



ALAMEDA COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
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Historic Preservation Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs):

Identification and Documentation of Historic Properties

How does Alameda County support historic preservation?

On January 10, 2012, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors adopted a [Historic Preservation Ordinance](#) for the unincorporated areas of Alameda County. The Ordinance addresses a variety of topics, including:

- How the Alameda County Register of Historic Resources (Register) is defined and maintained
- The process for adding or removing properties from the Register
- Incentives available to owners of historic properties

Which properties are historic?

In the unincorporated areas of Alameda County, historic properties are those that have been listed in any of the following:

- California Historical Landmarks
- California Points of Historical Interest
- California Register of Historical Resources
- National Register of Historic Places
- Alameda County Register of Historic Resources

What criteria are used in assessing a property's historic significance?

While the federal, state, and local processes vary slightly, the following basic criteria are commonly used to determine a property's historic significance:

1. Association with significant events or broad patterns
2. Association with significant persons
3. Association with an important architectural style or builder
4. Potential to yield important historical or pre-historical information

In addition, any analysis must consider the integrity of the resources, which the Secretary of the Interior defines through seven aspects or qualities: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

For more information on this topic, please refer to:

https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/upload/NRB-15_web508.pdf

Historic Preservation Incentives

Why would a property owner want their property to be listed on the Register?

- Eligibility for Federal and County tax incentives for the rehabilitation of designated historic properties
- Contribution to the preservation of community identity and local heritage

What incentives are available to owners of a historic resource?

- *California State Historic Building Code*
- *Mills Act Contracts*
- *Federal Tax Credits*
- *Flexible application of zoning code*
- *Expedited permitting*
- *Technical assistance with building rehabilitation*

What is the California State Historic Building Code?

The California Historic Building Code (CHBC) provides regulations for the preservation, restoration, rehabilitation, relocation or reconstruction of qualified historic buildings or properties. These regulations are intended to facilitate alternative solutions for such historic buildings or properties to preserve their original or restored architectural elements and features (as well as meeting safety, access, and energy efficiency needs).

What is the Mills Act program?

The Mills Act is the single most important economic incentive program in California for the restoration and preservation of qualified historic buildings by private property owners. Enacted in 1972, the Mills Act legislation grants participating local governments (cities and counties) the authority to enter into contracts with owners of qualified historic properties who actively participate in the restoration and maintenance of their historic properties while receiving property tax relief.

For more information about historic preservation in Alameda County, please contact:

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