

## Re Council File Number 19-0293: Please support Landmark nomination for Tom Bergin's Irish Pub

1 message

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**margaret molloy** <mmmolloy@earthlink.net>

Thu, May 16, 2019 at 3:11 PM

To: councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org, Luciralia Ibarra <luciralia.ibarra@lacity.org>, councilmember.blumenfeld@lacity.org, councilmember.price@lacity.org, councilmember.cedillo@lacity.org, councilmember greig smith <councilmember.smith@lacity.org>, "mayor.garcetti@lacity.org Garcetti" <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>  
Cc: Clerk-PLUM-Committee <clerk.plumcommittee@lacity.org>

Dear PLUM Committee,

I support the historic cultural nomination for Tom Bergin's Irish Pub. It is an important Irish cultural landmark in Los Angeles serving the Irish diaspora and all Angelenos since 1936. Irish traditions including traditional food, drinks, and music were kept alive here over many generations.

As an Irish transplant since 1979, I can attest that this was the preeminent Irish Pub in Los Angeles.

Ireland is the land of 1,000 welcomes. This is literally expressed in the greeting: "Cead Mhile Failte Dhuit." Mr. Bergin established this important Irish-centered community gathering place in 1936 and it has served the Los Angeles community since then. Tom Bergin's is not famous because of the many celebrities who frequented the pub, but rather they went there because of its important role in the community of Hollywood and Los Angeles.

Tom Bergin's Irish Pub was and is important landmark because of its prominent function as a social and cultural gathering place for the Irish diaspora in Los Angeles, as well as all residents of Los Angeles and beyond.

I hope that you will support the Los Angeles Conservancy and the [Miracle Mile Residential Association](#) in their nomination of Tom Bergin's as an important Irish Historic-Cultural Monument in Los Angeles.

Appreciatively,

Margaret Molloy



Photo by Adrian Scott Fine/L.A. Conservancy.

Tom Bergin's is an important landmark in the hearts of many Angelenos.

## History of Tom Bergin's

The Irish-themed tavern was first opened in 1936 by Tom Bergin, a former entertainment lawyer with Irish roots whose Massachusetts family had operated a number of bars throughout Boston. Inspired by his family's taverns, Bergin set out "to create an authentic pub, defined by warmth, great food, and exceptional hospitality."

Tom Bergin's was a remarkable success from the start and earned a reputation as a favorite haunt of Hollywood celebrities including Bing Crosby and Pat O'Brien, both personal friends of Bergin, as well as Cary Grant, John Wayne, Lee Majors, Glenn Ford, Kiefer Sutherland, and Julia Roberts. Loyal patrons were memorialized with a cardboard cutout of a shamrock bearing their name, affixed to the wall or ceiling, which became a decades-long

tradition at the tavern. By the time the pub closed in 2018, there were roughly 6,000 shamrocks adorning the interior.

The pub was also known for its signature Irish Coffee, and was one of two iconic West Coast establishments (the other being the Buena Vista Café in San Francisco) that claimed to have first introduced the drink in America.