



OUR CORNERSTONE

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Preservation Advocacy Primer

by Charles J. Fisher

Preservation of historic sites is a goal that most of us share, which one of the main reasons that we joined the Highland Park Heritage Trust.

The HPHT has submitted over 60 Los Angeles Historic Cultural Monument applications since its founding in 1982. Beginning with the old North-east Police Station in 1983 until the present, each of these historic treasures is a part of our history.

The Trust has also contributed to the National Register nominations for the Judson Studios and the Southwest Museum.

The best time to do these nominations is before the resource is threatened and the vast majority of these nominations were done either to call out and put protection on the property while it was in safe hands. However, some of these nominations were done when the building was threatened with demolition. Whenever this happens, the level of advocacy must rise to show a true community support for the preservation of the resource.

The individual letter is every bit as effective as expert testimony, as even a simple letter helps to illustrate how much the building means to community identity.

Form letters can be written and signed by

many, but the individual letter is usually more effective.

Here are four basic points when doing the letter that are important:

- A.) If at all possible, keep the letter to one page. A short concise document is the better approach unless you have a lot of very important data that needs to be submitted into the record.
- B.) Emphasize the positive as to why the structure is so important. This helps to build the case for preservation by showing how the structure is historic.
- C.) Mention how devastating the loss of the building would be but do not dwell on it. Never rant about a proposed replacement project. Historic preservation is for the existing resource, not as a tool to prevent a bad development.
- D.) Lastly, write from your heart. All the technical data is good, but a heartfelt letter helps to show the sense of loss to the cities history if the resource is demolished.

This is just a short primer, but there will be more in the future as the HPHT continues to work for the preservation and teaching of the history of our communities for future generations.



The HPHT is presently preparing a Los Angeles Historic Cultural Monument application for the former Richard Henry Dana Branch Library in Cypress Park. The building was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1987 and was vacated by the Library Department in 2008 when the new Cypress Park Library was completed

Questions Instruct

by Carmela Gomes

I recently heard the phrase, pertaining to science, as that which provides "the answers to questions we have not yet learned to ask."

Highland Park Heritage Trust members are located in all corners of Northeast Los Angeles, North Carolina, Montana, Utah, Massachusetts, and everywhere in between. We are an inquisitive group, somehow agreeing to the idea that the question not asked is the opportunity missed. It's what attracted me to the organization in the first place.

The question I ask most often, as I present someone with one of our "Award Winning" brochures, is "What do you know about your community?" Adults are likely to wince, youth will say "um", and young children look to their parent to find out if it's all right that they take the brochure. I always ask where they go to school and who is their teacher then give them two more, one for the parent and one for the teacher. I make sure they know the first one is for them.

We are undertaking an internship program for high school seniors to assist in reaching the younger children in the middle and elementary schools, learn something about archiving, and become stewards of the community.

The key questions in this project have been vetted with two high school teachers who are members of HPHT.

- What is historic preservation advocacy and why should I be involved?
- What do I know about my community?
- How do the answers to these questions define my sense of place?
- How does this sense of place translate into advocacy?

I asked the first question of the board of directors and docents for the bi-monthly walking tour. Interestingly enough, their feedback covered the other questions, as well, and has become blog entries that can be reached from the www.hpht.org main page menu.

For those of you who would like to ponder and comment upon these thoughts, please take time to do so. We also encourage others who prefer to write, manually, to help us formulate this dialogue within our community.

Anything you do as a member is always appreciated.

*Thank you,
Carmela*



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hphtpres@gmail.com

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Editor: Carmela Gomes

Layout: Future Studio

Distribution: Anne Marie Wozniak

Please email articles to: Charles Fisher
arroyoseco@hotmail.com

or mail to: 140 S. Avenue 57

Los Angeles CA 90042

HPHT message line: 323-256-4326

www.hpht.org

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HPHT Kiosk

Videos

ALMOST SOLD-OUT!

- *The House That Moved Twice* (\$14.95)
- *The Lure & Legacy of the Lower Arroyo Seco* (\$19.95)



Books

- *Images of America: Highland Park* by Charles J. Fisher and HPHT (\$21.95)
- *Los Angeles County Route 66 Guide* by Scott Piotrowski (\$18.95)

please add 9.75% LA sales tax and \$4.95 for shipping (each additional item, add \$2.00)



Members Make an Organization Function Productively

HPHPT is an all volunteer organization...“ is the phrase that begins our mission that drives the activities in history, education and recognition that support advocacy. In no particular order, the following list represents opportunities for involvement for which you may be available and won't get done if members don't do them.

- Preservation Advocacy, attending hearings and writing letters
- Nominations of Historic Cultural Monuments, preparation and follow-through
- Archiving and Preserving, for storage and display, documents, photos, and memorabilia
- Marketing and Media, writing copy, contacting media outlets
- Cornerstone (Newsletter) Production and Mailing and Special Events Mailings
- Living Histories Video Taping and Editing
- Youth Education - Internships and In-School Presentations planning and follow-through
- Community Relations and Community Events Booth, attending meetings, arranging coverage of booth at events such as LA Heritage Day, Lummis Day, and Community Clean-ups
- Annual Awards Ceremony Nominations Committee and Presentations
- Bi-Monthly Sycamore Grove Walking Tours, Docent and Reception preparation

- Creating Home Tour Content and Production, conducting tours as a Docent
 - Refreshments for Meetings and Events
 - Program Meetings, preparation and hosting
 - Budget and Finance in relation to Strategic Planning
 - Fund raising development and follow-through
- Please consider what part you can take in making sure these organizational activities are managed, annually.*
—HPHT Board of Directors

Pay your dues in October. It's membership month.

You may join or renew online at www.hpht.org or by sending your tax deductible check to: Highland Park Heritage Trust
PO Box 50894, Los Angeles CA 90050-0894

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$20 | <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal |
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**The Avenue 50 Studio
is a proud sponsor of the
Highland Park Sycamore Grove Walking Tour**

**The 17th Annual "Recovery" Discovery Tour
Happens Sunday, Nov. 22 • 9:30 am–5 pm
Tickets & info: arroyoartscollective.org**



**Tour Preview Party: Sat. Nov. 14 • 7 to 10 pm
Future Studio Gallery • 5558 N. Figueroa St.**

Calendar of Upcoming HPHT & Community Events

Free Tai Chi Classes Every Sunday, 8:30 am, Audubon Center at Debs Park, http://ca.audubon.org/debs_park.htm

Saturday, October 24 • 10:00 am to 12:30 pm and Sunday, October 25 • 11:00 am to 1:30 pm

HPHT special Sycamore Grove Walking Tours—Experience the poetry of Robinson Jeffers in the setting where he went to Occidental College—Reservations online at www.hpht.org or 323-256-4326 by Thurs, October 22

For all BIG READ Activities sponsored by Occidental College and Northeast Los Angeles community partners go to www.jeffersbigread.blogspot.com and visit the exhibits in the Mary Norton Clapp Library and Coons Administration Building, Occidental College, 1600 Campus Road, LA 90041

Saturday, November 7 • 10:00 am to 2:00 pm—Jeffers at Occidental Day—Celebrate Jeffers with Oxy students, community partners and local high school students

Monday, November 10 • 6:30 to 8:30 pm—Annual Membership Meeting Agenda at Ramona Hall, HPHT Program, Window Restoration and Replacement presented by Ernie and Batya Sanchez followed at 7:30 with Board of Directors Elections

Sunday, November 22 • 9:30 am to 5:00 pm—AAC Discovery Tour, see ad inside *Cornerstone*

Sunday, November 29 • 10:00 am to 4:00 pm—Home Tour and Holiday Craft Fair, Victorian Era “El Mio” (Smith Estate) Reservations \$5 Call 213-309-8854 / mariarchaeology@hotmail.com

Sunday, December 6—65th Annual Northeast Los Angeles Holiday Parade

Monday, December 14 • 7:00 to 10:00 pm—HPHT Annual Pot Luck Christmas Party at Titina Folliero’s Home

Sunday, January 31, 2010 • 2:00 to 4:00 pm—Authors’ Forum, Arroyo Seco Library Community Room, sponsored by HPHT and Arroyo Seco Library

Sunday, February 28, 2010 • 2:00 to 4:00 pm—HPHT Awards Ceremony, Arroyo Seco Library Community Room—see nomination form



PO Box 50894
Los Angeles CA 90050-0894
www.hpht.org

Look for our HPHT
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HIGHLAND PARK HERITAGE TRUST COMMUNITY AWARDS 2009



How to Come Up with a Nomination

By Anne Marie Wozniak

- While going to the Post Office or driving to the store, or walking around your neighborhood, are you struck by a new paint job, or an earthquake damaged chimney that has been accurately repaired?
- Maybe a friend told you that one of their neighbors has replaced aluminum sliders with wooden windows.
 - Has you neighborhood barber, grocer or hardware store done something to their property that displays community pride?
 - Has a new building in you neighborhood been constructed so as to be sensitive to the architectural integrity of the area?

Don't forget the property that is consistently maintained in both appearance and landscaping.

It is these little things that help us put on our awards ceremony every year and we need your input to make it a success.

Taking a short drive around your neighborhood might net some surprises and you may come up with not only one, but two or even more nominations.

So put on your nominating hat and go looking.

Awards Ceremony:

Sunday, February 28, 2010 from 2PM to 4PM in the Arroyo Seco Library Community Room

Use the following form to send in your nomination(s).

HPHT Community Awards NOMINATION FORM (Deadline 11-15-2009)

My name _____

My Address _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

CRITERIA

1. There is evidence of significant exterior improvement and preservation of this property in the last year.
2. There is evidence of continued/sustained maintenance and care of this property.
3. There has been preservation, improvement or maintenance of the garden or landscape.
4. There has been a significant contribution by an individual toward the preservation of our cultural heritage.

I would like to nominate this/these properties for an HPHT Community Award:

Address _____ Zip Code _____ Criteria # _____

Address _____ Zip Code _____ Criteria # _____

Fold and mail this form to the address printed on the reverse side. • Online nominations at www.hpht.org



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