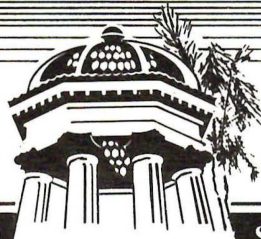


# Reflections



on the Past 20 Years

Volume XXI No. 1 March 1989

Save Our Heritage Organisation

## SOHO looks back at its work with the San Diego Rowing Club 1974-1980

The San Diego Rowing Club celebrated its centennial last year -- but this water-front historic treasure was nearly lost to our city in the early seventies. In the Port Commission's redevelopment of the harbor, they balked at renewing the Rowing Club's lease on the site. Membership -- divided about continuing in that location or relocating on Mission Bay--lacked resources for restoration and faced the uncertainty caused by the battle for their lease with the Port Commission.

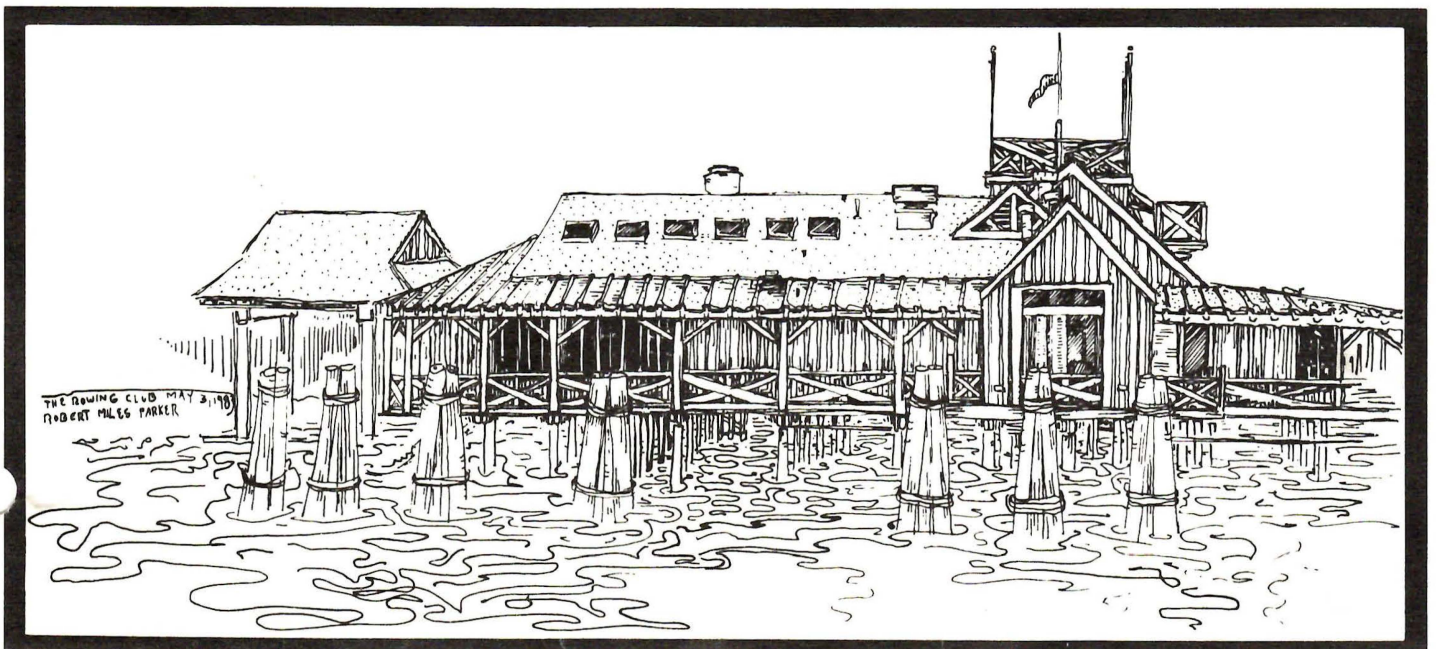
Thanks to the monumental efforts of a small group of concerned citizens, this preservation effort was successful. Pat Schaelchlin, former SOHO President was at the forefront of the campaign to preserve the Rowing Club on that site. She did the research for site designation and the property was so designated by the City Historic Site Board.

**San Diego Rowing Club**  
(continued on page 6)

### Inside this issue:

- o Harfield Timberlake Christian House's upcoming celebration
- o Preservation Politics: A return to the dark ages for San Diego preservationists?  
*How you can prevent this from happening*

Artwork below from "The Little Clubhouse on Steamship Wharf" by Patricia A. Schaelchlin, Rand Editions, 1984



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# Reflections

Page 2

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## *Reflections*

Celebrating 20 years  
of active preservation  
in San Diego  
*Save Our Heritage  
Organisation*

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Diego County.

Save Our Heritage Organisation is a  
member of:

- California Preservation Founda-  
tion
- National Trust for Historic Preser-  
vation
- San Diego Historical Society

## Now accepting nominations for people in preservation

This May SOHO hosts its  
annual People in Preserva-  
tion Awards. It is held each  
year during National Histor-  
ic Preservation Week. At  
this ceremony, SOHO hon-  
ors individuals who have  
contributed to the historic  
preservation of our commu-  
nities throughout San Diego  
County. Now is the time to

nominate those person or  
persons of your choice -  
people you feel made a sig-  
nificant preservation/  
restoration effort this past  
year.

Please call or write the  
SOHO offices for nomina-  
tion forms - help us recog-  
nize and encourage "People  
in Preservation"!

## 1988 People in Preservation

Angeles Liera

Preservationist of the  
Year

Lakeside Historical Society  
Community Award

Kathy Flannigan

Leadership in  
Preservation

Marcella Williams  
Residential Award

Robert Young

Volunteer of the Year

Cal. State Parks and Rec.  
Cultural Resources  
Conservation Award

Jim Gibson & Assoc.

Artists and Craftsmen  
Craftsman Award

The Watt's Bldg/  
Horton Plaza Hotel  
Adaptive Reuse Award

The City of Carlsbad  
Civic Award

## Preservation Politics

Your help is needed immediately to ensure that San Diego preservation moves forward, not back

It's not surprising to note that preservation issues are not being sufficiently addressed through current means. Recently, the City Planning Department began reviewing and revising the General Plan for San Diego (the document that defines City goals and operations).

In their reappraisal, not surprisingly, they found a deficiency within the Cultural Resources Management element of the City's general plan (the Progress Guide and General Plan).

This revelation creates an opportunity and risk. THE

For a copy of the proposed ordinance contact the Urban Conservation section of the Planning Dept 236-6160.

RISK being that preservation efforts could be made more difficult with historic designation given only to those owners wholly in favor of such a designation.

THE OPPORTUNITY -- to create a stronger historic management element within the city's plan (again, the Progress Guide and General Plan) -- for the first time in 20 years!

A new ordinance has been proposed by the City's Historical Sites Board. It would expand the role of the Sites Board -- providing greater protection for historical re-

If you have any questions concerning the ordinance, call Ron Buckley-- 533-3694 or the SOHO office at 297-9327.

sources.

SOHO SUPPORTS STRENGTHENING THE CITY'S CURRENT PRESERVATION ORDINANCE AND ASKS YOU TO AS WELL.

Please express your support -- come to the workshop for this ordinance, Thursday, April 27th, 1:30PM, before the Planning Commission. Come state any concerns or write each member of the commission stating your support of a stronger preservation ordinance. Address all letters to:

Janet McFarlen, Sec. to the Planning Commission, City Administration Bldg. "4A",

## News from throughout the

"Plans for city purchase of the North Park Theatre were dealt a severe blow . . . when the city manager's office contended that the benefits of the purchase are outweighed by the costs. "

" . . . it would cost \$3.7 million to refurbish the theater, plus \$180,000 . . . to keep it going {annually} . . . but operation of the center would bring [only] \$230,000 a year [in economic benefits to North Park businesses . . . "

". . . recommended that \$1.1 million in . . . funds earmarked for the theater be released for other unspecified projects."

"The report will be discussed by the City Council Public Facilities and Recreation Committee on March 8th.

*The SD Union*

"North Park Theater purchase opposed in city manager report"

By Michael Abrams  
January 7, 1989

" . . . the decorative facade was torn off the Egyptian Court Apartments last November, a group of astonished onlookers stood on Park Blvd. and . . . [asked how this could be happening?] . . . for more than a year the city . . . has had an eye toward making it an official historical district. The area, which centers around Park Blvd and University Ave. . . . If passed, [this] would curtail the demolition or alteration of certain structures [there]."

"35 properties have been identified . . . most of them on [this] block."

*Reader*

"This place is history"

February 2, 1989

Page 5

**If you come across any articles about San Diego preservation issues - Please send them to SOHO, P.O. Box 3571, SD CA 92103**

" . . . city bureaucrat charged with its care . . . calls it 'an ideal location' . . . 18 acres of publicly owned property right on the ocean, . . . South Mission Beach . . . home to Belmont Park . . .

"In the 50's, the park went to pot . In the mid-80's, the City Council tried to reverse the neglect . . . The deal went bad, . . ."

". . . the council [signed] a sweetheart deal and forfeited its duty to protect the public interest. "

". . . boosters maintained the \$18-million complex would be a boon to the city . . . but in the first seven months of operation . . . gross receipts of only \$1.7 million [as opposed to the projected \$19] and only 38% of the space occupied . . . [has city council members meeting behind closed doors] . . ."

*LA Times*

"A white elephant at Mission Beach?"

by Anthony Perry  
January 30, 1989

## preservation community

"San Diego County's missions . . . are generally credited as the inspiration for any "mission style" elements that appear . . . Rancho Guajome, a crumbling yet . . . impressive compound of adobes in Oceanside . . . is a little known piece of local history that deserves more [prominence]."

". . . the Guajome ranch has been called the Cadillac of adobes," said Mary Ward, historian for San Diego County, who bought the 165-acre property from descendants of the original owners . . ."

". . . the county recently pitched Guajome to 40 private private foundations and corporations, but received only letters . . . no money . . ."

". . . the outdoor areas are what make this 7,680-foot home sing . . . 22 rooms are

linked by an outdoor covered corridor all around the central courtyard . . ."

"Followers of the work of Irving Gill will feel the architect's roots here . . . to this follower of local architectural history, the fact that Guajome has not been restored sooner seems shocking . . ."

". . . the county is hoping for \$988,000 in state money . . . plus \$400,000 from the recently passed Coastal Park Lands Conservancy Act. Last year \$150,000 came from the state, and the county pitched in \$90,000 . . ."

*LA Times*  
"The Cadillac of Adobes Needs Help"  
Dirk Sutro  
February 2, 1989

". . . This past summer, the Greene & Greene Library opened in its new home at the Virginia Steele Scott Gallery at the Huntington Library. "

" Among the treasures to be found . . . photographs, rare sketches by Charles Greene, and fascinating books."

The Greene & Greene Library is staffed from 1 to 4 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Early in 1989, the Dorothy Brown Wing will be completed . . . featuring the most extensive G&G furniture collection available to the public . . . call (818) 793-3334 for more information.

from the Society of Architectural Historians  
*"News"*  
Vol. 12, Number 2

## Datebook

Through March 31 "The Lost Architecture of Kiev",  
UCSD Founder's  
Gallery, noon to five pm  
weekdays. For more info  
call 260-4600, ext. 4486.

March 10 Art Deco Society  
Seven-thirty pm,  
Silvergate Masonic Temple

March 15 Historic Sites Board  
and April 19 Monthly meeting,  
one pm  
at 202 'C' St.

April 3 SOHO Board of Directors  
Monthly meeting begins at  
six pm in Senlis Cottage  
Heritage Park. The public  
is welcome.

## Arts & Crafts Architecture April walking tour

On April 1, 2, and 3 the San Diego Historical Society will offer walking tours of the Arts & Crafts architecture at the 3500 block of Seventh Avenue..

Tours begin at the Marston House at 3525 Seventh Ave. Then viewing the exteriors of six other Irving Gill houses and a tour of the Mary Cossitt house.

Tours are at 10, Noon, and 2 pm, cost \$15 and reservations are a must. Checks to: SDHS-Walking Tour, PO Box 81825, SD 92138 -- give 2 date/time choices and include SASE. Or call 232-6203

## San Diego Rowing Club

(continued from page 1)

Even this major step was fraught with frustration, as the Port Commission in a jurisdictional dispute with the Site Board then refused any lease until the designation was removed.

In March 1980, San Diegans for the Rowing Clubhouse, Inc. was formed with mem-

bers of the Rowing Club, SOHO, and concerned citizens. Pat and Carol Lindemulder appeared before the State Coastal Commission in Newport Beach to assure that the Rowing Club was considered in their Coastal Plan. Appeals were made to The Unified Port Commission to obtain the necessary voter

support. In June 1980, the Chart House, Inc. joined these efforts, bringing the financial support badly needed. Thus the restoration was accomplished.

*The cover sketch is from Pat Schaelchlin's book. Her new book about La Jolla is available at Senllis Cottage.*



Celebrating 100 Years --  
**The  
Harfield  
Timberlake**

As SOHO celebrates its 20th year, the Harfield Timberlake Christian House, home of Lori Chandler's Heritage Park Bed & Breakfast Inn, celebrates its Centennial! Originally built by Harfield for his wife Myrtle in 1889, this beautiful Queen Anne Style Victorian was located at 1940 Third Avenue just north of Horton's "New Town" where its variety of chimneys, shingles, corner tower and encircling veranda establishes the charm of the "Golden Era" in Southern California.

Harfield Christian was the son of southern gentry who came to San Diego after the Civil War and founded what later became TICOR Company. He was one of the

signers of the original city charter.

The home was lovingly restored through the monumental efforts of Lori and her entire family -- mother, sisters and their husbands -- as closely to the original plan as possible.

It is now furnished with an incredible collection of fine Victorian furniture and memorabilia -- enjoyed by San Diego's visitors and residents alike as a living remnant of our history.

It did not reach its current proud state easily.

The meticulous restoration was a monumental job in itself, but equally challenging was the many bureaucratic hurdles which were overcome in a two year struggle in order to arrive at the stage where restoration could finally begin.

Lori Chandler is a fine example of how one person can make a difference -- by having a vision, being persistent and working tirelessly to make that vision a reality. She is an inspiration to all of us who cherish the treasures of our past and wish to preserve the best of it to enrich our present lives. Our thanks to Lori and her family for restoring the Har-

field Timberlake Christian House to such perfect condition for the arrival of this centennial year. It's a wonderful tribute to our city's past.

*Reflections* will keep readers informed of any upcoming celebration activities or events.

## Egyptian District

On February 22, 1989, the Historical Sites Board of the city of San Diego voted 10 to one to designate an "Egyptian Revival Thematic Historical District". This district consists of five examples of the exotic Art Deco architecture still remaining in the City of San Diego. We thank all SOHO members who demonstrated support for designation. However, five buildings in this district are still at risk. The owners of these properties opposed the Site Board action and have indicated their intent to appeal the decision to the San Diego City Council. The council has the power to overturn the designation and dissolve the protection of the district.

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# Reflections

Page 8

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## Historic designation information/materials available

Last August SOHO sponsored a "How To" workshop on the subject of historic designation. In these classes participants were introduced to the process of historic designation. All the materials used were compiled into a booklet which provides information on:

1) sources for local history research for historic designation

2) a list of Cultural Resources and the historic Site Boards of SD County

3) samples of historic resources inventory

4) examples of Historic District designation process

5) outlines for the procedure (provided by the Office of Historic Preserv-

tion Department of Parks and Rec.)

This "How TO" package contains all the information one needs to begin the historic site designation process. It is available at Senlis Cottage and costs \$10. To order your copy, call, write or stop at SOHO's office.



**SOHO**  
Save Our Heritage Organisation

P.O. Box 3571  
San Diego, CA 92103

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# PRESERVING YESTERDAY...FOR TOMORROW

The 14th Annual California Preservation Conference - April 20 - 23, 1989  
at the historic Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles

## Topics to include workshops on:

### **Heritage Promotion, Interpretation, and Education**

Topics include using tourism to promote historic resources, an historic sites roundtable discussion on public relations and constituency development, and sessions on historical interpretation and urban archaeology.

### **Neighborhoods and Small Towns**

Sessions include getting started with neighborhood organizing; cultural resources surveys; using planning and zoning; historic districts (local and National Register); providing affordable housing in old and historic buildings; and infill housing in historic districts.

### **Development and Design**

Sessions include a building codes roundtable, tours to historic theaters and to tax certification projects, landscape restoration and historic landscape design, and additions to historic buildings. Downtown revitalization topics in this track include the National Trust's Main Street program; revitalizing small city downtowns; redevelopment and the Hollywood Boulevard Historic District; and urban main streets in big cities, with case studies of Los Angeles' Broadway and Spring Streets.

### **Preservation Law and Policy**

Topics in this track include updates on

federal and state law, with emphasis on the California Environmental Quality Act; economic incentives; drafting and using local ordinances. A session on effective political action includes the views of political decision-makers and a crisis management workshop.

### **State Office Workshops**

While this year's conference is in Los Angeles, subject matter should appeal to Californians from small towns and rural areas as well as large cities. The State Office of Historic Preservation, a conference co-sponsor, is a major participant in the sessions, presenting updates on the new National Register regulations, cultural resource surveys, certified local governments, and the tax certification program. Staff from the State Office will be available to conference participants in specialized workshops, providing technical assistance in particular areas to more advanced preservationists and professional consultants.

### **Building Los Angeles**

Sessions in this track deal with architectural history, a first for the conference. Workshops will focus on Los Angeles' architectural innovations: the work of Richard Neutra, Frank Lloyd Wright, and Rudolph Schindler; the Fifties and "Case Study Houses," and the Watts Towers.

**If interested please contact our office at 297-9327 for more information**

# **Now Accepting Nominations For People in Preservation**

This May, 1989, SOHO will host its annual *People in Preservation Awards*. This ceremony is held each year during National Historic Preservation Week in May. At this time, SOHO honors individuals who have contributed to the historic preservation of communities throughout San Diego County.

**Now is the time to give us  
nominations for:**

- 1) Persons you may know about (or are involved with) who have made important contributions.
- 2) Significant preservation/restoration efforts.
- 3) Any other noteworthy preservation activities.

Please call our office or write for nomination forms. Help us to recognize and encourage the *People in Preservation* in our communities.

**SOHO Office, PO Box 3571  
San Diego CA 92103  
(619) 297-9327**

# Historic Buildings in San Diego Need Your Help!

A new ordinance, which will strengthen the historic management element of the City of San Diego's General Plan, is now being considered by the city's planning commission. This ordinance will help safeguard historic structures with stronger protections. Please see the article in this issue of *Reflections* for more specific information about this new, proposed ordinance, and why it's necessary.

We need a *large* turn-out of supporters at the planning commission meeting to emphasize the community's belief in a stronger ordinance. Historic buildings in San Diego need your help! Please attend this meeting and bring with you any friends who share SOHO's vision of a San Diego that includes historic buildings as an important part of the city-scape of the future.

**City of San Diego  
Planning Commission  
Meeting  
Thursday, April 27, 1989  
1:30 p.m.**

The Planning Commission meets at the  
Community Concourse,  
202 "C" St., San Diego  
City Council Chambers, 12th Floor.

*Please join us at this crucial meeting.*