Conducted in January of 2012 by Applied Earth Works, Inc., the West Downtown Survey encompasses the area bound by De La Guerra to the north, State Street to the East, and bordered both to the West and the South by the 101 freeway. The survey was completed under the guidance of the HLC and staff of the Community Development Department’s Planning Division using methodology and criteria developed by the California Office of Historic Preservation and the National Park Service. The West Downtown Survey concluded that there were two distinct potentially historic districts within close proximity to each other. The Lower De La Vina District, set between Cota and De La Guerra, has its roots in the late 19th Century and early 20th. The district is primarily residential, and home to a collection of Victorian and early Craftsman bungalows. The Castillo District, which is slightly younger than the Lower De La Vina District, is also situated south of De La Guerra and is a prime example of the shift from Victorian styles to the Arts and Crafts bungalows that dominate the neighborhood. In addition to these two individually significant districts, many of the properties within the West Downtown Historic District

A streetscape in West Downtown features turn of the century Folk Victorian architecture.
are significant on their own. With beautiful examples of Craftsman bungalows to small Spanish Colonial Revival and National Folk style single family residences, the area covered by the West Downtown Survey could be described as a complete catalog of the architectural styles used in the early development of Santa Barbara’s residential neighborhoods. If you would like to see the original survey documents, please contact the Urban Historian, Nicole Hernandez at 805-564-5470.