



CITYWIDE HISTORIC CONTEXT STATEMENT

1848-1989

JULY 2021

CPC.Survey@sfgov.org

WHY A HISTORIC CONTEXT STATEMENT?

“The development of historic contexts is the **foundation for decisions about the identification, evaluation, registration, and treatment of historic properties and surveys.** Well-developed historic contexts are critical.”

“Historic context statements provide the **basis for evaluating significance and integrity.** The purpose of the context statement **determines how broad or narrow** the focus should be. Whether developed for a single property evaluation, a register nomination, or a survey, **an adequate and appropriate context needs to be developed before making an evaluation.**”

-- California Office of Historic Preservation
https://ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=23317

WHY A HISTORIC CONTEXT STATEMENT?

“Historic context statements are a **specialized form of historical writing**... They are **not** intended to be a **chronological recitation** of a community’s significant historical events...**Nor** are they intended to be academic **exercises demonstrating prodigious research**, the ability to cite a myriad of primary and secondary resources...comprehensible only to professionals in the field. **Rather, historic context statements need to be direct, to the point, and easily understood by the general public.**”

“Historic context statements are intended to **provide an analytical framework for identifying and evaluating resources**...explaining what aspects of geography, history, and culture significantly shaped the physical development of a community...what important property types were associated with those developments, why they are important, and what characteristics they need to have to be considered an important representation of their type and context.”

-- California Office of Historic Preservation
https://ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=23317

HISTORIC CONTEXT STATEMENT FOR SAN FRANCISCO



The Citywide Historic Context Statement (HCS) for San Francisco is broadly organized into three Categories of Contexts:

Thematic: discusses broad patterns of the City’s built environment and major themes that had lasting impact on the form of San Francisco

Cultural Association: highlights the people who have shaped the City over its history

Architecture: outlines the type and style of buildings across the City and the people and firms who designed and built many of them

I. THEMATIC CONTEXTS, SUB-CONTEXTS, & THEMES

1. Residential (1880-1989)

Sub-context: A. Single-Family

- Early Residential Development (1848-1880)
- Residence Parks residential "Gardens in the City" (1906-1940)
- Sunset District Residential Builders (1925-1950)
- Developer Tracts:
 - Streetcar Suburbanization: 1880-1920
 - Auto Suburbanization: 1920-1950
 - Post-WWII Suburbanization: 1950-1989
- Industrial Workers' Housing
- Earthquake Shacks/ Refugee Housing (1906-1908)

Sub-context: B. Multi-Family

- Flats & Small Apartments (1915-1978)
- Single-room occupancy (SRO) Buildings, Apartment Hotels & Apartment Buildings
- Single-Family Houses
- Bungalow Courts, Courtyard Apartments, Garden Apartments
- Romeo Flats
- Edwardian-era Flats

I. THEMATIC CONTEXTS, SUB-CONTEXTS, & THEMES

2. Commercial (1848-1989)

Sub-context: A. Downtown Core

- Merchants, Leaders & Commercial Identity
- Hotels
- Finance & Commerce

Sub-context: B. Neighborhood Commercial Buildings (1865-1965)

I. THEMATIC CONTEXTS, SUB-CONTEXTS, & THEMES

3. Industrial (1848-1989)

– No sub-context–

- Regional Manufacturing, Shops & Mills
- Piers & Ports
- Warehouse Districts/ Design Districts
- Labor History, Leaders & Union Halls
- Van Ness Auto Row Support Structures

I. THEMATIC CONTEXTS, SUB-CONTEXTS, & THEMES

4. Government, Planning & Infrastructure (1848-1989)

Sub-context: A. Municipal & Federal Buildings

- Post Offices
- Administrative Buildings
- Fire Stations
 - Bond Measure Fire Stations
- Police Stations
- Libraries
 - Carnegie Libraries
 - Appleton & Wolfard –designed Libraries
- Parks & Recreation Buildings

Sub-context: B. San Francisco New Deal Era

Sub-context C: Military Presence

- Forts, Shipyards, & Civil Defense

I. THEMATIC CONTEXTS, SUB-CONTEXTS, & THEMES

4. Government, Planning & Infrastructure (1848-1989) – *continued*

Sub-context: D. Planning & Engineering

- Transit Infrastructure
- Auto & Pedestrian Infrastructure
- Waterfront Fill
- Public Places
- Redevelopment Agency
- Parks & Recreation
- Public Works
- Water & Power Sub-stations
- Auxiliary Water Supply System (AWSS)

I. THEMATIC CONTEXTS, SUB-CONTEXTS, & THEMES

5. Private & Public Institutional (1848-1989)

Sub-context: A. Houses of Spirituality

- Christian
- Jewish/Muslim
- Buddhist/ Shinto
- Hindu/Jain/Sikh
- Additional Spiritual Sites

Sub-context B. Recreation & Culture

- Cultural Institutions
- Sporting
- SF Underground
- Clubs & Social Halls

Sub-context C. Private Education*

Sub-context D. Public Education*

- Golden Age of Schools

• * Indicates Themes not yet identified.

I. THEMATIC CONTEXTS, SUB-CONTEXTS, & THEMES

5. Private & Public Institutional (1848-1989) - *continued*

Sub-context: E. Health & Medicine*

Sub-context F. Burial & Memory

- Cemeteries & Columbaria
- Funeral Homes

Sub-context G. Mass Media & Communications

- Telegraph & Telephone Sites
- Broadcast Stations
- Newspapers & Publishing

- * *Indicates Themes not yet identified.*

I. THEMATIC CONTEXTS, SUB-CONTEXTS, & THEMES

6. Events that Shaped the City (1848-1989)

– No sub-context–

- Mid-Winter Fair
- Marina & Panama Pacific International Exposition (1848-1930)
- Golden Gate International Exposition
- 1906 Earthquake/ Reconstruction
- 1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake
- Legislative Firsts

I. THEMATIC CONTEXTS, SUB-CONTEXTS, & THEMES

7. Other Contexts

Sub-context: A. Artistic Expression

- Murals
- Public Art
- Statues
- Literature & Music Sites

Sub-context B. Landscapes

- Designed
 - Thomas Church Gardens
 - Lawrence Halprin
- Historic/Vernacular
- Cultural

II. CULTURAL CONTEXTS (BY STATUS)

Priority

1. Ohlone/American Indian Historic Context Statement (HCS)

Adopted Contexts

1. JCHESS (Japantown Cultural Heritage & Economic Sustainability Strategy)
2. LGBTQ HCS
3. Filipino Addendum to SoMa HCS

In-Progress Contexts

1. Latino HCS
2. African-American HCS
3. Chinese-American HCS
4. Italian-American history documented thru:
 - a. North Beach HCS
 - b. Excelsior/Portola HCS
5. Russian-American HCS
6. Counter-Culture

II. CULTURAL CONTEXTS (BY STATUS)

In-Progress Data Collection

1. Women Architects spreadsheet
2. Women's Rights HCS
3. Jewish-American history documented through:
 - a. Russian American HCS
 - b. Excelsior Portola HCS
4. German-American spreadsheet

To Be Started

1. Irish-American
2. Other Asian-American

III. ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXTS, SUB-CONTEXTS & THEMES

1. Construction Methods

– no sub-context–

- Rare Construction Methods (Adobe, Skyscraper, Masonry Techniques, etc.)
- Unreinforced Masonry Buildings (UMB) (1850-1940)

III. ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXTS, SUB-CONTEXTS & THEMES

2. Architectural Styles

Sub-context A: Early Settlement Era Styles (1848-c.1880)

- Late Adobe
- Vernacular/Folk Victorian
- Greek Revival
- Gothic Revival

Sub-context B: Gilded Age Styles (c.1870-c.1900)

(Previously known as Victorian-era)

- Italianate/Flat Front Italianate
- Queen Anne
- Stick/Eastlake
- Second Empire
- Richardsonian Romanesque

III. ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXTS, SUB-CONTEXTS & THEMES

2. Architectural Styles - *continued*

Sub-context C: Late 19th & Early 20th Century Revival Styles (c.1890-1930)

- English Revival Styles
(Elizabethan, Tudor, Late Tudor, Georgian Revival, Storybook, Gothic Revival)
- Classical Revival Styles
(Beaux Arts, Classical Revival, Neo-Classical, Greek Revival)
- Colonial Revival Styles
(Colonial, Dutch Colonial)
- European Revival Styles
(Norman, French Provincial, Italian Renaissance Revival, Venetian Revival, Romanesque Revival, Roman Renaissance Revival)
- Globally-Inspired (non-European) Revival Styles
(Moorish, Islamic, Tiki, etc.)

III. ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXTS, SUB-CONTEXTS & THEMES

2. Architectural Styles - *continued*

Sub-context D: Architecture of the Progressive Era and Early 20th Century (c.1895-c.1935) (Previously known as the Edwardian-era)

- Edwardian Typology and Era Styles: Craftsman, Queen Anne, Prairie, Classical Revival
- American & California Styles
(Craftsman, Arts & Crafts, Prairie, Chicago Style, Early 20th Century American Commercial, Sullivanesque, First Bay Tradition, Second Bay Tradition)
- Spanish & Mediterranean Revival Styles
(Spanish Colonial Revival, Mediterranean Revival, Churrigueresque)
- Modernistic Styles
(Art Deco, International, Streamline Moderne, WPA Art & Architecture)

Sub-context E: Modern Architecture & Landscapes HCS (1935-1970) (ad. 2011)

Modern Styles included: Minimal Traditional, Contractor Modern, Mid-Century Modern, Googie, Contractor Modern, Eichlers, Ranch, Corporate/Miesian Modernism

Sub-context F: Modern Addendum (1960-2000)

Modern Styles that require an updated Evaluative Framework: New Formalism, Brutalism, Third Bay Tradition, Late French Provincial, Post-Modernism, etc.

III. ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXTS, SUB-CONTEXTS & THEMES

3. Architects', Builders', Developers', & Landscape Architects' Biographies

No themes, names listed in alphabetical order; includes education, firm history, known projects in SF and the Bay Area.

- Women Architects to be indexed.

- Architects to be indexed by associated Culture/Heritage.

NEIGHBORHOOD OR GEOGRAPHIC CONTEXTS

There are other contexts focusing on specific neighborhoods or portions of neighborhoods or other geographic area. Information from these will be incorporated into the three main Context categories, as discussed on earlier slides, and will be incorporated into survey findings which will be organized by neighborhood.