



CONTINUITY

Volume 23, No. 4

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

Winter, 2012

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Movie Night - 2012

This year, PAC*SJ's Movie Night was to be a very special event on November 8th at the San Jose Woman's Club. Not only were we to show vintage film footage, wear vintage clothing and enjoy potluck dishes, but we also planned to present the *Preservation Hero - Hall of Fame Award* to our long time Board member and prominent advocate for historic preservation, Judi Henderson. Sadly Judi passed away two days before our event. There was a somber sense in the air that night as PAC*SJ members and other friends and family of Judi gathered.

Tributes to Judi were delivered by Joe Melehan, Jim Zetterquist and Patt Curia. For details of the tribute to Judi's life see page 4. The PAC*SJ award was presented to Judi's husband Jim and daughter Jill. Tears were hard to hold back when Jim announced that Jill was wearing Judi's wedding dress from the 1960s. She looked beautiful.

The Movie

The evening progressed with a collage of still photos of favorite local spots. Joe Melehan and Jim Zetterquist were Masters of Ceremonies, offering comments and asking trivia questions sporadically. Then we projected our featured movie, the rarely seen "Our Changing Valley" with

Joe Melehan and Jim Zetterquist as Masters of Ceremonies for Movie Night

footage from Pacific Bell Company and the San Jose Chamber of Commerce showing San Jose and nearby cities in the early 20th century. Jim and Suzanne Salata donated the film to the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County's film archive. Suzanne reportedly rescued the footage from disposal years ago while working at Pacific Bell. Bill Foley and Rick Helin, from the Pioneers, edited and digitized the entertaining movie and collage. Scenes from the film included historic buildings, Alum Rock Park, downtown San Jose, Los Gatos, Saratoga, Sunnyvale, Santa Clara, Palo Alto and Mountain View. We saw early footage of the Spartan Stadium, Hendy's Iron Works, a lumber saw mill and orchard blossoms. Some of the many activities shown ranged from Camp Fire Girls cheerleading and dancing around a May Pole, musicians in concert, to

(Cont'd on p. 2)



Movie Night - 2012 (Cont'd)

employees working in canneries, drying sheds and packing houses. A Pacific Bell safety film was included where examples of careless accidents were portrayed such as stepping in a bucket of hot tar or accidentally stabbing a foot with a pick ax.

The Food

Winning the 1950s most nostalgic and delicious recipes were: cole slaw brought by Bev Blockie; chicken and fruit casserole brought by Susan De Young, and upside-down apricot cake made by Patricia Colombe. But the decision was difficult. The fare was full of dishes that reminded us of decades ago including deviled eggs, jello salads, green salads, macaroni and cheese, spaghetti, beans with Vienna sausages, tuna casseroles, baked beans, pasta casseroles and more. Pizza and lasagna was purchased to augment the food. A third table of deserts offered delectable cookies, brownies, custard, cakes, peanut butter rice krispies and "heavenly hash."



The Vintage Outfits

The best vintage outfit was awarded to Ellen Garboske who arrived as Charlie Chaplin. Her costume was so complete many of us didn't recognize her right away. Patt Curia, Sharon McCauley, Angel Vaden and Wendy Peikes also wore outstanding attire from earlier decades. The movie night usherettes, from Portraits of the Past - History San Jose, wore burgundy matching jackets and hats. The usherettes, Nancy Martin, Mary Martin and JoAnn Renk, acted as our judges and chose the best recipes and vintage dress.

PAC*SJ would like to thank our partners, California Pioneers of Santa Clara County, the Fruit Cocktail Club, and the San Jose Woman's Club for making this event possible. ☪

(More photos on p. 8)

Top left, Ellen Garboske as Charlie Chaplin with Kathy Muller

Top right, Sharon McCauley in 1950s attire

Left, Patt Curia in 1950s attire with Joan Bohnett wearing a vintage mask.

Executive Director's Message

A few random year-end thoughts.....

Congratulations to our newly elected and re-elected Board members.

Returning Board members are: Patt Curia, Ellen Garboske, Cici Green and Helen Stevens who were re-elected to 2-year terms.

New Board members are: Hugh Graham, Brian Habekoss, Howard Lyons, John Mitchell, and John Rigter.

At the recent Annual Meeting the Board elected its new officers:

Eric Thacker	President
Gayle Frank	Vice President
Julia Howlett	Secretary
Helen Stevens	Membership

As we welcome new members we also say good-bye to two dedicated and long-serving Board members. Joe Melehan and Jim Zetterquist are stepping down after many years of service to PAC*SJ. Both have served as president and have chaired many successful events for the organization.

Joe and Jim brought a level of expertise and professionalism to our group and helped us grow into a stronger, more respected organization.

Although we will miss them on the Board we hope to see them around next year when they put together another of their popular Fruit Cocktail Movie Night programs.

As you will read elsewhere in this issue, we are also bidding a fond farewell to our friend and mentor, Judi



Brian Grayson

Photo: G. Frank

Henderson. Judi passed away in early November and left a legacy behind that few, if any, will ever surpass. The PAC*SJ family extends its condolences to Judi's husband, Jim, and daughter, Jill.

Looking ahead to next year, we are working on our calendar of events. We hope to release details soon about our plans. Discussions include some old favorites and maybe some new programs as well.

Please keep us in mind for year-end donations. We will use the funds to continue working to protect San Jose's architectural heritage. Thank you in advance for any gift you can give.

Have a happy holiday season. Be sure to tell those close to you how much they mean to you. Peace. ☮

**-Brian Grayson
Executive Director
PAC*SJ**



is published quarterly by the
PRESERVATION ACTION COUNCIL OF SAN JOSE

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

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Remembering Judi Henderson

By Judy Stabile and Jim Zetterquist

On November 8th, PAC*SJ added Judi Henderson to our Preservation Hall of Fame. It was a heartfelt award, even more so because Judi passed away two days earlier. Judi's husband, Jim Henderson, and her daughter Jill Bleeg accepted the award on Judi's behalf. Part of the award ceremony included presenting Jim and Jill with an engraved silver heart that symbolized that Judi was the "heart" of the PAC*SJ preservation community.

There was something about Judi that attracted people to her, and to PAC*SJ. Part of that was her genuine interest in their lives and her willingness to listen more than she spoke. She was trusted and could keep a confidence. We all enjoyed her good humor and the upbeat way she pitched in on anything that had to be done. Her patience and graciousness excelled when she had to persuade people holding opposite opinions about preservation. She made friends for PAC*SJ wherever she went.

The second part of the award presentation was an inscribed brick salvaged from the destroyed IBM Building 25. The brick symbolized Judi's tenaciousness and her strength in preservation advocacy. During the presentation, PAC*SJ Executive Director Brian Grayson said, "the brick was the foundation and support for Building 25. It is appropriate that we present this brick to her family since Judi was the foundation and support of PAC*SJ." The brick also reminds us of the hard truths about preservation advocacy. Judi led the successful campaign to save Building 25, but there is never a guarantee that historic buildings will stay "saved." Building 25 was ultimately lost to fire, along with the Porter-Stock building, the Houghton-Donner building, and recently, the Delmas Avenue church.

Judi got her start as a local history advocate by volunteering at the San Jose History Museum (now History San Jose) in the late 1970s. She was appointed to the Historic Land-



Judi wearing her "Preservation Hero" apron with a photo of the Hayes Mansion, presented to her in September, 2012.

marks Commission (HLC) in 1980. At the time, the Commission was staffed by the Redevelopment Agency (RDA), not the Planning Department, and there was a sense that RDA did not always have historic preservation's best interests in mind when it came to saving structures in or near downtown. It was a challenging time to say the least.

Her first real battle as a Commissioner was the attempt to save Eagles Hall, next to the Unitarian Church, facing St. James Park. Despite the fact that the RDA staff literally wouldn't share the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) information with the Commission, the Commissioners put up enough of a fight that the City Council agreed to save the façade of Eagles Hall. It was a bittersweet result, since the classic Greek façade was pasted off-center on the new building, a textbook example of how not to do historic preservation.

Judi was on the Historic Landmarks Commission for five years, but had to leave when she became a City Council aide in 1985. She kept up the fight for saving historic buildings from her new position and was instrumental in moving the Historic Landmarks Commis-

sion staffing from the RDA to the Planning Department, maybe the best thing that ever happened for preservation in this city. She worked hard on the Council's adopted "Plan for the Past," which contained many ideas for using our downtown historic buildings to enhance the downtown's ambiance.

Judi also helped staff the Unreinforced Masonry Structures Committee, the group that formed after the Loma Prieta earthquake. Most of our historic brick buildings were not seismically reinforced and they were considered an earthquake hazard to people both inside and outside the structures. The committee was able to convince the Council to use Redevelopment money to assist building owners with reinforcement costs. As a result, the National Register Commercial District is still intact.

(Cont'd on p. 5)

Remembering Judi (Cont'd)

Saving the Hayes Mansion was an enormous challenge because it was not in a Redevelopment Area, and therefore not eligible for RDA money. For years Judi helped lead “flashlight tours” through the boarded-up mansion, hoping to find someone interested in preserving and using it. Word of the tours spread, and many people, including City Council members, wanted to tour the enormous old house. Both the house and the tour-guide were charming and ultimately the Hayes was saved.

When Judi’s time as a Council aide was over in 1992, she joined the newly formed Preservation Action Council, became a Board member and joined PAC*SJ’s advocacy team. She also returned to the HLC for two more terms. Adding up her years on the Commission and her years covering the Commission for PAC*SJ, Judi has undoubtedly attended more San Jose HLC meetings than any other human in history; she was a local legend in the historic preservation community. The City ultimately named her a Landmarks Commissioner-Emeritus.

Judi chaired PAC*SJ’s Advocacy Committee for more than a decade. During her nearly 20 years with PAC*SJ, she was involved in too many successes to list here. But some of the most important to her were the Hayes Mansion, California/Fox theater, the Jose Theater, the Montgomery Hotel, IBM Building 25, the River Street historic district, Del Monte Plant 51, the Metropole Hotel, the Medico-Dental building, the Woolworth building, the Fountain Alley buildings, the Wilcox building, the Sainte Claire building, and the historic buildings surrounding St. James Park.

In addition to her work with PAC*SJ, Judi was proud of her work helping edit a number of local history books, especially “Reflections on the Past.” And to the end she was very devoted to maintaining the 1930 San Jose Woman’s Club Club-House, both because she was a member of the Club, but also because it is a City Landmark in need of upgrading.

Although Judi has left us and we will greatly miss her, her hard work and dedication to preserving our city’s heritage will live on. ❧

More Memories of Judi

Judi and I sat on two non-profit boards together. If she was chairing a project or a committee, I wanted to be on her team. If I was chairing a project or committee, I wanted her to “cover my back”. She joined the San Jose Woman’s Club in 1999, where she put her preservation skills into action. During her service as Vice President, Treasurer and House Manager, she worked to improve our business practices so the Club could become more efficient and profitable. More importantly, she worked to upgrade the Clubhouse’s infrastructure, a 1929 Wolfe and Higgins Spanish Revival building designated City Landmark #32. Under her care, we began Phase 1 of our electrical upgrade, painted the building inside and out, and remodeled the 2nd story studio. The Woman’s Club is launching a \$1 million campaign to continue her efforts to preserve the Clubhouse. Many have donated in memory of Judi to keep her good works moving forward.

Patt Curia
President of San Jose Woman’s Club



Photo: G. Frank

Judi Henderson
Preservation Hero

Preservation Kudos

Radar Tower at Mt. Umunhum

The radar tower at Mt. Um has received a reprieve from the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District. It has agreed to seal the structure's first floor, complete high priority repairs, and allow the tower to remain for five years; hopefully enough time for the public to raise funds for full restoration. They concluded, "because of the public input, we need to think about it in more of a regional context." Kudos go to those citizens who have already offered significant financial donations. And we are grateful to the Santa Clara County Historical Heritage Commission who went on record in favor of saving the tower, a symbol of the Cold War struggle.

Happy Birthday, San Jose

On Nov. 18th, History San Jose celebrated San Jose's 235th birthday at the Peralta Adobe Historic Site. San Jose (known at that time as El Pueblo de San Jose de Guadalupe) was founded on November 29th, 1777 and was the first pueblo of California. Guests were invited to take tours of the Peralta Adobe and the Fallon House, share birthday cake and meet members of founding families. Music and children's activities enhanced the festivities. Inside the Lusardi Building next door, the 1775 National Anza Trail Exhibit also opened and will be free to the public through January 15th, 2013.

GE Meyer Appliance Sign Will Return

The nostalgic GE Meyer Appliance sign is scheduled to return to its previous site near the corner of Meridian Ave. and W. San Carlos St. The 3.5 acre site will be developed as a rental apartment complex. *Pierce Signs & Displays* will refurbish the sign that will be incorporated into the new structure.

San Jose 2040 General Plan

The recently approved San Jose 2040 General Plan states two of many main points: 1) Preserve neighborhood character, and 2) Protect historic resources. Let's hope the city keeps these two important points in mind during future planning. Community members, the Envision Task Force and City staff worked together to formulate this Plan. To learn more about San Jose's General Plan go to www.EnvisionSJ2040.org.

Two Historic Houses Saved (for now) in Mt. View

Congratulations to those Mountain View City Council members who agreed to temporarily move the Immigrant House and to order a study for re-use of the Pearson House. Earlier this year council members gave the go-ahead to demolish the 1,100 sq. ft. Pearson House and the 400 sq. ft. Immigrant House. Both structures sit at the corner of Villa and Bryant Streets in Mountain View. A public outcry convinced the City Council to rethink its position.

Preservationists, such as Mary Kay Marinovich, argue that the Immigrant House is "a crucial piece of the city's identity." The structure is thought to have been built in the early 1860s and "sheltered the Santa Clara Valley's early labor force." The house serves as a contrast to the wealthy citizens and represents the humble working classes.

The Pearson House, built in the 1880s, was reportedly constructed with rough-hewn redwood and square nails underneath its exterior siding. Charles Pearson, who owned the house, arrived here from Sweden after sailing to many countries as a seaman and became an early rancher/businessman in Mt. View. 

Preservation Loss

The Retro Dome

The Retro Dome at 1694 Saratoga Avenue, formerly Century 25 cinema, is scheduled to be demolished. In 2009, the theater was renovated by Guggenheim Entertainment, utilizing half the space for movies and the second space for stage productions.

This dome theater opened in 1969 by the Century Theatres chain. By 1974 its single screen was converted to twin screens. It is part of the Westgate Mall complex in west San Jose.

The performance group, Guggenheim Entertainment, says it will be looking for a new space to present the entertainment.



“Rotten Tooth” Competition



In 2012, First Church of Christ, Scientist, “Rotten Tooth” winner



Vintage photo of First Church in its splendor

The “winner” of columnist Scott Herhold’s blight contest, launched in the *San Jose Mercury*, was announced on September 18th. PAC*SJ’s nomination of the First Church of Christ, Scientist on St. James Street won! It garnered the most votes as the worst “Rotten Tooth” in the area.

Herhold received more than 45 nominations for his “Rotten Tooth” competition that included historic landmarks, empty gas stations, a hoarder’s house, vacant office buildings, a deserted gym club, and various abandoned homes.

Herhold and his team selected three finalists from the nominations. Newspaper readers were asked to vote for the top “rotten tooth.” The three finalists were: The First Church of Christ, Scientist across from St. James Park, a burned home in Cupertino, and an abandoned sub-prime lender’s office on the corner of Bascom Avenue and Stevens Creek Boulevard.

The contest received more than 280 responses and the historic church PAC*SJ nominated received 44% of the online vote. The lending office received 30% and the burned Cupertino home received 26% of the votes. Herhold admits the competition was not scientific but said, “it’s hard to dismiss the old church, a once-grand building” and “this prominent site on the downtown park gives its blight a forceful impact.” Preservationists urged the public to vote for the church, hoping it would urge those responsible into renovating the classical treasure soon, a battle lasting over twenty years. The people have spoken. Years ago, an agreement was made to bring this historic building back to life. Will this help speed up the restoration of this beautiful and significant building? 



Left, finalist, Western Funding on Bascom & Stevens Creek.

Right, multiple nominations for building on Winchester & Pruneridge.

(text & photos: G. Frank)



Movie Night - 2012 (Cont'd)



Far left, Angel Vaden and Wendy Peikes in costume.



Left, Ralph Pearce, Tim Peddy and Rick Helin.

Right, usherettes from Portraits of the Past, Nancy Martin, Mary Martin and JoAnn Renk.



Above, Mellanie and Bill Blockie, Bev Blockie, and Ellen Garboske

Right, Nina and Brian Grayson.



Right, George Lechner, Diane Fox Lechner, Mary Jo Dilger and Joe Dilger.

(Text & Photos: G. Frank.)



New Bells for Trinity

By Julie Pifer

Since 1880, bells from the tower of Trinity Episcopal Cathedral have rung for services, weddings, funerals, and national holidays and can be heard through the northern parts of downtown San Jose. The Cathedral, on the corner of Second and St. John Streets, is a San Jose City Landmark (No. 6) and is the oldest church building in continuous use in San Jose, built in 1863.

Originally in November, 1879, Trinity ordered five bells that were hung by April, 1880. Now there are 18 bells, and ever since the last nine were added in 1976, the bell-ringers have dreamed of purchasing more. The set of bells is called a carillon and is played by striking a keyboard with the fists, and by pressing the keys of a pedal keyboard with the feet. The keys mechanically activate levers and wires that connect to metal clappers that strike the inside of the bells.

Now, in 2012, with great trepidation (our Treasurer described it as “stepping off a cliff,”) we’ve signed the contract for five more bells this year with a provision for 19 more in the future. Adding the new bells means dramatically increasing the weight within the bell tower. During an inspection for reinforcement planning, the engineering team found two termite infestations in the tower. A previous termite tenting of the structure in 1991 did not include enclosing the bell tower because the crane sank in the lawn, making it unsafe to ascend high enough. So this is the first termite extermination of the bell tower since it was built in 1876!

At Trinity, before we can re-hang old and new bells in a new bell frame, with new rods, bushings, return springs and a new playing console, the tower will be reinforced. One engineering firm assured us the tower was safe if we don’t add too much weight — they didn’t say how much weight was too much. However, this is earthquake country as well as termite territory and past repairs appear suspicious.

A crane was hired to take down all of the present bells, to be transported by Meeks & Watson, Bell Founders, to its foundry in Georgetown, Ohio, where they will be tuned to match the tone profile of the new bells to be cast.



Historic Trinity Episcopal Cathedral tented for termite extermination on October 1-3, 2012.

When a bell is struck, it becomes a chord—a minor fifth, actually. There’s the Strike Tone (the first sound you notice), and the Hum Tone that runs around the rim of the bell, an octave below the Strike Tone. Then there are the overtones, which give a bell its beautiful (or otherwise) tone. If you play a bell, say Middle C, you also hear the C an octave below, with the E flat and G above, repeated in series. If these are all spot on, the sound is glorious. If not, it can sound like you’re banging on a pot lid.

To produce a bell many decades ago, a certain weight of metal was poured into a mold, and the result was anybody’s guess. If it had a poor sound, the founder took

(Cont’d on p. 10)

New Bells (Cont'd)

a hammer and chisel and shaved off metal from inside the bell. Not until the Industrial Revolution were there giant lathes and motors capable of turning and tuning a cast bell. This technology filtered down from a craft firmly rooted in the Middle Ages.

Trinity's new bells will be a "soprano" carillon, because bigger, lower-pitched bells weigh more, take up space we don't have and are more costly. The carillonneurs (those that play the carillon) positively salivate at the thought of a low E flat bell, but just one of those bells would weigh 725 pounds and cost over \$15,000. Bells are made of a special bell bronze, approximately 79% copper and 21% tin, and the price of copper is going through the top of the steeple. The smaller and higher pitched the bell, the less bronze it takes, and therefore more affordable. Some of the smallest bells run around \$200.

If all goes well, 23 new and re-tuned bells will be returned and set up in the Fall of 2013, in time to ring for the 150th anniversary of the first service in the church - assuming we've figured out how to play them. ❧



Bells in the Trinity tower

(Photos: Julie Pifer)

*Julie Pifer is a PAC*SJ member and plays the Carillon at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral.*

For more history and pictures of the Trinity Cathedral go to our Spring, 2011 issue of *Continuity*, page 7.

Christmas Celebrated in Historic Settings

The holiday season brings decorations, events, music and festivities to many landmarks, historic structures and vintage homes. Although many events have concluded before our press time, here are just some of the offerings in our area.

- **Christmas at the Ainsley House:** through Dec. 20th
www.cityofcampbell.com/museum
- **Holiday tradition at Dunsmuir-Hellman House,** Dec. 8-9 and 15-16. www.dunsmuirhellman.org.
- **Santa Clara Historic Home Tour,** Dec. 7-8.
www.wsc-hometour.com.
- **Christmas at Ardenwood,** Dec. 6-9, 13-16.
www.ebparks.org/features

- Season of Hope, **Cathedral Basilica of St. Joseph**, free concert series Dec. 12-23. www.stjosephcathedral.org.
- Winter's Gift: Light, The Choral Project at **Mission Santa Clara**, Dec. 16. <http://www.sjcp.org>
- A Chanticleer Christmas, **Mission Santa Clara**, Dec. 22.
- Ohlone College Chamber Singers, **Old Mission San Jose**, Dec. 15.

Earlier in December other Christmas events were held at such historical building as History San Jose's Fallon House, the California Theatre, San Jose Woman's Club, New Almaden Quicksilver Mining Museum and Filoli.



San Jose's Newest Landmarks

The following is a list of the newest city historic landmarks recommended by the Historic Landmarks Commission and approved by the San Jose Council on Nov. 27th. During the approval process, Councilman Sam Liccardo stated that approving these record number of five city historic landmarks was a fitting tribute to Judi Henderson. The Nov. 27th afternoon Council Meeting was adjourned in memory of Judi Henderson.

Each new city landmark structure represents special historic, architectural, cultural, aesthetic or engineering interest or value of an historic nature. In addition to landmark status, each of the owners have entered into a Mills Act contract with the city.

Landmark Costs Rise

PAC*SJ has recently learned that the City of San Jose has clarified application fees and added inspection fees for obtaining city landmark status of a home or building. The state now requires cities to conduct a prior inspection and a follow-up inspection in five years for city landmarks under a Mills Act Contract.

With the two noticing fees of about \$300, the Historic Property Contract application fee of \$730 minimum, and a 1.5 staff time inspection fee (\$300), it now is over \$5,000 to get in the door, not including the costs of a consultant to prepare the DPR523 forms (historical information) and related applications.

We hope this rise in cost of the initiation process for landmarking will not reduce future landmark nominations in our city. ❧

- HL12-204, "Burns House" at 255 North 5th Street
- HL12-205, "Caputo House" at 494 South Cypress Ave.
- HL12-206, "Croft House" at 1305 Martin Avenue
- HL12-207, "Ruddick Triplex" at 499 East Reed Street
- HL12-208, "Pomeroy House" at 225 Sequoia Avenue

Congratulations to all!

You may recognize the name, "Caputo House," since this house was featured in our Wolfe and Wolfe Prairie Homes Tour on August 18th. The owner, Krista Van Laan, also graciously offered her home for our annual celebration event on the Friday night before the Tour. Congratulations Krista on landmarking your beautiful home! For photos and details of her house go to our website, www.preservation.org and view our spring issue of *Continuity*, pages 9-10. ❧



New Local History Book

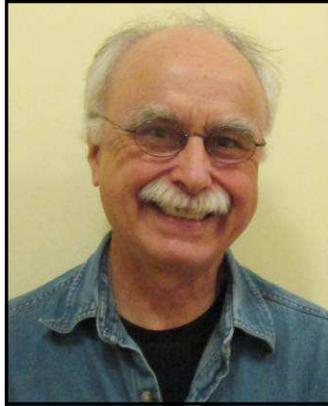
"Quest for Flight: John J. Montgomery and the Dawn of Aviation in the West" by Craig S. Harwood and Gary B. Fogel was just published in October, 2012.

"Quest for Flight" reveals the amazing accomplishments of John J. Montgomery, a prolific inventor who piloted the glider he designed in 1883 in the first controlled flights of a heavier-than-air craft in the Western Hemisphere. Re-examining the history of American aviation, Craig Harwood and Gary Fogel present the story of human efforts to take to the skies.

They show that history's nearly exclusive focus on the Wright brothers resulted from a lengthy public campaign the Wrights waged to profit from their aeroplane patent and create a monopoly in aviation. Countering the aspersions cast on Montgomery and his work, Harwood and Fogel build a solidly documented case for Montgomery's pioneering role in aeronautical innovation. In 2008, a sculpture of a glider wing was unveiled at San Felipe and Yerba Buena Roads in San Jose, near where Montgomery crashed and died in 1911, as a tribute to his pioneering aviation accomplishments. ❧

Meet Our New Board Members for 2013

Hugh Graham – is a retired Principal Planner with Santa Clara County and was responsible for evaluating the environmental impacts of proposed development projects. He was a former member of the Board of Directors of the Willow Glen Neighborhood Association. Hugh is also a representative of Council District 9 on the San Jose Neighborhoods Commission and has served since its inception. Hugh believes historical preservation is crucial to creating a San Jose community that emphasizes its uniqueness as not just anywhere USA. He wants to see more historical structures integrated into the active city, not just as museum pieces.



graduating from school and college he moved to Bellflower, California and started teaching both elementary and junior high, primarily in mathematics. Relocating again he took a position to help implement an innovative teacher evaluation program in Hawaii. Following that he went to American Savings and Loan as VP of Business Development and director of three teller training schools.

A couple of years later an opportunity arose that "I could not resist. I found a tax business for sale so I jumped." He continues to manage and operate that business today as Lyons' Financial as both an EA and CFP. "My interest in preservation of all kinds goes back several decades as I watched our society build most everything with planned obsolescence. The landfills are full and overflowing. We bulldoze perfectly good buildings because we do not think to re-use and recycle. Better to make the old new again. I hope to add some value to the PAC*SJ Board so that more people are aware of the good that they do."

Brian Habekoss - is President of the Buena Vista Neighborhood Association. He has lived in a 1925 bungalow in San Jose for two years and became interested in old houses while looking to buy a house in the area. "I had my first close look at a craftsman bungalow with original windows and unpainted woodwork and fell in love. I just figured I should have a house with character if I could only afford a small one. Little did I know historical architecture would become such a strong interest of mine. I have enjoyed being a docent on a couple of house tours and look forward to learning more about preserving the history of my adopted home town of San Jose."



John Mitchell - was an original founding member of PAC*SJ in 1991. One of its first efforts was the First Church of Christ, Scientist. John submitted a grant application to the Community Fund and received \$500 for a preliminary architectural study for the Church. Back in the mid-70s John and a friend lobbied the County Board of Supervisors for nearly a year (maybe pestered is a better word) and finally got the Board to spend Park Acquisition Funds to purchase the Grant Ranch, which was going to be developed into mini-ranchettes. John has been an avid local history buff for many years.



Howard Lyons - was born in Grand Rapids, Michigan. His family moved to a dairy farm near Trufant, Michigan, which was his first taste of preservation and recycling. After

John Rigter - is a San Jose native and is a neighbor of Board member, Eric Thacker. John owns a Victorian home in San Jose and serves as a part-time firefighter. 

Visit With a PAC*SJ Member

Last month, Mary Parks Washington, a PAC*SJ member, donated vintage clothing and garage sale items to PAC*SJ. During our visit, we learned that Mary has the distinction of being related to Rosa Parks of civil rights history. Further, Mary, a retired art teacher, told us that she has researched the well-known 19th century African-American and Chippewa-Indian artist Edmonia Lewis whose sculptures are displayed at the Martin Luther King Jr. Library in downtown San Jose. Lewis studied in Rome and was invited to create sculptures for major expositions in both Europe and the U.S. during the late 19th century. Her works are on exhibit in many institutions throughout the country including the Smithsonian American Art Museum.

It seems that Edmonia Lewis was a free spirit who visited San Jose for three months late in 1873 while she exhibited her art in San Francisco and San Jose. That year, the San Jose Library Association (a fee-based library predating the public library by a few years) purchased one of Lewis's sculptures, "Abraham Lincoln." Sarah Knox-Goodrich purchased two other pieces, "Awake" and "Asleep," each portraying a pair of children.

These three sculptures can be seen in the California Room of the Library from 1-6 pm Tuesdays through Saturdays. The art pieces were cleaned and highlighted for an open house at the library last spring. At that time, Mary Parks Washington delivered a presentation on Lewis and her art. ☞



*Mary Parks Washington holding a gown she donated to PAC*SJ.*

(Photos & text: G. Frank)



Edmonia Lewis sculptures displayed in the Martin Luther King Jr. Library.

"Lincoln" - "Asleep" - "Awake"



PAC*SJ Calendar 2013

- Feb** 11 Monday, PAC*SJ Board Meeting, 6:30 - 8:30 pm. History San Jose, Pasetta House
- Mar** 18 Monday, PAC*SJ Board Meeting, time TBD. History San Jose, Pasetta House
- Apr** 15 Monday, PAC*SJ Board Meeting, time TBD. History San Jose, Pasetta House
- May** 20 Monday, PAC*SJ Board Meeting, time TBD. History San Jose, Pasetta House

For Sale American Bungalow Magazine Collection

I have an almost complete collection of American Bungalow Magazine # 1 through current issue #75 (missing only four issues) all in excellent condition. I would like to get them to a good home. The articles provide excellent source material for Bungalow homeowners as well as architects, re-modeling contractors and designers.

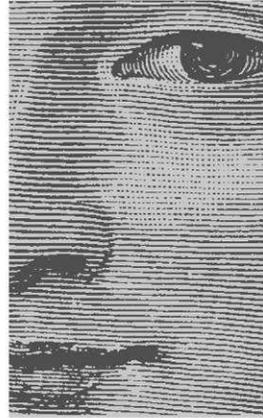
According to the magazine's own pricelist, their value is as follows: Issues 1 – 14, 23, 24, 30, 32, 33, 61, 63 and 72 which I have, are sold out and, therefore, priceless.

(Some scarce issues for sale on ABE are asking \$25 ea.)
With Issues 15 – 40 @ \$14 each and Issues 41 – 75 @ \$10 each the complete set could be valued at up to \$1,000.

The collection includes issue #54 that features the Shasta-Hanchett District. I am asking a mere \$500. Prefer to be contacted via email bethwym@yahoo.com.

-Beth Wyman

LWGRAPHICS



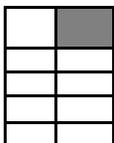
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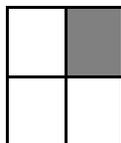
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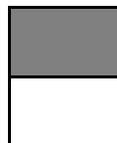
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GERTRUDE STRONG ACHILLES and FOUNTAIN OAKS

By Beth Wyman

Gertrude Strong Achilles is someone I would have enjoyed knowing. She was, perhaps, one of the most famous women in Morgan Hill's history. She was reared in Rochester, New York and, as a child, her family boarded for a time with a local widow, Maria Eastman. Subsequently the members of the two households became friends.

Maria Eastman's son, George Eastman, as a teenager, became interested in and began tinkering with photography as early as 1870. He eventually developed the Kodak dry plate system with a self-rolling film inside the camera, the process that eventually became a worldwide standard.

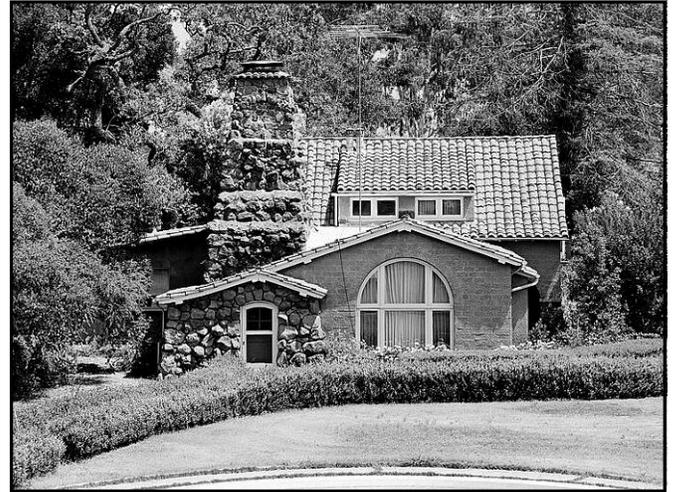
Gertrude's father, Henry Alvah Strong, had spent his youth engaged in exciting adventures but returned to Rochester where he settled down, married and joined the family business of making buggy whips. When Eastman's dry-plate business began to expand and he needed investors; Strong was the first to provide funds of \$1,000 in 1880. As a result, Strong eventually became President of Kodak and his investment provided a substantial return. Subsequently both Strong and Eastman became wealthy men. Strong retired from the business in 1901 and, after his wife died in 1904, he married a woman half his age. He spent his later years mostly playing golf with important people such as John D. Rockefeller.

Strong's two daughters, Gertrude and Helen, inherited his considerable fortune. Gertrude married a man named Henry Achilles who was described as a "trader" in the local Rochester Treasurer's Bank. The couple moved to Hawaii when her sister Helen's husband, George Carter, became Governor of the Islands. Reportedly Gertrude and Henry Achilles built a lavish home there.

Around 1920, Gertrude came to Morgan Hill at the invitation of Charles Kellogg, the so-called "Nature Singer," whom she had met on one of his South Sea tours. Charles was, perhaps, one of the most famous men in Morgan Hill's history. The two had a common interest in nature that developed into a lasting friendship. At the time, Charles was living in a tent-like cabin on an oak-studded hillside above Tennant Avenue which he called "Ever-Ever Land."

*Top, Guest House at Fountains Oaks.
Right, the main house at Fountain Oaks,
the west, front entrance.*

Mrs. Achilles, who arrived with her younger children, first lived in a two-story home known at the time as the Benedict Place. Sadly, this home burned down during her stay and because it was a complete loss she began construction on a new home on property she purchased at the Morgan Hill intersection of Foothill and Tennant Avenues, adjacent to Kellogg's hillside retreat.



There was no local knowledge about her wealth until the structures on the estate she called "Fountain Oaks" began to appear. A rustic guesthouse (above) was completed in 1922 near the swimming pool. It had a huge indigenous stone fireplace with a unique waterfall and a flowing stream built inside. This was created by Charles Kellogg to demonstrate his unique theory about the synergy between air, fire and water.

The main house, a huge, Mediterranean-style mansion, was completed six years later in 1928 and cost \$267,000, an out-of-this-world sum for those days. *(Cont'd on p. 16)*



FOUNTAIN OAKS (Cont'd)



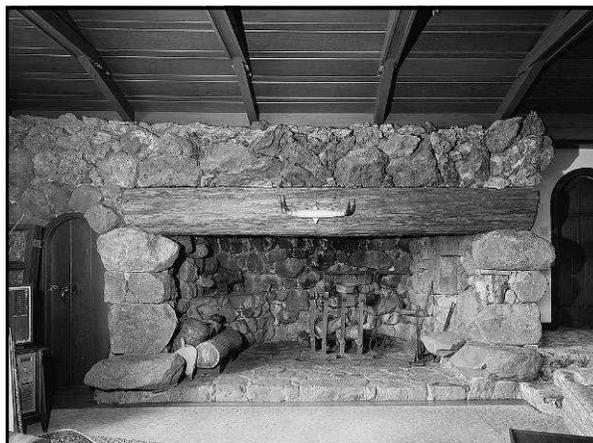
View of main house from the southeast.

Although it has only twelve rooms, all of them are large. For instance, the living room is 40' x 25' and the six bedrooms and 5 ½ baths are all above average size by even today's standards.

There is a large entrance hall, a library, a dining room and a kitchen with pantries and storage rooms. Many of the features installed were far in advance of their time. These included air conditioning, central heating, sliding doors, a hidden elevator and a room-by-room plug-in vacuum system.

Gertrude had another home constructed across Tennant Avenue. This was a five bedroom house complete with its own unique fireplace and swimming pool and was lived in by Charles Kellogg, the ranch manager, and his wife, Sa'di Fuller Kellogg, the daughter of a U. S. Supreme Court Justice, the Hon. Melville Fuller. In addition, a three bedroom gate house was located at the driveway entrance for the guard. This one, too, contained a unique demonstration fireplace inside; all the fireplaces were massive, 12' to 14' wide, 6' to 8' deep and 5' to 6' high. Kellogg's established criterion was "Big enough to burn great logs and wide enough for a little brook to cascade down the sides and run across the hearth." He was an instinctive diviner and always constructed his fireplaces near a natural source of water.

Right, Guest House fireplace



Three older homes were already in existence on the property and additional buildings included a servant's cottage, a horse barn, a tack room, a milking barn, a hay barn and an implement shed.

Mrs. Achilles kept amassing adjoining properties until she had acquired over 594 acres, much of it hill land with numerous springs that, with the aid of Kellogg, were developed into an elaborate water system capable of supplying water for the entire property.

The five acres immediately surrounding the main house were beautifully landscaped with gardens and lawns, all served by an elaborate sprinkler system. The variety of plantings in this area was truly outstanding, featuring trees, shrubs, an iris garden, a rock garden, rose arbors, flowerbeds and several orchards.

According to a local observer of the time, Mrs. Achilles seemed to be interested in seeing things grow. Apparently, by the time a tree had grown and begun to bear fruit she would have it removed and another variety planted in its place. Some of the various orchards that met this fate included fig, chestnut, mulberry, walnut and apricot.

Gertrude became active in causes that suited her inclinations. In 1938, it was reported that an "elderly Sierra Club member, Mrs. Gertrude Achilles, 72, of Morgan Hill, contacted both of her congressmen about the passage of a National Park bill." She enclosed a check for \$100 to the representative who favored the bill. However, it was inadvertently sent to the representative who opposed it. This caused quite a stir with accusations of misconduct and such; however, the park bill was eventually approved.

She also was a contributor to many causes in Rochester, New York. At the urging of George Eastman, she and her sister provided the start-up funds for the *Strong Memorial Hospital* in Rochester in 1920. Eastman had long wanted to fund a hospital and, since his dependable partner, Henry Strong, had died, Eastman approached the daughters for a gift of \$150,000 each.

Neither sister immediately jumped at this opportunity to memorialize their
(Cont'd on p. 17)

FOUNTAIN OAKS (Cont'd)



Interior view of main house front staircase.

parents. At the time, Gertrude remained uncertain about her inheritance because of the young, and, by now, widowed stepmother and, in fact, she argued that she did not live in Rochester, she had not even been born there and she was often snubbed during her infrequent visits.

For her sister, Helen, the timing was bad because of a prior commitment of funds to a dental infirmary in Honolulu. Eventually, though, both women did not want to be upstaged by the stepmother and signed on to the effort. Eastman promised them that the hospital would be "one of the most distinguished in the world and second to none except, perhaps, Johns Hopkins in Baltimore."

Local residents do not recall seeing Mrs. Achilles "around town" or participating in local affairs. One man who worked as an electrical contractor while the estate was being built remembered her as a "rather plain-looking old lady who dressed in gingham clothes." In fact, he mistook her for the maid. However, gingham clothes or not, Gertrude had a maid, a Lincoln limousine, a driver, and a Black butler named Percy who, by contrast, was always dressed in a fine uniform.

When Gertrude Achilles died in 1955, her children, three sons and a daughter, sold the Morgan Hill property. As one measure of her wealth, the estate's value in 1955 was \$9.9 million and the heirs paid an inheritance tax of \$7 million. The 483.32 acres of hill land sold for \$70,000 and the remaining 105 acres with buildings, furniture, live stock and farm equipment was listed for \$400,000. The current owners, Mr.

and Mrs. Vito Chiala are the children of the original buyers. The Chiala family operates a specialized agricultural business, George Chiala Farms Inc. To their enormous credit, they have restored the buildings and grounds to its original splendor.

In 1978 and 1979, the County of Santa Clara was pleased to host the *Historical American Building Survey*, known as HABS, a project originally funded during the great depression in order to create work for unemployed architects. The program has since become a prestigious internship for architects, historians and photographers, and, during the HABS visit to Santa Clara County, the team documented 32 important historical buildings, including *Fountain Oaks*. Because a celebration was in order at the completion of their work, a group of local people arranged to have a party at Fountain Oaks. As a member of the County Historic Heritage Commission, I was pleased to be among the invited guests. It was a beautiful summer day and a truly memorable occasion.

Gertrude Achilles' legacy in Santa Clara County is her amazing *Fountain Oaks* estate. However, the *Strong Memorial Hospital* that she founded in Rochester continues to be considered "one of the best." For a look at the vast hospital complex, log onto the Rochester Library website (Rochester.lib) and find images for *Strong Memorial Hospital*. For the full display of HABS photos of *Fountain Oaks* log onto HABS and go to memory.loc.gov/ammem/collection. Select CA/Santa Clara County/*Fountain Oaks* in Morgan Hill. 

*Beth Wyman is a historian, long-time member of PAC*SJ and a former Board member.*

Photos, from 1979-1980, are from the HABS (Historical American Building Survey) website.

In the Works-Another Fabulous Hats! Party



PAC*SJ Hat Party Committee is hard at work planning the next event. We are always looking for donations of wonderful hats, vintage clothing and accessories. Would you like your historical house as the next location for a hat party? Call Patt Curia at 408-294-3599 or email donations@preservation.org to donate or chat about the event. We are collecting items now and hope to announce the location and date soon.

A Story of a House - AAUW Headquarters

This is the story of the 101 year-old house at 1165 Minnesota Avenue in Willow Glen that belongs to the American Association of University Women (AAUW.)

History of the Land

In 1977, the AAUW's Family History Section researched the history of its land, resulting in many interesting documents that are exhibited in the entry hall of the house. Included are copies of the Spanish and the English translation of the original Mexican land grant, awarded by Manuel Micheltoarena to Jose Augustin Narvaez in 1844.

In a later 1850 translated deed, the land boundaries are described as spreading from the "willow tree marker" to the north next to the "camino real" and following the edge of the wood to the Guadalupe River and then up to "a rather large alder tree." In this deed Jose Augustin Narvaez and his wife, Maria Josefa Higuera, awarded a northern portion of their large San Juan Bautista Rancho to their son, Joaquin Narvaez. Jose Augustin Narvaez was the San Jose Alcalde in 1821. His original land grant was disputed, lost and subsequently confirmed after appeal to the U.S. Courts in 1855, yet the official survey was not finally approved until 1860.

A later map of the 94 acre "Narvais" (here Narvaez is spelled differently) Rancho is on display in the AAUW entry hall with a date marked 1869. The lot for the eventual 1165 Minnesota property sits approximately in the middle of this rancho.

History of the House

After many transfers of the rancho property ownership and later subdivisions the lot was reduced to a plot 100 feet wide and 300 feet deep. The present house was built on that lot in 1911. Directories and recollections indicate that Marshall B. St. John either built or commissioned the construction of the house. In 1920, the Holt family, Michael and Mary, purchased the house and moved in with five of their ten children. Michael Holt came from Planada (near Merced) to San Jose for his health after retiring as a wheat rancher; he died in 1955 at age 89. Mary Holt



AAUW House (formerly the Holt House)

continued to live in the house until the early 1960s. She died in 1965 and was in her late nineties.

The AAUW purchased the historic house for their headquarters at 1165 Minnesota in 1968. At that time the structure was basically sound, but the house needed extensive repairs and remodeling that were partially completed by AAUW Branch members and their husbands.

The attractive AAUW residence has narrow horizontal wood siding on the first level with shingle siding on the second story. The gabled front porch is placed asymmetrically, has white trim and is decorated with small dark-blue diamond figures that also run across the left front of the house. The up-

per front door contains four small glass panels with a large glass panel and vintage lantern on each side of the door.

The first story windows in front are a series of four to the left and three to the right with leaded



Living room looking into the entry hall

(Cont'd on p. 19)

AAUW Headquarters (Cont'd)

glass above each. There are two rectangular windows on the second story.

The rear of the house has a large porch with multiple doors, one unusable, lacking steps from the door to the ground. To the west side of the house was originally Mr. Holt's office where the grandchildren (now in their 80s and 90s) remember playing with a typewriter. The house has a full basement and attic. In fact, the grandchildren of the Holts remember playing in both, especially walking on beams in the attic and playing "cowboys and Indians" with the old saddle on a barrel in the basement.

Inside the house, on the first-floor, the entry hall, living room, and dining room (with a pocket-door between) are trimmed with warm, dark wood. In two of the former bedrooms there are full closet doors with built-in drawers below made of a natural shade of wood with darker wood trim.

By 1980, the building fund income was inadequate so the AAUW sold a back portion (100 x 150 feet) of their property to the City of San Jose. The Willow Glen Public Library sits next door to the east; the property sold to San Jose now serves as a library parking lot.



Rear of house with large porch

roof, new exterior stairs leading to the second story, termite work, window repair, and redecorating. Over the years, the building has been carefully administered and maintained by an elected Building Committee of seven members.

About AAUW

The Association of Collegiate Alumnae (ACA) was founded in Boston in 1881. By 1909, the San Jose Branch of the Association (ACA) was organized. Their first meeting included 42 college graduates and met at the Vendome Hotel in downtown San Jose. Their first President was the prominent Clara Lyon Hayes (Mrs. J.O.) who lived in Edenvale (the present Hayes Mansion) and opened her home for ACA meetings, Christmas musicals and teas.

In 1921, the American Association of University Women (AAUW) was created through a merger of the Association of Collegiate Alumnae with the Southern Association of College Women

The San Jose branch of AAUW is only one out of about six in the U.S. owning clubhouses and is the only branch-owned headquarters in California. The organization has a long history of research and advocacy for education, social, economic and political issues. They will persevere for the advancement of women and improvement of the community and beyond, continuing to utilize their historic house as the center of their operations. 

(Photos & text: G. Frank)



In one of the bedrooms, warm wood closet doors, drawers and two entrance doors.

In 1985, the second story of the house was remodeled and enlarged to accommodate a non-profit tenant. In addition to repair work throughout the house, both a new kitchen floor and a new furnace were installed.

By the 1990s major construction and repairs were required such as redoing the lathe and plaster, new front and back porches and steps, renovation of the foundation, a new

Exploring San Jose Landmarks

The Knox-Goodrich Building is the next in our series of San Jose landmarks from the City's list. Check previous *Continuity* issues for earlier landmark descriptions at www.preservation.org.

HL88-47; Knox-Goodrich Building, 34-36 S. First St.

The twice-widowed Sarah Knox-Goodrich (1827-1903) commissioned the Knox-Goodrich Building on property her first husband, Dr. William Knox, left her. She constructed it with sandstone from the Almaden Valley quarry owned by her late, second husband, architect Levi Goodrich. The death of each of these prominent San Jose men left Sarah wealthy.

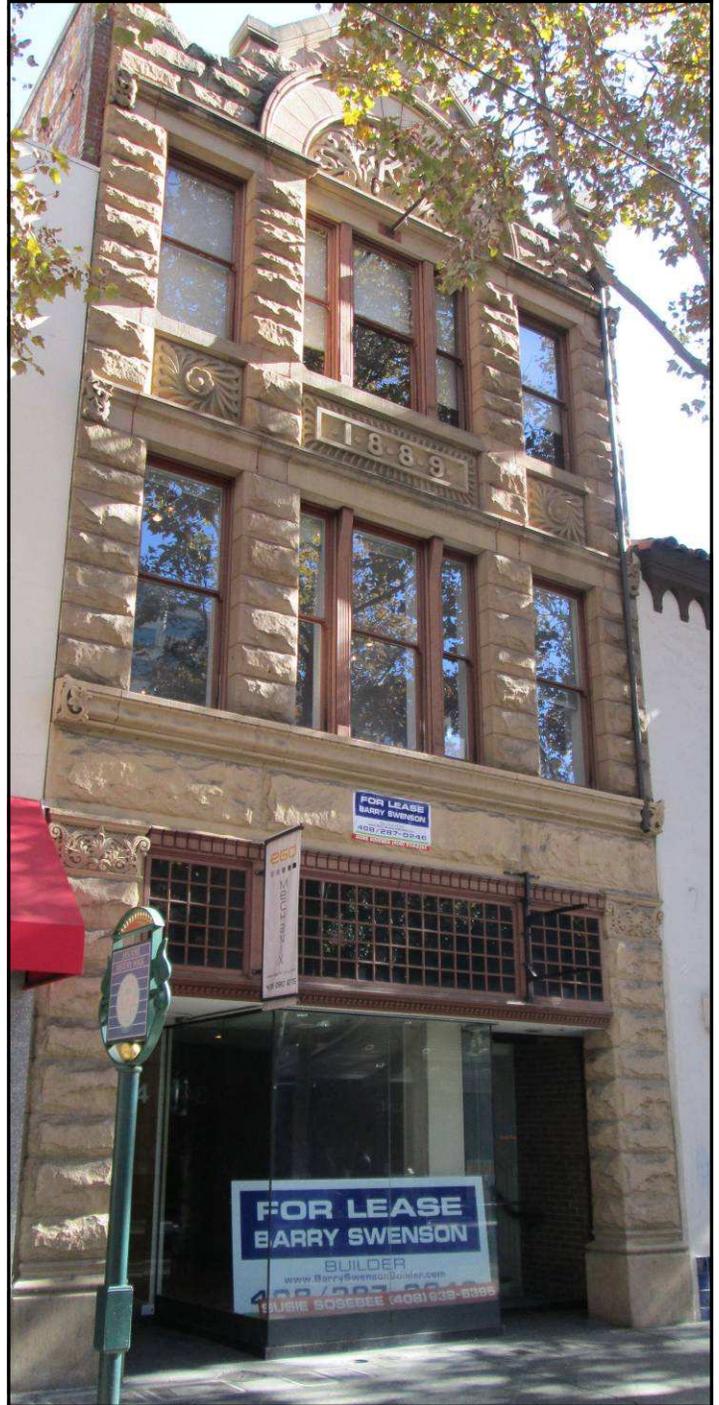
Dr. Knox founded the first bank in San Jose and served as a California assemblyman and senator; Levi Goodrich was a notable architect locally, designing the Santa Clara County Courthouse, San Jose Normal School and many other structures.

The Knox-Goodrich Building was designed by George W. Page early in his career. Later he became well known for designing the Hayes Mansion, Eagles Hall and the San Jose Unitarian

Church, among many others.

The ground floor of the Knox-Goodrich Building was planned for commercial use with the second and third floors used as a rooming house. The architectural style of the building is described as Romanesque Revival (or sometimes referred to as "Richardsonian Romanesque") and features typical characteristics such as rusticated (deep pronounced joints with protruding stones) masonry walls, bold carved stone detailing, massive stone piers and carved Byzantine capitals.

(Cont'd on p. 21)



The Knox-Goodrich Building on So. First St.

Left, a close-up of the rusticated stone and Byzantine capital quarried from the Goodrich pit.



Exploring San Jose Landmarks (Cont'd)

The narrow, three-story structure displays an ornate parapet above the third-story windows where the initials "G" and "K" are intertwined with scrollwork. At the second-story windows the year "1889" appears.

Sarah Knox-Goodrich was a passionate advocate for women suffrage and founded the San Jose Suffrage Association in 1869. She addressed the California legislature several times, hosted visits from Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, wrote articles for several journals and the San Jose Mercury, and refused to pay her taxes without representation. The Knox-Goodrich Building memorializes Sarah and her two husbands. ❧

Sources:

Historical Footnotes of Santa Clara County, Jack Douglas, 1993.
San Jose Downtown Historical Design Guidelines Draft, 2004



Above, the center, highly decorated parapet displaying "G" and "K" intertwined with scrollwork.



A portrait of Sarah Knox-Goodrich taken from the "History of Santa Clara County" (1881). In this book, Sarah's is the only female biography among a multitude of local men's biographies.

Below, ornamentation and "1889," the year the building was built.

(Photos & text: G. Frank)



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Notable Quotable

**“Good architecture is
like a piece of
beautifully composed
music crystallized
in space that elevates
our spirits beyond
the limitation of time.”**

-Tao Ho

Tao Ho is the founder of Taoho Design. He is a renowned planner, architect, designer and artist who moves between disciplines with an authority rare in the modern world.

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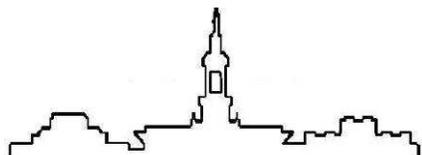
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We believe that historic preservation is **good for our quality of life, good for business, and good for the environment.** We aim to integrate a strong commitment to historic preservation into the land use and development decisions of the City of San 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.