

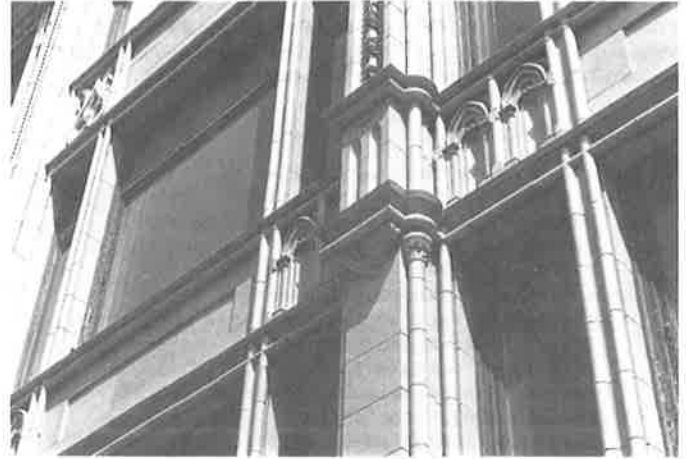
Developer's Appeal Denied by Planning Commission

At a special session held May 4th, the Oakland City Planning Commission rejected a plan by developer John Toothman to remodel and modernize the exterior of the old Roos Brothers Building at the northeast corner of 15th Street and Broadway. By denying the developer's appeal, the Commission upheld a recommendation by City Planning staff that the building "should be restored rather than altered as proposed."

The 1923 Chicago/Gothic Revival style building was designed by Oakland architect William Knowles. The building is magnificently clad with pink terra cotta and is rated of "major importance" by the Oakland Cultural Heritage Survey (cosponsored by OHA and the City).

The architect for the development, Vickerman-Zachary-Miller, proposes to add projecting, columnar bay windows with reflecting glass in place of the original three-part windows. According to architect Vickerman, the huge glass columns would create "verticality" and continue "an architectural vertical style" created by adjacent modernized structures. A commercial realtor associated with the project declared that the proposed design has "sizzle" and is "a blend of old and new, a common decorator trend today."

In meetings and correspondence with the developer, Oakland Heritage Alliance has strongly opposed the proposed design and suggested that a more sensitive restoration of the facade would be appropriate and might qualify for a 25% investment tax credit for rehabilitation of a historic structure. OHA president Leslie Flint cited other restored office buildings in Oakland, notably 1100



Current developer of the the old Roos Brothers Building (1500 Broadway) proposes to substantially alter and modernize the original 1923 terra cotta facade.

Broadway, that have been commercially successful. OHA's position is supported by the East Bay Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, Oakland Design Advocates, Friends of Terra Cotta and the Oakland Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board. The developer was unwilling to modify the design and later formally submitted it to the City for design review where the application was denied.

City planning staff held that the design would change the building "rather severely" and that it required a treatment "more sensitive to the original design." Several commissioners also expressed concern that the reflective glass would create an "unfriendly feeling" along Broadway. "Old buildings are a resource of the city" added commissioner Bruce Black. "We should stick to the rehabilitation of buildings like this whenever possible."

The Planning Commission decision to reject the proposed design can be appealed to the City Council if the developer wishes to pursue this effort further. ■



OHA Calendar

The OHA Calendar lists events, activities and meetings related to history and preservation that may be of interest to OHA members. If you are interested in helping prepare the OHA Calendar or if you have items for listing, please contact Dean Yabuki, 842 Grosvenor Place, Oakland, California 94610, (415) 893-1278 or Annalee Allen, (415) 654-6791. The deadline for the August-October Calendar is Tuesday, July 5th.

Upcoming Activities

Continuing through Thursday 30 June

Changing Victorian Row Exhibit. Storefront Museum, 9th & Washington Sts., Oakland. Free. Hours: M-F 11:00am-4:00pm. Contact Oakland Museum, 273-3401.

Continuing through Thursday 1 December

The Panama-Pacific International Exposition of 1915. Lowie Museum exhibit on the anthropological history of world's fairs, highlighting the 1915 fair in San Francisco. Lowie Museum of Anthropology, Kroeber Hall, UC Berkeley. \$1/adult, 25¢/child or senior. Hours: MTuThF 10:00am-4:30pm, SatSun Noon-4:30pm. Contact Lowie Museum, 642-3681.

Sun 8 May - Sat 14 May

Preservation Week. Theme: Preservation is Housing America.

Friday 13 May 7:30pm

Preservation is Housing Oakland: Experiences and Prospects. Lillian Love, Roy L. Schweyer, Peter Carlson, and Dick Neault will be on a panel discussion including slide presentations. OHA Evening Program in conjunction with Preservation Week. East Bay Chapter/American Institute of Architects Office, 315 14th St (between Harrison & Webster), Oakland. 3 blocks from the City Center BART Station. \$2/OHA member, \$3/general public. Refreshments served. Contact Ed Phillips, Program Chair, 465-9829.

Sat 14 May 10:00am-12:30pm

Fort Mason and Aquatic Park Walking Tour. Charles Fracchia, Historian. San Francisco Community College District public service. Meet at the corner of Bay St. & Van Ness Ave., San Francisco. Free. Contact Galileo-Marina Community College Center, 931-3595.

Saturdays 14, 21, 28 May 10:00am & 2:00pm

City Guides San Francisco Neighborhood Walks. Free. Contact Friends of the San Francisco Public Library, 558-3770.

*May 14, 10am - Eureka Valley, Haight-Ashbury
2pm - Bush Street

*May 21, 10am - Noe Valley, Haight-Ashbury
2pm - Presidio Gate

*May 28, 10am - Inner Mission, Mission Dolores Village, Haight-Ashbury
2pm - St. Francis Woods, Bush Street, Aquatic Park, Presidio Gate.

Sat 14 May 11:00-11:30am

This Old House. KQED-TV (Channel 9) series.

Sun 15 May 1:00-3:00pm

San Francisco Telegraph Hill Walk. Sally Woodbridge, Architectural Historian. Bay Area

Access Walks, Partners for Livable Places. Meet at the Levi Strauss Fountain, Sansome & Battery Sts., San Francisco. \$5.00. Contact Partners, 763-8447.

Sun 15 May 1:30-3:30pm

Uptown Oakland Art Deco Terra Cotta Walking Tour. Dean Yabuki, Architectural Programmer. Uptown Friends and Friends of Terra Cotta. Meet in front of the Mary Bowles Building, 1718 Telegraph Ave, Oakland. \$2/UF, FOTC, or OHA member, \$3.50/general public. Contact Dean Yabuki, 893-1278. In case of rain, the tour will be cancelled.

Wed 18 May 7:30pm

The Golden Gate International Exposition of 1939-1940. Lisa Hetherington, Museum Director. Art Deco Society of California monthly program. Navy-Marine Corps-Coast Guard Museum, Building No. 1, Treasure Island. Free. Contact Lisa Hetherington, 765-6182 or Michael F. Crowe, 477-3844.

Wed 18 May 9:00-10:00pm

The Different Drummer: Blacks in the Military. KQED-TV (Channel 9) series.

Thurs 19 May 10:00-11:00pm

6 Millennia: China's History Unearthed. KQED-TV (Channel 9) history program.

Sat 21 May 10:00am-12:30pm

Western Addition Walking Tour. Charles Fracchia, Historian. San Francisco Community College District. Meet at Alamo Square, corner of Fulton & Steiner Sts., San Francisco. Free. Contact Galileo-Marina Community College Center, 931-3595.

Sun 22 May Noon-1:30pm

San Francisco Marina District Art Deco Walking Tour. Michael F. Crowe, Architectural Historian. Art Deco Society of California. Meet at the corner of Chestnut & Fillmore Sts., San Francisco. \$1.00. Contact Michael F. Crowe, 477-3844 or Lisa Hetherington, 765-6182.

Sun 22 May 1:00-3:00pm

South Berkeley Walk. Mark Wilson, Author. Bay Area Access Walks, Partners for Livable Places. Meet at the Lowie Museum, UC campus, Bancroft Way & College Ave., Berkeley. \$5.00. Contact Partners, 763-8447.

Fri 27 May 10:00-11:00pm

The Brooklyn Bridge. KQED-TV (Channel 9) history program.

Sat 28 May 10:00am-12:30pm

Potrero Hill Walking Tour. Charles Fracchia, Historian. San Francisco Community College District. Meet at the Potrero Hill Branch Library, 20th St. between Connecticut/ Arkansas, San Francisco. Free. Contact Galileo-Marina Community College Center, 931-3595.

Sun 29 May 1:00-3:00pm

Oakland City Center Walk. Bay Area Access Walks, Partners for Livable Places. Meet at the Storefront Museum, 9th & Washington Sts., Oakland. \$5.00. Contact Partners, 763-8447.

Fri 3 June 7:00pm-Midnight

Committee to Reverse the Japanese American Wartime Cases Benefit. Program with honored guests, Fred Korematsu, Gordon Hirabayashi, and Min Yasui and entertainment. Friends of the Asian Law Caucus. Palace of Fine Arts, 3301 Lyon St. at Marina



- Bldv., San Francisco. \$25/person, \$10/low income or student. Contact Asian Law Caucus, 1322 Webster St., Suite 210, Oakland, 94612, 835-1474.
- Fri 3 - Sun 5 June
Showcase Oakland. Opening Celebration for the George P. Scotlan Convention Center, Broadway & 10th St., Oakland. Booths, media exhibits, food, walking tours. OHA will be participating. Free. Contact Ed Phillips, OHA Program Chair, 465-9829.
- Sat 4 June 9:00am-4:45pm
Sacred Spaces: Tour of San Francisco Houses of Worship. Oakland Museum Association, Council on Architecture bus tour. Leaves from the Oakland Museum, Oak & 10th Sts., Oakland. Pre-registration required by May 15. \$40/OMA member, \$45/general public. Fee includes lunch and transportation. Contact Joan McDonough, 841-9260 or Susan Rivers, OMA, 893-4257.
- Sat 4 June 10:00am-12:30pm
Mission Dolores and Mission District Walking Tour. Charles Fracchia, Historian. San Francisco Community College District. Meet in front of Mission Dolores, Dolores & 16th Sts., San Francisco. Free. Contact Galileo-Marina Community College Center, 931-3595.
- Sat 4 - Sun 5 June all day
Western Railroading. UC Extension weekend course. California State Railroad Museum, 125 "I" St., Sacramento. \$90.00. Contact UC Extension, 642-1061.
- Sun 5 June 1:00-3:00pm
Alameda's West End Walk. Woody Minor, Architectural Historian. Bay Area Access Walks, Partners for Livable Places. Meet at St. Joseph's Basilica, Chestnut St. & Encinal Ave., Alameda. \$5.00. Contact Partners, 763-8447.
- Sunday 5 June 2:00-5:00pm
Cohen House Preservation Benefit. OHA, East Bay Chapter/AIA, and Nor Cal Chapter/ American Planning Association. Cohen House, East Oakland. Tours of this historic 1884 landmark house will be offered. Reservations required. \$15/person. Contact Marlene Wilson, OHA Landmarks Assistance Program, 655-3210 (evenings)
- Three Sundays in June
Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association Neighborhood Walking Tours Series. TBA. Contact BAHA, 845-6591 weekday afternoons.
- Sat 11 June 10:00am-12:30pm
Sutro Heights and Land's End Walking Tour. Charles Fracchia, Historian. San Francisco Community College District. Meet in front of the Cliff House, Point Lobos Ave., San Francisco. Free. Contact Galileo-Marina Community College Center, 931-3595.
- Sun 12 June 1:00-3:00pm
Elmwood Berkeley Walk. Trish Hawthorne, Historian. Bay Area Access Walks. Partners for Livable Places. Meet at the Claremont Branch Library, Ashby & Benvenue Aves., Berkeley. \$5.00. Contact Partners, 763-8447.
- Fri 17 June - Sun 21 Aug
Buffalo Bill and the Wild West. History exhibit. Oakland Museum, 1000 Oak St. at 10th St., Oakland. Charge TBA. Contact Oakland Museum, 834-2413.
- Sat 18 June 10:00am-12:30pm
Golden Gate Park Walking Tour. Charles Fracchia, Historian. San Francisco Community College District. Meet at the Golden Gate Park Headquarters, Stanyan & Fell Sts., San Francisco. Free. Contact Galileo-Marina Community College Center, 931-3595.
- Sun 19 June 1:00-3:00pm
San Francisco Marina District Walk. Bay Area Access Walks, Partners for Livable Places. Meet at Ft. Mason Center, Bldg. A, Marina Blvd. & Laguna St., San Francisco. \$5.00. Contact Partners, 763-8447
- 22, 23 June evening lectures; 25, 26 June tours
The Mother Lode Country: the Northern Mines. Sister Ethel Mary Tinnemann, Historian. Holy Names College Continuing Education course. Holy Names College and field trips. Pre-enrollment required by June 1. \$58/1 unit, \$83/2 units. Fees include field trip lodging. Contact Holy Names College Continuing Education, 436-1508.
- Wednesdays 22 June - 27 July 7:00-9:30pm
The Golden Port: A Maritime History of San Francisco Bay. Charles Wollenberg, Historian. UC Extension course. California Historical Society, 2090 Jackson St., San Francisco. Includes two Sat. field trips. Pre-registration required. \$85.00. Contact CHS, 567-1848.
- Sat 25 June all day
West Marin: Agriculture and Contemporary History Bus Tour. California Historical Society. TBA. Contact Jean Amos, CHS, 567-1848.
- Sat 25 June 11:00am
Bradbury Wallpaper Tour. Western Chapter/ Association for Preservation Technology. Tour of Benicia after lunch. Bradbury Wallpaper, 940 Tyler, Studio 12, Benicia Arsenal, CA. Free/APT member. Bring a picnic lunch. Contact, Sara Conklin-Halaj, 556-3797, or John Burrows, (707) 746-1900.
- Mon 27 - Tues 28 June all day
Reusing Old Buildings: Preservation Law and the Development Process. Conference at Fairmont Hotel, San Francisco. \$285 before June 6; \$325 thereafter. Contact The Conservation Foundation, 1717 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington, D.C. 20036, (202) 797-4300.
- 5, 7, 11, 13, 14 July lectures; 9, 16 July tours
History of California. Sister Ethel Mary Tinnemann, Historian. Holy Names College Continuing Education course. Pre-enrollment required. \$100/2 units. Contact Holy Names College Continuing Education, 431-1508.
- Sun 10 July 1:00-3:00pm
Uptown Oakland Retail/ Entertainment District Walk. Dean Yabuki, Architectural Programmer. Bay Area Access Walks, Partners for Livable Places. Meet at the Paramount Theatre, Broadway & 21st St., Oakland. \$5.00. Contact Partners, 763-8447.
- 19, 21 July lectures; 23 July tour
Historic Sonoma. Sister Ethel Mary Tinnemann, Historian. Holy Names College Continuing Education course. Pre-enrollment required. \$55/1 unit. Contact Holy Names College Continuing Education, 431-1508.

OHA Calendar continued ►



Saturdays and Sundays end of July - beginning of Sept
3rd Annual OHA Oakland Neighborhood Walking
Tours. These tours explore the diverse historical
 and architectural heritage of Oakland's
 development. Some of last year's popular tours
 are repeated, while new tours have been added.
 Watch for an extensive announcement in the next
OHA News. Anyone interested in helping with this
 year's series, please contact Dean Yabuki, Tours
 Coordinator, 893-1278.

Sun 25 Sept Noon-5:00pm
Oakland Preservation Fair. Camron-Stanford House
 Preservation Association. Annual Oakland event
 at the historic Camron-Stanford House and grounds,
 Lakeside Dr. & 14th St., Oakland. Free. If
 you're interested in helping plan or participate
 in the fair, please contact Don Tyler, CSHPA,
 836-1976.

Regularly Scheduled Tours

Oakland Tours Program. These regularly scheduled free
 tours have recommenced for 1983. Tours meet at
 the following locations on the dates given.
 Contact Oakland Tours, 273-3234.

***Old Oakland** - Meets at 1pm in front of Ratto's,
 Washington & 9th Sts. (May 7, 11; June 4, 15; July
 2, 20, 30).

***City Center** - Meets at 1pm in City Hall lobby,
 Washington & 14th Sts. (May 18; June 22; July 27).

***Uptown to the Lake** - Meets at 1pm in front of the
 Paramount Theatre, Broadway & 21st St. (May 28;
 June 1, 25; July 6, 23).

***Preservation Park** - Meets at 1pm in front of the
 First Unitarian Church, 14th & Castro Sts. (May
 4, 14; June 8, 11; July 9, 13).

***Chinatown** - Meets at 1pm in front of the Asian
 Branch Library, 9th St. & Broadway. (May 21, 25;
 June 18, 29; July 16).

Camron-Stanford House. Free tours are offered Wednesdays
 11am-4pm and Sundays 1-4pm. 1418 Lakeside Drive
 at 14th Street, Oakland, 836-1976.

Paramount Theatre. Tours are offered the 1st & 3rd
 Saturday of the month, 10am. 2025 Broadway at
 21st Street, Oakland. \$1.00. Meet promptly at
 the box office entrance on 21st Street, 893-2300.

Dunsmuir House. Tours are offered Sundays at 1, 2, and
 3pm. 2960 Peralta Oaks Court, Oakland. \$2.00.
 562-7588.

Regularly Scheduled Meetings

Oakland Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board. Meets the
 3rd Wednesday of the month, 3:30pm, City Hall,
 Room 221, Washington & 14th Streets, Oakland.
 273-3941.

Oakland City Planning Commission. Meetings scheduled for
 Wednesdays June 1, 22; July 13; August 3, 24;
 September 14; 1:30pm, City Hall, Room 115,
 Washington & 14th Streets, Oakland. 273-3941.

Oakland Heritage Alliance Board. Meets the 1st Monday of
 the month, 7:30pm. For location and agenda,
 please contact Leslie Flint, President, 658-4915.

Oakland Design Advocates. Meets the 2nd Wednesday morning
 of the month, 7:30am, Tom Lovely's Restaurant, 336
 Grand Avenue, Oakland. 893-6834.

Oakland's City-Owned Fountains

There are many privately-owned fountains
 in Oakland that are sparkling amenities
 within their park or office building
 settings, but the five owned by the City
 of Oakland are a superb introduction to
 this special class of public art.

In the triangular pocket park at San
 Pablo and West Grand Avenues there is a
 fountain, now dry, that was the ornament
 of the garden skirting the home of James
 H. and Henrietta Latham, at Lake (now
 17th) and Jackson Streets. A cast-iron
 fountain, it has a statue of the moon
 goddess Diana holding a torch of light
 supported by four brackets with lion heads



*Cast in France in the 1870's, the
 Latham-Ducel fountain will soon be moved
 from San Pablo and West Grand Avenues to a
 permanent home in Preservation Park.*

that conceal spouts. Below, a 16-foot diameter ground basin would hold a pool of water. A facet of history is preserved in the foundry mark at the fountain's base, "Fondu par J.H. Ducel et fils." Ducel conducted his ornamental iron works in Paris and exhibited his cast-iron replicas of Renaissance sculpture at the 1851 exposition of industrial art in London. The Latham cast-iron fountain came from Paris around the Horn in the early 1870's.

In 1876, the Lathams left for a tour of Europe. Three days after his ship left New York, James Latham took sick and died at the age of 47. He was later buried in Mountain View Cemetery. In 1885, Mrs. Latham sold their home, and with her daughter Edith, went to live in France. The Oakland mansion changed ownership twice before it was demolished in 1957. Orphaned, the fountain was given a foster home in Knowland Park, but not before having served as a centerpiece for a flower show. It was recalled downtown in 1964 to serve as a memorial monument to Daniel P. Collins, Mayor Houlihan's executive secretary. Plans have recently been approved to move the fountain to a permanent site in the center of the City's Preservation Park project. There it will adorn a recreated Victorian streetscape and hopefully flow with water once again.

A related fountain can be found at the gore of Broadway and Telegraph Avenue. The Latham Square fountain was a gift to the City from Edith and Milton S. Latham, dedicated on April 12, 1913, as a tribute to their parents. A medallion on the south side of its column shows an angel restraining Balaam from striking the ass that had balked at his false prophecy, an allegorical reference to the senior Lathams' kindness to animals.

The fountain's shell-form basins of pink marble held water for the refreshment of horses. Bronze dolphins, water plants and small animals fill the interstices. Surmounting the column, three bronze genies hold a vase once filled with flowering plants. Their energetic dance and the use of rich marble and bronze reflect the style of the French Academy at



The Latham Square fountain (c. 1913), located at the gore of Telegraph Avenue and Broadway, originally served as a handsome horse trough.

the turn of the century. It is therefore not surprising that this monument was designed and modeled in Paris by Raphael Charles Peyre, a pupil of the then famous academician Falguiere and himself winner of the Beaux Arts medal several times. The cast is the work of Gorham and Company, a noted American art foundry.

As horses gave way to newer modes of transportation, the fountain's water troughs were filled with earth to become planters. In 1959, a bus stop shelter was built next to the fountain, crowding this public work of art out of grace and taste.

Another monument raised to recognize an Oaklander is the McElroy Fountain inside the Perkins Street entrance of Lakeside Park. This is wholly an Oakland work. While in his early thirties, Edmund McElroy, a County district attorney, suddenly died of pneumonia in March 1909. The following month the City Council voted a memorial to him, the first public work of art funded jointly by the city and by public subscription. The design, submitted by Walter D. Reed, architect of ▶



On the Latham Square fountain and horse trough, an angel in bronze advocates kindness to animals.

several downtown "skyscrapers," was accepted. Dedication ceremonies were held on September 17, 1911.

Of white Georgia marble, a 60-foot circle provides seating for sun catchers and fountain watchers. Centered in a 30-foot diameter ground basin is a second basin above which rises a titan's cup, eight feet high, sending a plume of water into the sun to fall as a confetti of light. Recesses left around the perimeter of the inner basin were later filled with 8-by-14-inch bas relief plaques. They tell the story of the 12 stages in a man's life. Cast in bronze, the plaques have a heavy green patina that has come with age and provides contrast against the white marble. The sculptor is said to have been Douglas Tilden who was then living and

working nearby on Webster Street.

The City's fountains also include two cascades, a small one in the Rose Garden and a monumental one at Woodminster Amphitheatre. The Rose Garden, now the Morcom Amphitheatre of Roses, was an inspiration of the Oakland Businessmen's Garden Club, which sponsored its creation in 1931. The site of Linda Vista Park was made available and work began in June 1932. By May 1934, the Oakland Rose Garden was dedicated.

Located in the hollow of the surrounding hills, the Rose Garden is just north of Grand Avenue at Jean Street, on the City boundary of Oakland and Piedmont. Inside its columnar entrance, a rose walk leads past a rectangular pool to two upper terraces where there are over 300 varieties of roses. The reeded pool reflects the facade of a small Italianate building. The cascade is located on the west slope surrounded by a curtain of redwoods and pine trees. Flanking the sides of the cascade are plantings of The Pride of Oakland, a prize-winning rose developed at the Garden, and rustic stairways leading to the amphitheatre that is a favorite site for outdoor weddings.

Moved by the desire to establish a living monument -- not a statue to a



Hidden among trees in Lakeside Park, this stunning marble and bronze fountain (c. 1911) pays tribute to John Edmund McElroy, a County district attorney.



The Rose Garden cascade.

general nor to a captain of industry, but a growing, verdant tribute to western writers and poets-- the League of California Writers, joined by members of the City's parks department, established Woodminster Amphitheatre. Federal funds, notably from the Works Progress Administration, made it possible to begin construction in May 1934. Located near a country residence of California writer Joaquin Miller, the amphitheatre site was on an undeveloped hillside in East Oakland and is now a City park bearing his name. It is invested with an exalting view of Oakland, expanses of the San Francisco Bay, and even the ocean beyond the Golden Gate. Sequoia trees were planted and individually named in honor of a writer, anglicized to Woodminster, "Cathedral of the Woods." In this enclosed setting, the outdoor theatre was built, becoming the site for dramas and music for many years.

On the down slope behind the amphitheatre is an enormous cascade formerly spilling 100 feet along its rustic channel into three smaller pools and a great display in a circular fountain on a lower terrace. Its scale is large.

A thousand gallons of water once poured over 220 tons of slate and 880 tons of boulders in 9 and 1/2 minutes, to be recycled by means of a 40-horsepower pump. The great fountain, illuminated into the evening, had its own motor and automatic controls. In 1940, the cost of operating the cascade and fountain was 56 cents per minute.

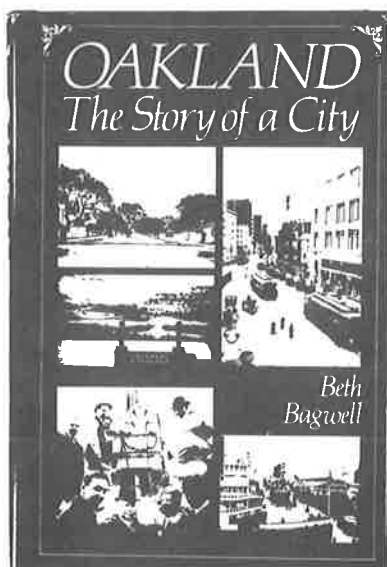
It is the present paucity of public funds that hinders the maintainance of the cascades, the smaller one of the Rose Garden and the uniquely beautiful pools and falls of Woodminster. Unfortunately this keeps their movement and their murmur mute.

*--Photo and text by
Esther Mipaas*



The monumental Woodminster cascade (c. 1934) was built as a tribute to western writers.

New Books on Oakland History



1983 saw the welcome publication of four books significant in the area of Oakland history. Dunsmuir House by Lois Rather is the latest in a long series of books on local topics published by the Rather Press, an Oakland-based private press. Beautifully bound and printed, Dunsmuir House concerns the romantic and poignant story of the couple who built and lived in the house which today is one of Oakland's most famed landmarks.

The Chinese of Oakland: Unsung Builders by Eve Armentrout Ma and Jeong Huei Ma, is the history of one of the City's most prominent, and, for many years, largest minorities. Well-illustrated and thoughtfully organized, Unsung Builders covers the full spectrum of Oakland's Chinese community life, from the early pioneers in the 1850's, to the latest developments.

George Hildebrand's Borax Pioneers: Francis Marion Smith presents the life and times of the man who helped forge the destiny of Oakland in the early part of this century. Founder of the City's first major interurban transportation system, Smith lived in the baronial splendor of

his majestic Oakland mansion, Arbor Villa, commanding a vast real estate empire. Hildebrand's detailed and meticulously researched biography completely covers Smith's long, varied, and profoundly influential career.

The publication of Beth Bagwell's Oakland: the Story of a City provides a major history of the city. A cohesive, colorfully written account, Ms. Bagwell's book focuses upon the full panorama of Oakland's past, from the Costanoan Indians, to the City's post-World War II developments. Story of a City places Oakland's history within the context of state and national life, and enables the reader to envision the complete picture of the City's growth and change. Many of the numerous photographs illustrating this history came from the collection of the Oakland History Room, and much of the author's research derived from the abundant resources of the Room.

- William Sturm

Briefing...

The "Briefing" column summarizes recent developments monitored by the OHA Preservation Action Committee, which meets the third Monday of each month. The Committee needs help in responding to these developments effectively. If you are interested in assisting the Committee please call Gary Knecht, OHA Vice President for Preservation Action, at 865-6382.

● SHELL OF FIRST METHODIST CHURCH DEMOLISHED

In February and March, the fire-damaged brick and steel shell of the First United Methodist Church at the southeast corner of 24th Street and Broadway was demolished. The building was gutted by a fire on July 4, 1981, after the congregation had put it up for sale for \$1.5 million. According to City officials, the demolition was initiated by the church, which now shares quarters with the First Congregational Church at 27th



Gone and lost forever. The fire-damaged shell of the once magnificent First Methodist Church was recently reduced to rubble.

and Harrison Streets, because of possible liability problems involving vagrants who were illegally occupying the structure.

At the May 1 garage sale of the Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association (BAHA), remnants of the Church's distinctive terra cotta were on sale. BAHA members had found the terra cotta ornaments at a Berkeley brick yard and obtained them as donation for their fundraising event.

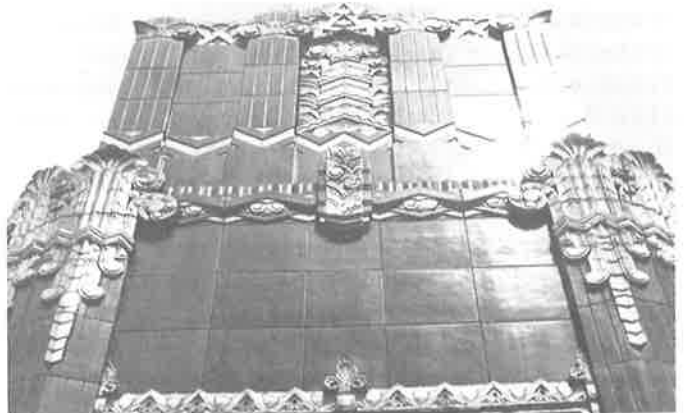
● OAKLAND FLORAL DEPOT BUILDING RECOMMENDED ELIGIBLE FOR NATIONAL REGISTER

At its February meeting, the State Historic Resources Commission recommended that the Oakland Floral Depot Building at the northeast corner of 19th Street and Telegraph Avenue be found eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places at the state level of significance. The building, designed in 1931 by Albert Evers, is one of the most outstanding among Oakland's rich collection of Art Deco structures. The recommendation of eligibility at the state level of significance indicates that the Commission considers the building to be of

great architectural importance. Most buildings are recommended for listing in the National Register at the local level of significance; a much smaller number at the state level; and only those of exceptional importance at the national level.

The recommendation followed OHA's nomination of the building to the National Register. The Floral Depot, along with the adjoining Newberry Building and former Kushin's Shoe Store Building facing Broadway may be demolished for a major new shopping center by the owner, Carter Hawley Hale Stores, Inc., which also owns the adjacent Emporium-Capwell Department Store (see November-December 1982 OHA News). Because Carter Hawley Hale formally objected to the Floral Depot's National Register listing, the building will not actually be listed in the Register. However, should the building be determined eligible, and should Carter Hawley Hale seek Federal monies to assist the shopping center development, these monies would be subject to completion of the National Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's procedures for protection of National Register properties.

The State Historic Resources Commission's recommendation has been forwarded to the keeper of the National Register, who will make the final determination. However, this is generally a formality, and the keeper usually concurs with the Commission's ►



Oakland Floral Depot (19th Street at Telegraph Avenue) was recommended to the National Register of Historic Places by the State Historic Resources Commission.

recommendations. OHA is continuing to follow this issue closely and is planning to meet with City officials to discuss various options.

● PROPOSED EXPANSION OF SHEPHERD CANYON LANDFILL DELAYED

For about 20 years, the City of Oakland's Office of Public Works has been gradually filling in the last major natural section of Shepherd Canyon, which extends from about the intersection of Scout Road and Mountain Boulevard to the City's corporation yard at the sharp bend of Shepherd Canyon Road. The Canyon is especially deep here, with the creek almost totally concealed from Shepherd Canyon Road far above by a dense cover of bay trees and other native vegetation.

The debris being dumped by the City is mostly generated from small slides and fallen trees in the hill area. The City has used Shepherd Canyon for this purpose mainly because of its convenient close-in location and because it is already City-owned as a park. When the landfill is completed, the City will develop the area for recreational use. Part of this development is already completed.

Late last year, the City proposed to expand the landfill by burying another 250 feet of creek. To do this, the City had to acquire portions of several privately owned parcels. The City initiated condemnation proceedings and two of the property owners, Robert Burlingame and Jay Francis, whose lots front on Scout Road, protested the project. They eventually filed a lawsuit, arguing that the proposed fill does not conform with the City's 1976 Shepherd Canyon Plan, and that an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is therefore required. In January, Superior Court Judge Richard Haugner ruled in favor of the property owners, ordering the City to prepare an EIR before taking any further action on the project. At a City Council meeting just before the decision, the Office of Public Works and its director, James E. McCarty, were criticized by some Councilmembers, notably hill area representative Dick Spees, for

not making a strong enough effort to locate a more appropriate site for the fill material. McCarty said that, at present, the only alternative was to haul the debris to Chabot Golf Course at substantially increased time and expense to the City. As of early April, it was not known whether the City intended to proceed with the landfill and the EIR. McCarty, a longtime city functionary, has since retired as Director of Public Works.

● CHANGES AT SWAN'S MARKET

Swan's Market, located in the block bounded by 9th, 10th, Washington and Clay Streets, was recently purchased from Sherwood Swan and Co., owners since the 1920's, by developer and former Oakland Port Commissioner Ted Connolly. The Market was constructed in phases between 1917 and 1940 and was called the Oakland



Swan's Market, a longtime Oakland institution and originally the Oakland Free Market, has recently been sold for the development of new retail uses.



Free Market prior to its purchase by Swan. It was later known as the "10th Street Market." It was originally a retail food market with numerous individual grocers all under one roof in the manner of the old-time public markets. In later years a department store was added, and along with the nearby Housewives Market, became the principal shopping center for West Oakland. The exterior is of interest for its polychrome terra cotta ornamentation depicting food motifs; an especially elaborate panel at 10th and Jefferson Streets still reads "Free Market, 1917."

Connally apparently intends to reorient the market away from the generally low-income residents of West Oakland into serving the generally middle and upper-income patronage expected to be generated from the adjoining Victorian Row, Convention Center and Hyatt Regency Hotel projects. He has discontinued the department store, but intends to retain and expand the food operations. The changes have led to concern that unless the proposed Acorn Shopping Center, of which Connally is also a developer, is built, West Oakland residents will not have a suitable place to shop.

● FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT DEVELOPING NEW SAUSAL CREEK PROPOSALS

In January, the Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District awarded contracts to two firms, George S. Nolte & Associates and Harris & Associates, to develop long-term solutions for two sections of Sausal Creek along Peroly Court and Adell Court. Properties along these Creek sections have been threatened by erosion of the Creek banks. Last year, the District had attempted to bury the two sections plus a third section along Barry Place in a box culvert, but abandoned the proposal after receiving strong opposition from Citizens to Save Sausal Creek (CSSC), a newly formed group of Creek area residents. (see July-August 1982 OHA News). The District also released a "Notice of Preparation" for an Environmental Impact Report to cover a proposal for all three sections. The

Notice of Preparation invited comments on project alternatives, impacts and mitigations to be addressed in the forthcoming EIR, with a deadline for comments set for mid-April. A proposal for the Adell Court section by Harris & Associates, followed by a public meeting was expected in late April, and a proposal by Nolte & Associates for the Peroly Court section sometime in May. The draft EIR will be released after the proposals have been presented and accepted by the District.

For further information on the proposals, call District Engineer, Richard Hendrix at 881-6470, or CSSC members Iskander Guy at 534-2724 or Charles Perry at 536-8176.

● LARGE PORTION OF HISTORIC PG&E WATERFRONT COMPLEX DEMOLISHED

A substantial portion of Pacific Gas and Electric Company's waterfront power station, centered along the Embarcadero between Market and Jefferson Streets, has been removed to allow expansion of the Port of Oakland's Howard Terminal container cargo facility. The demolished portions covered the area south of the Embarcadero and west of Grove Street, including three large natural gas storage tanks built between 1903 and the 1920's, which had been among the most visually dominant elements along the Inner Harbor waterfront. The demolished facilities also include an old two-story, red brick building which may have dated from the complex's original 1888 construction as Oakland's first electric power station, then owned by the Oakland Gas, Light and Heat Co. However, two other 1888 brick buildings located on the east side of Grove Street are to remain. ■

You can help monitor events affecting Oakland's heritage by joining the OHA Preservation Action Committee. The committee recently alerted OHA members to the proposed remodeling of the old Roos Brothers Building (see page 1). If you wish to assist with this critical task, please contact Gary Knecht at 865-6382.

Oakland Landmarks Board Actions

At its January, February and March meetings, the Oakland Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board took the following actions:

JANUARY

Agreed to request from Oakland Unified School District that consideration of landmarks designation of former Clawson School at 3315 Magnolia Street be deferred until completion of District study on disposal of the site; concern over the future of the building had been expressed at the Board's November meeting by Pastor Lester Hughes. Agreed to owner request for a two-year delay in landmark designation of the Broadway Building (originally the First National Bank of Oakland Building), the familiar flatiron structure at the gore of San Pablo Avenue and Broadway; the Board's action came after the owner agreed to provide a written statement guaranteeing that the building will not be demolished during the two-year period and that he would notify the Board of any sale; the same group also owns the buildings between the Broadway Building and Liberty House Department Store and is considering development of the site. Were advised by the owner of the Cathedral Building, Oakland's other well-known flatiron at the gore of Telegraph Avenue and Broadway, that he has no objection to landmark designation; the Board ordered preparation of a landmark designation resolution. Accepted request by Mrs. Fred Warnecke, daughter-in-law of one of the original owners and one of six present owners of the Overland House at 101 Broadway, for a six-month delay in landmark designation of the structure to allow time for the owners to make corrections to the resolution. Requested that landmark designation resolutions be prepared for the Delger Block at 907-33 Broadway and Wilcox Block at the southwest corner of 9th and Broadway; both buildings are to be restored as part of the Victorian Row project. Discussed establishing a possible S-7 Preservation



Oakland's flatirons: landmark status for the Broadway Building (left), San Pablo Avenue at Broadway, has been delayed at the owner's request; meanwhile, landmark designation is proceeding for the Cathedral Building (right), Broadway at Telegraph Avenue, with the owner's consent.

Zone along 8th Street in the almost solid-Victorian Prescott Neighborhood; decided to take no immediate action. Formed a committee composed of Boardmember Chris Pattillo and John Christensen of the Chamber of Commerce to establish an annual awards program for outstanding preservation and restoration work. Heard report from Pattillo that she had discussed the abolition of the Fremont Architectural Review Board with the County Commission; was advised that the Fremont Board had been divided and ineffective and that it would be unwise to interfere in the matter. Accepted a tour invitation from Dunsmuir House and Gardens, which would like to have a Landmarks Board member serve as a consultant to its House Board.



FEBRUARY

Recommended approval of exterior changes included in the Oakland Auditorium rehabilitation project; the changes include wheelchair ramps, new paint colors and new signs (see January-March OHA News); the recommended approval was with the understanding that the signs be given further study; it should also be noted that the Oakland Auditorium has been renamed the Henry J. Kaiser Convention Center. Heard presentation by John Papadakis, City Architect, of proposed rehabilitation of the DeFremery House at 1651 Adeline Street; the proposal calls for porch reconstruction, wheelchair ramp and new paint colors; deferred action until ramp details and color selection could be presented. Heard progress report on Preservation Park from Pat Cashman, the City's project manager. Recommended approval of an emergency exit at the Dunsmuir House with the understanding that the Board may review the proposed pipe railing again after installation; scheduled a tour of the Dunsmuir House and Gardens for March 21. Approved landmark designation resolution for Wilcox Block and Annex, Cathedral Building and Delger Block. Indefinitely postponed landmark designation of Realty Syndicate Building (now 1440 Broadway) at owner's request. Deferred action on landmark nomination of former Leamington Hotel (southeast corner, 19th and Franklin Streets) for 18 months at owner's request to allow completion of the structure's conversion to offices. Added the William B. Hardy House at 326 7th Street, built in 1858 and among Oakland's oldest surviving structures, to the preservation Study List. Discussed establishing an S-7 Preservation District on the block bounded by 16th, Myrtle, 18th and Linden Streets, decided instead to initiate landmark designation for the Holland-Canning House at 954 16th Street the Gladding-Chickering House (of Gladding/McBean terra cotta) at 970-72 16th, Street, the Reed-Henshaw House at 974 16th Street and the Campbell House at 1014 16th Street; the four houses are among the best of West Oakland's surviving Victorians.

MARCH

Deferred indefinitely landmark designation of the Louis B. DeRome House (1076 59th Street), an 1890 Victorian whimsically remodelled in 1910 in the former Klinknerville section of North Oakland, due to owner opposition; DeRome was a well-known bronze sculptor and operated his foundry at the site. Were advised of owner opposition to proposed landmark designation of the I. Magnin store (northwest corner, 20th Street and Broadway) and the King Building (northwest corner of 12th and Harrison Streets). Requested that landmark designation resolutions be prepared for Holland-Canning House, Gladding-Chickering House, Reed-Henshaw House, and Campbell House; none of the owners objected; Paul Cobb, owner of the Reed-Henshaw House and District 3 City Council candidate, said he would be honored to have the house designated a landmark. Discussed participation in Convention Center opening, revision of \$150 design review fee and vandalism at 3573 Dimond Avenue, a home to be relocated to Preservation Park. Were advised that the State Historic Resources Commission will hold its May 13 meeting at Oakland City Hall.

SPECIAL MEETING

On March 24, a Landmarks Board Committee and City Planning staff met to discuss ways of strengthening Oakland's landmarks program and making landmark designation more desirable to property owners. The Committee was formed partly in response to the numerous owner objections to recent landmark designation proposals. Subjects discussed at the meeting included providing property tax advantages to landmarks, increasing the present 240-day delay in demolition of landmarks, eliminating some design review fees, awarding plaques to landmarks and proposing City Council adoption of a strong preservation policy.



Oakland Heritage Alliance 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.

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OHA was incorporated in 1980 as a California non-profit corporation. Membership dues and contributions are tax deductible.

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Oakland Heritage Alliance News

Editor: Phil Bellman

Contributors: Douglas Brookes, Vera Dahle, Gary Knecht, Esther Mipaas, Brad Niebling, William Sturm, Marlene Wilson, and Dean Yabuki

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OHA Update

● On February 16, over 90 people crowded a slide lecture by architectural historian Michael F. Crowe on "Oakland Art Deco" sponsored by OHA and the newly formed Art Deco Society of California. Crowe described the origins and characteristics of the Art Deco movement and provided slides of Oakland's magnificent Art Deco buildings.

Volunteers are needed in planning future public programs. If you are interested in helping, please call program chair Ed Phillips at 465-9829.

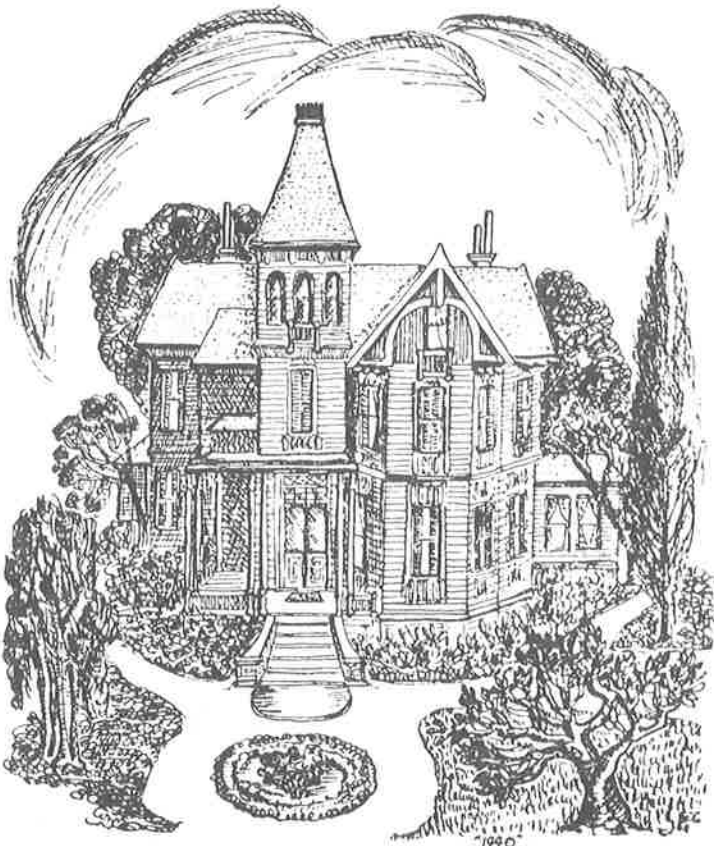
● The Oakland Cultural Heritage Survey has completed State Historic Resources Inventory forms for more than 200 notable buildings within the Survey areas. Each property owner will soon receive a copy of the form for his or her building. It is hoped that this will familiarize owners with the work of the Survey, elicit corrections and comments, and inspire rehabilitation. Volunteers are needed for typing, copying, and mailing the forms. Please contact Survey Coordinator Gary Knecht at 865-6382, or OHA Survey liaison Doug Brookes at 530-3638.

● Former director Dean Yabuki led special tours of Lakeshore/Trestle Glen on April 14 and 21, for two dozen students in Tom Wolf's Oakland's history course. The tour will be repeated as part of this summer's OHA Oakland Neighborhood Walking Tours. Areas such as Fruitvale, the Waterfront, and Adam's Point are under consideration as new tours in addition to some of last summer's popular tours. If you can help in planning the program, or in leading the walks, please contact tour coordinator Dean Yabuki, 842 Grosvenor Place, Oakland 94610, 893-1278.

● A special edition of OHA News on the neighborhood walking tour program will be published in July. The OHA News Editorial Board welcomes new volunteers who wish to assist with writing, photography or production. For further information, please contact editor Phil Bellman at 532-5788.



June 5th Benefit for Historic Cohen House



The Historic Cohen House, 1884. Drawing by Emelita Cohen.

The Oakland Heritage Alliance will sponsor a benefit for the Cohen House on Sunday, June 5th, 2-5 p.m. The Cohen House is an historic and architecturally outstanding Oakland City landmark which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The historic Cohen House is the first project of OHA's Landmarks Assistance Program.

This extraordinary house was built in 1884 as a wedding present for Emma Bray Cohen by her parents. The interior furnishings and decorations, which are largely intact, were provided to the newlyweds by the bridegroom's father, A.A. Cohen, the famous lawyer for the Central Pacific Railroad "Big Four." Many of the furnishings came from Fernside, A.A. Cohen's fabled 72-room mansion in Alameda. The Cohen House contains unusually fine handcarved and handmilled woodwork, stenciled wallpapers, handwoven carpeting and oriental and English furniture, all from the period.

The Cohen House benefit will include house tours and refreshments and is being co-sponsored by the East Bay Chapter of the American Institute of Architects and the Northern California Chapter of the American Planning Association. Tickets are \$15 per person and are limited. OHA members will receive a separate invitation by mail. For more information and advance reservations, contact Marlene Wilson at 655-3210. ■

Oakland Heritage Alliance, 5569 Lawton Avenue, Oakland, California 94618

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 will make OHA a more effective organization.

Name _____ New Renewal

Address _____ Change of Address only

City, Zip _____ \$5 Senior/student/limited income (1 vote)

Phone Numbers (H) _____ (W) _____ \$10 Individual (1 vote)

I would like to serve on the following committee(s): Membership Programs \$15 Family (2 votes)

OHA News Publicity Landmark Nominations Landmark Assistance \$25 Organization (1 vote)

Preservation Action Summer Tours Development Fund Raising other \$100 Sponsor (1 vote)

\$ _____ Additional contribution



New OHA Members

The Officers and Board of Directors of OHA wish to welcome and thank all those concerned citizens who have shown their interest in Oakland's history and preservation by joining OHA. Between January 1 and April 11, 1983, OHA's new members are as follows:

Eunice M. Andersen, Pamela Barnett, June R. Batterman, Katherine Bertolucci, Doris G. Brady, Charles S. Bryant, Cheryl Caraian, Peter T. Conmy, Maureen M. Dunn, Ray Dyer, Samuel A. Goldstein, Tim Hennessey, Edgar J. Hinkel, Winifred

Johnston, Ellinor Juarez, Alice Kohn, Peter J. Kyhn.

David S. Leinbach/David A. Tonelli, Arthur Mammen, Margaret W. Martin, Esther Mipaas, Jean Mulligan, Lois Over, Elita M. Park, Victor E. Richardson II, Debbie Rugh, The San Andreas Company - Christie Batterman, Mr/Mrs Edmond R. Schneider, Patricia L. Slaughter, Maureen Steiner, Robert/Marilyn Taylor, Velma Washington, Marilyn P. Whelan and Carolyn Yale/Rock Bush.

Oakland History Notes

Dedicated in 1904, Providence Hospital, on the corner of Broadway and 26th Streets, was one of Oakland's first major hospitals. It served the needs of 1906 earthquake victims. In 1926, a new and larger facility was built upon the present location of Providence Hospital.

--Postcard courtesy of Oakland Public Library, Oakland History Room



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