

CHATEAU LA MARTINE
627 S. Normandie Avenue
CHC-2024-2182-HCM
ENV-2024-2183-CE

FINDINGS

- Chateau La Martine “embodies the distinctive characteristics of a style, type, period, or method of construction” as an excellent example of an apartment house designed in the French Eclectic architectural style.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

Chateau La Martine meets one criterion for designation under the Historic-Cultural Monument criteria.

The subject property “embodies the distinctive characteristics of a style, type, period, or method of construction” as an excellent example of an apartment house designed in the French Eclectic architectural style. The French Eclectic style grew in popularity after World War I in Los Angeles as a style for luxury apartment buildings and large single-family residences. The style emphasizes an eclectic combination of medieval, Gothic, and Renaissance era French architectural design motifs. As exhibited by the subject property, local hallmarks of the style include arched openings, dormers, masonry walls, and multi-lite wood windows symmetrically placed. Characteristic features on the interior of the subject property include a boxed beam ceiling with decorative detailing and arched openings in the lobby.

While the building has experienced some alterations on the interior and exterior, the subject property retains a high level of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association to convey its significance.

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (“CEQA”) FINDINGS

State of California CEQA Guidelines, Article 19, Section 15308, Class 8 “*consists of actions taken by regulatory agencies, as authorized by state or local ordinance, to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of the environment where the regulatory process involves procedures for protection of the environment.*”

State of California CEQA Guidelines Article 19, Section 15331, Class 31 “*consists of projects limited to maintenance, repair, stabilization, rehabilitation, restoration, preservation, conservation or reconstruction of historical resources in a manner consistent with the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring, and Reconstructing Historic buildings.*”

The designation of Chateau La Martine as an Historic-Cultural Monument in accordance with Chapter 9, Article 1, of The City of Los Angeles Administrative Code (“LAAC”) will ensure that future construction activities involving the subject property are regulated in accordance with Section 22.171.14 of the LAAC. The purpose of the designation is to prevent significant impacts to an Historic- Cultural Monument through the application of the standards set forth in the LAAC.

Without the regulation imposed by way of the pending designation, the historic significance and integrity of the subject property could be lost through incompatible alterations and new construction and the demolition of an irreplaceable historic site/open space. The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation are expressly incorporated into the LAAC and provide standards concerning the historically appropriate construction activities which will ensure the continued preservation of the subject property.

The City of Los Angeles has determined based on the whole of the administrative record, that substantial evidence supports that the Project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section Article 19, Section 15308, Class 8 and Class 31, and none of the exceptions to a categorical exemption pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 applies. The project was found to be exempt based on the following:

The use of Categorical Exemption Class 8 in connection with the proposed designation is consistent with the goals of maintaining, restoring, enhancing, and protecting the environment through the imposition of regulations designed to prevent the degradation of Historic-Cultural Monuments.

The use of Categorical Exemption Class 31 in connection with the proposed designation is consistent with the goals relating to the preservation, rehabilitation, restoration and reconstruction of historic buildings and sites in a manner consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.

Categorical Exemption ENV-2024-2183-CE was prepared on July 12, 2024.