

**This page
intentionally
left blank.**

Professorville—Our First National Register District



*23rd Annual
Holiday House Tour
Sunday, December 12
1 to 4 p.m.*

Tour Highlights

Five homes that are fine examples of the character of this National Register Historical District

Three houses listed on Palo Alto's Historic Inventory, two as major houses of regional importance

Two houses have merited PAST preservation awards

Tickets are \$25 before December 1 and \$30 thereafter

To order, see page 7

It's that time of year—

PAST invites you to renew your membership for 2010–2011! Your renewal now ensures that you'll receive your complimentary ticket(s) in time for the 2010 Holiday House Tour, and enables PAST to continue its mission of education and advocacy on behalf of Palo Alto's historic structures. Please find a renewal form on page 7 in case you've misplaced the remittance envelope mailed to you recently—we look forward to hearing from you!

Kelly Hicks, Membership Chair

President's Column

Greetings fellow PAST members. As this is my first president's report, I want to take this opportunity to both thank our outgoing president, Grace Hinton, and introduce myself. First, this past year under Grace's leadership, our organization has accomplished much. The **Children's Library** was the first ever project that PAST acted as a covenant holder. As a holder of a covenant we are responsible for ensuring that the owner, in this case the City of Palo Alto, was designing and implementing the project according to the Secretary of Interiors' Standards. Grace spearheaded that effort and with her dedication, the project was a great success—in fact, Grace and I just completed our annual walk-through of the property, which is also a part of our responsibilities as covenant holder. Other highlights of Grace's tenure included the first ever Eichler and Charles Sumner historic house tours and PAST continues to advocate for the preservation of the **Juana Briones House** and property. Thank you Grace!

WHO AM I?

I am a former Palo Alto resident and a licensed architect at Cody Anderson Wasney Architects (CAW) where I have been working since I was an intern in the mid 1990's. I grew up just down the road in Cupertino but I wanted to study somewhere with more architectural history, so I ended up at Philadelphia University in Pennsylvania. I spent five great years there, but I longed to be back in the bay area, which will always be my home. Once returning to CAW upon graduation, I had the great pleasure of working on several historic properties and discovered one of my passions. Those projects included two properties on Waverley Oaks, several buildings in downtown, a home on Channing Avenue, as well as many projects at Stanford University like Encina, Toyon and Branner Halls. One of the highlights of my early career was the project at Stanford that relocated five historic homes: the Rogers, Serra, Mariposa, Owen and Drell houses, which use to be a part of Alvarado Row.



WHAT IS GOING ON AT PAST?

With the help of our dedicated board members, we have a number of projects that we are currently working on. The first is another covenant which will be placed on a significant private home as desired by the current owners—we are now in the final negotiating stages before the final covenant is agreed to and takes effect. Next is the **Juana Briones House**—if you haven't heard, the property was placed on the National Trust for Historic Preservation's (NTHP) list of 11 most endangered historic properties in America. A subcommittee has been formed by Jeanne McDonnell, Natalie Loukianoff and myself—we are currently working with the western office of the NTHP on several items, including fundraising, feasibility studies and community outreach. Our hope is that the property can be purchased by a non-profit organization or public entity and develop a strong public-private partnership to restore the property and open it to the public. We continue to develop and strive to improve our ongoing advocacy efforts and we look forward to the upcoming Holiday House Tour which returns to Professorville this year! We have already begun the research for next year's preservation month (May) where we will offer plaques to all properties that were constructed in 1911 and turning 100 years old. We are on the look-out for recent projects that have exceptionally preserved historic structures and properties. Please let us know of any worthy projects that you know of!

I look forward to this coming year and hope that many of you will find that PAST Heritage is continuing to develop and grow stronger so that we may more effectively advocate for our historic structures properties. ☼

Scott Smithwick, President

Palo Alto History Museum



By Steve Staiger

This article appears in the September Palo Alto Historical Association's newsletter *The Tall Tree*—but it is so relevant to PAST's mission that we wanted to print it here, too. For those who receive both newsletters, we beg your indulgence!!

Most of you are aware of the proposed Palo Alto History Museum to be housed in the Roth Building of the old Palo Alto Medical Clinic on Homer Avenue. In the past I have used several of these columns to detail our plans and dreams to create a local history museum telling the story of Palo Alto and Stanford. Some of you may be wondering whether the museum is still alive. As the president of the Palo Alto History Museum, I want to tell you about our achievements to date, and about the near term plans to open the museum.

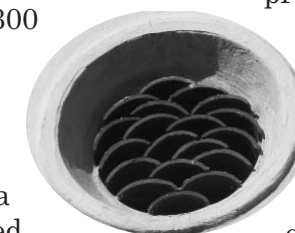
From the time that the City (as the owner of the Roth Building at 300 Homer Avenue) granted us the option to lease the building, we have been working hard to fund the cost of the building renovation and the creation of a suitable museum (cost estimated at more than 5 million dollars). Our fundraising strategy, as developed in consultation with retired Stanford fundraiser Dudley Kenworthy, has been to seek contributions from major donors before going after gifts from the community supporters. Our successes to date include a 2 million dollar pledge from the Peery Family Foundation.

We are still \$1.8 million short of our goal, and are working to attract several more major gifts before the end of the year. We are all aware that this is not the best of times to seek funding. In these hard times, major donors are flooded with requests from supporters of numerous good causes. However, we do have good news to report.

We have engaged an architect and contractor who are working together to design a museum space within the walls of the old clinic building, keeping in mind both cost effectiveness and historic preservation of the building's earlier life. The permit process with the City has begun and we are discussing the proposed plans with city staff.

The Roth Building was recently listed on the National Register of Historic Places, joining several other Palo Alto structures such as the Norris House, the University Avenue train station and the Post Office on Hamilton Avenue. This achievement was the result of hard work of several museum volunteers. Aside from the honor of such national status, the listing also allows us to qualify for significant tax credit funding to be used in the renovation.

But a museum is more than just an old building. It is collections and programs designed to tell the stories of Palo Alto and Stanford. We continue to collect donations of Palo Alto "stuff," material that will be used to illustrate the various stories that make up our history. Museum volunteers are working to develop programming to support proposed exhibits.



The museum is in discussion with the Palo Alto Chamber of Commerce to house their operations in the Roth Building as a rent paying sub-tenant. The Chamber is developing their visitors bureau service to encourage and support out-of-town visitors, and considers the Roth Building to be an ideal location to promote this service. The Chamber's presence in the building would aid the museum both financially and by providing a certain level of staffing for extended hours.

I hope this article updates you with the news of the Palo Alto History Museum. And I hope we can count on your support. ☼



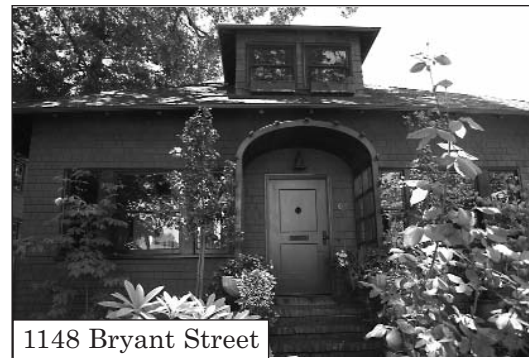
CENTENNIAL PLAQUES and PRESERVATION AWARDS were presented May 2, 2010 in the Birge Clark designed Lucie Stern Community Center at the meeting of the Palo Alto Historical Association.

2010 CENTENNIAL HOMES

- 931 Addison Avenue
- Alma Street Water Tower
- 1301 Bryant Street
- 1310 Bryant Street
- 345 Coleridge Avenue
- 1055 Cowper Street
- 565 Everett Avenue
- 460 Homer Avenue
- 1001 High Street
- 256 Kellogg Avenue
- 633 Middlefield Road

EVEN OLDER HOMES

- 219 Addison Avenue, 1903
- 526 Addison Avenue, 1905
- 1148 Bryant Street, 1905
- 1005 High Street, 1909
- 530 Melville Avenue, 1904
- 327 Waverley Street, 1902



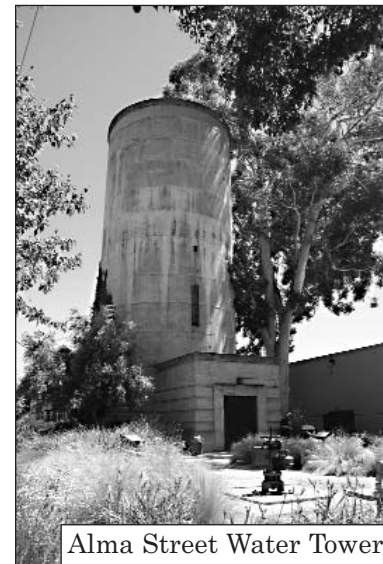
1148 Bryant Street



1001 High Street



1055 Cowper Street



Alma Street Water Tower



1310 Bryant Street

Pictures of all homes awarded plaques this year are on the website Be sure to visit www.pastheritage.org/plaques to see them all!

Dedicated to the preservation of Palo Alto's historic buildings

Presented to Tim and Kathy O'Leary, owners, to Jerome Buttrick, Buttrick Wong Architects, Architect, and to Rich Sherrill, Sherrill Construction, Contractor, for the addition and renovation of **327 Addison Avenue**, a Category III home in the Professorville Historic District. The renovation carefully preserved the home's historic windows, second story porch, and shingle siding. The wonderful addition and landscaping have been carefully crafted to enhance the home's Colonial Revival and Craftsman details. ☼



Presented to Paul and Jessica Livingston, owners and to Kate Courteau, architect, for the remodel and addition of the 1928 Stedman house at **2000 Bryant Street**. This sensitive remodel, which preserved the beam ceiling in the kitchen, original steel casement windows, and tile roof, has allowed for modern family comforts while preserving the home's original exterior appearance and charm. ☼

Presented to Miriam and David Donoho, owners, to Robert Geering, Architect, FAIA, and to Garth Nystrom, general contractor, in recognition of the sensitive rehabilitation of the 1905 A.B. Clark-designed home at **623 Cabrillo** on the Stanford Campus. This home's breathtaking detail has been preserved and restored, and the structure has regained its place as an important feature of Stanford's historic residential area. ☼



Presented to Christopher and Jane Manning, owners, to Lee Lippert, Lippert & Lippert Design, architect, and to Domenic Cresci, Loerke & Cresci, contractor, for the addition and renovation of **1345 Cowper Street**, a Category III home in the Professorville Historic District. The renovation carefully preserved the home's Craftsman details, including the shingle siding, historic windows, and corbelled eave brackets, and allowed for a carefully structured addition. ☼

Presented to the Palo Alto Woman's Club, to Cody Anderson Wasney Architects, architect, and to Mike Smith, of Mike Smith Construction, for the remodeling of the Woman's Club Restrooms at **475 Homer Avenue**, a Category II building on the City's Historic Inventory. The new restrooms were carefully crafted to fit the craftsman interior of the clubhouse. The project carefully replaced a window to match the historic windows and enhance the exterior character along Cowper Street. ☼



HANGAR ONE UP-DATE

By Beth Bunnenberg and Grace Hinton

As of this writing, Hangar One, the centerpiece of the U.S. Naval Air Station, Sunnyvale, National Historic District, is to be stripped of its PCB-laden siding and left a great skeleton until funds can be found to reskin it.

Hangar One was built in 1932 to house the airship U.S.S. Macon (ZRS-5). The Macon was a rigid airship built and operated by the United States Navy for scouting, and was held aloft by helium. It served as a flying aircraft carrier, launching Sparrowhawk biplanes, but was in service for less than two years. In 1935 the Macon was damaged in a storm and lost off the Big Sur coast, though most of her crew were saved. The wreckage is listed as USS Macon Airship Remains on the U.S. National Register of Historic Places. Her hanger remained, impressive and empty.



In 1994, Moffett was transferred from the Navy to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) under the Base Realignment and Closure program. In 1997, during routine cleanout of a settling basin designed to catch stormwater runoff, NASA found PCBs in the sediment. NASA concluded that PCBs in the paint and the interior layers of the siding at Hangar One were the major source of the contamination. The presence of asbestos and lead in the hangar building materials also raised health and safety issues. When subsequent testing revealed PCBs inside the hangar, it was closed to all uses except maintenance activities. In 2003, the exterior of the siding of Hangar One was coated with an asphalt emulsion to cover and contain hazardous building materials and prevent migration of contaminants to the environment, and fencing was installed around the hangar to control access.

Following these discoveries came years of wrangling over who was responsible for the clean-up, and there was a public outcry to "Save Hangar One." Its future looked grim, and it was placed on the National Trust for Preservation's 2008 list of 11 Most Endangered

Historic Places. After long arbitration, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) concluded in March, 2010, that the Navy is responsible for environmental cleanup actions, and NASA is responsible for Hangar One reuse and residing. Navy is beginning removal of PCB's this fall. NASA, the current operator of Moffett Field, is interested in preserving the hangar but does not have the necessary funding available. The most recent developments include:

The Navy will gut the interior and remove contaminated siding. They will clean the steel frame of the hangar and apply a weather-resistant coating to the steel. NASA is responsible for re-siding and restoration.

The Navy and NASA are negotiating a lengthy list of significant interior features that NASA would like to save.

NASA is issuing a "Request for Information" on possible options and costs of restoration with a deadline of September 23, 2010

Recent news articles have indicated that the "Cork Room," the storage room for the gas cells that kept the dirigibles aloft, was too contaminated with PCB's and lead to save.

Federal Representative Anna Eshoo's office reports that the House Defense Subcommittee recently endorsed a \$10 million allocation for hangar restoration. The bill will need the approval of the House Appropriations Committee, and final approval by the House and Senate.

To support preservation efforts, write to House and Senate members including:

Rep. Anna Eshoo
698 Emerson Street
Palo Alto, CA 94301
FAX: 650-323-3498

NASA-Ames
Keith Venter, Preservation Officer
Bldg. 213, Room 201
NASA-Ames
Moffett Field, CA 94035-1000

MEET OUR NEWEST BOARD MEMBER

Tom Johnston was born and raised in Palo Alto. Tom graduated from the University of Oregon with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in History and received his J.D. from the University of California, Davis School of the Law. Tom is a real estate attorney whose practice focuses on the representation of owners and developers of real estate in connection with the financing, acquisition, development, operation, leasing, and disposition of multifamily, commercial, and industrial projects. He has worked on projects located throughout the United States. Tom is interested in helping to preserve and enhance Palo Alto's unique architectural and historical identity.

He is hard at work for PAST developing a preservation tool for sellers who don't wish to have their houses demolished by new owners: the preservation covenant. Now that PAST has some experience with covenants (we hold the covenant on the Children's Library), we'd like to begin offering this service to other property owners concerned about the future of their homes once they are sold. The preservation covenant is a formal agreement between PAST and the owner of a historic property in which the owner agrees to ensure the maintenance and preservation of the architectural and historical characteristics of that property. Covenant agreements are recorded as part of the deed for the property. The responsibility for upholding the terms of the covenant transfers to any new owner. We'll have more on covenants in future newsletters. In the meantime, welcome to the board Tom! ☺

Individual memberships receive one complimentary ticket to the Holiday House Tour. All other categories of membership receive two tickets. Ticket orders received before December 1 are \$25, those received after that date are \$30.

Please indicate interests here:

- Preservation advocacy
- Historic houses research
- Publicity
- Holiday House Tour docent
- Refreshments for events

Membership categories:

- \$25 Individual
- \$50 Family
- \$75 Sponsor
- \$100 Patron
- \$500 Lifetime

New Renewal

Number of extra tickets to the **Holiday House Tour** at \$25 per ticket. _____ \$ _____

Ticket orders received after December 1 are \$30 each. _____ \$ _____

Total amount enclosed _____ \$ _____

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____ (email) _____ Check here if you elect to receive our newsletter electronically

Please make check payable to PAST Heritage.

Because PAST Heritage is a tax-exempt charitable organization, contributions are tax deductible in accordance with IRS regulations.

Enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope and mail to PAST Heritage, P.O. Box 308, Palo Alto, CA 94302

Calendar of Events

December 3, 2010 to April 3, 2011—The Cabinet of Curiosities. Museum of American Heritage, 351 Homer Avenue. For more information call (650) 321-1004 or check their Website at www.moah.org.

Sunday, November 7, 2 p.m.—The Architecture of Edward Durrell Stone. Palo Alto Historical Association. Lucie Stern Community Center, 1305 Middlefield.

Sunday, December 5, 2 p.m.—Palo Alto Vignettes. Palo Alto Historical Association. Lucie Stern Community Center.

Sunday, December 12, 2010, 1 to 4 p.m.—PAST Holiday House Tour. For more information check our Website at www.pastheritage.org.

PAST Heritage Board of Directors

President: Scott Smithwick
Vice President: Natalie Loukianoff
Secretary: Jinny Henke
Treasurer: Cheryl Lathrop

Margaret Feuer
Grace Hinton
Kelly Hicks
Tom Johnson
Jeanne McDonnell

Leslie McLaren
Janet Peacock
Terry Rice
Steve Staiger, Historian

In This Issue

Holiday House Tour	1
President's Message	2
Palo Alto History Museum	3
Centennial Homes	4
Preservation Award Winners	5
Hangar 1 Up-date	6
Meet Tom Johnston	7
Ticket/Membership Order Form	7
Calendar of Events	8

Have you visited

www.pastheritage.org lately?

It's growing by leaps and bounds. Be sure to check the Holiday House Tour, Centennial Home, Preservation Award, and Inventory pages and "This PAST Week" on the Home page.

Additions are always welcome—just use the email link at the bottom of each page to let me know what can be added or changed.

Carolyn George, Webmaster

This page
intentionally
left blank.



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.

PAST News

Editor: Grace Hinton
Layout: Carolyn George
Photos: Carolyn George
Contributors: Beth Bunnenburg, Kelly Hicks,
Grace Hinton, Steve Staiger

PAST Website: www.pastheritage.org

Webmaster: Carolyn George