

Golden Nuggets



MAY 2007

Join Us at the
Sacramento Archives & Museum Collection Center's
Open House & History Fair

SOUNDS OF SACRAMENTO:

Hearing Our History

Friday, May 11, 2007

5 PM to 9 PM

551 Sequoia Pacific Blvd.

Sacramento

www.sacramentoarchives.org



2003/012/0433 Joseph Benetti Collection, SAMCC

Features of the SAMCC Event, co-sponsored by SCHS

Sounds of Sacramento

- Displays on local music icons Tower Records, Bill Rase Studios, Sacramento Traditional Jazz Society, Charlie Brandt Studios, and KFBK.
- Recordings -from early wax cylinders and wire recorders to modern day audio tapes and CDs
- Early television and radio programs, oral histories and sports broadcasts.

Entertainment

- DJs Joey D, Frantic Records, and Alec Palao, Ace Records, spinning Sacramento tunes from the 1960s!
- LIVE at 8 PM: Sacramento's own The SHRUGGS, covering original tunes from Sacramento's rock-n-roll past



SHRUGGS fan button

Recent SAMCC Acquisitions

- Bion Gregory Collection - toys and games from the 1950s
- Michael Himovitz Collection - artifacts and images from a pioneering art gallery
- Joey D Collection - music, ephemera, and photographs of 1960s local rock bands
- Joe Sun Collection - artifacts from the K Street clothier
- George G. Gudie Collection - early twentieth century photography

History Fair

- Area historical societies and history-related associations, exhibits, publications, and more!

Silent Auction Treasures - Bid to Win!

Special Gift!

Redeem your event invitation for a *free* exclusive, four-song, 45rpm vinyl "Sound of Young Sacramento," including the first rock-n-roll song recorded in the River City! Additional EPs, \$5.

Food vendors available Food vendors & refreshments



The SHRUGGS are LIVE at 8 PM!

Historic Preservation Month A Sacramento Perspective

By Rick Bettis, Mary Helmich, and Pat Turse



Postcard, Sutter's Fort before restoration

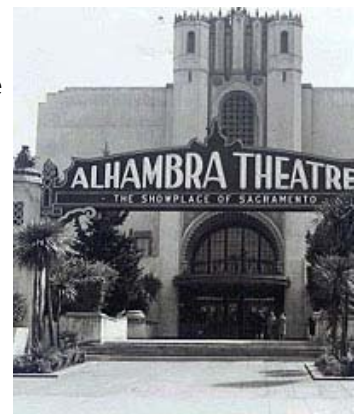
A number of local and statewide events are planned to recognize May as National Historic Preservation Month. Sacramento has had a rich, but somewhat mixed history of preserving its heritage. Historic preservation was not always a significant part of Sacramento's culture. Numerous historic buildings and homes have been demolished or completely altered in appearance over the years, but the climate for preservation has changed. The first restoration and reconstruction of a historic structure began in 1893 at Sutter's Fort, led by the Native Sons of the Golden West. Now a state historic park, it remains one of the city's most prized educational and cultural sites.

In the early 1960s, controversy erupted over the route of the proposed Interstate 5. Historian V. Aubrey Neasham and SCHS founders, Dr. Joseph McGowan and Eleanor McClatchy, *Sacramento Bee* publisher, were among many who vigorously opposed the project, but the lure of easy freeway access and the prospect of a new Macy's store proved irresistible to politicians and downtown commerce. The chosen location demolished half of Sacramento's "West End" heritage and separated much of the city from the banks of the Sacramento River. "Old Sacramento," a small section of the original commercial core, was preserved as a historic district. The West End's depression-era skid row environment may have swayed the public to allow the freeway's construction as a sort of buffer. The 1960s was also the era of large-scale, federally funded Redevelopment Agency projects that resulted in the demolition of the mostly Asian communities along parts of Capitol Avenue and the development of Capitol Mall.

Former SCHS president Mary Helmich, who worked on the first survey of 19th century homes in Sacramento's central city for James Henley and the then Sacramento City and County Museum from 1969 to 1971, estimates that one Victorian building was being torn down every two weeks. There were no safeguards in place to protect the city's heritage.

Public awareness about the problem grew in 1973, when the Sacramento Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW), under the direction of Paula Boghossian, Carolyn Martin, Jane Hagedorn, and Mary Helmich, published the landmark book, *Vanishing Victorians: A Guide to the Historic Homes of Sacramento*. Teams of volunteers compiled historical research, wrote text, and donated sketches and photographs to draw attention to the city's disappearing historic homes. Another catalyst for change was the Sacramento Old City Association (SOCA), formed in 1972 to promote preservation concerns. Founders were Steve and Susan Larsen, Jim and DeeDee Cathcart, Dick and Marjorie Mundan, and Jere Owen. SOCA continues as an active grass roots group highlighting the central city's historic homes and neighborhoods through its newsletters, home tours, and www.sacoldcity.org website.

The 1973 demolition of the exotic, Moorish style Alhambra Theater, beloved by generations of moviegoers, helped to further galvanize Sacramento's preservation movement. During this same period, the classic Senator Theater on K Street was also lost.



Through the efforts of individuals and organizations, like SOCA, gains were made to help preserve the city's disappearing architectural resources. The city passed a Preservation Ordinance in 1976 requiring buildings more than 50 years of age or with design or historical significance to be evaluated before they could be modified or demolished. The Preservation Commission and Design Commission were appointed to implement the ordinance. There were new, more complete surveys of the central city's

buildings, too. In many cases vintage homes were prevented from being demolished. Some were relocated within the central city. The city also required new construction to be designed more compatibly within its neighborhood.

Other organizations formed to advocate for preservation include the Sacramento Bungalow Heritage Association, whose founders included SCHS President Susan Ballew and her late husband Steven, along with Kerry Phillips and Charles Moore. The Preservation Round Table, was co-founded by Steven Ballew and Linda Whitney. Other still active preservation organizations include Sacramento Heritage Inc., a non-profit arm of the Sacramento Housing and Development Agency, the Sacramento Trust for Historic Preservation, and the Historic Old Sacramento Foundation. These organizations have sponsored educational tours, forums, architectural awards, historic building surveys, and supported building restorations. They have been resolute advocates for preservation.

Sacramento's preservation victories have ranged from major projects such as the restoration of the State Capitol, Memorial Auditorium, and the Stanford Mansion, to many modest

homes, as well as small treasures like the tiled patio wall of the California Fruit Exchange (or "Blue Anchor") Building on N St. Other successes include the adaptation of the Llewellen Williams home, moved three times, to serve as a mortuary, a restaurant and reception venue (owned by SCHS Board Member Mory Holmes), and finally an international hostel.

Last year the 30th anniversary of the passage of Sacramento's historic preservation ordinance was celebrated at the Memorial Auditorium. This May, the Sacramento City Council presented awards to preservation projects and reviewed proposed guidelines for a new grant program designed to assist owners repairing historic properties. Sacramento's preservation movement continues with efforts to preserve the former Southern Pacific's Depot and the shops buildings punctuated by occasional losses such as the Ebner's Hotel in Old Sacramento. Neighborhood associations have become active watchdogs for quality of life issues that clearly include retention of the city's architectural character. The preservation climate has improved through the efforts of many concerned with Sacramento's historic heritage and community vitality.



SCHS Awards of Excellence Provide Memorable Evening. Henrik Jul Hansen (left) spoke on European music popular in the 19th century. Award recipients included, from left: Ann McHatton and Jan Haag, Publications; Bob Ress, Sacramento Southern Railroad program at the California State Railroad Museum (CSRM), Preservation; Illa Collin, Special Achievement Award; Anne Ofsink, Education; other Preservation Award Recipients from Sacramento Southern Railroad program include Pam Horan, CSRM foundation director; Cathy Taylor, State Parks Capitol District superintendent; Dick Noonan, Sacramento Southern Railroad GM Operations; Joann Cole (in front), Jim Fryer, Melba Fryer (middle), Joe Mikula (striped tie); Becky Carruthers, President's Award; Jim Pynchon, Sacramento Southern Railroad. Not pictured: Kelly Timpson, Mission Avenue Open School, Carmichael, Education Award. Photos: R. LaPerrière

Coming Soon to Your Mailbox: Sacramento County Historical Society Journal on water, 4 issues in 1 !

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GOLDEN NUGGETS

Pat Turse, Editorial & Layout
Email newsletter@sachistoricalociety.org
Contributions Deadline: 15th of month

Please deliver by May 4, 2007!

Out & About

Date	Time	Event	Place & Contact
May	5PM-9PM	Sounds of Sacramento SAMCC/SCHS History Fair - see page 1	SAMCC 916-264-7072
12 Saturday	1:30-4 PM	Indigenous Cultures Day Family Festival Fun, music and activities that explore the native cultures of Mexico and South America. Go in the morning and catch the next-to-last day of the pre-Columbian art exhibit too.	The Haggin Museum 1201 N. Pershing Avenue Stockton, CA 209-940-6300 www.hagginmuseum.com
21 Monday through March 2008	9 AM-5 PM	Bird's-Eye Views of California A major new exhibit of rarely seen materials from the California State Library. See early California Indian villages, Spanish pastoral lands, and Gold Rush instant cities. Free	State Capitol Museum Entries at 11th & N or 11th & L St. Sacramento, CA 916-324-2033
28 Monday Memorial Day	10 AM-12 noon Gates open at 9:30	Children & the Civil War , Tours & Events Kids mini-tour & scavenger hunt, displays, cemetery tour, speakers, and Memorial Day service. Sponsored by Elk Grove Civil War Round Table, and Union Veterans Union.	Old City Cemetery 10th & Broadway, Sacramento 916-682-8503
June 26 Tuesday	TBA Evening	Old Sacramento Underground Program	More details to follow