

# CONTINUITY

Volume 29, No. 3

*Preservation Action Council of San Jose*  
*Dedicated to Preserving San Jose's Architectural Heritage*

Fall, 2018

## COVER STORY

### 1 Progress Begins on First Church

## PRESERVATION ISSUES/NEWS

- 2 Executive Director's Message
- 5 Save Our Dancing Pig
- 6 Death of a Building—Mercury News

## PAC\*SJ NEWS

- 9 Save Date! PAC\*SJ Walking Tour of Shasta Hanchett District
- 10 On the RADAR
  - 830 Delmas Ave
  - Odd Fellows Building
  - Century 21 Theater
  - Burbank Theater
- 11 PAC\*SJ Calendar
- 11 Another Sign to Save—OSH
- 12 Meet Our New Board Members
- 13 Next PAC\*SJ Sale; Nov. 2 & 3
- 13 Treasures from Past Yard Sale

## PRESERVATION ARTICLES

- 14 Protecting Alviso's Past for the Future
- 15 Notable Quotable
- 16 Architectural Records Preserved at History San Jose
- 17 Exploring SJ Landmarks
  - The Beatrice Building
- 19 Membership Form
- 20 Board and Staff Roster

## Progress Begins on First Church

Finally, there is action for the First Church of Christ Scientist at 43 E. St. James Street (see below). Scaffolding now encapsulates the structure sitting across the street from St. James Park, and the restoration process is proceeding. The PAC\*SJ organization was founded in 1990 with the mission of saving this iconic building. We have begged, pleaded, published and advocated repeatedly for 28 years to get action on the restoration of this historic resource. We are cautiously optimistic that the residents of the City of San Jose and tourists will have this treasure to appreciate in a few years. It is handsome and classical on the

exterior while beautiful and unique in the interior, though it requires much renovation and restoration work.

Restoring First Church is part of the Park View Towers Project that includes two towers (252 N. First St.) with 214 flats, retail at ground level and six townhomes. The Chinese company, Z & L Properties, Inc. has changed the design this year and has decided not to move the Church to the east temporarily to excavate the basement for parking. We are relieved since this decision reduces risk to the historic structure. (Cont'd p. 3)



*Looking NW, First Church of Christ Scientist in August. Willis Polk designed this neo-classical gem in San Jose.*

*(Photo: Gayle Frank)*

# Executive Director's Message

It is said that good things come to those who wait. If that is true, then the long-awaited restoration of the First Church building across from St. James Park should be spectacular.

PAC\*SJ formed in 1990 to advocate for saving and preserving this building and other endangered buildings in San Jose. Over the ensuing 28 years, we have kept that building high on our radar and worked with private owners and developers, the Redevelopment Agency and numerous City staff and elected officials to save and restore this City Landmark.

Finally, after nearly 3 decades, preliminary restoration work has begun on the building. The current owners have shown an interest in and an understanding of the importance of this iconic and historic building. We are hopeful the end result will be the return of this building to its full historic splendor.

The restoration is part of the larger Parkview Towers project that will include two residential towers, six townhomes and street-level retail. It has not yet been determined how the church building will be reused but we are assured the public will have access and be able to view the restoration of this impressive building.

Our resolve to save and restore this historic resource illustrates the importance of perseverance. Had we given up on this building years ago, it would likely have fallen further into disrepair and/or been a victim of vandalism or demolition by neglect. While it took too long to get to this point, we are thrilled to finally have the restoration underway.

Other historic resources in San Jose are not so fortunate. The most recent loss of a historic resource was the former Mercury News building on Ridder Park Drive. While there might be disagreement over the aesthetics of the structure, it should have been a protected City Landmark. Since the City Council would not give it the historic designation it deserved, the building fell recently to the wrecking ball.



**Brian Grayson**

**PAC\*SJ Executive Director**

*(Photo: Silicon Valley Community Newspapers)*

We were able to save the outdoor sculpture though and it will be installed at a location that will be visible to the public.

The campaign to save the Dancing Pig sign continues. We are more than half-way to our fundraising goal so that we can restore this historic sign and get the pig dancing again. Donations are still needed and may be made at our website: <https://www.preservation.org/donations>.

We also continue to monitor, with our friends at the San Jose Signs Project, the growing number of endangered signs. We raise the importance of sign preservation on a regular basis during our meetings with the City Planning Department and other City officials. More attention is being paid to our signs in San Jose but many are still not safe and could be lost.

The threats to our historic resources other than signs also continue. It remains to be seen what will happen when and if Google comes to town. The parcels being eyed for a possible Google campus contain over 30 identified historic resources. It is likely there are more that will be identified when the City surveys the possible project site.

Earlier this year, the City approved a nearly 40-member Station Area Advisory Group (SAAG) to review and discuss the many aspects of development in and around the Diridon Station Area. So far, the SAAG has met numerous times for many hours. Unfortunately, the City chose not to include an official representative from the historic preservation community, so our voice has been somewhat

*(Cont'd p. 5)*

  
CONTINUITY  
is published quarterly by the

**PRESERVATION ACTION COUNCIL OF SAN JOSE**

The opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of PAC\*SJ.

Editor: Gayle Frank

Please submit your letters and comments to [info@preservation.org](mailto:info@preservation.org)

Or to 1650 Senter Rd, San Jose, CA 95112-2599

© 2018 Preservation Action Council of San Jose

*PAC\*SJ is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization*



# First Church (Cont'd)

The Maintenance and Investigation Phase for the First church is underway. Jim Salata from Garden City Construction has informed us that this includes dry rot repairs and abatement of lead and asbestos, along with surveying the condition of the plaster, roofs, and all other elements. The next phase will consist of restoring the exterior, performing seismic retrofitting and ensuring that the building is water-tight. Historic consultants have recently visited to examine both the exterior and interior of the building.

The leaded glass windows are being salvaged and their restoration began in August. Door restoration and replication will occur soon after the historic consultants' evaluation report is received and studied. When the building is stabilized, the interior will tentatively be scheduled for restoration but the schedule is still being reviewed and may be altered. Salata said that there is a lot of work ahead before the interior work takes place.



*Above, looking at the rear of First Church on Devine Street.*

*(Photo: Gayle Frank)*

*Below, a vintage photo of First Church, built in 1904.*



Just recently, Salata told PAC\*SJ that 43' long pieces of lumber (pictured left) were found in their salvage yard. These will be milled down to 38'6" long pieces to be used for wall studs in the First Church. He says this wood is worth its weight in gold. The wood originally came from the sulfur house that was deconstructed at Del Monte Plant 51 many years ago. It pays to save salvage from historic structures!

*(Cont'd p. 4)*



# First Church (Cont'd)

The Park View Towers project includes one tower standing 19 stories along Devine Street with 154 residential units. The lower tower, along N. First Street and west of the Church, will stand 12 stories high with 62 residential units. A large entrance/lobby connecting the two towers will sit at the corner of Devine and N. First Streets. The six townhomes, on the corner of St. James and N. Second Street, will sit just east of the First Church. ⌘



*Looking east at the west side of First Church, encased in scaffolding.*

*(Photo: Gayle Frank, taken August 17, 2018)*



*A recent rendering of Park View Towers with First Church of Christ Scientist in center. The two towers are left and behind First Church. The townhomes are to the right of First Church. There may be more recent updates to the design of the townhomes.*



---

# Donate to Help Save Our Dancing Pig

---

**GIVE A HAM!**  
**HELP SAVE OUR**  
**DANCING**  
**PIG!**



To learn  
more visit:  
The San Jose  
Signs Project

[www.preservation.org/donations](http://www.preservation.org/donations)

You can help our campaign to restore and relight the Stephen's Meat Products Dancing Pig sign by donating to the Save the Pig fund. Donations may be made at our website:

[www.preservation.org/donations](http://www.preservation.org/donations)

Any amount you can spare will help reach our goal, and we have already matched a portion of the funds donated.

We are reviewing the cost estimates and hope to have a restoration schedule soon. Thanks for your support and together we will have the pig dancing again!

To view the KGO-TV report (aired Nov. 16, 2017) on our campaign to Save the Pig, visit the KGO-TV site: <https://abc7news.com/society/exclusive-campaign-kicks-off-to-save-dancing-neon-pig-sign-in-san-jose/2658126/> ☞

SPONSORED BY



SUPPORTED BY



---

## E.D. Message (Cont'd)

---

blunted. Fortunately, there are some people on the SAAG who are sensitive about preserving our historic resources but they are representing other interests so preservation is not their primary focus. They do their best to raise the issue when they can though.

The concern is that the SAAG is increasingly becoming an affordable housing committee. Much of their time is being spent on how to solve our housing crisis and trying to decide how much should be asked of Google to solve that problem

As a result, issues such as historic preservation might fall off the radar since there is no constant voice at the table advocating for protecting our historic resources. Members of the community are allowed only 2 minutes during

the public comment portion of the meetings so we do our best with that minimal time allotment.

The final decisions on the Google project and the protection of our historic resources will ultimately be up to the Mayor and City Council. We will keep you apprised of when that discussion will take place (it is unlikely to occur before sometime in 2019). Watch our Facebook page and our newsletter for updated information.

Finally, I am pleased to welcome Cindy Atmore as our newest Board Member. Cindy has been active with many history related organizations including the Pioneers, the Argonauts and the California Trolley & Railroad Corporation. She is a writer/historian/journalist/artist and we welcome her and her expertise to our Board.

—Brian Grayson, Executive Director, PAC\*SJ

# Death of a Building—Mercury News



*On July 13th, the bulldozers and wrecking equipment razed the San Jose Mercury News Headquarters Building, built in 1967, at 750 Ridder Park Dr. Below, the 28-column loggia falls. (Photos: Lou Alexander)*

The 1967 San Jose Mercury News Building is gone. The structure, at 750 Ridder Park Drive, was demolished on July 13<sup>th</sup>. The Mercury News Headquarters Building was sold at the end of 2013 and vacated in the Fall of 2014, when the newspaper business moved to 4 North Second Street in San Jose. The history of the San Jose Mercury goes back to 1851 and is said to be one of the oldest newspapers in the State.

The original building on Ridder Park Drive was 185,000 square feet, designed by architect Warren B. Heid and completed in 1967 by builder Carl N. Swenson. Heid's

design of the Mercury newspaper plant was listed in the "Top Ten National Industrial Plants of 1968" in Factory Magazine.

The Mercury News Building was determined to be eligible for City Landmark designation, ranked as significant because the newspaper was an essential part of San Jose's heritage and played an "important role...in the community." A second significant element were the owners, Joseph B. Ridder and P. Anthony Ridder, who were prominent local citizens in the business world and responsible for innovative newspaper operations. (Cont'd p. 7)





# Mercury News (Cont'd)

Finally, landmark eligibility was also attributed to the Modernist architectural style that was described as notable and “a good example of the corporate/ industrial buildings popular in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> Century.”<sup>1</sup> On June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015 the San Jose City Council denied the designation of City Landmark status for the Mercury Building after both the Historic Landmarks Commission and the Planning Department Director had determined that the building qualified for City Landmark status.

The most interesting part of the Mercury headquarters was the front of the building. With an extensive setback of lawn, the walkways led to walls of precast 10' x 19.5' tall panels made of Canadian quartz and concrete, each panel separated by tall aluminum framed windows. At the entrance, a 60-foot wide, raised loggia<sup>2</sup> in an elliptical shape, formed with 28 columns, suggested a place of significance. A large metal sculpture created by John Jagger hung from the loggia's ceiling. A raised walkway connected the loggia to the main building.



*The Mercury News Plant ad c. 1967. (Courtesy of Lou Alexander)*

The main building was expanded over the years to 312,000 square feet with more outbuildings added to the 36-acre site. Back then, it was claimed to be the world's largest one-story newspaper plant and supported around 1,000 employees, peaking in the 1990s. It housed Linotypes, typewriters and various printing equipment, which became obsolete years later.

*(Cont'd p. 8)*



*San Jose Mercury News Headquarters on Ridder Drive—in better days. (Photo: George Kelly)*

# Mercury News (Cont'd)

But as we have seen so many times before, San Jose history is destined to be demolished to make way for new technology. Super Micro Computer, Inc. purchased the Mercury headquarters site from Digital First Media, the parent company of the San Jose Mercury News. Super Micro was founded in San Jose in 1993 and is a growing networking and communications company. Their plans consist of light manufacturing, offices and warehouse space. All that will be left of the 1967 Mercury newspaper building will be a HABS Level III report<sup>3</sup> and the restoration of the loggia sculpture. We have been told that after being restored, the sculpture will be installed outside the Assyrian National Broadcasting Headquarters at 271 Barnard Ave. in San Jose.

In 2016 the latest name for the newspaper was changed to The Mercury News (leaving out San Jose). Its printing press operations were relocated to the Concord and Hayward plants, printing ten daily Bay Area newspapers. This move and consolidation of operations reduced jobs in San Jose. ☿

— Gayle Frank



*The Loggia sculpture designed by John Jagger, who won the Ridder Family contest. For the rest of the story, visit <http://mercurynews.historysanjose.org/the-loggia-pendant/>*

<sup>1</sup> Department of Parks and Recreation Primary Record (DPR 523L), San Jose Mercury News Headquarters, Carey & Co., Inc., July 11, 2014.

<sup>2</sup> An architectural feature that is a covered exterior gallery or corridor. The outer wall is open to the elements, usually supported by a series of columns or arches.

<sup>3</sup> Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) is a program administered since 1933 through cooperative agreements with the National Park Service, the Library of Congress, and the private sector, documenting significant structures with drawings, photographs, written histories and supplemental materials.

#### Sources:

- Department of Parks and Recreation Primary Record (DPR 523L),
- San Jose Mercury News Headquarters, Carey & Co., Inc., July 11, 2014.
- San Jose Mercury News, 4/16/13 pg. B1 and 6/17/2018, pg. B1.

## Save the date for PastForward 2018

November 13-16

The National Trust for Historic Preservation PastForward Preservation Conference comes to San Francisco! From its golden bridges to its painted ladies, San Francisco conjures up distinctive images of landmarks, architecture, and bohemian culture. At the PastForward conference, iconic San Francisco will be featured—see a progressive city that is tackling climate change and urban density while maintaining its cultural landscape and intangible heritage issues that will resonate with preservation practitioners across the country. For more information go to:

<https://savingplaces.org/conference>.

To see more photos and video of the Mercury News demolition visit <https://www.flickr.com/photos/loualexander/albums/72157698811065285>

## Join a PAC\* SJ Committee

We are looking for interested members to serve on one of our various committees. Call Gayle Frank at 408-275-6889 if you are interested in any of these topics and would like to support PAC\* SJ further.

- |              |                    |
|--------------|--------------------|
| * Advocacy   | * Events           |
| * Education  | * Fundraising      |
| * Membership | * Board Member     |
| * Newsletter | * Public Relations |



# Don't Miss Our Next PAC\*SJ Walking Tour



## Shasta Hanchett Neighborhood

**Saturday, Sept. 22, 2018**

**10 AM-11:30 AM**

**Tour Guide: Darryl Boyd**

Don't miss out on our second historic walking tour this year. Tours are only \$10 each for PAC\*SJ members and \$15 for non-members.

To reserve your spot on this walking tour, go to our website, [www.preservation.org](http://www.preservation.org). Space may be limited. For questions, email us at [info@preservation.org](mailto:info@preservation.org).

### About Shasta Hanchett

Hanchett Park was one of the first "suburban" developments near downtown San Jose. This walk will look at the wide variety of sizes and styles of homes in a middle class neighborhood at the beginning of the 20th Century.

The 76 acres of Hanchett Park are bordered by Park Avenue to the South and West, Race Street and The Alameda to the East and Shasta Avenue to the North. During the 40 year period between 1859 and 1901, this area encompassed the Agricultural Park, hosting State Fairs as well as bicycle and horse races.

For financial reasons the Agricultural Park was closed and sold to Louis Hanchett's Peninsula Land & Development

Company in 1901. In 1905 Louis Hanchett announced the formation of the Hanchett Residence Park, boasting 'state-of-the-art' sewage, lighting and transportation systems.

The large lots, starting at \$450, were purchased by individual homeowners who were encouraged to bring in their own architects. The resulting neighborhood is a wonderfully eclectic collection of Prairie, Arts and Crafts, Mission Revival, Mediterranean Revival, Japo-Swiss and Tudor in sizes ranging from modest bungalows to larger villas. The streetscape remains relatively untouched, with most residents preferring to "add on, rather than up" when needed. There is a 'Bungalow Row' on Martin Avenue that includes four Arts and Crafts style 'show homes' from the initial development. ☘



*Photos: Gayle Frank*

# ON THE RADAR



## 830 Delmas Avenue

We have recently learned an application has been filed with the City to demolish the Victorian residence at 830 Delmas Avenue. This home is located within the Gardner Area that the Historic Landmarks Commission

has voted to nominate as a Conservation Area.

An evaluation prepared by a qualified historic consultant reviewed not only this residence but also the two on adjacent sides—all three are eligible for listing on the City's Historic Resources Inventory.

We oppose the demolition of this residence because it qualifies to be listed on the City's Historic Resources Inventory and is in the proposed Gardner Conservation Area. Acting on this application prior to the City Council's final decision on the designation of the Conservation Area would establish a dangerous precedent that would place future historic resources at risk. We recommend this application be held in abeyance until the City Council makes a final decision on approving this area as a Conservation Area.

## Odd Fellows Building

The historic 1883 Odd Fellows Building at 82 E. Santa Clara Street is up for sale again, after just being purchased for a fitness center in June. Previous plans for a health club have changed. The three-story building became Hank Coca's Furniture Store around 1957.



*Odd Fellows Building at 82 E. Santa Clara Street around the 1920s.*

*(Photo: Postcard, Pomona Public Library)*

## Century 21 Theater

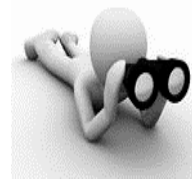
A preliminary application has been filed for development on the Santana West site, across from Santana Row on Winchester Boulevard. The Century 21 theater will be retained, although no use for the building has been determined yet.

If this proposal moves forward it will likely mean the demolition of Century 22 and 23. It also means the loss of the former Bob's Big Boy restaurant, although PAC\*SJ is working with Federal Realty on the possibility of making the building available for relocation or salvage. It is unlikely anything will happen to the buildings this year.

## Burbank Theater

On June 19th, the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved Ken Yeager's proposal for the Burbank Theater to be listed on the County's Heritage Resource Inventory.

The Bascom Avenue structure is notable for its rounded and linear forms that typify the Streamline Moderne architectural style. Yeager thanks the Burbank Community Association for their support.



**PAC\*SJ is Still  
Keeping  
An Eye On—**

- ➔ City Center Motel Sign
- ➔ Graves House
- ➔ 27 S. First St.
- ➔ 170 Park Avenue
- ➔ Wehner Mansion
- ➔ Diridon Station Area
- ➔ Agnews Developmental Center



# PAC\*SJ 2018 Calendar

- Sept 25 Tuesday, PAC\*SJ Board Meeting, 6:30—8 PM. History San Jose, Pasetta House.
- Sept 22 Saturday, 10 am. PAC\*SJ Walking Tour of Shasta Hanchett Neighborhood. See page 9.
- Oct 15 Monday, PAC\*SJ Board Meeting, 6:30—8 PM. History San Jose, Pasetta House.
- Nov 2-3 Friday, Saturday. PAC\*SJ Yard Sale at 260 S. 13th Street. To donate or volunteer, email to [donations@preservation.org](mailto:donations@preservation.org). Begins 8 am on both days.
- Nov 13-16 National Trust Historic Preservation Conference, PastForward 2018. Details at: [savingplaces.org/](http://savingplaces.org/)
- Nov 19 Monday, PAC\*SJ Board Meeting & Annual Meeting, 6:30—8 PM. History San Jose, Pasetta House.

(If you plan to attend any of the Board meetings please call the office to confirm the location.)



## Another Sign To Save

The Orchard Supply Hardware (OSH) sign is a symbol of the early agricultural history in Santa Clara Valley. If we must lose the OSH stores can we at least save the iconic neon sign on W. San Carlos Street?

OSH was founded in 1931 by a farmers co-op and moved to the 720 W. San Carlos Street site in 1946. The Orchard Supply Farmers Co-op became the for-profit Orchard Supply Hardware retail chain in 1950. This vintage neon sign represents an early successful Valley business and our significant agricultural past.

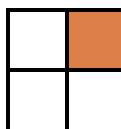
## ADVERTISE IN CONTINUITY!

*Continuity* is distributed to over 500 San Jose preservationists, homeowners and decision-makers. It's a great way to get your message out to your best potential customers! For ads larger than the business card, you must supply camera-ready artwork, or PAC\*SJ can provide it at an additional charge.

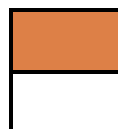
**Buy ads in 6 issues and SAVE! Plus, all multiple-issue ads come with a free membership!**



**Business Card**  
Single issue \$50  
3 issues \$120



**1/4 Page**  
Single issue \$100  
3 issues \$250



**1/2 Page**  
Single issue \$200  
3 issues \$450



**Full Page**  
Single issue \$375  
3 issues \$700

---

# Meet Our New Board Members—Welcome!

---

## Suhita Shirodkar

Suhita Shirodkar lives in San Jose and joined our PAC\*SJ Board in May, 2018. She already has participated in our Yard Sales and “Save the Dancing Pig” Campaign events. She is self-employed as an artist, illustrator and graphic designer. She calls herself an obsessive sketcher and also teaches. One area of her expertise is vintage signs, which aligns quite nicely with one of PAC\*SJ’s missions, saving our historic signs.

Suhita tells us she has developed an interest, understanding and love of San Jose’s history and wants to share those feelings with others. She also says we shouldn’t assume it takes growing up in San Jose to advocate for preservation. There are other pathways such as becoming



**Suhita Shirodkar**  
Sketching at the PAC\*SJ Yard Sale

aware and understanding the local preservation issues and experiencing our historic neighborhoods, which help build a sense of history and ownership. San Jose has many transplants and Suhita would like to increase these newcomers’ awareness and appreciation of our architectural heritage and history, a vital goal for historic preservation.

Suhita’s sketches of San Jose Signs at History San Jose are exhibited through Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> (see page 16). A book of her San Jose sign sketches is also available.

To view Suhita’s sketches, visit her Flickr stream at [www.flickr.com/photos/sketchaway](http://www.flickr.com/photos/sketchaway). Information on her portfolio, workshops and classes can be found at [www.suhitasketch.com/](http://www.suhitasketch.com/) ☼

---

## Cindy Atmore

Cindy Atmore has just joined the PAC\*SJ Board this August. She is a local journalist and local historian who loves researching and writing news and original local history stories for newspapers and history club newsletters, and coming up with fun ways to publicize things.

She is Vice President of the Argonauts local history society, a member of California Pioneers of Santa Clara County, a Board member of the California Trolley & Railroad Corporation, which is starting a steam railroad museum for San



**Cindy Atmore**

Jose, and a student in the Campbell Adult Community Education history class (History of Santa Clara Valley) who always brings the cupcakes!

She grew up in this area, majored in English/writing at Santa Clara University, and has always loved history of all kinds. She also loves art and has a fun and zany art website empire just begging for her to merge the two with some fun and arty history projects in the near future.

We hope to see some articles by Cindy in our future Continuity newsletters! ☼



# Don't Miss the Next PAC\*SJ Yard Sale

**Nov. 2 & 3**

Friday 8 am — dusk

Saturday 8 am — Noon

260 S. 13th Street, San Jose 95112

To donate or volunteer, email to  
[donations@preservation.org](mailto:donations@preservation.org).



*Michael Kevane, a Naglee Park resident, bought the antique Dictaphone.*

## Treasures from Past Yard Sales



*Bill Foley purchased two copies of the Oakland Tribune extra, reporting the Hart kidnappers lynching in 1933 at St. James Park. What a find!!*

*(Photos: Patt Curia)*



*Judy Turner sports her new t-shirt, received for being a supporter of the "San Jose Signs Project."*

---

# Protecting Alviso's Past for the Future

---

A seminar about preserving Alviso's historic resources was held at the South Bay Yacht Club in Alviso on August 18<sup>th</sup>. Facilitator Sonia Tamez of the Alviso Heritage Community Group introduced San Jose's Historic Preservation Officer, Juliet Arroyo, who spoke for a few minutes. Later, Ms. Arroyo assured the participants that she would alert the city planners who issue permits to notify her of any requests for demolition of structures in Alviso.

Ms. Tamez then gave an overview of Alviso's National Register District. Next, Dr. Gloria Hom, granddaughter of the well-known Bayside Cannery founder, Thomas F. Chen, discussed the history of Bayside Cannery, the third largest cannery in the world in the 1920s with 6,000 employees. San Jose Councilman Lan Diep, representing District 4, greeted the historians and preservationists with words of encouragement that although there is some concern from tech companies encroaching upon Alviso, road improvements and parks will be some of the benefits for residents. Janice Rombeck, from Supervisor Dave Cortese's office, talked about the Alviso Marina County Park, boat tours for youths, and that Alviso is an important part of the National Heritage Area proposal.

A short walking tour of the Historic District was conducted by Richard Santos, who pointed out some of the historical structures while relating stories of the earlier days in Alviso.

After the tour, Russ Robinson, South Bay Historic Restoration Foundation Board Chair and Staff Commodore of the South Bay Yacht Club, discussed the history of the Yacht Club and the two Foundation projects presently planned for Alviso—the renovation and restoration of the Boat House and the building of a gangway, wharf and dock.

Then John Frolli, Historic Architect and AHCG Member, facilitated a discussion on the important questions

facing the preservation of Alviso:

1. What can be done, working together, to protect and enjoy Alviso's heritage resources?
2. What resources can Alviso use to help partner with businesses and non-governmental agencies?
3. Can San Jose and Santa Clara County include Alviso in more of its heritage resource planning and enhancements?

Alviso was an extremely important and busy South Bay port in the 1800s and its early buildings help to tell the story. The residents of Alviso are concerned about their historic resources. They fear the City of San Jose's three buildings (former City Hall, former Firehouse and an early school house) may succumb to "demolition by neglect" or simply be razed without warning. Beyond those three structures there are private buildings/homes of historic value that require maintenance, loving care and an awareness of their importance. The District needs a public relations campaign to spread the word that Alviso is a living heritage with much history for visitors to experience.

As an example of historic losses in Alviso, the building, operating as Laine's Grocery Store from 1940 to 1960, was abandoned and allowed to rot until it recently

*(Cont'd p. 15)*



*Laine's Grocery in 1981.*



## Alviso (Cont'd)

caved into itself and fell to the ground. It was one of the oldest buildings in Alviso, thought to be built circa 1850s. Records show that the building operated as Tilden General Store from 1865 through 1912.

The site's remnants were bulldozed without notice and no archaeologist was consulted to search for artifacts from former cultures that link us to the past. The Grocery Store had a long history for the residents of Alviso and represented an important era of Alviso's story. ❧

— Gayle Frank



*Laine's Grocery Store in 2010. After the grocery business, the building was an antique store for a while and then vacant for several decades. (Photo: Gayle Frank)*



*What's left  
of the  
historic  
Laine's Building.*

*(Photo: Gayle Frank.  
Taken Aug. 18, 2018)*

### Notable Quotable

**The historical and cultural foundations of the Nation should be preserved as a living part of our community life and development in order to give a sense of orientation to the American people; ...**

*—Preamble to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966*

# Architectural Records Preserved at History San Jose

History San Jose received a Preservation Assistance Grant in December, 2015 from The National Endowment for the Humanities for supplies and training to process five pallets of at-risk materials stored in their warehouse. Among the ephemera were the technical and architectural drawings donated by the estate of local architect Peter G. Wuss who worked with Ralph Wyckoff (1883-1956) later in Wyckoff's career.



*San Jose Post Office at N. First and St. John Streets. From the Wyckoff & Wuss Collection at the History San Jose Archives. (Photo: Courtesy History San Jose)*

Included in the collection, that is now accessible to the public, are original architectural plans, photographs and local publications from the full span of Wyckoff's career, in Watsonville, Salinas, San Jose and the surrounding areas. He first worked with partner Hugh White, then on his own, and later with Peter G. Wuss. The architectural styles in the collection include Arts & Crafts, Period Revival, Spanish, Moderne, and functional 1950s commercial designs. Some designs by Peter Wuss after his partnership with Wyckoff ended are also in the collection.

Wyckoff moved his architectural firm from Salinas to San Jose in 1921 during the building boom. His notable designs included the Post Office on N. First Street, the San Jose State Science Building, the Moderne Drugstore Building (Second and Santa Clara Streets), and the San Jose National Bank Building at Market and Santa Clara Streets.

Some of the local schools he designed were: Anne Darling School, Willow Glen Grammar School (now gone), McKinnon School and Washington School in Santa Clara.

Those interested in reviewing the records can make an appointment with the History San Jose Curator of Research Library & Archives. A guide is available at the Online Archive of California and individual records can be viewed through History San Jose's online catalog: search for Accession No. 1989-187, Inventory of the Wyckoff & Wuss Collection.

For more on the history of Ralph Wyckoff, see Continuity Spring 1999 issue, page 6, by Jack Douglas. ❧

## Upcoming Events at History San Jose

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| SUN 9/16/2018 | Viva Mexico Festival at History San Jose  |
| SAT 9/20/2018 | Book Signing Event; "The Troubled Life of Peter Burnett" by Gregory Nokes at the Fallon House |
| SUN 9/23/2018 | Antique Autos at History Park   |
| SAT 11/3/2018 | Celebrate San José's 241st Birthday at the Peralta Adobe, 11-4                                |
| SAT 12/8/2018 | Heritage Holiday Tea at History Park, 11 & 2  |

Ongoing exhibit through Dec. 16th:

**Sign of the Times:  
Urban Sketches of Vintage Signs**  
by Suhita Shirodkar

McKay Gallery at the Pasetta House,  
Sat. & Sun; 12-5 pm.



# Exploring San Jose's City Landmarks

Here is the next San Jose Landmark from the City list. Check previous *Continuity* issues for earlier landmark descriptions on our website at [www.preservation.org](http://www.preservation.org).

## HL92-76; The Beatrice Building, 255 N. First St.

The Beatrice Building was constructed in the early 1890s by Giovanni Raggio, an Italian grocer who owned the property at that time. The architect is unknown but it is suspected that G.W. Page designed the structure since there is a record of Raggio commissioning Page to design "brick stores and residence"<sup>1</sup> on First Street in 1891.

The two-story brick building is described in the Historic Resources Inventory Form as "eclectic design with Victorian Romanesque and Queen Anne elements."<sup>1</sup>

The flat-roofed building is decorated with a patterned open-work parapet, sandstone trim and a decorative brick cornice.

The prominent corner, with its dome-like addition and finial on top, complements the Moir Building across the street. The Beatrice has three upper story rectangular bay wind-



*The Beatrice Building on the corner of N. First and Devine Streets.*

*Below, the Devine Street side. (Photos: Gayle Frank)*

ows extending out several feet, one at the corner, one on Devine Street (see lower left) and one on First Street. Arched windows are placed at each side of the bay on Devine. A sandstone band separates the two stories with smaller arched half-windows, two of stained glass, on the first floor. Sandstone keystones decorate each arched window.

The façade on N. First Street has large plate glass windows on the ground floor that are more modern. A small wooden balcony decorates the second floor window. Cast iron columns are visible and have the Kuchenbeiser's Foundry name inscribed at the base. A nameplate of sandstone on the second story facing First Street bears the name of the building, "The Beatrice."

The interior of The Beatrice is of dark wood, has a beautiful bar and two dining rooms. The second dining room is actually a section of the Tognozzi Building next door, also a City Landmark. This second dining room

*(Cont'd p. 18)*





## Landmarks (Cont'd)



does not have the dark wood walls but its ceiling has an ornate, pressed tin covering (white with gold leaf) that came from the old Liberty Theater.<sup>2</sup> Stuffed animal heads adorn the walls.

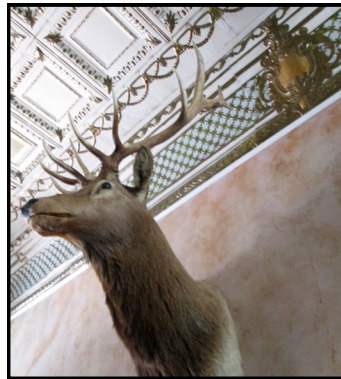
### History of Beatrice Building Use

Ads in the Evening News, beginning on July 27, 1897, say the Lion Pharmacy (Perrin & Stephenson, proprietors) inhabited the 255 N. First Street address from 1894 until at least 1899. By 1902 an ad (San Jose Mercury News, Jan. 19, 1902) tells us the Imperial Steam Bakery occupied the space. The Evening News on April 4, 1906 began advertising the Parisian Dyeing & Cleaning Company with ads running through 1907.



*Top, pressed tin ceiling from Liberty Theatre .  
Above, vintage photo of its bar displayed in Teske's.*

Apparently during the 1920s through the 1930s, the space operated as a grocery store (F.B. Heath). Furnished rooms were rented out on the second floor over much of the building's lifetime, including the present time. The owner of the building through the 1920s and 1930s was listed as Mrs. Viola Rumsey. During the prohibition era, rumor has it that the place was raided for suspicion of handling and storing contraband liquor. First, the local sheriff conducted a raid and found nothing. Twenty minutes later, the Feds stormed in and found a secret door at the south wall of the present large dining room, where contraband liquor was discovered. The Sheriff lost his job.<sup>3</sup> Perhaps he was colluding with the bootleggers?



Many other businesses have been listed for the Beatrice Building such as: Penny-a-Dish Cafeteria and finally Teske's Germania Restaurant, beginning in 1980 with Ernst and Marianne Teske. The Hans Baumann family bought the restaurant in 1990. By 2005 the restaurant was turned over to the Baumann children, Gregory, Cynthia and Chef Scott Baumann. ☘

— Gayle Frank

<sup>1</sup> California Dept of Parks & Recreation, *Historic Resource Inventory*, Glory Anne Laffey, 1991.

<sup>2</sup> *The Liberty Theatre* opened in 1914 at 67 Market St. Renamed the Mexico in 1976. Razed in 1982. "Theatres of San Jose" by Gary Lee Parks, p. 43. 2009.

<sup>3</sup> *San Jose Historical Museum Downtown Walking Tours*, page 32. 1985.

See one more photo on page 19.



# PAC\*SJ Membership Application

## Preservation Action Council of San Jose Membership Application

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

*Members who do not provide email addresses cannot receive timely notices of news, announcements and events. PAC\*SJ will not release your contact details to others without your consent.*

New Member \_\_\_\_\_ Renewing Member \_\_\_\_\_

Please circle the level at which you wish to join:

Individual	\$40
Family	\$55
Student or Senior (over 65)	\$25
Non-profit or School	\$25
Contributor	\$100
Patron	\$250
Benefactor	\$1,000

Join at the \$100 level or above and receive a special premium, *Signposts Revisited*, by Pat Loomis or the Bay Area Mid-CenturyModern playing cards.

Please check if you would like to receive  
a book or playing cards or no premium  
*Signposts Revisited* \_\_\_\_\_ or cards \_\_\_\_\_ or none \_\_\_\_\_  
or both book & deck of cards at the \$250 level.

I am enclosing \$ \_\_\_\_\_ as an extra donation to

PAC\*SJ for a total amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in working with the following  
volunteer opportunities (*please circle*):

**Advocacy**

**Fundraising**

**Membership**

**Newsletter**

**Programs/Education**

**Events**

**Board Member**

**Public Relations**

**Complete and return with your check to:**

Preservation Action Council of San Jose

1650 Senter Rd., San Jose, CA 95112-2599

Phone: (408)-998-8105

info@preservation.org



*Close up view of  
The Beatrice Building  
on Devine Street.  
Note the crenellated  
(patterned cut-outs) parapet,  
brick work designs,  
sandstone keystones  
and protruding  
bay window.*

*(Photo: Gayle Frank)*



Preservation Action Council of San Jose

1650 Senter Rd., San Jose, CA 95112-2599



Like Us On Facebook!

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PERMIT 384  
SAN JOSE, CA

Or Current Resident

---

## Join PAC\*SJ or Renew Today!

---

# CONTINUITY

The Preservation Action Council of San Jose PAC\*SJ) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation dedicated to preserving San Jose's architectural heritage through education, advocacy and events.

We believe that historic preservation is **good for our quality of life, good for business, and good for the environment.** We aim to integrate a strong commitment to historic preservation into the land use and development decisions of the City of San Jose that affect historic resources, as well as into the private decisions of property owners and developers. We try to bring owners and developers together to create historically sensitive projects that make economic sense.

### PAC\*SJ 2018 Board

Shanna Desai, *President*

Marilyn Messina

André Luthard, *Vice President Advocacy*

John Mitchell

Darryl Boyd, *Treasurer*

Gratia Rankin

Michael Sodergren, *Secretary*

Suhita Shirodkar

Cindy Atmore

Walter Soellner

Gayle Frank

**Staff:** Brian Grayson, Executive Director

### Advisory Board

Bonnie Bamburg

Karita Hummer

Marvin Bamburg, AIA

Rusty Lutz

Paul Bernal, Esquire

Franklin Maggi

Ken Fowler, CPA

Craig Mineweaser, AIA

April Halberstadt

Gil Sanchez, FAIA

Alan Hess

Keith Watt