Inventory of the California State Heritage Task Force Records

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Inventory of the California State Heritage Task Force Records

Collection number: R294

California State Archives
Office of the Secretary of State
Sacramento, California

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Descriptive Summary

Title: California State Heritage Task Force Records

Dates: 1979-1984

Collection number: R294

Creator: California State Heritage Task Force

Collection Size: 2.75 cubic feet of textual records

Repository: California State Archives
Sacramento, California

Abstract: Senate Concurrent Resolution 4 created the Heritage Task Force (HTF) in 1981 to study and recommend policies, programs, and legislation to preserve and enhance California's architectural, cultural, and historic resources. The Heritage Task Force (HTF) records consist of 2.75 cubic feet of textual material covering the period of 1978-1984. The records reflect background information, working correspondence, and the development of the final reports produced for the State Legislature regarding the status of California's cultural heritage.

Physical location: California State Archives

Languages: Languages represented in the collection: English

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Preferred Citation
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Acquisition and Custodial History
The California State Archives acquired the California Heritage Task Force Records according to state law.

Administrative History
Senate Concurrent Resolution 4 created the Heritage Task Force (HTF) in 1981. In 1980, Congress enacted Public Law 96-515, as an amendment to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, calling for the State Historic Preservation Officers to prepare and implement a comprehensive statewide historic preservation plan. Authored by Senator Milton Marks, Senate Concurrent Resolution 4 expressed the concern of historians, archeologists, and preservationists nationwide for a review, documentation, and preservation of cultural resources. The HTF was established to study and recommend policies, programs, and legislation to preserve and enhance California's architectural, cultural, and historic resources. The HTF's findings and recommendations were presented to the legislature in 1984 as a formal report identifying problem areas and recommending a statewide preservation policy and programs to preserve and enhance California's architectural, cultural, and historic resources.
The HTF received funding from a public/private partnership where organizations such as the National Trust for Historic Preservation offered grant seed money, the State Office of Historic Preservation offered staff support, and non-profit preservation groups such as Californians for Preservation Action offered their services and monetary support. Initially established as a one-year task force, the HTF did not become fully staffed and funded until 1982. The final report was submitted to the Legislature in 1984. In addition to the California Heritage Report, the HTF also produced reports titled California's Historical and Cultural Resources as well as Heritage and Tourism in California.

The HTF consisted of sixteen members appointed by the Senate Rules Committee and the Speaker of the Assembly. Roger Holt, an assistant Los Angeles City attorney, was appointed as chair of the task force and James Jones was hired to act as executive director after providing similar services for the State of Oregon. SCR 4 specified that the members of the HTF represent a broad spectrum of interests such as business, historic, archeology, architecture, government, and trade.

The HTF became aware that the breadth of issues and concerns needing attention were too large for a single committee to investigate in the time allotted during the organizational phase. The HTF divided itself into three committees representing state and local policy, financial incentives, and museums and education in order to produce a more detailed review. Paul Chase, an archeological consultant, served as chair of the state and local policy committee; Peggy Hathaway, an attorney from Californians for Preservation Action, served as chair of the financial incentive committee; and Tom Frye, director of the Oakland Museum of California, served as chair of the museum and education committee.

The HTF disbanded in 1984 after the final report was delivered to the California State Legislature. Senator Milton Marks and Assembly Member Sam Farr introduced many of the recommendations from the HTF during the 1983-1984 legislative session to improve the state’s management of its cultural resources.

**Scope and Content**

The Heritage Task Force (HTF) records consist of 2.75 cubic feet of textual material. This record group is identified by R294. The records are arranged into six series covering the period of 1978-1984. The records include out-of-state Office of Historic Preservation materials, organizational files, state and local policy committee files, financial incentive committee files, press and publication files, and reports. The collection is comprised of material submitted primarily by executive director James Jones and Mark Ryser, legislative counsel to Senator Milton Marks. The records reflect background information, working correspondence, and the development of the final reports produced for the State Legislature regarding the status of California's cultural heritage.

The out-of-state Office of Historic Preservation material files, Series R294.1, represent the information culled from other states focusing on their heritage laws and programs. Some states that replied to the HTF’s request for information had more established programs than others. Oregon and Louisiana offered extensive legislative examples while states such as Hawaii and Pennsylvania offered extensive cultural resource material. Numerous State Historic Preservation Officers commented they would be following the HTF’s findings since they believed the state of California often led national trends in preservation.

The organizational committee files, Series R294.2, describe the development of the task force mission and the logistics of completion. An official summary of the organizational committee is included in this series as well as the general correspondence files of the committee and Jim Jones. A file of meeting agendas, minutes, and notes is also included. The state and local policy committee files, Series R294.3, describe issues facing cultural resource management and the legal statutes that could assist or dissuade governmental entities and the public from participating in preservation of historic structures. A new field addressed by the HTF was underwater-archeology where they proposed policy to encourage preservation. California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Historic Building Code, and Redevelopment Law are some of the major policies that the committee suggested more substantial recommendations to. The legislative files reflect the large number of bills introduced after the HTF’s final report by Senator Milton Marks in order to implement the task force’s findings.

The financial incentive committee files, Series R294.4, describe the types of financial incentives the State could make available in order to make historic preservation a financial benefit as well as financial disincentives to prevent the destruction of historic structures. The funding and grant files reflect how the task force was funded by a combination of federal, state, and private resources and the grant file contains copies of some grant applications and informative background material.

The press and publications files, Series R294.5, contain newspaper clippings, press releases, and other published material sent to the task force by interested parties. The newspaper clippings reflect preservation, archeological, heritage, and tourism issues that concerned many communities in California. Some articles also reference the final report issued by the task force as well as the supplementary reports.

The report files, Series R294.6, contain copies of the final report delivered to the State Legislature, the report of California Historical and Cultural Resources written by Laura Mintier, the Executive Summary written by James Jones, and the...
Heritage and Tourism in California written by Paula Huntley and Hisashi Sugaya. The purpose of the task force was to produce a final report of their findings and recommendations for preservation of California's heritage. The California Historical and Cultural Resource report, released in 1983, summarized the findings of a preliminary research project to identify and summarize readily available information. This was a limited report to assess what was already known about California's historical and cultural resources. The report on Heritage and Tourism in California developed as the economic impact on preservation activities became apparent and how tourism may be able to mitigate the negative aspects while encouraging financial benefits. Also included in this series are files containing public responses to a questionnaire for legislative, regulatory, or policy recommendations to the rough draft of the report. Written comments on the preliminary and final drafts from task force members are also included.

**Related Collections at the California State Archives**

- Sam Farr Papers
- Department of Parks and Recreation Records
- Milton Marks Papers

**Indexing Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

- California Heritage Task Force
- California History
- Archeology
- Historic preservation Law and legislation

**ID R294.1, Box 1, Folders 1-14**

**Series 1 Out-of-State Historic Preservation Office Files 1982**

**Physical Description:** 14 file folders

**Arrangement**

Arranged alphabetically by state.

**Scope and Content Note**

The State Historic Preservation Office Material Files contain information sent to the HTF from out-of-state Historic Preservation Offices regarding their own heritage programs or plans in response to a HTF request. Some states also sent information from their state tourism departments or commissions. The material retained in these files represents established or proposed programs in other states to attract interest in heritage sites as part of a tourist experience. Hawaii, Nevada, and Pennsylvania offered established and thorough examples of cultural resource and tourism studies. Louisiana and Oregon also submitted substantial examples of legislative work to protect heritage sites.

**ID R294.2, Box 2, Folders 1-7**

**Series 2 Organizational Committee Files 1981-1984**

**Physical Description:** 7 file folders

**Arrangement**

Arranged alphabetically by subject.

**Scope and Content Note**

The organizational files contain detailed information on the establishment of the HTF, their purpose, their working structure, and their main issues of study. The Organizational Committee's Analysis provides a concise overview of most of these functions. One point of interest in these files is the official federal and state requests for California to conduct a formal investigation into the status of heritage sites. The large volume of responses to questionnaires sent by the HTF confirmed that there were many issues that needed attention.
**Series 3 State and Local Policy Committee Files 1981-1984**

Physical Description: 8 file folders
Arrangement
Arranged alphabetically by subject.
Scope and Content Note
The State and Local Policy Committee files contain correspondence, reports, and background information used to assist the HTF with their legal recommendations to encourage preservation. Files that may be of interest refer to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Historic Building Code, and Redevelopment Law as well as the Legislative files represents legislation introduced. This committee also proposed policy that affected underwater archeology as well as reclassifying cultural resource management positions within the State Personnel Board.

**Series 4 Financial Incentives Committee Files 1980-1984**

Physical Description: 5 file folders
Arrangement
Arranged alphabetically by subject.
Scope and Content Note
The Financial Incentive Committee files contain information on the legality of financial incentives the HTF proposed to encourage preservation of historic structures. Some background information on the Marks Historical Rehabilitation Act and the Mills Act is also included. Information on funding the task force from a combination of public/private sources such as grants and donations is also included.

**Series 5 Press and Publications 1979-1984**

Physical Description: 4 file folders
Arrangement
Arranged alphabetically by subject.
Scope and Content Note
The Press and Publication files include information received by the HTF from local governments regarding their preservation concerns, numerous press-clippings, and publications. Some of the publications received are newsletters from affiliated preservation groups or professional organizations. The press clippings include newspaper articles related to preservation, cultural resources, and government action. Also included in the press-clipping file are press statements made by Senator Marks office or the Task Force.

**Series 6 Reports 1979-1984**

Physical Description: 15 file folders
Arrangement
Arranged alphabetically by subject.
Scope and Content Note
The Report files include draft and final reports of the four official reports produced by the HTF. These include: Heritage Task Force Final Report; California Historical and Cultural Resource Report; Heritage and Tourism in California Report; and Executive Summary. Other files include the numerous public comments to the proposed issues for study and subsequent drafts of the report.