

2015 Preservation Awards Presented May 10

Forbes House, 564 University Avenue



Presented to **RSR Capital**, Owners; **Garavaglia Architecture**, Architect; **Quality Construction by VM**, Contractor; **Slava Komov**, Construction Manager for rehabilitation and reconstruction of the 1904 Colonial Revival style Thomas Forbes house that served as both a single-family residence and a rooming house convenient to the University Avenue streetcar line. The house was restored to its original appearance using the original materials from deconstruction, thus preserving the history of the last remaining residential structure in the University Avenue commercial district. It is a Category 2 on the Palo Alto Historic Inventory.

Pacific Art League, 668 Ramona Street



Presented to the **Pacific Art League of Palo Alto**, Owner; **William Bruner**, Architect; **A. J. Miller & Associates**, Structural Engineer; **Oliver and Co.**, Contractor for historic rehabilitation and restoration of three facades of the 1921 storefront and second and third story windows, walls and trim while providing seismic stabilization for the entire structure. A three story addition is stylistically respectful to the original without duplicating its features. Originally the building housed the owner's cabinet and furniture shop, showroom, and residence, and has housed the art studios and exhibition galleries for the Pacific Art League of Palo Alto (PALPA) since 1965. It is a Category 2 on the Palo Alto Historic Inventory.

323 University Avenue



Melanie Barry Properties, Owner; **Hayes Group**, Architect; **Devcon**, Contractor for working from original Birge Clark drawings of this 1925 shop built by Wells P. Goodenough to reconstruct the ground floor frontage, including interior front and rear mezzanines, railings and stairway. The remaining arched windows, wood cornice, plaster, and clay tile roof were restored or upgraded and layers of paint were removed from the cornice to reveal the original carmine and cerulean blue that were matched for the final painting. This building represents a pivotal transition from Neo-Classical to Spanish Colonial style by Birge Clark and is a Category 2 on the Palo Alto Historic Inventory.

Rinconada Library, Newell Road



Presented to the **City of Palo Alto**, Owner; **Group 4 Architecture, Research + Planning**, Architect; **Michael Garavaglia**, Historic Architect; **SJ Amoroso Construction**, Contractor for preserving the historical character of the original 1958 Edward Durell Stone building, while adding new space to expand and enhance the facility's functionality as a modern library. Inspired by the geometry and materials of the historic building and landscape, the design of the expansion provides a vibrant, yet seamless experience for visitors.

PAST Restores Historic Pump House

Situated at the end of Hale Street between Palo Alto Avenue and San Francisquito Creek is the City of Palo Alto's historic pump house. The structure is strategically located to provide a visual destination when traveling north on Hale Street. While no longer in use, the pump house is an outstanding example of Mission Revival architecture popular when the house was constructed in 1924. The structure once served the adjacent reservoir serving north Palo Alto's water supply. The pump house's function has been replaced by modern and more efficient systems, the structure remains as an important element of Palo Alto's architectural past

standards, PAST selected a qualified historic contractor, Daniel Cray to restore the exterior. PAST also consulted with the City's Historic Resources Board to seek their advice before undertaking the job. In April of this year, the City gave its final approval for the work to begin. PAST completed the job in May.



Before and after restoration

Today residents and visitors to the Crescent Park neighborhood will find the once declining pump house restored to its original condition. Once again the pump house provides the fitting focal point to Hale Street and continues to stand as a reminder of the early 20th century architectural history.

Steve Emslie

Over time, the pump house's exterior deteriorated. The exterior stucco showed superficial cracks and the arched wood front door was peeling exposing the bare wood beneath. Last year, PAST board members offered to fund the pump house's exterior renovation. To ensure that the renovation was in compliance with accepted historic



Is My House a Stedman?

Many local residents are proud of their “Stedman” homes. There are numerous homes in the area with this label, but there is some confusion with who was Stedman.

Marcus Stedman graduated from Paly in 1925 and later from the University of Washington with a degree in architecture (in 1931). Returning to Palo Alto, he began designing and building “spec” houses in the area. Because he never completed his internship requirement, he was not permitted to call himself an architect. Even without this title, he was successful and his homes were popular with his clients and continue to be admired. In 2009 PAST devoted its 22nd Annual Holiday House Tour to several of his homes, many of which were located in the Seale Tract, now known as Old Palo Alto.

Arthur Stedman, the father of Marcus, was an architect who designed several homes in California including the original family residence in Palo Alto. But the number of his designs in California was limited.

James Stedman was the brother of Marcus. A graduate of Stanford in 1927 in engineering, his experience in helping build the original Stedman residence led him to a career as a contractor. He joined with his brother to form Stedman and Stedman, building contractors in 1934. Marcus focused on the designing, and James focused on the construction side, but not exclusively. James designed and built several homes, including his own residence at 2150 Byron Street.

Morgan Stedman was another architect active on the Peninsula at about the same time as the Stedman brothers. He was not related to the other Stedman family, although he was related to **Kathryn Stedman**, a noted landscape architect, best known for her landscape designs for several of Joe Eichler’s model homes, and was featured in a 1954 *Life Magazine* article on Eichler’s homes in Palo Alto. She was Morgan’s wife.

Now you can understand the confusion over the “Stedman” home label.

Steve Staiger



2343 Webster Street



2245 Webster Street



272 Rinconada Avenue



2240 Middlefield Road

Meet Our Board: Hayley Stevens

Hayley Stevens is a Palo Alto native, and a lifelong advocate for the preservation of historic architecture. She was exposed to the great care and importance of preservation at a young age when her parents undertook the restoration of two century-old homes in the coveted neighborhood of Professorville. Both of the homes, at 947 Waverley St. and 730 Bryant St., were honored by PAST with the Preservation of the Year Award in 1998 and a Centennial Plaque in 2002 respectively.

Stevens deepened her knowledge and appreciation for historic preservation when she attended Mount Holyoke College in Massachusetts, earning her degree in Art History with an attention on Renaissance and 20th century European paintings and architecture. Her love was cemented when she spent four months living and studying in Florence, Italy.



Throughout her college years, Stevens worked as a curatorial intern at the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, and spent a summer conducting extensive research on local historic architect, Birge Clark, while interning with Fergus Garber Young Architects here in Palo Alto.

These days, Stevens works in the arena of entrepreneurship as a co-founder of a small startup building connected healthcare solutions. September marked the beginning of her fourth year on the PAST board, and her second year as the PAST Secretary. She is also responsible for organizing PAST's walking tours every spring and fall.

Reprinted from Preservation Magazine (1989) and the Spring 2006 PAST Newsletter:

Do's and Don'ts for First-Timers and Veterans

1. Make every effort to use the building for its original purpose.
2. Do not destroy distinctive original features.
3. Recognize all buildings as products of their own time.
4. Recognize and respect changes that have taken place over time.
5. Treat sensitively distinctive stylistic features or examples of skilled craft work.
6. Repair rather than replace worn architectural features when possible. When replacement is necessary, new material should match the old in design, composition, and color.
7. Clean facades using the gentlest methods possible. Avoid sandblasting and other damaging methods.
8. Protect and preserve affected archeological resources.
9. Compatible contemporary alterations are acceptable if they do not destroy significant historical or architectural fabric.
10. Build new additions so they can be removed without impairing the underlying structure.

PAST's Past/PAST's Future:

On a recent trip to Connecticut we visited the town of Guilford, settled 376 years ago, in 1639. An especially interesting building was Guilford's oldest house and the oldest stone house (1639) in New England. It is now a state museum after many years of preservation efforts by the citizens. I was struck by the fact that they are very proud to show a structure from their founding years. I wonder if Palo Alto will be able to preserve their early days for future generations. In 2019 Palo Alto will celebrate its 125th anniversary, less than one third the age of Guilford. How can we insure that we will preserve structures that represent the diverse of character of our unique city from the 1890s to today and into the next 250 years?

PAST can and will contribute to Palo Alto's preservation. The Board is working on what we can do and how we will accomplish our goals. Our organization's name, Palo Alto Stanford Heritage, is related to a

1988 preservation conference hosted by Palo Alto and Stanford. After the meetings a group of residents decided that educating the public about preservation was critical to success with saving our heritage. Words such as Heritage, Preservation, and Neighborhood Character in our mission statement are meant to focus us on preserving the past for the future. Currently, we are focusing on providing information and educational opportunities about local architecture to help residents appreciate what makes Palo Alto an architecturally significant community. Our Spring and Fall walking tours, the annual May Preservation Awards and Centennial House plaques program, and our excellent website are important PAST projects. Recently we provided history displays for community events such as Cubberley Center's open house, the 2015 May Day parade, and Midtown Neighborhood socials. Future possibilities include seminars on local architecture, expanding the walking tours, and member meetings to celebrate our architectural heritage.

Our enthusiasm for the above projects is high but we need financial help and volunteers to be successful. You will receive a membership letter soon. Please renew or join us in making sure that Palo Alto will preserve its architectural character. Can Palo Alto work towards preserving our 120+ years as well as the 375 year old town of Guilford?

Brian George



Mystery Solved!

The Frank D. Wolfe house built for Gertrude and Nellie Gardiner circa 1921–23 and shown in the last newsletter was located at 624 Mayfield, Stanford. Thanks you, Miriam Palm, first with the correct address!



Calendar of Historical Happenings

Sunday, December 6, 2 p.m. — **Palo Alto's Treasure Trove: Photos from the Guy Miller Archives.** Palo Alto Historical Association, Lucie Stern Community Center, 1305 Middlefield. Free

Closing January 17, 2016 — **25 Years at the Museum of American Heritage: A Retrospective**, 351 Homer Ave., 11 a.m.– 4 p.m., Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Free.

Historic Resources Board — 1st & 3rd Wed. — 8:30 a.m., City Hall, 250 Hamilton Avenue.

PAST Heritage Board of Directors

President: Brian George
Vice President: Tom Johnston
Secretary: Hayley Stevens
Treasurer: Tom Johnston

Steve Emslie
Carolyn George (Webmaster)
Lee Lippert
Steve Staiger (Historian)

www.pastheritage.org

Membership renewal envelopes will be sent soon. Please be generous and return it this year for your Income Tax Deduction! Thank you very much!



PAST News

Palo Alto Stanford Heritage
P.O. Box 308
Palo Alto, CA 94302

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.

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