



25 years
of Preservation

West Adams Matters

West Adams' Original Hamburger Stand

The Historic West Adams District is home to more history (and historic places) than just buildings, people and events associated with the Victorian and Craftsman eras.

For example, both Western Avenue and Crenshaw Boulevard have numerous examples of Art Deco, Streamline and Modernist commercial architecture – with some of those buildings also associated with the cultural heritage of the African Americans who settled in West Adams at mid-century. Indeed, one of Western Avenue's most famous popular culture landmarks is The Original Fatburger Hamburger Stand, a 1947 structure which has never been designated a Los Angeles Historic Cultural Monument but now has been acknowledged by city officials as a historic building associated with a trail-blazing African American woman entrepreneur, Lovie Yancey.

On February 18, at 10:30 a.m. in City Hall, the Los Angeles City Planning Department will consider approval of a proposed affordable condominium residential project on Western at 30th Street that retains The Original Fatburger Hamburger Stand, incorporating it into a new structure whose architecture evokes the Art Deco aesthetic of such nearby buildings as the Golden State Mutual Insurance building.

Mercy Housing Corp., a nonprofit developer, is proposing 66 units — five Live/Work units plus 61 residential condominiums — at 3001-3023 Western, a 35,377-square-foot parcel adjacent to single family Craftsman bungalows on 30th and 31st Streets, in the Jefferson Park neighborhood.

Mercy has met numerous times with a variety of block clubs, community groups, West Adams Heritage, and the local neighborhood council, United Neighborhoods. Because some of the funding comes from the city's Community Development Department, a mandatory federal review of potential historic significance was conducted. As a result the Fatburger structure was deemed eligible to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and was therefore incorporated into the design of the new building (it will be relocated to the southeast corner of the parcel and building.)

According to the analysis, "The Original Fatburger Hamburger Stand located at 3021 South Western Avenue in Los Angeles is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and B at the local level of significance. The property is considered historically significant under Criterion A for its association with Fatburger,

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L.A. Heritage Day Brings History to Life

Sunday, March 22 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Heritage Square Museum, 3800 Homer Avenue (Highland Park)

The L.A. Heritage Alliance will host its Second Annual L.A. Heritage Day on Sunday, March 22, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Heritage Square Museum. L.A. Heritage Day reconnects the public with greater Los Angeles' vast range of cultural institutions and resources, with activities for kids of all ages and tours of historic structures at the museum. The event is open to the public; admission is free for members of participating heritage groups, with a flyer (available in March), and \$5 without the flyer.

The event is expected to draw dozens of heritage groups and hundreds of guests for a range of programs including children's activities, living history interpretation, a panel discussion on historic preservation, and much more. Participating groups include the Los Angeles Conservancy, Hollywood Heritage, West Adams Heritage Association, Highland Park Heritage Trust, Claremont Heritage, Cultural Heritage Foundation of Southern California, and many more.

For an area widely misperceived as having no "real" history, the Los Angeles region has more than 200 historical organizations, societies, and museums dedicated to preserving and promoting the rich and varied pasts of various regions, industries, and individuals.

The L.A. Heritage Alliance is a network of preservation groups, museums, and historical societies launched in 2008

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WAHA Board Elections

WAHA is looking for a few good men and women. Our annual Board of Directors election is slated for April 26, and we need candidates to step up. WAHA currently has a 15-member board, and one-third of these positions are up for election each three years, on a rotating basis.

As always, we need board members with fresh, upbeat, enthusiastic ideas. This community was founded by the best volunteers in the nation, and now is the time for members (you!) to come forward. You need not spend an extraordinary amount of time doing tasks, but you must be committed to WAHA's goals of providing both member and community service. Generally speaking, board members are expected to attend all WAHA board meetings (usually held the fourth Thursday of each month), help with WAHA's fundraising efforts, and also will be given specific responsibilities for certain of WAHA's events, committees, and social functions, on a rotating basis.

We don't have many requirements: a love of old houses and other historic buildings, an enthusiasm for community activities, membership in WAHA for at least six months, and a desire to preserve and improve our neighborhoods. WAHA always needs expertise in fundraising, zoning issues, and historic preservation. But if you have a program you'd like to initiate, those ideas are welcome, too.

If you'd like to run for the board, please submit a brief (100-word) candidate's statement introducing yourself to the membership. We will run these statements in the April *WAHA Matters* newsletter. Submission deadline is Monday, March 9. Please e-mail your statement to president@westadamsheritage.org. If you are still pondering your involvement but decide to run for the Board, that's OK. All Board candidates will be asked to present themselves at the election meeting in a very short (one- to two-minute) speech.

If you'd like to learn more about the requirements (and benefits) of serving on the WAHA board, please contact WAHA President Jim Robinson, at jghrobinson@ca.rr.com. ●

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WAHA Membership News

Greetings, WAHA members! For most of you, it's almost time to renew your membership. This year, because we have added the option of on-line sign up, we have made a change in membership renewal dates. We have adjusted our membership to 365 days (instead of April to March). If you are a longtime WAHA member and usually pay your dues in April, your membership will continue to run from April through March. However, if you signed up on-line in July, your membership will run from July through June. Membership renewal letters will go out quarterly, with April to June renewal letters slated to go out in March.

We'd also like to note that your anniversary date remains your anniversary date whether or not you pay on time. For example, if you are due to renew in June in this new system and yet don't pay until September, WAHA will still send you an invoice for renewal the following June again.

If you're not sure of your membership term, check the address label on this newsletter. Pay your dues within 45 days of receiving your renewal notice to ensure you receive your newsletters and other membership benefits without a break.

If you have any questions about your membership, please contact Candy Wynne at 323-735-3749, or send her an e-mail at membership@westadamsheritage.org. ●

President's Message by Jim Robinson

It all moves so quickly. Another Holiday Season has come and gone, and 2008 is history. It's a good time to thank the people whose efforts made 2008 such a winning year for WAHA.

This list, of course, is not complete. Dozens of volunteers involved themselves in WAHA's activities through the year, and almost 200 join to produce our annual Holiday Tour and Progressive Dinner. So if your name isn't on the list that follows, please don't be offended. If I've forgotten, others will remember. Your contributions are greatly appreciated.

* Jennifer and Kwesi Ankaï, who invited WAHA members to their lovely Kinney Heights home for our annual Newcomers Tea, in September.

* Stacey Anthony, Derek Tennell, Eric Bronson, Michele McDonough, David Raposa, Sylvia Lacy, Stevie Stern and Ted Hollinger, of Master Housemovers, who saved a threatened "Dollhouse" by moving it from a Washington Boulevard school site to a Anthony's backyard in Harvard Heights.

* John Arnold, Vern Madden, Corinne and Dave Pleger, Jenifer and Kim Watson, and Julian de la Torre, all winners in our annual paint and garden contests, in July.

* Lisa Berns, a new board member, who organized a reception for artist Artis Lane and book-signings for authors Mary Ross Smith (*Soul Survivor*) and Suzanne Tarbell Cooper, Don Lynch and John G. Kurtz (*West Adams*).

* Eric Bronson, our new vice-president/preservation, and Jean Frost, chair of our Preservation Committee, which compiled a list of West Adams' 25 most endangered places and planned our 25th anniversary Preservation Brunch at the Union Square Theatre. Frost and her fellow Preservation Committee members keep their watchful eyes on numerous land use issues along with landmark properties that may be threatened, writing letters, testifying at public hearings and, of course, keeping the rest of us informed via articles in the *West Adams Matters* newsletter.

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Celebrating WAHA's Holiday Tour

By Lindsay Wiggins

WAHA welcomed in the Holiday season with *A Festival of Lights in West Adams Avenues*, at the 22nd Annual Holiday Historic Homes Tour and Progressive Dinner, on Saturday, December 6, and Sunday, December 7. The event featured a tour around the world with food and decorations from Latin America, Asia, India, Argentina and France – all in three hours!

Over 400 tourgoers joined in the fun over the two days, many of them WAHA members like you. We really appreciate the support of our members!

Of course, an event of this size and complexity requires the hard work of many. WAHA owes sincere gratitude to:

The Captains — Chris Carlson, Pat Karasick, Suzanne Lloyd-Simmons, Nick Mercado, Laura Meyers, Lindsay Wiggins, Eric Bronson, Jean Cade, Linda Lee, Emily Lewis, and Yani Pohl.

To the shepherds we can count on year after year – and for those that tried it for the first time this year.

Homeowners Nicholas Daum and Mimi Munson, Michael Evans, Guy Leemhuis, Etchie Mura, Ann and Kurt Peterson, David Raposa, and Kim and Albert Sandford decorated to the max (three trees in one house?!!)

For the good humor and enthusiasm of all our wonderful volunteers as characterized by the group on Sunday night standing

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WAHA President Jim Robinson greets visitors at a sparkling front door at WAHA's Festival of Lights in West Adams Avenues

Around the House

Resources *by Suzanne Henderson*

It is hard to believe that 2009 is here already. I have some great recommendations for you to begin the new year.

I have several great recommendations for carpenters. Audrey Arlington was very pleased with Spencer Connor. He was previously recommended by Rory Cunningham. Audrey says his price was half that of another recommended person. He currently has time available in his schedule.

I have another carpenter to recommend, Mike LeVally. He worked on my daughter's house and has recently completed a floor repair for another friend. They were quite pleased with his work. He replaced portions of wooden floors perfectly. He can replicate vintage woodwork and repair antique furniture. He also does dry wall and plaster work. He lives up in Crestline, but the economy is very slow up there and he and his crew are happy to have work in Los Angeles.

I am frequently asked for painting recommendations and have previously recommended our local David Ward of Award Painting. I receive constant praise of his work. You can find his ad in our newsletter every month.

Art Curtis has recommended another painter, Augustine Silva. His home is in Tijuana but he comes to Los Angeles during the week, to work here. Art says he is a great house painter and very creative. He speaks English well.

In these times of economic belt tightening, Art says his prices are very competitive. You buy all supplies and he does the rest.

I am always happy to hear from you at WestAdamsGoddess@aol.com with your recommendations, as well as warnings for your neighbors. Wishing you many happy completed projects in the new year. Suzanne. ●

Spencer Connor, carpenter
818-445-7446

Mike LeVally, carpenter
909-338-2381

Augustine Silva, painter
619-365-2495

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Gardens That Remake Themselves: A Discourse on Regeneration, Sustainability, and Preservation

Garden Conservancy seminar and study tour

Friday and Saturday, February 27 to 28

Los Angeles County Arboretum & Botanic Garden, 301 N. Baldwin Avenue (Arcadia)

The Garden Conservancy presents an ongoing landscape design and history series: "Gardens to Match Your Architecture," with presentations running the gamut of new public and residential landscapes to mature residential gardens that have withstood the test of time and are deserving of continuing preservation. For February's seminar and tour in Los Angeles, special focus will be given to the regeneration of the Los Angeles River watershed and adjacent Los Angeles State Historic Park (affectionately known as The Cornfields), a new park in the heart of downtown that celebrates the natural and cultural heritage of Los Angeles.

The seminar and tour will also include a look at historical gardens along the Pasadena portion of the Arroyo Seco. The study tour will begin at the architecture and planning firm, JohnsonFain, on a downtown site historically linked to the Los Angeles River and continue to Pasadena along the Arroyo Seco.

Seminar: Friday, February 27, 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Ayres Hall, Los Angeles County Arboretum, Arcadia. Study Tour: Saturday, February 28, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tour begins with a visit to The Cornfields in Downtown Los Angeles and continues to private gardens in Pasadena.



A garden of a different scale: New Downtown Los Angeles State Historic Park, affectionately known as The Cornfields. Master Plan by Hargreaves Associates, Landscape Architects. Photo by Betsy Flack.

Co-sponsored by *Pacific Horticulture*, Los Angeles County Arboretum & Botanic Garden, Monrovia Growers, and *Garden Design Magazine*.

Who's speaking? Architect William Fain, garden designers Mayita Dinos and Pamela Bertsler, garden writer Stephen Orr, landscape historian Ann Scheid, and landscape architects Mia Lehrer, Jacob Petersen, Ken Smith, and Thomas Woltz.

Fee for both Seminar & Study Tour (includes lunches/tour bus): Register early to assure your seat on the bus! \$270 Garden Conservancy/Arboretum members, \$285 *Pacific Horticulture* subscribers, \$300 general admission. Tickets for Seminar Only (includes lunch): Subject to availability, \$135 Garden Conservancy/Arboretum members, \$145 *Pacific Horticulture* subscribers, \$155 general admission. To register, contact 415-441-4300, or wcprog@gardenconservancy.org. ●

Lanternman Ragtime Tea Dance

Sunday, March 15, Noon to 5 p.m.

Lanternman House, 4420 Encinas (La Cañada-Flintridge)

You're invited to an elegant afternoon of tea, music and dancing in the ballroom of a historic Craftsman residence, the Lanternman House, in La Cañada/Flintridge. Historical attire from 1918 is suggested, but not required.

Music by Ian Whitcomb, Sheila Murphy-Nelson and more.

"High Tea" from the Locke Noble Tea Company.

Dance Class: Noon to 1 p.m.

Dancing and Tea: 1 to 5 p.m.

In 1915, Dr. Roy Lanternman commissioned architect A. L. Haley to design a fireproof bungalow of reinforced concrete for his family and the result was a unique architectural treasure. There are many arts and crafts elements in the Lanternman house. It retains its original interiors and furnishings, including elaborate hand-painted wall and ceiling ornamentation. The entire second floor is devoted to a grand ballroom, and the interior retains its original craftsman furnishings.

Space is very limited, so get your reservations in early. Send a check for \$45 a person, made out to "Lanternman House Foundation" to: 4420 Encinas Drive, La Cañada, CA 91011 (Enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope.) Or, purchase your ticket online – visit <http://lanternmanfoundation.org> and log onto "Lanternman Ragtime Tea Dance." For more information, call 818-790-1421. ●



Preservation Matters

Fatburger

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Inc., an important African American owned business, and where this early fast food restaurant chain was founded and developed into a successful Southern California corporation and model franchise business. Under Criterion B, the property is considered historically significant for its association with founder Lovie Yancey. Yancey was well-known as an influential female African American entrepreneur in Los Angeles during the post-World War II period, who rose to be one of the most successful businesswomen in the fast food industry. Lovie Yancey created the concept for Fatburger and developed it into a successful business that eventually included multiple locations and franchises within the Southern California region. Fatburger may also be the only major fast food chain founded by an African American female."

Yancey (January 3, 1912 – January 26, 2008) originally owned a small restaurant in Tucson. In 1947 she co-founded Fatburger under its original name Mr. Fatburger. "I settled on hamburgers because they were the fastest-selling sandwich in America," she told the *Wave* newspaper in 1985. In 1952, Yancey shed both her business partners and the "Mr." in the hamburger stand's name, and Fatburger was officially born.



From the beginning, Yancey was a fixture at the original Western Avenue Fatburger, where customers, who included entertainers such as Redd Foxx and Ray Charles, could custom-order their burgers. When asked about her competition by the *Wave* newspaper, Yancey explained, "I don't worry about McDonald's, Burger King or Wendy's. They may be more popular, but a good hamburger sells itself, and I don't think anybody makes as good a hamburger as we do."

Fatburger's long-standing connection with show business endures to this day. Soon after the original Fatburger opened in Los Angeles, Yancey adopted a 24-hour-a-day operation, in part to accommodate the schedules of her most loyal customers, professional musicians, whose shows often ended after midnight. But, Yancey said in the *Wave* interview, "as word got out how good the food was, we started getting requests from night shift and early morning workers – bus drivers, mailmen, street sweepers – to stay open longer."

As a fan of popular music and the performers who created it, Lovie personally stocked her jukebox with her favorite R&B, jazz and blues recordings. Then, over the years, Fatburger itself was immortalized in a string of songs, movies and TV shows, including the sitcom "Sanford and Son," the film "The Fast and the Furious," and the Ice Cube single "It Was a Good Day."

Fatburger even once made David Letterman's Top 10 list for things he'd miss most about leaving Los Angeles.

Today, Cher, Janet Jackson, Magic Johnson, David Spade, and TV producer Darren Starr hold a minority stake in Fatburger North America through their investment group, Burger Business LLC.

The consultant's report provides a detailed history and evaluation of the Original Fatburger Hamburger Stand:

"The Original Fatburger Hamburger Stand was constructed by the company founders and original owners, Lovie Yancey and Charles Simpson, in 1953. The stand remained in continuous operation as the sole Fatburger location until the 1970s when additional locations opened. After the opening of multiple locations in the 1970s and subsequent franchising in the 1980s, Fatburger was positioned as one of the most successful hamburger chains in the greater Los Angeles area, with over 32 locations in Southern California. Today, the Original Fatburger Hamburger Stand is the last extant building associated with the origins and early history of the Fatburger company.

Lovie Yancey

"Born in Texas on January 3, 1912, Lovie Yancey first gained experience working in the food industry prior to World War II in Tucson, Arizona, where she operated a restaurant. Following the war, Yancey relocated to Los Angeles and began thinking about launching a new food business. Associated with Los Angeles' local African American jazz community, it was during this time in the late 1940s that Yancey is said to have cooked hamburgers in the kitchen of her south Los Angeles home for friends and musicians, often during late night jam sessions. Friends so loved her burgers that they encouraged her to open her own hamburger stand.

"Yancey followed their advice and went into business with friend Charles Simpson in 1947, working out a rudimentary business plan for a hamburger stand. Simpson was a construction worker at Martin Sheavy Construction Company, whose owner made a habit of dividing leftover building materials with his crews, after a job was complete. With surplus materials and the free labor of his co-workers, Simpson built a basic 7' x 9' food service 'refreshment' stand on the site of the Original Fatburger Hamburger Stand at virtually no cost after working hours. According to a building permit issued in 1949, the structure consisted of wood and plaster construction. The stand featured a walk up window sheltered beneath a recessed opening, with only three stools for customer seating.



"They called it 'Mr. Fatburger.' Yancey said the name was her idea; she wanted to convey the idea of a big burger with everything on it, a meal in itself.

Fatburger

"Yancey's concept for the Original Fatburger Hamburger Stand was to establish a fast-food restaurant that served fresh, custom-made, cooked-to-order hamburgers that were generous in size and proportion, as well as flush with trimmings, garnishes, and extras. At the time, 'Fatburger' was a slang term that connoted that something was not just large, but deluxe. This was the notion that Yancey wished to convey about her hamburgers; hence the name of the hamburger stand.

"The concept proved successful, as Mr. Fatburger became a favorite of local customers.

"The hamburger stand began with regular daytime hours, but soon became an open-all-night operation based upon requests from the neighborhood's night shift and early morning workers. Los Angeles' manufacturing industries experienced tremendous growth following World War II, and many began running 24 hour shifts to capitalize on the burgeoning economy. These industries employed much of the city's African American population, including in the neighborhoods in the vicinity of the Original Fatburger Hamburger Stand, creating a demand for services on the same timetable. Yancey and a helper worked the day shift, while Simpson, with the help of his sister, Josie, took the night shift after a day of working construction.

"By the 1950s, Western Avenue was a center of a vibrant African American community and marked the western migration of African American residents from older neighborhoods located in South Central Los Angeles, particularly after the 1948 Supreme Court ruling that effectively removed segregationist covenants on property. In addition to the Original Fatburger Hamburger Stand, West Adams was host to many prosperous African American owned businesses and became a new center of the city's jazz activity. Well-known businesses included the Golden State Mutual Insurance Company, located in a building at the corner of Western Avenue and Adams Boulevard three blocks north of the Original Fatburger Hamburger Stand; Ray Charles' business headquarters, including his RPM studio, located at 2107 Washington Boulevard; and jazz clubs such as the Tiki Room, Club Oasis, and California Club, located on Western Avenue between 30th and 40th Streets.

"In 1952, Yancey and Simpson ended their partnership and changed the name of the business to simply 'Fatburger.' It was at this time that the original hamburger stand was enlarged to its present size of 12' x 13'. A 1953 permit for the work was issued to Charles Simpson, who is listed as owner of the property, and also presumably did the work. The existing building on the site, with minor changes, dates to this 1953 expansion.

"Through the 1950s and 1960s, Yancey is said to have worked 16-18 hours a day behind the counter, seven days a week, getting only a few hours of sleep before returning to the stand each day. She was a fixture at the hamburger stand, greeting customers and making sure that everything was taken care of. This appealed to Fatburger customers, many of which lived in the surrounding community.

"Some of the Original Fatburger Hamburger Stand's regular customers included important African American celebrities such as musician Ray Charles and comedian Redd Fox.

"For most of its history, the Original Fatburger Hamburger Stand was open 24 hours a day, and from the beginning was basically a walk-up fast food style stand with a recessed ordering window, and (originally three) freestanding stools for seating. The broad pedestrian opening off the sidewalk on Western Avenue was sheltered only by a pair of folding wood garage-type doors with glazing that could be closed in inclement weather.

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Architect's rendering of proposed residential condominiums, viewed looking west from Western Avenue. The Original Fatburger Hamburger Stand is sited on the left (southeast corner of the project.)

Preservation Matters

Fatburger

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"During the 1970s, Lovie Yancey expanded the Fatburger business from the original stand to three other Los Angeles locations. Yancey opened a second location on La Cienega and San Vicente Boulevards in Beverly Hills in 1973. This location became extremely popular due in large part to its proximity to Hollywood, and attracted many customers in the entertainment industry. A third Fatburger hamburger stand was opened in Westwood Village drawing a customer base from UCLA and those seeking nightlife in the neighborhood.

"As the popularity of Fatburger increased during the decade, so did its identity as a recognizable icon of popular culture within Los Angeles' African American community. In the sitcom 'Sanford and Son,' for example, Lamont Sanford (played by Comedian Redd Foxx) would often use the expression 'Getting a Fatburger.' By the 1980s Fatburger had become a phenomena being referenced, talked about, or making appearances in multiple motion pictures, television shows and popular music recordings.

"In 1981, the success of three Fatburger locations led Yancey to expand her business by offering local franchises of the Fatburger concept, which was being called 'The Last Great Hamburger Stand.' By the end of 1985 the Fatburger chain had grown to 32 units, four of which were company owned. That same year *Entrepreneur* magazine named Fatburger the fifth fastest growing burger franchise chain in its 'Franchise 500' list, trailing only McDonald's, Burger King, Wendy's, and Jack in the Box.

"In 1990 Yancey sold Fatburger to a group of investors led by Island Trading Company, a New York based investment firm connected to Island Records founder Chris Blackwell. In the transaction, however, she retained ownership of the Original Fatburger Hamburger Stand at 3021 South Western Avenue. Yancey died of pneumonia on January 26, 2008, at the age of 96.

"The Fatburger corporation has since gone through several acquisitions and reorganizations, including the purchase in 2001 of a controlling interest by Earvin 'Magic' Johnson. Under Johnson's influence, the company began to realize extensive expansion plans, with growth into regions where Johnson Development Corporation already had a presence including: Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Colorado, Texas, Georgia, New York, and the Carolinas. Two years later Johnson lessened his financial commitment, selling a majority interest to an investment group led by president and CEO Keith Warlick. Warlick had been with the company since the 1970's where he learned the culture and business of the company directly from founder Yancey. Fatburger currently has over 90 locations in North America, with plans for over 200.

Conclusion

"First established in the Original Fatburger Hamburger Stand in 1949, Lovie Yancey's fast food hamburger business operated in this same location for over 50 years. Fatburger was an important business in the African American community of Los Angeles during the post World War II period. Being owned and operated by African Americans, it was a symbol of economic success and prosperity, and it contributed to the positive identity of the community as viewed from within. It is for these reasons that the Original Fatburger Hamburger Stand is considered eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and B.

"These findings are consistent with the draft National Register Multiple Property Submission for Historic Resources Associated with African Americans in Los Angeles. The draft Multiple Property Submission states: The commercial buildings associated with the history of African Americans in Los Angeles may qualify for listing in the National Register under Criterion A at the local level. As African Americans were excluded from employment in many sectors of the economy out of racial prejudice, they were forced to open their own businesses as a means of employment. The people who ran these businesses often emerged as community leaders. People of color were often denied services at hotels, restaurants, retail stores, mortuaries, insurance companies, dentist and doctor's offices, etc. Black entrepreneurs and professionals filled the need by founding these and other businesses to serve the growing community. Black-owned businesses were a great source of pride for the community.

"In addition, the original Fatburger stand represents the origins of the Fatburger Corporation, a business and name that has become one of the best known and recognizable hamburger chains in Southern California history. After becoming a franchise in the early 1980s, Fatburger expanded to over 32 locations, and after being sold to an investment firm, has become a national and international brand.

"The Original Fatburger Hamburger Stand is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A, at the local level of significance for its association with the founding, development and expansion of an important African American owned and operated business, Fatburger, which became a major local fast food/hamburger/restaurant chain. It may also be the only major fast food chain founded by an African American female.

"The original Fatburger stand is also significant under National Register Criterion B, for its association with founder Lovie Yancey, an African American female entrepreneur, who rose to become one of the most successful businesswomen in her field, and created a major fast food/hamburger/restaurant chain. The original Fatburger stand meets National Register Criterion B, at the local level of significance, for its association with an important individual, Lovie Yancey." ●



MEMBER DISCOUNTS

The following companies offer discounts to WAHA members. Remember to show your WAHA membership card when you make your purchase.

Silverlake Architectural Salvage

1085 Manzanita Street, Silverlake,
323-667-2875

20% discount on all purchases

Ted Gibson, Inc.

2866 West 7th St. Los Angeles 90005,
213-382-9195

20% discount on purchases of art materials and picture frames

Best Lock and Safe Service contact: David Kim

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Dourousseau Electric

2526 W. Jefferson Blvd. 323-734-2424 or
323-734-6149 (cell)

10-15% discount on electrical services

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453 East Adams Boulevard, 213-749-2204

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A CALL TO MEMBERS

If you frequent a local business — retail store, restaurant, service provider, etc. — ask them if they would offer a discount to WAHA members. Explain that they'd benefit from the increased exposure to local consumers, and be listed in the WAHA monthly newsletter. Or, call me at 323-733-6869 and I'll contact them — Steve Wallis



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President's Message *continued from page 3*

- * Jean Cade, our treasurer and board veteran, who drew up our budget, kept our books, wrote our checks.
- * Jennifer Charnofsky and Leslie Evans, who opened their Van Buren Place home for a free talk by native plant expert Lili Singer.
- * Odel Childress and Don Weggeman, who hosted our annual elections and potluck dinner and gave tours of their 1907 Harvard Heights home.
- * Suzanne Tarbell Cooper, Don Lynch and John G. Kurtz, whose new book, *West Adams*, from Arcadia Publishing, features almost 200 historic photos of our wonderful West Adams neighborhoods.
- * Jim Childs, Mitzi Mogul, Jonathon Hugger, John Patterson and Roland Souza, who organized the 25th anniversary Preservation Brunch at the Union Square Theatre; Lisa Ellzey and Laura Meyers, who chronicled WAHA's history through their entertaining Power Point presentation, "Landmarks Won and Landmarks Lost"; David Raposa, who narrated it; and Sara Velas, who offered us use of the theater where her Velaslavasay Panorama is displayed.
- * Leslie Evans, whose improved WAHA web site now carries each month's issue of our newsletter, and allows people to join or renew on line, with payment through Paypal.
- * Susie Henderson, whose monthly Resources column in *West Adams Matters* is itself a great resource for finding WAHA-friendly suppliers and services. She's working to put her complete Resources list on a members-only section of our web site.
- * Lore Hilburg, past president and now secretary, who organized our "coffee cart" stroll through Wellington Square, and who hosted a potluck membership meeting in March at her new law offices on Cimarron Street.
- * Peggy King, Chuck Kovacic, Phyllis Williams, Albert Edmund Lord III, Hunter Ochs, Stephen Box and Gisa Nico, whose performances in Angelus-Rosedale Cemetery were enough to raise the dead!
- * The other dedicated Living History Tour committee members and volunteers whose research, scripts, costumes and props help bring this event to life -- including Don Lynch, Sally Turner, Linda Lee, Corinne Pleger, Cat Slater, Lisa Berns, Danny Miller, David Saffer, Mike Smith, Yvette Ammon, Suzanne Henderson, Michelle Basche, Frank Cooper, Adam Janeiro, John Patterson and Jeff Valdez, plus all the tour guides, sweeps, ticket sellers and others whose helping hands provided invaluable help.
- * Hilary Lentini, graphic artist and WAHA's creative director for our newsletters and tour brochures, and whose firm, Lentini Design, recently won 10 national 2008 design awards from Graphic Design USA.
- * Mike Medina, who arranged for WAHA's board of directors to hold its annual retreat in historic Adamson House, in Malibu, and who, along with Judy Tedrick, organized our 4th of July Picnic.
- * Laura Meyers, whose Zelig-like omnipresence influenced revisions to the city's historic preservation ordinance; wrote for and edited our newsletter; produced our first membership directory in two years; organized and coordinated the Living History tour in September; wrote the historic notes for our coffee cart strolls, for the "Landmarks" Power Point presentation at the

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Union Theatre in May; for the Landmarks of West Adams tour in June, for the Amat House tour at the *West Adams* book signing in November, and for December's Holiday tour; and who contributed to WAHA in countless other ways throughout the year.

* Mitzi March Mogul and consultant Peter Moruzzi, who spoke for WAHA at two meetings of the State Historical Resources Commission, in Santa Barbara and in Sacramento. The Commission approved our nomination of a new Flower Drive Historic District, finding it eligible for listing on the California Register of Historic Resources.

* John Patterson, our vice president/events, who took on the daunting responsibility of coordinating our various tours, strolls and meetings. Now, he plans to develop time-lined playbooks to help WAHA boards plan future events.

* Gail Peterson, who along with John Patterson organized our "coffee cart" stroll through Jefferson Park, and Anna Helwig, who graciously opened her home to stroll visitors.

* Father William Piletic and his Vincentian colleagues, who hosted the *West Adams* book signing, and Rev. Stafford Poole, who spoke on the history of the Randolph Miner-Theda Bara-Fatty Arbuckle-Amat house, where the event took place.

* Roz Pena, who graciously hosted our annual 4th of July Picnic at her 1909 Tudor-Craftsman mansion on Victoria Park Drive.

* Judy Tedrick, who has taken on the task of Advertising Director and already is generating revenue from new advertisers in our tour brochures and monthly newsletter.

* Georgia Toliver, who gave tours of her fabulous Virginia Road home during August's "coffee cart" stroll in Wellington Square.

* Candy Wynne, our membership director, who organized our Newcomers Tea and who worked with tech-meister Leslie Evans to rationalize our membership records and allow for easier, more dependable updating.

* Lindsay Wiggins, who heroically organized our annual miracle, the Holiday Tour and Progressive Dinner, as well as the "Landmarks of West Adams" tour, in June. The Holiday Tour, our most popular event and greatest fundraiser, involves some 200 volunteers.

* All the property owners who opened their doors during the June Landmarks of West Adams Tour -- Don Ferguson, Stan and Lanita Huey, Jeff Theer and Lisa Ellzey, Ann and Ed Dorr, Pastor Lane Beamer of McCarty Memorial Church, the Brothers of St. John of God, and Jennifer Barerra and Don Spivak of the Community Redevelopment Agency, which owns Engine House 18.

* And all the owners who participated in the Holiday Tour in West Adams Avenues – Etchie Mura, Guy Leemhuis, Kim and Albert Sandford, Nick Daum and Mimi Munson, David Raposa, and Anne and Kurt Peterson.

* Karen Woodward, who took our lowered budget in stride and organized another kid-terrific Halloween Fest, complete with pony rides, in front of her Gramercy Park home.

* And all the unsung heroes!

Jim Robinson can be reached via e-mail, jghrobinson@ca.rr.com

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WAHA Matters

Holiday Tour *continued from page 3*

in the dark washing 200 dinner plates, silverware and wine glasses – TELLING JOKES AND LAUGHING HYSTERICALLY!

For the tour committee — Kathie Adams, Eric Bronson, Linda Lee, Laura Meyers, John Patterson, Norma Reynolds, Judy Tedrick, Jeff Valdez, Lindsay Wiggins: You are the best.

And for everyone who pitched in where and when we needed them, your efforts were not unnoticed and were certainly appreciated.

To WAHA and her members – Cheers, until next year! ●



WAHA Holiday Tour, Caught on Camera



Main Course House



Champagne House (above);
Salad House (below, right)



Dessert House (above, center); Soup House (below)



Main Course: Ed Saunders grilling meats (top left), and “Chef” Eric Bronson with Deva Powell preparing garlic rice for the Brazilian Churrasco served at the Wilshire House (lower left). Jim Robinson greets visitors at the Champagne House (top right), while Lisa Schoening and Rob Johnson plate their appetizers (above left); Jim Robinson, Jean Cade and Nick Mercado with homeowner Guy Leemhuis (above right). Salad House: Suzanne Lloyd-Simmons and Terry Speth describe architectural details (above right). Dessert House: Anne Devlin, Susan Cockrell (and friends), Jane McMahon, Yami Pohl, and Chris Carlson join homeowner Anne Peterson and her son slicing Italian-style marble cake. Soup’s on: Brian Beldham, Francesca Innocenti, and their children, Camila and Julian; Jean Crupper and Linda Lee (below center) serve Indian-style Cauliflower Soup; Mira Advani wears an authentic sari to help set the mood for WAHA’s “Little Taste of India.” Photos courtesy Barry Schwartz and Harry Demas.




Historic Consultation & Research

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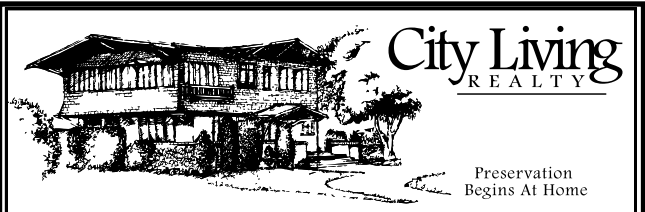


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Heritage Day

continued from page 1

to unify and leverage their efforts. "We're working together to preserve the rich history of greater Los Angeles," says Brian Sheridan, one of the organizers of L.A. Heritage Day and the L.A. Heritage Alliance. "Though we've been successful as individual groups, as an alliance we can work smarter and more efficiently to preserve our heritage."

Heritage Square Museum is a living history museum that tells the story of Los Angeles' development through historic structures that were relocated to the site to save them from demolition. The museum is located just off the 110/Pasadena Freeway at Avenue 43. For more information, visit www.heritagesquare.org. ●

WAHA Seeks Reps for City Advisory Committees

Since its inception, WAHA has held a variety of seats on Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) Project Area Committees and other governmental/citizen advisory committees. If you would like to represent WAHA on one of these panels, please contact Eric Bronson, eb@birdmarella.com or 323-737-1163. We currently have a need for a representative to the CRA's Mid-City Corridors Project Area. ●

MOMS of West Adams

By Skye Peyton

MOMS Club of West Adams is a Los Angeles Chapter of MOMS Club International (www.momsclub.org). We are a non-profit group providing support for mothers who are with their children during the day. We offer activities and resources for moms with children and raise money for community organizations benefiting mothers and children. Each month we have a variety of activities for moms and their kids, including play groups, field trips, mom's night out and service projects.

We have all different age moms, and some who work part time and/or from home.

The general boundaries for MOMS Club of West Adams are Pico Blvd., the 110 Freeway, Exposition Blvd. from La Brea Ave. to the 110 Freeway, and La Cienega Blvd. north of I-10; La Brea Ave. south of I-10. For more information, please contact the group via e-mail (momsclubwestadams@yahoo.com) or visit www.momsclubwestadams.org. ●

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USC Adjacent Craftsman Bungalow — 1452 West 29th St. (*Adam Janeiro, buyer's agent*) — Welcome, Peter and Mari Exline

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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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Historic West Adams
Los Angeles California 90018
323-735-WAHA (323-735-9242)
www.WestAdamsHeritage.org

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The deadline for ad content is the 1st of the prior month.

Please Note: WAHA does not endorse or claim responsibility for any of the services, products or items for sale that advertisers have listed in these pages.

WAHA CLASSIFIEDS

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Anybody have an empty garage? I'm looking to rent one for my classic car while I restore it. No work will be done on the car in the garage, I just need a place to keep it out of the elements and store parts during the process. Please contact Paul at (323) 687-3717.

Gladding McBean Garden Bench, circa 1920-1930s — Good condition, turquoise color. \$10,000 value; will sell for \$5,000. You will have to arrange for shipping etc. Contact Don 323-735-6216, days 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Getting a Mills Act contract requires advance planning. If your home, apartment building or commercial building is not a Historic-Cultural Monument or it is not in an Historic Preservation Overlay Zone NOW is the time to attempt to make it an HCM if you are contemplating Mills Act for next year. Call Anna Marie Brooks, architectural historian, at 310-650-2143.

100s of doors (and other historic architectural materials) for sale — Contact Roland, 310-392-1056.

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WAHA's 2009 "No Excuses" Calendar

We are planning a full slate of potlucks, Evening Strolls, Author Book Receptions and Historic Tours for 2009. Please put the event dates below on your calendar. Next month we'll flesh out the schedule.

MARCH

Saturday, March 21:

WAHA visits the Mayme A. Clayton Library & Museum

Sunday, March 22:

L.A. Heritage Day at Heritage Square

APRIL

Sunday, April 26:

WAHA Board Elections and Potluck

MAY

Saturday/Sunday, May 2/3 (TBA):

WAHA Board Retreat

Sunday, May 31:

WAHA's Annual Preservation Brunch

JUNE

Saturday, June 6:

WAHA presents its Annual Spring Historic Homes & Architecture Tour

JULY

Saturday, July 4:

WAHA's Annual 4th of July Picnic

AUGUST

Thursday, August 6:

WAHA New Member Dessert

SEPTEMBER

Saturday, September 26:

Living History Tour at Angelus Rosedale Cemetery

DECEMBER

Saturday and Sunday, December 5 and 6:

WAHA's Annual Holiday Tour and Progressive Dinner

Sunday, December 13:

WAHA Holiday Party

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

Calendar ✓

Upcoming Events

Saturday, March 21:

Visit the Mayme A. Clayton Library & Museum (see story, right)

Sunday, March 22:

L.A. Heritage Day at Heritage Square (see story, page 1)

Sunday, April 26:

WAHA Board Elections —
Candidates Statements due March 9.
(see story, page 2)

Sunday, May 31:

WAHA's Annual Preservation Brunch

Saturday, June 6:

WAHA presents its Annual Spring
Historic Homes & Architecture Tour



Please join WAHA on Saturday, March 21 at the Mayme A. Clayton Library & Museum in Culver City. Avery Clayton will host. The Mayme A. Clayton Collection of African American Culture & History is maintained by Western States Black Research and Educational Center (WSBREC), a 501(c)(3) non-profit, public interest organization. The Clayton Collection is the largest and most academically substantial privately held assemblage of its kind in the world. The collection was assembled over a 40-year period by librarian Mayme A. Clayton (1923 - 2006). Dr. Clayton's singular commitment to preserve African American culture and history was inspired by her desire to ensure that children would know the richness and diversity of African American contributions to the world. Watch for details of WAHA's event in the March newsletter.

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 2009. All rights for graphic and written material appearing in the newsletter are reserved. Contact Director of Publications for permission.

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