



MITCH O'FARRELL
Councilmember
13th District

December 6, 2021

Chair Marqueece Harris-Dawson and Honorable Members of the
Planning & Land Use Management (PLUM) Committee
Los Angeles City Hall
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.

This 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.

Thank you for your consideration.

Craig Bullock
Planning Director
Thirteenth Council District

Attachment: Taix Modified and Supplemented Findings

Attachment: Taix 12/6/2021 Modified Findings

The City Council adopts the following findings, which correct and supersede the January 26, 2021 Final Determination Staff Recommendation Report.

On December 17, 2020, the City's Cultural Heritage Commission conducted a public hearing to consider the nomination of Taix Restaurant as a City of Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument.

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."

In 2015, the National Trust for Historic Preservation recognized that the preservation of legacy businesses represents a desire to preserve "intangible elements of culture and community that these businesses have created over time" and presents unique preservation issues. 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.

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. In addition, the Cultural Heritage Commission did not find the restaurant significant as an example of continental design intent.

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. The City Council finds and determines that Taix Restaurant as 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 character-defining physical features of 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.