

Planning Department

Historic Preservation Planning Section

FACT SHEET

HISTORIC DISTRICT DESIGNATION

What is a Historic District?

A Historic District is a significant concentration, linkage, or continuity of sites, buildings, structures, or objects that are united historically, geographically, or aesthetically by plan or physical development and that have a special character, historical interest, cultural or aesthetic value, or that represents one or more architectural periods or styles in the history and development of the City.

In other words, a historic district is a geographically defined concentration of resources – typically buildings – that come together to collectively convey a shared significance under one or more of the City’s designation criteria. Individual buildings within the boundary of the historic district may or may not be significant in their own right, but much like pieces of a puzzle these properties come together to paint a picture and tell an important story about our City’s past.



Marston House Museum

Saa 4 · 🌐

Join our expert docents every third Sunday of the month as they tell you stories of the Marston House and its environs and of one of San Diego's greatest architects, Irving J. Gill. With four great tour choices we understand if you can't pick just one. Bring your camera and friends.

Sign up here: <http://www.sohosandiego.org/main/tourmhgill.htm>

THIRD SUNDAY WALKING TOURS
At the Marston House Museum
Balboa Park

FOUR TOURS TO CHOOSE FROM

BANKERS HILL
10:30am-12pm

SEVENTH AVENUE:
A PROGRESSIVE VISION
12:30-1:15pm

MARSTON HOUSE GARDENS

THE MARSTON HOUSE
ARCHITECTURAL DETAILS
ARCHITECTS HEBBARD & GILL

Commission for Arts and Culture

PURCHASE TICKETS IN ADVANCE • \$20 PER PERSON
Online - SOHOSandiego.org/main/tourmhgill.htm • In Person - Marston House Museum Shop • Walk up tickets subject to availability



Marston House Museum

19 Machi · 🌐

For a #SundayStroll to #HistoricPlaces, tour the nearby neighborhood of Bankers Hill and observe the many various architectural styles found here, like this stunning Mediterranean Revival.

3170 Curlew Street
Captain Albert A. Ackerman House, 1912
Hazel Wood Waterman... Ona Zaidi





Marston House Museum

2 April · 🌐

For a [#SundayStroll](#) to [#HistoricPlaces](#), tour the nearby neighborhood of Bankers Hill and observe various architectural styles, including Craftsman, classic Gill Modernism, Spanish Revival, Tudor Revival, Colonial Revival, Prairie, and more in one of San Diego's most pedestrian-friendly neighborhoods.

430 W. Spruce Street
Ralph D. Laco House, 1922
Quayle Brothers... **Ona Zaidi**



Marston House Museum

6 Novemba 2022 · 🌐

For a [#SundayStroll](#) to [#HistoricPlaces](#), tour the nearby neighborhood of Bankers Hill and observe various architectural styles, including Craftsman, classic Gill Modernism, Spanish Revival, Tudor Revival, Colonial Revival, Prairie, and more in one of San Diego's most pedestrian-friendly neighborhoods.

3407 Albatross Street
Katherine Teats House #3, 1912-13
Irving Gill... **Ona Zaidi**



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Spruce Street Footbridge



60 reviews • #88 of 747 things to do in San Diego • Historic Walking Areas • Bridges

Open now • 6:00 AM - 10:00 PM [Write a review](#)

What people are saying



By Katya K

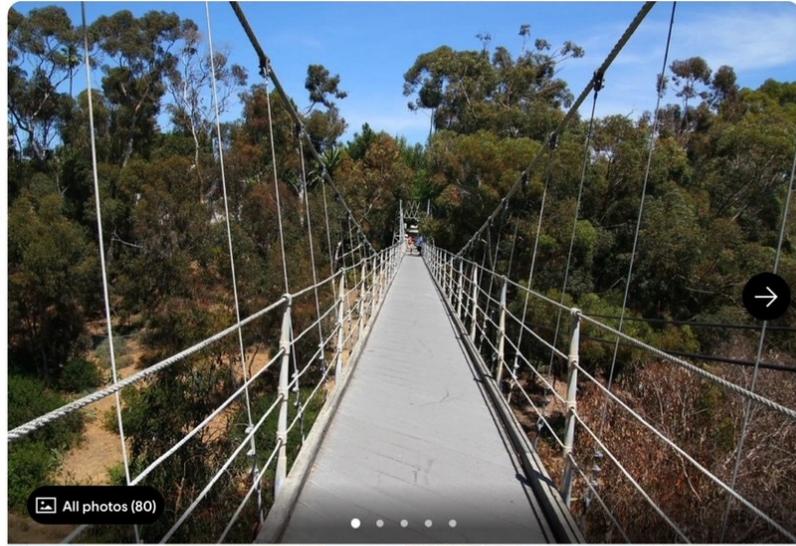
"No longer a secret, but still dope"

Jun 2021

The Spruce Footbridge is a suspension bridge, so be prepared for it to sway from side to side as you walk.

Suggest edits to improve what we show.

[Improve this listing](#)



All photos (80)



Mytravelbucket

San Diego, CA • 67 contributions

2



1912 Suspension Bridge

Apr 2018 • Family

The Spruce Street Suspension bridge is fun to see and walk across. It was built in 1912. Overlooks a canyon and as you walk across the bridge it sways a bit. From Spruce Street you cross the bridge over to Brant Street. This street is also fun to walk as it is filled with historical landmark residences. The homes probably built around the same time as the bridge are an attraction worth seeing.

Written May 1, 2018

This review is the subjective opinion of a Tripadvisor member and not of Tripadvisor LLC. Tripadvisor performs checks on reviews as part of our industry-leading trust & safety standards. Read our [transparency report](#) to learn more.



DAWN H

Shelbyville, IN • 214 contributions

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Interesting bridge hidden in a residential neighborhood

Apr 2018 • Friends

Saw the bridge as a hidden treasure on some website. I was surprised by what I found. Parked on a side street and within a few steps I was at the entrance. The bridge goes over a small canyon in the neighborhood. It is enjoyed by residents out for walks. It's near the airport and worth a stop.



Written April 29, 2018

This review is the subjective opinion of a Tripadvisor member and not of Tripadvisor LLC. Tripadvisor performs checks on reviews as part of our industry-leading trust & safety standards. Read our [transparency report](#) to learn more.

21 best free things to do in San Diego

Lonely Planet Editors
Sep 14, 2021 • 11 min read



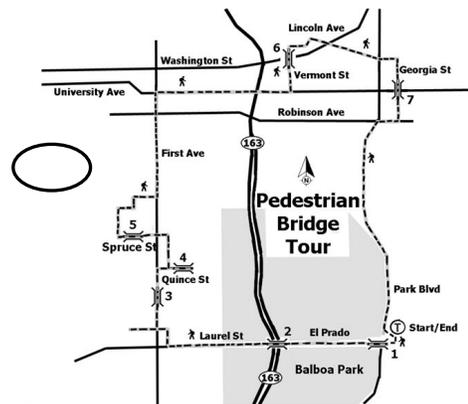
Test your mettle on the Spruce Street Suspension Bridge

Consider a detour to the Bankers Hill neighborhood to cross the 375ft [Spruce St Footbridge](#). This treetop suspension bridge, built in 1912 over a deep canyon between Front St and Brant St, wriggles beneath your feet. But don't worry; it was designed that way.

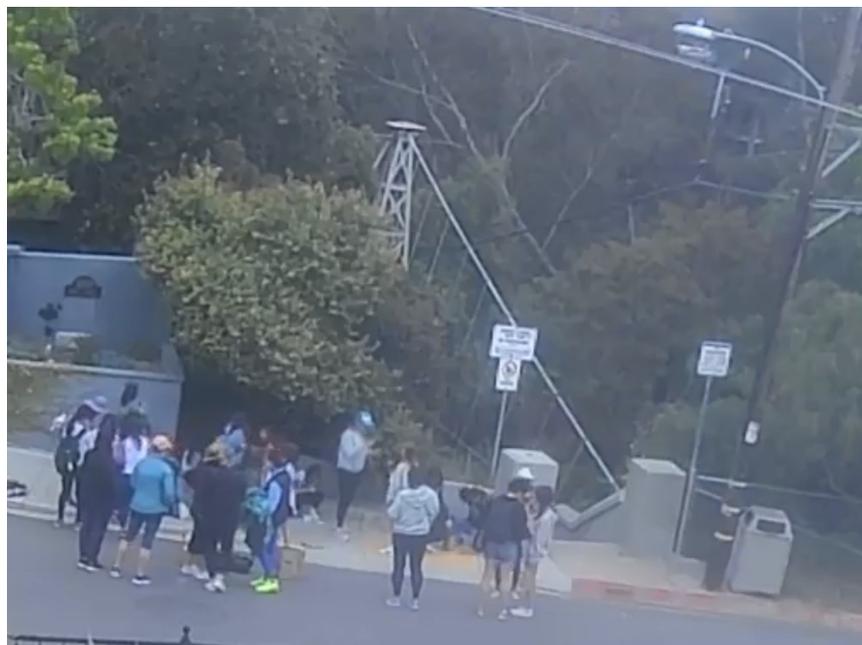


Distance: **5.5 (miles)** Difficulty: **Easy**

Pedestrian Bridge Tour – Seven Bridges



[About this trail](#)



July 23, 2024

Historical Resources Board
City of San Diego
1222 First Avenue, MS 501
San Diego CA 92101

Re: **July 25, 2024 Item # 4: Materials in support of contributing resource determinations**

Dear Chair Hutter and Board Members:

On Item #4 – “Heart of Bankers Hill Historic District National Register Nomination”, and other items brought forward to the HRB that provide a recommendation to the State for listing districts on the National Register, I have three questions:

1. Where can the public find the materials that support the determination of “Contributing” vs. “Non-Contributing” resources?

Background:

- The only information provided on the form for National Register of Historic Places Registration for each resource includes “Address”, “APN”, “Year”, “Architect” and a **short write-up of ~ 50-100 words describing the resource.**
- In contrast, research reports for the nomination of individual resources **contain over 100 pages of documentation and are always publicly available.** They are transparent and allow the public to follow-along and provide informed comments on the determination of the contributing resource.
- City Staff along with the parties bringing forward nominations have alluded to data, materials, frameworks, and other support in the determination of “Contributing Resources”, but to-date **it appears that information is not available to the public** for this or the prior three districts that have come before this board.

2. Are members of the HRB provided with additional materials so they can make informed decisions in support the determination of “Contributing” vs. “Non-Contributing” resources?

3. If so, can those materials be provided to the public as well ahead of each meeting?

This matters for **transparency and informed decision making**. We know based on prior submissions (e.g., Inspiration Heights) that there are significant contradictions between the short descriptions for each resource vs other publicly available materials and the reality of the property itself. We know that:

- Resources previously noted in historic resource survey reports as “Heavily Altered” and “Altered Beyond Recognition” were noted as “Contributing” without mention of or reconciliation of the discrepancy.
- Substantial changes such as demolition, destruction, and alteration that impaired the significance of resources were omitted from the short write-ups.

- Homeowners of resources noted as “Contributing” in the state listing, impatient with designation timing have subsequently initiated their own process for designation of their own property, only to be informed by their advisors that their home would not qualify due to significant alterations and that they should just wait for the State listing.

Without acknowledgment of the inconsistency or reconciliation between short write-up and the prior publicly available materials or the physical resource itself, it’s nearly impossible to follow along and have an opportunity to comment on the determination of contributing resources.

The number of resources being brought forward through criteria E is now at a record pace, on track for over a thousand resources in 2024 alone. It’s more important than ever to provide transparent and complete information on all contributing resources to the board and the public.

Thank you very much,

Wesley Morgan

Resident, D3