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# City Acts to Save Historic Monuments

Council Creates  
5-Member Board on  
Cultural Heritage

The City Council decided Monday to do something about preserving buildings and sites that have historic or cultural significance.

It ordered the drafting of an ordinance creating the Cultural Heritage Board, a five-member advisory group that would catalogue the city's historic buildings, monuments and other cultural features.

The proposed ordinance would allow the board time to rally the support of individuals and private societies interested in saving structures earmarked for demolition.

## Destruction Cited

"Not a day passes but some form of development in the city causes destruction," said William Woollett, chairman of the Preservation of Historic Buildings Committee of the American Institute of Architects' Southern California.

"This destruction often includes things which in the past have identified Los Angeles culture not only through her buildings . . . but through her great trees and her many historic sites. These things have helped to shape the color, character and culture of our city, and they should continue to do so."

He pointed out that a "thriving and happy city does not live and grow 'by bread alone,' meaning highways, shopping centers, manufacturing plants and just places to live and work."

Already, he told the council, the AIA has recorded about 25 Los Angeles buildings for their historic value "but no protection whatever is afforded them."

## Protect Landmarks

"This ordinance is designed to preserve the valuable landmarks of the past and those things which might very well become landmarks of the future from careless and thoughtless destruction," said Eddy S. Feldman, vice president of the Board of Municipal Art Commissioners.

Working under the commission, the board would make an inventory of buildings, monuments, trees and other sites of historical importance.

Should a permit be sought for the demolition of a specific structure or site, the board would have 15 days to object, if it is interested in its preservation. This action would suspend the issuance of a permit for not more than six months.

The board may seek an additional six months moratorium if it believes it needs that long to save the structure.

First steps to set up the Cultural Heritage Board were taken in mid-1958 when representatives of the AIA and other civic and business groups met to formulate a legislative program.