

UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON LAND AND BUILDING DEVELOPMENT

HISTORIC VALUES SUBCOMMITTEE

CHARGE

The Historic Values Subcommittee, under the general guidelines for committees outlined in the President's letter of August 1, 1989, shall advise and make recommendations to the Committee on Land and Building Development (UCLBD) concerning:

1. Recommendations and advice on specific issues affecting historic structures, special features and significant landscape;
2. Maintenance and additions to the "Cumulative Evaluation Index" of Stanford's architectural and specially designated features as age promotes these features to historic status (50 years).
3. Review of the annual Capital Plan with regard to identification of specific historic values issues related to proposed renovation projects;
4. Modification of the index and evaluation process as needed, and
5. Augment its membership when vacancies occur or when otherwise warranted.

MEMBERSHIP

University Archivist
University Archaeologist
University Architect (Secretary)
(2) Faculty members (One from the Art Department's Architectural History Area)
Student Member
Stanford Historical Society representative
UCLBD representative (Committee liaison)

MEETINGS

The committee shall normally meet four times during the 12 months of the calendar year. Special meetings may be scheduled, as necessary, to provide advice or information on specific questions involving historic buildings or features.

Historic Values Subcommittee

Background

The Historic Values Index process was initiated in 1986 by the Office of the President as a means of helping the University judge the relative historic value of Stanford buildings and other special features in order to guide land use and building project decisions. A working group was established, and an evaluation process was designed. (See attached.)

Following the establishment of review criteria for the index, this group continued in their ad hoc capacity. In November 1992, the President regularized the current HVI Sub-committee as an advisory committee to the UCLBD. The HVI has evaluated 94 buildings or campus features and placed them on the HVI Cumulative Index. This number represents the bulk of the buildings over fifty years old, and many of the landscape features, e.g., Palm Drive. More currently, the group has also acted in an advisory capacity for proposed modifications and/or changes to historic campus buildings and features to the University Architect/Planning Office.

STAFF SUPPORT

The University Architect/Planning Office is responsible for providing staff and secretarial assistance to the subcommittee and for coordinating its activities with the Committee on Land and Building Development. The University Archivist is responsible for the preparation of evaluation "briefs" used as evaluation resources.

CUMULATIVE EVALUATION INDEX CRITERIA

Values

The five values used to evaluate these features are:

Age - the age of a feature, including “heritage” trees.

Aesthetic Quality

Unusual at Stanford

Special importance in Stanford history and culture- Stanford history was broadly defined as the University’s:

- formal history
- “whimsical” history (features which relate to University lore and humor)
- features associated with national figures and/or important donors (e.g., Herbert Hoover)
- features which relate to Stanford’s rural ambience or sense of “The Farm”
- features which have technological significance or are precedent or trend setting
- features which predate the founding of the University, but are on Stanford land

Special importance to the external community - This value was defined as features which:

- have archaeological, cultural or architectural merit
- are technologically significant, or are precedent or trend setting
- or are the work of a noted architect

The “external community” is broadly defined as both the local community (PaloAlto area) and larger communities of interest such as the international art or architecture community.