



Movie Houses Placed On Nation's Most Endangered List

On June 25, the National Trust for Historic Preservation announced its 2001 list of America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places. Of local interest is the inclusion of a building type, the historic American movie theater, that applies to many San Francisco resources.

Virtually every neighborhood had at least one movie house, and before television, the Friday night or Saturday night movie was a family ritual for many. Saturday matinees drew throngs of kids who sat through an entire afternoon's worth of cartoons, a serial episode, a double feature, newsreel and, perhaps, "The March of Time."

Few Americans of a certain age do not have fond memories of these palaces of entertainment. Not all of the theaters had rich interiors, but even the simpler ones created a sense of occasion that is hard to find in the modern multiplex.

According to information provided by the National Trust's Western Regional Office, 35 single-screen movie houses have closed in the city since 1980. Of the ten that remain in operation, the Metro, Presidio and Cinema 21 face uncertain futures, at this time. The Coronet is slated for demolition and replacement with a facility providing health and social services to older adults. Older houses that have been subdivided over a period of years for multiple-screen operation include the Empire, Alexandria and Balboa.

Among neighborhood theaters that are out of operation, Polk Street's Royal, closed three-and-a-half years ago, remains dark. The Parkside, in recent years a day care center, has been gutted. The Apollo (originally the Amazon), on Geneva Avenue, sold recently.

Downtown, the Paramount and the Fox are long gone, the latter arguably the most extravagant movie palace in the country, in its time. That leaves the St. Francis, the last of the major downtown houses still showing films. It closed recently and is reportedly proposed for demolition.

The rate of attrition has increased in recent years, especially among theaters in neighborhood commercial districts, under the impact of recently constructed multiplex movie houses that have added more than 35 screens in the city. Proposed developments, if realized, will add another 18 (nine at the Bloomingdale's site and nine as part of the Fillmore Jazz District).

If historic theaters cannot survive financially as movie houses, creative thinking can save the structures for a variety of adaptive uses. Downtown, the Orpheum (San Francisco Landmark #94) and the Golden Gate were rehabilitated and given over to live musical theater, while the Warfield serves as a performance venue for popular music.

In the neighborhoods, the York, on 24th Street, has reopened for live performances as the Brava Theater. North Beach's Pagoda (erstwhile Palace) Theater, brought back recently from the brink of development as a retail mall, is scheduled to reopen as a live performance/entertainment space. Conversion of the Alhambra (San Francisco Landmark #217) to a health club is nearing completion in a project that has taken care to preserve features that would make possible its return to theater use at some time in the future. Among other neighborhood houses, the Avenue, El Rey and Harding have been in church use for some years.

Adapting movie houses to residential use, because of the need for light and air, makes preserving historic character a challenge. The recently converted Haight Theater retains no original interior features, and only a minor street presence recalls the historic use. The Coliseum, in the Inner Richmond, is currently



Photo of Geneva Avenue looking toward Mission Street (dated December 23, 1944) illustrates how movie theaters anchored neighborhood retail-commercial districts.

Photo: San Francisco Public Library

Comments from the Executive Director

Heritage was honored to receive the Dr. Albert Shumate Memorial Award from the San Francisco History Association, on July 21. In accepting for Heritage at a dinner program, I was reminded how deeply the love for San Francisco and its history runs throughout this community. It is this great affection for the city that draws many of you, our members and friends, to support Heritage, its mission and its programs. We value that support, and it is that time of year, once again, when we must seek your continued generosity to meet our goals.

Membership dues and program revenues represent just 12 percent of the funds needed to accomplish Heritage's task to educate and to advocate for historic preservation in San Francisco. Your past Annual Fund generosity has helped Heritage to play a significant role in bringing the northern waterfront historic district closer to realization and in achieving appropriate planning and development strategies for the Dogpatch neighborhood and for the maritime industrial resources of Pier 70. You have also made it possible for Heritage to participate in the preservation of significant resources, like the landmark Geneva Office Building and the New Mission Theater. We have continued to advocate for and participate in citywide historic resource surveys, and we have been a major catalyst for the coordination of neighborhood, city and state agency efforts dedicated to the preservation of San Francisco's historic resources.

These represent only a small sample of the issues Heritage is asked to participate in on a daily basis. Neighborhood residential and commercial building alterations and demolitions continue to threaten the historic qualities of every neighborhood. We review demolition permits citywide, and our neighbors and fellow citizens often seek assistance from Heritage to assess the implications of proposed development and to seek more sensitive alternatives. Our "Preservation Initiatives" effort brings together community leaders, neighborhood representatives and preservation professionals in an effort to develop legislative solutions that will ensure proper recognition and treatment of historic resources throughout the city.

Stewardship of the Haas-Lilienthal House requires us to make a substantial investment in its repair, maintenance, and upgrading for the enjoyment of all our members and guests. Heritage is committed to improving disabled access to the house through highly sensitive accessibility modifications in the year ahead. We take our stewardship of the Haas-Lilienthal House very seriously, striking a balance between our obligation to make the house available to the public through tours and events, and the obligation to conserve this valuable resource. Even with this careful consideration, the house requires constant repair and maintenance of finishes and furnishings to maintain the quality and character we are entrusted to maintain.

Your gifts have increased our technological capacity and thereby increased our ability to respond more efficiently to preservation issues and to keep you better informed. Our e-mail communication system serves over 400 member participants, and new high-speed color printing equipment is relieving our dependence on ever more costly printing services.

We thank you for your support and look forward to your continued interest and involvement in the conservation and protection of San Francisco's unique architectural character.



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.

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Preservation News on San Francisco's Waterfront

By the end of August, the Port of San Francisco expects to have under contract a provider that will prepare the nomination of the Northern Waterfront Historic District for the National Register of Historic Places. The port's commitment to this process is the culmination of two years of community effort to ensure the recognition and preservation of the city's historic waterfront resources.

Listing on the register will greatly facilitate the qualification of adaptive use projects on port properties for federal rehabilitation tax credits—a substantial incentive to developers. The requirement that such projects must apply the Secretary of the Interior's Standards in order to qualify for the credits will ensure appropriate treatment of those resources. Immediate beneficiaries should be the projects approved for Piers 1-1/2, 3 and 5; and Piers 27-31.

At the same time, port staff will prepare district design criteria for incorporation into the Design and Access Element of the Waterfront Land Use Plan. The consultant will review these for consistency with the findings in the nomination.

Essentially an application of the Secretary's Standards, these criteria would provide developers with specific guidelines for alteration and treatment of the port's historic structures, identifying, for instance, areas of each building where changes such as new openings and additions could be made. The criteria would also provide guidance for accommodating such requirements as the provision of public access, and for meeting the current building code, in ways that meet the Secretary's Standards.

The proposed Northern Waterfront district would extend from Pier 45 to Pier 48, just south of China Basin. The port will seek a separate district for the historic Union Iron Works site at Pier 70. Target date for submitting the Northern Waterfront nomination to the State Historic Preservation Office and the National Park Service is February 4, 2002.

Elsewhere on the waterfront, the port has had two respondents to its RFP for the Pier 70 Opportunity Area, which

is east of Illinois Street between Mariposa and 22nd Streets. Principal cultural resources in the project area, which constitute only a fraction of the resources on the historic Union Iron Works site, include the Administration Building (1917), the adjoining "employment office" (1941) to the north on Illinois, Powerhouse #1 (1912) to the east on 20th and the adjoining Gatehouse (1916/moved 1941).

Issued in March, the RFP to lease and develop 1) a mixed-use project and 2) a non-profit arts project required responses by June 26. A team led by the developer that recently completed the exemplary rehabilitation of Pier One submitted a proposal for the mixed-use site, as well as an optional proposal for an expanded project that would include the arts site. The San Francisco Arts Future Consortium submitted a proposal to develop the arts site as a



Pier 70 "opportunity area" includes the 1917 Administration Building.

Photo: Drew Letendre

permanent home for the ten participating nonprofit arts groups, and an optional plan for an expanded or modified area that would include a portion of the mixed-use site.

The Port Commission should be prepared to select the developers by the time of their August 28 meeting.

Ferry Building Rehab Advances



Photo: Brandi Communications

A visit to the waterfront shows that the \$70 million rehabilitation of the historic Ferry Building is well underway. What is more, removal of non-historic alterations at the north end of the structure has allowed the opportunity to view the venerable interior in cross section. The nave-like form of the great hall with spanning roof trusses is clearly discernable, albeit bisected by 1950s addition of a floor. The shroud that covers the famed tower increases anticipation of the return of the waterfront's centerpiece and historic symbol of the city, projected for spring 2002.

4038 17th Street

At its meeting of June 14, the Planning Commission reaffirmed its decision of 14 months ago to deny demolition of 4038 17th Street, and this time left little room for creative interpretation of its will. The developer had come back to the commission with a plan to retain only the façade of the 1888 Stick Style residence, which he proposed to attach to a wholly new structure on the property. He had evidently taken the commission's directive to save a "substantial" portion of the historic house to mean the architecturally most significant portion, which in his view was the façade alone.

In a five-to-one vote, the commissioners approved a project for three units with the following conditions: the façade of the existing house cannot be removed, and the house must remain in place, not lowered or moved forward

on the lot. The upper story addition must start at least 25 feet back from the front of the bay, thereby ensuring the actual retention of a "substantial" portion of the house. Restoration of that portion must follow the Secretary of the Interior's Standards.

Landmarks Board

At its July 18th meeting, the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board voted to endorse the nomination of the New Mission Theater to the National Register of Historic Places. The board took the action over the objections of City College of San Francisco, which has acquired the property for construction of a new campus. The State Historic Resources Commission will consider the nomination at its meeting, on August 3, in Long Beach.

At the same hearing, the Landmarks

Board recommended National Register listing for three additional candidates: 1000 Van Ness Avenue (the historic Don Lee Cadillac Building), the W.P. Fuller Glass Warehouse at 50 Green Street and the Long Syrup Refinery Building at the southwest corner of 16th Street and Treat Avenue.

The board also voted to designate as a City Landmark the Old U.S. Mint, on 5th Street, already a National Historic Landmark and listed on the National Register. The Planning Commission, the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor will have to concur in order for that designation to be final.

City Lights



Photo: Brandi Communications

City Lights Booksellers & Publishers moved a step closer to designation as a San Francisco Landmark when the Board of Supervisors approved its nomination. It is one of several recent nominations based more on cultural than architectural significance.

Built in 1907, the two-story brick building on Columbus near Broadway was home to the Italian bookstore, A. Cavalli & Co., from 1907 until 1919.

Poet Lawrence Ferlinghetti co-founded City Lights at this location, in 1953, and continues as owner. The bookstore became associated with the "Beat" movement and published many writers of the "San Francisco Renaissance." Its publication of Allen Ginsberg's *Howl*, in 1957, led to an obscenity trial that drew international attention and ended in acquittal of Ferlinghetti and his associate, Shigiyoshi Murao, on the precedent-setting principle of "redeeming social value," as a legal test for obscenity.

The landmark designation will take effect with the mayor's signature.

Graffiti clean up at Fire Station



Photo: Drew Letendre

The March/April issue of *Heritage News* noted that apparent neglect of the out-of-service fire station at 1648 Pacific Avenue (S.F. Landmark #188) had invited graffiti vandalism. A recent visit to the site revealed, however, that the defacement has since been removed. It also appears that replacement of a broken window has occurred. This



Photo: Majed Aobolfazli

remedial action coincided with the mailing of notices throughout the city by the Department of Public Works informing the public that removal of graffiti and maintaining a clean sidewalk are, by city ordinance, the responsibility of property owners and residents. It is encouraging to see that the City is trying to set a good example.

At Last, Errant Gas Station Comes Back to Earth

In San Francisco it is not unheard of for resolution of a preservation issue to take years—the Williams Building and the Jessie Street Substation come to mind as examples. What is unusual about the matter of a certain small gas station is that the question of its fate had dropped off the screen for just about everyone, except, that is, for a member of the Planning Department.

The story began in 1989, when Heritage learned of a proposed development for the southwest corner of Pacific and Larkin that would require demolition of a small but finely designed “Zig Zag” Moderne service station (1931: Donnell E. Jaekle, architect). We failed to convince either the developer or the Planning Commission to consider incorporating the historic structure into the new project. The commission, however, did offer the opportunity to relocate the building, with the sponsor of the Pacific Avenue project bearing the moving costs.

Relocation has never been the best solution to a preservation problem. Nevertheless, seeing no alternative to demolition of this, now rare, type of structure in San Francisco, Heritage took up the challenge of finding a new site for the gas station. Our only concern was that the building have a real use and not be reduced to a mere folly, and that the site offer a context consistent with its historic function. If we did not find a new location within 90 days, the owner could proceed with



More than ten years after being wrenched from its moorings at Larkin and Pacific, 1930s Moderne gas station finally has a new setting South of Market.

Photo: Majed Aobolfazli

demolition.

A new home and a developer who would take on the task of restoring the building to a working condition presented themselves surprisingly quickly. The site, the northeast corner of Beale and Howard, offered a solidly urban, automobile oriented context that suited the building’s historic use. The property belonged to the developer of 301 Howard Street, an office tower diagonally across the intersection completed in 1987.

As a condition of approval for that project, in 1980, the Planning Commission had required the builder to develop and maintain a mini park on the other parcel. More than two years after completion of 301 Howard, that condition remained unfulfilled, and the developer saw the little gas station as an opportunity.

In the early morning light on a day in April 1990, the truncated structure, which had to be cut down in order to meet clearance requirements, moved through the streets of San Francisco, north on Polk to Bay and then to its new south of Market location, via the

Embarcadero. There was a prospective tenant interested in operating a cafe and food service in the old gas station. A site plan and plans for restoration were prepared, and the structure remained on its moving cradle until final details could be completed.

There followed more than two years of protracted dealings, trying to work out the terms of an agreement among the property owner, the concessionaire and Heritage that would have included donation of a preservation easement to Heritage. Then, inexplicably, the whole proceeding ground to a halt. Efforts to rekindle the project proved futile, and for the next nine years the remains of the service station sat, abandoned and forlorn, a mystery to many, on the lot at Beale and Howard. Those years took their toll in exposure to weather and vandalism.

The opportunity to restore the gas station arose just recently, when the current owner of 301 Howard sought a certificate of occupancy for an adjoining Fremont Street project they had just completed. Demonstrating the value of

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Gas station as it appeared shortly before new development forced its removal

Photo: © Kevin Levine, 1989

Study Tour Experiences Historic Preservation in Cuba

In March of this year, I had the good fortune to participate in a research mission to Cuba sponsored by the International Conference on Monuments and Sites, U.S. Committee (US/ICOMOS). The group of 25 participants included architects, historians, former residents of Havana and even a former schoolmate of Fidel Castro. The purpose of the trip was to conduct research and to study the work of preservationists in Cuba, identifying areas of mutual professional interest.

The 14-day tour planned by ICOMOS Cuba, under the leadership of its President, Isabel Rigol, consisted of a full schedule of discussions with preservation officials, site visits to understand conservation treatments and management approaches, and conversations with representatives from Cuban heritage organizations and agencies throughout the island. The trip included five World Heritage sites in Cuba, including Havana, Vinales, Trinidad, the fortifications at Santiago and the Franco-Cuban-Haitian Coffee Plantations. In addition, the group went to Cienfuegos, Matanzas and Varadero,



View of the Plaza Vieja in old Havana, formed around 1600

with short visits to Camaguey and Bayamo. Our visit began with a stay in the grand Hotel Nacional by McKim, Mead, and White, and we traveled from site to site by private coach.

Overall we found an incredibly rich and diverse collection of historic buildings and sites dating back to the 16th century. Cuban towns, and particularly their historic areas, have remained for the most part untouched, because of a lack of funds and because the nation's limited investment capacity is orientated toward the rural areas in an effort to achieve a more balanced development. The future of these resources is of great concern, given increasing pressures for development on an island where tourism is of growing importance to the economy.

As participants in a licensed professional study tour, we all had assignments to research. My subject was design review and guidelines applied in historic districts. What I found was that rather than apply any official set of conservation standards uniformly to projects, such as the international Charter of Venice or the U.S. Secretary of the Interior's Standards, reviewers

only loosely reference these standards and primarily base their evaluation of each project on the judgment of the local professionals involved. This worked in the past because the people who monitored preservation projects were well trained, but, now, with the volume of work increasing, there is a shortage of experienced professionals to manage historic sites.

To try and bridge this gap, UNESCO helped create the National Center for Conservation, Restoration and Museology, a specialized entity that is devoted to research and training. It is now housed in old Havana in the 1638 convent of Santa Clara de Asis, which also functions as a national center for preservation. We visited the center and observed a conservation laboratory and demonstration projects of plaster restoration being performed on the complex.

As for the source of restoration funds, the collapse of the East European socialist countries (with which most Cuban economic trade took place) ushered in the so-called Special Period, in 1990, and caused a profound change in the way preservation projects were



Church fronting Trinidad's central town plaza



Host Victor Marin discusses plaster conservation at the convent of Santa Clara de Asis in Havana.

Some people we spoke with expressed concern about the requirements of economic development, particularly those related to the fast growth of the tourism industry. They felt a need to find a balance between the desire for new investment (where the government is a 51% partner with the private entity) and the necessity to protect their fragile heritage sites and public spaces. Yet compromises will need to be achieved as development is certainly coming and is desperately needed.

We also found a growing need for managed access to historic sites, both to accommodate increasing numbers of tourists and for the disabled. In Trinidad, which is also a world Heritage site, we heard concern about the large numbers of people that are starting to overwhelm that city's fabulous historic core. We discussed with Roberto Lopez, the Conservator of Trinidad, our own experiences with Bay Area sites, such as Alcatraz, where access is balanced against the site's capacity to withstand the physical abuse of too many visitors. We also observed the great need to begin planning access to historic sites in Cuba for the physically disabled, which is almost non-existent.

Another interesting aspect of Cuban preservation was the emphasis placed on preserving the links between tangible and intangible heritage. All Cuban conservators interpret the significance of urban heritage sites as

funded. Since 1994, all revenues have had to be developed locally. Overall there are 14 provinces and the National Committee of Cultural Heritage has a branch in each province. While most operate autonomously, the council for old Havana reports directly to the president of the country, and in Trinidad and Santiago, they report to the governor.

In Havana, we met with the city's historian, Eusebio Leal Spengler, at the restored 1690 Church of San Francisco, and he explained that in 1994, the government gave his office the authority to administer tourism and commercial activities within Havana, impose taxes there, and to reinvest 5% of the revenue in the historic zone. Even so, the amount of money derived from this activity is insufficient to fix a crumbling building stock that must weather an aggressive tropical climate, as well as to meet the need for adequate housing and repair obsolete sewage and water systems that date from colonial times.



View of Guaimaro Plantation House in the Valley of the Sugar Mills outside of Trinidad



Castillo del Morro, in Santiago de Cuba (1639), by Italian engineer Juan Bautista Antonelli, is an example of the Spanish-American school of military architecture.

applying not only to spatial character and physical fabric, but also to traditional land use patterns, and to the many ancient social functions for which the historic city is a necessary and irreplaceable stage. In addition, it was stated that one of the first considerations of any preservation project was planning for the housing needs of the residents.

The tour was not all business and study. While in Santiago de Cuba, the city's gracious conservator, architect Omar Lopez, hosted a concert of typical Santiago music in the Historic Museum of Cuban Ambiance (decorative Cuban arts) in the Plaza de Armas. Mr. Lopez accompanied us for 3 days of tours, lectures, and, of course, dining (plantanes anyone?). Of special interest was our tour of the 1639 Castillo del Morro (a World Heritage site), which overlooks (and once protected) the narrow access to the city's port.

Finally, while it should
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Heritage Planning Market & Octavia Symposium and Tour in the Fall

Heritage is planning a fall symposium that will consider the preservation and contextual design issues in a neighborhood soon to emerge from the shadow of a freeway.

“Repairing the neighborhood fabric” is how the Planning Department characterizes the core problem in developing a plan for the Market and Octavia area. The cause of the rending of this neighborhood was construction of the Central Freeway, completed in the late 1950s, with its brutal elevated double-deck roadway and on-off ramps.

When the 1989 earthquake crippled the structure, leading to demolition of about four-tenths of a mile of road and ramps, ending at Turk and Franklin, residents began to campaign for removal of the entire structure that had blighted their neighborhood for more than 30 years. Finally, in November 1999, in a third election to consider the question, voters sealed the freeway’s fate by a decisive margin.

In anticipation of the freeway’s removal—for which Caltrans expects to seek bids by January 2003—the San Francisco Planning Department included the Market and Octavia area in a new planning initiative called “Better Neighborhoods 2002,” that began just over a year ago. The program invites resident participation through a series of workshops, focused meetings and discussion groups that will result in an area plan of the City’s General Plan by next year.

Demolition of the freeway will release for development the parcels of land that accommodated the right-of-way. Some of that land will be required for construction of the Octavia Boulevard that will carry both through and neighborhood traffic at grade level. What remains is at the heart of the planning process. A variety of land uses are under consideration, including affordable housing with a mix of retail and commercial.

Whatever the decision about the uses housed by infill construction, of



Landmark Fallon Building, shown here before start of rehab, is among historic resources to benefit from freeway removal and City’s planning initiative.

Photo: Drew Letendre

concern to preservationists is the impact new construction will have on existing historic resources in the neighborhood. Will the area plan include protection for historic resources? Will there be contextual design guidelines? What will they be, and how will they be applied? Relief from the freeway’s adverse effect on those resources will be substantial. But what impact, if any, will the new boulevard have?

These are among the issues Heritage will address in its fall symposium, titled “The End of the Road: A New Beginning,” to take place on the morning of Saturday, October 27. Details, including the selection of speakers and other participants, remain to be worked out. However, the outline of the program is set.

First the audience will hear a historical and architectural overview of the neighborhood, identifying the principal cultural resources, followed by an explanation of the planning

department’s approach to issues of preservation and contextual design for the area. A panel composed of the speakers and other participants will then discuss issues raised by these presentations and take questions from the audience.

At the conclusion, which will be about 1 pm, attendees will receive printed material that will lead them on a self-guided tour highlighting the neighborhood’s historic architecture. People may individually choose to take this tour at any other time. However, we anticipate being able to offer access to selected interiors for a couple of hours after the morning program, only.

Heritage members will receive program details in the mail. Meanwhile, visit our website for periodic updates as the fall symposium takes shape: www.sfheritage.org.

Endangered Theaters

continued from page 1

in reconstruction for residential condominiums. Its interior has been thoroughly gutted, and it is still too early to judge how the rehabilitation of the principal façade will turn out.

Currently, a high-profile preservation issue involving a movie theater is City College’s proposal to demolish the New Mission Theater for construction of a new campus. The preservation community has proposed the theater for listing on the National Register and offered an alternative plan that would preserve the historic building while accommodating the college’s program for the site. Among other Mission District theaters, two are in retail use (the Granada and the Grand), another houses a church (Tower) and one is simply shuttered (Wigwam).

Inclusion of historic movie houses on the National Trust’s list calls attention to this endangered species and may stimulate thinking about ways we may treat these cultural resources that are an important part of the fabric and history of every American city and town.



Walkway in the Havana School of the Arts, which was overseen by architect Ricardo Porro

not have surprised anyone familiar with the film, *Buena Vista Social Club*, there seemed to be music everywhere. Even the insects in a forest surrounding a 19th century coffee plantation that we visited outside Santiago seemed to be echoing a rhythm we heard constantly in the music. Wherever we went in Cuba, we were received with warmth and affection by a people proud of their culture and its historic legacy.

—Arnie Lerner

Our thanks to Arnie Lerner for providing this article and accompanying photographs. Formerly Director of Architectural Services at Heritage, Arnie now has his own practice in San Francisco, Lerner + Associates Architects.

Lerner to Speak on Cuba Trip

Arnie Lerner will appear at a special Heritage members' event on August 30, 6:00 pm, in the Haas-Lilienthal House Ballroom. In a slide presentation, he will speak of his recent visit to Cuba to explore preservation practice in that island nation.

San Francisco's Golden Gate Park: A Thousand and Seventeen Acres of Stories

Christopher Pollock

Photography by Erica Katz

West Winds Press Portland, 2001

Author Christopher Pollock reveals that his greatest pleasure in bringing *San Francisco's Golden Gate Park: A Thousand and Seventeen Acres of Stories* to publication has come from correcting previous misinformation and revealing little-known facts about the park. While he admits that some puzzles remained impervious to his probing, most questions that may ever have occurred to those who visit the park—and a great many that may not have occurred—are answered.

Pollock describes the book as “a hybrid of a guide, a history, and a photographic journey.” Its organization into six chapters, corresponding to defined areas of the park, is such that the reader may easily take in the sites from east to west—and not just the familiar ones. It leads the visitor over less trodden paths, as well, and into less frequented zones.

Site descriptions thoroughly explicate their subject. For instance, if it is a monument, the reader learns the name of the donor with some biographical information, the occasion for the donation, the artist's name and biography, and any noteworthy story or controversy associated with the monument's creation or placement (or re-placement) in the park.

Golden Gate Park's architectural history gets its due, as well. We learn dates, architects, and alterations to structures over time. Equally interesting is the information on now vanished buildings and features of the park, and proposals for uses and structures that never happened.

Scattered throughout the main text are small boxes that contain related stories and odd bits of information, obviously reflecting the author's own fascination with the layers of experience the park contains. Did you know, for instance, that in 1935, someone suggested building San Francisco Junior College on a portion of the Panhandle;



or that a “scientific expert” identified Strawberry Hill as the root cause of the 1906 earthquake?

More extensive sidebars give information about people, events and historical trends related to park sites. These subjects include the development of urban parks in America, the impact of the 1906 earthquake and the post-quake refugee encampments in the park, the Midwinter Fair, and on-location movie making.

Wonderfully illustrated and packed with information, *San Francisco's Golden Gate Park: A Thousand and Seventeen Acres of Stories* is fun and instructive as an armchair guide, as well as for the visitor to the park itself. Newcomers will find it an excellent introduction, while for long-time residents it may conjure fond old memories.

Current photographs in color, by Erica Katz, capture the park's many attractions, activities, varied moods and special places, while a deft selection of historic photographs illuminates the park's history.

—Looking for a good way to put some of that federal tax rebate to a good cause? Consider increasing your contribution to Heritage's Annual Fund.

Bay Area Tours

Allied Arts Guild
Menlo Park, 650-322-2405

Camron-Stanford House
Oakland, 510-836-1976

City Guides Walks
San Francisco, 415-557-4266

Cohen-Bray House
Oakland, 510-532-0704

Cypress Lawn Cemetery
Colma, 650-550-8810

Dunsmuir House & Gardens
Oakland (April - September)
510-615-5555

Falkirk Victorian Estate
San Rafael, 415-485-3328

Lathrop House
Redwood City, 650-365-5564

Luther Burbank
Home & Gardens
Santa Rosa, 707-524-5445

McConaghy House
Hayward, 510-276-3010

Meyer's House & Garden
Alameda, 510-521-1247

Oakland Tours Program
510-238-3234

Octagon House
San Francisco, 415-441-7512

Palo Alto-Stanford
Heritage
650-299-8878 or 324-3121

Pardee Home Museum
Oakland, 510-444-2187

San Francisco City Hall
415-554-5780

Strybing Arboretum
Golden Gate Park, San Francisco
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 Natasha Glushkoff, 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.*

September

Through October 14
Exhibition: *California Pottery: From
Missions to Modernism* (See page 11)
SFMOMA 415-357-4000; www.sfmoma.org

Through October 14
Exhibition: *Martin Venezky: Selections
from the Permanent Collection of
Architecture & Design*
SFMOMA 415-357-4000; www.sfmoma.org

Through October 14
Exhibition: *Revelatory Landscapes*
SFMOMA 415-357-4000
www.sfmoma.org

Through January 13, 2002
Exhibition: *Ansel Adams at 100*
SFMOMA 415-357-4000; www.sfmoma.org

September 9, 1:00 - 6:00 pm
17th Annual Gatsby Summer Afternoon
Art Deco Society of California
Dunsmuir House. 415-982-DECO

September 11, 8:00 pm
Lecture: *James J. Corbett: Boxer and
Entertainer*. S.F. Historical Society
415-775-1111; www.sfhistory.org

September 11, 8:00 pm
Slide lecture: *Art, Antiques and
Politics in Boston on the Eve of the
Revolution*. American Decorative Arts
Forum. 415-249-9234

September 14
Workshop: *Incentives for Historic
Preservation Projects*. California
Preservation Foundation. 510-763-0972
www.californiapreservation.org

September 16, 11:00 - 5:00
Alameda Legacy Home Tour
See page 11

September 16, 2:00 - 4:00 pm
Lecture: *Plagues of the Past: Pandemics
and Pandemonium*. Cypress Lawn.
Reservations:
650-550-8811; www.cypresslawn.com

September 29 & 30, 10 am
November 3 & 4, 10 am
Art Deco Walking Tours of S. F.
415-982-DECO for details

October

October 3 - 5
RESTORE Workshop on Mortar
Matching and Repointing.
Stanford University. 212-213-2020

October 3 - 10
Annual Conference: Association for
Preservation Technology, at Asilomar.
630-968-6400; www.apti.org/asilomar

October 9, 8:00 pm
Slide lecture: *The Gothic Revival in
America*. American Decorative Arts
Forum. 415-249-9234

October 16 -21
National Preservation Conference
See page 11

October 21, 1:00 - 5:00 pm
Victorian Alliance House Tour
See page 11

October 25 - 27
California Council for the Promotion of
History 21st Annual Conference
Long Beach. 916-278-4296;
www.csus.edu/org/ccph

October 27
Heritage Fall Symposium
(See page 8)



Itinerant gas station passes Galileo High School at Polk & Bay. Photo: Robert Yeargin

institutional memory, Larry Badiner, who is now zoning administrator but was a downtown area planner at the time of the building's relocation, remembered there was a matter of some unfinished business with respect to 301 Howard.

It was Badiner's idea to hold the developer to the original conditions of approval for 301 Howard, before the City would sign off on the Fremont Street project. Interestingly, Gerald Green, Planning Director, who had to approve this arrangement, brokered the gas station's relocation, as a planner, in 1990. Planner Kelley LeBlanc oversaw the project's completion.

And so, now, the reconstituted Moderne gas station, repainted and set on new footings, occupies a landscaped setting of about 2700 square feet, with seating for public use. A retail florist will operate out of the building, displaying its bouquets under the canopy that once sheltered cars filling up at the pumps. While some details and the siting of the structure may not be as elegant as the original plan, which called for placing the structure at an oblique angle to the lot lines, facing 301 Howard, closure on the issue is most welcome, as is this new public amenity in the city's rapidly changing South of Market district.

Architectural Fragments

On July 21, the **San Francisco History Association** bestowed The Dr. Albert Shumate Memorial Award upon Heritage. Executive Director Charles Chase received the honor for the organization at an awards dinner at the Double Play Restaurant. Also receiving recognition were City Guides and Windgate Press.

On October 21, the **Victorian Alliance** presents its annual house tour, featuring houses in the Liberty-Hill Historic District from the period 1878-1890, including "Sunny" Jim Rolph's childhood home. There will be light refreshments. Call 415-824-2666 for details, or visit www.victorianalliance.org. Volunteers are needed, call 415-673-5057.

On September 16, the Alameda Architectural Preservation Society and the Alameda Museum will host the **Alameda Legacy Home Tour**. Tickets are available in advance, for \$18/\$20 the day of the tour; the price includes a keepsake *Legacy Guidebook* and refreshments served in the garden of a Queen Anne home. Proceeds benefit the two sponsoring organizations. For more information call 510-865-1755, or visit www.alameda-home-tour.org. Also in the East Bay, **Oakland Heritage Alliance** will offer a house tour this fall that features Claremont Pines and adjacent Oakland neighborhoods. To learn more, call 510-763-9218, or visit www.oaklandheritage.org.

Now on view through October 14, an exhibition at the **San Francisco Museum of Modern Art** celebrates the colorful history of California pottery. Entitled *California Pottery: From Missions to Modernism*, this is billed as the first significant museum survey of commercially produced earthenware tableware, tiles and home accessories made in California during the first half of the 20th century. It features 180 pieces by over 40 potteries once located throughout the state and reveals the impact of the California lifestyle on the everyday lives of Americans in other parts of the country.

Providence, Rhode Island, is the host city for the **National Preservation Conference 2001**. Under the theme, *Preserving the Spirit of Place*, the conference will explore how to preserve the spirit of place by fostering urban revitalization, encouraging tax credits, promoting smart growth initiatives and conserving open space. The dates are October 16-21. For more information, call 1-800-944-6847, or visit www.nationaltrust.org.

Preservationists hope that passage of the President's tax cut will dispose Congress toward other tax legislation, in particular, the **Historic Homeownership Assistance Act**. Reintroduced in the current Congress as HR1172 and S920, the legislation is identical to the measure the last Congress failed to act on, providing a 20 percent federal income tax credit to homeowners who rehab a qualified historic house. As of press time, neither local Representatives Pelosi and Lantos, nor Senators Boxer and Feinstein had signed on as co-sponsors. Contact them and urge them to do so through the US Capitol switchboard, 202-224-3121, or through the Congressional Advocacy Center of the National Trust's web site: www.nationaltrust.org.

Earlier this year, William Leddy, Marsha Maytum and Richard Stacy announced formation of their new firm, **Leddy Maytum Stacy Architects**. Their offices are in San Francisco. The firm also informs us of the recent election of Ms. Maytum to the College of Fellows of the American Institute of Architects.

The Victorian Alliance offers an **Anne Bloomfield Scholarship**, which is intended to help a recipient with expenses for studying at an accredited institution or for attending a conference, workshop or training session that focuses on architectural history and preservation, or 19th or 20th century decorative arts. For complete information and an application form, contact Richard Reutlinger, at 415-346-8669.

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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.

Become a Haas-Lilienthal House Docent or Pacific Heights Walk Guide

Heritage begins its next docent training program in September. Classes, led by prominent San Francisco historians, will be held at the Haas-Lilienthal House on Tuesday evenings, 6:00 - 8:00 pm, and on two Saturday mornings.

Become an authority on San Francisco history and architecture. You will learn everything you need to know to give tours, and much more.

Watch our web site, www.sfheritage.org, for details, or contact Docent Coordinator Natasha Glushkoff, 415-441-3000, extension 11, or by e-mail, natasha@sfheritage.org

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