

LOS ANGELES CITYWIDE HISTORIC CONTEXT STATEMENT

Guidelines for Evaluating Resources Associated with Significant Persons in Los Angeles



Caroline Severance, founder and first president of the Los Angeles Women's Club and the Friday Morning Club (Los Angeles Public Library)



Charlotta Spears Bass, suffragist and first woman to run an African American newspaper (Los Angeles Public Library).



Edward Roybal (standing), elected to the City Council in 1949 (Los Angeles Public Library)

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PREFACE

The Guidelines for Evaluating Properties Associated with Significant Persons in Los Angeles are largely based on the National Register Bulletin, “Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Properties Associated with Significant Persons” (<https://www.nps.gov/nr/publications/bulletins/pdfs/nrb32.pdf>). Refer to www.HistoricPlacesLA.org for designated resources associated with significant persons as well as resources identified through SurveyLA and other surveys.

GUIDELINES OVERVIEW

The eligibility standards for resources associated with significant persons are presented here as general guidelines that apply to all applicable contexts, themes, and property types of the citywide historic context statement. It should be noted, however, that some narrative themes developed for the citywide context also include eligibility standards for significant persons as well as more specific information about persons identified under those themes. This is particularly true for the ethnic/cultural themes.¹

The Guidelines for Evaluating Properties Associated with Significant Persons can be used to assess eligibility for listing in the National, Register, California Register, and as a City Historic-Cultural Monument using the following criteria:

- National Register of Historic Places, Criterion B: “Associated with the lives of persons significant in our past”
- California Register of Historical Resources, Criterion 2: “Associated with the lives of persons important to local, California, or national history”
- City Historic-Cultural Monument, Criterion 2: “Is associated with the lives of historic personages important to national, state, city , or local history”

Properties associated with significant persons may include almost any property type.² Individuals may be important in a wide range of areas of significance including, and not limited to: Ethnic Heritage (various), Agriculture, Commerce, Community Planning and Development, Communications, Entertainment/Recreation, Exploration/Settlement, Industry, Art, Performing Arts, Health/Medicine, Education, Industry, Literature, Politics/Government, Military, Religion, and Social History. Individuals include important civic leaders and activists, business owners, industrialists, educators, doctors, actors, writers, politicians, farmers, musicians, artists, and others. While the varied themes of the narrative citywide context statement identify numerous persons significant in Los Angeles history more may be identified over time.

¹ Also refer to the relevant contexts and themes of the citywide context to see if additional information is provided on evaluating properties associated with significant persons.

² Residential properties make up a large percentage of designated and SurveyLA-identified properties associated with significant persons.

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Individuals may be important for their contributions to Los Angeles history within a highly localized area, such as a neighborhood of Los Angeles, or for their broad contribution to the city's history. Some properties may also have significance at a regional, state, or national level when associated with individuals whose contributions to history expanded beyond Los Angeles.

Consideration for evaluating properties under Criteria B/2/2 include the following:

- The significance of individuals, and their association with a property, must be substantiated through accepted methods of historical research and analysis
- Properties significant for contributions of a family (rather than a single individual) are evaluated under Criterion A/1/1
- Properties that are important examples of an individual's skill as an architect, engineer, landscape architect or other designer are evaluated under Criterion C/3/3

Significance and Integrity Considerations

It is possible for a resource to be significant under local criteria and not meet significance or integrity thresholds for the National Register and/or California Register. The National Register requires a greater degree of comparative analysis with other individuals within the same geographic area, time period, and theme than may be required for the City's Historic-Cultural Monument program.

The City's criteria do not include a discussion of integrity; resources may be eligible under local criteria with more alterations than may be acceptable for the National Register and/or California Register.



1980s residence of the artist known as Tom of Finland. Touko Laaksonen was a Finnish artist known for his stylized androerotic illustrations that were very influential in gay culture (SurveyLA)



Residence of writer Raymond Chandler 1943-1946, 6520 W. Drexel Ave (SurveyLA)



1920s residence of Max Factor, a cosmetics of Polish-Jewish descent who developed the popular and widely-recognized Max Factor line of cosmetics (SurveyLA).

SURVEYLA THEMES ASSOCIATED WITH SIGNIFICANT PERSONS

SurveyLA includes a number of contexts and themes for evaluating resources associated with significant persons as follows. However, these guidelines and eligibility standards may also apply to themes not developed for the citywide context.

- Spanish Colonial and Mexican Era Settlement
- Pre-consolidation Communities of Los Angeles
- Commercial Merchants, Builders, and Leaders
- Developers and the Development Process
- Important Persons in L.A.'s Education History
- Important Persons In L.A.'s Religious History
- Important Persons in L.A.'s Medical History
- Municipal Water and Power
- Performing Artists in L.A.
- Producing, Displaying & Supporting Visual Arts
- Visual Artists in L.A.
- Writers and Residency in L.A.
- The Entertainment Industry (various themes)
- Industrial Giants
- Labor History
- Ethnic/Cultural Contexts
 - Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Historic Context
 - Latino Los Angeles Historic Context
 - Jewish History Context
 - Chinese American Historic Context
 - Japanese American Historic Context
 - Filipino American Historic Context
 - Korean American Historic Context
 - Thai American Historic Context
 - Women's History Context
 - African American Context

RESOURCES ASSOCIATED WITH SIGNIFICANT PERSONS IN LOS ANGELES

Summary Statement of Significance: Significant properties are directly associated with the productive life of a significant person who made important individual contributions to one or more areas of significance as it relates to Los Angeles history.

Period of Significance: 1781-1980

Period of Significance Justification: The timeframe established for SurveyLA’s citywide historic context

Geographic Location: Citywide

Area(s) of Significance: May include, and not be limited to: Ethnic Heritage (various), Agriculture, Commerce, Community Planning and Development, Communications, Entertainment/Recreation, Exploration/Settlement, Industry, Art, Performing Arts, Health/Medicine, Education, Industry, Literature, Politics/Government, Military, Religion, and Social History

Criteria: NR: B CR: 2 Local: 2

Associated Property Types: Commercial
Residential
Industrial
Institutional
Cultural Landscape
Site
Other

Property Type Description: Properties associated with significant persons in Los Angeles history are common to all contexts and themes of the citywide context and comprise one of the largest groups of historic resources identified through SurveyLA. They include all resource types and cover the full period of significance for the citywide context.

Eligibility Standards:

- Directly associated with the productive life of a significant person who made important individual contributions to one or more areas of significance as it relates to Los Angeles history
- Individual must be proven to have made an important contribution to Los Angeles History

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- Individual must have lived in or used the property during the period in which he or she achieved significance
- Contributions of individuals must be compared to those of others who were active, successful, or influential in the same field
- Each property associated with someone important should be compared with other properties associated with that individual to identify those resources that are good representatives of the person's historic contributions
- For residential property types, the individual must have resided in the property during the period in which he/she achieved significance
- For multi-family residential properties, the apartment or room occupied by the person must be readable from the period of significance
- Properties associated with the lives of living persons *may* be eligible, if the person's active life in their field of endeavor is over AND sufficient time has elapsed to assess both their field and their contribution in a historic perspective
- May be associated with individuals important in ethnic, cultural, LGBT, and/or women's history
- Retains most of the essential character-defining features from the period of significance
- For the National Register, properties associated with individuals whose significant accomplishments date from the last 50 years must possess exceptional significance

Integrity Considerations:

- Retains sufficient integrity to convey significance
- Should retain integrity of Feeling, Association, Location, and Design from the period of significance
- Some original materials may be altered or removed, particularly in cases where a property is not also evaluated for significance under Criterion C/3/3.
- Setting may have changed (surrounding buildings and land uses)
- A good test for integrity is whether the significant person associated with the resource would recognize it as it exists today.