

West Adams Matters

A Century of Holidays

WAHA Holiday Tour, Saturday and Sunday, December 1 and 2

WAHA will celebrate **A Century of Holidays** in the West Acres Tract, at the 21st Annual WAHA Holiday Historic Homes Tour and Progressive Dinner, on Saturday, December 1, and Sunday, December 2. This year, we invite you to join us in a community whose homes have, one by one, been celebrating their 100th birthdays – and 100 holiday seasons. With a nod to that milestone, we will explore a variety of holiday traditions that have warmed West Adams households over the past century.

The West Acres Tract, which runs from Adams Boulevard to 23rd Street and Normandie Avenue to Raymond Avenue, is a part of the larger West Adams-Normandie Historic Preservation Overlay Zone (HPOZ), and is also known as the "ANNA" neighborhood. Its period of development is from the early 1890s until about 1911. Prior to the latter part of the 19th century this area was primarily agricultural. With the coming of the horse-drawn streetcars from downtown Los Angeles in the 1880s, much of the land was subdivided for residential and commercial use. In 1896 the community was annexed to the City of Los Angeles, part of the South and Western Addition.

Eventually the streetcar routes had been taken over by the Los Angeles Transit, and

(continued on page 6)



WAHA Wins Preservation Award

WAHA has won a 2007 Governor's Historic Preservation Award for its popular Evening Strolls, begun three years ago to encourage West Adams residents to meet neighbors and learn about each area's cultural and architectural heritage.

Former WAHA president Jefferson Davis's idea was simple: Provide an espresso cart and a walking tour brochure, and invite people to stroll through neighborhoods. Free. The resulting Evening Strolls have taken place in such West Adams neighborhoods as University Park, Lafayette Square, Jefferson Park, Harvard Heights, Kinney Heights-Western Heights-Angelus Vista, and Adams-Normandie, as well as nearby Westmoreland Place and Wilshire Park. In September WAHA strolled through West Adams Avenues.

For each Stroll, WAHA editor Laura Meyers worked with neighborhood residents to identify local lore, legends, and landmarks. Going beyond WAHA's traditional bricks and mortar research, she wrote of the cultural history of each pocket neighborhood and, through it, of Los Angeles as a whole. Over time, strollers have learned where musical icon Johnny Guitar Watson once lived, how Japanese American residents influenced the history of Jefferson Park, which Hollywood entertainers once called West Adams home, and why a U. S. general spoke French when he announced the end of the Civil War to Angelenos gathered in the downtown Plaza. Hilary Lentini designed the stroll brochures.

(continued on page 2)



WAHA's Frightful Halloween Fest

Sunday, October 28, 3:30 to 5:30 p.m., in Gramercy Park

Hear ye, all you little ghosts and goblins! And ghoulish grown-ups. Come one, come all, to the 2007 thoroughly frightful and fabulously fun West Adams Halloween Festival!

Just like last year's event, this year's Halloween Fest will be held in Gramercy Park on the Sunday just before Halloween. There will be fun games to play and sweets to eat, and we'll be grilling up those famous Wa-Hot Dogs. Especially for the kids, we are offering a Funhouse Bouncer with a climbing wall and slide in addition to a bouncing area. We will also have a petting zoo and pony rides, an old-fashioned popcorn machine, a piñata, and a visit from our local, friendly police officers.

New this year: the Monster Mash, a costume dance contest. So, put on your Halloween best, and shimmy on down! The festival promises to be a fun time for all ages!

For more information, contact Karen Woodward, karen.woodward@sdma.com. ●

Table of Contents



AROUND THE HOUSE	
Resources	4
PRESERVATION MATTERS	
WAHA Seeks Project EIR	5
Saving the Stewart Cottage, c.1871....	8
WAHA MATTERS	
A Century of Holidays	6
STEPPING OUT	
Craftsman Weekend.....	10
Halloween Movie Night.....	11
MEMBER DISCOUNTS	
Don't forget to use your card!	15
WAHA BOARD MEMBERS	14
WAHA CLASSIFIEDS	15
CALENDAR	16



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WAHA Gets A New Slogan

You may already have noticed WAHA's new slogan, "Creating Our Future by Preserving Our Past." You'll be seeing it a lot on flyers, brochures, bulletins, and on WAHA's growing web pages.

New board member Gena Davis, who chairs WAHA's marketing committee, came up with the words as part of a marketing and branding initiative to create more awareness of WAHA and its programs and to increase its membership base.

"The slogan is a marketing tool created to convey WAHA's primary goals and objectives," she explained. "As marketing chair, new board member and resident of West Adams, I have taken on the task of evaluating the organization from top to bottom, review its current marketing, branding, advertising, and PR programs as well as look at its membership program."

With this information, the marketing committee will work towards creating a new marketing plan for WAHA. "The plan's goal will be ultimately to serve as a guide to create strategic marketing and branding programs that serve to bring greater awareness to our events, attract new members, and to position WAHA as a strong and viable organization whose core mission centers on historic preservation and advocacy," said Davis.

Of course, creating a marketing plan takes time, planning and effort. If you are interested in being on the marketing committee and working on the marketing plan, please e-mail Davis at marketing@westadamsheritage.org or call her at 323-731-3110. ●

WAHA Award

continued from page 1

Other 2007 awards went to a project to restore sacred springs in West Los Angeles, a living history program in Santa Ana, rehabilitation of refugee cottages erected in San Francisco after that city's 1906 earthquake, the incorporation of a historic 1909 warehouse building as part of the left field wall of the San Diego Padres Petco Park, rehabilitation of beach cottages at Crystal Cove, and rehabilitation of the Santa Fe Depot in San Bernardino. The State Parks Department itself won an award for restoring the historic Leland Stanford Mansion in Sacramento, where the November 16 award ceremony will be held.

The Governor's Historic Preservation Awards, sponsored by the State Office of Historic Preservation and California State Parks, are awarded annually to organizations or public agencies demonstrating notable achievement in preserving the heritage of California. This award notes that California's history is embodied in buildings, structures, sites, and objects that provide a tangible link to the people, events, and patterns of history that have shaped California's growth and development. Since it began in 1986, the program has recognized more than 200 organizations and agencies that endeavor to preserve those connections to California's cultural and architectural legacies. ●



President's Message

by Lore Hilburg

I witnessed an event about a month ago, the memory of which continues to inspire and delight me. The occasion was a visit to my neighborhood by five tour buses.

I discovered them when I was out walking on a lovely Saturday morning with a friend. Our curiosity drove us to question the people who were standing outside the buses and taking photographs. We were told by a woman wearing a nametag, showing she was from England, that they were attending an annual meeting of the Laurel and Hardy fan club, hosted by its Los Angeles members. The tour was of sites used in the comedy pair's movies, including a house in Lafayette Square that appeared in the 1927 short, "Love 'Em and Weep."

The tour drew fans from across the United States as well as from England. Each received a brochure with photos from the movies matching the still existing sites. They were entranced by the area, giving Los Angeles some good PR and tourist dollars, and our neighborhood a touch of fame.

And location filming continues to this day. This week, a movie is being filmed at another house, directly across from the Laurel and Hardy site. Maybe, 80 years from now, it too will be on a tour.

That is, if no one tears it down. Since it's in a historic preservation overlay zone, its demolition is unlikely – but not impossible. Preserving it requires work, even after a historic designation, because protection doesn't stop with just an ordinance.

So please feel free to get involved. Call us to ask what you can do. Get your neighbors to join WAHA. The alternative could bear a more tragic title: "Lose 'Em and Weep."

*Lore Hilburg can be reached via e-mail,
hilburg@ca.rr.com*

Living History Tour Wows 'Em



WAHA's 17th Annual Living History Tour, held at the Angelus Rosedale Cemetery on Saturday, September 29, was lauded by attendees as our "best tour yet." Best actors, best costumes, best graveside set design, best characters. We are not humble – thank you for your accolades. But no tour can come together without many, MANY, helping hands. We would like to thank all of you who worked hard on this tour, in a variety of functions: Lisa Berns, Mike Medina, Laura Meyers, John Patterson, Gail Peterson, Judy Tedrick, Sally Turner, Judi Wheeler, Lindsay Wiggins, Suzanne Cooper, Jessica Gould, Rory Cunningham, Celeste Hong, Corinne Pleger, Jeff Valdez, Jennifer Charnofsky, Lyn Gillson, Martha Gruft, John Kurtz, Don Lynch, Kim Michener, Danny Miller, Marianne Muellerleile, L. B. Nye, Hunter Ochs, David Pacheco, Dave Pleger, Michael Smith, Greg Stegall, Georgia Toliver, Anna Marie Brooks, Frank Cooper, A. J. Lentini, Peggy King, Don Henderson, Rina Rubenstein, Emmy Burke, Logan Cooper, Evan Pleger, Candy Wynne, Anne Hakes, Mitzi March Mogul, Eric Bronson, Jean Cade, Suzanne Henderson, Leslie Evans, Lisa Ellzey, and Jeff Theer. In addition, we thank our hosts, John L. Hill III, President, Angelus Funeral Home; Kim E. Hill, General Manager, Angelus Rosedale Cemetery, Mortuary & Crematory; Semeerah W. S.



Muhammad, Tour Coordinator, Angelus Rosedale Cemetery, Mortuary & Crematory; and of course Luis Lopez and Robert Perez, the cemetery's ground supervisors, and their wonderful crew members. And we thank our supporters: the Vintage Hearse Association, Inspired Living Interiors and History for Hire – our very favorite prop house!

Most important, our wonderful actors, appearing counter-clockwise, from top: Derrick Mathis, as Ernest R. Bubbles Whitman; Jennifer Cook, as Louise Glaum; Kyle Wilson, as Marshall Neilan; Todd Gallahan (L) and Dan Hakes, as Francis Murphy and his assistant, "Patsy;" Adam Janeiro, as John Marcellus Stewart; and Kathy Ralston, as Eliza Griffin Johnston. ●



Around the House

Resources *by Suzie Henderson*

I have been shopping for furniture and I have some great resources for you this month.

I have found a wonderful mattress company, The Mattress Factory. They sell overruns to consumers and will deliver free in about two hours! They bring a couple of mattresses for you to try out and then you buy. It does require cash, unless you want to wait for your check to clear. We got a gorgeous, heavy-duty, queen-size pillow top with box springs for \$309. They have different deals at different times, but always fabulous service and great prices.

Another favorite shopping tip is the hotel liquidators. We have a small one in West Adams – Quality Hotel Liquidators, Inc., at 1782 W. Washington Blvd, across from Angelus Rosedale Cemetery – and I have gotten some terrific deals there. They frequently have couches in relatively good condition for under \$100. Often they are hide-a-beds, perfect for an extra guest.

Mine came complete with bedding that looked brand new. I was told that these beds are seldom opened in the hotel rooms. The larger hotel liquidator, Hotel Surplus Outlet, has moved to Van Nuys. They have a much larger selection, but a bit higher prices. They have recently had some brand new furniture at unbelievable prices, as well. One of my friends went to look at their couches and said the quality was high-end, at rock-bottom prices.

If you have fallen in love with a piece of furniture from a major manufacturer, I have found a great online furniture resource, the Home Gallery. You contact them by e-mail and they quickly respond with a great price. I had been lusting after a Bernhardt canopy bed for several years. They beat the price a friend at a furniture store could get for me, and the designer price from the mart downtown, by hundreds of dollars.

Rory Cunningham has recommended Spencer Conner, a great general contractor. He says Spencer can do everything from tearing out a wall to re-framing it – plus electrical, plumbing, stripping, refinishing, and painting. He is honest and trustworthy and truly respects historic homes.

Candy Wynne recommends Happy Dog, a local groomer. She was very pleased with their work, and we can support a local business. Nancy Senter seconds this recommendation.

I have always used Tom's Pet Grooming. After Tom Sr. died, they had a difficult time finding a good new groomer. I have been very pleased with their latest, who makes adorable little flower ribbons for our Lulu.

On the subject of pets, Washington Dog and Cat Hospital has been serving West Adams residents for more than 25 years, and they give WAHA members a discount. I have heard good things about their current groomer, too.

Thanks to all of you who have contributed this month. As always, you can reach me at WestAdamsGoddess@aol.com with your suggestions and stern warnings.

Spencer Conner,
contractor
818-445-7446

Happy Dog
2515 2nd Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90018
323-730-3647

Home Gallery
804-249-4444
www.HomeGallery.us


Hotel Surplus Outlet
6843 Valjean Ave.
Van Nuys, CA 91406
818-787-7807
www.hotelsurplus.com

The Mattress Factory
800-506-2337
800-610-9806
www.comfortfactory.com

Quality Hotel Liquidators, Inc.
1782 W. Washington Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90007
323-734-1700

Tom's Pet Grooming
8541 Washington Blvd.
Culver City, CA 90230
310-559-1265

Washington Dog and Cat Hospital
1692 W Washington Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90007
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WAHA and University Park Seek EIR for Project in Historic District

by Jim Robinson

WAHA has thrown its support behind University Park residents opposed to a city planner's decision that threatens the effectiveness of historic districts throughout Los Angeles.

Planner Theodore Irving has tentatively ruled that a proposed, block-long condominium project does not require an environmental impact report, even though it lies entirely within the University Park Historic Preservation Overlay Zone (HPOZ).

His findings, along with the project's proposed tract map and zoning changes, is slated to be considered at a public hearing on Wednesday, October 10, at 10:15 a.m. Neighbors and the HPOZ board are calling for a full environmental study.

The proposed, 142-unit project, on two acres fronting on Washington Boulevard, Oak Street and 20th Street, would rise as high as six stories and would violate major provisions of the HPOZ's preservation plan, approved by the Planning Department two years ago. That plan requires infill projects to be consistent with surrounding historic structures in massing, scale and lot coverage. Most nearby houses and commercial buildings are two stories tall. A few old apartment buildings are three.

The proposed project would put four new, two-story duplexes on the north side of 20th Street, facing a row of existing two-story Craftsman houses on the south side. To the north, behind the duplexes, would rise two large apartment blocks of four and six stories, fronting on Oak Street.

The entire site is currently occupied by a truck catering business, Cater Craft Foods Inc., whose presence has long been out of sync with the neighborhood's homes and schools. Its tallest structure is a small, two-story ice house in the center of the property.

Irving found that the condo project's proposed four- and six-story buildings would have "no impact" on the HPOZ or on the existing houses on 20th Street, which constitute the nationally registered 20th Street Historic District. He acknowledged that the project's land includes the site of a historic house (Los Angeles Historic Cultural Monument #179), which burned to the ground and was demolished in 1978. But his report offers no mitigation, or even consideration, for this still-designated monument site.

Irving's decision – a "negative declaration," in planning parlance – relates specifically to whether or not the project would "cause a substantial adverse change in significance of a historical resource" as defined in Section 15064.5 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

That question, posed in the project's "Initial Study and Checklist," allowed Irving to choose among four responses: "Potentially significant impact," "Potentially significant unless mitigation incorporated," "Less than significant impact," and "No impact."

Irving checked off "No impact," thereby avoiding further environmental study and the possibility that effects on historic resources might be mitigated.

CEQA Section 15064.5(a)(2) says a resource shall be presumed to be historically or culturally significant if it is included in a local register of historical resources, as defined in Section 5020.1(k) of the Public Resources Code. That code section defines "local register" as "a list of properties officially designated or recognized as historically significant by a local government pursuant to a local ordinance or resolution."

The entire University Park Historic Preservation Overlay Zone was recognized as historically significant when the City of Los Angeles established it March 22, 2000, by Ordinance #173160. Ignoring an HPOZ's official Preservation Plan could substantially affect it and, by extension, all of the city's HPOZs.

CEQA Section 15064.5(b)(1) goes on to say that, "Substantial adverse change in the significance of an

(continued on page 12)

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A Century of Holidays

continued from page 1

upgraded to electric, first with lines on Washington Boulevard, with a terminus at Normandie Avenue. This spurred residential development to the south and west.

A century ago, West Acres and the other tracts that comprise the West Adams-Normandie HPOZ were among Los Angeles' most prestigious communities. Originally subdivided in 1902 by New England native George Woodbury Stimson (who had "retired" to Southern California in 1885, only to become a real estate developer), the location attracted many socially prominent individuals seeking both "suburban" ambiance and proximity to Downtown via the City's expanding trolley and rail line systems. Owners were upper middle class individuals who played a significant role in the professional and business life of early twentieth century Los Angeles and neighboring cities. The prominence of these persons is reflected in job titles held and listings in biographical directories of the city's social and professional elite residents.

Developer Stimson was responsible for building more than 1,000 homes in Los Angeles (primarily in West Adams) and Pasadena, including the famous Stimson Mansion, now the headquarters of today's Rose Parade. (In 1914, George Woodbury Stimson sold the mansion, designed by his son G. Lawrence, to chewing gum magnate William Wrigley, Jr.)

Overall, the ANNA neighborhood is an excellent example of the Craftsman-era quarters that sprung up in the first two decades of the 20th century south and west of the City's center.

ANNA, which actually stands for Adams Normandie Neighborhood Association, is also known as one of the Historic West Adams District's most active and engaged neighborhood organizations. Over the past two decades, many historic preservation-minded people have restored numerous homes in the area. But as you stroll through the neighborhood, you'll also see strong evidence of their community spirit. ANNA has actively pursued improvement projects, fundraising, and youth activities. In 2002, ANNA rededicated the El Paseo Walk, a historic 1902 walkway that cuts through the 1500 blocks of 22nd, 23rd and 24th Streets. The El Paseo was originally created as an easy path for early residents to walk to the streetcar line that ran down 24th Street. Utilizing a City of Los Angeles Public Works Department Neighborhood Matching Fund grant, ANNA's friends and neighbors restored and enhanced the walkway by removing dirt, restoring edging and steps, installing pilasters and landscaping (more than 400 plants!), and painting a mural.

A Century of Holidays will showcase festively decorated residences, including a unique American Foursquare landmark, and several Craftsman and Victorian Transitional homes.

WAHA's traditional holiday tour features a sumptuous progressive dinner, with each course served in one of the featured properties. This year we are also scheduling a Sunday afternoon walking tour, without the food.

The tour will raise funds for WAHA, which since its founding in 1983 has used revenues from a variety of tours to support preservation of the community's architectural and cultural heritage.

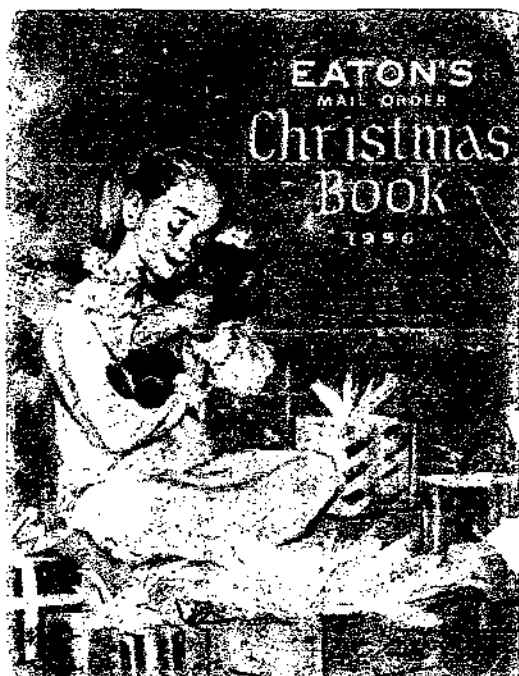
WAHA has been dressing up and opening our holiday doors to visitors for 21 years. Since its inception, we have created, cooked up, and dished out not only twenty main courses, but also at least 40 different appetizers, 25-plus desserts, a score of delicious salads, and countless variations (from curried to sherried to gingered) of pumpkin and squash soup — served up each year to some 600 visitors and volunteers.

As always, many, many, many volunteers are needed for this year's Holiday Tour. All the houses and kitchens need to be staffed on the nights of the Tour. But in addition there are lots of volunteers who assist behind the scenes in other roles, and on other days. Can you help with any of these tasks:

- Prep Cook - cook in your own home the week before the Tour
- Volunteer Dinners - pick up and deliver volunteer dinners on Saturday 12/1 and Sunday 12/2, tentatively from 4 to 6 p.m. both days
- WAHA Holiday Party - decorate, set-up and otherwise assist with this party (for our members and wonderful volunteers) on Sunday afternoon, December 9
- Crafty types - we need your creative skills (and possibly your glue guns) to make tourgoer badges and ornaments
- Shopping - Trader Joe's, 99 Cent Store, Smart & Final, Von's, the Flower Mart — they'll all get a WAHA visit or two



The Eaton Christmas catalog was eagerly awaited each year



The Eaton's Catalog, 1956

- Holiday decorating – some of our tour properties can use a helping hand hanging ornaments, garland and other seasonal “attire” during the week before the Tour

- Street decorating - install signs at Tour houses on Saturday, December 1, by 2 p.m.

If you are available any of these times, please raise your hand and volunteer. Contact us at tours@westadamsheritage.org. We have slated volunteer training for the afternoon of Sunday, November 18 (time and location TBA).

The Holiday Tour is WAHA's major annual fundraising event, and helps pay for our award-winning Evening Strolls as well as our many preservation support and advocacy activities. We encourage all of our members to contribute to that effort by taking the Holiday Tour and Progressive Dinner — and bringing their friends — on the day they are not volunteering.

If you purchase your ticket by November 10, prices this year will stay at previous years' levels — \$75 for non-members, \$65 for WAHA members. After November 10, all tickets are \$85 apiece. We will be mailing out invitations with sign-up details this month.

Each year, some of you wish to purchase large groups of tickets, and we love that you do so — but please contact us no later than November 1 to

reserve your block of seats. Please be sure to return the forms and your checks as early as possible, so that you and your guests will not be disappointed. It is not unusual for this event to sell out.

If you have joined WAHA at a membership level that may provide tickets to you and a guest for this tour, please DO contact us by November 1 with your reservation, so we can be sure to accommodate you.

As always, if you just want to peek inside the homes and you ARE volunteering for the event, you may do so — free — during the Sunday afternoon walking tour.

As you can see, WAHA's Holiday Tour is a complex event. If you would like more information about any aspect of the tour, contact Tour Chair Lindsay Wiggins at tours@westadamsheritage.org.

The Fine Print:

- Advance Ticket Sales Only — No Walk-ins!
- Holiday Tour & Progressive Dinner: General admission, \$85 (Early Bird price \$75, postmarked by November 10); WAHA members, \$65 (must be postmarked by November 10; after that the price is \$85)
- Saturday, December 1: Docent-led tours depart on the half-hour from 3 p.m. through 6 p.m.
- Sunday, December 2: Docent-led tours depart on the half-hour from 4 p.m. through 6 p.m.
- Holiday Walking Tour (Sunday afternoon only): \$40
- Timed-tours depart every thirty minutes from Noon through 2 p.m.

To order tickets in advance, please send in your reservation form and a check made payable to “WAHA” to:

WAHA Holiday Tour
2209 Virginia Road
Los Angeles, CA 90016



Please include an e-mail address or phone number for confirmation. Confirmations will primarily be sent out via e-mail, and not until November 20th or thereafter. (As you might imagine, since this tour routinely sells out, we are juggling who is on what tour until nearly the last minute!) If you don't receive the invitation and form in the mail, you may log onto WAHA's website, www.WestAdamsHeritage.org, and print it out from there, circa mid-October.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, or to confirm reservations, please call the WAHA Reservations Hotline at 323-732-4223, e-mail wahaholiday@aol.com, or visit www.WestAdamsHeritage.org.

[Please note that we have provided two distinct e-mail addresses for different purposes in this article, and we repeat them here:

To VOLUNTEER, write tours@westadamsheritage.org

For TOUR INFORMATION, and RESERVATIONS, GROUP TOURS, etc., write wahaholiday@aol.com] ●

Preservation Matters

Saving the 1871 Stewart Cottage by Laura Meyers

WAHA has been quietly working since last January to save an 1871 cottage from the wrecking ball. We were alerted to its possible fate by the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA), whose recent historic survey for the Exposition University Park project area determined this residence was eligible for both local and federal landmark designation. A developer is working on plans to erect condominiums at its site (505-511 West 31st Street, between Flower and Figueroa Streets), and from the start CRA staff indicated that this structure should be moved.

The Victorian cottage was built by early Los Angeles nurseryman John Marcellus ("J.M.") Stewart, who was a member of the Los Angeles Pioneer Society. Because Stewart is buried at Angelus Rosedale Cemetery, WAHA presented him as one of the historic personages at last month's Living History Tour. Our tour visitors signed petitions urging the City to save the house. Now a possible deal is in the works to move the house onto a nearby lot in University Park.

We'd like to share with you Stewart's biography, researched by Anna Marie Brooks and this writer.

John Marcellus Stewart was born in New Hampshire, in 1828, one of several sons in a Colonial American family. His father, also John, was born in Massachusetts, and so was his grandfather, another John, whose brother was killed in the Revolutionary War. J.M. studied to be a teacher, and when he was twenty decided to move West. Of course, "West" in 1848 was the prairies of Wisconsin. Stewart bought some land, and started teaching school, in Columbus, an undertaking very reminiscent of scenes from Little House on the Prairie. There he met his wife, Melissa Fisher.

But Stewart started hearing tales of great adventure, and wealth, coming from California. The Gold Rush had begun, and Stewart decided to join in. In March of 1850, he and four friends set out, he later wrote, "for an overland trip of 2,000 miles through a country partially occupied by hostile Indians, and with only one settlement of white men between the Missouri River and the slopes of the Sierra - that at Salt Lake."

Stewart continued: "My companions and I traveled through Wisconsin and Iowa to the Missouri River, the Mormon winter headquarters of three years before. I was the youngest of the party, being only 22 years old. We thought the only safe way to travel was in large companies, so we joined with 150 other men, with 45 wagons. But we stuck together for only three days, because we were traveling with horses, and many of these men had ox teams, which travel much more slowly.

"We traveled past quicksand, and across difficult streams, and gales blew so hard that no tent was left standing. And then, in April, our road led through a territory burned over, with some dry grass still burning, because some careless emigrants ahead of us did not put out their camp fires. Our horses had nothing to eat but grain from our wagon. On this burned territory, black and dreary far as the eye could reach, we met our first buffalo, many of them with hair burned off, and entirely blind. For weeks we tried to get ahead of the fires, but they raged with incredible fury.

"Finally along the banks of the Platte River, we found a beautiful unburned valley, and there were buffalo feeding leisurely, at least 4,000 of them. Choice steaks from a buffalo calf were very acceptable and much sought after. Like all others who traveled that road, we also had to resort to buffalo chips for fuel to cook our daily meals.

"When our grain was gone, we exchanged our heavy wagon at the army fort for a pack horse, and another lighter wagon. Our road now lay over high, steep bluffs and deep ravines. We were headed into the Rocky Mountains. Instead of buffalo, now we ate mountain sheep. When we finally reached the top of the mountains, it did not seem as we were on the summit of the great divide between the Atlantic and the Pacific oceans, for we were in an extensive valley, nearly level, several miles in width. When we raised our eyes to the lofty chain of mountains still before us, with thousands of glaciers sparkling in the sunbeams, the scene was grand beyond description.

"We had seen many Indians of the Sioux tribe, all kind and friendly. Now we met large numbers of Snake Indians, and others who were also friendly. We had many adventures as we were leaving these mountains, and "Never fret" became our motto. But we had learned that an overland journey to California was not in all respects a pleasure journey, but, like other means to the accomplishment of a desirable end, it was attended with some labor and sacrifice.

"We celebrated the 4th of July by attempting to cross the desert. We had already been reduced in number to four horses and we five friends. We were to leave the wagon in the desert, and decided to burn it - soon we had a



rousing fire. At sunrise we set off to the Carson River, passing many horses, both dead and dying. But we made it to Hangtown, California, now called Placerville, 83 days after leaving the Missouri River, and having walked 1,500 miles out of the nearly 2,000 traveled."

For Stewart, the adventures of his life had just begun. He mined for gold in Placerville, with fair success, and returned to Wisconsin with his earnings. He established a saw mill, and started a family with Melissa. But the "charm and possibility of California" lured him back. In 1858 Stewart returned with his family – this time via Panama – and once again he was mining for gold, this time in the famous Angels Camp.

Stewart eventually opened a store selling sewing machines in Sacramento, until the river rose above its banks and a flood washed away his building and his business. The Stewart family moved to San Francisco, where J.M. was a merchant on Montgomery Street for twelve years.

During the Civil War the Stewarts traveled from California to Wisconsin and the East Coast to visit family, and returned by way of Nicaragua. He wrote, "How different was our trip back to California in 1865 from the one we took on our way to New York the previous year. We were worried about privateers, since steamers from California like the one we traveled on were known to carry large amounts of treasure. One night, out of fear of discovery, all lights above the water line were turned down, the course of the ship turned to nearly a right angle, and the entire night was spent in utter darkness. This time, with the cruel war over and peace reigning, we all felt relieved."

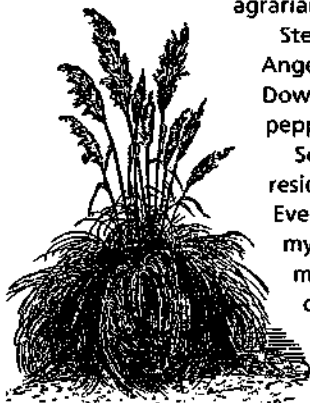
Stewart was impressed with all the natural vegetation and cultivated plants in Nicaragua. "Bananas seemed to grow spontaneously, and vines of all kinds hung from the trees, trailing bright flowers," he said.

In 1871, Stewart, his wife and younger daughter, Grace, decided to move south, to Los Angeles. He bought a 17-acre vineyard, but Stewart wasn't planning to grow grapes or make wine. This plot of land was located south of Downtown, between Figueroa and Grand Avenues and south of 30th Street, near where the University of Southern California stands today. He dug up the vines, and planted instead nursery plants. People were settling in Los Angeles, building homes, and they wanted pretty and exotic plants for their gardens. Stewart's Nursery exemplifies this transition of Los Angeles from an agrarian economy to a service economy.

Stewart became very well known for his Pampas grasses. If you've seen early postcards from Los Angeles, you've seen the tall and beautiful grasses that grew in the front yards of many a mansion in Downtown, along Adams Street and nearby. He also was renown for his sweet oranges and his pepper trees.

Soon after his arrival, Stewart also built a cottage, still located at 511 West 30th Street. This 1871 residence is no doubt one of the very oldest extant houses in West Adams and all of Los Angeles. Even in the 1890s, when Stewart decided to become a real estate developer and sold off many of my former nursery parcels to other individuals, he kept this cottage. To be sure, he built his own mansion on the same property, but he kept the cottage. The mansion has long since been demolished. But Melissa and J.M. lived there until their deaths, just a few weeks apart, in 1913.

And their daughter, Grace, lived in the big house for twenty more years. ●



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Stepping Out

Craftsman Weekend

Friday, October 19 to Sunday, October 21

Various Pasadena Locations

Pasadena Heritage will present its 16th annual Craftsman Weekend on Friday, October 19 through Sunday, October 21. It's the largest, most comprehensive salute to the Arts & Crafts Movement in the Western United States.

The weekend includes tours of Craftsman-era houses and neighborhoods, exhibits by antique dealers and modern craftsmen, and lectures by Craftsman Movement experts.

The lectures, sponsored by Pasadena's Judson Studios, stained glass makers, are:

- Robert Winter and Romy Wyllie on "Bertram Goodhue and the Arts & Crafts Movement," followed by signings of Wyllie's new book, *Bertram Goodhue: His Life and Residential Architecture*.

- Andre Chavez, collector and writer, on "Myths and Misperceptions of the Arts & Crafts Movement."

- Larry Kreisman and Glenn Mason on the role of the Pacific Northwest in the Arts and Crafts movement. They will sign their new book, *The Arts & Crafts Movement in the Pacific Northwest*.

- Christine Lazzaretto, preservation director of Pasadena Heritage, on Pasadena-based architects Alfred and Arthur Heineman.

This year's bus tours are:

- A gardens tour examining Japanese influence on Arts and Craft landscaping, beginning with a rare visit to one of Pasadena's hidden treasures: the oldest true Meiji Garden in California.

- A Greene & Greene tour, including a visit to the Caroline DeForést House and a "hardhat" stop at the Halsted House.

- A Heineman Brothers tour, with a rare visit to the spectacular Hindry House.

Two special excursion bus tours are planned to the Jennie Reeve House, in Long Beach, designed by Charles and Henry Greene in 1903-04, and the home of craftsman Sam Maloof in Alta Loma.

Two-hour, docent-guided Walking Tours, sponsored by the Pasadena Convention and Visitor's Bureau, will lead guests through three of Pasadena's historically significant neighborhoods:

- The Prospect Park Tour will pass homes by Greene & Greene and Frank Lloyd Wright and go inside redwood-shingled Hinds House, designed by Sylvanus Marston.

- A second tour will explore Orange Heights, in northwest Pasadena, with homes by builder D.M. Renton and architects Sylvanus Marston and Irving Gill.

- The third tour visits the Arroyo Terrace neighborhood, where Charles Greene built his own home in 1901.

Receptions will take place Friday at the 109-year-old Castle Green, and Saturday at Greene & Greene's Robinson House, with panoramic views of the Arroyo Seco. Tickets are limited.

On Sunday, guests may go inside six private residences, including Peddicord House (1911) in the Washington Square Landmark District, Mead House in West Pasadena, and Phillips House (1909) by well-known builder B. Marshall Wotkyns.

The weekend's Fine Arts and Furnishings Show will take place at the Masonic Temple, 200 S. Euclid Ave., from 9 to 5 p.m. Saturday and 10 to 5:30 p.m. Sunday.

For tickets and more information, log onto www.pasadenaheritage.org or phone 626-441-6333. ●



The opening reception for Craftsman Weekend will be held at Castle Green, one of Pasadena's most unique landmarks, and will include tours of its Moorish, Turkish and Victorian salons -- along with wine & appetizers! \$45.



Greene & Greene were not the only team of brothers creating innovative Arts & Crafts architecture during this period. On Saturday, October 20, Craftsman Weekend offers a tour of homes designed by Arthur and Alfred Heineman, including this bungalow.

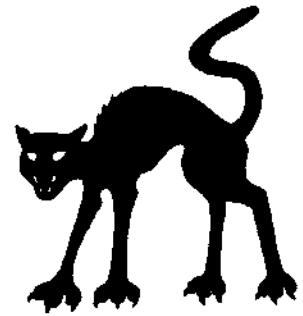
Halloween Movie Night

Saturday, October 27

Heritage Square Museum, 3800 Homer Street (Highland Park)

On the evening of Saturday, October 27, Heritage Square will host a Halloween and Mourning Movie Night. Classic Walt Disney Halloween cartoons and the famous 1922 silent film, *Nosferatu*, are among the movies on the bill. With eight historic landmarks serving as the backdrop for the evening, this special screening will take place on the lawn near the Palms Depot. The gates will open at 7 p.m. for picnics with the show starting at dusk. Please bring a chair or blanket to sit on, a small picnic, and warm clothing. Beverages, popcorn and candy will be available for purchase. Admission is free for Museum members and \$10 for the general public.

Heritage Square is an open-air, living history museum dedicated to telling the story of the development of Los Angeles. The Museum is located just off the 110 Arroyo Seco Parkway (110/Pasadena Freeway) at Avenue 43, north of downtown Los Angeles. For further information, visit www.heritagesquare.org. ●



Wellington Square Spanish For Sale



Georgia Toliver has put her home on the market. This stunning Spanish Colonial Revival home in Wellington Square exudes style and glamour, yet is comfortable and inviting for relaxing and

entertaining in all the indoor and outdoor living spaces. The attention to detail is impressive from stained and leaded glass windows to original iron work and wall sconces. The original decorative tiled bathrooms were photographed for the design book "Bungalow Bathrooms" by Power and Svendsen. Other features include seven styles of ceilings such as beamed, coved and stepped, garden views out every window, original tiled kitchen, ironwork and archways galore. But, there is so much more to love about this 5 bathroom home: 4 bedroom suites, beautiful chandeliers, sunken living room with fireplace, library with mahogany book cases, copper balconies and rain gutters, an oversized three car garage with a mechanic pit, electric gate, a heated salt water swimming pool and spa, patios and a variety of gardens w/fruit trees and a living wall, courtyard with original slate walk, and even a fish pond to create the perfect natural environment. Lastly, many people will appreciate the natural light and abundant lighting fixtures, storage cabinets, hardwood floors and unique historical features throughout. Indeed for the discerning or particular homeowner this home is truly like no other. Featured in WAHA's Valentine's Day Tour in 1996 and Christmas Tour in 1999.

Offered at \$1,275,000.

Please contact Sam Grayeli or Josh Johnson from BRC Advisors at (213) 235-0953 for more information or to schedule a showing of the property.

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Preservation Matters

WAHA Seeks EIR

continued from page 5

historical resource means physical demolition, destruction, relocation, or alteration of the resource or its immediate surroundings such that the significance of an historical resource would be materially impaired."

In addition, CEQA Section 15064.5(a)(1) says historical resources automatically include those listed in the California Register of Historic Resources. The California Register automatically includes federally registered historic districts – such as the adjacent 20th Street Historic District.

"For all these reasons," WAHA wrote to Irving, "it is clear to us that the project proposed for 902 W. Washington Blvd. has potentially significant impacts on historical resources and requires a full environmental study, including public hearings, before it proceeds further."

Aside from historic considerations, neighbors are seeking a formal review of the project's effects on traffic, parking, air quality, noise and other environmental issues.

For example, the project's Traffic Impact Study forecasts a net increase of 731 daily trips on adjacent streets. The project's only entrance and exit gates would be on Oak Street, directly across from Norwood Elementary School. A Department of Transportation review concludes that streets fronting the project may need to be widened but offers no specifics.

Much of the October 10 hearing will focus on Anastasi Development Co.'s request to combine the site's 10 parcels into one and change the zoning on most of the land to commercial manufacturing.

At present, the site's two northern parcels, facing Washington, are zoned [Q]C2-2-HPOZ (commercial); its three center parcels, facing Oak, are zoned P-1-HPOZ (parking); and its five southern parcels, facing Oak and 20th Street, are zoned R3-1-HPOZ (multiple dwelling).

Although Anastasi's proposal is for residential use, the company has applied to change the zoning on the center and southern parcels to [T][Q]CM-1-HPOZ (commercial manufacturing). The two northern parcels would remain commercial. That would permit future use by a broad list of manufacturing businesses, including electronics, baked goods, ice cream, toiletries, laboratories, packaging, and storage or warehousing.

The new zoning would match that of adjoining property to the west, where a warehouse operates on land zoned CM-1-HPOZ. Neighbors say that zoning is an aberration in a residential neighborhood, and that such inappropriate zoning should be phased out rather than expanded.

WAHA has been dealing with the same developer regarding an 1890 Queen Anne cottage, the Henry Obee house, which sits on another Anastasi site on the south side of Washington Boulevard, between Hoover Street and Vermont Avenue. In May, the city's Cultural Affairs Commission voted to make the cottage a historic cultural monument, but the City Council has yet to approve that designation. WAHA members are searching for a new site for the cottage to prevent its demolition.

According to Irving, the case file on the Anastasi Oak Street project will be kept open for further public comment. If you wish to express your opinions – or preserve your future right to participate – write to: Theodore Irving, Department of City Planning, Expedited Processing Section, City of Los Angeles, 200 N. Spring St., Room 7231, Los Angeles, CA 90012. Letters should reference all three case numbers: ENV-2005-8476-MND for environmental issues, CPC-2005-8468-ZC-ZV-ZAA for zoning issues, and TT-62846 for overall approval of the condominium plan. ●

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WAHA is now www.WestAdamsHeritage.org

This spring WAHA expanded our website, working to convert it into a full content management system, making it easier to post new materials and update old ones. When we realized that we were going to have to redo the website to fit the software available from a local hosting company, we also reconsidered our suffix. Back in 2001 when our website was created we thought the best choice was to use the most common suffix, .com, so we named our website www.WestAdamsHeritage.com. Just in case we might change our minds later we also reserved the nonprofit version, www.WestAdamsHeritage.org. In recent years the use of the .org designation has blossomed, becoming the gold standard for nonprofit and public service organizations of all kinds. So we decided to activate the .org name we had been sitting on all these years. Our webmaster, Leslie Evans, reconstructed the WAHA website and launched it at the end of July as www.WestAdamsHeritage.org. Take a look and visit us there regularly for news updates from WAHA. ●

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_____ Please DO NOT include my name, address, e-mail, or telephone in the WAHA membership directory.

We support preservation of the West Adams community's architectural heritage and beautification activities, and seek to educate Los Angeles' citizens and others about cultural heritage and restoration techniques.



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A CALL TO MEMBERS

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Calendar ✓

WAHA October/Autumn Calendar

WAHA's Frightful Halloween Kid Fest, Sunday, October 28, in Gramercy Park:

Hear ye, all you little ghosts and goblins! And ghoulish grown-ups, too. It's time for all creatures to have an afternoon of fun at the annual West Adams Halloween Festival! Games, grilled hot dogs, sweets, a petting zoo, and a costume contest are all in the works! (See page 1)

Pasadena Heritage's Craftsman Weekend, Friday, October 19 to Sunday, October 21

A weekend filled with all things Arts & Craft Movement. (See page 10)

A Century of Holidays – WAHA's Annual Holiday Historic Homes Tour & Progressive Dinner, Saturday & Sunday, December 1 & 2

Mark your calendar. (See page 1)



The WAHA Newsletter is a publication of the West Adams Heritage Association. Members and supporters of WAHA are invited to submit articles to the Newsletter. Letters will be published subject to space constraints and will be cut for length if necessary. Articles will be published subject to acceptance by the editors of the WAHA Board. Advertising is subject to the approval of the publishers. Although the Association appreciates its many fine advertisers, the Association does not accept responsibility for claims made by advertisers. Services and products are not tested and appearance of advertising does not imply, nor does it constitute, endorsement by the West Adams Heritage Association. Copyright 2007. All rights for graphic and written material appearing in the newsletter are reserved. Contact Director of Publications for permission.



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