



THE GLENDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

CELEBRATING OUR HISTORY AND CONSERVING OUR HERITAGE

SUMMER 2013

2013 HOME TOUR: CLASSIC CASA VERDUGO



Photo: Victoria Lasken

The Glendale Historical Society's 2013 Home Tour, to be held Sunday, September 29 from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm, will feature five distinctive pre-1920s houses located in one of Glendale's earliest and most architecturally diverse neighborhoods: Casa Verdugo. One of the highlights is a 1907 Mission Revival house designed by noted Los Angeles architect Charles E. Shattuck that was home to the famous Casa Verdugo restaurant. In later years, it was the residence of author Johnston McCulley, creator of Zorro.

The 2013 Home Tour is sponsored by G&C Properties, The Spot Gourmet and The Walt Disney Company.

In the early decades of the 20th century, the Casa Verdugo restaurant was a must-see destination for L.A. residents and tourists alike. Situated at the foot of the Verdugo Mountains and surrounded by citrus and pepper trees, the restaurant offered guests a taste of the romanticized Old California of Spanish colonial days. Operated by Piedad Yorba Sowl and her husband Charles, the Casa Verdugo restaurant was established in 1905 in an old adobe near the northern terminus of the Red Car line at

the top of Brand Boulevard in Glendale. In 1910, the restaurant moved to a new location nearby (the house featured in this year's tour), where guests enjoyed tamale and enchilada dishes and were entertained with traditional Spanish songs and dances.

Four other early Glendale homes will be featured on the tour, and all are in walking distance of one another. Guests will also be invited to relive the Casa Verdugo restaurant's al fresco dining experience on the broad verandas that wrap the exterior of the house and in the backyard. The Border Grill Truck will be on site serving a taco lunch for \$12.

Advance tickets are \$22 for TGHS Members and \$32 for the general public. After September 24, tickets are \$27 for Members and \$37 for the public. Tickets may be purchased at www.GlendaleHistorical.org or in person at The Americana at Brand concierge desk. Tickets may also be purchased on tour day at the Alex Theatre, 216 North Brand Boulevard. For further information, please contact events@glendalehistorical.org or 818-242-7447.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Casa Verdugo, Glendale's Red Car Suburb

Thursday, September 19, 2013, 7:00 pm • First Church of Christ, Scientist • 1320 North Brand Boulevard, Glendale 91202



In conjunction with the 2013 Home Tour, The Glendale Historical Society will host "Casa Verdugo, Glendale's Red Car Suburb," a talk and slideshow on this historic neighborhood and the Pacific Electric Red Cars. The First Church of Christ, Scientist is located in the Casa Verdugo neighborhood and adjacent to the last stop of the Glendale Red Car line, so this presentation will give you an introduction to the neighborhood prior to the home tour.

Special guest speakers: Preservation architect John LoCascio and archivist Paul Ayers.

The event is free and open to the public. Tickets for the home tour will be available at the presentation (cash or credit card).

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Photo: Simon Wright

How gratifying it was to see so many friends and familiar faces (and a few new ones!) at our Annual Meeting + Summer Social at Le Mesnager Historic Barn at Deukmejian Wilderness Park. For many of the 150 members and guests, it was their initial visit to the stone barn and first taste of the wine made from grapes harvested from the adjoining vineyard. It is always a thrill for TGHS to be able to highlight Glendale's historic - and sometimes hidden - gems. Many thanks to our good friends at

the Historical Society of the Crescenta Valley and the Stonebarn Vineyard Conservancy for assisting us this year.

It was also a pleasure to recognize the North Cumberland Heights Historic District with our 2013 Preservation Award and thank all those who worked so hard to ensure that the historic character of their neighborhood will be preserved for generations to come. Our 2013 Service Awards acknowledged the dedication of two outgoing Board Members: Victoria Lasken, who while no longer serving on the Board of Directors, continues to bring much grace, style and enthusiasm to the organization, and Sean Bersell, who has now stepped into the crucial role as our first-ever Executive Director, bringing with him his non-profit management experience and passion for historic preservation.

As I mentioned in my remarks during the business portion of the Annual Meeting, this has been another exceptional year for The Glendale Historical Society, and we have seen a lot of successes in the area of preservation. In the last year, four more homes have been added to the Glendale Register of Historic Resources, bringing the total number of properties to 99, just one shy of a major milestone. With the addition of North Cumberland Heights, Glendale now has five historic districts, with two more applications in the works: Brockmont Park and Niodrara Drive in the Verdugo Woodlands. Earlier this year, TGHS was pleased to award its first historic district grant in support of the Niodrara Drive application.

TGHS now boasts more than 500 individual members, about a 20% increase from a year ago. With your help, we will continue to expand our membership and strengthen our voice. And we are going to need a strong voice because, despite our recent successes, there are a number of threatened historic structures that have been placed on our preservation watch list. In the weeks and months ahead, we will be turning to each of you to lend your support.

Joining us in our shared mission to celebrate and preserve Glendale's rich history and architectural heritage is our newly elected member to the Board of Directors, Catherine Jurca, who brings an array of talent, passion and ideas to our organization. I am so fortunate to be working with an outstanding team that also includes: returning Board Members Jamie Anderson, Brian Haworth, Margaret Hammond, Marcia Hanford, Ammar Kharouf and Vrej Mardian; Doctors House Director Sonia Montejano and Assistant Director Peter Rusch; newly appointed Executive Director Sean Bersell; and a cadre of volunteers and supporters who continue to contribute so much to the Society's ongoing success. Thank you all.

Best regards,

Greg Grammer

THE GLENDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Annual Meeting Held At Historic Le Mesnager Barn



Photo: Victoria Lasken

TGHS held its Annual Meeting and Summer Social on Saturday, August 3 at the historic Le Mesnager Barn in Deukmejian Wilderness Park in north Glendale.

Approximately 150 TGHS members and guests attended the event, where they enjoyed wine and appetizers and were able to tour the barn and vineyard. A raffle at the event featured wine from the Stonebarn Vineyard Conservancy, which is part of the Historical Society of the Crescenta Valley.

During the Annual Meeting portion of the gathering, those who volunteered their time in the creation of the North Cumberland Heights Historic District, including applicants Susan Dasso, Zuzka and Peter Eggena and Gloria and Jerome Sander were recognized with the Society's 2013 Preservation Award.

In addition, Greg Grammer, Margaret Hammond, Marcia Hanford and Ammar Kharouf were re-elected as members of the TGHS Board, Catherine Jurca was elected to her first term on the Board, and outgoing Board member Sean Bersell and former Board member Victoria Lasken were recognized for their service.

Le Mesnager Barn is listed on the Glendale Register of Historic Resources (#11). George Le Mesnager, a French immigrant and prominent winegrower and businessman, acquired the property in 1898. The stone barn was constructed in 1914 and served as the center of a family-run vineyard at the base of the Verdugo Mountains for many years. The City acquired 700+ acres in 1988 and created a wilderness park with hiking trails that surround this historic structure.



Photo: Victoria Lasken



Photo: Victoria Lasken

Jurca Joins Board

TGHS is excited to welcome Catherine Jurca to the Board of Directors.

Catherine moved to Glendale in 2011. She and her partner Scott Fraser live in the Rudolf Schindler-designed Rodriguez House, #24 on the Glendale Register of Historic Resources. She has been active on The Glendale Historical Society's Preservation Advocacy Committee since its inception and supports adaptive reuse of Glendale's historic buildings in the city's future development plans.



A professor of Film and American Literature at Caltech, Catherine is the author of *Hollywood 1938: Motion Pictures' Greatest Year* and *White Diaspora: The Suburb and the Twentieth-Century American Novel* and is an expert on Glendale's most famous fictional resident, Mildred Pierce.



Bersell Becomes Executive Director

Sean Bersell stepped down from the TGHS Board in August to assume the position of Executive Director of TGHS. In this new position, he will be responsible for day-to-day management of the Society and assisting the Board in implementing its strategic vision.

Bersell has two decades of experience in not-for-profit management, first with the American Institute of Chemical Engineers and for the past 14 years with the Entertainment Merchants Association (EMA, formerly Video Software Dealers Association), the national trade association for the retailers of DVDs, Blu-ray Discs, online video and video games. He also has volunteered as a class agent for Vermont Academy and was vice president of the Glendale Rose Float Association. Bersell previously worked for the U.S. Senate and the National Park Service.

TGHS President Greg Grammer said, "Appointing an executive director is a milestone for the organization and achieves a goal that we have had for a number of years. This brings added professionalism to the operations of the Society, and we are pleased to have found in Sean someone with such a wealth of not-for-profit management experience, knowledge of TGHS operations and passion for historic preservation to take on this important role."

Two More Historic Districts Advance

Glendale is closer to adding two more historic districts to the five that already exist

Brockmont Park

The Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) of the city of Glendale has approved the historic resource survey of the proposed Brockmont Park Historic District and authorized the circulation of a petition requesting the zone change to designate the district.

Consisting of 59 single-family homes, the proposed Brockmont Park Historic District encompasses part of the 1926 Brockmont Park subdivision of the former estate of John Brockman, whose 1910 home is within the boundaries of the proposed district. It is located in northwest Glendale at the base of the Verdugo Mountains and bordered by Merriman Drive to the west, Cumberland Road to the north, Valley View Road to the east and Kenneth Road to the south.

Niodrara Drive

HPC also reviewed the designation application for the Niodrara Drive Historic District in the Verdugo Woodlands neighborhood and found that it appears eligible for historic district designation. The Commission unanimously authorized the circulation of a petition among property owners within the proposed boundary requesting that a historic resources survey be prepared.

The proposed historic district is defined by its landscape and streetscape features, including a flowing stream that once ran along Niodrara. Although its 32 homes were built over the course of several decades, the stream and lush, tree-filled landscape tie them together as a highly picturesque and cohesive community.

Historic Post Office Faces Possible Closure and Sale



A public meeting was held on July 25 to solicit community input on the proposed closure and sale of Glendale's historic main post office at 313 East Broadway. President Greg Grammer, along with several other TGHS members, attended the meeting to urge the United States Postal Service (USPS) to exhaust every possibility before considering the closure and sale of the post office. TGHS encouraged the USPS to look at other cost-cutting solutions, such as consolidating operations and liquidating satellite offices, or leasing excess space to another government entity.

TGHS has been concerned about the fate of this landmark building for several months and earlier this year sent a letter to the Postmaster General urging the USPS to keep the historic post office open.

Built in 1934, the granite-clad, Italian Renaissance-style building was designed by George M. Lindsay and features a beautifully decorated public lobby that includes marble walls and flooring, ornamental bronze grille and panel work and a ceiling of painted panels with relief decorations. The post office is listed on both the Glendale Register of Historic Resources and the National Register of Historic Places.

Since the post office is a National Register property, the proposed closure and sale of the building would likely constitute an "adverse effect" under Section 106 of the National Preservation Act. TGHS, therefore, has requested that an environmental impact statement be prepared to address the impacts of any proposed closure or sale and has asked to be included in all aspects of the Section 106 environmental review.

If the property is ultimately sold, TGHS has strongly recommended that preservation covenants be placed on all of the building's significant character-defining features, including the public lobby.

Thanks to everyone who provided comments in opposition to the closure and sale of the main post office. TGHS will continue to keep you apprised as more information becomes available.

Analysis Finds 3901 San Fernando To Be Historic



In the Spring TGHS Newsletter, it was suggested that the threatened structure at 3901 San Fernando Road had housed Logan's Grocery Store on the ground floor and the Tropic Town Hall and library on the second floor in the early decades of the 20th century. Subsequently, because of a concern about the fate of the structure, TGHS retained the services of Historic Resources Group (HRG), a highly reputable historic preservation consultant, to conduct a more thorough analysis.

HRG has established that the original structure at this location was the Logan Building, which was one of the earliest commercial

structures in Tropic and was constructed by John A. Logan, a civic leader in the development of Tropic. The two-story brick building housed Tropic Mercantile, established by Logan, on the ground floor. Upstairs was a hall that was used by community organizations and for social events. The newly formed Holy Family Church held its first services upstairs in the Logan Building in 1906. The building also housed the Tropic Public Library from the time it was established until it obtained a permanent home.

The Logan Building was torn down in early 1929 to accommodate the widening of San Fernando Road, and in 1930 L.H. Wilson built the current Mediterranean Revival structure and maintained his offices there. L.H. Wilson was an important figure in the commercial development of Glendale in the 1920s and 1930s and played a significant role in developing San Fernando into the industrial corridor it is today.

Based on its rare and distinctive architectural style and its association with L.H. Wilson, HRG found that the building at 3901 San Fernando Road is eligible for listing on both the California Register of Historical Resources and the Glendale Register of Historic Resources.

TGHS will continue to monitor the mixed-used development that has been proposed for the site and is prepared to comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Report once it has been completed and released.

Library Alterations Approved by City

The City Council recently approved significant alterations to the Glendale Central Library. Built by Welton Becket Associates in 1973, the Central Library is a significant example of the Brutalist modern style.

The approved changes include reorientation of the entry by adding new doors at the north and south elevations and "grand entry" concrete steps at the north façade. The current entry at the east end of the building will be deactivated but not eliminated. Other alterations include the installation of an elevator and new stairway to enhance access and circulation, as well as the consolidation and relocation of the administrative offices. The "conversation pit" in front of the east entry, an important character-defining feature of the building, may be filled but the encompassed large ficus tree will remain.

Throughout the review process, TGHS has been clear about ensuring that the alterations do not affect the building's architectural integrity and eligibility for listing on the Glendale and California Registers and, eventually, the National Register of Historic Places. TGHS was successful in making sure a preservation consultant was brought on to review the proposed design and confirm that the alterations will not affect the structure's potential designation as a historic landmark.

Redevelopment of YMCA Property Threatens Structures

TGHS has expressed its deep concern about the possible loss of two potentially historic and architecturally significant 1920s apartment buildings located at 119 and 127-129 North Kenwood Street. The YMCA, which owns the structures, is considering razing them to provide additional parking for its facilities.

TGHS concurs with the findings of the city-adopted Historical Resources Technical Report for the Glendale Downtown Specific Plan (DSP) Environmental Impact Report (EIR) that both 1920s buildings

contain "exemplary elements of design, detail materials and craftsmanship from this period" and may be eligible for listing on the Glendale Register of Historic Resources.



Continued on page 6

Three More Homes Added to the Glendale Register



Farmer House #97

This outstanding two-story Spanish Colonial Revival home was built in 1927 for L.S. Farmer, a Los Angeles businessman. The home's overall massing and configuration, high-quality materials, window patterning and fine detailing, including the ornate tile and ironwork, make it an exceptional example of the Spanish Colonial Revival style. The textured stucco, with its elaborate troweling detail of swirls and curlicues, sets it apart from other homes of the same architectural style.



Burkhard House #98

Paul Burkhard, Sr., a building contractor and civic leader, built this Modern-style house as his own residence in 1949. His son Paul Burkhard, Jr., a professional architect and Glendale planning commissioner, is credited with the design. The senior Burkhard was elected to the Glendale City Council in 1948, serving as Mayor from 1951 to 1953. The two-story, L-shaped house features wide, overhanging boxed eaves and a smooth stucco exterior, except at a portion of the first floor, which is clad with red brick. Steel casement and fixed windows of varying sizes in bands provide a horizontal emphasis to the design.



Thompson-Howe House #99

Seymour Hardy Thompson built this excellent Spanish Colonial Revival house in 1928 for himself and his wife, Irma. The asymmetry and irregular massing are typical of the style and cleverly used to take full advantage of the sloping site, with the three-story house divided into two, two-story segments nestled into the hillside. They are connected by a distinctive round entrance turret crowned with a row of clay pipe attic vents and a conical roof. Harry Lee Howe, principal at Theodore Roosevelt Junior High School, purchased the home in 1932.

TGHS Events

On June 9, more than 50 people participated in the second annual tour of Forest Lawn Memorial Park-Glendale, which featured the art and architecture of this Glendale landmark and included a visit to areas not normally open to the public.



On two days in June and July, the Historical Society of the Crescenta Valley hosted TGHS members for a special tour of the Rockhaven Sanitarium in Montrose. Rockhaven is the only intact example of the many sanitariums that were once a major industry in this area.

REDEVELOPMENT OF YMCA continued from page 5

The four-plex at 127-129 North Kenwood is particularly notable. It is one of the last remaining apartment buildings in downtown Glendale from the 1920s. Constructed in 1922, it was originally located across the street at 130 North Kenwood and was moved to its current site in 1926. (Even in 1926, it was recognized that the structure was worth saving!) Adding to its historical significance, in its initial location, the building appears in Buster Keaton's 1923 classic silent film "Three Ages."

TGHS strongly encouraged the city of Glendale and the YMCA of Glendale to consider development scenarios that retain, rehabilitate and include the existing apartment buildings into any new design.

WELCOME

NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS: MAY 2013 - JULY 2013

JEWEL CITY PATRON (\$500)

Steven Chapman & Ricardo Ordoñez - U
Heather Norris & Sean Bersell - R

VERDUGO PATRON (\$250)

Elaine & Bill Wilkerson - R

TROPICO SUPPORTER (\$100)

Jonathan Avila - R
Pam & Bruce Devine - N
Marcia Hanford - R
Gina & Vrej Mardian - U
Mary Kay Prather - R
William Troiano - U
Rondi Werner - U

SUSTAINING (\$50)

Jane Brown & Gary Hart - R
Cindy Cleary - N
Donald McPoland - U
Tammy & John O'Connor - R
Maureen Palacios/Once Upon A Time Bookstore - R
Anna Rundle - R

DUAL (\$40)

John Ballon - N
Elizabeth & Richard Berry - R
Ben Betts - R
Alvaro Cardenas & Daniel McQueen - R
Nancy & Allan Durham - R
Laura Friedman & Guillaume Lemoine - R
Teresa Hendrich - R
Judee & Curtis Kendall - U
Warren Mays - R
Devonna & Aaron Reichert - N
David Saylor - N

INDIVIDUAL (\$25)

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Teri Deaver - R
Patricia DiGennaro - R
Shelley Filian - U
Marie Fish - R
Karen Goodman - R
Mady Julian - R
Patricia Mack - R
Joan Morris - R
Sonia Marie Olivas - N
Stacy Niss-Sartor - R
Richard Threlkeld - R
Brit Trydal - R
Manuel Valenzuela III - N

SENIOR/STUDENT (\$15)

Betty Albu - R
Ruth Brooks - R
Steven Butros - N
Jessie Daniels - N
Ronald Finely - R
Sharon Garrison - R
Jean Girard - N
Zoë Howard - R
Richard Johnson - R
Mary Khachatryan - N
Karen Kline - N
Don & Mary Savarese - R
Dee D Trent - R

NON-PROFIT (\$35)

Chevy Chase Estates Association - R

PLEASE CONSIDER A MEMBERSHIP UPGRADE THE NEXT TIME YOU RENEW.

Join The Glendale Historical Society and Support Historic Preservation in Our Community

THE SOCIETY IS A NON-PROFIT tax-exempt organization, and we encourage you to join and volunteer. Please complete this form and mail it with a check payable to:

The Glendale Historical Society, PO Box 4173, Glendale CA 91202-0173

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or Student (\$15)

Nonprofit (\$35)

Nonprofit organizations are encouraged to join TGHS as Associate Members (No voting rights)

Name Phone

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WANT TO GET INVOLVED? WHAT ARE YOUR INTERESTS?

Preservation Advocacy

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PO Box 4173, Glendale, CA 91202-0173
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2013 EVENTS CALENDAR

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 7:00 P.M

PRESENTATION:

CASA VERDUGO, GLENDALE'S RED CAR SUBURB
First Church of Christ, Scientist • 1320 North Brand Boulevard

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29,
11:00 AM-4:00 PM**

2013 HOME TOUR: CLASSIC CASA VERDUGO

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10

NEIGHBORHOOD WALKING TOUR

Time and Place TBA



THE
GLENDALE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ENDOWMENT FUND

The Community Foundation of the Verdugos maintains an endowment to benefit The Glendale Historical Society. The Endowment was initiated by former TGHS treasurer Richard Montgomery. Since his death, a number of contributions have been made to our endowment fund. An especially large one was made to it by bequest of former president Dr. Robert Newcomb. An anonymous donor contributes yearly.

Please consider making a bequest in your will to the Community Foundation to benefit TGHS, or make donations at any time.

Community Foundation of the Verdugos

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