

The Oakland History Room: Resource for the City's Buildings



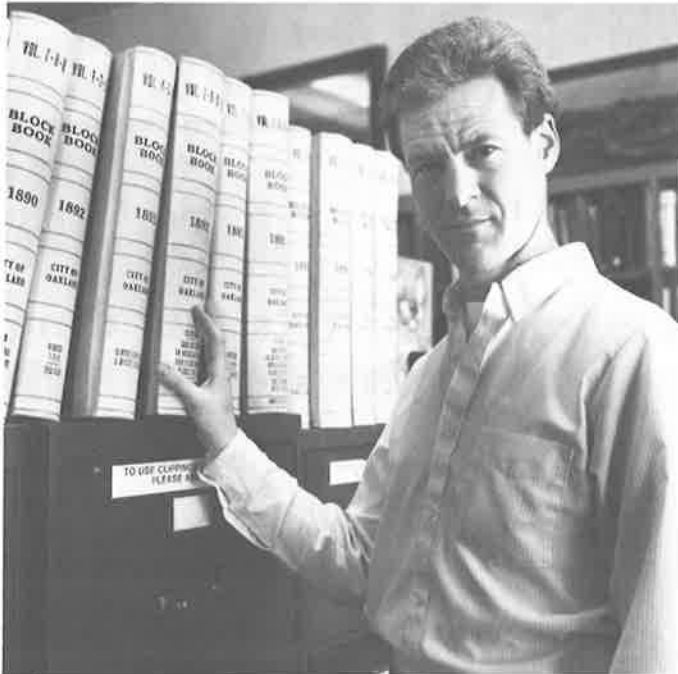
"How old is that building?" is a question central to OHA's preservation activities, and a question frequently asked by patrons of the Oakland Public Library's Oakland History Room. Devoted to state and local history, the OHR contains a vast array of resources to assist the researcher seeking information on the age, original ownership, and significance of a house or other type of building, or a neighborhood composed of many buildings. This article will outline the Oakland History Room's holdings and services, by guiding the reader through a sample research project, and may also inspire wider participation in this absorbing and rewarding form of direct contact with the past.

The Oakland History Room began its separate existence when the present main library opened in 1951. (OHR)

As early as 1894, the Oakland City Directory contained the following statement concerning the city's library:

"Provision has been made for filing and indexing for reference all pamphlets, leaflets and printed papers of local interest, and such programs of public occasions and other documents and contributions to current history of the city of Oakland as may be of use in forming the basis of a local history collection..."

This was the origin of the Oakland History Room, which today contains collections of books, magazines, pamphlets, newspaper clippings, photographs, postcards, pro-



Librarian Bill Sturm with 1890s block books and the OHR's vast clipping file. (Phil Bellman)

grams, trade catalogs--in short, anything of a printed nature which would tell about the life and times of the city's people.

The collection of local history was begun systematically by librarian Mabel Thomas in 1921. When the present main library opened in 1951, a California Room was established, with Josephine Rhodehamel in charge of the collection. Upon her resignation in 1953, Frances Buxton became librarian of the California Room, and served until her retirement in 1978. Since 1978, the Oakland History Room--it was formally renamed during the Ina Coolbrith birthday celebration in 1979--has been headed by William Sturm, a graduate of San Francisco State and the U.C. Library School, a native of Oakland with a life-long interest in the history of the city. He is assisted by Tom Gates, for many years a librarian at the Contra Costa main library and a specialist in Contra Costa and aviation history.

The Oakland History Room is used by a wide array of people: students, retired people, businessmen, journalists, school teachers, city officials, writers, and artists. In a real sense the patrons themselves are a major resource of the OHR, sharing their special knowledge and experience with the librarians and other researchers. A surveyor just happens to know the foremost authority on an obscure Oakland

architect whose childhood sketchbooks the library fortuitously acquired; a neighborhood resident recognizes the location of a baffling early photo; users of Sanborn maps exchange speculations on the interpretation of the water connection numbers.

Patrons have also enhanced the OHR's resources by helping with indexing--the Historic Houses vertical file and the newspaper index are notable volunteer efforts--and by being on the lookout for materials to add to the Room's collection, and spreading the word to potential donors. The library is always particularly eager to acquire additional volumes of Sanborn maps, real estate maps and brochures, and photos.

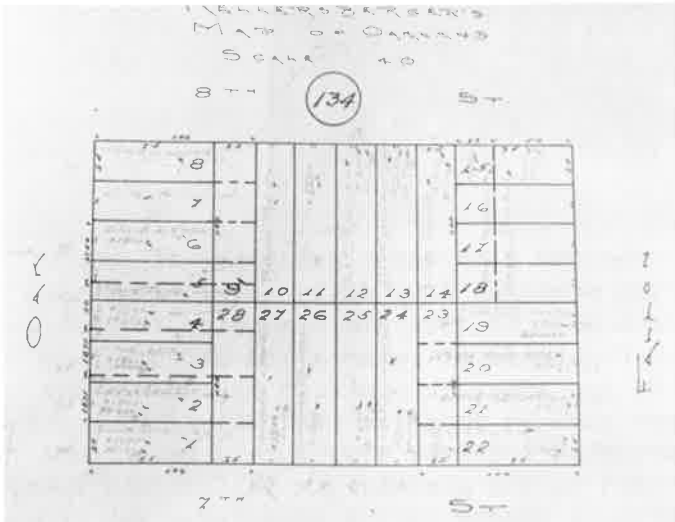
The Room responds to a wide assortment of needs and queries, and tries to answer all questions of all types concerning the history and development of Oakland. Probably the most frequent general-interest questions deal with Jack London, trains and streetcars, and whether Gertrude Stein really said there was no there there. The all-time strangest question may well have been "Who was the first plumber in Oakland?" Most researchers, however, are pursuing matters of individual interest: family biography, the ancestral neighborhood or company, or a vanished or existing home. This research usually begins along a systematic path through the OHR's basic source materials, the Sanborn maps, block books, and city directories.

A person probing facts on the house at 51 8th Street near Laney College, for example, would probably begin by looking at the Sanborn Fire Insurance maps of Oakland, held by the Room for 1882 to 1933 (later years are available at the Bancroft Library at the University of California). Each page of a Sanborn volume depicts an area of about six blocks. The maps depict the type of buildings on the blocks and indicate some structural information about them.

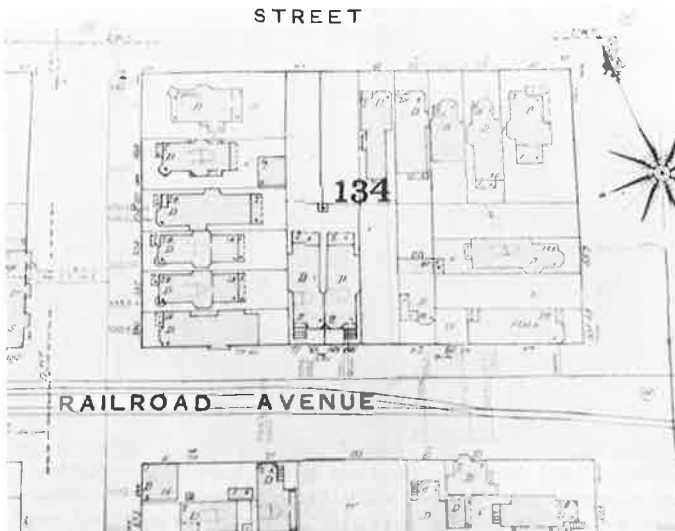
Our house at 51 8th Street is shown in volume one, 1889, as a two-story dwelling on the southeast corner of 8th and Fallon Streets. The house appears as a woodframe structure (yellow) with a large front porch (dotted line) extending around the side, with a one-story unit attached to the back of the house. (This early structural information is particularly useful if the house in question has been altered through the years.)



51 8th Street: house's history can be traced at Oakland History Room (Survey photo)



Block book (above) and Sanborn map (below) show 51 8th in the upper right corner. 1925 block book shows that it was then owned by Hazel Berg. 1901 Sanborn shows a 2 story Dwelling with 1-story open porch. (Phil Bellman)



Sanborn maps were updated periodically after their initial printings. The updates appear as "paste-overs" on the printed page and indicate a new structure or a significant alteration or change of use to an existing structure. The 1889 volume was updated through 1901, when a new base map was issued. The 8th and Fallon residence appears as a "paste-over" in the 1889 volume; hence we may assume the house was built after 1889 but before 1901.

The next step in our search will take us to the Oakland City Tax Assessment Block Books, which the Room has from 1877 to 1925. The block books contain maps showing each block of the city and ownership of property within the block. They record the amount the property owner is assessed for taxation that year. By comparing assessment figures on a given lot from one year to the next, one can determine when a building was built. A marked rise in the assessment or indication of "improvements" is a probable indication of construction activity.

In the case of 51 8th Street, the Sanborn map has told us that it was built after 1889. Beginning with the block book for 1890, we find that the lot at 8th and Fallon shows improvements in the amount of \$1500, and that the property is owned by Charles H. Lougee. The 1892 block book (1891 is missing) shows an increase of \$2000 in the assessment, suggesting that Mr. Lougee's house was partially completed by mid-1890 and finished by mid-1892.

For buildings dating prior to 1877, the first available year of the block books, there exist tax assessment rolls, which list the names of owners, with assessment information. These records, dating from 1856 to 1926, can be consulted by special arrangement at the Charles Greene Building (former main library) at 14th and Grove.

Step three in our house-hunting brings us to the Oakland City Directories, containing the names, addresses, and occupations of the adult (and employed or male or householding) inhabitants of the city. Published between 1869 and 1943 (with two more in 1967 and 1969), the directories can establish date and duration of residency for an owner whose name has been located in the block books. Charles Lougee is first listed at 51 8th Street in the directory published in January 1892, thus clearly establishing that his house was completed by the end of



The OHR's vast picture collection includes this turn of the century portrait of workers at California Cotton Mills. Many of these youthful employees probably lived in the adjoining Portuguese neighborhood of Jingtletown (North Kennedy Tract). Traces of the factory today are Cotton Street, and portions of the brick mill buildings along the Nimitz Free-way. The Room has many striking pictures of the faces of Oaklanders through the years. (OHR)

1891. His occupation is given as "wrecker," but earlier directories list him as a carpenter, so he may have built his own house.

Further checking of the directories reveals that Charles Lougee had moved to Grove Street by 1894, and later block books tell us that Albert Craig assumed ownership of the 8th Street property in 1893. By 1895 A.F. Baumgartner, secretary for the Oakland Preserving Company, was owner and resident.

Often, of course, owner and resident are not the same person, and these are harder to track. Reverse directories (arranged by street) apparently exist only from 1967 on. For 1900, 1910, and to some extent earlier (1890 records were burned, and addresses are sketchy before), residents' names can be found in the U.S. Census, available on microfilm at the Bancroft Library.

Additional information on owners and residents is available through the Oakland History Room's "Local History Index," a card file which indexes hundreds of books, newspapers, periodicals, and pamphlets in the Room's collection. This index will indicate if there is a picture of a certain house in a book, newspaper, or pamphlet, or a biography of the owner in one of the many biographical sources in the Room.

The OHR also has a newspaper clipping file covering four daily local newspapers from 1920 to 1978 and providing information on thousands of persons and buildings in the Bay Area. Information on individuals can also be found in the Oakland City Directories (1869 to 1943), telephone books (1921 to the present: in Periodicals Room), Alameda County Voting Registers, and indexes to the various Alameda and other county histories, including the Who's Who-type "mug books" which often contain portraits. The Room contains a collection of more



Specialized directories like these Mercantile Guides supplemented the Oakland city directories. Advertisements are evocative of the period. (Phil Bellman)



City directories (far left) track individuals and families through the years; local history card index (right) guides the patron to OHR's many arcane sources.

than 5000 historical photographs of Oakland, many of which depict individual houses or street scenes with buildings. These are classified by neighborhood, as well as by building type (e.g. Factories) and activity or event (e.g. Parades). In some cases the searcher may discover a photograph showing a house in its original state. Photographs and newspaper clippings on houses and commercial buildings are indexed as far as possible under the name of the original owner, which can be established through the block books. An extensive postcard collection supplements the photo file, depicting in color varied scenes from the city's past--downtown, Idora Park, streetcars, as well as occasional residential streets. Many picture albums, published from 1878 through the 1920s, provide additional graphic coverage of early Oakland.

More information on buildings may be found at Oakland City Hall's building permit department, which, since 1905, has maintained records on all structures built (or altered) within the city. The permit provides date of construction and, sometimes, the names of the original builder and architect. Photographs of Oakland houses can also be found at the Bancroft Library, the Oakland Museum History Department, and the California Historical Society in San Francisco.

Once having gleaned information about a house, the researcher will wish to know about the history and development of the area in which the house was built. The color-coded Sanborn maps graphically reveal the housing pattern of an area--the size of houses, the presence of apartments, businesses, and commercial structures. The Room

has newspaper and periodical files on most of the major neighborhoods, detailing the history of the area and some of the more prominent persons involved in the development of the district. Photographs are also filed by neighborhood name. It might be possible to see the neighborhood as Mr. Lougee saw it when he moved in in 1891.

Mr. Lougee's very handsome Queen Anne house has, in fact, been well documented by the Oakland Cultural Heritage Survey, a project of the Oakland City Planning Department, which has surveyed hundreds of architecturally and historically important structures and sites throughout the City. The Survey has made extensive use of the resources of the Oakland History Room to secure facts about dates, ownership, and uses of buildings. The information on the Lougee-Baumgartner residence (which is located in the Survey's 7th Street-Harrison Square historic district) is but one of hundreds of examples of such documentation. The 26 volumes of the Survey, covering the Central District, Adams Point, and representative neighborhood centers, are available for reference at the OHR.

The Oakland History Room, then, is an immense repository of information about the City's buildings. Its resources are unique, vital, and highly varied. The next time you ask "How old is that building?", come and pay us a visit.

--William Sturm

The Oakland History Room, 125 14th Street, second floor, is open Tuesday and Thursday noon to 8:30 pm, Wednesday and Friday 1 am to 5:30 pm, and Saturday 1 to 5:30 pm. Call 273-3222 for information.



Librarian Tom Gates, flanked by newspaper and obituary indexes, and the 27 volumes of the Survey (B. Marvin)



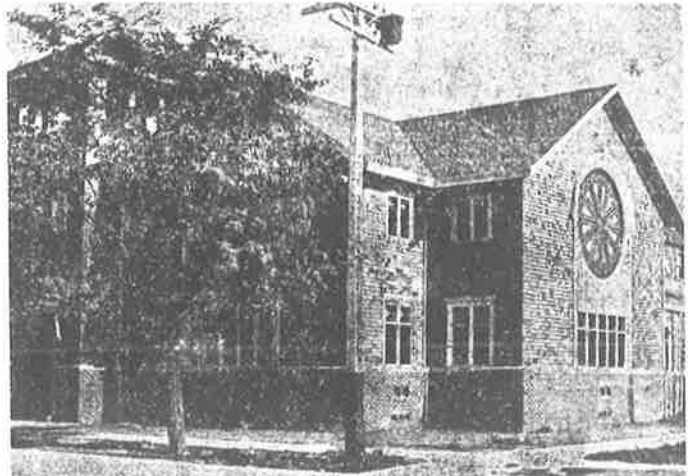
Black Studies in Oakland: The Early Years

The study of Black History in Oakland has a long tradition, decades before the civil rights and ethnic studies movements of the 60s that we now associate with the subject. Since Black History Month is approaching, it is appropriate to recognize the educators, historians, and citizens who have promoted research on Afro-American history in the East Bay over the years.

Oakland's Delilah Beasley was the first historian to write a book about Blacks in California. Published in 1919, her passionate and splendidly documented Negro Trail Blazers of California has remained a classic on the pioneer period of Black California, and is locally significant for its information on Blacks in early Oakland.

Miss Beasley left another legacy to Black history as well: from 1923 to 1934 she wrote a column for the Oakland Tribune that covered developments in the Black community on a local, state, and national level. These columns now provide a record of Oakland's Black community for the period.

Dr. Carter Woodson, historian and Dean of Liberal Arts at Howard University, contrib-



Beth Eden Baptist Church was an early sponsor of Black history programs and classes. (EBNHS)

uted greatly to the early development of Afro-American historiography. In 1915 Dr. Woodson founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History. In 1926 he inaugurated Negro History Week, designating the week in February when Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass were born. Soon Black communities throughout the nation began to observe this occasion.

The Black churches of Oakland have celebrated Negro History Week for over 50 years. Beth Eden Baptist Church, the oldest Black Baptist church in Alameda County, sponsored programs in the 1930s. From 1935 to 1940 the chairperson for Beth Eden's Negro History Week observance was Mrs. Marcella Ford. From 1940 a permanent Board of Christian Education organized the annual celebration.

Other Black Oaklanders were also active in Black history at this time. The Northern Federation of Colored Women's Clubs (see OHA News, Summer 1986) periodically met in Oakland, and as far back as the 1920s had speakers on various aspects of Black history. In the 1930s the congregations of Oakland's three major Black churches--Beth Eden Baptist, North Oakland Baptist, and First A.M.E. Church--would gather together to celebrate the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1st.

The first Black History classes were organized at about the same time that the churches began to celebrate Negro History Week. E. Harold Mason, a specialist in race relations and Black studies who had attended U.C. Berkeley and the Berkeley Divinity School, taught a class at the Beth Eden Church and also at the Linden Street branch



Delilah Beasley, portrayed on the frontispiece of her Negro Trail Blazers of the West (Oakland History Room)



of the Y.W.C.A. during the 1930s.

E. Harold Mason became an aggressive promoter of Black studies in the 1950s. In 1956 he chaired a group which became Oakland's first Black historical society, known as the Carter Woodson Historical Society. In Mason's own account: "Prompted by the late Mr. D.G. Gibson of Berkeley and E. Harold Mason, then residing in Alameda, both of whom had long been members of The Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, Inc., a local branch of that Association was established in the East Bay for the purpose of assisting its program for research, publication and dissemination of the African-American contribution to American History. When a sufficient number of persons had subscribed to membership in the parent organization headed by the eminent Historian, Dr. Carter G. Woodson, an organization was formed and designated The Carter G. Woodson Historical Society. E. Harold Mason was chosen as President, and Madison Harvey, Secretary, in the summer of 1956."

The Society had no permanent address, but for several months meetings were held at the Golden Gate Branch Library on San Pablo Avenue. The purpose of the Society was to preserve Black folklore, poetry, and music, conduct classes in Black history, and to establish a Black history museum.

Not all of Mason's plans were realized, largely because of his busy lecturing and traveling schedule. The Black history museum remained a dream for several years.

Although the fledgling organization attracted members, it lapsed into inactivity in the early 1960s when Mason moved to L.A.

On July 2, 1965, a concerned group gathered at the home of Marcella Ford to create a new Black historical society, which became the East Bay Negro Historical Society. Many of the founders, including E. Harold Mason, briefly back in the area, Marcella Ford, and Eugene Lasartemay, had been members of the Carter G. Woodson Society. From its inception the EBNHS emphasized California and local Black history, and now has a permanent home at the Golden Gate Branch Library (see OHA News, Summer 1986).

Black History classes became popular in the East Bay during the 1960s. From 1960 to 1962 classes in Black studies were taught at Beth Eden Baptist Church during the pastorate of Rev. A.C. Dones. Classes were held after school hours so young people from elementary through high school could attend. Many experienced church members volunteered as teachers, including Dr. Kathryn Favors, Mrs. Ann Dyas, Mrs. Georgia Edwards, and Mrs. Marcella Ford. Dr. Favors also served as Director of the Beth Eden School, and was later principal of Hillside School in Berkeley. Parents supported the program with enthusiasm and the school proved a success.

In 1962 the Berkeley Adult Evening School at Berkeley High School offered a course in Black history that was taught by Marcella Ford. A graduate of Shaw University (A.B.



Royal Towns, Oakland historian and treasurer of the EBNHS (Royal Towns)



Marcella Ford organized Negro History Week programs in the 1930s (M. Ford)



E. Harold Mason co-founded the Carter G. Woodson Historical Society (EBNHS)

Oakland Briefing . . .

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

■ STAFF PROPOSES NEW DEMOLITION ORDINANCE

The Oakland City Council Committee on Public Works and Capital Improvements, Land Use and Environmental Concerns, chaired by Mary Moore, is considering a proposed revision to the Building Demolition Ordinance. The revision, which has been in the works for a good part of the year, was presented to the committee in October, and action is expected to be taken on the proposal within the next few months.

The current ordinance, which was invoked in the recent Lake Merritt Hotel demolition application, provides that for residential structures only, any application for demolition must be posted near the property and issuance of the permit can be delayed 60 days upon receipt of a petition containing 20 signatures. The ordinance does not require a hearing of any kind, and the permit is automatically issued at the expiration of the 60 day period.

The new draft ordinance covers all types of buildings, including commercial structures, and provides that all permit applications be posted for thirty days prior to issuance of the permit. The most controversial part of the proposal is the requirement that an owner obtain a building permit for the replacement structure before a demolition permit will be issued. If there are no immediate plans to rebuild, the owner may still obtain a demolition permit but is restricted from building for 24 months after demolition. The draft also increases the penalties for violating the ordinance, and prohibits demolition of low and moderate income housing.

Of interest to the preservation community are changes which would protect historically and architecturally significant properties by requiring a major conditional use permit for demolition. One question still to be answered is what criteria will be used for the determination of architectural or historical significance. As the draft presently reads, the Director of City Planning would make the determination on a

building by building basis. However at the November meeting of the Committee, Planning Director Alvin James indicated that the probable criteria would be City Landmark status for historically significant buildings, and the Cultural Heritage Survey's criteria for evaluating architecturally significant structures.

Objections to the ordinance have come largely from real estate interests and the Chamber of Commerce, and center of the concurrent building permit requirement, and the application of the ordinance to residential and commercial structures alike. Community groups have generally supported the draft, with the suggestion that penalties be increased further, and that violation of the ordinance be considered a misdemeanor. Staff is continuing to revise the draft, and it will be presented to the committee again within the next few months. OHA has made supportive comment on the proposal, and will follow its progress through the committee.

--Carolyn Douthat

■ FOX OAKLAND IN RECEIVERSHIP

After a two-month investigation by the State Department of Corporations, a complaint has been filed against Marlin Industries, and its properties, including the Fox Oakland Theater and the Pacific Gas & Electric building at 1625 Clay Street, placed in receivership.

The effect of the receivership is to forestall repossession by the former owners of the properties, and allow time for the court appointed receiver to operate the business and protect the investments of those who purchased securities from Marlin.

According to the Tribune of December 3, the company is accused of fraudulently selling \$46 million in real estate securities, and of misrepresenting or omitting information about 22 properties around the United States.

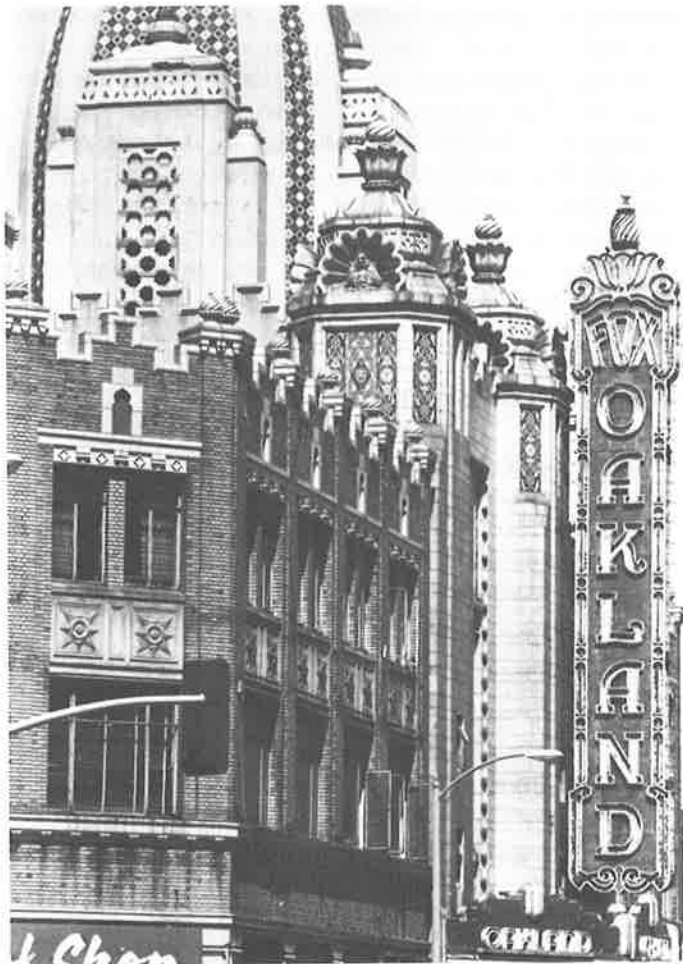
Marlin has been involved with the Fox Oakland since early 1985 when it formalized negotiations to purchase the building and lease the theater portion to Alan Michaan, whose Renaissance Rialto Theatres operates the highly successful Grand Lake complex (See OHA News, Summer 1985). According to Michaan, his lease and financing arrangements with Marlin have been repeatedly

delayed, moving his projected opening date ever further from the original date of April 1985. So far work has not begun on the Fox, although Michaan did obtain approval of a loan from the City to assist in his rehabilitation of the theater.

Work on the PG&E building appears to be continuing as the Clay Street facade was being cleaned in early December.

Marlin Industries has made something of a speciality of rehab projects, and both of the Oakland buildings were originally syndicated as Tax Act projects.

--Carolyn Douthat



Fox Oakland: harrowing serial continues. (Phil Bellman)

■ LAKE MERRITT HOTEL

When we last left our story (See OHA News Fall, 1986), issuance of a demolition permit for the Lake Merritt Hotel at 1800 Madison had been stayed for 60 days upon petition by neighbors and residents. That stay was to have expired in mid November. Besides its lakeside setting and its Spanish Colonial architecture by William Weeks,

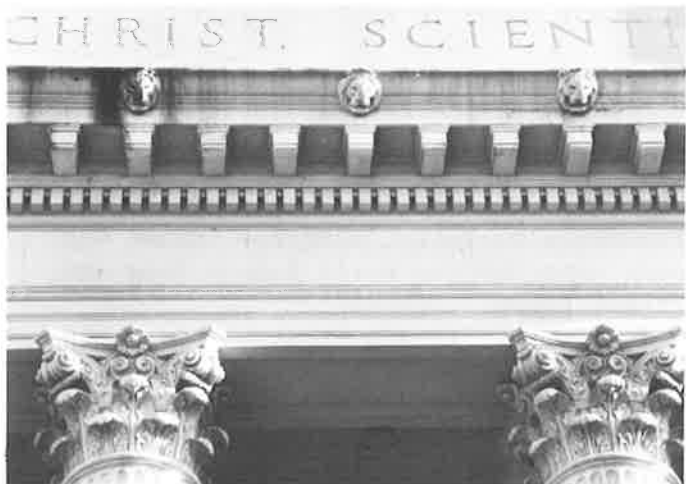
the hotel is significant to many as "the" place for proposals of marriage, weddings, and other sentimental events. In October, OHA requested that the Landmarks Board consider the merits of the hotel as a landmark before expiration of the 60 day delay. However, after conversations with Dick Neault, one of the owners of the hotel, it appeared that the application for demolition was a condition of a sale which had since fallen through, and that the owners had no intention of demolishing the building at this time. On the basis of the withdrawal of the demolition application, OHA withdrew its landmark nomination at the October meeting of the Landmarks Board, intending to present it later in fuller form. Concern among the Board members about the future of the hotel, however, led them to vote to prepare a landmark resolution for consideration at their November meeting.

Between the October and November meetings three Landmark Board members who had been serving expired terms were replaced by Mayor Wilson, and confirmed by City Council the night before the November meeting of the Board. At the November meeting only two of the members who had voted on the resolution were present, Mitch Hardin and Gordon Henderson. They and the newly appointed members confined discussion of the resolution to the fact that the owners had not expressed a desire for landmark status, and tabled the resolution until procedures for landmark designation could be adopted by the Board.

Later in the meeting the Board heard from Dr. Tim Hood, one of the owners of the Lake Merritt Hotel. While Dr. Hood did not adamantly oppose landmarking the building, the general sense of his remarks was that the owners would not support it unless and until they had decided to retain and rehabilitate the structure. Possibilities for the future of the building, or the site, include a convalescent facility to serve residents of the adjacent Lake Point Towers development.

As it now stands, the Board has tabled further consideration of the landmark resolution, and is concentrating its efforts on developing policies and procedures for orderly consideration of landmark nominations, including the form which public testimony will take.

--Carolyn Douthat



Facade detail of Fourth Church of Christ, Scientist, 1330 Lakeshore Avenue: public can comment during EIR process. (Phil Bellman)

■ 1330 LAKESHORE EIR

The Environmental Impact Report on the proposed Lake Merritt United Methodist Church is currently being prepared by Environmental Science Associates of San Francisco. The report is expected to be presented in administrative draft form to the City Planning Department sometime in late December. ESA has hired Page, Anderson, Turnbull as sub-consultants on the historic preservation section of the report which will assess the impact of demolishing the existing Fourth Church of Christ, Scientist (See OHA News Fall, 1986). Once the administrative draft is reviewed by the city, a public draft will be issued for comment during a 45 day public review period.

--Carolyn Douthat

■ HOW WIDE THE WATERFRONT

At the request of the Port of Oakland, the City Council on its November 17 voted to enlarge the area under Port control around Jack London Square. The area, roughly bounded by Embarcadero, Clay, Second and Webster, contains a number of significant buildings, among them the Overland House at Broadway and Embarcadero, and the Produce Market complex near Second and Franklin.

The expansion of the Port area comes out of several studies aimed at coordinated planning for the area between the Embarcadero and the Nimitz Freeway. One of these studies recommended inclusion of the newly

acquired area in the Port's planning process to insure continuity of development with the major redevelopment of Jack London Square which is currently underway.

Development in the areas controlled by the Port comes under the Port's Planning Department and is not subject to City zoning or planning regulations, including landmark and historic district provisions. However, the expansion resolution did contain conditions which require that future development conform to the City's Central District Urban Renewal Plan and that plans for a mid-block pedestrian bridge crossing Embarcadero between Clay and Washington be subject to review by the City Planning Department. Another recommendation in the study, also included in the resolution, provides for continued joint planning by the Port and the City for the future of the area between the Embarcadero and the Nimitz, focusing on the Broadway corridor and including the Produce Market. The intent is to link Port improvements in the Jack London Square area and the City-initiated efforts downtown.

--Carolyn Douthat



How will Oakland's unique Produce Market (Charles McCall, 1916-18) fit into the Port's plans for Jack London Square? (Phil Bellman)



Jubilee West hopes to restore the c.1877 Western Market Building at 8th and Chester. (Phil Bellman)

■ SAVE THE WESTERN MARKET BUILDING

Jubilee West, a community-based nonprofit organization working to bring about change in the West of Cypress, is seeking state preservation funds and private contributions to return the Western Market Building to use as a vital focus for the neighborhood. For 109 years the building has been a landmark in the area. You spot its distinctive turrets as you travel by on BART, or walk or drive down 8th Street. One of the city's oldest commercial structures, it is a prime example of mid-Victorian Italianate architecture. Over the years it has served its neighborhood as a retail market, lodge hall, church, and home to Father Divine's Depression-era Peace Mission.

But years of neglect and vandalism have taken their toll. The City has cited the building as unsafe and it faces demolition unless Jubilee West can raise the estimated half million dollars needed for restoration. JW hopes to rehabilitate the building into a community center and offices for its housing, employment, and outreach programs. The exterior will be restored to its former splendor as a symbol of regeneration in Oakland's oldest neighborhood.

For more information about the Western Market Building project, call Jubilee West at 839-6776. Contributions can be sent to Jubilee West, 1448 10th St., Oakland 94607.

Talbot House in Knowland Park: restoration by CCC and Oakland Zoo (Oakland Zoological Society) ▶

■ TALBOT HOUSE IN KNOWLAND PARK

The East Bay Zoological Society recently completed structural renovation of the Talbot House in Oakland's Knowland Park. This two-story five-room Victorian home is the only remaining structure of the 1890s Frederick C. Talbot estate. Talbot was part owner of the world famous Pope and Talbot Lumber Company.

The Society is now locating resources and funding to complete interior rehabilitation of the house. When finished, the building will serve as an interpretive center for public education, with three rotating displays on the Talbot family history, the Snow family and Oakland Zoo history, and California wildlife. The three upstairs rooms will serve as office space and there will be a functional kitchen downstairs.

The exterior renovation was done by the California Conservation Corps through a grant from Chevron USA, Inc. and Standard Oil of Ohio. The project provided unskilled Corps members with an opportunity to learn building trade skills. The Alameda County Building Trades Council and Peralta College have also participated in the project.

The Zoological Society, through the City of Oakland, has applied for a 1986 Historic Preservation Grant to help fund the project and is approaching various professional and community organizations for support. Those interested in learning more about the Talbot House can contact Martha Smith at the Oakland Zoo, 632-9525.



City Landmarks Board Actions

The **Oakland Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board** meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 3:30pm in Room 211, City Hall. Meetings are open to the public. Designation of city landmarks is recommended by the Board to the City Planning Commission and City Council. Landmarks are subject to a 240-day delay in issuance of demolition permits and require design review by City Planning staff for exterior alterations. Final approval or denial of alterations is determined by the Board. Over one hundred landmarks have been designated in the 12 years since the Board was created.

The following letter was sent to Mayor Wilson by the former chair of the Landmarks Board, David Hoard, upon the occasion of his departure from the Board.

November 7, 1986

Dear Mayor Wilson,

I want to express my appreciation for being able to serve on the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board. It was an enjoyable experience working with Board members and staff concerned about the quality of life in Oakland.

After serving on the Board I am even more convinced that an appreciation for the historic and architecturally significant structures and neighborhoods will contribute to Oakland's economic development. Other cities have capitalized on properties and neighborhoods that retained their essential charm.

Oakland, rich in its ethnic diversity, needs to emphasize a rich physical/economic diversity by demanding of its developers a high standard of excellence in both preservation and new construction. Buildings can last for a long time, and in their lifetime can strongly influence, i.e. blight or benefit, their immediate neighborhood.

I am a strong Oakland advocate and I believe we Oaklanders have a duty to require developers and property owners to respect their role in creating a better Oakland.

Again, my thanks and my best wishes.

Sincerely yours, David Hoard

CHANGES IN LANDMARKS BOARD MEMBERSHIP

The Landmarks Board consists of seven members, appointed by the Mayor and approved by the City Council. The Landmark Ordinance calls for inclusion of an architect, a landscape architect or planner, a historian, and a realtor on the Board. Each member is appointed for two years and may be reappointed. Three of the seven members (whose terms had expired but were still serving) were replaced soon after the October meeting. The result was an almost entirely new Board at the November meeting. To familiarize OHA members with the Board, following are brief resumes of all members who participated in the meetings covered by this issue.

Outgoing Board Members:

David Hoard was chair at the time of his replacement. A native of Ithaca, N.Y., he worked in Philadelphia before moving to Oakland where he became Director of the Office of Community Development. He then entered the private sector as a realtor, and is now a broker and residential manager with the Lapham Company.

Chris Pattillo is a landscape architect and chair of Oakland Design Advocates. A native of Castro Valley, she attended U.C. Berkeley, moved to Oakland, and became active in the Temescal Neighborhood Association. One of the Board's strongest advocates, she often appeared at Planning Commission and Council meetings.

Sister Ethel Mary Tinnemann is a historian and professor at Holy Names College, where she teaches California as well as modern European history. A member of the Board since 1980, she served two years as chair and conducted much of the Board's research. Born in Oakland, she has lived here all her life except for a brief period teaching in Southern California.

Continuing Members

Mitch Hardin is Executive Vice-President of the City Center Development Co. He was appointed to the Board in 1985. A native of Los Angeles, he worked with development companies there before moving to this area seventeen years ago when he became associated with Grubb & Ellis.

Gordon Henderson, appointed in mid-1986, is Manager of Crocker-Henderson-Mooney Insurance Agency. A native of Texas and 30-



360 Bellevue, Lake Merritt Hotel: nominations shelved pending clarification of Board's criteria & procedures(P.Bellman)

year resident of the Bay Area, he is a strong advocate of owner participation in the landmark process.

Peter Scott is an architect with The Ratcliff Architects. Born in Berkeley, he was educated at Stanford and has lived all his life in the East Bay. He was appointed in 1981 and is currently serving an expired term.

Jean Spees, chair, has served since 1980 and was recently reappointed. She is director of a parent participation preschool. She and her husband, city councilor Dick Spees, are from the Portland area but have lived in Oakland since 1959. She is active with the Oakland Museum, Oakland Tours, and National Educational Film Festival.

Incoming Members

Bert Bertolero is well known to most Oaklanders as "The Dirt Gardener." In addi-

tion to operating the nine Navlet's Nurseries, he has a regular newspaper column and radio program. He fills the local historian's spot on the Board.

Celso Ortiz is a realtor, planner, and architect. When asked which he is working at today, he replied "all." His principal real estate activity has been with housing development and neighborhood preservation. A native of Texas, he was educated at U.C. Berkeley.

Tim Weldon is a planner (replacing the Board's landscape architect). Educated at Cornell University, he was a Congressional aide and later worked with HUD. He came west to HUD's San Francisco office, and later moved to Oakland where he works as a private consultant on land use projects.

Future changes on the Board will be reported by OHA News as they occur.

OCTOBER

Voted for removal of landmark status from the demolished Central Block, 1102-28 East 12th Street, with the understanding that the site would still be subject to design review as part of the S-7 Preservation Combining Zone designation covering this block of historic downtown Brooklyn.

After testimony from concerned neighbors, the Board voted to prepare a resolution for landmark designation of the Lake Merritt Hotel, 1800 Madison Street (William Weeks, 1927). Members were divided on whether they could take this step at their first consideration of a building, or whether established practice was to notify the owner the month before initiating the resolution.

Representatives of the Lake Merritt United Methodist Church (which formerly occupied the First Methodist Church, burned and demolished in 1981) reported on their plans to build a new church on the site of the former Fourth Church of Christ, Scientist (1330 Lakeshore Avenue; Carl Werner, 1922), a building recently added to the Study List by the Planning Director. Board decided to await the EIR process and further information before taking a position on the building.

Secretary Chris Buckley reported on a meeting with the First Presbyterian Church's governing board, to discuss possible landmarking of the church at 2619 Broadway. "While they admire the program," the church decided not to pursue designation, fearing it would tie their hands in future maintenance or use of the building.

Buckley reported on preparation of a Preservation Element background paper on the value of preservation, and on a National Trust workshop on historic districts which offered advice on design guidelines, publicity, and cultivating good relations with city officials.

NOVEMBER

Three new board members were introduced: Bert Bertolero, Celso Ortiz, and Tim Weldon (see above). Board reviewed and approved a sign, flagpoles, and awning for the Washington Inn (Hotel Ray) at 495 10th Street.

Staff reported on Notice of Preparation of an EIR on the Lake Merritt United Methodist Church project; board voted not to consider landmark designation of the former Fourth Church of Christ, Scientist, at

this time. Board decided to defer consideration of the Lake Merritt Hotel (see Oct.) pending a review of landmark nomination procedures. Committee of Henderson, Ortiz, and Weldon agreed to meet with Buckley to prepare an agenda for a special meeting on rules and procedures to be held December 3, 7 a.m., at the Oakland Athletic Club.

Board received a report from former chair David Hoard on possible loan programs for rehabilitation of historic properties, and Buckley reported on revisions to the demolition ordinance (see Briefing).

SPECIAL MEETING

Board began discussion of an agenda of issues including landmark nomination procedures (criteria, notification of owners, required site visits) and public hearing procedures (time limits, identification of speakers, tape recording of meetings). Staff had collected procedures from other Oakland bodies (Planning Commission, City Council) and landmarks ordinances from other cities, which committee would study for consideration at future Board meetings. Board discussed seeking a statement of policy from the Mayor's office and other policy-making bodies--"what kind of city we want" and how landmarking fits into it, and how far Oakland in particular is willing to exercise its police power to that end.

DECEMBER

Board had requests from Alameda County Parks, Recreation & Historical Commission to consider 360 Bellevue (J.Cather Newsom, 1908) for landmark status, and from the Planning Commission to reconsider the nomination of the Overland House (101-5 Broadway) in view of recent alterations. Board decided to defer both items (and other new business, except for emergencies) till they had completed their work on procedures and criteria; they also noted that they had not received their packets in time to inspect the buildings. Board scheduled two meetings on procedures in early January, and decided to revive the practice of submitting annual reports to the City Council et al., as an opportunity to increase the Board's visibility and political effectiveness. They also discussed the need for a brochure or landmarks list available to Oakland residents and visitors.

--Kathy Olson & Betty Marvin

OHA Update

■ ANNUAL MEETING, OCTOBER 30

The OHA Annual Meeting for 1986 took place on Thursday, October 30 at the Lake Merritt Hotel. About 100 members were present to hear president Les Hausrath's state-of-the-Alliance address. Among highlights of the past year, Les announced signing of the lease for office space in the Camron-Stanford House.

Not all of the news was good, however. Les also pointed out that the Oakland Ironworks had recently been demolished without so much as a by-your-leave, despite its landmark status--an example of dismal lack of government support for preservation. We are all urged to convey our concern to the Landmarks Board and Planning Department.

Gary Knecht, coordinator of the Oakland Cultural Heritage Survey, announced that his office is this year without State funds which are sorely needed for the West Oakland Survey. Upon passing the hat, he collected \$220, which was matched by Dean Yabuki and an anonymous donor, bringing the total to \$440. Needless to say, much more is needed: send your donations to OHA Survey Fund, 5569 Lawton Ave., Oakland 94618.

Bill Sturm of the Library's Oakland History Room presented his much acclaimed lecture and slide show on the planning and building of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge. November marked the 50th anniversary of completion of the bridge. Many thanks to Bill for a most interesting and informative presentation.

OHA also thanks the management and staff of the Lake Merritt Hotel for their facilities and assistance, and the chance to visit this historic building. --Earl Barron

■ OFFICE AT CAMRON-STANFORD HOUSE

In late November OHA moved its archives and furniture (relics of last time we had an office, for the 1982 Preservation Conference) into the north front parlor of the Camron-Stanford house. There is also a phone, attended by an answering machine: 763-9218. The next step is a part-time office manager/administrative assistant to attend the phone and the paperwork. Job announcements have been sent to OHA's regular mailing list. For more information or

to submit resumes, contact V.P. Annalee Allen, 5592 Lawton Av. 94618; 654-6791.



Camron-Stanford House: OHA calls it home and workplace.
(Phil Bellman)

■ PERALTA HACIENDA OPEN HOUSE

120 people attended the Peralta Hacienda Open House on Sunday Oct. 12, an event cosponsored by OHA and the Friends of the Peralta Hacienda. \$922 was raised, funds that will be used to further efforts to create an Early California History Center. City councilor Dick Spees spoke informally to the group, urging cooperation among the various historic houses in Oakland. Several Peralta family descendants joined in the festivities. The Reception Committee would like to acknowledge the following for their support and assistance: McKesson Corp. for wine, Patten College String Quartet, Merit Charles Philips Flowers in Oakland, Mary Ann Leshin and Naomi Schiff for invitation design, Rich Seyfarth for displaying his renderings and architectural models, and the many community volunteers who provided refreshments and cleaned up the park and nearby lots. Claudia Albano, committee chair and longtime Hacienda supporter, put a great deal of time and effort toward making the event a success.

To show its support for neighborhood projects such as this, OHA has given its share of the proceeds to the Friends and wishes them well in their efforts to develop this historic site. --Annalee Allen



■ CHANGES ON OHA BOARD FOR 1986-87

Lynn Fonfa, Randolph Langenbach, and Frederick Mitchell have joined the OHA board of directors this fall for two year terms, while longtime directors Laura Niebling and Carolyn Douthat are retiring.

Lynn Fonfa has been a member of OHA for 4 years. She has a background in history and fundraising and plans to lend her expertise as Director of Development. Randolph Langenbach is Assistant Professor of Architecture at U.C. Berkeley, and his specialty is architectural conservation. Before coming to California he did a documentary study of New England mill towns. He has been advisor to the Pardee House Foundation. Fred Mitchell worked at Storek & Storek for several years and is now associated with Tepping Realty in Berkeley. His background includes book publishing and graphic arts and he plans to advise on the Broadway Book.

Outgoing director Carolyn Douthat is a charter member of OHA. She was on the Cultural Heritage Survey Steering Committee, whose members first envisioned the idea of a preservation group for Oakland. She came on the board in OHA's second year and has served continuously since, as secretary, VP, and on the Preservation Action and Nominating committees and editorial board of the News. She also organized the Brooklyn neighborhood walking tour. She plans to stay active in Preservation Action and on the Broadway Book. When asked how she feels OHA has grown, Carolyn says it has filled the void in Oakland where local history is concerned, and has come to be recognized as a responsible voice for urban preservation.

Laura Niebling is a founding director of OHA, and served as treasurer 1983-86. Another original participant in the Survey, she was its coordinator in 1981-82, and assistant coordinator 1980-81. She continues to promote the dissemination of Survey materials through the Broadway Book, of which she was a leading instigator. Her husband Brad is also a former OHA director; the Nieblings were instrumental in getting the US Leasing grant for OHA's computer.

Laura's and Carolyn's contributions to the organization have been great, and we're glad they plan to continue giving their time and knowledge. --Annalee Allen

■ STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSES, July 1, 1985 - June 30, 1986

<u>Income</u>	
Dues	\$ 5,505.00
Donations (mostly Cohen House)	16,444.05
Investment Income	1,344.69
Programs/Education	12,983.75
Miscellaneous	12.65
	<u>\$36,290.14</u>
<u>Expenses</u>	
Program services:	
News	\$4,489.66
Programs/Education	7,510.29
Development/Membership	310.49
Preservation Action	27.86
Landmarks Assistance (Cohen House)	8,429.07
Public Information	----
Administrative	4,289.20
General	1,346.00
	<u>\$26,402.57</u>
Income less Expenses	\$ 9,887.57
Balance as of 6/30/86	\$25,752.18

Cohen House donations and expenses reflect completion of the latest phase of OHA's sponsorship of that building, with a truly magnificent paintjob by Greg Urban.



Cohen House, before. Drive by 1440 29th Avenue and see the stunning new paintjob! (Phil Bellman)

■ PROGRAMS--see Calendar, next page.



OHA Calendar

The OHA Calendar lists events, activities, and meetings related to history and preservation that may be of interest to OHA members. To submit items for listings, contact Oakland Heritage Alliance.

O.H.A.



EVENTS

The Program Committee is now planning OHA's activities for 1987. Tentative ideas for our approximately quarterly programs include winter lecture(s) on building rehabilitation or neighborhood history; spring/summer outings being considered are field trips to the Western Railway Museum at Rio Vista or the Black Diamond Mines, or an update on Preservation Park; and for the October annual meeting, we dare to wonder whether there exists another ethnic/historic banquet opportunity like the Fratellanza Club where we met in 1983.

What are your ideas, favorite places, buildings you'd like to know more about or get inside of? Or do you have access to a free or inexpensive location for occasional informal lectures--conference room, church or school hall, or large living room? Program Committee welcomes your suggestions, opinions, or active participation; contact chair Deborah Shefler, 465-2660.

Upcoming Activities

Jan.-March, Jack London exhibit, Oakland History Room, Main Library, 125 14th St.; Tu. & Th. 12-8:30, Wed. & Fri. 10-5:30, Sat. 1-5:30; free.

Jan. 14, Wed., first session of "Architectural Heritage of the East Bay" taught by Mark Wilson; Piedmont Adult School, Wed.s 7-9:30 pm, Piedmont High School; \$35/\$30 Pied. res.; 420-3655.

Jan. 14-Feb. 28, "Treasures of the Region 1876-1946: Found Architectural Records of a Special Place," exhibit based on CalCOPAR architectural records survey, cosponsored by AIA/SF & Arch'l Found'n of N.Cal. AIA/SF Gallery, 790 Market St.; 665-1216.

Jan. 21, Wed., "Bay Bridge 50th Anniversary History," slide lecture by Bill Sturm; Art Deco Society of Calif.; SFJCC, 3200 California St., S.F., 7:30 pm, \$3 members, \$5 general; 552-DECO.

Jan. 28, Wed., first session of "California History" (Hist.040), Vista College course by Charles Wollenberg; Wed.s 1-4 pm, Oak.Museum; 841-8431.

Feb. 2, Mon., first session of "California History" (Hist040), Laney College course by Tom Wolf; Mon.s 6-9 pm, Laney; 834-5740.

February, Black History Month exhibit, "History of Railroad Transportation & Pullman Porters in Oakland, Main Library Hist. & Lit. Dept., free.

Feb. 7-8, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5, S.F. Postcard Sale, Sheraton Airport Hotel (S of SF Airport on 101, take Broadway exit), \$3.50.

Feb. 10-March 10 Tues. eve.s, March 14-28 Sun. aft.s, "Art Deco 1925-1940," course of lectures & walking tours by Michael Crowe, UC Extension, 55 Laguna, S.F.; \$110; 642-8840.

Feb. 15, Sun., Black History program featuring Morrie Turner, East Bay Negro Historical Society, 5606 San Pablo Av., 2 pm(?); 658-3158.

mid-February, "Japanese-American Family Album Project," exhibit opening at Lowie Museum of Anthropology, U.C. Berkeley; MTThF 10-4:30, SS 12-4:30, \$2/free on Thur.; 642-3681 for dates & inf. on workshops.

March 12, Thur., "The Work of Robert Adam & Its 19th C. Revival," lecture by Geoffrey Beard, 7:30 pm, Asian Art Museum, Golden Gate Park, SF; benefit Attingham Summer School; 750-3622.

week of April 20, Society of Architectural Historians national conference in SF, details TBA.

April 26, Sun. (tentative), Berkeley Architectural Heritage Assn. house tour, Julia Morgan; 841-2242.

Regularly Scheduled Tours

Dunsmuir House. Tours every Sunday, spring through fall; \$3; 2960 Peralta Oaks Court, Oakland; 562-7588.

San Francisco's Historic North Waterfront. S.F. Heritage walking tour, Sat.s at 10:30 AM; cable car turntable, Hyde & Beach; \$3, under 12 free, 441-3000.

Black Diamond Mines, underground mining museum, Sat. & Sun. 10, 11, 1:30, 2:30; reservations required, 757-2620; \$2+\$1.50 parking. Somersville Road, Antioch.

Ardenwood Historic Farm, park open Thurs.-Sun. 10-4, house tours hourly Sat. & Sun./variable Thurs. & Fri., fee \$3-\$1 dep. on age & day; Ardenwood Blvd. or Lake Blvd., Newark; 796-0663; open March-Nov.

Oakland Tours Program. Old Oakland, City Center, Chinatown, Uptown, Pres.Park, Port. April-Oct., free, 273-3234.

Camron-Stanford House. Wed. & Sun., free, 836-1976.

Paramount Theater. 1st & 3rd Sat., 10 AM, \$1, 893-2300.

Regularly Scheduled Meetings

Oakland Heritage Alliance. OHA Board of Directors meets on the first Monday of the month, 7:30 pm. For agenda and location, please contact Les Haurath, 834-5652.

OHA Preservation Action Committee: contact Carolyn Douthat, 763-5370, for time, place, and agenda. Meetings are open to all interested persons.

OHA Publications Committee, working on a guidebook/history called The Broadway Book, meets usually on Tuesday evenings--call Ed Phillips, 465-9829.

Oakland Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board. The board usually meets on the 3rd Wednesday of the month, 3:30pm, City Hall, Room 221, Washington & 14th Sts, Oakland. For agenda and dates, contact Oakland City Planning Department, 273-3941.

Oakland City Planning Commission. The commission usually meets every other Wednesday, 3:30pm, City Hall, Room 115, Washington & 14th Sts, Oakland. For agenda and dates, 273-3941.

Oakland City Council. The council meets every Tuesday evening, 7:30pm, City Hall, Council Chambers, Washington & 14th Sts, Oakland. For agenda and dates, contact Oakland City Clerk, 273-3611.

Oakland Design Advocates. ODA meets on the 2nd Wednesday morning of the month, 7:30am, Lake Merritt Coffee Shop (formerly Tom Lovely's Restaurant), 336 Grand Avenue, Oakland. For agenda and dates, contact ODA, 893-6834.



Oakland Heritage Alliance

5569 Lawton Avenue, Oakland, CA 94618

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

OFFICERS 1986-7

President.....Les Hausrath
Vice President.....Annalee Allen
Financial Officer.....William McLetchie
Secretary.....Edward Phillips

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Oakland Heritage Alliance News

644 Longridge Road, Oakland, CA 94610

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Carolyn Douthat, Dean Yabuki

CONTRIBUTORS

Annalee Allen, Earl Barron, Phil Bellman, Carolyn Douthat, Leslie Flint, Donald Hausler, Betty Marvin, Laura Niebling, Kathy Olson, William Sturm

New OHA Members

The officers and Board of Directors of Oakland Heritage Alliance wish to 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 (September-December 1986) are as follows:

Adams Point Preservation Association, Nancy Bardach, Carroll Brentano, Adeline Brohm, Joy Bryden, Don Colton, Kevin Corbett, Ruth Ann Crawford, Donna Dineen, Jeffrey Eichenfield, Toni Ellis, Gertrude Hudson, Dixie Hunt, Richard Hunter, Florabelle James, Terry Kulka, Marjorie Kaiser Lessard, Douglas Scott MacDonald, Brian Marki, Mary Ellen Maton, David McKay, F.C. & M.K. Mitchell, John Mortenson, Marianne & Eugene Newman, OCCUR, Kathryn Page, Barbara & Daniel Roos, Victor Rosen, David Rust, Mary Anne Taylor, Terry Toomey, John Vallergera, Cecelia Witty, Anne & Gordon Wright.

OHA NEWS welcomes contributions--research projects large or small, historic photos, reports on preservation issues or events, what have you. Contact Betty Marvin, 849-1959, or Dean Yabuki, 832-5355.

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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



Oakland History Notes

The Oakland Mole

When, in the spring of 1960, the last Southern Pacific train rolled out to the Oakland Mole at the foot of 7th Street, F.P. Smith, conductor on the S.P. for 44 years, remarked, "This used to be quite a place. Used to come here as a kid, ride the train in, then take the ferry over to San Francisco. Lots of trains and lots of people then....Quite a place, once."

Originally known as the Oakland Long Wharf, the Mole was located at the western terminus of the transcontinental railroad, completed in 1869. As the number of passengers increased and the demand for ferryboat service multiplied, the Oakland Mole began construction in 1879 with the aid of more than 700 Chinese workers. Extending 1.26 miles from the shore, encompassing 6 railroad tracks and eventually providing slips for auto and passenger ferries, the Mole was touted as one of the largest undertakings of its kind when completed in 1882.

Harper's Weekly, in the year of the Mole's opening, observed, "One hundred and sixteen trains pass in and out of the depot daily. But the magnitude of the ferry service between Oakland and San Francisco will be better understood when it is said that on Sundays and other holidays from 25,000 to 30,000 persons pass to and fro across the bay."

In 1911 Southern Pacific inaugurated its interurban electrified streetcar service, providing competition to the Key Route interurban trains begun in 1903. Known



affectionately as the "Big Red Cars," the trains rumbled out to the Oakland Mole and connected passengers to the San Francisco-bound S.P. ferryboats. In the peak year of service, 1930, these ferries carried six million automobiles and 40 million people to the city across the bay.

Upon completion of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge in 1936, ferryboat service declined. In 1939 train service began on the lower deck of the bridge and the Red Trains abandoned the Oakland Mole. The last ferry ran from the Mole on July 31, 1958, ending 76 years of service to millions of passengers.

In September 1965 the Oakland Mole structures were demolished to provide space for a Port of Oakland container depot. A link with the railroad past remains, however: today, the trans-bay BART tube begins on the site of the Oakland Mole.

--William W. Sturm

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