



25 years
of Preservation

West Adams Matters

Let There Be Light: A Festival of Lights in West Adams Avenues WAHA's 22nd Annual Holiday Historic Architecture Tour and Progressive Dinner Saturday, December 6, and Sunday, December 7

WAHA will celebrate the warm glow of the season with A Festival of Lights in West Adams Avenues, at the 22nd Annual Holiday Historic Tour and Progressive Dinner, on Saturday, December 6, and Sunday, December 7. We'll make merry amid bright lights and bedecked homes, toasting the season with champagne and an enticing holiday feast.

WAHA members receive first preference for this very special event. To take advantage of this advance notice please check our website after October 20th for details.

Traditions involving light exist around the world during the dark solstice months of November and December. Cultures globally celebrate the magic and wonder of special holidays with lights and lighting ceremonies. In Southern Asia, for example, several religious traditions include a Festival of Lights, symbolizing victory of brightness over darkness. Hanukkah, the Jewish Festival of Lights, is celebrated for eight days, to commemorate the victory of the Jews over the Hellenist Syrians in 165 BCE, and the miracle that a small amount of oil kept the Temple lights burning, not for one night, but for all the eight nights until new oil fit for use in the temple could be obtained.

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Town and Gown *By Laura Meyers*

USC is outgrowing its briches. Not literally, of course, but over the past few years there have been many community discussions about the growing impacts of the University of Southern California's expansion – not just in terms of the number of students, but in its overall scope, research facilities, parking and traffic impacts, and, indeed, the university's physical presence beyond the walls of the campus itself.

City officials have responded with a series of land use initiatives. For instance, *WAHA Matters* readers may recall the passage of a major amendment to the South Los Angeles Community Plan that now allows intensive residential and mixed use development on the Figueroa and Flower Drive Corridors, in part to take advantage of the Expo Line light rail, now under construction. The idea was to move student housing developments out of the University Park and North University Park neighborhoods and onto this transit corridor.

Two other significant land use initiatives are now in play, as well as a WAHA-sponsored effort to preserve one small historic pocket, Flower Drive, recently declared "eligible" as a California Register historic district by the State Historical Resources Commission at its July 25 hearing in Santa Barbara

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WAHA has worked towards a historic designation of Flower Drive, a small enclave which sits in USC's shadow

WAHA's Coffee Stroll in Arlington Heights

Saturday, October 18 3-5:30 p.m.

Meet at the Eureka Cafe, 4053 West Washington Blvd.

Please join WAHA on a Stroll through Arlington Heights, which is located between Arlington Avenue and Crenshaw Boulevard, north of the Santa Monica Freeway to Pico Boulevard. Arlington Heights encompasses an area of Historic West Adams that was, at the turn of the 20th century, outside of the Los Angeles city limits. The Arlington Heights Township was perched atop a perfectly level mesa that offered, according to real estate promoters of the time, pure water, perfection of climate, rich loamy soil, easy access from the heart of the city ("a twenty minute ride to the Plaza") and magnificent views "from Catalina Island to San Jacinto Peak and down



The Sisters of Mercy established a military academy on eight acres at the corner of Washington and 10th Avenue, at the site of a present-day shopping center.

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Arlington Heights Stroll

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again over the broad acres, orchards and vineyards, of fair Los Angeles Valley to the blue waves of the Pacific Ocean beyond the coast of Santa Monica."

As you walk through these streets, you'll discover a variety of architectural styles, from Craftsman to Spanish and Art Deco, to Atomic Age Googie.

You'll see a church designed by famed architect John C. Austin, a school building designed by Roland E. Coate, and a residence that was home to Fred E. Pierce, co-owner of Pierce Bros. Mortuary. And you'll learn about a Catholic-run military academy whose most famous former student was the actor Gregory Peck.

Electric railways and then "flivers" (autos) played an important role in how Arlington Heights was settled. Washington Boulevard was laid out as Los Angeles's first major "Grand Avenue to the Sea." It was 100 feet wide, and accommodated trolleys along with, at first, carriages, and later, cars. On WAHA's Stroll through the neighborhood, you'll see a home owned by the president of the Pacific Electric Railway, and another owned by the proprietor of an automobile dealership for luxury "REOs," the high-end brand designed by Ransom Eli Olds, inventor of the Oldsmobile.

The Espresso "cart" will be handled a little bit differently from previous WAHA Strolls. The coffee is still on the house (for the first 50 strollers), but it will be served up by Eureka Cafe, West Adams' newest eatery. Neighborhood homes and buildings can only be viewed from the outside -- no open houses.

The Stroll is from 3 to 5:30 p.m. We will have a walking tour brochure and map available for you at Eureka Cafe. Say hello to neighbors, meet new friends, bring out your (leashed) dogs for a walk, and get a close-up look at wonderful Arlington Heights. ●

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Real Estate.

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS,
 On Washington Street just outside of City Limits, Los Angeles.

We offer, as a free gift, 24 \$300 lots to any one who will build a \$20,000 hotel; also, one \$300 lot to any purchaser of a lot who will build a \$1250 house on ARLINGTON HEIGHTS.

The elevated plateau of ARLINGTON HEIGHTS terminates in a ridge or descent of 50 feet just south of Adams street, and in a similar ridge north of Pleo street. On these ridges are located the most magnificent building sites in Los Angeles. No houses can ever be built high enough in front of them to obstruct that glorious view of mountains, valley and ocean: from Catalina Island to San Jacinto Peak, and down again over the broad acres, beyond the coast of Santa Monica. Whosoever wishes for a beautiful home, sheltered from the noise and bustle of a busy city, but within a twenty minutes' drive of the Plaza, should select an ARLINGTON HEIGHTS lot of 1/2 acre wherewith to build his home.

Our map shows a magnificent subdivision of it into 31/2-acre blocks, 60x300 feet, including streets, each containing 24 lots 60x120 or 200 feet, and each surrounded on all sides by streets 60, 75 or 100 feet wide. Investors who are able to appreciate the importance of a well-planned subdivision will forward a great future to this tract, with its miles of wide streets, intersecting each other at right angles. The elegant lawns and stately mansions of the rich will be found here within a short time, and purchasers who take advantage of our low prices and easy terms will reap a golden harvest of their investment in ARLINGTON HEIGHTS. S2000

Two hundred lots for sale, price \$100 upward; size, 60x120. Also, 5-acre lots at \$200 per acre, upward. Free ride daily at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., from

Wiesendanger & Bonsall's Office, 25 W. First st.,
 Or J. P. McCarthy, 23 W. First st.,
 Or Robert Turner, 111 W. First st.

An early advertisement for Arlington Heights

President's Message by Jim Robinson

If you enjoy researching local history – or you'd like to try but don't know where to start – check out the third annual Los Angeles Archives Bazaar on Saturday, October 25, at the University of Southern California's Davidson Conference Center. This free, all-day event will have booths representing 65 historical collections and archives – ranging from small repositories in nearby towns to mega-collections such as those of the National History Museum, the L.A. Public Library and USC itself. You'll be able to browse rare collections, consult with experts, and learn about family genealogy, online research tools, preserving your own history, and numerous other topics. Most of the collections are open to the public; their offerings include reference works, documents, maps and hundreds of thousands of historic photographs. It's a great starting point for tracking down information on, and photos of, the house you live in and the people who once lived in it. Aside from such personal interest, these resources are invaluable for researching for Mills Act applications (property tax relief for historic buildings), obtaining city monument status, establishing federal historic districts, and planning WAHA's tours. The event runs from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and includes book signings, film screenings and educational sessions. Davidson Center is at 3415 S. Figueroa St., on the southwest corner of Figueroa and Jefferson Boulevard. All-day parking is available for \$8 in USC Parking Structure D, just west of the center. Enter through campus Gate 4, on the south side of Jefferson. There are plenty of fast-food restaurants nearby. For more information, go to www.usc.edu/arc/lasubject.

As you may have noticed, this is WAHA's 25th anniversary. Our organization now has a quarter-century behind it but, ironically, we've been so focused on recording the history of our neighborhoods that we've neglected our own. Years pass, board members come and go, recollections grow imprecise, and our institutional memory has been fading away. More important than the lost records of meetings and social occasions is the hard-to-replace research on early buildings and architects, pioneer residents, significant issues, and the important battles WAHA has won or lost. Our best record is our collection of newsletters, but even those have been languishing in a storage shed, incomplete and inaccessible. Now, using our WAHA web site, we have an opportunity to compile and archive WAHA's 25 years of records and to make them available to all WAHA members. Thanks to a couple of long-time members – Corinne Pleger and Peggy King – we now have copies of every WAHA newsletter except issues 1-12 and issue 51. So this is a call for help. If you've been collecting newsletters – particularly if you've been collecting them since 1983 – please check your stash. And if the missing issues are there, please call me. I'm at 213-663-3022.

Finally, I'd like to offer huge congratulations to the dozens of volunteers – members and non-members – who planned, researched and staged WAHA's Living History Tour at Angelus Rosedale Cemetery, on September 27. This excellent event takes tremendous organizing and a smorgasbord of talents – from historic research and photo retrieval to actors, docents, costumes, sets, scripts, makeup, and the complicated logistics of reservations and tour scheduling. The L.A. Times devoted half a page to the story of one of our subject portrayals, the late Medal of Honor recipient Capt. Edward Lee Baker Jr., played in full uniform by Albert Edmund Lord III. You'll find many photos on our web site, www.WestAdamsHeritage.org.

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

Introducing 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:

North: Pico Blvd.

East: 110 Freeway

South: Exposition Blvd. from La Brea Ave. to 110 Freeway

West: La Cienega Blvd. north of I-10; La Brea Ave. south of I-10

For more information, please contact us via e-mail (momsclubwestadams@yahoo.com) or visit www.momsclubwestadams.org. ●

WAHA Seeks Representatives for City Advisory Committees

Since its inception, West Adams Heritage Association 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. ●

Stepping Out

Book Launch Party

Meet the Authors of New Book Focused on Historic West Adams

Saturday, November 22; 4 p.m. Location TBA

At the turn of the twentieth century, West Adams was making history. From mansions to bungalows, the area was home to fascinating men and women. Many of their stories have been remembered and rediscovered in a new book from Arcadia Publishing: *West Adams*.

The three authors, Suzanne Tarbell Cooper, Don Lynch and John Kurtz, have each owned original homes in West Adams for more than 15 years. Their new book features historic photographs of houses, businesses, schools, and theatres, with stories about the people who lived, worked and played there. Many photos are from private collections or little known archives and have never before been published.

On Saturday, November 22, WAHA will host a book signing at a historic property in West Adams, beginning at 4 p.m. The event will open with a short talk by the authors featuring some of the anecdotes and stories behind their favorite buildings. Rediscover favorite buildings, or learn about some you haven't yet noticed, during this unique neighborhood overview.

Suzanne Tarbell Cooper's previous books for Arcadia Publishing include *Art Deco Los Angeles*, *Theatres in Los Angeles* and *Long Beach Art Deco*. She is a board member of the Art Deco Society of Los Angeles and has been a member of WAHA since moving here in 1990.

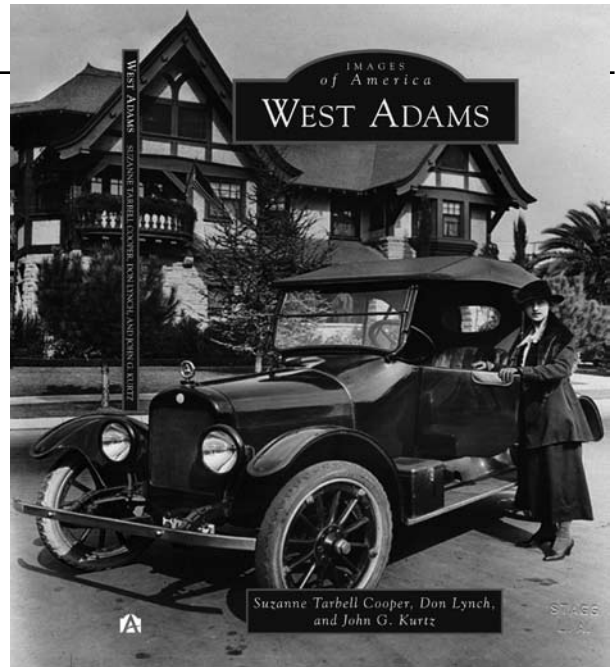
Don Lynch is the noted author of the best selling *Titanic - An Illustrated History* and *Ghosts of the Abyss - A Journey into the Heart of the Titanic*. He is a former Vice President and Official Historian of the Titanic Historical Society.

John Kurtz has been a Board Member and President of Friends of Hollyhock House in Hollywood, and founding member of Frank Lloyd Wright Conservancy. He was a member of West Adams Heritage Association's Board of Directors for over 12 years.

Arcadia Publishing is the leading local history publisher in the United States, with a catalog of more than 5,000 titles in print and hundreds of new titles released every year. Established in 1993, Arcadia has blended a visionary management approach with the innovative application of state-of-the-art technology to create high-quality historical publications in small local niches.

Arcadia Publishing is best known for its popular Images of America series, which chronicles the history of communities from Bangor, Maine, to Manhattan Beach, California. With more than two hundred vintage black-and-white photographs, each title celebrates a town or region, bringing to life the people, places, and events that define the community.

Give friends and relatives a peek at the history of West Adams, and benefit WAHA as well, with a holiday of gift of this unique new book. Proceeds from the sale of books at this event will benefit WAHA. ●



A photo of the Ezra Stimson Mansion graces the cover of Arcadia's newest edition of its Images of America series, **West Adams**, authored by WAHA's own Suzanne Tarbell Cooper, John Kurtz, and Don Lynch.



Historic West Adams' Newest Cafe

Now open for
breakfast & lunch.
Smoothies our specialty!

Eureka Cafe
4053 West Washington Blvd.
(Three blocks east of Crenshaw)
Los Angeles, CA 90018
323-732-8600



Colour, Planning and Design Services for
Historically Sensitive Properties
Winner 2003 WAHA Paint Award

2650 Kenwood Avenue Los Angeles, California 90007
Phone: 323.733.8433 Fax: 323.733.8434
Email: info@iccdesign.com

Pasadena Craftsman Weekend

Friday, October 17, to Sunday, October 19

Various Times & Events: Visit www.PasadenaHeritage.org for Schedule

Celebrating its 17th year this fall, Craftsman Weekend is the largest and most comprehensive salute to the Arts & Crafts Movement in the Western United States. Enjoy a full weekend of events including bus and walking tours of historic neighborhoods, a Craftsman House Tour that visits five distinctive Craftsman-era homes, exhibits of contemporary and antique Craftsman furnishings and accessories, plus special evening events in historic sites.

This year Craftsman Weekend is helping celebrate the centennial of the Gamble House, an Arts & Crafts icon by Charles and Henry Greene. The weekend will kick off with a reception at the Huntington Library to preview the exhibition *"New and Native" Beauty: The Art and Craft of Greene & Greene*, and many of the exclusive tours will visit residences designed by the architects. A visit to Craftsman Weekend in 2008 also offers a unique opportunity to view significant exhibitions at major museums in Pasadena. These are on related themes, ranging from architectural photography to Japanese folk art.

Visit the Pasadena Heritage's website for complete information about the variety of events. You may purchase tickets by phone (626-441-6333), online or in person, space available (noting that most of this event does sell out.) Tickets will be held at will call at the Masonic Temple, 200 South Euclid Ave., Pasadena, from 8:45 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. ●



A "New and Native" Beauty: The Art and Craft of Greene & Greene

October 18, 2008–Jan. 26, 2009

MaryLou and George Boone Gallery, the Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino

The Huntington, in partnership with the Gamble House, USC, will present the most comprehensive exhibition ever undertaken on the work of Arts and Crafts architecture and design legends Charles Sumner Greene and Henry Mather Greene. *"A 'New and Native' Beauty: The Art and Craft of Greene & Greene"* is a chronological survey of the Greenes' lives and careers over a nearly 90-year period. Approximately 140 objects, many of which never have been seen by the public, from 30 of their commissions, will be on view, including significant examples that will explore important points in the evolution of the Greenes' unique design vocabulary as expressed in their precisely hewn residences and works of decorative art. The national touring exhibition will feature beautifully inlaid furniture, artfully executed metalwork, luminous stained glass, and rare architectural drawings and photographs. A full-size portion of the demolished Bandini House of Pasadena, Calif., will be recreated by architect Kelly Sutherlin McLeod for the installation. Related events include a conference, lecture, panel discussion, and concert, as well as exhibitions presented at the Pasadena Museum of California Art and the Pasadena Museum of History. A beautifully illustrated, 272-page book, *A "New and Native" Beauty: The Art and Craft of Greene & Greene*, accompanies the exhibition.

The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens is a collections-based research and educational institution serving scholars and the general public. More information about The Huntington can be found online at www.huntington.org. ●



This entry-hall window from Jennie A. Reeve house, Long Beach, 1903-04 is one of the items on display at the Huntington exhibition.

Million Dollar SPOOKTACULAR!

*A Halloween/Day of the Dead Celebration Benefitting the Los Angeles Historic Theatre Foundation
At the Million Dollar Theater 307 S. Broadway at Third, L.A.'s first Movie Palace*

On Stage: George the Giant along with a (g)host of other characters, Halloween cartoons and shorts

On screen: Night of the Living Dead (Friday, October 31) and Re-Animator (Saturday, November 1)

Even if you've seen them, you haven't seen them like this, on a giant screen, in a 90-year-old theater, in the dark, with strangers...The theater will be terrifyingly transformed--dramatic lighting, special effects, and surprise appearances by ghosts, skeletons, ghouls, and other surprises too horrible to mention!

Shows begin at 8 p.m.; tickets are \$15 per person

Also, for the little goblins, the Family Matinee: Costume Contest and Parade, Stage Show, Cartoons and Shorts. Saturday, November 1 at 3 p.m. Adults \$5, Children under 12, \$2.

Help protect and sustain historic theaters. For more information and tickets, go to www.LAHTF.org.

People will be dying to get in... ●

Preservation Matters

Town and Gown

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(see “Flower Drive Update” on page TK.)

After a several-year journey, the so-called “USC Off-Campus Housing Overlay” ordinance – now renamed the “North University Park – Exposition Park – West Adams Neighborhood Stabilization Overlay District” – was passed unanimously by City Council members present on September 23. Essentially, this new ordinance (effective November 16) will regulate student-style housing with multiple bedrooms (and multiple beds), requiring additional parking and a conditional use permit for such projects. The idea is to, as the ordinance states, “provide for well-planned neighborhoods with adequate parking and to individually-review proposed large multiple-habitable room projects.”

Little more than a week later, on October 1, the City Council approved another motion by 8th District Councilman Bernard Parks, initiating a specific plan for the neighborhoods surrounding USC as well as for the campus itself.

As WAHA members learned earlier this year, the university has been preparing a master plan – a plan which community members and elected officials have been seeking for two decades. It soon became clear that the scope of USC’s proposed master plan had many broader land-use implications, resulting in discussions among city planning staff, elected officials, and university officials, and triggering Parks’ motion.

The motion in fact speaks for itself:

The Greater Downtown Los Angeles area, including the community surrounding the University of Southern California (USC), has experienced significant change in the last several years. USC is the largest private employer in the City, has undergone significant development during the past decade and has additional facilities needs to continue to support its academic mission through the year 2030. Planning for USC and the surrounding areas so far has been done largely on a case-by-case basis.

As USC embarks on the development of a Master Plan for its campus, it is an appropriate time for the City to consider the relationships between USC and the surrounding community as well as the development of a Specific Plan that will coordinate and integrate the long range land use needs of the university with surrounding uses and the needs of the community at-large.

Among the many land use policy objectives and opportunities that the City, working in conjunction with USC and other property owners and stakeholders need to address are the following:

1. *The housing needs of both USC and the community by promoting the development of new housing stock for students, faculty and staff within walking distance of the core campus, conveniently locating USC student housing near campus-among other ways to address community concerns regarding displacement and affordable housing.*

2. *The growing transit system in the area and enhance the pedestrian environment in order to improve access to all of the area’s attractions, reduce traffic congestion and improve air quality.*

3. *Creating a walkable community, visibly knitting together parts of the campus and better integrating it into the larger community by providing pedestrian-oriented uses and amenities, including, but not limited to, retail, open space and streetscape improvements in the Master Plan area that will be accessible and provide amenities to the community.*

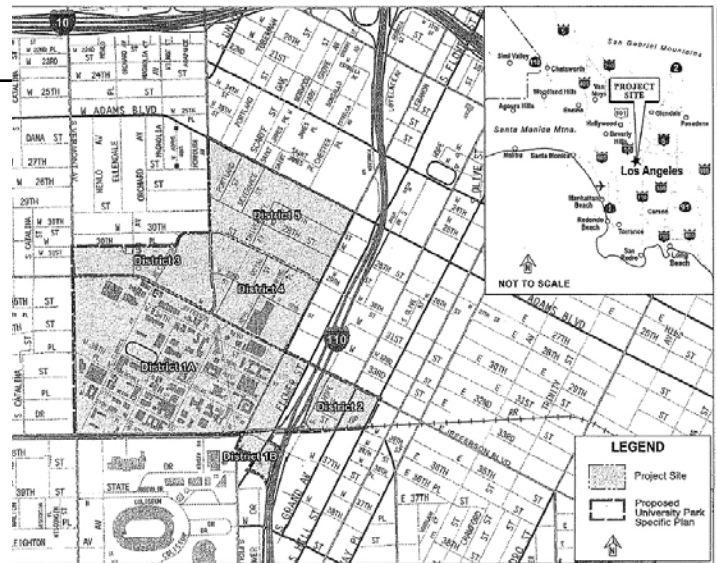
4. *The location of proposed USC student housing density and retail uses within the Master Plan area and along the major corridors in close proximity to both transit opportunities (Metro light rail and rapid bus lines) and the core campus, thereby, reducing USC-related traffic impacts.*

5. *Identifying smart parking solutions for USC and the community, including but not limited to, implementing pooled parking systems, locating additional parking resources north of the core campus, allowing for shared parking resources, and maximizing existing underutilized parking resources south of the core campus.*

6. *Encouraging sustainable campus development that minimizes USC’s impact on the environment and reduces USC’s reliance on non-renewable energy.*

7. *Ensuring the preservation-of-the-existing. property tax base for the benefit all public taxing entities including the City, County, State, School District and the Community Redevelopment Agency.*

Councilman Parks requested that Planning department staff report their progress to the South Los Angeles Area Planning Commission every 60 days through 2009, and have a near-final draft of the Specific Plan available by January 2010. His motion also requires ongoing community meetings and discussions.



Proposed University Park
Specific Plan Location and Boundaries

One WAHA Perspective: The Flower Drive District

By Mitzi March Mogul

In the 1990s the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) commissioned an update of the historic survey of the Hoover Project area, which identified Flower Drive, a street near Figueroa Street and Adams Boulevard in the West Adams District, as eligible for the California Register of Historic Places. The survey, done by Peter Moruzzi, was accepted and certified by the CRA. Based on that survey, WAHA decided to nominate the street as a State Historic District. Given his early involvement and intimate acquaintance with the buildings, WAHA hired Moruzzi to write the more complex nomination, involving in-depth research and analysis as required by state guidelines. Upon submittal to the State Office of Historic Preservation, nominations are reviewed by its staff to determine whether or not the information does meet the threshold to qualify for landmark status. The process is detailed and lengthy, vetted every step of the way by professionals. The State Historical Resources Commission meets quarterly to review and vote on these matters, and it is in no one's interest to bring something before the commissioners that is inadequate or incomplete.

Flower Drive is a street lined with duplexes and quadplexes, all in the Mediterranean Revival style. The term Mediterranean Revival is a bit of a catch-all, incorporating a variety of related styles, which are dependent upon one another and share a variety of features. Terminology can often be confusing, as many people (including the experts!) use words interchangeably, depending on their personal interpretation. For instance, Spanish Colonial Revival, Spanish Renaissance Revival, and Italian Revival share a number of characteristics, thus they inevitably get lumped together as simply Mediterranean Revival, Spanish Eclectic, or Vernacular (particular to a time, place, or group and not a refined or precise model). Although they also have features that distinguish their patrimony, these can sometimes be applied in subtle ways, difficult to recognize. Most often, these structures employ a selection of architectural details that simply appealed to the architect or his client and are not intended to be "pure" or accurate representations of a single style. This eclecticism was common during the 1920s and 1930s, during which these designs were popular.

The nomination was received and reviewed by the State Office and accepted to be placed on the official agenda for the Commission's July 25 meeting. As part of the process, property owners were notified, and immediately there was opposition. The University of Southern California has shown an interest in the properties on Flower Drive and it opposes any restrictions or covenants that university officials believe may inhibit future development. In a letter to the State Historical Resources Commission prior to the July 25th hearing, USC stated: "Any finding of 'Eligibility'...will impede future opportunities to address the housing needs of the community and the university...the concept of fostering student, faculty, and staff housing along Figueroa or Flower emerged as an important option..."

WAHA was represented at the Commission hearing by Moruzzi, WAHA President Jim Robinson, and me. A few property owners, a USC official, and their consultant, Mary Jo Winder, attended to express their opposition to the nomination. They

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The Flower Drive historic district is on a street lined with duplexes and quadplexes, all in the Mediterranean Revival style.

Living History Tour - A Great Success!

We'd like to do a big call out and thank you to ALL of our wonderful WAHA volunteers who helped make this year's Living History Tour at Angelus Rosedale Cemetery a huge success. Before we do that, we also want to acknowledge 10th District Councilmember Herb Wesson, who not only encouraged his deputy (and our West Adams neighbor) Albert Edmund Lord III to portray Buffalo Soldier and Medal of Honor recipient Capt. Edward Lee Baker — Councilmember Wesson also provided us a podium with amplified microphone and a beautiful blow-up of Capt. Baker's portrait for display during our event. In addition, Councilmember Wesson arranged for coverage on the city-owned television station, Channel 35.

Everyone worked very hard, but we do want to acknowledge our actors, who "channel" our historic personages in costumes (in some cases, wool garments) for



10th District Councilmember Herb Wesson greets descendants of Capt. Edward Lee Baker, Jr., one of this year's Living History Tour portrayals

hours under the hot sun. Please give a hand to: Chuck Kovacic (Monroe Salisbury), Phyllis Williams (Ernestine Wade), Albert Edmund Lord III (Capt. Edward Lee Baker), Hunter Ochs (Valentine Wolfenstein), Stephen Box (Rev. Asahel Morgan Hough), and Gisa Nico (our Queen for a Day, Francisca de Paula Dominguez Alexander Fleming, Queen of La Fiesta de Los Angeles).

No WAHA event can occur without many, many helping hands. On the day of the tour, we literally had some 50 volunteers in the cemetery, including (and please forgive us if we miss your name in this list!): Judy Tedrick, Lisa Berns, Lindsay Wiggins, Frank Cooper, Suzanne Cooper, Linda Lee, Rory Cunningham, Corinne Pleger, Sally Turner, Dan Hakes, Anne Hakes, Danny Miller, Georgia Toliver, Marianne Muellerleile, Anne Marie Brooks, John Kurtz, Michael Smith, David Saffer, Paula Brynen, Paul Brynen, Kathie Adams, Rina Rubenstein,



Flower Drive *continued from page 7*

had also submitted a written response to the Commission in advance of the hearing. During the hearing, each side was given ample opportunity to make verbal arguments; neither side used all of their allotted time.

After reviewing all of the written information both for and against the nomination and hearing the verbal arguments during the hearing, the Commission made its decision. Taking into account the wishes of the property owners as well as the factual documentation that made up the nomination, the decision was made to declare Flower Drive as **eligible** to be included on the State Register of Historic Places. This is not quite the same as declaring it a historic district, although you might say it is a distinction without a difference. From a legal standpoint, eligibility offers the same protection as "declared," including the ability to invoke the use of CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act). However, eligibility alone does not qualify a property to access any of the available benefits (tax credits, Mills Act, etc); final designation offers economic incentives. Although official landmarking would have been preferred, WAHA was satisfied with the decision.

Recently, WAHA learned that the July decision is being appealed and that appeal will be heard at the next hearing on November 7. WAHA expects to have both written and oral representation at the hearing. Appeals must be based upon new information that was either unknown at the time of the initial decision, or that the Commission failed to consider as part of its decision-making, or that the finding of eligibility on July 25 was arbitrary. It is the opinion of the WAHA Preservation Committee and its consultants that there is no such new information and the Commission acted on factual knowledge. We believe that the nomination as submitted was sound, that all aspects were considered by the Commission at the time, and that the consultant for the opposition has offered no new argument that would influence the Commission to rescind its original decision.

WAHA is not concerned about who may or may not have an interest in any given building or district or what future plans an owner or developer may wish to pursue. Whatever other influences may impact the resource is beyond the purview of whether or not it qualifies as historically, architecturally, or culturally significant. It is the stated mission of WAHA to protect historic resources within the West Adams District.

We will continue to report in these pages the process and disposition of this issue. ●



Norma Reynolds, Peggy King, John Patterson, Candy Wynne, SeElcey Caldwell, Dorinda Carey, Yvette Ammon, Michael Medina, Evan Pleger, Logan Cooper, Dave Pleger, Michelle Basche, David Nico, Zeke Anders, Mary Wescott, Mitzi March Mogul, Jeff Valdez, David Pacheco, Zelyne Rudolph, Leslie Evans, and Jerry Kvasnicka.

Advance help was much appreciated from Don Lynch, Suzanne Henderson, Adam Janeiro, Cat Slater, and Arthur Tobias, who created a beautiful clay monument to temporarily mark Ernestine Wade's grave during the Living History Tour. Jean Cade once again opened her home to the volunteers afterwards, and "Chef Eric" Bronson prepared another wonderful repast.

Laura Meyers coordinated this year's Living History Tour. Thank you again to Laura and everyone else! ●

Pictured: Opposite page, Stephen Box as Rev. Asahel Morgan Hough. This page, clockwise from upper left: Gisa Nico as Queen Francisca Alexander; Albert Edmund Lord III as Capt. Edward Lee Baker, Jr.; Phyllis Williams as Ernestine Wade; Chuck Kovacik as Monroe Salisbury; and Hunter Ochs as Valentine Wolfenstein.

Photos by Suzanne Tarbell Cooper and Leslie Evans.



Festival of Lights: WAHA's Holiday Tour

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Festivals in a number of ancient civilizations were celebrated with lights. The Druids in both France and England believed that oak trees were sacred, and they ornamented them with candles and fruit in honor of their gods of light and harvest. The ancient Roman festival of Saturnalia included trees decorated with candles and small gifts. The worship of trees as the homes of spirits and gods may have led to the Christmas tree tradition, accompanied by the companion custom of decking the tree with brilliant lights evoking stars, jewels, sparkling ice, and holiday cheer.

And spirituality is not the only source of this tradition: towns throughout America today use Holiday Festivals of Lights to rally community spirit. Indeed, the West Adams Avenues neighborhood encourages residents to light up their streets in December with beautiful twinkling lights and holiday decorations.

The West Adams Avenues neighborhood was originally part of the Arlington Heights Township laid out in 1887 on an elevated plateau that rose between Adams and Pico streets just outside the Los Angeles city limits. The neighborhood went through several development spurts in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, becoming one of Los Angeles's elite residential districts. Over this timeframe, famed architects like Charles Shattuck, Paul Williams, and Hudson & Munsell designed many fine examples of Victorian, Craftsman, Shingle, Colonial, Spanish Revival, Tudor, Norman, and other eclectic revival architectural styles in the Avenues, building modest bungalows and grand mansions alike.

After the Santa Monica Freeway was erected in the 1960s, the southerly part of Arlington Heights became its own distinct pocket neighborhood. In the late 1990s, the West Adams Avenues neighborhood association was established to bring together several previously-existing block clubs and neighborhood watch groups under one umbrella. Within the West Adams Avenues neighborhood, the organization has worked diligently to plant trees, repair sidewalks, coordinate the many film productions in the neighborhood, and to improve the local park, renaming it the Benny H. Potter West Adams Avenues Memorial Park in honor of a longtime resident. West Adams Avenues has also advocated on behalf of community and educational programs at the South Seas House, also operated by the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks.

Over the years, West Adams Avenues has been home to many notable Angelenos, including the Wilshire family, U.S. Congressman Gordon McDonough, and architect Paul Williams' family members. One residence is even said to have been built by silent film star Ramon Navarro for his brother. For many years this area was a thriving center of Los Angeles African American culture, home to such icons of the film and music worlds as Ray Charles, Little Richard, and Hattie McDaniel. Today, its population is as diverse as its architecture. Hollywood has also come calling numerous times in this neighborhood,

which has served as a location for such movies and TV series as the feature *You, Me and Dupree*, HBO's *Six Feet Under*, the CBS TV series *Numb3rs*, and the movie *Cheaper By the Dozen*.

But you wanted to know more about WAHA's 2008 Holiday Tour.

WAHA's traditional holiday tour features a sumptuous progressive dinner, with each course served in one of the featured properties. This year we are "shining a light" on the world's cuisines, and will feature an internationally-inspired holiday menu. We've also scheduled a Sunday afternoon walking tour, without the food.

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

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

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

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- Prep Cook – cook or bake in your own home the week before the Tour
 - Volunteer Dinners - pick up and deliver volunteer dinners on Saturday 12/6 and Sunday 12/7, tentatively from 4 to 6 p.m. both days
 - WAHA Holiday Party – decorate, set-up and otherwise assist with this party (for our members and wonderful volunteers) on Sunday afternoon, December 14
 - Crafty types – we need your creative skills (and possibly your glue guns) to make tourgoer badges and ornaments
 - Shopping - Trader Joe's, 99 Cent Store, Smart & Final, Von's, the Flower Mart — they'll all get a WAHA visit or two
 - Holiday decorating – some of our tour properties can use a helping hand hanging ornaments, garland and other seasonal "attire" during the week before the Tour
 - Street decorating - install signs at Tour houses on Saturday 12/6 by 2 p.m.
- If you are available any of these times, please raise your hand and volunteer. Contact us at tours@westadamsheritage.org. We have tentatively slated volunteer training for the afternoon of Sunday, November 23 (time and location TBA). This training will be MANDATORY for Shepherds (we don't want any of the little lambs to go astray).
- The Holiday Tour is WAHA's major annual fundraising event, and helps pay for our award-winning Evening Strolls as well as our many preservation support and advocacy activities. We encourage all of our members to contribute to that effort by taking the Holiday Tour and Progressive Dinner —

and bringing their friends — on the day they are not volunteering.

In light of recent economic turmoil, we are also lowering our Early Bird prices "a tad" – while at the same time we are planning an especially festive event. If you can only afford one splurge this Holiday Season, please consider the Festival of Lights!

If you purchase your ticket by November 10, prices are \$70 for non-members, \$60 for WAHA members. After November 10, all tickets are \$85 apiece. Each year, some of you wish to purchase large groups of tickets, and we love that you do so – but please contact us no later than November 5 to reserve your block of seats. Please be sure to return the forms and your checks as early as possible, so that you and your guests will not be disappointed. It is not unusual for this event to sell out.

If you have joined WAHA at a membership level that may provide tickets to you and a guest for this tour, please DO contact us immediately (and no later than November 1) with your reservation, so we can be sure to accommodate you.

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

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

The Fine Print:

- Advance Ticket Sales Only — No Walk-ins!
- Holiday Tour & Progressive Dinner:
General admission, \$85 (Early Bird price \$70, postmarked by November 10); WAHA members, \$60 (must be postmarked by November 10; after that the price is \$85)

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	<p>2827 S. Hoover St. 213-746-2929</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special sandwiches and dinner selections • Exceptional salads and soups • Parking
<p>Check our website for menus and hours: www.TheTwoNine.com</p>		

(continued on page 12)

Festival of Lights: WAHA's Holiday Tour *continued from page 11*

Saturday, December 6: Docent-led tours depart on the half-hour from 3 p.m. through 6 p.m.

Sunday, December 7: Docent-led tours depart on the half-hour from 3:30 p.m. through 5:45 p.m.

• Holiday Walking Tour (Sunday afternoon only): \$40

Check in between Noon and 2 p.m. Houses will close promptly at 3 p.m.

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

WAHA Holiday Tour
2209 Virginia Road
Los Angeles, CA 90016

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

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

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

To VOLUNTEER, write tours@westadamsheritage.org

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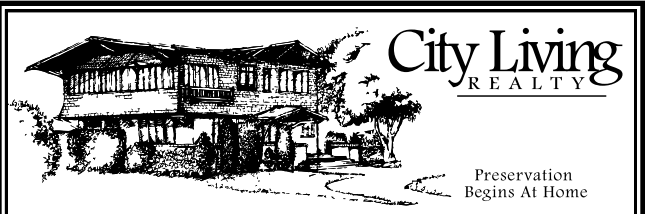
Save the Stewart Cottage and Its Next-Door Neighbor

Two More Historic Structures Need New Homes

WAHA has been quietly working to save an 1871 cottage and an adjacent Craftsman triplex from the wrecking ball. A developer is planning to erect a housing complex at the site (505-511 West 31st Street, between Flower and Figueroa Streets), and from the start Community Redevelopment Agency staff indicated that these houses should be moved.

The Victorian cottage was built by early Los Angeles nurseryman John Marcellus Stewart, who was a member of the Los Angeles Pioneer Society. Stewart had a colorful life. He walked across the country, through Indian territory, to California, to become a gold miner in 1850. In 1871, Stewart, his wife Melissa, and younger daughter, Grace, moved to Los Angeles. He bought a 17-acre vineyard, dug up the vines, and planted instead "exotic" nursery plants like Pampas grasses, pepper trees and sweet oranges as landscaping materials for the growing metropolis. And he built the still-extant cottage, which is one of the oldest wood frame houses still standing in Los Angeles.

Later, he built a mansion elsewhere on his property, long since demolished. That the cottage has survived 135 years is miracle in itself. Can you be a part of this century's miracle, and identify an appropriate place to move the Stewart Cottage to? If you would be interested in moving the cottage or the triplex, contact architect Kym Vitar at kymikelias.vitar@gmail.com or the development's land use consultant, Elizabeth Peterson-Gower, at 213-674-2686 or elizabeth@epgla.com. ●



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IN ESCROW

Adams-Normandie Craftsman — (Adam Janeiro, buyer's agent)

Jefferson Park Spanish — (Adam Janeiro, buyer's agent)

Virgil Village Craftsman — (Adam Janeiro, buyer's agent)

Central L.A. Probate — (Nancy Deaven, seller's agent)

SOLD

Adams-Normandie Craftsman — Great period details in HPOZ. 2317 S. Budlong. \$599,000. (Suzanne Henderson, seller's and buyer's agent) — Welcome, Anne and Ernie Scarbrough!

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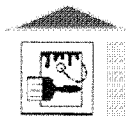
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___ *Please DO NOT include my name, address, e-mail, or telephone in the WAHA membership directory.*

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
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www.WestAdamsHeritage.org

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Kathleen Cooper is an experienced designer and project manager, who specializes in historic homes of West Adams. Free consult, 323-731-6360.

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Calendar ✓

WAHA's Upcoming Events

WAHA events and other programs of interest:

Saturday, October 18:

WAHA Stroll in Arlington Heights

3 - 5:30 p.m.

Meet at Eureka Cafe, 4053 W. Washington Blvd.

(see story, page 1)

Sunday, October 26:

Halloween Fest is CANCELLED

Saturday, November 22:

WAHA Author Reception & Book Signing

4 p.m. (location TBA) • (see story, page 4)

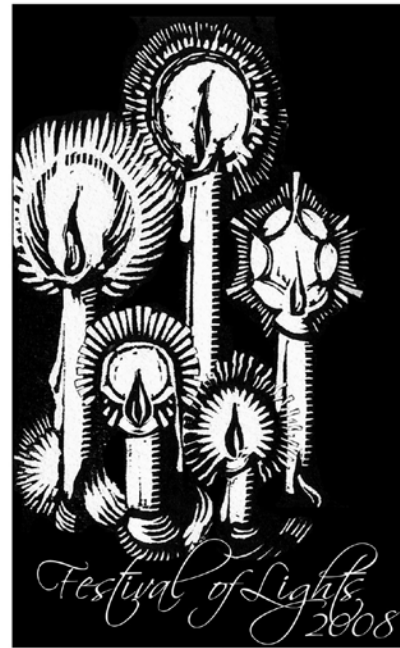
Saturday, December 6, and Sunday, December 7

WAHA's Annual Holiday Tour & Progressive Dinner

in West Adams Avenues (see story, page 1)

Sunday afternoon, December 14:

WAHA Holiday Party



*Mark your calendar for
A Festival of Lights in West Adams Avenues,
WAHA's Holiday Tour & Progressive Dinner
Saturday & Sunday, December 6 & 7*

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

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