

NORTH PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY MARCH 2021 MEETING SUMMARY

DATE: MARCH 18, 2021

TIME: XX PM

These notes summarize information that was planned to be presented at the March 18, 2021 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 March 30, 2021. The meeting was canceled in advance due to concerns about the coronavirus and resulting state and local restrictions on gatherings.

All future meetings scheduled for the third **THURSDAYS of the month starting at 6:30 p.m.** in a second-floor meeting room at Grace Lutheran Church **WILL NOT OCCUR in 2021** until the public health crisis due to COVID-19 has passed. Although we will not be able to resume our public meetings until then, we are still providing information to all who contact us with questions about North Park history and documenting those communications in monthly summaries.

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 March 2021 PastMatters column in Uptown News was Part 11 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 February 18, 2021 meeting has been posted on the website.

BUSINESS PORTION OF MEETING

4. TREASURER'S REPORT

The financials for this meeting are for February 18 to March 19, 2021 and were sent to Board Members on March 19, 2021. In this time period, two members renewed (thank you, Ed C. and David G.!) for total income of \$40, and no expenses occurred.

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 has developed the route, photo notebook and draft guide notes for the southern part of Pauly's Addition. The current tour starts at Upas and Texas, 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 approximately one mile and includes six designated houses and a wide range of ages and architectural styles. All walking tours are pending return to some kind of normalcy.

Paul noted that 2124 Upas Street, which is on our tour, has recently been designated and has a plaque.



7. BUNGALOW COURT IDENTIFICATION PROJECT

The City of San Diego has received a grant from the California Office of Historic Preservation to prepare a historic context statement addressing bungalow courts and garden apartments city-wide.

With the participation of nearly all Board members, the North Park Historical Society finished an updated inventory of local bungalow courts in the North Park area and submitted it to City staff. The City's consultant is preparing a city-wide draft Historic Report on Bungalow Courts and Garden Apartments that will be available for public review this summer.

8. COMMUNITY COORDINATION

In March 2021, we responded to requests for information as summarized below.

1. Patricia asked for an evaluation of the potential for her house on Texas Street to be designated. The team found the California Bungalow house exemplifies the Craftsman style with high integrity and should qualify as an Individually Significant historical resource under Criterion C. This Criterion reads as follows: “embodies distinctive characteristics of a style, type, period, or method of construction or is a valuable example of the use of indigenous materials or craftsmanship.” NPHS also found that the house was built during 1924 and completed by January 1925. The first owner, Clyde Warner, a plumber by trade, pulled the building permit on June 19, 1924 with a value noted as \$3,500.



2. Scot asked for help finding the correct construction dates for a three-structure parcel on Maryland Street that had clearly historical age houses but had a construction date of 2000 in the tax records. Answering this question turned out to be a bit complex. The first value of improvements for the site in University Heights appeared in January 1915. But the first owner, Frank A. Wisler, a police detective, first owned the lots in 1912 and was listed in the 1912 City Directory as living at the address on Maryland Street.



Katherine asked Scot if there is a pretty old-looking house on the property behind the newer-looking stucco faced house seen from the street, or if the older house was redone in the 1930s, as the style in the photo looks so Art Deco. Scot replied that the rear two, smaller units appear to be older than the front house and had single wall construction, and he agreed the estimation of the 1930's is likely correct for the front house.

3. Kari asked for an evaluation of the potential for her house on Boundary Street to be designated. The team found the Mission Revival single family house exemplifies the Mission Revival style with good integrity and should qualify as an Individually Significant historical resource under Criterion C. NPHS found that the first time an owner is paying taxes on improvements is January 1924, indicating the house was built during 1923. Isaiah Solomon and his wife, Ethel, are the first owners. He was a jeweler. He owned the lots before the house was built from at least 1919.



NPHS also found that the house has been identified as a contributor to a potential Altadena/Carmel Heights/Frary Heights Historic District. Being a Contributor to a designated historic district makes it possible to apply for Mills Act without the complicated process of preparing a report for individual designation. The city does much of the documentation themselves as part of the district formation process.

The March 2021 PastMatters column discussed the most likely person behind the name of Hart Avenue (now 31st Street), Herman Avenue (one of the few original 1870s names bestowed by Park Villas tract founder Joseph Nash), and Nash Avenue (now 32nd Street). All were merchants who traveled quite far to reach San Diego. See the last pages of these notes for that article.

9. UPCOMING COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

NPHS participation in future events will have to wait until a return to some kind of normalcy.

10. FUTURE MEETINGS

All future meetings scheduled for the third **THURSDAYS of the month starting at 6:30 p.m.** in a second-floor meeting room at Grace Lutheran Church **WILL NOT OCCUR in 2021** until the public health crisis due to COVID-19 has passed. Although we will not be able to resume our public meetings until then, we are still providing information to all who contact us with questions about North Park history.

Prepared by

Katherine Hon

Katherine Hon
Secretary, North Park Historical Society

Merchants from afar

San Diego street names: Part 11 of the series

PastMatters KATHERINE HON

Park Villas tract founder Joseph Nash could win the prize for traveling the farthest to settle in New Town San Diego. He was born in England in 1838. He sailed from Liverpool to Melbourne, Australia in 1863 aboard the clipper ship *Champion of the Seas* — a trip that took 81 days. He made his



Joseph Nash spent 81 days aboard the clipper ship *Champion of the Seas* sailing from England to Australia in 1863. He made his way to San Diego in 1868. (Photo taken c. 1854 by Boston photographic firm Southworth & Hawes, courtesy of Wikipedia, in the public domain)

way to the U.S. in 1867 and arrived in San Diego in 1868. He became a naturalized U.S. citizen in San Diego in 1872. He named several streets in his tract after immigrants such as himself, including Hart Avenue (now 31st Street), Herman Avenue and Nash Avenue (now 32nd Street).

Nash may have named Hart Avenue for Richard Hart, who was born in Belgium about 1827 and became a naturalized U.S. citizen in 1852 in Sierra County,

California. Hart was listed in the 1860 federal census as a miner in Mount Pleasant, Plumas County, California. Like many prospectors who failed to strike it rich in gold, he turned to merchandising.

In 1866, an IRS tax assessment listed him as a retail dealer in liquors at a mining town called Smith Bar along the Feather River. The California voter registration for 1867 placed him at Rich Bar, an active mining town that had been the site of the largest gold discovery along the Feather River in 1850. These and several other mining camps shared the name "Bar" to illustrate where gold was deposited by the river's flow.

By 1870, Hart had come to San Diego. He was listed in the 1870 federal census as a saloon keeper, but provided his occupation as "miner" for the San Diego County voter registration lists from 1872 through 1879. He bought a few individual lots of Pueblo Lands from the City Trustees in 1871, but apparently did not own this property by 1873. The San Diego Union's February 24, 1870 issue reported that R. Hart contributed to the Fort Yuma wagon road company in which Joseph Nash and other early San Diego businessmen also had invested.

Hart disappeared from available San Diego records after the 1879 voter registration list. Ordinance No. 5417 approved by Mayor Charles O'Neill on January 13, 1914 changed Hart Avenue "in Park Villas, McFadden and Buxton's North Park, and Hartley's North Park" to 31st Street.

Herman Avenue — one of the few streets retaining an original name bestowed by Joseph Nash — likely recognizes Alexander Herman (1854-1926). He was born on May 26, 1854 in Gleusdorf, Bavaria, now in southeastern Germany. He sailed to New York from Hamburg on the steamship *Silestia* in 1869 at age 15, listing his occupation as a clerk. Into the 1880s, he associated with Sigmund Iglauer, who was born in Nuremberg in 1852 and came to the U.S. at age 17 on the same steamship, listing his occupation as a merchant. They arrived in New York on October 12, 1869 and soon traveled west.



Alexander Herman applied for a passport in 1923 so he could return to Europe on vacation. This is his passport photo. (Courtesy of Ancestry.com)

The San Diego Daily Union's June 1, 1871 issue reported, "New Store — Messrs. Iglauer & Herman will commence opening next Monday at the new store, on Fifth near the Express office, an immense stock of groceries and provisions, and general merchandise. The assortment is as full as has ever been brought to this city." The Daily Union's June 10, 1871 issue called attention to Iglauer & Herman's advertisement for their new store, noting, "They are enterprising and obliging young men and deserve success." Their ad announced "Calicos! Calicos!" at "9 and 10 yards for a dollar" and a "large assortment of hats and caps of latest styles."

The paper's September 23, 1871 issue documented that Iglauer & Herman joined a group of prominent San Diego pioneers — including A.E. Horton, Aaron Pauly and David Briant — who authorized Joseph Nash to "charter a sailing

NEW STORE!
Just Opened.
IGLAUER & HERMAN,
Sole Importers,
Thank You! Below the
EXPRESS OFFICE.
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL
DEALERS IN
General Merchandise.
CALICOS! CALICOS!
A FINE LINE OF CALICOS AT 9 YARDS & 10 YARDS FOR A DOLLAR.
CHEAP! CHEAP!
A LARGE ASSORTMENT OF HATS AND CAPS OF LATEST STYLES AT 9 YARDS & 10 YARDS FOR A DOLLAR.

Sigmund Iglauer and Alexander Herman, both young immigrants from Bavaria, advertised the opening of their new store on Fifth Street in June 1871. Herman Avenue, which recognizes Alexander Herman, is one of only a few North Park streets retaining its original name. (Courtesy of the San Diego Union and NewsBank, Inc.)

vessel on joint account for the purpose of bringing down a cargo of merchandise from San Francisco to this port."

In the same month, the two young men expanded their operations. The Daily Union's September 22, 1871 issue announced, "The firm of Iglauer & Herman have established a branch house at San Rafael, Lower California, to which they make a considerable shipment of general merchandise today. The

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SD street names

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members of this firm are young, but they have sufficient enterprise to make up for lack of years." At the time, potential gold and silver discoveries in this Baja California area inland from Ensenada were generating much excitement.

Iglauer & Herman closed their store in 1873. Iglauer became a naturalized U.S. citizen in San Diego on December 8, 1874. Herman apparently followed the lure of merchandising to miners. He became a naturalized citizen in Silver City, Idaho, on June 21, 1875. Now a ghost town on the National Register of Historic Places, this gold and silver mining town southwest of Boise was founded in 1864 and peaked during the 1880s with a population of 2,500 and approximately 75 businesses.

In 1876, Iglauer moved to San Francisco, and Herman joined him there in 1879. In 1880, they were

both listed in the San Francisco city directory as working for Martin Herman, a broker in mining stocks. Martin was Alexander's older brother and had come to the U.S. in 1857. Iglauer eventually returned to Nuremberg and died there in 1898. By 1896, Alexander had joined the Scholle Brothers stock brokerage firm based in New York, where his brother was already working. With fortunate timing, Alexander moved to New York in 1905, one year before the massive 1906 earthquake devastated San Francisco.

In 1910 and 1920, the federal census listed Alexander Herman as single, working as a broker, and living in Manhattan. He applied for a passport in January 1923 so he could vacation in Europe. His application described him as 5 feet 4 ½ inches tall, with blue eyes, fair complexion, Roman nose and square chin.

He remained with the Scholle Brothers firm until his death on December 14, 1926 in Manhattan.

The Brooklyn Daily Eagle's December 16, 1926 issue noted, "Scholle Bros announces that it will be closed for the day...owing to the death of Alexander Herman, special partner of the firm."

Tracing the full arc of Alexander Herman's career, it is no surprise that he came to San Diego. His brother had known early San Diegan David Felsenheld since 1857. Felsenheld — also born in Bavaria — had a store on F and Sixth streets in New Town in 1870. Along with Joseph Nash and several other businessmen, Felsenheld helped write the constitution and bylaws for the first Chamber of Commerce. Felsenheld's sister Getta was married to Jacob Scholle — one of the founders of Scholle Brothers — indicating another connection to San Diego for both Herman brothers.

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