DEPARTMENT OF CITY PLANNING

OFFICE OF HISTORIC RESOURCES 200 N. Spring Street, Room 559 Los Angeles, CA 90012-4801 (213) 978-1200

CULTURAL HERITAGE COMMISSION

RICHARD BARRON

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA



ERIC GARCETTI

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BARRY A. MILOFSKY ELISSA SCRAFANO

FELY C. PINGOL COMMISSION EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT (213) 978-1294

Date:

MAR 20 2015

Los Angeles City Council Room 395, City Hall 200 North Spring Street Los Angeles, California 90012

Attention:

Sharon Gin, Legislative Assistant

Planning and Land Use Management Committee

CASE NUMBER:

CHC-2015-329-HCM HADDON HALL 3184 W. 8TH STREET

At the Cultural Heritage Commission meeting of **March 19, 2015**, the Commission moved to include the above property in the list of Historic-Cultural Monument, subject to adoption by the City Council.

As required under the provisions of Section 22.171.10 of the Los Angeles Administrative Code, the Commission has solicited opinions and information from the office of the Council District in which the site is located and from any Department or Bureau of the city whose operations may be affected by the designation of such site as a Historic-Cultural Monument. Such designation in and of itself has no fiscal impact. Future applications for permits may cause minimal administrative costs.

The City Council, according to the guidelines set forth in Section 22.171 of the Los Angeles Administrative Code, shall act on the proposed inclusion to the list within 90 days of the Council or Commission action, whichever first occurs. By resolution, the Council may extend the period for good cause for an additional 15 days.

The Cultural Heritage Commission would appreciate your inclusion of the subject modification to the list of Historic-Cultural Monuments upon adoption by the City Council.

The above Cultural Heritage Commission action was taken by the following vote:

Moved:

Commissioner Kennard

Seconded:

Commissioner Irvine

Ayes:

Commissioners Scrafano and Barron

Abstained:

Commissioner Milofsky

Vote:

5-0

Fely C. Pingol Commission Executive Assistant Cultural Heritage Commission

Attachment: Application

c: Councilmember Herb J. Wesson, Jr., Tenth Council District Haddon Hall Apartments, LP Jenna Snow and Allison Lyons GIS

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CULTURAL HERITAGE COMMISSION

RICHARD BARRON PRESIDENT

GAIL KENNARD VICE PRESIDENT

JEREMY IRVINE BARRY A. MILOFSKY ELISSA SCRAFANO

FELY C. PINGOL COMMISSION EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT (213) 978-1300



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LISA WEBBER, AICP DEPUTY DIRECTOR (213) 978-1274

JAN ZATORSKI DEPUTY DIRECTOR (213) 978-1273

FAX: (213) 978-1275

INFORMATION (213) 978-1270 www.planning.lacity.org

Date:

MAR 20 2015

Haddon Hall Apartments, LP. 11911 San Vicente Boulevard, #265 Los Angeles, CA 90049

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

CASE NUMBER:

CHC-2015-329-HCM HADDON HALL 3184 W. 8TH STREET

As you will note from the attached copy of our communication to the Los Angeles City Council, the Cultural Heritage Commission has moved to include the above-referenced property in the list of Historic-Cultural monuments, subject to adoption by the City Council.

In due course, our transmittal will be given a council file number and will be referred to the Council's Planning and Land Use Management Committee for review and recommendation. If you are interested in attending the Council Committee meeting, you should call Sharon Gin at (213) 978-1074 for information as to the time and place of the Committee and City Council meetings regarding this matter. Please give Ms. Gin at least one week from the date of this letter to schedule this item on the Committee Agenda before you call her.

The above Cultural Heritage Commission action was taken by the following vote:

Moved:

Commissioner Kennard

Seconded:

Commissioner Irvine

Ayes:

Commissioners Scrafano and Barron

Abstained:

Commissioner Milofsky

Vote:

4 - 0

Fely C. Pingol, Commission Executive Assistant Cultural Heritage Commission

Attachment: Application

c: Councilmember Herb J. Wesson, Jr., Tenth Council District

Jenna Snow and Allison Lyons

GIS

Los Angeles Department of City Planning RECOMMENDATION REPORT

CULTURAL HERITAGE COMMISSION

CASE NO.: CHC-2015-329-HCM

ENV-2015-330-CE

HEARING DATE:

March 19, 2015

TIME:

10:00 AM

PLACE:

City Hall, Room 1010

200 N. Spring Street Los Angeles, CA

90012

Location: 3184 W. 8th Street

Council District: 10

Community Plan Area: Wilshire Area Planning Commission: Central

Neighborhood Council: Wilshire Center - Koreatown Legal Description: Lot FR 22 of the TR 2140 Tract

PROJECT:

Historic-Cultural Monument Application for

HADDON HALL

REQUEST:

Declare the property a Historic-Cultural Monument

OWNER(S):

Haddon Hall Apartments, LP

11911 San Vicente Boulevard, #265

Los Angeles, CA 90049

APPLICANT:

Jenna Snow and Allison Lyons

c/o Chattel, Inc.

13417 Ventura Boulevard Sherman Oaks, CA 91423

RECOMMENDATION

That the Cultural Heritage Commission:

- 1. **Declare the subject property** a Historic-Cultural Monument per Los Angeles Administrative Code Chapter 9, Division 22, Article 1, Section 22.171.7.
- 2. Adopt the staff report and findings.

MICHAEL J. LOGRANDE Director of Planning

Ken Bernstein, AICP, Manager Office of Historic Resources Lambert M. Giessinger, Preservation Architect Office of Historic Resources

Nels Youngborg, Preservation Planner

Office of Historic Resources

Attachments:

Historic-Cultural Monument Application

CHC-2015-329-HCM 3184 W. 8th Street Page 2 of 4

FINDINGS

- The property embodies "the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type specimen, inherently valuable for a study of a period style or method of construction" as an example of the Late Gothic Revival style.
- The property is "a notable work of a master builder, designer or architect whose individual genius influenced his age," due to its design by the architect S. Charles Lee.

CRITERIA

The criterion is the Cultural Heritage Ordinance which defines a historical or cultural monument as any site (including significant trees or other plant life located thereon) building or structure of particular historic or cultural significance to the City of Los Angeles, such as historic structures or sites in which the broad cultural, economic, or social history of the nation, State or community is reflected or exemplified, or which are identified with historic personages or with important events in the main currents of national, State or local history or which embody the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type specimen, inherently valuable for a study of a period style or method of construction, or a notable work of a master builder, designer or architect whose individual genius influenced his age.

SUMMARY

Built in 1926, Haddon Hall reflects traditional Late Gothic Revival design. It is a four-story multifamily residential building with a U-shaped plan. The primary north elevation on W. 8th street is symmetric about the residential entry leading to an inner courtyard. A decorative cast stone arch, which reads "Haddon Hall," extends across the courtyard entryway.

The exterior of the building exhibits many character-defining features of the Late Gothic Revival style, including:

- Brick construction
- Steeply pitched cross-gable roof
- Gable ends that are articulated through contrasting materials to emphasize verticality
- Windows with diamond panes and doors set in Tudor-arched openings
- Square-arch hoodmolding around the windows
- Carved, marble plaques
- A gated and Tudor-arched courtyard entrance

Interior lobby features include low ceilings with painted panels, chandeliers, decorative wood surrounds and a key desk.

The subject property was designed by prominent American architect S. Charles Lee. Lee was known as one of the most prolific motion picture theater designers on the West Coast, completing over 400 throughout his career. Blending historical fantasy and modern functionality became the hallmarks of Lee's career. Haddon Hall was named after a manor house in Derbyshire, England and was stylistically inspired by its namesake's Gothic architecture. Two years before the subject property was constructed, Mary Pickford starred in an adaptation of the novel, *Dorothy Vernon of Haddon Hall* by Charles Major (1902), which inspired the owners who commissioned Lee to design the building.

CHC-2015-329-HCM 3184 W. 8th Street Page 3 of 4

Haddon hall was not only stylistically aesthetic, but it had functional modern improvements that were technologically innovative for the time. Namely, the building touted a central refrigeration system, which consisted of chilled water with ammonia that was pumped through insulated pipes to create rudimentary refrigerators in each individual apartment.

Selected designs by this architect include:

- Tower Theater (1927), Los Angeles, CA. HCM #450
- Hollywood Western Building (1928), Los Angeles, CA. HCM #336
- Los Angeles Theater (1931), Los Angeles, CA. HCM #225
- Fox Bruin Theater (1937), Los Angeles, CA. HCM #361

Haddon Hall is located within the Wilshire Center/ Koreatown Redevelopment Project area. In 2009, this area was surveyed for historic resources, by the Community Redevelopment Agency of Los Angeles (CRA/LA). However, this property was not included in the survey and was not considered for potential eligibility.

DISCUSSION

Haddon Hall successfully meets two of the specified Historic-Cultural Monument criteria: 1) "embodies the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type specimen, inherently valuable for a study of a period style or method of construction," and 2) "is a notable work of a master builder, designer or architect whose individual genius influenced his age." The subject property is a good example of Late Gothic Revival style due to its character defining features and its construction during the period of significance of the style. The original architect, S. Charles Lee, is recognized as a master architect in Los Angeles for his contribution of designs which are overwhelmingly identified as architectural type specimens in the Moderne, Art Deco, Churrigueresque styles. Haddon Hall, built in 1926, is a notable as one of Lee's first grandly scaled buildings in which he explored Period Revival styles, which paved the way for many of his subsequent movie theatre designs in the 1930s and 40s.

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 Haddon Hall as a 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. 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 and new

CHC-2015-329-HCM 3184 W. 8th Street Page 4 of 4

construction and the demolition of irreplaceable historic structures. The Secretary of the Interior's Standards of 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 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 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.

BACKGROUND

On February 5th, 2015 the Cultural Heritage Commission took the property under consideration with a Commission-Initiated Motion. On February 19th, the Commission consisting of all five members toured the property accompanied by a staff person from the Office of Historic Resources.

SIGNIFICANCE WORK SHEET

TYPE OR HAND PRINT IN ALL CAPITAL BLOCK LETTERS

Complete One or Both of the Upper and Lower Portions of This Page

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

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HISTORIC-CULTURAL MONUMENT APPLICATION

TYPE OR HAND PRINT IN ALL CAPITAL BLOCK LETTERS

DENTIFICATION				00748	
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CITY	Los Angeles	ZIP CODE	90005	_ COUNCIL DISTRICT _	10
ASSESSOR'S PA	RCEL NO.	50	94-016-011		
COMPLETE LEC	GAL DESCRIPTION: TRACT IR	2140			***************************************
BLOCK	None	LOT(S)	FR 72	ARB. NO	None
RANGE OF ADI	DRESSES ON PROPERTY	3	178-3188 We	est 8th Street	*****
PRESENT OWN	ER	Haddon Hall	Apartments,	LP	
STREET ADDRE	11911 San Vicente	Blvd, #265	E-MAIL ADD	RESS: dan@pcra	apts.com
CITY	Los Angeles	STATE CA ZI	P CODE 90	0049 PHONE (310)	826-7736
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PRESENT USE _	Multi-family residential/cor	mmercial ORIGIN	AL USEN	Multi-family residential/	commercia
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HISTORIC-CULTURAL MONUMENT APPLICATION

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DATE FORM PREPARED	09/15/2014	PREPARER'S NAME	Jenna Snow, Allison Lyons
ORGANIZATION Chattel, Inc.		STREET ADDRESS 1341	7 Ventura Blvd
CITY Sherman Oaks	STATE	CA ZIP CODE 91423	PHONE (818) 788-7954
E-MAIL ADDRESS: jenna@chattel.us			

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Haddon Hall is located on a rectangular parcel at the corner of W. 8th and Fedora streets in the Wilshire Center-Koreatown neighborhood of Los Angeles, immediately south of the former Ambassador Hotel site. A mid-block parking lot is adjacent to the east side of Haddon Hall while a narrow walkway runs parallel to the rear (south) elevation.

Haddon Hall is a four-story, Late Gothic Revival style, multi-family residential building with a U-shaped plan. The primary (north) elevation along W. 8th Street is symmetrically composed with the residential entry centered in the recess of the U-shape, through an enclosed courtyard. The west elevation faces Fedora Street. The three storefronts along W. 8th Street are clad in painted stucco with brick bulkheads, wood frame display windows, and angled, recessed doors. A string course runs between the first and second floors at the primary and west elevations, returning one bay on the east elevation. Upper floors of the building are clad in red brick with cast stone trim and decorative cast stone spandrel panels featuring knights, coats of arms, and grotesques between multi-light, wood, double-hung windows at the primary elevation and two bays of the east and west elevations. On the primary elevation and first bay return to the sides, the brick has an X-pattern in contrasting darker bricks. The cross-gable roof has triangular, raised parapets framing each corner of the building.

A decorative cast stone arch, flush with first floor storefronts, spans entry to the enclosed courtyard and features a cast stone panel with "HADDON HALL" engraved over a plaster relief ogee doorway surround. The courtyard entrance to the residential lobby features an over painted decorative plaster and cast stone surround.

The main lobby, accessed via an entrance off the front courtyard, is highly decorative with concrete floors scored with an ashlar pattern; a low, plaster, coffered ceiling painted with portraits in quatrefoil surrounds separated by arabesque motifs; three wrought iron light fixtures (not original); a diamond-pane, tripartite, leaded and stained glass window; decoratively painted walls; and lion's head-shaped wood brackets and ornament at each doorway. At the lobby's west wall, an intricate, tripartite, crenellated, wood frame surround, modeled after rood screens in Gothic churches, frames the former key desk opening. A similar rood wood screen-inspired enframent surrounds the entrance to the former writing room, now used as a manager's office.

Three stairwells connect the first and upper floors, with the main stairwell accessed from the lobby, and secondary stairwells in each wing. The three upper floors have a repetitive floor plan with double-loaded corridors following the U-shape of the building. Corridor floors are covered in contemporary carpet; walls are clad in smooth plaster with crown molding, suspended fire sprinkler pipes, and fluorescent lighting. Units, consisting of bachelors, studios, and one bedroom units, have crown molding, but otherwise minimal ornamentation. Several units feature original tile in bathrooms, original light fixtures, and original kitchen and dressing room cabinets. Some units feature original ammonia refrigeration cabinets (no longer functional) and Murphy bed cabinets (bed frames no longer extant).

Although there have been alterations over the years, the most visible being a parapet modification to comply with a city ordinance in 1958, 1 a seismic retrofit in the late 1980s, 2 and changes to storefronts and courtyard, Haddon Hall continues to retain integrity and appears much as it did when it was constructed.

¹ Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety, "Application to Alter, Repair, or Demolish and for a Certificate of Occupancy," Permit #18838, December 22, 1958.

² Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety, "Certificate of Compliance with the minimum earthquake standards of

Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety, "Certificate of Compliance with the minimum earthquake standards of Division 88," September 16, 1988.

SIGNIFICANCE

Haddon Hall is significant for its distinguished architecture in a Late Gothic Revival style designed by prominent Los Angeles architect, S. Charles Lee. Active from the 1920s through 1950s, architect S. Charles Lee (also known as Simon Charles Levi, 1899-1990) is known primarily for his movie palaces. Blending historical fantasy and modern functionality became the hallmarks of Lee's prolific career, which came to fruition with his designs for movie theaters in the 1930s and 1940s. Haddon Hall, completed in 1926, is notable as one of Lee's first grandly scaled buildings to explore Period Revival styles, paving the way for his movie theater designs. Like Lee's later theaters, Haddon Hall was designed to be a functional space that transported residents to a different place and time, standing out from the generic urban streetscape as a balance of fantasy and functionality.

Haddon Hall was commissioned by stockbrokers Robert and James Oberndorf in 1926.³ At the time, the Wilshire-Pico District was a desirable location for apartment hotel type investment properties.⁴ Following the success of the Ambassador Hotel (opened in 1921), this area emerged as a district of dense tourist and residential development in the 1920s.⁵ The Oberndorf brothers sold Haddon Hall in 1927, almost immediately after its completion, but maintained an office for their stockbroker business in the building until 1932.⁶

Named after a manor house in England and stylistically inspired by its namesake's Gothic architecture, Haddon Hall epitomizes the Late Gothic Revival style. Late Gothic Revival style, popular from the late 1910s through 1930s, is characterized by brick, concrete, and terra cotta used to replicate design elements derived from medieval castles and cathedrals in Northern Europe. Haddon Hall exhibits many character-defining features the style. A steeply pitched cross-gable roof with gable ends articulated through contrasting materials emphasizes verticality. Windows with diamond panes and doors are set in ogee-arched openings. Other character-defining features include coats of arms in stained glass and decorative spandrel panels. The original arch enclosing the entry court with fountain (now partially altered), provided a theatrical entrance, transporting residents into the Late Gothic theme as it continued to the interior of building. The first floor lobby mimicked the entry hall of an English manor house with low ceiling, painted panels, chandeliers, and decorative wood surrounds framing doorways and key desk. ⁷

Haddon Hall was a "deluxe" building with decorative public rooms and efficient apartments, ⁸ operating as an apartment hotel with rooms suited to the short- and long-term stays. In addition to its Late Gothic architectural details, Haddon Hall was technologically innovative. Lee was particularly proud of its central refrigeration system, which chilled water with ammonia, pumping it through insulated pipes to create cold cabinets in individual apartments. ⁹

³ The namesake Haddon Hall is a Gothic-style manor house in Derbyshire, England constructed between the twelfth and seventeenth centuries. The house was the setting for several romantic novels of the nineteenth century, one of which, *Dorothy Vernon of Haddon Hall* by Charles Major (1902) was adapted into a play and a 1924 film starring Mary Pickford in her first "adult" role. A popular song, "Love Has a Way," recorded by Paul Whiteman & His Orchestra, accompanied the film's release.

The name of this neighborhood changed many times during the twentieth century. In the 1920s, it was identified as "Wilshire-Pico District" on maps.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, City of Los Angeles, Vol. 7, Sheet 744, 1921-1950.

⁵ Todd Douglas Gish, *Building Los Angeles: Urban Housing in the Suburban Metropolis, 1900-1936,* Dissertation, University of Southern California, (Los Angeles: 2007), 55.

⁶ "Grant Deed," Instrument No. 176, Book 6722 Page 1, April 16, 1927; Los Angeles City Directory, 1932.

⁷ "Announce Loft Structure," Los Angeles Times, 20 July 1926: 1.

⁶ S. Charles Lee oral history.
⁹ Maggie Valentine, The Show Starts on the Sidewalk: An Architectural Historic of the Movie Theatre, (New Haven: Yale UP, 1994. Print), 44.

Following the completion of Haddon Hall, Lee and the Oberndorf brothers hosted a dinner party at the Ambassador Hotel across West 8th Street from Haddon Hall with the intention of introducing Lee to the Oberndorfs' friend H.L. Gumbiner. Gumbiner's Tower Theater (HCM #450, completed 1927) on Broadway was Lee's first solo movie theater commission. ¹⁰ It was followed by the Los Angeles Theater (HCM #225, completed 1931) for Gumbiner. Theater design dominated the rest of Lee's career as an architect; he designed approximately 250 movie theaters between 1920 and 1950. ¹¹ Lee retired from architecture in 1950 and became a real estate developer.

¹⁰ At the party, Lee offered to prepare theater plans for free and guarantee that a building permit could be obtained. (S. Charles Lee oral history).
¹¹ Valentine, 8.

SOURCES

- "Announce Loft Structure." Los Angeles Times, 20 July 1926: 1.
- "Apartments Sold." Los Angeles Times Feb 3 1924: E5.
- "Finding Aid for the S. Charles Lee Papers, 1919-1962," 1998, Finding aid at UCLA Library Special Collections Charles E. Young Research Library, Los Angeles, CA. http://www.library.ucla.edu/libraries/special/scweb/.
- Gebhard, David and Robert Winter. *An Architectural Guidebook to Los Angeles*. Salt Lake City: Gibbs Smith, 2003.
- Gish, Todd Douglas. *Building Los Angeles: Urban Housing in the Suburban Metropolis*, 1900-1936. Dissertation. University of Southern California. Los Angeles: 2007.
- Goff, Lee. *Tudor Style: Tudor Revival Houses in America from 1890 to the Present.* New York: Universe Publishing, 2002.
- "Lee, Simeon." Pacific Coast Architecture Database. Web. 19 Aug. 2014.

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CHC-2015-329-HCM

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