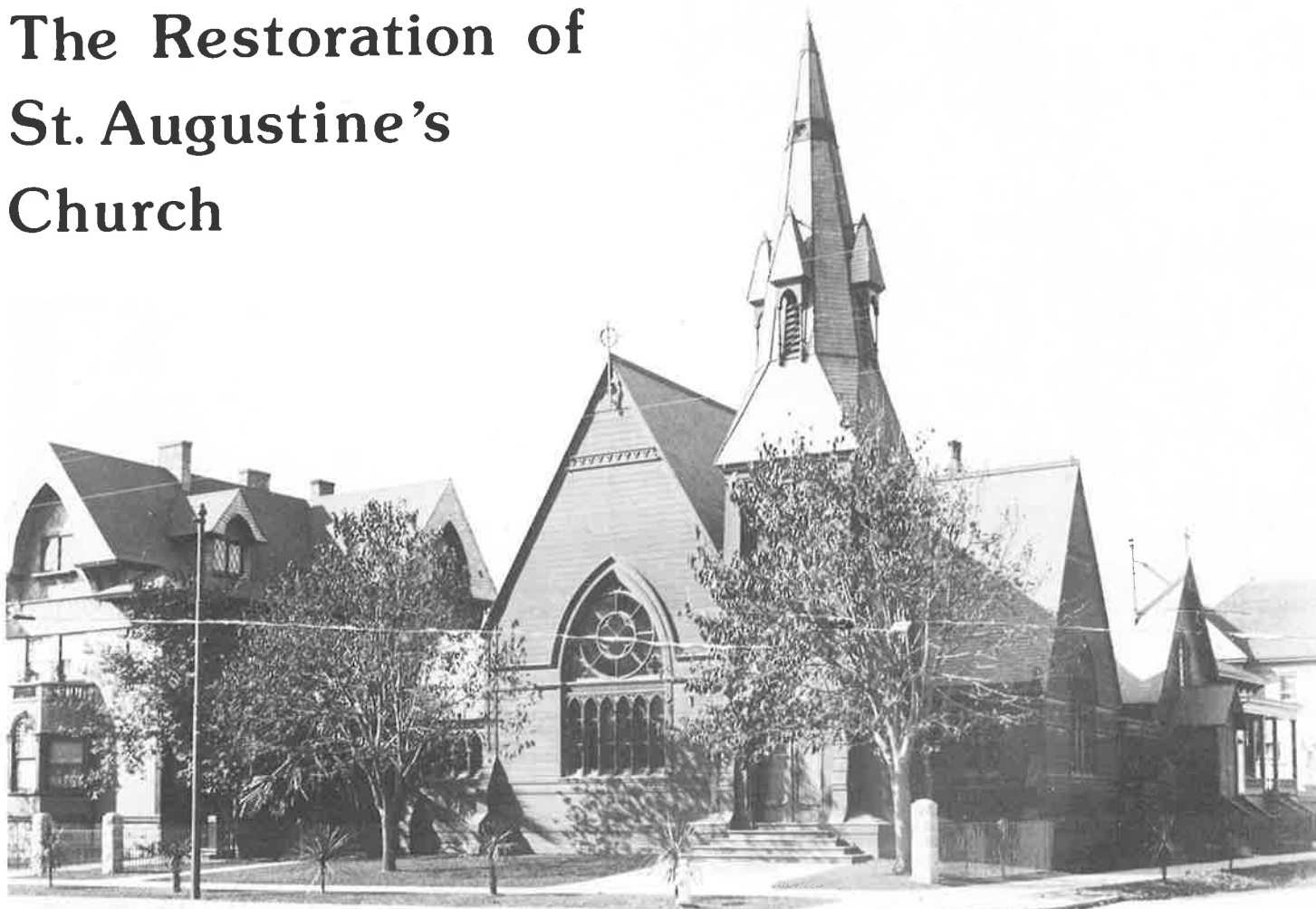


The Restoration of St. Augustine's Church

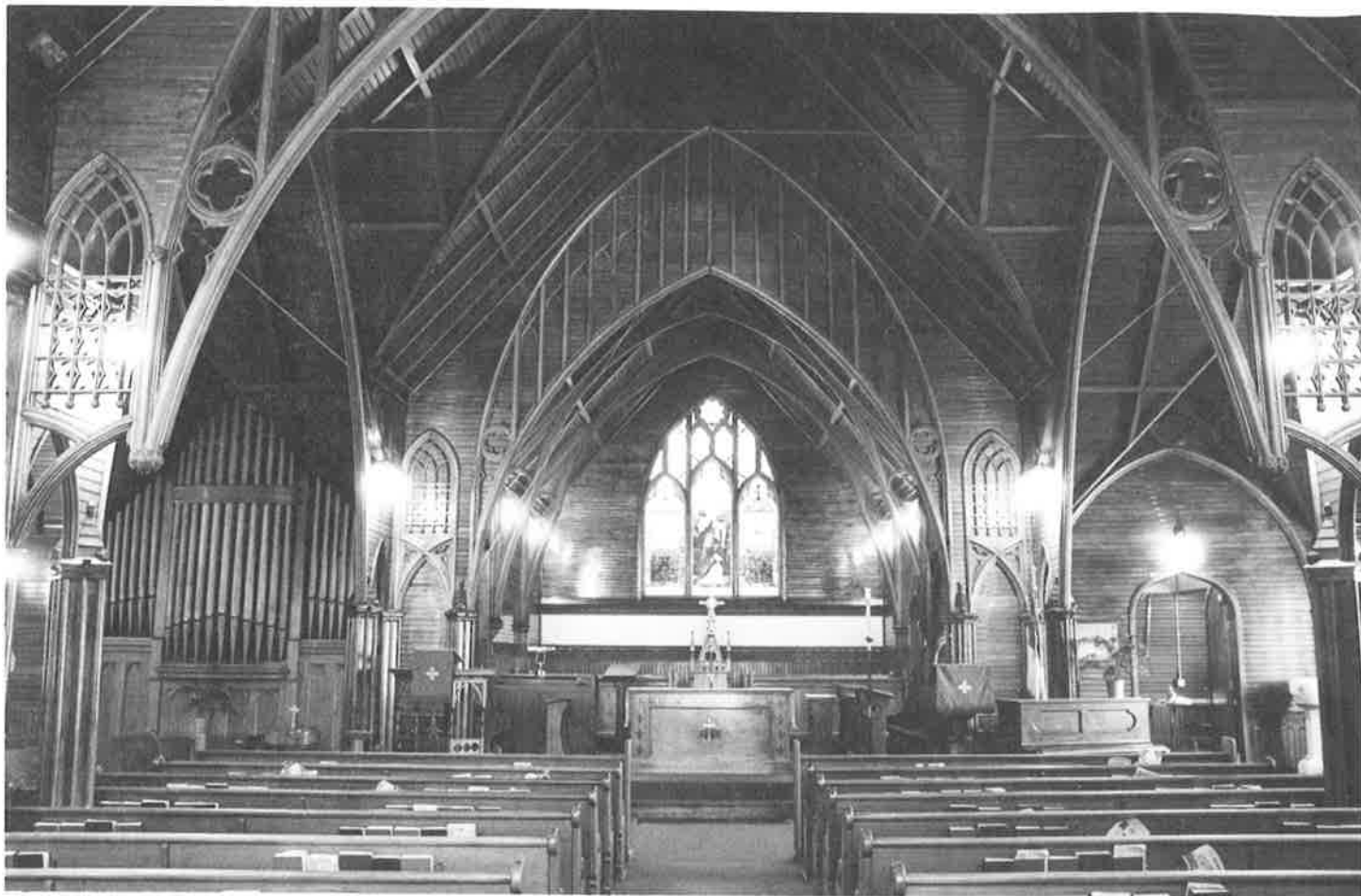


On June 4, just four years short of its 100th anniversary, Oakland's "Little Red Church" held a re-dedication service after extensive restoration work. Originally built for Trinity Episcopal Parish, this historic church has served East Bay Episcopalians continuously; it has been known as St. Augustine's since Trinity and St. Augustine's congregations merged in 1975.

Trinity began as a mission of the Episcopal Diocese, and worshipped in a little chapel built in 1886 in Oakland's Temescal neighborhood. When the Rev. Dr. John Bakewell, a clergyman of independent means,

Trinity Episcopal Church, now St. Augustine's, about 1912. Metal roof cresting is just visible on the gable to the right of the steeple. Telegraph Avenue was still a street of large residences. (J. William DePoy collection)

On Sunday, August 27, OHA presents an open house at St. Augustine's, with refreshments and guided tours of this recently restored 1892 Carpenter Gothic masterpiece. Time is 4:00 pm, following the "Houses of Faith" walking tour. Donation of \$5 benefits St. Augustine's restoration. Reservations not required; information, 763-9218.



arrived on the scene in 1891, he felt that a proper church was indicated. He bought the land at the corner of 29th and Telegraph and gave it to the parish, but felt that the congregation should be responsible for the building. An architect, William Hamilton, was chosen, perhaps because Dr. Bakewell was familiar with his St. Mary's By-the-Sea in Pacific Grove. It was a Gothic revival church, and that was evidently what Dr. Bakewell had in mind. He apparently made it plain to the architect that his congregation had a tight budget and could not afford much embellishment. Hamilton met this requirement with mixed results, but the total cost was kept to \$7979.91; and when it was dedicated on Easter Sunday 1893, it was debt free. F.C. Bignami of Oakland was the contractor.

Dr. Bakewell had been rector of a church in Santa Barbara but moved to the East Bay so that his son John could attend the University of California in Berkeley. John became a well-known architect in the Bay Area--the Bakewell of Bakewell and Brown

Interior of St. Augustine's vividly illustrates the term "carpenter Gothic," simulating the columns and vaulting of medieval cathedrals in warm, glowing wood. (Phil Bellman)

who designed San Francisco's City Hall and many other buildings. It is not known if the senior Bakewell had any training in architecture, but it was clearly one of his interests. It is said that John Bakewell remarked to colleagues that Trinity was "my father's idea of Gothic."

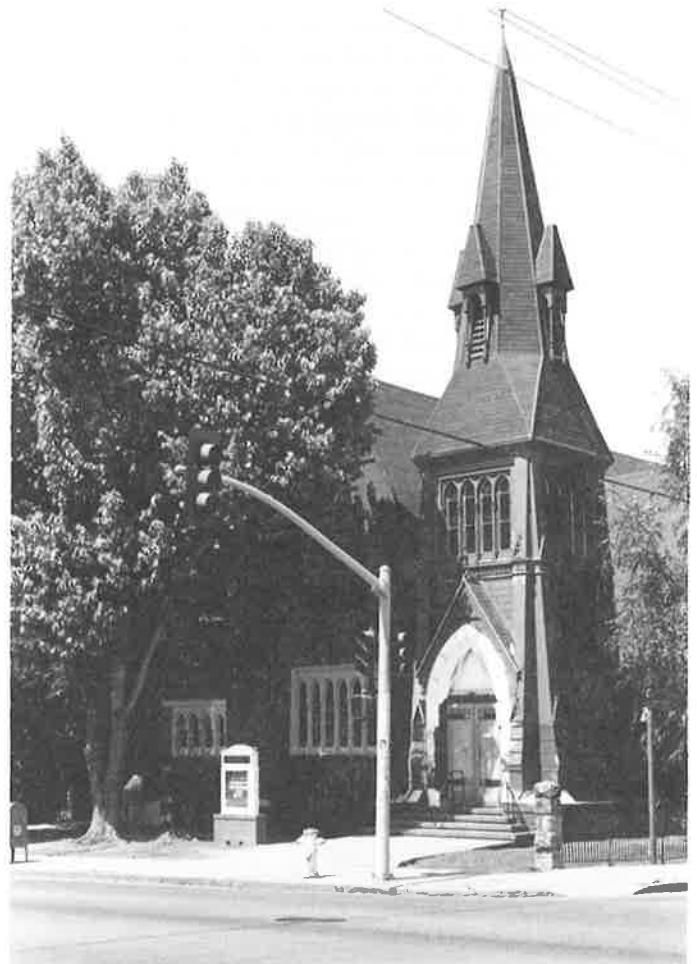
The building is definitely inspired by the Gothic style, but simplified to fit the finances of the congregation. It is a wood framed structure, in the plan of a Latin cross, with overall dimensions of about 55' x 70'. Perhaps because it has always been painted red, most visitors assume it is constructed of redwood; however, it is pine and fir. There is a tower at the northeast corner which houses the main entrance; this and the rose and lancet windows on the front facade constitute the main decorative features of the exterior. At one time there was wrought iron trim along the roofline, and a crown set around the steeple partway

down from the tip. Speculation is that these were removed and melted down during World War II for munitions. This would have been viewed as a conflict of interest by very few people in those days--it was all of a piece with Trinity's activities to help the war effort, such as allowing the Oakland Red Cross to use the parish hall for its blood drive from 1943 to 1945.

Meanwhile, only five blocks away, at 27th and West, St. Augustine's Church, begun as a mission for black Episcopalians in 1910, had grown in numbers of parishioners and financial strength, and became a full-fledged parish in 1948. These two parishes continued their separate existences, almost side by side, until 1975. Both parishes were busy with community service; Trinity operated Trinity Community Center from the mid-1930s to the mid-50s, to provide services which a survey of the immediate neighborhood indicated were needed. In the same decades the scouting and other youth leadership programs at St. Augustine's were a great source of pride in the black community, and many of the civic leaders of recent years were at one time "St. Augustine boys." In the last few years at 27th and West, a breakfast program was maintained for schoolchildren of the neighborhood.



The former St. Augustine's Church, built in 1920 for St. Augustine's Colored Episcopal Mission by Miller & Warnecke, still stands at 27th and West Streets. Rev. David Wallace of this church was Delilah Beasley's mentor. (Phil Bellman)



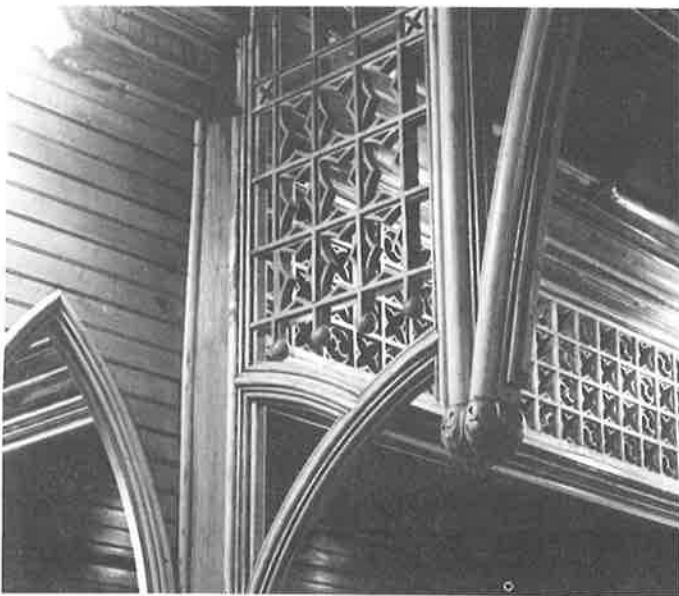
St. Augustine's Church today, at 29th and Telegraph, unites the heritages of St. Augustine's Mission and Trinity Church. The red steeple is a familiar landmark in the "houses of faith" district of north central Oakland. (Phil Bellman)

After the merger in 1975 there was a tutoring and sports program for the growing number of youngsters in the 29th Street area, as well as a neighborhood garden in the vacant lot adjacent to the church office on 29th. Today, St. Augustine's maintains its own Food Pantry to assist the hungry in Oakland, and members help out in other church-oriented programs in the city.

While the historical landmark status of St. Augustine's makes the exterior of the building the focus of public concern, it is to the interior that members and visitors alike are drawn. And it was inside the nave that the most worrisome signs of structural trouble were evident. There are columns and arches that appear to be load-bearing, as in a Gothic cathedral, but are not; and the weight of the roof gradually separated the arches so that an attached screen, in one

case, had become almost horizontal as the exterior walls moved outward. Bringing the building back into plumb and then reinforcing the walls was a major part of the restoration, and exciting to watch.

During all the time that the building was deteriorating, however, the interior continued to work its charm on anyone who entered. The glow of the golden-brown fir tongue-and-groove walls, running vertically below a molding of wood and leather at about waist level, and horizontally above, gives a warmth that one can never find in a stone church. The columns and screens are clever devices in terms of both economy and decoration. The pillars, according to architectural historian Anne Bloomfield, are 8" square timbers set diagonally and enclosed by standard milled moldings to give the appearance of the clusters of columns that support Gothic vaulting. The screen is not carved, but thin wooden strips bent into shape. Other simple, attractive Gothic touches are the pointed arches, trefoils and quatrefoils, the lovely peony bud at the terminus of a pendant of an arch. There is also, in the chancel, a bit of the machine-made papier mache decoration known as Lincrusta Walton found in many Victorian homes. These details cost little at the time but add considerable interest to the otherwise rather plain interior and give the church an overall feeling of serenity and sweetness.



Glorious, painstaking woodwork: carved floral bosses and pendants, pieced-together screen, moldings clustered into columns and arches, tongue and groove walls. (Phil Bellman)



"Standing at the door of the church, the Bishop says, 'Let the door be opened'..." The Rt. Rev. William Swing leads the procession to the restored church building, at the rededication service on Sunday, June 4, 1989. (Moira Nichols)

The restoration work has been executed by the contracting firm of Tom Alderson with the supervision of Mark Knoerr of Stoller Knoerr, Architects, after the original consultation of architect John Woodbridge, who was a member of the congregation until other work took him abroad. The St. Augustine's congregation has assumed a huge debt in order to return its lovely building to its original beauty and structural integrity and at the same time bring the parish into its second century. A lift for the handicapped is planned for the southeast entrance, so the parish may serve all the people of Oakland as a place of both spiritual renewal and community involvement. The parishioners hope their historical landmark may become a showcase of Oakland's diverse present as it moves into the future.

--Moira Nichols

Moira Nichols is a member of the Preservation Committee of St. Augustine's Church.

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.

■ CHAIR OF LANDMARKS BOARD REPLACED

In June the City Council approved the appointment of Estelle Mannis to the Landmarks Advisory Board. Mannis, an Oakland attorney, replaces Frederick Hertz whose term on the board had expired. Hertz, who was appointed to fill an unexpired term in December 1987, was chair of both the Landmarks Board and the Historic Preservation Task Force at the time of his replacement.

The replacement of Hertz at a time when the Task Force is beginning work on the final recommendations on a Historic Preservation Element caused concern among some, including Oakland Heritage Alliance, for the disruptive effect this could have on the work of the Task Force. As chair, Hertz had worked extensively with staff and the Task Force to assure that a viable draft Preservation Element would emerge.

OHA was further concerned about the effect on the Landmarks Board. In a letter to the mayor and council, the OHA board expressed concern about continuity on the LPAB. "Advisory Board members' tenure ... rarely last the designated period. Resignations and reassignments occur frequently and vacancies are not filled promptly. New Board members express confusion with regard to rules and procedures and meetings are cancelled due to lack of a quorum (9 meetings between October 1985 and May 1989)." Between July 1986 and October 1988 the Board recommended only four buildings for landmark status (Liberty Hall and the now demolished Wetmore houses), and in fact declared a moratorium on consideration of landmarks in December of 1986 while reviewing internal rules and procedures. Under Hertz's leadership, the Board had begun to establish priorities and formed action committees, as well as bringing greater emphasis to design review matters.

As reported in the Tribune, Hertz saw his dismissal as a sign that the mayor does not want an active and effective Landmarks Board. In response to OHA's letter, Mayor

Wilson said that he had considered the concerns about continuity and effectiveness but stood by his decision. Hertz's voting record "was not an issue," he said, and thanked OHA for its "interest in maintaining Oakland's heritage...while balancing historic preservation concerns with the need for expanded facilities."

The balancing process to which Mayor Wilson referred is an inherent part of many preservation decisions, and is best handled by knowledgeable and experienced Landmarks Board members. Whether or not Hertz's replacement was politically motivated, continuity on the Board continues to be an issue.

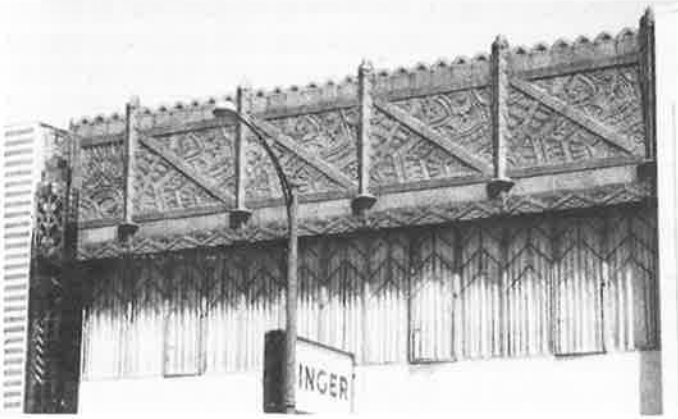
--Carolyn Douthat

■ RETAIL CENTER MOVES FORWARD

The Oakland City Council, acting as Redevelopment Agency, has authorized a Pre-Development Agreement between the city and the Rouse Company for a concept design and analysis of the economic feasibility of the Retail Center Project. This phase of the project, funded with \$300,000 of redevelopment money, will identify the size and configuration of the retail center, including necessary land acquisition, and provide information to be used in starting the environmental review process. ELS Architects of Berkeley have been selected as design consultants, and Keyser Marston Associates is providing the economic analysis.

The Rouse Company was selected as developer in 1985 based on its response to the Request for Qualifications issued by the redevelopment agency. The RFQ identified general project boundaries as Broadway and Telegraph on the east, 20th and 21st Streets on the north, San Pablo to the west, and 17th Street to the south. The RFQ required retention of the facade of the Oakland Floral Depot (Albert Evers, 1931) at 19th and Telegraph, and preservation of the Fox Oakland (Maury Diggs, 1927). In addition, retention of the Newberry building (Schirmer & Bugbee, 1924) "possibly as a facade" was listed as "an important objective."

The concept scheme contained in the RFQ, developed by ELS, called for demolition of all the buildings between Telegraph and Broadway from 19th to slightly above 17th Street, to create a plaza opposite the Fox Oakland, flanked by a new office building. The Cultural Heritage Survey rated four of



The Mary Bowles Building (D.D. Stone, 1931), with green terra cotta Art Deco facades on Broadway and Telegraph, is familiar to OHA as starting point of the Uptown Art Deco tour. Retail Center plan may threaten it. (Survey photo)

the buildings on this block as contributors to the Uptown District: the Mary Bowles Building at 1721 Broadway, the F.W. Woolworth Building at 1741 Broadway, the Executive Center Building at 1753 Broadway, and Guaranty Building and Loan at 1759 Broadway. These buildings, with the more prominent Fox, Floral Depot, and Capwell's buildings, form a distinguished concentration of the Art Deco and terra cotta architecture which defined Oakland's premier shopping district.

The decision to proceed with further planning and initiation of the environmental review process may be a vote of confidence for Rouse. The company has secured letters of commitment from J.C. Penney, Nordstrom, and Emporium Capwell (whose parent company, Carter, Hawley, Hale owns all of the block between 19th and 20th Streets). A fourth store, Bonwit Teller, has also signed a letter of commitment, but has not been approved by Rouse. Rouse is continuing to look for another anchor tenant, and expects a commitment by the end of summer.

OHA has a continuing interest in the design of the retail center, dating from its 1983 nomination of the Oakland Floral Depot to the National Register of Historic Places. The wealth of Art Deco structures in the Uptown area is a natural focal point for a design which would be unique to Oakland and capitalize on its outstanding architecture. The Rouse Company has a strong track record for reuse of historic structures in their shopping center developments and OHA hopes to encourage them to continue that tradition in Oakland.

--Carolyn Douthat

■ PERALTA HACIENDA UNDER SIEGE

The historic Peralta House and Peralta Hacienda Historical Park at 34th Avenue and Paxton are threatened. The threat comes not from development or neglect, but from drug dealers who have taken over the street and vandalized both the park and the house.

The Peralta Hacienda, the first European settlement in the East Bay, was established in 1821 and at one time had two main adobes and 20 guest houses. It was the rancho headquarters as well as a travelers' stop on El Camino Real. The Italianate house, built after the 1868 earthquake devastated the adobes, is both a city and state landmark and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The house is owned by the City of Oakland and managed by the Friends of Peralta Hacienda, a non-profit community group.

In the past few months, all of the light standards in the park have been stolen. The \$35,000 needed to replace them will come out of funds held for further development of the park, including relocation of a Housing Authority building across the street from the Peralta House. The house itself is used by various community groups and until recently had a resident caretaker. At a recent meeting of the community development district board, a brick was thrown through the window. Over the Fourth of July weekend the house was attacked by someone using a large gauge shotgun, breaking windows and damaging the front door and interior. The source of the attacks is believed to be a nearby crack house which acts as a magnet for drug dealers who use the park and street as a free trade zone.

The Parks and Recreation Department, as part of a decentralization plan, will be moving some administrative staff into the house, so the building will be occupied during the day. The Friends of Peralta Hacienda are looking for another caretaker, and making frequent inspections to discourage vandalism.

--Carolyn Douthat

The embattled Peralta House, painted by Anthony Holdsworth. The Friends of Peralta Hacienda have reproduced this painting as a full-color art poster, which is being sold to benefit the Peralta Hacienda Historical Park: price is \$10, contact Claudia Albano, 568-7721 days. This painting is one of Anthony Holdsworth's "Oakland Cityscapes," which can be seen at the artist's "Last Sunday" open studio, August 27, 12 to 5, 350 Lewis Street, Studio 2A. (Anthony Holdsworth)

■ FEDERAL REVIEW FOR GROVE STREET CAMPUS

The proposal to replace the old University High School complex on Martin Luther King Way with a shopping center will face public review and comment in the coming months. In a welcome move, the city has decided to go through the federal Section 106 review process after receiving opinions from the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the State Historic Preservation Office, and HUD that the review was required since federal money had been used to purchase the property.

Because the complex has been determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, the review will examine alternative ways of achieving the purpose of the project which would minimize damage to the historic resource. Architectural Resources Group, the preservation consultants for the EIR, are preparing documents to be used in the review process which will be conducted by representatives of the city and the State Historic Preservation Office. The draft EIR, begun this past spring, is due out late this summer and will consider various alternatives, in both use and configuration, to the shopping center proposal.

The plan to demolish all the existing complex for a suburban strip style shopping center, which was prepared by North Oakland Redevelopment Associates, has caused neighborhood residents to organize in opposition. Several community meetings have been held to consider alternative plans and seek ways to

change the NORA proposal. The group has been successful in increasing city security measures at the site to reduce vandalism and transient use while the fate of the complex is being decided.

Much of the controversy over retaining the buildings has centered on the feasibility of seismic stabilization. Three analyses have concluded that the buildings can be saved, but cost estimates vary from 1.6 to 5 million dollars. The \$5 million figure which has been used by the developer stems from a 1969 study by Ratcliff-Slama-Cadwalader on the cost of upgrading for use as a school, requirements for which are significantly greater than for other uses.

In a letter to councilmember Marge Gibson-Haskell, Burns Cadwalader, a principal in The Ratcliff Architects, urged the city to reject the NORA proposal, as it "would have an extremely negative impact on the area... (It) represents the worst kind of shopping center aesthetics--large, sprawling, out of scale buildings surrounded by a sea of asphalt and cars." He went on to endorse retention of the existing buildings. "Based on (the restoration experience of our firm) it is my opinion that the City will be making a serious mistake in allowing any development that demolishes these historic structures."

Retaining the old campus presents an opportunity for the city to preserve a significant historic resource and contribute to the vitality and livability of the community. OHA will continue to follow the project, and plans to comment on the Section 106 review and the EIR.

--Carolyn Douthat

■ CITY HALL IN THE ROTUNDA?

As reported in the Tribune, city officials are considering consolidating municipal workers by leasing space in the Rotunda for city offices. In addition to employees now in rented space in various downtown locations, most employees in City Hall would also go to the former Liberty House building, leaving only the first 3 floors in use.

Early this year, both the Express and the Tribune reported that the city was considering buying and finishing the 1912 Beaux Arts Rotunda because it would be cheaper than earthquake-proofing City Hall. The Rotunda renovation, begun by developer





Myron Zimmerman a number of years ago, has been stalled because of financial problems. In March the building was redeemed at a foreclosure sale by First Interstate Mortgage Corporation which held part of the \$30 million in loans against the property. The Tribune reported in May that the city was negotiating with a prospective buyer, Texas billionaire Robert M. Bass, for a city lease on the building.

The plan would bring life to the stalled Rotunda project, which Mayor Wilson sees as critical to downtown revitalization, and avoid the need for seismic work to the City Hall tower, called for in a 1979 engineering report on the building, which also noted antiquated mechanical systems and asbestos contamination. Some asbestos cleanup has been done during subsequent remodelings, but according to the City Manager's office the overall cost of renovation and seismic work is prohibitive.

In a letter to the City Manager, OHA's preservation action committee said: "Since (the 1979 study), there have been significant advances in methods for seismic stabilization of older structures, advances which are more cost effective than earlier technologies....We urge you to carefully evaluate the existing building in light of current conditions and technology with the purpose of retaining its full use as Oakland City Hall."

Oakland City Hall, which is a city landmark and listed on the National Register of Historic Places, was the first city hall in the United States to combine the traditional ceremonial style of municipal architecture with a modern high rise office tower. Completed in 1914, it is recognized as a fine example of American Beaux Arts style and well suited as a symbol of municipal government. Absent a long term plan to complete the structural reinforcing and repairs, abandoning the office tower is not an appropriate way to deal with such an important building. --Carolyn Douthat

■ JULIA MORGAN VS. DREYER'S EXPANSION

In late July OHA sent the following letter to the mayor and city council:

"Pastor Bill Beatty of the College Avenue Presbyterian Church has expressed his con-

cern to OHA regarding the negative impact the proposed Dreyer's expansion will have on his church.

"In Mark A. Wilson's respected book A Living Legacy: Historic Architecture of the East Bay, this building is described as 'a geometrically balanced neo-Tudor street-scale church designed by Julia Morgan. The wide overhanging eaves, large circular latticed window above the front door and refined wood trim detailing set into the stucco walls are characteristic of Morgan's personal style at its best.'

"The use of the term 'street-scale' to describe this church is particularly apt in view of the debate surrounding Dreyer's ... massive office complex and its lack of street-scale characteristics.

"Julia Morgan was born in Oakland and was one of the foremost architects of her time. This city is fortunate to have so many ... examples of her work. It is our understanding that the Elders intend to seek National Register status for their church.

"... In your deliberations the OHA Board requests that you hold Dreyer's to design sensitivity which complements rather than dwarfs this elegant Julia Morgan building.

"Sincerely,

Annalee Allen, President"



Julia Morgan's College Avenue Presbyterian Church (5951 College Avenue, 1917) has a bungalow-like character that blends into a residential neighborhood. How will it be affected by corporate expansion next door? (Phil Bellman)

OHA Update

■ PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

What do you think of when you think of OHA? Tours? Preservation issues? The members? The board? A corporation with a budget and staff? Reviewing the past quarter for this message, I was struck by what a many-sided organization we have become.

A call came into the OHA office recently which indicates how our efforts to promote Oakland are reaching more and more people. Steve Beck of Piedmont called to ask the date of this summer's Borax Smith walk (it's August 19). He said he was a grandson of Borax Smith, and he was glad to know there was still interest in this important Oakland pioneer. I talked with him about the popularity of the walks and how we work to increase awareness of Oakland's heritage. A few days later a check came in from Mr. Beck--a \$200 sponsor membership. While we welcome membership support at any level, sponsorships are a special help toward the ongoing operating costs of OHA.

I feel very fortunate that OHA can maintain an office in a great Oakland landmark, the Camron-Stanford House, and that we have such outstanding staff support from Helen Lore. All too often the routine mechanics of membership don't allow for the expression that what we are doing is very worthwhile. I'm glad Borax Smith's grandson thinks enough of what we're doing to support our efforts.

Having an office where people can direct their questions and comments allows us to be visible and responsive. However, it also means committing to a certain level of income generation, whether from earned income (such as the house tour), member contributions, or grants and gifts. This commitment means the members of the board must dedicate themselves to setting and meeting appropriate income goals.

This summer the board will be voting to approve a \$31,000 annual budget. We have come a long way in the 9 years since the organization was formed by a handful of concerned individuals and \$500. Today the membership has grown to 750. The 12 hard working individuals on the board need to know the membership is behind them in their efforts to see that OHA meets the '90s as a

viable, dynamic organization.

The major spring fundraising event was of course the Julia Morgan House Tour. Putting on a successful house tour requires the hard work of many individuals. I am happy to say the board and house tour committee received excellent support this year. House captains Gail Lombardi, Deborah Shefler, Lois Over, Terry Kulka, Ed Phillips, Lynn Fonfa, Kirk Peterson, Ruth Hogle, Noelle Beerman, Dorothy McCall, Michael Thompson, Kristen Ritchie, and Pat Whittingslow made certain all went smoothly. Thanks to all the other docents as well: Bill Keeler, George and Susan Duncan, Christina Godfrey, John Fiske, Catherine Russell, Jeanine Fetterly, Tom and Carolyn Armour, Alexis Soule, Ed Wilkinson, Jackie Keller, Sara Duncan, Bernice Quinn, Barbara and Sam Skelly, Rose Lucey, Margaret and Katherine Williams, Barbara and Pete Skowronski, Adrenne Hynes, Mary Ann Urry, Valrea Brash-ear, Leslie Johnson, Steve Gelb, Joan Doak, Ed Phillips, Jr., and Jeff McGraw. Board member Sally Nielsen coordinated all of the house captains and docents.

Marlene Wilson, newly returned to the board, arranged the refreshments in the Athol Avenue garden. Mary Phillips contributed the floral arrangements. Julie Barron designed the flyer and the tour booklets, including charming sketches of each of the homes. Helen Lore and photographer Eric Klatt arranged publicity. Naomi Schiff designed the display ads. Once again Betty Marvin and Ed Phillips wrote the guidebook, providing visitors with pointers and background on each house. Julia Morgan's god-daughter Lynn Stone provided us with a unique perspective on the architect's work in Oakland and shed more light on this remarkable woman. Mary Jane McConville, as chair of the committee, spent weeks contacting homeowners and arranging for the houses to be seen by the public.

Special thanks go to each of the owners who so graciously allowed us into their homes for this event: Dan and Mary Patterson (10th Avenue), Michael and Christine Bisseck (Kempston), Albert and Nora Peterson (Santa Rosa), Marcia Ryles (Acacia), Joan Hughes (Manchester), Kyle Gee (Harrison), Bob Broughton and Bryan Hendricks (Athol).

More than 400 people attended the event, which netted OHA \$4000. A generous grant from Grubb and Ellis underwrote printing of

the tour booklets. And Camron-Stanford House acting coordinator Liz Way graciously permitted us to process ticket holders on the House front steps.

All in all this year's house tour was a great success. Now we look forward to another annual Oakland tradition, the OHA Summer Walking Tours. I hope to see many of our members at this year's walks. Tell friends, neighbors and visitors about them. They are fun, and you will learn a lot about Oakland's past and present.

Much is still to be done to enlighten public officials as well as Oakland residents to the importance of preserving our heritage. The mayor's recent replacement of Fred Hertz on the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board, despite letters and calls from OHA members and others (see Briefing) demonstrates clearly that we need to redouble our efforts in this area.

Help us spread the word that OHA is here to stay in Oakland. Thanks to all who support our efforts, and remember comments, questions and offers to pitch in are always welcome--you know where to find us.

--Annalee Allen

■ BOARD CHANGES

The nominating committee announced the resignation of Claudia Albano at the May board meeting. Claudia's scheduling conflicts preclude her attending monthly board meetings. Nevertheless she intends to contribute her expertise in grassroots organizing to ongoing OHA projects.

The board regrets that Claudia is leaving. The nominating committee is expected to announce her replacement this summer. The committee is also looking ahead to the fall when other board terms expire. Anyone interested in becoming more involved with OHA's programs and activities should contact the office or nominating committee chair Lynn Fonfa, 763-3410. As OHA looks to its tenth year, we hope to become more visible and effective as an organization. A strong Board which reflects a cross section of the community will help accomplish this goal. If you feel you can contribute a particular skill or point of view (whether or not you have specific preservation experience) now is the time to help OHA.

--Annalee Allen





■ OHA WINDS UP SUCCESSFUL PROGRAM SERIES

On Saturday, June 10, 80 OHA members and friends joined curator Doug Brookes and docent Laurie Boetcher for a special tour of the Treasure Island Museum, focusing on the memorabilia and fascinating physical remains of the 1939/1940 Golden Gate International Exposition. This popular field trip capped our winter-spring program series. Thanks to Doug and Laurie for sharing the fruits of their study and for stimulating reminiscences from tour participants who had visited the fair.

OHA also thanks the speakers at our five evening lectures for their time and interest in sharing ideas with the Oakland preservation community: Bill Sturm, head librarian at the Oakland History Room; Dr. Lawrence Crouchett, executive director of the Northern California Center for Afro-American History and Life; Dean Yabuki, coordinator of the Japanese in Oakland History Project; Lynne Horiuchi, project director of the Japanese American Family Album Project; former OHA president Leslie Flint, historic preservation consultant; and Dr. Richard Orsi, professor of public history at California State University in Hayward. What a varied list! Those of us who attended all the events are certainly a bit more well-rounded than we were a few months ago.

Thanks are also due to Reverend Gary Oda and the congregation of the Lake Park United Methodist Church for their generosity in providing an excellent setting for our lecture series, and to the members of the committee who came up with the ideas and helped with production and logistics: Dean Yabuki, Lynn Fonfa, and Helen Lore.

We would be interested in comments and suggestions from the members for future programs: subject matter, locale, schedule (evenings? weekends?). Please call the OHA office (763-9218) if you have thoughts on these or other topics.

--Sally Nielsen, Program Chair

■ TREASURE ISLAND AT OAKLAND HISTORY ROOM

Judging by the attendance at the OHA field trip to Treasure Island, interest in the 50th anniversary of the 1939 World's Fair is quite high. For those who would like more on this Moderne Era marvel, take note of the following:

Oakland Public Library's Oakland History Room recalls the wonder and magic of the exposition with a special exhibit, "The Treasure Island Fair, 1939-1940." Historical photographs, fair memorabilia, and newspaper articles depict the construction of the fair, the opening ceremonies, the buildings, the exhibits and entertainments, the night scenes, and the people who made the fair possible. Also shown are views of Oakland during the 1930s. Bill Sturm, librarian of the Oakland History Room (and former editor of the OHA News) has produced a special slide show featuring one-of-a-kind views of the unique event. The exhibit is at the Main Library, Oakland History Room, 125 14th Street, through September 15. Hours of the Oakland History Room are Tuesday and Thursday, noon to 8:30; Wednesday and Friday, 10 to 5:30; and Saturday, 1 to 5:30 pm. For information on the slide show, call 273-3222.

Yet another commemoration of the fair takes place this fall--see next article.

■ TREASURE ISLAND SYMPOSIUM

Fifty years ago, Treasure Island, site of the Golden Gate International Exposition, closed its gates to the public. In the hasty transformation from world's fair to navy base, the fantasy "Pacific Basin" architecture and scores of mural paintings and sculptures, the product of a tremendous flowering of local talent, were scattered or demolished.

On Saturday, September 16, 1989, from 12:30 to 5:30 pm, Treasure Island will again open its gates to the public for a day of slide lectures celebrating the art and architecture of San Francisco's last World's Fair. A group of historians and scholars will gather to discuss the creations of such architects as Arthur Brown, Jr., Timothy Pflueger, and Bernard Maybeck, and such artists as Ralph Stackpole, Antonio Sotomayor, and Adaline Kent.

Interior of Market Laundry, c.1910, was featured in Dean Yabuki and Lynne Horiuchi's program on Japanese-American family photos. George Katsutaro Yabuki is next to the cash register. Founded by immigrants from Okayama province, by the 1920s Market Laundry was the largest Japanese-owned operation of its kind on the West Coast. This OHA lecture was summarized in the San Francisco Japanese-American daily Hokubei Mainichi.
(Dean Yabuki)



A group of the fair's artists and architects has been invited to participate in a panel discussion: architects Donald Macky, creator of the fair's signature "Elephant Towers," and Theodore Bernardi, designer (with William Wurster) of the acclaimed Yerba Buena Clubhouse; artists Herman Volz, Robert McChesney, John Lukas, Helen Phillips, and Elizabeth Ginno.

Scheduled speakers and their topics are: Burton Benedict, "From the Crystal Palace to the Tower of the Sun"; Gray Brechin, "Building America's Dream Cities"; Katherine Caldwell, "The Pacific Cultures Exhibit"; Daniel Gregory, "The GGIE and City Planning"; Debra Lehane, "After the Fair Is Over: The Collection of the S.F. Arts Commission"; Lisa Rubens, "Social History of the GGIE"; Anne Schnoebelen, "GGIE Murals and Sculpture"; Collette Tanaka, "Ralph Stackpole"; Peter Stackpole, "Art and Photography at the GGIE"; Adriana Williams, "Miguel Covarrubias."

The symposium is co-sponsored by the Treasure Island Museum, Art Deco Society of California, San Francisco Art Commission, Oakland Heritage Alliance, Petaluma Historical Museum, San Francisco and East Bay AIAs, San Francisco Fair, and a number of other Bay Area arts organizations, businesses, and individuals.

Advance registration (\$15) is required, payable to "Treasure Island Symposium," 1440 Kains Avenue, Berkeley CA 94702. For more information, please call Michael Gray (845-9197) or Anne Schnoebelen (524-2015).



Sculptor Jacques Schnier with "The Orient," one of the Pacific Basin sculptures, symbolizing the introspective spirit of India. (Anne Schnoebelen collection)

City Landmarks Board Actions

The Oakland Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board meets on the second Monday of each month at 4 pm in Room 211 City Hall. Meetings are open to the public. Designation of landmarks is recommended by the Board to Planning Commission and City Council. Landmarks are subject to a 240-day delay in issuance of demolition permits. Exterior alterations require approval by City Planning staff, at the recommendation of the Board. 108 landmarks have been designated in the 14 years since the Board was created.

Following the May meeting, Frederick Hertz's term expired and he was not reappointed to the Board, although he had indicated his willingness to continue. His replacement, joining Bobbi Armstrong, Bert Bertolero, Anthony Pegram, Marji Shaw, Jean Spees, and Laverne Wells-Bowie, is: Estelle Mannis, an attorney with Mannis & Mannis (a partnership with her son). She was born in Chicago and moved to Los Angeles as a child. She attended Los Angeles City College and State University, and completed undergraduate work at Cal State, Hayward, majoring in history. Her law degree is from Lincoln University in San Francisco. In 1977 she moved to Oakland from Castro Valley. She says her interest in history influenced her selection of this Board as a vehicle for public service.

MAY

Board reviewed and approved designs for wheelchair ramps (with wire mesh railing) and portico at the White House & Restaurant in Preservation Park; and for storefronts at the Henry House, 476 9th St., a landmark in the Old Oakland district. The storefront is to match the one existing on half the building, and any questions regarding the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for work on historic buildings are to be referred to Planning staff.

Board heard a report on the status of 1716-18 7th Street, the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters building, in response to a notice of intent to submit landmark application from Theresa Bonner-Payne. The owner of the building described extensive proposed remodeling, for which a permit has been granted: a new entrance and parking on the east side of the building, and closing the front entrance. Board voted to continue the matter until July.

Board also continued consideration of a notice to submit landmark application from Robert Clemens, president of the Central East Oakland District Local Development Corporation, for 634 15th Street (Claridge Hotel/Salvation Army Evangeline Home for Girls). The owner plans to use the building as a transitional homeless facility.

Board discussed the status of the Uptown Retail Center project and its effect on historic buildings--the Floral Depot, Fox Oakland Theater, Newberry's, Emporium-Capwell's. Any attempt to demolish these structures was expected to meet with considerable political opposition.

Board discussed the status of design review for exterior alterations to Macky Hall at California College of Arts and Crafts, 5212 Broadway (see July).

Laverne Wells-Bowie reported on the State Historic Preservation Conference in Los Angeles, and the Board received an official certificate for the City of Oakland, designating it a Certified Local Government.

JUNE

Board reviewed design for Central Market (901 Washington, formerly Swan's/Oakland Free Market). Unlike Storek & Storek's other Old Oakland buildings, this complex of 9 separate structures is predominantly 1917 in character. Revised elevations call for retaining the original entries. Plans for multicolored striped awnings are to be reevaluated, and a preliminary concept for a mural (on what is presently a solid red wall) are to be submitted for approval.

Board asked to see paint samples in place on the Liberty Hall Building and Annex, 483-85 8th Street, before approving colors submitted by Jubilee West, Inc.

Board reviewed a plan by Robert Berber & Sons to construct an addition to 464 7th Street, the Central Pacific Depot (Mi Rancho), an Oakland landmark in a preservation zone. The addition will reflect the present Spanish style of the building rather than its original Victorian design.

Board requested redesign of the new building proposed for Preservation Park on the site of the Herrick House, southwest corner of 12th Street and Martin Luther King Jr. Way. (The Herrick House, moved there from Pill Hill, burned and was demolished.)

Estelle Mannis agreed to represent the Board at the Preservation Task Force.

JULY

Marji Shaw reported on the plan for publishing posters or brochures to promote the Board and educate the public. Several architectural firms have been contacted about participating in a design event.

Board reviewed and approved drawings and material samples for the addition to Mi Rancho (see June), and requested that Theresa Bonner-Payne formally submit a landmark application for the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters building. Board will discuss whether to consider designation as a building (extensively altered) or as a site.

Ralph Wheeler from the City Attorney's office advised on possible responses to the work on Macky Hall at California College of Arts and Crafts. Last summer a 1920s addition was removed, and a conjectural restoration of the 1880s appearance was begun without documentation of the original design. The Board then imposed a condition that any fabric exposed during the work be reviewed by staff before further construction. The Board directed CCAC to disassemble a partly constructed roof and cornice; instead the work was continued, and the building is now in use. The Board voted to draft a letter to the College's president and board, requesting compliance.

Anthony Pegram was elected chair and Bobbi Armstrong vice chair for 1989-90. Board requested May and June minutes, not yet issued because of work overload in the Planning Department. Board voted to issue plaques for all designated landmarks, stating the year of the building and the year it was designated: funding to be investigated. --Kathy Olson



Preservation Park: Landmarks Board continues to monitor restoration, alterations, and infill construction. James White House is at right. (Phil Bellman)

OHA Calendar

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

Upcoming Activities

through Fri 15 Sep TuTh 12-8:30, WF10-5:30, Sat1-5:30
Treasure Island Fair: 1939-1940, Exhibit.

Oakland History Room, Oakland Public Library, 2nd floor, 14th & Oak Sts. Free. 273-3222.

Sat 19 Aug - Sun 7 Jan W-Sat 10-5, Sun 12-7

Fit For America: Health, Fitness, Sport, and American Society, 1830-1940, Exhibit.

History Special Gallery, Oakland Museum, 273-3401.

Thursdays through August, 10am-noon

Port of Oakland Harbor Cruise. Reservations required, 839-7493.

Sat 12 August 9:00am-Noon

Pre-1850 Migration Patterns, Nat'l Archives, San Bruno/San Mateo Co. Genealogical Soc., 876-9003.

Sat 12 August 9:30am-7:30pm

Preservation On The Line: Field Trip. John Snyder, Chief Architectural Historian, CalTrans, Western Chapter/Association for Preservation Technology & OHA. Day-long field trip exploring 4 historic train stations of various styles and stages of restoration: Burlingame, San Carlos, Santa Clara, San Jose. Meet at CalTrain Station, 4th & Townsend, S.F. \$5 tour + \$12 transp.+ lunch (reservation required) + optional dinner in San Jose. Contact Dean Yabuki by 8 Aug, 832-5355.

Sat 12 August 1:30-3:30pm

OHA Haddon Hill Walking Tour. Edward Phillips, Lynn Ponfa, Anne Lawrence, Betty Marvin. Meet at the circle at Kenwyn and McKinley. \$3/\$5, 763-9218.

Sun 13 August 1:30-3:30pm

OHA Uptown Oakland Art Deco Walking Tour. Dean Yabuki & Sharon Moore. Meet in front of the Mary Bowles Building, 1718 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. \$3 OHA/\$5 general. OHA, 763-9218.

Wed 16 Aug to Sun 20 Aug

Sacred Places and Spaces. Symposium on value & preservation of sacred buildings & places. Over 40 speakers--design professionals, environmentalists, anthropologists. Cost TBA. Grace Cathedral, SF. 383-5064; ISNS, Box 637, Mill Valley 94942.

Sat 19 August 1:30-3:30pm

OHA Borax Smith Estate Walking Tour. Phil Bellman. Meet at the corner of 8th Ave. & E 24th St., Oakland. \$3 OHA/\$5 general. OHA, 763-9218.

Sun 20 August 1:30-3:30pm

OHA Follow An Oakland Creek Walking Tour. Marlene Wilson. Meet at entrance of Mountain View Cemetery, Piedmont Av. \$3 OHA/\$5 general. 763-9218.

Tues 22 August 9:00am-1:00pm

Research Using Court Records. Claude Hopkins. National Archives, 1000 Commodore Drive, San Bruno. \$5. National Archives, 876-9003.

Sat 26 August 10:00am

San Francisco Russian Hill Walking Tour. S.F. Heritage. Interiors included. Prepaid reservations required. \$25 Heritage/\$30 general. Heritage, 2007 Franklin, S.F. 94109, 441-3000.

Sat 26 August 1:30-3:30pm

OHA Sidewalks of Temescal Walking Tour. Ken Duffy. Meet at Genova Delicatessen, 50th & Telegraph. \$3 OHA/\$5 general. OHA, 763-9218.

Sun 27 August 1:30-3:30pm

OHA Houses of Faith Walking Tour I. Dean Yabuki & Sharon Moore. Meet in front of First Congregational Church, Harrison & 27th Sts., Oakland. \$3 OHA/\$5 general. OHA, 763-9218.

Sun 27 August 4:00pm

St. Augustine's Episcopal Church Restoration Benefit. Oakland Heritage Alliance. Meet at this handsome 1892 Carpenter Gothic church at Telegraph & 29th St., Oakland. \$5. OHA, 763-9218.

Sat-Mon 2-4 Sept

Oakland Arts Explosion, Estuary Park, details TBA

Wed 13 Sept 9:00am-1:00pm

Research Using Land Records. Daniel Nealand. National Archives, 1000 Commodore Drive, San Bruno. \$5. National Archives, 876-9003.

Fri 15 Sept Deadline for entries

Architecture In Focus Photo Competition. Council on Architecture, Oakland Museum Assn. Exhibit in October at East Bay Chapter/American Institute of Architects, Oakland. Entry fee \$10/photograph. Georgia Radford, 526-3218.

Sat 16 Sept 12:30-5:30pm

Symposium: Treasure Island Rediscovered: A Celebration and Reevaluation of the Art and Architecture of the 1939-1940 Golden Gate International Exposition. Treasure Island Naval Station. \$15. Prepaid registrations to Treasure Island Symposium, 1440 Kains Av., Berkeley 94702. 524-2015 or 845-9197.

Sun 23 Sept 10:00am

San Francisco Presidio Walking Tour. S.F. Heritage. Prepaid reservations required. \$5 Heritage/\$7 general. Heritage, 2007 Franklin St., San Francisco, CA 94109, 441-3000.

Regularly Scheduled Tours

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

Camron-Stanford House. 1876 Italianate on Lake Merritt.

Tours every Wed. 11-4 & Sun. 1-5; \$2/\$1, free first Sun.; 1418 Lakeside Dr., 836-1976.

Paramount Theatre. Art Deco movie palace, 2025 Broadway.

Tours 1st & 3rd Sat., 10 am, \$1, 893-2300.

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

Black Diamond Mines. Somersville Rd., Antioch; Sat. & Sun. 10, 11, 1:30, 2:30; reservations required for mine tour, 757-2620; \$2 + \$2 parking.

Ardenwood Historic Farm. Park open April-Nov., Thurs.-

Sun. 10-4; house tours hourly Sat. & Sun./variable Thurs.-Fri., \$4-\$1.50 dep. on age & day, tour extra; Ardenwood Blvd. or Lake Blvd., Newark; 796-0663.

McConaghy House. 102 year old farmhouse at 18701

Hesperian Blvd., Hayward. Tours Thurs.-Sun., 1-4, \$2/adult. Closed January. Info. 581-0223.

San Francisco Heritage weekly tours; \$3, info.441-3004.

Victorian & Edwardian Pacific Heights, Sundays 12:30-2, Haas-Lilienthal House, 2007 Franklin; Haas-Lilienthal house tours, Sun. 11-4:30, Wed. 12-4

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, contact Annalee Allen, 654-6791.

Preservation Action Committee: contact Carolyn Douthat, 763-5370, for time, place, and agenda.

Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board. 2nd Monday, 4 pm, Room 211, City Hall. Contact City Planning, 273-3941.

City Planning Commission. Every other Wednesday, 3:30 pm, Room 115, City Hall. Agenda & dates, 273-3941.

City Council. Every Tuesday evening, 7:30, Council Chambers, City Hall. City Clerk, 273-3611.



Oakland Heritage Alliance

P.O.Box 12425, Oakland, CA 94604 763-9218

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

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Oakland Heritage Alliance News

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OHA NEWS welcomes contributions--research projects large or small, historic photos, reports on preservation issues or events, etc. Contact Betty Marvin, 849-1959, Dean Yabuki, 832-5355, or OHA, 763-9218.

Back issues are available for \$2 from OHA.

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 (April 1 to June 30) are as follows:

Greg Albertson, Kathy Andrew, Leslie Baxter, Barbara Bell, Robert Brokl/Al Crofts, Carol Byrne, Christianne Cheney, Anne & Richard Copenhagen, Ann Del Simone, Diana Hunt Edgerton, James Edwards, Edna Linn Ellern, Lillian Flaherty, J. Timothy Galanek, Joan Greenberg, Laura Grotz/Leila Legarda, John Groyne, Gail Gum, Gretchen Hagen, Wilbur Hieb, Mrs. Cranston W. Hulse, Elinor Hurley, Stuart Knowles, Phyllis Lane, Robert Leste, Joni & David Lorber, George Mallman, Dorothy McCall, Nell Mendelson, Patricia Muscatelli, Carole Page, Mary Patterson, Albert Peterson, Bill Poon, Zelma Carol Pulcifer, Ocean View Lighting, Jane O'Sullivan, Dessa Rooney, Mr. & Mrs. Wm. Shaw, Dr. Les Solomon, Elizabeth Stevens, Linda Stevens/John Bowers, Vernadine Vinella, John Wagers.

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

Name _____
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- \$50 Organization (1 vote)
- \$100 Sponsor (1 vote)
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- \$ _____ Additional contribution

Oakland History Notes:

Sears, Roebuck & Co.

"The coming of the Sears, Roebuck and Co. store to Oakland makes another step in the merchandising progress of the city," announced the Oakland Tribune in 1930 upon the opening of the new store at Telegraph Avenue and 26th Street. Designed by company architects in Chicago and built by P.J. Walker and Co. (also builders of the H.C. Capwell store and the Hotel Oakland), the three story structure offered the shopper a plethora of merchandise--"a complete store," assured the advertisers, "which will materially reduce your living costs by providing all the needs of your family, your house, and your automobile." The basement featured automobile, camping, and hardware accessories, while the first floor displayed yard goods, men's clothing, shoes, hosiery, drugs, and a luncheonette. The second floor contained home furnishings and women's "ready to wear," while the third floor housed offices and a warehouse.

In all, the enterprise was touted as a "convenient store, out of heavy traffic, where there is plenty of free parking space for your car." A parking lot, adjacent to the store, provided space for more than 300 cars, an essential feature in an era of increasing auto use. With men's suits selling for \$19.95, ladies' hats for \$1.95, and



(Oakland History Room)

a pair of silk hosiery for 98 cents, the new store became the shopper's Shangri-La. Even a chief competitor, Montgomery Ward's mammoth store at East 14th Street and 29th Avenue, offered best wishes upon the inauguration of the new uptown retail center.

The store was expanded in 1945 and 1951, and finally in 1963, transmogrified beyond mortal recognition. In August 1964, the Tribune headlined "The Ultra-Modern Sears Reopens." Cement covering, a chopped-down tower, and vertical ribbed metal siding transformed the structure into 1960s moderne. Buildings, like caterpillars, can change utterly, but not always into elegant butterflies.

--William Sturm

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