



Memorandum

TO: Historic Landmarks Commission **FROM:** Sally Zarnowitz

SUBJECT: HISTORIC RESOURCE DATE: November 23, 2005
SALVAGE PROCEDURES

At the November 2, 2005 Historic Landmarks Commission meeting, Commissioner Cunningham reported back to the Commission on his attendance on the historic Del Monte Plant salvage tour, and Commissioners Leong and Lavelle reported back on their attendance on the historic Palomar Ballroom salvage tour. The Commissioners expressed concern about salvage tour standards, including but not limited to lighting, access, and types of materials offered for salvage, and suggested placing discussion regarding Salvage Tour procedures on a future agenda.

Salvage measures are proposed as part of the environmental or development review process. While salvage measures can reduce the impacts of losing historic resources, they can not mitigate the loss of a significant historic resource to a less than significant level. The City includes standard mitigation measure language in environmental documents, and planning staff has been working to revise the language regarding salvage. The following revised language is intended to address procedures for coordinating salvage tours with the Historic Landmarks Commission, interested museums, and advocacy groups in order to facilitate the identification and removal of items that have the potential to be re-used, yield information, or raise funds for preservation efforts:

Salvage: Prior to issuance of Public Works Clearance, the structure and site features shall be retained and made available for salvage. The project applicant shall coordinate a salvage tour with History San Jose, Preservation Action Council of San Jose, Victorian Preservation, and the Historic Landmarks Commission liaison by placing the salvage tour on a Historic Landmarks Commission agenda. Representatives shall tour the site in order to identify elements that warrant salvage for public information or for reuse in other locations. It will be the applicant's responsibility to provide access to the site, including lighting, prior to the removal of any elements from the site, and to facilitate removal and transfer for the identified elements to the above entities. Any elements not identified through this effort for salvage shall be made available to salvage companies facilitating the reuse of historic building materials.

Items (including but not limited to windows, doors, signs, lighting and site fixtures) identified for salvage can be re-used on the project site, utilized by museum and educational groups in on- or off-site educational displays, or sold in preservation fundraising events. Items that are not identified for salvage by preservation groups can be sold to for-profit salvage companies for reuse off site. Currently, the City does not have the staff resources to oversee either a facility or a database for the storage, cataloging, or distribution of salvaged items. Staff has considered creating a salvage information section on the Historic Preservation page of the City website.

Historic Landmarks Commission

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Planning staff would be interested in the Commission's suggestions for maximizing the effectiveness of salvage procedures. Suggestions and discussion will be used to inform the revision of the mitigation language and Preservation web page.

Sally Notthoff Zarnowitz
Historic Preservation