

6.1.1 Architectural Styles

OVERVIEW

The architectural styles section of this Prototype Plan are intended to give an overview of the predominant styles that may appear in City of Los Angeles HPOZs. Each architectural style explanation has been divided into two sections, a textual overview of the style and its development, and a listing of some typical significant architectural features of that style. These descriptions are intended to assist property owners and HPOZ boards in determining the predominant architectural style of a structure, and in understanding the elements of that style. These descriptions are not intended as comprehensive lists of significant features of any style, and are not and cannot be taken as exhaustive lists of what features of any one significant historic property should be preserved. Rather, they are intended as a starting point for discussion about what rehabilitation or restoration projects might be appropriate to a particular property.

The reader may note that each architectural style description contains a note on what architectural styles can commonly be found mixed together. This note is included because architectural styles are not always found in a pure state. Individual owners and builders quite often customized or mixed the elements of different architectural styles together in designing a structure. This may be because cultural tastes were transitioning between two styles, with some styles falling out of favor and new styles being introduced, or simply due to the personal taste of the designer. It is important to realize that these mixed style structures are no less architecturally significant than the "purer" forms of a particular style, and that mixed style structures are not "improved" through remodeling with the goal of achieving a "pure" style. Los Angeles is particularly rich in inventive, "fantasy" structures that show a great deal of creativity on the part of the architect, owner, and builder, and this richness should be preserved.

The architectural style descriptions may contain some unfamiliar terms. Many of these terms are defined in the Definitions section of this Preservation Plan, or are illustrated in the corresponding section of the Residential or Commercial Rehabilitation Guidelines.

Notes on text:

The introduction to the left is a general introduction to the use of the architectural style descriptions that follow. The intended audience of these descriptions is the HPOZ board, applicants, and other interested parties who may be considering what projects might be appropriate to an historic structure or neighborhood. This section will probably apply to all neighborhoods, but may, or course, be customized by a neighborhood to address any special issues that may arise.

The following pages contain brief descriptions of the context, features, and history of architectural styles that might be found in City of Los Angeles HPOZs. Individual HPOZs should choose from them only the architectural styles present in their neighborhood.

It is a matter of neighborhood preference whether the architectural style descriptions included in the Preservation Plan for an individual HPOZ reflect only the significant styles to be found in a neighborhood, or whether all styles found in an HPOZ should be included. For instance, many HPOZs whose period of significance encompasses periods that end at or before World War II contain examples of post World War II architectural styles which were designated as non-contributors in the HPOZ survey. Projects involving these structures will not, in most cases, be judged under the Rehabilitation Guidelines, and therefore architectural style descriptions on these structures would not be necessary to the Preservation Plan. However, homeowner interest in the preservation of post-World War II structures is growing, and therefore some neighborhoods might be interested in including definitions of these architectural styles.