

OHP PREFERRED FORMAT FOR HISTORIC CONTEXT STATEMENTS

Note: The *Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation* details how to develop historic contexts. National Register Bulletin 16B *How to Complete the National Register Multiple Property Documentation Form* also provides detailed guidance for developing historic context statements based on the SOIS. See pages 11-18. Historic contexts developed using CLG grants are required to meet the SOIS.

Other sources of guidance for developing historic contexts include: National Register Bulletin *Historic Residential Suburbs* and other National Register Bulletins focused on particular property types such as historic rural landscapes, historic mining properties, properties associated with an individual, or properties achieving significance within the past 50 years. A complete list of Bulletins is available on-line on the [National Register Publications](#) webpage.

Title Page

Federal Language: Projects funded by federal money, such as through CLG grants are required to provide the following language:

The activity which is the subject of this (type of publication) has been financed in part with Federal funds from the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, through the California Office of Historic Preservation. However, the contents and opinions do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Department of the Interior or the California Office of Historic Preservation, nor does mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation by the Department of the Interior or the California Office of Historic Preservation.

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Director, Equal Opportunity Program
U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

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Front Matter: Include information about the project and its administration and the preparers. Acknowledge those who have contributed in any way to project. Identify major record collections and repositories used in developing the context. Provide a brief summary of National Register, California Register and Local Criteria.

Summary Statement: 1-2 paragraphs which summarize the themes, time period, and geographical area the historic context statement covers.

Historical Background: Provide a narrative broad-brush historical overview of the overarching forces (environmental, geographical, social, cultural, political, governmental, technological) which have shaped land use patterns and development of the built environment of the area under consideration.

Theme: Refer to NR Bulletin 16B, pages 12-13. This narrative section provides a focused, analytical discussion of the historical patterns, significant events or activities, environmental, social, political, technological and cultural influences, and significant individuals and groups relevant to the context theme. This section is intended to establish through analysis the historical significance of properties associated with the theme. Note: A historic context statement for local government surveys typically will include several themes. OHP's preference is that the associated property types, eligibility criteria and integrity threshold section for each theme follow the particular theme.

Property Types: Identify important property types and their historical significance associated with the theme. Emphasis should be on describing *extant* property types, the general location and likely condition of each property type, identifying **eligibility criteria** and establishing **integrity thresholds** for each property type. This section needs to answer these questions: What facet of history does the property type represent? Why is that facet of history significant? Is the property type important in illustrating the context? How does the individual property illustrate that facet of history?

This section needs to provide direction on how to apply each of the register criteria in determining whether a resource is historic or not. Because this section provides the framework for evaluating individual properties, it needs to provide specific information about the associative qualities and character-defining features an individual resource as a representative of a particular property type needs to have to be eligible for listing to the National, California, or local registers. This section should also provide direction for evaluating integrity based on which aspects of integrity are critical for each property type to be able to convey its significance within the theme or context. This guidance should take into consideration the types of changes that may have been made to a resource through time as a result of its original design, location, materials, workmanship, and uses.

Preservation Goals and Priorities: This section outlines and prioritizes recommended preservation activities and methods for identifying, evaluating, and treating the property types identified as significant within each theme or context.

Appendices: as appropriate.

Footnotes and Bibliography: Use Chicago Style (Turabian) for footnotes and bibliography of sources used in preparing the context.

Maps, Photos and Illustrations: Illustrations, maps and photos enhance the context. Where particular buildings are referred to in the context, please provide an address and a picture. Captions for pictures, maps, and illustration should include information about the location of the resource and the date or approximate date when the photo was taken.