

**Preservation Planning
&
the
Secretary of the Interior's Standards
Contexts and Surveys**

Marie Nelson

mnelson@parks.ca.gov

**State Office of Historic Preservation
San Diego**

14 September 2009

Preservation Planning

- Historic properties are irreplaceable
- Responsible planning requires information
- Public Participation – early and continuing

Planning Standard I

Preservation Planning

Establishes Historic Contexts

- Decisions about the identification, evaluation, registration and treatment of historic properties are most reliably made when the relationship of individual properties to other similar properties is understood.
- Information about historic properties representing aspects of history, architecture, archeology, engineering and culture must be collected and organized to define these relationships.

Planning Standard I



*The development of **historic contexts** is the foundation for decisions about identification, evaluation, registration and treatment of historic properties.*

HISTORIC CONTEXTS

**Built
Environment**



History

Patterns

People

Values

HISTORIC CONTEXTS

THEME

PLACE

TIME

**Describe the significant aspects and broad patterns
of an area's
history and cultural development**

Historic Contexts

Tell the stories that explain

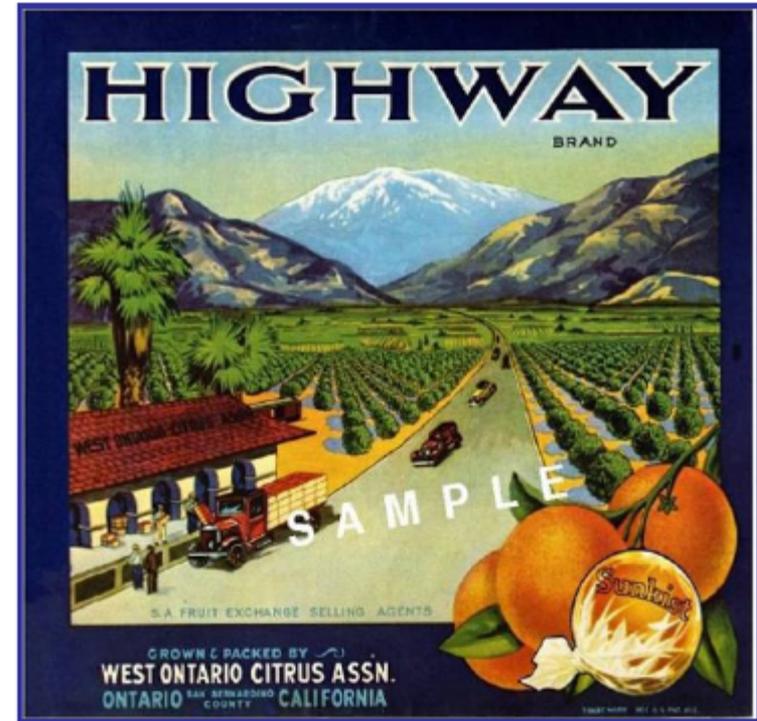
how,

when, and

why

the land use patterns and built environment developed or looks the way it does.

Historic Context for
The City of Ontario's Citrus Industry



Prepared For:

City of Ontario Planning Department
303 East "B" Street, Ontario, CA 91764

Submitted to:

Cathy Wahlstrom, Principal Planner

Prepared by:

 1611 South Pacific Coast Highway
Suite 104
Redondo Beach, CA 90277

February 2007

Historic Context Statements

So What?

- So what are the important forces which shaped the current built environment?
- So what are the important property types associated with those themes?
- So what is the appropriate context for evaluation a particular resource
- So what characteristics does a resource need to have to be significant as a representative property type within its appropriate context?

CONTEXTS

- *Synthesize* information about significant historical patterns, events, people, groups, and values
- *Identify* Information Needs
- *Recommend* Goals, Priorities, and Strategies
- *Evolve* as additional information is acquired
- *Create* Framework for Evaluation
- *Permit* development of plans for identification, evaluation, and treatment even in absence of complete knowledge of individual properties.

CONTEXTS FOCUS ON PROPERTY TYPES*

- **Identify** properties types associated with important themes
- **Identify** characteristics each property type needs to represent the property type within the context
- **Identify** locational patterns
- **Characterize** current condition of property types
- **Establish** Eligibility criteria – context & criteria
- **Define** integrity thresholds – context & criteria
- Provide **framework** for applying criteria and thresholds

*Groupings of individual properties based on shared physical or associative characteristics

Planning Standard II

*Preservation Planning Uses **Historic Contexts** To Develop Goals and Priorities for the Identification, Evaluation, Registration and Treatment of Historic Properties*

CONTEXTS & SURVEYS



Revitalization

Infill & Community
Development

Incentives

Design Guidelines

Adaptive Reuse

General Plan Element

Affordable Housing

Specific Plans

Heritage Tourism

Registration

Project Review

NR Multiple Property Submission

Ordinances

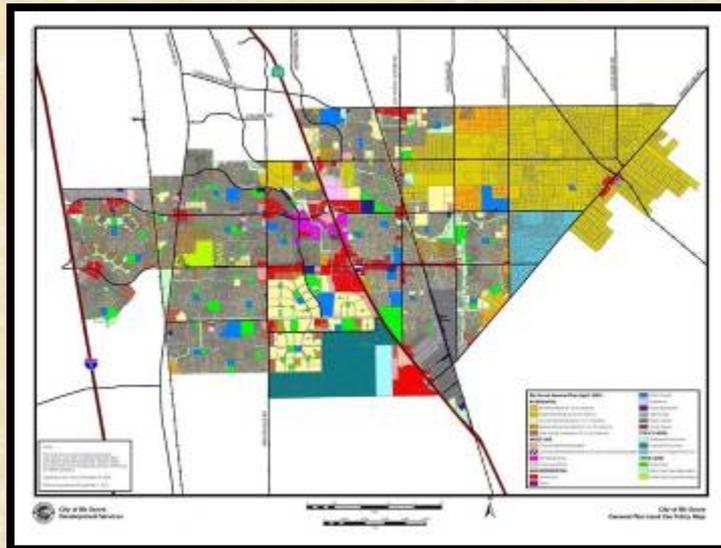
Transportation &
Infrastructure

Disaster Planning & Response

Provide Direction for Preservation Planning

Planning Standard III

*Results of Preservation Planning
Are Made Available for Integration
Into Broader Planning Processes*



Dynamic Processes of Preservation Planning

- Contexts developed and revised
- Surveys conducted
- Goals and priorities altered based on new information
- Plan revised through regular and systematic review
- Resolve conflicts in historic preservation goals
- Resolve conflicts between historic preservation and other land use planning goals

Public Participation

- Professionals – related disciplines
- Interested individuals, organizations and communities
- Prospective users of preservation plan
- Coordinate with local, regional, state & national planning efforts



IDENTIFICATION

Scope of Identification Activities depends on:

- Existing knowledge
- Goals for survey activities developed in planning process
- Current management needs
- Available resources



Identification Standard I

Identification of Historic Properties is Undertaken to the Degree Required to make Decisions

- Research Design
- Archival Research
- Field Survey
- Informant interviews
- Analysis



Survey Methodology

Systematic process for *gathering information* about a community's historical resources, *identifying* and *evaluating* the quantity and quality of historical resources for *land-use planning purposes*.

- **Windshield – Reconnaissance**
- **Intensive**
- **Sampling**

SURVEYS PROVIDE CLUES

- **What** resources exist?
- **Where** are the resources located?
- What are the **character defining features**?
- Why are they **significant**?
- Have they retained **integrity**?
- How does each need to be considered in planning?

Revisit, Reevaluate, Update



Identification Standard II

Results of Identification Activities Are Integrated Into the Preservation Planning Process

- May refine understanding of contexts
- May alter the need for additional survey or study of particular property types

Identification Standard III

Identification Activities Include Explicit Procedures for Record-Keeping and Information Distribution

Survey Report

- » Objectives**
- » Area**
- » Research Design**
- » Results**

Inventory

EVALUATION STANDARD I

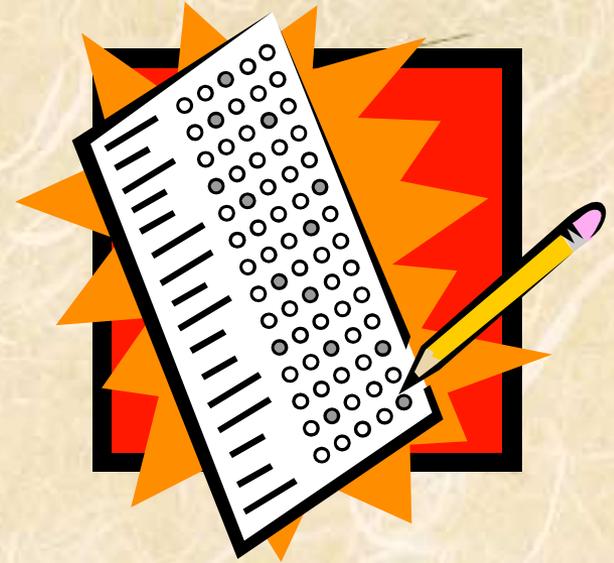
Evaluation of the Significance of Historic Properties Uses Established Criteria

Evaluation is the process of determining whether identified properties meet defined criteria of significance.

- » **National Register Criteria**
- » **California Register Criteria**
- » **Local Criteria**

EVALUATION

- What **context** and **property type** does the resource represent?
- Is it a **contributor** to a **district**?
- What **criteria** apply?
- What is its **significance**?
- Does it have the expected **character-defining features** for its type?
- Does it possess the **integrity** characteristics for its property type within the defined context?
Multiple contexts/multiple periods of Significance?



EVALUATION STANDARD II

Evaluation of Significance Applies the Criteria Within Historic Contexts

Properties are evaluated using a **historic context** that **identifies** the significant patterns that properties represent and **defines** expected property types against which individual properties may be compared. **Within this comparative framework, the criteria for evaluation take on particular meaning with regard to individual properties.**

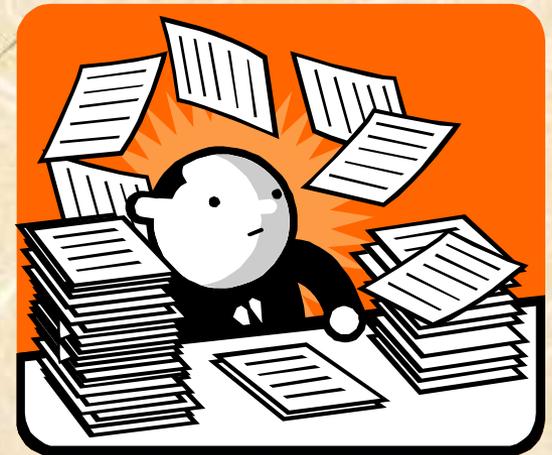
Application of the Criteria within a Historic Context

- **Identify** which criteria each property type might meet.
- **Identify** how integrity will be evaluated for each property type under each criterion.
- Specific guidelines for evaluating the **eligibility** of individual properties should be established.
- Evaluation should state how a particular property meets the **criteria** for its type

EVALUATION STANDARD III

Evaluation Results in a List or Inventory of Significant Properties That Is Consulted In Assigning Registration and Treatment Priorities

- Inventories to be maintained and updated regularly



Inventory

- Summaries of important **historic contexts**
- Descriptions of significant **property types**.
- Results of **surveys**
- Information on individual properties evaluated including those demolished, altered, and not significant
 - Context
 - Description and boundaries
 - Significance statement

EVALUATION STANDARD IV

Evaluation Results Are Made Available to the Public

- Computer-assisted databases
- Inventories to be maintained and updated regularly
- Safeguard sensitive information (archeology sites)

For More Information:



- **California State Office of Historic Preservation**
www.ohp.parks.ca.gov
- **Archeology and Historic Preservation: Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines** for Planning, Identification, Evaluation, and Documentation of Historic Resources
- **"How to Complete the National Register Multiple Property Documentation Form"** *National Register Bulletin #16 B.*
- **"Guidelines for Local Surveys: A Basis for Preservation Planning,"** *National Register Bulletin 24.*