
Chapter 16. Historic and Archaeological Resources

BACKGROUND

According to a review of available records by the Northwest Information Center of the California Archaeological Inventory, there are four recorded and eight reported prehistoric, and no recorded historic archaeological sites in the Davis planning area. However, less than 10 percent of the total area of the City has been archaeologically surveyed; therefore, there is a likelihood of additional resources in the Planning Area beyond those recorded and inventoried.

The City of Davis has shown its commitment to preservation by becoming a Certified Local Government (CLG), and thus is available to compete for special federal funds. This funding can be used for various preservation activities in the community. The State of California's Office of Historic Preservation and CLG's work in partnership to promote historic preservation efforts.

There are seven historic sites listed with the National Register of Historic Places, seven in the California Inventory of Historic Resources, and 149 with the City's Cultural Resources Inventory.

The city has an inventory of 31 historic landmarks. The Jerome and Mary Chiles Davis Homestead at UC Davis, the Dresbach-Hunt-Boyer Home at 602 Second Street, the Davis Junction train station of the California Pacific Railroad, and the Richards Underpass are examples of resources that are in the City's inventory. A recent update of the inventory has listed a number of additional properties with potential historic merit. This list does not have regulatory provisions associated with it.

The residential areas north of the Core Area consist of well-preserved neighborhoods of cottages and bungalows typical in the early 20th Century. While individual structures are not of great architectural significance, the neighborhood is a fine example of its type.

The city's Street Tree Commission has identified 98 "landmark" trees on public and private property. These trees are designated because they are healthy and unique as an outstanding specimen of a desirable species; one of the largest and oldest trees in Davis; historical interest; or distinctive form. Property owners and developers are asked to save these trees and to maintain them in good condition for the benefit of the present and future citizens of Davis.

Archives of local history are maintained at the Davis Branch of the Yolo County Library, the UC Davis Library, the Yolo County Historical Museum in Woodland, and the Yolo County Archives in Woodland.

GOALS, POLICIES AND ACTIONS

GOAL HIS 1. Designate, preserve and protect the archaeological and historic resources within the Davis community.

Policy HIS 1.1 Maintain an inventory of archaeological and historic resources.

Actions

- a. Maintain and update a map and an inventory of prehistoric and historic archaeological resources and historic resources, including but not limited to, underground sites, artifacts, buildings, structures, landmarks, districts, linear resources, landscapes, gardens, sites, trees and other vegetation.
- b. Establish archaeological or historic districts where significant numbers of archaeological or historic resources are grouped together. Areas to consider for such districts include, but are not limited to, College Park, Bowers' Addition, Old East Davis, the area between 5th and 8th Streets, and the Lincoln Highway.
- c. Work cooperatively with the University to identify historic resources and historic and prehistoric archaeological resources and to plan for their preservation.

Policy HIS 1.2 Incorporate measures to protect and preserve historic and archaeological resources into all planning and development.

Standards

- a. The City shall review proposed alteration to City-designated historic resources and improvements within historic districts utilizing the Secretary of the Interior Standards for Rehabilitation and Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings and the State Historic Building Code.
- b. A cultural resources survey shall be required for development sites where cultural resource conditions are not known (as required by the Planning and Building Department). Resources within a project site that cannot be avoided should be evaluated. Additional research

and

test excavations, where appropriate, should be undertaken to determine whether the resource(s) meets CEQA and/or NRHP significance criteria. Impacts to significant resources that cannot be avoided will be mitigated in consultation with the lead agency for the project. Possible mitigation measures include:

- a data recovery program consisting of archaeological excavation to retrieve the important data from archaeological sites;
- development and implementation of public interpretation plans for both prehistoric and historic sites;
- preservation, rehabilitation, restoration, or reconstruction of historic structures according to Secretary of Interior Standards for Treatment of Historic Properties;
- construction of new structures in a manner consistent with the historic character of the region; and
- treatment of historic landscapes according to the Secretary of Interior Standards for Treatment of Historic Landscapes.

Actions

- c. Establish standards, rules and regulations governing the protection, preservation, restoration, remodeling, reconstruction, redevelopment or demolition of historic resources and improvements within historic districts and the development or alteration of archeological resources, with the purpose of cultivating an environment that reflects Davis' roots.
- d. Research and adopt design and sign guidelines for future in-fill construction and remodeling within designated historic districts.

Policy HIS 1.3 Assist and encourage property owners and tenants to maintain the integrity and character of historic resources, and to restore and reuse historic resources in a manner compatible with their historic character.

Actions

- a. Continue to serve as a leader in historic preservation by preserving, restoring and reusing City-owned historic resources where feasible.
- b. Investigate and ascertain sources of public and private funding available for the preservation of historic resources.
- c. Prepare a "how to" guide for restoring historic and architecturally significant structures and make it available to the public.

- d. Provide design assistance, through staff or volunteers, to property owners, tenants and builders who work with historic resources.
- e. Develop incentives for property owners to restore historic buildings, such as reduced permit fees.
- f. Create a facade improvement program that encourages preservation of historic facades and exteriors.
- g. Create a property owner recognition program to reward citizens who have demonstrated excellence in maintaining and/or rehabilitating a historic resource.
- h. Create a program to encourage the reuse of salvaged architectural materials.
- i. Develop means of informing property owners with designated resources and trees with special designations.

Policy HIS 1.4 Preserve historic features of the core area and historic districts.

Standards

- a. The City shall establish procedures for demolitions and standards and/or guidelines for remodeling and reconstruction in Davis' older neighborhoods within and around the core area, generally bounded by First Street, Seventh Street, A Street and L Street (precise boundaries subject to further study). The objective would be to maintain the historic character of these neighborhoods.

GOAL HIS 2. Promote public awareness of the prehistoric and historic past of the Davis area.

Policy HIS 2.1 Add to the knowledge and understanding of Davis' past.

Actions

- a. Continue to establish, support and fund projects that will add to the knowledge of Davis' past. Activities may include oral histories, historic research and writing, additions to the Hattie Weber Museum collection, and school projects.
- b. Continue to publish and distribute educational and interpretive information about the City's historic resources, preservation

activities and architecture that exemplify our history as a railroad town, an agricultural center and a college town.

- c. Establish procedures and guidelines for the interpretation of historic resources (such as placement of plaques) in parks, landscapes, habitat areas, transportation corridors, historic districts and historic city buildings.
- d. Cooperate with civic organizations in the placement of appropriate monuments or plaques to publicize or memorialize historic sites.
- e. Encourage, participate in and promote activities and events designed to educate the community about Davis' past and its historic sites, structures and events.
- f. Work with the University and other partners to develop a regional history center showcasing archaeological, prehistoric and historic resources of the Sacramento Valley.

