

Agenda Report

TO:

CITY COUNCIL

DATE:

March 9, 1998

FROM:

CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT:

ALLOCATION OF GARTZ COURT ACCOUNT FOR HISTORIC BUILDING

EVALUATION AND DOCUMENTATION AND INTENSIVE-LEVEL

SURVEY

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION-

It is recommended that the City Council:

- 1. Support the recommendation of the Cultural Heritage Commission to approve the allocation of Gartz Court Account funds for the completion of an intensive-level survey of approximately 325 historic resources identified in the 1993 City-wide reconnaissance survey (\$24,300) and an evaluation and assignment of National Register status codes to all Pasadena properties meeting the registration requirements for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under the recently completed cover nomination of Arts and Crafts architecture (\$8,000).
- 2. Approve a journal voucher appropriating \$32,300 from the General Fund Unappropriated Fund Balance to project number 95401-Gartz Court.

BACKGROUND

Introduction: General Plan and Historic Resource Surveys

The Comprehensive General Plan adopted in 1994 includes implementation strategies for historic preservation, one strategy is to continue intensive level-surveys of historic resources. The purpose of these surveys is to document information about important historic properties (e.g., date of construction, architect) and to evaluate their significance. Since 1992, surveys have been completed for the Palm Terrace neighborhood and the East Pasadena, North Lake, South Fair Oaks and West Gateway specific plan areas. In addition, the Planning and Permitting Department has recently begun an intensive-level survey of over 520 significant historic resources in the

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Central District Specific Plan area (as part of the specific plan). These projects and the proposed intensive-level survey and evaluation projects promote the policy in the land-use element of the General Plan: "Identify, document and evaluate the significance of individual historic and cultural resources and districts..." (Policy 6.1).

On December 15, 1997, the Cultural Heritage Commission reviewed and recommended approval of an allocation from the Gartz Court Account for the two additional survey projects: 1) Intensive-Level Survey of Significant Buildings Identified in the 1993 City-wide Reconnaissance Survey Evaluation; and 2) Assignment of National Register Status Code for Arts and Crafts Period Houses.

Intensive-Level Survey of Significant Buildings Identified in the 1993 City-wide Reconnaissance Survey

This project would document approximately 325 properties that were identified as significant in the 1993 City-wide Reconnaissance Survey. The City-wide survey was a visual, architecturally-oriented evaluation intended to identify groupings of significant historic resources (within areas needing further documentation through intensive-level surveys). It also identified individually significant historic resources that did not fall within these groupings (named historic resource planning areas, HRPAs).

The cost of this project is \$24,300. Products of the survey are: 1) completed State of California, Office of Historic Preservation Inventory forms (DPR523A and DPR523B forms) for each specified property, 2) a data base that includes the address, date of construction, architect and National Register of Historic Places status code of all significant resources, and 3) one presentation to the Cultural Heritage Commission.

The Cultural Heritage Commission will review the final results of the intensive-level survey. At that time it may approve or change the National Register status code (a number that signifies if the property meets—or does not meet—National Register or local landmark criteria) assigned to each property. A sample DPR523A and B form is attached to this report (EXHIBIT A).

Evaluation and Assignment of National Register Status Code for Arts and Crafts Period Houses The proposal for this project is to extend the contract the City has with the consultants who recently completed the Certified Local Government-funded National Register of Historic Places multiple-property nomination, "The Residential Architecture of Pasadena, CA, 1895-1918: The Influence of the Arts and Crafts Movement." This Arts and Crafts nomination established, through a historic context statement, the significance of residential buildings of the Arts and Crafts period and defined, through written registration requirements, the criteria that a property must meet to qualify for listing in the National Register. Because of this document, we are now able to evaluate the significance of a large number of residential properties in the city that were previously unrecorded.

This evaluation eliminates the need in the future for an intensive-level survey of the buildings that qualify for listing. With this recently completed nomination, we will determine the significance of

a large number of properties without the expense and time commitment necessary for intensive-level surveys.

The cost of this project is \$8,000. The products will be: 1) a completed amendment to the National Register multiple-property documentation form, 2) a data base of all evaluated properties including the address, date of construction, architect/builder (if known) and National Register status code, and 3) one presentation to the Cultural Heritage Commission.

Use of Gartz Court Account

The Gartz Court Account has been available for historic preservation projects since the late 1980s. The money in this fund came from leasing the land of the relocated Gartz Court (listed in the National Register of Historic Places) to the Gartz Court Homeowners' Association. The account increased incrementally until 1993 when the Association purchased the land from the City.

Allocation of money from the account has always been restricted, and an allocation requires the approval of the City Council. The Gartz Court account has funded the City-wide Reconnaissance Survey and the intensive-level survey of the East Pasadena Specific Plan area, an incomplete survey of the Central District, and a rehabilitation loan to Pasadena Heritage to assist with the Charlotte Perkins Gilman House project.

There is currently a balance of \$32,378 in this account. The Cultural Heritage Commission, in its recommendation to the City Council, supports the proposed intensive-level survey project and extension of the National Register nomination project as appropriate uses of Gartz Court funds.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

The proposal is to fund a research activity, not a project. It involves an activity that has no direct or indirect physical change to the environment.

HOUSING IMPACT

The proposal will have no effect on housing (though it will concentrate on documenting the significance of residences throughout the City).

WORKLOAD IMPACT

The intensive-level survey will require approximately 40 hours of staff time for preparation of an RFP, selecting a consultant and monitoring the project. The evaluation of Arts and Crafts residential buildings will require approximately 20 hours of staff time for preparation of a purchase order and monitoring the project.

IMPACT OF DEVELOPMENT REVIEW PROCESS

Both projects will provide valuable information about existing historic resources that may be affected by new development. This information will be available in the City's Design and Historic Preservation Section to developers and property owners where such knowledge would be useful in planning for a project (e.g., in cases where environmental reviews are required).

FISCAL IMPACT

The cost of the projects is \$32,300. This money constitutes the balance of the Gartz Court Account and will decrease the General Fund by that amount.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED

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