

Historic Piedmont Avenue

Recollections of Old "Glen Echo"
on the Tree-Lined Road to Piedmont



In 1977 Mr. Nels Carlson walked up and down Piedmont Avenue in Oakland with me. As we walked, he pointed out the locations of old family homes and businesses. He described what had changed, what had vanished since his family moved into the neighborhood in 1906 (when he was five years old). Nels had inquisitive eyes and a mind that recorded and remembered details that the average person soon forgets.

One of this pioneer's vivid memories was of the Decoration Day (Memorial Day) parades up to the cemeteries. There were soldiers marching up the Avenue to Mountain View, firing rifle salutes over the graves of military heroes. A marching unit of League of the Cross Cadets assembled at Sacred Heart Church, 40th and (then) Grove,

Broadway and Piedmont, looking north, about 1910. Broadway is at left; Oakland Traction Company streetcar will take the waiting passenger downtown. (Ted Wurm collection)

marching up 40th and turning on Howe Street to St. Mary's Cemetery. Incidentally, St. Mary's recorded its first burial shortly before Mountain View opened in 1863.

We started our walk in front of Chapel of the Chimes, Julia Morgan's architectural masterpiece. In earlier times the last block of Piedmont Avenue was home to several establishments offering marble monuments for the graveyards. Hassard Florist was there, and a rose nursery at 4499. The east side of the street was mostly open fields before 1910. At the first intersection, where Pleasant Valley now crosses, was "Piedmont Junction," a watering place many years ear-



Nels Carlson, our guide on this history tour, resident of the Piedmont Avenue neighborhood from 1906. (Ted Wurm)

lier for teamsters engaged in hauling redwood lumber out of the hills and down to the Estuary. Firpo's Saloon was on the northwest corner (later Bud Voigt's, now King's X), and Cronin's Bar across the street.

Public transportation came to the area in 1876, when Piedmont Avenue was still called Webster Street. A horse-powered street railway brought visitors to the cemeteries from 7th and Washington via Broadway and Webster. With the coming of cable cars in 1890, service improved and eventually the

car line was electrified and extended up Moraga Road to Piedmont.

Wandering down Piedmont Avenue, about two blocks from the cemetery, one would pass a large fenced area on the left. This was the Hume Estate, 4320 Piedmont, home of George and Anne Hume. It extended back all the way to Rose Avenue on the hill. Young Nels watched construction of a concrete block fence footing - one of the first - along the Hume frontage on Piedmont Avenue. An iron fence was erected above the footing. At the Piedmont School property line was a cypress hedge and the Hume house stood way back at the hillside, about where Gleneden Avenue ends today.

When this big property was sold in 1939, the home was dismantled and a new street was run in from Piedmont Avenue. This long block was named Gleneden Avenue, and it was soon lined on both sides with attractive bungalows erected by builder Art Beckett. By coincidence, the designer of most of these houses was Nels Carlson. After grade school at Piedmont Avenue and high school at Oakland Tech, Nels earned a degree in architecture from U.C. Berkeley in 1926.

The present Piedmont Avenue School is on the same site as the old wooden three-story antique, built in 1891 with peaks and towers, bearing the name "Piedmont School" because it served children of the whole

Hume Estate on Piedmont Avenue opposite John Street, c.1932. The Hume house, 4320 Piedmont, was through the gate and back against the hill. The site became Glen Eden development about 1940. (Ted Wurm collection)





Piedmont School, at Piedmont Avenue and John Street, built 1891. Photo c. 1910-11. (Ted Wurm collection)

area before Piedmont became a separate city in 1907. The new Oakland Tech, Nels recalled, was built in 1912 on the former circus grounds on Broadway.

On the next block of Piedmont, at 4237, was the branch post office, just a few doors up from St. Leo's Church. Right across the street was one of the Avenue's two Safeway stores (closed in June 1962). The post office was relocated at the old Fenton's Dairy property on 41st Street in 1963. And, oddly enough, that old Safeway at 4226 is the present location of the popular Fenton's Creamery.

At the corner of Piedmont and Ridgeway is St. Leo's Church. The property was acquired in 1911 by the first pastor, Father Owen



Original St. Leo's Church on Piedmont near Ridgeway, c.1915, Father Owen Lacey at center front. After the new church was built in 1925, this 1912 building became the parish hall and then the school auditorium. (Ted Wurm collection)

Lacey. The house at that corner had been the home of Thomas Hill, renowned painter of California landscapes. Alongside this house, facing Piedmont Avenue, a small wooden church was constructed in 1912. A rapidly growing congregation replaced it with the present St. Leo's in 1925-26. The original church was moved around to Howe Street, where it serves as the school auditorium. The new church is in cruciform shape in the Italian Romanesque style, set back from the avenue so a pleasant garden could be developed along the street. Over the doorway is a ceramic by San Francisco's renowned artist and sculptor, Father Luigi Sciocchetti, who worked in the style of Della Robbia and whose work appears on many Catholic churches in central California.



Belle Vue Hotel, Piedmont and 41st, in 1908. In front of the entrance is Mrs. Jones, who owned and operated the hotel and dining room--25¢ meals. (Ted Wurm collection)

Continuing down the Avenue, Nels Carlson pointed out 4171 Piedmont, the office of Dr. Moore, the dentist. 4150-52 was the Royal Grocery ("just about the fanciest thing going"). On the corner of 41st, present location of Citicorp Savings, was old Belle Vue Hotel, with a barber shop and restaurant ("MEALS 25¢") at street level and a cigar store on the corner. Key Route Fuel and Feed was across the street. Its stocks of coal and wood, sacked feed, and other commodities were delivered in railroad cars on a spur track behind the Key Route train station. This attractive rustic station opened in 1904, when Borax Smith started his electric train system.



Key Route station in 1936--a mini-park on Piedmont Avenue.
(Vernon J. Sappers collection)

Trains from here headed westward through a cut between Howe Street and Broadway, ran all the way down 40th Street and out on a long trestle over the bay to meet ferryboats. The station was located directly opposite and facing Glen Avenue. When trains started running on the Bay Bridge in 1939, a new station was built at the corner of 41st (the J Hamburger place is part of the onetime station). The present parking lot was an area of tracks, some for freight cars, others for the passenger trains that

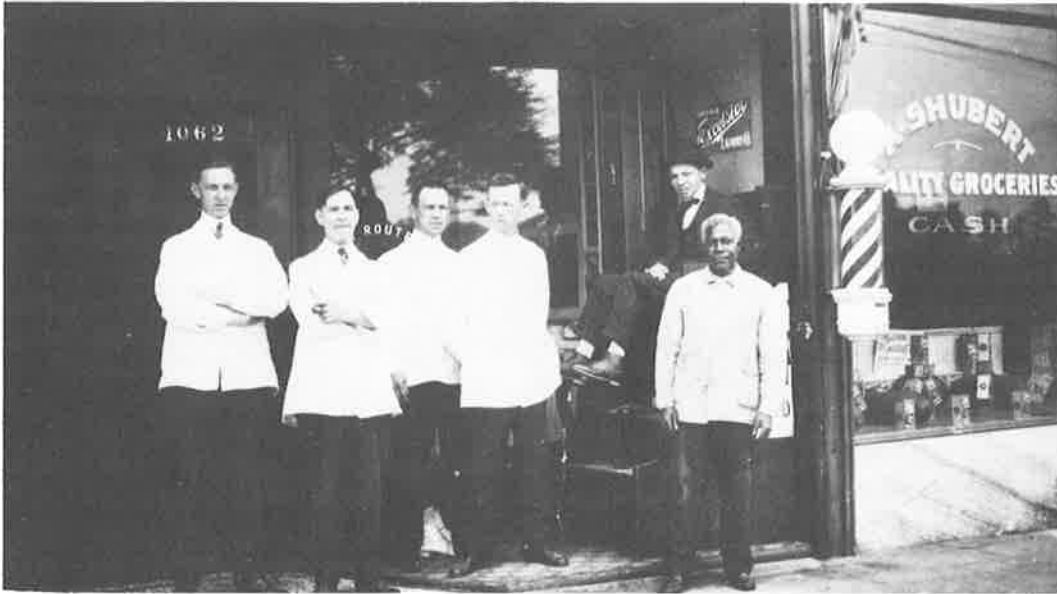
reached San Francisco. In recent grading to enlarge and improve the parking lot, train tracks were uncovered that had been paved over in 1958, when the last train rolled gently down Piedmont Avenue and turned toward the Bay Bridge.

In this block of Piedmont across from the station was Curly Freeman's famous pool hall at 4060. It had been the site of the area's first nickelodeon movie house, according to late long-time resident John Keller. This tiny cinema soon folded, replaced by a larger, finer picture palace about a block down the street at 3974. Operated by Katherine Heber, the building had a sort of false front, with blank upstairs windows to make it look like a residence. Nels Carlson said the theater featured mostly westerns made at Niles, with Bronco Billy racing around to a lively piano accompaniment.

When the nickelodeon was opposite the train station, that busy block was the business center, with lots of foot traffic. People were getting on and off the street cars that connected downtown with upper Piedmont. Other cars of Oakland Traction (another Borax Smith enterprise) came into Piedmont station from Rockridge, traveling down Broadway to 40th, through the cut to 41st and Piedmont. Locals referred to this as the "Country Club Car Line." The term



The second Piedmont Theater (1914-17), between Montell and Monte Vista. (Vernon J. Sappers collection)



Barber shop on Piedmont Avenue, 1914; Shubert's grocery at right, Freeman's pool hall to left. Identified participants are Fred Ward, Jack Hall, Billy Shaeffer (seated) and "Dan (bootblack)." (Ted Wurm collection)

Piedmont Junction was often used for Piedmont and 41st. The station, the hotel, the pool hall and cigar store, barber and shoe-shine stand - they were all here in that block across from the trains. Up at 4125 Piedmont in 1924 was Skagg's Cash Store, listed in the 1928 directory as "Skagg's Safeway."

Piggly Wiggly was one of the earliest grocery chains, established by Andrew Williams about 1921. Branch store #5 was at 3966 Piedmont. McMarr Stores, another early chain, had branches at 4080 and 4214 Piedmont. Hagstrom's, an East Bay chain, had a popular store at 4021. That number appears nowadays on the central entrance of the Julia Morgan building at 40th and Piedmont, designed for Elsie Turner with Morgan's "trademark Della Robbia wreaths" set in the brick walls. There is an interesting upstairs space, originally the Chauffeurs' Union Hall (note the emblem in the transom over the door). Most chauffeurs in early Piedmont belonged to this union.

Across the Avenue here is the Piedmont Grocery, established in the 1890s by Herman F. Sack and operated for many years by his son Herb. Next door was Piedmont Meat Market, operated by the Guerra family. The two businesses were consolidated in 1964. Just down from here at Monte Vista is one of the last mom-and-pop corner stores - the Monte Vista Food Center. Wells Fargo's new bank across the street replaced an attractive American Trust Company bank built in 1927. Well built, in fact; so well that it

took three times as long to demolish as had been estimated by the wreckers in 1971. Adjacent Red Arrow Cleaners was razed at the same time; it was once famed as the shop of Tony Martin's dad. The original Piedmont Branch Library came to 3975-77 Piedmont Avenue in 1925, moved to 3943 in 1930, and finally settled in the attractive Spanish-style building on 41st in 1933.

Farther down Piedmont Avenue, opposite Yosemite at 3791, was the lovely brick Plymouth Congregational Church. The vine covered church extended across through to Howe Street. Neighborhood boys used the church hall in the evenings for basketball games and other beneficial activities. The present multi-story parking garage is a poor replacement for the old brick walls and gardens of this Avenue attraction. But



Piedmont Market; 1929 photo by owner Rene Guerra. Tom (left) and Leo (in doorway) are Guerras. (Ted Wurm collection)



church membership had diminished and a smaller facility was wanted. It was built in a quiet residential neighborhood on Oakland Avenue.

Our walk down Piedmont Avenue finally brings us to Moss Avenue, now known as MacArthur Boulevard. This broad roadway was created to feed the Bay Bridge and opened in 1936. Old Moss Avenue, a narrow, winding segment of Highway 50, had ended at Telegraph Avenue between 37th and 38th Streets. There was considerable agitation, supported by Piedmont Avenue merchants, to make 40th Street the main bridge approach, since it was already 100 feet wide (but carrying trains of both Key Route and Sacramento Northern lines). "The Bay Bridge 40th Street Lateral Campaign" promoted using "the streets we already have." Moss won out; it was straightened and widened and a few Piedmont Avenue stores were wiped out.

Below MacArthur, Piedmont Avenue's historical associations diminish. On the left is Albert Brown Mortuary, dating back to the early 1900s when the move was made from their 1873 downtown location. Across the street alongside the freeway is the old Piedmont Hotel, the area's first "high-rise," with 7 1/2 stories. This building, designed by William Weeks, served for many years as part of Kaiser School of Nursing. Looking straight down Piedmont Avenue from here before 1928 we could have seen St. Mary's College set back on a hill at 30th and Broadway. Catholic residents of the area often attended Sunday services at the college chapel before St. Leo's existed.



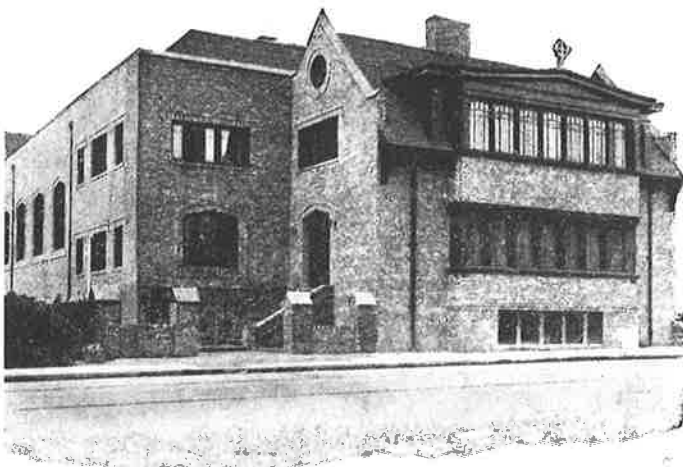
St. Mary's College at 30th and Broadway, c.1912. College started in San Francisco in 1868, was in Oakland 1888-1928, and then moved to Moraga. (Vernon Sappers collection)

And baseball teams from several of the old neighborhoods used the college diamond on Sundays during certain seasons of the year.

Nels Carlson, who started us on these reminiscences, left me with a reminder not to get too close to the present. We have to remember that there were horse-drawn wagons making deliveries, and others collecting castoffs with the "rags-bottles-sacks" men. The two-horse garbage wagons of Oakland Scavenger, painted blue, were known as "Blue Taxis" to their operators. These were everyday sights to teenagers like Nels in the 1920s. And they all knew Manuel Rose, Piedmont's first policeman, who covered his beat on horseback.

As a young boy, Nels Carlson delivered milk from cows that were milked within a block of Piedmont Avenue. He and his friends wore themselves out on dirt-road bicycle races from the Avenue up to what is now Montclair, up Moraga Road. And how they relished the ride back! There were coaster races down Piedmont Avenue. The finest adventure, apparently, was riding their bicycles to the great World's Fair in San Francisco in 1915. No, not all the way around the bay, but via the "Nickel Ferry" from the foot of Oakland's Broadway.

--Ted Wurm



Plymouth Congregational Church. The parish hall, facing Piedmont Avenue, was a neighborhood social and recreational center. (Oakland History Room)

Author's note: Some of this material originally appeared in "PANIL Notes," monthly bulletin of the Piedmont Avenue Neighborhood Improvement League. Added to Nels Carlson's reminiscences are details from old city directories and my discussions with long-time Avenue residents including John Keller, Lee Gilpin, Leo Guerra, Helen Ayres, and Tom Dishar.

The Watts Hospital

Several pioneering black physicians contributed to the early development of the East Bay black community. Dr. G.B.H. Rutherford was probably the first black doctor to practice in Oakland. A graduate of Howard University, Dr. Rutherford arrived in California in 1885, prospected briefly for gold, and about 1901 settled in Oakland where he pursued his profession. Another Howard M.D., Dr. William W. Purnell, set up practice in the East Bay soon after the turn of the century after serving in the Spanish-American War as a Captain-Surgeon in the Philippines.

Dr. Purnell moved to Oakland in 1902 and was active in the black community. He served on the executive board of the Home for Aged and Infirm Colored People (OHA News, Spring 1985), and treated the residents without charge. He was a member of the Elks, Masons, Foresters, Knights of Pythias, and the Railroad Men's Association. Delilah Beasley considered Dr. Purnell the "leading Negro physician of the Bay cities," with "a rapidly growing practice among Italians, Spanish, and members of his own race."

By the 1920s Oakland's black physicians included Dr. Charles L. Boisseaux, Dr. R.G. Bondurant, Dr. O.Roy Busch, Dr. W.L. Jones, Dr. W.D. Wilson, and Dr. William Watts. These men contributed to the community by serving on the boards of black institutions

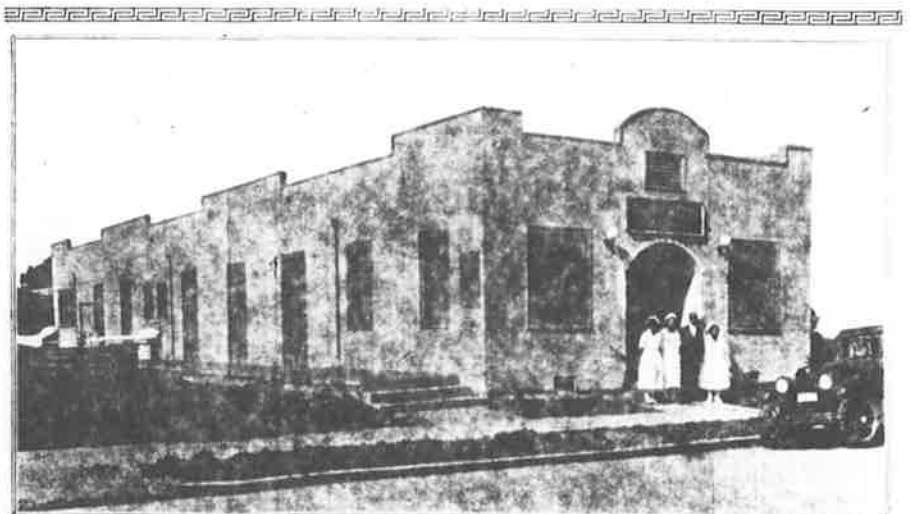
and churches and by supporting local lodges, clubs, and societies.

Ida Louise Jackson, Oakland's first black public school teacher, provides information about the early black M.D.s in a thesis she wrote in 1923: "The Negro physicians of Oakland are to be grouped largely among the more recent arrivals. None of these listed are native Californians. They all report a good practice among their own people with a small but increasing patronage from members of other races. Practically all of these men received their training in southern colleges. They all have large, attractive, and well equipped offices."

Dr. William Watts was a graduate of Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee. Originally from Houston, Texas, Dr. Watts and his wife Margaret arrived in Oakland in 1923. In 1926 he built the Watts Hospital, Oakland's first black hospital, located at 3437 Harlan Street in North Oakland, near the intersection of Adeline Street and San Pablo Avenue.

A need for a black hospital existed in the 1920s because county and private hospitals in the East Bay practiced various forms of discrimination against black doctors, nurses and patients. Whenever a black M.D. brought

The only known portrait of Dr. William Watts (left) shows him examining a large tumor in an apothecary jar. (*New Day Informer*, c.1924; N.Cal. Center for Afro-American History). Right, the Watts Hospital and Sanitarium, "The only one of its kind on the Pacific Coast." (*Western American*, 1926)



Watts Hospital and Sanitarium. School for Nurses, where all lectures and their laboratory are made wireless. Each room is new, with private bath and sink. A Registered Nurse is on duty at all times with a telephone. Treatments are never left alone night or day. The only hope in building up the Institution depends upon the outcome of our skin and specialties, namely, removal of warts, warts, are not examined and indeed ground of. Expert Diagnosis, Expert Surgery, Expert treatment and Expert Nursing with good and safe results. Treatments are made and be continued.

HOSPITAL - 3437 HARLAN ST., PHONE DE 4900 (2 LINES)
 COLLEGE FOR THE DEAF - 1315 BAY ST., PHONE DE 4900 (2 LINES)
 Ask for Mr. E. Barlow

WATTS HOSPITAL

3437 Harlan Street

Phone Humboldt 5131

WILLIAM WATTS, M. D.

WOMEN'S DISEASES and GENERAL SURGERY

Office Hours: 1 to 5 and 6 to 7:30 P. M.

Mornings and Sundays by Appointment

1191 36th Street

Office Phone Humboldt 2776

The Watts Hospital advertised in at least three local Black newspapers. This ad appeared in the Western American, 1926.

a patient to a hospital, he had to turn his patient over to a white physician. Alameda County hospitals refused to admit black women into nurses' training. Black patients were placed in segregated rooms. The Watts Hospital offered the black community an alternative to Jim Crow medicine.

When the Watts Hospital opened in March 1926, Delilah Beasley reported the event in her Tribune column:

"Last Sunday afternoon was a history making day for the colored people of the city of Oakland, when their new modern fireproof hospital was opened to the public for inspection. It is located on Harlan Street and contains 22 beds. It is a concrete building with every modern equipment and with hardwood floors throughout.

"Dr. William Watts, the owner and builder, came to the state from Houston, Texas, about three and a half years ago. After spending one and a half years in travelling over the state decided that Oakland was the city of the great possibilities."

The Watts institution functioned as both a hospital and sanitarium. According to an ad in the Western American, a local black newspaper, it offered "Expert diagnosis, expert surgery, expert treatment and expert nursing with good will to all." The rooms, which cost \$4 a day, were "clean, private and sunkissed." A registered nurse was on duty at all times, and the patients were never left alone "night nor day." The Watts nurses wore the traditional white stockings, white caps, and starched white uniform of the day.

Compared to the massive Highland Hospital which also opened in 1926, Watts Hospital was very small. It was a one-story concrete building 25 feet wide and 110 feet long,

with a distinctive stepped parapet.

Dr. Watts maintained an office at 1191 36th Street, a short distance from the hospital. He also wrote a column for the Western American, titled "How to Keep Well." In this column Dr. Watts made "no attempt to treat diseases," but provided information about common illnesses, diet, hygiene, pain, and various disorders.

Dr. Watts specialized in surgery and the treatment of female diseases. He described himself as "a little different from most surgeons," and indeed by today's standards he was. When Dr. Watts performed surgery he welcomed visitors into the operating room so they could observe his handiwork. After removal of a tumor or diseased organ he would gladly place the specimen into a jar so the patient and family could examine it. Claiming "he has nothing to conceal," Dr. Watts resorted to this type of showmanship in order to promote his hospital.

Although heavily advertised in local black newspapers, the Watts Hospital failed to attract the anticipated patronage. In February 1927 Dr. Watts wrote a letter to the Western American expressing concern because the "sanitarium is not self supporting, therefore it is being run at a loss and a great expense and sacrifice on my part." In the same letter Dr. Watts reported that "we only get a case now and then, despite the fact that we have saved every operative case and have cured all the sick which was not destined to die and was not in a bad way before entrance."

Business did not improve and the hospital closed in 1927. Dr. Watts remained in the area for a few months and continued to practice at his 36th Street office. In 1928 he returned to Texas to manage his late brother's hospital. By 1928 the need for a black hospital had diminished, since Highland had integrated its nurses' training program and eliminated other discriminatory practices.

Following the departure of Dr. Watts, the abandoned hospital was converted to a five unit apartment house and stood for another 30 years. In 1957 the MacArthur Freeway juggernaut leveled the old concrete building, and Dr. William Watts' dream passed into oblivion.

--Donald Hausler

Don Hausler is a frequent contributor to the OHA News, an authority on early black institutions in Oakland, and a founder of the Emeryville Historical Society.



OHA Update

■ DAVID HOARD NEW OHA DIRECTOR

David Hoard, director of residential sales for the Lapham Company, has been appointed to fill the vacancy on OHA's board. Originally from the East Coast, where he majored in American Culture and Public Administration, David came to Oakland in 1968 as deputy director of the Redevelopment Agency. He moved over to the Office of Community Development in 1977, and served as director of that agency. He later worked in property management in West Oakland, and was appointed by the mayor to the Landmarks Board, which he chaired for two years. For the past four years he has been in residential real estate in Oakland.

David is interested in promoting awareness of Oakland's history. While at OCD he discovered the distinctive qualities of the city's neighborhoods, and feels residents can contribute to the appreciation of all parts of Oakland.

--Annalee Allen

■ PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In the city's center, perhaps more than anywhere else in Oakland, preservation of historic structures is synonymous with retaining the identity of the city. Because of the earthquake, the buildings which define Oakland's center have been thrown into relief. Surrounding City Hall Plaza, the Rotunda, the Broadway Building, and City Hall itself all stand vacant, their future a question mark.

In December the owners of the Broadway Building applied for a demolition permit. Acting quickly, Landmarks Board chair Anthony Pegram instigated landmark designation proceedings and successfully pressured the owners to withdraw the demolition request (see Briefing). The Rotunda, an ambitious preservation project, has been stalled since developer Myron Zimmerman ran out of funds and First Interstate Bank assumed ownership. The bank is currently in the process of evaluating this project. According to the city manager, the city is committed to repairing City Hall but the ways

and means are still being studied. These buildings, tied together by City Hall Plaza, form a strong civic presence at the confluence of Broadway, San Pablo, and 14th Street. They are the heart of downtown Oakland, and as such, their preservation should be of concern to everyone.

It is important to recognize that Oakland, far from "needing an identity," has one, and that because of the earthquake there are many decisions to be made which will affect the face of the city. There is an opportunity here for positive recognition of the historic resources which help define the city. Leadership from public officials in a commitment to save these important buildings can set the tone of confidence for the city's recovery from Loma Prieta.

--Annalee Allen

■ HADDON HILL HOUSE TOUR

Discover one of Oakland's charming, less-known neighborhoods when OHA presents its 1990 spring house tour, "Hidden Haddon Hill, A Mediterranean Gem," on Sunday, May 20, from noon to 5 pm.

Located just east of Lakeshore Avenue and south of MacArthur Boulevard, this area was built up in the 1920s primarily in Mediterranean styles, Italian villas and Spanish haciendas. Historically called Lakemont, the neighborhood offers a comprehensive display of 1920s housing types as well as some outstanding buildings from pre-World War I and post-World War II. Noted East Bay architects are represented here, including Julia Morgan, C.W. Dickey, W.E. Schirmer, and Sidney and Noble Newsom. The neighborhood was one of the first to have underground utilities, as part of its original landscape plan by Mark Daniels. The best known Haddon Hill resident was Henry J. Kaiser. Because many Asians have lived there over the years, it has long been nicknamed China Hill.

Since the houses are close together in the compact neighborhood, tour participants will be able to walk easily from house to house. Refreshments will be served at one home. Marlene Wilson heads the house tour committee, with research assistance from Ed Phillips and Betty Marvin. Other committee members are Lynn Fonfa, Helen Lore, Barbara



Sutherland, and Dean Yabuki. Tour donation is \$20 general, \$16 for OHA members, who will receive tour announcements shortly. For information and reservations, or to volunteer as a docent, call the OHA office at 763-9218. --Helen Lore

■ PRESERVATION CONFERENCE COMING

Save April 26-29 to attend the 1990 State Preservation Conference which is being held this year in San Francisco. Organized by the California Preservation Foundation and cosponsored by the State Office of Historic Preservation, the National Trust, and local groups including Oakland Heritage Alliance, the event will include workshops on the architectural traditions and history of San Francisco and the Bay Area, housing, environmental protection and growth management.

An imaginative day-long track for teachers is being organized by Judith Lynch (Our Houses) and David Weitzman (Your Backyard History Book). A special pre-conference Disaster Preparedness Workshop is set for April 25. The conference ends on Sunday with a day of tours in and around the Bay Area. OHA and the AIA will lead a tour of downtown Oakland.

The conference is designed for anyone involved or interested in historic preservation. Brochures are being mailed in early March. Call CPF at 763-0972 or OHA at 763-9218 for more information. --Helen Lore

■ HOLIDAY PARTY

Special thanks to those who made the 1989 Holiday Party honoring the 10th anniversary of the Oakland Cultural Heritage Survey a rousing success. Lynn Fonfa, program chair, and Barbara Sutherland, who was in charge of refreshments, are to be commended for a lovely party. A special thank you to Bramalea Pacific who helped sponsor this event.

Gary Knecht, survey coordinator, brought everyone up to date on the progress of the survey, which is now concentrated in the Prescott area of West Oakland. Party goers donated \$223 to the continuance of the survey, which is funded by the State Office of Historic Preservation and administered by the Oakland Planning Department.

--Helen Lore

■ TED WURM LECTURE

An overflow crowd filled Koncepts Cultural Gallery in the historic Western Pacific railroad station on February 2 for Ted Wurm's slide lecture on Oakland's early transportation systems.

It was a journey through Oakland history as Ted, an eminent railroad historian, showed his unique collection of slides and shared his intimate knowledge of the city's past, including anecdotes from the many old Oaklanders he has interviewed over the years. The ferries, the horse-drawn street cars, the cable cars, the electric trains--all were highlighted during the evening.

Ted was introduced by Bill Sturm, himself an authority on Oakland's transportation history and the librarian in charge of the Oakland History Room of the Oakland Main Library. Resplendent in 1880s attire, Bill vividly recounted the story of the tumultuous beginnings of the Western Pacific in Oakland. To top off the evening a freight train obliged by rumbling noisily by outside on Third Street--a remembrance of times past. Thanks to both Ted and Bill for this interesting program.

--Helen Lore

■ WHERE WERE YOU?

The Oakland Public Library invites everyone to become a part of history by contributing personal accounts and/or photographs of the earthquake of '89 to the library's historical archives. A description of what happened during and after the earthquake will be of great interest to historians and researchers 10, 20, or 100 years from now.

Send your story to the Oakland Public Library, Earthquake History Project, 125 14th Street, Oakland CA 94612, or drop it off at any Oakland Public Library or library book drop. Write as little or as much as you like. You can pick up a form at any library branch, or simply write a story, report, or letter. Please specify in the upper right hand corner where you were when the earthquake struck (at work, at home, inside, outside, private vehicle, public transportation). For more information call Cityline at 444-2489.

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.

■ BROADWAY BUILDING THREATENED

In the first test of how the earthquake may permanently alter the downtown streetscape, the owners of the distinctive Broadway Building at the gore of San Pablo and Broadway applied for a demolition permit for the building, along with three others which lie between it and Kahn's Alley.

As anyone visiting downtown will notice, chain link fencing has become a dominant design feature along Broadway since the earthquake. While none of the buildings were damaged seriously enough for the city to require demolition, major buildings like the Broadway Building have been vacated while owners decide what to do.

Taldan Investments, which owns the Broadway Building, had apparently chosen to get a demolition permit first and make development decisions later, when they applied on November 20 for a permit to create a vacant lot. Because the building is on the Study List, issuance of the permit was delayed so



Oakland's "there" is anchored by the Broadway Building and Cathedral Building, on the flatiron corners of Broadway and San Pablo and Telegraph. (Phil Bellman)



Detail over the prow of the endangered Broadway Building. Another crest at the top bears the initials of its original occupant, the First National Bank. (Phil Bellman)

that the Landmarks Board and Planning Commission could consider landmark designation. Landmarks Board meetings had been suspended because of the earthquake and attendant staffing problems; at the request of Landmarks Board chair Anthony Pegram, the Board and Planning Commission held a joint hearing on the designation issue.

At the hearing in late December, Taldan presented a letter from their structural engineer, Rudolf Fehr, saying the building would be "costly, disruptive and difficult" to bring up to a reasonably safe seismic level. According to Taldan, demolition was necessary because of the ongoing debt service on the property, and because insurance was unavailable to protect them against liability for injuries to passers-by.

The original damage evaluations by the city and a team from the National Park Service concluded that the building had not suffered major damage, and that occupancy could be resumed if scaffolding were installed to protect pedestrians from the loose terra cotta ornament on the facade.

Taldan representatives also said that demolition was necessary to obtain financing for a larger project on the site, but that they were interested in keeping the facade of the building if possible. In the face of these conflicting statements, the Planning Commission and Landmarks Board delayed a vote on designation on condition that Taldan conduct a more complete examin-



■ CITY HALL

A City Hall Project Committee, formed in response to a request from the city manager's office, is reviewing the ongoing analysis of the damage to City Hall and the plan for its repair and stabilization. The five person committee, representing the OPAT member groups, has met several times with city staff, including Clyde Grimes, city architect, and Ezra Rapport from the city manager's office. As of late February, the city had hired the architectural firm of VBN to prepare a study of alternatives, and will be contracting for exploratory work on the tower to determine the extent of damage from the earthquake.

The State Office of Historic Preservation has given preliminary approval for the exploratory work. Because the building is a city landmark and listed on the National Register of Historic Places, consultation with the state is required both for FEMA reimbursement and under Senate Bill 3X, an emergency earthquake measure which prohibits demolition or significant alteration without approval from the State Office. The adoption of a workable plan for repairing and reopening City Hall is seen by many as one of the most important signals of confidence that the city could give for the rebuilding of downtown.

→Carolyn Douthat

■ OCHS TO SURVEY CYPRESS CORRIDOR

Oakland's Cultural Heritage Survey, headed by Coordinator Gary Knecht, will be surveying the Cypress corridor under an agreement with CalTrans. The \$65,000 study, part of a Historic Architecture Survey Report on the possible replacement routes for I-880, is to be conducted over the next three months. Under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and the National Environmental Policy Act, CalTrans is required to prepare a HASR covering the three routes being considered: the Cypress corridor, I-980, and the Middle Harbor Road route across Southern Pacific property.

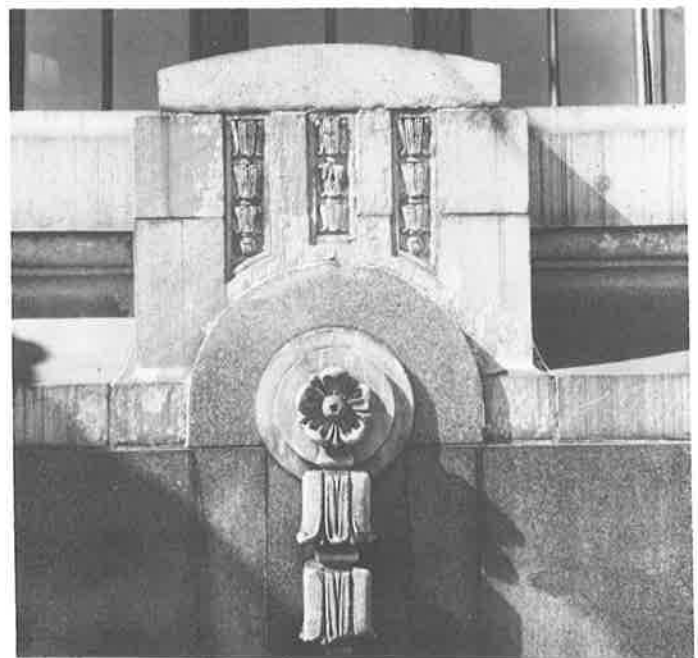
In a letter to the City Planning Department requesting city cooperation in the study, CalTrans stated "it is essential that a thorough and sensitive evaluation of

historic and cultural resources be undertaken for all of the alternative corridors under consideration. The ongoing and highly regarded Oakland Cultural Heritage Survey and the wealth of information on Oakland's historic resources that the OCHS has already assembled make your staff the most appropriate party to carry out the survey."

The OCHS will survey the Cypress corridor (from the Estuary to the Emeryville border) and a portion of the SP route. CalTrans staff will prepare material on the remaining routes. After consultation with the West Oakland community organization CERT, the City Council was expected to approve the agreement in mid-March.

West Oakland is increasingly the focus of both state and city attention. In addition to the rerouting of I-880, the city is considering designating a large portion of West Oakland as a redevelopment area (see OHA News, Winter 1988-89), and an ambitious development has been proposed for the vacant SP land which borders West Oakland at the junction of Highway 580 and I-880. Because of the wealth of historic structures in West Oakland, among them the vacated Southern Pacific station at 16th and Wood Streets, OHA will be closely monitoring these developments.

→Carolyn Douthat



Distinctive terra cotta and granite pylon on the Southern Pacific station at 16th and Wood Streets (Jarvis Hunt, 1912) a West Oakland landmark on precarious ground. (Phil Bellman)

■ GROVE STREET COLLEGE

A Christmas Day article in the Tribune focused on yet another development in the ongoing debate on the fate of North Oakland's Merritt College. Pressed for space, nearby Children's Hospital is in need of expanded offices. If Children's could renovate the empty campus site for administrative functions, the hospital would then be in a position to provide an additional 80 beds in its existing facility. In addition to offices, a senior center and child care facility would also be incorporated in the Merritt College building. According to the Tribune article, a presentation of this new plan was made at a December Oakland Design Advocates meeting. ODA is a group of urban planning professionals.

Members of the North Oakland Voters Alliance, a neighborhood group concerned with preserving the building, have also shown strong support for this proposal, and have asked OHA to assist them in contacting alumni of the school. It is hoped that alumni support will help convince city officials that viable proposals for retaining the building do exist.

So far the city's response has been to direct hospital representatives to meet with NORA, the developer previously selected to develop the site. NORA's plan calls for a mixed use retail and office complex on the 9-acre site (see OHA News, Fall 1988 and following). If this plan were adopted, the entire building would be demolished. The hospital's December announcement calling for restoring the building must have come as a surprise to NORA principals Charles Thomas and Willie Cooke. They had been counting on Children's to be a prime office tenant in their project.

At a January Redevelopment Agency committee meeting chaired by Aleta Cannon, staff proposed that NORA and Children's spend 60 days working to design a site plan that incorporates Children's requirements. In preparing the plan the developer will be required to examine the feasibility of saving at least a portion of the existing building.

The EIR and Section 106 review continue to be stalled. Although the State Office of Historic Preservation has indicated to OHA that there is no reason the city should not



University High School-Merritt College building shows evidence that site security is less than perfect. Negotiations with Children's Hospital may offer hope. (Phil Bellman)

be proceeding, the process has been on hold pending the outcome of the NORA-Children's negotiations. Press accounts have stated that the historic review is to blame for the delays. An OHA letter clarifying the role historic review plays in the process was sent to the Tribune.

Security of the building continues to be a concern to NOVA and to OHA. According to OEDE staff, the project's funding has been depleted and additional funding is needed. The lack of funds is ostensibly the reason the roof skylights remain unboarded and open to the weather. Neighbors are voluntarily watching for open doors and signs of vandalism. It would be deeply regrettable if insufficient security measures resulted in loss of yet another OEDE administered property, like the Herrick House in Preservation Park which was destroyed by fire last year.

---Annalee Allen

■ RETAIL CENTER

The earthquake slowed the development process for the Oakland Galleria, also known as the Retail Center, but planning and commitments continue, with Bonwit Teller dropping out as one of the department store anchors, and Macy's joining up. The existing Emporium Capwell's building, dam-



■ CITY HALL

A City Hall Project Committee, formed in response to a request from the city manager's office, is reviewing the ongoing analysis of the damage to City Hall and the plan for its repair and stabilization. The five person committee, representing the OPAT member groups, has met several times with city staff, including Clyde Grimes, city architect, and Ezra Rapport from the city manager's office. As of late February, the city had hired the architectural firm of VBN to prepare a study of alternatives, and will be contracting for exploratory work on the tower to determine the extent of damage from the earthquake.

The State Office of Historic Preservation has given preliminary approval for the exploratory work. Because the building is a city landmark and listed on the National Register of Historic Places, consultation with the state is required both for FEMA reimbursement and under Senate Bill 3X, an emergency earthquake measure which prohibits demolition or significant alteration without approval from the State Office. The adoption of a workable plan for repairing and reopening City Hall is seen by many as one of the most important signals of confidence that the city could give for the rebuilding of downtown.

--Carolyn Douthat

■ OCHS TO SURVEY CYPRESS CORRIDOR

Oakland's Cultural Heritage Survey, headed by Coordinator Gary Knecht, will be surveying the Cypress corridor under an agreement with CalTrans. The \$65,000 study, part of a Historic Architecture Survey Report on the possible replacement routes for I-880, is to be conducted over the next three months. Under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and the National Environmental Policy Act, CalTrans is required to prepare a HASR covering the three routes being considered: the Cypress corridor, I-980, and the Middle Harbor Road route across Southern Pacific property.

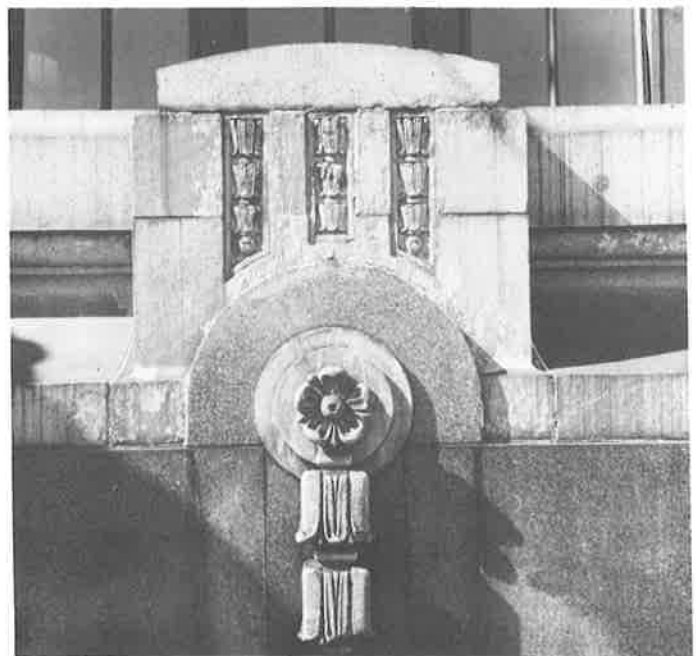
In a letter to the City Planning Department requesting city cooperation in the study, CalTrans stated "it is essential that a thorough and sensitive evaluation of

historic and cultural resources be undertaken for all of the alternative corridors under consideration. The ongoing and highly regarded Oakland Cultural Heritage Survey and the wealth of information on Oakland's historic resources that the OCHS has already assembled make your staff the most appropriate party to carry out the survey."

The OCHS will survey the Cypress corridor (from the Estuary to the Emeryville border) and a portion of the SP route. CalTrans staff will prepare material on the remaining routes. After consultation with the West Oakland community organization CERT, the City Council was expected to approve the agreement in mid-March.

West Oakland is increasingly the focus of both state and city attention. In addition to the rerouting of I-880, the city is considering designating a large portion of West Oakland as a redevelopment area (see OHA News, Winter 1988-89), and an ambitious development has been proposed for the vacant SP land which borders West Oakland at the junction of Highway 580 and I-880. Because of the wealth of historic structures in West Oakland, among them the vacated Southern Pacific station at 16th and Wood Streets, OHA will be closely monitoring these developments.

--Carolyn Douthat



Distinctive terra cotta and granite pylon on the Southern Pacific station at 16th and Wood Streets (Jarvis Hunt, 1912) a West Oakland landmark on precarious ground. (Phil Bellman)

■ GROVE STREET COLLEGE

A Christmas Day article in the Tribune focused on yet another development in the ongoing debate on the fate of North Oakland's Merritt College. Pressed for space, nearby Children's Hospital is in need of expanded offices. If Children's could renovate the empty campus site for administrative functions, the hospital would then be in a position to provide an additional 80 beds in its existing facility. In addition to offices, a senior center and child care facility would also be incorporated in the Merritt College building. According to the Tribune article, a presentation of this new plan was made at a December Oakland Design Advocates meeting. ODA is a group of urban planning professionals.

Members of the North Oakland Voters Alliance, a neighborhood group concerned with preserving the building, have also shown strong support for this proposal, and have asked OHA to assist them in contacting alumni of the school. It is hoped that alumni support will help convince city officials that viable proposals for retaining the building do exist.

So far the city's response has been to direct hospital representatives to meet with NORA, the developer previously selected to develop the site. NORA's plan calls for a mixed use retail and office complex on the 9-acre site (see OHA News, Fall 1988 and following). If this plan were adopted, the entire building would be demolished. The hospital's December announcement calling for restoring the building must have come as a surprise to NORA principals Charles Thomas and Willie Cooke. They had been counting on Children's to be a prime office tenant in their project.

At a January Redevelopment Agency committee meeting chaired by Aleta Cannon, staff proposed that NORA and Children's spend 60 days working to design a site plan that incorporates Children's requirements. In preparing the plan the developer will be required to examine the feasibility of saving at least a portion of the existing building.

The EIR and Section 106 review continue to be stalled. Although the State Office of Historic Preservation has indicated to OHA that there is no reason the city should not



University High School-Merritt College building shows evidence that site security is less than perfect. Negotiations with Children's Hospital may offer hope. (Phil Bellman)

be proceeding, the process has been on hold pending the outcome of the NORA-Children's negotiations. Press accounts have stated that the historic review is to blame for the delays. An OHA letter clarifying the role historic review plays in the process was sent to the Tribune.

Security of the building continues to be a concern to NOVA and to OHA. According to OEDE staff, the project's funding has been depleted and additional funding is needed. The lack of funds is ostensibly the reason the roof skylights remain unboarded and open to the weather. Neighbors are voluntarily watching for open doors and signs of vandalism. It would be deeply regrettable if insufficient security measures resulted in loss of yet another OEDE administered property, like the Herrick House in Preservation Park which was destroyed by fire last year.

---Annalee Allen

■ RETAIL CENTER

The earthquake slowed the development process for the Oakland Galleria, also known as the Retail Center, but planning and commitments continue, with Bonwit Teller dropping out as one of the department store anchors, and Macy's joining up. The existing Emporium Capwell's building, dam-



aged in the earthquake, is still closed and the other Broadway businesses are feeling the effect. Carter Hawley Hale, the parent company of the Emporium, responded to the earthquake damage by proposing to modernize the building, removing the terra cotta facade and most of the windows. At the design review hearing, OHA spoke out for full consideration of other solutions to the stabilization and repair of the building in light of the prominence of the site and the importance of its Beaux Arts facade to the Uptown district. The Planning Commission, however, approved the new facade, apparently persuaded that any other design solution would cause delays in reopening the store. --Sally Nielsen

City Landmarks Board Actions

The Oakland Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board meets on the second Monday of each month. Meetings are open to the public. Designation of landmarks is recommended by the Board to the Planning Commission and City Council. Landmarks are subject to a 240-day delay in issuance of demolition permits. Exterior alterations require approval by City Planning staff, at the recommendation of the Board. 108 landmarks have been designated in the 15 years since the Board was created. For future meeting times and locations, call City Planning, 273-3911.

DECEMBER

There was no regular meeting, due to disruption of facilities caused by the October 17 earthquake. Once again there is a vacant seat on the board, following Marji Shaw's resignation.

On December 28 a joint meeting of the Landmarks Board and Planning Commission considered landmark designation for the Broadway Building (1401-19 Broadway/1412-14 San Pablo Avenue). Speaking for the designation were Larry Mortimer (AIA), Chris Pattillo (Oakland Design Advocates), Lisbeth Henning (National Trust for Historic Preservation), Randolph Langenbach (professor of architecture, U.C. Berkeley), Peggy Walker (tenant of the building), and Peter Culley (structural engineer). Speaking against designation were K.C. Ruppenthal (Broadway Property Group) and Kenneth Goulet (Taldan Investment Co.). Designation would subject the building to the provisions of SB 3X, adopted Nov. 6, 1989, by the state legislature, stating that "no structure that is listed on the National Register

of Historic Places, on the California Register of Historic Places, or on any local public register of historic places, and that has been damaged due to a natural disaster, including, but not limited to, an earthquake, fire or flood may be demolished, destroyed, or significantly altered, except for restoration to preserve or enhance its historic values, unless the structure presents an imminent threat to the public of bodily harm or of danger to adjacent property, or unless the State Office of Historic Preservation determines ... that the structure may be demolished, destroyed, or significantly altered."

According to the City Planning Department's Oakland Cultural Heritage Survey, the Broadway Building was built in 1907-08, designed by architect Llewellyn B. Dutton. Despite remodeling on the first floor, the Survey considers it one of Oakland's best early 20th century downtown buildings, and its lobby one of Oakland's finest interior spaces. It is among the city's first examples of reinforced concrete construction, its Beaux Arts exterior distinguished by terra cotta and granite surfaces. It is included in the State Historic Resources Inventory and appears eligible for the National Register as well as worthy of landmark status. Owner Taldan Investment submitted a demolition permit application dated November 20. Since the building is on the Landmarks Board's preservation study list, the Planning Director has authority to postpone issuance of the permit for up to 60 days. Taldan agreed to withdraw their permit application temporarily, thereby delaying demolition for at least 60 days.

The Landmarks Board voted to reconvene for discussion of the designation at the regular meeting on February 5; the Planning Commission voted to continue its public hearing to February 21.

JANUARY

Secretary Chris Buckley reported to the Board on Oakland buildings damaged by the earthquake, and the city's response: City Hall's major problem is the clock tower, and the building will be unoccupied for about three years; Charles Greene Library suffered mainly damage to the parapet; fate of the Amtrak Station is unknown; the Clay Building is on the National Register and subject to SB 3X; Hotel Oakland is signifi-



1416 11th Street, 1871-72, in the Oakland Point district: one of several West Oakland Victorians demolished. Below, the Shorey House, 1782 8th Street, was one of the lucky ones: it came off its foundation but is now being repaired. Captain William Shorey, who lived here from the 1880s to the 1910s, was a whaling master; the Shoreys were leaders in the Bay Area black community. (Muffy Kibbey/OPAT)

cantly damaged but is being repaired; 1100 Broadway was issued an abatement notice; Madison Park Apartments, on the National Register and subject to SB 3X, is structurally sound but the clinker brick veneer is damaged; the Emporium will be severely altered, with Planning Department approval to expedite reopening of the store; California Cotton Mills is a city landmark and subject to SB 3X; about 10 Victorians in West Oakland are near collapse and the city has ordered them demolished; residential hotels, mainly downtown, are heavily damaged, and the city is trying to obtain assistance.

Board discussed the possibility of a special meeting to consider study list properties and review procedures. Boardmember Laverne Wells-Bowie agreed to attend the Landmarks Commission and Certified Local Government Workshop in San Jose on January 26; attendance is required for the Board's Certified Local Government status. Boardmember Barbara Armstrong reported on the landmark plaque project; funding was discussed. Helen Lore of OHA reported a donation from the Lapham Realty Co. for the Landmarks Board's use.

FEBRUARY

Board approved application from Dale Meyer & Associates to construct a new four-story residential and commercial building on the vacant northwest corner of 7th and Washington in the Old Oakland S-7 preservation district; colors to be reviewed at a future board meeting. Board approved designs from Arthur Clark (Storek & Storek) for storefronts at 476 9th Street (Henry House, a city landmark in the Old Oakland preservation zone), modified from designs reviewed in May. Board approved designs submitted by the Delger/Ross House Company for storefronts at 901 Broadway (Delger Block, an Oakland landmark), and a request to install a projecting sign at the Bay Bridge Bookstore and establish a 3 1/2 foot projection for signs in the Old Oakland district.

After hearing arguments on financial situation, structural condition of the building, and conflicting engineering reports, Board voted to postpone decision on the Broadway Building, in response to an application for landmark designation from the City Planning Commission. The matter will be tabled until another engineering report is received. --Kathy Olson

OHA Calendar

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

Upcoming Activities



Fri 23 March, 7:30 pm, "Neon, The Living Flame," slide lecture, Michael Crowe, Concepts Cultural Gallery, 480 3rd St., Oakland. \$3 OHA/\$5 general. Oakland Heritage Alliance, 763-9218.

through Fri 30 March. "Gli Italiani di Oakland: Oakland's Italian Community," exhibit, Oakland History Room, Oakland Public Library, 125 14th St.; Tu & Th 12-8:30, W&F 10-5:30, Sat 1-5:30. Free; 273-3222.

through Sun 15 April. "Stitching Memories: African-American Story Quilts." Oakland Museum, 1000 Oak St.; W-Sat 10-5, Sun 12-7.

through Sun 13 May. "Strength & Diversity: Japanese American Women 1885-1990," exhibit, Oakland Museum History Special Gallery. Free; 273-3401.

through September. "Threads of Strength: People, Groups, and Organizations of the Black Community," Northern California Center for Afro American History & Life, 5606 San Pablo Av., 658-3158.

through Sun 13 May. "The Life and Work of Frank Lloyd Wright," Marin Civic Center, San Rafael. \$5 general/\$4/\$3; 499-3632

Sun 25 March, 1-3 pm, "Japanese American Women: Visions in Film," Oakland Museum, James Moore Theater, 1000 Oak, free, 273-3842.

Tues 27 March, 7-9 pm, "Tracing the Arts & Crafts Tradition in Ceramic Tile," Joseph Taylor, Tile Heritage Fdn., UC Extension, 55 Laguna, SF, \$20 at door, space permitting, 642-4111.

Wed 28 March, 7-9:30 pm, "Historic Architecture of the East Bay," Mark A. Wilson; 6-week class starts, Piedmont Middle School, Magnolia Av., Room 206. \$35/\$30; Pied. Adult School, 420-3655.

Thurs 29 March, 7-9 pm, "How to Inspect a House," Jane Spangler, 8-week class starts, Piedmont Middle School, Magnolia Av., Room 308. \$35/\$30; Piedmont Adult School, 420-3655.

Thur 29 March, 8 pm, "Denial of Disaster: Untold Story of the SF Earthquake & Fire of 1906," Gladys Hansen, Emmet Condon, et al, Cody's Books, 2454 Telegraph, Berkeley, free, 845-7852.

Fri 30 March, 7:30 pm, "Common Ground: Historical Origins of Downtown Berkeley," Charles Wollenberg, Berkeley Historical Society & Berkeley Public Library neighborhood lecture series, Berkeley Main Library, Kittredge at Shattuck, free, 644-6100/524-9880.

Fri 30 March, 7:30 pm, "Soiree 1990," San Francisco Heritage benefit, Old Federal Reserve Bldg., 400 Sansome, SF, Black tie, reservations required, \$125/person; 441-3000.

Tues 3 April, 7-9 pm, "The Arts & Crafts Heritage in California," Kenneth Trapp, Oakland Museum curator; UC Extension, 55 Laguna, SF, \$20 at door, space permitting, 642-4111.

Thur 5 April, 7:30 pm, "An Elmwood Centennial," Ken Pettitt, Berkeley Historical Society & Berkeley Public Library neighborhood lecture series, Claremont Branch Library, 2940 Benvenue at Ashby, free, 644-6100/524-9880.

Sat 7 April, 8 pm-12 midnight. "Sixth Annual Art Deco Preservation Ball," Art Deco Society of California. Paramount Theater, 2025 Broadway, Oakland. Reservations req'd, cost TBA; ADSC, 566-2545.

Thur 12 April, 12 noon, "Early California Street Lights," History Guild program, Lecture Hall, Oakland Museum, 1000 Oak St., free

Thur 12 April, 7:30 pm, "West Berkeley at the Turn of the Century," Karen Jorgensen-Esmaili, Berkeley Historical Society & Berkeley Public Library neighborhood lecture series, West Berkeley Branch Library, 1125 University nr San Pablo, free, 644-6100/524-9880.

Mon 16-Sun 22 April: "National Architecture Week"

Thur 19-Sun 22 April, "John Muir Conference," 43rd annual Calif. History Institute, Univ. of the Pacific; \$30 by Apr. 6, \$40 after. CHI, History Dept., UOP, 360 Pacific Av., Stockton 95211

Thur 19 April, 7:30 pm, "A Walk Through History in Maybeck Country" Carl Wilson, Berkeley Historical Society & Berkeley Public Library neighborhood lecture series, North Berkeley Branch Library, 1170 The Alameda at Hopkins, free, 644-6100/524-9880.

Sun 22-Sat 28 April, "Landscape Architecture Week," tours & events, 974-5430.

Mon 23-Wed 25 April, "National Town Meeting on Main Street," San Francisco, location TBA, \$235/\$180, prepaid registration reqd., National Trust for Historic Preservation, National Main Street Center, 1785 Massachusetts Av. NW, Washington DC 20036.

Thur 26-Sun 29 April, 15th Annual Calif. State Historic Preservation Conference, San Francisco, sites & cost TBA, Calif. Preservation Foundation, 1615 Broadway #705, Oakland 94612, 763-0972.

Thur 26 April, 7:30 pm, "South Berkeley Historical Perspectives," South Berkeley Neighborhood Development Corp., Berkeley Historical Society & Berkeley Public Library lecture series, South Branch Library, 1901 Russell at MLK, free, 644-6100/524-9880.

Thur 26 April, 8 pm, "Harwood Creek, Its History & Architecture," Gray Brechin & John Steere, Berkeley Architectural Heritage & East Bay Citizens for Creek Restoration, John Muir School Auditorium, 2955 Claremont Av. at Ashby, \$5, BAHA 841-2242.

Sat 28 April, 10 am, "Emeryville Architectural Walking Tour," Phil Banta, architect. Meet at Homemade at Hollis, 59 Hollis St., Emeryville. \$3; Robin Pennell 527-6642.

Sun 29 April, "Claremont Creekside," Berkeley Architectural Heritage house tour, prepaid reserv. req'd, \$24/\$18, BAHA, 841-2242.

Mon 30 April, day trip, "Houses of Worship in San Francisco," History Guild, Oakland Museum, reservations required, \$35/\$32 includes transp. & lunch. Marj Morris, 465-0679.

Sun 13-Sat 19 May, "National Preservation Week: Keeping America's Heritage Alive," National Trust for Historic Preservation.

20 May, 1-5 pm, "Hidden Haddon Hill, A Mediterranean Gem," OHA annual house tour, prepaid reservations recommended, \$16 OHA/\$20 general; OHA, 763-9218.

Fri 8-Sun 10 June, "Art Deco Weekend By the Bay," Art Deco Society of Calif.; awards reception, lectures, tours, sale; 552-DECO.

Sat 9 June 10-6, Sun 10 June 11-5, "Art Deco Sale," The Concourse, Showplace Square, 8th & Brannan, SF, \$4/\$3, ADSC, 552-DECO.

Sats & Suns mid-June, 1:30-3:30, "Good Neighbors Walking Tours," Oakland Heritage Alliance, tours in Emeryville, Piedmont, Alameda, Berkeley. Details TBA, \$3 OHA/\$5 general, OHA 763-9218.

Sats & Suns 21 July-26 August, 1:30-4:30, "Neighborhood Walking Tours," Oakland Heritage Alliance, \$3 OHA/\$5 general, 763-9218.

Sat 14-Sun 15 July, 10-6, Postcard Sale, Sheraton Airport Hotel, Burlingame, Hwy. 100, Broadway exit, admission \$3.50.

Wed 17-Sun 21 Oct, "National Trust Historic Preservation Conference," Charleston, S.C., cost & details TBA.



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, 4pm; **City Planning Commission.** Alternate Wednesdays, 3:30 pm; **City Council.** Tuesday evenings, 7:30, Lakeside Garden Center.



Oakland Heritage Alliance

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

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

OFFICERS 1989-90

President.....Annalee Allen
Vice President.....Sally Nielsen
Financial Officer.....William McLetchie
Secretary.....Frederick Mitchell

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Annalee Allen.....654-6791
Alan Dreyfuss.....465-4627
Lynn Fonfa.....763-6410
David Hoard.....531-3017
Betty Marvin.....849-1959
William McLetchie.....444-0876
Frederick Mitchell.....655-4920
Sally Nielsen.....527-2558
Kirk Peterson.....547-6729
Jane Spangler.....536-4260
Barbara Sutherland.....632-6287
Marlene Wilson.....655-3210

ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR

Helen Lore.....763-9218

Donors

OHA appreciates gifts from the following: Julie & Earl Barron, Davis Beery & Jack Redford, Phil Bellman & Betsy Yost, Les & Linda Hausrath, Dario Meniketti, Craig & Dusty Miller, Kathy Olson, Warren & Helen Tryon.

For the Cohen House: Thomas Edwards, Sandy & Paul Weaver
A gift of \$50 from Chapter 41, Landmarks Preservation, Civil Service Technical Guild, Local 375 of District Council 37, Landmarks Preservation Commission, New York City, for earthquake relief.

Oakland Heritage Alliance News

CONTRIBUTORS

Annalee Allen, Phil Bellman, Carolyn Douthat, Donald Hausler, Helen Lore, Betty Marvin, Sally Nielsen, Kathy Olson, William Sturm, Ted Wurm, Dean Yabuki

EDITORIAL BOARD

Annalee Allen, Carolyn Douthat, Dean Yabuki

EDITOR/PRODUCTION

Betty Marvin

OHA NEWS welcomes contributions--research projects large or small, historic photos, reports on preservation issues or events, 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 (October 1 to January 1) are as follows:

John Andrew, Merriley Borell, Maria Brooks, Glenn Chin, John Clugston, Alexander Gautraud, Judith Goldsmith, Haley Law Office, Tim Hallahan, C.J. Hill, Laura Ingram/Richard Gietzen, Richard Jenevein, Dixie LaGrande, Nancy Lovejoy, Rose McNulty/Daniel Gill, Cynthia Melendy, T.A. Montgomery, Charis Moore/Jim Wyman, Patrick Mullen, Jason Ray Munkres, Jeanne Porter, Lissa Tyler Renaud, Charles Schad, Martha Smyser, Joy Soulier, Lisa Spearman, Mary-Jo Wainwright, Elizabeth Way, Ed Wilkinson, Carol Yokoi, Diana Young, and Gloria Zerpehy.

Special thanks to members renewing at the following levels:
SPONSOR (\$100): Les & Linda Hausrath
ORGANIZATION (\$50): Gary & Kiki Pound

© 1990 Oakland Heritage Alliance

Oakland Heritage Alliance. P.O.Box 12425, Oakland, CA 94604

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 _____

Address _____

City, Zip _____

Phone Numbers (H) _____ (W) _____

I would like to serve on the following committee(s): Membership , Programs .

OHA News , Publicity , Landmark Nominations , Landmark Assistance .

Preservation Action , Summer Tours , Development, Fund Raising , other

New Renewal

Change of Address only

\$10 Limited income (1 vote)

\$20 Individual (1 vote)

\$30 Family (2 votes)

\$50 Organization (1 vote)

\$100 Sponsor (1 vote)

\$250 Patron (1 vote)

\$ _____ Additional contribution



Oakland History Notes: Beth Eden Baptist Church

Now celebrating its 100th anniversary, the Beth Eden Baptist Church is Oakland's oldest black Baptist church and the city's second oldest black church, after First African Methodist Episcopal Church founded in 1858. Beth Eden traces its origin to a small prayer group which began meeting in a house on 7th Street near Brush in 1889. The following year, with 14 members, the congregation was accepted into the Central Baptist Association, and in 1893 bought a house on the south side of 6th Street between Harrison and Alice which was converted into a chapel and parsonage.

Beth Eden's first pastor, Rev. R.A. McGuinn, became known as a strong defender of civil rights. On his departure in 1894, the Oakland Enquirer observed that he was "always ready to take up his pen in defense of any attack on the colored people of the state or country." His successor, the Rev. James L. Allen from El Paso, Texas, was also a vocal civil rights activist. His church grew, acquiring social and political strength in the city's black community, and by 1901, with over 100 members, the congregation had purchased a church building on the west side of Filbert between 7th and 8th Streets, which had belonged to the Swedish Mission Congregational Church.

This sanctuary served Beth Eden until 1925 when a site was purchased for a new church at 10th and Magnolia. In 1982 a new

Easter Sunday 1901, at Beth Eden Baptist Church on Filbert Street. (Oakland History Room)



church was built next to the old. With a membership of over 2000 under the pastorate of Rev. Dr. Gillette O. James, Beth Eden has grown and prospered with the changing times. The spirit of the church finds poetic expression in the words of Rev. J.P. Hubbard, once pastor of Beth Eden:

Lord, give me comfort with each setting sun,
That with a willing heart and soulful zest,
However hard, I've left no task undone,
Let twilight witness, "I have done my
best."
--William Sturm

Oakland Heritage Alliance
P.O. Box 12425
Oakland, California 94604

Address Correction Requested

Non-profit organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Oakland, California
Permit No. 31