



# SANTA MONICA CONSERVANCY NEWS

ENSURING THAT THE PAST HAS A FUTURE

APRIL 2004

Vol 2 No 2

ANNUAL MEETING  
ELECT A NEW BOARD  
SATURDAY,  
MAY 8, 2004  
1:30 - 4:30 PM

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## ANNUAL MEETING AT THE GEORGIAN HOTEL "SPEAKEASY"

It's 1919. The 18th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution has just been ratified, and seaside Santa Monica is "dry." It's Prohibition, baby.

And getting a drink here in Movieland's weekend playground won't be easy -- unless you know where to go. Bugsy and Fatty know. They park their Packards at the Lady Windemere Hotel on Ocean Boulevard and slip into another one of L.A.'s "speakeasys" downstairs.

It's a perfect place to rendezvous for mobsters and their molls, those up-and-coming studio executives, and soon-to-be celebrities like Gable and Lombard, who want secluded getaways from action, lights, and cameras. The oceanfront veranda is the perfect stage for hot jazz and martinis in tea cups.

Today, The Lady Windemere is long fanned out. You know it as The Georgian. But Tinseltown was grateful for its special hospitality, regardless of occasional raids by the cops and the feds and arrests of the famous and not so. But still they continued to flourish. In major cities, speakeasies could be elaborate with food, live bands, and floor shows. And they were generous supporters of the police officers benevolent foundation, though it was very hush hush.

The cigar and cigarette smoke has long cleared from The Georgian Hotel's basement. The raucous laughter, sloe gin, and fast women are gone. But the red leather banquettes still remain. So we're going to revive the speakeasy era for one night at the Santa Monica Conservancy's first Annual Meeting. Dust off your Borsalinos and boas, dust off your spats, put on the Ritz, and join us at The Georgian Hotel on Saturday, May 8, from 1:30 - 4:30 pm. For appetizers, there'll be a short business meeting, followed by a program and a no-host cocktail bar in the hotel's beautiful Art Deco lobby.



To enter the speakeasy, you must be a Conservancy member so you'll need the password. That's the only way to get in and it ain't "Joe sent me," so don't try to be cute. But do try to be there.

RSVP before May 3 at 310-485-0399. Leave your number so we can call you back with the password!

The Georgian Hotel is located at 1415 Ocean Avenue (between Arizona and Broadway). Enter the speakeasy at the door on the south side where there is a mini walkway... Valet parking \$5, metered street parking, or public parking in Structure #6 on Second Street. Remember the password!

(READ MORE ABOUT THE GEORGIAN'S  
FASCINATING HISTORY ON PAGE 6)

## CONSERVANCY BUSINESS

### GIFT MEMBERSHIPS

Did you know that the Santa Monica Conservancy offers gift memberships? Sign up your friends and open the door to all our events and information. We will send a custom gift card to inform the recipient of your gift. Contact us at 310-485-0399 or send an email to [info@smconservancy.org](mailto:info@smconservancy.org).

### SMC MERCHANDISE

The Santa Monica Conservancy is looking to raise awareness of our organization in the community. We are researching the possibility of creating and selling customized SMC t-shirts and bumper stickers. If you are interested in helping or know some good sources for manufacturing these items, contact us at 310-485-0399 or send an email to [info@smconservancy.org](mailto:info@smconservancy.org).

### FUTURE EVENTS: WOODLAWN CEMETERY

The Conservancy will host a living history tour of Santa Monica's Woodlawn Cemetery (14th Street and Pico Boulevard) this October to meet and reconnect with some of our city's more interesting "permanent residents." Buried among the 45,000 at Woodlawn are members of leading families and pioneers who helped make history in our community and worldwide, as well as famous actors, politicians, city founders, a well known suffragette, a famous cartoon creator, and a well known cosmetics entrepreneur. Look for more information in our next newsletter. You won't want to miss this event!

### AERO THEATRE

A U.C. Santa Barbara film student, Fabienne Boudreau, is helping to compile information on the history of the Aero Theatre on Montana Avenue. Her grandfather worked for Douglas Aircraft after World War II and her family frequented the Aero which was established by Douglas as a source of entertainment for its employees. She is seeking information and photographs from anyone who may have worked or visited the theater on a regular basis. Materials will be used for a research paper and for display inside the theater. Please contact her by phone at 831-402-1789 or by e-mail at [fab@umail.ucsb.edu](mailto:fab@umail.ucsb.edu).

**CONTACT US** | PO BOX 653 SANTA MONICA, CA 90406-0653  
310-485-0399 [INFO@SMCONSERVANCY.ORG](mailto:INFO@SMCONSERVANCY.ORG)

## THIS OLD CHURCH



THE CHURCH STOOD AT 6TH AND ARIZONA IN 1875. COURTESY LAPL ARCHIVES

The Gothic-inspired redwood structure with high-pitched gables at 2621 Second Street in Ocean Park retains its ecclesiastical roots. Once a house of worship, it has become a house of residence. Built in 1875 by volunteer labor at a cost of \$683, it housed a Methodist Episcopal church at the corner of Sixth and Arizona. The Santa Monica Land Company, owned by City founder Senator Jones, donated the land. It is currently one of the oldest buildings in Santa Monica.

Since 1875, the church has been moved twice. In 1900 it arrived at its current location. It continued to serve as a Methodist Episcopal church until the parish outgrew it and sold it in 1923 to the Stephen Jackson Women's Relief Corp. The Relief Corp renamed it Patriotic Hall and used it for meetings of the women's auxiliary of Union veterans of the Civil War. In the early 1970s when there were only three women of the Relief Corp left and all were in their 90s, they put the church on the market.

Threatened by demolition and replacement by an apartment building, artist Helen Taylor Sheats purchased the church and converted it into a residence. Sheats, a colorful character according to neighbors, was a neo-Fauvist oil painter, early civil rights advocate, and patron of modern architecture. She worked with John Lautner, a Frank Lloyd Wright protege, in designing four residences and building two. Both buildings received considerable attention for their unusual futuristic designs and features.

Sheats configured the church into a loft-like living space with a bedroom alcove. The church belfry became her meditation room. "Helen was a force in helping us found the Third Street Historic District," notes Bea Nemlaha, Conservancy vice president. "Not only did she support us, but she attended Landmarks Commission and City Council meetings, and spoke out for designation at every opportunity." Sheats had already had the church designated as an individual landmark in 1977, more than a decade before the district was established.

In 1999, Sheats died at age 89, and the church/house became a rental for a few years until local architect Anne Troutman bought the house in February, 2004. She intends to preserve and restore it with minimal intervention for use as her home. Troutman says they will create some additional bedroom space in the back for family members.

"The building grabbed me," said Troutman, who has lived in historic homes in Venice and Nantucket before buying the church. "I had always noticed it over the years and loved the combination of its age and open community space. We will keep the main sanctuary as an open space where I hope to host informal art and photography shows or poetry readings for my friends."

## SANTA MONICA CAMPAIGN RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS AWARD

Every year, the California Preservation Foundation presents awards to notable architecture and engineering projects statewide that have been rescued from deterioration and restored to use and beauty. They also honor the work of preservation researchers and of architects designing contemporary buildings in historically sensitive environments. This year's Presidents Award will be presented to Save Our Neighborhoods

(SON) in Santa Monica for its efforts to retain historic preservation protections. SON, the group that opposed Proposition A in Santa Monica, is receiving the award for its successful campaign to maintain the current landmarks ordinance that allows landmarking a property without the property owner's consent. The award will be presented at the Foundation's annual conference in San Francisco in late April.

## DOWNTOWN GUIDELINES

The Conservancy's advocating for more preservation in downtown Santa Monica took a step forward in March as Planning Department staffer Paul Foley came before the Landmarks Commission to report recommendations made by ROMA Design Group. ROMA is the consultant working on new design guidelines for downtown, which will determine how the city handles new development and its impact on landmarks and potential landmarks in downtown.

The guidelines propose courtyards for all new buildings in downtown even on the Promenade. The courtyards may be on the side or in the center of a property. If a property adjacent to the new development is listed in the Historic Resources Inventory, either the courtyard would go on that side or the new building would be stepped back 10 feet for the portion of the wall over 35 feet high. The design of historic facing facades would be detailed like the front of the building.

The Landmarks Commission felt that the setback requirements could be more reactive to the actual properties. Instead of a fixed requirement, they suggested that the setback occur not more than 5 feet above the roof edge of the historic or potentially historic structure adjacent to the new development.

The Commission would also like to include incentives that discourage demolition of Historic Inventory structures by offering relief from various requirements in exchange for preserving and utilizing at least the façade of the inventoried structure in the new building.

The Guidelines go before Council for final approval on April 13. Staff reports will be available on the City website a few days prior to the meeting. Comments to City Council via mail, email or fax from our members and others are encouraged!

### SMC NEWS STAFF

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COPY EDITING BY PETER ALTSCHULER

PHOTOS BY NINA FRESCO UNLESS NOTED.

PLEASE CONTACT US WITH NEWS IDEAS OR PRESERVATION ISSUES YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE CONSERVANCY INVOLVED IN.

## SUBSTANTIAL REMODEL: MAKING IT POSSIBLE TO RESTORE OLD HOMES

If you are interested in seeing old buildings restored, repaired or updated, the definition of "substantial remodel" in the city code will especially matter to you. The ability to restore, rehabilitate or adapt existing buildings depends on how this definition is worded.

If the work on a building constitutes a "substantial remodel", the structure loses any legal, non-conforming status it may have had, and may only be restored, rebuilt or added on to so that the entire structure conforms to all applicable zoning and building and safety code requirements. Meeting these requirements often leads to the loss of many historic features. Often, the upgrades required are so extreme

pending City Council approval.

To paraphrase the current, technical definition, a structure is considered "substantially remodeled" when at least 50% of exterior walls have been removed, relocated or disconnected from the foundation at any time during construction. It is then considered "demolished", which requires filing an application for a demo permit. Any retained portions must be made to comply with all current codes.

Using this definition, a building can be stripped down to its studs, leaving only the original framing, without triggering "substantial remodel" (this loophole is abused to retain non-conforming setbacks or insufficient parking which are often very desirable). Many historic resources have been destroyed this way. At the same time, those who wish to restore old buildings, will trigger the code when replacing a foundation, adding a second story or making other practical improvements to a property that they would like to maintain, and are forced to demolish.

Preservationists are recommending that the definition focus on requiring the retention of more visible features of the building rather than perpetuating the emphasis on retaining a building's structural elements. They also recommend exempting structures on the Historic Resources Inventory from "substantial remodel" as long as the Secretary of Interior's Standards are met as reviewed by the Landmarks Commission, the city body most qualified to interpret these standards.

Redefining "substantial remodel" is a very significant step in creating a system of exemptions in the zoning code that would encourage preservation and adaptive reuse.



OWNERS MUST AVOID TRIGGERING SUBSTANTIAL REMODEL DURING RESTORATION

that the building has to be demolished. Historic building owners are allowed, by state law, to find creative solutions to meet building and safety standards, however this is not applicable to meeting zoning requirements. Special exemptions from zoning codes must be made for historic structures.

The Planning Commission is working with city staff to rewrite the definition of "substantial remodel" in our Zoning Ordinance

# RESEARCHING YOUR HOME'S HISTORY: THE BUILDING BIOGRAPHER GIVES TIPS

The first of two Conservancy events in February was a lecture by the Building Biographer which took place in the beautifully restored, landmarked John and Anna George house in Ocean Park.

Tim Gregory, an archivist and public historian, discussed where to find information about the history of your house. The key, he said, is discovering the last name of the original owners. Many records are indexed by that name as it is one fact that never changes.

If you missed Tim's presentation, here are his key suggestions:

- Ask for information from former owners and neighbors—but beware of urban legends!
- Check the City's planning department, building and safety department, the Santa Monica Historical Society, and public library to see what research already exists.
- Find the original owner's name (as well as subsequent owners) through the L.A. County Assessor's Reference Library (Hall of Administration, 500 W. Temple St., Room 205, L.A.), the Assessor's Archives for map-books (Hall of Records, 320 W.

Temple, Room 103), or through reverse directories (listing by address rather than name).

- Find building information through the Assessor's office (6120 Bristol Parkway, Culver City) for records on the original



THE JOHN AND ANNA GEORGE HOUSE IN OCEAN PARK

appearance of the property and changes over time.

- Find building permits at Santa Monica's Planning counter (City Hall, 1685 Main Street). The Historic Resources Inventory may have additional information. The City does not have blueprints.
- Look up the Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps

which show the "footprint" of the house over time at the Santa Monica Public Library when the Main Library moves into the new building. Also at LAPL.

- Search for photographs, plans, etc. Seek former owners or descendants of the architect. The Santa Monica Public Library's online Image Archives also contain historical photographs.
- Search for biographical information on former owners, architects, builders, etc. at the Santa Monica Public Library, the Santa Monica Historical Society, the California Index at the L.A. Public Library, the California Death Index, and newspaper obituaries.
- The Santa Monica Public Library also has a reference booklet—"How To Research Buildings in Santa Monica."

For those with more curiosity than time, Tim Gregory will prepare your personal "building biography" for a fee. Contact him at [timgregory@earthlink.net](mailto:timgregory@earthlink.net).

Thanks to members Myra and Earl Pomerantz for opening up their home and to Sherrill Kushner and Thomasine Rogas for pulling the event together.

## BROAD FOUNDATION ART COLLECTION TOUR

In February, 25 SMC members gathered at the Broad Foundation Art Collection on Barnard Way in Santa Monica for a rare art and architecture tour. The Broad Foundation building is the lone survivor after major redevelopment of the neighborhood in the 1950s and '60s that made way for Santa Monica Shores and other improvements. Built in 1926 as the central office of the local telephone exchange, the building housed phone lines, switching equipment, and banks of switchboard operators. It would have been an extraordinary expense for the phone company to move telephone lines and cables. Eventually, the equipment became outdated and the company put the building up for sale.

In the late 1980s, architect Frank Gehry considered buying it, but without available parking for his staff, he backed away. In stepped billionaire Eli Broad, a local builder (Kaufman and Broad Homes), and his wife Edythe, an art collector, who were running out of wall space for their extensive art

collection. They established the Broad Art Foundation to warehouse their contemporary art for lending to public art institutions worldwide. Broad bought the building in 1988 and architect Joe Coriarty of Frederick Fisher & Partners, Architects oversaw the \$1 million conversion.

Coriarty led SMC visitors around the exterior noting the façade's classic details. He pointed out the use of a retractable exterior window-washing device adapted to enable hoisting very large art pieces to the upper floors. It saved costs and valuable space that an interior freight elevator would have utilized. The interior is purposefully spare to highlight the art.

Artist Jan Book led the tour of the collection displayed on all four floors and the rooftop of the building. She provided an illuminating discussion of the artwork of Ross Bleckner, Keith Haring, Cindy Sherman and Christopher Wool. The collection features many works of each of a limited array of

artists. The Cindy Sherman collection is one of the largest in the U.S. On the rooftop was an unusual outdoor gallery of Tom Otterness's whimsical sculptures, specifically commissioned for that spot. The view of the L.A. basin, from Catalina to downtown L.A. is incomparable.

Many thanks to the Broad Foundation for access to the building and collection, to Joe Coriarty and Jan Book for sharing their expertise, and to SMC members Sherrill Kushner, Thomasine Rogas and Doris Sosin for planning this event.



TOURING THE CINDY SHERMAN GALLERY

# ADDING ON TO FARQUHAR

## TO THE TUNE OF 10,000 SQUARE FEET!

Here's an interesting scenario: take a modest two-story landmark house, add more than 10,000 square feet of new construction, and receive unanimous approval and cheers from the Landmarks Commission! Designer Brian Murphy proposed such an addition to the historic Farquhar House at 147 Georgina for new owner Jennifer Nicholson, demonstrating that large additions can be architecturally sensitive to a historic house and its site.

The Farquhar House was constructed in 1910 by eminent architect Robert Farquhar as his own residence, elegantly styled after French Classical precedents. It is significant for its architectural style, for its association with notable people such as Farquhar's wife Marion, who was related to Santa Monica founder Senator John P. Jones. The house was also a pioneer structure in the Palisades Tract. Farquhar is famous for the design of the Feynes House in Pasadena (1906), the

entirely behind the existing house. The plan allows for a full underground basement, which adds considerable floor space. The height of the two-story addition is only a few feet more than the original and is partially hidden by mature trees, so that to the pedestrian, it will barely be perceptible. The addition is configured as a courtyard, with open space behind the rear central portion of Farquhar's house so that the rear elevation remains visible. The side setbacks are consistent with the side planes of the original house. Architecturally, the addition is based upon the style of the original, with some simplifications and subtle changes so that the new is distinguished from the old, in accordance with historic preservation design guidelines. The project required one standards variance, an exception to the depth of the required rear setback at the second story level. It was determined that this variance would not have an adverse effect on neighboring properties.



ABOVE: THE ADDITION IS SHOWN IN WHITE—INSET: FROM THE STREET IT IS UNCHANGED

William Andrew Clark Library (1924) and the California Club (1929) in Los Angeles, Beverly Hills High School (1928), and a number of notable residences. The house was relocated in 1952 from its original site at Seventh and San Vicente, probably due to the proliferation of apartment house construction.

The success of the addition is due primarily to its sensitivity to its site and to Farquhar's design. The lot is very large, 100 X 205 ft., permitting the addition to be placed

The project was approved following a second hearing before the Landmarks Commission on March 8th. At the February meeting, the Commission made a number of design recommendations to improve the compatibility of the addition with the Farquhar house, which the architect accomplished. The success of this project shows that respect and responsiveness to historic architectural character can accommodate a major new addition, a win-win solution for all.

## NEW MEMBERS

JOAN ALEXANDER  
 RODOLFO ALVAREZ  
 REGINA BARTON  
 ANTHEA RAYMOND BECKLER  
 BILL BRYANT  
 GLENDA CALLANEN  
 CELIA CARROLL  
 JOE CORIATY  
 BARBARA EICHORN  
 MARVIN AND RUTH FARBER  
 BILL GOLDSTEIN  
 BEVERLY HOSKINSON  
 CAROLE AND SID MELTZNER  
 SALLY PHILLIPS  
 MARY WHITE PILLA  
 SM HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
 LAURENCE STARKMAN  
 ANNE TROUTMAN  
 ROY AND HOPE TURNEY  
 PAM VAVRA  
 KRISTIN VERITY  
 TIMOTHY WHALEN  
 MARGARET WILSON



SANTA MONICA CONSERVANCY

## PRESERVATION WEEK: MAY 3-9

In 1971, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, created Preservation Week to spotlight grassroots preservation efforts around the country. Today, it is an annual celebration observed from small towns to big cities, with events such as tours, re-enactments, rallies, black-tie balls and national competitions.

This year Preservation Week is from May 3-9. The theme is "New Frontiers in Preservation," which underscores the notion that preservation has become more than just saving individual landmark buildings, but is about revitalizing the nation's business districts and inner-city neighborhoods and protecting irreplaceable historic, natural, and scenic landscapes.

# THE GEORGIAN HOTEL

Holding the annual meeting at The Georgian Hotel is particularly appropriate as it is a designated historic landmark and a member of the Historic Hotels of America. The Historic Hotels program was established in 1989 by the National Trust for Historic Preservation in order to identify quality hotels that faithfully have maintained their historic integrity, architecture and ambience. Accepted hotels must be located in a building that is at least 50 years old and listed in or eligible for, the National Register of Historic Places, or recognized locally as having historic significance.

The Georgian Hotel opened its doors in 1933 and originally was named The Lady Windemere. It was built as an intimate hideaway nestled in the shoreline of the then little-known seaside community of Santa Monica. Rosamond Borde, a daring and progressive entrepreneur, broke through the male-dominated building industry to realize her dream of creating a lavish, ocean-side resort for members of Los Angeles' high society. She commissioned Eugene Durfee to construct the posh establishment built in the preferred Romanesque Revival and Art Deco styles of the time.

The façade follows a typical tripartite Chicago skyscraper organization. The Ocean Avenue entrance features a pair of large plate glass windows and lion ornaments. The Art Deco elements include the row of butterfly-patterned metal grills, embossed block grill dividers, and plaster scrollwork on the central bays. Art Deco ornamentation on tall buildings became popular during the 1930s, evoking the new and optimistic spirit of progress and modernism associated with Southern California. It presents arched entryways, geometric marble floors and crown-molded ceilings. The interior colors are true to the era—pink, green and black. On each side of the lobby, contemporary furnished parlors allow guests to enjoy the ocean breeze. It features 84 guestrooms, including 28 spacious suites, most of which have panoramic ocean views.



A MONTAGE OF THE GEORGIAN'S LOBBY SHOWS ABUNDANT ORIGINAL WOODWORK

The Georgian accommodated out-of-town guests, especially those coming in from the desert seeking a seaside refuge from the hot summer months. It was considered to be one of the most modern facilities of the time and featured a beauty parlor, barber shop, playground and dining room. The end of prohibition and expansion in the 1950s marked the end of a free-spirited era; Los Angeles began to develop into a major metropolitan city and people began to settle permanently. In this decade The Lady Windemere was sold, refurbished and renamed The Georgian. The familiar neon roof sign was added at this time. The hotel remained a favorite vacation residence for jet-setting Americans and Europeans.

During the '60s, the Georgian became a popular retreat for active seniors who wanted to enjoy the ocean views and Pacific sunsets while affording the opportunity to stay as long as they wished. For more than 25 years, the hotel was the envy of passers-by longing to live in the elaborate, old-fashioned building with the spectacular ocean view. In the spring of 2000, a \$2 million renovation, consistent with its Art Deco design, was completed.

It continues to live up to its reputation as the hotel of choice for a loyal following of entertainment industry executives, celebrities, and couples in search of a romantic getaway. Its oceanfront veranda has recently become an intimate retreat for prominent entertainment figures like director Oliver Stone, actor Robert DeNiro and Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger.

## TEACHING WITH HISTORIC PLACES FREE LESSON PLANS

The National Park Service, originally in collaboration with the National Trust, has created a series of more than 90 classroom-ready lesson plans using historic sites to explore American history. The program, Teaching with Historic Places, was designed for middle school students learning history, social studies, geography and other subjects, however the lessons are easily adaptable for high school and even college.

Each lesson includes maps, readings, and photographs, all of which are accompanied by questions. At the end, students are offered activities that will pull together the information they just covered and require them to initiate their own research. All lessons are based on sites listed in the National Register of Historic Places, which includes historic units of the National Park System, National Historic Landmarks, and places with state and local significance as well as UNESCO's World Heritage Sites. All of the lessons are available free of charge on the Web at [www.cr.nps.gov](http://www.cr.nps.gov).

The SMC Board of Directors sent a list of all the lesson plans available through the National Park Service to John Deasy, Superintendent of Schools for the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District. The Board urged Superintendent Deasy to make all of his teachers aware of these free lesson plans for use in middle and high school classrooms.

# NEWLY LANDMARKED OCEAN PARK AERIE

Since our last issue, the Landmarks Commission has designated one new property, a prominent Craftsman home atop a hill at 2511 Beverley Avenue in Ocean Park. This large home is set on a double lot on the east side of the street enjoying ocean views. It was built in 1911 and was the second residence built on the block which was dominated by the Ocean Park Water Company's reservoir directly to the north. It is one of the few remaining residences on the block that dates from the time of its initial development.

The house has a rectangular plan and is capped by a series of low pitched gables with deep overhanging eaves. The rafter tails have notched ends and wood shingles cover the first floor exterior while shiplap siding covers the second floor exteriors. Most of the original front porch has been enclosed but the remaining entry porch is still graced by a widely proportioned unpainted oak door with beveled glass lights. The house is set back from the street crowning a landscaped slope featuring a mature Canary Island Palm tree which was included in the designation.



# CAMERA OBSCURED

Another Santa Monica treasure is in need of attention: our Camera Obscura in Palisades Park. At 105 years old, the venerable structure is little known by the general public. There are no guided tours, no visible history on display, or curator, and it's not easy to find the way in. For those who haven't visited, the Camera Obscura is at 1450 Ocean Avenue.

The concept of camera obscura dates back more than 2300 years. It is a dark room with a tiny hole in one side that acts as a lens to project an upside-down image of what is outside onto the opposite wall of the pinhole. It works when there is sufficient light outside (easy in sunny Santa Monica) and when the person inside is not in the way of the light rays.

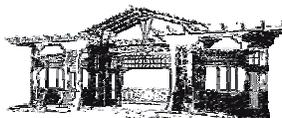
The camera obscura was a popular sideshow attraction about 100 years ago. Ours was built by the nephew of city founder, Senator John P. Jones, and was originally located on the boardwalk at the beach in 1899. For a dime, beach goers could view the crowds. In the early 1900s Robert Jones moved the camera obscura to what was then Westlake (now MacArthur) Park in Los Angeles. The building was returned to Santa Monica, near its current location, when the City of Los Angeles refused to help with expenses at the Westlake Park site.

In Santa Monica, it was housed in a new octagonal building that was raised above the ground to increase the range of the projected images. It was a popular attraction in those days, when as many as 350 people would visit daily. The City took ownership from Jones in the 1930s.

Today there are only two remaining examples of camera obscura on the West Coast open to the public, ours and one in San Francisco, built in the 1940s (and temporarily closed). Perhaps it's time to promote this special attraction and rescue it from obscurity.

Camera Obscura is open M - F from 9 - 4 and on weekends from 11 - 4.

THANKS TO ROBERT BRAND OF THE "OCEAN PARK GAZETTE" WHOSE REPORT IN THE GAZETTE BROUGHT THIS TO THE CONSERVANCY'S ATTENTION AND WAS A USEFUL RESOURCE FOR THIS ARTICLE.



## BECOME A MEMBER!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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- \$25 Individual Membership Fee enclosed.
- \$35 Family Membership Fee enclosed.
- \$15 Senior/Student Membership Fee enclosed.
- I would like to volunteer for the Conservancy.
- I am enclosing an additional \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to further support SMC.

Total enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to:  
**SANTA MONICA CONSERVANCY**  
 PO Box 653 Santa Monica, CA 90406  
 310-485-0399 info@smconservancy.org

## CALIFORNIA PRESERVATION FOUNDATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The California Preservation Foundation will host its 29th annual conference, "Building Bridges", Wednesday, April 28 to Saturday, May 1st among the breathtaking architecture, vistas and landscapes of the Presidio of San Francisco and Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

Participants may attend any or all four days of the conference which features educational sessions and mobile workshops in architecture and architectural history,



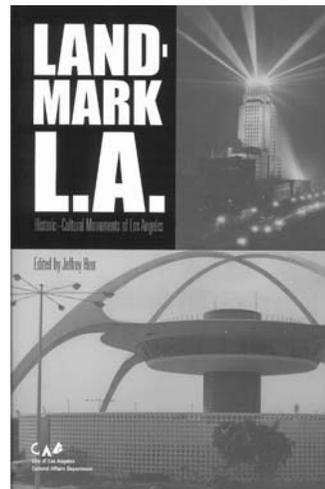
cultural landscapes, heritage tourism, and law and planning. There will be special events at historic sites and tours of the Old U.S. Mint (the new home of the San Francisco Museum and Historical Society) Alcatraz, Angel Island Immigration Station and Chinatown.

Special rates are offered for hotels and travel for conference attendees. View all the conference sessions online and make reservations by going to [www.californiapreservation.org](http://www.californiapreservation.org). Conference sessions are eligible for AIA/CES, MCLE, CLG and AICP credits. Registration received by April 19 is \$275. Reduced rates are available for attending less than the full conference.

The California Preservation Foundation is the only statewide educational, advocacy and membership non-profit organization working to ensure that California's rich and diverse historic resources are identified, protected, and celebrated for their history and their valuable role in California's economy, environment, and quality of life.

## LANDMARK L.A. HISTORIC-CULTURAL MONUMENTS OF LOS ANGELES

Edited by Jeffrey Herr



Landmark L.A., a 496-page paperback with 700 of L.A.'s finest buildings and sites is available through SMC for \$20. Full of photographs, descriptions, and addresses of historic-cultural monuments designated by LA's Cultural Heritage Commission, it is the most complete volume available.



## SANTA MONICA CONSERVANCY

### SAVE THE DATE:

SUNDAY, MAY 8, 1:30 - 4:30 PM

The Santa Monica Conservancy's

### FIRST ANNUAL MEETING

At the historic landmarked Georgian Hotel  
1415 Ocean Avenue, Santa Monica

(DETAILS PAGE 1)

P.O. Box 653 SANTA MONICA, CA 90406-0653

### BOARD MEETINGS:

- APRIL 28 SMC Board Meeting 7:00 pm  
1525 Euclid St. - Main Conference Room
- MAY 8 SMC Annual Meeting 7:00 pm  
Georgian Hotel
- JUNE 23 SMC Board Meeting 7:00 pm  
TBA
- JULY 21 SMC Board Meeting 7:00 pm  
TBA