



March 2001  
Volume 32, Issue 1

# Reflections

SOHO IS THE OLDEST  
CONTINUALLY OPERATING HISTORIC  
PRESERVATION ORGANIZATION IN CALIFORNIA.

S E R V I N G   S A N   D I E G O   C O U N T Y   S I N C E   1 9 6 9

## SOHO Succeeds in Removing Warner Ranch from Most Endangered List!

BRUCE D. COONS

WHEN SOHO ANNOUNCED LAST YEAR THIS National Historic Landmark Site as the "most important unprotected historical site in San Diego County", the San Diego Union's Roger Showley ran the story. 4SD Channel 4 produced a news spot on site with SOHO's Kathy Flanigan.

Due to SOHO's publicity an anonymous private donor has come forward with a \$75,000.00 matching grant through The San

Diego Foundation. The Vista Irrigation District which owns the property matched this donation with another \$75,000.00 for a total of \$150,000.00. This should be enough to stabilize the structure and prevent further deterioration. VID has also embarked on a campaign to raise an additional \$200,000.00 to \$300,000.00 to fully restore the site which includes the only known hand hewn timber frame barn in San Diego County.

*(continued on next page)*



Photo courtesy of Vista Irrigation District

*continued from front page*



BUILT IN 1857 BY VINCENTA CARILLO, A PROMINENT early Californio woman rancher, the adobe served as the Butterfield Stage Stop from 1858 until the beginning of the Civil War in 1861. As California's first regular overland transcontinental stage connection with St. Louis, this pioneering stage route ran along the Missouri Trail. The trail was the most Southerly and only all-weather route to California. Built directly beside the emigrant trail, it figured prominently in the settler's diaries as their first glimpse of the promised land, the first well watered valley to be encountered after crossing

the Great Southwestern Deserts. The historic setting has changed very little from the time of the great western migration and presents a rare opportunity to experience the past.

The adobe maintains a high degree of integrity including a great deal of its historic fabric including the original fireplace mantle, much woodwork, vigas (ceiling beams) and remains of its muslin ceiling cloths.

VID will be looking for artifacts, historic photos and period furnishings for the adobe once it is restored. If you can help with the fundraising or other donations please contact SOHO, or Adrian Vargas at The San Diego Foundation (619) 235-2300, or C.J. Lucke at VID (760) 806-3162.

SOHO is pleased to have been able to remove this property from the Most Endangered List this time the right way.



Photos courtesy of Vista Irrigation District

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HERITAGE  
ORGANISATION**

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Reflections

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**P r e s i d e n t ' s M e s s a g e**

ERIK HANSON

AS WITH A CERTAIN OTHER RECENTLY ELECTED PRESIDENT, you may be wondering exactly how I came to be here and writing this column. With the increased number of projects taken on by SOHO, especially the operation of the Whaley House Museum, it became necessary for us to quickly take on an experienced person for SOHO's Executive Director. Bruce Coons, my able predecessor, resigned as president to take that position. As I had served two terms as vice president and several terms on the board of directors, my time had come to step up and serve as president. I'd have been foolish to allow myself to move into the presidential slot without someone of Bruce's competency to rely on. Fortunately, the board was able to convince Barry Hager, already serving as a director at large, to step into the vice presidential position. Barry has been doing a tremendous job for SOHO, working on the donation of the Neon Majorette, the Façade Easement, and heading the newly formed Revolving Preservation Fund Committee.

I'm happy to say that for the first time in several years, SOHO has the financial stability to fund the executive director position. Having Bruce on the job, along with Assistant to the Board, Beth Montes, and four paid Whaley House docents, will allow us to catch up with the huge quantity and variety of projects, events, reviews and testimonies we take on. The articles you read in *Reflections* represent just the smallest portion of the work SOHO does.

SOHO is to some a social organization, to others a band of street level activists, to many a group of well informed consultants, and to all a tribal memory of San Diego's past. The Board of Directors and the staff must perform all these roles at once and often pull their own stage curtain as well. I invite you to explore the "other" SOHO from the one you know by becoming a Whaley House volunteer, joining a subcommittee, or even filling our board vacancy.

**Calendar of Meetings**

All members are welcome and encouraged to attend!

**SOHO BOARD MEETINGS**

third Monday of each month

**PRESERVATION ACTION MEETINGS**

first Monday of each month

**EVENTS & EDUCATION MEETINGS**

fourth Monday of each month

# The La Jolla Saga Continues

The following article is from the SOHO newsletter archives, dated August 1977

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This is probably the first time since they were built in 1894 that the Red Rest and Red Roost have sat vacant at the peak of the summer season. These two cottages across the street from the La Jolla Cove are considered good examples of the earliest California Bungalows. They are officially designated historic sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The residents of the Red Rest and Red Roost finished moving out on July 21 and as a parting gesture, gave the cottages a new paint job. The tenants have taken pride in their historic residences and have long wished to

paint them to restore their appearance. The owner, however, has threatened eviction in the past if the cottages should be painted. With eviction upon them and nothing to lose, the departing residents gave the cottages their first full coat of red paint since the 1950's, in hopes of calling public attention to their worthiness of preservation. The paint was provided by the La Jolla Committee of the Save Our Heritage Organisation (SOHO).

The owner of the cottages, Jack Heimburge, has been denied a demolition permit by the Coastal Commission and admits no specific plans for the cottages except to use them for

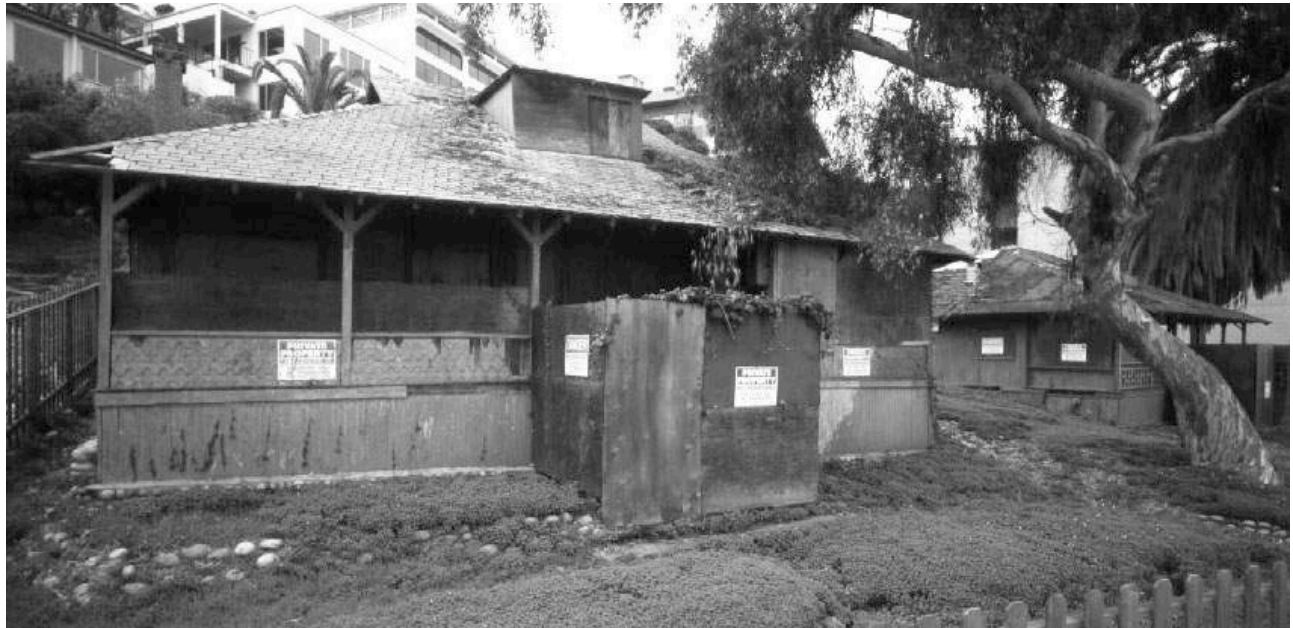


Photo: Douglas Keister © 1999

storage for his new construction project at the south end of the Cove Motel. The cottages will apparently remain vacant for an indefinite period of time, and it can only be hoped that Mr. Heimburge will not let the condition of the cottages deteriorate. His installation of lighting around the buildings and fire detection devices is encouraging.

SOHO's La Jolla Committee, headed by Tony Ciani, is drawing up a list of alternatives in

order to discuss with Mr. Heimburge priorities for developing his property considering the owner's economic needs and the community's need to retain these charming reminders of La Jolla's beginnings. SOHO hopes to assist Mr. Heimburge in developing a project that would incorporate preservation of the cottages through adaptive re-use. The La Jolla Committee can make available to the owner the technical know-how to carry off a successful preservation (*continued on next page*)

(continued) project in terms of development possibilities and utilization of the financial benefits of historic designation, such as grants-in-aid, exterior easements, income tax reforms and property tax breaks.

SOHO's La Jolla Committee has led the efforts to save the Red Rest and Red Roost for almost

three years. "Although the cottages have been vacated," Tony says, "we've reached a plateau where the need for retaining the cottages has been recognized by the Coastal Commission, and the owner says he is willing to sit down and discuss development alternatives that include preservation."

Editor's Note-

**HERE WE ARE TWENTY-FOUR YEARS LATER** and find the Red Rest and the Red Roost on SOHO's endangered list still. SOHO has written a letter to the City of San Diego requesting that they implement their new ordinance against demolition by neglect. The letter was sent in August and as of this date, the City has not responded. Write or call City Hall demanding their attention to this shameful and wanton neglect of these structures. Ask them to act on their own ordinance.

## SOHO's Revolving Preservation Fund

BARRY E. HAGER

Each year in San Diego we witness the loss of more and more of our historic buildings, houses and other structures. This is due sometimes to neglect, but more often to economic pressure to demolish for new development. Once gone, these precious resources can never be regained.

In the never-ending battle to preserve our historic resources against the ever-present threat of destruction, SOHO has established a Revolving Preservation Fund. Through the fund SOHO will purchase an endangered property, take actions to protect and preserve it, and then re-sell the property with restrictive covenants. The proceeds will then be re-used for the next endangered project, thus the term revolving fund.

In a city where the governmental entities charged with protection of historic resources are less and less inclined to enforce their preservation powers, economic incentives often result and even encourage the destruction of historic structures. This Fund will offer SOHO a new and powerful approach to preservation. Similar programs have been used with great success by other preservation organizations, such as Pasadena Heritage and the very successful Preservation North Carolina.

Presently, the Revolving Fund consists of limited monies from SOHO's general operating funds. A serious infusion of more money will be necessary before the Revolving Fund can be utilized for its first project. SOHO welcomes cash donations of any size for the Revolving Fund. Please make checks payable to SOHO, and specify that the donation is for the Revolving Fund. Send checks to Save Our Heritage Organisation, P.O. Box 3429, San Diego, CA 92163.

CONGRATULATIONS TO SOHO BOARD MEMBER, PETER JANOPAUL, on his appointment to the San Diego Unified Port District Commission. Peter is a preservation developer, known for his community involvement, whose clear vision will bring direction and strength to the port that they will surely appreciate.

# Update on The Whaley House

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BRUCE D. COONS

ON NOVEMBER 21<sup>ST</sup> we took over operation of the Whaley House and have been very pleased with the operation so far. We have started to realize some of the goals for SOHO's operation of the Museum, although we are constrained by not being able to make any substantive changes until the resolution of the court case between the county and the Historic Shrine Foundation. The court date has been pushed out and we do not know when it will finally go to court, but we expect it to be resolved by end of March or April.

We have hired docents, Mary Wendorf, Martin Wolfe, Christopher Pro, Victor Santana, and Troy Jordan, and have over forty volunteer docents including many long-term SOHO and Historic Shrine Foundation members. We applied and received grants from the California Council of the Humanities for their Chautauqua programs and will be presenting these programs in March and April. We have also joined the Old Town Trolley's Ghosts and Gravestones Tour along with the San Diego Historical Society. This partnership is, as we expected, a great success for all concerned as there was a great pent up demand to see the Whaley House after dark.

The Garden committee is developing the interpretive and use plan that will guide the future of the grounds. Our membership is increasing daily. SOHO, in its new role as museum steward, is being well received by the public. The Steering committee is virtually bursting with wonderful plans to be started as soon as our hands are free.

This is a very exciting time in SOHO's and the Whaley House's history. It has been interesting sorting between the history and the folklore of the site. A timely article from the National Trust for Historic Preservation on the subject is reprinted in this issue. Kathy Flanigan has completed a 19-page timeline history of the house to enable us to more accurately interpret the History of the Whaley family and their home. She is currently working on the History of the Folklore.

## **WHALEY HOUSE MUSEUM**

**HOURS OF OPERATIONS  
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**10AM - 4:30PM • CLOSED TUESDAYS  
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**GROUP TOURS OR SPECIAL EVENTS  
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**2482 SAN DIEGO AVENUE  
OLD TOWN SAN DIEGO 92110**

## Whaley House Garden Restoration Project

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JESSICA MCGEE

What did Mrs. Whaley's garden look like? What plants did she grow and why? How can we best present the historic aspects of these gardens to our visitors today? The newly-formed Whaley House Garden Committee is answering these and many other related questions.

Having determined the period of significance for the gardens as the 1850's through the 1880's, and set major goals for the space, the project is currently in the research and evaluation phase. Can you help us? We have always found our members to be a tremendous resource in any historical data collection effort in the past. Anyone with information regarding the Whaley House gardens, such as: old photographs, vintage postcards, etc., please call the SOHO office at 619-297-9327 or send us an email at [sohosandiego@earthlink.net](mailto:sohosandiego@earthlink.net).

# Haunted Houses: Preservation Help or Horror?

*Reprinted courtesy of National Trust for Historic Preservation*

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BYRD WOOD

Ask a child to draw a haunted house and chances are you'll get turrets, gothic arches, and a steep pointy roof. Go to see a scary movie and you can be sure that when the climactic stabbing, choking, or hanging finally occurs, it takes place in an older house, most likely a Victorian mansion or gothic castle. The House of Horrors at the state fair? An old decrepit house.

Almost a year ago, I read an article in the *Minnesota Preservationist*, published by the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota, about haunted houses in movies. The author, Ann Miller, wondered if so-called haunted houses are a boon or bane to historic preservation. She writes: "The people-interesting mansion in *The Haunting* and the horrifying hovel at the end of the *Blair Witch Project* do old houses a grave disservice: Such movies give filmgoers the impression that old houses tend to serve as repositories for evil spirits."

After listing other historic houses seen in horror movies, such as the creepy New York apartment building of *Rosemary's Baby* (1968) and the opulent Louisiana plantation of *Hush, Hush, Sweet Charlotte* (1964), she adds: "A good example of how historic architecture can serve vividly as a walking, talking character is Norman Bates' Victorian monstrosity in *Psycho* (1960). Could the movie have been half as effective if his residence had been a tract house?"

Yet, Miller points out, so-called haunted houses can subtly encourage historic preservation. In fact, rumors of a ghostly presence can bring a certain distinction to a historic house. Even if a visitor, generally of the younger variety, is bored to tears by the lecture of the tour leader at a historic site, he or she will perk up at stories of sightings of a previous resident who came to a ghastly end, of sounds of weeping from a vacant bedroom or music playing in the empty ballroom, or of candles blowing out on a calm evening.

Visitors to the hotels that are members of the National Trust Historic Hotels of America, a collection of 140 historically significant hotels, are usually intrigued by stories of some of the more unusual hotel "guests". For example you check into room 3502 at the Hotel Del Coronado in Coronado, California, you might share a room with Kate Morgan, a young woman who died mysteriously at the hotel in 1892 while waiting to reunite with her estranged husband. Since her tragic end, witnesses have been puzzled by odd noises, spirited breezes, strange faces and the ghostly figure of a young lady in a black lace dress.

Old buildings come with a past. That past may be an important event found in history books or it may be just a rumor fueled by late night ghost stories. But either way, hearing such stories can help us feel more personally connected to a building's history and to the people who were a part of it. Preservationists are accustomed to being "haunted" by the past. We should celebrate any ghosts that make that past more vivid and compelling for others.

## Historic Façade Easement Program Provides Substantial Tax Benefits

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BARRY E. HAGER

How can the owner of an historic building assure that his or her property will be preserved for the future and obtain a significant tax benefit at the same time? The answer is to donate a preservation easement to a tax-exempt charitable organization, such as SOHO.

An easement is simply an agreement between a property owner *(continued on next page)*

(the grantor) and the holder of the easement (the grantee) which transfers some interest or right to the property short of outright ownership. Common examples of easements are rights-of-way, access easements or utility easements. The grantor still owns the property, subject to the rights conferred upon the grantee.

In the context of easements for preservation purposes, there are significant tax benefits available to a property owner. Under federal tax law, an owner is allowed to take a charitable contribution deduction for federal income, estate and gift tax purposes for the value of an easement donated to a tax-exempt charitable organization for defined conservation purposes. Such conservation purposes include the preservation of an historically important land area or a certified historic structure. If the donation meets the criteria, the owner gets a charitable deduction equal to the fair market value of the donated interest. State and local property tax benefits also apply to the easement.

The most common type of preservation easement is the exterior or façade easement, which protects the outside appearance of a building. These easements usually control exterior alterations, require proper maintenance of the property and may include rights to open space around the building. A façade easement protects the exterior of the building, while permitting the property owner to have the unfettered use of the building's interior.

There are many advantages to using easements as a preservation tool. Preservation easements can be attractive to the property owner, since the property remains in private hands and the owner enjoys full use of the property, subject only to the restrictions set forth in the easement, while taking a tax deduction equal to the value of the easement donated. For the charitable organization, preservation easements are a low-cost way of protecting valuable historic resources.

As part of its preservation mission, SOHO has a façade easement program in place which already has been used to preserve various historic landmarks, such as the Mission Brewery Plaza. We are actively looking for more candidates for façade easements. If you own or know someone who owns an historic property, is concerned about preserving the historic aspects of the property and could use a significant tax break, please contact our offices. Everybody wins with a preservation easement!

## Volunteer Opportunities

SOHO'S volunteer opportunities are growing as we do. The Year 2001 is busier than ever and the need for SOHO members to make these activities a success has never been greater. Here is your chance to help the preservation cause, have fun and meet new people!

WORKING AT THE WHALEY HOUSE is an interesting and fun experience. Why not volunteer? Just one day a month would be helpful.

CALIFORNIA PRESERVATION FOUNDATION has chosen San Diego as their 2001 convention site and SOHO is co-hosting the event. Dates are May 17 - 20, 2001; help will be needed for the many tours, workshops and events planned.

**Willing to help?**

**Please call (619) 297-9327**

## **Do We Have Your Email Address?**

Please email us at [sohosandiego@earthlink.net](mailto:sohosandiego@earthlink.net) to be sure we have your name on our emailing list. We are presently able to reach over two-thirds of our membership by e-mail and this has been an important asset in time sensitive preservation issues.



# Villa Montezuma Provides Lessons in Color

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BRUCE D. COONS

Recently I had the great pleasure to serve as a consultant to Architect Milford Wayne Donaldson, under Project Architect and SOHO board member David Marshall in the process of completing the Villa Montezuma Treatment Plan.

We thought the process followed in this effort would be of interest as a mini workshop on historic color.

To begin with, the effort was complicated by the fact that the Villa had gone through paint removal several times in the past, down to bare wood, leaving only the smallest fragments of the original pigment and in many instances, none at all.

The available evidence was reviewed, which included paint scrapings, historic photos, books on Victorian color schemes, a previous report by Will Chandler, my own investigations, conversations with people who have worked on the building over the past 30 years, and giving the most weight to the paint analysis by Historic Paint and Architectural Services. A good picture of the original colors began to emerge.

I then reviewed the data against common practice of the time, such as: suggested color schemes for Queen Anne Houses, color affinity charts, and another Queen Anne structure built by the same architects also in 1887. The combination of this material presented a strong case for the most accurate color scheme. There may have been additional colors not yet been found, but all major colors have been identified and placed in appropriate locations. Where not attainable colors were placed according to common practice of the time.

With this basic 1887 color scheme identified, we now have a true and accurate representation of the house as built when Jesse Shepard resided there.

The majority of homes constructed during this period had several basic elements. These were the body, window sash and trim color. Additionally, most had a complementary roof and foundation color. As the architecture increased in complexity, more colors were added as the structure allowed according to the architects and owner's taste. Large Queen Anne's were often among the most highly decorated homes of the 1880s, employing many harmonizing colors.

Identification of the window sash was relatively simple as we have a good record of the succession of paint layers, paint analysis, scrapings, common practice, and visual inspection all had a high degree of correlation. The color found was a deep red, the trim an Olive/Moss Green.

The body is made up of Old Gold on the horizontal and vertical siding and the second color, a medium Terra Cotta, found on the upper shingled portions of the body and behind the moldings and between original shingles. These colors are all consistent with color affiliation charts of the period. There are many period references to this combination of colors recommended for this type of building.

No evidence of the original basement color was found. It appears to be very light in color in the original photos and is assumed to be natural unpainted mortar or painted a very Light Grey. It was quite common in San Diego during this period to leave the stucco coat unpainted and there were numerous examples of this practice. This may have been intended to compliment the natural plaster and inset stone panels located in the upper gable ends of the building.

The Dark Red roof was selected again using historic photos. Dark Red was the most common roof color for a building using the other colors identified. There were no original roofing shingles present to investigate.

*continued from previous page*

The half-timbering color in the upper gable ends was found to be clear varnished redwood. Historic photos confirm our determinations consistent with this data.

The plaster and rock panels appear to be a very Light Grey unpainted plaster with natural-colored rocks inserted. This treatment is common where these plaster panels were used.

The Pale Moss Green ridge cresting and metal ornamentation was chosen by reviewing the historic photos for color value as well as the overall color scheme combined with recommended practice of the time. These elements were rarely painted black and often simulated natural materials, such as: weathered copper.

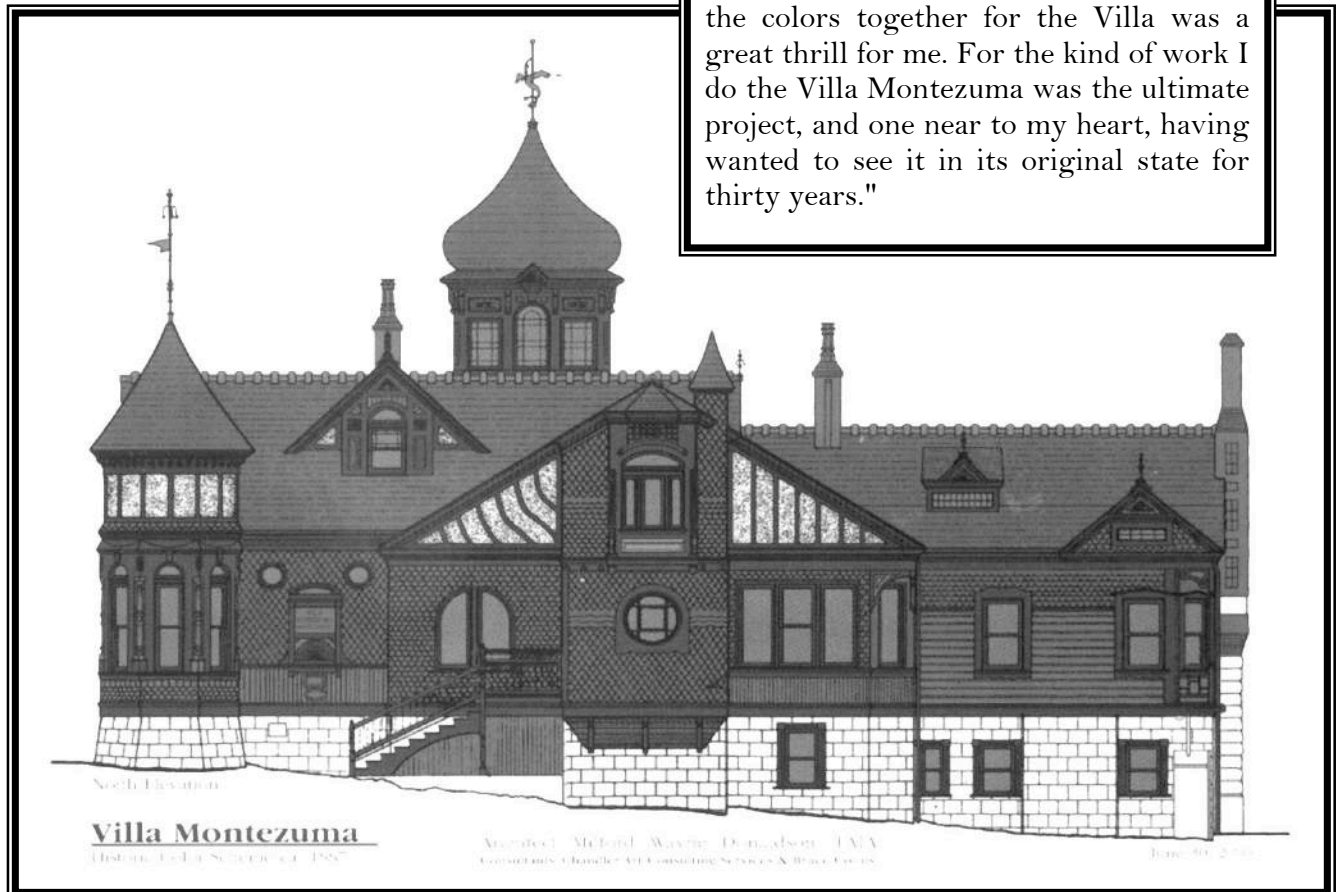
The porch ceiling was painted the traditional Sky Blue, which was found still adhering to the ceiling by scraping. This was the most common color for porch ceilings regardless of the paint scheme for the rest of the house as was Gray the most common color for the porch floors.

The balance of the placement of colors was determined by following recommended practice of the period. Additional accent colors may have been used but they have not been found or clearly indicated as of this date.

These findings present a historic color scheme that is very close to how Shepard's Villa Montezuma appeared in 1887. These colors may seem unusual by contemporary standards, but Jesse's paint scheme was right in line with the best recommended practice for the romantic Queen Anne Revival Architecture of the time.

The Villa should be able to be seen in all her Colorful Victorian Splendor by late spring. Stop by and watch the progress. The Villa Montezuma is located at 1925 "K" Street in Historic Sherman Heights. The Villa will be open during the work on Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 10:00 to 4:30. Admission is \$5.00 for adults. SDHS members free.

Editor's Note - As a historic design and color specialist, Bruce has said "Bringing the colors together for the Villa was a great thrill for me. For the kind of work I do the Villa Montezuma was the ultimate project, and one near to my heart, having wanted to see it in its original state for thirty years."



# Thanks For Your Support!

The SOHO Board and Staff would like to acknowledge and thank the following volunteers, we are so grateful to them. It is only with their dedication and commitment to SOHO's mission to preserve our precious resources and to educate the public to the same ends. that we are able to carry out the heavy work load that our membership has come to expect of us.

Christine Babcock  
Maria Balandran  
Charlie Belach  
Camille Cowlshaw  
Kelly Cox  
Marlo Croce  
Thrisha Donaldson  
Linda Esp  
Albertine Fevrer  
Angela Geis  
Andrea Geron  
Marion Gould  
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Ann McVeagh  
Dick Miller  
Carolyn Mohrlack  
Pat Moore  
Marie Moreno  
Jeslie Moschetti  
Marcia Neil  
Janet O'Day  
Casey O'Hanlon  
Adrina Orton

The opening of the Whaley House has been hugely successful. We have had thousands of visitors from all over the world and our volunteer docents have been there to greet them all. Board members of SOHO attend not only long board meetings, sub-committees, special events and act as advocates at large.

Rickey Owens-Smith  
George Plum  
Maggie Pound  
Bonnie Poppie  
Brandy Ramirez  
Victor Santana  
Christine Saulsbery  
Elizabeth Seibold  
Eve Springfield  
Pauline Stephan  
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Cliff May Homeowners or anyone Interested in the work of Cliff May, please join our informal group when we meet periodically to share information and ideas about the early work of the "Father of the Ranch House." Any questions? Please call Lee & Barbara Roper at (619) 584-6445.



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# California Preservation Foundation

## 26th Annual Conference

May 17-20, 2001 in San Diego

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VONN MARIE MAY

THE STATEWIDE PRESERVATION CONFERENCE that will bring 400 or so preservationists to town is almost here! As conference co-sponsors, SOHO members will be able to take advantage of the CPF membership rate for conference registration. Your registration brochure should be reaching your home or office shortly. Featured in this year's line up of speakers is the Keynote, none other than, Huell Howser, producer and host of the PBS series *California's Gold*, what a treat for attendees at the Plenary Session.

Other great offerings will be the Opening Reception on Thursday evening at the newly reconstructed House of Hospitality with the first ever Neon/Martini tour to follow. A very ambitious tour schedule is being presented by SOHO, covering the Gaslamp, Balboa Park, La Jolla, Coronado, Rancho Santa Fe, Historic Highway 101, Historic Playhouses, California Ranchos, Old Town, Irving Gill and Modernism.

Probably most important, though, are the CES certified educational tracks and sessions:

**NUTS AND BOLTS:** *Preservation Programs for Planners and Activists.*

The latest trends in survey techniques: how to identify and evaluate historic resources, preservation incentives, planning techniques, and legal strategies which have helped to further the cause.

**FUNDRAISING:** *Cash for All Occasions*

Sessions include: *Cultivating Cash*, get professional tips on strategic organizational development; *Bricks and Mortar Funding*, learn how to negotiate to get all types of capital for your favorite preservation project; *Grants for All Occasions*, an interactive workshop with the experts who have money to give away; and *Spectacular Fundraisers Roundtable*, where you can join a discussion of great ideas that generate cash year after year.



**ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY:**

*California's Recent Past*

Focusing on California's and San Diego's Recent Past. Panels will present papers on large public works projects and how they fit in a preservation agenda. Also discussed will be the history of waterfront resources; San Diego's architecture between the wars; and Surf's Up, where boardwalks, roller coasters and seaside amusement parks of the early 20th century join with mid-century surfing icons and Tiki Modern.

**PRESERVATION TOOL KIT:**

*Advanced Preservation Topics*

Topics for the practicing professionals, ie, interpreting the Standards, where you can challenge the staff from SHPO in a lively interactive exchange. HABS/HAER photo documentation techniques for recording historic resources; and the implementation of heritage areas that preserve rural and cultural landscapes.

Each track will have an accompanying mobile workshop. NTC, the Salk Institute, the San Diego Historical Society's Design House, and the Villa Montezuma/House of Hospitality are the best illustrations of the panels being provided.

Visit [www.californiapreservation.org](http://www.californiapreservation.org) for more information.

# History Alive! Chautauqua

## Performances by Los Californios and historic presentations of Antonio Garra and Pio Pico

BETH MONTES

Funded in part through a grant from the California Council for Humanities, SOHO is proud to host two performances, one on March 17<sup>th</sup> and the other on April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2001.

As part of the celebration of California's sesquicentennial, the California Council for Humanities created History Alive! Chautauqua to introduce the public to characters whose lives were important during the gold rush era. During a two hour performance, a scholar/actor with in-depth knowledge of his subject, portrays an historic character and then breaks character to offer a modern-day perspective on the life and times of the historical figure.

The first character, Antonio Garra, will be portrayed by actor/historian José Rivera. Antonio Garra, a Cupeno Indian, was a political activist and leader of the 1851 Indian tax revolt in Southern California. He was captured, tried and executed by firing squad. Thomas Whaley was one of his executioners. His grave is located in the Campo Santo graveyard in Old Town.

The second Chautauqua performance is about Pio Pico and will be conducted by the actor/historian Roberto Garza. Pio Pico was born on May 5, 1801 at the San Gabriel Archangel Mission. At the time of his birth,

his father was a corporal in the San Diego garrison. Upon the death of his father, the 19-year-old Pio opened a small store in San Diego in an effort to support his mother and nine brothers and sisters. He was the last Mexican Governor of California. During his tenure, he moved the capital from Monterrey to Los Angeles. After the annexation of California to the United States, he served as a councilman in Los Angeles.

Los Californios, past winners of SOHO's People In Preservation award, will be playing the music of early California before and after each oration. The group is dedicated to the study and performance of songs of the early Californians and is well known throughout the state.

Mark your calendars for March 17<sup>th</sup> and April 14<sup>th</sup> for these exciting performances! Please join us in the gardens at the Whaley House from 1:00-3:00 for the first of SOHO's living history events.

The Whaley House Museum will be open that day from 10am to 4:30pm. If you have not had a chance to visit the museum, plan to set aside some time to go through it before or after the performances. Remember that one of the benefits of SOHO membership is free admission to the museum.

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## Fool's Fair • AN 1890'S VICTORIAN DAY IN THE PARK!

Presented by San Diego County Parks Society • Old Town San Diego Chamber of Commerce • Old California Gazette • Congress of History • SOHO

1890's Swimsuit Beauty Walk • Longest Hair • Best Mustache • Time Tunnel • Best Burper • Puddin' Eatin' • Relay Races • Oh Baby, Baby Buggy Race • Old McDonald Singing Contest • Bake Sale • Storytelling • Victorian Cards • Pet Adoptions • Balloons • Antique Cars • Train Exhibit • Historic Quilters • Costumed Docents • Book Fair • Woodcrafting • Stitchcrafting • Doll Doctor • Historic Photos • Taffy Pulling • Victorian Vendor & Exhibit Booths

**Sunday, April 1, 2001, 10am- 5pm, in Heritage Park, Old Town San Diego**

For more information, call Karen Spring at Old Town Gazette, (619) 491-0099

# The Binational Preservation Front

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MARIA CASTILLO-CURRY

The Mexico-US border is a unique area with its trans-border culture and is characterized by the Americanization of Mexico and the Latinization of the United States. Daily thousands of people move from one country to the other, bringing with them their traditions and imprinting their culture on the regional landscape. The effects of this flux on the built environment raises many issues. Bungalows, trailer parks and some of the roadside architecture in the north of Mexico are considered alien to the rest of the nation and as such receive little protection. In addition, many Mexican-Americans consider that the past they should protect is not in the US, but only in their parent's land.

In recent years, preservationists have been working together to reach a more unified approach to their common heritage. The decentralization of public administration and the creation of the state preservation law in Baja California are important steps in that direction. The first cultural district, whose principles were inspired by concepts in the US, will soon be declared by the governor of Baja California. The Missions have been the focus of combined binational efforts to adequately interpret our heritage.

In 1998, the binational SS Catalina preservation Association (SSCPA) was created to save the famous White Steamer and it also promotes new ways of cooperation and education through preservation. In 1998 and 1999, SOHO, together with El Colegio de la Frontera Norte (COLEF), held binational workshops on maritime preservation in Tijuana. Following these trends, the Tijuana Cultural Center (CECUT) created El Museo de las Californias and recently added to its council SOHO past president Robert Broms. just as five years prior, SOHO had begun binational workshops and included the first Mexican National on their Board of Directors. In 2000, SOHO participated in the binational conferences, Tendencias Regionales de la Preservación de la Herencia Cultural de las

Californias organized at CECUT with COLEF creating opportunity for interaction between preservationists and scholars. These conferences created great enthusiasm for many people who see preservation with a regional vision.

Juan Cabuto, administrator for the Society of History in Tijuana has been working with COLEF to form the Fundación Aficionados a los Ferrocarriles de Baja California, a grassroots organization which will soon be looking into the care of the Tijuana and Tecate railroad. Those interested can attend their March 10<sup>th</sup> meeting at 12 pm at the Society of History in Tijuana. Railroad fans from the US and Mexico will be participating. The San Diego Railroad Museum has invited this new association to take part in their meetings. As part of the effort to preserve the railroad, a trip to Tecate, Baja California to clean the depot is planned for March 24<sup>th</sup>.

Recently SOHO participated in a binational panel in Los Angeles for the National Trust where attendees expressed interest in future conferences addressing international topics.

Martha Edna Castillo Sarabia, a leader of the preservation movement in Ensenada, has been working with SOHO and the International Council of Monuments and Sites in support of the preservation of the Santo Tomas Winery district in Ensenada. She has also recently joined the SS Catalina Preservation association. The Comité Pro-Conservación Bodegas de Santo Tomas headed by Martha is celebrating the first year of their movement on March 31 with a human chain to embrace the main block where the winery buildings are located.

To further the preservation movement we need to create a new academic framework. In that regard, SOHO is addressing the need of a binational preservation program and will continue to keep members current on this preservation movement in both Californias.

# Frente de la Preservación Binacional

MARÍA CASTILLO-CURRY

LA FRONTERA ENTRE MÉXICO y los Estados Unidos es un área única con una cultura regional trans-fronteriza. Miles de personas se mueven diariamente de un país a otro llevando consigo sus tradiciones e imprimiendo su cultura en el paisaje regional. Los efectos de este flujo migratorio en el medio ambiente construido ocasionan temas binacionales. Los bungalows, trailer parks y la arquitectura de las carreteras que se encuentran en el norte de México se consideran extraños al resto de la nación y por lo tanto obtienen poca protección. Además de esto, muchos de los México-Americanos consideran que el pasado que deberían proteger no está en los Estados Unidos, sino en la tierra de sus padres.

En los últimos años, preservadores han trabajado juntos tratando de alcanzar una forma más unificada de aproximar su pasado común. La descentralización de la administración pública y la creación de la ley estatal en Baja California son pasos importantes en esa dirección. El primer distrito cultural, cuyos principios están inspirados en conceptos estadounidenses, será declarado por el gobernador de Baja California. Las misiones han sido el foco de los esfuerzos de las instituciones en ambos lados de la frontera, las cuales quieren interpretar adecuadamente esta herencia binacional.

En 1998, la asociación binacional SS Catalina Preservation Association (SSCPA) fue creada con el propósito de salvar el famoso Vapor Blanco y también promover nuevas formas de cooperación binacional y educación a través de la preservación en la región fronteriza. En 1998 y 1999, SOHO conjuntamente con el Colegio de la Frontera Norte (COLEF), llevó a cabo talleres binacionales en preservación marítima en Tijuana. Siguiendo estas tendencias, el Centro Cultural Tijuana (CECUT), creó el Museo de las Californias y agregó a su consejo, al ex-presidente de SOHO, Robert Broms así como hace cinco años SOHO empezó a dar talleres binacionales.

En el 2000, SOHO participó en las conferencias binacionales "Tendencias Regionales de la Preservación de la Herencia Cultural de las

Californias" organizada en el CECUT conjuntamente con COLEF brindando oportunidad para la interacción entre los preservadores y los académicos. Estas conferencias crearon un gran entusiasmo en muchas personas que quieren abordar la preservación con una visión regional.

Juan Cabuto, el administrador de la Sociedad de Historia de Tijuana ha estado trabajando conjuntamente con COLEF para formar la Fundación Aficionados a los Ferrocarriles de Baja California, una nueva organización que pronto se hará cargo del ferrocarril Tijuana-Tecate. Aquellas personas interesadas en atender la reunión de Marzo 10 a las 12:00 del medio día pueden acudir a la Sociedad de Historia de Tijuana. Los aficionados al ferrocarril de los Estados Unidos y México estarán participando. El Museo del Ferrocarril es de San Diego, ha invitado a miembros de esta nueva asociación a participar en sus reuniones. Como parte de los esfuerzos para preservar el ferrocarril, se ha planeado un viaje a Tecate, Baja California en Marzo 24 para limpiar la estación.

Martha Edna Castillo Sarabia, una líder del movimiento de preservación de Ensenada, ha trabajado conjuntamente con SOHO y el Comité Mexicano del Consejo Internacional de Monumentos y Sitios (ICOMOS) en apoyo a la preservación del distrito Bodegas de Santo Tomas. Martha se ha unido recientemente como asesora a la SS Catalina Preservation Association (SSCPA). El Comité Pro-Conservación Bodegas de Santo Tomas encabezado por Martha Edna celebrará su primer año el 31 de Marzo con una cadena humana que abrazará la manzana principal que alberga los edificios del conjunto.

Con el fin de lograr un verdadero movimiento de preservación binacional, necesitamos trabajar en la creación de un nuevo marco académico. En este sentido de SOHO están discutiendo la necesidad de un programa de preservación binacional.

SOHO continuará informando a los miembros sobre lo que sucede con el movimiento de preservación en las dos Californias.

# SOHO's 2001 People In Preservation Awards

EVERY YEAR DURING National Historic Preservation Week, May 13-19, SOHO recognizes local preservation by holding its annual People In Preservation Awards.

We also bring attention at this time to our region's still threatened sites by announcing SOHO's Eleven Most Endangered List.

This year as SOHO is co-sponsoring the CPF Conference we will be kicking off the week early with our Awards event on Friday, May 11, 2001. Cocktail hour begins at 5:30 followed by the Program beginning at 6:30, so mark your calendar now.

This is going to be an exciting event held at the El Cortez Hotel's Don Room. SOHO board member, Peter Janopaul and partner Anthony Block have graciously donated this year's fabulous location.

This is your opportunity to make your nomination for the person, group, business, organization, or government entity you believe deserves recognition for their accomplishments in preservation, This is your opportunity to make your nomination for the person, group, business, organization, or government entity you believe deserves recognition for their accomplishments in preservation,



Courtesy Coons Collection

## E v e n t s E C a l e n d a r

Antonio Garra & Los Californios performance  
March 17<sup>th</sup> 1:00-3:00  
Whaley House gardens

Fools Fair  
April 1<sup>st</sup> 10-5  
Heritage Park

Pio Pico & Los Californios performance  
April 14<sup>th</sup> 1:00 - 3:00  
Whaley House gardens

People in Preservation Awards  
May 11<sup>th</sup> 5:30  
The El Cortez Hotel

California Preservation Foundation Annual  
Conference  
May 17, 18, 19, 2001

A.J. Croce Solo  
To be announced

Volunteer Appreciation Day  
July 29<sup>th</sup> 2:00-5:00  
The historic D.K.Horton house

Preservation workshop & lecture series  
August, dates to be announced

Arts and Crafts Weekend March 2002



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**Save Our Heritage Organisation**  
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- \$100 EXECUTIVE
- \$50 PROFESSIONAL
- \$25 INDIVIDUAL/  
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- \$10 STUDENT

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Is this a renewal?

Are you interested in helping at SOHO events?

I WOULD LIKE TO HELP WITH:  Tours  Newsletter  Office  
 Membership  Workshops  Other Events