Local Historic Preservation Programs and CLG Status

Sean de Courcy, Historian
Preservation Education Workshop
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Why Protect Your Community's Historic Resources?

- Retains a sense of place
- Environmentally friendly
- Reflects a community’s past
- Symbol of maturity and health
- Tourism
- Economic Benefits
Preservation Framework

Federal
- National Parks Service

State
- State Parks OHP

Local
- Local Government Preservation Programs
National Parks Service

• Department of the Interior
• Historic Preservation Act of 1966
• Administers the Historic Preservation Fund
• Manages the National Register of Historic Places
• Manages the Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentives program
• Oversees the CLG Program
State Office of Historic Preservation

- Established by the 1966 Historic Preservation Act
- State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO)
- Funded partly through the Historic Preservation Fund
- Staff to the California State Historic Resources Commission
- Administers the CRHR and NRHP Nominations
- Administers the CLG Program and provides local government assistance
- NHPA Section 106 Reviewers
- Administers the Federal Historic Tax Credit Program

Visit us online to learn more: www.ohp.ca.gov
Local Historic Preservation Programs

- Preservation Plan/General Plan
- Historic Preservation Ordinance
- Historic Preservation Commission
- Local Register of Historic Places
- Regulatory power
- Ability to protect historic resources through regulation
Local Government Tools

• Local Designation
  – Landmarks

• Overlay Zoning
  – Historic Districts

• Architectural Review
  – Preservation Commission
Comprehensive Preservation Program

Public Participation

Preservation Plan/Element

Ordinance

Survey/Inventory

Commission

PRESERVATION PROGRAM
A Path To Parity
By Petree Knighton

For more information about General Plans, including examples of general plan elements from around the state:
http://www.ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=25898
Preservation Plan/Element

• General Plans represent the only formal, unified overview of the quality of life in a community
  – Important to include preservation in long-range community planning

• Identify Preservation Goals
  – Long Term
  – Roadmap
Preservation Ordinance

If you have an existing ordinance: Update it. There are likely ways to make it more effective.

OHP Technical Assistance Series 14

Preservation Plan/Element

Ordinance

PRESERVATION PROGRAM

Commission

Commission
Historic Preservation Commission

- 5-9 Members (always an odd number)
- Terms vary from 3-5 years and should be staggered
- Some ordinances require members have particular experience (architecture, historic preservation, construction, etc.)

Beware: Smaller communities may have trouble meeting the experience requirement, so it is important to make the experience requirement fit the demographics in your community.
Survey/Inventory

Preservation Plan/Element

Ordinance

PRESERVATION PROGRAM

Commission
Designating Historical Resources

- Provide clear criteria standards
- Define key terms
- Use local criteria that match National Register and California Register to facilitate Section 106 and CEQA
- Think in terms of historic zoning – HPOZs; Conservation Districts, etc.
Historic Registers

- National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)
- California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR)
- Local Historic Register (You pick)
National Register

• Honorary Designation
• No regulations associated with listing
• Little to no protection
• Federal Tax Credit Potential
• Section 106
California Register of Historic Resources

• Largely honorary designation
• More complicated nomination process
• More flexible eligibility and integrity criteria
• Tied to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
Local Historic Registry

• Owner consent vs. No owner consent
• Allows for design review of changes to locally designated properties
  – Prevent Insensitive Changes
  – Protection of Landmarks and Districts
• Ability to deny or delay demolition
• Demolition by neglect prevention
• Tied to CEQA
Public Participation

- Preservation Advocacy Organization
- Historical Society
- Walking Tours
- Books
- School Trips
- Other?

Plaque Programs
CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROGRAM
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Background

- Created in an amendment to the National Historic Preservation Act in 1980
- Allows local governments to enter into a partnership with NPS and OHP
- Certifies that your local program meets state and federal requirements for administering a historic preservation program
- Program emphasizes the local governments role in protecting historic resources
Certified Local Government Program

- Ordinance
- State/Federal Requirements
- Commission
- Public Participation
- Survey
Why Become a Certified Local Government?

• Your community becomes a partner in the national/state historic preservation planning effort

• Your program gains credibility

• Access to technical assistance from OHP and other CLGs

• Historic Preservation Fund Grants available only to CLGs (10% must be passed through OHP to CLGs)
CLG Status Adds Credibility

• Consistency with federal and state laws that have stood the test of time

• Insulates the preservation program from charges of being arbitrary and capricious

• Added value of prestige
CLG Status Streamlines Review

• Use of National Register/California Register criteria and Secretary of the Interior’s Standards integrates local, state, and federal levels of review
• Brings clarity to question of what resources are significant when it comes to CEQA
• Use of Secretary’s Standards allows use of certain CEQA exemptions
• Brings local preservation boards and commissions into broader land use planning and project approval processes
CLG Grant Program

• Each state is required to pass through 10% of its annual Historic Preservation Fund grant from the NPS to CLGs to fund preservation activities

• Maximum request is $40,000 (60% federal funds - 40% match)

• Grant applications are competitively scored and the highest scoring projects are funded
CLG Grants

Grants may be used for:

– Survey/Inventory
  • Documenting historic resources, updating previous inventories, creating electronic databases of survey information

– Nominations
  • Prepare new National Register nominations, amend existing nominations

– Special Projects
  • Prepare historic structure reports, create façade improvement programs, etc.
• OHP’s role remains advisory

• Neither the NPS or OHP have regulatory authority over local governments
OHP Training

TRAINING and WORKSHOPS

Free OHP Webinars

Our office, in partnership with the California Preservation Foundation (CPF), is offering a yearly series of free webinars, beginning with the 2014-2015 education cycle. The webinars cover some of the topics most asked about by our constituents. We invite you to explore these offerings and learn more about the OHP and historic preservation!

The final webinar in the 2014-2015 series:
Accessing the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) - July 23, 2015

Previous 2014-2015 webinars can be viewed on YouTube:
A 10,000-foot View of the OHP: Introduction to the Office of Historic Preservation
Getting to Listed: Preparing a National Register Nomination
IncConC: Consulting with the California SHPO Under Section 106

The OHP will be joining forces once again with CPF this coming Fall to offer our next series of free webinars for the 2015-2016 cycle. Webinar topics and dates will be posted to this page later this summer - Stay tuned!
Conclusion

• A local historic preservation program can be a catalyst for sparking investment in your historic properties

• Historic preservation can help protect your community’s identity and character

• There are incentives for preserving historic buildings

• Only you know what is worth protecting at the local level – local communities must be proactive not reactive toward saving their historic resources
Questions

Sean de Courcy
State Historian II
California Office of Historic Preservation
Local Government and Environmental Compliance
Sean.decourcy@parks.ca.gov
(916) 445-7042