



# California Preservation Foundation Historic Resources 101

**HISTORIC RESOURCES GROUP**

## **WHAT IS A HISTORIC RESOURCE?**

A building, structure, object, site, landscape or a related grouping or collection of these (district) that is significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, or culture.

## **HISTORIC REGISTRATION PROGRAMS**

- The National Register of Historic Places
- The California Register of Historical Resources
- Local Lists or Registers

## **HISTORIC REGISTRATION PROGRAMS**

- Designation to a register of historic resources requires a formal nomination and review process.
- Historic surveys do not designate or list properties.
- Instead, a survey identifies properties that are eligible for historic designation.

## **HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE**

Historic significance is defined as the importance of a property to the history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, or culture of a community, state, or the nation.

## **NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

The National Register of Historic Places is the official list of the Nation's historic places worthy of preservation. Authorized by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Park Service's National Register of Historic Places is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect America's historic and archeological resources.

## **NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA**

The criteria for listing in the National Register follow established guidelines for determining the significance of properties. The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects:

- 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.

## **CALIFORNIA REGISTER OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES**

The California Register is an authoritative guide in California used by State and local agencies, private groups, and citizens to identify the State's historic resources and to indicate what properties are to be protected, to the extent prudent and feasible, from substantial adverse change.

## **CALIFORNIA REGISTER CRITERIA**

The criteria for eligibility for listing in the California Register are based upon National Register criteria. These criteria are:

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.

## **LOCAL CRITERIA**

Local jurisdictions may also have a historic preservation program.

1. Events that have made a meaningful contribution to the nation, state or community;
2. Lives of persons who made a meaningful contribution to national, state or local history;
3. Reflecting or exemplifying a particular period of the national, state or local history;
4. Embodying the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction;
5. The work of one or more master builders, designers, artists or architects whose talents influenced their historical period, or work that otherwise possesses high artistic value;
6. Representing a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
7. Yielding, or likely to yield, information important to national, state or local history or prehistory.

## **HISTORIC RESOURCES GROUP**

## **IMPLICATIONS OF LISTING**

- Financial Incentives and Technical Assistance
- Local protections
- National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA)
- Section 106 Review
- California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

## **INTEGRITY**

Historic integrity is the ability of a property to convey its significance and is defined as the “authenticity of a property’s historic identity, evidenced by the survival of physical characteristics that existed during the property’s historic period.”

Physical characteristics that date from the property’s historic period and convey its historic significance are referred to as “character-defining features.”

## **INTEGRITY**

The National Park Service defines seven aspects of integrity:

- **Location** is the place where the historic property was constructed or the place where the historic event took place.
- **Design** is the combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure, and style of a property.
- **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 and 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.

## **INTEGRITY**

The National Park Service defines seven aspects of integrity:

- **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

## **INTEGRITY**

Generally, a property that has integrity usually retains most or all of the seven aspects.



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## **INTEGRITY**

A property may lose integrity when original design elements, have been removed.



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## **INTEGRITY**

- Assessing integrity is not prescriptive but specific to the individual property.
- It must be determined why the property is significant before it can be determined what physical features are necessary for the property to convey its significance.
- Properties significant under Criteria A/1 and B/2 may not require the same level of integrity as those properties significant under Criteria C/3.
- Generally, eligibility for the National Register requires a higher level of integrity than for the California Register.
- Very rare remaining examples of important property types may also be eligible with lower levels of integrity.

## AGE THRESHOLD

- The National Park Service has established that a resource fifty years of age or older may be considered for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.
- The National Register Criteria for Evaluation exclude properties that achieved significance within the past fifty years unless they are of *exceptional importance*. (Criteria Consideration g)
- Technical assistance provided by the California State Office of Historic Preservation states “A resource less than fifty years old may be considered for listing in the California Register if it can be demonstrated that sufficient time has passed to understand its historical importance.”


**PROPERTY ASSESSMENT**


Significance + Integrity = Eligibility

## **DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION RECORDATION FORMS (DPR)**

- The DPR 523 series of forms are used for recording and evaluating resources.
- There are twelve variations of the DPR 523 labeled A-L.
- DPR 523A Primary Record
- DPR 523B Building, Structure, Object
- DPR 523D District Record
- DPR 523L Continuation Sheet

# DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION RECORDATION FORMS (DPR)

State of California — The Resources Agency DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION		Primary # _____ HRI # _____
<b>PRIMARY RECORD</b>		Trinomial _____ NRHP Status Code <u>3CS, 553</u>
Other Listings _____ Review Code _____		Reviewer _____ Date _____
Page <u>1</u> of <u>2</u> Resource name(s) or number (assigned by recorder) 801 Van Ness Avenue		
*P1. Other Identifier: _____		
*P2. Location: <input type="checkbox"/> Not for Publication <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted		
*b. USGS 7.5' Quad _____	Date _____	*a. County Fresno County
*c. Address 801 Van Ness Avenue		T R
*e. Other Locational Data: APN: # 46825511T		City Fresno Zip 93721
*P3a. Description: (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries.)		
<p>Located on the southwest side of Van Ness Avenue at the corner of Inyo Street, this parking garage features a dynamic, Expressionistic design. Accessed via two multi-level spiral ramps, the garage rises seven stories and has a rectangular plan and flat roof. The walls of the spiral ramps are faced with small square blocks of smooth concrete. Contrasting with the dynamism of the spiral access ramps, the body of the garage consists of a steel post-and-beam structure, with vertical slats screening upper stories. Alterations include some non-original doors in the tower section of the garage. In good condition, the parking structure exhibits a good level of integrity.</p>		
*P3b. Resource Attributes: (list attributes and codes) HP11. Engineering Structure.		
*P4. Resources Present: <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Element of District <input type="checkbox"/> Other		
*P5a. Photo		*P5b. Photo: (view and date) Northeast elevation March 1, 2011
		
*P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic 1968 (City of Fresno Building Permits)		
*P7. Owner and Address: City of Fresno		
*P8. Recorded by: Historic Resources Group 12 S. Fair Oaks Avenue, Suite 200 Pasadena, CA 91105-1915		
*P9. Date Recorded: December 12, 2011		
*P10. Survey Type: Intensive		
*P11. Report Citation: (Cite survey report and other sources, or enter "none") <i>Downtown Fresno (Fulton Corridor) Survey Report.</i>		
*Attachments: <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Location Map <input type="checkbox"/> Sketch Map <input type="checkbox"/> Continuation Sheet <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building, Structure, and Object Record <input type="checkbox"/> Archaeological Record <input type="checkbox"/> District Record <input type="checkbox"/> Linear Feature Record <input type="checkbox"/> Milling Station Record <input type="checkbox"/> Rock Art Record <input type="checkbox"/> Artifact Record <input type="checkbox"/> Photograph Record <input type="checkbox"/> Other (list)		
DPR 523A (1/95)		*Required information

State of California — The Resources Agency DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION		Primary # _____ HR# _____
<b>BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD</b>		NRHP Status Code <u>3CS, 553</u>
Page <u>2</u> of <u>2</u>		*Resource Name or #: 801 Van Ness Avenue
B1. Historic Name: Inyo-Van Ness Parking Structure		
B2. Common Name: Spiral Parking Garage		
B3. Original Use: Parking Structure		B4. Present Use: Parking Structure
*B5. Architectural Style: Mid-Century Modern (Expressionistic)		
*B6. Construction History: (Construction date, alterations, and date of alterations):		
<p>According to the original building permit, the parking garage at 801 Van Ness was constructed in 1968 at a cost of \$3,018,118. Alterations to the parking structure appear limited to the replacement of doors in the tower section of the garage. Building permits did not document any further major alterations to the parking structure.</p>		
*B7. Moved? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown Date: _____ Original Location: _____		
*B8. Related Features: None.		
*B9a. Architect: Walter Wagner & J. Martin Temple Architects		b. Builder: Harris-Stephens Co.
*B10. Significance: Theme Mid-20th Century Commercial		Area Downtown Fresno
Period of Significance: 1968		Property Type: Parking Structure
Applicable Criteria: CRHR: 2, 3; City of Fresno: ii, iii. (Discuss importance in terms of historical or architectural context as defined by theme, period, and geographic scope. Also address integrity)		
<p>801 Van Ness Avenue is significant as a unique example of a parking structure featuring a multi-story spiral design and as a representative work of noted local architects Walter Wagner and J. Martin Temple. A 1934 graduate of the University of California, Berkeley, Wagner, along with his associates, contributed several buildings to postwar revitalization efforts in the downtown area, including the Fresno Police Headquarters and the Fresno County Courthouse, which was completed in 1966. Temple, a native of Arizona, also attended the University of California, Berkeley. Upon his graduation in 1958, Temple joined the firm of William Wagner &amp; Partners; in 1966, Temple became a partner and the firm became Walter Wagner-Martin Temple Architects, Engineers, and Planners. In 1967, then-mayor Floyd H. Hyde appointed Temple to the city's first architectural review committee.</p>		
<p>The spiral parking garage at 801 Van Ness Avenue, which is one of two architect-designed garages in downtown, reflects the ideas expressed in Victor Gruen's General Plan emphasizing the need for the strategic placement of structured parking facilities to accommodate downtown shoppers. The parking structure is in good condition and retains a good level of integrity.</p>		
B11. Additional Resource Attributes: None		
*B12. References: "Architecture Group Named," <i>Los Angeles Times</i> , 21 September 1967. City of Fresno Building Permits County of Fresno Tax Assessor Data Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps <i>Mid-Century Modernism Historic Context</i> , September 2008, prepared for the City of Fresno, Planning and Development Department, prepared by Planning Resource Associates, Inc., Fresno, CA.		
B13. Remarks: *B14. Evaluator: C. McAvoy & P. Travis *Date of Evaluation: April 2011.		
(This space reserved for official comments.)		
DPR 523B (1/95)		*Required information

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## **REFERENCE MATERIALS**

**State Office of Historic Preservation:**

<http://ohp.parks.ca.gov>

**National Park Service Guidance:**

<http://www.nps.gov/nr/publications/index.htm>