

## Table of Contents

<b>District Significance</b> .....	4
<b>District Description</b> .....	6
<b>Site Layout</b> .....	7
Lot Size .....	7
Front Setback .....	8
Driveways .....	9
Garages .....	10
Walkways .....	12
Landscaping .....	13
Fencing .....	15
Porte-Cochères, Trellises, and Decks .....	17
<b>Roof</b> .....	18
Changes to Roofline .....	18
Re-Roofing .....	18
Mechanical and Electrical Equipment .....	20
Dormers .....	21
<b>Exterior Cladding</b> .....	22
Paint .....	22
Wood .....	22
Stucco .....	23
Masonry .....	25
Chimneys .....	27
<b>Porches, Entryways, and Balconies</b> .....	29
Enclosure .....	29
Railings and Supports .....	30
Porch Steps .....	31
Porch Foundations .....	31

<b>Windows</b> .....	32
Window Replacement .....	32
Window Openings .....	34
Window Surrounds .....	35
Window Screens .....	35
Security Bars .....	36
Awnings .....	37
<b>Doors</b> .....	38
Door Replacement .....	38
Door Openings .....	39
Door Surrounds .....	40
Storm and Screen Doors .....	40
Security Doors .....	41
<b>Decorative Features</b> .....	42
<b>Additions</b> .....	43
Front Additions .....	43
Side Additions .....	43
Rear Additions .....	43
Upper Story Additions .....	46
<b>New Construction</b> .....	48
Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) .....	48
Accessory Buildings .....	49
Infill Construction .....	50
<b>Alterations to Non-Contributing Buildings</b> .....	51

This **DRAFT** section of the Long Beach Historic District Design Guidelines is part of a larger document created as a planning tool for the City's historic districts. The guidelines are intended to provide recommendations, inspiration, and advice as part of an instructive framework that will help guide sensitive changes to historic properties and encourage rehabilitation. By their nature, design guidelines are flexible. As such, outcomes may depend on the resource, the surrounding district, and the goals of the proposed project.

Any changes to the exterior of the property must be given prior approval by Historic Preservation staff through a Certificate of Appropriateness, and all projects may be subject to other City requirements not listed within these guidelines.

The first instance of certain terms throughout the Guidelines are highlighted in **bold** text. These terms are defined in a glossary in Chapter 5: Additional Resources (DRAFT IN PROGRESS, NOT YET AVAILABLE).

For additional information, please refer to the other chapters of this document:

Chapter 1: Purpose, Procedures & Overview (ADOPTED)

Chapter 2: Guidelines for Maintenance and Repair (ADOPTED)

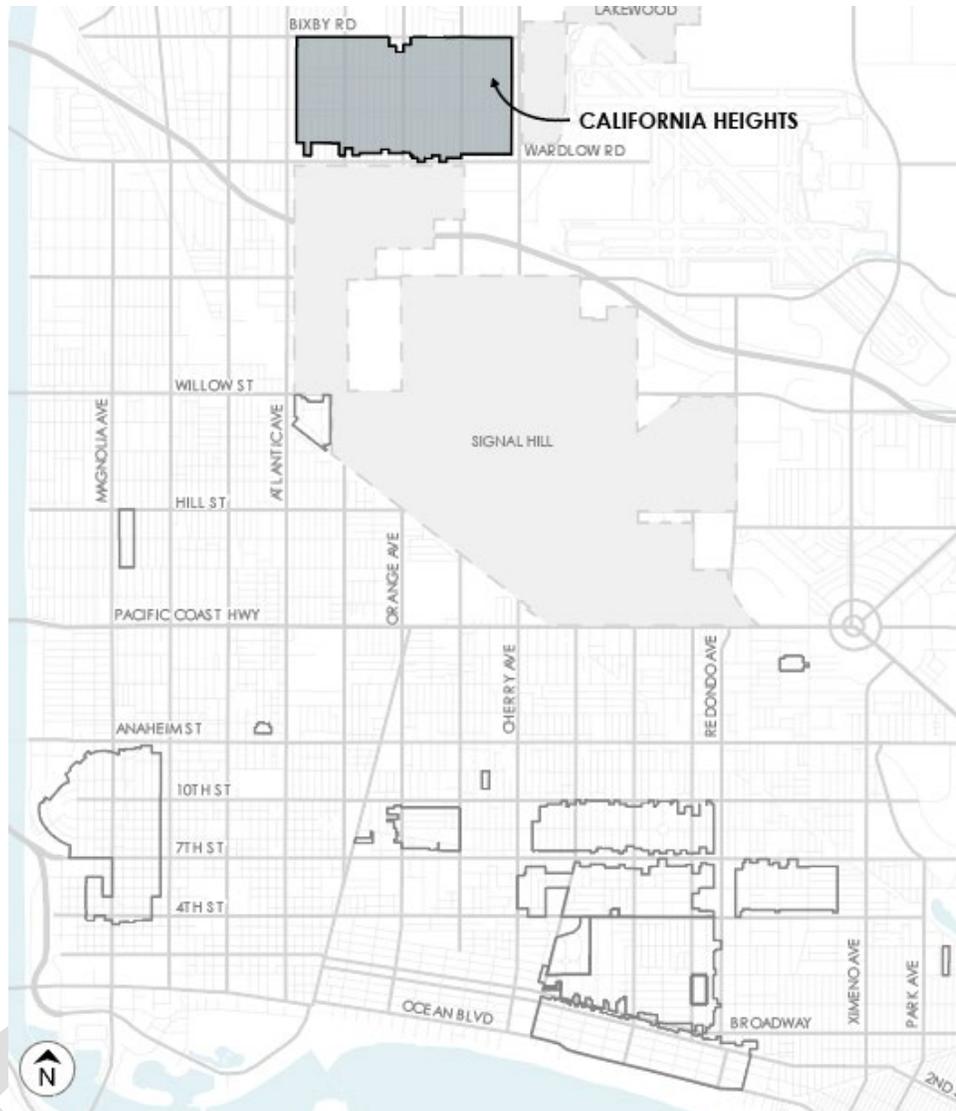
Chapter 3: Design Guidelines by Historic District (IN PROGRESS)

Chapter 4: Architectural Style Guides (IN PROGRESS)

Chapter 5: Additional Resources (DRAFT IN PROGRESS, NOT YET AVAILABLE)

[http://www.lbds.info/planning/historic\\_preservation/historic\\_district\\_guidelines.asp](http://www.lbds.info/planning/historic_preservation/historic_district_guidelines.asp)

## California Heights



### District Significance

The California Heights Historic District was initially established in 1990 and expanded in 2000. The district boundaries coincide with those of a subdivision from the 1920s. This subdivision was originally platted from Rancho Los Cerritos in 1920 and continued to expand eastward through 1929.

The 1920s was a period of intense economic growth in Long Beach, and the demand for housing increased as more employment opportunities became available. The contributing buildings in the district were built between 1920 and 1950, and illustrate three decades of economic and residential development in Long Beach. The homes in the district are predominantly designed in Period Revival styles, reflecting the popular taste of the 1920s and 1930s. The district also contains examples of earlier Craftsman style

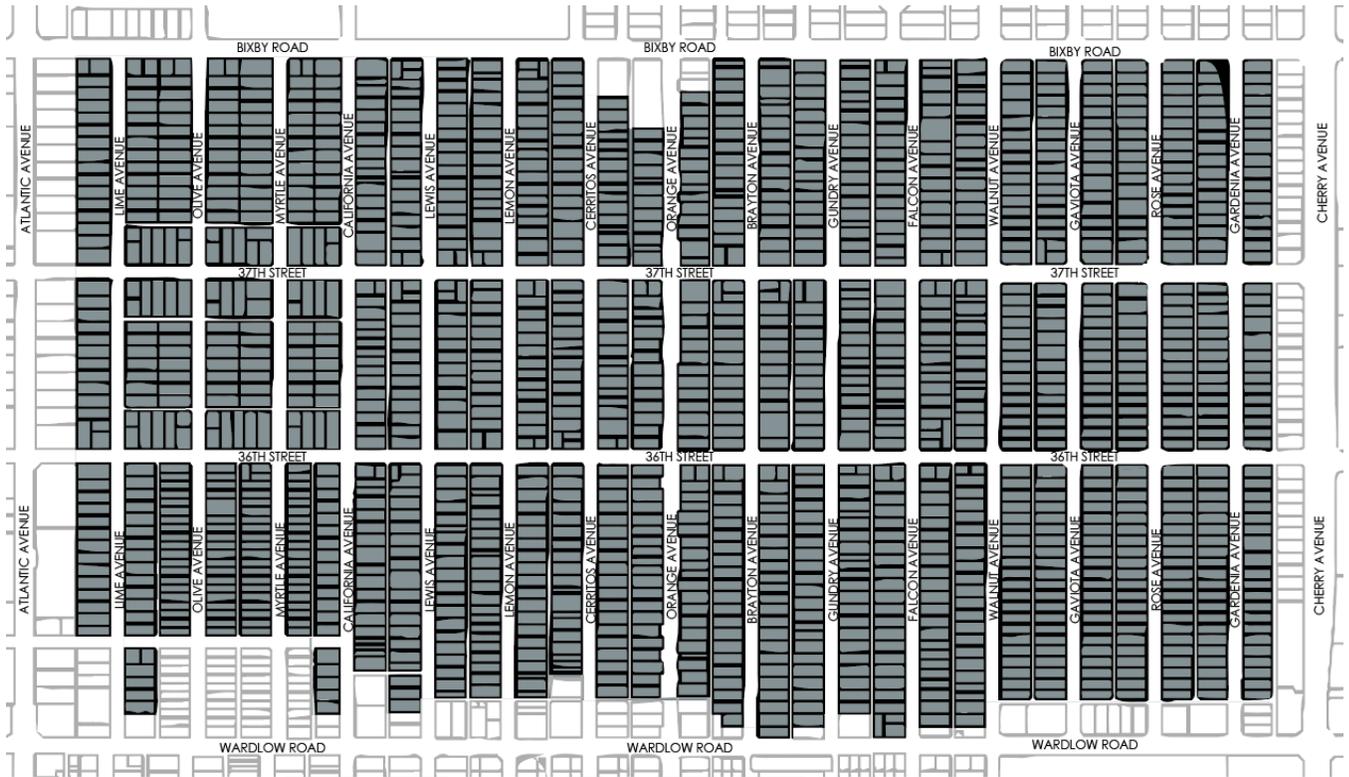
## California Heights

houses that were moved to the area as well as Minimal Traditional homes built during the World War II era.

- Established by ordinance in February 1990 (Ord. No. C-6704); expanded by ordinance on August 29, 2000 (Ord. No. C-7702)
- 1092 **Contributing**, 354 **Non-Contributing**, 134 Undetermined
- **Period of Significance:** 1920-1950

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## California Heights



### District Description

The California Heights Historic District is located in northern Long Beach. It is currently the largest historic district in the city, comprising over 1,500 parcels. The district is generally bounded by Bixby Road to the north, Wardlow Avenue to the south, Lime Avenue to the west, and Gardena Avenue to the east. The district is primarily made up of one-story single-family and multi-family residential properties that are largely designed in 1920s and 1930s Period Revival styles, including Spanish Colonial, Tudor, and Mediterranean Revival.

The streets in California Heights are gridded north-south and east-west forming rectangular blocks of around 30 to 40 properties. The streets are approximately 35' wide and allow for two lanes of traffic. There are narrow rear alleys that run along many blocks in California Heights. The alleys typically run north-south behind blocks of houses and are paved with concrete.

The sidewalks in California Heights are concrete and approximately 5' in width. The curbs are about 8" high and squared off at the edges. At corner crossings and driveways, there are sloping curb cuts. The street and the sidewalk are separated by an approximately 5'

to 7'-wide planting strip (parkway) that is planted with a variety of plants including grass, mature trees, and shrubs. Parallel street parking is available on both sides of the street within the district. Houses have driveways for automobile accommodation. Driveways are generally positioned along one side of the property between the house and side property line which provides access to the rear of the lot or garage. Front yards are open and do not have front-yard fencing, though elevated lots may be surrounded by retaining walls.

The California Heights Historic District is a large residential district with a high concentration of single-family Period Revival homes. There are also a number of Minimal Traditional homes and examples of earlier styles, such as Craftsman, within the district.

Common alterations include the installation of window awnings and security or screen doors.

## **1 Site Layout**

Most of the contributing properties are sited near the front of their lots with a generally uniform setback of about 25', providing a larger rear yard. The majority of the contributing properties within the California Heights Historic District have a detached garage at the rear of the property and a driveway located along the side property line that lead to the garage. Some blocks within the district have rear alleys that also provide vehicular access onto the lot to a rear facing garage; however, the alleys are not consistent throughout the entire district.

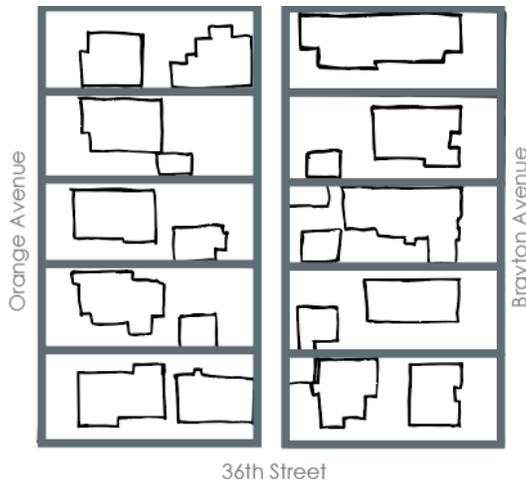
### **1.1 Lot Size**

#### **1.1.1 Changes in lot size are discouraged.**

The lot sizes in the California Heights Historic District are rectangular, and all very near the same size: approximately 25' to 55' by 150' with the narrow end facing the street.

Combining lots together or splitting lots is discouraged to prevent disruption of the visual continuity of the district, or the loss of a contributor.

## California Heights



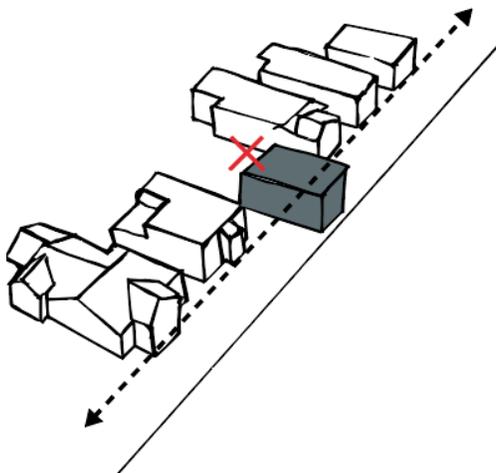
*Caption: The lots in the California Heights Historic District are rectangular and quite uniform in size.*

### 1.2 **Front Setback**

#### 1.2.1 **Changes to the front setback are not permitted.**

The contributing buildings within the California Heights Historic District have a generally consistent setback of approximately 25' from the street. Some properties may have setbacks that are less than 25', but the majority have a setback of around 25'.

Any change to the setback from the street on the primary elevation could cause a disruption in the visual continuity of the district or the historic relationship of a building with its site, and is not permitted. Furthermore, a change in setback may not be permitted by the City's zoning code.



*Caption: Altering the front setback (indicated with a red "x") would cause a visual disruption in the district and is not permitted.*

### 1.3 Driveways

Many properties within the California Heights Historic District have a side driveway that leads to a detached garage to the rear of the lot. Others have rear access to their garages from an alley.



*Caption: There is evidence to suggest that the driveways in California Heights were once dual-ribbon (left); however, many have been converted to a single concrete slab (right).*

#### 1.3.1 **Driveways should not be relocated or resized.**

The width, location, and configuration of existing driveways should be retained, as this will preserve the building's historic relationship to its site, and maintain the visual continuity of the district.

#### 1.3.2 **If a driveway requires replacement, it should be replaced in kind or with concrete in an appropriate texture or color.**

If the driveway is surfaced in an original, historic material such as brick or stone, this material should be retained and repaired as needed, and replaced in kind if damaged beyond repair.

Otherwise, a historically compatible slab or dual ribbon driveway with scored joints should be installed. The two strips of a dual ribbon driveway may be separated by grass or loose rock, such as crushed quartz or river rock.

If there is evidence to suggest that an existing driveway configuration, such as dual ribbon, is original, it should be retained.

**1.3.3 Repaving driveways with a visually different or contemporary material such as interlocking pavers or flagstone is not permitted.**

Most existing driveways in the district were constructed with concrete with scored joints, which is a historically compatible material. Removing the historically compatible concrete and replacing it with a visually different material such as fieldstone, gravel, or contemporary concrete pavers would not be compatible with the historic character of the district.

If there is evidence to suggest a driveway was originally paved with a different material, such as brick or cobblestone, this material may be installed in place of concrete.

Concrete, or concrete-like permeable paving materials with a comparable color, texture, and appearance are acceptable.



*Caption: Contemporary concrete pavers are not appropriate for use in the California Heights Historic District.*

## **1.4 Garages**

The majority of lots within the California Heights Historic District are occupied by a single-family residence located near the front of the lot with a detached garage to the rear of the lot. Many garages have been expanded and are typically accessed by side driveways or rear alleys.



*Caption: An existing detached garage in the California Heights Historic District.*

**1.4.1 Existing detached garages may be expanded or widened to accommodate larger, contemporary vehicles.**

Garage expansion should be considered first to the rear of the property; however, many of the detached garages in the California Heights Historic District may already be built to the property line. If additional space is needed, expanding the width of a detached garage to the side may be acceptable, as long as the addition or expansion is compatible in design, scale, and materials, and not highly visible from the public right-of-way.

**1.4.2 Historically detached garages should not be attached to the primary building.**

In an effort to maintain its original relationship to the site and the primary building, garages should remain detached unless there is no demonstrably feasible option to increase usable space.

- 1.4.3 **Other alterations to the exterior of an existing detached garage should follow the guidelines presented here for accessory buildings.**

## **1.5 Walkways**

- 1.5.1 **Where they exist, original walkways should be retained and repaired as needed.**

Walkways should always be regularly maintained and protected, and repaired rather than replaced. If replacement becomes necessary, the walkway should be replaced in kind.

- 1.5.2 **Walkways should not be relocated or resized.**

The residences in the California Heights Historic District typically have a narrow walkway leading from the front porch or entry to the sidewalk. The walkways are varied in location, material, and configuration, depending on the style and construction date of the house. Some walkways also have stairs when the house is on an elevated lot. Some of the residences also have walkways wrapping around the front of the property, leading to the sides and rear of the house.

The location, width, and configuration of existing walkways should be retained, in order to help maintain the historic feel and visual cohesion of the district.

- 1.5.3 **Walkways may be added to the side of properties where they do not already exist.**

The addition of a secondary walkway from a side driveway to the front door is acceptable, as long as the original, centralized walkway is retained. This will maintain the visual cohesion of the district. Any new walkways should be executed in a paving material that is compatible with the existing walkway, typically concrete with scored joints.

- 1.5.4 **Walkways should not be paved or repaved with a visually incompatible material such as contemporary pavers, gravel, or flagstone.**

Removing historically appropriate material and replacing it with another material such as contemporary concrete pavers, fieldstones, gravel, or dirt, would not be compatible with the historic character of the district. In instances where the walkway has already been altered, restoring it with a most

historically compatible material when the non-original material has come to the end of its useful life is encouraged..

In the event that an existing walkway requires replacement, it should be replaced in the same location and executed in a visually compatible material. Concrete, or concrete-like permeable paving materials with a comparable color, texture, and appearance are acceptable.

If there is evidence to suggest that a walkway was historically surfaced in a material such as brick or stone that has since been replaced, this material may be installed in place of concrete.



*Caption: Walkways in the California Heights Historic District are varied, depending on the style and date of the house, as well as the characteristics of the lot. Some examples of walkways include a straight, concrete walkway (A), a curving concrete walkway (B), and a brick and concrete walkway ending in stairs (C).*

## **1.6 Landscaping**

### **1.6.1 The existing planting area, yard configuration, and layout should be retained.**

The majority of contributing properties within the California Heights Historic District have a front yard. The majority of the yards consist of grass lawn, although some have been replaced with drought-tolerant landscaping. Many properties also have small gardens, shrubs, and mature trees. There is also a wide, grassy planting strip (parkway) in front of each building that separates the sidewalk from the street. Retaining the existing planting area, yard

configuration, and layout will help maintain the existing visual cohesion of the district.

Consider removing or trimming excessively overgrown shrubs, bushes, or landscaping that may obscure or highly detract from the visibility of a contributing building within the district to maintain the overall cohesive feel of the historic district.

**1.6.2 Drought-tolerant or edible landscaping may be acceptable within the existing planting area.**

Drought-tolerant or edible landscaping may be acceptable within the existing planting area if the proposed plantings satisfy all other applicable City regulations. Historically, many residences in Long Beach had a citrus, stone fruit, or avocado tree in the yard.



*Caption: Examples of existing landscaping in the California Heights Historic District.*

**1.6.3 Gardening edges and planters may be acceptable.**

Adding a garden or planter wall may also be acceptable, so long as it is low-profile, constructed of a compatible material, and does not obscure or damage any **character-defining features** of the primary elevation. The wall should be added in such a way that it does not penetrate the existing structure, and if it were removed in the future, the front elevation would be unaltered. Garden or planter walls should not be placed along the front or side property lines.

1.6.4 **Front yards should not be “hardscaped,” or otherwise paved with materials such as concrete, fieldstone, brick, or pavers.**

Replacing the historic planting area in the front yard with a hard, paved surface such as poured concrete or pavers would not be compatible with the historic character of the district and is not permitted.

## 1.7 **Fencing**

Few properties in the California Heights Historic District have existing front yard fencing. Open front yard areas without front fencing is a character-defining feature of the district. Where they do exist, they typically consist of a wood picket fence. Some properties have retaining walls where necessitated by the lot grade. These retaining walls typically consist of a low, stuccoed wall.

1.7.1 **Front yard fencing should not be installed.**

Generally, installing a new fence on the street-facing elevation is not recommended without sufficient documentation to indicate that it existed historically, or if the surrounding properties in the district do not have front yard fencing. Front-yard fencing is not a character-defining feature of the California Heights Historic District. As so few of the properties in the district have front fencing, the introduction of this feature would disrupt the visual continuity of the district.

1.7.2 **Side and rear fencing may be acceptable depending on the orientation of the lot.**

Height restrictions may apply, and vary by location. Appropriate rear fencing materials include vertical wood planks, **dog-eared** fencing, board and batten fencing, or other vertically-oriented wood fencing.

The use of prefabricated materials like vinyl and chain link are not permitted; these materials often appear temporary, and are rarely visually compatible with historic styles. Concrete block walls should be treated with a decorative finish that is compatible with the residence.

**1.7.3 Solid, decorative walls may be acceptable along the sides and rear of the property, depending on the orientation of the lot.**

Where concrete block walls exist on the side or rear property lines, they should be finished with an application of stucco and compatibly colored paint or other decorative finish.

**1.7.4 Gates may be added across the driveway for added privacy and security.**

While the addition of a gate may be acceptable, these gates should be set back from the primary elevation (front wall of the house), and should be made of material that is compatible with the style of the house, such as wood or wrought iron. Refer to the appropriate style guide in *Chapter 4: Architectural Style Guides* for additional information on compatible features.

Materials like chain-link or vinyl would detract from the historic character of the district, and are not permitted.

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## **1.8 Porte-Cochères, Trellises, and Decks**

### **1.8.1 The addition of a porte-cochere is not permitted without evidence to suggest it existed historically.**

Porte-cochères are not an original feature for the majority of contributing properties in the California Heights Historic District; however, historic examples do exist. In some cases, original porte-cochères may have been removed. If sufficient historic evidence exists to suggest that an original porte-cochère was removed, restoring the feature is encouraged.

The introduction of a porte-cochère to the front elevation that did not exist historically is not permitted, to avoid **conjecture** or creating a false sense of history.

### **1.8.2 The addition of a trellis (or pergola) or deck is not permitted on the front elevation without sufficient evidence to suggest it existed historically.**

To avoid conjecture or creating a false sense of history, the introduction of a deck or trellis-type feature to the front elevation that did not exist historically is not permitted. Tall, free-standing trellises or pergolas should be located towards the rear of the property.

Removing or relocating existing non-original trellises installed on the front elevation to the rear or side yard is encouraged.

### **1.8.3 It would be acceptable to add a trellis or deck to the rear of a property.**

The construction of a trellis, deck, or similar feature to the rear elevation would be acceptable, provided that it is not visible from the street.

### **1.8.4 The addition of a trellis or deck should not damage or obscure existing historic or character-defining features.**

New features should not obscure or damage existing character-defining features or historic fabric. Adding a new feature that would cover or require the removal of an existing historic or character defining feature is not

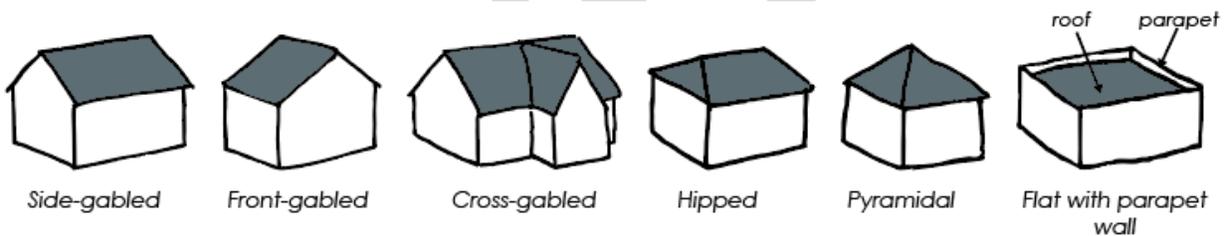
permitted; for example, it would not be appropriate to remove an existing walkway that existed historically to add a new patio and trellis.

**1.8.5 Climbing vegetation should be regularly trimmed away from the building and any historic fabric.**

Vegetation left too close to a building for extended periods of time, especially against wood elements, can cause moisture damage on wood and attract wood-boring insects. Please refer to *Chapter 2: Maintenance and Repair* for additional information.

## 2 Roof

The properties in the California Heights Historic District vary in style. The predominant styles are Period Revival, which draw from a wide range of inspiration, resulting in many different roof forms throughout the district, including flat roofs with **parapet** walls to **cross-gabled** roofs with open **eaves**, to a complex series of steeply-pitched **gables** and turrets.



### 2.1 Changes to Roofline

**2.1.1 Historic roof forms should always be retained.**

Radically changing the overall shape of the historic roofline—i.e., adding a gabled roof to a flat roofline, or changing the pitch of a gabled roof, is not permitted.

### 2.2 Re-Roofing

**2.2.1 Historic or historically compatible roofing materials should be retained or replaced in kind.**

Specialty roofing materials such as clay tile, wood shake, or slate should be retained and repaired where possible. If the roofing materials are

demonstrably damaged beyond repair or come to the end of their useful life, they should be replaced in kind or with a visually similar substitute. Composition shingles are not an appropriate substitution for clay tiles, and their installation is not permitted on buildings with historically clay tile roofs.

**2.2.2 Removing clay tile coping without replacing it in kind is not permitted.**

Clay tile **coping** is considered a character-defining feature and should be repaired rather than replaced. If the coping is demonstrably beyond repair, it should be replaced in kind.

If the clay tile coping has already been removed, installing historically appropriate clay tile is strongly encouraged. Not only is it a more historically appropriate and attractive finish to the parapet, the coping also provides a measure of protection to the roofline and helps to deflect water away from the building.

**2.2.3 Shingled roofs should be roofed with compatible shingles in a dark, neutral color and laid in a traditional, alternating pattern.**

Historically, many houses of this era may have been roofed using wood shingle or wood shake. The majority of these wood shingle or wood shake roofs would have been replaced with composition shingles over time, including the contributors in the California Heights Historic District. It is acceptable to install new composition shingles in a compatible color and laid in a compatible pattern.

If desired, wood shingles or a visually similar substitute such as cement shake may be installed; however, all new roofing must satisfy any other City requirements.

Some highly elaborate wood shake roofs, such as those with **coursed** shingle patterns and rolled eaves, should be replaced in kind. Composition shingles would detract from the historic character of these homes.

## **2.3 Mechanical and Electrical Equipment**

### **2.3.1 Rooftop equipment such as satellite dishes and solar panels should be carefully installed in an appropriate location.**

The rear elevation is the most appropriate location for most equipment. The equipment should not be highly visible from the public right-of-way, and should be carefully installed to avoid damaging the roof or other character-defining features.

### **2.3.2 Larger equipment, such as HVAC condensers, should be installed at ground level.**

Equipment installed either at ground level or on an exterior wall, including HVAC condensers, solar inverters, electrical panels, and water heaters should not be highly visible from the public right-of-way, and should be carefully installed to avoid damaging the building wall, roof or other character defining features.

If installing equipment on the ground level is demonstrably infeasible, or the equipment can be screened from view by the existing roof form, it may be acceptable to install it on the roof; however, installing it at the ground level is encouraged.



*Caption: Large equipment installed on a roof is visually obtrusive and can detract from the historic character of the district.*

## **2.4 Dormers**

A sensitively designed dormer could be an acceptable method to increase the usable interior space of a residence without needing to add a second story or rooftop addition, depending on the building's architectural style and features.

### **2.4.1 Dormers may be acceptable on a rear-facing plane of a gabled roof.**

Dormers should not be highly visible from the public right of way, and the most appropriate location would be on a rear-facing plane of the roof. Installation of a dormer on the primary elevation is not permitted. Due to the nature of a dormer feature, they are only feasible for buildings with gabled or otherwise pitched roofs.

### **2.4.2 Dormers should be compatible with the residence and its roof in size, shape, and design.**

The roof pitch and shape should mirror or compliment that of the overall roof. The feature should be appropriately sized so that it does not detract from the historic roof form or extend above the height of the original building.

When selecting the cladding, windows, and decorative detailing of a dormer, same guidelines for other additions should be followed, as detailed later in this section.

The design and placement of dormers may be subject to other City requirements not listed within these guidelines.

### **2.4.3 Removal of historic fabric to install a dormer is discouraged.**

Installing a dormer on a roof plane clad in historic material is not recommended, in order to avoid the unnecessary removal or destruction of historic fabric. In these instances, consider constructing a small rear addition to the rear of the residence, where feasible, in order to create additional space.

Many roofing materials within the California Heights Historic District have already been replaced with contemporary composition shingles; therefore,

constructing a new dormer onto a composition shingle roof would not destroy any historic or character-defining roof material.

### **3 Exterior Cladding**

As cladding covers the majority of a building, even minor changes can drastically alter its historic appearance. Please see *Chapter 2: Maintenance and Repair* for additional information on proper repair and maintenance of exterior cladding.

#### **3.1 Paint**

**3.1.1 Repainting the exterior of a residence is encouraged as part of regular maintenance.**

**3.1.2 Changing the exterior color of a residence is permitted, provided that the color scheme is compatible with the historic style and the surrounding district.**

Generally, lighter neutral colors are the most compatible with historic styles. Please refer to the appropriate section in *Chapter 4: Architectural Style Guides* for additional information and ideas for exterior colors. More guidance on paint products can be found in *Chapter 2: Maintenance and Repair* and *Chapter 5: Resources*.

#### **3.2 Wood**

**3.2.1 Original or historically appropriate wood siding should be retained. Replacing original or historically appropriate wood siding with a different material is not permitted.**

Original wood siding should be retained, with an emphasis on repair over replacement. If wood siding is demonstrated to be beyond repair, only replace the damaged portions in kind; building material in good condition should not be removed during replacement of damaged material.

The underlying cause of the deterioration should be determined and remedied or repaired before carrying out the repair or replacement of siding to prevent

further damage in the future. See *Chapter 2: Maintenance and Repair* for additional guidance.

Original wood siding should never be replaced or covered with a new or different material that did not exist historically, such as brick or stucco. Where wood siding has been replaced or covered with a new building material, restoring historically appropriate wood siding when the existing cladding has reached the end of its useful life, rather than replacing or repairing the non-original material is encouraged.



*Caption: This image shows original wood siding that was incompatibly covered in stucco.*

### **3.3 Stucco**

**3.3.1 Original or historically appropriate stucco with a sand or float finish should be retained.**

**3.3.2 Replacing original or historically appropriate dash or float finish stucco with a different material or texture is not permitted.**

Many properties in the California Heights Historic District are clad in stucco. The majority of the contributing residences retain a historically accurate sand or float stucco finish, while others have been covered with an incompatible, heavily textured stucco. As the existing non-original stucco comes to the end of its useful life, replacement with a more historically appropriate smooth textured stucco finish is encouraged, rather than replicating the existing texture.

## California Heights



*Caption: An appropriate float or dash finish stucco has a slightly rough, sandy texture.*

If historically appropriate stucco cladding is demonstrably beyond repair, it should be replaced in kind with a visually similar material. Replacing historically appropriate cladding with a new, incompatible material is not permitted. For example, replacing historically appropriate stucco with new stucco that has an extremely smooth or heavy, troweled texture would alter the historic character of the building.



*Caption: Heavily textured "lace" finish stucco (left) or extremely smooth stucco (right) are equally inappropriate stucco finishes for historic buildings, and should not be applied.*

Similarly, replacing the cladding on a contributing property in the California Heights Historic District with a new material that is not stucco, such as wood or brick, is not permitted. These materials would not be compatible with the historic nature and architectural style of these residences.

It may be possible to scrape away the highest points of roughly textured stucco and apply a smoother skim coat and dash finish for a more historically compatible appearance. However, a typical application of stucco consists of three separate layers that are less than 1" thick altogether. Multiple applications of stucco on top of one another can become too thick, and start to become flush with other historic features such as door and window surrounds, affecting the appearance and historic character of the building.

In order to prevent this, it may become necessary to remove the incompatible stucco to the lathe or masonry below (while carefully protecting any surrounding historic fabric from damage) and replace it with new stucco that has a historically appropriate finish, texture, and color.

**3.3.3 Sandblasting stucco is prohibited.**

Sandblasting stucco can cause it to deteriorate entirely and should therefore never be used as a cleaning method for original stucco. If stucco requires cleaning, gentler methods should be utilized. See *Chapter 2: Maintenance and Repair* for additional guidance.

**3.4 Masonry**

**3.4.1 Original or historically appropriate masonry should be retained. Replacing or covering this masonry with a different material is not permitted.**

Exterior masonry should be retained, with an emphasis on repair over replacement. Masonry should never be replaced or covered with a new or different material that did not exist historically, such as stucco. Where masonry has been replaced or covered with a new building material, restoring historically appropriate masonry when the existing cladding has reached the end of its useful life, rather than replacing or repairing the non-original material is encouraged

**3.4.2 In the event that masonry is demonstrated to be beyond repair, patching or consolidating individual units may be preferable to replacement in kind.**

Masonry can often be carefully patched with certain appropriate compounds. If necessary, it may be acceptable to consolidate historic masonry units on the most visible elevations of the historic building. If masonry units are beyond repair and consolidation is not possible, the units should be replaced in kind.

**3.4.3 Replacement of masonry should be restricted to the areas that need them.**

Historic building materials that are in good condition should not be removed when only a small area requires replacement. In the event that the majority of the masonry cladding is demonstrably damaged beyond repair, it should be replaced in kind with masonry units of a similar shape, size, color, bond, and mortar.

**3.4.4 Painting exterior masonry is not recommended.**

Painting masonry walls is not recommended unless there is sufficient evidence to suggest they were painted historically. Paint is not only difficult to remove from masonry, but it can drastically alter the character of the historic feature, especially when the materials were chosen for their appearance as part of the overall design of the building.

Similarly, masonry that is painted should not be stripped of its paint without sufficient historic evidence that it was historically unpainted.

**3.4.5 Sandblasting masonry is prohibited.**

Sandblasting can cause irreparable damage to masonry units—especially brick—leaving them highly susceptible to damage over time. If masonry requires cleaning, gentler methods should be utilized. See *Chapter 2: Maintenance and Repair* for additional guidance.

	If the existing cladding is...		
	Historic/ Original	Architecturally Compatible/ Period Appropriate	Architecturally Incompatible/ Non-Period
Retaining it is...	<i>Encouraged.</i>	<i>Acceptable.</i>	<i>Discouraged.</i>
Repairing it is...	<i>Encouraged as part of regular maintenance and proper care.</i>	<i>Encouraged as part of regular maintenance and proper care.</i>	<i>Acceptable to prevent damage to surrounding features; however, replacement is preferred.</i>
Replacing it is...	<i>Not permitted, unless damaged beyond repair. Replace in kind.</i>	<i>Acceptable, as long as the replacement is also compatible.</i>	<i>Encouraged. The replacement must be compatible.</i>

### 3.5 Chimneys

Many contributing properties in the California Heights Historic District have original chimneys. The chimneys are made of various materials, but are typically masonry. Some are clad in stucco.



*Caption: A chimney on a contributing property in the California Heights Historic District.*

3.5.1 **Chimneys should not be added where they did not historically exist, to avoid creating a false sense of history.**

3.5.2 **Original chimneys should not be removed or altered.**

If the feature is no longer desired, inactive chimneys may be sealed, as long as their original external appearance is retained. The design, size, height, or dimensions of the chimney should not be changed.

3.5.3 **If a chimney is demonstrably beyond repair and must be removed, it should be replaced in kind.**

Removing a damaged historic feature and neglecting to replace it in kind or with a compatible design is not permitted.

3.5.4 **Painting a masonry chimney is not recommended.**

Painting over a masonry chimney is not recommended unless there is sufficient evidence to suggest it was painted historically. Paint is not only difficult to remove from masonry, but it can drastically alter the character of the historic feature. Similarly, masonry that is painted should not be stripped of its paint without sufficient historic evidence that it was historically unpainted.

3.5.5 **Chimneys should not be covered in any other material.**

The material covering a chimney should be retained and repaired as needed. See *Chapter 2: Maintenance and Repair* for additional guidance.

The existing material should not be covered with any other material. For example, a masonry chimney should not be covered in stucco or stone veneer.

## 4 Porches, Entryways, and Balconies

Porches and entryways are visually dominant features on a historic building, especially for residences. Even minor changes to an entryway can drastically alter the appearance of the building and could affect its historic character. Therefore, careful attention should be made when proposing alterations to the porch or entryways.

As with roofs, the porches and entryways of residences in the California Heights Historic District are as widely varied as the architectural styles themselves.



### 4.1 Enclosure

#### 4.1.1 Enclosing a porch or balcony on elevations visible from the public right of way is not permitted.

Enclosing the porch area drastically alters the appearance of buildings and affects their historic character. As such, enclosing the porch on a contributing property within the California Heights Historic District is not permitted.

In instances where porches have already been enclosed, restoration of the original features and configuration using historic documentation is strongly encouraged.

Similarly, an original **balcony** or **balconette** visible from the public right of way should not be removed or enclosed.



*Caption: A balconette on a contributor in the California Heights Historic District.*

## **4.2 Railings and Supports**

### **4.2.1 The introduction of railings where they did not exist historically is not recommended.**

The introduction of railings where they did not exist historically is not recommended; however, should the addition of a railing be required for safety, please refer to appropriate section in *Chapter 4: Architectural Style Guides* for a compatible option.

### **4.2.2 Original railings and supports should be retained.**

Where they exist, historic features like railings, porch supports, **porch piers**, or **balustrades** should always be regularly maintained and protected, and repaired rather than replaced. Replacement should only be considered when the feature is demonstrated to be damaged beyond repair.

In the event that an original feature is demonstrated to be damaged beyond repair and needs to be replaced, it should be replaced in kind or with an equally compatible feature. Use the existing feature to guide the new design, or refer to the appropriate style guide in *Chapter 4: Architectural Style Guides* for additional information on compatible features.

## **4.3 Porch Steps**

### **4.3.1 Porch steps should not be removed, relocated, or resized.**

The residences in the California Heights Historic District typically have a set of steps leading to the elevated front porch, often made of concrete with scored joints or brick. Altering the location or configuration of a centralized set of porch steps could affect the home's historic character and is not permitted.

### **4.3.2 Original or historically appropriate steps should remain. Non-original or incompatible materials should not be introduced.**

Historically, the majority of steps and porch floors in the California Heights Historic District would have been concrete or possibly brick. Installing incompatible new steps or covering the existing steps and porch floor with a new material or texture, such as tile, contemporary pavers, or fieldstone veneer, on a street-facing elevation is not permitted.

### **4.3.3 Concrete may be painted as desired in compatible colors.**

Please see the appropriate style guide in *Chapter 4: Architectural Style Guides* for compatible colors.

## **4.4 Porch Foundations**

### **4.4.1 Porch foundations should be retained and repaired or replaced in kind.**

The porch foundations within the California Heights Historic District vary by style. Where they exist, original materials should be treated the same as the exterior cladding, and should not be covered with an incompatible new material such as fieldstone or brick veneer.

Where the porch foundations have been covered with an incompatible new material, removing this material and restore a more historically compatible appearance is encouraged.

## 5 Windows

Removing or replacing historic windows is one of the most detrimental changes that can be made to a historic home; preservation of historically appropriate windows is critical to maintaining the historic character of a property. As the old saying goes, if the eyes are the windows to the soul, then the windows are the soul of a house.

Many windows in the California Heights Historic District appear to be original, or are generally compatible with their respective historic styles, which include a variety of wood and steel windows. Others have been incompatibly replaced over time with inappropriate materials such as vinyl.



*Caption: Historically compatible or original wood windows (top) are always preferable to incompatible replacements, especially horizontal sliding vinyl or aluminum (bottom).*

### 5.1 Window Replacement

#### 5.1.1 Original or historically appropriate windows should be retained.

Historic windows should always be regularly maintained and protected, and repaired rather than replaced. Replacement should only be considered when the window is demonstrated to be damaged beyond repair.

In the event that an original window on any elevation is demonstrated to be damaged beyond repair and needs to be replaced, it should be replaced in kind. Use the historic window to guide the new design, or refer to the appropriate style guide in *Chapter 4: Architectural Style Guides* for additional information on compatible windows. Refer to *Chapter 2: Maintenance and*

*Repair* for additional information on maintaining and repairing historic windows, as well as information about energy efficiency.

**5.1.2 The City of Long Beach does not allow the installation of new incompatible windows—such as vinyl or aluminum—on historic buildings.**

In the event that an existing, incompatible window requires replacement on a contributing building, its replacement must be a window in a style that is compatible with the appropriate style guide in *Chapter 4: Architectural Style Guides*. Replacement using historically appropriate window(s) may be a condition of approval for new Certificates of Appropriateness.

Vinyl windows are not permitted within historic districts, even on non-contributing buildings. In the event that an existing vinyl window requires replacement on a non-contributing building, it should be replaced with a more compatible material from its period of construction. Where applicable, the use of a style guide in *Chapter 4: Architectural Style Guides* is encouraged.

	If the existing window is...		
	Historic/ Original	Architecturally Compatible/ Period Appropriate	Architecturally Incompatible/ Non-Period
Retaining it is...	<i>Encouraged.</i>	<i>Acceptable.</i>	<i>Discouraged.</i>
Repairing it is...	<i>Encouraged as part of regular maintenance and proper care.</i>	<i>Encouraged as part of regular maintenance and proper care.</i>	<i>Acceptable to prevent damage to surrounding features; however, replacement is preferred.</i>
Replacing it is...	<i>Not permitted, unless damaged beyond repair. Replace in kind.</i>	<i>Acceptable, as long as the replacement is also compatible.</i>	<i>Encouraged. The replacement must be compatible.</i>

## 5.2 Window Openings

### 5.2.1 Changing the size, shape, number, or location of window openings on elevations visible from the street is not permitted.

Windows are character-defining features on a historic building, and these alterations would drastically affect the historic character. Retaining original window opening sizes and locations on all elevations, particularly if they are original is encouraged. Changing the size and number of window openings on the front elevation is not permitted.

Changing the size, placement, or number of window openings on the rear or side elevations, not visible from the street, may be acceptable if there is a compelling reason to do so, such as an approved addition that changes the floor plan.

Where window openings have already been altered, restoring the original openings rather than replacing a window in the new, non-original opening is encouraged.

The size of a window opening should never be altered to accommodate a new window; rather, the window should be sized to fit the historic window opening.



*Caption: Changing window openings can leave "scars" on the exterior of a building. Red arrows indicate the original extent of the opening.*

### **5.3 Window Surrounds**

#### **5.3.1 Original window surrounds, often made of wood, should be retained.**

In the event that an original window surround on any elevation is demonstrated to be damaged beyond repair and needs to be replaced, it should be replaced in kind. Use the existing feature to guide the new design, or refer to the appropriate style guide in *Chapter 4: Architectural Style Guides* for additional information on compatible options.

### **5.4 Window Screens**

#### **5.4.1 Window screens may be added to the primary elevation, provided that they are sensitively designed and carefully installed.**

Window screens sized to match the original windows that have narrow, wood frames and are painted to correspond with the building's trim are recommended. The screen itself should be relatively transparent, and should not obscure the window behind it. Retractable screens may also be acceptable. Aluminum-framed screens are discouraged; vinyl-framed screens are not permitted.



*Caption: This compatible window screen is sized to the window and has a narrow wood frame painted to match the building's trim.*

#### **5.4.2 Installing window screens on rear elevations not visible from the street is acceptable.**

## 5.5 Security Bars

### 5.5.1 Adding visually obtrusive security bars on the primary or side elevations is generally not recommended.

Consider less visually obtrusive security measures such as interior locks, swing-away interior mounted security bars, and wireless security sensors, where feasible. This equipment should be installed carefully so as to avoid damaging historic windows, even from the interior. Damage, especially to wood windows, may leave the window susceptible to deterioration.



*Caption: Security bars are visually obtrusive and incompatible. Other security measures are encouraged.*

### 5.5.2 Installing security bars on rear elevations not visible from the street is acceptable.

## **5.6 Awnings**

- 5.6.1 **Awnings are generally discouraged on primary or side elevations, but may be appropriate depending on the architectural style of the building.**

It may be appropriate to install cloth awnings on Spanish Colonial or similar style properties; however, the use of other methods of increasing shade or privacy, including interior shutters or window treatments is encouraged before deciding to install exterior awnings.

Awnings are not compatible with all architectural styles. For example, should not be installed on a Craftsman or similar styled residence. Awnings are incompatible with these styles, and other methods of increasing shade or privacy should be used.

Please refer to the applicable style guide in *Chapter 4: Architectural Style Guides* for additional information on awnings.

- 5.6.2 **Installing awnings on rear elevations not visible from the street may be acceptable.**

## 6 Doors



*Caption: A historically compatible door in the California Heights Historic District.*

Many of the original and historically compatible doors in the California Heights Historic District are paneled or partially-**glazed** wood doors.

### **6.1 Door Replacement**

#### **6.1.1 Original or historically appropriate doors should be retained.**

Original or historically appropriate doors should always be regularly maintained and protected, and repaired rather than replaced. Replacement should only be considered when the door is demonstrably damaged beyond repair.

In the event that an original or historically appropriate door on any elevation is demonstrated to be damaged beyond repair and needs to be replaced, it should be replaced in kind. Use the historic door to guide the new design, or refer to the appropriate section in *Chapter 4: Architectural Style Guides* for additional information on compatible doors .

Generally, door replacement on secondary elevations is less visually obtrusive than replacing doors on the primary elevation; however, the use of compatible doors, even on the rear, is encouraged.

	If the existing door is...		
	Historic/ Original	Architecturally Compatible/ Period Appropriate	Architecturally Incompatible/ Non-Period
Retaining it is...	<i>Encouraged.</i>	<i>Acceptable.</i>	<i>Discouraged.</i>
Repairing it is...	<i>Encouraged as part of regular maintenance and proper care.</i>	<i>Encouraged as part of regular maintenance and proper care.</i>	<i>Acceptable to prevent damage to surrounding features; however, replacement is preferred.</i>
Replacing it is...	<i>Not permitted, unless damaged beyond repair. Replace in kind.</i>	<i>Acceptable, as long as the replacement is also compatible.</i>	<i>Encouraged. The replacement must be compatible.</i>

## 6.2 Door Openings

### 6.2.1 Changing the size, shape, number, or location of door openings on elevations visible from the street is not permitted.

Changing the size, location, or number of door openings on the front elevation is not permitted.

Where door openings have already been altered, restoring the original openings rather than replacing a door in the new, non-original opening is encouraged

The size of the door opening should never be altered to accommodate a new door; rather, the door should be sized to fit the historic opening. Otherwise altering a door opening to accommodate features such as **sidelights**, **fanlights**, or **transoms** that did not historically exist is not permitted.

Changing the size, placement, or number of door openings on the rear or side elevations, not visible from the street, may be acceptable if there is a compelling reason to do so, such as an approved addition that changes the floor plan. However, retaining the original door opening sizes and locations on all elevations, particularly if they are original, is encouraged.

## **6.3 Door Surrounds**

### **6.3.1 Original door surrounds, often made of wood, should be retained.**

In the event that a door window surround on any elevation is demonstrated to be damaged beyond repair and needs to be replaced, it should be replaced in kind. Use the existing feature to guide the new design, or refer to the appropriate style guide in *Chapter 4: Architectural Style Guides* for additional information on compatible options.

## **6.4 Storm and Screen Doors**

### **6.4.1 The installation of a storm or screen door on the primary elevation for light or ventilation may be acceptable.**

Installing a **storm door** (glass enclosure) or **screen door** (mesh enclosure) may be acceptable if the feature is sensitively designed and carefully installed. Storm or screen doors that are sized to match the original door, have narrow, wood frames, and are painted to correspond with the building's trim or primary door are recommended. The screen or glass itself should be relatively transparent, and should not obscure the door behind it. Metal-framed screen or storm doors are discouraged. Vinyl-framed screen or storm doors are not permitted.



*Caption: This is an excellent example of a compatible screen door. The narrow wood frame is stained in a neutral color and the mesh enclosure is transparent enough that it does not obscure the door beneath it.*

## **6.5 Security Doors**

### **6.5.1 Adding thick metal mesh security doors that obscure the front door is generally not recommended.**

The installation of incompatible **security doors** is one of the most visually obtrusive alterations to a home, and is therefore not recommended. Removing these features and replacing them with a more compatible security solution is encouraged. Modern, wireless electronic security systems can be installed without obstructing any character-defining features, and are a recommended solution. Also consider implementing security measures such as interior swing-away bars and locks that are not visible from the exterior.

Any exterior elements of a security system should be installed on a rear or secondary elevation, and all components should be carefully installed by an experienced technician to avoid damaging or obscuring historic or character-defining features.

Please see *Chapter 2: Guidelines for Maintenance and Repair* for additional information on implementing historically-compatible security measures for your home.

## 7 Decorative Features

The contributing properties in the California Heights Historic District vary in styles; however, they are not highly ornate. For example, ornamentation on a Minimal Traditional residence would typically be limited to simplified traditional detailing, such as window shutters. Decorative features on Period Revival styles in the district may include features like half-timbering on a Tudor or French Revival, or clay attic vents or stucco niched on a Spanish Colonial Revival. Existing decorative features, where they exist, should be retained and repaired as needed, and replaced in kind if they are demonstrably damaged beyond repair.



*Caption: Existing decorative features in the California Heights Historic District.*

### 7.1.1 **Where they exist, original decorative features should be retained.**

These features should be retained and repaired as needed, and replaced in kind if they are demonstrably damaged beyond repair.

### 7.1.2 **Adding new decorative features is not recommended.**

The installation of new decorative features such as shutters, inlaid tile, or other applied architectural decoration is not recommended. Without proper evidence to suggest that they existed historically, these features would be **conjectural** and could create a false sense of history.

### 7.1.3 **Non-structural and non-permanent decorative features such as plant pots, hanging plants, bird baths, etc., are acceptable.**

These features should be carefully installed and selected so that they do not damage, obscure, or overly detract from the character defining features of the historic property or district.



*Carefully installed non-structural decorative features may be added if desired.*

## **8 Additions**

### **8.1 Front Additions**

- 8.1.1 Front additions are not permitted within the California Heights Historic District.**

Building a new addition on the front elevation of a contributing building within the California Heights Historic District would cause a drastic change to the historic character of the primary elevation of the building. Furthermore, an addition to the front would alter the existing setback from the street and disrupt the visual continuity of the district. Therefore, front additions are not permitted.

### **8.2 Side Additions**

- 8.2.1 Side additions are discouraged within the California Heights Historic District.**

Side additions that are highly visible are discouraged. A side addition may be considered in instances where the site conditions allow for the side addition to not be highly visible from the street.

### **8.3 Single-Story Rear Additions**

- 8.3.1 Rear additions are acceptable.**

Constructing an addition to the rear of a residence is acceptable for all properties within the California Heights Historic District, provided that it is

sensitively designed and is not highly visible from the public right of way. The design and placement of rear additions may be subject to zoning and other City requirements not listed within these guidelines.

**8.3.2 The size and massing of the addition should be compatible with the historic character of the residence.**

The addition should not envelop or be larger overall than the existing building, and should be no wider than the existing footprint. Single-story rear addition roof lines should not be taller than the existing rooflines of the residence.

**8.3.3 The addition should be planned and constructed in a way that does not involve removing, obstructing, or damaging any existing historic features.**

Additions should always *add* to the existing footprint of the building; new construction should never involve removal of a portion of the original residence or site features.

Additions to the residence should not form a connection between the primary building and a detached garage in an effort to maintain the integrity of the primary building and a historically compatible site layout.

All additions should be planned and constructed carefully so that they do not cause damage to the historic building—for example, if you were to someday remove the addition, would the original building remain intact?

**8.3.4 All additions should be compatible with, yet distinguishable from, the original building style.**

A rear addition should be designed to be compatible with the historic building, but avoid duplicating the original building materials and detailing so that the addition is not mistaken for an original part of the residence in the future. Duplicating the features of the original can create what is called a false sense of history, (i.e. it could be difficult, even for professionals, to visually determine which portion of the residence is original) and is not permitted .

A compatible addition to a stucco-clad building may be differentiated from the original building through the use of design features such as a setback from the original wall plane, a lower roof height, and slightly different windows. For example, if the primary residence has multi-light wood **casement** windows, consider single-light wood casement windows for the addition.

California Heights



*Caption: This compatible addition is differentiated from the main house by fixed single-light windows and a vertical strip of trim.*



*Caption: This compatible addition is differentiated from the main house with a stepped roofline, slightly different yet compatible windows, and slightly differentiated window surrounds.*

## **8.4 Upper Story Additions**

### **8.4.1 Upper story/second floor additions are discouraged in the California Heights Historic District.**

The majority of contributing properties in the California Heights Historic District are limited to one story in height. As such, a second-story addition could be visually obtrusive, and is therefore generally discouraged.

An upper story addition may be acceptable, provided that it is sensitively designed and not highly visible from the public right of way. The design and placement of upper story additions may be subject to other City requirements not listed within these guidelines.

### **8.4.2 The size and massing of the upper story addition should be compatible with the historic character of the residence.**

The addition should not envelop or be larger overall than the existing building, and should be no wider than the existing footprint.

The addition should reasonably blend with and complement the existing pitch and shape of the roof. For example, a second story addition to the rear of the property that mimics the front-gabled shape of the primary roof would be a compatible design.

Introducing a new roofline shape that did not exist historically or that is inconsistent with the general architectural style of the residence is not permitted; for example, adding a flat-roofed addition to a gabled building would not be compatible or appropriate.

### **8.4.3 The upper story addition should be planned and constructed in a way that does not involve removing, obstructing, or damaging any existing historic features.**

Additions should always *add* to the existing footprint of the building; new construction should never involve removal of a portion of the original residence or site features. All additions should be planned and constructed carefully so that they do not cause damage to the historic building—for example, if you were to someday remove the addition, would the original building remain intact?

8.4.4 **All additions should be compatible with, yet distinguishable from, the original building style.**

Rear additions should be designed to be compatible with the historic building, but avoid exactly duplicating the original building materials and detailing so that the addition is not mistaken for an original part of the residence in the future. Duplicating the features of the original building can create what is called a false sense of history, (i.e. it could be difficult, even for professionals, to visually determine which portion of the residence is original) .



*Caption: The additions shown above would not be permitted. They are arranged near the front of the building, making them highly visible from the street and detracting from the original historic home.*



*Caption: The additions shown above would not be permitted. They are arranged near the front of the building, and introduce an incompatible roofline that is not in keeping with the original house form.*



*Caption: The additions shown above are acceptable. They are oriented towards the rear of the building and complement the original house form, making them less visible from the street and more compatible.*

## **8.5 Modification to Secondary Units**

### **8.5.1 Adding a second-story addition to an existing secondary dwelling at the rear of the property may be acceptable.**

Sensitively designed additions to existing secondary units may be acceptable, depending on other prevailing rules and regulations, if the addition is not highly visible from the public right-of-way, and is appropriate in size, scale, design and materials.

## **9 New Construction**

### **9.1 Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs)**

#### **9.1.1 New Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) may be allowed as permitted under the city's zoning and development standards.**

Accessory dwelling units may be attached or detached. Attached ADUs must meet the design guidelines for rear additions, described above. New accessory dwelling structures must be compatible with the primary structure on the site in design, materials, and architectural style. The massing of the ADU should be smaller in comparison to the primary structure; it should appear as secondary to the primary structure and the design should be minimally visible from the street. Design choices such as flat roofs that minimize massing and

visibility and include alternative parking configurations such as driveways . See details below for accessory buildings. The design and placement of any ADU may be subject to other City requirements not listed within these guidelines.

## **9.2 Accessory Buildings**

The majority of the properties within the California Heights Historic District are occupied by a single-family residence or multi-family property located near the front of the lot with accessory buildings such as detached garages or secondary dwellings oriented towards the rear. Garages are accessed by side driveways or rear alleys.

**9.2.1 New accessory buildings may be acceptable.**

**9.2.2 The size and scale of the accessory building should be appropriate to the existing residence and the size of the backyard.**

Accessory buildings should not be taller than the existing roofline, envelop, or be larger overall than the existing building.

**9.2.3 The accessory building should be planned and constructed in such a way that does not obscure or damage existing character-defining features or structures.**

Adding a new building or feature that would require removal of an existing, historic building or feature may not be permitted. For example, removing a historic detached garage to replace it with a new garage would not be appropriate.

Consider constructing free-standing structures instead of attaching them directly to the primary residence in a manner that could damage or penetrate the exterior.

**9.2.4 Accessory buildings should be compatible in design to the primary building.**

When designing an accessory building for a Spanish Colonial Revival or similar style contributor in the California Heights Historic District, consider including design elements such as flat roofs with clay tile accents, stucco cladding, and rectangular or arched door and window openings.

When designing an accessory building for a Tudor or French Revival style contributor, consider including design elements such as a moderate to steeply pitched gabled roof with shingles, stucco siding, and rectangular door and window openings.

When designing an accessory building for a Minimal Traditional or similar style contributor, consider including design elements such as a low pitched gabled or hipped roof, stucco or horizontal wood siding, and rectangular door and window openings.

Utilitarian accessory buildings not visible from the street and that do not require a building permit, such as tool sheds or chicken coops, do not necessarily need to feature these architectural design features, but should follow the remainder of the guidelines for accessory structures. Check with the Building and Safety Bureau to confirm whether the building you propose requires a building permit; all structures will require a Certificate of Appropriateness.

### **9.3 Infill Construction**

#### **9.3.1 Demolishing a contributing property in order to construct a new building is not permitted.**

In the event that a contributing building is intentionally altered, damaged, or demolished, the responsible individual could be subject to fines and penalties and may be required to replace the damaged components in kind. These penalties may also apply to demolition by neglect, a process in which a property owner attempts to circumvent regulations for historic properties by knowingly and purposefully deferring all maintenance and repair—neglecting the building—until demolition becomes necessary due to safety concerns.

#### **9.3.2 If an incident such as accidental fire results in damage to a contributing property, the damaged elements should be replaced in kind.**

In the unlikely event that a contributing property is completely lost to an incident such as accidental fire, the historic property does not need to be recreated unless desired; however, the replacement property should follow the guidelines for new construction in order to remain harmonious with the surrounding district. This replacement property will not be considered a contributor to the district.

- 9.3.3 **New construction should be generally compatible with the existing contributing buildings in size, scale, setback, height, massing, design, materials, and architectural style to protect the overall character of the historic district.**

## **10 Alterations to Non-Contributing Buildings**

- 10.1.1 **Non-contributing buildings are not required to mimic the appearance of surrounding contributing properties; however, it is important to maintain the visual continuity of the district as much as possible.**

Non-contributing buildings constructed outside the period of significance are still expected to remain generally compatible with the overall historic character of the district in terms of scale, **massing**, and setback, where feasible.

When planning alterations to buildings that are non-contributing due to being constructed before the period of significance, referencing any applicable Style Guides in *Chapter 4: Architectural Style Guides* in order to maintain existing historic fabric and character-defining features is encouraged.

When planning alterations to buildings that are non-contributing due to being constructed after the period of significance, referencing any applicable Style Guide in *Chapter 4: Style Guides*, is encouraged. Large additions and drastic changes are discouraged in order to avoid major visual disruptions to the district. Vinyl windows are not permitted within historic districts, even on non-contributing buildings. In the event that an existing vinyl window requires replacement on a non-contributing building, it should be replaced with a more compatible material from its period of construction.

Reversing alterations to properties that no longer contribute to the district solely due to major alterations is strongly encouraged using appropriate materials. While not required, this reversal would allow the property to better complement its surroundings and help to enhance the overall character and feeling of the district as a whole. Sufficient reversal of incompatible alterations could potentially make a property eligible as a contributor to the district in the future. Any proposed future alterations for these altered properties will be expected to follow all of the guidelines for the California Heights Historic District, as well as those for the applicable architectural style, included in *Chapter 4: Architectural Style Guides*.



**Least compatible (3759-61 Lewis Ave):** This residence was constructed outside the period of significance and is the least compatible of these examples. It introduces a number of visual elements to the district that are not compatible with the surrounding contributors, including its contemporary massing with a highly visible shed roof, two-story height at the front of the building in a predominantly one-story district, and contemporary design elements including brise-soleils and geometric, non-traditional window shapes. While the design of the building does not draw from any of the contributing buildings surrounding it, it does have a front lawn, setback, and central walkway that help to maintain the visual cohesion of the district.



**More compatible (3558-60 Falcon Ave):** This residence was also constructed outside the period of significance. Like the above example, it is two stories in height with its massing oriented towards the front of the building, creating a visual disruption in a district that is predominantly one story in height. However, the design of the building includes more traditional details like horizontal wood cladding and gabled roof forms that help it to blend in more readily with the surrounding contributors and historic character of the district.



**Most compatible (3439 Cerritos Avenue):** This residence is the most compatible of the three examples. It is two stories in height, but the upper story is oriented towards the rear, making it less visible from the street. The front of the building is one story in height with a gabled roof form and traditional brick chimney. The building is clad in stucco and wood, and the property has a front setback and landscaped yard, helping it to blend in more readily with surrounding contributors and historic character of the district.

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