

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY**  
**HISTORIC DISTRICTS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**Why designate?**

- To maintain neighborhood historical character;
- To maintain or improve property values;
- To be eligible to receive Mills Act Program property tax relief (<http://planning.lacounty.gov/preservation/program>); and
- To be eligible to use the State Historical Building Code which provides flexibility for qualified historical properties.

**How will designation preserve my neighborhood?**

Once designated, design review is required for work, excluding maintenance and repair, to ensure:

- Historically significant buildings aren't demolished or inappropriately altered; and
- New construction is compatible with the historic character of the neighborhood.

**What is proposed work reviewed against?**

- Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties ("Standards" - <https://www.nps.gov/tps/standards/treatment-guidelines-2017.pdf>); and
- Standards and design guidelines for the potential Historic District to be developed by the County.

**Are interior remodels or additions allowed after designation?**

Yes. Interior work does not require design review and additions that comply with the Standards are allowed.

**Does exterior work on all properties within the district have to meet the same standards?**

No. There is more flexibility for exterior work on buildings built outside the district's period of significance or have lost their historical integrity due to alterations.

**Is there an additional cost or time required for design review of proposed exterior work?**

Most work can be reviewed relatively quickly by County staff at a nominal application fee.

**Am I required to restore my home or open it to the public after the district is designated?**

No.

**What is required to nominate the neighborhood as a Historic District?**

A fee and completed application that includes a boundary map, survey of properties and consent from more than 50% of the property owners.

**Who prepares the nomination?**

Typically, the historic district nominations are prepared by the applicant's consulting architectural historian because of the necessary research and required property survey.

**Once the district is nominated, will I have an opportunity to be heard on the matter?**

Yes. There will be at least 3 public hearings where public testimony is encouraged and accepted.

**Where can I find more information?**

- <http://planning.lacounty.gov/preservation/ordinance>
- Contact the County's Historic Program Coordinator, Dean Edwards at (213) 974-0087 [dedwards@planning.lacounty.gov](mailto:dedwards@planning.lacounty.gov)