



# Public Information

County of Ventura • Resource Management Agency • Planning Division  
800 S. Victoria Avenue, Ventura, CA 93009-1740 • (805) 654-2478 • [www.vcrma.org/divisions/planning](http://www.vcrma.org/divisions/planning)

## Cultural Heritage Board

Established in 1966, the Ventura County Cultural Heritage Board (CHB) serves to promote the economic and general welfare of the County. The CHB *works to preserve and protect public and private historic, cultural, and natural resources* of special historical or aesthetic character or interest. When necessary, the CHB also works to preserve, relocate or recreate such resources. These resources can be used for educational purposes, public viewing, and/or kept as their original use.

### Members

The CHB is composed of seven members; one representing each of the five County Supervisorial Districts, and two “at large” members selected by the five CHB members.

### Responsibilities

The CHB is responsible for *developing and enforcing guidelines* for local Historic Districts, Landmarks, Points of Interest, Sites of Merit and potentially eligible historic resources. These guidelines provide direction in preserving the unique historic character of each area, while providing the framework for neighborhood revitalization. The CHB (§1364-1) is also responsible for the *establishment and evaluation* of potentially eligible Cultural Heritage Sites.

### Review Process

The Board’s mission is enforced through a review process for all *maintenance, alteration, restoration, rehabilitation, remodeling, additions, change of use, demolition, relocation, or subdivision* of a designated Cultural Heritage Site or potential site. The CHB has jurisdiction over all buildings, sites, structures, and districts within a Historic Resource Survey Area or designated as a Local Landmark, a Site of Merit, or a Point of Interest. It reviews the proposed work to those properties to ensure that the significant *architectural and historical features are not adversely affected*. The CHB’s objective in reviewing applications for approval is the preservation of historic fabric and enhancement of those features which caused the historic area or property to be designated.



Queen Anne Victorian Architecture  
George Washington Faulkner House in Santa Paula, CA

### Eligibility

The CHB views each building and site within an historic area as unique. It also recognizes that the value of each site equals the sum of its individual parts, both new and old. For this reason, *all existing buildings and all new development* are deemed to contribute to the architectural character of the area and all are subject to the review process.

### Preservation Incentives

Along with promoting the economic benefit of Historic Preservation, various economic incentives are available. Depending on the type of historic designations applied to the property, the structure may be eligible for: State Historic Building Code, Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credits, Historic Preservation Easements, Property Tax Reductions such as the *Mills Act Historical Contract*, Preservation Grants, Marks Historical Rehabilitation Act, Transfer of Development Rights, and Zoning Deviations. The Mills Act Historical Property Contract Program allows qualifying owners to receive a potential *property tax reduction* and use the savings to help rehabilitate, restore and maintain their buildings.

### Contact

CHB website:  
<https://www.vcrma.org/cultural-heritage-board>

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