



## Research Finds 40 Possible Historic Homes

by Ken Hinsbaw

Our hearty band of volunteer inventory researchers was hard at work in January and February in the PG Acres neighborhood. A few homes in PG Acres are already recognized in our inventory; however the survey work was never completed. The most unusual unlisted home is the Chinese house that can be seen from the northernmost part of the Asilomar parking lot. PG Acres generally is the part of town from 17 Mile Drive to Sunset. Marsha Taormina's team includes hubby Dennis, Bob and Betty Hummer, with temporary advisors Ted Larson and myself. The Gang



From left: Dennis and Marsha Tarmina, Bob and Betty Hummer



Ted Larson

of Six stuffed themselves into a borrowed SUV and did a windshield tour armed with old development maps, assessor's data, and caffeine. To everyone's surprise over 40 candidate buildings (built before 1926) were found. Further research will undoubtedly eliminate some of those, with the results to be submitted to the Planning Department for the Historic Resources Committee review.

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## President's Council Awards

### AMAP

by Ken Hinsbaw

The Alliance of Monterey Area Preservationists accomplishment in saving the historic wings of the Del Monte Hotel was recognized



Phil Grone, Neal Hotelling, John Nau

in a ceremony in mid February. The award was given by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, which is part of President Bush's Preserve America Initiative that seeks to promote "the appreciation of the American legacy and the values it represents." AMAP Board Member and historian Neal Hotelling accepted the award for the organization. Neal worked tirelessly to save the 118 year-old wings, eventually getting support from the Navy, Congressman Sam Farr, the California Preservation Foundation and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The Heritage Society of Pacific Grove was one of the first supporters of this effort. Congratulations to AMAP and Neal Hotelling.

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## Marsh's Finally (Regional Preservation News)

by Ken Hinsbaw

Marsh's Oriental, and the plans the Catholic Diocese has for the property, is the hot topic these days in the preservation community. Over the past few months, readers of the Newsletter will have noticed that various talks on the subject have been scheduled and cancelled, to great frustration of those who want to see the unique building preserved. FINALLY, the regional preservation group AMAP (Alliance of Monterey Area Preservationists) has scheduled a slide lecture by Kent Seavey on



Marsh's

the subject. The talk will be on March 30, at 7:00, at All Saints Church, 9th and Lincoln in Carmel. Everyone is welcome.

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## New Standards for the Resource Guide

by Ken Hinsbaw

The last copies of the practical guide for owners of old homes were given out at the Barn well over a year ago. An updated version is in the works. The energetic Heritage Society member Rebecca Riddell, one half of the public relations firm Riddell and Riddell, is aiming to make it more refined, useable, and reliable. Instead of just listing recommended tradespeople and professionals as we have done in the past, she is going to gather additional information about their experience. If someone has provided you with good quality, trustworthy services, and you would like him or her to be considered for the guide, drop Rebecca a note, either through the mail slot at the Barn, or to the Heritage Society, P. O. Box 1007, Pacific Grove, CA 93950.

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## Regional Preservation News Walls Come Down at State Theater

The historic movie palace in Monterey has a new guardian angel: Warren Dewey. The theater is getting new seats and carpeting, the original chandeliers have been located, plasterwork is being repaired, and the balcony partitions have been removed. The lobby is presently being restored. Mr. Dewey, the former owner of a Southern California recording studio, loves old movie houses. His first job at 13 was as a projectionist on the East Coast. He likens his new project to having a great big electric train set. The refurbished theater opened briefly for the First Night concerts. A few weeks later the German silent film *Faust* was presented with live music to a packed house. A concert series is planned; don't miss a chance to support this new cultural venue.

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# Where is Uncle John's Lamp?

*If you don't have enough reasons to walk our old neighborhoods, here is a mini scavenger hunt. You are looking for a suggestive pink curvaceous Victorian glass lamp. You will find this item, described below by its owner, in a window visible from the sidewalk. It is located on a narrow "teen" street below Pine and above Lighthouse. Warning: Do Not Disturb the owner or the BIG DOG that inhabit the small house -- they both bite! Your reward, if you are successful, is our congratulations for a job well done. — Ken Hinsbaw*



Uncle John's Nephew

It is a pretty lamp, and it gets its share of attention from passersby. It was an oil lamp believed to be made in the 1890's in a style called "Gone with the Wind." It has three globes of hand-blown crystal in an unusual pink color.

My Uncle John bought it decades ago on an antiques foray through Southern Illinois. He converted it to electricity, replacing the oil and wicks with wires and bulbs so that all three globes light up to show

their shapes and the variations in hand-made glass. He and his wife were so proud of it, they put it in their front window and lighted it every night of the year.

When I was a kid, I would sit in front of the lamp about sundown, watching for the light to come on. I was fascinated by it. Uncle John took note, and left me the lamp in his will. I've treasured it for the 30 years since and have kept it displayed in my front window.

But the truth is, what really fascinated me as a child wasn't the lamp itself, but the magical way it turned on at dusk. I was too young to know that for \$1.98, you could buy an automatic timing switch that would turn on any light you wanted, at anytime.

*T.A. with help from K.H.*

## Preservation Gone Awry

by Gary Sprader

**T**he Heritage Society recently received this letter:

*Dear Gary,*

*A few months ago I wrote to you about the house on 15th Street, and you were kind enough to answer my letter. Now I am going to bother you again to see if you can answer another question. Who is on the Architectural Review Board that allowed the massive addition to 308 Fountain. The heritage house is enclosed by the addition and the original house is unrecognizable. Is this an example of maintaining the look of these heritage houses? It seems to me that the concept of maintaining these houses that give Pacific Grove its unique look is being sabotaged by a committee that has completely forgotten their purpose.*

*I am enclosing a picture of the house to which I am referring. What do you think?*

*Sincerely, Mary E. Lindsay*



308 Fountain (before)



308 Fountain (during)

I was shocked when I walked over to look at this house. As you can see in the "before" picture, this house was a simple, square, shingle-sided cottage with hip roofs, built in 1908. You can see many examples of this style all over Pacific Grove. Many of these cottages have been remodeled and expanded, but to my knowledge none has lost their character until now. It is surprising that the home owner would want to do this, but in my opinion, it was irresponsible of the Architectural Review Board (ARB) to approve it.

Pacific Grove's General Plan lists preservation of our historic homes as one of its goals. It also states that the planning commission and ARB are required to uphold the historic preservation policies of the General Plan.

The City of Pacific Grove Architectural Review Guidelines

states in Appendix I: (working with buildings on the historic resource inventory):

- Additions to historic buildings should be designed to preserve, as much as possible, the scale and overall character of the original structure.

- New additions and alterations should be designed and constructed so that the character-defining features of the historic building are not radically changed, obscured, damaged or destroyed.

- Additions and remodels should be compatible with the original historic building in forms, scale and materials and not compromise the architectural integrity of the original.

The change in style of this house will have an adverse effect on the streetscape. There were four historic homes in a row on that side of the street. Now the rhythm of the streetscape is radically changed.

Only one ARB member voted against this project. Our new mayor, Jim Costello, recently appointed three new ARB members who have backgrounds in preservation, i.e. Historic Resource Committee and Heritage Society Board. It is important for people who appreciate the value of preservation in our community to watch what is happening in our neighborhoods.

# New Members

Janet Cohen  
 Margie Mercant  
 Bill Brown  
 Barbara Turner  
 John and Vicki Pearse  
 Andrew and Sarah Fischer  
 Laurel Jacques  
 Rita Carratello  
 Mildred McBrian  
 Stan and Cindy Gum  
 Helen Homlund  
 Jim and Lorraine Glenn  
 Sybil Dove  
 Sue Rideout

Membership Count:  
**1029**

*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.*

# Plastic Windows and Fences, Oh My!

(Strong Opinion)

by Ken Hinsbaw

**H**ave you been tempted by the siren call of the plastic window salesman? Their promises of no maintenance and lasting beauty? Before you write that check, consider the effect that space age windows can have on the character and value of your historic home. Most of our homes are very simple, only a few architectural elements define the buildings. The type of windows is often one of the most important character defining elements. Plastic windows can dramatically damage character and value, due to the proportions of the window parts, the lack of shadow lines and depth, as well as poor definitions of window pane divi-



811 Pine Ave: appropriate windows

sions. These sound like possibly small technical details, but they add up to a startling difference.

You can see a dramatic example of the damage to a historic home if you drive to the 800 block of Pine. On the south side of the street between Cedar and Willow are two attractive Spanish style homes side by side. One has original wooden windows, and the other has removed the original sash and installed plastic replacements. I would guess that the homeowner, by installing plastic, slashed \$50,000 off the value of the home as well as degraded the home's character.

If the invasion of plastic windows into our idyllic community weren't bad enough, I have noticed that fences are now being "built," if that is the right

word, around town. One of the better reproduction Victorian homes on Central and 18th just had one installed. Also a notable historic building on Lighthouse and 14th has a shiny new PVC picket fence on top of its attractive hundred-year-old retaining wall.

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I doubt that these new fences will age gracefully and ever take on the patina of age they need to belong in our neighborhoods.

If your windows are a problem, you might want to look up the article in the April '04 Newsletter "What They Can't Tell You at City Hall (about windows for your remodeling project)." It discusses some of the manufacturers that supply appropriate windows for our old homes.

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