
The Glendale Historical Society

Preserving and Celebrating Glendale's History and Architectural Heritage Fall/Winter 2006

Those Who Made a Difference Recognized At Annual Meeting

THIS YEAR AT OUR ANNUAL MEETING—held for the first time at the beautiful and historic Sparr Heights Recreational Center—we honored some outstanding achievements and contributors.

PATRICIA MESSINA

Patricia was one of the first to get involved in the Cumberland Heights Historic District movement—she hosted the first neighborhood tea and joined TGHS Board of Directors in 2004. Patricia loves doing BIG events—for example, The Governor's Ball for the Emmy Awards—so chairing TGHS tours was a natural for her. Her favorite era is the 1920s and her fantasy is to organize some type of big '20s extravaganza. We can definitely see that in our future! We recognized Patricia for leading the committees for our 2004 Vintage Home Tour, and more recently the wildly successful 2006 Centennial Home Tour.



Photo: Terrance Hines

made articulate docents and were often mistaken for architecture students. Terrance and his group worked extremely hard with Patricia to meet the highest of standards for our tours in the last couple of years. We're still getting feedback from attendees on how well prepared the docents were and how well organized the tours were. Thanks, Terrance and team, for being there whenever we needed you.

ELAINE WILKERSON, DIRECTOR OF PLANNING, CITY OF GLENDALE

Elaine made incredible strides in developing the City's planning staff, increasing awareness of historic



Photo: City of Glendale

preservation in Glendale and helping to shepherd in the Historic District Overlay Zone Ordinance, Historic District Design Guidelines, and Demolition Ordinance, among other achievements. In her five-year tenure as City Planning Director, Elaine demonstrated great consensus building skills; she got people in the community around the table talking, even if their outlooks were quite different. We'll miss her a lot in that role and wish her lots of happiness in all future endeavors.

TERRANCE HINES AND HINES AND HUNT ENTERTAINMENT

Terrance and his firm manage the careers of young talented actors, so when he recruited his clients as volunteer docents for our tours in 2004 and 2006, they

BILLY'S DELI AND CAFÉ, 216 N ORANGE ST
Billy's has most generously donated lunches and refreshments for our 20/20 LA Conservancy/TGHS Municipal Services Building tour and our recent Antiques Roadshow Event at the Civic Auditorium. Billy's is a fixture on the Glendale scene and the place has great historical photographs framed on the wall to gaze at while you're eating your pastrami. Just like New York City....



Photo: Arlene Vidor

PATRICK'S CAFÉ, 6720 SAN FERNANDO ROAD

Rogel Aragon, owner of Patrick's took all the necessary steps to work with the preservation community to retain the Googie style facade of the old Denny's restaurant on San Fernando Road, so today it retains its original inviting '50s look with a "Patrick's Cafe" sign included. Rogel and his team met with the city and representatives from TGHS and the LA Conservancy's Modern Committee to make sure the defining features of the building were preserved. He did a great job and the new Patrick's is now an architectural landmark.



Photo: Arlene Vidor

President's Message

Remembering Tom Miller

Dear TGHS members,

At the close of our city's Centennial year, we have a lot to look back fondly and proudly on and a lot to look forward to including what promises to be the start of the historic disricing era in Glendale. I'd like to thank everyone who helped contribute to our success this year.

Rather than recap highlights, I'll write about the late Tom Miller, Executive Director of the Glendale Community Foundation, who



Tom Miller at our Annual Meeting in November

passed away so suddenly. Tom was a key figure in helping Richard Montgomery set up the Natalie Montgomery TGHS Endowment Fund in his wife's name. That fund, for the first time this year, granted TGHS over \$1,000 in charitable contributions. Tom shared his excitement about this milestone with us at our annual meeting - he loved handing over that really BIG check every year and this year's was bigger than ever.

Tom was so encouraging to me during fund-raising for "Glendale, A Pictorial History" and we had some great telephone chats about Glendale and the Society—of which he was a very supportive member and a champion of our activities, goals and mission. He told me a number of times that he was pleased to see TGHS involved in some of the "meaty issues" in town, as he put it, and he was rooting for our success. He recently phoned to get information on the history of the Doctors' House for an article he was preparing, and to tell me how much he was looking forward to bringing his little girls over to the House for the annual Candlelight Tour on December 16th.

Clearly Tom made hundreds of community activists and leaders feel capable and special, even when things seemed the toughest. I can say first hand that the energy he channeled into the community in this way has been incredibly positive and life-affirming. Thank you, Tom. We'll miss you so much.

Sincerely,

Arlene Vidor, December 2006

Board Positions Open

The Glendale Historical Society is seeking volunteers to fill vacant positions:

Board Members (2)
Membership Chair
Event Planning

Call Arlene Vidor at 818-500-7675 if you are interested.

The Glendale Historical Society Officers & Board of Directors

PRESIDENT

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Visit us on the web at:

www.glendalehistorical.org

The Glendale Historical Society
Quarterly Newsletter is the official
publication of the Society



Photo: City of Glendale

Cindy Thomack, Glendale's New Historic Preservation Planner

WE RECENTLY WELCOMED Cindy Thomack to Glendale. Cindy holds a position that is very important to all of us; she is the historic preservation planner for the City of Glendale. That means Cindy is our primary contact for information on matters related to historic preservation, be it your house or other matters.

Cindy received her Master of Arts degree in Historic Preservation from Michigan State University. She comes to the job well prepared as she has administered preservation programs for many agencies at the city, state and county levels, including Grand Rapids and Michigan state, Riverside County, California, the City of Long Beach and now, Glendale.

Cindy can be reached in the City Planning Office at 818-548-2140 and by e-mail at cthomack@ci.glendale.ca.us. Also, you can see Cindy on Channel 6 at Historic Preservation Commission Meetings, the 4th Monday of every month at 2 pm and during replays throughout the week.

The Iconic Municipal Services Building Is Changing Its Look

Earthquake retrofitting has begun on the Municipal Services Building's signature sunken plaza and sweeping graceful "piloti" (those stilts holding up the structure).

The City of Glendale has worked intensively with architectural historians and the community, to ensure that the building retains its eligibility for The National Register of Historic Places while the retrofitting occurs.

This retrofit involves raising the plaza and essentially "freeing" the building from the ground by suspending the elevator from the ceiling and putting each of the piloti on a base isolation system so each can "go with the flow" during a tremor.

One area still not resolved is how the gray mosaic tile elevator lobby area will be preserved, since the tile is embedded in concrete and cannot be removed without damage. Stay tuned for more details.



Original construction in 1965



An early shot of the Municipal Services Building



Kevin Kuzma found this etching of a house with the word "Rossclare" on a banner in right front and the words "Glendale, 1927" on the back.

The Mystery of Rossclare

RECENTLY, TGHS member and Echo Park Historical Society president, Kevin Kuzma purchased an etching by John Wesley Cotton from an art dealer in Chicago.

Cotton, born in Toronto, Canada in 1869, was a painter and etcher of international reputation. He attended the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and also studied art in London in the early 1900s. He traveled extensively throughout Europe during the period of the first World War and lived in Belgium and France, which served as subject matter for his watercolors and oil paintings.

During the 1920s he lived here in Glendale and exhibited in the first nine annual shows of the California Watercolor Society during those years. He died in 1931.

The house pictured in the etching purchased by Kevin is called "Rossclare", as depicted in the banner, and Kevin tells us that the backing paper states: "Glendale, 1927."

Although the house looks familiar, it has not been placed. If you can shed some light on the house called Rossclare, please feel free to contact Kevin directly at (213) 840-2583.

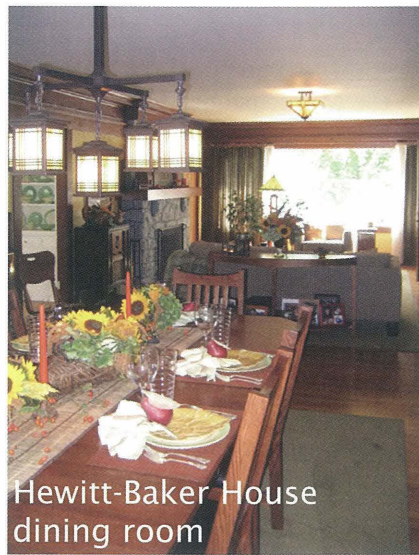
Photos: Courtesy of Special Collections Glendale Public Library

Centennial Home Tour Applaud

Our 2006 Centennial Home Tour on October 7-8 showcased nine very different homes, ranging in age from 103 to 13 years old. We want to thank the gracious homeowners who shared these landmarks with the community and the docent volunteers, who were so well prepared and educated on the houses they showed. We cannot list everyone involved, but at least let's thank our homeowners in print by name. They are Sally MacAller/Ard Eevin, Robert and Mary Bush/Elliott House, Aida and Vahe Yeghiazarian/Rice House, Jeff Kurtii and Ken Martinez/Hewitt-Baker House, Carole and Michael Dougherty/Derby House, Migdia China/Peterson House, Richard Bloch/Bloch House.

Enough said. A picture is worth a thousand words. Enjoy.

Arlene Vidor

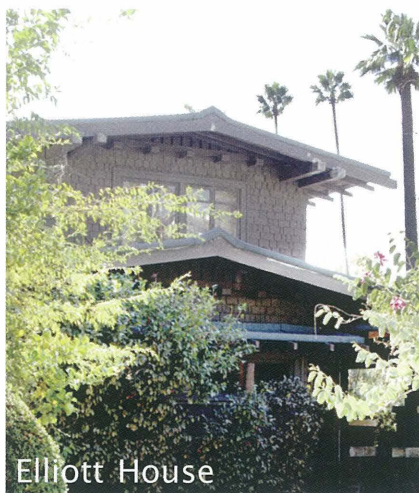


Hewitt-Baker House dining room

Photo: Alan Loomis



Bloch House living room



Elliott House

Photo: Arlene Vidor



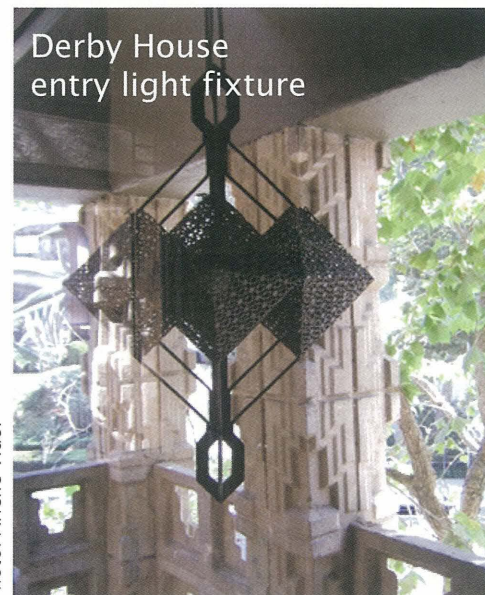
Ard Eevin door detail

Photo: John Eng



Peterson House magnisite staircase

Photo: Arlene Vidor



Derby House entry light fixture

Photo: Alan Loomis



Rodriguez House

ed for its Architectural Diversity



Photo: Alan Loomis

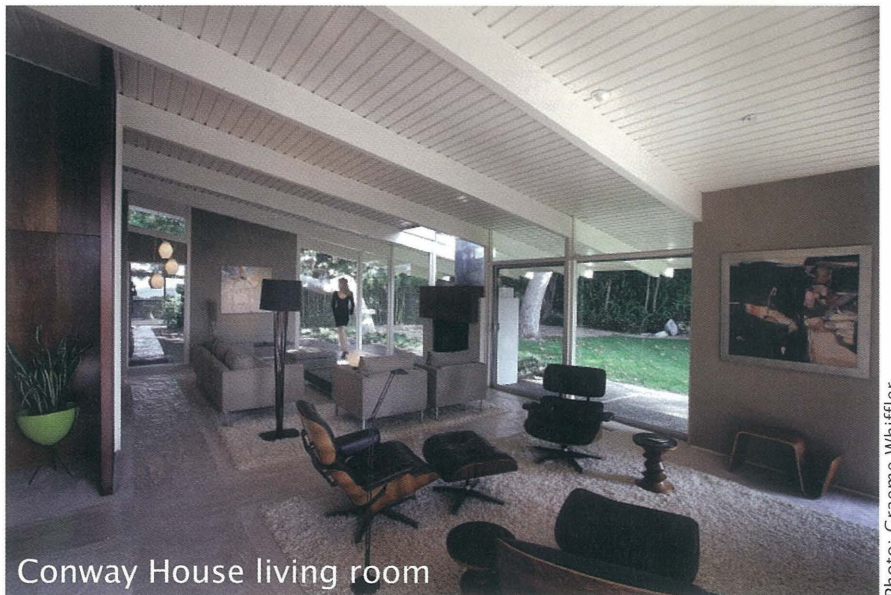


Rice House entry way

Photo: Alan Loomis



Photo: Graeme Whiffier



Conway House living room

Photo: Graeme Whiffier

An Old House Is Like a T

MY DAD USED TO CHUCKLE as he went about the seemingly endless repairs to his house, “An old house is like a tree,” he’d say, “Once a year, something turns brown and falls off.”

Living in a historic home is a daily joy, but it’s also a commitment, a responsibility, a problem, and often, expensive. In short, it’s like every other important relationship in your life.

My partner and I live in a 90-year-old Craftsman, and spend more than our share of time at Virgil’s, Crown City Hardware, the salvage yard, and on-line. It takes extra effort to find the appropriate tools and materials to fix up our old house, but it’s worth it. The feeling of reclaiming or celebrating something of this place’s history is an indescribable satisfaction.

WE’RE NOT TRYING to live in a house museum, nor are we trying to “restore” the house in the sense of recreating what it was like when it first housed its owner/builder in 1919. We want to show the house for what it really is: a solid, handsome, substantial house that has lived a long life, a true multigenerational home that makes a reassuring statement of its years to each visitor, while welcoming them warmly.

Recently, we faced the house-painting question. It was time to tend to the dozen or so coats of house paint and seemingly endless minor repairs and modifications that had been made to the house exterior over nearly a century.

IF THE MONEY FAIRY left a million dollars under the pillow, we’d have opted to strip all the original cedar shingles and have them planed, repaired, flipped, replaced where necessary, and reinstalled. Sadly, no such gift was forthcoming, so we chose a good repair and repaint.

Down the block, we saw a paint job in progress on our area’s oldest Craftsman, a 1907 beauty that had been a somber blue. Now it was coming to life in a warm olive with rich brown trim and bright ochre accents. This was someone who knew what they were doing with a Craftsman! We hurried over and immediately invited the painter to our old house.

AFTER SOME EXPLORATION, our painter Dan Gallegher (who is more fine artist than housepainter) found that our house had been a golden cedar, stained dark brown with an oil stain. This

immediately informed our color selection. Dark brown, with olive trim and dark ochre accents seemed perfect. (Several color clues found in the old window frames made us comfortable with this palette.)

However, as we looked at the rich, darkened texture on the original siding that Dan had uncovered, we really longed for that money fairy’s visit. Then Dan proposed something a bit radical, but with which he had enjoyed success on a smaller scale with doors: a scenic treatment that would provide both authentic color and the deep patina of texture that we desired.

IN THIS FOUR-STEP PROCESS, the underlying color (in our case, the orange-gold of cedar) is applied, and then overglazed with a series of darkening finishes. The result is then flattened with an exterior mural glaze, so it is protected, and doesn’t have the shine of paint. Trim would be handled in a standard fashion, but with a slight “aging,” a dulling-down of bright colors and sheen.

The process, however, takes some time. I’m sure some of our neighbors thought we had lost our minds in our orange-gold house. We were really afraid the end result would look somehow deceitful. But in the end, we’ve had such an overwhelmingly positive response, and feel so content with the results, that it was worth the risk, fear, and possible derision.

IS OUR EXTERIOR FINISH solution authentic? Absolutely not. Is it accurate? Yes. Most of all, it is sincere. Instead of a substantial, handsome, masculine house draped in the diaphanous drag of white-on-white, we now see the statement the builder was making. Solidity, significance, craft—perhaps even permanence.

Now, it’s on to the next project. And so it will continue, with constant prayer that the money fairy will someday make a midnight call. Luckily, we’ve found a manufacturer in Arcadia that has our original window moldings and frames (good-bye, louver windows!), and a stonemason who can rebuild the porch that is half-missing since the 1994 Northridge Earthquake.

THAT’S THE HAPPINESS and the heartache of an historic house. And Dad was right, in his own way—we smile as he did, joyfully attacking the next home repair project.



Top: The He



Photos: Jeff Kurtii

Witt House after a four-step paint process Bottom: Before

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR'S STANDARDS

ROOTED IN OVER 120 YEARS OF preservation ethics in both Europe and America, *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* are common sense principles in nontechnical language. They were developed to help protect our nation's irreplaceable cultural resources by promoting consistent preservation practices.

The Standards may be applied to all properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places: buildings, sites, structures, objects, and districts.

The Standards are a series of concepts about maintaining, repairing and replacing historic materials, as well as designing new additions or making alterations; as such, they cannot, in and of themselves, be used to make essential decisions about which features of a historic property should be saved and which might be changed. But once an appropriate treatment is selected, the Standards provide philosophical consistency to the work.

There are Standards for four distinct, but interrelated, approaches to the treatment of historic properties—preservation, rehabilitation, restoration, and reconstruction.

Preservation focuses on the maintenance and repair of existing historic materials and retention of a property's form as it has evolved over time. (Protection and Stabilization have now been consolidated under this treatment.)

Rehabilitation acknowledges the need to alter or add to a historic property to meet continuing or changing uses while retaining the property's historic character.

Restoration depicts a property at a particular period of time in its history, while removing evidence of other periods.

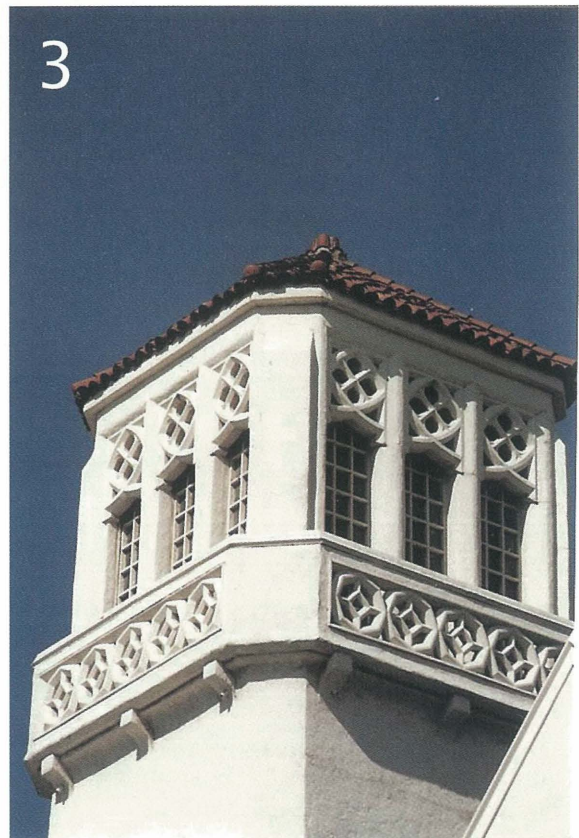
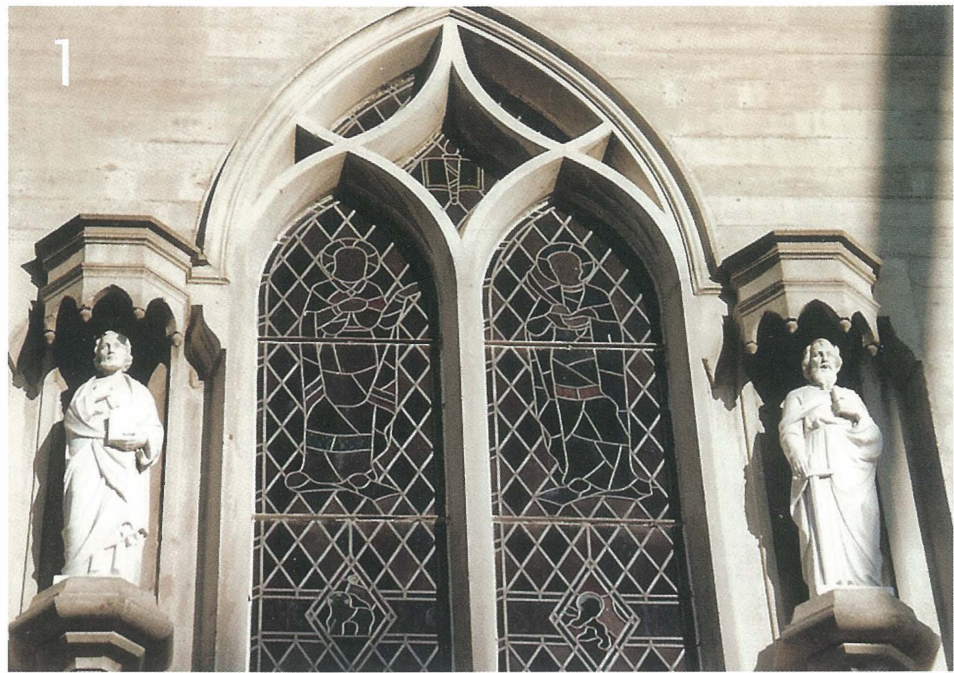
Reconstruction recreates vanished or non-surviving portions of a property for interpretive purposes.

—SOURCE: http://www.cr.nps.gov/hps/tps/standards_guidelines.htm

It's All in the Details . . .

HERE IS THE SIXTH IN A series testing your awareness of architectural elements scattered around Glendale. Do you know to which churches these features are attached? Try to match the photo with the possible answers listed below. Turn to page 9 for the correct answers.

Concept and photos by Isabelle Meyer



A. Holy Family
B. St Mary's

C. Glendale Adventist
D. Presbyterian

E. First Baptist
F. Incarnation

G. St. Mark's

Doctors' House highlights

The Wooten Desk

by Isabelle Meyer, Curator



THE WOOTON DESK in our doctors' office is not only the most valuable artifact in our collection, but also one of the most fascinating.

On our tours I like to draw the comparison between it and a modern lap-top computer. At first sight, this may seem far-fetched—but think: it is a single item that holds all the information needed during business travel and in everyday life.

A book entitled “Wooton Patent Desks—A Place for Everything and Everything in Its Place” (available at the Brand Library) traces and illustrates the illustrious origins and history of this unique piece of furniture.

William S. Wooton created his namesake desk for business use in 1874 in Indiana. It symbolized the 19th century effort to create order in a time of dramatic change. To quote from the book “The cabinet secretaries especially are private, compartmentalized worlds of drawers and pigeonholes—personal, lockable, wrap-around control centers glorifying the individual business owner.”

The desks were made more appealing by being offered in four wood grades with varying styles of ornamentation. Of these only the middle two were best-sellers. They could also be customized to fit the needs of various professions, through differing sizes and configuration of compartments. Wooton desks were soon advertised and sold throughout the world.

The desk features two hinged doors that can be locked. A fold-down writing surface gives access to its many

compartments. A mail slot allows depositing of papers even when the desk is locked. One hundred and ten compartments of various sizes permit ample storage and make the desk suitable as a post office in small communities.

A variety of styles (Standard, Queen Anne, Eastlake and Extra) suited a wide range of tastes and each was available in two sizes. The wheels made the desk suitable for travel, e.g. campaign trips.

Ownership lists read like a “Who’s Who” of the time. They include: John D. Rockefeller, Presidents Grant and Garfield, Joseph Pulitzer and Queen Victoria. For 20 years Wooton produced desks for the professional elite. The factory closed in 1893 and the patent rights were then sold to Robert Dickson of Indianapolis.

Our Wooton desk came to us from the estate of Glendale pioneer Fannie Briggs-Carr. It is truly the jewel of our collection and lends itself to being used for dispensing prescriptions of holiday cheer during our annual Candlelight Tours. For adults the hidden compartment inspires fantasies of secret love notes and, for school children, a repository for report cards with less-than-desirable grades. Certainly our favorite prescription is the one we hand out to children from Dr. Bogue during school tours: “Eat three chocolates and call me in the morning.”

We hope you will come to the Doctors' House museum and pay your respects to this “King of Desks” while scrutinizing its wonderful features.



Photo: Sally MacAller



Photo: John Eng

Before and after restoration of the exterior

Ard Eevin, anchor of the Ard Eevin Highlands neighborhood, named to the National Register of Historic Places

Ard Eevin House, which has been the focal point for many TGHS and community events, was named to The National Register of Historic Places on November 21, 2006.

The house, completed by Dan Campbell on February 4, 1903, was designed by architect Nathaniel Dryden, who also built Brand Castle (El Miradero) for Leslie C. Brand on the adjacent parcel of land. Brand was the leading developer of early Glendale and Daniel Campbell, a banker and real estate developer, was Brand’s business partner.

The tract below and adjacent to Ard Eevin (which in Gaelic means “heavenly or highest view”) was Campbell’s fruit orchard ranch. He eventually developed it into “Campbell Heights Estates” in the 1920s.

This historic neighborhood was known as Cumberland Heights in a recent historic survey of the 400 properties included. It was deemed eligible for historic district

status at the local and national level. However, a smaller area named “Ard Eevin Highlands” is now working toward Historic District status. Ard Eevin is the anchor property of this neighborhood and is known for its turn of the 19th century Victorian-eclectic style. Following the artistic excitement of the late Victorian/Edwardian era, Dryden took a transitional approach to his architectural designs. In addition to its Victorian roots, Ard Eevin embraces elements of Colonial, Craftsmen, and Plantation design with its symmetry, columned front entrance, and front facing, side-gable rooflines.

Sally MacAller, the house’s owner and event host extraordinaire, was the applicant for National Register designation and Daniel Paul was the architectural historian who prepared the application. Ard Eevin is also listed on the Glendale Register of Historic Places and was the starting point for our recent Centennial Home Tour.

What Glendale properties are on The National Register of Historic Places?

1. Verdugo Adobe on Bonita Drive
2. The United States Post Office (Main Branch) on Broadway
3. Alex Theatre on Brand Boulevard
4. Glendale YMCA on Louise Street
5. Hotel Glendale on Broadway
6. Southern Pacific Rail Depot on Cerritos
7. Derby House—Residential property in Chevy Chase Canyon
8. Ard Eevin—Residential property in Ard Eevin Highlands (see article above.)

Welcome New*
Renewing
and
Upgraded+
Members

A heartfelt Thanks to our
new and renewing
members, and to
members who have
rejoined. And a special
Thank You to members
who have upgraded+
their membership.
Consider a membership
upgrade the next time
you renew.

VERDUGO PATRON (\$250)

Steve & Katherine Babbitt+

TROPICO PATRON (\$100)

Pam & Jim Elyea*
David Saylor+
William Shepherd

CORPORATE (\$100)

Philip Lanzafame, Glendale Dev Services Dept

SUSTAINING (\$50)

Mr & Mrs John S Clauss Jr.
Leonard DeGrassi
Deborah Dentler (rejoined)
Martha Feutz (rejoined)
Doyle Kutch+
Larry & Isabelle Meyer+
Bob & Ann Oliphant
Donald & Beatrice Penniall
Los Angeles Public Library
Marilyn Plutae+

FAMILY/DUAL (\$30)

Tom & Bonnie Brittan*
Barbara Conry
Kirk & Susannah Corwin*
Gene Dudley
Emeli Gomez & Emilio Colletta*
Leticia Gonzalez & Ken Batchelor*
Steve & Gretchen Grant*
Douglas & Cathy Green
Denise & George Grubb*
Howard & Meredith Jacobson
Victor King (rejoined)
Richard & Carol Lee*
Alan Loomis*
Ray & Virginia Newburn
Maggie Serrano*
Joan & Kurtwood Smith*
Lynn Theard & Scott Peer*
John Velasco & Franco Fowler*
Peter & Karen Veloz*
Eric & Karen Warren*

NON-PROFIT (\$25)

Ann Denis, Days of the Verdugos Heritage Assn*

INDIVIDUAL (\$20)

Erin Atwater*

Ute Baum
Rose Beaman
K.R. Beaman*
Jennifer Bentson-Gebel*
Sheila G. Callison*
Leslie Charleson*
Krista Dragna*
K.E. Engel*
Victoria Gorjian+
Bruce Hale
Margaret Hammond+
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Christine Sartiaguda*
Frank Sotomayon*
Andrew Thompson*
Brit Trydal*
Elaine M. Williams
Patricia Zeider, Montrose Library*

SENIOR/STUDENT (\$10)

Patricia L. Bates
Noel H. Browning
Florence & Scott Draper
Carol Jean Felkel
Dr. Ray Galloway
Erma Hassen*
Diane Jacobs-Peirano*
Charla B. Janeck (rejoined)
Don McDonald
Doris & Melvyn McKently
Dorothy L. McLeod*
Shannon McShane
Annik Sahakian*
Carl R. Schwartz
Lucy Taliaferro Yarick

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

Jewel City Patron (\$500)
Verdugo Patron \$(250)
Tropico Patron (\$100)
Sustaining (\$50)
Family/Dual (\$30)
Individual (\$20)
Individual Senior or Student (\$10)

Organizational Membership
(No voting rights)

Non-Profit (\$25)
Small Business (\$35)
Corporate (\$100)

Name _____ Phone _____
Street Address _____
City/Zip _____ Email Address _____

CHECK AREAS OF INTEREST:

Preservation Historic Districts Event Planning
Fundraising Outreach Newsletter
Doctors House docent Research Glendale history



Gene Dudley
REALTOR®



Prudential

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Direct 818 550-3335
Bus 818 507-4200 Fax 818 242-7542
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Mark Your Calendar

FORMING A HISTORIC DISTRICT IN GLENDALE

A workshop
on the new improved
process—with pictures!

Date/Time: Thursday, January 25, 2007
7:00-9:00 pm

Where: Sparr Heights Recreational Center
1613 Glencoe Way (off La Crescenta Ave)

Sparr phone: 818-548-2187

(enter address into Google to obtain map)

Program: 7:00 Refreshments/Social

7:30-9:30 Cindy Thomack, Historic
Preservation Planner, City of
Glendale, will give us everything
we need to submit a complete
historic district application for
your neighborhood

Who should attend: Anyone interested in
learning about historic districting, living in
a neighborhood with character homes or
living in a character home

The Glendale Historical Society
PO Box 4173
Glendale CA 91202
www.glendalehistorical.org



Photos: City of Glendale Planning Department

Seeking Volunteers to Survey Craftsman Era Glendale!

DO YOU APPRECIATE great architecture—*especially* in Glendale? Do you have a passion for photography? Are you a history buff? Do you like to write? Perhaps research excites you? Or, maybe you just want to be involved in an interesting project, walk the neighborhood, and meet great people?

Then the City of Glendale Planning Department is looking for you!

The City of Glendale's was awarded a \$25,000 grant to evaluate the Craftsman bungalows in the mid-city area, threatened by development in multifamily housing zones. This includes developing a historic context and conducting a survey of the houses, which were built between 1900 and 1924.

The Planning Department will be in need of volunteers with a variety of interests and talents to assist with the many different aspects of the project.

For those who helped with the Cumberland Heights survey—and remember how much fun that was?—the process is very similar. The areas in the City where the survey will occur are to be divided into small, concentrated sections, so it can be done in one afternoon. Volunteers will assist with building identification, photography, writing architectural descriptions, etc. Training is provided.

The project is expected to begin in January. Please contact **Cindy Thomack or Tim Foy in the Planning Department** at 818-548-2140.