

PALO ALTO HISTORIC INVENTORY NOMINATION PROPOSAL HISTORIC RESOURCES BOARD HEARING ON DECEMBER 14, 2023

The below groupings of properties are arranged with City-owned properties to be reviewed first, followed by smaller groupings based on the Palo Alto Historic Inventory Criteria under which the properties are being nominated. If a particular property has owner opposition, or some other need that requires individual attention, it will be removed from the group and rescheduled to the January 25, 2024 HRB hearing agenda, for discussion and individual action.

A summary of the proposed order of each property group and the number of properties proposed for designation under each criterion is as follows:

- City-owned properties: 3
- Properties grouped by Criteria for Designation:
 - Criteria 5 and 6 (9 properties)
 - Criterion 2 (5 properties)
 - Criterion 3 (5 properties)
 - Criteria 2 and 5 (4 properties)
 - Criteria 2 and 6 (3 properties)
 - Criteria 2, 5, and 6 (2 properties)
 - Criterion 1 (2 properties)
 - Criteria 3 and 5 (1 property)
 - Criteria 2 and 4 (1 property)
 - Criteria 1 and 3 (1 property)
 - Criterion 4 (1 property)
 - Criteria 1 and 2 (1 property)

The following tables (following city-owned properties) are organized based on how many properties are within each group. Properties within each table are arranged by proposed Historic Inventory Category, and then alphabetically by address.

City-Owned Properties

Address	Criteria	Category
2601 East Bayshore Road (Federal Telegraph Company – Marsh Station)	1, 4, 5	1
Underpass - Embarcadero Road	1	2
Underpass - University Avenue	1	2

- Criterion 1 (The structure or site is identified with the lives of historic people or with important events in the city, state, or nation)
- Criterion 4 (The structure or site is connected with a business or use which was once common, but is now rare)
- Criterion 5 (The architect or building was important)

Properties proposed for designation under Palo Alto Criteria 5 and 6

Address	Criteria	Category
555 Center Drive	5, 6	1
1275 Dana Avenue	5, 6	1
2160 Bryant Street	5, 6	2
380 Coleridge Avenue	5, 6	2
2171 El Camino Real	5, 6	2
1726 Fulton Street	5, 6	2
1423 Hamilton Avenue	5, 6	2
1452 Hamilton Avenue	5, 6	2
419 Maple Street	5, 6	2

- Criterion 5 (The architect or building was important)
- Criterion 6 (The structure or site contains elements demonstrating outstanding attention to architectural design, detail, materials or craftsmanship)

Properties proposed for designation under Palo Alto Criterion 2

Address	Criterion	Category
1101 Alma Street	2	2
311 El Carmelo Avenue	2	2
544 Hawthorne Avenue	2	2
175 Island Drive	2	2
2264 Bowdoin Street	2	3

- Criterion 2 (The structure or site is particularly representative of an architectural style or way of life important to the city, state or nation)

Properties proposed for designation under Palo Alto Criterion 3

Address	Criterion	Category
336 Byron Street	3	2
1247 Stanford Avenue	3	2
471 Addison Avenue	3	3
311 Waverley Street	3	3
2280 Webster Street	3	4

- Criterion 3 (The structure or site is an example of a type of building which was once common, but is now rare)

Properties proposed for designation under Palo Alto Criteria 2 and 5

Address	Criteria	Category
2277 Byron Street	2, 5	1
421 California Avenue	2, 5	2
1485 Edgewood Drive	2, 5	2
1341 University Avenue	2, 5	2

- Criterion 2 (The structure or site is particularly representative of an architectural style or way of life important to the city, state or nation)
- Criterion 5 (The architect or building was important)

Properties proposed for designation under Palo Alto Criteria 2 and 6

Address	Criteria	Category
381 Guinda Street	2, 6	1
925 Hamilton Avenue	2, 6	2
972 Hamilton Avenue	2, 6	2

- Criterion 2 (The structure or site is particularly representative of an architectural style or way of life important to the city, state or nation)
- Criterion 6 (The structure or site contains elements demonstrating outstanding attention to architectural design, detail, materials or craftsmanship)

Properties proposed for designation under Palo Alto Criteria 2, 5, and 6

Address	Criteria	Category
541 E Crescent Drive	2, 5, 6	2
435 Santa Rita Avenue	2, 5, 6	2

- Criterion 2 (The structure or site is particularly representative of an architectural style or way of life important to the city, state or nation)
- Criterion 5 (The architect or building was important)
- Criterion 6 (The structure or site contains elements demonstrating outstanding attention to architectural design, detail, materials or craftsmanship)

Properties proposed for designation under Palo Alto Criterion 1

Address	Criterion	Category
330 Cowper Street	1	2
818-820 and 828-830 Cowper Street	1	3

- Criterion 1 (The structure or site is identified with the lives of historic people or with important events in the city, state, or nation)

Properties proposed for designation under Palo Alto Criteria 3 and 5

Address	Criteria	Category
365 Hawthorne Avenue	3, 5	2

- Criterion 3 (The structure or site is an example of a type of building which was once common, but is now rare)
- Criterion 5 (The architect or building was important)

Properties proposed for designation under Palo Alto Criteria 2 and 4

Address	Criteria	Category
2931 Louis Road	2, 4	2

- Criterion 2 (The structure or site is particularly representative of an architectural style or way of life important to the city, state or nation)
- Criterion 4 (The structure or site is connected with a business or use which was once common, but is now rare)

Properties proposed for designation under Palo Alto Criteria 1 and 3

Address	Criteria	Category
218 Middlefield Road	1, 3	2

- Criterion 1 (The structure or site is identified with the lives of historic people or with important events in the city, state, or nation)
- Criterion 3 (The structure or site is an example of a type of building which was once common, but is now rare)

Properties proposed for designation under Palo Alto Criterion 4

Address	Criteria	Category
945-949 Emerson Street	4	3

- Criterion 4 (The structure or site is connected with a business or use which was once common, but is now rare)

Properties proposed for designation under Palo Alto Criteria 1 and 2

Address	Criteria	Category
619 Webster Street	1, 2	3

- Criterion 1 (The structure or site is identified with the lives of historic people or with important events in the city, state, or nation)
- Criterion 2 (The structure or site is particularly representative of an architectural style or way of life important to the city, state or nation)

BACKGROUND MATERIAL

In March 2022, Palo Alto's City Council directed City Planning Division staff to work with the City's Historic Resources Board (HRB) to review the list of properties that were previously deemed eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (National Register) in the 1997-2001 Palo Alto Historical Survey Update. The goals of the 2023 Historic Resource Reconnaissance Survey were to: (1) update the known list of historic properties to reflect their current status of eligibility as historic resources, taking into account that changes have likely occurred to the built environment in the last 22 years, and (2) prepare proposals to designate those properties that remain eligible historic resources to the Palo Alto Historic Inventory.¹ The above-listed properties, were previously determined eligible for the National Register either under Criterion A, for an association with important events, or under Criterion C, for their architectural significance. These properties were surveyed by Page & Turnbull and found to retain their historic integrity and significance, and are proposed for designation to the Palo Alto Historic Inventory.²

Properties Identified in the 1997-2001 Survey Update

Properties identified as "Eligible for the National Register" during the 1997-2001 Survey Update were found significant at the local level for one or more of the National Register's Criteria of Significance:

- Criterion A (Events):** Association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history
- Criterion B (Persons):** Association with the lives of significant persons in our past
- Criterion C (Architecture):** Embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction, or represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic values or represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction
- Criterion D (Information Potential):** Have yielded or may be likely to yield information important in history or prehistory

For each historic resource, Page & Turnbull identified the appropriate Criteria of Significance for the Palo Alto Historic Inventory that most closely corresponds to the previously determined National Register Criteria of Significance. The Criteria of Significance for the Palo Alto Historic Inventory are

¹ Any individual or group may propose designating a historic structure, site, or district to the Inventory according to the procedure found in the Historic Preservation Ordinance (Municipal Code Section 16.49.040). Properties nominated for designation are recommended by the Historic Resources Board and decided upon by the City Council.

<https://www.cityofpaloalto.org/Departments/Planning-Development-Services/Historic-Preservation/Historic-Registers>

² Page & Turnbull, *2023 Historic Resource Reconnaissance Survey*, August 9, 2023. Information regarding the survey effort and evaluation of integrity is included in this Survey Report.

listed below and the corresponding National Register Criteria theme (either Events, Persons, or Architecture) are listed in brackets:

- Criterion 1:** The structure or site is identified with the lives of historic people [**Persons**] or with important events in the city, state or nation [**Events**];
- Criterion 2:** The structure or site is particularly representative of an architectural style [**Architecture**] or way of life important to the city, state or nation [**Events**];
- Criterion 3:** The structure or site is an example of a type of building which was once common, but is now rare [**Architecture**];
- Criterion 4:** The structure or site is connected with a business or use which was once common, but is now rare [**Events**];
- Criterion 5:** The architect or building was important [**Architecture**];
- Criterion 6:** The structure or site contains elements demonstrating outstanding attention to architectural design, detail, materials or craftsmanship [**Architecture**].³

An assessment of significance was completed to determine under which Category of Significance the resource would be eligible. Thresholds for each category were developed by Page & Turnbull, in consultation with City Staff and with input from the Historic Resources Board. The definition of each Category is listed below and the threshold used for the 2023 Reconnaissance survey is listed immediately following each definition.

Category 1: An “Exceptional Building” of pre-eminent national or state importance. These buildings are meritorious works of the best architects, outstanding examples of a specific architectural style, or illustrate stylistic development of architecture in the United States. These buildings have had either no exterior modifications or such minor ones that the overall appearance of the building is in its original character.

Threshold for Category 1 Properties in 2023 Reconnaissance Survey: Properties that were designed or constructed by prominent architects and builders previously identified as significant or are excellent examples of a style.

Category 2: A “Major Building” of regional importance. These buildings are meritorious works of the best architects, outstanding examples of an architectural style, or illustrate stylistic development of architecture in the state or region. A major building may have some exterior modifications, but the original character is retained.

³ Palo Alto Municipal Code, Chapter 16.49 Historic Preservation. Subsection 020: Definitions.

Threshold for Category 2 Properties in 2023 Reconnaissance Survey: Properties that are good examples of a style or a rare building type. Associations with individuals who were found to have made significant professional or personal accomplishments that demonstrate and enrich the history of Palo Alto are also represented under Category 2.

Category 3 or 4: A “Contributing Building” which is a good local example of an architectural style and relates to the character of a neighborhood grouping in scale, materials, proportion or other factors. A contributing building may have had extensive or permanent changes made to the original design, such as inappropriate additions, extensive removal of architectural details, or wooden facades resurfaced in asbestos or stucco.

Threshold for Category 3 Properties in 2023 Reconnaissance Survey: Properties that are good examples of early development patterns, or are common or typical buildings that retain their historic integrity to a high degree. These buildings are not particularly rare but have very good to excellent historic integrity.

Threshold for Category 4 Properties in 2023 Reconnaissance Survey: Properties to be listed as Category 4, are similar in level of significance to Category 3, but have been altered to a higher degree and may have good to poor historic integrity.