

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-12

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF POMONA, CALIFORNIA, DENYING THE REMOVAL OF DESIGNATION OF THE SINGLE HISTORIC LANDMARK (SHISTORIC 15211-2020) FOR THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 395 S. THOMAS STREET (APN 8341-005-014)

WHEREAS, on November 23, 2020, John Pena submitted an application requesting removal of designation of the single historic landmark (SHISTORIC 15211-2020) for the property located at 395 S. Thomas Street;

WHEREAS, the property located at 395 S. Thomas Street is owned by John Pena;

WHEREAS, the property was previously designated as a Single Historic Landmark per City Council Resolution No. 82-114, on April 19 1982, in accordance with Ordinance 2637;

WHEREAS, for current designation of a single historic landmark, Section .5809- 13.(D) of the Pomona Zoning Ordinance requires that the Historic Preservation Commission find that the structure is over fifty years old or of exceptional quality and meets at least one of ten criteria for designation;

WHEREAS, for removal of designation of a single historic landmark, the Commission shall not recommend that a resource be removed from the Pomona historic register unless it is discovered that the information relied on by the commission and the city council in making the original designation was erroneous or false, or that circumstances wholly beyond the owner's control have rendered the resource ineligible for designation based on the criteria listed in this subsection and it would be infeasible to restore the resource, pursuant to Section .5809-13.(E)(12) of the Pomona Zoning Ordinance;

WHEREAS, the application for single historic landmark designation submitted for the property provides a letter from the applicant along with a supporting letter from a former Past Master of Masons of Pomona requesting for the removal of the designation;

WHEREAS, the Historic Preservation Commission has, after giving notice thereof as required by law, held a public hearing on January 6, 2021, concerning the requested removal of designation of the single historic landmark and approved a Resolution recommending City Council denial;

WHEREAS, the City Clerk has, subject to requirements of the Historic Preservation Ordinance placed the application on the February 1, 2021 City Council agenda, for the requested removal of designation of single historic landmark; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has carefully considered any pertinent testimony and the staff report offered in the case presented at the City Council meeting.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Pomona as follows:

SECTION 1. The City Council determines that the denial of the request to remove designation of the single historic landmark (SHISTORIC 15211-2020) for the property located at 395 S. Thomas Street is not defined as a project per CEQA. Section 15060 of the Guidelines exempts actions from CEQA that would not result in either an indirect or direct impact on the environment and that do not

meet the Section 15378(a) definition of a project. Section 15378(a) defines a project as one that has the potential for resulting in a physical change to the environment. No physical change to the environment is anticipated with the retention of designation of the single historic landmark.

SECTION 2. The City Council hereby finds and determines that the application requesting removal of designation of single historic landmark (SHISTORIC 15211-2020) for the property located at 395 S. Thomas Street, was originally designated in accordance with previously existing Ordinance 2637 and was not based on erroneous or false information. Additionally, the structure is over fifty years old and meets currently adopted designation criteria no. 1, 2, and 3 as follows:

1. *It exemplifies or reflects special elements of the City of Pomona's cultural, social, economic, political, aesthetic, engineering, architectural, or natural history.*

The Masonic Temple is an exemplary visual representation that displays special elements of Pomona's cultural, social, and political history as it served as critical gathering place for various established groups early in the 19th century. A multitude of events took place in the banquet hall such as dedications, receptions, and social dances that were important to Pomona's history. Over time, this use of the temple as a gathering or meeting place was adapted over the years by a wide range of local and outside groups.

2. *It is identified with persons or events significant in local, state, or national history;*

The founder and first Master of the Pomona Masonic Lodge was William T. "Tooch" Martin, a resident who played a prominent role in Pomona's history, as he actively participated in civic and social activities. Tooch was a justice of peace and taught school for four years and was on the school board in Pomona, and raised bees and fruit on his 15 acre ranch, formerly on Towne Avenue and Fifth Street. The construction of the Masonic Temple also the marked the fourteenth Masonic lodge in Southern California and attracted Mason from all over to visit the lodge.

3. *It is the work of a notable builder, designer, landscape designer or architect;*

The builders associated with the Masonic Temple were well known builders at the time of the Masonic Lodge's construction, the Wilton brothers. William and Edwin Wilton, also built the Elks Home, First Christian Church, Trinity Methodist Church, St. Joseph's Catholic Church, and the Ebell Club. Additionally, the architect who designed the structure was Ferdinand Davis, a Pomona architect who designed the Ebell Club, the Pilgrim Congregational Church, Pomona City Stables, and the Phillips Mansion; some of which are also local historic landmarks.

SECTION 3. Based on the above findings, the City Council hereby denies removal of designation of single historic landmark (SHISTORIC 15211-2020) for the property located at 395 S. Thomas Street.

SECTION 4. The City Clerk shall attest and certify to the passage and adoption of this Resolution, and it shall become effective immediately upon its approval.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 1st day of February, 2021.

CITY OF POMONA:

Tim Sandoval
Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Sonia Carvalho
City Attorney

ATTEST:

Rosalia A. Butler, MMC
City Clerk

I, HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the City Council of the City of Pomona at a regular meeting thereof held on February 1, 2021 by the following vote of the Council:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT:

Rosalia A. Butler, MMC
City Clerk