

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: Kight, Morris, House **DRAFT**

Other names/site number: Morris Kight Residence; The Gay Liberation Front

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

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

2. Location

Street & number: 1822 West 4th Street

City or town: Los Angeles State: CA 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Not For Publication: Vicinity: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 ___ 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 ___ 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** ___ **local**

Applicable National Register Criteria:

___ **A** ___ **B** ___ **C** ___ **D**

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

Kight, Morris, House
Name of Property

Los Angeles, CA
County and State

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

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

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

Kight, Morris, House
Name of Property

Los Angeles, CA
County and State

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

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

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

SOCIAL/meeting hall

SOCIAL/clubhouse

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Kight, Morris, House
Name of Property

Los Angeles, CA
County and State

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19th AND EARLY 20th CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS

Bungalow/Craftsman

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: _____

FOUNDATION: concrete

WALLS: wooden clapboard

ROOF: asphalt

OTHER: wood casement windows, vinyl windows

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.)

Summary Paragraph

The Morris Kight House is located in the Westlake neighborhood of Los Angeles, California. The house is a one story plus basement, single family residence constructed in 1911 in the Craftsman architectural style. The house is irregular in shape and faces northeast. It sits at the front of a narrow, rectangular, flat lot in the Sun-set Tract at 1822 West 4th Street between South Bonnie Brae Street and South Burlington Avenue. A poured concrete driveway runs from the street, along the east side of the house, to a large, poured concrete pad at the back of the lot where there is a detached garage.

Kight, Morris, House
Name of Property

Los Angeles, CA
County and State

Narrative Description

The subject property has an irregularly-shaped floorplan, (See Figure 1) is of wood-frame construction with wooden clapboard siding and has a low-pitched, front-gabled roof with wide overhanging eaves. The primary, north elevation consists of an open porch, accessed by concrete stairs, with a wooden balustrade and square columns supporting a projecting front gable. The entrance is off-centered and consists of a single paneled door. Fenestration includes single-lite wood casement windows, tripartite windows with a fixed single-lite window with multi-lite transoms flanked by single-lite wood casement windows, and single-lite double-hung wood windows. There is a brick chimney on the west-facing elevation. A wood-frame garage, built in 1937, is located at the rear of the parcel, and there are several temporary ancillary structures on the site, which were built after the period of significance. (See Figure 2)

The house does not appear to be of individual architectural significance but it is a good example of the early 20th century California craftsman bungalow style. (See Figure 3) At the end of the 19th century and beginning of the 20th century, architects and builders used the styles of the Arts and Crafts movement for several single-family residences and multifamily properties in the Westlake area; the style was favored for properties in the northern part of Westlake, along Coronado, 4th and 5th Streets, and along Ocean View Avenue.¹

The Morris Kight House displays early 20th century California craftsman bungalow character-defining features that include:²

- One story house
- Gently pitched, broad gabled roof facing the street
- Lower, smaller gable covering an open front porch
- Larger gable covering main portion of the house
- Exposed rafters, ridge beam and purlins
- Exposed porch-roof tie beam, king post and knee braces
- Triangular knee brace supports
- Unenclosed, wide eave overhang
- Wood porch columns
- Wide window and front door openings
- Wide window and door casings
- Single paned casement windows with multi light picture windows
- Single paned sash windows
- Horizontal wood lap siding
- Exterior brick chimney

¹ LSA Associates, "Intensive Survey: Westlake Recovery Redevelopment Area, Appendix A Survey Maps," 8; LSA Associates, "Intensive Survey: Westlake Recovery Redevelopment Area," 51.

² Blumenson, 70-71.

Kight, Morris, House
Name of Property

Los Angeles, CA
County and State

- Small windows flanking chimney
- Poured concrete foundation, porch and steps

Integrity

The integrity and authenticity of the property from the period of significance is high. The house does not appear to have undergone any major, transformative alterations since the period of significance.

The location of the house has not changed since construction. The shape of the house has not changed and most of its original physical characteristics remain. The feeling and association with the period of significance remains high. Much of the house's original materials remain; alterations include:

- Windows have been replaced in some locations
- Window openings at the back of the house have been altered in some locations
- Security bars have been added to windows in some locations
- Some siding has been replaced at the rear of the house
- A portion of the back porch has been heavily altered

The chimney above the roofline, front porch columns, and roof support were damaged and repaired due to the 1994 Northridge earthquake. A detached garage, basement bathroom, and window change to the rear of the property were completed in 1937.

Based on Google Street View images from March 2018 and March 2020, and realtor photos from May 2019, the makeshift shacks in the rear of the lot, the occupation of the garage, and the makeshift shack built on the front porch likely happened sometime after May 2019. It appears the changing of the basement windows and stringing of electric cords on the east side of the house and the opening of a panel into the east side of the house also likely happened sometime after May 2019. (See Figure 4)

Based on interior photos submitted to the Los Angeles Cultural Heritage Commission by the property owner in 2020, the kitchen and bathroom has been remodeled, some original doors have been replaced, and original flooring has been replaced in some locations.³

Early Ownership History

From about 1899 to 1963, the property was likely owned by two families, Stoppel and Lampen. William Stoppel worked as a carpenter. His son Harry worked as a blacksmith helper for the

³ Los Angeles Office of Historic Resources, "Morris Kight Residence," Accessed August 24, 2020.
[https://planning.lacity.org/odocument/a3ea5bbf-199a-494d-83b6-57e191be5f5c/CHC-2020-3322-HCM_\(9-3\).pdf](https://planning.lacity.org/odocument/a3ea5bbf-199a-494d-83b6-57e191be5f5c/CHC-2020-3322-HCM_(9-3).pdf).

Kight, Morris, House
Name of Property

Los Angeles, CA
County and State

Southern Pacific Company. William P. Lampen worked as an auditor for newspaper publisher Harry Chandler and the LA Times.

Streetcar Suburban Development and Los Angeles' first suburbs

The city's first suburbs, in Angeleno Heights, Lincoln Heights, Boyle Heights, and Westlake, emerged along the streetcar lines during the land boom of the late 1880s and continued being developed through the 1920s. The Westlake area had three streetcar lines running through it. By 1912, all three of these lines were consolidated under the Los Angeles Railway, commonly referred to as the "Yellow Cars." Most of the survey area was subdivided in the 1880s, much of it in anticipation of streetcar lines. The 1900 edition of Sanborn Maps for Los Angeles show that these subdivisions saw dispersed development through the turn of the century but over the following twenty years, lots gradually filled in with a mixture of single-family residences and apartments. In contrast to the more typical streetcar suburb dominated by single-family residences, most blocks in Westlake represent a more historically mixed setting of single-family and multifamily development. Single-family residences in Westlake are limited and increasingly rare remnants of the early phase of streetcar suburban development.⁴

According to the Intensive Survey of the Westlake Recovery Redevelopment Area conducted by LSA Associates in June 2009, the property is located within a status 6Q "Special Consideration" Zone. The survey identifies three "Special Consideration" zones with 6Q status. The property is located within the 6Q status zone that has West 3rd St. and West 5th St. as north-south borders and Columbia Street and South Bonnie Brae Street as east-west borders. The survey notes that 6Q status zones are not historic districts, but have retained some basic characteristics that contribute to a historic sense of place. The survey found three 6Q zones in the survey area: two are related to streetcar residential development and one is related to streetcar commercial development. These zones include several individually significant resources that help to represent the former character of the area.⁵

⁴ Blumenson, 26.

⁵ Ibid, 113-14.

Kight, Morris, House
Name of Property

Los Angeles, CA
County and State

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

Kight, Morris, House
Name of Property

Los Angeles, CA
County and State

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

SOCIAL HISTORY

-

Period of Significance

1967-1974

Significant Dates

1969 – formation of the Gay Liberation Front/Los Angeles

1970 – formation of the Christopher Street West march/parade

1969-1971 – formation of the Gay Community Services Center

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Kight, Morris

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

Kight, Morris, House
Name of Property

Los Angeles, CA
County and State

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 Morris Kight House is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A at the local level of significance due to its association with the Gay Liberation Movement in Los Angeles, California. According to the Los Angeles' citywide historic resources survey, SurveyLA, the property is eligible under Criterion A for being the genesis point and the meeting place of the Los Angeles Chapter of the Gay Liberation Front (GLF/LA). The property is also associated with the creation of the Christopher Street West (CSW) parade and the Gay Community Services Center (GCSC, now the Los Angeles LGBT Center). The period of significance is from 1967 to 1974.⁶

The Morris Kight House is also eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion B at the local level for its association with gay liberation leader Morris Kight as his place of residence and directly associated with his productive life where he achieved significance as a gay liberation leader. The resource is discussed and listed as a known resource in SurveyLA and the National Park Service's LGBTQ America, A Theme Study of Lesbian, Gay Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer History.⁷ The period of significance is from 1967 to 1974.

Criteria Consideration G

The Morris Kight House meets the requirements of National Register of Historic Places Criteria Consideration G because it has achieved significance and exceptional importance within the past 50 years. The Morris Kight House is exceptionally significant for its association in LGBTQ history. The Morris Kight House was the home of gay liberation leader and activist Morris Kight and was the epicenter of the development of several important organizations that significantly influenced the LGBTQ civil rights movement both locally and nationally, and its significance has been demonstrated by this nomination's statement of significance.

Morris Kight resided at 1822 West 4th Street from 1967 to 1974. Under Kight's leadership, the home served as the formation and meeting place for the Los Angeles Chapter of the Gay Liberation Front (GLF/LA). Kight operated a gay crisis help-line out of the property and organized crucial resources, such as housing, counseling, health, job finding, bail bonds, and legal advocacy, which led to the creation of the Gay Community Services Center (now the Los Angeles LGBT Center). At the property Kight, with other activists, planned and organized Christopher Street West, the world's first gay pride march/parade.

SurveyLA, the citywide historic resources survey, identified the Morris Kight House in the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Historic Context Statement as significant for

⁶ GPA Consulting, "Survey LA: LGBTQ Historic Context Statement," 22-23.

⁷ City of Los Angeles, "SurveyLA LGBTQ Historic Context Statement," 29-33; Springate, "LGBTQ America," Sec 18, 30-31.

Kight, Morris, House

Los Angeles, CA

Name of Property

County and State

its association with the Los Angeles Chapter of the Gay Liberation Front (GLF/LA) and with Morris Kight. The Morris Kight House is also discussed and listed as a known resource in National Park Service's LGBTQ America, A Theme Study of Lesbian, Gay Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer History.⁸ There are many additional publications, which cite the Morris Kight House at 1822 West 4th Street as significantly influencing the LGBTQ civil rights movement both locally and nationally.

On September 3, 2020, the City of Los Angeles' Cultural Heritage Commission unanimously approved the designation of the Morris Kight House as an Historic-Cultural Monument, currently awaiting City Council's approval.⁹

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

Criteria A

Morris Kight moved to 1822 West 4th Street in the Westlake neighborhood in 1967 and lived there until 1974. While at 1822 West 4th Street, Kight co-founded organizations which have become today's LGBT institutions: the Los Angeles Chapter of the Gay Liberation Front (GLF/LA), the Christopher Street West parade (CSW Gay Pride Parade), and the Gay Community Services Center (now called the Los Angeles LGBT Center). Kight's home was used for meetings, a gay crisis call center, and a "think tank" by the area's prominent gay liberation leaders.

A new generation of political activists were growing with anticipation and rage, born out of the homophile groups in the 1950s and the inexorable police harassment. Like every movement, the next phase of the movement was the angry child, the game-changer, for the next generation. It was during this time that Kight and his colleagues led a profound and influential Gay Liberation Movement through Los Angeles and the country; 1822 West 4th Street was the epicenter of that movement.

Historic resources associated with the LGBT community are the product, at their core, of the dynamic, conflicting, and intersecting perspectives of personal identity, public attitudes about human sexuality, behavioral science theories concerning sex and gender, and the resulting distillation of that discourse as public policy acted upon by agents of local and state government, such as the police. During the 20th century, Los Angeles, along with San Francisco and New York City, were the key locations where sexual identity became the basis for efforts within the political and cultural spheres to gain recognition and acceptance of sexual and gender minorities as full members of American society.¹⁰

⁸ City of Los Angeles, "SurveyLA LGBT Historic Context Statement," 29-33; Springate, "LGBTQ America," Sec 18, 30-31.

⁹ Los Angeles Office of Historic Resources, "Morris Kight Residence," Accessed August 24, 2020.

[https://planning.lacity.org/odocument/a3ea5bbf-199a-494d-83b6-57e191be5f5c/CHC-2020-3322-HCM_\(9-3\).pdf](https://planning.lacity.org/odocument/a3ea5bbf-199a-494d-83b6-57e191be5f5c/CHC-2020-3322-HCM_(9-3).pdf)

¹⁰ City of Los Angeles, "SurveyLA LGBT Historic Context Statement," 1.

Kight, Morris, House
Name of Property

Los Angeles, CA
County and State

There is a concentration of LGBT historically significant resources located in Westlake. The Westlake area was, during Kight's time, popular with gays and lesbians; MacArthur Park, in particular, was a popular staging area for peace and labor demonstrations, and was popular for gay cruising. There was a notable increase of lesbian bars, in particular, in the 1940s and 1950s. When Bunker Hill was redeveloped in the 1950s through 1960s, many of its residents (many of whom were gay) moved into the Westlake area. The decline of Bunker Hill as a gay neighborhood, gave rise to neighborhoods like Westlake, Echo Park, and Silver Lake during the 1950s. Its population was diversified with Latino families, gays, lesbians, and senior citizens.¹¹

Kight's home at 1822 West 4th Street was within walking distance of popular gay meeting places like the Latino Photo Shop, the delicatessen eatery, Langer's Deli, and the Alvarado Theatre, which was renamed the Park Theatre in 1966 and played predominantly gay porn.¹² It was also within walking distance to male physique photographer Bob Mizer's, *Physique Pictorial*, studio and place of residence.¹³

SurveyLA's LGBT Historic Context Statement places 1822 West 4th Street within the theme of the Gay Liberation Movement, which spans from 1948 to 1980. Los Angeles played a critical role in the Gay Liberation Movement in the United States, which can be divided into two distinct phases. The first phase of the movement involved consciousness raising, while the second phase involved political organizing. Prior to World War II, most LGBT persons were isolated from one another and they did not view themselves as being gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender. This began to change after the war when LGBT persons from all over the country met each other through their service in the Armed Forces or their employment in wartime industries. Many chose to stay in Los Angeles after the war. Although homophobia was present, it was easier to be "different" in Los Angeles, than most towns and cities in the U.S. The groups that formed during the first phase of the movement were of the homophile movement and largely comprised of middle-class gay men who were focused on making same sex love acceptable to mainstream society. The preeminent group associated with this time period was the Mattachine Society, a group that advocated for the improvement of the social status of gay men through its unique culture as a minority group and a grassroots movement to directly challenge anti-gay discrimination.

The Gay Liberation Movement gained steam and changed direction during the mid-1960s. During this period of political and social unrest, the Gay Liberation Movement was swept into the larger youth movement, feminist movement, and sexual revolution that objected to the Vietnam War, challenged the prevailing sexual and gender norms, and confronted the policies that discriminated against women and minority groups. By this time, LGBT persons became more visible, defined themselves as a minority group, and resisted police harassment.¹⁴

¹¹ Ibid, 59-60.

¹² Roe, "Park Theatre." Cinema Treasures. Accessed May 2, 2020. <http://cinematreasures.org/theaters/2339>.

¹³ City of Los Angeles, "SurveyLA LGBT Historic Context Statement," 78-79.

¹⁴ City of Los Angeles, "SurveyLA LGBT Historic Context Statement," 22-23

Kight, Morris, House
Name of Property

Los Angeles, CA
County and State

At the time Kight moved to 1822 West 4th Street, he was already a seasoned anti-war activist and a “one-man gay community services center.”¹⁵ His name and phone number were widely known in the gay community as he had printed out business cards containing his name, address, and telephone number. (See Figure 5) From the time Kight moved to Los Angeles in 1957/58, he had created a rolodex of doctors, lawyers, and public health workers who would treat and counsel gay men, often at his home. He effectively created an underground social service entity for gay men in crisis. His areas of concern included housing, job finding, bail bonds, counseling, identification of resources, and advocacy.¹⁶

Kight also worked with Reverend Troy Perry and others to repeal California’s sodomy law, the law that criminalized homosexuality. Many states in the U.S. repealed their sodomy laws in the early 1970s when they modernized their penal codes; however, California was an exception. California’s sodomy repeal effort began in 1969 when the repeal bill was introduced to the California legislature starting in 1969 by Assemblyman Willie Brown, and every year afterwards until its passage in 1975.¹⁷

The Gay Liberation Front/Los Angeles (GLF/LA)

The creation of the Gay Liberation Front Chapter of Los Angeles (GLF/LA) was loosely born out of the Stonewall Riots in New York City in June-July 1969. The Stonewall Riots, which started as a result of a police raid of the gay bar on June 28, 1969, is widely considered as being the single most important event leading to the Gay Liberation Movement. The news of the riots was heard across the United States. It became the marker between the conservative homophile movement and the radicalization of the Gay Liberation Movement.

The GLF had a broad political platform demanding the end to the persecution of LGBT persons, denouncing racism, and attacking traditional gender roles. Almost immediately after the Stonewall Riots, chapters of the GLF and the Gay Activists Alliance (GAA) were formed in New York.

GLF’s “new breed of radicals” participated in an almost continuous round of flashy, dramatic public demonstrations. Their targets were directed at all implicated in “the maintenance of gay oppression” – the media, the police, and the medical profession. They protested in the streets, but also spoke to high school civics classes. They fashioned a new language and style of homosexuality. The accent was on pride and affirmation; they were blatant, outrageous, and flamboyant. Discarding notions of sickness and sin, they represented homosexuality as a revolutionary path toward freedom, as a step out of the constricted, stultifying gender roles of middleclass America. They engaged in public displays of affection, violated gender conventions, and gloried in the discomfort they deliberately provoked in others.¹⁸

¹⁵ Kepner, “River to His People.” Accessed October 21, 2019. <http://tinyurl.gale.com/tinyurl/Bydom7>.

¹⁶ Morris Kight Biographical Notes. Accessed October 18, 2019. <http://tinyurl.gale.com/tinyurl/BxPrf6>.

¹⁷ City of Los Angeles, “SurveyLA LGBT Historic Context Statement,” 15.

¹⁸ Eggert, Gosney, “Mitchell Camera/The Factory” National Register nomination.

Kight, Morris, House
Name of Property

Los Angeles, CA
County and State

On the west coast, Kight decided to devote himself entirely to building a radical gay movement; it was then that the Gay Liberation Front in Los Angeles was started. Kight was deeply affected by the brutal murder of Howard Efland at the Dover Hotel by the Los Angeles Police Department and he was already feeling the “civilized” homophobia from the anti-Vietnam movement and was thinking of leaving the movement.¹⁹ Don Jackson of the Los Angeles Free Press and Kight placed an advertisement for the first meeting of the Gay Liberation Front/Los Angeles (GLF/LA). The advertisement reflected the severe threat that homosexuals faced trying to live in Los Angeles, namely from the Los Angeles Police Department.²⁰

Morris Kight was a principle co-founder of the GLF/LA, along with Don Kilhefner, Jon Platania, Brenda Weathers, and Del Whan.²¹ At the first GLF/LA meeting, there were a total of 16-18 people. Kight reminisced that it was radical and unstructured, and almost all the new attendees were new to radicalism. Each meeting though grew larger exponentially. By February, there were 150 attending the meetings and by April there were 250 people; they were held every Sunday.²²

Looking for a “splashy inaugural demonstration,”²³ The GLF/LA’s first action was to march, demonstrate, and infiltrate Barney’s Beanery restaurant in West Hollywood. (See Figure 6) (Sometime in the 1950s, the owner of Barney’s Beanery put up a sign reading “Fagot’s Stay Out” behind their bar because the bar at the time was patronized by gays and lesbians; “Fagot’s Stay Out” was even printed on their matchbook covers.) The demonstration was action most moderate members could rally behind, notably the Southern minister, Troy Perry, who had recently founded the Metropolitan Community Church (MCC) specifically for gays and lesbians. For nearly three months, demonstrations were held in front of Barney’s Beanery either in the form of loud protests, boycotting, sit-ins, and change-ins. When the news cameras were on, Kight would chant “more deviation, less population!” as men were kissing men and women were kissing women, and Perry would be chanting “we’re not afraid anymore!” It was a new powerful image of the new radical gay. After three months, the GLF/LA prevailed when the owner begrudgingly handed over the many signs saying “Fagot’s Stay Out.”²⁴

GLF/LA calls were handled out of Kight’s Westlake home. He surmised that there were about two hundred calls a day.²⁵ Kight brought on volunteers to manage and staff the phone line. He told his volunteers that “every call is priceless, every call is important...[it is] the most urgent call you’ve ever had in your life.”²⁶ Phone calls ranged from when the meetings were scheduled, how to get out of a bad arrest or a bad marriage, how to get custody of property or children, or who would treat a venereal disease without reporting it to the public health office. (See Figure 7)

¹⁹ D’Emilio, “Morris Kight, Los Angeles, September 22, 1976, and October 2, 1976.” Accessed July 18, 2019. <http://outhistory.org/exhibits/show/john-d-emilio--oral-histories/morris-kight>.

²⁰ Clendinen and Nagourney, 37.

²¹ City of Los Angeles, “SurveyLA LGBT Historic Context Statement,” 29.

²² Making Gay History: The Podcast, “Morris Kight.” Accessed October 20, 2019. <https://makinggayhistory.com/podcast/morris-kight/>.

²³ Clendinen and Nagourney, 38.

²⁴ Ibid, 38-39; Making Gay History: The Podcast, “Morris Kight.”

²⁵ Kight, “How It All Began,” Jim Kepner Papers. Accessed October 12, 2019. <http://tinyurl.gale.com/tinyurl/Bydom7>.

²⁶ Making Gay History: The Podcast, “Morris Kight.”

Kight, Morris, House
Name of Property

Los Angeles, CA
County and State

This one-to-one social service would soon be the beginning of the Gay Survival Committee, which eventually turned into the Gay Community Service Center (GCSC).

In the first six months of the GLF/LA, they had at least 65 demonstrations at churches, synagogues, consulates, and bars, and gay-ins at Griffith Park. They successfully closed down The Farm, a bar in West Hollywood, where gay patrons were harassed with a “no-touching rule;” they infiltrated a psychiatrist conference where a notorious promoter of “behavior modification” for gays and lesbians was speaking to announce that “gay liberation” was to be discussed instead. (See Figure 8) In GLF/LA and Morris Kight fashion, the media was always tipped off. The GLF was incredibly effective in using the power of media to broadcast its message. A message that could enter any person’s home on nightly news and be a beacon for the majority of gays who were still oppressed.²⁷

In two years, the GLF/LA had led more than 175 protests and demonstrations. Kight had become “a thorn in the side” of LAPD’s Chief of Police, Ed Davis, and consequently Kight’s Westlake home was raided/searched three times.²⁸

Christopher Street West (CSW) 1970

The Christopher Street West march/parade was a collaboration between the GLF/LA and Troy Perry’s MCC. According to an article Kight penned, Kight took his phone off the hook to think about how to properly commemorate the 1969 Stonewall Riots. After brainstorming, he and Bob Humphries went to Troy Perry’s office in East Hollywood and told Perry and Bob Ennis his idea of having a march in Los Angeles down a major street.²⁹ Perry loved the idea but said “Morris, this is Hollywood. Let’s do something a little different. Let’s hold a parade.”³⁰ They had forty-four days to prepare for it and four days to apply for the permit, which quickly became a publicized issue between them and the Los Angeles Police Department.

After a contentious Police Commission hearing where Chief of Police Ed Davis likened homosexuals to “thieves and robbers” and stated that homosexuality was illegal in the state of California, the commission begrudgingly voted in favor of granting the permit on the condition that the GLF/LA and MCC secure a one million dollar bond for property damage and to pay the police.³¹ Kight called the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) to launch a lawsuit and held a protest; the conditions were dropped and the permit was issued two days before the march. (See Figure 9) The permit was granted based on the “constitutional guarantee of freedom of expression.” Up until the day of the parade, Kight received death threats at his home in Westlake.³²

²⁷ D’Emilio, “Morris Kight, Los Angeles, September 22, 1976, and October 2, 1976.”

²⁸ Bullough, 403.

²⁹ Kight, “How It All Began.”

³⁰ Bence, “Meet the Godfather of Gay Pride, Rev. Troy Perry.” Accessed November 4, 2019. <http://onlyinhollywood.org/meet-godfather-gay-pride-rev-troy-perry/>.

³¹ City of Los Angeles, “SurveyLA LGBT Historic Context Statement,” 25.

³² Kight, “How It All Began.”

Kight, Morris, House
Name of Property

Los Angeles, CA
County and State

“So marched we did, with butterflies in our stomachs, with legitimate doubts and fears, but with enormous courage and devotion.”³³ – Morris Kight

On June 28, 1970, over thirty groups convened at McCadden Place in Hollywood and marched north toward Hollywood Boulevard. The GLF/LA had a float featuring a homosexual nailed to a black-and-white cross with a sign reading “In Memory of Those Killed by the Pigs.” The GLF/LA also put on a guerilla theater skit where “fairies” dressed in wings were chased by vice cops with night sticks.³⁴ Once the marchers turned the corner, thousands of spectators were lined on both sides of the boulevard; the LAPD was there and helicopters were overhead. Spectators, spurred on by media coverage and flyers handed out by the groups, closed in around the marchers in celebration and solidarity. There were over 30,000 people in attendance. (See Figure 10)

The CSW march and parade kicked open the proverbial closet doors on America and out sprung a new force to be recognized.³⁵ CSW was the declaration of pride and freedom for Los Angeles’ gay population. It was a model for other gay prides across the world. After the parade, the formerly anti-gay magazine *Hollywood Citizen News*, called Kight “a river to his people.”³⁶ (The formal, and knowingly ambiguous, name of Christopher Street West was given by Bob Humphries – “Bob Humphries came flying out of the rear of [Kight’s] house and said ‘I have it, Christopher Street West!’”)³⁷

The CSW pride march/parade was the first parade of its kind; now, it has an enormous impact on the local economy bringing in an estimated \$70 million a year to the county with its 200,000 visitors during the weekend festivities.

The Gay Community Services Center (GCSC)

The Gay Community Services Center (GCSC) was born out of the GLF/LA’s Gay Survival Committee. At its core, the Committee was Morris Kight and Don Kilhefner. Its primary mission was providing social services to the LGBT community. Existing social service agencies were often hostile to the needs of the community. For example, mental health facilities still treated homosexuality as a disease.³⁸ Incorporated in 1971, the GCSC would become one of the largest LGBT organizations in the country; it is now called the Los Angeles LGBT Center.

Kight was keenly aware of the LGBT community not having equal access to social services. For years, he had widely distributed his name, phone number, and address in order to connect gay men in need of social services to the appropriate doctor, lawyer, or public health worker.³⁹ He,

³³ Ibid.

³⁴ Clendinen and Nagourney, 63.

³⁵ Cherry, “Gay Pride 1973.” Accessed November 4, 2019. <https://www.morriskight.com/2012/>.

³⁶ Kepner, “River to His People.”

³⁷ Kight, “How It All Began.”

³⁸ City of Los Angeles, “SurveyLA LGBT Historic Context Statement,” 26.

³⁹ Morris Kight Biographical Notes.

Kight, Morris, House
Name of Property

Los Angeles, CA
County and State

and volunteers he trained, fielded some two hundred calls a day to his Westlake home.⁴⁰ This one-to-one social service grew into an essential part of gay life.⁴¹

Most of the GLF/LA medical services were provided anonymously in the back room of Kight's home in Westlake. There, doctors wrote prescriptions and provided free "samples" of medications. (At the time, the Medical Board protocol required that treatment for any sexually transmitted condition be reported to the County Health Board; the doctors knowingly risked their medical licenses, careers and livelihoods to not only treat these gay men but to also not report them to the County Health Board.) The back room was called the "clap shack."⁴²

The Gay Survival Committee was led by GLF members Morris Kight, Don Kilhefner, and Jon Platania. Its first meetings were held at Kight's home in Westlake and Kilhefner's home in Los Feliz. A "think tank" of about fifteen people were responsible for creating the Van Ness Recovery House, a rehabilitation facility serving gay alcoholics, the Liberation House which provided "crisis housing" for gay runaways and "throwaways," and the foundation of what would become the Gay Community Services Center (GCSC), which was officially organized in April of 1971 and incorporated in October of 1971.⁴³

The emphasis of the center was on the word "community;" it implied "a group of people in which a person received according to his/her needs and gives according to his/her ability." Gay doctors, nurses and technicians had the opportunity to serve their brothers and sisters.⁴⁴ During its first year in a shabby Victorian on Wilshire Boulevard, the Center saw between 1,700 to 2,500 gays and lesbians every week. (See Figure 11) The frenzy of activity that surrounded the GLF/LA now surrounded the GCSC. (The GLF/LA disbanded in September of 1971.) A crisis phone line was monitored twenty-four hours a day, there was always someone at the Center to greet a fellow gay, and there were regular rap meetings where one could talk freely and frankly about being gay.⁴⁵

Two important services the GCSC offered to the LGBT community were with its venereal disease clinic and self-development clinic. Dr. Martin Field, who had worked at Kight's "clap shack" was involved with the initial planning that created the venereal disease clinic; Dr. Benjamin Teller volunteered to run the clinic. Dr. Teller also persuaded pharmaceutical companies to donate drugs and recruited volunteer doctors, nurses, lab technicians, and administrators. The GCSC's self-development clinic offered individual counseling, group therapy, and family services to anyone in the LGBT community. The clinic helped many in the community build a new positive gay identity.⁴⁶

⁴⁰ Kight, "How It All Began."

⁴¹ Cherry, Email correspondence. September 27, 2019.

⁴² Ibid.

⁴³ Ibid; Faderman and Timmons, 192-93.

⁴⁴ Faderman and Timmons, 192-93.

⁴⁵ Ibid, 193-94.

⁴⁶ Cherry, Email correspondence; Faderman and Timmons 194-95.

Kight, Morris, House
Name of Property

Los Angeles, CA
County and State

During the 1970s, the GCSC grew to become one of the largest LGBT organizations in the country. In 1974, the GCSC became the first gay entity granted nonprofit status by the Internal Revenue Service, although the application was initially rejected because it served homosexuals. By the end of the decade, the GCSC had moved into a larger building on Highland Avenue, transitioned from a volunteer to a paid staff, and received grants from public agencies for the services it provided. In 1980, the GCSC changed its name to the Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center.⁴⁷ Later, Kight objected when the Center omitted the word “community” from its name change to the Los Angeles LGBT Center; the Center continues today as the biggest social service organization entity for the LGBT community.

Mid-1974, Kight was forced to move out of 1822 West 4th street due to his landlord having “debilitating homophobia.” “Having a renowned gay liberationist on his property has finished freaking that poor man’s mind,” Kight wrote to, friend and co-founder of PFLAG, Morty Manford.⁴⁸

Criteria B: Morris Kight

Morris Kight was born in Proctor, Texas on November 19, 1919. He was born into a poor farming family. He was named after Virginia Morris, the midwife who birthed him, because his family did not have the money to pay her for his delivery. Kight quickly had to learn the chores of the house and farm when his father was killed in an accident when he was seven years old.⁴⁹ In an interview with historian John D’Emilio, Kight called his time in Proctor growing up as a “stranger in my own home, a visitor in the village, not part of it [and] always alienated.”⁵⁰ He did find solace in botany, books, collecting art, and tinkering with his family’s Model A Ford.⁵¹

In the mid-1930s, Kight and his mother owned and operated a roadside diner/food stand. There, he exercised his first act of civil disobedience when he knowingly seated an African-American couple in violation of the “mixing of the races” law. Kight was detained by the sheriffs for this act; he was sixteen years old.⁵² During this time, he was introduced to the writings of Mohandas Gandhi. He quickly felt an affinity to the practices of ahimsa, the principle of nonviolence, and satyagraha, the truth force that guides nonviolent resistance. Kight practiced pacifism throughout his life; it especially had a profound influence in the Gay Liberation Movement’s motives and tactics. Kight almost always signed his letters with a variation of “peace through love.”⁵³

⁴⁷ City of Los Angeles, “SurveyLA LGBT Historic Context Statement,” 27.

⁴⁸ Cherry, Email correspondence

⁴⁹ Bullough, 400.

⁵⁰ D’Emilio, “Morris Kight, Los Angeles, September 22, 1976, and October 2, 1976.”

⁵¹ Bullough, 401.

⁵² Ibid.

⁵³ Jim Kepner Papers, “Kight, Morris 1967-1996.” Accessed October 18, 2019. <http://tinyurl.gale.com/tinyurl/BxNRQ3>.

Kight, Morris, House

Name of Property

Los Angeles, CA

County and State

Kight studied public administration and political science at Texas Christian University and graduated in 1941; he worked his way through university. He formed the Oscar Wilde study group, which was the first official and openly gay club on a university campus.⁵⁴ There were

occasional gatherings of gays at people's homes but discretion was essential because of the oppressive legal and social situation for gays.⁵⁵ While at university, he took the rigorous test for the Roosevelt's administration's U.S. Career Service Training School, learned about public policy issues, specifically in the areas of civil liberties, civil rights, social service delivery, defense budgets, foreign policy, urban renewal, and housing, and formed an acquaintance with First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt.⁵⁶

Kight was opposed war and the cruelties of genocide and chemical warfare. He was active in World War II opposition efforts, including protests and later raising money to support genocide victims. During World War II, he served as a civilian administrator adjunct to the military in the Pacific Theater; his task was to plan governments and policies for the islands reoccupied or recently conquered.⁵⁷

After the war, he lived in various areas of the Southwest, on his own and with his mother, opening and running hotels and restaurants. He briefly worked for the Bureau of Indian Affairs but the institutionalized inequality and substandard treatment of the Native Americans he witnessed led him to quit. He soon joined local tribe leaders in organizing social services and public health services for New Mexico's indigenous people.⁵⁸ While in New Mexico, Kight discovered underground gay communities in Albuquerque and Santa Fe. He knew of several gay bars in Albuquerque that the police did not harass.⁵⁹

Kight married a woman in 1950. He had two daughters; he was married for five years. Kight let only his closest friends know he was married and had children, mostly for fear that his credibility as a spokesman for gay rights would be diminished.⁶⁰

From 1947 to 1956, Kight volunteered in the New Mexico venereal disease eradication program. He often drove people to the U.S. Public Health Service Venereal Disease Clinic in Hot Springs, Arizona.⁶¹ Kight was introduced to "homophile" pamphlets by actors from California when he worked in Albuquerque's theater circuit. It was his first exposure to the Mattachine Society, a group he thought to be too elitist and too "bourgeois" for the young and soon-to-be radicalized Gay Liberation Movement.⁶²

Kight decided to become a full-time activist upon moving to the "gay ghetto" of Bunker Hill in 1957/58. Already a seasoned political and social activist, Kight printed business cards with his

⁵⁴ Kepner, "River to His People."

⁵⁵ Rapp, "Morris Kight." GLBTQ Archive. Accessed September 25, 2019. http://www.glbtqarchive.com/ssh/kight_m_S.pdf.

⁵⁶ Bullough, 401; Morris Kight Biographical Notes.

⁵⁷ Bullough, 401.

⁵⁸ Ibid.

⁵⁹ Rapp, "Morris Kight."

⁶⁰ Ibid.

⁶¹ Morris Kight Biographical Notes.

⁶² D'Emilio, "Morris Kight, Los Angeles, September 22, 1976, and October 2, 1976."

Kight, Morris, House

Los Angeles, CA

Name of Property

County and State

name, address and telephone number on them and handed them out. He helped gay men secure lawyers, seek treatment for venereal diseases, and counseled gay men who had been thrown out of their homes or lost their jobs. His phone number was widely circulated; he effectively created

an underground social service entity for gay men in crisis.⁶³ Upon moving to Los Angeles, he also created the Gay Liberation Resistance (GLR), a group that trained gays in how to practice non-violence with the police.⁶⁴

Kight was also a popular opposition leader to the Vietnam War. In 1967, he co-founded the Dow Action Committee, an anti-war group that specifically protested the chemical company's production of napalm and the defoliant Agent Orange for the U.S. Military. The committee and the surrounding protests became the one of the first successful corporate boycotts. He participated in teach-ins, demonstrations, fasts, and other pacifist demonstrations against the Vietnam War. Kight encouraged his gay friends and colleagues in the homophile movement to get involved with the committee but they feared being labeled communists or socialists.⁶⁵

For years, his friends Don Slater, Don Jackson, and Jim Kepner tried to convince Kight to devote himself entirely to the Gay Liberation Movement. In response, Kight would either try to convince them to join the anti-war movement or gently nudge Kepner, in particular, toward his belief that the homophile conservatism and elitism of the Gay Liberation Movement did not work. In a series of letters to Kepner, Kight acknowledged the homophile movement and what it had done to a point but Kight looked to the passion and immediacy of other movements for inspiration, like the anti-war movement, and groups like the Black Panthers and Peace and Freedom party.⁶⁶

“If only we had the moral character to see it, and could free ourselves of guilt feelings, feelings of inadequacy, and worst of all, shuffling papers. When I go to a homosex meeting and see a pile of reports I know that all ideas have died...”⁶⁷ – Morris Kight

A series of events led Kight to grab the reigns of a new radical Gay Liberation Movement – the brutal murder of fellow gay man, Howard Efflund, by the Los Angeles Police Department; the Stonewall Riots and insurrection; and the “civilized” homophobia from the anti-Vietnam movement. Kight, Slater, and Jackson of the Los Angeles Free Press, “sent out a call,” and the Gay Liberation Front/Los Angeles (GLF/LA) Chapter began. From the start, and for many decades to come, it was clear that Kight “was the chief driving force and fountainhead of new ideas – outrageous ideas which worked, and which got on TV.”⁶⁸

⁶³ Cherry, “Who Was Morris Kight.” Accessed November 4, 2019. <https://www.morriskight.com/2012/>.

⁶⁴ Gierach, “Morris Kight: The Father of Gay Pride Retires,” *Gay and Lesbian Times*.

⁶⁵ Morris Kight Biographical Notes; Jim Kepner Papers, “Kight, Morris 1967-1996.”

⁶⁶ Jim Kepner Papers, “Kight, Morris 1967-1996.”

⁶⁷ *Ibid.*

⁶⁸ Clendinen and Nagourney, 37; Kepner, “River to His People.”

Kight, Morris, House

Name of Property

Los Angeles, CA

County and State

When interviewed by gay scholar John D’Emilio, Kight described the need of the GLF/LA – “No people can liberate themselves unless they engage in radical action.”⁶⁹ He later reminisced that his singular goal through his years in the Gay Liberation Movement was to “ease the fear and self-loathing we homosexuals seem to feel for ourselves.”⁷⁰

The GLF/LA meetings brought about excitement, action, and liberty; Kight believed it was his responsibility to “convince them that it was the most important thing in their world, and that they can achieve that, that only they stand between themselves and total freedom.”⁷¹ At the age of 50, Kight was organizing and managing protests, gay-ins, rap sessions, media hypes, and a gay crisis phone line from his Westlake home. Kight was brilliant with the media attention. He easily commanded a crowd of protestors or a news camera. His eloquence, direct nature, and graciousness was exactly what gay liberation needed moving forward. (See Figure 12)

Through the GLF/LA, Kight co-founded the Christopher Street West (CSW) pride march/parade with Troy Perry and Bob Humphries to commemorate the first anniversary of the Stonewall Riots in New York. The purposes of both the CSW march/parade and the gay-ins held at Griffith Park was to encourage LGBT folks to come out of the closet and engender a positive self-attitude. Kight also co-founded the Gay Community Services Center (GCSC) with fellow GLF/LA members, Jon Platania and Don Kilhefner; the services offered filled a wide gap of social services for the LGBT community. Kight, though, continued to offer his Westlake home as an overflow to the GCSC and always manned his phone line for calls. Kight served on the GCSC Board of Directors from 1971 to 1977. During this time, he served as president, vice president, and secretary. He worked full-time at the Center in various areas. He co-founded the Van Ness Recovery House, a rehabilitation facility serving gay alcoholics, and the Liberation House which provided “crisis housing” for gay runaways and “throwaways.”⁷² He was also responsible for the identification of three million dollars for the Center.⁷³

Kight would regularly speak to other gay liberation groups about the “new awakening of gay political power across America” and various growing gay political conventions. He would speak about gays realizing their own political and societal power.⁷⁴ He offered advice on how to organize and finance social action programs because of the monumental success of the GCSC.⁷⁵ Kight supported and was involved in San Diego’s opening of their own LGBT Center in 1973 and San Diego’s first gay pride parade in 1974.⁷⁶ To the mainstream media, he offered simple explanations of what gay meant – modern and self-identifying, “dancing, mowing the lawn, washing the dishes, loving and living like other people...we are a fact, like age and birth.”⁷⁷ Put simply, anytime Kight was asked to speak or march or offer assistance, he was there.

⁶⁹ D’Emilio, “Morris Kight, Los Angeles, September 22, 1976, and October 2, 1976.”

⁷⁰ Gierach, “Morris Kight: The Father of Gay Pride Retires.”

⁷¹ Making Gay History: The Podcast, “Morris Kight.”

⁷² Cherry, Email correspondence; Faderman and Timmons, 192-93.

⁷³ Morris Kight Biographical Notes.

⁷⁴ Gay Times, “Kight Visits.”

⁷⁵ Jackson, “Kight to Speak at GAA,” *Bay Area Reporter*.

⁷⁶ Gierach, “Morris Kight: The Father of Gay Pride Retires.”

⁷⁷ Oliver, “We Are a Fact Like Age and Birth!” *San Bernardino County Sun*.

Kight, Morris, House

Name of Property

Los Angeles, CA

County and State

By the time Kight moved on to his next residence at McCadden Place in Hollywood, the social and institutional picture of lesbians and gays had largely changed. There was little questioning that “gay was good” – there were over 1,000 gay and lesbian organizations, cities across the nation were holding gay pride parades, there were new economic opportunities for gay-oriented businesses – the message of gay pride had altered the way gays and lesbians lived and how they understood their lives and identity.⁷⁸ Kight now pivoted, along with his colleagues, to political matters.

In 1975, Kight co-founded the Stonewall Democratic Club to serve as a bull-horn for LGBT governmental issues and to help gay-friendly politicians get elected. There are currently 35 active chapters nationwide. In 1976, Jimmy Carter appointed Kight to his Advisory Committee on Gay People where he advised the president on gay and lesbian issues. In 1977, Kight led the Coors Beer Boycott when the beer company fired LGBT workers without cause and gave new hires lie detector tests asking if they were gay.⁷⁹

The new visibility of the LGBT community prompted a homophobic backlash. In the late 1970s, singer-spokesperson Anita Bryant lodged an attack against Floridian gay and lesbian teachers in her “Save the Children” campaign. Her movement gained the attention California Congressman John Briggs who managed to get Proposition 6, better known as the Briggs Initiative, on the California state ballot. The 1978 failed proposition sought to ban gays and lesbians from working in public schools. The national effort that Kight and others developed to defeat the Briggs Initiative displayed a new level of political astuteness and defining power in the LGBT community.⁸⁰

Kight opened his McCadden Place home to “First Tuesdays,” an open meeting for gays and lesbians needing help or services. Fellow activist Bob Dallmeyer described “First Tuesdays” as a “form of a public address system, the ultimate networking in our community.” Kight offered space in his new home for meetings to anyone in the community. He held his annual “Winter Solstice” parties, which featured prominent politicians, entrepreneurs, entertainers, writers, playwrights, and the down-and-out who came in for a meal and community.⁸¹ Powerful people like San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown, California Governor Gray Davis, author Gore Vidal, Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley and local politicians and judges would regularly attend.

Kight was appointed to the LA County Human Relations Commission in 1979. He was one of the earliest gay appointees to a high-level position in county government. Kight felt it was “hugely important for the community to know that I was on that commission and could focus the attentions of the county on gay and lesbian issues when no one wanted to talk about them.” He was on first-name basis with City Councilmembers and U.S. senators alike. His conviction, humor, and understanding of the process of social change and human inaction made him an invaluable leader.⁸² He was on the commission for 23 years.

⁷⁸ D’Emilio, 250-51.

⁷⁹ McDevitt, “The Coors Boycott: The LGBTQ Movement.” Accessed November 5, 2019. <http://www.liberationnews.org/the-coors-boycott-the-lgbt-movement-and-the-peoples-counter-offensive-against-the-right>.

⁸⁰ Bullough, 404; City of Los Angeles, “SurveyLA LGBT Historic Context Statement,” 14.

⁸¹ Cherry, Email correspondence.

⁸² Gierach, “Morris Kight: The Father of Gay Pride Retires.”

Kight, Morris, House
Name of Property

Los Angeles, CA
County and State

In 1980, he founded the Asian Pacific Gays and Friends, which became the Gay Asian Pacific Network (GAPSN), to be a resource for the Los Angeles LGBT Asian-Pacific Islander community. In 1984, he founded the McCadden Place Collection, a collection of art, ephemera, correspondence, and other records that document and chronicle the emergence of the nationwide Gay Liberation Movement and his personal involvement. The collection was originally housed at his home and he would have regular showings.⁸³ Kight's McCadden Place Collection is now housed at ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives in Los Angeles.

Kight was on Board of Directors of Aid for AIDS and the United States Mission/Hudson House, and even helped run Out of the Closet thrift stores and Aunt Bee's, a free laundry and housekeeping service for AIDS patients with activist and friend Miki Jackson. He received numerous accolades throughout the 1980s and even after his death in 2003, including the Eason Monroe Courageous Advocate Award from the American Civil Liberties Union, the Eleanor Roosevelt Humanitarian Award from the Southern Californian Americans for Democratic Action, and a Chinese magnolia tree was planted in honor of Kight at the Matthew Shepard Memorial Triangle in West Hollywood. The Gay Community Services Center made him an honoree of the Morris Kight Humanitarian Award. When he retired from the LA County Human Relations Commission in 2002, County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky made him an honorary commissioner. In 2003, the City of Los Angeles named the corner of Hollywood Boulevard and McCadden Place "Morris Kight Square." Unveiling the sign, Los Angeles Mayor, Eric Garcetti said his hope was that the Square would "inspire the activists of tomorrow."⁸⁴ (There is also a plaque commemorating the first Christopher Street West pride parade the same intersection.)

At Kight's last LA County Human Relations Commission hearing, Yaroslavsky called him "a living legend in the gay and lesbian struggle for equality." Kight's last words at that meeting assured everyone that "I won't stop working."⁸⁵

⁸³ Williams, "Guide to ONE Archives: Founders and Pioneers." ONE Archives at the USC Libraries. Accessed May 12, 2010.

<https://one.usc.edu/sites/one/files/images/media/documents/guide-to-the-one-archives-cataloging-project-founders-and-pioneers.pdf>

⁸⁴ Los Angeles Sentinel, "Officials Name Intersection After Gay Rights Activist," A11.

⁸⁵ Gierach, "Morris Kight: The Father of Gay Pride Retires."

Kight, Morris, House
Name of Property

Los Angeles, CA
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Bay Area Reporter. "He Has An Advisory Committee On Gay People." *Bay Area Reporter* (May 27, 1976): 3.

Bateman, Geoffrey W. "Gay Liberation Front." GLBTQ Archive. Accessed September 25, 2019. http://www.glbqtarchive.com/ssh/gay_liberation_front_S.pdf.

Bence, Richard. "Meet the Godfather of Gay Pride, Rev. Troy Perry." June 7, 2017. Accessed November 4, 2019. <http://onlyinhollywood.org/meet-godfather-gay-pride-rev-troy-perry/>.

Blumenson, John J. *Identifying American Architecture: A Pictorial Guide to Styles and Terms, 1600-1945*. Nashville: American Association for State and Local History, 1989. Print.

Bullough, Vern L. *Before Stonewall: Activists for Gay and Lesbian Rights in Historical Context*. New York: Harrington Park Press, 2002. Print.

Cherry, Mary Ann. Email correspondence. September 27, 2019.

Cherry, Mary Ann. "Gay Pride 1973: Special Introduction Exclusive for Morris Kight Blog." October 18, 2012. Accessed November 4, 2019. <https://www.morriskight.com/2012/>.

Cherry, Mary Ann. "Who Was Morris Kight." October 2, 2012. Accessed November 4, 2019. <https://www.morriskight.com/2012/>.

Clendinen, Dudley, and Adam Nagourney. *Out For Good, The Struggle to Build a Gay Rights Movement in America*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2001.

Colville, Andrew, director. *Live on Tape: The Life and Times of Morris Kight, Liberator*. YouTube/*Live on Tape: The Life and Times of Morris Kight, Liberator*, USC School of Cinema Television, 1999, www.youtube.com/watch?v=4VFRdh5nKBY.

D'Emilio, John. *Making Trouble: Essays on Gay History, Politics, and the University*. Taylor and Francis, 2014.

Eggert, Kate, and Krisy Gosney. "Mitchell Camera/The Factory" National Register nomination. March 24, 2016. August 12, 2016.

Faderman, Lillian, and Stuart Timmons. *Gay L.A., A History of Sexual Outlaws, Power Politics, and Lipstick Lesbians*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2009. Print.

Kight, Morris, House
Name of Property

Los Angeles, CA
County and State

Gay Times. "Kight Visits." *Gay Times*, Vol 1, No 7, 1972. *Archives of Sexuality & Gender*. Accessed October 14, 2019. <http://tinyurl.gale.com/tinyurl/BujDP6>.

Gierach, Ryan. "Morris Kight: The Father of Gay Pride Retires." *Gay and Lesbian Times* (July 18, 2002): 4 pages.

Jackson, Don. "Kight to Speak at GAA." *Bay Area Reporter* (March 1, 1972): 11.

GPA Consulting. "Survey LA: LGBT Historic Context Statement." September 12, 2014.

Jim Kepner Papers. Correspondence Series 8. 1936-1997. Box 50, Folder 1. Kight, Morris 1967-1996. ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives. *Archives of Sexuality and Gender*. Accessed October, 18, 2019. <http://tinyurl.gale.com/tinyurl/BxNRQ3>.

John D'Emilio: Oral Histories. "Morris Kight, Los Angeles, September 22, 1976, and October 2, 1976." Accessed July 18, 2019. <http://outhistory.org/exhibits/show/john-d-emilio--oral-histories/morris-kight>.

Kepner, Jim. "A River to His People." Jim Kepner Papers: Writings on Gay and Lesbian History Series 3. 1940-1997. Box 26, Folder 37. ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives. *Archives of Sexuality and Gender*. Accessed October 21, 2019. <http://tinyurl.gale.com/tinyurl/Bydom7>.

Kepner (Jim) Papers Bulk, 1940-1997. Coll2011.002, ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives, Los Angeles, California.

Kight (Morris) Papers and Photographs. Coll2010-008, ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives, Los Angeles, California.

Kight, Morris. "How It All Began." Jim Kepner Papers: Writings on Gay and Lesbian History Series 3. 1940-1997. Box 26, Folder 37. ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives. *Archives of Sexuality and Gender*. Accessed October 21, 2019. <http://tinyurl.gale.com/tinyurl/Bydom7>.

Los Angeles Conservancy. "Morris Kight Residence." Accessed November 2, 2019. <https://www.laconservancy.org/locations/morris-kight-residence>.

Los Angeles Office of Historic Resources. "Morris Kight Residence." Accessed August 24, 2020. [https://planning.lacity.org/odocument/a3ea5bbf-199a-494d-83b6-57e191be5f5c/CHC-2020-3322-HCM_\(9-3\).pdf](https://planning.lacity.org/odocument/a3ea5bbf-199a-494d-83b6-57e191be5f5c/CHC-2020-3322-HCM_(9-3).pdf).

Los Angeles Sentinel. "Officials Name Intersection After Gay Rights Activist." *Los Angeles Sentinel*. (October 30, 2003): A11.

Kight, Morris, House
Name of Property

Los Angeles, CA
County and State

LSA Associates. "Intensive Survey: Westlake Recovery Redevelopment Area," June 15, 2009. Accessed April 2, 2020. https://planning.lacity.org/odocument/8cbace8b-a304-4e57-9fd3-800331d25939/Westlake_RRA_Report.pdf.

LSA Associates. "Intensive Survey: Westlake Recovery Redevelopment Area, Appendix A Survey Maps," June 15, 2009. Accessed April 2, 2020. https://planning.lacity.org/odocument/5c11e168-4273-40dc-bfff-1aec186271c4/Westlake_RRA_Appendicies_A_B.pdf.

Marcus, Eric. Making Gay History: The Podcast. "Morris Kight." Accessed October 20, 2019. <https://makinggayhistory.com/podcast/morris-kight/>.

McDevitt, John. "The Coors Boycott: The LGBTQ Movement and People's Counter-Offensive Against the Right." Accessed November 5, 2019. <http://www.liberationnews.org/the-coors-boycott-the-lgbt-movement-and-the-peoples-counter-offensive-against-the-right>.

Morris Kight Biographical Notes. The National Gay and Lesbian Taskforce Records, 1973-2000: Series I: Internal Files, Box 13, Folder 29. Cornell Universities Libraries. *Archives of Sexuality and Gender*. Accessed October 18, 2019. <http://tinyurl.gale.com/tinyurl/BxPrf6>.

Oliver, Ione. "We Are A Fact Like Age and Birth!" *San Bernardino County Sun* (June 4, 1972): 40.

Rapp, Linda. "Morris Kight." GLBTQ Archive. Accessed September 25, 2019. http://www.glbqtarchive.com/ssh/kight_m_S.pdf.

Roe, Ken, William Gabel. "Park Theatre." Cinema Treasures. Accessed May 2, 2020. <http://cinematreasures.org/theaters/2339>.

Springate, Megan E, "LGBTQ America: A Theme Study of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer History." National Park Service, Department of the Interior, 2016.

Williams, Greg. "Guide to the ONE Archives Cataloging Project: Founders and Pioneers." ONE Archives at the USC Libraries. Accessed May 2, 2020. <https://one.usc.edu/sites/one/files/images/media/documents/guide-to-the-one-archives-cataloging-project-founders-and-pioneers.pdf>.

Kight, Morris, House
Name of Property

Los Angeles, CA
County and State

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: Los Angeles Department of City Planning

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property .15

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 34.0607 Longitude: -118.2703
2. Latitude: Longitude:
3. Latitude: Longitude:
4. Latitude: Longitude:

Kight, Morris, House
Name of Property

Los Angeles, CA
County and State

Or
UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

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

The land is situated in the County of Los Angeles, and is described as follows:

The Morris Kight House occupies approximately the front half of Lot 9 of Block D of the Sun-Set Tract. The garage is located at the rear of the parcel and occupies approximately 1/6th of the lot.

The Assessor Parcel No. is 5154023009.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary of the property is the original boundary of the original parcel currently occupied by the building.

Kight, Morris, House
Name of Property

Los Angeles, CA
County and State

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Kate Eggert, Krisy Gosney
organization: GEHPC
street & number: 6444 Kraft Avenue
city or town: North Hollywood state: CA zip code: 91606
e-mail kate@gehpc.com
telephone: 323-481-4167
date: November 12, 2020

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:

City or Vicinity:

County:

State:

Photographer:

Kight, Morris, House
Name of Property

Los Angeles, CA
County and State

Date Photographed:

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

1 of ____.

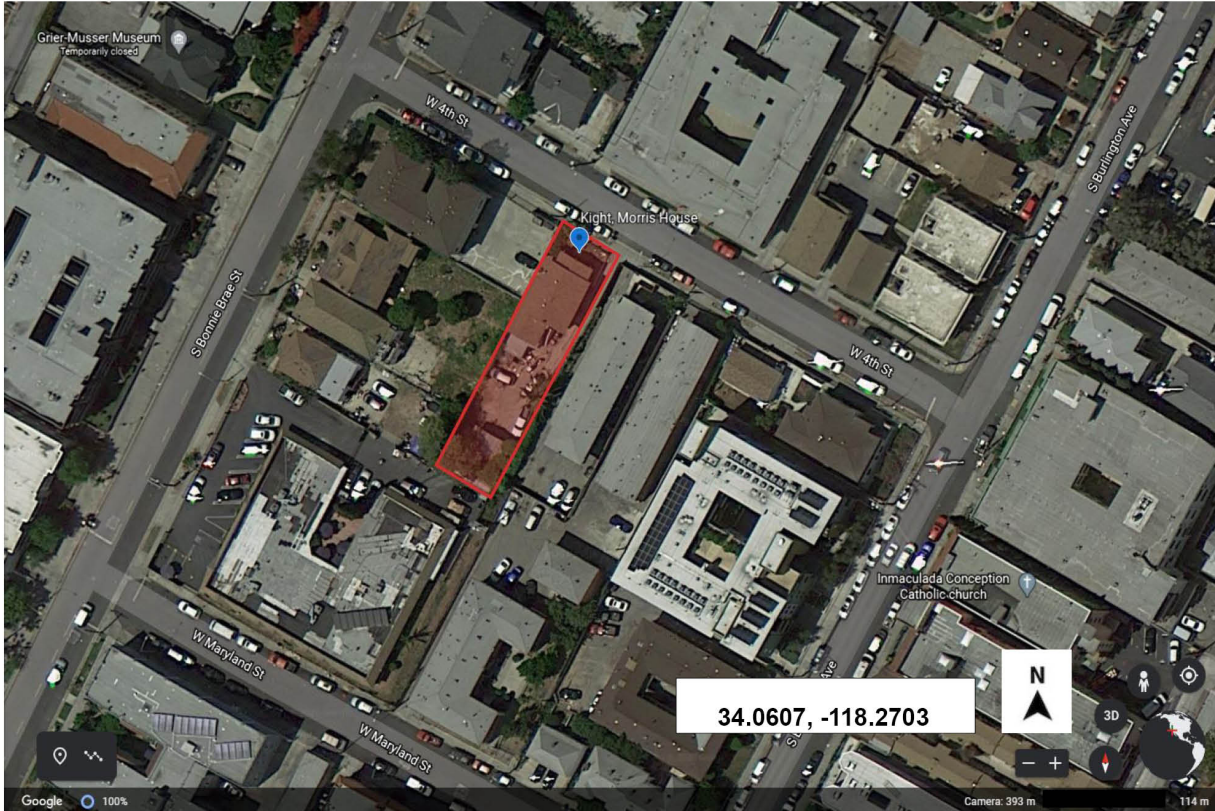
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain 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.

Kight, Morris, House
Name of Property

Los Angeles, CA
County and State

Location Map



Base map: Google Earth, property outlined and shaded in red

Kight, Morris, House
Name of Property

Los Angeles, CA
County and State

Sketch Map/Photo Key



Base map: Google Earth

Kight, Morris, House
Name of Property

Los Angeles, CA
County and State

Photograph Log

Name of Property:	Kight, Morris, House
City or Vicinity:	Los Angeles
County:	Los Angeles
State:	California
Name of Photographer:	Kate Eggert; Melissa Jones; Owner's Representative
Date of Photographs:	May 8, 2020; July 23, 2020; Approximately July 23, 2020
Location of Original Digital Files:	1822 West 4 th Street
Number of Photographs:	14

1 of 14

Kight, Morris, House north elevation. Camera facing southwest. Photograph taken on May 8, 2020.

2 of 14

Kight, Morris, House north elevation. Detail of porch. Camera facing southwest. Photograph taken on May 8, 2020.

3 of 14

Kight, Morris, House partial north and east elevation. Detail of porch. Camera facing southwest. Photograph taken on July 23, 2020.

4 of 14

Kight, Morris, House partial east elevation. Camera facing southwest. Photograph taken on May 8, 2020.

5 of 14

Kight, Morris, House partial east elevation. Detail of tripartite windows and eaves. Camera facing southwest. Photograph taken on May 8, 2020.

6 of 14

Kight, Morris, House partial east elevation. Detail of altered basement windows. Camera facing north. Photograph taken on July 23, 2020.

7 of 14

Kight, Morris, House south elevation. Camera facing north. Photograph taken on approximately July 23, 2020.

Kight, Morris, House

Name of Property

Los Angeles, CA

County and State

8 of 14

Kight, Morris, House partial east and south elevation. Camera facing northwest. Photograph taken on May 8, 2020.

9 of 14

Kight, Morris, House south and partial east elevation. Camera facing north. Photograph taken on May 8, 2020.

10 of 14

Kight, Morris, House garage. Camera facing south. Photograph taken on approximately July 23, 2020.

11 of 14

Kight, Morris, House partial west elevation. Camera facing southeast. Photograph taken on May 8, 2020.

12 of 14

Kight, Morris, House partial west elevation. Camera facing south. Photograph taken on May 8, 2020.

13 of 14

Kight, Morris, House partial west elevation. Camera of facing southeast. Photograph taken on May 8, 2020.

14 of 14

Kight, Morris, House partial west elevation. Detail chimney. Camera facing south. Photograph taken on May 8, 2020.

Index of Figures

Figure 1

Kight, Morris, House, current Google Earth image overlaid with building dates of construction (Photo courtesy of Google Earth)

Figure 2

Kight, Morris, House, 1953 Sanborn Map (Image courtesy of Sanborn Map Company, Los Angeles Public Library online database)

Figure 3

Kight, Morris, House, 1932 (Photo courtesy of California Historical Society)

Figure 4

Kight, Morris, House, 2018-2020 (Photos courtesy of Google Maps)

Kight, Morris, House
Name of Property

Los Angeles, CA
County and State

Figure 5

Morris Kight address and phone number, circa early 1970s (Photo courtesy of Los Angeles Public Library, Archives of Sexuality and Gender)

Figure 6

Morris Kight interviewed by Pat Rocco during the GLF Barney's Beanery protest in West Hollywood, 1970. Video still from Andrew Colville's documentary, *Live on Tape: The Life and Times of Morris Kight, Liberator* (Video still courtesy of YouTube and Andrew Colville)

Figure 7

Partial interview with Morris Kight in 1989 on Making Gay History: The Podcast (Image courtesy of Eric Marcus)

Figure 8

GLF protests the Behavior Modification Conference, 1970 (Photo courtesy of ONE National Gay and Lesbian Archives, Calisphere)

Figure 9

Morris Kight leading GLF protest after the Los Angeles Police Commission hearing, 1970 (Photo courtesy of ONE National Gay and Lesbian Archives)

Figure 10

Morris Kight during the first Christopher Street West march/parade, 1970 (Photo courtesy of ONE National Gay and Lesbian Archives)

Figure 11

Morris Kight, Jon Platania, and Don Kilhefner on the steps of the Gay Community Services Center, 1971 (Photo courtesy of ONE National Gay and Lesbian Archives)

Figure 12

Morris Kight interviewed by the San Bernardino County Sun, 1972 (Photo courtesy of San Bernardino Sun, Mickey Pflieger)

Kight, Morris, House
Name of Property

Los Angeles, CA
County and State

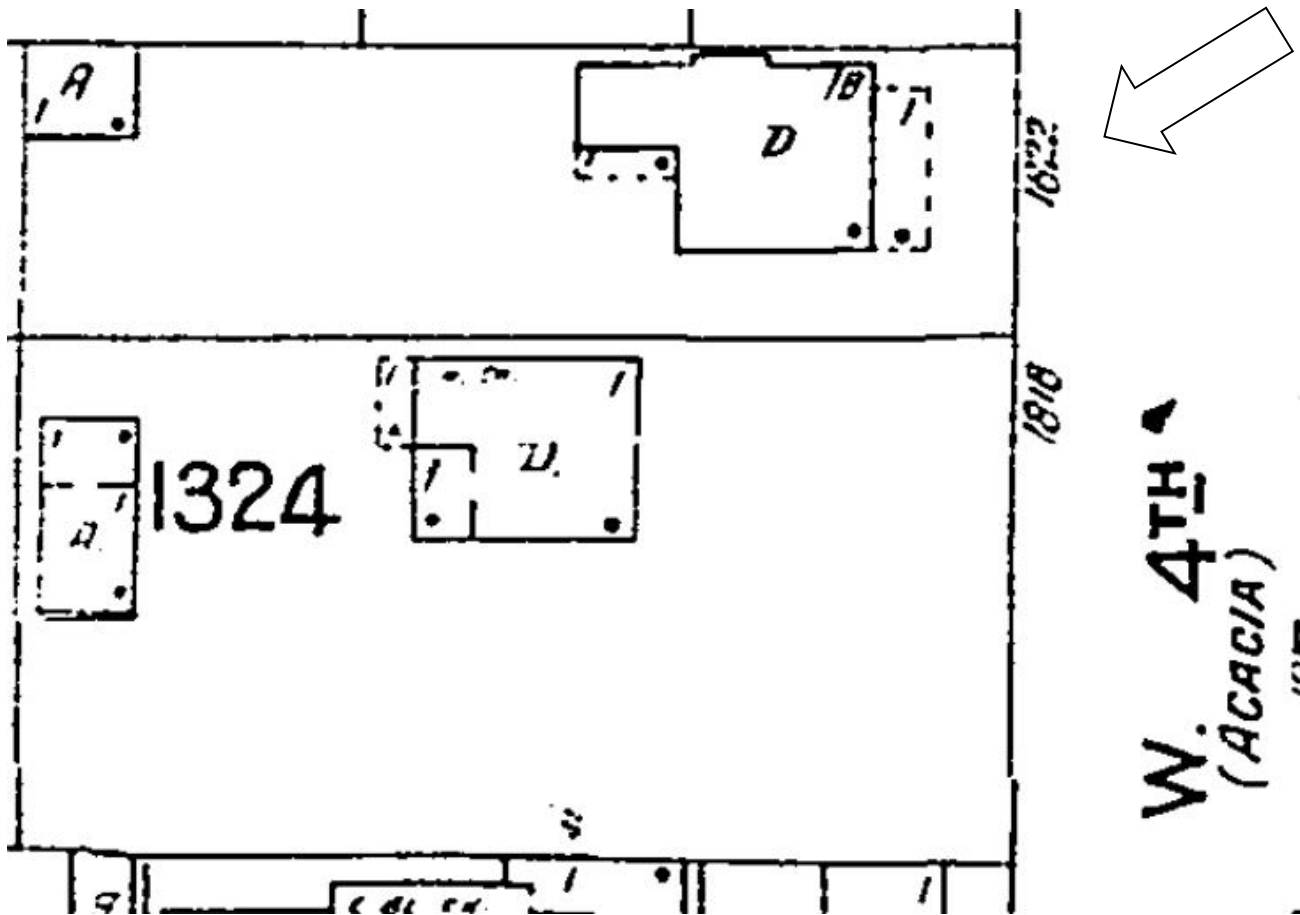
Figure 1
Kight, Morris, House, current Google Earth image overlaid with building dates of construction
Photo courtesy of Google Earth



Kight, Morris, House
Name of Property

Los Angeles, CA
County and State

Figure 2
Kight, Morris, House, 1953 Sanborn Map
Image courtesy of Sanborn Map Company, Los Angeles Public Library online database



Kight, Morris, House
Name of Property

Los Angeles, CA
County and State

Figure 3
Kight, Morris, House, 1932
Photo courtesy of California Historical Society



Kight, Morris, House
Name of Property

Los Angeles, CA
County and State

Figure 4
Kight, Morris, House, 2018-2020
Photos courtesy of Google Maps



March 2018



May 2019



March 2020

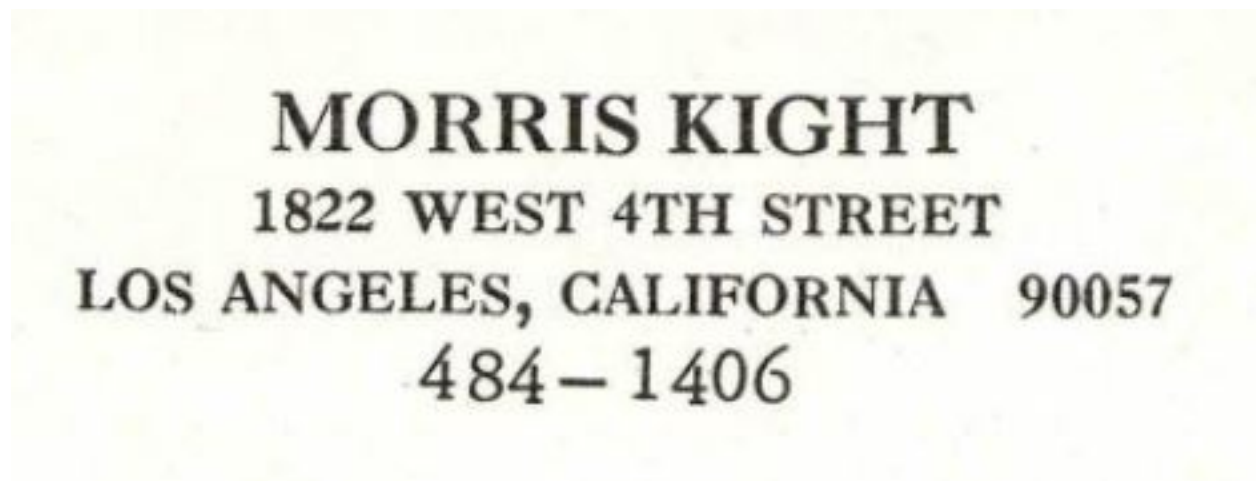
Kight, Morris, House
Name of Property

Los Angeles, CA
County and State

Figure 5

Morris Kight address and phone number, circa early 1970s

Photo courtesy of Los Angeles Public Library, Archives of Sexuality and Gender



Kight, Morris, House
Name of Property

Los Angeles, CA
County and State

Figure 6
Morris Kight interviewed by Pat Rocco during the GLF Barney's Beanery protest in West Hollywood, 1970
Video still courtesy of YouTube, Andrew Colville



Kight, Morris, House
Name of Property

Los Angeles, CA
County and State

Figure 7

Partial interview with Morris Kight in 1989 on Making Gay History: The Podcast. Kight discussed how he managed his gay crisis phone line from his home in Westlake
Image courtesy of Eric Marcus



Eric: So did you have a—an office here where people could call?

Morris: No! We did it, we did it from my home over at 1822 West Fourth Street.

Eric: So you had one phone, and people called up on that phone all day long?

Morris: 48, 484-1094. After all these years, I remember the number. It was the busiest phone you ever heard in your life. And I was eternally attracting new volunteers to staff the phone, and train them how to do that. Every call is priceless, every call is important. Have a routine that may be treated as if it's the most urgent call you've ever had in your life.

The person is calling to ask you when our meeting is. They don't want to know when our meeting is at all. They want to know, how do they get gay? How do they get out of a bad arrest, how do they get out of a bad marriage, how do they repossess their children, how do they repossess their property, how do they recover their dignity. They want to know ever so much more, so hold them on the phone until you really know that they're going to attend a meeting and start relating to us.

Kight, Morris, House
Name of Property

Los Angeles, CA
County and State

Figure 8
Morris Kight grabs the mic during a GLF protest at the Behavior Modification Conference, 1970
Photo courtesy of ONE National Gay and Lesbian Archives, Calisphere



Kight, Morris, House
Name of Property

Los Angeles, CA
County and State

Figure 9

Morris Kight leads GLF protest after Los Angeles Police Commission hearing, which demanded the GLF and MCC secure a one-million-dollar bond for property damage
Photo courtesy of ONE National Gay and Lesbian Archives



Kight, Morris, House
Name of Property

Los Angeles, CA
County and State

Figure 10
Morris Kight during the first Christopher Street West march/parade, 1970
Photo courtesy of ONE National Gay and Lesbian Archives



Kight, Morris, House
Name of Property

Los Angeles, CA
County and State

Figure 11
Morris Kight, Jon Platania, and Don Kilhefner on the steps of the Gay Community Services Center, 1971
Photo courtesy of ONE National Gay and Lesbian Archives



Kight, Morris, House
Name of Property

Los Angeles, CA
County and State

Figure 12
Morris Kight interviewed by the San Bernardino County Sun, 1972
Photo courtesy of San Bernardino Sun, Mickey Pflieger

