

2011 GOVERNOR'S HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARDS

Study of Late 19th and 20th Century Development and Architecture in Pasadena



One of the many historic residences documented in the Pasadena study.

This project involved an innovative and comprehensive study of residential development at the turn of the twentieth century, including preparation of a Multiple Property Documentation Form, nomination of three historic districts and nine individual properties for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, and an intensive-level survey of all extant buildings from the period.

The project's goal was to create a comprehensive tool for evaluating and protecting the city's oldest and most-threatened resources. The MPDF identified four historic contexts: The Early Settlement of Pasadena, The Boom of the 1880s and Its Impact on Pasadena, Residential Architecture in Pasadena and Architects and Builders in Pasadena. Three property types were discussed: single-family residences, residential neighborhoods, and churches.

Properties were identified using ArcGIS software, resulting in a map and database of all properties built during the period of study. A total of 753 properties were surveyed, none of which had not been documented or evaluated within the last ten years. All 753 buildings were evaluated and added to a publicly-accessible online database of historic properties in Pasadena and the results publicized via city newsletter and website. A total of 62 properties were nominated for listing in the National Register; these nominations were approved by the State Historical Resources Commission on May 19, 2011.

The project has provided valuable information that is used both by the City, in its development, permitting and environmental review processes, and by the community to understand and identify important buildings from the city's settlement period. A total of six people worked on various aspects of the project. A consultant team, funded by a Certified Local Government grant, conducted research and prepared the MPDF, and two additional staff members assisted with resource evaluations and preparation of five National Register nominations. This minimal use of staff resources was facilitated by the use of modern technology, specifically GIS and a handheld data-collection device, a practice that can be applied to similar studies throughout the state, particularly in times of limited funds and staffing.

Learn more about the study and read the full report:

http://www.cityofpasadena.net/Planning/Study_of_Late_19th_and_Early_20th_Century_Residential_Buildings/