

Santa Monica-Malibu USD

BP 7113 FACILITIES - Historical Resources

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to outline objectives and establish procedures for the treatment of historical resources on district campuses. A historical resource is generally any building, structure, site, object or feature that the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District (SMMUSD) has determined to be significant in the history, architecture, archaeology, science, education, society, engineering, or culture of the locality, the state, or of the United States. The objectives below will provide a road map to identify and manage historical resources.

Details

The primary mission of the SMMUSD is to educate students. School facilities create the place, setting and environment in which learning occurs. The facilities need to adapt and evolve to support and optimize current and future educational needs. The quality, characteristics, features and design of the educational facility impacts the range and depth of student learning. This policy will aid in weighing the primary goal, responsibility and need for facilities to support student learning with the value of preserving important historical resources to the extent feasible, consistent with SMMUSD's primary mission of educating its students.

SMMUSD has developed this policy to identify and clarify treatment of historical resources present on properties under SMMUSD jurisdiction. SMMUSD owns and operates multiple school campuses/properties, which together contain over 100 individual buildings, some of which date from the mid-20th century or earlier. Some of these buildings might be historical resources and may contain elements that might have historical significance. SMMUSD understands that historical resources should be identified in advance of approval of campus rehabilitation and construction to retain and/or commemorate their significance for future generations when feasible and consistent with educational priorities.

All historical resources offer unique opportunities and potential constraints for implementing successful campus improvements. A critical early step in project planning and development is to identify such potential resources and their character-defining features. Equally important are assessments of non-eligibility, since additional flexibility, both in terms of project design and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review, exists for properties that are not eligible for listing and are therefore not considered historical resources under CEQA.

The built environment can be valuable in connecting a community's identity to its past, particularly those public buildings that have served generations of students. In recognition of the importance of historic buildings to community identity and collective memory, SMMUSD is committed to integrating the consideration of historical resources as evaluated by credentialed experts into its continual pursuit of creating the most productive learning environments for its students.

Objectives

In developing this policy statement, SMMUSD is committed to the following:

- Engaging qualified professionals to prepare inventories of historical resources located at each SMMUSD school campus; Initiating these inventories prior to or at the onset of the planning and design process. Where campus plans are in process, initiating the historical review in a timely manner. Where campus plans have been approved in public proceedings and SMMUSD has completed the CEQA compliance process those are final binding decisions and no further investigation or inventory will be undertaken, however the historic resources identified in those studies shall be added to the school's historical resources inventory;
- Satisfying all legal obligations for environmental review of future projects with respect to historical resources, including review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA), and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), as applicable;
- Engaging architects and engineers with demonstrated preservation expertise to consult and guide the planning and design process, where appropriate;
- Consulting with interested third parties, including the Santa Monica Conservancy when potential impacts to identified historic resources are involved;
- Renewing efforts to engage the school and broader community throughout the planning and design process for school campuses;
- Encouraging, where feasible and warranted, the rehabilitation and adaptive reuse of identified historical resources located on SMMUSD campuses consistent with the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for Rehabilitation* when consistent with educational goals;
- Fostering awareness and appreciation of SMMUSD's identified historical resources, including a program of commemorative plaques in cooperation with the Santa Monica Conservancy;
- Expanding educational opportunities for students to study the history of the school facilities and develop a greater appreciation of preservation and local history through Heritage Education programming;
- Feasibly mitigating impacts to historical resources while SMMUSD (including studying alternatives to demolition) creates new learning environments, as science and methodology of learning evolves;
- Maintaining and repairing historic resources on SMMUSD campuses; and
- Striving to meet sustainable environmental goals, which could include the use of historical resources through historic preservation and adaptive reuse.

Legal References

California Public Resources Code

5020.1 Governing definitions

5024 Master list of historical resources

5024.1 California register of historical resources

5024.5 Proposed action affecting listed historical resource

21060.5 Environment

21084.1 Historical resources

California Code of Regulations, Title 14

4851 Historical resources eligible for listing in the California register of historical resources

4852 Types of historical resources and criteria for listing in the California register of historical resources

15064.5 Determining the significance of impacts to archeological and historical resources

15331 Historical resource restoration/rehabilitation

Code of Federal Regulations, Title 36

60.4 Criteria for evaluation

Resources

California Office of Historic Preservation

Technical Assistance Series #1, California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and Historical Resources

Board Policy SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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