

**NORTH PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY
FEBRUARY 2018 MEETING NOTES**

DATE: FEBRUARY 15, 2018 **TIME: 6:30 PM**

The first part of this meeting was a Business Meeting of the North Park Historical Society (NPHS) Board of Directors, and the second part was the activities discussion for the organization. These notes include updates as of March 4, 2018.

The next meeting will be **THURSDAY March 15, 2018** at 6:30 pm in a second floor meeting room at Grace Lutheran Church, 3967 Park Boulevard.

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The following members of the NPHS Board of Directors were present:

Steve Hon	Katherine Hon
Jody Surowiec	Claudia Watts
George Franck	Sharon Turner
Paul Spears	Hilda Yoder
Judy Ciampoli	Bob Bauer
Randy Sappenfield	

The following members of the NPHS Board of Directors were absent:

Michael Thornhill

Member Turner also joined us. Welcome!

2. AGENDA REVIEW AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The latest Pacific Beach Historical Society newsletter was circulated for viewing. The latest PastMatters column in *Uptown News* is at the end of these notes.

Designation of George Klicka's First Home in San Diego. Congratulations again to Bill and Karen for achieving designation of their beautifully restored home at 3543 Pershing Avenue for all three criteria: architecture, work of a Master Builder, and association with a person important to San Diego's history! Bill sent NPHS a lovely thank you letter for our support, and donated \$200 to NPHS as a token of his appreciation.

Target Coming to Previous Wangs Restaurant (originally J.C. Penney Department Store) Building at University Avenue and Ray Street.

Target representatives will make a presentation at the upcoming North Park Planning Committee meeting on February 20. Also, the North Park Community Association has organized an open house with Target representatives at the Lafayette Hotel for February 22, from 6 to 8 pm. **Update:** Steve attended the North Park Planning Committee meeting, and Katherine attended the open house. The Target representatives answered questions and listened to comments at both meetings. They are working closely with Jodi Brown, staff for the City Historical Resources Board, to protect the historic facade of the 1954 building, which has retained its classic J.C. Penney Department Store character illustrated by the "Mother Store" in Kemmerer, Wyoming pictured at right.



3. MINUTES ACCEPTANCE

The minutes from the January 18, 2018 NPHS meeting have been posted on the website.

BUSINESS PORTION OF MEETING

4. TREASURER'S REPORT

The financials for the period of January 1 to February 13, 2018 were sent to Board Members before the meeting. During this period, we received a donation of \$200 (thank you, Bill!). One member renewed for revenue of \$20 from dues. We sold 2 spiral-bound North Park history books to Paras Newsstand for revenue of \$26.62 from books, and two tote bags for revenue of \$9.28. Total income was \$255.90. Expenses were a total of \$294.46, mainly consisting of the City permit for the Car Show next September (\$269.00), and reimbursement to the Secretary for postage in 2017 (\$24.87).

5. NPHS APPLICATION FOR COUNTY COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM 2018-2019

Steve announced that he has submitted the County grant application for \$3,000, which includes requests for assistance with the car show, continued consultation from Gail Goldman for our Water Tower art project, and equipment/services for scanning slides donated to us from the Covington family.

ACTIVITIES PORTION OF MEETING

6. WATER TOWER PUBLIC ART PROJECT

The artist team's concept proposal was emailed to our city contact, Christine Jones (now Chief of Civic Art Strategies for the City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture), on January 11, 2018 with a request for input on the general feasibility of the concept as being acceptable to the City. Christine replied on January 25, 2018 that she will get back to NPHS with some additional guidance. We would like to wait until we get input from the City before we send the contract to the artists. We will check back in with Christine Jones.

7. MEETING WITH COUNCIL DISTRICT 3 STAFF TYLER RENNER

Steve met with Chris Ward's North Park contact, Tyler Renner. Steve shared information about the Water Tower art installation project, and Tyler promised to communicate District 3's support to Christine Jones. Tyler and Brittany, the staff liaison to the Historical Resources Board, would like a walking tour of key areas of North Park, including the Dryden District. Steve will coordinate with District 3 staff and George, Jody, and Katherine to arrange a guided walking tour.

8. UPCOMING COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

The annual events NPHS is participating in or organizing include the following:

- Exhibit at San Diego History Center: March 13, 2018: The History Center offers non-profits an opportunity to display information in their lobby once a year on a selected Free Tuesday. Steve will man the table for NPHS on March 13 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. Come by to say hello if you are in the park that day.
- North Park Festival of the Arts: May 12, 2018. We are getting our booth fee waived in exchange for assisting North Park Main Street with a new project being developed that involves creating a virtual tour experience for San Diego visitors.
- North Park Car Show: September 8, 2018. The Balboa Tennis Club has agreed to host us for our 9th Annual Car Show, and Steve has already obtained the permit from the City to use the parking lot.

- Old House Fair - We believe this event will go on as usual in June 2018. More later.
- Toyland Parade: December 1, 2018. We expect the parade to be held the first Saturday in December like last year. More later.

Also, George noted that the San Diego Architectural Foundation will hold an "Open House San Diego" on March 24 and 25 in 84 sites located in Downtown, Banker's Hill, Barrio Logan, and Point Loma. Check their website at sdarchitecture.org/program/openhouse for more information.

9. HISTORICAL DESIGNATION HELP

Paul and a small group of other Board members have activated a free advice service helping to inform people on how historic designation happens, where there are resources explaining what needs to be done, the difference between historic designation and the Mills Act property tax reduction contract, and what factors into a structure qualifying as a significant historic resource. NPBS got its first request for assistance on February 5, 2018. It was a very interesting house built by David Dryden and in a potential historic district.

10. USE OF 1997 HISTORIC LANDMARKS CALENDARS

Steve and Katherine have about 30 calendars compiled in 1997 by the History Committee, Burlingame Homeowners Association and University Heights Historical Society. The calendars have 12 nice photos of classic historical North Park scenes, including the Lafayette Hotel in 1946, and the streetcar line being built along University Avenue in 1907. The group discussed how to use these. It would be a shame to just throw them in a recycle bin. Ideas generated included giving one away with a donation at the next event, like the Old House Fair, or selling for a nominal amount.

11. 10TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF NPBS

NPBS officially "graduated" from being the History Committee of the North Park Community Association to an independent 501c3 organization in 2008. This year is our tenth anniversary as a stand-alone organization. The most favored idea for a celebration was an open house type of pizza party in the back room of Paesano Italian Restaurant on 30th Street. Steve will ask Joe Romano, owner of the restaurant, about such an event. **Update:** Joe said he would not charge for the use of the room, just for food and beverages. A time frame of 4 to 6 pm would be good, as another group uses the back room for a large meeting later in the evening on Thursdays. We should confirm with him to set the date soon.

NEXT MEETING

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Prepared by



Katherine Hon
Secretary, North Park Historical Society

Storybook stories

Whimsical style has Hollywood roots

PastMatters
Katherine Hon

Although Craftsman and Spanish Revival bungalows dominate San Diego's street-car suburbs, the steep roofs, turrets, and half-timbering of Tudor Revival and French Norman styles also appear. These Period Revival styles gained popularity after World War I, as the general public became familiar with European structures, and builders developed inexpensive methods for adding a veneer of brick or stone to a wood frame building. During the 1920s, castles, chateaus, and cottages inspired designers of apartments, single-family homes, and commercial buildings to abandon historical accuracy and follow the example of the growing film industry by cramming as many architectural details into one structure as possible.

It is here, at the intersection of design and fantasy, where the story of Storybook architectural style begins. Appropriately enough, Storybook style is rooted in a 1920s Los Angeles development named Hollywoodland. According to the 2016 Los Angeles Historic Resources Survey, Hollywoodland started in 1923 as a picturesque community with winding

streets and quaint houses in the French Norman, English Tudor, Mediterranean and Spanish styles (or fanciful combinations of all of the above). The Great Depression of the 1930s halted the development. But the 50-foot-tall, 500-foot-long sign proclaiming "HOLLYWOODLAND" to advertise the community has lived on as a famous landmark without its last four letters, which were removed in the 1940s.

How can a home in classic Period Revival style be distinguished from Storybook? The Los Angeles Historic Resources Survey notes that Storybook buildings "are distinguished by exaggerated and playful interpretations of medieval forms ... The roof is often designed to appear thatched with undulating and uneven shingles applied in waving patterns." Other features include turrets, arched windows and doors, rubble stone or clinker brick, and multiple gables. The design is intended to evoke "quaintness, whimsy and an association with popular fairytales." In other words, if Hansel and Gretel or Cinderella could live there, the style could qualify as Storybook.

Storybook style is found throughout Los Angeles. But are there any homes in San Diego where Hansel and Gretel or Cinderella might live?

Indeed, there are.

Hansel and Gretel would feel right at home in North Park at 3576 Villa Terrace, known by neighbors as the "Gingerbread House." Ann Patterson and Alex Nellias have owned the house since 1997. The Storybook English cottage was designed by Home Builders Service Bureau in 1929, and the blueprints that Patterson and Nellias found rolled up in a cabinet drawer clearly call out for a "thatch roof effect." The charming roof, asymmetrical frontage, brickwork and multiple gables are all distinguishing Storybook features.

The first owner of 3576 Villa Terrace was Earl Robinson. He owned a trucking business — Case and Robinson — with William Case, his father-in-law. Robinson sold the house and moved his family to Ocean Beach in 1943 after he was severely fined for sugar hoarding in violation of World War II rationing laws. (Perhaps he was unduly influenced by the spirits of Hansel and Gretel.)

Cinderella might enjoy the "Wonder House of Stone" as a summer home. This house at 4386 Adams Ave. was designed by Ralph Hurlburt in the style of a French chateau and built in 1926. Though more grand than whimsical, it nevertheless holds strong Hollywood movie industry connections. The home served as the architectural focal point for the Talmadge Park subdivision, which was an expansion of the Kensington neighborhood



The current owners of 3576 Villa Terrace are dedicated to preserving the home's charming Storybook character. (Photo by Katherine Hon)



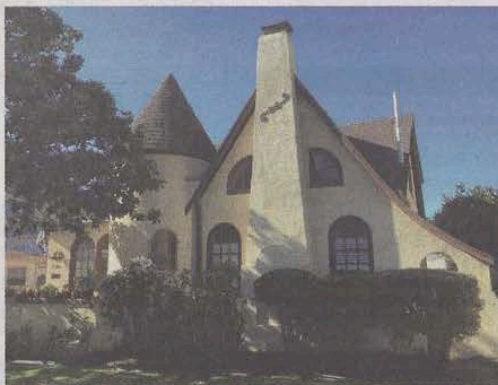
The Wonder House of Stone, which dominates the intersection of Adams Avenue and North Talmadge Drive, was initially used as a sales office for the Talmadge Park subdivision from 1926 to 1929. (Photo by Katherine Hon)

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STORYBOOK

undertaken by developer Roy C. Lichy and investors who included Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer executive Louis B. Mayer and theater owner Sid Grauman. Furthering the associations with Hollywood, the subdivision was named after three sisters — Norma, Constance and Natalie Talmadge — who were silent film stars of the day; Natalie was the wife of silent film star Buster Keaton.

The development of Kensington is documented with more than 200 vintage photographs in "San Diego's Kensington" from Arcadia Publishing. Written by local authors Alexandra and Kiley Wallace of Legacy 106, an archaeology and historic preservation consulting firm, and Margaret McCann, a neighborhood historian, the book can be found in shops along Adams Avenue, including Kensington Brewing Company and the BENCH Home fine decorating store.



This fanciful Tudor Revival/Storybook home at 4044 Hamilton St. is historically designated, as is its neighbor at 4050 Hamilton St. (Photo by Katherine Hon)

Based on her historic preservation consulting experience in various San Diego neighborhoods, Alexandra Wallace identified additional homes that bring fairy tales to mind. These include 4044 and 4050 Hamilton St. in University Heights, 4552 East Talmadge Drive in Kensington, 2150 Sunset Blvd. in Mission

Hills, 3268 Brant St. near Bankers Hill, and 3557 3rd Ave. in Hillcrest. Each one is a treasure with its own unique story.

—Katherine Hon is the secretary of the North Park Historical Society. Reach her at info@northparkhistory.org or 619-294-8990.