



MITCH O'FARRELL  
Councilmember  
13th District

May 4, 2021

Chair Marqueece Harris-Dawson and Honorable Members of the  
Planning & Land Use Management Committee  
200 N. Spring St., Room 395  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Taix Historic Cultural Monument Designation (21-0119)

Dear Chair Harris-Dawson & Honorable Members of the PLUM Committee:

I am writing to convey Councilmember O'Farrell's support for the designation of the Taix site.

Taix Restaurant has been operating in the City of Los Angeles since 1926 and its current location since 1962. The City has twice recognized the intangible elements of culture and community despite changes in the location, building, dining format, service style, menu and décor. It is a cultural resource that many Angelenos hold dear. It is for this reason that Taix should be designated.

The designation, however, should not be an impediment to Taix's ability to evolve, as it has done for nearly a century. As such, Councilmember O'Farrell seeks to modify and supplement the Cultural Heritage Commission's January 26, 2021 Final Letter of Determination that is found as an attachment to this letter and has been modified from a previous submission.

Thank you for your consideration.

Craig Bullock  
Planning Director  
Thirteen Council District

Attachment: Taix 5/4/21 Modified Findings

**ATTACHMENT: TAIX 5/4/21 MODIFIED FINDINGS (WITH ADDED LANGUAGE IN BOLD AND UNDERLINE)**

The City Council adopts the following findings, which modify and supplement the Cultural Heritage Commission's January 26, 2021 Final Letter of Determination, as follows:

On December 17, 2020, the City's Cultural Heritage Commission conducted a public hearing to consider the nomination of the site, where the Taix Restaurant is located, as a City of Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument, under Criterion 1 (identified with important events of national, state, or local history) and Criterion 3 (distinctive characteristics of a style, type, period or method of construction) of the City's Cultural Heritage Ordinance.

SurveyLA, the citywide historic resources survey, identified the Taix Restaurant as potentially "individually eligible for local listing or designation through survey evaluation," as "significant in the area of commerce as the founding or long-term location of a business that made a significant contribution to the commercial history of Los Angeles."

Taix French Restaurant has been twice recognized by the City of Los Angeles for these intangible elements of culture and community despite repeated changes in its location, building, dining format, service style, menu and décor over the years – as a cultural resource that remains dear to the hearts of many Angelenos, consistent with the Criterion No. 1 related to the restaurant's "board cultural, economic, and social history".

After conducting its public hearing and considering the evidence in the administrative record, the Cultural Heritage Commission found that Taix Restaurant does not meet Criterion 3 of the Cultural Heritage Ordinance. The Commission found that the architectural quality of Taix Restaurant is negligible on the exterior and interior. The current Taix French Restaurant building is an amalgam of styles and additions to the building that existed at the property prior to Taix Restaurant's location there in 1962. The building is not an example of the French Normandy architectural style. The interior of the restaurant was reconfigured in 1969 and extensively remodeled in the late 1980's through the 2000's. The restaurant's continental-themed interior appointments, such as carpeted floors, drapery, acoustic drop ceilings, upholstered booths, chandeliers, large mirrored panels, and painted wall murals date from the last 25 years and are not historically significant.

The Cultural Heritage Commission unanimously voted to limit its designation recommendation for Taix Restaurant to only significance under Criterion 1 ("exemplifies the broad cultural, economic or social history of the nation, state, city or community"), and expressed a desire to permit the owner to make necessary changes to Taix Restaurant to enable it to continue as a legacy business.

In order to continue over its nearly 100 years in business, Taix Restaurant has previously been required to adapt and repeatedly change. Yet despite the many changes, the Taix family has successfully maintained the continuity of the restaurant

and its significance as a Los Angeles cultural institution. The Taix family has informed the City that the revenues of the restaurant can no longer support the overhead associated with its current property, over-sized building, and aged and outdated infrastructure. Accordingly, preservation of the Taix French Restaurant as a historic-cultural resource and legacy business requires that it be able to respond to economic and social challenges that compel changes in its current physical premises.

Section 22.171.10(f) of the City's Cultural Heritage Ordinance authorizes the City Council to approve or disapprove, in whole or part, the designation of a Historic-Cultural Monument, including any site, building or structure. The City Council finds and determines that the subject site and the Taix Restaurant are significant under Criterion 1 only. The Council finds that the Taix Restaurant building (and its interior and exterior architecture and décor) are not architecturally or historically significant; **provided, however, that the City Council identifies the following physical features of the Taix Restaurant that should be preserved in order to convey the restaurant's historic significance and justify its designation as a Historic-Cultural Monument, as well as its eligibility for inclusion in the California Register of Historical Resources: (i) The red and white east-facing Taix billboard sign along Reservoir Street; (ii) the vertical red and white 'Cocktails' sign along Sunset Boulevard; and (iii) the restaurant's original cherry wood bar top.**