



# Historic Recognition Program Proposed Changes

Town Council Study Session

February 25, 2021

# Existing Process of Historic Recognition Program

1. A property must represent an important part of history or architecture:
  - A. **Events/Trends.** Property must be associated with an event or pattern of events
  - B. **Persons.** Property must be associated with the life of a person who was significant
  - C. **Architecture.** Property must have distinctive characteristics; represent the work of a master (architect, designer, engineer, or builder); possess high artistic values; or be a source of civic pride or identity for the Town.
2. As a guideline, a property must be at least 50 years old. A property built within the last 50 years will not be considered unless it has exceptional historical or architectural importance.
3. A property must have historic integrity, which means that it has retained enough original materials, features, or characteristics necessary to convey its significance visually.

# Existing Process of Historic Recognition Program (continued)

Significance or importance shall be evaluated within the property's historical context to determine whether it illustrates a period of Town development:

A. **Early settlement – WWII (1947).** During this period, the area was mostly used for farms and ranches, but a few custom residences started to arrive, particularly in the eastern foothills of Camelback Mountain. Some of the Town's early resorts, such as Camelback Inn, Hermosa Inn, and El Chorro, date to this period. Many of the structures were built using adobe.

B. **WWII (1947) – Town incorporation in 1961.** After World War II, settlement began in earnest, mostly with the development of modest ranch-style homes located on one to five acres. The area incorporated in 1961 to preserve the rural lifestyle of its citizens.

C. **Post-incorporation.** In the 1970s, the Town adopted a hillside ordinance and outdoor lighting restrictions to protect the mountain profile and preserve the nighttime environment. Development continued with a diversity of architectural styles.

# Discussion of Changes Included:

- All applications had some level of historic character and should therefore be recognized
- Desire to increase objectivity
- Intent of Program was to recognize and award older structures to preserve and recognize the historic character of the Town



# Options Discussed by Committee, October 2020

1. Retain existing Program criteria
2. Create a two level recognition program:
  1. Those that met the 50 years old criteria
  2. Add a higher recognition for those that had exemplary historic, architectural or contextual significance.

Subcommittee worked on other options

# Historic Committee New Proposal

Two levels for an application:

1. Those that were in existence prior to Town Incorporation (1961)
  - A. Recognized without further evaluation
2. Those that are at least 50 years old
  - A. Properties would be recognized if the property retained enough original materials, features, and/or characteristics necessary to convey its significance visually and represent an important part of the history or architecture of the Town (current evaluation)

# New Language

1. A Property must have been in existence in 1961, the year of the Town's incorporation, or

2. A Property must be at least 50 years old, have retained enough original materials, features, or characteristics necessary to convey its significance visually and represent an important part of the history or architecture of the Town under at least one of the following areas:

- A. **Events/Trends.** The property must be associated with an event or pattern of events that made a significant contribution to the history of the nation, the state, or the Town.
- B. **Persons.** The property must be associated with the life of a person who was significant in the history of the nation, the state, or the Town.
- C. **Architecture.** The property must embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction; represent the work of a master (architect, designer, engineer, or builder); possess high artistic values; or be a source of civic pride or identity for the Town.

# Current Recognition of Historic Properties

- Property formally recognized by Council Resolution.
- Owner receives a certificate of inclusion in the Program.
- Town adds property to a list of recognized historic properties
- With the owner's permission, the property included on a list of recognized historic properties on the Town's website.
- Owner has option to purchase a commemorative plaque.



# Next Steps

- Council can give direction back to Historic Committee; or
- Council can 'accept' proposed changes to Historic Recognition Program
- If acceptable to Council, amended Historic Recognition Program will be added to Consent Calendar at next meeting.

# Questions