

CONTINUITY



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

Spring, 2015

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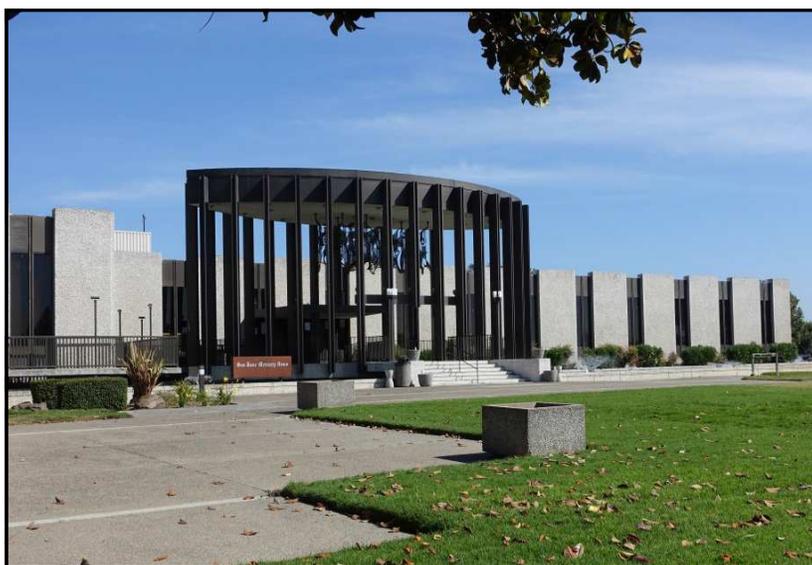
Mid-Century Mercury News Building

San Jose's major newspaper, the San Jose Mercury News, has moved out of its headquarters at 750 Ridder Park Drive in San Jose. The 1967 building of 185,000 square feet was designed by architect Warren B. Heid and built by Carl N. Swenson.

Heid also designed Fire Station 1 (now a city landmark and listed on the National Register of Historic Places), First National Bank in Saratoga, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Saratoga, City of Saratoga Council Chambers building and the First Valley National Bank in San Jose among many other structures. Heid's design of the Mercury newspaper plant was listed in the "Top Ten National Industrial Plants of 1968" in *Factory Magazine*.

The most interesting part of the Mercury headquarters is the front of the building. With an extensive setback, lawn and walkways lead to the walls of precast 10' x 19.5' tall panels made of Canadian quartz and concrete, each separated by tall aluminum framed windows. At the entrance, a 60-foot wide, raised loggia¹ in an elliptical shape, formed with 28 columns, suggests a place of significance. A metal sculpture created by John Jagger hangs from the loggia's ceiling. A raised walkway connects to the main building.

Pools with fountains sit on each side of the loggia, the west side wrapping around the far corner of the building.



San Jose Mercury News Building

The main building was expanded over the years to 312,000 square feet and more outbuildings were added to the 36-acre site. There were garages, service buildings and a park/par course developed for the employees.

(Cont'd p. 3)

Executive Director's Message

Twenty-five years ago a small group of concerned citizens had seen more than enough destruction of our historic resources and decided to put a stop to it.

They rallied around one building in particular, the First Church of Christ Scientist on the edge of St. James Park. The historic church was in danger and this group wanted to save this important structure. Out of their concern for this building the organization we know as Preservation Action Council of San Jose (PAC*SJ) was established.

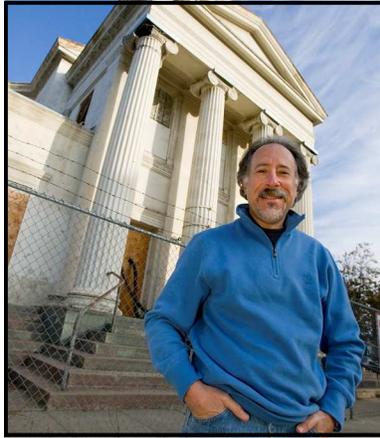
From that day in 1990 to today in 2015 a dedicated group of individuals has worked tirelessly to protect our dwindling historic resources. The fact that the church is still standing, although in a sad state of disrepair, is a testament to the hard work and dedication of PAC*SJ.

The church is still slated for restoration and reuse although various project plans have stalled over the years. We continue to be hopeful the church will be restored and once again become a jewel of the St. James Square Historic District.

Plans are pending for a project that includes two towers of residential units in addition to restoring the church. We are working with the City and the developer, Barry Swenson Builder, with the hopes of seeing a final project that respects the integrity of the Historic District and accomplishes the City's goals of bringing more people to the area and revitalizing St. James Park. Not an easy task – hopefully we will be successful.

Recently, our efforts have focused on another project in the St. James Square Historic District. Marshall Squares, a multi-story residential/commercial development proposal, has been working its way through the City's approval process. PAC*SJ raised serious concerns about the project not complying with the St. James Square Historic District Design Guidelines.

The primary violations of the Guidelines include building setbacks, a garage opening towards the Park on St. John Street, and incompatible design. PAC*SJ has testified at the



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

Historic Landmarks Commission, Planning Director's Hearing, and we have met with the developer, Councilmember Perez, and Planning staff. As a result of our efforts we are pleased that the plans have been changed to more nearly comply with the Guidelines and the garage opening on St. John Street has been eliminated. We are still working on other issues related to the Guidelines but this is a major victory for maintaining the integrity of the Historic District.

This is what PAC*SJ does. When the City does not fulfill its role as the steward of our historic resources we try to fill that void. We raise our voices and provide research and what we believe to be well-reasoned arguments to support our position.

As we celebrate our 25th anniversary we are increasing our efforts to bring in more members. Member support helps us continue our mission of preserving San Jose's architectural heritage. If each of our current members brought in at least one new member, our membership base would greatly increase. Talk to your friends and family and encourage them to join PAC*SJ.

Not only do members receive our quarterly newsletter, advance notice of our events and discounts on event tickets, they will also have the opportunity to attend special members-only events that feature visits to locations not generally open to the public. Watch for details about events throughout the year to celebrate our milestone anniversary.

As we mark 25 years of efforts in historic preservation it's also a good time to say Thank You to all of the people over the years that have worked so hard to preserve our historic resources.

(Cont'd p. 5)



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Mercury News (Cont'd)



Aerial view of Mercury News building soon after opening.

The San Jose Mercury News has a history dating from 1851 when it was called the San Jose Weekly Visitor. After a few more name changes, James J. Owen purchased the paper in 1861. Then Owen purchased a daily paper, the Daily Guide, and re-named his newspapers the San Jose Mercury. After steam power presses were available Owen's printing production dramatically increased. The respected journalist and publisher sold his paper to Charles Shortridge in 1884.

By 1898 the newspaper, now called the Mercury, was sold to Clarence Wooster and Alfred Holman, who in turn sold it to the Hayes brothers in 1901. Everis A. and Jay O. Hayes already owned the Herald; soon the production of both the Mercury and the Herald operated on Lightson Alley before moving to 20 West Santa Clara Street. By 1913, the Hayes brothers combined the two newspapers to become the San Jose Mercury Herald. In 1942 the newspaper moved to 211 West Santa Clara Street, eventually taking over the whole block. As the newspaper grew, the Hayes brothers bought out their last rival newspaper, the San Jose Evening News. Both newspapers were published for a time. In 1950, after 99 years of operation, the San Jose Mercury Herald name reverted to the San Jose Mercury.

The newspaper was sold in 1952 to Bernard H. Ridder of Northwest Publications, a large

newspaper chain from Minnesota. Ridder's son, Joseph B., was assigned to head the San Jose newspaper; subsequently he expanded the business, increasing efficiency with the latest innovations. Finally it was decided to build a plant designed specifically for newspaper production away from the busy downtown. This was a time of rapid city growth along with modernizing buildings and operations.

Historic reports that evaluate the significance of a building or site are used to assign number values to the structure of interest. The 2014 historic report² on the

headquarters gave the site 56.6 points on the Evaluation Tally Sheet. This means the structure is eligible for City Landmark designation, even though the authors state over and over that it is three years shy of age 50, the arbitrary cut-off date for anything to be historic. Does that mean that if a noteworthy building is 49.5 years old it's ok to demolish it?

In the report the Mercury headquarters site is ranked as significant because the San Jose Mercury newspaper was an essential part of San Jose's heritage and played an "important role...in the community." Under a second criteria, the Ridders, especially Joseph B. and P. Anthony, were prominent citizens in the business world and were responsible for innovative newspaper operations.

(Cont'd p. 4)



Side view of loggia, pools and fountains.

Mercury News Cont'd)

Under a third criteria, the Modernist architectural style is notable and is a good example of the “corporate/industrial buildings” popular in the mid-20th Century.

The Mercury main building characteristics include flat roof, large rectangular massing constructed of steel and concrete, no ornamentation, and landscaping between the building and the street. Under the integrity criteria, the Mercury News building scored points for not being altered; the interesting façade and surrounding paneled walls remain as it was in 1967.

At the end of 2013, Super Micro Computer, Inc. purchased the Mercury headquarters site from Digital First Media, the parent company of the San Jose Mercury News. Super Micro was founded in San Jose in 1993 and is a growing networking and communications company. Preliminary plans for the former Mercury News site have been submitted to the City of San Jose; plans that will consist of light manufacturing, offices and warehouse space. PAC*SJ will be reviewing its proposal. ☞

-Gayle Frank



Metal sculpture inside the loggia, created by John Jagger, a Santa Cruz artist.

(Photos from DPR 523L, July 11, 2014)

¹ A covered exterior gallery or corridor. The outer wall is open to the elements, usually supported by a series of columns or arches.

² Department of Parks and Recreation Primary Record (DPR 523L), San Jose Mercury News Headquarters, Carey & Co., Inc., 7/11/14.

Donner Lofts Groundbreaking



(Photo: Brian Grayson)

The Donner Lofts groundbreaking took place on January 8, celebrating the start of construction for a project that will provide 102 workforce efficiency apartments. This affordable housing community, at the corner of E. St. John and N. Fourth Streets will be built on the lot where the landmark Donner/Houghton House resided, but burned in 2007. Preservationists still feel the loss of this piece of San Jose’s past. A display at the front of the building will honor the history of the house and its occupants. ☞

*Pictured is PAC*SJ member Patti Phillips, 2nd from left, with Mayor Liccardo, Councilmember Peralez, Supervisor Chavez, Vice Mayor Herrera, and representatives from the City and MidPen Housing.*

Marshall Squares and St. James Historic District

On Wednesday February 25, members of the PAC*SJ Board attended the San Jose Planning Director's Hearing at which the Marshall Squares project by Fairfield Residential (up to 190 residential units plus mixed use commercial, including a cafe) was approved with conditions. The project is located on a historically sensitive site partially within the St. James Square Historic District, on the south side of St. John Street between First and Second Streets and across from the Park. PAC*SJ enthusiastically supports the nature of this project, hoping that it will have a positive influence on the St. James Park area. That said, this has not been an easy project approval process for anybody involved in it, including the developer.

PAC*SJ's concerns were the project's compatibility with the Historic District, both a National and a City of San Jose Landmark. Preservation of the nature and character of the District, perhaps the City's most iconic Historic District, is well-addressed in the St. James Square Historic District Design Guidelines. PAC*SJ's major issues with the proposed project were architecture, building height, parking garage access onto St. John Street across from the Park, and a building setback from St. John. All of these items are spelled out in detail in the Guidelines as fundamental characteristics of the District. The setback requirement, for example, continues the setback pattern established by all of the historic structures and results in a characteristic softened edge all around the Square.

The garage access issue (the Guidelines preclude garage or parking lot access onto St. John) was complicated by the

presence of light rail lines on both First and Second Streets. The City sought to keep most of the project access away from those streets as a safety measure related to the LRT. The PAC*SJ team was firmly convinced, however, that the St. John Street access point was actually less safe than First and Second Street access. On the day before the final hearing, the City decided to eliminate the St. John Street garage access, a major victory for the District.

As the project progressed toward its final Director's Hearing, changes were being made right up to and during the Hearing. PAC*SJ's two major issues, the elimination of the garage opening on St. John Street and the building setback from St. John were among the changes the City and the developer agreed to make. PAC*SJ remains concerned that the now prominent corrugated metal siding on the St. John frontage may not be compatible with the formal presence of the historic stone buildings around the Square. Planning staff has offered to work with the developer to find a less industrial appearing metal siding.

The review of this project was difficult for a number of reasons—most of them related to poor communication among the parties involved, particularly related to the content and importance of the St. James Square Historic District Design Guidelines which were created as a requirement of the City's Historic Ordinance. PAC*SJ plans to work with the City toward an improved working relationship.

-Pat Colombe

ED Message (Cont'd)

Thank you to the founders of PAC*SJ who had the vision to establish our organization. One can only imagine how much worse our community would be had it not been for the efforts of those whose vision pushed them to create PAC*SJ and fight to preserve many of our important structures.

Thank you to our members, to our Board, and thanks to many of our elected and appointed officials for understanding the importance of historic preservation.

And, to some of our friends who still do not "get" historic preservation, we have been doing this for 25 years and we are not planning on going anywhere soon. We will continue to

educate those who do not appreciate the importance of preservation to a community. You should know by now we don't easily give up.

So, congratulations to us! Join us in this celebratory year and help us make San Jose an even better place to live.

In closing, the PAC*SJ family notes with sadness the recent passing of Lani Luthard. Lani was the wife of our Board president André Luthard and we extend our deepest sympathies to André and his family. ☞

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

Mt. Umunhum Radar Station Update

The battle for preserving the iconic Radar Tower atop Mt. Umunhum continues. Basim Jaber and the Tower's supporters are scheduled to speak on the April 16 agenda for the Santa Clara County Historical Heritage Commission. There will be a resolution on the agenda to place the Mt. Umunhum Radar Tower on the Santa Clara County Historic Resource Inventory. If passed, this gives it a strong layer of protection against demolition and increases grant funding eligibility.

The next step is landmark status, but the County cannot put it on the "County Landmark" register since the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District's consent is required (which, to date, it has not shown interest in landmark designation). But placing the Tower on the Historic Resource Inventory could certainly be an added benefit toward preservation of the Tower.

Please spread the word. More importantly, if you attend the Commission meeting, please consider filling out a speaker card and using a few minutes of microphone time to thank the County Historical Heritage Commission for its continued diligence in saving history and to please move forward with protecting this historic building by placing it on the County Historic Resource Inventory. Your voice counts. Note: Speakers may be limited to 1 or 2 minutes.

The air station opened in 1957 and was of prime importance in scanning the skies for Soviet bombers in the Bay Area, a vulnerable site due to heavy military, industrial and technological activity. By 1980 satellites left the Radar Tower obsolete. Saving the Tower gives us a valuable reminder of the Cold War and a historic learning opportunity. In late 2012, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District voted to keep the Tower open for five years, allowing supporters to seek funding and partnerships.

Basim Jaber, Almaden Air Force Station historian, thanks everyone for the continued support for the preservation of the Radar Tower. He hopes to see many supporters at the Heritage Commission Meeting.

Santa Clara County Historical Heritage Commission Meeting

Thursday, April 16, 2015—6:30 PM sharp
70 West Hedding St., San Jose

County Building – Board of Supervisor's Chambers

To watch a Youtube video of Basim Jaber's interview about Mt. Umunhum and the Radar Tower for Station KMVT go to: www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uy2gV22HQDk. 

Why Historic District Design Guidelines?

In 1989, the Saint James Square Historic District Design Guidelines (SJSDDG) were created by the San Jose City Planning Department and the San Jose Historic Landmarks Commission and adopted by the San Jose City Council. They state, "All development should be designed to enhance the character of the designated resource." The Guidelines goals include the compatible integration of existing and new buildings within the District and "to maintain a sense of awareness of the District's contribution to the City's historic heritage." The District is a local Landmark District and is listed as a district on the National Register of Historic Places.

Every great city has districts where certain design guidelines are expected and demanded. If San Jose is going to be a great city, we need to expect and demand greatness. If the City, developers and architects fully embrace the Guidelines, it will result in a more dynamic and amazing place that will bring people from far and wide.

These guidelines presaged the modern "active streets"

concepts that embrace enhanced "active sidewalk experiences." The roadside, ground plane, building wall and canopy are all part of these Guidelines, just in different terminology.

From setbacks, verticality, scale and surface treatment, the goal is to contribute to the site's cohesive character and sense of time and place. Surrounding the park's island of green, the buildings frame the open space and have a direct relationship to the Square.

If a developer chooses to skirt these insightful Guidelines (SJSDDG), then at the first sign of that error, they should be directed back to the SJSDDG by the City Planners.

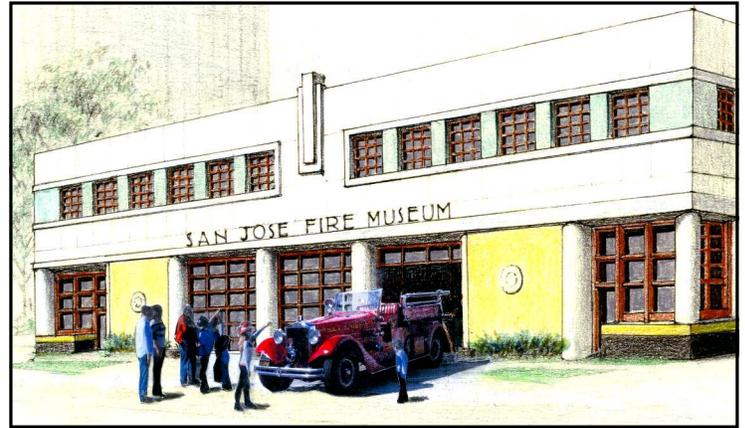
Each new development that follows the Guidelines will enhance the Saint James Square Historic District, increase the value and enrich the setting of the existing properties. So let's follow the Guidelines and assure that Saint James Square becomes the amazing Renaissance destination we all know that it can be.  **-Scott Lane**

SJ Fire Museum Milestone

On February 26, San Jose celebrated a most important milestone in bringing the San Jose Fire Museum to downtown. A Check Presentation Ceremony was held in front of the former Fire Station No. 1 where a large group of influential San Joseans honored preservation angels Lee and Diane Brandenburg, who presented their donation of one million dollars to the San Jose Fire Museum. This gift makes it possible for the Fire Museum Board to purchase the former fire station at 201 N. Market Street. The sale for \$1 million dollars was approved by the San Jose City Council on Jan. 27.

Lee Brandenburg announced that the day was also his and Diane's 63rd anniversary. In celebration, he sang two short songs to Diane. "Smoke Gets in Your Eyes" and "I Don't Want to Set the World on Fire" both received enthusiastic applause. Their son, Eric Brandenburg, was also in attendance.

In the next six months, plans are to remediate any hazardous materials, install security and power and set up a small display to introduce the project to potential investors. Additional donations will be gratefully accepted for the dream of this Museum to be fulfilled. The 1951 former Station 1, next door to the modern Fire Station 1 in use today, is a city and state landmark and listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



Proposed San Jose Fire Museum

The many notable guests at the ceremony included Mayor Sam Licardo and representatives from the San Jose City Council and the Santa Clara County Supervisors. Members of the San Jose Fire Museum Board of Directors were on hand displaying beautiful posters and a few of their antique fire-fighting vehicles. John McMillan, President of the San Jose Fire Museum, spoke and reminded the guests that this Museum will be world class with 55 vintage vehicles to choose from for exhibition. In addition, abundant ephemera and memorabilia will help tell the story of the San Jose Fire

Department, first organized in 1854. What a wonderful addition this state-of-the-art Fire Museum will make to the City of San Jose, drawing visitors to experience our past. ☞



Diane and Lee Brandenburg at podium. Jim Carter, Sam Siebert and John McMillan stand by.

(Photo/text:
Gayle Frank)

Willow Glen Trestle Update

By Larry Ames

Last year, the Friends of the Willow Glen Trestle sued the City of San Jose for a proper Environmental Review, and we won. The draft EIR (Environmental Impact Report) is now out for public review.

The draft EIR describes the "Project" as demolishing and replacing the trestle with a prefab bridge. The "Alternate" project, restoring the trestle and adapting it for trail use, is also defined. The draft EIR says both projects are viable.

In the draft EIR, the technical appendices support the trestle:

- ⇒ Leaving the creosote pilings undisturbed is environmentally better than removing them.
- ⇒ The trestle doesn't block the water flow, making a "less than significant" couple-inch change in flood levels.
- ⇒ The trestle is sturdy and can be restored quicker than it can be replaced, and for \$700k less.

However, the draft EIR's "Executive Summary" paints a different story:

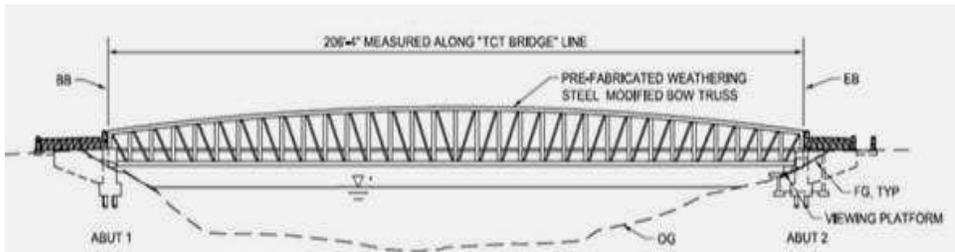
- ⇒ Habitat impact! Trees need trimming from trestle for fire safety. (But steel "yields" at brush-fire temperatures and so trees should be trimmed regardless—but that's not mentioned.)
- ⇒ Traffic impacts! The trestle would be closed every five years for maintenance and after every arson fire.
- ⇒ High cost of maintenance—much more than for the steel bridge! (The estimate given is only \$20k every five years for the trestle —totaling a fraction of the \$700k saving -- but it's more than the "zero" the EIR uses for maintaining the steel replacement.)

Additionally, the City hired a top historian who concluded that a taller trestle has been saved in San Diego County, and a longer one has been saved elsewhere, and so our "common" trestle might not be worthy of state recognition. (The City could and should recognize it as being locally important, but they don't seem inclined to do so.)

Therefore the draft EIR recommends trestle demolition and replacement. The Friends of the Willow Glen Trestle continue our efforts to respond to the draft EIR, including the fact that the trestle is historic! We need to show support with letters, personal stories, money and phone calls. You can help by doing the following:

- ⇒ Donations (tax deductible) can be made to San Jose Parks Foundation and specifying "The Willow Glen Trestle Fund" to www.sanjoseparks.org/donate_3_easy_ways/donate_directly_to_programs_services. Donations will allow us to: (1) hire a "registered historian" to challenge points in the EIR, (2) pay legal expenses, and (3) counter the City's maintenance claims by offering to help.
- ⇒ Call or write your Councilmember. Contact the Mayor and all the Councilmembers; six votes make a majority on the Council. We need to show that there's a ground-swell of support to save the Trestle—it's not just a few but an entire community.
- ⇒ Attend a tour of the trestle and the public meetings. A Saturday tour is scheduled for March 7.

(Cont'd p. 9)



To connect the Los Gatos Creek and the Three Creeks Trails in Willow Glen, would you prefer a new prefab steel bridge... or would a preserved and restored historic wooden train trestle be more interesting?



ON THE RADAR

Century 21 Site

Federal Realty is progressing with conceptual plans for the Century 21 site across from their Santana Row. It appears there may be a 12-story office tower, 189 feet tall, and up to 1,000 apartments spread across multiple buildings that would stand 6-7 stories high. Little retail space is planned except a grocery store. Two thousand parking spaces will be above and below ground inside structures. A public park is planned next to the Winchester Mystery House and wide walkways with landscaping will enhance walkability throughout the site.

And yes, preliminary plans show one dome. PAC*SJ, preservationists, history buffs and dome fans may well be able to give a sigh of relief that Century 21 will be saved. There is still uncertainty as these are just preliminary plans and we don't know how the dome will be used. PAC*SJ will closely monitor Federal Realty's next phase. ☞

Agnews Development Center

The East Agnews Developmental Center off of Zanker Road may not be with us much longer. Page & Turnbull, an architectural design, planning and preservation firm in San Francisco, is documenting its history. The Santa Clara Unified School District hopes to demolish the historic buildings that are eligible to the National Register of Historic Places. According to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements, a report including a historical narrative, descriptions of buildings, photographs, drawings and oral histories is being prepared.

PAC*SJ has attempted to reach out to the school district and the state in an attempt to save at least one building and the water tower. We have been unsuccessful and are disheartened. A report is not a substitute for visiting a real building and touching tangible materials from the past. ☞



PAC*SJ is Still Keeping An Eye On —

- First Church of Christ, Scientist
- Willow Glen Trestle
- Hotel Sainte Claire
- Pellier Park

Trestle (Cont'd)

March 13th is the deadline for comments on the "Three Creeks Trail Pedestrian Bridge Project" draft EIR. Send comments to John Davidson at: john.davidson@sanjoseca.gov.

You might like to contact Friends of the Willow Glen Trestle to share your personal story of why you want the trestle saved. Maybe you live in Willow Glen, worked in the canneries, worked with trains or just enjoy a historic artifact such as the trestle. Come and talk to our camera! ☞

Watch a video about the Trestle at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=nx-_kwTrE0o

Larry Ames, Friends of the Willow Glen Trestle
www.WGTrestle.org
Larry@WGTrestle.org

To Report Vacant Building Problems

If you notice a vacant building accessed by vandals or homeless persons or other alleged violations, report at: <https://secure.sanjoseca.gov/codeEnforcement/blight-report.htm>.

PAC*SJ Spring Yard Sale

Don't forget to round up your household and personal items that you no longer need for our upcoming Spring Yard Sale. As always, it will be held at the "Queen of Yard Sale" abode at 260 S. 13th Street, but will spill over to yards next door, thanks to good-hearted neighbors and PAC*SJ members.

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 Wed., March 25. The Sale begins on Thursday, March 26 and Friday, March 27 from 8 am to 6 pm. On Saturday, March 28, the Sale will be open from 8 am until noon.

Remember: You can search for PAC*SJ items on Craigslist by entering "Preservation Action" in the search box. ☞



.....
PAC*SJ
25
YEARS
.....
1990 - 2015

SJ Woman's Club To Hold Naglee Park Home Tour

San Jose Woman's Club's Fifth Naglee Park Vintage Home Tour will take place on Saturday, April 25 from 10 am until 4 pm.

The Tour includes five historic homes and three lovely gardens, a boutique of hand-made items and antiques, a chat with local historian April Halberstadt about the history of Naglee Park and General Naglee, and delightful boxed lunches served in a lovely garden. All events occur within a few blocks. Park once and enjoy the day walking through historic Naglee Park.

All proceeds from the event are dedicated towards preserving the historic SJWC Clubhouse and expanding its capacity to meet the needs of the 21st century.

Buy tickets online at <http://www.sjwomensclub.org/tour.html> or at the San Jose Woman's Club. Tickets will also be available at select retail outlets in April.

Home Tour tickets are \$35 (\$30 for SJWC members) or you can purchase a Tour ticket with a box lunch for \$15. ☞

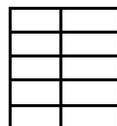
PAC*SJ 2015 Calendar

- Mar 16** Monday, PAC*SJ Board Meeting, 6:30 - 8 pm. History San Jose, Pasetta House.
- Mar 26-28** Thurs, Fri & Sat. PAC*SJ **Spring Yard Sale** at 260 S. 13th St. Thurs-Fri, 8 am—6 pm. Saturday, 8 am—noon. To volunteer or donate contact Patt Curia at donations@preservation.org.
- Apr TBD** PAC*SJ Spring Member-Only Event at HSJ Collections; early April – still being planned
- Apr 20** Monday, PAC*SJ Board Meeting, 6:30 - 8 pm. History San Jose, Pasetta House.
- Apr 25** San Jose Woman’s Club Home Tour; 10:00 am – 4:00 pm. See page 9 for details.
- May 16** **PAC*SJ Walking Tour of the Rose Garden;** 10 am –noon. See page 14.
- May 18** Monday, PAC*SJ Board Meeting, 6:30 - 8 pm. History San Jose, Pasetta House.
- Jun 15** Monday, PAC*SJ Board Meeting, 6:30 - 8 pm. History San Jose, Pasetta House.
- Jun 16** **Visual San Jose Awards Reception;** Historic Photo Contest Winners announced.
- 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.
- Sept mid** **PAC*SJ Fall Member-Only Event.** Details to follow.
- Oct TBD** **PAC*SJ Walking Tour of San Jose Neon;** late afternoon. See page 14.
- Nov TBD** **PAC*SJ 25th Anniversary Party.** Details to follow.

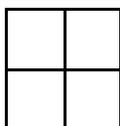
ADVERTISE IN CONTINUITY!

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.

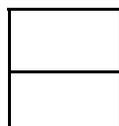
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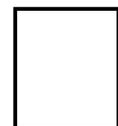
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PAC*SJ Hosting 2015 Historic Photo Contest

The Preservation Action Council of San Jose (PAC*SJ) and the San Jose Historic Landmarks Commission in conjunction with *Content Magazine* and our sponsors are hosting **Visual San Jose**, a citywide historic photo contest. The contest is free and open to professionals, non-professionals and students (under 19). **The deadline for photo entries is April 17, 2015.**

May is Historic Preservation Month and this photo contest will celebrate historic preservation through the eyes of Bay Area photographers. Our mission 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.

Winners' photographs will be included in the June/July 2015 issue of *Content Magazine* and finalists' photos will be on display locally in San Jose in early June. The contest awards reception, in conjunction with the *Content Magazine* release, will be held on June 16, where winners in each category will be presented with prizes from our sponsors.

Submission Requirements:

What: Photographs of historic structures, sites or historic artifacts within San Jose.

When: Photographs taken between July 2014 to April 2015.

Where to submit entries: Submit photographs (limit 2) in jpeg format to Submit2015@VisualSJ.com by April 17.

Entries must include: name, date taken, category and a description of the photograph.

Categories: professional (earns over 50% from photography), non-professional or student (under 19 years of age).

Entries will be judged based on photographic technique, photographic creativity, historical significance and the short written description. For more details and rules of the contest please visit www.VisualSJ.com.

Donations (tax deductible) will be gratefully accepted to help underwrite the costs of the contest. Donations may be made by mailing a check payable to PAC*SJ with a notation that it is for the Visual San Jose photo contest.

Mail your donation to: Preservation Action Council of San Jose, History Park, 1650 Senter Road, San Jose CA 95112-2599. For questions, contact us by email at info@VisualSJ.com.

Sponsors who are providing the prizes and awards reception for this event are *Content Magazine*, Whole Foods, Garden City Construction, Bay Photo, Rocky Nook, SanDisk, Richard Dischler Photo Workshops, The Schoennauer Company, San Jose Water Company, Keeble & Shuchat Photography, Leah Toeniskoetter and Big Dog Vineyards. ☞

Preservation Kudos

Lick Observatory

The threatened Lick Observatory has received financial support from Google that will go towards the day-to-day operations and keep the observatory open. The gift of \$500,000 per year for two years will go a long way in allowing UC students to design and build their astronomy endeavors.

Additional money from UC and donors is also necessary to maintain operations at the Observatory on top of Mount Hamilton. An annual budget of \$2.5 million per year is necessary to be competitive in research and education.

Preservationists and history buffs appreciate Google's support to help keep this iconic site alive. Lick Observatory tells an important story about Santa Clara Valley. ☞

De Saisset Museum, 60th Anniversary

Congratulations to de Saisset Museum at Santa Clara University on its 60th Anniversary. In 1950, Isabel de Saisset bequeathed property to supply funds for a museum in honor of her brother, Ernest de Saisset. A selection of Ernest's paintings were also donated.

The de Saisset family members were prominent pioneers of the Santa Clara Valley. The Museum opened in 1955 and focuses on California history and art. The attractive Mission Style building has three levels with the de Saisset family crest above the foyer door. ☞

Preservation Action Council of San Jose &
San Jose Historic Landmarks Commission Announce



Visual San Jose

2015 San Jose Historic Photo Contest

Enter your recent photo of a San Jose
historic building, site or artifact
Contact: info@VisualSJ.com

April 17th Submission Deadline
June 16th Winners reception
Awards and Prizes

VisualSJ.com



PAC* SJ Walking Tours—2015

This year we'll be having five walking tours. Dates for the later ones are still tentative. 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 have a discount on the other tours as well.

Rose Garden, May 16th

This tour will focus on the Rose Garden itself and the major buildings in the neighborhood. We'll be checking out the Solon and Schemmel tiles on the old Hoover Junior High School. Did you know that Mrs. Hoover visited the school as a former First Lady? We'll learn about the history of Trace Elementary and Lincoln High School as well. We'll even learn a bit about the Rosecrucian Egyptian Museum.

Washington Square, June 20th

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.

Japantown, July 18th

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.



Japantown

Alviso, August 15th

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.



San Jose Neon, October

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 can linger afterwards to take after dark photos too.

Soon you will be able to reserve your spot on one or more walking tours at www.preservation.com. For questions, email us at info@preservation.org. ☞

Anza Marker Dedication-Morgan Hill

On March 28, the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) will be placing a historic marker at the site of the Juan Bautista de Anza Expedition Campsite #92. Anza's group camped here along the Llagas Creek on March 24, 1776, where Morgan Hill stands today. His expedition brought settlers who established the pueblo that became San Jose.

The dedication will take place at 2:00 pm at the intersection of Santa Teresa Boulevard and Llagas Creek in Morgan Hill. A shuttle from Villa Mira Monte (Morgan Hill House at 17860 Monterey Street) will carry visitors to the dedication since parking at the site is limited. ☞

Antiques & Wine Crawl

Members of the Preservation Action Council of San Jose are invited to join the Victorian Preservation Association's (VPA) second annual Antiques and Wine Crawl set for Wednesday, March 25th, at 6:30 pm. Meet other guests at the Antiques Colony, 1881 W. San Carlos Street in San Jose. The tour begins with wine and refreshments and a chat about local trends in the antique market and how to liquidate your antiques. Wine and refreshments are provided by the dealers and VPA.

The tour covers 6 shops on W. San Carlos Street: Antiques Colony, Memory Lane, Rose Garden Vintage and More, Briarwood Antiques, Phoenix Lighting, and Burbank Antiques. Each one will have a few refreshments to enjoy while we look for new treasures.

Come have fun prowling the antique stores on W. San Carlos Street at this private event! Parking is available on W. San Carlos along with some parking spaces behind the Antiques Colony.

Scavenger Hunt: Each guest will be given a scavenger hunt card with instructions to identify the shop with an unusual item listed on the card. Return completed cards to the Antiques Colony at the end of the evening where there will be a drawing for door prizes.

For more information, please contact Patt Curia at pcuria@sbcglobal.net. ☞



Antique Row on West San Carlos St.

Notable Quotable

“San Jose has had a track record of making “progress” at the expense of its history only to later regret some of those decisions...when additional time and effort has been expended to preserve our history...we have been rewarded through an outpouring of support that has led to community building and residents taking greater interest and pride in their community.”

*-David Ginsborg
President, California Trolley & Railroad Corporation
In a letter on 2/26/15 to the City of San Jose in support of
saving the Willow Glen Trestle*

More San Jose Vintage Signs

In the last issue of *Continuity*, we displayed some of San Jose's neon signs. Here are a few more of our favorites. In October our Board member Josh Marcotte will be conducting a tour of his favorite neon signs. ☪



Above, W. San Carlos St. and Bascom Ave.

The Willow Glen sign (left) is a repurposed sign from the former Elite Cleaners on the corner of Willow and Lincoln.

Right, the Garden Theater sign in Willow Glen.

(Photos: Gayle Frank)



Photo From the Past



*Manny's Cellar (former Thomas Fallon home) at 175 W. St. John,
taken on April 21, 1967 by the San Jose Fire Department.*

Many San Joseans will remember Manny's Cellar, a favorite lunch spot in downtown that opened in 1962. Manny Pereira and Tom Taylor were the proprietors. Manny, originally from the Azores, ran the restaurant while Taylor handled the bar. Manny's wife made the cheesecake that sold for \$1.50 a slice.

Manny opened his homey restaurant in the basement, offering excellent food and stiff drinks. The establishment was said to feed hundreds of lunch patrons within twenty minutes. Some even returned that night for dinner. The long-time waitresses

were well-liked characters, each with their particular quirks. Customers were called "sweetie" or "honey" unless someone misbehaved, resulting in an off-color quip.

Manny appreciated his customers and said, "They come in here every day to eat – some of them for years. It's a real nice clientele – first class." Judges, attorneys, jurors, secretaries, students, business owners, policemen, journalists and retirees all enjoyed the food and company. Upstairs, the County juries met for lunch. *(Cont'd p. 18)*

Photo from Past (Cont'd)

The restaurant was in the midst of a ten-year lease when Manny's Cellar was forced to close in 1990. He sold to the Redevelopment Agency, upsetting his multitude of customers. The City of San Jose had condemned the building earlier and subsequently used a state grant of \$1 million dollars to restore the former Thomas Fallon House, built in 1855. Fallon was elected Mayor of San Jose in 1859 and served a one year term. Today the grand house, along with the Peralta Adobe across the street, is a reminder of much earlier days in San Jose. Both the house and Adobe are operated by History San Jose.

Decades before Manny's Cellar, the site had been a hotel, boarding house and a restaurant. Before Manny took over the basement, the restaurant was called "Italian Cellar." When the L'Italia Hotel inhabited the house during the Depression, San Joseans and especially Italian immigrants purchased a family kettle of pasta and meat for 50 cents.

Manny Pereira passed away in October of 2013. ☞

Sources: *San Jose Mercury News*, 12/10/88, 4/12/89. 10/4/89.

History San Jose News

Congratulations to History San José which has received the Capacity Building grant from The DeVos Institute of Arts Management at the University of Maryland. The grant will provide the opportunity to engage in long-term planning for History San Jose specifically related to board development, fundraising and marketing.

History San José joins other local arts organizations such as City Lights Theater Company, San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art, Opera San Jose and many more.

Capacity Building: Greater San José is made possible with the support of the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, the City of San José Office of Cultural Affairs, The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, American Express Foundation, and the Castellano Family Foundation.

And don't forget about History San Jose's exhibit, "Silicon Valley Bikes: Passion, Innovation & Politics Since 1880" that runs through May, 2015. It is the first-ever comprehensive museum exhibit on the history of cycling in the Santa Clara Valley. The exhibit is located in the Pacific Hotel at History Park. ☞

Newsletter Labels

Please note that the date on your Continuity address label is the date when the labels were printed.

It is not your membership expiration date.

In Memory of

Laní Luthard

Jan. 19, 1964—Feb. 5, 2015

*The PAC*SJ community
extends our most sincere
sympathy to the
Luthard Family.*

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.

HS92-62; Ashworth/Remillard Residence 755 Story Road

The House

James Ashworth built his two-story Victorian farmhouse in the early 1860s with a steep gable roof and many cornice eave pieces. The redwood drop siding joins the original brick foundation that is still in good condition. The frame is also redwood.

After Peter Remillard purchased the house in 1891, two rooms on opposing sides of the house were added along with a rear kitchen and a small sleeping porch on the second floor above the front entrance. The west side sun room is surrounded with windows. The addition to the east side consists of a bedroom and bath with an attractive bay window facing the street. Care was taken to ensure the decorative pieces and siding on the additions matched the original house while the Victorian elements were preserved.

The more outstanding features of the house include 12-foot ceilings with plaster ceiling moldings, 8-foot high doors, carved front double doors, three fireplaces, ornate Lincrusta wainscoting and a near original kitchen with early flour bins in the pantry.

Inside the 1860s portion of the house, one room is trimmed with black carved wood imported from Mexico by Count Dandini, Lillian Remillard's husband. Black decorative tiles, made in San Jose, embellish the bathroom and surround a fireplace. Hand painted and fabric covered wood panels adorn what was once Count Dandini's bedroom.

The spacious grounds include a eucalyptus grove of trees, some planted by a young Lillian Remillard, and old black walnut trees. There are interesting and very old

outbuildings behind the main house. One brick structure that served as a kitchen for the Ashworths has hand-made roof tiles and wide doors. A second house called the "Nurse's House" during the Remillard's occupancy was originally built for Ashworth's daughter, Eliza Fay. But later it served as lodging for the nurse who took care of the brickyard employees when sick or injured. There are also small wooden structures in poor condition that had served as a cabin, a small barn and a tool house, said to be from the 1850s.

The History

James Ashworth came from Kentucky by way of Missouri to make his fortune in California. With profits from gold mining in Mariposa, Ashworth purchased 250 acres of farmland on the east bank of Coyote Creek in 1854. Around 1862-1864, he built his two-story Queen Ann Victorian farmhouse for his family of seven children. After Ashworth's wife died, he sold the farm to Peter Remillard in 1891.

Peter Remillard came from Canada to find gold in California in 1854. Not finding much gold, he went to work in an Oakland brick yard. His brothers, Philip and Edward, joined him in the brick business and by 1861 they owned the small brick-making operation in Oakland that was incorporated in 1879 as the Remillard Brick Company. The fire-proof brick was in demand and by 1900 Remillard Brick Company was the largest brick manufacturer on the West Coast. *(Cont'd p. 20)*



Ashworth/Remillard Residence taken in 2015.

Ashworth/Remillard (Cont'd)

The demand was met by establishing brick production plants in San Rafael (1870), Greenbrae (1889), Pleasanton (1882), and San Jose (1892).

The Remillards purchased the Ashworth farm in 1891 but the home was used primarily during the summer months. The property was thick with a creek clay deposit that had the right amount of sand for manufacturing excellent bricks. Near the clay, their brick-making plant and Hoffman kiln, said to be the largest in the state, were built in 1892 and had the capacity to make 50,000 bricks per day. A newspaper article projected producing 200,000 bricks a day for the next year when four Remillard patented molding machines would be in operation. All the Remillard pressed bricks were made at the San Jose yard from 1895 until 1915.

The brick yard operated off and on until around 1961. Lillian Remillard Dandini's husband and family also operated the Reimillard Dandini Company, a brick yard in west San Jose.

Lillian Remillard, the Bay Area socialite, had studied music with prestigious mentors and hoped to sing opera professionally, but when her father died in 1904 she returned from New York. Soon after, she and her mother, Cordelia (Cordule), assumed control of the brickyard. Once the earthquake hit, the company was busier than ever. As Lillian became one of the richest women in the Bay Area, she supported the arts and in 1920 co-founded the San Francisco Opera. According to San Jose newspapers, Lillian's soprano solos in San Jose and San Francisco during 1915 and 1916 were very well received.

Later, in 1932, Lillian Remillard, at age 50, married Count Alessandro Olioli Dandini, who was an aristocratic, handsome, former Italian army officer, twenty years younger. The marriage didn't last and they separated around 1938. But Lillian was now a Countess.

In 1950, Countess Lillian Remillard Dandini purchased the renowned Chateau Carolands in Hillsborough, a fitting residence for a countess. She saved this magnificent mansion, 4 1/2-stories, 67,000+ square feet with 98 rooms, from the developer's wrecking ball. Heiress Harriet Pullman Carolan built the stately home in 1914-1915. The Countess lived in Carolands until she died in 1973 but she never forgot her nostalgic home on Story Road.

A lifelong friend and employee of Countess Lillian Remillard Dandini, Joseph Covey, acquired the Remillard home when Lillian passed. Earlier, he and his partner, architect Dick Gilbert, had leased the house and moved in. Covey and Gilbert both supported historic preservation organizations and were sensitive to the repair and maintenance of the Ashworth/Remillard House, saving its historic characteristics. Gilbert was successful in nominating the house for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. After Gilbert died in 1997, Covey's health gradually deteriorated, and so did the house. Covey was taken advantage of by transients and homeless persons, who overran the house.

Today

Joseph Covey asked Sue Cucuzza to manage the house in 2007. At first, the job seemed overwhelming but her passion for preserving this piece of history took over. Covey passed away in 2010 and Cucuzza is the trustee of the property. The last five years have been spent clearing out overgrowth, garbage, and debris, filling at least twenty dumpsters so far. She is saving all artifacts, ephemera, vintage equipment, and furniture. The brick collection alone could make an interesting exhibit. The exterior of the main house still needs much repair but inside, many of the rooms appear pleasantly restored. Cucuzza has worked diligently to make repairs to the house with hopes to eventually form a nonprofit center for groups dedicated to preserving valley architecture and agricultural heritage. For her it has grown as a project of love. ☪

Sources: -National Register of Historic Places Inventory, Nomination Form, Richard Gilbert, Dec. 1974.

-Interview with Sue Cucuzza.

Photos/Text: Gayle Frank



Ashworth kitchen, back of the main house, likely from 1860s-1870s.

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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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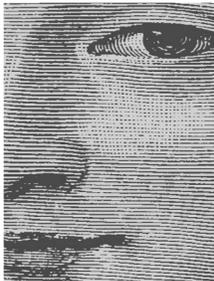
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CONTINUITY

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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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