Chinatown Groups Complete Neighborhood Survey

Chinatown's core is a six-by-six-block area of mostly Edwardian structures built in the first two years after the devastation of 1906. But the roots of the Chinese community in that location go back to the gold rush. Now, faced with pressures of inadequate housing and high-rise development, the community is beginning to examine its heritage.

Consultant Philip P. Choy and Christopher Tse, a professor of Chinese-American history and a member of the San Francisco Landmarks Board, are attempting to identify structures that are significant in the history of Chinatown.

In addition to the Chinatown Historical Survey, the Chinatown Neighborhood Survey will provide a list of buildings and businesses that would be a way to begin discussions with all facets of the community on the future of Chinatown.

The format of the Chinatown Historical Survey is being developed by Historical Resources Unit (CHRI). The survey seeks to determine the architectural and historical significance of each building.

The title, "Asians in the American Landscape," is one of the significant buildings described in the Chinatown Historic Survey.

Volunteers from both CHRI and CHIA will undertake the project, which is expected to result in a look at the historical use of these buildings and the people who lived in them.

Lunchtime Walks of Downtown

Splendid Survivors

Preservation Loan Program

Linda Jo Fitz Leaves Heritage

March Fundraisers

New Bridge Toll Booth Design

Robert Pflueger, Architect

San Francisco's Retail District

Successful Soiree

New Docents Welcomed

Raffle Prize Winners

Heritage Charts Directions for 1981

At its December and January meetings, the Heritage Board of Directors approved in concept a program plan and budget for 1981. The program plan includes several new projects for Heritage and attempts to focus more clearly our conservation, education, communications and development activities.

As the result of the Board's action, Heritage will begin three specific conservation projects this year. All three involve comprehensive efforts that are expected to continue beyond the current year.

In the first, we will be extending the Splendid Survivors survey, with the intention of producing the results in a second volume. Our work will involve both upgrading information on the "secondary areas" defined in the first volume (principally on the Tenderloin, Nob Hill and South of Market) and completing the inventory in areas not previously identified.

Second, Heritage will undertake a program of surveying San Francisco districts and nominating appropriate ones to the National Register of Historic Places. We are currently contacting neighborhood groups to identify support for this program among residents of the neighborhoods.

Finally, our 1981 efforts in conservation will include an analysis of the strengths, weaknesses and potential for preservation in San Francisco's Article 10, the preservation section of the City's Planning Code. Heritage will concentrate its educational efforts this year in two areas: First, we are planning an expanded program of downtown walking tours, which should be in place by late spring. Second, we will attempt to develop a preservation/architectural conservation program for the city's schools and see it implemented. The schools program has been a long-standing goal for Heritage.
Look Up at Downtown: Special Lunchtime Walks

Willis Polk’s renowned Hallidie Building, with its glass curtain wall, is the starting place for the Heritage-led lunchtime walking tour of the Financial District, sponsored by California First Bank.

Skyscrapers, neck-craners. Towering monuments to our upward growth. The huge buildings that stretch up every day of the week from work have exciting stories to tell.

For two weeks in February you’ll have an opportunity to learn the stories of some of San Francisco’s most significant downtown buildings, as guides from Heritage Walks conduct free walking tours of the Financial District.

The tours are sponsored by California First Bank to celebrate the opening of their new branch in the Hallidie Building at 140 Sutter Street, itself one of San Francisco’s architectural treasures. Designed by Willis Polk in 1917, it was the world’s first glass-curtained structure and an important step in the evolution of the skyscraper.

Offered daily, Monday through Friday, from February 2 to February 13, the 45-minute walk will begin at 12:15 p.m. in the bank’s Hallidie Building branch. The number of persons who can be accommodated on each walk is limited, so tickets, available at no charge, will be required. The tickets may be had for the asking at the new Accounts Office at California First Bank, or on the bank’s downtown branch.

On the walk, you’ll see the architectural and technological development of the skyscraper from the pre-fire Mills Building, our city’s earliest entirely steel-frame building, to the modern high-style Crown Sellarbach Building, first of our office buildings cum plazas. Along the way you’ll visit a surprising variety of structures, including a Gothic-style building just 20 feet wide (Heineman Building), a Moderne structure with fine bas-reliefs and a somewhat Egyptian look (French Bank of California) and a French Chateau-topped skyscraper that is considered one of the city’s finest (Hunter-Dulin Building).

In all there are 14 stops on the tour, all buildings rated highly in Splendid Survivors, Heritage’s definitive survey of San Francisco’s downtown architectural heritage (published by California Living Books).
Chinatown

(Continued from page 1)

Portsmouth Square was a sloping, grassy park until 1960, when an underground garage was installed with a reconstructed park on its top. The buildings that surround the plaza were rebuilt to their pre-earthquake scale — two to four-story structures on narrow lots — and retain that character today.

SOUTH GRANT AVENUE

These two blocks, appended like a panhandle to the main part of Chinatown, were one of the first areas to adopt a pseudo-Chinese style of building decoration. Chinatown leaders after 1906 promoted the use of such details as pagodas and curved eaves in order to create an “Oriental Bazaar” that would attract tourists, in hopes, the survey says, “that this improved image would bridge relationships with the community at large.”

Most of the buildings in this zone are commercial structures. A notable exception is Old St. Mary’s Church, a brick Gothic Revival structure whose exterior dates back to 1854.

NORTH GRANT AVENUE

In the 19th century, upper Grant was an area of, successively, light industry, import-export firms and food markets. In the years after the earthquake, the street took on an eclectic look “in each period overlay its successors... adding another element to the already existing mixture of western elements with pagoda towers and curved eaves capped by shaped parapets.”

Many of the high-ranking buildings in the zone belong to the family and district associations that are key to the Chinese community’s structure. These handsome buildings typically have storefronts on the first floor and clubrooms with exterior balconies on the top floor.

Far left: One of Chinatown’s best-known buildings, the Bank of Canton office on Washington Street was originally the home of the Chinese Telephone Exchange. Left: The streetlamps that light the neighborhood are also rated as significant in the survey.

Waverly Place, Spofford and Ross Alleys

“While Grant Avenue has been the major arterial for tourists,” notes the survey, “Waverly Place, Spofford and Ross Alleys represent central boulevards for the Chinese.” Association buildings, “usually topped by loggias with projecting eaves,” are prominent on Waverly Place, along with a number of temples. Small sewing factories have replaced the gambling houses for which Spofford Alley was once noted.

The main entrances of many of the commercial and residential buildings open off the alleys rather than the large streets nearby. “The narrow canyon-like alleys continue to function as valuable circulation arteries for the community, and show what utilitarian structures and facades were like.”

COMMERCIAL STREET

“Commercial street maintains the smaller-scale building common at the turn of the century. It poses an interesting juxtaposition with the ‘orientalized’ buildings along Grant Avenue at its upper end and the highrise of the business district at the lower eastern end. The facade treatments and sizes of the buildings along the street capture the flavor of commerce during another era. The street also shows the way interesting residences were built in the midst of commercial activity.”

The survey results can be examined at the Heritage office or at the CHNC headquarters at 615 Grant, where they are also depicted in a display. CHNC has completed a slideshow about Chinatown’s buildings and is working on a guidebook to historic Chinatown.

The Chinatown survey area borders the section examined by Heritage in Splendid Survivors. We commend the community for taking this important step in the continuing effort to document our city’s historic resources.

A Finer Design for the Bridge Toll Booths

The directors of the Golden Gate Bridge and Highway District recently unveiled their new model for bridge toll booths to the congratulations of supporters of the bridge’s design integrity.

Heritage and others expressed their deep concern last spring when the Bridge District announced its intention to replace the existing booths with new ones of a strictly functional design. The original booths, put up in the 1930s, clearly were inadequate to handle the traffic of 50 years later, and the new design corrected the engineering and safety deficiencies. But it severely detracted from the superb Moderne vision of the bridge’s builders, who had created parts — toll booths, buildings, towers — that all contributed to the elegance and excellence of the whole.

Heritage, the local chapter of the American Institute of Architects and others urged the Bridge District to reconsider. They scored a victory when the officials agreed to solicit new proposals for the toll booth design and also to set up a permanent architectural advisory committee for the Bridge District.

The new design, by architect Donald MacDonald, is “an ingenious recreation of the spirit of the original toll booths,” says Heritage Architectural Historian Gray Brechin. “It uses the skeleton of the original form without having the curved glass that caused so many problems. The streamlined shape of the base will serve as an ingest barrier to protect the toll takers, and the booths will be constructed of detachable elements for easy maintenance. In addition, the hoods will visually connect the booths with the original canopy, which is being retained.”

In all, it’s an admirable solution to a design problem that was in danger of being only half-solved at best.

A model of Donald MacDonald’s design for the Golden Gate Bridge toll booths.
Heritage Notes

- Three major preservation bills passed Congress during its lame-duck session in November and December. The National Historic Landmarks of 1980 were enacted with a welcome modification of the controversial "owner consent" provision. The incentives for rehabilitation of historic commercial structures were extended for three years. And $12.5 million was appropriated for the federal historic preservation program, $7.5 million more than the Carter Administration's original recommendation.

- New officers have been elected to the Haas-Lilienthal House Docent Council and have begun serving their one-year terms. Congratulations to: Laura Pila, Docent Coordinator; Nancy McCabe, Docent Scheduler and Administrative Coordinator; Marjorie Meadow and Steve Rainas, Group Leaders; Linda Genfield and Joan Rapport, Docent Training Coordinators; Alan Paye, Bay Window Editor; Shirley Wood, Special Events Coordinator; and Connie Hammerman, Administrative Coordinator.

- Millie Eley, who has so capably kept Heritage's books and watched over our finances for the past three years, has been named as the new business director of The Bay Area Learning Disability Foundation, which operates "REACH for Learning" clinics in San Francisco, Marin and the East Bay. We will miss her excellent services, and wish her every success in her challenging new post.

- Linda Jo Fitz plans to maintain her commitment to urban conservation and preservation even though she is leaving Heritage's staff.

Landmarks in Process

Important San Francisco buildings can be officially recognized in various ways. They may be designated as a San Francisco Landmark, a State Landmark, or a National Historic Landmark. Also, they may become part of the National Register of Historic Places. Each kind of designation has different criteria and involves different processes. The designation of greatest honor is the National Historic Landmark, which is conferred at the sole discretion of the U.S. Department of the Interior. Buildings recently designated or now in one or more of those processes are listed below, based on information available on January 9, 1981:

**CITY LANDMARKS**

**Pending Designations**

Initiated by the Landmarks Board; going to the Planning Commission:

- 550 Chestnut - Bauer Schweitzer Malting Co.
- Webster Street Historic District

Initiated by owner; reviewed by the Landmarks Board; going to the Planning Commission:

- 1735 Franklin - Brandenstein House
- 301 Lyon - Clunie House

Initiated by the Board of Supervisors; reviewed by the Landmarks Board; going to the Planning Commission:

- 478 Green - Old Spaghetti Factory Cafe

Recommended by the Landmarks Board and Planning Commission; going to the Board of Supervisors' Planning Housing Development Committee:

- 1381 S. Van Ness - Havens Mansion

Designated City Landmarks

- 955 Clay - Chinatown YWCA
- Golden Gate Park - Sharon Building
- 427 Guerrero - McMullen House

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

No new listings.
Preservation Loan Program
Rehabs Vintage Homes

On this page Heritage proudly presents a sampling of the houses that our Preservation Loan Program has helped to rehabilitate. More than 20 homeowners have received financial or technical assistance through the PLP. Eight PLP projects have been completed; others are in various stages of planning and construction.

Also shown are two of the individuals who have helped make the PLP possible: Oscar D’Antonio, a retired 30-year veteran of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, works part-time as the PLP’s rehabilitation specialist. Eliot Fraser of Crocker Bank, our participating lender, processes and services the PLP’s loans. In addition, the generous financial support of the California Office of Historic Preservation has helped Heritage greatly with the PLP’s administrative costs.

In 1979, Heritage began offering rehabilitation loans at 6% to low-income households in order to encourage the preservation of the city’s vintage residences. By means of a $200,000 grant from the San Francisco Office of Community Development, Heritage has been able to subsidize the loans at below-market rates through Crocker Bank. The loans are used primarily for exterior rehabilitation, although interior work to ensure the safety of the building’s inhabitants may also be done.

In addition to providing qualified applicants with affordable housing, the PLP also plans a work program for each project, prepares bid documents, assists in locating qualified contractors and monitors construction in progress.

Interest in the PLP continues to grow. In November 1980, PLP Administrator Ward Hill received more than twice as many inquiries about the Program as he did in November 1979. We continue to invite applications from qualified homeowners.

Oscar D’Antonio, the PLP’s rehabilitation specialist, secures a sign on the scaffolding in front of 166 Downey Street.

Eliot Fraser of Crocker Bank assists us by processing and servicing PLP loans.

A large Mission District Edwardian gets its exterior plaster and paint restored.

Jacqueline Hamilton has been approved for a loan to paint and restore woodwork on her Tudor home on Golden Gate Avenue.

This Craftsman bungalow in the Richmond District shows off the results of its PLP rehabilitation.

The final touches of paint go on this Haight-Ashbury Queen Anne.
Choose a sunny day and turn up Grant Avenue from Market Street, and you will experience something unique in American cities: a vibrant, visually cohesive, and vital downtown shopping district, created from scratch in three years and virtually unaltered 70 years later. While shoppers may not be conscious of the architecture that surrounds them, it profoundly affects their perceptions and makes shopping in downtown San Francisco a human and urban experience.

The four-blocks of Grant between Market and Bush, plus short sections of Geary, Post, Sutter and Maiden Lane that transect Grant, constitute the finest of the eight downtown areas that Splendid Survivors identifies as potential National Register Historic Districts. Under federal guidelines, the buildings in such districts should be a unified ensemble that expresses a coherent image of a period in a place's history or architecture. To a remarkable degree, the retail-shopping district fulfills these criteria.

The district has retained its vitality and appearance since its post-fire creation, while other American downtowns have lost the Wells Fargo and Security Pacific Bank, gateway to Grant at Market. The buildings at Sutter and Grant is to downtown what the Manhattan Lion at the post office is to New York.

To understand the justifiable pride that motivated that judgment, one need only recognize one of downtown's few Art Nouveau structures. Right: This fine small building at Sutter and Grant is to be torn down for a highrise. This page, left: The Bemiss Building (126-130 Post) in 1908. Here a much smaller building with the 'imperial pretensions' of the more famous Wells Fargo Bank. Together they form a gateway to Grant at Market.

San Francisco's Retail District: 

This movement, stimulated by the classically inspired Ecole des Beaux Arts and by the mammoth American world's fairs, emphasizes the permanence and order of the city and contributing to the variety of the streetscape, rests on a two-story glass commercial base, ideal not only for the display of merchandise but for constant remodeling.

Such mixed-use structures -- stores below and offices above -- embodied lessons on creating a lively urban environment that are only recently being relearned by modern architects, whose glass, guarded lobbies and ubiquitous ground-floor banks have done so much to anesthetize U.S. cities in the last several decades.

Grant Avenue itself is characterized by an unbroken street plane of roughly uniform cornice level, meaning, color, material and style. It is punctuated at intervals by tall buildings, such as William Charles Hand and Shreve Buildings, which create another imposing gateway, from Grant into Post.

Albert Pissis' White House is superb on Sutter Street like a conqueror. Not with such mixed-use structures -- stores below and offices above -- embodied lessons on creating a lively urban environment that are only recently being relearned by modern architects, whose glass, guarded lobbies and ubiquitous ground-floor banks have done so much to anesthetize U.S. cities in the last several decades.

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sions of the White House turns into a dark, dead-end alley off Post Street.

But Pissis never managed the sort of grotesque and sophisticated humor that Ernest Coxhead served up in the old Home Telephone Building at 333 Grant, where he successfully parodied the monumental good taste of the classical downtown. This building uses a mannered distortion and juxtaposition of scale and detail to create a persona like that of a licentious but well-connected relative at a polite family reunion.

Star of the retail district is Willis Polk's world-famous Hallidie Building (1917), embedded in what is probably the most important block in the entire downtown, the north side of the 100 block of Sutter Street. The block serves as a condensed history of downtown types and styles of the early 20th century; it's one of San Francisco's esthetically most coherent groupings. Furthermore, it provides a context essential for understanding the Hallidie. Nearby buildings, such as George Applegarth's remarkable 1908 Bemiss Building at 266-277 Sutter, demonstrate that Polk was working in a well-developed local tradition of glass-fronted buildings and, indeed, that he was rather late in arriving at his own superb synthesis.

You should stroll the retail district on a sunny day to fully appreciate its variety, unity and scale. The relationship of building height to street width is especially satisfying; it allows sunshine to flood the sidewalk, so much so that storefront awnings remain a downtown tradition.

California's Mediterranean light makes shopping and people-watching here a joy, while the deepening and darkening canyons of the financial district, just a few blocks away, provide a more characteristic view of the modern American city. On Polk, the retail-shopping district, variety and scale.

Since Splendid Survivors proposed the retail-shopping historic district a year ago, many changes have occurred within its boundaries. The fine Foxcroft Building at 68-82 Post Street and several other structures have been demolished for the Crocker Bank headquarters. The City of Paris and the adjacent Whitney Building are being torn down for the new Neiman Marcus store. The 12-story California Pacific Building, in the critical 100 block of Sutter, is now boarded up and awaiting demolition for an immense office slab planned for Montgomery Street.

And, yes, a highrise is being planned at 700 Grant and Sutter for the heart of the district at Sutter and Grant. It will require the destruction of the delightful corner building which has been called a "commercial jewel box" and has housed a tobacconist and Paul's Antiques.

In short, the retail-shopping district, like others downtown, is being rapidly eroded by development pressures. San Franciscans can no longer afford to take for granted the intangible qualities of this city's most recognizable buildings.

Now more than ever, the district's merits or the benefits that would be available to them if it were listed on the National Register. In addition to favorable publicity, buildings in the district would be subject to the Tax Reform Act of 1976 and could be eligible for federal grants and loans for rehabilitation. Thus, while federally funded or licensed projects within the district could be inhibited, owners would find that, in fact, significant economic incentives are provided for preserving buildings.

For the time being, the retail district remains a civilized bequest, too often overlooked, from a bygone generation. Like words in a sentence, buildings make sense when seen together; indeed, the area constitutes a language that we may have forgotten how to speak, but still enjoy the sound of...

-- Gray Brechin
Creators of Our Cityscape:

Timothy Pflueger: Art, Art Deco and More

Of all the architects who built San Francisco, none could match the trend-setting versatility or the prodigious output of Timothy Pflueger. His short career endowed the city with some of its finest landmarks and contributed greatly to its stock of public art.

His attainments are all the more amazing for his humble beginnings. Unlike many of his peers who received their education at the prestigious Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris or the Beaux Arts-influenced University of California, Pflueger began his training in 1910 at the age of 18 in the office of architect James Miller. In 1920, when only 28, Pflueger became a full partner in the firm of Miller & Pflueger.

Among his first major projects was the San Francisco Curb Exchange at 350 Bush Street with its buff-colored Roman temple facade. Pflueger commissioned the pediment sculpture of five "ends of commerce" from his friend Jo Mora, establishing a practice of liberal artistic patronage in his projects. When he became president of the San Francisco Art Association in 1933, he remarked, "The artists have always had a tough time. I'm trying to get more of their work into my buildings."

In 1925, he produced the Pacific Telephone Building at 134-40 New Montgomery. Though no longer the tallest building in San Francisco, the elegantly setback shaft with its varied elevations still stands impressively isolated south of Market, its brilliant white terra cotta a tribute to the architect's effort to enhance the city's Mediterranean color and profile. The building's vaguely Gothic ornament contrasts with and enlivens the building's form, rather than merely cloaking it in historicist respectability.

Though the Pacific Telephone Building was considered to be one of the best skyscrapers of its time, Pflueger broke new ground with the construction of the Federal Building in 1931, a highly original design that stresses the taut, undulating skin that wraps around its steal frame. The subtle Mayan motifs that articulate its surface are even more subordinated to the building's bold and simple form than the Pacific Telephone Building's decoration.

450 Sutter represented a significant step in the development of the skyscraper as it moved from the costume ball period of the 1920s to the frank expression of the curtain wall. Like the Pacific Telephone Building, it retains the power to both impress and delight the pedestrian.

The young Pflueger pioneered in introducing Art Deco and modern forms into the Bay Area. His Stock Exchange tower of 1930 was austere but elegant; the still-intact Stock Exchange Club at its summit was a collaborative effort by some of the area's leading artists and designers. Pflueger brought Diego Rivera to San Francisco and sponsored the fiery Mexican social critic's众所周知画像 in the Stock Exchange lobby. The Stock Exchange tower Pflueger also designed. In 1931, Pflueger again directed a team of artists in the creation of the Deco extravaganza of Oakland's Paramount Theater.

Miller and Pflueger were also responsible for several schools, most notably Roosevelt High School -- not only the finest school building in San Francisco but deserving of national recognition. Created in the depths of the Depression in 1934, its intricately patterned red brick and green copper spandrels show an exquisite sympathy for Dutch Expressionist architecture.

In the Moderne lobby of the Pacific Telephone Building with its "Chinese" ceilings, the Mayan lobby of 450 Sutter and the Deco lobby of the Stock Exchange, Pflueger demonstrated his firm's power and refined skill at melding the past and the future. During the 1930s he created the Pal Tidewater and Circo Home at the Fairmont, the superb Deco interior of the late 1930s both of which are still considered to be one of the best buildings.

In that decade he also was Chairman of the Board of Consulting Architects for the Oakland-Bay Bridge and designed the Federal Building, Court of Pacific and California State Group for the Treasure Island Fair. In 1942, Pflueger produced at Union Square the first garage in America to be built underground with a park on its roof.

Though heavily criticized at the time by people who felt the park was not as fine a space as the one it replaced, it appears an outstanding design solution when compared with subsequent attempts at Portsmouth and St. Mary's Squares and the Civic Center Plaza. As Michael Corbett observed in Splendid Survivors, "An example of sensitive urban 'non-architecture,' it is the closest thing in this city to the Oakland Museum."

Though his was often considered the leading Deco firm in the city, Pflueger demonstrated his adaptability in the 1946 remodeling of the 1907 Butler Building for I. Magnin on Union Square. This crisp white marble-and-glass cube, considered one of the pioneering examples of modernism in the Bay Area, has been described by Pflueger's associate Michael Goodman as an attempt by the owner to "pigeon-proof" the building.

Pflueger died in 1946 at the age of only 54, possibly as a result of overwork. In his two-and-a-half decades of practice, his creations ran the gamut from Roman Classicism to the most severe modern austerity -- always maintaining, however, an essential elegance and refinement.

Pflueger's firm continues today under the partnership of Timothy's brother Milton and Milton's son, John. It is the oldest continually existing architectural firm in San Francisco.
Elegant Settings for March Fundraisers

Two fine San Francisco residences of quite differing styles will be open to Heritage members for the latest in our series of fundraising receptions in exceptional city homes.

Your $20 or $25 tax-deductible contribution to Heritage will not only aid our important conservation work, but will entitle you to an invitation admitting two people to one of our open houses. Send your check with the coupon below and a self-addressed, stamped envelope to request your invitations.

Heritage thanks the owners of these grand homes for making them available to us for these occasions.

MARCH 11 — FRENCH TOWNHOUSE

A Victorian mansion in Pacific Heights, remodeled in the early 20th century to be a three-story French townhouse. See the results of the work of the renowned interior designers Lady Mendel and John Knehans. Knehans’s minimal window treatments and contemporary uses of color and lighting show respect for earlier eras while they enhance the collection of paintings, drawings and antique and modern furnishings.

Join us here on Wednesday evening, March 11. For a $20 donation you will receive an invitation admitting two people.

MARCH 25 — SHINGLE-STYLE TREASURE

A shingle-style home on the Presidio Wall, shown in House Today. Designed in 1902 by Albert Farr, designer of Jack London’s Wolf House, this four-story Pacific Avenue house features a generous entry-hall fireplace, a wood-paneled ground floor dining room and a generous upcut living room. Here, forest beasts are embossed in the plaster ceilings, walls are paneled with first-growth redwood, oak planks the floor and an enormous window frames the Presidio cypresses and the Golden Gate.

Join us here on Wednesday evening, March 25. For a $25 donation you will receive an invitation admitting two people.

Please send me invitations to Heritage’s receptions as noted below. My contribution to Heritage is enclosed.

French Townhouse
Wednesday, March 11
$20 for an invitation for 2 people
Please send ______ invitations.

Shingle-Style Treasure
Wednesday, March 25
$25 for an invitation for 2 people
Please send ______ invitations.

Total enclosed

Name
Day phone

Please send this form with your check and a stamped, self-addressed envelope to: HERITAGE, 2007 Franklin Street, San Francisco 94109.

Heritage Welcomes New Docents

Fourteen eager and enthusiastic new Haas-Lilienthal House docents have just completed the fall docent training class. They celebrated their graduation with a visit, organized by training class coordinator Maridel Watkin, to the Newhall residence on Pacific Avenue. Ready to begin giving tours are:

Maryleigh Andrews
Leo Anton
Mary Elizabeth Baker
Selig Copland
Edith Coie
Phyllis Petters
Thomas Kenic
Eileen Leads-Alderman
Bethellen Levitan
Raysen Margulis
Joseph Meixner
Brenda Oliver
Vivian Spelman
Leayn Spicer

The ranks of the docents will grow still further following the spring docent training class. Scheduled to begin in February, the class will meet two evenings per week for eight weeks.

Heritage docents give tours of the Haas-Lilienthal House, our landmark Victorian at 2007 Franklin Street.
Heritage Hosts a Successful Soiree

An 1893 City Landmark, the elegant Richardsonian-style brick building at Buchanan and North Point, was the festive scene of the 1980 Heritage Soiree on November 15. Over 350 Heritage supporters dined, danced and accepted the challenge of the gaming tables — raising a net sum of over $18,000 for Heritage's conservation and education programs.

The setting for this year's Soiree is an outstanding example of the adaptive reuse of structures important to the city's built environment. The building, with its Romanesque windows and Queen Anne tower was originally the home of the San Francisco Gas Light Company. Later it was owned and meticulously restored by Marryvale Antiques, which for many years maintained its showroom in a space that had once housed great gas compressors. The building was recently purchased by the Pacific Union Real Estate firm to be its headquarters and so will continue to contribute to the economic and aesthetic lives of San Francisco.

Great credit is due Chairperson Stewart Morton and the Soiree Committee -- Barbara Hartford, David Hartford, John Johnston, Caryl Meney, Jim Murrow and Sue Weinstain -- for making this evening a grand success. They were assisted by more than 70 volunteers: Michael Erlen, Karen Hollinger, Gay Kuns and Charlotte and John Schmiedel should be especially thanked for the time, energy and service they provided.

Heritage would also like to express its appreciation to several people and organizations who helped make the Soiree both profitable and fun: Continental Savings and Loan Association, Dolby Laboratories, Inc., Wehr Meldrum, Lambert and Wells Construction Co., Marina Safeway, Powell's Custom Lighting of Sausalito, Pacific Union Real Estate, the Peter Rudolfi Kirillim String Quartet and W.A. Taylor and Co. In addition, our thanks go to the gaming prize donors, who are listed on page 11.

Raffle Drawing Highlights Holiday Open House

For hundreds of Heritage members and their friends, the first party of the holiday season was our annual Holiday Open House on December 6. The afternoon's highlight was the exciting raffle drawing to select the winners of more than 30 fabulous prizes. With rapid and eager ticket sales before and during the party, we easily surpassed our revenue goal.

Many hardworking Heritage volunteers contributed greatly to the enjoyment of the event — especially Open House Chairperson Jane Piereth, committee leaders Bonnie Oliver, Bruce Bonacker, Linda Ansell, Charlotte Schmiedel, Agnes Heyman, Bronwyn Boling and Linda Ganfield, and Chairperson Frances White, who rounded up the extensive list of prizes (almost three times as many as last year's raffle had).

We are also grateful to the many generous donors who helped make the Holiday Open House and Raffle a success. The winners, their prizes and the donors were:

- **Clare and Paul Watsky**, grand prize winners — a gourmet dinner for 12 at the Haas-Lilienthal House, catered by the Ben Megco Company.
- **Mike Ahlstrand** — a picnic hamper filled with goodies from the Pan Myk Culinary Co. W. Walker — a lunch and tour for six of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill's architectural offices, led by John Merrill, AIA, Skidmore, Owings & Merrill.
- **Laurence C. Stein** — a pen-and-link drawing of his favorite San Francisco landmark by William Walters.
- **L.B. Karp** — a dinner and concert for two, courtesy of Robert Young and Associates (symphony tickets) and the Hyatt Regency (dinner).

Dulcie Wright — a $100 gift certificate from Victoria's Secret, Designer Lingerie.

**Diana Nicholson** — a mirror on an oak stand from the City of Paris, donated by a friend of Heritage.

**Edgar L. McEachron** — dinner for two at the Carnelian Room.

**Dr. & Mrs. Saunders** — a Cafe Diablo cake from the Catered Affair.

**S. Nathan** — a tour for eight of the Executive Entertainment Area and Command Control Center of the Transamerica Pyramid, led by Roy G. Schmidt, AIA, William L. Perlis Associates.

**Helen Hasselman** — a silver wine cooler, courtesy of Quick & Easy Rentals.

**Don L. Ray** — a one-year membership at Dreamland.

**Douglas** — a $25 gift certificate from Floridella Florists.

**Pearl Szolloski** — a flight bag and two bottles of Argentine wine, courtesy of Argentine Airlines.

**W. Fox** — dinner for two at the Blue Fox Restaurant.

**Anna R. Wright** — a case of Weibel Cabernet Sauvignon, courtesy of Flying A Advertising.

**Richard Goss** — a tour and lunch for three at the Stock Exchange Club with city planner and Art Deco expert Jeremy Kotas.

**Jeanne Mulcrevy** — a bedspread from L. Lindsey.

**Pam Thomas** — three evenings out: concert tickets courtesy of Friends of the San Francisco Conservatory of Music; dinners at The Chestnut Street Grill (courtesy of Nob Hill Mortgage Co.), McLurey's Restaurant and Victoria Station.

**T. Patri** — a $25 gift certificate from the Gap Stores.

**Kathy Plewry** — a $15 gift certificate from the Gap Stores.

**Jacqueline Cordax** — ten handmade Christmas tree ornaments from Calliope Designs, Inc.

**Joanne Edwards** — dinner for two at Neptune's Palace Restaurant.

**Mark Lester** — dinner for 20 from Sausalito Caterers.

**Wendy Hof** — an architectural walking tour for 20 led by Heritage Architectural Historian Gray Brechin.

**Barbara Klein, Sarah Hutchings, Mary Hunt, Judith Moss and Henry Nathan** — silver English crown coins commemorating the Queen Mother’s 80th birthday, courtesy of National Westminster Bank.

**M.C. Page** — a night, including dinner and show, at the Mansion Hotel, courtesy of Robert Pritikin.

**Tom Trowbridge** — a $25 gift certificate for a custom hair design by Jim Stewart at Jerry Short.

**Marcia Brown** — a box lunch and tour for four of the award-winning offices of Don Knorr and Associates, led by Don Knorr, AIA.

**Dick Owen** — dinner, cocktails and show for two in the Venetian Room, courtesy of the Fairmont Hotel.

**Carolee House** — copies of Spanning the Gate and Treasure Island, courtesy of Squaresbooks, Mill Valley.

**Lindsey J. Judy** — three crystal prisms, courtesy of The Enchanted Crystal.

**Don Knorr** — an architectural membership, tee-shirt and books (Splendid Survivors and Victorian Sampler).

Additional donors to the Holiday Open House whom we would like to thank, were United Vintners; Levi Strauss & Co.; Coffee, Tea & Spice; and Charles Starbuck.
Heritage would like to thank all of the individuals and firms who share our concern for San Francisco's built environment and whose generous contributions make our urban conservation efforts possible. Photo by Pacific Air Surveys.
"Strengthening the Local Preservation Process" is the theme of the sixth annual California Historic Preservation Conference, to be held in Riverside on March 29-April 1, 1981. Several Heritage staff members will be attending.

Hosts for the conference are the State Office of Historic Preservation; the University of California, Riverside; the Cultural Heritage Board of the City of Riverside, and the Mission Inn Foundation.

A workshop on preservation basics — well attended at last year's conference — will again be offered. New and specialized workshops will focus on conservation technology for structures and decorative features; public and private financial strategies; preservation law; social issues of preservation in the city; and professionalization and certification in the preservation field. The conference should appeal to professionals and volunteers in a variety of fields, including city/county planning, real estate, finance, and architecture, as well as preservation.

If you're interested in attending, call or write for information: Conference Coordinator, c/o History Department, University of California, Riverside, CA 92521, (714) 787-4493 or (714) 787-5401.

**Heritage Calendar:**

**What's Happening This Winter and Spring**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>February 2-13</td>
<td>An Architectural Walking Tour of San Francisco's Financial District, conducted by Heritage Walks guides. Sponsored by California First Bank to celebrate the opening of their new branch in the Hallidie Building, the world's first glass-curtain-walled office building. 12:15 - 1:00 p.m. Free of charge, but tickets are required. Visit the bank branch at 140 Sutter, San Francisco, or call Heritage at 441-3000 for information.</td>
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<td>March 5-7</td>
<td>&quot;Bricks &amp; Stone&quot; Preservation Workshop, an intensive 3-day on-site technical workshop for persons interested in learning more about the technology of preservation. Sponsored by the California Historical Society. 2090 Jackson Street, San Francisco. $175. Limited enrollment; advance application required. Call 567-1848 for information.</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 29-April 1</td>
<td>&quot;Strengthening the Local Preservation Process,&quot; the sixth annual California Historic Preservation Conference, University of California-Riverside campus, Riverside, California. For information, call or write the Conference Coordinator, c/o History Department, University of California, Riverside, CA 92521, (714) 787-6493 or (714) 787-5401.</td>
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<td>April 10-12</td>
<td>&quot;The State of the Art in Victorian-Edwardian Architectural Research, Restoration and Adaptation in San Francisco,&quot; a symposium sponsored by the New College of San Francisco. The program will include neighborhood experiences plus presentations and workshops on such topics as design, adaptive uses, research, financing, resources and governmental impact. Heritage staffers Gray Brechin and Ward Hill will be among the speakers. Palace Hotel. Call 777-2344 for information.</td>
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