

Historic and Cultural Resources

Beverly Hills' historic resources are the physical elements that define the City's heritage and honor its past. These resources include architecturally significant buildings, street lights, fountains, and streets lined with the City's signature palm trees. Other features that define the City, such as Beverly Gardens Park, the iconic "Beverly Hills" logo signs, and public art, may also qualify as historic resources given their significance to the cultural, social, educational, architectural, economic, and political history of the community. These historic and cultural resources contribute to the community's unique identity and charm. The City strives to assure that the resources that best represent the City's storied past are well preserved and maintained so that they continue to provide the community with a sense of permanence and foster civic pride and stewardship among its residents and businesses.

Context for Planning

Beverly Hills was created in 1906 when Wilbur F. Cook Jr. developed a plan for a balanced, self-contained community. The City was designed with smaller lots at its southern edge and large estates in the foothills to the north where residential streets were gently curvilinear and lined with trees. To this day, the general pattern of land use and famous street trees reflect the original plans for the City. The City was largely developed during the 1920s, when its location and design attracted affluent residents and visitors drawn to the burgeoning film and entertainment industry and the upscale shopping in what is now the Business Triangle.

Today, Beverly Hills remains an enclave of renowned residential estates, commercial buildings, civic buildings, and public spaces that represent the City's rich history and culture. As a result of ongoing development and redevelopment activities in the region, there is ongoing pressure to demolish some of the City's historic resources. Within this context, the policy framework is designed to preserve the City's heritage by identifying and safeguarding the most significant of the City's innumerable historical resources. Further, the policies are designed to promote the City's historic and cultural resources as a means to foster civic pride and community engagement in the celebration of the City's unique cultural heritage. The preservation and adaptive reuse of historic structures also promotes sustainability by reducing the need for new construction materials.



Beverly Hills Hotel, 9641 Sunset Boulevard



HISTORIC RESOURCES IN THE CITY



Beverly Hills City Hall, 450 N. Crescent Drive

Beverly Hills has a variety of historic residential and commercial architectural styles constructed over many decades. In addition to the historic buildings, and thematic groups of structures, other physical elements also evoke the City's history and can be considered as historic resources. Examples of these resources include street lights, fountains, and streets lined with mature trees. Other features—such as parks, monuments, signs, or public art—may also qualify as historic if they are deemed significant to the cultural, social, educational, architectural, economic, or political history of the community.

National Register of Historic Places

The criteria for placement on the National Register require assessing the quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and any one or more of the following:

- That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history
- That are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past
- That embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction
- That have yielded or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history

Six properties in Beverly Hills are listed on the National Register including one residence, two public parks, two commercial properties, and one government property, as briefly described below. Also described below is Beverly Gardens Park, which is eligible, but not listed on the National Register.

- **Harold Lloyd's Estate, Greenacres.** A residence located off Benedict Canyon Drive, this property was listed on the National Register in 1984. Built in 1929 for the internationally known silent screen comedian, Harold Lloyd, Greenacres was one of the greatest estates of Hollywood's Golden Era. With its formal gardens, it is one of the finest Mediterranean/Italian Renaissance style residential complexes remaining in the state.
- **Greystone Mansion and Park, Doheny Estate.** Greystone's 18.5-acre park setting serves as the location for myriad cultural activities, and provides a gathering place for recreation, entertainment, and quiet relaxation for visitors. In 1971, the entire site was dedicated as a City of Beverly Hills public park, and in 1976, it was placed on the National Register.
- **Virginia Robinson Gardens.** Virginia Robinson Gardens, operated by the County Arboretum of Los Angeles, has an eloquent blend of architecture

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and landscape, and is a beautiful representation of an early twentieth century estate. The gardens were officially listed on the National Register in 1978.

- **Regent Beverly Wilshire Hotel.** Located near Rodeo Drive, the hotel features an ornate European façade with distinctly rounded awnings and rows of sculpted trees. The property was listed on the National Register in 1987.
- **Anderton Court Shops.** Located on N. Rodeo Drive, this building by Frank Lloyd Wright was built in 1953 and features a series of small boutiques designed around a central light well, connected by an angular ramp. This property was listed on the National Register in 2003.
- **Beverly Hills Post Office.** Built in 1933, the Beverly Hills Post Office was constructed as a Work Projects Administration project on the site of the former Pacific Electric Railway Station. Adjacent to City Hall, the Italian Renaissance Revival style historic landmark is the cornerstone of Beverly Hills’s business triangle. The City purchased this property from the United States Postal Service after the post office was vacated. The building is now leased by the Beverly Hills Cultural Center Foundation, which will operate a new Cultural Center in the building. The Post Office was listed in 1986.
- **Beverly Gardens Park.** Although not listed on the National Register, the linear Beverly Gardens Park was determined by the State Office of Historic Preservation to be eligible for listing on the National Register.



Beverly Hills Post Office, 470 North Canon Drive

State-Recognized Resources

California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR)

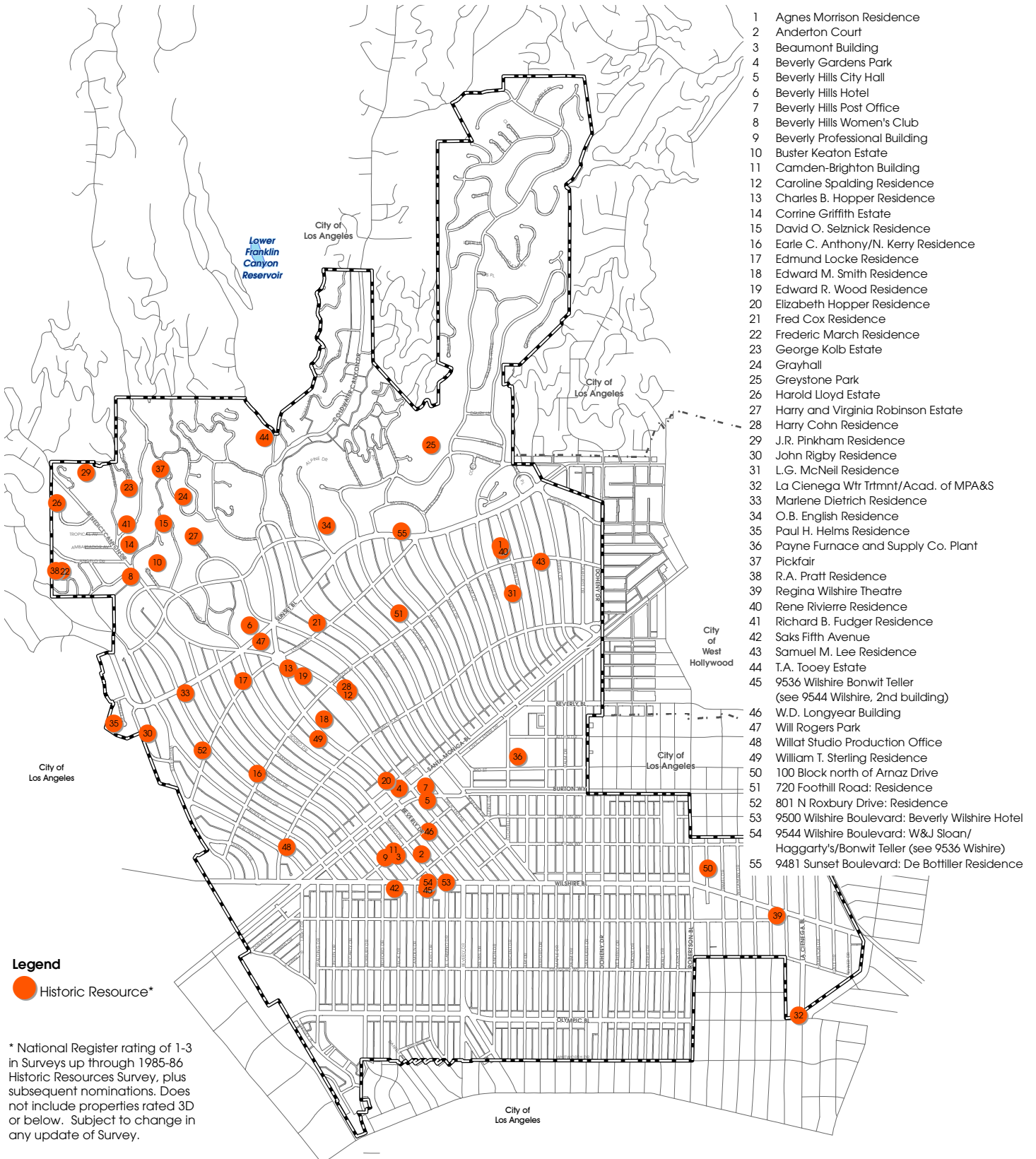
The California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) includes the statewide Historical Resources Inventory (HRI). As indicated in Figure HC 1 (Location of Historic Resources), fifty-six properties are listed on the Beverly Hills HRI, including the six properties on the National Register. This inventory contains fifty-three sites rated 3 or higher, which according to the State Office of Historic Preservation rating scale, appears eligible for listing on the National Register. Based on this rating, these sites were further evaluated and determined to be eligible for the CRHR.

The survey rates properties in six hierarchical classes of significance based upon the State Office of Historic Preservation’s (SOHP) rating scale, which are shown below:

1. Listed on the National Register
2. Determined eligible for listing on the National Register

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Beverly Hills General Plan



Source: City of Beverly Hills, June 2005

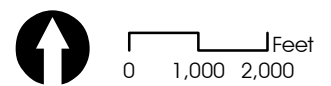


Figure HC 1

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3. Appears eligible for listing in the judgment of the person(s) completing or reviewing the inventory form
4. May become eligible for listing when (a) more research is performed; (b) the property is restored to an earlier appearance; (c) more significant examples of the property’s architectural style are demolished; or (d) the property becomes old enough to meet the Register’s 50-year requirement
5. Individually listed or eligible for listing under a local preservation or landmark ordinance
6. Ineligible for above

Since the compilation of the inventory, three additional sites were listed on the CRHR that were rated 3 or higher. Specifically, 9500 Wilshire Blvd., the Anderton Court Shops, and the City’s first Historic District on North Arnaz Drive were added, bringing the number of sites designated 3 or higher within the City to fifty-six. These fifty-six properties are listed below in Table HC 1. The Historic Resources Inventory (HRI), upon which this table is based, is continually updated and the properties listed are current as of the City’s most recent historic resources survey.

Table HC 1 State Historic Resources Inventory		
Rating	Type of Site	Address/Common or Historical Name
1	Residential	1740 Greenacres Place/Greenacres/Harold Lloyd Estate
1	Public Park	905 Loma Vista/Greystone/Doheny Estate
1	Commercial	1008 Elden Way/Robinson Gardens/Harry and Virginia Robinson Estate
1	Commercial	9500 Wilshire Blvd/Beverly Wilshire Hotel
1	Commercial	332 N. Rodeo Dr./Anderton Court Shops
1D	Public Park	470 N. Canon/Beverly Hills Post Office
1D	Historic District	100 block of North Arnaz Drive
2	Public Park	North Santa Monica Blvd./Beverly Gardens
3	Residential	918 Alpine Drive/O.B. English Residence
3	Residential	634 Alta Drive/Samuel M. Lee Residence
3	Residential	619 Arden Drive/L.G. McNeil Residence
3	Residential	705 Arden Drive/Rene Rivierre Residence
3	Residential	707 Arden Drive/Agnes Morrison Residence
3	Residential	910 N. Bedford Drive/Earl C. Anthony/N. Kerry Residence
3	Residential	1030 Benedict Canyon Drive/Corrine Griffith Estate
3	Residential	613 N. Beverly Drive/William T. Sterling Residence
3	Residential	618 N. Beverly Drive/Edward M. Smith Residence
3	Residential	711 N. Canon Drive/Edward R. Wood Residence
3	Residential	718 N. Beverly Drive/Charles B. Hopper Residence



Table HC 1 State Historic Resources Inventory		
Rating	Type of Site	Address/Common or Historical Name
3	Residential	1100 Carolyn Way/Grayhall
3	Residential	1700 Chevy Chase Drive/Beverly Hills Women's Club
3	Residential	135 Copely Plan/Paul H. Helms Residence
3	Residential	832 Greenway Drive/John Rigby Residence
3	Residential	1000 N. Crescent Drive/Harry Cohn Residence
3	Residential	1006 N. Crescent Drive/Caroline Spalding Residence
3	Residential	720 Foothill Road
3	Residential	1700 Lexington Road/T.A. Tooley Estate
3	Residential	1018 Pamela Drive/Buster Keaton Estate
3	Residential	1305 Park Way/Elizabeth Hopper Residence
3	Residential	803 N. Rexford Drive/Fred Cox Residence
3	Residential	1026 Ridgedale Drive/Frederic March Residence
3	Residential	1028 Ridgedale Drive/R.A. Pratt Residence
3	Residential	801 N. Rodeo Drive/Edmond Locke Residence
3	Residential	801 N. Roxbury Drive
3	Residential	822 N. Roxbury Drive/Marlene Dietrich Residence
3	Residential	1103 San Ysidro Drive/Richard B. Fudger Residence
3	Residential	1050 Summit Drive/David O. Selznick Residence
3	Residential	1143 Summit Drive/Pickfair
3	Residential	9841 Sunset Boulevard
3	Residential	9930 Tower Lane/J.R. Pinkham Residence
3	Residential	1146 Tower Road/George Kolb Estate
3	Residential	516 Walden Drive/Willat Studio Production Office
3	Public Park	9600 Sunset/Will Rogers Park
3	Government	331 S. La Cienega/Water Treatment Plant
3	Government	450 North Crescent/Beverly Hills City Hall
3	Commercial	336 Foothill Rd. (City-owned)/Payne Furnace & Supply Co. Plant
3	Commercial	417 N. Maple Drive/Pierce Brothers Mortuary
3	Commercial	9641 Sunset Blvd./Beverly Hills Hotel
3	Commercial	370 N. Beverly Drive/W.D. Longyear
3	Commercial	9525 Brighton Way/Camden-Brighten Bldg.
3	Commercial	9601 Brighton Way/Beverly Professional Bldg.
3	Commercial	368 N. Camden Drive/Beaumont Building
3	Commercial	8554 Wilshire Blvd./Fine Arts Theater/Regina Wilshire Theatre
3	Commercial	9536 Wilshire Blvd./Bonwit Teller/W&J Sloan, JJ Haggerty

Table HC 1 State Historic Resources Inventory		
Rating	Type of Site	Address/Common or Historical Name
3	Commercial	9544 Wilshire Blvd./Bonwit Teller (2nd bldg)
3	Commercial	9600 Wilshire Blvd./Saks Fifth Avenue

SOURCE: Summary of State Historic Resources Inventory for Beverly Hills, by National Register Rating, 1993

The Office of Historic Preservation has a more recent list of historic properties for Beverly Hills, based on the new rating system, however, the City is currently in the process of updating its own survey, which will be the most accurate and current listing available. The most recent HRI will be included in this updated survey.

California Register of Historical Resources: Districts, Points of Interest, and Landmarks

The following resources are designated on the CRHR within the categories indicated below:

HISTORIC DISTRICT

- **Arnaz Drive District.** Located along the 100 block of North Arnaz Drive, this district is one block long with approximately 25 properties. The state listing describes North Arnaz Drive as a rare example of historic regional architecture and “an early twentieth century Southern California prototype which is rapidly disappearing within the City under the pressure of high-density development.” The district includes a variety of duplexes and two-story apartment buildings built in the 1920s and ’30s in revival Spanish, French, and Tudor styles.

HISTORICAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- **Virginia Robinson Gardens.** This site is also listed on the National Register as described above.

HISTORICAL LANDMARKS

- **Portola Trail Campsite (in La Cienega Park).** The expedition of Don Gaspar de Portolá from Mexico passed through and camped near the Portola Trail Campsite en route to Monterey to begin the Spanish colonization of California.
- **Harold Lloyd Estate (“Greenacres”).** This is also listed on the National Register and described above.

Locally Surveyed Resources

In addition to the above described resources, the Historic Resource Inventory compiled by the City in 1985/86 includes 371 properties, 53 of which were designated 3 or higher. Those properties are included in Table HC 1 above. The Historic Resource Inventory has not been adopted by the City as a local register, but it serves as a guide to potentially significant historic properties that may have historic or cultural significance to the City.



REGULATION OF LOCAL RESOURCES

The treatment of historic resources is governed by federal, state, and local laws and guidelines. There are specific criteria for determining whether historic sites are significant and protected by law. The laws and regulations seek to mitigate impacts on significant historic resources. Beverly Hills has a variety of historic residential and commercial architectural styles constructed over many decades. In addition to the historic buildings, and thematic groups of structures, other physical elements also evoke the City's history and can be considered as historic resources. Examples of these resources include street lights, fountains, and streets lined with mature trees. Other features—such as parks, monuments, signs, or public art—may also qualify as historic if they are deemed significant to the cultural, social, educational, architectural, economic, or political history of the community. These features may be eligible for listing in the California Register separately as structures, objects, or sites, or as contributing features to a historic district. Currently, there is no process to identify and protect non-architectural resources such as monuments or memorials.

Depending on the historical significance of a resource, historic resources may be listed on the local, state, or national register of historic places. Following are the regulations used by the City to manage these resources.

National Regulations

National regulations applicable to Beverly Hills include the National Historic Preservation Act and the Secretary of the Interior's Standard for the Treatment of Historic Properties, for properties listed on the National Register. These regulations affect properties where federal funds are being used, and where federal tax credits for rehabilitation of historic properties are requested.

State Regulations—The California Environmental Quality Act

CEQA requires lead agencies to consider the potential effects of a project on historical resources. CEQA requires an environmental impact report (EIR) to be prepared for proposed projects which may cause a significant adverse effect on the environment, including historic resources. According to CEQA, historic resources include the following:

1. A resource listed, or determined to be eligible, by the CRHR
2. A resource included in a local register of historical resources
3. Any object, building, structure, site, area, place, record, or manuscript that a lead agency determines to be historically significant or significant in the architectural, engineering, scientific, economic, agricultural, educational, social, political, military, or cultural annals of California, provided the lead agency's determination is supported by substantial evidence

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Under CEQA, any adverse change to a historic resource caused by a new project will be considered as a significant effect on the environment including demolition, destruction, relocation, or alteration of the resource or its immediate surroundings. The extent to which significant effects are avoided or mitigated through the Environmental Impact Report process is required to be a determining factor when making a decision to approve a new project. If a local agency determines a property to be of local significance, the requirement of CEQA to conduct an environmental impact report may be applied.

Local Regulations

Local regulations regarding historic resources are limited to the Beverly Hills Architectural Commission acting as the City's Landmarks Advisory Commission whose duties include (a) inspection of any site, building, or structure believed to be a historical or cultural landmark; (b) compile and maintain a list of all such sites in the City; and (c) publish and transmit the list of landmarks to the general public. The Commission also must review and approve proposed new development on any landmark site prior to issuance of a permit to demolish the existing structure on that site.

Goals and Policies

Goal HC 1

Value and Preserve Significant Cultural Resources. A community with well-preserved and maintained historic and cultural resources that provide a sense of permanence, foster civic pride and stewardship among community members, and contribute to the unique identity and charm of Beverly Hills.

Policies

HC 1.1 Adopt Local Historic Register of Historic Resources.

Consider adoption of a local register of historic resources based on the City's existing historic resources inventory and any additional resources that qualify to be eligible under federal, State, and local criteria. Develop criteria for locally significant resources which could include structures considered to have local importance due to their unique architecture or associations but which may not meet National Register criteria. (*Imp. 2.3*)

HC 1.2 Significant Impact on Local, State, or National History.

When considering properties associated with individuals considered prominent due solely to



*Sax Fifth Avenue Department Store
9600 Wilshire Boulevard*



CHAPTER 2: COMMUNITY CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT

association with the entertainment industry, the City shall consider the extent to which the individuals had a meaningful and significant impact on the City's, state's, or nation's history. *(Imp. 2.3)*

- HC 1.3 Maintain an Updated Historic Resources Inventory.** Periodically update the City's Historic Resources Survey based on current criteria of the State Office of Historic Preservation, including assessment of sites, districts, structures, monuments, memorials, parks, etc. *(Imp. 2.3)*
- HC 1.4 Promote National, State, and Local Designation of Historic Resources.** Develop programs to promote the designation of historic resources listed on the City's Historic Resources Inventory, primarily those designated "3" or higher (i.e., appear eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places) for listing on the State or National registers or a listing of locally significant resources. *(Imp. 2.3)*
- HC 1.5 Protect Significant Historic Resources.** Develop and fund programs to encourage the protection of historic buildings, districts, and public landmarks/monuments from destruction or significant alteration through mechanisms such as preservation incentives, flexible development standards, and transfer of development rights, and waiver of fees, to make preservation feasible for owners and developers. *(Imp. 2.3)*
- HC 1.6 Tiered Regulations for Residential and Nonresidential Historic Resources.** Develop a tiered approach for regulations for nonresidential, multi-family residential and single family residential historic resources. Regulations for nonresidential historic resources should be more prescriptive in addressing demolition and documentation of resources proposed to be affected by proposed projects. Regulations for multifamily residential historic resources should include a combination of prescriptive and incentivized voluntary measures. Regulations for single-family residential resources should emphasize incentivized voluntary measures, but should also include mandatory documentation of important resources slated for demolition. *(Imp. 2.3)*
- HC 1.7 Explore Options to Establish a Formally Funded Historic Archive.** Explore the feasibility (funding mechanisms, capacity, staffing, and other opportunities) to expand the City's informal historic repository to include a comprehensive database (ownership history, photographs, etc.) of the City's historic resources. Consider requiring documentation of any structure, historic or otherwise, prior to demolition, to document the City over time. *(Imp. 2.3)*
- HC 1.8 Continue to Archive Local Periodicals.** Continue to index and preserve local periodicals such as the Beverly Hills Citizen newspaper, Architectural Record, and others, to improve research and documentation capacity of historic resources. *(Imp. 2.3)*

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- HC 1.9 Adopt a Mills Act Ordinance.** After conducting a fiscal analysis of the likely impact, consider implementing a local Mills Act ordinance to create incentives for owners of historic properties to preserve and maintain the historic resource for their own benefit and the benefit of the community. *(Imp. 2.3)*
- HC 1.10 Disincentives for Demolition of Historic Structures.** Develop and impose a significant penalty for the unlawful demolition of historic structures without demolition permit. *(Imp. 2.3)*
- HC 1.11 Prehistoric or Historic Subsurface Archeological Features.** Temporarily suspend ground disturbing activity within 100 feet of a potential resource in the event that prehistoric or historic subsurface archaeological features or deposits are discovered during construction-related earth-moving activities to assess the significance of the find, and mitigated, as appropriate, before work in the area may resume. *(Imp. 2.2)*
- HC 1.12 Paleontological Resources Unearthed During Construction Activities.** Temporarily suspend all earth disturbing work within 100 meters of a potential paleontological resource, if any such resources are unearthed during subsurface construction activities, until the resource is evaluated to determine whether avoidance is necessary and feasible. After the find has been appropriately mitigated, if necessary, work in the area may resume. *(Imp. 2.2)*
- HC 1.13 Replacement of Demolished Structures.** Explore requiring replacement projects for all commercial buildings that are demolished, and consider extension of this provision to residential properties in the future. *(Imp. 2.3)*

Goal HC 2

Promotion of the City's Historic Resources. Acknowledge and actively promote the City's wealth of historic resources through a variety of activities geared to residents, visitors, and the public at large.

Policies

- HC 2.1 Partnerships for Public Education on Local Historic Resources.** Develop educational programs that acknowledge the City's wealth of historic resources through partnerships with local private and nonprofit historic preservation groups to sponsor walking tours; self-guided tours, promotional brochures, historic fairs and festivals, plaques and awards and similar recognition programs sponsored by the City, private organizations, or partnerships. *(Imp. 2.2, 7.3)*