

CONTINUITY

Volume 28, No. 4

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

Winter, 2017

COVER STORY

- 1 Save Our Dancing Pig!

PRESERVATION ISSUES/NEWS

- 2 Executive Director's Message
- 5 Preservation Kudos
 - National Printing Co. Building
 - Trinity Bells Return
- 8 President's Message
- 7 Willow Glen Trestle Update
- 7 Coyote Creek Trestle

PAC*SJ NEWS

- 8 On the RADAR
 - Grave's House
 - Scheller House
- 9 Meet New Board Members
- 9 Recruiting for SJ Historic Preservation Officer
- 10 PAC*SJ Calendar
- 10 Successful Ornament Sale
- 11 In Memoriam—Pat Columbe
- 11 Concern for Coyote Depot

PRESERVATION ARTICLES

- 12 Sylvester Graves & Family
- 13 Wesley W. Hastings: Architect
- 18 Four'n 20 Pie Shops
- 21 Exploring SJ Landmarks
 - St. Patrick's School
- 21 Fly Through Remillard-Ashworth House
- 22 Notable Quotable
- 23 Membership Form
- 24 Board and Staff Roster

Save Our Dancing Pig!

PAC*SJ is on a mission—to save the iconic Dancing Pig Sign! It's located on Montgomery Street near San Fernando Street, by Diridon Train Station, where the Stephen's Meat Products business was located. The building was razed about ten years ago, but the sign, much loved by San Joseans, was spared. The land where the Pig Sign sits belongs to the Successor Agency who inherited the property from the now defunct Redevelopment Agency. PAC*SJ has been pleading with the City

of San Jose, the Successor Agency, and anyone else who would listen that the deterioration of the Pig Sign was advancing and will be beyond repair soon—another example of “demolition by neglect” that is so prevalent in San Jose. No one was willing to pay for an assessment, repair or maintenance of the sign. Hence, PAC*SJ decided to launch the campaign to save the iconic neon sign! (Cont'd p. 3)



Photo: Gayle Frank

Executive Director's Message

Every year has its highs and lows. A year in the life of PAC*SJ is no different and we have experienced both as we reflect on 2017.

Unfortunately, the year is ending on a low with the recent passing of PAC*SJ Board member, Pat Colombe. I wanted to share a few thoughts about Pat and how important she was to the cause of historic preservation and improving the overall quality of life for the residents of San Jose.



*Brian Grayson in front of
First Church on St. James St.
Photo: Silicon Valley Community Newspapers*

Pat came to our Board after her retirement after a 30-year career as a San Jose City Planner. I was fortunate enough to work with her many years ago when I served on the San Jose Planning Commission. During that time, I experienced Pat's dedication to good planning and protection of the environment. She worked tirelessly to help craft the City's Riparian Corridor Policy that was designed to protect our creeks and streams from impacts of development.

More recently I had the opportunity to work with her again when she joined our Board. Pat brought her planning expertise and passion for preservation to us and was an invaluable resource on many issues that we were involved with. She reviewed projects for their impacts to our historic resources and helped craft responses to those projects that were included in Environmental Impact Reports, City Council testimony and other communications that conveyed our positions on specific projects.

PAC*SJ is a stronger organization because of Pat Colombe. On behalf of the Board we extend our condolences to Pat's family and we thank them for sharing her with us so all of us could benefit from her knowledge and passion.

Recently we welcomed our newest Board member, Amy Long. Amy was appointed by the Board to fill out a term through the end of the year and is now eligible to run for a full 2-year term. Amy is History Curator at New Museum Los Gatos and brings a wealth of historic preservation experience. We look forward to her sharing her expertise and ideas.

Congratulations to our Board members who were re-elected to new 2-year terms: Gayle Frank, Amy Long, Marilyn Messina, John Mitchell, and Gratia Rankin.

Congratulations also to our re-elected slate of officers: Shanna Desai, President; André Luthard, Vice President of Advocacy; Darryl Boyd, Treasurer; and Amy Long, Secretary. Our officers and Board members are a dedicated and hardworking group of people who keep PAC*SJ running and fulfilling its mission of preserving the architectural heritage of San Jose.

As the year ends we have launched a major initiative to save the Stephen's Meat sign—better known as the Dancing Pig sign. Under the leadership of our Vice President of Advocacy, André Luthard, a committee has formed and is hard at work to save the sign. More information about the campaign to Save the Dancing Pig can be found elsewhere in this issue, but in brief, fundraising efforts are underway to have an assessment of the sign done so we know exactly what is needed to bring it back to life and keep it that way. We hope to have the sign lit and dancing again soon!

We continue monitoring development projects that could potentially threaten our historic resources. We meet with the City and developers to make the case for protecting our dwindling historic structures.

Also on our radar is what is happening at the national level. There is a real danger of losing the Federal Historic Tax Credit (HTC)—it has been deleted from the tax reform proposal currently being worked on in Washington, DC. Although there was some optimism that the HTC would be reinstated in whatever the final version of the tax reform bill is, there is a growing possibility the HTC will be lost as a resource.

The HTC has long been an incentive for historic rehabilitation projects. Nationally the HTC has:

—Created more than 2.4 million well-paying local jobs; (Cont'd p. 3)



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

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

© 2017 Preservation Action Council of San Jose

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

Dancing Pig (Cont'd)

On Nov. 16th, a technician from YESCO (Young Electric Sign Company) arrived on site to assess the Dancing Pig Sign for condition and necessary repairs. The technician indicated that the sign is in poor condition and the tubing may need to be replaced. He noted that there were also bullet holes in the sign. PAC*SJ will receive a report from the YESCO inspection as to the costs to repair the sign and ongoing maintenance for the public to enjoy once again

On the same day, Channel 7, ABC news also arrived and interviewed: PAC*SJ Executive Director—Brian Grayson; PAC*SJ Vice President and Chair of the “Save the Pig Sign” campaign—André Luthard; and Heather David, author, mid-century historian and key person working on the campaign. Reports of the Pig Sign inspection and campaign were shown on KGO/ABC-TV news that evening. KPIX/CBS-TV reported on the campaign the next day.

As reported in the newspapers and other media, a real estate firm is in the process of buying up land parcels from W. San Carlos Street to Julian with the intention of assembling a development project for a future Google campus. The land on which the Pig Sign sits, owned by the Successor Agency, will be included in negotiations as well.

PAC*SJ’s goal is to maintain the sign after its repair with the hope that at some point Google will agree to maintain and care for the sign. We believe that their creative development team can incorporate the sign as an amenity into their campus design.



Photo: Gayle Frank

This historic sign is an iconic, place-making landmark. There is a reason why our Mayor and others have interviews and photo-ops standing in front of the Pig. Perhaps the phrase “Meet me at the Dancing Pig” will become common amongst employees and others coming together in the train station area.

(Cont'd p. 4)

E.D. Message (Cont'd)

- Leveraged \$131.8 billion in private investment in communities;
- Generated more tax revenue than it has cost the Treasury;
- And, preserved more than 42,293 buildings that form the historic fabric of our nation.

The current Congress, at least those writing the tax reform bill, fail to understand the importance of a tool like the HTC. Even President Ronald Reagan, in 1984, spoke in favor of the Federal Historic Tax Credit.

The national preservation community has mobilized to try and save the HTC. If it does not get reinstated in the final tax bill it will not be for a lack of trying.

It will be because of a lack of understanding and short-sightedness by Congress.

In closing, I want to thank our members for another successful year. We look forward to your continued support in the New Year and hope to see you at one or more of our events. We also hope you will consider taking an active role on one of our committees and maybe even consider applying for a seat on our Board.

Here's wishing you a Happy and Healthy New Year of historic proportions!

—Brian Grayson, Executive Director, PAC*SJ

PAC*SJ's Vice President of Advocacy and Chair of the "Safe Our Dancing Pig" campaign says, "Our dancing pig is a historic resource and a piece of neon art. It should be relit and remain in place as an iconic community landmark for a long time."

Bassian Farms, the current owner of the Stephen's Meat Products brand, has stepped up as a supporter of this fundraising campaign. The Jo Drechsler Memorial Fund at PAC*SJ is matching up to at least \$5000 of the donations made by the general public.

Please consider joining other neighbors and fans of the Dancing Pig from across the city. Donations to our "Save the Dancing Pig" campaign can be made at www.preservation.org/pac_donate.html and select "Save the Dancing Pig" from the dropdown menu.

PAC*SJ is a 501c3 non-profit organization and your donation is tax-deductible. ☞

To watch the dancing pig when the sign was working, go to www.youtube.com/watch?v=InICmKLQRKA



*Above, André Luthard, Chair of the campaign, is interviewed by KGO-TV about PAC*SJ's "Save the Dancing Pig" on a Nov. 16th rainy day.*



*Left, A technician from YESCO evaluates the condition of the Dancing Pig Sign. A report to follow will advise PAC*SJ as to the costs for repair and maintenance.*

(Photos: Brian Grayson)

Preservation Kudos



Photo: Gayle Frank

National Printing Co. Building

This building (above) in Japantown at 510 N. 5th Street had been the subject of an application to redevelop the site by demolishing the building and constructing two single family homes.

PAC*SJ has been on record for at least two years opposing the demolition of the building. It is a Contributing Structure for a potential Historic District.

The applicant has recently resubmitted plans that now call for the preservation of the building and the construction of one single-family house at the back of the lot behind the historic structure. It appears that we can put this one in the "win" column but PAC*SJ will continue to monitor its progress.

The National Printing Company began in 1910 in Japantown with Toshio Kimura, who produced a Japanese American newspaper. By 1911, Kimura operated his business as the Japanese Press followed by the rename, the San Jose Press. In 1913, Peter Takaichi joined Kimura in the printing business and took over the shop in 1915. After moving for the second time, the business landed at 510 North Fifth Street in 1923 with Takaichi living next door. In 1927 the printing shop name was changed again to the National Printing Company. The printing company is said to be San Jose's oldest commercial printing business and is family owned. ❧

Trinity Church Bells Returned

The historic Trinity Episcopal Cathedral has finally received its 18 re-tuned bells and its six new bells from the Georgetown, Ohio foundry.

Trinity Cathedral, on the corner of Second and St. John Streets facing St. James Park, is a San Jose City Landmark (No. 6) and is the oldest church building in continuous use in San Jose, built in 1863.

Since 1880, bells from the tower of Trinity have rung for services, weddings, funerals, and national holidays. They even survived and rang on their own in the earthquakes of 1906 and 1989! Now, with 24 bells, Trinity officially has a full-fledged carillon and is one of only three official carillons in the Bay Area, joining the Campanile at UC Berkeley and Hoover Tower at Stanford. *(Cont'd p. 6)*



Bells being raised into the bell tower at Trinity Cathedral.

(Photo: Paul Archambeault)

Message from the President

As we come to the close of one year and start a new year, we reflect with gratitude and prepare to start the new year with determination and an open slate. There are many projects we are working on such as saving our neon signs, the First Church and numerous developments that could potentially have an impact on historic preservation. And there are many areas we are looking to grow.

As an organization last year brought many changes. Some long-term Board members passed away. We also gained some wonderful new Board members whose skills and passion will definitely enhance what we do.

Sharon McCauley passed away earlier in the year and had been involved with PAC*SJ for many years. She put together many of our educational walking tours, events, etc. Her contributions were immeasurable.

Pat Colombe passed away recently and had also been involved with PAC*SJ for many years. Pat was a retired city planner and her planning expertise helped greatly with our preservation efforts.

Embarking on 2018 I'd like to extend an invitation to all of you. We rely on the help of volunteers and would welcome your contributions to existing projects, the facilitation of creating new projects, and volunteering for our events and programs. We will work on strengthening our committees next year as well. You do not have to be a Board member to be on a committee. We also have Board positions open and would be happy to hear of your interest! We are looking for new ideas, innovation and dedication.



Shanna Desai

Advocacy continues to be our primary focus. Our events such as the home tours, educational walking tours, galas, and movie night highlight issues that further our mission—preserving the architectural heritage of San Jose. But to attract more interest to our cause, we need to reach a much broader range of people who may not be intrinsically drawn to our efforts. We wish to draw them in through creating events that are not only educational, but are lots of fun and inspirational, while sparking interest and creating awareness. PAC*SJ needs your help!

We strive to keep the soul of San Jose alive through the preservation of our historic resources. We work closely with the City, developers and homeowners on the aforementioned as well as offer input regarding thoughtful, innovative design that promotes quality craftsmanship. We also monitor adherence to City guidelines and policies. Our city can be a beautiful, thriving city that unifies past, present and future.

Be on the lookout for your membership renewal notice and please remember to renew when you receive it! Your memberships make a huge difference.

On behalf of myself and the PAC*SJ Board, we would like to wish you a Happy Holiday.

Warm regards, Shanna Desai
President, Preservation Action Council of San Jose

Trinity Bells (Cont'd)

Below is a report from one of Trinity's members.

By Sunday, Nov. 12, the last of the 24 bells were raised and attached to the bell frame. Then the crew assembled the playing console with 20 foot pedals for the bell ringers to learn to use. Connecting rods and wires rise up from the console. Each rod and wire connects a baton (key) on the playing console to its bell two floors above the console. When the baton is pressed, it pulls the clapper against its bell in the tower. Standing in the bell chamber surrounded by the massive bells, I am struck about how humbling it is to feel a part of something of permanence in our

society of constant change! The large bells are 137 years old, the new bells barely 3 months old. Together they can ring their message of love and joy, remembrance and celebration for decades, if not centuries, into the future!

A massive thank you to all the people who helped to preserve and pursue the dream to create a carillon for Trinity and the city of San Jose's St. James neighborhood. Because of you the bells will ring out over San Jose once again!

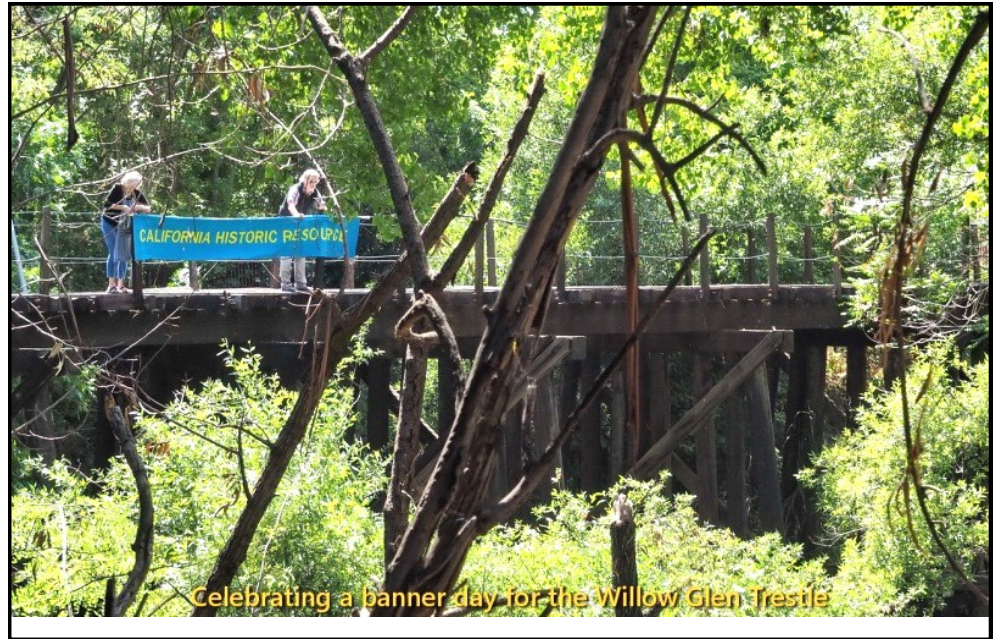
—Paul Archambeault
Trinity Bell Ringer and Carillon Project Leader


Willow Glen Trestle Update

It's official, reaffirmed and finalized! The Willow Glen Trestle is formally listed in the California State Historical Register!

In May 2017, the State Historical Resources Commission (SHRC) unanimously declared the Willow Glen Trestle to be historic, but the City then asked for a "re-do"—it filed a request to the SHRC for a "redetermination."

At the SHRC's Oct. 27th quarterly meeting in Sacramento, the Commissioners heard from both sides (the City of San Jose and the Friends of the Willow Glen Trestle) and then reaffirmed their May decision: the Trestle is historic and is listed as such on the State Register.




Congratulations and thanks to all those who worked so hard to make this happen. The SHRC was most impressed by the incredible amount of community support. 

Source: wgtrestle.org

Coyote Creek Trestle and Coyote Meadows

On September 30th, Larry Ames and Park personnel organized a walking tour of the Coyote Meadows and Coyote Creek Trestle—the Willow Glen Trestle's slightly bigger sibling. The historic Western Pacific Railroad trestle (pictured right) crosses Coyote Creek and will become part of the future Five Wounds Trail.

The Meadows/Trestle tour included landfill sites, trail connections, zones with allowable uses and constraints, and crossed the Five Wounds Trail. The Coyote Meadows Project seeks to create an urban open space. The Coyote Meadows Coalition is comprised of groups and individuals focused on opening up and activating the area for a potential park with low impact uses, multiple trails and trail connections, and plenty of oak and cottonwood trees. The area spans a 50-acre city-owned parcel along Coyote Creek between Story Road and Highway 280 and just north of Kelley Park/Happy Hollow. The Coyote Creek Trail runs along the western edge of the area and the future Five Wounds Trail will run along its eastern edge.

The Coyote Meadows are at the base of a bluff that is the cap of a former public landfill. Before that, the site was a clay quarry for making bricks. Coyote Meadows visitors will enjoy views of Downtown San Jose, the Santa Cruz Mountains, Mount Hamilton and the East Foothills. For more information go to coyotemeadowssj.org. 



ON THE RADAR



Graves House

The 1868 Graves House, on Mitzi Drive, was visited by heirs of Sylvester Graves, PAC*SJ and other interested parties in November. Recently the tenant who has lived there for the last ten years has

vacated, citing the leaks and break-ins as a hindrance to safe and secure habitation. The large house needs much repair but has attractive restored/renovated woodwork and wall coverings in some of the areas. PAC*SJ is concerned for the security of the house if it is vacant and hopes a tenant will be moving in as soon as possible. For an anecdotal story about the house written by Sylvester Graves' great-grandson, see page 12. ☞



Sylvester Graves House, built circa 1868.

(Photo: Gayle Frank)

Scheller House (at SJSU)

The San Jose State University new Science Building design phase will be completed by June of 2018. Construction is slated to begin in June, 2019. PAC*SJ is concerned for the future of the Scheller House (pictured below) that sits on campus and is now used by the Associated Students. Rumors have suggested that the House could be demolished. But we have also heard the house could be relocated on campus.

The Scheller house was beautifully renovated in 1999-2001 after close calls for demolition, years of neglect and a legal battle. The preservation of the Scheller House is the culmination of over a decade of effort, largely due to PAC*SJ's successful litigation against SJSU in 1994. The House is listed on the State Historic Resources Inventory. Theodore Lenzen, a local and prominent architect of the time, designed the California Colonial Revival style house in 1904. Today, the Scheller House is a rare example of his residential work. ☞



Photo: Gayle Frank

PAC*SJ is Still Keeping An Eye On—

- ➔ Montgomery Hotel
- ➔ 27 S. First St.
- ➔ Burbank Theater
- ➔ St. James Park
- ➔ Pellier Park
- ➔ Agnews Developmental Center



Meet Our New Board Members



Amy Long

Amy Long is currently the history curator at the New Museum Los Gatos. Her education background includes a Bachelors degree in history from San Jose State University and a Masters Degree in Public History from Sacramento State University. It was at Sacramento State that she studied architectural preservation and involved herself in projects related to preservation in Sacramento's historic districts.

Amy is passionate about joining PAC*SJ to promote and save historic structures and signs that represent the soul of the Santa Clara Valley and its collective communities. ☞

Michael Sodergren looks forward to functioning in a liaison capacity between the Preservation Action Council of San Jose and any City, County, State or Federal agencies along with private businesses affecting PAC*SJ's mission. He realizes that a positive outcome is not always possible, but he enjoys working with people to develop a vision that enables finding common ground.



J. Michael Sodergren

Having done infrastructure and other work in both historical and non-historical City owned buildings, venues and connecting public spaces with architects and contractors, Michael will be comfortable working with PAC*SJ's Executive Director or others to represent PAC*SJ's interests and secure support for our preservation initiatives.

Michael's thoughts include the following: "Through new digital capture technologies, San Jose's ongoing and amazing overall story, can now be told via an interconnection of the site-by-site stories about the people who lived and worked in the buildings and lands where history was made. We can dramatically expand the audience and demographic for San Jose's rich history, by creating and telling our stories via a new medium that is neither a novel, movie, documentary, tour, or a video game, but something that intersects all of these beyond where we are today. By capturing historical buildings in HD-3D point clouds, we can use these places as the virtual stage to tell all the stories and speculations about this place we call home. We can enable a self-paced, interactive, and fully immersive journey that is both 100% accurate and yet an infinitely dynamic personal experience. The places we preserve are the stage for telling San Jose's rich ongoing story." ☞

Historic Preservation Officer for San Jose

The City of San Jose Planning Department is recruiting to fill the position of Historic Preservation Officer/Principal Planner. The deadline has been extended to December 18th. Go to www.sanjoseca.gov for job description and requirements.

PAC*SJ 2017 Calendar

Jan	16	Tuesday, PAC*SJ Board Meeting, 6:30—8 PM. History San Jose, Pasetta House.
Feb	27	Tuesday, PAC*SJ Board Meeting, 6:30—8 PM. History San Jose, Pasetta House.
Mar	19	Monday, PAC*SJ Board Meeting, 6:30—8 PM. History San Jose, Pasetta House.
Apr	16	Monday, PAC*SJ Board Meeting, 6:30—8 PM. History San Jose, Pasetta House.
May	21	Monday, PAC*SJ Board Meeting, 6:30—8 PM. History San Jose, Pasetta House.
Jun	18	Monday, PAC*SJ Board Meeting, 6:30—8 PM. History San Jose, Pasetta House.
Jul	16	Monday, PAC*SJ Board Meeting, 6:30—8 PM. History San Jose, Pasetta House.

PAC*SJ Holds Popular Christmas Ornament Sale

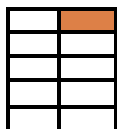
PAC*SJ's first Holiday Ornament Sale was a big success. We sold about \$3500 worth of donated ornaments, furniture, and items reserved from earlier donations. These were stored in the Curia garage which is now empty! Antiques Colony sold the remainder of the Radko ornaments without commission; all proceeds benefit PAC*SJ. Sale remainders have been delivered to Sunday Friends, Savers (benefits Hope Services), San Jose Woman's Club, and local schools.

Many thanks to our sales team: Head pricer and cashier Joan Bohnett, Mary Lou Mason, Art and Sylvia Carroll, Connie Foley, Lucille Boone, Lynne Brown, Heather David, Gayle Frank, excellent brownie maker Leslie Masunaga, Ron Hagen, Lyle Merithew, Sandy Swirsky, Christian Salas, Tom Aldridge, Tim McAuliff, and Virginia Carpio. Lisa Wangsness provided the great art work for the flyers. Mary Lou and Tim demonstrated great pizza making skills and guests enjoyed home made cookies. We plan to hold another sale next November so please sort through your ornaments this year and box those unwanted, unused ones for PAC*SJ donations. Thanks to all for a great and fun fund raiser. **Look for our next Yard Sale next Spring, date to be determined.**

ADVERTISE IN CONTINUITY!

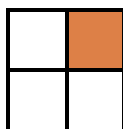
Continuity is distributed to over 500 San Jose preservationists, homeowners and decision-makers. It's a great way to get your message out to your best potential customers! For ads larger than the business card, you must supply camera-ready artwork, or PAC*SJ can provide it at an additional charge.

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



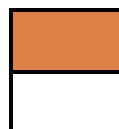
Business Card

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

In Memoriam

Patricia Ann Colombe

July 19, 1938 - October 21, 2017

The Board and members of Preservation Action Council of San Jose mourn the loss of Pat Colombe. She was a valuable PAC*SJ member and offered much expertise while on the PAC*SJ Board from 2014 to 2017. Her experience as a planner with the City of San Jose for 30 years and Chair of the San Jose Historic Landmarks Commission after retiring was extremely beneficial to PAC*SJ's mission of preservation, advocacy and education.



She was a team builder and always gave the best of advice and insights.

Besides her passion for good urban design and historic preservation, Pat was devoted to the Santa Clara Dog Training Club, was a member of the Santa Clara Valley Water District's Environmental Advisory Committee, and the Campus Community Association.

She also loved cooking, looking after her garden, and traveling. We will deeply miss her.

Concern for Coyote Train Depot


PAC*SJ is asking the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors to join us in supporting the effort to preserve the Coyote Train Depot. The historic Coyote Depot, built in 1869, has been listed on the Santa Clara County Historic Inventory since 2003. It is a very rare structure of its type, and has a high degree of integrity. The structure was occupied until recently, and the building has been maintained in reasonable repair.

Located at 8215 Monterey Road in an unincorporated area of Santa Clara County, the Coyote Depot was built by the Santa Clara & Pajaro Railroad to serve their line to Gilroy. The line was acquired in 1870 by the Southern Pacific Railroad, and has been maintained by the SPRR until the company merged with Union Pacific in 1996. The Coyote Depot enclave included a depot, bunkhouse, tank tower with pump house and the Braslan Seed Company warehouse, built in 1902.

Earlier this year the Braslan Seed warehouse was demolished at the request of the Union Pacific Railroad. The roof had fallen in and the structure was in imminent danger of collapse,

potentially falling onto the adjacent rail line. The Santa Clara County Planning Department issued an emergency demolition permit and the building was removed. The bunk house and pump house were lost to vandals and fire in recent years, so only the depot and tank tower now remain. The recent removal of the warehouse has prompted an interest in the Coyote Depot by local residents, the railroad community and the preservation community.

The Coyote Depot is not only a unique railroad structure, it is part of a little enclave that provides the character and identity for rural Coyote Valley, one of Santa Clara Valley's most scenic natural resources.

PAC*SJ is respectfully requesting that no additional demolition permits be issued in Coyote without a review by the Santa Clara County Heritage Commission and that the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors makes every effort to preserve this historic structure. 

Anecdotal History of Sylvester Graves and Family

Sylvester Graves was my great-grandfather. He was born in 1831 and came to the Santa Clara Valley in 1853 from Missouri, “traveling most of the way on horse-back” (source: obituary in newspaper). Sometime later he acquired 265 acres of farmland fronting on what is now Saratoga Avenue in San Jose. He initially planted grain and later planted prunes, apricots and peaches.

In 1867 he married Katherine Elizabeth Toney who was born in Iowa. Sylvester built the house on Saratoga Avenue in 1868. He also built a separate small house in back that served as a kitchen and another small house that was the servant’s quarters—the “servants” may have been Chinese (according to oral communication from his daughter, Ivy, who was my Grandmother).

When the county wanted to build a school in the area, Sylvester donated land for what became Moreland School located at what is now the corner of Payne and Saratoga Avenues. (My mother attended Moreland School in 1906 and 1907 and she remembered that it had 7th and 8th grades upstairs and the lower grades downstairs.)

Sylvester and Katherine had ten children. Belle and Myrtle died as infants and Stella died at three years when she pulled a pot of hot coffee onto herself. The other children, from oldest to youngest, were Ernest, Walter, Clara, Ivy, Jesse, Nettie and Beulah.

Sylvester was a member of the Free Methodist church and sometime in the late 1880s and early 1890s, two men who were also members convinced him that he could make a lot of money by investing in a gold mine they claimed they had in Mexico. Sylvester trusted them and borrowed money using the farm as collateral. The men continued to ask him for more money and finally, in 1894, he lost the farm to the bank. (His daughter, Nettie, was devastated about having to move and losing the farm. Several people who have lived in the house since then have reported that an apparition has been seen from time to time who appears to be a young woman.) After losing the farm, Sylvester moved to Gilroy for four to five years, returning to San Jose to live on North 12th Street where he died about 1910 at 79 years of age; Katherine died three to four years later.

Of Sylvester and Katherine’s children: Ernest and Jesse became farmers; the husbands of Nettie Harrison and Beulah Old were also farmers; Walter became an evangelist in the Free Methodist church; Clara Kennedy’s husband did odd jobs; and Ivy Kibby’s husband—my Grandfather—worked as a grocer and a machinist for John Deere.

Near what is now the Westgate Mall, there is a Graves Avenue which commemorates the Sylvester Graves farm and home.

—By Robert Ruth, November, 2017
Great-grandson of Sylvester Graves



Relations of Sylvester Graves from left: Tyler Kaher (3rd great-grandson), Robert Ruth (great-grandson) and Nancy Ruth Kaher (2nd great-granddaughter) in front of the Graves House.

(Photo: Gayle Frank)

Wesley Warren Hastings: Pacific Coast Architect By Krista Van Laan

Wesley Warren Hastings was one of the busiest architects in San Jose, California, when he started his career in 1903 in the midst of one of the city's great building booms. He went on to become one of the busiest architects on the West Coast, with a career that reached from California to Washington and back again. He had early success wherever he went, but he moved often, never really settling into any location long enough to establish himself after those early successes. His frequent moves certainly make it difficult for today's researcher to pin down all he accomplished during his twenty-nine-year career.

Born in Canada in 1881, Hastings was the oldest of six children of builder Alfred W. Hastings and his wife Myra. The Hastings family came to San Jose in 1889, where Alfred quickly found work. Wesley trained as an architect so he would be able to join his father in his business. At the age of twenty-two, Wesley worked as a draftsman at the architectural firm of Wolfe & McKenzie, the best residential architects in San Jose at that time, and one for whom Alfred had acted as contractor on several projects. Many of Hastings's residential designs have since mistakenly been attributed to Frank Wolfe or Charles McKenzie; that is no surprise, considering that his early, and probably only, training was with them.

In 1904, Wesley and his father went into business as A. W. Hastings & Son. The firm positioned itself as a one-stop shop where a customer could get a turnkey home designed and built for less money than the other architects and contractors would charge. Wesley was the in-house architect. The first six months they were in business, the firm constructed thirty-six buildings, nearly all of them designed by Wesley. A.W. Hastings & Son lasted until 1909, after which Wesley partnered with real estate developer Berdine Baker to form Hastings & Baker, which lasted less than two years.

Wesley Hastings was a prolific architect with a talent that appealed to a broad range of customers, including wealthy and influential clients such as garage owner Clarence Letcher and furniture magnate Ernest Lion. From 1904 to 1910, Hastings designed more than 120 buildings in San Jose and its surrounding areas, many of them in San Jose's premier residential neighborhood, Naglee Park.

Although fewer than a quarter of Hastings's works have survived in San Jose, there are enough of them to provide a

solid sense of his style during those early years. Like Wolfe & McKenzie, Hastings was fearless about combining stylistic elements that resulted in some unique designs. Bay windows, asymmetrical entrances (often on the diagonal), flared pillars and eaves, and large dormers appeared on many of the houses he designed. His buildings almost always featured a number of textural elements, such as beveled wood and shake siding, stucco, half-timbering, rustic materials, roughhewn beams, and huge stones.

Several of the Hastings-designed houses in San Jose are notable for their use of novel building materials. In 1904, Hastings designed a Naglee Park home for music teacher Frank G. King, son of the locally well-known F. Loui King, founder of the Conservatory of Music. The King house is made of cement blocks molded to resemble stone.

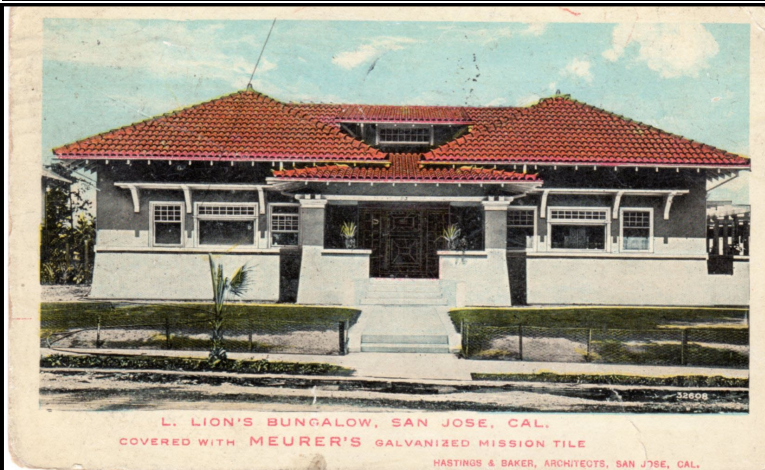


In 1904, Hastings laid the first block for the San Jose Cement Block Company, which manufactured the materials for Frank G. King's unique Naglee Park home. King was a music professor at the Conservatory of Music founded by his father. (Photo: Krista Van Laan)

In 1910, Hastings designed homes using galvanized metal roof tile, one of them a grand stucco Craftsman home in San Jose's Hanchett Park neighborhood, for Ernest Lion of the prestigious L. Lion & Sons furniture company. This house appeared on a promotional postcard distributed by the Meurer Brothers, a Brooklyn-based company that specialized in this type of roofing material.

The Lion house was one of the last buildings Hastings designed before leaving his San Jose practice. (Cont'd p. 14)

Hastings (Cont'd)



In 1910, Hastings designed this outstanding home in San Jose's Hanchett Park for Ernest & Clara Lion, of the powerful Lion Furniture family. Meurer Brothers of Brooklyn used this picture to promote their galvanized metal roof tiles. An almost identical smaller home was designed at the same time in Naglee Park for real estate salesman and Italian community leader Egidio Zeiro. Both homes have since had their metal tiles removed and replaced with clay ones. (Photo courtesy of Franklin Maggi)

In 1910, he married Mary McCarthy of Saratoga, and shortly after, they moved to Everett, Washington, twenty-five miles north of Seattle, a city that had tripled its population in the previous three years due to the demand for Northwest lumber. The entire Hastings family soon followed.

Wesley opened an office in the Commerce Building in Everett and was extremely successful right away, designing many homes, commercial buildings, apartment buildings, and schools. Several of the buildings he designed were important to Everett's growth, including the 1911 Odd Fellows Lodge on Wetmore Avenue, today an office building and part of Everett's Hewitt Avenue National Historic District.

From 1911 to 1914, Hastings designed at least five schools in Everett, Seattle, and nearby cities. The Hastings-designed Longfellow School (photo right) in Everett is today in danger of being demolished. Built in 1911, the Beaux Arts Classic style building is listed as an Everett Historic Resource, but has no protection to keep it from being destroyed. It ceased being a school in 1971, but the

building still belongs to the school district, which expects to demolish it soon to make way for additional parking. Those interested in learning more about the fate of this building can follow the Facebook site, "Save The Longfellow School – Everett, WA."

In 1913, Wesley and Mary had a son, Edwin Warren. Unfortunately, six years later, the couple divorced and Mary moved back to Saratoga with their son to live with her mother and stepfather. Wesley moved again, to Tacoma, Washington, then to Seattle. Although his business had been doing well, Wesley returned to San Jose in 1920, perhaps in an effort to spend time with his son.

He was unable to attain the success he had enjoyed in San Jose ten years earlier. He designed several relatively modest residences in San Jose, among them a half-timbered Craftsman home with an offset pillared porch and his signature mix of textures for his ex-wife Mary, her parents and his son. For a short time, he worked as an architect for Wallace & Bush in San Jose, then partnered with his carpenter brother Charles.

By 1926, Wesley had moved on again, this time to Pacific Grove in Monterey County, where he opened an office as a sole practitioner in Monterey. He worked steadily on more than thirty projects between 1927 and 1931, residences and commercial buildings alike. One of Hastings's clients was civic leader and benefactor Lucie Chase, one of Pacific Grove's most important residents. In 1931, he partnered for a time with notable Watsonville architect, (Cont'd p. 15)



W.W. Hastings designed the Longfellow School in Everett, Washington in 1911. The three-story Classical Revival building is in danger of being demolished within the next few months. (Photo courtesy of Historic Everett)

Hastings (Cont'd)

A.W. Story, with whom he worked on at least ten buildings, including a pair of striking tile-roofed Spanish Revival houses for brothers Salvador and Sylvester Enea in Pacific Grove.



In 1931, Hastings designed a pair of side-by-side Spanish Revival homes for brothers Sylvester and Salvador Enea in Pacific Grove. The Enea homes with their spectacular ocean view are among those that show that Hastings may have still been under the influence of his long-ago mentor, San Jose architect Frank Wolfe, with the spiral pillars, arches, and Spanish-style ornamentation that was popularized by Wolfe & Higgins during this period. The angled front entrance, however, is a signature feature of W.W. Hastings. (Photo by Krista Van Laan).



This Naglee Park home was designed in 1907 for Park and Mabel Shoff. Mabel Fuller Shoff was a locally renowned pianist who composed and taught music and gave recitals in this house. (Photo by Krista Van Laan)

After 1931, Hastings seems to disappear. He no longer worked with A.W. Story, and at the time of this publication, records are yet to be found of any work done past 1931. It is not known where he lived from 1932 to 1937.

In 1937, Hastings moved back to Everett, Washington, where his mother and two of his siblings still lived. He opened an office downtown, but it is unknown if he had any work. Two years later, he died, only fifty-eight years old, at a hospital in Everett, on October 10, 1939. A small obituary in the San Jose newspaper acknowledged his role in helping to create the San Jose cityscape; the Everett paper did not even mention his legacy.



Frank King's brother, attorney Loui Foote King, also hired Hastings in 1904 to design this half-timbered Craftsman house with a flared base and a pair of asymmetrical curved stone walls creating an impressive entrance. (Photo by Krista Van Laan)

It's difficult now to speculate as to the reason for Hastings's peripatetic lifestyle. From today's admittedly limited vantage point, it appears that he often left a city even when he was very successful at his business, and was unable to maintain relationships with business partners (there were additional lesser partners whose names were omitted from this article).

Without having to continually build a new clientele and prove himself time and time again, Hastings might have

(Cont'd p. 16)

Hastings (Cont'd)

been able to fulfill the talent and promise he had shown in his early days in San Jose. Michael Ward and Karen Schaffer, who in 1987 bought the Ernest Lion house in Hanchett Park, are among the many homeowners who appreciate how Hastings's work has held up over the past century. "We love living in this house—the layout, the solid construction, the attention to detail, and the innovative forethought that went into its design. After more than thirty years, we're still discovering good things about it." ❧

(More photos on p. 17)

Thanks to April Halberstadt; Michael Houser, Washington State Architectural Historian; Steve Honegger and Richard Steres of the Heritage Society of Pacific Grove; Dave Ramstad of the Everett Historical Commission; Lisa Labovitch, Cameron Johnson, and Priscilla Strettell of the Everett Public Library; and Michael Ward.



Hastings designed many houses in San Jose's Naglee Park neighborhood, including this 1904 showpiece for Clarence Letcher, the flamboyant local king of automobile sales. The Letcher house, with its corner porch entrance, steep pitched roof with ornate dormer, bay windows, and arched overhang, is one of Hastings's most distinctive designs.

(Photo by Krista Van Laan)

Sample of W.W. Hastings buildings

San Jose, CA

454 S 7th St., Charles Boulton house, 1904
173 S 13th St., R.M. Chase house, 1904
198 S 13th St., Dr. Fred Foster house, 1908
277 N 5th St., Robert Higgins house, 1908
52 S 15th St., Charles and Kate Howes house, 1905
141 S 14th St., Frank G. King house, 1904
371 S 14th St., Loui F. King house, 1904
370 S 14th St., Dudley Knowles house, 1910
101 S 16th St., Clarence Letcher house, 1904
1181 Martin Ave., Ernest Lion house, 1910
389 S 16th St., William May house, 1909
600 S 9th St., May Miller house, 1904
285 S 12th St., Louis Normandin house, 1907
391 N 12th St., Peter Pachaud house, 1904
787 E San Carlos St., Dr. Donald Ross house, 1910
104 S 16th St., Park Shoff house, 1907
715 S 8th St., John C. Stagg house, 1905
98 S 15th St., Fred Stanley house, 1904
645 S 5th St., William Swickard house, 1905
165 S 16th St., Louis Wood house, 1904
699 E San Fernando St., Egidio Zeiro house, 1910

Everett, Washington

625 33rd St. W.J. Britt house, 1911
3715 Oakes Ave. Longfellow School, 1911
2815 Wetmore St. Odd Fellows Lodge, 1911

Monterey, California

211 Watson St. Jack & Marion Hilbert house, 1927

Pacific Grove, California

1004-1006 Shell Ave. Salvatore & Sylvester Enea houses, 1931

Salinas, California

16 E Gabilan St. Travelers Hotel, 1930

Hastings (Cont'd)



This Naglee Park home designed for Charles and Kate Howes in 1905 includes many of Hastings's signature features.

(Photo by Krista Van Laan)

Krista Van Laan is the author of the books "Frank Delos Wolfe: California Prairie Architecture" and "Wolfe & Higgins: Master Architects of the Spanish Revival."



In 1908, optometrist Fred Foster and his wife Mary commissioned this striking two-story Craftsman house on a large corner lot in Naglee Park, today a San Jose City Landmark. Its complex forms, second-story long windowed sleeping porch, and two distinctive entrances with stone chimney are among its outstanding features.

(Photo by Franklin Maggi)

Looking Back: San Jose's Architecturally Unique “Four'n 20” Pie Shops

By Ralph Pearce

“Sing a song of sixpence, a pocket full of rye, four and twenty black-birds, baked in a pie.” So goes the popular English nursery rhyme “Sing a Song of Sixpence.” From this rhyme came the name for a small chain of late 1960s restaurants called Four’n 20 Restaurant & Pie Shop.

Two of these restaurants were built in San Jose in 1970 and 1971. One was on Meridian near Hamilton, and the other was on Kooser and Blossom Hill Roads, across from Princeton Plaza. I remember eating at both locations with my family. Like Marie Callendar’s and Bumbleberry Pies (in The Pruneyard), Four’n 20 featured pies, with a limited menu of soup, sandwiches, hamburgers, and salads.

Though the two San Jose locations were out of business by 1974, both buildings still stand, having been repurposed by other businesses through the years. Currently the

(Cont’d p. 19)



San Jose had two Four’n 20 Restaurants in the early 1970s. Here’s a photograph of the original building on Meridian Avenue, which has served as a photo-processing store, and is now home to Wright Lighting. Notice the nice use of the original sign framing. This is the best maintained and original looking of the three remaining buildings. Besides the other San Jose building on Kooser Road (which may be slated for demolition), the only other remaining building stands drastically modified in Jamaica (Queen’s), New York.



One of only three remaining original Four’n 20 Restaurant buildings, this Kooser Road structure may be about to make way for new retail stores and condominiums. The restaurant once seated up to 50 customers, and the drive-up window (under the red canopy) sold pies to drive-up customers.

(Photos: Ralph Pearce)

Four'n 20 (Cont'd)

1572 Meridian Avenue building houses Wright Lighting, while the 1357 Kooser Road location stands vacated within a chain link fence. The San Jose permits website for the Kooser Road location indicates that there was a 2004 preliminary review for demolition, with plans for a fifty foot structure containing retail stores and condominiums.

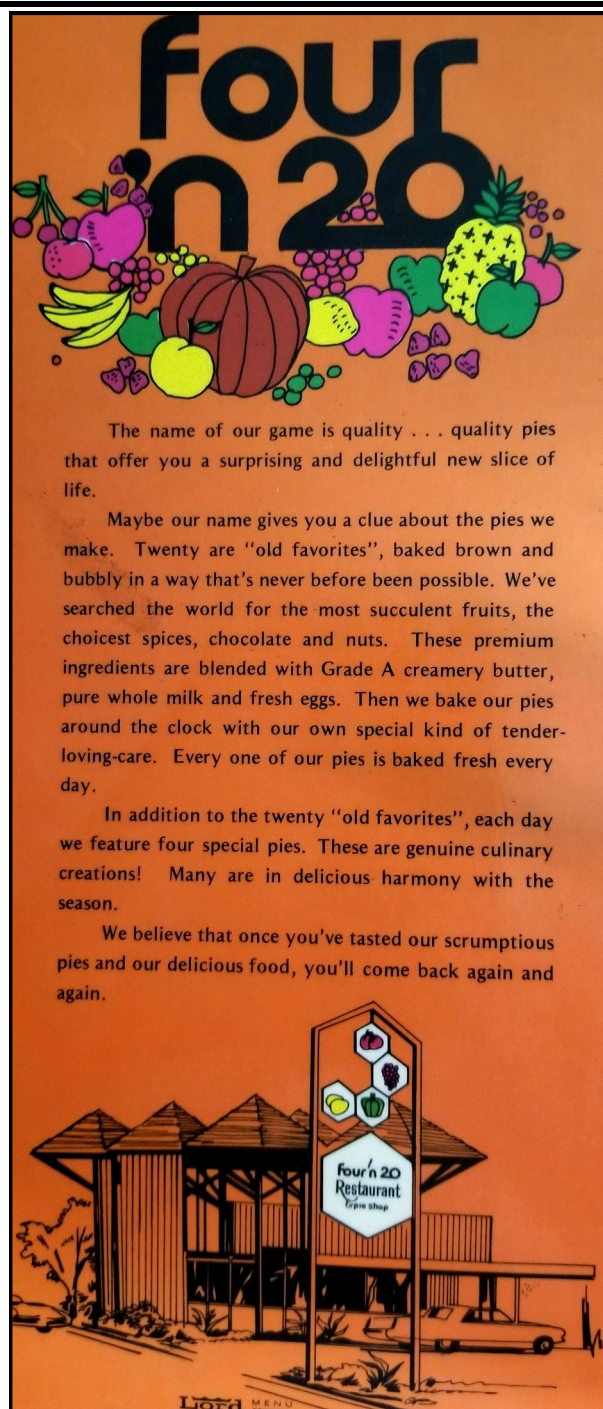
My Google search on the restaurant chain quickly led me to Los Angeles, where two of the restaurants are still in operation. I was able to connect with the co-owner David Burkin who began working for the original owner in 1975, managing the four Los Angeles locations (Encino, Northridge, Sherman Oaks, and Valley Village). The owner eventually began selling off the restaurants, and in 1979 David Burkin, along with his business partner Michael O'Donnell, purchased the remaining two pie shops in Sherman Oaks and Valley Village.

I learned from David that the chain had been created by United Fruit Company in 1969, and was overseen by its Baskin-Robbins division. There were four restaurants in Los Angeles, two in San Jose, and three in New York (two in Queens, one on Long Island). The parent company apparently had some problems in the early 1970s, and decided to sell off the chain around 1974. ☞



Here's a 1978 photograph of one of the Los Angeles area Four'n 20 Restaurants in its original building on Van Nuys in Sherman Oaks. None of the four Los Angeles buildings remain, though two of the restaurants relocated and each has incorporated original signage into their new locations.

(Photo courtesy of David Burkin)



This is the back of the original menu. The early 1970s restaurants served pie for 50 to 60 cents a slice, and had a limited menu of soup, sandwiches, hamburgers, and salads.

(Photo courtesy of David Burkin)



THE CORE companies

Building Better Communities™

www.theCOREcompanies.com



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.

HL92-74; St. Patrick's School, 51 N. Ninth Street

This two-story stucco building with attractive wood moldings and décor was built in 1924-1925. There are eight classrooms, a library, a reading/research room, kitchen and offices. On the left side of the first floor an auditorium serves as the church meeting place since St. Patrick's Church burned in August of 2012.

The official opening of St. Patrick's School took place on September 14, 1925. The funds to build the school came from Mr. Edward McLaughlin, a retired banker, San Jose resident and a member of St. Patrick's Parish. He specifically designated in his will that his wish was to use his gift to build a school for the parish. Father Richard Collins was tasked to build the school and select a congregation of sisters to staff it. Six sisters were sent from the



St. Patrick's School on N. Ninth Street. (Photo: Gayle Frank)

Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary from San Francisco to administer and staff the school.

In 1985 the last of the Sisters left the staff after sixty years of service. By 1988, lay principals were appointed until 2003. In 2004 the Daughters of Charity sponsored St. Patrick's School with the mission of providing a Catholic education to poor school children. ❧

Fly through the Ashworth-Remillard House

Brian Miller and the *PointZ Taken* team have completed the laser scan of the Ashworth-Remillard House on Story Road. The scan has been processed, registered and ready to view on [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com). Here are some of the things that can be done with this scan.

- Create accurate as-built blueprints and construction plans in AutoCAD and/or Revit.
- Create accurate 2D floor plans.
- Create a model from the point cloud.
- Virtually reconstruct the building prior to actually spending any money.
- Monitor/Assess the condition of the building; foundation, floors, walls, ceiling.
- Archive the scan data for historic records.
- Collect accurate dimensions and measurements for prefabrication and repair work.

- Create a BIM model for maintenance, operations and asset management.
- Create content/exhibit(s) for online advertising, marketing, sales and outreach.
- Create immersive real environment VR experiences.
- Develop games.

Visit the youtube link to view the quick scan of the exterior and interior of the Remillard house, including Count Dandini's bedroom, which is a great story in itself. Go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nlh8jdyEv0I&feature=youtu.be>.

To learn more about the house and/or laser scanning, see previous *Continuity* issues online at www.preservation.org: Remillard House—Fall, 2011, pg. 4; Winter, 2010, pg. 16-17. Laser Scanning—Fall, 2016, pg. 1. ❧



OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER
DONALD ROCHA
CITY OF SAN JOSÉ

Your Local Real Estate Experts

A&G

AKIN & GUTIERREZ TEAM



**GLOBAL
LUXURY™**

Janet Akin

408.355.1533
CalBRE# 01416392

Dustin Gutierrez

4home411.com
CalBRE# 01416374

Notable Quotable

"While the Structure of Merit [Stephen's Meat Building] proposed for demolition in this proposal is not significant at the California Register, Candidate City Landmark or Historic District level, the site does play a role in promoting a greater sense of historic awareness and community identity in the immediate area, in particular, the original 1950s sign* located on the south side of the retail building."

*Signed by Edward Janke, on Sept. 10, 2007.
2007 Chair of San Jose Landmarks
Commission, in a letter to the then
SJ Redevelopment Agency.*

** The Neon Dancing Pig Sign*

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-Century Modern 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

GIVE A HAM!

HELP SAVE OUR

DANCING

PIG!





To learn
more visit:
The San Jose
Signs Project

www.preservation.org/pac_donate.html

SPONSORED BY



PRESERVATION ACTION COUNCIL OF SAN JOSE
Dedicated to Preserving San Jose's Architectural Heritage



the
SAN JOSE
Signs Project

SUPPORTED BY



BASSIAN
Bassian California - Since 1968 - Made in the USA



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



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 2017-2018 Board

Shanna Desai, *President*

Marilyn Messina

André Luthard, *Vice President Advocacy*

John Mitchell

Darryl Boyd, *Treasurer*

Gratia Rankin

Amy Long, *Secretary*

Michael Sodergren

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