



The Glendale Historical Society

VOL. 6, NO. 2, 1985

City Establishes Historic Preservation Commission

The Glendale Historical Society's concern for the fate of the E. D. Goode House was the impetus for our involvement with the recently adopted City of Glendale Historic Preservation Ordinance. The Goode House has been considered a threatened property for some time, and our Preservation Action Task Force has had the house at the top of its list of priorities since last winter. Another priority concern was the need for a local preservation ordinance for the City of Glendale. Even if the Goode House were to be threatened with demolition, there would be provisions within such an ordinance to allow time to examine alternatives to demolition. A recommendation to adopt a historic preservation ordinance was included in our Historic Survey Report presented to the City last April.



Gathered for their third meeting are Glendale's Historical Preservation Commission members E. Linda Shahinian, Jo Sayer-Gudel (Secretary), Vonnie Rossman (President), Gary Tobian, and Clair Earl.

The City of Glendale was at the forefront of communities when it adopted a Historic Preservation Element, prepared by the Planning Division in 1977. The Element is a valuable catalog wherein the existing historic and architecturally important buildings and sites are listed in three orders of criteria, with the first order being the most significant. The Goode House is listed as a first order building. So was the Egyptian Village Cafe. It was recommended throughout the Element that a local preservation ordinance be adopted by the City, as this is recognized as the most effective way to protect historic structures. Through the years since 1977 the recommendation was generally ignored by the City.

Late last spring a rumor began circulating that a demolition permit had been filed for the Goode House. To a developer, the land value of the two-parcel property far exceeded the value of the structure on it, even though it is one of the last remaining examples of the Queen Anne-Eastlake architectural style in Glendale. Several members of the Historical Society met with Councilwoman Ginger Bremberg to discuss the situation and an obvious solution was suggested. Rather than watch ineffectively while we lost another historic structure, we decided to work towards drafting an emergency Historic Preservation Ordinance which would be presented to the City Council. This would immediately protect the Goode House from demolition and also provide long range protection for the other properties in the Element.

With quick work and resourcefulness on the part of our members and Councilwoman Bremberg, a draft ordinance was prepared. It was based on existing local preservation ordinances from other communities and on a model ordinance provided by the California State Office of Historic Preservation. This Preservation Ordinance was presented to Mayor Jerold Milner and other members of Council last May. As was expected, it generated much discussion. Fears that the rights of individual property owners were endangered, was the chief concern. The Goode House was not mentioned in connection with the ordinance, and the fact that this would be an "emergency" ordinance (to take effect within 7 days) also raised controversy. We finally pointed out that the fate of the Goode House depended on some quick action on the part of City Council. At that May meeting, Council decided to postpone consideration of the ordinance for 90 days. However, in order to deal with the Goode House, all demolition permits filed for buildings listed in the Element were also suspended for 90 days. Council requested that an Ad Hoc Committee be formed representing varied interests in the community (real estate, business, architecture, history, etc.). The committee was to review the proposed ordinance and present their recommendations to Council by the end of the 90 day period. This Ad Hoc Committee, which included TGHS members Vonnie Rossman, Georgie Weis, and Ruth Dodson, held meetings in the summer and discussed various aspects of the Ordinance, particularly private property rights. The committee returned to Council on August 6 with their suggested revisions. Although more discussion ensued, the Historic Preservation Ordinance was adopted with a majority vote the same day.

One of the most important provisions of the Ordinance is the creation of an Historic Preservation Commission. The commission is to be comprised of private citizens recommended by Council who have an interest and knowledge in historic preservation. The first commission has been appointed and has held its first meetings, one of which included a tour of Glendale's historic sites. Members are TGHS member Vonnie Rossman (elected Commission president); local architect Clair Earl; community leader Linda Shahinian; local developer Gary Tobian; and Jo Sayer-Gudel, vice president of the Glendale Board of Realtors.

The Historic Preservation Commission will perform several functions, ranging from recommendations on the designation of places or buildings in Glendale as historic places, to preparation of recommendations on permits for demolishing or altering those buildings designated as historic. The Commission is an advisory body to the Mayor and City Council. It cannot prevent a building from being demolished, but it can advise Council against allowing demolition because of its importance to the heritage of Glendale. It can recommend other courses of action to preserve the building or site. The Commission will also have an educational role,

... serving as a resource for the community on all the different aspects of restoration and rehabilitation. For example, it could provide information about tax benefits as an incentive for preservation and on appropriate colors and materials for specific restoration projects.

With this Historic Preservation Ordinance in place, Glendale finally has an effective way to preserve the significant buildings and places important to its history and heritage. We look forward to its effectiveness.

Georgie Weis

* * * * *

AFTERLIFE FOR EGYPTIAN VILLAGE CAFE ARTIFACTS

The Egyptian Village Cafe, Glendale's fantasy restuarant during the roaring 'twenties, will live on in another fantasy world: Walt Disney Studios. Despite unremitting efforts by our organization to have the entire Cafe preserved in some fashion, we had been successful only in being able to salvage, document, and store a large collection of its decorative artifacts. But, as it has turned out, our work was not in vain; for the artifacts have now found a final home which is quite compatible with their original purpose of "make believe".

Heeding a reminder that construction work would start within a short period of time, Zee (Blanton) Woodring, TGHS past president, alerted members that the remaining artifacts needed to be moved or disposed from the soon to be demolished storage warehouse at the rear of the block where the Cafe was once located.

Bob and Georgie Weis, who had photographed the demolition work on the Cafe, spoke to several people in Architectural Design at W.E.D. (Walter E. Disney) Engerprises, Bob's employer. After Georgie showed them samples and photographs, they expressed great interest in obtaining the artifacts for possible future installation or reproduction in a theatre or other building in one of Disney's theme parks. A visit to see the items was arranged by Georgie Weis and Vonnie Rossman. Impressed with the large quantity, good condition, careful storage, and range of ornamental patterns of the items, George Restor, Director of Architectural Design and Production, agreed to accept them. Shortly thereafter Disney staff came and spent three days carefully wrapping and boxing individually each piece before transporting the fragile artifacts.

The ornate corbels, friezes, capitals, cornices, light fixtures and moldings saved from the Cafe show fine craftsmanship and they could save many hours of designing in some future construction project. We have kept some samples of moldings, etc. for possible future display and are storing them in a different local warehouse.

The final disposition of the Egyptian Village Cafe artifacts would not have been possible without the work of lobbying, salvaging, casting, and documenting by Carole Dougherty, Elaine Deuell, Georgie and Bob Weis, Vonnie Rossman, Joni Atkinson, and all our other members who participated in the attempt to preserve as much as possible of this unique historic site.

Reported by Vonnie Rossman
and Georgie Weis

* * * * *

TGHS OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES, 1985-1986

PRESIDENT: Steve Preston
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT: Dick Brouillard
SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT: Larry Meyer
TREASURER: Dick Montgomery
SECRETARY: Audrey Hales
HISTORIAN: William Dodson

DOCENT PROGRAM CHAIR: Judy Johnson
DOCTORS' HOUSE CITY LIAISON: Karen Lynn
GLENDALE BEAUTIFUL LIAISON: Ruth Dodson
LEGAL ADVISORS: Larry Meyer, Bill Heyler
NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Suzanne McKay
PROGRAMS CHAIR: Dr. Robert Newcomb
PRESERVATION ACTION TASK FORCE CHAIR: Greta Reed
SALES AND MERCHANDISE: Helen and Shannon Pedlow
SPEAKERS BUREAU CHAIR: Judy Cabrera
OFFICIAL GREETERS: Ray and Dorothy West
MEMBERSHIP CHAIR: Doyle Kutch
TOURS CHAIR: Margaret Hammond
PARLIAMENTARIAN: Gladys Walker



TGHS officers for 1985-1986 are (standing) Audrey Hales, Secretary; Steve Preston, President; Dick Brouillard, First Vice President. Seated are Bill Dodson, Historian; and Dick Montgomery, Treasurer. Not pictured is Larry Meyer, Second Vice President.

"HOUSE BRILLIANT" CHAIRMAN NEEDED

To keep The Doctors' House clean and shiny, "House Brilliant Team" volunteers have been coming to care for the interior about once a month. If you would be willing to head the committee and organize the cleaning, call Karen Lynn at 248-4506.

* * * * *

TGHS SPEAKERS BUREAU AVAILABLE FOR GROUPS

Our TGHS Speakers Bureau has two slide programs which are entitled "The Renovation of The Doctors' House" and "Historical Properties in Glendale--Past and Present". We are always happy to present these programs in our community. If you know of any group which would be interested in this type of program; please have them contact Judy Cabrera, Speakers Bureau Chairman, at 241-5302.

DOCENT TRAINING SESSIONS TO BE HELD

Be a docent!

Both men and women are invited to join our next series of training sessions on October 10, 17, and 24. It's fun to meet the tourists, show off The Doctors' House, and socialize with the other docents. Please call Judy Cabrera, 241-5302 or Judy Johnson, 244-4802 for further information.

Albert G. Cornwell, 96, identifies himself in an early Glendale school photograph which hangs in The Doctors' House. Looking on are son Glenn Cornwell, daughter-in-law Billie Cornwell and Docent Karen Lynn.



Docents Mary Franzen, Luanne Sauter, and Judy Cabrera welcome visitors to The Doctors' House.

PRIVATE GROUPS TOUR THE DOCTORS' HOUSE

The Doctors' House is proving to be a popular spot for private group tours in addition to the regularly scheduled public Sunday afternoon tours. Private tours may be arranged by phoning Candy at the Glendale Department of Parks and Recreation, 956-2000.

Recent groups enjoying docent-led tours include the Glendale Rotary Club, staff of Western Federal Savings, Glendale Beautiful, and students from Glendale College and Jefferson Elementary Schools.

* * * * *

COOKBOOK TYPIST NEEDED

Using the results of her continuing research, Audrey Hales is in the final stages of preparing additional sections for her Glendale Historical Cookbook. She is in need of a typist and an IBM Selectric Artisan typeface ball to do about 16 or 20 pages of typing. Any person able to supply the ball and/or typing is asked to phone Audrey at 243-6320.

ALEX STUDIED FOR POSSIBLE LIVE THEATRE USE

Theatre Projects Consultants Inc., in association with Mitze Productions, was authorized in April of 1984 by the Glendale Redevelopment Agency to conduct a study into both the need for new live theatre facilities in the city of Glendale and the potential suitability/adaptability of the Alex Theatre to meet this need. The first phase of the report was concluded in February, 1985.

Phase I of this study was designed to determine the need for additional theatre facilities in the Glendale community from the perspective of both the general public and performing and visual artistic groups. Phase I also assessed the likely level of demand generated for these additional facilities and presented initial conclusions regarding the suitability and adaptability of the Alex Theatre to meet this level of demand.

The study showed that there is a strong demand for a new or renovated cultural facility in downtown Glendale, and that competitive facilities in the surrounding areas do not provide the type of professional entertainment that could be presented in a mid-sized theatre in Glendale. If renovated, the Alex Theatre might be able to provide this kind of mid-sized, mixed-program theatre.

It is our understanding that the Phase II report was authorized and will be presented to the City in the very near future. This report will refine the Phase I conclusions regarding the type of facility required, capital and operating costs, and likely economic and community impacts. The Phase II report will also evaluate the adaptive re-use of the Alex Theatre.

The TGHS Preservation Action Task Force will continue to monitor the study, which concerns this glamorous and historic focal point of Brand Boulevard.

Greta Reed
TGHS Preservation Action Task Force

* * * * *

STEBEN GLASS MARQUEE DISCOVERED ON GLENDALE THEATRE

Drivers, pedestrians and moviegoers on Brand Boulevard now have one more reason to appreciate the Glendale Theatre at 122 South Brand. Besides being our oldest existing theatre, having been built in 1924, it has a marquee which was designed and constructed by the fine turn-of-the-century glassmaking firm, Steuben Glass Works.

The origin of the marquee was revealed recently by Mann Theatre representative Don Brown after the marquee was declared by city zoning administrator John McKenna to be ineligible for a variance from the City's sign ordinance. Mr. McKenna allowed the marquee to remain, thereby preserving intact a small but charming reminder of early Glendale on our rapidly-changing downtown thoroughfare.

* * * * *

Newsletter Editor: Suzanne McKay Assistant Editor: Dr. Robert Newcomb
Thanks to Susan Reed for typing the newsletter, and to Daphne Lindstrum, Karen Newcomb, and Bob Woodring for their help in the bulk mailing.

THE GLENDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Calendar of Events for Autumn and Early Winter, 1985

- OCTOBER 2
Wednesday
General Meeting of TGHS. Louis F. Hilleary, Vice President of L.A.C.C., presenting a program about the Pacific Electric Red Cars in Southern California and in Glendale.
- OCTOBER 17-20
Thursday-Sunday
Days of Verdugos Carnival and Community Fair, Verdugo Park.
- OCTOBER 10,17,
24, Thursdays
Doctors' House Docent Training Class. For further details phone Judy Cabrera, 241-5302 or Judy Johnson, 244-4802.
- NOVEMBER 6
Wednesday
General meeting of TGHS. Gail Dubrow, PhD. candidate at U.C.L.A. School of Architecture and Urban Planning, presents "Women's History in Los Angeles".
- DECEMBER
TGHS annual holiday celebration. Join in the merriment! All members will be receiving invitations giving the date and location.
- DECEMBER 7
Saturday
Annual Hoover High School Tour of Homes. Tour five local homes, including The Doctors' House, decorated for the season. Proceeds to benefit the high school. Hours 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tickets in advance, adults \$4, students under 18 \$3; on the day of the tour, adults \$5, students under 18 \$3. For reservations and information, contact Judia Mullin, 247-8169 or Hoover High School, 242-6801.
- DECEMBER 10-31
Tuesdays,
Thursdays,
Sunday
"An Edwardian Christmas" at the Fenyes Mansion, headquarters of the Pasadena Historical Society. This restored and furnished 1905 mansion will be decorated in the traditional way. Open 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays, Thursdays, and December 28; 470 W. Walnut (corner Orange Grove), Pasadena (577-1660).
- DECEMBER 27-29
Friday,
Saturday,
Sunday
"Fiesta de Las Luminarias" Christmas celebration at the Casa Adobe de San Rafael, 1330 Dorothy Drive. Presented by the City Parks and Recreation Division and Glendale Beautiful. Historical exhibits, mariachi music, children's pinata party. Free. 6 p.m.-9 p.m. Friday, 2 p.m.-9 p.m. Saturday, 1 p.m.-5 p.m. Sunday. (Pinata Party is Sunday).
- JANUARY 8
Wednesday
General Business meeting of TGHS. Note date change from the regular first Wednesday, which is New Year's Day 1986.
- Continuing --
- Sundays
The Doctors' House, Brand Park. Open free to the public 2 p.m.-4 p.m. Docent-guided tours of the restored Queen Anne-Eastlake style 1890 home.

MEMBERSHIP

Welcome to new members, Marguerite Baird, JoAnne H. Sargeant, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Leimeter, Don and Pat Locher, Robert C. Blackwell, William Mader, Crickett Oldham, Barbara Hensen, Lisa Hamilton, Michael Sharp, Robert and Elaine Frasco, Mary McVay, Hal and Joyce Hemmingsen, Adair Preston, Cara Lou Stemen, Michael Boyd, Mr. and Mrs. William Parks.

Membership in the Glendale Historical Society is open to all persons interested in learning about, promoting, and preserving aspects of Glendale's history. Members receive quarterly newsletters, announcements of events, discounts on TGHS tours, and the opportunity to work on a variety of projects. Annual dues are \$15 for single active, \$25 for family active, \$50 for sustaining, \$5 for student/senior, \$25 for non-profit organization, and \$100 for corporate.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ () New Member () Renewing Member

I would like to assist in the following areas:

EDUCATION	PRESERVATION ACTION	MEMBERSHIP
RESEARCH	PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT	WAYS AND MEANS
CLERICAL	NEWSLETTER	OTHER: _____

General meetings are held monthly (except December, July and August) at 7:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday of the month, in the Carrillon Room, Glendale Federal Savings, 401 North Brand Boulevard. Telephone: 242-7447

The Glendale Historical Society
P. O. Box 4173
Glendale, California 91202

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Glendale, Calif.
Permit No. 1183