

LOS ANGELES REACHES MAJOR PRESERVATION MILESTONE: HISTORIC-CULTURAL MONUMENT #1000

On June 1, 2011, the City of Los Angeles reached a significant milestone in its historic preservation program: the approval of City Historic-Cultural Monument #1000, the Golden State Mutual Life Insurance building at 1999 W. Adams Boulevard in West Adams.

The Golden State Mutual Building is a very fitting recipient of this honor. Built in 1949, this six-story commercial building was designed in the Late Moderne style by architect Paul R. Williams (1894-1980). Williams was the first certified African-American architect west of the Mississippi River, the first African-American member of the American Institute of Architects, and also served on the first Los Angeles Planning Commission in 1920.

Golden State Mutual Life Insurance Company had been founded in 1925 by three African-American businessmen. Serving African-Americans who had been denied coverage by insurance companies because of racial dis-

crimination, the company opened in a storefront in South Los Angeles and later built its own headquarters on Central Avenue (Historic-Cultural Monument #580; 1929). The company quickly grew to become the largest black-owned business west of the Mississippi River and in 1948 commissioned the construction of a new home office on Adams Boulevard. The building served as the headquarters for the company for over 60 years, from 1949-2010.



Paul R. Williams' Golden State Mutual Building becomes HCM #1000

The building also includes two significant murals in the lobby, depicting the African-American experience in Cali-

fornia: "*The Negro in California History--Settlement and Development*" (1949) by Hale Woodruff and "*The Negro in California History--Exploration and Colonization*" (1949) by Charles Alston.

These murals became the subject of considerable activity prior to the approval of Historic-Cultural Monument

(Continued on page 2)

NEW HPOZS APPROVED FOR HOLLYWOOD GROVE & JEFFERSON PARK

The Los Angeles City Council has recently approved two new Historic Preservation Overlay Zones (HPOZs), bringing the total number of Los Angeles neighborhoods that have obtained HPOZ status to 29.

Hollywood Grove

Nestled in the foothills of the Hollywood Hills within the Los Feliz community, the Hollywood Grove HPOZ, approved by the Council during May, is a remarkable example

of early residential development in the Hollywood area.

Simply walking the neighborhood's north-south streets above Franklin Avenue starting at Canyon Drive on the west provides an immediate feel for what a residential tract in Hollywood's early days looked and felt like. Lush landscaping and a mix of sub-tropical and native plants abound, punctuated by ubiquitous palm trees. Wide front porches on

(Continued on page 5)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE::

<i>SurveyLA Receives CLG Grant</i>	2
<i>OHR Summer Interns Make A Difference</i>	3
<i>Preserving Los Angeles' Bridges</i>	4
<i>New Historic-Cultural Monuments</i>	6

HISTORIC-CULTURAL MONUMENT # 1000

(Continued from page 1)

status. When Golden State Mutual ceased operations, the California Department of Insurance became its conservator and began liquidating most of the company's assets, including the interior murals. While the murals had been painted on canvas and affixed to the lobby walls, OHR staff and the Cultural Heritage Commission believe that they are clearly integral to the building: they had been specifically commissioned by Paul R. Williams, had been painted "to suit" for these particular locations within the building lobby, and remain thematically inextricable to a building that itself has been central to the African-American experience in Los Angeles.

The Smithsonian Institution had made an offer to purchase the murals, with plans to install them in the new National Museum of African-American History and Culture in Washington, D.C., but later withdrew its offer after community opposition grew to removing the murals from their original location.

The Los Angeles Conservancy, whose Modern Committee was the applicant for the Historic-Cultural Monument, began an advocacy campaign to retain the murals on-site, together with the West Adams Heritage Association. The building's new

owner, Community Impact Development, a non-profit social service organization in South Los Angeles, also expressed strong support for the murals remaining in the building.



One of the murals found inside the Golden State Mutual Building: Charles Alston's *The Negro in California*
History—Exploitation and Colonization

While the question of whether the murals are an asset separate from the building remains the subject of a legal dispute, the Office of the City Attorney did successfully obtain an order from the Los Angeles Superior Court allowing the City's Historic-Cultural Monument designation to move forward. The designation identifies the murals as significant character-defining features of the building.

Los Angeles reached its 1000th Historic-Cultural Monument after nearly a half-century of historic designations through its historic preservation program: the City's original Cultural Heritage Ordinance was approved in 1962, and the City will be celebrating its 50th anniversary during 2012. At the first meeting of what was then called the Cultural Heritage Board, on August 6, 1962, Historic-Cultural Monument status was approved for the Leonis Adobe (Historic-Cultural Monument #1, on the border of Calabasas), Bolton Hall in Tujunga, the Plaza Church in El Pueblo, Angels Flight Railway, and the Salt Box mansion on Bunker Hill (destroyed by fire in 1969 following relocation to Heritage Square).

OHR RECEIVES CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT GRANT FOR OUTREACH AND SOCIAL MEDIA

The Office of Historic Resources has been awarded a \$22,500 Certified Local Government (CLG) grant from the California Office of Historic Preservation to assist with the public outreach program for SurveyLA, the Los Angeles Historic Resources Survey Project.

In 2010, the OHR received a CLG grant to hire a contract consultant who would help coordinate SurveyLA's outreach activities. The OHR will use the 2011-2012 CLG grant to implement the outreach program in advance of our Year 3 surveys, and to expand the program to include a social media component.

With large segments of the population now engaging with their communities through person-to-person social networking, the OHR looks forward to pioneering new techniques that allow for citizens to connect with one another and share information on historic resources that matter to them.

SurveyLA's social media strategy will likely include "MyHistoricLA" workshop/training webinars and an increased use of "Web 2.0" applications such as Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr, Flickr, LinkedIn, MindMixer and Foursquare. The OHR hopes that this social media strategy will serve as a replicable social media model for other cities and local non-profit preservation organizations statewide.



OHR INTERNS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The Office of Historic Resources (OHR) is benefiting from the work of six talented interns this summer.

Erin Chapman is a Master's student in Preservation Studies at Boston University. She has a B.A. in History (with a minor in Political Science) from UC Riverside, and grew up in Palmdale. Erin is assisting the Historic Preservation Overlay Zone (HPOZ) unit, helping to prepare Preservation Plans for proposed new HPOZs, and is also providing support to the OHR's Mills Act program.



Erica Dolcini graduated in May with a B.S. from the University of Southern California in Policy, Management, and Planning, with a minor in Architecture. She has been interning in the OHR since February, assisting with SurveyLA and other projects. She worked previously for a preservation planning firm in Petaluma and served as a squad leader for the famed Trojan Marching Band.

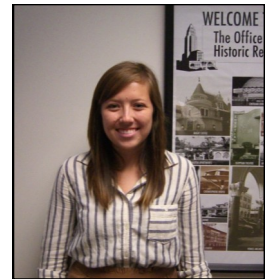


Ian Dull, a native of Orange County, is a 2009 graduate of Yale University. Since graduation, he has worked as an intern in the Sacred Sites program of the New York Landmarks Conservancy, where he prepared documentation reports for historic churches and synagogues. He also spent much of 2010 in Cambodia, creating an archive of the work of Vann Molyvann, Cambodia's foremost modern architect. He is assisting in the work of the Cultural Heritage Commission.



Jenn Wilson Gonzalez is a Ph.D. student at UC Riverside, studying public history and 20th century United States history, with an emphasis on Los Angeles and its built environment. She has a B.A. in history from UCLA, and is contributing to SurveyLA's historic context statement working on The Entertainment Industry theme.

Amanda Locke has completed her junior year in Urban and Regional Planning at Cal Poly Pomona. A resident of Glendora, Amanda has been assisting the OHR's HPOZ unit since March. In addition to assisting with the annual HPOZ Conference, Amanda has put together a resource library for the HPOZ unit, compiling all of historic resources surveys, Sanborn maps and other historic archival materials and has assisted staff in preparing draft Preservation Plans for pending HPOZs.



Gina Yang graduated in June from UC Santa Barbara with a B.A. in Art History with emphasis in Architecture and Environment. Gina was selected from more than 40 applicants as this year's OHR Getty Multicultural Summer Intern, with stipend support from the Getty Foundation. She has previous work experience in UC Santa Barbara's University Museum Architecture and Design Collection, Santa Barbara's chapter of the American Institute of Architects, and the Architectural Foundation of Santa Barbara.



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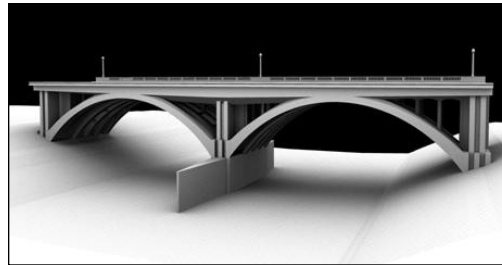
PRESERVING LOS ANGELES' HISTORIC BRIDGES

Incorporating input from the Cultural Heritage Commission, the Los Angeles City Council has approved a revised project design for a widening of the historic North Spring Street Bridge (HCM #900) which will now preserve more of the bridge's significant architectural features than the original proposed project. Constructed in 1927 near the original site of the City's founding, the North Spring Street bridge is situated in one of the most historically rich areas of the City, linking the communities of Lincoln Heights and Chinatown.



A view of the current Spring Street Bridge

The bridge is also located between two of the oldest Los Angeles River Bridges - the North Main Street Bridge (1910) and the North Broadway-Buena Vista Bridge (1911). The North Spring Street Bridge has been determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, is listed in the California Register of Historical Resources, and was designated as Historic-Cultural Monument (HCM) #900 in 2008.



Bureau of Engineers illustration of a proposed differentiated dual arch bridge

Over the past two years, the Commission has expressed concerns about the potential loss of historic status for this and other landmark LA River bridges. The monumental Los Angeles River bridges between Downtown and Griffith Park are some of the City's most iconic landmarks with a total of 14 bridges designated as Historic-Cultural Monuments, including the North Spring Street Bridge.

The bridge project as originally proposed would have widened the deck by 40' (20' feet on each side), nearly doubling the span of the current bridge. It would also have removed historic railings, light fixtures, and brackets, obscured the double-arch span over the river, and incorporated new additions mimicking the historic features lost through the widening. The project's EIR concluded that this project would result in an adverse effect and loss of the bridge's landmark designation.

During 2010, the Commission proposed further study of alternatives that would safeguard the historic designation of the bridge. The staff of the Office of Historic Resources (OHR) worked closely with BOE staff and representatives of Council District 1 to continue developing alternatives that would protect the historic designation of the bridge while also meeting the goals of the project.

These discussions resulted in a new project alternative that would leave one side of the bridge completely intact, while pursuing a more modest (22') widening on the other side. The new bridge addition would be somewhat differentiated visually from the historic bridge, in keeping with historic preservation standards, which emphasize the importance of avoiding a false sense of historical development and conveying an accurate sense of time and place.

At its meeting of May 5, 2011 the Cultural Heritage Commission praised the new bridge design concepts and indicated its belief that the new alternative would help ensure that the bridge retain its historic eligibility. The Final EIR was approved by the full City Council on June 14, 2011.

The Sixth Street Bridge

In addition, the Commission and the OHR are also closely monitoring the proposed demolition and replacement of the Sixth Street Bridge (HCM #905), constructed in 1932. The bridge, nearly 2/3 of a mile long, is the largest and longest bridge constructed over the L.A. River. Unfortunately, the bridge is suffering structurally from Alkali Silica Reaction (ASR), a chemical reaction that is causing destruction to the bridge's concrete.

While it now appears likely that the ASR will require replacement of the bridge's concrete, the Cultural Heritage Commission has requested that BOE fully evaluate a reconstruction alternative consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards, akin to the approach taken in Pasadena during the early 1990s with the Colorado Street Bridge over the Arroyo Seco. If reconstruction is not feasible, the Commission has requested that BOE consider partial preservation alternatives that maximize retention of the bridge's key historic features. The Commission and OHR staff will be working with BOE staff on such alternatives in the coming weeks.

Please contact Edgar Garcia, Preservation Planner with the Office of Historic Resources, at 213-978-1189 for more information regarding the current efforts to preserve the city's historic bridges.

HOLLYWOOD GROVE AND JEFFERSON PARK

(Continued from page 1)

Craftsman bungalows provide generous views of the hills, while neighboring Period Revival houses remind us that Los Angeles is a place where architecture is just one of many free forms of expression.

Hollywood Grove, named for the avocado orchards that predate the subdivision is a collection of 138 houses built largely between 1905 and 1939, and many of its original inhabitants had close ties to the early motion picture production industry. While none of the early residents are known to be movie stars, the house at 1972 Canyon Drive was prominently featured in the film *Chinatown*. The neighborhood remains remarkably intact: 108 of the homes were identified as “Contributing” (historic) structures in the historic resources survey for the HPOZ.



An example of one of the homes in the Hollywood Grove HPOZ



A Craftsman home featured in the recently adopted Jefferson Park HPOZ

Jefferson Park

The West Adams area southwest of Downtown Los Angeles is widely known for its preponderance of architecturally and historically significant structures, and has been home to six of the City’s HPOZs. In June, the City has adopted its 29th HPOZ, the City’s second largest district: Jefferson Park.

Often referred to by locals as “The Bungalows,” the Jefferson

Park neighborhood is one of the City’s finest examples of both an early street car suburb, and the proliferation of the Arts and Crafts movement of the early 1900s in the form of simple, yet elegant, single-story bungalows for the growing middle class. Fanciful eaves, intricate wood work, turrets, stone, masonry and shingles are displayed in ways that defy the modest scale of these houses and make the many streets of this vast district instantly charming.

Unlike many of the mansions that were built “up the hill” closer to Adams and Washington Boulevards, most of the nearly 2,000 houses in Jefferson Park are not associated with a particular architect. Rather, most of the houses were built using prefabricated kits or plan books produced by the likes of Sears and Pacific Ready-Cut Homes.

In addition to its celebrated architecture, Jefferson Park has long embodied the ethnic and cultural diversity for which Los Angeles is known. Upon the elimination of racially restrictive covenants in the 1940s Jefferson Park found instant favor with African-American and Japanese-American families.

While the neighborhood demographics today are even more diverse, many of the business and institutions along Adams and Jefferson Boulevards and Western Avenue, within the HPOZ, reflect the contributions of these predominant communities.

L.A.’S NEWEST HCMs

(Continued from page 6)

HCM #1000: Golden State Mutual Life Insurance Company Home Office

See article on Page 1.

HCM #1001: May Company Garage



The Beaux-Arts style nine-story parking garage and retail building at 9th and Hill Streets in downtown Los Angeles was built in 1927 and was one of the first of its kind to be constructed in the city at a time when the auto culture was booming. The building included retail stores along its street frontage and was designed by Claude Beelman and William Curlett, who were responsible for the

designs of several other Historic-Cultural Monuments, including the Park Plaza Hotel and the Barker Brothers Building.

HCM #1002: Gertrude and Harry Kaye Building/ Hannah Schwartz Apartments

Built in 1947, this four-story multi-family residential building is located on Almont Drive and placed adjacent to the cities of West Hollywood and Beverly Hills. The property exhibits features of the International Style and Streamline Moderne and was one of the few privately-owned multi-family apartment buildings designed by notable Los Angeles architect Paul



R. Williams, the first African-American architect admitted to the American Institute of Architects (AIA).

L.A.'S NEWEST HISTORIC-CULTURAL MONUMENTS

The Los Angeles City Council gave final approval to nine new City Historic-Cultural Monuments between April and June of 2011

HCM #994: Arsenberg-Stendahl Home Gallery



This property in the Hollywood Hills was built in 1920 for Lee B. Memefee and designed by architect William Lee Woollett, who also designed other significant Los Angeles buildings, including Broadway's Million

Dollar Theatre. The two-story residential building is an example of Mediterranean Revival architecture with Mid-Century Modern additions. Purchased in 1927 by major art collectors Walter C. Arsenberg and his wife Louis Stevens, the property was bought in 1954 by Earl L. Stendahl, who used it as an art gallery. It continues to function as a gallery space today.

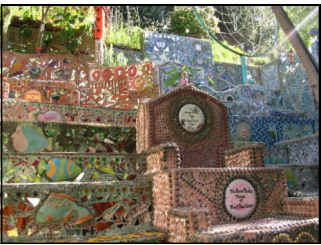
HCM #995: 9027 West Alden Drive Apartments



Situated on the northwest corner of Alden and Wetherly Drive near the Beverly Center, this two-story apartment building houses four residential units. Built in 1931, the building is an excellent example of the Spanish Colonial Revival style

with a flat red tile roof, a hacienda plan, stucco walls, decorative tiles, and wood balconies with open spindle work.

HCM #996: Garden of Oz



Begun in 1991 in the Hollywoodland area, this landscape garden area created by Gail Cottman is a unique folk art environment comprised of outdoor public art pieces, with contributions from over 75 artists. The property has a decorative wrought-iron front

gate and employs a large amount of statuary and found objects. Initially developed as to expand a rose garden, the landscape evolved into a tile and sculpture garden inspired by the "Wizard of Oz," which now exists as children's folk art and peace garden.

HCM #997: Clifford E. Clinton Residence



Built in 1928 in Los Feliz, this two-story single family residence exhibits features of the Spanish Colonial Revival style, with multi-level side-gabled roofs covered in red Mission tile, iron grills and a decorative painted door at its front

entrance. Until 1949, the property was owned by Clifford E. Clinton, the owner of the famed Clifton Cafeterias chain and a noted leader in Los Angeles civic reform movements. Clinton led the recall of Mayor Frank Shaw in 1938; during this period, a bomb was placed in the basement of the home, which damaged the kitchen but left Clinton and his family unharmed.

HCM #998: Boettcher House



This two-story single family residence in West Adams' Central Arlington Heights neighborhood was built in 1905-1906 as a winter residence for Charles Boettcher, a noted businessman based in Colorado. The property is an example of Craftsman style architecture that was

designed using the Radford Architectural Company catalog. Some of its character-defining features include gabled roofs, clapboard siding, wood trim, box beamed interior ceilings and built-in cabinetry.

HCM #999: Marsh Duplex



Located in Hancock Park, this Mediterranean Revival style residential duplex building was built by contractor Edward Goralsky in 1928 for Margarete Mae Marsh.

The property exhibits a high level of architectural design and detailing, including a slightly pitched side-gabled roof covering in red Mission tile and multi-light arched casement windows on its front elevation.

(Continued on page 5)