

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PALM DESERT, CALIFORNIA, DESIGNATING AN EXISTING SINGLE FAMILY HOUSE AT 73411 WILLOW STREET AS A HISTORIC LANDMARK PURSUANT TO CRITERIA C AND F IN PALM DESERT MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 29.40.010 (ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NUMBERS 630-082-007)
CASE NO. CRPC25-0001

WHEREAS, Chapter 29.40 of the Palm Desert Municipal Code (PDMC) allows for the designation of historic landmarks by the City Council; and

WHEREAS, Todd Blake Verwers, AIA ("Owner/Applicant") filed an application, including a statement of significance, with the City pursuant to the requirements of Title 29 of the PDMC to designate an existing single family house property site located at 73411 Willow Street (Assessor's Parcel Number 630-082-007) ("Property") as a local historic landmark; and

WHEREAS, the historic landmark designation request is not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15060(c)(2), the general exemption rule, of the CEQA Guidelines as the proposed project will not result in any foreseeable indirect change in the environment and Section 15060(c)(3) the activity is not considered as a project as it has no potential for resulting in any indirect or direct physical changes to the environment; and

WHEREAS, on April 23, 2025, a noticed public hearing of the Palm Desert Cultural Resource Preservation Committee (CRPC) was held to consider the Historic Designation under case CRPC25-0001; and

WHEREAS, the CRPC reviewed the application materials and considered all public testimony and comments provided prior to and during the meeting, and made the following findings pursuant to PDMC Section 29.40.010:

1. Criteria C: Embodies distinctive characteristics, or is one of the few remaining examples of a style, type, period or method of construction or possesses high artistic value.

The House "is a distinctive example of a unique, custom home in the desert ranch style, and an unique house from the portfolio of Patten & Wild's early projects in Palm Desert. Further, as mentioned above, this home exhibits features which foreshadowed the Desert Modern movement of the decade after its erection, and in this respect this residence was a transitional project for both Patten & Wild and the evolving architectural aesthetic of Palm Desert. While the Asian-inspired detailing and furnishings are arguably largely superficial, even "gimmicky", they reflect Californians' post-war interest in The Orient, not unlike the Polynesian-themed Tiki movement as a subculture and form-driver for midcentury Desert Modern architecture. The pagoda-like corners of the low-slung ranch style roof of the house are clearly a distinctive architectural characteristic, which can only be found on one other house in the neighborhood."

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-

2. Criteria F: Reflects distinctive examples of community planning or significant development patterns, including those associated with different eras of settlement and growth, agriculture, or transportation.

The House “epitomizes the community planning of south Palm Desert, and moreover its tradition for impressive single family architecture. The Palm Desert Corporation and Shadow Mountain Park Inc. sought out well-designed homes in their subdivisions and the excellence of the Gracious Oriental house reflects this focus. Houses of this era in this neighborhood were generally custom or semi-custom modern designs with considered landscaping and grounds, centered around poolside leisure in close proximity to the historic Shadow Mountain Club, and signaled the trendsetting nature of these neighborhoods. The Gracious Oriental house was and is all of those things.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Palm Desert, California, as follows:

SECTION 1. Recitals. The City Council hereby finds that the foregoing recitals are true and correct and are incorporated herein as substantive findings of this Resolution.

SECTION 2. That Section 29.40.090 of the PDMC requires that the City Council adopt a resolution designating a historic district based upon facts and findings on the criteria outlined in Chapter 29.40 Landmarks.

SECTION 3. Based upon the foregoing findings and facts incorporated herein, the Property, located at 73411 Willow Street, is hereby designated as a local historic district.

ADOPTED ON _____.

JAN HARNIK
MAYOR

ATTEST:

ANTHONY J. MEJIA
CITY CLERK

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-

I, Anthony J. Mejia, City Clerk of the City of Palm Desert, hereby certify that Resolution No. 2025-__ is a full, true, and correct copy, and was duly adopted at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Palm Desert on_____, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

RECUSED:

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the official seal of the City of Palm Desert, California, on _____, 2025.

ANTHONY J. MEJIA
CITY CLERK