

Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society

Celebrating 36 Years of Preserving History!



Newsletter

Spring 2010

www.SantaAnaHistory.com

Open Houses Take On A Festive Look



For those of you who thought you had thoroughly toured the Dr Willella Howe-Waffle House at past events, “you ain’t seen nothin’ yet!” Dr. Howe-Waffle will still have just stepped out when you arrive, but she’s been busy in between patients, church activities, and her family redecorating for the season!

Our Open House program has a new lease on life thanks to the creativity of our volunteer Board. The Holiday Open House in December

has always been such a huge hit with members and the community that the board was inspired to continue holiday themes throughout the new year. Last December beautiful decorations, holiday themed treats and music, and even the appearance of jolly Ole Saint Nick himself brought tidings of good joy to over a hundred guests. Why not carry those festive spirits through the whole new year?

2010 Open Houses will now each have a new theme, with special displays, decorations, and events. If you attended our February Open House, you were treated to a special display of antique Valentines, tea and heart-shaped sweets, and a performance by actor John Erratt as Judge Cox, “the Marryin’ Judge.” There were also historical goodies found in a flyer on love in the Victorian era. Love was certainly in the air at the Howe-Waffle House!

Our April Open House will feature a vintage Easter card display, an egg hunt for the little ones at 1pm, 2pm and 3pm, and a book-signing by local authors. Tea will be served as usual with some Easter treat surprises!

Future events may include a wedding gown display, a vintage household theme, and Victorian medicine, to name a few. Check back on the website and future newsletters for updated information on the theme of the next Open House. So plan to join us for a fresh look at the Dr Howe-Waffle House, the first Saturday of even months, from noon to 4:00. We are sure you will discover something new each time you visit!



-Alison Young, President

From the President

Have you considered volunteering at a non-profit organization? Well this is the time to do it! A new year has arrived, and with it, a gift from the Disney organization to both volunteers and non-profits.

Disney's "Give a Day. Get a Disney Day." program allows would-be volunteers to choose a venue, work an event, and be rewarded with a free pass to Disneyland. (Learn more about the program and how to sign up at <http://disneyparks.disney.go.com/> and click on the tab for "Give a Day. Get a Disney Day.")

In just the first two months of the year, the Society has benefited from this program that encourages volunteerism across America. Our clean up day in January brought us over 20 volunteers who helped us put away holiday decorations, clean out closets, catalog our reference library, organize our costume collection, and more. We asked for volunteer docents for our February Open House, and more than 10 new people were trained to give tours that day.

We hope that all our new volunteers enjoy their free day at the Mouse House, and that they have discovered that volunteering can be fun—enough fun to encourage them to return to help us again on future projects!

As you know, SAHPS runs on an all volunteer basis, with no paid staff. So if helping us has ever crossed your mind, this is a perfect opportunity to follow through, and be doubly rewarded. Give us a call, and we will let you know what projects are coming up!

Alison Young
President



A Legacy of Preservation since 1974.

Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society 2010 Board of Directors

President	Alison Young
Vice President	Wayne Curl
Treasurer	Roberta Reed
Secretary	Colleen Williams

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*Cover House illustration by Ann Berkery
Special thanks to contributors Tim Rush, Jeff Dickman, Guy Ball, Roberta Reed, Ann Moerer, and Alison Young.*

To contact the newsletter editor directly, please email sahps@sahps.org.

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The Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society's newsletter is produced by the Society for its members and other friends. We are proud to say that the Society is an all-volunteer 501c3 non-profit organization with no paid staff members. All donations and memberships go directly to our education and preservation projects.

Preservation Tax Savings Only for the Rich in Santa Ana

Have you heard of "The Mills Act"? It was approved by the State Legislature back in 1972 to create an economic benefit to persons owning a historic structure as a means of offsetting a small part of the enormous costs of owning and maintaining a historic property.

Well, in Orange County's capital city of Santa Ana, that has a very rich treasure trove of historic structures (estimated to be as many as 6,000, by Architectural Historian/Author and former SAHPS Board member, Diann Marsh) the cost of adding your property to the city register has just gone from **ZERO** to **\$4,754**, and to request a Mills Act contract, that has gone from \$204.75 to a whopping \$3,731. Together you are looking at nearly \$8500 up front, to apply for Mills act status.

This action by the City Council caught the Society and yours truly by surprise, and we are at this time working feverishly to lobby the council to reexamine their fee structure to bring it back to earth. This was spurred by a practice that is "cost recovery" for everything the city does. The city is under tremendous financial pressure due to the economic collapse we are all familiar with.

The Society is not insensitive to these issues; we simply believe that the calculations that have gone into determining what it costs to process these requests are inaccurate.

We are awaiting word at press time to schedule a meeting with the Mayor to attempt to resolve this matter. If you care about historic preservation in Santa Ana and elsewhere we encourage you to speak out, via letter or email or show up to a council meeting and let your voice be heard. Keep in mind we are the county seat, and what often happens in Santa Ana ripples throughout the county.

Los Angeles recently proposed a similar set of fees and then their planning staff rethought their proposal and the devastating impact it would have on preservation. As a result, it was rescinded. We hope for a similar outcome in Santa Ana.

The Council and city staff are operating, we believe, under the perception that the Mills Act is some kind of giant tax rebate where the property owner is going to reap tens of thousands of dollars in tax savings in a short period of time. All one has to do is look at the numbers. The Mills Act (TMA) was instituted to help offset what are well known added costs for owning and maintaining a historic structure. So if and when you do qualify, you simply may get a few property tax dollars in savings to offset your excessive expenses.

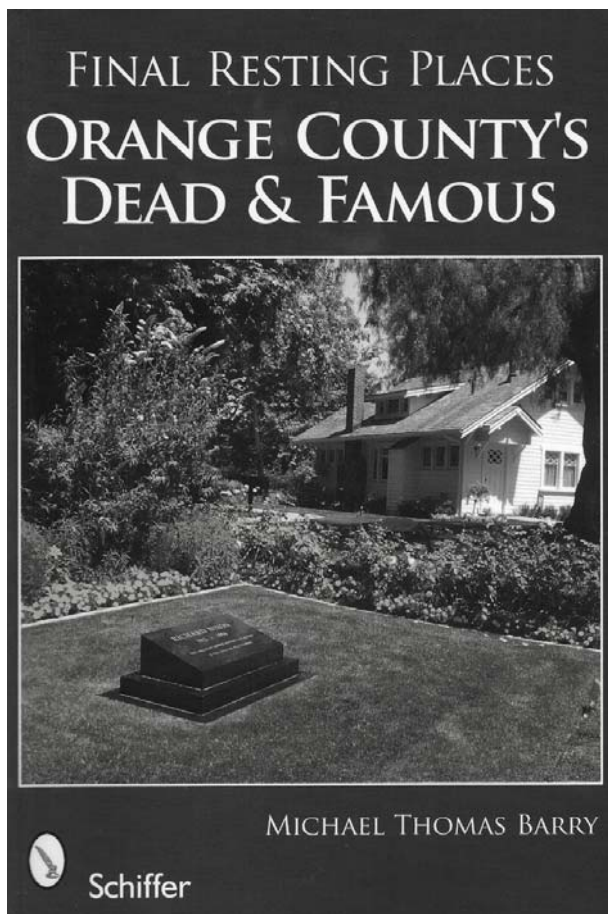
But let us look at a typical example. With the exception of some very expensive areas in Santa Ana, a typical property owner might have a tax bill of between \$2500-3500. With TMA you would get somewhere between 10-60% savings, with an average of 50%. So at 50% savings it would take you 6.8 years to break **EVEN** on your upfront cost of getting on the Historic City Register and TMA contract.

So we have to wonder how many folks are willing to upfront that kind of money to wait in excess of seven years to see a return?? The answer is you would only do it if you had a commercial building or a very expensive home.

If you would like more information, here are some resources; www.californiapreservation.org/PDFs/mills_actpdf or www.anahiemcolony.com/millsprinter.htm

This action by the Santa Ana City Council will only result in the very rich being able to list their property on the local Register and have the benefit of the Mills act. In addition it will have a very long term damaging impact on saving historic structures and thereby neighborhoods threatening the fabric of this architecturally rich urban area.

- Timothy D. Rush
Associate Board Member
Sr. Vice President, Marketing & Recruitment
Prudential CA Realty



Who's Buried Where?

I love historical trivia and learning about new people and events that I didn't previously know about. The new book, **Final Resting Places: Orange County's Dead & Famous**, by Michael Barry, does more than just telling me who is buried in our county. The author does an excellent job of highlighting many of the famous personalities, OC founders, politicians, and other special individuals who lived (or were buried) in our county.

In short, easy to read narratives, Barry gives a brief overview of over 200 people – some you are familiar with and many you aren't – but most you will still find interesting. He also does a nice job writing a short summary about each of the county's public and private cemeteries including a bit of their history and some tips for finding the burial spots of those included in the book.

I like the way that the book was set up by cemetery. Barry includes an index at the back so

you can locate those he wrote about. The information about each person was interesting and "enough" for a quick read and a good overview – serving as a delicious "appetizer" to get me interested in learning more.

I enjoyed the book and look forward to doing some additional research on a variety of people who I didn't know before reading this.

Final Resting Places: Orange County's Dead & Famous is published by Schiffer and is available at schifferbooks.com and from some local book sellers.

-Guy Ball

And the winners are...

We would like to say a special thank you to all of our members who took the time to fill out their ballots and vote for 2010 Board Members.

The slate was elected as presented. Your 2010 Board of Directors is as follows:

President: Alison Young

Vice President: Wayne Curl

Treasurer: Roberta Reed

Secretary: Colleen Williams

Members at Large: Ray Poppa and Ann Moerer

2010 brings some changes to our board. After 19 years on the board, and most of those years serving as Treasurer, Guy Ball decided to step down and take a much needed vacation from service! Roberta Reed, who has been serving as Secretary for seven years, stepped into the Treasurer position. Colleen Williams has taken over as Secretary.

We also welcome Ann Moerer as a new board member. Ann has lived in Santa Ana for 19 years and owns a 1910 Craftsman bungalow in the Historic French Park Neighborhood along with her husband Jeff, which they have spent about 13 years restoring. In the past she has served on both the Historic French Park board and ComLink. Please join us in welcoming Ann to our board!

-Roberta Reed

Parting is Such Sweet Sorrow...

But sometimes it happens anyway.

After 19 years on the SAHPS board, 18 of them as Treasurer, Guy Ball, practically “Mr. Santa Ana” (even though he lives in Tustin now!) has decided to step down, take a break, and spend more time with his family, which includes two teenaged boys.

Although Guy will be missed, he isn’t entirely gone. He has agreed to continue on as SAHPS webmaster, and we are certain we will be able to talk him into helping out here and there. Or maybe more accurately, we are certain that he is undergoing withdrawals and will occasionally NEED to help us out for his own sake! (He has not been beyond shedding tears and waxing reminiscent about his last time at various of his duties.)

As you all know, Guy handled a lot of things for the Society, so please be patient with the rest of the board as we spread his various responsibilities amongst us...once we figure out what they all are! Guy just “took care of” many things, and sometimes it is hard for all of us to remember what we did!

Please join us in wishing Guy “good luck” in his new leisure time, which so far he has spent finishing up the manuscript of the new Tustin book for Arcadia Publishing (and we will let you know when it is available!).

Thanks Guy, for 19 years of hard work and dedication to the preservation efforts in Santa Ana! You will be missed.

-Roberta Reed

HISTORIC HOUSE COLORS

Sandy Welch
Color Consultant

714 . 667 . 7829

*See the historic Howe-Waffle house
for my most recent work.*

The Historic Lacy Neighborhood

For over 10 years the City of Santa Ana quietly purchased 49 parcels of land in the Lacy Neighborhood south of Santa Ana Boulevard. Many of these properties contained vintage and historic properties some of which are potentially eligible for listing on the City's Register of Historic Properties.

Instead of protecting these vintage buildings the City began demolishing the structures to make way for new development projects. In response to the City's demolition activities the Friends of the Historic Lacy Neighborhood formed to work with the City to find alternatives to reuse and preserve these buildings.

Despite several meetings, letters, telephone calls and 2 public hearings City Council approved hiring a company to demolish 11 more vintage properties including the Minter Street motor court in November 2009.

Following the City's approval of the demolition contract the Friends filed a lawsuit to stop the City from destroying any more historic buildings. Soon after the lawsuit was filed the City rescinded its demolition contract. The City later agreed to prepare an environmental impact report (EIR) and then re-circulate the EIR when the Friends complained that the EIR did not include any alternatives to preserve the vintage houses.

Public comments on the draft EIR are due to the City April 12, 2010. The draft EIR is available by visiting the City of Santa Ana web site.

At the time of this article the Friends plan on requesting a meeting with the City to discuss ways to preserve the numerous historic properties that remain in the Lacy neighborhood.

If you would like to help please contact your City Council member to tell them to preserve the remaining vintage and historic houses in the Lacy Neighborhood. Also, please attend the “Lacy Clean-Up Event” on March 28 starting at 11 am at Garfield Elementary School to show your support.

Jeff Dickman

Spurgeon Rededication

Think back...what were you doing on the 16th of May in 1996? Since you are reading this newsletter, and likely a long time Santa Ana supporter you may very well have been in attendance at the rededication of the William H. Spurgeon building.

It was a grand day, with lots of speeches, dignitaries, and even a ceremonial clock winding with a giant key carried up the stage by the local Boy Scouts. The building was draped in balloons, and the refurbished tower glistened with new paint, and freshly carved wooden hands (courtesy of Oldrich Unger of Santa Ana).

A great deal of work went into that day, lots of money was donated by generous folks all over the county, as well as many "in-kind" gift contributions. In total some \$90,000 between in-kind and cash was raised to pay for the exterior cleaning, restoration and the refurbishment of the movement and the addition of a chiming carillon.

Fast forward to today, what is going on with the grand old building that is the most photographed landmark in town? Well about 18 months ago the Redevelopment agency paid for a new carillon, so it is digital and the latest and greatest. As of the present moment, we are told by Cindy Nelson, Deputy City Manager & Executive Director of the Redevelopment Agency that the longtime owner, CM Properties is planning a refurbishing of the building both inside and out.

As it is a city architectural landmark it will not be changed on the exterior, just cleaned and polished so to speak. The interior will be buffed up to accommodate new tenants. As for the new tenants it is all very "hush hush", but there is a possibility that a college may take space in the building. In any case the details of the redo are still being hammered out as of press time.

The Historical Preservation Society and yours truly have been encouraging the building owner, the city and Downtown Inc (the new merchants and property owners association) to have a 100th anniversary celebration (the building was built in 1913, the fourth and last Spurgeon Building) to mark the centennial of this grand old building that is so popular and such a landmark. More to come on that later, we will keep you posted.

By the way....did you make it downtown this Christmas to see the wonderful light show projected onto the northern exposure of the Spurgeon Building? It was quite the show,

sponsored by Downtown Inc, and overseen by Dennis Luy of The Yost Theatre & Event Centre. The light show went on for several weeks, and featured musical accompaniment to boot. Standing on 4th Street, with a cup of Starbucks Christmas coffee, and watching the "snowflakes" fall, almost made me feel like being in Bedford Falls. Be sure and mark your calendar for next year.

In my next update I will share why the clock tower is on the Northeast corner of the building....see you around town.

Timothy D. Rush

Ghosts, Like History, Never Rest

Our very own ghosts of the historic Fairhaven cemetery are getting restless to tell their stories in October during our annual, award-winning Cemetery Tour!

This year, individuals who emigrated from other countries will entertain guests with stories of their trials and tribulations in helping to shape Santa Ana and Orange County history.

“Strangers in a Strange Land: Immigrants who shaped Orange County” has been announced as the theme for the 2010 SAHPS Cemetery Tour to be held Saturday, October 23, 2010. The Society and the Orange County School of the Arts are looking forward to partnering again this year to bring you another fascinating day at Fairhaven Memorial Cemetery.

Last year, the founder of Tustin and the founder of Santa Ana duked it out over which city was bigger and brighter, both Mr. Chapmans chuckled over the similarity and differences in the founding of groves in Santa Ana and Anaheim, and Cussin’ Jim was silenced over the naming of his “Holy Canyon.” Huge crowds again came to be entertained and educated on the history of Orange County Place Names.

Please watch the website and future newsletters for information on ticket sales and tour times. Also, be sure to pick up a “Save the Date” flier at any of our events!

New Book in Station

Long-time history buff and local author Rob Richardson's new book titled "Railroads and Depots of Orange County" was just published by Arcadia Publishing, publisher of our Santa Ana series of books. In over 200 vintage and rarely-seen photos, Rob shares the history of railroads in Orange County – dating back to 1877 – with details on train stations and rail lines that are little more than memories today. He included images from several top OC rail photographers who are sharing their pictures – some for the first time in print

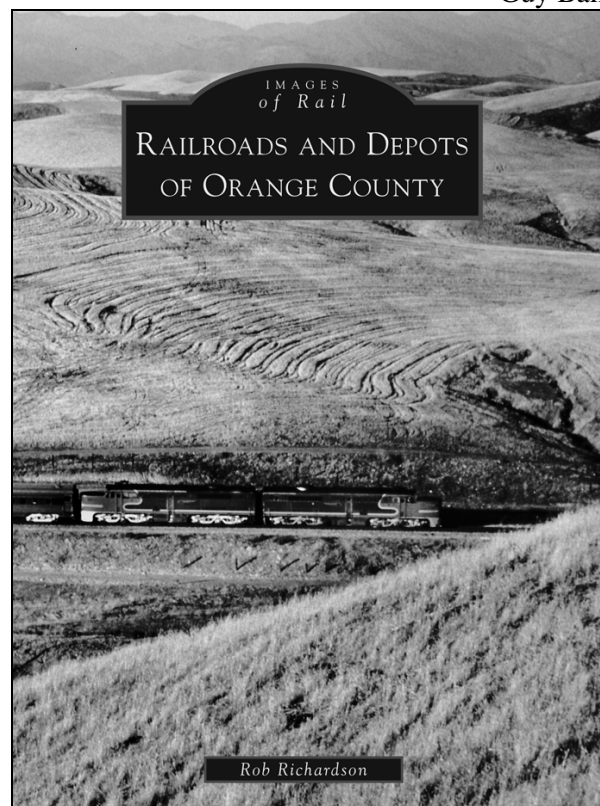
Railroads have been a part of Orange County growth for over 130 years. The great names of American railroading including Atchison, Topeka, Santa Fe, Southern Pacific, and Union Pacific were firmly planted here by the early 1920s and linked with the famed Pacific Electric Railway. Thousands of people passed through Orange County's depots during the 1940s as they came to serve at the many military bases located here during World War II. The county's rail scene remains as dynamic as ever, with Amtrak, Metrolink, and amusement park railroads joining the Burlington Northern Santa Fe and Union Pacific. Railroad depots, new and old, are located across Orange County and continue on both as vital parts of history and the future of transportation for our county.

Rob had fallen in love with local railroads as a young man in Santa Ana and has traveled extensively in search of trains and railroad depots. He is a long-term member of the Orange County Railway Historical Society and the Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society. He's made presentations about local railroad depots to various groups and has helped several other authors with background information for their books. Rob also authored a book for the Society about Frederick Eley, Orange County's first architect.

This book is available at many local book stores as well as through the Society for just \$24 (tax included) and \$5 for mailing. On Saturday, April 3rd, Rob will join us at the Dr. Howe-Waffle House open house starting at noon for a special book signing.

If you can't wait, mail your check for \$29 to SAHPS; 120 Civic Center Dr., West; Santa Ana, CA 92701 or order a copy online at www.SantaAnaHistory.com.

-Guy Ball



Free Book Give Away!

This year SAHPS will be giving away a free book in drawings to be held throughout the year! Occasional drawings will be held through the website, so keep an eye our site www.SantaAnaHistory.com.

You may enter right away by sending an email to us at info@sahps.org. Please type "SAHPS Free Book Drawing" in the subject line.

Also, at each Open House, a free give away will be held for those in attendance. All winners will be given a choice of a pre-selected set of books to pick their free book from.

So don't forget to sign the Open House register with a valid email and keep an eye on the website for other free drawings. Also, current members that have already registered email accounts with the society will automatically be entered!

Upcoming Events

Historical Building Tour: Santa Ana Assistance League tour of historic buildings in Santa Ana. Tickets are \$25; visit www.assistkids.org for more information. **Saturday, March 13 starting at 10:00am**

SAHPS Board Meeting: All are welcome to the Howe-Waffle House for our monthly meeting! Dinner is provided. Please RSVP at sahps@sahps.org so we know how many for dinner. **Tuesday, March 16 at 6:30pm**

Lacy Clean-Up Day: Support the Lacy Neighborhood and learn more about preserving the community. Booths will be at Garfield Elementary School. **Sunday, March 28 11:00**

Downtown Walking Tour: Learn about the history of downtown Santa Ana, particularly its stunning architecture. Purchase tickets for \$8 at the Howe-Waffle House. **Saturday, April 3 beginning at 2:00 pm.**

Howe-Waffle Open House: Enjoy Vintage Easter decorations and an Easter Egg hunt for the kids at 1, 2, and 3 pm. Tickets are \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors/SAHPS members, \$3 for students. **Saturday, April 3 from 12:00-4:00 pm.**

Floral Park Home and Garden Tour: Visit beautiful historic homes in Floral Park. Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door.

Visit www.floralpark.com for more info. **Saturday, April 24 and Sunday, April 25 from 10:00am to 4:00pm.**

It's happened again....blink! 2009 is over and gone and here comes 2010.

(From our treasurer, Roberta Reed)

And for many organizations, with the new year comes...our membership drive! So if you have not already done so, please consider renewing your membership for 2010. And if you are not currently a member, please consider becoming one today.

Unlike many non-profit organizations, SAHPS is a 100% volunteer effort. Your membership dues, as well as any donations we receive, are all directed entirely toward our preservation efforts, not administrator's salaries, and the majority of our annual budget goes toward maintaining the Dr. Howe-Waffle House to ensure that generations to come can enjoy the history and the architecture that it represents.

So please, use the form below to send in your membership dues today. And we thank you in advance for partnering with us in our preservation goals. It is your support that fuels the society and its activities!

Help us continue our efforts to preserve, to educate, and to celebrate Santa Ana and early local History

Renew or join at the \$100 level (or above) and receive a copy of Santa Ana: 1940-2007, Early Santa Ana, Santa Ana in Vintage Postcards, Logan Barrio, Civil War Legacy in SA, or Orange County Blossoms as a free gift as our thanks for your extra support.

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

Enclosed is a check for (or charge) _____ for a _____ membership.
(If \$100 or over, please circle the book above that you would like us to send you.)

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City/State _____ Zip _____ Email _____

Send to: Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society, 120 Civic Center Dr. W., Santa Ana, CA 92701-7505

Book Order Form

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ Email _____

City and Zip _____

Qty	Title (all prices include sales tax)	Price
	Santa Ana: 1940-2007 by Roberta Reed \$21.75	
	Early Santa Ana by Guy Ball, Marge Bitetti \$21.75	
	Orange (the City) by Phil Brigandi (NEW) \$21.75	
	Santa Ana in Vintage Postcards by Guy Ball \$21.75	
	Vanishing Orange County by Chris Epting (NEW) \$21.75	
	Civil War Legacy in Santa Ana by Gordon Bricken \$14	
	Orange Crate Labels of Orange County by Alison Young \$14	
	Orange County Almanac of Historical Oddities by Jim Sleeper \$13	
	Architectural Styles: Orange County by Richard Dodd (hardback) \$40	
	Knotts Berry Farm: The Early Years by Jay Jennings \$24	
	Railroads and Depots of Orange County (NEW) by Rob Richardson \$24	
	Orange County by the Orange County Historical Society \$21.75	
	Santa Ana's Logan Barrio by Mary Garcia \$14 (Revised, 4 th printing)	
	A Different Shade of Orange, Robert Johnson & Charlene Riggins \$22	
	Orange County, the Golden Promise by Pamela Hallan-Gibson (Hardcover) \$23	
Priority Shipping – \$5 for up to 2 items, \$10 for more than two.		
Total		

If paying by credit card, please circle: Visa, Master Card, Discover, or American Express.

Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Signature: _____

Send to: Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society, 120 Civic Center Dr. W. Santa Ana, CA 92701-7505



Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society

120 Civic Center Drive West

Santa Ana, California 92701-7505

A Legacy of Preservation Since 1974

