

Preservation Myths and Facts

About Historic Preservationists



Get Involved!

Successful preservation efforts are the result of resident involvement at the grassroots level. Each and every individual can make a difference. If you care about the protection of Alhambra's historic buildings and neighborhoods, here are five concrete steps you can take:

LEARN about the benefits of historic preservation and the ways in which you can help to protect Alhambra's unique and rich architectural heritage.

THINK about what is irreplaceable in your own neighborhood. What would you (and future generations) miss if it were no longer here?

ASK your elected officials about their opinions and record on preservation-related issues.

TALK with your neighbors and friends about what you've learned and encourage them to get involved.

JOIN Alhambra Preservation Group! We have a membership program to fit every budget.

How much do you **really** know about historic preservation?

Much of what passes for "information" on historic preservation is actually just rumor, speculation and myth. Let's set the record straight - the reality may surprise you. We hope you'll use this fact sheet to educate your friends and neighbors and that you'll join together with us in speaking out in favor of the preservation of Alhambra's unique architectural heritage – before it's too late.

TRUE OR FALSE?

Historic preservationists are diverse in age, education, language, economic status and occupation. Many are not even homeowners.

✓ **TRUE** While preservationists are often characterized simply as "older people who are anti-development and care only about living in the past," the reality is far different. Historic preservation is attracting growing interest and support in Southern California and around the globe. Preservationists are as diverse as the communities in which they live, encompassing the interests and viewpoints of students and retirees, history buffs and commercial real estate developers, artists and engineers, apartment dwellers and owners of historic properties. As a group, we are often passionate about history, not because of a misguided desire to relive "the good ol' days," but because we know that the past has much to teach



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us as we make decisions regarding the future health and livability of our communities.

Preservationists just want to stop progress and prevent creative design and development.

✓ **FALSE** We are not interested in stopping progress or preventing creative new design and development. Like everyone else, we **want** to live in vital, thriving communities! The growing worldwide movement for historic preservation recognizes that communities – and community life – are not static. Preservationists are driven by the belief that the best way to spur economic development, revitalize neighborhoods and improve the life of communities is through the preservation of local sites of unique character, beauty, and historic significance. Stated simply, the goal of historic preservation is to retain the best of our shared heritage – and, in doing so, to maintain continuity with the past, while moving toward the future.

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