

# Historical Resources Surveys



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Office of Historic Preservation

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# What are historical resources surveys ?

- Means by which we identify and document historic resources and evaluate their significance
- Survey is both a *process* and a *product*



- What resources are there?
- Where are they?
- Are they significant and why?
- What are the character-defining features?
- How do they need to be treated?



# What is a historical resource?

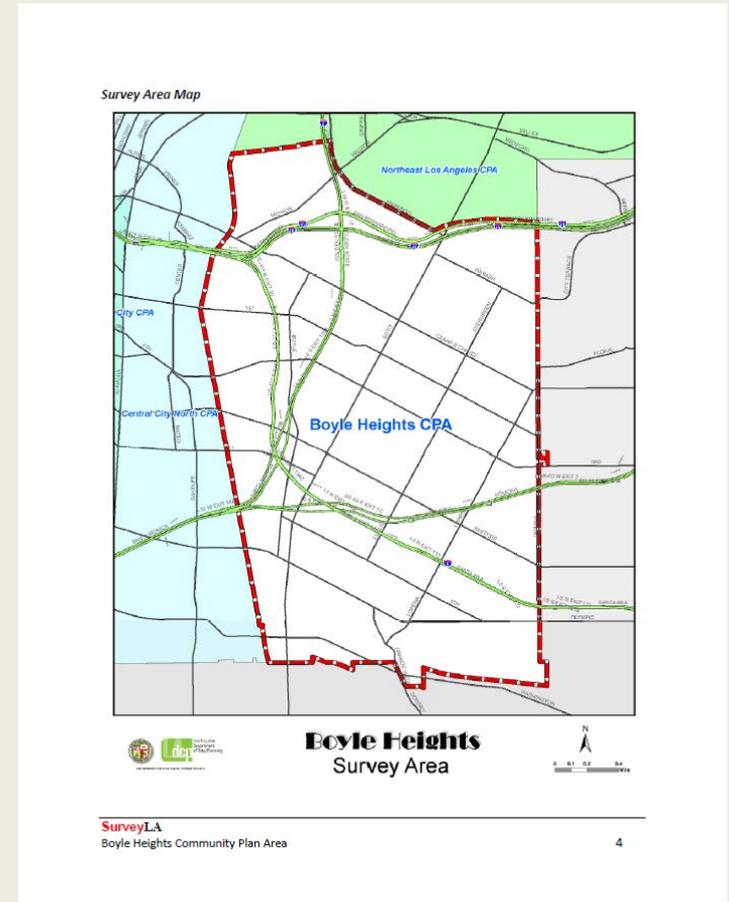
Districts, Buildings, Sites, Structures or Objects which:

- Exemplify a period of history
- Association with significant historical events
- Association with the lives of persons significant in our past
- Embodying a particular style, type or method of construction; possess high artistic values
- Yield or potential to yield information important to history or prehistory.

# Conducting a Historical Resources Survey (*Process*)

- Two main parts:
  - Planning and background research
    - Investigating the historical background of the survey area
    - gathering information on specific properties
    - persons identified with these properties
    - the historic uses and events connected to them.
  - Field survey or data gathered on the ground
- Research is carried out within the framework of a historic context.

- Planning:
  - Area to be surveyed
  - When the survey is to take place
  - Who is to carry out survey activities
  - Exact role of each person
  - Type of survey: intensive or reconnaissance



# Reconnaissance or Windshield

- Visual survey used to identify general distribution, location and nature of resources within a given area
- Information included in a windshield survey includes:
  - Locational information
  - Photograph
  - Some architectural description
- Identify potentially significant resources which merit further research
- Identify resources which do not merit further research

# Windshield Survey

- Generally do not:
  - Include research on the histories of the surveyed resources
  - Provide sufficient information for making informed evaluations of historic significance
  - Nor are they sufficient to make planning decisions

# Intensive Level Survey

- In depth fieldwork to document current physical appearance
  - essential physical features or character-defining features
  - Document alterations over time to historic resource
- In-depth archival research to develop historic context and significance
- Objective is to gather sufficient information to be able to assess significance

# Context Based Surveys

- Broad pattern of historical development in a community or region that may be represented by historic resources
- Most influential factors in defining the structure of a survey effort.

**Context:** Post Great Depression Population Boom/Burbank During World War II (1939-1945)

**Theme:** Commercial (Outside of downtown commercial core)

**Property Type:** Signs

**Property Sub-Type:** Projecting Blade Signs

A projecting blade sign is an autonomous object attached perpendicularly to the façade of a building. It projects over the sidewalk, is oriented to street traffic, and employs advertising strategies to capture the attention of moving audiences. Projecting blade signs are significant for their association with commercial establishments along Burbank's main arterial corridors outside of downtown, as part of the city's commercial development at the end of the Great Depression and during World War II. The city saw a resurgence in construction at this time due to the rapid expansion of the aircraft manufacturing industry, which drew thousands of people and prompted commercial growth.

#### Character Defining Features

- Perpendicular orientation to the building façade, attached by a pole, metal brackets, and/or guy wires
- Often extends vertically above the cornice, parapet, or roofline of the building
- Shape may exemplify design features of Art Deco, Streamline Moderne, or thematic architectural styles: streamlines, angularity, rectilinear forms, offset composition of intersecting forms, programmatic shapes
- Typographic forms, imagery, and/or objects evoke the ethos of the era of its period of significance
- Usually two-faced for viewing from two directions
- Symbolic imagery—scenes, pictures—may join lettering or words or names, often painted
- Materials include varnished metal, porcelain enamel, or plastic
- External illumination includes neon, fluorescent, and/or incandescent bulbs, sometimes encased within metal channel letters; plastic (Flexiglas) signs usually internally illuminated



1619 Burbank Blvd.

#### Eligibility Requirements

For City of Burbank eligibility, projecting blade signs must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Constructed within the period of significance (1939-1945) in association with a commercial establishment along one of Burbank's main corridors
- Evokes the commercial ethos of its period through its form, imagery, typography, and materials
- Retains the original intent of drawing the attention of passersby to a business by advertising the name of the establishment and its offerings
- Retains the essential aspects of integrity

#### Applicable Local Criteria for Eligibility

- a. Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of Burbank's or California's history and cultural heritage.
- c. Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or represents the work of an important creative individual, or possesses high artistic values.

#### Integrity Considerations

- Should retain integrity of design, workmanship, materials, and feeling
- Original shape/form must be present, though some lettering may have changed
- Existing painted letters and imagery may be faded
- Tubing and bulbs may be missing or broken, with only electrical sockets for electrodes remaining
- Sign may exhibit signs of deterioration but must retain basic structural integrity

# Standards for Determining a Historical Resource

Standards used to define significance:

- National Register of Historic Places
- California Register of Historical Resources
- Local Register criteria established in preservation ordinance.



# Survey (product)

## Neighborhood Commercial Buildings (Phase I) Historic Resource Survey Report



Overview  
Methodology  
Corner Building Individual Evaluations  
Commercial Corridor "Windshield" Narrative Summaries

San Francisco Planning Department  
Draft Submitted to the Office of Historic Preservation on September 30, 2014\*



SAN FRANCISCO  
PLANNING  
DEPARTMENT

\*NOT FOR PUBLIC REVIEW: Final determinations pending review and approval by the Survey Advisors Group

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- Description of methodology
- Historic Context
- Photographs or electronic images
- Maps
- Electronic database records and DPR523 Forms

COMMERCIAL CORNER BUILDINGS FIELD SURVEY FORM



Address
4300 23 <sup>rd</sup> Street
4302 23 <sup>rd</sup> Street
4304 23 <sup>rd</sup> Street
4306 23 <sup>rd</sup> Street
4308 23 <sup>rd</sup> Street

Cross Street	Douglass Street
APN	2802009
Year Built (Assessor)	1911
No. of Stories	3
No. of Units	6
No. of Storefronts	3
Previous Surveys	None
Neighborhood	Noe Valley

Field Surveyor	Mary Brown & Natalia Kwiatkowska
Date	6/12/14

Final Evaluation

Significance Criteria	This building is individually significant under National Register of Historic Places and California Register of Historical Resources criteria C/3 (Architecture/Design) as an intact property that embodies the distinctive characteristics of an early 20th century neighborhood corner commercial building, including design features, materials and methods of construction demonstrating high artistic values characteristic of Mission Revival style architecture in San Francisco during this period.
Period of Significance	1911
CHRSC (status code)	3S
Evaluator & Date	Mary Brown, 8/13/14

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State of California – The Resources Agency DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION <b>PRIMARY RECORD</b>	Primary # _____ HRI # _____ Trinomial _____ NRHP Status Code _____
Other Listings _____ Review Code _____	Reviewer _____ Date _____

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\*Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder)

P1. Other Identifier: \_\_\_\_\_

\*P2. Location:  Not for Publication  Unrestricted  
and (P2b and P2c or P2d. Attach a Location Map as necessary.)

\*a. County Sacramento

\*b. USGS 7.5' Quad East Sacramento Date 1992 T \_\_\_\_; R \_\_\_\_; \_\_\_\_% of Sec \_\_\_\_; \_\_\_\_ B.M.

c. Address 2513-2519 S Street City Sacramento Zip 95818

d. UTM: (give more than one for large and/or linear resources) Zone \_\_\_\_; \_\_\_\_ mE/ \_\_\_\_ mN

e. Other Locational Data: (e.g., parcel #, directions to resource, elevation, etc., as appropriate)

APN:010-0044-006

\*P3a. Description: (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries)

Constructed in 1949, the building at 2513-2519 S Street is a Streamline Moderne style apartment building. The three-story building is roughly U-shaped, occupies two city parcels, and faces south with an interior courtyard originally opening to the street. The interior courtyard has been secured with metal gate and a concrete block wall. A small pool, added after original construction, is located in the courtyard. Three main entries are located on the interior courtyard, one at the rear and two on the west and east sides. Each entry has a metal-framed glass door flanked by side lights and a fixed pane above. A small curved flat roof overhang covers each entrance. The streamline ornament is echoed on the fascia of the entryway roof.

The building is covered with a flat roof with open overhanging eaves. Streamlines, one of the few architectural ornaments on the building are located at the roof line. The exterior walls are clad with smooth stucco and have a stringcourse at the first and second story. Fenestration consists of regular placement of three light casement windows and three light casement windows flanked by side lights and top lights. The front side has the banks of steel casement and fixed lights located prominent in the corners. Windows have a narrow concrete sill and are devoid of all other trim. Window air conditioning units are located adjacent to many of the banks of casement windows and are one of the few changes to the exterior of the building.

\*P3b. Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) HP4, HP2

\*P4. Resources Present:  Building  Structure  Object  Site  District  Element of District  Other (Isolates, etc.)

\*P5b. Description of Photo: (View, date, accession #) Front facade, camera facing northwest, June 2012

\*P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources:  
 Historic  Prehistoric  Both  
1949, City Permit

\*P7. Owner and Address:

\*P8. Recorded by: (Name, affiliation, address)  
Amanda Blosser  
2690 San Fernando Way  
Sacramento, CA 95818

\*P9. Date Recorded: September 2012

\*P10. Survey Type: (Describe)  
Intensive



\*P11. Report Citation: (Cite survey report and other sources, or enter "none.") None

\*Attachments: NONE  Location Map  Sketch Map  Continuation Sheet  Building, Structure, and Object Record  Archaeological Record  District Record  Linear Feature Record  Milling Station Record  Rock Art Record  Artifact Record  Photograph Record  Other (list) \_\_\_\_\_

DPR 523A (1/95)

\*Required Information

# Maintaining Survey Records

- Leads to the creation, growth and refinement of an inventory
- Inventory is the organized compilation of surveys



*City of Sacramento*



## **SACRAMENTO REGISTER OF HISTORIC & CULTURAL RESOURCES**

**Landmarks, Historic Districts and Contributing Resources**  
designated by the City Council

**Special Planning District Historic Resources**  
adopted by the City Council for Protection

**NATIONAL REGISTER  
OF HISTORIC PLACES**  
City of Sacramento Listings

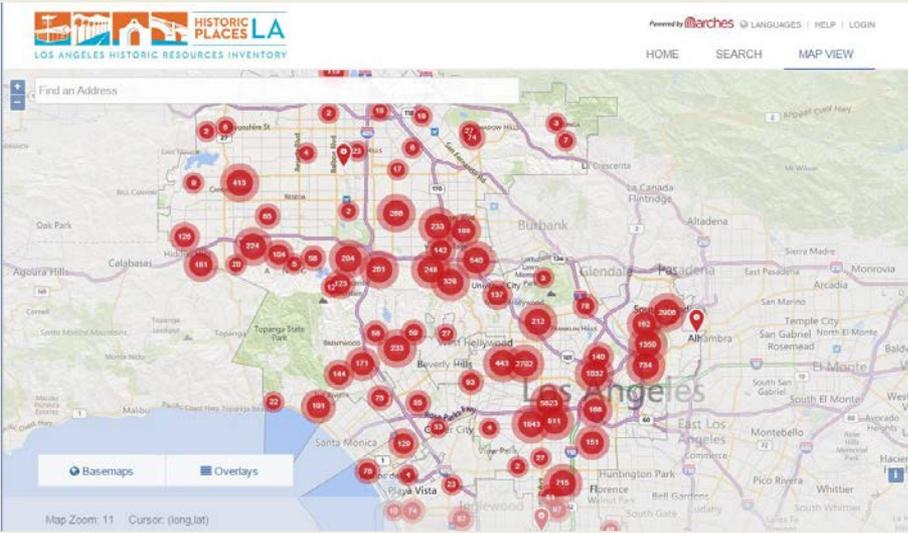
**CALIFORNIA REGISTER  
OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES**  
City of Sacramento Listings

**State of California  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES DIRECTORY**  
City of Sacramento Listings

*Updated February 2007*

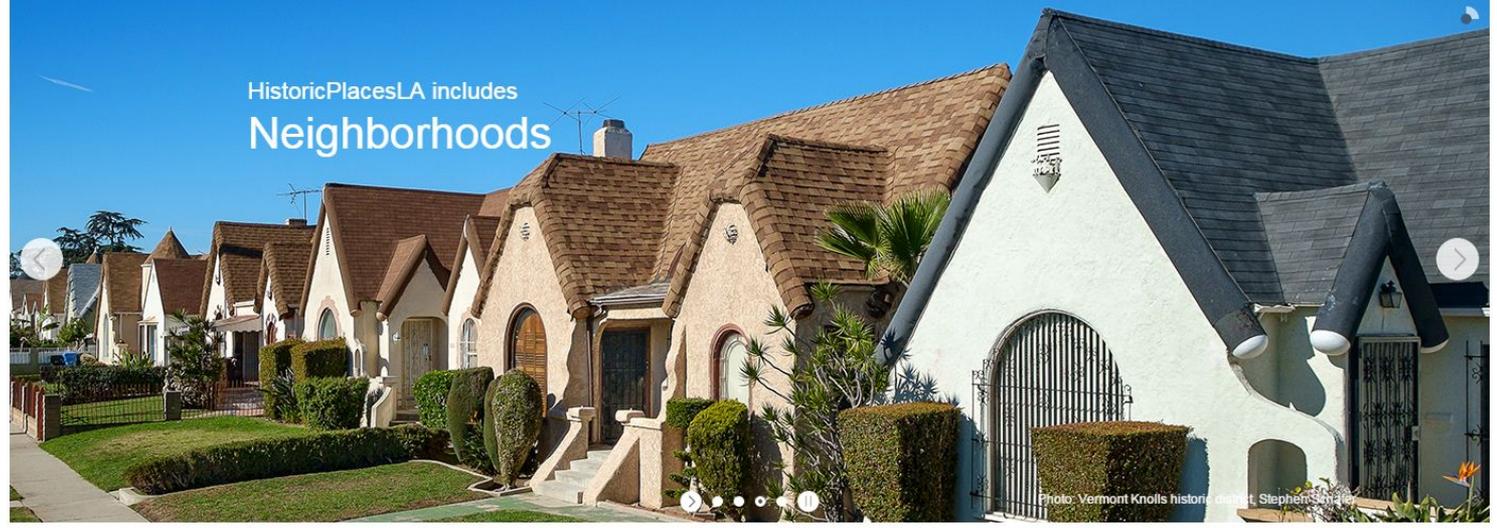
# Inventories and Updates

- Fill in data gaps, go from a windshield to a intensive survey
- Consider additional information discovered a later date
- Develop additional historic contexts as time and money are available
- Note any change or alterations



# SurveyLA

Los Angeles Historic Resources Survey



## HistoricPlacesLA

HistoricPlacesLA is the first online information and management system specifically created to inventory, map and help protect the City of Los Angeles' significant historic resources. It showcases the city's diversity of historic resources, including architecturally significant buildings and places of social importance, as well as historic districts, bridges, parks, and streetscapes.

# Purpose of a Survey

- Acknowledges that these resources have value to ourselves and future generations
- Fundamental to historic preservation
  - Identification of historic resources and helps determine which of those resources should be preserved.
  - Plan for the wise use of a community's resources.

- Facilitates environmental reviews
- Also facilitates disaster planning



# For More Information:

- Office of Historic Preservation [www.ohp.parks.ca.gov](http://www.ohp.parks.ca.gov)
- “Guidelines for Local Surveys: A Basis for Preservation Planning,” *National Register Bulletin 24*,  
<http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/publications/bulletins/nrb24/>
- Archeology and Historic Preservation: *Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines*  
[http://www.cr.nps.gov/local-law/arch\\_stnds\\_0.htm](http://www.cr.nps.gov/local-law/arch_stnds_0.htm)