

March 16, 2026
Joint Planning Commission
and Design Review
Committee Special Meeting

PowerPoint Presentation

City of Orange Historic Preservation Ordinance



**JOINT STUDY SESSION,
PLANNING COMMISSION AND
DESIGN REVIEW COMMITTEE**

MARCH 16, 2026



Outline of Tonight's Presentation



- Current Regulatory Setting for Historic Preservation in Orange
- City's Priorities for Historic Preservation and Cultural Resources Ordinance
- Key Components of Preservation Ordinances
- Public Outreach & Next Steps
- Questions & Comments





Why Is Preservation Important in Orange?



- Priority in General Plan (Cultural Resources & Historic Preservation Element adopted in 2010)
- Fosters an appreciation and protection of the City's cultural resources, historic buildings & neighborhoods
- Encourages preservation of the places that give Orange its unique character and make the City a desirable place to live, work & visit





What Is “Historic” in Orange?



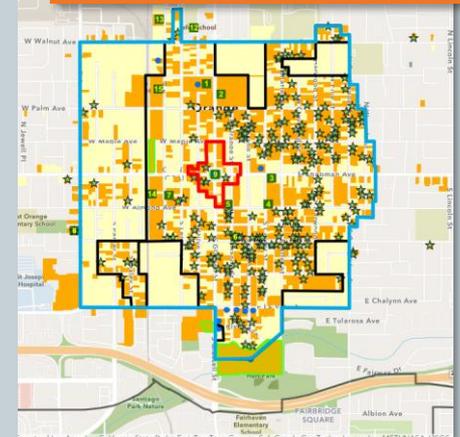
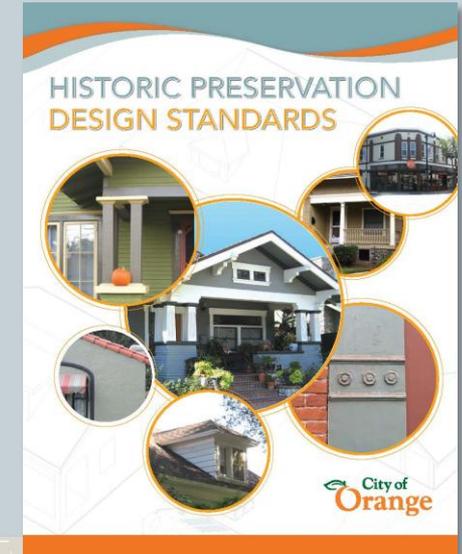
- Wealth of history, character, and cultural resources
- Not just buildings and structures
- Also archaeological and Tribal Cultural Resources
- Historic districts, neighborhood character areas
- Cultural landscapes, sites, objects, and places of value to the community





Current Framework for Preservation

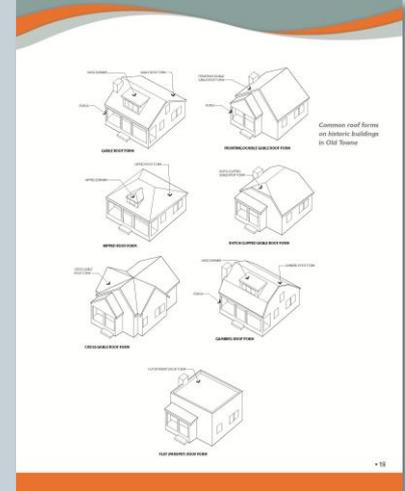
- Origins – Catalyzed in late 1970s, through citizen interest in historic downtown and surrounding neighborhoods
- General Plan 2010 Cultural Resources and Historic Preservation Element (includes archaeology)
- Ability to establish historic districts (as overlay zones, codified in Municipal Code 17.06.020)
- Mills Act Historic Property Contract Program (by resolution, no ordinance or program requirements yet)
- Planning Division preservation program
- Old Towne Orange Historic District Design Standards
- Eichler Historic District Design Standards





Current Framework for Preservation

- Design Review Tool Kit
 - Historic Preservation Design Standards for Old Towne
 - Eichler Design Standards
 - Specific Plans adopted for other designated landmarks
- Applicability
 - Design Standards only apply to these designated districts
 - Creates a gap in Orange's preservation program, since additional historic resources have been identified
 - Ability to create local historic districts but no local criteria or process for designation of individual landmarks





What Are the City's Priorities for the Ordinance?



- Outreach and coordination with Old Towne Preservation Association and Orange Legacy Alliance throughout the process
- Creating a Cultural Heritage Commission, Register of Cultural Resources, and process for individual and district designation
- Codifying process for “Neighborhood Character Areas”
- Defensible procedures and thresholds for demolition review
- Streamlined preservation project reviews
- Inclusion of Tribal Cultural and Archaeological Resources provisions
- Building clear nexus with zoning code, General Plan, and CEQA



What Are the City's Priorities for the Ordinance?



- Implementing the Cultural Resources and Historic Preservation Element
- Four principal Goals and Policies:
 1. Identifying and protecting historic resources
 2. Protecting neighborhood character
 3. Providing incentives and expanding education efforts for historic preservation
 4. Recognizing and protecting Tribal Cultural and archeological resources





Key Elements of a Historic Preservation Ordinance



11 Key Components of a Thorough Preservation Ordinance:

1. Purpose Statement
2. Enabling Authority
3. Establishment of Preservation Commission
4. Procedures & Criteria for Designating Resources
5. Procedures & Criteria for Actions Subject to Review





Key Elements of a Historic Preservation Ordinance



11 Key Components of a Thorough Preservation Ordinance:

6. Consideration of Economic Effects
7. Appeals Process
8. Enforcement and Penalties
9. Emergency Exemptions
10. Cultural Resources Provisions
(Tribal Cultural and Archaeological Resources)
11. Definitions and Severability





Public Outreach and Next Steps



■ **Public Outreach Meetings**

- ✓ February 2026: Met with OTPA and OLA in listening session
- ✓ March 25, 2026: Community Workshop, Orange Public Library

■ **Next Steps**

- ✓ Internal Review of First and Second Administrative Draft Ordinance:
May-July 2026
- ✓ Final Administrative Draft Ordinance:
Late July 2026
- ✓ Planning Commission and Design Review Committee Hearings:
August 2026
- ✓ City Council Hearings and Approvals/Adoption: October 2026



Thank You! Questions & Comments

