

FAQs

CENTRAL SOMA HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY



What is a Historic Resource Survey?

A Historic Resource Survey is a process that identifies and evaluates properties that reflect important architectural, cultural, and historical themes in the City's history. During a survey, Planning Department staff will document a building's appearance and history in order to determine whether or not it qualifies for listing in the California or National Registers.

What is the focus of this Survey, and who is conducting it?

The Central SoMa Historic Resource Survey (Survey) is being conducted by the Planning Department in support of the Central SoMa Plan. It focuses on buildings located in the Central SoMa Plan area that were constructed 45 or more years ago, and that have not been addressed by prior survey efforts. Part of the survey also includes the preparation of a historic context statement. This is a document that examines the area's history and the various property types associated with that history. The context statement helps inform decisions about the significance of properties and the integrity thresholds necessary to register them as historic resources.

Why is the Survey being conducted?

The Planning Department is conducting the Survey in order to assign of historic resource status codes to all previously undocumented buildings in the Plan area. Specific attention is being given to the identification of individual historic resources, as well as California Register eligible historic districts. The assignment of historic resource status codes will significantly aid the Central SoMa planning process and will also bring greater transparency to property owners and other interested parties.

Can property owners opt out of the Survey?

No, property owners cannot opt out of a survey. The survey only evaluates buildings from the public right-of-way and does not include a building's residential or commercial interiors.

What are the benefits of the Survey?

Property owners, planners and other interested parties will benefit from the upfront identification of a property's historic status. This saves time and money during the Planning Department's review process for certain building alterations. Historic buildings that are formally listed as city landmarks or on the National Register may qualify for local, state, or federal financial incentives.

When will the Survey be complete?

Field survey efforts began in 2013 and are substantially complete. Public outreach regarding the survey results will be conducted in early 2014. The survey results will then be presented to the Historic Preservation Commission for adoption.

For more information about the survey, please contact:

Jonathan Lammers, San Francisco Planning Department
415-575-9093 / Jonathan.Lammers@sfgov.org

**SAN FRANCISCO
PLANNING DEPARTMENT**