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November 12, 2008

Los Angeles City Council
Room 395, City Hall
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

ATTENTION: Barbara Greaves, Legislative Assistant
Planning and Land Use Management Committee

CASE NUMBER: **CHC-2008-2724-HCM**
GRIFFITH PARK
4730 Crystal Springs Drive, 3201/3210/3401 Riverside Drive,
2715 Vermont Avenue, 5333 Zoo Drive

At the Cultural Heritage Commission meeting of October 30, 2008, the Commission moved to include the above property in the list of Historic-Cultural Monuments, subject to adoption by the City Council.

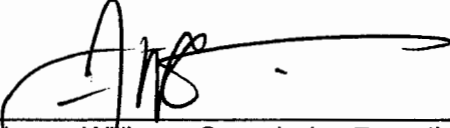
As required under the provisions of Section 22.171.10 of the Los Angeles Administrative Code, the Commission has solicited opinions and information from the office of the Council District in which the site is located and from any Department or Bureau of the city whose operations may be affected by the designation of such site as a Historic-Cultural Monument. Such designation in and of itself has no fiscal impact. The scope of the designation encompasses the City-owned area within the property lines identified in the attached application as "City of Los Angeles Park Boundary."

The City Council, according to the guidelines set forth in Section 22.171 of the Los Angeles Administrative Code, shall act on the proposed inclusion to the list within 90 days of the Council or Commission action, whichever first occurs. By resolution, the Council may extend the period for good cause for an additional 15 days.

The Cultural Heritage Commission would appreciate your inclusion of the subject modification to the list of Historic-Cultural Monuments upon adoption by the City Council.

The above Cultural Heritage Commission action was taken by the following vote:

Moved: Commissioner Scott
Seconded: Commissioner Louie
Ayes: Commissioner Barron
Noes: Commissioner Dake
Absent: Commissioner Lehrer
Vote: 3-1



James Williams, Commission Executive Assistant I
Cultural Heritage Commission

Attachment: Staff Report with Findings

c: Councilmember Tom LaBonge, Fourth Council District
City of Los Angeles, Department of Recreation and Parks: Owner
Griffith Van Griffith, The Griffith J. Griffith Charitable Trust: Applicant



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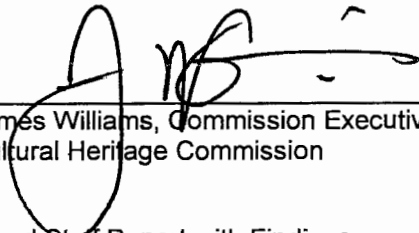
November 12, 2008

City of Los Angeles
Department of Recreation and Parks
1200 West 7th Street, Suite 748
Los Angeles, California 90017

CASE NUMBER: **CHC-2008-2724-HCM**
GRIFFITH PARK
4730 Crystal Springs Drive, 3201/3210/3401 Riverside Drive,
2715 Vermont Avenue, 5333 Zoo Drive

As you will note from the attached copy of our communication to the Los Angeles City Council, the Cultural Heritage Commission has moved to include the above-referenced property in the list of Historic-Cultural monuments, subject to adoption by the City Council.

In due course, our transmittal will be given a council file number and will be referred to the Council's Planning and Land Use Management Committee for review and recommendation. If you are interested in attending the Council Committee meeting, you should call Barbara Greaves at (213) 978-1068 for information as to the time and place of the Committee and City Council meetings regarding this matter. Please give Ms. Greaves at least one week from the date of this letter to schedule this item on the Committee Agenda before you call her.


James Williams, Commission Executive Assistant I
Cultural Heritage Commission

Attachment: CHC Declaration Letter to Council and Staff Report with Findings

C: Notification List
GIS



Los Angeles Department of City Planning

RECOMMENDATION REPORT

CULTURAL HERITAGE COMMISSION

CASE NO.: CHC-2008-2724-HCM

DATE: October 30, 2008
TIME: 10:00 AM
PLACE: City Hall, Room 350
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Location: 4730 Crystal Springs Dr.,
3201/3210/3401 Riverside Dr, 2715 Vermont
Ave, 5333 Zoo Drive
Council District: 4
Community Plan Area: Hollywood
Area Planning Commission: Central
Neighborhood Council: Greater Griffith Park
Legal Description: Tract Rancho Los Felis

PROJECT: Historic-Cultural Monument Application for the
GRIFFITH PARK

REQUEST: Declare the property a Historic-Cultural Monument


APPLICANT: Griffith Van Griffith
The Griffith J. Griffith Charitable Trust
2430 Juniper Ave
Morro Bay, CA 93442

OWNER: City of Los Angeles
Department of Recreation and Parks
1200 W. 7th Street Suite 748
Los Angeles, CA 90017

RECOMMENDATION **That the Cultural Heritage Commission:**

1. **Declare** the property a Historic-Cultural Monument per Los Angeles Administrative Code Chapter 9, Division 22, Article 1, Section 22.171.7
2. **Adopt** the report findings.

S. GAIL GOLDBERG, AICP
Director of Planning



Ken Bernstein, AICP, Manager
Office of Historic Resources

Prepared by:


Edgar Garcia, Preservation Planner
Office of Historic Resources

Attachments: April 19, 2008 Historic-Cultural Monument Application
ZIMAS Report

FINDINGS

1. The subject property "embodies the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type specimen, inherently valuable for a study of a period style or method of construction" for its numerous buildings and structures representing various architectural styles including Spanish Colonial Revival, Moderne, Second Greek Revival, Moderne, and the "Park Style."
2. The subject property reflects "the broad cultural, economic, or social history of the nation, State or community" for its association with the growth and development of the City of Los Angeles from a small city to a major metropolitan area.
3. The subject property is identified with several historic personages such as the original owner of the subject area, Jose Vicente Feliz; the original donors of the parkland, Griffith J. Griffith and his wife; and Walt Disney, who donated buildings and structures to the site.
4. The subject property is identified with "important events in the main currents of national, State or local history" for the original donation of the parkland by Griffith J. Griffith on December 16, 1896 as a "Christmas gift" to the City of Los Angeles.

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT ("CEQA") FINDINGS

The Commission hereby recommends that Council find the proposed designation of Griffith Park as a Historic-Cultural Monument to be exempt from further analysis under the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, Sections 15308 (Class 8) and 15331 (Class 31).

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

Established in 1896, this 4,218-acre City of Los Angeles park is one of the largest interurban parks in the nation. The park is located within the eastern edge of the Santa Monica Mountains, northwest of downtown Los Angeles, and adjacent to a 4.9 mile stretch of the Los Angeles River. The majority of the subject area consists of rocky hills, canyons, gullies, and large areas of open, rugged, natural landscape. Seven peaks in the subject area exceed 1,000 feet. Plant species include coastal native trees, shrubs, vines, herbs, riparian vegetation, and non-native species. Throughout Griffith Park are lawns, picnic areas, camp grounds, landscaped areas, infrastructural buildings, recreational, entertainment, and educational amenities, as well as trails, roadways, and signage.

The proposed Griffith Park historic monument was formed in 1896 by the donation of private land owned by Colonel Griffith J. Griffith and his wife Mary Agnes Christina Mesmer to the City of Los Angeles as a gift for use as parkland. This land was originally a portion of the Rancho Los Feliz, owned by José Vicente Feliz of Sonora, Mexico. As a corporal for the Spanish Crown, on June 1781 Feliz escorted the original eleven families from Sonora to the settlement that would become the *Pueblo de la Reina de Los Angeles sobre el Rio de la Porciúncula* ("Los Angeles"). Feliz became the pueblo's *Comisionado*, the highest political authority at the time. Some time between 1795-1800, the Spanish Crown granted 6,647 acres of land to Feliz for his public service and loyalty, establishing the Rancho Los Feliz. In the 1830s, the Feliz family constructed an adobe residence in the Rancho. The Feliz family later willed the Rancho to their family lawyer, Don Antonio Coronel, an early Justice of the Peace for Los Angeles. After California came under United States rule, Coronel became the area's first County Assessor and later Mayor of Los Angeles, establishing the City's first Department of Public Works. Coronel would also go on to become State Treasurer of California. In 1883, Coronel helped establish the Historical Society of Southern California. Helen Hunt Jackson developed the idea of writing her famed novel Ramona, while staying with Coronel on her visit to Los Angeles. Coronel would later sell the Rancho to John Baldwin, after which it was sold to Thomas Bell.

An immigrant from Wales, Griffith J. Griffith settled in San Francisco in the 1870s where he became wealthy investing in mining activities throughout the Southwest. After visiting Los Angeles in the 1870-80s, he resettled in Los Angeles and purchased a 4,071 acre portion of the original Rancho Los Feliz from Thomas Bell in 1882. Griffith began developing and selling sections of the southern portion of the Rancho land, establishing the residential communities of Los Feliz, Ivanhoe, and Kenilworth. On December 16, 1896, Griffith presented to the City Council a property deed and letter donating 3,015 acres of the Los Feliz Rancho as a "Christmas present." To secure water rights for the City, Griffith later donated an additional 1,000 acres alongside the Los Angeles River.

Because of the size, complexity, and diverse uses of the subject area, the application identified more than 30 key features as "Historically Sensitive Resources and Areas" that appear to be historically significant and serve as contributing elements or character-defining features of the proposed Monument. Six of these are recognized historic resources that are locally designated Historic-Cultural Monuments (HCMs). Other buildings and structures in the subject area have been determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and California Register of Historical Resources. Throughout the subject area are park infrastructural elements such as walls, barriers, drainage canals, stoppage dams, and water fountains constructed in the "Park style" between the 1930s-50s. In a style adopted by the Department of Recreation and Parks for most of the 1950s, rubble rock and ashlar set in mortar is used as a consistent design theme throughout Griffith Park.

Major alterations to the subject area include the placement of the Interstate 5 and 134 freeways through parkland in the 1950s-60s and the introduction of the Toyon Landfill in 1958. With the establishment of the park in 1896, these two developments frame the time period establishing the period of significance for the subject area, 1896-1958. The application does identify some contributing elements prior to and after the stated period of significance; these include the Feliz Adobe (HCM #401;1853), the LA Shares Warehouse (1961), the Train Ride (1947/1963), and Travel Town (1962). The Feliz Adobe is a locally designated landmark and built prior to the subject area's establishment as a park. The Train Ride was constructed during the period of significance yet contains buildings and structures from 1963. Travel Town has a collection dating to the period of significance but was moved to its current location after the period of

significance. The LA Shares Warehouse, designed by noted architect William Pereira, was built just immediately after the period of significance.

Character-Defining Features/Contributing Elements

The nomination identifies the following as character-defining features or contributing elements to the proposed Griffith Park monument. After review and analysis, staff concurs with the listed resources provided by the application. Some of these contributing elements are already individually designated Historic-Cultural Monuments (HCM).

1. Former Costume Workshop and Surroundings/LA Shares Warehouse 1961

This facility consists of a primary building built in an expressionist Modern style attached to two extensions that wrap around in a helical fashion. In addition to being the LA Shares charitable facility warehouse, it once served as the costume workshop for the Griffith Park Children's Theater.

2. Ranger House, c. 1938

The "Ranger House" is a one-story residence with a front elevation that features four windows, a concrete stairwell, and a small front-facing pop-up gable. It served as a clubhouse for the "Breakfast Rangers," a group of horsemen within the Los Angeles Breakfast Club.

3. Municipal Plunge and Associated Buildings, 1927

The "Plunge" is the largest public pool in the City of Los Angeles, and lies on the backside of a two-story rectangular-plan Spanish Colonial Revival style pool house. In addition to Spanish-tile roofing, the building features decorative Spanish tile and two *corredors* covered by arches and wooden trellises. In addition to recreation, this facility was used for canoe paddling and pageants.

4. Pony Ride, 1947 & Train Ride, 1947, 1963

The prominent features of the Pony Ride are the square plan canopy, the oval pony track directly to the east, and the ticket kiosk to the west. The kiosk has an eastern elevation recessed beneath an overhanging roof and is clad in a barn-style design.

The primary building in the Train Ride facility is a square-plan one-and-a-half story ticket kiosk.

5. 1920s era DWP Building (I)

This City infrastructure building is a rectangular-plan, one-story side-gabled building that features Colonial Revival elements topped by a red asphalt shingle.

6. 1920s era DWP Building (II)

The DWP Building is a rectangular plan concrete building that is five bays long by three bays wide. Each of these bays features a large inset with molded surrounds, and most feature a large covered window.

7. Feliz Adobe, 1853, 1934 (HCM #401)

This Spanish Revival-style adobe is the earliest building in Griffith Park. It was built by José Paco Feliz, the son of José Vicente Feliz, to whom the Spanish Crown granted the 6,647 acre Rancho Los Feliz. The property was later renovated and enlarged in 1934.

8. Sycamore Grove

This grove of sycamore trees is on the western side of North Zoo Dr. and appears to be original to the park.

9. Riverside Drive Bridge, 1938 (HCM #910)

This five-bay concrete span crossing the Los Angeles River was constructed as a Public Works Administration project. The bridge is supported by concrete piers between arches that underscore each bay. Stylized light fixtures and railing line the four-lane bridge.

10. L.A. Live Steamers

The Los Angeles Live Steamers Railroad Museum is an open-air collection of rideable 1/8 scale miniature steam, electric, and diesel trains around various steel tracks. Among these is a main line donated by Walt Disney that runs a circuit around the perimeter of the museum.

11. Walt's Barn, 1950

Walt's Barn features a roof featuring a sinking ridgeline with a dovecote and an exposed wood ridgebeam that extends out of the southern façade. The barn once belonged to Walt Disney and served as his workspace for his model train line that is now a part of Live Steamers.

12. Travel Town Transportation Museum (Collection, 1952-1962)

Travel Town features an assortment of buildings and features, including actual examples of transportation such as steam locomotives, cabs, and railway cars. The structural elements of the museum include an entry kiosk constructed of metal columns and a cross-gabled roof, a metal frame bridge, and a small rectangular waiting canopy. The site Travel Town now occupies served as a POW camp during World War II.

13. "Little Nugget" Railcar, 1937 (HCM #474)

"Little Nugget" is a Union Pacific Railroad passenger car built in 1937 by Pullman-Standard Car Manufacturing Co. It is among the features on exhibit at the Travel Town Transportation Museum.

14. Wilson & Harding Golf Courses, 1923-1924

The Wilson & Harding Golf Courses were first developed in the 1920s and were improved by the WPA in 1937. The courses served the public for a nominal cost (in keeping with Colonel Griffith's stipulation that the park serve those of modest means), and because they were considered so well-designed, also hosted several national tournaments.

15. Wilson & Harding Golf Clubhouse, 1937

This is a two-story irregular-plan clubhouse with a Spanish Eclectic design, and was a product of the WPA in 1937.

16. Old Zoo Buildings, 1914-c. 1937

The most prominent features of the Old Zoo are a series of cave-like spaces recessed into the side of a hill with an irregular arrangement of boulders that gives them a prehistoric appearance. It was one of the nation's few free admission zoos in the 1930s. The structures now serve as mostly a landscaping element and are not actively used.

17. Wilson-Harding Turf Maintenance Facility, 1927

Twelve single-story rectangular-plan buildings make up this facility. All are gabled and primarily clad in corrugated metal and topped by corrugated metal roofs.

18. Merry-Go-Round, 1926, installed 1937

The current Merry-Go-Round was relocated from San Diego's Mission Beach Park in 1937. It was often visited by Walt Disney and his children, and was influential in the creation of Disneyland.

19. Los Feliz Café and Signage, 1948, 1956

The Los Feliz Café was constructed by converting a Quonset hut, retaining the interior barrel vaulted supports. It features window panes that slant upward and outward, as well as a 1950s-era neon pole sign.

20. Central Service Yard Administration Building, 1958

This building has a T-shaped plan: the long leg of the T is one story tall, and the cross is two stories. It is of Mid-Century Modern design and features ribbon windows and large glazing units covered by decorative metal screens.

21. Former Cricket House, c. 1933

The former Cricket Clubhouse is a one-story rectangular-plan building with an overhang porch and French doors. It is now a part of the Los Angeles Equestrian Center.

22. Vermont Tennis Courts, c. 1927

This facility is made up of three sets of four tennis courts set upon irregular boulder work and masonry representing the park style.

23. Nursery and Horticulture Center, 1927

This facility was establishment with the intent of reforesting Griffith Park.

24. Greek Theatre, 1930

The Greek Theatre is a two-story performance venue designed in a Second Greek Revival style. It was home to free marionette shows for children, as well as the Federal Theatre Project's "living newspaper" productions of various current issues of the 1930s.

25. Bird Sanctuary, 1922-c. 1937

The Bird Sanctuary is an open area with recently-built low park-style walls bordered by a wood post and beam fence. It designed by the Los Angeles Chapter of the Audubon Society and constructed by Boy Scouts in 1922.

26. Griffith Observatory, 1935 (HCM #168)

The Observatory was designed in the classically-inspired PWA Moderne style. It, along with the Greek Theatre, was built with funds donated by Colonel Griffith. The building is one of the most significant visual icons of the City and has been recently restored and expanded.

27. Mt. Hollywood Tunnel, 1927

The Mt. Hollywood Tunnel runs east-west and is a segment of Mt. Hollywood Drive. It has a square-shaped, smooth concrete face at each entrance, while the tunnel itself is a barrel vault of roughly-finished concrete poured in placed concrete.

28. Fern Dell Nature Area, 1914/1937/Gabrielino Indian Site (HCM #112)

The focal point of the Fern Dell Nature Area is a secluded grouping of below-grade pedestrian trails and streams bordered by rock walls and ferns. The development of Fern Dell spurred the

creation of trails toward the western side of Griffith Park. The site that Fern Dell now occupies was formerly a Gabrielino Indian site.

29. Bronson Caves, c. 1909-1920

The Bronson Caves are the openings of a man-made tunnel, with one large opening on the west side and three smaller openings facing east. The caves have been featured in many major films.

30. Hollywood Sign, 1923, reconstructed 1978 (HCM #111)

31. Hollywood Sign Viewshed

This series of 50-foot high letters once read "HOLLYWOODLAND" and served as an advertisement of the residential tract of the same name. Along with the Griffith Observatory, it is the most visible and recognized landmark in the subject area. The Hollywood Sign Viewshed includes only the land within park boundaries and not privately-owned properties surrounding the sign.

32. 1930's era Stoppage Dam

Though many of the stoppage dams in Griffith Park have now been covered by over-growth, this one east of the Roosevelt Golf course has been exposed by the recent fire. It features scored concrete embedded with boulders in a mandala-like pattern.

33. Cedar Grove

The Cedar Grove is an oblong-shaped, 225 feet by 240 feet grove of cedar trees, with foot trails passing through and benches throughout.

34. Early Water Tower, c. 1927

This early water tank located across from Cedar Grove is set into the hillside. It is made of sheet metal studded together and topped with exposed rafter tails and a sheet metal roof.

35. Bee Rock

Originally known as "Griffith's Altar," this was a common destination of Colonel Griffith when showing off the park to reporters and dignitaries. It has a large exposed sandstone northward face and is covered with mixed scrub on other faces.

36. Bee Rock Trail, 1903

Bee Rock Trail was one of the first trails cleared in Griffith Park. It begins due east of Bee Rock in front of the Old Zoo Picnic Area, and presents a view of the exposed face of Bee Rock.

In addition to these contributing elements, another character-defining feature located throughout the subject area is a collection of retaining walls, drainage ditches, stoppage dams, culverts, barriers, and drinking fountains (1930-1950) constructed in the "Park style."

The natural features of the subject area, the extensive undeveloped natural features of Griffith Park, are also identified as a major character-defining feature/contributing element of the proposed designation.

Non-Contributing Elements

- 37. Los Angeles Zoo and Autry National Center, 1966/1987
- 38. Freeways and All Associated Ramps, 1957
- 39. Toyon Landfill/Reclamation Project, 1958
- 40. Marty Tregnan Golf Academy, 2000
- 41. Roosevelt Municipal Golf Course, 1966

DISCUSSION

Significance

Griffith Park successfully meets four of the specified Historic-Cultural Monument criteria: 1) “embodies the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type specimen, inherently valuable for a study of a period style or method of construction,” 2) reflects “the broad cultural, economic, or social history of the nation, State or community,” 3) is associated with several historic personages, and 4) is associated with “important events in the main currents of national, State or local history.” As a park associated with various historical figures that was donated in 1896 by Griffith J. Griffith to the City of Los Angeles and containing buildings, structures, and infrastructure of various architectural styles as well as natural wilderness areas and designed landscapes, the subject property qualifies for designation as a Historic-Cultural Monument based on these criteria.

Significant for its architectural and built resources, Griffith Park contains numerous buildings and structures representing various architectural styles including Spanish Colonial Revival, Moderne, Second Greek Revival, and Moderne, as well as infrastructural elements designed in the “Park Style.” The establishment of Griffith Park in 1896 was a significant event in the history of the City of Los Angeles and its creation is linked to the broader social history and cultural movements of the late 19th century City Beautiful Movement and large-scale philanthropy. The historical figures associated with the founding of Griffith Park, particularly Colonel Griffith J. Griffith, and the personages associated with the later development of the land into a public park, also qualifies Griffith Park for designation as a Historic-Cultural Monument.

Natural Features (“Wilderness Area”)

As one of the largest municipal parks in the United States, the 4,218 acre subject area possesses a multitude of resources and uses, including natural features, such as acres of undeveloped open space and designed landscapes, spaces used for active recreation and sports, as well as a significant built environment consisting of buildings, structures, and infrastructure.

Since its establishment in 1896 as a City park, the undeveloped natural features of Griffith Park, frequently referred to as the “wilderness area,” has been a major character-defining feature of the subject area. In his original letter detailing his intent to donate the area to the City of Los Angeles, Griffith called out the subject property’s “diversity of picturesque valley, hill, river and mountain, with its many varieties of trees and its rich undergrowth.” While it does not appear that it was his intention to have the new park consist entirely of open spaces and devoid of buildings and recreational uses, a significant portion of the subject area remained purposely undeveloped to retain a natural setting. These areas of Griffith Park also remained open space as much of their topography consists of steep hills, canyons, and gullies, making development

physically difficult or almost impossible. Although it is difficult to delineate precise boundaries for the park's natural features, patterns of development from the period of significance allow some guidance to distinguish the open space areas from sections of the park that have a higher concentration of buildings, structures and associated uses. Based on the application and staff analysis, areas along the perimeters of the subject property (alongside Riverside Drive, Crystal Springs Drive, and Zoo Drive) exhibit a large concentration of built resources, leaving most of the interior of the park as natural features. In some cases, a built resource with a high level of use, such as the Griffith Observatory, may be located amongst large sections of natural features and in some isolation from other built resources. Therefore, it does not appear that the natural features of the park, the undeveloped open space areas, are exclusive and segregated from the built environment of Griffith Park.

Designed Landscapes

Distinguishable from the natural features of Griffith Park are landscaped areas from the period of significance that feature designed landscape elements using tree and plant species, structures, trails, and walkways. These landscape features can be in proximity to both the "wilderness areas" as well to areas with built resources. The Wilson & Harding Golf Courses (1923-1924) are an example of a designed landscape intended for a specified sports use and appear to be the largest such contributing element in the subject area. Because designed landscapes consist of natural features that can be of an evolving and ephemeral nature over time, some landscaped areas, like the identified Cedar Grove, may no longer have defined boundaries.

On October 20th, 2008, the application preparer (ICF Jones & Stokes) submitted an addendum to the Griffith Park application titled "Landscape Elements of Griffith Park." The report seeks to further identify and illustrate the character-defining features of the natural features and designed landscapes components of Griffith Park and provide a context for their establishment and development. The report also highlights the work of individuals, such as City of Recreation and Parks Superintendent Frank Shearer (1875-1971), who have contributed to the development of the Griffith Park landscape.

Built Environment

The built environment of the proposed Griffith Park monument contains buildings and structures from the period of significance that serve as character-defining features of the park and further contribute to the eligibility of the subject property as an HCM. Identifying nearly thirty different buildings and structures in the application, this diverse collection of built elements include the Merry-Go-Round (1924), Spanish Colonial Revival Style Municipal Plunge pool house and pool (1927), the Second Greek Revival style Greek Theater (1930), the Old Zoo structures (1914-1937), and dating from later in the period of significance, the Travel Town buildings (1952-1962) and the Pony Ride and Train Ride complex (1946/1963).

The application also identified some infrastructural components of the subject area that date to the period of significance and are designed in a consistent "Park Style." These primarily consist of retaining walls, drainage ditches, stoppage dams, barriers, and drinking fountains built between 1930 and 1950 in a rustic design using rubble rock or ashlar set in mortar.

Operational Considerations

In response to management and operational issues related to the subject area, OHR staff has determined that most infrastructural elements, with the exception of the "Park style" components noted above, are not character-defining features of the proposed Griffith Park monument. These include subsurface utilities such as water pipes, drainage systems, sewer lines, and surface utilities, such as water hydrants, storm drains, catch basins, electrical equipment and poles. Staff would not review, monitor, or oversee any required maintenance to these components of the park. In cases of emergencies, fire hazards and issues of public safety, the Cultural Heritage Ordinance exempts work on Historic-Cultural Monuments that "is immediately necessary in the interest of the public health, safety, or general welfare" as determined by the Superintendent of Building and Safety or the City Engineer. (Chapter 9, Division 22, Article 1, Section 22.171.14

Designation as a Historic-Cultural Monument (HCM) does not substitute for a master plan process that could better potentially determine the extent of the natural features of the subject area; rather, designation as a local historic resource would help inform future planning and policy processes regarding Griffith Park's future development. The identification of the natural features as character-defining/contributing elements by the HCM designation does not preclude construction activity, landscape work, or other types of projects from taking place in this area. Possible HCM review would also not render the Office of Historic Resources as the primary decision-maker regarding issues concerning reforestation, native versus non-native plant species, seeding, wildlife habitats, biodiversity, and other issues of ecological concern.

It should be noted that staff review by the Office of Historic Resources is already triggered for some sections of the subject area as some elements were determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as a result of a FEMA-related historic assessment following the 1994 Northridge earthquake. These elements include Fern Dell, Mount Hollywood, the Bird Sanctuary, the Merry-Go-Round, Boys Camp, Astronomers Monument, Los Feliz Adobe, Harding Golf Course, and the Swimming Pool/Plunge.

The staff of the Office of Historic Resources has continued to meet with various City departments responsible for the subject area to discuss the potential impact of HCM designation on management and operational activities. It is not the intention of the staff report to serve as a treatment plan or substitute for a potential master plan for Griffith Park. Staff will report on the outcome of these meetings at the scheduled public hearing of the Cultural Heritage Commission.

Non-Contributing Elements

Based on the application, input from stakeholders and other City departments, the staff of the Office of Historic Resources concludes that certain areas of the subject property are not character-defining features/contributing elements of the proposed HCM and would be excluded from Cultural Heritage Commission review.

Freeways and All Associated Ramps (1957)

Portions of the original parkland now dedicated to the Interstate 5 freeway and all associated infrastructure including ramps and bypasses are excluded.

Toyon Landfill/Reclamation Project (1958)

The area now occupied by the Toyon Landfill/Reclamation Project is excluded.

Los Angeles Zoo and Autry National Center (1966/1987)

The northwestern portion of the proposed HCM occupied by the Los Angeles Zoo, the Autry National Center, and all associated uses such as the automobile parking areas, fall outside of the period of significance for the proposed HCM.

Roosevelt Municipal Golf Course (1966)/Marty Tregnan Golf Academy (2000)

The Roosevelt Municipal Golf Course (1966) and the Marty Tregnan Golf Academy (2000) are designed landscapes that fall outside of the period of significance and are not character-defining features of the subject property.

BACKGROUND

At its meeting of August 21, 2008, the Cultural Heritage Commission voted to take the application under consideration. On September 4, 2008, the Cultural Heritage Commission conducted an extensive tour of the subject property.

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (“CEQA”) REVIEW

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 Griffith Park as a 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 irreplaceable historic structures. The Secretary of the Interior’s Standards of 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 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.