

Calendar of Events

June 15th through November 4th, 2007

100 Years at the Williams House: Look How Things Have Changed!

Museum of American Heritage
351 Homer Avenue, Palo Alto
For more information call (650) 321-1004
or visit their website at www.moah.org

PAST Heritage Board of Directors

Ralph Britton, President
Kelly Hicks, Vice President
Aino Vieira da Rosa, Secretary
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Carolyn George	Scott Smithwick
Jinny Henke	Steve Staiger
Dianne MacDaniels	Natalie Wells

JudyAnn Edwards, Publicity

HELP WANTED: Webmaster

PAST is looking for someone to take over the management of our Website. We need someone familiar with basic HTML and CSS. The current webmaster will be available for consultation. If you are interested, please contact PAST President, Ralph Britton by email at ralphbritton@sbcglobal.net or by phone at (650) 328-0760



Palo Alto Stanford Heritage
P.O. Box 308
Palo Alto, CA 94302
(650) 299-8878
www.pastheritage.org

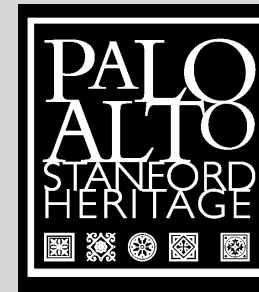
PAST Heritage is a nonprofit organization advocating the preservation of the historic architecture, neighborhoods, and character of the greater Palo Alto Stanford area through informed citizen involvement and education.

PAST NEWSLETTER

Editor: Scott Smithwick

Contributors: Steve Staiger
Ralph Britton

Photographs: PAST Heritage
Carolyn George
The Juana Briones Heritage Foundation



PAST NEWSLETTER

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The historic Juana Briones house safe from demolition....for now!



In our spring newsletter, you may recall that Ralph Britton, PAST Heritage Board president, wrote a column on the impending demolition of the Juana Briones house. PAST is pleased to report that a small group of dedicated, concerned citizens formed *Friends of the Juana Briones House*, shortly after the City of Palo Alto approved and issued the demolition permit. The Friends filed a motion in Santa Clara County Superior Court to stop the demolition from proceeding and on June 7th, Judge Leslie Nichols granted the stay of demolition, thus halting all demolition work at the house. With the help of renowned legal counsel, Susan Brandt-Hawley, the motion argued that the demolition permit was issued improperly without complying with California Environmental Quality Act, commonly known as CEQA. CEQA requires that an Environmental Impact Report, or EIR, must be done on any project involving the proposed demolition of a building with historic significance. No EIR was conducted and thus the demolition permit issued by the City was invalid. The lawsuit will continue in court and the next hearing is scheduled for sometime in July. For more information, please see the President's Column on page two inside.

President's Column



The destruction of the Juana Briones house has been prevented for the moment by legal action brought by the *Friends of the Juana Briones House*. This small group of people organized by Jeanne McDonnell hired environmental law expert Susan Brandt Hawley to file suit under the California Environment Quality Act, commonly known as CEQA. This has come before Superior Court Judge Leslie Nichols and the Court ruled in favor of the petitioners and ordered all demolition and or salvage operations stopped.

When contacted by Ms. McDonnell, the PAST Board unanimously decided to contribute \$4000 to the effort to partly defray the attorney's fee. Board members felt that this was just the sort of effort that PAST ought to be supporting. Naturally we are pleased that this effort has been successful so far. The City of Palo Alto was named in the suit for issuing a demolition permit, but is not contesting the ruling. It is not clear how this will eventually play out, but compliance with CEQA will be required, and such filings generally take some time and effort to prepare and review.

The Briones House is an important historic resource in Santa Clara County. The construction details are unique in many respects and the structure is an interesting example of techniques used in the Spanish period. For example, some of the walls are made of mud bricks enclosed within wooden cribbing, assembled with square-cut nails manufactured before modern upset-head wire nails came into common use. Over the years additions were made to the original structure, and some of these are now approximately 100 years old. There has been earthquake damage and the building is certainly not pristine, but it is part of a story going back to the time when California was part Mexico. Juana Briones is an historic figure of note, so this link to her history has the potential to be a tangible resource highlighting her life and times for future generations.

The Court ruling is an important step if this historic structure is to be preserved, but there is much more to come. PAST will be anxiously watching this as events unfold.

~ Ralph Britton

THANK YOU

The PAST Board would like to thank all of our members, volunteers and supporters for their outstanding commitment and generosity to PAST and to the very important cause of historic preservation. Without your efforts, PAST would not be able to support local preservation efforts such as saving the Juana Briones house, one of Palo Alto's oldest and most historic treasures left in our community. Thank you!

Outgoing Board Members Spotlight

Natalie Wells

I have served on the PAST Heritage Board for almost eight years. There have been several challenging jobs that I have done while on the Board. The first was when I served as Vice-president under then president Dave Bubenik. The jobs included running meetings while Dave was out of town and opening and closing the Williams House, alarms and all. My other big challenge was when I co-chaired the Holiday House tour committee with Marilyn Bauriedel. More recently I was co-chair for the refreshments for the 2005 Holiday House tour with Bonnie Blythe and we lugged around numerous 1/2 gallons of apple cider. My most recent effort was to attend the monthly 8 a.m. Palo Alto Historic Review Board (HRB) meetings and to take notes during complicated discussions on preservation projects.

Another aspect of being a board member was to docent for the Holiday House tour every year. Another new docent opportunity came up this spring which I enjoyed immensely. PAST board members were asked to give tours on the architecture and gardens of the Williams House. That has been a wonderful and enriching experience. I also worked with Betty Britton the past two years researching the 100 year old houses that we honor at our annual Preservation Month awards ceremony every May. This included driving by the addresses to photograph them and determine which ones still had historical integrity. All these efforts required team work from other PAST Board members and members of the broader preservation community. Finally I have learned about the joys of historical research from Beth Bunnenberg, Carol Murden, and Steve Staiger. I want to give special thanks to former board member Gail Woolley and to Dennis Backlund, the City's Preservation Officer, for their support, information and doing all those extra things that make preservation work in Palo Alto.

Carolyn George

The birth of a preservationist: I guess it all started in Oakland when I was about three or four and commented each time my father drove past an old cottage set back from the street on the way to visit his sisters. I would look at the small dark green house and comment, "It's still there." I knew nothing about the house and neither did my parents, but I watched for it every time I passed.

My interest lay dormant until the mid-70's when Gail Woolley recruited me to show the Palo Alto Historical Association's slide show to schools and civic groups. That was my contribution to the Bi-Centennial and something I enjoyed doing for many years. I served on the PAHA board until my appointment to the Historical Resources Board (HRB). My term coincided with holding the California Preservation Conference in Palo Alto and the establishment of PAST. I must admit, I was not active in PAST at the beginning because the meetings were too early in the morning! The present-day evening meetings suited me just fine.

I was recruited, again by Gail and also Marilyn Bauriedel for the PAST board, because I expressed an interest in working on the newsletter. I have enjoyed producing it and met my goal of four issues a year. I also had fun working on the brochures, tickets, award certificates and booklets for the Holiday House Tours and Preservation Awards. I will miss the active involvement these things brought as I photographed honored, threatened and otherwise pertinent properties for PAST.

The PAST Board thanks Natalie, Carolyn and our other outgoing board members, Aino Vieira da Rosa and Dianne MacDaniels for their service, hard work, effort and passion for preserving our community!

326 Addison
 222 Byron
 800 Cowper
 425-427 Embarcadero
 505 Embarcadero
 850-852 Forest

2264 Bowdoin
 265 Coleridge
 1043 Cowper
 554 Hawthorne
 351 Homer
 1141 High

206-210 Homer
 125 Middlefield
 1047 Ramona
 1525 Waverley
 251 Webster

262 Kingsley
 426 Palo Alto
 466 Ruthven
 167 Webster
 1235 Webster

Older Homes

Older Homes also receiving centennial plaques:

1902 437 Kipling
 1207 Waverley
 1903 327 Cowper
 1904 675 Channing
 257 Kingsley
 1905 425 Tasso
 1906 251 Embarcadero
 724 Bryant

Congratulations

Congratulations to all the homeowners of this years centennial homes! Here's to another 100 years of living, enjoying and preserving your homes and our community!

Congratulations to all the recipients of this years annual Preservation Awards! Your hard work and commitment to historic preservation does not go unnoticed!

Thank You

Thank you to all our members and volunteers for making Preservation Month a success!



In the 1990's a retired professional architectural photographer, Robert Brandeis, who was living in Mountain View, began photographing many of the old homes in College Terrace and Professorville. His black and white images are beautiful. Some of the photographs are of specific house details, while others are portraits of the homes.

As he studied and photographed the homes, he met with me to learn about the history of the homes and the people who lived there. As time passed he began discussing what might be done with the images. He spoke about the desire to use the images in a book on Palo Alto's architecture. It soon became apparent that he had no desire to write the book so we searched for a potential writer to collaborate with him on the project. We were unsuccessful in our efforts and he began to lose interest in the project. But there were still dozens of beautiful photographs, printed with care, in his possession.

The PAST board was approached with the idea to purchase his images and the rights to use them in future projects in exchange for a payment that would cover all of his out-of-pocket expenses.

The images are now the property of PAST Heritage. Large prints of the images plus the negatives are stored in our offices at the Williams House. Over the years we have used various images in our brochures, booklets and publicity. A set of note cards and postcards, using the images, was produced and sold several years ago. This past year a team of real estate agents asked if they could use two of the images in marketing a house in Professorville. We agreed to the use in exchange for a donation to our organization.

The bulk of the collection has never been seen by the public, perhaps waiting for the right person to come forward to create that book on Palo Alto architecture, which is really needed. In the meanwhile, I have lost track of Robert Brandeis and recent attempts to find him have been unsuccessful.

~ Steve Staiger



Adaptive Re-Use

Presented to **Michael Lindstrom** of **Architectural Design Structure** for his meticulous historic rehabilitation of a former automobile agency and garage built in 1917 and located at 525 Alma Street. Thoughtful research, attention to design detail and the use of salvaged materials helped restore the original historic character of the building, while allowing this adaptive reuse project to successfully convey a contemporary, upscale retail and office environment.



Commercial Preservation

Presented to the **Vandervoort Family** in recognition of their outstanding contribution to the preservation of our heritage at 525 Alma Street. Constructed in 1917 by the Vandervoorts on a site they had owned since 1901, it was their commitment to a thoughtful rehabilitation that has ensured this building's historic character will be preserved and enhanced for future generations to experience and enjoy.



Residential Preservation

Presented to **Christine Paulen** in recognition of her outstanding dedication to the preservation and restoration of Eichler architecture at 749 Wildwood Lane in Palo Alto's Edgewood neighborhood. This sensitive restoration is a stunning example both inside and outside of a mid-20th century Eichler home.



Residential Preservation

Presented to **Christine and Walter Tijiboy** in recognition of their meticulous preservation of 4042 Ben Lomond. This 1955 Eichler home is located in Greenmeadow, one of only two Eichler neighborhoods on the National Register of Historic Places.



Residential Preservation

Presented to **Fern Mandelbaum and Daniel Dorosin** in recognition of their commitment to keeping a redesign of a 1950's addition and substantial alterations compatible with their historic 1902 Colonial Revival home at 1207 Waverley Street, thereby preserving many of the home's character defining features and maintaining its contribution to the Professorville Historic District on the National Register.

Community Preservation

Presented to **Susan Rozakis**, project manager for **Stanford University**, in recognition of Stanford's outstanding dedication to preserving their historical heritage with the Munger House Moves. In lieu of tearing down these five historic residences, Stanford elected to preserve them by relocating them to nearby parts of campus. Stanford took great care in developing two brand new neighborhoods out of former parking lots, and each house was converted to office use while maintaining the historic character and fabric unique to each house.



Adaptive Reuse and Rehabilitation

Presented to **Chris Wasney**, principal at **Cody Anderson Wasney Architects**, in recognition of their outstanding dedication to preserving the historic character of each of the houses relocated as part of the Munger House Moves at Stanford University. The project not only required tenant improvements and infrastructure for modern office use, but each house was also required to be in conformance with current building codes, triggering full seismic retrofits, accessibility and life safety upgrades as well as complete new building systems. All this work was achieved while conforming to the Secretary of Interior's Standards for the rehabilitation of historic buildings.



Commercial Rehabilitation and Adaptive Reuse

Presented to **Steve Sincheck** of **The Old Pro**, in recognition of his outstanding contribution to historical preservation at 541 & 545 Ramona Street. Located in the business district that is part of the National Historic Register, the historic rehabilitation of the building included retaining and repairing key interior character defining historic features while at the same time, adapting the existing historic space to a new use.



Commercial Preservation

Presented to **Monty Anderson**, principal at **Cody Anderson Wasney Architects**, in recognition of their outstanding contribution to historical preservation at 541 & 545 Ramona Street. Located in the business district that is part of the National Historic Register, their historic rehabilitation of the building included retaining and repairing key interior character defining historic features, as well as returning the exterior to its original 1928 version.