



Frequently Asked Questions

What is a Historic Context Statement?

A Historic Context Statement (HCS) is a specialized historic study that focuses on how the built environment of an area – its buildings, structures, landscapes, and infrastructure - developed over time. An HCS identifies significant themes, patterns, and property types to provide a framework for identifying which properties are historically significant.

What is the purpose of Salinas' Historic Context Statement?

Salinas' HCS will provide the background information for the upcoming update to the city's Historic Resources Survey. It will also inform future historic significance evaluations and city planning decisions. The HCS may help property owners, members of the community, architects, and historic resources planning consultants recognize and consider protection of historic properties.

What is a Historic Resources Survey

A Historic Resources Survey is a systematic study of buildings, sites, landscapes, and other features within a particular area, in this case, the city of Salinas, to identify historically significant places. A survey can identify individual resources, as well as historic districts. The last Historic Resource Survey in Salinas was completed in 1989, so the 2025 update will look at places which have become 50 years of age since then. It will also update the findings of the 1989 survey to consider changes to previously identified historic resources, including the city's historic districts.

Can the Historic Context Statement tell me the history of my property?

The HCS will not include specific construction dates or historical information for most individual properties. However, by reading about the various property types and architectural styles that are associated with different periods of development in Salinas, you may be able to make an educated guess about when your property was built and learn more about that time period. The upcoming Historic Resources Survey Update will include more specific information on individual properties over 45 years of age.

When will the Historic Context Statement be ready?

The first draft of the Historic Context Statement is currently being written, and will be ready for public review and comment before Fall 2025. The first draft of the HCS is currently being written and will be ready for public review and comment before Fall 2025.



City of Salinas
Historic Context Statement & Citywide Survey Update
Community Meeting – May 7, 2025

When will the Historic Resource Survey Update Start?

The “reconnaissance” and “intensive” surveys will be completed in Summer 2025, and our findings will be ready for public review and comment before the end of the year. We will have another community meeting to discuss the survey findings and what they mean for property owners.

How can I contribute?

We welcome your input on the significant places in Salinas, like buildings, neighborhoods, landscapes, and businesses, as well as important events and historic themes. Share your input and ask any questions you have at this community meeting, or in an email to Grant Leonard (grantl@ci.salinas.ca.us).

Thank you!