

MP-1282

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.



### 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Roybal, Edward, House

Other names/site number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of related multiple property listing:

Latinos In Twentieth Century California

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

### 2. Location

Street & number: 628 S. Evergreen Avenue

City or town: Los Angeles State: California County: Los Angeles

Not For Publication:  Vicinity:

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination \_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

\_\_\_ national \_\_\_ statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A X B \_\_\_ C \_\_\_ D

	<u>5/17/17</u>
<b>Jenan Saunders/Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer</b>	<b>Date</b>
<u>California State Office of Historic Preservation</u>	
<b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b>	

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
<b>Signature of commenting official:</b>	<b>Date</b>
_____	
<b>Title :</b>	<b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b>

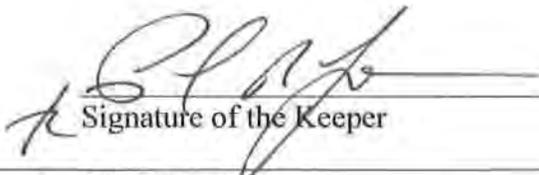
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**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)

  
Signature of the Keeper

7/10/2017  
Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only one box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>	<u>          </u>	buildings
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	sites
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	structures
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	objects
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19TH & EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS

Bungalow/Craftsman

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**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Wood, concrete

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

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### Summary Paragraph

The Edward Roybal House is located at 628 S. Evergreen Avenue on the east side of the street between E. Sixth Street and Guirado Street in the Boyle Heights neighborhood of the City of Los Angeles. The house is a one-story Craftsman bungalow with a modified rectangular plan, a side-gabled roof, and a front porch. The roof is covered with composition shingles and the walls are clad with wood clapboards. The porch is built from concrete blocks. A garage, echoing the house in design and materials, is set in the southeast corner of the lot and is reached by a straight concrete driveway from the street. There is a non-original concrete block and iron fence along the front of the lot and a concrete block wall around the sides and rear. The house and garage are in good condition and appear to be substantially unaltered. The property retains all aspects of integrity.

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### Narrative Description

The house at 628 S. Evergreen is a one-story, single-family Craftsman bungalow. Its primary elevation faces generally west towards Evergreen Avenue. The house has a cross-gabled roof clad in composition shingles with a front-facing gabled dormer, overhanging open eaves, wood knee brackets, and exposed rafter tails. The exterior is clad in wood clapboards and shingles. A full-width porch dominates the front elevation, supported by wood posts on cast masonry piers.

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The porch shelters a centralized front door that is flanked by windows. The solid wood door features a crescent-shaped light in the upper portion. Fenestration consists of grouped double-hung and fixed wood windows. Within the dormer, there are two fixed, single-light wood windows and a louvered vent. The porch is accessed from the front yard by a set of concrete steps with wrought iron handrails. A centralized, smooth concrete walkway runs from the sidewalk to the porch steps. The front yard has a lawn and flowering shrubs.

There are also double-hung wood windows on the north and south elevations. They are dispersed irregularly across the elevations and are sometimes paired. The one-story wing that projects from the north side of the east elevation (rear) is an addition. There is no building permit on record for the addition. Based upon a comparison of historic aerial images the addition was constructed between 1952 and 1964. The addition is similar in design and materials to the original portion of the house in that it is covered by a gabled roof with overhanging open eaves, sheathed in clapboards, and fenestrated with double-hung and fixed wood windows.

The interior of the house includes three bedrooms and two bathrooms in approximately 1,800 square feet. The living room, dining room, and bedrooms are characterized by original wood floors covered with carpet, plaster walls and ceilings, and Douglas fir molding. Traditional Craftsman elements include pocket doors between the living room and front bedroom, built-in bookcases between the living room and dining room, and built-in sideboard and wainscoting in the dining room. The bookcases and sideboard both feature tapered columns.

To the rear (southeast) of the house, there is a detached garage, which also contributes to the character of the property. The garage is clad in wood clapboards and has a front-gabled roof. There is a pair of wood, carriage-style garage doors on its front (west) elevation. On the north elevation there is a single leaf door and fixed wood window, and on the east elevation there is an identical window.

### ***Integrity***

The Edward Roybal House retains sufficient integrity as the residence of a prominent person to meet the eligibility requirements as outlined in the *Latinos in Twentieth Century California* Multiple Property Submission. The residence appears to be substantially unaltered from its construction in 1913 as well as the period between 1949 and 1963 when Roybal lived there. The only alterations to the exterior appear to be the addition of the concrete block and iron fence around the perimeter and security doors and window grilles, which are typical in the neighborhood. The rear addition does not diminish the integrity of the property because like the house it is only one story in height and it is not visible from the street. The interior is also intact. The floor plan remains unaltered, other than the rear addition, and the original features and materials in the main living spaces have been preserved. The cabinets, counter tops, and flooring in the kitchen is non-original.

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## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

ETHNIC HERITAGE: Hispanic

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1949-1963

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1949

1962

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Roybal, Edward

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Edward Roybal House is eligible for listing in the National Register at the local level of significance under Criterion B in the areas of Politics/Government and Ethnic Heritage: Hispanic. It meets the registration requirements for the residences of prominent persons outlined in the *Latinos in Twentieth Century California* Multiple Property Submission, and is significant in the context of Latino Struggles for Inclusion. The property was the residence of Edward Roybal, one of the most influential Latino politicians in the United States. Roybal began his career in politics during the 1940s working as a community organizer. Before World War II, he worked as a public health educator, and after, he co-founded the Community Service Organization to improve employment, housing, health care, and educational opportunities in Los Angeles. In 1949, Roybal was the first Mexican American elected to the Los Angeles City Council since 1881. He served on the council until his election to the U.S. Congress in 1962, making him the first Latino from California elected to the House of Representatives in the twentieth century. He served in Congress from 1963 to 1992. In 1976, he co-founded the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, a legislative group focused on issues affecting the Hispanic and Latino community. In 2014, he was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor, for his many accomplishments. The period of significance is 1949 to 1963, which corresponds with his service on the Los Angeles City Council.

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Edward Ross Roybal was born in 1916 into a working class family from Albuquerque, New Mexico. He was the eldest of eight children born to Baudilio and Eloiza Roybal.<sup>1</sup> In 1922, his father lost his job helping a pipe fitter, so the family packed their belongings and moved to Los Angeles, California in hope of better prospects. They settled in Boyle Heights, a culturally diverse neighborhood on the east side of Los Angeles. His father found work as a carpenter and the Roybal children attended public schools. Edward Roybal graduated from Roosevelt High School in 1934. During the Depression, jobs were almost impossible to find. Roybal joined the Civilian Conservation Corps, a public work relief program that was part of the New Deal. Later he attended the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) and Southwestern University, studying business administration and law. His first job out of school was as a public health educator for the Los Angeles County Tuberculosis and Health Association. In 1940, Roybal married his high school sweetheart, Lucille Beserra, and the couple raised three children: Lucille, Lillian, and Edward, Jr.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Two of Edward's siblings died during the influenza epidemic of 1918, "Birth and Background." Roybal Foundation, accessed January 30, 2016. <http://www.roybalfoundation.org/founders-history/>

<sup>2</sup> George Ramos, "Edward R. Roybal, 1916–2005: Pioneer in Latino Politics in Los Angeles," *Los Angeles Times*, October, 26, 2005. Additional sources include the 1910, 1920, 1930, and 1940 United States Federal Census.

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After serving in World War II as an accountant at Fort MacArthur in San Pedro, Roybal returned to work in public health as the Director of Health Education for the Tuberculosis and Health Association.<sup>3</sup> Having experienced equal treatment in the military, Latino soldiers like Roybal expected to have the same rights as other Americans when they returned to civilian life. When the same forms of discrimination in access to employment, housing, health care, and education appeared as had existed before the war, Latino veterans became politically active by founding new civil rights organizations. Roybal played a leading role in this movement for Latino civil rights during the postwar period.

In 1947, Roybal was urged by community leaders in Boyle Heights to run for the Los Angeles City Council. Although a majority of Mexican Americans in Los Angeles lived in Boyle Heights, it was an ethnically mixed neighborhood that also included Japanese Americans and Eastern European Jews among other immigrant groups. At first Roybal was doubtful of his chances in the race, but was convinced to run by his future campaign manager, Roger Johnson. The seat was held by Parley Parker Christensen, an attorney who was affiliated with the End Poverty in California movement founded by Upton Sinclair, the outspoken Socialist author and activist. So the choice for voters in the district was more personal than political. In a field of five candidates, Christensen won re-election and Roybal finished third. Undeterred by his defeat, Roybal founded with Fred Ross and Antonio Rios the Community Service Organization (CSO).

With minimal financial resources, many of their first meetings were held at Roybal's home on Evergreen Avenue. With funding and training from independent radical Saul Alinsky, CSO sought to mobilize the Latino community for social change. Recognizing the need for a unified Latino voice and for some semblance of political representation, the CSO concentrated on organizing voter registration drives in Latino communities all across California. CSO also addressed postwar job discrimination against minorities (especially veterans), access to public health care, police misconduct, opportunities for youth, and adequate education. Using the lessons he learned in his first race and with the support of the CSO, Roybal was able to win election to the city council two years after his first attempt. As the district was only one-third Latino, the key to his success was forging a coalition between Mexican Americans and Jews with shared goals for ending discrimination.

Roybal's election in 1949 was significant because he was the first Latino city council member since 1881, and for his civil rights agenda. Roybal quickly earned a reputation as a champion of progressives. During his first year in office, he was at the center of controversy. Roybal was the lone vote on the council against a "Subversion Registration" ordinance that required Communists and "other subversives" to register with the police. His main accomplishments as a council member were educating his fellow public officials about Latinos, addressing the needs of the community that he felt had been neglected, and creating a series of community health and childcare programs. At his first meeting, Roybal balked when a colleague introduced him as "our new Mexican-speaking councilman, representing the Mexican people in his district." Discarding

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<sup>3</sup> U.S. World War II Army Enlistment Records, 1938-1946.

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his prepared remarks, Roybal responded by explaining that he was not Mexican but Mexican American and did not speak “Mexican” but Spanish.<sup>4</sup>

Many liberal magazines wrote opinion pieces giving praise to Roybal and the CSO.<sup>5</sup> He was also a vocal critic of the Los Angeles Police Department for its treatment of minorities and opposed the construction of Dodger Stadium in Chavez Ravine, which had been a Mexican American enclave. For future city council elections, Roybal built a broad coalition from many different ethnic groups and labor unions in the 9<sup>th</sup> District.<sup>6</sup> He served on the city council for thirteen years. During his last term on the council he served as president pro-tempore.

During the 1950s, Roybal had his ups and downs. In 1954, he ran for Lieutenant Governor and lost. In 1958, he attempted once again a higher office and lost. In a race for an open seat on the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors he was defeated by fellow Los Angeles City Councilman Ernest Debs. The race was so close that there was a fourth recount. Roybal continued to play a leadership role in Latino politics. In 1959, he helped found and served as the first President of the Mexican American Political Association (MAPA).<sup>7</sup> The mission of the organization was to elect Mexican American candidates to public office and to defend the community against discrimination. MAPA was instrumental in delivering the Latino vote for John F. Kennedy and was part of the “Viva Kennedy” campaign.

Due to an expanding population, California received eight new seats in the House of Representatives in 1962. Roybal decided to run for the new district seat that included Boyle Heights as well as Downtown and parts of Hollywood. No candidate in the primary was endorsed by the Democratic Party. With the help of CSO and MAPA and the networks he had built to run for city council, Roybal was able to secure the Democratic nomination. In the general election, Roybal was pitted against Republican politician Gordon McDonough. McDonough was a former member of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and a sitting member of Congress in a district that had been split. Despite the fact that he was opposing a veteran Representative, Roybal had two major advantages in the race. He had the endorsement from President John F. Kennedy as well as a new congressional district map that favored the Democratic candidate. Roybal won the election with fifty-seven percent of the vote and never faced serious opposition for re-election. He was the first Latino from California to serve in Congress since 1879.

As a congressman, Roybal served on many different house committees including Interior and Insular Affairs, Post Office, Foreign Affairs, and Veterans Affairs, and he always fought for the constituents of his home district and Latinos throughout the country. In 1967, he wrote the first

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<sup>4</sup> Antonio Olivo, “Grandfather of Latino Politics Faults New Leaders,” *Los Angeles Times*, July 27, 1999.

<sup>5</sup> Kenneth C. Burt, *The Search for a Civic Voice: California Latino Politics* (Claremont: Regina Books, 2007), 188-91; Juan Gómez-Quiñones, *Chicano Politics: Reality and Promise, 1940-1990* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1990), 108.

<sup>6</sup> Burt, 110.

<sup>7</sup> “Expanding Mexican American Political Power” Roybal Foundation, accessed January 30, 2016.  
<http://www.roybalfoundation.org/founders-history/>

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bilingual education bill to provide local school districts with special teaching programs. With the goal of improving educational, housing, and employment opportunities for Spanish-speaking U.S. citizens, in 1968 he worked to establish a Cabinet Committee on Opportunities for Spanish-speaking people. In 1971, he relinquished his previous committee assignments for a seat on the Appropriations Committee, on which he served until his retirement. During this period, he introduced legislation for bilingual courts and drew attention to the widespread discrimination in the criminal justice system and police misconduct directed towards Mexican Americans in the Southwest. In 1976, Roybal became one of the founding members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, serving as its first chairman. He opposed the Simpson-Mazzoli Act in 1986. Although it provided amnesty for 1.5 million Latino immigrants, he favored a more generous plan. Toward the end of his career, Roybal led important legislation for veterans and the mentally ill.<sup>8</sup>

In 1992, he chose not to run for re-election. That year, his daughter Lucille Roybal-Allard was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, where she represents part of his old district that was divided in redistricting. During his career, Roybal was a voice for Latinos, a champion for social justice, and a mentor to scores of Latino lawmakers in Los Angeles. In 1949, he broke a nearly seven-decade absence of Latinos on the Los Angeles City Council. In his lifetime, he built a long record of civil rights battles in housing, education, employment, and more. He went on to found the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and the National Association of Elected and Appointed Officials, which honors his legacy annually with an awards ceremony and award for public service named in his honor. After he left Congress, he continued his involvement with issues affecting the elderly and with politics, endorsing several local candidates. Roybal passed away in 2005. He has more buildings named after him than almost any other Los Angeles politician, including a health center in East Los Angeles and a federal building and courthouse in downtown Los Angeles.<sup>9</sup>

The residence on Evergreen Avenue is the only property closely associated with Roybal's life as a public servant and represents his rise as a politician. When the Roybal family first moved to Los Angeles they lived with relatives. By 1930, they were living at 722 Mott Street.<sup>10</sup> By 1935, Edward Roybal was twenty-four years old and living with his parents and younger siblings at 2729 E. Fifth Street.<sup>11</sup> That same year Roybal married Lucille Bessera. After World War II, Edward and Lucille Roybal were living at 617 S. Evergreen Avenue, almost across the street from the home they purchased at 628 S. Evergreen Avenue in 1949.<sup>12</sup> Roybal lived at the property from 1949 to 1963, which corresponds to the important period of his career as a Los Angeles City Councilman. His home was the center of the community organizing that fostered his political career. The residence was the location for numerous CSO and MAPA meetings before those organizations could afford to rent office spaces. Roybal's daughter Lillian recalled "I hardly ever remember the family eating dinner alone. The house was always full of people

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<sup>8</sup> "Edward R. Roybal." History, Art & Archives, United States House of Representatives, accessed December 23, 2015. <http://history.house.gov/People/Detail/20684>

<sup>9</sup> Ramos, A1.

<sup>10</sup> 1930 United States Federal Census.

<sup>11</sup> 1940 United States Federal Census.

<sup>12</sup> California Voter Registration Records and Los Angeles County Tax Assessor Records.

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constantly coming and going.”<sup>13</sup> Hosting fundraisers in the back yard and stuffing envelopes around the dinner table were apart of daily life in the Roybal house. In 1963, Roybal was sworn into the 88<sup>th</sup> Congress. Thereafter, the family split their time between one of two homes in Pasadena and another home near Washington D.C. None of these homes are as important as the house in Boyle Heights in terms of their association with Roybal. 628 S. Evergreen Avenue was the place where Roybal formed the relationships and values that served him throughout his career, and was the heart of the grassroots activism that facilitated his historic elections to the Los Angeles City Council and U.S. House of Representatives.

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<sup>13</sup> Lillian Roybal Rose, personal interview, April 26, 2016.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Berumen, Frank Javier Garcia. *Edward R. Roybal: The Mexican American Struggle for Political Empowerment*. Los Angeles: Bilingual Educational Services Inc., 2015.

Burt, Kenneth C. "The Power of a Mobilized Citizenry and Coalition Politics: The 1949 Election of Edward R. Roybal to the Los Angeles City Council," *Southern California Quarterly* 85 (Winter, 2003).

\_\_\_\_\_. *The Search for a Civic Voice: California Latino Politics*. Claremont: Regina Books, 2007.

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Ramos, George. "Edward R. Roybal, 1916–2005: Pioneer in Latino Politics in Los Angeles," *Los Angeles Times*, October 26, 2005.

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Sánchez, George. "Edward R. Roybal and the Politics of Multiracialism," *Southern California Quarterly*, 92 (Spring 2010).

\_\_\_\_\_. "'What's Good for Boyle Heights Is Good for the Jews': Creating Multiracialism on the East Side during the 1950s," *American Quarterly* 56 (September 2004).

Schmal, John P. "Edward Roybal Was a Pioneer," *LatinoLA*, October 27, 2005.

Underwood, Katherine. "Pioneering Minority Representation: Edward Roybal and the Los Angeles City Council, 1949–1962," *Pacific Historical Review* 66 (August 1997).

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**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other
- Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** \_\_\_\_\_

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreege of Property** less than one acre

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_  
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 34.021869

Longitude: -118.162871

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**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Assessor Parcel Number 5185-020-016 that corresponds to the Sketch Map/Photo Key.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary includes the land historically associated with the building.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Teresa Grimes, Principal Architectural Historian  
organization: GPA Consulting, Inc.  
street & number: 617 S. Olive Avenue  
city or town: Los Angeles state: CA zip code: 90014  
e-mail: [teresa@gpaconsulting-us.com](mailto:teresa@gpaconsulting-us.com)  
telephone: (310) 792-2690  
date: January 2016; Revised July 2016, November 2016

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**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

**Photographs**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

**Photo Log**

Name of Property: Edward Roybal House  
City or Vicinity: Los Angeles  
County: Los Angeles  
State: California  
Photographers: Amanda Yoder and Teresa Grimes  
Date Photographed: January 29, 2016 and November 15, 2016

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Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1. North and west elevations of house, camera facing southeast.
2. West elevation of house, camera facing east.
3. South and west elevations of house, camera facing northeast.
4. South elevation of house, camera facing northeast.
5. South elevation of addition, camera facing north.
6. East elevation of house and south elevation of addition, camera facing northwest.
7. East elevation of house and addition, camera facing west.
8. West elevation of garage, camera facing east.
9. North and east elevations of garage, camera facing southwest.
10. Front door of house, camera facing south.
11. Bookcase between living room and dining room, camera facing northeast.
12. Sideboard in dining room, camera facing northeast.

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

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### Location Map

Latitude: 34.033392

Longitude: -118.206802

628 S. Evergreen Avenue, Los Angeles, California 90023



Base map courtesy of Google Earth, property boundary outlined in red.

Roybal, Edward, House  
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California  
County and State

**Sketch Map/Photo Key**



Base map courtesy of Los Angeles County Assessor.



Roybal, Edward, House  
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California  
County and State

**Figure 3.** Roybal (standing, left) speaking at a Los Angeles City Council meeting in 1949  
(Los Angeles Public Library)



**Figure 4.** Roybal (center) with Sal Rivas (left) and Fred Ross (right) in 1951  
([www.fredrosssr.com](http://www.fredrosssr.com))



Roybal, Edward, House  
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California  
County and State

**Figure 5.** Roybal (on phone) with his wife Lucille and his father Baudilio in 1958  
(Los Angeles Public Library)



**Figure 6.** Roybal at home with family, circa 1959  
([www.roybalfoundation.org](http://www.roybalfoundation.org))



Roybal, Edward, House  
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California  
County and State

**Figure 7.** Roybal (center) with members of the American G.I. Forum in 1959  
(Los Angeles Public Library)



**Figure 8.** Roybal in congressional office in 1977  
(UCLA Library Special Collections)







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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination  
Property Name: Roybal, Edward, House  
Multiple Name: Latinos in 20th Century California MPS  
State & County: CALIFORNIA, Los Angeles

Date Received: 5/26/2017      Date of Pending List: 6/28/2017      Date of 16th Day: 7/13/2017      Date of 45th Day: 7/10/2017      Date of Weekly List:

Reference number: MP100001282

Nominator: State

Reason For Review:

<input type="checkbox"/> Appeal	<input type="checkbox"/> PDIL	<input type="checkbox"/> Text/Data Issue
<input type="checkbox"/> SHPO Request	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Photo
<input type="checkbox"/> Waiver	<input type="checkbox"/> National	<input type="checkbox"/> Map/Boundary
<input type="checkbox"/> Resubmission	<input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Resource	<input type="checkbox"/> Period
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> TCP	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 50 years
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CLG	

Accept       Return       Reject      7/10/2017 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments: The Edward Roybal House is locally significant under National Register Criterion B in the areas of Politics/Government and Ethnic Heritage-Hispanic. Located in the Boyle Heights neighborhood of Los Angeles, the Craftsman-styled bungalow was the home of Edward R. Roybal, an influential local politician who served as the first Mexican American elected to the Los Angeles City Council (1949) since 1881. He also served as the first Latino from California elected to the U.S. House of Representatives (1962). Serving in Congress from 1963-1992, Roybal co-founded the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and worked tirelessly on issues at home and elsewhere affecting Hispanic and Latino civil rights and economic equality. At this time the nomination/listing focuses on Roybal's local contributions as an important community organizer and City Council representative in Los Angeles (1949-1963), which corresponds to his time in residence at the South Evergreen Avenue home. The property meets the Registration Requirements set forth in the Latinos in 20th Century California MPS.

Recommendation/ Criteria      Accept NR Criterion B

Reviewer Paul Lusignan

Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2229

Date 7/10/2017

DOCUMENTATION:      see attached comments : No      see attached SLR : No

**Edward Roybal House (Latinos in Twentieth Century California MPS)  
Los Angeles, Los Angeles County  
Staff Report**

The Edward Roybal House is located in the Boyle Heights neighborhood of the City of Los Angeles. The house is a one-story Craftsman bungalow with a modified rectangular plan, a side-gabled roof, and a front porch. The roof is covered with composition shingles and the walls are clad with wood clapboards. The porch is built from concrete blocks. A garage, echoing the house in design and materials, is set in the southeast corner of the lot and is reached by a straight concrete driveway from the street. There is a non-original concrete block and iron fence along the front of the lot and a concrete block wall around the sides and rear. The house and garage are in good condition and appear to be substantially unaltered. The property retains all aspects of integrity.

The house is eligible for listing at the local level of significance under Criterion B in the areas of Politics/Government and Ethnic Heritage: Hispanic. It meets the registration requirements for the residences of prominent persons outlined in the *Latinos in Twentieth Century California* Multiple Property Submission, and is significant in the context of Making a Democracy: Latino Struggles for Inclusion. The property was the residence of Edward Roybal, one of the most influential Latino politicians in the United States. Roybal began his career in politics during the 1940s working as a community organizer. Before World War II he worked as a public health educator, and after he co-founded the Community Service Organization to improve employment, housing, health care, and educational opportunities in Los Angeles. In 1949, Roybal was the first Mexican American elected to the Los Angeles City Council since 1881. He served on the council until his election to the U.S. Congress in 1962, making him the first Latino from California elected to the House of Representatives in the twentieth century. He served in Congress from 1963 to 1992. In 1976, he co-founded the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, a legislative group focused on issues affecting the Hispanic and Latino community. In 2014, he was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor, for his many accomplishments. The period of significance is 1949 to 1963, which corresponds with his service on the Los Angeles City Council.

The property is nominated by the City of Los Angeles, a Certified Local Government, funded in part by an Underrepresented Communities Grant from the National Park Service to the California State Office of Historic Preservation to increase the number of Latino properties listed on the National Register. The Cultural Heritage Commission, in its role as representative of the City of Los Angeles, received a copy of the nomination. One letter of support has been received to date. Staff supports the nomination as written and recommends the State Historical Resources Commission determine the Edward Roybal House is eligible under National Register Criterion B at the local level of significance with a 1949 to 1963 period of significance and meets the registration requirements of the *Latinos in Twentieth Century California* MPS. Staff recommends the State Historic Preservation Officer approve the nomination for forwarding to the National Park Service for listing on the National Register.

Amy H. Crain  
State Historian II  
May 16, 2017



# PAUL KREKORIAN

## COUNCILMEMBER • DISTRICT 2

PAULKREKORIAN.ORG

KREKORIAN

PAULKREKORIAN

May 3, 2017

California State Parks  
Attn: Julianne Polanco, State Historic Preservation Officer  
Office of Historic Preservation,  
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100  
Sacramento, California 95816

***Re: Support of National Register of Historic Places Nomination for Great Wall of Los Angeles and Edward Roybal House (Latinos in Twentieth Century California Multiple Property Submission)***

Dear Ms. Polanco:

As someone who values and promotes historic preservation in the City of Los Angeles and beyond, I urge the State Historical Resources Commission to nominate the Great Wall of Los Angeles and the Edward Roybal House to the National Register of Historic Places.

The Great Wall of Los Angeles, situated in Valley Glen within the City Council District I represent, is one of the most historically significant artworks in Southern California. This unique mural is a landmark pictorial representation of the history of California's ethnic communities from prehistoric times to the 1950s. Conceived of and completed under the direction of Social and Public Art Resource Center co-founder Judith F. Baca—one of the most important living Latina artists—the mural was created over five summers, beginning in 1976, and employed over 400 youth from diverse social and economic backgrounds, working with artists, oral historians, ethnologists, scholars and local community members. It has been a cultural destination in the San Fernando Valley for more than 35 years and is imminently worthy of listing on the National Register.

Additionally, the Edward Roybal House deserves to be listed on the National Register. Roybal enjoyed a long and storied career as a pioneering elected official, serving on the Los Angeles City Council for 13 years and then as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for three decades. A political trailblazer in the Latino community, Roybal received the Presidential Citizens Medal from President Bill Clinton in 2001.

I sincerely hope the Commission will act affirmatively and nominate these properties to the National Register of Historic Places. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Very truly yours,

Paul Krekorian  
Councilmember, District 2

**OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

1725 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, Suite 100  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95816-7100  
(916) 445-7000 Fax: (916) 445-7053  
calshpo@parks.ca.gov  
www.ohp.parks.ca.gov



May 17, 2017

J. Paul Loether, Chief  
National Register of Historic Places and National Historic Landmarks  
National Park Service  
1849 C Street, NW, Mail Stop 7228  
Washington D.C. 20005

Subject: **Roybal, Edward, House  
(Latinos in Twentieth Century California MPS)  
Los Angeles County, California  
National Register of Historic Places Nomination**

Dear Mr. Loether:

**The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for the EDWARD ROYBAL HOUSE to the National Register of Historic Places.** On May 10, 2017 in Pasadena, California, the California State Historical Resources Commission unanimously found the property eligible for the National Register at the local level of significance under Criterion B with a period of significance 1949 to 1963.

The house is eligible in the areas of Politics/Government and Ethnic Heritage: Hispanic. It meets the registration requirements for the residences of prominent persons outlined in the *Latinos in Twentieth Century California* Multiple Property Submission, and is significant in the context of Making a Democracy: Latino Struggles for Inclusion. The property was the residence of Edward Roybal, one of the most influential Latino politicians in the United States. In 1949, Roybal was the first Mexican American elected to the Los Angeles City Council since 1881. He served on the council until his election to the U.S. Congress in 1962, making him the first Latino from California elected to the House of Representatives in the twentieth century. The period of significance corresponds with his City Council service.

The property is nominated by the City of Los Angeles, a Certified Local Government (CLG), funded in part by an Underrepresented Communities Grant from the National Park Service to the California State Office of Historic Preservation to increase the number of Latino properties listed on the National Register. The Cultural Heritage Commission, in its role as representative of the City of Los Angeles, received a copy of the nomination. CLG Coordinator Ken Bernstein spoke in support of the nomination at the May 10 meeting. One letter of support has been received to date. If you have any questions regarding this nomination, please contact Amy Crain of my staff at (916) 445-7009.

Sincerely,

Jenan Saunders  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosure