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January 12, 2015

The Honorable Herb J. Wesson, Jr.  
Los Angeles City Council President  
Address: 200 North Spring Street, Room 430  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

cc: City of Los Angeles, Planning and Land Use Management Committee

Dear Council President Wesson:

To win historic-cultural monument status a home must meet at least one of four criteria.

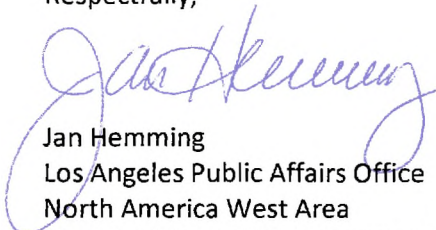
The house at 2067 South Hobart Blvd. meets and exceeds the criteria of being identified with historic personages or important events in the main currents of national, state or local history.

For nearly 30 years, the top religious leaders in what is now the fourth largest church in America – the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, or Mormons -- lived in or spent significant time in the home including prophets and apostles. These would be comparable to a pope or cardinal. A governor, state senator, district judge as well as other prominent business and professional leaders served as mission presidents in the home during church ownership from 1928 to 1953.

Like so many others during the 30s, 40s and 50s, the Mormon Church recognized Los Angeles' potential to become one of the great cities in the world. As such, the church invested vast resources – both capital and human – to establish a permanent and strong presence in Los Angeles. The home at 2067 South Hobart Blvd. played a decisive and vital role in that development.

Outside of Utah, California is the state with the greatest number of members of the Mormon Church. The South Hobart home is more than just a nice memory, it is a matchless part of our church history and heritage. It is worthy of historic protection and preservation.

Respectfully,



Jan Hemming  
Los Angeles Public Affairs Office  
North America West Area  
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints  
1591 East Temple Way  
Los Angeles, California 90024

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January 12, 2015

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The Honorable Herbert J. Wesson, Jr.  
Los Angeles City Council President  
200 North Spring Street, Room 430  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

CC: City of Los Angeles, Planning and Land Use Management Committee

Dear President Wesson:

I am a California native, born and raised in Los Angeles. I am president of the Heritage Trails Association, a non-profit that promotes the early history of California, a published author of many articles on California history and the early history of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (nick-named the Mormon Church) in California, and by trade am a degreed, professional interior designer.

I support designating the home at 2067 South Hobart Blvd. for historic-cultural monument status. It has value as a site with a significant Los Angeles story and for its architectural design.

The home is one of many buildings and monuments throughout Southern California that tell how The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints contributed to the cultural, social and religious life of Los Angeles. For 30 years it served as headquarters for the Church's extensive missionary effort in Los Angeles.

A little more than 80 years before the home was purchased by the Church, the Mormon Battalion, US Army, raised the first American flag over Los Angeles in 1847 at Fort Moore and helped secure statehood for California. A monument of great stature on Hill Street depicts that historic moment and other Mormon pioneering achievements. Mormons helped blaze the first Southern wagon train route between Utah and California as an all weather route to the gold fields and opened Southern California to trade and immigration as the first colonists to settle in Southern California after statehood. They started the lumber industry and supplied the boards for hundreds of homes in Los Angeles during the 1850's.

It is simply impossible to fully understand the history and development of Southern California without including the contributions of the Mormon Church.

One of the most prominent architects in the West, Harold W. Burton, designed a remodel of the home's interior during the early 1930s. Burton is perhaps best known in Los Angeles for his design of the Church's Los Angeles Stake Center, at 1209 Manhattan Place, built in 1929. It was designated an historic-cultural monument by the Los Angeles Cultural Heritage Commission. Several of Burton's other architectural designs are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

These are just a few of the reasons the home should receive historic-cultural monument status. Unless significant sites such as the this house and their histories are preserved, the rich cultural, social and religious heritage in Southern California will fade and be forgotten.

Sincerely,

  
Marilyn Mills  
311 Julia Court, Upland, CA 91784

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LARRY L. EASTLAND, PH. D.

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December 16, 2014

The Honorable Herb J. Wesson, Jr.  
President, Los Angeles City Council  
200 North Spring Street, Room 430  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Honorable Councilman Wesson:

The home at 2067 South Hobart Blvd. in Los Angeles played a significant and symbolic role in the development and history of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints while it was under Church ownership.

During the 1930s through the mid-1950s, this was a period of the great transition for the Church from a basically American church based in the Western states to a post-World War II church of global reach. This required both the foundation of the Church in Utah and California, and the enormous growth of the financial power of the Church in California to fuel the building of the infrastructure that was essential to the Church's confidence in its ability to support that growth.

Southern California was also the launching point for the dramatic rise of the Church in Asia as hundreds of thousands of members passed through its portals to military bases, diplomatic posts and business ventures throughout the Far East. No place was more important to this movement than Los Angeles, and the home at 2067 South Hobart was a central hub and springboard from which these essential operational efforts arose.

Sincerely,



Larry L. Eastland, Ph. D.  
Executive Committee  
Southern California Public Affairs Council  
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

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