



CITY of CALABASAS

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION AGENDA REPORT
MAY 17, 2023

TO: Members of the Historic Preservation Commission

FROM: Tom Bartlett, AICP, City Planner

SUBJECT: Discussion of Potential Survey of Historic Properties

BACKGROUND:

In 2009 the City's Community Development Department contracted with CAJA Environmental Services, Inc. for a Historic Context Statement and Historic Survey of properties in the City. The work focused on surveying individual structures dating from 1964 or earlier, although all properties within residential subdivision tracts from 1960 to the present time were excluded. When completed the survey had addressed 187 different properties, with the following results: one property was deemed eligible for listing on the State and/or National Registers of Historic Places (the Masson House); 20 properties (structures) determined to be potentially eligible for listing on the City's (Local) Register of Historic Landmarks; and another 95 properties (structures) were determined to be worthy of resurveying in the future.

Due to the passage of time, it seems appropriate now to consider resurveying at least some of the previously surveyed properties, and possibly also surveying a number of additional (new) properties / structures. To this end, Planning Staff has reconnected with Teresa Grimes, the person who performed the original survey (although Ms. Grimes works now independently from CAJA Environmental Services, Inc.). Staff inquired with Ms. Grimes about her thoughts and suggestions for conducting a new / updated historic resources survey.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS:

Ms. Grimes stated that a re-survey in the City would be appropriate, given the passage of almost 15 years. If a full survey were to be accomplished, Ms. Grimes suggests that the survey encompass all properties with structures dating from 1978 or earlier (e.g., at least 45 years old), and that properties within subdivision tracts developed between 1960 and 1978 should not be excluded. The original historic context and survey of properties cost \$41,000. Factoring in both 15 years of inflation and what appears to be a substantially

larger pool of properties, the cost for a resurvey effort will likely be substantial.

Staff intends to carry forward to the Community Development Department Director and to the City Manager the information conveyed in this report, plus feedback and suggestions from the HPC members. If the Director and City Manager believe the effort is worthy of City Council review and consideration, Staff will then prepare a proposed scope of services and secure a proposal from a qualified consultant for the intended work.

RECOMMENDED ACTION BY THE COMMISSION:

Staff recommends that the Historic Preservation Commission discuss options and offer input for conducting a resurvey of properties in the City.