

Purpose

The Cultural Resources Inventory is a guide to the City of Folsom's significant historical and archaeological resources. Staff has designed this program for use by private groups and citizens to identify, evaluate, register, and protect Folsom's cultural resources. The Cultural Resources Inventory Program encourages public recognition and protection of resources of architectural, historical, archaeological and cultural significance, identifies historical resources for City planning purposes and determines eligibility for preservation grant funding.

The Nomination Process

A cover letter must be submitted with the nomination form and must include the names and addresses of the applicant and the resource owner, along with a concise statement of significance. The statement of significance should clearly list the justification for the importance of the historical resource.

Nomination Submission

The applicant shall be submitted to the City of Folsom Community Development Department, who will then review the documents for completion and apply the criteria to the application. The Community Development Department will also notify the resource owner within 30 days of receipt of the application. After the 90-day waiting period for owner comment, or as soon as comment is received, the Community Development Department will then forward the application and comments, along with its recommendations, to the Historic District Commission. The Historic District Commission will then consider and determine the resource's eligibility for inclusion on the Inventory.

Questions and Answers

What protection does listing in the Cultural Resources Inventory offer?

Listing in the Inventory does not guarantee that a resource will be preserved. Projects that will affect resources may be subject to review pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). All projects carried out by public agencies are subject to environmental review (require preparation of an environmental impact report) as are projects involving privately owned properties when a permit or review is required. For questions related to a specific resource and CEQA review, please contact the local government or state agency with jurisdiction over the project.

How does the Inventory define a cultural resource?

For the purposes of listing, a "cultural resource" includes, but is not limited to, any object, building, structure, site, area or place which is historically or archaeologically significant, or is significant in the architectural, engineering, scientific, economic, agricultural, education, social, political, military or cultural annals of Folsom. Historical resources may be eligible for listing in the inventory if they satisfy the criteria established by the City of Folsom for this program.

What are the criteria for listing a resource in the Inventory?

While the significance criteria for the Inventory is similar to that used by the National Register of Historic Places and the California Register of Historical Resources, this inventory will document the unique history of Folsom. The resource must: be associated with events contributing to the broad patterns of Folsom's history and culture; be associated with historically important people; embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region or construction method, or represent the work of a creative individual; or have the potential for yielding important information in Folsom's history or prehistory.

How does a resource become listed in the Inventory?

Resources may be added in two ways: some are automatically eligible, including those determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, the California Register of Historical Resources, and California State Historical Landmarks pertaining to Folsom and its historical sphere of influence; other resources can be nominated to the Inventory by private organizations or citizens.

Does listing on the Inventory affect property rights?

Listing on the City of Folsom Cultural Resources Inventory does not grant any special privileges or impose any restrictions on private property rights. Rather it recognizes the resource as significant in Folsom's cultural and historical heritage and may assist the property owner in obtaining awards or financial benefits from outside agencies. Listing may also provide for application of the more flexible Historic District Building Code to structures outside the Historic District, if the owner of the property so desires. Cultural resources nominated to the Inventory may not be listed over the written notarized objection of the property owner. However, a resource whose owner objects to the listing may still be formally determined eligible for the Inventory. Property owners must be notified, sent a copy of the nomination and provided the opportunity to comment on the nomination. Property owners may specify that specific records of their property be confidential and not for public distribution.

What are the benefits of being listed in the Inventory?

The Historic District Building Code may be applied when the use of the Uniform Building Code threatens the historical integrity of a resource. Also, resources included on the Inventory will receive priority consideration for any funds available from the City of Folsom for historic preservation. Further, City of Folsom staff shall include a resource's eligibility to the inventory in its reports to City Council and all other decision-making bodies.

Where do I get more information on historical resources?

Further information about historical resources in Folsom can be obtained from the Folsom History Museum and Folsom Historical Society, the Folsom Chamber of Commerce, the Folsom Railroad Museum, the Folsom Prison Museum, and the Folsom Power House. These organizations can also direct you to other agencies, museums, and repositories available in the region.