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www.GlendaleHistorical.org

March 27, 2016

State Historical Resources Commission
Office of Historic Preservation
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95816

Dear Chairman Brandes and Commissioners:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of The Glendale Historical Society and its more than 600 members, it is my pleasure to offer our enthusiastic and unqualified support of the nomination of the Rockhaven Sanatorium Historic District to the National Register of Historic Places.

Rockhaven is a unique cluster of historic buildings and landscaping of remarkable integrity. It is a rare extant and intact example of the residential health care facilities that were once plentiful in southern California, and it continues to express the feeling and aesthetic of its original and quite specific purpose as a women's mental health facility, one of the first of its type in the nation. In addition, because of its reputation for excellent care, the facility included significant personages among its many patients, including Gladys Baker Ely, mother of Marilyn Monroe, and actress Billie Burke; a versatile and popular character actress of the 1930s and 1940s, Burke was married to celebrated entertainment impresario Flo Ziegfeld, (and was played by Myrna Loy in the 1936 biopic *The Great Ziegfeld*) and is best remembered today as Glinda the Good Witch in *The Wizard of Oz* (1939).

The current condition of Rockhaven is poor; buildings have not been maintained, and our organization was in fact contemplating a nomination to a far less fortunate list: America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places. This nomination comes at an especially propitious time, as the current owner of the property, the City of Glendale, plans to sell the proposed historic district to developers. The Glendale Historical Society welcomes the additional protections that listing on the National Register of Historic Places would provide, as the City seeks an appropriate project, and looks forward to seeing this extraordinary property rehabilitated and reused.

The Glendale Historical Society (TGHS) advocates for the preservation of important Glendale landmarks, supports maintaining the historic character of Glendale's neighborhoods, educates the public about and engages the community in celebrating and preserving Glendale's history and architectural heritage, and operates the Doctors House Museum. TGHS is a tax-exempt, not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization, and donations to TGHS are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.

The Glendale Historical Society urges you to vote to support this worthy nomination.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

Greg Grammer

Greg Grammer
President, The Glendale Historical Society