

Winter 2005 – Spring 2006

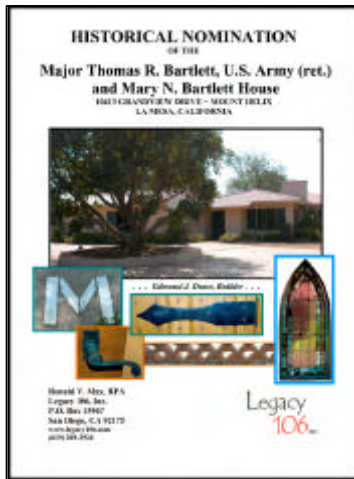


By Ronald V. May, RPA, President

A Year of Changes in San Diego

So much has happened in the past six months since our last newsletter. We actively participated in political forums, met with City of San Diego mayoral and council candidates, and attended various city meetings to keep our “hand on the pulse of the community.” More than ever, we have been caught in the rushing tide of change. But it has all been for the good of historic preservation. We have Mayor Jerry Sanders, District 2 Councilman Kevin Faulconer, District 8 Councilman Benjamin Hueso and they all support the City of San Diego Historical Resources Board.

Regional Happenings



Legacy 106, Inc. has expanded out beyond the boundaries of the City of San Diego to begin landmarking work in the County of San Diego and City of Encinitas. Given the opportunity to research a suspected 1939 Cliff May house at Mount Helix, we dug deep into the records, telephoned the University of California, Santa Barbara Archives, talked to area experts and other homeowners, and finally tracked down the elusive neighbor who believed May designed the “Major Thomas and Mary Bartlett House” on Grandview. Last Winter, the County Historical Sites Board landmarked the house as a contributor to understanding the transition from Mexican style to Modernist style pre-war Ranch houses.

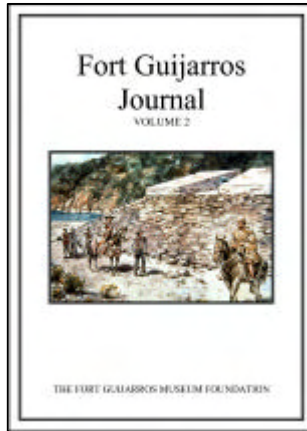
First Historic Landmark Declared in the City of Encinitas

The City of Encinitas landmarked its first house on December 14, 2005. Legacy 106, Inc. had the honor of researching and writing the nomination report for this historic event. The Anthony and Katherine Berhalter House is a Tudor Revival style house built by Frank Beck in 1926. The Berhalters retired from Chicago, where they owned a health food factory. The City of Encinitas also entered into the first Mills Act contract with the owners of the house. Since then, Legacy 106, Inc. has assessed a 1920s Cotswold cottage and a commercial building facing Historic Highway 101 in Leucadia.



San Diego State University Publishes Online Journal on 18th Century Spanish Fort

Seth Mallios, Ph.D., Department of Anthropology Chair and Editor of *State Occasional Archaeology Papers* announced publication of three papers concerning the architecture of the 1796-1835 Spanish cannon battery, Fort Guijarros, located on Ballast Point at the



mouth of San Diego Bay. Legacy 106, Inc. produced the final copies of papers by **Milford Wayne Donaldson**, **C. Fred Buchanan**, and **Ronald V. May, RPA** in Part 3 of that publication, which can be found at

<http://soap.sdsu.edu/Volume1/volume1index.htm>

A limited number of hard copies will be disseminated to libraries in the region. This publication is essentially the Second Volume of the *Fort Guijarros Journal*, which is also available separately on disk.

Ronald V. May and Dale Ballou May spent the past 25-years with a dedicated team of avocationalists and volunteers to research and excavate the archaeological ruins. A retired civil engineer, Buchanan interpreted architectural elements and drew illustrations of how the walls were constructed and appeared before they fell into ruin. **“Fort Guijarros”** is the only surviving Spanish cannon battery in California and the State Historic Preservation Office has determined it eligible for inclusion on the National Register. Legacy 106 Inc. continued to support research on Spanish California archaeology.

Prehistoric Environmental Change Investigations at Fallbrook

Speaking of archaeology, Legacy 106, Inc. conducted an archaeology test at CA-SDI-675A at Fallbrook to assist the County of San Diego and Mountain Union Telecommunications determine if construction work would impact a significant archaeological site.

The radiocarbon date on marine shell revealed this kitchen camp existed around A.D. 1450 and contained evidence of human adaptation to environmental change following several hundred years of El Nino Oscillations that wiped out marine shellfish populations along the Pacific Coast. This exciting line of investigation may be pursued by additional fieldwork in the coming months. This project is a follow up to our Historical Assessment of the Gird Ranch Barn in 2005.



Spanish Arts & Crafts Weekend at Naval Training Center

Legacy 106, Inc. attended Save Our Heritage Organisation's annual Spanish Arts & Crafts weekend held at the Naval Training Center Historic District the weekend of March 10-12, 2006. In addition to collecting the business cards of skilled craftspeople, hearing lectures of Craftsman style architecture and attending cocktail parties with our colleagues, we toured five outstanding homes in the Sunset Cliffs, La Playa, and Loma Portal neighborhoods of Point Loma.



City of San Diego Historical Resources Board Changes

Mayor Jerry Sanders has temporarily appointed Betsy McCullough as Acting Director of the Planning Department and authorized the hiring of Cathy Winterowd to Senior Planner and Kelley Saunders to Associate Planner with the City of San Diego Historical Resources Board. Long time secretary Barbara Hubbard retired during the Fall and intern Noah Stewart accepted a position with the City of Oakland and resigned from the City of San Diego. Senior Planner Diane Cane has taken a leave of absence now that the Historical Resources Board approved the Warehouse Thematic Historic District. All these changes have resulted in a backlog of at least 58 individual house nominations and a dozen community surveys that will substantially hearings on landmarks by as much as one year. Legacy 106, Inc. hopes the new staff team will accelerate the process. Unfortunately, staff cancelled the March 2006 hearing in order to pitch fees for landmark review to members of the City Council.

Architectural Assessments as the First Step to Landmarking

For the past year, Legacy 106, Inc. has assisted homeowners by conducting architectural assessments on the degree of historic fabric that has survived on their houses. Following the assumption that just about any damage to an old house can be reversed with old photos, good architectural design and skilled contractors, Legacy 106, Inc. conducts a photo shoot and written report with photos to advise homeowners on their chances for landmarking. Clients can then decide if the costs of restoration and a landmark report are worth it in the long run. Typically, our clients are out replacing vinyl or aluminum windows with more appropriate wood-framed styles or replacing improper stucco with Santa Barbara finish to bring their architectural level to a higher level. More than twenty homeowners are pursuing quality restoration work.