

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CLAREMONT, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING REGISTER LISTING #25-RL02, DESIGNATING 611 WEST EIGHTH STREET AS A CULTURAL RESOURCE, AND ADDING THE PROPERTY TO THE REGISTER OF STRUCTURES OF HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL MERIT OF THE CITY OF CLAREMONT. APPLICANTS - DAVID MEDAK AND ELENA ESQUIBEL**

WHEREAS, David Medak and Eleana Esquibel (the “Applicants”) have an ownership interest in the single-family residence known as the Ordway House (the “Ordway House” or the proposed “Cultural Resource”), located at 611 West Eighth Street Street (APN: 8310-014-002) (the “Subject Property”); and

WHEREAS, on June 11, 2025, the Applicants submitted a request, pursuant to Section 16.302.090 of the Claremont Municipal Code (“CMC”) (Procedures for Designating Cultural Resources), to have the Ordway House designated as a Cultural Resource and added to the Register of Structures of Historic Merit of the City of Claremont (“Claremont Register”); and

WHEREAS, in accordance with CMC Section 16.302.090.B.3 through B.4, on October 16, 2025, the City mailed written notices informing the owner(s) and occupants of the Subject Property, the owners of properties located within 300 feet of the Subject Property, and any other interested parties that the City had scheduled a public hearing before the City’s Architectural and Preservation Commission on October 29, 2025 to review and make a recommendation to the City Council on whether to designate the Ordway House as a Cultural Resource and add it to the Claremont Register; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with CMC Section 16.302.090.B.5, the Architectural and Preservation Commission held the duly-noticed public hearing on October 29, 2025, at which time all persons wishing to testify in connection with said proposal were heard and said proposal was fully studied; and

WHEREAS, on October 29, 2025, the Architectural and Preservation Commission unanimously approved Resolution No. 2025-14 recommending City Council approval of the designation of the Ordway House as a Cultural Resource and listing of the Subject Property in the Claremont Register; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to CMC Section 16.302.090.B.6, after receiving a positive recommendation for designation from the Architectural and Preservation Commission, City staff forwarded the proposed designation to the City Council for approval; and

WHEREAS, CMC Section 16.302.090.B.6 requires the City Council to act within 60 days of receiving a positive recommendation from the Architectural and Preservation Commission, and to either approve the designation by resolution, in whole or in part, or to disapprove the designation by motion (minute action); and

WHEREAS, on December 9, 2025, the City Council considered the recommended designation as part of its consent calendar, as permitted under CMC Chapter 16.302.090.B.6, and fully reviewed and studied the proposed designation.

NOW THEREFORE, THE CLAREMONT CITY COUNCIL DOES HEREBY RESOLVE:

SECTION 1. The City Council has determined that the request to add the subject property to the Claremont Historic Register is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under Section 15301(e), in that the proposed action, the addition of a resource to the Claremont Historic Register, is covered under the General Rule Exemption of the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA"). The General Rule Exemption applies to actions that can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the action in question may have a significant effect on the environment per CEQA Section 15061 (b)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines as the action will not result in construction activities or other direct physical changes or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical changes, nor will it result in the relaxation of standards to allow for environmental degradation. Additionally, any changes to the structure and/or site are subject to review by the City to ensure compliance with the requirements of the municipal code and CEQA. Therefore, no additional review is required at this time.

SECTION 2. Based on substantial evidence in the record, the City Council finds that the Ordway House meets at least four of the Designation Criteria identified in CMC Section 16.302.080.A of the Procedures for Adopting Additions to the Register of Structures of Historical and Architectural Merit of the City of Claremont for the following reasons:

- A. The Ordway House, located at 611 West Eighth Street, is at least 45 years old and, therefore, meets the age requirement.
- B. The Ordway House satisfies Criterion 1 of CMC Section 16.302.080.A — “It is identified with important events in national, state, or City history or exemplifies significant contributions to the broad cultural, political, economic, social, or historic heritage of the nation, state, or City”. The Ordway House was built during Claremont’s post–World War II growth period.
- C. The Ordway House satisfies Criterion 2 of CMC Section 16.302.080.A — “It is associated with a person, persons, or groups who significantly contributed to the history of the nation, state, region, or City.” The Ordway House is closely associated with Philip and Ruth Ordway—prominent civic leaders who played key roles in shaping the city’s government and promoting civic participation.
- D. The Ordway House satisfies Criterion 3 of CMC Section 16.302.080.A — “It embodies the distinctive and exemplary characteristics of an architectural style, architectural type, period, or method of construction; or is a noble work of a master designer, builder or architect; or is a valuable example of the use of indigenous materials or craftsmanship.” Architecturally, the Ordway House is a rare example of mid-century Ranch-style adobe construction, featuring handmade adobe bricks, palm trunk columns, and other distinctive materials that reflect local craftsmanship and community collaboration. The Ordway House’s high level of integrity, including its original adobe garage and mature landscape, further enhances its historical and architectural significance.
- E. The Ordway House satisfies Criterion 6 of CMC Section 16.302.080.A — “It exemplifies the early heritage of the City.” The use of locally sourced adobe blocks is representative of early Californian construction materials and craftsmanship as well as indigenous materials as the blocks used clay sourced from the Padua Hills area of Claremont.

SECTION 3. The City Council finds that the designation of the Ordway House as a Cultural Resource furthers the following General Plan goals and policies:

- A. *Retain and celebrate Claremont's rich history and heritage, as evidenced through its development patterns, buildings and building materials, landscaping, street treatments, parks and open space, and civic architecture (Goal 2-14);* in that the addition of 611 West Eighth Street to the Claremont Register provides additional protections for the structure should it be prepared to be demolished, and recognizes and celebrates the property as one that is important to the City's heritage.
- B. *Add to the Register of Structures of Historical and Architectural Merit of the City of Claremont sites and structures that have special historic or community value as historic resources and are worthy of preservation (Policy 2-14.6),* in that this approval directly results in the addition of a site and structure to the Claremont Register that meets the applicable eligibility criteria.

SECTION 4. The City Council hereby approves Register Listing #25-RL02, which designates the Ordway House, located at 611 West Eighth Street (Assessor's Parcel Number: 8310-014-002) as a Cultural Resource and adds the Subject Property to the Claremont Register and that the designation includes elements of the main residence as well as the detached garage and landscaping as described in the application form and submitted historic records.

SECTION 5. The City Council further directs City Staff to submit to the County Recorder's Office a certified copy of the resolution adopting the designation or similar affidavit describing the listing, within 90 days of this approval, and that the County Recorder shall record the document pursuant to Public Resources Codes Section 5029(b).

SECTION 6. The Mayor shall sign this Resolution and the City Clerk shall attest and certify to the passage and adoption thereof.


PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED this 9th day of December, 2025.

Mayor, City of Claremont

ATTEST:

City Clerk, City of Claremont

APPROVED AS TO FROM:



City Attorney, City of Claremont