

West Adams Matters

WAHA Annual Meeting, Elections and So Much More!

Saturday, April 20, Noon to 3 p.m., 4311 Victoria Park Circle

We hope to see a great turnout for our Annual Membership/Board Elections meeting at the Michael Shannon Residence, a beautiful Arts & Crafts home that is a designated local and federal historic landmark. We have a couple of special elements planned for the day, so be sure to mark your calendar and plan to attend. Most importantly, we will be celebrating WAHA's most recent historic preservation success – achieving Landmark status for the West Boulevard Bridge – Los Angeles's newest Historic Cultural Monument – HCM No. 1023!



Shannon Residence owners Jeff Theer and Lisa Ellzey have graciously agreed to open their spectacular home in Victoria Circle, so we will be just a short walk away from the bridge that we will be celebrating. Two banners, one hung on either side over Venice Boulevard for east- and westbound travelers to see, announce our success. This is especially important for the following day (Sunday, April 21st see story on page 6), when the westbound side of Venice Boulevard will be closed for CycLAVia, and hundreds and hundreds of families will be cycling, and rollerblading, and walking beneath the bridge as they make their way from downtown to the beach.

(continued on page 2)

WAHA Celebrates Preservation Month, Presents 2013 Martin Eli Weil Award by Jean Frost

The Annual Preservation Brunch, sponsored by WAHA's preservation committee, will be held **Sunday, May 5** at the Brown-Gorsline House, 2626 Portland Street, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. It is the one event each year where the WAHA celebrates the history and dedication of the late great preservation architect and WAHA member, Martin Weil, by giving an award to an outstanding contributor to the cause of preservation in the West Adams area. By this action, we honor Martin and recognize a person who follows in his tradition. It may or may not be a WAHA member and the winner is not announced in advance of the brunch. WAHA holds this event proximate to the month of May to celebrate National Preservation month. This year, May 5, we also celebrate *Cinco de Mayo* which celebrates the Mexican army's victory over French forces at the Battle of Puebla in 1862.

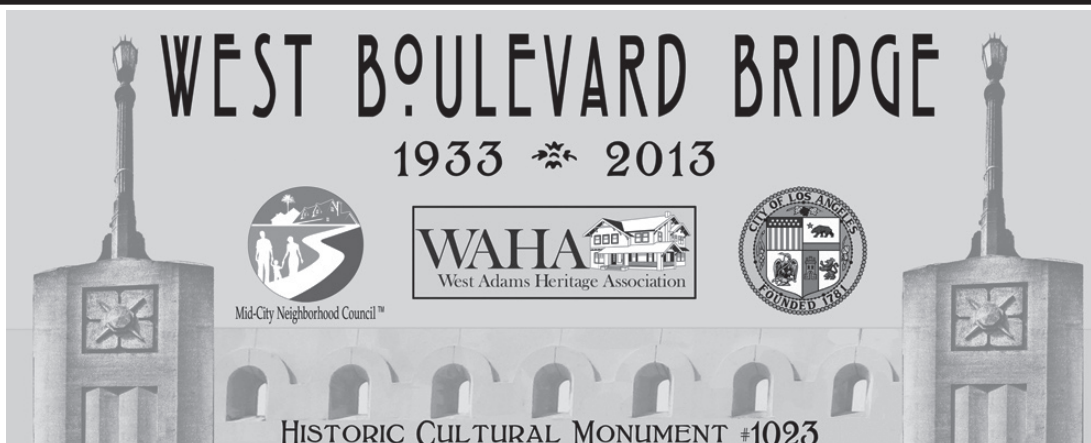
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Preservation Updates by Laura Meyers and Jean Frost

The Preservation Committee has been busy. We have been tracking numerous issues in the West Adams area.

1324 West Adams Boulevard, the William T. Bishop Residence and Roger Williams Baptist Church. As previously reported, WAHA has appealed a Certificate of Appropriateness issued for the William T. Bishop residence adaptive reuse for student housing at 1342 West Adams Boulevard. There is an appeal hearing scheduled for the South Los Angeles Area Planning Commission (APC) on Tuesday, April 16, although it is likely to be continued to a May date. The appeal in full was published in the last newsletter. A staff report was issued on April 5, which agreed to some parts of the appeal (CEQA clearance is required beyond a categorical exemption, retention of the cloister) but not agreeing to other significant issues such as whether the proposed project complied with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for

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The West Boulevard Bridge is now an official Los Angeles Historic Cultural Monument. See story, page 3

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Annual Meeting

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We will start out with a pot-luck brunch/lunch beginning at 12:00 noon – please be sure to bring something yummy to share. Tour the house (you will be enthralled by this National Register landmark), greet old friends and new, stop by the bridge – and please plan to be at our General Meeting, which will begin at 2:00. Mitzi Mogul will share a brief history of the West Bridge, followed by a presentation from the regional representative of Valspar Paint, who will discuss his company’s work with the National Trust for Historic Preservation in developing their line of historic paint colors available at LOWES. We will conclude the afternoon with the election of WAHA Board members, and an open discussion of topics of interest to the WAHA membership, most especially our organization’s plans for the coming fiscal year. ●

WAHA Spring Historic Homes & Architecture Tour: Sat, June 1

WAHA will be celebrating its 30th Anniversary Year beginning later this Spring. You’ll hear more about our plans for commemorating this milestone event as WAHA plans a number of celebratory events. But please do mark your calendar now for WAHA’s annual Spring Homes & Architecture Tour on Saturday, June 1, when we will showcase landmark properties that represent 120 years of West Adams and its environs’ cultural heritage and diversity.

In WAHA’s first two decades, the organization focused primarily on the architecture of the Victorian and Craftsman eras, and on homes built by the civic leaders of those eras. But for the past decade WAHA has turned its attention increasingly to honoring more than a century of citizens, including the waves of immigrant populations and diverse racial heritage who moved into (and, in many case, then from) the West Adams District.

Throughout the 20th century, West Adams became home to groups of immigrants from Greece, Poland, Armenia, Hungary, Estonia, Wales, Korea (the first wave of Korean immigrants arrived here more than 100 years ago), and Japan, among the distinctive national groups who settled in this community, erected buildings, and helped transform West Adams’ cultural landscape. West Adams was also home to a sizeable Jewish population for many years, including an enclave of Sephardic Jews. And, of course, the Historic West Adams District became known as “The Westside” to generations of African Americans who also look to Central Avenue as “The Eastside.”

WAHA won a Governor’s Preservation Award for our Evening Strolls programs, which built on the idea that we should acknowledge and honor the many, many people whose combined stories create the wonderful quilt that is the history of our community.

We are still in the initial stages of planning the tour ([do you want to help?](#)), but we will specifically focus on individual historic properties – many of them designated landmarks – that each reflect one or more diverse cultures as part of the buildings’ respective histories. It will, of course, be a self-guided driving (and biking) tour.

A tour as complex as this will need a dedicated core organizing committee to plan all of the logistics, and many volunteers on the day of the tour. If you would like to help organize this important event, please contact tours@westadams-heritage.org. It will be very important to have new ideas and new helping hands for this event; please consider adding yourself to that roster! ●

WAHA thanks its new Sponsor:



President's Message by John Patterson

April has arrived and the WAHA "to do list" just keeps getting longer and longer. Our preservation committee is very hard at work pursuing a long list of advocacy issues, and we're busy getting ready for our Annual General Membership meeting on April 20th. This event is your best opportunity to meet face to face with your Board of Directors, and make sure that any questions you may have are answered. We are also hoping that you will bring your suggestions to us at that time.

I am very pleased to share with you a recent inquiry I received from the management of our new local LOWES Home Improvement Store. LOWES has requested our assistance in helping them make sure they have the correct information about the neighborhood's numerous HPOZ's. They want to be sure that they are fully informed, so that they are in a position to properly pass on information to their customers.

To facilitate all of this, I received permission from Ken Bernstein, Manager of the Office of Historic Preservation, to not only share copies of their publication "Caring for your Historic Home" (printed in English, Spanish, and Korean) but also to make use of the HPOZ maps from their website. John Arnold was also most helpful in assisting and providing access to the Jefferson Park HPOZ guidelines, which we will be incorporating into what we hope will be an online comprehensive guide for both WAHA members as well as LOWE'S customers.

LOWES has also expressed a desire to support our organization, so I will be working over the coming weeks with their management team to find the best way for this to happen. The store's Manager, Gus Wahab, Assistant Manager Edwin Dematta, and Project Specialist Thomas Woods will all be joining us on the 20th as an expression of their interest in becoming an integral partner in our community.

I hope to see a huge turnout for our Annual Membership Meeting. After all, this is your organization, and your participation is both vital and necessary to keep WAHA moving forward.

John Patterson may be reached by e-mail at President@WestAdamsHeritage.org

West Boulevard Bridge Becomes A Landmark!

The West Adams District is now home to one more designated historic landmarks. The West Boulevard Bridge, erected in 1933 over Venice Boulevard, is now officially Los Angeles Historic Cultural Monument No. 1023.

West Adams Heritage Association along with neighbors, adjacent neighborhood organizations, the Mid City Neighborhood Council, and Council District 10, worked together to recognize, and designate, this City-owned structure, in the hopes that this honor will help spur the rehabilitation of this historic bridge.

The design of the West Boulevard Bridge is a very pleasing combination of classical elements integrated with the Art Deco style. But it is also an important reminder of the many incidents and circumstances which contributed to the development of the city of Los Angeles and in particular the transportation patterns which in turn also contributed to urban development.

The bridge has acquired an iconic status, as it marks the western entry to the West Adams district. The bridge is not only a connection between communities but it is also a tangible connection between past and present and represents a turning point in the growth and development of the city.

Background

A century ago, the Venice Short Line (VSL) was one of the primary means of transporting crowds to the shore. VSL's progenitor started in 1897 with a terminus at Hill and 4th Street in Downtown and extended along 16th Street (now Venice Boulevard) to the Vineyard Junction (where today Venice and San Vicente meet), from there traveling up to the Beverly Hills area. A few years later the line was extended, first to Ocean Park (Abbot Kinney's first resort), and then, in 1903, directly to Venice City Hall and the Lagoon Line, just in time for the opening of the new resort.

The VSL was the "big" line of the Western District. It was the shortest, most direct rail route to the western beaches and passenger traffic on good beach days reached the highest points recorded on the entire PE system. In 1913 the VSL served 4,777,000 riders.

When Lafayette Square and Victoria Park opened to some success, the Venice Short Line was more than justified—it was both necessary and successful. However, larger populations also caused increased problems, and thus the stage was set and events set in motion for what

would eventually lead to the construction of the present day West Boulevard Bridge.

By 1913, VSL's stop at Vineyard Junction, located approximately on the rear portion of the site of the current Lowe's Home Improvement Center, was already the subject of neighbors' complaints about the dangerous "death-trap" grade crossing. But the complaints had fallen on deaf ears.

On the evening of Sunday, July 13, 1913, a train was stopped at Vineyard Junction.

(continued on page 4)



Updating West Adams' Landmarks of African American History

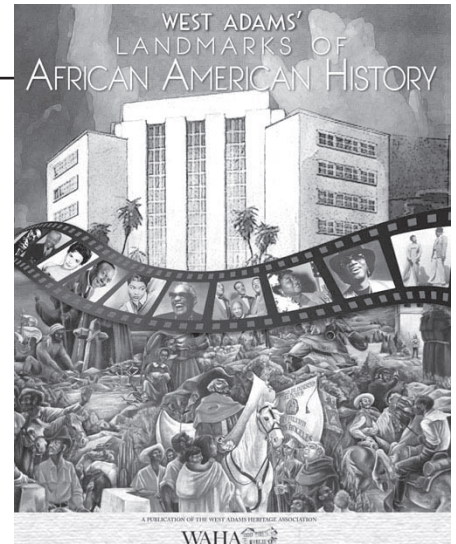
In 2011, WAHA undertook a project to research and publish a "brochure" honoring the achievements of African Americans who had called West Adams home. The resulting 44-page publication, *West Adams' Landmarks of African American History*, contains photos and brief biographies of more than 70 prominent individuals who lived and worked in the West Adams District, along with descriptions of many buildings of historical importance to the African American community.

Inside its pages are stories of the religious and civic institutions that play significant roles in West Adams' (and Los Angeles') black heritage, and profiles of civil rights leaders, entertainers, sports figures, wartime heroes, and trailblazers in their fields, including Los Angeles' first African American school principal, the first black graduate of Caltech, the first African American to lead a major U.S. symphony, and the first African American composer in the United States to have a symphony performed by a major symphony orchestra, the first black judge west of the Mississippi, trailblazing black journalists, jazz virtuosos, rhythm & blues legends, and many other black songwriters, composers, arrangers, and musicians, an innovative black businesswoman who established a national fast-food chain, California's first black librarian, and the black property owners who successfully challenged racial covenants, taking their cases to the Supreme Court, among many others.

West Adams' Landmarks of African American History has proven to be an important, and popular, publication. Indeed, we are nearly sold out, and as a result we are beginning to plan a second edition. Along with a few needed corrections, we would love to add stories we missed.

And, we'd like **your** help. The first edition had contributions from two dozen West Adams neighbors and friends, who culled through their personal records and memory banks to suggest historic personages to include in the publication. This time, we want to add anyone and/or any place that was overlooked. We are looking for people who were first in their field, pioneers in an industry, inspirations to children (or adults), fighters for civil rights and social justice, and anyone who played a role in local, state or federal African American history AND who have a home, building or site in the greater West Adams District associated with them. (The general boundaries are the 110 Freeway on the east, Exposition on the south, Olympic on the north and West Boulevard to the west.)

If you know of any trailblazing African American personages meeting the above description who lived in West Adams (and who are not included in the current edition), please contact Laura Meyers, editor, at news@westadamsheritage.com. ●



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WAHA Relaunches Facebook Page

by Lisa Schoening

The newly-relaunched WAHA Facebook page is up and open for business at www.facebook.com/WestAdamsHeritageAssociation. We're encouraging everyone - WAHA members and friends - to come "Like" us there and share our posts! And you don't need to be part of Facebook to see the page: just click on the link and you'll be able to see the pictures and read the posts.

The new page will be a place to see what WAHA is up to, read about what's going on in the neighborhood and even find recommendations for local restaurants and other businesses. But to make all this happen we need your help: if you've taken pictures at a WAHA event, documented your own efforts to renovate your house or replant your garden, if you've got a local business whose work you'd like to share or a community event you'd like to promote, send it to us! We're particularly interested in sharing historic photos, especially if

you have "now and then" views of your house or your block.

We'd also like to hear from the block clubs and preservation groups:

if there's a meeting you'd like to publicize or a preservation alert you need to share, send us a brief message with the key details and we'll help get the word out. And if your group or business has its own Facebook page, please send us the link so we can like you back.

To send us material for posting, you can contact the page administrators directly via Facebook message or e-mail us with photos/links/event details at facebook@westadamsheritage.org. With photos, please include any relevant details (including the name of the photographer) and whether or not you'd like to be tagged in the picture when it's posted.

We hope to see you all there! ●



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Wellington Square Masterpiece — Unique Original 1909 Arts & Crafts home — *David Raposa, sellers' agent*

Mid-City Spanish — 4921 West 21st St. *Adam Janeiro, buyer's agent*

Unique Adams-Normandie 3-Story Colonial Revival — *David Raposa, seller's agent*

Jefferson Park -- near Expo line! — *Suzanne Henderson, buyer's agent*

Leimert Park 1930s Spanish — Rare huge lot on sought-after tree-lined block of 2-story homes — *David Raposa, seller's agent*

SOLD

South L.A. Probate — *Carlton Joseph, buyer's agent*

Our agents live and work in Historic West Adams

David Raposa

Suzanne Henderson, Adam Janeiro,

Darby Bayliss, Carlton Joseph, Jane Harrington

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Stepping Out

CicLAVia

Sunday, April 21 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Venice Boulevard, throughout West Adams, all the Way to the Sea

Sun, surf, and 15 miles of open road will mark the first CicLAVia of 2013, transforming Venice Boulevard and downtown Los Angeles streets into a car-free, linear park for strolling, biking, playing, and exploring the city from a new perspective.

Ciclovías started in Bogotá, Colombia, over thirty years ago as a response to the congestion and pollution of city streets. Now they happen throughout Latin America and the United States.

Since it began in 2010, Los Angeles's own Ciclovía, CicLAVia, has quickly become Los Angeles County's most popular public event, consistently attracting more than 100,000 participants. CicLAVia is free of charge and open to everyone, from lifelong Angelenos to first-time visitors from around the globe. Leave the motorized transportation methods behind and claim the streets as your own.

CicLAVia – To the Sea will be CicLAVia's longest route to date, spanning more than 15 miles and connecting the city's historic center at El Pueblo de Los Angeles and the bustling boardwalk of Venice Beach. Several hubs along this expansive route will offer information and services for participants. CicLAVia – To the Sea offers a rich tour of the city's history, vibrant neighborhoods, and runs through/adjacent to many of West Adams' own pockets, including Harvard Heights, Pico Union, Angelus Vista, Arlington Heights, Victoria Park and Lafayette Square.

There are two "hubs" in Historic West Adams:

- The Normandie Hub will feature Bike Repair sponsored by Pitzer College Green Bike Program
- The Mid-City Hub will feature a DJ provided by the Olympic Park Neighborhood Council. Food trucks and seating area. Bike Repair sponsored by Orange 20 Bikes, along with booths sponsored by the Mid-City Neighborhood Council

CicLAVia creates a temporary park for free, simply by removing cars from city streets. It creates a network of connections between our neighborhoods and businesses and parks with corridors filled with fun. ●

Mid-City Neighborhood Council™



SUPPORTS

CICLAVIA – TO THE SEA

4/21/13

DOWNTOWN ↔ VENICE

CicLAVia temporarily opens our streets for walking and bicycling.

Everyone's welcome: families, kids, young and old. It's free and fun! No cars for 5 hours!



Visit MINC at the Mid City Hub at San Vicente and Venice

Sunday, April 21st 2013
10am-3pm

CicLAVia Route
Ruta de la CicLAVia

Crossing points for cars
Puntos de cruzar para carros

Eastbound Venice open to cars
Venice estará abierta a los carros en dirección este

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Want updates? Sign up for our mailing list at mincla.org | more information at ciclavia.org

Steppin' Out with WAHA: Shopping Jefferson Boulevard Saturday evening, April 27

We've been excited to take note of a series of shops beginning to populate our neighborhood. Many have been there for some time, but many WAHA folks may not be aware of their presence. As a means of introducing themselves to the neighborhood, which is rapidly acquiring a reputation as the Artist District of Los Angeles, the folks at "4319 Jefferson Group" will be hosting an evening Open House, and WAHA is invited.


As the name implies, 4319 Jefferson Group is an eclectic collection of several vendors all in one large 6000 square foot red-brick façade warehouse, located 3 blocks west of Buckingham, at the corner of Potomac. They describe their collaboration as Items of Interest Art, Antiques, Design. Veronique Lievre, owner of TRANSIT-SPACE, is organizing the evening to introduce her selections of Furniture, Art & Objects of Curiosity. Other vendors include the Pierre Chareau Lighting Collection at Edition Modern, Galerie Curial Fine Art, Style French Antiques, Studio 101, International Look, and Dirty Hickory.

Right next door, is the "secret" warehouse for Michelle Sommerlath's French '50s '60s in Culver City. There is no signage on the street to let us have a clue to the treasures housed inside. Michelle will also have her space open that evening, so there's a great opportunity for us to acquaint ourselves with two local sources for furniture and accessories. Visit: www.french50s60s.com

Another shop well worth a visit is located a few blocks further west. Katherine Lurie's LA Vintage Furnishings is located at 4835 West Jefferson, and is tucked behind a gated garden. Brian Noveck and Shepard Vineburg, ASID will share a lovely collection of spectacular pieces of, including a significant selection of Art Deco furniture, lighting and accessories. They are open Monday thru Friday, 10:00-5:00 Visit: www.lavintagefurnishings.com.

At press time, Open House details were still being finalized. Learn more about this WAHA Steps Out event at the upcoming WAHA Annual Meeting on April 20th.●

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Preservation Matters

Preservation Brunch

continued from page 1

Martin Eli Weil was the first recipient of the award in 2006 and we continue to honor him each year as a worthy recipient is selected. Martin was a leading preservation architect and a founding member and a former president of the Los Angeles Conservancy. He was one of the leaders in the effort to preserve the Los Angeles Central Library downtown. Since 1985 and until his death, he lived in one of the only Green & Greene designed craftsman homes in South Los Angeles, and the only one still standing in the City of L.A. Over the years he was never too busy



The Brown-Gorsline Residence

to help with some preservation issue in West Adams and gave generously of his time.

Last year the honoree was longtime WAHA member Alma Carlisle, who through her work as an architectural historian with the Bureau of Engineering, and as a member of the Cultural Heritage Commission, contributed significantly to the recognition of historic properties throughout Los Angeles. Alma worked steadily within the City of Los Angeles, first with the Department of Public Works and then with the Environmental Management Division. She surveyed, as part of a team, twenty seven neighborhoods, which resulted in four Historic Preservation Overlay Zones. She surveyed over fifty Historic Cultural Monuments (HCMs). The 2012 event was held at the newly restored Lukens-Soriano house and Barry Milofsky, architect for the restoration, and was the guest speaker.

The 2011 honoree was WAHA Vice President Eric Bronson. Eric's continuing commitment to, and defense of, historic preservation goals has served as a benchmark. Although known to many Wahonians as "Chef Eric," his legal expertise and low key calm has provided the Committee with the guidance and insight necessary when emergency land-use and preservation issues become critical. The meeting was held on the gracious south lawns of 17 Chester Place of the Mount St. Mary's College Doheny Campus. The speaker was architect



Tom Michali who discussed the challenges of designing an adaptive reuse of a historic residential house (John L. Garner Residence, 785 West Adams) for an institutional office, while keeping within the required guidelines, the Secretary of the Interior Standards.

On May 5, a Continental breakfast will be served along with champagne and mimosas. As a special guest, Helen Madrid Worthen, former Cultural Heritage Commissioner, will discuss the importance of Cultural Historic Monument status and share her own memories of growing up in West Adams. Donn S. Gorsline will welcome you to his longtime family residence. He prepared the HCM nomination for the Brown-Gorsline House with assistance from WAHA member Laura Meyers. Mitzi Mogul and Jim Childs joined in with further research to confirm the architect's identity.

The Brown-Gorsline House is a rare still standing example of Victorian Italianate architecture from the 1870s. The house originally was a solitary structure in an 11.7 acre orange grove. Thomas Bruen Brown moved the house from its original position in the center of the grove in 1890 when it was rotated to its current location. Portland Street was extended as a north-south access road which followed the pattern of the original driveway to the house in its original setting. The Brown family owned the house for 36 years, until 1914. Two decades later, in 1934, the Gorsline family purchased the property. It has remained in the Gorsline family for nearly 80 years. Donn proposed the nomination of the Brown-Gorsline House to honor the two families that preserved the house for decades and, because, as an owner, he is a steward of the home for future generations to appreciate. Designation is a recognition of the significance of the House.

The sophistication of execution of the Italianate Style design elements and the deft handling of the materials in the Brown-Gorsline House convince the viewer that this historic house must be the work of a Master architect. It is attributed to a legendary architect, Ezra F. Kysor, whose other extant residence, the William H. Perry House, is preserved at Heritage Square. Given the striking similarities between the Brown-Gorsline House with the Perry House, as well as the Kysor's design for the Joseph Mullally residence, as well as the firm's prolific productivity and known window of development, it is logical to find that the firm of Kysor and Mathews were the architects for the Brown-Gorsline House.

Come join the fun, and share good cheer and wonderful company. Schedule is as follows: 11 a.m. start, 12 p.m. program, 2 p.m. finale. ●



Top: 2012 Martin Weil Award winner Alma Carlisle, flanked by WAHA Preservation Chair Jean Frost and WAHA President John Patterson. Bottom: 2011 Martin Weil Award winner Eric Bronson, with Frost and Patterson. Far left: Martin Eli Weil.

Preservation Issues Update

continued from page 1



Rehabilitation of Historic Properties. WAHA strongly believes that the current proposed project does not meet the Standards and will make a fact based argument to that effect.

2317 Scarff Street, site of the Welles House (demolished), located in the St. James Park Historic District and the University Park Historic Preservation Overlay Zone. All permit applications and approvals expired for this infill project in 2010. In 2012, the City adopted Ordinance 182106. Sec.12.25 Time Limitations states:

Utilization of Approvals

Expiration. Any approval by the Zoning Administrator, Director of Planning, an Area Planning Commission, or the City Planning Commission as initial decision makers, pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 1 of this Code, that has not been utilized within here??? years of its effective date shall become null and void. When approvals are granted as part of a project requiring multiple approvals, however, the expirations periods set forth in Section 12.36 of this Code shall govern.

This project approval involves the single approval a COA by the Director of Planning.

Utilization. An approval shall be considered utilized when valid permit from the Department of Building and Safety has been issued and construction work has begun and been carried out diligently without substantial suspension or abandonment of work.

The Ordinance allows time extensions for discretionary approvals by the ZA or the Director of Planning. This infill project was given new life, we believe in violation of the time limitations contained in Ordinance 182106. Importantly, the original owner/applicant submitted a building permit application and paid fees in 2008 but did nothing further, and the permit did not "vest." Further, WAHA questions the validity of a 2008 environmental document, an MND, due to changed circumstances and also due to design changes made in 2013 to the front facade without HPOZ Board review.

2218 Harvard Boulevard (HCM No. 117) and 2200 Harvard Boulevard. Both of these properties are in the surveyed West Adams Heights historic district and sit across the street from the Hattie McDaniel mansion. The District was both architecturally significant and important for its association with African American personages and the overturning by the Supreme Court of racial covenants in 1947-1948. Since these properties were currently being marketed as potential tear-downs for new multi-family uses, and WAHA recalled the zoning in the area being somewhat complicated, due to underlying Q conditions of the Q-RD2 Zoning, we asked for clarification from the City Planning Department. Clarification was received and the information forwarded to realtors active in this area. Essentially, the "Q" or Qualified Condition encourages preservation of existing structures by allowing units within their walls but not permitting by right any new construction. Thank you to the many WAHA members who drew this issue to our attention: Our members are WAHA's eyes and ears in each block and neighborhood and we rely on you to alert the Preservation Committee when issues arise.

3014-3018 Royal Street. Despite the recent approval of the USC Specific Plan, which includes a strong historic preservation component, the University has just filed for approvals to demolish the historically designated properties at 3014-3018 Royal Street. According to the filing, there will be an Environmental Impact Report, and WAHA will be pursuing alternatives to demolition.

New West Adams-Baldwin Hills-Leimert Community Plan. In a nutshell, neither WAHA nor the local neighborhood council, United Neighborhoods of the Historic Arlington Heights, West Adams and Jefferson Park Communities Neighborhood Council (UNNC), were granted any of our requests for protecting historic/character neighborhoods, nor for adopting criteria for Washington Boulevard that would allow it to become a revitalized corridor that provides housing and neighborhood-serving retail while respecting the historic neighborhoods it travels through. The Planning Commission hearing was slated for April 11, and the current schedule sends the Plan (without adjustments) to City Council in June. WAHA and UNNC are considering their options. ●

Top left: Roger Williams Baptist Church, its Gothic-inspired Cloister, and the William T. Bishop Residence; the Bishop Residence interior, gutted. Right: 3014 Royal Street, a historic residence just north of USC.



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WAHA Matters

WAHA Board Elections April 20: Candidates' Statements

Suzanne Henderson

I wish to run for the WAHA Board for a second term. I currently serve as the Vice President of Events.

I originally ran for the board to bring back some of the spirit of fun to the organization. During the last three years, I have worked to greatly increase the number and variety of events. I am pleased to have brought back the popular ice cream social. It is gratifying to receive so many positive comments about our activities.

I have lived in West Adams for nearly 30 years and I am a founding member of WAHA. It would be an honor to serve on your board for another 3 years.

Candy Wynne

I have been a legal professional since 1982, working in several firms in the downtown Los Angeles area. I have lived in West Adams since 1985, when my late husband and I were searching for a friendly neighborhood where we could raise our three children. We were fortunate enough to find a beautiful 1908 Craftsman on 23rd Street in the heart of West Adams. The neighborhood offered me the opportunity to live in a vibrant community within the city I love and I found that my neighbors became some of my dearest friends. Nine years ago, when I was searching for a way to give back to the community that had given so much to me, I was approached to join the Board and fill a vacancy. That appointment has allowed me to work with dedicated community members to expand WAHA's borders, protect endangered homes and areas, and assist in helping our community grow stronger. ●

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West Boulevard Bridge

continued from page 3

Another train was on approach. Both were eastbound, headed home to the city. It had been a warm weekend afternoon and the throngs of people had gone to Venice to enjoy the beaches, restaurants, and other local entertainments were now returning east.

When the first train bound for the city reached Vineyard Junction it was forced to stop for an unusual length of time, due to an electrical wire that had fallen across the track. While that wire was deactivated and removed, some people disembarked and milled about on the platform while waiting for the train to continue. The second train, also inward bound from Venice, was on approach filled beyond capacity.

The flagman of train number one, knowing that the "Special" was coming behind them, walked back down the track to the west to alert the oncoming train. He claimed that he walked 900 feet west down the track, waving his lantern as a warning signal. It was after nine o'clock at night, dark, and he swung his lantern as a signal. The oncoming train conductor failed to notice either the flagman or the "slow board," and because the approach to the station rounded a curve, didn't see the first train still standing in the station. In addition, it was reported that some pranksters on train number one took advantage of the flagman's absence to blow the train's whistle a few times causing further confusion. The motorman of the special did hear the whistle and assumed that the train which preceded his was pulling out of the station and all was clear for him to enter. Train number two was estimated to be traveling at approximately 50 mph and did not slow down on approach to the station. At 9:40 p.m. it slammed into the rear of train number one, telescoping the three cars.

This confluence of events caused an unheralded disaster: a spectacular and deadly crash in 1913 in which fifteen people were killed and at least 125 injured. Over 1,000 people were involved.

The Public Utilities Commission met on July 15, 1913 and called for a conference of the Mayor, Board of Public Utilities, representatives of the City Council and Board of County Supervisors, and the management of the Pacific Electric Railway, in order to create a definite plan for immediate safeguards to the public. Lafayette Square residents officially petitioned the city and the railroad for a viaduct crossing at West Boulevard. The city agreed to study the matter.

It was not until two decades later that a permanent concrete viaduct was finally in place.

Finally, in 1932, the Board of Public Works finally awarded a construction of a new bridge—something both efficient and modern in both technology and design. The plans called for a reinforced concrete structure with a 50-foot roadway at a cost of \$59,986.72. The West Boulevard Bridge opened to traffic in April, 1933.

Eventually the rail line ceased, and the tracks were dismantled. But the West Boulevard Bridge's distinctive style and prominent location, as well as its dramatic story, mark a transformative moment in L.A.'s history, and more than justify its new recognition as a Historic Cultural Monument.

One might even take the view that it is that most important of monuments: a headstone of sorts, in recognition and memory of the many people who died in the Great Wreck of 1913. Although they gave their lives unwillingly that night, the incident galvanized citizens, civic, business, and government entities to take actions which no doubt resulted in saving many more lives over the ensuing years. ●

Adapted from an essay by Mitzi March Mogul and John Patterson. The full story is to be published in a brochure that will be available at WAHA's Annual Meeting on Saturday, April 20.



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Preservation Matters

Yosemite's Historic Built Environment is Threatened

At the height of the Civil War in 1864, President Abraham Lincoln anticipated more peaceful times and signed the Yosemite Grant, ensuring the permanent protection and preservation of one of America's most iconic and beloved places, Yosemite National Park. A century and a half later, millions visit the park each year, enjoying the spectacular scenery and one of the nation's largest collections of historic Rustic Style architecture.

Now you can help preserve Lincoln's legacy by calling for the protection of Yosemite's threatened historic resources.

The National Park Service (NPS) is poised to adopt a plan that will guide management of the most visited areas of the park, including the incomparable Yosemite Valley, for the next twenty to thirty years. However, rather than preserving historic structures as required by law, the Merced River Plan, as currently proposed, will result in the destruction of the iconic Sugar Pine Bridge and over 100 other historic buildings and structures, doing irreparable harm to a nationally significant historic landscape.

Thirty-five years ago, the National Park Service added eight stone Rustic-style bridges in Yosemite National Park to the National Register of Historic Places.

This designation, unexpected because the bridges were less than fifty years old at the time, was in recognition of their "unique...architectural design" and "aesthetic considerations." Built between 1928-1932, the bridges of Yosemite represent the second largest collection of Rustic style bridges in the entire park system -- second only to the south rim of the Grand Canyon -- and provide a stunning complement to the majestic natural beauty of the Yosemite Valley. They are also key contributors to a National Register-listed Historic District, which is based on its national significance.

Today, these bridges are at the center of a controversy that highlights the potential tension between cultural resource protection and natural resource conservation. The issue is that three of the bridges—the Stoneman, Awhahnee, and the Sugar Pine—are endangered by the Park Service's preliminary proposals for managing the Merced River, a federally designated "Wild and Scenic River."

The Wild and Scenic River status means that the National Park Service must identify what it is that makes a river significant (its "outstandingly remarkable values," or ORVs) and then develop a plan to protect them. Historic and cultural values are specifically identified as eligible values.

Remarkably, the Park Service failed to identify the river's historic bridges or any other historic structures in the valley as ORVs. In fact, four of the five preliminary proposals suggested eliminating one or more of the historic bridges. This prompted the National Trust to place the bridges of Yosemite Valley on the 2012 11 Most Endangered Historic Places list, and name them as a National Treasure.

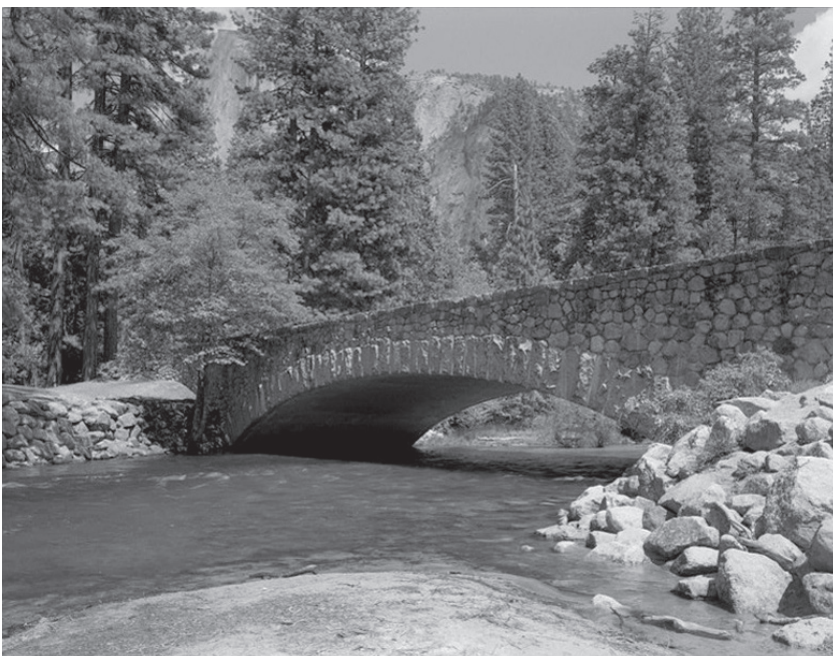
Since then, the National Trust's San Francisco Field Office has worked diligently with the Park Service to strike an agreement that would balance the conservation of natural values with the preservation of historically and culturally significant structures. Thanks in large part to this advocacy, and that of other stakeholders, the Park Service has added a new Yosemite Valley Historic Resources ORV that represents "a collection of river-related or river dependent, rare, unique or exemplary buildings and structures."

The reason that the Park Service has proposed the removal of historic Merced River bridges is that their foundations are within the river's natural channel, impeding free flow during periods of high water. But studies have identified many factors beyond the historic bridges that impact the Merced's hydrology, and that the Park Service has a wide range of treatment

options available that don't require bridge demolition, including "bioengineering" techniques and better visitor management to avoid human trampling of riverbank vegetation.

Fortunately, there is still time to act to ensure that Yosemite's heritage is protected. The NPS has invited the public to weigh in before the Merced River Plan is finalized. Please let the National Park Service know that you oppose proposals to demolish historic structures, and instead support a balanced plan that ensures that Americans have the opportunity to experience Yosemite's unique natural beauty and rich historical legacy.

Yosemite was the first place that our federal government set aside purely for preservation for the people. You can help ensure that that legacy endures. Please log into www.savingplaces.org for updates on the National Trust's efforts and a link to help guide your letter writing, should you wish to advocate to save Yosemite's historic built environment. ●



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WAHA's 2013 Calendar for History Buffs and Preservation Advocates

APRIL

WAHA Elections

Saturday, April 20

(Story, page 3)

CyclAvia cycles through West Adams

Sunday, April 21

Venice Boulevard will be closed; Mid-City Neighborhood Council (MINC) is planning a celebration.

MAY

WAHA Preservation Brunch

Sunday, May 5

WAHA Board Retreat

Saturday, May 18

Newcomers Dessert

Thursday, May 23

JUNE

WAHA's Annual Spring Historic Homes & Architecture Tour

Saturday, June 1

JULY

Patriotic 4th of July Picnic

SEPTEMBER

Living History Tour at Angelus Rosedale Cemetery

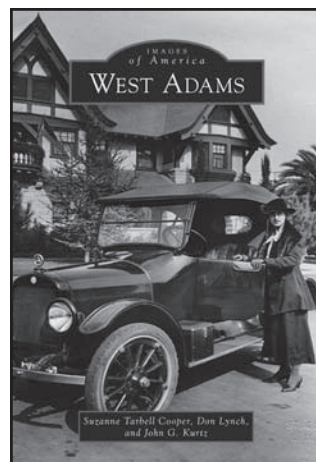
Saturday, September 28

Actors portray, in costume and at graveside, a half dozen of the historic personages buried at this landmark cemetery.

DECEMBER

Holiday Historic Homes Tour & Progressive Dinner

Saturday and Sunday, December 7-8



Mansions and bungalows. Bankers and merchants. Socialites and scoundrels.

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Calendar ✓

Upcoming Events

APRIL

**WAHA Elections and Annual Meeting—
Saturday, April 20, Noon to 3 p.m.**

An event with many items on the agenda! Tour a fabulous local and federal landmark, hear about West Adams' newest Monument, hear about historic paint colors, and vote for WAHA Board members. (see story, page 1)

CicLAvia—

Sunday, April 21

Venice Boulevard will be a playground!
(see story, page 6)

**WAHA Steps Out to Jefferson Boulevard
Saturday, April 27 (see story, page 7)**

MAY

**Annual Preservation Mimosa Brunch
and Martin E. Weil Award
Sunday, May 5, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

Celebrate Preservation Month:

**WAHA's Annual Mimosa Brunch at
One of West Adams' Newest Landmarks
Sunday, May 5, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Brown-Gorsline Residence, 2626 Portland
(University Park)**

May is Preservation Month, and WAHA has a tradition of celebrating with Brunch and Mimosas at a great historic site. But in addition, WAHA celebrates the history and dedication of the late great preservation architect and WAHA member, Martin Weil, by giving an award to an outstanding contributor to the cause of historic preservation in the West Adams area. You're invited to visit one of West Adams' oldest homes, the c.1878 Thomas Bruen Brown/Gorsline Residence, hear an interesting



talk about the history of the University Park neighborhood, and learn who this year's recipient of the annual Martin Eli Weil Preservation Award is. (See story, page 1)

WAHA....Creating Our Future by Preserving Our Past

The WAHA Matters 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 2013. All rights for graphic and written material appearing in the newsletter are reserved. Contact Director of Publications for permission.

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