FIRST ANNUAL FUND DRIVE

The Foundation for San Francisco's Architectural Heritage will be 15 years old on July 9th. To honor this occasion, a pivotal moment in our history, we have launched our first Annual Fund Drive. The 1986 Annual Fund Drive has a goal of $72,500. These funds will serve the dual purpose of starting us on the road to increased financial stability and of generating funds to revitalize and expand our educational programs.

The new appointment of Mark Byser as Executive Director has come just at this exciting moment. The inauguration of this Annual Fund signals Mark's determination to put Heritage's operations on a healthier fiscal basis and, more importantly, to make the organization more ambitious in creating and serving a community aware of and concerned about our architectural past and present.

The Board of Directors is taking the lead in this campaign. Collectively, they have pledged more than $15,000 toward the goal. That figure is expected to climb above $20,000 before the campaign is over. We are hoping to meet the goal of $72,500 by our birthday on July 9th.

Whether we do is partly up to you. Later this month, we will be writing and calling to ask you to help. Please consider a birthday gift or pledge to Heritage. Pledges can be redeemed anytime before the end of 1986. A gift at this time will show us that you appreciate what we've done for San Francisco. Best of all, it will help us to do more in the future.

The adoption of the Downtown Plan last year culminated nearly a decade of Heritage effort to make preservation a shared value in San Francisco. Its passage was a tremendous victory for Heritage and it was a bigger victory for San Francisco. But our job isn't over. We still have the vital role of insuring that the Plan is implemented.

NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR APPOINTED

After conducting a nationwide search and reviewing over 130 candidates, the Board of Directors of San Francisco Heritage has appointed Mark Byser as Executive Director.

"We are very fortunate that Mark has accepted the responsibility to lead Heritage through an important period in its growth and development. The Board sought in an Executive Director someone with demonstrated administrative ability, commitment and experience in preservation, and a knowledge of San Francisco. Mark best represents these talents of any of the candidates we reviewed," James Ream, Chairman of the Board, stated.

Mark will oversee a new era of activity at Heritage including an expansion of its role as a catalyst for civic discussion; publication of the results of extended architectural surveys; increased special programs and member services; as well as the creation of a formalized conservation program for the Rincon Hill Historic District, which observes its 100th year in 1986-1987.

At the same time, he will maintain the organization's commitment to encouraging policies which make the conservation of architecturally and historically significant buildings an integral part of planning and development processes in San Francisco.

Mark has made a strengthening of Heritage's administrative structure and its fiscal stability his top priority for 1986. He welcomes comments, suggestions, and complaints from all members, volunteers, and supporters at any time, and will be specifically available to hear from you Wednesdays in June from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

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LA PANTERA

One of the most distinctive buildings on upper Grant Avenue, the structure at 1234 Grant, housed La Pantera — from at least 1907 until it was closed last year.

While it is unclear how much of the building's facade dates to the original construction, many elements are ones which have all but disappeared from San Francisco — cupid head capotols, an early painted mural, electric bulbs which trace the front arch, and a wooden flagpole which "crowns" the building. La Pantera was rated among the top five percent of the city's architecturally significant buildings by the Department of City Planning in 1976.

Heritage recently joined the Telegraph Hill Hill Dwellers to oppose the issuance of a demolition permit sought by the building's new owner who has stated his intention to expand his adjacent restaurant onto the site.

Although the Board of Permit Appeals found no legal basis to deny the permit, the Board did require that demolition cannot occur until new building plans have been approved. This affords time for the Hill Dwellers to persuade the owner to retain and incorporate the La Pantera building into his existing restaurant. Heritage has offered to assist the Hill Dwellers and La Pantera's owner by making available alternative architectural and structural expertise needed to demonstrate the feasibility of retaining the structure.

POSTER CONTEST WINNERS

The windows of I. Magnin's store on Union Square were vibrantly colorful with paintings and drawings of the Naus-Lillenthal House displayed during national Historic Preservation Week, May 11-17.

Sponsored by Heritage Hills, the second annual poster contest had as its theme a birthday card for the House which turns one hundred in 1986-1987. Open to school children grades 3-6, the contest inspired over 100 entries who rendered the House in a rainbow of colors. Winners were: Jonah Hunt, Presidio Middle School (1st place); Drew Barnes, Town School for Boys (2nd place); Drake Huang, Marina Middle School (3rd place); and Joseph Nuena, Presidio Middle School (4th place).

The Heritage Hills program helps young students develop a visual awareness of their architectural and historical surroundings and has been generously funded in part by the Bernard Osher Foundation.

CAMPAIGN continued from page 1

properly. The task of making sure that protection for historic properties is extended throughout the city also lies ahead.

Most importantly, we face the urgent need to insure that threats to preservation do not arise on as widespread a scale in the future as they did in the past. The only way to succeed in this is to broaden our membership and enlist others to help. To accomplish this, we must create a widespread knowledge of architectural history. We must educate more children to foster a new generation that values preservation. After all, collective memory is only as strong as each generation’s awareness. This is why we are focusing now on strengthening and expanding our educational programs.

To do this requires good people and time. And good people and time take money.

In the next few weeks, members of the Board, staff and volunteers will be calling you to ask your support and participation. If you’ve already renewed your membership, please think about making an additional gift. If you haven’t yet renewed, think about upgrading to include a birthday present to Heritage. We promise you a gift in return: better programs, new programs, more dedicated efforts to guarantee a continuing present enriched with the useful and beautiful structures of the past.

Heritage needs volunteers to help with this fundraising campaign. If you can assist, please call David Glotzer, our campaign consultant, at 441-3000.

VAN NESS continued from page 1

residential development, but could also endanger architecturally significant buildings, particularly smaller ones.

The Planning Department has invited Heritage's participation in the development of the Plan's preservation policies. We will be continuing to work with the Department in the coming weeks to ensure adequate protection for the Avenue's architecturally and historically significant buildings.

SPLENDID SURVIVORS AVAILABLE

Copies of Heritage's award-winning Splendid Survivors are still available at a special discount to members of 20%.

Hailed as a "landmark in urban literature," the book remains the only such resource of historical information and critical evaluations of 800 buildings in downtown San Francisco. Splendid Survivors not only contains information on every significant building downtown but also has an excellent overview of the City's architectural development, an extensive index, and information on San Francisco's downtown parks, historic districts and urban design elements. Lavishly illustrated with photographs and maps, Splendid Survivors is essential to anyone interested in San Francisco's architectural heritage. $18.02 including tax, for members, + $1.50 postage and handling.

HERITAGE

The HERITAGE NEWSLETTER is published quarterly in April, June, September and December by the Foundation for San Francisco's Architectural Heritage. Unsolicited articles and other copy are welcome and will be considered for publication. Call or write the Newsletter Editor for deadline dates.

San Francisco Heritage is a non-profit member supported organization dedicated to the conservation of important architectural and historical elements and diverse neighborhoods of the City through planning, education, advocacy and technical assistance.

Heritage is located at 2007 Franklin Street, San Francisco, 94109. (415) 441-3000.
North Buena Vista House Tour

Last month you received announcement of the Buena Vista North Association's second home tour, co-sponsored by San Francisco Heritage. The self-guided tour, to be held June 15, from noon to 5 p.m. will open seven restored homes.

Beginning on Baker Street, a wide avenue originally built around a railroad used for transportation to the Rudolf Heman baths where St. Francis Yacht Club is located today, you will walk to homes built in 1885, 1886, 1895, 1896, 1901, and 1902. This area, immediately north of Buena Vista Park, developed as a direct result of the Height Street cable car line in the 1890s. In recent years many of the structures which have always made this neighborhood a rich visual experience, have been rehabilitated by their dedicated owners.

The tour begins at 129 Baker, where tickets may be purchased, and concludes with light refreshments at 1080 Height Street. Free parking is available. For further information, call 543-4430 or 863-4242.

Book Notes


Betty Lewis' well-researched book on the life and work of William Henry Weeks (1864-1936) demonstrates the exponential growth in our understanding of architectural history over the past decade. Although Weeks was a prolific architect who designed over a thousand buildings during his long career, he remained virtually unknown until Betty Lewis began researching his life in the mid-1970s. Weeks was a representative architect of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries who worked in a variety of styles ranging from the Queen Anne to Art Deco. He was best-known for his school designs, which were considered very modern in construction, many of which survive.

While Weeks was not a great architect, he is of interest as a typical and conscientious practitioner of his period. Research of all of Weeks' known work is profusely illustrated and contains lists of which survive.

Starting in the mid-1970s, Betty Lewis, who began researching his life in the mid-1970s, was a small movement in the study of California's architectural heritage. This third edition is newly revised, corrected and expanded with additional listings and photographs, all reflecting the careful scholarship of its authors.

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Thank you

... for your enthusiastic response to the opening of my new shop. Heritage Society members have been a joy to deal with—pleasant and intelligent. Please keep me in mind for antique lighting and restoration work. I will be happy to come to your job site or meet you at the shop.

Not Receiving Your Mailings in Time?

Heritage and other San Francisco nonprofit organizations have been receiving an increasing number of complaints regarding the late arrival of the newsletter and other mailings. Post Office policy states that bulk rate mailings of the kind we make should arrive at your San Francisco office or residence no later than three days after being post to the Post Office. The approximate date of this mailing appears below. If your newsletter does not arrive within one week of this date, please contact your local postal station.

Heritage has requested a formal investigation by the Post Office. If you also write us with your address and date received, it substantially late, this information will help.
THE FOUNDATION FOR SAN FRANCISCO'S ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE

"BUILDING THE CITY: An Architectural and Development History of San Francisco, 1848-1986"

This package of 7 lively illustrated talks and field trip will trace the evolution of architectural styles in San Francisco and relate them to the physical growth of the city through the development of its various neighborhoods. Providing a comprehensive overview for the non-historian, this special program offers a rare opportunity to share in the results of years of research, study and thought by numerous students of history and architecture presented here as a single cohesive and intriguing story by noted architectural historian Gray Brechin.

Members: $55; Non-members $65. Single lectures $12, subject to availability. Please call Heritage for further details.

Tuesday, July 1, 1986
Haas-Lilienthal House
7:45 p.m.

Heritage Members Evening Lecture
"ORIGINS & DEVELOPMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT STORE"

The origin and development of department store architecture in the Bay Area will be explored in a fascinating illustrated lecture. Beginning and ending with Neiman Marcus on Union Square, San Francisco stores will be examined. This presentation for Heritage members repeats Professor Meredith Clausen’s talk given at Stanford University earlier this year. Members and guests: $2.00; others: $3.00. Light refreshments following.

August 1986
Haas-Lilienthal House
Details to be Announced

CALIFORNIA’S ARCHITECTURAL FRONTIER

Out of print for several years, Harold Kiker's now classic work on the development of California's architectural styles has been reprinted in paperback by Peregrine Smith.

Dr. Kiker has accepted Heritage’s invitation to join members for an informal evening to discuss his work.

Autographed copies of the much sought "Frontier" will be available to members at a 20% discount.

RESERVATION — "BUILDING THE CITY"

NAME:

ADDRESS: ________________________ ________________________ ________________________ ________________________ ________________________ ________________________

To: ___________ 

MEMBER $55.00 ___________ NONMEMBER $65.00 ___________ 

AMOUNT ENCLOSED ___________

PLEASE MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO: San Francisco Heritage

WALKING TOURS

VICTORIAN & EDWARDIAN PACIFIC HEIGHTS

Heritage’s popular walking tour of the eastern Pacific Heights neighborhood to view surviving Victorian and pre-World War I mansions, elaborate family homes and smaller row houses is offered every Sunday.

MEET: The Haas-Lilienthal House Ballroom, 2007 Franklin Street, San Francisco.

MEET: 12:30 - 2:20 p.m., Sundays. $3.00

SAN FRANCISCO’S HISTORIC NORTH WATERFRONT

Heritage’s new walking tour of the historic North Waterfront from the Hyde Street Pier to Fort Mason is given each Saturday.

Gateway to the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, San Francisco’s northern waterfront is rich in architecture, history, and maritime lore. It includes some of the city’s oldest buildings, the world’s largest collection of floating historic ships, one of the nation’s finest maritime museums, Chinatown Square, unobstructed views across the Bay, and the only remaining section of San Francisco’s shoreline in its original state.

MEET: Meet at the Information Kiosk at the cablecar turntable in Victorian (Aquatic) Park, foot of Hyde Street.

MEET: 10:30 a.m. to noon, Saturdays. $3.00.

HOUSE MANAGER POSITION AVAILABLE

Christopher Van Raalte, Heritage’s hardworking House Manager, will leave August 1st to devote full time to his dance career. In the next few weeks, we will begin our search for a new caretaker. If you are interested in receiving a copy of the new job description, please contact Mark Rysier.