
V. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

C. CULTURAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The Coliseum is located in Exposition Park, a 145-acre site established in 1908 under joint administration by the State, City, and County as an area for cultural and recreational activities. Its boundaries include Exposition Boulevard to the north, Figueroa Street to the east, Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard to the south and Vermont Avenue to the west. Three buildings, the Armory and the Exposition Building, now part of the California Museum of Science and Industry, and the California Museum of History, Science and Art, now the County Museum of Natural History, as well as the Rose Gardens remain from the first group of improvements to the site in the 1910s. The Coliseum was added in 1923 and the Los Angeles Swim Stadium to the south dates from the 1932 Olympic Games.

Other buildings from the 1920s in Exposition Park include the small brick power station to the south of the Coliseum, and the Exposition Club House, now the Menlo Recreation Center, built in 1928 by the City of Los Angeles Playground Department to the south of the Los Angeles Swim Stadium. The Los Angeles Memorial Sports Arena, built in 1959, lies to the southeast of the Coliseum. In the 1980s, a number of buildings were added in the northeast section of the Park as part of the Museum of Science and Industry, including the Frank Gehry-designed Aerospace Museum, the California African American Museum, the IMAX Theater, the Space Museum, the Space Garden, a Multi-Cultural Center, and the Mark Taper Hall of Economics and Finance.

Architectural Description

The Coliseum, an elliptical reinforced concrete bowl oriented east and west, is 1,038 feet long by 738 feet wide. It rises 74 feet above ground, and the playing field lies 32 feet below grade. The rows of seats rise in a continuous smooth line in three tiers. The construction and layout of the seats was determined by its location in an abandoned gravel pit. The first tier, consisting of 29 rows, was cast in place on the banks of the pit and the second tier, of 25 rows of seats, was cast on a compacted earth berm built up around the excavated pit. The third tier, also of 25 rows of seats, is a built-up reinforced concrete frame system supported on a continuous pilaster and panel wall system. The top four rows are cantilevered beyond the wall and are supported by concrete fin brackets. Seats are theater-type with the exception of those at the east end, which are wooden benches dating from 1932. The seats of these wooden benches have been covered with fiberglass.

The Peristyle, the dominant feature located at the eastern end of the Coliseum, consists of a large central arch, the Propylaeum, with seven smaller arches on either side. The Propylaeum is topped by a 107-foot flame holder of concrete with a brass bowl. Four-story towers, or pylons, which house accounting offices in the north building and Coliseum Commission-related functions in the south

building, serve as buffers between the tiers of seats and the arches. A series of reinforced concrete walls step outwards and upwards from these towers; they are designed to hide the additional seating added on the third uppermost tier. Two overscale arches, in a wall with pierced decoration, contain steps leading from the east elevation to the upper level. Two one-story office building additions, a ticket office on the north and the Coliseum Commission offices on the south, extend from the intersection of the Peristyle and the concrete walls.

The Peristyle is clad in a travertine veneer, and has a mural of an Aztec sun painted by German-born Heinz Rosien, an Alhambra muralist and art teacher, on the ceiling of the Propylaeum. A matrix scoreboard and a video board as well as two speakers are attached to the top of the Peristyle. Below the flame is a matrix clock. There is also a large clock on the upper wall of the north tower and a thermometer on the south tower wall. Bronze plaques forming the Memorial Court of Honor decorate the pillars of the Peristyle. The front facade of the Peristyle is decorated with a neon sign, reading "Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum" with the five interlinked rings symbolizing the Olympics underneath. Two large pieces of rock, from the Colosseum in Rome and Altis Olympia, Greece, sit on the bases flanking the main arch.

A series of 28 reinforced tunnels at yard level lead through the earth berm to the interior of the stadium. Between each pair of tunnels is a flight of concrete steps with pipe railing leading to the concourse level, which contains bathrooms, concession stands, elevators, and storage. A series of passages lead from this concourse to the interior of the stadium.

On the exterior of the Coliseum, between stairs 4 and 5, 10 and 11, and 20 and 21, are escalators. A press box elevator tower and entry way, on the south facade of the Coliseum, lead to the three-level (two level plus roof deck) 354-seat press box which juts above the south rim of the Coliseum. Tunnel 30, entering from Menlo Avenue at the southwest side of the Coliseum, provides vehicular access to the playing field. An underground dressing room and locker facility is reached from this ramp and tunnel.

A three-story reinforced concrete structure, used as a concession storage building and Los Angeles Police Department substation, extends from the west facade at the yard level. A number of ancillary buildings ring the Coliseum at the yard level, including eleven permanent concession stands and four restroom buildings inside the 10-foot chain link and steel bar fence, four permanent ticket booths, a maintenance and equipment storage facility adjacent to Tunnel 30 at the southwest edge of the site, and a souvenir shop at the southeast edge of the Coliseum outside the fence. A memorial statue of two sculpted torsos is located at the Peristyle entrance approach to the east end of the Coliseum. The mature landscaping consists of eucalyptus, deodar, yucca, agave, and palms covering the berm, and vines which virtually cover the south and west elevations. The interior of the concourse level has bathrooms and concession stands, elevators, storage rooms, and first aid stations in the 1930 additions to the towers, or pylons, at each end of the Peristyle.

History

The Coliseum was built in Exposition Park in 1923. In order for such a stadium to be realized, three separate individuals or groups, each concerned with civic pride and the beautification of Los Angeles, came together. The first was Judge William M. Bowen, the second was the executive committee of the California Fiestas Association, and the third was the architectural firm of John Parkinson and Donald B. Parkinson.

Exposition Park had been established as early as the 1870s as an Agricultural Park, owned by the Southern District Agricultural Society, and it contained a racetrack and fair grounds with covered stalls for exhibiting produce. Apparently its use degenerated into bull-fighting, horse racing, greyhound racing and gambling. Under the new owners, the Sixth District Agricultural Association of the State of California, the gambling continued. The surrounding neighborhood, including the Methodist-founded USC, led by William M. Bowen, a judge, law professor at USC, and Sunday school teacher, spent a decade attempting to shut down the racetrack and have the Park declared public property, a goal reached in 1908. That year the City, County, and State joined to develop Exposition Park. The northern half of it was laid out in 1911 in a formal Beaux Arts style by landscape architect Wilbur D. Cook, Jr. with a sunken rose garden with central fountain flanked by square formal gardens. By 1914, three civic buildings, the Exposition building, the California Museum of History, Science and Art, and the Armory, were erected in a "C" shape around the rose garden.

In 1919, a group of well-to-do Los Angeles citizens were appointed by the publishers of the daily newspapers to a committee, the "California Fiestas Association", to revive the old Spanish fiestas in Los Angeles. The committee realized that without a stadium in town, such fiestas could not be produced. An executive committee drawn from the larger Fiestas Association, headed by William May Garland, a real estate developer, and including Harry Chandler of the Los Angeles Times and former U.S. Senator Frank P. Flint, decided that a stadium should be built. They chose Exposition Park as its location and suggested a joint Association/City/County venture to create such a stadium, which was to be named the "Los Angeles Memorial Colosseum" (changed in 1920 to Coliseum) as a memorial to World War I dead.

Simultaneous with the suggestion to build the Coliseum came the idea that Los Angeles be the site of the 1924 Olympics. To this end, William Garland presented an invitation from the City and County of Los Angeles and the Association, plus plans for the stadium, to the International Olympics Committee at the summer games in Antwerp in 1920. He was advised that Paris had already been chosen for 1924 and Amsterdam tentatively for 1928, but was appointed to the International Olympic Committee. In Rome in 1923 he again formally asked that Los Angeles be the city chosen for the 1932 games, a suggestion which was accepted.

The architect, John Parkinson, donated his profit for the design of the Coliseum as a "citizen's contribution", being reimbursed solely for his costs. He began sketching plans in 1919, well before the

stadium was a definite project, in order for Garland to present the designs to the Olympics Committee. He was no stranger to participation in civic beautification. Moving to Los Angeles from Seattle in 1894, he became a charter member of the Los Angeles Municipal Art Commission, established to improve and beautify the city by cleaning streets and planting trees. When this committee brought the noted planner Charles Mulford Robinson to draw up plans for Los Angeles, Parkinson assisted him.

Between the years 1905 and 1915, Parkinson, with his partner G. Edwin Bergstrom, designed many ornate high-rise office and civic buildings, in the Beaux Arts style combining a symmetrical formality with classical ornamentation. Nineteen of these buildings on Spring Street are now listed as a Historic District on the National Register of Historic Places. Additionally, with his son Donald, also an architect who joined him in the firm in 1921, John Parkinson designed such other notable Los Angeles buildings as the City Hall, Bullock's Wilshire, and Union Station, as well as numerous buildings for the USC campus.

The Fiestas Association chose an abandoned gravel pit south of the formal gardens, Armory, and Museum in Exposition Park as the site of the bowl because excavation would be cheaper. One of Parkinson's early plans showed the Coliseum oriented north and south, rather than east and west, presumably to make use of the configuration of the existing pit. Possibly the east-west orientation was ultimately chosen to be aligned with the old race track which encircled it in an east and west direction.

The Coliseum, begun in December 1921 and finished in June 1923, was created from this pit by excavating 20 feet below grade and compacting the excavated dirt into a large berm which rose in an elliptical shape around the central field. As shown in Figure V.C-1 (See Views 1, 2 and 3), the wooden Coliseum seats were built in three tiers upon this earthen structure: the lowest, on the excavated section, were set on concrete steps poured in place; the middle tier, on the compacted berm, were set on redwood 2" x 4"s placed over 3" x 6" stringers; the upper level of nine rows were set on a raised redwood frame constructed above the berm. This upper tier of seats was reached by flights of wooden stairs built on the exterior of the berm. The Coliseum seated a total of 76,000 people in 53 rows.

As shown in View 2 in Figure V.C-1, a reinforced concrete Peristyle, with flanking pylons, was built at the east end of the Coliseum. Concrete retaining walls above and around the pylons formed the ends of the seats at north and south. The 1921 plan, shown in Figure 108, showed the pylons with hipped red tile roofs, which were omitted in favor of simple flat roofs with parapets. The rectangular pylons, four stories high, radiated outward from a point at the center of the field. A low concrete wall linked the ends of the Coliseum beyond the Peristyle. Pipe flag poles decorated both the interior and the exterior of the Peristyle's arches, and single lights illumined its interior roof. A row of lights along the east side of the Coliseum lit the entrance. Bases for statuary extended from the Propylaeum on both the interior and exterior elevations. Boxes were indicated on the plans in the front rows of both the north and the south sides of the field. Occupants sat on folding wooden chairs.

Figure V.C-1, Historical Views of the Project Site.

A 1923 sketch by the landscape architect indicated that the berms were to be planted with deodar cedar, Spanish broom, acacia, Arizona cypress, eucalyptus, with cotoneaster hedges around the archways and begonia and Boston ivy at the top. A simple rectangular Athletes Building, housing dressing rooms and showers, was built to the south of the Coliseum and was connected to the playing fields by underground Tunnel 29. Four toilet buildings were built, two on the north and two on the south. Tunnel 30, entering from the west, was built to provide vehicular access to the field.

The Coliseum was finished in June of 1923 and the USC Trojans played their first home football game there, against Pomona College, in October, with 12,836 spectators attending. Over the next nine years, USC packed the stadium with its football games against Stanford University, the University of California, and the University of Notre Dame, the latter of which it first played in 1926. Paavo Nurmi of Finland was featured in a track meet and Jack Dempsey held a boxing exhibition in the Coliseum. Additional uses of the Coliseum for non-sporting events in these first years of its existence showed its appeal to a wide variety of audiences. The Los Angeles Philharmonic played there in 1925, the Shrine and the Elks held their conventions and electrical pageants there, Lindbergh was honored at a reception, and Easter Sunrise services and a pontifical mass were celebrated in the Coliseum.

As early as 1923, the Coliseum had been chosen for the 1932 Olympics and, by 1928, a one million-dollar state bond issue was passed to finance the Olympic Games. To handle the expected crowds, the Coliseum's seating of 76,000 was enlarged to 101,573, and various other improvements were made. The enlargement took from February 1930 to May 1931 to complete and cost \$950,293, which was financed by the City and the County. To add approximately 25,000 seats, the Parkinsons removed the third wooden tier, and built up a new third tier of concrete with 25 rows of seats for a total of 79 rows.

The addition of these extra sixteen rows necessitated a major change in the exterior of the Coliseum. A large concrete superstructure was built, consisting of a continuous pilaster and panel wall system which extended over the top of the berm and halfway down the outside. The top four rows were cantilevered beyond the wall and were supported by concrete brackets. The newly created upper concourse included restrooms and concession stands.

Major changes were necessary at the east end of the Coliseum to hide the ends of the new third tiers, which rose well beyond the existing pylons. The retaining walls at the ends of the pylons were incorporated into new units, which formed stepped parapet walls radiating outward from the existing pylons. These walls were decorated with pilasters, pierced wall designs, and cast concrete screens. The ground floor of these units contained staircases beneath overscale arches leading to the concourse level, and the concourse level contained hospital rooms and storage created by the new units. Two lamp standards lit the entrance to each arch. Low concrete walls with large blocks for statues connected the new sections with the old sections. The existing pylons were slightly changed during this expansion: a new concrete slab was poured on the roof and was topped with composition roofing.

Doors and windows were replaced on the Peristyle side and new steps and an opening into the top floor of the pylon were added on the seating side.

The existing wooden stairs leading down the outside of the berm were replaced with double-width concrete steps with pipe railings, firmly set into the berm with footings. The tunnels had new concrete foundation slabs poured. A new poured concrete concession building, with storage rooms, a service elevator, and truck docks, was attached to the exterior wall of the Coliseum at the west end. A police substation was also housed in this building. A series of pole lamps with twin lights lit the rim of the Coliseum, doubling as vents for the restrooms on the upper level. A press stand, centered at the top of the south wall of the Coliseum provided cubicles and desks for reporters on one side of the central staircase and cameras and radio on the other. A scoreboard was built on the stadium side of the propylaeum, consisting of a built-up arched extension three floors high and deep enough for operators to stand in to manipulate the letters and numbers of the winners as needed on the actual board, which measured 22 feet by 44 feet. Additionally, the top deck held the flag loft where Navy men were trained to quickly hoist the flags of the three winners as the results were placed on the scoreboard. To handle the expected record crowds for the Olympics, twelve square ticket booths and six rectangular concession booths were built on the perimeter of the Coliseum.

All Olympic track and field events, gymnastics, field hockey finals, demonstration lacrosse and football, and the equestrian jumping finals, as well as the beginning and end of the marathon, and the opening and closing ceremonies, were held in the Coliseum, with the Armory hosting the fencing and sword competitions and the Swim Stadium hosting the aquatic events. Sixteen world track records were broken, by such athletes as William Carr, Eddie Tolan, and Babe Didrickson.

The Olympic Games in the Coliseum included a number of firsts: the use of a victory podium where flags of the winning nations were raised; the use of a photo-finish camera; the playing of the national anthems of winners during the awards ceremonies; the use of a stadium press box where teletype operators were able to transmit the results of the competition to the wire services; and the full participation of women athletes under international track and field competition according to Olympic Games' standards. Additionally, the creation of an Olympic Village to house the men enabled many countries, impoverished by the Depression, to send athletes who otherwise would have been unable to attend. This village, consisting of 500 pre-fabricated residences, an administration building, amphitheater, post office, hospital, bank, and telegraph offices, was built in Baldwin Hills on 331 acres of land loaned by the heirs of the Baldwin estate. After the Games, the buildings were removed, but the idea of such a Village became a requirement for subsequent Olympic Games.

Over the years, other changes have been made to the Coliseum. By 1937, some settling in the floors of the tunnels and some water damage had occurred, which caused the reinforcing bar inside the concrete tunnel walls to rust. As a result, extensive repairs of the tunnels were called for in 1937. All hollow spaces in the walls were dug out, the reinforcing bar cleaned, and the areas patched with gunite. The

floors of all the tunnels except 13, 29, and 30 were to be dug up to the depth of two feet or to the existing subfloor, backfilled and compacted, and new floors poured.

The Olympic scoreboard was replaced in 1936-7 by an electric board, “the first all-electric, all-purpose announcing tableau of its kind in the world”, courtesy of the Tide Water Associated Oil Company. The Coliseum continued to be used by the USC football team and for such other sporting events as the 1934 National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) track meet, the 1936 Olympic final trials, as well as a ski jump, tennis match, and a golf clinic and exhibition. In addition, the Coliseum hosted two appearances by then-President Franklin D. Roosevelt, a campaign rally in 1932 and a eulogy of Will Rogers in 1935, Shrine and American Legion conventions, the Sonja Henie Ice Show, and various rodeos.

A cluster of post-war additions, from 1946 to 1955, caused the next major visible changes to the appearance of the Coliseum. In 1945, a new Coliseum Commission was formed, and a new contract authorized surplus revenues to be given to the Coliseum alone, without payments to the City and County. A new manager, William Nicholas from the Pasadena Parks Department, was hired; he used the surplus money for a number of necessary repairs and renovations. The Pasadena architectural firm of Bennett and Bennett was retained for this work. Robert Bennett chose to design the additions in the 1930’s Moderne style, defined by smooth simplified exteriors combining rounded and flat surfaces with a minimum of decoration, in order to link the Coliseum visually to the neighboring Los Angeles Swim Stadium which had been built for the Olympics, also in the Moderne style.

The first improvement was the addition of six curved banks of floodlights in 1946, an innovation which allowed for night football games. A Moderne six-story elevator tower to the press box, reached through a special press entrance, was built in 1947, followed by a new three-level press box in 1948. This press box was honored in 1949 by the National Sports Writers Association as the “outstanding press box in the country.” The USC football team continued to use the Coliseum as its home stadium, and in 1949 the Cleveland Rams relocated to Los Angeles, giving both the City and the Coliseum its first professional football team.

The same year, the present one-story Moderne addition, housing general offices and the Coliseum Commission boardroom, was built onto the walls of the south pylon addition of 1931, somewhat obscuring the 1930-31 design. A new rounded ticket booth was built southeast of the Peristyle entrance. In 1950, a 13,000 square foot underground dressing room complex was built adjacent to Tunnel 30, on the southwest side of the stadium. At this time, no doubt as a result of the construction of these state-of-the-art facilities for athletes, the 1922 Athletes Building on the south side was torn down.

Three additional rounded ticket booths were added to the perimeter of the Coliseum by 1951. A one-story office for event staff was added to the north pylon in 1953. In 1955, escalators were built, necessitating a change in the angle of stairs 4 and 20. The same year, additions such as concession

booths, restrooms, and the souvenir shop were constructed around the perimeter of the Coliseum. The neon sign was added to the exterior of the Propylaeum. The Memorial Court of Honor, consisting of brass plaques honoring athletes, coaches, or contributors to the world of sports who have been affiliated with the Coliseum, was instituted in 1955, and now consists of 38 plaques on the Peristyle walls. Plaques honoring athletes who played in the Coliseum or events which occurred there are placed on the inside wall of the Peristyle, while plaques for coaches or other contributors are placed on the exterior wall.

In 1943, the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) Bruins football team became tenants of the Coliseum, playing there until 1982. In 1958, the Brooklyn Dodgers relocated to Los Angeles, and from that year until 1962 when they moved to their new stadium in Chavez Ravine, they played at the Coliseum, necessitating temporary changes to the field, which were reversible for football games. National League champions in 1959, the Dodgers played three World Series games against the Chicago White Sox in the Coliseum.

During the 1940s and 1950s, the Coliseum was also host to such varied activities as political rallies for Wendell Wilkie, Thomas Dewey, and Dwight Eisenhower, religious occasions including a pontifical mass, the annual Mary's hour, war rallies such as the "I am an American" Day, the Army and Navy War Show, the reception for Generals Patton and Doolittle, and the Victory celebration, the Shrine Convention, as well as midget automobile races, rodeos, circuses, and fireworks shows.

By the 1960s, water damage had stained the concrete walls of the Peristyle. In 1969, with the hope that the 1976 Olympics would be held in Los Angeles, the Peristyle was given a cosmetic facelift with the addition of marble veneer, and the ceiling of the Propylaeum was painted by Alhambra artist Heinz Rosien. The track was replaced in 1962. At some time between 1960 and 1962 an aluminum window was added in the third floor of the south pylon. Folding and removable grandstands, with a 3,000 seat capacity, were used at the east end of the Coliseum for the first time in 1964, to bring the spectators closer to the field. These grandstands reduced the seating capacity by blocking off the end zone wooden seats, and were used primarily for Rams games, and occasionally for USC games which were not sold out. They were last used in 1978. Many of the old wooden end zone seats were replaced with theater type seats over a ten-year period from 1964 to 1974, resulting in an overall reduction in seating capacity from 101,573 to 92,800. A computer scoreboard replaced the old electric board in 1971. More concession stands were built in 1973. The press box and elevator were remodeled in 1976.

During these years, two National Football League (NFL) Super Bowls were played at the Coliseum, Super Bowl I in 1967 in which the Green Bay Packers defeated the Kansas City Chiefs, and Super Bowl VII in 1973 when the Miami Dolphins beat the Washington Redskins. Professional soccer teams such as the Los Angeles Aztecs and the Cosmos played at the Coliseum. Additionally, such events as the Royal Lippizan Stallions, the Super Bowl of Motocross, and Evel Knievel's jumping exhibition were

staged at the Coliseum. John F. Kennedy accepted the Democratic Party's Presidential nomination there in 1960, and Billy Graham held his "Crusade for Christ" there in 1963.

A number of changes were made for the 1984 Olympic Games. The scoreboard was replaced in 1983 by the present color video board, measuring 36 feet by 48 feet, the largest in the world, which was added to the top of the Peristyle, necessitating the placement of steel I-beams in the arches to support it. A black and white matrix board, 30 feet by 50 feet, was also added to the Peristyle, as was the current matrix clock board. A new track was installed with the front wall moved back to accommodate it, resulting in the removal of approximately 300 seats, bringing the Coliseum's total seating capacity to the current level of 92,500.

For the XXIIIrd Olympiad, all track and field events, the beginning and the end of the marathon, the medal awards, and the opening and closing ceremonies were held in the Coliseum. Eighteen Olympic records were set by such athletes as Valerie Brisco-Hooks, who received three gold medals, Evelyn Ashford, and Carl Lewis, who received four gold medals. The 1984 Olympic Games included such firsts as the introduction of seventeen new sports, thirteen of them for women, such as the marathon, 3,000 meter race, and 400 meter hurdles; and funding entirely through the private sector, through such methods as sponsorships, television rights, and ticket sales. The number of nations participating in the 1984 Games, 139, was also the largest ever.

Historical Designations

The Coliseum is designated as a National Historic Landmark, a State Historical Landmark, and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places (National Register) in Washington, D.C. The Coliseum is significant as the site of numerous historical sporting events, and for its "association with important personages" rather than for its architectural design. As noted above, numerous structural alterations and additions have been made to the historic fabric of the Coliseum over the years. The Coliseum has been the site for many events including two Olympic Games, held in 1932 and 1984, Major League Baseball including the 1959 World Series, numerous track meets, collegiate and professional football, including two Super Bowls, and political rallies, rock concerts and political gatherings. The Coliseum is located within Exposition Park.

All three of the above designations were undertaken in 1984 for the fiftieth anniversary of the Historic American Building Survey (HABS) and for the Olympic Games to be held in 1984, for the second time at the Coliseum.

In addition, Exposition Park was determined eligible for listing on the National Register in 1993 as an Historic District. To date it has not been a formally listed on the National Register. The Exposition Park Historic District includes all of Exposition Park and a number of buildings located within it are listed as contributing structures to the District. The Exposition Building, the Natural History Museum, the California State Armory, the Rose Garden, the Memorial Coliseum, the Los Angeles Swimming

Stadium and the Park Clubhouse were all determined to be contributing elements to the District. The California Science Center, the Los Angeles Memorial Sports Arena, the California Aerospace Museum and the California Afro-American Museum were identified as non-contributing elements of the District. The historic Exposition Building was effectively demolished in 1995 for the Science Center and the Swimming Stadium substantially altered.

National Historic Landmark (NHL)

The United States Congress charged the Department of the Interior with the responsibility for designating nationally significant historic sites, buildings, and objects and promoting their preservation in 1935. The National Historic Landmarks program was established to identify and protect places possessing exceptional value in illustrating the nation's heritage. Only 3% of properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places are designated as National Historic Landmarks. An NHL is the highest level of significance designated by the Secretary of the Interior for historic properties. Today, fewer than 2,500 historic places bear this national distinction. Below are a few facts associated with the NHL designation:

- National Historic Landmark designation recognizes properties that are important to the entire nation.
- NHLs are listed in the National Register of Historic Places.
- Owners of National Historic Landmarks are free to manage their property as they choose, provided no federal license, permit, or funding is involved.
- Federal agencies whose projects affect a NHL must give the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) an opportunity to comment on the project and its effects on the property.
- Owners of National Historic Landmarks may be able to obtain federal historic preservation funding, when funds are available. Federal investment tax credits for rehabilitation and other provisions may apply.
- A bronze plaque bearing the name of the NHL and attesting to its national significance is presented to the owner upon request.

Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum National Historic Landmark Information

Los Angeles, California
County of Los Angeles.
3911 S. Figueroa Street
National Register Number: 84003866 Resource type: Structure.
Property type: Recreation & Culture - sports facility.

Congressional District: CA-32 Certified Local Government: NO
This NHL offers public access.
Current use/information: Sports facility.

Statement of Significance (as of designation - July 27, 1984):

One of the premier outdoor sports facilities in the world, this giant elliptical, reinforced concrete, cast-in-place structure was constructed in 1921-23 and later enlarged. It has served as the focal site for the 1932 and 1984 Olympic Games. The Xth Olympiad witnessed a number of innovations, including the Olympic Village, which was introduced at Los Angeles, and use of the victory podium.

The federal National Historic Landmark designation notes that the Coliseum is significant as a site of historical athletic and sports events and for its association with important personages. Architectural and engineering elements were mentioned for informational purposes only.

The Proposed Project continues the historic use of the Coliseum as a sports venue for future generations and enhances or maintains most of the historic elements that contribute to its architectural character.

National Register of Historic Places

The National Register is the nation's master inventory of known historic resources. The National Register is administered by the National Park Service (NPS) and includes listings of buildings, structures, sites, objects, and districts that possess historic, architectural, engineering, archaeological, or cultural significance at the national, state or local level. The National Register criteria and associated definitions are outlined in National Register Bulletin Number 15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation. The following is a summary of Bulletin 15:

Resources (structures, sites, buildings, districts, and objects) over 50 years of age can be listed on the National Register. However, properties under 50 years of age that are of exceptional importance or are contributors to a district can also be included on the National Register. The following list of definitions is relevant to any discussion of the National Register:

- A structure is a work made up of interdependent and interrelated parts in a definite pattern of organization. Generally constructed by humans, it is often an engineering object large in scale.
- A site is defined as the location of a significant event, a prehistoric or historic occupation or activity, or a building or structure, whether standing, ruined, or vanished, where the location itself maintains historical or archaeological value regardless of the value of any existing structure.

- Buildings are defined as structures created to shelter human activity.
- A district is a geographically definable area -- urban or rural, small or large -- possessing a significant concentration, linkage, or continuity of sites, buildings, structures, and/or objects united by past events or aesthetically by plan or physical development. A district may also comprise individual elements separated geographically but linked by association or history.
- An object is a material thing of functional, aesthetic, cultural, historical, or scientific value that may be, by nature or design, moveable yet related to a specific setting or environment such as an historic vessel.

There are basically four criteria under which a structure, site, building, district, or object can be considered significant for listing on the National Register. These include resources that:

- A) are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of history (such as a Civil War battlefield or a Naval Ship building Center);
- B) are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past (such as Thomas Jefferson's Monticello or the Susan B. Anthony birthplace);
- C) embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction (such as Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin or the Midwestern Native American Indian Mounds) or;
- D) have yielded or may likely yield information important in prehistory or history (such as prehistoric ruins in Arizona or the archaeological sites of the first European settlements in St. Augustine, Florida or at the Presidio of San Francisco).

A resource can be considered significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture. When nominating a resource to the National Register, one must evaluate and clearly state the significance of that resource. A resource can be individually eligible for listing on the National Register for any of the above four reasons. A resource can also be listed as contributing to a group of resources that are listed on the National Register. In other words, the resource is part of a historic district as defined above.

Districts are comprised of resources that are identified as contributing and non-contributing. Some resources within the boundaries of the district may not meet the criteria for contributing to the historic character of the district; however, the resource is within the district boundaries.

Contributing resources add to the historic association, historic architectural qualities, or archaeological values for which the district is significant because the resource was present during the period of significance, relates to the documented significant contexts, and possesses integrity.

Non-contributing resources do not add to the historic associations, historic architectural qualities, or archaeological values for which the district is significant because the resource was not present during the period of significance, does not relate to the documented significant contexts, or does not possess integrity.

Resources that meet the above criteria and have been determined eligible for the National Register are protected under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act when an undertaking utilizing federal involvement is proposed. The National Register affords no protection to resources where private funding is used to alter or change those resources.

California Register of Historical Resources

The California Register of Historical Resources (California Register) is a listing of State of California resources that are significant within the context of California's history. The California Register criteria are modeled after National Register criteria. However, the California Register focuses more closely on resources that have contributed to the development of California.

All resources listed in or formally determined eligible for the National Register are eligible for the California Register. In addition, properties designated under municipal or county ordinances are also eligible for listing in the California Register. The primary difference between the National Register and the California Register is that the latter allows a lower level of integrity. The property must be significant at the local, state, or national level under one or more of the following criteria:

1. It is associated with events or patterns of events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of local or regional history and cultural heritage of California or the United States.
2. It is associated with the lives of persons important to the nation or to California's past.
3. It embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values.
4. It has yielded, or has the potential to yield, information important to the prehistory or history of the state or the nation.

The California Register criteria are linked to CEQA. Under CEQA resources are considered historically significant "if the resource meets the criteria for listing on the California Register" (Title 14 California Code of Regulations 15064.5 (3)).

Resource Integrity

To be eligible for either the National or California Register, a resource must not only be historically or architecturally significant, it must also retain integrity or the ability to convey its significance. Integrity is grounded in an understanding of a property's physical features and how they relate to its significance within one or more contexts. Integrity involves seven aspects: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. These aspects closely relate to the resource's significance. For example, if the property is significant for architecture, the setting and association may not be as important as workmanship and materials. In this case, the Coliseum has been listed for its association with events and people rather than for the architecture of the Coliseum. Some level of architectural integrity must remain for the facility to convey its ties to the events and people for which it is listed, but architecture is not the prime reason the facility is historically important.

Integrity, particularly in the aspects important to the area of significance, must be primarily intact for National or California Register eligibility. Resources that have lost a great deal of their integrity are generally not eligible for the National Register. However, the California Register regulations have specific language regarding integrity, which note the following:

It is possible that historical resources may not retain sufficient integrity to meet the criteria for listing in the National Register, but they may still be eligible for listing in the California Register. A resource that has lost its historic character or appearance may still have sufficient integrity for the California Register (California Code of Regulations Title 15, 11.5 (c)).

It is possible to have a resource "delisted" as an NHL or National Register property, but this is very rarely done and generally requires a complete loss of integrity, such as removing all of the character-defining features or demolition due to fire or other event.

Local Criteria

Because the Coliseum itself is located on state land, it is not eligible for review at the local level, the City of Los Angeles Cultural Heritage Commission. The County of Los Angeles does not have an independent designation program but relies on the National Register and State Landmark programs for designation.

Exposition Park, which includes the Coliseum and numerous surrounding structures, has been designated as a Cultural and Historical Site by the County of Los Angeles. The Commission cannot designate buildings owned by the State independently. However, they may be recognized as "significant" to the County.

The Armory, at the northwest corner of the Park, is being converted to a Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) school. The Science Center recently underwent a \$90 million renovation with

historic preservation of the facade. The Los Angeles Swim Stadium underwent a \$32 million renovation and addition, now the Exposition Park Intergenerational Community Center - EPICC. The historic facade was retained and restored and the modern addition is a visible and obvious improvement.

An historical or cultural monument is any site (including significant trees or other plant life located thereon), building or structure of particular historic or cultural significance to the City of Los Angeles, such as historic structures or sites in which the broad cultural, economic or social history of the nation, State or community is reflected or exemplified, or which are identified with historic personages or with important events in the main currents of national, State or local history or which embody the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type specimen, inherently valuable for a study of a period style or method of construction, or a notable work of a master builder, designer, or architect whose individual genius influenced his or her age.

Effects of Local Designation

Section 5024.f requires that alterations to a State Historical Landmark owned by the State, be reviewed by the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO). Section 5024.5 (a) and (b) require the state agency having jurisdiction over the Landmark give a summary of any proposed changes to the SHPO for review and comment. Because the state only owns the land that the Coliseum sits on and not the Coliseum, section 5024.5 should not apply.

Properties designated at the local level are subject to review by the Cultural Heritage Commission. This review includes evaluation of alterations to designated structures to ensure the alterations are appropriate to the historic character of the building. This type of review occurs only for individually designated properties based on the following factors:

- Eligibility to enter into the City of Los Angeles Property Contract Program (the Mills Act - See Appendix Seven);
- Local Building Official must grant code alternatives under the State Historical Building Code;
- Limited Protection: Environmental review may be required under CEQA if the property faces potential impacts as defined in the CEQA Guidelines.
- Locally designated resources or qualifying surveys can be listed in the California Register of Historical Resources.
- Designated resources proposed for demolition will be reviewed by the Commission. The Commission can object for 180 days with the option for extending another 180 days with Commission and Council approval, to allow alternative preservation solutions to be developed.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Thresholds of Significance

Pursuant to Section 15064.5 of the CEQA Guidelines, an historical resource is presumed significant if it is listed on the CRHR or has been determined to be eligible for listing by the SHRC. An historical resource may also be considered significant if the lead agency determines, based on substantial evidence, that the resource meets the criteria for inclusion in the CRHR. CEQA also contains the following additional guidelines for defining an historical resource:

- California properties formally determined eligible for, or listed in the NRHP (Section 5024.1.d.1);
- those resources included in a local register of historical resources, as defined in Section 5020.1(k) of the Public Resources Code, or identified as significant in an historical resources survey meeting the requirements of Section 5024.1(g) of the Public Resources Code;
- those resources that a lead agency determines to be historically significant (generally, if it meets criteria for listing on the CRHC), provided the determination is supported by substantial evidence; or
- those resources a local agency believes are historical for more broadly defined reasons than identified in the preceding criteria.

Section 15065 of the CEQA Guidelines mandates a finding of significance if a project would eliminate important examples of major periods of California history or prehistory. In addition, pursuant to Section 15064.5 of the CEQA Guidelines, a project could have a significant effect on the environment if it “may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an historical resource.” A “substantial adverse change” means “physical demolition, destruction, relocation, or alteration of the resource or its immediate surroundings such that the significance of an historical resource is impaired.” Material impairment means altering “in an adverse manner those characteristics of an historical resource that convey its historical significance and its eligibility for inclusion in the California Register of Historical Resources.”

Impacts to historical resources not determined to be significant according to any of the significance criteria described above are not considered significant for the purposes of CEQA. Generally, under CEQA, a project that follows The Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring, and Reconstructing Historic Buildings or The Secretary of Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation and Guidelines for Rehabilitating

Historic Structures (The Standards) is considered to have mitigated impacts to an historical resource to a less-than-significant level (CEQA Guidelines 15064.5).¹ Section 15126.4 (b)(2) of the CEQA Guidelines notes that in some circumstances, documentation of an historical resource may not mitigate the effects to a less than significant level.

Project Impacts

The Proposed Project is only the latest in an ongoing series of alterations and expansions. Completed in 1923, the Coliseum had wood seats on three tiers of risers, the first being within the excavated bowl and the other two above grade on wood structural supports. Almost immediately after completion, an additional level of wood seats was added. In 1931 the Coliseum was greatly altered by adding another tier of seats with all the seating above the bowl now supported by concrete construction. There were now 25 rows of additional seating totaling 79 rows. The last four rows were cantilevered above the support structure and a series of concrete bracket pilasters and panels supported them, giving the Coliseum its unique form that is familiar today.

The Proposed Project reduces the number of seats in the Coliseum from 92,500 to 78,000 while upgrading the remaining seats to current comfort requirements.

Frequent alterations to the Coliseum have continued to the present day with major changes occurring for the 1932 and 1984 Olympics as well as numerous modifications before and after these events.

The Proposed Project is one more alteration and expansion that will allow the Coliseum to continue to be economically viable and continue on into the future.

In addition, most of the proposed alterations preserve the historic character-defining features of the Coliseum. Wherever possible, new construction has been added to cover over historic features, such as the seating, rather than remove it. Much of the new construction could also be removed at some time in the future, leaving these features again exposed and intact.

Great effort has been made to respect and enhance the historic features of the Coliseum while still meeting functional requirements for the 21st century. Photographs depicting the structural changes to the Coliseum since its original construction are shown in Figures V.C-2 through V.C-5.

¹ *“Rehabilitation” is defined in the Standards as “the process of returning a property to a state of utility, through the repair or alteration, which makes possible an efficient contemporary use while preserving those portions or features of the property which are significant to its historic, architectural or cultural values.”*

Proposed Project

The Proposed Project retains and enhances the character-defining features of the Coliseum. A few elements, described below, will be covered over by new construction; and an even smaller number of features, primarily concrete seating at the upper levels, will be removed.

Treatment of Historic Features

The Peristyle – Retained and enhanced as the major focus of the stadium. Adjacent nearby seating will also be preserved. The large existing, non-historic electronic scoreboards and video boards that sit on top of the Peristyle will be removed, allowing the Peristyle to be seen in its historic form for the first time in many years. The offices and ticket areas adjacent to the Peristyle will also be retained.

Exterior Coliseum Form and Walls – The exterior walls and cantilevered seating at the rim of the Coliseum will be retained, restored, and highlighted. New seating that extends above the historic form will curve in at the east and west ends, away from the exterior Coliseum wall, to enhance and differentiate the new seating from the historic form below. Existing stairs and tunnels on the exterior walls will be retained and used wherever possible. It should be noted that the existing stairs do not meet code requirements. They will be retained to keep the historic fabric, but it is possible they will no longer be used.

Bowl Configuration – The top rows of the bowl will be retained in a continuous band that is connected to the exterior wall. At the west end, a large section of the existing bowl, extending down to the main concourse, will be retained and remain visible. At the east end, portions of the existing bowl connected with the Peristyle will be retained and will remain visible.

Field Level – The field level was lowered 11 feet in 1994 from its historic level. The existing field level will be maintained. Also, due to the current configuration of the field, track and field events are now not possible. The Proposed Project will provide the Coliseum the opportunity to host track and field events in the future, though it will require some modifications to the seating configuration.

Stairs – Many of the existing exterior stairs will be retained. The two existing exterior escalators will be removed and the area where the escalators are will be restored.

Tunnels – All except two of the historic vomitories that connect the interior of the Coliseum with the surrounding circulation areas will be retained and reused. Two of the tunnels will be widened for emergency exiting.

Figure V.C-2, Historic and Present Day Views of the Project Site, Views 4 and 5

Figure V.C-3, Historic and Present Day Views of the Project Site, Views 6 and 7

Figure V.C-4, Historic and Present Day Views of the Project Site, Views 8 and 9

Figure V.C-5, Historic and Present Day Views of the Project Site, Views 10 and 11

Lower Seating – A new Lower Bowl will be placed over the existing concrete risers, preserving the stepped seating form in place while meeting current codes and providing improved comfort and sight lines. The design of the new seating will integrate the form geometry of the bowl and sideline seating so that the old and new will be integral.

Upper Seating – Between the Main Concourse, or Plaza Level, and the Club Level the historic concrete levels will be removed to accommodate the new Concourse and Suites. The top rows of treads and risers will be retained in a continuous band attached to the existing exterior wall. The rim of seating stops at the Peristyle.

Concourse Level and Floor Elevations – The existing Concourse Level will be retained and expanded as the new Club Level. The primary historic columns and beams that are part of the 1931 addition will directly relate to new structural elements that are part of the Proposed Project.

Lighting – The four existing 1932 standing lamps flanking the arched entrances and the 1932 double light brackets along the upper rim of the Coliseum would be rehabilitated and reused. Existing modern floodlight towers at the north and south rims of the Coliseum will be removed.

Landscaping - Historic plantings surrounding the Coliseum will be retained and enhanced.

Effect of Change in Use

The historic use of the Coliseum will continue and will be enhanced with the Proposed Project. A few specific uses such as holding track events at the Coliseum will not be possible without additional temporary construction, which has already been planned. The ability to hold NFL games at the Coliseum will open the facility up to much greater use and will provide the economic means to allow the facility to be self-sufficient long into the future. Thus, there will be no adverse impact due to a change in use.

Effect on Historic Designations

Because the Coliseum has been designated as an NHL, is listed on National Register of Historic Places, and is a California Historic Landmark based on the events and people associated with the facility, physical alteration to the Coliseum would need to be so severe that the original intent and association with the events and people were completely eradicated. Total demolition or severe changes to the form of the Coliseum would be required to remove these historic designations. The Proposed Project will update the Coliseum and make it economically viable while keeping its use as a sports facility consistent, thus there will be no impact on its historic designations.

Effect on Historic Fabric

As noted above, under CEQA, the level of compliance with the Standards is used to determine the level of environmental impact on historic resources. The following paragraphs first describe each of the ten standards and then describe the level of compliance of the Proposed Project using that standard.

STANDARD 1 “Every reasonable effort shall be made to provide a compatible use for a property which requires minimal alteration of the building, structure, or site and its environment, or to use a property for its originally intended purpose.”

The Proposed Project retains its historic use as a sports facility, and as noted below, alterations to accommodate this use have been reduced as much as possible and in many cases are reversible.

Changes made to maintain its use as an economically viable facility include adding suites, club seats, rest rooms, concessions, a shade canopy, elevators and escalators, locker rooms, maintenance and operation areas, and making the stadium more intimate by placing the seats closer to the playing field.

Thus, Standard 1 will be met while bringing the facility up to current functional requirements for maintaining its continued historic use.

STANDARD 2 “The distinguishing original qualities or character of a building, structure, or site and its environment shall not be destroyed. The removal or alteration of any historic material or distinctive architectural features should be avoided when possible.”

It is important to note that “Rehabilitation,” as defined in the Standards, is “the process of returning a property to a state of utility, through the repair or alteration, which makes possible an efficient contemporary use while preserving those portions or features of the property which are significant to its historic, architectural or cultural values.” In this context the alterations and new construction fit in with that definition because they will remove very few of the important character-defining features except in a few local instances. Generally, those aspects of the Coliseum will remain in place and in a few localized areas they will be covered over or removed as noted below.

The Coliseum has three primary character-defining features and many details that contribute to its significance. These include: the overall bowl shape that is perceived from inside the Coliseum; the exterior form of the Bowl with the concrete pilasters, panels and stepped seats at the rim; and the Peristyle which is the major architectural feature of the Coliseum.

The overall bowl form of the Coliseum as seen from the inside of the Coliseum will be retained and clearly evident. The original concrete bleachers will be covered over but the new seating will enhance and reinforce the bowl form. The upper seating areas will be removed and covered over but the new proposed seating will maintain the form and sense of a bowl when inside the facility.

The exterior form of the Coliseum with the walls, structural elements, stairways and entry tunnels, pilasters and cantilevered seating are all retained and enhanced. New seating will be set above and structurally free standing from the historic rim of the Coliseum. Exterior escalators, out buildings and the press box will be removed. New landscaping will be added to enhance and set-off the building.

The Peristyle is architecturally the most significant element of the Coliseum and will be restored and enhanced by the removal of the large electronic scoreboard and video board boxes now currently mounted on it. The concrete and other elements of the Peristyle will be restored.

The entire eastern end of the Plaza level will be enhanced and the Peristyle seen as the focus again when entering the facility. The proposed circulation system will provide new access to the many monuments and markers on the Peristyle and Pylons.

This Standard is met regarding the Exterior form of the building and treatment of the Peristyle. The exterior form of the Coliseum will be restored and be completely visible upon completion of the Proposed Project and the Peristyle will be restored and enhanced with inappropriate elements removed from it. Thus, of the three character-defining features, only the bowl shape and the seating will be altered to some extent. The bowl has already been altered over the years and the field level lowered. The one area where there is removal of character-defining features is the removal of historic concrete and wood seating at the Club level.

STANDARD 3 “All buildings, structures, and sites shall be recognized as products of their own time. Alterations that have no historical basis and which seek to create an earlier appearance shall be discouraged.”

Standard 3 does not apply to the Proposed Project as no effort is being made to replicate an earlier appearance. All restoration work is being done using original historic drawings, photographs, and physical evidence found at the Coliseum.

None of the proposed changes will give a false sense of history or seem to create an earlier appearance. New construction is clearly not historic in appearance and has carefully been designed to blend with the historic character-defining features of the Coliseum.

STANDARD 4 “Changes which may have taken place in the course of time are evidence of the history and development of a building, structure, or site and its environment. These changes may have acquired significance in their own right, and this significance shall be recognized and respected.”

The Coliseum has continually been altered since its initial construction. Important design elements were added in the 1930s, '40s and '90s that are being retained and enhanced. These include the Art Moderne additions such as the ticket booths and the Coliseum Commission office and other details that will be retained. In 1993 the locker rooms were renovated. Substantial seismic retrofit alterations

occurred in 1994 after the Northridge Earthquake. The changes included new pilasters added to the interior of the exterior walls and extensive beams and connections from the exterior to the concrete seating areas. The interior concrete was excavated, crushed on site and reused to recast new seismically retrofitted seating sections. The seismic retrofit included over \$100 million in improvements.

The changes to the Coliseum that have gained importance over time are being respected and enhanced. As noted above, only some seating at the Club level will be removed as part of the proposed alterations. Therefore, this standard will be met.

STANDARD 5 “*Distinctive stylistic features or examples of skilled craftsmanship which characterize a building, structure, or site shall be treated with sensitivity.*”

Restoration of the Peristyle, the seating at the rim of the bowl and the exterior wall elements all contribute to compliance with this standard. Removal of upper level seating detracts from meeting Standard 5. The Proposed Project will therefore be substantially consistent with this Standard.

STANDARD 6 “*Deteriorated architectural features shall be repaired rather than replaced, wherever possible. In the event replacement is necessary, the new material should match the material being replaced in composition, design, color, texture, and other visual qualities. Repair or replacement of missing architectural features should be based on accurate duplication of features, substantiated by historic, physical, or pictorial evidence rather than on conjectural designs or the availability of different architectural elements from other buildings or structures.*”

The Proposed Project will retain architectural features and wherever possible restore or maintain them. In some instances recreations of elements may be necessary due to deterioration or damage. This may include some elements of the rim seating and the exterior wall elements.

This Standard is being met as deteriorated features of the Coliseum will be repaired when possible and only replaced if repair is not possible. This includes restoration of the Peristyle, the concrete elements of the exterior, the pilasters and the rim and concrete beams and columns.

STANDARD 7 “*The surface cleaning of structures shall be undertaken with the gentlest means possible. Sandblasting and other cleaning materials that will damage the historic building materials shall not be undertaken.*”

Methods and the extent of cleaning have not been determined at this time. All cleaning and repairs will undertaken to meet Standard 7.

STANDARD 8 “*Every reasonable effort shall be made to protect and preserve archeological resources affected by, or adjacent to any project.*”

No archaeological resources have been identified on the site therefore Standard 8 does not apply to the Proposed Project.

STANDARD 9 “Contemporary design for alterations and additions to existing properties shall not be discouraged when such alterations and additions do not destroy significant historical, architectural or cultural material, and such design is compatible with the size, scale, color, material, and character of the property, neighborhood or environment.”

The new roof canopies, new seating areas and structural supports, suites and other new elements that are part of the Proposed Project will be clearly different, yet compatible with, the historic character-defining features.

Great care has been used so that elements added to the Coliseum will be compatible with the existing historic features while they are clearly modern. The new stadium seating added above the rim of the Coliseum is supported with new angled columns that are clearly modern.

In addition, the proposed canopies are not supported by numerous columns that interfere with sight lines and would affect historic elements but are cantilevered and supported by a few braces that are separate from the historic stadium. Modern stadiums have many freestanding columns or large superstructures to provide for both lighting and speakers. As a result they frequently overwhelm the stadium below them. This has been avoided with the Proposed Project.

The new Club and Suites Levels will also be designed to be differentiated from the historic elements below them. Therefore, the Proposed Project would be substantially consistent with this Standard.

STANDARD 10 “Whenever possible, new additions or alterations to structures shall be done in such a manner that if such additions or alterations were to be removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the structure would be unimpaired.”

Many new elements of the Proposed Project could be removed at some time in the future if that were desired. These include the roof canopy, the new lower seating areas and the upper seating sections above the new Upper Concourse.

If removed, the historic form of the bowl would continue to be seen from inside the Coliseum, the exterior form of the bowl would also be intact with the cantilevered rim seating in place. Finally, the Peristyle would remain in place in its restored setting. Therefore, the Proposed Project would be substantially consistent with this Standard.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

To analyze potential cumulative historical impacts, the list of related projects within the area, presented in Section IV.C, Cumulative Related Projects, were reviewed against a list of designated State Historic

Monuments, Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monuments, and National Register of Historic Places properties. As stated previously, Exposition Park was determined eligible for listing on the National Register in 1993 as a Historic District. To date it has not been a formally listed on the National Register. The Exposition Park Historic District includes all of Exposition Park and a number of buildings located within it are listed as contributing structures to the District. The Exposition Building, the Natural History Museum, the California State Armory, the Rose Garden, the Memorial Coliseum, the Los Angeles Swimming Stadium and the Park Clubhouse were all determined to be contributing elements to the District. The California Science Center, the Los Angeles Memorial Sports Arena, the California Aerospace Museum and the California African American Museum were identified as non-contributing elements of the District. The historic Exposition Building was effectively demolished in 1995 for the Science Center and the Swimming Stadium has been substantially altered. Whether or not these changes would jeopardize the designation status of the Exposition Park Historic District in the judgment of SHPO cannot be determined prior to their evaluation.

MITIGATION MEASURES

The following mitigation measures are recommended to reduce the Proposed Project's impact upon historic resources. Mitigation measures shall be included in all contracts between the applicant and Project contractors to assure compliance with the following:

1. Recordation. Demolition of any historic fabric shall be documented in a report consistent with Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) standards. The report shall document the significance and physical condition of the historic resources proposed for demolition, both historic and current, photographs, written data, and text. The documentation shall include:
 - a. A brief written historic and descriptive report shall be completed in narrative format, including an architectural data form.
 - b. A site plan on 8" x 11" paper showing the location of the buildings should be included. This site plan shall include a photo-key.
 - c. A sketch floor plan on 8" x 11" paper shall accompany each architectural data form.
 - d. Large format (4" x 5" or larger negative size) photographs in accordance with HABS guidelines. Views shall include several contextual views, all exterior elevations, detailed views of significant exterior architectural features, and interior views of significant historical architectural features or spaces.
 - e. Field photographs (35mm) based on HABS guidelines. Views as detailed in large format photographs.

- f. The report shall include copies or prints of any available original plans and historic photographs.
 - g. Archival stable reproductions of any available significant historic construction drawings and photographs.
 - h. Archival copies of the documentation shall be submitted to the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum Commission.
2. In accordance with Standard 7 of the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring and Reconstructing Historic Buildings*, the surface cleaning of structures shall be undertaken with the gentlest means possible. Sandblasting and other cleaning materials that will damage the historic building materials shall not be undertaken.
 3. The Proposed Project shall be constructed in substantial compliance with the Conceptual Historic Fabric Retention Plan, as depicted in Figure III-3 of this EIR.

LEVEL OF IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION

A concerted effort has been made to respect the history and importance of the Coliseum and recognize the many changes that have occurred to the facility during the course of its 80-year history. The conceptual design of the Proposed Project has gone through a number of revisions in response to many comments received during the design process and reflects this in the current form. It has not been possible to retain all elements of the Coliseum in the process of bringing the stadium up to today's requirements for maintaining its historic use as a venue for sporting events, but the few that have been sacrificed have been done so reluctantly.

The Proposed Project meets all of the Standards except for the removal of the seating at some locations. The removal of some of the existing seating, considered to be part of the historic fabric of the Coliseum, is a significant impact on the environment and cannot be feasibly mitigated. Much of the seating, as well as the form of the bowl, will remain and be clearly visible around the entire Coliseum for the interior. The exterior of the Coliseum will be returned to its former appearance and the Peristyle will be restored and enhanced with the removal of the large electronic scoreboards.

It should also be noted that the Coliseum is listed as a National Historic Landmark because of the events that have occurred there and that the stadium itself has been a backdrop to these events. Its historic use is largely why it has been designated a National and State landmark, and this rehabilitation will guarantee that historic use can continue into the future by making the Coliseum an economically viable facility for sporting events.

As a result of the Proposed Project, there is no specific mitigation for the loss of historic materials, primarily the removal of portions of the seating. Other alterations to the Coliseum either improve the character-defining features or could be reversed in the future. Therefore, an unavoidable significant adverse impact would result.