

Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society

Founded 1974



Newsletter

Spring 2003

www.SantaAnaHistory.com

Revitalizing the Phillips Block Building

The Phillips Block Building on the northwest corner of Fourth and Broadway downtown is slated for rehabilitation, bringing the property into the 21st century. This historic two-story building is part of the last remaining historically intact intersection in the downtown district and will be transformed into office and restaurant space, further enlivening the downtown. An agreement has been reached between the City and three entities to revitalize and restore this structure back to its 1920s' appearance.

Initially constructed as a livery in 1895, the building was expanded three times, with a merger of the three buildings under a common façade in the 1920s. It has been recognized as a contributor to Santa Ana's downtown historic district and home to a variety of local businesses over the last century. In 1984, the building was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in addition to its inclusion in the local Santa Ana Register of Historic Property. The Italian Renaissance design is an example of period commercial architecture reflective of the overall character and history of downtown Santa Ana. The building has been vacant for more than a decade and has been literally rotting away.

Proposed modifications to the building will create three separate professional office spaces with a restaurant component at the corner of Fourth and Broadway. Various exterior modifications made over the past 75 years will be stripped away. Separate and distinctive street-level storefront facades reflecting the period architecture, with handmade tiles and marble wainscoting wood storefronts, and retractable awnings will revitalize both the Fourth Street and Broadway elevations. The building will undergo a complete structural reinforcement, making it compliant with current codes. Existing windows will be either repaired, if possible, or replaced if their condition is too far gone, with a matching wood sash.

Three companies will soon call Santa Ana and the Phillips Block Building home: Rosenow Specacek Group, Inc.; Nestor+Gaffney Architecture (NGA); and a third office and restaurant tenant to be determined by Griffin Realty Corporation, project developer for the third component. The ambitious rehabilitation of the building is a joint development by the three entities and the City of Santa Ana Redevelopment Agency.

Construction began in November 2002, and completion of the building exterior is anticipated in early 2003.



Photo of a parade in front of the Phillips Block Building, early in the 20th century. The Santa Ana Polytechnic High School band is pictured marching east on Fourth Street. Note the well-known "Sam Stein's, Of Course," stationery store, just left of the Singer Sewing Machine Store.

Reprinted from the January, 2003 issue of *Experience Santa Ana*

President's Message

During a recent visit with family in Chicago, our mutual passion for genealogy was revived. We spent hours tracking various ancestors, speculating on their lives, their motivations for migration, and their involvement in events that shaped history. Why did this one leave Europe, and did the rest of the family emigrate then or later? Did this branch have family members on both sides of the Civil War? Which ancestors had come to Oklahoma on the Trail of Tears and which during the Land Rush? While we had a substantial number of birth, death and marriage records, the thread that held our family tree together and made our ancestors real to us was oral tradition.

From Biblical "begats" to Norse sagas, oral histories have been a time-honored way to record important events, honor ancestors, and connect generations. They range from the mundane (my grandmother's recollection of playing in the stream with her shoes on because her mother would not allow her to go barefoot like the other kids, knowing she would be in big trouble afterward) to the history making (my father relating that as his ship was preparing for the invasion of Japan, a new weapon called an "atomic" bomb had been dropped).

Unfortunately, unless oral histories are memorized or recorded, information contained in them can become distorted, like the old "telephone" game. Documented first hand accounts from letters, journals, and recordings are invaluable in researching and understanding our history. SAHPS Board member Lynn Yerby, a professor of history, has created a wonderful example of the use of family research in teaching history. It is available on the web at www.cypresscollege.org/socialscience/faculty/lyerby

The SAHPS Board is discussing the possibility of beginning an oral history program to document local Orange County history. Are you a "Waffle Baby" or do you have memories of Santa Ana or letters or photos to help us? We invite you to contact us at (714) 547-9645 if you or a friend or relative are long-time residents and are willing to share your story, or if you are interested in assisting with the project. We look forward to hearing from you.

Alison Young



The Dr. Willella Howe-Waffle House, Medical Museum, and Carriage Barn.
Built 1889. Saved from demolition 1975.

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The *Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society Newsletter* is produced by the Society for its members and other friends. We invite you to join us in the appreciation and preservation of Santa Ana History.

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House logo by Ann Berkery

Special thanks to Guy Ball, Larry Yenglin, and Alison Young.

Visit our website at

www.SantaAnaHistory.com

To contact the newsletter editor directly, please call Roberta Reed at (714) 953-1876 or e-mail at robertareed@sahps.org.

2003 Annual Membership Dinner: Successful & Fun

The Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society Annual Dinner was held on February 20th and was one of the best attended annual meetings in the history of the Society. 108 members and friends attended the event, which was held at the historic Hacienda Restaurant on College Avenue.

Background music before and during the event was provided by violinist Hector Suarez, and Freddy Fritado, a former musician at the Ambrosia Restaurant.

During a dinner feasting on the sumptuous fare from the Hacienda, Police Chief Paul Walters spoke on the history of the Santa Ana Police Department. Following dinner, society business was conducted by Vice Presidents Tim Rush and Jo Ann Ramirez, and included a review of the year 2002. The ceremony of installation for the 2003 officers was presided over by Superior Court Judge Carolyn Kirkwood.

The 2003 Preservation Award was also presented that evening to Michael Harrah for the restoration and adaptive reuse of several Santa Ana buildings, including the Masonic Temple, the First Church of Christ, Scientist, and the United Auto Building. Mr. Harrah also presented the Society an advertising window original to the United Auto Building from its days as a Buick Dealership, which was removed during the restoration. This gift was accepted on behalf of the Society by Vice President Jo Ann Ramirez.

In addition, honored guests at the dinner included volunteers who played key roles in our 2002 Civil War Legacy Cemetery Tour including Jeff Paul, Wendy Tobiska, Carolyn Erratt, and Clare Ford.

Special guests at the dinner included Waffle babies Connie Becker and Beryl Viebeck, both long time supporters of the Society.

Those who were not able to attend missed a great event, and we hope to see you next year!

Open Houses at Howe-Waffle House Resume

Regularly-scheduled open houses at the Dr. Howe-Waffle House resumed in May! Open houses will be held every other month (May, July, September, and November) on the first Saturday of the month, from 12 noon to 4 pm. The open houses will include rotating displays which will feature topics of a historical nature which have connections the history of Santa Ana and Orange County.

Tickets for the tours are \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors (55 and older), \$3 for students (K-12), and children under 5 are free.

Hope to see you there!

SAHPS Board Member Is Historical Web Guru

SAHPS Board Member, book author, and web-guru Guy Ball has volunteered to help the Conference of California Historical Societies (CCHS) to become an on-line presence. The CCHS did not have a web site in spite of being the largest federation of historical societies in California. He has been working for the past three months assembling material from various CCHS sources and combining it into an easy to use web site with helpful information, calendar listings, articles, photo galleries, and updated news of member organizations. While it doesn't officially debut until June, you can get a sneak peak at the site at www.CaliforniaHistorian.com.

Your Membership Dollars at Work

In addition to all of our regular expenditures regarding the care and upkeep of the Dr. Howe-Waffle House, the board authorized the repair and slurry-seal of the parking lot, as well as the re-roofing and repair of the widow's walk area of the House, and the re-roofing of the Gazebo and Carriage Barn.

Volunteers Apply Here

Do you like meeting interesting people? Do you like learning about and telling about local history? If so, we have a deal for you!

The Society is looking for volunteers to docent at the Dr. Howe-Waffle House during the bi-monthly open houses. We are also looking for docents who could help us with specially scheduled tours (during various hours of the week) and weddings.

No experience is necessary – we will train! A training video and guidance books are available.

If you are interested, please call the Society at (714) 547-9645 or e-mail us at sahps@sahps.org.

Wilshire Square Neighborhood to Host Tea

The Wilshire Square Neighborhood would like to invite you to join them for “**Tea in Our Gardens**” on Saturday, June 21st.

Enjoy tea served in a beautiful garden setting in the historic Wilshire Square Neighborhood. The tea menu will feature timeless treasures from past Wilshire Square teas, as well as new favorites. Ingredients fresh from the Wilshire Square gardens will be a featured part of the menu – inviting you to enjoy not only tea in the garden, but tea **from the garden**.

In addition, each tea attendee will receive an optional walking tour guide of the neighborhood, highlighting the beautiful landscape and unusual architecture of this historic neighborhood of homes built primarily in the 1920s and 1930s. Craftsman, Tudor Revival, and Mediterranean Revival homes are featured.

There will be two seatings for this June 21st event – 12 noon and 2:30 pm. Tickets are \$17 per person and are available by advanced reservation only. The deadline to make reservations is June 16th.

For more information or to purchase tickets to the event, please call Roberta Reed at (714) 953-1876.

Generous Donations Help SAHPS Operations

We would like to specially recognize the generosity of the following 2003 SAHPS Members who renewed their membership at the Benefactor and Patron levels:

Benefactors:

Caribou Industries (Michael Harrah)
Evaline Pulati

Patrons:

Dawn Alvarez
Don and Barbara Atchinson
Michael and Marlene Brajdic
Francelia Goddard
Dennis Hayden
Jason Kordas (Santa Ana Performing Arts Center)
Sherle Mellas
Judy and Don Moore
Joel and Irene Predisik
Robert C. Thomas, Sr.
George and Beryl Wilson Viebeck
Marilyn and Larry Zike

Thank you for your extra support!

Get Your Copy Now: Cemetery Tour Video Debuts June 15

The video version of the 2002 Civil War Historic Cemetery Tour is in the final stages of production and is planned for sale on June 15. The 25 minute video captures all the various performances of the event. The edits have been done and the video is currently at a company that adds closed-captioning to it. The captioning will help those who are hard of hearing to view and enjoy the tape. After this step, the tape will be duplicated and mailed out to those who have advance-purchased the tape. The pre-release price is \$14.95 plus \$4 for shipping. Send your check for \$18.95 to SAHPS-Civil War Video; 120 Civic Center Drive West, Santa Ana, California, 92701-7505. You may also use the order form at the end of the newsletter.

Have you renewed your membership yet?????

Please check your mailing label. If it doesn't say "Member 2003," then please use the form on the back of this newsletter to renew your membership. We need your help and support to continue all of the wonderful activities we perform. Remember, the Society has no paid staff. Our historical activities are done by volunteers. We need your financial help to pay for the continued upkeep and maintenance of the Dr. Willella Howe-Waffle House (not to mention the insurance, security, and utilities), as well as the expenses of all of our myriad historical projects, which celebrate our great local heritage.

Please renew and please be extra generous when you do.

We sure appreciate it!!!

Save The Dates....

October 25, 2003:

The SAHPS Annual Cemetery Tour is planned for Saturday, October 25, 2003. The planned theme for the event is Orange County: The Hollywood Connection. As in past years, the event will be held at Fairhaven Cemetery and will feature performances by students at the Orange County High School of the Arts. Stay tuned for more information!

December 13 and 14, 2003:

The Historic French Park Neighborhood Association is having a Holiday Home Tour on December 13 and 14, 2003, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Ten homes, built between 1888 and 1912, will be on tour and decorated for the holidays. Eastlake Victorian, Colonial Revival, and Craftsman Bungalow will be among the architectural types featured. Admission is \$20 in advance (by November 1) and \$25 at the door. Tickets may be ordered on line at www.frenchpark.org or you may call (714)569-0476.

(And hopefully, you didn't miss the wonderful Floral Park Home Tour held in April. Members are automatically on the mailing list to receive early information and fliers about these tours.)

Special Donors:

Recently donors and local organizations have helped out with two of our special projects. First, the Civil War Cemetery Tour video is being closed captioned for the deaf and hearing impaired in part thanks to a donation by the Santa Ana Kiwanis Club. (We're still looking for donors to help with the other \$200 it will cost).

Also, a period-style donated piece of furniture – a beautiful, 3-panel Victorian settee donated by Kathy Rosenow – needed some tender loving care and new upholstery. Thanks to generous donations from Evalene Pulati, Ben Grabiell, Tim Rush, and French Park Neighborhood Association, we've almost got all the money we need to pay for the complete refurbishment. The re-upholstery is being performed by Gilbert's Custom Upholstery on Main St. in Santa Ana.

In both cases, if you'd like to help out by sending an additional donation, please do and let us know what it's for so we can direct it to the correct account.

Thank you!

*Next year, we will be proudly celebrating 30 Years of preserving & celebrating Santa Ana history. Your continued support, through membership and special donation dollars, helps keep us strong and active.
Thank you!*

Photo Gallery

Photos courtesy of the Santa Ana Public Library History Room. These images are among those being considered for the upcoming book, **Images of America: Santa Ana** by Guy Ball and Rob Richardson. The expected publication date is Winter 2003-2004.



City Hall Crowd



Greenville Schoolhouse



Tuthill Mortuary

Support Santa Ana History through SAHPS

Rediscovering Historic Downtown Santa Ana – This wonderful historic downtown booklet is an updated edition of one originally printed by Heritage Orange County in the 1980s. The booklet is a 17x22" fold out map that includes a walking tour and historic and architectural information about some of our downtown treasures. **Price: \$2.00 plus \$1.00 for shipping.**

Civil War Legacy in Santa Ana and Orange County – the Video (Delivery after June 15). This 25-minute video documentary of the 2002 Santa Ana Historical Society Civil War Historical Cemetery Tour features the performances of the fine OCHSA actors who portrayed civil war veterans and their families sharing their experiences of the late 1800s in their new lives in the Santa Ana Valley. **Price: \$14.95 plus \$4.00 for shipping.**

The Civil War Legacy in Santa Ana (Author: Gordon Bricken) – Explore the impact of the War Between the States on the creation and development of Santa Ana. Fascinating insights into the impact of the Civil War veterans on the birth of Santa Ana and Orange County. Softbound edition, 70 pages. **Price: \$12.75 plus \$2.00 shipping.**

Santa Ana in Vintage Postcards (Author: Guy Ball) – Travel down Fourth Street when the Pacific Red Car ruled! See Old City Hall, the Old Orange County Courthouse, Carnegie Library, the devastation of Santa Ana from the 1933 earthquake, and lots more. Contains more than 200 black and white images of early Santa Ana from 1902 to 1950 – all with descriptive captions and interesting notes. Softbound. Autographed by the author at no additional cost (please let us know names to include in autograph). **Price: \$20.50 plus \$2.00 for shipping.**

Santa Ana...A Illustrated History (Author: Diann Marsh) – This book covering Santa Ana history from the mid-1800s to modern times is the most comprehensive history of Santa Ana to date from one of its most beloved historians. The book includes many never before published photographs, some from private collections. Softbound, 240 pages. This book is out of print and available only through SAHPS. **Price: \$21.50 plus \$4.50 for shipping.**

The History of Santa Ana City and Valley – This delightful treasure of a time gone by has been produced in cooperation with the Santa Ana Library History Room and is based on an original copy printed in 1887 and placed in a time capsule at the Orange County Courthouse in 1900 and has been faithfully reproduced in its entirety. The book notes that it is "an interesting and faithful description of this beautiful country" and delights the reader in telling how life was in Santa Ana and Orange County during the 1880s. Softbound. **Price: \$14.00 plus \$2.00 for shipping.**

Frederick Eley, Orange County's Pioneer Architect (Author: Rob Richardson) – Frederick Eley was the designer of architectural gems such as Santa Ana's Ebell Clubhouse, First Baptist Church, YMCA Building, and numerous other schools, churches, and public buildings. Nicely illustrated, including some photos of buildings since demolished. Softbound, 38 pages. **Price: \$7.00 plus \$2.00 for shipping.**

Orange Blossoms: 50 years of Growth in Orange County (Author: John Sorenson) – This wonderful anthology of the dreams and accomplishments of the people of Orange County makes for great reading. Hardbound, over 300 pages with photos throughout. **Price: \$40.00 plus \$5.60 for shipping.**

Dr. Howe-Waffle House Bookmark – Enjoy this custom loomed, full color fabric reproduction of the Queen Anne Victorian headquarters for the Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society. 1-3/4 x 8". **Price: \$4, 3 for \$10, plus \$1 for shipping (any quantity).**

Order form on next page.

Book Order and Membership Form

Name _____

Address _____

City and Zip _____

Qty	Title	Price
Subtotal		
Shipping		
Total		

Note: Sales tax is included in prices.

Membership Dues: *Individual/Family - \$15-49; Business - \$20-99; Supporter - \$50-99;
 Patron - \$100-249; Benefactor - \$250-1,000; Golden Honoree -- \$2,000 and above*

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