

## Saint Elizabeth's Church in Fruitvale:

## 100 Years of Service

The German Catholic Confederation (Staatsverband) parades in front of St. Elizabeth's Church on Bray Avenue - now 34th Avenue - Sept. 3, 1903. Fruitvale's rural history is evident in the unpaved road and path. (Josef Schmitt)



St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church at 1464 34th Avenue in the Fruitvale neighborhood celebrated its first centennial this fall. A multi-cultural congregation, the parish has contributed to Oakland's religious, educational, and social heritage in an exceptional way.

St. Elizabeth's was founded July 17, 1892, as a German national parish under the direction of the Most Reverend Patrick Riordan, Archbishop of San Francisco, who then had jurisdiction over Oakland. Riordan invited German Franciscan priests to operate the new parish. As a national parish St. Elizabeth's had no territorial limits but tended to the spiritual needs of all German-speaking Catholics of the East Bay.

Contrary to what one might expect, then, the Franciscans at St. Elizabeth's are not direct successors of the Spanish Franciscans who established California's mission chain. The Mexican government, after its independence from Spain, secularized the missions and the padres in California came close to extinction. New life came to the Franciscans in California thanks to the Kulturkampf, a struggle between Germany's Iron Chancellor, Otto von Bismarck, and the Vatican. The

Franciscans were banished from their home province of the Holy Cross in Saxony. These German refugees established a religious community in Teutopolis ("City of Germans"), Illinois. A new Franciscan province, Sacred Heart, was established in St. Louis, Missouri, and from there the Franciscan order became established again in California.

Fruitvale at that time was much larger than our present day concept. It reached from North Alameda (the Estuary) to the summit of the hills, and from 23rd Avenue to Mills College. Many Germans were located in Fruitvale, and throughout the entire East Bay. Indeed, the 1980 U.S. Census still shows Americans who claim German ancestry as the third largest ethnic group in Alameda County, after English and African-American. St. Elizabeth's was the focal point for statewide activities of the German Catholic Confederation, the Deutsche Römisch-Katholische Staatsverband. The Oakland Tribune described the 1905 convention of this society in great detail:

"German was the language mostly spoken, and Germanic were the decorations in larger part. German welcome and hospitality prevailed, and an uninitiated visitor could



Left: Hundred year old church bell made for St. Elizabeth's by the H.Y. Stuckstede Bell Factory, St. Louis, Missouri, bears the inscription "St. Elisabeth 1893." A smaller bell, "St. Maria," bears the same date. Both still occupy the southwest tower and rang during the centennial celebrations. Josef Schmitt, author, shows the bell.

Center: St. Elizabeth's "new" church, built in 1921, designed by John J. Foley. Photo is dated 1924. Right: St. Francis of Assisi (1182-1226), founder of the Franciscan Order of Religious. Oil painting by Paul A. Schmitt (1893-1983), father of the author. Original 1928 painting hangs in the sacristy at St. Elizabeth's. (all photos: Josef Schmitt)

have been easily persuaded that one of the beauty spots of the fatherland had been shifted by Mother Nature to this Western sea, peopled with its original dwellers, had not the costumes worn spoken plainly of a distant foreign land - America."

The Dominican Sisters have taught school at St. Elizabeth's since 1893 when they were invited to the parish by the first pastor, Father Seraphin Lampe (1848-1918). The order was an offshoot of the ancient Convent of the Holy Cross in Regensburg, Bavaria, founded in 1264 only 43 years after the death of St. Dominic. Via New York and San Francisco, the German Dominican nuns arrived at the Southern Pacific station in Fruitvale on October 2, 1893. They were welcomed by Father Lampe and Mrs. Friedrich Wilhelm Stromberg, wife of a prominent Oakland real estate and insurance agent. With their Germanic background and that of the Fruitvale community, the sisters were perfectly adapted to establish bilingual education, German and English, long before the present day concept developed.

Besides the Dominicans, several other orders of Catholic nuns were active at St. Elizabeth's. The Poor Clare sisters lived in a cloistered convent across the street from the church, the Sisters of Mercy still operate the Mercy Retirement Home at 34th Avenue and Foothill Boulevard, and the Little Sisters of the Poor ran St. Joseph's Home for the Aged on East 14th Street.

During World War I, the German-American parishioners suffered intense discrimination as war-bred anti-German hysteria swept the country. As elsewhere in the United States, the parish stopped having sermons in German and German was no longer used in the school. The same occurred during World War II, with the result that an entire generation of Ger-

man-Americans lost their cultural heritage.

Over the years the ethnic composition of the parish has changed with that of the rest of Oakland. Portuguese and Irish residents came, then Italians, Filipinos, and African-Americans. During the 1950s large numbers of Hispanics began to settle in Fruitvale. Jeffrey Burns, archivist for the Archdiocese of San Francisco, notes that in 1953 the parish dedicated a painting of Our Lady of Guadalupe at a special Mass for the Spanish-speaking parishioners. Appropriately, it was painted by Paul A. Schmitt, Oakland artist and a member of one of the parish's oldest German families. Annually the parish celebrates her feast day, December 12th.

The centennial festivities at St. Elizabeth's last October included a Mass sung by the Oakland Männerchor, a German men's choral group, and an exhibit of photographs and memorabilia; the celebration closed with polkas and waltzes by Joe Smiell's German band at the annual Oktoberfest.

St. Elizabeth's tradition as a multi-cultural parish has been enhanced by the constant influx of new cultural groups. The current parish community includes many Irish and German families and a few Portuguese families whose roots go back to the earliest days of the parish, and new arrivals from Central America, Mexico, the Philippines, China, Korea, Vietnam, and the Pacific Islands. This rich blend of peoples has, to a large degree, learned to work together in a cooperative, multi-cultural parish community. It is this mix of cultures that makes St. Elizabeth's representative of Fruitvale and the rest of Oakland, and insures the parish's success in its second century.

--Josef M. Schmitt

Josef Schmitt is a sixth generation Fruitvale resident, historian, and president of the East Bay Genealogical Society. He leads walking tours of Fruitvale for OHA.

## Elizabeth Flood's School: Oakland's First African American Institution

The first schools in California, public as well as private, were segregated. This practice originated in custom rather than law. The white majority assumed that African Americans, Chinese, and Native Americans should be educated in separate schools, and a system of segregated schools developed without organized opposition or serious debate. The early de facto segregation was eventually codified into law. The California School Code of 1860 explicitly prohibited minorities from attending regular (white) public schools.

Oakland's first public school, located at Fourth and Clay Streets, opened in 1853, a year after the city was founded. This one-room school was built by Horace Carpentier, one of the founders of Oakland, as part of the deal that made him mayor and owner of the waterfront. Only white children were admitted to the new school, in accordance with prevailing practice. For several years the Oakland Board of Education made no provision whatever for the education of black children. Responsibility for educating minority students fell upon their own community.

Elizabeth Thorn-Scott Flood was the pioneer who established the first black private school in Alameda County. Born in New Bedford, Massachusetts, she came to California during the Gold Rush era. She arrived on the frontier as a widow with three children. This plus her minority status must have placed her in a precarious position indeed. She settled in Sacramento and in 1854 opened a private school that later operated under the auspices of the African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church.

In 1855 she married Isaac Flood and moved to Brooklyn. Brooklyn was then a separate community located east of what later became Lake Merritt. Isaac Flood was an ex-slave from South Carolina who immigrated to California in 1849 and settled in Brooklyn in 1853. He worked at a variety of jobs over the years, including paper hanger, laborer, steward, whitewasher, and carpet layer. The Floods' house still stands in East Oakland.

Elizabeth Flood soon recognized the plight of the black children in Brooklyn and Oakland, and about 1857 she opened a school for them. It was originally located in her Brooklyn home on East 15th Street. In all probability it was the first African-American institution established in Alameda

County, a year older than the A.M.E. mission which became Shiloh (now First) A.M.E. Church. Shiloh A.M.E. assumed control of the school following its formal organization as a church in 1863. In that year Shiloh A.M.E. purchased the abandoned Carpentier school-house and moved the building to Market and 7th Streets. A description of the building has survived: "22 x 38 feet, twelve foot ceiling, shingled roof and clapboard sides."

This tiny building served as the Shiloh A.M.E. chapel for over two decades, from 1863 to 1884. It also housed Mrs. Flood's school, where she taught until she died in 1867. After her death the school closed because she could not be replaced.

Only a few sources provide information about Elizabeth Flood's school. A brief account appears in Delilah Beasley's Negro Trail Blazers of California. "The first colored school in Alameda County, California, was organized as a private school by Mrs. Elizabeth Thorn Scott Flood. She opened a school for colored children about 1857, in the old Carpenter [sic] school house, corner of Seventh and Market Streets, Oakland. This school had been used for white children, but becoming crowded, they built them a new building, after the completion of which this colored lady was allowed to use the abandoned building for a colored school." Beasley does not mention that the school was originally located in Mrs. Flood's home, nor does she mention that it later operated under the auspices of the A.M.E. Church.

Mary C. Netherland, a black pioneer, wrote about Elizabeth Flood's teaching career in Sacramento and Brooklyn: "In Sacramento Mrs. Elizabeth Scott opened a private school for colored children on May 29, 1854 on Second



Elizabeth and Isaac Flood were among Oakland's first African American residents and civic activists. Elizabeth operated pioneer schools in Sacramento and Oakland, and both Floods were founders of First A.M.E. Church (Northern Calif. Center for Afro-American History & Life; Oakland History Room)

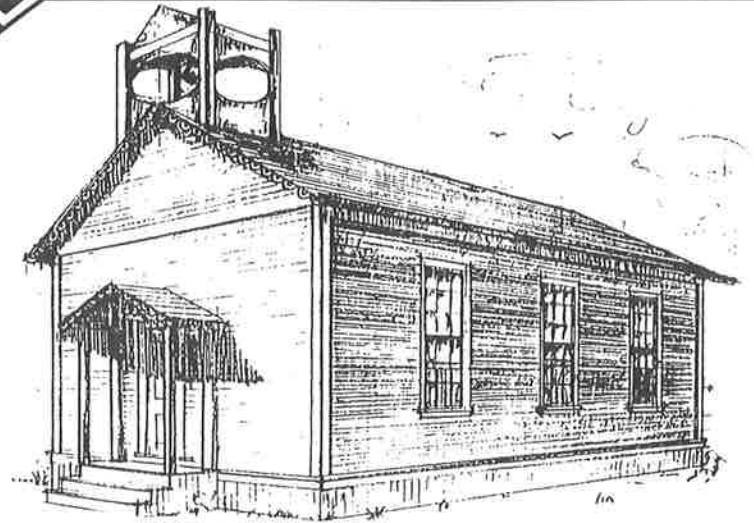


The two locations of Elizabeth Flood's school: the Floods' Brooklyn home at 1334 East 15th Street, and the Carpentier School, moved by the A.M.E. church to 7th and Market, "from a drawing made from memory by Charles G. Reed, 1921." (OHR)

Street between M and N Streets. Her pupils ranged in age from 4 to 29. A committee composed of Messrs Brown, Simpson, Wilson, Sanderson and others, arranged to organize the first public school for Negro children, Aug. 7, 1854, in the A.M.E. Church 7th St. with Mrs. Scott as teacher at a salary which was paid by the pupils at \$1.00 a week. In 1856 Rev. J.B. Sanderson became the teacher of this school. Mrs. Scott having married Rev. Isaac Flood and move to Oakland. Mrs. Scott-Flood opened and taught a school in the A.M.E. Church at 7th and Market until 1867."

The records of the A.M.E. Church also provide information about Mrs. Flood's school and her contribution to the founding of Shiloh A.M.E. Church in Oakland. "After coming to Oakland to live as the wife of Isaac Flood she became interested in the having a Church and in the few children growing up without any schooling. It was she who first conceived the idea of a Church home as we had none at that time. She canvased around amongst our few families and got them interested in the idea. This was the real beginning of what we now have here in Oakland. She gathered up the few children and taught them in her Home and later on in the little old schoolhouse which became the church home." This account also does not make clear that the school existed prior to the church.

Lydia Flood, the daughter of Elizabeth Flood, attended the A.M.E. private school. Interviewed at the age of 97, she recalled her childhood in early Oakland, and remembered attending the private school taught by her mother. This interview appeared in the Oakland Tribune "Knave" column, April 12, 1959: "She remembers attending the private school conducted by her mother at the African Methodist Church on the southeast

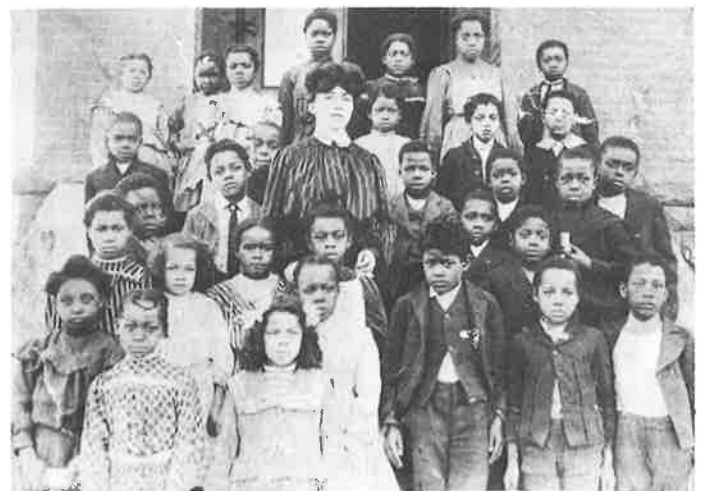


corner of Seventh and West Streets. This was the same building that was the old Carpentier schoolhouse, of Fourth and Clay Streets. It was purchased in 1862 by the First Methodist Episcopal Church and in 1864 they sold it to the African Methodist Episcopal Church for \$50."

An interesting question is how many children attended the A.M.E. private school. The 1860 census and other contemporary records indicate that fewer than 10 black children lived in the Oakland-Brooklyn area at the time the school was in operation.

Elizabeth Flood's private school survived for approximately ten years, c.1857 to 1867. In July 1867 Mrs. Flood died, and the school was forced to close. In addition, the need for a private school ceased to exist when Brooklyn opened a public school for black children in 1867. Oakland opened a public supported evening school for black children and adults in 1869. Finally, in 1872 the public schools of Oakland and Brooklyn were integrated. --Donald Hausler.

Elizabeth Flood's school paved the way for public education for all children in Oakland: first this all-black class taught by Mary Sanderson in Brooklyn c.1870, and then integrated schools after 1872. (Oakland History Room)



## 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. Preservation Action Committee intends to resume regular meetings, the last Friday of each month: call for information.

### ■ SPRING THAW AT MERRITT COLLEGE (BUT WILL THE ECONOMY COOPERATE?)

As predicted in the Fall 1992 *OHA News*, the City's scenario for developer selection and ultimate renovation of the Merritt College building is moving along, without any obvious glitches. The worrisome cloud on the horizon, however, is the sour economy which may undermine efforts to attract reputable developers. After the outgoing City Council approved the report drawn up by consultant Dean Macris, a Request for Proposals based upon that report was brought before the new City Council on Jan. 19. The Council accepted the document with little debate and one change: the addition of a sentence encouraging developer creativity in responding to the RFP. The Council underscored its commitment to the project by approving additional funding: \$120,000 to Brady and Associates for the Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement and an additional \$80,000 to the City's contract with Macris to oversee the next stages of the process.

The city's timeline (which, for the first time on this project, is being closely followed) has the RFP being issued Jan. 26 and a deadline of April 30 for developers to respond. The developer is expected to be selected by June 29, with construction commencing a year later after completion of environmental review and other preliminaries. The composition of the developer selection committee has not been spelled out publicly in any detail. We understand the plan is for a group of nine members, including Macris, with four community members and four city staff. County Supervisor and Merritt College alumnus Keith Carson has been mentioned as possible head of the selection committee.

While these developments are certainly hopeful, potential problems loom. The sheer size of the project and mixture of elements (senior center, housing, and possibly retail on the nine acre site), when combined with a generally soft economy, may limit developer response. Rehabilitation and seismic upgrade of the 70 year old building will also not be cheap: \$10 million is one estimate. Furthermore, demolition of the manual arts wing and the gymnasium, and substantial modifications to the rear service area of the building, all

of which are permitted by the RFP, may cause delays with the various state and federal agencies who have to sign off on the project. Among the interested parties are the State Office of Historic Preservation, Advisory Council On Historic Preservation, HUD, and the Department of the Interior, since the property is on the National Register and was purchased with federal funds.

On the legal front, settlement appears near in NOVA's lawsuit against the City over ongoing neglect of the building. An interior alarm has been installed, roof repairs are being made, lighting is being installed in the areas of most frequent break-ins, and NOVA has had its legal fees reimbursed by the City. NOVA is also allowed four quarterly follow-up visits to determine whether the repairs hold and whether trespassers and vandals are being successfully kept out. In addition, the Office of Economic Development and Employment - the bane of NOVA and vice versa - is now out of the picture with day-to-day management of the site transferred to the Office of General Services and oversight of the project to the Office of Community Development. The final settlement agreement is indeed a compromise on both sides. NOVA yielded on perimeter fence improvements, indefinite on-site inspections, and mention of National Register status in the document. However, our intention was not to penalize the City nor to have renovation carried out at this time. The improvements in security and maintenance make more likely the arrest of further deterioration and vandalism, and reduce the fire hazard, while developer selection and environmental review proceed. NOVA's attorney Susan Brandt-Hawley, who is also representing Friends of Sacred Heart, deserves much credit for drafting an acceptable settlement and acting as an effective go-between in negotiations with both sides.



Inner courtyards at Old Merritt College are part of its architectural distinction. (Kenneth Rice/NOVA)





For more information: contact Kerry Hamill in the Mayor's office at 238-3141; James Branch and Jens Hillmer, project managers, Office of Community Development; Councilperson Sheila Jordan at 238-3266; or NOVAns Robert Brokl and Alfred Crofts at 655-3841, or Ceci Kilmartin at 653-2321.

--Robert Brokl

#### ■ SACRED HEART CHURCH

In December, Alameda County Superior Court Judge James Lambden denied the writ of mandate filed by the Friends of Sacred Heart Church which would have required the City of Oakland to conduct environmental review on the demolition application for the 1902 Romanesque church. The Friends of Sacred Heart have appealed this ruling to the First District Court of Appeal and have requested that a stay on issuance of the demolition permit continue until a ruling on the appeal. The court is currently considering whether to keep a temporary stay in effect until ruling on the permanent stay and a decision on that point is expected in mid-February. If the temporary

stay is not extended, the demolition permit could be issued before the court rules on the substance of the appeal.

As reported previously, the legal issues involved include one on which there is no case law, the standard for invoking the CEQA emergency exemption. If the court were to find that the exemption was inappropriately used, it would then reach the issue of whether any of the city's actions were discretionary, thereby triggering CEQA review, and, if so, whether Sacred Heart is a historic resource for CEQA purposes. As to the last question, the new California State Register legislation (see related article) may provide some guidance. Since Sacred Heart has been determined eligible for the National Register, it is automatically included on the State Register. As such, it is a historical resource and its demolition would by definition have a significant effect on the environment. According to an article in The Daily Journal, a San Francisco legal paper, both sides have said the case may end up in the California Supreme Court.

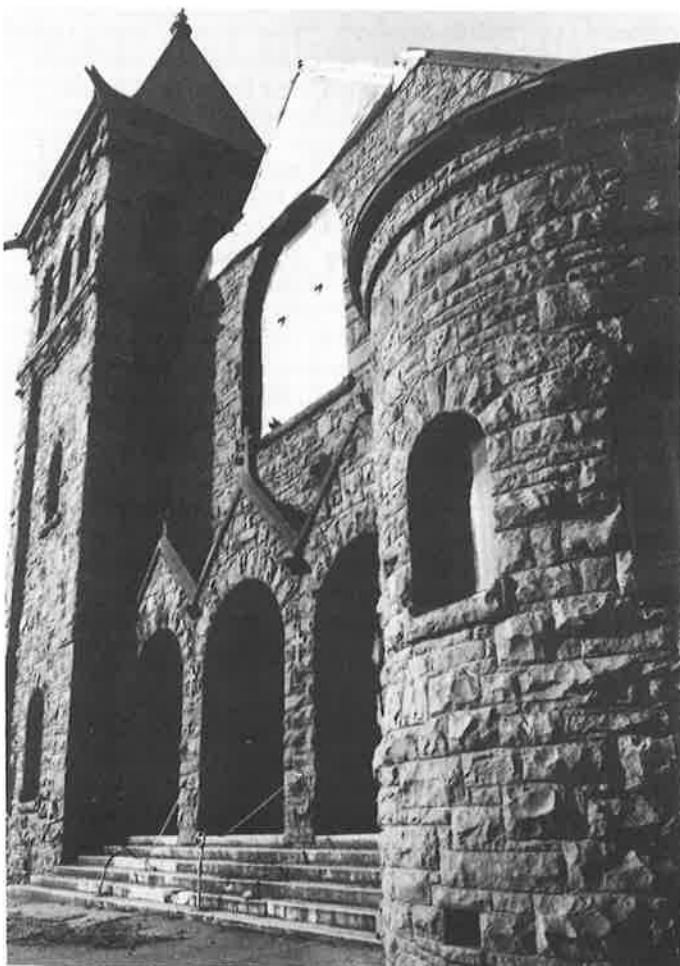
--Carolyn Douthat

#### ■ NEW FROM SACRAMENTO: THE CALIFORNIA REGISTER OF HISTORIC RESOURCES

Late last year Governor Wilson signed into law Assembly Bill 2881 establishing the State Register of Historic Resources. Creation of the register was identified as a priority by the State Heritage Task Force in 1986, and credit goes to the California Preservation Foundation for working with the legislature, the State Resources Agency and the California League of Cities to make the register a reality.

The California Register, similar in concept to the National Register, will automatically include properties formally declared eligible for or listed on the National Register and certain State Historical Landmarks. The State Historical Resources Commission, the designating body, will also review existing Points of Historical Interest for inclusion and consider nominations from the following categories: local landmarks, historical resources identified as significant in qualified local historical resources surveys, resources contributing to a qualified historic district, and individual resources. Nominations may be made by individuals as well as government agencies. If an owner objects to the listing, the property will not be listed but may be designated as eligible for the Register.

The legislation includes two important clarifications to the California Environmental Qualify Act. The first provides that a project which may cause a substantial adverse change to the significance of a



Sacred Heart Church (Etienne A. Garin, 1902) remains tangled in litigation. Friends of Sacred Heart and OHA are planning a spring garden party to raise legal funds. (Phil Bellman)



Floral Depot at 19th and Telegraph (Albert J. Evers, 1931) would be regarded as a "historic resource" for CEQA purposes under new California Register, even though owner opposition has kept it from National Register or city landmark listing. (Phil Bellman)

historical resource will, by definition, be considered to have a significant effect on the environment. The legislation also provides that projects which may have a significant adverse effect on a historical resource cannot be exempted from CEQA review even if the project is among those which are ordinarily categorically exempt.

The law will have an immediate effect on State Historical Landmarks and National Register properties, which are automatically included on the Register. Where a property has been determined eligible for the National Register but is not a local landmark, the legislation will prevent a local jurisdiction from finding that it is not a historical resource for CEQA purposes. There are a number of such properties in Oakland, including the Floral Depot and Highland Hospital.

In addition, the law provides a standard for defining a historical resource which is broader than that currently used by some agencies. For example, CalTrans has used National Register criteria as the threshold of historical significance for CEQA purposes. In the case of the I-880 Cypress EIR, the State Office of Historic Preservation determined that South Prescott

did not meet the CalTrans definition, and therefore the EIR did not consider the effects of the project on the historic significance of that district. Under the new definition, the district might have qualified as a historical resource on the basis of its local survey rating.

The State Office of Historic Preservation and the State Historical Resources Commission are responsible for establishing guidelines and procedures to administer the new register provisions, although the staffing levels at the state are so low that implementation may be a slow process.

--Carolyn Douthat

#### ■ AND NEW IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

Henry Cisneros, former mayor of San Antonio, Texas, and the new Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, was a keynote speaker at the 1991 conference of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Following are excerpts from his remarks, as reported in Preservation News.

"Historic preservation gives us tools with which we can combat some of the divisions that exist in our society...It provides forums for negotiation...Historic preservation plays a cooperative, creative, and productive role in solving existing community problems...

"Historic preservation is going to be important in our nation's future because it provides a way to reach for the humanizing influences in our society. It entails a respect for antecedents. Historic preservation offers an intelligent way of relating people to their human origins."

--Carolyn Douthat

#### ■ HISTORIC PRESERVATION ELEMENT

The Historic Preservation Task Force will review the final draft of the Historic Preservation Element in mid-March, according to city planning staff. The timetable for review has been moved back on the decision of staff to include a chapter on Oakland history, and revise the format of the element. If the Task Force approves the draft in March, the Planning Commission will conduct public hearings in the spring and it is possible the document could reach the City Council in early summer. Adoption of the element has been identified as an important short range goal for the city by the Mayor's office and is one of the action steps in Oakland Sharing the Vision, Oakland's new strategic plan. Members who are interested in the element can contact Carolyn Douthat, OHA's representative on the Task Force, at 763-5370.

--Carolyn Douthat

## ■ PERALTA CRYPT IN DANGER

A distressing situation has arisen at St. Mary's Cemetery in Oakland. The Vicente Peralta vault, built in 1871, is in poor condition and is feared to be in imminent danger of collapse, due to prolonged neglect and the Loma Prieta earthquake, which did considerable damage to the outer brick walls. The bricks are protruding on the right side wall of the vault, and there is a large crack running the length of the wall parallel to the ground. Rain storms this winter have worsened the situation.

Vicente Peralta was one of four brothers who inherited the vast Peralta land grant that once extended from El Cerrito Creek to San Leandro Creek. Vicente's portion covered much of Oakland, from Strawberry Creek to Trestle Glen. The vault is the only known building still standing today that is associated with Vicente Peralta.

The director of the Catholic cemeteries, Anthony Silva, enlisted the aid of a consulting engineer, who reported: "The most distressed crypt observed is the Peralta crypt vault. The crypt has unreinforced brick walls, a brick arched roof and a marble facade. The caskets inside are supported on cantilever brackets supported on the two side walls. The cantilever loads on the two side walls together with the loose bricks... are to the point where collapse is imminent. We recommend that the caskets be removed from the brackets, the roof shored, the loose bricks removed and the walls be covered with a layer of reinforced shotcrete. The uppermost marble pieces need to be reset with some anchors to the new concrete at the roof level."

Peralta family members are seeking support from the East Bay community for restoration of the Peralta crypt, to preserve this part of early Spanish California history. The Alameda County Historical Society, San Leandro Historical Society, and Oakland Heritage Alliance have all expressed an interest in supporting the restoration, and a fund will be set up shortly for contributions. For more information call the OHA office at 763-9218. --Beverly D. Higuera Madera

## ■ SAINT FRANCIS DE SALES CATHEDRAL: DIOCESE SEEKS BUYERS

In late January, the City Planning Commission certified the final EIR on the demolition of St. Francis de Sales Cathedral. Before a demolition permit can be issued, however, the Diocese must obtain a conditional use permit for the parking lot which is proposed for the site. In addition, in order for the demolition and conditional use permits to be approved, the



The crumbling Peralta crypt at St. Mary's Cemetery. Obelisk at right commemorates Vicente Peralta and Encarnacion Galindo de Ayala. (Phil Bellman)

Planning Commission must adopt a Statement of Overriding Considerations, a CEQA requirement for approval of projects which will have a significant environmental effect which cannot be substantially mitigated. CEQA requires that the decision making body weigh the benefits of project approval against the unavoidable environmental effects, and, if it approves the project, state the reasons and justification for that decision. The next hearing before the Commission will be held on April 28.

On February 5 the Diocese wrote to the chair of the Planning Commission stating their intention to offer the cathedral for sale. It has already been advertised in the Wall Street Journal and elsewhere. The Diocese originally set a deadline of September 1 for the sale to close, but later postponed the closing date to October 31 if an offer comes in by September 1. The preservation community is working with the Diocese to bring the building to the attention of potential buyers. A walkthrough and design roundtable are planned for April 17, to which interested individuals are invited. Contact the OHA office for details.

--Carolyn Douthat & Annalee Allen

## ■ SEISMIC SAFETY

The city's draft Unreinforced Masonry ordinance, which has been the subject of extensive meetings between the Seismic Safety Division and a coalition sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, is being rewritten. At a coalition meeting in





January, city staff heard comments on a draft which provided for a phased mandatory upgrade program for URM buildings, with UCBC compliance as the final standard. About 1600 buildings have been identified which may be subject to the ordinance. Preliminary review of these buildings identified approximately 650 which may be of some historic significance, of which several hundred are city landmarks or in a preservation district, on the study list, on the National Register, or may meet the criteria for an A or B rating by the Cultural Heritage Survey.

A number of concerns were expressed by coalition members, most of them surrounding the mandatory UCBC requirement and the lack of any funding program to assist owners with compliance. Representatives from the Chamber, the Central Business District, the Apartment Owners Association, the Landmarks Board and the Association of Realtors agreed that absent such a program, full UCBC compliance would work an economic hardship on owners, and could result in a significant loss of URM buildings.

There was general agreement that enforcement of a minimum standard, referred as "bolts plus", would be reasonable but that mandatory UCBC compliance, even if phased in, would cause an immediate reaction from lenders, and was economically unworkable. On the basis of these comments, staff will be revising the draft to reduce the mandatory standard to bolts plus. Further discussion of a voluntary program to upgrade to the UCBC standard is expected.

The amended ordinance is scheduled to be presented to the coalition in February or early March. Readers with an interest in the more technical aspects of the ordinance should contact Alan Dreyfuss, OHA's representative to the coalition, at 835-5334. --Carolyn Douthat

#### ■ PEKIN LOW UPDATE

The landmark nomination for the Pekin Low Cafe at 706 Franklin is scheduled to return to the City Council in March. Consideration of the nomination has been put over several times so that the owners and the Oakland Chinese Community Council, who brought the nomination to the Landmarks Board, could discuss alternatives to designation which would protect the important features of the building and preserve, in some form, the low income housing which the building currently provides. The owners, who first opposed landmarking at the Planning Commission level, have said that they intend to redevelop the property but will wait at least three years to submit a specific project plan. --Carolyn Douthat

## OHA Update

#### ■ MAYBECK LECTURE AND MILLS COLLEGE TOUR

**Oakland Heritage Alliance** is pleased to announce "Bernard Maybeck: Visionary Architect," a slide lecture by architectural critic and historian Sally Woodbridge, based on her newly published book by the same title. This lecture will focus on some of Maybeck's intriguing local residential designs. Copies of Bernard Maybeck: Visionary Architect will be available for purchase and signing.

This lecture is presented as a memorial to Aaron Gallup, architectural historian with the California State Office of Historic Preservation and later with Caltrans. Aaron was instrumental in the development of the National Register and other historic preservation programs in California. As an OHA volunteer he researched, developed, and led the Mills College walking tour.

The commemorative lecture and book signing will take place Thursday, March 11, 7:30-9:30 pm, at the Bender Room, Carnegie Hall (the old Mills College Library, designed by Julia Morgan, 1905-06). This is on the Mills College campus, 5000 Macarthur Blvd. at Richards Road (ask at the gate for directions). Donation of \$10 is requested; proceeds benefit the Oakland Cultural Heritage Survey. Reservations are recommended by Tuesday, March 9; please call OHA at 763-9218.

In addition, the Mills College walking tour will be offered on Saturday, March 27, 1 to 3:30 pm. This popular OHA tour will be led by Helen Lore and Dean Yabuki and will also benefit the Survey. Donation is \$4 for OHA or Mills affiliates/\$6 general.



Aaron Gallup (fourth from right) leads 1983 OHA Mills College tour. In memory of Aaron, Mills tour will be given March 27, Maybeck lecture March 10. (Phil Bellman)

■ OHA VOLUNTEERS 1992

The OHA Board wishes to recognize and thank the following members and friends who volunteered their assistance to the organization in the last year. Without their participation **Oakland Heritage Alliance** could not have provided its educational programs and leadership in preservation advocacy. (We apologize for any omissions: further acknowledgement in future issues.)

TOURS/EVENTS: Annalee Allen, Carolyn & Tom Armour, Phil Atkins-Patterson, Yvonne Barsballe, Adam Barton, Tanna & Sol Bellia, Phil Bellman, Katherine Bertolucci, Gloria Borchman, Betty Boyd, Nailah Bradley, Valrea Brashear, Bob Brokl, Julia Brown, Alice Chambers, Ernest Chann, Yanie Chaumette, Lorna Combs, Rissa Coplan, Al Crofts, Michael Crowe, Joan Dark, Dolores Del Barro, Carlos Delgado, Don & Penny Dennenberg, Stephanie Diamond, Alan Dreyfuss, Ken Duffy, George & Susan Duncan, Margaret Edmonds, Leslie Flint, Lynn Fonfa, Creighton Fong, Henry Gardner, Christina Godfrey, Thomas Gonda, Gary Goss, Kathleen Hallissy, Kathy Hancock, Jacci Harris, Dennis Harrison, Helen & Jim Hill, David Hoard, Mary Hoole, Helen Hulse, Mona Jain, Mary Jenevein, Ann Justison, Jennifer Katz, Bill Keeler, Wayne Keller, Harlan Kessel, Eric Klatt, Gary Knecht, Betty Lam, Rachel Landes, Donald Larsen, Francine Leatherwood, Carolyn Lee, Gail Lombardi, Helen Lore, Nancy Lovejoy, Charles Lovely, Robert Macklin, Annette Maddox, Shirley Mannette, Charles Marinovich, Humphrey Mark, Carolyn & Shirley Martin, Debbie Martin, Rosiland Martin, Betty Marvin, Fran Matarrese, Susan McCue, Marty McGraw, Dvora Metz, Marilyn Michalak, Cherie Morrison, Rod Neves, Richard Norris, Janet Pape, Peggy Payne, Anita Pender, Aida Peterson, Ed Phillips, Jeanne Polloch, Richard Rufferl, Lisa Ruhland, Baldwin Sanders, Josef Schmitt, Richard Seabolt, Robert & Ruth Shapps, Shirley Shelby-Watson, Dean Sheppard, Shoshana Signer, Ron & Joan Sipherd, Sam & Barbara Skelly, Michael Smith, Jane Spangler, Betty Thomas, Georganne Thurston, Shirley & Don Tyler, Susana Villarreal, Betty & Don Violich, Jon Von Oosbree, Mary-Jo Wainwright, Donald Wardlaw, Nance Webb, Lola Weintraub, Ronald & Jocelyn Weiss, Peter & Nancy Welk, Stephanie White, Gloria Will, Marlene Wilson & Dean Yabuki.

OHA NEWS: Annalee Allen, Phil Bellman, Bob Brokl, Carolyn Douthat, Alan Dreyfuss, Lynn Fonfa, Hillary Gitelman, Lynne Horiuchi, Jennifer Katz, Helen Lore, Betty Marvin, Sally Nielsen, Kathy Olson, Bill Sturm, Sister Ethel Mary Tinnemann, Donald Wardlaw, Paris Williams & Dean Yabuki.

MAILINGS: Jerry Bowling

PRESERVATION ACTION: Annalee Allen, Bob Brokl, Andrew Carpentier, Bill Coburn, Al Crofts, Carolyn Douthat, Alan Dreyfuss, Lynn Fonfa, Creighton Fong, Hillary Gitelman, Les Hausrath, Fred Hertz, David Hoard, Lynne Horiuchi, Cecilia Kilmartin, Randolph Langenbach, Susan McCue, Jane Spangler & Jean Spees.

SURVEY: Alexandra Gillis, Jennifer Katz, Eugene Peck, Jane Spangler.

■ FUND APPEAL

As she left office last November, President Lynn Fonfa asked OHA members to contribute to a fund for membership development in 1993. Response was most gratifying - 70 members donated a total of \$2400. Lynn and the rest of the OHA Board thank the members who contributed to this fund. They are:

Annalee Allen, Elizabeth Olney Anderson, Eunice Anderson, Maurie Jean Ange, Jeffrey Angell, Jerry Barclay, David Beery, Carroll Brentano, Bonnie Burt, Frances Buxton, Jorgen Christiansen, Caryn Combs, Michael Crowe, G. Pete Encinas, Leslie Flint, Lynn Fonfa, Dan Gill/Rose McNulty, Jon & Mia Good, Earl Hamlin, JoAnn Hausler, David Hoard, Lennart Holmquist, Robert Hughes, Helen Hulse, Susan Hyde, Dian Hymer, DeWitt Johnson, Robert Joyce, Lawrence Kennon, Bruce/Candis/Matthew Kerns, Harlan Kessel, Bonnie Killip, Gary Knecht, Douglas Kyle, Mark Liss, Allen Michaan, Craig & Dusty Miller, Fred Mitchell, Daniel Neumeyer Jr., Laura & Brad Niebling, Sally Nielsen, Jon Norman, Jane O'Donnell, Robert O'Grady, Eugene Peck, Donnalyann Polito, Marie Prichett, Kristina Raupach, Jack Redford, Rhonda Righter, Virginia Robles, Lucy Shaw, Deborah Shefler, Suzanne Shoup, Norma Smith, Willard Spencer, George Strauss, Carol & George Teebay, Helen & Warren Tryon, Nancy Welk, Edith White, Gloria Will, Marlene Wilson, Valerie Winemiller, Mabel McCamman Winkelman, Ted & Betty Wurm.

■ JACK LONDON TOUR SATURDAY, APRIL 10

The new OHA walking tour, "Young Jack London in Oakland," has been rescheduled for Saturday, April 10, 1:30 to 3:30 pm. Four houses in the San Antonio district where Jack London lived during the 1880s and 90s still exist. This new tour will focus on London's early life in Oakland and the history of the San Antonio neighborhood and its distinctive architecture. This tour is developed and led by veteran tour guide and board member Dean Yabuki. Meet promptly in front of Garfield School, 23rd Avenue and East 17th Street. Donation of \$4 is



Jack London lived and wrote at 1914 Foothill just as he was becoming a recognized author. This is one of four Jack London houses on April 10 walking tour. (Phil Bellman)

requested. In case of rain (again) the tour will premiere during the annual OHA summer walking tour series. --Dean Yabuki

#### ■ PRESERVATION LAW WORKSHOP

California Preservation Foundation presents "The Writ Is Mightier Than The Wrecking Ball" on Friday, March 12, at First Unitarian Church, 14th and Castro Streets, Oakland. This full day workshop is cosponsored by **Oakland Heritage Alliance**, the Western Regional Office of the National Trust, and the State Office of Historic Preservation. Registration for the full-day workshop (9-5) includes lunch and a binder of up to date information: \$70 for CPF members, \$95 general (includes CPF membership). Half-day registration is also available (\$45/\$70). For more information, call CPF at (510) 763-0972.

In the past several years legal action to protect historic resources has increased notably. In 1992, the Wilson administration delivered two new tools to California's preservation community - Executive Order W-26-92 and the California Register of Historic Resources. Both have CEQA implications, and both enhance the resources of citizens crafting the case for preservation. This workshop will review legal precedents and recent court cases and help local activists prepare for court or successfully negotiate a settlement using the administrative process.

The morning session, "Legal Nuts and Bolts," covers administrative and court processes, records, remedies, writs, and appeals. The afternoon session looks at the Section 106 and CEQA processes, and case examples including Sacred Heart, Merritt College, and the Orinda Theater. Faculty includes well known attorneys Carolyn Douthat, Susan Brandt-Hawley, Frederick Hertz, Eric Miller, and Antonio Rossman.

California Preservation Foundation is a private nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation of California's historic built environment. CPF offers workshops and programs on preservation issues, a quarterly newsletter, and the annual California Preservation Conference, which will take place in Long Beach this year, June 3-6.

#### ■ DUNSMUIR HOUSE AND GARDENS MASTER PLAN

Dunsmuir House & Gardens, Inc., announces a public forum on the future of the Dunsmuir estate on Saturday, March 6, 10 am to noon at the estate. Anyone interested is encouraged to attend. For the past twenty years this nonprofit corporation has been responsible for the management of the city-owned estate. The organization's focus has been preservation and restoration of the 40-acre estate's grounds and the classical revival mansion built in 1899. A primary goal is for the estate to become economically self-sufficient.

In 1990, Measure K bond funds allocated money to develop a master plan to guide future preservation and development of Dunsmuir House and Gardens over the next twenty years. A consultant team led by Oakland-based Amphion Environmental Inc. has been retained to develop the plan. Gathering input from the public is an important part of the process. The March 6 forum will include a site awareness exercise and small group discussions regarding the estate and its future.

Dunsmuir House and Gardens is located at 2960 Peralta Oaks Court off I-580 at 106th Avenue. For further information call executive director Lynda Guthrie, 562-0328.

#### ■ NEW HOURS AT OAKLAND HISTORY ROOM

The Oakland Main Library has changed its opening time on Friday to noon, resulting in shortened hours for the Oakland History Room. This major resource on Oakland's history can now be visited Tuesdays and Thursdays noon to 8:30 pm, Wednesdays 10 to 5:30, Fridays noon to 5:30, and Saturdays 1 to 5:30 (closed Sundays and Mondays). The OHR is located on the second floor of the Oakland Main Library, 125 14th Street at Oak Street; phone (510) 238-3222.

## 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.

Board members are: Annalee Allen, Diana Becton-Brown, Andrew Carpentier, Craighton Fong, Les Hausrath, Estelle Mannis, & Jean Spees. Staff: Helaine Kaplan Prentice, Secretary; Kathy Olson, Recording Secretary.

### NOVEMBER

Steve Costa of Oakland Sharing the Vision reported on OSV recommendations of interest to the Board: neighborhood revitalization, facade improvement, updating the general plan and adoption of the Preservation Element, revolving loan funds for historic properties, and a Visual Literacy curriculum in the Oakland schools.

Board reviewed rehab plans for Mills Hall, listed on the National Register of Historic Places and a State Historic Landmark. The 1871 building has been closed since 1989. The design team has been working with historical architects, the State Office of Historic Preservation and FEMA. Asphalt roofing will be replaced by cedar shingles, "contemporary compatible" porches and a plaza will be added on the north side of the building, brick chimneys will be restored, foundation will be rebuilt in concrete faced with brick, porches on the south side will be modified for wheelchair access, and the building will be returned to classroom use. A sleeping porch addition on the north will be demolished, and the original north facade will be reconstructed based on available evidence. Project archi-

tect Susan Vootz said that at 45,000 square feet the building exceeds the currently allowable size for wood-frame buildings, but the State Historical Building Code makes it acceptable. Prentice called the project an excellent example of restoration combined with upgrade for seismic safety and accessibility. If the building had been a City landmark, the applicant would have saved the Design Review fee. Board approved the plans with minor design modifications to be worked out with staff, and suggested that Mills College consider landmark designation for Mills Hall.

Discussion of landmark nomination of 2332 Harrison Street (Seventh Church of Christ, Scientist) was resumed. Owners opposed designation, saying the building was in poor condition and landmarking degraded its economic value (current zoning would allow a larger, more profitable building on the site). Board pointed out that environmental review would take place before demolition in any case, because the building is on the Study List and rated A by the Survey. Board voted 6-1 to accept the preliminary rating and prepare the nomination.

Board voted 4-3 to recommend designation of 1625 Clay Street (Pacific Gas & Electric building, C.W. Dickey, 1922). The building has recently changed hands, to owners who intend to resell it. Prentice said that because of the building's National Register status, tax credits are available which could be very attractive to buyers.

In order to evaluate 401 Lee Street in context, Adams Point Preservation Society (APPS) had submitted Notices of Intent for three other Julia Morgan houses in Adams Point. The owner of 522-26 Grand Avenue, the Morse house, opposed designation since he hoped to develop the site in the future. The owners of 385 Bellevue, the Shoong house, had not yet responded. The owner of 339 Palm, the Ilsen house, objected to additional regulation, especially design review to paint the house. Prentice replied that residential design review applied regardless; there are no fees for landmark design review, which can also be appealed as ordinary residential design review cannot. Board acknowledged owner's feeling that the landmark notification form is abrupt, and offered to rethink its first contact and written materials.

Brooklyn Neighborhood Preservation Association asked for support of a proposal to land-bank vacant sites for relocation of historic houses. The idea was inspired by recurring inquiries from developers regarding vacant property in the 10th Avenue Preservation District.

Prentice suggested that a delegation from the Board talk with the Maynards about the



Rehabilitation of Mills Hall (1871) is underway with Board approval. Building is not yet a landmark. (Phil Bellman)

future of the Tribune tower, including preventing vandalism while the building is unoccupied. She informed the Board of facade restoration at 401-15 14th Street (Financial Center Building; Reed & Corlett, 1928-29, an Oakland landmark); a complete proposal will be coming to the Board.

#### DECEMBER

Board moved nominations of 2332 Harrison Street (Seventh Church of Christ Scientist) and the thematic designation of four Julia Morgan houses in Adams Point along to the next steps, and noted that five nominations were at the Planning Commission: 1716-18 7th Street (Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters), 2332 Harrison Street (YWCA Blue Triangle Club/Lake Merritt Lodge), 114 Montecito Avenue (St. Paul's Episcopal Church), and 3443-3501 San Pablo Avenue (California Hotel).

Board received a request from John Toothman to revise its recommendation of June 10, 1991 to approve demolition of 1519 Franklin Street (Pacific Bell Building), on the Study List and rated B by the Survey. He argued that it was a valuable building that he would like to rehab into office or live-work space. He offered Pacific Bell the use of another nearby lot for the construction staging area they needed.

Board discussed the draft unreinforced masonry building ordinance, with regard to funding and ratings of historic buildings.

Secretary Helaine Prentice distributed copies of the Landmark Board's First Annual Year-End Summary, and reported that other cities are using Rehab Right for their historic districts.

#### JANUARY

Board adopted Resolution 1993-01 recommending designation of 2333 Harrison Street (Seventh Church of Christ, Scientist), and

accepted the application by Adams Point Preservation Society to designate 401 Lee Street (the McElroy house). Prentice said that she had talked to the Office of Economic Development and Employment about moving 401 Lee to Preservation Park next to the Pardee House. The house would remain eligible for landmark status, though not for the National Register; the nominators of course wanted it to stay in Adams Point. The present location is significant for its proximity to the McElroy Fountain in Lakeside Park. If the house was demolished, the cost of an Environmental Impact Report would be added to the demolition cost and probably exceed the cost of the move.

Board voted to approve eligibility ratings and adopt resolutions for 385 Bellevue (Shoong House) and 339 Palm Avenue (Ilsen House); the motion for 522-26 Grand Avenue (Morse House) failed 2-4, deferring to the owner's opposition and the fact that this house is more altered than the others.

Board heard a presentation by Christopher Buckley, Associate Planner, on the draft Historic Preservation Element. The Element is intended to be a component of the Oakland Comprehensive Plan; its preparation has been guided since 1988 by the Preservation Task Force; lack of the element has resulted in repeated crises when buildings are endangered. The Task Force was intended to represent all interested constituents; the Element was written by Planning staff but was intended to be the Task Force's policy. Economic incentives have been added with the hope of achieving greater owner acceptance and revitalization. Issues include recognition of Survey ratings, type of demolition control (Oakland's 240 day maximum delay vs. other cities' longer periods and San Francisco's outright denial), and code enforcement as a cause of demolition. A new classification called Heritage Properties is to replace the Study List. There are to be three classes of landmark and two district classes; the level of regulation is related to the class. Incentives include Mills Act contracts, transferable development rights, and conservation easements. Prentice asked if present landmarks would have to be reclassified. If they had to be redesignated, would owners take it as an opportunity to withdraw from landmark status?

Staff and Board members reported on Planning Commission hearing on the Final EIR for St. Francis De Sales Cathedral demolition, City Council action on Pekin Low Cafe (Council had proposed a compromise and the original nominator had withdrawn the landmark application), and upcoming City Council hearings on designation of Safeway building and interior of the Paramount Theater. --Kathy Olson



Board and Adams Point neighbors continue to work on McElroy house (401 Lee St., Julia Morgan, 1907). (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

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 March, (W-Sat. 10-5, Sun. 12-7), "Associates of f.64: Dorothea Lange, William Simpson & Peter Stackpole," The Oakland Museum, Oak & 10th Streets, free.

April, TBA, exhibit on Oaks baseball park by Emeryville Historical Society. Oakland History Room, Main Library, 125 14th St., Tues.-Sat., 238-3222

February 27-May 23, (W-Sat. 10-5, Sun. 12-7), "The Arts & Crafts Movement in California: Living the Good Life," The Oakland Museum, Oak & 10th Streets, \$4/\$2, members & children under 12 free.

March 7, Sun., 3:30pm, The Vivace Players, "Musicales In Cherished Homes," BAHA benefit, 2827 Regent St., Berkeley, limited seating, \$25, 841-2242.

March 11, Th., 7:30pm, "Bernard Maybeck," slide show, book signing & talk by Sally Woodbridge, **OHA Lecture**, benefit for the Oakland Cultural Heritage Survey in memory of Aaron Gallup, architectural historian, Carnegie Hall, Mills College, reservations, \$10, 763-9218.

March 17, Wed., 8pm, "Restoration of the English Country House: Recent Projects of the National Trust," talk by Martin Drury, Royal Oak Foundation & BAHA, Berkeley City Club, dessert, \$12/\$10 members, 841-2242.

March 20, Sat., 2 pm, Eugene Lasartemay and Mary Rudge present their new book on Jenny Prentiss and Jack London; Northern California Center for Afro-American History and Life, 5606 San Pablo Av.

March 20-21, (Sat. 10-6; Sun. 9-6), "8th Annual Family History Fair: 90's Techniques to Find Your Elusive Ancestors," California Genealogical Society, Concourse Exhibition Center, 8th & Brannan, San Francisco, \$8/day (\$6/day advance), Seminars \$3 each, (415) 777-9936.

March 21, Sun., 2pm, "Bernard Maybeck-Visionary Architect," Sally Woodbridge, slide lecture & book signing, James Moore Theatre, The Oakland Museum, Oak & 10th Streets, \$5.

March 23, Tues., 10-4, "Oakland's Romance with Clay: A Grand Sampling of California's Ceramic Tile Heritage," walking tour, meet Oakland Museum main entrance, 10th & Fallon, reservations, 820-8661.



March 27, Sat., 1:30-3:30, **OHA Walking tour of Mills College**, repeat of popular OHA summer tour, meet at Richards Gate, \$6/\$4 (members), 763-9218.



April 4, afternoon, benefit for Sacred Heart Church legal fund, OHA and Friends of Sacred Heart Church, 6446 Harwood Dr.



April 10, Sat., 1:30-3:30, "Young Jack London in Oakland, **OHA Walking Tour**, rescheduled, Garfield School, 23rd. Ave. & E. 17th, \$4, 763-9218.

April 18, Sun., 1-5, "Claremont Court," Berkeley Architectural Heritage Assoc. Spring House Tour, 841-2242.

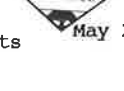
April 22, Thurs, 7:30pm, Elaine Lust, piano, & Friends, "Musicales In Cherished Homes," BAHA benefit, 2242 Hillside Ave., (John Galen Howard), Berkeley, limited seating, \$25, 841-2242.



May 13, Thurs., "Fernwood", talk by Ed Phillips, **OHA House Tour Lecture**, Montclair Fire House, 6226 Moraga Ave., 763-9218.



May 16, Sun., 12-5, "Fernwood", **OHA Annual House Tour**, co-sponsored by Fernwood Homeowners Assoc., \$22/\$20 (OHA & FHA members), 763-9218.



May 23, Sun., An Afternoon at Hume Cloister, with Divertissements, "Musicales In Cherished Homes," BAHA benefit, 2900 Buena Vista Way, (John Hudson Thomas), Berkeley, limited seating, \$25, 841-2242.

## 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).

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, (Th.-Sat. 11, 1 & 2:30), \$4/\$3 (Sr.), accompanied children free, 672 11th St., 444-2187. Call about docent training.

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, Chinese New Year Architectural Walking Tour (Jan.)-call for date & time, 2007 Franklin, \$4/\$2\*; \*Srs./Jrs., (415) 441-3004.



### Regularly Scheduled Meetings

### Oakland Heritage Alliance News



**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., 238-3941, for Landmarks Board and Planning Commission agendas.

#### CONTRIBUTORS

Phil Bellman, Robert Brokl, Carolyn Douthat, Donald Hausler, Helen Lore, Betty Marvin, Kathy Olson, Josef Schmitt, 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. © 1993 Oakland Heritage Alliance.

### 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 (October through December 1992) are:

Maurie Jean Ange, Janet Colosi, Marion Covell, Ruth & Robert Cuming, Mary Lou Delauer, Don & Penny Dennenberg, Juliet Dewey, Frances Farmer, Douglas Ferguson, Barbara Ferry, Betty Grady, John Gussman, Sheryl Hack, Janice Klein, Charles Krajniak, Don Larsen, Fern Letsch, Beverly Madera, Susan Miner, Marilyn Mitchell, Robert Nakatani, Anita Nella, Elvin Nickerson, Oakland Lawn Bowling Club, Anson Reinhart, Harriet Renaud, Jerry & Noelle Robbins, Pat Snider, Mrs. Donald Texdahl, Jane Trigero/Gregory Aker, Betty Tunney, Don Wilkinson/Joe Ware, Paris Williams, & Russel Yee.

### 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 1992-1993

President	Marlene Wilson
Vice President	William Coburn
Secretary	David Hoard
Treasurer	Creighton Fong

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Dean Yabuki	832-5355

#### ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR

Helen Lore 763-9218

### Donors

Special thanks to those joining/renewing as:

**SPONSOR (\$100):** Lynn Fonfa, Les & Linda Hausrath, Matthew Macy, Allen Michaan/Renaissance Rialto, Craig & Dusty Miller, & Helen K. Rogers

**ORGANIZATION (\$50):** Mary O. Davis, Oakland Lawn Bowling Club, Gary & Kiki Pound, Ramon Rodriguez/OCD Rehab Supervisor

**DONATIONS:** See Article on OHA Fund Appeal

**COHEN HOUSE FUND:** Chevron Companies Matching Grant

**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 _____	( ) New	( ) Renewal	
Address _____	( ) \$15	Limited Income	
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Oakland Heritage Alliance. • P.O.Box 12425, Oakland, CA 94604 • 1418 Lakeside Drive, Oakland, CA

## Oakland History Notes: The Mint Barbershop

"One of the most central and best equipped barber shops in the city is the one conducted by W.A. Towns at 964 Broadway... The shop itself is handsomely furnished and contains five chairs, one presided over by Mr. Towns himself and the others by the best talent found in the city in the tonsorial line.."

So enthused the Oakland Enquirer in 1906 concerning the sundry amenities of the Mint Barbershop, one of the city's numerous African American owned businesses at the century's turn.

Situated on the east side of Broadway between 9th and 10th Streets, the business was acquired by Mr. Towns in 1899 after he had worked for several years as a barber in other shops in Oakland. Concerning the Mint Barbershop, the Enquirer further informed its readers, "A violet ray has been installed for the purpose of treating falling hair and promoting growth. A vibrator is also maintained for the purpose of giving facial and head massage, while compressed air is used throughout in the application of toilet waters, bay rum, and drying breeze."

Mr. Towns' father, William E. Towns, came to California in the 1860s from Texas, settled in Oakland in the 1880s, and became a porter with the Central (later Southern) Pacific Railroad, one of the most lucrative and prestigious occupations available to African Americans at the time.

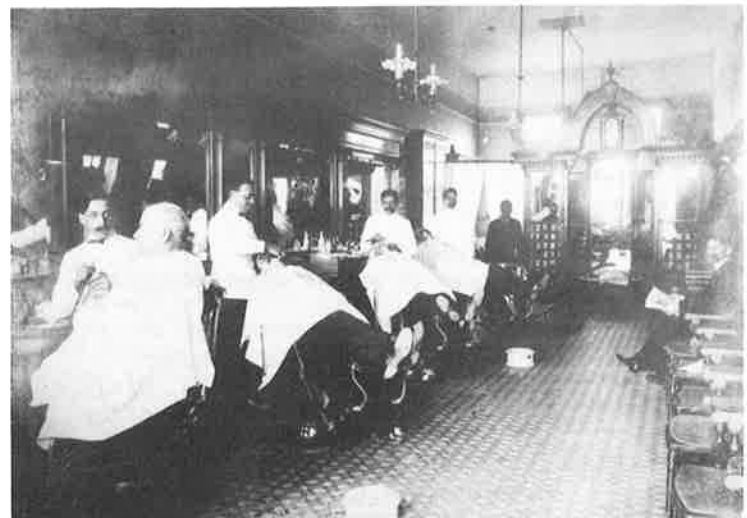
By 1890 Oakland had a total population of 48,682, of whom 644 were African American.

The local black community could trace its origins back to the beginnings of Oakland in 1852; the first known African American owned business, a restaurant owned by William Rich, opened around 1855. Black-owned restaurants, grocery stores, barber shops and bathing houses were started in the 1870s and 1880s.

By the 1890s, when Mr. Towns opened his shop, the black business community had diversified into boarding houses, beauty salons, furniture stores, notions stores, saloons, and at least one fuel supply store. In an era when African Americans had few opportunities and faced rampant discrimination, the local business community displayed a resounding strength and resiliency. Mr. Towns' tonsorial palace was one testament to that strength.

--William W. Sturm

(W.A. Towns at far left. Royal Towns collection, Oakland History Room)



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Address Correction Requested

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