

City of San José, California

COUNCIL POLICY

TITLE GUIDELINES FOR DESIGNATION OF CITY HISTORIC LANDMARKS	PAGE 1 of 2	POLICY NUMBER 6-25
EFFECTIVE DATE November 3, 1992	REVISED DATE	
APPROVED BY COUNCIL ACTION		November 3, 1992; Item 8c(2)

BACKGROUND

The designation of significant historic resources as City Landmarks typically includes the building(s) and the associated legal parcel. As the spectrum of historic resources broadens to encompass the diversity of resources that represent our heritage, so do the methods of addressing them. Preservation should first consider the protection of the historic resource, the maintenance of its integrity and the appropriate historic context. Future land use issues should also be evaluated in the designation proposal so as to not unduly encumber the property. Preservation of the resource is the prime consideration for landmark designations. However, a designation that both protects the resource and retains viability and development potential on a property will more likely result in preservation. These guidelines provide an assessment tool to define the most appropriate scope for landmark designations.

PURPOSE

Significant historic resources are designated as City landmarks to assure their protection and preservation. These guidelines provide direction for the scope of a landmark designation:

1. Buildings, structures and objects in conjunction with associated property, or
2. Buildings, structures and objects only.

The guidelines will be used to evaluate and define the most appropriate landmark designation.

POLICY

1. Sites in conjunction with buildings, structures and objects should be designated if the building and/or site are associated with significant events, people, history or architecture and:
 - a. The historic significance is derived from events, or people associated with the site.
 - b. A Building, Structure or Object is on its original site and is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.
 - c. A Building, Structure or Object has been moved, but it is significant enough to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.
 - d. The historic significance is related to the site and/or other Buildings, Structures, or Objects.
 - e. There is a historic context to the primary resource and/or supporting site features (ancillary buildings, miscellaneous structures, landscape features/trees) that contribute to its historic significance.
 - f. The site designation may be applied to a lesser or different area than the legal lot.
2. Building, Structure, or Object only should be designated if:
 - a. A significant historic resource is not eligible for the National Register.
 - b. A Building, Structure, or Object has previously been moved to the existing site.

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- c. The historic significance is related to the Building, Structure, or Object only (i.e., architecture).
- d. A Building, Structure, or Object occupies the entire site.
- e. There are no supporting features on the site other than the Building, Structure or Object.
- f. The Building, Structure, or Object is not likely to be moved due to its physical construction (i.e., masonry building).
- g. There are extenuating circumstances such as:
 - Site designation could encumber property where it is not warranted.
 - There are other buildings on the site of recent construction.
 - There are existing permits approved for improvements on the site.