

NOVEMBER 1975



Reflections

Post Office Box 3571, San Diego, Ca. 92103

225-1033

GOLDEN HILLS -

WITHERING HEIGHTS?

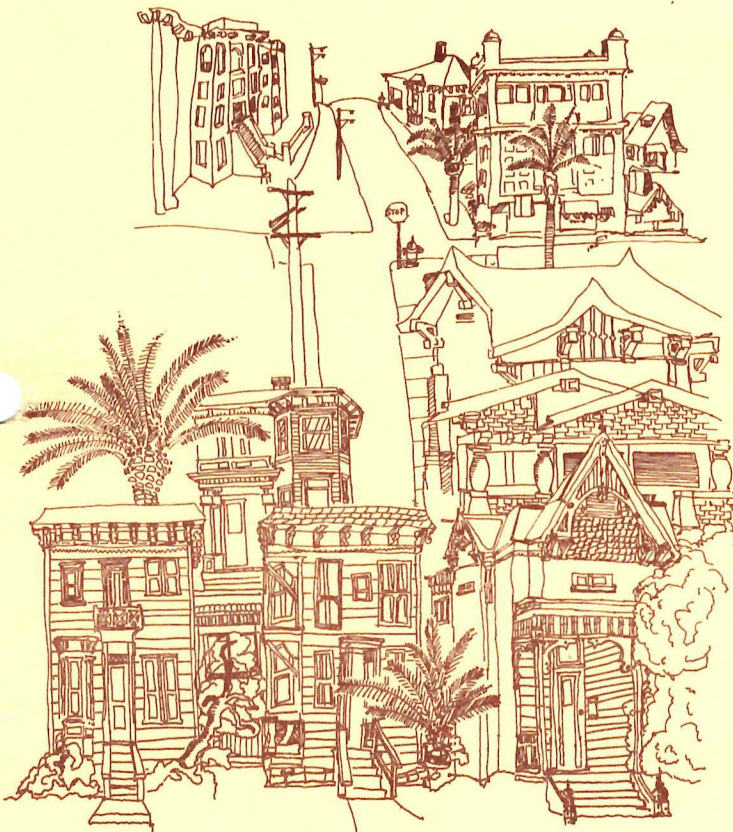
Golden Hills, one of the City's last untouched preserves of Turn-of-the-Century structures, has become the site of quiet deliberations on the fate of future development. Granted authority last year to work with city planners in devising a neighborhood growth strategy, the Golden Hills Precise Planning Organization has taken the first steps towards recognizing and preserving the area's rich architectural heritage.

The Golden Hills Planners have every reason to be optimistic about the eventual outcome of their efforts. Bruce Dammann, a noted architect who has rehabilitated a large bungalow built by the Scripps family, chairs the group's urban design subcommittee. Dammann has brought professional design know-how and contagious energy to group's deliberations.

Another strong base of support has been the area's large minority and low-income population. At first suspicious of the preservationists--on grounds they were elitists who placed structural over social values--minority representatives on the group's executive board now appear convinced that saving the existing housing stock is one of the most realistic alternatives to the potential encroachment of expensive and exclusive high rise development.

Both factions recently co-authored a bid to the City Council for community development block grant funding of a comprehensive preservation program which would allow low-income property owners to upgrade their structures.

Lest false optimism prevail, the City bureaucracy is still pondering the fate of money for Golden Hills and the planning group itself is fraught with uncertainty over ways to devise a program of developmental regulations and incentives in keeping with the area's unique architectural environment. A hoped-for deadline for completion of the precise plan has been set for early next year, meanwhile Golden Hills residents who are interested in the planning process are encouraged to contact the City Planning Department, 202 C Street, for further details.



A Holiday Open House

A cordial invitation has been extended to all SOHO members by the Glass Gallery. You have seen the Gallery's stained glass work displayed during our National City Tour and at the Francis Family Antique Complex. During this weekend you will have the opportunity to purchase some of their display pieces from 1975 at a reduced rate as well as to take advantage of the Gallery's special selection of expertly handcrafted holiday gift items... reasonably priced from \$2 to \$25.

A Friday night reception from 6:00 until 10:00 will kick off the weekend. The open house will continue Saturday and Sunday from 11:00 a. m. until 10:00 p. m. The festivities will be held at the Glass Gallery, 2727 Adams Avenue (at the corner of Adams and Idaho) the weekend of December 5th, 6th and 7th.

AS AN EXTRA ADDED ATTRACTION a floral motif, leaded glass window will be raffled during the weekend. All proceeds from the raffle will be donated to SOHO...HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!



TOUR GUIDES

SOHO has always been very much involved in opening up San Diego's historical treasures to its citizens and visitors. In an effort to do this, we have an on-going tour guide program. We are now again opening our guide-training activity to increase our core group of informed SOHO guides. This is one of the most enjoyable and rewarding aspects at becoming involved in SOHO. If you would like to become one of these key individuals, please call SOHO's number, 225-1033, and leave a message with our answering service.



Recycled Era

The following are excerpts from a recent article in the S. D. Daily Transcript by Denise A. Carabet:

Los Altos - When a savings and loan with an "out-of-town" name, like San Diego Federal, makes a break into a Northern California market, like Los Altos, how does it go about endearing those residents to it?

By purchasing its circa 1913 train depot, refurbishing it to bygone grandeur and then throwing a party for the leading citizens, all potential depositors--but with discreet good taste.

Between munches of fresh fruit and cheese, Los Altos' former mayor confided, "It's wonderful that the savings and loan did this. The city sure didn't have the money to put into the depot."

The bungalow-type commuter station and two cars--one caboose and one exquisite old parlor car with sculptured ceiling--was brimming with Los Altos citizens, San Diego Federal personnel, media and even a Federal Home Loan Bank representative or two, at Thursday's welcoming party. The S&L branch opened for business last Monday.

Los Altos residents, who could very accurately be compared with La Jolla residents, delighted in relating tales about the old station, and nostalgically outlined trips taken from the one-time commuter port.

San Diego Federal's architects built a porch-like front on the building, although originally the only ornamentation was on the track side, not the street. Cream colored walls and unfinished beams still dominate the room, and tellers peer through old brass wire mesh ticket cages at customers who tread on Chinese red carpeting. In the waiting area, the floorboards are rough and unfinished. Behind the manager's imposing antique desk is a storeroom marked "baggage."

The caboose will also be used for branch storage, but the parlour car will be given over to the community for a meeting place.

NEWS FLASH!

LABOR UNION PLANS DESTRUCTION OF MANSION

Lending immediacy to the preservation concerns of Golden Hill residents is the impending demolition of the noted Patrick Martin house at 25th & E Streets. A spokesperson for the Shipwright and Boat Builders Local 1300, AFL-CIO says the Union is cramped for space at its present headquarters and "the bulldozers would be at work tomorrow" at

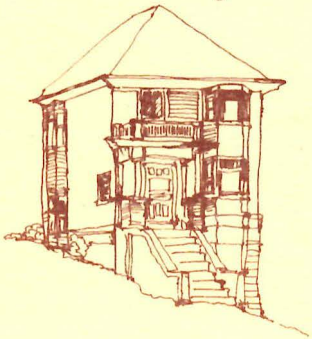
the Martin site if not for financial commitments the Union has made in connection with a shipyard strike. Current plans call for demolition of the house in less than a year and the construction of a concrete block Union Hall on the property.

Members of the community have complained that the Union has been unresponsive to their plea for preservation and re-use of the structure, but efforts are in progress to arrange further discussion of the issue.

Thumbnail Tour:

GOLDEN HILLS

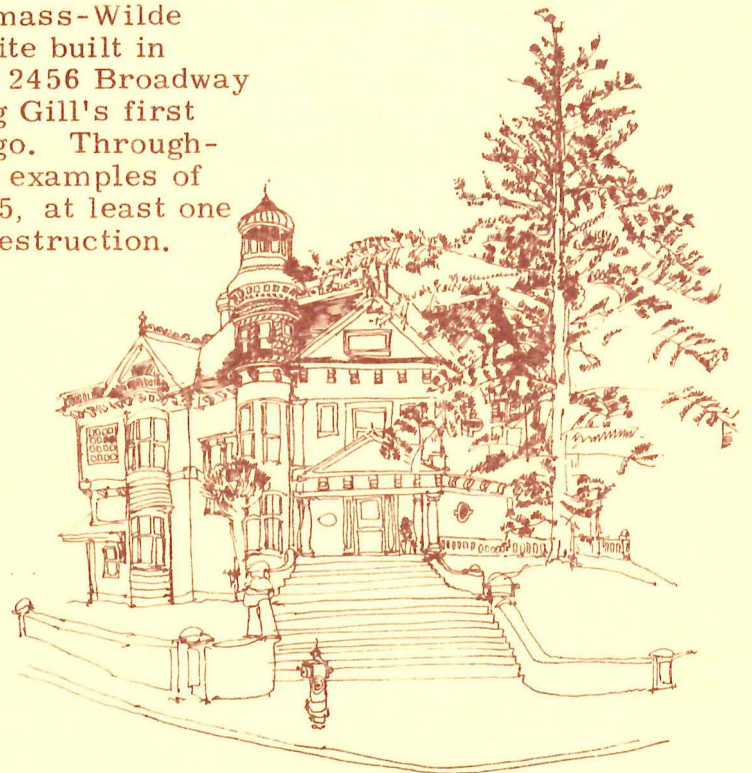
Golden Hills is a predominantly residential neighborhood on the south-east border of Balboa Park. Three styles of housing representing approximately 30 years of developmental history are found. Begin the tour at the corner of 20th and Broadway and notice a number of small Victorian houses as well as an Oriental pattern bungalow. Move east along Broadway to 23rd St., and the Haywood-Patterson house, a city historical landmark now being exhaustively renovated by a private party.



777 20th STREET
20th & Broadway

At 24th, find the Quartermass-Wilde house, another historic site built in 1896. Down the street at 2456 Broadway is the Frost house, Irving Gill's first design project in San Diego. Throughout this neighborhood are examples of large mansions circa 1895, at least one of which is in danger of destruction.

Proceed north and east through the community to the area of 28th Street and the Park. Many of San Diego's finest bungalows are located here, and the noted "Craftsman" style popular at the turn of the century is clearly apparent. For further information on design influences in Golden Hills, the following material is helpful: "Whithering Heights" by Clare Crane, San Diego Magazine, March 1971. Building With Nature, by Leslie Freudenheim, Peregrine-Smith, 1974.



New Members

Joining our ever-growing ranks in the month of October:

Richard & Natalie Mates

M. John McDonough

Milton & Jean Creek

Robert & A. Crotean

Alexander & Lorraine Doig

Mrs. David Allen

Mr. & Mrs. John L. Bell

Roger Bignell (Bignell Construction
& Development Company)

Sherman Storr

Martha Wilkins

Jean B. Woodward

Emilie C. Duggan

M. J. Graham

Evelyn R. Hessling

Karen Hughes

Terry J. Horton

Tara J. M. Kryzywicki

Mark Elliott Lugo

Mrs. Henry C. Milam, Sr.

Lynn C. Naibert

Patricia L. Porter

Joseph F. Rice

R. J. & Barbara Seymour

Daniel & Jane Schaffer

Joe Sherman

Dale & Maryolive Shoup

Douglas Sirkegian

E. Al & Pearl Slayen

Steve & Susan Smith

Judy A. Spratt

Mrs. William D. Stemple

We extend a sincere word of welcome to all of you, and cordially hope you will become actively involved in all the activities within our dynamic organization. Just call 225-1033 and leave your name and number if you are interested in helping.

Membership

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Zip Code _____ Phone _____

I am interested in joining an action group. Please contact me !

Tax Exempt Status

SOHO is exempt from Federal Income Tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and has been classified by the I.R.S. as a charitable, educational organization.

SOHO

Post Office Box 3571
San Diego Ca. 92103

NONPROFIT ORG.

U. S. POSTAGE

PAID

SAN DIEGO, CALIF.

PERMIT NO. 984

Address Correction Requested