

OFFICE OF HISTORIC RESOURCES LAUNCHES TWO NEW PRESERVATION WEB SITES

The Office of Historic Resources (OHR) has launched the City of Los Angeles' first-ever web site to provide comprehensive information to the public on historic preservation. The new site is located at www.preservation.lacity.org.

The OHR web site serves as a clearinghouse of information about historic preservation in Los Angeles, providing important information on preserving Los Angeles' historic resources and detailed descriptions of the City's preservation policies and standards.

The new OHR web presence also includes a separate, linked web site for SurveyLA – the Los Angeles Historic Resources Survey: www.surveyla.org/. This web site will serve as the centerpiece of a far-reaching public outreach program to involve Los Angeles residents in the survey process.

The new SurveyLA web site explains why a citywide survey of historic resources is so important to Los Angeles and how the survey will be conducted in the coming years. Regular project updates will be posted, enabling visitors to follow along with the survey as it happens. The site will also

contain information on public meetings and events, giving the public an opportunity to participate in this exciting program that will touch every community in the city.

One of the most novel features of the SurveyLA site is an interactive "Historic Resources Identification Form" that enables community members to identify and describe potentially historic properties and areas within their own neighborhoods. The OHR encourages local residents to help the SurveyLA project discover the hidden, little-known, or often overlooked places that may have

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Office of Historic Resources Web Site

COMMISSION INITIATES MONUMENT NOMINATIONS FOR LA RIVER BRIDGES

On September 6, 2007, the Cultural-Heritage Commission moved to consider Historic-Cultural Monument (HCM) designation of thirteen Los Angeles River Bridges. Spanning the Los Angeles River from downtown to the San Fernando Valley, these bridges constitute one of the largest concentrations of National Register-eligible bridges in the nation. Built between 1909-1944, the majority of these bridges were constructed by the City of Los Angeles Bureau of Engineering, under the famed bridge building program of Merrill Butler, Engineer of Bridges and Structures from 1923-1963.

Only three bridges (Glendale-Hyperion Viaduct, Fletcher Ave Bridge, and Macy St. Bridge) have been previously designated as HCM's. Spurred by proposed renovations to several river bridges, as well as the possible demolition of the Sixth St. Viaduct (1932), the Cultural Heritage Commission exercised its right to initiate consideration of HCM designation at its meeting of September 6, 2007. The staff of the Office of Historic Resources identified 13 bridges that appear eligible for local designation, some of which have already been determined eligible for the National Register.

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TWO NEW WEB SITES (CONTINUED)

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shaped the social and cultural history of Los Angeles' communities. Web visitors may submit detailed information that will assist the survey teams greatly in the coming years.

In addition to these innovative features on the SurveyLA site, the OHR website includes:

- Detailed profiles, maps and photos of Los Angeles' 22 designated historic districts (Historic Preservation Overlay Zones, or HPOZs), and guidance on how to establish a new HPOZ.
- A list of all of Los Angeles' designated landmarks (Historic-Cultural Monuments), including a photo gallery featuring many of Los Angeles' most notable historic resources.
- Step-by-step instructions on how to find whether any property in the city is a designated historic resource.
- Summaries of the key financial incentives available for preservation, including the City's Mills Act program, that can provide significant property tax relief for owners of historic properties.
- Advice on how to secure historic status for properties or neighborhoods within the city.
- Useful links to preservation information from around the nation, and contact information for preservation organizations and historical societies throughout Los Angeles.
- A sign-up form for this quarterly email newsletter.

The OHR and SurveyLA web sites are made possible through the generous support of the J. Paul Getty Trust. The J. Paul Getty Trust has entered into a five-year grant agreement with



Los Angeles Historic Resources Survey (SurveyLA) Web Site

the City of Los Angeles to support SurveyLA; the Trust's Getty Conservation Institute (GCI) is also providing additional technical and advisory support for the project.

Both new web sites were developed by Urban Insight, Inc., a Los Angeles-based Internet consulting and web development firm specializing in web site management systems and technology consulting for the urban planning community. More information about Urban Insight can be found at www.urbaninsight.com.

Background

SurveyLA: The Los Angeles Historic Resources Survey Project is the first-ever comprehensive inventory of our city's historic resources. The project will bring together all that is known—and much that is presently unknown—about Los Angeles' built heritage and make this information readily accessible on the City's web site to shape decisions by policymakers, developers, urban planners, community organizations, and property owners.

The survey findings will have a multiplicity of benefits and uses: it will help direct future growth, shape the revision of Los Angeles' 35 Community Plans, streamline environmental review processes, provide opportunities for public education, assist in disaster planning, and spur heritage tourism and the marketing of historic neighborhoods and properties.

The J. Paul Getty Trust and the City of Los Angeles have entered into a grant agreement for SurveyLA under which the Getty has committed to providing up to \$2.5 million to the project, subject to certain matching requirements by the City. The survey is organized in two phases, to be completed over a five-year period. The first two years of the project comprise the "Initiation Phase" during which survey tools and methods will be developed and tested. Field surveys and evaluations will not occur until years three through five of the project (Fall 2008 to Fall 2011). The Getty Conservation Institute (GCI) is also providing technical and advisory support for SurveyLA separate and apart from the grant funding.

LA RIVER BRIDGES (CONTINUED)

(Continued from page #1)

Bridge Name	Year Built
N. Broadway/Buena Vista	1909-1911
Main St. Bridge	1910
Olympic Blvd. Bridge	1925
Los Feliz Blvd. Bridge	1925
7th Street Viaduct	1927
N. Spring St. Bridge	1928
1st. St. Viaduct	1929
Washington Blvd. Bridge	1931
4th Street Viaduct	1931
6th Street Viaduct	1932
Riverside Bridge (Zoo Drive)	1938
Riverside-Figueroa St. Bridge)	1939/1927
Lankershim Blvd. Bridge	1940



The Cultural Heritage Commission will be touring all 13 bridges, after which a final determination hearing will be held. Please contact the OHR office directly for more information.

The First Street Bridge connecting Boyle Heights and Downtown Los Angeles, shown in 1920s.



Macy Street / Cesar Chavez Bridge



Construction of the Sixth Street Bridge.

NEW TO THE OHR

The newest addition to the Office of Historic Resources is our new Management Assistant, Rita Moreno. Rita has been with the City of Los Angeles for ten years, having served as the Chief Field Deputy for then Councilmember Mike Hernandez, Sr. Project Coordinator with the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, and Sr. Program Analyst with the City Ethics Commission. She has extensive knowledge and experience working with the diverse communities of Los Angeles, with over 20 years of organizing experience with labor and non-profit agencies. She has also conducted and developed training curriculum for community based-organizations, on a variety of topics.

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WHAT DOES HISTORIC-CULTURAL MONUMENT DESIGNATION MEAN?

The Office of Historic Resources (OHR) provides staff support to the City of Los Angeles' Cultural Heritage Commission, which oversees more than 880 designated Historic-Cultural Monuments (HCM), or local landmarks. Quite frequently, the OHR's staff gets asked the question, "What does it mean if my property is designated as a Historic-Cultural Monument?" or, "What changes can I make to my property if it is designated?"

Some of the effects of designation are largely honorary. Historic-Cultural Monument status provides the City's official recognition that a building, structure, site, or natural feature is important to Los Angeles' history. Designation helps foster civic pride and develop a shared sense of place and time. Owners of Historic-Cultural Monuments are also encouraged to purchase and display a plaque showing that the property has Historic-Cultural Monument status.

One common misconception is that it is impossible to demolish or alter a designated HCM. In fact, once a demolition permit is requested, the Cultural Heritage Commission may only object to the issuance of the permit for 180 days, with an additional 180 day extension possible upon approval of the City Council. In total, the Cultural Heritage review provides up to 360 days as a stay of demolition in order to evaluate preservation alternatives.

In addition to the Cultural Heritage Commission objection process, designation as a HCM also classifies a property as a "historical resource" under the State's environmental protection law, the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). CEQA triggers environmental review for discretionary projects that have the potential to adversely impact historical resources. Proposals to alter HCMs may be approved under a "Mitigated Negative Declaration," if mitigation measures are sufficient to offset potential impacts to historical resources. Nevertheless, CEQA allows decision-makers to approve projects that have adverse impacts, such as demolition, following the preparation

of an Environmental Impact Report that evaluates the feasibility of preservation alternatives.

While designation as a Historic-Cultural Monument does trigger additional review, the City's preservation program seeks to recognize these additional responsibilities by also offering positive incentives for owners of HCMs. Designation as a HCM provides eligibility for the Mills Act program, which allows property owners to enter into a Historical Property Contract with the City that can result in a significant property tax reduction. The majority of Historic-Cultural Monument applications are supported by property owners, many of whom are motivated to participate in the Mills Act program.

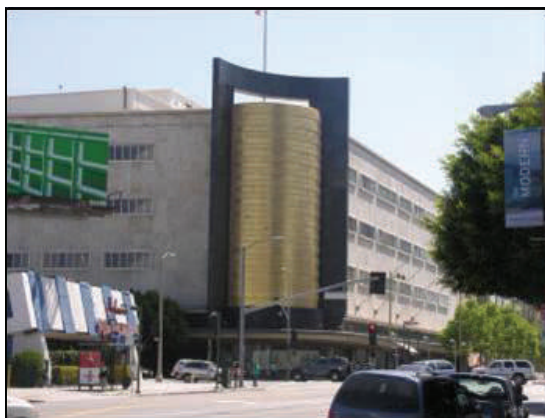
Historic-Cultural Monument status also permits use of the California Historical Building Code, an alternative building code that provides more flexible options for achieving full code compliance.

Finally, designation does not freeze a historic property in time. The Cultural Heritage Commission and OHR staff review proposed exterior and interior alterations in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, the nationally accepted criteria for evaluating changes to historic properties.

The Standards do recommend that the most significant, character-defining features of a historic property be preserved and that historic materials be retained wherever feasible. But the Standards also contain great flexibility in allowing for new uses, sensitively designed additions,

and for alteration of less significant spaces or features.

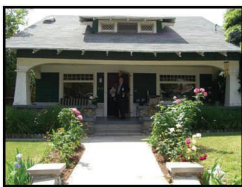
The OHR's staff works closely with owners of historic properties to help them meet their changing needs, all while ensuring appropriate preservation of Los Angeles' cherished designated Monuments.



Historic-Cultural Monument designation does not freeze a historic property in time: it allows historic buildings to adapt to changing needs and new uses. On Wilshire Boulevard, Bullock's Wilshire Department Store (top) has become a law library and classrooms for Southwestern University of Law, and the May Co. Wilshire (bottom) is now part of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA).

LOS ANGELES' NEWEST HISTORIC-CULTURAL MONUMENTS

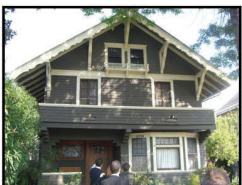
Between July 16, 2007 and October 17, 2007, the Cultural Heritage Commission and the City Council have completed the approval of 14 new properties to the City's list of Historic-Cultural Monuments. Los Angeles' newest landmarks include two grand apartment complexes, three early homes of the University Park neighborhood, and a Modernist commercial complex in Brentwood.



Wilkins House, HCM #877 (915-917 North Avenue 57): Built for John Wilkins in 1911 in the Highland Park community of Northeast Los Angeles, the house is emblematic of Craftsman style architecture. The purity of the design of the Wilkins house and retention of its original form make it a significant example of the Craftsman style that helped define Los Angeles' residential architecture.



Arwyn Manor, HCM #878 (3835 West 8th Street and 749 South Manhattan Place): Built in the Mid-Wilshire area in 1928, this six-story apartment building was designed in the Italian Renaissance Revival style by Charles Waldo Powers, architect of several other large apartment buildings during the 1920s Los Angeles building boom. With its prominent neon sign displaying the building's name, Arwyn Manor remains a significant example of the brick and steel frame apartment buildings constructed through the late 1920s until World War II.



Louise Pratt House, HCM #879 (2706-2708 South Menlo Street): Built in 1904 for real estate developer and philanthropist Louise Pratt, wife of Edwin Pratt of the Los Angeles Electric Company and Lighting Company, this is a two-and-a-half story Swiss/Alpine and Craftsman style house in the North University Park area. The Pratt House is also listed in the National Register of Historic Places.



Bigelow-Wood Residence, HCM #880 (2905 South Hoover Street): Built in 1895 in the University Park neighborhood, this Queen Anne cottage was constructed for Palmer Bigelow, an early Los Angeles businessman. The residence was later owned by Luke Wood, a banker and eventual vice president of the Los Angeles City Parks Commission.



Judson Rives Building, HCM #881 (424 South Broadway): This ten-story Beaux-Arts commercial building, built in 1906, was designed by architect Charles Ronald Aldrich, formerly architect for the University of Minnesota. The Judson Rives Building was built during a period of rapid construction along South Broadway as it became Los Angeles' most important early commercial and entertainment center. In 1924 the Broadway Theater opened on the building's ground floor as part of Broadway's vibrant theater district. The building is presently being converted into loft housing.



The Fontenoy, HCM #882 (1811 North Whitley Avenue): Constructed in Hollywood in 1929, this fourteen-story luxury Chateausque-style apartment building, with its original rooftop neon sign, is one of the few remaining original 1920s apartment complexes designed by architect Leland A. Bryant. Bryant was a noted designer of other luxury apartment buildings, including the Sunset Towers (now the Argyle). Numerous famous tenants have resided in the Fontenoy, such as William Holden, Tom Mix, and Johnny Depp.



Weddington House, HCM #883 (11025 Weddington Street): Built in 1904, this one-story California Bungalow reflects the early history of the development of North Hollywood and the San Fernando Valley. It was built for the Weddington family, which established the township of Lankershim (later North Hollywood) in 1890.



Waters-Shaw Family Residence, HCM #884 (2700 South Severance Street): This two-and-a-half story residential building exhibits character-defining features of Shingle-Craftsman style architecture, and is associated with the development of University Park. It was built and designed in 1902-03 by John Parkinson, a noteworthy and prolific architect in Los Angeles, responsible for the design of many landmarks including the Los Angeles City Hall (1928), Alexandria Hotel (1906), and the Title Guarantee building (1931). The building was constructed for Arthur Jay Waters (1871-1923), an early banker in Los Angeles who became president of Citizens National Bank.

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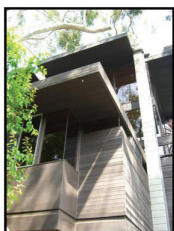
LOS ANGELES' NEWEST HISTORIC-CULTURAL MONUMENTS (CONTINUED)

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Holmes Shannon House, HCM #885

(4311 Victoria Park Drive): Built in 1911, this two-and-a-half story residential building was designed in the Tudor-Craftsman style, and is associated with the development of Victoria Park. It was designed by architects Robert Farquhar Train and Edmund Williams of the firm Train & Williams, identified with the Arroyo Guild of Fellow Craftsmen, and Arts and Crafts group of architects and artisans in Los Angeles. It was built for Nellie Holmes Shannon (1863-1924) and her husband Michael Francis Shannon (1871-1923), who was widely cited by the *Los Angeles Times* as the City's first traffic officer.



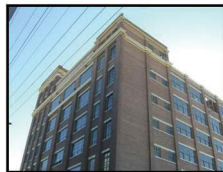
Gould-Lafetra House, HCM #886

(12256 West Canna Road): This three-story residential building in Bel Air was built and designed in 1968 by architect Raymond Kappe. It is an excellent example of Modern architecture, with glass and wood siding punctuated by stacked cement block columns. Kappe began practicing in the 1950s using open plan post-and-beam construction, and designed over one hundred single family homes in Southern California. He taught at USC, founded the architecture department at Cal Poly Pomona, and later established the Southern California Institute of Architecture, where he served as its director until 1987.



Barry Building, HCM #887

(11973 West San Vicente Blvd.): This two-story commercial building is a well-preserved example of a mid-twentieth-century Modern commercial complex. It was built in 1951 by architect Milton Caughey (1911-1958), winner of four Merit Awards by the Southern California Chapter of the AIA. The successful combination of design, scale, landscaping, and pedestrian accessibility, often rare with mid-20th century commercial buildings, contributes to the originality of the Barry Building's architecture. The building's ground-floor storefront and courtyard have served as a bookstore, café, and community gathering place for nearly 50 years, since the opening of Brentwood Books in 1960, and are currently the home of Dutton's Brentwood Books.



National Biscuit Company Building, #888

(1850 Industrial Street): This seven-story industrial building in the Classical Revival-Beaux Arts style was built in 1925 and designed by the architectural firm of Eckel & Aldrich of St. Joseph, Missouri.

With the merger of several large baking companies in the United States, the National Biscuit Company (later known as Nabisco) was created in 1895 as one of the premier food production companies in the country, and the building served as their production facility for the Western United States. The building has recently been converted to loft housing.



McNary House, #889

(4777 Eagle Rock Blvd.): The one-story residential building and its adjacent garage (converted to residential use) exhibit character-defining features of Craftsman style architecture. Built in 1917, the

house was constructed for Thomas B. and Jennie McNary in what was then the city of Eagle Rock. The McNary family was active in the Occidental Presbyterian Church as well as the Local Woman's Christian Temperance Union (HCM #562) which built their headquarters adjacent to the family's home.



Waite Residence, #890

(2431 Hill Drive): Built in 1922, the two-story residential building in Eagle Rock is designed in the Mediterranean Revival style. Architect Harwood Hewitt, founding member and secretary of the

Allied Architect Association, designed this building for Charles C. and Effie Waite, citrus farmers from Riverside County. Hewitt also designed several landmarks in Los Angeles including Patriotic Hall, Los Angeles County USC Medical Center, and the Hall of Justice.

HCM REQUESTS DECLINED BY THE CHC MARCH – OCTOBER 2007

Jessie D'Arche Apartments (North University Park)
Mahlon Hamilton Residence (Windsor Village)
Eli Kleinberger Residence (Windsor Village)
Edward Carr Residence (Windsor Village)
Crenshaw United Methodist Church (Leimert Park)
Gillis Hunting Lodge (Brentwood)
Casa California Apartments (Wilshire Center)
Lovetta Apartments (Wilshire Center)
Felix Chevrolet Showroom and Neon Sign (University Park) -
Denied by City Council

