

## Finding Previously Designated and Surveyed Properties

Most designated properties don't have a big bronze plaque identifying their historic status, so you'll have to do some research yourself to make sure a site isn't already designated or to alert you to possible sources of information for your nomination. How embarrassing to do a boatload of research only to find out that someone's already done the same thing! Before embarking on the path of research, you should check to see if a property is already designated or if a historic survey has been completed. In either case, you may decide that you don't need to proceed with a new or additional designation, or you may find that there's research information available that you can use for your nomination.

The following information will help you find out about local designations and surveys in the City of Los Angeles, as well as whether or not a property is listed on the National and/or California Registers. Remember, a property's listing or designation at one or more levels doesn't necessarily mean it's receiving the maximum level of protection. Contact Conservancy staff if you have questions about the relative merits of multiple designations or for help strategizing about which type of designation is most appropriate.

### Designated Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument (HCM) or structure in a Historic Preservation Overlay Zone (HPOZ)?

Check ZIMAS, the City Planning Department's online resource:

1. Start at <http://zimas.lacity.org/search.asp>
2. Enter street number and street name (omitting direction (e.g. East, N.) and street type (e.g. Avenue, Blvd)
3. Under "Links" at right side of screen, click on "Map"
4. Under "Property Information" at upper right, click on arrow next to "Data Tabs" box and click on "Planning and Zoning Information"
5. Look for "Historic Preservation" in list. If "yes" is highlighted in red, click on it. Information about HCM and/or HPOZ status will appear. Sometimes information about National or California Register status will be here, but *not always!* Continue researching state and federal listing as described below.
6. To obtain more detailed information about a city-designated property, call the City Planning Department at (213) 978-1247

### Listed or determined eligible for the California Register (or the National Register)?

*The* resource for getting up-to-date information about buildings listed at the state and/or federal level is through the state Office of Historic Preservation's (OHP) Historic Resources Inventory (HRI). Here's what they say about it:

The HRI maintained by OHP includes *only* information on historical resources that have been identified and evaluated through one of the programs that OHP administers under the National Historic Preservation Act or the California Public Resources Code. The HRI includes data on:

- Resources evaluated in local government historical resource surveys partially funded through Certified Local Government grants or in surveys which local governments have submitted for inclusion in the statewide inventory;
- Resources evaluated and determinations of eligibility (DOEs) made in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act;
- Resources evaluated for federal tax credit certifications;

- Resources considered for listing in the National and California Registers or as California State Landmarks or Points of Historical Interest.

Unfortunately, the HRI isn't available online yet. As of now, you need to contact the OHP Information Center for the county where the property is located. For Los Angeles County, check with:

Ms. Margaret Lopez, Coordinator  
 South Central Coastal Information Center  
 California State University, Fullerton  
 Department of Anthropology  
 800 North State College Blvd.  
 P.O. Box 6846  
 Fullerton, CA 92834-6846  
 (714) 278-5395  
 Fax (714) 278-5542  
 sccic@fullerton.edu  
<http://anthro.fullerton.edu/sccic.html>

For general information, check the OHP website ([http://ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=21238](http://ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=21238)) or contact the office directly:

Office of Historic Preservation  
 P.O. Box 942896  
 Sacramento, CA 94296-0001  
 TEL: 916-653-6624  
 FAX: 916-653-9824

### **Listed on the National Register?**

The National Park Service, which administers the NR, has a website with listings, but it can be cumbersome to use since you have to look at all of a city's listings in alphabetical order, moving from page to page to do so. The information is reliable and web accessible, though, so have a look at:  
<http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/research/nris.htm>

### **Previously Surveyed?**

#### **Los Angeles Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA)**

Check ZIMAS for possible pre-existing CRA surveys. If the property is in a CRA project area, it will be noted in the same "Planning and Zoning Information" menu where the property's designation status is indicated.

CRA project areas all have Historic Resource Surveys completed for properties within project boundaries, though the survey information itself is not available online. For project area maps, go to:  
<http://www.crala.net/internet-site/Projects/index.cfm>. If your building is in a project area, contact the appropriate CRA office to obtain survey information.

### **Other Surveys**

Historical resources in very limited portions of Los Angeles have been surveyed by other government agencies. When this happens, some of the basic information that is generated will be included in printouts available from the OHP Information Office in Fullerton. The agency responsible for the survey should be included in the printout and the researcher should contact it to find out if additional information is available.

