

**OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

P.O. BOX 942896  
SACRAMENTO, CA 94296-0001  
(916) 653-6624 Fax: (916) 653-9824  
calshpo@ohp.parks.ca.gov  
www.ohp.parks.ca.gov



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Dear Colleagues,

As State Historic Preservation Officer, I am pleased to announce that the Office of Historic Preservation has implemented revised status codes effective immediately and request that they be used as appropriate in documentation that is submitted to the Office through any of the programs OHP administers. Because the status codes are used to reflect the application of California Register and local criteria as well as designations or eligibility for the California and National Registers, the name "California Historical Resource Status Codes" replaces the term "National Register Status Codes."

Years ago the Office of Historic Preservation devised the National Register Status Codes to classify resources in the state's inventory which had been identified through a regulatory process or local government survey. The California Environmental Quality Act requires state and local public agencies to identify the environmental impacts of proposed discretionary activities or projects on historical resources. By definition, under CEQA, resources listed in or determined to be eligible for listing in the California Register are recognized as part of the environment, as are resources identified as significant in a survey or in the state inventory with status codes 1-5. Unfortunately, the codes were never revised to reflect eligibility or listing in the California Register, which was established in 1998. As a consequence, local governments and other agencies that have relied on the status codes in making environmental review and local land use planning decisions have had incomplete information.

#### Highlights of Status Codes Revision

- Under the broad definition for status code 1, "*Properties listed in the National Register (NR) or the California Register (CR)*," 1D and 1S will continue to signify National Register listing as they have in the past. Additions of 1CD, 1CS, and 1CL will denote resources listed on the California Register by the State Historical Resources Commission, paralleling formal listing on the National Register by the Keeper. Because properties listed in or formally determined eligible for listing in the NR are automatically listed in the California Register, there is no need to assign dual codes.
- The definition of status code 2 will be broadened to "*Properties determined eligible for listing in the National Register (NR) or the California Register (CR)*." Just as 2s were previously used and will continue to be used to identify resources formally determined eligible for the National Register through a regulatory process, 2Cs will identify resources formally determined eligible for the California Register by the State Historical Resources Commission.
- The parallel between the resources identified through a survey as appearing eligible for the National Register and those which appear eligible for the California Register are reflected in the 3 codes which are broadly defined as "*Appears eligible for National Register (NR) or California Register (CR) through Survey Evaluation*."
- Formerly, 4s were assigned through surveys to properties that had the potential, if some circumstance or event was to happen in the future, to become eligible for the National Register. Thus by definition, resources identified as 4s were not eligible for the National Register. Yet under CEQA, they were presumed to be historical resources. OHP will be

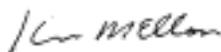
converting all former 4s to either a 7N or 7N1, whichever is appropriate, to signify that these resources need to be reevaluated using current standards and applying both National Register and California Register criteria. Henceforth, a status code of 4 will be broadly defined as “*Appears eligible for National Register (NR) or California Register (CR) through other evaluation,*” and will be used to denote those state owned properties evaluated pursuant to Public Resources Code §5024.

- To facilitate their CEQA reviews and other land use planning decisions, local governments asked for codes that more clearly reflected locally significant properties that are not eligible for either NR or CR. The 5 status codes are broadly defined as “*Properties Recognized as Historically Significant by Local Government.*” Status codes 5S3 and 5D3, formerly used to identify properties that were not eligible for the California Register, National Register or local listing but warranted special consideration in local planning, will be converted to 6L, “*Determined ineligible for local listing or designation through local government review process; may warrant special consideration in local planning.*”
- Users of the California Historic Resource Status Codes should keep in mind that the status codes are broad indicators which, in many cases, serve as a starting place for further consideration and evaluations. For example, the broad definition of status code 6 is “*Not Eligible for Listing or Designation as specified.*” Several of the 6 status codes denote only that a resource was evaluated and determined ineligible for the National Register through a regulatory process; as the resource was not evaluated for the California Register or local significance, it may still warrant consideration under CEQA or at a local level.
- Similarly, resources given a status code 7, have either not been evaluated for the National Register (NR) or the California Register (CR) or need reevaluation. It can not be assumed that they are not historic resources.

When the status codes were first created, complex elaborations on the code groups resulted in nearly 150 individual codes. Many were ambiguously defined; others were never even used. OHP will consolidate groups of closely related codes and convert them to the relevant revised code. Technical assistance bulletins and other published materials will be updated to reflect the revised codes and note which former codes have been converted.

We believe that implementation of the California Historical Resource Status Codes (HR Status Codes) will simplify and clarify the identification, evaluation, and understanding of the significance of California’s historic resources and will better promote their recognition and preservation. We thank you for your support in these endeavors.

Sincerely,



Dr. Knox Mellon  
State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosures: California Historical Resource Status Codes  
Former National Register Status Codes