

## 2011 Council Study Issue

## CDD 09-05 New Heritage Preservation Designation for Existing Structures as "Buildings of Character"

**Lead Department** Community Development

**History**            1 year ago   Deferred        2 years ago   Below the line

### 1. What are the key elements of the issue? What precipitated it?

The Heritage Preservation Commission has identified the desire to study the possible creation of an additional designation for the City's inventory of structures that are deemed as "Buildings of Character." Such buildings may be not considered "Local Landmarks" or "Heritage Resources," but are considered noteworthy as buildings of good quality, and a design that contributes to the character and appearance of an area. They may illustrate, or be reminders of, the historic development of the area and are worthy of City recognition.

As part of this study, staff would examine the City's inventory of structures (commercial, residential, industrial, etc.) that are not already considered "Heritage Resources" or "Local Landmarks" and determine whether a new designation could be warranted. The first step would be to research what impact these designations would have on redevelopment of the subject properties. The study would also define and outline certain parameters for the new designation. The intent of the study would be to create additional restrictive permitting or construction limitations to such structures beyond the current "Local Landmark" or "Heritage Resource" designation, but rather be a tool that could add value to the property through promoting awareness of the City's notable architecture and link to the past.

The study would entail researching previous studies of possible Heritage Resources that were ultimately not designated as well as collecting information of other notable structures for a new inventory. Additional research of similar designations in other jurisdictions would also be explored.

### 2. How does this relate to the General Plan or existing City Policy?

#### HERITAGE PRESERVATION SUB-ELEMENT

**Goal 6.3B:** To enhance, preserve and protect Sunnyvale's Heritage including natural features, the built environment and significant artifacts.

*Policy 6.3B.5:* Seek out, catalog and evaluate heritage resources which may be significant.

**Goal 6.3B.5d:** Where it has been determined that a structure, streetscape or other heritage resource should be considered for designation as a cultural resource or as a landmark, institute the process to designate them accordingly.

#### SUNNYVALE COMMUNITY VISION- CITY WIDE GOALS

II. Attractive Community: To maintain and enhance the appearance of Sunnyvale, and to distinguish it from surrounding communities, through the promotion of high quality architecture, the preservation of historic districts and structures, the maintenance of a healthy urban forest, and the provision of abundant and attractive open space.

### 3. Origin of issue

Board or Commission Heritage Preservation Commission

- 4. Staff effort required to conduct study Moderate
- 5. Multiple Year Project? No Planned Completion Year 2011
- 6. Expected participation involved in the study issue process?

Does Council need to approve a work plan? No  
 Does this issue require review by a Board/Commission? Yes  
 If so, which? Heritage Preservation Commission  
 Is a Council Study Session anticipated? No

- 7. Briefly explain cost of study, including consultant hours, impacted budget program, required budget modifications, etc. and amounts if known.

Staff hours would be covered with 234 Planning operating budget. Consultant assistance could range from \$10,000-\$20,000. Moderate cost is between 101-299 staff hours.

- 8. Briefly explain potential fiscal impact of implementing study results (consider capital and operating costs, as well as potential revenue).

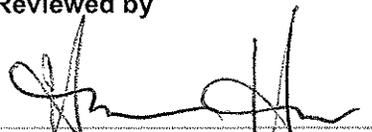
9. Staff Recommendation

Staff Recommendation For Study

If 'For Study' or 'Against Study', explain

Staff recommends "For Study" as the study would promote a goal of the "Sunnyvale Community Vision" which is aimed at maintaining an attractive community through further identifying and preserving historic structures. It is not expected that an outside consultant would be involved and research could be entirely conducted by City staff; therefore, the study would incur relatively little costs to the City's budget and resources. Outreach to the community could also be carried out by staff.

Reviewed by



Department Director

10/24/10  
Date

Approved by



City Manager

10-28-10  
Date