



**SONOMA LEAGUE FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
PRESERVATION GUIDELINES**

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**Assisted by the Civic Advocacy Committee**

## **INTRODUCTION: The Importance of Preservation Guidelines**

This plan was developed to articulate a long-range vision for identifying, evaluating, recognizing, and protecting Sonoma Valley's historical resources. The protection of historical resources can only be achieved through cooperation between Sonoma Valley's preservation organizations, communities and local governments. This plan was designed to provide a general framework and coordination tool to assist property owners, private developers, local, state, and federal government agencies, and cultural resource consultants, involved in decision-making that could compromise the historic integrity of Sonoma Valley's historical resources.

Our cultural heritage is reflected not only in the history books but also in the architecture of our buildings, the sites of significant historic events, and the archaeological record of Native peoples and subsequent Spanish, Mexican and early American occupation. Historic significance is not only defined as that of importance to the United States or California, but also at the local level of county, city, Native American tribal groups, and community.

It is important to physically preserve historic elements so that generations to come can appreciate our unique role in California history. "What is important in our history?" and "What parts of our past can we preserve for the future?" These questions cannot be answered by the Sonoma League for Historic Preservation alone, but must include all members of our diverse community.

Historic preservation should protect a wide range of cultural resources, including historic districts, buildings, structures, sites, objects, public works, transportation corridors, heritage locales, and cultural landscapes. The SLHP shall work closely with our City Planners and our community to provide a framework with which we work together to protect those resources that best exemplify Sonoma Valley's rich historic past.

## **SONOMA LEAGUE FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION REPRESENTATION**

Decisions regarding the disposition of Sonoma Valley's cultural resources are generally made at Planning Commission, Design Review and Historic Preservation Commission, Sonoma County Landmarks Commission, and/or City Council and County Board of Supervisors meetings. The SLHP must make sure it is notified when city or county government agenda items include projects that may impact historic resources. It is important for the SLHP to keep an active relationship with City and County commissions to ensure its timely response. While there are many groups within the SLHP designed to promote our mission, the Civic Advocacy Committee must be maintained to focus in particular on the preservation issues that arise from time to time.

### **Civic Advocacy Committee**

The role of the Civic Advocacy Committee is to:

- attend Planning Commission, Design Review and Historic Preservation Commission and/or City Council meetings, as necessary;

- review cultural resources reports and historic evaluations;
- provide recommendations to the SLHP Board of Directors;
- prepare letters regarding SLHP recommendations on specific projects;
- send such letters to the appropriate individuals/agencies; and
- attend the appropriate planning meetings and state the SLHP recommendations.

All SLHP recommendations should be shared with members via the League's e-mail blasts.

The SLHP encourages our local Planners to:

- work with the private sector, independent organizations and citizens to increase awareness of, and to protect and enhance Sonoma Valley's historic resources. Ideally, this should occur at the earliest possible stage of the planning process.
- encourage communities to recognize the value of historic resources as major contributors to the quality of life and to cultural vitality, and both remind us about our past while providing a stimulus to economic vitality and tourism.

### **SLHP Project Review Process**

Depending on the nature of the applicant's project, the SLHP recommends completing any and all appropriate cultural resources studies early in the permitting process. The SLHP will review all cultural resources studies and either 1) concur with the findings; 2) disagree with the findings or 3) request additional information or clarification.

The SLHP recommends the following elements as appropriate in a historical resources review:

- Detailed project descriptions.
- Properties be surveyed to identify all extant cultural resources.
- All cultural resources identified as a result of the survey should be recorded on the appropriate DPR 523 forms and submitted to the North West Information Center.
- All cultural resources identified as a result of the survey shall be formally evaluated and explicit statements regarding the resources' eligibility to the National or California registers should be prepared. The formal evaluation should be prepared in either a report form or prepared using a DPR 523b form.
- If the property is eligible for listing, a determination regarding whether the proposed project would have a substantial adverse effect to the historical resource should be included in the evaluation. Physically altering a significant resource may potentially cause a substantial adverse change to all associated resources.
- If the proposed project will have a significantly adverse effect, a mitigation plan should be prepared.
- A consultant that meets the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards should conduct the survey, evaluation and determinations of effect.
- Visual Displays as applicable.

In general, the SLHP encourages strict adherence to both the National Historic Preservation Act and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

If a property contains cultural resources over the age of 50 years, a cultural resources study should be conducted. The study should include three phases of investigation.

*Phase I.* The first phase identifies the types of resources found within the property. These may include barns, homes, bridges and archaeological sites. If resources identified do not appear to meet the age criteria, then no further action is required. If resources are identified that meet the age criteria, then the resources shall be evaluated for their eligibility for listing on the California and/or National registers as appropriate.

*Phase II.* Evaluation of Resources. A determination must be made as to the historical value of the resources identified. Please see Legislative and Regulatory Contexts below.

*Phase III.* Determination of Effect. If the resources identified are not eligible for listing on the California or National registers, no further action is required. If resources are eligible for listing, Phase III will identify whether there will be a significant effect upon the resources as a result of the project and how the impacts may be mitigated to a less than significant level.

Mitigation should include:

- Construction activities shall meet the requirements of the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties [see CEQA Section 15064.5(b)(3)].
- Construction activities are monitored (City Planning Department) to ensure that these standards are being met.
- Once the project is completed, an update to the DPR 523 Forms should be done and submitted to the Northwest Information Center. This update documents the rehabilitation, restoration, and reconstruction of the historical resources.

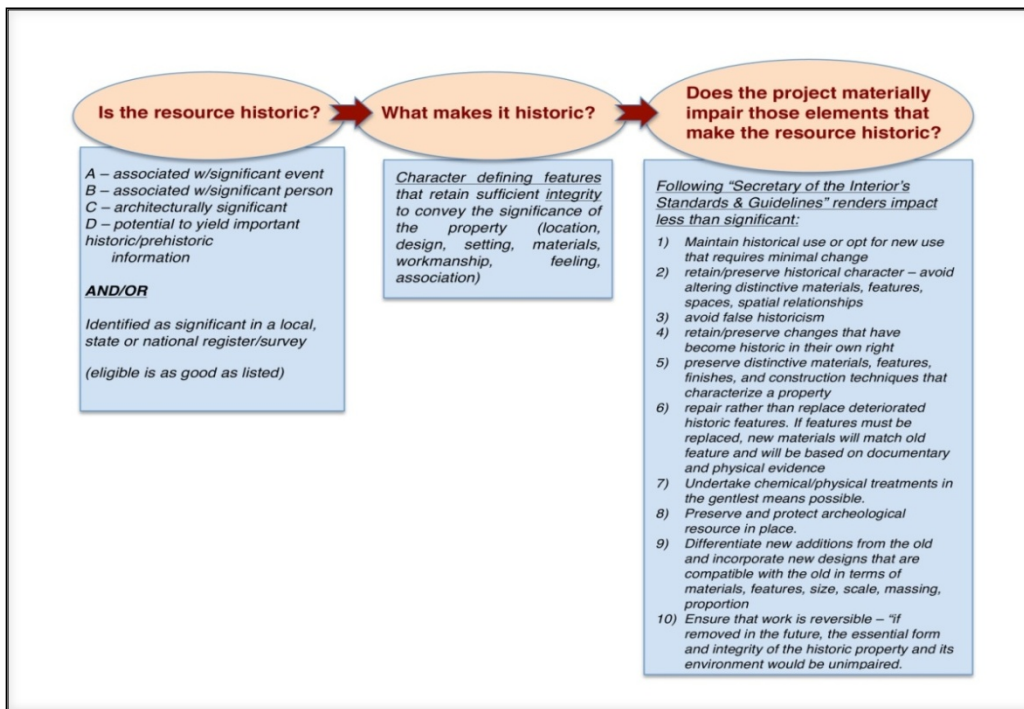


Figure 1: ©Informational Flow Chart courtesy of League Director, Alice Duffee.

## LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY CONTEXTS

### National Register of Historic Places Criteria

Preserving historic properties as important reflections of our American heritage became a national policy through passage of the Antiquities Act of 1906, the Historic Sites Act of 1935, and the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. . . The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 authorized the Secretary to expand this recognition to properties of local and State significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture, and are worthy of preservation. The National Register of Historic Places is the official list of the recognized properties, and is maintained and expanded by the National Park Service on behalf of the Secretary of the Interior [National Park Service 1997a:i].

An historic property is any district, site, building, structure, or object listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register (36 CFR §800.16(1)(1)). An historic property is eligible for the National Register at the local, state, or national level (National Park Service 1997a:i, 1, 9-10). The criteria for determining a resource's eligibility for National Register listing are defined at 36 CFR §60.4 and are as follows:

. . . the quality of significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association, and

- A) That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- B) That are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
- C) That embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- D) That have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

National Register Bulletin *How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation* states that in order for a property to qualify for listing the National Register, it must meet at least one of the National Register criteria for evaluation by:

- Being associated with an important historic context *and*
- Retaining historic integrity of those features necessary to convey its significance.

According to the National Park Service, “properties that have achieved significance within the past 50 years shall not be considered eligible” unless such properties are “of exceptional importance” (National Park Service 1997a:2).

## Historic Integrity

In addition to meeting one or more of the significance criteria, a cultural resource must retain its historic integrity to be considered eligible for listing in the National Register. To possess integrity, a property must be able to convey its significance. National Register Bulletin *How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation* (National Park Service 1997a:44) states that the quality of significance is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity. There are seven aspects of integrity to consider when evaluating a cultural resource: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

“To retain historic integrity a property will always possess several, and usually most of the aspects” (National Park Service 1997a:44).

The following was taken from the *National Register Bulletin: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*.

- *Location* is the place where the historic property was constructed or the place where the historic event occurred. The actual location of a historic property, complemented by its setting, is particularly important in recapturing the sense of historic events and persons.
- *Design* is the combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure, and style of a property. Design includes such elements as organization of space, proportion, scale, technology, ornamentation, and materials.
- *Setting* is the physical environment of a historic property. Setting refers to the character of the place in which the property played its historical role. Physical features that constitute the setting of a historic property can be either natural or manmade, including topographic features, vegetation, paths or fences, or relationships between buildings and other features or open space.
- *Materials* are the physical elements that were combined or deposited during a particular period of time and in a particular pattern or configuration to form an historic property.
- *Workmanship* is the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular culture or people during any given period in history or prehistory. It is the evidence of the artisan’s labor and skill in constructing or altering a building, structure, object or site.
- *Feeling* is a property’s expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period of time. It results from the presence of physical features that, taken together, convey the property’s historic character.
- *Association* is the direct link between an important historic event or person and a historic property.

## **Defining the Essential Physical Features**

All properties change over time. It is not necessary for a property to retain all its historic physical features or characteristics. The property must retain, however, the essential physical features that enable it to convey its historic identity. The essential physical features are those features that define both *why* a property is significant (Applicable Criteria and Areas of Significance) and *when* it was significant (Periods of Significance). They are the features without which a property can no longer be identified as, for instance, a late 19th century dairy barn or an early 20th century commercial district.

### **Criteria A and B**

A property that is significant for its historic association is eligible if it retains the essential physical features that made up its character or appearance during the period of its association with the important event, historical pattern, or person(s). If the property is a site (such as a treaty site) where there are no material cultural remains, the setting must be intact.

Archeological sites eligible under Criteria A and B must be in overall good condition with excellent preservation of features, artifacts, and spatial relationships to the extent that these remains are able to convey important associations with events or persons.

### **Criterion C**

A property important for illustrating a particular architectural style or construction technique must retain most of the physical features that constitute that style or technique. A property that has lost some historic materials or details can be eligible *if* it retains the majority of the features that illustrate its style in terms of the massing, spatial relationships, proportion, pattern of windows and doors, texture of materials, and ornamentation. The property is not eligible, however, if it retains some basic features conveying massing but has lost the majority of the features that once characterized its style.

Archeological sites eligible under Criterion C must be in overall good condition with excellent preservation of features, artifacts, and spatial relationships to the extent that these remains are able to illustrate a site type, time period, method of construction, or work of a master.

### **Criterion D**

For properties eligible under Criterion D, including archeological sites and standing structures studied for their information potential, less attention is given to their overall condition, than if they were being considered under Criteria A, B, or C. Archeological sites, in particular, do not exist today exactly as they were formed. There are always cultural and natural processes that alter the deposited materials and their spatial relationships.

For properties eligible under Criterion D, integrity is based upon the property's potential to yield specific data that addresses important research questions, such as those identified in the historic context documentation in the Statewide Comprehensive Preservation Plan or in the research

design for projects meeting the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Archeological Documentation*.

## **Interiors**

Some historic buildings are virtually defined by their exteriors, and their contribution to the built environment can be appreciated even if their interiors are not accessible. Examples of this would include early examples of steel-framed skyscraper construction. The great advances in American technology and engineering made by these buildings can be read from the outside. The change in American popular taste during the 19th century, from the symmetry and simplicity of architectural styles based on classical precedents, to the expressions of High Victorian styles, with their combination of textures, colors, and asymmetrical forms, is readily apparent from the exteriors of these buildings.

Other buildings "are" interiors. The Cleveland Arcade, that soaring 19th century glass-covered shopping area, can only be appreciated from the inside. Other buildings in this category would be the great covered train sheds of the 19th century.

In some cases, the loss of an interior will disqualify properties from listing in the National Register--a historic concert hall noted for the beauty of its auditorium and its fine acoustic qualities would be the type of property that if it were to lose its interior, it would lose its value as a historic resource. In other cases, the overarching significance of a property's exterior can overcome the adverse effect of the loss of an interior.

In borderline cases particular attention is paid to the significance of the property and the remaining historic features.

## **Historic Districts**

For a district to retain integrity as a whole, the majority of the components that make up the district's historic character must possess integrity even if they are individually undistinguished. In addition, the relationships among the district's components must be substantially unchanged since the period of significance.

When evaluating the impact of intrusions upon the district's integrity, take into consideration the relative number, size, scale, design, and location of the components that do not contribute to the significance. A district is not eligible if it contains so many alterations or new intrusions that it no longer conveys the sense of a historic environment.

A component of a district cannot contribute to the significance if:

- it has been substantially altered since the period of the district's significance or
- it does not share the historic associations of the district.



## Character Defining Features

*The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* embody two important goals: 1) the preservation of historic materials and 2) the preservation of a building's distinguishing character. Every old building is unique with its own identity and its own distinctive character. Character refers to all those visual aspects and physical features that comprise the appearance of every historic building. Character-defining elements include the overall shape of the building, its materials, craftsmanship, decorative details, interior spaces and features, as well as the various aspects of its site and environment.

There are different ways of understanding old buildings. They can be seen as examples of specific building types, which are usually related to a building's function, such as schools, courthouses or churches.

Buildings can be studied as examples of using specific materials such as concrete, wood, steel, or limestone. They can also be considered as examples of an historical period, which is often related to a specific architectural style, such as Gothic Revival farmhouses, one-story bungalows, or Art Deco apartment buildings.

There are many other facets of an historic building besides its functional type, its materials or construction or style that contribute to its historic qualities or significance. Some of these qualities are feelings conveyed by the sense of time and place or in buildings associated with events or people. A complete understanding of any property may require documentary research about its style, construction, function, its furnishings or contents; knowledge about the original builder, owners, and later occupants; and knowledge about the evolutionary history of the building. Even though buildings may be of historic, rather than architectural significance, it is their tangible elements that embody its significance for association with specific events or persons and it is those tangible elements both on the exterior and interior that should be preserved.

A building's character can be irreversibly damaged or changed in many ways, for example, by inappropriate repointing of the brickwork, by removal of a distinctive side porch, by changes to the window sash, by changes to the setting around the building, by changes to the major room arrangements, by the introduction of an atrium, by painting previously unpainted woodwork, etc.

There are generally three steps in determining the important features a building, structure or object may possess: overall visual aspects, visual character at close range, and visual character of interior spaces.

**Overall Visual Character.** Identifying the overall visual character of a building is nothing more than looking at its distinguishing physical aspects without focusing on its details. The major contributors to a building's overall character are embodied in the general aspects of its setting; the shape of the building; its roof and roof features, such as chimneys or cupolas; the various projections on the building, such as porches or bay windows; the recesses or voids in a building, such as open galleries, arcades, or recessed balconies; the openings for windows and doorways; and finally, the various exterior materials that contribute to the building's character.

**Visual Character at Close Range.** Step Two involves looking at the building at close range or arm's length, where it is possible to see all the surface qualities of the materials, such as their color and texture, or surface evidence of craftsmanship or age. In some instances, the visual character is the result of the juxtaposition of materials that are contrastingly different in their color and texture. The surface qualities of the materials may be important because they impart the very sense of craftsmanship and age that distinguishes historic buildings from other buildings. Furthermore, many of these close-up qualities can be easily damaged or obscured by work that affects those surfaces. Examples of this could include painting previously unpainted masonry, rotary disk sanding of smooth wood siding to remove paint, abrasive cleaning of tooled stonework, or repointing reddish mortar joints with gray portland cement.

There is an almost infinite variety of surface materials, textures and finishes that are part of a building's character, which are fragile and easily lost.

At arm's length, the visual character is most often determined by the surface qualities of the **materials and craftsmanship**; and while these aspects are often inextricably related, the original choice of materials often plays the dominant role in establishing the close-range character because of the color, texture, or shape of the materials.

In this instance, the variety and arrangement of the materials is important in defining the visual character, starting with the large pieces of broken stone which form the projecting base for the building walls, then changing to a wall of roughly rectangular stones which vary in size, color, and texture, all with accentuated, projecting beads of mortar, then there is a rather precise and narrow band of cut and dressed stones with minimal mortar joints, and finally, the main building walls are composed of bricks, rather uniform in color, with fairly generous mortar joints. It is the juxtaposition and variety of these materials (and of course, the craftsmanship) that is very important to the visual character. Changing the raised mortar joints, for example, would drastically alter the character at arm's length.

**Visual Character of Interior Spaces.** Perceiving the character of interior spaces can be somewhat more difficult than dealing with the exterior. In part, this is because so much of the exterior can be seen at one time and it is possible to grasp its essential character rather quickly. To understand the interior character, assessing the significance and integrity of interior spaces requires movement through the spaces one at a time. While it is not difficult to perceive the character of one individual room, it becomes more difficult to deal with spaces that are interconnected and interrelated. Sometimes, as in office buildings, it is the vestibules or lobbies or corridors that are important to the interior character of the building. With other groups of buildings, the visual qualities of the interior are related to the plan of the building, as in a church with its axial plan creating a narrow tunnel-like space which obviously has a different character than an open space like a sports pavilion. Thus, the shape of the space may be an essential part of its character.

With some buildings it is possible to perceive that there is a visual linkage in a sequence of spaces, as in a hotel, from the lobby to the grand staircase to the ballroom. Closing off the openings between those spaces would change the character from visually linked spaces to a series of closed spaces. For example, in a house that has a front and back parlor linked with an open archway, the two rooms are perceived together, and this visual relationship is part of the

character of the building. To close off the open archway would change the character of such a residence.

The importance of interior features and finishes to the character of the building should not be overlooked. In relatively simple rooms, the primary visual aspects may be in features such as fireplace mantels, lighting fixtures or wooden floors. In some rooms, the absolute plainness is the character-defining aspect of the interior. So-called secondary spaces also may be important in their own way, from the standpoint of history or because of the family activities that occurred in those rooms. Such secondary spaces, while perhaps historically significant, are not usually perceived as important to the visual character of the building. Thus, we do not take them into account in the visual understanding of the building.

### **Period of Significance**

The period of significance for a property is “the length of time when a property was associated with important events, activities, or persons, or attained the characteristics which qualify it for National Register listing: (National Park Service 1997b:42). The period of significance begins with the date of the earliest important land use or activity that is reflected by historic characteristics tangible today. The period closes with the date when events having historical importance ended (National Park Service 1997b:42). The period of significance for an archeological property is “the time range (which is usually estimated) during which the property was occupied or used and for which the property is likely to yield important information” (National Park Service 2000:34). Archeological properties may have more than one period of significance.

### **Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation**

The Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation, also known as The Standards, are part of the United States Department of the Interior – National Park Service – Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.

The Standards are a nationally recognized tool for the preservation, maintenance and rehabilitation of our nation’s heritage. These Standards have become the accepted benchmark at all levels of government – national, state, and local – for evaluating the acceptability of proposed changes to historic properties.

The Standards are not meant to prevent change – instead, they represent a sophisticated and nuanced framework for managing change. **The Standards do not require that every feature of a historic property be preserved, but do seek to preserve the most significant, character-defining features of a historic site.** The Standards also give important guidance on how to design and construct new additions in a manner that does not detract from a property’s historic character.

The National Park Service has also published detailed Guidelines that further explain and illustrate the Standards and their practical application. In addition, many applicants retain historic

preservation consultants on more complex projects to assist them in interpreting and applying the Standards.

The full Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines are found on the National Park Service website: <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/historicpreservation/standards.htm>.

The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation are:

1. A property shall be used for its historic purpose or be placed in a new use that requires minimal change to the defining characteristics of the building and its site and environment.
2. The historic character of a property shall be retained and preserved. The removal of historic materials or alteration of features and spaces that characterize a property shall be avoided.
3. Each property shall be recognized as a physical record of its time, place, and use. Changes that create a false sense of historical development, such as adding conjectural features or architectural elements from other buildings, shall not be undertaken.
4. Most properties change over time; those changes that have acquired historic significance in their own right shall be retained and preserved.
5. Distinctive features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a property shall be preserved.
6. Deteriorated historic features shall be repaired rather than replaced. Where the severity of deterioration requires replacement of a distinctive feature, the new feature shall match the old in design, color, texture, and other visual qualities and, where possible, materials. Replacement of missing features shall be substantiated by documentary, physical, or pictorial evidence.
7. Chemical or physical treatments, such as sandblasting, that cause damage to historic materials shall not be used. The surface cleaning of structures, if appropriate, shall be undertaken using the gentlest means possible.
8. Significant archeological resources affected by a project shall be protected and preserved. If such resources must be disturbed, mitigation measures shall be undertaken.
9. New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction shall not destroy historic materials that characterize the property. The new work shall be differentiated from the old and shall be compatible with the massing, size, scale, and architectural features to protect the historic integrity of the property and its environment.
10. New additions and adjacent or related new construction shall be undertaken in such a manner that if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired.

## **Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards**

Cultural resources studies must be carried out by, or under the direct supervision of, persons meeting the *Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards for Architectural History, History and Archaeology* (48 CFR 44716).

### **Reporting Standards**

All cultural resources studies must be prepared in accordance with the California Office of Historic Preservation's *Archaeological Resource Management Reports (ARMR): Recommended Contents and Format* (California Office of Historic Preservation 1990) and the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archaeology and Historic Preservation* (48 CFR 44716).

### **California Register of Historical Resources**

*California Environmental Quality Act of 1970 (CEQA)*

CEQA is the foundation of environmental law and policy in California. It encourages the protection of all aspects of the environment, including historical resources by requiring state and local agencies to take into consideration the environmental effect of their actions. CEQA establishes that all government agencies must take action necessary to provide the people of the state with historic environmental qualities. The California Register of Historical Resources is a listing of all resources considered to be significant historic properties, that is, "historical resources" in the state.

Criterion for determining eligibility to the California Register is very similar to that of the National Register and include:

- 1) Associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of local or regional history or the cultural heritage of California or the United States
- 2) Associated with the lives of persons important to local, California or national history
- 3) Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region or method of construction or represents the work of a master or possesses high artistic values
- 4) Has yielded, or has the potential to yield, information important to the prehistory or history of the local area, California or the nation

### **CULTURAL LANDSCAPE AND LOCAL CRITERIA**

In the future, both *Cultural Landscape* and *Local Criteria* should be further defined within this Preservation Guideline. As of this writing, *Cultural Landscape* is not applied in the City of Sonoma with regards to potential impacts to cultural resources. Furthermore, in conjunction with the City of Sonoma Planning Department, the SLHP should develop *Local Criteria* that would allow for certain resources to be considered historically significant.

## Cultural Landscape

**Background.** In 1992 the World Heritage Convention (WHC) became the first international legal instrument to recognize and protect cultural landscapes. The WHC acknowledged that cultural landscapes represent the "combined works of nature and of man". They are illustrative of the evolution of human society and settlement over time, under the influence of the physical constraints and/or opportunities presented by their natural environment and of successive social, economic and cultural forces, both external and internal.

The term "cultural landscape" embraces a diversity of manifestations of the interaction between humankind and its natural environment. Cultural landscapes often reflect specific techniques of sustainable land-use, considering the characteristics and limits of the natural environment they are established in, and a specific spiritual relation to nature. Protection of cultural landscapes can contribute to modern techniques of sustainable land-use and can maintain or enhance natural values in the landscape. The continued existence of traditional forms of land-use supports biological diversity in many regions of the world. The protection of traditional cultural landscapes is therefore helpful in maintaining biological diversity ([whc.unesco.org](http://whc.unesco.org)).

The National Park Service (NPS) also recognizes Cultural Landscapes. These landscapes portray how humans have used and adapted natural resources over time, whether through agricultural, mining, ranching and settlement activities, or traditional Native American cultural practices. The stewardship of cultural landscapes provides the richness and complexity of the human story of our nation.

Examples of cultural landscapes range from a small homestead to a formally designed estate, a country road to a scenic parkway, a school yard to an industrial complex, and a farmstead to a civil war battlefield.

*Why is this important? While Sonoma Valley's Cultural Landscapes are not well-defined, we know we have them. How do we know when our significant cultural landscapes have been compromised or may be? While that is difficult to answer without first defining our cultural landscapes, envision a 10-story concrete building being erected in an empty lot in the Plaza. Might this project compromise the rural nature of our small town, the Mission, Plaza and historic Eastside? It's construction will not include the demolition, alteration of any building, structures and objects, yet this would be the type of project the SLHP would be inclined to comment on. This project would adversely affect Sonoma's and Sonoma Valley's cultural landscape.*

## Local Criteria

The SLHP should assist Sonoma Valley municipalities in developing local criteria. Other municipalities use local criteria as presented below:

- the place (building, site, area) should show character, interest or value as part of the development, heritage or cultural characteristics of the community, state or nation; be the

site of an historic or prehistoric event that had an effect upon society; or exemplify the cultural, political, economic or social heritage of the community:

- Date of Construction: particular importance is placed on the age of the structure.
- Association with Historical Persons or Events: associated with lives of persons or events that are significant in our past.
- Distinction in the Development of the Community of Sonoma: this is most applicable to an institution (religious, educational, civic, viticulture etc.) or business structure, though in some cases residences might qualify. It stresses the importance of preserving those places which demonstrate the growth during different time spans in the history of Sonoma.
- Recognition by Authorities: significant recognition includes the Sonoma League for Historic Preservation, Sonoma Valley Historical Society, City Historian and local historians, Sonoma State Historic Park historians and archaeologists.

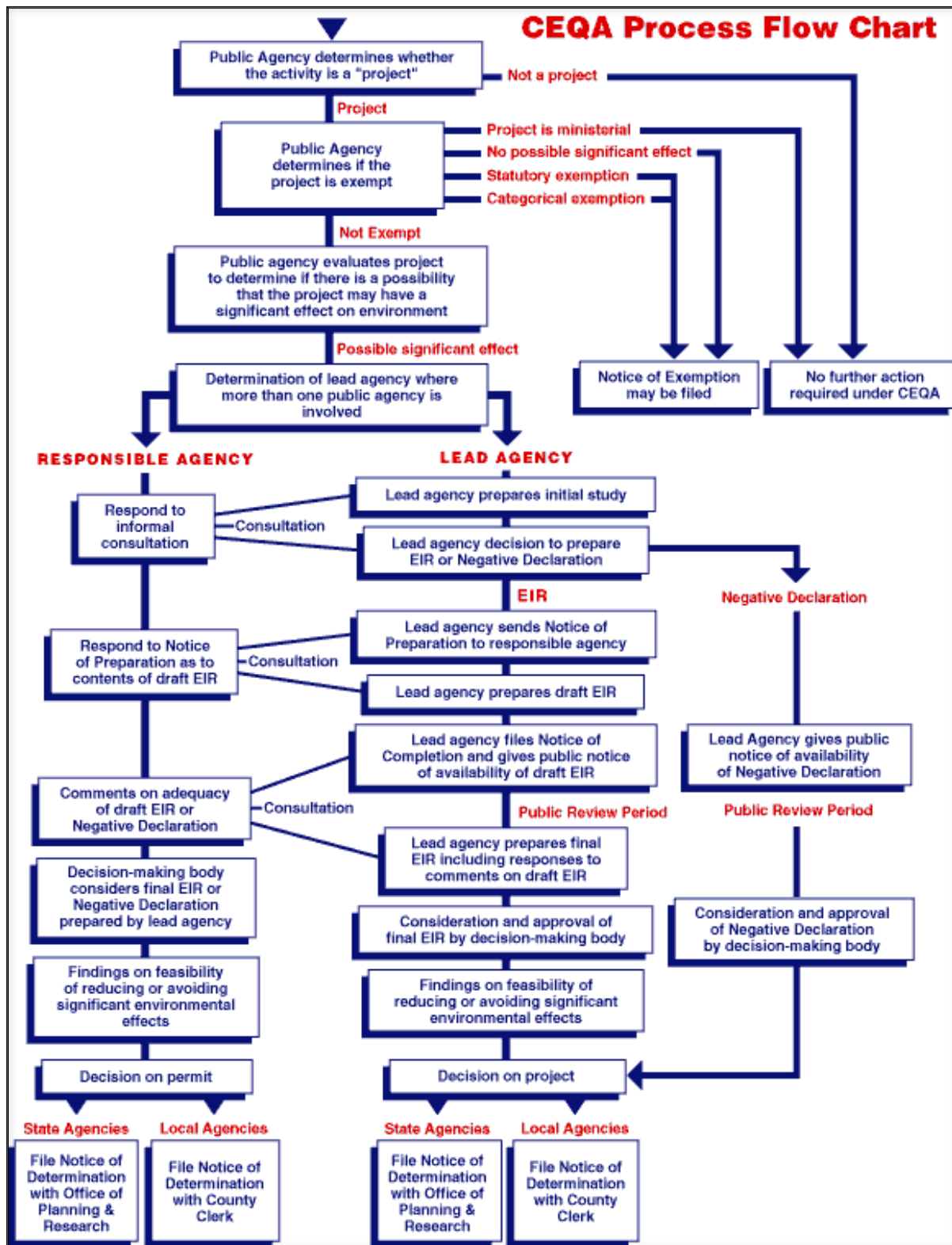


Figure 2: CEQA Flow Chart



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## GLOSSARY

**Applicant:** individual seeking a building permit

**Archaeology:** the study of the human past. Its initial objective is the construction of cultural chronology. Its intermediate objective is the reconstruction of past life ways. Its ultimate objective is the discovery of the processes which underlie and condition human behavior.

**Artifact:** a human-made object which is a form of archaeological data.

**Criteria:** qualities through which site, buildings, structures or objects are determined to be eligible for National and/or California registers.

**Cultural resource:** physical evidence or place of past human activity: building, structure, site, object, landscape..

**Deterioration:** the process of making an historic structure's condition worse by lack of maintenance, normal wear and tear and/or exposure to weather.

**Demolition by neglect:** the gradual destruction of a building due to lack of maintenance.

**Disturbance:** something that negatively affects an archaeological site (e.g. destruction of historic integrity unintentionally through careless construction or intentionally by looting the site).

**Eligibility:** ability of a cultural resource to meet National or California registers, or City of Sonoma local interest.

**Historic integrity:** the unimpaired ability of a property to convey its historical significance.

**Historic property:** any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure or object eligible for listing in the National Register.

**Historical resource:** any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure or object eligible for listing in the California Register.

**Historic significance:** importance for which a property has been evaluated and found to meet the National Register criteria.

**Historical archaeology:** the study of cultural remains of literate societies with recorded histories.

**Integrity:** authenticity of a property's historic identity, evidenced by the survival of physical characteristics that existed during the property's historic or prehistoric period. The following seven aspects help define a property's integrity:

- Location is the place where the historic property was constructed or the place where the historic event occurred;
- Setting is the physical environment of a historic property;
- Materials are the physical elements that were combined or deposited during a particular period of time in a particular pattern or configuration to form a historic property;
- Workmanship is the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular culture or people during any given period in history or prehistory;
- Feeling is a property's expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period of time;
- Association is the direct link between an important historic event or person and a historic property.

**Interpretation:** the educational methods by which the history and meaning of historic sites, buildings, objects, districts and structures are explained by use of docents, leaflets, tape recordings, signs, film and other means.

**Local significance:** importance of a property to the history of its community, such as a town or county.

**National Register of Historic Places:** the official list of the nation's historic places worthy of preservation. The National Register is administered by the National Park Service, which is part of the U.S. Department of the Interior.

**National significance criteria:** importance of a property to the history of the United States as a nation. Nationally significant properties embody one or more of the following characteristics:

- associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of our history;
- associated with the lives of persons significant in our past;
- embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction, or that represents the work of a master, or that possesses high artistic merit;
- has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in history or prehistory.

**Paleontology:** the study of life in past geologic time. Paleontologists use the knowledge they gain in their study of fossils to answer important questions such as: (1) what was the world like in the past, (2) what were the forces that made the world change and (3) how could these forces impact the world in our lifetime and that of future generations.

**Potential to yield information:** likelihood of a property to provide information about an important aspect of history or prehistory through its physical composition and remains.

**Preservation:** the act or process of applying measures to sustain the existing form, integrity, and material of a building or structure and the existing form and vegetative cover of a site. It may include initial stabilization work, where necessary, as well as ongoing maintenance of the historic building materials and vegetation.

**Property:** area of land containing a single historic resource or a group of resources and constituting a single entry in the National or State Register of Historic Places or Boulder City or County Landmark inventory.

**Prehistory:** a term often used to describe the period before written history.

**Prehistoric archaeology:** the study of extant cultural remains of societies which existed prior to recorded history.

**Rehabilitation:** the act or process of returning a property to a state of utility through repair or alteration which makes possible an efficient contemporary use while preserving those portions or features of the property which are significant to its historical, architectural and cultural values.

**Restoration:** the act or process of accurately recovering the form and details of a property and its setting as it appeared at a particular period of time by means of the removal of later work or by the replacement of missing earlier work.

**Site:** location of a significant event, a prehistoric or historic occupation or activity, or a building or structure, whether standing, ruined or vanished, where the location itself possesses historic, cultural or archaeological value regardless of the value of any existing structure.

**Stabilization:** the act or process of applying measures designed to reestablish a weather resistant enclosure and structural stability while maintaining the essential form as it exists at present.

**State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO):** office in state government that administers the preservation programs under the National Historic Preservation Act and California Environmental Quality Act.