

HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

The City of Sacramento recognizes the importance of its historic and cultural resources, which create a distinct sense of place for residents and visitors, as well as tell the story that differentiates Sacramento from other cities. These resources, some over 8,000 years old, reflect the prehistoric and historic settlement along the Sacramento and American Rivers. The city played a significant role as a catalyst for the Gold Rush, as a key center of the railroads and their role in the western expansion of the United States, the establishment of the city as California's state capital, and the subsequent growth of the state government. The city was one of the busiest centers for packing and shipping produce from California's Central Valley to the rest of the country. Finally, the city experienced significant expansion during World War II and the country's post-war economic growth. Preservation of historic and cultural resources is important to promote understanding between cultures and because cities with distinctly identifiable places and history are generally more livable for residents and more attractive to new businesses that sustain the economy. Preservation and adaptive reuse of historic structures also promote sustainability by reducing the need for new construction materials.

Built in 1914, this prominent building along Broadway in the heart of Oak Park was renovated in 1997 to house U.S. Bank.



Citywide Historic and Cultural Preservation

Policies in this section provide for identification, protection, and assistance in the preservation of historic and cultural resources. The policies maintain a citywide program consistent with the State and Federal Certified Local Government program and State laws and regulations related to historic and cultural resources.

GOAL HCR 1.1

Comprehensive City Preservation Program. Maintain a comprehensive, citywide preservation program to identify, protect, and assist in the preservation of Sacramento's historic and cultural resources.

Policies

- HCR 1.1.1 Certified Local Government.** The City shall maintain its status as a Certified Local Government (CLG) and use CLG practices as the key components of the City's preservation program. *(RDR/SO)*
- HCR 1.1.2 Preservation Office, Commission, and Program.** The City shall maintain a Preservation Office, Commission, and program to administer the City's preservation functions and programs. *(RDR/SO)*
- HCR 1.1.3 Certified Local Government Requirements.** The City shall maintain provisions in the Sacramento City Code for a preservation program consistent with the Federal and State Certified Local Government requirements. *(RDR/SO)*



Built in 1938, the Tower Theater has been preserved and is a Sacramento historical landmark.



Memorial Auditorium, opened in 1927, is built in the style best termed Mediterranean Revival. The Auditorium continues to be one of the city's architectural centerpieces.

Identification and Preservation

Policies in this section provide for the identification of historic and cultural resources and ensure that City, State, and Federal historic preservation laws, regulations, and codes are implemented. Policies support the City actively pursuing the identification, protection, and maintenance of historic and cultural resources, including consultation with appropriate organizations and individuals early in the planning and development process to identify opportunities and minimize potential impacts to historic and cultural resources.

GOAL HCR 2.1

Identification and Preservation of Historic and Cultural Resources. Identify and preserve the city's historic and cultural resources to enrich our sense of place and our understanding of the city's prehistory and history.

Policies

HCR 2.1.1 Identification. The City shall identify historic and cultural resources, including individual properties, districts, and sites (e.g., archaeological sites), to ensure adequate protection of these resources. *(PSR)*

HCR 2.1.2 Applicable Laws and Regulations. The City shall ensure compliance with City, State, and Federal historic preservation laws, regulations, and codes to protect and assist in the preservation of historic and archaeological resources, including the use of the California Historical Building Code as applicable. Unless listed in the Sacramento, California, or National registers, the City shall require discretionary projects involving resources 50 years and older to evaluate their eligibility for inclusion on the California or Sacramento registers for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act. *(RDR)*

HCR 2.1.3 Consultation. The City shall consult with appropriate organizations and individuals (e.g., California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) Information Centers, the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), the CA Office of Planning and Research (OPR) "Tribal Consultation Guidelines", etc.) and shall establish a public outreach policy to minimize potential impacts to historic and cultural resources. *(IGC/JP)*



Sacramento Archives & Museum Collection Center is the repository and research center for the City and County historic collections and serves the community by acquiring, preserving, exhibiting, and providing access to the documentary and material culture of the area.



Craftsman style fourplex.

See Appendix E, Glossary & Acronyms, for definitions and terminology in the Historic and Cultural Resources Element.

HCR 2.1.4 Incentives and Enforcement. The City shall develop and support regulatory (e.g., appropriate development and zoning standards), technical, and financial incentives (e.g., City, State, Federal, and private grants, loans, easements, and tax credits) and enforcement programs to promote the maintenance, rehabilitation, preservation, and interpretation of the city’s historic and cultural resources. *(RDR/FB/SO)*

HCR 2.1.5 National, California, and Sacramento Registers. The City shall support efforts to pursue eligibility and listing for qualified resources including historic districts and individual resources under the appropriate National, California, or Sacramento registers. *(RDR/IGC/JP)*

HCR 2.1.6 Planning 🌐. The City shall take historical and cultural resources into consideration in the development of planning studies and documents. *(MPSP/PSR)*

HCR 2.1.7 Historic Resource Property Maintenance 🌐. The City shall encourage maintenance and upkeep of historic resources to avoid the need for major rehabilitation and to reduce the risks of demolition, loss through fire or neglect, or impacts from natural disasters. *(RDR/PI)*

HCR 2.1.8 Historic Preservation Enforcement. The City shall ensure that City enforcement procedures and activities comply with local, State, and Federal historic and cultural preservation requirements. *(SO)*

HCR 2.1.9 City-Owned Resources. The City shall maintain all City-owned historic and cultural resources in a manner that is consistent with the U.S. Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. *(SO)*

HCR 2.1.10 Early Project Consultation 🌐. The City shall minimize potential impacts to historic and cultural resources by consulting with property owners, land developers, and the building industry early in the development review process. *(RDR/JP/PI)*

HCR 2.1.11 Compatibility with Historic Context 🌐. The City shall review proposed new development, alterations, and rehabilitation/remodels for compatibility with the surrounding historic context. The City shall pay special attention to the scale, massing, and relationship of proposed new development to surrounding historic resources. *(RDR)*



The Downtown Sacramento Central Public Library is compatible as an add-on structure to the adjacent historic building.



The Elliot building (left) was designed to be compatible in scale and massing with the historic East End Lofts building (right).



Adaptive reuse of a former automobile dealership, now converted to a restaurant.

HCR 2.1.12 **Contextual Features** 🌐. The City shall promote the preservation, rehabilitation, restoration, and/or reconstruction, as appropriate, of contextual features (e.g., structures, landscapes, street lamps, signs) related to historic resources. (RDR)

See LU 2, Citywide Land Use and Urban Design, for additional policies on development context.

HCR 2.1.13 **Historic Surveys and Context Statements.** Where historic resource surveys may no longer be valid, or for areas that have not been surveyed, the City shall seek funding to prepare new historic context surveys. In these surveys, the potential eligibility of all properties 45 years and older for listing in National, California or Sacramento registers shall be evaluated. (RDR)

HCR 2.1.14 **Adaptive Reuse** 🌐. The City shall encourage adaptive reuse of historic resources when the original use of the resource is no longer feasible. (RDR/SO)

The former Van Voorhies Mansion, built in the Italianate architectural style, has undergone historic restoration and is now used as office space.

HCR 2.1.15 **Demolition** 🌐. The City shall consider demolition of historic resources as a last resort, to be permitted only if rehabilitation of the resource is not feasible, demolition is necessary to protect the health, safety, and welfare of its residents, or the public benefits outweigh the loss of the historic resource. (RDR)

HCR 2.1.16 **Archaeological & Cultural Resources.** The City shall develop or ensure compliance with protocols that protect or mitigate impacts to archaeological and cultural resources including prehistoric resources. (RDR)



HCR 2.1.17 **Preservation Project Review** 🌐. The City shall review and evaluate proposed development projects to minimize impacts on identified historic and cultural resources, including projects on Landmark parcels and parcels within Historic Districts, based on applicable adopted criteria and standards. *(RDR)*



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The historic 1885 Llewellyn Williams Mansion is built in the Italianate-Stick architectural style, and after considerable remodeling and restoration, the Mansion was reopened in 1995 as the Sacramento International Hostel.

Public Awareness and Appreciation

Policies in this section support and provide for public education and appreciation of the value of Sacramento’s historic and cultural resources, as well as City coordination with other entities to help develop and promote the preservation of Sacramento’s historic and cultural resources.

GOAL HCR 3.1

Public Awareness and Appreciation. Foster public awareness and appreciation of Sacramento’s historic and cultural resources.

Policies

HCR 3.1.1 Heritage Tourism. The City shall work with agencies, organizations, property owners, and business interests to develop and promote Heritage Tourism opportunities, in part as an economic development strategy. *(IGC/JP)*

HCR 3.1.2 Coordination with Other Entities. The City shall coordinate with and support public quasi-public, and private (e.g., SHRA, CADA, Native American Tribes), entities in their preservation programs and efforts. *(IGC/JP)*

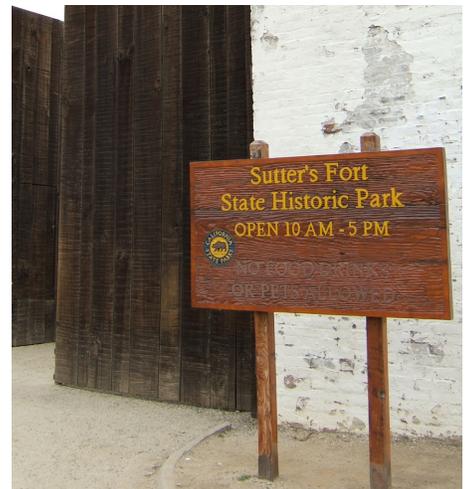
HCR 3.1.3 Public/Private Partnerships. The City shall explore public/private partnerships in its preservation program efforts, including partnerships with business and education interests, and expansion of shared missions with Sacramento Heritage, Inc. *(IGC/JP)*

HCR 3.1.4 Education. The City shall act as a conduit for and provide information to the public on Sacramento’s historic and cultural resources and preservation programs through the region’s cultural resources survey repository at the North Central Information Center, educational institutions, the City’s Center for Sacramento History, and the City’s website in order to promote the appreciation, maintenance, rehabilitation, and preservation of Sacramento’s historic and cultural resources. *(PI)*

The Old Sacramento Historic District is an example of Heritage Tourism and is listed as a National Historic Landmark by the National Park Service.



See LU 8, Public/Quasi-Public and Special Uses, ED 1, Business Climate, and ERC 5, Museums, Zoos, and Other Major Destination Attractions, for additional policies on tourism and cultural and entertainment uses.



Sutter's Fort has been furnished and reconstructed to reflect its 1846 appearance and stands as the oldest restored Fort in the United States.