



Riverside County

# Riverside County Historical Landmarks Criteria & Procedures



Riverside County  
Historic Courthouse



## Criteria & Procedures for Historical Landmark Nominations

### Criteria & Procedures

- I. Authority:** The power to identify and advise the County Board of Supervisors of Riverside County (Board) concerning historical matters is assigned to the Riverside County Historical Commission (Commission) by Resolution No. 2005-345. The Commission was established by Board Resolution on May 6, 1968. The resolution of 1968 was amended on March 15, 1971, May 4, 1982 (Resolution 82-131), and September 13, 2005 (Resolution 2005-345). The Commission operates under established *Bylaws* approved by the Board on September 13, 2005.
- II. Purpose:** “It shall be the purpose of the Commission to advise the Board of Supervisors in historical matters of the County of Riverside . . . ; to discover and identify persons, events and places of historical importance within Riverside County; to make recommendation relating to the preservation of historic sites and structures . . . .” Pursuant to this charge, the Commission established criteria and procedures to identify and recognize Historic Landmarks in Riverside County. Such identification and recognition does not convey any regulatory authority to the Commission over properties assigned landmark status.
- III. Process:** The Commission has adopted a set of criteria and procedures for nominating and recognizing Historical Landmarks.
  - ☞ **Application** for county landmarks shall be made in writing (see Application for instructions) to the county Historic Preservation Officer (HPO) at the Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District (District). The HPO will assess applications and serve as an advisor to the General Manager of the District during the nomination process.
  - ☞ In **his** capacity as Secretary of the Commission, the General Manager of the District shall bring nominations before Commission for their consideration and recommendation.
  - ☞ The **Commission** shall consider nominations brought before it and vote whether or not to recommend them as Landmarks.
  - ☞ If **the** Commission votes favorably on a nomination, it will be sent to the Board for their approval or disapproval.
  - ☞ If the nomination is approved by the Board, the site will be officially listed as a Riverside County **Historical** Landmark.
  - ☞ Nominations may be made by individuals, organizations, or governmental **agencies**.



San Timoteo Schoolhouse  
Restoration project



## Definitions & Eligibility

**IV. Definitions:** Unless specifically defined below, words or phrases used shall be interpreted so as to give them the meaning they have in common usage.

- ☞ **Board** means Riverside County Board of Supervisors.
- ☞ **Commission** means Riverside County Historical Commission.
- ☞ **County** means Riverside County, California.
- ☞ **District** means the Riverside County Park and Open-Space District.
- ☞ **Historic District** means a geographic area designated as containing multiple historic resources that collectively have a special character or value—historical, cultural, architectural, archaeological, community, or aesthetic.
- ☞ **Historic Resource** means an object, building, structure, site, monument, landmark, area, or place that is significant in terms of architectural, engineering, scientific, economic, agricultural, educational, social, archaeological, military, or cultural history.
- ☞ **Listing** means to be placed on an authorized list or register of recognized historic resources.

**V. Eligibility:** To be eligible for consideration as a Riverside County Historical Landmark a historic resource must be nominated through the following application and approval process.

A. Historical resources that may be considered by nomination include:

- ☞ Historical resources found as eligible for local, state, or national landmark status during CEQA cultural review.
- ☞ Historical resources found as eligible for local, state, or national landmark status during a historic resource survey.
- ☞ A historic resource or district already so designated under a municipal or county preservation or landmark ordinance (Riverside County Historic Preservation Districts are established by a different set of criteria under Riverside County Ordinance 578 and are not established under the criteria and procedures contained in this document).
- ☞ Nominations for historic resources not already having some level of landmark designation or found to be eligible for such will be reviewed under criteria established below in **Section VI, Types of Historical Resources and Criteria for Listing.**



Jensen-Alvarado  
Historic Ranch and Museum



## Types of Historical Resources & Criteria for Listing

- B. **Owner Consent:** Written consent of the property owner(s) is required for landmark designation. The Commission may deem a resource **eligible** for designation but will not officially landmark the property without owner consent.

**VI. Types of Historical Resources and Criteria for Listing:** The typology and criteria listed below are consistent with those developed by the California Office of Historic Preservation but have been modified for local application at the county level.

A. Types of resources eligible for nomination:

- ☞ **Building:** A resource, such as a house, barn, church, factory, hotel, or similar structure created principally to shelter or assist in carrying out any form of human activity.
- ☞ **Site:** A site is the location of a significant event, a prehistoric or historic occupation or activity, or a building or structure, whether standing, ruined, or vanished, where the location itself possessed historical, cultural, or archaeological value. A site need not be marked by physical remains if it is the location of a prehistoric or historic event. Nor is it required that a building, structure, or object marked the site at the time of its historic significance, occupation, or activity. Examples: trails, landscape features, battlefields, habitation sites, Native American ceremonial areas, and rock art.
- ☞ **Structure:** The term “structure” is used to describe a construction made for a functional purpose rather than creating human shelter. Examples: mines, flumes, roads, bridges, and tunnels.
- ☞ **Object:** The term “object” is used to describe those constructions that are primarily artistic or commemorative in nature, relatively small in scale, and associated with a specific setting or environment. Objects that are located in museums are not eligible for landmark listing. Examples: fountains, monuments, maritime resources, sculptures, and boundary markers.
- ☞ **Historic Districts:** A geographic area designated as containing multiple historic resources that collectively have a special character or value—historical, cultural, architectural, archaeological, community, or aesthetic. A district must meet at least one of the criteria discussed below in **Section B**.

B. Criteria for evaluating the significance of historical resources:

- ☞ To be considered a historic resource eligible for landmark listing, the resource must be at least 45 years of age at the time of nomination.
- ☞ A historical resource must be significant under one or more of the following criteria in order to qualify for listing as a Riverside County Historical Landmark.
  - ◇ Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of Riverside County’s history and cultural her-



Gilman House  
Restoration project



## Criteria Continued

itage.

- ◇ Is associated with the lives of persons important to the history of Riverside County or its communities.
  - ◇ Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, Riverside County region, or method of construction, or represents the work of an important creative individual or possesses high artistic values
  - ◇ Has yielded or may be likely to yield, information important in Riverside County, state of California, or national prehistory or history.
- ☞ Integrity—historical resources that have been preserved, rehabilitated, or restored according to the U. S. Secretary of Interiors Standards for integrity will be given the highest consideration in the approval process.
- ☞ Reconstructed buildings will not be considered for landmark status unless they are more than 45 years old and embody traditional building methods and techniques or they exhibit high artistic values in the execution of the reconstruction.



Lake Elsinore Princess