hedding Street, East Wing, 7th floor
San Jose, CA 95110

Beverly Sumcad
Office of the Clerk - Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Clara
70 West Hedding Street, East Wing, 10th Floor
San Jose, CA 95110

Re: Nomination of the Bracewell Observatory to the California Register of Historical Resources

Dear Dana and Beverly,

I am pleased to submit to you copies of our nomination of the Bracewell Observatory to the California Register of Historical Resources.

Enclosed is our completed application including Forms DPR 523A, DPR 523J, DPR 523B, DPR 523L's, and this cover letter.

The California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) indicates that the County is given 90 days in which to comment on the nomination and that comments should be returned to the applicant, who will then forward the application to the OHP.

Below is the required OHP application summary information:

Name and address of applicant:

Bob Lash, M.D.
President
Friends of the Bracewell Observatory Association
567 Canyon Road
Redwood City, CA 94062

Name and address of resource owner:

Office of the President
Stanford University
Building 10
Stanford, CA 94305-2060

Name and address of local government with land-use authority:

County of Santa Clara
70 West Hedding Street, East Wing, 10th Floor
San Jose, CA 95110

Concise Statement of Significance

The Bracewell Radio Astronomy Observatory meets the following eligibility criteria as a historic resource that is significant at the local, state, and national level:

1. It is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of local or regional history, or the cultural heritage of California or the United States.

One of the most important events in the 20th century in the history of medical science was the advent of CT Scan (Computed Tomography) medical imaging. The Bracewell Radio Astronomy Observatory is widely recognized as its birthplace. Millions of lives have been saved as a direct result of these dishes at 3185 Alpine Road.

2. It is associated with the lives of persons important to local, California, or national history.

*The Bracewell Observatory is associated with the life of Stanford Professor Ronald N. Bracewell. In 1955 Professor Bracewell founded the observatory, co-authored the first book on Radio Astronomy (R.N. Bracewell and J.L. Pawsey, Oxford, 1955), pioneered image reconstruction, and today he **recognized worldwide as a leading historical figure in the history of Radio Astronomy and the history of Medical Imaging** (see Sullivan, W.T., *The Early Years of Radio Astronomy: Reflections fifty years after Jansky's Discovery*, Cambridge Press).*

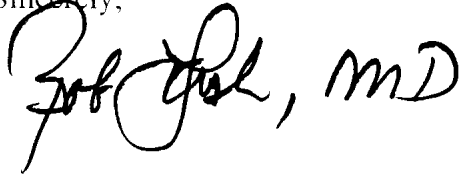
3. It embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method or construction, or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values.

The Bracewell Observatory radio telescope dishes were personally designed by a significant historical figure, Professor Ronald N. Bracewell, and are not merely rare, they are one-of-a-kind. In April of 2005, The International Astronomical Union's (IAU) Inter-Union Commission for the History of Astronomy (ICHA), which was tasked with identifying and listing "historically significant radio telescopes", has designated Stanford's 60-foot dishes as "historically

significant" and published information about them in their bulletin. A copy of the IAU / ICHA Newsletter (No. 7, April 2005, pp. 8-9) is attached as Attachment F. The IAU is an international body consisting of 63 member nations, including the United States.

Thank you for your consideration of this nomination to the California Register of Historical Resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Lash, M.D." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "B" and "L".

Bob Lash, M.D.
President

Email: bob@bambi.net

Enclosures