



**COUNTY OF SOLANO
GENERAL PLAN UPDATE**

OLD TOWN CORDELIA SPECIAL STUDY AREA

Historic Preservation Tools and Resources

Definitions

Historic Resource – Any building, structure, object, or site, which is historically or archaeologically significant. This can be recognized at the local, state, or national level.

National Register of Historic Places – The official federal list of districts, sites, buildings, and structures determined significant in American history, architecture, or archaeology. This list is authorized by the National Historic Preservation Act.

California Register of Historical Resources – State equivalent of the National Register.

Preservation – The act or process of applying measures necessary to sustain the existing form, integrity, and materials of a historic property.

Historic Preservation at the Federal Level (Secretary of Interior Standards)

Preservation planning is a process that organizes preservation activities (identification, evaluation, registration, and treatment of historic properties) in a logical sequence.

Preservation planning is based on the following principles:

- Important historic properties cannot be replaced if they are destroyed. Preservation planning provides for conservative use of these properties, preserving them in place, and avoiding harm when possible.
- If planning for the preservation of historic properties is to have positive effects, it must begin before the identification of all significant properties has been completed. To make responsible decisions about historic properties, existing information must be used to the maximum extent and new information must be acquired as needed.
- Preservation planning includes public participation. Early and continuing public participation is essential to the broad acceptance of preservation planning decisions.

Federal Preservation Programs:

The federal government supports historic preservation through a variety of funding sources and technical assistance programs. The National Park Service is a major source

of support, but preservation assistance is also available, either directly or indirectly, from many other agencies.

Programs Administered by the National Park Service:

The Federal Historic Preservation Fund – Dispersed as grant-in aid to State Historic Preservation Offices.

Save America’s Treasures Grants – Recipients: State and local agencies, non-profit organizations, and Department of the Interior agencies.

National Center for Preservation, Technology, and Training Grants (NPS) – Recipients – Colleges and universities, non-profit organizations, federal, state, local and tribal governments.

National Heritage Areas Grants – Congressionally designated National Heritage Areas. This recognizes the distinct history and geography of a region and the desire of residents to collaborate in preserving their cultural and natural resources.

Other Assistance:

Transportation Enhancement Funding (Federal Highway Administration-FHWA) – Funding for surface transportation development (including historic bridges and roadways).

National Scenic Byways Grants (FHWA) – Provides technical and financial assistance to help preserve America’s scenic roads. Recipients – State Departments of Transportation.

Farm and Ranchland Protection Program (Natural Resources Conservation Service)– Federal government assists states, local governments, and other organizations in purchasing conservation easements on farm and ranch land to limit its conversion to non-agricultural use.

Historic Barn Preservation Program Grants (Dept. of Agriculture) – Recipients: State Departments of Agriculture, State Historic Preservation Offices, national or state non-profit organizations.

Federal Tax Incentives:

Historic Preservation Tax Credits – Recipients: Owners of commercial, industrial, agricultural, or rental preservation properties.

Tax Deductions for Preservation Easements – Recipients: Property owners. Provides a cash incentive to owners of historic properties to protect them through donations of easements.

Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credits – Administered by the Office of Historic Preservation.

Community Development Block Grants – Awarded each year to low and moderate-income communities; this can be a source of funds for the rehabilitation of historic resources in the community

State and Local Programs and Incentives

The state and many local governments offer a variety of incentives which may include fee waivers, tax exemptions, reduced parking requirements, signage, etc.

A number of programs targeted to Historic Preservation have been implemented in other cities and counties and can serve as models for Old Town Cordelia. Examples of these programs include:

- **Formation of a Historic District or Main Street District**
- **Zoning** – Historic Overlay District or Historic/Scenic Corridor Overlay
- **Other Ordinances-** Rehabilitation/Adaptive Reuse Ordinances and Abandoned Properties Rehabilitation Ordinance
- **Design Guidelines** – Architectural and Site Design Guidelines that can be tailored to the place
- **Pattern Book** – A community resource identifying historic styles and key architectural components to assist homeowners, builders, and communities as they repair and expand old homes, or build new ones
- **Economic Incentives** – Most important program in California is the Mills Act Program, an economic incentive program for the restoration and preservation of qualified historic buildings by private property owners. It is generally, a minimum 10 year contract between a local government and private property owners of qualified historic properties who actively participate in the restoration and maintenance of their historic properties in exchange for receiving property tax relief.
- **Public/Private Cooperation** – Recognizing not all projects can be funded by one source, these are opportunity sites involving more than one building or on larger sites accomplished using a combination of public, as well as foundation and corporate grants, and local financial institution funding.
- **Regional Grants** – Example is the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, “Transportation for Livable Communities Program”- transportation grant funds that can be applied to bike and streetscape improvements to Cordelia Road
- **Certified Local Government Program** – Local, state, and federal partnership program designed to provide technical assistance and grants to local governments for historic preservation activities