

HISTORIC RESOURCES SURVEY

The City is undergoing a Historic Resources Survey Update to be completed in 2022. For more information and to participate in the survey process, please, see <https://www.tustinca.org/1038/Tustin-Historic-Resources-Survey-Update>.

The City conducted its first Historic Resources Survey in 1990 in response to community concerns about the preservation of our historic resources. The survey was updated in 2003 AND includes historic buildings throughout the City and ranks them as to their historical significance.

Structures listed in the Survey may be eligible for the Mills Act Program and/or the Tustin historic register plaque program.

CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT and CULTURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

The City of Tustin is a Certified Local Government under the State Office of Historic Preservation. As such, the City is committed to provide for:

“The protection, enhancement; perpetuation, or use of places, sites, buildings, structures, works of art, and other objects having a special character or special historical or aesthetic interest or value.”

The Cultural Resources Overlay District was created by the Tustin City Council in 1988 at the urging of Old Town residents. The Planning Commission serves as an advisory committee to City staff and the City Council on issues that concern the District.



RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL DESIGN GUIDELINES

If you are considering any changes to the exterior of your historic building or are contemplating adding a new structure to your property, you should obtain a copy of the Residential Design Guidelines from the City. These guidelines provide basic design principles for achieving quality development while preserving the character of the historic district. (<https://www.tustinca.org/1039/Resources>)

The U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary of Interiors Standards also apply to modifications to historic structures. (<https://www.nps.gov/tps/standards.htm>)

Community Development Department

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300 Centennial Way
Tustin, CA, 92780

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(714) 573-3140

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www.tustinca.org

For more information, contact:

Elaine Dove
(714) 573-3136

Scott Reekstin
(714) 573-3016

Welcome to Old Town Tustin

Quick Reference Guide to
Historic Resource Programs
2021



TUSTIN'S HERITAGE



395 El Camino Real, Tustin CA.

Columbus Tustin, a Petaluma carriage maker, founded the city of Tustin and with his business partner purchased 1,300 acres of the Rancho Santiago de Santa Ana in 1868. Between 1868 and 1872, Columbus established "Tustin City" on his share of the parcel.

As an agricultural community, Tustin was home to apricot, walnut and Valencia orange groves. In 1927, the population reached 900 and the City was incorporated. The 1950s brought earnest growth in Tustin. As of 2020, the population surpassed 80,000 residents.

Although small remnants of the historic groves and farms remain, the landscape now consists of homes, businesses, schools, parks, and places of worship. A visit to Old Town's Main Street and El Camino Real is like stepping back in time.

For more on Tustin's history, visit:
<https://www.tustinca.org/833/Tustin-History>
<http://tustinhistory.com>
<http://www.tustinconservancy.org/>

old town tustin

TUSTIN HISTORIC REGISTER PLAQUE PROGRAM

Properties listed in the City's Historic Resources Surveys are eligible for nomination to the City's Historic Register Plaque Program. The voluntary program recognizes Tustin's historic properties, educates the public, increases public interest in historic properties and promotes community pride with a bronze plaque displaying the date of construction and name of the property based on specific criteria. The Planning Commission, acting as the Historic and Cultural Resources Advisor to the City Council, determines the appropriate name and date of construction to be displayed. Residential and commercial properties may be nominated.

The Planning Commission Nomination forms are available online at:

<https://www.tustinca.org/DocumentCenter/View/634/Tustin-Historic-Register-Plaque-Nomination-Form-and-Naming-Criteria-PDF?bidId=>



MILLS ACT

The Mills Act is state legislation that reduces property taxes on eligible historic properties if the property owner agrees to maintain and preserve the property for a minimum of ten (10) years in accordance with the terms of the Mills Act contract.

This program is available to the owners of residential properties that are rated "A," "B," or "C" in the 1990 Tustin Historic Resources Survey or an equivalent rating in the 2003 Historic Resources Survey.

Please contact the Planning Division at (714) 573-3140 to determine if your property qualifies for this program.

See also:

<https://www.tustinca.org/DocumentCenter/View/4920/Mills-Act-Guidelines-and-Application-PDF>



CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS

A Certificate of Appropriateness is required for exterior improvements to a structure located within the Cultural Resources District that require a building permit. This process is straightforward and takes place concurrently with design review or plan check. The certificate process ensures that new buildings and alterations to exterior features respect the historic character of the structure and the neighborhood.