

# CONTINUITY

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Fall, 2009

## INSIDE

### COVER STORY-

Carnegie Library Reopens

### PRESERVATION ISSUES

- 3 Interim ED Message
- 5 Preservation Progress
  - Century 25 becomes Retrodome
  - Streamline Modern Restoration
- 6 -Two Policies approved for
  - Distinguished Neighborhoods
  - New Guadalupe/Washington Conservation Area

### PAC\*SJ NEWS

- 7 PAC\*SJ Calendar
- 7 Hangar One Update
- 8 PAC\*SJ's 4th Annual Fabulous Hats! Party
- 11 Prusch Farm Harvest Fair Japantown Spirit Festival
- 12 What Was Left of IBM 25
- 13 Landmarking the Field-Gross House

### PRESERVATION ARTICLES

- 16 Nat'l Trust & Calif. State Parks
- 17 Brief History of Mt. Umunhum
- 19 "Theatres of San Jose" Released
- 20 Exploring Our SJ Landmarks
- 22 Ryland Pool Restoration Celebration
- 23 Membership Form
- 24 Board and Staff Roster

## Carnegie Library Reopens

San Jose's newest library is also its oldest. The East San Jose Carnegie Branch Library was built in 1907 and it is the oldest public library in service in Santa Clara County.

The newly enlarged and restored library recently reopened its doors to the community after a nearly 2-year project that added more than 4000 square feet. The new library retained the historic building and features a wonderful blend of old and new.



The original historic building, designed by noted San Jose architect, Jacob Lenzen, was left intact and fronts on East Santa Clara Street while the new construction wraps around the rear of the building leaving a portion of it inside the new library space. It resembles a Greek temple with a Classical portico, paired Doric columns, ornate cornice line, and a triangular pediment on the exterior.

Built with funding from the bond measure that was passed by San Jose voters in 2000, new features include a Teen Room for high school students to work productively with the latest resources; a Children's Area with age-appropriate reading materials and comfortable seating for story time; a Fireside Living Room for cozy, quiet study and recreational reading; and an Internet Café with wireless internet access. There is also a Community Room available to the public for meetings and special programs.

Located on East Santa Clara and South 23<sup>rd</sup> Streets, the Carnegie library is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the California Register of Historic Places, and is a City of San Jose Historic Landmark.

The library was originally dedicated in January of 1908 and is a tangible reminder of the brief existence of the City of East San Jose which was incorporated to qualify for a \$7000

(Continued on page 2)

# Carnegie Library Reopens (Cont'd)

Carnegie grant. City officials agreed to provide the land as well as \$700 a year to support it. Named for philanthropist Andrew Carnegie, the library was one of about 3000 that were funded by Carnegie. Having made his fortune in the steel industry, Carnegie provided grants to establish libraries throughout the United States as well as Canada, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, the West Indies, Fiji, and Scotland.

Citizens of East San Jose voted in 1911 to support annexation to the City of San Jose. The then 3-year old library was included in the annexation deal as were the library employees. Continuing to serve the community for the last century, the "new" library will continue that tradition with amenities of a first class facility.

The old and new building is all on one level five feet above the street. There is a new stair and ramp entry at the 23<sup>rd</sup> Street main entrance that leads the public into a spacious lobby enhanced by public art elements. The artwork, floating above the entry, is a reflective light sculpture by artist, Joyce Cutler Shaw. It is fabricated from aluminum coils suspended from the building's ceiling trusses. Shaw and the community worked together to select significant imagery to represent the neighborhood to create what she calls *The East Carnegie Calligraphy*.



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The opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of PAC\*SJ itself.

Editors: Gayle Frank & Julia Howlett

Please submit your letters, comments and suggestions to  
[info@preservation.org](mailto:info@preservation.org) OR

PO Box 2287 San José, CA 95109-2287

Office location: Petit Trianon, 72 North 5th Street, San Jose

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Another art piece by the same artist, is *The Wall of Birds in Flight*, which has two directed projector lights with stenciled cutouts that cast images of local birds on the wall of the children's area. According to the City's Office of Cultural Arts, this artwork brings the natural elements of the outdoor environment – the neighborhood's abundant bird life – indoors.

When the library reopened its doors in late August, it was warmly embraced by the welcoming neighborhood who had been without their library for nearly two years. This wonderful example of incorporating a historic building within new construction shows what can be done when everyone works together for a positive outcome. This is one occasion where we can celebrate a building and its history rather than mourn its loss.

PAC\*SJ is proud to have contributed to the San Jose Public Library Foundation's fundraising drive to help purchase books and other needed materials for the library. For more information about the Foundation, their website is: [www.sjplf.org](http://www.sjplf.org).

The Library Foundation quotes Andrew Carnegie as saying: *"There is not such a cradle of democracy upon the earth as the Free Public Library, that republic of letters, where neither rank, office, nor wealth receives the slightest consideration."* The newly opened library is ready to welcome you to everything it houses inside its new space – come in and enjoy.

(More pictures on page 4)

**Brian Grayson**

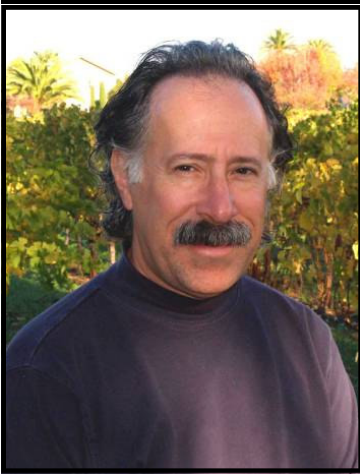


*Exterior corner of the original library which is now inside the new addition. Note aluminum coil artwork with suspended mobile birds, leaves and structures.* (Photos: B. Grayson)

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# Interim Executive Director's Message

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*Brian Grayson*

Summertime and the living is easy? Not around here because as usual, preservation activities never rest—even during summer. Here's a sampling of what's going on at PAC\*SJ World Headquarters.

The Mid-Century survey has been completed and copies have been distributed to the Redevelopment Agency. The Agency will be uploading the document to their website so the public will have easy access to this important survey.

Many thanks to Seth Bergstein and Paige Swartley of PAST Consultants for their dedicated efforts in researching and producing this impressive work that will serve as an important tool in the discussion to save our Mid-Century resources.

The Diridon Station Good Neighbor Committee continues its work to provide input in the planning process for this area of San Jose. Although PAC\*SJ was not invited to serve as a member of the committee we are monitoring the committee's activities and Board member Frank Penrose serves on the committee representing Council District 3.

During their July meeting the Diridon Station Good Neighbor Committee discussed priorities and although historic preservation ranked as a priority there were varying levels of support. Some committee members felt buildings did not need to be saved if they were salvaged and recycled or commemorated with a plaque or some other type of recognition.

Hopefully, as discussions continue, they will realize that salvage, recycling, and plaques are fine to consider as a last resort but they should first look to how to save historic buildings for reuse before they consider demolition and plaques. If this area is to truly become a destination, the committee should understand that people usually don't travel to see a plaque but rather to visit historic buildings in the context of their original locations.

The former Fire Station One continues to be closely watched as a potential endangered building. There is some indication that the Redevelopment Agency wants to demolish this historic building rather than have it become a museum housing

the Fire Department's outstanding collection of fire apparatus and memorabilia. We will continue to work with the Agency in the hopes of a successful resolution and reuse of this building.

Our Fabulous Hats! Party was held earlier in the summer and was a great success. Many thanks to event chair Patt Curia and her outstanding crew of volunteers who produced another unique and fun party.

Watch for details about an upcoming fundraising event this November. The difficult economic times have forced us to rethink the plans for our annual Gala. Although we have had to downscale our ideas for the event, we still hope to produce a fun-filled evening that will bring all of our PAC\*SJ friends together to support our ongoing efforts.

There is activity at the former site of the Donner-Houghton house at 4<sup>th</sup> and East St. John Streets. Affirmed Housing Group will be developing the location for an affordable housing project. One element of the proposal is a commemoration of the Donner-Houghton house. We will be working with the developer to insure an appropriate and meaningful display is erected that will pay proper tribute to the house and its history.

Meanwhile, back to the day-to-day business of PAC\*SJ, we strive to run an efficient operation but we are not immune to the impacts of the current economic conditions. We keep our costs low but the time has come to make a very small adjustment to our membership dues levels. We have not raised our dues in many years but the Board recently approved a \$5 a year increase to three categories of our membership.

Beginning January 1, 2010, the following categories will be increased \$5: Student/Senior, Individual, and Family/Nonprofit. We have resisted increasing our dues but rising postal and other costs have necessitated this minimal increase. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation.

Finally I would like to thank Rachel Gibson for her many years of service on our Board. Rachel and her family are leaving for the East coast and the Board has reluctantly accepted Rachel's resignation. We wish Rachel and her family well as they embark on this new adventure and look forward to when they return to us again.

**Brian Grayson**  
**Interim Executive Director**

# Carnegie Library Reopens (Cont'd)



*Clockwise from top left, 1) Internet Café sign with mobile birds above; 2) Community Room in historic library building; 3) "Wall of Birds in Flight" art by Joyce Cutler Shaw; 4) Front of library with new addition to the left. A recessed space splits the new and the old gracefully; 5) The new addition facing So. 23rd St. The white building is the original Carnegie Library and the main entrance is between the two .*

*(Photos: G. Frank)*

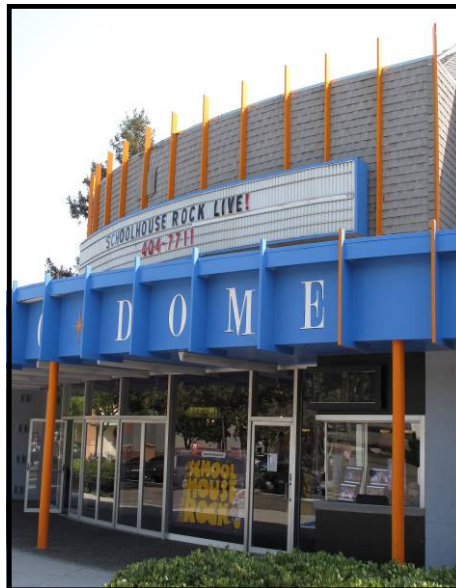
# Preservation Progress

## Century 25 becomes The RETRODOME

The RETRODOME occupies the space of the former Century 25 Theater in San Jose, located in Westgate Shopping Center, at 1694 Saratoga Ave. This modern dome theater was designed by Bay Area architect Vincent G. Raney and dates to 1969. In recent years, the Century 25 had fallen on hard times and its future became uncertain.



Thanks to the innovative folks at Guggenheim Entertainment, however, this wonderful throwback to the 1960s has received a fabulous makeover and a new lease on life. It is described as San Jose's NEWEST & GROOVIEST Performing Arts Center. The critically-acclaimed live musical, *Schoolhouse Rock Live* will be performed at the Retrodome until October 4th.



For additional information and advance ticket purchases, please visit [www.TheRetroDome.com](http://www.TheRetroDome.com) or call (408) 404-7711.

## "Streamline Modern" Restoration in Campbell

Two buildings in downtown Campbell, at 422 and 428 East Campbell Avenue, have been nicely restored and unified to inhabit a complete bridal studio that includes *Gabrielle's Bridal Atelier with Weddings and Events by Design*. The two partners, Gabrielle Medrano and Nicole Lisanne have expanded their businesses from a smaller shop in Los Gatos.

Next to the corner building, at 422 East Campbell Ave., sits a one-story Streamline Modern architect style with a stucco façade, a recessed entrance and large storefront windows. This structure was built by Campbell Building & Investment Co. in 1920 as part of a business block. The variety store, Sprouse Reitz, operated at this site from 1934 until 1950; two years later it became the Campbell Variety Store. By 1958 the building served as several dress shops. Later uses, beginning in 1971, included the Art Annex, a café/coffee shop, and an Ethiopian restaurant.

The other portion of the building on the corner near the railroad/light rail tracks, that was 428 East Campbell Ave., also holds a stucco one-story commercial Streamline Modern design that was constructed in the late 1930's by Campbell Building & Investment Co. An ornamental glass block window covers the rounded corner of the building and small tile crosses decorate the upper façade. The entrance is also flanked with storefront windows. From 1940 until 1976 this building was used as a dentist's office by Dr. Wyland Royce "Duke" Morgan, who was considered an important community leader.

This Streamline Modern architecture style is rarely found in Campbell and much of the original design has been retained. The restoration and unification of these two buildings adds to the interesting mix of downtown historic buildings in Campbell.

Photo: G.Frank/ Source: G.A. Laffey, *Archives & Architecture*, DPR, 9/96



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# Preservation Progress

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## Two Policies Approved for Distinctive Neighborhood Program

The City Council approved funding for the 2009/2010 Fiscal Year for the implementation of two of the policy options proposed as part of the Distinctive Neighborhood Program. These policy options are:

- 1) **Citywide permit required to demolish older homes:** The citywide option addresses the issue of demolitions of older, potentially historic homes occurring without Planning review and would require that demolition proposals of homes over a certain age (i.e., 50 years) or built before a certain date (i.e., 1945) are evaluated as part of a Single-Family House Permit process. Staff recommendation regarding a specific age or date will be made as part of the drafting of an ordinance amending Title 20 that would be brought forward for future City Council consideration.
- 2) **Conservation Study Area:** This neighborhood specific option will allow for a streamlined historic survey process to identify and designate historic neighborhoods and require that new construction or exterior remodels obtain Single-Family House Permits, reviewed for consistency with the existing *Your Old House: Guidelines for Preserving San Jose Homes*. As with a Conservation Area, ultimate decision-making on whether to approve a Conservation Study Area will rest with the City Council.

The City Planning Staff is currently developing a work program for the implementation of these policy options in the fall of 2009. Additional outreach will be conducted as part of this second phase of the program. For questions or comments please contact Hadasa Lev, Distinctive Neighborhood Program Planner at 408-535-7838 or [hadasa.lev@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:hadasa.lev@sanjoseca.gov).

Excerpt from: [http://www.sanjoseca.gov/planning/distinctive\\_neighborhood/](http://www.sanjoseca.gov/planning/distinctive_neighborhood/)

## Congratulations to the Guadalupe/Washington Conservation Area

On June 2, 2009, the San Jose City Council approved the Guadalupe/Washington Conservation Area. The Conservation Area is only the third neighborhood (after the 2004 Market Almaden and the 2007 Martha Gardens Conservation Areas) to receive this designation since the formal Conservation Area designation process was adopted by ordinance in 2004. The three other Conservation Areas previously established are Hanchett and Hester Park, Naglee Park, and Palm Haven.

The Guadalupe/Washington Conservation Area is generally bounded on the north by Interstate 280, on the east by the rear property lines of the commercial properties on the west side of South First Street, on the west by the Guadalupe River, and on the south by portions of Willow Street and the rear property lines of properties on the north side of Willow Street.

According to the Historic Preservation Ordinance, “a ‘Conservation Area’ means a geographically definable area of urban or rural character with identifiable attributes embodied by: (1) architecture, urban design, development patterns, setting, or geography; and (2) history”. The criteria for designation as a Conservation Area includes meeting the intent as defined above, and shall meet one or both of the following additional criteria:

The neighborhood or area has a distinctive character conveying: (1) a sense of cohesiveness through its design, architecture, setting, materials, or natural features; and (2) its history, or The neighborhood or area reflects significant geographical or developmental patterns associated with different eras of growth in the City.

The action items for this newly designated Conservation Area include:

- Preserve and enhance the existing strengths of Guadalupe/Washington Conservation Area.
- Conduct a study to identify historic buildings and sites for inclusion in the City’s Historic Inventory.
- Encourage developers to complement historic character and architecture of existing buildings.

Excerpt from: <http://www.sanjoseca.gov/planning/historic/>

# PAC\*SJ Calendar 2009

- Sept. 21** Monday, PAC\*SJ Board Meeting, 6 - 8 pm , Le Petit Trianon, 72 N. 5th Street, San Jose
- Oct. 2, 3** Friday/Saturday, PAC\*SJ **Garage Sale**, 7 am-3 pm, 260 So. 13th St., San Jose
- Oct. 19** Monday, PAC\*SJ Board Meeting, 6 - 8 pm , Le Petit Trianon, 72 N. 5th Street, San Jose
- Nov. 15** Monday, PAC\*SJ Board Meeting, 6 - 8 pm , Le Petit Trianon, 72 N. 5th Street, San Jose
- Nov. 19** Thursday, PAC\*SJ **Movie Night** & 1950's Pot Luck, 6 pm , Le Petit Trianon, 72 N. 5th Street, SJ

## Notable Quotables by Distinguished Architects

**"There are three forms of visual art: Painting is art to look at, sculpture is art you can walk around, and architecture is art you can walk through."** -Frank Gehry (1929- ) – A Pritzker Prize-winning architect based in Los Angeles.

**"The mother art is architecture. Without an architecture of our own we have no soul of our own civilization."**

-Frank Lloyd Wright (1867-1959); American Architect and writer, the most abundantly creative genius of American architecture. His Prairie style became the basis of 20<sup>th</sup> century residential design in the U.S.

## Hangar One Update

At the July 9th meeting, the Navy reported that based on the current schedule, work plans for removing the siding of Hangar One at Moffett Field will be completed by the second quarter of fiscal year 2010. Remedial action is scheduled for completion by the second quarter of 2012. The contract includes removing, decontaminating and storing the windows for later reuse. The City of Mountain View's legal counsel is considering the possibility of issuing a civil injunction to stop the Navy's plan of removing the siding until a plan is put into place to re-side the Hangar. Mountain View has also notified the Cities of Sunnyvale and Palo Alto of their concerns. Negotiations continue between the Navy

and NASA in order to meet their respective obligations.

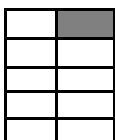
If a plan is in place for re-siding the Hangar before awarding the contract, the costs will be reduced if crews, equipment and scaffolding remain for both the removal of the old siding and the installation of the new siding. In addition, the Hangar shell will not be exposed to the elements for a lengthy period of time if the re-siding proceeds quickly.

*The next RAB (Moffett Field Restoration Advisory Board) meeting will be held on Thursday, Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 at Moffett Field, Building 943, Eagle Room.*

## ADVERTISE IN CONTINUITY!

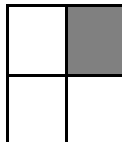
*Continuity* is distributed to over 600 San José preservationists, homeowners and decision-makers. It's a great way to get your message out to your best potential customers! For ads larger than the business card, you must supply camera-ready artwork, or PAC\*SJ can provide it at an additional charge.

**Buy ads in 6 issues and SAVE! Plus, all multiple-issue ads come with a free membership!**



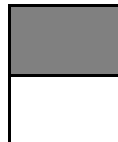
### Business Card

Single issue \$50  
3 issues \$120



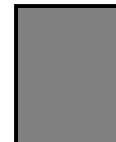
### 1/4 Page

Single issue \$100  
3 issues \$250



### 1/2 Page

Single issue \$200  
3 issues \$450



### Full Page

Single issue \$375  
3 issues \$700

# 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Fabulous Hats! Party a Huge Success!

Hats were in abundance on Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup> at the beautiful house on The Alameda, designed by Julia Morgan. PAC\*SJ thanks the hosts, Robert Cullen and June Lim-Cullen, for graciously inviting PAC\*SJ to hold our 4<sup>th</sup> annual Fabulous Hats Party in their home.

Guests enjoyed visiting the various rooms of the house, many with outstanding wood paneling, molding, railings, and wainscoting. The first floor library held men's fashions and militaria while in the front parlor, picture hats in straw and felt were displayed. The second floor held wedding/cocktail hats, small straws and day wear hats. Out in the garden, dress-up and casual hats were displayed on ribbons hanging from trees while sombreros and vintage clothing/accessories were found along the perimeter of the large yard. Guests each received white gloves to be worn while trying on the multitude of hats. By the end of the afternoon a majority of the 300 plus hats were purchased. Refreshments, music and a raffle were enjoyed by the guests in the rear garden. Ms. Betty Marvin portrayed Julia Morgan in a lovely dark vintage suit and hat. She expressed her delight at visiting one of her original houses which was built in 1908-1910. For further information on the house visit the PAC\*SJ website [www.preservation.org](http://www.preservation.org), Summer 2009 newsletter, *Continuity*.

The first prize raffle winner was Judy Hill who won an original hat created and donated by Rosemary Greene. Second place winner was Sally Beste for a Zanotto's basket of gourmet items and third place winner was Helen Stevens who won a collectible doll.

As always, PAC\*SJ collects hats, vintage clothing and accessories for future events. If you would like to donate call our PAC\*SJ office at 408-998-8105. (Cont'd on page 9)



*Clockwise from top, Ms. Betty Marvin portraying Julia Morgan; Rosemary Greene with Judy Hill wearing the winning raffle hat; younger guests trying on hats; Eve Thomas and Marianne Salas sampling delightful refreshments.*

## Fabulous Hats! Party (Cont'd)



*Above, ladies waiting for the 12:30 entrance to the Fabulous Hats! Party. Right, Bev Blockie and Fern McLaggan monitoring the hats in the front parlor.* (More pictures on page 10)



**PAC\*SJ would like to thank our generous sponsors, donors and participants for this event.  
It takes a village to put on a successful hat party.**

Thank you to Robert Cullen and June Lim-Cullen for allowing our event to take place in their beautiful Julia Morgan designed house.

Thank you to our Sponsors: The Neptune Society and Karen McMillan of Coldwell Banker.

Thank you for the donation of hand-made hats: Rosemary Greene and Joyce Alexy.

Thank you to Chairperson Patt Curia and the Fabulous Hats! Party Committee:

Stephanie Abbott, Bev Blockie, Gayle Frank, Ellen Garboske, Dave & Jane Guinther, April Halberstadt, Tricia Hill, Gwen Jennings, Mary Lou Mason, Gilda Messmer, Sandra Soellner, Lisa Wangsness.

Thank you to the hat models, docents, and bakers.

Thank you to the many donors of hats.

Shopping bags donated by Alta Clothing on Lincoln Avenue

Music provided by the Saxton Family and Veronica Malki

Photographer Hans Halberstadt

Graphics by LWGraphics

# Fabulous Hats! Party (Cont'd)



*Clockwise from top left, 1) Ellen Garboske visits with guests. Note the hats growing from trees.*

*2) Sandra Soellner visits with a guest.*

*3) Music played by Veronica Malki. ⇒*

*⇐ 4) Stephanie Abbott admires Martha Champion's newly acquired scarf.*

*5) Rosemary Greene presents a Zanotto basket to raffle winner Sally Beste.*



# Prusch Farm Harvest Fair & Exposition

The Emma Prusch Memorial Park was developed from land bequeathed to San Jose in 1962 by native San Josean Emma Prusch. The rich agricultural land was once a working dairy farm located in the Valley of Hearts Delight. The gift stipulated that the acreage be used as a park for relaxation, recreation and enjoyment for the citizens of San Jose with "a rural country character and atmosphere".

The Park includes the original Prusch family farmhouse and other historical structures such as one of the largest free standing wooden barns in California. The Park also features agricultural displays and educational events such as rare fruit orchards, a Plant Science center, pollinator and butterfly gardens, Santa Clara Home Composting Program, community gardens, a Friendship Forest, and farm animals.

*Right,  
the Emma  
Prusch  
historic  
farmhouse.*



Prusch Farm Park Foundation Presents

## HARVEST FAIR & EXPOSITION

"an ole time country fair"

Free Admission & Parking

Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009  
10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Giant Pumpkin Contest!

Entertainment, unusual food,  
pony rides, plant sale, cooking classes, pumpkin patch,  
hay wagon rides, apple juice tasting, kids programs, games and fun things to do!

Listen to Mariachi San Jose Youth Band!

Visit our Rare Fruit Orchard, Heritage & High Density Orchards,  
Emma's Heritage German Garden,  
Friendship Forest, Petting Zoo, and be part of 4-H Mega Field Day!

COME ONE COME ALL  
A Fun Family Day!

For more information visit [www.pruschfarmpark.org](http://www.pruschfarmpark.org)  
Or call 408-926-5555

Emma Prusch Farm Park, 647 South King Road, San Jose

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Spirit of Japantown Festival - Sept. 26th

The Japantown Community Congress of San Jose announces that the popular Spirit of Japantown Festival, held in historic Japantown in San Jose, will take place on Saturday, September 26, 2009. The area surrounding 5<sup>th</sup> and Jackson Streets will again be filled with food booths; sales of arts and crafts, fine art, plants; live entertainment all day martial arts demonstrations; a car show; Kids' Zone with Anime; a Green Zone and other unusual attractions. The event is free and is open from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm.

This year's headline entertainment will be the acclaimed San Jose Taiko performing at 1:00 pm. Filling the schedule will be a variety of performers that symbolize the theme, "Sharing the Spirit" and recognizes the diversity of historic Japantown. There will be bands for young and old, Hawaiian offerings such as hula dance groups and ukulele ensembles, ethnic dance performances of many cultures, and other exciting performances.

Children will enjoy the activities of the Kids' Zone, special entertainment geared to young people, and an art contest. Anime will be featuring its many popular forms – anime screenings, cosplay and games. ☘

# Here's What Was Left of IBM Building 25

Back in July a few PAC\*SJ members visited the remains of the IBM 25 Building site on Monterey Road. Below are pictures of the remnants of the historic building that we fought so hard to save. Most of the rubble, walls, and structural elements were previously removed. We were able to salvage some bricks and large tiles from the site and a limited number are available for purchase. Anyone interested in a souvenir of the IBM building please call our office at 998-8105.

Work is under way at the IBM Building 25 site. Lowe's has begun prepping the site and hopes to open their warehouse by March 2010. Lowe's agreement with PAC\*SJ includes elements that will reflect the original design of Building 25 and will also include an historic exhibit telling the story of Building 25's important history in the development of what became Silicon Valley.



*Above left, large tiles from the exterior design, said to represent IBM punch cards.*



*Top right, Gary David helps chip out bricks from one of the walls.*



*Right, Robb Moore extracting bricks from another fallen wall.*

*Thank you Gary and Robb!*



**Karen McMillan**  
Coldwell Banker Residential Real Estate  
Naglee Park & Historic Districts Specialist  
DIRECT: 408.882.0953  
CELL: 408.313.3134  
karen.mcmillan@cbtnorcal.com  
www.NagleeParkNeighbors.com



*Hats and Vintage Homes Never Go Out of Style!*



*The Neptune Society* is located in the former Cambiano art fixture shop built in 1928 by Architect Herman Krause. This Spanish-Eclectic style modest white building is dominated by the cast concrete pediment over the entryway. Inside is a small courtyard with a beautiful tile-covered fountain and tropical plants. The interior of the building is a showplace of locally produced decorative tile.

*Neptune Society of Central California*

798 South Second Street, San Jose, CA 95112 ■ 408-287-8700 or 800-225-1593

# Landmarking the Field-Gross House



The home owned by Bernadette Drechsler, at 167 South 14<sup>th</sup> Street, has been submitted for San Jose Landmark status. It is located in the Naglee Park Conservation Area and contributes historically, architecturally and aesthetically to this historic neighborhood. The structure, known as the Field-Gross House, was built in 1904 by Zibeon O. Field for his wife Emma and their six children. Field quickly became a well-established builder and contractor in San Jose after moving here in 1889 from Southern California, by way of Maine and Kansas. His construction projects not only included numerous residences but also commercial projects as the YMCA Building on East Santa Clara Street, San Jose High

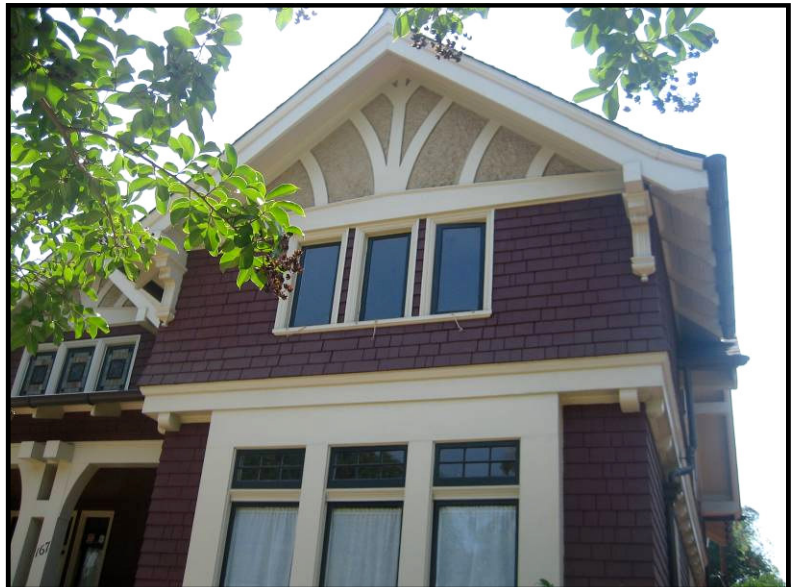
School, Horace Mann School, the Josè, Victory, De Luxe and Mission Theatres, the Alum Rock Natatorium, and the Montgomery Hotel, to name a few. Field was a founder and early president of the Builder's Exchange of San Jose.

After Field sold his house to Fred E. Goodrich around 1919-1920, a few years later Sarah E. Gross purchased the house. During the 1920's, additions were made to the rear of the house to accommodate her large family. The home remained with the Gross family for 77 years until 1998, when Jo and Bernadette Drechsler bought the house.

The house is a unique Craftsman style and appears to be an early prototype of this design. The architectural innovations are significant for that time. The architect is unknown; it is possible that the plans came from resources such as catalogues of house plans, available to builders of that era. There are at least two similar houses to this one on South 15<sup>th</sup> Street and North 3<sup>rd</sup> Street in San Jose.

The L-shaped house is clad in wood shingles, is asymmetrical in design with a one-and-a-half story forward gable as the focal point. The recessed porch, supported with strong wooden beams painted white, has a gabled dormer above it. The gables eaves are flared, a trait seen in the Craftsman style. The windows are of various sizes, shapes and styles. The forward front window is emphasized by its large, white, flat-board trim. The dormer windows have attractive stained glass that was added by the current owner. The original wood front door is wider than usual (another Craftsman-style characteristic) and holds a beveled glass window in the upper half with a laurel leaf carving below.

*(Continued on page 14)*



**Top, the Field-Gross House on So. 14th St. Note flared eaves, dormer, and stone chimney. Above, forward gable has half-timbered construction on upper portion and a cantilevered second story. First story tripartite windows have heavy flat-board trim.** *(Photos: G. Frank)*

# Landmarking the Field-Gross House (Cont'd)



*Recessed porch. The east glass windbreak was designed and built by Jo Drechsler. Note the heavy posts and beams with outlookers at the top. The low eaves have exposed rafter-tails. Copper gutters have been added.*

The original detached garage, which at one time served as the carriage house, matches the architecture of the house and has been slightly altered over the years. The herringbone designed driveway was built with bricks from the original chimney.

This house was nominated to become a city landmark because it maintains its historical integrity, the house is surrounded by similar historic residences, and it was significant to the development of this area of San Jose in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The rustic materials, high quality of workmanship and detail, horizontal emphasis (as opposed to the Victorian houses with vertical emphasis), and early Craftsman features led the way to more houses built in this style. This house will serve as an excellent landmark for our City.

*Source: Field-Gross House DPR 523, F. Maggi, L. Dill, C. Duval; Archives & Architecture, 5/26/09.*

**Gayle Frank**



*Above, interior cathedral ceiling in master bedroom is the "Drechsler" project. It was designed and constructed by Jo's Grandfather, his dad, his two uncles and himself.*

*Left, the remodeled kitchen. The kitchen cabinets are new and in the style of the period. The posts along the island match the newel post of the staircase.*

*(Photos: B. Drechsler)*

*Read about Bernadette's experiences with restoring and applying for city landmark status on page 16 and 17.*



# Landmarking the Field-Gross House (Cont'd)

*We asked Bernadette Drechsler to give us some thoughts on her experiences of buying, restoring, and documenting an historic house. Here is what she told us.*

## Purchasing an Historic House

In 1998, my husband, Jo, and I were not looking for a new house. We had just finished remodeling the kitchen at our house on 12<sup>th</sup> Street. However, as it happens, we saw a real estate friend of ours showing a house to some neighbors and tagged along. Although we ended up not being interested in it, our friend said he knew of this house coming on the market. Since Jo and I always loved seeing old houses we asked to see the house. As we walked in the door, we fell in love with the house. It was in such original condition that we both thought we were transported back in time. This was especially endearing because our 12<sup>th</sup> Street house had been heavily modified over the decades and we just spent seven years restoring it back to its original floor plan. We especially fell in love with the little sitting room upstairs that was completely covered in rough-sawn redwood with a great clinker brick fireplace. It has been a labor of love to work on this house!

## Restoration

Jo and I fell in love with this house and from the very beginning were very concerned about preserving its features and character while updating its amenities. We carefully contemplated every decision to change something. Should we or should we not flip the hinges on this door? Should we or should we not replace the original floor? However at all times, we wanted to either maintain or exceed the craftsmanship of the existing structure and ornamentation. Only a person who loves old houses can appreciate this decision process, and can appreciate that one can spend weeks looking for the right trim or a doorknob while patiently living with an unfinished project. I feel we struck a very good balance between upgrading to the new and maintaining the old.

When we bought the house, the structure was high on center and had been sinking about 6 inches on the South side due to poor rainwater drainage. We decided to replace the foundation and the existing basement (450 sq. ft., dirt floor and 5' ceiling) with a new foundation and a larger basement (1000 sq. ft., concrete floor and 9' ceiling). Consequently the house was now level. As a result of the leveling, most plaster in the house was cracked. We spent much time fixing the plaster or replacing the plaster with sheetrock walls. The living room had seven layers of wallpaper. When we stripped the wallpaper, we found remnants of the original arts and crafts

stenciling which we recreated. We replaced the wood-burning fireplace with a gas fireplace re-using the original mantel and river stones. In the master bedroom, we replaced the existing sheetrock ceiling with a cathedral wood ceiling - a project that involved Jo, his grandfather, his father and two of his uncles. It was a family woodworking project. We stripped all painted woodwork in the bedrooms and bathrooms as well as the dining room. All the original doors remain with the original hardware. We stripped the painted side of the bedroom and bathroom doors but left the outer sides as they were. We removed the chimney of the third fireplace which was closed off in the 1920's and was no longer functional. None of the windows were replaced but we refurbished them as we were worked on each room. The guest bedroom had a small gable looking out towards the backyard that had major water damage. Instead of fixing the rotted structure and reconstructing the window, we added a small faux balcony that allows a view of the backyard. I remodeled the kitchen last year and agonized over keeping the 1940 Wedgewood stove with a new kitchen designed around it. In the end, I decided to replace the stove with a modern appliance primarily because the Wedgewood had a trash burner that was taking up a lot of space but wouldn't be usable in the future. All of the kitchen cabinets are new but are designed with built-in posts that match the design of the newel post. The cabinet doors have divided lights to match the design of some of the windows.

*(Continued on page (16))*



*The windows in the master bedroom are original and the trim is reproduced from the original sill plates from the house (the sill plates were replaced when we replaced the foundation).*

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# Landmarking the Field-Gross House (Cont'd)

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We've spent a lot of time dumpster diving in order to salvage old growth redwood and also used wood from our own basement construction. For example, the door to a new closet added in the master bedroom was made out of the sillplates (the support between the structure and the foundation) of our house. You can still see the nail holes. We had to replace all of the door and window frames due to water damage.

## Documentation and Nomination

I hired Franklin Maggi, architectural historian from Archives & Architecture, LLC, to help me research the needed information and prepare the necessary documents. This has been very helpful. Franklin and his company have experience

with submitting papers to request San Jose Landmark status. It would have taken me more time and many iterations with the city to file the documents correctly. With Franklin's help, my first meeting with them resulted in accepting the application for review. At this time, I have not yet heard back from the city. In essence, I am at the beginning of the process. I expect the approval of the application by the end of this year if all goes well. Once the application is approved by the City Building Department, it will then be reviewed and hopefully approved by the City Council.

Bernadette Drechsler

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## National Trust Concerned About Our State Parks

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*McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial State Park.  
Taken by G. Frank in August, 2009.*

*For the latest fee increases for State Parks day use  
and camping, effective as of August 17th, 2009,  
go to:*

*[http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=737](http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=737)*

"California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed his state's budget on July 28<sup>th</sup> — one that includes \$6 million more in cuts to state parks than was expected earlier. According to our partners at the Save Our State Parks coalition, this brings "the total General Fund cut for this budget year to \$14.2M. It is expected that this will result in the **closure of perhaps more than 100 state parks.**" (emphasis theirs)

National Trust for Historic Preservation President Richard Moe has issued a statement on this unfortunate turn of events:

*The California State Park System, included on the 2008 list of America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places and already reeling from millions of dollars in deferred maintenance, has suffered another major blow in the new state budget. We call upon the state to provide adequate maintenance and protection for the historic and culturally significant buildings and sites in the entire park system, and pledge to work with the California State Parks Foundation, the Save Our State Parks coalition, and other supporters to help the parks survive this current budget crisis."*

Excerpt from:

<http://blogs.nationaltrust.org/preservationnation/?p=5469>

# A Brief History on Mt. Umunhum by Basim Jaber

It was a war unlike any other. A cold war. The United States sat in a several decade long stalemate with the USSR. With little media reporting from military installations during the cold war, most Americans took for granted the security and peace of mind that we all enjoyed. Not many people knew the military men and women who fought what was referred to as "the silent war". What they didn't know was that there were untold amounts of men and women who helped "fight" the cold war and sustain a blanket of defense over the country.

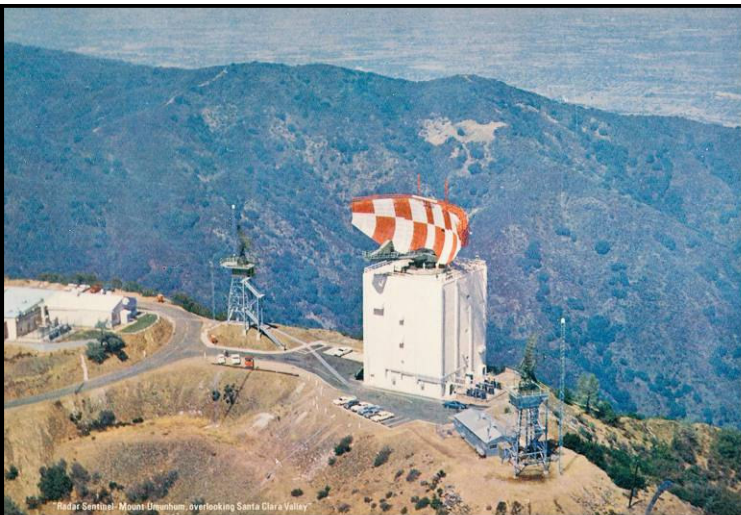
Technology back then was considered "advanced". By today's standards, it is considered archaic. While the majority of the men and women who fought the cold war were not on the front lines, so to speak, they were the first line of defense in a longstanding searching of the skies for enemy attacks. Incoming bomber planes ready to deliver atomic payloads were the threat and at the heart of the defense against that threat were United States Air Force radar stations. These often remote outposts were self-sustaining communities of military personnel who supported the operations of a perpetual search of the skies....24 hours a day, 7 days a week. They consisted of radar equipment, power plants, bomb shelters, housing units, a swimming pool, commissary (general store), a night club, dispensary (medical building), a recreation center, and

even a two-lane bowling alley.

The San Francisco Bay Area was one of the military targets that the enemy was sure to have on their list of spots to attack. Chocked full of military installations such as Naval ship yards, Naval weapons centers, Air Force bases, Army bases, and even solid rocket booster production and testing sites, the San Francisco Bay Area was a hotbed of military support services. Protecting it was of utmost importance.

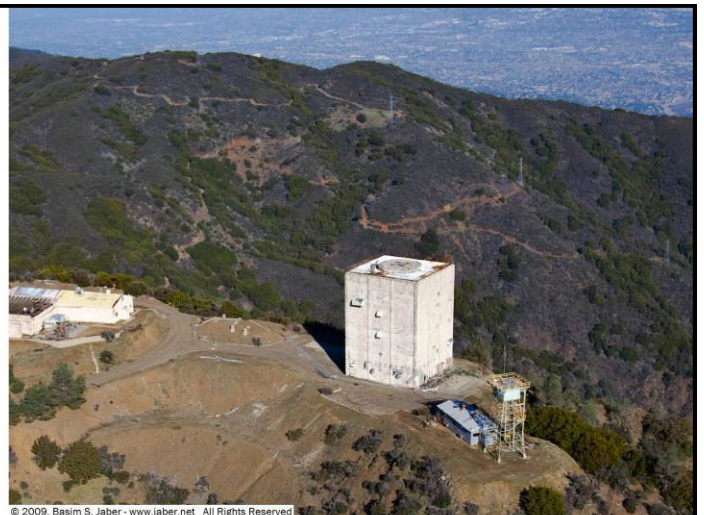
The Army had numerous missile bases scattered about the hilltops with missiles ready to be launched on a moments notice to take down any incoming missiles or enemy aircraft. But the search in the skies began with the all-important Radar Squadrons which manned long range search radars capable of detecting aircraft 250 miles away with incredible accuracy. There were two main radar sites here in the Bay Area. One was atop Mt. Tamalpais above Marin. The other was Almaden Air Force Station (AFS) high atop the hills above San Jose in the south bay on Mt. Umunhum (the 2nd highest peak in the Santa Cruz Mountains). The word "Umunhum" is said to originate from the native Ohlone Indian word for hummingbird, mimicking the sound of the bird's rapidly-flapping wings.

(Continued on page 18)



1967

Mount Umunhum



2009

*This is a "before and after" photo showing the summit of Mt. Umunhum. In the 1967 photo, the main search radar dish and accompanying "height finder" radars can be seen. This photo appears on the cover of the February 1967 Pacific Telephone directory book for area code 408. I recreated the photo from a helicopter aerial photo session I did back in January, 2009. (Photos: Basim Jaber at [www.jaber.net](http://www.jaber.net))*

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# A Brief History on Mt. Umunhum (Cont'd)

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In 1957, the Air Force constructed Almaden AFS to be manned by the 682nd Radar Squadron. The station went online in 1958 and sustained operations until March 1980 when the flag dropped and the station went offline; superseded by satellite technology. Throughout its 22 years of operational status, several hundred airmen and airwomen and their families were stationed at Almaden AFS in what most of them refer to as their best station duty location ever. A typical station duration for personnel at radar squadrons could range from several months to 3 or more years. It didn't take more than a few weeks stay at Almaden AFS to realize it was a special place that forever sits in the hearts of those who lived and served there.

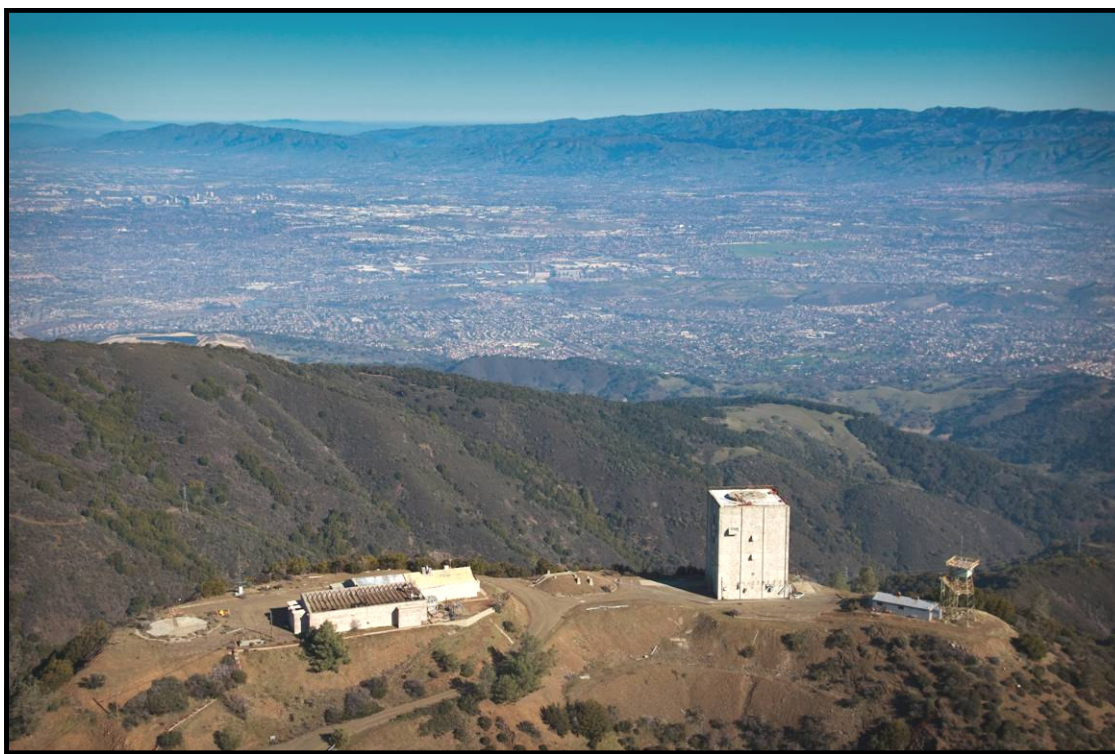
The views were second to none. Panoramic 360-degree views spread across the south San Francisco Bay Area, Monterey Bay, and South County (Morgan Hill and Gilroy). On clear days, the mountain tops of Yosemite National Park can be seen to the east and the skyscrapers of downtown San Francisco are visible to the north. Monterey's Fisherman Wharf is a common sight as well.

When the Air Force left Almaden AFS in 1980, the site was conferred to the General Services Administration (GSA) - the division of the Federal Government that was responsible for proper pullout of military installations and then locating a suitable buyer to take over the land. In 1986, the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD) purchased the mountain top facility and the surrounding land for about \$250,000. A "steal" at the time, the land was bought "as is". Sadly, the land and the site that sat on it remained untouched and unused for over two decades. Public outcry for access to the site loomed for years with the mountain top the center of media articles numerous times. In the end, it remained unused and off limits to the public due to toxic and hazardous remnants of yesteryear. Asbestos, lead paint, PCB's and mold in the housing units leave the site inaccessible for obvious reasons (which the EPA didn't consider the contaminants a serious threat in those days.)

Recently, with the help of Congressman Mike Honda and other political figures, there has been progress with obtaining funds from the federal government that will hopefully

lead to the long-awaited cleanup of the site. More than likely, the dilapidated structures atop the mountain top will all be torn down.

Its a magical place. I'm a south bay native who took a casual interest in the site in 2005 only to have that interest blossom into a deep historical odyssey of documentation. There's such a deep history to this site. The men, women, and families that lived here have fascinating stories to tell. The pictures alone speak a story that screams to be told to the public. I took an interest in the site just because I



**Aerial view from the "other side". Most people look up and see the summit and the tower on it. This view is the opposite...looking from the tower down on the valley. Just a taste of the panoramic views from the site.**

*(Continued on page 19)*

# A Brief History on Mt. Umunhum (Cont'd)

wanted to know what was up there, but soon, I became somewhat "embedded" into the fabric of "the hill" and the stories about it waiting to be told. By reuniting those who lived and served on the site, the memories can be relived and shared with others.

People look up at the summit from the valley below and see only a concrete tower that used to support a rotating radar antenna, but what they don't know is the story of the military personnel who watched the skies and protected the San Francisco and Monterey bay areas from enemy threats. For some personnel, their families were right there with them; living and growing up in a place they often referred to as "paradise". On a remote mountain top which more than often became an "island" in a sea of fog, the endemic nature of the site became ingrained in the hearts and memories of those who lived atop the mountain. Views out their bedroom windows often included the entire Monterey Bay. A tight sense of community prevailed throughout the family housing area where children and teens often frolicked along the surrounding dirt trails and trekked down the remote canyons below which meandered through the rugged landscape of the mountain chaparral.

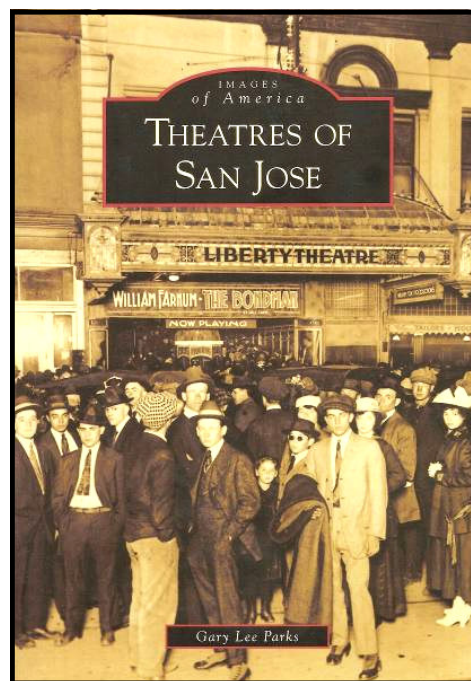
The Open Space District plans to put a visitor center atop the site once it is open to the public, but it may be several years until the cleanup process is complete before the public can enjoy the panoramic views and plethora of flora and fauna atop this remote mountain top site. We've come a long way and the wait will be worth every minute of it.

I envision a grand interpretive display commemorating those who lived and served atop this site with documentation of the site's history in a photo archive that depicts images of the site during its operational days and in its current state. The veterans and families that lived here are the nicest people I've met. They speak so fondly of this site and really miss their time spent here. I planned the 2008 Veteran's reunion for the 682nd Radar Squadron and am currently at the onset of plans for a 2010 reunion before the site is demolished.

In the end, all the buildings may be gone, but the memories will live forever and everyone who visits this site should know the story of Almaden Air Force Station. ☞

*Basim Jaber, a south bay native of 38 years, is a freelance photographer living in San Jose. He has been photo-documenting the history of Almaden Air Force Station atop Mt. Umunhum since 2005 (and still in progress). In addition to photo documentary style of photography, Basim enjoys photography of old military locations as well as long exposure night photography. He can be reached at [bjaber@jaber.net](mailto:bjaber@jaber.net).*

## "Theatres of San Jose" Book Release



\*\*\*\*\*  
Gary Park's new book, "Theatres of San Jose", was just released in July. You'll find most everything you ever wanted to know about our historic theatres in this book. Gary is a member of PAC\*SJ and has held several book-signing parties locally. The book is available at:

Arcadia Publishing:

[www.arcadiapublishing.com](http://www.arcadiapublishing.com)

Amazon: [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

San Jose Recycled Bookstore:

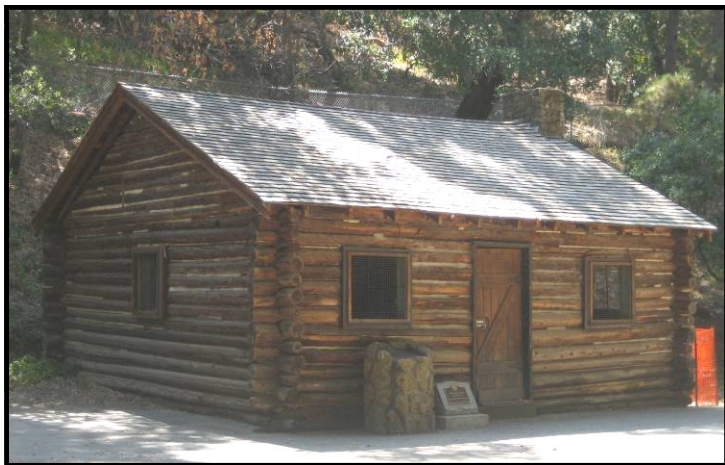
[www.recyclebookstore.com](http://www.recyclebookstore.com)

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# Exploring Our San Jose Landmarks

Here are the next three San Jose Landmarks from the City list. Check previous *Continuity* issues for descriptions of landmarks #1-21 at [www.preservation.org](http://www.preservation.org).

## HL82-22 Alum Rock Log Cabin, 15571 Alum Rock Ave.



This one-story cabin was built by the Native Daughters of the Golden West as a monument to our pioneer heritage and was designed by the local pioneer architects and builders, Theodore Lenzen and I.D. Wolf. The original idea of the memorial to the pioneers is credited to Miss Tillie Brohaska. The cabin was presented to the City of San Jose at a 1916 festive dedication. Built in 1914-1916, it has retained its original appearance and links us to the pioneer days of Santa Clara Valley. The cabin was constructed with redwood logs from the Santa Cruz Mountains, as were the many dwellings built and lived in by early Santa Clara Valley pioneers. It has one room with a cobblestone fireplace and was used in the past by various local associations. During its construction, lumber firms donated the doors, windows and floor of the cabin. Members of the carpenters and bricklayers unions donated the labor. Southern Pacific and San Jose Railroads donated transportation of the building materials. The cabin is located along the main Alum Rock Park Road just before the Visitor Center.

## HL82-23 Sunset Telephone & Telegraph Building, 80 South Market St.

This four-story, steel-framed building is historically significant as San Jose's first communication center and is a unique

example of turn-of-the-century architecture. Built in 1907, the architecture combines classical and renaissance elements with additions made in 1909, 1924, and 1945. The original architect is unknown but engineers and architects working on the additions were: C.W. Bricket, Mr. Cobby, and Henry Thomsen Jr. The building rests between the historic St. Joseph's Cathedral and the Old Post Office, now the San Jose Museum of Art, and contributes to a block of interesting structures of the past and which reminds us of our architectural heritage. The building was used as a switching station until the early 1950's when Pacific Telephone moved the operation to Almaden Boulevard. Then it served as a long distance operator and internal PBX facility until 1972, when automated systems replaced the manual equipment. This author remembers working as a long-distance operator in this building while attending San Jose State. Pacific Telephone sold the building to private owners in 1980.

Today St. Joseph's Cathedral owns the building. The first floor holds a Cathedral Gift Shop, offices, a clinic and a Parish Hall. The third floor is rented out to attorneys and the top floor serves as a rectory.

*(Continued on page 21)*



*Top, Sunset Telephone & Telegraph Bldg. Above, looking up to the 3rd and 4th stories at the eaves and moldings.*



# Exploring Our San Jose Landmarks (Cont'd)

## HL83-24 Dohrmann Building, 325 So. First St

The Dohrmann Building was designed by architects Ashley and Ever and built in 1926 for San Francisco businessman A.B.C. Dohrmann. The building was considered a miniature duplication of the Louis Sullivan-Chicago style architecture and was a significant contribution to the economic development and retail expansion of the southern portion of commercial downtown San Jose. The reinforced concrete structure has a classic facade of terra cotta, dark marble, stone, ceramic tile and molded metal trim. The unique arrangement of windows was one of its attractive features. The first two floors held retail and a grand mezzanine opened to a third floor which displayed elegant gift merchandise such as china, silver, and crystal. The third and fourth floors originally operated as the Dohrmann Hotel Supply Co. for the new St. Claire Hotel, the local hospital and restaurants. The retail store, originally Trinkler-Dohrmann, was renamed Nathan-Dohrmann a few



years later and was the prestigious resource for wedding presents and luxury gifts. The retail store closed in 1960; the Dohrmann Hotel Supply moved and closed two years later. Ironically, the primary cause of deteriorating business at the San Jose store was due to the Dohrmann Company's successful Emporium built at the Steven's Creek Boulevard shopping center (Valley Fair) in the late 1950's. The Dohrmann building was rehabilitated in 1984-1986 at a cost of \$1.4 million dollars and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. ☞



*Above, the Dohrmann Building on South First Street.  
Left, the interior of the building as you walk in the door.  
The ceiling at the second level has been enclosed.  
Note the beautiful floor.*

*(Photos: & Text G. Frank)*

*[Source: Historical Report, San Jose City Hall]*

To view the entire San Jose Landmark list, map and pictures go to:  
<http://www.sanjoseca.gov/planning/Historic/landmarks.asp>



## Restoration Celebration

On Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, The Friends of Ryland Pool invite all to celebrate the completion of the pool's tile restoration. They will also dedicate the commemorative plaque and welcome sign, along with their collaborative partners - The Rotary Club of San Jose and the City of San Jose. The event will begin at 12:00 pm with swimming from 1-4 pm.

The Ryland Pool is located between Fox and Bassett and San Pedro and 1st Street. Enter on Ryland Park Drive.

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[www.trianontheatre.com](http://www.trianontheatre.com) for more information.

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# Preservation Action Council of San Jose

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## PAC\*SJ Membership Application

Name(s)\_\_\_\_\_ Telephone(s)\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail\_\_\_\_\_

*We are using email as much as possible to notify members about news and events. Not providing an email address will make it more difficult for us to contact you about our important activities.*

New Member\_\_\_\_\_ Renewing Member\_\_\_\_\_

Please circle the level at which you wish to join:

Individual	\$35
Family	\$50
Student or Senior (over 65)	\$20
Non-profit or School	\$25
Contributor	\$100
Patron	\$250
Benefactor	\$1,000

**Join at the \$100 level or above** and receive a special premium—either the recently published *Signposts Revisited* by Pat Loomis or the *Willow Glen Historical Walking Tour* book, now in its second printing.

Please indicate your selection:

*Signposts Revisited*\_\_\_\_\_ or *Willow Glen Historical Walking Tour*\_\_\_\_\_

I am enclosing \$\_\_\_\_\_ as an extra donation to PAC\*SJ for a total amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in working with the following Committee(s) (*please check*):

☐ Advocacy

☐ Programs/Education

☐ Fundraising

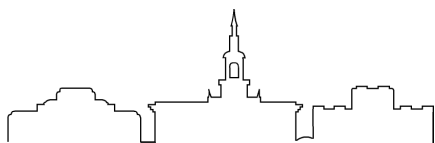
☐ Events

☐ Membership

Complete and return to:

Preservation Action Council of San Jose  
P.O. Box 2287, San Jose, CA 95109-2287  
Phone: (408)-998-8105

*Rev. June09*



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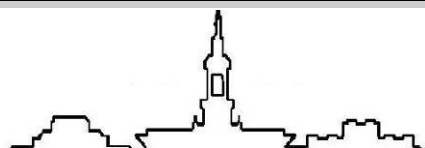
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***Join or Renew Today: Membership Form Inside on Page 23!***



# CONTINUITY

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

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

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