

## **AMASIS APARTMENTS**

747 N. Wilcox Avenue

**CHC-2024-4345-HCM**

**ENV-2024-4346-CE**

## **FINDINGS**

- The Amasis Apartments “embodies the distinctive characteristics of a style, type, period, or method of construction” as a highly intact and excellent, rare example of a multi-family residential building designed in the Egyptian Revival architectural style.

## **DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS**

The Amasis Apartments meets one criterion for designation under the Cultural Heritage Ordinance criteria.

The subject property “embodies the distinctive characteristics of a style, type, period, or method of construction” as a highly intact and excellent, rare example of a multi-family residential building designed in the Egyptian Revival architectural style.

The Egyptian Revival architectural style was popularized in Los Angeles in the 1920s and was utilized in zoos, department stores, as well as limited residential properties such as apartment buildings, bungalow courts, and single-family residences. John Manley Close was one of the few architects specializing in this style. Although the Egyptian Revival architectural style did not gain sustained popularity beyond the 1930s, many of the style’s features are also seen within Art Deco architectural designs. The subject property exhibits a number of exterior and interior features characteristic of the style such as large, embedded columns; monolithic, massive solid walls; a flat, low-pitched roof; cavetto/Egyptian gorge cornices; and Egyptian decorative motifs. Buildings designed in the Egyptian Revival style are rare in Los Angeles. There are six multi-family properties designed in the Egyptian Revival architectural style identified in Historic Places LA as individually eligible for designation; however, none of these buildings appear to be as intact as the subject property. 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 the Amasis Apartments 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-2024-4346-CE was prepared on December 13, 2024.