

## San Antonio Park

Pavilion at the top of San Antonio Park occupies the site long used as a lookout for shipping on the estuary. (Oakland History Room)



One of the earliest settlements in present day Oakland began at the Embarcadero San Antonio near what is now the intersection of East 12th Street and 14th Avenue in the Brooklyn section of East Oakland. The village of San Antonio started as an embarkation point for cattle, hides and other products of Rancho San Antonio, and its nearby public square, San Antonio Plaza, served as a gathering point for entertainments and festivities. The twelve acre plaza, now known as San Antonio Park, is a gently sloping greensward at Foothill Boulevard and 16th Avenue. It is the oldest park in the city, dating back to Spanish times.

From the rancho period through the early Anglo settlement years, the plaza served for recreation, law enforcement and commerce, and it is closely associated with the Peralta family and James LaRue, an early settler. Its development in the early part of the 20th century is an example of the extensive public improvements program, following the precepts of the nationwide

City Beautiful movement, which was instituted in Oakland by Mayor Frank Mott.

In 1820, Don Luis Maria Peralta was granted 11 leagues, or about 44,800 acres, by the Spanish government in recognition of his 40 years of military service, and his work in establishing the missions of Santa Clara, Santa Cruz and San Jose. The Rancho San Antonio grant, which included all of the land between San Leandro Creek and El Cerrito, from the water to the crest of the hills, was confirmed to Peralta by Mexico in 1822, and again by the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in 1846. Peralta, who resided in San Jose, divided the rancho between his four sons in 1842, and the portion in which the park is located was given to Antonio Maria Peralta, whose home was in Fruitvale at what is now Peralta Hacienda Park.

In common with other landed Californios, Antonio Peralta used his portion of the rancho for cattle grazing and some farming. The period from 1833 to 1850 has been described as the Golden Age of rancho life:

"The country was lovely, the climate delightful; the valleys were filled with horses and cattle; wants were few, and no one dreaded dearth." The small population, though scattered, relied on each other for company, and long visits and celebrations were commonplace. Church days, bull-fights and displays of horsemanship were occasions of festivity, and history has it that the park, San Antonio Plaza, was the scene of many such amusements and celebrations. For the more bloodthirsty there were bull and bear fights with grizzly bears captured in the nearby hills.

About 1840 Anglos began to arrive to harvest the redwoods on the rancho. Located in what is now Montclair, the stand was the only one of its kind in the county and was used for navigation by ships in the bay in the early days of exploration. The forest was divided roughly into the San Antonio, or "first," redwoods on the skyline and western slope of the hills, which probably included what is now Joaquin Miller Park, the middle, or "second," redwoods in Mill Canyon, which runs through the present day Redwood Regional Park, and the Moraga redwoods on the Contra Costa side of the hills near the community of Canyon.

The settlement of San Antonio grew to provide transportation for the lumber, and

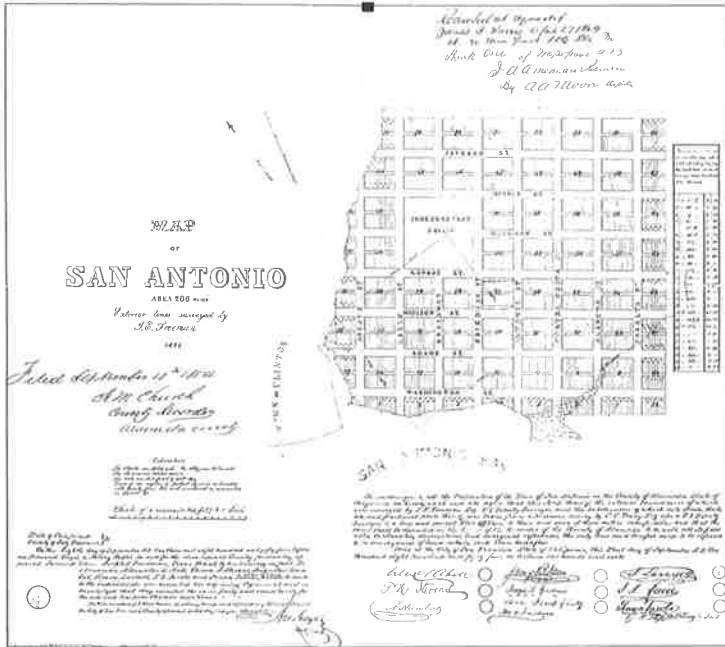
services for the lumbermen. The lumber was brought down what is now Park Boulevard and 13th Avenue and shipped to towns throughout the Bay Area, including Benicia, San Francisco, San Jose and Martinez.

The high point of San Antonio Plaza served the settlement as a lookout for ships coming up San Antonio Creek (now the estuary). As it does today, the park afforded a clear view of the bay and estuary from its crest on 17th Avenue and East 19th Street. A watchtower at the top of the hill, now the site of the pavilion, was used to monitor the arrival of ships at the Embarcadero and a flag was raised to signal the arrivals.

Pioneer James LaRue arrived in 1851 and established a wharf and store to serve the needs of the lumbermen. The store, a large tent constructed of bull hides stretched over whipsawed lumber, was soon replaced by a wooden structure. In 1858 LaRue started ferry service from the wharf to Oakland and San Francisco which, by 1863, offered service five times a day. In addition to his mercantile and transportation ventures, LaRue was involved in real estate and civic affairs, and was one of the richest men assessed in Alameda County in 1859.

Early caption on this Oakland History Room photo reads "San Antonio, 1868. Taken from Independence Square showing landing at foot of 13th Avenue where ferry boat to SF departed."





1854 San Antonio town map dedicates Independence Square. North-south streets are named for presidents, east-west for local namesakes including map signers LaRue and Friedman.

As one of the more entrepreneurial of these early settlers, LaRue purchased a large tract of land from Antonio Peralta which was subdivided in 1854 as San Antonio. It was by that subdivision that the plaza became officially dedicated as a public space, rechristened Independence Square.

When Independence Square was dedicated in 1854, Alameda County was one year old, the State of California four, and the City of Oakland two. In 1856 the settlement at San Antonio, and its neighbor across 14th Avenue, subdivided in 1854 as Clinton Park, became part of the large township of Brooklyn which included all the land from Lake Merritt to San Leandro, bounded on the northeast by the crest of the hills along the county line.

During the period of Anglo settlement, Independence Square continued to serve as a public gathering place. According to early accounts, the bull ring was located at the corner of 16th Avenue and Foothill. Bull fighting was a regular Sunday amusement, drawing crowds from both sides of the bay, and a special excursion ferry was used to bring spectators from San Francisco. According to an 1876 history, in the 1850s San Antonio, along with San Jose and Oakland, was the scene of "considerable debauchery. Gambling flourished; fandangos were in favor; drinking, bull and bear-fighting, horse-racing... were regular Sunday amuse-

ments; and the ceremony of 'hanging Judas' on Good Friday, never failed to draw people together... Indians, Californians, Mexicans, Portuguese, and even Americans." The sport of bull and bear fighting was outlawed, but at least one man, Miguel Marquis, was fined \$150 in 1858 for the practice.

The settlement at San Antonio was also the scene of a number of lynchings in the 1850s. Thieves and cattle rustlers received this summary form of justice at the hands of the loggers, variously called the redwood boys, redwoodites or redwood rangers, who came down from their rough camps in the hills especially for the purpose. Then, as now, the San Francisco papers made much of violence in Oakland. Headlines proclaimed "Lynch Law in San Antonio!! Two Men Hung!!!", "The Excitement in Oakland! Attack Upon the Jail!! One of the Horse Thieves Hung!!!", "Another Lynching in San Antonio. More of the 'Redwood Rangers.'"

By 1860 the first growth redwoods had been logged out, and the character of the settlement at San Antonio began to change. With the completion of the terminus of the trans-continental railroad in Oakland in 1869, the future growth of the East Bay was assured



James LaRue's Italianate villa at 1318 East 12th Street was built in 1870-72; LaRue did not live to occupy it. It stood as a rooming house until about 1960. (Oakland History Room)



The first Alameda County courthouse at 20th Avenue and East 14th Street, around the 1930s when it was a broom warehouse, and today, several remodelings later. (O.H.R.; Phil Bellman)



construction of Oakland City Hall, acquisition and improvement of Lakeside Park, and landscaping and improvements to Independence Square. The greensward effect which is now seen is largely the result of the landscaping which began in 1906.

In addition to the extensive lawns and plantings, a well and reservoir were put in in 1910, and a pavilion, designed by Oakland architect Walter Reed, of the firm Reed and Corlett, was erected on the site of the old watchtower. Reed and Corlett was a prominent Oakland firm, responsible for numerous downtown buildings, including the Financial Center Building at 14th and Franklin, as well as a number of schools.

In 1958, a clubhouse, designed by Kolbeck and Peterson, was dedicated as part of a program to enhance use of the park. Tucked in beneath the pavilion, the clubhouse echoes the curve of the earlier structure. Built to accommodate 130 people, the roof of the building was designed as a viewing platform looking out over the bay. In 1991, an additional building was erected, to the east of the pavilion and clubhouse, for use as a child care center.

Surrounded by a neighborhood of Victorian and Craftsman houses, cottages and small



San Antonio Park today. (Phil Bellman)

and in 1870 the town of Brooklyn, made up of Clinton Park, San Antonio, and the neighboring settlement of Lynn, was incorporated. Both ferry and train linked Brooklyn to San Francisco and Oakland and a horse car line to Oakland was established in 1873. In 1872, the newly formed municipality, nearly 3,000 in population, voted for annexation to Oakland. Part of the lure of annexation was the promise that the county seat, previously located in Alvarado, would be moved to Brooklyn, and Independence Square was offered as a possible site. After some wrangling, and a brief period where the county seat was located in San Antonio at East 14th and 20th Avenue, a site on Broadway and 5th Street in downtown Oakland won the honor.

From the period of annexation until 1905 there is little record of the park. While bull and bear were probably long gone, horse racing may have continued on the lower ground of the park. In 1890, a year in which the city paved a number of streets and installed sidewalks, some grading of Independence Square took place. In the late 1900s, a contract was let for a fence around the park, but otherwise the land was apparently left to the native grasses. In 1905 the perimeter of the park was planted with 48 elm trees, nineteen of which remain. Some were probably removed to widen Foothill Boulevard, and a number of trees along 16th Avenue succumbed to Dutch elm disease in the 1980s, replaced by little leaf lindens.

The year 1905 also saw the election of Frank Mott as Mayor of Oakland. The City Beautiful movement, which had grown out the 1893 Columbian Exposition in Chicago, came to Oakland under Mott's administration. Eight million dollars in bonds were approved for civic improvements, among which were

Hilly topography of San Antonio neighborhood gives added interest to its fine Victorian houses. (Phil Bellman)

bungalows, the park today retains much of the character it must have had in the early 1900s. The hilly topography and naturalistic planting create a sense of openness and expanse much greater than the actual size of the park would suggest. The views of the estuary and bay range from the Golden Gate to the Santa Cruz mountains and provide a suggestion of what was to be seen in the early days of Alameda County.

Most recently, in 1991, San Antonio Park was the site of a Cinco de Mayo celebration. Following a parade from the Fruitvale BART Station along East 14th Street to the park, an estimated four to six thousand people gathered for the festivities, continuing the park's long tradition as a public gathering place. The Oakland Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board has recommended the park for designation as a City Landmark. The recommendation is scheduled to be heard by the Planning Commission in October, and then go to the City Council.

--Carolyn Douthat

## San Antonio: A Contemporary Account

The following is an excerpt from Nine Years Adventures in California from September, 1852, to September, 1861, the journal of Joseph P. Lamson of Lubec, Maine, who wrote under the name of James Lamson and arrived in San Francisco aboard the barque James W. Paige on September 7, 1852. Lamson came to Mill Canyon (now part of Redwood Regional Park) in July, 1853, to operate a combination lodging house, liquor and grocery store, and stayed until about 1855.

Information on Lamson, the excerpt from his diary, and some of the material in the accompanying article are from A Yankee Trader in the California Redwoods, a publication of the East Bay Regional Park District by F.J. Monteagle.

August 14, 1853

I went to San Francisco today, it being Sunday. I found a considerable concourse of pleasure-seeking people, male and female, at San Antonio. Among them were a number of well-dressed Mexican girls on horseback accompanied by their brothers or gallants. They stopped at a large hotel for refreshments and attracted much attention from a crowd of idlers. They were richly dressed and wore a peculiar fur riding hat and veil. Their horses were handsomely caparisoned and the side saddles were of the most fashionable description.

Among the gentlemen was a handsome boy of about 16 who rode a young, spirited horse,



covered with a rich silvermounted black saddle--such a one as I would like to send home were I able--and with bridle and stirrups to correspond. When the ladies mounted their horses, they placed their foot in the gentleman's hand which he held down for the purpose, and then, with a nimble spring, bounded very gracefully into their saddles. This is an old Spanish custom and it was Delano, I think [Alonzo Delano, early California author and illustrator] who spoke of his awkwardness in trying to assist a lady to mount a horse in this manner...

When they were ready, the ladies, six or seven in number, started off at a brisk gallop in true Mexican style and it seemed to me that they intended to dispense with any further services from their gallants, but they better knew the speed of Mexican horses than I did. Presently, the handsome boy with the handsome and richly caparisoned horse started in chase and, giving loose rein to his steed, off he went with the fleetness of a bird and, no doubt, soon overtook the pretty brunettes. The other beaux, though in no apparent haste to start, went off at the same speed..."



# Seismic Strengthening in Old Oakland

The eleven buildings which form the heart of the Old Oakland/Victorian Row district sustained surprisingly little damage from the October 1989 earthquake. Many structures including other unreinforced masonry buildings in central Oakland were heavily damaged. The use of practical and efficient current technology to mitigate the risks of earthquake damage was largely responsible for this success. The expense of strengthening the buildings was virtually recovered by avoiding the substantial repairs that might otherwise have been required after the quake. In addition the buildings remained in service to their tenants and the community, while many of central Oakland's older buildings were vacated.

In the period from 1863 to 1885 when the Old Oakland buildings were constructed, the means and methods of resisting seismic forces were not well developed. However they did exist in rudimentary form. Many elements of seismic resistance were incorporated in the original design of these buildings.

The damage to corner buildings in San Francisco's Marina district helps illustrate one of these elements. Large openings along both street facing sides, typically garage doors, meant that no stiffening elements such as walls were available to prevent the collapses which occurred. In the Victorian Row area, all of the corner buildings originally had solid masonry walls on three sides including one wall facing a street front.

1869 photo and 1896 drawing show solid walls on 9th Street sides of corner buildings at Broadway. The Wilcox Block (1868), left, is on the southwest corner; the first Delger Block (1880-85, architects Kenitzer & Raun), right, was familiar in the 1970s as "Bum Checks Cashed" and more recently as Bay Bridge Books. (Oakland History Room)



The fourth side was the only totally open elevation, with complete storefronts facing one street. The three masonry "shear walls" combined to provide a fairly stiff and stable base to resist seismic forces.

Not surprisingly, the main thoroughfare of the day along Broadway contained the open storefronts while 8th, 9th, and 10th Streets were given the less desirable but necessary solid wall. The designers of the Arlington and LaSalle buildings gave preference to the "Victorian Row" block along 9th Street by placing the solid wall element on Washington Street. Examples of these original corner "shear" walls can be seen at Ratto's along 9th Street at Washington and at the Sanford building along 8th Street at Broadway.

Unfortunately in the past the function of these walls was not understood or was not considered. They were removed in the early part of this century to provide additional storefronts. Steel beams and columns which provide none of the lateral support necessary to resist earthquakes were then set in place supporting the walls above.

Another important seismic resisting element of masonry buildings constructed in this era was the use of iron anchors to tie the floors and roof (diaphragms) to the exterior brick walls. These can be seen in the minor elevations at the rear and sides of the buildings. Most often simple rectangular plates were used but cast ornamental round and star shaped washers were sometimes employed. These washers and plates were tied back to the wood floor and roof joists with iron rods. In the principal street facing facades the anchor plates were concealed under the belting and cornice assemblies. These anchors are crucial in keeping the exterior brick walls from falling away from the building.

A third seismically significant feature of these buildings is the construction of the



brick walls themselves. The thickness of the walls varies from 17 to 9 inches with the floor-to-floor heights of the building. When the story height was greater the walls were made thicker. This allowed them a measure of resistance to the bending imposed by an earthquake. The four-course rear brick wall of the Arlington is one of the few places where this is both accessible and apparent.

By themselves the existing elements even if in perfect condition might not have resisted an earthquake of the magnitude of 1989. Additionally, over time, weathering and remodeling caused substantial weakening of the buildings. Water damage to the masonry was as significant as the removal of the street facing shear walls. Substantial loss of mortar occurred on all elevations, particularly near the top where exposure to wind driven rain was severe. Also rising damp weakened some masonry at the ground-



Work in progress on the LaSalle Building, 1985. Note Washington Street side with later iron columns in place of original shear wall. (Oakland Cultural Heritage Survey)

directly over the existing sheathing at each floor and at the roof. This added the required additional strength while taking advantage of what was already present. The masonry was tested to determine its inherent strength. Where it was very weak concrete was sprayed over reinforcing steel attached directly to the masonry, creating new shear walls. Where the existing walls had substantial strength parallel lines of rigid steel "braced frames" were inserted. These in turn were securely attached to the floor and to the roof diaphragms with steel angles. Both the new shear walls and the braced frames were placed on new concrete footings. This provided a continuous "load path" from all portions of the building to the ground.

In addition to the new strengthening elements, much repair of existing structural components was required. Most of the brickwork on the minor facades required repointing or complete rebuilding. Large areas of wood framing including beams, joists, and floor sheathing had literally rotted away and were replaced. Other upgrades such as electrical, plumbing, and fire sprinklers were necessary for the buildings' use.

It is easy to see and appreciate the beauty of the work that went into restoring the facades in the Old Oakland/Victorian Row district. Much of the structural strengthening is appropriately out of sight and goes unnoticed by the public and the users. It can be appreciated by recognizing the protection that it provided to the buildings and their functions two years ago this October.

--Dennis M. Owens, A.I.A.

Dennis Owens is an architect in private practice in Oakland. He was the project architect with Storek and Storek on the Old Oakland project.



1963 photo of Ratto's building (the Gooch Block, 1876, John S. Tibbals, arch.) shows shear wall along 9th Street, and ornamental iron anchor plates. (City Planning Dept.)

line. This process occurs when water wicks up from below and evaporates leaving behind previously dissolved solids. Additional weakening resulted from partial loss of effective floor and roof diaphragms. These had rotted away in several places where they were exposed to repeated wetting from roof and skylight leaks.

The seismic upgrading work took into account both the strengths and the weaknesses of the buildings as they stood. The original iron anchors had been placed at approximately six feet on center. Engineering analysis recommended anchors two to four feet apart. Thousands of additional anchors were installed and the existing anchors were retained. Calculations also indicated that the floor and roof diaphragms were too flexible. A layer of plywood was nailed

## Oakland Briefing . . .

The "Oakland Briefing" column is prepared by the OHA Preservation Action Committee. If you would like to help monitor preservation issues in Oakland, please call Carolyn Douthat, 763-5370.

### ■ EARTHQUAKE ISSUES CONTINUE

As this issue is being written, the second anniversary of the Loma Prieta earthquake approaches. The briefing articles this month reflect the continuing focus of OHA's Preservation Action Committee on buildings damaged by the quake, and issues surrounding seismic safety and repair.

While many buildings closed by the earthquake have yet to come back on line, work is underway on a number of buildings downtown, notably SRO hotels like the Touraine, the Oaks, and the San Pablo. The old Post Office building at 10th and Clay, which many thought would be lost, is being repaired, plans have been submitted for the Hotel Oakland, and Mills College has received a \$628,000 FEMA grant to repair Mills Hall.

While the slow pace of recovery may in part be blamed on a sluggish real estate market, particularly with respect to downtown commercial buildings like the Broadway Building and the Key System Building, delays can also be traced to the time required to process federal and state funding applications. There are still important buildings whose futures are to be decided, including the Rotunda, the Southern Pacific station in

West Oakland, and others covered in this issue. OHA will continue to follow as many issues as volunteers can handle: readers interested in joining the Preservation Action Committee should call Sally Nielsen (839-8383) or Carolyn Douthat (763-5370).

### ■ CITY HALL

With the announcement that a \$35.9 million grant from FEMA has been secured for repair of City Hall, the Council heard in September that the financing for the restoration and retrofit of the 1911 Beaux Arts building is complete. Earlier in the month, state funding of \$18.1 million was committed for the estimated \$54 million project.

The design phase for the first part of the project is already underway. VBN Architects, Michael Willis and Associates, Carey and Company, and Forell/Elsesser Engineers, Inc., are working on the clock tower repair and the base isolation system. Construction on this part of the project will begin with removal of a portion of the parking garage on Clay Street which abuts City Hall. Modifications to the garage are necessary to allow City Hall to move on the base isolation system during an earthquake without running up against the garage.

The city has also been conducting interviews with the teams vying for the design contract on the rest of the project. The field of original applicants has been narrowed to a short list of teams who were interviewed and rated by a panel in September. --Carolyn Douthat

### ■ BROADWAY BUILDING

Last May the City Council Public Works Committee postponed a recommendation on the landmark designation of the Broadway Building at 14th and Broadway pending a repair feasibility study which was being proposed by the City Manager's Office. Discussions between the City, Taldan (owners of the building) and the City Hall Advisory Team, made up of representatives from OHA, the AIA, Oakland Design Advocates, the Western Regional Office of the National Trust and the California Preservation Foundation, have not yet concluded. The parties have each developed portions of a proposed scope of work for the study, with recommendations from the Advisory Team on professionals with expertise in repair and retrofit of historic structures. --Carolyn Douthat



Waiting room of 16th Street S.P. station, an earthquake damaged building whose future is still uncertain (Phil Bellman)





Work has begun on City Hall, with state and FEMA funding amounting to \$54 million. (Phil Bellman)

#### ■ CHURCH UPDATE

The two earthquake damaged churches, St. Francis de Sales and Sacred Heart, have each received independent evaluations by preservation experts and the results are encouraging. The National Trust report (organized by the Western Regional Office and the Philadelphia-based Partners for Sacred Places: see Summer issue) was released in early August. Another team of local experts headed by former OHA board member Randolph Langenbach volunteered to conduct an independent analysis of Sacred Heart. That report, along with an ad hoc community organized fundraising plan, was submitted to the Oakland City Council September 10 at a continued hearing on whether the demolition application for Sacred Heart should be subject to environmental review.

Both reports stressed the feasibility of repairing the buildings and took on the issue of whether they could be made as safe as new construction. The opinion was yes, in both cases. A retrofit plan formulated by Langenbach and Thomassen for Sacred Heart was estimated to cost under \$1 million, substantially less than the \$3.5 million estimate other experts have put forward. In the meantime the ad hoc fundraising committee, headed by Sacred Heart parishioner Mary Ann Francis and OHA members Beryl Vonderheid and Steven Schonborn, worked through the month of August and reported pledges exceeding \$30,000. At the Sept. 10 Council meeting a discussion of the Sacred Heart report was postponed until October 22 to allow Diocese and City staff time to study it.

Attorney Frederick Hertz and environmental planner Lynne Horiuchi (a neighbor of the building) are concerned that the city has not required an EIR before issuing the demolition permit for Sacred Heart. They are appealing the Planning Commission's decision not to invoke the environmental review process. This appeal will also be taken up at the October meeting.

The City has determined that an EIR is required before issuance of a demolition permit for St. Francis de Sales. The different treatment of the two churches points out an inadequacy of the Earthquake Repair Ordinance. Although the intent of the ordinance is to provide environmental review for architecturally significant structures, these buildings are treated differently simply because of their locations. The downtown Cathedral (which had been fully documented by the Cultural Heritage Survey prior to the quake) passed the "qualified historic structures" definition in the Earthquake Repair Ordinance. But since the North Oakland area has yet to be surveyed, Sacred Heart has no official rating, and therefore is not subject to review. (See Summer 1990 OHA News for explanation of the Ordinance.) The EIR for St. Francis is expected to be completed in February 1992 and must then be submitted for public comment and certification before a decision on the demolition application can be made.

In a preface to the Trust report, coordinators Lisbeth Henning and Robert Jaeger summed up the intent of the assessment: "We... wanted to conduct this project in a way that would demonstrate to religious,

community and historic preservation leaders that those who are concerned about the stewardship and preservation of older religious properties can participate in a reasonable and fair dialogue that is mindful and respectful of the purposes of church and community alike. To be good stewards of our heritage, there must be greater trust between clergyman and preservationist, between community activist and parish leader."

Although the final fate of both churches is yet to be determined, it is hoped that much has been learned about the problems facing threatened religious properties and that means can be developed to preserve them. The engineering and seismic solutions (as both reports conclude) are entirely feasible. Clearly the most serious obstacle to repair remains identifying additional sources of funding. Both reports are available for review in the OHA office. Those interested in assisting with efforts to save either Sacred Heart or the Cathedral should contact the OHA office or Friends of Landmark Churches c/o Mary Ann Francis, 655-4971. --Annalee Allen

#### ■ UNREINFORCED MASONRY COALITION

OHA continues to participate in the community coalition monitoring proposed ordinances affecting unreinforced masonry (URM) buildings. The Coalition grew out of the ad hoc committee formed to provide input to the Earthquake Repair Ordinance and includes representatives from the East Bay Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, the Oakland Chamber of Commerce, the Oakland Board of Realtors, and **Oakland Heritage Alliance**. In addition to reviewing the proposed program for mandatory abatement of earthquake damaged buildings, the Coalition is currently considering a seismic retrofit program for unreinforced masonry buildings.

In June and July, the City produced two reports dealing with vacant, earthquake-damaged commercial buildings downtown. The Office of Economic Development and Employment report identified financial and real estate market issues that influence why buildings remain vacant and unrepaired--in other words, why the voluntary repair program in the Earthquake Repair Ordinance has not meant results for these buildings. A report in July prepared by the Office of Public Works presented more information on



The Clay Building (former post office) at 10th and Clay: an encouraging example of a seriously damaged building which has been repaired. (Phil Bellman)

the status of earthquake-damaged buildings, identifying building permits issued, work in progress, value of issued permits, and total estimated value of repair work, among other things. Following from the interests of the Mayor and the City Council, the report focused on the remaining major, vacant, unsafe residential and commercial buildings. There are 25 such buildings; most are located in the downtown area.

At the direction of the City Council, staff is in the process of developing a mandatory earthquake damage abatement program, under which building owners would be required to complete agreed upon repair work within a specified time. If that does not happen, the City would be authorized to complete the work at the owners' expense. Those major privately-owned buildings in the central business district that remain unrepaired and unoccupied, because they constitute the most concentrated problem, would be the target of the mandatory abatement ordinance. The Public Works report identified 21 specific buildings to which the ordinance would apply, five of which already have repair permits. Of the remaining sixteen, eleven are of historic and/or architectural significance under the definition contained in the Earthquake Repair Ordinance.

Such a program has many complicating elements, including the repair standards required, financial assistance and other incentives, evaluating development potential, and identifying funding for actual abatement work. According to the Public Works report: "A process will be developed to consider factors affecting

building safety and rehabilitation, including extent of damage, financial difficulties, historic significance, and development potential." [Emphasis added.] OHA, other members of the Coalition, and other interested parties will be monitoring this process closely. Our particular concerns are avoiding demolition as the only means of "abating" the hazard, devising alternative strengthening standards, suggesting alternative methods of stabilizing buildings short of full-blown strengthening or demolition, as well as identifying financial assistance and other incentives. The report does not indicate criteria to be used in determining whether to allow demolition, or criteria for determining which buildings the City itself would repair.

A study to evaluate alternatives for retrofitting unreinforced masonry buildings is underway at the same time. The City has retained Recht Hausrath & Associates (economic consultants), Rutherford & Chekene (consulting engineers) and the Architectural Resources Group (architectural consultants) to complete a socio-economic and engineering analysis of seismic retrofitting alternatives. The study will describe the population of URM buildings (including their architectural and historic significance), identify costs of the various alternatives, and identify implications of the retrofitting alternatives for building owners, the building stock and development patterns in the city, and residential and commercial tenants, as well as for architectural character. The Coalition is involved in defining alternatives for analysis and will hear periodic progress reports from the consultants and City staff.

#### ■ DOWNTOWN VISION WORKSHOP

In November 1990 and at a follow-up session in February 1991, OHA participated in the Downtown Vision Workshop sponsored by the City's Office of Economic Development and Employment and the Broadway Symposium. The Workshop, led by a team of consultants headed by Lawrence Halprin, gathered to "visualize desired (and undesired) future states for downtown." The Workshop consisted of tours of various downtown neighborhoods (with the intent of observing and questioning design, landscape, social and economic elements), sketching, role-playing, and discussion.

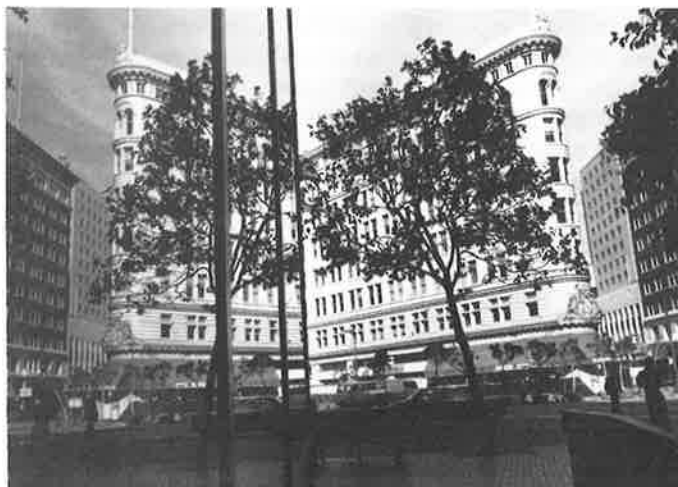
OHA's representative was one of the few participants directly identified with community interests; most were City staff, City Council members and staff, other public agency representatives, and downtown business interests and property owners.

The report of the Workshop was published this September. The recommendations are summarized in eight categories:

1. Encourage managed growth in the downtown;
2. Preserve the integrity of downtown neighborhoods;
3. Build upon the existing downtown structure;
4. Strengthen attributes which contribute to Oakland's "sense of place";
5. Encourage a pedestrian quality to the downtown;
6. Build city-wide support for the downtown;
7. Improve the image of downtown;
8. Maintain a process to guide the future of downtown.

On their face, those categories suggest a strong bent towards preservation in the Workshop's vision for downtown Oakland. In fact, although historic resources are addressed in several aspects of the report, the conclusions are mixed. One is not left with a clear sense of the "Vision."

Old Oakland was addressed specifically, as a distinct area with the restored Victorians presenting a strong identity towards Broadway: "The contribution of Old Oakland to the ambience of the downtown was recognized by almost everyone. Maintenance of the scale and character of Old Oakland was considered to be important." Participants struggled with how to enhance activity in the area (nighttime entertainment, cultural facilities, dining), while at the same time preserving and strengthening the identity of the larger Old Oakland neigh-



Downtown vision: Broadway Building reflected by the Wells Fargo building at 14th and Broadway. (Phil Bellman)

borhood, extending from the Old Oakland project west to the freeway.

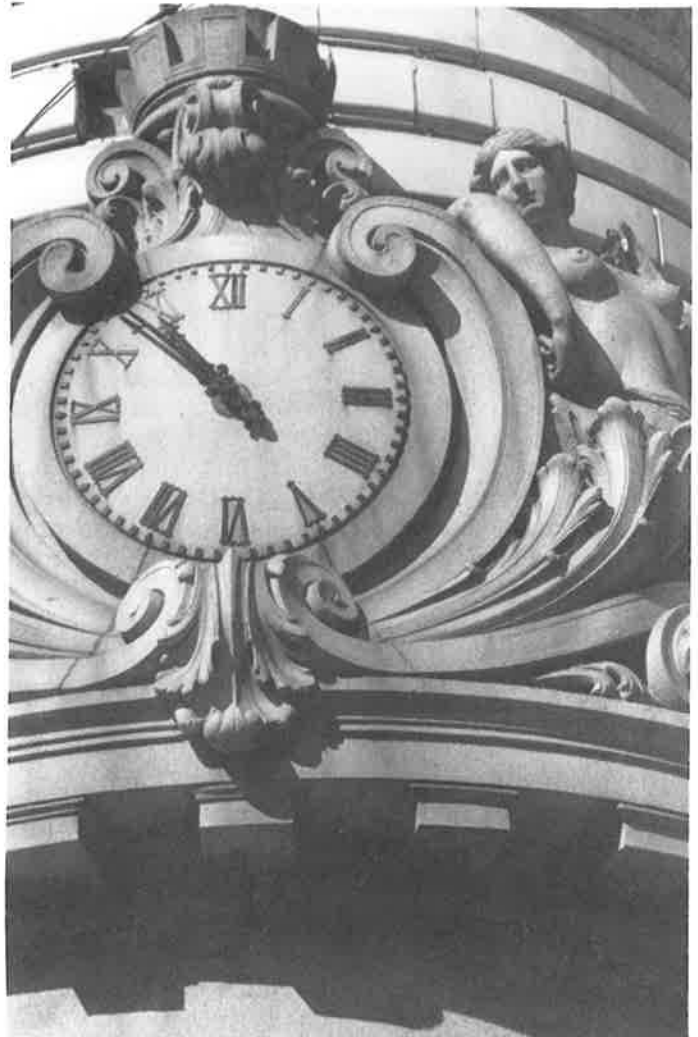
The historic architecture of the downtown core received considerable attention. The blend of old and new is noted in sketches, photographs, and commentary in the report. In describing the Workshop's recommendation to "strengthen attributes which contribute to sense of place," the report notes:

"In describing their 'favorite cities,' participants often mentioned historic character as an important attribute. Oakland contains a number of historic buildings and districts. Participants felt that historic resources should be maintained and celebrated where possible. The preservation of historic structures was cited as especially important in areas where new development threatens them with demolition.... The participants believed that existing restoration activities should be continued and encouraged."

"Landmarks" received particular attention: "Workshop participants agreed that landmarks, or 'place-makers,' are important elements to be used in orienting oneself to the downtown, in communicating the history and character of an area, and in celebrating and enhancing the special qualities of a particular place. Such landmarks do exist and should be further encouraged to exist in Oakland."

Still, the Workshop conclusions as to the future of downtown's historic resources and landmarks are not particularly strong statements for preservation. The future of earthquake-damaged buildings was a subject of debate at the Workshop and there was a sense of urgency that solutions be forthcoming, but no clear guidance emerged.

Although "participants felt strongly that historic character was an important component in creating a memorable downtown" and "most felt that the character of the downtown core was strong and should be preserved," the Workshop report indicates no consensus in articulating a vision of the role of historic resources in downtown's future. City Hall and the Rotunda are mentioned as good candidates for preservation. Although the pivotal role of the Broadway Building is noted ("The Broadway Building and the Cathedral Building were cited as special places"), there was less agreement on commitment to preservation. Some wanted to preserve and illuminate the Broadway Building; others viewed the crossroads site as a significant opportu-



"Opportunity for a statement about downtown": detail of the Broadway Building. (Phil Bellman)

nity for a statement via open space or a replacement signature building.

Clearly, the report of the Vision Workshop is just the beginning of coming to grips with crucial downtown planning issues that have been brewing for some time. OHA will continue to participate in the process as an advocate for preservation of both the unique and the common elements of the downtown built environment, those elements that we have celebrated for over ten years as defining its "sense of place."

#### ■ PLANNING COMMISSION VOTES TO LANDMARK OLD MERRITT COLLEGE

By a 5-2 vote in September, the City Planning Commission voted to recommend landmark status for old University High School/Merritt College. The Commission first considered this nomination in January of

1991 after referral from the Landmarks Board. Consideration of the nomination was tabled at that time, pending the completion of Section 106 historic documentation. The Commission again heard the matter in May of this year, and again postponed a decision, this time until the City Planning Department had had an opportunity to meet with the State Office of Historic Preservation to begin Section 106 review of a supermarket/housing project proposed for the site.

As has been reported in OHA News, a substantial amount of controversy has surrounded this site, largely because the supermarket project proposed demolition of all but the bell tower and auditorium, but also because of the city's resistance to complying with the federal Section 106 requirements. The project sponsor, North Oakland Redevelopment Associates, no longer has any contractual relationship with the city, and the project is only one of many that could be considered for the site.

In the most recent hearing, staff again recommended delaying a decision on landmarking even though consultation with the State Office of Historic Preservation had taken place. The rationale was that designation of the property would hamper future negotiations with the state, and could affect the EIR/EIS analysis of alternatives for the site. The hearing took two hours, during which commissioners questioned Planning Director Alvin James at some length on the basis for the staff recommendation.

Testimony in favor of the designation, which was initiated by the North Oakland Voters Alliance, focused on the history of the complex as a center for innovative educational programs, during both the University High School and Merritt College periods, as well as its architectural significance. In a letter presented to the Commission at the hearing, OHA joined in support of designation and criticized the staff report for its failure to clearly present landmarking on the merits as the real issue before the Commission.

After thoughtful questions to a number of the speakers and staff, the Commission voted to recommend landmark designation for the main building, the auditorium and the bell tower. The recommendation will go to the City Council for a final decision.

--Carolyn Douthat

Engine 2467 passing 16th and Wood Street Station in the early 1950s, probably on a Sacramento local run. (photo by Fred A. Stendt)

## ■ HARRISON RAILROAD PARK FOLLOWUP: S.P. 2467 TO BE RESTORED

On December 23, 1990, former Southern Pacific steam locomotive 2467 was moved by Trost Movers from its home of 30 years in Harrison Railroad Park. The Pacific Locomotive Association (PLA), which has leased the locomotive from the City of Oakland for 30 years, had it moved to a temporary storage site on a siding beneath the Bay Bridge interchange. The following June, with S.P. engineer and PLA member Mike Helm at the throttle, it was moved to a restoration site near the Oakland Terminal Railroad office within the Oakland Army Base, near some of PLA's other equipment.

The 2467 was built for Southern Pacific by the Baldwin Locomotive Works in 1921 for passenger and express train service on the run between Ogden, Utah, and Sparks, Nevada. In the 1930s it was used on the S.P. coast line between Los Angeles and San Francisco, and later for local passenger service out of Oakland and Sacramento. In 1955 it was retired into storage in the S.P. yards in West Oakland. In 1960 S.P. donated the locomotive to the City of Oakland and placed it--along with the business car Western and a Western Pacific coach and baggage car--in Harrison Park near the Alameda Tube. The business car is now at Niles Canyon and the coach and baggage car are at the California Railroad Museum at Rio Vista Junction.

PLA plans to restore the locomotive to operating condition and use it on excursion trains around the Bay Area and also to operate it on its own Niles Canyon Railroad--hopefully in time for the National Railway Historical Society convention in San Jose in July of 1992. Work has begun, with the cab, smokebox front, super heater tubes, and piping disassembled. Both volunteer labor and financial contributions are needed. Workdays are almost every Saturday and most Sundays. Contact Gordon Osmundson at (510) 653-0166 or (415) 541-9071.





## OHA Update

### ■ SUMMER WALKING TOURS

OHA's expanded series of 14 neighborhood walking tours in July and August drew a total attendance of almost 800, and brought in 22 new members. Four new tours debuted-- Emeryville, Broadway Corridor, Jewish Cemetery, South Prescott; others were updated to cover recent preservation efforts. Guides upheld OHA's hallmark standards of erudition and enthusiasm, monitors kept things running smoothly and dealt creatively with the sound equipment, and the tour committee--Dean Yabuki, Helen Lore, and Lynn Fonfa--masterminded it all. Congratulations and thanks to all the participants, and special thanks to the many neighbors and residents who shared their neighborhoods, buildings, and experiences with the tour groups.

The following story is part of Dean Yabuki's Old Oakland Ethnic History tour.

### ■ OLD OAKLAND ETHNIC HISTORY: "I AM AN AMERICAN"

The day after Pearl Harbor, Tatsuro Masuda and his family erected this now immortalized sign on their Wanto Co. grocery on Franklin Street in Oakland's Chinatown. Masuda, a Nisei (second generation Japanese American), proclaimed his loyalty to the U.S. with his "I Am An American" sign, captured by famed Berkeley documentary photographer Dorothea Lange on March 13, 1942. Lange's photos were recently brought back to light in a display

at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History, as part of an exhibit on Japanese Americans and the Constitution, commemorating the bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution.

Despite gestures like Masuda's, in Spring 1942 almost 120,000 West Coast Japanese Americans were forcibly removed and interned. In May 1942 Oakland's established community of 2500 had 7 days notice to get their affairs in order, pack only what they could carry, and prepare to "evacuate." They were removed by bus to Tanforan Racetrack in San Bruno, where 8000 people were assigned to makeshift housing in horse stalls until more permanent Relocation Centers were ready in the interior of the country. By Fall 1942, most Bay Area Japanese Americans were interned at the Central Utah Relocation Center at Topaz (peak population 8130) until the end of World War II. Tatsuro Masuda never returned to his Oakland family business: in April 1991, almost 50 years after that fateful day, he died in Salt Lake City.

--Dean Yabuki

### ■ CAMRON-STANFORD HOUSE TRANSFORMATION

The Camron-Stanford House is undergoing a painstaking facelift this fall with a full paint job, roof repair, and replacement of brackets, crown moldings, window sills and pillars. A distinctive "widow's walk," which has been called "the crown for the lady of the lake," will be reinstalled some 75 years after it was removed for scrap metal during World War I.

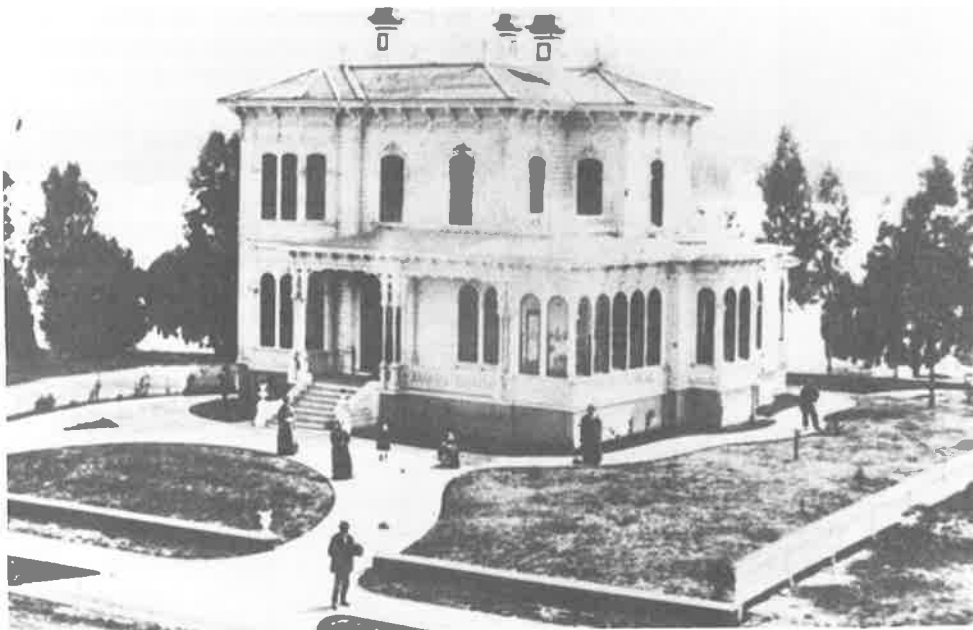
Money for the mammoth project comes from the 1984 California Parks and Recreation Facilities Bond Act funds (\$35,000), a Community Development Block Grant (\$4,500) and the History and Archaeology Grant Program, California Wildlife, Coastal and Park Land Construction Act of 1988 (\$84,000).

Longtime Camron-Stanford House Director Frances H. Rhodes is coordinating the project with professional assistance from architects Ted Milhous and Larry Mortimer. Local artisans, notably blacksmith Eric Clausen and Al Giomi, a retired casting pattern-maker from Alameda Naval Air Station, have worked extensively on the rehabilitation. Jim Spaulding of Rockridge Builders has been installing the millwork which was produced by El Cerrito Mill and Lumber Co. Anita's Painting Service and Fidelity Roofing are also involved with the project.

Bravo to the CSHPA Board of Directors for such an elegant transformation of Oakland's



Photo by Dorothea Lange, March 13, 1942, captures a tragic chapter in Oakland ethnic history. (National Archives)



Left: This 1876 photo is the model for Camron-Stanford House restoration. Widow's walk is just visible; replacement is copied from McHenry House in Modesto. (Camron-Stanford House) Right: Two months after OHA's "work in progress" walking tour of Preservation Park, the spectacularly completed project held a gala opening on Sept. 28. (Phil Bellman) Both House and Park are featured on OHA's National Trust conference tour of Oakland Victorians.

beloved "lady of the lake." It should make a splendid impression on our visitors from the National Trust conference.

--Annalee Allen and Liz Way

#### ■ OLD HOUSE JOURNAL OFFER

OHA members and friends can once again subscribe to the Old House Journal at a reduced rate of \$18 a year (regularly \$21), with OHA receiving \$9 of each subscription fee. This special promotion also enters OHA in a drawing for a \$1000 grant from OHJ.

Old House Journal is the leading publication on restoration and maintenance of pre-1939 houses. Each issue has practical how-to articles, plus features on house styles, period decorating, and old-house living.

Renewals as well as new subscriptions qualify for this 14% discount. Orders must be received at the OHA office by December 15. Checks for \$18 should be made out to **Oakland Heritage Alliance**. For more information call the OHA office at 763-9218.

#### ■ HOUSING AUTHORITY EXHIBIT AT LIBRARIES

"Oakland Housing: History and Hope" is a special exhibit co-sponsored by the Oakland Housing Authority and the Oakland Public Library. Using rare historical photographs, newspapers, newsletters, and programs, the exhibit focuses on developments constructed

by the Housing Authority since 1939, including Campbell Village, Peralta Villa, Lockwood Gardens, and Tassafaronga Village. Originally designed to supply affordable housing in the Depression era, the developments housed defense workers during World War II. The exhibit tells the dramatic story of the planning and construction of Oakland's first public housing, the people who lived in it, and the ideals and hopes which built it. The exhibit continues through Nov. 9 at the Main Library's Oakland History Room, 125 14th St., and at the following branches: West Oakland, 1801 Adeline; Brookfield, 9600 Edes Ave.; and Martin Luther King, 6833 East 14th Street. For information call 273-3222 or 273-3136.

#### ■ 75 YEARS OF FERRYBOATS

Ted Wurm calls our attention to a new video from Catenary Productions, "75 Years of San Francisco Bay Ferryboats." This 90 minute tape includes scenes of commuting in the pre-bridge era, the piers and moles which served the boats of eight major operators, details of the ferries' construction and their distinctive walking beam engine, and the 1958 "farewell ceremonies" and subsequent disposition of many of the boats. The video is \$49.95 plus 8.25% tax and \$4 shipping, from Pentrex, Box 94911, Pasadena 91109, or 1-800-950-9333.

## City Landmarks Board Actions

The Oakland Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board meets on the second Monday of each month. Meetings are open to the public. Designation of landmarks is recommended by the Board to the Planning Commission and City Council. Landmarks are subject to a 240-day delay in issuance of demolition permits. Exterior alterations require approval by City Planning staff, at the recommendation of the Board. 108 landmarks have been designated since the Board was created in 1974. Meetings are at the Lakeside Garden Center, 666 Bellevue, second Mondays, 4 pm.

Since last report, two new Board appointments have been made; now there is a full seven-member Landmarks Board for the first time in more than a year. Joining Annalee Allen, Barbara Armstrong, Dianna Becton-Brown, Estelle Mannis, and Jean Spees are:

Andrew Carpentier, filling the position of architect on the Board. He was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, attended high school in Tucson, Arizona, and graduated from the University of Arizona in architectural history. He moved to the Bay Area shortly after college, and is associated with a local architectural firm.

Les Hausrath is well known to OHA members. He was born in Cleveland, Ohio, grew up in Southern California, and began college at U.C. Riverside. He transferred to U.C. Berkeley, where he completed his BA, and his JD at Boalt Hall law school. As an attorney, he worked first with Legal Aid and then in private practice with local firms. An interest in housing led him to preservation and land use issues. He served six years on the OHA board, three as president.

### JULY

Board passed a resolution recommending landmark status for the Ellen Kenna House (1218 E.21st St., 1888, architect Augustus Laver or W. Clark: see June report). Voted to retain the St. Germain Building (301-05 Broadway, 1857-59) on the Study List: the owner does not want landmark status, and the building is already subject to design review in the S-8 zone on Broadway. Tabled action on the Dalziel Block because of the owner's wishes. Adopted an evaluation determining San Antonio Park to be eligible for landmark designation (see cover story), and directed staff to prepare a nominating resolution.

Board accepted a preliminary rating sheet determining the Pekin Low Cafe (706 Franklin St., 1924, W.K. Owen) to be eligible for landmark status. This action followed requests from the executive director of the

Chinatown Community Council, the Asian Law Council, and Elizabeth Morton of the California Preservation Foundation. Board asked the Chinese Community Council to submit an application for designation.

The First Church of Christ, Scientist (1719 Franklin St., 1902, Henry Schulze) invited a Board representative to explain landmark designation at their monthly meeting; Annalee Allen volunteered. Joyce Lee, owner of a vacant lot in the 10th Avenue District, requested direction on redesign of her project: Board had rejected a previous proposal using manufactured housing.

Emile Durette addressed the Board on "Sharing the Vision: Oakland's Strategic Plan for the Year 2025," and its goals of expanding the economic base, revitalizing neighborhoods, improving education, creating a drug-free environment, and forming coalitions for action.

Chair Estelle Mannis and former chair Anthony Pegram (now on the City Planning Commission) were named to represent the Board on a panel on "Preservation Commissions After the Quake" at the National Trust Conference in San Francisco.

Barbara Armstrong was concerned that buyers and developers be informed when properties are on the Study List: Allen said the Preservation Task Force was addressing this.

Estelle Mannis was re-elected as chair, and Barbara Armstrong as vice-chair.

### AUGUST

Board tabled consideration of the Dalziel Block (1917-23 San Pablo Avenue, 1878); a meeting with the owner will be held to review the advantages of landmark designation, including use of the State Historical Building Code. Board recommended that San Antonio Park be designated a City Landmark,



The Pekin Low Cafe building, at 7th and Franklin Streets. W.K. Owen's 1924 design pays homage to Chinatown setting. (Oakland Cultural Heritage Survey, 1982)

and directed staff to prepare a nominating resolution for Pekin Low Cafe. Action was postponed on design review application by An T. Fong for an addition in the 10th Avenue District (see September).

Jacque Warren of the First Unitarian Church Center for Urban Family Life spoke on funding strategies for religious structures. Stan Muraoka of the City Planning Department reported on Section 106 historical review of University High School (Old Merritt College; see Oakland Briefing).

Board reviewed the Study List. The Fong Wan building (576 10th St.) is on the site of the proposed downtown sports stadium; Annalee Allen said the Board might recommend moving such buildings. Other buildings considered for possible landmark designation are the Safeway Tower (5725 East 14th St.), P.G. & E. building (1625 Clay St.), Joseph Myers house (1494 Alice), P.G. & E. Substation (50 Martin Luther King Jr. Way), St. Paul's Episcopal Church (110-16 Montecito), I. Magnin (2001 Broadway), Lake Merritt Lodge (2332 Harrison), and the MWM architectural office (2333 Harrison).

Secretary Helaine Prentice reported on the Historic Preservation Task Force meeting of Sept. 5 and the draft Preservation Element for the Oakland Comprehensive Plan. Board received copies of a new ordinance governing the securing of earthquake damaged buildings. Prentice reported that a group of concerned citizens would be given access to Sacred Heart Church and would report to City Council on alternatives to demolition (see Oakland Briefing). Allen suggested that the Board send a letter to Council supporting the alternatives; it was decided that Board members should write as individuals.

Prentice reported that Pacific Bell has been asked to further investigate the possibility of converting 1517 Franklin Street to housing (see March and June).

#### SEPTEMBER

Board reviewed and approved application by An T. Fong to construct a three-bedroom addition to an existing duplex at 2117 10th Avenue in the S-7 10th Avenue District. Architect is to work with staff on the design, which is to have a hip roof if possible.

Board directed staff to prepare a resolution nominating the Dalziel Block (1917-23 San Pablo Avenue, 1878) for landmark status, and recommended adoption of a resolution nominating Pekin Low Cafe (706 Franklin St., 1924, W.K. Owen).

Chair Estelle Mannis reported on the



The Dalziel Block, 1878, on San Pablo near 20th Street, is a contemporary of the better-known Victorian commercial buildings of Old Oakland. (Oakland Cultural Heritage Survey, 1982)

Preservation Task Force, which started in 1988 and was interrupted by the earthquake in 1989; meetings have resumed, and topics include whether the Landmarks Advisory Board should become a full commission.

Secretary Prentice reported on earthquake repairs: fears were expressed that mandatory repairs (see Oakland Briefing) might become an invitation to demolish. Copies of the alternative report on Sacred Heart Church were distributed (see Briefing): cost estimates for repair were surprisingly low. Allen reported on progress of a pledge drive for the effort to save the church.

On September 20 several Board members and staff volunteer Kathy Olson attended a workshop in Vallejo, "Landmark Decisions," sponsored by the California Preservation Foundation. Each Board member is required to attend one such conference a year in order to satisfy the Certified Local Government program. Speakers included Hisashi B. Sugaya of the San Francisco Landmarks Board, who described techniques his Board uses to avoid conflicts with the Planning Commission; and Ruth Todd of the California Main Street Program, who noted that the number of California communities with some type of design review process has grown from less than 300 in 1981 to over 2100 in 1991, in response to the erosion of character and sense of place and increased environmental awareness. Conflicts between current codes and historical materials were discussed, and the caution not to become so intent on purity of design that whimsy and creativity are excluded. After the sessions a reception was held at a Julia Morgan house with a garden designed by Helaine and Blair Prentice.

--Kathy Olson

# OHA Calendar

The OHA Calendar lists events, activities, and meetings related to history and preservation that may be of interest to OHA members. To submit items for listings, contact Oakland Heritage Alliance or Donald Wardlaw, 2214 Thirteenth Ave., Oakland, 94606. (261-7236)

## Upcoming Activities

- through October 31, "Women's Work: Architecture + Design", AIA/SF, 130 Sutter Street, Ste. 600, 362-7397.
- through November 3 (W-Sat. 10-5; Sun.12-7), "At Ringside: A History of Boxing in the East Bay: The Ringside Bar Collection", The Oakland Museum, Oak & 10th Streets.
- through November 9, "Oakland Housing: History & Hope", housing of Oakland Housing Authority, main library Oakland History Rm. (273-3222), Brookfield Branch (562-8282), Martin Luther King Jr. Branch (632-4861) West Oakland Branch (832-3519).
- October 16-20, (9-5:30 + tours & eve. events), "When Past Meets Future", 45th National Preservation Conference, National Trust for Historic Pres., National Park Service, Advisory Council for Historic Pres., Westin St. Francis, Union Square, \$250/\$70(Fri. only), 415 956-5044.
- October 20 Sun. 1-5, Victorian Alliance Annual House Tour, 591 Fell St., \$15 (Sr. & student discounts), 415 824-3907.
- October 20 Sun. 10-12+, Historic Neighborhood Bicycle Tour, docent guided, reservations, The Oakland Museum, 273-3514.
- October 22 Tues. 7:30pm, Peter Eisenman, Architect, SFMOMA "Views on American Architecture", 401 Van Ness Ave., \$12/\$7(student), 392-4400.
- October 24-January 19, "Bella Feldman: Recent Sculptures", Oakland Museum Sculpture Court at City Center, 1111 Broadway.
- October 24 Th. 8:00pm, "West Wycombe Park and Benjamin Franklin", Sir Francis Dashwood, City Club, 2315 Durant, Berkeley Architectural Heritage Assoc.(BAHA) & Royal Oak Fdn., \$12/\$10 (BAHA & ROF members), 841-2242.
- October 26-January 5 (W-Sat. 10-5; Sun.12-7) "Russian America: The Forgotten Frontier", The Oakland Museum, Oak & 10th Streets, \$2/\$1.
- November 3 Sun. 1-3, Presidio-National Park Service architectural walk, reservations 415 556-0865.
- November 4-February 22 (M-F 11-4; Sat. 12-4), "Toyland Treasures", children's delights of years past, Hayward Area Historical Society Museum, 22701 Main St., \$1/\$0.50, 581-0223.
- November 4 Mon. 7:30pm, "Architectural Design in Historic Context", Warren G. Cox, Hartman & Cox Architects, Washington D.C., 1700 Franklin St., San Francisco, \$12/\$10 (S.F. Heritage members) 415 441-3000.

November 7 Th. 8:00pm, "The 18th Century English Landscape Garden: Its Sources & Influences", Gervase Jackson-Stops, City Club, 2315 Durant, \$12/\$10 (BAHA & ROF members), 841-2242.

November 19 Tues. 7:30pm, E. Fay Jones, Architect, SFMOMA "Views on American Architecture", 401 Van Ness Ave., \$12/\$7(student), 392-4400

November 30-December 22, (Th. 10-7; F-Sun. 10-5:30), Christmas at Dunsmuir House, \$9/\$8 (Sr.)/\$5 (<6); Brunch in greenhouse Sat-Sun 11 & 1, \$18.50/\$10 (<6); tea in Dinkelspiel House, \$15.50/\$8.50 (<6), 562-0328.

December 4-March 1 (W-Sat. 10-5; Sun.12-7) "Peacetime to Wartime: The Photographs of Peter Stackpole" The Oakland Museum, Oak & 10th Streets, free.

December 5-December 29 Th.-Sun. 1-4, "Christmas 1886", 12 rooms of the season, McConaghy House.

December 8 12-4, Holiday Open House, Haas Lilienthal House, S.F. Heritage, \$5, 441-3000.

December 12 Th., BAHA Open House, McCreary-Greer House, 1901 Colonial Revival, 2318 Durant, 841-2242.



December 19, Thur., OHA Holiday Party. Details TBA. For information or to volunteer, 763-9218.

December 22, January 25, & February 16, Sun. 1-3, Presidio-National Park Service architectural walk, reservations 415 556-0865.

## Regularly Scheduled Tours

- Alameda Historical Museum, walking tours of historic Alameda, 1st & 3rd Sat.; 1PM, 2324 Alameda Ave., \$5/\$3.50 members, 521-1233.
- Ardenwood Regional Preserve, April-Nov., Th-Sun.10-4; tour Patterson House hourly Sat. & Sun./variable Th-F.; \$5/\$3 (Sr.)/\$2.50 (Jr.); Ardenwood Blvd., Fremont, 796-0663.
- Camron-Stanford House, 1876 Italianate house museum at Lake Merritt, W. 11-4 & Sun. 1-5; \$2/\$1, free first Sun., 1418 Lakeside Dr., 836-1976.
- Dunsmuir House, Colonial Revival mansion, 2960 Peralta Oaks Court, Oakland, 562-0328.
- McConaghy House, 104 year old farmhouse at 18701 Hesperian Blvd., Hayward, Th-Sun., 1-4; \$3/\$2 (Sr.)/\$0.50 (children).
- Northern California Center for Afro-American History and Life, exhibits and archive, T-F., 12:30-5; 5606 San Pablo (Golden Gate Library), 658-3158.
- Paramount Theatre, Art Deco movie palace, 2025 Broadway, Tours 1st & 3rd Sat., 10am; \$1, 893-2300.
- Pardee House, tours by reservation, 672 11th St., 444-2187.
- Presidio, National Park Service architectural walks with Ranger Lynn Fonfa (except Jan.), Sun. 1-3; Nov. 3, Dec. 22, Jan. 25, & Feb. 16; reservations 415 556-0865.
- San Francisco Heritage, Victorian & Edwardian Pacific Heights, Sun. 12:30-2, \$3/\$1\*; Haas Lilienthal House Tours, Sun. 11-4, W. 12-3:15, 2007 Franklin, \$4/\$2\*; \*Srs./Jrs., 441-3004.





## Regularly Scheduled Meetings



**Oakland Heritage Alliance.** OHA Board of Directors meets on the first Monday of the month, 7:30pm; for agenda and location, contact OHA 763-9218.  
**Preservation Action Committee:** contact Carolyn Douthat, 763-5370, for time, place and agenda.

**Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board,** 2nd Mon., 4 pm.  
**City Planning Commission,** alternate Weds., 1:30 pm.  
**City Council,** every Tuesday evening, 7:30pm.  
 All city meetings at Lakeside Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Avenue. Contact City Planning Dept., 273-3941, for Landmarks Board and Planning Commission agendas.

## New OHA Members

The Officers and Directors of Oakland Heritage Alliance welcome and thank all those concerned citizens who have shown their interest in Oakland's history and preservation by joining OHA. OHA's new members (July 1-September 27) are:

JoAnne Flaherty Baca, Yvonne Barsballe, Enid Bohn, June Bruner, Jan & Bob Burdick, Bob Butler, Yanie Chaumette, Judy Coates, Aila Dawe, Dickson & Ross Law Offices, Ellen Drori, Jack Eisen, Karen Euston, Pamela Fitch, Marge Gibson-Haskell, Robert Grabowski, Sharon Griset, Lennart & Jillian Holmquist, Carol Hyman, Leon Kaufman, Mr./Mrs. Harold Knopp, Carolyn Ayon Lee, Cecile Litherland, Phyllis & Irwin Luckman, Eileen Marrinan, Sharon McConnell, Geraldine McTigue, Robert Mojica, Cynthia Mulholand, Joe & Anne Shordon Ong, Donna Peers, Reenie Raschke, Marybeth Rinehart, Nidra Rosenthal, Michael Ruggles, Adelaide Rule, Heidi Schmidt, Walter Schneider, Christine Shields, Gilbert Shore, Florence Shropshire, Mary P. Smith, Beverly Smrha, Douglas Stewart/Holly Kretz, Barbara Stone, M.J. Stone, Dale Edwyrd Suess/Frank J. Fischl, Margaret Sullivan, Karen Taylor, Barbara Votaw, Bernice Walker, Ellen Wyrick.

## Donors

Special thanks to those joining/renewing as:  
**PATRON (\$250):** Aila Dawe  
**SPONSOR (\$100):** Dee & John Coppola, Robert W. Joyce, Eugene Peck  
**ORGANIZATION (\$50):** Dickson & Ross Law Offices, Ocean View Lighting

OHA appreciates donations from the following (July 1-September 27):  
 Jack Eisen, Jon & Mio Good, DeWitt Johnson, Sally Nielsen, Helen Stackable, Virginia Steel, Carol & George Teebay.

## Oakland Heritage Alliance News

**CONTRIBUTORS**  
 Annalee Allen, Phil Bellman, Carolyn Douthat, Helen Lore, Betty Marvin, Sally Nielsen, Kathy Olson, Dennis Owens, Gordon Osmundson, William Sturm, Donald Wardlaw, & Dean Yabuki.

**EDITORIAL BOARD**  
 Annalee Allen, Carolyn Douthat & Dean Yabuki.

**EDITOR/PRODUCTION**  
 Betty Marvin

OHA NEWS welcomes contributions--research projects large or small, historic photos, reports on preservation issues or events. Contact Betty Marvin, 849-1959, Dean Yabuki, 832-5355, or OHA, 763-9218. Back issues \$2. © 1991 Oakland Heritage Alliance.

## Oakland Heritage Alliance

P.O.Box 12425, Oakland CA 94604 **763-9218**

Oakland Heritage Alliance, a California nonprofit corporation since 1980, was formed to bring together community groups and individuals sharing an interest in the history of Oakland, and in the preservation and conservation of the city's archaeological, architectural, cultural, environmental, and historical resources. Membership dues and contributions are tax deductible.

### OFFICERS 1991-1992

President	Lynn Fonfa
Vice President	Marlene Wilson
Secretary	David Hoard
Treasurer	Creighton Fong

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Annalee Allen	654-6791
William Coburn	893-8826
Alan Dreyfuss	465-4627
Lynn Fonfa	763-5410
Creighton Fong	536-1719
David Hoard	531-3017
Betty Marvin	849-1959
Susan McCue	763-1687
Jane Spangler	536-4260
Don Tyler	530-6840
Marlene Wilson	655-3210
Dean Yabuki	832-5355

### ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR

Helen Lore	763-9218
------------	----------

**JOIN OHA TODAY!** Your annual tax-deductible membership dues include the OHA News and announcements of all OHA activities. Additional contributions and your active participation make OHA a more effective organization.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone Numbers (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_

- |                                   |                                  |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> New      | <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$10     | Limited Income (1 vote)          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$20     | Individual (1 vote)              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$30     | Family (2 votes)                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50     | Organization (1 vote)            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100    | Sponsor (1 vote)                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ _____ | Additional contribution          |

- I would like to serve on the following committee(s):
- |  |  |                                       |
|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fund Raising        | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership          | <input type="checkbox"/> Programs     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Landmark Assistance | <input type="checkbox"/> OHA News            | <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Landmark Nomination | <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation Action | <input type="checkbox"/> Summer Tours |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other               |                                       |

**Oakland Heritage Alliance.**  
**P.O.Box 12425, Oakland, CA 94604**



(Oakland History Room)

# Oakland History Notes: Oakland High School No. 4

The Oakland High School yearbook for 1894 informed its readers: "The history of Oakland High School is one of rapid growth and advancement. In the short period of 25 years it has increased from a small class of 29 members to a school of some 800, from a room in the upper story of a grammar school to a building which for beauty, capacity and equipment will rival any."

When Oakland's new high school building at 12th and Jefferson was dedicated in December 1894, the occasion was noted as an "epoch in the City's educational history." Designed by architect Louis S. Stone, the structure was the culmination of a charred and checkered past. Oakland's first public high school classes were held at Lafayette Grammar School in 1869. In 1871, in response to growing needs, a three-story wood-frame mansard-roofed building opened at 12th and Market Streets. In 1889 this school was consumed by fire; a replacement on the same site was incinerated the same year. Another replacement, opened in 1890 on the same site, was soon deemed inadequate. Hence the opening of the fresh brick building was greeted effusively. Situated one block north of Lafayette Square, home to the Chabot Observatory, the three-story structure boasted a principal's office, reception rooms, and twelve classrooms on the first level, ten classrooms, a small assembly hall, two "recitation" rooms, and a library on the second floor, and laboratories, a drawing room, and gymnasium on the top floor, all presided over by



Principal J.B. McChesney.

Its most famous student, Jack London, attended this school for one year in 1895 and was later to unfondly remember sweeping all its floors and washing all its windows for needed cash. Warmly recalled by many of its graduates as the "old brick pile," the building ceased to function as a high school when the new Oakland High opened on Park Boulevard in 1928. The old structure served as the Central Trade School (predecessor of Laney College) until its demolition in 1940.

A member of the Class of 1916, echoing the sentiments of generations of other students who had attended Oakland High No.4, wrote: "And now high school life, with its many pleasures and rare sorrows, is over, and the class, together for four years, is about to separate--forever... Though they are gone, their spirit remains, and the school is a little better, a little happier, a little more great, for their efforts." --William W. Sturm

Oakland Heritage Alliance  
P.O.Box 12425  
Oakland, California 94604

Address Correction Requested

Non-profit organization  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Oakland, California  
Permit No. 31

922FM000996  
John Sutter  
1225 Fallon St. Dept. 18  
Oakland CA 94612

