

# Agenda Report

**TO: CITY COUNCIL** **DATE: APRIL 21, 2003**

**FROM: CITY MANAGER**

**SUBJECT: NOMINATION OF THE LINCOLN CLARK HOUSE, 646 SOUTH MADISON AVENUE, FOR DESIGNATION AS A LANDMARK**

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## **CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Acknowledge that the application for designation of the Lincoln Clark House, located at 646 South Madison Avenue, as a landmark is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (Class 8); and
2. Find that the Lincoln Clark House located at 646 South Madison Avenue meets Criterion B3 for landmark designation under §17.52.040 of the Pasadena Municipal Code; and
3. Approve the attached resolution designating the Lincoln Clark House located at 646 South Madison Avenue as a landmark (ATTACHMENT 1);
4. Authorize the Mayor to execute the attached declaration of designation (ATTACHMENT 2); and
5. Direct the City Clerk to record the declaration with the Los Angeles County Recorder.

## **HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION:**

The Commission voted unanimously to recommend that the City Council find that the Lincoln Clark House meets the criteria for designation as a landmark and approve the designation.

## **BACKGROUND:**

### Nomination:

On July 29, 2002, staff received an application to designate this house, designed by Frederick Roehrig, as a landmark. The present owners of the property, Mr. & Mrs. Lewis Phelps, support the designation.

### Description and Analysis:

Local financier G. M. Barber commissioned Frederick Louis Roehrig to design a residence for his daughter and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln Clark. Mr. Clark was a prominent Pasadena resident who was active in civic affairs. The residence was designed and completed in 1908. In recognition of its original owners, the house is referred to as the Lincoln Clark House. The building is a gable-roofed, two-story Craftsman Style house with a T-shaped plan with shallow wings. The main facade of the Swiss chalet-inspired design is characterized by a symmetrical arrangement of six pairs of casement windows and low-pitched roof. Exaggerated triangular knee brackets support the deep roof eaves. The exposed rafter tails and brackets exhibit a strong Japanese influence in their tapering stylized design. Dark split-wood shingles cover the exterior, typical of the Craftsman style. The front door to the house is approached along a brick and concrete path located on the south side of the residence.

For more detailed information on the Lincoln Clark House and architectural significance, the statement of significance to the Historic Preservation Commission is attached (ATTACHMENT 3) and photographs (ATTACHMENT 4).

The Commission found that the Lincoln Clark House is a significant historic resource for the following reason:

- It represents the work of an architect who is regionally significant, and possesses high artistic values that are locally significant (Criterion B3, §17.52.040).

### Landmark Designation:

To date, Pasadena has designated 52 historic landmarks and treasures. The last designation was in October 2002. If a property is declared a landmark, or if it is merely found to meet the criteria for landmark designation, exterior alterations or proposals for demolition are reviewed by the staff or the Commission for compliance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. For Category 1 Resources (designated landmarks), proposals that do not meet these Standards can be denied. Proposals for alterations that meet the Standards may be approved or approved with conditions.

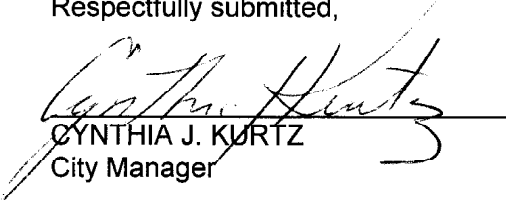
The designation has no legal effect on zoning, land use, or the sale of the property.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

A decision on the designation will have a negligible effect on revenues to the City. The General Fee Schedule exempts designated landmarks from fees for Certificates of Appropriateness (permits) from the Historic Preservation Commission (except for applications to demolish a building). The City does not, however, waive any other fees and taxes (e.g., plan check, construction tax) for projects effecting designated landmarks. Some staff time may be needed to review a proposal to expand or alter the residence in the future. In addition, owners of properties with a landmark designation may apply for a Mills Act contract with the City. The fiscal impact of a Mills Act contract

for a single-family residence is modest. The City Council has authorized a maximum of ten Mills Act contracts each year for residential properties.

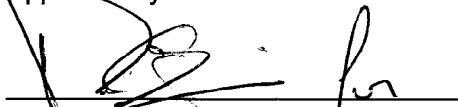
Respectfully submitted,

  
CYNTHIA J. KURTZ  
City Manager

Prepared by:

  
Robert Ávila  
Associate Planner

Approved by:

  
Richard Bruckner, Director  
Planning & Development Dept.

- Attachments:
1. Resolution
  2. Declaration of Designation
  3. Statement of Significance
  4. Photographs