

Legacy 106
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President's Message

Spring 2007

Legacy 106, Inc. stepped up to 2007 with increased vigor to work with community groups and homeowners in Mission Hills, Kensington, University Heights, Hillcrest, and Point Loma. The sense of neighborhood pride and leadership in these communities sets a high standard other neighborhood groups to follow. We enjoy sharing ideas with these organizations and homeowners who value their heritage homes and take the time to share their rich house histories and improve their local preservation programs. Community pride makes for a better San Diego.

Political Winds

Since the election that changed the City of San Diego from a city manager to a mayoral form of government, the political winds have blown bad and good for historic preservation. Like ancient gods battling among the clouds, Mayor Jerry Sanders and the City Council have battled over who gets to axe or save entire budgeted programs ranging from public swimming pools to Montgomery Field Airport to the very existence of locally elected community planning groups. The fate of the Historical Resources Board and their staff hang in the balance like the ending of a Greek tragedy.

The direct threat to the Historical Resources Board and homeowner-initiated landmarking will be decided April 10, 2007 at 11:00 am. The City Council will decide whether to give their legislative power of budgetary decision-making to the executive branch of Mayor Sanders' office. At issue is at least a \$143 million dollar shortfall in back payments to the civil service retirement system and Mayor Sanders across-the-board mandated cut of 10% of all city program budgets. Given the recent date of hiring of Senior Planner staff to the Historical Resources Board, all of them are threatened with layoff in Mayor Sanders' cut. Who would survive to process landmark nominations, student interns?

We recommend everyone to attend the City Council meeting on April 10, 2007 at 11:00 am or send your comments to: Mayor Sanders at JerrySaunders@saniego.gov or Council President Scott Peters at ScottPeters@saniego.gov or Deputy Council President Anthony Young at AnthonyYoung@saniego.gov . After April 10th, send us an email and we will keep you informed.

City of San Diego Fees

The failure of City of San Diego planning director to bring reasonable historical landmarking fees to the City Council now threatens the very survival of the program. Had the director of planning placed fees on the Council Agenda in 2003, a sufficient pool of

money would exist today to pay for the threatened staff cuts. Now would be a good time to speak to the City Council offices about fees.

Mission Hills Heritage

Our work with Mission Hills Heritage over the past year and a half has been truly rewarding. In March, they paid plane tickets and an honorarium to Ms. Jane Powell to deliver a lecture on *Bungalows: Green Homes for the 21st Century* in celebration of the 99th anniversary of Mission Hills. We contributed “The History of the Griswold Building (a.k.a. Ace Drugstore): The First Commercial Building in Mission Hills” in their newsletter, *Inspiration* (<http://www.missionhillsheritage.org/>), and have another on the Florence Apartments in the upcoming edition.

Mission Hills Heritage plans their **annual Home Tour** on April 21, 2007 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This will include five houses along Sunset Boulevard: Craftsman, Tudor, Spanish Revival, and Mid Century Modern styles. Tickets for the tour are available for \$30 (\$25 for members) at 1898 Sunset Boulevard at 11:00 am on April 21. Then on May 5, author Parker Jackson will deliver “Richard Requa Private Lecture” followed by a tour and reception with wine and hor d’ouerves at the Spanish Revival house.

Uptown Historic Heritage Coalition

Neighborhood groups and organizations rallied together after the City of San Diego issued a demolition permit for a 1908 side-gable Craftsman style house in University Heights. They adopted the name “Uptown Historic Heritage Coalition” and embrace the communities of Hillcrest, University Heights, Mission Hills, Bankers Hill, and North Park. The UHHC is organizing public information along email and telephone trees on political issues that concern historic preservation.

Of current concern is a threat to use the Uptown Historical Survey prepared under a \$150,000 contract to “green light” demolition of approximately 8,000 houses, based only on architectural appearance with little research on the history of the people who lived in the houses or who designed or built them. And although 4,004 houses were identified as potential landmarks, a complicated code system essentially dismisses many until the owners can restore their historical appearance. The UHH Coalition and others presented their concerns to the Historical Resources Board at the March 2007 meeting.

Spanish Fort on Point Loma

After 25-years of historical, architectural and archaeological research, members of the Fort Guijarros Museum Foundation published their results in Volume One of the *San Diego State University Occasional Archaeology Papers*. As director of the archaeology program, I authored the paper explaining how the all-volunteer crew researched, excavated, and analyzed the thousands of artifacts, broken wall tiles, and field drawings to interpret the shape of the 1796-1835 cannon fort. C. Fred Buchanan, a retired civil

engineer, meticulously sketched hundreds of broken tiles to interpret how they fit together and formed the walls, cannon ports, and superstructure. Buchanan passed away on March 12, 2007, but had more than six months to enjoy his publication. Online copies of these papers can be found in Part 3 at <http://soap.sdsu.edu> and related articles on the 1860s-1870s shore whaling and Chinese fishing camp can also be found in the Fort Guijarros Quarterlies also in the publication.

Just Landmarked

The City of San Diego Historical Resources Board landmarked three houses using reports prepared by Legacy 106, Inc. on September 28, 2006. All are located in Mission Hills: The 1914 “Alberta Securities Company Speculation House #1” is a Japoneseque “Airplane” Craftsman, noted for its up-turned gable apexes and observation room on top and located on the corner of Jackdaw and Arbor; The 1924 “Louis R. and Muriel Dilley/ Monroe E and Olga J. Wallace House” is a large Spanish Eclectic style hacienda on Fort Stockton Drive; The 1925 “La Casa de Las Siete Candelas” designed and built by Richard M. Hathaway is located at the corner of Alta Mira and Sierra Vista.

In Process

To better serve our clients, we have hired several part-time researchers to help us find historical records, documents, and facts to accelerate our report preparation time. Meanwhile, fifteen homeowner-initiated landmarks are sitting down at the City of San Diego, Historical Resources Board waiting to be placed on the Agenda for consideration. Mayor Jerry Sanders directed the HRB staff to “de-emphasize” processing of those landmarks in order to “emphasize” work on historical districts, and thus we are concerned about when the City will docket these nomination applications for a hearing. Clients unhappy with this delay can send Mayor Sanders an email at JerrySanders@sandiego.gov or give him a call at (619) 236-7228.