

ACTON HISTORIC RESOURCES SURVEY

Acton, California, situated in North Los Angeles County, possesses a rich history that deserves the preservation of historic resources for generations to come. Tools such as historic resource surveys are instrumental in highlighting the developmental history of a community and identifying its historic resources for preservation through the County's Historic Preservation Ordinance.

The genesis of Acton's development can be traced back to the late 19th century, when the construction of rail lines played a pivotal role in linking the Central Pacific and Southern Pacific rails to connect the Los Angeles area with other major cities. Founded in 1887 by gold miners toiling in nearby mines, Acton swiftly burgeoned into a thriving community.

Central to Acton's early narrative stands Richard E. Nickel, esteemed as the "father of Acton." Arriving at the age of 31, Nickel became the town's second resident, following the footsteps of his father-in-law, John F. Duehren, an enterprising figure who established the '49er Saloon in 1870. This iconic establishment, a relic of Acton's past, catered to the needs of miners and prospectors in the canyons of the northeastern Santa Clarita Valley.

During its nascent years, Acton thrived on agriculture and mining, with notable sites like the Governor Mine, owned by California Governor Henry T. Gage, contributing to its economic landscape. The fertile valleys surrounding Acton fostered thriving ranches, orchards, and vineyards, shaping the town's identity. However, the dawn of the 20th century brought shifts in transportation routes and economic priorities, leading to a decline in these activities.

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Despite these challenges, Acton endured as a resilient rural community, its inhabitants steadfast in their commitment to preserving the community. In recent decades, Acton has witnessed modest development and population growth while steadfastly preserving its rural essence, serving as a sanctuary for those seeking a serene lifestyle within reach of Los Angeles County's urban centers.

Given Acton's historical significance and the multifaceted nature of its development over the years, preserving the community's invaluable historical resources are paramount. Therefore, the preparation of a historic resource survey is an essential first step in safeguarding the community's heritage.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors to direct the Department of Regional Planning to prepare a historic resource survey and to work with the Acton Town Council and the community at large to obtain the necessary information and feedback for the document.

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