

PAUL REVERE WILLIAMS HOUSE

1271 W. 35th Street
CHC-2021-6684-HCM
ENV-2021-6685-CE

FINDINGS

The Paul Revere Williams House “is associated with the lives of historic personages important to national, state, city, or local history” as the home of master architect Paul R. Williams.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The Paul Revere Williams House meets one of the Historic-Cultural Monument criteria: it “is associated with the lives of historic personages important to national, state, city, or local history” as the home of master architect Paul R. Williams. Williams is widely considered to be one of Southern California’s most prominent architects, whose body of work helped to define the aesthetic identity of the region. During a period when opportunities for people of color were limited, Williams also stood as a trailblazing figure who broke racial barriers within the field of architecture. Williams lived at the property with his family from 1921 to 1951, which corresponds with an important period of his career as he ascended in the architecture profession. It was during this period that Williams passed the California architectural licensing examination, began his own practice, became a member of the AIA, served on the City’s Planning and Housing Commissions, and received his first independent project commissions, many of which have become important architectural landmarks within Los Angeles. By the time Williams moved in 1951 to his next residence in La Fayette Square, he was a well-established and highly regarded architect whose portfolio of work ranged from celebrity houses and vacation retreats to large-scale commercial and institutional buildings.

Despite minor alterations, 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 Paul Revere Williams House 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 a 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-2021-6685-CE was prepared on October 15, 2021.