

August 31, 2021

Barry Milofsky, President
Cultural Heritage Commission
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Support Paul Revere Williams, FAIA Historic-Cultural Monument Status for 1271 West 35th Street (CHC-2021-6684-HCM)

Dear President Milofsky and Honorable Commissioners,

On behalf of the Los Angeles chapter of The American Institute of Architects (AIA LA), I am writing to share our support to have the house at 1271 West 35th Street, which was a former residence of the architect Paul Revere Williams, FAIA, designated as a historic-cultural monument.

According to the Los Angeles Conservancy:

"The simple Craftsman style house at 1271 West 35th Street illustrates a part of Paul Revere Williams' life and story that is rarely told or fully understood. In telling the full story about people and places, it is important to preserve this house as a physical reminder of what Williams achieved and his extraordinary career in architecture.

By the time he was 25 years old, Williams had met and married his wife, Della Mae Givens. They lived with Williams' foster mother until purchasing their own home at 1271 West 35th Street, a modest house in the West Adams area of South Los Angeles. The neighborhood was home to a large Black community, in large part because it was free of the racial covenants which blanketed Los Angeles at the time.

In Williams' 1937 essay, "I Am a Negro," he wrote:

Today I sketched the preliminary plans for a large country house which will be erected in one of the most beautiful residential districts in the world. Sometimes I have dreamed of living there. I could afford such a home. But this evening, I returned to my own small, inexpensive home... in a comparatively undesirable section of Los Angeles. I must always live in that locality, or in another like it, because...I am a Negro

Despite the fact that he was among the more prominent architects in California, if not the United States, until 1951 he was prevented from designing and living in his own dream home. The vast challenges he overcame and the extraordinary achievements he made during an era of racial injustice has inspired generations of architects."

Therefore, it is profound respect for the architect Paul Revere Williams, FAIA and the significance of his legacy that we are writing to share support to have the house at 1271 West 35th Street designated as a historic-cultural monument. If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact our Director of Government & Public Affairs, Will Wright, at will@aialosangeles.org and/or (213) 639-0764)

Very truly yours,



Wade Killefer, FAIA
President
American Institute of Architects, Los Angeles Chapter