

Historic Resources Inventory and Historic Resource Evaluations

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Historic Designation Applications

Application for Historic Designation

1. **An application for a historic landmark, or a historic resource designation may be initiated by a property owner, the City Council or the Planning Commission by resolution or motion, and the Community Development Director**

Required Application Materials

1. **Completed application form**
2. **Historic Resource Evaluation and DPR Form**
 - a) **Completed by historic professional**
 - b) **Historic professional required to meet National Parks Service Qualification Standards.**



Historic Designation Process

Historical Resource

1. **The Historical Commission shall consider the proposed historic resource and determine whether or not the property satisfies the three criteria outlined in Section 12.44.040.**
2. **The Historical Commission either approves or disapproves the designation of the property as a historic resource and list it in the historic resources inventory.**
3. **The Historical Commission's approval of a historic resource shall become effective immediately.**

Historical Landmark

1. **The Historical Commission shall consider the proposed historic resource and make a recommendation to the City Council on the proposed designation. The commission shall make the following findings:**
 - a) **That the proposed historic landmark satisfies the three criteria outlined in Section 12.44.040; and**
 - b) **That the proposed landmark has special historical, cultural, archeological, scientific, architectural or aesthetic interest or value as part of the heritage or history of the city, the county, the state or the nation.**
2. **The City Council shall consider the proposed historic landmark and determine whether or not to accept the historical commission's recommendation by resolution, and approve in whole or in part or as modified, or shall, by motion, disapprove the proposal in its entirety**
3. **If the city council approves the landmark designation, the resolution shall become effective immediately.**



City of Los Altos Criteria for Designation

1. **Age.** A structure or property should be more than fifty (50) years in age.
2. **Determination of Integrity.** A structure or property should retain sufficient historic integrity in most of the following areas:
 - a) **Design:** The combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure, and style of a property.
 - b) **Setting:** The physical environment of a historic property.
 - c) **Materials:** The physical elements from a particular period of time and in a particular pattern or configuration to form a historic property.
 - d) **Workmanship:** The physical evidence of the crafts of a particular culture or people during any given period in history or prehistory.
 - e) **Feeling:** A property's expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period of time.
3. **Historic Significance.** A structure or property should be clearly associated with one or more of the following areas of significance:
 - a) **Event:** Associated with a single significant event or a pattern of events that have made a significant contribution to broad patterns of local or regional history, or cultural heritage of California or the United States.
 - b) **Person/People:** Associated with the lives of persons important to the local, California or national history.
 - c) **Architecture/Design:** Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a design-type, period, region, or method of construction, or represents the work of a master or possesses high artistic value.
 - d) **Archaeology:** Yields important information about prehistory or history of the local area, California, or the nation.



Local Landmark Designation

To be potentially eligible for individual listing as a local landmark in the City of Los Altos:

- 1. The proposed historic landmark satisfies three criteria outlined in Section 12.44.040**
- 2. The proposed landmark has special historical, cultural, archeological, scientific, architectural or aesthetic interest or value as part of the heritage or history of the city, the county, the state or the nation.**



Land Development/Entitlement Historic Review

SB330 and SB8 Requirements

- **Historic resource determination when application considered “complete”**
- **A site listed on the HRI or California Register is presumed to be a historic site**
- **Not listed but eligible for listing are also considered historically significant**
- **Other “discretionary historic sites”**



Land Development/Entitlement Historic Review

SB9 Requirements

- **Excludes projects:**

“located within a historic district or property included on the State Historic Resources Inventory ... or within a site that is designated or listed as a city or county landmark or historic property or district pursuant to a city or county ordinance”

- **The project can be denied if it will have a specific, adverse impact on the physical environment...**

An impact to a discretionary historic resource is a significant impact.



Options to Address Early Historic Evaluations

- **Do not require early historic evaluation of housing development projects.**
- **Require early historic evaluation using DPR forms for all housing development projects that will alter or destroy buildings or structures constructed at least 50 years ago.**
- **Require early historic review for housing development projects that meet specific criteria.**



Recommendation to Address Early Historic Evaluations

For Buildings and Structures 50 years or older – Additional Criteria/Exemptions

- **Examples: Construction type and materials, property location, proportionality of structure being modified/size of addition, location of building modification, etc**
- **Historical Commission Recommendation**
- **Interim policy**

For Buildings and Structures less than 50 years old –

No Further Requirement

