

Watts Station Declared: 'Of Historic Significance'

The Watts Station at 103rd and Graham Streets on the former Pacific Electric Long Beach Line was declared a historic cultural monument by the Cultural Heritage Board of the Los Angeles Municipal Art Department at its last meeting last week.

Samuel Anderson, Chairman of the Citizens Advisory Committee for the Development of Watts, and Mrs. William V. Johnson, Committee member, presented the appeal on behalf of the Watts community. Also stating the case for Watts were Calvin Hamilton, Director of the Los Angeles City Planning Department, and Charles H. Ingram, Department member.

It was emphasized that the Watts Station has played a major role in the development of the community. In 1902 the

Watts family, for whom the community was later named, donated the site, 10 acres of land lying along the present 103rd Street locale, to the Pacific Electric Railway.

In 1904, the Pacific Electric Railway constructed a station and provided "rapid transit" to downtown Los Angeles for residents not only of Watts, but as far south as Long Beach. The station is one of the first buildings erected in Watts and is one of the few remaining of that period.

The Watts representatives agree to spearhead a cleanup drive for the station and the area surrounding it, evidencing community interest in the project.

"This indication of community interest in the beautification of the area will be an extension of the wonderful

work accomplished by Watts in its 'Operation Tea Cup' campaign last May," stated Carl Dentzel, Vice President of the Cultural Heritage Board. "This constructive effort has, unfortunately, been completely unrecognized because of later incidents.

"This evidence of interest and the use of ingenuity instead of waiting for help from governmental agencies is a healthy sign," Dentzel continued. "The Board will follow this demonstration of initiative and enterprise with especial interest."

Voting to make the declaration of the station as a historic cultural monument were Mrs. Earle Vaughan, President, Mrs. Senaida Sullivan, Dentzel, W. W. Robinson and William Woollett.

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