



COUNTY COURIER

Official Publication of the Orange County Historical Society

Mills Act

A California Preservation Incentive Program

Within the past generation, historic preservation has become more popular and has wide support. Many see the preservation of historic districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects as enhancing their quality of life, adding variety and texture to the cultural landscape in which they live and work. Recognizing that historic preservation works best when associated with economic success has brought support in the form of tax incentives.

Our program this month, May 8, 2003 will cover the Mills Act program, the single most important economic incentive available in California for use by private property owners of qualified historic buildings. Income producing commercial properties also may qualify for the Mills Act program.

This will be a presentation by Phyllis Mueller, who works for the city of Anaheim as the Neighborhood Development Coordinator. For seven years, she has been involved with all the historic preservation activities of the city. She is staff liaison to the citizen committee, the Historic Preservation Committee. Accomplishments during that time have been to establish the city's first historic district in 1997, the Anaheim



Above: The Forster House before 1912

Right:
The house, located at 27182 Ortega Highway as it still stands atop a knoll today.

From our publication, *Orange Countiana Vol. IV Architecture: A Window on the Past* for sale see page 5

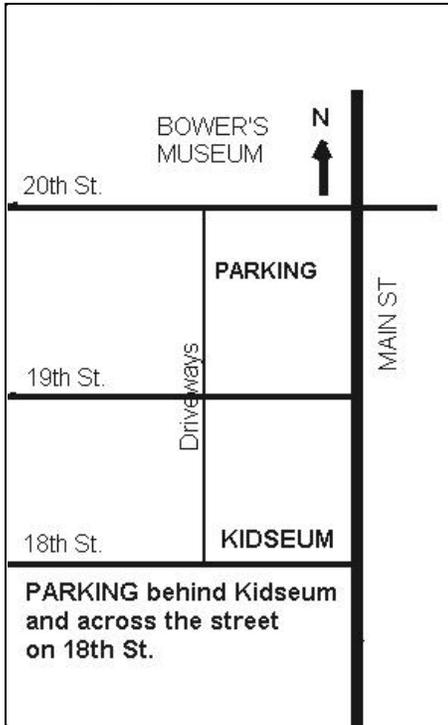


Colony Historic District (1.8 square miles); to establish the list of 1,100 Qualified Historic Structures; distribute to the community design guidelines contained in the Historic Preservation Plan; install monuments that mark the entryways to the Historic District; and, in 2001, implementation of the Mills

Act program. Phyllis has her bachelor's degree from UCLA in history, and a master's degree from USC in Public Administration.

Don't miss this opportunity to hear from an expert how the program is

implemented and have an opportunity to have your questions answered. We will begin promptly at 7:30 in the Kidseum. (See map below) Refreshments will be served following the meeting and the public is invited. Parking is free.



The John A. Maag house, built in 1899, used as a residence until the early 1980s, when it was moved to Centennial Heritage Museum formerly the Discovery Museum at 3101 W. Harvard, Santa Ana. On the same site is the H. Clay Kellogg house another example of Orange County's Victorian architecture, a city house while the Maag is a ranch house. From our publication, *Orange Countiana Vol. IV Architecture: A Window on the Past*. Book for sale on page 5

What is a Qualified Historic Property?

A qualified historic property is a property listed on any official, state, county, or city register, including the National Register of Historic Places, the California Register of Historic resources, the California Historical Landmarks, the State Points of Historic Interest, local landmarks and local survey listings.

Anyone may submit forms documenting a property's significance and request that the property be nominated to the National Register. The State Office of Historical Preservation provides forms and guidelines, advises people preparing nominations and presents the completed applications to the State

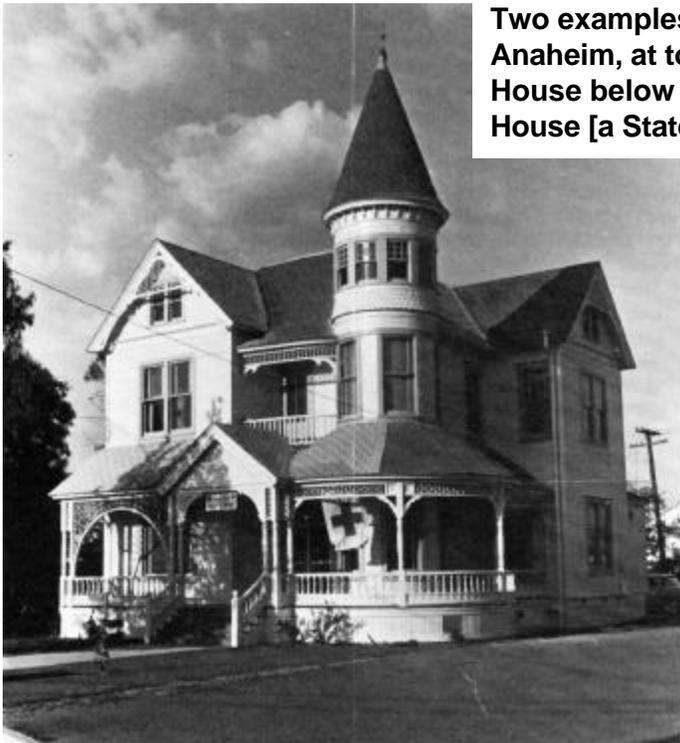
Historical resources Commission, the state-level review body in the nomination process. The State Office of Historical Preservation is responsible for considering the Commission's recommendations and forwarding nominations to the United States Department of Interior in Washington, D.C. for inclusion on the National Register.

At the local level many cities such as Anaheim have listings of historical properties within their city.

The Santa Ana City web site at www.ci.santa-ana.ca.us/ [Go to City Departments then Planning and Building then Historic Preservation.] has a wealth of information on historic preservation for their city. Included are descriptions of the Register of Historical Property which identifies historic and architecturally significant properties, which have been determined to be

important cultural resources to the City of Santa Ana. Based on the significance of the contribution that these structures provide the City, the City Council has deemed that special efforts shall be made to preserve these structures for the benefit of the community for years to come. As a result, anyone wishing to propose an exterior modification, relocation, or demolition of any structure on the local Register must first have that request reviewed by the Historic Resources Commission and the City Council. How a property gets added to the Registry is answered along with incentives for doing so and other listings such as historic districts. Photographs of the houses on the Register with addresses and descriptions of the criteria of their significance is available. There are even historic structures ready for relocation listed.

Two examples of preservation in Anaheim, at top The Red Cross House below The Mother Colony House [a State Landmark]



From our publication, *Orange Countiana Vol. IV Architecture: A Window on the Past*. “By 1950, however, it seemed the house [Red Cross House] had to be sacrificed to ‘progress.’ It was to be demolished when Mr. And Mrs. J.J. Dwyer decided that it must be saved. They purchased the house and moved it to its present location, 418

North West Street. Mr. and Mrs. Dwyer had earlier rescued the Mother Colony House . . .” Author is Flo Tarlton.



From *Preservation, the magazine of the National Trust for Historic Preservation* comes this interesting article quoting David McCullough, (author of *John Adams* and many other books of history and biography.) Following is a question asked and answered in the article:

Are buildings crucial to the American story?

“What we build is as expressive of who we are and what we are about as any art form. . . . Unlike with music or painting, we live in these spaces. They shape us. We are what we build, and the old buildings are like guidons—aids to navigation. They are also old friends, reminders that there were times before ours and that our own time, like those before, is in transition and limited.”

SOME HISTORIC PRESERVATION WEB SITES.

National Trust for Historic Preservation
www.nationaltrust.org

California Office of Historic Preservation
<http://ohp.cal-parks.ca.gov/>

California Preservation Foundation
www.californiapreservation.org/

Preservation Directory
<http://www.preservationdirectory.com/>

GOOD NEWS

Orange County Archives are open!

BETTER NEWS

PHIL BRIGANDI is now the Orange County Archivist!

This is a boon for everyone interested in the history of Orange County. The County Archives once again [not since 1995] will be open to the public with regular hours but more importantly the “keeper” is a young man who not only loves history but knows the history of Orange County.

Phil Brigandi is no stranger to the Society, not only a member but an engaging speaker whom we have been privileged to hear numerous times on various subjects. The latest was about his book on the city of Orange, *Orange The City ‘Round the Plaza*.

The Archives are in
The
Old Orange County Courthouse
Hours are:
9 a.m. to noon
and
1 to 4:30 p.m.
Monday through Friday.
Information (714) 834-2536

What’s there?

Among the significant records of Orange County are:
Minutes of every county Board of Supervisors meeting since Orange County broke away from Los Angeles in 1889; the Great Register, which every new resident was required to sign upon arrival; assessor’s records; aerial photos taken in the 1930s and property records of land that were not incorporated into cities until recently.

The Annual End-of-the-Year Event for the Orange County Historical Society

Image below a postcard lent by Jorice Maag



will be a tour of historic San Juan Capistrano on
Saturday, June 28.

The event will begin with a self-guided tour
of the mission **at 10 AM.**

(Admission \$6 for adults, \$5 for seniors.)

This is the Mission's special
Tamale Festival Day

featuring a wide variety of tasty Mexican treats
and tamales by world-famous
tamale chef John Sedlar.

We understand that the best selection of
gourmet tamales
is to be had between 10 and 12.
(Think early lunch.)

At noon we will proceed to the Capistrano
Museum, a block down from the mission, where
we will be treated to **a docent-led tour of the
Rios District**, site of one of the oldest existing
homes in Alta California. Tony Forster,
descendant of one of Capistrano's earliest
families will join us for the tour. Mark your
calendars.

Reservations will be taken in June.

More details in the next *Courier* including
the train schedule for that day.

OOPS!

**We apologize for the By Tuesday, April 1
Deadline on the Workman-Temple field trip**

**We realize that our bulk mail does not reach
everyone in a timely fashion.** We intended to add
that you could register after April 1 if you had not
received your *Courier* by that date.

Presented by the Placentia Historical Committee

Saturday, May 17, 2003

10 a.m. To 4 p.m.

Admission \$ 15

Tour of five historic homes begins
at the Bradford House

Bradford and Palm Circle

just north of Yorba Linda Blvd.

For info call Fay Hastings 714 524-5148

PLACENTIA 2003 HOME TOURS



The Bradford House shortly after completion in 1902.
From our publication, *Orange Countiana Vol. IV
Architecture: A Window on the Past.*

*"At the end of a cul-de-sac in Placentia, a two-story,
fifteen room house stands alone on a wide lawn. It was
the home of the founder of the city."*

Naming Contest for the Title of Our Postcard Book

The help from members and friends to gather postcards for our
publication has been so successful, it was suggested we
arrive at a name for the book in the same manner. The focus
would be Orange County, early years to present and including
all subject matter such as cities, tourist attractions,
businesses, etc. First prize would be the historical sum of \$25
and recognition in the book. Second and third place winners
would receive a copy of the book. Mail your suggestions to our
PO Box or e-mail any board member (listed on page 5).
Duplications will be judged on a first come basis.

Here are some additional responses:

1. ORANGE COUNTY REMEMBERED
Postcards from the Past
2. SOUVENIRS of Orange County
Postcard Memories
3. Orange County POSTCARDS 1900 - 2000
4. **ORANGE COUNTY'S PAST**
In Picture Perfect Postcards

2002-2003 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President
949/643-0602Greg Rankin

Vice presidents
714/838-5149Richard Vining
714/538-2642 J.J. Friis
NEW JJandHJFriis@aol.com
Secretary
..... VACANT

Treasurer / Sales
949/559-5668John Sorenson
grnv8@aol.com

Activities
714/529-5160Jane Norgren

Preservation
714/558-1067..... Phil Chinn

Corresponding/membership
714/533-3199Judy Moore
jbmo38ore@netzero.net

Curator
714/773-4388Tracy Smith

Historian
714/526-4761Kenneth Leavens
NEW HistoryOC@aol.com

Marketing
714/993-7009..... Diane Taylor
vimariner@aol.com

Membership
714/530-1448.....Don Dobmeier

Newsletter Editor
714/525-4879Betsy Vigus
vvigus@pacbell.net

OCHS Calendar

- Board Meeting
- Thursday, May 1 2003 at 7:00 PM
- Board meetings are open to the membership
- at the Kidseum
- May Meeting
- Thursday, May 8, 2003
- Meeting at 7:30 p.m.
- Kidseum at Bowers

Program

The Mills Act
A California Preservation
Incentive Program
By Phyllis Mueller
Anaheim Neighborhood
Preservation Office

Next Meeting

Saturday, June 28, 2003
Tour, Tamales and Train
See details page 4



Where will you find books on local history? Your best source is your Orange County Historical Society. Books listed below in **BOLD** are pictured and described on our website: [www. orangecountyhistory.org](http://www.orangecountyhistory.org) Don't see the book you are looking for? **ASK US.** If we don't have it we will help you find it.

PLACE A DOLLAR AMT. OPPOSITE EACH ITEM YOU WISH TO ORDER		
Bawdy Balboa by Judge Robert Gardner	\$25.00	
Cañada de la Brea by Virginia Carpenter	\$10.00	
Centennial Bibliography of Orange County	\$70.00	
House of Bernardo Yorba by Don Meadow	\$4.00	
José Antonio Yorba by Arnold Dominguez	\$4.00	
The Portolá Expedition 1769	\$3.00	
Orange Countiana II	\$12.00	
Orange Countiana III	\$12.00	
Orange Countiana IV Architecture: soft	\$32.00	
A Window on the Past hard cover	\$40.00	
Orange Countiana V Early Businesses soft	\$22.00	
In Orange County hard	\$30.00	
Orange County Through Four Centuries	\$15.95	
By Dr. Leo J. Friis		
The Orange Blossom 50 Years of Growth in Orange County	\$40.00	
ORANGE COUNTY The Golden Promise by Pamela Hallan-Gibson 2002 edition	\$37.00	

Proceedings of the Conference of Orange County History	1988	\$11.00	
	1989	\$11.00	

All prices include sales tax

MERCHANDISE TOTAL _____
Postage and Handling (\$3.00 first item, \$1 each additional)
Orange Blossoms is \$5 per book, \$1 each additional
Orange County The Golden Promise is \$5 per book, \$1 each additional
TOTAL DUE _____

PHONE _____
 NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY, STATE, ZIP _____
Make checks payable to OCHS
 ~ **MAIL TO:** John Sorenson, 14932 Gainford Circle, Irvine CA 92604
 Call him (949) 559-5668 and he will bring your book/s to the next meeting.

