



THREE HOMES ADDED TO GLENDALE REGISTER

Before the end of 2022, the City Council approved three more outstanding Glendale properties for the Register: two Spanish Colonial Revivals and one Tudor Revival.



Echols House

Enhanced by its castle-like crenellated tower, Echols House was designed to take full advantage of the mountain and city views from its prominent hillside lot. This two-story, eclectic interpretation of Spanish Colonial Revival was designed in 1923 by contractor Guy Worth Calkins for Frank Echols, who co-founded the Roberts & Echols Drug Store in 1903. Another notable resident, illustrator and animator Nino Carbé, who worked on such Disney classics as *Fantasia* and *Bambi*, lived in the home with his wife, Betty, from 1965 to 1993.

The fenestration, asymmetrical façades, irregular massing and small details such as vents give visual intrigue to the building's surfaces. The muntin patterns found at various windows are particularly striking and represent a departure from the more traditional patterns found on other homes of this style.

Vida H. Wallace House

This imposing Spanish Colonial Revival was designed in 1928 by Paul Williams, the first Black member of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) and one of the 20th century's most celebrated architects.

The original owner, Vida H. Wallace, moved to Los Angeles in the early 1900s with her husband, who died in 1920. Wallace was an active socialite in the Glendale community and hosted numerous events at the property, where she lived until her death in 1955.

The house has an L-shaped footprint and a low-pitched hipped and gabled roof clad in two-piece clay tiles. From the front, it appears to be two stories high, but all three levels are visible at the rear façade, as shown in the photograph. Its irregular massing mimics the site's slope, allowing the building to complement rather than compete with its surroundings.



Sherman and Henrietta Ford House

Exuding rustic charm, this modestly scaled Tudor Revival-style residence in the Verdugo Woodlands was constructed in 1936 by designer/builder John Frith for retired realtor Sherman W. Ford and his wife, Henrietta. Frith also designed his own home in Tujunga, as well as larger projects for such clients as Fred Astaire and Humphrey Bogart.

Character-defining features such as flared and low sloping eaves, exposed rafter tails, a prominent front-facing gable, striking leaded glass windows, bay windows with brick detailing and a stepped-shoulder brick chimney make this property an exceptional example of Tudor Revival in a small residential building.

The current owner proudly describes his home as “a Tudor mansion in miniature,” paying tribute to the quality detailing of this style, whatever the scale.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



PHOTO: Matthew Letcher

After three years of living under pandemic restrictions, we are starting to see the light at the end of the tunnel. COVID may always be with us, but we hope it will become less virulent and more manageable with advances in medical care.

COVID has been especially tough on nonprofits. Not only did it have a negative impact on fundraising efforts, but it also depressed membership engagement, especially volunteer recruitment.

Thankfully, TGHS is coming out of it. We have held large, in-person events, including the premiere of the Doctors House documentary and the Gala & Benefit; feedback from membership has been overwhelmingly positive. We've established an Events Committee that is in the process of scheduling activities for the next 18 months.

We have also increased engagement in volunteerism, as seen by the newly created, volunteer-led Finance and Development Committee. TGHS can always use volunteers: docents for the Doctors House, leaders for our historic district walking tours and tasks of all kinds at our special events. If you are available, I encourage you to reach out to volunteers@glendalehistorical.org to express your interest. We especially appreciate your engagement with the City on preservation issues.

Speaking of volunteers, I would like to give special recognition and thanks to Peter Rusch for his long-term, dedicated stewardship of the Doctors House. His love for the Museum is infectious, and we have been fortunate to have him as Curator for so many years. As the star of "Discovering Glendale's Doctors House," Peter was instrumental in making the documentary a success, and we are very happy to know that he will remain engaged

with TGHS as a volunteer. We wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

As we move ahead in this new year, I would like to provide a few updates on key priorities:

First, we have made great progress in our efforts to hire an Executive Director. TGHS has finalized the job description and engaged a pro-bono recruiting firm to identify potential candidates. The Executive Director will collaborate with key stakeholders to set and execute organizational strategy and will be involved in fundraising and membership outreach. Hiring the right person is critical, and I am confident that we will succeed.

"I've learned during my short tenure as President how dedicated our members are to our mission. I stand in awe and pride when we succeed at so much with a volunteer member base"

Second, we received a very favorable ruling in our lawsuit against the City regarding development adjacent to a 1913 historic Craftsman at 534 N. Kenwood. We are now working with the developers on a final design that respects the historic Craftsman residence. As a result of this progress, we have reached out to the City to restart our quarterly meetings, and discussions have been productive. Prior meetings were valuable in facilitating collaborative discussions that resulted in significant wins, including strengthening the Historic Preservation Ordinance. I look forward to the opportunity to proactively engage with the City regarding preservation issues again in a venue that benefits all.

I've learned during my short tenure as President how dedicated our members are to our mission. I stand in awe and pride when we achieve so much with a volunteer member base that puts in a considerable amount of time and effort.

We will continue that work to make sure TGHS remains a strong advocate for Glendale's historic, architectural and cultural resources.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Schwab-Sims".

John Schwab-Sims

THE
GLENDALE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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John Schwab-Sims

VICE PRESIDENT, PRESERVATION ADVOCACY

John Schwab-Sims

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Erik Van Breene

Katherine Peters Yamada

DOCTORS HOUSE DIRECTOR

Laura Crook

DOCTORS HOUSE CURATOR

Peter Rusch

NEWSLETTER LAYOUT, GRAPHIC DESIGN

Matthew Letcher

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Scott Lasken

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIPS

Past Executive Director

Sean Bersell

Past Presidents

Zelia Blanton*

Deborah Dentler

Carole Dougherty

Greg Grammer

Andrea Humberger

Steve Hunt

John LoCascio

Marie Luft

Robert Newcomb*

Steve Preston

Bill Shepherd

David Smith

Arlene Vidor

*Deceased

Historic Bistagne House Still in Jeopardy



Maynard Parker, 1965. Collection of Huntington Library

Thanks to all who wrote to the Design Review Board (DRB) asking them to oppose demolition of the historic Bistagne House. TGHS believes the property is eligible for the Glendale Register based on its design as a high-style, Mid-century Modern/late-Ranch residence, as a work by master architect Robert L. Earl and for its association with Tom and Wanda Bistagne.

Unfortunately, the DRB voted 3-2 to approve demolition during their February 9 meeting. Board members Christopher Welch and Danielle Lockareff voted against the project because they wanted to refer it to the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) for further review of its historic status, given differences of opinion among experts as to its eligibility for the Glendale Register and their concern that they lacked expertise to make the required finding to allow demolition without California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review. TGHS had recommended this course of action.

Board members Nina Tchaghayan, Joseph Kaskanian and Art Simonian voted to approve demolition and construction of a new 5,500-square-foot house and garage, with numerous conditions.

Under the City's revised Historic Preservation Ordinance, potential historic resources can be taken to the HPC for evaluation at the discretion of the Director of Community Development. In the past, the HPC only considered projects involving designated historic resources or contributors to designated historic districts.

This project is almost certain to be appealed to Council because of neighborhood concerns that it violates the City's Hillside Development Review Policy, which requires compatibility of size, architecture, massing and scale with the surrounding area.

TGHS will keep you posted if there is an opportunity for further comment on preserving this important part of Glendale's history.

PRESERVATION

City of Glendale Updates Property Portal Website

The City of Glendale recently retired its property portal website, which provided recent permit history and historical status of properties within the city. This site was critical in determining if appropriate permits were issued for historic properties or homes in historic districts.

A replacement website was launched, but it has had accessibility and data issues. The City recently updated it, so that it is more easily accessible and does not require the user to sign in or enter a password.

You can reach the new site at:
www.glendaleca.gov/ResearchProperty

To determine if permits have been issued for a property, click on “Property Records” and enter the property address. To request a copy of all permits issued on a property (great

for home research), click on “Permit Records” to access the request form to be submitted to the City.

Unfortunately, the portal still does not identify historic properties or allow access to associated survey forms. The City is actively working to fix this problem, which has been ongoing since the new portal’s debut.

TGHS has stressed to staff how important the proper functioning of this feature is to preservation efforts and will notify members when information about the historic status of properties is operational. This critical feature alerts prospective buyers to the historic status of the property and lets them and the community know if work on a historic resource has the appropriate permits, helping to ensure that projects comply with the City’s Historic Preservation Ordinance.



View from West
Rendering of proposed structure at 1624 S. Central

Project at 1624 S. Central Returned for “Redesign”

This property was found to be historically significant in the City-adopted South Glendale Historic Resources Survey. A developer plans to demolish the historic 1913 Craftsman residence, a garage and another 100-year-old Craftsman to build a 31-unit, five-story apartment building with subterranean parking and three affordable housing units.

The Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) discussed the project on January 19. The Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) for the project included two alternatives to demolition; one would relocate the historic Craftsman on the site, and the other would leave it in its existing location. Both alternatives would demolish the other buildings to allow for smaller housing projects, each with at least one affordable unit. TGHS advocated that the HPC select one of the alternatives and allow the Craftsman to remain. In its deliberations, the HPC made clear that they would not support demolition of the historic Craftsman. In addition, numerous problems with the EIR prompted the HPC to vote unanimously not to certify the FEIR. These included: insufficient information related to noise and vibration impacts to neighboring properties; confusing details regarding the project alternatives, which bizarrely included as *much or more* affordable housing than the much larger project; and the failure to consider the loss of dozens of Craftsman houses in the last decade as a cumulative impact on the environment.

The Commission asked applicant Rodney Khan to return with a redesigned project that would include the 1913 Craftsman. Khan is not the owner of the property; a former planner with the City of Glendale, he has steered numerous projects through the approval process, many of them requiring the demolition of historic resources. Unfortunately, Khan stated clearly at the hearing that the project will return to the HPC unchanged. Indeed, it has been scheduled for the next HPC meeting in February, with the Craftsman still proposed for demolition, even though many concerns that the HPC raised with the FEIR remain unaddressed.

It is obvious that Khan seeks to try his luck with the Council through an appeal. When it eventually arrives at Council, TGHS will ask for your support in preserving the historic resource and building housing around it. It is important that Council hear from membership that the goals of preserving a historic resource and building needed housing need not be mutually exclusive.

PRESERVATION/DOCTORS HOUSE

TGHS Begins Process of National Register Nomination for the Doctors House

TGHS is pleased to announce that on February 2, historic consultant Architectural Resources Group (ARG) presented a preliminary copy of a National Register Nomination for the Doctors House to the Museum's leadership and select Board members.

As you may know, the Doctors House was moved from its original location at the corner of Wilson and Belmont to Brand Park in 1980. Generally, the National Register considers properties no longer in situ to be eligible for listing only under criteria relating to architecture. Therefore, the draft nomination cites qualification under Criterion C, as an excellent, rare local example of the Queen Anne/Eastlake style of architecture.



ARG will update the nomination with feedback given during the February meeting and will then submit the application to the California Office of Historic Preservation, who will review it and determine eligibility. If the application is approved, it will then be forwarded to the National Park Service for review and potential inclusion in the National Register. TGHS's consultant is hopeful that the process may be finalized by the end of the year.

Of course, acceptance in the National Register is not guaranteed. However, TGHS is proud of the progress that has been made toward the possibility of this prestigious recognition for the Doctors House.



Rusch shows boarded-up window broken by hawk



Isaac Gonzales, Hawk Whisperer

Hawk Pays Flying Visit to Doctors House

Last December 8, while in the Exhibit Room of the Doctors House, Curator Peter Rusch heard strange noises emanating from the floor above. Following a trail of tipped-over but miraculously unbroken lamps and vases, he went upstairs and looked into Dotty's Room. He saw an enormous bird, a Cooper's Hawk, perched on the foot rail of Dotty's bed.

The hawk spread its wings and dive-bombed Rusch, who eventually managed to close off the closet and playroom and confine the bird to the tiny room. He then alerted the Brand Park grounds crew, who called animal control.

"We wanted to make sure both the bird and the house were okay," said Isaac Gonzales, Chief Groundskeeper for the City. Rather than wait any longer, Gonzales approached the bird, which promptly attacked. Gonzales spread his work shirt and netted the hawk, wrapped it up carefully, carried it downstairs and released it outside. The bird flew off fast, apparently none the worse for the adventure. "He looked around a little bit and bolted," reported Gonzales.

Later investigation showed that the hawk had broken a back window to get in. Amazingly, nothing else was damaged.

TGHS salutes and thanks Gonzales for his bravery and compassionate expertise with wild animals. "This was actually my third hawk rescue this year," he said. "I also do snakes."

DOCTORS HOUSE

THE HAT IS FINISHED: PETER RUSCH ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT



Drawing by Peter Rusch

In his musical “Sunday in the Park with George,” Steven Sondheim referred to “finishing the hat” as forgoing everything else in life until one’s current passion is completed.

My hat for the past 13 years as Assistant Director/Curator of the Doctors House has grown older and frayed around the edges. I have been fortunate to have collaborated with three enormously talented and trusted colleagues throughout my stewardship.

Isabelle Meyer, who was honored at the 2022 TGHS Gala & Benefit with the Marie Luft Award for her 40-plus years of dedication to the Doctors House, mentored me in staging school tours for third- and fourth-grade students. I won’t soon forget the school buses arriving with 20 to 60 children marching up the road and asking, “Are you Abraham Lincoln?” “Do you live here?” “Are you a doctor?” We always asked the students to write and describe their favorite activity. The girls, without fail, sent such tributes as “I love washing clothes on a washboard in a big metal tub and hanging them to dry on a clothesline.” Go figure! Isabelle realized early on

that future preservation of the Doctors House would lie in creating this new generation of young advocates.

Sonia Montejano is another incredible volunteer and mentor. She first championed increased membership; then, as Director, spent untold hours photographing and archiving every single artifact, including hundreds of articles of antique apparel. She combined everything into 13 binders that are now ready to be digitized! Sonia set the security standards that are used today to protect the trove of items in the house. Lastly, we worked together on many exhibits over the years: china, the art of tea, wedding and christening dresses, the history of the stereopticon and, her favorite, the art of lace. (Mine was Victorian tattooing.)

Laura Crook began as a docent, then served as a Board member, as have many of our docents. Soon she rose to the Directorship, a position she holds today. As I did when Greg Grammer suggested I get involved, she became impassioned about the house itself, as well as its unique story as the genesis of The Glendale Historical Society, how

our members remain energized and why preservation is so important. Laura imagined unusual events such as goat yoga, paranormal studies, scavenger hunts for children and outdoor events around the house, which have drawn new people in and have helped keep preservation advocacy alive.

At this point, my hat is finished. I owe gratitude to these people and honor them and all those who have gone before me. Yes, I’ve crawled under the house and encountered rodents and reptiles (and a few bunnies); I’ve climbed up into the attic and musty crawl spaces to solve water problems; and I’ve answered thousands of questions from passersby. This year I had the privilege of participating in a documentary about the Doctors House that could never have been completed or done as well without the talents of Director Russell Harnden III. And, finally, we are making progress toward our goal of national recognition of the Doctors House as the treasure it is. I am happy to have been a small part of all this.

Peter J. Rusch

WELCOME!

NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS NOVEMBER 2022 - JANUARY 2023

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VERDUGO PATRON

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Cameron Carothers
Carolyn & John Claus
Peggy Dionne
Pam & Jim Elyea (History for Hire)
Toni & Vince Espinoza
Wendy Juleff
Devonna & Aaron Reichert
Rondi Werner & Bill Redmann

TROPICO

Tatevik & Vartan Achabadian
Aparna Bhargava & Mychael Danna
Susan & Richard Blasco
Lolly Gallup & Simon Miles
Susan & Carlos Garrett
Debbie & Bill Haggett - N

Marcia Hanford
Ann Howitt
Susan Kirk
Blake & Rob Lamb
Catherine L. & Martin N. Montoro
Raquel Morales
Tammy & John O'Connor
Joanna Pringle
Linda & Hugh Saurenman
Patty Silversher
Leann & William Warner
Joemy Wilson & Jon Harvey

HOUSEHOLD

Elizabeth & Richard Berry
Mark Bridges
Megan & Dennis Chapman
Joyce & John Goodwin
Claire Hieber & Ben Stanley
Carol & Sherry Koopman
Isabelle & Lawrence Meyer
Corine Nutting - N
Robin & Sarah Oates
Christina Rizzo & Ely Lester
Jayne Roses & Mitch Landau
Mary & Don Savarese
Stephanie Schus
Lee & Gregory Straus

Rebecca & Chuck Weiss
Brian Welsh
Marsha Wong & Rick Stern

INDIVIDUAL

Charles Cooley
Kama Hayes
Elina Julfayan
Lala Klopping - N
Wilson Maguwah - N
Suzanne McDonnell
Maria Sahakian
Armen Sarkissian
Araik Sinanyan - N
Richard Threlkeld
Matt Widmer - N

SENIOR

Susan Dasso
Pam Ellis
Robin Lee Hansen
Eileen Mendoza
Stephen Montgomery
Josephine Moukhtar
Jennifer Muirhead
Gail Nelson
Robert Paris
Elaine Pease - N

Mary Ann Prelock
Judy Rao
Candice Stein
Dorothy Sundbye
Bonnie Tortorelli
William Vasquez
Joylene Wagner
Catherine Yesayan

STUDENT

Katherine Hobbs - N
Ani Mnatsakanyan

TGHS also welcomes 61 special new members through the Glendale Federal Credit Union!

N - New Member

U - Upgrading Member

Please consider a membership upgrade the next time you renew.

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Scott Halloran & Peter Rusch
Anita & Russell Harnden
Nancy Hathaway (The Wine Vault)
Wendy Juleff
Edna Karinski
(Community Foundation of the Verdugos)
Jessica & Christian Lander
Bonnye LaPenotiere Sirk
Stacey & Darren Merritt
Jim Newman & Michael Williams
Coleen Novak & Daniel Garnett
Maureen & Mario Palladini
Vic Pallos
Devonna & Aaron Reichert
Gloria & Jerome Sander
Curtis & John Schwab-Sims
Scott Smissen & Don Snyder
Francesca & Lee Smith
Karin & Dennis van Bremen
Chris & Steve Warheit
Rondi Werner & Bill Redmann
Elaine & Bill Wilkerson
Gabiella Zecchetto & Blake Mills

UPCOMING EVENTS

Save these dates! Those who receive TGHS's emails will be notified with more details on these events.

Sunday, April 2, Time TBA

VICTORIAN EASTER

Doctors House Museum & Gazebo, Brand Park

THE SCULPTURES OF FOREST LAWN

Thursday, April 27, 7:00 pm **Part 1: Lecture**

Forest Lawn, Wee Kirk o' the Heather

Sunday, April 30, 1:00-3:00 pm **Part 2: Tour**

Forest Lawn, The Great Mausoleum

Saturday, May 20, 10:00 am-12:00 noon

BELLEHURST WALKING TOUR

Location TBA

Saturday, July 15, Time TBA

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Doctors House Museum & Gazebo, Brand Park

"STILL STANDING AFTER ALL THESE YEARS, PART VI"

by Katherine Peters Yamada

Edgar D. Goode lived in Glendale for only 20 years, but he compiled an impressive list of accomplishments.

In 1894, when the Goode family arrived, Glendale had around 300 residents. But in 1902 with the formation of the Glendale Improvement Association, Glendale quickly went from a small unincorporated village to a thriving town. Goode was at the forefront of that momentum.

Read the full article at: <https://glendalehistorical.org/still-standing-6>



Edgar D. Goode
PHOTO: Special Collections,
Glendale Library, Arts & Culture

If you missed any of TGHS's great events, you can access the archived videos at glendalehistorical.org/past-virtual-events



To get the most up-to-date information on TGHS's events and preservation alerts, check out facebook.com/GlendaleHistoricalSociety AND instagram.com/TheGlendaleHistoricalSociety