



City of Santa Barbara
Planning Division

Memorandum

MEETING DATE: February 16, 2022

TO: Historic Landmarks Commission (HLC)

FROM: Nicole Hernandez, Architectural Historian

SUBJECT: **Proposed Standardized Plaque for Landmarks and Structures of Merit**

In an effort to honor our historic resources with a plaque, and to allow the public to know which buildings are distinguished with the historic designation of Landmark or Structure of Merit, the HLC Plaque Sub-Committee developed a standardized plaque that owners can purchase for their buildings without going through design review process.

Attached for HLC review and approval, are the proposed plaque designs for Landmarks and Structures of Merit. The plaques include the designation and indicate the year constructed and year designated. The City Seal was eliminated, as the detail was difficult to cast. They are consistent and easily identifiable. Staff will send a letter to owners of designated buildings letting them know they can purchase the plaques. The letter will include the designation date of their specific building.

Many owners of sites designated as Landmarks and Structures of Merit request a commemorative plaque. Unfortunately the City does not issue plaques as a result of listing, however having a plaque template that is simple for owner to purchase and will not require design review will further encourage the identification of historic resources. In addition, identification of historic resources meets Historic Resources Element Number **HR9 Increase Awareness of Santa Barbara Heritage** and **HR9.4. Enhance Recognition:** Consider programs that enhance recognition of historic resource.

Please see specification letter attached.



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Santa Barbara Historic Resource Plaques

As the owner of a Landmark or Structure of Merit, you can now order an official plaque to recognize the historic status. The City of Santa Barbara's Historic Landmarks Commission a standard marker with the official City Seal recognizing the importance of the resource.

Specifications of a City of Santa Barbara Plaque

Material: Cast Bronze

Background Color: Black

Thickness: Cast bronze plaques are 3/8" thick

Background Texture: Pebbled texture background

Finish: Satin finish with the raised portions of the plaque.

Placement

If mounting on the building cannot be avoided as it is the only place to mount the plaque, then it should be placed to the left or right of the main entry under a porch light (if one is present) at 60 inches above finish floor.

If there is an entry wall forming a courtyard to the building, then the plaque should be mounted on the entry wall left or right of the main gate/entry and within 12 inches of the top of wall.

Otherwise, the plaque should be mounted on a sandstone boulder placed along the main entry path of the building. The area of the boulder used for mounting the plaque should be prepared to receive the shape of the plaque.

Mounting

1. *Plaques should NOT be mounted to stone, tile, or other finish materials (other than plaster) that are on the building.*
2. *Only the bronze mounting hardware shipped with the plaque may be used for mounting.*
3. *Set the mounting studs in an epoxy and place a bead of caulk around the inside edge for waterproofing before placing the plaque and installing the anchor nut.*

An official plaque is paid for using private funds. The City does not pay for plaques. You can order the attached template with the specified date of construction and designation date of your building (please see attached for your specific building). City offices may not recommend a specific vendor, however you can call our office for a vendor that has our official template. **Note:** (Customized plaques that do not follow the official design approved will need to apply for Historic Landmarks Commission approval.)

City of Santa Barbara

**HISTORIC LANDMARK
CONSTRUCTED 1890**

Designated November 24, 2021

City of Santa Barbara

**STRUCTURE OF MERIT
CONSTRUCTED 1890**

Designated November 24, 2021