

# AN EASY "HOW TO" GUIDE FOR PRESERVING SONORA'S ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE



## GOALS

- Perpetuate Sonora's ties to the past
- Preserve Sonora's authentic architectural heritage
- Retain Sonora's charm for residents, visitors and commerce
- Enhance Sonora's appearance with well designed new construction and historically accurate modifications and compatible additions
- Integrate previous landscaping with project and add old fashioned plant materials

## PROCESS

Each applicant for a building permit which would authorize new construction or exterior alterations, additions or modifications, shall submit a completed application and fee. The Planning Commission meets on the second Monday of each month (if that day is a holiday, the meeting will be held on Tuesday). The applicant will receive, by mail, a copy of the agenda and any staff reports prepared.

## Suggestions that take into consideration economic and technical feasibility:

- (1) A property shall be used for its historic purpose or be placed in new use that requires minimal change to the defining characteristics of the building and its site and environment.
- (2) The historic character of a property shall be retained and preserved. The removal of historic materials or alteration of features and spaces that characterize a property shall be avoided.
- (3) Each property shall be recognized as a physical record of its time, place, and use. Changes that create a false sense of historical development, such as adding conjectural features or architectural elements from other buildings, shall not be undertaken.
- (4) Most properties change over time; those changes that have acquired historic significance in their own right shall be retained and preserved.
- (5) Distinctive features, finishes and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a historic property shall be preserved.
- (6) Deteriorated historic features shall be repaired rather than replaced. Where the severity of deterioration requires replacement of a distinctive feature, the new feature shall match the old in design, color, texture and other visual qualities and, where possible, materials. Replacement of missing features shall be substantiated by documentary, physical or pictorial evidence.
- (7) Chemical or physical treatments, such as sandblasting, that cause damage to historic materials shall not be used. The surface cleaning of structures, if appropriate, shall be undertaken using the gentlest means possible.
- (8) Significant archeological resources affected by a project shall be protected and preserved. If such resources must be disturbed mitigation measures shall be undertaken.
- (9) New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction shall not destroy historic materials that characterize the property. The new work shall be differentiated from the old and shall be compatible with the massing, size, scale, and architectural features to protect the historic integrity of the property and its environment.
- (10) New additions and adjacent or related new construction shall be undertaken in such a manner that if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired.

*Source: Secretary of Interior's Preservation Assistance Division*



## BUILDING MATERIALS THAT ARE NOT ENCOURAGED

- Aluminum frame windows and doors
- Vinyl, metal and T-111 siding
- Detachable or etched window grids
- Shaded or reflective glass
- Tile roofing material
- Portland cement
- Plywood on exterior surfaces
- Synthetic caulking materials on old wood and masonry
- Paint colors that stand out

## STRUCTURAL CHANGES THAT ARE NOT ENCOURAGED

- Additional doors and windows
- Solid awnings
- Sandblasting masonry and old wooden surfaces

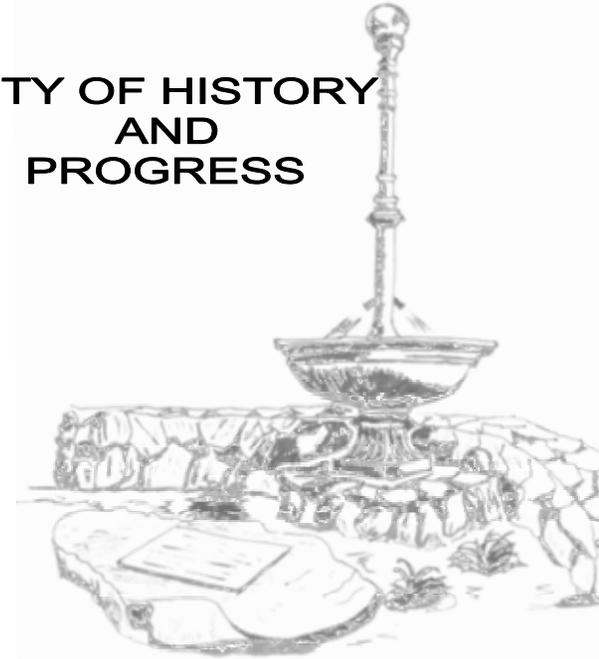
## INFORMATION AVAILABLE IN PLANNING DEPARTMENT OFFICE

- The Secretary of Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings (Current Edition)
- Rehab Right
- State Historical Building Code
- National Register of Historic Places application material
- California Register of Historical Resources application material
- California Environmental Quality Act, sections relating to cultural resources
- Americans with Disabilities Act requirements
- Sonora Municipal Code, sections relating to Design Review and Demolition
- City of Sonora Cultural Resources Inventories with photographs and histories of historic buildings
- City of Sonora Plant Guide
- Community Development Block Grant and Sonora Redevelopment Agency Requirements For Historic Resources

For more specific information contact  
City of Sonora C.D.D. at 532-3508

# SONORA

CITY OF HISTORY  
AND  
PROGRESS



## **DESIGN REVIEW INFORMATION**

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