

TAIX FRENCH RESTAURANT
1911-1929 West Sunset Boulevard; 1910-2018 West Reservoir Street
CHC-2020-5524-HCM
ENV-2020-5525-CE

FINDINGS

(As Amended by the Cultural Heritage Commission on December 17, 2020)

- Taix French Restaurant “exemplifies significant contributions to the broad cultural, economic or social history of the nation, state, city or community” as the long-time location of Taix French Restaurant, a business that bears a significant association with the commercial identity of Los Angeles.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

Taix French Restaurant meets one of the Historic-Cultural Monument criteria: the subject property “exemplifies significant contributions to the broad cultural, economic or social history of the nation, state, city or community” as the long-time location of Taix French Restaurant, a business that bears a significant association with the commercial identity of Los Angeles.

Los Angeles has a wide range of long-term businesses that have served residents, visitors, and tourists for decades and have made important contributions to the commercial history of Los Angeles. SurveyLA identifies several eligibility standards for evaluating properties for historic significance under the theme of “Commercial Identity, 1920-1980.” These include evaluating whether a property “is associated with a business that made an important contribution to commercial growth and development in Los Angeles” and whether it “is the founding or the long-term location of a business significant in commercial history.” The subject property has served as the location for Taix French Restaurant, a business established in 1927, for nearly 60 years. In Los Angeles and elsewhere, well-established and long-lived businesses, such as Taix French Restaurant, take on important social qualities and over time, they often organically mature into iconic and revered cultural institutions. Their endurance becomes ingrained into a neighborhood’s collective memory and plays an integral role in defining a community’s sense of cultural and commercial identity. Since 1962, Taix French Restaurant has remained in continuous operation at its location in Echo Park. Over the course of its nine decades in business, the restaurant has become known for serving country French dishes in its stylish, dimly lit dining rooms and a cocktail lounge. Its banquet rooms have often been used as gathering places for large parties, especially before and after games at nearby Dodger Stadium. Taix French Restaurant is considered a legacy business and a beloved community institution, earning it a reputation as one of Los Angeles’ most iconic dining establishments.

Although the property has experienced some interior and exterior alterations since Taix relocated to the subject property in 1962, all changes are associated with the restaurant’s growth over time and are compatible with the original continental dining design intent. Therefore, the subject property retains a high level of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association to convey its significance.

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 Taix French Restaurant 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 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 construction and the demolition of an irreplaceable historic site/open space. 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 Section 15331, 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-2020-5525-CE was prepared on November 13, 2020.