



Historic Districts Overview for the Historical Heritage Commission

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

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Historic Districts

Introduction



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- Environmental Science Associates (ESA)
- 17+ years of experience
- Secretary of the Interior Qualified (36 CFR Part 61)
- Professional Qualifications Standards - https://www.nps.gov/history/local-law/arch_stnds_9.htm



Individual Resources v. Historic Districts



Individual Resource

- Can be a building, structure, object, or site.

Historic District

- National Parks Service - “a geographically definable area, urban or rural, possessing a significant concentration, linkage, or continuity of sites, buildings, structures, or objects united by past events or aesthetically by plan or physical development.”
- Contributing v. Non-Contributing
- Contiguous v. Discontiguous



Evaluating a Potential Historic District



1. **Context:** What is the story?
2. **Period of Significance:** When was the story formed?
3. **Survey:** What is still there? And where is it located?
 - Potential Contributors
 - Potential Boundaries
4. **Integrity:** How altered are potential contributors?
 - Districts have lower integrity requirements
 - The grouping is more important than any one contributor



NASA Ames



National v. State v. Local Eligibility

- **National Register of Historic Places** (54 U.S.C. 306108)
- **California Register of Historical Resources** (PRC Section 5024.1)
- **Santa Clara County Historic Preservation Ordinance** (Ord. No. NS-1100.96, Division C17) - any evaluated building, structure, object, or site.

Designation Criteria

- 50 years old or older
- Retains Historic Integrity
- Qualified under one or more significance Criteria

Significance Criteria

- Events
- Persons
- Architecture/Construction/Design
- Information Potential

Historic District Examples



- Alviso National Register Historic District, San Jose (NR)
- Campbell Union High School Historic District, Campbell (NR)
- Hakone Historic District, Saratoga (NR)
- Hensley Historic District, San Jose (NR)



Campbell Union HS

Historic District Examples (cont.)



- Los Gatos Historic Commercial District, Los Gatos (NR)
- NASA Ames Wind Tunnel Historic District, (NR)
- New Almaden National Register District, Santa Clara County (NR)
- Professorville, Palo Alto (NR)



New Almaden Casa Grande, 1854

Online Resources



How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation

- www.nps.gov/history/local-law/arch_stnds_9.htm

How to Complete the National Register Registration Form

- www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/upload/NRB16A-Complete.pdf

California Register of Historical Resources

- ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=21238

How to Nominate a Resource to the California Register of Historical Resources

- [California Office of Historic Preservation Technical Assistance Series #7](#)

County of Santa Clara Department of Planning and Development: Historic Preservation

- www.sccgov.org/sites/dpd/Programs/HistoricPreservation/Pages/HistoricPreservation.aspx

County Historic District Designation Process

County Historic District Designation Process

[Zoning Ordinance § 3.50.080](#) covers the process of adoption of an Historic (-h) District

- Must contain at least one site, building, or structure which is a ***registered historic cultural resource***
- Definition of ***registered historic cultural resource***: *Any building, site, structure, object, or district which is registered in the National Register of Historic Places, California Historical Landmarks Program, California Register of Historical Resources, California Points of Historical Interest Program, or **formally designated as such by a resolution of the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors.***
- Formally Designated - Designated County Landmark

Landmark Designation Process

Covered under County Ordinance Division C17 - Article II – Landmark Designation

- Initiated by owners (or authorized representatives), HHC, or Board of Supervisors
- Needs to meet the following criteria
 - Fifty years or older
 - Retains historic integrity
 - Meets one or more of the following criteria of significance:
 1. Associated with events of significant contribution to local or regional history/cultural heritage;
 2. Associated with lives of persons important to local, California or national history;
 3. Embodies distinctive characteristics of type, period, region, construction, or represents work of a master or possesses high artistic values; or
 4. Yielded or has potential to yield information important to pre-history or history of the local area, California, or nation.

Other Preservation District Ordinances

Zoning Ordinance Chapter § 3.40 - "-n" Neighborhood Preservation Combining District

- Purpose is to provide neighborhood-specific development standards for certain urban unincorporated areas
- Augments base zoning district regulations to better address particular area's historic development patterns and characteristics; discrepancies between the standards of the County and the adjoining city; and unique area-specific development issues.
- Are prepared as Zoning Overlay and are established via Planning Commission recommendations & Board Approval

Questions



NAS Sunnyvale Historic District