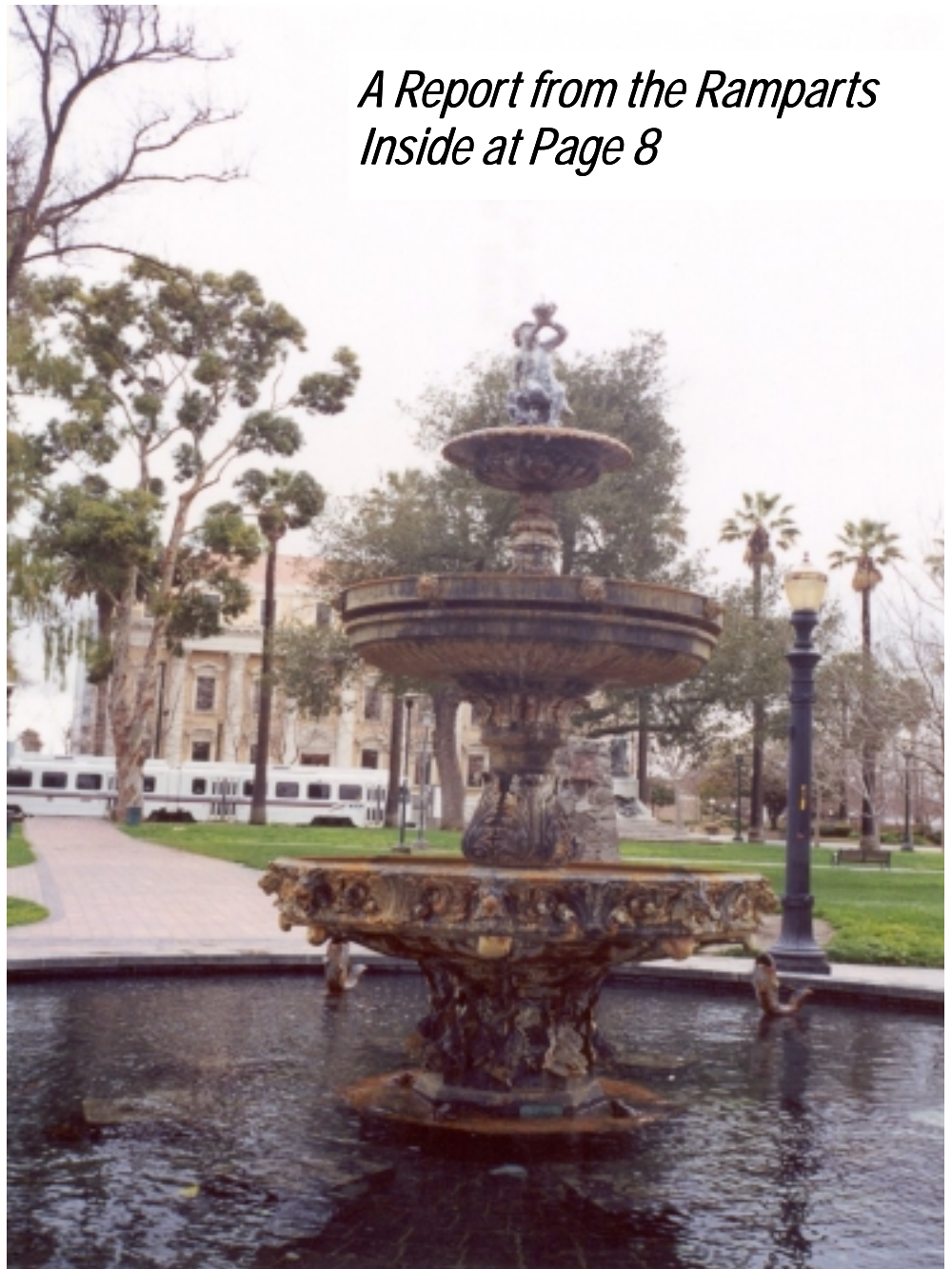


St. James Park: The Next Preservation Battleground?

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From the President

As the City accelerates efforts to remake the downtown San Jose core in derogation of its historic resources, PAC*SJ fights back on two fronts.

We have made an aggressive effort these past few months to move from an all-volunteer group run out of a garage (mine), to one with an office and paid staff. Our new home is in the Mother Olson Inn, 72 N. 5th St., courtesy of a founding father and chief benefactor, **Keith Watt**. PAC*SJ moved into our new home February 24th. Members have been industriously setting up files and reviewing the ten year collection of resources. We have invited the Heritage Council of Santa Clara to share our office, which also houses a partial collection of the Glory Ann Laffey Archives. Volunteers are needed to help organize and staff the office (call **Ellen Garboske** at 446-5474).

In addition, we are seeking paid staff to assist with the monitoring of meetings and projects sponsored by the Redevelopment Agency (RDA) and the City of San Jose. It is not unusual for PAC*SJ board members to leave one evening meeting in order to attend another or to attend three meetings a week. Member **Julia Howlett** has prepared a grant application requesting funds for a part time executive administrator (call me 285-0594 if you want to apply). **Beth Wyman** and I are also interviewing university students for a part time summer intern position with PAC*SJ. Anyone wishing to donate \$3000 will have the Intern Chair named after him/her this year.

Our second front is interacting with City officials. This quarter's activities included attending various RDA meetings that will help determine the fate of the downtown retail district, St James Park and environs, so-called "underutilized" buildings which RDA would destroy to make way for high-rise housing, landmarking the Montgomery Hotel, and the Houghton-Donner House, as well as defining historic guidelines for the downtown core. PAC*SJ is also following the Lewis O'Brien House on N. 6th St., for which San Jose Unified School Dist. failed to prepare an environmental impact report.



*PAC*SJ President Pat Curia*

'We have made an aggressive effort . . . to move from an all-volunteer group run out of a garage to one with an office and paid staff.'

Designated teams of Board members are visiting each San Jose councilperson to explain our priorities and the benefits of historic preservation. Downtown area District 3 Councilmember **Cindy Chavez** attended our March board meeting. We've assigned a team to update her monthly on preservation issues.

PAC*SJ was honored recently for its successful fight to save the Montgomery Hotel from demolition (*see Page 19*).

I am impressed with the stamina and fortitude of the PAC*SJ board and our many members who donate their time to protect our cultural heritage. Some examples: **Maria Brand** is our chief envelope stuffer and bulk mail coordinator. She also brings home-baked goodies to board meetings. **Bev Blockie** did a magnificent job of planning our Spring Event. **Julia Howlett** typed and re-typed our grant application and is now our assistant webmaster. And new member **Bill Robson** has offered his garden in the Los Gatos hills for a future tour. Get involved with PAC*SJ! We're making waves!



*Jack Douglas and Pat Curia inside PAC*SJ's new office at Keith Watt's Mother Olson Inn, 72 N. 5th St.*

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Editor: Don Gagliardi
Technical Support: Tahj Gomes
Distribution: Maria Brand

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Watchdog Report

GRAB YOUR PARTNER, ROUND WE GO! MOVE THAT BUILDING, DO-SI-DO!

Now, before we hear from all those square dancing aficionados out there, let me say that while any dog worth his kibbles enjoys a lively dance, this dog has no idea how to spell Do-si-do! But you get the drift, right? I do believe the above doggerel would be a good theme song for those folks over there in the Redevelopment Agency (RDA)! What with all the talk about moving the Houghton Donner House over to make room for an oh-so-attractive parking garage! And while we're at it, shove the venerable First Church of Christ over some place out of the way! Let's not forget all the historic houses in the way of the proposed Civic Plaza which will be moved as well. Do you see a trend here? Easy to make the wrong move in square dancing. I'm hoping some of these ridiculous proposals find their rightful place in the round file before the footwork comes a tangle!

* * * * *

The Houghton Donner House at 156 E. St. John St. is a classic Italianate styled structure built c. 1881. The house was designed and built for Sherman Houghton and his wife, Eliza Donner Houghton, a survivor of the infamous Donner Party expedition to California. It appears plans to demolish the house have been shelved, but the proposal to move it to another site or just a short "step" to the left is still being considered. Do-si-do!

* * * * *

The top dog at RDA talks seriously about changing the St. James Historic District into a high rise haven! Now we underdogs applaud progress.

We've

even barked our approval of in-fill, provided the new structures are compatible with the existing historic buildings and the overall ambience of the historic district. But we're not going to roll over and play dead while the RDA desecrates St. James Square and its environs. The most hackle-raising idea involves moving the First Church of Christ Scientist. "Just a few feet." Do-si-do! A move worked for the Montgomery Hotel, but as a compromise. It was never considered the best method of historic preservation. And it was very, very expensive. Is that how the City would like to continue spending in the future?

* * * * *

Speaking of current and future plans, are all you good doggies out there aware of the sudden plethora of vacant office buildings in San Francisco and on the Peninsula? Leases going for half what they were just a couple months ago? So many dot-coms closing down and even some stable old-timers pulling in their horns, abandoning plans to expand or move to new quarters. Seems like as if our noble leaders ought to step back, take a good look at what's going on, maybe move just a little bit more cautiously. Would be nice to avoid the possibility of over-building and ending up with a bunch of vacant office space and storefronts in our downtown San Jose,



'We underdogs applaud progress. We've even barked our approval of in-fill provided the new structures are compatible with the existing historic buildings and the overall ambience of the historic district. But we're not going to roll over and play dead while RDA desecrates St. James Square and its environs.'

especially if we have fewer historic structures left in the bargain.

Doesn't take much sniffing down the trail to make some comparisons between San Jose and that far-flung country known as Afghanistan. Don't get me wrong, the good people of Afghanistan are just that, good people. It's the leaders that could use some behavioral training. Seems they decided that historic artifacts, some centuries old, should become just that . . . HISTORY! Here we have the on-going efforts by our oh-so-wise city leaders to demolish, remove, overshadow or just erase many of our fine historic homes, commercial buildings and public structures. All in the name of progress. Dynamite, sledgehammer, bulldozer . . . Do-si-do!

* * * * *

By the time you read this, PAC* SJ members and friends will have enjoyed a spring fling up at the historic Picchetti Winery and Ranch. Hope you were there. These people know how to picnic to please any fun-loving dog! See you down the road, do-si-do!

— The Dog

Commission Recommends Landmark Status for Historic Houghton Donner House

by Don Gagliardi

San Jose's City Council adopted a resolution March 20 to initiate proceedings to consider the historic Houghton Donner house "as a landmark of special historic, architectural, cultural, aesthetic, or engineering interest or value." A public hearing was set for June 5.

The resolution was prompted by PAC*SJ, which through board member Ellen Garboske requested that the City's Historic Landmarks Commission pursue landmark status for the Victorian-era structure. The Commission unanimously agreed to do so at its February 7 meeting and referred the matter to the City Council.

Landmarks Commissioners called the Houghton Donner house "the most historic building in San Jose" and stated that it should remain at its present location at 156 E. St. John St.

The Houghton Donner house, also known as the Allen Apartments in a later incarnation, is located in the path of San Jose's ever-expanding downtown Civic Center project and has been targeted for either demolition or relocation so that a six-story apartment building can be erected on site next to a seventy-five foot free-standing parking garage for City employees.

The threat to the historic house, which is of a late-Victorian Italianate style and was home to two historically important San Joseans, early mayor Sherman Houghton and his wife, Donner Party survivor Eliza Donner Houghton, has engendered significant public outcry not only from PAC*SJ and Landmarks Commissioners.

On January 31, the *San Jose Mercury News* editorialized: "[I]t's beginning to look as if [the City's] preservation strategy is mainly Buildings on Wheels. . . . [N]ow the homestead of a Donner party survivor . . . stands in the way of a housing and parking garage project at Fourth and St. John streets. Movers, start your engines!

" . . . Perhaps the 120-year-old Victorian can be saved by just shifting it a bit on site. We hope so. It's genuinely historic — the Donner connection is



*Photos from PAC*SJ's tour of the Houghton Donner House March 4, 2001.*

*Above: The Houghton Donner House at 156 E. St. John St.; former resident Eliza Donner Houghton; PAC*SJ board member Bill Thomas next to the home's stunning main staircase.*

*Next page (from top): The hand painted Allen Apartments sign above the front entranceway; tour members gather on the front porch (Jack Douglas is in the hat); owner and tourguide Keith Watt explains the home's history; participants chat in the front parlor (downtown activist Christi Welter is in the center of the action); exposed rafters in an upstairs room which sustained fire damage; and PAC*SJ past president John Olson shows off the home's imposing 12-foot ceilings.*

'Landmarks Commissioners called the Houghton Donner house "the most historic building in San Jose" and stated that it should remain at its present location.'



only one element of its history — and even after being cut up into apartments, it's still easy to envision its elegant past.

"Moving historic buildings should be a last resort. San Jose has always relied too much on it. . . .

"The trick to real historic preservation isn't putting buildings on wheels. It's noting where they are — and not planning to build something else on the spot."

PAC*SJ and other downtown community leaders, including Councilmember Cindy Chavez, were privileged with a tour by owner Keith Watt of the inside of the currently unoccupied and unrenovated historic home on Sunday, March 4.

The house, which has twelve-foot ceilings throughout the first and second floors and at one time was broken into nine different apartment units, has about 10,000 square feet of space, including a full basement and a spacious attic which itself, Councilmember Chavez quipped, was larger than her entire nearby Victorian-era Horace Mann neighborhood home. The attic has a staircase leading to a widow's walk with commanding views of downtown — unobstructed by any railing. (The author was relieved to climb back down into the attic.)

While the building seems structurally sound throughout, Watt's renovation work had barely commenced when it was halted by the uncertainty of the house's fate in light of the City's plans for the site. Several of the rooms could use work just to return the floors and walls back to a useable condition. A back section of the second floor sustained fire damage a few years back and is in the worst condition of all (*see photo below*). Watt estimates that the costs of restoring the Houghton Donner house to its original Victorian grandeur could approach \$1 million. Watt hopes to put the building back in service, possibly for offices in the basement and ground floor and overnight accommodations above.

"Other buildings of historic merit in the . . . area are also threatened," wrote PAC*SJ president Pat Curia in a letter last February to the *Mercury News*. "The proposed site of the . . . city employee garage is currently occupied by buildings eligible for the California Register of Historic Buildings. The Redevelopment Agency has done a disservice to the citizens of San Jose by not carefully analyzing the impact of the Civic Plaza to the cultural resources of San Jose . . ."

Diamond in the Rough: Historic Jewelry Store Threatened by RDA's Mixed Use Retail Palladium

The ongoing redevelopment of San Jose's downtown core could claim another historic gem: the three-building Wilcox Block on the northwest corner of S. First and San Fernando Sts.

The Wilcox Block occupies one of five downtown parcels comprising the Redevelopment Agency's so-called Mixed Use Project for ground-floor retail shops or restaurants with offices or housing above. The Agency (RDA) has contracted with a New York-based development consulting firm, Palladium, to transform downtown San Jose into Silicon Valley's premier high-end retail destination, akin to Union Square in San Francisco, Rodeo Drive in Beverly Hills or the seaside



*The Wilcox Building
circa 1920.*

resort of Carmel. No specific plans have been formulated for the Project, yet, says RDA, but the Agency acknowledges that the ambitious Project may entail demolition or substantial modification of historic and older structures.

The Wilcox Block, 93-99 S. First St., is located on the south half of Lot 13 of Block 1 Range 1 North (B1R1N) of William Campbell's original survey of the Pueblo de San Jose. The parcel was first developed in 1850-51 as the Price Hotel, which thrived on passengers between San Francisco and the gold fields.

In the mid-1850s, Elbert J. Wilcox bought a one-half interest in the hotel with his partner, W.O. Barker. The building was then called the Morgan House. Barker's interest was purchased by Newton Johnson

and, in turn, by Wilcox. In 1867, Wilcox hired prominent architect Levi Goodrich, to design a 20-foot six-inch by 90-foot brick structure on the northerly portion of his lot. Wilcox continued to operate the Morgan House in the upper floor of this building, and a pharmacy operated at street level. The Morgan House was a temperance hotel, meaning that no alcohol was allowed on the premises.

When the transcontinental railroad was completed in 1869, uniting the metropolis of San Francisco by rail for the first time to the East Coast, the demand for hotel space dropped dramatically. By 1870, the hotel and adjacent frame buildings housed 28 fulltime residents in addition to Wilcox himself. The pharmacy continued in operation until 1917, operated in succession by L.H. Hare (circa 1870), J.A. Conboie (circa 1876) and Louis

Callisch (early 1880s to 1917).

In 1871, Wilcox removed the structures from the southern portion of his lot. These included an 1850s adobe structure that had housed the Grey Eagle Livery Stable and the frame portion of the hotel. The new brick Wilcox Block was constructed on the south side of the Morgan House and measured 48-feet by 67-feet. This building may have also been designed by Goodrich, or perhaps by J.O. McKee, Wilcox's brother-in-law and a prominent San Jose architect and building contractor during the period.

Wilcox acquired the shoe business of McGowan & Co. and moved it to his building, operating it at 95 S. First St. from 1871 until his retirement in 1900. One of Wilcox's upstairs office tenants was Dr. Benjamin Cory, San Jose's first practicing physician and

former mayor, who occupied the premises from the early 1970s until his death in 1896.

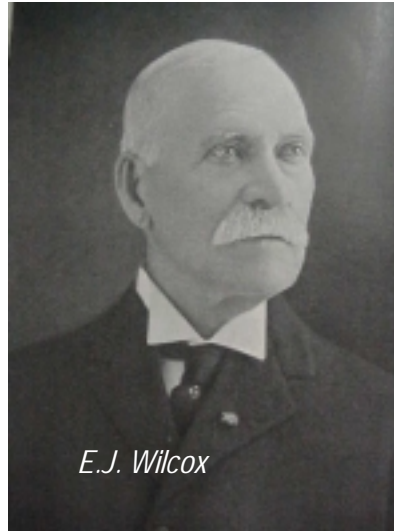
In 1874, the newly-formed Farmer's National Gold Bank took over part of the second floor of the block. In 1881, it became the First National Bank. In 1887, the Garden City Bank moved into the corner storefront, which it occupied until 1906. By 1888, a single story building had been added along San Fernando, expanding the frontage to 138 feet.

Until his death in April 1918, Wilcox was active in local politics and promoted the downtown business district. In 1919, E.J. Wilcox, Jr. took over his father's property interests.

In 1907, the corner storefront was leased to jeweler William C. Lean, and the store was managed by William H. Jung, who later became a partner in the business. In 1920, Lean and Jung purchased the block from the Wilcox heirs. Wilcox's attorney, H. Ray Fry, who had offices on the second floor, did the deal. The Wilcox Block has been in the Jung family ever since.

In 1950, in an attempt to modernize the building, the Jungs hired the architectural firm of Kress & Gibson to redesign the facade of the three buildings comprising the Wilcox Block. Their ground-level jewelry store, W.C. Lean Jewelers continued to operate at the site until 1984. The last tenants vacated in 1999.

'The Wilcox Building offices are evocative of a 1930s private eye pulp fiction novel. They would fetch a premium in downtown San Jose's already overheated office market.'



Although Bill Jung, one the building's current owners has ambitious plans to restore and renovate the building, he says that the RDA has refused to allow any development on the site pending the formulation of the Mixed Use Project plans. Jung is concerned that RDA plans to put a high rise office or residential tower on the site, necessitating demolition of his family's irreplaceable historic property.

PAC*SJ board members were given a tour of the vacant property by Jung on April 4 and were uniformly impressed by the structure. Although the building's exterior is no longer much to look at, according to veteran preservationist Jack Douglas, the facade could easily be restored to its nineteenth century grandeur.



'No specific plans have been formulated . . . but the RDA acknowledges that the Project may entail demolition of the Wilcox Building.'

The interior is in remarkably good condition. There are beautiful suites of offices upstairs, with original moldings, painted glass doorways, elegant fireplaces, and skylights throughout. A first-rate suite of 12-15 offices could easily be accommodated upstairs, with retail or a restaurant below. Although the offices are dusty and in need of refurbishment, they are in better shape than were those now occupied by the Hopkins & Carley law firm in the Letitia Building a half block away or those currently undergoing renovation in the Metropole along Market St. The Wilcox building offices are evocative of a 1930s private eye pulp fiction novel which would fetch a premium in downtown San Jose's already over-heated office market.

PAC*SJ has requested involvement for its board and the City's own historic preservation officer, Courtney Damkroger, in the formulation and development of the Mixed Use Project. In an April 2001 letter, PAC*SJ board member Don Gagliardi told Mayor Ron Gonzales and the City Councilmembers that, "We feel it is important that the Palladium planners hear about the history of this area, and the concerns of the preservation community, from the community itself, unfiltered by the [RDA] staff."

Gagliardi requested a meeting between City and Palladium officials and PAC*SJ members along with the immediate appointment of Damkroger to the Mixed Use Project planning team. Gagliardi also extended an offer to City, RDA and Palladium officials to tour the Wilcox Building.

5121:—St. James Park, San Jose, California.



St. James Park in its turn-of-the century glory, from an early 1900s postcard.

“St. James Park is historically the most important public open space in downtown San Jose,” according to the City’s own design guidelines.’

Requiem for an Historic District?: Redevelopment Agency Plots Assault on St. James Park

by Don Gagliardi

St. James Park and the St. James Square Historic District are ground zero for the Redevelopment Agency’s strategy for re-developing greater downtown San Jose. St. James Park is at the intersection of several discrete RDA initiatives and, characteristically, preserving the historic character of the park and district do not appear to be among the RDA’s priorities.

Located between N. 1st and N. 3rd, St. John and St. James Sts., St. James Square was donated to the City of San Jose by Antonio Maria Pico, per local historian Linda Larson Boston in her pamphlet, *Highlights of San Jose, California’s St. James Park and Environs*. The square “became a park in 1869, with the addition of cypress, eucalyptus, elm, orange and sycamore trees,” Larson says. Diagonals and peripheral walkways completed the stately design of the Nineteenth Century park.

“St. James Park is historically the most important public open space in downtown San Jose,” according to the City of San Jose’s own design guidelines for the park district, enacted in 1989. “St. James Park provides a classic urban space more commonly found in East Coast cities,” says

Larson.

St. James Park was the site of a speech by President William McKinley in 1901, four months prior to his assassination in Buffalo, New York. A statue of McKinley was erected in the park the following year. The park was also the site of the 1933 lynching of the kidnapers and killers of department store heir Brooke Hart, immortalized in Harry Farrell’s award-winning book, *Swift Justice*. And in March 1968, presidential candidate Robert Kennedy held a campaign rally in St. James Park, as with McKinley only months prior to being assassinated.

Surrounding St. James Park are several historic buildings. Along First St. are the refurbished Santa Clara County Courthouse, erected in an effort to lure the California capital from Sacramento, and the U.S. Post Office, a two-story Spanish Colonial Revival built as a public works project during the Great Depression. (The Post Office was being constructed at the time of the lynching and some of the construction site materials were used to storm the jail behind the courthouse to extract the Hart kidnapers and haul them to their fate in the park proper.)

Along St. John St., at the corner of N. 2nd St., is the Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, the oldest church in San Jose, dating to 1863.

On N. Third St. is the First Unitarian Church,

designed by local architect George W. Page in a Richardson Romanesque style. “One of a handful of American churches patterned after Unitarian churches of Transylvania, it features a large triple-arched stained glass window on the facade, multiple domes and cupolas, and both round and square towers,” Larson writes. Down the block is the former Scottish Rite Temple, now the Silicon Valley Athletic Club. “Twin sphinxes projecting from the ground floor are the prominent Egyptian features of the three-story structure,” says Larson. “Following the 1922 discovery of King Tutankhamen’s tomb . . . Egyptian themes became popular throughout America.”

Along St. James St. is the Sainte Claire Club, San Jose’s oldest men’s club, organized in 1888. Across 2nd St. from the Sainte Claire is the First Church of Christ, Scientist, a 1904 structure built in the shape of a Greek cross. The building has stood vacant for nearly two decades and is at risk of being demolished or moved. Next door is the former Letcher’s Garage, also in danger of demolition.

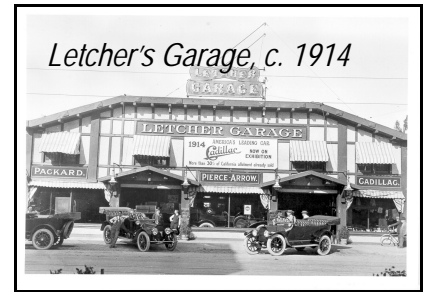
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Post Office Building



Old Courthouse



Letcher's Garage, c. 1914

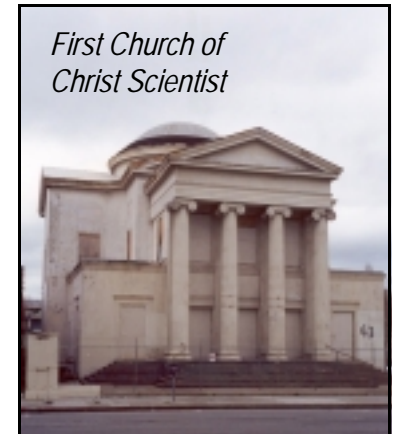
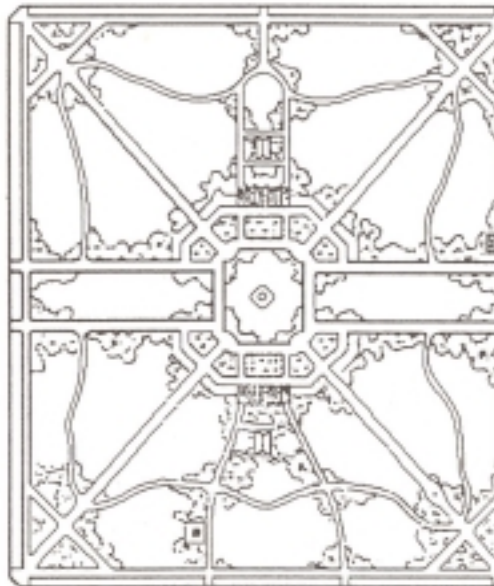
*Above photo courtesy of
History Museum San Jose*



Letcher's Garage, today.



Trinity Cathedral.



*First Church of
Christ Scientist*

*'PAC*SJ has identified St. James Park as its number one preservation priority. In January, board member Tom Simon met with RDA Director Susan Shick and told her that PAC*SJ would "go to the mat" on this issue.'*



*The former Scottish Rite Temple (left)
and the First Unitarian Church (right).*



The Sainte Claire Club.

Above photo courtesy of Jack Douglas.

These eight buildings are "Contributing Structures" within the St. James Square Historic District, a locally designated landmark district also listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It is officially — at least for the time being — "an Area of Historic Sensitivity" under which "all development should be designed to enhance the character of the designated resource." As such, in 1989 the City of San Jose developed Design Guidelines for the district. PAC* SJ board member Jack Douglas was among the citizenry involved in developing the Guidelines more than a decade ago.

The Guidelines stipulate that Contributing Structures "should be rehabilitated for active use. Retaining only the facades of historic buildings is unacceptable." The Guidelines further provide that "demolition of a contributing structure should not be considered without (1) detailed plans for the replacement structure and (2) proof that no reasonable use of the existing structure is possible."

Additionally, the Guidelines provide that newly-constructed buildings which "front the park" must be "one to three stories," with taller buildings set back from the street around the park. And parking structures "should not have frontage onto St. James Park, nor should they be accessed from the streets edging the park."

The RDA intends to scrap the Guidelines along with several of the historic buildings around St. James Park because the Guidelines are diametrically opposed to what the RDA now wants. PAC* SJ is informed that RDA has asked the City's Historic Landmarks Commission to "study" revision of the Guidelines. RDA seeks to demolish or relocate twenty-five percent (2 of 8) Contributing Structures around St. James Park, and to erect high rises destroying the ambience of the remaining historic structures.

St. James Park has its own chapter in the RDA's *San Jose Greater Downtown Strategy for Development (Strategy)*. The expressly articulated primary strategy is to, "Frame the park on available sites with tall, high-density, mixed income residential development. The tallest buildings should surround the Park and step down as they are developed away from the Park to create

a transition to the surrounding lower scaled neighborhoods." This strategy is, of course, exactly contrary to what the City's own existing design guidelines stipulate.

How tall is tall? The Strategy states that these new residential structures would be "10 to 15 stories," but that may be an understatement. RDA director Susan Shick told downtown area residents at a March 24 neighborhood summit sponsored by Councilmember Cindy Chavez that she envisions 16 story-structures abutting the park.

'RDA's strategy is to "Frame the park on available sites with tall, high-density, mixed income residential development. The tallest buildings would surround the park. . . ." This strategy is, of course, exactly contrary to what the City's own existing design guidelines stipulate.'

The high-rise housing would be built directly adjacent to St. James Park. RDA's mixed use project for bringing retail downtown together with additional office and residential space envisions a high-rise residential tower at the southwest corner of 1st and St. John Sts., on the so-called Mitchell Block, kiddy-corner to St. James Park. Ken Himmel, CEO of Palladium Co., the developer hired by RDA to shepherd the mixed use project, told community members at an April 9 public forum that the site is prized for high-rise housing because of the commanding views of the park which its residents' would have.

The block northeast of the park, at 3rd and St. James Sts., mostly but not entirely vacant, would receive the same treatment. RDA has sent out "requests for qualification" (RFQs) to developers to solicit proposals for high rise housing on the site. At least one single-family, well-maintained Victorian home a half block from the park along St. James St. would be displaced in the bargain. Loraine Wallace, a local attorney who owns the property, is concerned that the RFQ "will impede the ability of property owners . . . to negotiate to

perserve historic single family homes."

The block along St. James St. between 1st and 2nd Sts. is also being eyed by RDA for high rise housing. On March 19, Shick told owners of properties subject to the RFQs that there is "an abundance" of land "on the northside" of the park "ready for development." By this, Shick means the sites occupied by First Church of Christ, Scientist and Letcher's Garage. RDA would demolish Letcher's Garage and either demolish or move the abandoned church. In their stead RDA would erect condos up to 16 stories, far exceeding anything in the surrounding area, and more than 5 times the height limits prescribed in the City's own design guidelines.

That's not all. RDA has floated the notion of digging up the park and installing a parking garage under it. This, again, is at odds with the City's guidelines for the historic district. Even the San Jose Downtown Ass'n (SJDA), which vigorously advocates additional parking downtown, has withheld endorsing the idea, stating in its parking position paper that further study is needed of the proposal to instal a parking garage under St. James Park, as opposed to a garage under Cesar Chavez Park (which SJDA endorses) (Full disclosure: the author is a board member of SJDA as well as PAC* SJ). Sue Cam, past president of the Horace Mann Neighborhood Ass'n, voice of residents in closest proximity to St. James Park, says that "I don't believe they can put a parking garage under St. James Park without absolutely destroying the park."

PAC* SJ has identified St. James Park as its number one preservation priority. In late January, PAC* SJ board member Tom Simon met with Shick, the RDA director, and "basically told her that their ideas for high rises" encircling St. James Park "are not acceptable. I told her that we would 'go to the mat on this issue.'"

According to Simon, Shick "did not see the significance of Letcher's," was "unaware of the St. Claire Club" and believed that "the First Church could be incorporated (as a facade) into a new high rise project. She was not concerned about the impact to the district and thought her plan would be something the National Register would think was wonderful," Simon recalls.



Letcher's Garage, circa 1914. Photo courtesy, History Museum San Jose.

Letcher's Garage : A Hidden Landmark on St. James Park

by Ellen Garboske

Few people are aware of the importance of the non-descript building at the northeast corner of First and St. James Sts. Occupied in recent years by a succession of seedy nightclubs, with the original brickwork covered with stucco veneer and the corner open bays enclosed by glass brick panels, it's difficult to imagine the history which took place within its walls.

In that building over a century ago, Clarence Letcher opened what was reputedly the first automotive repair service on the West Coast.

In the 1890s, Letcher and some fellow enthusiasts were building custom "flivver" autos. Letcher realized there was more money to be made in repairing autos than in building them, and in 1900 he opened "Letcher's Garage" along Market St. By 1906, Letcher's business outgrew its original home and moved to a new building fronting St. James Square.

In addition to his repair service, Letcher became a dealer for Cadillac, Packard and Pierce Arrow cars. He also pioneered the Valley's first

'Restored to its original condition, Letcher's garage would be the ideal location for a museum of San Jose's early auto and transportation history.'

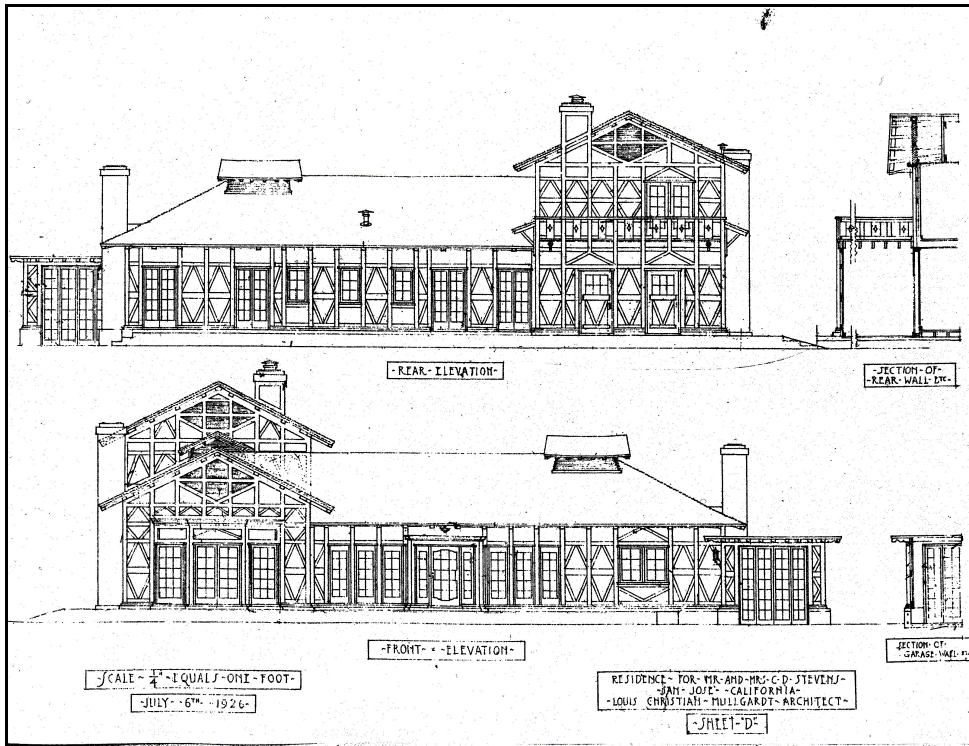
campaign. Predating the famous Burma Shave road signs, Letcher erected signs announcing the "miles to Letcher's Garage," ending with one above the entrance: "End of the Road."

In addition to its auto history, Letcher's Garage was the site of one of San Jose's most tragic love stories. Although Letcher made a lot of money and lived "high on the hog," he was less successful in his personal life. After a failed first marriage, Letcher wed Helen Permian. But their union was rocky due to Clarence's alleged philandering. In July 1926, Helen went to the garage, pulled a gun and shot Clarence

twice in the head and once to his chest. She then shot herself in the temple. It was the "End of the Road" for Clarence and Helen.

Letcher's Garage has some very interesting architectural features. An amalgam of Arts & Crafts and Tudor Revival, the garage contains one of the earliest examples of the use of expansive wood trusses. You can still see the original brickwork and segmental arched windows with large steel fire shutters in the east wall. The stucco along the other exterior walls is believed to be reversible.

Although perhaps not a beautiful building, Letcher's is the earliest auto garage in famously autocentric California. Situated along San Jose's History Walk and a contributing structure to the St. James Historic District, Letcher's Garage is plainly worth preserving notwithstanding the City's plans for high-rise housing on the site. Restored to its original condition, as it should be, Letcher's Garage would be the ideal location for a museum of San Jose's early auto and transportation history.



Louis Christian Mullgardt (above) alongside his drawings of his lone San Jose commission, the Stevens House in the Rosegarden neighborhood.

Drawing courtesy of Pierre Prodis.

They Left Their Mark: Architect Series

Louis Christian Mullgardt: The Last Romantic

by Jack Douglas

Louis Christian Mullgardt (1866 - 1942) was one of the most fascinating architects to practice in the Bay Area. His designs, from hillside mansions to the medieval palace "The Court of the Ages" at the 1915 San Francisco Panama Pacific International Exposition, were dreamlike creations done in wood, stone and cement. His two structures in Santa Clara County, the Stevens House in San Jose and the President's Mansion at Stanford University, are excellent examples of the range of his work. Unfortunately, however the realities of the 20th Century would eventually drive this dreamer into a delirium from which he never recovered.

Mullgardt was born in Washington, Missouri on January 18, 1866. Growing up in a family of German immigrant builders he naturally gravitated toward an architectural career. He apprenticed with several local firms before going east to work for the prestigious firm of Shepley, Rutan and Coolidge, designers of the Stanford University campus buildings. He studied briefly at Harvard, but an illness forced him to drop out. Once recovered, he joined the Chicago firm of Henry Ives Cobb, where he designed the exterior of the Newberry Library and the Fisheries Building at the 1893 Chicago World's Columbian

'A local entrepreneur, Charles D. Stevens, commissioned Mullgardt to design a home for him at 838 Morse St. in San Jose's Rose Garden neighborhood. The architect rose to the occasion to create an absolutely unique, if modest compared to his earlier designs, structure.'

Exposition. He then moved to England, where he did contract work and studied early architectural styles.

In 1905, Mullgardt settled into an office in San Francisco which he shared with Willis Polk and George A. Wright. Although he was on the scene in the aftermath of the 1906 earthquake, he had little to do with the rebuilding of San Francisco. Instead, he designed houses for wealthy clients who wanted hillside homes in Piedmont, away from the burned out city and the bad memories. Building spacious homes on steep hillsides became a passion for this previously flatland architect. Unlike Bernard Maybeck's hillside homes in Berkeley, Mullgardt's designs dominated their settings. He made heavy use of native redwood and the recently created stucco cement surfaces.

Mullgardt's attention was turned to San Francisco when he was appointed to the architectural board of the Panama Pacific Exposition in 1912. He was commissioned to draw up plans for the eastern courtyard of the massive complex, and he spent the following three years creating the fantastical Court of the Ages. His talent for the use of color and texture, light and shadow all came into play in this

mystical creation. It was, however, indicative of the already changing attitude in matters of style that Maybeck's classical Palace of Fine Arts, on the west side, was preserved when the site was cleared and Mullgardt's gothic monument was not.

Two major commissions following the exposition were influenced by the architect's experience there. The DeYoung Museum (1916-19) in Golden Gate Park and the President's Mansion at Stanford had much of the colorized concrete detailing that made the Court of the Ages unique. The rows of finials on the DeYoung had to be stripped off in a 1940s remodel which gave the building the modern look we know today. (Soon this too will give way to an entirely new building.)

The Stanford President's House (1916) is built into the side of a sloping hillside or knoll. The main entrance is at the lower level with a grand stairway to the upper levels. Two wings on the third level fan out in a V formation, providing a wide courtyard atop the knoll for entertaining. Landscaping allows easy access for deliveries. No longer the President's home, it is called "The Knoll" and has long housed the university's music department.

Perhaps fatigued from all this activity (Mullgardt rarely delegated work to assistants), he closed his office in 1921 and went on a world tour exploring the architectural richness of the Orient. He was in

one of the first parties to enter the newly discovered tomb of Tutankhamen.

On returning, he found the post-war period of the 1920s uncongenial and commissions difficult to come by. At the time, there was speculation about a bridge between San Francisco and Oakland. Mullgardt submitted a futuristic design that had a three level span set upon giant skyscrapers built into the Bay — in retrospect not a bad idea given our shortage of office and living spaces.

During this fallow period, a local entrepreneur, Charles D. Stevens, commissioned Mullgardt to

'The President's Mansion at Stanford University (1916) is an excellent example of the range of Mullgardt's work. . . . It is built into the side of a sloping hillside or knoll.'

design a home for him at 838 Morse St. in San Jose's Rose Garden neighborhood. Though at a low ebb spiritually and professionally, the architect rose to the occasion to create an absolutely unique, if modest compared to his earlier designs, structure. The house is built within a framework of four-by-fours which give it a half-timber look from a distance, but upon closer inspection you will see the post and lintel construction which stands outside the wall surfaces and forms what biologists would call an exoskeleton. The original roofing consisted of overlapping horizontal cedar boards. The interior walls and ceilings are done in long, narrow, finely finished pine boards. Essentially a one-story home, it has a second story to the rear for servants' quarters. Numerous French doors provide light to most of the inner spaces. Long the residence of Mr. Pierre Prodis, a prominent local architect, the home is immaculately maintained.

By the 1930s, Mullgardt had given up his profession. A series of family tragedies (his son was killed in an airplane crash) left him wandering the streets of San Francisco. He died alone and forgotten in the pauper's ward of the State Mental Hospital in Stockton in January 1942.



A early 20th century postcard view of the Stanford University President's House, known simply as "the Knoll."

Postcard courtesy of Jack Douglas.

Making the Grade: San Jose's Point System for Preserving Historic Buildings

by April Halberstadt

Frankly, San Jose does not have very good histories on most of its old buildings. As a result of neglect rather than active animosity to preservation, relatively few buildings have been formally evaluated by the City of San Jose.

The rating system used by the San Jose Historic Landmarks Commission and the Planning Department to evaluate the buildings that *are* referred to them is the same rating system established by the National Trust for Historic Preservation used by every other municipality in California. In theory, at least, historic structures in San Jose are measured by the same yardstick that measures structures in San Luis Obispo or Saratoga.

There is a rather complex point system that assigns a value to various historic features. This system allows good comparisons between quite disparate structures, say, an adobe and the Hearst Castle.

What makes a building historic? First, vintage. It has to be at least fifty years old. Then it has to meet additional criteria. It has to be a building that is associated with an event that made a significant contribution to our history (*e.g.*, the Bank of Italy/Bank of America building and the establishment of branch banking), or it is associated with a significant historic person (the Fallon House), is distinctive in type, period or construction (Julia Morgan or Maybeck designed buildings), or is likely to yield important information in prehistory (Indian burial sites).

Historic evaluation is essentially looked at from an "Antiques Roadshow" perspective: age, condition, provenance (who owned it). Adobes and buildings from the Gold Rush era (1850 - 1860) are very scarce and therefore score highly. Buildings that retain their original character are more valuable than buildings that have been "modernized" two or three times. Buildings



*The East San Jose Carnegie Library is "an important remnant" of East San Jose's past which "need(s) to be inventoried and carefully evaluated for historical significance," says local historian and PAC*SJ board member April Halberstadt.*

built by historic figures are given increased importance.

There is a lot of historic research that the City of San Jose has not seen fit to devote the time or money to. For example, old East San Jose was a town that is as interesting as San Jose. For a short period of time at the turn of the Nineteenth Century, East San Jose was separately incorporated. It had its own government, fire department, business district, culture and history. It even had its own Carnegie Library, an important remnant of its past. There also remain many small houses on what is now simply the eastside of San Jose dating back to the 1870s. They need to be inventoried and carefully evaluated for historical significance.

'There is a complex point system that assigns values to various historic features. This system allows comparisons between quite disparate structures.'

Book Review:

Hollow City: The Siege of San Francisco and the Crisis of American Urbanism

by Rebecca Solnit and Susan Schwartzberg

London & N.Y.: Verso, 2000. \$27.

Reviewed by Don Gagliardi

The "New Economy," that dot-com induced binge imbibed by credulous denizens of the Bay Area drunk with greed, is producing a terrible hangover. Plummeting tech stocks. Layoffs. A "crisis in consumer confidence." And the sinking realization that our frenzied redevelopment projects to feed the money making machine have left us with a barren, homogenized landscape in which everywhere is increasingly like everywhere else. That, after all, was the ethic of the New Economy — that the whole world should be a Starbucks, and you can order your latte in advance from the wireless Internet on your cell phone.

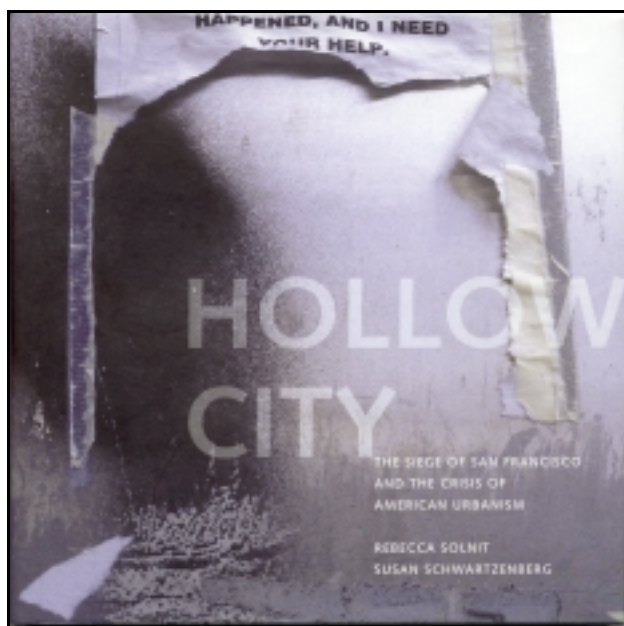
Hollow City, an edgy collaboration between writer-historian Rebecca Solnit and photographer Susan Schwartzberg, surveys the New Economy damage done to San Francisco, where the transformation was no more pronounced than in San Jose but where the backlash from indigenous bohemians has been louder and more creative. *Hollow City* is not scholarly in the classic sense, but neither is it lacking in intelligence or insight. Indeed, it's actually brilliant — incisive, accessible and right on.

With chapters like "The Shopping Cart and the Lexus," "A Real Estate History of the Avant Garde," and "Skidmarks on the Social Contract," Solnit posits that San Francisco's uniqueness, its soul, residing in its working class, ethnic and bohemian neighborhoods, is being squandered. She traces a half century of bone-headed civic planning as well the post-modern gold rush, from the S.F. Redevelopment Agency's obliteration of a vibrant black community in the Western Addition in the 1950s (a lesson for those of us in a San Jose SNI area) to, during the past five years, the dot-commer colonization of artist lofts South of Market St. and e-apartmentalization of what was for 100 years a largely Latino Mission District.

As interesting as Solnit's prose is, Schwartzberg's "photo essays" are what make the book special. Not all the photos are hers, and they're not Mapplethorpes in terms of intrinsic artistry, but the selection of images is more emphatic by far than anything Solnit has to say. The photos are a kind of guerilla theater.

For instance, there are pictures of buildings in the course of demolition, shots of the innards of studio apartments before the landlord doubled the rent, a vacant-eyed black man standing next to an equally vacant lot, and a two-page spread of photos of assorted S.F. Starbucks shops with data on the previous retail tenants (Casa Castillos of S.F. urban renewal). Then there is Schwartzberg's re-publication of actual guerilla street art — the haunting Erik Drooker paintings, the electronic traffic boards that flash, "Danger . . . Income Gap Ahead" and "Capitalism Stops at Nothing," and (my favorite) the faux newspaper poster, "*San Francisco ReExamined*" ("dot com edition") headlined "One Last Mexican in the Mission District." The paper reports that after being evicted from his apartment, the last of the Mexicans was eventually found living a "feral . . . lifestyle in Dolores Park [existing] on roots and berries [and] focaccio crumbs."

Hollow City would be funny if it weren't so dismaying — and if it didn't hit so close to home here in what was once the Valley of the Heart's Delight but now sports three Starbucks within a couple blocks of San Jose's Redevelopment Agency headquarters.



Excerpt

'San Francisco has been for most of its 150-year existence both a refuge and an anomaly. Soon it will be neither. . . . Gentrification is just the fin above water. Below is the rest of the shark: a new American economy in which most of us will be poorer . . . and everything will be faster, more homogenous and more controlled . . . The technology boom and accompanying housing crisis have fastforwarded San Francisco into the newest version of the American future . . .'



*Preservationists pour through the Sourisseau Academy County records on December 13, 1999. From left to right: Leslie Masunaga, SJSU professor Stan Underdal, PAC*SJ's Ellen Garboske and Beth Wyman, Gretchen Dempewolf, Charlene Duval and an unidentified County staff member.*

Photo courtesy of Beth Wyman.

The Paper Chase: The Ongoing Effort to Preserve and Archive Historical Records in Santa Clara County

by Beth Wyman

Surprise, surprise! The preservation of historical records has never been high on the priority list of local governments in Santa Clara County. However, with a recent surge of interest in preserving contemporaneous documentation of our history, a recap of recent efforts at archiving historical records is merited.

1984 Regional Archives Committee

In 1984, when the San Jose State University (SJSU) Library was being moved from Wahlquist Hall to Clark Library, several professors envisioned in the vacated Wahlquist Hall space for a joint regional archive with participation from the County of Santa Clara, the City of San Jose and SJSU. Major players included the always supportive Jim Beall, currently a county supervisor but then a San Jose city councilman, and Zoe Lofgren, now a congresswoman but then a

county supervisor, as well as representatives from the County Historical Heritage Commission and County Records.

Several months of meetings derived promising results. Councilman Beall even traveled to Washington, D.C. to explore the possibility of a County application for a National Historical Publications & Records Commission (NHPRC) grant. Beall was encouraged by Congressman Norm Mineta, now U.S. Secretary of Transportation, that as much as \$70,000 for start-up funding might be available.

The archival effort caught the attention of the *San Jose Mercury News* when Councilman Beall discovered dusty boxes in a city warehouse that been labeled simply, "old stuff," which proved to be important Oak Hill Cemetery records.

Unfortunately, Wahlquist Hall proved to be inadequate for the ambitious vision of joint regional archive, but the determination was not made until approximately 100 feet of Wahlquist shelf space

had been filled with County records, including Superior Court records of probate, fictitious names and articles of incorporation filings. The court records were catalogued and remain housed in the SJSU Special Collections, which were moved to a Senter Road warehouse last year when Wahlquist Hall was demolished to make room for a new joint San Jose/San Jose State Library at the site.

1991 Archives Committee

Realizing that the urgency for an archival project had not diminished, in January 1991 Santa Clara County's Historical Heritage Commission established an archive committee to explore options for County archive space. The commission was represented by Elisa Boyden, Jack Douglas and the author. Participating County departments included the Assessor, Superior Court, County Executive, Records, GSA, Sheriff, Library, County Clerk, Transportation, Parks, Surveyor, Valley Medical Center and Clerk of the Board of Supervisors.

Other representatives included Natalie Wells for then-supervisor Ron Diridon, Leslie Masunaga for the San Jose Historical Museum, Glory Ann Laffey of the Sourisseau Academy and Ellen Garboske for the San Jose Museum Ass'n.

This assembly, many of whom went on to become active in PAC* SJ, surveyed the status of County archives and worked to update the County Procedures Manual and the Records Retention Process. The committee was promised 800 square feet of space, a so-called "vault," at the County's Berger Drive facility, then undergoing a several year remodeling. However, when the remodeling was completed, the vault had disappeared and the prospect of a County archive along with it.

1997 Archives Committee

By 1997, the County Board of Supervisors had authorized a new committee to work with the California Trolley and Railroad Corporation (CTRC) on a joint *Santa Clara County Archives and Railroad Museum Project*. A facility was to be constructed at the family park area of the County fairgrounds on Tully Rd. in conjunction with the CTCR's proposed railroad museum and roundhouse. The CTCR's plan included moving the historic Southern Pacific (SP) roundhouse on Lenzen St. to the fairgrounds to house actual railroad cars.

The 1997 Archives Committee was composed of Douglas, Supervisor Diridon, architect Marvin Bamburg, Heritage Commission chair Paul Bernal, Robert Boehm and Harry Lalor representing CTCR, County Recorder Brenda Davis, Rick Sprain and Ed Teresi and the author representing the Heritage Commission, Evelyn Gatto representing Clerk of the Board of Supervisors Phyllis Perez, Jeannie Jorgenson representing County Librarian Susan Fuller, Kathy Smith from the Superior Court administration, Dave Pierce from the Parks Dept., and Don Marcott from the Surveyor's office.

Months of hard work were spent preparing and critiquing the proposed drawings of an archives building intended to replicate the arcade style railroad depot once located on Bassett St. in San Jose. The professional architecture work was done pro bono by Bamburg and his associate, Maia Gendreau. The group surveyed the fairgrounds site and gathered information about similar projects throughout California. They visited the acclaimed Orange County Archive in August

1997 and subsequently located a document, the *Sonoma County Appraisal of Local Government Records of Historical Value*, which fit our needs in succinctly outlining the process and maintenance issues for archiving county records.

During the years from 1991 to 1998, the County Historical Heritage Commission annually allocated funds for an "archives building," and an optimistic memo dated October 6, 1998 stated that "construction will begin in 1999." However, in mid-1999 a changed Board of Supervisors reviewed the project and raised questions about the operation and funding for its archival component, which would have been staffed part-time by unpaid but well qualified volunteers, such as Archives Committee member Douglas, a retired SJSU archivist emeritus (and PAC* SJ board member), and student interns. Without formal notice to the Archives Committee or the Heritage Commission, in October 1999 the Board of Supervisors quashed the dream of a County Archives.

Current Archives Committee

In January 2000, the Board of Supervisors authorized funds for hiring a consultant to conduct a County-wide needs assessment for historical records. A newly formed archives committee was established consisting of Davis, Masunaga, Pat Love from the County Executive's office, Clerk of the Board Sharyn Schwab, Amy Moore and the author.

'The archival effort caught the attention of the San Jose Mercury News when former Councilman Jim Beall discovered dusty boxes in a City warehouse labeled simply, "old stuff", which proved to be important Oak Hill Cemetery records.'

The committee interviewed archival consultants and selected Dr. Gabriele Carey of History Associates, Inc. to examine whether and what records programs exist in the County, investigate available historical records storage facilities and associated costs, assess staffing options and potential funding sources, and write a needs assessment report detailing her findings and recommendations for efficiently managing the County's records and for establishing, staffing, equipping, finding and operating a County archives.

Dr. Carey was also asked to submit a grant application to NHPRC for start-up funds and to work with local groups, such as History San Jose, Sourisseau Academy, SJSU Library Special Collections, the City of San Jose Main Library California Room and its General Services Administration, and the California History Center at DeAnza College, to prevent duplication of efforts and to assess the possibility of working together on regional issues. GSA, for example, is currently doing a comprehensive, three-year, city-wide survey of records management.

Completed Needs Assessment

The needs assessment was completed in March 2001 and presented to the Archives Committee. Thirty-eight major County departments were interviewed, as well as 15 City clerks and staff from 10 affiliated agencies. A draft application for NHPRC start-up funds was also completed, to be finalized and submitted by October 2002. It was determined that the County's historical records are deteriorating under inadequate storage conditions and that prospects for a regional archives center are lukewarm at best. With hopes that the County might provide space in FY2003, the committee requested the consultant to submit a proposal for completing a second phase survey to identify and prioritize the historical records needing preservation and to devise a methodology for historical records management. The committee intends to request FY2002 funds to be used for planning purposes. Our schedule should dovetail nicely with The City of San Jose's survey. An interim suggestion has been advanced that agencies agree on a format and explore sharing data online. Stay tuned!

Author Beth Wyman, is a long-time board member of PAC SJ.*



'In the Fall of 2000, the long awaited project to restore, renovate and expand San Jose's finest movie palace began, thus briefly revealing the painted sign.'

A Fleeting Glimpse: The Hidden Painted Sign on the Fox California Theatre

by Gary Parks

While serving as a volunteer tour guide at the Fox California Theatre in the early 1990s I learned of the existence of a painted sign on the western wall of the theatre's exterior which had been obscured by the construction in 1962 of a parking garage for the Hotel Sainte Claire. Even a decade ago, we knew that once plans for the Fox California Theatre were implemented, the parking garage would not be long for this world and the hidden theatre sign would once again be visible.

In the Fall of 2000, the long-awaited project to restore, renovate and expand San Jose's finest movie palace began, thus briefly revealing the painted sign.

The accompanying photo shows the sign after the garage demolition exposed it and immediately before demolition of the theatre's western balcony vomitory to prepare for the new expansion of the Fox Theatre. Once this occurred, the sign was gone — this time for good.

The sign dated from 1957, when the Fox Theatre underwent a modernization, hence its heralding of the "New Fox Theatre." The "California" was dropped from the theatre's title

and signage at this time. The present-day marquee fascia was applied over a trapezoidal structure dating to a 1937 redecorating. The lofty entrance foyer was hidden above a dropped ceiling and the Grand Lobby was given new tropical-patterned carpeting along with a red and beige color scheme. Plastic plants and green cove lighting completed the classic late 1950s look. This caused the lobby to have some close stylistic parallels with the interior decor of Original Joe's a few doors down. OJ's opened shortly thereafter.

The 1957 sign was not the first painted on the theatre, nor at this spot. It was applied over an earlier opus dating to the 1920s which read, "Fox California San Jose's Finest Screen Entertainment. Direction Fox West Coast Theatres. San Jose's Greatest Show Value. Parking 25 cents." This sign was similar in appearance and text to the two signs which were painted on the sides of the theatre's lobby structure. The northern of these is still partially visible where the Mission Hotel used to abut the theatre.

At the bottom of the 1920s and 1950s signage could be seen the name VINING. This was the name of the sign company that painted most if not all of the exterior signage for the Fox theatres in the area for many years. The market for wall painted exterior theatre signage of the day was dominated by only a handful of firms, and it is plain to see that

Vining was one of the most ubiquitous.

On page 299 of Peston J. Kaufman's *Fox: The Last Word*, the enormous volume which details the history of San Francisco's long-lamented Fox, a photo shows what is doubtless another Vining creation on the side of that theatre, with a similar circle-and-arrow design as on the San Jose Fox, but tilted vertically.

Such were the fleeting banners of the Golden Age of motion picture exhibition and showmanship. It is an era that will not return, but we can be thankful that San Jose will have preserved its finest jewel from that time in the soon to be reborn Fox California Theatre.

My thanks to PAC SJ boardmember John Bondi, former North Pacific Coast Supervisor of Theatre Operations and Engineering for Fox West Coast Theatres. It is to him that I owe much of my knowledge of this Grande Dame of South Bay movie houses. — Gary Parks.*

Saving Montgomery Hotel Gets PAC* SJ Governor's Award

PAC* SJ, San Jose Mayor Ron Gonzales and the City's Landmarks Comm'n received the Governor's Award for saving the historic but vacant Montgomery Hotel from the wrecking ball. The award was presented by state preservation officer Knox Mellon on March 6 at a city council meeting. "That same night the council voted to begin making the shuttered hotel a city landmark," the *San Jose/Silicon Valley Business Journal* reports.

The Montgomery, which dates back to 1911, was to have been demolished by the Redevelopment Agency (RDA) to make way for an expanded Fairmont Hotel. PAC* SJ filed suit and, after Mayor Gonzales was elected in 1999, a deal was reached to allow both expansion of the Fairmont and survival of the Montgomery by moving the historic hotel 186 feet south along First St. to its present location at a cost of nearly \$13 million. The size of the structure moved was unprecedented anywhere in the world. Although PAC* SJ prefers to keep landmarks on their original sites, in this case it was better to move the Montgomery than to lose it altogether.

The Montgomery Hotel could be back in business as soon as the Spring of 2003, the *Business Journal* reports. The RDA plans an 83-room upscale hotel with a formal restaurant. Renovation costs will be about \$10 million.



Above: Presentation of the Governor's Award March 6. (left to right): PAC* SJ president Pat Curia, Knox Mellon, Mayor Ron Gonzales, Landmarks Comm'n Chair Mark Lazzarini, Councilmember Linda LeZotte and RDA Director Susan Shick. Right: the Montgomery Hotel shown in a mid 20th Century postcard.

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21 PAC SJ Board Meeting
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June

18 PAC SJ Board Meeting
7 p.m. Mother Olson's Inn
72 N. 5th St.

July

16 PAC SJ Board Meeting
7 p.m. Mother Olson's Inn
72 N. 5th St.



The Preservation Action Council of San Jose is a nonprofit membership organization providing information to property owners and education to the public and promoting programs and policies for historic preservation and compatible new architectural design.

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