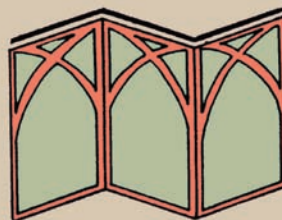
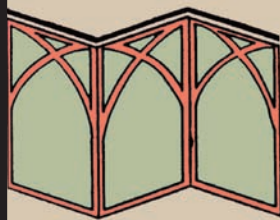


BERKELEY ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE ASSOCIATION



THE BAHHA NEWSLETTER

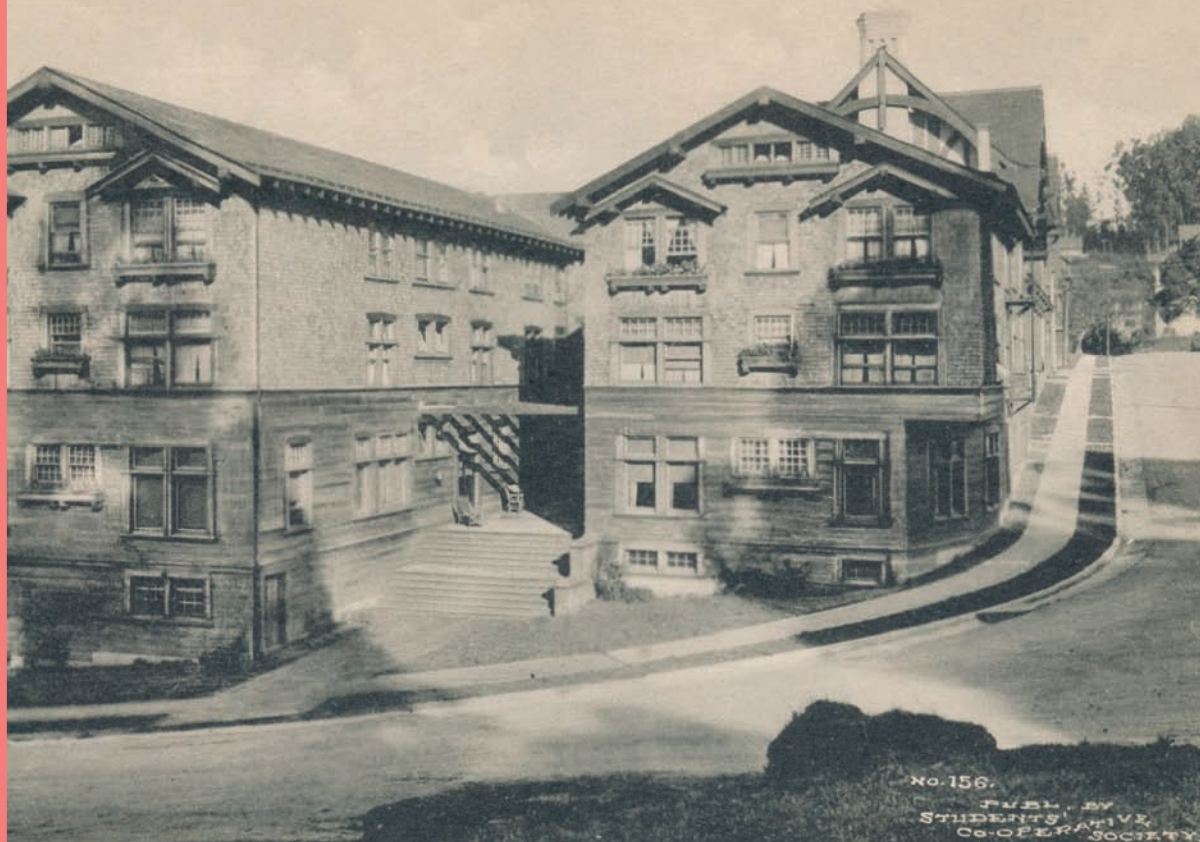


NO. 154

NON-PRESERVATION NUMBER

SUMMER 2019

*Controversy over a Northside corner
... see page 3*





Newman Hall

THE BAH NEWSLETTER

NO. 154

SUMMER 2019



Foothill Housing

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- BAH A's website includes notices of events, a list of Berkeley landmarks, illustrated essays, and more: berkeleyheritage.com/

- BAH A also maintains a blog where stories and notices of immediate interest are posted in a timely manner: baha-news.blogspot.com/

Cover: *College Hall* (Theodore Lenzen & Son, architects, 1908; demolished), corner of Hearst and La Loma avenues, from postcard No. 156 published by the Students' Co-operative Society, printed by The Albertype Company. Anthony Bruce collection. Above: *Newman Hall* (Shea & Lofquist, 1909; demolished), *La Loma and Ridge*. *Foothill Housing* (1991, Ratcliff Architects/Page & Turnbull), *La Loma and Hearst*.

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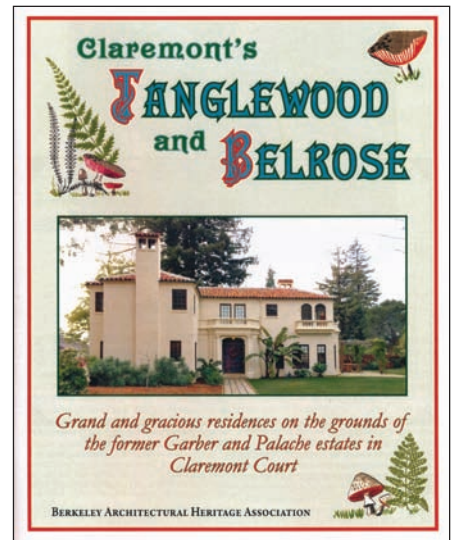
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Fran Cappelletti

THE LATEST PUBLICATION FROM BAH A

The guidebook from the 2019 spring house tour, "Claremont's Tanglewood and Belrose," is now available for \$5 at the BAH A office (or \$7 postpaid). The booklet contains information on the development of this corner of Claremont Court, descriptions of the houses on the tour, and photographs, both new and historic. The area had been the private enclave of the pioneer Garber and Palache families, and was subdivided into "villa sites" by the Mason-McDuffie Company in 1916. The work of architects Ernest Coxhead, Walter Ratcliff, William Schirmer, Willis Polk, Roland Stringham, Morrow and Garren, John Bakewell, Jr. (architect of Berkeley's City Hall), and Roger Lee (a perennial Mid-Century favorite) are described in the guide.

Our exhaustively researched house tour guidebooks provide a permanent record, not only of the featured houses, but of architecture in their neighborhoods.



Guidebooks from most of the past tours are still available. See BAH A's website for the current list: http://berkeleyheritage.com/house_tours.html

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The cover of this newsletter shows College Hall, a private dormitory that served the University of California. It opened 110 years ago, August 1909, right across from Founders' Rock at the corner of Hearst Avenue and La Loma, and provided much-needed housing for women students.

Architecturally, the brown-shingle building integrated perfectly with the surrounding neighborhood, which was thickly built up by then with homes and institutional buildings that followed the First Bay Tradition of architecture. Berkeley almost immediately became—and still is—famous for this style. The apostle of “building with nature,” Charles Keeler, lived just around the corner and up the hill from College Hall in Berkeley’s first house designed by Bernard Maybeck.

College Hall is long gone, replaced by a multi-story University of California parking structure on the same corner. The University has proposed to remove the parking structure and replace it with an apartment building for up to 150 faculty households. That’s a good concept. It would bring much-needed housing to the campus edge again, and roll back some of the visual blight the University inflicted on the Northside with heavy-handed demolitions and construction in the 1950s and 1960s.

But, not so fast. The goal of faculty housing is great and I support it. I worked on U.C. Berkeley’s first faculty housing development at the old Presentation High School in the 1990s. But the University- [continued on page 14]



Architect's rendering of the University's proposed structure to be built at Hearst and La Loma avenues. Compare this to the image of the same corner 110 years ago on the cover. Couldn't the new structure be designed to capture some of the Arts & Crafts aesthetic of Berkeley's famed Northside architecture?

UNCOVERING THE HISTORY OF A HARDY HOUSE

by

Fran Cappelletti



IF you want to experience Berkeley history firsthand, you can't go wrong with a stroll through the old Hardy Tract. Between Downtown and West Berkeley, on either side of University Avenue, the area was once pastoral and sparsely populated. As Berkeley developed, small farms were subdivided for single-family homes and, eventually, some apartment buildings. When mid-century development became too much for residents, community action resulted in the downzoning of this and other Berkeley neighborhoods. Today you will find a mix of styles: classic to modern.

A NEW BEGINNING

New to the neighborhood are James Angus and Liz Linden. They are currently restoring the house at 1731 Addison Street after moving to the Bay Area from the Greenpoint section of Brooklyn, New York. As development encroached upon them there, it was natural to look West, since Liz is a Bay Area native and James, originally from Australia, spent some of his high-school years here. They looked at many types of properties in the East Bay until the house on Addison presented itself. To many, a major restoration would be daunting, but James and Liz had enough background to start the work and enough dedication to pursue it. After six months of intensive labor, they've finally progressed enough to move in.

Before the purchase, the front of the house was hidden by dense vegetation. When we had a visit from James at the BAHA office, our search in Google maps showed a bit of a jungle obscuring an old house.

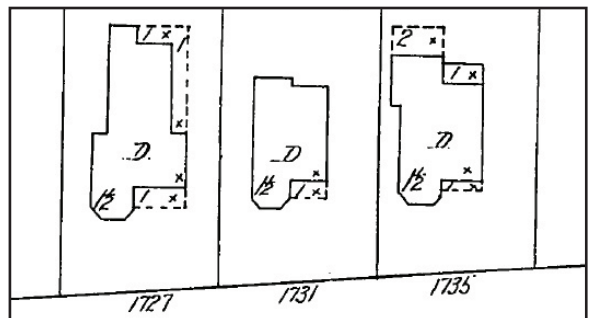
In short order, the front yard was cleared, revealing a faded Victorian house and a mature magnolia tree. The house was soon painted white, and renovations continue. James and Liz accomplished much over the past several months: restoring windows, fixing the front entrance, and dealing with an early 20th-century rear addition. One fascinating find was a cache of stained glass in the back yard. This, and the stained-glass windows in the bathroom and living room, add further character to the house.



The house at 1731 Addison Street with overgrowth cleared and a new coat of paint. James Angus, 2019.

THE 1890S: NEW HOUSES ON THE BLOCK

Three houses on Addison Street and two on University Avenue, all on adjacent lots, can be traced to 1892 or 1893. Records show the property was developed by James Reed, and that the houses were constructed by William P. Grant, locally famous house mover and contractor. James Reed lived at 1727 Addison Street, next door to 1731, with his wife and daughter, both named Mary. According to old directories, his occupation var-



The three Addison Street houses, shown on the 1911 Sanborn Map.

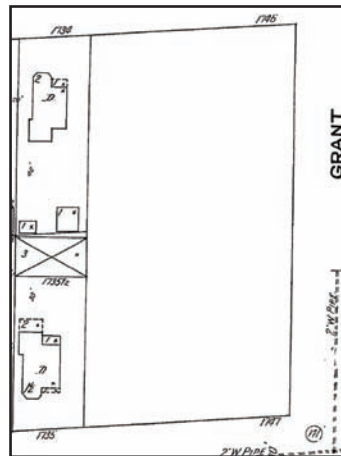


1731 Addison Street in 1939. Donogh File, BAHA Archives.

ied, from real estate to inventor, though no records of inventions are found. He did make the news in the *Berkeley Daily Gazette* on January 17, 1901, when he was thrown from William Grant's wagon, landing on his head some 20 feet away. Fortunately, he survived the accident after lying unconscious for some time.

William Grant's daughter, Margaret Grant Latell, provided details of life on Addison Street in a 1977 interview. She recalled the family using a stable behind their house for their house-moving horses, Babe and Dan. Chickens and two cows lived in their backyard. The horses had the run of undeveloped lots bounded by University, Grant, and Addison. Grant even built a playground for the local children there. The 1911 Sanborn map still shows the lack of development, but over time, houses and commercial buildings were added.

Two of the five houses have not survived, including Grant's own house at 1735 Addison Street. 1727 and 1731 Addison remain in place. The former 1770 University Avenue house was moved to 2223 Grant Street in 1977, a suitable tribute to Mr. Grant.



Grant's back yard, stable, and the adjacent vacant lots shown on the 1911 Sanborn Map.

In 1894, Paolo Salisbury and his wife Tilley moved into 1731 Addison. Paolo was born in Tahl-equah, Indian Territory, today's Oklahoma, and he was known to proudly claim his Cherokee

bloodline. An accountant with an Oakland hay and grain company, he was also active in local civic clubs, such as the Woodmen of the World and the Improved Order of Red Men. The August 17, 1895 *Gazette* reported a dinner party at the house to celebrate their one-year anniversary of residence. The article noted

that they would fly an American flag on a pole in the front yard to signify they were home and receiving guests. In April of 1896, the *Gazette* reported that he was acquitted of assault-to-murder in an odd case. It seems the winter before he had been hit with a snowball by a group of young men, or “roughs.” In retaliation, he pulled out his revolver and fired, wounding one of the group. The judge accepted the claim of accidental discharge and the case was closed. The couple remained in the Addison Street house until 1900, when they sold the property back to James Reed and moved a few blocks away to University Avenue.

THE EARLY 1900S: REED AND TAYLOR

In 1901, daughter Mary Reed married William F. Taylor. They lived at 1727 Addison with Mr. and Mrs. Reed. When James died in 1903, William and Mary inherited all family property. In 1905, they sold 1727 and moved to 1731, where they remained for decades.

Born in England, William Taylor came to the United States in 1872, working in the art-glass industry (this may explain the stained glass found on the property). In the 1890s, he started his career at William Schroeder’s California Art Glass Works in San Francisco. There he met Hugo Schmitz, another glass designer. From 1896 to 1899, they were partners in a stained-glass business as Schmitz and Taylor. Schmitz, who also moved to the neighborhood, is known for having built several bungalows on Addison Street in 1917 as a partner in the firm of Schmitz and Schuldt. Taylor later worked for Ingerson & Glaser Co. before going into business with his brother as Home Art Glass Works.

William and Mary raised son William and daughters Mary, Lucy, and Eulalia in the house. Tragically, Mr. Taylor died in 1936, when his truck was struck by a train at the Park Street crossing in Emeryville. His memorial was held near home, at St. Joseph’s Church on Addison. Mary remained in the house until 1949.



One of the stained-glass windows at 1731 Addison. James Angus.

MID-CENTURY TO THE PRESENT

In 1949, Mollie Gorrell moved into 1731 Addison Street with her daughters. Coming West from a small town in Illinois, she and her daughters first arrived in Sacramento, but found it much too hot. Berkeley was a better fit, and the house is still remembered by the Gorrell descendants who now live in other parts of the Bay Area. The house evokes for them positive memories of Berkeley: from trips to the local grocery, to walking to Hink’s downtown. Neighbors knew each other well. In 1965, Mollie moved out, and the Josephs family moved in, making it their house until the recent purchase by the Angus family.

ONE HOUSE AMONG MANY

More stories remain to be told about this neighborhood, with several already documented by the McGee-Spaulling-Hardy Historic Interest Group. From celebrating wonderful architecture to stories of fascinating and sometimes

famous residents, this long-standing group celebrates the neighborhood, with a site full of stories, photos, and a self-guided walking tour at mshhig.com.

Many people use the BAHA archives to research their own house or other buildings that interest them. Much of the information for this story was found here.

Thanks to Carol Belisle for her memories of Mollie Gorrell. Finally, many thanks to James and Liz for their interest and for sharing photos and information about their new old house.



1727 Addison Street, former home of the Reed and Taylor families, shown in 1939. Donogh File, BAHA Archives.

LATEST BERKELEY LANDMARK

Landmark No. 332 (Structure of Merit)
Las Casitas Apartments
William Alexander Doctor, architect, 1927–28
1619 Walnut Street
Designated: 6 June 2019

THIS Spanish Eclectic apartment building was an investment property built by William Irving Rush (1861–1946), a Pennsylvania-born contractor and real-estate dealer. The architect, William A. Doctor (1871–1949), a Canadian immigrant, had already designed for Rush a very similar apartment building, called Sunny Gables (1925), at 1631–1633 Walnut Street. Both apartment buildings were created through extensive remodeling of existing older houses.

The distinguishing features of Las Casitas Apartments include a flat roof with parapet walls, narrow tile-covered shed roofs with regularly laid tapered Mission-style tile, asymmetrical façade,



Las Casitas in 1939. Donogh File, BAHA Archives.

textured stucco walls, stained-glass windows, decorative window grills, decorative iron sconces and door knockers, and arcaded walkways.

See *Recent Landmarks* on our website for links to the landmark application and associated reports.

CHANGES, CHANGES, EVERYWHERE!



“Story poles” at 2718 Durant Avenue showing proposed height after remodeling. Anthony Bruce, July 2019.

Berkeley houses are under siege again, much as they were in the 1950s and '60s when they were being replaced by cheap-looking apartment monstrosities. These days, a house is usually not completely demolished. Sometimes a near-replica is built on the original framing. But more often, the character of the house is obliterated through insensitive and thorough remodeling.

What will be the fate of the Dutch Colonial house at 2718 Durant Avenue? “Story poles” are in place, and plans are afoot to lift the house to create a new ground floor. Will the features that make this such a charming example survive?

The house resembles the Hale House at 2815 Piedmont Avenue, designed in 1923 by John Hudson Thomas. City records for the Durant house are lost, so the architect remains unknown. We believe it was built in 1921, and we know that family members owned the property until last year, when it was sold to a developer.



2332 Channing Way in 1939, Donogh File, BAHA Archives; and 2332 Channing Way in 2018, Anthony Bruce photo.

CREATING VISUAL BLIGHT AROUND TOWN

EVERY YEAR, BAHA presents preservation awards for exceptional restoration projects in Berkeley. The awards presentation has traditionally been a part of the annual membership meeting in May, and the winning projects were published in the summer newsletter. This year, the awards will be presented at a special program held in the winter. As we await the final decisions of the Awards Committee, we would like to share with you some residential projects that will never receive a preservation award. In fact, these projects represent the antithesis of historic preservation.

In recent years, Berkeley's historic fabric has been subjected to far too many of these heavy-handed projects, which often include the removal of entire interiors, as well as all exterior features. Sometimes a replica of the original house is constructed in its place; more often, the finished project bears no resemblance to what has been replaced. Stripped down, with new siding and white vinyl windows set flush with the wall surface, the former historic property becomes a blight in its neighborhood.

Sit down and hold on tight, as you review the following disheartening examples. BAHA's educational work is ongoing!

2332 CHANNING WAY

Behind the McCreary-Greer House, at 2332 Channing Way, there was an intriguing old house that combined two very different house types in one: Victorian and Colonial Revival. In the 1980s, we met the owner—an elderly woman who had grown up in the house—and learned why the house appeared as a hybrid. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. James C. Love, had bought an existing one-story cottage (built in 1890 for Phillippina and Peter Schafer), and commissioned designer Walter E. Banker to enlarge the house in 1905. A shingled second story with hipped roof was added, but the first floor was left untouched except for the addition of a

Colonial Revival porch. The owner showed us around the house. The interior had remained intact: all the first-floor Victorian-era woodwork was unpainted redwood; the “new” 1905 stairway and entrance hall were lit by an electric bronze newel-post fixture in the form of a Greek goddess; and the walls still retained richly-colored wallpaper dating to about 1905.

A number of years ago, a new owner raised the house again and constructed a ground-level story, using the most inappropriate materials possible. But the old two-story house still remained fairly intact. As can be seen from the photo on the right above, the house has now been “cleaned up.”

2705 DERBY STREET

The 2700 block of Derby Street presents a cohesive streetscape of early twentieth-century houses. Or rather, it *did* present such a streetscape until just recently.

A few months ago, scaffolding went up around the brown-shingle house at 2705 Derby, built by local contractor Chapin Martin in 1907, and the old shingles were removed (presumably for replacement in-kind, so we thought). Then the pergola-covered porch was removed, followed by the diamond-pane casement windows. Now that the work is finished, one can see just what a crude and brutal job was done with this



charming Berkeley brown-shingle.

The shingles were replaced with stucco and the windows are now flush white vinyl. All the character of the house has vanished. In its place: shoddy design and inappropriate materials. In its present blighted condition, it is an affront to every resident and owner on this block of Derby Street. (The porch has been rebuilt since the picture was taken.)



2705 Derby Street, from a 1959 real estate listing in which was written: "Beautifully paneled living room; house has charm!" Donogh File, BAHA Archives. Above: the house in July 2019. Anthony Bruce.

2710-12 COLLEGE AVENUE

In the saga of 2710-12 College Avenue [see Newsletter No. 148, Fall 2016], apparently it was not enough to completely remove the original interior of this quintessential Berkeley brown-shingle. Before the project was completed, the natural redwood shingles were painted, obliterating the major defining feature of the house. The distinctive windows were replaced in a different style (except for the curved windows in the corner bay).

Before taking on the Magneson House, the local design firm responsible had already worked its magic on at least two other Berkeley buildings: a 1903 brown-shingle at 2628 Benvenue Avenue and a 1901 landmark brown-shingle at La Loma Avenue. All three buildings are included in the State of California Historic Resources Inventory and have been determined eligible for the National Register. That should have raised a

The Magneson House (Fred Voorhees, 1908) at 2710-12 College Avenue. 1939 Donogh photo, BAHA Archives.





The Magneson House in 1972. Anthony Bruce.



The remnant that remains today. Anthony Bruce.

flag to the design firm that these buildings were architecturally significant.

The building may look pretty with its gray-painted shingles and bright white trim, but its eye-catching, iconic presence on College Avenue has been significantly muted. Moreover, the brown-shingle rear cot-

tage (1914) received the same deplorable treatment.

To be fair, not all of the firm's projects (as shown on the firm's website) have been so disrespectful of historic fabric, but three such projects as destructive to Berkeley's architectural heritage as these are more than enough.

2243 DWIGHT WAY

Sometime in May, this early example of a Colonial Revival house at 2243 Dwight Way was lifted to accommodate an additional story underneath. So far, so good. But then, the original house was stripped, and all its windows were removed. White vinyl window replacements have now been inserted. Chances seem slim that the owners are planning to restore the house and create a compatible new first story.



The house was built in 1897 by Berkeley pioneer James L. Barker, whose own 1877 Italianate house stood two blocks to the west and was demolished in 1976. Mr. Barker built a number of speculative and rental houses in Berkeley, including the house next door to the east, at 2247 Dwight Way, in 1895. A few years after the two houses were built, 2243 was put in the name of Barker's son, Frederick, and 2247, in the name of his daughter, Georgia.



The Barker House at 2243 Dwight Way is part of a block of 19th- and early 20th-century houses that have not fared well. Next door to the west, the Trowbridge House has been beautifully restored. The project at 2243 presents a real setback to any possibility of further restorations on this block.

The Barker House in 1939 (Donogh File, BAHA Archives), and in July 2019 (Anthony Bruce).

2815 CHANNING WAY

One of the most gracious Berkeley brown-shingles was the Georgine Clark Chandler House, designed by Oakland architect Fred Soderberg in 1902. Its superb Colonial Revival architectural features included clusters of Ionic columns, curved corner windows, and decorative pediment. One can imagine what the interior finishes were like.

The house is in the middle of a major remodel that will convert it to three apartments. Before the empty window openings were covered with plywood, glimpses of the interior showed very little historic fabric remaining.

The project includes the remodeling of a Mid-Century Modern apartment house (Irwin Johnson, 1953) at 2811 Channing, as well as the intriguing building that Mrs. Chandler built in 1909 as an artist's studio in the rear of her house. It has been stripped and gutted. A long-time owner of the property claimed that Maybeck had a hand in the design of the studio; with the building's physical clues now gone, we will probably never know the answer.

The epitome of grace and elegance in the Berkeley shingle tradition: the Chandler House in 1939. Donogh File, BAHA.



The Georgine Clark Chandler House in July 2019. Anthony Bruce.



2401 WARRING STREET



Across the street from the Chandler House was a charming Berkeley house. Warm and inviting, with its dark, weathered shingles and delicately framed windows, the Thayer House evoked the past in a very pleasant way. But all that has changed. The new house that was constructed on the framing of the original house is stark and cold. Its white vinyl windows with oversized frames seem more appliqué than an integral part of the structure. Perhaps the intent was to replicate the original, but the essence of the Thayer House is gone.

The Helen L. Thayer House was built by A.H. Broad between 1904 and 1905. After its completion, the house was sold to Warren Olney, Jr. (he and other Olney family members later were Julia Morgan clients). Marian McCurdy lived in this house for many years and owned the Chandler House as well. She shared her memories with BAHA on an oral history tape. (See next page for more pictures of the Thayer House.)

The Thayer House in 1939. Donogh File, BAHA Archives.



The Thayer House in about 1978. BAHA Archives.



The rebuilt house in July 2019. Anthony Bruce.

1826 BERKELEY WAY

Look what they've done to this charming Fox Bros. cottage! The small-paned casement window—a major design element—has been replaced with white vinyl (as have other original windows on this house), an aesthetically disastrous choice for a *stone* cottage. (But, when *isn't* white vinyl an aesthetic disaster for any older building?)

This is the Delilah Wardle House of 1927. Unfortunately, the house is not a designated landmark or structure of merit, so the exterior is not protected. Fox Bros. buildings are considered architecturally significant, and a number of them are designated landmarks. But in order for a building to be considered for landmark status, some volunteer has to research, write, and submit a landmark application, and nobody has done so for this house.

IN SUMMARY

Repairs done properly to old housing stock are welcome, but the common discouraging theme with these examples is that the distinctive and venerable exteriors that said “Berkeley” so well are being unnecessarily obliterated, doing damage to the neighborhood fabric and, ironically, quite possibly damaging the long-term value of the buildings as well. If an old brown-shingle becomes just another stucco-and-vinyl-window-house, it's not much different from standard suburban fare.

Readers may wonder whether the City has any means to regulate or manage this type of undesirable remodel.



*Wardle House in 2011:
Daniella Thompson;
and as it looks today:
Anthony Bruce.*



The answer is probably no. A building renovation has to get building permits, but unless the structure is already a designated City of Berkeley Landmark or in a commercial district, it is not sent to any sort of design review. As long as they comply with zoning and building codes, owners and contractors can get over-the-counter permits to completely strip the historic character and charm out of an old Berkeley building, as some of these examples attest.

BAHA SUMMER EVENTS

The summer is usually a quiet time for BAHA activities, but this year we have had several events. In addition to publicizing open houses for BAHA members at architecturally significant homes for sale, we conducted four walking tours and an event at the BAHA garden focused on roses.

The walking tours were eclectic: the old Deaf and Blind School campuses (now U.C.'s Clark Kerr Campus); sites in south central Berkeley associated with local literary figures, particularly mystery and science fiction editor and writer Anthony Boucher; "Around People's Park," talking about both the heritage of the Park itself—50 years old this year—and the dense concentration of architecturally and historically significant buildings surrounding it; and a tour of the U.C. Berkeley campus led by two current Cal students.

Sign-ups for all the walks started slowly, but almost all of them fully sold out by walk time, and nearly 100 people had the chance to learn some interesting aspects of local history and design. Thank you to our guides, including Randal Brandt, Tom Dalzell, Conrad Brenemann, Cole Phelps, and Steven Finacom.

We plan to do more walks in the coming year, including a winter series and a summer, 2020, series. But we need additional volunteer walk leaders!

Are you familiar enough with some specific neighborhood or piece of Berkeley history to put together and lead a walk for BAHA? Or would you be willing to learn about and lead a walk if we can give you a suggested route, format, and research materials to study? Contact the BAHA office.

The walks are educational but also serve as what might be called "micro-fundraisers" for BAHA. A typical walk can yield \$300–\$400 in revenue for BAHA, at minimal expense. All this money then goes to support BAHA's budget, particularly our research office.

Our membership list is so large, and printing and postage expenses have increased to the extent that if we sent out a printed flyer for walks to all our members, the mailing costs would eat up most of the income from the walks. In order to minimize costs of the walks, we have opted for a "virtual"-only publicity format. So the walks are publicized on the BAHA website and



Tom Dalzell addressing the August 11th People's Park tour group, with Maybeck's First Church of Christ, Scientist in the background. Steven Finacom.

through emails and other social media announcements to members and friends, but there is no paper mailer.

When schedules align, we'll publicize future walks in this newsletter, but the best way to reliably know about planned walks early-on is to sign up for BAHA's free e-mail list. Go to berkeleyheritage.com and follow the simple instructions to add your name to the list.

We've also shifted, for some small events like these, to selling tickets on Eventbrite. Eventbrite is an online platform which charges a small fee to the ticket purchaser. Advantages of using Eventbrite are that you can buy a ticket in real time and find out event details and status without having to wait for a call or e-mail.

Many thanks to BAHA volunteer Phyllis Gale for serving as our Eventbrite lead, setting up our account, processing sign-ups, and fielding multiple questions and queries about BAHA's five successive weekend events this summer!

Our other successful summer event was a gathering in the BAHA garden with two talks on rose care and culture and the history and heritage of roses by Gregg Lowery. Readers will remember from an earlier newsletter that Lowery came to BAHA in January for a work party to prune our extensive rose collection.

We brought Gregg back during summer bloom, and forty enthusiastic people came to the August 4 event. Between the talks, attendees enjoyed an outdoor lunch with salads and sandwiches from the Blue Door Cafe on Bancroft Way, just around the corner.

Using BAHA's garden plants as a display laboratory, Lowery talked about the broad history of rose culture—including emerging studies that show China is the ancient genetic source of repeat blooming roses—as well as details of rose care. He debunked the myths that you should prune your roses with diagonal cuts (straight across is healthier for the plant), and that roses must be drastically cut back in the winter. In fact, many roses have their root systems and vitality damaged by over-enthusiastic pruning, which is a Twentieth Century phenomenon that emerged in part to promote forcing small number of large blooms for rose show competitions.

The event was a great success and a joint fundraiser for BAHA and the Friends of Vintage Roses, our partner in planning and execution. Thanks to volunteers Ann Killebrew, Carrie Olson, Andy Liu, Phyllis Gale, and Linda and Tim Perry for their invaluable help.



Gregg Lowery instructing the group at the August 4th rose event in the McCreary-Greer House garden. Steven Finacom.

GIFTS TO BAHA

Monetary gifts were received from: **Laurel Benjamin, Wilma Gardner, Basil Guy, Kathie Longinotti, Doris Nassiry, The Ronald Philip Saturno Foundation, and Judith Frisk**, who donated funds especially for a few potted aspidistra for the front porch of the McCreary-Greer House.

[*President's Message, from page 3*] approved design of the new apartment building is awful, bland, pedestrian, and generically “modern.” It's a bar of bedrooms that, as with the parking structure, would hulk like an intruder in this neighborhood.

Architecturally, it's not much different from many of the “infill” buildings that are popping up on Berkeley's avenues and throughout the central Bay Area. Some are designed to make a quick profit off the housing crisis, but, visually at least, give nothing of distinction back to the host communities. Like this building, they're also “anywhere architecture” that pays no attention to local context.

The University, so far, has been resistant to changing the “skin” of the proposed building. This reverses a tentative trend of the University building more sympathetic structures in this neighborhood.

In the 1980s, the campus built the Foothill Housing complex across the street. While it resulted in the demolition of two apartment buildings and two old houses, it was designed to “fit”—with a shingled exterior and a modern take on Arts and Crafts design.

Some years later, after a prolonged struggle, the University changed the design of an addition to the Public Policy School at Le Roy and Hearst and made the massing and exterior contextual with the surroundings, particularly the Ernest Coxhead / Bakewell and Brown public policy building next door.

Now we're seemingly back to square one. The University has forged ahead with approvals. The City of Berkeley has sued to alter the project. We hope that the eventual outcome is a building that looks like Berkeley and respects the design heritage of this enormously important and fragile neighborhood.

Steven Finacom,
President

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Sarathi Analytis
John Arens
Mariana Beatty
Dennis Beeghy
Richard Biernacki
Dina Blackwell
Jamie Carlen &
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In anticipation of Richard Longstreth's October 9th talk, "Ruin and Reconstruction in the Making of Historic Sites" — the newly restored Sutter's Fort, from a c. 1910 Mitchell postcard, courtesy Anthony Bruce.

BAHA's headquarters are located at 2318 Durant Avenue in this picture-perfect Colonial Revival house built in 1901. The McCreary-Greer House was a gift from Alice Greer to BAHA in 1986.

The BAHA office is here (open Thursdays, 1 to 5; entrance at the green door at the back porch), and the house and garden are sometimes open for special events, such as a holiday party or a rose-pruning seminar.

Photo by Steven Finacom.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Mark your calendars for some "do-not-miss" BAHA activities this Fall:

Sunday, September 8, is the 45th annual Solano Stroll. Drop by the BAHA booth and say hello. We expect to be near 1741 Solano Avenue. If you'd like to volunteer that day, please call or e-mail the office.

Wednesday, October 9, will be the second annual Susan Dinkelspiel Cerny Lecture. This year brings distinguished historian Richard W. Longstreth to Berkeley for an evening talk on *Ruin and Reconstruction in the Making of Historic Sites*. Watch for a special mailing with further details. The talk will be free, but reservations are required.



At the 2016 Holiday Open House. Anthony Bruce.

Monday, November 4, BAHA will co-sponsor with the Hillside Club an illustrated talk by local author and historian Richard Schwartz on actor M.B. Curtis and his impact on Berkeley, including the Peralta Park Hotel. The 7:30 talk will be at the Hillside Club, 2286 Cedar Street. Free to Hillside Club members; \$10 donation suggested for others, but no one turned away for lack of funds.

Thursday, December 12, we will have our annual Holiday Open House for BAHA members and guests in the late afternoon and early evening. Come by the McCreary-Greer House, visit, and enjoy holiday cheer, decorations, and a special one-time display of historic Berkeley paintings.