

CONTINUITY

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

Summer, 2013

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Faber's Cyclery Burns

Yes, it happened again—another historic building in San Jose consumed by fire. On April 25th, 2013, at the corner of South First and Margaret Streets, Faber's Cyclery, a building from 1884, was badly damaged by fire. Yes, it was dilapidated and leaning a bit, but did it have character! Now the blackened second story of the Victorian is charred with its cupola beyond recognition. The lower level appears somewhat in tact with its bright red sign still prominent on the north side of the building.

The Faber's Cyclery building is visible to everyone who drives down Highway 280 or along South First Street. In that sense it is a "landmark" – perhaps not designated so by officialdom – but to the average person living in San Jose, the building has been a landmark for many years. Faber's is a building that many ordinary people in San Jose recognize and remember. On the internet during the weeks following the fire, many citizens who patronized or knew of Faber's Cyclery described their



Former Faber's Cyclery at 702 S. First Street after fire.

grief and anger about the fire. Local preservationists were discouraged and cynical because San Jose continues to lose historic buildings by fire along with neglect.

To those who say, "Well, that building was almost falling down anyway so it was just a matter of time" our answer is four-fold: 1) Restoring an old building preserves its aesthetic, architecture, cultural, or historical significance for future generations, lending a pathway to the past. 2) Restoring an old building often creates a tourist attraction and enhances business with its unique atmosphere and interesting stories.

(Cont'd on page 2)

Faber's Cyclery (Cont'd)

3) In general, restoring or renovating an old building will diminish pollution and reduce energy consumption from demolition, transporting rubble and the construction of a replacement. 4) Razing a building is the opposite of "going green." Beyond that, renovation creates two to five times as many jobs than in new construction.




What a shortsighted view by those who think, in ignorance, the loss of Faber's is inevitable or for the best, given the state of the building. Faber's has a long history, primarily as a saloon in the early years and a bicycle shop for the last ninety years (see page 4 for more history.) It held a museum of old bicycles, parts, photos, antique blacksmith tools and artifacts. Most visitors to the shop were enthralled with its history, stories and atmosphere.

A movement to save Faber's Cyclery has been on-going for the past year. The group has been working to build a co-operative and social public space that cultivates the art and bicycling community by forming a San Jose Bicycle Cultural Center. After the fire, their internet campaign (SaveFabers.wordpress.com) requests donations for restoring the building and proceeding with their dreams. They ask for community input and assistance by signing a petition to save the building and prevent the demolition of Faber's.

PAC*SJ is reaching out to the City of San Jose and to the community to explore possible options to save our historic buildings such as Faber's Cyclery and reduce or even prevent their loss by fire or neglect. The city makes attractive incentive packages available to developers for various projects. Perhaps an "historic preservation incentive" could be

made available to encourage owners to properly and safely maintain their historic structures. Better tax exemptions, grants, fines or insurance incentives might assist and promote the restoration of historic structures. Dollars spent on restoration or rehabilitation of a historic building are more effective than paying for fighting fires, damages, injuries and potential loss of lives.

What is the cost when a building goes up in flames? There are innumerable costs to the owners, insurance companies, the neighborhood, nearby residents and to the city. More importantly, lives are threatened and injuries occur in a fire. Once again, the costs of fighting this fire at 702 S. First Street could have been much more effectively used if the dollars had gone to preserving the building.

Saving historic buildings, especially when they are in poor condition, is a complex problem. There usually seems to be a lack of money for repairs and maintenance while restoration requires following city guidelines. But local history dies with the building. Pictures of old buildings or plaques on a wall have little, if any, impact. As we examine first hand how a structure was built and put together, enjoy its unique design and materials, we become one with a piece of history. Future generations need to hear the stories from our past while seeing the actual buildings. Children today and in the future may not have that luxury. 



*Middle left, Faber's cupola destroyed by fire.
Above, wooden structure to the rear of the Faber's Cyclery
that may have been an early blacksmith shop.*

(Text & photos: Gayle Frank)

Executive Director's Message

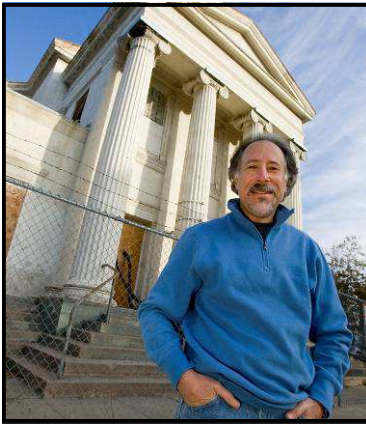
The theme for National Preservation Month in May was See! Save! Celebrate! We try to do that every month but it is a challenge here in San Jose.

Most of our energy is spent on trying to protect what is left of our architectural heritage as we try to navigate a host of city-constructed roadblocks. We would like to spend more time presenting educational and entertaining programs for the community, but given the current mindset in San Jose about historic preservation we are forced to use much of our resources in a different manner.

Some items continue to stay on our action list such as the Sainte Claire Hotel. I have previously written how the building will lose its long held historic name later this year. The hotel will undergo renovation by its new owners but we have no indication if the historic lobby will be retained or if it will be renovated along with the hotel rooms. The City has no jurisdiction over the interior and is reluctant to talk to the new owner about the importance of the historic hotel and retaining its historic characteristics.

New issues continue to pop up like wildfires. And fire is one of the issues that are never far from the preservation agenda. A recent fire destroyed much of the historic Faber's Cyclery. Once again we raised our concerns about the lack of protections for our most vulnerable historic buildings. This time the feedback from the City was more direct. It was more clearly stated that historic preservation is not a priority for the Mayor and City Council and it is unlikely it will be anytime in the near future. It is not surprising to hear that since the City's actions have certainly made it clear, but it is disappointing nonetheless to hear it stated almost as a matter of policy.

The list of at-risk historic buildings continues – the Century Theaters on Saratoga Avenue and Winchester Boulevard are sitting on prime development land. As we feared, the City is soliciting development proposals that could include demolition of the Century Theaters. We are advocating that at least one of the iconic buildings be saved and incorporated into any development proposal.



*Brian Grayson in front of
First Church on St. James St.*

*Photo:
Silicon Valley Community Newspapers*

We know there is interest by our friends at the Retro Dome to reuse one of the theaters to present their popular theatrical productions. What could be better than already having a willing occupant with a successful track record ready to use an iconic dome?

Not all cities have such an adverse attitude towards historic preservation. In fact, the City of Palo Alto recently made a very strong commitment to preservation when their City Council heard a staff recommendation to purchase their historic post office building for use as City offices. The Council approved the staff recommendation and the City will submit a bid on the building.

From their City staff report: "The purchase of the U.S. Post Office building would allow the City to protect and enhance an extremely valuable historic community resource, while relocating City office space to save money in the long run." It is refreshing to see a neighboring city embrace their historic resources and show an understanding of their importance to the community.

Meanwhile, back in San Jose, here is another sad example of sending the wrong message about preservation. Many of you have probably seen the house that sits on the Orchard Supply Hardware (OSH) site on San Carlos Street. OSH has applied for permits to demolish the existing store as well as the house.

When the house was originally evaluated, about 10 years ago, it was found to be eligible for historic designation. When it was reevaluated about a year ago, the house was no longer

(Cont'd on pg. 4)



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Please submit your letters, comments and suggestions to
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E.D.'s Message (Cont'd)

considered to be eligible for historic designation because of its poor condition. Over the years the house was neglected to the point of losing its potential historic designation and the owner has applied for a demolition permit. We raised our concerns to the Planning Department because we felt the house should at least be offered for relocation along with relocation costs. The house has since been offered for relocation but without any requirement for relocation costs.

If the demolition permit is granted without a funding requirement, historic structures throughout the city will be at risk. It will send the message that if you want to get rid of your building just neglect it long enough so that it loses its potential historic integrity and then the City will "reward" you with a demolition permit. We think that sends the wrong message about our priorities as a city.

Another historic structure whose days are numbered is the Three Creeks Trestle Bridge in Willow Glen. The City Council initially voted to demolish the trestle with minimal public input. After an outcry by the community the issue recently returned to the City Council Rules Committee. There was hope the committee would agree to rehear the issue and move to save the structure. Unfortunately, the community interest was ignored and now the trestle appears doomed to demolition.


San Jose seems to have a demolition first response too often, rather than looking at how structures can be saved and re-used. We believe demolition should be a last resort and not a first response.

So, in light of an ongoing lack of City support, what do we do? One thing is to be sure you are informed about the issues we are working on and another is for you to help us fight the good fight. We focus on getting information out through this newsletter, our website, and our Facebook page. Watch for action alerts when it is necessary to contact our elected officials.

Another way to support preservation efforts is to participate in our many events. We are currently sponsoring Walking Tours of key historic areas around the City. Under the leadership and hard work of Sharon McCauley, a series of walking tours began in May and will conclude in July. They are an excellent opportunity to learn about our city's historic resources and get a little exercise at the same time.

The Fabulous Hats Party makes a triumphant return on June 15. You will find details elsewhere in this issue and online. Once again, Hat Party creator Patt Curia and her many volunteers have put together a great collection of hats that will be displayed for sale in one of Naglee Park's historic homes.

More events are in the planning phase so watch for more information soon.

In the meantime, See! Save! Celebrate! and make every month historic preservation month. 

**-Brian Grayson,
Executive Director, PAC*SJ**



Would you like to go green and read the *Continuity* online? Do you toss the *Continuity* after reading it? (We would rather you forwarded it on to a friend.) If you don't forward it on, why not save paper and receive an email notification and link to read the newsletter online? Imagine seeing all these great photos in color!

Just notify Gayle Frank at 408-275-6889 or gaylefrankCA@gmail.com and you will receive an email with the *Continuity* link as soon as the newsletter is ready.

Using less paper means saving trees and reducing water consumption from paper manufacturing. Did you know that the United States uses a quarter of the world's paper products – more than 748 pounds per person per year?

A Brief History of 702 S. First Street

According to the San Jose City Directories, the building we know as Faber's Cyclery was most often a saloon in the 1890s through 1917. The first listing in the San Jose City Directories for 702 South First Street was found in 1892 as "retail liquors" operated by Cerf Coblentz, followed by William Ellert in 1893 through 1895.

Several news articles of the day describe Ellert's skirmishes with the law. Apparently he was overly rough with a few of his disorderly customers so they took him to court. An earlier court case report in several 1893 San Jose newspaper articles, described an incident when Ellert sold whiskey and steam beer at his residence at the rear of the saloon, on a Sunday, against the County ordinance. Allowable city saloon operating hours were between 5 am to midnight on weekdays, but on Saturday they were required to close at 10 pm, and not reopen again until 5 am on Monday. The prices for drinks that year were five cents per glass of beer and fifty cents for a flask of whiskey.

After Ellert's term as saloon keeper, there followed F. J. Jiche (1896) and Charles Vierung (1899.) For a few of the years no business was listed for the saloon in the Directories. Finally by 1911, Nuncy Benjamin was listed as operating the saloon with Neil Benjamin as bartender. Both men also lived at the 702 S. First Street address. The Nuncy Benjamin saloon is listed up until 1917 along with Emil and Joseph Benjamin as additional bartenders. It appears the saloon was a family business. By 1915, Nuncy Benjamin resided at 723 ½ S. First Street but his relatives still lived at the 702 address. There have been other references to the name of the saloon as "Benjamin's Corner" but such a name was not found in the City Directories.

The 702 S. First St. building has also been described in recent news articles as a blacksmith shop, a brothel on the second story and even a stagecoach stop. Research for a reference in the early City Directories for a blacksmith shop at that address but did not reveal such a listing. The weathered wooden shed to the rear of the Faber's Cyclery building, which was not harmed by the fire, is described as the probable location of the blacksmith operation. It may even pre-date the 1884 corner building.

When San Jose citizens voted on Nov. 6, 1917 to close all saloons in the city by Jan. 1, 1918, two years before national prohibition took effect, the 1918 Directory lists the 702 S. First building as vacant and the Benjamins were gone from the premises.

In 1919-1921, Guido Rotanzi occupied the 702 S. First St. building; his occupation was listed as "brewers agent." After he died in 1921, Mrs. Henriette Rotanzi sold soda drinks in the former saloon.

Meanwhile in 1918, Jacob Faber lived and worked down the street at 645 S. First Street repairing bicycles along with George Ruff. By the 1923 Directory, Jacob Faber listed his bicycle repair shop at 702 S. First Street although he applied for a building permit at this location in 1920. Beginning in 1927, the business is listed as Jacob Faber & Sons (Albert and Adolph.) Later during the WWII years, the business was listed as the Jacob Faber Bicycle Shop.

Jacob Faber retired in 1946 after 42 years of repairing and selling bicycles and turned his business over to his son,

(Cont'd on pg. 6)



Faber's Cyclery in 2012 before the fire.

702 S. First Street (Cont'd)

Albert Faber. The father, who came to the U.S. from France, died in Sacramento at the age of 70 in 1959. His obituary stated he operated one of the oldest bicycle dealerships in San Jose.

In the 1948 City Directory, A.J. Faber is listed as the operator at the Faber's Bicycle Shop. Four years later in 1952, the name of the business is officially listed as Faber's Cyclery. Al Faber died in 1974.

A few years later in 1978, Alex LaRiviere took over the bicycle repair business, from the Faber family. With the help of his father, just like Al Faber years ago, Alex continued working on broken bicycles, building and selling bikes, collecting bicycle parts and carrying on the tradition of saving history. The shop became a museum of all things bicycle plus aged blacksmith tools and the old saloon counter from the building's previous bar days. LaRiviere also became an expert on bicycle accident investigations and testified in court cases.

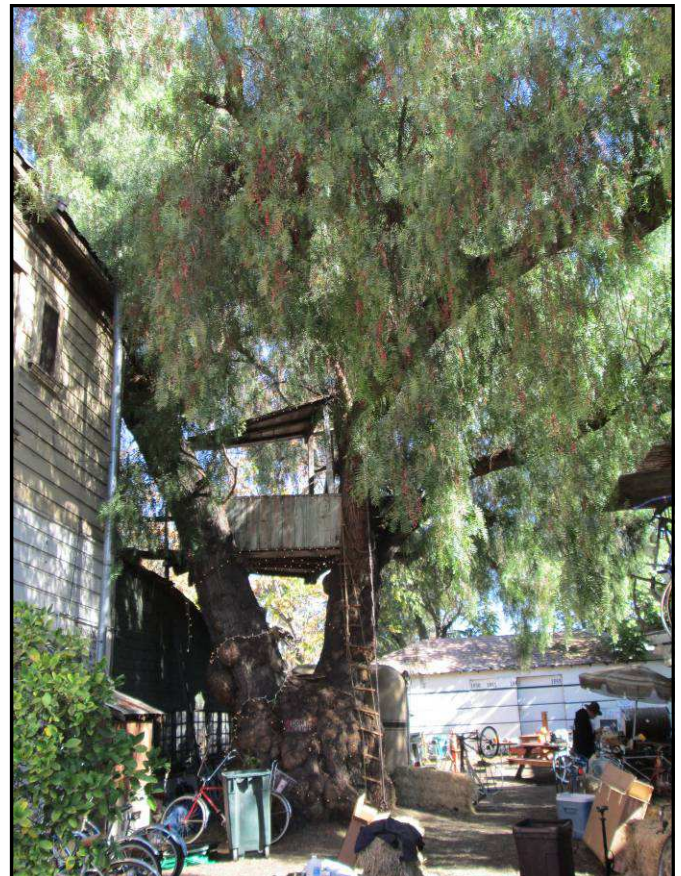
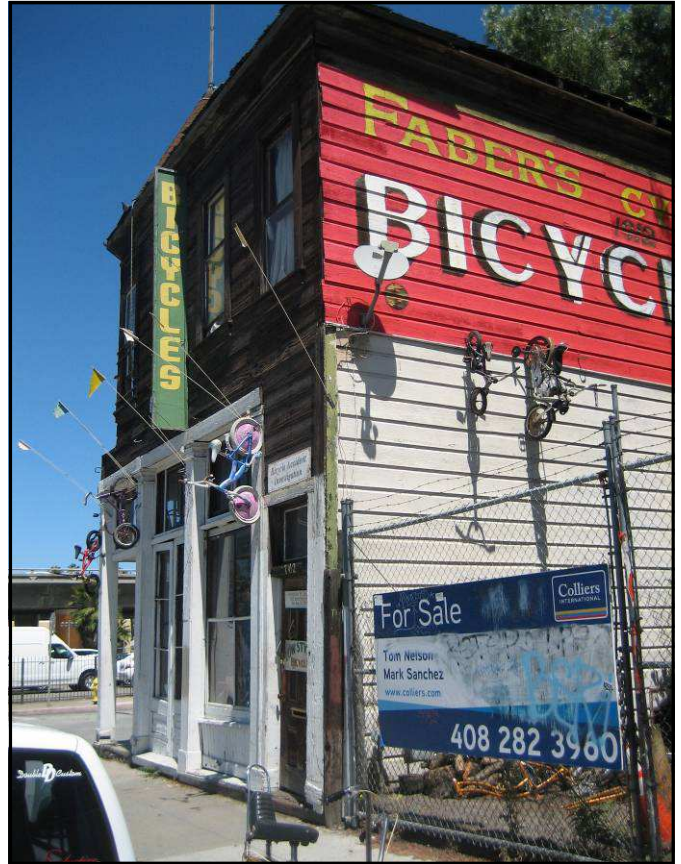
In a 1986 San Jose Mercury news article, LaRiviere described the contents of Faber's Cyclery at that time. It contained many of the shop's original tools and furniture, vintage advertisements for Coca-Cola and Seven-Up tacked on the wall and a side yard filled with 65 years of donated bicycle parts. The mass of parts stood in "10-foot-high stacks of slowly rusting frames, in red, blue, green and yellow." Elsewhere there was "a section of the yard devoted to wheels, and another stack composed of handlebars." LaRiviere said, "Faber never threw anything away. That tradition has continued."

In recent years, legal battles plagued the bicycle shop building and in the last few months Alex LaRiviere gradually removed all the bicycles, parts and other interesting artifacts that were part of his business. Fortunately, LaRiviere said the remaining bicycle museum artifacts, documents and photos on the first floor of the building were unharmed by the fire on April 25th. These pieces of the past are all patiently waiting to be exhibited in a restored Faber's Cyclery Museum. ❧

Top, view of the south side of Faber's Cyclery in 2012.

Right, in 2012, the pepper tree next to the Cyclery building that is over 100 years old.

(Photos: Gayle Frank)



Preserving San José's History —by Larry Ames

Have you heard about the historic train trestle in Willow Glen? Residents in the community are raising a fuss (correction: "raising public awareness") over a recent change-of-plan by the City of San Jose. For years, we in the community have been working with park planners to convert this "hidden gem" – an iconic wooden trestle – into the "crown jewel" of the Los Gatos Creek Trail at the point where it joins the Three Creeks Trail. The bridge is structurally sound and readily adaptable for trail use, but the City has abruptly decided instead to demolish this 90-some year old structure and replace it with a catalog-order standard-model steel bridge, even though doing so would be significantly more expensive – and environmentally more disruptive as well.

Why is the City doing this? One of the main arguments seems to be that the trestle is "old" but not "historic" (!)

The trestle was built in the early 1920s to serve the canneries in Willow Glen. It is over 200 feet long and 25 feet high, made of nearly a hundred vertical timbers the size of telephone poles, with dozens of cross-braces and horizontal sashes. It was part of the Willow Glen Spur, a line that branched off from the main rail line at Niles Canyon, looped south to the canneries on Senter Road (by what is now Kelley Park,) and then headed over towards Auzerais (remember the Del Monte cannery?)

The City is arguing that not all the timbers are original because the trestle has been maintained over the years; therefore it does not meet the National Standards for historic structures. But what about local historic standards? They chose not to ask the San Jose Historic Landmarks



The Willow Glen Trestle where the Three Creeks Trail joins the Los Gatos Creek Trail.

(Photo from www.WGTrestle.org)

Commission. At the same time, the City is arguing that some of the timbers are original, and therefore, after another forty years or so, they may be too old and worn. With this "d'mnd if you do, d'mnd if you don't" logic, it's impossible to win: soon the City will not have a historic, or even "old," structure left!

Another argument given for demolishing the trestle is that when you're on it, you can't see it. Even granting that that is true, that's hardly a justification for demolishing a sturdy old structure! You

don't get the classic view of the Golden Gate Bridge when you're driving on it, either – it's best seen from the side as you approach it. That is the case with the Willow Glen Trestle as well. There's plenty of room on the south side for the creation of an overlook or, more precisely, an "underlook." And, coming from the north, the planned alignment of the Los Gatos Creek Trail is to follow the top-of-bank behind some industrial properties: it will have a grand view of the trestle and could become the iconic gateway to Willow Glen.

The Three Creeks trail, which joins the Los Gatos Creek Trail at the trestle, has been envisioned as homage to the history of the region. This trail is to start at History Park in Kelley Park, loop past the sites of numerous canneries, and end by crossing this iconic trestle near the former canneries of Willow Glen.

Willow Glen was shaped by the railroads. Its very existence as an independent city in the 1920s and 1930s was in response to how the railroads planned to lay tracks around town. But much of the original Willow Glen has been replaced over the years, with quaint bungalows torn down to

(Cont'd on pg. 8)

Preserving San José (Cont'd)

make way for mini-mansions. We feel it would be a real shame for San Jose to also replace this wonderful physical reminder of our past with a common and ordinary bridge.

You can help by contacting the City. But if you write to the Councilmember representing the site of the trestle, be sure to say only that the trestle is "old", or perhaps "iconic": if you use the word "historic", you will most likely quickly receive an email or phone call telling you that the structure is not really "historic." But please! – do write to the City in support of the trestle, or else it soon will "be history!"

To learn more about the Willow Glen Trestle, please visit www.WGTrestle.org. We are giving on-site tours – check the website for details. And follow us on Facebook: Friends of WG Trestle. ☞

**-Larry Ames,
Friends of WG Trestle**

Note: See page 9 for a map of the Trestle location in Willow Glen.

Be Eyes & Ears for San Jose

Act as eyes and ears for the City of San Jose. If you see a vacant building or home that can be accessed by vandals or homeless persons, fill out a form online and submit it along with your name, phone, address and a description of the problem. Other alleged violations can also be reported.

To access the form, go to <https://secure.sanjoseca.gov/codeEnforcement/blightreport.htm>.



Train traveling across the Willow Glen Trestle in 1955.

Trains traveled on the trestle until 2000.

(Photo from www.WGTrestle.org)



View below Willow Glen Trestle where the Los Gatos Creek flows under the timbers. The space is pleasantly shaded with lush greenery.

(Photo: G. Frank)

Preserving San José (Cont'd)



Map showing the location of the Willow Glen Trestle.


Preservation on a National Scale

The National Trust for Historic Preservation has had to tighten its belt recently, working with a smaller staff and fewer resources than five years ago. Two national preservation organizations that are also based in Washington, DC may be able to take up the slack for preserving historic resources and strengthening policies.

The first group is the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers or NCSHPO. NCSHPO facilitates communication among the preservation officers in each state and is the only national organization devoted to historic preservation with official representatives from every state government. The organization is financially strong and open only to the state preservation officers who influence historic preservation in each of their states. Erik Hein is the executive director. California's SHPO is Carol Roland-

Nawi and the Acting Deputy is Jenan Saunder. The NCSHPO's website is www.ncshpo.org.

The second group is *Preservation Action*, a smaller membership but open to anyone and revenues are growing. Their mission advocates to all branches of the federal government for sound preservation policy and programs. It serves as a national grassroots lobby for historic preservation. Their website preservationaction.org offers information on the latest preservation legislation and how representatives and senators vote on major preservation issues. The website also lists the members of the Historic Preservation Caucus in the House of Representatives.

We may be hearing more from these two organizations in the future. 



ON THE RADAR

VTA Proposal at St. James Historic District

Meetings have continued on this proposal to park trains in the St. James Historical District. VTA is not planning to move forward

any proposal regarding the St. James Park area until some time after the June VTA Board meeting. Pressure still needs to be applied on the decision makers.

Orchard Supply Hardware (OSH) House

The City Planning Department reported that the vacant OSH house at the San Carlos store parking lot was advertised in the *Mercury News* for relocation. No funds are available for moving costs. PAC*SJ does not approve of the granting of a permit to demolish the structure if no one steps up to move the house. Such a permit sets a damaging precedent by allowing owners to neglect their historic structure and then "reward" them with a demolition permit.

Former San Jose City Hall

The former San Jose City Hall at 801 N. First Street has been vacant since 2005. San Jose traded the site to Santa Clara County for a debt payment. Will the County be able to find a tenant? The estimate to renovate the building for occupancy is about \$46 million.

The Building Evaluation Analysis from July 2012 for the County states that this "glass curtain wall office building" predates other eminent Bay Area buildings of a similar design. The study concludes that the former City Hall is eligible for the National Register listing in addition to California and Santa Clara County landmark status. Not only is the architecture significant, but the building also represents "the transformation of San Jose from an agricultural and horticultural outpost into a major metropolis focused on high technology manufacturing, research and development."

Source: www.sccgov.org/sites/faf/cp/mp/Documents/Re-use%20Study.pdf

Century Theatres at Winchester Blvd.

Can at least one of the Century Dome Theatres be saved? The lease is soon to expire and the 11.6 acre site has been advertised for future development. Of the three structures, the 1963 Century 21 is the oldest but is located in the middle of the spacious plot of land. Century 23 sits off to the side next to the Winchester Mystery House and could more easily be utilized. A potential tenant for one of the domes is waiting in the wings; the previous Retro-Dome Guggenheim Entertainment Group from the Westgate Century Dome Theatre, who presented live productions and vintage movies. The Dome Theatre in Pleasant Hill was quickly razed and our own Westgate Dome Theatre is scheduled for demolition soon. Can't we just save one?

Willow Glen Trestle

The Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, who seem to care more about Willow Glen history than San Jose's Councilmembers, voted to support Supervisor Dave Cortese's proposal to direct County staff to assist the City of San Jose in finding options for incorporating the trestle into the forthcoming Three Creeks Trail extension. Ken Yeager seconded the motion that passed unanimously. Yeager said, "I hope that we can find a viable way to save this local gem." The trail extension will link the Los Gatos Creek Trail to the Guadalupe Trail and the Coyote Creek Trail.

Unfortunately, the San Jose City Council has ignored community protests against razing the bridge and plans to replace it with a steel structure. See story on page 7.

Still Keeping An Eye On—

- ➔ First Church of Christ, Scientist
- ➔ Hangar One, Moffett Field
- ➔ Hotel St. Claire
- ➔ Pellier Park



A Fine Day for New Almaden Walking Tour

The PAC*SJ walking tour through New Almaden and the Hacienda Cemetery took place on a sunny Saturday, May 11th.

Over twenty people, including one babe-in-arms, enjoyed a delightful trip back in time. Our guide for the morning was Michael Boulland, the author of the book *Images of America—New Almaden*.


The New Almaden mercury mine was the first large corporate enterprise in California. Not only was mercury essential for the extraction of gold, it was also an important export from the United States. Boulland discussed the day-to-day lives of the residents of the Hacienda, a topic familiar to people who have read *The Angle of Repose*. We went inside a home to see the scale of the house and the amenities enjoyed by a family with eight children. We all left with an appreciation for the loving care that the homeowners have shown for this historic area.



Guests gather for a tour around New Almaden and Hacienda Cemetery.

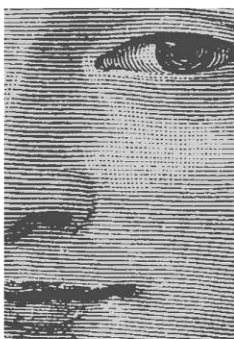
At the Hacienda Cemetery, we met up with Tim Peddy of the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County. The Pioneers are the caretakers of this historic spot. They are reproducing the wooden headstones and crib fencing as they need replacement. Peddy told us

about the oldest, youngest and biggest persons interred there. We learned about the buried arm of Richard Bertram 'Bert' Barrett. We also heard how the cemetery was divided by a road in 1928, covering over an unknown number of graves.

We thank our partners on this event, the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County and the New Almaden Quicksilver County Park Association. 

-Sharon McCauley

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Tim Peddy from the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County relates stories of those early pioneers buried at the Hacienda Cemetery.

(Photos: Sharon McCauley)

PAC*SJ 2013 Walking Tour #2

Saturday, June 8th, 10 am – 12 pm

Downtown San Jose—Between the Wars

There are still two walking tours left for this season. Advance registration online or by check is recommended since spaces are filling up quickly. On June 8th, we'll be touring Downtown San Jose to look at the era between the end of WWI and the beginning of WWII. We'll meet at the north end of St. James Park at 10:00. We'll talk about how the built environment changed during that time along with the underlying social and political environment.

Most of the paid parking nearby is for two hours. If you're driving to the event, we recommend parking in the structure between Market and San Pedro and patronizing one of the fine places nearby for lunch to get your parking validated.



PAC*SJ 2013 Walking Tour #3

Saturday, July 13th, 10 am — 12 pm

Willow Glen

On July 13th, the destination is Willow Glen. We'll be walking along streets from the turn of the 20th century, combining some sections of *Touring Historic Willow Glen* as the basis for most of the walk. We'll see some of the oldest homes in the neighborhood.



Downtown Treasure Hunt—Sunday, August 25th

The Hunt



Do you want to learn more San Jose history? Would you like an excuse to wander around downtown? Do you like a little bit of competition? We have an event for you! On Sunday August 25th we'll be hosting our first Treasure Hunt. The goal for participants is to follow

clues to uncover pieces of the past. Competitors will form teams of two to five people. Each team will be given a set of clues at the starting point and use their deductive powers to find the location of the treasure, which is a word or phrase that can be written on the answer sheet. No electronic devices can be used during the hunt. No cars, bikes or public transportation are allowed – the hunt is on foot. Even if you know the answer, you must visit the site. The Treasure Hunt begins at 3 PM. Arrive by 2:45 for the clues. Cost is \$10 per person.

Post-Party

After the hunt, we will gather at *Sonoma Chicken Coop*, between Market and San Pedro for an

awards ceremony at 5:30. Even if you're not competing, please join us for beverages and dinner because PAC*sj will get 15% of the revenue from your purchases. Party attendees will also get a Buy-One/Get-One coupon for a future visit to the Coop. Look for more details as the time approaches.



31 N. Market Street

Offer of Sale of Historic Structure for One Dollar (\$1.00)

In accordance with Resolution No. 13-06 of the Planning Commission of the City of Redwood City, the purpose of this notice is to Offer for sale the historic structure located at 321 Fuller Street in the City of Redwood City, California for a purchase price of One Dollar (\$1.00), subject to the following general terms and conditions:

- 1. The offer is valid for a 90 day period (i.e., to August 24, 2013);**
- 2. Buyer must remove and relocate the historic structure (preferably, but not mandatorily, to a site in the City of Redwood City) at its sole expense;**
- 3. Other specific terms and conditions of a Purchase and Sale Agreement between Buyer and Seller (Classic RWC 1856, L.P), a copy of which will made available upon Buyer's request.**

The referenced historic structure is "a single-story Queen Anne residence with a square plan. It is clad with horizontal narrow wood clapboard siding with a high horizontal wood board water table. The building has a hipped roof and intersecting front gable with boxed eaves. The front door is accessed from a wood front porch and a wood stair that is enclosed by solid wood board rail that continues to the porch and encloses it. The front porch shed roof is supported by two square wood columns that rest on the low wall. The fenestration at the front porch is obscured by mature plantings. At the front gable, there is a pair of central one-over-one wood double-hungs that have flat sawn wood trim. The front gable face features decorative bargeboard trim and angled scallop shingles at the gable face. The property also includes a low white picket fence that separates the front yard and sidewalk." From the State of California Department of Parks and Recreation Primary Record, dated March 2, 2007.

Any party interested in purchasing the historic structure based on the general terms and conditions outlined above should contact Adam Kates, Vice President of Classic Communities, Inc. at akates@mozartdev.com or 650-213-1120.

Don't Miss our 5th Fabulous Hats! Party

June 15th 12:30 pm-4 pm

(Please note new time)



For the past four years, PAC*SJ members have been scouring the Bay Area for hats and vintage clothing to offer at the next Fabulous Hats! Party which has been scheduled for June 15th from 12:30-4 PM at 104 South 13th Street, San Jose. Combine hats with a historic Naglee Park home and

you have a winning combination for a wonderful afternoon of vintage fashion, intriguing architecture and tasty tidbits including wine, cheese and sweets.


Early admission from 12:30-2 PM costs \$25. General Admission is \$15 and starts at 2 PM. To purchase tickets, go to www.preservation.org or call 408.998-8105. Or email hatparty@preservation.org for more information.

Home owner Bart Narter is delighted to share his landmark home with hat lovers and fellow preservationists. Over the past two years, he has completed several projects including painting, landscaping and cooling systems. This 1908 Victorian is called the Stelling House because its first owner was a local orchardist, William Stelling. The 2,744 square foot structure "represents the a high point in local Neoclassical residential architecture" according to the history report

prepared during its assessment as a city landmark. The exterior features included scrolled corbels, corner bow window, low-slope hipped roof and dormer recessed porch, tri-level horizontal wood siding and deep eaves. The interior is spectacular with several rooms displaying Bradbury and Bradbury wall papers, unpainted wood, leaded glass built in cabinetry, vintage bathrooms, and sleeping porches. The modern touches include art and comfortable furniture.

Guests will enjoy touring the house while looking at hundreds of hats, jewelry, gloves and more. All hats and clothing are available for sale and many are available for preview now on the PAC*SJ website. Noted film maker and photographer Hans Halberstadt volunteered his services again to document the collection using local residents as models. Photos from previous hat parties can also be seen at the PAC*SJ website, www.preservation.org.

To donate hats, clothing, art work or vintage housewares or to volunteer, please contact chairperson Patt Curia at donations@preservation.org.

Buy tickets at www.preservation.org. Preservation Action Council members will receive a \$5 coupon at "Will Call" to spend on purchases during the event.. Since vintage hats are so difficult to find, this may be the last Hat Party. We would love to see you there! 

-Patt Curia, PAC*SJ Board member

Take the National Trust Quiz

1) Historic Preservation is solely about preserving very old buildings.

- A. True B. False

2) The National Trust for Historic Preservation was founded in the year:

- A. 1909 B. 1999
C. 1949 D. 1849

3) The National Trust's award-winning publication is called:

- A. Preservation
B. People Saving Place
C. The National Trust
D. Preservationist

4) True or False: Historic preservation has created more than 2 million jobs

- A. True B. False

5) Historic preservation is about saving:

- A. Buildings
B. Landscapes
C. National landmarks
D. Culturally significant sites
E. All of the above

See page 22 for the answers.

Preservation Action Council of San Jose Presents the

Fabulous Hats! Party



Saturday June 15, 2013

104 South 13th Street, San Jose, CA 95112
A Majestic Victorian House in Historic Naglee Park

- * See Two fabulous new hats designed and donated by Joyce Alexy of "Elegant Hats."
- * Gather friends for an afternoon of vintage hat shopping and wine sipping.
- * Peruse hundreds of hats, jewelry and fashion accessories.
- * Light refreshments will be served, accompanied by live music.

\$25—Early Admission, between 12:30pm and 2:00pm | **Tickets purchased on June 15th:**
\$15—General Admission, from 2:00pm until 4:00pm | **\$30—Early Admission,**
\$15—General Admission

PAC*SJ members will receive a \$5 coupon to spend at the Hat Party!

- * Call PAC*SJ: (408) 998-8105, with your credit card or online with PayPal
- * Mail checks to: PAC*SJ, 1650 Senter Road, San Jose, CA 95112
- * Learn more or order online: Visit www.preservation.org or Email hatparty@preservation.org

Please purchase tickets before June 10, 2013. Tickets will be held at will call, 104 South 13th Street.

Hats to Try - Hats to Buy!

Preview Hats at www.Preservation.org

Other Local Events

History San Jose Presents "Shaped by Water—Past, Present & Future"

Until September 8, 2013—11-5 Tuesday-Sunday

The story of water in this region is told from a historical perspective, beginning with the indigenous Ohlone people up to modern day, through a comprehensive and interactive exhibition experience. (Created by Los Altos History Museum)

Betty and Willys Peck—the Heart of Saratoga—New Exhibit Opens May 31

Memorabilia and photos focusing on the Peck's many contributions in the areas of drama, music, historical preservation, nature and community service in the Saratoga Historical Foundation Museum.

A special reception is planned for June 23 from 1-3 PM at the Saratoga History Museum and is open to the public. During the exhibit and on the third Sunday of each month, some of the presentations Willys gave will be shown: July 21—Southern Pacific; August 18—Walking Tour; September 11—Peninsular Interurban Railway and October 20—School Memories. These tapes will be shown at 2 PM in the Saratoga Historical Foundation Museum at 20450 Saratoga-Los Gatos Road. Free admittance. Willys Peck, a well-known historian, passed away on April 16, 2013. He was often referred to as "Mr. Saratoga."

PAC*SJ 2013 Calendar

- Jun 8** Saturday, PAC*SJ **Walking Tour**, 10 am. Downtown San Jose—Between the Wars. See page 12.
- Jun 15** Saturday, PAC*SJ **Fabulous Hats! Party**, 12:30 pm to 4 pm. Historic Naglee Park home at 104 S. 13th St.
- Jun 17** Monday, PAC*SJ Board Meeting, 6:30 - 8 pm. History San Jose, Pasetta House
- Jul 13** Saturday, PAC*SJ **Walking Tour**, 10 am. Willow Glen. See page 13.
- Jul 15** Monday, PAC*SJ Board Meeting, 6:30- 8 pm. History San Jose, Pasetta House
- Aug 19** Monday, PAC*SJ Board Meeting, 6:30- 8 pm. History San Jose, Pasetta House
- Aug 25** Sunday, PAC*SJ **Downtown Treasure Hunt**. 3 pm. See page 14.
- Sept 16** Monday, PAC*SJ Board Meeting, 6:30 - 8 pm. History San Jose, Pasetta House
- Oct 21** Monday, PAC*SJ Board Meeting, 6:30 - 8 pm. History San Jose, Pasetta House
- Nov 18** Monday, PAC*SJ Board Meeting & Annual Meeting, 6:30 - 8 pm. History San Jose, Pasetta House



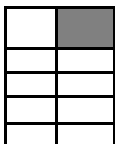
Charitable Donations

Taxpayers who are age 70 ½ or older are required to withdraw a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from their IRA and 401K retirement accounts. The good news is that IRA and 401K owners can make qualified charitable distributions up to \$100,000 in 2013, and therefore bypass the taxation on that donated portion of their required distribution. PAC*SJ is a qualified 501(c)(3) charitable institution.

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!



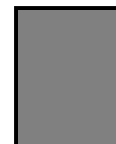
Business Card
Single issue \$50
3 issues \$120



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

PAC*SJ's Garage & Salvage Sale a Success

PAC*SJ's spring Garage and Salvage Sale concluded another successful Naglee Park spring cleaning madness. Fifty volunteers sorted and sold donations during the sale. So much was donated we used the back yard of a vacationing neighbor to store items before the sale. We received donations from four different estates and we are grateful for being considered by the donors or executors.

The biannual sales events augment PAC*SJ's revenue but also introduce preservation to a broader community. Several shoppers joined on the spot and two members of the National Trust for Historic Preservation discovered PAC*SJ is a local partner.

The sale lasted 4 days but of course more time was needed to store and sort items. We are grateful to our "members in madness": the Salas, Wangsness-Liesenfelt, Vandomelen, Mason, and Curia families for storing and displaying the sales items in their front yards. Refreshments were provided or prepared by Jane Guinther, Patti Phillips and some anonymous members.

Blue tarps could be seen by passing airplanes as we protected the donations from intermittent showers. Jim Norvell's truck got a new starter because it decided to die in front of an estate pick up. Unfortunately, it was fully loaded. Passers-bys, organized by Jeff Hare and son James, unloaded the donations so Naglee Park's favorite vehicle could be towed back to Jim's house for repairs. The famous dental cabinet went for full

price. Shoppers bought signed copies of the Arcadia Book *Frontier Village* from the author Bob Johnson.

Donations not sold during the sale were donated to Hope Services, the San Jose Woman's Club and other local charities for their fund raising purposes.

Usual suspects lending a hand were Tom Aldridge, Sheik Ali, Lynda Sereno, Judy Hill, Renee Coca, Winni Leeds and husband Jeff, Leslie Masunaga, Heather David, Alice Gosak, April and Hans Halberstadt, Art and Sylvia Carroll, Joan Bohnett, Ellen Garboske, Brian Habekoss, Hugh Graham, Rick Bernard, Linda Faulkner, Lucille Boone, Sherry Hitchcock, Sharon McCauley, Heinz Boedecker, Bev Blockie, Rose Vandomelen, John Mitchell, Lisa Wangsness, Diane McLaughlin, Mim Bloom, Brian Grayson, Ted Essy, Steve Cohen, Ron Hagen, Gayle Frank, Ryan Matye, Joe Baronessa, Rosie Hartman, James Hare, Mary Lou Mason, Trish Hill, Julia Howlett, David Guinther, Walt and Sandra Soellner, Roy Buis and several folks I have forgotten or who spontaneously pitched in during the sales

Immediately afterwards, the standard question was: "Gee, Patt, when is the next sale?" That is when I did my silent scream. Late August, I want to enjoy a clean porch for the summer! ☘

Patt Curia,
PAC*SJ Board member



Dan Salata purchases an early radio and record player



Photos: Patti Curia

*Above, shoppers pleased with vintage cabinet.
Right, visitor finds perfect window frame.*



Exploring San Jose Landmarks

Here is the next San Jose Landmark from the City list. Check previous *Continuity* issues for earlier landmark descriptions at www.preservation.org.

HD91-55; San Jose Building & Loan Association, 81 W. Santa Clara St.

The San Jose Building and Loan Association structure was designated a city landmark because it exemplifies the economic heritage of our city and was the first building and loan business established in San Jose. The present building was constructed in 1926-27 by R. O. Sommers and the architects were Roller-West, a San Francisco firm.

The building is also associated with Dr. Charles W. Breyfogle who was instrumental in developing the bank industry in San Jose by founding the building and loan business, first in Granger Hall in 1885 and then moved to its own site at 81 W. Santa Clara in 1899. Later he established the Garden City Bank and Trust. He was San Jose Mayor in 1886-1888.

The distinguished architectural design is in the Beaux Arts style that establishes the image of stability and strength, most desirable for a bank. The two-story rectangular shaped building is constructed with heavy stone building material and has a flat roof line with a parapet holding three sets of balusters. The facade stone has deeply recessed edges, giving strong definition and depth for each block (see below.)



Photo: California Room, San Jose Public Library

San Jose Building & Loan Association Building, circa 1935 from the Clyde Arbuckle Collection.

Three large arched windows display decorative trim on the upper portions and an intricate medallion is placed between each arch.

The entry (see right) is bordered with ornate design of fine detail and the broken pediment above holds a stately eagle. The name of the business is engraved at the frieze above the entrance. A central flag pole sits at the top center, quite common for that time.


In the late 19th century, the Auzeais House (1863) stood east of the

(Cont'd page 20)



Exploring San Jose Landmarks (Cont'd)

Building and Loan building. Just west at the Market/West Santa Clara Streets intersection sat the Spring & Co. Auction House on the northeast corner and Leopold Hart's retail store on the southeast corner. Our famous electric light tower, 227 feet tall, also stood at this intersection from 1881 to 1915.

In 2005, the San Jose Downtown Association selected the San Jose Building & Loan Association building for the "Golden Nail Award" for its outstanding contribution to the look and character of downtown. 

*(Text & present day photos:
Gayle Frank)*



Above in 2013, the San Jose Building & Loan Association structure, constructed in 1926, at 81 W. Santa Clara Street.

Left, detail of fine Beaux-Arts decoration looking up under the cornice. Note the medallion, dentils, and corbels.

What is Beaux Arts Architecture?

The façade of the San Jose Building and Loan Association Building is described as Beaux Arts design. The attractive gray stone and marble facade stands out from its neighboring buildings, even if it is the smallest in size. What is Beaux Arts?

Beaux Arts architecture, originating from France in the late 19th century (L'Ecole des Beaux-Arts,) was adopted more widely in the U.S. by the early 1900s after the designs captured the visitors attention at the Chicago Exposition in 1893 (also called the Columbian Exposition and "White City".) Beaux Arts architecture has also been described as a "form of Neoclassicism with an eclectic flair." The features of Roman and Greek architecture influenced architects and were incorporated in the Beaux Art style.

Beaux Arts characteristics include symmetrical designs that project a massive, elaborate or sometimes



*A Beaux Arts Example,
Chicago Exposition, 1893.*

grandiose effect. Beaux Arts architecture is often extremely formal, sometimes disregarding structural truth, rational planning or economy.

Building materials tended to be expensive and heavy masonry of excellent quality, such as highly decorated limestone, cast stone or glazed terra cotta with wrought iron material.

Sumptuous surface decoration like over-scaled archways, coupled columns, dramatic roof-top sculpture and bold ornamental sculpture are com-

mon traits of Beaux Arts. Little surface area was left unornamented. Grand Roman arches and colossal columns or pilasters, often paired, are typical, along with other Renaissance and Baroque-era designs.

By the 1920s, the Beaux Arts architecture was considered ostentatious and grew out of favor. ❧

Notable Quotables

On the rise of modernism more than a half-century ago-

"Many people will recall what happened to America's historic fabric the last time we undertook a nationwide revamping of the built landscape. The result was urban renewal, and it left many of our best urban areas in tatters and many of our historic buildings in piles of rubble."

-Wayne Curtis, from Preservation Magazine, Jan/Feb 2008

San Jose State University International House

The SJSU International House is home to 71 U.S. and international students from 30 countries worldwide attending San José State University. We were established in 1978 by Alan and Phyllis Simpkins.

We hope you will join us for our Pancake Breakfast each academic semester to enjoy an international buffet, entertainment and traditional dress from around the globe.

The International House is a 501c(3) non profit organization. We appreciate your donations. We seek traditional dress from around the globe to add to our collection and items for residents' use such as camping equipment. Let us know if you have a way that you would like to contribute to improvements at I-House.



Please visit our home page to learn more about the International House at www.sjsu.edu/ihouse, write to us at ihouse@sjsu.edu, call (408) 924-6570, or stop by for a tour, 360 S. 11th Street, San Jose, CA 95112.

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Answers to Nat'l Trust Quiz:

1) B; 2) D; 3) A; 4) A; 5) E

1) Did you know that a building is technically considered historic if it's just 50 years old? And that's just technicalities – there are many younger places that are significant to our lives today, places that deserve to be protected for the future.

2) In 1949, President Harry Truman signed legislation that created the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

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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 can not 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 PAC*SJ's 20th Anniversary DVD produced by Bill Foley. Join at the \$250 level or above and receive both.

Please check if you would like to receive
a book or DVD at the \$100 level:
Signposts Revisited _____ or DVD _____
or both items 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

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Complete and return with your check to:

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The Preservation Action Council of San José (PAC*SJ) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation dedicated to preserving San José'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 José 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.

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