

CONTINUITY

Volume 30, No. 1

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

Spring 2019

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OSH Neon Sign Safe



Ken Middlebrook shows off the OSH Sign at the History San Jose Warehouse.

The Santa Clara Valley community sighed in relief when the Orchard Supply Hardware (OSH) sign, previously stolen, was recovered, and as of Jan. 17th now sits safely at History San Jose. The sign mysteriously disappeared from the W. San Carlos store location two months ago.

Kudos go to the San Jose Police Department, specifically Financial Crimes Unit Detective Justin Holliday for tracking down the sign by examining photos and video surveillance. Additional kudos go to History San Jose, PAC*SJ, the office of Councilwoman Dev Davis and the office of County Supervisor Ken Yeager. The

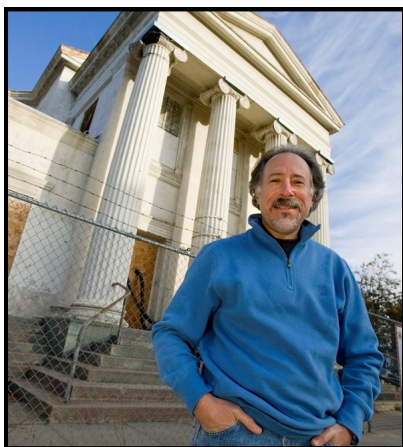
sign was secretly stored in Campbell and was taken by a possibly well-intentioned, but misguided person who said he "wanted to keep it safe."

The OSH neon sign, circa 1950, is a one-of-its-kind and was restored around the mid-1990s. The sign's painted metal parts are in good condition, but all the neon tubing is gone. A photo in August, 2018 shows most, if not all, the tubing was still secured to the sign. Restoration of the neon system will be expensive. According to Ken Middlebrook, Curator of Collections at History San Jose,

(Cont'd p. 3)

Executive Director's Farewell Message

Much has changed since the year 2000 when I first joined the Board of PAC*SJ. We moved from a dynamic, grassroots organization to a more professional advocacy organization. We are invited to the discussion table earlier and more often than in the past, we have a stronger relationship with the City Planning Department, and better relationships with the development community. We still advocate to preserve the architectural heritage of San Jose which now also includes our iconic and historic neon signs.



Brian Grayson
*PAC*SJ Executive Director*
(Photo: Silicon Valley Community Newspapers)

I was president of PAC*SJ in 2008 when I agreed to take the Executive Director position on an interim basis for 6 months. Obviously those 6 months have come and gone many times as I am clearly not very good at saying "no."

Now, as I prepare to retire as Executive Director of PAC*SJ, I look back and reflect on all that has occurred during my 18 years with the organization.

It has been quite a ride that has generally been rewarding but mixed with a fair share of frustrations. Although we are active in discussing development plans that threaten our historic resources, we still have to fight more than we should to save these resources. I believe we have made progress in our mission to save San Jose's historic resources but we should not have to constantly fight for our historic treasures. Our elected officials and other decision makers should automatically work to preserve these resources rather than waiting for us to argue the need to save them.

Unfortunately, all too often our decision makers are so anxious for any and all development proposals that they neglect their responsibility to protect our dwindling collection of historic buildings and signs.

As an organization we should be able to spend our time on information and education and in producing enjoyable and informative events. In a perfect world, our historic resources would be valued and seen as the treasures they are. Our elected officials would welcome development in our city but they would also tell developers that San Jose citizens want sensitive development that protects and incorporates our historic resources and blends them into development projects.

Hopefully, some day before it is too late, our collective city consciousness will be raised so that our community will demand that we save our architectural heritage as a routine matter rather than having to fight to retain the historic resources that tell San Jose's story.

I hope we are seen as a collaborative partner and not an adversarial foe. That's not to say we won't fight when we have to, but we would rather work together on common goals. I would like to think I helped move us in that direction.

As I leave PAC*SJ there are too many people to thank individually. Suffice it to say I extend my thanks to past and current Board members who have dedicated countless hours to the cause. My thanks also to the legion of volunteers who have kept us alive through their efforts at our home tours, events and particularly our legendary Garage Sales. And, of course, my thanks to our members. Without your support we would not be able to carry out our mission. (*Cont'd p. 5*)



is published quarterly by the

PRESERVATION ACTION COUNCIL OF SAN JOSE

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

Editor: Gayle Frank

Please submit your letters and comments to info@preservation.org

Or to 1650 Senter Rd, San Jose, CA 95112-2599

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OSH Sign (Cont'd)

after restoring the sign, proposed plans are to install the sign at History Park (HSJ) at the vintage OSH boxcar location close to Senter Road. If you remember, that iconic lime green boxcar was moved to HSJ in 2013 from the OSH W. San Carlos site.

Many years ago, the boxcar was painted bright lime green with the OSH name and logo. It was placed along Auzerais Street behind the W. San Carlos store for additional signage. The City of San Jose denied Al Smith, President of OSH at the time, any installation of a sign at that location so the boxcar served as a sign and remained there for almost 50 years. Smith also used it for his office, while he expanded OSH from one store to 14. The boxcar was donated by OSH in 2013 to the California Trolley and Railroad Corporation for display at History Park.

Al Smith was a railroad buff, in spite of the fact that he lost a lower leg in an early train accident. He was especially known for building Swanton Pacific Ranch, where he built an exact-scale one-third-size steam railroad.



Brief OSH History

In 1931, Orchard Supply Hardware was founded in San Jose as a supply cooperative between farmers struggling to survive the Great Depression, poor crops and two years of drought. The original Orchard Supply Farmers' Co-op opened in a rented warehouse at 230 Bassett Street in San Jose. Thirty farmers each contributed \$30 for the co-op supply business, purchasing ladders,



Vintage OSH Boxcar sits at History San Jose at Senter Road. The Boxcar served as signage and a business office for former OSH President, Al B. Smith. (Photo: Gayle Frank)

buckets, fertilizer and farm implements at lower prices for its members. In those days, Santa Clara Valley had a booming agricultural industry. Soon outgrowing the space, the business moved to 44 Vine Street in 1933.

One of the founding farmers, Stanley B. Smith, became the first Orchard Supply manager and President. William Walter Lester Sr. was another of the founding farmers. Stanley Smith's son, Albert Smith succeeded his father as President in 1962. Later another son, Loren Smith, sold OSH to W.R. Grace Corporation in 1979.

In 1947, OSH moved its business into a 26,000 square foot building at 720 West San Carlos—now with 2,000 members. This site was the former Sodality Park.¹

As the landscape changed, with increasing development and loss of agricultural land, OSH evolved into a for-profit retailer by the 1950s, changing its name from Orchard Supply Farmers' Co-op to Orchard Supply Hardware. Inventory now included home repair/maintenance tools and equipment, gardening merchandise and housewares, which increased the female clientele. The first branch store opened at Alum Rock Avenue in 1965, with five more branches by 1975 (Branham Lane, Sunnyvale, Capitola, Gilroy and Livermore).

OSH was well-known for friendly, knowledgeable and helpful employees with a small store atmosphere. To find an item, one only needed to ask for a quick answer.

(Cont'd p, 4)

OSH Sign (Cont'd)

A series of new ownerships spanned the next 50 years, with W.R. Grace & Co. (1979; purchasing 9 outlets), Wickes Co. (1986; purchasing 21 outlets), an OSH employee buy-out (1989; with 31 outlets), and Sears Holding Corporation (1996; 60 outlets). The business was spun off as a public offering in 2011 but filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in 2013, being heavily in debt from previous Sears transactions. Around that time the name changed from Orchard Supply Hardware to just Orchard.

Lowe's then purchased the 99 OSH outlets and warehouses in 2013, closing some stores and remodeling many of the remaining stores. Then a CEO change coincided with the demise of OSH. Lowe's announced the closure of all stores on Feb. 1, 2018 with very little notice to customers and its 4,300 employees. ☹

¹ Sodality Park was a semi-professional ballpark operating from about 1908 through 1935, where Babe Ruth hit the ball so far it couldn't be found. This talk-of-the-town event occurred in 1926 during barnstorming tours of major leaguers (Mercury News, Mar. 3, 2005).



Orchard Supply Co. Ltd. In 1933 at 44 Vine Street.

(Photo: Rick Saunders, Orchard Supply Hardware)

Sources:

- International Directory of Company Histories, Vol. 17. St. James Press, 1997.
- www.metroactive.com/papers/metro/04.26.01/cover/signs4-0117.html
- Albert B. Smith Obituary, Mercury News, Dec. 22, 1993, pg. 5B
- Mercury News, Aug. 16, 1996
- Mercury News, March 2, 2006
- Mercury News, June 24, 2011



Left, Orchard Supply Hardware store at W. San Carlos Street, circa 1950s.

Below, a modern logo for OSH.

Orchard
est. 1931
SUPPLY HARDWARE®

“Members Only” Event—March 24th

PAC*SJ members are invited to a beautiful 1893 Queen Anne style Spindle Victorian home. The house, called the Field House after its first owner, has historic landmark status and sits in the Reed Historic District of the South University Neighborhood near San Jose State University.

Owners Sandra and Walter Soellner purchased the house in 2002. Walter is a retired Professor of Art and Art History, so their home is filled with several collections, including contemporary art, 18th and 19th century European and American art, Asian art, and historic military items from the late 19th century through 1914.

This exclusive open house takes place March 24th from 1-5 pm. **Reservations are required**—visit www.preservation.org. Location available when reservation is made.

This is a “Members Only” free event but a spouse or significant other may also attend with the member. Light refreshments will be served. Street parking only. Space is limited so reserve soon. If your membership has lapsed, renew online today or call 408-998-8105. ☿



(Photo Courtesy of Walter Soellner)

The Soellner House, an 1893 Queen Anne style Spindle Victorian.

Farewell Message

I also want to thank the many City staff members I have worked with over the years. Without your commitment to public service, our efforts to save our historic resources would be even more difficult.

Ultimately, what happens to our historic buildings and signs rests with the mayor and city council. My thanks to those of you who have been supportive of preserving San Jose’s architectural heritage. To those of you who have not been so supportive, I hope we will be able to educate you about the importance of our buildings and signs and you will become more supportive before it is too late.

What does retirement hold for me? I am going to enjoy some relatively unscheduled time for a while and enjoy life with no particular plans at the moment. If something comes along that I want to pursue then I might do that. Otherwise, I will keep more than busy with a variety

of things that I haven’t had time to do in a long, long time.

I wish all of you well and perhaps we’ll run into each other again sometime along the preservation trail. ☿



— *Brian Grayson,
Executive Director
PAC*SJ*

Brian Grayson

Scheller House Rests at Final Home

The historic Scheller House is resting at its final home on S. 10th and San Antonio Streets facing the Boccardo Business Center building on the SJSU campus. The moving process was a deliberate, slow process, inching west on San Carlos Street, north on 4th St., and east on San Fernando—then turning right onto the University grounds. The public, including PAC*SJ members, watched with amazement and trepidation, seeing this 200-ton structure being pulled by just one truck that looked small compared to the house. Workers monitored every minute watching for any potential problem, sometimes even crawling under the house as it was moving to adjust or check equipment. When a tree was in the way, the tree specialists were



The Scheller House was towed to the right from San Fernando onto the SJSU grounds after tree branches were trimmed.

called in quickly with their skylift equipment to trim away branches.

After the Scheller House crossed protected grass, it was pulled to the left over a sidewalk onto the parking lot

at S. 10th St. Groans, squeaks and grinds over the curb captured everyone's attention. At that point another stop was required to trim a tree. Then, traversing the parking lot and trimming one last tree, the house was deposited at its final position. It will remain up on supports until the foundation is ready. All the windows will stay boarded for now.

The 65,000 square-foot house will reopen this summer as the continued offices for the Associated Students.

(Cont'd p. 7)

*Left, in front of the Scheller, Patt Curia, Suhita Shirodkar and Gayle Frank hold up a PAC*SJ banner.*



Scheller House (Cont'd)



The previously restored Scheller House sat next to the Duncan Hall Science Building but had to be moved to make room for a new 8-story Interdisciplinary Science Building.

PAC*SJ fought hard to save this house from demolition in the 1990s. When we first learned about plans for the new science building, PAC*SJ was in continual communication with the University, expressing our concerns and advocating for protecting the house.

Kudos go to SJSU for moving this beautiful historical 1904 structure. PAC*SJ members and preservationists celebrate this successful venture to save the Scheller House.

And, job well done by the Kelly Brothers House Movers and Bill Brown Construction! ☘

— Gayle Frank



Top, Scheller House at 10th Street parking lot, close to its final resting spot.

Left, Scheller House lands at its final spot, still raised, waiting for its foundation.

(Photos: Gayle Frank)

Hotel Proposal at 8 N. Almaden

The Planning Division for the City of San Jose held a community meeting to present information and hear comments and feedback about the proposed plans to construct a 19-story building with 272 guest rooms on a 0.2 acre (8712 sq. ft.) site.

Brian Grayson, PAC*SJ Executive Director, and other PAC*SJ members spoke at the meeting, expressing their concerns that this proposed hotel is too massive, too tall, does not complement the Hotel De Anza immediately next door, and may damage the De Anza during construction. The project disrespects the De Anza, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, by towering over the 10-story hotel, and obliterating the view of the DeAnza and its iconic sign from the west. As a side note, a beautiful mural has been painted on the west wall of the De Anza and would be completely hidden.

Other community members from Axis, the hi-rise residential community directly behind the small lot and the De Anza, offered additional concerns such as: traffic chaos (especially with no parking on site and only two parking slots for valet service), noise, odors, reduced sunlight, views eliminated from the south side of the building, much too little room for deliveries, trash, etc., increased hazards for pedestrians and children living in Axis as well as street pedestrians. ☸



Above, the 8,700 sq. ft. lot many feel is too small for a 19-story hotel that would engulf the historic Hotel De Anza, listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

(Photo: Brian Grayson)

Below, mural on Hotel De Anza's west wall. (Photo: G. Frank)



Happenings Around Town

Japantown

San Jose's Japantown residents, officials and guests realized the beginnings of a residential/mixed use development at the former city Corporation Yard. San Jose Taiko members performed their thunderous, rhythmic drum-beating at the ceremonial groundbreaking on January 31st. The area spans between Jackson, Taylor, N. Sixth and N. Seventh Streets.

Debate and planning over this project has transpired over many years. The proposed plans will include 518 residential units, ground floor retail, a plaza and a park. In addition, SV Creates will be constructing an arts center. The site is directly across from several historic buildings and sits near the center of the historic Japantown (only one of three in the country) and within its business district, which sits on the previous Chinese "Heinlennville."

4th Street Pizza

The historic State Meat Market building on the SW corner of S. Fourth and E. Santa Clara Streets, holds the 4th Street Pizza restaurant with residential units upstairs. The two-story brick building was designated a city landmark in 1992.

Bayview Development Group, the developer of the two 28-story Miro residential towers with ground-level retail under construction at the NE corner of the same intersection has purchased the State Meat Market building. The company stated that, "There are no current plans for any change," and feel that the building and its occupants contribute to the vibrancy of the neighborhood.

The State Meat Market was featured in the Continuity, Spring, 2017 issue in PAC*SJ's "Exploring San Jose's City Landmarks." The building was designed by prominent architect, Frank D. Wolfe, circa 1913-1915. The State Meat Market in San Jose was established by the Kwong-Low family in 1934, operating until the mid-1980s. After the original market in San Francisco, the San Jose market became the first of a chain of markets that grew to 477 in number throughout Northern California by 1971.

In 1984 the site, which by then was in disrepair, was purchased by the City of San Jose from the Redevelopment Agency. The city expanded and renovated the facility multiple times.

Hayes Mansion

The sale of the Hayes Mansion hotel and conference center has been completed successfully and escrow has closed. The City of San Jose will benefit from this sale by eliminating subsidies and outstanding debts on the property, avoiding maintenance and liability expenses, and ending the responsibilities of overseeing the management of the facility. After the sale, the city will continue to receive its hotel tax revenues.

The new owner, JMA Ventures, a San Francisco based real estate investment firm with experience in hospitality properties, plans to spend \$15 million in upgrades.

The historic mansion and grounds, in District 2, presently has 213 rooms and 33,000 square-feet of conference space surrounded by a 20-acre park. It is considered one of the best examples of late 19th-century Mediterranean Revival architecture in Santa Clara Valley, is a California Historical Landmark and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Mary Hayes Chynoweth commissioned architect George Page to design her new home in 1903. It was completed in 1905, the same year Mary died. The Hayes sons, of the Mercury newspaper business, and their families remained in the house until the 1950s.

Two New City Landmarks

The historic house at 1300 Pine Avenue in the Willow Glen area was approved by the San Jose City Council on December 4, 2018 for city landmark designation. The "Edwin and Mary Wilcox House," named after the early owners, is estimated to have been built circa 1917 and designed most likely by prominent architect William Ernest Higgins. Its architectural design is described as Federal Colonial Revival, a style not typically found in San Jose.

On January 29, 2019, the San Jose City Council approved the city landmark nomination of the house at 1195 Willow Avenue. In 1923, Carrie and Frank Dreischmeyer commissioned the Wolfe and Higgins architectural firm to design this house. It is an excellent example of the Spanish Revival style and was featured on PAC*SJ's Wolfe and Higgins Home Tour in 2017. ☘

From Our President

Dear PAC*SJ members and friends of preservation,

The rate of development downtown and elsewhere in San Jose continues at an unprecedented pace. In spite of our efforts, developers with dollars in their eyes continue to propose projects that if not directly demolishing the last vestiges of San Jose historic fabric, often put forward new residential and office towers that are immediately adjacent to iconic landmarks.

You may have read about new developments next to the DeAnza Hotel and across the street from our Bank of America building. More are on the way, and no one, including our City Council seems interested in really looking at the long term impact to our cultural heritage. Yes, density is important for so many good reasons, but I fear that, in the mad scramble to build residential units of all types and offices to offset our jobs/housing imbalance, we will lose the very sense of place that is near and dear to long time and new residents alike.



André Luthard

What sorts of interesting places will folks visit? What cool venue or restaurant will all the new residents want to hang out in? Or what beautiful architecture will be left to draw pedestrians from one block to the next? How many generic glass towers are we willing to accept? It will be future generations, not those on the Council now, who will have to live with the land use decisions being made today.

We need your help. If you are not a member, please join PAC*SJ. If you are, consider making a donation to help

fund our advocacy and educational efforts. And please think about volunteering to assist the several committees we have revived since the beginning of the year. Our all-volunteer board is working mightily to raise funds and plan a diverse list of events for members. Our Advocacy Committee members are out there meeting with developers, planning professionals and elected officials to try to save historic buildings in the face of an onslaught.

— André Luthard, President, PAC*SJ

Join a PAC*SJ Committee

We are looking for PAC*SJ members to serve on a committee. Email us at info@preservation.org if you are interested in supporting PAC*SJ and joining one of the committees listed below.

- *Advocacy**
- *Events**
- *Education**
- *Fundraising**
- *Membership**
- *Newsletter**
- *Public Relations**

92-Year-Old “Wings” Closes

Wing’s, San Jose’s oldest full-service restaurant on Jackson Street, closed at the end of February. Citizens may remember the colorful neon sign with small wings flying on top.

The building was built in 1925, the same year Wing’s opened, and is in need of repair, remodeling and adherence to current building codes.

The restaurant had an old-world feel and was operated by several families over the years: first, Wing Chen in 1925, followed by Henry Wong and then sold to Louis and David Wang in 1976. At present, Ashley Wu and family operated the recently closed restaurant but they hope to find a new location. ☘

Receive Continuity by Email

Members have the option to receive their quarterly newsletter by email instead of a printed copy. Let us know at info@preservation.org if you are interested in receiving your *Continuity* by email.

And it will be in color!

Can You Be Our Eyes and Ears?

San Jose has a wealth of vintage signs. They are our historical treasures. But there are more than can be monitored by just a few people, so we're asking for help.

Lend us your eyes and ears! If you see something of concern relating to a sign, like new activity, or especially a sign being taken down, could you let us know?

Email us at info@preservation.org, send us a message online, or during working hours call us at 408.998.8105.

You can also call and report what you see to the City of San Jose Code Enforcement Department at (408) 535-7770.

Many thanks. Together we'll keep our signs safe. Please spread the word. ☞

(Design and photos courtesy of The San Jose Signs Project)

Eyes on the Signs Eyes on the Signs



Eyes on the Signs Eyes on the Signs

Downtown Design Guidelines Revision Draft

A November, 2018 draft of the San Jose Downtown Design Guidelines and Standards was sent to the Historic Landmarks Commission for review and comment, focusing on the sections related to historic resources. The 2004 Guidelines and Standards are in the updating and revision process by the City of San Jose.

Brian Grayson, PAC* SJ Executive Director, noted at the Landmarks meeting that the guidelines section on adjacency to historic properties needs more work to address incompatibility issues.

The Commissioners' comments relating to the draft of the Guidelines are:

— Visibility of historic structures should be considered from all angles and viewpoints, not just the frontage;

— Examples of what not to do should be incorporated;

— Guidelines for adjacency to historic structures need to foster more compatibility and encourage less juxtaposition typically seen in elements such as walls of glass and towering building heights;

— Appreciate that sight lines are incorporated as an element to consider;

— Identify topology characteristics that are representative of a specific time and place in the City's history. ☞

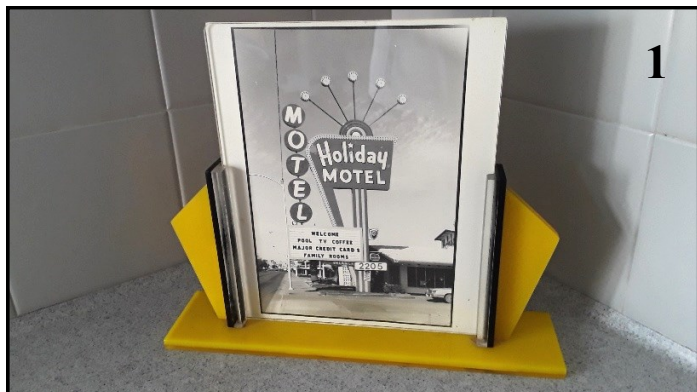
Don't Miss PAC*SJ's Spring Sale

The Spring Preservation Action Council of San Jose's Garage and Treasures Sale takes place on Thursday March 28th and Friday March 29th, 9am till dusk, and Saturday March 30th 9am till 1:00 pm at 260 South 13th Street. The block long sale features garden art, mid-century modern housewares, metal art, crystal, china, linens, 1970s Avon

bottles, vintage radios, small furniture, local history books, t-shirts featuring local neon signs and more.

For more information or to donate, please contact Patt at donations@preservation.org or call 408-294-3599. PAC*SJ is a non-profit organization dedicated to saving San Jose history as seen through its architecture. ☘

—Patt Curia, PAC*SJ Garage Sale Chair



*Just a few items on sale at the PAC*SJ event:*

1. Vintage Motel Photo in Art Deco Frame
2. Penguin Mid-Century Ice Bucket
3. French Military Stove

PAC*SJ's New Intern

Meet Briannah Thomas (pictured right), our new intern, who is a senior economics major with an art history minor at San Jose State University. She will also continue her studies to earn a degree in information management.

One of her first projects for PAC*SJ will be to complete and update the indexing of our newsletters, *Continuity*. The quarterly newsletters have been published from 1990 to present. The new index, now on our website, will benefit those of us who need quick information on historic preservation issues or local history. ☘





ON THE RADAR

Century 21/Santana West

Tower 27 — 27 S. First St.

The Santana West project hopes to begin construction on its first of three buildings at Winchester Blvd. and Olin Drive in

April. The Century 21 dome theater remains on the plans but still, no use has been determined. What a great venue it could be for Cinequest and corporate events. Leaving it vacant should not be an option.

Proposed plans for the large neon sign at the Winchester Blvd. entrance include restoring and moving it closer to Century 21 theater. However, the move may not include the white marquee, but only the neon theater numbers on the pole. Relocating the sign means it will be less visible to those traveling down Winchester Blvd.



**The sign at
Century
Dome
Theaters
along
Winchester
Boulevard.**

*(Photo: Gayle
Frank)*

Winchester Ranch Development

Proposed plans for the Winchester Ranch Mobile Home Park site include multi-level buildings up to four stories high for 691 residential units. The acreage holds remnants of Sarah Winchester's ranch and gardens nearest Winchester Boulevard, including three trees planted by Sarah, a rare cork, a speckled elm and a grapefruit. A brick incinerator, an outhouse and a water tower still remain from Sarah's ranch days.

PAC*SJ is concerned that the increased massing of the Santana West project to the north and the housing project to the south will overshadow the historic Winchester House.

On Feb 27th, the San Jose Planning Director approved a Special Use Permit for the 22-story tower project that would loom over the 14-story Bank of America (former Bank of Italy) building. The new tower would be only 13 feet shorter than the top of the bank's spire, blocking views of our iconic city landmark. At press time, the PAC*SJ Board voted to appeal the permit approval, which will require a review of the project by the full San Jose City Council and give PAC*SJ time to mobilize opposition to this massive project.

Eichler Neighborhood Nomination

The Eichler neighborhood called Fairglen, in Willow Glen off Curtner, has been submitted for nomination to the National Register of Historical Places. Joseph Eichler designed and built these unique homes in the Mid-century period between 1959-1961. The area includes 218 single family homes known for their open spaces, visible beams, flat or low-pitched roofs and lots of glass. When presented to the San Jose Historic Landmarks Commission the consensus was that the nomination was, "long overdue and would be an important step in protecting San Jose history."

Adding Signs to the Historic Inventory

PAC*SJ and San Jose Signs Project expect the City of San Jose will add relevant signs to its Historic Resources Inventory after we urged the City to do so. Over 100 potentially historic signs have been identified in San Jose, which includes signs from the 1920s. Since 2017, ten of these historic signs have been permanently lost. The Signs Project advocates on social media and other public spheres, but more needs to be done by the City. Signs are part of the City's history, and controls need to be developed before it is too late. This is not a new idea as many other cities are already preserving their signage. Signs should be preserved on site, but as that is not always possible, they should at a minimum be saved locally. ☼

PAC*SJ 2019 Calendar

- Mar 18** Monday, PAC*SJ Board Meeting, 6:30—8 PM. History San Jose, 2nd Floor Firehouse.*
- Mar 23** **History Book Sale**, 594 S. 15th St.. 9 am-3 pm.
- Mar 24** **Members Only Victorian House Party**; S. 6th St., 1-5 pm Reservation details on page 5.
- Mar 28-30** PAC*SJ's Famous **Garage Sale**, 260 S. 13th St. 9 am-6 pm. See page 12 for details.
- Apr 15** Monday, PAC*SJ Board Meeting, 6:30—8 PM. History San Jose, 2nd Floor Firehouse.*
- Apr 28** Sunday, **Walking Tour, Diridon Station Area**, 12:00—2:00 pm, See pg. 15 for details.
- May 19** PAC*SJ booth at **Viva Calle!** San Jose; location TBA.
- May 20** Monday, PAC*SJ Board Meeting, 6:30—8 PM. History San Jose, 2nd Floor Firehouse.*
- Jun 17** Monday, PAC*SJ Board Meeting, 6:30—8 PM. History San Jose, 2nd Floor Firehouse.*
- Jul 15** Monday, PAC*SJ Board Meeting, 6:30—8 PM. History San Jose, 2nd Floor Firehouse.*
- Aug 19** Monday, PAC*SJ Board Meeting, 6:30—8 PM. History San Jose, 2nd Floor Firehouse.*
- Sept 16** Monday, PAC*SJ Board Meeting, 6:30—8 PM. History San Jose, 2nd Floor Firehouse.*

**Email us at info@preservation.org to check that the Board meeting location has not been changed.*

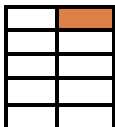
Notable Quotable

It is ironic that with IBM's strong focus on innovation it seems to be largely absent from Silicon Valley and its culture of innovation—yet IBM was one of the first tech companies in the region. And it continues to have a large but relatively quiet presence here... As more of the world looks to Silicon Valley as a mecca for innovation, new technologies, and radical business models, IBM is largely absent from that conversation. Yet it would seem that this is precisely the conversation it should participate in given its own focus on these key subjects.

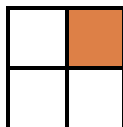
—“IBM and Silicon Valley,” Tom Foremski, *Silicon Valley Watcher*, February 2, 2011

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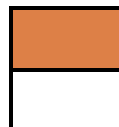
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Business Card
Single issue



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Walking Tour

Diridon Station Area

Sunday, April 28—12:00-2:00 pm

\$10 members

\$15 non-members

Reservations at www.preservation.org

Reserve soon • Space is limited

For questions email info@preservation.org



Join us in a walk around the Diridon Station Area. Some of these historic and interesting structures may have a short lease on life. We'll meet at Diridon Station entrance, walk south down Montgomery, north up Autumn Street to Saint John Street and back down Montgomery.

Highlights in addition to Diridon Station and homes will include:

Navelet's/former Ironworks

Sunlite Bakery

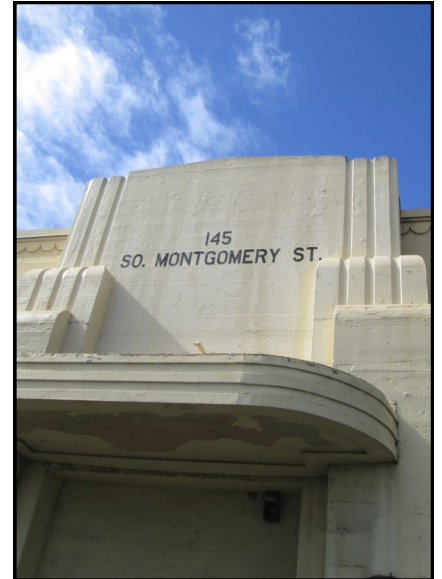
Stephen's Dancing Pig Sign

Patty's Inn

Poor House Bistro

SJ Water Works

Besides experiencing the historic structures, we will also visit the Taiko Drumming space in the former Navelet's/Ironworks Building.



Meet PAC*SJ's New Board Member

José de la Cruz joined the PAC*SJ Board in February. He has lived in San Jose for 45 years, is an architect, and is CEO of Quorum Management Services, Inc., also in San Jose.

His areas of expertise are industrial architecture and a Code specialist helping fire departments and the engineering department of Santa Clara County with forensic architecture and space renovation. He is also a CPTED Specialist (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design).

José's interests include gentrification and preservation of spaces, adaptive re-use of our precious legacy structures, elimination of waste through LEAN (a systematic method for waste minimization within a manufacturing system without sacrificing productivity), and other methods of work/results efficiency. He enjoys technically challenging projects involving many facets of applied engineering, emergency preparedness, etc.



José de la Cruz

José is familiar with the many beautiful places in San Jose and Santa Clara Valley that capture the legacy of "The Valley of Heart's Delight." He said, "The more I travel the world, the more important Silicon Valley and San Jose are to me." He thinks his training in architecture and construction would add value to the PAC*SJ Board of Directors' functions--the objective analysis and decision making efforts for historic preservation.

As an immigrant to this great Nation, José thinks he brings a unique perspective to the

table. He is fluent in Spanish (his native language) and speaks/understands some Italian and Portuguese. Immigrant communities, whether from Spain, Mexico, Latin America, the Azores, Sicily, etc. added greatly to the foundational agricultural and cultural history of San Jose. Recently he has followed the history of the Mirassou story with great interest and would like to continue his exploration of other great contributors to the success of our great city. Welcome to our Board! ☼

IBM Building #4

Santa Clara County owns the former San Jose Hospital site on E. Santa Clara Street. On that site sits the former IBM Building #4 (SJ Medical Center Bldg #800) at 16th and St. John Streets, which was Temple Laundry in its earlier years and then became the renowned punch card facility for IBM. Building 4 is attached to another building built a few years later. The County does not seem interested in this first West-Coast punch card facility and commented at a recent public meeting that they would like to tear it down—that it is taking up space for the primary use of the site (housing).

IBM was a big deal in San Jose during the 20th century, but we are not honoring the few remnants left of its early computer history. We've lost IBM Building 25 to fire, the buildings at the Cottle site are scheduled for the bulldozer, the IBM disk drive facility on Notre Dame Ave. is seriously

threatened and now the site where IBM punch cards were first produced on the West Coast could be lost. PAC*SJ recently toured the building and is advising the County on possible uses.

Ninety-two IBM employees and their families plus 13 single women came to San Jose from IBM's Endicott and Washington plants to begin manufacturing punch cards on September 10, 1943. From that small punch card plant, IBM flourished over the years in San Jose, establishing other manufacturing centers, research and development sites, a large branch office, and at various times employed more than 25,000 employees. ☼

—www.ibm.com/ibm/history/exhibits/supplies/supplies_5404PH06.html

—“IBM and Silicon Valley,” Tom Foremski, *Silicon Valley Watcher*, February 2, 2011

Exploring San Jose's City Landmarks

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

HL92-78; The Rea Block; 58 (56-60) S. First St.

The two-story Rea Block, also known as the Pomeroy-Skerritt Building, was constructed of brick between 1868-1870. To reduce fire hazards, only brick or stone structures were allowed in the district. The building was called the Rea Block by 1875, owned by Thomas Rea from Gilroy, who was a dairy farmer and a businessman. Rea served as a Gilroy city council member (1872, 1876), a state assemblyman (1873-1875), and Gilroy Mayor (1886-1888). Another Gilroy resident and previous mayor, Adam Rhiel, purchased the Rea Block in 1890, owning it until the 1920s.

The Pomeroy-Skerritt hardware and crockery store was the building's first known business beginning in 1870. From an early news article¹ the south half of the ground floor was occupied by M. Leavenworth, Dry Goods and Clothing. The second floor was occupied by a Photographic Gallery and at the rear portion, by the Masonic order until 1887. Then the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR-Union soldiers from the Civil War) used the space for veterans' meetings. Trace remnants of these organizations remained as of 1991. It appears from the news article that A. E. Pomeroy



*Rea Block aka Pomeroy-Skerritt Building, S. First St.
Below, iron columns with ornate capitals.*



commissioned the building and Victor Hoffman was the architect. Other later tenants included a drug store, photographers, a book store, a dentist, and a furrier. In 1950 the building façade was unfortunately modernized, removing most ornamentation to make way for the De La Rosa Pharmacy for 25 years.

By 1990-91 the building was renovated, restoring the Italianate features of the original design, such as a pediment over the entrance window, pilasters surrounding the upper floor windows, arched window surrounds and a bracketed, dominant cornice. The four cast iron columns surrounding the

(Cont'd p. 18)

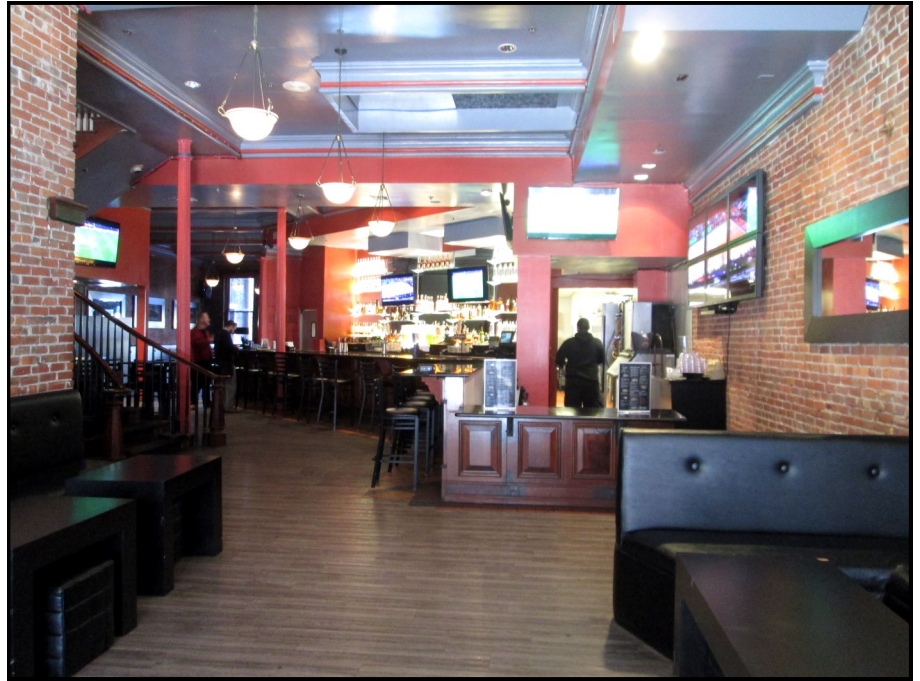
Landmarks (Cont'd)

front windows at the ground floor are original and stamped with "Epright's Foundry, San Jose." Barry Swenson renovated the building and architect Jeff Current designed the Italian-ate façade to resemble the original appearance, now blending with the historic district.

At present the FUZ Lounge has occupied the space on the first floor for two years. The original brick walls, a high beamed ceiling and vintage chandeliers add to the attractive interior. The original stairs going to the vacant second floor are at the center of the large open space. An attractive bar sits along the south wall. ❧

— **Gayle Frank**

¹ An Oct. 9, 1889 *Evening News* article talks about unearthing a cornerstone from 1869 at the site of the new Ryland Building on S. First St. Inside was a tin box containing, among many other items, an envelope holding a letter-head with, "Pomeroy & Skerritt, Dealers in Hardware, Crockery, Agricultural Implements, First Street, San Jose, November 8, 1869. Statement to be placed in box for cornerstone of brick building now being erected by A. E. Pomeroy of San Jose at above date." The letter continues with, "Contract



FUZ Lounge, interior of the Rea Block City Landmark with original brick walls, high beamed ceilings. (Photos: Gayle Frank)

price of building complete, \$19,100 nineteen thousand one hundred dollars. Architect, Victor Hoffman; contractors, wood-work, etc., T J. Cook; brick and iron work, I. H. Scott and Michael Kenny. Building to be completed by Feb'y 27, 1870. First story to be occupied as follows: (1st store) on northern side by

Pomeroy & Skerritt for the sale of agricultural implements, hardware, crockery, etc. (2nd store) on southern side by M. Leavenworth for dry goods, clothing, etc. Second story, by San Jose Lodge, No. 34, F. & A. M. for Masonic Lodge, also by J. H. Herring for photographic gallery. San Jose, Nov. 8, 1869. A. E. Pomeroy." No addresses were given in the news article but it appears they are talking of the Rea Block.

Other Sources:

—Glory Anne Laffey, *Archives & Architecture, Historic Resources Inventory, URM Report*, 11/9/1991.
—History San Jose Downtown Walking Tours Syllabus, 1996.



Rea Block Canopy and decorative treatment of upper windows.

Photo next page: looks toward the front door inside FUZ Lounge.

PAC*SJ Membership Application

Preservation Action Council of San Jose Membership Application

Name(s) _____

Telephone(s) _____

Address _____

Email _____

*PAC*SJ will not release your contact details to others without your consent. Members who do not provide email addresses cannot receive timely notices of news, announcements and events.*

New Member _____ Renewing _____

Individual	\$40
Family	\$55
Student or Senior (over 65)	\$25
Non-profit or School	\$25
Contributor	\$100
Patron	\$250
Benefactor	\$1,000

Join at the \$100 level or above and receive a special premium, the book, *Tales of Naglee Park* by Jack Douglas or a Dancing Pig t-shirt (M, L, or XL).

Please check if you would like to receive
a book or t-shirt or no premium
Tales of Naglee Park ____ or t-shirt ____ or none ____
or both book & t-shirt at the \$250 level.

I am enclosing \$ _____ as an extra donation to

PAC*SJ for a total amount of \$ _____

I am interested in working with the following
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Programs/Education

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Board Member

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Complete and return with your check to:

Preservation Action Council of San Jose
1650 Senter Rd., San Jose, CA 95112-2599



San Jose is the:

- * Largest City in the nine-County Bay Area.
- * Third largest City in California.
- * Tenth largest city in the U.S.

San Jose, founded in 1777, was the first civil settlement in California with a population of 66. By 1850, the population was 4,000. By 1960, it was 204,196. San Jose's population in 2016 was 1,042,094.

Source: Fact Sheet: History & Geography, San Jose Dept. of Planning, Building & Code Enforcement, Planning Division.



Preservation Action Council of San Jose

1650 Senter Rd., San Jose, CA 95112-2599

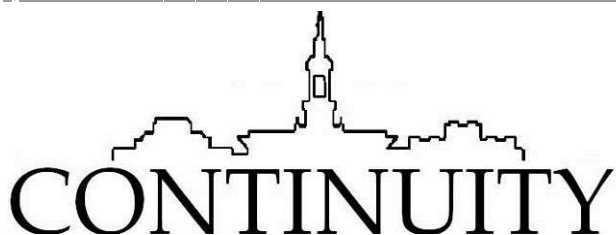


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The Preservation Action Council of San Jose PAC*SJ) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation dedicated to preserving San Jose's architectural heritage through education, advocacy and events.

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

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