



Community & Economic Development Department
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Planning Division

CULTURAL HERITAGE BOARD MEETING DATE: JUNE 15, 2022
AGENDA ITEM NO.: 7

WORKSHOP ITEM

Case Numbers	Not Applicable
Request	To receive and file an update on the City's Historic Districts
Project Location	Not Applicable
Ward	All
Staff Planner	Scott Watson, Historic Preservation Officer 951-826-5507 swatson@riversideca.gov

RECOMMENDATION

To receive and file an update on the City's Historic Districts.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION

At the May 18, 2022 Cultural Heritage Board meeting, Chair Gamble and Board Member Tobin requested that an item be added to the next available agenda to receive an update on the City's Historic Districts.

To date, there have been thirteen Historic Districts and four Neighborhood Conservation Areas designated across the City (Exhibits 1 & 2). General Plan 2025, adopted by City Council November 2007, formally identified two potential Historic Districts, Mile Square Northwest Historic District and Citrus Thematic Industrial Historic District. Other areas have been identified by various historic context statements, including the Modernism Context Statement, as possible historic districts but require further study.

Before and area can be proposed for historic district designation, enough factual evidence must be provided to determine if that area is eligible for designation. This is often completed through a historic context statement. To be eligible for historic district designation, the area must meet the criteria establish in Section 20.50.010(O) of the Riverside Municipal Code, as follows:

Historic District means an area which contains:

1. A concentration, linkage, or continuity of cultural resources, where at least 50 percent of the structures or elements retain significant historic integrity, (a "geographic Historic District") or
2. A thematically-related grouping of cultural resources which contribute to each other and are unified aesthetically by plan or physical development, and which have been designated or determined eligible for designation as a Historic District by the Historic Preservation Officer or Qualified Designee, Board, or City Council or is listed in the National Register of Historic Places or the California Register of Historical Resources, or is a California Historical Landmark or a California Point of Historical Interest (a "thematic Historic District").

In addition to either 1. or 2. above, the area also:

3. Exemplifies or reflects special elements of the City's cultural, social, economic, political, aesthetic, engineering, architectural, or natural history;
4. Is identified with persons or events significant in local, State, or national history;
5. Embodies distinctive characteristics of a style, type, period, or method of construction, or is a valuable example of the use of indigenous materials or craftsmanship;
6. Represents the work of notable builders, designers, or architects;
7. Embodies a collection of elements of architectural design, detail, materials or craftsmanship that represent a significant structural or architectural achievement or innovation;
8. Reflects significant geographical patterns, including those associated with different eras of settlement and growth, particular transportation modes, or distinctive examples of park or community planning;
9. Conveys a sense of historic and architectural cohesiveness through its design, setting, materials, workmanship or association; or
10. Has yielded or may be likely to yield, information important in history or prehistory.

Once eligibility is determined, the process for historic district designation is set forth in Resolution No. 18842 (Exhibit 3), which was adopted by the City Council on January 16, 1996. The resolution specifies that the Planning Division notify property owners within the area proposed for historic designation. A community or neighborhood advisory committee shall be identified by the Planning Division and the Cultural Heritage Board (CHB) and approved by City Council. The advisory group is to work with Planning staff and/or CHB Subcommittee to: 1) Identify and Survey the potential historic district; 2) Define the physical boundaries; 3) Assist in the development of draft design guidelines. Following the completion on all these items and at least one community meeting the formal designation is to proceed as set forth in Title 20, which includes review and recommendation by CHB and final action by City Council.

STRATEGIC PLAN

This item contributes to the Envision Riverside 2025 City Council Strategic Priority 2 – Community Well Being (Goal 2.3 – Strengthen neighborhood identities and improve community health and the physical environment through amenities and programs that foster an increased sense of community and enhanced feelings of pride and belonging citywide).

This item aligns with the following Cross-Cutting Threads:

1. Community Trust: This update on the City Historic Districts is being provided at a public meeting of the Cultural Heritage Board and the public is able to provide comments.
2. Equity: Historic Districts can be visit and enjoyed by all residents.
3. Fiscal Responsibility: No City General Funds are being allocated to establish historic district. If a historic district is to be identified for further study, grants and community volunteers will be sought to complete the designation.
4. Innovation: The identification of new historic district will be based on new information and new approaches to historic preservation.
5. Sustainability and Resiliency: Designation of historic districts will preserve and maintain the City's collective history for future generations.

EXHIBITS

1. Historic Districts and Neighborhood Conservation Areas List
2. Historic Districts and Neighborhood Conservation Areas Map
3. Resolution No. 18842

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Approved by: Mary Kopaskie-Brown, City Planner