

FINDINGS AND DETERMINATION
OF THE LANDMARKS COMMISSION
OF THE CITY OF SANTA MONICA IN THE MATTER OF
THE DESIGNATION OF A LANDMARK

DESIGNATION OF A COMMERCIAL BUILDING
LOCATED AT 2600 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD (FORMER HOME
SAVINGS BUILDING) AS A CITY LANDMARK

13LM-012

SECTION I. An application was filed by the City of Santa Monica Landmarks Commission on May 13, 2013 to designate the Former Home Savings Building located at 2600 Wilshire Boulevard as a City Landmark. The Landmarks Commission, having held a Public Hearing on December 9, 2013, hereby designates the building located at 2600 Wilshire Boulevard as a City Landmark and the property commonly known as 2600 Wilshire Boulevard (Tract 8437, Lots 1, 2 and 3) Assessors Parcel Number 4267-007-001) as Landmark Parcels based on the following findings:

- (1) *It exemplifies, symbolizes, or manifests elements of the cultural, social, economic, political or architectural history of the City.*

Constructed in 1970, the building at 2600 Wilshire Boulevard is the sole example of an architectural style unique to Home Savings of America in the City of Santa Monica. In particular, the large works of public art expressing Santa Monica's history as a recreational beach city that are integrated into the design of the building makes the property culturally and architecturally significant to the City.

- (2) *It has aesthetic or artistic interest or value, or other noteworthy interest or value.*

The subject property meets this criterion because it uniquely integrates public art - the 'Child with dolphins' sculpture, designed by John Svenson; 'A family group at the beach' sculpture, designed by Richard Ellis; the stained glass window, designed by Susan Hertel; and, the large mosaic mural "Pleasures along the Beach", designed by Millard Sheets - into the total design, creating a unique building that has high aesthetic and artistic interest and value.

- (4) *It embodies distinguishing architectural characteristics valuable to a study of a period, style, method of construction, or the use of indigenous materials or craftsmanship, or is a unique or rare example of an architectural design, detail or historical type valuable to such a study.*

The unique integration of art and architecture that is symbolic of the former Home Savings bank building is a unique and rare type in Santa Monica. Its character defining features – simple rectangular geometry, general symmetry, flat roof, travertine cladding with a gold ceramic frieze and its artistic elements – combine to express the

collaboration of artist and patron, portray an image of security and symbolize the overall intrinsic philosophy of Home Savings which stressed the importance of home and family. This building also serves as an artistic expression of the Santa Monica community. As such, the subject property embodies distinguishing architectural characteristics valuable to a study of commercial bank design in Santa Monica from 1955 to the early 1970s.

- (5) *It is a significant or a representative example of the work or product of a notable builder, designer or architect.*

The subject property is a representative example of the work of Millard Sheets, a notable and widely respected Southern California designer and artist whose mentorship and influence spanned the fields of art, design, applied arts, education and commerce. His influence is expressed through the integration of custom public artwork into building design, including a large mosaic mural that contains his signature and his collaboration with the other artists and designers whose works appear on this site.

- (6) *It has a unique location, a singular physical characteristic, or is an established and familiar visual feature of a neighborhood, community or the City.*

Given its conspicuous location on the southeast corner of 26th Street and Wilshire Boulevard and uniqueness of its public art – particularly the large mosaic mural centering its façade – the subject building and property are an established visual feature that are familiar to most Santa Monica residents.

SECTION II. The property commonly known as Tract 8437, Lots 1, 2 and 3, Assessors Parcel Number 4267-007-001, is designated as a Landmark Parcel in order to preserve, maintain, protect and safeguard the Landmark commercial building.

SECTION IV. I hereby certify that the above Findings and Determination accurately reflect the final determination of the Landmarks Commission of the City of Santa Monica on December 9, 2013 as determined by the following vote:

AYES: Bach, Berley, Genser, Lambert, Lehrer, Chair Shari
ABSTAIN: Kaplan
ABSENT: None
NAYES: None

Each and all of the findings and determinations are based on the competent and substantial evidence, both oral and written, contained in the entire record relating to the Project. All summaries of information contained herein or in the findings are based on the substantial evidence in the record. The absence of any particular fact from any such summary is not an indication that a particular finding is not based in part on that fact.

Respectfully Submitted
January 13, 2014

Ruth Shari, Chair

Attest:

Scott Albright, AICP
Landmarks Commission Secretary