



CITY OFFERS A PRESERVATION ELEMENT

The Planning Department has issued a draft Preservation Element for citizen review.

In July of 1987, the Heritage newsletter hailed the progress the Planning Department had made toward production of a Preservation Element for the City's General Plan. In December of that year, a draft proposal appeared for citizen review. Nearly 13 years later, San Francisco still has not adopted a Preservation Element.

The quick succession of three administrations in City Hall between 1987 and 1996 accounts, in part, for this state of affairs, with each

new regime finding its own reasons to scrap the previous effort in favor of its own version. While the present administration has been in office since 1996, and won reelection last year, reorganization of the Planning Department resulted in deferral of larger planning policy formulation until recently.

Although the City adopted Article 10 of the Planning Code in 1967, establishing the Landmarks Preservation Board, providing for the designation of landmarks and historic districts and setting procedures to ensure their preservation, it has not had a comprehensive strategy for systematically identifying, documenting and protecting San Francisco's cultural resources. This strategy is one of the objectives the Preservation Element is intended to achieve.

The General Plan, a document required of communities by the State of California, sets forth the objectives and policies that will guide decisions about future growth and development. San Francisco has had a general plan since the 1940s; it was called the Master Plan until the revised city charter took effect in 1996. Currently it consists of ten elements, including transportation, housing, commerce and industry, urban design, and recreation and open space. In addition, eleven area plans focus on planning policies for various districts of the city, such as the Downtown and the Van Ness Corridor.

Incorporation of the Preservation Element into San Francisco's General Plan will follow procedures spelled out in Section 340 of the Planning Code. The Landmarks Board will conduct public hearings to review the element and make its recommendation to the Planning Commission, including any suggested amendments or changes. If, after its own public hearing, the Commission adopts the element, with or without changes, the Board of Supervisors has 90 days to act, approving or denying approval. Implementation of a new element typically requires amendments to the Planning Code, which may or may not be submitted for adoption at the same time as the element.

When the Planning Department introduced the draft element to the Landmarks Board in June, Heritage expressed satisfaction at the opportunity finally to have a document in hand and emphasized the importance of the preservation community joining with the Landmarks Board to achieve the strongest possible element. Particularly essential to the work of preservation in San Francisco is the formal commitment the element offers to a comprehensive survey to identify significant cultural-architectural-historical resources.

To facilitate public review and comment prior to the start of the formal process, the Planning Department is conducting a series of workshops on the Preservation Element. Heritage has offered the Haas-Lilienthal House as a venue for one of those sessions.

For more information, or to get a copy of the draft document, contact Catherine Bauman in the Planning Department, 558-6287; catherine_bauman@ci.sf.ca.us.



Poignant symbol of San Francisco's history and architecture, the "Portals of the Past," in Golden Gate Park.

Photo: David Bricker

COMMENTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Changing Face of Preservation

Recently, San Francisco's Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board voted to amend their evaluation procedures for designating landmarks. For many years some California preservation boards and planning departments, including San Francisco's, used the Kalman Methodology to determine the worthiness of sites for designation as an individual landmark or as part of a historic district. Locally, the Kalman method has served for [xx] years, providing evaluation of local sites by a system directed to the physical makeup of a building or site.

However, at the state and federal levels historic resource evaluations, by law, utilize criteria established by the National Register of Historic Places, a federal program administered by the U. S. Department of the Interior to recognize and list eligible historic resources. The criteria have evolved over nearly thirty-five years since creation of the register by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. They provide for the inclusion of architecturally, historically and culturally significant properties. Wider latitude under this evaluation provides for the inclusion of properties that would not have been eligible under the Kalman Methodology.

This change of method provides for a more consistent evaluation of resources throughout the process, from local designation to listing on the National Register of Historic Places. This is important to San Francisco as a Certified Local Government (CLG). It means our local Landmarks Board has a formal role in the review of effects on local historic resources that utilize federal funds, and preservation grant funding set-asides at the federal and state levels for local government preservation activities are more readily available.

It will also help reduce redundant efforts on the part of property owners and their consultants seeking listing for utilization of the federal Investment Tax Credits for Historic Preservation (a significant, twenty per cent federal tax credit for certified rehabilitations of income-producing properties).

Change does not often come easily. Concern has been raised that simplified forms and context statements, intended to make the process simpler and easier to produce, dilute the quality and quantity of information needed by the Landmarks Board and others to make informed judgements.

In fact, however, the change in methodology does not obviate the need for accurate, thorough research and documentation. The quality of designation case reports produced at the local level for landmark status must be of the highest quality. Clear, accurate information presented for landmark board members to evaluate must be well organized, be comprehensive and contribute to our further understanding of the individual resource and where it belongs in the context of San Francisco's varied and rich historic urban fabric. It must also be in a form that is understandable to the public and to review boards and commissions, as well as state and federal agencies.

Heritage members and staff have and will continue to work with the Landmarks Board and the Planning Department to meet the challenges that these changes offer. Our mutual goal should be to make the process of historic resource protection at the local level easier for the general public to understand and embrace.



Charles Edwin Chase, AIA
Executive Director

SAN FRANCISCO ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE

A non-profit member-supported organization dedicated to the preservation and adaptive reuse of architecturally and historically significant buildings in San Francisco, since 1971.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sara Barnes
Bruce Bonacker
Kathryn A. Burns
Dominic Chu
Mark E. Couchman
Robert Dellas
Geoffrey Dohrmann
Craig B. Etlin
Linda Jo Fitz
Craig W. Hartman
Bruce Judd
Leroy Looper
Alexandra Marston
Bruce A. Miller
Mark Pierce
Steve Plath
Mrs. Bland Platt
Rebecca Lilienthal Schnier
Paul H. Sedway
Frances Lilienthal Stein
James R. Teevan
Sven Thomasen
Robert A. Thompson
J. Gordon Turnbull
Sue Honig Weinstein
Howard Wong
Charles Edwin Chase, AIA, *Executive Director*

STAFF

Donald Andreini
William C. Beutner
Lyla A. Max
Barbara Roldan
Ted Savetnick
Chris Van Raalte

***Heritage News is published
six times a year by
San Francisco
Architectural Heritage
2007 Franklin Street
San Francisco, CA 94109
415-441-3000
www.sfheritage.org
e-mail: info@sfheritage.org***

*Heritage welcomes unsolicited articles
and will consider them for publication.*

LANDMARK HOME TELEPHONE BUILDING TO BE REHABILITATED

A Category I downtown building and City Landmark (#141) that has sat vacant for the last several years is about to undergo rehabilitation. The Home Telephone Company Building at 333 Grant Avenue, built in 1908 to house administrative offices and equipment that served the company's central exchange, will return to service as an office building.

Home Telephone, a predecessor of Pacific Bell, engaged the firm of Coxhead & Coxhead to design this and at least three other, smaller, buildings in San Francisco, as part of the city's post-1906 recovery.

Ernest Coxhead achieved a building that, in the words of *Splendid Survivors*, makes an "assertively, intelligently 'incorrect' use of detail. . . . The oversized details and the unexpected juxtapositions of the scale of parts of the façade result in a complexity of design that manages to be successful in several ways at once—from its function as part of the urban fabric to its interest as an isolated object."

The proposed project will result in



Photo: Drew Letendre

no significant changes to this extraordinary façade. While retaining existing original door framing and details, a new accessible glass entrance will replace the front entrance doors, which are not

original. On the south elevation, modification of an existing window opening will provide a new, accessible means of egress on Harlan Place. Cleaning and repair (where necessary) of the Colusa sandstone façade complete the exterior work.

Renovation of the interior will bring the building up to modern code requirements and provide modern office facilities. The only remaining interior details of significance are confined to the lower floors that served as Home Telephone offices. An ornamental stairway connecting the first three floors is to remain, as is the two-story lobby, which will accommodate a commercial tenant.

The building requires some seismic upgrade, whose design is minimally invasive. A concrete shear wall will rise the full height of the building behind the back wall of the lobby. A concrete seismic frame is to eliminate two of the engaged columns in the lobby, leaving the rest of the space with its decorative pilasters and coffered ceiling intact.

HOMEOWNERS TRY TO PROTECT INTEGRITY OF HISTORIC DISTRICT

On the complaint of homeowners in the Webster Street Historic District, the Planning Department has issued a Notice of Alleged Violation to the owner of five contributory buildings in that district (the notice applies as well to a sixth building just outside the district, but also architecturally significant). The complaint cites failure to maintain the buildings properly and conducting uses in these buildings not permitted without Conditional Use Authorization.

Designated in 1981, this group of mostly Italianate row houses, built between 1878 and 1880, forms San Francisco's first residential historic district. It includes most of the 2200 block of Webster Street, between Clay and Washington, and the west side of the 2300 block, north to Jackson Street, with one additional house facing Jackson and two on Washington.

The catalyst to formation of the district was the replacement of a bungalow at 2232 Webster with a five-



Peeling paint, loose molding and sagging bay suggest neglect in Webster Street Historic District.

Photo: Drew Letendre

story concrete office building by the Smith Kettlewell Eye Research Institute. In granting a conditional use permit for the construction, the Planning Commission stipulated that there should be no further northward encroachment by the institutional use.

Not wanting to place their trust entirely in the enforcement of this policy, the property owners, who included historian Anne Bloomfield,

sought the protection of Article 10. Anne led the neighbors in a seven-year collaborative effort that resulted in designation of the historic district.

It turns out the decision to seek greater protection was well taken. While homeowners were organizing a block party last year, they discovered that Smith Kettlewell had, over time, acquired three houses in the district, in addition to the two they owned at the time of the district's formation. The buildings were no longer in residential use, but appeared to be used for offices or storage, and suffering from neglect.

The neighbors brought the matter to the attention of the Landmarks Board, several of whose members visited the district to observe the condition of the subject buildings firsthand. In a strongly worded letter to the owner, the Landmarks Board cited the lack of proper maintenance and the possible violation of the Conditional Use Permit and referred the case to the zoning administrator for enforcement action.

PROJECT WILL INCORPORATE HISTORIC MINING EXCHANGE

A new proposal has surfaced for development of a site behind the Russ Building that includes the historic Mining Exchange, at 350 Bush Street. There was a project in the works for this location about two years ago to build a hotel. This has given way to plans for an office tower.

Architecturally significant, 350 Bush (Landmark #113) is also important for its historical associations. Formed in 1862 to centralize trading in mining stocks, the San Francisco Mining Exchange was the second oldest stock exchange in the nation. Although it flourished in the frenzied market fed by the Comstock Lode, it waned with the decline in mining activity during the 1880s, by which time it was also facing competition from the San Francisco Stock and Bond Exchange (today's Pacific Stock Exchange).

When trading in mining stocks surged again in the general market speculation of the post-World War I era, the Mining Exchange built 350 Bush Street (1923). The design was the work of Miller & Pflueger, early in the partnership that would produce the Castro Theater, the Pacific Telephone Building, 450 Sutter, and the San Francisco Stock Exchange and Stock Exchange Club at Pine and Sansome.

After the Mining Exchange relocated,



Photo: Drew Letendre

in 1928, the San Francisco Curb Exchange, specializing in trading unlisted stocks, moved to 350 Bush and remained for ten years. Succeeding tenants were the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce (1938-1967) and Western Title Insurance (1967-1979). The building has been vacant for 20 years.

An adaptation of the classical temple form much favored by financial institu-

tions in the period, expressed in terra cotta, the building's pediment and paired columns recall the New York Stock Exchange, constructed twenty years earlier. Artist Jo Morra sculpted the allegorical group in the pediment representing, in the artist's words, "the commercial manipulation of the world's resources."

In the current plan, an office tower would rise from the Mining Exchange, set back to allow 350 Bush to retain some of its separate presence on the street and preserve the view into the south lightcourt of the Russ Building to the east. The exchange's trading floor would become the entrance lobby for the office building and would open at the rear into a through-block galleria to Pine Street.

The project will retain decorative ceiling elements and other original features of the large trading room. A survey and analysis of the building will be necessary to determine what remains of original fabric on the interior, which has undergone two remodels. Construction of the office tower will require bringing columns into the trading floor, although it may be possible to transfer loads to columns at the outer edges, rather than break up the open space.

Heritage will be reviewing plans as they develop further.

COMMITTEE TO SAVE ST. BRIGID CHURCH

Six years after the closing of St. Brigid's, the fate of the historic Roman Catholic church at Van Ness and Broadway remains uncertain. Yet the parish continues to be vital and active, its members bound by the hope that they will eventually prevail in their effort to reopen the church. The vanguard of that effort is the Committee to Save St. Brigid Church, whose members and officers are all volunteers.

The San Francisco Board of Supervisors has commended the group "for its service and efforts to preserve the architectural and cultural history" of St.



Brigid's. The committee continues the work of the parish, founded in 1863, by providing aid to the homeless, organizing Masses and hosting social events to sustain the integrity of the congregation.

The committee invites participation by anyone who would like to help in the work to save the church by attending meetings, volunteering time or making a tax-deductible financial donation. To learn more, drop in at Save St.

Brigid's very informative web site at www.st-brigid.org, or call 415-364-1511.

COMMUNITY ACTION SAVES COMMERCIAL STREET PAVEMENT

An example of the best sort of preservation occurred recently—the spontaneous, grassroots sort with a swift outcome that seemed to please everyone.

The Department of Public Works (DPW) was set to remove the brick paving on Commercial Street, in Chinatown, first thing on a Monday morning, when neighborhood activists raised the cry to save the street's historic character. The media spread the word, and almost literally overnight the destruction of a bit of old San Francisco was prevented. As a result of meetings with interested parties, DPW

—continued on page 11, column 1

CATCHING UP WITH RECENTLY DESIGNATED SAN FRANCISCO LANDMARKS

The City and County of San Francisco has recently designated several new landmarks. These include two historic houses, a landmark of local gay history and a Golden Gate Park icon.

MADAME C.J. WALKER HOME FOR GIRLS AND WOMEN

The restored 1876 Italianate residence at 2066 Pine Street derives its significance from its historical association with the Madame C.J. Walker Home for Girls and Women. A group of African-American women, the Madame C.J. Walker Club established the Home in 1921, with the financial support of the Third Baptist Church, to provide affordable housing and social and recreational programs for black women and girls who were new to the city and without family. The club, organized in 1919 as a business, literary and social group, took as its namesake an early 20th century African-American businesswoman who became one of the nation's first black women millionaires.

In time, responding to the lack of services available to African Americans, the Walker Home expanded its offer-



Photo: Drew Letendre

ings to include a range of housing, employment and social services. It also operated as a distribution center for

food, clothes and cash relief for the poor of the community. With the conversion of the basement into a social hall, in 1926, the Home began to provide a meeting place for other clubs and organizations, as well.

During the early 1940s, the membership of the Walker Club and its activities expanded greatly, as many African Americans who came to the Bay Area to work in wartime industries settled in San Francisco's Western Addition. The Home provided one of the nuclei around which the city's growing black community formed.

The Madame C.J. Walker Home moved in 1972 to a new location on Hayes Street, where it continues to serve the community. New owners of 2066 Pine returned it to single-family occupancy, added a garage, removed stucco that was applied in an early 1940s remodel and returned the façade to its 19th century appearance.

The Walker Home is San Francisco Landmark #211.

JOSEPH A. LEONARD & CECIL POOLE RESIDENCE

When Joseph Leonard built the prominent Craftsman house at 90 Cedro Avenue, in 1911, he launched Ingleside Terraces, one of a spate of suburban residential parks in San Francisco whose development began between 1905 and 1913, including Presidio Terrace, Sea Cliff, St. Francis Wood and Forest Hill. He resided in the house from 1911 until 1920.

Texas-born (1850) and trained as an architect and civil engineer in the East, Leonard came to the Bay Area around 1883. He built several hundred homes in Berkeley and Alameda before setting



Photo: Drew Letendre

out to seek his fortune in the Klondike gold rush, in 1898. Unsuccessful in that venture, Leonard returned in 1902 and became manager and principal architect of the San Francisco and Suburban Homebuilding Society, developer of Jordan Park. He set out on his own in 1906, as president and general manager

of the Urban Realty Improvement Company, and produced more than 100 houses in the Inner Richmond.

Leonard acquired the 150-acre site of the Ingleside Race Track in 1910 and planned the Terraces with features characteristic of elegant residential parks, such as entrance gates, curvilinear streets (Urbano Drive, at the heart of the development, recalls the oval form of the racetrack), landscaping and large irregular-shaped lots. He imposed restrictive covenants, most of which dealt with design guidelines and land use. However, they also excluded members of non-caucasian racial groups from ownership or residency.

Although the United States Supreme Court declared racial covenants unenforceable in 1949, many communities

continued to observe them informally. Between 1940 and 1960, while the non-white population in the adjacent Ingleside and Ocean View districts grew from less than one percent to 35 percent, Ingleside Terraces remained virtually all white.

In 1957, Cecil F. Poole became the first non-white property owner in Ingleside Terraces, when he purchased 90 Cedro. A graduate of the University of Michigan and Harvard Law School, Mr. Poole served as legal officer and Judge Advocate of the all-black Tuskegee Air Squadron during WWII. Following the war, he moved to San

Francisco, where he worked as a government attorney and served as president of the San Francisco Urban League. Cecil F. Poole was the first African American to serve as an assistant district attorney in San Francisco. He later became a federal judge.

On June 5, 1958, seven months after the Poole family moved into 90 Cedro, a cross was burned in the front yard. While such overt expressions of racism were unusual in San Francisco, the incident did indicate the presence of racial tensions in the community. The Pooles continued to reside in the house until 1982.

An excellent example of Craftsman style, 90 Cedro displays many features typical of the style: shingle siding, wide roof overhang with exposed rafter ends and roof beams, prominent exterior stone chimney and exposed stone (simulated in this case) foundation. It occupies a commanding corner site several feet above street level, with open landscaping on the two main façades, and large trees and shrubs providing privacy to the side and rear yards. The only major change has been the addition of a second-story sleeping porch that is not visible from the street.

90 Cedro is Landmark #213.

CASTRO CAMERA & HARVEY MILK RESIDENCE



Photo: Drew Letendre

More historically than architecturally important, 573-575 Castro Street is associated with the life and career of Harvey Milk. Built in 1893/4, this residence-above-store building was part of the early development of the Castro commercial district. In its first half century, the storefront housed hardware stores and a variety of tradesmen, including a plumber, a carpenter and builder, a tinsmith and sheetmetal workers.

The builder of 573-575 Castro,

Fernando Nelson, greatly influenced San Francisco's residential development in a long career from 1880 to 1953. A good but unexceptional example of Stick-Eastlake design, the building underwent a storefront alteration in 1948 that compromised its integrity. The change was, however, typical of the urge to modernize, after years of depression and war-time shortages, that transformed so many Victorian-era structures in a time when they were not as highly regarded as they are today.

With his partner, Harvey Milk opened Castro Camera at 575 Castro, in 1973; by 1975, the couple were living in the apartment upstairs. The shop became a kind of community center as Harvey worked to revive the merchants' association, whose president he became, and to launch the Castro Street Fair, helping to raise the profile of the city's "gay neighborhood."

It was at this location that Milk began the series of political campaigns that finally brought him to city hall as the district's representative on the Board of Supervisors. While his term in office was brief, ending tragically in assassination, Harvey Milk helped greatly to increase the political consciousness of the gay community and opened the way for its emergence as a significant force in the city's politics.

Long a virtual landmark, sought out by visitors to the city and featured on walking tours of the neighborhood, 573-575 Castro has now received official recognition of its importance through its designation as San Francisco Landmark #227.

MURPHY WINDMILL & MILLWRIGHT'S COTTAGE

Heritage initiated the nomination of Golden Gate Park's Murphy Windmill and Murphy Millwright's Cottage, prepared by Christopher VerPlanck, who was preservation coordinator for the organization. Initially submitted for just the cottage, which appeared to be under threat of demolition (See *Heritage News*, July/August 1998), the nomination was expanded to include the associated windmill.



Historic view of Murphy Windmill & Millwright's Cottage

Irrigation water was essential to build and sustain a great urban park in the sand dunes of western San Francisco. The Parks Commission purchased water for Golden Gate Park from the Spring Valley Water Company, until the cost, averaging \$1000 a month, forced the decision to tap the known fresh water sources under the park itself. The "Dutch" Windmill (restored in 1981 and designated Landmark #147), in the northwest corner of the park, began pumping in 1902. Its success prompted the construction of a second, at the southwest corner.

The second windmill's namesake, Samuel G. Murphy, was president of the First National Bank and a philanthropist who loved the park. He underwrote construction of the mill with a gift of \$20,000, in 1905. Most of the contracts had been let when the 1906 earthquake forced a delay in the start of construction until later that year. The Murphy Windmill began pumping, at a capacity up to 40,000 gallons per hour, in 1907. Together, the two windmills pumped up to 1.5 million gallons a day to reservoirs in the park.

A mechanical engineer, J.C.H. Stutt, designed the Murphy Windmill, reputed



Murphy Millwright's Cottage

Photo: Christopher VerPlanck

to be the largest windmill outside Holland when built. It stands at an overall height of 97 feet, including an octagonal 30-foot high concrete foundation, above which rises an octagonal woodframe structure whose exterior finish is wood sheathing and slate shingles. A fifteen-foot copper-clad dome caps the tower. As a result of years of neglect and vandalism, the Murphy Windmill is missing several important elements, notably the gallery, or wooden walkway that projected from the tower (still visible in the historic view on the previous page), as well as the sails and the fan-tail.

According to Parks Commission

minutes, the Reid Brothers donated their services to design the Murphy Millwright's Cottage. Completed in 1910, the Georgian Revival brick residence was home to the keeper of the mill, who oiled the bearings regularly and had to apply the emergency brake whenever high winds or major storms threatened. The cottage that was companion to the Dutch Windmill succumbed to a fire and was demolished in 1958.

Although electric pumps, installed in 1912, eventually replaced the wind-operated pumps in both windmills, they have remained as picturesque elements in the park. The Murphy Windmill and Cottage are designated together as Landmark #210

—Information for this article came from landmark case reports. Walker House: prepared by Mary Koonts, Planning Department; Leonard-Poole House: prepared by Tim Kelley, Landmarks Board; Castro Camera: prepared by William Kostura for Friends of 1800 Market Street; Murphy Windmill & Millwright's Cottage: prepared by Christopher VerPlanck for Heritage

LANDMARKS BOARD DECIDING 2000-2001 WORK PROGRAM

The city's newest landmarks (see previous story) show a growing tendency to seek out sites of cultural and historical significance, as well as those of high architectural value. This reflects a set of policies adopted by the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board last year in an effort to broaden the base of community interest and participation in identifying landmarks, and thereby to increase public support for the process. The board is seeking to involve ethnic groups and other community interests, including labor, and to increase designations in underrepresented neighborhoods.

In July, when the Landmarks Board began to formulate its work program for the 2000-2001 fiscal year by considering a long list of landmark candidates, this broader participation was evident. The discussion drew much public comment from individuals and representatives of groups and interests that included



A rare type in San Francisco, "saltbox" cottage is on Landmarks Board's working list this fiscal year.

Photo: Drew Letendre

Heritage, San Francisco Beautiful, DOCOMOMO (Documentation & Conservation of the Modern Movement), the Little House Committee, and advocates for greater recognition of women's history, gay and lesbian history, labor history and Japanese-American history.

As the board decides on its work plan in the coming weeks, staff will

determine if there is owner support for several landmark candidates, including the Russell House, a significant expression of Modernism advocated by Heritage and DOCOMOMO; Captain Adam's House on Potrero Hill; and an unusual salt-box house at 2694 McAllister Street. Higher profile candidates the board may consider include the City-owned Juvenile Court & Detention Building at 150 Otis Street; the Colombo Building, which has the concurrence and enthusiastic support of City College, the building's owner; and the Conservatory of Music at 19th Avenue and Ortega, which the San Francisco Conservatory will be vacating.

A sampling of other landmark prospects that remain on the board's working list are the Sailors' Union of the Pacific, 450 Harrison; the Japanese Language School, 1746 Post; and a modern skyscraper, the ALCOA Build-

—continued on page 8, column 3

NEW ORGANIZATION JOINS NORTHERN CALIFORNIA PRESERVATION RANKS

A new nonprofit organization has entered the preservation lists in the Bay Area. Organized in 1999, The Building Conservancy of Northern California has as its mission helping people with the restoration of historic resources.

The initiative behind formation of the Conservancy came from Monica Rohrer, long-time member and past-president of Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association. Disillusioned with the political side of preservation, she became convinced that “hands-on” preservation was in the long run more effective than advocacy efforts. She had personal experience with buying and rehabilitating older houses and, seeking out a like-minded group of people, formed the nonprofit Conservancy to assist property owners in the often daunting task of preserving historic

buildings and to serve as the preserver of last resort of threatened buildings, where necessary.

The Conservancy accomplishes its mission by a variety of means that include providing project management assistance to property owners, acquiring preservation easements and other covenants on historic properties, acquiring properties and reconveying them with deed restrictions, and acquiring title to threatened buildings. The organization also sponsors and conducts informative workshops and programs (see sidebar) and provides literature and training materials to property owners and the general public.

Committed to facilitating and supporting actual restoration and rehabilitation projects, the Conservancy has just set up a revolving loan fund

that, as it grows, will help to finance such projects. There are also plans to establish a preservation training program that will offer technical workshops on such subjects as preserving historic windows.

The Conservancy’s nine-member board of directors represents a broad spectrum of the historic preservation community, currently including an architect, a conservator, two historians, a real estate professional, an attorney and grassroots preservation activists. A nonprofit California public benefit corporation, The Building Conservancy of Northern California accepts donations, which are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

For more information on this organization and its activities, contact Monica Rohrer, Conservancy President, at 510-525-7805.

CONSERVANCY WORKSHOP

The Building Conservancy of Northern California will hold a restoration workshop on Saturday, September 16, from 9:30 am to 3:00 pm. Called *Working With Your Old House*, the workshop will feature a noted panel of architects, contractors and homeowners who will address a number of questions and issues encountered in residential restoration projects.

The program begins with a visual overview of residential architectural styles from Victorian to '50s and '60s Modern, and moves on to illustrate, with examples of successfully completed projects, the most appropriate way to rehabilitate houses that exemplify the various styles. Participants will have the opportunity for an informal consultation with the panelists, particularly regarding any “odd” room or architectural detail in their homes that they have been trying to decipher. Finally, the workshop will explain how to take advantage of Mills Act Historic Property Tax Reduction programs.



Workshop will illustrate historically appropriate rehabs with examples like this one. Photo: Courtesy of the homeowners

Cost of the workshop, which will be at the North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Avenue, is \$65 per person, including lunch and materials. A \$100 family rate is available for two persons in the same household. For registration information, contact Jeff Eichenfield at 510-558-7130.

AWARDS DINNER

October 26, San Francisco Beautiful will hold its Beautification Awards Dinner at the Mark Hopkins Hotel. For full details, visit www.sfbeautiful.org.

Landmarks

continued from page 7

ing and Landscape in Maritime Plaza.

Of several possible historic districts, only the nomination of North Beach is actually in preparation and likely to come to the board this year. Several “thematic” districts are on the list for future consideration, including nominations for the seven Carnegie branch libraries and for early neighborhood auto storage garages.

In its comments on the Landmarks Board’s work program, Heritage urged including identification of historical resources in area planning that is currently under way in the Central Waterfront, Balboa Park and the Octavia Boulevard project area, and renewed its advocacy for a comprehensive citywide survey. The resulting historical and architectural data would greatly simplify the Landmarks Board’s task of identifying potential landmarks and historic districts. It would also substantially improve the ability of property owners, developers, and City agencies and commissions to make the best informed land-use decisions possible.

FALL SYMPOSIUM LOOKS AT SAN FRANCISCO'S 20TH CENTURY ARCHITECTURE

As we advance into the new century, Heritage will take a look back at the architecture of 20th century San Francisco in its fall symposium.

The full-day event (date to be announced) will feature a historic structure for each of three periods that is expressive of a style of that period: the Beaux-Arts/Classical Revival of the first quarter of the century, the Moderne/Art Deco of the second quarter and post-war Modernism. Speakers will delineate the historic context of each and describe recent efforts to preserve, rehabilitate, and/or restore those structures, adapting them as necessary to contemporary uses and life styles.

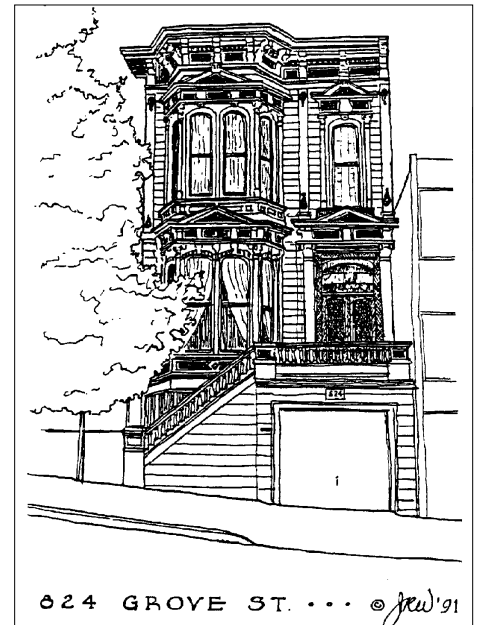
Buildings under consideration include Willis Polk's Jessie Street

Substation, slated for an exciting adaptive reuse project; Timothy Pflueger's Pacific Telephone Building, the subject of a meticulous exterior restoration in the 1980s; and Eichler houses, whose recently acquired cachet has encouraged sensitive rehabs.

We plan to have a local celebrity who will make a brief keynote statement at the start of the program and serve as moderator. A panel of the day's speakers, with additional participants, will close the program. Price of the event will include a box lunch.

Members should expect a detailed announcement of the symposium in the mail soon. The annual fall symposium is presented with the generous support of the Patricia A. Farquar Memorial Fund and the San Francisco Grants for the Arts Hotel Tax Fund.

PARTY FOR HERITAGE VOLUNTEERS



Drawing, with kind permission of the artist, Jack Walsh

San Francisco Architectural Heritage will hold its annual volunteer recognition party at the Brune-Reutlinger House, 824 Grove Street, on the 14th of September.

According to the house history prepared by Joe Pecora, for publication in the *Alamo Square Neighborhood Association Newsletter*, architect Henry Geilfuss designed the Italianate house with Stick-style elements, in 1886, for Henry Brune, a prosperous liquor merchant. The current owner, Richard Reutlinger, acquired the house in 1965 and has devoted the years since to a thorough and loving restoration that has received notice in a number of national publications.

The first floor of the house contains parlors with 15-foot high ceilings, a dining room with built-in walnut cabinetry, a conservatory, a morning room and a large kitchen with vintage stoves. There are five bedrooms on the second floor, one of which is an extravagant Turkish room. The ballroom houses Richard's collection of music boxes and player pianos, including one used in silent movie houses that can produce a range of sound effects, as well as play piano rolls.

Our thanks to Richard Reutlinger for kindly offering the use of his extraordinary home.

SEEKING A LITTLE HELP FROM OUR FRIENDS

Assessing its situation at mid-year, San Francisco Architectural Heritage has come up with an inventory of needs—a "wish list," if you will—to help us to expand our organizational mission and to continue our stewardship of the historic Haas-Lilienthal House. We look to our members to help us with these critical needs by making a contribution toward any of the following:

Organizational Needs

Computer upgrade/network system	\$30,000
Website enhancement	\$10,000
Purchase of fireproof storage for archives	\$7,000

Program needs

Fall symposium underwriting goal	\$25,000
Underwrite publication of the newsletter	\$6,000 per issue
Funding Heritage Hikes school program	\$1,500

House Needs

Iron fence repair	\$10,000
Landscape furnishings & walkways	\$5,000
Repair wainscot in ballroom & back stairs	\$3,000
Reupholster sofa in 2nd parlor	\$3,000
Stained glass repair	\$2,500
Refinish diningroom table	\$1,000

To make a contribution, contact Barbara Roldan, 415-441-3000, ext. 14; or email info@sfheritage.org.

BAY AREA TOURS

ALLIED ARTS GUILD
Menlo Park
Tours Call 650-322-2405

CAMRON-STANFORD HOUSE
Oakland
Tours Call 510-836-1976

CITY GUIDES WALKS
San Francisco
Tours Call 415-557-4266

COHEN-BRAY HOUSE
Oakland
Tours Call 510-532-0704

FALKIRK VICTORIAN ESTATE
San Rafael
Tours Call 415-485-3328

DUNSMUIR HOUSE & GARDENS
Oakland (April - September)
Tours Call 510-615-5555

LATHROP HOUSE
Redwood City
Tours Call 650-365-5564

LUTHER BURBANK
HOME & GARDENS
Santa Rosa
Tours Call 707-524-5445

MCCONAGHY HOUSE
Hayward
Tours Call 510-276-3010

OAKLAND TOURS PROGRAM
Call 510-238-3234

OCTAGON HOUSE
San Francisco
Tours Call 415-441-7512

PALO ALTO-STANFORD
HERITAGE
Tours Call 650-299-8878 or 324-3121

PARDEE HOME MUSEUM
Oakland
Tours Call 510-444-2187

STRYBING ARBORETUM
Golden Gate Park, San Francisco
Tours Call 415-661-1316, ext. 312

CONTINUING
HERITAGE EVENTS

HAAS-LILIENTHAL
HOUSE TOURS
Sundays 11 am to 4:00 pm
Wednesdays 12 noon to 3:00 pm. \$5

PACIFIC HEIGHTS
WALKING TOUR
Sundays 12:30 pm. \$5

*All regular Heritage tours are free to
Heritage members and their guests*

GROUP TOURS BY
ARRANGEMENT
Call Lyla Max, 415-441-3000

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT
CURRENT HERITAGE EVENTS
Call 415-441-3004

*Heritage programs supported in part by
City of San Francisco Grants for the Arts.*

AUGUST

AUGUST 24, 7:00 PM
Lecture by Mae Silver: *The Sixth Star:
California Women's Political History,
1868-1915*. 678 Portola Drive
S.F. History Assoc. Call 415-750-9986

THROUGH SEPTEMBER 3
Exhibition: *Wayne Thiebaud: A
Paintings Retrospective*. Legion of
Honor. Call 415-863-3330
web: www.thinker.org

THROUGH OCTOBER 7
Exhibition: *Moment & Momentum:
Seeing Time in 19th Century
Photography*. CHS. Call 415-357-1848

THROUGH OCTOBER 17
Exhibition: *Experiments: Recent
Acquisitions of the Permanent
Collection of Architecture and Design*
San Francisco Museum of Modern Art
Call 415-357-4000; www.sfmoma.org

SEPTEMBER

SEPTEMBER 10
Alameda Legacy Home Tour
Alameda Architectural Preservation
Society. Call 510-523-5907

SEPTEMBER 12, 8:00 PM
Lecture: *The Decorative Arts and
Craftsman, 1640-1830*
American Decorative Arts Forum
Call 415-431-6930

SEPTEMBER 22 & 23
Symposium: *The Deleuzian Age*.
Impact of philosopher Gilles Deleuze
on practice & theory of architecture,
art, design. CCAC/SF Free, but call for
reservations: 415-551-9210

SEPTEMBER 28, 7:30 PM
Lecture: Michael Cooke speaking
about Grace Cathedral. 678 Portola Dr.
S.F. History Assoc. Call 415-775-1111

OCTOBER

OCTOBER DATES TBA
BAHA Fall Lectures. Subjects include
Julia Morgan, Greene & Greene,
Thomas Church. Call 510-841-2242

OCTOBER 10, 8:00 PM
Lecture: *The Abby Aldrich Rockefeller
Collection of Folk Art*.
American Decorative Arts Forum
Call 415-431-6930

OCTOBER 21, 10 AM - 4 PM
Pacific Heights Fall Home Tour
San Francisco Historical Society
Call 415-775-1111; www.sfhhistory.org

OCTOBER 26
Beautification Awards Dinner, Mark
Hopkins Hotel. S.F. Beautiful
www.sfbeautiful.org

OCTOBER 26, 7:30 PM
Lecture: Walt Jebe & Ken Houseman on
the PPIE. 678 Portola Dr.
S.F. History Assoc. Call 415-775-1111

OCTOBER 31 - NOVEMBER 5
National Preservation Conference 2000:
"Saving America's Treasures in the 21st
Century," in Los Angeles. Call 800-944-
6847; email: conference@nthp.org;
website: www.nationaltrust.org

NOVEMBER

NOVEMBER 10 - 11
Symposium: *Representing the
Designed Landscape: Images, Models,
Words* (See page 11). UC, Berkeley

ANNE BLOOMFIELD MEMORIAL FUND

To date, the Anne Bloomfield Memorial Fund stands at \$3,475.00. While most of the contributions were without restrictions, some donors specified that their gift should go to support the North Beach Survey. Heritage will honor those requests. We are grateful to Anne's family, who suggested memorial donations to Heritage, and to all those who generously chose to express their tribute to Anne's memory in this way.

Chinatown pavement

continued from page 4



Photo: Drew Letendre

agreed to salvage the old bricks that are in good condition and restore the pavement after completing replacement of underground utilities.

With development of mass production of brick at the start of the 20th century, its use in street paving became widespread in American cities and towns. In the early 1920s, concrete became the preferred material, and by the 1930s, few new brick streets were constructed, and most old ones were paved over or replaced. Besides Commercial Street, a notable survivor in San Francisco is the block of Octavia Street between Jackson and Washington.

ARCHITECTURAL FRAGMENTS



Photo: Drew Letendre

Groundbreaking for the restoration of **St. Boniface Church** took place on May 23. Fundraising continues for the work that will include seismic upgrade and rehabilitation of the historic church, school and rectory comprising the landmark Tenderloin complex. To make a donation call 415-863-2395; email Bonifacerestoration@attglobal.net or visit the website: www.acteva.com/go/bonifacerestoration

S.F. PALM, the **San Francisco Performing Arts Library and Museum**, has a new home, on the fourth floor of the Veterans Building in Civic Center. Occupying galleries that once housed the Museum of Modern Art, PALM's collections and exhibitions are open to the public for research or enjoyment. For information and a free brochure call 415-255-4800 or visit PALM's website: www.sfpalm.org.

The Alameda Architectural Preservation Society and the Alameda Museum will co-host the **Alameda Legacy Home Tour**, on September 10. Splendid interiors of historic homes will be open from 11 am until 5 pm. The price of tickets, \$18 in advance or \$20 on the day of the tour, includes a keepsake *Legacy Guidebook* and refreshments in a garden. For more information call Diane Coler-Dark, 510-523-5907.

The long-awaited rehabilitation of the **Financial Center Building** began with a ceremonial ground-breaking on June 6. The historic 17-story building at the northwest corner of California and Montgomery, designed by Frederick H. Meyer (1926), is scheduled to reopen in January 2002 as a 362-room luxury Omni Hotel. Architect for the project is Patri Merker Architects.

This fall, the **College of Environmental Design** and the **Department of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning** at UC, Berkeley, will sponsor a major symposium. The two-day event, November 10-11, organized by Professor in Architecture Marc Treib, will be titled *Representing the Designed Landscape: Images, Models, Words*. More details will be available later in the summer at www.ced.berkeley.edu.

California College of Arts and Crafts announces the appointment of **Ralph Rugoff** as director of the CCAC Institute. Rugoff, who as an independent curator has organized exhibitions in London, Los Angeles and New York, will oversee development of exhibitions and public programs at the Oakland and San Francisco campuses. Each year the CCAC Institute provides a series of artist residencies, exhibitions, performances, lectures, symposia and publications in art, architecture and design.

One minute after midnight on January 1, 2001, the **San Francisco Museum of Modern Art**, in collaboration with Intel Corporation, will launch *01.01.01: Art in Technological Times*. The exhibition will comprise a series of web-based works accessible online and over two dozen installations, video works, sound pieces and digital projects on view in SFMOMA galleries between March 2 and July 8. The exhibition will feature the work of some 35 artists, architects and designers that responds to a world altered by digital media and technology. A related exhibition at the museum will consider the evolving role of museums in technological times.

IN
THIS
ISSUE

1
CITY
OFFERS A
PRESERVATION
ELEMENT

2
COMMENTS
FROM THE
EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR

5
CATCHING
UP WITH
RECENTLY
DESIGNATED
SAN
FRANCISCO
LANDMARKS

8
NEW
ORGANIZATION
JOINS
NORTHERN
CALIFORNIA
PRESERVATION
RANKS

9
FALL
SYMPOSIUM
LOOKS AT
SAN
FRANCISCO'S
20TH
CENTURY
ARCHITECTURE

Printed on
recycled paper
with soy ink.

JOIN SAN FRANCISCO ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE!

PLEASE ENTER MY
MEMBERSHIP IN THE
FOLLOWING CATEGORY:

- \$35 SENIORS/STUDENTS
- \$50 INDIVIDUAL
- \$75 FAMILY
- \$125 SUPPORTING
- \$250 CONTRIBUTING
- \$500 SUSTAINING

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY, STATE, ZIP

PHONE

E-MAIL ADDRESS

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

SAN FRANCISCO
ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE
2007 FRANKLIN STREET
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94109

OR CHARGE BY PHONE:

(415) 441-3000

CONTRIBUTIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.



Haas-Lilienthal House, Double Parlor

Photo: Doug Keister

The historic Haas-Lilienthal House, a property of San Francisco Architectural Heritage, is available for private or corporate events. The House can accommodate up to 150 guests. For information call (415) 441-3011.

Heirlooms from your Attic

Planning a fall house cleaning?
Search your attics, basements and garages for
treasures you no longer use and donate them
to Heritage.

Each year, Heritage conducts two silent
auctions, one at Soirée and one at the Holiday
Open House. We are asking our members and
friends to donate items valued at \$200 or more
to aid us in this fundraising effort.

To make a donation, contact Barbara Roldan,
415-441-3000, ext. 14; or email info@sfheritage.org.



SAN FRANCISCO
ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE
2007 FRANKLIN STREET
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94109

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

SAN FRANCISCO, CA
PERMIT NO. 10581