SurveyLA Completes Final Survey Findings for Hollywood Community Plan Area

The findings for SurveyLA, the Los Angeles Historic Resources Survey, continue to be posted on the SurveyLA web site. Among the latest results to be posted is the survey covering the Hollywood Community Plan. The survey did not include the Central Hollywood area that is included in the Hollywood Boulevard National Register Historic District or the former Redevelopment Project Area in Central Hollywood, which has previously been surveyed. Below is just a small sampling of the historic resources identified in Hollywood, a community with among the highest concentration of historic resources in the entire city.

This article is the 16th in a series of features on some of the interesting “finds” from SurveyLA. For more information on these findings, click here.

Hollywood Theosophical Center/Besant Lodge, 2560 N. Beachwood Dr., a 1926 Spanish Colonial Revival structure associated with the Krotona Colony, a Theosophical society established in lower Beachwood Canyon in 1912 and named for Annie Besant, a prominent Theosophist and international president of the Theosophical Society.

Hollywoodland Realty, 2700 N. Beachwood Dr., a 1926 Tudor Revival structure that was the original Hollywoodland Realty Co. sales office, built for the 1920s Hollywoodland residential development.

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SurveyLA Hollywood Community Plan Findings

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6026 Barton Ave., an 1896 Folk Victorian house that is a rare, early example of residential development in Hollywood, predating surrounding development by a decade or more.

de Bretteville House, 8067 W. Willow Glen Road, an excellent example of Post Modern residential architecture, constructed in 1975, and the work of noted architect Peter de Bretteville.

College of the Immaculate Heart, 2021 N. Western Ave., a 1916 structure that is an excellent example of Spanish Colonial Revival architecture and the work of master architect Albert C. Martin & Associates.

Will and Ariel Durant Residence, 5608 W. Briarcliff Rd., a 1925 Spanish Colonial Revival house that was the home for nearly 40 years of historians Will and Ariel Durant, who authored the 11-volume *The Story of Civilization* between 1935 and 1975.

Otto Bollman House, 2200 N. Broadview Terrace, a 1923 house designed by master architect Lloyd Wright associated with the 1920s Alta Loma development, now called High Tower.

R.E. Fuller Residence; Samuel Goldwyn Residence, 1800 N. Camino Palermo, a 1916 Renaissance Revival home that was originally the residence of pioneering Hollywood developer R.E. Fuller and purchased by film producer Samuel Goldwyn in 1925.

Ozzie and Harriet Nelson Residence, 1822 N. Camino Palermo, a 1916 American Colonial Revival residence that was home of radio and television personalities Ozzie and Harriet Nelson.

William Russell Quest Residence, 4320 W. Cedarhurst Circle, a 1927 Renaissance Revival home designed by master architect S. Charles Lee as a replica of a 17th-century Florentine villa and was associated with several important persons in the entertainment Industry, including Norma Talmadge (1920s); Howard Hughes (1930s); Ralph Bellamy (1940s), and Jimi Hendrix (1960s).

The Ivy Theatre/The Circle Theatre, 800 N. El Centro Ave., a 1910 complex whose eastern portion was one of the earliest silent movie theaters in Hollywood (The Ivy, 1915) and whose western portion was credited with helping to establish a live theater district in Hollywood (The Circle Theater, 1946); associated with Charlie Chaplin and William Saroyan.

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Ferus Gallery, 721 N. La Cienega Blvd., a 1937 Streamline Moderne building that was an important contemporary art gallery, showcasing some of the most significant visual artists in Los Angeles in the 1950s and 1960s.

Canyon Country Store, 2108 N. Laurel Canyon Boulevard, a 1924 vernacular commercial structure that has operated as Laurel Canyon’s neighborhood market and community gathering space since the 1920s; in the 1960s and 1970s, local musicians often met on the market’s front patio to socialize and work on new songs together, in an era when area residents included Joni Mitchell, Jim Morrison, David Crosby, Graham Nash, John and Michelle Phillips, and Cass Elliot.

Humphrey Bogart Residence, 6310 W. Rodgerton Dr., built in 1926, an excellent example of Storybook residential architecture and the home of film actor Humphrey Bogart in the 1930s.

Jim Morrison Residence, 8021 W. Rothdell Terrace, a 1922 structure that was the residence of Jim Morrison, lead singer of the 1960s rock group The Doors.

RCA Victor, Studio Group, 7000 W. Santa Monica Blvd., a 1930 Spanish Colonial Revival structure that is an excellent and rare remaining example of a 1930s purpose-built radio broadcasting facility in Hollywood.

RED Studios Hollywood, 846 N. Cahuenga Blvd., a significant independent/rental studio in Hollywood, opened in 1915 as Metro Pictures Back Lot #3; new construction as Equity Studios in 1946; became Desilu Studios in the mid-1950s; Television Center Studios in 1974; Ren-Mar Studios in 1984; and RED Studios Hollywood in 2010; filming location for I Love Lucy, the Dick Van Dyke Show, and other classic programs.

St. Casimir Lithuanian Catholic Church, 2718 N. St. George St., a 1951 Mid-Century Modern church that has served as the social and cultural focal point of the Lithuanian community in Los Angeles.

Temple of the Vedanta Society, 1946 N. Vedanta Pl., a 1938 Exotic Revival structure that is an excellent and rare example of Indian-inspired institutional architecture with a distinctive onion dome.

946-950 N. Martel Ave. Bungalow Court, one of several excellent examples of a 1920s bungalow court in Hollywood, designed in the Spanish Colonial Revival style.

High Tower Elevator and Garages, 2181 Broadview Terrace, a free-standing elevator tower that provides access to hillside homes from garages below, part of the original 1920s Alta Loma development, linked to a hillside network of concrete pedestrian stairways and walkways.

What Is SurveyLA?

SURVEYLA: THE LOS ANGELES HISTORIC RESOURCES SURVEY PROJECT is the first-ever comprehensive inventory of our city’s historic resources.

The survey findings will have a multiplicity of benefits and uses: it will help direct future growth, shape the revision of Los Angeles’ 35 Community Plans, streamline environmental review processes, provide opportunities for public education, assist in disaster planning, and spur heritage tourism and the marketing of historic neighborhoods and properties.

The J. Paul Getty Trust and the City of Los Angeles have entered into a grant agreement for SurveyLA under which the Getty has committed to providing up to $2.5 million to the project, subject to matching requirements by the City. Field surveys and evaluations will occur through 2016. The Getty Conservation Institute (GCI) is also providing technical and advisory support for SurveyLA. For more information visit the SurveyLA website, www.SurveyLA.org.
LGBT Context Statement Wins Award

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1978 rally against the Briggs Initiative, which sought to ban gays and lesbians from working in California public schools.

Anderson. It utilizes the Multiple Property Documentation format developed by the National Park Service which streamlines the process of identifying important historic resources related by theme.

As gays and lesbians are winning the right to marry across the country, the context offers an opportune moment to reflect on LGBT history and the roots of the LGBT civil rights movement in Los Angeles. In 1950, Harry Hay helped found the Mattachine Society, the first sustained gay liberation group in the U.S. The Black Cat was the site of a pivotal 1967 gay rights demonstration, preceding the more popularly known Stonewall Riots in New York by two years. The ONE Archives, founded in 1952, is the oldest LGBT organization in the U.S. and the largest repository of LGBT materials in the world. Several LGBT publications, including Vice Versa (1947), ONE, Inc. (1952), and The Advocate (1967) all originated in Los Angeles and the city was the location of the first LGBT Pride Parade (1970).

The context statement begins with a historical overview of Los Angeles’ LGBT history. Then, it lists a chronology of events important to that history. The sections that follow further elaborate on historical themes introduced in the overview, and relate those themes to places in Los Angeles. Those themes include the Gay Liberation Movement; homosexuality and religion; gays and lesbians in the Los Angeles art and literary scenes, the LGBT community and the media; and the impact of LGBT persons on the entertainment industry. Following each theme are lists of designated and potential historic resources that represent that theme. Over thirty extant places were identified as potential historic resources. These and other properties are included in SurveyLA and will become part of a searchable online historic resources inventory and management system that is in development with the Getty Conservation Institute.

The LGBT context is not intended to be a comprehensive narrative history of LGBT Los Angeles, but rather it focuses on themes that relate to extant properties and provides a consistent framework for their evaluation. An historic context statement is the crucial first step in identifying and protecting important places throughout our city. Ultimately, the context will facilitate the nomination of LGBT resources as City Historic-Cultural Monuments and expand the list of designated resources that reflect the diversity of the area’s population. The LGBT historic context statement can also serve as an important model for other cities.

At the moment when the LGBT community has achieved great advances in civil rights, the LGBT context helps to enhance our common understanding of this often-overlooked history and solidify Los Angeles’ role as a national leader in the identification and protection of sites with rich social and cultural significance.
OHR Releases Proposed Amendments to Cultural Heritage Ordinance

The Office of Historic Resources is proposing a number of procedural amendments to the Cultural Heritage Ordinance (Section 22.171 of the Los Angeles Administrative Code) in order to improve the processing of Historic-Cultural Monument (HCM) nominations.

These amendments were approved in concept by the Cultural Heritage Commission in September 2015 and were formally initiated this year by Councilmember Jose Huizar. The following changes are proposed:

1. Provide Earlier Notification to Property Owners
The current ordinance does not require notice to the property owner that an HCM nomination has been filed until after the Cultural Heritage Commission holds an initial hearing to take the nomination officially under consideration. Many property owners therefore feel “blindsided,” not only by the nomination itself, but also by the realization that they were unable to participate in an initial public hearing affecting their own property. The proposed amendments would require notification to the property owner once the HCM nomination has been deemed complete. This amendment would provide more appropriate due process, enabling owners to participate in all public hearings affecting their property.

2. Provide Earlier Stay on Demolition and Alteration Permits
Under the new proposal, the stay of demolition while a nomination is being considered would begin when an application is deemed complete by staff and scheduled for the Commission’s hearing, rather than after initial Commission consideration. While this would slightly lengthen the “stay” period, typically by 10-20 days, this amendment is essential to the first change, described above, allowing for the ability to notify property owners of the initial hearing without potentially triggering a preemptive demolition.

3. Allow for 60 Day Time Extensions
The Cultural Heritage Commission currently has 75 days to act on a proposed Monument nomination. The City Council has 90 days plus an additional 15 day extension to act on the recommendation from the Cultural Heritage Commission. The proposed amendment would allow for an extension to these time limits, with the written consent of the property owner. Each time extension would be limited to no more than 60 days so that Monument applications cannot be held in abeyance indefinitely.

4. Clearly Demarcate the Designation Criteria
The Ordinance currently contains a paragraph-long “Definition of a Monument” that actually represents the criteria for designation. The proposed amendment would make no substantive changes, but would label this section as “Designation Criteria” and pull out the criteria individually into three categories. These three criteria, which have been in the Cultural Heritage Ordinance since the 1960s, also mirror the first three criteria of the National Register of Historic Places and the California Register of Historical Resources. Numbering the criteria will ease public understanding of the designation criteria, parallel the format used for findings of eligibility in Los Angeles’ citywide historic resources survey, SurveyLA, and better link the City’s local designation criteria to National and State designation programs.

The OHR has released these draft amendments here for review and public comment through June 30th. To comment, please email Shannon Ryan at Shannon.ryan@lacity.org.

HPOZ Award Nominations Now Open!

The Office of Historic Resources is now accepting nominations for the HPOZ Awards, honoring noteworthy work in the City’s 30 Historic Preservation Overlay Zones, or historic districts.

While other preservation awards recognize projects at a larger scale or with citywide impact, the HPOZ Awards are meant to recognize good stewardship of historic resources at a smaller scale, honoring rehabilitation work or initiatives that reinforce the identity of our historic neighborhoods. Eligible categories include rehabilitation, restoration, landscaping, paint, community outreach, and sustainable low impact development practices.

The nomination form is available here; nominations are due on July 15th. The awards will be presented as part of the lunch program at the Los Angeles Historic Neighborhoods Conference on Saturday, October 15th, co-sponsored by the OHR and the Los Angeles Conservancy.
L.A.’s Newest Historic-Cultural Monuments

The Cultural Heritage Commission and City Council have designated six new Historic-Cultural Monuments (HCMs) between January and March 2016. Los Angeles’ newest Monuments include the following:

HCM #1102, Madiline Veverka Residence (2361 W. Addison Way)
Built in 1922, the Madiline Veverka Residence in Eagle Rock is an excellent example of a vernacular bungalow with Czech cottage influences. Originally built as a simple vernacular bungalow, the house was transformed from 1927-33 into a Czech cottage by Czech architect Joseph “Joe” Taus for Veverka, a Czech immigrant. The Czech cottage influences on the house include turned posts, decorative woodwork, patterned siding on the attic level, clipped gable, and deep eaves.

HCM #1103, Sheldon-Graves House (209 S. Wilton Place)
Built in 1912, the Sheldon-Graves House near Hancock Park is significant as an excellent example of Craftsman style architecture. The home is a contributor to the Wilton Place National Register Historic District established in 1979. Notable architect Henry J. Knauer (1877-1946) designed this home as well as three others in the district. The second owner, Byron L. Graves, was involved with the Ford Motor Company and was a founder of Western Air Express, one of the first airplane delivery services in the world.

HCM #1104, Hammers Residence (2700 S. La Salle Avenue)
The Hammers Residence, constructed in 1904 in West Adams, is significant as an example of the transitional Craftsman style that followed the Victorian era. The Residence was built by carpenter and contractor Samuel Hedges, a New York native who settled in Los Angeles in 1886, at the height of the building boom. He is credited for building the first house in Hollywood, the home of Harvey Henderson Wilcox in 1887. The structure blends a Queen Anne cross gabled, vertical massing with simple narrow clapboard siding, a typical Craftsman element.

HCM #1105, Edinburgh Bungalow Court (750 - 756 N. Edinburgh Avenue)
A remaining example of early Hollywood development, the Edinburgh Bungalow Court, built in 1923, represents the rapid growth of Hollywood in the early part of the twentieth century and reflects the economic changes occurring in the community at the time. Bungalow courts are distinguished by their U-shaped plan of one-story detached bungalows with a central courtyard. This property exhibits the character-defining features of the bungalow court type and stands as a good example of bungalow court multi-family housing in Hollywood.

HCM #1106, Coughlin House (5631 Tehama Street)
The Mid-Century Modern post-and-beam Coughlin House was designed in 1965 by architect James Allen Walter. The residence is noteworthy in design for its unique triangular plan, single wall of fenestration, and open split-level interior. Constructed on a nearly inaccessible and steep hillside lot in Highland Park, the Coughlin House also stands out for its ingenuity in engineering.

HCM #1107, Woolner House (200 S. Wilton Place)
Built in 1904, the Woolner House is an excellent example of the transitional Craftsman style. The house reflects the changes in architectural style at the turn of the century from the highly decorative and vertical forms of the Victorian style to the horizontality of the Craftsman style. The house includes half timbering in the attic that is an element of the Tudor style and upturned bargeboards that are a Japanese influence. The property is identified as a contributor to the Wilton Place National Register Historic District, near Hancock Park. The architect, Samuel Tilden Norton served as president of the Southern California Chapter of the A.I.A.