

# Cultural Resource Protection

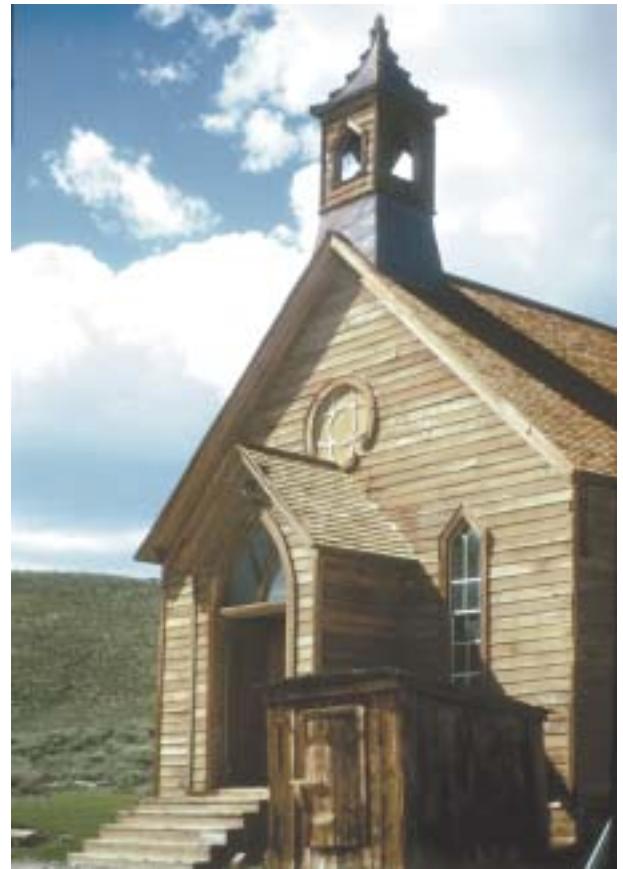
The Department's mission clearly defines the responsibility to preserve and protect the state's most valued cultural resources, both inside and outside state park boundaries. Cultural resources include buildings and structures, historic landscapes, archaeological sites, artifacts, and documents that collectively represent California's rich and diverse cultural heritage.

## Current Status

In the past few years, the Department's Cultural Resources Division has made great strides in the development of comprehensive measures for the monitoring, cataloging, assessment, and accessibility of its wide variety of cultural resources. The Department is charged with the stewardship of an estimated 10,000 prehistoric and historic archaeological sites, approximately 1 million museum artifacts and 3 million archival documents located in various parks and museum resource centers, about 2 million archaeological artifacts and specimens, over 1 million historic documents, and approximately 250,000 historic photographs. State Parks also has responsibility for approximately 3,000 historic buildings and structures and a yet undetermined number of historic landscapes.



*Indian Grinding Rock State Historic Park*



*Church at Bodie State Historic Park*

## Measurement Rationale

The measures established for this outcome assess the degree to which cultural sites, features, and structures are protected, preserved, and made available to the public. Protection from both natural and human elements involves:

- Cataloging, scanning, and documenting
- Archaeological site assessment, protection, and maintenance
- Condition assessment of historic buildings and structures
- Appropriate housing for artifacts
- Stewardship management
- Cultural resource acquisition
- Visitor perception
- Preservation of historic resources outside of the state park system

**■ Cataloging, Scanning, and Documenting**

Basic protection began with the inventory and documentation of the collections of artifacts and the preliminary assessment to the archaeological sites, structures and landscapes. The Argus System is a database that records, documents, and archives images of historic photographs, and in many cases images of museum artifacts. Currently, the Department is updating the system to a more current system known as The Museum System (TMS), converting all of the records from the Argus system, as well as adding new records to the collection.

**■ Archaeological Site Assessment , Protection, and Maintenance**

California State Parks contain some of the most significant Native American and historic archaeological sites representing the diverse people who have lived in the state since ancient times. However, many of these invaluable sites are threatened by various natural forces and human activities.

In order to monitor these threats and develop maintenance and protection measures, an archaeological site assessment program is being instituted with the development of an Archaeological Site Condition Assessment Record (ASCAR). The process documents the condition of archaeological sites, identifies preservation and protection issues, and recommends measures to counter observed threats. It also updates archaeological site information and establishes a Global Positioning System (GPS) datum for permanent reference.



*Native American Basket Exhibit at the California State Indian Museum*

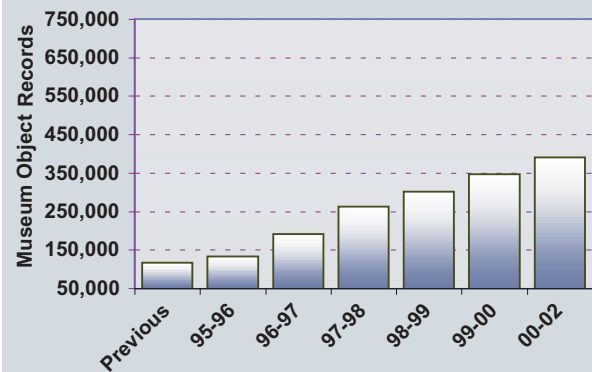


*Calcite charm stones from the California Central Valley dating to 3,000 B.C.*

**Data**

**Cataloging, Scanning, and Documenting**

**Museum Objects Recorded (cumulative)**



<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Objects Recorded</u>
Previous Effort	116,200
Actual 1995-96	15,960
Actual 1996-97	58,215
Actual 1997-98	72,058
Actual 1998-99	38,010
Actual 1999-00	45,892
Actual 2000-02	43,496
<b>Total</b>	<b>389,831</b>



Storefront at Columbia State Historic Park

### ■ Condition Assessment of Historic Buildings and Structures

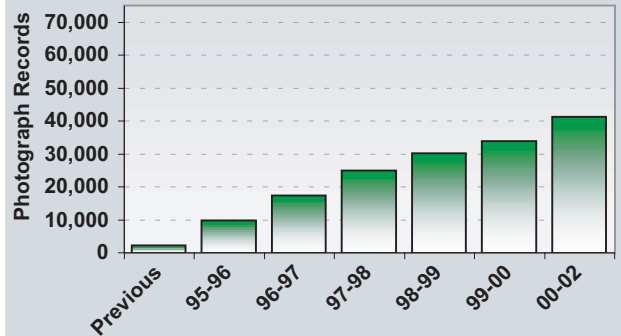
Existing guidelines define a building or structure as “historic” if it is 50 years of age or older. Age, however, is only one of many factors that help to determine a resource’s historic significance in portraying California’s rich cultural heritage. Not only must the Department continue to survey and identify historic buildings and structures within state parks’ infrastructure, it must also evaluate their significance and document their existing condition.

By identifying the important character-defining features of significant historic resources, special criteria for preserving their historic fabric can then be applied. Ultimately, this will ensure that such resources retain their historic integrity while becoming open to the public.

The Department recognizes that a viable survey program forms the basis for all future preservation efforts. Once significant historic resources are identified and evaluated, the next step is to generate historic structure reports and cultural landscape reports to ensure that significant historic resources within state parks are properly preserved and maintained for present and future generations.

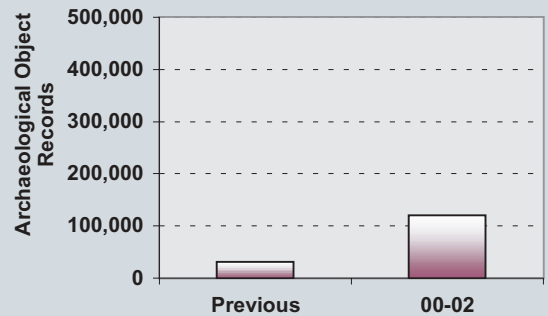
### Cataloging, Scanning, and Documenting (cont.)

Photographs Recorded (cumulative)



Fiscal Year	Photographs Recorded
Previous Effort	2,087
Actual 1995-96	7,643
Actual 1996-97	7,526
Actual 1997-98	7,568
Actual 1998-99	5,242
Actual 1999-00	3,729
Actual 2000-02	7,435
<b>Total</b>	<b>41,230</b>

Archaeological Objects Recorded (cumulative)



Fiscal Year	Objects Recorded
Previous Effort	30,000
Actual 2000-02	89,398
<b>Total</b>	<b>119,398</b>



Cogged stone believed to be 6,000 years old found at Crystal Cove State Park



### ■ Appropriate Housing for Artifacts

The Museum Condition Facility Index (MCFI) is in its fifth year of implementation. This system measures the degree to which facilities that house artifacts are in compliance with Departmental standards under several categories of risk. The MCFI measures both indoor and outdoor facilities.

### ■ Stewardship Management

With stewardship for many of the state's most invaluable and irreplaceable cultural resources, the Department has the responsibility to address potential threats and preservation needs across the broad spectrum of historical resources within the State Park System. These are prioritized, and projects are developed through the Department's Cultural Stewardship Program.

### ■ Cultural Resource Acquisition

California has been inhabited by extremely diverse cultures throughout prehistory and history. The Department commits to preserve this rich, diverse cultural heritage and acquire examples of irreplaceable prehistoric, ethnographic, and historic properties that exhibit this diversity for current and future generations. It is important that significant cultural resource properties and cultural landscapes be acquired by State Parks to fill gaps in our understanding of this complex and diverse history.

### ■ Visitor Perception

The Department has a seven-year baseline of information on the degree of satisfaction with the preservation and protection of natural and cultural resources. Measurement of public perception is important to cultural resource management because it is known

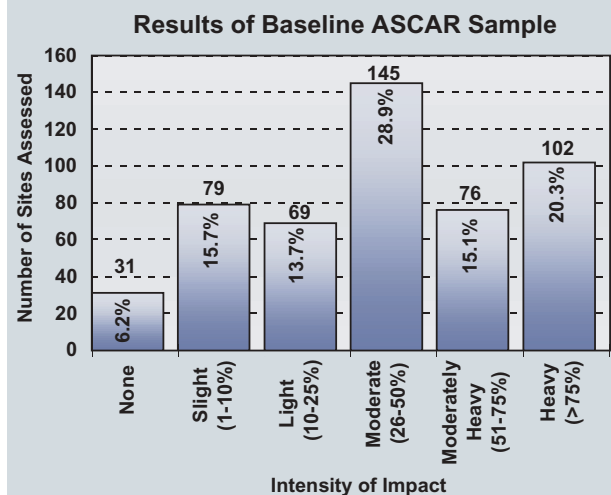


Reconstructed Miwok Village at Indian Grinding Rock (Chaw'se) State Historic Park



Archaeological dig at Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park

### Condition of Archaeological Sites



Results of the last two years of the Archaeological Site Condition Assessment Record (ASCAR) investigations, spanning a sample of 502 sites across California State Parks indicate that 64 percent of known sites have suffered substantial impacts, rated from moderate to heavy, due to natural and human-caused processes, and are in urgent need of intervention.

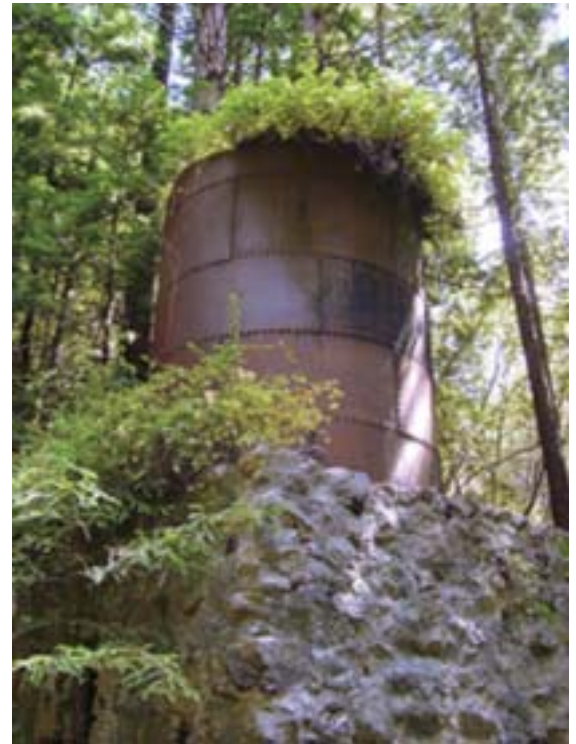
This data documents the need for ongoing, annual assessment and maintenance of all archaeological sites in the State Park System. Without this assessment and needed interventions, site degradation will continue to destroy these invaluable ancient and historic archaeological sites, and intervention will be restricted to ad hoc efforts. Funding for annual ASCAR assessment is needed to apply this instrument to the entire system of known and newly discovered archaeological sites.

that the extent to which visitors understand the importance of preservation has a direct impact on potential damage from human contact.

### ■ Preservation of Historic Resources Outside of the State Park System

The Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) in the Department of Parks and Recreation is the principal state office charged with administering and promoting the inventory and preservation of cultural resources outside of the State Park System. OHP achieves its objectives through multiple programs. The focus of measurement in this area centers on registration, project review, architectural review, grants, Certified Local Government (CLG) surveys, and the compilation of a statewide cultural resources inventory.

This office is charged with administration of federal and state historic resource registration programs. It is also charged with project review, architectural review, and award of grants to encourage rehabilitation, preservation planning, and other preservation activities by local governments, nonprofit organizations, and other agencies. Because most of the outcomes of these programs fall outside of the Department's ultimate control, measurement centers on efficiency of the processes for its responsibilities.



*Furnace used for removing lime at Limekiln State Park*

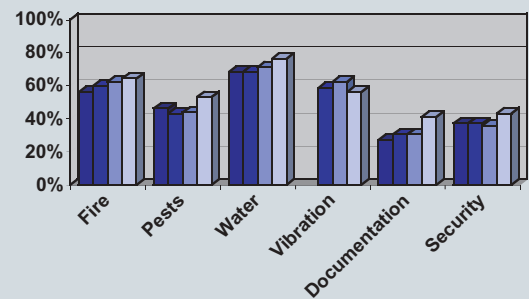
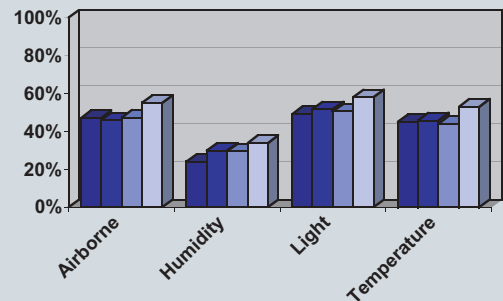


*Vikingsholm living room at Emerald Bay State Historic Park*

### Appropriate Housing for Artifacts

#### Museum Collections Facility Index (MCFI) Results 1997-2001

■ 1997-1998 ■ 1998-1999 ■ 1999-2000 □ 2000-2001





# Measures

## Within California State Parks

### ■ Cataloging, Scanning, and Documenting

Objects and photographs are cataloged, scanned, and documented into the Department's automated registration system. The long-term, continuous progress is occurring in a phased progression over multiple fiscal years. Once properly documented, artifacts can be utilized for public education and research.

### ■ Archaeological Site Assessment, Protection, and Maintenance

Many of the ancient and historic archaeological sites in California State Parks are threatened by natural processes and human activities. Eight major categories of impacts are listed on the ASCAR, including erosion and other geological processes, park development, fire, trails, and vandalism.

Archaeologists assess and record the degree of disturbance from these various types of impacts that are affecting archaeological sites. The intensity of the impacts is determined by considering the types of damage categories that have affected the entire site. Examples of major impacts that threaten sites with deterioration and irreplaceable loss are looting, rock art defacement, erosion, construction of roads and trails, use trails, and illegal camping and campfires.

A recent ASCAR survey of coastal site erosion indicates that over 60 percent of the archaeological sites in this region are considerably eroded and damaged.



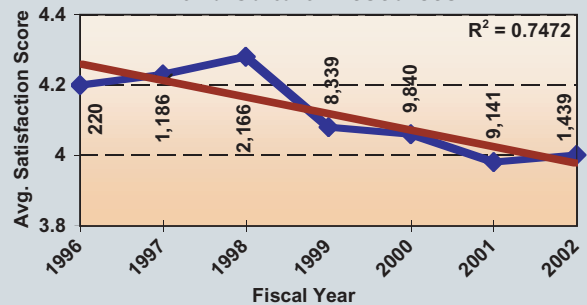
Sunken boat from the 1900s at Emerald Bay State Park



Historic photograph from Empire Mine State Historic Park

### Visitor Perception

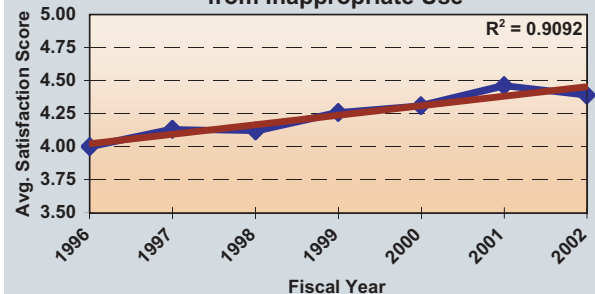
#### Preservation of Natural and Cultural Resources



The trend chart above represents satisfaction with efforts to preserve natural and cultural resources in state parks. A significant decline from 1999 through 2002 could be related to the increase in state park visitation over the same time period.

In contrast, the trend chart below illustrates rising satisfaction in the level of protection from inappropriate use given historic areas. This could indicate that while the public is concerned for ongoing preservation, the Department's efforts at curbing human interventions are generally supported by the public.

#### Level of Protection of Historic Areas from Inappropriate Use



Random use trails made by park visitors in sandy soils (e.g., shortcuts to beaches) are a major impact on coastal archaeological sites. Random use trails quickly expose artifacts and create runoff channels that further erode site deposits. To counteract this erosion, some parks, including Año Nuevo State Reserve, Point Lobos State Reserve, and Crystal Cove State Park, are making efforts to eliminate random use trails by installing designated trails with raised boardwalks or decomposed granite framed by railings.

**■ Condition Assessment of Historic Buildings and Structures**

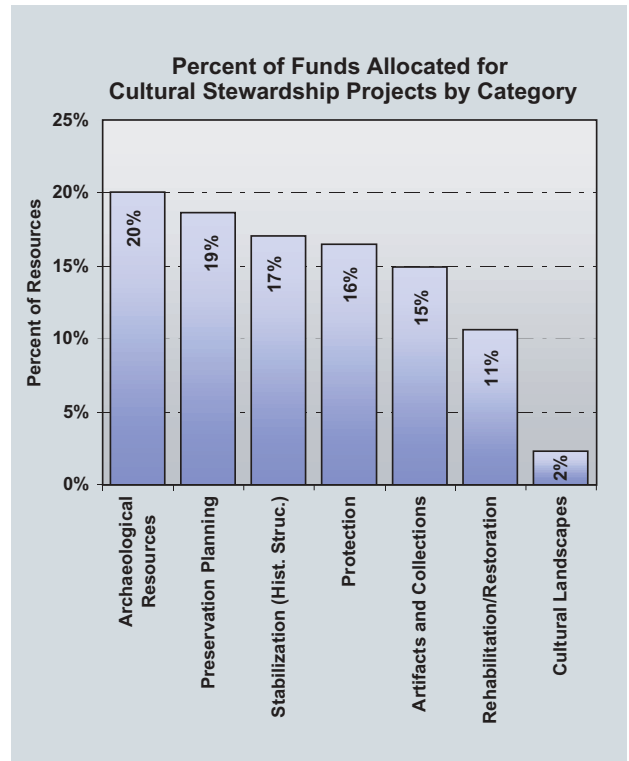
The condition assessment for historic buildings, structures, and landscapes requires special training and research to identify historic fabric, promote the preservation of the unique features that define the character of the building or landscape, and assess potential threats to the continued existence of important cultural resources.

To be successful in its mission to preserve and protect California’s valuable cultural resources, the Department must first develop an inventory of significant historic buildings, structures, landscapes, and districts that characterize California’s rich history and cultural diversity. This inventory will be used to help prioritize various protection and preservation activities so that the Department can focus its limited expert staff on historic resources that are relevant, diverse, and representative of a broad range of historic and cultural themes and contexts.

The Department is currently working on this distinction, while acknowledging that ongoing survey activities will continue to add new resources to the inventory of significant resources. While the Department may choose



*Church at Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park*



*The chart above shows a breakdown of the percent of funds allocated for 38 Cultural Stewardship Projects funded in fiscal year 2002-2003 by seven categories of cultural resource activities. The Stewardship Program identifies potential threats and preservation needs across the broad spectrum of historical resources within the State Park System.*



*Refectory (Dining Room) at Hearst San Simeon State Historical Monument*

to focus its preservation activities on specific significant resources, it will continue to apply care and maintenance to other historic resources within the framework of facility maintenance programs. Once a process is established, the Department will develop the means for tracking ongoing progress in measurable terms.

### ■ Appropriate Housing for Artifacts

Artifacts require special handling to preserve and protect the historic fabric. The Department identified a series of “Risk Categories” that can negatively affect the degree of protection offered by the facilities that house artifacts. Each facility conducts an assessment rating the identified “risk factors” and receives a rating of compliance to the MCFI standards. Improvements are then planned and implemented to improve the facility’s rating.

The index uses principles similar to the American Association of Museums’ (AAM) recognized standards for museum collections. Levels of compliance are determined to distinguish collections at high risk from those that are currently housed in a stable environment.

### ■ Stewardship Management

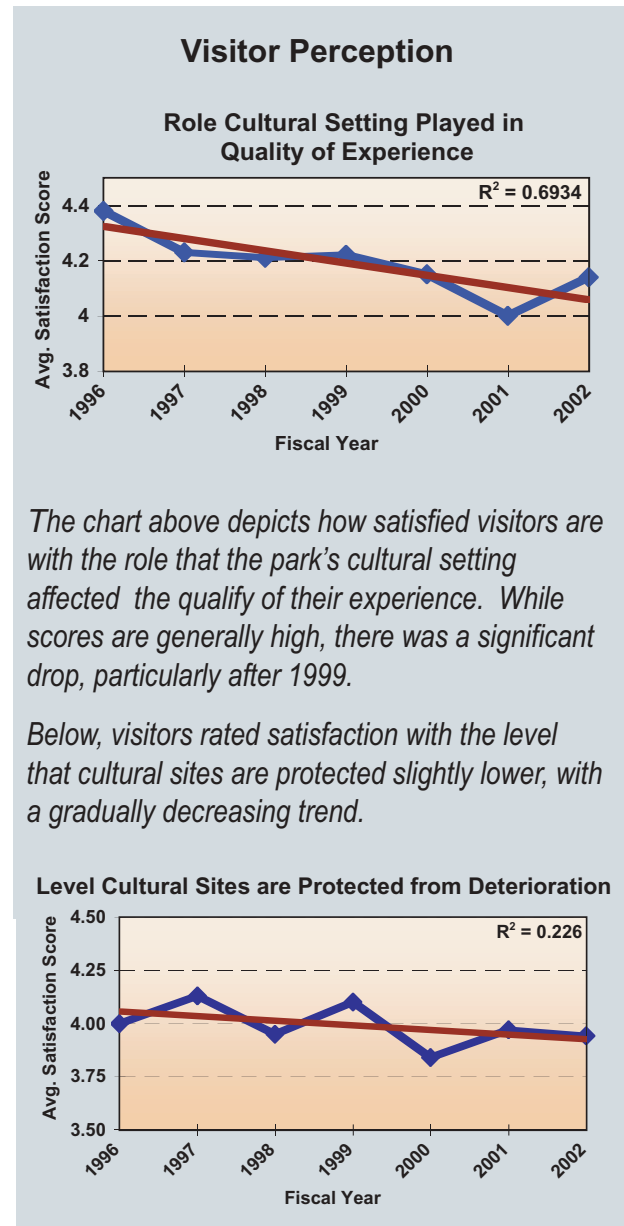
The Cultural Stewardship Program addresses potential threats and preservation needs through funding activities for stabilization of historic structures and archaeological sites, protection of museum collections and archival materials, preparation of site specific preservation plans, and rehabilitation and restoration and development of Historic Structure Reports.

### ■ Securing Cultural Resources

Significant cultural resource properties and cultural landscapes will help address deficiencies in the State Park System. These additions will contribute to our understanding of prehistoric, ethnographic, and cultural sequences in California; fulfill visitor expectations for cultural resources; enrich visitor experiences; and contribute to the general education of the public about California’s ancient and recent past. Deficiencies include properties that exhibit antiquity and ancestral history of California Indians, representation of ethnic diversity in California, and recent history in California.

### ■ Visitor Perception

Building a strong advocacy and constituency is paramount to success in California State Parks. The Department conducts ongoing customer satisfaction and importance surveys each season. Each visitor is asked to rate both how satisfied they are and how important each issue is to



Old gas pumps at Bodie State Historic Park



them. The importance and satisfaction are then calculated together to help understand which issues need the most improvement. These surveys assist the Department in directing efforts to preserve and protect cultural resources by redirecting resources to either educate the public about the importance of understanding our heritage, or to better enhance our efforts where deficiencies are identified.

## Outside State Parks

### Registration Submittals

A necessary first step in preserving historically significant properties is determining which properties meet the criteria. OHP administers one federal and three state “registers” (or lists) of certified historic resources: the National Register of Historic Places (a federal list), the California Register of Historical Resources, the California Historical Landmarks Program, and the California Points of Historical Interest. OHP must review and process nominations of cultural resources to these registers.

### Architectural Review

Federal tax codes offer major incentives for the rehabilitation of historically significant buildings and structures in the form of substantial tax credits for rehabilitation work that complies with the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation. OHP is charged with ensuring that such work meets the standards. Project review submittals may also require consultation for architectural concerns.

### Surveys Administered

An effective national preservation program identifies historic resources through comprehensive statewide surveys. Survey data helps in local land use planning decisions and preservation programs. OHP provides technical assistance to local governments and oversees the conducting of surveys funded through grants to CLGs, adding hundreds or thousands of cultural resources to the statewide inventory each year.

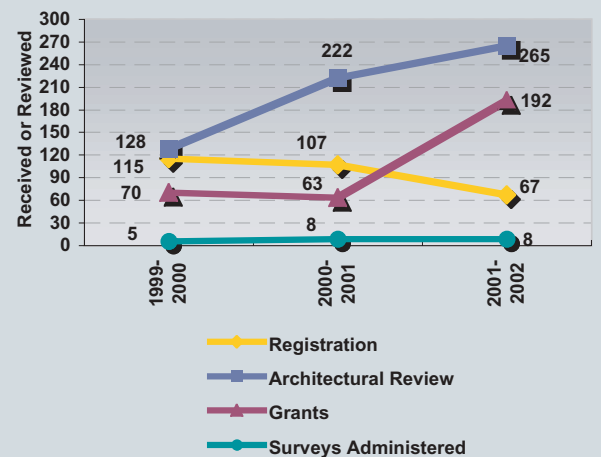
The information generated from survey activities is an important component in local land use planning decisions and preservation programs and can be used to support local, state, and federal register property designations, develop heritage tourism initiatives, identify private property owners eligible for historic preservation tax benefits, and facilitate state and federal environmental reviews.



*Benicia Clocktower in the City of Benicia*

### Preservation of Historic Resources Outside of the State Park System

Number of Registrations, Architectural Reviews, Grants Received and Reviewed, and Surveys Conducted



The chart above represents four areas of measurement: 1) Number of registration applications received; 2) Number of project review consultations for architectural review; 3) Number of grant applications received and administered; and 4) Number of tax incentive submittals and number of surveys funded and administered by OHP.



*Johnston House in Half Moon Bay*

**■ Grants Administered**

OHP administers a number of grant programs to encourage rehabilitation, preservation planning, and other preservation activities including the California Heritage Fund (state funded) and a variety of grants awarded from federal funds. OHP tracks two time-consuming aspects of the grants program; receipt and evaluation of applications, and the administration of grants.

**■ Project Review Submittals**

Projects that are undertaken, funded, assisted, or permitted by federal agencies must take into account potential impacts on historically significant resources. OHP is responsible for reviewing plans and documents related to these projects, assessing potential impacts of projects on historically significant resources, and directing and assisting in the proper consideration and management of those resources.

**■ Updates to Statewide Cultural Resource Inventory**

A large amount of useful data pertaining to cultural resources in the state is generated every year by various activities. This information is valuable to project planners, potential purchasers of historic buildings, and the general public. The California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) includes OHP and twelve regional information centers (ICs) located throughout the state.

CHRIS maintains a large database on cultural resources in California. The CHRIS data derived from various sources and maintained by both OHP and the ICs is made available via the ICs. OHP monitors data on the total numbers of cultural resources and reevaluations of historical significance added to the statewide inventory.



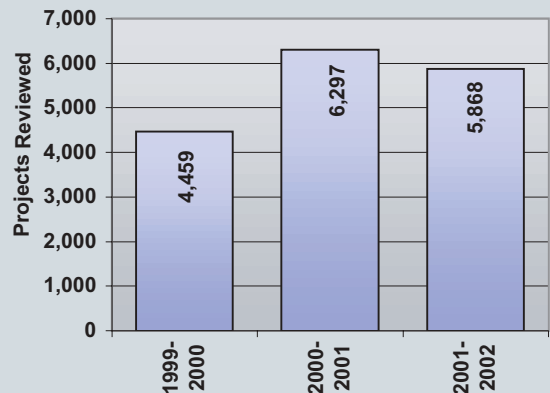
*Japanese schoolhouse in Castroville*



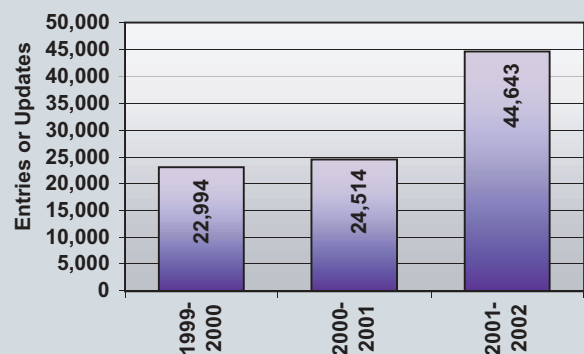
*The Kaiser Shipyards on San Francisco Bay in Richmond*

**Preservation of Historic Resources Outside of the State Park System (cont.)**

**Number of Federal Projects Reviewed for Effects on Historic Resources**



**Number of Entries or Updates to Statewide Information Systems**





# Visitor Comments on Cultural Resource Protection

From the California State Parks Visitor Survey 2000-2002

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"The value of these resources is incalculable and every and all efforts should be made to preserve them for future generations!"

Monterey State Historic Park, Winter 2000

"Sharing natural and historic resources with our children and future generations is a MUST! Our future must have "roots".

Grizzly Creek Redwoods State Park, Spring 2000

"Historically significant buildings are being allowed to disintegrate. Should be restored."

Angel Island State Park, Spring 2000

"The state should help with this restoration of this important historical time for future generations."

Point Sur State Historic Park, Summer 2002

"Preserve and tell the story of these people who once called this area their own."

Lake Oroville State Recreation Area, Spring 2001

"Extremely impressed with park's collection of California paintings. A real historic resource/treasure."

Shasta State Historic Park, Winter 2002

"Amazing historical resource. Must be preserved. We were astounded!"

Bodie State Historic Park, Summer 2001

"Deterioration of building (wood and adobe) from weather and insects is a great concern. Some parts are in great need of (historically accurate) restoration."

Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park, Summer 2002

"Things have been very well cared for. Very impressed."

La Purisima Mission State Historic Park, Spring 2000

"Tell the story of this place. Preserve the buildings and building sites."

Picacho State Recreation Area, Fall 2001

"I think that the volunteers are trying hard to preserve Point Sur, but they don't have the funds. This is our heritage and the government needs to supply more money to this division."

Point Sur State Historic Park, Summer 2002

"I liked the diversity of the museum collection."

Donner Memorial State Park, Summer 2001

"My favorite of all the state historic parks I have been to. I love the reverence shown the Miwok (all) Indians here and the respect for the land, animals and (of course) first Peoples."

Indian Grinding Rock State Historic Park, Spring 2001

"Continue to keep things as they are for future generations to show. Don't change a thing. Please keep the museum running at any cost."

Antelope Valley Indian Museum, Summer 2000

"The attempt to maintain historical accuracy is to be commended. One can learn and have fun at the same time."

Old Town San Diego State Historic Park, Winter 2003