

## **2.2.14 Capitol Historic District**

Ordinance # 85-076  
July 30, 1985

## SACRAMENTO REGISTER OF HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

### Capitol Historic District

The Capitol Historic District is strongly influenced by the presence of the California State Capitol built between 1860 and 1874 in the Classical Revival Style. The State Capitol is located at the western end of the 34-acre Capitol Park. The Park also holds the Insectary Building built in the Craftsman Style which is now used as the State Office of Capitol Grounds. To the northwest of the Capitol is Office Building One. This five-story Neo-Classical Style structure was constructed in 1925. An almost identical five-story structure is found to the south of Office Building One. This is the Library and Courts Building built in 1928, also a Neo-Classical design. Both buildings flank a circular landscaped fountain located within a traffic roundabout. These three prominent buildings and the roundabout are key elements to the Historic District. Located to the south of the Capitol and the Park are other private and government buildings. These include the eight story Lewis Apartment building, as well as other government structures ranging in style from the State Printing Office (1922) in the Utilitarian Style with Classical influences to the Moderne lines of the State Department of Consumer Affairs Building (1940), the Franchise Tax Building, Moderne with Gothic Revival influences (1927), and the simple Moderne detailing of the Department of Transportation Buildings, and the Department of Food and Agriculture Buildings.

The District is bounded to the north by the multi-story commercial buildings located on the north side of L Street; by 9<sup>th</sup> Street on the west with its private and Federal buildings; and by 15<sup>th</sup> Street to the east of Capitol Park with parking lots and the Capitol Area Development Authority apartment structures. The southern boundary is less well defined geographically, but is quite clear visually as parking lots start where buildings stop.

The theme of the District is governmental. The buildings, which represent government use, are from different eras and of varied styles, but the visual boundary is quite clear between the area and the buildings to the north, west and east. This is due as much to the type and design of the area structures as it is to the landscaped open spaces between the District and the adjacent streets. The demolition of adjacent buildings and their replacement with surface parking lots clearly defines the southern boundary.

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Updated May 2014

