



CITY of CALABASAS

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION AGENDA REPORT**  
**OCTOBER 7, 2020**

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**TO:** Members of the Historic Preservation Commission

**FROM:** Tom Bartlett, AICP, City Planner

**SUBJECT:** Report and Discussion of the Recent Theft of One Historic Site Marker and Damage to a Second Historic Site Marker

**RECOMMENDATION:** Discuss recent theft of, and damage to, two of the recently installed historic sites markers

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**REVIEW AUTHORITY:**

The City's Historic Preservation Commission maintains authority over the review and approval of any proposed modifications to, or removal or relocation of, the City's seven designated local landmarks. Earlier this year the seven designated local historic landmarks were enhanced via the installation of informational plaques, which had been reviewed and approved by the commission and subsequently by the City Council.

**BACKGROUND:**

Earlier this year the City enhanced each of the seven designated local historic landmarks via the installation of informational plaques, which had been reviewed and approved by the Commission and subsequently by the City Council. The new markers were installed on July 16, 2020.

Unfortunately, two of the markers have now (already) been removed and/or damaged.

The upper (southern) marker for Old Topanga Canyon Road was stolen less than one month following installation. This was a post style marker that we had placed along the roadside at a little turn-out area, just inside the municipal boundary. The entire marker (to include the footing) was yanked out of the ground and taken away.

More recently the marker for the historic Benson House was either pried from its mounting base or knocked loose from it via vehicular traffic on the roadway. A local resident had found the damaged plaque lying in the roadway nearby and set it aside along the side of

the roadway to prevent further damage. The resident also alerted Councilmember James Bozajian of the situation, and Councilmember Bozajian immediately traveled up to the Calabasas Highlands to retrieve the plaque.

Staff research into the cost for replacing these markers has yielded estimates ranging from \$1,165 for a replacement plaque only (not installed) to \$3,250 for fabrication, delivery and installation of a complete marker, inclusive of all base components (post, podium and footing). Unfortunately these amounts falls below the City's deductible limit on our insurance policy so no claim can be filed.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

None.