



# SF Survey: Citywide Cultural Resources Survey

**SF Survey** (San Francisco Citywide Cultural Resources Survey) is a **multi-year effort** led by the San Francisco Planning Department to identify places and resources of **cultural, historical, and architectural importance** to San Francisco’s diverse communities.

## What is a Cultural Resources Survey

A **cultural resources survey** is the process of gathering and organizing information about places to better understand them and inform future planning decisions. SF Survey strengthens this effort by creating a more inclusive public record of places that matter to San Francisco communities.

SF Survey generally focuses on properties that are **45 years old** or older, which is a standard threshold used to consider potential historical significance. SF Survey looks at:

- Buildings and districts
- Sites, structures, objects, and landscapes
- People, businesses, organizations, and institutions
- Commercial corridors and residential neighborhoods
- Murals, monuments, and other cultural resources

## SF CULTURAL HERITAGE

SF Survey is part of **SF Cultural Heritage**, San Francisco’s historic preservation program. It brings together community knowledge, cultural history, and preservation tools to recognize and care for the places and traditions that matter to San Francisco’s diverse communities.

**SF Histories:** Understanding our Shared History

**SF Survey:** Identifying Historic and Cultural Resources

**SF Places:** Recognizing Important Places

To learn more about our efforts, scan the QR code or visit our website: [sfplanning.org/preservation](https://sfplanning.org/preservation)



## What SF Survey DOES

- ✓ Identifies historic and cultural resources citywide
- ✓ Includes community knowledge and lived experience
- ✓ Makes recommendations for Landmark Designations and Legacy Business Registry

## What SF Survey DOES NOT DO

- ✗ Change property rights or ownership
- ✗ Prevents a place from changing
- ✗ Automatically designates Landmarks or Legacy Businesses

## SF Survey Process

- **Fieldwork** documents existing conditions and how places relate to their surroundings
- **Research** gathers background information and community knowledge, typically through the Historic Context Statement process
- **Evaluation** brings together field observations, research, and community input to identify historic resources based on **SF Histories**
- **Community input** to understand how places are used, remembered, and valued
- **Adoption** of findings by the Historic Preservation Commission as “living” records”

## Share Your Stories

Community participation is essential to SF Survey. Lived experience, memory, and local knowledge help identify places that may not stand out based on architecture alone but are deeply meaningful to the people connected to them.

Information about current and past survey areas, findings, and maps is available on the **SF Cultural Heritage online platform**, the City’s public website where anyone can see what has been documented and how the work is progressing. The platform serves as a living cultural resources inventory, designed to grow as new information is added over time.

## Get Involved!

This important work is ongoing and collaborative with many ways to get involved. You can:

- Share stories and knowledge about places that matter to them
- Share photos, flyers, documents, memories, and oral histories
- Participate in outreach and research for findings in progress
- Sign up for updates and future opportunities to contribute

## Are you interested in partnering with us?

We are looking to collaborate with community-based organizations, cultural advocacy groups, historic preservation peers, and community knowledge bearers to advance shared goals.

Contact us at:  [CPC.Survey@sfgov.org](mailto:CPC.Survey@sfgov.org)

Photo: Bayview Opera House, by Sanfranman59 (CC BY-SA 3.0)



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