



HPC Approves Significant Alterations to F.W. Woolworth Building

On December 18, 2014, the City's Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) approved significant alterations to the F.W. Woolworth building at 201 North Brand Boulevard. Originally built in the 1920s, the building was remodeled in the streamline moderne style in 1942, when it became a Woolworth.

The structure was placed on the Glendale Register of Historic Resources in 1999, following alterations to its exterior in 1998, which included new storefronts along Brand Boulevard and the construction of a second floor that added 13 new windows along both the Brand Boulevard and Wilson Avenue façades.

While the alterations recently approved by the HPC include removing the inappropriate pyramidal structure on the roof that was added in 1998, they also include eliminating the most intact remaining feature of the original Woolworth, a wall with small clerestory windows along the ground floor of Wilson Avenue, and replacing it with storefronts to match those on Brand Boulevard. The staff report maintained that "typically, blank wall areas such as this are not considered to be character-defining features and staff believes this to be the case regarding the subject property."

However, the wall is neither blank nor unimportant to the character of the building; it marked the interior location of the Woolworth lunch counter, a distinctive and much loved feature of the chain. The staff report also defended demolition of the original wall as a "reversible" change, but it would result in the permanent loss of material and design configuration.

Any changes to a property on the Glendale Register are supposed to conform to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation, but The Glendale Historical Society believes that this project called for removing far too much of the building's remaining historic fabric. And by copying the storefronts on the Brand Boulevard side, the uniform exterior creates "a false



sense of historical development," which is explicitly prohibited by the Standards.

Similarly, the staff recommendation to allow tile to be added to the piers between the storefronts along both façades is problematic. Historically tile was found only on the

bulkheads under the storefronts along Brand Boulevard, and it should not be added elsewhere. Unfortunately, the HPC not only allowed new decorative elements to be added to all the piers, but they changed the material from tile to stone as well, removing this building still further from its historical identity as a Woolworth.

TGHS believes that, not only do the changes fail to conform to the Standards in several instances, but given the previous alterations from the 1990s, the Woolworth Building's hold on the Glendale Register is already so tenuous that these new and quite significant alterations must be understood as jeopardizing the building's remaining integrity to the point where it is no longer eligible for listing. This fact alone should have triggered the environmental review process.

TGHS disagreed with the staff determination that the project is exempt from environmental review, as required under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), because they concluded it conforms to the Standards for Rehabilitation. Appropriate environmental review, as TGHS had requested, would have required the applicant and the City to consider less radical changes to the building.

Rockhaven on Most Endangered List



Rockhaven Sanitarium, which has been placed on The Glendale Historical Society's Preservation Watch List, recently captured the attention of Chris Nichols of *Los Angeles Magazine*. The property made it on the magazine's list of 12 most endangered historic buildings in the Los Angeles area. The list, which includes more information about Rockhaven and the other properties is at: <http://tinyurl.com/RockhavenEndangered>

Established in 1923 as a women-only health care facility, Rockhaven sits on more than three acres and is now owned by the City of Glendale. Sufficient funds have not yet been identified for restoration of the deteriorating buildings. TGHS will continue to advocate for an appropriate adaptive reuse solution that preserves and rehabilitates the property.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Photo: Elizabeth Cohen

Each year, The Glendale Historical Society Board of Directors sets goals for the year ahead. Some of these are quite ambitious but, with your help, all are achievable:

1. INCREASE OUR MEMBERSHIP TO 700

Membership dues are one of our most significant sources of funding. Retaining and expanding our membership is also an important part of being a strong voice for historic preservation. We currently have 624 members and continue to add new members each month. You can help us achieve our goal of 700 by reaching out to your friends and neighbors and encouraging them to join.

2. ENGAGE THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY AND INCREASE THE DIVERSITY OF OUR MEMBERSHIP TO BETTER REFLECT GLENDALE'S POPULATION

Preservation is for everyone! Membership is open to anyone who values the importance of preserving Glendale's rich history and architectural heritage. Our primary purpose is to bring people together to celebrate and preserve our local landmarks and historic homes and neighborhoods. To better engage the business community, TGHS recently joined the Chamber of Commerce, and we are in the process of developing new sponsorship levels and benefits to attract more business support. Our successful Raising the Bar mixers have drawn a diverse crowd each month, helping us attract new members. And we will be doing more to include Glendale's diverse community in our events and activities.

3. SUPPORT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF MORE HISTORIC DISTRICTS BY AWARDING AT LEAST ONE HISTORIC DISTRICT GRANT IN 2015

Historic districts are the best way to ensure that an established neighborhood's character and architectural integrity are preserved. We are eager to see more of the many areas eligible for designation submit historic district applications and are willing to provide guidance, support and financial assistance. TGHS has a grant program to cover some of the city's application fee. If you and your neighbors are considering applying for historic district status, please contact me at greg.grammer@glendalehistorical.org for more information.

4. NOMINATE A PROPERTY TO THE GLENDALE REGISTER OF HISTORIC RESOURCES

Through our ongoing outreach efforts, TGHS has been successful in encouraging property owners to apply for landmark designation, which not only helps ensure that a historic home or building is preserved, but also can provide the owner with property tax reductions to help defray some of the costs associated with maintaining historic properties. This year, TGHS plans to prepare its first nomination application, with the owner's consent, for a property that we are confident is eligible for listing. Stay tuned for details.

5. REACH OUT TO PROPERTIES ON THE CALIFORNIA REGISTER OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES, AS WELL AS GLENDALE REGISTER-ELIGIBLE PROPERTIES, ABOUT THE BENEFITS OF THE MILLS ACT AND LOCAL DESIGNATION

There are a handful of properties in the city that have been listed on the California Register but are currently not on the Glendale Register. The owners of these properties may not be aware of the tax reductions that are offered through the Mills Act program. TGHS plans to expand its outreach efforts to ensure these structures are also locally designated.

6. ADVOCATE FOR THE PREPARATION OF A CITYWIDE SURVEY OF GLENDALE'S HISTORIC RESOURCES

For years, TGHS has been calling for a comprehensive, citywide historic resources survey to identify, assess and document architecturally and historically significant properties that are worthy of protection. A survey would make it clear to the city, potential developers and the preservation community which buildings are eligible for local, state or national registers and should be maintained. We are hopeful that a historic resources survey can be prepared as part of the South Glendale Community Plan and will continue to press City officials to make sure this is done.

On a separate note, our thanks to Carole Dougherty for the wonderful job she has done over the years preparing the newsletter layout each quarter. For those not familiar with Carole, she founded TGHS in 1979 and has remained actively involved with the organization ever since. Carole and her husband Michael recently moved to Orange County to be closer to family, and she will no longer be involved with the newsletter – but I know that she will continue to be a great supporter of our cause.

Regards,

Greg Grammer

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 (Rossmoyne Properties, Inc.)
 Arlene Vidor
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Holiday Party Draws Festive Crowd to Brand Library

Members and guests kicked off the season at The Glendale Historical Society's annual holiday party held on December 6 at the historic Brand Library & Art Center. The event was attended by 170 revelers who noshed on Austrian themed hors d'oeuvres and Glühwein. Bedecked in pine garlands and wreaths, the gallery space thrilled the senses with stimulating visual art and classical music from German and Austrian composers performed by the Pasadena Conservatory of Music cello ensemble. A wonderful time was had by all in attendance - and like many a successful party, no one wanted to leave!



Photo: Ralph Ziegler

TGHS sends a heartfelt thanks to our hosts at Brand Library & Art Center, the Pasadena Conservatory of Music, Kathryn and Sam Engel for event coordination and the many volunteers who helped bring the event to life.

Neighborhood Walks: Tour-Goers Learn About Verdugo Woodlands and Downtown Glendale

The 2015 Neighborhood Walks series kicked off in January with a tour of the proposed Niodrara Drive Historic District in the Verdugo Woodlands. Guests walked along the four-block route to discover diverse architectural treasures, with an emphasis on Tudor revival, ranch and modern homes. Walkers also learned about the history of the West Stream, which once provided Glendale with most of its domestic water supply and in the 1920s was incorporated into the area's landscaping in ways still visible today.



In February, attendees strolled along historic Brand Boulevard and neighboring streets to see important buildings from Glendale's past, from the City's oldest brick building (built in 1905) through modern masterpieces such as the Municipal Services Building, which recently became the 100th property on the Glendale Register of Historic Resources.

Space on these tours was limited to about 25 people for safety and other concerns, but they will be offered again.

A third tour, The Cradle of Glendale, will take place on Saturday, March 14. It will cover the area around Glendale and Wilson avenues, the center of the tiny farming village of Glendale in the 1880s. Guests will learn about those early days as they walk through what was arguably Glendale's first residential neighborhood and see the architectural relics - Victorian cottages, foursquare farmhouses and Craftsman bungalows - that remain among the newer apartment buildings. Please watch for the email announcement.

TGHS Queries City Council Candidates on Historic Preservation Views

Would you like to know what candidates for City Council think about balancing historic preservation and development in Glendale? The demolition of contributors to historic districts? Inappropriate window replacements on older buildings?

As a non-profit organization, The Glendale Historical Society cannot endorse candidates for office. But it can ask them about their positions on important historic preservation issues that will impact the future of Glendale

and help voters make an informed decision in the April 7 General Municipal Election.

For the first time, TGHS has invited candidates for City Council to respond to six questions about matters that interest and concern its members. Their answers are posted at www.glendalehistorical.org

Please take a moment to read their responses. Find out who has gone on record in support of Glendale's historic resources and a strong preservation program that will help to protect them.

Five Historic Homes Added to Glendale Register

Five historic homes, representing a spectrum from the earliest days of Glendale to the mid-twentieth century, have been added to the Glendale Register of Historic Resources



Photo: Victoria Lasken

Weaver House – No. 105

Featured in TGHS's "Glendale's Golden Age" Home Tour in 2012, Weaver House is a beautiful Spanish Colonial Revival-style residence built in 1927. Its most character-defining element is a dramatic entry tower that features battered walls and colorful tile work.

Designed by Benjamin W. Sherwood, the house was built for Eugene L. Weaver, an executive with Ben-Hur Coffee. Ben-Hur pioneered the world's first drip coffee system under Weaver's management, and he is credited with the invention.

Sherwood's iconic work is the 1931 Disney Court, a group of Storybook cottages in Los Feliz that is said to have been the inspiration for the cottage in Disney's "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs." He also designed Gray-Sherwood home, which is listed on the Glendale Register.

Hovaguimian House – No. 106

Built in 1954, this modestly sized home with a carport in Glenoaks Canyon is a fine example of Modern style post-and-beam construction. The post-and-beam style was a new method of construction that allowed for more open floor plans and was well-suited to a family lifestyle, in addition to being economical. Hovaguimian House is an early design by the prominent architecture firm Buff and Hensman and is the only intact structure in Glendale known to have been produced by the firm.

The home was built for a Los Angeles Department of Water and Power employee and his wife, Diran and Ellena Hovaguimian.



PRESERVATION UPDATES



Photo: Arlene Vidor

Wallace House – No. 107

The City-owned Wallace House at the northwest corner of South Cedar and East Harvard streets is a one-story Craftsman-style bungalow. (Originally a single-family residence, it now houses a not-for-profit organization.) The house was built in 1913; its architect and builder are unknown. The original owners were John and Martha Ellen Wallace, and after their deaths, their daughter Helen lived in the house until 1988.

Wallace House is an excellent vernacular example of the Craftsman style and one of the best and most intact examples in the Harvard neighborhood of South Glendale.

When a 2006 Environmental Impact Report concluded that the house was eligible for the Glendale Register and would have been impacted by the development of a mini-park, TGHS led the effort to make sure that the house was preserved, restored and incorporated into the new park, which was fittingly named Glendale Heritage Garden.

Thanks to TGHS Past President and current Historic Preservation Commissioner Arlene Vidor for successfully nominating the property to the Register.

Lawson-Stengel House – No. 108

Lawson-Stengel House was built in 1925 for former Glendale mayor John W. Lawson and his wife Margaret. In 1945, the Lawson's daughter and her husband, legendary baseball player, coach and manager Casey Stengel, took ownership of the house. The Stengels lived there until 1978.

The house, located in the North Cumberland Heights Historic District, is a two-story, Mediterranean Revival residence. Its floor plan is basically L-shaped, and the exterior has a hipped tiled roof, smooth stucco walls and multi-paned French doors and windows. The front of the house features a simple portico with arched openings, and there is a porte-cochere on the south side of the residence.



Photo: Arlene Vidor

Harris House – No. 109

Harris House, built in 1902, is a large, two-story single-family residence. Its transitional hybrid style illustrates both the waning of the Victorian influence and the emergence of the Craftsman style at the time of its construction. The house is named for Harriet Harris, a widow who was the original owner.

As noted in the City's analysis for the Register nomination, "[o]verall, [Harris House] is more evocative of Victorian style homes, but it features Craftsman features such as dominant gabled roof volumes, a prominent front porch that is part of the main body of the house, and exposed rafter tails."

When the house was recently listed for sale, The Glendale Historical Society met with the sellers and encouraged their real estate agent to promote the house as eligible for historic designation and the Mills Act. TGHS is pleased that the home did indeed end up in the right hands and that the new owners decided to give the house the extra protection that comes with listing it on the Glendale Register.

(Descriptions are from Register nomination forms and City staff reports.)

Nell Shipman Documentary to Screen at Brand Library

The much-anticipated screening of “Nell Shipman: Girl from God’s Country” is scheduled for Sunday, May 31, in the Brand Library recital hall. The exact time will be noted later, but it will follow the afternoon (2:00-4:00 pm) tours of the Doctors House, Ms. Shipman’s home from 1917 to 1921.

The documentary by Karen Day will highlight the most productive years of this silent screen actress, director, screenwriter and stuntwoman at a time when women’s rights and animal activism were unusual if not absent in the motion picture industry. Ms. Day will be available after the screening for a question and answer period. This event is free and open to TGHS members and the public.

Hundreds Turn Out for Candlelight Tours

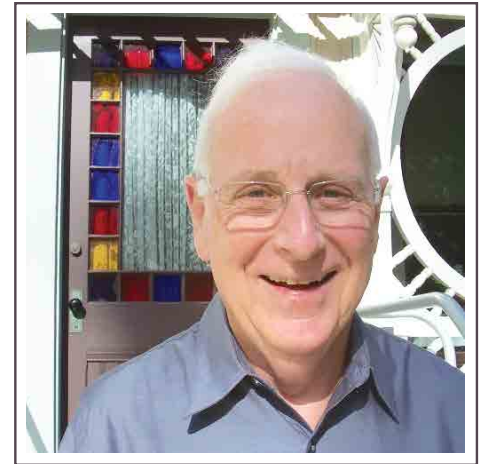


On December 13 and 20, the Doctors House Museum hosted Candlelight Tours for hundreds of guests through lantern-lit rooms, where docents explained the traditions of holiday celebrations in a Victorian home fully decorated for Christmas. This year’s “Feathers and Finery” theme featured an ornately adorned pine tree in the parlor, a gingerbread tree in the exhibit room and an antique Santa tree in the child’s bedroom. The sounds and aromas of Christmas filled each corner, while the young

musicians of the Pasadena Conservatory of Music played classical favorites in the gazebo. Hot cocoa and homemade cookies were enjoyed by all.

Welcome Steve Hunt

– and Congratulations!



Steve Hunt is no stranger to volunteerism or Glendale, and The Glendale Historical Society proudly presents him as the latest addition to the Doctors House docent staff. Born in Pasadena, his family moved to Glendale in 1947, where Steve went through the school system, graduating from Hoover High and later Occidental College. That same year he and his wife married and, after two years in Eagle Rock, moved back to Glendale, where he currently lives.

Steve was involved with the Glendale Jaycees for 10 years and was Chairman of the Days of the Verdugos Parade and the committee that created the Days of the Verdugos Association. He currently volunteers at Glendale Memorial Hospital, is President of the Altadena Senior Men’s Golf Club and is an active member of TGHS, for which TGHS is grateful.

As luck would have it, Steve is also winner of the recent Dinner at the Doctors House raffle!



A lot happens between newsletters, so The Glendale Historical Society posts updates on the TGHS Facebook page.

“LIKE” US AT WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GLENDALEHISTORICALSOCIETY to stay current on TGHS activities and make sure you don’t miss anything.

WELCOME

NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS: OCTOBER 2014 - JANUARY 2015

JEWEL CITY PATRON (\$500)

David Brooks &
John LoCascio - R
Guy DeConte &
Ammar Kharouf - R
Greg Grammer &
Simon Wright - R

VERDUGO PATRON (\$250)

Derek Catao &
Mark Taraborelli - N
Eric Jacobson &
Roy Luthringer - U
Valerie & Bruce Merritt - U
Margi Simpkins - R
Arlene Vidor - R

TROPICO SUPPORTER (\$100)

Howard Anderson - R
Sue & John Clauss, Jr. - R
Elizabeth & Jordan Cohen - R
Ron Cressy - U
Arlet & Harach Davoodian - R
Stephen Hunt - R
Carol & Richard Lee - U
Joanna Linkhorst - U
Paul Lombardi - R
Alen Malekian - R
Thomas McIntyre - R
Nancy Michael &
Michael Bain - U
Beatrice & Donal Penniall - U
Cris Pozanac - U

Susan & Doug Rogers - R
Patty Silversher - U
Mirna Stanley - R
Diane Stevens - R
Jeanette Stirdivant - U
Steven Warheit &
Jean Christensen - U
Anita Weaver & William Clifton - U
Chris Zastrow - U

SUSTAINING (\$50)

Don Anderson & David Kean - R
Brenda & Jay Butler - R
Judy & Dan Cabrera - R
Kenet Chesney - U
Patricia Fiedler - U
Clemencia & Romeo Garza - R
Joan Hardie - R
Stephani Lopez - N
Carol Merry - R
Sonia Montejano - R
Carol Rossow - U
Elaine & Kurt Sawitskas - U
Scottt Smissen & Don Snyder - R
Joan & Kurtwood Smith - R
Silvia & Phil Tucker - R
Leann & William Warner - R

DUAL (\$40)

Marshall & Paul Ayers - R
Dora & Bob Beadles - R
Joan & Warren Binzley - R

Effie & David Block - R
Susan Carr - R
Jane Casserly & Gerry Onarato - N
Dana Doyle &
Eric Van Der Werff - N
Gary Garnick & Stephen Parker - N
Cathy & Douglas Green - R
Joanna Hess &
Randall Von Bloomberg - R
Yvonne & Vince Longo - R
Natalie McKenna - R
Carl & Gail Nelson - R
Cathy & Bob Nicksin - R
Stephanie Schus & Joe Russin - R
Lucy Wang & Thomas Halpern - R

NON-PROFIT (\$35)

Hannah Lazarus - R

INDIVIDUAL (\$25)

Rosemarie Barraza - R
Kathryn Begle - N
Richard Bloch - R
Cindy Charles - R
Russell Cinque, Jr. - R
Susan Dasso - R
Milena Dostanich - R
Vartan Gharpetian - R
Wendy Gish - R
Mary Rose Grim - R
Jeffrey Head - N
Susan Hollander - N

Agneta Hurst - R
Renee Leask - R
Doris McKently - R
Joan Morris - R
Josephine Moukhtar - R
Daniel T. Muñoz - R
Jennifer Pinkerton - R
Mary Ann Prelock - R
Alyssa Resnick - R
Shant Sahakian - N
Manuel Valenzuela III - R
Carolyn West - R
Pat Wright - R

SENIOR/STUDENT (\$15)

Sharyn Bess - R
Jose Cheja - R
Jan Craig - R
Craig Donahue - R
Gabiella Doyle - R
Judy Farris-Phares - R
Ronald L. Finely - R
Ray Frauenholz - R
Sharon Garrison - R
Victoria Gorjian - R
Marilyn Greborunis - R
John C. Hammel, Jr. - R
Robin Lee Hansen - R
Thor Hansen - N
Armine Isakhanyan - N
Karen Kline - R
Diane Lewis - R
Helene Marnell - R

Dorothy Montapert - R
Bob Oliphant - R
Marilyn Oliver - R
Madison Leigh Paine - R
Taylor Effie Paine - R
Terry Richman - R
Bonnie & Frank Tortorelli - R
Pam Vasquez - R
Velvet Rhodes Productions - N
Ralph Ziegler - R

**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



2015 EVENTS CALENDAR

SATURDAY, MARCH 14
10:00-11:30 A.M.

“CRADLE OF GLENDALE” WALKING TOUR

SUNDAY, MARCH 29
1:30 - 4:00 PM

VICTORIAN EASTER AT THE DOCTORS HOUSE
Doctors House Museum, Brand Park
1601 West Mountain Street, Glendale
\$5.00 Donation Requested

SATURDAY, MAY 2
4:00 - 6:00 PM

TASTE OF SPAIN MEMBERSHIP DRIVE
Members: \$25; New Members/Qualifying Upgrade: Free

SUNDAY, MAY 31
TBA

“NELL SHIPMAN: GIRL FROM GOD’S COUNTRY”
DOCUMENTARY SCREENING
Brand Library & Art Center Recital Hall
1601 West Mountain Street, Glendale
Free

SATURDAY, JULY 18
2:00 - 4:00 PM

ANNUAL MEMBERS MEETING
Doctors House Museum, Brand Park
1601 West Mountain Street, Glendale
Members: Free; Guests: \$10

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

HOME TOUR