

## Calendar of Events

*Saturday, September 17, 4 pm. California Preservation Foundation 2005 Preservation Design Awards Presentation and Reception.* San Francisco City Hall Rotunda. See page 6 for ticket information.

*Sunday, October 3, 2 pm. Palo Alto Historical Association,* Lucie Stern Community Center, 1305 Middlefield Road.

*Sunday, December 11, PAST Heritage 2005 Holiday House Tour.* Look for more information in the next issue of *PAST News* or check our Website at [www.pastheritage.org](http://www.pastheritage.org).

*Ongoing—Walking Tours of Downtown, Professorville, College Terrace, or Homer Avenue.* Free, but donations are always welcome. To arrange a tour, call (650) 328-5670. or visit [www.pastheritage.org](http://www.pastheritage.org) for contact information.

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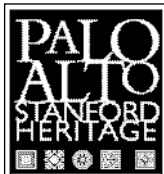
PAST Website: [www.pastheritage.org](http://www.pastheritage.org)

PAST Hotline: (650) 299-8878

Editor: Carolyn George

Art/Photos: Carolyn George, Hangar One photo by Judith Silva from [Savehangarone.org](http://Savehangarone.org).

Contributors: Marilyn Bauriedel, Emily Renzel



## 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.

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# PAST News

Vol. 19, No. 1

P.O. Box 308 • Palo Alto, California 94302 • (650) 299-8878

Summer 2005

## 2005 PAST Preservation Awards

On May 21, PAST Heritage awarded three Preservation Awards to these outstanding properties that add so much to the integrity of our city. Congratulations to all the honorees.

### Residential Preservation

Given to Carol Piraino in recognition of outstanding dedication to the preservation of our heritage at 1101 Alma Street.



Given to Angela Pryor in recognition of outstanding dedication to the preservation of our heritage at 2315 Cowper Street.



### Commercial Preservation

Given to Angela Pryor and Carol Shaw in recognition of their outstanding contribution to historical preservation at The Parlor, a retail business restoring the look, feel, and purpose of an historically significant element of Homer Avenue, Palo Alto's Corridor of History.



## Endangered Peninsula Properties



*These three historic properties are threatened by redevelopment. See Page 3 to learn more about their current status and what you can do to save them.*

## The Caroline Chronicles

As summer draws to a close, we are starting to plan our 2005-2006 activities. The PAST Board had a wonderful day for our annual retreat in July. The fresh air seemed to bring out our enthusiasm. New board members **Terry Rice, Kristin Schuster** and **Kelly Hicks** joined us. Terry is a local realtor with a gift for matching old homes with appreciative owners. She nurtured my interest in preservation by encouraging me to explore the history of my houses in Palo Alto. Kristin, although new to Palo Alto, enjoys an inside view of preservation in our community thru her employment with Cody Anderson Wasney Architects. She is currently working on the Hewlett Packard garage project. Kelly grew up in Palo Alto where she teaches nursery school while raising a future generation of preservationists in their home in Professorville. We are privileged and delighted to have these women join our board with their complementary interests and skills.

Along with the planning for the year ahead, we met with **Debra Jacobs**, the project coordinator for the Children's Library restoration and expansion. Originally conceived as a large project to meet the expanded needs of the community, it has since been adapted to meet the Secretary of the Interior Standards for preservation. An admirable compromise was reached between the need to preserve the building that holds the affections of so many of us and the program needs. As the City Council had recently approved the transfer of development rights from city owned properties meeting preservation and/or structural update criteria, this program will be used to help fund the project. Whereas the City holds the covenant with private owners who participate under the program, a new arrangement was needed and PAST has agreed, in principal, to hold the covenant for the city for the Children's Library. Later in the week we walked the site with Debra and

discussed the extent of the preservation efforts. If you have not visited in a while, I suggest a walk thru the library so you can appreciate the before and after.

We are planning a Holiday House Tour in Old Palo Alto for December and making plans for the celebration of Preservation Month in May.

As we welcome new board members, we bid farewell to others. We deeply appreciate the work done by our departing board members and thank them for contributing their time and enthusiasm. Thanks to **Emily Renzel**, our dedicated membership maven for the past several years. The Holiday House tour you organized on Forest Avenue was wonderful and will always be a very fond memory.

Our heartfelt thanks to **Laura Farrell** of Woodenwings whose practical experience was much appreciated and who kept us grounded. And, thanks to **Grace Hinton**, our Treasurer and resident Stanford booster and architect, who had her finger in so many things from organizing our first Holiday House Tour on campus to designing the wonderful restoration of the Allied Arts Center in Menlo Park. We are delighted that you will be rejoining us in a year's time.

If you haven't done so recently, please check out our website at [www.pastheritage.org](http://www.pastheritage.org). **Dave Bubnik** did a great job of expanding our web presence and you will find information about our activities and interesting links to explore.

The upcoming year promises to be fun and rewarding. We are recruiting a new docent class if you or someone you know might be interested. Research on century old houses continues and events are being planned. If you'd like to become more involved, and we hope you do, please email me at [president@pastheritage.org](mailto:president@pastheritage.org).

*Caroline Willis  
President, PAST Heritage*



**ANNOUNCEMENT:**  
**EFFECTIVE TODAY**

The FEED, FUEL AND GARDEN SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT of Horabin's is now owned and operated by the PENINSULA FEED & FUEL at the same location—234 Hamilton Avenue.

**New Phone---7802**

**DRIVE IN SERVICE**

**Peninsula Feed & Fuel Co.**  
234 Hamilton Avenue Phone 7802



From the top: Interior of the new vacant Caffe Verona, newspaper ad dated July 7, 1942, exterior of Caffe Verona, the old Peninsula Feed & Fuel at 234 Hamilton Avenue.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Palo Alto Zoning Ordinance Up-Date

THE PALO ALTO ZONING ORDINANCE is being revised. You can track the status of the revisions on the City of Palo Alto Website <http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/zoning/progsum.html>

We hope to be able to provide the details of the revised ordinance in our fall newsletter.

## Help Preserve Local History— Protect Home Movies & Videos

DO YOU HAVE OLD MOVIE FILM stashed away in a closet and no way to view it? Don't be guilty of throwing away history! You may have footage of a Palo Alto that no longer exists. Contact Brian George at [BrianG8897@aol.com](mailto:BrianG8897@aol.com) or Steve Staiger at the Main Library, (650) 329-2664, for more information on preserving Palo Alto's history.

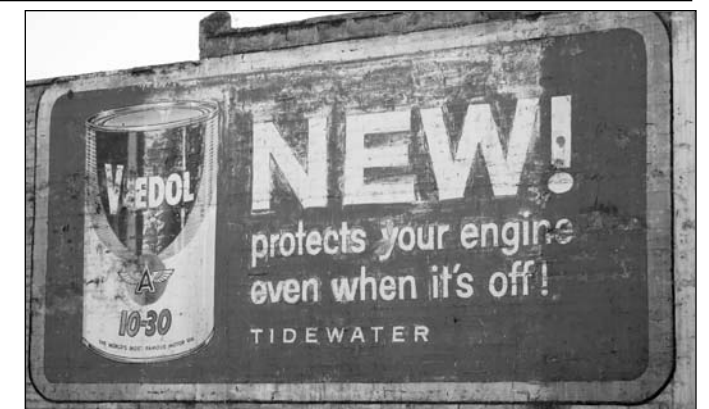


## Membership Is a Good Thing!

The Board has greatly appreciated your support of PAST's historic preservation work this year. Among other things, your sponsorship allows us to bring the community together for our annual Holiday House Tour and Preservation Awards Ceremony...events that not only educate, but also showcase many of our historically and architecturally significant resources. So, we're hoping that when membership renewal letters are mailed in September, you'll join us as we continue to advocate for a "past" in Palo Alto's future. Don't forget...your membership includes a ticket or two (depending on your renewal category), to the December 11<sup>th</sup> Holiday House Tour and a special members only event in early summer 2006.

*Dianne McDaniels*

These signs have been hidden for years. Do you know where to see them?



## Design Awards—Celebrate the Best in California!

THE CALIFORNIA PRESERVATION FOUNDATION will award its 2005 Preservation Design Awards to 24 spectacular projects from throughout the state. For 22 years, these awards have paid tribute to exemplary preservation work through this highly competitive awards program.

The winners will be honored on Saturday, September 17, in the Rotunda of the San Francisco City Hall. There will be a special pre-reception tour of the San Francisco City Hall at 4:00 pm. The presentation of awards will begin at 6 pm. For more information and tickets, please visit the California Preservation Foundation Website at <http://www.californiapreservation.org>.

### 2005 Preservation Design Awards Winners

#### Contextual In-Fill

Bay Area Discovery Museum—*San Francisco*

#### Craftsmanship and Preservation Technology

John C. Spencer House Exterior Restoration—*San Francisco*

Structural Stabilization and Seismic Retrofit of the Alcatraz Cellhouse—*Alcatraz Island*

#### Cultural Resource Studies and Reports

Cultural Landscape Report for the John Muir National Historic Site—*Martinez*

University of California, Berkeley Landscape Heritage Plan—*Berkeley*

Downtown San Diego African-American Heritage Study—*San Diego*

Geoarchaeological Study and Sensitivity Model for the Southern Santa Clara, Hollister and San Juan Valleys—*San Luis Obispo*

San Jose Japantown Historic Context and Reconnaissance Survey—*San Jose*

City of San Fernando Historic Preservation Element—*San Fernando*

#### Preservation

Rockridge Masonic Lodge—*Oakland*

Gamble House Conservation Project—*Pasadena*

#### Rehabilitation—Large Projects

Santa Fe Depot—*Fresno*

Bob Hope Theatre Renovation—*Stockton*

Chinese Historical Society of America Museum—*San Francisco*

San Bernardino Santa Fe Depot—*San Bernardino*

Historic Hoover Middle School—*San Jose*

Branner Hall Dormitory and Dining Hall—*Stanford*

California Theatre—*San Jose*

Rudd Center for Professional Wine Studies—*St. Helena*

Conservatory of Flowers Rehabilitation—*San Francisco*

Stockton Southern Pacific Depot—*Stockton*

St. George Hotel/Apartments—*Los Angeles*

#### Rehabilitation—Small Projects

Engine Seven Apartments—*West Hollywood*

#### Restoration

Elliot House—*Los Angeles*

Sikes Adobe Farmhouse—*Escondido*



## Endangered Peninsula Properties

THREE SIGNIFICANT PENINSULA PROPERTIES are highly endangered. They are **Caffe Verona**, which was housed in the old **Peninsula Feed & Fuel** building on Hamilton Avenue in downtown Palo Alto, **Hanger One** at Moffett Field in Mountain View, **Caffe Verona**, which was housed in the old **Peninsula Feed & Fuel** building on Hamilton Avenue in downtown Palo Alto, and the **Griffin House** at Foothill College in Los Altos Hills. Without further public outcry and appropriate political action, these important cultural resources will soon be razed or irretrievably altered.

Even the Historic Resources Board members in Palo Alto were surprised this summer to learn they have no jurisdiction to review the developer's plans to take down all but the front wall of the 1920s building on Hamilton Avenue that formerly housed the much-loved Caffe Verona and before that, for many years, Peninsula Feed & Fuel. Unless this building, deemed by the City's 1999 historic survey to be eligible for the California Register of Historic Places, is added by the City Council to the Palo Alto inventory of historic structures, it will not have any protection from the planned alteration that will permanently damage its historic character. Development plans are working their way through the Planning Department to create a 4-story 50-foot office building on the site. This building is across from two beautiful historic properties and diagonally across from the Ramona Street Historic District which are on the downtown historic inventory and thus have protection under the current historic preservation ordinance from inappropriate alteration. The character of this historic neighborhood will be overshadowed by the proposed 4-story new building. PAST Board would like to hear from PAST members who are interested in requesting that the City Council update the historic inventory with properties, such as the Caffe Verona building, that were surveyed by the City and found to be historically significant in 1999. Please contact the Board if you are interested.

Information on saving **Hanger One** can be found on the Internet at [Savehangarone.org](http://Savehangarone.org). The latest, as of August 9, is that the Navy will study clean up options. Hanger One needs advocates for preservation and

reuse to write letters to the Navy and to the editors of local papers and to attend meetings. One proposal for reuse that has appeared in the press recently is NASA's idea to encase the hangar with photovoltaic cells to create enough electricity to act as a regional power plant.

The Friends of the **Griffin House**, the historic house on the campus of Foothill College, are making an heroic effort to save this important building. Chair Jon Baer heads a fund-raising campaign to hire preservationist attorney Susan Brandt-Hawley. They intend to take legal action to forestall demolition of this National Register listed home designed by the noted turn-of-the-20<sup>th</sup>-century architect Frank Delos Wolfe. But time is running out. Despite the efforts over 20 years of the grass-roots Committee to Save the Griffin House and

recent publicity in the *San Jose Mercury News* and the *Los Altos Town Crier* about the capacious 1901 historic home, the Foothill-DeAnza Board of Trustees voted on August 1 to demolish the house to make way for a new district headquarters building.



Griffin House

Griffin House was the home of Willard Griffin, a founder of Del Monte Packing. It's unfortunate to lose this "lovely piece of Los Altos Hills history", said Dan Alexander, VP of Los Altos Hills Historical Society. He added, "It's in terrible shape, and they let it get that way on purpose—not this administration but the administrations over the years. (Someone) peeled all the beautiful walnut paneling out of the building and stripped it down to the four-by-sixes there (when Calvin Flint was FHDA president). Norton Bernstein, president of the LAH Historical Society, said there's a lot of valuable stuff there that could be salvaged." (quote from *Los Altos Town Crier*, Aug. 9, 2005).

Those who wish to donate to this campaign to save the only National Register listed property in Los Altos Hills can contact Jon Baer at [baerjc@earthlink.net](mailto:baerjc@earthlink.net).  
*Marilyn Bauriedel*



## Preservation Awards Highlights

On May 21, PAST members and recipients of Preservation Awards and Centennial Plaques gathered in the historic Rosedale Gardens at 1056 Forest Avenue. Emily Renzel, present owner of the garden property, shared the following history of her garden. After the presentation ceremony, guests had the opportunity to linger in the garden or to go with Emily on an informal walk around the historic Ashby Addition block of Forest Avenue.



Vic Ojakian

## Rosedale Gardens, 1056 Forest Avenue



Originally the garden for 100 year old Rosedale Manor next door at 1078 Forest Avenue, 1056 Forest Avenue changed over the years. During the 1920's, a garage with gardeners' quarters above, was built. In 1939, Bertha Wright and Mabel Weed, who lived here with their adopted children, converted the garage to a bedroom and kitchen. (Bertha Wright, a nurse, founded the Children's Hospital in Oakland.)

Rosedale Manor was built in 1905 by Charles M. Whitney. He later was a founding member of the Palo Alto Resident's Club whose purpose was "safe-guarding and promoting, so far as may lie within its power, those features which make our city so desirable as a place of residence". This landmark residence, updated recently, was a Christian Science Retreat in the 1920's.

The garden at 1056 was oriented to Rosedale's side porch. The pond and arbor were the view from the double glass doors. Still in place are two old boxwood shrubs which flanked the pathway from the Rosedale porch to the pond.



The birdbath by the front window of the house, the planter under that window, and the bench nearest the pond were cast by a Frenchman named Rognier for the 1915 Pan Pacific Exposition. They were probably sold after the exposition to help defray expenses.

Several other birdbaths and benches in the garden were re-cast from the same molds by Rognier's son sometime in the 1950's and 1960's.

The redwood tree grew from a seedling given away by a local bank and planted in 1939 by

Bertha Wright's children.

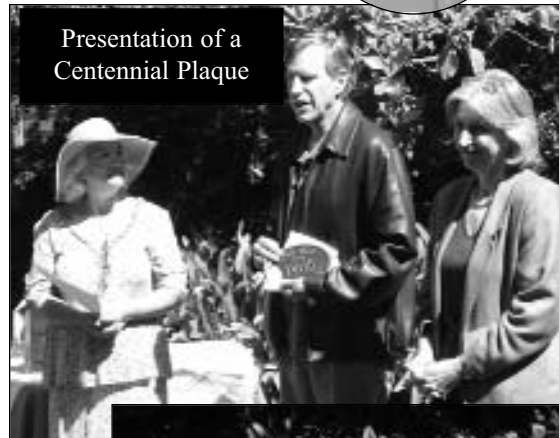
Emily Renzel



Thank you Emily Renzel for hosting this event!

## Centennial Homes

- |                      |                      |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 367 Addison Avenue   | 1517 Louisa Court    |
| 270 Channing Avenue  | 601 Melville Avenue  |
| 764 Channing Avenue  | 904 Ramona Street    |
| 260 Churchill Avenue | 1021 Ramona Street   |
| 209 Cowper Street    | 1029 Ramona Street   |
| 215 Cowper Street    | 1215 Stanford Avenue |
| 223 Cowper Street    | 1229 Stanford Avenue |
| 250 Cowper Street    | 181 Tasso Street     |
| 1330 Cowper Street   | 1240 Waverley Street |
| 1078 Forest Avenue   | 721 Webster Street   |
| 200 Homer Avenue     | 1151 Webster Street  |
| 469 Homer Avenue     | 1235 Webster Street  |



Presentation of a Centennial Plaque



Awards and Centennial Plaques



Centennial home owners enjoying the garden.

6/3/2005

Dear Ms. Willis,

Thank you so much for the centennial plaque awarded to HP for 367 Addison Ave., We are so happy to be recognized, and will display it proudly when our rehabilitation project is finished in October. It was a pleasure attending your reception 2 weeks ago.

Warm regards,  
Anna Mancini



## Older homes that received plaques:

- |      |                     |
|------|---------------------|
| 1901 | 1940 Bryant Street  |
| 1904 | 1112 Ramona Street  |
| 1904 | 947 Waverley Street |