The Downtown Plan: A Strategy for Preservation and Growth

On August 25, 1983, the Downtown Plan was made public. Controversy began immediately. Certain real estate interests opposed it as too restrictive; hard-core conservationists felt it didn’t go far enough. Yet, from Los Angeles to Boston, it has been touted as a victory for preservationists and loudly applauded for innovative proposals that would save San Francisco’s architectural heritage, while providing for future growth.

Measured against other cities’ plans, this one is quite bold. In fact, the policies and concerns it sets down mark an important turning point in city planning in this country. They amount to official recognition that bigger does not necessarily mean better, that the quality of city life may be improved by limiting growth, and that there must be a balance struck between a city’s needs for economic vitality and civilized urban values. If adopted, this plan would guide San Francisco the most restrictive downtown zoning of any major city in the United States. “It is,” in the words of Paul Goldberger, architecture critic for The New York Times, “one of the most complete prescriptions for growth any American downtown has been given.”

Some say it is too late; that the damage done to San Francisco by unchecked development can never be repaired. But San Francisco is more than commercial buildings, as it is more than people who live here, more than beautiful vistas, more than cable cars and Victorians. San Francisco is a city with a personality and an historic identity all its own. True, there have been many who have been threatened by bad building and overbuilding, but they haven’t been lost quite yet.

Some say the Plan is flawed and Heritage sees several issues that are cause for concern. But if we talk in terms of general concepts, the Plan has given San Francisco something of great value: a concrete and comprehensive proposal to work from, and a new (official) perspective on the city...a vision to work toward.

The past decade of overdevelopment brought dramatic changes downtown. Big, boxy buildings that did not relate at all to the city’s architectural traditions destroyed the delicate skyline, leveled the hills, blocked the sun.

For more than ten years the city has been struggling to guide development in its downtown area. For more than two years the Planning Department has been working to prepare an Environmental Impact Report, studying the effects of growth on the city as a whole. The first draft of the EIR consultant’s report, completed in January, 1983, evaluated five alternative plans. One of those, The Department’s “Guiding Downtown Development” report, has become the Downtown Plan.

The Plan’s release in August was followed immediately by a proposal for a year-long freeze on high-rise building approvals to prevent a mad dash for permits before the new rules go into effect.

Plan Goals

The purpose of the Plan is to control the scale and intensity of downtown building and to preserve historic buildings. It would promote growth and development so long as it conforms to the city’s financial and social objectives and the city’s historic character and livability. Dean Macris, City Planning Director, speaking about the goals of the Plan, has said that “Downtown should remain compact; creating, where appropriate, a mix of activities with distinctive architecture and spaces that people find stimulating...We must preserve the best of the past,” shaping change “in a way that adds to the services, culture, excitement and pace indicative of great city centers, without causing unreasonable congestion so frustrating to urban life.

The Plan would redirect office expansion south of Market; require new buildings to be slimmer and smaller, with “distinctive tops” (in hopes of returning a sculptured look to the skyline); deal with the problem of loss of sunlight, shortage of housing and increased traffic; and preserve architecturally significant buildings. It would reduce the overall allowable density downtown through lower base floor area ratios, through prohibitions against demolition of important buildings, through special review of development in conservation districts, and through the most

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THE HERITAGE NEWSLETTER

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over the next few months whether some of these additional measures are needed.)

Heritage wonders why a few rated buildings do not show up on any lists, or show up on the wrong lists; how to insure continuing authority in the Planning Commission to require preservation of contributory buildings, when appropriate, in conservation districts; what impact more intensive development south of Market will have on architectural resources in that area. It may be that Heritage will ask for modifications in the final plan that address these concerns.

The Moratorium

In the meantime, pending review and approval of a Downtown Plan, Heritage has supported the moratorium on high-rise building with three exceptions: that the Planning Department exempt from interim zoning controls all rehabilitation of architecturally significant buildings in order to encourage the reuse of such buildings consistent with the Downtown Plan; that conversion of C-rated buildings in conservation districts also be exempted; that all applications for demolition of A, B or C buildings be denied during the interim control period. These exemptions have been recommended by the Planning Commission and the modified interim controls will go into effect following approval by the Board of Supervisors. They approved the moratorium once already, but exempted seven large building projects from having to comply. The Mayor vetoed, and now it's back before the Board of Supervisors for early next year. Heritage will depend upon the support of its associate members, and of preservationists everywhere, to keep the preservation policies of the Plan from being eroded over the next year.

Consideration of the Downtown Plan, which must include public hearings, is scheduled by the Board of Supervisors for early next year. Heritage will depend upon the support of its associate members, and of preservationists everywhere, to keep the preservation policies of the Plan from being eroded over the next year.

FATE OF PROPOSITION N, THE SAN FRANCISCO PLAN INITIATIVE, DECIDED BY ABSENTEE BALLOTS: FALL IN THE FINAL COUNT

The San Francisco Plan was not the Downtown Plan. It was an initiative that appeared on the ballot as Proposition N.

It touched on issues dear to the hearts of many. It proposed nine priority policies to govern the development of a comprehensive new city master plan. These policies were concerned with protecting the character of the city; securing employable and affordable housing for residents; maintaining the diversity of neighborhoods; preserving parks and open spaces; protecting small businesses from forced relocation.

After weighing the proposition's potential benefits and its potential costs to preservation efforts, Heritage chose not to support it. It was felt that the initiative's guiding principles and the lengthy process of ensuring their actual fulfillment might have had an adverse effect on the Planning Department's ability to refine and implement the Downtown Plan (as well as sub-area plans already under way for north of Market, south of Market, the Van Ness corridor, Chinatown and other parts of the city where development threatens historic architectural resources). Had the Downtown Plan been jeopardized, much of Heritage's work over the past two years would have been lost. Also, the extra fees called for on all commercial development -- including adaptive reuse of older buildings -- would have made most rehabilitation projects economically unfeasible.

The first priority policy of Prop N was a worthy one; to protect "the landmarks and distinguished buildings, and the beauty of our city given us in trust by prior generations of San Franciscans." That the initiative did not pass was no defeat for those who are concerned about the damage development has done. The narrowness of the margin of victory should be a clear sign to developers and city planners that the people who live here are going to demand respect for the city. It is long overdue.

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From the Executive Director's Desk

1984 May Be Heritage's Greatest Challenge

As 1983 comes to a close, the Heritage Board and staff are in a wild state of euphoria over this year's accomplishments.

With the August release of the Planning Department's proposed Downtown Plan, and intended interim controls placing a moratorium on demolition of significant buildings, it is clear that Heritage's advance work over the past several years is now paying off handsomely. We find ourselves in a new cooperative working relationship with Dean Macris and his planning staff, because they appear to recognize the broad public support for historic preservation, and share these public sentiments.

Several key structures have been saved over the past year as a direct result of the cooperation between Heritage, the Planning Department, the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board and other agencies including the B. Dalton Bookstore Building at 200 Kearny, and its neighbor at 154 Sutter Street; the Cogswell College Building at Stockton and California and others. So far we have also been able to delay demolition of the San Francisco Mining Exchange on Bush, and the Mission United Presbyterian Church on Capp Street.

Heritage's other 1983 accomplishments are many. Michael Corbett is completing the final stages of the extended downtown Architectural Survey, in time for the results to be incorporated into several sub-area plans for the Tenderloin, Van Ness Avenue, South of Market, Chinatown and parts of the waterfront. Leslie Flint and Board Member Marty Gordon have succeeded in launching a new educational program called "Heritage Hikes" for school age children, while maintaining the quality of our other educational programs and the Van Ness-Lilienthal House.

Marie Kennedy and new Director of Rehabilitation, Marc Schweitzer, together with consultants Arnie Lerner and Didier Repellin, have completed numerous low-income housing restoration designs through the PURPA, and have succeeded in raising a major grant for the restoration of the Chateau Agape in the Mission District.
Our Communications Directors, Dennis Hansen and Mary Gale Gaintner, have maintained the high quality of the newsletter and kept Heritage's activities in the public eye.

Of course, all of this would not have been possible without the continued contribution of time and financial support from our Board of Directors and many volunteers.

With a renewed sense of optimism for preservation in San Francisco in 1984 we face what may be the biggest challenge in the lifetime of the organization. How can we help implement the preservation policies of the Downtown Plan, while ensuring that similar policies are included in other sub-area plans and individual structures are not demolished in the interim? The Staff and Board will need to provide constant vigilance and sophisticated analysis at public hearings of the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors. We will need to join with other groups with similar interests and call upon our 1500 associate members for the political support usually needed to make things happen in San Francisco.

This is not a simple task in the polarized politics of San Francisco's development and conservation. But what are the potential rewards if we succeed in meeting this challenge? In the absence of comprehensive planning that included historic preservation, Heritage has expended enormous time and effort trying to save buildings one-by-one. With an effective Downtown Plan, 266 of San Francisco's most significant buildings would be put into a permanent status of protection, and many of the 236 contributory buildings would be rehabilitated rather than demolished. In addition, Michael Corbett estimates that nearly 600 additional significant buildings will be identified in the extended downtown survey. These resources could be protected by sub-area plans to be developed in 1984.

Wouldn't it be nice to think that the City of San Francisco values its architectural Heritage enough to plan for it to continue into the future? Wouldn't it be nice if the planners, permit officials and elected leaders would simply protect this Heritage with the authority of comprehensive plans and revised zoning ordinances, rather than doing battle with preservationists, the neighborhoods and most San Franciscans each time an individual landmark is threatened?

In 1983 the Planning Department, with Heritage's assistance, held out the promise of such a future.

Coit Tower is 50 and Officially a City Landmark

Murals Artists Honored at Birthday Celebration

If there was ever a feisty and flamboyant personality, it was Lillie Hitchcock Coit. She dressed in men's clothing, played poker, chased fire engines and drank spectacular amounts of champagne, much of it toasting the "fire laddies." She started following fire engines when she was fifteen (that was in 1858; San Francisco was a young city then, and it burned down regularly). She never outgrew the passion — to the dismay of her family and the delight of the citizenry. In 1863 the firemen of Knickerbocker Engine Company No. 5 named Lillie their mascot and made her an honorary member.

When Lillie died in 1929, she left the city $125,000 to add "to the beauty of the city which I have always loved." The city proposed using the memorial gift to build a road around Lake Merced, but the old firemen objected. The next proposal made the firemen happy but sparked debate among others. It would ruin Telegraph Hill, some felt, and spoil the city's silhouette. Instead it has become our skyline's landmark building: Coit Tower.

Coit Tower was designed by architect Henry Howard, who worked for the firm of Arthur Brown, Jr., creators of San Francisco's City Hall and Opera House. The Tower is not, as popular belief would have it, a firehose nozzle in building form. The simple, vertical monument was chosen because it was the best growth in a major U. S. city. Either or both of these major lobby groups could jeopardize the preservation policies of the Downtown Plan.

The Heritage Staff and Board will need all of the help we can obtain from our membership and volunteers in 1984 for this historical opportunity to save the Heritage of downtown San Francisco.
design for the small site and the small budget, and because its proportions complemented those of the hill. It was dedicated October 8, 1933. This past October 8 marked its 50th year, and on that day, in a special ceremony, Mayor Dianne Feinstein rededicated Coit Tower as an official city landmark. (Actually, final approval by the Board of Supervisors came on November 28. The process normally takes four to six months, and no one had thought about declaring the famous city landmark an official one until the anniversary date was close at hand. Heritage supported the landmark designation at the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board and CPC hearings.)

The mural "Newsgathering" by Suzanne Scheuer, one of the surviving artists. Visible in part on the right is "Surveyor" by Clifford Wight.

(Photos at left and above by Gerry Gaintner)

Present at that ceremony, and also receiving honors, were eight artists — the eight still living of the original 25 who painted the frescoed murals inside the Tower.

The murals project of Coit Tower was the first major relief work commissioned by the U. S. Government (a Public Works of Art Project). Dr. Walter Heil, director of the Legion of Honor Museum, chose the 25 artists, awarding larger spaces to those who were better known. "Life in California" was their theme, but their depiction of the grim days and disillusionments of the Depression was not the "life" the public expected. Controversy over the heavy social criticism contained in almost every mural delayed the opening from May until October, 1934.

Fifty years later the murals are no longer cause for controversy, though there is cause for concern over their condition. Water has damaged some of the frescoes and some have suffered vandalism (both problems the city has made a commitment to deal with). But their power is still evident, their details still rich, their feeling still monumental.

**Conservation Update**

**Mission United Presbyterian Church**

Landmark status for this church, formerly Trinity Presbyterian Church, part of the Mission District since 1892, has been approved by the Planning Commission and recommended to the Board of Supervisors. Already named to the National Register of Historic Places, the church is one of the few surviving Romanesque style churches built in San Francisco. It withstood the earthquake of 1906, and while the maintenance of the building has been neglected over the years (especially noticeable on the exterior), the interior is still very beautiful and a restoration is definitely possible.

If landmark designation is passed by the Board of Supervisors (now scheduled for hearings in January), any demolition could be prevented for up to a year.

The pastor of Mission United has said that he and his congregation will fight the designation. Heritage, which supported landmark status, has offered the assistance of a committee of architects to provide design alternatives and suggestions, and assistance on financing rehabilitation. It is hoped that the ministry will be as sensitive to their historical role and image in the community as they are to establishing an image of their own.

The campaign to save the Mission United Church has been spearheaded by a member of the congregation, Winchell Hayward, also a member of Heritage and Victorian Alliance.

**Cogswell College**

In March of 1983, Cogswell College (formerly the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company), an A-rated Greco-Roman style building, was put up for sale. At that time the main part of the structure (facing Stockton Street) had been designated an official San Francisco landmark. The College had resisted landmark designation of the entire structure.

In August full landmark status was recommended by the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board to the Planning Commission. Heritage supported this position, which the Planning Commission has now approved. The Board of Supervisors is scheduled to vote on landmark status December 20.

Heritage provided detailed comments to prospective bidders on the architectural value of the building, on the tax benefits of historic rehabilitation, and on our concerns that the building be preserved in its entirety. The Planning Department staff reinforced Heritage's position with a letter of their own, indicating that the Department would expect the entire building to be preserved.

Meanwhile, the building has been sold -- to a Texas investor who reportedly paid $21 million in cash for what he hopes to turn into a Stanford Court-style hotel when existing leases expire. This is another example of Heritage/Planning Department cooperation prior to the sale of a major landmark that appears to have paid off.

**Ferry Building**

The Ferry Building complex is a $180 million rehabilitation project that would encompass the Ferry Building, the Agriculture Building, and Pier 1. The three buildings would be a mix of office, retail, and restaurant space. Under the present plan, in the works since 1976, much of the 650-foot-long Agriculture Building, which survived the 1906 earthquake and fire, would be renovated and made into a four-story galleria. The Agriculture Building would undergo a similar renovation. Pier 1, with the exception of the historic bulkhead building, would be torn down and a three-story World Trade Center constructed in its place behind the bulkhead.

Heritage, in general, supports the complex. But it has also expressed what it feels are reasonable suggestions and design modifications that would preserve the architectural integrity and historic form of one of the city's most important landmarks, and also the historically significant Agriculture Building.

For the addition to the Agriculture Building, Heritage would like to see a more compatible design. In the Ferry Building, specific features of importance are the western arcade, and the sandstone spandrels and clathri (latticework) of the main entrance.

The proposed removal of the spandrels and clathri is not only inappropriate to certified rehabilitation, it is also unnecessary: open views to the waterfront would not be enhanced.

As for the western arcade, Heritage urges a deep recess of the street level windows to preserve this very significant design element of the original structure. A minimum recess from the back of the columns permits pedestrian circulation is necessary to maintain a shadowline and the appearance of free-standing columns.

The developers say 165,000 square feet of retail space will be needed to justify this project economically. If this much space is truly needed,
Heritage Task Force Appeal

The California Heritage Task Force needs your help. The 17 members of this group represent historians, preservationists, investors, local government officials, architects and organized labor. The group was created by the State Legislature last January and given a one-year mandate to study preservation needs and recommend legislative policies for conserving California's cultural, architectural and historic resources. The Task Force has been working with citizens across the state to determine the most vital areas of concern. Key issues: fostering conditions under which modern society and historic resources can exist in harmony, providing encouragement to those undertaking preservation by private means, and increasing heritage awareness among all Californians.

As the draft report is being prepared for public hearings in San Francisco and Los Angeles, the Task Force finds itself in need of funds. It asks Heritage members to join with other preservation organizations in making a one-time contribution. All contributions are tax-deductible. Contributors will be recognized in the final report.

I enclose my one-time contribution for the Heritage Task Force:

- Friends of the Task Force ($5-999)
- Associates of the Task Force ($100-9999)
- Sponsor of the Task Force ($1000+)

Name ____________________________
Address ____________________________
City, State, Zip ____________________________

Make checks payable to California Heritage Task Force and mail to California Heritage Task Force, 1100 J Street, Room 339, Sacramento, California 95814.

Hard-working City Landmark Gets Help from Heritage

The John McMullen House at 827 Guerrero Street is a grand old citizen that age hasn't slowed down one bit. If anything, its 19th century grace and style have given this house an important full-time role in the modern community.

On formal occasions, as S. F. Landmark No. 123 and a designated property on the National Register of Historic Places, the house goes by its official given name, The John McMullen House. But the new owners, Cathy and Leroy Looper, have rechristened it the Chateau Agape, after their youngest daughter, and it is as the Chateau that the house does business as a state-licensed group home for 27 mentally-disabled adults. Heritage, along with Mission Housing Development Corporation, the Mayor's Office of Housing and Economic Development and the State Office of Historic Preservation, is working to restore and rehabilitate this Queen Anne residence to meet the challenge of its demanding new role.

Group homes are not a new idea in mental health care. They gained prominence in 1966 when the decision was made to redirect national health policy. A new emphasis was placed on integrating mentally-disabled individuals who were not dangerous into their communities rather than removing them to isolated mental hospitals.

The Chateau Agapé's rambling floorplan and the generous dimensions of many interconnected rooms and living spaces allow those who live there a certain degree of privacy while encouraging social interaction and accommodating therapeutic group activities. The high quality of the original design of this historic building and the luxurious fixtures and furnishings, including stained glass windows, wood paneling, wainscoting and other decorative moldings and trim, create special spaces and a rich atmosphere in sharp contrast to the bleak, efficient sterility of modern mental hospitals.

The talents and energies of some uniquely imaginative individuals created this house. John McMullen himself, by the time of his death in 1921, was acknowledged as a pioneer in hydraulic dredging and an innovator in the "accomplishment of difficult construction tasks and in building new engineering precedents." His obituary noted that "McMullen's history is the history of contracting in the West."

The original house on the site was built in 1881 for John and his wife of two years, Lena. The house contained small front and back parlors, a dining room and downstairs tower window seats.
McMullen's fortune grew, so did his house. Sometime in the 1880s McMullen acquired the adjacent lot to the south to allow for expansion. In 1890, McMullen, as befitting his rising stature and wealth, retained the prominent architects, Samuel and Joseph Cather Newsom, to upgrade his house. The contractors were William N. Concannon and John M. Shay. The cost of remodeling was $7,775, a sum that would have built a whole house in those days. In fact, the Newsoms practically did build a whole house, widening the original, adding the tower at the front, extending the house to the rear of the lot, and creating basement rooms under the new additions. By the time they were done, it had the Newsom stamp inside and out. It is this character that remains today.

Subsequent additions were made in 1892: the kitchen was widened and extended to the rear, and a garden was built with walkways and a fountain. Again, in the late 1890s, a large, two-story rear addition was completed which included a grand Edwardian dining room (probably the house's third dining room). The architecture, if any, is unknown, but the style is compatible with the earlier Newsom work and there is evidence that the contractors were Moore and Cameron, a firm the Newsoms often used themselves.

The Newsoms used the standard design modes of the time (they were always abreast of the latest change in fashion), but with more daring than most of their contemporaries. It is their fusion of spatial richness, formal drama, and fertility of ornament which places their achievement beyond the decorated box which was frequently the best their imitators and competitors could manage. These elements are all in skillful concert in the McMullen House, with its unusual plan and varied spaces, its emphatic contrast between Stick Style linearity and Queen Anne fullness, and such fanciful ornamental devices as the horseshoe entry arch with tiny carved human faces and the intricate, fake basketweave panels of the stair railing.

Heritage's Preservation Loan and Technical Assistance Program (PLTAP) staff is contributing its special expertise in historic restoration architecture and financing to help the owners preserve the unique character of their building and the positive therapeutic value of such a splendid residential environment. Heritage was successful in obtaining a $42,000 Historic Preservation Grant-in-Aid through the State Office of Historic Preservation to augment the funds available for code compliance repair work from the city's Community Housing Rehabilitation Program (CHRIP), a deferred payment loan program. The Grant-in-Aid will be used primarily for the restoration of the principal facades.

Heritage's PLTAP staff is preparing the architectural documents for the exterior restoration work in careful coordination with state architects and will be administering the state grant. Work includes replacing wood windows and visually-prominent, roof-mounted elements such as the tower finial, surface preparation and painting, and foundation and termite damage repair work.

Also, the PLTAP, in its role as technical consultant to non-profit housing development corporations, provided drawings for the interior rehabilitation and handicap provisions work at the request of the Mission Housing Development Corporation. These drawings were for handicap access with an exterior ramp at the back of the house and historic facilities for the handicapped on the first floor.

Mission Housing prepared the work writings and construction specifications, and is administering the CHRP loan and construction work.

Many talented individuals within these organizations are helping the loopers successfully rehabilitate the property for the ultimate benefit of their special residents. Volunteers with energy and commitment, and/or donations, are always welcomed by Heritage and the Chateau Agape. You may contact Marc Schweitzer, Heritage's Director of Rehabilitation, at 441-3000 to arrange donations or volunteer time.

Certainly other San Francisco landmarks are better known -- Ghirardelli Square, the City Hall, and Heritage's own Haas-Lilienthal House -- but none speaks more eloquently to the important contributions made by historic properties to the vitality and vibrancy of San Francisco than the Mission District's Chateau Agape.
Beloved Old Building Is a Beauty Once Again

It was a favorite of many: The Chambord Apartment House. The "wedding cake" building they called it. Five icing-white, ornamented stories high, it sat atop Nob Hill, its curved sides and billowing balconies forming fanciful tiers. But sometime during the 1950s all exterior decoration was removed, possibly for seismic considerations.

The restoration is the work of Marquis Associates for Fred Stimpson of the Bills Group, Vancouver. Mr. Stimpson bought the building with the intention of returning it to the architectural confection he had visited as a child (his grandparents owned the Chambord for some years before it was stripped bare).

The Chambord was commissioned in 1921 by James W. H. Dougherty and designed by James Francis Dunn, a San Francisco architect about whom not much is known. It was a highly original and elaborately elegant building, one of the earliest luxury apartment houses on Nob Hill. Though there were those who thought the building's many curves suggested the work of Barcelona's Antoni Gaudi, the Chambord's form followed French Beaux Arts style, a predominant influence in Dunn's work. Dunn did not live to see the apartment house completed, however. In fact he died in October of 1921, just six months after the permit for the structure was taken out.

When Marquis Associates took on the task of restoring the Chambord's exterior, the feeling was that the ornament was of historical importance; that an effort should be made to restore the building to the original design. What did those original ornaments look like? There were no photographs taken of the building itself before the streamlining. Archival research turned up a picture of Grace Cathedral under construction with the Chambord in the background, but decorative details were not clear at all.

During further research, Cathy Simon, principal in charge, and Gita Dev, project architect, came to the conclusion that the building's ornamentation had never been executed as Dunn intended. The hazy archival photograph showed ornament that appeared to lack the character indicated in Dunn's original, very sketchy elevations. So the ornament the Chambord had been stripped of fell short of other works by Dunn -- was not as rich or flamboyant. Should restoration return this ornament to the building, or should Dunn's intentions be carried out (and his building truly complemented)?

The architects chose to do it Dunn's way (after quite a lively debate, according to Bob Marquis). By using the original drawings, by checking articles on Dunn in contemporary magazines, and by researching the detailing on other buildings by Dunn -- to the Mechanics Institute for pattern books, to various addresses in the city to look at a variety of his
designs — ornamentation for the Chambord was designed, sculpted and fabricated.

The restoration was completed in October, 1983, just a year after it was begun. It looks grand — the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board thinks so too: The Chambord has been found eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

The Soiree: Splendid Success

November 18.
The moon was full and gloriously clear, the air fresh after the rains, and crisp, but not too chill. A wonderful night to be dressing up and stepping out. Where to? The Stock Exchange Club, splendid site of our 1983 Soiree, benefitting Heritage.

The Stock Exchange Club is an Art Deco jewel, designed in 1930 by James R. Miller and Timothy Pflueger and refurbished by Charles Lester Associates. It features inlaid metal and bronze fixtures, walls of inlaid wood, walls of calfskin parchment, gold-leafed ceilings, and an immense mural by the Mexican artist, Diego Rivera — the first he did in this country.

Soiree 1983, all black tie and fancy frocks, was more festive, more elegant and more fun than ever. The evening of cocktails, dinner, dancing, gaming (with winnings redeemed for prizes donated) went well past midnight, as the band — Jules Broussard & company — played and the crowd danced on.

As our annual fundraiser, Soiree was fabulously successful. But we couldn’t have done it without you. Our thanks to all who made it possible, and especially to:

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Distinctive ornamental details on other buildings designed by Dunn (above, 1224 Taylor; left, a house on Haight Street) provided inspiration for the restoration. Models of new ornaments were sculpted by Spero Anargyros of Western Artstone, cast in fiberglass reinforced concrete and bolted to the building. When everything was in place, the Chambord was painted an iridescent white, a pearly hue mixed by colorist James Goodman which changes with the light of day.

(Photos courtesy Marquis Associates, Grace Cathedral Archives)
Heritage is vitally committed to educating the public about San Francisco's significant architecture. Toward that goal, it has developed four docent-guided walks in architecturally and historically important areas of the city as well as a tour of the Haas-Lilienthal House. Since 1973, when this program began, about 15,000 Bay Area adults each year have taken the walks and tours. Heritage feels it has made a real contribution to preservation awareness in this regard.

The hope for years has been to offer walks for school children. Now, thanks to generous grants from the Junior League of San Francisco, San Francisco Examiner Charities and Mrs. William Brinton, Heritage Hikes will be launched in the spring of 1984.

Rosalind Henning, Haas-Lilienthal House docent, and Marty Gordon, Heritage Walks guide, are putting the two-part program together. This is how it will work: first, a teacher-guided walk around the Pacific Heights neighborhood of the Haas-Lilienthal House will show children the variety of Victorian and Edwardian-style houses. Teachers will be able to rely on an illustrated booklet featuring pictures of the houses and a glossary of architectural details. The kids will return to the H-L House to explore what life was like in Victorian times by studying children's activities, games, clothing and household objects. They will also be introduced to the concept of preservation and the value of older buildings as historical documents.

To aid the teacher in the classroom, Heritage is developing an "Architrunk" of pre- and post-visit activities for classroom use. Included in the trunk will be a film, "Houses Have History," produced by the National Trust and the State Office of Historic Preservation, slides and a tape script introducing houses seen on the walk and identifying specific details, a box of architectural moldings and materials, small Victorian artifacts for handling and comparing to "modern" counterparts, and illustrated display materials -- photographs, catalogues, pattern books from the late 1800s.

Heritage is currently seeking donations of small household objects -- children's toys, games, clothing -- to be used on the tour of the House and for the architrunk. Items need not be in mint condition, but should be of the Victorian period. Some specific suggestions: butter churn, children's lunch box, button hook, cast iron toys, dolls, typical games, sad iron, small wash board. In addition, we need pictures of children or house interiors of the period that we could reproduce and return, or old catalogues, magazines or children's books. If you are willing to donate any of the above, please contact Leslie Flint or Heritage, 441-3000.

We are also looking for docents who are particularly interested in working with children. Docent training will begin January 23. Contact Heritage for an application.

Heritage hopes this program will be enormously successful, that with each year we can expand to reach more children, and that Heritage Hikes will some day offer walks in neighborhoods all over the city.

Thank You
Heritage would like to say thank you to:
Anchor Brewing Company, Blue Chip Cookies, Calistoga Mineral Water Company and The Stuffed Bagel for their donations of food and drink for a PILTAP reception at the Haas-Lilienthal House introducing the new Director of Rehabilitation, Marc Schweitzer
Jeremy Naploha, who gave Heritage an Apple II computer (plus the monitor, disk drive, printer and several software packages)
Pat and Morley Farguar and Vince Galea for their ongoing volunteer assistance in obtaining additional computer materials and for their help in working to get Heritage "on line" in the very near future
Gill Kindt for his volunteer computer instruction

Heritage Tour
Heritage is pleased to announce a special tour to China for members and friends. Departing May 18, 1984 from San Francisco, the 19-day trip features seven cities in the People's Republic of China: Beijing (Peking), Chengde, Taiyuan, Xi'an (Slan), Nanjing (Nanking), Suzhou (Soochow), and Shanghai. Tour members will also spend two nights before and after China in Hong Kong.

The tour will be escorted by Professor Isabel Wong, currently a visiting faculty member at the University of California, Berkeley. It has been designed with an emphasis on China's traditional art and architecture, but will also provide plenty of opportunities to experience China's more recent achievements and the lifestyle of her people.

Sightseeing highlights include the Great Wall, Ming Tombs and Imperial Palace of Beijing; Kang Xi's Summer Palace in Chengde; the magnificent Jin Temples in Taiyuan; the tomb of Qin Shi Huang and the life-size, terra-cotta army in Xi'an; the Sun Yat San Mausoleum at Nanjing; the beautiful gardens and bridges of Suzhou; and the Museum of Art and History in Shanghai. A half-day tour of Hong Kong Island is also included.

The tour cost is $3,095.00 per person, double occupancy, and includes roundtrip air fare on Japan Air Lines from San Francisco as well as all meals, double-occupancy accommodations, transportation, sightseeing and evening entertainment in China. A percentage of the proceeds from this tour will be donated to the Foundation for San Francisco's Architectural Heritage. For reservations and additional tour information please contact Ms. Leslie Flint, Director of Education, Heritage, 2007 Franklin Street, San Francisco, CA 94109; or phone (415) 441-3000.
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Paul's Cafe  
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Grants and Linda Dehart, Leroy Looper play for prizes at the Soiree.

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Desserts Compliments Of:

Beach Street Baking Company

Leslie Flint, staff support person for the Soiree shows off George Lucas' autograph.  
(Photos by Arnie Lerner)

Classified Ads

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A world of selections from old San Francisco homes. New arrivals weekly. Oils, books, furniture, fairs, porcelain, glass.

URBAN ANTIQUES, 1861 UNION STREET.
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Heritage Calendar: Tours and Talks

MONTHLY PROGRAMS are held on the second Tuesday of each month.
Starting time is 7:45 p.m., in the Ballroom of the Haas—Lilienthal House, 2007 Franklin Street, San Francisco. Admission is $2 for Heritage members, $3 for others.

Tuesday, January 10, 1984
"An Approach to Historic Preservation Through the Arts" Herb Greene, architect
Can new buildings be designed to receive the works of artists and craftspeople? Architect Herb Greene believes they can and should be. The incorporation of art can make ordinary buildings worth saving in the future. He will show examples of new buildings, san Andreas fault, public plazas and other projects on which architects and artists have collaborated in the initial design. Colloquy will illustrate structures that are not only handsome but have demonstrated that the method has cut costs.

Tuesday, January 17, 1984
"Le Service des Monuments Historiques" — The French Commitment to Historic Preservation Didier Repellin, D.P.L.G., Architecte en Chef des Monuments Historiques
Mr. Repellin is one of the forty Chief Architects of Historic Buildings in France and is in the United States on two fellowships, one, from the French Government, is to study restoration using substitute materials; the other, from NATO, to study the effects of pollution on building materials. He has been working as an architect for Heritage for the past year on a volunteer basis. His talk will focus on the history of the French Historic building Department, the legal preservation system, and the education and work of an historical architect in France.

Tuesday, February 14, 1984
"A View of American Church Architecture" John Burrows, architectural historian
The architecture of America's churches is as rich and varied as the numerous immigrant groups that built them. The established state religions of Europe -- Roman Catholic, Lutheran and Anglican (Episcopal) -- flourished here, and in an atmosphere of religious freedom, So too did the "non-conformist" Protestant sects -- Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, Congregational, etc. Houses of worship built in America form a diverse spectrum, from conservative designs linked directly to European architectural styles to innovative designs which founded new architectural trends. The lecture will review both directions in 19th century church design and show how San Francisco churches fit into these patterns.

Tuesday, March 13, 1984
"Old San Francisco" Film Fest Bert Gould, Bay Area Archive
An evening of old film clips of San Francisco. Mr. Gold will give a short talk on filmmaking and the preservation of old film footage, and then show clips which emphasize some of San Francisco's architecture. We will see the 1905 Market Street film, a 1911 trip down Mission Street, 1914 films of Chinatown and the closing of the Barbary Coast, a parade on Van Ness Avenue for the 1915 Fair, and more.

WEEKLY PROGRAMS

Every Wednesday and Sunday
Haas-Lilienthal House Guided Tours,
2007 Franklin Street, 12 noon—4 p.m., Wednesdays; 11 a.m.—4:30 p.m., Sundays; $3 general public; $2 Heritage members. Call 441-3046 for recorded information.

Heritage Walks in Pacific Heights,
November 13, 1983
Meet in Pacific Heights, 12 noon—4:30 p.m.; $3 general public; $2 Heritage members. Call 441-3046 for information.

Heritage Walks in the Downtown,
March 13, 1984
Meet at the corner of Montgomery and Washington Streets, by the Transamerica Pyramid.

Heritage Walks in Pacific Heights,
April 18, 1984
Meet in Pacific Heights, 12 noon—4:30 p.m.; $3 general public; $2 Heritage members. Call 441-3046 for information.

Heritage Walks in the Downtown,
May 2, 1984
Meet at the corner of Montgomery and Washington Streets, by the Transamerica Pyramid.

Heritage New Members:
August, September, October 1983
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Heritage Newsletter

October 1983

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