



Photo by "Dick" Whittington

California Preservation Foundation Historic Context Statements

HISTORIC RESOURCES GROUP

WHAT IS A HISTORIC CONTEXT STATEMENT?

In order to understand the historic significance of resources in a given area, it is necessary to examine those resources within the appropriate historic context or contexts.

WHAT IS A HISTORIC CONTEXT STATEMENT?

A historic context statement is a written document that provides the framework for evaluating a property for historic significance and integrity. It answers questions such as:

- What aspects of geography, history and culture shaped the built environment of a given area?
- What property types were associated with those developments?
- Why are these properties are important?
- What level of integrity is needed for them to qualify as historic resources?

WHAT IS A HISTORIC CONTEXT STATEMENT?

The purpose of a historic context statement is to place built resources in the appropriate historic, social, and architectural context so that the relationship between an area's physical environment and its broader history can be established.

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WHAT IS A HISTORIC CONTEXT STATEMENT?

A historic context statement is not intended to be a comprehensive history. Rather, its purpose is to highlight trends and patterns critical to the understanding of the built environment.



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WHAT IS A HISTORIC CONTEXT STATEMENT?

The purpose of the context statement determines how broad or narrow the focus should be.

- Context statements can be prepared as a first step in the development of a historic preservation program.
- Context statements can be prepared in conjunction with historic resource surveys; reconnaissance or intensive level.
- Context statements can be used to facilitate the simultaneous designation of properties, thereby streamlining the process.
- Context statements are required for individual landmark nominations and historic resource evaluation reports.

CONTENTS

Essential Components

- Purpose
- Methodology
- Contexts and Themes
 - One or Multiple
- Associated Property Types
 - Description
 - Significance
 - Registration Requirements
- Bibliography or Selected Sources

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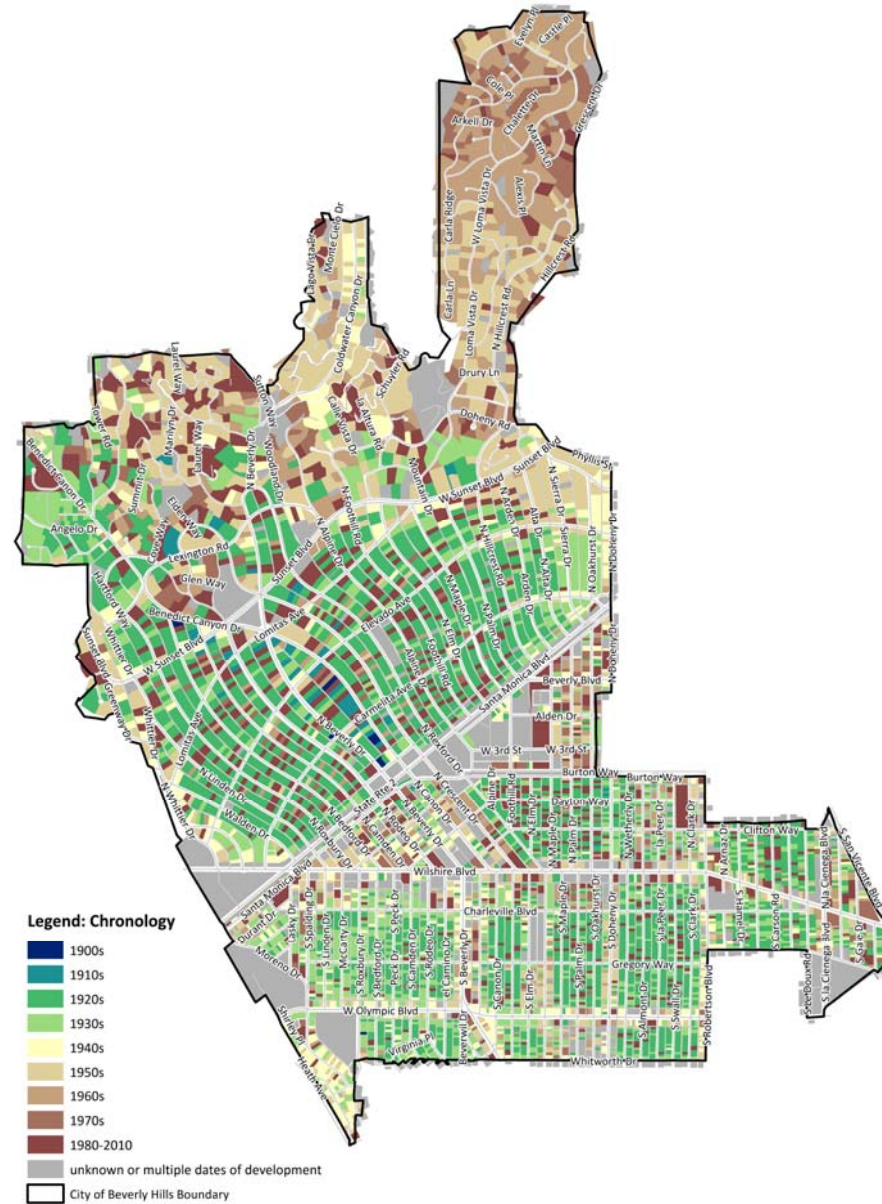
CONTEXTS AND THEMES

Information detailing the historic events, trends and people important to the physical development of an area are organized into a series of contexts and themes.

Context >Theme>

CONTEXTS AND THEMES

Beverly Hills



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CONTEXTS AND THEMES

Beverly Hills City-wide Context Statement

Contexts:

- Early Settlement and City Founding (1906-1919)
- Residential Growth & Subdivisions (1920-1980)
- Commercial Development (1920-1980)
- Institutions and Infrastructure (1920-1980)
- Industrial Development (1920-1980)
- Architecture and Design (1900-1980)

CONTEXTS AND THEMES

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CONTEXTS AND THEMES

Beverly Hills

Context: Residential Growth & Subdivisions (1920-1980)

- Theme: Residential Development from the 1920s to World War II (1920-1941)
- Theme: Subdivisions & Important Developers (1920-1941)
- Theme: Subdivisions & Important Developers (1945-1968)
- Theme: Trousdale Estates (1954-1968)
- Theme: Homes of Important People (1906-1980)
- Theme: Multi-family Residential Development (1920-1980)

CONTEXTS AND THEMES

Beverly Hills

Context: Residential Growth & Subdivisions (1920-1980)

- Theme: Residential Development from the 1920s to World War II (1920-1941)
- Theme: Subdivisions & Important Developers (1920-1941)
- Theme: Subdivisions & Important Developers (1945-1968)
- Theme: Trousdale Estates (1954-1968)
- **Theme: Homes of Important People (1906-1980)**
- Theme: Multi-family Residential Development (1920-1980)

CONTEXTS AND THEMES

Beverly Hills

Context: Residential Growth & Subdivisions (1920-1980)

Theme: Homes of Important People (1906-1980)

- Sub-theme: Homes of Important People in the Entertainment Industry (1906-1980)



ASSOCIATED PROPERTY TYPES

Specific property types are linked with individual themes and sub-themes.

Context > Theme > Sub-theme > Associated
Property Types

ASSOCIATED PROPERTY TYPES

- Property types link the historic contexts to the built environment.
- Property types may be based on function, architecture, or both.
- Discussion of property types includes a general description, statement of significance, and registration requirements.
- The registration requirements should provide specific information that can be used for making judgments about the relative significance of a property including significance criteria and integrity level.

ASSOCIATED PROPERTY TYPES

Beverly Hills

Context: Residential Growth & Subdivisions (1920-1980)

Theme: Homes of Important People (1906-1980)

Sub-theme: Homes of Important People in the Entertainment Industry (1906-1980)

Associated Property Types

- Single-family residence
- Estate
- Estate feature
- Designed Landscape

ASSOCIATED PROPERTY TYPES: REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

Sub-theme: Homes of Important People in the Entertainment Industry (1906-1980)

To be eligible under this theme, a property must:

- have been constructed specifically for an important person in the entertainment industry or served as their long-term home; the person must have made a significant contribution to the entertainment industry or to the development of Beverly Hills;
- be associated with the person's productive period;
- retain its historic appearance from the period when the property was associated with the significant person; and
- retain the essential aspects of integrity.

CONTEXTS AND THEMES

Latino Los Angeles Historic Context Statement



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CONTEXTS AND THEMES

Latino Los Angeles Historic Context Statement

- Theme: Commercial Identity, 1910-1980
- Theme: Religion and Spirituality, 1860-1989
- Theme: Education 1930-1980
- Theme: Civil Rights Movement, 1920-1980
- Theme: Cultural Development & Institutions, 1920-1980
- Theme: Public Art, 1930-1984
- Theme : Entertainment Industry, 1925-1980

CONTEXTS AND THEMES

Latino Los Angeles Historic Context Statement

- Theme: Commercial Identity, 1910-1980
- Theme: Religion and Spirituality, 1860-1989
- Theme: Education 1930-1980
- Theme: Civil Rights Movement, 1920-1980
- **Theme: Cultural Development & Institutions, 1920-1980**
- Theme: Public Art, 1930-1984
- Theme : Entertainment Industry, 1925-1980

CONTEXTS AND THEMES

Latino Los Angeles Historic Context Statement

Theme: Cultural Development & Institutions, 1920-1980

- Sub-theme: Latino Performing Arts, 1920-1980
- Sub-theme: Latino Literature Institutions, 1920-1980
- Sub-theme: Latino Visual Arts, 1920-1980



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CONTEXTS AND THEMES

Latino Los Angeles Historic Context Statement

Theme: Cultural Development & Institutions, 1920-1980

- Sub-theme: Latino Performing Arts, 1920-1980
- **Sub-theme: Latino Literature Institutions, 1920-1980**
- Sub-theme: Latino Visual Arts, 1920-1980

CONTEXTS AND THEMES

Latino Los Angeles

Theme: Cultural Development & Institutions, 1920-1980

Sub-theme: Latino Literature Institutions, 1920-1980

Associated Property Types:

- Commercial buildings that were used as gathering places for writers or the offices of literary publications.
- Commercial Retail Building
- Office Building

CONTEXTS AND THEMES

Sub-theme: Latino Literature Institutions, 1920-1980

Eligibility Standards:

- Is directly associated with important developments in the history of Latinos in the Los Angeles literary scene
- Property functioned as an important gathering place for Latino writers
- Property functioned as the offices of a significant Latino publication
- May be associated with a particular group or institution significant in the cultural history of Latinos

Integrity Considerations:

- Should retain integrity of Location, Design, Feeling, and Association from the period of significance
- Original use may have changed
- Some materials may have been removed or altered

CONTEXT STATEMENT: GEOGRAPHIC

Fresno Downtown Specific Plan



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CONTEXT STATEMENT: GEOGRAPHIC

Fresno Downtown Specific Plan

- Railroad Development and Expansion (1872-1945)
- Ethnic Communities (1872-1960)
- Late-19th and early-20th Century Commercial Development (1872-1945)
- Late-19th and Early-20th Century Civic and Institutional Development (1872-1930)
- Industrial Fresno (1890-1960)
- Depression-Era Civic and Institutional Development (1933-1942)
- Mid-20th Century Commercial Redevelopment (1945-1970)
- Mid-20th Century Civic and Institutional Development (1945-1970)

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CONTEXT STATEMENT: GEOGRAPHIC

Royal Boulevard, Glendale, CA



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CONTEXT STATEMENT: THEMATIC HISTORIC

The Automobile in Pasadena, 1897-1944



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CONTEXT STATEMENT: THEMATIC HISTORIC

The Automobile in Pasadena, 1897-1944

Themes:

- Automobile Manufacturing
- Marketing and Servicing the Automobile
- Influence of the Automobile on Other Businesses
- Auto Circulation

Associated Property Types

- Automobile Showrooms
- Bridges
- Roadways
- Gas Stations
- Drive-In/Drive-Thru Buildings

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CONTEXT STATEMENT: THEMATIC ARCHITECTURE

Case Study House Program, 1945-1966

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CONTEXT STATEMENT: THEMATIC ARCHITECTURE

Case Study House Program, 1945-1966

Historic Context:

- Experimental modern residential architecture of the Case Study House Program in California: 1945 – 1966

Associated Property Types:

- Single-Family Residences
- Wood-frame dwellings
- Steel-frame dwellings

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CONTEXT STATEMENT: THEMATIC CULTURAL

LGBT Persons in Los Angeles, 1850-1980

Themes Related to LGBT History:

- Civil Rights Movement
- Entertainment Industry
- Religion and Spirituality
- Public Health and Social Medicine
- Social Clubs
- Newspapers and Publishing
- Writers
- Visual Arts

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CONTEXT STATEMENT: CHRONOLOGICAL

Late 19th and Early 20th Century Pasadena, 1883-1904

Historic Contexts:

- Early Settlement
- Boom of the 1880s
- Residential Architecture
- Architects and Builders

Associated Property Types:

- Single-Family Residences
- Residential Neighborhoods

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SURVEYLA

Context: Public & Private Institutional Development, 1850-1980

Sub-Context: Social Clubs & Organizations, 1850-1980

Theme: Social Clubs and Ethnic/Cultural Associations, 1850-1980

This Context/Theme was used to evaluate significant examples of social clubs with an important ethnic/cultural association.



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SURVEYLA

Context: Commercial Development, 1850-1980

Theme: Markets, 1880-1980

This Context/Theme was used to evaluate a significant example of a neighborhood market with an important ethnic/cultural association.



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SURVEYLA

Context: Public & Private Institutional Development, 1850-1980

Sub-Context: Military Institutions & Activities, 1850-1980

Theme: Air Raid Sirens & Civil Defense, 1939-1960

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SURVEYLA

Context: Residential Development & Suburbanization, 1850-1980

Theme: Automobile Suburbanization, 1908-1937

Suburban Planning and Development, 1908-1937

This Context/Theme was used to evaluate public stairways as features of early residential subdivision development.

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REFERENCE MATERIALS

Example Historic Context Statements:

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

National Park Service Guidance:

National Register Bulletin 16A: How to Complete the National Register Registration Form

National Register Bulletin #16B How to Complete the National Register Multiple Documentation Form

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

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