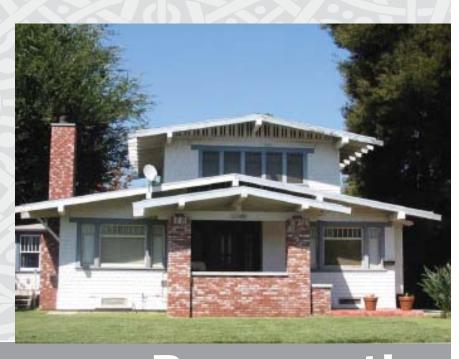
# Van Nuys HPOZ



Preservation Plan



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## **Chapter 1** Mission Statement

Pacilitate the vitality of the district as a livable and sustainable neighborhood through the restoration, preservation and enhancement of structures, landscaping and natural features.

### Chapter 2 Goals & Objectives

#### Goal 1 Preserve The Historic Character Of The Community

Objective 1.1 Safeguard the character of historic buildings and sites

**Objective 1.2** Recognize and protect the historic streetscape and development patterns

**Objective 1.3** Ensure rehabilitation and new construction within the district complements the historic fabric

**Objective 1.4** Recognize that the preservation of the character of the district as a whole takes precedence over the treatment of individual structures or sites.

#### Goal 2 Preserve The Historic Streetscape

Objective 2.1 Encourage and maintain traditional front yards.

**Objective 2.2** Promote retention of historic landscape features

#### **Goal 3 Preserve The Historic Appearance Of Residential Structures**

**Objective 3.1** Encourage retention of significant architectural features

## Goal 4 Achieve Widespread Public Awareness And Involvement in Historic Preservation Throughout The HPOZ

**Objective 4.1** Keep local residents, the preservation community, the general public and decision makers informed about historic preservation issues and initiatives, and facilitate public access to this information

Objective 4.2 Promote public participation in the HPOZ review process

**Objective 4.3** Inform the public and preservation community about effective preservation techniques and resources

#### Goal 5 Assist In The Effective Implementation Of The HPOZ Ordinance

**Objective 5.1** Facilitate fair and impartial decisions regarding proposed projects with this Plan

**Objective 5.2** Educate and inform the HPOZ community about the community benefits of historic preservation

**Objective 5.3** Create a resource of information on architectural styles found within the neighborhood

**Objective 5.4** Encourage citizen involvement and participation in the review process

## Chapter 3 Function of the Plan

#### 3.1 Role of the Preservation Plan

This Preservation Plan is a City Planning Commission approved document which governs the Van Nuys Historic Preservation Overlay Zone (HPOZ). The plan, through its design guidelines, as well as its goals and objectives, aims to create a clear and predictable set of expectations as to the design and review of proposed projects within the district. This plan has been prepared specifically for this HPOZ to clarify and elaborate upon the review criteria established under the HPOZ Ordinance.

The Van Nuys Preservation Plan serves as an implementation tool of the Wilmington-Harbor City Community Plan (a part of the land use element of the City's General Plan). HPOZs are one of many types of overlay districts, policies, and programs that serve to advance the goals and objectives of the Community Plan.

The Van Nuys Preservation Plan outlines design guidelines for the rehabilitation and restoration of structures, natural features, landscape and the public realm including streets, parks, street trees, and other types of development within the HPOZ. The Preservation Plan also serves as an educational tool for both existing and potential property owners, residents, and investors and will be used by the general public to learn more about the HPOZ. The Preservation Plan is to be made available to property owners and residents within the HPOZ, and should be reviewed by the Board every two years.

The Van Nuys HPOZ Board will make recommendations and decisions based on this document. Similarly, the Department of City Planning will use this document as the basis for its determinations. The Preservation Plan articulates the community's vision and goals regarding the HPOZ by setting clear guidelines for the development of properties within the district. The Preservation Plan will serve as a resource for property owners planning repairs or alterations as an educational tool for both existing and potential property owners, residents, and investors, and will also be used by the general public to learn more about the City of Los Angeles and its unique neighborhoods.

#### 3.2 Role of the HPOZ Board

All HPOZs in the City are administered by a local board comprised of five members appointed by the Mayor, the Councilmember, the Cultural Heritage Commission and the Board at-large. These members are appointed because they have expertise in historic preservation, architecture, real estate and construction. The HPOZ Ordinance requires that the HPOZ Board make all decisions related to maintenance, repair, restoration and minor alterations to a property (work defined as "Conforming Work") and that the HPOZ Board serve as an advisory body to the Department of City Planning related to new construction, large additions and major alterations or rehabilitation projects. In addition to their role as a decision making body, the HPOZ Board is

an educational resource with unique experience and expertise both in historic preservation practices and in the rich history of this culturally and architecturally significant neighborhood.

In an effort to encourage property owners to comply with the Preservation Plan guidelines and facilitate a streamlined review of simple maintenance, repair and restoration projects, review of many types of Conforming Work projects have been delegated by the HPOZ Board to the Director of Planning. For many types of work applicants can contact Planning staff and have their projects reviewed once the appropriate application materials have been received instead of being agendized for an HPOZ Board meeting. However, most types of work on a property that involve a discernable change to the structure or site will require HPOZ Board review. The list of projects that are delegated to the Director of Planning for decision is provided in Section 3.5 below.

#### 3.3 Organization of the Preservation Plan

Each Preservation Plan is required to contain seven elements: The Mission Statement, Goals and Objectives, Function of the Plan, the Context Statement, the Historic Resources Survey, Design Guidelines, and the Preservation Incentives/Adaptive reuse policies located in the Appendix.

**Chapter 1 - Mission Statement**: Establishes the community's vision for the Preservation Plan.

**Chapter 2 - Goals and Objectives**: States the goals for this plan and offers specific programs or actions as the means to accomplish these goals.

**Chapter 3 - Function of the Plan**: Reviews the role, organization, and process of the Preservation Plan.

**Chapter 4 - Context Statement**: Outlines the history and significance of the community's development.

**Chapter 5 - Historic Resources Survey**: Identifies all Contributing and Non-Contributing structures and includes Contributing landscaping, natural features and sites, and vacant lots.

**Chapter 6 - Architectural Styles**: Provides an explanation of architectural styles and building types that are relevant to the neighborhood.

**Chapter 7 - Residential Rehabilitation**: Provides guidelines related to the maintenance, repair and minor rehabilitation of existing sites and structures.

**Chapter 8: Residential Additions**: Provides guidelines related to additions and secondary structures.

**Chapter 9: Residential In-fill**: Provides guidelines for building new residential structures in an HPOZ.

**Chapter 10: Public Realm**: Provides guidelines related to public spaces, parks and streets.

**Chapter 13: Definitions**: Provides definitions for the various technical and architectural terms used throughout this document.

An appendix of other useful information is found at the back of this Plan. This appendix includes a compilation of preservation incentives and adaptive reuse policies, process charts, and the HPOZ Ordinance.

#### 3.4 **HPOZ Process Overview**

The Historic Preservation Overlay Zone has different review processes for different types of project review within the HPOZ. For more information on which review type is appropriate for a certain project, contact staff at the Department of City Planning.

**Certificate of Appropriateness**: A Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) is required when significant work is proposed for a Contributing element in the HPOZ. A COA requires that a formal application be filed with the Department of City Planning. The HPOZ Board will conduct a public hearing and submit a recommendation to the Director of Planning, who will also consider input from the Cultural Heritage Commission regarding the project.

**Certificate of Compatibility**: A Certificate of Compatibility (CCMP) is required for the review of new construction on vacant lots or on lots where a Non-contributor is proposed for demolition. A CCMP also requires that a formal application be filed with the Department of City Planning. The HPOZ Board will conduct a public hearing and submit a recommendation to the Director of Planning.

Conforming Work on Contributing Elements: Conforming Work on a Contributing Element (CWC) is a more expedient review process limited to restoration, demolition in response to a natural disaster, maintenance and repair, and minor alterations that do not result in a discernable change to the character-defining features on a structure. Some CWC projects may be simply reviewed by Planning staff while others will require review by the HPOZ Board; see Section 3.5 for more information.

**Conforming Work on Non-Contributing Elements:** Conforming Work on a Non-contributing Element (CWNC) is a review process for work on Non-contributing properties that does not involve demolition of a structure or construction of a new building on a vacant lot.

#### 3.5 Exemptions

As instructed by the City Planning Commission, and City Council (notwithstanding LAMC 12.20.3 to the contrary), the following types of work are exempt from HPOZ review in the Van Nuys HPOZ (unless the work is located in the public right-of-way).

- Interior alterations that do not result in a change to an exterior feature;
- 2. The correction of Emergency or Hazardous conditions where a City enforcement agency has determined that such conditions currently exist and they must be corrected in the interest of public health, safety and welfare. When feasible, the City agencies should consult with the Planning Department on how to correct the hazardous conditions consistent with the Preservation Plan;
- 3. Department of Public Works improvements where the Director finds that a) The certified Historic Resources Survey for the Preservation Zone does not identify any Contributing Elements located within the Right-of-Way and/or where the Right-of-Way is not specifically addressed in the Preservation Plan; and b) Where the Department of Public Works has completed a CEQA review of the proposed improvement and the review has determined that the work is exempt from CEQA, or will have no potentially significant environmental impacts (the HPOZ Board shall be notified of such Projects, given a Project description and an opportunity to comment);
- 4. Alterations to City Historic-Cultural Monuments and properties under an approved Historical Property (Mills Act) Contract;
- 5. Work specifically authorized by a Historical Property Contract approved by the City Council;
- 6. Rear yard (non-corner lots only) landscape/hardscape work that is not visible from the street and that does not involve the removal of a mature tree or a feature identified in the historic resources survey;
- 7. Landscape work in front and side yards, not including: hardscape work; installation of artificial turf; installation of fences or hedges; planting of new trees; removal/pruning of any mature tree or work on any feature identified in the historic resources survey. Additionally, landscapes where more than 40% of the front yard area is bereft of planting are not exempt;
- 8. Installation or repair of in-ground swimming pools located in the rear yard on non-corner lots;
- 9. Rear yard grading and earth work on Non-Hillside lots as determined by the LAMC;

- 10. Installation and expansion of rear patios or decks that are no higher than 5 feet above finish grade (including railings), not including balconies, roof structures, trellises, gazebos or other similar structures;
- 11. Installation, replacement or repair of mechanical equipment that is located within the rear yard area;
- 12. Installation of lighting devices on facades that are not visible from the street;
- 13. Exterior painting with no change from existing paint colors;
- 14. Maintenance and repair of existing foundations with no physical change to the exterior;
- 15. Removal of security grilles and/or gates that were installed outside of the Period of Significance;
- 16. Removal of fences that were installed outside of the Period of Significance.

#### 3.6 Delegated to the Director of Planning

In the Van Nuys HPOZ, the review of the following types of work is delegated to the Director of Planning and therefore shall not require review by the HPOZ Board, but the HPOZ Board shall receive a notice of the Director of Planning's action or decision. The Director of Planning shall utilize the Design Guidelines contained within this Preservation Plan to determine whether the proposed project may be found to be Conforming Work. Projects that do not comply with the Design Guidelines, or that involve an existing enforcement case with the Department of Building and Safety or the Housing Department, or otherwise involve a request for approval of work that was performed without appropriate approval, shall be brought before the HPOZ Board for review and consideration, either as Conforming Work or as requiring a Certificate of Appropriateness or Certificate of Compatibility.

- 1. Pruning of mature trees and the installation of new trees.
- 2. In-kind hardscape replacement within the front yard (driveway, walkways, etc) that does not expand the hardscape footprint;
- 3. Exterior painting involving new paint colors and not including paint applied to previously unpainted surfaces such as stone, masonry or stained wood;
- 4. Ordinary maintenance and repair (including in-kind replacement) to correct deterioration or decay, that does not involve a change in the existing design, materials or exterior paint color;
- 5. In-kind replacement of asphalt roof shingles, or repairs to tile, slate or other similar roofs where existing roof materials are re-used

- and repairs are made to underlying roof structure, and where roof details such as fascia, eaves and brackets will not be affected.
- 6. Removal of non-historic stucco, asbestos shingles, vinyl siding or other similar materials, when underlying historic materials can be repaired or replaced in-kind. Where evidence of original materials is unclear, work shall be deferred to the HPOZ Board for review;
- 7. Installation of screen doors or windows that do not obscure the actual door or window;
- 8. Replacement of non-original windows with windows that match the originals, when examples of original windows still exist on the structure;
- 9. Construction or installation of ramps, railings, lifts, etc., on any non-visible elevation of a building intended to allow for accessibility;
- 10. Any alterations to a structure that is identified as Non-Contributing in the Historic Resources Survey, not including additions, new construction, relocation or demolition;
- 11. Additions of less than 250 square feet to any Contributing building or structure, where the addition does not break the side-planes or roofline of the existing structure, is contained completely within the rear yard and is not visible from the street;
- 12. Additions to Non-Contributing structures that increase the square footage by less than 30% of the existing square footage (as determined by LADBS) when the addition does not affect the front façade of the structure or break the side and top planes of the structure;
- 13. Alterations to façade openings, such as new doors or windows, to portions of a structure that are not visible from the street;
- 14. Installation or repair of fences, walls, and hedges in the rear and side yards that are not visible from the street (non corner-lots only) and that do not require a Zoning Administrator's approval for height or location;
- 15. Installation or repair of solar collectors, skylights, antennas, satellite dishes and broadband internet systems on rear-facing facades/roof surfaces or garage roofs that are not visible from the street;
- 16. Installation of window security bars or grills, located on secondary facades;
- 17. Repair or replacement of gutters and downspouts.

All questions of visibility are to be determined by Department of City Planning staff. For the purposes of this Plan, visibility includes all portions of the front and side elevations that are visible from the adjacent street or sidewalk or that would be visible but are currently obscured by landscaping. It also includes undeveloped portions of a lot where new construction or additions would be visible from the adjacent street or sidewalk, such as the street-side side yard on a corner lot and the front yard. Finally, construction or additions to areas that are not currently visible but that will become visible following the construction or addition will be considered visible and reviewed accordingly.

A street visible façade excludes those portions of the side elevations that are not visible from the adjacent street or sidewalk and all rear elevations. A street visible façade may also include side and rear facades that are generally visible from a non-adjacent street due to steep topography, or second stories that are visible over adjacent one story structures, etc.

Projects requiring a Certificate of Appropriateness or Compatibility shall not have any part of their applications be exempt or delegated.

The Department of City Planning retains the authority to refer any delegated project to the Historic Preservation Overlay Zone (HPOZ) Board for a recommendation when compliance with the adopted design guidelines is unclear.

#### 3.7 Accessory Structures

Any alteration of, addition of less than 250 square feet to, or demolition of an existing detached accessory structure, on a parcel that has been designated as a Contributor in the HPOZ, shall be reviewed as a Conforming Work by the HPOZ Board if it can be demonstrated that the accessory structure was built outside of the Period of Significance for the HPOZ. If it cannot be demonstrated that the accessory structure was built outside of the Period of Significance, the proposed work shall be addressed through a request for a Certificate of Appropriateness pursuant to 12.20.3 K.4, provided that the Director of Planning, having weighed recommendations from the HPOZ Board and the Cultural Heritage Commission, can find the following:

- 1. That the alteration, addition to, or demolition of the accessory structure will not degrade the primary structure's status as a Contributor in the HPOZ because the accessory structure is not visible to the general public; or is minimally visible to the general public; and
- 2. That the alteration, addition to, or demolition of the accessory structure will not degrade the primary structure's status as a Contributor in the HPOZ because the accessory structure does not possess physical or architectural qualities that are otherwise found on the primary structure or that constitute cultural or architectural significance in their own right; and

3. That the accessory structure's primary historical use has been for the storage of automobiles (i.e. a garage), or household items (i.e. a tool shed, garden shed, etc.).

All properties must comply with parking standards set forth in the Los Angeles Municipal Code.

### **Chapter 4** Context Statement

#### 4.1 History of Van Nuys

The first inhabitants of Los Angeles County were Native Americans Originally inhabited by the Gabrielino Indians, the San Fernando Valley was first seen by Europeans in 1769 when a Spaniard, Gaspar de Portola, entered the Valley. Today, the only evidence of habitation by Native Americans lies in largely unexplored archaeological resources, and in place names such as "Tujunga." In 1797 the San Fernando Mission was founded as the seventeenth of the twenty one Franciscan Missions of Alta California. Until town sites developed in the late 1870's and 1880's, the Mission was the center of activity in the Valley.

In 1846, after secularization of the Missions and before the resolution of the Mexican American War, Governor Pio Pico sold 116,858 acres of Valley land to Eulogia de Celis for a ranch known thereafter as Rancho Ex Mission San Fernando. The sale of the Valley was intended to finance Mexico's war with the United States in California. In 1847, however, the Mexican cause was lost and General Andrés Pico signed capitulation papers at the Campo de Cahuenga, which was in an area of the Sherman Oaks/Studio City/Toluca Lake Community Plan Area often called North Hollywood. Lieutenant Colonel John C. Fremont was the representative of the United States on that historic occasion. The Campo was reconstructed on its original site in the 1950's. During the Mission and Rancho periods there were few adobe dwellings or other structures within the Planning Area, and communication between settlers required long journeys on horseback.

After the resolution of the Mexican American War, California became a territory of the United States and was made a state in 1850. At that time, a United States District Court upheld de Celis' claim to the Ex Mission Rancho, and in 1869 de Celis' heirs sold the 59,500 acres that comprised the south half of their land to a syndicate which included Isaac Lankershim and his son-in-law Isaac Newton Van Nuys. Lankershim was a native of Bavaria and had come to California in 1850 [or 1854] from Missouri. Van Nuys had come to California from a farm community in northern New York State in 1865 for health reasons and had operated a business in the Berryessa Valley near Napa before immigrating to Southern California. Both Lankershim and Van Nuys were among the foremost businessmen of Southern California and were responsible for the development of important commercial buildings in downtown Los Angeles as well as land development in the Valley and elsewhere.

The Lankershim Van Nuys syndicate was called the San Fernando Farm Homestead Association, but was quickly renamed the San Fernando Sheep Company in order to reflect its primary activity as a ranching enterprise. By 1880 wheat farming had supplanted sheep raising and the syndicate's name was changed again to the San Fernando Farm and Milling Company. To facilitate operations, the



Aerial view of the San Fernando Valley of today, a busy, amazing wonderland whose growth and progress is one of the most magnificent chapters in the golden history of the golden west. It is a far cry from the historic day 187 years ago when Gaspar de Portola, Spanish provincial governor, led his party into the valley. Photo dated: February 25, 1957.



Photo of Mission San Fernando taken in 1957



Exterior corner view of the three-story (formerly twostory) home and carriage house of Isaac Newton Van Nuys, located at Spring and 7th Street.

59,000 acre ranch was divided into seven smaller units which included the Lankershim Ranch (now North Hollywood), the Sheep Ranch (also North Hollywood), the Kester Ranch (now Van Nuys), and the Home Ranch (also Van Nuys).

During Southern California's first great real estate boom in the late 1880's, after the death of Isaac Lankershim, I.N. Van Nuys sold the 12,000 acres at the east end of the Valley to the Lankershim Land and Water Company. The land was first subdivided into small farms, ranging from one acre to two hundred and fifty acres in size.

In 1910, Van Nuys' Farming and Milling Company sold its remaining 47,000 acres of Valley land to the Los Angeles Suburban Homes Company. Its primary investors included Harry Chandler of the Los Angeles Times, H.J. Whitley, a professional townsite developer who had promoted and sold much of Hollywood, General Moses H. Sherman, one of the region's first railroad barons, General Harrison Gray Otis owner of the Los Angeles Times, and Otis F. Brandt of the powerful Title Insurance and Trust Company. All of these men were active in real estate development in many areas of Los Angeles and played an active role in the City's growing transportation network, its search for adequate water supplies, and its nation wide promotion. H.J. Whitley was initially in charge of the sale of Suburban Homes Company land, which was divided into two and a half to six hundred acre parcels and called Tract 1000. The town site of Van Nuys was one of three initial towns laid out by Whitley, and W.P. Whitsett was put in charge of its development. From unpopulated farm land, Van Nuys grew into a bustling agricultural community, residential suburb, and a center of economic and institutional development in the Valley within five years.

After a number of legal decisions and completion of the Owens Valley Aqueduct in 1913, most of the independent communities of the San Fernando Valley relied on the City of Los Angeles for their water. In 1915, the community of Van Nuys and areas which today include Sherman Oaks, Studio City and Toluca Lake, were annexed to the City of Los Angeles as a part of the 170 square mile San Fernando Addition. All of these areas, each with its own group of pioneers and special identity, continued to grow after annexation, first as agricultural town sites, and then as residential subdivisions tied to the city in the south.

#### Identification of Historical Themes and Associative Property Types

To assist in the identification and evaluation of significant historic resources, the above synopsis must be complemented by a discussion of economic, residential, and cultural patterns and their associative property types.

#### Economic Development

The economic development of the Southeast Valley from the Mission Period to 1950 was heavily dependent on the availability of water for a wide range of agricultural activities, on transportation systems (primarily rail for the conveyance of perishables to market), and on specific industries and local commercial development within each distinct town site. Punctuated by a series of economic booms and depressions, the settlement of the region was a function of the above factors, and in turn established a pattern for the region's growth and diversification.

#### Transportation

Transportation played a critical role in the economic development of Valley communities. Roads and rail systems provided a valuable link for goods and services, and the original town sites, agricultural lands, and other industries were located along the major transportation routes. The Southern Pacific Railroad and the Pacific Electric Railway in particular, were directly responsible for the successful subdivision and platting of the town sites of Lankershim and Van Nuys. The immediate success of Van Nuys was also attributed to the \$500,000 boulevard system completed by the Suburban Homes Company which included sections of Van Nuys Boulevard and Sherman Way. these first roads in place, automobile transport caught on quickly in the Southeast Valley, stimulating construction of more roads, service stations, and garages. Van Nuys Boulevard, which was laid out by Valley subdividers prior to 1912, was a major thoroughfare of the area until the Valley freeways were built in the 1960's. The road continues to act as major surface route and commercial thoroughfare.

Electric railways were built in the Valley starting in 1909 11, when the line from Hollywood to the site of Van Nuys was constructed. The Pacific Electric Railway controlled this line and the one north to San Fernando which was completed in 1912. In some areas between Lankershim and Van Nuys, the Pacific Electric Railway shared the tracks of the Southern Pacific. Carrying freight and passengers, the Pacific Electric opened large areas for increased agricultural and residential development. The successful subdivision of Van Nuys and much of the Southeast Valley's prosperity in the early twentieth century, was due to the Pacific Electric Railway.

#### Agriculture and Other Industries

Agriculture was the primary industry of the Southeast San Fernando Valley from the Mission period until residential development consumed the last vestiges of farm land in the 1940's and 1950's. After Van Nuys' successful experiment, wheat farming became the primary agricultural activity in the Southeast Valley and remained so until 1910.

Field crops were cultivated in the area, and lima beans, alfalfa, vegetables, sugar beets, and commercial nurseries flourished after the Suburban Homes Company subdivided its 47,500 acres in 1910. In fact, the Suburban Homes Company cooperated with the American Beet Sugar Company in growing 20,000 acres of sugar beets in 1911.



View of Lankershim subdivision map by the Lankershim Ranch Land and Water Co.



Portrait of Harry Chandler, publisher of the Los Angeles Times.



Two views of Sylvan Street and Van Nuys Boulevard; the upper photograph taken Feb. 22, 1911, and the lower July 18, 1934.

In 1925 ninety percent of the baby lima beans in the United States were raised around Van Nuys.

Large poultry farms and dairies were also important agricultural activities crucial to the economic development of the Southeast Valley. Particularly after the first subdivisions, the smaller suburban farm homes were used for poultry raising. After 1913, Van Nuys residents in the poultry business owned over 200,000 hens. By 1925, the 911 poultry farms in the San Fernando Valley were worth a total of \$8,000,000.

Property types and sites associated with the Southeast Valley's tremendous agricultural industry included the fields, trees, and orchards, some examples of which, although reduced in scale, may still remain in the region. During the period before farming replaced sheep grazing as the primary land use, large ranch houses, barns, and corrals were built on each of the seven ranch units belonging to Lankershim and Van Nuys. Poplar and pepper trees were planted around these areas and wheat and barley mills were in operation.

Fruit drying, packing, and canning warehouses, along with the hatcheries and other buildings associated with poultry raising, became the predominant built forms of the agricultural industry. Drying, canning, and packing warehouses were located near the groves, and also near major transportation routes such as the cross Valley Southern Pacific railroad line. The first cannery in Lankershim was producing by 1898, though drying was the favored method of preserving and shipping peaches until after 1911, when growers suffered financially due to a glut on the Chicago marketAround 1918, the Vanomar Producers Cannery in Van Nuys handled approximately 10,930,000 pounds of fruits and vegetables per year.

The drying plants, canning, and packing warehouses were utilitarian in nature. Framed in wood and later in brick or steel, they had few windows except for a continuous band of clerestory windows along the dormer ridge of a steeply pitched gable roof. Variations in the form could include wide buildings roofed with many low gables open to the light at either end, or even arched roof masonry warehouses with end windows and center dormer ridge. Whole complexes of these warehouses were constructed along railroad spurs adjacent to the cross Valley Southern Pacific railroad line. Some facilities, like the Vanomar Cannery which later became the Golden State Canneries Plant Number Seven, included housing for their workers. Since packing and canning activities were typically performed by Mexican American laborers, any surviving examples of worker housing may be significant to an understanding of social as well as economic conditions in the Valley. Surviving examples of packing and canning warehouses may be in poor condition, but they remain a significant link to the agricultural past of the area.

Poultry raising typically took far less space than other agricultural activities, and the low, wood frame buildings associated with the industry could be found on the outskirts of both Lankershim and Van Nuys during the early decades of the century. Usually long and narrow in plan, the hatcheries and hen houses were complemented by smaller breeder houses.

#### Residential Development

Subdivision and residential development in the Southeast Valley from the Mission period until 1950 was a powerful and persistent factor in the organization and development of the region's built environment. Some residential neighborhoods were developed in very short periods of time by single developers. As a result they demonstrate a consistency of architectural style, size, and scale. In other areas, residential development occurred over two or three decades and continued to change as newer structures were placed next to older ones. These neighborhoods evolved a variety of characteristics which today document changes in population, income level, and in the architectural conventions preferred by successive generations. Most residential communities in the Southeast Valley contain homogeneity of size, setbacks, and other community design features which define each "neighborhood." Some have a very rural feeling, created by large lawns or yards, the absence of sidewalks, and low fences. The routes of the Southern Pacific Railroad and the Pacific Electric Railway in most cases determined the first areas of concentrated residential development and were ultimately responsible for the "suburbanization" of the San Fernando Valley.

Following the techniques used by Charles Maclay in the North Valley and by W.H. Whitley in Hollywood, the early subdividers of Lankershim and Van Nuys used excursion fares on the railway and free barbecues and other events to attract prospective settlers to their subdivisions. In Van Nuys, W.P. Whitsett constructed ten houses, designed and built by a construction company, before the first excursion train arrived. Lots sold quickly as settlers bought in to the prevailing image of "suburban farm" living, where they could enjoy both country life and the "modern conveniences that a city could offer."

#### Single Family Homes

Home ownership was a cultural value of almost every generation and ethnic group of settlers who came to California when residential subdivision began in the 1880's. In Valley communities, emphasis was placed on the variety and quality of homes being constructed. A local Lankershim reporter noted with pride in 1925 that: "Bungalows of the California, Spanish, Italian, and all modern types ornament every street and are rapidly dotting every block. Some of the more pretentious homes are veritable mansions, . . . shacks and temporary homes are notable for their absence." Some of the first dwellings constructed



Construction of the Owens Valley Aqueduct. A horse-drawn carriage poses in one of the large pipes used in the construction of the aqueduct.



Aerial view of Weeks Poultry Colony in Owensmouth (Canoga Park). The colony was founded by Charles Weeks as a utopian community, located at 21228 Sherman Way.



1958 artist's sketch of multi-million dollar Valley adminstrative center in Van Nuys as is would look upon completion.

were elaborate show places such as Whitley's "Italian Renaissance type" house, Harry Chandler's "Italian villa," and the "chalet home" built "along Japanese lines" for Lycurgus Lindsay. In these cases, architects or builders were hired by the developers to design substantial residences which promoted the quality of their subdivisions.

The majority of the first dwellings, however, were more simple one story farm houses and bungalows derived from the Victorian and Craftsman styles. Peaked gable roofs, porches, and aggregate additions characterized the farmhouses, some of which were American Foursquare in style, with a strong vertical emphasis but also simplicity in elevation and plan atypical of earlier Victorian derivations. Craftsman style homes were constructed from the turn of the century through the early 1920's, and although some were architect designed, many were erected by construction contractors. Craftsman style residences typically have low, peaked roofs, wood clapboard or shingle siding, exposed wooden beams, stone foundations and chimneys, and a strong horizontal orientation.

Local craftsmanship and creativity are evident in many surviving early homes in Van Nuys and North Hollywood. Most retain their simple organization but may reveal additions and alterations acquired over time. Neighborhoods which contain many intact examples of these early homes are rare in the San Fernando Valley. While each individual house within these areas may not be architecturally significant, the grouping of houses, usually with uniform set backs and street features, give these neighborhood districts their strong sense of place.

#### 4.2 Van Nuys Periods of Significance

Arts & Crafts/Turn of the Century Styles (1890s - 1920s)

Colonial Revival (Also, American Colonial Revival) Craftsman

ECLECTIC REVIVAL STYLES (1920 - 1942)

English Tudor Revival (Also, English Cottage, English Revival) Spanish Colonial Revival

Early Modern Styles (1900s - 1950s)

Minial Traditional

Post WWII Styles (1940s - 1967)

Ranch (Also Minimal Traditional Ranch, Colonial Ranch, California Ranch, etc.)

### **Chapter 5** Historic Resources Survey

#### 5.1 Introduction

The Historic Resources Survey is a document which identifies all contributing and non-contributing structures, landscape features, natural features and sites, individually or collectively, including street features, furniture or fixtures, and which is certified as to its accuracy and completeness by the Cultural Heritage Commission.

#### 5.2 Contributing or Non-contributing?

To find out if a particular structure, landscape feature, natural features, or site is Contributing, consult the Historic Resource Survey. Depending on the Contributing/Non-contributing status of a structure, feature, or site, different elements of the design guidelines will be used in the planning and review of projects.

#### **Contributing Structures**

Contributing structures are those structures, landscape features, natural features, or sites identified as Contributing in the Historic Resources survey for the HPOZ. Generally, "Contributing" structures will have been built within the historic Period of Significance of the HPOZ, and will retain elements that identify it as belonging to that period. The historic period of significance of the HPOZ is usually the time period in which the majority of construction in the area occurred. In some instances, structures that are compatible with the architecture of that period or that are historic in their own right, but were built outside of the Period of Significance of the district, will also be "Contributing".

#### **Contributing Altered**

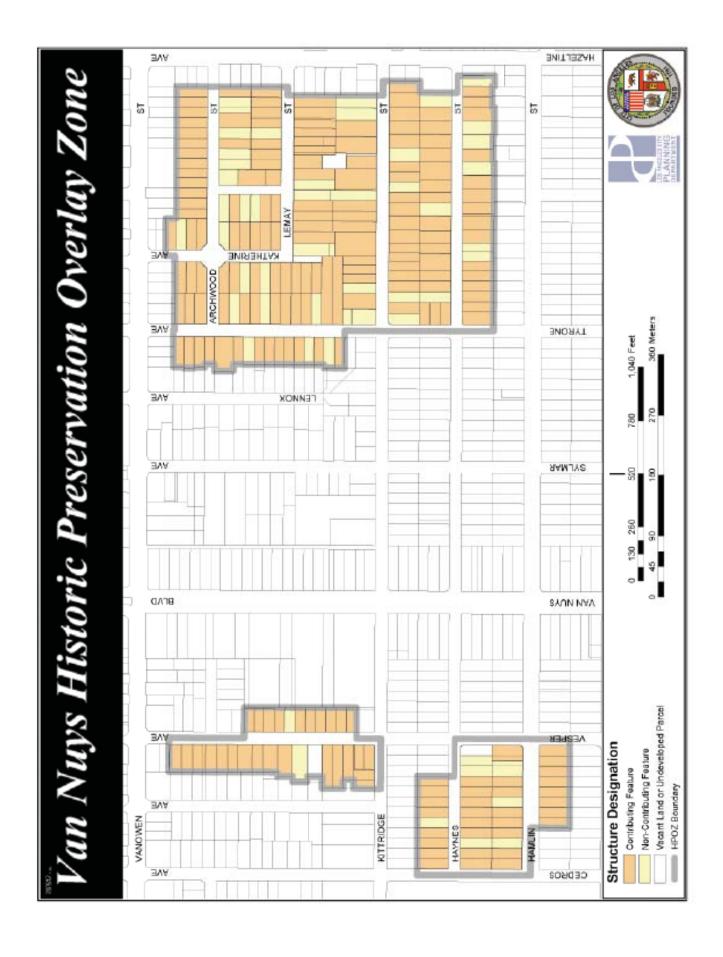
Contributing Altered structures are structures that date from the period of significance, built in the same time period as Contributing structures that have retained their historic character in spite of subsequent alterations or additions and are deemed reversible.

#### Non-contributing Structures

Non-contributing structures are those structures, landscapes, natural features, or sites identified as not retaining their historic character as a result of un-reversable alterations, or as having been built outside of the HPOZ Period of Significance or because they are vacant lots.

The Van Nuys Historic Resources Survey can be reviewed at:

City Hall City Planning Department, Office of Historic Resources 200 N Spring Street, Room 620 Los Angeles, CA 90021



### **Chapter 6** Architectural Styles

## 6.1 Overview of Architectural Styles in Los Angeles

The following is a history of architectural styles found throughout the City of Los Angeles. The narrative of architectural styles is helpful in understanding how the architecture of the HPOZ relates to the larger region-wide context. The summary of styles and periods is intentionally broad and is intended to give the reader an understanding of major architectural themes in the City. However, it should be understood that individual structures may adhere rigorously to the themes and descriptions described below, or may defy them altogether based upon the preferences and tastes of individual architects, home-builders and developers.

#### Nineteenth Century Styles (1880s–1900s)

The 19th Century architectural styles popular in Los Angeles included the Italianate, Queen Anne, Folk Victorian, and Eastlake/Stick styles; styles that many lay-people might refer to simply as "Victorian." Most of these styles were transmitted to Los Angeles by means of pattern books or the experience of builders from the eastern United States. Later in the period builders began to embrace more simplified home plans and the Foursquare, Shingle and Victorian Vernacular styles began to emerge (Victorian Vernacular styles generally include the Hippedroof Cottage and the Gabled-roof Cottage). Neo-classical styles were also popular during this period. While there are residential examples of Neo-classical architecture, the styles is most often attributed to commercial and institutional structures.

These 19th Century styles were built most prolifically in the boom years of the 1880s, with consistent building continuing through the turn of the last century. These styles were concentrated in areas near today's downtown Los Angeles. Many examples of 19th century architectural styles have been lost through redevelopment or urban renewal projects. Surviving examples of 19th Century architectural styles within the City of Los Angeles are most commonly found in neighborhoods surrounding the Downtown area such as Angelino Heights, University Park, Boyle Heights, Lincoln Heights, and South Los Angeles. Surviving examples of the pure Italianate styles are rare in Los Angeles, although Italianate detail is often found mixed with the Eastlake or Queen Anne styles.

The prominent architects in Los Angeles in this period included Ezra Kysar, Morgan & Walls, Bradbeer & Ferris, Frederick Roehrig and Carroll Brown.



A Japanese-American family sits for a photograph in front of their Queen Anne cottage in Garvanza.



The E.C. Hurd residence, which stood at 6954 Hollywood Blvd is shown with ornate Queen Anne detailing.

This Mission Revival home once stood where the present-day Hollywood/Highland development is currently located.



A collection of early Craftsman and Foursquare homes is shown in the Harvard Heights neighborhood.



Spanish Colonial Revival emerged as a popular style for many neighborhoods in the Mid-Wilshire area.

#### Arts & Crafts/Turn of the Century Styles (1890s-1910s)

The late 1800s and early 1900s saw a substantial change in design philosophy nation-wide. The Arts and Crafts Movement, born in Western Europe rejected the rigidity and formality of Victorian era design motifs and embraced styles that were more organic and that emphasized craftsmanship and function. During this time in Los Angeles, architectural styles that emerged in popularity include the Craftsman Style in its various iterations (Japanese, Swiss, Tudor, etc.); the Mission Revival Style, unique to the southwestern portion of the United States; and the Prairie Style, initially popularized in the Midwest and Prairie states. Colonial Revival styles, including American Colonial Revival (inspired by architecture of the early American Colonies) and Spanish Colonial Revival (inspired by architecture of the early Spanish colonies) also emerged in popularity during this period, though there is a stronger preponderance of these styles later during the Eclectic Revival period of early to mid-century.

These styles were concentrated in areas spreading from downtown Los Angeles into some of the area's first streetcar suburbs. Although many examples of these styles have been lost through redevelopment, fire, and deterioration, many fine examples of these styles still exist in Los Angeles. These styles can be commonly found in the greater West Adams area, portions of South Los Angeles, Hollywood and throughout the Northeast Los Angeles environments.

In this period, Los Angeles was beginning to develop a broad base of prominent architects. Prominent architects in Los Angeles during this period included Henry and Charles Greene, the Heineman Brothers, Frank Tyler, Sumner Hunt, Frederick Roehrig, Milwaukee Building Co., Morgan & Walls, J. Martyn Haenke, Hunt & Burns, Charles Plummer, Theodore Eisen, Elmer Grey, Hudson & Munsell, Dennis & Farwell, Charles Whittlesby, and Thornton Fitzhugh. Only one surviving example of the work of architects Charles and Henry Greene survives in Los Angeles, in the Harvard Heights HPOZ.

#### The Eclectic Revival Styles (1915–1940s)

The period between the World Wars was one of intense building activity in Los Angeles, and a wide range of revival styles emerged in popularity. The Eclectic Revival styles (alternately known as the Period Revival styles), which draw upon romanticized notions of European, Mediterranean and other ethnic architectural styles, include Colonial Revival; Dutch Colonial Revival; English and English Tudor Revival styles; French Eclectic styles; Italian Renaissance Revival; Mediterranean Revival; Monterey Revival; Spanish Colonial Revival; and to a lesser extent, highly stylized ethnic revival styles such as Egyptian Revival, and Hispano-Moorish styles. Use of the Craftsman Style continued through this period as well. Many of these styles were widely adapted to residential, commercial and institutional use. Styles such as Egyptian Revival, Chateauesque (a French Eclectic style)

Mediterranean Revival and Spanish Colonial Revival being particularly popular for use in small and large scale apartment buildings.

All of these styles were based on an exuberantly free adaptation of previous historic or "foreign" architectural styles. The Los Angeles area is home to the largest and most fully developed collection of these styles in the country, probably due to the combination of the building boom that occurred in this region in the 1920s and the influence of the creative spirit of the film industry.

Prominent architects working in these styles included Paul Revere Williams, Walker & Eisen, Curlett & Beelman, Reginald Johnson, Gordon Kauffman, Roland Coates, Arthur R. Kelley, Carleton M. Winslow, and Wallace Neff. Many surviving examples of these styles exist in Los Angeles, particularly in the Mid-Wilshire, Mid City and Hollywood environments.

#### The Early Modern Styles (1900s–1950s)

The period between the World Wars was also a fertile one for the development of architectural styles that were based on an aggressively modern aesthetic, with clean lines and new styles of geometric decoration, or none at all. The Modern styles: Art Deco, Art Moderne, and Streamline Moderne and the International Style, all took root and flourished in the Los Angeles area during this period. The influence of the clean lines of these styles also gave birth to another style, the Minimal Traditional style, that combined the sparseness and clean lines of the Moderne styles with a thin veneer of the historic revival styles. Early Modern styles were most readily adapted to commercial, institutional and in some cases, multi-family residential structures citywide, though there is certainly a preponderance of early modern single family residential structures in the Silver Lake and Echo Park areas, Hollywood, the Santa Monica Mountains, Mid-Wilshire and West Los Angeles areas.

Prominent architects in the Los Angeles region working in these styles included Richard Neutra, Paul Revere Williams, R.M. Schindler, Stiles O. Clements, Robert Derrah, Milton Black, Lloyd Wright, and Irving Gill.

#### Post-World War II/Response to Early Modern (1945–1965)

The period dating from 1945-1965 saw an enormous explosion in the development of single-family housing in the Los Angeles area. Much of this development took the architectural vocabulary of the pre-war years and combined it into simplified styles suitable for mass developments and small-scale apartments. Residential architectural styles popular in Los Angeles in this period included the Minimal Traditional, the various Ranch styles, Mid-Century Modern styles such as Post and Beam and Contemporary, and the Stucco Box (most popularly expressed in the



The Eclectic Revival (or Period Revival) movement presents a number of romantic building styles to this single streetscape.



Richard J. Neutra's Strathmore Apartments in Westwood, built in 1937, are an example of the cutting-edge early International Style.



Los Angeles' love of the auto is often reflected in Art Deco and Streamline styles.



The Dingbat, a product of 1950s Los Angeles, combines a basic utilitarian form with fanciful design motifs.



The Post-War building boom brought inexpensive and plentiful housing to the San Fernando Valley.

Dingbat type). Though these styles may be found as in-fill development throughout the City, areas where complete districts of these styles may be found in Los Angeles include Westchester, West Los Angeles, the Santa Monica Mountains and the San Fernando Valley.

Prominent architects working in these styles in Los Angeles included Gregory Ain, A. Quincy Jones, J. R. Davidson, Cliff May, John Lautner, William Pereira, Rapahael Soriano, and H. Hamilton Harris, although many of these styles were builder-developed.

#### 6.2 **Building Types**

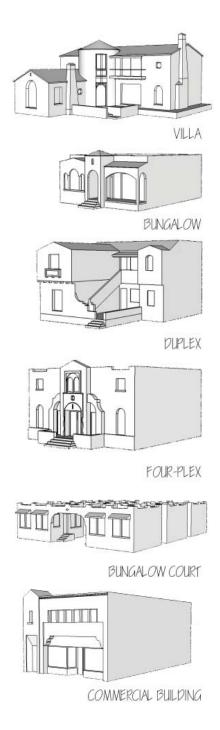
The diversity of building periods and architectural styles in Los Angeles is matched only by the diversity of building types. The cityscape is marked by single family homes, big and small; multi-family structures of varying sizes and densities and a breadth of commercial and institutional buildings varying in scale and function. An understanding of building types can be especially helpful in planning and evaluating an in-fill project in a historical context. Some architectural styles in Los Angeles, such as the Spanish Colonial Revival style have been gracefully adapted to a wide range of residential, commercial and institutional building types. Other styles tend to only have been applied to particular building types; for example, the Art Deco style tends to be found most often on commercial and institutional building types, and the Craftsman style, a predominant residential style was rarely applied to commercial building types. While it is important to address issues of architectural style, it is equally important to ensure that new projects fit in their context with respect to function, layout and type.

#### Single Family Homes

Though most single family homes may be similar by virtue of their use, there is a significant range of single family building types within Los Angeles. Some neighborhoods may be characterized by standard twoto-three story single family homes, and others may be characterized by cottages or bungalows—simple one-story to one-and-a-half-story homes. Idiosyncratic building types may also exist in particular neighborhoods. For example, the Villa, a two-story home oriented lengthwise along the street may be popularly found in affluent pre-war suburbs throughout the Mid-City and Mid-Wilshire areas. While there are always exceptions, attention should be paid to which architectural styles are applied to which single family home types. For example, the English Tudor Revival style has usually been applied to large single family homes, while the simpler English Revival style has usually been applied to bungalows and cottages. The various design guidelines in this document are intended to ensure that additions to single family homes, as well as in-fill projects do not defy established building types as well as architectural styles.

#### Multi-Family Homes

A wide range of multi-family building types were adapted in historic Los Angeles. Some, such as simple duplexes or garden style apartments were designed to blend with the surrounding single family context, and others, such as traditional four-plexes, one-over-one duplexes or large scale apartment buildings define neighborhoods in their own right. When planning a multi-family project, special attention should be paid to predominant building types, and to what styles are most



often applied to those types, to ensure that the project is compatible with the surrounding neighborhood. For example, there tend not to be Craftsman style large-scale apartment buildings, though the style is readily applied to duplexes and fourplexes. The Multi-Family In-Fill design guidelines in Chapter 9 provide a clear understanding of the specific Multi-Family building types.

#### Commercial and Institutional Uses

While the majority of parcels within Los Angeles HPOZs tend to be residential, there is a significant number of commercial buildings and commercial uses within HPOZ purview. Most commercial buildings in HPOZs tend to be simple one-story and two-story buildings built along the street frontage with traditional store-fronts and offices or apartments above. Institutional building types tend to be defined by their use: churches, schools, libraries, etc. Successful in-fill projects will adhere both to prevailing architectural styles and building types. The Commercial Rehabilitation and In-Fill chapters (Chapters 10 and 11) provide assistance in this area.

#### 6.3 Introduction to Van Nuys Architectural Styles

The Architectural Styles Chapter of this Plan is intended to give an overview of the predominant styles that exist Van Nuys HPOZ. Each architectural style explanation has been divided into two sections, a textual overview of the style and its development, and a listing of some typical significant architectural features of that style. These descriptions are intended to assist property owners and the HPOZ board in determining the predominant architectural style of a structure, and in understanding the elements of that style. These descriptions are not intended as comprehensive lists of significant features of any style, and are not to be taken as an exhaustive list of what features should be preserved. Rather, they are intended as a starting point for discussion about what rehabilitation or restoration projects might be appropriate to a particular property.

The reader may note that each architectural style description contains a note on what architectural styles can commonly be found mixed together. This note is included because architectural styles are not always found in a pure state. Individual owners and builders quite often customized or mixed the elements of different architectural styles together in designing a structure. This may be because cultural tastes were transitioning between two styles, with some styles falling out of favor and new styles being introduced, or simply due to the personal taste of the designer. It is important to realize that these mixed style structures are no less architecturally significant than the "purer" forms of a particular style, and that mixed style structures are not "improved" through remodeling with the goal of achieving a "pure" style. Los Angeles is particularly rich in inventive, "fantasy" structures that show a great deal of creativity on the part of the architect, owner, and builder, and this richness should be preserved.

The architectural style descriptions may contain some unfamiliar terms. Many of these terms are defined in the Definitions chapter located at the end of this Preservation Plan, or are illustrated within the Design Guidelines chapters.



#### Eclectic Revival Styles: Colonial Revival

#### Background

Early use of the Colonial Revival style dates from 1890 and the style remained popular through the 1950s (consequently, the style may also be considered part of 19th Century Styles Period or the Eclectic Revival Period). Popularity of the style resulted from a rejection of the ornate European inspired styles such as Queen Anne, and a desire to return to a more "traditional" American building type. This popularity was reinforced by the City Beautiful movement which gave attention to Neo-classical building forms. The style took on added popularity with the restoration of Colonial Williamsburg in the 1920s. This style draws from the simple building forms typical of early American colonial structures, and elements of classical or Georgian architecture. It is closely related to the Neoclassical Revival and Georgian Revival styles.



#### Common Characteristics of the Colonial Revival Style

Colonial Revival residential structures are typically one or two stories, with hipped or gabled roofs (gables nearly always oriented to the sides of the structure) and symmetrical facades. Porches tend to be diminutive if present at all, and entryways are often adorned with decorative crowns or pediments and square or round columns. Doorways are generally single and are rectangular. Windows on older Arts and Crafts period structures may be arranged in pairs or threes, though later Eclectic Revival Colonial houses often have windows arranged singularly with shutters. More decorative versions of Colonial Revival, such as Adam Revival, Federal Revival or Georgian Revival may integrate Neo-classical design motifs such as quoins and dental brackets. The entryway or porch is the primary focus, often highlighted with a decorative crown or pediment. Commercial structures are usually low in scale.



- Symmetrical Facades, and occasional use of side-porch
- Basic rectangular shape
- Hipped or side-facing gable roof
- · Multi-pane double-hung windows, often adorned with shutters
- Central entrance usually adorned with pediments and decorative crown
- Diminutive or no front porch
- High-style variants may use dormers, quoins, dentils and full-height classical columns
- Two and three-color paint schemes with house body often in light or white tones



#### Eclectic Revival Styles: Craftsman

#### Background

Quintessential to the Arts and Crafts design movement, Craftsman architecture stressed the importance of craftsmanship, simplicity, adapting form to function, and relating the building to the surrounding landscape through its ground-hugging massing and orientation. Many early Craftsman homes utilized design elements also found on English Tudor Revival homes such as exposed half-timbers, a steeply pitched roof and plaster façade surfaces. (Many architectural historians would identify these structures as "Transitional Arts and Crafts.") In the following years, the Craftsman style was simplified and often reduced to signature design elements such as an offset front gable roof, tapered porch piers, and extended lintels over door and window openings. In many cases, the Craftsman style incorporated distinctive elements from other architectural styles resulting in numerous variations (namely Asian and Swiss influences).

As a type, the Craftsman style is most commonly adapted to single family homes and duplexes, though four-plexes and apartment houses are not at all uncommon. Though scores of larger Craftsman homes do exist, the style is perhaps best known in the Bungalow type: single-story smaller homes built from kits or pre-drawn catalogue plans. The Airplane Bungalow is a building type that is wholly unique to the Craftsman style and generally consists of a Bungalow with a small pop-up second story (resembling, to some extent, an airplane cockpit).

#### Common Characteristics of the Craftsman Style

Craftsman architecture is usually characterized by a rustic aesthetic of shallowly pitched deeply overhanging gable roofs; earth-colored wood siding; spacious, often L-shaped porches; windows, both casement and double-hung sash, grouped in threes and fours; extensive use of natural wood for the front doors and through-out the interior; and exposed structural elements such as beams, rafters, braces and joints. Cobblestone or brick was favored for chimneys, porch supports and foundations. Craftsman structures may also exhibit characteristics of Prairie and Mission Revival styles.

#### **General Characteristics**

- Broad gabled roofs with deeply overhanging eaves
- Pronounced front porch, symmetrical or offset with massive battered or elephantine columns
- · Exposed and decorative beams, rafters, vents
- · Decorative brackets and braces
- · Grouped rectangular multi-pane windows
- Massive stone or masonry chimneys
- · Use of earth tone color palette and natural finishes
- Three-color schemes for body, trim and accents









#### Eclectic Revival Styles: English Tudor Revival

(Also English Cottage, English Revival)

#### Background

A romanticized recreation of medieval English architecture, the English Tudor Revival style, and its subtle companion the English Cottage, found popularity in the United States in the 1890s through the 1930s. Often considered an Arts & Crafts Period style, the majority of Van Nuys homes in this style were built during the Eclectic Revival Period.

#### Common Characteristics of the English Tudor Revival Styles

English Tudor Revival structures are typically two or three stories, with steeply pitched roofs, cross gables, and often have shingle or slate roofs that attempt to replicate the look of medieval thatching. English cottage structures, generally the type found in Van Nuys, will replicate this pattern, though they are often found in single-story versions. English Tudor Revival structures nearly always use half-timbering, stucco and masonry (often arranged in a herring bone pattern or using clinker bricks) while English Cottage structures may simply be stucco. Windows tend to be arranged singularly, may be casement or use hung sashes, and often utilize artful leaded glass patterns. Chimneys tend to be massive and integral to the overall look of the house. Porches are minimal consisting of simple archways and recesses. Doors are usually singular and may be rectangular or arched.



#### **General Characteristics**

- One-and-one-half to two stories with asymmetrical and irregular plan
- Cross-gabled, medium to steeply pitched roof, sometimes with clipped gables
- · Use of half-timbering, patterned masonry, stone and stucco
- Arrangements of tall, narrow windows in bands; small window panes either double-hung or casement
- Over scaled chimneys with decorative brickwork and chimney pots
- Rectangular or arched doorways, often recessed or found within tower features



#### Eclectic Revival Styles: Spanish Colonial Revival

#### Background

The Spanish Colonial Revival style grew out of a renewed interest in the architecture the early Spanish colonies of North and South America. The architectural features of this style are intended to reflect the rustic traditional Spanish architecture with local building materials such as stucco, adobe, clay and tile. While the style can be closely tied to the Mission Revival style, Spanish Colonial Revival is generally inspired by the more formal buildings that were constructed during the colonial area, whereas Mission Revival tends to be more rustic and holds more closely to the design principles of the Arts and Crafts Movement. While the differences may be minor when the subject is a small single family house, larger Spanish Colonial Revival structures, such as churches, institutional buildings or grandiose mansions tend to reflect a higher level of ornamentation and order. Structures that hold less closely to the aesthetic of Spanish Colonial architecture may also be called Spanish Eclectic.

## Common Characteristics of the Spanish Colonial Revival Style

Spanish Colonial structures are typically one or two stories and rectangular in floor plan. The buildings have low-pitched tile roofs, parapet roofs with tile coping, or some combination of the two; recessed openings, decorative ironwork and decorative plaster reliefs. In its simplest form, Spanish Colonial Revival structures are characterized by white stucco or plaster exteriors (occassionally rustic masonry will be used), red tile roofs and arched window or doorway openings. More elaborate examples incorporate jehas and grilles of wood, wrought iron or plaster. It is not uncommon to find extensive use of terra cotta and glazed tile; balconies and patios. Spanish Colonial buildings are often mixed with Mission Revival, Mediterranean Revival, Moorish Revival, Monterey Revival and Moderne styles.



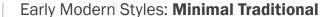


#### **General Characteristics**

- Asymmetrical
- · Low-pitched flat, gable, or hip roof, typically with no overhang
- · Clay tile roof
- · Half round arches, doors, and windows
- Stucco over adobe brick, or adobe brick exterior walls
- · Ornate tile, wrought iron, and wood work
- Formal plan with decorative plaster work
- Later variants using more whimsical plans with diminished ornamentation







#### Background

The Minimal Traditional style began in the United States during the mid 1930s and lasted until the early 1950's. In Los Angeles, the style was most prevalent immediately following WWII. The Minimal Traditional style was a response to the economic Depression of the 1930s, conceived and developed by agencies and associations including the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) and the National Association of Real-estate Boards, and by manufacturers and modern community builders who promoted and financed the construction of efficient, mass-produced and affordable houses.

#### Common Characteristics of the Minimal Traditional Style

Minimal Traditional structures are boxy, with relatively flat wall surfaces, a central block with slightly recessed or stepped room wings, attached or detached one and two car garages, intermediate hipped, gabled or gabled on hipped roofs. The style may be perceived as a simplified version of the Colonial Revival styles of the 1920s and 30s, but with much less ornamentation and decorative detailing. Minimal Traditional structures are most often single family homes (often adapted to the Ranch type) or small-scale apartment buildings.



- Asymmetrical
- · Low-pitched flat, gable, or hip roof, typically with no overhang
- · Clay tile roof
- Half round arches, doors, and windows
- Stucco over adobe brick, or adobe brick exterior walls
- · Ornate tile, wrought iron, and wood work
- Formal plan with decorative plaster work
- Later variants using more whimsical plans with diminished ornamentation





#### Post World War II Styles: Ranch

#### Background

The Ranch house, defined by its sprawling single story or split-level plan and its simple mass-produced construction exists primarily as a type, rather than a style. Any number of design styles or motifs have been successfully applied to the Ranch type. However, some style innovations of the Ranch house are worthy of consideration as a style unto itself. The style is most closely associated with the Post World War II building periods of the 1950s through today.

#### Common Characteristics of the Ranch Style

Ranch style structures are usually one story or split-level, asymmetrical in plan with broad side gabled roofs and exposed rafters. Varying fenestration with picture windows are common. The Ranch house will often utilize an attached garage. Noteworthy variations of the Ranch Style are as follows:

#### **Traditional Ranch**

Uses elements of historical hacienda architecture in California including a shingled roof and a low brick foundation wall with integral planters. Material combinations include board and batten; stucco; stone and brick. dovecotes; shutters; diamond- or square-shaped window mullions; Dutch doors; French doors; Sliding glass doors; garage doors with barn door cross bracing; exposed post and beam construction are all common.



#### **Colonial Ranch**

The Colonial Ranch coincides with the development of the Minimal Traditional style, which for all intents and purposes simplified Americal Colonial design features for the purposes of low-cost mass-production. Identifying features include a low-pitched hipped roofline; plain fascia board trim; wall materials include: stucco, vertical or horizontal wood boards, or board and batten. Windows are often flanked with faux shutters and doors surrounded by simple pilasters or a simplified crown. Porches will be minimal and may utlized simple metal supports or simplified classical columns.



Identifying features include a low-pitched gabled roofline; plain fascia board trim; wall materials include: stucco, vertical or horizontal wood boards, or board and batten. Windows and doors are treated as void elements comprised to balance the solid walls. Porches or carports may be screened with concrete block or wood screens in an abstract design; garage doors may be adorned with geometric designs; gable ends are filled with clerestory windows.



# **Chapter 7** Residential Rehabilitation

#### 7.1 Introduction

Rehabilitation is the process of working on a historic structure or site in a way that adapts it to modern life while respecting and preserving the historic, character-defining elements that make the structure, site or district important.

These Residential Rehabilitation Guidelines are intended for the use of residential property owners and care-takers planning work on Contributing structures or sites within the HPOZ. Contributing structures are those structures, landscapes, natural features, or sites identified as contributing to the overall integrity of the HPOZ by the Historic Resources Survey for the Van Nuys HPOZ. Generally, "Contributing" structures would have been built within the historic period of significance of the HPOZ, and will retain elements that identify it as belonging to that period. The historic period of significance of the HPOZ is usually the time period in which the majority of construction in the area occurred. In some instances, structures that are compatible with the architecture of that period or that are historic in their own right, but were built outside of the period of significance of the district, will also be "Contributing".

The Residential Rehabilitation of the guidelines should be used in planning, reviewing and executing projects for single-family structures and most multi-family structures in residential areas. They are also intended for use in the planning and review of projects or structures that were originally built as residential structures but have since been converted to commercial use. For instance, the Residential Rehabilitation Guidelines would be used to plan work on a historic structure built as a residence that is now used as a day-care facility.

The Residential Rehabilitation Guidelines are divided into ten (10) sections, each of which discusses an element of the design of historic structures and sites. If you are thinking about planning a project that involves the area around your house, such as repaving your driveway or building a fence, the "Setting" would be a good place to start. If you are planning work on your roof, you might want to look back at Chapter 6, Architectural Styles to determine the style of the building and what type of roof and roof materials are appropriate, and then at the "Roofs" section here in Chapter 7 of these guidelines. The Table of Contents details other sections that might pertain to your project.

While the Design Guidelines throughout this Preservation Plan are a helpful tool for most projects, some types of work may not specifically be discussed here. With this in mind, it is always appropriate to remember that the Design Guidelines of this Preservation Plan have been developed in concert with the Secretary of Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation, a set of standards used nationally for the review of projects at historic sites and districts. All projects should comply with the Secretary of Interior's Standards, and where more specific guidelines have been set for by this Preservation Plan, the guidelines herein. The following principles are from the portions of the Secretary of the Interior's Standards that are applicable to HPOZ review, and are the basic principles on which these guidelines are based:

#### Principle 1:

The historic appearance of the HPOZ should be preserved. This appearance includes both the structures and their setting.

#### Principle 2:

The historic appearance of contributing structures within the HPOZ should be preserved. (The historic appearance of publicly visible facades of contributing structures within the HPOZ should be preserved.)

#### Principle 3:

The historic fabric of contributing structures should be preserved. Repair should be attempted before replacement.

#### Principle 4:

Replacement elements should match the original in materials, design, and finish as closely as possible.

#### Principle 5:

If historic design elements have been lost, conjectural elements should not be used. Every effort should be made to ascertain the original appearance of the structure, and to replicate that appearance.

#### Principle 6:

New additions should be designed to be compatible with the massing, size, scale, and architectural features of a historic structure or site, while clearly reflecting the modern origin of the addition. Additions should be designed to preserve the significant historic fabric of contributing structures or sites.

# 7.2 Setting - Landscaping, Fences, Walls, Walks, and Open Space

The site design of an historic structure is an essential part of its character. This design includes the streetscape in which the site is set, the planting strip along the street, setbacks, drives, walks, retaining walls, the way a structure sits on its lot in relation to other structures and the street, and other landscaping elements. While many of the historic structures in the HPOZ may have lost some of these characteristics over time, certain common characteristics remain which help to define the character of these historic areas and the structures within them.

Traditionally, residential structures were sited on their lots in a way that emphasized a progression of public to private spaces. Streetscapes led to planting strips, planting strips to sidewalks, sidewalks to yards and front walkways, which led to porches and the private spaces within a house. Residential structures were configured in such a way that living space was oriented toward the front of the house and utility spaces such as kitchens, service porches garages were most often oriented toward the rear yard. Rear yards were most commonly used as a utility space, keeping car parking, gardening, and household chores to the privacy of an enclosed and private space. Common setbacks in the front and side yards helped ensure these orderly progressions. Preservation of these progressions is essential to the preservation of the historic residential character of structures and neighborhoods. Preservation of these progressions is often essential to the maintenance of historic neighborhood streets as a functioning resource around which a neighborhood interacts.

- 1. Mature trees and hedges should be retained whenever possible, or alternately replaced with in-kind materials. .
- 2. Historic topographic features should be preserved whenever possible. Leveling or terracing a lot that was traditionally characterized by a raised lawn is generally not appropriate.
- 3. Historic walkways and other hardscape features in the front yard should be preserved. If these elements are replaced, they should be replaced with materials similar to those historically present in the area, and within the same footprint.
- 4. If historic retaining walls, pathways, stairs or fences exist, they should be rehabilitated or preserved in place. If they must be removed, they should be replaced in kind. If reinforcement is necessary, finish materials should match the original in materials and design.



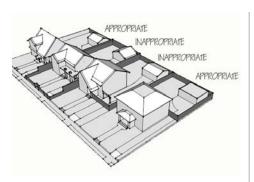
A "Hollywood driveway" is historically appropriate and minimizes front yard pavement.



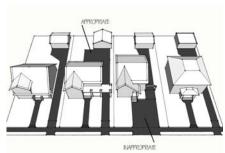
Excessive paving in the front yard can erode the quality of the streetscape. Utility uses such as parking should be confined to their approprite location in the rear yard.



A typical Spanish Colonial Revival walkway and steps are shown. Walkway colors and building materials should be carefully used.



The fence arrangements in the middle two properties fortify the entire yard, obscure views of the building's features and are considered inappropriate.



Parking pads should always be located to the rear. Excessive front yard pavement is inappropriate.



Overly-dense or defensive landscaping can obscure views of both the house and the greater streescape.



Garden walls and native landcaping can be executed in ways that are beautiful and historically appropriate.

- 5. New or replacement retaining walls should be constructed in a style and with materials that harmonize with the house and other existing historic retaining walls in the area.
- 6. If historic fencing or an historic retaining wall did not exist in the front yard areas of a historic site, new fencing or walls in these locations is strongly discouraged.
- 7. Rear yard fencing or walls may be appropriate and should be comprised of simple materials that complement materials found on the house.
- 8. Chain link or cinder block-type material are inappropriate for publically visible walls and fencing.
- 9. The traditional character of residential front and side yards should be preserved. These areas should be reserved for planting materials and lawn, and non-porous ground coverings (hardscape) should be minimized.
- 10. Paving front yard areas is inappropriate.
- 11. Landscaping should not be so lush or massive that public views of the house are significantly obstructed.
- 12. Parking areas and driveways should be located to the side or rear of a structure. Front-yard parking pads are inappropriate.
- 13. Carports are generally inappropriate.
- 14. Required parking for existing projects should be designed in a manner appropriate with the historic character of the property.
- 15. Entry gates to rear parking areas should not completely block views of building architectural details or the rear yard, nor should they completely enclose a porte-cochere or similar driveway feature.
- 16. Simple or elaborate wrought-iron fencing might be appropriate for Spanish Colonial Revival style structures.
- 17. Swimming pools should be located in the rear yard and not visible from the public way. .
- 18. Above ground pools are usually inappropriate.
- 19. New physical features within a front yard, such as ponds, fountains, gazebos, recreational equipment, sculptural elements, etc. are generall discouraged. When appropriate, such features should be diminutive in scale and style and visually deferential both to the residential structure onsite and to similar physical features that were constructed during the Period of Significance.
- 20. Drought tolerant alternatives to traditional front yard lawns may be found appropriate at some locations so long as such alternatives

are consistent with the prevailing character and appearance of front yards in the neighborhood. In most cases, front yards in historic neighborhoods are green and open and. A thoughtfully prepared landscape plan using alternative low-water plant species may replicate the desired greenness and openness. High-quality artificial turf that allows for surface permeability and closely resembles the look and texture of grass might also be found appropriate for some locations.

21. In addition to compliance with the City's sign regulations (LAMC 12.21 A 7), any signs used for a home-based business or church structure in a residential area should be designed with sensitivity for the historic context. Such signs should be minimal in size, should not conceal any significant architectural or landscape features, and should be constructed of materials and colors that are appropriate to the style of the house and the Period of Significance. Illuminated signs and digital signs are not permitted by the City in residential areas and would be inappropriate in an HPOZ

#### 7.3 Windows

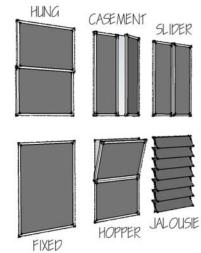
Windows are an integral part of a historic structure's design. The placement of window openings on a façade, also known as fenestration, the size of openings, and how openings are grouped, are all of great importance. Of equal importance are the construction, material and profile of individual windows. Important defining features of a window include the sill profile, the height of the rails, the pattern of the panes and muntins, the arrangement of the sashes, the depth of the jamb, and the width and design of casing and the head. In some cases, the color and texture of the glazing are also important.

Most windows found in Los Angeles' Pre-WWII Historic Districts are wood-frame true divided light windows. True divided light windows have multiple panes of glass. These windows are usually double-hung, fixed, or casement style windows. Double-hung windows have operable sashes that slide vertically. Casement windows open either outwards or inwards away from the wall. In some areas, metal frame casement or fixed divided light windows are common. These windows range from simple one-over-one windows to windows with panes in specialty shapes or leaded and stained glass.

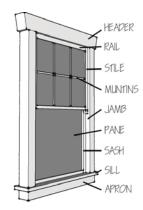
Inappropriate replacement of windows can compromise the integrity of a building and have a serious negative effect on the character of a structure. Generally, historic windows should not be replaced unless they cannot be repaired or rebuilt. If windows must be replaced, the replacement windows should match the originals in dimension, material, configuration and detail. Because it is often difficult to find off-the-shelf windows that will match historic windows in these details, replacing historic windows appropriately often requires having windows custom built.



Landscapes that maximuze greenery, shade and an emphasis on pedestrian travel are historically appropriate..



Window types typical to historic homes are shown.



The basic anatomy of a doublehung window is shown.



Large picture windows with decorative glass and architectural framing are typical in the HPOZ.



This window has been replaced with an ill-fitted window that diminishes the historic integrity of the house.



While grilles are occassionally historically appropriate, this home is lost behind overly-ornate bars that obscure the doors and windows



Original grille-work complements fenestration rather than obscuring it.

Maintaining historic windows makes good economic sense, as they will typically last much longer than modern replacement windows. Problems with peeling paint, draftiness, sticking sashes, and loose putty are all problems that are easy to repair. Changing a sash cord, re-puttying a window, or waxing a window track are repairs that most homeowners can accomplish on their own to extend the life of their windows.

- 1. Repair historic or presumed original windows wherever possible instead of replacing them.
- 2. When replacement of the windows on the front and side facades is necessary, replacement windows should match the historic windows in size, shape, arrangement of panes, materials, hardware, method of construction, and profile. True divided-light windows should be replaced with true divided-light windows, and wood windows with wood windows. It is most often necessary to have custom windows constructed in order to match the original windows in these details.
- 3. Replacement windows on the rear facade may vary in materials and method of construction from the historic windows, although the arrangement of panes, size and shape should be similar.
- 4. If a window is missing entirely, replace it with a new window in the same design and material as the original if the original design is known. If the design is not known, the design of the new window should be compatible with the size of the opening, and the style of the building, and other existing windows in the structure presumed to be original.
- 5. The historic pattern, location, size and proportions of windows should be maintained.
- 6. Filling in or altering the size of historic windows, especially on the front and side facades, is generally inappropriate.
- 7. Adding additional windows to building facades, especially on the front and side facades, is generally inappropriate.
- 8. New windows on historic facades and additions should relate to the rhythm and scale of the existing windows on historic facades.
- 9. The installation of 'greenhouse' type kitchen windows extending beyond the plane of the facade is inappropriate.
- 10. Security or safety bars should only be installed on secondary facades. New bars should use minimal ornamentation and should be darkly colored.
- 11. With respect to significant security concerns, any necessary security or safety bars on the primary facade should be installed on

the interior of a window or opening, match the muntin and mullion patterns of the window on which they are mounted, and be painted to match the predominant window trim.

- 12. Awnings and shutters should be similar in materials, design, and operation to those used historically, and should only be utilized on openings in structures where their use was likely in historic periods. Awnings should conform to the shape of the window on which they are installed.
- 13. Decorative bars or grillwork that is original to the structure should be retained.

#### 7.4 Doors

The pattern and design of doors are major defining features of a structure. Changing these elements in an inappropriate manner has a strong negative impact on the historic character of the structure and the neighborhood. Doors define character through their shape, size, construction, glazing, embellishments, arrangement on the façade, hardware, detail and materials, and profile. In many cases doors were further distinguished by the placement of surrounding sidelights, fanlights, or other architectural detailing. Preservation of these features is also important to the preservation of a house's architectural character.

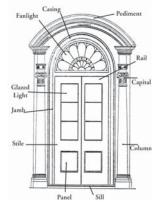
Replacing or obscuring doors can have a serious negative effect on the character of a structure. Generally, historic doors and their surrounds should not be replaced unless they cannot be repaired or rebuilt. If doors must be replaced, the replacement doors and their surrounds should match the originals in dimension, material, configuration and detail. Because it is often difficult to find standard doors that will match historic doors in these details, replacing historic doors appropriately often requires having doors custom built or requires searching for appropriate doors at architectural salvage specialty stores.

Maintaining historic doors makes good economic sense, as they will typically last much longer than modern replacement doors. Problems with peeling paint, draftiness, sticking, and loose glazing, are all problems that are often quite easy to repair. Applying weather stripping, re-puttying a window, or sanding down the bottom of a door are repairs that most homeowners can accomplish on their own.

Screened doors were often historically present on many houses, and appropriately designed screened doors can still be obtained. However, installing a metal security door which blocks your door from view is inappropriate, and should be avoided.



Aluminum slider windows are not an appropriate choice for Period Revival homes.



The anatomy of a Colonial Revival style door is shown.



This modest wood door is appropriate in size, scale, and detail for this historic home.



The pilasters, pediment and crown shown are typical to the Colonial Revival style.



This doorway has been altered with a metal gate and plate glass sidelights.



Historic garage doors often includede decorative panels and either slid along tracks or swung open. New doors should replicate this look.



This door with its original hardward and decorative features should be repaired and refinished before replacement is considered.



An arcade leading to an entrance is common on many Van Nuys homes.

- 1. The materials and design of historic doors and their surrounding trim should be preserved.
- 2. The size, scale, and proportions of historic doors on a façade should be maintained.
- 3. Filling in or altering the size of historic doors on primary facades is generally inappropriate.
- 4. Adding doors to front and visible side facades is generally inappropriate.
- 5. When replacement of doors on the front and side facades is necessary, replacement doors should match the historic doors in size, shape, scale, glazing, materials, method of construction, and profile.
- 6. Original hardware, including visible hinges, doorknockers, and latches or locks should should not be removed. Repairing original hardware is preferable; if replacing hardware is necessary, hardware that is similar in design, finish, materials, and scale should be used.
- 7. Replacement doors on the rear facade may vary in materials and method of construction from the historic doors, although the arrangment of panes, size, and shape should be similar.
- 8. When original doors have been lost and must be replaced, designs should be based on historic photographic evidence. If no such evidence exists, the design of replacement doors should be based on a combination of physical evidence (indications in the structure of the house itself) and evidence of similar doors on houses of the same architectural style in the neighborhood.
- 9. Painting historic doors that were originally varnished or stained and are not currently painted is not appropriate.

#### 7.5 Porches

Historically, residential porches in their many forms—stoops, porticos, terraces, entrance courtyards, porte-cocheres, patios, or verandas—served a variety of functions. They provided a sheltered outdoor living space in the days before reliable climate controls, they defined a semipublic area to help mediate between the public street areas and the private area within the home, and they provided an architectural focus to help define entryways and allow for the development of architectural detail.

Porch design, scale, and detail vary widely between architectural styles. Generally, porches in Van Nuys tend to be restrained, if present at all. On the other hand, patios and garden walls are often used to help define semi-private outdoor space in the front yard. To help determine what elements are particularly important on your porch, consult the architectural styles of these guidelines, or contact your HPOZ board for a consultation

In addition to preservation benefits, retaining porches makes economic sense, because the shade provided by a porch may greatly reduce energy bills. Porch elements which have deteriorated due to moisture or insect damage should be carefully examined to determine if the entire element is unsalvageable. If only a part of the element is damaged, then piecing in or patching may be a better solution than removal and replacement. If replacement is necessary, the element to be removed should be carefully documented through photos and careful measurements before the element is discarded. Having these photos and measurements will assist you in finding or making a replica of the element you are replacing. When porch foundations fail, the underlying cause is often ground subsidence or a build-up of moisture around the foundation. In these cases, a careful analysis should be made to locate the causes of the failure, and eliminate them as a part of the project.

- 1. Historic porches, especially on the front and side facades, should be preserved in place. The removal of historic porches is inappropriate.
- 2. Decorative details that help to define an historic porch should be preserved. These include balusters, balustrades, columns, and brackets. The State Historic Building Code allows balustrades and railings that do not meet current building code heights to remain if they do not pose a safety hazard.
- 3. If elements of the porch, such as decorative brackets or columns, must be replaced, replacement materials should exactly match the originals in design, profile and materials. .
- 4. If porch elements are damaged, they should be repaired in place wherever possible, instead of being removed and replaced. .
- 5. When original details have been lost and must be replaced, designs should be based on historic photographic evidence. If no such evidence exists, the design of replacement details should be based on a combination of physical evidence (indications in the structure of the house itself) and evidence of similar elements on houses of the same architectural style in the neighborhood.
- 6. Additional porch elements should not be added if they did not exist historically. For instance, the addition of decorative "gingerbread" brackets to a Colonial-style porch is inappropriate, as is the addition of a ballustrade unless there is evidence that a balustrade existed on a porth historically.
- 7. The addition of a porch which would not have existed on a house historically, such as an elaborate, highly detailed porch to the rear of an historic structure, is strongly discouraged.



Enclosing a front porch disrupts the porch's intended purpose as an outdoor room.



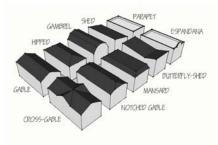
This patio cover is inappropriate and disrupts the intended form and use of the outdoor space.



The garden wall and raised patio are appropriate for this English Revival Cottage.



This Colonial home provides an outdoor patio while maintaining the minimalist look of the original architecture.



Basic roof forms are shown.



Clay tile would be the historically appropriate roof material on a Spanish Colonial house such as this. Composition shingles are inappropriate.

- 8. Enclosure of part or all of an historic porch is inappropriate, especially when located on the primary facade or visible from the public right of way.
- 9. Enclosure of a porch at the side or rear of the house, for instance a sleeping porch, may be appropriate if the porch form is preserved and the porch openings are fitted with windows in a manner that they can be removed in the future without damage to the original structure.
- 10. Alterations for handicapped access should be done at a side or rear entrance whenever feasible, and should be designed and built in the least intrusive manner possible. Such alteration should be reversable.
- 11. Addition of a handrail on the front steps of a house for safety or handicapped access reasons may be appropriate, if the handrail is compatible in scale, material and detail with the design of the structure.

#### **7.6 Roofs**

The roof is a major character-defining feature for most historic structures. Similar roof forms repeated on a street help create a sense of visual continuity for the neighborhood. Roof pitch, materials, size, orientation, eave depth and configuration, and roof decoration are all distinct features that contribute to the overall integrity of an historic roof. The location and design of chimneys as well as decorative features such as dormers, vents and finials are also often character defining roof features.

Certain roof forms and materials are strongly associated with particular architectural styles; for instance, built-up faux thatch roofs are often found on English Tudor Revival cottages. Consult the architectural styles guide of these guidelines for more specific information about the roof of your house.

- 1. Historic roof forms on both the house and the garage should be preserved. For instance, a complex roof plan with many gables should not be simplified.
- 2. Historic eave depth and configuration should be preserved.
- 3. Roof and eave details, such as rafter tails, vents, corbels, built-in gutters and other architectural features should be preserved. If these elements are deteriorated, they should be repaired if possible. If these elements cannot be repaired, the design, materials, and details should match the original to the extent possible.

- 4. When original details have been lost and are proposed to be replaced, designs should be based on historic photographic evidence. If no such evidence exists, the design of replacement details should be based on a combination of physical evidence (indications in the structure of the house itself) and evidence of similar elements on houses of the same architectural style in the neighborhood.
- 5. Where still existing, historic specialty roofing materials, such as tile, slate or built-up shingles should be preserved in place or replaced in kind. Original material should be placed in the most street visible facades and any new replacement materials that are required due to breakage should be placed to the rear of the structure. It is important to maintain existing tile arrangements, detail, installation, tile thickness, etc.
- 6. Replacement roof materials should be substantially similar in appearance to those used originally, particularly when viewed from a distance from the public sidewalk, and should convey a scale, texture, and color similar to those used originally.
- 7. Light colored asphalt shingle roofs are generally inappropriate. Earth tones, such as rusty reds, greens, and browns, are generally appropriate in replacement roofs.
- 8. Skylights or solar panels should be designed and placed in such a way that they are not visible from the public right of way. If skylights are desired, flat skylights, flush with the roof, are encouraged.
- 9. Existing chimney massing, details, and finishes should be retained. If replacement is necessary (e.g. due to earthquake damage), the new chimney should look identical to the original in location, massing, and form.
- 10. Historic spark arrestors should be retained whenever possible. If a new spark arrestor is required, and if the new spark arrestor cannot match the original in detail, the new spark arrestor should be low profile with a black matte finish.
- 11. Existing roof dormers should not be removed on visable facades. New roof dormers should not be added to visible facades.
- 12. Rooftop additions should be located to the rear of the house and designed so as to minimize their impact on visible roof form. See Chapter 8 for additional guidelines pertaining to residential additions.



The notched gable ends and complex roof shape are defining features of this historic home..



Inappropriate materials can compromise the historic character of a structure. In this case the combination of asphalt shingles with synthetic clay tiles both detract from the appearance of this structure.



Decorative attic vents should also be preserved.

Foam plant-ons and pre-cast concrete are materials that would not have been originally used on this historic house.



The crinkle brick on this chimney adds character to this structure.



Intricate detailing around this attic vent and window should be preserved.

#### 7.7 Architectural Details

Architectural details showcase superior craftsmanship and architectural design, add visual interest, and distinguish certain building styles and types. Features such as lintels, brackets, and columns were constructed with materials and finishes that are associated with particular styles, and are character-defining features as well. Determining the architectural style of your house can help you to understand the importance of the related architectural details of your house. The architectural styles of these guidelines, or your HPOZ board, can help you determine what architectural details existed historically on your house.

Decorative details should be maintained and repaired in a manner that enhances their inherent qualities and maintains as much as possible of their original character. A regular inspection and maintenance program involving cleaning, and painting will help to keep problems to a minimum. Repair of deteriorated architectural detail may involve selective replacement of portions in kind, or it may involve the application of an epoxy consolidant to stabilize the deteriorated portion in place. These options should be carefully considered before architectural detail is replaced, since matching architectural details often requires paying a finish carpenter or metalworker to replicate a particular element, which can be a major expense.

- 1. Original architectural details or features should be preserved and maintained, particularly on the front and side facades. The removal of non-historic features is encouraged.
- 2. Deteriorated materials or features should be repaired in place, if possible. For instance, deteriorated wood details can be reparied with replacement wood inserts or epoxy consolidents in many cases.
- 3. When it is necessary to replace materials or features due to deterioration, replacement should be in kind, matching materials, texture and design.
- 4. Materials, such as masonry, which were not originally painted or sealed should remain unpainted.
- 5. Original building materials and details should not be covered with stucco, vinyl siding, or other materials.
- 6. Architecural detail that did not originally appear on a structure should not be added to a structure. For example, decorative gingerbread trim should not be added to a Spanish Colonial structure.
- 7. Decorative detail which is expressed through the pattern of materials used in the constuction of the house, such as decorative

- shingles or masonry patterns, should be preserved or replaced in kind. Covering or painting these details in a manner which obscures these patterns is inappropriate.
- 8. Architectural detail on new building additions and other nonoriginal construction should echo that of the historic style, without directly copying the style of ornamentation. The architectural detail of an addition should be of a simpler design than that of the original.

### 7.8 Building Materials and Finishes

The characteristics of primary building materials, including the scale of units that the materials are used and the texture and finish of the material, contribute to the historic character of a building. For example, the scale of wood shingle siding is so distinctive from the early Craftsman period, it plays an important role in establishing the scale and character of these historic buildings. In a similar way, the color and finish of historic stucco is an important feature of Mission Revival homes.

Before you replace exterior building materials, make sure that replacement is necessary. In many cases, patching in with repair materials is all that is needed. For instance, warped wooden clapboards or shingles can be removed, and new materials can be pieced in. Sometimes, epoxy or similar filler can be used to repair small areas of damage. Replacement of deteriorated building materials requires careful attention to the scale, texture, pattern, and detail of the original material. The three-dimensionality of wood moldings and trim, the distinctive texture of weatherboards, and the bonding pattern of masonry walls are all important to duplicate when replacement is necessary. When repairing or refreshing stucco finishes, it is important to understand the role the texture of the stucco finish plays in the design of the structure. Different architectural styles were characterized by different finishes, and care should be taken to replicate the original finish when stucco work is needed. Replacing or concealing exterior wall materials with substitute materials is not appropriate. For example, placing synthetic siding or stucco over original materials results in a loss of original fabric, texture, and detail. In addition, such surfaces may conceal moisture or termite damage or other causes of structural deterioration from view.

- 1. Original building materials should be preserved whenever possible
- 2. Repairs through consolidation or "patching in" are preferred to replacement.
- 3. If replacement is necessary, replacement materials should match the



Small balconies with rustic wood spindlework are common on Spanish Colonial Revival houses.



The use of highly textured stucco is a modern look and inappropriate on an historic home. Adding faux historic features, such as the timbering and stone on this front facade, is innappropriate.



Heavily textured stucco is a modern look and detracts from the appearance of this structure.



The mix of wood and stucco is appropriate on this Mediterranean style home.



The use of highly textured stucco along with inappropriate window replacement both detract from the look of this structure-



The mix of stucco and wood siding is appropriate for this structure.

- original in material, scale, finish, details, profile, and texture.
- 4. Building materials not originally painted should not be painted.
- 5. Original building materials should not be covered with vinyl, stucco, or other finishes.
- 6. If resurfacing of a stucco surface is necessary, the surface applied should match the original in texture and finish. Heavily textured stucco is inappropriate in the historic district.
- 7. In choosing paint or stain colors, homeowners should select paint colors appropriate to the period of the structure to be painted. For twentieth century revival type structures, homeowners should pick a palate of at least two contrasting harmonious colors, one to be used on the body of the main house and another for the trim, detail and window sashes.
- 8. In choosing paint or stain colors, homeowners should consult manufacturer catalogues that include historic paint palettes. Any manufacturer can use these catalogues to mix paint that are compatible with these palettes. The paint colors chosen should compliment the other historic structures on the block.
- 9. Exterior paint, including plaster, should have a matte finish. Semigloss or gloss paints may be used for trim or detail elements.

#### 7.9 Mechanicals

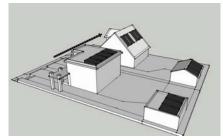
The usefulness of historic structures in the modern world is often increased by updating these structures with modern heating and cooling systems, electrical systems, satellite television or broadband internet systems, solar panels, and other mechanical appurtenances that require the location of equipment outside of the historic structure itself. While the location of one of these elements may not seem to make a significant negative impact on a structure or neighborhood, the visible location of many of these elements along the streetscape can have a significant negative effect on the historic character of a neighborhood.

With careful planning, many mechanical appurtenances can be located where they cannot be seen from the public way. Air conditioning units can be placed in the rear yard or through rear windows. Attic vents can be placed on the rear elevations of a roof, or in a rear dormer. Satellite television dishes can usually be placed in the rear yard or on a rear elevation of the roof. Junction boxes can be placed on rear facades. Wiring for cable or telephone equipment or electrical lines can be run through the interior walls of a structure instead of along visible facades. Even when mechanical equipment must be placed in a visible location in the side or front yards, landscaping or paint treatments can help to conceal these incompatible elements.

- 1. Satellite television dishes and other mechanical appurtenances should be located in the rear yard, in a location not visible from the public way.
- 2. Small dishes or other appurtenances (under 2' in diameter) may be located on lower rear roof surfaces, on rear yard accessory structures, on rear facades, or in the rear yard.
- 3. Satellite dishes and other appurtenances that are mounted on the fabric of an historic structure must be attached using the least invasive method, without damaging significant architectural features.
- 4. Mechanical apparatus not mounted on the primary structure should be located in rear or side yard areas not visible from the public way. In addition, such apparatus should be placed out of sight and sound of neighboring homes.
- 5. Mechanical apparatus not mounted on the primary structure may be installed in areas visible from the public way if there is no other technically and economically feasible location for installation and if appropriate landscape screening is proposed and installed as a part of the project.
- 6. Mechanical apparatus mounted on the primary structure that must be placed in a location potentially visable from the public way shall be obscured from view where possible, including the use of land-scape screening, physical construction means, and the use of paint colors to match the surrounding environment. This includes roof mounted mechanicals.
- 7. Utilities should be placed underground.
- 8. Electrical masts, headers, and fuse boxes should be located at the rear of a structure.
- 9. Mechanicals should be rated at the lowest decible possible.



Visible satellite dishes are unnecessary · Mechanical equipment such as this is best kept out of site-



Solar panels are best located outside of the line of sight-

# **Chapter 8** Residential Additions

#### 8.1 Introduction

Few things can alter the appearance of a historic structure more quickly than an ill-planned addition. Additions can not only radically change the appearance of a structure to passersby, but can also result in the destruction of much of the significant historic material in the original structure. New additions within an HPOZ are appropriate, as long as they do not destroy significant historic features, or materials, and are compatible with both the neighborhood and the building to which they are attached.

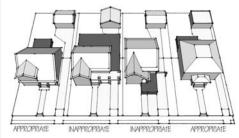
Careful planning of additions will allow for the adaptation of historic structures to the demands of the current owner, while preserving their historic character and materials.

The purpose of this is to ensure that the scale, height, bulk and massing of attached additions on main and secondary structures is compatible with the existing context of the historic structure and compatible with the other "contributing structures in the neighborhood", as viewed from the street.

# 8.2 Additions to Primary Structures

While additions to primary structures may be appropriate, special care should be taken to ensure that the addition does not disrupt the prevailing architectural character of the district or of the structure itself. Additions that are small in size, located to the rear of existing structures, and that replicate existing building patterns such as roof forms and fenestration, tend to be more successful than those that do not. Great care should be taken with additions so as not to communicate a false sense of history within the district with respect to the size and arrangement of structures. For example, a massive second-story addition that maximizes buildable floor area on a single story Craftsman bungalow in a district comprised of similarly sized single-story Craftsman bungalows would be inappropriate regardless of whether or not the addition is adorned with historic appearing architectural features.

- 1. New additions should not be built on the primary facade or facades or the front half of the side facades. Additions should be located in the rear of the structure, away from the main architectural façade.
- 2. Additions should be compatible in size, and scale with the original structure, and visually subordinate in massing.
- 3. Two-story additions to one-story buildings are strongly discouraged on both primary and accessory structures.



Appropriate locations for additions will generally not disrupt the front visible facades, or the overall mass and character of the original structure.



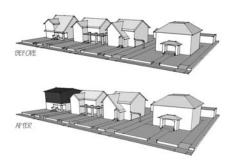
This second-story addition is set-back and preserving the look and scale of the original bungalow.



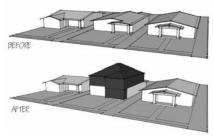
The original single-story cottage has been lost to this second story addition..



Apart from the inappropriate massing of this addition, the materials on the original house have been modified to suit the addition



This addition disrupts the roof pattern and unique features of the home.



This addition looms over its neighbors and disrupts the charm of a single-story bungalow neighborhood.



Additions should avoid breaking the sideplane and roof-plane of the existing house.

- 4. Additions should respect the prevailing, most commonly occurring, height and mass of the historic properties on the block face on which the property is sited.
- 5. Additions should use similar finish materials and patterns of openings, such as windows and doors, as the original structure. A stucco addition to a wood clapboard house, for example, would be inappropriate.
- 6. Addition roofing forms and materials should echo those of the original structure.
- 7. The original rooflines of the front facade of a structure should remain readable and not be obscured by an addition. Roofline(s) should match the existing structure in Height, Pitch (angle), and Fascia/Soffit detailing. The finished roofing materials (shingles, etc.) should match the existing structure.
- 8. Structural rooftop additions, such as, but not limited to, second story additions, should be located to the rear of the structure.
- 9. Additions should distinguish themselves from, but remain compatible with, the original structure through the simplified use of architectural detail, using setbacks and offsets, through building massing, or variations of exterior finishes to communicate that the addition is new construction.
- 10. Additions should strive to preserve any remaining significant character-defining features of the original structure. Avoid the removal of historic material or alteration of significant features where possible. Construct the addition so that if the addition is removed in the future, the integrity of the original building would be unimpaired.
- 11. Additions and modifications to existing housing should be compatible by generally matching the architectural style of the existing structure. Additions should be compatible with, yet distinguishable from, the original part of the structure.
- 12. Character-defining features, such as roof pitches, proportion, window shapes, etc., are defined within the "Architectural Styles" portion of this plan. Applicants should determine the original style of their structure and refer to this section for particulars.
- 13. All buildings should be recognized as products of their own time.
- 14. Additions that seek to imply an inaccurate variation on the historic style are inappropriate. (For example: the addition of elaborate details on a simple cottage).
- 15. From the street, sidewalk and public areas the shape of the building should be similar to the prevailing shapes, height, bulk and massing found on the block and/or the house itself.

# 8.3 New Accessory Structures and Additions to Existing Secondary Structures

Garages and accessory structures can make an important contribution to the character of an historic neighborhood. Although high style "carriage houses" did exist historically, garages and other accessory structures were typically relatively simple structures architecturally, with little decorative detail. Quite often these structures reflected a simplified version of the architectural style of the house itself, and were finished in similar materials.

Unfortunately, many historic garages and accessory structures have not survived to the present day, perhaps because the structures were often built flush with the ground, without a raised foundation. Therefore, many homeowners in historic areas may need to confront the issue of designing a new secondary structure.

For the rehabilitation of existing garages and accessory structures, follow the same guidelines throughout this as you would for the rehabilitation of a residential structure. The guidelines in this section are specifically targeted towards the addition or reconstruction of accessory structures on historic properties. It will also be useful to consult the Setting guidelines of this Plan to determine the placement, dimensions, and massing of such structures on lots with existing historic buildings.

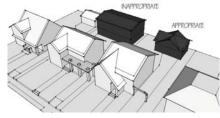
- 1. New accessory structures and garages should be similar in character to those which historically existed in the area.
- 2. Basic rectangular roof forms, such as hipped or gabled roofs, are appropriate for most garages.
- 3. New garages or accessory structures should be designed not to compete visually with the historic residence.
- 4. Detached garages are historically appropriate in Van Nuys
- 5. New garages should be located behind the line of the rear wall of the house whenever possible.
- 6. New accessory structures, such as greenhouses or gazebos, should not take up more than 50% of the back yard area.
- 7. Single-bay garage doors are more appropriate than double-bay garage doors on most historic properties.
- 8. Second floor additions to garages or carriage houses, when found to be appropriate, should not be larger than the length and width of a standard two-car garage.



Many historic neighborhoods were built with accessory living quarters over garages: Attention should be paid to the historic precedent on your street



This in-fill accessory structure is diminutive to its primary structure."



In many cases second stories can more gracefully be accommodated as attics than full second stories."



Most often wood doors that replicate the look of old carriage-style garage doors are appropriate.

- 9. Accessory structures should always be diminutive in height width and area in comparison to the existing primary structure.
- 10. Accessory structures should replicate the architectural style of the existing house with respect to materials, fenestration, roof patterns etc., though architectural details such as corbels, pilasters or molding should be replicated with less detail on accessory structures.
- 11. Modifications to existing garages, carriage houses or accessory structures that would involve a loss of significant architectural details pursuant to the Rehabilitation Guidelines should be avoided. Special attention should be paid to preserving existing historic garage doors where they exist.

# Chapter 9 Residential Infill

#### 9.1 Introduction

"Infill" is the process of building a new structure on a vacant site within an existing neighborhood. These Infill guidelines are also applicable to the review of alterations to structures or sites within the HPOZ that are "Non-Contributing" as identified in the Historic Resource Survey.

These Residential Infill Guidelines are intended for the use of residential property owners planning new structures on vacant sites or alterations to Non-Contributing structures or sites within the HPOZ. These guidelines help ensure that such new construction and alterations recognize and are sensitive to their historic context.

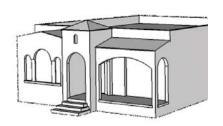
Non-Contributing structures are those structures, landscapes, natural features, or sites identified as Non-Contributing in the Historic Resources Survey for this HPOZ. Generally, Non-Contributing structures are those that have been built outside of the historic period of significance of the HPOZ, or are those that were built within that period but no longer retain the features (due to subsequent alterations) that identify them as belonging to that period. The historic period of significance of the HPOZ is usually the time period in which the majority of construction in the area occurred.

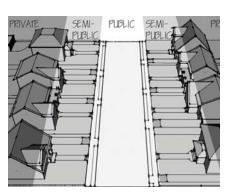
The Residential Infill Guidelines are divided into six (6) sections, each covering a building design element. Elements from all sections will be important when planning or evaluating proposed new construction or alterations to existing non-contributing structures or sites. The Residential Infill of the guidelines should be used in the planning and review of most projects involving new structures in residential areas. They are also intended for use in the planning and review of projects for structures in areas that were originally built as residential areas which have since been converted to commercial use.

# 9.2 The Design Approach

In addition to following these guidelines, successful new construction shall take cues from its context and surroundings. One of the first steps in designing a new building within an historic district is to look at other buildings on the block, and other similar buildings in the neighborhood. In general, new construction should not try to exactly replicate the style of the surrounding historic structures. However, it is important that the design of new construction in an historic district be consistent with the design of surrounding historic structures and sites. Design elements that are usually important in establishing this consistency include orientation on a site; massing and scale; roof form; materials and the patterns of doors and windows.

Most HPOZs have stood the test of time because they contain structures that are designed and constructed with a high level of design integrity and quality of workmanship. Consequently, new structures within





The setting is characterized by a transition from public to private space.

the HPOZ should strive to integrate the highest and best design and construction practices while integrating such elements into a program that is well suited for the historic context.

#### Single Family Housing

Different architectural styles or types generally exhibit common architectural design elements. Therefore, if you are considering a project that involves new construction on a vacant lot, the first step in designing a new building is to determine what style elements are present in other building on the block. If the existing buildings are all of the same or similar styles, common design themes should emerge. Do the majority of structures on your street have large front porches? Parapet roofs? Wood cladding? The Residential Infill Guidelines that follow point out various design elements that need special attention to insure that new construction is compatible with the historic streetscape.

Contemporary designs for new in-fill construction are not necessarily discouraged within the HPOZ. Most importantly, each project should respond to its surrounding context and help to create a seamless transition from architectural style to architectural style and from building type to building type.

# 9.3 Setting, Location and Site Design

The site design of an historic structure is an essential part of its character. Further, the spacing and location of historic structures within an historic neighborhood usually establishes a rhythm that is essential to the character of the neighborhood. While each individual house within an HPOZ may not be architecturally significant in its own right, the grouping of houses, with uniform setbacks and street features, give the neighborhood a strong sense of place that is indeed significant. The early designers and builders of the HPOZ considered the streetscape, setbacks, drives, walks, retaining walls, and the way a structure itself sits on its lot in relation so others on the street. The purpose of this is to provide guidelines that ensure that new construction visible from the street respects and complements the existing historic streetscape.

Traditionally, residential structures were sited on their lots in a way that emphasized a progression of public to private spaces: public streets, planting strips (or parkways), sidewalks, front yard and front walks, porches and, finally, the private space of an individual home. Nearly all historic residential structures were designed to present their face to the street, and not to a side or rear yard. This paradigm dictated that spaces such as living rooms, dining rooms and parlors were generally found at the front of houses whereas spaces such as kitchens, service areas and detached garages were found at the rear. Common setbacks in the front and side yards and appropriate floor-planning helped ensure these orderly progressions. Preservation of these progressions

is essential to the preservation of the historic residential character of structures and neighborhoods.

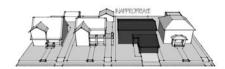
#### Guidelines

- 1. New residential structures should be placed on their lots to harmonize with the existing historic setbacks of the block on which they are located. The depth of the front and side yards should be preserved, consistent with other structures on the same block face.
- 2. A progression of public to private spaces from the street to the residence should be maintained. One method of achieving this goal is to maintain the use of a porch to create a transitional space from public to private.
- 3. Historic topography and continuity of grade between properties should be maintained.
- 4. Attached garages are generally inappropriate; detached garages are preferred. Garages should be located to the rear of the property.
- 5. Parking areas should be located to rear of a structure. Designation of parking spaces within a front yard area is generally inappropriate.
- 6. Front and side yard areas should be largely dedicated to planting areas. Large expanses of concrete and parking areas are inappropriate.
- 7. The lot coverage proposed for an in-fill project should be substantially consistent with the lot coverage of nearby Contributor properties.

# 9.4 Massing and Orientation

The height and massing of historic structures in an intact historic neighborhood is most often fairly uniform along a block face. Nearly all historic residential structures were designed to present their face to the street, and not to a side or rear yard. The purpose of this section is to ensure that the scale, height, bulk, and massing of new construction visible from the street is compatible with the existing context of historic structures and the neighborhood as a whole.

- 1. New residential structures should harmonize in scale and massing with the existing historic structures in surrounding blocks. For instance, a 2.5 story structure should not be built in a block largely occupied by single-story bungalows.
- 2. When found to be appropriate, new structures that will be larger than their neighbors should be designed in modules, with the



New houses should replicate the basic orientation and arrangement of uses on the lot. Garages located in the front are inappropriate.



The Van Nuys setting is characterized by garages located in the rear and modest front walkways leading directly to front doors. This newer home eschews that pattern and would be innappropriate in the HPOZ.





Houses of varying styles and periods may co-exist harmoniously by virtue of their similar massing and orientation.



The in-fill example shown here ignores the complex gable patterns of its neighbors.



When a streetscape is characterized by houses that are one to one-and-a-half storries, a two-story home such as this will appear out of scale.



This street presents a consistent roof pattern that should be replicated on new construction.



The massing of this buildign along with its mansard roof and dormer have little to do with the surrounding context.

- greater part of the mass located away from the main facade to minimize the perceived bulk of the structure.
- 3. New residential structures should present their front door and major architectural facades to the primary street and not to the side or rear yard.
- 4. In some cases on corner lots, a corner entryway between two defining architectural facades may be appropriate.
- 5. A progression of public to private spaces in the front yard is encouraged. One method of achieving this goal is through the use of a porch to define the primary entryway.

#### 9.5 Roof Forms

It is often true that the structures on one block of an historic neighborhood share a common architectural style. This common style frequently is articulated by a common roof form, which helps establish a common character for the block. The purpose of this is to encourage traditional roof forms on infill houses in order to help maintain a common character for the area.

- 1. New residential structures should echo the roof forms of the surrounding historic structures. For instance, if the majority of structures along a particular street utilize front-facing gable-ends, the in-fill structure should likewise utilize a gable-end. Where a diversity of roof forms exist on a street, a predominant form should be used. It would be inappropriate to introduce a new roof form that is not present on the street.
- 2. Roofing materials should appear similar to those used traditionally in surrounding historic residential structures. If modern materials are to be used, such materials should be simple and innocuous.
- 3. Dormers, and other roof features on new construction should echo the size and placement of such features on historic structures within the HPOZ.
- 4. In HPOZs where roof edge details, such as corbels, rafter tails, or decorative vergeboards are common, new construction should incorporate roof edge details which echo these traditional details in a simplified form.

#### 9.6 Openings

The pattern of windows, doors, and other openings on the facades of an historic structure strongly define the character of the structure's design. These openings define character through their shape, size, construction, façade arrangement, materials, and profile. Repetition of these patterns in the many historic structures of an historic district helps to define the distinctive historic character of the area. It is important, therefore, that new construction in these areas reflect these basic historic design patterns.

#### Guidelines

- 1. New construction should have a similar façade solid-to-void ratio to those found in surrounding historic structures.
- 2. New construction should use similar window groupings and alignments to those on surrounding historic structures.
- 3. Windows should be similar in shape and scale to those found in surrounding historic structures.
- 1. Windows should appear similar in materials and construction to those found in surrounding historic structures.
- 2. Dormers should be similar in scale to those found on existing historic structures in the area.
- 3. Main entryways should be configured and emphasized similarly to those on surrounding structures. Attention should be paid to design similarities such as symmetry, depth, and the use of architectural features such as pediments, crowns, porches, etc.
- 4. Entrance enclosures, such as porches, porte-cocheres and overhangs should be used when similar features are widely used within the neighborhood.

#### 9.7 Materials and Details

Traditionally, the materials used to form the major facades of a residential structure were intended to work in harmony with the architectural detail of the building to present a unified architectural style. Often, this style is repeated with subtle variations on many structures within an historic district. It is essential that new construction within an historic area reflect the character of the area by reflecting the palette of materials and design details historically present in the neighborhood.



Though different in style, this house's deep, and vertical openings help it to blend with its neighbors.





Flush, frameless, and oddly arranged windows may be inappropriate on a new house.



Gaudy and conjectural features can cause a house to stand out rather than find compatibilty with a historic neighborhood.



Though innovative and interesting, the materials on this home do not relate to those used in its surroundings.



The features on this house create a mishmash of Colonial, Spanish, Neo-classical, Craftsman and Postmodern styles

#### Guidelines

- 1. New construction should incorporate materials similar to those used traditionally in historic structures in the area. If most houses within a neighborhood are wood clapboard, an in-fill house that is entirely stucco is generally inappropriate.
- 2. Materials used in new construction should be in units similar in scale to those used historically. For instance, bricks or masonry units should be of the same size as those used historically.
- 3. Architectural details such a newel posts, porch columns, rafter tails, etc., should echo, but not exactly imitate, architectural details on surrounding historic structures. Special attention should be paid to scale and arrangement, and, to a lesser extent, detail.
- 4. Use of simplified versions of traditional architectural details is encouraged.
- 5. If the integration of modern building materials, not present during the Period of Significance, is found to be appropriate, such materials should be subtly used and appear visually innocuous in comparison to surrounding historic structures.

# 9.8 Relocating Historic Structures

#### Purpose And Intent

In most cases, the proposed relocation of an historic structure to a location within an historic district should be evaluated in much the same way as a proposed new infill construction project. There are, however, several additional considerations that should be taken into account when evaluating this type of project to ensure that the historic importance of both the structure to be moved and the district in which it will be relocated are preserved.

- 1. If feasible, relocation of a structure within its original neighborhood is strongly preferred.
- 2. Relocation of the structure to a lot similar in size and topography to the original is strongly preferred.
- 3. Generally, the structure to be relocated should be similar in age, style, massing, and size to existing historic structures on the block front on which it will be placed.
- 4. The structure to be relocated should be placed on its new lot in the same orientation and with the same setbacks to the street as its placement on its original lot.

- 5. A relocation plan should be prepared prior to relocation that ensures that the least destructive method of relocation will be used.
- 6. Alterations to the historic structure proposed to further the relocation process should be evaluated in accordance with the Rehabilitation Guidelines.
- 7. The appearance, including materials and height of the new foundations for the relocated historic structure should match those original to the structure as closely as possible, taking into account applicable codes.
- 8. A relocation plan should be prepared prior to relocation that ensures that the least destructive method of relocation will be used.
- 9. Alterations to the historic structure proposed to further the relocation process should be evaluated in accordance with the Rehabilitation Guidelines.
- 10. The appearance, including materials and height of the new foundations for the relocated historic structure should match those original to the structure as closely as possible, taking into account applicable codes.



This home is being relocated to an HPOZ in Pico-Union.

# Chapter 10 Public Realm: Streetscapes, Alleyscapes, Parks, & Public Buildings

#### 10.1 Introduction

Along with private residential and commercial buildings and spaces, public spaces and buildings also contribute to the unique historic character of a preservation zone. Public spaces include streetscapes, alleyscapes, and parks. Public buildings cover a broad variety of buildings such as police stations, libraries, post offices, and civic buildings.

Streetscapes add to the character of each HPOZ neighborhood through the maintenance and preservation of historic elements. Street trees in particular contribute to the experience of those driving or walking through an HPOZ area. Character defining elements of streetscapes may include historic street lights, signs, street furniture, curbs, sidewalks, walkways in the public right-of-way, public planting strips and street trees.

Alleys, the lowest category of streets, may not exist in all HPOZ areas, but if present they traditionally serve as the vehicular entry and exit to garages providing an important element of the neighborhood character.

Like alleys, parks are sometimes present in an HPOZ area and, as such, traditional elements should be preserved and maintained, and the addition of new elements should be compatible with the historic character of the neighborhood.

Additions to public buildings may require the installation of ramps, handrails and other entry elements that make a building entrance more accessible. These elements should be introduced carefully so that character-defining features are not obscured or harmed. Guidelines relating to public buildings covering Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements and location of parking lots are covered in this section. Guidelines for new and existing historic public buildings are the same as those in the commercial rehabilitation and infill sections excluding those on storefronts. Please refer to those sections when making changes, constructing additions or construction of new public buildings.

#### Guidelines

Consult with the Public Works Department regarding new and replacement work in the public right-of-way.

- 1. Protect and preserve street, sidewalk, alley and landscape elements, such as topography, patterns, features, and materials that contribute to the historic character of the preservation zone.
  - a. Preserve and maintain mature street trees.
  - b. Trim mature trees so that the existing canopies are preserved.
  - c. Preserve and maintain historically significant landscaping in the public planting strips.
  - d. Use landscaping to screen public parking lots from view of



Many neighborhoods includelandscaped medians and parks.



Sidewalks# curbs# parkways and gutters areall under the purview of an HPOZ.



This retaining wall is a signi. cant part of the neighborhood's historic fabri.

public streets.

e. New plantings in the public planting strip should be compatible with the historic character of the Preservation Zone.

#### Paving and Curbs

- 2. Maintain and preserve historic curb configuration, material and paving.
- 3. For repair or construction work in the Preservation Zone right-of-way, replace in-kind historic features such as granite curbs, etc.
- 4. Avoid conflicts between pedestrian and vehicular traffic by minimizing curb cuts that cross sidewalks.

#### Signage

- 5. Preserve and maintain historic street signs.
- 6. New street signage shall be placed so that historic features are least obstructed.

#### Street Furniture

7. New street furniture, such as benches, bike racks, drinking fountains, and trash containers, should be compatible in design, color and material with the historic character of the Preservation Zone. Use of traditional designs constructed of wood or cast iron is encouraged.

#### **Utilities**

8. New utility poles, etc. shall be placed in the least obtrusive location. Consider introducing new utility lines underground to reduce impacts to historic character of preservation zone

#### Street Lights

- 9. Preserve and maintain existing historic street lights.
- 10. New street lighting should be consistent with existing historic street lights. If there are no existing historic street lights, new lights should be compatible in design, materials, and scale with the historic character of the Preservation Zone.

#### **Sidewalks**

- 11. Preserve historic sidewalks.
- 12. Replace only those portions of sidewalks that have deteriorated. When portions of a sidewalk are replaced special attention should be paid to replicating score lines, texture, coloration and swirl-patterns.

- 13. New sidewalks should be compatible with the historic character of the streetscape.
- 14. Maintain public walkway connections between streets and between buildings.

#### Alley scapes

- 15. Preserve existing alleys as public rights-of-way.
- 16. Preserve traditional relationships between alleys and garages.
- 17. Preserve traditional fencing along alley right-of-ways.
- 18. The introduction of new fencing should be compatible with existing historic fencing.

#### **Public Buildings**

- 19. New public buildings should comply with the appropriate In-fill Design Guidelines.
- 20. Introduce accessible ramps and entry features so that character defining elements of the building's entryways are impacted to the least extent possible.
- 21. Construct new access ramps and entry features so that they are reversible.
- 22. Locate new parking lots and parking structures to the rear of public buildings to reduce impacts on neighborhood character.
- 23. Construction of parking areas for public buildings should be screened from view of adjacent residential structures.

#### Parks

- 24. Preserve and maintain any existing historic elements such as walkway materials, mature trees, plantings, park benches and lighting.
- 25. Replace in-kind elements that cannot be repaired.
- 26. New elements such as public benches, walkways, drinking fountains, and fencing should be compatible with the existing historic character of the Preservation Zone.

# Chapter 11 Definitions

Arch: A curved structure for spanning an opening.

Architectural Façade: The façade distinguished by the primary architectural features or detail.

Asymmetrical: Having no balance or symmetry.

Awnings: A canopy made of canvas to shelter people or things from rain or sun.

Balcony: An elevated platform projecting from the wall of a building, usually enclosed by a parapet or railing.

Baluster: Any of a number of closely spaced supports for a railing.

Balustrade: A railing with supporting balusters.

Barge Boards (Verge Boards): A board, often carved, attached to the projecting end of a gable roof.

Battered: Sloping, as of the outer face of a wall that recedes from bottom to top.

Bay: A part of a building marked off by vertical or transverse details.

Bay window: A window or series of windows projecting outward from the main wall of a building and forming a bay or alcove in a room within.

Belfry: A bell tower.

**Blockface**: The architectural setting formed by the conjunction of all the buildings in a block.

Board and Batten: Siding application where the vertical joints are covered with narrow strips of wood.

Boxed Cornice: A slightly projecting, hollow cornice of boards and moldings, nailed to rafters.

**Bracket**: A support projecting horizontally diagonally from a wall to bear the weight of a cantilever or for decorative purposes.

Box Gutter (Built-in Gutter): A gutter built into the slope of the roof, above the cornice.

Cantilevered: Horizontal element of a structure supported by horizontal, not vertical, structural members.

Canopy: Projecting element, usually over a façade opening, as if to provide shelter.

**Casement:** A window sash opening on hinges generally attached to the upright side of the windows frame.

Clapboard: A long, thin board with one edge thicker than the other, laid horizontally as bevel siding.

Clerestory Window: Ribbon windows on the portion of an interior rising above adjacent rooftops.

Clinker Brick: A very hard burned brick whose shape is distorted, knobby or bloated.

Column: A rigid, relatively slender vertical structural member, freestanding or engaged.

Coping: The top layer or course of a masonry wall, usually having a slanting upper surface to shed water.

Corbels: A stepped projection from a wall, usually masonry.

Cornice: A continuous, molded projection that crowns a wall.

Crown: The highest portion of an arch, including the keystone.

Cupola: A domelike structure surmounting a roof or dome, often used as a lookout or to admit light and air.

Dentil: Simple, projecting, tooth-like molding.

**Dormer:** A projecting structure built out from a sloping roof, usually housing a vertical window or ventilating louver.

**Double-hung Window:** A window with two sashes, both of which are operable, usually arranged one above the other.

**Dovecote**: An architectural feature originally intended to house pigeons or doves. The feature has evolved to simply consist of attic vents or small protusions on a gable-end stylized to resemble small bird-house openings.

Eave: The overhanging lower edge of a roof.

**Entablature**: The upper section of a building, resting on the columns and constituting the architrave, frieze, and cornice.

Façade: The front or any side of a building.

Fascia: Any broad, flat horizontal surface, as the outer edge of a cornice or roof.

**Fenestration**: The design, proportioning, and location of windows and other exterior openings of a building.

Finial: A sculptured ornament, often in the shape of a leaf or flower, at the top of a gable, pinnacle, or similar structure

Frieze: A decorative horizontal band, as along the upper part of a wall.

Glazed: Filled with a pane of glass.

Gothic Arch: A pointed arch reminiscent of those found on Gothic Cathedrals

Grilles: A decorative screen, usually of wood, tile, or iron, covering or protecting an opening.

Half-timbering: Detail creating the appearance of exposed structural timbers on plaster.

Jalousie: a window which consists of parallel glass, acrylic, or wooden louvers set in a frame.

**Keystone**: The wedge shaped detail at the top of an arch.

Louver: Fixed or movable horizontal slats for admitting air and light.

Marquee: A tall projection above a theatre entrance, often containing a sign.

Massing: The unified composition of a structure's volume, affecting the perception of density and bulk.

Molding: A slender strip of ornamental material with a uniform cross section and a decorative profile.

Mullion: A structural feature that separates adjacent windows when windows are arranged in pairs or groups.

Muntin: A strip, usually comprised of wood or metal, that holds separate panes of glass in a window.

Newel post: A post supporting one end of a handrail at the top or bottom of a flight of stairs.

Ogee Arch: An arch formed by two S-shaped curves meeting at a point.

Oriel: A bay window supported from below by corbels or brackets.

Pantile: A roofing tile, usually with an S-shaped profile, laid so that the down curve of one tile overlaps the up curve of the next one.

Parapet: A low protective wall at the edge of a terrace, balcony, or above the roof line.

Patterned Shingles: Shingles, usually used as a sheathing material, which are cut and arranged so as to form decorative patterns such as fish scales, diamonds, scallops, etc.

Pediment: A wide, low-pitched gable surmounting a colonnade, portico, or major bay on a façade.

**Pergola**: An arbor or a passageway of columns supporting a roof of trelliswork on which climbing plants are trained to grow

Pier: Vertical structural members.

Pilaster: A shallow rectangular projecting feature architecturally treated as a column.

Pinnacle: A small turret or spire on a roof or buttress.

Porch: An exterior covered approach or vestibule to a doorway.

**Porte-cochere**: A roofed structure covering a driveway to provide shelter while entering or leaving a vehicle.

Portico: A vertically proportioned porch having a roof supported by columns.

Quatrefoil: Literally meaning "four leafs," a quatrefoil is any four-lobed shape used in decorative arts and architecture.

**Quoin:** An exterior angle of a masonry wall marked by stones or bricks differentiated in size and/or material from adjoining surfaces.

Rafter: Any of a series of small, parallel beams for supporting the sheathing and covering of a pitched roof.

Rafter Tail: Portion of a rafter which projects under the eave.

Scale: Proportionate size judged in relation to an external point of reference.

Showcase Windows: Large glazed openings designed to showcase merchandise.

Sidelights: Vertical windows along the outside of a door.

Sleeping Porch: A room usually comprised of large windows and screens that is used for sleeping during hot summer months.

Soffit: The underside of an architectural element, such as a beam or cornice.

**Spandrel:** The roughly triangular space between the left or right exterior curve of an arch and the rectangular framework surrounding it.

Spindles: Slender architectural ornaments made of wood turned on a lathe in simple or elaborate patterns.

Spire: Structure or formation, such as a steeple, that tapers to a point at the top.

Splay: An oblique angle or bevel given to the sides of an opening in a wall.

Stair Tower: A tower articulating the location of the stairway, usually of a residence.

Stoop: A raised platform, approached by steps and sometimes having a roof, at the entrance to a house.

Streetscape: The pattern and impression created by the combination of visible elements from all lots on a blockface.

String Courses: A horizontal course of brick or stone flush with or projecting beyond the face of a building, often molded to mark a division in the wall.

Surround: The trim, jamb, head, and other decorative elements surrounding an opening.

Symmetry: Correspondence of form on opposite sides of a dividing line or plane.

Terra-Cotta: Usually red fired clay.

Terrace: An open level area or group of areas adjoining a house or lawn.

Terrazzo: A poured flooring material usually comprised of small pieces of stone or glass in a binding medium.

Tower: A structure high in proportion to its lateral dimensions, usually forming part of a larger building.

**Transom:** A window, usually operable, above the head of a door.

Trusses: A rigid framework, as of wooden beams or metal bars, designed to support a structure, such as a roof.

Turret: A structure (frequently curved) high in proportion to its lateral dimensions, forming part of a larger building.

Tuscan Columns: Very simple columns with no fluting or other embellishment.

Veranda: A large, open porch, usually roofed, extending across the front and sides of a house.

Window Sash: One unit of an operable window, including the frame and glazing.

Wood Shingle Siding: A sheathing material comprised of overlapping wood shingles.