



# OUR CORNERSTONE

VOLUME XIII · ISSUE 3

SUMMER 2008

## GOTHIC REVIVAL HOUSE TO COME TO GARVANZA

By Charles J. Fisher

There is a plan to move an altered house, that has had its historic wood siding covered with stucco and the historic windows and frames replaced by aluminum sliders, into the Garvanza area—and then restore it back to its 1870s appearance.

As Garvanza works to establish a Historic Preservation Overlay Zone, events come together to add new dimensions to the area. One of these is the moving of historic buildings to the area to help ensure their future preservation.

HPHT member Brad Chambers already has a strong preservation track record in Garvanza. Several years ago he purchased several properties on Avenue 64, across the street from the Church of the Angels. The first thing he did was to restore the historic buildings, including his own which was one of the first houses in the area from which stucco was removed in order to restore an early Craftsman house, resulting in an HPHT award.

In 2004, Chambers moved a 2-story house that was constructed in 1884 from Chinatown to his large lot in Garvanza. That house has been restored and now stands as a shining asset to the community.

An earlier attempt to move another historic home to the property was thwarted when the developer at Sunset and Figueroa illegally demolished the Victorian house before it could be moved. That action resulted in the developer setting up a substantial historic trust fund to aid in future preservation efforts, in order to avoid a five-year moratorium on building that would have been imposed by the City's "scorched Earth" ordinance.

The Donnelly House is located just a block from where that ill-fated Victorian

stood. It first appeared on the site in 1886 when John A. Donnelly and his family lived in it. At the time, the land was owned by former Los Angeles Mayor, Prudent Beaudry, who had subdivided the land in 1882. Donnelly bought the property from Beaudry in 1889 and lived in the house until the 1920s. Only two other owners have lived there since.

The Donnelly house is of an extremely rare Gothic Revival style that indicates it most probably dates from the 1870s, making it one of a handful of surviving houses that predate the great land boom of 1885–1888. Both Garvanza and Highland Park were established during this period.

The house was probably moved onto its current location in 1886, possibly from land that Prudent Beaudry had acquired for subdivision purposes. The move to Garvanza will still allow it to remain on former Beaudry land, as Prudent Beaudry owned that portion of the Rancho San Rafael until he sold it to Augustine Campbell-Johnston.

The house was documented in a 1982 survey by Roger Hathaway but was covered with stucco two years later. Originally viewed as a tear down, a historic resources report was required by the Community Redevelopment Agency because of the earlier documentation.

The report revealed the true rarity and hidden significance of the house, which then made it more problematic to tear down. This issue could have forced the owner to have an environmental impact report for his small apartment project. Moving the house will produce enough mitigation to avoid the EIR and will ensure that the house will be restored and protected as a part of the Garvanza HPOZ.



Image composed by Charles J. Fisher

# PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Carmela Gomes

The information in this newsletter are just a sample of the volume of concerns the HPHT has been weighing in on in recent months.

We had a wonderful outpouring of support for the 3rd Annual Lummis Day Festival as HPHT members worked on the organizing committee throughout the year and showed up to volunteer for various tasks, assisting even at the main festival booth toward the end of the evening.

We've been gathering names on a petition to send to the LAUSD Board of Education concerning the naming of the new high school, to be located on San Fernando Road at Division Street in Glassell Park, in honor of Charles Fletcher Lummis. If you would like to add your name to the petition give me a call and we will arrange something.

There is an ongoing discussion concerning quality of life and just what will happen if an overtly large transit village development is built within the Highland Park HPOZ business district between Avenues 56 and 59. Members have been consulting with the Land Use Committee of the Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council, and other organizations in the community, on issues of size, use, appropriateness, numbers of units, and other items that have to do with the integrity of the surrounding community.

A large group of members were given a tour and learned about proposals for the rehabilitation of the Self Realization Fellowship calling upon that community to bring back as much as possible of the original Mt. Washington Hotel and at the same time insure that the structural necessities (and there are many) are addressed.

This is the 25th Anniversary Year of the founding of the Highland Park Heritage Trust. We are having an old fashioned picnic and inviting folks to "Come Home to Highland Park" on Sunday, October 12. We are initiating a blog for those who would like to be here, virtually. Besides hot dogs, lemonade and family games, attendees will be able to tour the historic homes in the compound that is known as the Heritage Square Museum. We want to have video cameras set up to capture the dialogue among long-time residents, students, visitors and those coming home for the picnic. We urge you to make plans to be here that weekend and take part in the afternoon festivities.

As always, I encourage you to become involved in these and other activities and look forward to an email or phone call to offer your help.

REMEMBER TO CLEAN AND GREEN YOUR PARKWAY!



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Advertisements will be accepted for this publication from advertisers who are in keeping with the intention and goals of this organization. Contact Charly Kemp for submission info and rates.

HPHT KIOSK

## VIDEOS

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



## BOOKS

- *The Five Friendly Valleys: The Story of Greater Highland Park* (\$5.95)
- *Los Angeles County Route 66 Guide* by Scott Piotrowski (\$18.95)



**Street Banners** that hung on Figueroa St. (\$50.00 each)

All proceeds benefit HPHT. Orders may be picked up at the monthly meetings or shipping for an additional \$4.00 donation.

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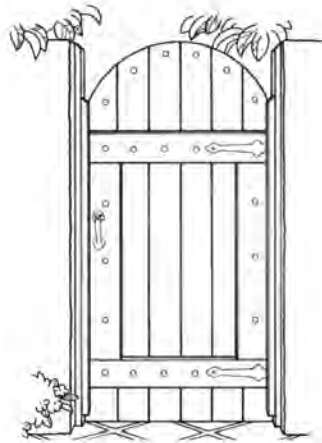
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YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2008!**

*The mission of the Highland Park Heritage Trust is to preserve the heritage of Los Angeles' Arroyo Seco communities through education, advocacy and preservation projects for the benefit of present and future generations. LA's Arroyo Seco communities consist of Highland Park, Garvanza, Mt Washington, Hermon, Montecito Heights, and Cypress Park.*

**To join the Highland Park Heritage Trust,  
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# CALENDAR OF UPCOMING HPHT & COMMUNITY EVENTS

- Monday, August 11** HPHT Picnic Planning and Business Meeting, Ramona Hall, 7-9PM
- Saturday, August 16** Community Peace March Against Violence in the Community  
[www.myspace.com/PeaceInTheNE](http://www.myspace.com/PeaceInTheNE)
- Saturday, August 23** Echo Park Lake and Downtown Walking Tour, [www.historic-echopark.org](http://www.historic-echopark.org)
- Saturday, August 30** LA Conservancy/Highland Park Walking Tour, 10AM  
Call 213-623-2849 [www.laconservancy.org/tours](http://www.laconservancy.org/tours)
- Saturdays and Sundays through August 31** Oxy to Princeton: A Road Trip, private collection of photos circa 1915  
Heritage Square Museum, 12-4PM
- Thursday, August 28** Concerts at the Square, Heritage Square Museum, 4-8PM  
[http://www.heritagesquare.org/calendar\\_of\\_events.htm](http://www.heritagesquare.org/calendar_of_events.htm)
- Monday, September 8** HPHT Meeting, Ramona Hall, 7-9PM last meeting before The Picnic
- September 11-14, 2008** Preserving the Historic Road, sixth biennial conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico,  
[www.historicroads.org](http://www.historicroads.org)
- Sunday, September 21** HPHT Members Behind the Scenes at the Southwest Museum, 12-5PM
- Saturday, September 27** Elysian Park Walking Tour, [www.historic-echopark.org](http://www.historic-echopark.org)  
Living History at Rosedale Cemetery, [www.WestAdamsHeritage.org](http://www.WestAdamsHeritage.org)  
Explore Monrovia Anytime Tours, [www.mohpg.org/index.html](http://www.mohpg.org/index.html)
- Saturday, October 4** Eagle Rock Music Festival, 5PM to Midnight, Colorado Blvd.
- Sunday, October 12** Highland Park Heritage Trust 25th Anniversary Picnic, 1-5PM, Heritage Square Museum  
(invitation being mailed)
- Saturday, October 25** LA Conservancy/Highland Park Walking Tour, 10AM
- Every Sunday, Free Tai Chi Classes, 8:30 am, Audubon Center at Debs Park, [http://ca.audubon.org/debs\\_park.htm](http://ca.audubon.org/debs_park.htm)



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