

STYLESVILLE BARBER SHOP AND BEAUTY SALON
13161 W. Van Nuys Boulevard
CHC-2024-3336-HCM
ENV-2024-3337-CE

FINDINGS

- StylesVille Barber Shop and Beauty Salon “exemplifies significant contributions to the broad cultural, economic or social history of the nation, state, city or community” for its association with the development of the African American community in Pacoima in the post-World War II period and as the long-time home of the StylesVille Barber Shop & Beauty Salon, one of the earliest Black-owned barbershops in the San Fernando Valley.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

StylesVille Barber Shop and Beauty Salon meets one criterion for designation under the Cultural Heritage Ordinance.

The subject property “exemplifies significant contributions to the broad cultural, economic or social history of the nation, state, city or community” for its association with the development of the African American community in Pacoima in the post-World War II period and as the long-time home of the StylesVille Barber Shop & Beauty Salon, one of the earliest Black-owned barbershops in the San Fernando Valley.

Barbershops and beauty salons represent important institutions in African American communities. Tracing its origins to pre-colonial hair traditions in Africa that enslaved people held onto and the limited job roles available to Black men due to discrimination after slavery was abolished, barber shops became an important venue for Black entrepreneurship and skilled Black employment. Barbers soon became prominent figures in the African American community and formed tight trade networks with other barbers and apprentices. Beauty salons similarly provided Black women the opportunity to pass on employment and skilled job training to other Black women through apprenticeships. As African Americans migrated to cities such as Los Angeles through the Great Migration, many were faced with discrimination and a lack of local services which further increased demand for Black-owned barbershops and beauty salons. Beyond a place for service, barbershops and beauty salons represented an important opportunity for entrepreneurship and advancement for African Americans and became local institutions where Black people could gather, socialize, and speak freely about important community issues.

Pacoima was one of the few areas where Black veterans returning from World War II and middleclass Black families were able to purchase suburban homes and establish businesses and institutions that met local needs. StylesVille was once one of numerous owned Black businesses along Van Nuys Boulevard and has been an anchor institution in the Valley’s Black community for over 60 years. StylesVille served as a place to socialize and catch up with friends and, up until the Covid-19 pandemic, regularly hosted community barbecues in the rear lot. While most of the Black population in Pacoima relocated to other areas, many Black patrons have continued to make the trip from across Los Angeles and Southern California to StylesVille. Over the years, the subject property has seen notable clientele that include jazz musician Billy Eckstine and University

of Southern California football player Anthony Davis. Today, StylesVille is one of the few remaining businesses associated with the Black community in Pacoima.

Despite some interior and exterior alterations over the years, the subject property retains a sufficient level of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association to convey its significance as one of the earliest Black-owned barber shops and beauty salons in the San Fernando Valley.

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 StylesVille Barber Shop and Beauty Salon 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-2024-3337-CE was prepared July 10, 2024