



National Trust for Historic Preservation  
**Where Women  
Made History**  
*Telling the full American story.*



**LOS ANGELES  
CONSERVANCY**

# A Toolkit for Change: The Los Angeles Women's Landmarks Project

## Evaluating Historic Sites

### Overview

The following worksheet adapts the evaluation form used in a study of existing Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monuments (HCMs). In an initial survey of forty-three HCMs, each site's nomination was evaluated for the inclusion or exclusion of women's history in the historical narrative. The purpose of this evaluation was to determine the extent that women are underrecognized in historic designations, which sites needed women's contributions added to the historical record, and the level of research needed to amend a designation to include women's contributions.

In addition to the template below see the **Sample Evaluation: Mack Sennett**, which was provided in the Evaluation and Assessment part of the toolkit.

### Worksheet Sections

Basic Information: This section includes information related to the site's location, ownership, use, integrity, and other forms of recognition. This information is included for reference.

Overview of Current Significance Statement: This overview consists of a close reading of the nomination's historical narrative for the inclusion of women's history. Are women included? How are their contributions portrayed?

Potential for Women's Heritage Amendment: This section identifies areas where more information or research is needed to adequately convey women's contributions to the site's significance.

Resources for Further Research: This section is not intended to include a full list of research materials. This is a place to make note of any resources that come to mind as you work through the form.

Additional Notes: This is a place to add any notes about the nomination or site that do not fit into other sections.

Significance Findings: This checkbox quickly identifies the histories and stories currently represented in the site, and the groups that can be included in an amendment.

Amendment Scenario: This section categorizes the site based on the level of work needed to adequately convey women's contributions.

*Form begins on the next page.*

*Prepared by Arabella Delgado, Lead Researcher, L.A. Women's Landmarks Program.*

Name:

Address:

Local Landmark #: | Date of Designation:

Page Numbers

BASIC INFORMATION	
Neighborhood:	Architect:
Council District:	Architectural Style:
Ownership:	Original Use:
Other Local Designation:	Current Use:
National Designation:	Integrity:
Date Built:	Period of Significance:
Original Form Prepared By:	

OVERVIEW OF CURRENT SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT
<p>Questions to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Why was the site originally nominated or designated?</li><li>• What criteria determined historic status?</li><li>• What are the main points of the historical narrative?</li><li>• Are there any blatant omissions from the narrative? Any groups, individuals, historical events, etc. that should have been included?</li><li>• What language is used to talk about women? Is there a gender bias?</li><li>• Is there something that this narrative does particularly well that could serve as a model for other nominations?</li></ul>

POTENTIAL FOR WOMEN'S HERITAGE AMENDMENT
<p>For this section:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Identify points in the existing narrative that need to be expanded in an amendment. For example, are there specific people or events that were mentioned but deserve more attention?</li><li>• Identify points that were NOT included but should be</li><li>• Consider how the historic narrative shifts when you include new information—does it change the overall significance?</li></ul>

Name:

Address:

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### RESOURCES FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

Resources to identify:

- Links to digital resources
- Archives or specific archival collections
- Relevant secondary sources
- Names of subject matter experts to reach out to

This section is not intended to be a comprehensive list of resources. Identify places to start research or resources that come up as you evaluate the significance statement.

### ADDITIONAL NOTES

Add any notes that are important to consider for a possible amendment but did not fit into the previous sections. Notes to consider:

- Any details on integrity
- Recent ownership change
- Ongoing or proposed projects
- Current debates over the site
- Changes in site use

Add any comments that fit the needs of your project and organization.

### SIGNIFICANCE FINDINGS (X – in nomination/designation; X – identified through evaluation)

Women	Black/ African American	Latinx	AAPI	LGBTQ+	Disability History	Indigenous	Working Class/ Labor History	Immigrant History

\*Adjust categories to align with project goals and local designation process.

Name:

Address:

Local Landmark #: | Date of Designation:

Page Numbers

## AMENDMENT SCENARIO

1. **No Amendment Needed** – This site was nominated for its association with women’s history and contains a significance statement focused on the contributions of women; narrative contains sufficient research to convey women’s significance.
2. **Name Change Only** – This site’s significance statement focuses on the contributions of women to its history, but the site name does not reflect its importance to women’s history.
3. **Minimal Changes to Narrative and/or Documentation, NO change to criteria** – This site’s significance statement identifies women’s heritage through its criteria and historical narrative but could use more detail or information to emphasize women’s contributions. Minimal or no additional research is needed.
4. **Significant Changes to Narrative and/or Documentation, NO change to criteria** – This site’s significance statement identifies women’s heritage in its criteria and historical narrative, but the overall nomination form is very basic and does not fully explain women’s contributions. This scenario requires additional research and significant editing to the existing narrative.
5. **Significant Changes to Narrative and/or Documentation, addition of criteria** – This site does not identify women’s heritage in its designation criteria and may or may not point to women’s contributions in the historical narrative. If women’s history is mentioned, the current narrative does not adequately convey the significance of women’s contributions. This scenario requires significant additional research, editing, and new writing to the existing narrative. Even without these changes, the narrative does articulate that the site is significant in some way.
6. **Full Review** – This site has minimal information and is largely incomplete. It not only lacks women’s history, but it fails to adequately convey the significance of the site through its criteria, narrative, and documentation. This scenario requires significant additional research, editing, and new writing to convey the site’s overall significance.