

## LEGISLATIVE ACTION HEAVY IN 1992

CPF's legislative efforts began in 1991, working with administration leaders in the Resources Agency, drafting the successful Executive Order and creating a task force consensus on the long-sought State Register. As the legislative session developed, and the economic situation deteriorated, we often found our achievements subject to the whims of others or the vagaries of politics. But, then, Sacramento is a special place.

The results — as we go to press — are very promising. The Executive Order (see last issue) did improve the climate for preservation in California. The "State Register" sits on the Governor's desk— along with 1100 other bills — and several other initiatives depend on the governor's inclinations after a bitter budget battle. Several proposals we supported and have reported on did not survive a session where economic motivations for voting were particularly strong, but some of these ideas and programs will most certainly return as new bills next session.

With your help, CPF and preservation scored big in 1992; we intend to build on our record next year. Thank you, and stay tuned for next year's agenda. The full legislative report follows on the next page.



*A proud moment — Resources Secretary Doug Wheeler presents CPF's Bill Delvac with a signed copy of Governor Wilson's Executive Order at the Eureka Conference.*

## W(H)ITHER MAIN STREET?

Five new communities were selected to join the California Main Street Program in July. Dinuba, Eureka, Monterey, Turlock and Watsonville bring the number of "direct assistance" towns to 17; another 13 "self-initiated" communities work with the state program, one of the most cost-effective revitalization efforts in existence.

However, the latest budget rumor from the Dept. of Commerce which hosts the Main Street Program concerns us: Director Pat Noyes has been assigned additional, unrelated duties; the program will be forced to function without an architect (Ruth Todd left in August) and will have no money to contract for training from the National Main Street Center; and, Main Street may lose program manager Keith Kjelstrom.

The California Main Street Program, you might remember, estimates that its efforts over the last seven years have resulted in;

- 2,000 new businesses,
- 5,000 new jobs,
- 15,000 jobs retained

and, by creating this network among small downtowns, has generated \$49 of private investment for every \$1 of public money spent on downtown revitalization.

CPF wrote a strong letter to Commerce Director Julie Meier Wright (Department of Commerce, 801 K Street, Suite 1700, Sacramento, CA 95814) in late August, reminding her that Main Street won our "Preservationist of the Year" award because it saved businesses, buildings and jobs, and did so at a small cost ... exactly what the economy needs. If the cuts stand, penny-wise savings could jeopardize substantial returns. Let Ms. Wright know what **you** think.

## LEGISLATIVE REPORT - September 1992

CPF played a significant part in working nearly all of the following bills toward passage. Bills that pass both houses of the legislature are "enrolled" and sent to the Governor who has until September 30 to act. Unless vetoed, these bills become law.

**AB 2881 (Frazee)** establishes a California Register of Historic Resources. Most resources already designated under federal or state programs (such as the National Register) would automatically be included in the California Register. Other resources (including local surveys, individual resources and districts) can be directly nominated to the California Register. California Register resources are "significant" under California law including CEQA. Finally, State Register resources would not be categorically exempt from CEQA. A late compromise would allow owners to object to listing, but an "eligibility determination" would be made (a provision that mirrors the federal program).

**SB 597 (Alquist)**, requires adoption of seismic retrofit standards for concrete buildings, but any "qualified historic building" remains under the jurisdiction of the State Historical Building Safety Board.

**SB 1660 (Petris)** would permit the State Historical Building Safety Board to keep fees for services and should clarify the extent of the Board's jurisdiction.

**AB 2358 (Frazee)** new seismic strengthening programs (proposed before this bill was signed in August) are exempted from UCBC standards mandated in 1990. Specific exemptions are ordinances covering buildings in Main Street programs or those affecting affordable housing; the legislation reaffirms that historic buildings are still governed by the State Historical Building Code. This bill was signed by Wilson (Chapter 346 of the Statutes of 1992).

**AB 3037 (Hauser)** requires recordation by County Recorders of all individual historical designations made by state and local commissions; historic districts are not covered.

**AB 3217 (Connelly)**, the Capitol View Protection Ordinance, places setbacks and height limits (generally 80' on N Street, 120' on L Street) and setbacks on Sacramento streets around the State Capitol.

**AB 3687 (Hauser)** reminds the Office of Emergency Services that the State Office of Historic Preservation and State Historical Building Safety Board have legitimate roles to play during OES responses to disasters when historic buildings are at risk.

### Unfinished business:

The **California Heritage Conservancy Act (CHCA)**, proposed by the Resources Agency, was not heard. The "Heritage Fund" would be used for the acquisition of historic properties and for loans and grants funded, initially, with one million dollars.

Both park bond act proposals, **AB 72 (Cortese)** and **SB 387 (McCorquodale)**, stalled in August because of the partisan budget battle that erupted. Once again, no state money will be available for preservation "bricks and mortar" projects.

Roberti's "California Housing Bond Act (**SB 593**) and Hauser's loan guarantees for seismic retrofit of commercial structures (**AB 114**) also lost out in the budget battle. Another bill, **AB 262 (Statham)**, proposed some slight changes, but big improvements in the Mills Act (the historic property tax incentive); AB 262 died because it had a minor impact (that's all it took during this very cranky August) on local revenue.

CPF did well and learned a great deal in this past session. We will be back for all of these programs, and more, next year!



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

— GeeGee Platt

Since my July election as President of the California Preservation Foundation, and because this marks my final year on the board, I have found myself reflecting on where we are, where we are going, and particularly where we have been since 1984, when I was appointed to the Board of Trustees. Because of your continuing support and because you have elected an ever stronger, more distinguished and dedicated board members, CPF has grown financially strong enough to have an office with both an office manager and program associate to augment and complement Executive Director John Merritt's extraordinary dedication to the Foundation and unequalled knowledge about California's diverse communities and the role historic preservation plays in each. While the Annual State Conference, always highly successful, has become increasingly so, it is still enhanced by regularly scheduled workshops throughout the state on topics of immediate importance, and we continue to provide training sessions tailored to meet specific community requests and revisit subjects essential to those just becoming interested in the field, whether as professionals or volunteers.

Important as each of the accomplishments above is and has been, I feel that our greatest achievement over the last two years has been in forging a strong working relationship with the State's "body politic." Governor Wilson has demonstrated his commitment to historic preservation with the issuance of his Executive Order, and in the appointment of Resources Secretary Doug Wheeler, with whom many of us worked when he was

President of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The availability of Secretary Wheeler and his staff has led to open discussions, together with the State Office of Historic Preservation, on new legislation and surely accounts for the success noted on page two of this newsletter. Such alliances do not come overnight, but are the results of hundreds of hours of meetings and telephone conversations as well as numerous trips to Sacramento, often with only hours notice. As Chairman of the CPF's Legislative Committee, and then as President of the Foundation, Bill Delvac has committed himself to the creation of this strong alliance which has included working closely with legislators such as Petris, Hauser, Torres and Frazee. We look forward to Bill's continuing involvement as this year's Legislative Chairman or Liaison as his time permits. In the meantime, when you next see or talk with Bill, please extend your personal thanks and congratulations to him not only for his achievements on our behalf in Sacramento, but as an outstanding spokesman for the Foundation as our President.

Congratulations are also in order for our Executive Director John Merritt who has been selected as this year's recipient of the California Historical Society's prestigious The Irene and V. Aubrey Neasham Annual Award for Historic Preservation. The award is presented "to an individual who has contributed extraordinarily to the preservation of California's historic sites and buildings, either as a life-long commitment, or for a specific project." John's selection is clearly based upon his "life-long commitment" to historic preservation in California beginning as a planner for the City of Pasadena in 1971. While there he became the Cultural Heritage Commission's first staff member, and created and managed their cultural resource survey. During that time he helped found Californians for Preservation Action, a

*(continued on page 4)*

grassroots lobbying organization which many of you will remember spawned CPF before the two organizations merged in 1984. John left Pasadena in 1977 for Sacramento — where he served as Survey and Planning Coordinator for the Office of Historic Preservation — and then joined the National Trust in 1979 as Assistant Director in the San Francisco office — where he formulated the idea for and helped create the California Heritage Task Force. Since 1983, John has been CPF's Executive Director, and has nurtured it from a fledgling organization with offices in his house (for more years than his family would like to remember) to the strong organization it is today. During that time, John has planned and managed all programs, developed organizational policy for the Board's consideration and adoption, produced publications and promotional materials, and encouraged the Board to participate in every facet of the organization from programs to fundraising. Without John's determination, loyalty, devotion and inherent frugality, many of us doubt that the organization would have survived to become what it is today. Consequently, on behalf of the Foundation Board of Trustees and our membership, I wish to thank the California Historical Society for recognizing John Merritt's lifetime commitment to historic preservation in the State of California. May we all continue to reap the benefits of association with John for many years to come.

This year we are trying something new by inserting in this newsletter a nomination form for our annual awards program. The Board of Trustees looks forward to receiving your suggestions, and hopes that you will take a few moments to complete the form and return it to the office. We are indebted to Steve Spiller and Marion Mitchell-Wilson for conceiving the form and to the Kimberly-Shirk Foundation for printing the insert.

As you will see on page 6, nomination forms

for this year's Design Awards competition will soon be available for those wishing to enter. Please take a moment to think about a local project that you feel is worthy of consideration, and if you are not the owner or architect, do contact the appropriate sponsors and tell them how to obtain the necessary forms.

In closing, I want you to know how much I am looking forward to being your President this year, and to encourage you to call me or any other trustee in your area if there is an issue with which you think we can be of assistance. As always, you will find John Merritt in the office at the other end of the telephone ably assisted by Office Manager Dick Price. We are pleased, too, to have Donna Graves helping develop our fundraising program and hope you all will have a chance to meet her. They are all now working on the upcoming "What's A Cultural Resource?" workshops and the November "Opening the Doors to History: Access to Historic Resources for Americans with Disabilities." I look forward to seeing you at these and other events in the near future.



#### **SOMEONE NEW IN THE CPF OFFICE**

GeeGee mentions that Donna Graves has agreed to help CPF build its fundraising capacity, beginning with the ADA conference. Donna is the former Director of the "Power of Place", the L.A. organization recognized nationally for using new concepts to commemorate multiethnic urban history. A doctoral candidate at UCLA's Graduate School of Architecture and Urban Planning, she is completing an NEA funded book about interdisciplinary approaches to public art and public space design in the U.S. We hope she can stay here with CPF.

## **Two-day Conference, "Opening the Doors to History: Access to Historic Resources for Americans with Disabilities," set for November**

The Foundation is planning a two-day conference, "Opening the Doors to History: Access to Historic Resources for Americans with Disabilities." Signed into law in 1990, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) became effective this year. Among the changes required by this important legislation, ADA calls for new accessibility requirements for all public and commercial facilities, including historic buildings and parks. This legislation has important implications for many historic structures in every city in California.

"Opening the Doors to History," the first West Coast attempt to provide much needed information on the ADA and historic preservation, will take place in San Francisco on November 16-17, 1992. A broad list of co-sponsors will help attract a diverse audience (we expect 300 to 400 participants), including state and federal agency representatives, local officials, architects, preservationists, attorneys and ADA constituents. Speakers with first-hand knowledge of historic preservation and ADA will discuss existing solutions and case studies that offer creative approaches to ADA requirements. Topics to be addressed include:

- Creating fully accessible historic resources
- Legal and code requirements and "good faith" compliance
- Civil rights aspects of the law
- Needs of new disabled constituencies covered by ADA's broad definition
- New approaches to interpretation of historic buildings and sites

CPF will also compile a workbook of technical information and resources regarding ADA and historic preservation to be distributed free to conference participants.

The Conference is being co-sponsored by The California State Department of Rehabilitation, National Park Service, Center for Independent Living, State Office of Historic Preservation, Pacific Disability Business and Technical Assistance Center, Sanwa Bank, National Trust for Historic Preservation, Disability Rights Education Defense Fund and State Historical Building Safety Board. If funding or underwriting can be secured, we hope to be able to offer some scholarships.

"Opening the Doors to History: Access to Historic Resources for Americans with Disabilities" is an important addition to CPF's ongoing work to promote sensitive conservation of California's rich built environment, to deal with serious social and economic policy issues, and to reach out to new constituencies. Full program details and registration material will be available by October 1.

### **What's A Cultural Resource? Workshops**

Everyone should have received a bright yellow flyer advertising the workshop series "What's A Cultural Resource ... and What Do I Do About It?" There may still be time for you to attend these lively, informative and useful sessions constructed to reopen your eyes and sharpen your skills in building your local preservation program. We made a serious attempt to introduce fresh experts and present workshops in new locales:

- Fresno - Friday, September 25
- Long Beach - Saturday September 26
- San Rafael - Friday, October 2
- Los Gatos - Saturday, October 3

Call (510/763-0972) for last minute details!

## LONG BEACH GEARS UP FOR 1993: The Preservation Conference Report

Planning for the State Conference in Long Beach, April 22-25, 1993, is well underway, and recent events in L.A. have redirected some of the thinking. The conference working title has become "Rethinking Urban Strategies" and the focus will be on neighborhoods, everybody's neighborhoods.

We will look at the efforts of REBUILD L.A., Neighborworks, the El Monte Main Street Program, the Long Beach Neighborhood Investment Program, the Leimert Park Case Study, will learn about & love East L.A., and visit activist neighborhoods in Long Beach and other communities. This will be a working conference ... working to understand.

One of the neighborhoods to be featured in April is Wilmore City, one of Long Beach's oldest districts. The neighborhood newsletter is simple, but it is an inspiration. News of historic tours and events is balanced by columns on mutual aid — anti-graffiti efforts, crime-watch and drug education. The **Wilmore City Heritage Association** loves it's neighborhood and has toughened-up to deal with some tough issues. We are reminded of similar efforts by L.A.'s West Adams Neighborhood Association, and are gratified to see the growing linkage between preservation and neighborhood survival.



The **Long Beach Heritage Coalition** offers a lecture series, "New Life for Old Houses," on October 3, one week after co-sponsoring CPF's "What's a Cultural Resource?" workshop. Topics are: sensitive additions and remodels, repair procedures, color analysis, selecting finishes, cutting red tape, and creating period landscapes. The workshop series is only \$6.00; for more information contact the Long Beach Heritage Coalition at (310)590-9451.

### PRESERVATION LEADERSHIP TRAINING Pacific Grove — January 3 - 10, 1993

The Western Regional Office of the National Trust is looking for 30 representatives of local preservation groups to participate in an intensive "leadership training" institute. Tuition is \$300 but some scholarships are available. The course, lead by experts in organizational development, will focus on the analysis of organizational strengths and weaknesses, and application of these principles to the participants' own groups. The deadline to apply is October 23. Call the Trust (515/956-0610) for the application forms.

## TENTH ANNUAL DESIGN AWARDS — January

The California Preservation Foundation will stage its Tenth Annual Design Awards Program in San Francisco, in January 1993. Last year's event, utilizing the Beverly Hills Waterworks — a newly restored building which was an attraction in itself — established precedent as a gala program independent of the Annual Preservation Conference. The stars came out as Karl Malden welcomed everyone to the new home of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences Center for Motion Picture Study. Nineteen projects — from restoration of the Waterworks and of the Sheraton Palace Hotel's Garden Court in San Francisco to the Placer County Courthouse in Auburn and Fresno's Tower Theatre — were award winners, demonstrating that the preservation ethic and restoration skills are alive and well throughout California.



ORIGINAL 1928 RENDERING

*1991 Award Winner — The Tower Theatre in Fresno — as originally fantasized by S. Charles Lee, the world famous designer of movie palaces.*

This year's chairman, Oakland architect Alan Dreyfuss, promises another strong set of entries and an impressive downtown San Francisco location for the event. "We will definitely have a hard time topping last year's Design Awards Program," he commented, "but we are working on it." The Announcement brochure and entry form should be in the mail by the end of September.

Entries may be submitted by craftsmen, private preservation groups, architects owners, contractors or others working to recognize excellent preservation efforts. Project categories include restoration, rehabilitation, adaptive use, preservation stabilization, craftsmanship and cultural resource studies. As in the past, entries will be carefully evaluated by a talented jury with broad preservation experience.

Call the CPF office (510/763-0972) to make sure you are on the mailing list to receive the application materials for CPF's Tenth Annual Design Awards.



Two modest Sacramento homes — innocent bystanders or lead poisoning suspects. (Photo credit: Paula Boghosian)

munity as well as unaware residents and children living in older housing stock. Building owners, realtors and restoration firms also need to be more conscious of legal issues — and litigation — regarding disclosure of hazardous conditions and protection of the health of employees, tenants or residents.

Individuals restoring their own homes can take steps to limit their own exposure, but public policy is heading toward stricter abatement standards and certification requirements for anyone doing such work. Consulting firms, such as those CPF invited to speak at our "Hazardous Materials" workshops, have already established themselves as specialists in removing lead and asbestos from older and historic buildings without doing great damage. But the costs are significant and not every firm is going to be as knowledgeable about historic preservation and the need to maintain the structural integrity and retain historic fabric as those we heard from at the workshops.

Because of our workshops, and with the help of the experts who spoke, CPF has built a decent bookshelf on the subject of hazardous materials. We now hope we can both allay unreasonable fears and provide you with good information on existing regulations, procedures and available professional expertise.

#### Publications:

We just received a luscious book, *Catalina Tile of the Magic Isle* by Lee Rosenthal (Windgate Press, Sausalito). As bright as One might expect, the book pictures and describes the history of the island, the pottery and the tiles, some of the most colorful tirole ever produced. We loved it. Tile Heritage — Rosenthal is one of the directors — has a limited supply of this beautiful book for \$15.00 (Tile Heritage, P.O.Box 1850, Healdsburg, CA 95448).

*National Register of Historic Places, 1966-1991*, is available from Preservation Press (1785 Massachusetts Ave., Washington, D.C. 20036) for \$98.00.

Arranged by state, 58,000 properties designated over the first 25 years of the program are listed.

*On the Edge of the World: Four Architects in San Francisco at the Turn of the Century* (MIT Press, 1983), by Richard Longstreth, is not a new book, but we have never noted its excellence. The book places the careers and design of Coxhead, Polk, Schweinfurth and Maybeck in the maturing Bay Area context in the decades surrounding 1900 with fine precision. From the apparent confusion of style and detail choices of these architects, Longstreth extricates the influences of the Beaux Arts, "Academic Eclecticism" and the philosophy of the Arts & Crafts movement to help you better read the historic built environment in the Bay Area. Understanding the evolution of the architecture of this region gains new clarity in this book, and it is highly recommended.

*Preparing for Earthquakes: It's Your business*, is a comprehensive look at what local businesses and government can do to plan well for the next earthquake. Six important areas are covered: the planning process, physical context, economic context, business district preparedness, resource management, and access and damage assessment. Good information, step-by-step through emergency planning.

The publication was prepared by Jeff Eichenfield for the Alameda Main Street Project but, as Commerce Department/ California Main Street Program funding would indicate, the work has application in your town as well. Limited copies are available for \$12.00 from Alameda Main Street, c/o Jeff Eichenfield, City of Alameda Community Development, Room 103 City Hall, Santa Clara at Oak, Alameda, CA 94501.

The *Downtown Revitalization Resource Directory* is another valuable reference produced by the Main Street Program (available from the Dept. of Commerce, attn: Accounting, 801 K Street, Suite 1600, Sacramento, CA 95814) for \$12.50. Listing categories include: consultants, heritage organizations, Main Street cities, economic development corporations and business associations, and design schools.

Earthquake Engineering Research Institute, a non profit organization promoting seismic safety, has recently published a series on seismic design for design professionals. The series illustrates by example that structural decisions must consider many factors, and applies this lesson to a variety of common building types. For more information about the Design Series, slide sets or other publications, contact EERI, 499 14th Street, Oakland, CA 94612 (510/451-0905).

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CPF is pleased to offer excellent opportunities for businesses and organizations to reach preservation-minded consumers statewide. Business card-sized advertisements are now being accepted for the quarterly newsletter and for materials distributed at workshop programs and the Annual Preservation Conference.

*California Preservation* reaches thousands of readers, including architects, developers, historic buildings owners, local government officials and preservation advocates.

Each year, we offer 4 workshop series in locations throughout California, each attracting a highly motivated audience of 120 to 400; material distributed the day of the event is used as reference by participants for years to come.

Finally, the Annual California Preservation Conference is the major gathering for those in the preservation field. In recent years, the conference has drawn between 400 and 1000 participants; your advertisement in CPF materials will reach professionals and enthusiasts from the public, private and non profit sectors. The fee schedule follows:

Workshop Programs	\$50 each; 4 for \$150
Newsletters	\$50 each; 4 for \$150
Annual Conference	\$150
All opportunities above	\$250

All advertising will be subject to the approval of the California Preservation Foundation. For future deadlines, more information or an advertising contract, please write or call the CPF office.

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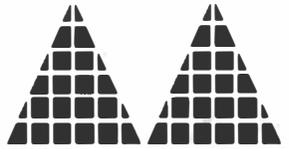


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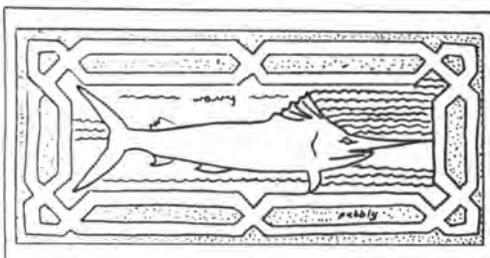
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This Newsletter was brought to you through the combined efforts of John Merritt and Richard Price; contributors were Kay Fealock, GeeGee Platt and Kathleen Vork. You, too, can contribute articles, & please include a black & white glossy photo. **Next newsletter deadline: December 1, 1992**

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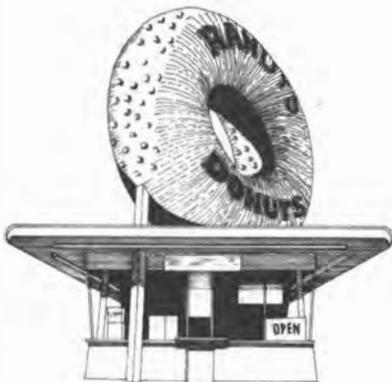
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