

EDDIE “ROCHESTER” ANDERSON HOUSE
1924-1932 West Rochester Circle
CHC-2021-4678-HCM
ENV-2021-4679-CE

FINDINGS

The Eddie “Rochester” Anderson House “is associated with the lives of historic personages important to national, state, city, or local history” as the home of African American actor and comedian Eddie “Rochester” Anderson.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The Eddie “Rochester” Anderson 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 African American actor and comedian Eddie “Rochester” Anderson. Anderson is significant as an African American radio, film, and television actor who achieved success in the 1940s, 50s, and 60s, a period when opportunities for Black actors were limited. In his role as Rochester in the radio and television versions of *The Jack Benny Program*, Anderson became one of the most popular and highest paid comedians of the period, and his commission of the subject property in 1940 reflected the growing success he was experiencing in the entertainment industry. Anderson lived at the subject property from its completion in 1940 until his death in 1977, corresponding with the most important period of his career in Hollywood and making the subject property the only property closely associated with Anderson’s life as an entertainer.

Despite some 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 Eddie “Rochester” Anderson 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. Given that the subject property is already listed in the National Register of Historic Places and the California Register of Historical Resources, the pending designation will lead to a higher level of review and protection of the historic significance and integrity of the subject property that could otherwise be lost through incompatible alterations, new construction, or demolition, particularly to the interiors of the buildings. 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-2021-4679-CE was prepared on September 13, 2021.