

CONTINUITY



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

Summer, 2015

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2015 Visual San Jose

Preservation Action Council of San Jose (PAC*SJ) was pleased to partner with the San Jose Historic Landmarks Commission and Content Magazine in hosting Visual San Jose, the Historic Photo Contest for 2015. The finalists' photographs were on exhibit at Southern Lumber Company, 1402 Monterey Road, from June 3 until June 16. On the last day the winners were announced at a festive awards reception. The photo contest winners received prizes with a total value of over \$5,000, thanks to all our sponsors: Southern Lumber Co., Whole Foods, Garden City Construction, Bay Photo, Rocky Nook, San Jose Water Company, The Schoennauer Company, SanDisk, Keeble & Shuchat Photography, Richard Dischler Photo Workshops, Leah Toeniskoetter, and Big Dog Vineyards.

This year we were pleased to have received numerous San Jose historic photos. With so many excellent photographs, the decision to choose finalists and winners was difficult for the



"Fade to Gray" by Christina Warren

judges: Josh Anon, Franklin Maggi, Pierre-Francois Galpin and Keay Edwards

We are proud to present the Winners of the Visual San Jose Historic Photo Contest:

Best in Show, "Fade to Gray" by Christina Warren

(Cont'd p. 3)

Executive Director's Message

Happy 25th Anniversary to us! PAC*SJ was officially formed this month in 1990. We have had many successes since, but we have also had some very sad losses. The successes and losses are not ours alone though – they impact the entire San Jose community.

When we successfully save an historic structure the whole city benefits from the restoration and reuse of a vintage building such as the Jose Theater, the Scheller House, Century 21 and the California Theater. Revitalized buildings add much to the character of our city and make San Jose a more interesting and beautiful city.

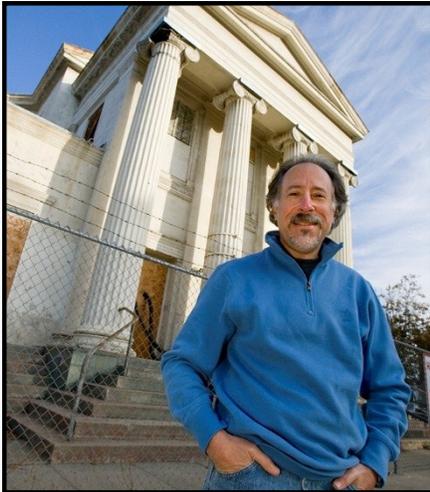
And although the successes have been many and memorable, there have been staggering losses – usually due to City indifference and often due to deliberate decisions to demolish historic structures.

The most recent example of this is the Willow Glen Trestle. Although it has survived for nearly 100 years and overcome damage from fire and neglect, the Willow Glen Trestle may have finally met its match – the San Jose City Council.

Despite strong public outcry to save the trestle the Council voted to demolish the beloved structure and replace it with a generic steel bridge. There seemed to be agreement from everyone that the goal was to connect the trail system but there was a difference of opinion about how that could be achieved.

During this lengthy process the City, after initially proposing to restore the trestle, abruptly changed course with little public notice and decided to demolish the trestle.

As Willow Glen residents and others from around the City became aware of the City's plan for demolition, they launched a major campaign to save it. Led by Larry Ames, the Friends of the Willow Glen Trestle produced volumes of information that had been ignored or omitted from most of the documents prepared for this project.



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

At the City Council meeting in May, the Council brushed aside the input from the community by thanking them for attending the meeting and then proceeded to vote to demolish the trestle. Only Councilmembers Rocha and Peralez voted to save the trestle.

The trestle is not dead yet, but it is on life support. The City still has to have the judge sign-off on its environmental document since it was found in violation of state law earlier in this process. The environmental document is one that the community feels is inadequate, flawed and deficient in providing complete information to the decision makers as required by the California Environmental Quality Act. As of press time the judge had not yet taken any action to sign-off on the environmental document.

So, although things look bleak for the trestle, it is not gone yet. It has survived for nearly 100 years – will the City Council finally be what brings it down or will the community prevail and save the trestle and connect the trail? Stay tuned.

Another difficult project has been Park View Towers across from St. James Park. This project proposes 2 high-rise residential towers next to and behind the landmark First Church of Christ Scientist. The good news is the church would finally be restored and ready for reuse. PAC*SJ started 25 years ago to preserve the architectural heritage of San Jose – one of the first buildings on our “save” list was the First Church.

(Cont'd p. 6)



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Please submit your letters, comments and suggestions to
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*PAC*SJ is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization*

Visual San Jose (Cont'd)

Non-Professional

1st – “Casa Grande/New Almaden Quicksilver Mining Museum” by Ron Horii

2nd – “Historic Willow Glen Trestle” by Lee Viray Cahili

3rd – “Sunset Vista Renaissance Revival” by Dennis Mellican

Professional

1st – “Yellow House, Little Italy” by Agnieszka Jakubowicz

2nd – “Willow Glen Trestle (1921-22)” by James Watkins

3rd – “Bridge Over Troubled Red Chair” by Kymberli Weed Brady

Students

1st – “My City, My World” by Cynthia Voly

2nd – “Henry’s Hi-Life” by Sydney Martin

3rd – “Century Theater” by Samantha Ledbetter

Honorable mentions were also awarded to Basim Jaber, Emily Funkouser, Tabatha Simpson, Alayne Yellum, Tay Othman, Edgar Ramirez, Edward Arroyo, Katherine McGowan and Alyssa Miller.

(Cont'd on p. 4)



Top: Casa Grande/New Almaden Quicksilver Mining Museum” by Ron Horii

Above: “Yellow House, Little Italy” by Agnieszka Jakubowicz

Left: “My City, My World” by Cynthia Voly



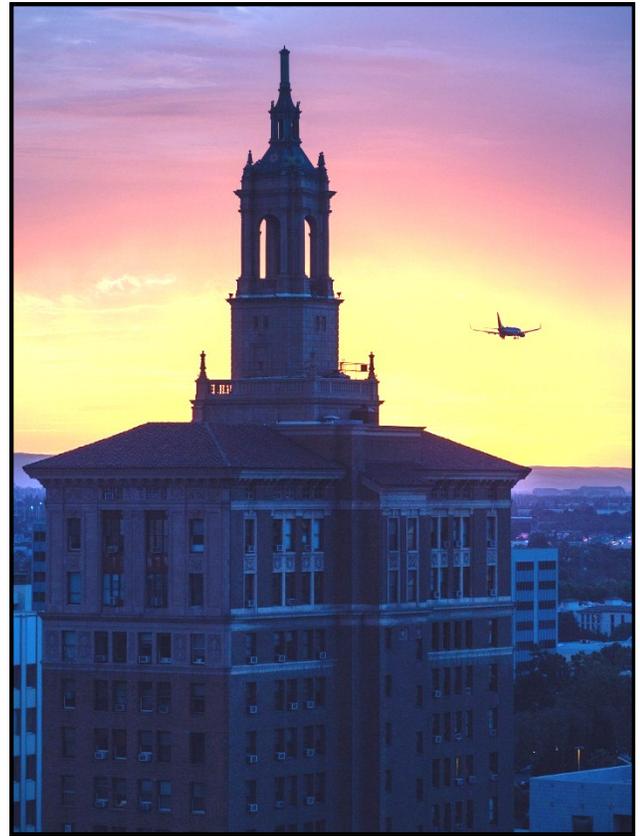
Visual San Jose Cont'd)

The mission for the Visual San Jose Historic Photo Contest is to promote historic preservation by raising awareness of San Jose's historic resources, to celebrate the efforts to preserve our city's history and to recognize the irreplaceable historic resources that are threatened. By photographing our favorite historic structure, site or artifact, we demonstrate community support for our historic resources and honor our past.

Visual San Jose brought some San Jose history to our residents through the artistic viewpoint of photographers. Thanks to everyone who participated.

PAC*SJ thanks Jeff Pohle for the use of Southern Lumber for the photo exhibit and reception, Whole Foods for the reception refreshments, all of our sponsors, and the Visual San Jose Committee: May Yam, Charles DiLisio, Gayle Frank, Brian Grayson, Sharon McCauley, Sylvia Carroll and Greg Annable. ☞

-Gayle Frank



*Top:
"Sunset Vista
Renaissance
Revival"
by Dennis
Mellican*



*Above: "Historic Willow Glen Trestle"
by Lee Viray Cahili*



*Left:
"Henry's
Hi-Life" by
Sydney Martin*

*More photos on
page 5*

Visual San Jose Cont'd)

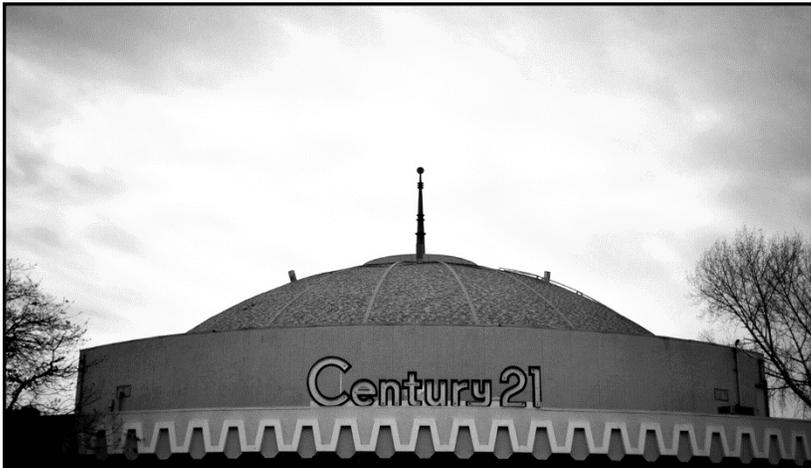


*Left: "Willow Glen Trestle (1921-22)"
by James Watkins*

*Center Left: "Century Theater"
by Samantha Ledbetter*

*Lower Left: "Golden Age of San Jose"
by Tay Othman*

*Go to www.preservation.org
to view photos in color*



*Above: "Bridge Over Troubled Red Chair"
by Kimberli Weed Brady*



E. D. Message (Cont'd)

Unfortunately, the bad news is that the project violates the St. James Square Historic District Guidelines, the Envision 2040 San Jose General Plan and the San Jose Municipal Code. We valiantly attempted to work with the City and the developer to bring the project into compliance with only partial success. As a result, we have filed an Appeal of the Historic Preservation Permit. Residents who live close to the proposed project have also filed an appeal based on similar concerns.

We hope, by continuing the discussion with the City Council, the City will require the necessary changes to bring the project into compliance so it can move forward and at long last the church can be restored.

We have also been busy with the Visual San Jose Historic Photo Contest that brought a great response from photographers all over the City. The contest, produced as part of National Historic Preservation month, showcased images of a wide variety of San Jose's saved and threatened historic resources.

Many thanks to our sponsors and Contest Committee Co-chairs—Gayle Frank, Charles DeLisio and May Yam—for hours and hours of work to make the contest so successful. A special thank you to Jeff Pohle and Southern Lumber for being such a hospitable host for the contest.

Sadly, this will be the last time the photo display will be at Southern Lumber as the business has been sold and will close this summer. We wish Jeff the best as he embarks on new adventures and thank him and his family for over 100 years of dedication to the San Jose community.

Although the photo contest celebrated National Historic Preservation month, the City failed to celebrate this annual opportunity to acknowledge the importance of preservation to San Jose and the nation. In past years, the City Council issued a proclamation and invited the Historic Landmarks Commission to attend the City Council meeting and accept the proclamation. For unknown reasons this year, the City did not acknowledge Preservation Month nor issue a proclamation. We hope it was only an oversight.

For us, Preservation Month lasts all year and we need your support to help us continue our mission of preserving San Jose's architectural heritage. You can help us celebrate 25 years working to preserve San Jose history. If you are not a member, please join PAC* SJ and attend our events. Help us advocate for better projects that integrate preservation with development rather than cause negative impacts. Celebrate with us and watch for details about a special anniversary celebration. Thanks for your continuing support. ☞

-Brian Grayson, Executive Director
Preservation Action Council of
San Jose



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Thank You—Visual San Jose Sponsors!

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Bay Photo

Rocky Nook

Keeble & Shuchat Photography

Leah Toeniskoetter

Richard Dischler/Photo Workshops

Big Dog Vineyards

Cheim Lumber Office Building

The Cheim Lumber Company office/sales building at 800 West San Carlos Street is threatened with yet another hi-rise residential complex. The 4,500 sq. ft. building sits on 4.7 acres along with a warehouse and pole barn. This site first became a lumber yard in 1909 as Santa Clara Valley Mill and Lumber Company, followed by several other lumber companies until those buildings were demolished in 1950.

Leo G. Cheim founded Cheim Lumber in the 1930s. The business was originally based at 1400 The Alameda. Cheim purchased the W. San Carlos land in 1952 and built the new office/showroom in 1954. After a huge fire at the Alameda site in 1955, all operations moved to W. San Carlos Street. At some time, Robert Cheim, Leo's brother, became a partner and co-owner.

The wood-framed, single story office/sales building is in excellent condition. It is described as a Googie-inspired commercial design, which was popular in the 1950s with

angular and futuristic lines, geometric shapes and cantilevered trusses. Googie features of this building include triangular-copper shapes following an overstated high roofline and large glass windows. The northern entrance has two swinging wooden doors with geometric windows at eye level. The architect is unknown and Leo Cheim was listed as the general contractor.

In 1990, the office/sales building was described by San Jose Mercury columnist Alan Hess as, "...an example of San Jose architecture that reflects the design influences of Frank Lloyd Wright, with its broad decorative zigzag stripes, along with unique geometric lettering on its sign."

In an historical report (1999) by Glory Anne Laffey, she stated that after reaching 50 years of age, the Cheim office/sales building would "likely be eligible for the National Register under Criterion C at a local level of significance." 

Southern Lumber Co.—A San Jose Icon

Southern Lumber Company, on Monterey Road, has been a mainstay for construction material and specialty wood for over 100 years. The company and owner Jeff Pohle has been a friend to historic preservation, not only for supplying materials for restoration and rehabilitation of our local resources, but for donating the space to exhibit photographs for the San Jose Historic Photo Contests. This year was the third exhibit of photographs held at Southern Lumber – and it will be the last. Southern Lumber Company has been sold and the business will close in June.



As a result, our Historic Photo Contest awards reception on June 16 at Southern Lumber evolved into a big party, not only to recognize the winners of the Photo Contest, and for Content Magazine subscribers to pick up their latest issue, but to celebrate Southern Lumber Company's long and successful history. The business will be missed.

Southern Lumber Company grew out of a logging operation based in the area where Big Basin State Park sits today. On July 2nd, 1904 the McAbee Brothers Timber Company became Southern Lumber Company. The business sold large timbers to the ranches, farms and orchards in Santa Clara Valley as well as to the quicksilver mines in New Almaden.

By 1910 Southern Lumber opened a distribution yard closer to town, just south of the then San Jose city limits on Monterey Road. Later the city limits expanded and included the business.

Ed Pohle began working for Southern Lumber in the 1930s and a few years later in April, 1936, he purchased controlling interest in the business. Pohle, a former logger and Forestry Major, wanted to provide customers with high quality woods and transform the business into a woodworker's paradise. Meanwhile he saved the business from failing during the Great Depression.

The Southern Lumber website says, "Ed Pohle truly had sawdust in his veins. His love and knowledge of hardwoods from all over the world, as well as his experience in logging operations of the Pacific Northwest and South America, quickly made him an authority on wood. Ed is also noted for pioneering the "do-it-yourself" market by cutting long



Jeff Pohle

boards into shorter pieces so his customers could dabble in wood-working without purchasing large amounts of wood." Under Ed Pohle's lead, "Southern Lumber became known as the place where people could find rare items; the sort of things that were difficult for customers to find, much less purchase at a local store."

Ed Pohle's son Bruce grew up with Southern Lumber Company during the 1960s and after graduating from San Jose State University, took over operations from his dad sometime in the late 1960s. He steered the business in a new direction by "offering quality wood-related products beyond the needs of the carpenter and woodworker." This was a time that homeowners were even more eager to "do-it-yourself" and Southern Lumber was ready to offer the means for their customers' success. Residents could now build their own picture frames, install moldings, paneling, cabinets and doors. As a result business increased steadily. *(Cont'd p. 9)*



Above left, Southern Lumber Co in the 1920s.

Above, Southern Lumber in the 1930s

Southern Lumber (Cont'd)

Bruce Pohle's first real test of leadership came when the entire business burned to the ground in 1973. At the time, the newspaper reported it was one of the largest commercial fires in San Jose's history. Bruce had the opportunity to rebuild or take the insurance money and retire early. Jeff tells us, "Glad he opted for the latter." Consequently, Southern Lumber Company was rebuilt with a new 65,000 square foot building in just over a year. The half-acre space held the finest assortment of woods and building materials in California. By 1996, the company grew to annual sales of \$10,000,000 compared to annual sales of about \$800,000 in the early 1970s.



Above, Southern Lumber in the late 1940s.

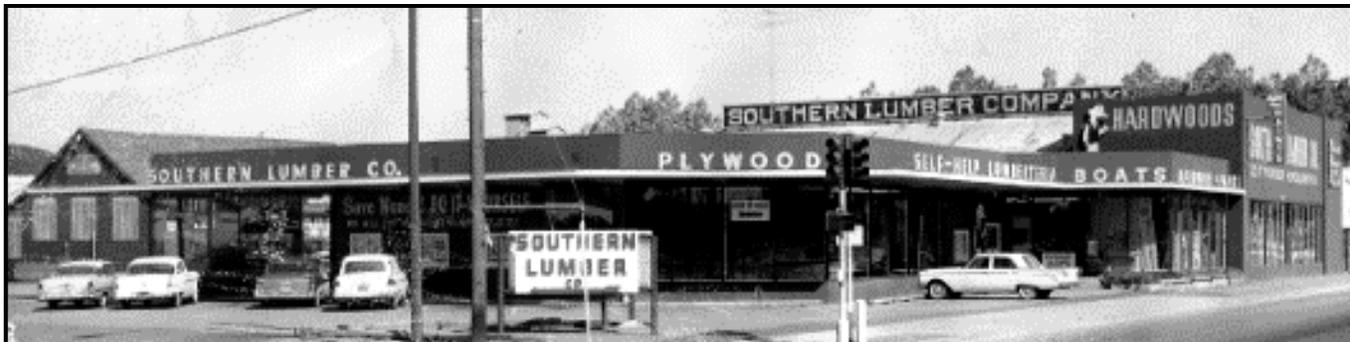


Southern Lumber has an interesting museum on the second floor (pictured above) that features vintage wood working tools and apparatus from Jeff's grandfather, Ed Pohle. After the big fire destroyed the previous museum, Ed moved his secondary collection from his house to the new Southern Lumber building to form the Museum we see today. Ed hired an art student from San Jose State to create the informational placards for the museum displays. Jeff tells us, "Many woodworking enthusiasts have walked through this museum, and once in a while, you run into somebody who knows exactly how these things were used back in the day."

Jeff Pohle remembers working at Southern Lumber since he was old enough to retrieve lumber carts from the parking lot at a nickel per cart. During high school at Bellarmine he worked after school in the Mill and Receiving areas and occasionally in the Door Shop. After college in Flagstaff, Arizona and San Jose State University, Jeff joined his father in the business. At that time Jeff was involved with Sales and Operations but eventually moved into management and later as Vice President around 1994. Within two years, Bruce Pohle retired and Jeff assumed operational control, becoming President and CEO of Southern Lumber Company. Jeff still emphasized high quality woods and building materials and takes pride in placing quality and service over all else.

Today Southern Lumber Company and owner Jeff Pohle can take pride in their loyal and committed employees and their faithful customers, many whom have patronized the store for generations. In fact, PAC*SJ Board Member, Sylvia Carroll, tells us she may be one of the longest Southern Lumber customer in the Valley – since 1963! Sadly, Southern Lumber is most likely one of the last remaining independent lumberyards. Customers will miss the old-fashioned service oriented experience and the high quality woods and building materials. ☞

-Gayle Frank



Southern Lumber in the late 1950s

(Photos: Southern Lumber Co.)

Willow Glen Trestle Doomed

The San Jose City Council placed the Willow Glen Trestle directly in its cross hairs last month and pulled the trigger.

The trestle was the topic of a 3-hour public hearing to decide the fate of the nearly 100-year-old railroad bridge. A large number of trestle supporters turned out to present as much information as they could in the 60 seconds each speaker was allowed. Very few members of the public spoke in favor of demolition.

The majority of the Council ignored the public input and relied heavily on the staff recommendation as they voted to demolish the structure and replace it with a bridge that will have none of the unique design or history that the current trestle has. The Council also

ignored the findings of their Historic Landmarks Commission who found the trestle to be historic and recommended that the Council designate it a City Landmark.

In the end, only Councilmembers Rocha and Peralez voted to save the trestle.

As a result of a lawsuit filed by the Friends of the Willow Glen Trestle, the City was previously found in violation of state law. So, if the court does not stop the Council's action, the trestle will be demolished and replaced by a generic steel bridge. The judge still must sign-off on the City's environmental document which supporters believe to be inadequate. ☞

-Brian Grayson



Photo: Larry Ames

Inside the San Jose City Council Chambers with about 100 supporters sporting bright orange signs in favor of saving the Willow Glen Trestle on May 16.

Is Willow Glen Trestle Historic and Rare? By Jean Dresden

Is the Trestle part of Willow Glen History?

The City of San Jose's response to EIR (Environmental Impact Report) public comments states that the Trestle is not historic or related to Willow Glen history. I disagree. This trestle is critical for understanding the founding of the City of Willow Glen. Throughout the intervening five years, from construction of the trestle in 1922 to the founding of Willow Glen in 1927, the threat of increased use of this Western Pacific (WPRR) alignment (route) by the Southern Pacific (SP) mainline drove the politics of the region. Many old newspaper articles and letters testify to this.

The presence of the WPRR alignment (including the Trestle) forewarned the citizens to guard against future impacts from the SP alignment that was designed to run parallel through the middle of the Willows neighborhood—crossing at Willow just 4 blocks from the WPRR alignment. This terror of 100 trains per day on either the WPRR alignment or the SP alignment led to the incorporation of Willow Glen. In contrast, before the WPRR alignment was installed in 1922, the railroad impacts were minimized and not fully understood. At that time, prominent businessman T.S. Montgomery, who was a WPRR Board member, promised the train would “beautify” the neighborhood. Not realizing the impacts of train noise and congestion, the “Willows” voters in 1917 did not choose to incorporate.

The WPRR alignment and its trestle taught the voters of the Willows District that their only hope for preventing more tracks and trains was to incorporate. Once the WPRR alignment was operational and SPRR mainline service loomed, voters had experience with a train in their backyards. The trestle is intimately associated with the founding of Willow Glen and remains the last surviving vestige of the railroad; it is historic.

Is the Trestle Unique and Rare?

The EIR response from the city claims that there is no public document available to determine whether the trestle is unique and rare in Santa Clara County. I disagree. There are many public documents that cover the County's rail bridges. There is no single document and it takes some boots on the ground for some sites. The lack of a single document that is easily accessed does not diminish the truth that the trestle is a unique and rare resource in Santa Clara County.

Various public agencies have researched the train alignments while additional records reside at the State Railroad Museum. Many cities, independent consultants and

professional historians have documented their findings. Other resources include VTA, Caltrain and California High Speed Rail.

As an alternative, I suggest the public resources that are available.¹ In most cases, the technical appendices contain the information about the bridge. Sometimes, it is material that was provided to the Lead Agency, but not included in either the EIR or technical appendix and must be accessed by talking to the agency. Or frequently, it is only one sentence in a 1000 page document that provides the necessary information.

This Willow Glen Trestle, a 210 foot long, wooden, pile bent trestle over Los Gatos Creek, is a rare cultural resource in Santa Clara County. Listed below are the only six wooden trestles that remain in our county: 2 public, 2 private and inaccessible, and 2 that are scheduled to be destroyed. All other trestles are gone.

1. WPRR Willow Glen wooden pile bent trestle over Los Gatos Creek. Owned by City of San Jose.
2. WPRR wooden framed trestle over Coyote Creek near Story Road. Owned by City of San Jose.
3. UPRR (Union Pacific) wooden framed trestle over Pajaro River at San Benito County line. Active rail line. Could be removed or reconfigured at any time. Not accessible to the public.
4. UPRR trestle over Coyote Slough at Alameda County line. Active rail line. Could be removed or reconfigured at any time. Not accessible to the public except by kayak or bus van tour.
5. WPRR wooden pile bent trestle over Silver Creek. Slated for destruction by BART construction.
6. UPRR/Caltrain wooden framed trestle over Los Gatos Creek. Active rail line. Slated for destruction by Caltrain.

Santa Clara County once had hundreds of wooden trestles over its creeks and streets. Now, it has six. Soon there will be four. Only two are in public ownership. They tell the story of railroading in “Prune Country.” The Willow Glen Trestle is a precious cultural asset worthy of historic designation and community access. ❧

Jean Dresden is a local historian who has spent numerous hours researching the trestle and Willow Glen history. These are just two of many topics Jean finds inaccurate in the Willow Glen Trestle EIR. More history on the Willow Glen Trestle can be viewed at www.wgtrestle.org.

¹ Jean's list of public resources is available by request at info@preservation.org

Fate of Family Court Building

This Minimalist building, designed by world renowned architect Cesar Pelli, on the corner of Park Avenue and Almaden Boulevard is scheduled to be razed. In its place, developer *KT Urban* plans a 24-story condo tower with 264 units, ground level retail and five levels of parking.

This building at 170 Park Center Plaza is an excellent example of the modern minimalist style of architecture that strives for decreased ornamentation and neutral colors. In other words, “less is more” as attributed to the notable Mies van der Rohe. Prominent features of minimalism are order, simplicity, harmony and reduced clutter.

The clean, simple lines for this building are accentuated by the smooth concrete and the simple geometric shapes. It gives a first impression of a fortress, elevated above ground level, with two large concrete walls that appear to have separated to make room for the 3-story entrance both in the front and back of the building. This design seems appropriate since this was originally created for a bank. Customers must have felt secure that their money was safe in this fortress.

PAC**SJ* is working with the developer to incorporate some design elements of the building in the lobby of a replacement structure to appropriately commemorate the building and the architect.

The building first was occupied by the Bank of California, then the Sumitomo Bank until 1983, along with attorneys’ offices, and the San Jose Symphony. Since 1992 the building has served as the Santa Clara County Family Court. The architectural design is also especially appropriate for legal proceedings.

The building’s eminent architect, Cesar Pelli, grew up in Tucumán, Argentina. In his early career he took pride in designing large, low-cost housing with simple and economical construction. He won a scholarship to the University of Illinois’ School of Architecture, worked with Eero Saarinen for ten years, and then became the design director at Daniel, Mann, Johnson & Mendenhall in Los Angeles where he learned that art could be executed with economy as well as inspiration. Then after working with Victor Gruen for eight years, he was approached by Yale to head its preeminent architecture school.

By 1977 Pelli established his own firm. He especially enjoys designing museums and non-commercial, non-governmental commissions because the clients understand the beauty and form of architecture, while government projects are more complicated.

(Cont’d p. 13)

Left, bank managers ride a tandem bike at the then Bank of California ribbon cutting Ceremony in 1973, at the NE corner of Park Avenue and Almaden in San Jose.

Photo taken by Shirlie Montgomery on April 23, 1973.

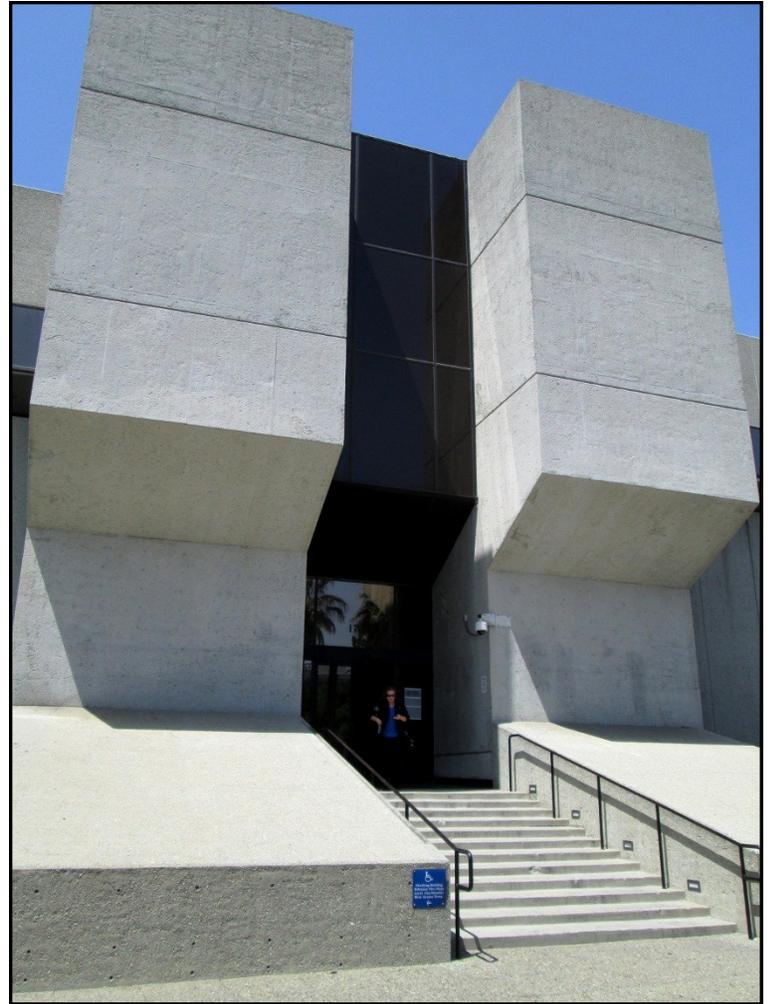
Photo courtesy of History San Jose
Shirlie Montgomery
Collection, History San Jose



Family Court Building (Cont'd)

Just a few of Pelli's illustrious designs include the Pacific Design Center in West Hollywood, the World Financial Center and Winter Garden in New York City, the NTT Headquarters building in Tokyo, the twin Petronas Towers in Kuala Lumpur and the Mathematics Building and Lecture Hall at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, NJ.

An AIA Gold Medal winner, Cesar Pelli oversees a 90-person firm that designs everything from performing arts centers to residential towers all over the world. 



Top right, the robust entrance.

Above, interior of building.

Right, cantilevered windows with mullions matching the joints of the concrete panels.

(Photo/text: Gayle Frank)

PAC*SJ Walking Tours—2015

There are four PAC*SJ walking tours left. As in the past, we'll be charging only \$10 per tour for members and \$15 for non-members. A 3-tour package will be \$25/\$35. Purchasers of a package will receive a discount on the other tours as well.

Washington Square, June 20th, 10 am

This tour will consider the history of the San Jose Normal School and its transition from a teacher's college to a State College and then to San Jose State University. In the early days, the campus was less than half its current size and also held the San Jose Carnegie Library and San Jose High School. There are several significant buildings on the grounds including Uchida Hall, Tower Hall and the Scheller House. Meet at the plaza behind the library.

Japantown, July 18th, 10 am

It's the 125th anniversary of Japantown. We'll walk the shopping district, where you'll have a taste of what will be on the neon tour. We'll view the San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin, and other landmarks in the neighborhood like the Kuwabara Hospital. We'll also stop by the vacant block that once held the Chinatown of Heinlenville. Meet at 6th and Jackson Streets.

Alviso, August 15th, 10 am

We'll return to the sites of the 2012 tour to see how this National Historic District is faring. Spoiler alert: not well. While there, we'll learn about San Jose's nineteenth century port and about its importance in our history as well as learn about the independent town of Alviso and how it was annexed to the city. Meet at the Marina.

San Jose Neon, October 24th at 4 pm

West San Carlos and some of the adjoining streets have wonderful post World War II neon. Bring cameras to capture images of this historic part of San Jose. This tour will be in the late afternoon, so participants may remain (or return) and take after-dark photos. Starting point TBD.

To reserve your spot on one or more walking tours, go to our website, www.preservation.com. For questions, email us at info@preservation.org.

Photos from the Rose Garden Tour

The PAC*SJ Rose Garden Tour was held on May 16th. The group enjoyed the beautiful gardens and fountain, Lincoln High School, Trace School, the former Hoover Junior High School and the grounds and buildings at the Rosicrucian Egyptian Museum (photos below).





ON THE RADAR

Park View Towers/First Church of Christ Scientist

After the San Jose Planning Department hearing and approval of the Park View Towers project, PAC*SJ debated whether to walk away or continue to try and resolve this project's violations of the Municipal Code, the St. James Square Historic District Design Guidelines, and certain goals and policies of the 2040 Envision General Plan. We have decided to go forward with the appeal process, enabling further discussion of these issues and hopefully reaching some resolution to the satisfaction of everyone involved. The appeal will be heard by the San Jose City Council on June 23 at 7:00 pm. ☞

385-395 E. Taylor Street

The former Continental Can warehouse, in Japantown between 9th and 10th Streets and behind Gordon Biersch Brewery, will not be refurbished for residential use and artist lofts as previously suggested. Hanover Co., from Houston Texas, plans to preserve the building for commercial/light industrial use and add the lost residential units (about 70) to the larger complex called Cannery Park Village, the eight-acre industrial site at 357 E. Taylor Street next to the former warehouse. The complex will include over 400 residential units, ground floor retail, parking garage and a park. ☞

San Jose Mercury Building

On June 9th the San Jose City Council voted unanimously (2 absent) to deny the designation of city landmark status for the San Jose Mercury building on Ridder Park Dr.

Both the Historic Landmarks Commission and the Planning Department Director had determined that the building qualifies for City Landmark status based on findings that the building meets six of the eight criteria for designation as a historic landmark. But Mayor Liccardo, Vice Mayor Herrera and Councilmember Peralez issued a memo to the Council on June 5th recommending a denial of city landmark designation.

In their memo they state that, "The City is grateful to Supermicro for choosing to stay and expand its advanced manufacturing operations here, and is committed to supporting the company's future growth in North San Jose." And later

they state, "We should post haste provide for the development of the Supermicro expansion..."

In other words, all historic resources in the city are endangered. Rather than work to integrate historic buildings into development projects, the City is sending out notice that demolition is preferable to preservation.

With a 36-acre site, wouldn't it be worth asking to save at least part of the unique façade of the original Merc building? San Jose is becoming a city of plaques that no one will read and where much of the architectural interest of our city is lost forever. Development is killing off our past. ☞

Trinity Cathedral Carillon Bells

Progress for casting the new carillon bells was interrupted and postponed by severe freezing temperatures in Ohio this last winter. It was so cold the bell metal in the furnace would not melt! The castings of the Trinity bells are scheduled after a job for Grosse Pointe, MI. The earliest the Trinity bells will be returned to San Jose will be August.

The work to strengthen the bell tower to accommodate the weight of the ultimate 43 bell carillon has been completed. New earthquake standards that came into effect before construction started increased the cost of seismic upgrading. Biggs Cardoza performed the strengthening designs and Blach Construction completed the construction work.

The updated carillon will consist of a new steel frame built to accommodate ultimately 43 bells, a new 43 bell keyboard with five foot pedals and playing bench, new cable harness and the radial action in the tower to distribute the bell cables to the bells, the casting of six new bells and the re-tuning of the 18 original chime bells to match the tone of the new bells. The work will be completed by Meeks, Watson and Company of Georgetown, Ohio

Trinity needs to raise \$70,000 to cover the remaining cost of the project and to provide a fund for care and maintenance of the carillon. When the new carillon is completed, we will celebrate their return with a dedication ceremony and concert.☞

-Paul Archambeault

Treasurer, Trinity Cathedral

PAC*SJ Summer Yard Sale

Round up your household and personal items that you no longer need for our upcoming Summer Yard Sale. As always, it will be held at 260 S. 13th Street, but will spill over to yards on each side, thanks to our wonderful neighbors.

To donate items, to volunteer or to schedule a pick-up, please email Patt Curia at donations@preservation.org.

The set-up will take place on Wednesday, August 19th. The Sale begins on Thursday, August 20th and then Friday, August 21st, both days from 8 am to 6 pm. On Saturday, August 22nd, the sale will be open from 8 am until noon.

And remember that you can search for PAC*SJ items on Craigslist by entering "Preservation Action" in the search box.



Spring Sale Earned \$\$ for Local Historic Preservation Education

Thanks to the generosity of Naglee Park neighbors and PAC*SJ members as well as strangers looking for a trusted organization to gift their family heirlooms, the March yard sale on S. 13th Street was huge with many treasures. Our stock included rocking chairs, a doll house, shelving, holiday décor, office furniture, salvage doors (we still have a few), craftsman style furniture, as well as the mundane coffee mugs and bedding.

We are grateful to the Salas, Wangsness-Liesenfelt, Mason, and Curia families for storing and displaying the sales items on their front yards during the sale.

The usual suspects and several new volunteers assisted in sales and merchandising: Art Carroll, Brian Grayson, Joan Bohnett, Lynda Sereno, Gayle Frank, Sharon McCauley, Renee Coca, Jim Norvell, Ted Essy, Sheik Ali, Tom Aldridge, Leslie Masunaga, Bev Blockie, Alice Gosak Gary, John Mitchell, Lisa Wangsness, Rick Bernard, April and Hans Halberstadt, Connie Foley, Heather David, Aimee Walsh, Dennis Cunningham, Dev Rendler, Ellen Garboske, Ron Hagen, Heinz Boedecker, Jane and Dave Guinther, Ryan Mayte, Sally and Bob Beste, Michael Galleta, Winni Leeds and Jeff Baldwin, Sandra Soellner, Kris Dessau, Lynnea Hagen,

Joe and Cayden Golda, Virginia Carpio, Bob Johnson, Patti Phillips and those who pitched in while shopping. Highlights of the sale included the sale of the Cocoa Cola sign donated by the Halberstadts.

Many thanks to co-captains of the sale: Joan Bohnett and Lynda Sereno. We are grateful for the speedy recovery of our stalwart pricer, Ellen Garboske, who fell and fractured some ribs in the line of duty the week before the sale. She couldn't resist joining us at the sale for a few hours and we remain indebted to her!

And lastly, I want to acknowledge the residents of the 200 block of South 13th Street who had a first hand view of four days of treasures, trash and traffic. PAC*SJ truly appreciates the opportunity to host this community event that provides a recycling outlet for unneeded items and building salvage. The remaining items were donated to local public libraries, Saver's/Hope Services, the City of San Jose's animal shelter, 13th Street Cats, Horace Mann and Clyde Arbuckle Schools and the San Jose Woman's Club. ☪

-Patt Curia, Vice President-Fund Raising

PAC*SJ 2015 Calendar

- Jun 15** Monday, PAC*SJ Board Meeting, 6:30—8 pm. History San Jose, Pasetta House.
- Jun 20** PAC*SJ Walking Tour of Washington Square; 10 am—noon. See page 14.
- Jul 18** PAC*SJ Walking Tour of Japantown; 10 am—noon. See page 14.
- Jul 20** Monday, PAC*SJ Board Meeting, 6:30—8 pm. History San Jose, Pasetta House.
- Aug 15** PAC*SJ Walking Tour of Alviso; 10 am—noon. See page 14.
- Aug 17** Monday, PAC*SJ Board Meeting, 6:30—8 pm. History San Jose, Pasetta House.
- Aug 20-22** Thurs, Fri & Sat. PAC*SJ Summer Yard Sale at 260 S. 13th St. See page 16 for details.
- Sept mid** PAC*SJ Fall Member-Only Event. Details to follow.
- Oct 24** PAC*SJ Walking Tour of San Jose Neon; 4:00 pm. See page 14.
- Nov TBD** PAC*SJ 25th Anniversary Party. Details to follow.

History San José – Valley of Hearts Delight

Saturday, June 27, 5-9 pm

The annual Valley of Heart's Delight event is History San José's annual tradition of honoring individuals who have made significant contributions to the Santa Clara Valley. This year, History San José is proud to honor the many cultural groups that have helped make San Jose one of the most diverse cities in the nation. The celebration is always a fun-filled evening complete with entertainment, a delectable selection of food and drink, and a unique array of auction offerings. Visit www.hsvalleyofheartdelight.org/ for details.

**Don't ever question
the value of volunteers.**

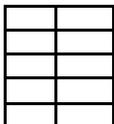
**Noah's Ark was built
by volunteers;
the Titanic was built
by professionals.**



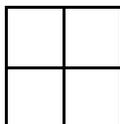
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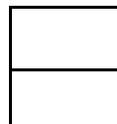
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Laffey Archives & Architectural Lecture Series Launched

The late Glory Anne Laffey, historian, embodied the exemplary open-handed historian. The quality of her research during the 1980s and 1990s provides the local standard for the documentation of historic properties. She developed San Jose's Guidelines for Historic Reports, was the City's historic resources survey contractor, and prepared San Jose's first historic context statement.

Glory Anne created a Historic Architecture Slide Lecture program in the 1990s with help from the late John Kensit, librarian of the California Room, Leslie Masunaga, Historical Museum Archivist, and Franklin Maggi, then Historic Landmarks Commission Chair. The lecture program brought 18 authors and experts on local architecture to the public in a well-received educational program. The slide lectures were held in diverse historic buildings throughout Santa Clara County.

For the past decade, the **Glory Anne Laffey Architectural Archives** has been nested as a program fund of PAC*SJ. Now it has incorporated as a separate nonprofit organization with a mission of preserving the records of the built environment.

Franklin Maggi is Executive Director. You can learn more about the Laffey Archives at <http://www.laffeyarchives.org>.

This coming autumn, the Laffey Archives will re-launch the **Architecture Lecture Series**, with a kick-off opening talk on "Bay Area Architecture" by Architectural Historian Leslie A.G. Dill. Talks included in the Fall series will be by Gary Parks on Local Theaters, Krista Van Laan on Frank Delos Wolfe and his California Prairie Architecture, and Mark Anthony Wilson showcasing Frank Lloyd Wright's work on the West Coast.

Dates, locations and ticket information for this exciting series will be posted later this summer on the PAC*SJ website, Facebook and at www.laffeyarchives.org. ☞



WWW.LAFFEYARCHIVES.ORG

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- ◆ Tel 669.999.1851

Two Architects, One Name

During the Design Crawl in downtown San Jose on May 13th, the PAC*SJ table was located inside the Prussia Building on S. First Street. We learned that the "Weeks" architect for the Prussia Building was not the familiar William Henry **Weeks** (1864-1936), but another popular architect named Charles Peter **Weeks** (1870-1928), who was not related to William.

Charles P. Weeks belonged to the firm of Weeks and Day and designed many buildings in California including the Fox Oakland Theatre, Fox California Theatre (San Jose), Stanford Theatre, Hotel St. Claire, the St. Claire Building and the Prussia Building (now called SoFA Market at 387 S. First St.).

The other Weeks, William H. Weeks, designed Carnegie Libraries, many schools such as Fremont High School, Campbell High School, Los Gatos High School and Herbert Hoover Junior High as well as the DeAnza Hotel and the Medico-Dental Building. He was known as the master of Spanish Colonial Revival in California and many of his buildings are landmarked. William's firm brought in his son Harold and

the business was called Weeks and Weeks with at least five offices in the Bay Area including San Jose.

As a side note, to the rear of the Prussia Building a new bar, The Fountainhead, is now open where one can buy a gourmet drink named after an architect or a popular architectural design style. The menu describes the architectural inspiration for each drink. The distinctive décor is created from repurposed wood and recycled material. ☞



Fountainhead Bar at SoFA Market, 387 S. First Street, has gourmet drinks named after architects or design styles.

Palms Mark Family History

By Kristiane McKee Maas

*Kristiane Maas, a PAC*SJ member, entered two photos in the Visual San Jose Historic Photo Contest for 2015. The photos were of two palm trees that celebrate her family's history in San Jose. Here is her story of that family.*

In 1901 and 1904, my Aunt Margaret Mary McKee and my father, Frank Hubbard McKee were born at home on South Third and San Fernando Streets (157 South Third) in San Jose. Their proud parents, Hubbard James McKee and Mary Agnes Grimley McKee, planted two palm trees in front of their home to mark the happy occasions - 114 and 111 years ago respectively. Those 80 foot, plus, tall palms are to-day marked with plaques, Heritage Trees number 123 and 124 pictured below and to the right. Thank you, Earth!

My Great Grandfather

Hubbard's father, George B. McKee, an early-day Mayor, arrived in San Jose in 1854. Civic-minded and a Scottish Rite Mason, he resided throughout his life at 234 South Second Street, according to the Precinct No. 6 Register. Beginning in 1868, he operated the family paint factory and showroom, featuring "paints, oils, glass and the Celebrated Balata Paint." The George B. McKee Company was incorporated in 1902 and remained a successful San Jose business for 75 years. In 1882, George McKee "purchased the old courthouse and jail site at San Fernando and South Second Street and was the only man in California that owned a courthouse and jail in his name."¹

My Grandparents

In San Jose, my grandfather, Hubbard J. McKee, was born in 1873. He assisted his father, George B. McKee, in the operation of the family paint store (George B. McKee Company) at 84 East San Fernando Street. Hubbard was also appointed an "Extraman" at the Torrent [Fire]



Engine Co. No. 2, on North Market between Santa Clara and St. John Streets. As his granddaughter, I still have his fire hat.

Hubbard McKee died tragically on July 19, 1914. A quote from The San Jose Mercury on July 22, 1914 said, "There is something ineffably pathetic in the tragic end of the late Hubbard McKee. He



"Two Palm Trees" by Kristiane Maas, entered in the 2015 photo contest.

was known as a man of unusual tenderness, and his friends were not surprised to learn that he had given his seat to an injured man picked up by the [Monterey] roadside and that he himself had stood behind the driver while they rushed with all speed to the hospital. It was a sudden curve of the road that the unselfish McKee was thrown from his precarious hold to his death"

Hubbard's wife, Mary Agnes Grimley McKee, together with her family, homesteaded land past Mt. Hamilton. I have deeds to this acreage signed by Presidents McKinley in 1899 and Teddy Roosevelt in 1905. Most summers of my childhood were spent at this property.

My Father

My father, Frank H. McKee, for whom the palm tree was planted 111 years ago, grew up and worked 25 years for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. His office was located on Stockton Avenue in San Jose. His sister and my aunt, Margaret, for whom the other palm tree was planted, went on to farm 25 acres of walnuts on McLaughlin Avenue in San Jose.

Frank McKee wrote a charming account of riding the Mt. Hamilton Stage to his family's ranch in 1915. I submitted the story, posthumously, to the Santa Clara County Pioneers Essay Contest. On June 4, 1994, he received an Honorable Mention "for Remarkable Writing of California History."

Friend and fellow PAC*SJ member, Leslie Masunaga, "traveled" with me to this ranch before it was sold in 2004. What a grand trip! ☪

¹The History of Santa Clara County," E.T. Sawyer, 1922, page 419

Exploring San Jose City Landmarks

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

HS92- 63; Church of the Five Wounds, 1375 East Santa Clara Street

The land for the site of the Portuguese National Church of Five Wounds was purchased in 1913 by Portuguese residents of San Jose. The parish was created in 1914.

After the Panama Pacific International Exposition closed in San Francisco at the end of 1915, the Five Wounds Church founder, Monsignor Henrique Ribeiro, purchased the Exposition's Pavilion of Portugal for \$200. Volunteers dismantled the Pavilion in two weeks and then transported the building materials to San Jose. There are reports of the material traveling by wagon down the Camino Real to San Jose but this may just be an urban myth. The structural wood and decorative items from the Pavilion were used in the construction of Five Wounds Church. The church cornerstone was laid on October 1, 1916 and the building was consecrated on July 13, 1919. Many hard-working families made the construction of the church possible.

Newspaper articles from 1916 report how the church ladies held fundraisers for the church's building fund. For one event they held a three-day bazaar in the Knights of Columbus Hall where entrance was 25 cents and dinner was an additional 25 cents.

Another article from the San Jose Mercury Herald (6/17/17) reported plans for the first mass held in the new church on the coming Sunday. A parade and open-air dance was scheduled for the Saturday night and an all day Sunday celebration included a "grand barbecue," lots of concessions and an auction to benefit the building fund.

San Francisco architect John J. Foley (1882-1946) designed the Five Wounds Church. He was a renowned designer of schools and churches. The architectural style of Five Wounds Church is described as Mannerist and Baroque design. (Cont'd p. 21)



"Five Wounds" by Mike Wilson. A beautiful photo submitted to the Visual San Jose Historic Photo Contest in 2015.



Left, The Five Wounds Church was modeled after the Igreja de Santa Cruz pictured left (translated to Holy Cross Church) in Braga, Portugal.

PAC*SJ Around Town



*April 25th, hat sales booth at the SJWC Home Tour event.
Heather David and PAC*SJ President André Luthard.*



*April 9th, "members only" event at History San Jose.
HSJ CEO Alida Bray on left in the Archives with members.*

City Landmarks (Cont'd)

The Church was modeled after Igreja de Santa Cruz (translated to Holy Cross Church) in Braga, Portugal, pictured on page 20. The construction of Igreja de Santa Cruz began in 1625 and was not completed until 1737. It is identified as Mannerist (or Mannerism) style.

Mannerism architecture (c.1520–1600) originated in Italy as a reaction against the form and proportions characteristic of High Renaissance architecture. It was manifested in the use of unbalanced proportions and arbitrary arrangements of decorative features and was a relaxed nonconformist style with stylistic contradictions.

By the end of the 16th century, Mannerism gave way to the Baroque architectural style with its emphasis on decoration, grandeur, complex shapes, drama and contrast.

Some references describe the Five Wounds Church architecture as Mission Revival or Manueline style, which was named in honor of King Manuel I who reigned 1495–1521. The sumptuous style, popular in Portugal during the early 16th century, is a mix of late Gothic and Renaissance themes with influences from Spanish, Italian, Flemish and Islamic traditions. The Manueline décor often used natural motifs such as spiral columns resembling rope, elaborate portals, and animal and vegetal patterns. ☞

-Gayle Frank & Sylvia Carroll



Interior of Five Wounds Church.

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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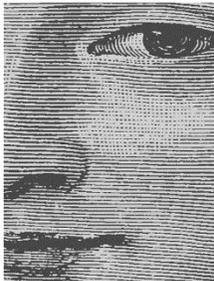
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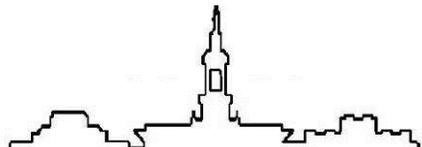
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CONTINUITY

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.

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