
Dear Ms. Paul & GPAC members:

Thank you for all the time you've committed to the General Plan Update. I'm pleased to see many of the policies and goals you suggest for the new Historic Preservation Element and appreciate the opportunity to provide comments which are attached below).

Sincerely,

Katherine J. Rinehart

Historian

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GPAC Meeting January 19, 2023

Public Comments on Agenda Item 5

Submitted by Katherine J. Rinehart

Comments on Attachment B of GPAC 1/19/23 Slide Deck

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Policy 1.4: Provide incentives

Comments:

Replace the word “consider” with “pursue.”

Add another incentive – pursue the creation of a dedicated historic preservation fund.

Policy 1.6 Avoid demolition by neglect

Comment:

Replace Avoid demolition by neglect, with **Prevent** demolition by neglect. How could demolition by neglect and destruction by fire at Cedar Grove have been prevented? What can be learned from this situation?

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Policy 2.1: Identify and designate historic resources

Comments:

Change Prepare Historic Context Statement to Historic Context **Statements**

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Discussion Questions

Goal 2

Historic resources that are currently unprotected and vulnerable include:

- Railroad tracks

- Historic signs, including “ghost” signs (i.e., Pinky’s, Buckhorn, LanMart, Poehlmann Hatchery, etc.)
- Historic tiled entries (commercial properties)
- Historic light wells

Historic resources that **have been identified** but are vulnerable include:

The city-owned Masciorini property on Lakeville Highway. As part of its compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the City of Petaluma identified this Masciorini Ranch as eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places in 2005. Today the property suffers from demolition by neglect.

The city-owned former Carnegie Library and current Petaluma Museum is a protected historical resource but is vulnerable because of seismic issues.

Historic residential resources on D Street and elsewhere were included in Dan Peterson’s 1977 survey, but I’m not sure that provides any protection. If not, several historic properties may be vulnerable, especially those located on Petaluma Blvd. north and south and East Washington Street.

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Discussion Questions

Goal 3

Policy 3.3 – add facilitate shared parking to encourage continued or new use for historic properties.

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Regarding heritage tourism, stakeholders who should be contacted include the Petaluma Downtown Association, Petaluma Visitors Center, and Petalumans of Yesteryear (Museum volunteers who lead walking tours).

Not sure how creative this is, but host a California Preservation Foundation conference or workshop(s) in Petaluma.

Find a way to bolster the efforts of Heritage Homes of Petaluma, which operates as a committee of the Petaluma Museum Association.
