

A
*New Year's
Message*

FROM THE OFFICE



Once again BAHA faces the daunting prospect of starting the New Year by looking for a new office. The old City Hall Annex in which we are located is being remodelled for the School District. We will remain here at 1835 Allston Way at least through January 31. If you have ideas about space downtown (preferably donated!) or could help with the search, please contact the office.

Meanwhile, at the last meeting, the BAHA Board worked out a tentative program of events for the rest of the year. John Beach is putting together a lecture series featuring contemporary architects who will discuss how the past and future influence their work. The series is scheduled for late January/mid February. BAHA will soon be publishing a monograph on the William K. Thorsen house in Berkeley designed by the Greene brothers. In March the author, Robert Judson Clark, will be present at a book-signing party held in conjunction with a lecture on the Greenses by John Beach. Watch for the BAHA Garage Sale in April, the Annual Dinner meeting in May, and walking tours in June. The annual House Tour will be held in the fall and is planned to coincide with the publication of yet another book. More on that at a later date.

The 1983 BAHA Calendar---the work of William Wilson Wurster with original photographs by Roger Sturtevant---is one of our most handsome. The photographs reproduced beautifully and feature a cross-section of Wurster's work from the 1920's to 1960. At the office are 200 calendars that must be sold to insure that this year's venture is indeed a fund raiser. They make great Christmas or New Years gifts. Please use the order form on page 5, or call the office now (845-6591) to arrange to pick up your calendars.

Thanks to all of you who have supported BAHA this past year and have a
HAPPY NEW YEAR!



**DOWNTOWN
STEERING
COMMITTEE**



As you know, BAHA has sponsored Berkeley's Downtown Steering Committee as part of our ongoing effort to bring Berkeleyans together on preservation-related issues. Our purpose is to facilitate better communications on preserving, revitalizing, and planning for the central business district. The forty civic-minded DSC members, from the mayor and city council to the merchants and neighborhood associations, all have engaged since June in a lively dialogue about the current planning effort downtown.

Terry Ware, who heads the city's downtown planning team, is currently soliciting ideas in workshops with many diverse Berkeley organizations. As most of these groups are represented on the DSC, Mr. Ware has asked that committee to serve the city as a forum where each of these separate planning efforts can be reported upon, discussed, and compared. In this way he and city planners can get feedback on various planning concepts as the process goes forward.

To date we have heard from the Council of Neighborhood Associations and the Berkeley Design Advocates, a committee of the East Bay chapter of the American Institute of Architects. At our January meeting, we will hear reports on Terry Ware's workshops with BAHA and the Chamber of Commerce. If you are interested in the work of the DSC, or have comments on Berkeley's downtown planning effort, please contact the BAHA office.

DSC SLIDE SHOW

This past summer your BAHA staff, Anthony Bruce and Betty Marvin, along with DSC chairman Jeff Leiter, put together a one hour, split screen slide presentation on downtown Berkeley, past, present, and future. The show comprises selections from BAHA's extensive history slide collection, combined with our recent photographic survey of downtown. BAHA is making this visual presentation to add perspective, a sense of place, for the many citizens now trying to come up with development guidelines for downtown.

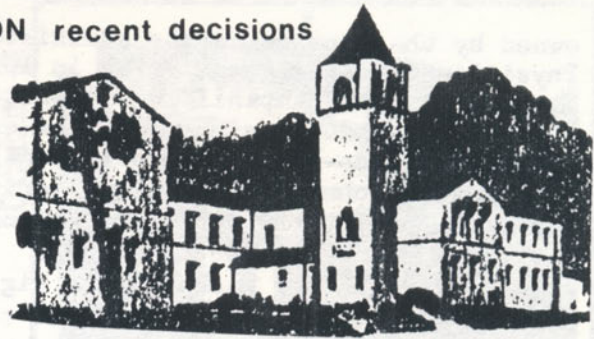
Thus far we have presented the show to the BAHA Board of Directors, the Downtown Steering Committee, the Berkeley Design Advocates, the Senior Center Berkeley history class, and the Council of Neighborhood Associations. The City has asked that our show be the keynote presentation at the City Council/Planning Commission downtown development workshop to be held in January. Showings for other groups can be arranged by calling the BAHA office, 845-6591.

--Jeff Leiter, Chairman, D.S.C.



LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION recent decisions

November landmark designations:
Cloyne Court, 2600 Ridge Road,
John Galen Howard, 1904;
Beta Theta Pi (GSPP), 2607 Hearst,
Ernest Coxhead, 1893.



The most controversial items of discussion before the LPC in recent months have been the Deaf & Blind Schools site, & the Acheson Physicians' Building & the MacFarlane's building at Shattuck and University.

The issues surrounding the Schools site concern the use of an additional driveway along Derby Street as a delivery truck entrance, & the use of one of the site's open fields for the construction of new housing for the elderly. Since the site is a city landmark as well as on the National Register, and by written agreement with the city, the LPC gets a chance to comment on any proposed changes to the site. LPC members are concerned that truck traffic over the site to & from Derby could change the character of the southwest section of the site. They suggested that the traditional Dwight Way entrance for trucks be retained. The nearby neighborhood association has also taken a stand against the addition of truck traffic to the already heavy congestion on Derby Street. Neighbors have expressed dismay that the University is asking for changes to an agreement (allowing for use of only one driveway on Derby) that was hammered out over months of bitter controversy.

The playing field question is even more complicated. The City's agreement with the University calls for the construction of housing for low income elderly. The area for this housing boiled down to the southeast corner of the site. At first, the developer wanted to build high-rises. Preservationists & others argued that this would be inappropriate for the site. Consequently, the latest proposal has been to build in the large grassy field behind the Blind School administration building. LPC believes that this also violates the layout & density of the landmarked district, which includes open spaces as well as buildings. Instead, LPC would rather see the remaining older buildings rehabilitated & refurbished for use as elderly housing, subject to further discussion & negotiation between the City, the University, & the housing developer.

After many months delay, on Jan. 17 the LPC will decide on the designation of the Acheson Physicians' Building & the MacFarlane's building, both located at the juncture of Shattuck & University. Both structures are

(next page)



owned by the Acheson estate administered by Mrs. Agnes Reeves. The Acheson Physicians' Building was built in 1908 by George L. Mohr, architect of Bonita Apartments, the Campanile & University Hotels, & Oxford Apartments. It originally housed doctors' offices & a drugstore, & today "is a pleasant period surprise inside--wide corridors, original bathrooms, original brass birdcage elevators." John Acheson was an early Berkeley pioneer who built one of the earliest hotels, the Acheson Hotel on the site of MacFarlane's. At one time the family owned the entire block.

Behind the big MacFarlane's sign is a lovely 1925 one-story commercial building. The cornice is hidden at the critical corner but is visible from the Shattuck Avenue side. Designed by Erle Bertz, the band of arcaded clerestory windows with lathed wood mullions gives the building a somewhat "Venetian" character, but more importantly it is the best preserved of the few surviving one-story downtown shopfront buildings. It is severely endangered by the push of developers to build taller structures downtown. The estate is apparently in debt to the IRS & anxious to see the buildings produce as much income as possible. Hopefully they can be convinced that restoration would be, in the long run, the most valuable effort. --Stephanie Manning

BERKELEY HISTORY — for kids !

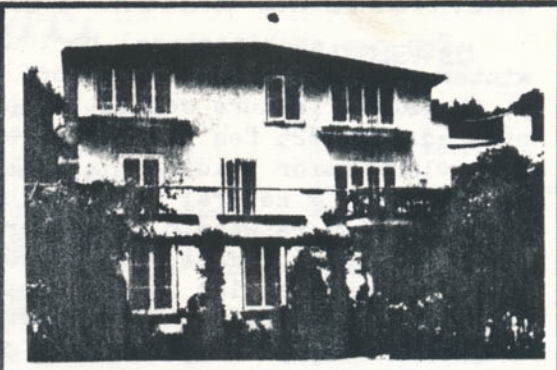
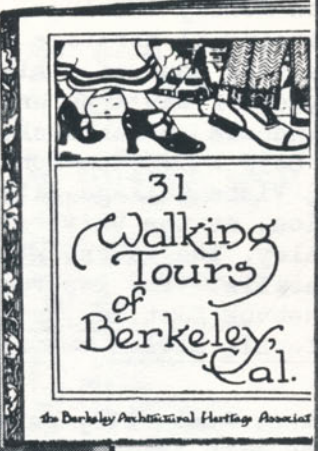
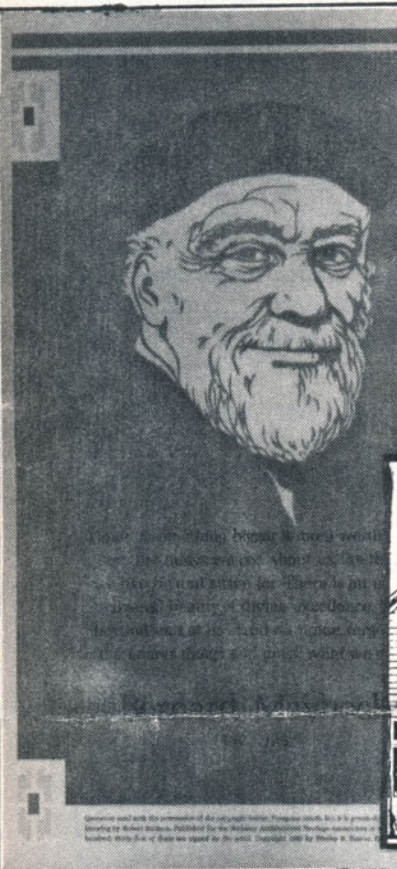


The Berkeley History Project for elementary schools is entering its fourth year with a grant from the San Francisco Foundation & the continued financial & moral support of BAHA, Berkeley Historical Society, the Teachers' Center, & the Berkeley Unified School District. The development of two new neighborhood curriculum units for 3rd through 6th grades will be the focus of this year's activities. The new neighborhoods are downtown & the residential areas surrounding Washington & Berkwood-Hedge Schools, & the South Berkeley areas surrounding Longfellow & Malcolm X.

Needed now: Names of longtime Berkeley residents who might come into the classroom & talk to the children. Also, donations (or sale at a reasonable price) of old-fashioned dolls, toys, baseball cards, children's clothing, household items, etc. Contact: Karen Jorgensen-Esmaili, project coordinator, at 843-2869 after 3:15 or in the evenings.

Karen Jorgensen-Esmaili is the interviewer on 3 oral history tapes related to this project, & recently transcribed with the support of BAHA, BHS, & Friends of the Library. On these tapes, directed especially to children's interests & the Northeast Berkeley curriculum, Louis Stein talks about his childhood in the Shattuck-Vine area, & Marguerite Hussey remembers life at the turn of the century & recounts the history of her grandfather Napoleon Bonaparte Byrne. Copies of the transcripts are at BAHA, Berk. Historical Soc., & the Main Public Library.

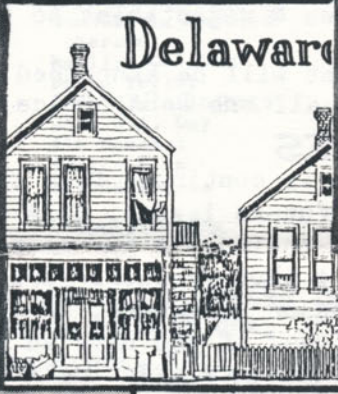
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SEPTEMBER

Calendar Month
to Order Book

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4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	



The first three monographs in B.A.H.A.'s publication series are available by mail:

1. **Julia Morgan, Architect** by Richard W. Longstreth. (\$7.25 postpaid)
2. **John Galen Howard and the Berkeley Campus** by Loren W. Partridge. (\$7.25 postpaid)
3. **Maybeck, The Family View** by Jacomena Maybeck. (\$8.50 postpaid)

*and DON'T FORGET
THE 1983
CALENDAR!*

_____ 1983 CALENDAR (\$5.15 postpaid) _____	_____ Maybeck Book (\$8.50) _____
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Make checks payable to B.A.H.A., Box 1137, Berkeley, 94701.

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY CLASSES !

Two new architectural heritage classes will be offered in Berkeley this winter. At Berkeley Adult School on Monday evenings, 7-9:30, beginning Jan. 3, the slide/lecture course "Architectural Heritage of the East Bay" will be offered. The \$25 fee includes a walking tour of a historic Berkeley neighborhood, 1000 color slides of all styles of Bay Area architecture from Missions to Art Deco, & several pages of handouts on research, reading, & preservation. Call 644-6130 between 8 & 3:30 or 6:30 & 9:30 pm for location & more details.

On Tuesday nights, 7:30-9:30, Vista College will offer a similar course, with an extra session on restoration, at the University Christian Church, at Ridge Road & Scenic in North Berkeley. The course will begin Feb. 1; fee \$30. Call 841-8431, 9 to 5, for more details. The instructor for both courses is Mark A. Wilson, author of the guidebook East Bay Heritage and a regular architectural feature writer for California Living magazine.

GARAGE SALE !

That Chinese Porcelain lamp that Aunt Tilly gave you for Christmas-- and you don't know quite what to do with it-- -- well, SAVE IT ! and plan to donate it and other collectables & rejectables to BAHA's forthcoming garage sale to be held in April.

Details of this SMASHING event will be announced in a subsequent newsletter. To offer goods or labor, call the BAHA office, 845-6591.

WEEKLY GAZETTE SERIES

The list of articles below is continued from the last newsletter, & will be completed & updated in future issues. BAHA will provide xerox copies of an article for \$1 (postpaid), or 50¢ each for 2 or more.

New contributors--writers & photographers--are always welcome. Reminiscences, research, old photos or documents, on a building, neighborhood, or architect--it's up to you. If you have an idea for an article, contact the BAHA office; we may have relevant material in our files, or any other help you need to get into print.

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| 344. Quonset hut, 1946
Bldg. T-19, UC campus
US Navy/Great Lakes Steel
15 July 1981 | 349. Phoebe Hearst Guest House
1816 Scenic Avenue
Ernest Coxhead, 1902
26 August 1981 | 354. Roos Bros. store
2530 Bancroft Way
Miller & Warnecke, 1948
9 October 1981 |
| 345. Berkeley Market, 1932
2369 Telegraph Avenue
James W. Flachek
22 July 1981 | 350. Oaks Theater
1875 Solano Avenue
Reid Brothers, 1925
9 September 1981 | 355. Masonic Temple
2295 Shattuck/2105 Bancroft
William Wharff, 1905
14 October 1981 |
| 346. theory of significant
buildings, I
Third Church of Christ Sci-
entist
5 August 1981 | 351. T.H.Nevin house & store
2980 College (Berkeley Rep)
Clarence C. Dakin, 1909/1916
17 September 1981 | 356. Carrington House
2323 Bowditch Street
Seth Babson, 1893
21 October 1981 |
| 347. theory of significant
buildings, II
Hibernia Bank, 2200 Bancroft
12 August 1981 | 352. Arno Meehan House
2959 Russell Street
Mitchell & Hodges, 1914
23 September 1981 | 357. Downtown Addison Street
1927 aerial photo
28 October 1981 |
| 348. theory of significant
buildings, III
Flagg house, 2001 Francisco
19 August 1981 | 353. James Edgar House
2441 Dwight Way, 1869?
1 October 1981 | 358. Heywood Apartments
2119 Addison Street
1906; James Flachek 1917
5 November 1981 |

Past issues of that hard-to-find quarterly, Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians, 1969-78, are available: Hyshka Stross, 841-2359.

WELCOME

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AND

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Renewal notices are now incorporated in the Newsletter. As an individual membership comes due, "Time To Renew" will be rubberstamped on the front. Fall memberships are due for renewal and will expire Dec. 31st. Please fill out the form below. Remember, we are still offering premiums with memberships in the \$25-or-more categories.

DON'T FORGET TO RENEW — — DON'T FORGET TO JOIN

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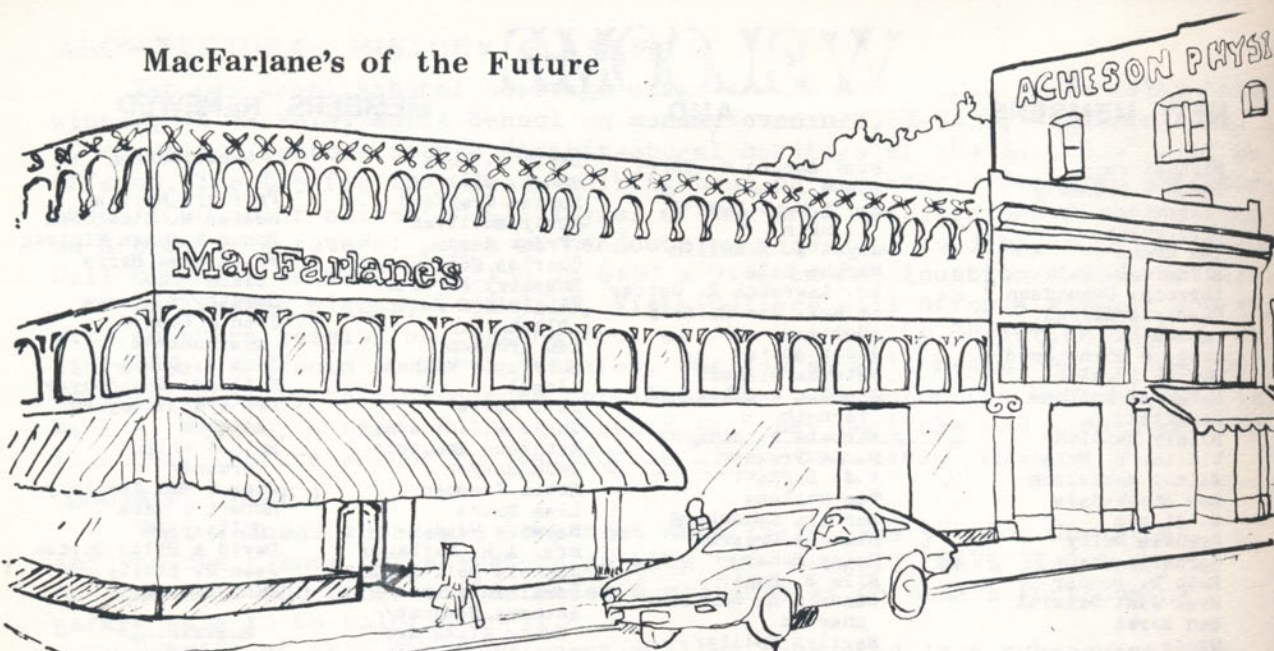
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MacFarlane's of the Future



Underneath the large red and white MacFarlanes's sign at Shattuck and University is a handsome clerestory and cornice. All of this detail remains intact beneath, and by removing the sign, the building, on this strategic downtown corner, could easily be restored to its former elegance. The effect can be seen above in architecture student Katherine Wright's rendering and on the two restored shopfronts on the the Shattuck Avenue frontage. Many downtown buildings have had their original facades obliterated by signs and falsefronts over the years. BAHA encourages merchants and building owners to take a second look at their properties and think about restoration.

See pages 2 & 3 for related articles on Downtown.

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