California's ethnically diverse history of immigration and settlement in the San Joaquin Valley is an often-overlooked history, though there are finally a few efforts at preserving the historic places that represent that history. But, will the epicenter of Filipino immigration and agricultural labor history in California—Stockton's Little Manila—be overlooked yet one more time to the point where the three remaining structures in this once thriving historic district are demolished? The three structures include a former Filipino labor union hall, the first Filipino-owned taxi dance hall, and a residential hotel once headquarters to several Filipino organizations.

"This community was a thriving, bustling ethnic neighborhood, and home to thousands of Filipinos who were barred from living in white areas of Stockton," says Dawn Mabalon, a third generation Filipina born and raised in Stockton, and Chair of the Little Manila Foundation. Immigrants from the Philippines began settling in Stockton in the 1920s in what was then called the "Oriental Quarter," establishing their own Little Manila neighborhood next to Chinatown and Nihonmachi. By the mid 1940s, Little Manila had become home to the largest Filipino community outside of the Philippines.

In his July 16, 2003, article, San Francisco Chronicle's Rick DelVecchio wrote that urban renewal leveled much of the area in the 1960s. Little Manila Foundation Board Vice Chair, Dillon Delvo, points to the construction of the Crosstown Freeway as one of the biggest blows to the district, cutting a huge swath through many blocks of the area with a monster elevated freeway. Since then other parts of the district have suffered from redevelopment for

(continued next page)
Stockton's Little Manila

(continued from page 1)

fast-food chains and gas stations feeding off the freeway business. The three remaining Little Manila buildings front that freeway, and are visually cut off from downtown Stockton by the elevated freeway “barrier.”

The National Trust for Historic Preservation’s 11-Most Endangered Places List for 2003 includes the three remaining structures in Stockton's Little Manila district, the only California site on the list. “At first, it started with these three buildings,” says Dillon Delvo, “but it has come to mean something bigger to me now, it has become a symbol of empowerment. Some of the same people that were displaced by the Crosstown Freeway are being displaced again.”

Dillon notes that the beginnings of the Foundation’s efforts grew out of lawsuits against the City by California Rural Legal Assistance over single-room occupancy (SRO) hotels. The Mariposa Hotel, one of the three remaining Little Manila buildings, was one of the SROs that was closed. It is currently vacant and boarded.

Last June, the City’s Redevelopment Agency put forward an RFP to redevelop an 8-block area that includes Little Manila and old Chinatown. Through publicity from the National Trust’s 11-Most Endangered Places List, from newspaper articles and from a special ‘California’s Gold’ public television episode by Huell Howser, there may be hope for the future. There may finally be recognition that this part of California’s, and the nation’s history is important and can play a valuable role, both as a significant touchstone to its important history, and in revitalizing communities and the quality of life for residents. The Little Manila Foundation, with the Filipino American National Historical Society and Urban Innovations from San Diego, are hopeful that their proposal – to rehabilitate the historic buildings for mixed-use retail and housing, and build affordable and market rate housing on the currently empty adjacent lots – will be selected by the City Council. The decision on the future of Stockton’s Little Manila is likely to be made in November or December 2003.

2004 CPF Workshops - February Series in San Diego Announced

CPF's Education Committee Chair, Cindy Heitzman, and Committee Members announce that planning for the 2004 series of CPF Workshops is well underway. First up will be three sessions to be held in San Diego in February: a half-day Local Government Preservation Training session, in conjunction with the State Office of Historic Preservation, will be held on Thursday, February 26th; a full-day Workshop on the Secretary of the Interior's Standards will be held on Friday, February 27th; and, a full-day Workshop on Designed Historic Landscapes will be held on Saturday, February 28th, to coincide with the CPF 2004 Preservation Design Awards Ceremony and Gala Reception to be held that evening, Saturday, February 28th, in Balboa Park. Registration information for the February CPF Workshops will be available in early January.
President's Report – Peyton Hall

CPF on the Move

On August 1, 2003, the California Preservation Foundation moved from Oakland to offices in the historic Hearst Building in San Francisco, where visitors and tenants enjoy the talents of Julia Morgan, Architect. The building is still owned and well cared for by the Hearst family. Like many other office renters, we face lease negotiations every three years or so. During my two terms on the Board of Trustees, these circumstances have arisen three times, and we have thought deeply about where we should be in order to serve the mission and the members of the California Preservation Foundation.

The practical factors of office location are fairly obvious, e.g., rental rates, amount and arrangement of space, and access to public transportation (we want all of you to visit!). In order to support our mission, we want to be in buildings, neighborhoods, and cities that provide good examples of historic preservation, and where we can use our dollars to support those buildings and neighborhoods. During CPF's long tenure in several buildings in the City of Oakland, we were a small part of a remarkable transformation of a neighborhood with underutilized buildings to an office market that we can barely afford.

Representing historic preservation in one of the largest states in the Union, with the largest population, is a basic challenge to CPF for years to come. Where should we locate our one and only office? Why not Los Angeles, the largest megalopolis? Why not Sacramento, the seat of statewide government? Why not Fresno, where rents are lower in the historic downtown, and where we can reach out to the fast-growing San Joaquin Valley?

We focused our search on major metropolitan areas because of the practical considerations and because of our experience with finding support for our budgets and programs. CPF is still at a stage of development where we rely heavily on the availability and direct support of individuals and companies. A large proportion of the people who can easily attend a committee meeting or lend a hand to stage a workshop are located in our major metropolitan areas. With pro-bono help from real estate professionals, we compared office rental markets in several of the office market areas in the Bay Area, Sacramento, and the Los Angeles area.

We decided to stay in the Bay Area because it remains closer to the center of geography and population. This area is also within commuting distance from Sacramento when the staff needs to meet with legislators and state agencies. We decided not to move to Sacramento because most of our direct support comes from individuals and firms in the metropolitan areas, most of our members who need services are actually not in Sacramento, and we are not, by law, a lobbying organization. Expressing ourselves in Sacramento is essential (we are more visible there than ever!) but being in Sacramento does not fulfill our mission or the goals of our Strategic Plan for financial stability, diversity of membership, and reaching out to more of you in different parts of the state.

A favorable office rental market in downtown San Francisco made it possible for us to have more office area, eliminate the need for offsite storage, and not increase our monthly rent budget. The new office location is well served by subways, buses, trolleys, and cable cars. We remain in an area where we have received enormous direct support from individuals and firms. We are building better relationships with local preservation organizations, and with the regional office of the National Trust for Historic Preservation in San Francisco. This base of support is not causing us to narrow our perimeter; it provides us with the stability we need to grow.

We continue to dream and scheme, and I encourage you to do the same. Your volunteerism, participation in programs, President's Circle Membership, or planned gifts can make these dreams come true: offices in both the north and south of California, a reactivated Californians for Preservation Action (“CPA” is our legally constituted lobbying organization) with an office in Sacramento, and “circuit rider” staff who can visit the far corners of the state.

Last but not least, our attentive and hard-working CPF staff loves the new offices and location!
TED SAVETNICK – CPF Volunteer of 2003!
The California Preservation Foundation’s Board of Trustees this year decided to honor its first Volunteer of the Year, and a most worthy honoree he is, Ted Savetnick, from San Francisco. Ted is a Certified Public Accountant who, for well over a decade, has volunteered his time and expertise in keeping CPF’s financial books and local, state and federal tax reports in order. Until this past month, when CPF hired a part-time bookkeeper, Ted handled the development of all of CPF’s financial statements volunteering his time ... and still coming to the California Preservation Conferences en route from a play or musical event, his other passion! From CPF, thank you Ted!

CPF’s new Office Manager and Bookkeeper

In August, CPF gained not only new offices, but a new part-time Office Manager, Mary Kathryn Rountree, and its first Bookkeeper, Ella Connelley, also part-time. CPF’s Executive Director, Roberta Deering, noted that for years, CPF had tried to combine office management and bookkeeping into one position, but this arrangement is much more efficient. “And, having a great bookkeeper, I’m learning, is almost like heaven for a non-profit organization,” says Deering.

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Michael Crowe Retires from National Park Service

Michael Crowe, enjoying the Gala during the 2003 California Preservation Conference in Santa Barbara - a night in old Spain!

Michael Crowe retired this summer after a long career with the National Park Service, most recently as its Pacific Region National Historic Landmarks Coordinator, headquartered in Oakland. Michael served on the California Preservation Foundation's Board of Trustees and as President from 1996 through 1998, and was instrumental in the development of CPF’s Preservation Design Awards event (making sure it is a good party!). Michael continues to volunteer with CPF as a member of its 2004 Conference Program Committee, serving as the Co-Leader of the Architecture/Architectural History Track.

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Preservation Calendar:

February 26, 2004
OHP/CPF Local Government Preservation Training Half Day Session
San Diego

February 27, 2004
CPF Workshop: The Secretary of the Interior’s Standards
San Diego

February 28, 2004
CPF Workshop: Designed Historic Landscapes
San Diego

February 28, 2004
CPF Preservation Design Awards Ceremony & Reception
San Diego Aerospace Museum, Balboa Park

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