

Beverly Hills Citywide Historic Survey

Frequently Asked Questions

Why do we need a citywide survey?

The survey will be a vital tool for land use planning in the City, including implementation of the City's 2010 Historic Preservation Element as well as the 2012 Historic Preservation Ordinance. The inventory will also be an important tool for evaluating proposed alterations to identified properties and demolition permit requests involving buildings over 45 years of age, and may be used by the City's Cultural Heritage Commission to prioritize landmark designation initiatives and to assess project proposals that have the potential to impact neighborhood character and historic continuity. The overall purpose of the survey is to record information on potential historic resources in Beverly Hills. No properties will receive formal historic designation as a result of the surveys; this is a separate process subject to public notification, participation, and review.

What is a historic resources survey?

A historic resources survey is a process of systematically identifying, researching, and documenting properties that reflect important themes in the city's growth and development such as architecture, city planning, social history, ethnic heritage, politics, industry, transportation, commerce, entertainment, and others. Historic resources include buildings, structures, objects, cultural landscapes, natural features, and groupings of resources or areas known as historic districts.

How is a historic resources survey conducted?

Survey teams first conduct background research on a property, resource or study area to determine its historical significance. The teams then perform street-by-street field inspections to identify and document historic resources. The visual assessments are completed from the public right-of-way and include photographing properties and taking notes using laptop and tablet computers. Surveyors will not collect any private or personal information and the survey teams will not need to interview owners or residents.

How are resources evaluated?

Individual resources and districts are evaluated for significance in accordance with criteria established for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and California Register of Historical Resources as well as for designation as Beverly Hills Local Landmarks.

Do surveyed resources automatically become designated?

No. Although surveys identify and evaluate resources that may be eligible for designation, no actual designation results directly from survey activity. No properties will receive formal historic designation as a result of the surveys; this is a separate process subject to public notification, participation and review.

Who is conducting the survey?

The City has contracted with the consulting firms *Historic Resources Group*, *Architectural Resources Group*, *Ostashay & Associates*, and *Leslie Heumann* to complete the surveys. These firms meet professional qualification standards as historians and architectural historians. They will work under contract to the City of Beverly Hills and under the supervision of the Beverly Hills Community Development Department.

When will the surveys begin?

The official project kick-off was in March 2013. Fieldwork is scheduled to take place in Summer and Fall of 2013. Project completion is projected for May 2014.

Does the city have a historic preservation ordinance?

Yes, the city's historic preservation ordinance was developed by the Planning Commission and was adopted January 24, 2012. The ordinance can be viewed here: <http://beverlyhills.org/cbhfiles/storage/files/filebank/10302--2012%200124%20CC%20Ordinance.PDF>

What has already been surveyed?

A list of the previous historic resources surveys can be found on the Beverly Hills Community Development website: <http://beverlyhills.org/citygovernment/departments/communitydevelopment/planning/historicpreservation/historicresourcesurveys/>

What are the city's local landmarks?

A list of local landmarks and accompanying historic assessment reports can be found on the Beverly Hills Community Development website:

<http://www.beverlyhills.org/citygovernment/departments/communitydevelopment/planning/historicpreservation/localregisterofhistoricproperties/>

How will the survey results be used?

Survey results will be used in a variety of ways. They provide an important planning tool for various City agencies and departments, and can help inform zoning decisions, environmental reviews, plan approval and permits, and disaster response.

What if I don't want my property to be surveyed?

All legal parcels in Beverly Hills will be part of the survey. The survey is a way of gathering information on properties within Beverly Hills that may meet eligibility requirements for designation by the City and/or for listing in the California and National Registers. Surveyors will only record information from the public right-of-way and no access to private property or contact with property owners is needed.

What does it mean if my house is identified by the survey?

If your house is identified and recorded as part of the survey it means that professional surveyors found it eligible for designation by the City of Beverly Hills and/or for listing in the California and National Registers. Identification in the survey is not the same as designation. Survey activity will not directly result in designation. Designation by the City of Beverly Hills and nominations to the California or National Registers are separate processes which include property owner notification and public hearings. For more information on the designation process, visit the Beverly Hills Community Development Department.

What are the benefits of historic designation?

For information regarding the Mills Act and other benefits contact the Beverly Hills Community Development Department at (310) 285-1141. Additional information is available on the City's website at

<http://www.beverlyhills.org/citygovernment/departments/communitydevelopment/planning/historicpreservation/millsactpilotprogram/print.jsp>.

**For more information, please contact:
Community Development Department
310-285-1141
www.beverlyhills.org/historicsurvey**