

The California Hotel History Project



The California Hotel, from 1949 to the mid-1960s, was an important entertainment, social and political center for the East Bay black community. But it was not always so.

It is difficult to say when the first African Americans arrived in the Oakland area. The first Oakland census, taken in 1852, shows six black American men and one woman, and eight black men from other countries. In 1857 the community was big enough that Mrs. Elizabeth Flood opened a school for black children. Her school operated until 1872, when the Oakland Board of Education voted 5 to 2 to end overt public school segregation, in response to passage of the 15th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution granting black men the right to vote.

Even earlier Afro-Mexicans had lived in California. Some of these families founded

California Hotel in the early 1930s: "you didn't even look in the windows." (Oakland History Room)

settlements that became the cities of Los Angeles and Beverly Hills. Others fled north to escape slavery in the silver mines of Taxco and mixed with Native Americans in the Bay Area, prior to substantial European settlement. Mexico abolished slavery in 1829. Persons of African descent living in California became full citizens of Mexico. But when Mexico ceded California to the United States in 1848, they inherited the indignities of second class citizenship, from the Fugitive Slave Law to inability to give legal testimony or homestead land.

Still, the Oakland African American community continued to grow and prosper. After 1869, Pullman porters formed an important nucleus. In 1874 members of the

Oakland black community formed a chapter of the National Equal Rights League. The Spanish American War saw the next large influx of black settlement to Oakland. Men who had fought for the United States in the Philippines mustered out of the armed services at the Port of San Francisco, and many decided to stay in California.

One of these new Californians was William Nauns Ricks, who was a poet and a warrior:

*When the sun is sinking low
Behind the mountains blue and white
And the mist upon the town is falling low
When the mocker's sleepy note
Seems to stifle in his throat
Then to us in California, it is night.
When the Mission's chapel bell
Is ringing out calm and clear and light;
And the padre's gentle Ave seems to swell,
Till the nightingale's sweet song
Seems the beauty to prolong
Then to us in California, it is night.
When the 'cacia's scented flower
And the orange blossom white
Seem to lend a subtle fragrance to the hour.
When the palm tree's gentle sigh
Breathes a tale of days gone by -
Then to us in California, it is night.*

(Night in California, 1902)

Others became successful businessmen and professionals by taking advantage of the educational opportunities available in California. Most, however, took jobs as laborers and tradesmen and raised their families with high hopes for the future. By 1910, Oakland's black residents numbered 3,055, including a substantial North Oakland community dating back to at least the 1890s. Black women played important roles in the Oakland community, in youth activities and social and civic groups for community self help. The Fannie Wall Children's Home and the Linden Street YWCA (Summer 1986 and Winter 1987-88 OHA News) were evidence of their efforts to build broadly supported black institutions. There were clubs for quilting, card playing, knitting, hiking, tennis, horseback riding and other recreational activities as well.

When the United States entered World War II on December 7, 1941, African Americans in Oakland numbered only 8,462. Four years later, there were 37,327, largely due to Kaiser Industries' labor recruitment in the southern states for its shipyards and steel mill. Recruiters received one dollar for each worker, and Kaiser provided transporta-

tion to the Bay Area. In 1943, Oakland built 35% of the cargo ships built on the Pacific Coast. Oakland's canneries also produced 60% of the food supplies for troops overseas. C.L. Dellums, with A. Philip Randolph, played an important role in forcing President Franklin Roosevelt to issue Executive Order 8802, forbidding discrimination in war industries.

Shirley Ethridge recalls, "Jobs were plentiful during the war. If you decided that you didn't like the job you had, you could go right out and get another one that same day. A lot of people held two or three jobs at one time. That's what most people came here for, to work."

As migration from the South, mainly Texas and Louisiana, increased Oakland's black population, the area around the California Hotel became home to many new arrivals. Hadwick Thompson, one of Oakland's first black police officers, says: "Most of the workers recruited out of the south came right out of the cotton fields. Kaiser didn't require you to know how to read or write to work in the shipyards, and a lot of them didn't. Many lacked the social graces that natives were accustomed to but they were honest, hard working people."



William Nauns Ricks, born in Virginia "of Indian and Royal African blood," came to California after the Spanish-American war and distinguished himself as a poet, businessman, and civic leader. Delilah Beasley included his portrait and biography and several of his poems in her "Negro Trail Blazers of California," 1919.

Resentment began to build against segregation. Shirley Ethridge says: "A lot of places that had not discriminated before the war began to refuse service to blacks. When there were only a few of us it wasn't such a problem. When black people started pouring into Oakland things got a lot worse."

With the end of the war in 1945, the change to peacetime production began with mass layoffs of women and people of color, a step backward to the pre-war status quo. Frustrations culminated in a general strike in Oakland, December 1-5, 1946. "The 1948 election of Byron Rumford to the State Assembly--the first black elected official in Northern California--symbolized determination not to treat wartime gains as temporary but to fix them permanently into their lives" (Visions Toward Tomorrow). The people of Oakland, led by the NAACP, waged a successful fight against discrimination in hiring by boycotting businesses that wouldn't hire blacks. Their slogan was "DON'T BUY WHERE YOU CAN'T WORK."

In 1949 the California Hotel refused accommodation to Richmond Mims. With the militant atmosphere of the times and the changing complexion of the neighborhood, the period of segregation at this elegant hotel, if not at others, was about to end. The California Hotel, built in 1929 in an ambitious development scheme cut short by the Depression, would no longer be a place where, in the words of Alherman Lewis, "Not only could we not go in there, when you walked by you held your head down and didn't even look in the windows."

In 1953 the California Hotel celebrated a change of management. The guests of honor at this celebration were singer/actress Lena Horne, heavyweight boxing champion Joe Louis and state assemblyman Byron Rumford. This was an occasion to savor many victories. The California Hotel soon became an important center of social and cultural affairs for African Americans and would remain so throughout the 1950s. It was the only full service hotel that welcomed black people in the East Bay. For many, natives and immigrants alike, this was their first opportunity to mingle in such a stylish atmosphere. The hotel greeted its guests with a doorman and offered valet parking. Visitors walked on marble floors and were sheltered by hand painted ceilings. Barber and beauty services were available to guests, as well as a florist, a 24 hour restaurant, a cocktail lounge and a ballroom. Celebrities could be seen there regularly. Entertainers playing at any of the twenty-two black owned night clubs in Oakland often stayed at the California. Other performers who were entertaining at



Sugar Pie DeSanto, jazz and blues singer, dancer, and comedienne, was a star at the California Hotel in its heyday, and at the recent exhibit opening. (Calif. Hotel History Project)

white-only clubs and hotels found the California Hotel to be their only choice for appropriate accommodations.

Oaklanders loved to visit the restaurant after hours to celebrity watch. Some of the celebrities to be seen included: "Big Mama" Thornton, "Sugar Pie" DeSanto, "T-Bone" Walker, Adam Clayton Powell, Antoine "Fats" Domino, Benny Valarde, Billie Holliday, Byron Rumford, Carlos Frederico, Count Basie, Dinah Washington, Duke Ellington, Earl "Fatha" Hines, Eric Dolphy, Etta James, Herb Jeffries, Ike and Tina Turner, James Brown, Jay Payton, John Coltrane, Johnny Talbot, Johnny Heartsman, Langston Hughes, Lena Horne, Lionel Hampton, Mahalia Jackson, Miss Wiggles, Pete and Coke Escovedo, Redd Foxx, Richard Pryor, Ruth Beckford, Sarah Vaughn, Spencer Williams, W.E.B. Dubois, Charles Brown, Jimmy McCracklin, Ray Charles, "Big Joe" Turner, Muddy Waters, B.B. King, Bob Geddins, Lowell Fulson, Johnny Fuller, L.C. "Good Rockin" Robinson, Lafayette Thomas, "Ivory Joe" Hunter, Ruth Brown, Sam Cooke, Roy Milton, Joe Liggins, Laverne Baker, Jimmy Witherspoon, Percy



Celebrity watching at the California Hotel: Frank Wess, tenor sax and flute with Count Basie; poet Langston Hughes; Lovie Lovejoy, blues and jazz sax man, has a long history with the California Hotel and played at the exhibit opening; blues artist Pee Wee Crayton. (California Hotel History Project)

Mayfield, Jesse Fuller, Lightnin' Hopkins, Bobby "Blue" Bland, Pee Wee Crayton, Gladys Palmer, Joe Turner, Peter Rabbit, Jessie Derek, Roy Brown, Marvin Holmes, Eugene Blacknell, Tempest Storm, Johnny Otis, John Turk, and many, many more.

"I remember seeing Billie Holiday at the California Hotel. It was probably shortly before she died. Fats Domino was also there a lot. I remember when all these young white girls started coming down there to see him. All of us wanted to know what they wanted to see him for. We had been seeing him around for years and all of a sudden these white girls wanted his autograph," says Alherman Lewis. Ruth Beckford adds, "Fats Domino hated to be called Fats. He was always shouting, 'my name is Antoine'."

"I remember the Sunday mambo sessions," says Beckford. "The place was packed every Sunday with folks dancing to Pete and Coke Escovedo and Carlos Frederico. There was a guy who used to come every Sunday who thought he could dance and called himself the Mambo King." Alherman Lewis adds, "I remember Hamp. He could really dance and never missed a mambo session. He told me that he never danced until the mambo came along and he never did any other kind of dance. He used to win mambo contests all over town. We called him the Mambo King."

James Moore, artist manager, reflects: "One thing I remember about those days is that everybody always wanted to look their best. You always dressed to go out. Men were respectful towards women and each other. Integration seemed to change all that. "Count Basie hired a white musician. The

idea behind this was to show good faith. We were asking to be included so we couldn't very well be exclusive.... Others argued against this practice. They said that once you teach them how to play they would form their own bands and play in white clubs where black musicians would be excluded. That's exactly what happened. Local artists like Eugene Blacknell, Marvin Holmes, Johnny Talbot and others have been copied by people who never shared their success and exposure with the artists who taught them."

Throughout the 1950s record companies made millions by having white artists record songs written and originally recorded by black artists. Pat Boone and his label, Dot, were the most successful in covering black rhythm and blues tunes. Boone recorded "Ain't That a Shame" (Fats Domino), "Tutti Frutti" (Little Richard), and others. Other songs recorded in this manner included: Earth Angel (original artist, Penguins; cover artist, Crew Cuts); Gum Drop (Charms; McGuire Sisters), Kokomo (Gene and Eunice; Perry Como), Shake, Rattle and Roll (Joe Turner; Bill Haley), Hound Dog (Big Mama Thornton; Elvis Presley), Party Doll (Buddy Knox; Steve Lawrence). The copyright law in effect at the time was written in 1909 and did not include recorded material. The original artists, most of whom were black, rarely if ever received any royalties.

The heyday of the California Hotel lasted into the 1960s. After that, ironically, the victories won by the civil rights movement for integration seemed to militate the decline of African American institutions and businesses. Black entertainers could now stay in any hotel, and patrons followed them to white owned clubs and other venues. Some black artists, like Little Richard and Fats Domino, enjoyed successful careers in rock and roll. Most black song writers and



performers found their economic base of black owned performance venues shrinking and declining in quality. This decline became apparent at the California Hotel. By the mid-1960s drugs, gambling and prostitution were part of life at the California.

"I think it was in 1971 that the police raided the gambling operation at the hotel. This operation was run by the manager and his son. It took the police a while to figure out how to do this since they had a warning system at the front desk. But they figured it out and took everybody to jail," recalls Mr. MacPherson.

Hadwick Thompson adds, "There was always gambling but there was always a code of conduct. Violence and disrespectful behavior were not a part of that code. When things started to go down, nobody seemed to care about this any more."

In 1975 the California Hotel closed. For ten years it would stand empty except for occasional break-ins by vagrants and vandals. In 1985 it was purchased by Oakland Community Housing Incorporated (OCHI), a non-profit housing development corporation founded to build replacement housing for people displaced by the City Center redevelopment. Howard Ransom says, "I remembered how beautiful this building had been and knew that it could provide much needed housing. As a board member of OCHI, I urged the organization to restore the California Hotel for low income housing."

On March 2, 1991 the California Hotel reopened with a gala entertainment in the spirit of the hotel's heyday, and another celebration this June opened the California Hotel History Exhibit. The California Hotel now provides 149 units of housing: 75 residential rooms, 58 efficiency apartments and 16 studios, all for very low income residents. The California Hotel is also on the National Register of Historic Places for its architectural merits, and received a handsome period restoration of its facade and lobby. It is an outstanding example of how cultural and architectural landmarks can continue to find a useful place in community life.

--Paris Williams

The California Hotel History Project of Oakland Community Housing Inc. examines the growth and development of the post-war African-American community in Oakland. Through oral histories of entertainers, residents and other frequent users of this building, it seeks to expand public understanding of Oakland's history and diversity.

The California Hotel History Exhibit, in oral histories, photos, text and music, was produced by local writer and historian Paris Williams. It is located in the California Hotel lobby, 3501 San Pablo, through July, and may tour: OCHI, 763-7676.

Support for the California Hotel History Project has been provided by Oakland Community Housing Inc, the California Council for the Humanities, the City of Oakland Cultural Arts Division, **Oakland Heritage Alliance**, and the National Endowment for the Humanities Folk Arts Program.

Architectural details show elegance of the California Hotel, even in the 1988 "before" shot of front windows. Terrazzo California golden bears adorn the stair treads; wrought iron sign pointed the way to valet parking. Architect was Clay Burrell, developers and builders Sommarstrom Bros. (Survey)



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 Susan McCue, 763-1687 or Carolyn Douthat 763-5370.

■ ST. FRANCIS DE SALES EIR

The Draft EIR for demolition of St. Francis de Sales Cathedral has been released by the City of Oakland. The report was prepared by Brady & Associates, Planners & Landscape Architects, with historians Michael Corbett and Gray Brechin. The purpose of an EIR is to fully inform city decision-makers, other responsible agencies, and the public of a proposed action (demolition of the cathedral and replacement with a parking lot and terrace) and its potential consequences. The report also examines alternatives to the proposed action and recommends a set of mitigation measures that would reduce or avoid identified significant impacts.

The significant issues and concerns as identified by the City Planning Department are: land use and compatibility; visual design factors; historic resources--the loss of a significant historic structure and its function in the community as well as in the Diocese; and short term impacts on noise, air quality, and traffic during demolition and construction.

After a July 22 Planning Commission public hearing and receipt of other comments, a Final EIR will be prepared and considered for acceptance by the Planning Commission at a future date. Those interested in finding out the date should call the Planning Department (238-3941) or the OHA office.

For the past hundred years, St. Francis de Sales has stood at the prominent intersection of San Pablo Avenue (the old stage road to Martinez and points north) and Martin Luther King Jr. Way (Grove Street), an inspirational and unique feature of the downtown landscape (see Spring 1986 OHA News). Its proposed demise deserves the contemplation and evaluation this document provides.

For those concerned with the depletion of Oakland's historic resources, public comment on the EIR provides a valuable forum. Owners of historically or architecturally significant structures (in this case the Catholic Diocese) can benefit from this public input even if their ultimate decision is to demolish. OHA readers with concerns for the loss of the cathedral are urged to call or write OHA; your comments will be forwarded to those who need to know. --Annalee Allen



St. Francis de Sales Cathedral (above) and Sacred Heart both appear to be proceeding toward demolition; questions are raised by the environmental review process. (c.1908 postcard)

■ SACRED HEART APPEAL DENIED: WILL WE SEE IT IN SEPTEMBER?

On July 7, the City Council voted to deny appeals filed a year and a half ago on the proposed demolition of Sacred Heart Church. The appeals sought to require environmental review before the earthquake damaged church at 40th Street and Martin Luther King Jr. Way could be demolished. The Council first voted to deny the appeal from a February 1991 decision by the Planning Commission; Leo Bazile, Aleta Cannon, Frank Ogawa, Dick Spees, Wilson Riles, and Mayor Harris voted for the resolution, with Councilmembers Mary Moore, Nate Miley and Marge Gibson Haskell voting against. A second vote was taken to uphold the Planning Director's decision to exempt the application from environmental review, Bazile, Cannon, Ogawa, Spees and Riles voting for, and Moore, Miley, Gibson Haskell, and Mayor Harris voting against.

The Council hearing was well attended by supporters of the church. Speakers included Lynne Horiuchi, one of the appellants, and parishioner Mary Ann Francis, leaders of Friends of Landmark Churches, a group formed in response to the Diocese's applications to demolish Sacred Heart and St. Francis de Sales Cathedral. Randolph Langenbach, architectural consultant and former OHA director,

also spoke in favor of the appeal. Langenbach, structural engineer Sven Thomasen, and attorney Frederick Hertz have been donating their services in a mediation effort with the Friends, the parish and the Diocese begun last January. Speakers for the Diocese included Father Crespino, vicar general for the Oakland Diocese, Ernie Marzan, president of the Parish Council, and attorney Norman Tuttle who is representing the Diocese.

Up until a week before the hearing, the Parish Council had been opposed to the demolition. However, on the Sunday before the hearing, Bishop Cummins of the Oakland Diocese met with the Council and assured them that their church would be replaced. The Council then withdrew its objection.

Demolition of the church has raised complicated and emotional issues. For past and present members of the church, it will mean loss of a worship space which, by virtue of its long service and beauty, is a vital symbol of continuity and faith. In addition, there is uncertainty about when, and if, a new parish church will be built. Throughout the country parishes are being consolidated, especially in urban areas where the number of members has dropped below the levels which the buildings were designed to serve.

For nearby residents, loss of the building not only removes an important and beautiful feature of the neighborhood, but could also seriously affect the stability of an area which is, with effort, holding its own against the urban problems common to Oakland

neighborhoods. The active parish center contributes cohesiveness and community to this North Oakland neighborhood. The potential loss of its most important visual and spiritual anchor has understandably galvanized neighbors to look for another solution.

The Diocese has described its decision as a choice between putting scarce financial resources into programs or into a building. Few would deny that the services provided by the Diocese in Oakland, including parochial schools, make a vital contribution to the community. However, while the diocesan leadership maintains that it does not have the money to repair the church, it has not been willing to endorse grassroots fundraising efforts initiated by church supporters. According to the National Trust-sponsored Preservation Advisory Services Team report on St. Francis de Sales, focused fundraising by the Church leadership is essential to the success of any capital campaign.

Ironically, had the City Council voted to require environmental review when the appeals were initially filed, an EIR would very likely have been completed by now, as it has for St. Francis de Sales. Environmental review is intended to protect the public interest in the built and natural environment by affording the public and decision makers an opportunity to review proposed actions for significant effects, identify alternatives and consider how significant effects can be avoided or mitigated. Particularly important in complex and controversial cases like the Sacred Heart demolition, this process provides a framework and policy guidance for making difficult decisions. At the very least, requiring an EIR would give the city the opportunity to fashion mitigations which could reduce negative impacts on the neighborhood and provide minimal mitigation for loss of a historic resource through documentation and recordation.

It is still possible that this process will take place. Two days after the Council vote, Friends of Landmark Churches filed suit in Alameda County Superior Court challenging the action and won a temporary restraining order against demolition for 15 days. On July 23 the court will consider a request to issue a preliminary injunction against demolition so that legal challenges to the Council action can be considered on the merits. If the injunction is not granted, it is expected that demolition will take place before the summer is out. OHA members who want to support the effort to save Sacred Heart should contact Mary Ann Francis (655-4971) or Lynne Horiuchi (547-7638).
--Carolyn Douthat



Nothing historic here! Planning Director, Planning Commission, and City Council have all decreed that demolition of Sacred Heart Church (Etienne A. Garin, 1901) is exempt from environmental review. Friends of Landmark Churches appealed.

■ MANDATORY EARTHQUAKE REPAIR

In June the City began enforcement of the Mandatory Earthquake Damage Abatement Program which was adopted by Council this spring. The program, which applies only to privately owned buildings in the Central District, requires owners to prepare an abatement plan for repair or demolition. A newly established Earthquake Damage Abatement Board (EDAB), made up of the directors of the Office of Economic Development and Departments of Public Works and City Planning, and two at large members with backgrounds in architecture and preservation and in real estate and business, reviews the plans for compliance with the ordinance and schedules completion of proposed work. The ordinance establishes fines up to \$60,000 for failure to prepare an abatement plan or to proceed with work according to schedule.

The program seeks to address the slow pace of earthquake repairs, particularly on prominent buildings in the Broadway Corridor. Of the 16 buildings subject to the ordinance, 9 are considered historic structures and their abatement plans will be subject to design review. They are the Grant-Unity Building at 1300 Broadway, the National Register Key System Building at 1100 Broadway, the Wakefield Building at 426 17th St., the Broadway Building at San Pablo and Broadway, the Pacific Bell building at 1519 Franklin, the former post office at 1001 Clay Street, the Dalziel Apartments at 532 15th Street, the Hamilton Hotel (YMCA) at 2101 Telegraph, and Swan's Market at 901 Washington.

In addition to the privately owned buildings, nine publicly owned buildings downtown remain in a damaged state. Seven are owned by the city: City Hall, the Rotunda, the Charles Greene Library, City Hall West, the Key System Building Annex, Touraine Hotel, and the George Miller Federal Building.

Although concern has been expressed by OHA, the Landmarks Board, and California Preservation Foundation that the program should have a financial assistance component, financing proposals are still being discussed at the Council committee level. The Redevelopment Agency has funds, and a recent staff proposal suggests that \$5 million for bridge loans to finance repair or demolition be made available on a case by case basis at the discretion of the EDAB.

Throughout development of the ordinance, OHA and CPF have pushed for a combination of financial assistance and other incentives which owners could look to in developing abatement plans. Assistance could take the form of information on federal income tax

Carnegie Library, Oakland, Cal.



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Many of Oakland's early 20th century showpieces are affected by the Mandatory Earthquake Repair Ordinance, among them the city-owned Charles Greene Library at 14th and Martin Luther King Way; the Union Savings Bank (Grant-Unity Building) at 1300 Broadway, Oakland's first skyscraper; and City Hall, the Rotunda, and the Broadway Building. (1900s-10s postcards)



credits for historic buildings, use of Mills Act contracts, leasing space for city offices or city-supported non-profits, and working with private lenders for loans under the federal Community Reinvestment Act. While not all incentives would be appropriate for each building, financing packages could be tailored to those buildings most critical to the economic life and urban fabric of downtown. However, financing proposals have lagged behind implementation of the ordinance, apparently ignoring the impact which demolition of these buildings would have.

Owners of the damaged building were notified in early June that abatement plans were to be submitted by July 1. A series of EDAB hearings on the plans are scheduled for July 9, 16, 23, and 30. --Carolyn Douthat



Isolated but not forgotten, the station at 16th and Wood has been the subject of City efforts to enforce repairs under the Earthquake Repair Ordinance. (Phil Bellman)

■ 16TH STREET TRAIN STATION

OHA is continuing its efforts to save the Southern Pacific station at 16th and Wood Streets in West Oakland. As reported in past issues, the landmark building was damaged in the 1989 earthquake and has been vacant ever since. Current plans by Caltrans for the Cypress freeway replacement, and by the Port of Oakland and Amtrak to relocate train service to the Jack London Square area, will make its use as a train station infeasible.

To gather support for saving and rehabilitating the station for a new use, Preservation Action Committee members have started "knocking on doors" at City Hall and have met with Caltrans officials in an effort to secure funding from "enhancements" money set aside in the 1991 Federal Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA). This act identifies historic preservation generally and rehabilitation and operation of historic transportation structures in particular as enhancements which qualify for the 10% set aside under the 6 year program. In California, funds available for the first year amount to nearly \$30 million.

If OHA succeeds in having the station identified as an enhancement project, the funds could be used for acquisition, rehabilitation, and development of the building. Committee members are working to identify the city, county, and regional transportation agencies which determine enhancement project priorities for the Bay Area. The committee also plans to meet with Councilmembers, state legislators and community leaders to determine how to approach Caltrans and Southern Pacific with a proposal.

In a related development, the City of Oakland has met with Southern Pacific about securing the building against further water

damage. According to the Office of Public Works, SP has cleaned the roof and gutters and removed the benches in the waiting room which since the last rainy season have been standing in water. City staff will inspect the work to see whether it seems likely to correct the problem. Under the Earthquake Repair Ordinance, if the owner of a damaged landmark building does not secure it from vandalism and deterioration, the city has the power to complete the repairs and lien the property. --Carolyn Douthat



Never again? Port and Amtrak plans mean SP station cannot be returned to passenger use; OHA is exploring ideas and funding for other uses. (Pre-quake photo by Phil Bellman)



The Southern Pacific Yards and Shops historic district at the foot of Wood Street was Oakland's biggest industry in the late 19th century, building and repairing rolling stock and prefabricating buildings and bridges for most of S.P.'s



western region. Proposed freeway route will remove the last four brick buildings from this complex, which was determined eligible for the National Register. Video documentary is being planned as a mitigation. (Phil Bellman)

■ CYPRESS VIDEOTAPE PROJECT

In May, Caltrans held a meeting to discuss a videotape documenting the historic structures which will be most impacted by the I-880/Cypress replacement. The project is one of the mitigations provided for in the Memorandum of Agreement resulting from Section 106 review of the project.

The National Register eligible buildings affected are the four 1890s brick buildings in the Southern Pacific Yards and Shops historic district at the foot of Wood Street, the 1889 Standard Oil Warehouse at 9th and Cedar, and the 16th Street Station. Neither the station nor the warehouse will be removed under the proposed railroad corridor route, but the shops buildings will be demolished if the freeway follows the proposed route and the owner, Southern Pacific, declines to move them and fails to find new owners who will do so.

Removal or demolition is scheduled to be completed by September 1993. To record the buildings with their historic link to the railway system intact, however, documentation must take place by this September when removal of the tracks is scheduled to begin.

The meeting focused on the type of video which will be produced, and how production and administration might be handled. Participants were Beth Krase and Barbara Talley of Caltrans, Gary Knecht and Betty Marvin of the Oakland Cultural Heritage Survey, Tom Frye from the Oakland Museum, Lee Johnson, architect with Southern Pacific, Blaine Lamb from the California Railway Museum in Sacramento, Bill Sturm from the Oakland

History Room and Carolyn Douthat from **Oakland Heritage Alliance**. The intent is to produce a video which could be used on public and cable television, and to document the buildings in the context of related historical themes such as neighborhood development, labor organizing, regional transportation, and industry.

Anyone who has an interest in this project, or in the buildings which will be documented, should contact Carolyn Douthat at 763-5370, or the Survey at 238-3941.

--Carolyn Douthat

■ PRESERVATION ELEMENT IN REWRITE

In June the Historic Preservation Task Force had its final meeting to review the draft Historic Preservation Element of the city's General Plan. The Task Force has been meeting through the spring to review the draft and make additions and comments. The element now goes into rewrite, a process which will take at least three to four months and possibly longer.

Delay of the final draft could result from staffing changes in the Planning Department. Sheldon Siegel, one of the two planners responsible for the project, retired in mid-June, and Christopher Buckley has been temporarily assigned to the City Manager's office to work on the organization of a new department which will combine planning and inspectional services.

The Task Force will have one final look at the revised element before it goes to the Landmarks Board and Planning Commission.

--Carolyn Douthat

■ MERRITT COLLEGE

The apparent quiet surrounding deserted, forlorn-looking Old Merritt is deceptive. The long-running battle to save the historic building has in recent months sparked a lawsuit and a National Register nomination, and played a major role in an Oakland City Council race. District 1 incumbent Marge Gibson-Haskell, who ran a poor second in the June primary, was a longtime supporter of North Oakland Redevelopment Associates, the developers whose shopping center plan would demolish the complex. Her strongest challenger, school board member Sheila Jordan, ran on a platform of saving Old Merritt College, calling it "a city treasure that deserves to be saved." Dezie Woods-Jones, who defeated Leo Bazile in District 7, also supported reuse of Old Merritt. Both Bazile and retiring Councilmember Wilson Riles had a past record of support for NORA.

Meanwhile former San Francisco Planning Director Dean Macris has presided over two community meetings on future uses of the site. Many speakers supported preservation and uses such as a senior or cultural/educational center and small retail. Many also spoke about what they didn't want, such as a disruptive, out-of-scale-commercial project.

The second meeting featured a panel of developers with experience in reuse of older buildings, including Glen Isaacson of Brama-lea (Preservation Park), Deborah Drickersen of the California Hotel, and developers of the mixed-use Heinz building at Ashby and San Pablo in Berkeley, the Sierra Designs building near Jack London Square, and the Clocktower live-work project in San Francisco. A third meeting is set for late July to focus upon various alternatives for the building and site. At this point, the uses that appear to have the most support from those guiding the project involve either housing (senior and/or live-work in the building, with additional new housing and possibly some retail on the site), or medical and similar offices, possibly with some housing. A senior center and other community uses (day care, meeting rooms) appear to be politically necessary in any likely scenario.

A well attended tour of the building took place on July 11. Contact Kerry Hamill of the Mayor's office (238-4131) to be included on the mailing list for the community meetings and/or the next public tour.

NOVA's lawsuit against the City of Oakland is proceeding in San Francisco federal court. The lawsuit over the campus's ongoing deterioration and vulnerability to arson has

been assigned to Judge Marilyn Patel. A settlement conference was held May 24, with Glen Ellen environmental attorney Susan Brandt-Hawley representing NOVA. A hearing is set for July 24, with a trial date tentatively set for fall. Brandt-Hawley argued for an accelerated court timetable to allow repairs and weatherproofing before the next rainy season. To date, the City has not pursued the option of settling by agreeing to necessary repairs and security.

On August 7 the State Historical Resources Commission will consider NOVA's National Register nomination for Old Merritt. The meeting will be in Auburn, and comes during the month when the City of Oakland shuts down. NOVA has nominated the entire building and site for the National Register, and has been told the nomination may be on the consent calendar if the owner--the City--does not object. NOVA's city landmark nomination for the site, after being approved by the Landmarks Board and Planning Commission, has been "disappeared," as has happened before with controversial landmark nominations involving endangered buildings.



Recent tour showed a large group the damage inside boarded-up Old Merritt, as well as the quality of the interior spaces.

■ As a benefit for its legal effort, NOVA is holding a reception on Sunday, August 16, at the 100-year-old Queen Anne home of Dr. Robert Akeley in the historic Temescal neighborhood. Everyone is invited to celebrate the 100th anniversary of one North Oakland landmark and help save another. The reception is 4 to 6 pm, with light buffet and refreshments. Requested donation is \$25 for the NOVA legal fund. Call 655-3841 for tickets, more information, or to RSVP. NOVA also welcomes contributions to support its newsletter which is distributed free to over 2600 households in the neighborhood around Old Merritt. Call Bob Brokl/Al Crofts at 655-3841 or Ceci Kilmartin at 653-2321 or write NOVA, Box 20486, Oakland 94620 for more information. NOVA meets the third Wednesday of every month. --Bob Brokl



■ MADISON PARK APARTMENTS

The East Bay Asian Local Development Corporation (EBALDC) has submitted a grant application to the National Trust's Inner City Ventures Fund for the Madison Park Apartments at 9th and Oak Streets. If the project is approved, the earthquake damaged National Register building, which was purchased by BART in 1990, will be renovated and returned to use as low-moderate income housing. Under a purchase agreement with BART, EBALDC has till October to arrange funding. In addition to the National Trust grant/loan fund, which is designed to help low-moderate income residents benefit from preservation, EBALDC has applied to the City of Oakland and the State's Housing Rehabilitation program to fund repair and rehabilitation of the 98 unit building. --Carolyn Douthat



Clinker brick base distinguishes Craftsman-style Madison Park Apartments (C.M. MacGregor, 1908), to be rehabbed. (Survey)

■ BANKRUPTCY ON BROADWAY

In mid-June, Taldan Investment Company filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy. The company, a major condominium developer in San Francisco, also owns the Broadway Building, the adjacent KCR and Woodward Buildings, the Lakeside Towers site on Lakeside Drive, and property in the Dimond district. In October of last year, a notice of default was filed by the holder of the first deed of trust on the Broadway Building property, the first step in foreclosure. The bankruptcy filing, however, stays the action unless the court approves proceeding.

As reported in a series of articles in the San Francisco Examiner, the bankruptcy is part of a tangled web of financial dealings which has resulted in an FBI investigation into possible bank and property fraud, lawsuits by creditors over allegedly fraudulent refinancing transactions, and investigation of diversion of company funds for personal use. --Carolyn Douthat

OHA Update

■ RESTORATION WORKSHOP WITH JANE SPANGLER

On Sunday afternoon, September 20, OHA presents a special program for members and guests: "Renovating Victorians: A Walking Workshop Through Preservation Park," led by Jane Spangler, well-known restoration consultant. Jane is the proprietor of Ask Jane Consulting Services, and teaches classes at the Piedmont Adult School and Owner Builder Center. She is a board member of OHA, a member of the Oakland Historic Preservation Task Force, and a member of National Association of Women in Construction, which named her Outstanding Woman in Construction for 1988-89. Her Master's Degree in Ceramics from Kent State University gives her an edge in working with brick, concrete, and similar materials; she is an expert on earthquake preparedness, the aging of building materials, and how water and other environmental factors affect the soundness of a building.

This is a walking workshop to learn more about the styles and materials of Victorian construction. It is an expanded, hands-on version of Jane's popular summer walking tour. The group will share information on retrofit materials for older buildings and explore adaptive reuse as a preservation tool. Participants are asked to bring pictures of their own building problems to the workshop for discussion and analysis.

The workshop will meet at Preservation Park, 13th Street and Martin Luther King Jr. Way, from 1 to 3 pm. Donation is \$10 per person, members and guests. For reservations call Helen Lore at 763-9218, or write to OHA, P.O. Box 12425, Oakland 94604. To help plan the program, you are encouraged to send photos in advance with your reservation, or state your specific problem or interest.

■ SUMMER WALKING TOURS

By the time you read this the 1992 OHA summer neighborhood walking tours will be well under way, having begun on July 11 with LAKESIDE DRIVE and the Schilling Gardens, led by Leslie Flint, founding member of OHA.

New walks still to come are the GLENVIEW neighborhood, Saturday, August 15, led by Gloria Will and Betty Marvin; and HISTORIC PAGODA HILL IN ROCKRIDGE, Sunday, August 23, led by Jennifer Katz, which follows the route of the 1991 OHA house tour.

Completing the remainder of the summer schedule are:



Jane Spangler checks out the DeFremercy house. Jane presents a special workshop/consultation for OHA on September 20.

- Aug. 1 FRUITVALE led by Joseph Schmitt
- Aug. 2 PRODUCE MARKET/LOWER BROADWAY led by Gary Knecht
- Aug. 8 KENNEDY TRACT OF FRUITVALE led by Fran Matarrese & Betty Marvin; followed by Cohen House tour
- Aug. 9 MILLS COLLEGE led by Dean Yabuki & Helen Lore
- Aug. 16 SIDEWALKS OF TEMESCAL led by Ken Duffy
- Aug. 22 ADAMS POINT led by Harlan Kessel & Francine Leatherwood

All walks begin at 1:30 and end around 3:30. No reservations are required. Donation is \$6 general, \$4 OHA members (\$5 extra for Cohen House). For more information or to request a complete schedule call the OHA office at 763-9218. --Helen Lore

■ "ETERNAL KLINKNERVILLE"

Was Charles Klinkner, the real estate promoter who founded Klinknerville, a scoundrel or a man of vision? Decide for yourself at "Eternal Klinknerville," an exhibit of photos, newspaper articles, and artifacts so-sponsored by the Oakland Public Library and Emeryville Historical Society.

Charles Klinkner, a German immigrant,

built the community of Klinknerville in the late 1880s as an upscale residential and commercial development north of Oakland on the Emeryville-Golden Gate border. Klinkner was a local celebrity for the bizarre promotional stunts he devised for his real estate empire. He sported a long black beard, always wore a top hat and a long overcoat with 32 pockets, and kept two mascot monkeys. His advertising gimmicks included dropping a donkey from a balloon with a parachute, painting jackasses red, white and blue on the Fourth of July, driving a herd of elk down San Pablo Avenue, and opening a zoo in his back yard.

Before his grandiose schemes could be realized, Klinkner died suddenly in 1893 at the age of 40. Klinknerville vanished from maps soon after the death of its founder and became part of Golden Gate and Emeryville. But the name, and the legend of its eccentric developer, remain part of local folklore. For this reason Klinknerville is "eternal," and also because many original homes, built over 100 years ago, survive.

"Eternal Klinknerville" can be seen at the Oakland History Room of the Oakland Main Library, 125 14th Street, Tuesdays through Saturdays, August 1 to September 25. For more information, call 238-3222 or 238-3136. --Don Hausler



Charles Klinkner, promoter of Klinknerville: find out more at the History Room. (Oakland Museum/Emeryville Historical Soc.)

City Landmarks Board Actions

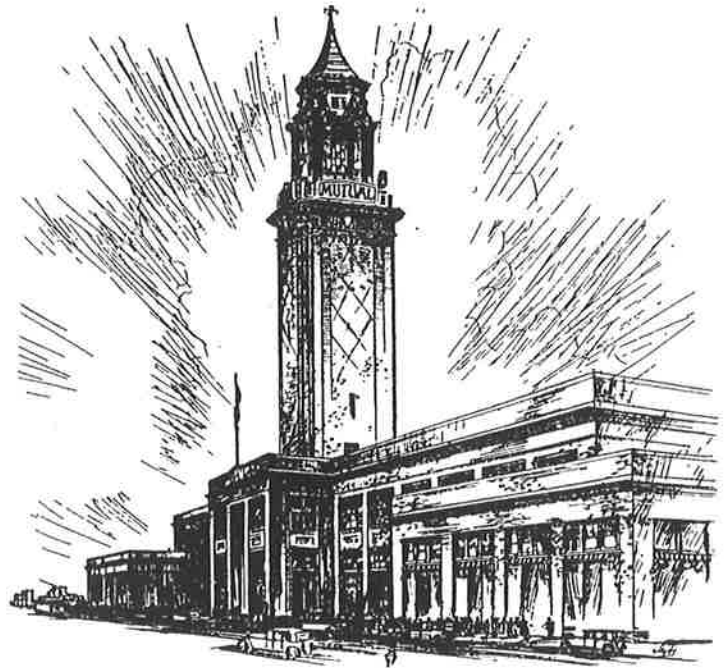
The Oakland Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board meets on the second Monday of each month. Meetings are open to the public. Landmark designation is recommended by the Board to the Planning Commission and City Council. Landmarks are subject to a 240-day delay in issuance of demolition permits. Exterior alterations require approval by City Planning staff, at the recommendation of the Board. 112 landmarks and five districts have been designated since the Board was created in 1974. Meetings are at the Lakeside Garden Center, 666 Bellevue, second Mondays, 4 pm.

APRIL

The meeting opened with a memorial to former boardmember Bert Bertolero and Carlos Anglin, first Board secretary.

Board voted to amend landmark designation of the Paramount Theater to include the interior, as is permitted for publicly owned buildings. Informal responses from Paramount board and manager supported designation.

Board received owner's comments on its proposal to landmark the Safeway (Mutual Stores) building at 5701-59 East 14th Street (Reed & Corlett, 1927-28). Owner Ronald



The new Mutual Stores building on East 14th Street in 1928: a popular landmark on its way to becoming a Landmark. Emil Hagstrom's Mutual was a predecessor of Safeway. (Survey)

Silberman said the property contains about 200,000 square feet of mixed uses: light industry, live-work studios, and post-quake homeless shelter. He said he plans no change to the exterior; the tower is familiar throughout East Oakland; former neighborhood residents return to view the building. Jean Spees asked Silberman if he foresaw economic benefit from landmark status; he said it would not hurt. Board directed staff to prepare a nominating resolution.

Board directed staff to prepare a resolution to nominate 2332 Harrison Street (YWCA Blue Triangle Club, now called Lake Merritt Lodge; McCall & Davis, 1925) as a landmark, and arrange a tour of the building. This is another nomination initiated by the Board, from the highest priority items on the Study List. Board moved forward with nomination of 1625 Clay Street (PG&E Building; C.W. Dickey, 1922), rated A in the Cultural Heritage Survey and on the National Register. The Board had made a reasonable effort to contact the owners, and directed staff to prepare a nominating resolution. Chair Estelle Mannis observed that the new Federal Building with 3,500 employees nearby should have a beneficial effect on the building.

Susan Chamberlin, Office of Economic Development and Employment, reported on the status of the Rotunda (Kahn's-Liberty House, 1511-15 Broadway/1500 San Pablo), listed on the Preservation Study List, rated A by the Survey, and on the National Register. A private developer had nearly completed an elaborate tax-act project but work stopped



Paramount interior as well as exterior will be a landmark, under amended designation. (Paramount Theatre/Survey)

in October 1988 and foreclosure occurred in 1989. The earthquake caused relatively little damage. OEDE purchased the building and two parking lots for \$1.85 million but the idea of using the building for City offices appeared to have been given up due to "inefficiency" of the space. About \$9.5 million is estimated to complete the rehab and seismic work. Chamberlin thought landmark designation could be considered once future use is decided. Prentice noted that the building is subject to Design Review under existing zoning, though not by the Board; the zoning requires pedestrian-oriented uses on the ground floor. What happens at the Broadway Building may determine what happens at the Rotunda, e.g., a high-rise annex to the Broadway Building might open directly into the Rotunda atrium.

Adams Point Preservation Society submitted a Notice of Intent to nominate 401 Lee Street (the McElroy house, Julia Morgan & Ira Hoover, 1907) as a landmark. Owners had applied to demolish this and the house next door and develop condos. Planning Department environmental review recommends incorporating the McElroy house into the new construction or moving it. Allen pointed out tax credits and Mills Act benefits for historic buildings. Owner said repair costs exceeded any possible benefits, and claimed the Planning Department had not warned him about any problems with demolition. Mannis questioned the \$195,000 cost estimate for repair; she had renovated buildings that looked much worse for much less. Robin Jahnke of Adams Point Preservation said his organization had worked extensively in 1989 with the former developer and two of the present owners, and arrived at a plan which retained the house as four units, and put 22 new units on the adjoining lot. Owner said the integrity of the Julia Morgan design would be spoiled if the house were divided. Prentice advised that the property is on the Study List, so demolition is subject to a 60 day delay.

Prentice and John Merritt of California Preservation Foundation reported on the proposed State Historic Register, which would include all properties with existing local, state or national designations, plus others nominated specifically to this register. It would provide a single list of historic resources statewide and clarify CEQA and Mills Act issues.

Board voted to send a letter of support to the State for the Certified Local Government grant application, which funds the Survey and certain Board training programs. Annalee Allen and Les Hausrath reported on the Preservation Task Force and the Preservation

Element. There was controversy over designating landmarks over owners' objections, over demolition prohibition for Class A landmarks and over the relationship between the Board and the Planning Commission. Estelle Mannis planned to meet with Commission members to discuss perceptions and misperceptions of the landmark process.

Mannis and Prentice reported on a meeting with the Port of Oakland regarding the new Amtrak Station and the Wood Street Southern Pacific Station. Prentice read a letter from Mayor Harris stating his intention to convene a committee to address the future of the Wood Street station. Southern Pacific Transportation Co., owner of the station, was failing to keep it weather-tight as required by the Earthquake Repair Ordinance, and had indicated an intent to demolish it.

Prentice reported on a conversation with a representative of First Nationwide Bank about the Broadway Building. Carpentier reported on a visit to the Old Merritt College campus with a group from the Mayor's Office; neglect of the property was obvious.



Julia Morgan's McElroy house at 401 Lee in Adams Point. Ivy has been removed since this photo, but little else changes: 1989 demolition proposal has been revived, and neighborhood plans to file landmark application. (Survey)



Is time running out for the Southern Pacific station? Landmarks Board, OHA, and others are working to save it. (Survey)

MAY

In honor of the 140th anniversary of the City of Oakland and of National Preservation Week, certificates were presented to the owners of 43 designated Oakland landmarks who had not previously received them. Gaye Cobb, owner of the Reed-Henshaw house at 16th and Filbert, urged placing plaques on landmarks; she suggested that some owners would be willing to contribute to the cost.

In Design Review, Board approved plans by Dennis Owens for a storefront window at 484-94 9th Street, the Arlington Hotel, a landmark in the S-7 Victorian Row District.

Board reviewed plans by VBN Architects for earthquake repair and structural upgrade of City Hall. Board's concerns at the January meeting had been addressed: a rear addition was eliminated, and infill of basement windows redesigned. Architects also showed a design for a spire at the top of the clock tower, which had been originally proposed but never executed. Landscape elements (sidewalk, benches, street trees, lampposts) were still being developed. Board recommended approval, provided the applicant work with staff on landscape and spire.

Board voted to accept the resolution nominating 5701-59 East 14th Street, the Safeway building, as an Oakland landmark. The nomination for 1625 Clay Street (PG&E building) was held over for a month to continue efforts to contact the owners. McElroy house was continued for 3 months.

The Board's Notice of Intent to nominate 2001-15 Broadway/450 20th Street (I.Magnin), continued from February, was continued again because of possible legal complications from the company's bankruptcy. Board voted to nominate 3443-3501 San Pablo Avenue (California Hotel, Clay Burrell, 1929) as a land-

mark, and directed staff to prepare a resolution for the June meeting.

Board was invited to a presentation on revised plans for alteration and expansion at First Unitarian Church.

JUNE

Board reviewed and approved designs for several projects in the Victorian Row Preservation District, 9th Street between Broadway and Washington: storefronts at the Portland Hotel-Henry House (470-82 9th St.), new doors and windows on the rear of the Lloyd Hotel-Ross House (477-89 9th), infill of wall openings in the Gladstone Building (469 9th), and storefronts at the Wilcox Block and Annex (821-33 Broadway/475 9th).

At the Board's invitation, Alvin James, Director of City Planning, reported on proposed city personnel cutbacks, including Helaine Prentice's position as staff to the Landmarks Board. He said the department was required to cut 23% of its budget, and expected to have more information in July.

Board voted to proceed with landmark nomination of the California Hotel, specifying that the nomination is for the building only, not the vacant land behind it on the parcel. Board directed staff to prepare a resolution nominating St. Paul's Church (110 Montecito, B.G. McDougall, 1912); nomination covers the church only, not the parish hall or school on the property. Blue Triangle Club at 2332 Harrison Street was reportedly for sale, and caution was urged that the buyer be notified of pending nomination.

Board accepted David Ritchie's Notice of Intent to submit a landmark application for the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters building at 1716-18 7th Street (see March 1989), and encouraged him in his proposal to nominate other African-American historic sites. He also stated his concern over the Southern Pacific station at 16th and Wood.

Carl Gustafson, of Habitat for Humanity, requested Study List status for a Victorian house at 1471 34th Avenue, which was slated for demolition as a nuisance. Habitat, which has already renovated eight Oakland houses, hoped to use it as offices and housing for interns. Board placed it on the Study List.

Prentice reported that sixteen notices had been sent out under the Mandatory Earthquake Damage Abatement Ordinance and hearings set for July. It was remarked that the Public Works Department's flow charts explaining repair and demolition procedures seemed to favor demolition over repair.

On June 9 the City Council approved four new landmarks: Lake Merritt Hotel, Posey Tube Portal, Ellen Kenna house, and Alison

(Alician) Apartments; Pekin Low was postponed. Allen suggested that landmark certificates should be presented by the Mayor.

Prentice reported an inquiry by developer Ariel Basse about placing three factory-built houses on vacant parcels in the 10th Avenue Preservation District. Boardmember Creighton Fong, a resident of the district, said he had talked with the developer about relocating houses which are threatened elsewhere. Prentice said she had suggested the McElroy house, but it was too big.

JULY

Board approved design by the Chinese Community Council for new exterior doors at Oakland's first landmark, the Western Pacific Station at 3rd and Washington, to be a senior center; a missing pediment might be replaced some time in the future. Board also approved a new entry and rear addition at the Pacific Coast Brew Pub (Arlington Hotel, 906 Washington St.) in Old Oakland.

Landmark nomination for St. Paul's Church, 114 Montecito, was forwarded to Planning Commission; Blue Triangle Club, 2332 Harrison, postponed while sale is pending; and application was accepted for Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters building, 1716-18 7th Street. Applicant David Ritchie said the Brotherhood's second floor meeting hall is intact, presently used for storage.

Some Board members and concerned citizens had toured the Valentine house (2015 13th Av., 1885-86), which is being sold. It is on the Study List; Board voted to issue a Notice of Intent for landmark nomination and asked Brooklyn Neighborhood Preservation Association to prepare the application. John J. Valentine was president of Wells Fargo; Creighton Fong had contacted them about historical information and photos.

At the Board's request, Allen Michaan, owner of the Grand Lake Theater, explained

that mosaic tile paving at the entrance had been removed as a safety hazard. This did not require a building permit, but it should have come to the Board for design review: communication between city departments regarding landmarks could be improved.

Board reviewed and endorsed National Register nomination for University High School/Old Merritt College (5714 Martin Luther King Jr. Way), and agreed to review and comment on the EIR for demolition of St. Francis de Sales (see Briefing).

Carolyn Douthat, for OHA, reported on possible funding for rehabilitation of the 16th Street S.P. Station, and efforts to get immediate repairs done (see Briefing).

Chris Buckley, author of the Preservation Element, would be invited to the August Board meeting to discuss remaining issues.

Board members signed up to attend Earthquake Damage Abatement Board meetings.

Certificates were presented to owners of the four newest landmarks.

Proposed demolition of Sacred Heart Church was discussed. Prentice would be documenting the building; Spees said much of the interior had already been dismantled.

Board members were encouraged to attend the Certified Local Government workshop in Sacramento on July 31.

Proposed demolition of 1900-16 Broadway was discussed (Fall-Winter 1990 OHA News); it is on the Study List, and would become yet another parking lot on Broadway.

Board discussed status of San Antonio Park nomination, denied by Planning Commission due to neighborhood controversy (see Winter 1991-92 Briefing).

Les Hausrath was elected chair for 1992-93, Jean Spees vice-chair. --Kathy Olson

Two long-pending landmark nominations have finally been confirmed: Posey Tube Portal (1925-28, Henry H. Meyers), nominated in early 1991, and Lake Merritt Hotel (William Weeks, 1927), on hold since 1986. (1930s postcard; Phil Bellman)



OHA Calendar

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

Upcoming Activities

sooner than you'd like, (if no one has any better ideas), "The demolition of the Key System Building and other earthquake damaged Oakland landmarks," free, call your city legislators.

ongoing, M-F. 9-5, "The History of West Oakland: Its Origins and People," photographic exhibit, Liberty Hall, 1485 8th St., free, 839-6776.

ongoing, Sun.-Th., 10-4, Jewish ceremonial and fine arts, historical artifacts, Judah L. Magnes Museum, 2911 Russell St., Berkeley, 849-2710.

ongoing, "Threads of Strength: People, Groups and Organizations of the Afro-American Community," Center for Afro-American History & Life, 5606 San Pablo Ave., Oakland, 658-3158.

through September 6, (W-Sat. 10-5, Sun. 12-7), "Panorama of California", 15 photographic panoramas of CA from the Gold Rush days to the present, The Oakland Museum, Oak & 10th Streets.

through September 13, W-Sun. 11-5, "Images of Times Now Past: Japanese Woodblock Prints," University Art Museum, 2626 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, 642-1438.

through September 13, W-Sat. 12-5, "Passion Por Frida," the work of Frida Kahlo, Mexican Museum, Building D, Fort Mason Center, Marina and Laguna, San Francisco, 415 441-0404.

through September 26, Sat. 10am, Chinatown Walk, SF Heritage, 950 Clay St., \$3, (415) 441-3004.

through October 17, (M-F. 11-4, Sat. 12-4), "Hayward High School 100 Years," Hayward Area Historical Society Museum, 22701 Main Street, \$1/\$.50, 581-0223.

through October 18, (W-Sat. 10-5, Sun. 12-7), "Patterns of Prestige: The Development and Influence of the Saltillo Sarape in Spanish America," The Oakland Museum, Oak & 10th Streets.

July 25, Sat. 1:30-3:30, **OHA Walk**, "Old Oakland Ethnic History Tour," 9th St. & Washington, \$6/\$4, 763-9218.

July 26, Sun. 1:30-4:30, **OHA Walk**, "Mountain View Cemetery," Chapel of the Chimes, 4499 Piedmont Ave., \$6/\$4, 763-9218.

August 1, Sat. 1:30-3:30, **OHA Walk**, "Fruitvale", St. Elizabeth's Church, 1464 34th Ave., \$6/\$4, 763-9218.

August 2, Sun. 1:30-3:30, **OHA Walk**, "Produce Market and Lower Broadway," 3rd St. & Franklin, \$6/\$4, 763-9218.

August 8, Sat. 1:30-3:30, **OHA Walk**, "Kennedy Tract of Fruitvale," St. Joseph's Professional Center, 2647 E. 14th St., \$6/\$4, (optional tour of Cohen House @ 3:30, \$5), 763-9218.

August 9, Sun. 1:30-4, **OHA Walk**, "Mills College," inside campus gate, MacArthur Blvd. & Richards Road, \$6/\$4, 763-9218.

August 15, Sat. 1:30-3:30, **OHA Walk**, "Glenview," Wellington & Edgewood (just off Park Blvd.), \$6/\$4, 763-9218.

August 16, Sun. 1:30-3:30, **OHA Walk**, "Sidewalks of Temescal," Genova Delicatessen, 50th & Telegraph, \$6/\$4, 763-9218.

August 16, Sun. 4-6, benefit fundraiser to save Old Merritt College, NOVA Legal Fund, see "Briefing", \$25 donation, 655-3841.

August 22, Sat. 1:30-3:30, **OHA Walk**, "Adams Point," Grand Ave. & Park View, \$6/\$4, 763-9218.

August 23, Sun. 1:30-3:30, **OHA Walk**, "Historic Pagoda Hill in Rockridge," Chabot Road & College Ave, \$6/\$4, 763-9218.

September 13, Sun., "8th Annual Gatsby Summer Afternoon," Art Deco Society of California, reservations required, 415 982-DECO.

September 20, 1:00-3:00, "Renovating Victorians"; a walking workshop through Preservation Park with Jane Spangler, East gate, M.L.King Jr. Way & 13th St., \$10, OHA 763-9218.

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.

Hayward Area Historical Society Museum, 22701 Main Street, Hayward, (M-F. 11-4, Sat. 12-4); \$1/\$0.50 (children), 581-0223.

McConaghy House, 104 year old farmhouse at 18701 Hesperian Blvd., Hayward, Th-Sun., 1-4; \$3/\$2 (Sr.)/\$0.50 (children).

Oakland Tours Program, (M, W & Sat. 10 & 12), Seven walking tours: Old Oakland; City Center; Uptown Lake; Preservation Park and Unitarian Church; Oakland Chinatown; Jack London Waterfront; and, Churches and Temples (St. Augustines Episcopal, First Christian, Temple Sinai & First Congregational, free, 238-3234.

Paramount Theatre, Art Deco movie palace, 2025 Broadway, Tours 1st & 3rd Sat 10am, \$1, 893-2300.

Pardee Home Museum, 1868 Italianate Villa, Pardee family residence 1868-1981, tours by reservation, 10/tour maximum, \$4/\$3 (Sr.), 672 11th St., 444-2187.

Presidio, National Park Service walks, every Sat. 11am, meet at main parade grounds, \$3, (415) 556-0865.

San Francisco Heritage, Victorian & Edwardian Pacific Heights, Sun. 12:30-2, Haas-Lilienthal House Tours, Sun. 11-4, W. 12-3:15, 2007 Franklin, \$4/\$2*; *Srs./Jrs., (415) 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 Susan McCue, 763-1687, 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 (March through May) are:

Gene & Pat Angell, Jerry & Ginny Axtell, Marian & Donald Beitler, John Blankenship, Jaqueline Bloomquist, Maria Brooks, Jim & Maggy Cara, Diana Chase, Barbara Dawson, Virginia Falk, Susan Galindo-Schnellbacher, Lynda Guthrie/Dunsmuir House & Gardens, Marilyn Gutierrez, Robert & Jean Huston, Mr. & Mrs. Robert W. Johnson, Regina Kammer, Richard & Gail Kilbourne, Dan Langan, James & Beverly Lee, Charles Lewis, Richard Long, Esther Low, Mariam Marshall, Veronica Martin, Jim Michael & Terry Allen, Sara Nomellini, Gerald Notch, Frank Ogawa, Eva Paul, Richard Pettler, Judy Podesta, Bette Postag, M. J. Pritchett, Lee Rosenthal, Catherine Rotta, Jeanette Rudstrom, Jan Saga, Len & Sharon Saltzman, Peter Schorer, Sarah Shaver, Harriet Swift, Janet Tremlett, Mary Beth Uitti, Cathy & Mark Vendenbergh, Peter Van der Naillen & Bridget Flanagan, Winifred Walsh, Margaret Weinberg, & Elizabeth Wertz.

Donors

Special thanks to those joining/renewing as:

SPONSOR (\$100): Gallagher & Burk, Richard Nagler, & Jon Norman.
 ORGANIZATION (\$50): Dunsmuir House & Gardens/Lynda Guthrie.

OHA appreciates donations from the following:

(March through May): Dennis Galloway, Sarah Shaver.

COHEN HOUSE FUND: Margaret Molarsky.

Oakland Heritage Alliance News

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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. © 1992 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.

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

Oakland History Notes: Jackson's Furniture Store

On December 3, 1910, twenty-five thousand Oaklanders streamed through the portals of the new Jackson's Furniture Store. Situated on the west side of Clay between 13th and 14th Streets, the three-story edifice was proclaimed a "veritable mercantile palace," complementing the flourishing nearby enterprises of Sherman Clay and Co., Taft & Penoyer, and the new H.C. Capwell store. Founded in 1889 as the Chicago Clock Company by H.K. Jackson, the firm prospered and by 1910 was renowned as one of the largest retail furniture establishments in Northern California.



The new store, the firm's fourth Oakland location, featured a dazzling array of merchandise, from rugs and draperies to brass beds and gas ranges, from crockery and laces to dining room sets and parlor furniture, all brilliantly illuminated by over two thousand incandescent electric light bulbs. A 100-piece Haviland china dinner set sold for \$80, a Globe-Wernicke bookcase could be had for \$30, a gas range was priced at \$65, and a Morris chair commanded \$50.

"The opening was one of the great events in the business life of the City," intoned the Tribune; "There was not a visitor to the store who did not have congratulatory feeling for the firm."

Upon the occasion of its 50th anniversary in 1939, Jackson's expanded its original building and reaffirmed its commitment to

Oakland. "The Jackson Furniture Co. is a family-owned local business of which we are proud," declared F.K. Jackson. "Our faith and belief in the future of Oakland has led us to make this decision to stay."

After filling the furnishing needs of several generations of Oaklanders, the building was demolished in 1979, its site now occupied by part of the new federal office building.

--William W. Sturm

Jackson's Furniture Store in its heyday. The obelisk at far left belongs to the Twentieth Century Market, later the firehouse, now gone; at far right is Taft & Penoyer, now encased in 1957 cladding and most recently used as City Hall West. (Oakland History Room)

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