SILVER LAKE TEXACO SERVICE STATION

1650 North Silver Lake Boulevard CHC-2018-2846-HCM ENV-2018-2847-CE

Agenda packet includes:

- 1. Final Determination Staff Recommendation Report
- 2. City Council Motion 18-0184
- 3. Commission/ Staff Site Inspection Photos—May 10, 2018
- 4. Categorical Exemption
- 5. <u>Historic-Cultural Monument Application</u>
- 6. Correspondence from Members of the Public

Please click on each document to be directly taken to the corresponding page of the PDF.

Los Angeles Department of City Planning RECOMMENDATION REPORT

CULTURAL HERITAGE COMMISSION CASE NO.: CHC-2018-2846-HCM

ENV-2018-2847-CE

Location: 1650 North Silver Lake Boulevard **HEARING DATE:** June 7, 2018

Council District: 13 – O'Farrell TIME: 10:00 AM

PLACE: City Hall, Room 1010 Community Plan Area: Silver Lake - Echo Park -

> Elysian Valley 200 N. Spring Street

Area Planning Commission: East Los Angeles Los Angeles, CA 90012

Neighborhood Council: Silver Lake

EXPIRATION DATE: June 24, 2018 Legal Description: Tract TR 5980, Lots 103-106

PROJECT: Historic-Cultural Monument Application for the

SILVER LAKE TEXACO SERVICE STATION

REQUEST: Declare the property a Historic-Cultural Monument

OWNER(S): Case Studies SilverLake, LLC

c/o Bolour Associates. Inc.

8383 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 920

Beverly Hills, CA 90211

APPLICANT: City Los Angeles

221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 1350

Los Angeles, CA 90012

PREPARER: Office of Historic Resources

Department of City Planning

221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 1350

Los Angeles, CA 90012

That the Cultural Heritage Commission: RECOMMENDATION

- 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.

VINCENT P. BERTONI, AICP **Director of Planning**

[SIGNED ORIGINAL IN FILE] [SIGNED ORIGINAL IN FILE]

Ken Bernstein, AICP, Manager Lambert M. Giessinger, Preservation Architect

Office of Historic Resources Office of Historic Resources

[SIGNED ORIGINAL IN FILE]

Melissa Jones, Planning Assistant Office of Historic Resources

City Council Motion 18-0184 Attachments:

Commission/ Staff Site Inspection Photos—May 10, 2018

Historic-Cultural Monument Application

FINDINGS

- The Silver Lake Texaco Service Station "reflects the broad cultural, economic, or social history of the nation, state, or community" as a rare, surviving example of an automobile commercial development from the 1940s.
- The Silver Lake Texaco Service Station "embodies the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural-type specimen, inherently valuable for study of a period, style or method of construction" as an excellent example of an automobile service station from the 1940s.

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

The Silver Lake Texaco Service Station is a one-story auto-related commercial building located at 1650 North Silver Lake Boulevard, on the south side of the intersection of Effie Street and North Silver Lake Boulevard with North Occidental Boulevard on the east, in the Silver Lake neighborhood. Constructed in 1941, the subject property was designed by Walter Dorwin Teague and built by engineer Blaine Noice in the Streamline Moderne architectural style. The subject property originally served as a Texaco service station, but was converted into an automotive repair shop in 1988, which is its current use today.

In the early 1900s, gas stations appeared in Los Angeles to serve the new motorists, as general stores selling gasoline in cans. Then oil companies began opening free-standing stations to sell their own brand, with crude pumps with rubber hoses. By 1920, their architecture began to develop distinctive forms that could be recognized from afar by the tired traveler. By the late 1920s, they had become one of the most common buildings in the city, establishing an autooriented architecture that acted as an advertisement. By the mid-1920s the layout featured gas pumps and a small office at the front of the site with the other services in a separate building behind. Most common was the all-prevalent Spanish Colonial Revival style. Their popularity in Los Angeles was due to the city's high rate of auto ownership, the large role of the gas companies in the region's economic life, and the mild climate that made the open-air arrangement practical. The number of stations in Los Angeles increased from about 170 in 1920 to almost 700 by 1925, and to over 1,500 by 1930. During the Depression, the service station was one of the first architectural types to adopt the Streamline Moderne style. The advent of self-service stations eliminated the need for attendants to pump gas, and the oil companies opened multi-pump stations with only a cubicle in which a single attendant acted as cashier. Eventually, the box migrated from under the canopy to its side and came to include a mini-mart.

The Texas Fuel Company, better known as Texaco, was founded during the Beaumont, Texas oil strike of 1901, which suddenly had the United States awash in cheap petroleum. Rather than focus on regional markets, Texaco built itself into a national brand. By 1928, it was the first oil company to sell gasoline throughout the United States and was one of the major distributors in California. Brand identity was an essential part of the business. Texaco wanted to present a cleaner, more progressive image, so in the 1930s they hired two industrial designers, Norman Bel Geddes and Walter Dorwin Teague, to give Texaco a fresh, clean, unified brand image. The first step was to design a series of sanitary, streamlined, eye-catching tank trucks. Then the pair came up with Texaco's famous red T-star and the block-letter logo. They also styled the attendants' white uniforms and the architecture and color schemes of the stations themselves. Teague designed the prototypical gas station, a basic white box covered in white porcelain enamel with forest-green stripes and a freestanding post bearing the red Texaco star logo on a white disk. By 1942, the white box of Texaco had slipped seamlessly into the American vernacular, giving Texaco outlets a consistent appearance and identity with some 40,000 stations built across the United States.

L-shaped in plan, the central rectangular portion of the subject property has a rectangular attached canopy supported by two steel poles extending from the northwest corner. The building is steel-frame construction with metal cladding and a flat roof. Atop the canopy is a horizontal fin, and beneath it is the primary west-facing entrance to the office/waiting area, consisting of a wooden 10-lite door, with a hopper transom window above. The entrance is flanked by two fixed, divided-lite windows. The divided-lite window to the north of the door wraps around the corner to the north elevation, which also features two restroom doors with a window between them. South of the primary entrance a wide garage with a folding metal gate opens to a single space containing two automotive service bays. Speedlines run the width of the south elevation, above a band of three metal windows, the outer pair fixed and the center a hopper. The rear, east elevation has a sliding window and another hopper. The building has several rooms that include the office/waiting area in the northwest corner, a single space occupying the southern three quarters of the building, which contains the two service bays, and two restrooms located at the northeast corner of the building. Above the service bays, metal beams support the corrugated metal ceiling and hanging metal shelves.

Based on building permits and observations during the site inspection, the property has experienced few alterations that include the removal of the free-standing Texaco sign, gas pumps, Texaco signage from the horizontal fin above the canopy, and speedlines on the edge of the canopy, and on the west and north elevations. Other alterations include the installation of fluorescent lighting and the replacement of the lites of the top row of windows wrapping around the office/waiting room.

SurveyLA identified the subject property as eligible for listing at the national, state, and local levels as an "Excellent example of an automobile service station from the 1940s" and "A rare, surviving example of automobile commercial development from this era."

DISCUSSION

The Silver Lake Texaco Service Station meets two of the Historic-Cultural Monument criteria. The property "reflects the broad cultural, economic, or social history of the nation, state, or community" as a rare, surviving example of automobile commercial development from the 1940s. Millions of new residents arriving in Southern California at the start of the 20th century led to the development of the first suburbs. The sprawling nature of greater Los Angeles, the product of the interurban railroad, left large expanses of vacant land between these settlements,

which were allowed to be filled in through Angelenos' use of the automobile. By 1930, registration of passenger cars in Los Angeles County totaled 800,000, and despite being in the midst of the Great Depression, between 1930 and 1940, automobile registration increased by some 300,000. The result of the need to serve a large number of cars in a safe manner off the street, and the creation of an effective standardized pump, led to the emergence of the service station as a free-standing structure. Service stations, such as the subject property, illustrate the evolution of the gas/service station as a significant commercial building type related to the automobile and Los Angeles' flourishing car culture. As of 1953, the intersection occupied by the Silver Lake Texaco Service Station contained three gas stations. Of the three, only the subject property is extant.

The Silver Lake Texaco Service Station also "embodies the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural-type specimen, inherently valuable for study of a period, style, or method of construction" as an excellent example of an automobile service station from the 1940s. Following the Depression, oil companies felt the need for an updated station image as competition increased; particularly useful was a look that stressed efficiency and cleanliness. The common type of service station, in its most basic form, was a white enameled oblong box with a parapeted flat roof, and it often included an office with large display windows, restrooms, service bays, and auxiliary spaces. Industrial designer Walter Teague designed the prototypical service station for Texaco: a basic white box in the Streamline Moderne style. The gleaming surface was designed to catch the eyes of passing motorists. To further the brand recognition, Teague created five variations of the station design, each modified to a different lot configuration with different uses of the canopy. Service stations, such as the subject property, exemplify how a building type's design and site layout are shaped by accommodation to the needs of the automobile, as well as the stylistic and economic trends of the era. Intact examples of service stations from the 1940s are becoming increasingly rare.

Despite the previously mentioned alterations, the subject property appears to be intact and retains a sufficient level of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association to convey its historic 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 the Silver Lake Texaco Service Station 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.

CHC-2018-2846-HCM 1650 North Silver Lake Boulevard Page 5 of 5

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 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-2018-2847-CE was prepared on May 22, 2018.

BACKGROUND

On April 10, 2018, the Los Angeles City Council, acting upon a motion introduced by Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell, initiated consideration of the subject property as a potential Historic-Cultural Monument. On May 10, 2018, a subcommittee of the Cultural Heritage Commission consisting of Commissioners Milofsky and Kanner visited the property, accompanied by staff from the Office of Historic Resources.

HOLLY L. WOLCOTT

CITY CLERK

SHANNON D. HOPPES EXECUTIVE OFFICER

When making inquiries relative to this matter, please refer to the Council File No.: 18-0184

City of Los Angeles



OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

Council and Public Services Division

200 N. SPRING STREET, ROOM 395 LOS ANGELES, CA 90012 GENERAL INFORMATION - (213) 978-1133 FAX: (213) 978-1040

BRIAN E. WALTERS
DIVISION CHIEF

CLERK.LACITY.ORG

OFFICIAL ACTION OF THE LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL

April 12, 2018

Council File No.: 18-0184

Council Meeting Date: April 10, 2018

Agenda Item No.: 36

Agenda Description: PLANNING AND LAND USE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

relative to initiating consideration as a City Historic Cultural Monument for

the property located at 1650 Silver Lake Boulevard.

Council Action: PLANNING AND LAND USE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT -

ADOPTED

Council Vote: YES BOB BLUMENFIELD

YES MIKE BONIN ABSENT JOE BUSCAINO

ABSENT GILBERT A. CEDILLO
YES MITCHELL ENGLANDER

YES MARQUEECE HARRIS-DAWSON

YES JOSE HUIZAR
YES PAUL KORETZ
ABSENT PAUL KREKORIAN
YES NURY MARTINEZ
YES MITCH O'FARRELL
YES CURREN D. PRICE
YES MONICA RODRIGUEZ

YES DAVID RYU YES HERB WESSON

Holly Iron Woland

HOLLY L. WOLCOTT CITY CLERK PLANNING AND LAND USE MANAGEMENT (PLUM) COMMITTEE REPORT relative to initiating consideration as a City Historic Cultural Monument for the property located at 1650 Silver Lake Boulevard.

Recommendations for Council action, pursuant to Motion (O'Farrell - Huizar):

- INITIATE consideration of the property located at 1650 Silver Lake Boulevard as a City Historic Cultural Monument under the procedures set forth in Section 22.170.10 of the Los Angeles Administrative Code.
- 2. INSTRUCT the Department of City Planning to prepare the Historic Cultural Monument application for review and consideration of the Cultural Heritage Commission.
- REQUEST the Cultural Heritage Commission, after reviewing the application, to submit its
 report and recommendation to the Council regarding the inclusion of the property located at
 1650 Silver Lake Boulevard on the City's list of Historic Cultural Monuments.

<u>Fiscal Impact Statement</u>: None submitted. Neither the City Administrative Officer nor the Chief Legislative Analyst has completed a financial analysis of this report.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted.

Summary:

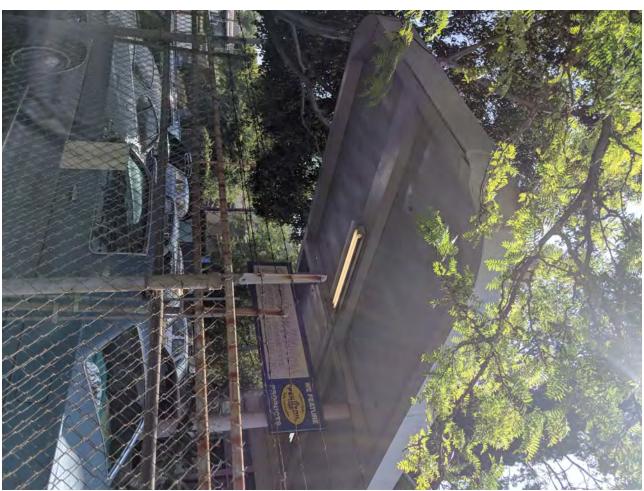
At its meeting on March 27, 2018, the PLUM Committee considered Motion (O'Farrell - Huizar) relative to initiating consideration as a City Historic Cultural Monument for the property located at 1650 Silver Lake Boulevard. After an opportunity for public comment, the Committee recommended on consent to approve the Motion. This matter is now submitted for Council consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

PLANNING AND LAND USE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

MEMBER: VOTE:
HUIZAR YES
HARRIS-DAWSON YES
ENGLANDER ABSENT
BLUMENFIELD YES
PRICE YES





Commission/ Staff Site Inspection Photos--May 10, 2018 Page 1 of 10





Commission/ Staff Site Inspection Photos--May 10, 2018 Page 2 of 10





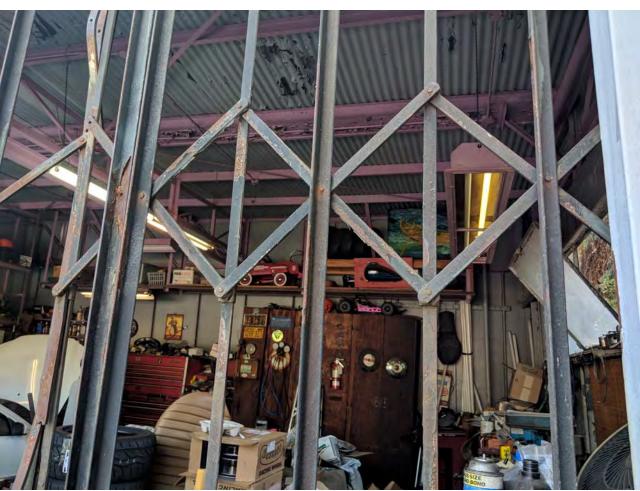
Commission/ Staff Site Inspection Photos--May 10, 2018 Page 3 of 10



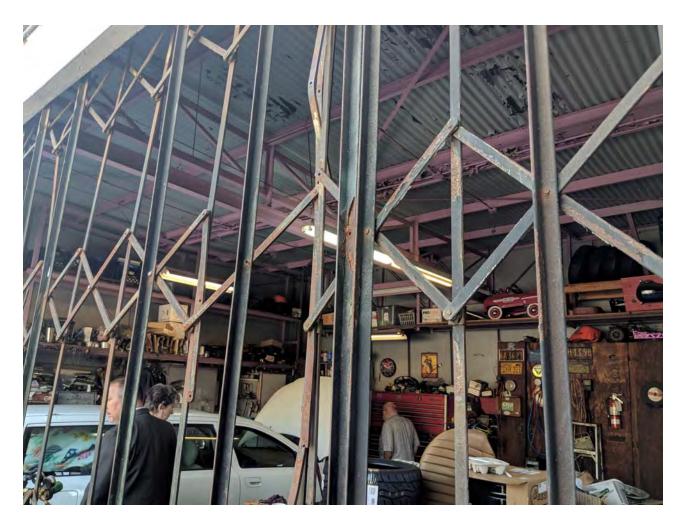


Commission/ Staff Site Inspection Photos--May 10, 2018 Page 4 of 10



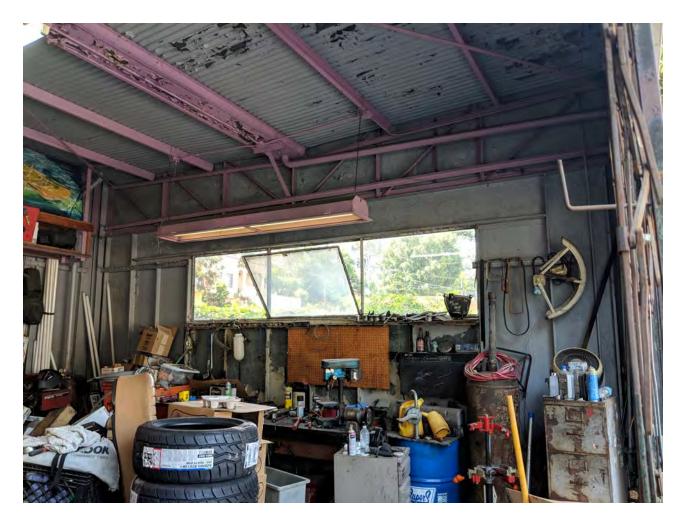


Commission/ Staff Site Inspection Photos--May 10, 2018 Page 5 of 10





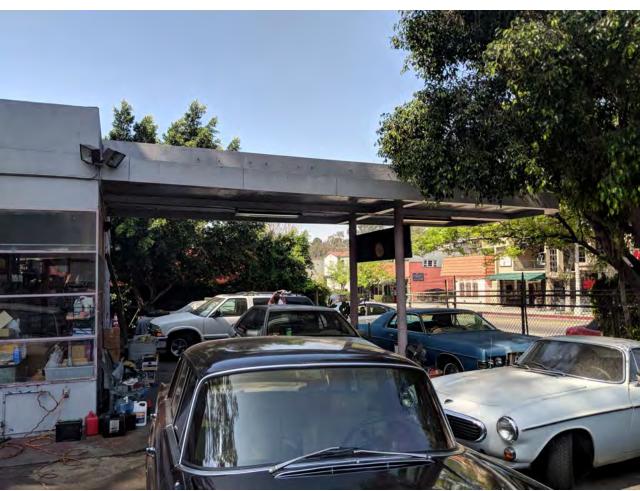
Commission/ Staff Site Inspection Photos--May 10, 2018 Page 6 of 10





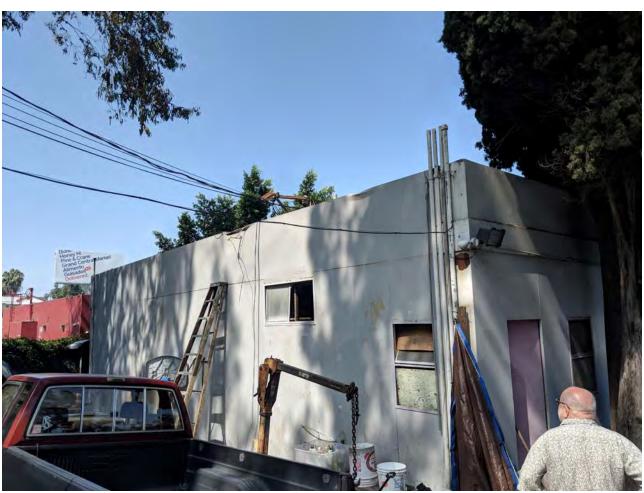
Commission/ Staff Site Inspection Photos--May 10, 2018 Page 7 of 10





Commission/ Staff Site Inspection Photos--May 10, 2018 Page 8 of 10





Commission/ Staff Site Inspection Photos--May 10, 2018 Page 9 of 10



CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CITY CLERK'S USE

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK 200 NORTH SPRING STREET, ROOM 360 LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

(California Environmental Quality Act Section 15062)

Filing of this form is optional. If filed, the form shall be filed with the County Clerk, 12400 E. Imperial Highway, Norwalk, CA 90650, pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21152 (b). Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21167 (d), the filing of this notice starts a 35-day statute of limitations on court challenges to the approval of the project. Failure to file this notice with the County Clerk results in the statute of limitations being extended to 180 days.

results in the statute of inflitations	being extended to	100 days.					
LEAD CITY AGENCY City of Los Angeles Depa	rtment of City	Planning				COUNCIL DISTRICT 13	
PROJECT TITLE	tillelit of City	ı ıaııııııg			OG PEE		
Silver Lake Texaco Service Station				LOG REFERENCE ENV-2018-2847-CE			
				CHC-2018-2846-HCM			
PROJECT LOCATION				1			
1650 North Silver Lake Boulev		· ·					
DESCRIPTION OF NATURE, PU Designation of the Silver Lake				ral Monument			
NAME OF PERSON OR AGENC					NCY:		
OONTAGE BEDOOM			DE4 00DE	ITEL EDITONE			
CONTACT PERSON Melissa Jones		Al	REA CODE 213	TELEPHONE 978-1192	NUMBER	EXT.	
			213	970-1192			
EXEMPT STATUS: (Check One)							
		STATE CEQA G	UIDELINES	(CITY CEQ	A GUIDELINES	
MINISTERIAL		Sec. 1526	8		Art. II, Sec. 2b		
DECLARED EMERGEN	CY	Sec. 1526	Sec. 15269			Art. II, Sec. 2a (1)	
EMERGENCY PROJEC	Sec. 15269 (b) & (c)			Art. II, Sec. 2a (2) & (3)			
× CATEGORICAL EXEMP	PTION	Sec. 1530	300 et seq. Art. III, Sec. 1			I, Sec. 1	
Class <u>8 &</u>	31 Catego	ory (City	CEQA Guidel	lines)			
OTHER (See Publi	c Resources Code	Sec. 21080 (b) a	nd set forth st	ate and City guid	leline provi	ision.	
JUSTIFICATION FOR PROJECT consists of "actions taken by reg enhancement, or protection of th Class 31 applies "to maintenance in a manner consistent with the Site Texaco Service Station as an Freview regulations based on the SIF FILED BY APPLICANT, ATTA	ulatory agencies, a e environment who e, repair, stabilizatio ecretary of Interior' distoric-Cultural Mo Secretary of Interio	as authorized by sere the regulatory on, rehabilitation, is Standards for the comment will assur's Standards to n	state or local process involves involves involves process involves freatment or the protect naintain and p	ordinance, to assilves procedures reservation, or real Historic Buildington of the environereserve the historical	sure the m for protect construction gs." Desigr nment by the pric site.	naintenance, restoration, tion of the environment." on of historical resources nation of the Silver Lake the enactment of project	
THE DEPARTMENT HAS FOUN					22. 7		
SIGNATURE		TITLE			DAT	-	
		Planning Assis				y 22, 2018	
FEE:	RECEIPT NO.		REC'D. BY		DAT	ı E	
DISTRIBUTION: (1) County Clerk	k, (2) City Clerk, (3) Agency Record	<u>'</u>		 		
IF FILED BY THE APPLICANT:							
NAME (PRINTED)			SIGNATUR	E			
DATE							

HISTORIC-CULTURAL MONUMENT



NOMINATION FORM

1. PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION

Proposed Monument Name:							
Other Associated Names:							
Street Address:				Zip:		Council District:	
Range of Addresses on Property:				Commun	Community Name:		
Assessor Parcel Number:		Tract:			Block:		Lot:
Identification cont'd:							
Proposed Monument Property Type:	Building	Building Structure Object			Site/Open Space		Natural Feature
Describe any additional resources located on the property to be included in the nomination, here:							

2. CONSTRUCTION HISTORY & CURRENT STATUS

Year built:	Factual	Estimated	Threatened?	
Architect/Designer:			Contractor:	
Original Use:		Present Use:		
Is the Proposed Monument on its Or	riginal Site?	Yes	No (explain in section 7)	Unknown (explain in section 7)

3. STYLE & MATERIALS

Architectural Style:			Stories:	Plan Shape:	
FEATURE	PRIMARY		SECONDARY		
CONSTRUCTION	Туре:		Туре:		
CLADDING	Material:		Material:		
POOL	Туре:	Туре:			
ROOF	Material:		Material:		
WINDOWS	Туре:	Туре	::		
WINDOWS	Material:	Material:			
ENTRY	Style:	Style	::		
DOOR	Туре:		Туре:		

HISTORIC-CULTURAL MONUMENT



NOMINATION FORM

4. ALTERATION HISTORY

List date and write a brief description of any major alterations or additions. This sec Include copies of permits in the nomination packet. Make sure to list any major alte				
5. EXISTING HISTORIC RESOURCE IDENTIFICATION (if known)				
Listed in the National Register of Historic Places				
Listed in the California Register of Historical Resources				
Formally determined eligible for the National and/or California Registers				
Located in an Historic Preservation Overlay Zone (HPOZ)	Contributing feature Non-contributing feature			
Determined eligible for national, state, or local landmark status by an historic resources survey(s) Survey Name(s):				
Other historical or cultural resource designations:				

6. APPLICABLE HISTORIC-CULTURAL MONUMENT CRITERIA

The propose	ed monument exemplifies the following Cultural Heritage Ordinance Criteria (Section 22.171.7):
	Reflects the broad cultural, economic, or social history of the nation, state, or community
	Is identified with historic personages or with important events in the main currents of national, state, or local history
	Embodies the distinguising characteristics of an architectural-type specimen, inherently valuable for study of a period, style, or method of construction
	A notable work of a master builder, designer, or architect whose individual genius influenced his or her age

HISTORIC-CULTURAL MONUMENT



State:

NOMINATION FORM

7. WRITTEN STATEMENTS

This section allows you to discuss at length the significance of the proposed monument and why it should be designated an Historic-Cultural Monument. Type your response on separate documents and attech them to this form.

- **A. Proposed Monument Description** Describe the proposed monument's physical characteristics and relationship to its surrounding environment. Expand on sections 2 and 3 with a more detailed description of the site. Expand on section 4 and discuss the construction/alteration history in detail if that is necessary to explain the proposed monument's current form. Identify and describe any character-defining elements, structures, interior spaces, or landscape features.
- **B. Statement of Significance** Address the proposed monument's historic, cultural, and/or architectural significance by discussing how it satisfies the HCM criteria you selected in Section 6. You must support your argument with substantial evidence and analysis. The Statement of Significance is your main argument for designation so it is important to substantiate any claims you make with supporting documentation and research.

8. CONTACT INFORMATION

Applicant

Name:

Zip:

Street Address:

Phone Number:

Name:		Company:		
Street Address:		City:		State:
Zip:	Phone Number:		Email:	
Property Owner	Is the owner in s	support of the i	nomination? Yes N	o Unknowr
Name:		Company:		
Street Address:		City:		State:
Zip:	Phone Number:		Email:	
Nomination Preparer/Appli	icant's Representative			

Company:

Email:

City:

Office of Historic Resources/Cultural Heritage Commission HISTORIC-CULTURAL MONUMENT

NOMINATION FORM



9. SUBMITTAL

When you have completed preparing your nomination, compile all materials in the order specified below. Although the entire packet must not exceed 100 pages, you may send additional material on a CD or flash drive.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

- 1. Nomination Form
- 2. Written Statements A and B
- 3. Bibliography
- 4. Two Primary Photos of Exterior/Main Facade (8x10, the main photo of the proposed monument. Also email a digitial copy of the main photo to: planning.ohr@lacity.org)
- 5. Copies of Primary/Secondary Documentation
- Copies of Building Permits for Major Alterations (include first construction permits)
- 7. Additional, Contemporary Photos
- 8. Historical Photos
- Zimas Parcel Report for all Nominated Parcels (including map)

10. RELEASE

Please read each statement and check the corresponding boxes to indicate that you agree with the statement, then sign below in the provided space. Either the applicant or preparer may sign.

I acknowledge that all documents submitted will become public records under the California Public Records Act, and understand that the documents will be made available upon request to members of the public for inspection and copying.

I acknowledge that all photographs and images submitted as part of this application will become the property of the City of Los Angeles, and understand that permission is granted for use of the photographs and images by the City without any expectation of compensation.

I acknowledge that I have the right to submit or have obtained the appropriate permission to submit all information contained in this application.

Melissa Jones, Planning Asst. 5-22-2018

Da

Signature

Mail your Historic-Cultural Monument Submittal to the Office of Historic Resources.

Office of Historic Resources
Department of City Planning
200 N. Spring Street, Room 620
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Phone: 213-978-1200 Website: preservation.lacity.org Silver Lake Texaco Service Station Historic-Cultural Monument Application Page 1 of 33

Proposed Monument Description

Site

The Silver Lake Texaco Service Station is located at 1650 North Silver Lake Boulevard in the Silver Lake neighborhood. This area of Silver Lake is composed of a mix of one and two-story commercial buildings dating from the 1940s and 1950s, and multi-family residences dating from the 1920s to the 1950s. The subject property is located on the corner of Effie Street and North Silver Lake Boulevard with North Occidental Boulevard to the east. The primary, west-facing building is set back from the sidewalk on the southern end of the property, and has a non-historic accessory structure located at the southeast corner. The buildings sit on a rectangular parcel made up of four lots, the northern two lots covered by an asphalt parking lot. A metal lamp post occupies the northeast corner on the lot of the subject property.

Exterior

The subject property was constructed in 1941 in the Streamline Moderne architectural style. The one-story L-shaped building is of steel frame construction with metal cladding, and is capped with a flat roof. The primary, west-facing elevation fronts North Silver Lake Boulevard, and a canopy with curved corners extends west from the north end of the building, supported by two steel poles at its halfway point. Atop the canopy is a horizontal fin that once featured Texaco signage. Beneath the canopy is the primary entrance consisting of a multi-lite wood door, with a hopper transom window above and flanked by fixed, divided-lite steel windows. The divided-lite window to the north of the door wraps around the corner to the north elevation. South of the primary entrance a wide garage with a folding metal gate opens to a single space containing two automotive service bays. Triple speedlines run the width of the south elevation, above a band of three metal windows, the outer pair fixed and the center a hopper. In addition to the fixed, divided-lite window of the waiting room/office, the north elevation features two doors with a window between them, and the rear, east-facing elevation has a sliding window and a hopper window.

Interior

The building consists of several rooms. The office/waiting area in the northwest corner is reached via the primary entrance. A single space occupying the southern three quarters of the building contains two automotive service bays and is accessed from the double-sized garage entrance on the primary west elevation. There is a fixed, divided-lite steel window between the office and service bays. Metal beams support the corrugated metal ceiling and hanging metal shelves, and a metal joist bisects the ceiling between the two service bays. Two restrooms are located at the northeast corner of the building.

Building Chronology and Alterations

1941	Permit issued to erect a one-story gasoline station at 1650 Silver Lake Boulevard. The Texas Company was listed as the owner, and Blaine Noice was listed as the engineer (LADBS Permit No. 19378).
1969	Permit issued to install 17-foot sign post on the corner of Effie Street and Silver Lake Boulevard. Texaco was listed as the owner.
1988	Permit issued for change of use from a gas station to an auto repair shop. The owner listed was Aliver A. Villarreal.

Silver Lake Texaco Service Station Historic-Cultural Monument Application Page 2 of 33

Alteration dates unknown

The free-standing Texaco sign removed.

The gas pumps removed.

Texaco signage removed from the horizontal fin above the canopy.

Installation of fluorescent lighting.

Removal of triple speedlines on the edge of the canopy and on the west and north elevations; they are still present on the south elevation.

Replacement of the top row of lites of the windows wrapping around the office/waiting room.

Statement of Significance

SurveyLA identified the subject property as eligible for listing at the national, state, and local levels as an "Excellent example of an automobile service station from the 1940s" and "A rare, surviving example of automobile commercial development from this era." Constructed in the Streamline Moderne architectural style in 1941, its high quality of design and retention of original form and a high level of integrity stand as a visible reminder of the 1940s-era California car culture. The Silver Lake Texaco Service Station is also an example of the rare surviving type of construction that was prominent in service stations at the time. It represents 1930s and 1940s service station design in general, and more specifically Texaco's pioneering design standardization that served as part of its larger branding program.

The Silver Lake Texaco Service Station reflects the broad cultural, economic, and social history of the nation, state, and community.

Silver Lake Boulevard Development

The Silver Lake neighborhood was originally called Ivanhoe, named by Scotsman Hugo Reid after the book by Sir Walter Scott. Due to its proximity to downtown Los Angeles, the area developed with residential neighborhoods relatively early in the city's history. Lots began to be sold during the real estate boom in 1887. The area was made more attractive to homebuyers after the Pacific Electric railroad provided access in 1904. Early residential tracts including Childs Heights, Rowland Heights, and Mabery Heights were subdivided on either side of Sunset Boulevard, which was the path of a streetcar line. The land in the northern portion of Silver Lake became part of the City of Los Angeles as part of the East Hollywood Annexation in 1910. The completion of Glendale Boulevard in 1915, which connected Los Angeles to Glendale by a bridge over the Los Angeles River, stimulated interest in the development of the Silver Lake neighborhood. The community was centered around the Silver Lake and Ivanhoe Reservoirs. It is from the Silver Lake Reservoir that the community gets its present name. The reservoir was named in honor of Herman Silver, a Jewish pioneer who was elected to the City Council and served as the Chairman of the City's Water Commission. Both reservoirs were designed by Chief Engineer William Mulholland, and were constructed in 1906 and 1907. They were only to be utilized in the event of an emergency at first; it was not until 1920s, when demand for water rose with the area's increasing population, that they were used on a regular basis.

The majority of the neighborhood's streets were laid out in the 1920s, following the contours of the hills. The subsequent development of individual lots resulted in a great variety of architectural styles and modernist experimentation.

Silver Lake Texaco Service Station Historic-Cultural Monument Application Page 3 of 33

Addressing the impact of the automobile on the Silver Lake area, SurveyLA states that the...

...development patterns clearly reflect automobile influences, as evidenced by the numerous tracts of single-family residences located in the hilly areas along Echo Park and Silver Lake Boulevards. By 1920, there were two automobiles for every three residents in Los Angeles. In the 1920s, a small commercial district developed in the center of the neighborhood on Silver Lake Boulevard, southeast of the Silver Lake Reservoir.

Further illustrating the importance of the automobile, a 1953 Sanborn Insurance map shows three gas stations at the same intersection (1650, 1701, and 1706 Silver Lake Boulevard). Of the three, only the one at 1650 is extant.

The Automobile in Los Angeles

Los Angeles has long been known as a city dominated by the automobile. As World War I came to a close, the quiet growth at the beginning of the 20th century shifted to an era of unprecedented expansion in regional population. The increase in oil production, the rising popularity of motion pictures, and the booming tourist trade all served to bring settlers and dollars into Southern California and prompted the real estate boom of the 1920s and the development of Southern California's first suburbs. Roughly 1.5 million new residents settled in Southern California during the 1920s, an impact that was felt locally.

The sprawling nature of greater Los Angeles was the product of an earlier system of transportation, the interurban railroad. Beginning in the late 1800s, and reaching its peak with the Pacific Electric network in the early 1900s, the area had developed the most extensive interurban light rail system in the world. The Pacific Electric Red Cars and the Los Angeles Railway Yellow Cars allowed the residents of the city and its surrounding suburbs to spread out over the flatlands. Yet this was still a pattern of settlements clustered around interurban stops, while large expanses of vacant land sat between these settlements.

This system could only go so far to reach the various new developments that sprang up in the area. It was the automobile that allowed Angelenos to fill in the expanses. The widespread use of the automobile came in the years just before the United States entered World War I, in 1917. Up until that time the passenger car was considered a luxury item. Registration of passenger cars in Los Angeles County grew from 20,000 in 1910 to more than 100,000 in 1920, and almost 800,000 by 1930. The increase in popular ownership came through the development of an affordable car, specifically the Ford Model T.

Built using assembly-line techniques, the Model T was durable, easy to operate, economical to maintain and simple to repair. The Model T was first introduced in 1908, and by 1911 Ford had become the largest single automobile manufacturer in the country. By 1920, every other motor car in the world was a Model T. In great part because of the Model T, the 1920s were the years during which the motor car became the dominant mode of transportation in Southern California. The development and proliferation of the automobile was a major factor in the growth of Los Angeles during the mid-20th century. With plenty of land to develop, the need for an extensive road system for reaching the far flung communities was an ongoing concern.

The increasing presence of the car after World War I caused Los Angeles to rethink the nature of its street system. Some early major thoroughfares were laid out by the city and the county, but typically streets were created by developers, with the higher-priced developments having some kind of hard surface provided. Otherwise, property owners created improvement districts of their

Silver Lake Texaco Service Station Historic-Cultural Monument Application Page 4 of 33

own to finance the grading and surfacing of their streets. In spite of this generally haphazard system, between 1904 and 1915 all of the main thoroughfares had paving of some sort and the City had improved nearly 500 miles of streets. However, these improvements were soon overwhelmed by the increase in car ownership during the early 1920s. This increase prompted community leaders to hire the firm of landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted in 1924 to prepare a survey of conditions and recommendations for the improvement of the city's streets, and to introduce the idea for a network of parkways. This study, entitled *A Major Traffic Street Plan for Los Angeles* was comprehensive, reaching south to Hyde Park and 110th Street, with Beverly Hills as the western edge, and to the southwest as far as Culver City. Of immediate importance was how the plan differentiated between local and arterial streets. Local streets served neighborhood residents and businesses, while arterial streets allowed traffic to move from one neighborhood or district to another.

The funding for the Olmsted plan was justified to the public as the best way to accommodate the increasing number of cars. During the next six years, Los Angeles worked to carry out the widening and straightening recommended by the Olmsted Plan, and by the first years of the Great Depression of the 1930s, most of these arterial routes had been reconfigured as major distribution streets. These improved arterials were also designated for commerce. The first comprehensive zoning ordinance was drafted in 1925. Business was relegated both to its traditional downtown district and to the major distribution streets identified in the plan.

Despite being in the midst of the Great Depression, between 1930 and 1940, automobile registration increased by some 300,000 in Los Angeles County as migrants to the southland brought their cars with them. The combination of abundant cheap land and continued car use led architects and planners to embrace the roadside architectural model of the isolated building surrounded by parking. A few planners had begun, before the onset of hard times, to accept the roadside arrangement of a commercial building with parking in front rather than hidden in the rear. An automobile-centered architecture began to emerge where businesses could stretch out along these arterial streets, such as Silver Lake Boulevard, and provide their mobilized customers plenty of space.

The Silver Lake Texaco Service Station embodies the characteristics of an architectural-type specimen inherently valuable for a study of a period, style, or method of construction.

Automobile-Related Architecture in Los Angeles

It is impossible to understand 20th century architecture in Los Angeles without considering the impact of the automobile, which can best be seen in those buildings created to provide for the needs of the car. Beginning in the early 1900s, there emerged new building types – from gas stations to drive-in restaurants – which served the motorist. These new buildings were a clear break from the older pedestrian-oriented commercial buildings. The idea of a wall of unified buildings no longer fit the increasingly auto-oriented city. In its place, the advent of the automobile produced buildings that stood alone, each putting itself forward as a monument, surrounded by its own driveway and parking lot

In the early 1900s, general stores supplied gasoline and motor oil. Gasoline came in cans purchased like kerosene. As early as 1905, some oil companies began experimenting with free-standing stations that sold only their brand of gasoline, and crude pumps that used rubber hoses made their appearance. Gas stations began appearing just before World War I, evolving from storefronts, houses, and barns. The National Supply Station chain operated what were perhaps the first of the detached gas stations in Los Angeles. By 1913, the chain had outlets at the corners of Grand and

Silver Lake Texaco Service Station Historic-Cultural Monument Application Page 5 of 33

Washington, Vermont and Washington, Wilshire and Mariposa, Pico and Alvarado, Seventh and Westlake, and Vermont and Hollywood. The common building was a utilitarian box with a shed roof, porte-cochere, and a single pump. These gas stations were positioned on the site so as to allow the customer to drive through without backing up, and set diagonally on the corner to allow equal access from both streets.

By 1920, road architecture began to develop distinctive forms that could be recognized from afar by the tired traveler. Driving long distances, travelers would scan the horizon, seeking buildings with forms that defined their function. By the late 1920s, they had become one of the most common buildings in the city, establishing an auto-oriented architecture that was free-standing and acting as an advertisement for itself.

These new buildings took on features which celebrated the automobile. The celebratory approach embraced the idea of the free-standing structure and transformed it into a type of identifying sculpture, with the car as an integral part. Significant examples of these building types indicated the flourishing car culture of Los Angeles. By the mid-1920s, a common layout characterized gas stations. The gasoline pumps and the accompanying small office sat at the front of the site with the other services in a separate building or buildings behind. The two entities were divided by a paved space ample enough for customers to maneuver their cars. Most commonly the ensemble would occupy a corner so that the service buildings formed an L behind the gasoline station.

During the 1920s, a larger and more functionally varied form, known as the superstation, became popular. Vendors evolved from simple suppliers of gasoline into multi-purpose stops for all automobile needs. The popularity of the superstation in Los Angeles can be attributed to the city's high rate of auto ownership, the large role of the petroleum companies in the region's economic life, and the mild climate that made the open-air arrangement practical. The number of gasoline stations of all types in Los Angeles increased from about 170 in 1920 to almost 700 by 1925, and to more than 1,500 by 1930. By the end of prosperity in 1930, Los Angeles had an oversupply.

The Depression resulted in a change in service station design. The service station was one of the first architectural types to adopt the Streamline Moderne and the International Style. The common type, in its most basic form, was the white enameled oblong box with a parapeted flat roof. It included an office with large display windows, restrooms, service bays and auxiliary spaces. Each of the oil companies then treated this basic entity with detailing to provide identity. The companies offered various models of their prototypical stations with differing numbers of bays and sizes of offices. However, all models shared the same Streamline Moderne detailing and all were topped by the company's identifiable logo.

Beginning as early as the late 1940s, independent vendors experimented with self-service, allowing customers to pump their own fuel. Because of its nature – a great number of pumps and no repair bays – the self-service outlet reverted to the architectural form of the beginning days of the gas station. This was the small office and the canopy. Along with elimination of the need for attendants to pump gas came the death of the service bay. The oil companies opened multi-pump stations with only a cubicle in which a single attendant acted as cashier. Architecturally the independent form of a vast canopy covering a sea of pumps and a cashier's box became the norm. Eventually the box migrated from under the canopy to its side and became larger to include a mini-mart. Extant examples of the early service station model are now rare.

Streamline Moderne

The auto-oriented architecture of the Depression years followed, with roadside architecture

Silver Lake Texaco Service Station Historic-Cultural Monument Application Page 6 of 33

adopting a less monumental and more playful style commonly known as Streamline Moderne. Streamline Moderne was actually a collection of decorative devices that first made its appearance in the late 1920s. Its direct ancestor was the Art Deco style that was forged by Finnish architect Eliel Saarinen's famous design for the Chicago Tribune building and later by industrial advances in the streamlined design of transportation vehicles, namely automobiles, ships, and airplanes. The Moderne style, or Streamline Moderne, is seen from 1920 to 1940 and is more common in residential construction after 1930 while the Art Deco style is more typical in commercial construction in the 1920s and early 1930s.

Streamlining differed from the angular Art Deco approach in its smoother, more rounded, generally more horizontal lines. Streamline also differed from Art Deco in that it was more willing to break with traditional architectural principles such as symmetry and balancing of masses, and experiment with asymmetric arrangements appropriate to a free-standing building being viewed from a moving automobile. Instead of replicating non-architectural objects, Streamline Moderne buildings provided an abstract image of movement, which was particularly appropriate for autorelated architecture. The association with movement was due to Streamline Moderne's use in the industrial design of modes of transportation. The rounded forms appropriate for aircraft were also used for locomotives and automobiles such as the Chrysler Air-Flow of the mid-1930s. The popular Streamline Moderne designs loosely followed the new "International" style identified with experimental European designs of the 1920s, particularly the Bauhaus movement in Germany. It was relatively inexpensive to build compared to other forms, particularly given the wood-frame-and-stucco construction of Los Angeles. The style also adapted well to innovations in exterior lighting, particularly fluorescent, neon and indirect.

The Streamline Moderne style provided architectural unity to auto-oriented building types. The service stations of the era were the first, with the oil companies standardizing their designs around an International Style box adorned with Streamline detailing.

By the mid-1930s, the gas station was the most widespread type of commercial building in America, and had evolved into a one-stop destination where one could purchase tires, have your car repaired, and buy supplies from oil to gasoline. A fully functional gas station would include a waiting room for customers, a restroom and may even provide snacks for those waiting for their cars to be washed. This complex business model came to be known as the "service station." The expansion from a place to buy gas to a specialized structure for related services was a phenomenon of the Depression. The Depression marked the beginnings of modern consumer culture as businesses used advertising and branding to compete for customers. To counter deteriorating sales, many companies expanded product lines and repair services. The Depression also resulted in some companies expanding territorially, which included building stations that were distinctly different from their competitors. Marketing engineers, or architect-designers, took pride in introducing streamlined, modern stations. But "Modern Architecture" was actually a stripped-down, functional design to put a new optimistic face on hard economic times. Industrial design was a newly emergent profession incorporated by American manufacturers to create products with maximum sales appeal.

The Architecture of Texaco

The Texas Fuel Company, better known as Texaco, was founded during the Beaumont, Texas oil strike of 1901, which suddenly had the United States awash in cheap petroleum. The oil industry at that time was battling the coal industry, each vying for the home heating market. Unlike its competitors, which focused on regional markets, Texaco was determined to build itself into a national brand. By 1928, Texaco was the first oil company to sell gasoline throughout the United States, and was one of the major gasoline distributors in California for many years. Gasoline is a

Silver Lake Texaco Service Station Historic-Cultural Monument Application Page 7 of 33

fiercely competitive business. Standing out from the crowd is a must, and brand identity – in whatever form it might be – was an essential part of the business. Coal and oil trucks were usually filthy, covered with dust, grime and residue. Oil companies, including Texaco, wanted to put forth a cleaner, more progressive image than coal companies, so in the early 1930s, Texaco hired two industrial designers, Norman Bel Geddes and Walter Dorwin Teague, to give Texaco a fresh, clean, unified brand image.

Walter Dorwin Teague and Norman Bel Geddes

Walter Teague was known as the "Dean of Industrial Design" for designing the Kodak Brownie camera and a host of other streamlined artifacts. Norman Bel Geddes, heavily influenced by modern architectural trends such as Bauhaus and Streamline Moderne, had designed an Art Deco-style house of tomorrow and a teardrop shaped car. By bringing these two cutting-edge designers on board, Texaco sought to design distinctive service stations and gas trucks that were instantly recognizable to the motorist.

The first step was to have Bel Geddes and Teague design a series of sanitary, streamlined, eyecatching tank trucks. The Texaco Doodlebug was an important design for several reasons. Basically, it erased all vestiges of 1930s car and truck architecture. There were no fenders, no hood, no cowl, no runningboards and no flat, upright windshield. The passenger cabin got blended into the overall design, and the Doodlebug's simple bread loaf shape was all one piece. The truck used curved side glass and a compound- curved windshield. But the Doodlebug's overall height was what surprised most people; the truck stood a mere 72 inches tall. Texaco's tank trucks doubled as rolling billboards, especially the Doodlebugs - probably the most striking and successful from an aesthetic point of view.

Together Bel Geddes and Teague came up with Texaco's famous red T-star and the block-letter logo. The red star in the center of the circle referred to the "Lone Star State" as did the "T" overlapping the star, marking the site of service and gas with an instantly recognizable logo. They also styled the attendants' white uniforms and the architecture and color schemes of the stations themselves. Teague designed the prototypical gas station, a basic white box covered in white porcelain enamel with forest-green stripes and a free-standing post bearing the red Texaco star logo on a white disk. Evocative of the then-popular streamlined look, his incredibly successful box design simultaneously suggested speed, modernity and cleanliness, as Teague took something supposedly dirty and messy and turned it into the white, sparkling image of a hospital. In every version, the outside was white, porcelain-clad metal which defied rust and was easily cleaned. The gleaming surface contrasted sharply with its surroundings, and readily caught the eyes of passing motorists. In addition to designing a banjo-shaped sign that clearly identified the company, Teague created five variations of a Streamline Moderne station design. Each variation was modified to a different lot configuration with different uses of the canopy. The Silver Lake Texaco Service Station is an example of the "Type C" design, which is identified as an oblong box with a single canopy projecting from the main block, and most commonly had two service bays (See description and plans in "Primary/Secondary Documentation" section).

By 1942, the white box of Texaco had slipped seamlessly into the American vernacular, giving Texaco outlets a consistent appearance and identity with some 40,000 stations built across the United States. Teague elevated the Texaco station from the past and placed it into the progressive future, but like other high style products designed by Teague during the Depression, the Texaco stations belied the depressing fact that many Americans could not afford to purchase a car, much less buy gas. The most important element of Teague's Texaco station was their utopian nature and the promise of the future. Their design and business model instilled confidence in the American ability to carry on and move forward into the future. Texaco merged

Silver Lake Texaco Service Station Historic-Cultural Monument Application Page 8 of 33

with Chevron in 2001 and the Texaco stations in Southern California were rebranded at that time, although the Texaco name survives elsewhere.

Blaine Noice

The Silver Lake Texaco Service Station was engineered for the site by prominent local structural engineer Blaine Noice, who came to California during the early years of the 20th Century. He was a self-schooled civil engineer when he was hired by the Southern Pacific Railroad as their Supervisor of Bridges and Buildings for their Mexican operation at the age of 18. In 1912, he went to work for the City of Los Angeles as a building inspector. After serving as a 1st Lieutenant and then a Captain in World War I, he returned to Los Angeles as the chief engineer for the building department until 1922, when he went into private practice with fellow structural engineer David H. Merrill. The firm of Noice and Merrill was responsible for the design of a number of large buildings in Southern California until 1929, when Merrill left the firm to become the managing secretary treasurer of the Pacific Coast Building Officials Conference. Noice continued in the firm and went on to engineer a number of significant buildings, including many of the structures for the Walt Disney Studios on Hyperion and later at the present Burbank location.

Noice was one of the founders of the Structural Engineers Association of Southern California in 1929. The following year, he was appointed to the Los Angeles Building and Safety Commission. Noice was one of the principal engineers who developed the Field Act for earthquake safety after the devastating Long Beach Earthquake in 1933. One of his early accomplishments was to get structural engineers on par with architects when building permits are issued. Noice was the engineer/designer of numerous large industrial projects and bridges throughout Southern California, as well as smaller projects such as building signs and theater marquees, and the Silver Lake Texaco Service Station was definitely a small project in comparison to much of his other work.

Conclusion

Automobile-related commercial architecture had its high point in the decades between the mid-1930s and the mid-1960s. The exotic buildings of the 1920s and 1930s and the smooth, curving lines of the Streamline Moderne style gave way to futuristic post-World War II designs, which made use of wartime technology, such as plastics; ideas of the future were manifested in shapes that were influenced by jets, cars, and rockets. It was during this time that the celebratory attitude toward the automobile was most prevalent. The result was an acceptance of the car as part of the architecture. Today intact examples of auto-related resources from this period are scattered citywide, but are becoming increasingly rare.

There are three service stations that are currently Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monuments, and each represents a different period in the evolution of Los Angeles gas station architecture. The 1924 Marquez Filling Station in Pacific Palisades (HCM #800) reflects the simplicity of the pre-superstation, featuring only a small office, canopy and pumps and no service bays. The 1939 Gas Station (HCM #387) in Brentwood, with its 45-foot high tower, is an example of the elaborate Spanish style that preceded the more measured Streamline Moderne style. And while the 1935 Gilmore Gasoline Service Station in Hollywood (HCM #508) is of Streamline Moderne design, its unique layout does not match the pioneering uniform branding of Teague's Silver Lake Texaco Service Station.

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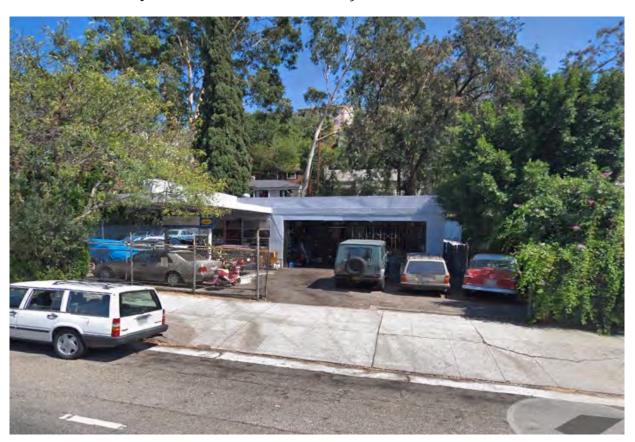
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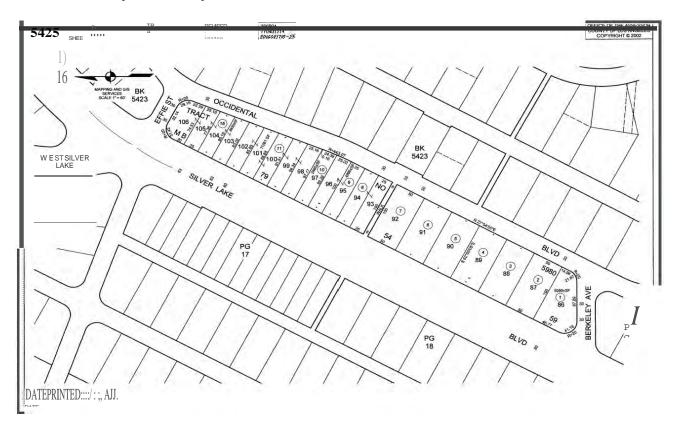
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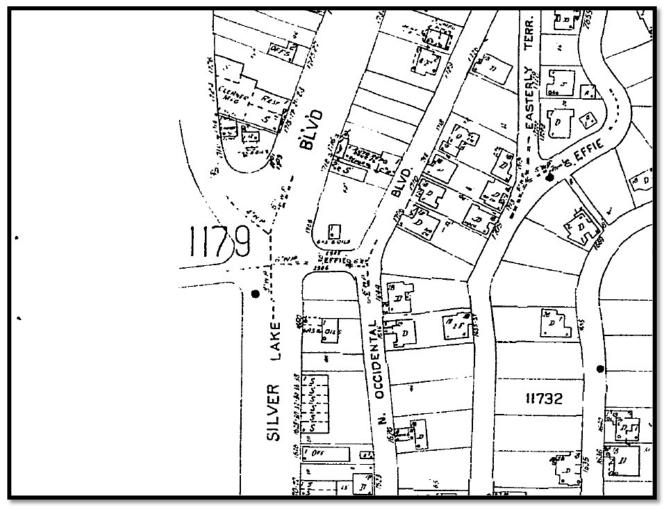
Two Primary Photos of Exterior/Main Façade





Primary/Secondary Documentation





1953 Sanborn Map, showing gas stations at 1650, 1701 and 1706 Silver Lake Boulevard. Only 1650 remains.



Gas station in Silver Lake, 1932 (USC Digital Library)



Auto court in Silver Lake, 1930 (SilverLake.org)



Streamline Moderne in transportation (kknews.com)



Streamline Moderne architecture: Coulter's Department Store, 1939 (Los Angeles Conservancy)

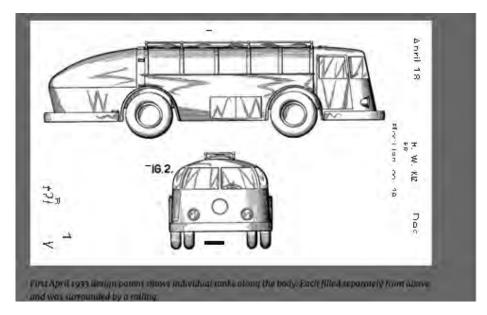


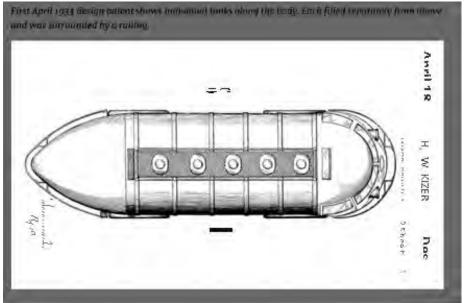
Walter Dorwin Teague





Norman Bel Geddes



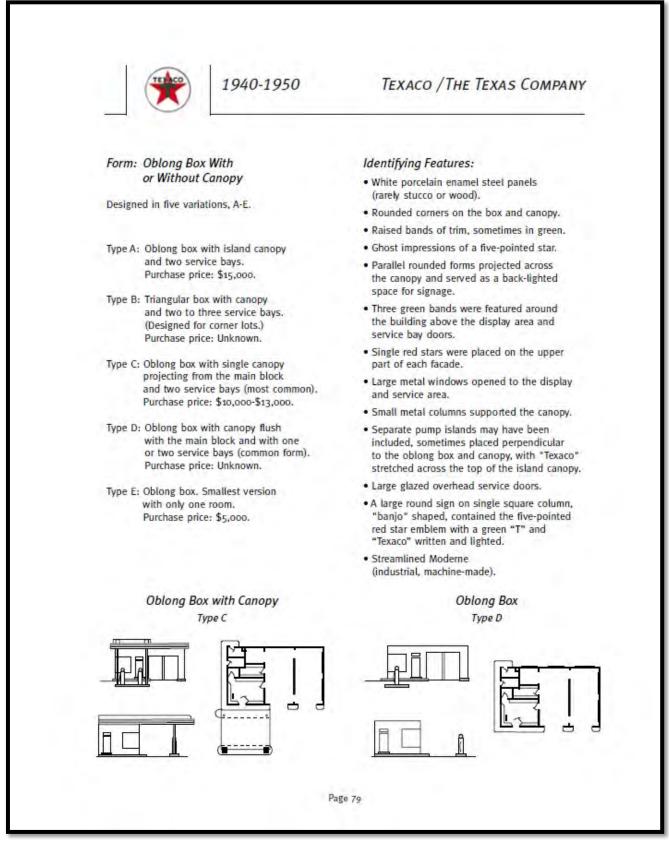




Example of the same Texaco branding that would lead to Teague's Streamline Moderne service stations



The All-Encompassing Texaco branding, including the white service station with the red Texaco sign and green speedlines. (browser.com/oilandgasads)



Plans for two of the five of Teague's Texaco gas stations. Type C matches the Silver Lake Texaco Service Station





Vintage drawing and photo of Type C Texaco gas stations (luckymojo.com)





Restored Type C Texaco gas station in Cowan, Tennessee (top and bottom, roadarch.com)



Historic-Cultural Monument No. 800, Marquez Filling Station, 1924 (City of Los Angeles Office of Historic Resources)



Historic-Cultural Monument No. 508, Gilmore Gasoline Service Station, 1935 (City of Los Angeles Office of Historic Resources)



Historic-Cultural Monument No. 387, Gas Station, 1939 (City of Los Angeles Office of Historic Resources)

Existing Conditions Photos



Silver Lake Texaco, west (primary) façade featuring canopy, office and service bays, view southeast (May 10, 2018)



Silver Lake Texaco, canopy, view northeast (May 10, 2018)



Silver Lake Texaco, canopy, view northwest (May 10, 2018)



Silver Lake Texaco, west façade featuring canopy, office and service bays, view northeast (May 10, 2018)



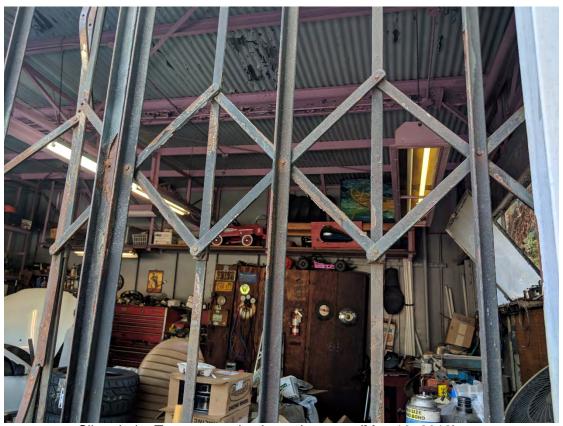
Silver Lake Texaco, close-up of office, view east (May 10, 2018)



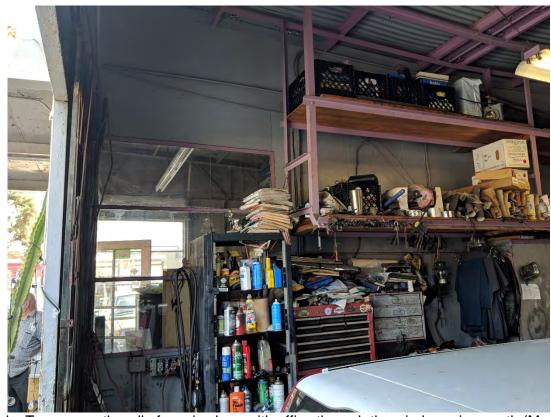
Silver Lake Texaco, primary entrance to office, view southeast (May 10, 2018)



Silver Lake Texaco, service bays, view east (May 10, 2018)



Silver Lake Texaco, service bay, view east (May 10, 2018)



Silver Lake Texaco, north wall of service bay, with office through the window, view north (May 10, 2018)





Silver Lake Texaco, south elevation and accessory structure, view east (May 10, 2018)



Silver Lake Texaco, north elevation, view south (May 10, 2018)



Silver Lake Texaco, east elevation, view southwest (May 10, 2018)



Silver Lake Texaco, accessory structure, view south (May 10, 2018)

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDING AND SAFETY

BUILDING DIVISION

Application for the Erection of a Building

CLASS "D"

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GERTHEN MINISTER

31

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This certifies that, so far as ascertained by or made known to the undersigned, the building at the above address complies with the applicable requirements of the Municipal Code, as follows: Chapter 1, as to permitted uses of said property; Chapter 9, Articles 1, 3, 4, and 5; and with the applicable requirements of the State Housing Act,—for the following occupancies:

NOTE: Any change of use or occupancy must be approved by the Department of Building and Safety.

G, E, MORRIS
Superintendent of Building

By

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDING AND SAFETY Nº 5623 BUILDING DIVISION

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

THIS CERTIFIES that the	Los Angele	s, Calif.,		., 19.4.2.
ing, located at 1250		بر میران میران میران میران می		~~~***********************************
hich Building Permit No een inspected and found to	was is comply with	ssued	ance provisio	19.4-1., ons.

BOARD OF BUILDING AND SAFETY,

By Chief Clerk.

28

S CITY OF LOS ANGELES	PPLICATIO	N FOR	INSPECTION O	FSIGNS	5-/ DEPT. OF	B&S B-5—Rev.	
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Texaco 6. OWNER'S ADDRESS	······································	<u></u>	P.O. BOX	ZIF	<u> </u>	LOT SIZE	Tre
Same		· <u>· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · </u>				1 PRE	م.
7. ARCHITECT OR ENGINEER James A. Ly	nch	<u> </u>	CE 60	55 223 <u>l</u>	TTLL		
8. contractor Heath & Co.			STATE LI 14689	CENSE NO. PHO 2 223 L	IJ]IJ	ALLEY	
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SIGN TRAFFIC APPROVAL REQUIRES: BOARD APPROVAL	_ ,,	•	PLANS APPRO) E		DATE 10-22-	0
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	STATE	MENT OF	RESPONSIBILI	ITY			
I certify that in doing the Code of the State of Califo					in viola	tion of the L	abor
"This permit is an apparation of the work specifie		-					
of Los Angeles, nor any bo	the violation	or failure	ta comply with	any applicat	ole law.	Neither the	City
responsible for the performer or soil upon which such we	opce or results	any W	ork described hi (See Sec. 91.0)	erein, ar the	condition	n of the prop	perty
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Board of Building Safety Commissioners	APPROVED FOR I	SSUE			,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,		
Traffic	APPROVED FOR I	SSUE					
Planning	APPROVED UNDE	R					

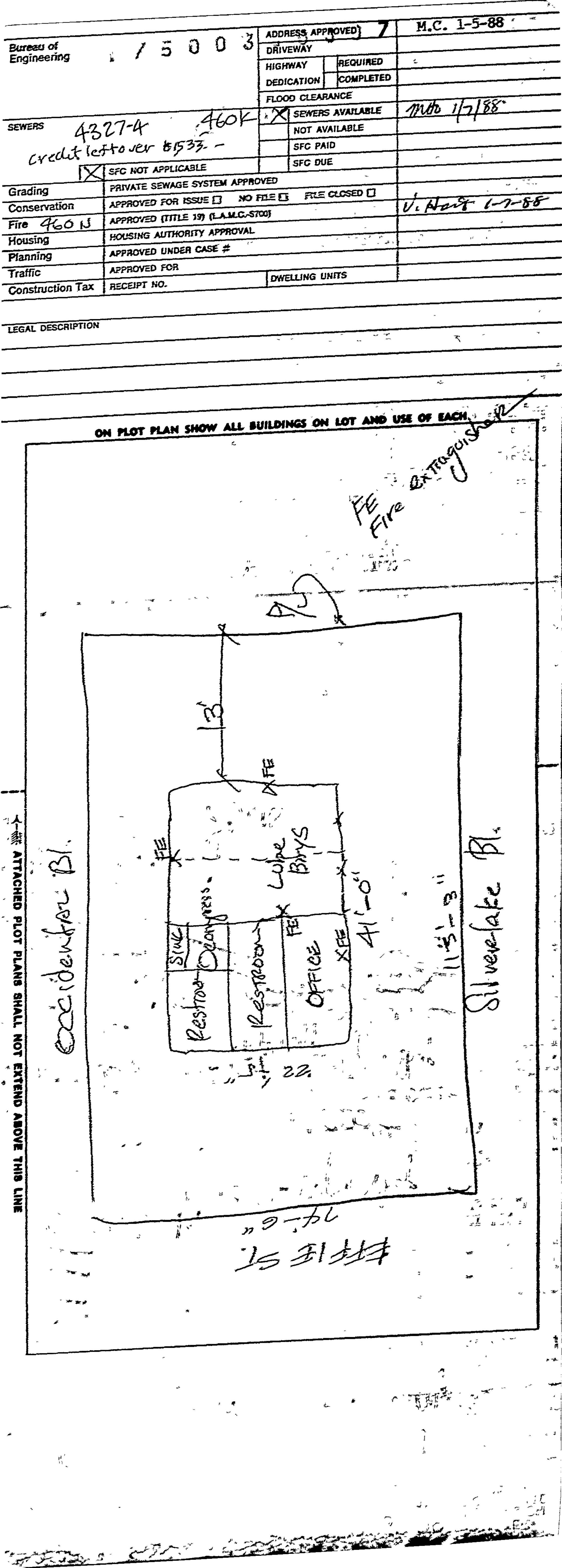
APPROVED FOR ISSUE

FILE #

Conservation

Effic St

TO ADD-ALTER-CEFT, OF BUILDING AND SAFETY CITY OF LOS ANGELES. APPLICATION AND FOR CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY FOR INSPECTION INSTRUCTIONS: 1. Applicant to Complete Numbered Hems Only. COUNCIL 144B205 LT.L. DISTRICT NO. SECCE 5980 CENSUS TRACT LOT 13 103-106 <u> 1955</u> LEGAL ZONE DESCR. NEW USE OF BUILDING Auto Repair Shop UNA Gas Station WO RUMING C2-12. PRESENT USE OF EURLDING FIRE CIST. JOB ADDRESS LOT TYPE 1650 Silverlake Bla. Cor/thru AND Berkeley Ave. 4. EETWEEEN CROSS STREETS LOT SIZE Effie St. PHONE 662-2972 Irr 5. CHNER'S HAME Villarreal Aliver A. CITY 90027 OWNERS ADDRESS ALLEY 2257 N. Edgemont St. PHONE ACTIVE STATE LIC. NO. BUS. LIC. NO. ENGINEER BLDG. LINE PHONE ACTIVE STATE LEE MA ELS. LIC XC. 8. ARCHITECT OR DESIGNER AFFICAVITS ZIP CITY 9. ARCHITECT OR ENGINEER'S ADDRESS ZI 1417 PHONE ACTIVE STATE LIC. NO. CritSoil 10. CONTRACTOR LOT'AND USE NO OF EXISTING BUILDINGS P.C REO'D HEIGHT STORIES | SIZE OF EXISTING. BLDG. 11. Yes LENSTH FLOOR WIDTH ROOF EXIL WILLS 12. CONST. MATERIAL DISTRICT CEFFICE STREET GUIDE OF EXISTING BLOG. 90 13. JOB ADDRESS 1650 Silverlake Blvd. SEISMIC STUDY ZONE VALUATION TO INCLUDE ALL FIXED EQUIPMENT REQUIRED TO OPERATE FLOOD COLUNA. LNO USE PROPOSED SUILDING (25 Comply with Order Dec. 23, 1987 15. KEN WORK HAT I (Secribe) Yes. Yes MICH ZINED BY HERHT STORIES rang NEW USE OF SUILDING F.E ATH Auto Repair Shop PEANS CHECKES FLCCF. 5200 TVO 17EK TYPE APPLICATION APPORED OCL TOTAL hla NICO MAX TREPECTOR DWELL INSPECTION ACTOMY ಯ್ಲ PARKING PROVIDED UNITS GEN. MISS/CONSIFEO PARKING COMB 8858-312227 CUEST COMP STD. RECO ROOMS CONT EZL ■ SE! INSP. 7.M. SZL Change for sections of tees said on ΞĽ permitte must be sleet 1. Within one year from date of payment of or 2. Within one year from FE **4** 15. wasing permits CASHIER'S CEE SD. 52.1.182212 SPRINCESS SESS A DIST. CFICE REST SPECI ENERGY CO 5C N3 Times a same permit of time has been established by an official action, plan elect Audional express one year after the less is part and this demnit express and press after the les a paid or tall tays after the less a paid of construction is act commenced. DECLARATIONS AND CERTIFICATIONS LICENSED CONTRACTORS DECLARATION 16. I hereby attirm that I am Ilcensed under the provisions of Chapter 9 (commencing with Section 7000) of Division 3 of the Business and Professions Code, and my license is in full force and effect. Contractor: (Signature) _Lic. Class _____ Lic. Number _ OWNER-BUILDER DECLARATION 17 1 tereby stars that I am exempt from the Contractor's License Law for the following reason (Sec. 7031.5, Business and Professions Code: Any city or county which requires a permit to construct, alter, improve, demolish, or repair any structure, prior to its issuance, also requires the applicant for such permit to file a signed statement that he is licensed pursuant to the provisions of the Commencies Liberts Liberts Liberts 9 (commencing with Section 7000) of Division 3 of the Business and Professions Code) or wall he is essince therefrom and the basis for the alleged exemption. Any violation of Section 7031.5 by any applicant for a pennit subjects the applicant to a cald penalty of not more than fire hundred dollars (\$500).): I as owner of the property, or my employees with wages as their sole compensation, will do the work, and the situature. is not intended or offered for sale (Sec. 7044, Business and Professions Code: The Contractor's License Law Goes not apply to an owner of property who builds or improves thereon, and who does such work himself or through his own employees. provided that such improvements are not intended or offered for sale. If, however, the building or improvement is sold within one year of completion, the owner-builder will have the burden of proving that he did not build or improve for the purpose II I, 25 owner of the property, 25 exclusively contracting with Moensed contractors to construct the project (Sec. 7944, Business and Professions Code: The Contractor's Exercise Law does not apply to an owner of property who builds or improves thereon and who contracts for such projects with a contractor(s) licensed pursuant to the Contractor's License Law-) ____ B. & P. C. for this reason - Ch [] Infin exempt whice Sec. _ . Owner's Signature IX WORKERS' COMPENSATION DECLARATION 18. I hereby allirm that I have a certificate of consent to self-insure, or a certificate of Worker's Compensation Insurance, or a certified copy thereof (Sec. 3800, 125, C.). James Company ... POSCY No. ___ [] Certified copy is hereby immisted. ☐ Cestified copy is filled with the Los Angeles City Dept. of Bldg. & Salety. Applicant's Signature CERTIFICATE OF EXEMPTION FROM WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE 19. I certify that in the performance of the work for which this certify it is perfect, I shall set employ any person in any manner. 32 25 & become subject to the Workers' Compensation Laws of California NOTICE TO APPLICANTS II, etter making this Certificate of Exemption, you should become subject to the Workers Compensation promisions of the labor Code, you must forthwith comply with such provisions or this pennit shall be desired 20. I hereby affirm that there is a construction lending agency for the performance of the work for which this permit is issued CONSTRUCTION LENDING AGENCY (Sec. 3097. Civ. C.). Lender's Address I certify that I have rest this acceptation and state that the above information is correct. I agree to comply with all city Lender's Name. and county ordinances and state laws relating to building construction, and hereby authorize representatives of this city to I realize that thus permit is an application for inspection, that it does not approve or authorize the work specified herein, and exer escà lie above-mentiones property for inspection purposes. that it does not securize or permit any victation or laiders to comply with any applicable law, that neither the city of Los Angeles ace any beart, department, officer or employee thereof make any warranty or shall be responsible for the periods. ance or results of any work described became or the condition of the property or soil upon which such work is performed. (See Sec. 51.0202 LAMC) Owner or agent having property owner's consent)





City of Los Angeles Department of City Planning

5/16/2018 PARCEL PROFILE REPORT

PROPERTY ADDRESSES

1650 N SILVER LAKE BLVD

ZIP CODES

90026

RECENT ACTIVITY

CHC-2018-2846-HCM ENV-2018-2847-CE

CASE NUMBERS

CPC-1995-357-CPU CPC-1986-255 ORD-176825-SA43 ORD-165167-SA1615

ORD-129279

ENV-2017-3434-CE

Address/Legal Information

PIN Number 144A205 246 Lot/Parcel Area (Calculated) 2,746.3 (sq ft)

Thomas Brothers Grid PAGE 594 - GRID D6

 Assessor Parcel No. (APN)
 5425023016

 Tract
 TR 5980

 Map Reference
 M B 79-54/59

 Block
 None

Block None
Lot 106
Arb (Lot Cut Reference) None

Map Sheet 144A205

Jurisdictional Information

Community Plan Area Silver Lake - Echo Park - Elysian Valley

Area Planning Commission East Los Angeles
Neighborhood Council Silver Lake

Council District CD 13 - Mitch O'Farrell

Census Tract # 1955.00

LADBS District Office Los Angeles Metro

Planning and Zoning Information

Special Notes HISTORIC MONUMENT UNDER CONSIDERATION

Zoning [Q]C2-1VL Zoning Information (ZI) None

General Plan Land Use Neighborhood Commercial

General Plan Note(s) Yes Yes Hillside Area (Zoning Code) Specific Plan Area None Subarea None Special Land Use / Zoning None Design Review Board No Historic Preservation Review No Historic Preservation Overlay Zone None Other Historic Designations None Other Historic Survey Information None Mills Act Contract None CDO: Community Design Overlay None CPIO: Community Plan Imp. Overlay None Subarea None None No

Subarea None
CUGU: Clean Up-Green Up None
NSO: Neighborhood Stabilization Overlay No
POD: Pedestrian Oriented Districts None
SN: Sign District No
Streetscape No
Adaptive Reuse Incentive Area None

Affordable Housing Linkage Fee

Residential Market Area Medium-High

Non-Residential Market Area High

Transit Oriented Communities (TOC) Not Eligible

This report is subject to the terms and conditions as set forth on the website. For more details, please refer to the terms and conditions at zimas.lacity.org (*) - APN Area is provided "as is" from the Los Angeles County's Public Works, Flood Control, Benefit Assessment.

CRA - Community Redevelopment Agency None
Central City Parking No
Downtown Parking No
Building Line None
500 Ft School Zone No
500 Ft Park Zone No

Assessor Information

Assessor Parcel No. (APN) 5425023016

Ownership (Assessor)

Owner1 CASE STUDIES SILVERLAKE LLC C/O C/O BOLOUR ASSOCIATES

INC

Address 8383 WILSHIRE BLVD STE 920

BEVERLY HILLS CA 90211

Ownership (Bureau of Engineering, Land

Records)

Owner CASE STUDIES SILVERLAKE LLC

Address

APN Area (Co. Public Works)* 0.198 (ac)

Use Code 2600 - Commercial - Auto, Recreation Equipment, Construction

Equipment Sales and Service - Auto Body Repair Shop - One Story

Assessed Land Val. \$1,094,989

Assessed Improvement Val. \$0

Last Owner Change 10/24/2013

 Last Sale Amount
 \$9

 Tax Rate Area
 13

 Deed Ref No. (City Clerk)
 869015

 7-349

Building 1

Year Built 1941
Building Class SX
Number of Units 0
Number of Bedrooms 0
Number of Bathrooms 0

Building Square Footage 902.0 (sq ft)

Building 2

Building 3

No data for building 2

Building 3

No data for building 3

Building 4

No data for building 4

Building 5

No data for building 5

Additional Information

Airport Hazard None
Coastal Zone None

Farmland Area Not Mapped

Urban Agriculture Incentive Zone YES Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone Yes Fire District No. 1 No Flood Zone None Watercourse No Hazardous Waste / Border Zone Properties No Methane Hazard Site None High Wind Velocity Areas No

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Special Grading Area (BOE Basic Grid Map A-Yes

13372)

Oil Wells None

Seismic Hazards

Active Fault Near-Source Zone

Nearest Fault (Distance in km)Within Fault ZoneNearest Fault (Name)Upper Elysian ParkRegionLos Angeles Blind Thrusts

Fault Type B

Slip Rate (mm/year) 1.30000000
Slip Geometry Reverse

 Slip Type
 Poorly Constrained

 Down Dip Width (km)
 13.00000000

 Rupture Top
 3.00000000

 Rupture Bottom
 13.00000000

 Dip Angle (degrees)
 50.00000000

 Maximum Magnitude
 6.40000000

Alquist-Priolo Fault Zone No
Landslide No
Liquefaction No
Preliminary Fault Rupture Study Area No
Tsunami Inundation Zone No

Economic Development Areas

Business Improvement District

Promise Zone

Renewal Community

Revitalization Zone

State Enterprise Zone

Targeted Neighborhood Initiative

None

Housing

Direct all Inquiries to Housing+Community Investment Department

Telephone (866) 557-7368

Website http://hcidla.lacity.org

Rent Stabilization Ordinance (RSO) No Ellis Act Property No

Public Safety

Police Information

Bureau Central
Division / Station Northeast
Reporting District 1172

Fire Information

Bureau Central
Batallion 11
District / Fire Station 20
Red Flag Restricted Parking No

CASE SUMMARIES

Note: Information for case summaries is retrieved from the Planning Department's Plan Case Tracking System (PCTS) database.

Case Number: CPC-1995-357-CPU

Required Action(s): CPU-COMMUNITY PLAN UPDATE

Project Descriptions(s): SILVERLAKE/ECHO PARK COMMUNITY PLAN UPDATE PROGRAM (CPU) - THESILVERLAKE/ECHO PARK COMMUNITY PLAN

IS ONE OF TEN COMMUNITY PLANS THAT ARE PART OF THE COMMUNITY PLAN UPDATE PROGRAM PHASE II(7-1-95 TO 12-

31-96)

Case Number: CPC-1986-255

Required Action(s): Data Not Available

Project Descriptions(s): AB-283 PROGRAM - GENERAL PLAN/ZONE CONSISTENCY - SILVER LAKE AREA - COMMUNITY WIDE ZONE CHANGES AND

COMMUNITY PLAN CHANGES TOBRING THE ZONING INTO CONSISTENCY WITH THE COMMUNITY PLAN. INCLUDES CHANGES OF HEIGHT AS NEEDED. REQUIRED BY COURT AS PART OF SETTLEMENT IN THE HILLSIDE FEDERATION

LAWSUIT

Case Number: ENV-2017-3434-CE

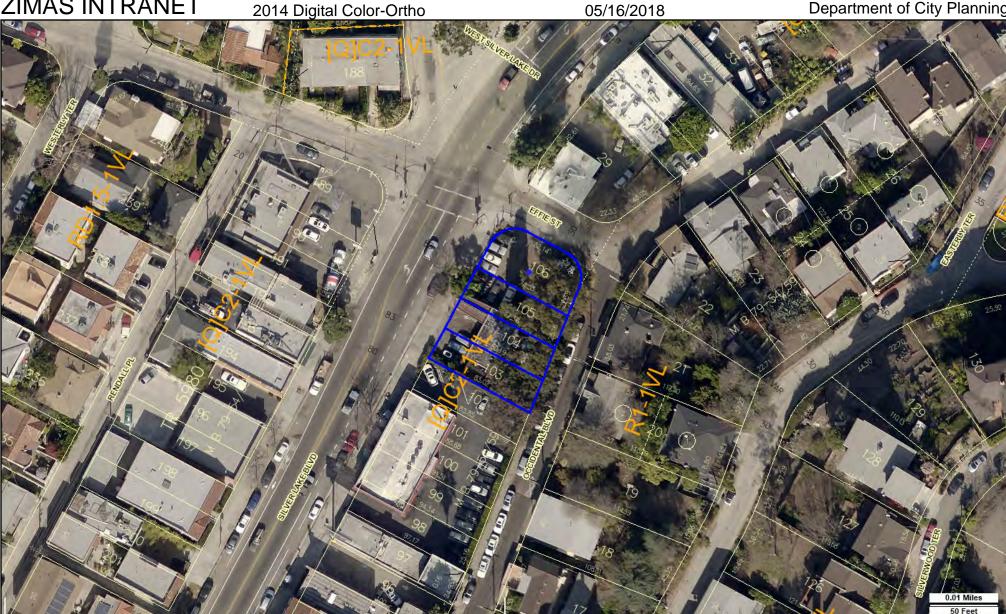
Required Action(s): CE-CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION

Project Descriptions(s): HAUL ROUTE FOR NEW APARTMENT BUILDING, WITH 4,500 CUBIC YARDS OF GRADING DIRT EXPORT.

DATA NOT AVAILABLE

ORD-176825-SA43 ORD-165167-SA1615

ORD-129279



Address: 1650 N SILVER LAKE BLVD

APN: 5425023016 PIN #: 144A205 246 Tract: TR 5980 Block: None Lot: 106

Arb: None

Zoning: [Q]C2-1VL General Plan: Neighborhood Commercial



SILVER LAKE TEXACO SERVICE STATION

1650 North Silver Lake Boulevard CHC-2018-2846-HCM ENV-2018-2847-CE

Correspondence from Members of the Public



Fwd: 1650 Silverlake Blvd

Planning CHC <chc@lacity.org>
To: Melissa Jones <melissa.jones@lacity.org>

Mon, May 21, 2018 at 7:33 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Barika Rankin <barikarankin@yahoo.com>

Date: Fri, May 18, 2018 at 3:02 PM Subject: 1650 Silverlake Blvd

To: "councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org" <councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org>

Cc: "CHC@lacity.org" < CHC@lacity.org>

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing today to express my disappointment in finding out that a gas station at 1650 Silver Lake Boulevard was nominated for historic status. We are in a housing crisis. We can't just preserve every old building on Silver Lake Blvd, as we will never be able to catch up to our current housing demand if every single building is deemed historic. They're not all historic and it feels a little ridiculous that I am writing this email, to begin with. We already can't catch up with the deliberate roadblocks put in place by our rich neighbors. We are not all rich and we need to aggressively address our housing problems.

Historic preservation, when done the right way is fantastic. I think it is a terrific way to leave something from the past while responsibly moving ahead with the future. I signed the petition to save the Hollywood Palladium when I lived in East Hollywood because it enhanced the community and brought something from the past into the future. That project preserved the old but made sure it was useable for the future. What is the plan for this gas station? Leaving it as is is a complete waste of time and nothing more than an attempt to appease someone's sense of nostalgia. We need solutions first. This prevents solutions.

Barika Rankin T.C.C Secretary/ Marketing Chair Tel. (952)261-1248 BarikaRankin@yahoo.com



Fwd: Deny Motion Please

Planning CHC <chc@lacity.org>
To: Melissa Jones <melissa.jones@lacity.org>

Mon, May 21, 2018 at 7:29 AM

----- Forwarded message ------

From: Michael Nelson <mike.nelson.la@outlook.com>

Date: Thu, May 17, 2018 at 2:23 PM

Subject: Deny Motion Please

To: "CHC@lacity.org" < CHC@lacity.org>

Cc: "councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org" <councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org>

Cultural
Heritage Commission
200
North Spring Street - Room 1010
Los
Angeles, CA 90012

Dear

Cultural Heritage Commission,

Ι

am writing today to give my disapproval of the historic nomination process for Precision Motors in Silver Lake on Silver Lake Boulevard. Los Angeles is in a housing crisis. We need more housing more than we need a non working gas station to look at for the

next hundred years. I can tell you with 100% certainty I would skip the Historic Gas Stations of Silver Lake Tour if it existed. That is something I would never spend money to see or spend money to preserve even if I owned the place.

Ιt

seems really odd this is even nominated. I have googled this for about 20 minutes hoping to find old pictures and articles of the station from the 40s or 50s and I have found next to nothing. I'm not seeing anything that makes it historic.

Please do not vote to preserve this.

Michael Nelson 1011 Waterloo Los Angeles, CA 90026



Fwd: Regarding 1650 Silver Lake Blvd

Planning CHC <chc@lacity.org>
To: Melissa Jones <melissa.jones@lacity.org>

Tue, May 22, 2018 at 8:53 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Ruthie Myers <myer0159@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, May 21, 2018 at 12:34 PM Subject: Regarding 1650 Silver Lake Blvd

To: CHC@lacity.org

Cc: councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org

Los Angeles Cultural Heritage Commission & Councilmember O'Farrell
Los Angeles City Hall
200 N Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Councilmember O'Farrell,

I was shocked to read in the Los Feliz Ledger that you personally were nominating 1650 Silver Lake Boulevard for historic status. Are you not aware that we are in the middle of the biggest housing crisis Los Angeles has ever seen? I know that you are, but given this nomination, I have to ask. To nominate a 900-foot gas station built in the 1940s for historic status seems like a deliberate attempt to halt development in your district. To nominate a 900-foot gas station built in the 1940s for historic status seems like a way to satisfy the, less concerned with social impact, voters in your district. The all-powerful rich NIMBY vote. In this political climate, and considering the demographics of your constituents I'd think you'd like to be a little more "awake." I know the rest of us sure are.

I don't understand how making a decrepit old gas station with a few curves instead of right angles into a historic building is responsible in this economy. In fact, it is irresponsible to have ever filed this paperwork. You should have let a local obstructionist file it, they always do.

Restoring a standing a gas station with a paint job is not going to house any of your constituents. It's not going to get a single person off the streets. In your State of Hollywood speech on January 25th, 2018 you said with the defeat of Measure S "It means we can continue growing our economy while providing great construction jobs and creating more places for people to live and work." How does preserving a gas station live up to that? How does that create a place to live? How does that create places to work?

Thank You,

Ruthie Myers (952) 200-0944



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Planning CHC <chc@lacity.org>
To: Melissa Jones <melissa.jones@lacity.org>

Thu, May 24, 2018 at 7:38 AM

----- Forwarded message ------

From: Sidney Perry <sidneyp@post.com>
Date: Tue, May 22, 2018 at 3:25 PM

Subject:

To: CHC@lacity.org

Cc: councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org

Cultural Heritage Commissioners,

Please do not approve the recommendation of Councilmember O'Farrell to make the gas station at 1650 Silver Lake a historic building.

The current gas station is not, in my opinion, historic in any way. Yes it was built in 1941 which makes it older than most buildings locally, but that fact alone does not make it worth saving. That one fact does not make it worth preserving. I am surprised and disappointed that this nomination was even made. We are in the thick of a historic housing crisis. One in which Councilman O'Farrell has promised to provide more housing. During his run for office he stood up for those who added to the housing stock without displacing current residents. The building proposed to go in at 1650 Silver Lake would have 14 units of housing without displacing a single one of his constituents. This is the kind of development the rest of us want to see. This is a great use of space and a sincere improvement over the current structure.

Please deny this nomination. Silver Lake needs housing, not a rundown gas station.

Thank you,

Sidney Perry

1011 Waterloo #13

Silver Lake, CA 90026