



# CALIFORNIANS FOR PRESERVATION ACTION NEWSLETTER

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## Tax Reform Act of 1976 The Dream Deferred

Preservationists await the benefits of this landmark piece of tax legislation. As reported, historic easements and restoration costs can now be written off and studies indicate preservation projects can now offer investors a far greater return. Not writing off demolition costs and not being able to use short-line depreciation for new construction on the site of former historic landmarks can add enormously to project cost--one example computed added \$300,000 or more to initial expected costs.

But all is not rosy. Guidelines from the Department of Interior are slow in coming. To contract 30 year easements, instead of life easements, you must grant the easement by June, 1977.\* No mechanism yet exists for certification by the Secretary of Interior --required--when a threatened structure is to be judged eligible for National Register inclusion. No process is promised to certify that structures within local districts qualify for inclusion under the expensive provision which prohibits demolition write-offs and mandates normal depreciation procedures for new structures on the site.

The Tax Reform Act is law; implementation is the immediate need. We urge the Department of Interior to prioritize the development of the needed mechanisms to make the law a reality. We urge you to write them and insist on deliberate haste in effecting this important legislation and in doing so with all provisions, including those governing structures in local districts covered in the law. Insist! Write: Secretary of the Interior, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

\*See the Maryland Historical Trust booklet, "The Importance of Easements Under the Tax Reform Act of 1976" (The Maryland Trust, 21 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401).

## Sacramento Updates

On December 29, 1976, a letter went out to all local building authorities and state agencies from State Architect Sim Van der Ryn. The letter advised that the State Historic Building Code Advisory Board had enacted interim regulations (reported in our last newsletter). Local jurisdictions and state agencies "may now conscientiously work...to save the inventory of qualified historical buildings, giving full consideration to both authenticity and safety." A key paragraph in the attached bulletin comments:

"These regulations are designed to promote thinking and development of alternatives by all concerned. These alternatives need only stand the test of providing reasonably equivalent protection of life and limb, provide handicapped access where feasible, and to protect employees from dangerous situations."

We hope you promote some thinking in your local building department.

## TAX RELIEF-

Proposition 7 (ACA III) requires further implementation through legislation defining property of historical significance and determining how present use contracts will affect tax assessments. A draft bill is in preparation and its status in the legislative process will be reported in our next newsletter.



## Son of Filoli and Riverside State Historic Preservation Conference II

### FAIR PASADENA

To live elsewhere,  
were not to live-  
To leave  
were pangs of death-  
With thee  
may future years be spent  
E'en to  
life's final breath.

Helen Elliott Bandini

Pasadena will host the 1977 State Historic Preservation Conference, March 2 and 3. The site selected is Pasadena's Neighborhood Church, 301 N. Orange Grove, but activities will also make use of other attractions such as the Gamble House, the Arroyo, and the Prospect Park neighborhood.

Conference sessions deal with the hard question, what do you do when you know you want to save it? Government officials, archaeologists, economists, planners, and engaged citizens will reveal some valuable preservation tools available to you now. Other workshops will take you to projects in process. Featured speakers will be the SHPO, Herbert Rhodes, Director of the State Department of Parks and Recreation, Bruce Chapman, Secretary of State, State of Washington, who was instrumental in the success of Seattle's Pioneer Square, and Judith Waldhorn, spark of San Francisco's Victorian revival. The two-day conference concludes with a progressive wine & cheese party through Pasadena's finest neighborhood. Total cost will be \$20.00. Incredible!

Sponsors for this valuable two days are Californians for Preservation Action, the State Office of Historic Preservation, Junior League of Pasadena, National Trust, California Historical Society, and Pasadena Cultural Heritage Commission. You should receive a conference brochure shortly. Further information is available from the National Trust, (415) 989-6428, the State Office of Historic Preservation, (916) 445-8006, Junior League of Pasadena-Claire Bogaard, (213) 799-9819 or from CPA-John Merritt, (213) 577-4152.

You should be there! Pasadena, March 2-3, 1977.

## Preservation: The Berkeley Scene



Berkeley's Channing Hall

Berkeley is a city with scores of buildings of architectural and historical merit, buildings which are worthy subjects of concern to the preservationist. Among the finest examples are Bernard Maybeck's First Church of Christ Scientist, several important institutional structures on the University Campus such as the Hearst Mining Building and Doe Library, and innumerable private dwellings by well-known architects such as Maybeck, Julia Morgan and John Hudson Thomas.

Preservation efforts of Berkeley are shared among three bodies and are enacted against the background of two pieces of legislation: the Landmarks Preservation Ordinance (LPO) and the Neighborhood Preservation Ordinance (NPO). Berkeley is fortunate to have both a private educational organization, the Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association (B.A.H.A.), and a public advisory body, the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) as ongoing institutions that deal with preservation issues. In addition ad hoc action groups are often formed when individual structures are threatened. The LPO of 1974 established the LPC and set the guidelines for the designation and preservation of historic sites, buildings and districts. The preservation of neighborhoods, with specific requirements for demolition, is defined in the NPO.

The following is a brief progress report of preservationist activity in Berkeley. In a rapid survey of this kind it is, of course, impossible to reflect the full complexity of the controversies involving preservation and related issues.

B.A.H.A.'s role in the community is primarily educational. B.A.H.A. has sought to educate the public on various controversies through mailings and forums and has maintained a steady flow of background information for preservation through publication of a yearly calendar and a weekly newspaper column as well as through lecture series and walking tours. One of the major projects that B.A.H.A. has initiated is the survey of the approximately 40,000 structures in Berkeley. The survey will result in a neighborhood by neighborhood environmental quality study and will help provide the definitive list of Berkeley landmark sites, areas and buildings. B.A.H.A.'s most recent educational venture is the planned series of publications on architects and buildings of Berkeley.

For the Landmarks Preservation Commission, 1976 began with a jolt, a serious misunderstanding over an initiated landmark structure: the Barker House. This house was originally designed in the Italianate style but was remodelled and enlarged at the turn of the century by its prosperous owner James L. Barker, who was instrumen-

tal in the development of Berkeley and who was one of the signers of the incorporation papers for Berkeley in 1878. The house was being considered for landmark status by the LPC when, without giving any notification of its action, the Office of the City Manager authorized the demolition of the structure. B.A.H.A. was very concerned when it learned that the LPC's deliberations had been ignored and that the section of the LPO which "freezes" any action on a structure undergoing landmark consideration had been misinterpreted to such an extent. Minor text changes to the LPO were discussed and adopted to insure against a similar occurrence in the future. In other action over the past year the LPC has designated 15 Berkeley landmarks, 1 structure of merit and one historic district.

Berkeley is currently revising its masterplan and as soon as this process is completed the Neighborhood Preservation Ordinance is mandated to expire. Preservationists are working to get provisions of the NPO incorporated into the masterplan to help protect and maintain the character of Berkeley's neighborhoods. There are also plans to have an historic preservation element adopted as soon as possible after the mandated elements have been approved.

These are some of the issues preservationists have faced in Berkeley during the past year. In the immediate future loom the following challenges: in the city, preservation of what remains of Ocean View (the oldest part of Berkeley), efforts to save the Berkeley Day Care Center by architect Walter Ratcliff, and participation in the proposed plan to improve the downtown commercial district; on the UC Campus, compatible use for the Naval Architecture Building and Northgate Hall and dialogue with the University toward a commitment to preserve historical structures on the campus and to build in harmony with them.

With a growing constituency, preservation has become a vital issue in our city and in Berkeley there are opportunities for involvement at various levels of commitment, from neighborhood surveyor or ad hoc committee member, to Landmarks Commissioner.

## Santa Cruz Revolving Fund

The Santa Cruz City Council in December created a non-profit corporation to administer the City's existing Revolving Fund. This corporation will be able to accept City funds, various governmental grants and private contributions. It will be empowered to contract, rent, buy or sell personal or real property if these acts are related to the purpose of furthering the City's preservation program. A unique aspect of the corporation is that its Board of Directors is also the City's non-profit corporation. Utilizing this unique mechanism, the City will be able to leverage the fund's assets through the use of private bank capital. Steps are now underway to file the necessary by-laws and articles of incorporation with the California Secretary of State. Copies of this material will be available by writing the Santa Cruz Revolving Fund for Historical Preservation, c/o Planning Department, 809 Center, Santa Cruz, CA 95060.

Designed and produced by the Newsletter Committee of Californians for Preservation Action: Margaret Bach, Beverly Bubar, John Chase, Art Hendrickson, Penny Maines, Jim Marrin, Betty Merritt, John Merritt, Sharon Robinson.

## Webfoots Unite

A growing preservation movement in Oregon has formalized its efforts as the Oregon Historic Preservation League and has elected Glenn Mason of Eugene, president. A native of Mendocino, Mason was one of the initiators of organizing efforts begun in late 1974 following the National Trust convention in Portland. The Oregon Historic Preservation League Newsletter, with information on Oregon's ambitious and innovative preservation measures, is available by writing: Marshall Lango, Editor, 240 N. 3rd Street, Jacksonville, Oregon 97530. We congratulate Glenn and Oregon preservationists; with the Pacific Coast organized now, it might be time for a stronger network.

## Conferences and Programs

### SAH TO MEET IN LOS ANGELES

Los Angeles will host the 30th Annual Meeting of the 4300 member Society of Architectural Historians, in the renovated Biltmore Hotel, February 2 - 6, 1977.

All local arrangements are under the direction of David Gebhard of the University of California at Santa Barbara. The limited spaces for tours and receptions have been filled, but an open meeting to discuss preservation education programs will be held at 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, February 2. From 8 to 10 p.m. that night, Environmental Communications of Venice, California, will demonstrate their multi-media resources.

Those wishing to attend the 2 1/2 days of morning and afternoon sessions may register at the main Galleria from 8:30 to 4:30 p.m. Registration is \$25.00 and \$7.50 for students, who must present a current I.D. card showing enrollment.

Sessions include: Feb. 3, Thursday, 2:30 to 5:00, 20th Century Architecture in Southern California, with Dr. Robert Winter of Occidental College, Dolores Hayden, Barry Zarakov, Kathryn Smith, Thomas Hines, Helen Park, and Esther McCoy. Feb. 4, Friday, 2:30 to 5:00, Architecture in Northern California, with Sally Woodbridge of University of California at Berkeley, Judith Waldhorn, Richard Longstreth, John Beach, Thomas Smith, and David Streetfield.

THE NATIONAL TRUST announces a Community Preservation Conference in fabulous Marshall, Michigan, March 12-19, 1977. The conference is limited to 30 participants with tuitions granted. For further information, contact the Western Regional Office, 802 Montgomery Street, San Francisco 94133, but do go see Marshall, Michigan sometime before you go to the great restoration in the sky.

Ask, too, for the National Trust "Education Services and Opportunities-1977," available from the Western Regional Office; this brochure is a list of conferences and awards/grants programs for the year. The latest National Trust Information Sheet, just in, is "Commercial Area Revolving Funds for Preservation."

The Conference of California Historical Societies will hold its annual Southern California Symposium in Ventura, February 11 and 12, 1977-this year's theme: "Antiques and Antiquities." For further information contact: Bill Burkhart, (213) 381-3351.

Pacific Grove's annual Victorian Heritage Home Tour will be held on Sunday, March 20, 1977, as part of that community's weekend Good Old Days Celebration, beginning on March 19. The tour will feature seven fine Victorian homes, including the Pinehurst and the Saracas homes, and it will conclude with a Victorian Tea at the Pacific Grove Art Center. For tickets (\$4.00 each) and further information, please contact the Pacific Grove Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 167, Pacific Grove, CA 93950, (408) 373-3304.

## New Publications

Going to the State Capitol? A Guide to Old Sacramento, by Robert Miller (River City Press, Sacramento) is history, photography, tour and ephemabilia in a handy format.

WATSONVILLE: Memories that Linger, by Betty Lewis (Valley Publishers, Fresno), a well-illustrated return to early days in Watsonville is available from the Pajaro Valley Historical Association, 261 E. Beach Street, Watsonville, 95076, for a pre-publication order price of \$9.00 (plus tax & mailing). This book is another example of a very active, multi-faceted group's accomplishments in raising local public awareness.

A GIFT TO THE STREETS, photographs by Carol Olwell, commentary by Judith Lynch Waldhorn (Antelope Island Press, P.O. Box 31508, San Francisco 94131--\$12.95 plus tax; include \$1.25 per copy for postage/handling). Victorian San Francisco at its radiant best --sparkling photography, ebullient prose, carefully arranged--you will like this book a lot and will never again look at Victorians with anything less than delight. Ask for a flyer for your wall, too.

City of San Luis Obispo Historical and Architectural Conservation Element, another example in a growing list of community planning efforts to recognize and protect the physical and psychological core. For copies contact: Jon Ecklund, Department of Community Development, P.O. Box 321, San Luis Obispo 93406.

Discovering Santa Barbara Without a Car, by Ken Kolsbun and Bob Burgess, \$2.00 from Friends for Bikeology, 1035 E. De La Guerra St., Santa Barbara 93103; a community guide geared to the total experience of being out in the streets.

Santa Cruz Renovation Manual: a Homeowner's Handbook is another in the excellent series of publications springing from Santa Cruz, commissioned by the City and prepared by Charles Hall Page & Associates. Contact Joe Hall, City Hall, City of Santa Cruz, 809 Center Street, Santa Cruz 95060. The manual will be available for distribution in the next month and sells for \$3.00 plus tax and mailing.

Of interest is "Property Owner's Guide to Paint Restoration and Preservation," Technical Series/No. 1, by Frederick D. Cawley, published by the Preservation League of New York State. Copies are available from that organization for \$1.00. Write: Preservation League of New York State, 184 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY 12210.

And, of course, Ada Louise Huxtable's, Kicked a Building Lately? (New York, Quadrangle, 1976) is a must.

## San Diego Seismic Safety Conference

According to present seismic and fire building codes, most pre-1933 buildings in California should either be torn down or extensively re-constructed. Cornices should be removed, stairways widened, interiors gutted and strengthened.

This state-wide conflict between public safety and historic preservation was finally brought to a head at a one-day conference in San Diego on December 10. Titled "Living With Seismic Risk: Strategies for Urban Conservation," the conference was sponsored by the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Institute of Architects-San Diego, the City of San Diego Planning Department, the Save Our Heritage Organization, and others.

John Frisbee, West Coast Regional Director of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Robert Olson, Executive Director of the California Seismic Safety Commission, Ed O'Conner, former director of the City of Long Beach Building Inspection Department, and others addressed themselves to the question of the two conflicting responsibilities of the historic/economic/social need to preserve existing buildings and neighborhoods vs. the responsibilities for public and property safety.

In spite of some classic remarks like "tear the old dogs down," and "not another building should be demolished," some very refreshing and nationally significant concepts for urban preservation-with-safety evolved.

The key conclusion was a call for "reasonable public safety," i.e. the responsibility of the public to accept some risk in trade for preservation. The objectives of a report by the Task Force for San Diego's historic Gaslamp Quarter became a theme for discussion: "To recommend alternate ways of handling the renovation, restoration, and preservation for posterity of historic structures so as to encourage private efforts, while providing reasonable public safety."

Speakers suggested that government is already moving toward a more flexible stance. In September, a new code section was enacted for the California Court Claims Act which will provide immunity to government if it modifies seismic codes. It will limit the liability of government bodies who are wrestling with the concept of "equivalencies"; i.e. where do you draw the line between absolute life safety and absolute preservation?

The San Diego conference proved that concern for historic preservation is no longer just the concern of the little-old-environmentalist-in-Earth-Shoes. Structural engineers, economic consultants, the director of the state seismic safety commission, even the building inspectors themselves, stood up to say, "There can be preservation as well as safety. There must be less stringent, more reasonable ways to preserve our past while insuring a degree of future safety."

This conference suggests that there is increasing awareness of aesthetics, history, and the integrity of established neighborhoods being as important in political/economic decisions as are new developments and public safety.

For information about receiving one or more copies of the "Living With Seismic Risk" report contact: Gretchen Vermilye, Regional Seminar Programs, American Association for the Advancement of Science, 1776 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

## Presidio Museum - New Program

Tucked away inside the abundantly-wooded Presidio of San Francisco is a recently-opened historic resource, the Presidio Army Museum, located in the 1857 Post Hospital, a three-story wood frame building with pillared verandas and turned balustrades. The Museum houses a large collection of artifacts which tell the story of the socio-military history of the Bay Area and of the Presidio itself, founded in 1776.

The Museum currently has two floors packed with exciting displays. Staff have used a variety of materials--uniformed manikins, ancient equipment, old photographs, swords, and saddles--in innovative displays which make the Museum a visual treat for beginners as well as for military history buffs.

Visitors can explore the easily-understood displays themselves or may join a guided tour each hour from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m., Tuesdays through Sundays. For serious scholars, a library of photographs, books, and other archival material is also available.

Besides the Museum itself, architecture fans will enjoy exploring the surrounding blocks, which have several clusters of Victorian homes, including 13 built in the early 1860's. Also nearby are four of a different style, built in 1886 under the direction of local architect Joseph Humphreys.

In the three years since the Museum opened, its popularity has increased enormously. Visitors number more than 100,000 people, most of them school children on special tours. This increase in interest has encouraged the Fort Point and Army Museum Association to establish a volunteer docent program, to help staff with tours and other services, such as the information desk and the library. The first docent class started before publication of this newsletter, but others will begin later in the year. The training course should prove of great interest to those intrigued with Bay Area history and its military establishments. The six-week college-level course will be conducted by Museum staff, members of the National Park Service and the Coordinator of the Museum Association. When they have completed the course and observed actual Museum tours, docents will be placed on a register and expected to volunteer for a minimum number of hours each month. For information about future docent training, call or write Donald Abenheim, Presidio Army Museum, Presidio of San Francisco, California 94129, (415) 561-4115 or 561-3319.



The Presidio Army Museum is housed in this building, originally the post hospital.

## Please Note

Sacramento City College will offer again this spring, "An Introduction to Historic Preservation," a full survey of preservation topics (10 sessions, Thursday evenings). Contact: Diana Malatesta, c/o Sacramento City College.

Get on the mailing list: "11593," an attractive and valuable newsletter from the Feds. Write: Ronald M. Greenberg, National Register Division, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

"Friends of the Mission Inn Newsletter" details action which promises a healthy future for one of California's finest landmarks. Public acquisition and strong community involvement, both encouraged by the National Trust, have secured the structure and, here, redevelopment promises to recognize that preservation is the key building block for revitalizing downtown. Contact: Friends of the Mission Inn, 3649 Seventh Street, Riverside 92501.

Background to the formation of Friends of Old Marysville is documented in the "FOOM Newsletter," a publication of increasing interest and breadth and an intense effort to educate Marysville to the beneficence of preservation. Available from: Friends of Old Marysville, P.O. Box 1942, Marysville 95901.

**MORE CREDIT TO SANTA CRUZ:** Santa Cruz is often mentioned in this newsletter as one of the state's leaders in comprehensive preservation planning, the sine qua non for success. On November 10, 1976, HUD presented the City of Santa Cruz with an Honor Award in the Seventh HUD Biennial Awards for Design Excellence--well deserved!

## Los Gatos Workshop: Methods and Materials of the Victorian Revival

More than 125 old house fanciers gathered in Los Gatos December 4th to hear two experts discuss the costs, problems and joys of Victorian restoration.

San Francisco Victoriana partner Gary Kray showed slides of the house plans and millwork trade catalogues from which Victorian builders and architects drew inspiration. Many of the early prices were startling to current revivalists: the house plan cost \$5; the construction cost might be about \$2500. Kray estimated that to reproduce the same thing today would cost about \$250,000!

Dispelling the idea that all Victorian homes were painted grey, Kray showed slides from several house paint company catalogues of the late 19th century, including a selection of color chips from a San Francisco firm. He showed that by the 1880's and '90's, painters were treating houses in horizontal bands, using earth tones such as red, orange, green and brown. Although they did not use six or eight hues, as is often done today, they did use two or three shades and usually detailed some of the architectural embellishment.

Kray reviewed Victorian home styles, then showed the results of half a century of neglect: the "misguided improvements" which disguise half of the Victorian homes in eight San Francisco neighborhoods, making restoration difficult since original details are often obliterated or rearranged on the facade.

Using two projectors, Kray showed some drama-

tic examples of before and after slides, including the correction of misguided improvements, how facades are designed, and how replacement millwork is manufactured, finished and installed. You might expect to pay \$8,000-\$10,000 for the complete restoration of a two-story misguided facade, including final painting.

Authenticity is the aim of the Victoriana restoration business, which was described in the last CPA newsletter. Victoriana stresses several aspects in its scale of authenticity, including practicality. The firm does not, for example, encourage present day owners to revert to Victorian era bathrooms. In restoration of house fronts, it is important that nothing is mismatched, a common occurrence when people use salvaged parts. You would not put an aluminum leg on a Louis XIV table, similarly you would not put a Queen Anne tower on an Italianate home. Victoriana tries to help owners see the Victorian home as a fine antique, as well as a good place to live. Investment in authentic restoration will appreciate value, as well as increase pleasure in daily living.

The second workshop speaker was Hal Major, architect and CPA board member. He concentrated on the reclamation of one building, showing some of the tribulations of renovating a large, dilapidated Victorian mansion. His case study concerned the Mish house, a massive 1880's Stick style mansion described as one of the most lavishly-embellished homes left in San Francisco. Although it was declared an official city landmark, previous owners were unable to finance the restoration of its crumbling facade. The interior was even more neglected; from single-family use it had been converted into a rabbit warren of small rental units, then virtually abandoned. Eager plunderers soon descended; one tore the carved wooden capital from the entryway, another plucked the ornate newel post from the main staircase, leaving a gaping hole sawn in the hallway.

The Mish house was finally renovated by the Preservation Group, a limited partnership formed, as Major said, both to preserve old buildings and to make a profit. He discussed some of the financing involved: the owners agreed to sell for \$45,000. The Preservation Group put down \$15,000, but was unable to get financing since the house was in a rundown neighborhood, located on a heavily-trafficked arterial.

Several serious problems arose immediately. Because they wanted to convert the use from residential to commercial, they were required to make the house conform to the same stringent codes applied to new structures. They could not get fire insurance without an occupant, yet no one could live in the house until it had plumbing. They went to 30 financial institutions, but none would agree to loan the funds needed to finish paying for the house and to finance the repairs. However, when they painted the home in several eye-catching colors, they quickly obtained a loan for \$90,000. They used \$30,000 to complete the purchase and estimated that the remaining \$60,000 would pay for the renovation. Actually, Major estimated that the Preservation Group had to spend more than \$200,000.

Although the financing and code requirement problems sounded discouraging, Major concluded his workshop session with good news: a San Francisco agency has agreed to lease the Mish house, marking the first time that an older residential building has been used for city offices. With the funds from the Mish house lease, the Preservation Group plans to rescue more derelict Victorian buildings in the Bay Area.

## Preservation and School Curriculum

The Victorian revival is splendid, but how can we ensure that it is no fad? Perhaps the pendulum will swing back, and these ebullient products of "the delirium of a wood carpenter" will again fall from favor. Imagine a wave of 1930's nostalgia: a plastics company will replicate asbestos shingles, and hard-won "gingerbread" will be shorn again....

To prevent the shift in public affections, the San Francisco Board of Education Volunteer Bureau has begun to teach students to recognize and appreciate their Victorian legacy of furiously-embellished wooden buildings. Their program, which is already in its second year, may provide some useful ideas for other cities.

The San Francisco program has two parts, one in the classroom and one in the field. In the classroom, a volunteer begins with a question and answer session: Who lives in an old house? How do you know it is old? Where are our Victorian neighborhoods? How many old houses are left? Why do we call them Victorians?

These questions are designed to reveal to the students how much they already know and to avoid a dry, one-sided onslaught by an adult "outside expert." Students' answers are always lively: "Victorians are made of wood...have high ceilings...are designful...."

The discussion leads logically to the next question: How were the houses and the gingerbread made? A local restoration firm, San Francisco Victoriana, has donated several examples. The redwood bracket, buttons, window shields, and moldings help the students realize that the embellishments were machine-made, not hand-carved, and were often assembled from several pieces of wood.

After the initial questions and answers, students are shown slides, with number and content varying according to their age, interest and previous preparations. They enjoy seeing elaborate Victorian dresses--and the corsets which women endured for the sake of fashion. They giggle about primitive water closets, but learn about the evolution of indoor plumbing. They see local transit systems, from horse cars to cable cars, and gape at the multi-million dollar extravaganzas built on Nob Hill by the railroad barons and the silver bonanza kings. They understand about "misguided improvements"--the post-1906 earthquake asbestos, stucco, permastone, and textured coatings used to disguise and deface Victorian exuberance. They often question the reasons for such modernizations, but they are adamant about which version they like best!

After the classroom discussion and slides, students go on a field trip to the nearest Victorian neighborhood. They walk for about an hour with the volunteer, who helps them "learn to look," again by asking questions: How many buttons (or swags, brackets, shields, etc.) do you see? How can you tell this modernized house is a Victorian at heart? Field trips frequently end by doing rubbings of sewer grates installed by Victorian-era contractors to vent noxious gas and to advertise their wares. The rubbings help students become more aware of these 19th century "calling cards" and also provide a handsome souvenir of the day's adventure.

When they return to the classroom, students reflect on what they have learned. Some of the results are touching, others present an amusing view of a child's vision of the Victorian revival: "I learned a Victorian has to be old

and expensive. I like the ice cream cone on top of the tower. I like to see the buttons and the arches."

Asked why they liked the fancy-work homes and whether these buildings should be preserved, one junior high class responded fiercely: "I like to look at them. They are our history! They show how things used to be made, and we can't make them that way anymore. If the houses were gone, we won't know where we come from!"

Many innovative San Francisco teachers have used the volunteer program as a springboard for projects which engage students' minds and imaginations more fully. For example, one teacher suggested that her 6th graders explore their neighborhoods for Victorian homes to sketch or photograph. She also taught them how to do library research to uncover the date, style, age, and builder of each home.

Even younger children can be deeply involved in appreciation projects. Two primary classes devised three-color paint schemes for Victorians. To help them learn more about the restoration professions, a local house painter evaluated each idea and wrote individual comments, which the children treasured.

Immediate results have been fruitful, and students have produced many drawings, photographs, reports, and research. But besides a lingering appreciation of Victorian homes, the volunteer program also encourages students to enter the restoration crafts. Thus they can help future San Franciscans preserve and maintain the city's irreplaceable legacy of 19th century architecture.



Students learn to identify architectural details. Credit: Bruce Kliewe

### MORE SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Santa Cruz is seeking to extend its ongoing historic preservation programs into the schools. The City has made application to the National Trust's Preservation Education Fund to design and launch an Historical Enrichment Curriculum for grades K through 8. The program will be directed toward developing the young citizenry's sensitivities to the problems and values of historic preservation within their community. An additional objective of the project will be to establish State curriculum models for preservation education. Californians for Preservation Action has filed a letter of endorsement with the Trust on behalf of Santa Cruz's application.

The Preservation Press has recently published The Mystery Tour: Exploring the Designed Environment with Children, an innovative elementary curriculum in historic preservation for grades 4-9. The 50-page, illustrated teacher's guide focuses on creating an awareness of the built environment and its historical aspects. Authors Richard C. Balaban and Alison Igo St. Clair developed the curriculum over a two-year period at the Echo Hill Outdoor School, Worton, Maryland, with the assistance of a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. Copies of The Mystery Tour may be ordered from Preservation Bookshop, National Trust for Historic Preservation, 740 Jackson Place, NW, Washington, D.C. 20006, for \$3.00 each plus 25 cents postage.

## L.A. Library Tango

The fight to save the Los Angeles Central Library has taken a dramatic new turn. In apparent response to mounting opposition to a new central library costing over \$83 million, the City Council voted, on December 6, to launch a new study to determine the costs of refurbishing and adding to the existing downtown facility. This action followed the National Trust's award of a Consultant Service Grant to the Southern California Chapter of the AIA for a study of alternative uses of the landmark library.

The AIA's study is being postponed pending the selection of a consultant for the city's new study--a process which is already clouded by the insistent presence of Charles Luckman Associates, whose previous library study for the city recommended against the retention of the existing Central Library. Los Angeles preservationists are urging the selection of a study consultant with a fresh and independent viewpoint--for it is upon this that the library's future may well depend.

## Workshop: Restoration and the Diversity of the City

CPA's February 12 workshop will look at architectural restoration in the context of city building and preservation in Los Angeles. We will be welcomed by Randell L. Makinson, exhibition director of "Greene and Greene - The Architecture and Related Designs of Charles Sumner Greene and Henry Mather Greene: 1894-1934," being held concurrently at the Barnsdall Art Gallery.

### Speakers:

Raoul Savoie will discuss the principles and practices developed by Pasadena's Community Restoration Guild. He will focus on his work with wooden houses and the carpenter builder tradition as exemplified in the California Craftsman bungalow.

Margaret Bach will outline the process, mechanics, philosophical decisions, and group dynamics in restoring Irving Gill's 55-year-old reinforced-concrete Horatio West Court in Santa Monica. The impact of Gill on Los Angeles residential vernacular architecture will be evaluated.

Kyle Smith will detail the restoration of his 1936 streamline moderne home (designed by William Kessling, reputed Schindler protege), which was bought for its "cheapness and peculiarity" and renovated with hard-to-find replacement parts.

Peter de Bretteville, Los Angeles architect, whose latest buildings are typified by direct use of industrial and other readily available materials, will discuss innovation and tradition within the context of a city structure.

Sponsors: The workshop will be sponsored by the Los Angeles Cultural Heritage Board, the Society of Architectural Historians, and the Los Angeles Community Design Center.

Location: The Hollyhock House, the first Los Angeles residence designed by Frank Lloyd Wright in 1918-1920, is an outstanding example of Wright's genius in fitting building to site. Aline Barnsdall, who originally commissioned the residence, presented it and eleven acres of what is now Barnsdall Park to the City of Los Angeles in 1927 to be used for recreational and cultural purposes. The house - named a Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument and listed on the National Register of Historic Places - has recently undergone extensive restoration.

## Membership News

### STRINGERS SOUGHT

In an effort to increase coverage of California's preservation activities, the Newsletter Committee invites you to become a stringer. Stringers will be responsible for reporting on their locale and will receive personal reminders of upcoming deadlines for submittal of articles for the next newsletter. Interested? Jump in--it's a proud day when you see your article in print. To become a stringer, write: Editor, Californians for Preservation Action Newsletter, P.O. Box 2169, Sacramento, Calif. 95810.

Are you harboring secrets? Funding beyond membership support is a pressing need. If you know how to score grants, raise money or are lucky at finding pennies on the sidewalk, we want you. Ideas, grant sources, or offers to help should be sent to: Funding Committee Chairperson, Margo Warnecke, 1369 Greenwich St., San Francisco, Calif. 94109.

### JOIN-REJOIN

The steady growth of membership is gratifying--it makes this newsletter and our workshops possible. To continue our effort and increase our effectiveness, we need you -- join, or join again for the new year.

CALIFORNIANS FOR PRESERVATION ACTION  
Post Office Box 2169, Sacramento 95810

I want to help; sign me up as:

o over 62 membership	\$ 7.50
o student membership	7.50
o individual membership	15.00
o family membership	20.00
o organization membership	15.00
o sponsor	25.00 or more
o non-member subscriber	15.00

name \_\_\_\_\_

organization \_\_\_\_\_

street address \_\_\_\_\_

city \_\_\_\_\_

zip \_\_\_\_\_

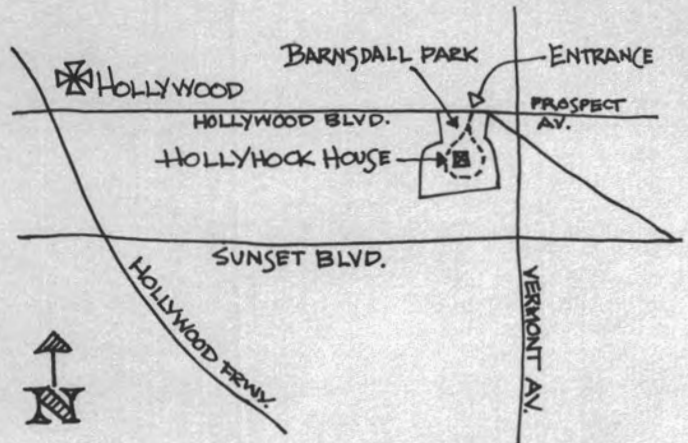
## CPA Meeting February 12, 1977 - Los Angeles

The workshop will begin with coffee and registration from 9am to 9:30am, with the program scheduled for 9:30am through 12:30pm. Location: the Hollyhock House, Barnsdall Park, 4804 Hollywood Blvd., Los Angeles (see accompanying map for directions). Registration fee is \$1 for members of CPA and co-sponsoring organizations and \$2 for non-members.

Luncheon and Exhibition A luncheon will be catered in a private area of the Hollyhock House. Time will be allotted in order to visit the Greene & Greene exhibition at the adjacent Barnsdall Art Gallery. Luncheon will cost about \$3 per person. Reservations should be made by January 31. Please call or write: Janeen Marrin, 1399 N. Michigan, Pasadena, CA 91104, (213) 794-6876.

Meeting and Tour The CPA membership meeting will be held from 1:30 to 3:30pm. In addition to our legislative update and general business, Roger Holt from the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office will report on the Cultural Resources Management Program being developed by the City of Los Angeles. Following the meeting, a self-guided walking tour with annotated maps will take place in the historic Hill Street, Broadway, and Spring Street area of downtown Los Angeles, concluding at Finney's Cafeteria - the former chocolate shop and fabulous Batchelder tile extravaganza.

Accommodations Accommodations will be provided by local CPA members. Arrangements can be made through Janeen Marrin (see above).



The Board of Directors of Californians for Preservation Action solicits your requests for advice and assistance. We live all over California and we aren't poohbahs. Call us:  
San Diego: Dave Peterson (714) 297-5347  
Los Angeles: John Merritt (213) 577-4152  
Santa Barbara: Judith Orias (805) 687-9419  
San Francisco: Hal Major (415) 771-4500  
Steve Silverman (415) 824-4261  
Judith Waldhorn (415) 647-7470  
Sacramento: Roger Scharmer (916) 445-0836  
Los Gatos: Mardi Gualtieri (408) 354-1943  
Watsonville: Charles Rowe (408) 722-3551



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