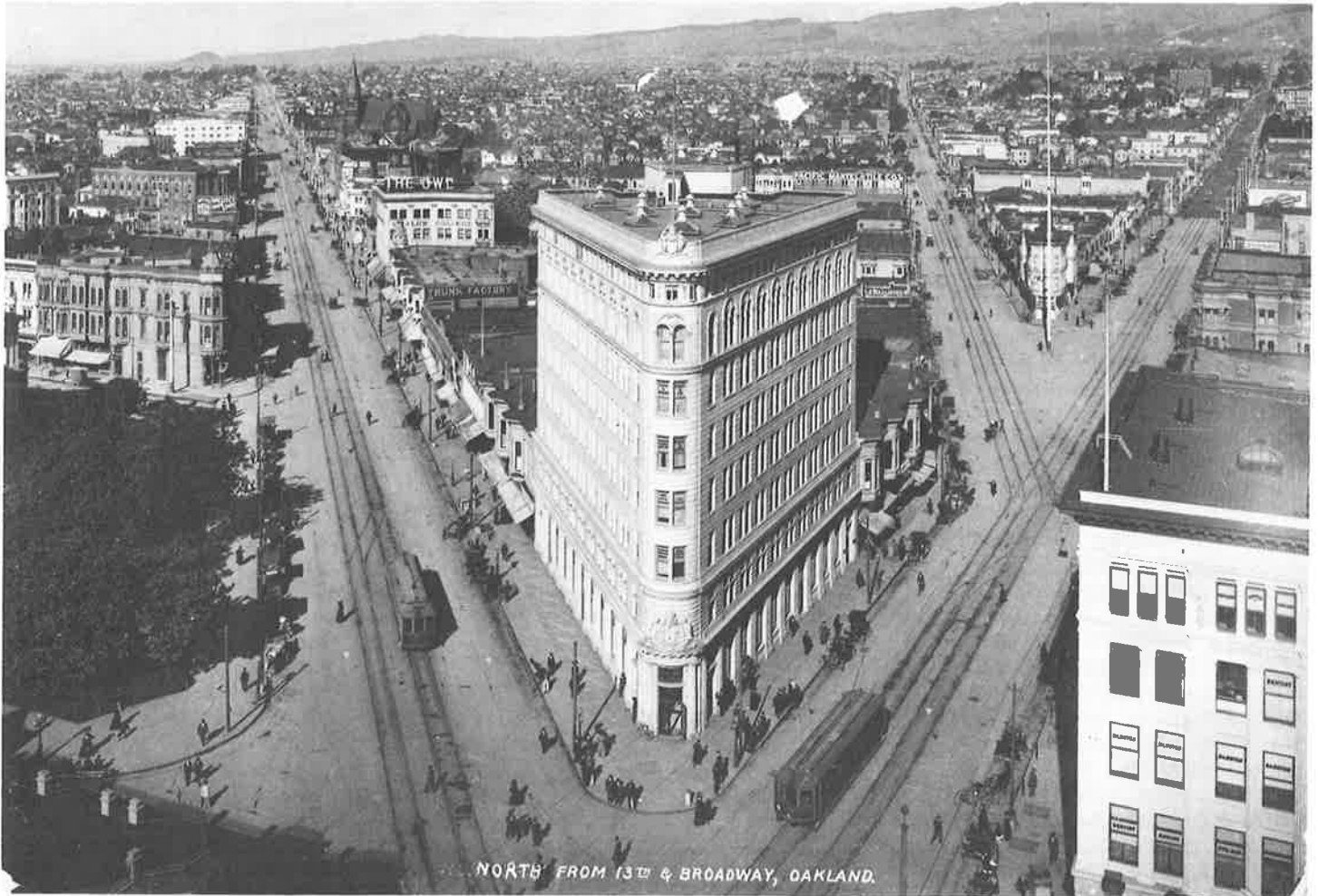


Oakland's Remarkable Flatirons



Flatiron buildings express the idea of motion both in their derivation and in their form. These striking triangular buildings occur where diagonal streets are juxtaposed on a right angle street grid. They are associated mainly with urban downtown areas where the density of buildings and value of the land make it viable to build out a triangular lot to its fullest.

Robert Stern in Pride of Place says that the Flatiron Building in New York City, at Broadway and Fifth Avenue, got its nickname as "a joking reference to the building's shape." Thus a popular name for the Fuller Building became a household term for triangular buildings. The Flatiron Building was designed by Daniel Burnham of Chicago, pioneer of steel-frame skyscrapers. It was

In this photo c.1909, trolley lines branch out from downtown Oakland following the lines of early rural roads along San Pablo, Telegraph, and Broadway. The angled intersections created natural sites for flatiron buildings. (Oakland History Room)

completed in 1902 and drew much attention from architectural critics and opinionated pedestrians alike. Camera Works published an evocative article in 1903 saying "And we would not be astonished in the least, if the whole triangular block would suddenly begin to move northward through the crowd of pedestrians and traffic of our two leading thoroughfares, which would break like waves of the ocean on the huge prow-like angle."

Oakland has a wealth of these unique structures. The triangular lots on which

they are built stem from the East Bay's early rural road and rail routes. The 1870 Snow & Roos bird's eye view of Oakland in the Oakland History Room shows the traditional square grid of central Oakland ending at 14th Street. Already San Pablo and Telegraph Avenues angle off from 14th and Broadway, rural dirt roads connecting Oakland to other settlements.

Other early angled thoroughfares include Piedmont, Shattuck, and College Avenues and Peralta Street. These connecting roads were usually oriented with the geography or the topography. San Pablo Avenue paralleled the shore of San Francisco Bay, which was dotted with small coastal settlements.

As Oakland expanded and became more densely populated, the grid of rectangular urban blocks extended to engulf the diagonal roads, which remained the shortest transportation routes. The core of Oakland's flatiron buildings were built along three major angled streets: San Pablo Avenue, Broadway, and Telegraph Avenue.

Along San Pablo flatirons occur between 14th Street and Adeline Street before the grid is adjusted to parallel San Pablo. Most notable are the Haley Law Offices (at Clay Street) and the large San Pablo Hotel (at Martin Luther King Way). On Broadway, flatirons start at the impressive Broadway Building (at San Pablo and 14th Street) and Cathedral Building (at Telegraph Avenue), with numerous smaller flatirons at Webster Street, Piedmont, and College Avenue. Other clusters of flatiron buildings are along Peralta Street in West Oakland, a very early thoroughfare paralleling the Bay, and at College and Claremont Avenues.

Building on a triangular site is often not easy nor practical. In early views of rural Oakland, triangular plots were often left as open land or used for orchards. By the 1880s, a few special buildings began to appear on these sites, often with a rotunda and columns at the gore. In the early 20th century these small flatirons gave way to larger, more urban ones.



Predecessors to the Broadway and Cathedral Buildings, two of Oakland's earliest flatirons appear in this 1889 view from Broadway, San Pablo Avenue, and 14th Street. (Oakland History Room)



Oakland's tallest and most ornate flatiron, the Cathedral Building, 1913. (Phil Bellman)

A triangular building is directional, indicating motion. The most interesting flatirons have very acute angles at the gore. As the angle gets beyond 45 degrees, it becomes less likely that the building is truly a flatiron because it tends to become four-sided, the back having two sides, each perpendicular to the street.

The 1913 Cathedral Building at Telegraph and Broadway is a highly successful treatment of a tall, thin triangular building, seven feet wide at its narrowest. In this 12-story building with a steeply-pitched French chateau roof, architect Benjamin G. McDougall has expressed slenderness and weightlessness, and upward motion, through the soaring quality of the delicate Gothic decoration. He wisely stepped the building back from the corner above the seventh floor, keeping the proportions of the corner facade within reasonable limits. The top floors overhang the first floor, adding to the sense of reaching toward the sky.

The idea of motion gives rise to the desire to express fluidity. The elegant Broadway Building (First National Bank Building), at the gore of Broadway and San Pablo, is rounded, smoothly clad in white terra cotta, its horizontal lines flowing



Designed by Carl Kolbeck in 1953, this finely-crafted building with jutting overhangs beautifully fills an awkward triangular Park Boulevard lot. (Phil Bellman)

around the corner unbroken by any vertical expression. It was built in 1907, designed by Llewellyn B. Dutton. One of the most prominent buildings in Oakland, it now sits empty and vandalized while debate continues over its future.

Some flatiron buildings are reminiscent of forms of transportation, such as ships and locomotives. A two-story dental office and residence at the corner of Park Boulevard and 14th Avenue (4040 Park Blvd.) is cleverly designed to provide three separate entrances, two for offices on Park and an entrance to the home above on 14th Avenue. Influenced by Frank Lloyd Wright's Prairie Style, it is long and low, with cantilevered 'prows' jutting in two directions, each forming a pointed overhang for the entrance. The sharp points are repeated at the second floor where they are slightly upturned giving a Japanese feeling.

In a simpler way, Danny's Liquor (Center



Oakland's oldest surviving flatiron, the Center Junction Grocery, 1884, resembles a ship's prow heading north along Peralta at 17th. (Phil Bellman)

Junction Grocery) at the gore of Peralta and Center Streets resembles a ship. Its entire second floor overhangs the first, the faceted 'prow' looming overhead. This building, built in 1884, was designed by Charles Mau with a major addition by Herbst & McLeod in 1892.

Flatiron buildings are particularly important as pieces of the urban fabric because they call attention to the way streets shape the city. It can be startling to see one alone on a larger triangular block. The Haley Law Offices (Maclise Drug Store) at the corner of San Pablo and Clay Street looks lonely and incomplete, backed only by a parking lot. At one time there was a hotel on this site, which burned down. The building itself is a fine example of a neoclassical flatiron with a modified corner rotunda. It was designed by the Cunningham Brothers in 1898.

An important decision in the design of a



The one-story Triangle Cafe (Mandela Parkway at 26th Street), 1940, is aptly named. (Phil Bellman)



An impressive neighborhood flatiron at the confluence of Seminary, Foothill, and Walnut. (Phil Bellman)



Haley Law Offices (Maclise Drug Store, 1898), one of San Pablo Avenue's exemplary flatirons, has survived fires, earthquakes, and redevelopment. (Phil Bellman)

flatiron is how to use the space in the corner. It can be used as a main entrance, most often on smaller buildings like the one at the intersection of Second Avenue and East 16th Street which apparently had a door in this location. The acute angle shaping this small building was formed by the Oakland Traction Company trolley line.

The use of space is particularly interesting in Kasper's Hot Dogs, Oakland's smallest flatiron, 4521 Telegraph Avenue at Shattuck Avenue and 46th Street. This isolated tiny narrow building, two feet four inches across the front, seems to be a three-dimensional billboard, an advertisement in itself. Its front half, clad in wide vertical wood boards, was originally a gas station built around 1920, with storage and two tiny restrooms squeezed into the narrow end. This small eatery was started by Kasper Koojoolian in 1929 and has been owned and run by his son-in-law Harry



Curving rail routes often created triangular intersections. This small 2-story flatiron at 2nd Avenue and E. 16th Street owes its origin to the Oakland Traction Co. trolley line. (Phil Bellman)

Yaglijian since 1947. With a mischievous smile, Harry shows off the storeroom in the tip of the building: a huge plastic tub of mustard fits the corner perfectly. Inside the building, two eating tables comfortably fill the small, narrow angled space.

Large or small, Oakland's flatirons are a remarkable architectural legacy. Few cities or towns can match the variety or number of Oakland's triangular buildings. Resulting from the city's early thoroughfares, they serve to remind us of times when horses, trolleys, and steam trains branched out through the countryside toward rural destinations. --Betsy Yost & Phil Bellman

Left: Kasper's Hot Dogs, originally a gas station (c. 1920), occupies a narrow wedge at Telegraph and Shattuck Avenues. Right: Harry and Norma Yaglijian of Kasper's. Harry has run this tiny, triangular eatery for the past 47 years. (Phil Bellman)



Hotel Districts of San Pablo Avenue

Three hotel districts have existed on San Pablo Avenue south of the Berkeley line for most of this century: in the Golden Gate section of North Oakland, near Yerba Buena and San Pablo Avenues in Emeryville, and on lower San Pablo Avenue near the Greyhound depot. All these locations arose from transportation patterns.

The Golden Gate hotels are located near the intersection of San Pablo and Stanford Avenues, once a major transportation hub. Streetcars operated on San Pablo Avenue until 1948, while the Red Trains carried commuters down Stanford Avenue into the 1950s. The 42-room Stanford Hotel (1107 Stanford Avenue), the Golden Gate Hotel (5838 San Pablo), and the 20-room Hansen Hotel (1108 Stanford) served this area.

The lower San Pablo Avenue hotels occupy a six block strip between 19th and 25th Streets. These hotels were strategically located near the downtown business district and the Greyhound depot (2103 San Pablo Avenue), which opened in 1926 as the Union



The Hotel San Pablo, 1907, at San Pablo, 20th Street, and M. L. King Way, is currently under renovation for affordable single-room housing. (Phil Bellman)

transportation hub of the East Bay. Three Key System lines converged there: the Piedmont, Claremont, and Berkeley lines. The Key System electric trains crossed San Pablo Avenue and after 1937 carried passengers to San Francisco on the lower deck of the Bay Bridge. A station on Yerba Buena



The Greyhound station opened in 1926 as Union Stage Depot of California Transit Co., one of the first long-distance bus lines, and gave new life to the San Pablo hotels. It was remodeled in 1951. (Don Hausler)

Stage Depot. South of the depot were the Royal, 2000 San Pablo; Arcade, later called the San Pablo, 1955 San Pablo; Westerner, 1954 San Pablo; and Denver, 1919 San Pablo. In their heyday the San Pablo and Royal were among the largest hotels in Oakland. North of the bus depot were the New San Pablo, 2296 San Pablo; Lincoln, 2329; Mohr (now called Moor), at 2351; Livingston, 2505; Clark, 2541; and Avenue, 2257 San Pablo. Farther up was the Roosevelt, 2900 San Pablo, now the Ebony Plaza.

In Emeryville hotels flourished near the intersection of Yerba Buena and San Pablo because for several decades this was the



The Key (formerly Santa Fe) Hotel opened about 1904 as one of Emeryville's first hotels. It housed one of the city's many card rooms. (Don Hausler)



The Ritz Hotel at San Pablo and Yerba Buena has vigorous three-dimensional brickwork and early signs and marquee. It is still a hotel. (Don Hausler)

accommodated these thousands of commuters until 1958. In 1903 Emeryville became the terminus for the Santa Fe transcontinental railroad. The Mission style Santa Fe depot was located on San Pablo one block north of Yerba Buena. This line remained in operation into the 1960s.

The Key Hotel at 3908 San Pablo, originally the Santa Fe, was one of the first hotels in the Emeryville district. The name change, from one railroad namesake to another, took place in 1938. The Key Hotel and Key Club bar and card room closed in 1989. The Ritz, at 3872 San Pablo, was the architectural jewel of the Emeryville district. It opened in 1929, and its ground floor has been occupied by a series of typical transit-hub businesses: drugstore, deli, coffee shop, etc. The Roxy, 3617-19 San Pablo near the south Emeryville line, opened in the early 1930s. The first floor was Bellegarde's Dry Goods. The Roxy Hotel closed in 1968, and has now been remodeled as the Emery Apartments.

The California Hotel, in North Oakland at 3501 San Pablo near the Emeryville line,



The Moor (formerly Mohr) Hotel, 1905, is one of several early woodframe hotels in the lower San Pablo district near the bus station. (Don Hausler)

was the largest, southernmost, and grandest hotel in the Emeryville group. It operated as a whites-only establishment for years after it opened in 1930. This policy was dropped after World War II, and during the 1950s and 60s the California Hotel was a major social and musical center for the East Bay African-American community (see Summer 1992 OHA News). The California is also notable for its connection with the Oakland Oaks baseball team. The players stayed there when the team played at the Emeryville Baseball Park, home of the Oakland Oaks, located four blocks north.

In 1949 the El Rey burlesque theater opened across the street from the California Hotel. The area became something of a honky tonk district. Then the MacArthur freeway chopped through North Oakland, only 40 feet from the hotel. Visitors no longer had a panoramic view of Emeryville; they looked out their windows onto a concrete



Twin towers of the California Hotel (Clay Burrell, 1930) beckoned travelers from the north (Don Hausler)

monolith. The California Hotel closed in the mid-1970s and remained vacant for over a decade. It has now been successfully rehabilitated for low income housing.

The San Pablo Avenue hotels have lost their intimate connection to historic transit hubs, but many continue to serve today's needs in different ways. In Golden Gate, the Hansen and Stanford Hotels are now occupied by an ashram. In the Emeryville group, the Ritz, in business for over 60 years, still operates as a hotel, while the Roxy is now apartments. The California has been rehabilitated as low-cost housing, and a similar project is underway at the earthquake-damaged San Pablo, sponsored by Housing For Independent People, Inc., of San Jose. Others, particularly the smaller hotels along lower San Pablo including the Moor, Ashasha, Silver Dollar, and Twin Peaks, continue as private single room occupancy housing. --Donald Hausler

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.

■ OLD MERRITT DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

Three proposals have been submitted in response to the city's request for proposals for redevelopment of the Old Merritt College site. Each represents a different approach to renovation of the existing landmark buildings and reuse of the site. One concentrates on medical uses, another on housing, and the third on senior housing and a performing arts center. The former University High School building (later Merritt College) designed by Charles W. Dickey in 1922 would be rehabilitated to meet historical standards of the State Historic Preservation Office. All three anticipate replacing the Manual Arts wing on Aileen Street with a new two story commercial building. A senior center and child care are common to all plans. The athletic field extending east to Dover Street is planned as a small park, housing, and auto parking in varying density and arrangement.

MLK Jr. Plaza IV, Ltd., a joint venture of Oakland Community Housing, Inc., A.F. Evans & Company, Engle Development, and Baines and Robertson, proposes to develop the historic main building for 96 units of senior housing (43,880 sf). On the first floor, 59 units of approximately 300 sf each would surround a central dining hall to be located in the former library (3,000 sf) which opens out on the level to the inner courtyards. These units would be for frail elderly low income residents, with extensive support services. On the second floor the classrooms would be converted to 37 independent living units of about 750 sf each. A 20,880 sf senior center is proposed in the auditorium. They also propose to rehab 9,000 sf of second floor space for community organizations, as a cultural arts facility, job training program, or private school. A child care facility (4,125 sf) would go in part of the manual arts wing near Aileen St. A new commercial and office building might replace the remainder of that wing. The gym would be demolished for a small park in the center of twelve U shaped blocks of town homes (12 2 bedroom, 40 3 bedroom, and 16 4 bedroom units). The units would be accessed from 58th, Dover, Aileen, and a new north-south driveway lined with perpendicular parking. The housing units are to be sold at prices ranging from \$127,000 to \$194,000 with profits helping to finance rehabilitation

of the main building. Anticipated cost of this project is \$29,804,272.

IDG Architects/Baner Financial's development would have a community ethnic cultural center (3,000 sf) in the rehabbed library. The surrounding classrooms would become a medical clinic (10,000 sf), medical offices (26,000 sf), medical library (3,000 sf), a U.C. ophthalmology research laboratory (10,000 sf), and retail space (11,000 sf) with a drug store and cafeteria and a 15,000 sf senior center. A child care facility (5,000 sf) would be operated by the YMCA which proposes to convert the auditorium for a health and fitness club (18,000 sf) with the addition of a level floor. The area behind the stage would be rehabbed for YMCA education and job training programs (16,000 sf). A two story medical rehabilitation facility (44,000 sf) would replace the manual arts wing on Aileen Street. This enterprise, intended to provide an economic base for the complex, would offer employment to local residents: 300 new jobs are projected. The gymnasium would be razed to accommodate a new east entrance terrace to the main building and a new north-south drive circling a small park. Between this drive and Dover Street would be nine fourplexes and four duplexes spaced to blend with the neighborhood. All 44 units (850 sf each) are to be sold at prices from \$99,000 to \$109,000. Anticipated cost, not including the medical building, is \$14,894,615.

A joint venture of Community Based Developers, Inc. and George A. Fuller Co. proposes fifty units of affordable senior housing (60,000 sf) in the classroom wings with another 34 owner occupied and 16 rental units built on the athletic field. The auditorium would be a performing arts center (13,000 sf) operated by the Legacy



Developers propose to reuse the Merritt College auditorium as senior center, health club, or performing arts hall. (Ken Rice/NOVA)



Jubilee Arts Institute. Another 9,000 sf of community space would be located in the main building, and senior and child care centers in the existing gym. Office and retail space would replace the manual arts wing on Aileen Street. Anticipated cost is \$25,942,825, including the \$10.2 million seismic retrofit of the historic buildings, a cost this developer expects to be borne by the City of Oakland. --Jonathan Brohm

■ LOOKING BACK AT OLD MERRITT COLLEGE

Preservation of the Old Merritt College/University High complex has been the topic of many **OHA News** articles over the years. When Carolyn Douthat first reported on this North Oakland issue in Fall 1988, demolition of the buildings seemed almost certain. In addition to the loss of a valuable city owned asset, **OHA's** concern at the time was the City's attempt to circumvent the Section 106 process, an important federal safeguard which allows thorough review of adverse effects (such as demolition) on historic structures when federal money is used. This set an alarming precedent for projects involving historic buildings in Oakland. Eventually the City acknowledged its responsibility to carry out 106.

The emergence of an energetic, tenacious neighborhood group willing to stand up for preservation, NOVA (North Oakland Voters Alliance), marked a turning point. **OHA's** Preservation Action Committee, members of NOVA, and other interested individuals throughout the city worked steadily for five years to convince politicians and City staff that rehabilitation of the historic school buildings was an attainable and worthwhile goal.

The proposals now under consideration differ in degree as to cost, use, and execution, but all call for preservation as a central element of the design plan. Though progress may seem slow to some, the restoration of Old Merritt College now seems more likely than ever to come to pass. Following is a summary of **OHA News** articles on Old Merritt College over the past five years.

Fall 1988: **OHA** asked by OEDE to review supermarket plan for Old Merritt College site. City talks of circumventing 106.

Winter 1988-89: City staff looking to replace CDBG funds to avoid Section 106 since federal funds no longer involved.

Spring 1989: Emergence of Ad Hoc Committee (NOVA) opposed to supermarket plan and calling for protection of the building; City still seeking to avoid 106. National Trust and SHPO write saying 106 applies. Independent report on seismic upgrade costs finds rehabilitation no more expensive than new development.

Summer 1989: City acknowledges need to

comply with Section 106 after receiving opinion from National Trust, SHPO, and HUD. Debate on seismic costs continues.

Fall 1989: City re-enters negotiations for exclusive contract with NORA, the supermarket developer. City also considers whether to make parcel surplus property. Children's Hospital presents idea to restore complex. Gibson-Haskell requests delay so NORA and Children's can meet.

Winter/Spring 1990: NOVA and **OHA** seek public support, including Uni High alumni. Children's and NORA given 60 days to agree on site plan (Children's to be NORA's main tenant). Press blames "historic review" for delays. NOVA raises concerns over deterioration and lack of security.

Summer 1990: Alumni letters of support. Graffiti cleanup. NOVA asks Landmarks Board to consider initiating landmark designation. Council again moves toward exclusive contract with NORA.

Fall-Winter 1990: NORA gets new exclusive contract with City. Landmarks Board votes to recommend designation.

Summer 1991: Landmark designation moves to Planning Commission; decision put over. Deterioration a major concern to NOVA.

Fall 1991: Planning Commission votes to approve landmarking. At the public hearing **OHA** says the decision should be based solely on the building's merits, and other issues evaluated separately. City staff meets with SHPO on scope of 106 review.

Winter 1991-92: NOVA steps up concern on neglect, retains an attorney. Landmarks nomination stalled on its way to Council.

Spring 1992: NOVA sues in federal court to force city to strengthen security and repair roof leaks.

Summer 1992: Merritt College plays a part in District 1 city council election. Former San Francisco Planning Director Dean Macris hired by city to hold new community meetings. State Historical Resources Commission considers National Register eligibility of nine acre site. Court says City has an affirmative duty to prevent deterioration. Fire marshall calls for immediate security measures. Management of building to be transferred from OEDE to OGS. EIR to cost \$150,000.

Fall 1992: Dean Macris holds meetings. New request for proposals. Building listed on the National Register (city does not contest) but local landmark status still in limbo. Judge denies City's motion for summary judgment to throw out NOVA's suit, city will have to settle.

Winter 1992-93: April 30 deadline for RFP for new developer. Advisory committee chaired by County Supervisor Keith Carson will review proposals; one to be selected end of summer. NOVA continues to monitor OGS security measures. --Annalee Allen

■ 10TH AVENUE PALM TREES MOVED

On July 8 the benefits of historic district status were illustrated in an unusual way when four mature palm trees were moved to East Shore Park (across from the Grand Lake Theater) from the 10th Avenue Historic District. The trees were scheduled for removal as part of the new construction project at 2042-50 10th Avenue. Because district status required a public hearing on the project before the Landmarks Board, the community and the Board had the opportunity to discuss the project and come up with creative solutions like the tree move.

The neighborhood group met with the developer and came to agreement on designs for two new duplexes. The Landmarks Board then approved the project, and thanks to speedy and cooperative negotiations the developer was able to get permits and begin construction. Opponents of landmark status often cite unnecessary delays as a reason to oppose designation. In this case no delays occurred even with the added condition of approval that the developer "consider" moving rather than destroying the trees.

Marina Carlson, a district resident and preservation advocate, looked into the feasibility of a move, and contacted several tree moving companies. Tree Movers submitted a low bid of \$1645. Developer Richard Rowlett of Traditional Home Designs agreed to donate the trees to the City of Oakland Parks Department and pay for the move, and Friends of Parks and Recreation accepted them on behalf of the City.

The Parks and Recreation Department helped find a suitable location and provided a tree valuation for each tree, establishing a donation value of over \$40,000. The move benefits all parties: the Parks Department has four mature trees, the developer has a cleared site and a tax deduction for the donation; and the neighborhood has a win-win conclusion thanks to historic district designation and the cooperative effort of all involved. --Marina Carlson

■ CITY SEEKS FUNDING FOR TRAIN STATION

In June the City Council Cultural Affairs Committee recommended to the full Council that the city apply for ISTEA (Intermodal Surface Transportation Enhancement Act) funds for the 16th Street Southern Pacific Station, an Oakland city landmark which has been determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, and Council accepted the recommendation.

ISTEA, a 1991 act which reauthorized federal funds for transportation projects, contains an innovative requirement that 10% of the money be used for enhancements to integrate transportation projects into the



16th Street Station has been abandoned since the 1989 earthquake. ISTEA funding may help the City find a suitable reuse. (Phil Bellman)

communities where they are constructed, and improve the intermodal transportation system as a whole. "Enhancements" can include historic preservation and rehabilitation of historic transportation facilities, as well as acquisition of scenic easements, billboard removal, and bicycle and pedestrian routes. Funds require a local government match of 12%. The City's application is Phase 1 of a plan to acquire and rehabilitate the building for public use.

The 1912 Beaux Arts station originated as an early intermodal depot, with service for SP's mainline trains on the lower platform, and interurban electric lines on the elevated platform above. SP streetcars pulled up to the east side of the station, and half a block away several Key Route local lines terminated at 16th Street. On the mainline and transbay routes alone over 500 trains a day came through the station.

The station has been closed since the Loma Prieta earthquake. Even before the earthquake, relocation of Amtrak service to the Jack London Square area was planned, and a new station there is scheduled for completion in summer of 1995. The planned rerouting of I-880 involves realignment of the tracks away from the station, putting



Intermodal surface transportation: S.P.'s mainline trains used the ground level tracks at the 16th Street station, while interurban tracks connected to the elevated platform. (Phil Bellman)

the future of the building in doubt.

While rerouting will sever the station from its historic rail function, it will also bring it into close reach of another transportation mode, the car. The freeway will pass about 175' from the west side of the station, and the frontage road, connected to an extension of 14th Street, will run along the west of the existing track.

The ISTEA application will be submitted by the City to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission August 16. After staff review and evaluation, qualifying projects will go before the Commission in December and their recommendations will be forwarded to the California Transportation Commission early next year. Community support for the application can make a difference: contact Bill Coburn at 893-8826 or Annalee Allen at 654-6791. --Carolyn Douthat

■ CITY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING SITE

In mid-July the City Council directed staff to proceed with acquisition of two major sites adjacent to City Hall, the Broadway Building plus adjacent buildings at the gore of San Pablo and Broadway, and the block bounded by 15th, 16th, and Clay Streets and San Pablo Avenue, including the Pardee Building and Dalziel Apartments. These sites will complete city ownership of all of the area around city hall north of 14th Street, preliminary to selection of a site or sites for a new City administration building (see Spring 1993 *OHA News*).

In addition the State is considering a new office building on the site of City Hall West at Clay and 14th Streets, and a variety of possible uses for the Rotunda have surfaced, including school district offices, a business "incubator" complex, and a higher education center. All these buildings are located in a National Register eligible historic district, with the

Broadway Building and Plaza Building (15th and San Pablo) being primary contributors.

According to the *San Francisco Chronicle* the Broadway Building is the site most desired by the city because of its location and architectural merit, a view for which **Oakland Heritage Alliance** can take some credit. When the former owner, Taldan Investment Company, proposed to demolish the Broadway Building after the 1989 earthquake, the City was inundated with cards and letters of protest, and Council and staff took note. Any proposal to demolish the building as part of the administration building project would guarantee intense and protracted opposition, and it is to the credit of the City that the strong public interest and appreciation for this signature building has been recognized in the redevelopment strategy. **OHA** board member Alan Dreyfuss has been representing the preservation community on the City Hall Administration Building Advisory Committee.

--Carolyn Douthat

■ IN MEMORIAM: LAWRENCE CROUCHETT AND EUGENE LASARTEMAY

The Northern California Center for Afro-American History and Life and the history community at large lost two great leaders when Lawrence Crouchett died in May and Eugene Lasartemay in June, after long, full, and truly pioneering careers.

Eugene Lasartemay was born in Hawaii in 1903. As a young man he worked as a seaman and marine engineer, and later for Colgate in Berkeley, as well as in real estate and insurance. After he retired in 1965, he and his wife Ruth co-founded the East Bay Negro Historical Society (see Summer 1986 *OHA News*), and served as its president and curator respectively for over 20 years. He also helped found Allensworth State Park, and earlier this year published *For Love of Jack London*, a biography of Jack London's African-American foster mother Jennie Prentiss, co-authored with Mary Rudge.

Dr. Lawrence Crouchett, born in Texas in 1922, was professor of history and dean at Diablo Valley College before becoming first executive director of the Center in 1989 after the Lasartemays retired. He led the former Historical Society to take on a new name, more ambitious programs, and a place in the national world of museums and public history. He was project director of *Visions Toward Tomorrow, A History of the East Bay Afro-American Community*, an Oakland Museum exhibit that lives on in an outstanding book and the Center's permanent exhibit.

The Center continues under the directorship of Robert Haynes, a distinguished museum professional. --Betty Marvin



OHA Update

■ WALKING TOURS

OHA's popular summer walking tours, under way since July 10, continue Saturdays and Sundays, 1:30 pm, through August:

Aug.14 OAK CENTER, led by Sister Ethel Mary Tinnemann

Aug.15 GLENVIEW, Gloria Will & Betty Marvin

Aug.21 JACK LONDON IN OAKLAND, Dean Yabuki

Aug.22 FOLLOW AN OAKLAND CREEK, Marlene Wilson

Aug.28 MILLS COLLEGE, Helen Lore & Dean Yabuki

Aug. 29 BORAX SMITH ESTATE, Phil Bellman

Walks are \$4 for OHA members, \$6 general. No reservations are required. For information call OHA, 763-9218. --Helen Lore

■ HOUSE TOUR

Our thanks to the Fernwood Community Club and its members who opened their homes and gardens for the Spring House Tour in May. Nearly 700 people took the tour, wending their way down the leafy streets to see the lovely houses and gardens. Thanks also to the many docents who served in the homes, and the students from Oakland High School's service clubs and ROTC who assisted.

Special recognition goes to the OHA house tour committee: Marlene Wilson, chair; Don Tyler, reception chair; Donald Wardlaw for his renderings of the homes and gardens; Betty Marvin and Ed Phillips for research and text for the tour booklet; Ed Phillips for the Thursday lecture on Fernwood history; Holly Below for booklet layout; David Hoard, Creighton Fong, and Jane Spangler for registration; Helen Lore for publicity and docents; Sharon Kidder, Les and Linda Hausrath for flower arrangements; for Fernwood Community Club: Dan Dennenberg, Kaye Herbransen, Catherine Watters. --Helen Lore

■ AARON GALLUP MEMORIAL

The large crowd that filled the Bender Room at Mills College for Sally Woodbridge's lecture on Bernard Maybeck in June also paid homage to Aaron Gallup, architectural historian in whose memory the evening was dedicated. Proceeds from the lecture were earmarked for the Oakland Cultural Heritage Survey, which Aaron had long supported. Survey coordinator Gary Knecht spoke in memory of Aaron, and the latest six volumes of the survey (West Oakland) were presented to OHA by Betty Marvin of the Survey staff. They include the Oakland Point, South Prescott, and Clawson districts, Oak Center, and Northwest Oakland. --Helen Lore

■ PERALTA MAUSOLEUM

The restoration of the Vicente Peralta mausoleum in St. Mary's Cemetery is moving ahead with the formation of a committee from local preservation groups and a bank account for donations. The mausoleum, built in 1871 and now in a state of collapse, contains the remains of the youngest of the four Peralta brothers who inherited the 1820 Spanish land grant which now comprises Oakland, Berkeley, Piedmont, Emeryville, Albany, and part of San Leandro.

Oakland Heritage Alliance, Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association, San Leandro Historical Society, Emeryville Historical Society, and Alameda County Historical Society are supporting the restoration. Lene Cortsen-Diaz and Beverly Madera, a Peralta descendant, are heading the project. Donations can be made to the Vicente Peralta Mausoleum Restoration Fund and sent care of Union Bank, P.O. Box 637, San Leandro CA 94577. For more information call Lene Cortsen-Diaz at 639-2161 or 352-8362. --Helen Lore

■ COHEN HOUSE VICTORIAN CENTER

The historic Cohen/Bray House announces its new status as the non-profit Victorian Preservation Center of Oakland. The new organization's goal is to support and encourage the study of Victorian buildings in Northern California with emphasis on the decorative arts.

The 1884 house is one of Oakland's finest Eastlake-Stick Victorians, and has been lived in continuously by one family. Since the rooms have changed so little over the past hundred years, their authentic Victorian character has been a focus of study and research by curators and others wishing to recreate and refurbish Victorian homes. The new organization will enable the Cohen/Bray House to expand its role as a priceless community resource. --Helen Lore

■ OAKLAND MUSEUM DOCENT COURSES

The Oakland Museum Docent Council is seeking volunteers interested in becoming docents in the Gallery of California Art or the Hall of California Ecology (Natural Sciences) to give tours to school children and adult groups. The art training class will take place Mondays 9-11:30 am, from September 1, 1993 to June 13, 1994. The ecology class is scheduled for Tuesdays 3:30-5:30, September 14 to June 7. Call Betsy Willcuts, docent coordinator, at 238-3514 for more information, or write Oakland Museum Docent Council, 1000 Oak Street, Oakland 94607. --Helen Lore

■ NEW LIBRARY HOURS

The Oakland History Room in the Main Library at 125 14th Street has new hours of operation, corresponding to the new Main Library hours: Tuesday 10-5:30; Wednesday and Thursday 12-8; Friday 12-5:30; Saturday 1-5:30. For more information call 238-3222.

■ FREE ARTICLES FROM TRADES GUILD

The Trades Guild, an Alameda-based consumer referral service and alliance of tradespeople, is offering free consumer education articles on the architect's role during construction, California's mechanics lien law, contractor bonds, Title 24, how to use an interior designer, tips on remodeling, hints for hiring tradespeople, terms used in negotiating with contractors, home security, foam roofing, and more. For copies or a list of available articles call the Trades Guild at 54-REFER.

--Bonnie Headlee, Trades Guild

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. 113 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, Creighton Fong, Les Hausrath, Estelle Mannis, & Jean Spees. Staff: Helaine Kaplan Prentice, Secretary.

MAY

Design review applications were approved for two Oakland landmarks in the Victorian Row S-7 preservation district. At the LaSalle building, 491-97 9th Street, plans were approved for signs, storage shed, and mechanical ducts for a new restaurant. A large ventilation duct on the rear is to be partly concealed by landscaping, and changes are to be made reversible. At the Peniel Mission, 716-26 Washington Street, the facade is to be painted in colors consistent with the surroundings, and new signs are being installed.

Secretary Helaine Prentice announced that the landmark nomination for the McElroy house (401 Lee Street, Julia Morgan, 1907) was not being forwarded to the Planning Commission until after a meeting on May 17 concerning efforts to move or sell the building. Board discussed the Pardee Center

Associates Steering Committee's notice of intent to nominate the Pardee Building (aka Midgley Building, 1515-59 San Pablo Avenue, 15th, and 16th Streets) as a landmark. Board decided to place the building on the Study List and continue the matter in June.

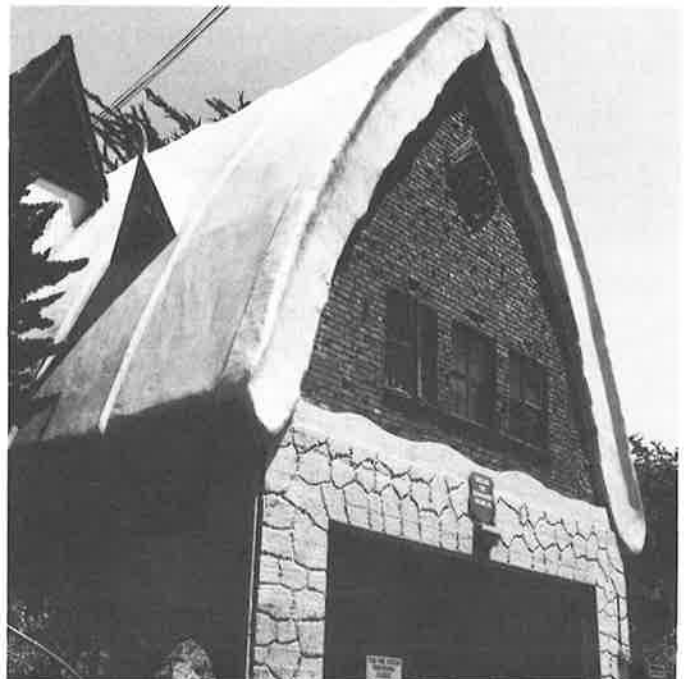
Board member Annalee Allen reported on a meeting with city manager Henry Gardner on the possibility of the city pursuing federal ISTEPA grant funds for the Southern Pacific Station at 16th and Wood Streets.

Secretary Prentice informed the Board of opportunities to attend Certified Local Government training workshops: the State Historic Preservation Conference in Long Beach June 3-6, and a workshop on the State Historical Building Code in Napa May 14. In addition, **Oakland Heritage Alliance** has a National Trust grant under which Carolyn Douthat is assembling materials on economic incentives for preservation; this could result in a workshop in the fall.

Chair Les Hausrath reported on discussion at the Planning Commission on the marketing plan for St. Francis de Sales Cathedral and the length of time before a demolition permit can be issued. He noted that no one else at the meeting spoke against the proposed demolition.

Board discussed the recent closing of the Montclair firehouse (6226 Moraga Avenue), an Oakland landmark, because it is on the Hayward fault. Alternative uses and possible relocation were discussed. Board agreed to send a letter expressing concern.

Prentice reported that staffing for the Board was again in danger of elimination because of proposed city budget cuts.



Montclair firehouse, a City landmark, was closed suddenly after it was determined to be on the Hayward fault. (Phil Bellman)

JUNE

Board accepted a Notice of Intent from Max Chance of the Oakland Museum to nominate the Oakland Museum (1968, Kevin Roche et al.) for landmark status. Though the museum is only 25 years old, it is considered eligible for landmark status for its architectural and civic importance, and designation would assure design review over future alterations.

Board accepted an application submitted by George Fong to nominate the Chinese Presbyterian Church, 265-73 8th Street, as an Oakland landmark. With an amendment stating that alterations to an addition are exempt from design review if they do not affect the appearance of the original building, the nomination was forwarded to the Planning Commission.

Mark Wald of the City Attorney's Office presented an advisory opinion on the nomination of the Pardee Building. Because the building was owned by the U.C. Regents and exempt from city regulations, he advised that the nomination be dropped and also that the building be removed from the Study List. Board voted to continue the matter in July after considering the opinion.

Secretary Prentice reported on a meeting with Jim Rinehart and Susan Chamberlin of the Office of Economic Development and Employment (OEDE) on the McElroy house. The remaining site in Preservation Park has costly toxic problems. As the most likely use of the building would be housing, it was recommended that the Office of Housing and Neighborhood Development be asked about possible assistance programs.

Annalee Allen was appointed to attend the City Council Cultural Services Committee on June 15 to convey the Board's support for the ISTE grant application for the 16th Street Station. Jean Spees reported that Board staffing was no longer threatened by budget cuts. Creighton Fong would represent the Board at the 90th anniversary ceremony and installation of a plaque at the Lawn Bowling Green and Clubhouse in Lakeside Park, nominated as a protected feature in the landmark designation of the park. Jean Spees reported on a reception for Richard Moe, president of the National Trust, held June 1 at the landmark Lake Merritt Hotel.

Secretary Helaine Prentice explained key elements of the State Historical Building Code, as presented at the conference in Napa. Creighton Fong agreed to represent the Board at Planning Commission hearings on the nominations for the interiors of five Carnegie libraries and PG&E building.

JULY

Board approved design review application from the city's Architectural Services div-



Chinese Presbyterian Church (Rollin S. Tuttle, 1927), on 8th Street between Alice and Harrison, nominated for landmark status. (Phil Bellman)

ision to modify a lake view window, alter one side for restroom access, and construct a storage addition at the Rotary Science Center, a protected feature in Lakeside Park. Discussion was postponed on an aviary which will require a high fence.

Helaine Prentice reported that the Pardee Building had been purchased by the City and the Pardee Center Associates had requested a postponement of the landmark nomination. Board decided to approve the eligibility rating only at this time.

Barry Miller, consultant to the Office of Planning and Building, made a special presentation on the update of the Open Space, Conservation and Recreation Element (OSCAR) of the Oakland Comprehensive Plan, last updated in 1976. Improved access to creeks is one of its goals.

Marina Carlson of Brooklyn Neighborhood Preservation Association reported the successful transplanting of palm trees from 2042-50 10th Avenue in the 10th Avenue District to Lake Merritt (see Briefing).

Stephen Lowe of Urbanspace Associates presented a proposal to revitalize the Produce Market, including possible S-7 preservation district nomination; he likened it to Pike Place in Seattle.

Creighton Fong and Helaine Prentice reported on questions raised at Planning Commission meetings on landmark nominations of the Lawn Bowling Club and Green and 12th Street Dam in Lakeside Park, the Carnegie Library interiors, and the PG&E building. A meeting was proposed to discuss roles of the Board and Commission.

Les Hausrath was reelected chair for 1993-94, and Jean Spees was reelected vice chair. August meeting was canceled; design review cases would be handled during the week of August 16 by a minimum quorum and staff if necessary. --Kathy Olson

OHA Calendar

The OHA Calendar lists events, activities, and meetings related to history and preservation that may be of interest to OHA members. 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. (268-9524)

Upcoming Activities


ongoing, T. 10-5:30, W-Th. 12-8, F. 12-5:30, Sat. 1-5:30, Oakland History Room, Main Library, 125 14th. St., 238-3222. **NEW HOURS.**


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 19, W-Sat. 10-5, Sun. 12-7, "Imogene Cunningham: Ideas Without End," retrospective spanning the 70 year career of the gifted and influential photographer, The Oakland Museum, Oak & 10th Streets, free.


through October 2, M-F. 7-7, Sat. 8-4, Sun. 10-4, "Work by Sono Osato," installation by Oakland artist noted for use of found and manipulated objects scavanged and unearthed from older areas of Oakland, The Oakland Museum Sculpture Court at City Center, 1111 Broadway, free, 238-3401.


 August 7, Sat. 1:30-3:30, "Haddon Hill," Kenwyn & McKinley Sts., **OHA Walk**, \$6/\$4, 763-9218.

 August 8, Sun. 1:30-3:30, "St. Mary's Cemetery," entrance at end of Howe St., **OHA Walk**, \$6/\$4, 763-9218.


 August 14, Sat. 1:30-3:30, "Oak Center," deFremery House, 1651 Adeline St., **OHA Walk**, \$6/\$4, 763-9218.


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

 August 21, Sat. 1:30-3:30, "Young Jack London in Oakland," Garfield School, 22nd Ave. & East 17th St., **OHA Walk**, \$6/\$4, 763-9218.

 August 22, Sun. 1:30-4, "Follow an Oakland Creek," entrance to Mountain View Cemetery, end of Piedmont Ave., **OHA Walk**, \$6/\$4, 763-9218.

August 25, W. 10am, "Chinatown Tour," branch library, 9th & Broadway, City of Oakland sponsored, free, repeats Sept. 22, 24, & Oct. 16.

 August 28, Sat. 1:30-4, "Mills College," Richards Gate, 5000 MacArthur Blvd. & Richards Rd. Proceeds benefit OHA Oakland Cultural Heritage Survey Fund, **OHA Walk**, \$6/\$4, 763-9218.

 August 29, Sun. 1:30-3:30, "Borax Smith," 8th Ave. & East. 24th St., **OHA Walk**, \$6/\$4, 763-9218.

September 1, W. 10am, "Churches and Temples," First Presbyterian Church, Broadway & 27th. St., City of Oakland sponsored, free, repeats Sept. 4.

September 26, Sun. 12-5, "Arts & Crafts House Tour," Berkeley Architectural Heritage Assoc., \$24/\$18, 841-2242.

September 26, Sun. 12:30-5, "Sausalito Afoot--A Historical Walk," in celebration of Sausalito's centennial, refreshments @ Sausalito Women's Club [Julia Morgan], Start @ SWC (120 Central Ave.) or City Hall (420 Litho St.), free, 415-332-1021.

October 10, Sun. 1-5, "Victorian Alliance Annual House Tour," 8 vintage buildings in architecturally rich Dolores area, east of Noe Valley, 1037 Church St., \$20/\$15, 415-626-1289.

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), 276-3010.

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, 10am, free, (415) 556-0865.

San Francisco Heritage, Victorian & Edwardian Pacific Heights, Sun. 12:30-2, Haas-Lillienthal 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., 238-3941, for Landmarks Board and Planning Commission agendas.



Oakland Heritage Alliance News

(continued from p.16)

1960s the congregation became predominantly African-American. The Rev. Michael Dunn, pastor from 1973 to 1981, made notable contributions to the church's ministries; a chapel in the church is now named in his honor. Today under Rev. Diane Moffett the Elmhurst Presbyterian Church has fully affirmed its role as a community church, with numerous ministries to seniors and youth. The congregation still meets in the century-old church and sits in the original pews. And as 100 years ago, the same bell peals for Sunday service.

--William W. Sturm

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 (April through June 1993) are:

John Alviti, John & Marian Blackmer, Laurie Burke, Jim & Dena Canty, Cristina Carbone, Leslie Carey, Joan Chamberlain, Jeanne Cheney, Novia de Carrillo, Susan & George Duncan, Kathleen & Bill Garcia, Jean Gregory, Patricia Gribben, Jacci Harris, Lillian Johnson, Bruce Judd/Ana Koval, Ray Kidd, Carol Kociolak, Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Lawe, Vincent Marsh, Ellen Marshall, Gwen Mayne, Randy Murray, Noel Walsh Nakahara, Drs. Sallie & Richard Olsen, Ric Propas, Valerie Pechenik, Gordon Reese, Alicia Rivera, Laurel Robinson, Mrs. Ralph Vander Naillen, Alice Wheless, Barbara Williams, Calvin Wong/Denise Eberhard.

Donors

Special thanks to those joining/renewing as:

SPONSOR (\$100): Stephen & Terry Beck, Foxfire Properties Management, All L. Johnson, Susan McCue/Hillary Gitelman, Eugene Peck.

ORGANIZATION/BENEFACTOR (\$50): Reeve Gould, Robert W. Joyce, Arthur Levy, Patricia Muscatelli, Ocean View Lighting, Paramount Theatre, Bette Postag, Dr. Lee Solomon, Steven Weinberg/Georganne Ferrier.

DONATIONS: Steven & Terry Beck, Chevron Matching Grant/David Roumm, Helen Lore, Tony Moniz, Ed Phillips.

CONTRIBUTORS

Annalee Allen, Phil Bellman, Jonathan Brohm, Marina Carlson, Carolyn Douthat, Donald Hausler, Helen Lore, Betty Marvin, Kathy Olson, William Sturm, Donald Wardlaw, Dean Yabuki, Betsy Yost.

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.

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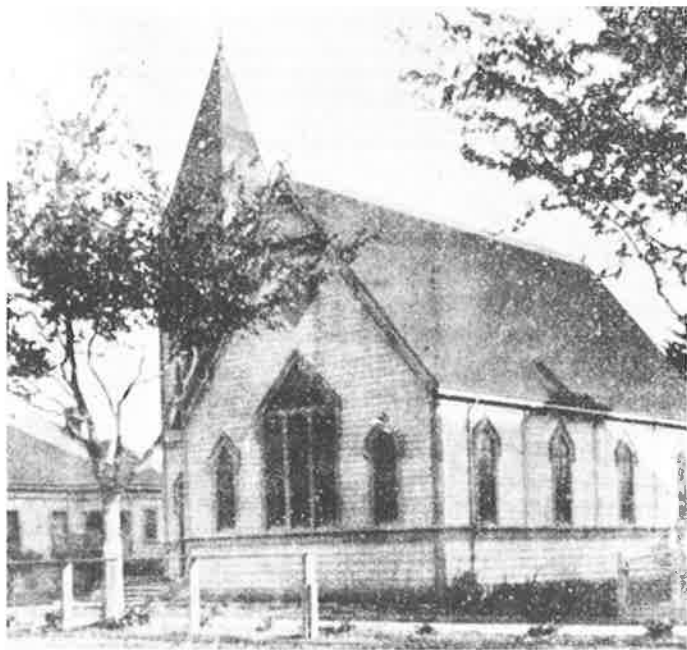
JOIN OHA TODAY! Your annual tax-deductible membership dues include the OHA News and announcements of all OHA activities. Additional contributions and your active participation make OHA a more effective organization.

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Oakland Heritage Alliance. • P.O.Box 12425, Oakland, CA 94604 • 1418 Lakeside Drive, Oakland, CA

Oakland History Notes: Elmhurst Presbyterian Church

A visitor to the little village of Elmhurst in the late summer of 1893 would have observed the construction of a simple and dignified wood-framed church. The sanctuary arose in an area dotted by farms and orchards, with a sprinkling of houses and small businesses. Dominating the horizon were the power house and offices of the Oakland, San Leandro, and Haywards electric railroad at East 14th and 96th Avenue. The railroad, which ran on East 14th Street and connected the communities of Oakland, Fruitvale, Melrose, Elmhurst, San Leandro, and Hayward, spurred growth in the tiny farm settlement of Elmhurst. The town was less than a year old when Andrew Jones, Elmhurst pioneer, donated land on the east side of 98th Avenue near East 14th Street for a Presby-



terian church. On June 4, 1893, the church was organized with 20 charter members, and on August 30 ground was broken for a new house of worship. The Oakland Enquirer observed, "The Sunday school has a membership of fifty, and the Christian Endeavor Society, under the able direction of Miss Edna Jones, has grown to a membership of thirty. All lines of church work are progressing nicely, and with their new house of worship, it is expected much more can be done." The sanctuary was swiftly completed, and on November 25, 1893, the church bell pealed and services were held for the first time in the new building.

By 1902 the town of Elmhurst boasted 1100 inhabitants, a newspaper, a public school, several churches, and numerous businesses, including a hotel, livery stables, restaurants, grocery and hardware stores. The railroad provided rapid connection to the bustling Oakland downtown. The Elmhurst Presbyterian Church remained one of the prides of the area. In 1903 one reporter noted, "A handsome church, well appointed throughout, is supported by the Presbyterians of Elmhurst. It is a building that would do credit to a community much larger than Elmhurst, and the congregation is of such a character as might be assembled from the town's people. Rev. E. Clark, a brilliant pulpiteer, ministers to the congregation." The Elmhurst Review of December 13, 1902, advised its readers that "Services will be held at the Presbyterian Church tomorrow at 11 am and 7:30 pm. Subject of the morning sermon 'Overcoming the World,' evening subject 'Entering into Life.'"

In 1909 Elmhurst, along with all of East Oakland, was annexed to Oakland. In the 1920s industrial growth in the area further stimulated housing construction. The Elmhurst Presbyterian Church remained at the heart of the community, a vital link to the beginnings of Elmhurst and a source of community vitality in the present. In the

(continued on p.15)

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