

Community Focus Statement C: Preserve the historic treasures within the community for future generations.

Action Statement C.1: Identify and preserve historic and current assets in the community.

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Benchmark: Within one year, a historic preservation committee is formed to engage the community, with assistance from the County Museum and local partners, to inventory community assets, including potential sites for preservation.

Champion: Volunteer group or person or can be identified by the community

Estimated Cost: \$200–\$10,000



*Mormon Trail monument and landmark.
Photo source: [Napa](#)*

The Phelan Piñon Hills community contains many historic and other beneficial assets to be preserved within the community for the use and enjoyment of future generations. Identifying historic land, buildings, streets, or other infrastructure is key to preservation. The identification process should be driven by community members familiar with Phelan Piñon Hills.

There are several benefits to conducting a community-based inventory to identify existing resources. First, it creates an opportunity for residents to appreciate the value of and enhance the resources already in existence in the community. In this process, Phelan Piñon Hills can identify historic resources that would be appropriate for preservation or other beneficial community uses. Additionally, the community could identify land that would be appropriate for the development of new community assets, such as a community center, cultural facilities (to house museums or historical societies), or recreational facilities. Existing facilities could be used creatively to benefit Phelan Piñon Hills in order to create more opportunities to preserve historic treasures for future generations.

As part of the physical asset inventory, it is key to pay attention to parts of the community that are underused, such as vacant historical buildings or abandoned residential and industrial buildings. The community can begin to identify new ways to make these assets work for Phelan Piñon Hills. Community groups or nonprofit organizations can assist in identifying potential sites where this conversion would be the most cost effective and feasible. For example, a vacant historical building could be transformed into a living history museum and hold local cultural events for community youth.

Questions for the community to ask during the mapping process:

- Which structures or landscapes have distinctive architectural or cultural characteristics?

- Which structures or landscapes reflect important Phelan Piñon Hills social history or planning and development?
- What sites or buildings have been gathering places or focal points of the community over the years?
- Which resources are associated with important people in the community’s history?
- How might these assets be connected to individuals, associations, and institutions in the community?
- How might the community begin to imagine and institute new uses for underused assets?

| Action | Action Leader | Timeline | Resources |
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| 1. Interested volunteers contact County Museum for guidance on forming a historic preservation committee. Identify one member as liaison with County Museum. | Champion and Community members with guidance from County Museum | Months 1 – 2 | How to create a local historical society http://www.mhs.mb.ca/info/howto/historygroup.shtml County Museum http://www.sbcounty.gov/museum/ |
| 2. Research asset mapping process and establish one for the community with review by County Museum | Historic Preservation Committee | Months 2 – 3 | Asset Mapping Handbook, http://www.planningtoolexchange.org/sites/default/files/sources/asset_mapping_handbook.pdf |
| 3. Reach out to residents, students, local historians, and other community groups to discuss the asset mapping process. | Historic Preservation Committee, residents, students, historians, community groups | Months 3 – 4 | Center for Community Mapping http://www.centerforcommunitymapping.com/ Creative City: Cultural Mapping Toolkit https://www.creativecity.ca/database/files/library/cultural_mapping_toolkit.pdf |
| 4. Train and conduct a community-based asset mapping process/activities (e.g., interviews, focus groups, online surveys, workshops, walking tours, mapping activities). | Historic Preservation Committee, community | Months 4 – 9 | Guide to Mapping Neighborhood Arts and Cultural Assets http://www.cultureforward.org/Reference-Desk/Research-Library/neighborhoods/Guide-to-Mapping-Neighborhood-Arts-and-Cultural-Assets |
| 5. Compile and finalize community-based inventory and map of cultural, historical, and physical assets. | Historic Preservation Committee, community | Months 9 – 12 | Planners Web, Cultural Asset Mapping http://plannersweb.com/2011/01/cultural-asset-mapping/ |
| 6. Present final assets report to County Museum & community | Historic Preservation Committee | Month 12 | California and other grant/sponsorship resources http://ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=1073 |



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