

NORTH PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY OCTOBER 2020 MEETING SUMMARY

DATE: OCTOBER 15, 2020

TIME: XX PM

These notes summarize information that was planned to be presented at the October 15, 2020 Business Meeting of the North Park Historical Society (NPHS) Board of Directors, and the activities discussion for the organization. These notes include updates as of October 25, 2020. The meeting was canceled in advance due to concerns about the novel coronavirus and resulting state and local restrictions on gatherings.

The next meeting scheduled for **THURSDAY November 19, 2020 starting at 6:30 p.m.** in a second-floor meeting room at Grace Lutheran Church **WILL NOT OCCUR**. Although we will not be able to resume our public meetings this year, we are still providing information virtually to all who contact us with questions about North Park history.

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

We hope all our members and friends are staying safe and healthy.

2. AGENDA REVIEW AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The latest Pacific Beach Historical Society newsletters will be circulated for viewing at the next possible meeting. The October 2020 PastMatters column in Uptown News was Part 6 of a series about historic street names in San Diego (see the last pages of this summary).

3. MINUTES ACCEPTANCE

The meeting summary from the canceled September 17, 2020 meeting has been posted on the website.

BUSINESS PORTION OF MEETING

4. TREASURER'S REPORT

The financials for the period of September 18 to October 15, 2020 were sent to Board Members on October 15, 2020. During this period, five members renewed (thank you Hilda, Claudia, Jody, Kelly and Barons Market!). One renewing member gave an additional donation (thank you, Jody!). Verbatim Book Store bought five coil-bound North Park history books wholesale. Total income in this period was \$196.55. Expenses in this time period were zero.

ACTIVITIES PORTION OF MEETING

5. UPDATE ON PLAQUE FOR WATER TOWER

Coordination with City Public Utilities Department staff regarding the feasibility of placing the plaque in a boulder or some kind of low wall next to the two-story building at the Water Tower site is pending return to some kind of normalcy.

6. PLANNING FOR PAULY'S ADDITION WALKING TOUR

The team revised the route, photo notebook and draft guide notes for the southern part of Pauly's Addition to be a simplified and shorter loop starting at Upas and Texas. The new route heads west on Upas, north on Mississippi to Landis, east on Landis to Texas and south on Texas back to the park. This route is shorter — approximately one mile — while including six designated houses and a wide range of ages and architectural styles. All walking tours are pending return to some kind of normalcy, but the team is using this time to get ready.

7. EVALUATIONS OF HISTORIC HOMES AND REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

In October, we evaluated one house for its potential to be individually designated and responded to several requests for information as summarized below.

1. Ben asked how to research the history of his Craftsman home on B Street in Golden Hill, which he believes was built in 1916. He provided a cool picture of the house in its young days.



Katherine told him that the Save Our Heritage Organisation (SOHO) has a lot of good info for research guidance on their website at

<http://www.sohosandiego.org/resources/researchhouse.htm>

Also, she said to trace who lived in houses from 1926 through the 1950s, look in the City Directories on the City Clerk Digital Archives Special Collections web page at

<https://www.sandiego.gov/digitalarchives/collections/specialcollections/citydirectories>

Toward the back of each directory from 1926 on, there is a "reverse" directory by address. You can look up your address, see who was living in your house, then look in the front part of each directory for that name. The name part of the directory will list what that person did for a living. Katherine was especially excited to see an early photo of this house, because the first owner of her own house from 1922 to 1945 lived in Ben's house from 1919 to 1922.

2. Brittany asked for a letter of support from the North Park Historical Society for designation of her very charming and rare Queen Anne/Stick vernacular residence on Howard Avenue, which was built during the 1880s and moved to University Heights during the 1920s. The NPHS Board provided a letter supporting designation, agreeing with the historical report that the home's "1888 construction, old growth redwood framing, novelty Dutch lap/cove siding, distinctive gable and half bay window," made the house "an important resource exemplifying the social and economic forces that transformed San Diego during the 1880's."



3. Christina wrote: "We need a new pane of glass in one of our windows. Since this is an original window on our 100+ year old house, Anderson windows may not cut it. We are pursuing Historical Designation for our house and would like to keep the original window frames despite the new glass needed. Do you have any Craftsman window contractors contacts you could pass along to us?"

Katherine replied: "We have found the Save Our Heritage Organisation (SOHO) Resource Directory to be useful for identifying craftsmen/women. The link is:

<http://www.sohosandiego.org/resources/resourcedirectory.htm>

There are a number of listings under windows at the bottom of the alphabetical list of topics on the webpage. Windows are extremely important when the City considers designation, so you are smart to be very careful."

4. Cherie wrote: "We wanted to thank you for your assistance and guidance two years ago! Yesterday the Historical Resources Board approved our application for Historical Designation, our home will be called the Arthur and Catherine Welcome House! This process has been - and will continue to be - lengthy, but we haven't forgotten your assistance at the beginning of the process and wanted to express our thanks." NPHS was very happy to hear this 1922 house on Felton has been designated.



8. COMMUNITY COORDINATION

The October 2020 PastMatters column in Uptown News presented Part 6 of a series about San Diego street names. This installment discussed the pioneers behind the original names of the streets now named Arizona, Arnold, Villa Terrace and Pershing between University Avenue and Upas Street in North Park. See the last pages of these notes for that article.

9. UPCOMING COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Future events will have to wait until a return to some kind of normalcy.

The next meeting scheduled for **THURSDAY November 19, 2020 starting at 6:30 p.m.** in a second-floor meeting room at Grace Lutheran Church **WILL NOT OCCUR**. Due to the public health virus crisis we will not be able to resume our public meetings this year. However, we will continue to provide monthly summaries of information we would have shared.

Prepared by

Katherine Hon

Katherine Hon
Secretary, North Park Historical Society

Dealers in land and fine foods

San Diego street names: Part six of the series

PastMatters

KATHERINE HON

As discussed in earlier PastMatters columns, many streets in North Park between University Avenue and Upas Street originally had the names of 1870s pioneers but were renamed in 1899 and 1900. This column examines original street names in the Park Villas tract from present-day Arizona Street to Pershing Avenue.

In the street name change ordinances of 1899 and 1900, Choate Avenue became Arizona Street, Arnold Avenue remained the same, Hamilton Avenue became Walker Street (now Villa Terrace), and Driscoll Avenue became Oregon Street (now Pershing Avenue). Daniel Choate, Cyrus Arnold, Charles Hamilton and William Driscoll were well known to Park Villas tract founder Joseph Nash, who operated a large general store but also dealt extensively and creatively in early San Diego real estate. More about him in a later column.

Daniel Choate (1827-1899) was born into a large farming family in Kennebec County, Maine. In February 1849, he joined the many gold-seekers who came to California. He tried panning for gold at Yuba, but by 1851 he was operating a mercantile business in Ophirville, a bustling gold mining town in Placer County northeast of Sacramento. He served as U.S. Postmaster for Ophirville from 1858 until the office was discontinued in 1866. In 1868, he opened a clothing store at 415 Kearny Street in San Francisco with his brother, Nehemiah. A year later, Daniel Choate visited San Diego and did not return to San Francisco, writing to his brother to sell the business and come south.

In San Diego, Daniel Choate specialized in land instead of merchandise and actively promoted the city. He served on the first Chamber of Commerce initiated in 1870, helping to write the constitution and bylaws. The first president of the Chamber of Commerce was Aaron Pauly, and the first secretary was Joseph Nash. Appropriately, Choate Avenue marked the boundary between the tracts Pauly and Nash founded. Choate served as U.S. Postmaster in San Diego from 1876 through 1880.

Choate's real estate holdings were extensive, and his involvement was significant. He was a major stockholder in the College Hill Land Association, which formed University Heights in 1888. He assisted with subdividing 1,000 acres of land owned by Samuel Steiner, Abraham

Klauber and Frederick Castle in 1887 to form the Steiner, Klauber, Choate & Castle's Addition, which became the separate city of East San Diego in 1912 and was annexed into San Diego in 1923. The area is now known as City Heights. Choate formed several other tracts, including Arnold and Choate's Addition. He initially partnered with Cyrus Arnold and then with his sons Franklin and Rufus when Arnold left San Diego for San Francisco.

The San Diego Union's April 22, 1899 issue announced Daniel Choate's death under the headline, "Passing of One of San Diego's Prominent Citizens," noting, "He was one of the most public-spirited citizens of the city, and labored incessantly for the upbuilding of this community." He is buried at Mount Hope Cemetery.

Cyrus Mills Arnold (1842-1913) was the middle of five sons in a farming family in Stark County, Illinois. He was living in San Diego by 1869, and he married Alice Mary Dougherty that year. The 1870 federal census for San Diego listed him as a lawyer with real estate worth \$5,000 — nearly \$100,000 in today's dollars.

Arnold and Choate partnered in real estate during the early 1870s. The Daily Union's April 15, 1871 issue presented a large ad for "Arnold & Choate, Real Estate Dealers, Office 5th St. between I & J." Their offerings included "1000 Lots in Arnold & Choate's Addition at \$25.00 a lot."

Arnold moved from San Diego to San Francisco around 1876. He was listed in the 1877 San Francisco City Directory as operating "Arnold Bros (C.M. and G.C.) real estate and money brokers" at 423 Kearny Street, just a few doors down from where Choate had operated



Daniel Choate's gravestone is to the left of the impressive Choate monument at Mount Hope Cemetery. Arizona Street between University Avenue and Upas Street was originally named Choate Avenue for him. (Photo by Katherine Hon)

his clothing store in 1868. Cyrus Arnold's youngest brother, Gilbert Conger Arnold, was his partner in the business.

Cyrus stayed in San Francisco until moving to Contra Costa in 1905. Gilbert moved to San Diego in 1881 and continued to deal in real estate. Gilbert joined their father, Philander, who had come to San Diego in 1873. Both Gilbert and Philander Arnold are buried at Mount Hope Cemetery.

Charles Standart Hamilton (1847-1933) was born in Milan, Erie County, Ohio. He came to California in 1869 on the recently completed Union Pacific railway. He could not get a clerk position in San Francisco, but there he met Joseph Nash, who had opened a general merchandise store in San Diego. The two men traveled by steamer to San Diego, and Hamilton worked in Nash's store. In 1870, Hamilton met George Marston, a new arrival from Wisconsin who briefly clerked



This sidewalk stamp on Arnold Avenue at Landis Street is one of only a few stamps reflecting an original street name between University Avenue and Upas Street. The street was named for Cyrus Arnold. (Photo by Katherine Hon)

at the Horton Hotel, worked in Aaron Pauly's store for two years, and then joined Hamilton at Nash's store. The young clerks bought out Nash in 1873, partnered for five years, and split amicably in 1878 to form their own highly successful enterprises: Hamilton's Fine Foods and Marston's Department Store. They were brothers-in-law as well as business partners and friends. Hamilton married Elizabeth Gunn in 1876, and Marston married

Anna Lee Gunn — Elizabeth's sister — in 1878.

Hamilton was elected to the City Board of Trustees in May 1886 and served as president until leaving the Board in April 1887. He had launched his grocery business at Fifth Avenue and G Street and later moved to Sixth Avenue and C Street. His final store at Seventh Avenue and C Street opened in 1928. This

SEE STREET NAMES, Page 7

Wealth Management * Taxes * Financial Planning

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HAMILTON 2-1-7 1000 LOTS TO A BROS. TO A BROS. TO A BROS.	MARSTON TO A BROS. TO A BROS. TO A BROS.
GROCERIES, HARDWARE CIGARS, TOBACCO AND STAPLE	DRY GOODS CLOTHING, SHOES AND STAPLE

Charles Hamilton and George Marston advertised their new partnership in the Daily Union's March 5, 1874 issue. Villa Terrace between University Avenue and Upas Street was originally named Hamilton Avenue for Charles Hamilton. (Courtesy of the San Diego Union and Newsbank Inc.)

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Street Names

CONTINUED FROM Page 5

elegant building still exists, although the Hamilton business closed around 1953.

Charles Hamilton died on March 17, 1933. A tribute to him on the editorial page of the San Diego Union's March 21, 1933 issue called him "A fine man, a brave one, and a pioneer who typified the best in that great parade of pioneers to the Golden State." He is buried at Mount Hope Cemetery.

Present-day Hamilton Street in University Heights was named California Street on the original 1888 subdivision map, but the name was changed in 1899 because there were at least four California Streets in San Diego at that time. The name Hamilton was likely chosen in an attempt to

achieve some continuity with the street that was still named Hamilton south of University Avenue. City Engineer Louis Davids changed the southern portion to Walker Street in 1900, perhaps because he decided the physical offset between the two segments was too great.

Walker Street was changed to Villa Terrace in 1908.

William Driscoll (1845-1907) was born in Indiana to Irish parents. He first registered in San Diego on February 24, 1869 as a clerk. He was named with many others — including Joseph Nash — in the Daily Union's September 11, 1873 issue as being involved in lands designated for the Texas and Pacific Railway Company. Driscoll continued to be listed in the San Diego register through 1879 but then vanished from city records. Ancestry.com family trees indicate he died January 15, 1907.



This elegant building at Seventh and C streets built in 1928 for Hamilton's Fine Foods features stately columns, expansive windows and ornate frieze trim.

(Photo by Katherine Hon)

The next PastMatters column will examine the original names of more North Park streets from 28th Street eastward.

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