

County paves way for tax break to preserve historic buildings

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The Calaveras County Planning Department has begun processing Mills Act applications aimed at helping property owners obtain reduced property taxes for the continued preservation of historic properties.

The Calaveras County Board of Supervisors earlier this year voted unanimously to establish procedures for the implementation of the Mills Act including amending its historic buildings and structures ordinance.

To be eligible, a property must not be exempt from property taxation, is privately owned and meets one or more of the following criteria:

- Property is listed on National Register of Historic Places or California Register of Historic Places, or
- Property is eligible to be listed on National Register of Historic Places or California Register of Historic Places, or
- Property is at least 75 years old and has been determined to have historical significance by the County.

Property owners interested in taking advantage of the program will be asked to enter into a 10-year contract with the county, and Mills Act contracts will be taken before the County Board of Supervisors for a determination of approval.

Preservation efforts must conform to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties and the California Historical Building Code and focused on the preservation of the historic fabric and character defining features of the property.

For more information or to download an application, visit the Calaveras County Planning Department website at <https://planning.calaverasgov.us/Resources/Forms> then scroll down to the Mills Act folder.