

The Heritage Society of Pacific Grove NEWSLETTER

Dedicated to Maintaining the Beauty and Individuality of Pacific Grove

Volume 4, Issue 1

February 2004



Arts & Crafts Batchelder Tiles *for all styles and times*

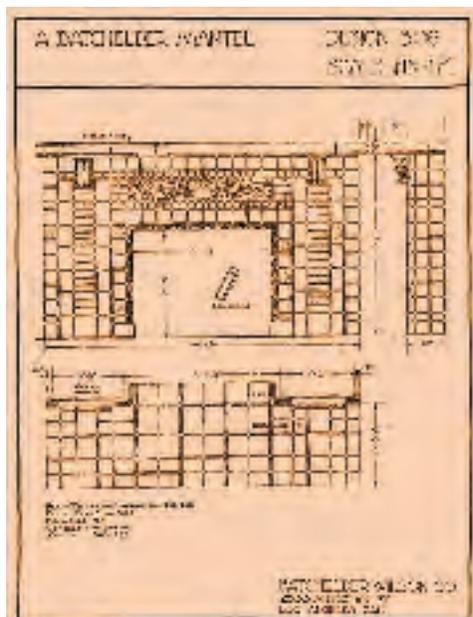
by Maryanne Spradling

“The fireplace suggests at once a place of comfort, of cheer, of friends, of books. In a peculiar and intimate sense it is the center of the home. The mantel serves to unite the homely utility of fire, soot, and ashes with a form, color and texture designed to bring the fireplace into harmonious relation with the decorative scheme of the room. The mantel should possess a distinctive character of its own sufficient to assert itself, but withal should not be unduly conspicuous. It should have a ‘built in’ appearance as if it were an inevitable part of its environment.” —Ernest Batchelder

The excerpt above is from the introduction of a 1920’s catalogue that featured over 200 handsome Batchelder tiled fireplaces. Ernest Batchelder (1875–1957) was among the design pioneers of the Arts & Crafts movement in the U.S. At the height



Batchelder flora and fauna tiles



One of many designs in Batchelder’s 1920’s Fireplace Catalogue

of his success in the 1920’s, his LA/Pasadena company employed 150 men. His tiles not only graced fireplaces, they were also used for ornate office facades, floors and walls. Among the masterworks he created were the Chocolate Shoppe (1909) and The Fine Arts Building (1926) in downtown Los Angeles, with spectacular tile work inside and out. Both magnificent buildings can be viewed and admired at tilenut.com. Though one usually associates the Arts & Crafts period with the American bungalow, Batchelder tiles were used widely in many architectural styles such as Spanish, Mediterranean and Colonial Revival.

The design motifs of the tiles were quite varied and stylized, with strong influences from Art Nouveau and American Gothic. Rambling vines and flowers, California live oaks, leaping rabbits and deer, dragons, and Japanese landscapes were a few of Batchelder’s subjects.

The Depression in 1932
See Batchelder on page 2

Calendar

FEBRUARY

HERITAGE SOCIETY

ANNUAL MEETING

KENT SEAVEY and the
PG PICTORIAL BOOK

February 22, 2004

2:00 p.m.

Museum of Natural history

Forest & Central Avenues

FREE

PRESERVATION TALK

FLANDERS FOUNDATION &

THE NATIONAL TRUST

February 28, 2004

1:00 p.m.

Carmel Women’s Club

San Carlos & 9th, Carmel

FREE

TASTE OF PG

February 22, 2004

4:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Inn at Spanish Bay

\$35 per person

APRIL

GOOD OLD DAYS

April 3-4, 2004

QUILT SHOW

April 3-4, 2004

WILDFLOWER SHOW

April 16-18, 2004

MAY

SECRET GARDEN TOUR

May 1, 2004

HERITAGE HOUSE AWARDS

May 7, 2004

7:00 p.m.

Museum of Natural History

Forest & Central Avenues

FREE

Awards Alert

by Jan and Ted Rose

The Heritage Society once again is soliciting nominations from our members for the awards ceremony to be held at the Natural History Museum on Friday, May 7, at 7:00 p.m.

We are excited that in the addition to our presentation program we are hoping for an in-depth discussion of a very special house, the house on

First Street designed by Julia Morgan. We hope the owner and architect will discuss its history and provide us with information about the authentic restoration that has just been completed.

Don't forget to send in your nominations by March 15, 2004, to The Roses, 179 Pacific Avenue, Pacific Grove, CA 93950.

tedjanrose@webtv.net

THE HERITAGE SOCIETY OF PACIFIC GROVE

HERITAGE HOUSE AWARDS

HERITAGE HOUSE AWARD: This award recognizes homes that have been restored in an exemplary fashion. This category also includes additions. The house must be on the historic inventory to be considered in this category. The judges may present two awards in this category.

HERITAGE HOUSE DESIGN AWARD: This award recognizes new construction that captures the flavor of Pacific Grove eclectic style. The judges may present one award in this category.

HERITAGE HOUSE COMMERCIAL AWARD: This award recognizes new construction, restorations and/or renovations and additions to buildings in our business districts that have been completed in an exemplary manner. The judges may present one award in this category.

CERTIFICATE OF COMMENDATION: This award recognizes new construction, restorations and/or renovations and additions as well as ongoing preservation that contribute to Pacific Grove's outstanding inventory of buildings. The judges may use their discretion in the number of these awards presented.

These awards will be given to projects that were completed, including landscaping, by December 31, 2003.

The winners will be announced at our Annual Awards Ceremony,

Honoring National Preservation Week

Friday, May 7, 2004

at the

Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History

I wish to nominate the following building(s) for awards. More than one nomination may be made in any category.

Address _____ Address _____
Award Category _____ Award Category _____

Address _____ Address _____
Award Category _____ Award Category _____

Please mail nominations by March 15, 2004 to:

The Roses

Heritage House Awards

179 Pacific Avenue

Pacific Grove, CA 93950

Batchelder Cont'd

ended the building boom along with Batchelder's successful tile manufacturing. Fortunately, today there are a number of tile manufacturers who create faithful reproductions of Batchelder's designs. Whether designing a fireplace, a kitchen or fountain, these tiles can make a dramatic statement



A faithful copy of the beloved Batchelder tile collection by Tile Restoration Center in Seattle (tilerestorationcenter.com)

in a home of any style, historic or new. The following websites offer Batchelder and other vintage tile reproductions, respectively: tilerestorationcenter.com and ravenstonetiles.com.

If anyone has a fireplace that begs questions, such as 'might this be a Batchelder?' please let us know.

frogmbay@aol.net

...news notes

by Darlene Billstrom

...Sally Aberg's house on 15th Street is in the January issue of *Sunset Magazine*...taking up a full page.

...The Board voted to honor Marilyn Arioto with a bench in her name located just outside the Barn.

...Betty Aickelin has started cleaning up all the files in the Barn. That's a job that has been waiting for someone energetic

see news notes on back page

Strangled Preservation in PG? (OPINION)

by Ken Hinsbaw

The Historic Resources Committee (the City committee that is the gatekeeper of the Inventory of old homes) has shown itself to be divided right down the middle with a pair of decisions at its January meeting. The group is divided over the essential question of the value of small, simple old homes.

The decision relating to 730 2nd Street is illustrative of this philosophical divide. This small bungalow is currently included on the inventory. The owners thought that historic designation would limit their remodeling and expansion plans. They maintained that former changes to the front of the home negated the historic value of the home. As a member of the public representing the Board of the Heritage Society, I argued that even though the front porch had been enclosed, the integrity of the original home was still intact. I also argued that these changes were typical of those made to many of our homes and should not disqualify it from being on the Inventory. The two committee members who are holdovers from the previous administration voted to keep the home on the list of protected structures, while three of those appointed by the present mayor voted in favor of removing its protection. The tension rose when one committee member abstained from voting because he had not

see Opinion on next page

Vital & Interesting Work

by Ken Hinsbaw

The foundation of preservation in Pacific Grove is the Inventory of Historic Resources, a collection of text and photos describing our historic buildings. The existing information is sorely out of date, hampering efforts at both the Heritage Society and the work by planners at City Hall. John Billstrom (who also edits the Board and Batten, and does all our research) teamed up with Board Members Ted and Jan Rose and Carrol Patterson on the project. They surveyed 600 of the more than 1200 historic structures, taking pictures and writing descriptions of each building.

We are looking for at least two people. 1) A computer savvy person who would love to sort and organize the already collected data. This project would probably involve about a hundred hours of time. 2) A field worker who is knowledgeable about architecture and can verify addresses and write building descriptions. This is an opportunity to work with a group of interesting and enthusiastic folks on a project that is vital to our community.

Contact me at:

Khinsha2@aol.com
375-0816



Annual Meeting

by Darlene Billstrom

The Heritage Society of Pacific Grove will hold its annual meeting and election of Board of Directors on Sunday, February 22, 2004, at the Museum of Natural History, at Forest and Central Avenues, at 2:00 p.m.

An interesting and unusual program is planned. Kent Seavey, local historian, will discuss the process of researching, preparing, and publishing a book about Pacific Grove. Arcadia Press, which has recently published pictorial books about Monterey, approached the Heritage Society with a similar proposal. The Society hired Kent Seavey to take on this task, and he will explain the process he plans to follow. Jeanne McCombs, a Monterey librarian and past president of the Heritage Society, and an editor from Arcadia Press have also been invited. We hope they will share their expertise with us. McCombs was instrumental in compiling the Monterey book.

Publication of the book, *Pacific Grove—The Presence of the Past*, is scheduled for release in the summer of 2005 to coincide with the centennial celebration of the Feast of Lanterns, Pacific Grove's oldest community event.

Regarding the board election, the following roster is proposed for the six Board positions: Don Beals, Paul Finnegan, Jeanie Anton, Jan & Ted Rose, Betty Aickelin, and Peggy Schmidt. Beals, Finnegan, Anton, and the Roses are up for reelection. Two positions on the Board

became vacant this past year. We will sorely miss long-time Board member Marilyn Arioto who passed away on October 4th. We are also sorry to see Kathleen O'Brien resign from the Board, but understand she is quite busy with *Kathleen's*, a lovely shop on Forest Avenue. Aickelin and Schmidt come with fine recommendations and will be valuable additions to the Board of Directors.

Opinion Cont'd

received the official information packet. The resulting 3-3 vote, by default, denied the request to take the home off the list. The process and decision did not satisfy anyone.

Plain and Simple

The discussion about this typical small, simple home is



730 2nd Street

an important bellwether of future decisions. As legal building sites with water disappear, the pressure to demolish the plain and simple homes that make up most of the collection of our 1200 historic homes will increase. Pacific Grove has the largest collection of turn-of-the-century cottages on the West Coast. It is the collection as a whole, as well as the beautiful coastline, that draws the visitors here that support our economy. We need to protect ALL of our older homes; not just the big

fancy ones!

Maintaining a Fair Process

The system of preserving homes and the procedures of the committee need to be as fair as possible so that historic preservation maintains its broad-based community support. As the vote on 730 2nd Street drew near, it became clear that the committee was at loggerheads. The chairman could have continued the item to its next meeting so that a vote by the full board could be taken. This would have possibly left the owner at least with the feeling that the decision reflected the full membership of the committee. The HRC should seriously consider making this their policy.

Preservation Supporters Not Reappointed

Maryanne Spradling and

Rebecca Riddell, staunch old house supporters, have not been reappointed to the committee. With the dismal City budget there is very little in the way of training that can be offered to new appointees. It seems an especially grievous waste of the

community's human resources to replace these experienced people with new, untrained members. khinsha2@aol.com

[Ed. Note: The Heritage Society's researcher, John Billstrom, submitted his research to the Community Development Department with these comments on 730 2nd Street. "...the structure has clean lines, and contributes to the historical Victorian heritage. The structure merited its plaque in 1999 and merits retention in 2004."]

New Members

Marge Brigadier
 Boris Ilabaca
 Greg & Debra Kelley
 Barbara Locke
 Dr. Phil Mansur
 Sue Nikaido
 Marcia Norris
 Patrick Smythe
 Tom & Carolyn Woolny
 Lee Yarborough
Welcome back Charter Members:
 Steve & Nancy Hauk

Membership Count:
1085

Sponsor the
 Newsletter
Thank You!
 Bob Davis,
 Frances Grate,
 and Anonymous,
 "Highway 68"
 already have

Preservation Talk

by Darlene Billstrom

The National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Flanders Foundation of Carmel are sponsoring a talk about preservation on Saturday, February 28th, 2004, at the Carmel Women's Club, San Carlos & 9th Street, Carmel (across from Sunset Center). Holly Fiala, Western Regional Director of the National Trust, and Mike Buhler, legal consultant for the National Trust, are the guest speakers. The 2-1/2 hour program will start at 1:00 p.m. and refreshments will be served. This should be a very informative and interesting presentation. Free admission. For more information, please contact Susan Arnold of the Flanders Foundation at 626-3826.

All opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official positions of the Board of Directors, but are meant to stimulate interest in and discussion of preservation issues.

Newsletter Publishing Calendar

There have been many inquiries about the publishing schedule of the *Newsletter*. While our original goal was to publish every month, the volunteers found this too rigorous a schedule. Therefore, the staff has developed a nine-month schedule. Listed below are the proposed dates for the following year. We will endeavor to honor the dates, but if we slip, please forgive us. Listed, also, are deadlines for article submission. We encourage everyone to contribute to the *Newsletter*.

Publication Schedule

<i>Month</i>	<i>Article Deadline</i>	<i>Pub Date</i>
Feb	1/21	2/10
Mar	2/18	3/10
Apr	3/21	4/10
May	4/20	5/10
Jun	5/21	6/10
Jul	6/20	7/10
Aug	7/21	8/11
Sep	8/21	9/10
Nov	10/21	11/10

Newsletter Staff
Publisher
 Darlene Billstrom
Graphics
 Billstrom Enterprises
Contributing Authors
 Jeanie Anton
 Ken Hinshaw
 Gary Sprader
 Maryanne Spradling

Send your submissions to:
 Darlene Billstrom
 The Heritage Society of Pacific Grove
 P.O. Box 1007
 Pacific Grove, CA 93950
 OR
 billstrm@pacbell.net

news notes Cont'd

for a long time. Kudos to Betty!
 ... Kinoshito's Bonsai Nursery donated an antique typewriter to the Heritage Society so Betty can type new file cards.
 ... Updated Tax Assessor's maps have arrived at the Barn.
 ... The house at 189 Lighthouse Avenue will soon be featured in *American Bungalow Magazine*.

Nonprofit Org.
 U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
 Permit No. 30
 Pacific Grove,
 CA 93950

HERITAGE SOCIETY OF PACIFIC GROVE
 P.O. Box 1007
 Pacific Grove, CA 93950

