

CONTINUITY

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

Spring, 2014

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Re-Envisioning St. James Park

By Matthew Quevedo

During the 2013 fall semester at San Jose State University, my classmates and I embarked on a project to show city leaders, urban planning groups and community members the potential ways to redevelop and manage downtown San Jose's public open spaces, urban corridors, urban markets, and transportation centers. Our goal was to develop a design vision for the historic St. James Park and its surrounding community that was innovative and sustainable for years to come.

Downtown San Jose is expected to change dramatically over the next couple of years. The Envision San Jose 2040 General Plan estimates that more than 400,000 people will come to San Jose with the introduction of improved mass transit such as Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) and BART. In our Urban Design Studio, led by SJSU Instructor Ginette Wessel, we spent an extensive amount of time and effort developing a series of proposals focused on preserving the historical character of

the area, addressing the needs of the community, and planning for the expected influx of residents. Using the design frameworks of social equity, economic development, and sustainability, our studio collaborated with community and city representatives, conducted multiple



SJSU student Dominic Merkle presents to SPUR San Jose

precedent analyses, and performed in-depth fieldwork to support design recommendations for three core urban areas as well as the historic St. James Park. Over the course of the semester, we presented our work at SJSU, SPUR San Jose, and the Neighborhood Housing Services of Silicon Valley. The presentation materials and photos are viewable at sjurbandesign.com.

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Executive Director's Message

It's a new year with new challenges – and some old, familiar challenges.

We have a long list and many items are scrambling for space at the top of the list. There are some old favorites still waiting for proper restoration, appropriate historic designation, and plain old respect.

We also have some newer items edging their way up the priority list. In other words, it may be a new year but many of the stories are the same as before.

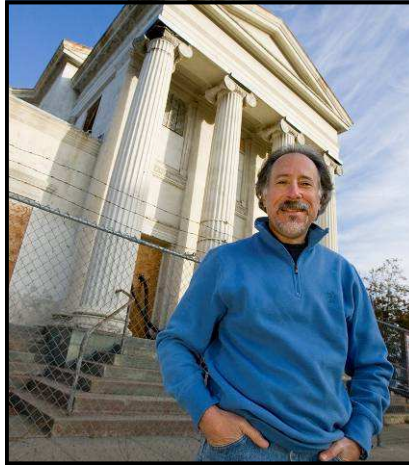
The First Church continues to sit behind a chain-link fence, still waiting for its long promised restoration. The developer, Barry Swenson Builder, hopes to have funding in place soon but we have heard that before. We hope they will be successful soon since everybody would benefit.

The Century Theaters are at a critical juncture in their fight to survive. Already, Century 24 and 25 have met their fate by way of the wrecking ball. That leaves Century 21 – 22 - 23 still standing but the dogs of demolition are licking their chops just waiting for their chance to bring down these structures.

We are focused on saving the most historic of the structures, Century 21. This building is the oldest – 50 years this year – and the most architecturally intact. There is widespread community support – nearly 5000 people have signed the online petition.

Century 21 has been nominated for listing on the National Register of Historic Places and the California Register of Historical Resources. We are supporting that effort and are hopeful the theater will receive historic status in late April.

The Three Creeks Pedestrian Bridge, better known as the Willow Glen Trestle, has been the focus of much discussion. As a member of the Friends of the Willow Glen Trestle, PAC*SJ has shared the concern that the City Council did not follow the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) when it voted to demolish the trestle.



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

Photo: Silicon Valley Community Newspapers


As a result, the Friends have filed a lawsuit maintaining the City did not follow CEQA rules. While we are always reluctant to engage in litigation, whether we file it or support the filing by another organization, there are times when we must not let bad decisions remain unchallenged.

The outcome of this case will impact not only the Willow Glen Trestle but also future decisions that determine what is historic and what is not. If the City Council is allowed to make that determination without benefit of complete documentation, then future potential historic structures will be in constant jeopardy from the whims of the City Council.

The New Year also brings the election of our Board. Congratulations to the following who were re-elected: Sylvia Carroll, Gayle Frank, Julia Howlett, Sharon McCauley, and John Mitchell. Also, congratulations to newly elected Board member, Pat Colombe. Many thanks to all of our Board members for their time, dedication, and passion for the organization and for their efforts to preserve San Jose's architectural heritage.

I also want to acknowledge two people who have left the Board. Thanks to Howard Lyons for his time and efforts on behalf of PAC. Thanks also to Eric Thacker for his time and dedication to PAC. Eric came to us after serving on the Historic Landmarks Commission and most recently he served as our Board president. Many thanks to Eric and Howard for everything they have done on PAC's behalf.

Lastly, we have a number of activities coming up and you can find details elsewhere in this issue. Watch for the information about Walking Tours and our Wolfe & McKenzie Home Tour. I hope you will plan to attend these events and support PAC*SJ.

And don't forget about our upcoming Garage Sale. It's a great opportunity to visit with friends and neighbors, find some great bargains and help support PAC*SJ in the process. 

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

**...the dogs of
demolition are
licking their chops
just waiting for
their chance to
bring down
these structures.**

Re-Envisioning Park (Cont'd)



SJSU teammates Jeremy Attema, Ben Riordan, Danielle Greene and Matt Quevedo present at Neighborhood Housing Services of Silicon Valley.

The three primary study areas for our project in San Jose included: West Santa Clara Corridor, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Streets between San Carlos and St. John, and the neighborhood surrounding St. James Park. After many hours of on-site observation, interviews with residents, historical research, and meetings with local neighborhood leaders, we discovered the needs and interests of people who lived in the area would be fundamental to our design ideas. Local historians and neighborhood groups like the St. James Neighborhood Association and San Jose's Preservation Action Council also taught us about the rich history and current issues facing the area.

Upon our initial observations, we found St. James Park was situated at the center of a vibrant community that had become detached from its assets. Pedestrians did not walk through the area for entertainment or social purposes. With this in mind, my classmates and I conceptualized ways to generate more economic opportunities and improve the vitality and pedestrian experience of surrounding corridors to increase connectivity to the area from other nearby assets such as Guadalupe River Parkway, San Pedro Square Market, and Cesar Chavez Plaza.

Our research findings also showed that the lack of people at St. James Park contributes to its perceived negative

environment. We quickly realized this cannot be solved with old solutions, but rather it needs ones that are new and innovative. We believe that developing ways to attract people to the park is the best approach to rethinking its design. While our class had many proposals, some that received the most attention were adding a sustainable green roof pavilion, repurposing historical buildings that are vacant with activities and groups focused on the community, adding an art walk throughout the downtown area, establishing a weekly lunch food truck pod, developing a café in the park, and holding more community oriented events.

We also looked to other examples in the downtown, such as SOFA district and San Pedro Square Market, in order to understand the keys to their success. We found

these destinations operate on a predictable routine basis that people return to repeatedly. They also have strong programming and long-term management plans in place. Our study also addressed these strategies with a strong focus on new funding models.

(Cont'd p. 4)



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necessarily those of PAC*SJ itself.

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

Re-Envisioning Park (Cont'd)

The community that worked with us made our efforts and this project very worthwhile. On behalf of the class, I would like to thank everyone who came to review our presentations and gave valuable feedback to help us understand the area's dynamics. We hope that this project generated dialogue around a community asset that needs revitalization and that the conversation will continue in the future. I hope that this area will continue to be a historical district that allows residents to be reminded of what San Jose once was as it progresses into the future. 

Matt Quevedo is a lifelong resident of San Jose and a student in the SJSU's Master of Urban Planning program.

Ginette Wessel is a Visiting Lecturer in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning at San Jose State University where she teaches Urban Design. She is also a PhD Candidate at the University of California Berkeley and has a Master of Architecture and Master of Arts in Geography from University of North Carolina, Charlotte, NC.

Below is a small portion of the San Jose State University students multi-faceted presentation, illustrating adaptive reuse of the First Church of Christ, Scientist on St. James Street, across from St. James Park.

Engaging Community Towards Park Revitalization

First Church of Christ, Scientist Adaptive Reuse

Recommendations For Park Revitalization



Rendering by Jeremy Attema. Adaptive reuse of First Church of Christ as a children's theater.

- 1) Historical reuse of First Church of Christ, Scientist building as an intimate event center. Providing additional space for the performing arts in San Jose.
- 2) Community led garden space to enhance community involvement and public health.
- 3) Updated history walk and features to engage more people to appreciate San Jose's historical background.
- 4) Provide community led commercial crates (retail stations) around the park to promote pedestrian activity. Potential uses: Bike repair, crafts, sports rental, food and beverage stand, garden accessories.

Century 21 Update


In January the San Jose Historic Landmarks Commission agreed to consider nominating the Century 21, 22, 23 site as a possible landmark. The theaters and the former Bob's Big Boy restaurant (now Flames) on Winchester Boulevard are excellent examples of mid-century modern architecture and are becoming rare, unique specimens.

Information prepared by a qualified historian would need to be submitted to the city to verify the structures' historic value. If the study determined that any or all of the structures qualify as historically significant then the nomination would proceed to the San Jose City Council for city landmark approval. If the property fails to become a city landmark, a development application for the site must still address any potential impacts to historic resources as required under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Although an official city commission can make the nomination the City has no funding or staff to produce the necessary documentation that must be submitted to move the process forward. The only way for this to occur is for the work to be

done by an outside party. In addition, the outside party would be charged over \$4,000 in fees by the City to submit the application.

While we fully support the Historic Landmark Commission's nomination of the site, we are focusing our efforts on the National Register nomination that is currently under review. We believe achieving this status will make a stronger case for saving Century 21 than the local landmark designation.

At this same time, historic documentation for Century 21 has been submitted to the National Trust to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places. California state landmark designation would also be approved in parallel. These determinations are expected in April of 2014. Supporters of saving at least one of the Century dome theaters hope that the National and California designations will strengthen the case to protect the structure(s) from demolition. The 50-year old Century 21 was the first of the Syufy Century theaters to be built and its architectural integrity remains intact. 

Juana Briones Exhibit

The California Historical Society is presenting a bilingual exhibition about the life and times of Juana Briones (1802–1889)—pioneer, founder and healer. The exhibit will run until June 8, 2014 at 678 Mission Street in San Francisco. The exhibit is described as the following: "Through paintings, maps, portraits, legal documents, and artifacts, we realize a vision of Juana Briones as a woman adaptable yet undaunted in her pursuits. More broadly, through her accomplishments—as mother, landowner, business woman, and humanitarian—we glimpse how some women, including those of Mexican and Spanish descent, influenced our state's history on a wide-ranging yet distinctively human scale."

PAC*SJ has published many Continuity articles over the years about saving the Briones House in Palo Alto. It was demolished in 2011 after a decade-long preservation battle. A unique portion of the wall from the 1850s home was saved and is now on display at this exhibit. The wood-framed wall is filled with rammed earth and is a rare example of early California home construction.

The Society's Gallery and store are open from 12 pm to 5 pm, Tuesdays through Sundays. Admission is \$5. On March 20, a Third Thursday Event, free tours are offered of the

exhibition at 6:00 pm. For more information visit

www.californiahistoricalsociety.org/exhibitions/juan-briones. 



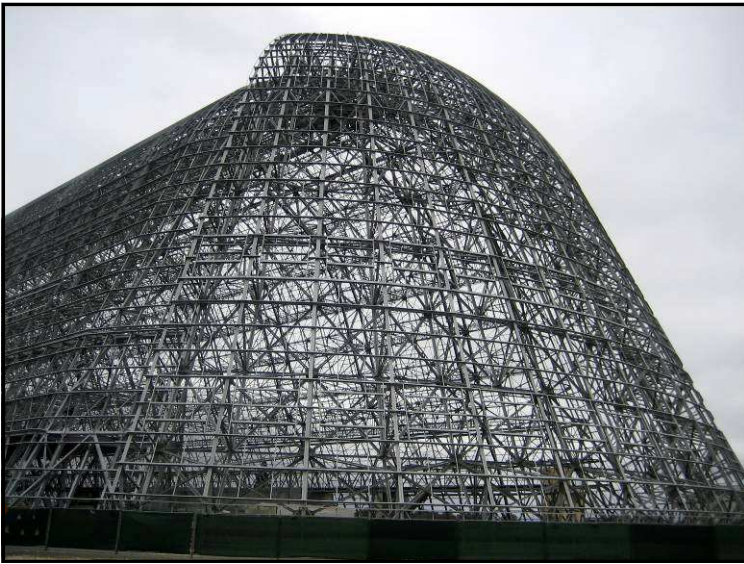
Preservation Kudos

Hangar One

Kudos to Google for stepping up to the plate and winning the bid to lease Hangar One at Moffett Field. On February 10th, the Federal government announced that a Google subsidiary, Planetary Ventures, was chosen to operate and control the airfield and to restore the iconic Hangar One. The company has stated that it plans to “preserve the heritage of Moffett Federal Airfield.”

The long-term lease will include Hangar One, two other hangars, two airfields and nearby buildings and land.

Plans for Hangar One have not been confirmed but possible options that have been mentioned by others include an educational center or an aerospace museum. A reliable source hints that the Hangar might be used for building and testing robots, planetary rovers and other aviation/space projects. The first step in restoring the Hangar will be to re-skin the metal skeleton and protect the structure from the environment. ☞



Above, Hangar One at Moffett Field in 2012, after skin was removed by the Navy.

Right, Hangar One before skin was removed in 2004.

(Photos: G. Frank)

Faber's Cyclery



While traveling down South First Street, we've noticed that Faber's Cyclery (photo above) is gaining new life after being ravaged by fire in April 2013. The structure is enclosed with fencing and tarps hang over the space where the roof should be.

We have yet to discover what the future holds for this icon from the past.

From saloon, to soda shop to bicycle repair, the building has quite a history since 1884. Perhaps there is a bicycle museum in its future? ☞



Hitachi Projects for Cottle Road Site

Hitachi Global Storage Technologies is planning a new Hitachi Campus and Transit Village for the 332-acre site at 5600 Cottle Road. Hitachi has owned and operated its business from the former IBM site since the early 2000s.

Early IBM Site

Back in the 1950s, architect John Savage Bolles and landscape architect Douglas Baylis implemented a relatively new concept. Their unified design for a modern IBM campus would be pleasing to employees and conducive to productivity. Bolles was a successful and award-winning residential and commercial architect.

Construction began in 1956 for the IBM Cottle Road campus on 190 acres. The buildings are decorated with multi-colored tiles that resembled an IBM punch card. Louvered-covered walkways lead to the buildings' entrances. Patios, gardens, reflective pools and sculptures enhanced the structures. The colored tiles and louvers, so unique to these buildings, are not reusable.

The first five buildings (001, 005, 009/011, 010, 013) were constructed with concrete, steel and glass in 1956-57;

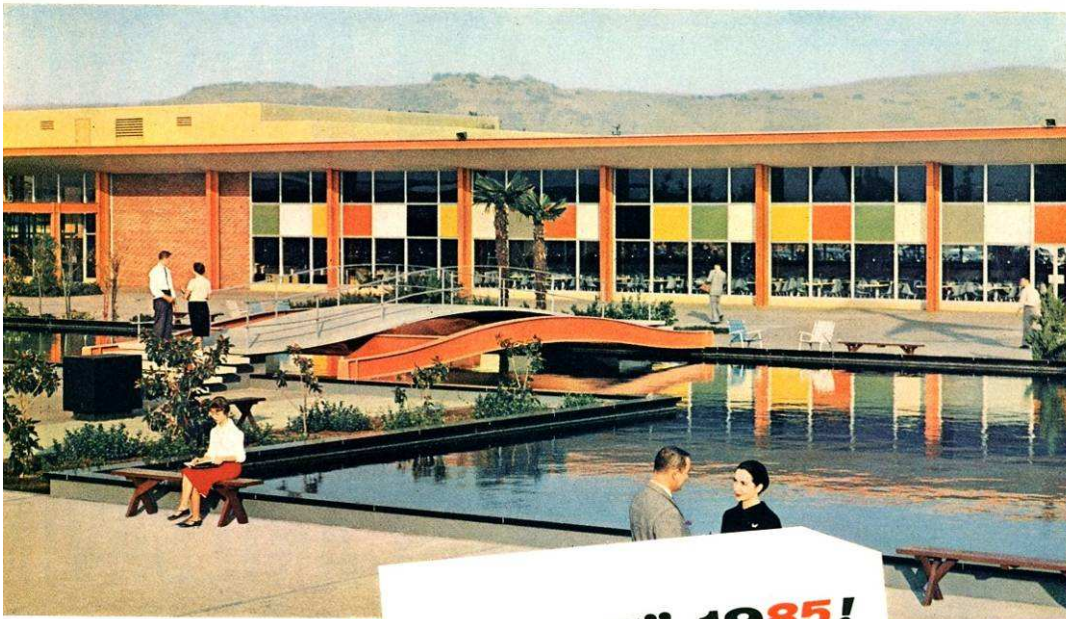
four other buildings (006, 007, 014, 015) were built between 1959 to 1965. The Random Access Memory Accounting & Control (RAMAC) disk manufacturing was located in Building 001 and general manufacturing took place in Building 005. Building 013, an "H" shaped building, served as product engineering. Building 010 was used for customer training/education but was previously razed. Building 002, built in 1957, operated as a power plant but was greatly altered later.



Above, Building 005, an early IBM building that housed general manufacturing.

Below a 1960s IBM ad with the reflective pool, bridge and Building 011.

COLOR PLATES COURTESY OF BETHLEHEM STEEL CORPORATION



IBM General Products Division in San Jose, California . . . Voted "One of America's 10 most beautiful plants."

"THINK" 1985!

IBM made history with the invention of the RAMAC hard disk technology that pioneered on-line computer systems. After development of RAMAC in downtown San Jose (99 Notre Dame), the Cottle Campus was designed and built for manufacturing and servicing the product. Further research and development thrived in the historic, multi-winged IBM Building 025, securely located across the road from the rest of the facility. That structure was destroyed on (Cont'd p. 8)

Hitachi Projects (Cont'd)

March 8th, 2008 by a suspicious fire after PAC*SJ settled a lengthy lawsuit to save the structure.

Hitachi Campus and Transit Village

Of Hitachi's 332 acres, its core campus will consolidate into 56% of the total acreage and the other 46% of land is planned for retail, grocery store, fuel station and up to 2,930 residential units.

Hitachi planned to demolish or substantially alter the early IBM buildings that have been used in its business. The original IBM campus of nine of its initial buildings and landscaping is considered a potential historic district. This potential district is associated with important local events of our past, displays distinctive architecture, has retained historic integrity and much of it is at least 50 years old. These IBM buildings are excellent examples of Mid-Century Modern design that demonstrate John Bolles' original corporate industrial vision.

Mitigation Response

In response to the site's historic resource evaluation, Hitachi will reduce the significant impact on this historic resource by retaining two existing buildings (009/011) along with the "pedestrian spine," its landscaping and trees. This spine walkway progresses the length of the historic buildings and unifies the entire design. At the north end, Building 011, the former



Above, the Pedestrian Spine, a walkway through the former IBM building site, unified the architect's complete design.

Below, a louvered entrance to Building 014.

IBM cafeteria, is connected by a covered walkway to the smaller Building 009 (offices). Both sit near the recently developed RAMAC Park, built by Hitachi.

Saving Building 009/011 on a 4-acre plot along with the "pedestrian spine" will partially mitigate the loss of the buildings contributing to the potential historic district – but will not mitigate the negative impact to a less than significant level.

Suggestions for possible future uses for Buildings 009/011 are park facilities, sports courts, office space, arts, crafts, or dance space, or preferably a museum to exhibit the history of the former IBM site.


Other required mitigation efforts to lessen the significant impact to the potential historic district include ensuring building salvage, touring the site by interested preservationists (PAC*SJ participated on a September, 2013 tour), and documentation conforming to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Architectural and Engineering Documentation. Historic American Building Survey (HABS) photographs were taken in 2006.

(Cont'd p. 9)



Hitachi Projects (Cont'd)

Further mitigation efforts will involve such future developments as streets, parks, buildings or gardens to be named after people or events associated with the IBM Cottle Road Campus. Hitachi also plans to display vintage tech artifacts and tell the story of the magnetic head/disc drive origins, and features the art and sculpture from IBM days. All art and sculptures from the former IBM campus have been logged and documented and stored by Hitachi. Photographs were taken of each art piece in its original setting.

Buildings 005 and 015 are presently vacant and will be demolished. Building 006 serves as a manufacturing facility for Hitachi and will not be impacted. New buildings are planned to replace the older buildings along the "pedestrian spine" in order to accommodate future business needs. Hitachi has about 200 employees on this site. Its headquarters are in the Evergreen area on Yerba Buena Road but by 2015, all operations will be brought to this site. 



Left, Courtyard in front of Cafeteria Building 011.

(Top 3 photos by Arnold Del Carlo taken in 1957. Courtesy of Sourisseau Academy)



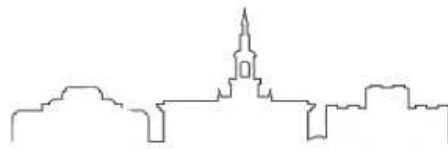
Top, Hydro Gyro sculpture, designed by Robert B. Howard, in reflecting pool looking south toward Building 005 and 013.

Above, bridge over reflection pool and Building 011, the IBM Cafeteria.



Left in 2013, looking south toward Building 009 with Building 011 far to the right. The rectangle filled with soil is the former reflection pool.

(Present day photos & text: G. Frank)



PRESERVATION ACTION COUNCIL OF SAN JOSE
and San Jose Historic Landmarks Commission

ANNOUNCE

San Jose's 2014 Historic Photo Contest

in Celebration of Preservation Month in May

April 27th

Deadline for submitting photo(s)

June 5th

Winners Reception
Awards & Prizes

Email submissions (limit 2) to
contest2014@SJHistoricalPhoto.com

Include your name,
category (student or adult),
brief essay about your photo,
and your photograph (taken in 2013-2014)
in jpg document format.

You will be notified if you are chosen as a
finalist for the exhibit at Southern Lumber.



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For more information and rules of contest visit: www.sjhistoricalphoto.com.
For questions, email 2014HistoricPhotoContest@preservation.org.

San Jose's Historic Photo Contest

This year PAC*SJ has partnered with the San Jose Historic Landmarks Commission in hosting the 2014 San Jose Historic Photo Contest. We were fortunate to entice interested photographers to organize and administer the contest. They are May Yam (Chair), Charles DeLisio and Josh Marquette.

PAC*SJ thanks them for their commitment to ensure the contest's success.

May is Historic Preservation Month and this third city-wide photo contest will celebrate San Jose's historic treasures. Judges for the contest are Josh Anon, Richard Dischler and Franklin Maggi. Their biographies are below. They will select contest winners in Adult and Student categories. Entries will be judged on the written explanation, photographic technique, photographic creativity and historical significance.

Photographs (in jpg format and taken in 2013-2014) of historic structures, sites or artifacts in San Jose can be emailed to: **Contest2014@SJHistorical Photo.com**. Name, category (student or adult), and a description of the photograph must accompany each photo submission (limit 2).

Deadline for entries is April 27th, 2014. For additional details and contest rules visit **www.sjhistoricalphoto.com**.

Finalists will be notified in early May and their photographs will be displayed for a few weeks. An awards celebration will conclude the exhibit on June 5th at Southern Lumber Company, 1402 Monterey Highway, where winners will be announced and prizes presented.

The goals of the photo contest are, 1) promoting historic preservation of San Jose's resources through a visual presentation; 2) introducing new people to the importance of our historic resources and their impact on the quality of life; and finally, 3) celebrating the efforts that have been made to preserve our city's history and recognizing the irreplaceable historic resources that are threatened.

Tax deductible cash and in-kind donations will fund the prizes for the winning photographers. Donations may be made by check payable to PAC*SJ with a notation on the check that it is for the photo contest. Mail your donation to: Preservation Action Council of San Jose, History Park, 1650 Senter Road, San Jose CA 95112-2599.

For more information or to make a credit card donation, please visit 2014HistoricPhotoContest@preservation.org or call 408-998-8105. 

Meet Photo Contest Judges

The three judges for the 2014 San Jose Photo Contest are:

Josh Anon is an award-winning nature photographer, author, teacher, and cinematographer. With over 18 years as a photographer, his work has appeared in galleries including The Smithsonian Natural History Museum and has been published in a wide range of places. He's written 7 books, most recently *See It: Photographic Composition Using Visual Intensity* (Anon and Anon, Focal 2012) and taught for a variety of places including a nationwide school, Digital Photo Academy. Josh has credits as a cinematographer on a wide range of Pixar movies, including *Ratatouille*, *Toy Story 3*, and more. Currently, he is the CEO of a startup feature film development company.

Richard Dischler studied with Arthur Leipzig and was involved with the Ralph Weiss Workshop from 1976 to 1979. He was a member of J.A.M., the Jamaican Arts mobilization group that was instrumental in the creation of Public Studio

Project #1 that is now part of the Museum of Modern Art in New York City, and a member of SoHo Photo. He has been published in Profile Magazine and exhibited at the Nippon Club, J.A.M. Galleries, and various public galleries. His work is in public and private collections including the Queens Museum of Art, the JCC Collection, and other locations throughout New York. Dischler has been an instructor and juror of photography since 1976.

Franklin Maggi is an Architectural Historian and Managing Partner for *Archives & Architecture, LLC*. He has a professional degree in Architecture with an area of concentration in Architectural History from University of California, Berkeley. He has prepared intensive-level project assessments involving historical resources for a large and diverse range of properties in the region. Franklin is also an architectural photographer with over 25 photographic documentation archival projects for Archives & Architecture.

Meet Our New Board Member

New Board member Pat Colombe retired from the City of San Jose as a Principal Planner with 30 years of experience, specializing in community and project design. She recently completed three three-year terms on the San Jose Historic Landmarks Commission, the last term as commission chair.

She holds a BS in Environmental Design/Architecture and a Masters of Urban Planning, both from UC Berkeley. Currently she sits on Santa Clara Valley Water District's Environmental Advisory Committee and serves as Secretary to the Santa Clara Dog Training Club.

In addition to these activities, she enjoys keeping an eye on development issues in San Jose, her pets, gardening, traveling, reading, theater, cooking, friends and relatives, and house projects. At 100 plus years old, her Naglee Park home keeps her hopping. ☘



Pat Colombe

2014 PAC*SJ Board at Work



*Past President and long-time former PAC*SJ Board Member André Luthard (standing) generously agreed to assist the PAC*SJ 2014 Board as a facilitator in planning and defining roles.*

Seated from left to right, Sharon McCauley, Gayle Frank, Julia Howlett, Hugh Graham, Eric Thacker and Sylvia Carroll. Board meetings are held in the Pasetta House at History Park.



ON THE RADAR

Willow Glen Trestle Update

In January, the San Jose City Council approved the Three Creeks Trail Pedestrian

Bridge Project Mitigated Negative Declaration and the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan. It also authorized the construction contract to be awarded, which means demolishing the trestle and replacing it with a steel bridge. The Council vote was 9 -2 with Donald Rocha and Xavier Campos opposed. In order to move forward with this project the City Council declared the trestle as non-historic based on a 2004 "short-form" historic evaluation, ignoring the trestle's rich and fascinating history uncovered in 2008 by local historians. Apparently, if the City Council says it's not historic, then it's not historic.

California's Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) states that the destruction of a historic structure requires a detailed Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to evaluate alternatives. A Willow Glen Trestle EIR would allow the City to properly evaluate whether restoring the trestle for trail use, an option described by the City's own engineering report, is in fact feasible.

The City's long-term plan called for the preservation of the trestle for trail use. However, this was ignored when in the Spring of 2013 the Council abruptly decided to replace the trestle and repurpose the trestle restoration grants for demolition instead...using various parliamentary sleights-of-hand to avoid any meaningful public discussion of this decision.

The Friends of the Willow Glen Trestle have concluded that further legal action is needed to assure that the city complies with State environmental laws. Therefore it has filed a lawsuit to "challenge the San Jose City Council's ongoing refusal to apply legal protections of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to historic and cultural resources." PAC*SJ supports its actions.

Hopefully these efforts will help preserve other historic structures in San Jose and will clarify points of the CEQA law for all Californians.

Source: Friends of the Willow Glen Trestle; <http://wgtrestle.org>

Former San Jose City Hall Site

On Feb. 4th the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved an agreement with Lowe Enterprises Real Estate Group and M. Arthur Gensler Jr., and Associates, Inc. to study the predevelopment of the Civic Center, which includes San Jose's former City Hall site on N. First Street. The agreement includes preparation of a Facilities Needs Assessment with a date of completion of August 3rd, 2015 plus two 90-day extensions; the fee for this work is not to exceed \$364,550.

The work will include planning studies, developing documents and assessing the County's space needs. If the County proceeds with the Civic Center redevelopment, then the scope, budget and timeframe will be negotiated.

Lowe Enterprises is a nationally recognized developer based in California, and Gensler is an internationally recognized architecture and planning firm based in the Bay Area. PAC*SJ has encouraged the County to protect the former mid-century City Hall building and renovate and restore it for adaptive reuse. ☞



PAC*SJ is Still Keeping An Eye On—

➔ First Church of Christ, Scientist

➔ Hotel Sainte Claire

➔ Pellier Park

➔ Fallon House

Be San Jose's Eyes & Ears

Act as eyes and ears for the City of San Jose. If you see a vacant building or home that can be accessed by vandals or homeless persons, fill out a form online and submit it along with your name, phone, address and a description of the problem. Other alleged violations can also be reported. To access the form, go to: <https://secure.sanjoseca.gov/codeEnforcement/blightreport.htm>.

PAC*SJ 2014 Summer Walking Tours

There will again be three walking tours of important places in the history and architecture of San Jose. We will tour the Vendome and Palm Haven/North Willow Glen neighborhoods, and also stroll down The Alameda. All Saturday tours will begin at 10:00 am.

Vendome - June 14



The neighborhood is named after one of San Jose's premier hotels of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The Hotel Vendome was a tourist destination from which people could take carriages to tour the Valley of Hearts Delight, Stanford, Alum Rock Park and the Lick Observatory. The outer streets made up a working class neighborhood beginning from the days of the Woolen Mills and the arrival of the railroad from San Francisco to San Jose. When the Vendome was razed in the early 1930's, the hotel property was developed into an upper middle class neighborhood.

Because the area developed over time, the architecture is varied. It runs from Victorians along San Pedro and Fox to marvelous Spanish Eclectic homes along Ayer and Rankin.

We'll begin the walk at Ryland Park near First Street. Because general parking is limited in the neighborhood, taking Light Rail to Ayer is recommended. There are some parking spaces in the Ryland Park lot and along San Pedro.

Palm Haven/No. Willow Glen - June 28

Palm Haven, known for the Mexican fan palms that line the main street and the plaza, was laid out in 1913 as an independent corporation. Growth was slow during World War I but took off thereafter. Palm Haven joined the City of San Jose in 1922 but didn't dissolve as a corporation for several more years.

Initially property owners were bound by lower limits on the price of the homes to be built, so all of those homes were substantial. Some smaller homes were subsequently built as the minimum was not raised with inflation, but many of them were redeveloped on consolidated lots because of the desirability of this near-in suburb.



Many famous civic and business leaders lived in Palm Haven, as well as artists and architects, most notably the Frank Wolfe family.

This tour is based on the books Touring Historic Willow Glen and the recent Palm Haven.

The tour will begin at the corner of Fuller and Bird in North Willow Glen. There is more street parking available on this side of Bird, particularly along the north side of Fuller bordering Fuller Park. We'll hit a few of the highlights of the North Willow Glen neighborhood, particularly some interesting homes on Bird, before going through Palm Haven. If time permits, we'll see more of this neighborhood at the end of the walk.

The Alameda - July 12

The Alameda was a connection between Mission Santa Clara and Pueblo de San José de Guadalupe. In 1799, neophyte Indians from the Mission began planting willow saplings along the route, resulting in a shaded lane between the two locations, an alameda.

On the tour, we'll look at many of the prominent homes and businesses along the street and discuss some of the ones that are now gone. One resource for this tour is The Alameda The Beautiful Way.

Our tour will begin at the corner of Emory and the Alameda, where we'll see the exterior of the house where our pre-tour party on August 22nd kicks off our Wolfe and McKenzie Homes Tour on August 23rd. Most of the walking tour highlights will be covered by the time we approach the railway overpass near Stockton Street, so depending on the heat and how individuals are feeling, there is the option to take the #22 bus back to the starting point. They run every 15 minutes.

*Reservations can be made for walking tours
beginning May 1st.*

*Tours are \$10 each or three tours for \$25
for PAC*SJ members.*

Non-members are \$15 for each tour or \$30 for three.

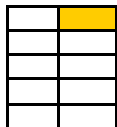
PAC*SJ 2014 Calendar

- Mar 13-15** Thursday-Saturday, **PAC*SJ Garage Sale**, 260 S. 13th St. See page 17 for details.
- Mar 17** Monday, PAC*SJ Board Meeting, 6:30 - 8 pm. History San Jose, Pasetta House
- April 21** Monday, PAC*SJ Board Meeting, 6:30 - 8 pm. History San Jose, Pasetta House
- April 27** Deadline for submitting your historic photos for the 2014 San Jose Historic Photo Contest. See pages 10-11 for details.
- May 19** Monday, PAC*SJ Board Meeting, 6:30 - 8 pm. History San Jose, Pasetta House
- Jun 5** Thursday, 6:30, **Reception & Awards** presented to winners of **2014 San Jose Historic Photo Contest** at Southern Lumber Co., 1402 Monterey Highway, San Jose
- Jun 14** Saturday, 10 am, **PAC*SJ Walking Tour** of Vendome District. See page 14 for details.
- Jun 16** Monday, PAC*SJ Board Meeting, 6:30 - 8 pm. History San Jose, Pasetta House
- Jun 28** Saturday, 10 am, **PAC*SJ Walking Tour** of Palm Haven & No. Willow Glen. Details p. 14.
- Jul 12** Saturday, 10 am, **PAC*SJ Walking Tour** of The Alameda. See page 14 for details.
- Jul 21** Monday, PAC*SJ Board Meeting, 6:30 - 8 pm. History San Jose, Pasetta House
- Aug 18** Monday, PAC*SJ Board Meeting, 6:30 - 8 pm. History San Jose, Pasetta House
- Aug 22** Friday, Wolfe & McKenzie **Pre-Tour Party**, 6:30 pm. Details to follow.
- Aug 23** Saturday, **Wolfe & McKenzie Homes Tour**, 10 am to 4 pm. Details to follow.

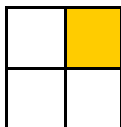
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Continuity is distributed to over 500 San Jose preservationists, homeowners and decision-makers. It's a great way to get your message out to your best potential customers! For ads larger than the business card, you must supply camera-ready artwork,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

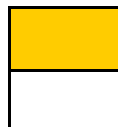
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Wolfe & McKenzie Homes Tour



Don't Miss seeing these wonderful homes designed by early 20th century prominent San Jose architects, Frank Wolfe and Charles McKenzie, who partnered between 1899-1910.

⌘

Saturday, August 23rd, 2014

⌘

Pre-Party on Friday Evening, August 22nd

⌘

Tickets on sale beginning June 1st

PAC*SJ Spring Sale

Please bring over those long saved but never used items from Grandma and duplicate wedding presents to the site of the Preservation Action Council of San Jose Garage and Salvage Sale: 260 South 13th Street. The sale will run on Thursday, March 13 through Saturday, March 15 (Thursday and Friday 7 am to 7 pm and Saturday 7 am to 1 pm.)

We can pick up items locally. If you want a donation receipt, please contact Patt Curia in advance. All unsold, usable items will be kept for another PAC*SJ event or donated to HOPE Services or the Wildlife Center. Teachers may also request items for school use.

This sale is traditionally our biggest source of funds for advocacy, education and event planning. Contact Patt Curia at donations@preservation.org to volunteer or donate. ☞



Would you like to go green and read the *Continuity* online? Do you toss or recycle the *Continuity* after reading it rather than share it with a friend? Why not save paper and receive an email notification and link to read the newsletter online? Just notify Gayle Frank at gaylefrankCA@gmail.com and you will receive an email with the *Continuity* link as soon as the newsletter is ready.

Events at History San Jose

- ◆ Latest Exhibit beginning March 24, 2014:
Shirley Montgomery: Picturing San Jose Since 1938
- ◆ Reflections of Old San Jose, A Historic Fashion Show, Saturday March 14 at 2 pm. Light refreshments. \$25.

Recent news: History San Jose has partnered with Google Cultural Institute to launch a group of online exhibits. These exhibits will include a total of 166 artifacts, derived from three "physical" exhibits curated by History San José and shown at History Park. They are now accessible to the entire world, showcasing the depth and variety of HSJ's permanent collection. The HSJ exhibits on the Google Cultural Institute site may be accessed at www.google.com/culturalinstitute/collection/history-san-jose or by searching for "History San Jose."

In memory of Walter Cottle Lester (1925-2014)

A true preservation hero: Walter Lester and his family were united in their resolve to preserve the Cottle Ranch in perpetuity for future visitors to enjoy. The Ranch was part of the original Rancho Santa Teresa Mexican Land Grant, purchased by Walter's great-grandfather Edward Cottle in 1864. Lester worked with local and state officials to preserve the Cottle Ranch as a working educational farm for future generations.

The First Mountain Top Observatory By Gayle Frank

The James Lick Observatory is perched on top of Mount Hamilton at 4,200 feet and about 20 miles east of San Jose. Visitors must travel a winding road to reach the Observatory, but the view, the buildings, the telescopes and the museum are all worth it. This year marks the 125th anniversary of this facility run by the University of California.

Using "The James Lick Trust" stationery from Lick House in San Francisco," James Lick (right) wrote the following text on June 15th, 1876: *This is to certify that I have designated the Summit of Mount Hamilton, in Santa Clara County, as the site selected by me for the location of the Observatory to be erected by The James Lick Trust...*¹



In those days, observatories were built in cities, so Lick originally planned on erecting an observatory in San Francisco. But astronomers were becoming aware that lights, smoke and hustle-bustle of cities were detrimental to star gazing. After considering various mountain tops such as Mt. St. Helena, Lake Tahoe mountains, and Bay Area peaks, Mount Hamilton was the final choice — becoming the first observatory built on a mountain peak.

Santa Clara County agreed to take on the arduous task of developing a road to the top of Mt. Hamilton. It felt the prestige of having a renowned scientific facility in the county was worth the cost, \$70,000. The 2,500 acres of land for the road and mountain top was granted to the Lick Trust by the Federal and State governments. The 26-mile zig-zag road, completed in 1876, was designed well for work animals transporting equipment and materials needed for building the Observatory.

James Lick (1796-1876)

James Lick was a Pennsylvania Dutchman who arrived in the Bay Area via South America and built his wealth by purchasing real estate before prices rose.

He was an experienced and skilled cabinet maker and built pianos in New York and South America. His wood working abilities were exemplified in his Santa Clara "Mahogany Mill" (1855) and his Italianate house (1858-60),

as well as the elegant Lick House hotel (1862) in San Francisco. Historians describe him as honest, industrious and with an excellent business sense, yet he was also considered irritable with a disagreeable temperament, especially in his later years. He designated much of his fortune to scientific, charitable and educational activities. The most impressive of his do-

nations provided for the largest telescope in the world, which would further scientific research but also serve as his monument to himself. Lick's great-grandniece, Rosemary Lick, wrote a book on his life entitled "The Generous Miser," an apt description of his character.

From Lima, Peru, Lick arrived in San Francisco in January, 1848 with his tools, workbench, money and 600 pounds of chocolate. He realized that the town and harbor would be a center of

commerce and bought up as much land as he could with his \$30,000 in Peruvian gold. He sold all his chocolate to eager customers and convinced his previous neighbor in South America, Domingo Ghirardelli, to bring his chocolate enterprise to San Francisco. The discovery of gold in California brought instant growth and now Lick's real estate investments increased dramatically as he purchased land from owners who sold cheaply to pay for their gold mining expeditions.

Building the Lick Observatory

After Lick's death in 1876, the responsibility for formulating the details of Lick's Observatory fell to the Lick Trust, guided by Lick's chosen President of the Trust, Captain (Cont'd p. 19)



1881, building the 12-foot telescope dome at Mt. Hamilton

Observatory (Cont'd)

Richard S. Floyd. Two other key people in building the Observatory were Thomas Fraser, foreman of Lick's Santa Clara properties and assigned as Superintendent of Construction for the Observatory, and prominent U.S. astronomer Simon Newcomb.

A dispute over Lick's estate stalled construction of the Observatory until 1880. At last Floyd and Fraser, with a team of workers, leveled thirty feet off the mountain peak — about 40,000 tons of rock was broken loose with dynamite. Then Fraser discovered a bed of fine clay a mile below the summit, which enabled the approximately three million bricks needed for the observatory to be fired in a kiln built nearby. As another plus, Fraser found a spring near the summit that supplied water for drinking and power.

Plans for the Main Building of the Observatory, designed by S. E. Todd of Washington D.C., included two domes connected by a long hallway, offices, laboratories and a library. The architectural design has been described as Italian Renaissance style with the use of deep entablatures and moldings, and a pediment over the west door. The 25-foot smaller dome at the north end was constructed first and completed in 1881. A 12-inch telescope was installed and utilized for research right away. (It now houses a 40-inch reflector known as the Nickel telescope.)

The connecting structure progressed southward edging toward the planned dome for housing the 36-inch lens telescope.



Since the length of the telescope was not yet defined, dimensions for this dome could not be finalized. The glass disk required for the giant lens, made in Paris, broke in transit. Without the lens, the length of the telescope tube could not be determined.



Finally in late 1885, an acceptable piece of glass arrived in Boston. A year later the lens, manufactured by Alvan Clark and Sons, America's foremost makers of telescope lenses, was transported across the U.S. on a special railroad car. It reached the summit of Mount Hamilton by horse and wagon in December, 1886. Union Iron Works of San Francisco could now start building the required 75-foot dome, advanced for the times because it compensated for metal expansion.

A thick wall of bricks formed a 235-foot circle to support the dome. Then a foundation was laid for the telescope's support pier of cast iron, under which the body of James Lick was placed. Ten years after a San Francisco funeral as grand as one for a head-of state, Lick's body was transferred quietly to beneath the largest telescope in the world (at that time). A simple bronze plaque is inscribed with the words "Here Lies the Body of James Lick."

(Cont'd p. 20)

Above right, the 36-inch refractor telescope inside its dome.

Left, building the dome for the 36-inch telescope, c. 1887.

Observatory (Cont'd)

After fifteen years of planning and hard work, the world's most powerful telescope, in its new dome, saw "first light" on January 3, 1888, after an adjustment was necessary to shorten the focal length. The eyepiece of the 58-foot telescope tube was reached by raising or lowering the floor by 17 feet. Cranks, gears, rods and chains moved the telescope. Hydraulic cylinders moved the floor. By April, the Lick Trust turned over the Observatory to the Regents of the University of California.

The New York Times announced on May 29, 1888, that the Lick Observatory buildings were completed and the "magnificent telescope" was in position. The new hydraulic ram that powered the movable floor under the dome worked well "without noise or jarring." The article mentioned that the slate roofs on the buildings were "beginning to crumble due to the dry atmosphere" so copper roofs were scheduled to replace the slate. To maintain the Observatory, the Regents "planned \$20,000 per year for maintenance."

125 years at Lick Observatory

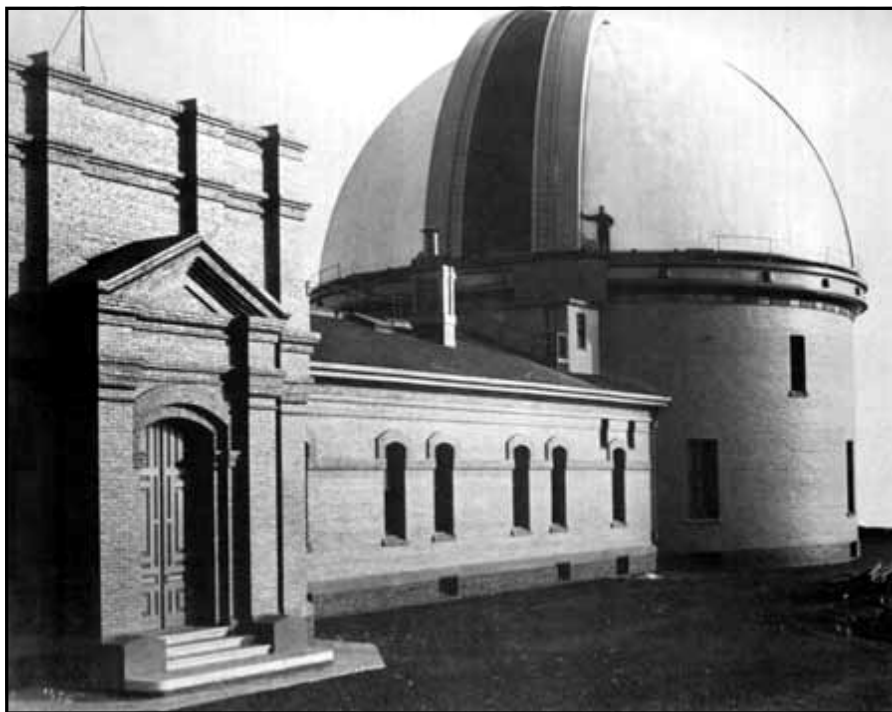
The Lick Observatory with, at that time, the largest telescope in the world, was originally designed for visual research and real-time viewing of the sky. The 36-inch refractor, the 12-inch telescope and the Crossley reflector served as the visual observing tools. By the early 20th century, actual visual activity was largely replaced with photography. At Lick the photographic plate archive is one of the largest collections of astronomical plates in the world, estimated at around 150,000 plates. These consisted of silver crystals suspended in gelatin on sheets of glass.

Later, photographic telescopes, a 20-inch dual astrograph and a Shane 120-inch reflector, were added to the facility.

Electronic detectors gradually came into use throughout the 20th century and finally in the early 1980s, digital imaging arrived. Some of many discoveries made at Lick Observatory include five of Jupiter's moons, a new-earth asteroid, extra-

solar planets and four double planet systems.

Since 2008, Lick's Historical Collections Project has proceeded to locate and catalog significant scientific objects, securing their safety and organizing them for education and historical research. "Since its establishment, the Lick Observatory has left a major imprint on the history of astronomy in America."²



Lick Observatory, Close-up view of the Dome for the 36-inch telescope, ready for business by 1888. Note man standing on ledge of Dome.

125th Anniversary Read into the Congressional Record

On December 9, 2013, Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren introduced a full page document into the U.S. Congressional Record — briefly describing Lick Observatory's history and accomplishments in honor of its 125th anniversary. The document states that Lick Observatory has upgraded its capabilities and is still producing ground-breaking discoveries. The Adaptive Optics project enables resolutions comparable to the Hubble Telescope at a much lower cost. The Automated Planet Finder locates earth-like planets. The 125-year old Lick Refractor was coupled with an automatic camera and photographs star clusters in our galaxy, providing valuable mapping information. Lofgren ends with, "I wish to congratulate the Lick Observatory on its 125th anniversary, and commend not only its scientific achievements, but also its work in inspiring others to pursue the wonders of science."

(Cont'd p. 21)

Observatory (Cont'd)

The Future of Lick Observatory

The future of Lick Observatory is now on shaky ground. The University of California is discussing plans to reduce funding for Lick Observatory beginning in 2016 and stop all funding after 2018, meaning research would end. The Regents feel that modernization of the facility would not be cost-effective and the telescopes at Lick are not as modern as newer world telescopes.

Opponents to closing Lick stress that the Observatory is important in testing new technologies and allowing faculty, students and post-doctoral

candidates to gather research and data. Future funding for Lick operations, approximately \$1.5 million/year, must be procured or the Observatory's telescope activities will end and the public programs will cease. There are about 35,000 visitors to Lick each year. Many young people visit the Observatory and discover the excitement of astronomy.

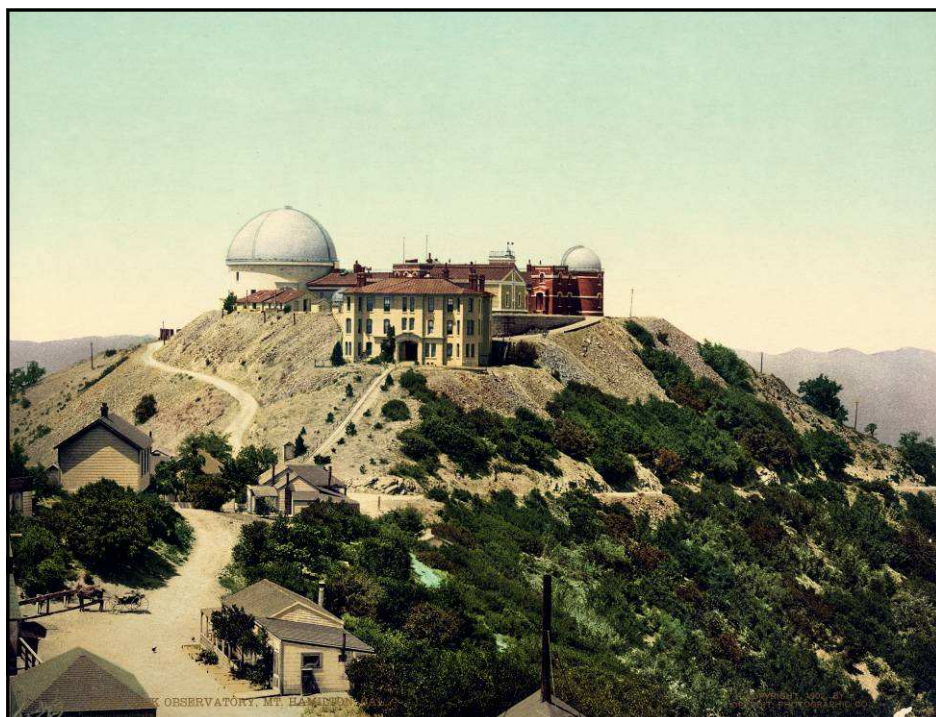
A team of scientists and private citizens has been appointed to a *Lick Observatory Council* to find support and resources for the Observatory's future. For more information, visit www.ucolick.org. ☞

Sources

¹ http://collections.ucolick.org/archives_on_line/James_Lick.html

² http://www.nps.gov/history/online_books/butowsky5/astro4b.htm.

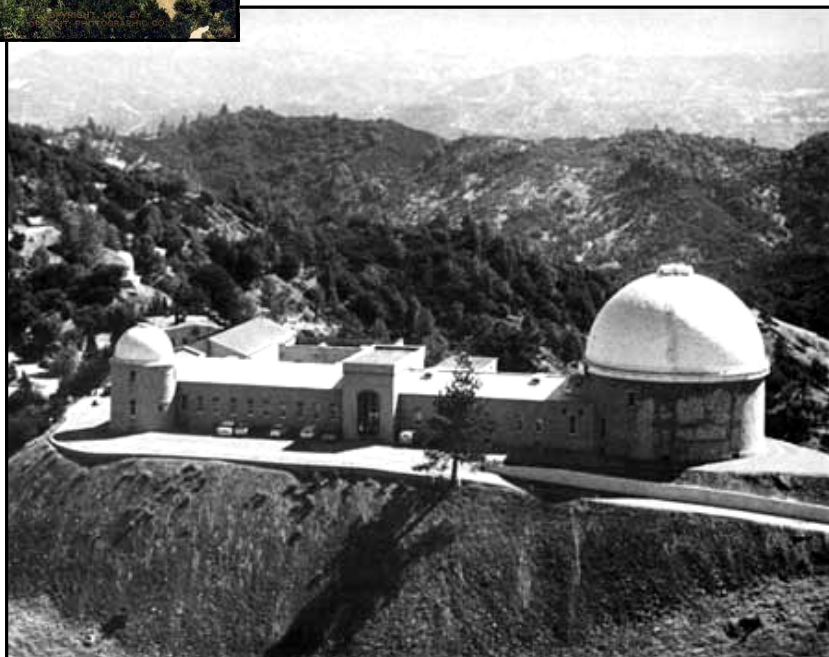
Additional source: *A short History of the Lick Observatory*, F.J. Neubauer, *Popular Astronomy*, Vol. 58, p.201.



*Above, 1902 view of Lick Observatory—
view from the east.*

*Lick Observatory on Mt. Hamilton—
view from the west, taken in 1952.*

(Photos courtesy of Lick Observatory. Copyright UCO/Lick and UC Regents, except the 1902 photo)



Exploring San Jose Landmarks

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

HL-92-59; Mark's Hot Dogs, 45 S. Capital Ave.

The large concrete orange that houses Mark's Hot Dogs in San Jose was originally built for the *Giant Orange* franchise that featured freshly-squeezed orange juice. Eventually sandwiches, sodas, hamburgers, frankfurters and snacks were also served.

The *Giant Orange* structures were designed by Frank E. Pohl, a grocer, whose orange-shaped stands were placed along the highways spanning Northern California.

Pohl's first venture with juice stands was a Jumbo Lemon Stand in Menlo Park that was shaped like a huge lemon. Then Pohl started his *Giant Orange* endeavor in 1926 with the first one located in Tracy.

Pohl's early orange stands, before 1929, were purchased from a Vacaville blacksmith shop. The original Oranges were manufactured with steel and plaster by Ed "Bunny" Power, the founder of the Nut Tree Restaurant in Vacaville.

The *Giant Oranges* were popular juice stands from the 1930s until the 1970s. Pohl eventually built up a franchise of at

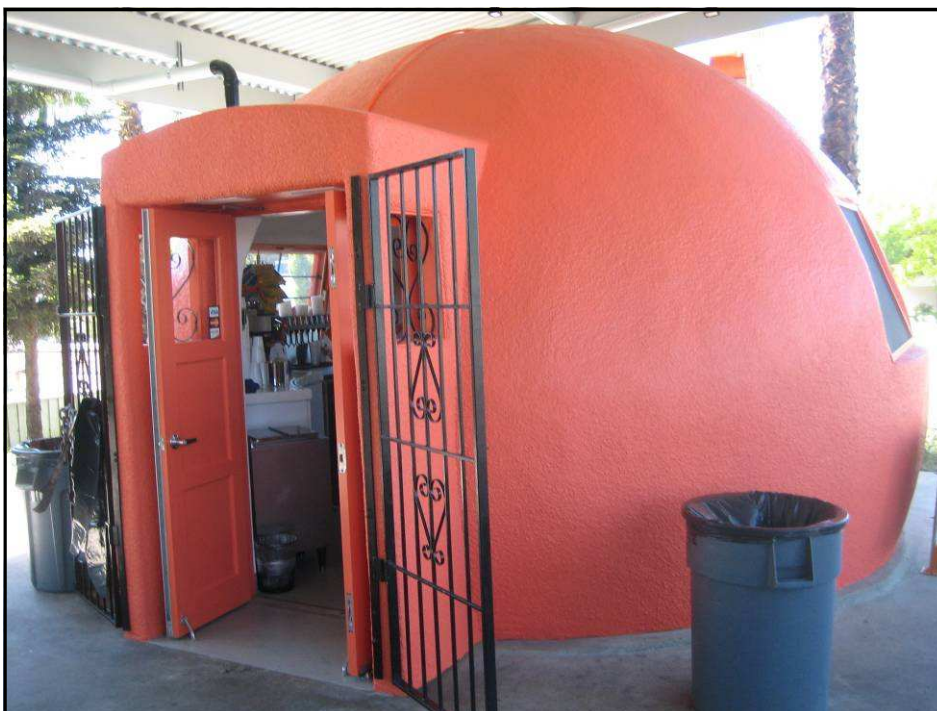
least 16 juice stands. Other competitors copied his oranges but when he sued in 1935, the courts said Pohl could not have sole use of the word "orange."

Some of the highway *Giant Oranges* used up to 12,000 oranges in a week at the peak of business in the 1950s. A Sunkist extractor was used for making juice. As new freeways replaced the old highways, the juice stand business gradually diminished from lack of traffic and convenience.

The Mark's Hot Dogs Orange is said to have been built in 1936 and was moved to 1920 Alum Rock Avenue in 1947. At that time, Mark's Hot Dogs owner, Mark Yuram, relocated his establishment from Fifth and East Santa Clara Streets to the Orange.

In 1992, the Orange, which is 15 feet tall and 37-feet round, was designated a San Jose City Landmark. It is only one of two *Giant Oranges* remaining from Frank Pohl's franchise. The other one is located in Dixon and was most recently a Mexican restaurant.

In 2003 Mark's Hot Dogs, in the former *Giant Orange*, was forced to move to 48 South Capital Avenue when a housing development was planned for its Alum Rock Avenue site. The Orange presently sits under a metal canopy along with outdoor tables and benches. The hot dogs are still delicious. ☪



Mark's Hot Dogs stand resides in a former Giant Orange c. 1930s

(Photo (taken in 2010) & text: Gayle Frank)



PAC*SJ Membership Application

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CONTINUITY

The Preservation Action Council of San Jose PAC*SJ) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation dedicated to preserving San Jose's architectural heritage through education, advocacy and events.

We believe that historic preservation is **good for our quality of life, good for business, and good for the environment**. We aim to integrate a strong commitment to historic preservation into the land use and development decisions of the City of San Jose that affect historic resources, as well as into the private decisions of property owners and developers. We try to bring owners and developers together to create historically sensitive projects that make economic sense.

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