Lost Landmarks of Ventura County

Common Reasons for Loss of Historic Resources

Lack of Awareness

Day House, Ventura

Photo: Stephen Schafer

Photo: Anthony Plascencia, VC Star

Limited public understanding of preservation's value and concerns over property restrictions can *hinder efforts to protect historic sites.*

Natural Disaster

Foster House, Ventura

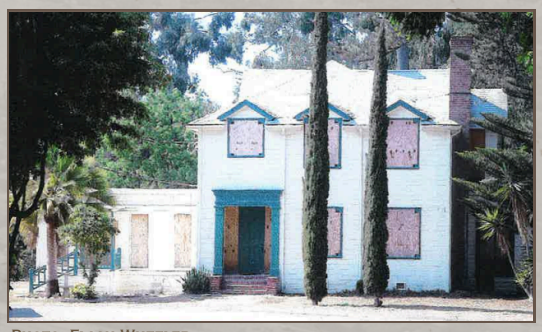

Photo: Flash Wheeler

Photo: Aaron Black-Schmidt, VC Star

***Earthquakes, floods, and fires* can cause severe structural damage to historic properties, sometimes leading to irreversible loss.**

Urban Redevelopment

Wagon Wheel Restaurant & Motel, Oxnard

Photo: Stephen Schafer

Photo: Stephen Schafer

***New construction and urban expansion* often can lead to the demolition of historic properties, as economic growth can outweigh preservation.**

What is the Value of Historic Preservation?

Historic Tourism

Historic preservation attracts visitors by protecting important landmarks and cultural sites, helping people learn about the past while boosting local economies through tourism.

Job Opportunities

Restoring and maintaining historic sites creates jobs in construction, tourism, and preservation fields, supporting local economies and skilled trades.

Environmental Responsibility

Preserving historic buildings reduces waste and the need for new construction materials, making it a more sustainable choice that helps protect the environment. Restoring existing structures also helps conserve energy since the resources used to build them have already been spent, reducing the carbon footprint compared to new construction.

Preserving History for the Next Generation

Preserving historic places ensures that future generations can experience, learn from, and appreciate the stories, architecture, and cultures of the past.

Historic Preservation Success Stories

Strategies for Quality Historic Preservation

Preservation In Place

Faulkner House, Santa Paula

Photo: Steve Cor

Robust public understanding of preservation's value and good stewardship **can help protect historic sites, such as the Faulkner House, pictured above. In recent years, it has been adaptively reused and now hosts special events.**

Relocation

Heritage Square, Oxnard

Photo: heritagesquareoxnard.com

Relocation is a last-resort preservation strategy that physically moves a historic structure to a new site to save it from demolition or environmental threats—*preserving the past by changing its place*. Heritage Square is a collection of relocated properties from Ventura County that now hosts businesses, events, and tours.

Interpretive Programming

Olivas Adobe, Ventura

Photo: User Los Angeles, CC BY-SA 3.0, tinyurl.com/38uzea4t

Interpretive programming brings historic places to life through storytelling, exhibits, and education—*connecting people to the past by making history engaging and meaningful*. Staff at the almost 200-year-old Olivas Adobe Historic Park offer historical reenactment tours and cultural immersion.

What Can The Public Do To Help?

1

Advocacy and Community Engagement

Support preservation by advocating for local landmarks, attending public meetings, and joining preservation organizations to raise awareness and influence policies.

2

Promoting Responsible Tourism

Protect historic sites by following guidelines, respecting boundaries, and encouraging others to visit and learn about their cultural value

3

Volunteering and Hands-on Participation

Volunteer for activities like site cleanups, research, or guided tours to directly aid in the upkeep and protection of historic landmarks.

4

Financial Support and Donations

Contribute to preservation efforts through donations, crowdfunding, or by visiting historic sites, as entrance fees often help fund maintenance.

Protecting Ventura County's Historical, Cultural, & Natural Resources

The Cultural Heritage Board works to preserve and protect historic, cultural, and natural resources and to foster an awareness and appreciation of Ventura County's rich history and variety of cultural resources among both residents and visitors. The Cultural Heritage Board has authority at designated and potentially eligible Cultural Heritage Sites within the unincorporated areas of Ventura County and in some cities under contract for cultural heritage services with the County of Ventura.

Learn more at VCLANDMARKS.ORG.

County of Ventura
Resource Management Agency