



THE GLENDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

CELEBRATING OUR HISTORY AND CONSERVING OUR HERITAGE

WINTER 2013/2014

Municipal Services Building Becomes Glendale's 100th Landmark Four Additional Properties Receive Historic Designation

Five architecturally and historically significant properties have been added to the Glendale Register of Historic Resources in recent months:



NO. 100 MUNICIPAL SERVICES BUILDING

The Municipal Services Building (MSB) was designed by local architect Merrill W. Baird, working in collaboration with A. C. Martin Architects of Los Angeles, and was completed in 1966. Prominently sited at the corner of East Broadway and Glendale Avenue, this civic building anchors an important intersection, is a visual icon of Glendale's civic center, and exemplifies the ideals of modernist design and city planning theories. Over the years, TGHS championed the designation of this important mid-twentieth century building as a historic landmark and will continue to do so for other architecturally significant city-owned properties.



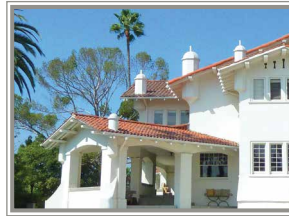
NO. 101 WEBB HOUSE

Webb House is a two-story, single-family residence built in 1950. This fine interpretation of the Tudor Revival style was designed by George Postle, who was responsible for numerous local works, including the Glendale Municipal Plunge (1935; demolished), Temple Sinai of Glendale (1962) and the Glendale Register-designated Ford House. The first owners were C. Dolliver Webb and his wife, Ruth Mackaig. Dolliver Webb was the owner of the Glendale Hardware Company, which subsequently became Virgil's Glendale Hardware, which today is one of the city's oldest-operating businesses.



NO. 102 CLAPP HOUSE

Built in 1925 in the Verdugo Viejo neighborhood, the multi-story single-family residence was designed in the Mediterranean Revival style by Harry L. Pierce. While Pierce designed commercial and residential structures, he is best known for his church architecture. The house was built for Albert B. Clapp, a real estate developer who was involved with the early subdivisions of Hermosa Beach and Long Beach. The Clapp House embodies many of the character-defining features of the Mediterranean Revival style, which is not commonly found in Glendale. Its blocky massing is a key feature of the style, as are the hipped roof and stucco walls.



NO. 103 BROCKMONT

This has been described as "one of Glendale's most unique architectural expressions ... an eclectic mashup of the Craftsman and Prairie styles." The house was built in 1910 by John Brockman, an entrepreneur of humble origin who became a mining magnate and wealthy Los Angeles businessman, as his own residence. Named "Brockmont," originally it was a grand estate surrounded by acres of orchards and wild lands. Much of the estate was subdivided after Brockman's death in 1925, and part of the property to the south of the house comprises the proposed Brockmont Park Historic District. The inaugural TGHS Annual Gala & Benefit will be held on the property in August (see page 3).



NO. 104 630 WEST KENNETH ROAD

630 West Kenneth Road is one of the oldest remaining houses in Glendale. Although definitive records have not been located, the house appears to have been built around 1890. Located in the Glenwood neighborhood, it is a two-story single-family residence designed in the Colonial Revival style. The permit record and ornamental detailing at the interior suggest that the house may have undergone a significant remodeling in the 1920s. It is possible that the structure was originally a simpler farmhouse. It is not a stretch to surmise that previous owners could have updated its appearance at the height of the Period Revival craze to resemble some of the stately homes in the neighborhood.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Photo: Elizabeth Cohen

It's been about two months since we lost our hard-fought battle to save the 1930 Mediterranean Revival building at 3901 San Fernando Road. Thank you to all who attended the public hearing, signed the petition and sent letters and emails. While we weren't successful in saving the building, we certainly demonstrated that there is a strong and unified voice for preservation in Glendale.

Although I am disappointed in our loss, I do see this as a turning point for The Glendale Historical Society. For the first time, we challenged the process and hired a consultant to prepare an independent historic assessment of a threatened building. We did not simply roll over or register our dismay that another historic structure was being bulldozed; we fought back, and both the City and the

So rather than being discouraged by 3901 San Fernando Road, we are feeling energized and more determined than ever to do what it takes to protect and preserve Glendale's remaining architectural heritage.

Of course, it will take a lot more resources to bolster our preservation efforts. For that reason, in the year ahead we will be increasing our fundraising targets and

For the first time, we challenged the process.

developers know that we are prepared to do so again. We will continue to work so that whenever historic properties are under threat we are notified and can build a case for their defense and rally support as quickly as possible.

Additionally, we are committed to stepping up our outreach efforts to owners of historic properties to promote preservation and adaptive reuse and to extol the virtues of landmark designation. We will also advocate for a change in policy so that the City - not the developer - gets to select the consultants who prepare the environmental analysis and historic assessment of vulnerable properties. We will also work to ensure that no demolition permit is issued, especially if the structure is more than 50 years old, until a final building permit has been secured. This will help prevent the needless loss of older buildings should development plans fall through and construction not move forward.

working harder to enlist and engage more members. You can help by joining our Preservation Advocacy, Fundraising or Membership and Outreach Committees. And think about making a tax-deductible donation to our Preservation Fund or consider a membership upgrade the next time you renew.

On a separate note, I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation and best wishes to longtime residents Carole and Michael Dougherty, who recently sold their historic Glendale home and moved to Orange County to be closer to family. As many of you know, Carole is the Society's "founding mother." She established TGHS in 1979 to save one of our last remaining Victorian homes, the Doctors House, and is responsible for launching the preservation movement in Glendale. For the past 35 years, Carole has remained an ardent and active supporter of TGHS and continues to serve as a friend, mentor and inspiration to so many of us.

Regards,

Greg Grammer

THE GLENDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Bloomingtondale's

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David Brooks & John LoCascio

Rima & Donnell Cameron

Steven Chapman & Ricardo Ordoñez

Guy DeConte & Ammar Kharouf

Greg Grammer & Simon Wright

Heather Norris & Sean Bersell

Karl Swaidan

Jackie & Halsey Wickser

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Polly & Jamie Anderson

Dr. Gary Gilbert

Nancy Hathaway (The Wine Vault)

Cathy Jurca & Scott Fraser

Alphonso Lascano

Victoria & Scott Lasken

Margaret Simpkins

Bonnye LaPenotiere Sirk

(Rossmoyne Properties, Inc.)

Arlene Vidor

Elaine & Bill Wilkerson

Bloomington's Makes Large Donation to TGHS

In advance of the grand opening of the new Bloomington's at the Glendale Galleria, TGHS was one of 10 non-profit organizations honored at a special Private Preview Day on November 7, 2013. TGHS received a charitable donation from Bloomington's in the amount of \$5,000.

TGHS is extraordinarily grateful to Bloomington's for its generosity and for recognizing the Society's contributions to the community.



TGHS President Greg Grammer accepts a \$5,000 check from Bloomington's.

EVENTS

Save the Date: TGHS Gala & Benefit August 23

On August 23, TGHS will hold its inaugural Annual Gala & Benefit. This event will take place at the centerpiece of the proposed Brockmont Park Historic District: the John Brockman Clock Tower Estate, also known as "Brockmont." The house was recently added to the Glendale Register of Historic Resources (see page 1).

Don't miss this rare experience to visit one of Glendale's most outstanding homes while you sip champagne, enjoy food catered by The Spot and outbid your neighbors on the many fantastic silent auction items that will be available.

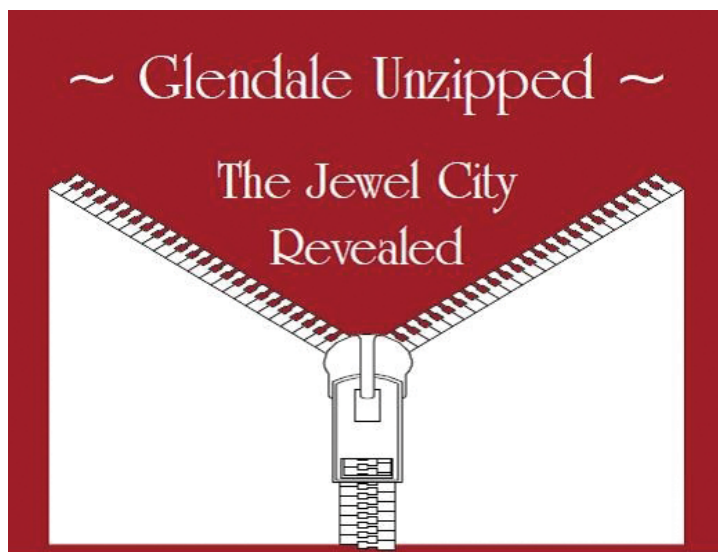
Tickets will go on sale in the summer.



Photo: Arlene Vidor

Brand Library

Fifty lucky TGHS members got a sneak peek at the restored Brand Library prior to its scheduled March reopening. All the proceeds from the ticket sales, totaling more than \$1,000, were donated to the Associates of Brand Library & Art Center.



Glendale Unzipped

Former TGHS President Arlene Vidor enlightened more than 100 attendees at her January 16 lecture, "Glendale Unzipped," which related tales of Glendale's development.

We Want You to Hear from Us

Occasionally, last-minute event opportunities are available to TGHS members. The only method for communicating in these circumstances is by email. If you are not currently receiving emails from us, please email sean.bersell@glendalehistorical.org and ask to be added to our list.



Trio of Mid-Century Medical Buildings to Be Torn Down

On November 12, 2013, the Glendale City Council gave final approval to a large 507-unit apartment project, clearing the way for demolition of three charming mid-twentieth century brick buildings located at 540, 607 and 633 North Central Avenue.

The red clad brick buildings located at 540 and 633 North Central Avenue were built in 1953 and 1960, respectively. The building at 607 North Central Avenue was constructed in 1964 and is clad in pale yellow brick. A similar red clad brick building at 610 North Central Avenue, built in 1955, was razed last year to allow for construction of a previously approved 235-unit apartment building.

The City's Downtown Specific Plan, prepared in 2006, found that this unique grouping of four post-World War II medical office buildings, developed by the firm of Causey and Rhodes, was potentially historic and eligible for listing on the California Register; however, the analysis in the Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the apartment complex determined that the three remaining buildings did not meet the criteria for designation as historic resources at the local, state or national levels.

TGHS disagreed with the findings in the EIR and throughout the public review process requested the identification and evaluation of a credible preservation alternative that would incorporate the buildings into the project. Unfortunately, adaptive reuse of the buildings was not considered.



Brockmont Park Historic District Advances

The Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) and the Planning Commission of the city of Glendale both recently recommended to the City Council that the Brockmont Park Historic District be established. The recommendations came after nearly 60% of the homeowners in the proposed district signed a petition requesting its establishment. The proposed district now goes to Council for approval.

Consisting of 59 single-family homes, the proposed 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. Many residents know the neighborhood because of the four-story clock tower built by Brockman on his estate around 1914. Both the house and the clock tower are listed on the Glendale Register of Historic Resources.

A historic resource survey of the proposed district identified an impressive 88% of the 59 homes as "contributors," meaning they reflect the architectural qualities that make the neighborhood eligible for designation and possess historic integrity. It also found that the neighborhood meets four of the nine criteria for historic district designation. Specifically, the survey declared: that the character and quality of the homes reflect special elements of Glendale's social, aesthetic and architectural history from 1910 to the 1950s; the proposed district embodies distinctive characteristics of a variety of Period Revival architectural styles; the area is a fine example of an early automobile suburb and community planning in the 1920s; and the neighborhood conveys a sense of historic and architectural cohesiveness.

TGHS actively supports designation of the Brockmont Park Historic District.

PRESERVATION UPDATES



designated on the California Register without owner consent so long as the owner does not actively object.)

TGHS notified the real estate broker about the historic status of the building, an important step because the broker is legally required to pass on that information to a potential buyer. TGHS also notified the City's Historic Preservation Planner to make sure the building was properly flagged if any development proposals emerged.

Given that the real estate broker did not think the building was listed, TGHS's intervention was especially important. One challenge we face in historic preservation is to make sure all real estate sellers and buyers know the historic status of their properties. Preservation is more likely to succeed if it is a consideration from the beginning.

If you see a building that concerns you, whether because of a pending sale – after which changes are often made – or because you believe unpermitted work may be going on, let the City or TGHS know. If we don't speak up, who will?

A Pro-Active Approach to Historic Preservation

By Catherine Jurca
Preservation Advocacy Committee Member

How can we be more pro-active in preserving Glendale's architectural heritage? Keep our eyes open and speak up when we are concerned about a building.

TGHS member Ely Lester drives by 641 Sonora Avenue (at the corner of Flower) most days on his way to work. A fan of South Glendale's commercial buildings since the 1990s, he noticed that this beautiful brick building, with elaborate decorative façade work, was for sale. His grandfather, who grew up in Glendale and volunteered as a ground school instructor at the Grand Central Air Terminal (GCAT) after World War II, told him that this building was once a parachute factory.

Ely contacted TGHS to express concern about the possible sale and to ask if anything could be done to preserve it before a developer started hatching plans for the site.

A few emails and phone calls later, it turns out that this building was surveyed in March 2000. It was found to be eligible for the National Register and is currently designated as a historic resource on the California Register. (A building can be

If you see a building that concerns you, whether because of a pending sale – after which changes are often made – or because you believe unpermitted work may be going on (the endless battle against illegal window replacements, for example), let the City or TGHS know. If we don't speak up, who will?

Regarding 641 Sonora Avenue: The building is currently for lease. Recent research by TGHS confirms that the building was originally constructed in 1929 for the Irving Air Chute Co. The company, at one time the world's largest parachute manufacturer, was owned by parachute pioneer (and Glendale resident) Leslie Irvin, who made the first premeditated free-fall parachute descent. The factory was designed by Henry Gogherty, the architect behind the GCAT. TGHS is seeking additional information about the site. If you have any information, please let us know.

TGHS is planning to reach out to the new owners to inform them about the significant property tax benefits of the Mills Act if they were to list it on the Glendale Register. This is another way to further the goal of historic preservation: trumpet the virtues of the Mills Act loudly and often to owners of potentially eligible properties.

Perhaps we will one day soon have this wonderful building on our City's list of historic resources!

DOCTORS HOUSE MUSEUM



Thousands Tour Victorian Gem Each Year

In an average year, the Doctors House hosts approximately 2,500 visitors, who experience it through a variety of tours.

Tours are the lifeblood of a museum. And people who tour historic buildings breathe the very life into them. This is particularly true of a house museum such as the Doctors House. Visitors who are on a tour can feel it. Docents who conduct them are aware of it.

The volunteers who completed the restoration of the Doctors House 30 years ago certainly knew they were recreating something that would have otherwise been forgotten. When the house caved in and the chimney tumbled down after being carefully transported through Glendale's streets in 1980, those volunteers wisely opted not only to restore an old Queen Anne Victorian, but turn it into a museum for all to experience the secrets within those walls. Although the work was tedious and took four years of sweat and tears to complete, they knew their decision to revive this former beauty was the right one. In recognition of their work, this year's TGHS Annual Meeting will be held at the Doctors House and will celebrate the 30th anniversary of the completion of its restoration in 1984.

REGULAR SUNDAY TOURS:

The Museum is open for guided tours every Sunday between 2:00 and 4:00 p.m., except during the months of July and December. These usually last about 20-25 minutes and are designed to give an overview of the architecture and lifestyle of the Victorian era. Since each docent has a customized style of presentation, return tours will reveal something new each time the house is visited.

Return visits also afford the opportunity to view special exhibits, such as the current display of christening apparel in honor of Britain's newest royal, Prince George.

SPECIAL GROUP TOURS:

Arranged in advance, special group tours are conducted on weekdays, or before the regular tour hours on Sundays, so that more time may be spent answering questions and discussing details. These tours are best designed for groups of under 15 visitors, and are usually from 60 to 90 minutes long.

SCHOOL TOURS:

School field trips are ideally suited for second- and third-graders. They are usually arranged through the school itself and include several classes at a time on a weekday at either the beginning or the end of the school year. While groups of 10-12 at a time are taken through to share a very personal experience, their classmates are outside learning about Victorian games, such as sticks and hoops, graces and croquet. The students also perform some of the household chores that were expected from children during the Victorian era.

SELF-GUIDED TOURS:

Self-guided tours are reserved for special events to allow a large volume of visitors to tour the house at their own pace during a two- or three-hour interval. Examples are the holiday Candlelight Tours and the Verdugo Hills 10k Run. During these events, docents are available in each room for questions and answers only.

You are invited to take a tour to see what this experience holds for you!



SPECIAL EVENTS COMING SOON

The Doctors House has several special events scheduled this year, including a Victorian Easter egg hunt (April 13), the return of the popular "Behind the Veil" exhibit on mourning in the Victorian era (October 25) and the holiday Candlelight Tours (December 13 and 20). Check the TGHS website or Facebook page for additional information and times.

WELCOME

NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS: NOVEMBER 2013-JANUARY 2014

JEWEL CITY PATRON (\$500)

Anonymous - R
David Brooks &
John LoCascio - U

VERDUGO PATRON (\$250)

Dr. Gary Gilbert - U
Arlene Vidor - U

TROPICO SUPPORTER (\$100)

Howard Anderson - R
Margie & Rick Barnes - U
Frances & Jose Chavez - U
Mr. & Mrs. John Clauss, Jr. - U
Elizabeth & Jordan Cohen - R
Arlet & Harach Davoodian - R
Michael Dougherty - R
Clemencia & Romeo Garza - U
Stephen Hunt - N
Catherine &
Chris Lamson - U
Paul Lombardi - U
Bruce Merritt - U
Helen Morran-Wolf &
Edward Wolf - N
Lila & Rich Ramirez - U
Mirna Stanley - U
Diane Stevens - R
Debra Thompson - N
Silvia & Phil Tucker - R

SUSTAINING (\$50)

Don Anderson & David Kean - U
Ruth Ellen Billion - R

Marty Bracciotti & Joe Selph - R

Judy & Dan Cabrera - R

Ronald Cressy - U

Melanie & Kevin Doody - N

Milena Dostanich - R

Joan Hardie - R

Thu Ha & Bruce Howard - U

Jennifer LaPlaca - N

Carol & Richard Lee - U

Carol Merry - R

Sonia Montejano - R

Daniel Muñoz - R

Sheila Murray - R

Ted Osborn - N

Vic Pallos - R

Beatrice &

Donald Penniall - R

Kevin Roberts - R

E. Jean Simone - U

Scott Smissen &

Don Snyder - R

Francesca & Lee Smith - U

Joan & Kurtwood Smith - R

Jeanette Stirdivant - R

Dennis Tesdell - R

Leann & William Warner - R

Anita Weaver &

William Clifton - R

DUAL (\$40)

Marshall & Paul Ayers - R

Alek Bartrosouf & Alex Calleros - R

Dora & Bob Beadles - N

Sydney & Bill Bennett - R

Elizabeth & Richard Berry - R

Joan & Warren Binzley - R

Pauline Callahan &

Lloyd Ferguson - R

Susan Carr - R

Kent Chesney - R

Jennifer & Robert Coshland - N

Joanna Hess &

Randall Von Bloomberg - R

Sarojini Lall & Paul Westacott - N

Helene Marnell - R

Effie Pappas-Block - R

Ruth Priest - R

Elaine & Kurt Sawitskas - N

Stephanie Schus & Joe Russin - R

Cynthia & Fred Soldwedel - R

Lenore Solis - U

Caroline Tufenkian - U

Lorna Vartanian - R

Lucy Wang & Thomas Halpern - N

NON-PROFIT (\$35)

Hannah Lazarus - R

INDIVIDUAL (\$25)

Rosemarie Barraza - R

Russell Cinque, Jr. - R

Susan Dasso - N

Mary Jo Ferrell - U

Diana Flores - N

Vartan Gharpetian - N

Wendy Gish - N

Mary Rose Grim - R

Renee Leask - R

Vivian Long - R

Los Angeles Public Library - R

Doris McKentley - R

Josephine Moukhtar - R

Marilyn Plutae - R

Cris Pozanac - N

Mary Ann Prelock - U

Terry Richman - U

Patty Silversher - R

Laura Stotler - R

Greg Sylvis - R

Dorothy Sundbye - R

William Widener - N

Katherine Yamada - R

SENIOR/STUDENT (\$15)

Diahanna Allen - R

Karen Bartl-Grammer - R

Richard Bloch - R

Veronica Chavoor - R

Jose Cheja - N

Loretta Chicoine - N

Craig Donahuf - N

Judy Farris-Phares - R

Patricia Fiedler - N

Gayle Fitch - R

Stefano Formica - N

Merry Franzen - R

Ray Frauenholz - N

Victoria Gorjian - R

Marcie Haug - R

Grace Kliewer - N

Laura & Richard Lovick - R

Dorothy Montapert - R

Bob Oliphant - R

Marilyn Oliver - R

Adryan Russ - N

Lila Sanden - N

Diane Spurlock - R

Bonnie Strand - R

Frank & Bonnie Tortorelli - R

Pam Vasquez - N

Odette Zakarian - R

Ralph Ziegler - N

PAST PRESIDENTS

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Deborah Dentler

Carole Dougherty

Andrea Humberger

John LoCascio

Marie Luft

Steve Preston

Bill Shepherd

David Smith

Arlene Vidor

N - New Member

R - Renewing Member

U - Upgrading Member

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

Brand Patron (\$5,000)

Goode Patron (\$2,500)

San Rafael Patron (\$1,000)

Jewel City Patron (\$500)

Verdugo Patron (\$250)

Tropico Supporter (\$100)

Sustaining (\$50)

Dual (\$40)

Individual (\$25)

Individual Senior
or Student (\$15)
Nonprofit (\$35)

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

Name Phone

Street Address

City/Zip Code Email Address

WANT TO GET INVOLVED? WHAT ARE YOUR INTERESTS?

Preservation Advocacy

Historic Districting

Fundraising

Special Events/Tours

Outreach/Education

Doctors House Volunteers

Historic Research/Surveys

Archiving/Organizing

Membership/Outreach

2014 EVENTS CALENDAR

SATURDAY, APRIL 12

TASTE OF SPAIN

In a Lovely Monterey Colonial Revival Home
Tickets on Sale in March/Members Only

SUNDAY, JULY 13, TIME TBD

ANNUAL MEETING AND ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Doctors House Gazebo
Brand Park
Free

SATURDAY, AUGUST 23, 7:00-10:00 P.M.

TGHS GALA & BENEFIT

John Brockman Clock Tower Estate
Brockmont Park Historic District
Tickets on Sale in June

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 11:00 A.M.-4:00 P.M.

2014 HOME TOUR
Tickets on Sale in August



Whole Foods Market in Glendale has selected TGHS as the beneficiary of its 2014 Community Support Day, which will occur on February 26.

As this year's chosen charity, TGHS will receive 5% of the Glendale Whole Foods Market's net proceeds for that day. In addition, Whole Foods Market is providing space in the store during the day for a TGHS display, which will be staffed by Society volunteers who will provide information about TGHS's mission, activities and accomplishments.

Whole Foods Market Glendale, located at 331 North Glendale Avenue, between California and Lexington, will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. on February 26. So please shop at Whole Foods Market in Glendale that day to support TGHS – and be sure to spread the word to friends and family.

Thank you for your support!