

SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2021

The North Park Historical Society (NPHS) was formed in 2008 to educate residents and visitors about the history of North Park. The primary purpose of NPHS is "to conduct research and educational outreach in order to facilitate preservation of North Park's cultural and architectural history."

Accomplishments in 2021

The accomplishments of NPHS in 2021 grouped by the seven objectives stated in our Bylaws under the primary purpose are summarized below. Activities and product sales were profoundly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and public health mandated limitations on gatherings that began in early 2020 and continued through 2021.

Objective 1. To market and distribute printed and digital publications consistent with our purpose (e.g., *North Park: A San Diego Urban Village, 1896-1946*, our book on the history of North Park's first 50 years).

- Local stores continue to sell the book we prepared in 2014, *Images of America: San Diego's North Park* published by Arcadia Publishing Company. During 2021, we believe it continued to be available for retail sale at various locations including CVS. We did not sell any Arcadia books to individuals in 2021. We received a total of \$75.35 in royalty payments from Arcadia for sales by others in 2021.
- We continue to sell our "original" history book: *North Park: A San Diego Urban Village, 1896-1946* by Donald Covington, which is published and distributed by NPHS. We sold 45 spiral-bound books wholesale to Verbatim Books for their retail in 2021. We sold 3 spiral-bound copies wholesale to The Book Catapult in South Park. We sold one copy retail to an individual in 2021.
- Our past agreement with Amazon was terminated in 2019. Paras Newsstand closed permanently at the end of 2019. The San Diego History Center closed during the pandemic, and will not re-open their gift shop.
- Upon approval of the NPHS Board of Directors, we had 150 spiral-bound copies of the book produced by Repromagic, a printing shop located on Miramar Place in July 2021.
- A total of 0 perfect bound and 49 spiral bound North Park history books left our inventory in 2021. Since publishing the book in 2007, we have sold a total of approximately 2,815 copies. We have 120 spiral-bound copies and 16 perfect-bound copies remaining at the end of 2021.
- We sold 3 copies of the book, *Burlingame, the Tract of Character* by Donald Covington wholesale to The Book Catapult in June 2021. We have 91 copies remaining.
- In 2017 we had 100 canvas tote bags with our logo printed at [AKA] Apparel-Supplies-Printing. We did not sell any bags to individuals in 2021. The San Diego History Center paid us for 5 bags sold on consignment in 2020 and returned one unsold bag when they closed the gift shop. We have 23 bags remaining.



Objective 2. To coordinate with other organizations on public historical education and preservation efforts, including designation of historical districts and/or structures.

- The City of San Diego received a grant from the California Office of Historic Preservation to prepare a historic context statement addressing bungalow courts and garden apartments city-wide. NPHS Vice-President George Franck coordinated an effort to review the list of bungalow courts included in the Community Plan and add courts to the city's list. Allendale Court at 3777 Park Boulevard is one of many bungalow courts identified by NPHS for inclusion in the City's context statement project.



- Channel 8 KFMB News, the oldest TV station in San Diego, contacted North Park Main Street and NPHS for part of a "Then and Now" series the station presented on various San Diego communities for which they have historical footage. NPHS Secretary Katherine Hon answered the reporter's questions about how North Park got started and why the state street names seem to be in such a crazy order, and some of that video was included. A link to the piece is below. If you follow the text down, you can click on video from similar stories the channel did in 1986 and 1978.

<https://www.cbs8.com/article/news/local/throwback/north-park-1980s-san-diego-neighborhood/509-67c60dfb-4d8d-4ff3-8353-169d86a650c7>

- NPHS Board Member Paul Spears and a small group of other Board members continued a free advice service helping to inform people on the potential for their house to be designated as a significant historic resource. NPHS received and responded to a total of 11 requests in 2021.
- NPHS provided historical information about six other houses, a church, and the buildings on University Avenue hosting North Park Optometry and North Park Rug and Carpet.
- Paul provided input on whether a full historical report should be required for 158 building permit applications to the City of San Diego for changes to buildings more than 45 years old.
- NPHS wrote a letter to the city HRB staff opposing demolition of 4349-4355 Arizona Street, a bungalow court that we believe is historic and would contribute to the Bungalow Court Multiple Property Listing the city is preparing.
- NPHS bought a paver to benefit the Mini-Park under construction behind the North Park Theater. The Mini-Park is supposed to open in January 2022.
- Due to the City limiting our access to the "canvas" of the fencing on top of the concrete reservoir facing Howard Avenue, the NPHS Board voted to terminate the project of developing an art installation to celebrate the Water Tower in April 2019. We refunded the remaining unspent County Grant funds for the project to the County. We did not request grant funds in 2020 or 2021 due to the pandemic limiting our activities and ability to meet.



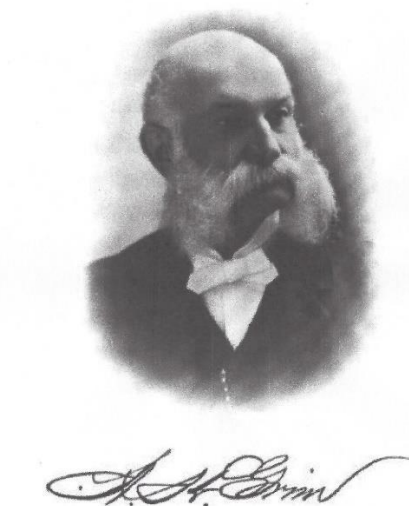
- NPHS remains committed to installing the bronze plaque that NPHS paid to create in 2015 recognizing the Water Tower as a Local Historic Civil Engineering Landmark, but communication with the City has been hampered by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Objective 3. To develop and conduct walking tours relating educational information about the history of various areas in North Park.

- NPHS continued to develop a tour of Pauly's Addition. A group including George, Paul, Jody, Sharon, Steve and Katherine developed a route for the southern third of the neighborhood focusing on Mississippi and Texas streets from Upas to Landis streets. George developed text for the tour guide, Paul compiled interior photos for the assistant photo book, and Katherine organized the list of houses with construction date and style based on information compiled by others, including Paul and Hilda. We look forward to conducting this tour when normalcy returns.
- At the request of North Park Main Street, George Franck led a tour of the 30th Street and University Avenue commercial area for two visiting magazine writers. George's tour focused on the North Park Theater (now the Observatory) and included a quick peek inside. The central area tour was followed by visits to about a half dozen bars/craft breweries. Among them was The Original 40 at 3117 University Avenue.

Objective 4. To research and write objective articles about the history of North Park's people, landmarks, architecture, homes, commercial buildings, tracts, and other topics for publications.

- Press coverage this year in the *Uptown News* consisted of six articles written by NPHS Secretary Katherine Hon in her monthly column "PastMatters" continuing her series on the people behind street names in North Park. Streets included were Grim Avenue and Herman Avenue, which have held their original names from the early 1870s mapping of the Park Villas subdivision by Joseph Nash.



Although Abraham K. Grim never lived in San Diego, he was a prominent businessman in San Francisco, and may be the namesake for North Park's Grim Avenue.



Alexander Herman was a young merchant from Germany who operated a general store on Fifth Avenue in 1871 San Diego.

- More than 550 people like and follow our North Park History Facebook page. We posted 8 items throughout the year, including information about the Uptown News articles.

Objective 5. To make and sponsor presentations of information useful to helping the public understand the origin and significance of historical resources in the community, including buildings, landmarks, and other structures.

- NPHS Secretary Katherine Hon presented a lecture via Zoom to the University Heights Community Association about the history of the Lafayette Hotel. An interesting historical finding is that several townhouse buildings that were part of the hotel complex were removed in 1958 and relocated to Florida Street/Cypress Avenue where they form a quiet oasis set back from another apartment complex on Florida Street to this day.



- NPHS participated in the first North Park Book Fair on July 17, 2021. At the invitation of the organizers, Katherine spoke briefly about the historic reasons North Park streets are so inconsistent in design and alignment. She encouraged attendees to buy the North Park History book to read all about it. The book was prominently displayed at Verbatim Books. This was the only event we participated in due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



- The NPHS Board met in-person once on the Grace Lutheran Church patio on June 17, 2021, but then the Delta variant surge prevented further meetings in 2021. The Secretary emailed a “meeting summary” to all NPHS members each month containing information we would have shared from January to November.

Objective 6. To organize, convert to digital format (when possible) and provide the following materials for research and other purposes: documents, slides, data, notes, photos, and various ephemera and records related to history donated to the North Park Historical Society, and to establish a North Park collection for eventual donation to the San Diego Historical Society for preservation.

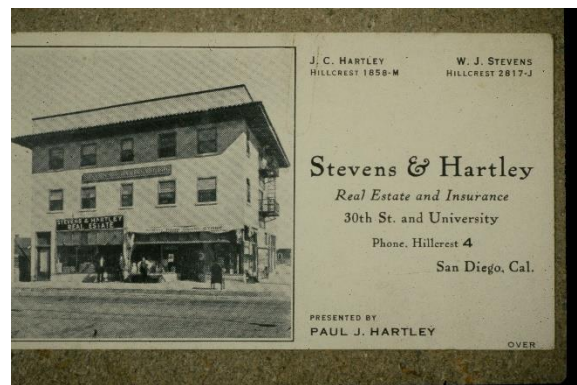
- NPHS provided several photos for an artist installation prepared by Kaori Fukuyama, artist-in-residence with Art Produce. These included a 1949 photo of a streetcar going under the Georgia Street Bridge and the photo of North Park historians Don and Karon Covington that is on the back of our 2007 North Park history book. The completed installation was quite interesting and evocative.



- NPHS is scanning slides and notebooks with photos and notes from the Covington Family. Eight pictures were shared in the monthly meeting summaries distributed to NPHS members through the year. This postcard of the Lafayette Hotel is from when the hotel was named the “Hotel Manor” from 1950 to about 1955. The front of the building complex along El Cajon Boulevard is on the right side of the postcard.



- NPHS had six slide carousels with a total of about 350 slides from Don Covington scanned by George’s Camera. A few of the slides are shown below.



Objective 7. To conduct outreach to schools regarding North Park history consistent with our purpose.

- NPHS did not conduct any formal projects with schools in 2021.