



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

Report to the Historical Resources Board

DATE ISSUED: November 3, 2023 REPORT NO. HRB-23-043
HEARING DATE: November 16, 2023
SUBJECT: **ITEM #7 – HRB Naming Policy Update**
DESCRIPTION: Consider updates to the HRB's policy for the naming of historical resources

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Approve the proposed updates to the Board's Naming Policy as proposed by the Policy Subcommittee.

BACKGROUND

The Board's current Naming Policy was adopted by the Historical Resources Board (HRB) in May 2002 as a response to issues regarding the proper naming of historical resources. The HRB had previously used the standards adopted by the National Register of Historic Places; however, historic designation applicants were requesting that the sites be named after the current owners. In order to avoid this situation, the HRB created their own Naming Policy to standardize the names applied to historical resources.

Since 2002, it has become apparent that the Naming Policy was deficient in certain areas. The HRB was frequently waiving their own Naming Policy to add the names of spouses of the original property owners. The Board directed staff to agendize a comprehensive review of the Naming Policy at a Policy Subcommittee meeting.

ANALYSIS

The Policy Subcommittee discussed changes to the Naming Policy at the May 8, 2023, August 14, 2023 and October 9, 2023 meetings. The proposed changes are reflected in the attached draft Naming Policy.

CONCLUSION

Staff recommends that the Board approve the proposed updates to the Naming Policy as proposed by the Policy Subcommittee.



Suzanne Segur
Senior Planner/ HRB Liaison
Development Services Department

SS/ss

Attachment(s):

1. Draft Naming Policy
2. Naming Policy adopted in 2002

Historical Resources Board

Naming of Historical Resources

Adopted By the Historical Resources Board – XXXXXX

BACKGROUND

From time to time questions arise regarding the proper naming of historical resources. In the past the HRB has used the National Standards for the naming of resources, but recent questions have been raised regarding local naming policies specifically the addition to the name, of current owners. For this purpose, the HRB has developed the Historical Resources Naming Policy. The first version of the Naming Policy was adopted in 2002. Since then, it has become apparent that the Naming Policy was deficient in certain areas and the HRB requested to update their own policy in 2023.

For the purposes of this document, a Historical Report shall mean the Historical Resources Research Report or Historical Resources Technical Report submitted to the HRB with the designation nomination.

NAMING PROCESS

A historical resource shall be named per the guidelines below when it comes up for designation before the Board.

POLICY

The naming of INDIVIDUALLY DESIGNATED historical resources shall follow the priority listing set below with discretion by the Board in the event that a particular property meets the criteria for multiple designation:

1. Resources may be named for the HISTORIC PERSON associated with the resource as established by the Historical Report submitted for the resource.
2. Resources may be named after the HISTORICAL NAME as it may have been established by the original owner, subsequent owners, or community. Such name shall be substantiated by a Historical Report, as the resource's known name since its period of significance or for the past 50 years.
3. If a building, the resource may be named for the SPECIFIC NAME PLACED ON THE BUILDING UPON CONSTRUCTION.
4. The name of a Cultural Landscape resource shall include the CULTURAL GROUP associated with it as established by the Historical Report submitted for the resource. If the CULTURAL GROUP has assigned a place name to the resource, the place name shall be added to the name.
5. If the resource is a commercial resource, it may be named for its HISTORICAL USE OR TENANT based on the Historical Report submitted for the resource.
6. If the resource is a building, the resource may be named after the FIRST OWNER WHO COMMISSIONED THE BUILDING. If the resource is a house, the commissioning owner has to have lived in the premises in order for the house to be named for this owner. The spouse of the first owner may be included in the resource name if they lived on the premises and absent any specific information for their inclusion. If both names appear in the Chain of Title, then the names of both spouses would be presented in the order as they appear on the Chain of Title, but listing on the Chain of Title is not required for a spouse who can otherwise be shown to have lived on the premises.
7. If the resource is a commercial building or an income producing building (apartment house) the

resource may be named after the OWNER WHO HAD IT BUILT.

8. If the resource is a house that was built for speculation and the owner who had it built never lived in it, the house may be NAMED FOR ITS OWNER, provided it is also identified in the name as a SPECULATIVE HOUSE.
9. If the resource is associated with a master architect, builder or craftsman, the name of the MASTER ARCHITECT, BUILDER, OR CRAFTSMAN shall be ADDED to the other resource name designator. This procedure is suggested since often master architects, builder and craftsman are associated with several resources.
10. A resource that has been designed by a master architect, builder or craftsman who also resided in and/or owned the resource shall have the single designator of the MASTER ARCHITECT, BUILDER OR CRAFTSMAN. Example: Irving Gill House
11. The current owner's name shall not be used in the naming of a resource.

The naming of CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES within a Historical District shall be identified by the address of the resource. Except, where there is the case of an Individually Designated Resource which is also a contributor to the District, the Individual Resource Designation naming procedures shall be followed.

RENAMING HISTORICAL RESOURCES

There are cases where a designated historical resource comes up for re-naming based on additional information submitted as part of a new Historical Report. In those cases, the resource may be renamed as follows:

RENAMING PROCESS

A historical resource may be renamed per the above guidelines provided however, that the Board shall take this action at an appropriately noticed public hearing.

1. If the resource was previously designated as a contributing resource to a historical district with an address name designator and new information is provided as part of a Historical Report that identifies the resource's association with historical persons, master architect, historical use, tenancy, or ownership, then the resource's name may be modified to reflect the new information available.
2. If the resource has a prior descriptive name, but a new name is identified that has a clear historical pedigree based on a Historical Report submitted, then the resource should be renamed to reflect the new descriptive historical name, as well as, the earlier designator.
3. If the resource has a prior name that was its clear identifier during its period of significance or for more than 50 years, then the name shall not be changed.
4. If the resource has a prior name that is derogatory, then it should be changed to a more appropriate historical name based on the policy above.



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

Historical Resources Board

NAMING OF HISTORICAL SITES

ADOPTED BY HISTORICAL RESOURCES BOARD – MAY 23, 2002

BACKGROUND

From time to time questions arise regarding the proper naming of historical sites. In the past the HRB has used the National Standards for the naming of sites, but recent questions have been raised regarding local naming policies specifically the addition to the name, of current owners. For this purpose the HRB has developed the Historical Site Naming Policy.

POLICY

The naming of INDIVIDUALLY DESIGNATED historical sites shall follow the priority listing set below:

1. Sites may be named after the **HISTORIC PERSON** associated with the site as established by the Historical Study submitted for the site.
2. Sites may be named after the **HISTORICAL NAME** as it may have been established by the original owner, subsequent owners, or community. Such name shall be substantiated by a Historical Report, as the site's known name since its period of significance or for the past 50 years.
3. If a building, the site may be named for the **SPECIFIC NAME PLACED ON THE BUILDING UPON CONSTRUCTION**.
4. If the site is a commercial site it may be named for its **HISTORICAL USE OR TENANT** based on the Historical Study submitted for the site.



5. If the site is a building, the site may be named after the **FIRST OWNER WHO COMMISSIONED THE BUILDING**. If the site is a house, the commissioning owner has to have lived in the premises in order for the house to be named for this owner.
6. If the site is a commercial building or an income producing building (apartment house) the site may be named after the **OWNER WHO HAD IT BUILT**.
7. If the site is a house that was built for speculation and the owner who had it builder never lived in it, the house may be **NAMED FOR ITS OWNER**, provided it is also identified in the name as a **SPECULATIVE HOUSE**.
8. If the site is associated with a master architect, builder or craftsman, the name of the **MASTER ARCHITECT, BUILDER, OR CRAFTSMAN** shall be **ADDED** to the other site name designator. This procedure is suggested since often master architects, builders and craftsman are associated with several sites.
9. A site that has been designed by a master architect, builder or craftsman who also resided in and/or owned the site shall have the single designator of the **MASTER ARCHITECT, BUILDER OR CRAFTSMAN**.
10. The name of a Cultural Landscape Site shall include the **CULTURAL GROUP** associated with it as established by the Historical Study submitted for the site.
11. The current owner's name shall not be used in the naming of a site.

The naming of **CONTRIBUTING SITES** within a Historical District shall be identified by the address of the site. Except, where there is the case of an Individually Designated Site which is also a contributor to the District, the Individual Site Designation naming procedures shall be followed.

RENAMING HISTORICAL SITES

There are cases where a designated historical site comes up for re-naming based on additional information submitted as part of a new Historical Study. In those cases, the site may be renamed as follows:

1. If the site was previously designated as a contributing site to a historical district with an address name designator and new information is provided as part of a Historical Study that identifies the site's association with historical persons, master architect, historical use, tenancy, or ownership, then the site's name may be modified to reflect the new information available.
2. If the site has a prior descriptive name, but a new name is identified that has a clear historical pedigree based on a Historical Study submitted, then the site should be renamed to reflect the new descriptive historical name, as well as, the earlier designator.

3. If the site has a prior name that was its clear identifier during its period of significance or for more than 50 years, then the name shall not be changed.

NAMING PROCESS

A historical site shall be named per the above guidelines when it comes up for designation before the Board.

RENAMING PROCESS

A historical site may be renamed per the above guidelines provided however, that the Board shall take this action at an appropriately noticed public hearing.