

ORDINANCE NO. 2015-0003

Adopted by the Sacramento City Council

February 24, 2015

DESIGNATING AND ADDING THE KYLES TEMPLE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH LOCATED AT 2940 – 42ND STREET TO THE SACRAMENTO REGISTER OF HISTORIC & CULTURAL RESOURCES AS A LANDMARK (M14-018)

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SACRAMENTO:

SECTION 1

The Sacramento Register of Historic & Cultural Resources (Sacramento Register) is amended by adding the Kyles Temple African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church as a landmark. The property located at 2940 – 42nd Street (014-0152-041-0000) is eligible pursuant to City Code section 17.604.210(A)(1)(a) criteria:

- i. It is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of the history of the city, the region, the state or the nation.
- ii. It is associated with the lives of persons significant in the city's past.
- iii. It embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction.
- iv. It represents the work of an important creative individual or master.

SECTION 2

Sacramento City Code section 17.604.220 prescribes that the significant features or characteristics of the resources to be added to the Sacramento Register shall be identified in the designating ordinance. The significant features and characteristics of the landmark include the following:

The building's exterior and interior design and features which evoke the Modern Movement and Mid-Century Modernism elements, including:

- Steep pitched gable, or A-frame roof with short, shallower pitched side wings floating above the main roof form over rectangular masonry side walls;
- Entire front façade inset within the gable end and glazed in triangle/diamond shaped fenestration pattern, except for the entry door and the areas of lower panels at both sides of entry door, which had been retrofitted to solid material for safety;

- Soft-hued orange, yellow, and clear textured glazing in large triangular panels within main façade's roof framing; north side walls of sanctuary with almost floor to ceiling, narrow vertical window openings; south side of sanctuary opens into Sunday school/Social Hall with wall of glazing from ceiling to approximately three feet above the floor;
- Main sanctuary interior with exposed, stained laminated wooden structural beams extending from floor to ceiling and light stained wood panel ceiling;
- Asymmetrical design of the west end/pulpit area of the sanctuary with light stained wood paneling on south two-thirds, and plaster on the recessed northern third of the wall; slightly raised pulpit and choir areas within low masonry block, tile and wood panel walls; and partition wall with wood paneling separating sanctuary from vestibule;
- Light stained wood pews and three-drop light fixture chandeliers above pews.

SECTION 3

A. Pursuant to Sacramento City Code sections 17.604.210 and 17.604.220 and based on the duly noticed hearings conducted by the Preservation Commission and City Council, the staff reports and nomination materials attached thereto, and the testimony presented at the hearing on the nomination, the City Council makes the following findings in support of its action to designate the Kyles Temple African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, located at 2940 – 42nd Street, as a landmark and to place it in the Sacramento Register:

1. The property meets the criteria for Sacramento Register landmark eligibility pursuant to Sacramento City Code Title 17, Chapter 17.604, Section 17.604.210(A)(1):

- a. The nominated resource located at 2940 – 42nd Street (014-0152-041-0000) meets

Criterion i. **'It is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of the history of the city, the region, the state or the nation,'** due to: *Sacramento's third African-American church, Kyles Temple African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Zion Church, began in 1916 at 36th Street and Broadway, soon after Oak Park's annexation into the city. The church has played an important and lasting role in Sacramento's African-American fair employment and civil rights efforts, especially from the 1920s through the 1960s, and based upon two of the Church's pastors' early 20th century roles in organizing the Sacramento Branch, and then an official Sacramento Chapter, of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP.) By 1960, Kyles Temple began celebrating Black History Week, a commemoration nearly two decades before the federal government established a national Black History month. In January 1964, Kyles Temple AME Zion Church was the host of the International Session of the*

Board of Bishops of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, which included attendance by the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the NAACP, who pledged help from the National Board in support of California's Rumford Fair Housing Act of 1963, which was the subject of a repeal initiative. Newspaper articles reporting on the meetings of the Board of Bishops touted support for federal civil rights legislation, voter registration, and ending discrimination, segregation and racial hatred.

and,

Criterion ii. 'It is associated with the lives of persons significant in the city's past,' due to: *Kyles Temple AME Zion Church pastor, Rev. Thomas A. Harvey, was the first president of the Sacramento Branch of the NAACP, organized in August, 1916, and, in 1917, Harvey gave the keynote speech at a function for 418 black soldiers passing through Sacramento on the way to Camp Lewis, Washington. Harvey also became the first African-American to win a lawsuit for racial injustice in Sacramento, in 1918, in a suit against a local restaurant which refused him service. The Church's pastor in 1931, Rev. D.D. Mattocks, was part of a group of four African-American men who launched the successful campaign to charter an official Sacramento Chapter of the NAACP, which charter was received in April, 1936. In the 1940s, the church housed a Boy Scout troop under the leadership of Joshua Baker, Sacramento's first African-American Boy Scout leader. See below, relative to associations with architects Whitson Cox and James Dodd.*

and,

Criterion iii. 'It embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction' due to: *Kyles Temple AME Zion Church is a significant representative in Sacramento of the Mid-Century Modern architectural movement, exemplified in its geometric lines, exaggerated roof lines, walls of glazing, and use of new materials, including laminated wood structural beams to allow for expansive interior spaces.*

and,

Criterion iv. 'It represents the work of an important creative individual or master' due to: *The church was designed in 1956 by master architect Whitson W. Cox, of Cox & Liske, the architectural firm which began in 1909 with California's first State Architect, George Sellon, and which has since become Lionakis, Sacramento's largest architectural firm. While at*

Cox & Liske, Cox was involved in several key area projects, including the Sacramento Bee Headquarters on Q Street. In 1983, Cox was appointed California State Architect and helped design the California African American Museum, a facility which opened during the 1984 Olympics, held in Los Angeles. First hand reports from a Church Board member involved since the 1950s, note the involvement in the 1961 church's construction, and influences in its' design, by James C. Dodd, Sr., FAIA, Sacramento's first licensed African-American Architect. While Dodd is known to have worked with Cox & Liske during his career, no documentation of his design involvement with Kyles Temple AME Zion Church has been found.

- b. In addition, the nominated resource has integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship and association; and
 - c. The nominated resource has significant historic or architectural worth, and its designation as a landmark is reasonable, appropriate, and necessary to protect, promote, and further the goals of this chapter, pursuant to Sacramento City Code Title 17, section 17.604.210(C).
2. Adoption of this ordinance promotes the maintenance and enhancement of the significant features and characteristics of the landmark pursuant to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.
 3. Adoption of this ordinance promotes the maintenance and enhancement of the historic materials and fabric, as well as the appearance, of the landmark.
 4. Adoption of this ordinance is consistent with the City's Historic & Cultural Resources Element of the 2030 General Plan.
 5. Adoption of this ordinance designating and adding this property to the Sacramento Register as a landmark will afford the property the ability to use the California Historical Building Code and provide eligibility for any other preservation incentives that may be adopted for listed historic properties.
 6. Addition of this property to the Sacramento Register as a landmark helps to protect the historic resources of the City of Sacramento.

SECTION 4

The City Manager of the City of Sacramento is hereby directed to add the property located at 2940 – 42nd Street (014-0152-041-0000) to the Sacramento Register of Historic and Cultural Resources as a Landmark.

Adopted by the City of Sacramento City Council on February 24, 2015, by the following vote:

Ayes: Members Ashby, Carr, Hansen, Harris, Jennings, Schenirer, Warren and Mayor Johnson

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Vacant: District 6

Attest:

Shirley Concolino

Digitally signed by Shirley Concolino
DN: cn=Shirley Concolino, o=City of Sacramento, ou=City
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Shirley Concolino, City Clerk

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