

**MORRIS KIGHT MCCADDEN PLACE RESIDENCE**

1428 – 1430 North McCadden Place

**CHC-2022-3605-HCM**

**ENV-2022-3606-CE**

**FINDINGS**

- The Morris Kight McCadden Place Residence “is identified with important events of national, state, or local history, or exemplifies significant contributions to the broad cultural, economic or social history of the nation, state, city or community” as the meeting place and headquarters for organizations, such as the Stonewall Democratic Club, that played a significant role in the second, political phase of the gay liberation movement throughout the 1970s and 1980s.
- The Morris Kight McCadden Place Residence “is associated with the lives of historic personages important to national, state, city, or local history” as the home of gay liberation leader and activist Morris Kight from 1974 to 1992.

**DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS**

The Morris Kight McCadden Place Residence meets two of the Historic-Cultural Monument criteria.

It “is identified with important events of national, state, or local history, or exemplifies significant contributions to the broad cultural, economic or social history of the nation, state, city or community” as the meeting place and headquarters for organizations, such as the Stonewall Democratic Club, that played a significant role in the second, political phase of the gay liberation movement throughout the 1970s and 1980s.

SurveyLA’s LGBT Historic Context Statement identifies eligibility standards for properties significant for their association with the gay liberation movement as being those that are directly associated with an event, organization, or institution that played an important role in the development of LGBT consciousness, community, or culture during the period of significance. Many of the early groups that played an important role in the gay liberation movement were founded in and operated out of the homes of one or more of the members. Other than the Margaret and Harry Hay House (HCM #981), which Hay commissioned for his mother, there are no residences of early gay liberation movement group members designated as an Historic-Cultural Monument as the founding location or base of operations for an organization associated with the gay liberation movement.

The subject property served as the headquarters and meeting place for the Stonewall Democratic Club (SDC), which would become one of the largest and most influential gay political organizations in the country. Founded in 1975 by Morris Kight and Howard Fox in Kight’s McCadden Place home, the purpose of the organization was to elect Democrats through federal, state, and local elections who would best serve gays and lesbians. The first gay club in a major political party, the SDC played a very significant role in California politics. As an example of their influence, in the 1976 election, SDC endorsements overturned four veteran conservative judge assignments—an unprecedented outcome in California electoral history at the time. Today, the

SDC is now one of the largest Democratic Clubs in California and currently has thirty-eight chapters in the United States.

Additionally, the subject property was the founding location and meeting place for the No On Briggs/Proposition 6 Initiative (NOBIC) and the Committee Against the Briggs Initiative (CABI), two of three organizations formed to defeat California Proposition 6 on the 1978 state ballot that sought to ban gays and lesbians from working in California's public schools. Both groups were integral to the fight against the initiative, which ultimately failed to be passed by voters.

The Morris Kight McCadden Place Residence is also "associated with the lives of historic personages important to national, state, city, or local history" as the home of gay liberation leader and activist Morris Kight from 1974 to 1992. For nearly 20 years, the subject property was the residence of Kight and is directly associated with his later productive life where he continued to achieve significance as a gay liberation leader during the political phase of the gay liberation movement. While residing at the subject property, Kight's activism and political savvy made him a rare bridge between the gay and lesbian grassroots movement and elected officials at local, state, and federal levels. At his McCadden Place residence, he hosted many politicians and other influential figures including former Los Angeles City Mayor Tom Bradley, New York author and founder of the Lesbian Herstory Archives Joan Nestle, as well as an array of Congresspersons and Senators. Further, having served on the Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission for 22 years, Kight was one of the longest-seated, openly gay appointees in the history of the United States, and became the first openly gay person to serve as president on a commission in Los Angeles County. Over the course of his life, and while living at the subject property, Kight initiated innumerable organizations that advocated, supported, and influenced changes in governmental policy for members of the LGBT community.

Despite interior and exterior alterations to the subject property, it retains sufficient integrity of location, setting, materials, design, feeling, and association to convey its significance. The majority of the alterations were made prior to the period of significance, from 1974 to 1992.

### **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 Morris Kight McCadden Place Residence 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 an 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 to

the interior and new construction not protected under the South Los Angeles Community Plan Character Residential Area. 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-2022-3606-CE was prepared on February 24, 2023.